

Dear Dr. von Braun. . . .

Wernher von Braun

1912-1977

**The Reach into Space**

Selected Personal  
Letters and Replies

# Dear Dr. von Braun. . .

Wernher von Braun had a lifelong dream of space travel.

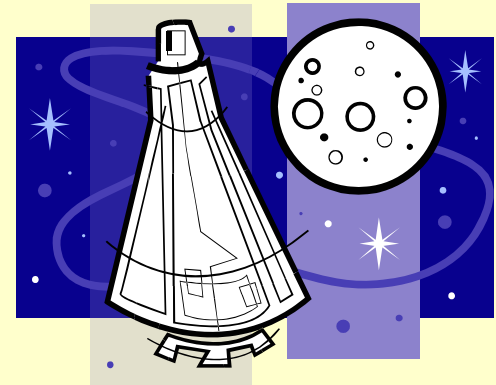
This exhibit is a sample of the many letters he received while working in Huntsville, Alabama, with NASA.

To research some of Dr. von Braun's other letters and articles, please contact the National Archives, Southeast Region, Morrow, Georgia.



# Dear Dr. von Braun. . .

- Were You Kidnapped?
- Offer, Who Could Resist?
- Who Owns the Moon?
- Congratulations!
- I Want to Go
- Next Generation
- Thoughts and Memories



# Wernher von Braun

## Were You Kidnapped?

1912 March 23 born in Wirsitz, East Prussia (now part of Poland)

1930 Assistant to Hermann Oberth, experimenting with small liquid rocket engines

1931 Student, Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland

1932 B.S., Institute of Technology, Berlin

1934 Ph. D., University of Berlin

1937-45 Technical Director, German Rocket Research Center, Peenemunde

**1945 Captured by U.S. Army and taken to United States**

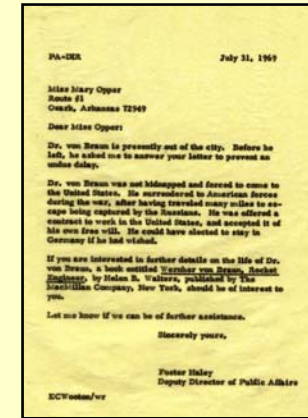
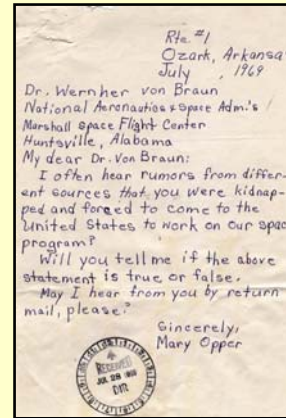
1950-56 Chief, Guided Missile Development Division, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama

**1955 Naturalized as American citizen**

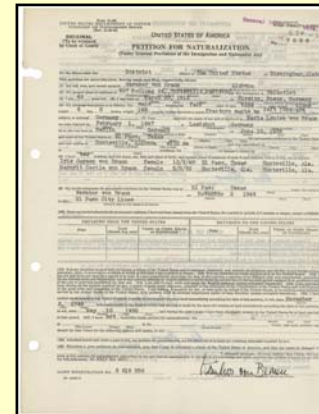
1960-70 Director, George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, National Aeronautic and Space Administration, Huntsville

1975 Founded the National Space Institute

1977 June 16 Died, Alexandria, Virginia



**1945 Captured by U.S. Army and taken to United States**



**1955 Naturalized as American citizen**

Rte. #1  
Ozark, Arkansas  
July , 1969

Dr. Wernher von Braun  
National Aeronautics & Space Adm.'s  
Marshall Space Flight Center  
Huntsville, Alabama

My dear Dr. von Braun:

I often hear rumors from different sources that you were kidnaped and forced to come to the United States to work on our space program?

Will you tell me if the above statement is true or false.

May I hear from you by return mail, please?

Sincerely,  
Mary Opper



PA-DIR

July 31, 1969

Miss Mary Opper  
Route #1  
Ozark, Arkansas 72949

Dear Miss Opper:

Dr. von Braun is presently out of the city. Before he left, he asked me to answer your letter to prevent an undue delay.

Dr. von Braun was not kidnapped and forced to come to the United States. He surrendered to American forces during the war, after having traveled many miles to escape being captured by the Russians. He was offered a contract to work in the United States, and accepted it of his own free will. He could have elected to stay in Germany if he had wished.

If you are interested in further details on the life of Dr. von Braun, a book entitled Wernher von Braun, Rocket Engineer, by Helen B. Walters, published by The MacMillan Company, New York, should be of interest to you.

Let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Foster Haley  
Deputy Director of Public Affairs

ECWooton/wr

ORIGINAL  
(To be retained  
by Clerk of Court)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION  
(Under General Provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act)

To the Honorable the District Court of the United States at Birmingham, Alabama

This petition for naturalization, hereby made and filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My full, true, and correct name is Wernher von Braun Alabama  
(2) My present place of residence is 907 McClung St., Huntsville, Madison My occupation is Scientist  
(3) I am 42 years old. (4) I was born on March 23, 1916 in Wirnitz, Posen, Germany  
(5) My personal description is as follows: Sex male, complexion fair, color of eyes blue, color of hair blond  
height 6 feet 0 inches, weight 185 pounds, visible distinctive marks fracture marks on left fore-arm  
(6) I am married; the name of my wife or husband is Marie Louise von Braun.  
we were married on February 1, 1947 at Landshut, Germany  
(7) I am single and entered the United States at El Paso, Texas on June 10, 1928  
(8) I have two children; and the name, sex, date and place of birth, and present place of residence of each said children who is living, are as follows:  
Iris Careen von Braun female 12/9/48 El Paso, Texas Huntsville, Ala.  
Margrit Cecile von Braun female 5/8/52 Huntsville, Ala. Huntsville, Ala.

(9) My lawful admission for permanent residence in the United States was at El Paso, Texas under the name of Wernher von Braun on November 2, 1949 on the El Paso City Lines

(10) Since my lawful admission for permanent residence I have not been absent from the United States, for a period or periods of 6 months or longer, except as follows:

DEPARTED FROM THE UNITED STATES			RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES		
PORT	DATE (Month, day, year)	VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE	PORT	DATE (Month, day, year)	VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE

(11) It is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and entirely all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which at this time I am a subject or citizen. (12) It is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (13) I am not and have not been for a period of at least 10 years immediately preceding the date of this petition a member of or affiliated with any organization prohibited by the Immigration and Nationality Act or any section, subsidiary, branch affiliate or subdivision thereof nor have I during such period engaged in or performed any of the acts or activities prohibited by that act. (14) I am able to read, write and speak the English language (unless exempted therefrom). (15) I am, and have been during all the periods required by law, a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. I am willing, if required by law, to bear arms on behalf of the United States, or to perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States, or to perform work of national importance under civilian direction (unless exempted therefrom). (16) I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of 5 years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since November 2, 1949 and continuously in the State in which this petition is made for the term of 6 months at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since May 10, 1950; and during the past 5 years I have been physically present in the United States for at least one-half of that period. (17) I have not heretofore made petition for naturalization: No. \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Court, and such petition was denied by that Court for the following reasons and causes, to wit: \_\_\_\_\_

(18) Attached hereto and made a part of this, my petition for naturalization, are the affidavits of at least two verifying witnesses required by law.

(19) Wherefore I, your petitioner for naturalization, pray that I may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and that my name be changed to \_\_\_\_\_ I, aforesaid petitioner, do swear (affirm) that I know the contents of this petition for naturalization subscribed by me, and that the same are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that this petition is signed by me with my full, true name: SO HELP ME GOD.

ALIEN REGISTRATION NO. 6 619 556

*Wernher von Braun*

Citation: Records of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

# Werhner von Braun Offer, Who Could Resist?

Too cute to resist

Asian firm offers assistance





## HAI YAT INDUSTRIAL COMPANY

403, Shaws Building, 4/F., 684, Nathan Road,  
Kowloon, Hong Kong.  
G. P. O. Box 14045 Cable Addr. "BOVIACO"  
TEL. ~~695057~~ K 947057  
K 941604



OUR REF. KCL/sw/cw-1470

YOUR REF.

January 31, 1970.

Wernher Von Braun,  
Space Operations Center,  
Cape Kennedy,  
Florida,  
U.S.A.

