



APOLLO 11 MECHANIC — Robert L. Payne, formerly of Bastrop, is shown at the Seal Beach facility of North American Rockwell Corporation Space Division. As installation mechanic, he helped build the second stage of the launch vehicle for Apollo 11, the spacecraft that will carry U. S. astronauts to man's first landing on the moon. Launch is scheduled for July 16.

Local Man Helped Produce Big Saturn

DOWNEY, Calif. — Robert L. Payne, formerly of Bastrop, Mo., says with the orbiting command module and service modules. The North American Rockwell Space Division produced three major components of Apollo 11. One is the command module, which is the headquarters and living compartment for the crew. This is a cone-shaped capsule 10 feet 7 inches high with a base diameter of 12 feet 10 inches. It has a launch weight of about 13,000 pounds with the crew aboard. The operating controls are located in the command module. The service module when the Apollo is stacked for launch. It is a cylinder 24 feet high and 12 feet 10 inches in diameter, weighing about 51,000 pounds when propellant-loaded. This module carries the main propulsion engine and supplies most of the oxygen, hydrogen, water and propellant needed for the mission. A third major component produced by the Space Division is the second stage of the Saturn V lunar launch vehicle. This is the largest and most powerful hydrogen-fueled stage ever built. It is 51 feet 6 inches high and weighs more than a million pounds when fueled. During launch, this second stage takes over when the first stage has finished its work and been jettisoned at an altitude of about 38 miles. The S-II then boosts the speed of the spacecraft from about 9,000 feet per second to more than 22,000 feet per second and carries the Apollo to an altitude of approximately 119 miles. Then it is jettisoned and the third stage takes over.

Payne is an installation mechanic as Space Division of North American Rockwell Corporation. The Space Division builds the Apollo spacecraft command and service modules under contract to NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center. The Division also builds the second stage of the Saturn V lunar launch vehicle for NASA's Flight Center. Payne's job is to modify, rebuild and repair parts and assemblies for the Saturn V second stage at the Division's Seal Beach facility. Regarding the Apollo program and his part in it, Payne said: "I think that the Apollo program is one of the best things that has happened in this country and the most interesting work I have ever done."

Payne attended Morehouse High School. His father, Mr. Douglas Payne, lives at 724 Priece St., Bastrop.

Payne and his wife, Eudell, live at 1340 Cremona Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. They have one daughter, Marisa, 20.

The crew for the first manned lunar touchdown will be Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin Aldrin. The mission plan calls for Armstrong and Aldrin to descend in the lunar module and spend about 22 hours on the moon's surface while Collins stays with the orbiting command and service modules.

Robert Payne



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