Dear Sir,


We are pleased to advise you that our best friend Mr. Ho who possesses a pair of Orang-Utan (large anthropoid ape) of Asian Origin (male and female), born in August, 1969, weight about 7 lb. each which was presented to him as a gift by an Indonesian during his voyage to one of Indonesian islands. According to Mr. Ho's information received it is said that family of this Orang-Utan is now dying out and is therefore of invaluable. The pair can be easily tamed and will probably grow up to 5 ft. 7 in. tall. Mr. Ho would like to offer now this pair to you for your space experiment, if you see fit. Mr. Ho did not ask for any reward for this offer. However, Mr. Ho is now in need of help to build up his business - a chinese restaurant-which requires some US\$35,000 to 40,000.

Enclose herewith please find <sup>two</sup> newly taken pictures of the Orang-Utan pair which is being kept as a pet in Mr. Ho's home. Should you be interested in having this pair and require any further information about them please feel free to contact us at any time. If you think that the pair is not suitable for your experiment, please release this message to your national parks or other institutions which require this kind of rare animal.

Looking forward to hearing from your comments on this offer.

Yours very truly,

HAI YAT INDUSTRIAL CO.

  
Sunny Wong *Manager*

Citation: Records of the  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**Did this pair go into space?  
Come into the archives and  
see the answer for yourself!**



Citation: Records of the  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

# Wernher von Braun Who Owns the Moon?



Post Office Box 118  
Butler, Alabama 36908  
November 17, 1969

Office of the Director  
Marshall Space Center  
Huntsville, Alabama 35894

Dear Sir:

Recently the HUNTSVILLE STATE of Butler High School, on a discussion on the nation's space program, several questions were raised which we were unable to answer.

We would appreciate any help you might be able to give us on the following:

- 1- To whom does the moon legally belong?
- 2- Is it possible for any individual, independent of any government, to claim a private colony on the moon?
- 3- How does one acquire title?

Thank you.

Very truly yours,  
E. T. Rollison Jr.  
E. T. ROLLISON  
Instructor

Bill Weaver  
John Wilson  
Dick Hamilton  
Way Lee  
Way Cosby  
Lephus Jackson  
Bibi Edwards  
Hik Turner  
Dennis Williams  
Blair Gilbert  
Edward Allen  
Lenny Ruffin

Frank Cohen  
Ricky News  
Mary Lee  
John Lopez  
Frank Moore  
Sue Rodcl  
Sandra Lee  
Paul Wake  
Frank W  
William C  
Charles B  
Sandy  
Charles A  
Mark L  
Thomas C  
Douglas J

PA-DR December 3, 1969

Mr. E. T. Rollison and  
High Grade Science Class  
Butler High School  
Butler, Alabama 36908

Dear Mr. Rollison and Class:

The questions raised in the November 12, 1969, letter from your class may, for the most part, be answered by reference to the so-called, "Outer Space Treaty." The treaty, ratified in Washington, London, and Moscow on October 10, 1967, culminated five years of international negotiation. As of October 15, 1969, 59 countries (the original five and eighty-six others) were party to the treaty, notably including Russia and China, as well as the United States. The formal title of the treaty is the "Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies."

Your first question was: "To whom does the moon legally belong?" Article I of the treaty provides, in material part, that, "The exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies... shall be the province of all mankind. Outer space, including the moon... shall be free for exploration and use by all states without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies. Article II of the treaty states that, "Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means."

Your second question was: "Is it possible for any individual, independent of any government, to claim a private colony on the moon?"

To quote from Article VI of the treaty, "States Parties to the treaty shall bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, including the moon... whether such activities are carried on by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and for ensuring that national activities are carried out in conformity with the provisions set forth in the treaty. The activities of non-governmental entities in outer space... shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate state party to the treaty." Articles VII and VIII of the treaty provide that states from which territory or objects are launched or sent into outer space are liable for damage caused by the object.

Thus, international law would appear to preclude the claim of private lunar colonization since colonization must be said to bear the connotation of an "appropriation" by the treaty. There could be no possession of land as we think of it -- possession in the connotation of a state party to the treaty and this represents an appropriation since the moon is not subject to private possession of others.

Also, from a practical standpoint the cost of such a colonization seems sort of barrier to private activity.

The above provisions would also furnish my response to your question as to whether there is any law prohibiting colonization of the moon.

It is in our heartening to reflect that while the nation recent such a similar agreement on their earthly substantial agreement has been reached on their outer space. Your interest in this field is also gratifying interest in the nation's space program.

Development of this great new frontier and consequently the advancement of the example thereof have not with your generation.

Sincerely yours,  
Foster Baker  
Deputy Director of  
Public Affairs  
F1010792

Active young minds want to know...

Post Office Box 124  
Butler, Alabama 36904  
November 12, 1969

Office of the Director  
Marshall Space Center  
Huntsville, Alabama 35800

Dear Sir:

Recently the Ninth Grade Science class of Butler High School had a discussion on the nation's space program. Several questions were raised which we were unable to answer.

We would appreciate any help you might be able to give us on the following:

- 1-To whom does the moon legally belong?
- 2-Is it possible for any individual, independent of any government, to plant a private colony on the moon?
- 3-Is there any law prohibiting this?

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

*E. T. Rolison Jr*  
E. T. ROLISON  
Instructor

*Bill Glaves  
Gwen Wray  
Pat Hampton  
Joy Lee  
Dary Busby  
Leola Jackson  
Tyler Edwards  
Edith Turner  
Leira Ray  
Shirley Thomas  
Blair Wilcox  
Deborah Allen  
Larry Ruffin*

*Ronald Colson  
Ricky Hain  
Johnny Lee Johnson  
Patsy Jane Nicholson  
Yvonne Mosley  
Sue Radcliffe  
Drene Vanahan  
Paul Usher Jr.  
Frank Adams  
William Gibson  
Chucky Breland  
Donna Jorg  
Charlie Delsach  
Mae Grace  
Thomas Crosby  
Douglas McNeill*

PA-DIR

December 3, 1969

**Mr. E. T. Rolison and  
Ninth Grade Science Class  
Butler High School  
Butler, Alabama 36904**

**Dear Mr. Rolison and Class:**

The questions raised in the November 12, 1969, letter from your class may, for the most part, I feel, be answered by reference to the so-called, "Outer Space Treaty." The treaty, ratified in Washington, London, and Moscow on October 10, 1967, culminated five years of international negotiation. As of October 15, 1969, 89 countries (the original three and eighty-six others) were party to the treaty, notably including Russia and China, as well as the United States. The formal title of the treaty is the "Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies."

Your first question was: "To whom does the moon legally belong?" Article I of the treaty provides, in material part, that, "The exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies... shall be the province of all mankind. Outer space, including the moon... shall be free for exploration and use by all states without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies. Article II of the treaty states that, "Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means."

Your second question was: "Is it possible for any individual, independent of any government, to plant a private colony on the moon?"

To quote from Article VI of the treaty, "States Parties to the treaty shall bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, (including the moon) whether such activities are carried on by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and for assuring that national activities are carried out in conformity with the provisions set forth in the treaty. The activities of non-governmental entities in outer space... shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate state party to the treaty." Articles VII and VIII, respectively, provide that states from whose territory an object is launched retain jurisdiction and control over the object and its personnel and liability for damages caused by the object.

Thus, international law would appear to proscribe the possibility of private lunar colonization since colonization must at least be said to bear the connotation of an "appropriation" prohibited by the treaty. There could be no possession of lunar property as we think of it -- possession to the exclusion of all others.

States party to the treaty (and this represents an overwhelming majority view) have decided that the moon is the property, so to speak, of all people, and not subject to private possession to the exclusion of others.

Also, from a practical standpoint the cost of such a venture must be considered some sort of barrier to private activities in this area.

The above provisions would also furnish my response to your third question as to whether there is any law prohibiting private colonization of the moon.

It is to me heartening to reflect that while the nations of earth cannot reach a similar agreement on their earthly activities, substantial agreement has been reached on their activities in space. Your interest in this field is also gratifying as is your interest in the nation's space program.

Citation: Records of the  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

Development of this great new frontier and consequently the refinement of law concepts discussed here rest with your generation.

Sincerely yours,

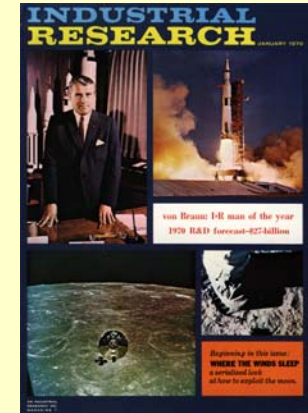
Foster Haley  
Deputy Director of  
Public Affairs

FHaley/ga

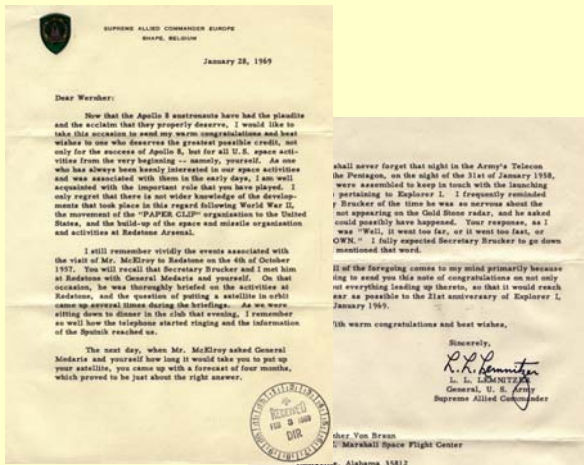
# Werhner von Braun Congratulations!



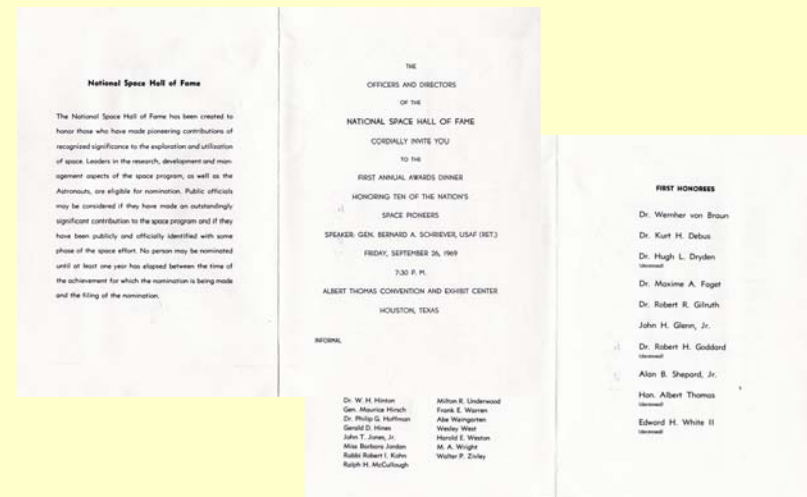
Alexandria, Virginia, Boys Club



Industrial Research man of the year 1970



“With warm congratulations and best wishes,” ...Supreme Allied Commander



National Space Hall of Fame 1st Award Dinner

PA 12-15-69

# ALEXANDRIA BOYS' CLUB

401 N. Payne Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314



BOYS' CLUBS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

## 33rd ANNIVERSARY

December 11, 1969

Dr. Werner Von Braun  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Huntsville, Alabama

549-3077 — 549-3078

EDD SHULL  
Executive Director  
RICHARD JORDAN, JR.  
Unit Director

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EARL G. THOMAS

EUGENE THOMAS  
HARRY H. VAUGHAN, MAJ. GEN.

DR. WILLIAM YOUNG  
DR. EDWARD A. ZAKAIB

Dear Dr. Von Braun:

Science and technology has greatly served mankind in solving many mysteries and problems.

There are many who say that our Space Program is taking money from our low income citizens. Boys' Clubs of America disagrees! We believe that the advancement in Science and technology will help all citizens especially the low income in areas of health, transportation, education, and job opportunities.

For this reason, Alexandria Boys' Club of America program of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Area would like to honor you on April 6, 1970 with the distinguished "Golden Man-Boy Award" for your contribution to all mankind.

A National leader has been asked to make the presentation to you on April 6, 1970 at the Twin Bridges Motor Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia at 7:30 pm. This is an Annual affair as you can see from the enclosed information.

If you will be available on this date, please let me know at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

*Edd Shull*  
Edd Shull  
Executive Director

ES/iat  
encl.



DR. ROBERT S. BARRETT  
Founder

REMEMBER ALEXANDRIA BOYS' CLUB IN YOUR WILL

Citation: Records of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

# INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

JANUARY 1970



**von Braun: I•R man of the year  
1970 R&D forecast—\$27-billion**



*Beginning in this issue:  
**WHERE THE WINDS SLEEP**  
a serialized look  
at how to exploit the moon.*

Citation: Records of the  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE  
SHAPE, BELGIUM

January 28, 1969

Dear Wernher:

Now that the Apollo 8 astronauts have had the plaudits and the acclaim that they properly deserve, I would like to take this occasion to send my warm congratulations and best wishes to one who deserves the greatest possible credit, not only for the success of Apollo 8, but for all U. S. space activities from the very beginning -- namely, yourself. As one who has always been keenly interested in our space activities and was associated with them in the early days, I am well acquainted with the important role that you have played. I only regret that there is not wider knowledge of the developments that took place in this regard following World War II, the movement of the "PAPER CLIP" organization to the United States, and the build-up of the space and missile organization and activities at Redstone Arsenal.

I still remember vividly the events associated with the visit of Mr. McElroy to Redstone on the 4th of October 1957. You will recall that Secretary Brucker and I met him at Redstone with General Medaris and yourself. On that occasion, he was thoroughly briefed on the activities at Redstone, and the question of putting a satellite in orbit came up several times during the briefings. As we were sitting down to dinner in the club that evening, I remember so well how the telephone started ringing and the information of the Sputnik reached us.

The next day, when Mr. McElroy asked General Medaris and yourself how long it would take you to put up your satellite, you came up with a forecast of four months, which proved to be just about the right answer.



I shall never forget that night in the Army's Telecon room in the Pentagon, on the night of the 31st of January 1958, when we were assembled to keep in touch with the launching activities pertaining to Explorer I. I frequently reminded Secretary Brucker of the time he was so nervous about the Explorer not appearing on the Gold Stone radar, and he asked you what could possibly have happened. Your response, as I recall it, was "Well, it went too far, or it went too fast, or it went DOWN." I fully expected Secretary Brucker to go down when you mentioned that word.

All of the foregoing comes to my mind primarily because I was hoping to send you this note of congratulations on not only Apollo, but everything leading up thereto, so that it would reach you as near as possible to the 21st anniversary of Explorer I, i. e., 31 January 1969.

With warm congratulations and best wishes,

Sincerely,

L. L. LEMNITZER  
General, U. S. Army  
Supreme Allied Commander

Dr. Wernher Von Braun  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
NASA  
Huntsville, Alabama 35812

### National Space Hall of Fame

The National Space Hall of Fame has been created to honor those who have made pioneering contributions of recognized significance to the exploration and utilization of space. Leaders in the research, development and management aspects of the space program, as well as the Astronauts, are eligible for nomination. Public officials may be considered if they have made an outstandingly significant contribution to the space program and if they have been publicly and officially identified with some phase of the space effort. No person may be nominated until at least one year has elapsed between the time of the achievement for which the nomination is being made and the filing of the nomination.

THE  
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
NATIONAL SPACE HALL OF FAME  
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU  
TO THE  
FIRST ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER  
HONORING TEN OF THE NATION'S  
SPACE PIONEERS

SPEAKER: GEN. BERNARD A. SCHRIEVER, USAF (RET.)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1969

7:30 P. M.

ALBERT THOMAS CONVENTION AND EXHIBIT CENTER  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

INFORMAL

#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS NATIONAL SPACE HALL OF FAME

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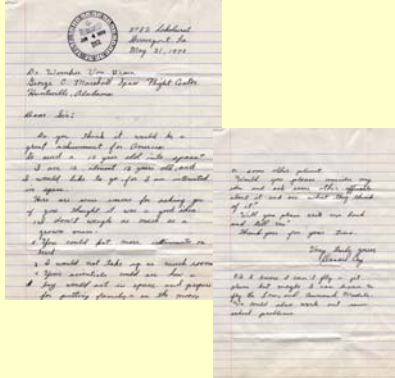
Dillon Anderson	L. F. McCallum
W. S. Bellows, Jr.	John W. Mecom
Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr.	George T. Morse, Jr.
Rev. Patrick O. Braden	R. A. Parker
George R. Brown	Dr. Harry Ransom
H. S. (Hank) Brown	Corbin J. Robertson
Francis R. Deering	Gen. Earl Rudder
Brian Duff	Dr. Granville M. Sawyer
Dr. Richard T. Eastwood	E. C. Scurlock
J. A. Elkins, Jr.	David T. Searls
Glenn Fletcher	Dudley C. Sharp
Homer L. Ford	Walter G. Sterling
H. J. Frenshley	Gardiner Symonds
Johnny Goyen	Mrs. Albert Thomas
Dr. W. H. Hinton	Milton R. Underwood
Gen. Maurice Hirsch	Frank E. Warren
Dr. Philip G. Hoffman	Abe Weingarten
Gerald D. Hines	Wesley West
John T. Jones, Jr.	Harold E. Weston
Miss Barbara Jordan	M. A. Wright
Rabbi Robert I. Kahn	Walter P. Zivley
Ralph H. McCullough	

#### FIRST HONOREES

Dr. Wernher von Braun  
Dr. Kurt H. Debus  
Dr. Hugh L. Dryden  
*(deceased)*  
Dr. Maxime A. Faget  
Dr. Robert R. Gilruth  
John H. Glenn, Jr.  
Dr. Robert H. Goddard  
*(deceased)*  
Alan B. Shepard, Jr.  
Hon. Albert Thomas  
*(deceased)*  
Edward H. White II  
*(deceased)*

Citation: Records of the National  
Aeronautics and Space Administration

# Wernher von Braun I Want to Go

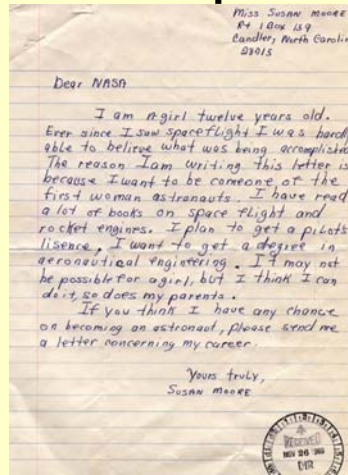


Reasons to send a 12 year old boy into space

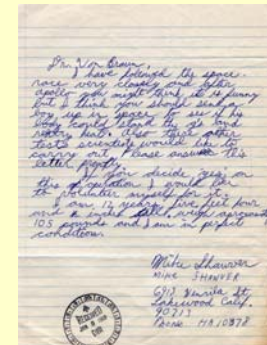
Wisconsin high school freshman interested in space



Wants to be the first woman in space



5' 41/2" 105 lbs 12 years old  
perfect condition ready to go!



All space addresses lead to Huntsville





2782 Lakelurst  
Shreveport, La.  
May 31, 1970

Dr. Werner Von Braun  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Sir:

Do you think it would be a great achievement for America to send a 12 year old into space?

I am 12, almost 13 years old, and I would like to go, for I am interested in space.

Here are some reasons for asking you if you thought it was a good idea:

1. I don't weigh as much as a grown man.
2. You could put more instruments on board.
3. I would not take up as much room.
4. Your scientists could see how a boy would act in space and prepare for putting families on the moon.

or some other planet.

Would you please consider my idea and ask some other officials about it and see what they think of it?

Will you please write me back and tell me?

Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,  
Plannie Coy

P.S. I know I can't fly a jet plane but maybe I can learn to fly the Pen, and Command Module. We could also work out some school problems.

Miss Susan Moore  
Rt 1 Box 159  
Candler, North Carolina  
28015

Dear NASA

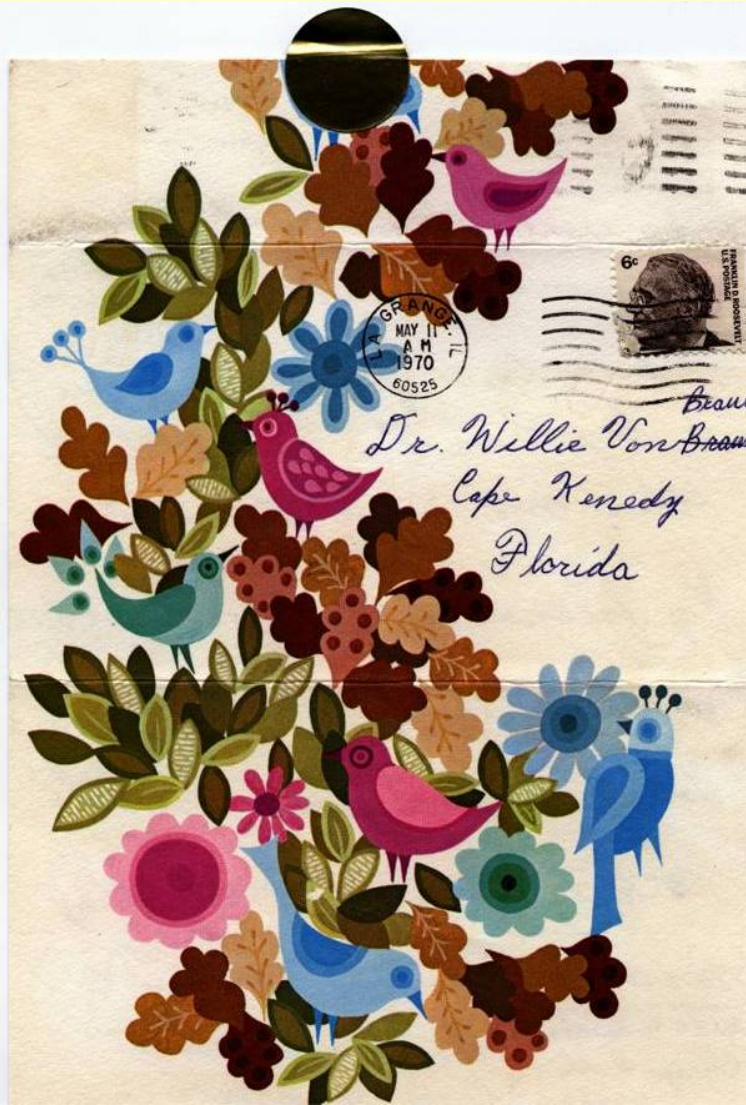
I am a girl twelve years old. Ever since I saw space flight I was hardly able to believe what was being accomplished. The reason I am writing this letter is because I want to be someone of the first woman astronauts. I have read a lot of books on space flight and rocket engines. I plan to get a pilot's license, I want to get a degree in aeronautical engineering. It may not be possible for a girl, but I think I can do it, so does my parents.

If you think I have any chance on becoming an astronaut, please send me a letter concerning my career.

Yours truly,  
Susan Moore



Citation: Records of the  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



Citation: Records of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration


Dear Dr. Von Braun,  
How are you?

I am fine.  
I am eleven years old and  
very interested in rockets.  
I have two of them  
a big Bertha and  
other one is a Astro II.

My friend tells me about  
you. I think you are  
doing a good job in the  
rockets. How come they  
never show you one D.V.?

8536 W. Rascher.  
Chicago Ill  
60656

Sincerely yours  
Chris Muchmor





PH

March 5, 1969

Dear Dr. Von Braun,

I am a freshman at Campion  
Jesuit high school. I'm very interested in  
our nations space program. It is very  
unfortunate these days, the way people  
assail the space program, as wasteful. But  
it is good to know that N.A.S.A. has  
leaders like yourself to keep the program progress-  
ing. I hope that someday everyone will  
realize that our country needs a solid space  
program. In the meantime I wish you  
and N.A.S.A. continued success now and  
in the future.



Yours truly,  
Robert Schultze

Dr. Von Braun,

I have followed the space race very closely and after apollo you might think it is funny but I think you should send a boy up in space to see if his body could stand the g's and reentry heat. Also there other tests scientists would like to carry out. Please answer this letter promptly.

If you decide "yes" on this operation I would like to volunteer myself for it.

I am 12 years, five feet four and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall, weigh approximately 105 pounds and I am in perfect conditioon.

Mike Shaver

MIKE SHAWVER

6913 Xenilla St.  
Lakewood Calif.

90713

Phone HA 10878

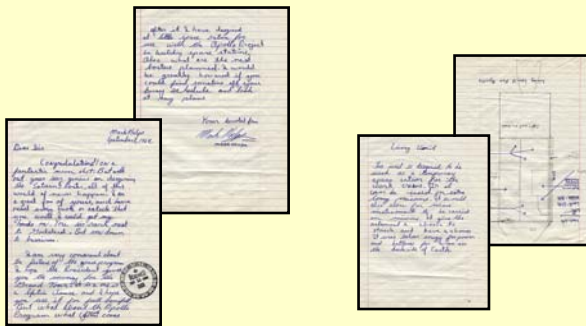
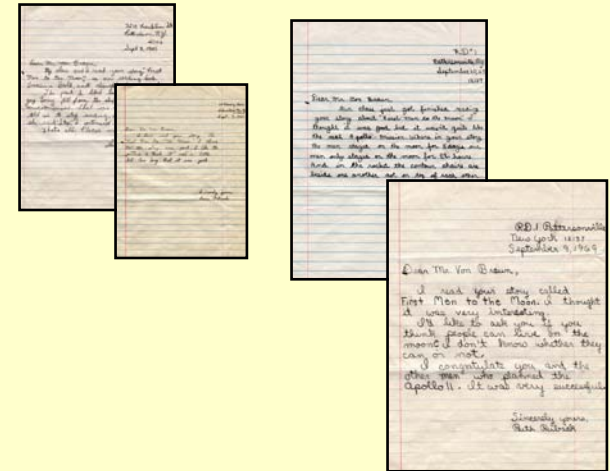
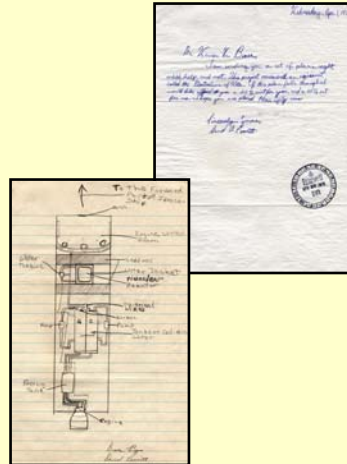
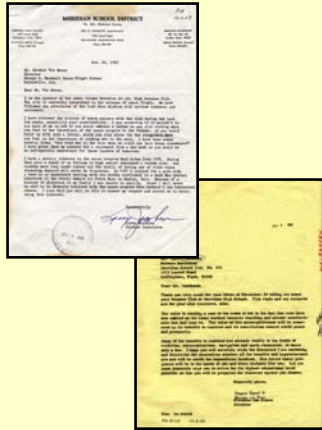


# Werhner von Braun Next Generation

Instructor wants to  
make a difference

50% cut if you use my idea

Inspired by reading your story...



Temporary energy saving  
space station design

14 year old future scientist

**MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

No. 505, Whatcom County

MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL  
1673 Laurel Road  
Bellingham, Wash. 98225  
WHITFIELD KRATZ, Principal  
Phone 398-1981

FRED G. WENDOVER, Superintendent  
1673 Laurel Road  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98225  
Phone 398-1981

MERIDIAN ELEMENTARY  
861 Ten Mile Rd.  
Lynden, Wash. 98264  
OSCAR NELSON, Principal  
Phone 398-2291

PA  
12-2-69

Nov. 29, 1969

Dr. Wernher Von Braun  
Director  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Huntsville, Ala.

Dear Dr. Von Braun,

I am the sponsor of the newly formed Meridian Jr.-Sr. High Science Club. The club is currently interested in the science of space flight. We have followed the adventures of the last moon mission with extreme interest and excitement.

I have reviewed the history of space science with the club during the past few weeks, especially your contributions. I was wondering if it wouldn't be too bold of me to ask if you would address a letter to our club stating what you feel is the importance of the space program to the future. If you would honor us with such a letter, would you also state for the youngsters what you feel is the importance of sending men to the moon. I have been asked several times, "why send men to the moon when we could use that money elsewhere?" I have given them my answers but a statement from a man such as you would be an unforgettable experience for these leaders of tomorrow.

I have a special interest in the space program that dates from 1958. During that year a bunch of us fellows in high school organized a rocket club. Our rockets were very crude indeed but the thrill of seeing one of those tubes streaking skyward will never be forgotten. In 1967 I applied for a spot with a team in an experiment dealing with six months confinement in a mock Man Orbital Laboratory at the Patric Edward Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Because of a history of diabetes in my family I was unable to qualify. Since I will never be able to be directly involved with the space program then perhaps I can interest others. I hope that you will be able to answer my request and assist me in developing this interest.

Respectfully

*Larry Jacobson*  
Larry Jacobson  
Science Instructor

Citation: Records of the  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



DIR

DEC 8 1969

Mr. Larry Jacobson  
Science Instructor  
Meridian School Dist. No. 505  
1673 Laurel Road  
Bellingham, Wash. 98225

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 29 telling me about your Science Club at Meridian High School. This reply and my remarks are for your club members, also.

The value in sending a man to the moon is not in the fact that men have now walked on the lunar surface however startling and almost unbelievable that fact may be. The value of this accomplishment will be measured by its benefits to mankind and its contribution toward world peace and prosperity.

Many of the benefits to mankind are already reality in the fields of medicine, communications, navigation and earth resources, to name only a few. I hope you will carefully study the literature I am enclosing and determine for yourselves whether all the benefits and improvements are and will be worth the expenditure involved. Our future space programs will be in the hands of you and other students like you. Let me most sincerely urge you to strive for the highest educational level possible so that you will be prepared for whatever career you choose.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By  
Wernher von Braun  
Wernher von Braun  
Director

Enc: As stated

PA-E/cd 12-4-69

RECORD - 74

PA

Wednesday, Apr. 1, 1970

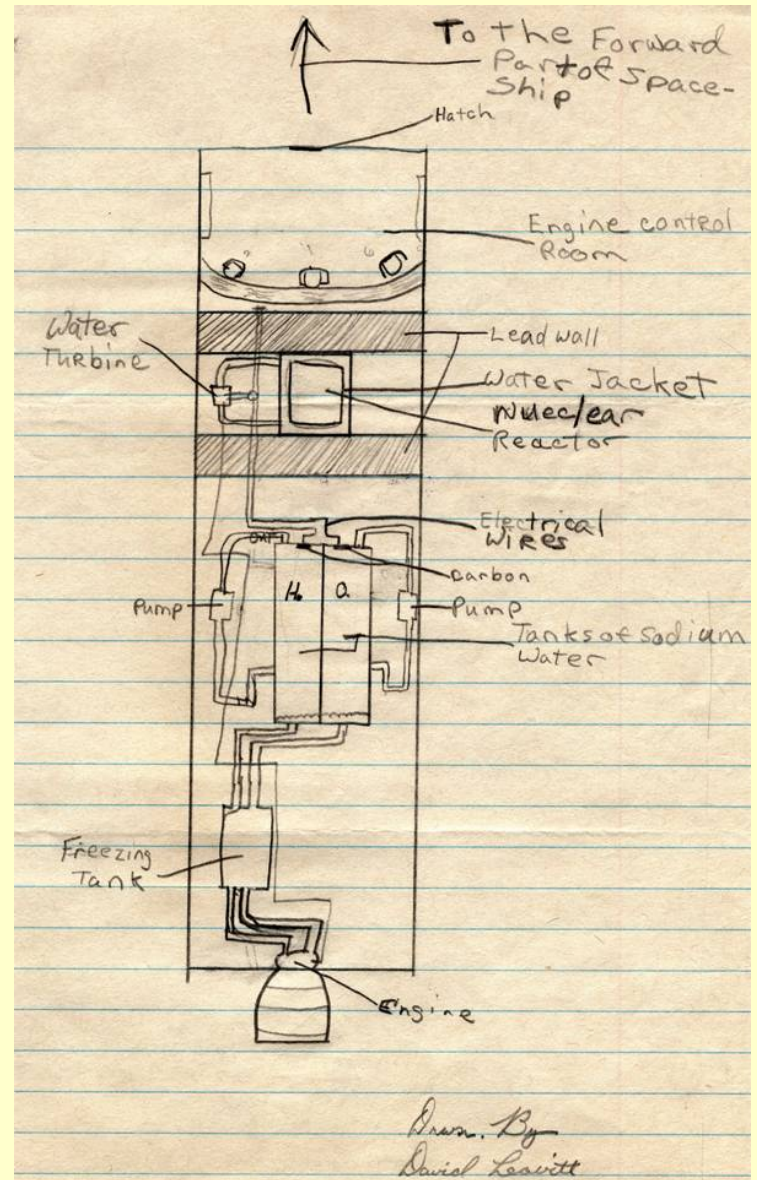
Dr. Karner Von Braun,

I am sending you a set of plans right which help, and not. This project occurs with an experiment, called the *Electrolisis of Water*. If this plan falls through I would like offered ~~to~~ you a 50% cut for you, and a 50% cut for me. I hope you are pleased. Please reply soon.

Sincerely yours,  
David A. Leavitt



Citation: Records of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Drawn By  
David Leavitt

3210 Franklin St.  
Rotterdam, N.Y.

12306

Sept 8, 1969

Dear Mr. von Braun,

My class and I read your story "First Men to the Moon," in our reading book Treasure Gold, and thought it was good.

The part I liked best was when that guy Larry fell from the ship and lost consciousness. That was where the teacher told us to stop reading, and even though she said, "Stop," I continued.

That's all. Please write.

Shonna Lozzio

29 Memory Lane

Eden City, N.Y.

12306  
Sept. 9, 1969

Dear Mr. Von Braun,

I have read your story "The First Men On The Moon." I think that the story was good, I like the pictures. I think it was a little bit too long. But it was good.

Sincerely yours,  
Laura Ostrowski

R.D. #1  
Pattersonville, N.Y.  
September 10, 69  
12137

Dear Mr. Von Braun,

Our class just got finished reading your story about "First man to the moon". I thought it was good but it wasn't quite like the real Apollo mission. Where in your story the men stayed on the moon for 5 days our men only stayed on the moon for 27 hours. And in the rocket the control chairs are beside one another not on top of each other.

Sincerely yours,  
Darlene Birtoli

Citation: Records of the  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

R.D. #1 Pattersonville  
New York 12137  
September 9, 1969

Dear Mr. Von Braun,

I read your story called First Men to the Moon. I thought it was very interesting.

I'd like to ask you if you think people can live on the moon? I don't know whether they can or not.

I congratulate you and the other men who planned the Apollo 11. It was very successful.

Sincerely yours,  
Beth Ruback

Mark Phelps  
September 8, 1969

Dear Sir

Congratulations!! on a fantastic moon shot. But without your sheer genius on designing the Saturn 5 booster, all of this would of never happen. I am a great fan of yours, and have read every book or article that you wrote I could get my hands on. You sir rank next to Goddard. But now down to business.

I am very concerned about the future of the space program I hope the President gives you the money for the Grand Tour. It is a one in a lifetime chance and I hope you use it for full benefit. But what about the Apollo Program what <sup>omit</sup> (omit) comes



after it. I have designed a little space station for use with the Apollo Project in building space stations. Also what are the next boosters planned. I would be greatly honored if you could find sometime off your busy schedule and look at my plans

Your devoted fan

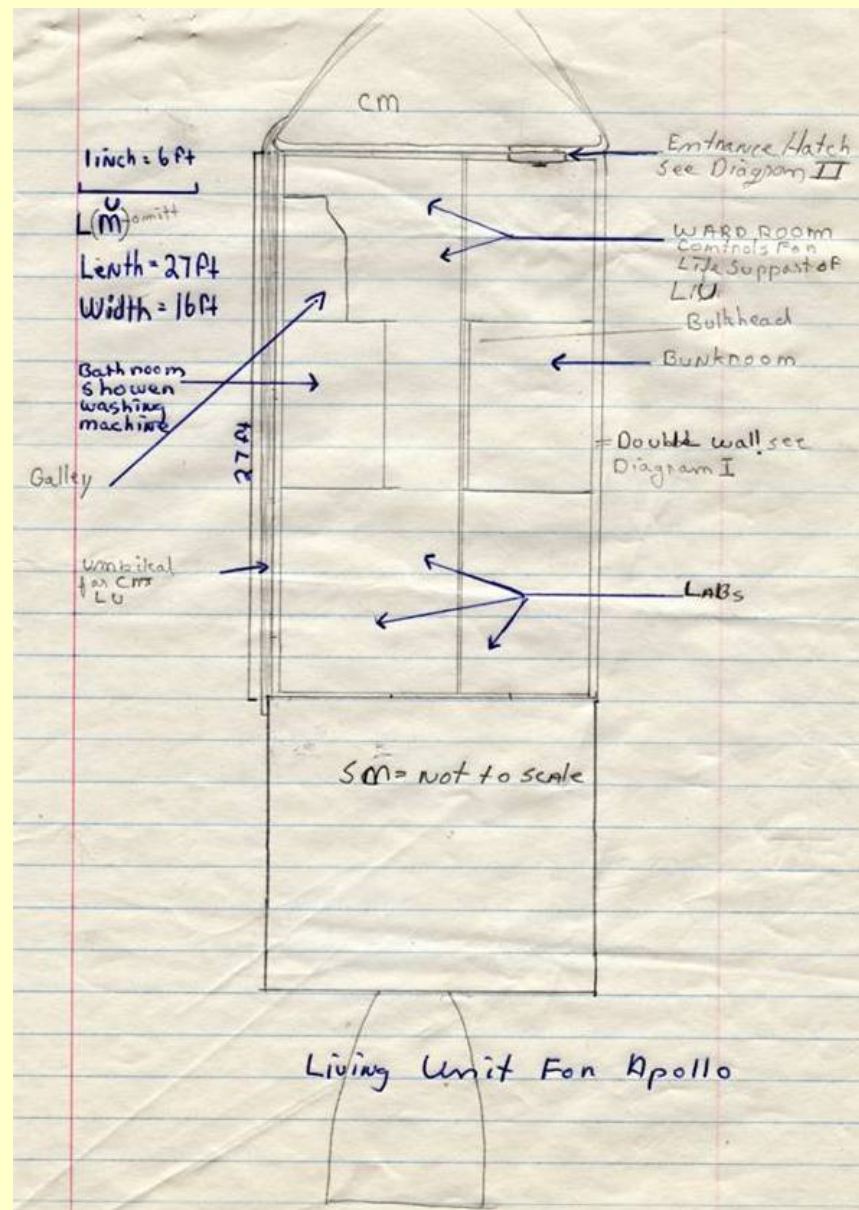
Mark Phelps  
MARK Phelps

Citation: Records of the  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

# Living Unit

This unit is designed to be used as a temporary space station for the work crews. As it can be used on extra long missions. It would also allow for more instruments to be carried on missions. It gives the astronaut a chance to stretch and have a shower. It uses solar energy for power and batteries for when in the darkside of Earth.

Citation: Records of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration



32 Rushton ~~rd.~~ Victoria Park  
Perth, Western Australia  
Australia 6100.

Dear Sir,

I am 14 years old and very interested in science especially space research and I am building, and almost completed a small research rocket.

I have launched many non-metal solid propellant rockets before which reached altitudes of up to six-hundred feet.

This one, which I have enclosed a diagram of I expect to reach a very high altitude, that is about five to ten miles.

It carries recovery devices below the payload, but I do not know what and how I can make a suitable payload of up to 10 lbs, that will return me some information.

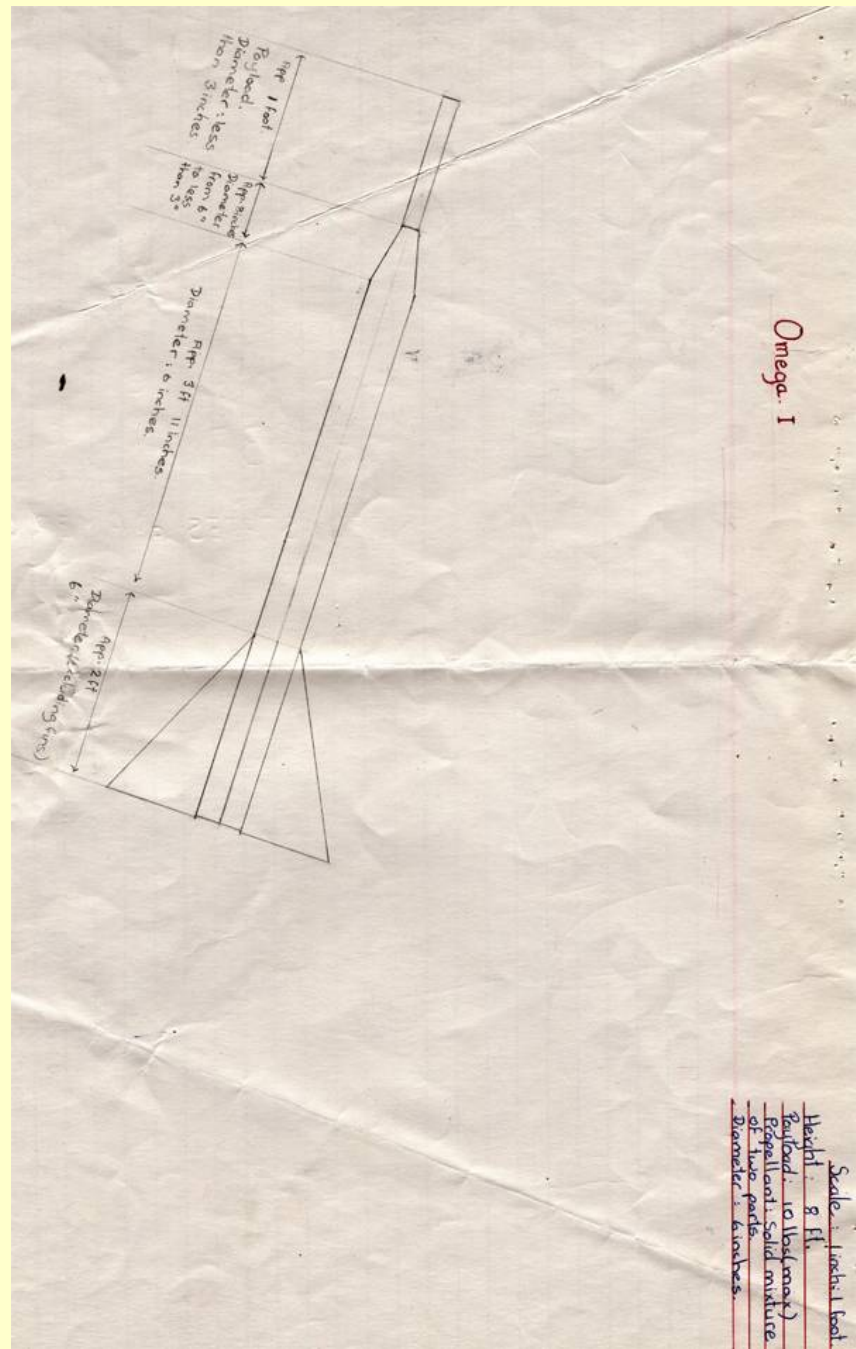
And so I was wondering if you could give me some pointers on a simple but effective payload.

PS.

I suppose you have been praised by many but I honestly think you are one of the best men I have every read or heard about, Thankyou.

yours faithfully

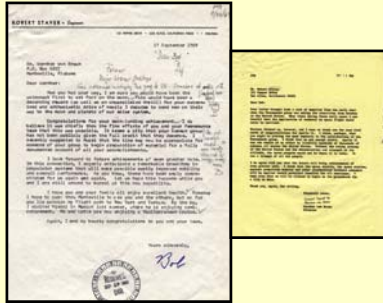
  
Michael Remias.



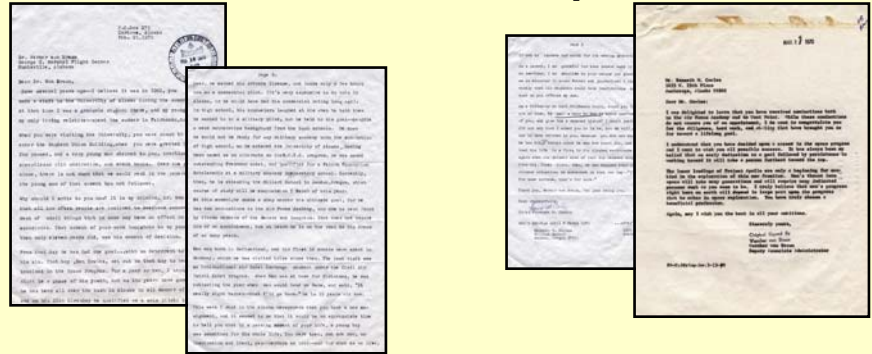
# Werhner von Braun

## Thoughts and Memories

### Hand written memories



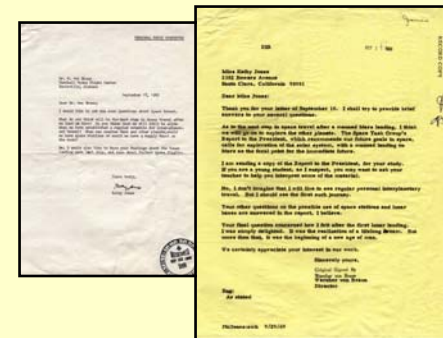
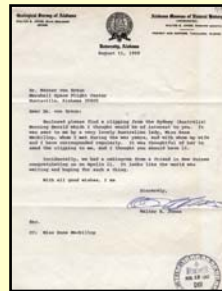
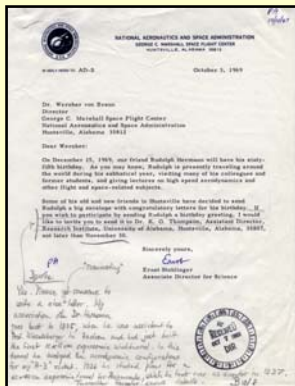
### "You were then... an inspiration."



### Personal letter

### Known around the world

### What is the next step?



ROBERT STAYER • Engineer

121 PEPPER DRIVE • LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA 94022 • • 948-9234

17 September 1969

Dr. Wernher von Braun  
P.O. Box 6822  
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Wernher:

Had you had your way, I am sure you would have been the astronaut first to set foot on the moon. This would have been a deserving reward (as well as an unparalleled thrill) for your determined and enthusiastic drive of nearly 3 decades to send men on their way to the moon and planets of our solar system.

Congratulations for your moon-landing achievement. I do believe it was chiefly thru the fine efforts of you and your Peenemunde team that this was possible. It seems a pity that your German group has not been publicly given the full credit that they deserve. I recently suggested to Huzel that the time may now be appropriate for someone of your group to begin preparation of material for a fully documented account of all your accomplishments.

I look forward to future achievements of even greater note. In this connection, I eagerly anticipate a remarkable breakthrough in propulsion systems that will make possible vastly improved mobility and overall performance. As you know, these have been amply demonstrated for us again and again. Let us hope this happens while you and I are still around to marvel at this new capability.

I hope you and your family all enjoy excellent health. Someday I hope to pass thru Huntsville to see you and the others, but so far you lie outside my flight path to New York and Europe. By the by, I visited Riedel in Munich last summer, where he is enjoying semi-retirement. He and Lotte are now enjoying a Mediterranean cruise.

Again, I send my hearty congratulations to you and your team.

Yours sincerely,

*Bob*



Citation: Records of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

PA  
9/24/69

*Former Major Stayer Ord Corps*

*"Dear Bob"*  
*Bzf*

*was instrumental in bringing the group to US. Sounded at odds with sea and how (Mx) To/Hy B*

*We got enough credit. It was really deserved by many, many more. B*

DIR

OCT 13 1969

Mr. Robert Stayer  
121 Pepper Drive  
Los Altos, California 94022

Dear Bob:

Your letter brought back a rush of memories from the early days when the Peenemunde group was making the transition from Germany to the United States. Many times during those early years I was fearful that the application of rocketry to space flight would never be realized.

History favored us, however, and I want to thank you for your kind words of congratulations for Apollo 11. I think, perhaps, that you might be placing too much emphasis in the contributions of the Peenemunde group. I think that we got enough credit. Apollo 11 was the result of an effort by literally hundreds of thousands of persons all across the United States. Without the strong economy of the United States and the determination and strength of its citizens, the space program would not be where it is today. It was a triumph of all the people.

I do agree with you that the future will bring achievements of even greater note. I think that the space shuttle, the space station, nuclear propulsion modules and other standardized hardware concepts will be applied toward practical benefits for all Americans. I hope also that we will be allowed to begin on the groundwork for a trip to Mars.

Thank you, again, for writing.

Sincerely yours,  
Original Signed By  
Wernher von Braun  
Wernher von Braun  
Director

RECORD COPY PA

P.O.Box 275  
Cordova, Alaska  
Feb. 15, 1970



Dr. Werner von Braun  
George C. Marshal Flight Center  
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Dr. Von Braun,

Some several years ago--I believe it was in 1961, you made a visit to the University of Alaska during the summer. At that time I was a graduate student there, and my young son--my only living relative--spent the summer in Fairbanks, too.

When you were visiting the University, you were about to enter the Student Union Building, when you were greeted in German. You paused, and a very young man stepped to you, practically speechless with admiration, and shook hands. Over the years since, there is not much that we could read in the papers that the young man of that moment has not followed.

Why should I write to you now? It is my opinion, Dr. von Braun, that all too often people are inclined to overlook acknowledgment of small things that in some way have an effect on unknown associates. That moment of your warm handshake to my young son, then only eleven years old, was his moment of decision.

From that day he has had one goal...with no deterrent to weaken his aim. That boy, Ken Cowles, set out on that day to become involved in the Space Program. For a year or two, I thought this might be a phase of his youth, but as the years have gone by, he has been all over the bush in Alaska in all manner of aircraft, and on his 16th birthday he qualified as a solo pilot; the next

page 2.

year, he earned his private license, and lacks only a few hours now as a commercial pilot. (It's very expensive to do this in Alaska, or he would have had his commercial rating long ago). In high school, his counselors laughed at him when he told them he wanted to be a military pilot, but he held to his goal--despite a weak mathematics background from the bush schools. He knew he would not be ready for any military academy upon the completion of high school, so he entered the University of Alaska, having been named as an alternate on the R.O.T.C. program. He was named outstanding Freshman cadet, and qualified for a Falcon Foundation Scholarship at a military academy preparatory school. Currently, then, he is attending the Millard School in Bandon, Oregon, which course of study will be completed on 7 March of this year. At this moment, he seems a step nearer his ultimate goal, for he has two nominations to the Air Force Academy, and one to West Point by Alaska members of the Senate and Congress. That does not assure him of an appointment, but at least he is on the road to his dream of so many years.

Ken was born in Switzerland, and his first 16 months were spent in Germany, which he has visited twice since then. The last visit was as International Air Cadet Exchange student under the Civil Air Patrol Cadet program. When Ken was at home for Christmas, he was estimating the year when men would land on Mars, and said, "It really might happen--that I'll go Mars." He is 19 years old now.

This week I read in the Alaska newspapers that you have a new assignment, and it seemed to me that it would be an appropriate time to tell you that in a passing moment of your life, a young boy was committed for his whole life. You were then, and are now, an inspiration and ideal, yes--perhaps an idol--and for what do we live,

if not to improve our world for the coming generations?

As a parent, I am grateful for that moment back in 1961; as an American, I am sensitive to your unique and glorious talents; as an educator (I teach French and journalism) I wish most fervently that all students could have inspirations and ideals such as you offered my son.

As a follow-up on that Fairbanks visit, would you find another bit of time, to mail a note to Ken to again confirm his opinion of you, and give him a renewed vision? I would prefer that you did not say that I asked you to do so, but he will know that I had to have written to you, because you did not know his name. He has not <sup>had</sup> a father since he was two years old, and he has nearly lost his life in a fire; in the Alaskan earthquake at Seward; and again when the seismic wave of that day receded only a few yards from him. Three times, then, he has escaped even an injury in a violent situation; he commented on that one day--"I'm being saved for some purpose, that's for sure."

Thank you, Werner von Braun, for just being you.

Most respectfully,

*Florence M. Cowles*  
(Mrs.) Florence M. Cowles

Ken's address until 7 March 1970

Kenneth M. Cowles  
Millard School  
Bandon, Oregon 97411

...after 7 March 1970

1455 W. 25th Place  
Anchorage, Alaska  
99502

MAR 24 1970

Mr. Kenneth M. Cowles  
1455 W. 25th Place  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Cowles:

I was delighted to learn that you have received nominations both to the Air Force Academy and to West Point. While these nominations do not assure you of an appointment, I do want to congratulate you for the diligence, hard work, and ability that have brought you so far toward a lifelong goal.

I understand that you have decided upon a career in the space program and I want to wish you all possible success. It has always been my belief that an early dedication to a goal followed by persistence in working toward it will take a person furthest toward the top.

The lunar landings of Project Apollo are only a beginning for mankind in the exploration of this new frontier. Man's thrust into space will take many generations and will require many dedicated persons such as you seem to be. I truly believe that man's progress right here on earth will depend in large part upon the progress that he makes in space exploration. You have truly chosen a beneficial profession.

Again, may I wish you the best in all your ambitions.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By  
Wernher von Braun  
Wernher von Braun  
Deputy Associate Administrator

PA-C:ACrisp:bw:3-13-70



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
GEORGE C. MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER  
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35812

PA  
10/10/69

IN REPLY REFER TO: AD-S

October 3, 1969

Dr. Wernher von Braun  
Director  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Huntsville, Alabama 35812

Dear Wernher:

On December 15, 1969, our friend Rudolph Hermann will have his sixty-fifth birthday. As you may know, Rudolph is presently traveling around the world during his sabbatical year, visiting many of his colleagues and former students, and giving lectures on high speed aerodynamics and other flight and space-related subjects.

Some of his old and new friends in Huntsville have decided to send Rudolph a big envelope with congratulatory letters for his birthday. If you wish to participate by sending Rudolph a birthday greeting, I would like to invite you to send it to Dr. K. O. Thompson, Assistant Director, Research Institute, University of Alabama, Huntsville, Alabama, 35807, not later than November 30.

Sincerely yours,

*Ernst*

Ernst Stuhlinger  
Associate Director for Science

PA  
*Bowie*  
"ruminating"

Yes. Please get someone to write a nice letter. My association with Dr. Hermann goes back to 1935, when he was assistant to Prof. Wieselsberger in Aachen and had just built the first 10x10 cm supersonic windtunnel. In this tunnel he developed the aerodynamic configurations for my "A-3" rocket. 1936 he started plans for a 40x40 cm supersonic tunnel for Rechenwende, which he took over as director in 1937. Thereafter Reissler knows details. B 10/P



Citation: Records of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Geological Survey of Alabama

WALTER B. JONES, STATE GEOLOGIST  
RETIRED



Alabama Museum of Natural History

(INCORPORATED)

WALTER B. JONES, DIRECTOR EMERITUS

FREIGHT AND EXPRESS, TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

University, Alabama

August 11, 1969

Dr. Werner von Braun  
Marshall Space Flight Center  
Huntsville, Alabama 35800

Dear Dr. von Braun:

Enclosed please find a clipping from the Sydney (Australia) Morning Herald which I thought would be of interest to you. It was sent to me by a very lovely Australian lady, Miss Anna Mackillop, whom I met during the war years, and with whom my wife and I have corresponded regularly. It was thoughtful of her to send the clipping to me, and I thought you should have it.

Incidentally, we had a cablegram from a friend in New Guinea congratulating us on Apollo 11. It looks like the world was waiting and hoping for such a thing.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walter B. Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Walter B. Jones

Enc.

CC: Miss Anna Mackillop

Citation: Records of the  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



*The Sydney Morning Herald. 11<sup>th</sup> July 1969.*

## To the moon

# MAN WHO BUILT THE BIRD

HUNTSVILLE, Thursday.—Five hundred miles north-west of Cape Kennedy on the Tennessee River, this old Alabama cotton town of Huntsville once boasted it was "Water-cess Capital of the World."

The locals now call it Space Capital of the Universe.

Why? Because it was here that Dr Werner von Braun and his team of German-born engineers harnessed enough power in one rocket to send man to the moon.

Huntsville, since 1950, has been headquarters for the Marshall Space Flight Centre, one of the three main divisions of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Its director, Dr von Braun, was assigned the task of devising a rocket powerful enough to launch a spacecraft to the moon. He did.

It was the Saturn V which next week will send Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins to the moon.

Houston, headquarters for the Manned Spacecraft Centre, designed the Apollo spacecraft. John F. Kennedy Space Centre, Cape Kennedy, built the

**From Roy Macartney**

moonport to launch them both on their historic journey.

In its way, Huntsville is the quaintest of the three. In 1950, 118 German-born engineers descended upon the old cotton town. It hasn't been the same since.

These were prized German rocket experts from Peenemunde, over-run by American forces just before the Russians, and whipped off to the United States. First they worked at White Sands, New Mexico, and at Fort Bliss, Texas.

## Sauerkraut Hill

Then they launched America's first missile from Cape Canaveral—a captured V2—which von Braun had pioneered at Peenemunde eight years before—and settled in Huntsville.

Today the Marshall Space Flight Centre (named after the soldier-statesman) employs more than 7,000 workers. The first, second and third stages of Saturn V, the

world's largest rocket, were designed, built and ground-tested here, in the heart of the Deep South.

Of the original 118 German-born engineers who invaded Huntsville with von Braun, more than 60 are still working with him in key positions.

Thirty more are working elsewhere in the U.S., 15 returned to Europe, nine are dead. Only one cotton mill remains in Huntsville. Knockwurst marzipan and German beer are on the grocery shelves. It is one of the few American towns where you can hear guttural English with a Southern accent.

The 57-year-old von Braun lives with his wife and three children in a modest ranch-type house close to a small mountain that has been nicknamed Sauerkraut Hill because so many of the German engineers settled there.

NASA assigned von Braun and his engineers the task of building a rocket capable of putting more than 135 tons in earth orbit.

They came up with a rocket standing 28 storeys tall, or 363 feet with the Apollo spacecraft on top.



**Dr VON BRAUN**

Saturn V has a stack of 11 main engines, five in the first stage alone generating 7.5 million pounds of thrust. Before the task was finished, about 300,000 workers in 20,000 factories contributed to the Saturn V.

When the towering 3,000-ton rocket was tested at Cape Kennedy in November, 1967, Von Braun said simply: "A bird is a bird. If it is properly designed, it will fly."

It did, with the usually phlegmatic German who has devoted his life to rocketry, urging "Go, baby, go!"

## Appetite for space

Von Braun has tried not to dabble in politics in the U.S. But he has an insatiable appetite for space exploration, and the funds it takes.

Until recently, he spurred the U.S. space effort by replying "Russians," when asked what Americans would find when they got to the moon. Now he is more confident that his adopted country will be first.

On Wednesday next, he will be at Cape Kennedy to witness his sixth Saturn V launch for the moon, and at the Houston Manned Spacecraft Centre when man attempts his first landing.

PERSONAL REPLY REQUESTED

Dr. W. von Braun  
Marshall Space Flight Center  
Huntsville, Alabama

September 18, 1969

Dear Dr. von Braun;

I would like to ask you some questions about space travel.

What do you think will be the next step in space travel after we land on Mars? Do you think that we will still be alive when we have established a regular schedule for inter-planetary travel? When man reaches Mars and other planets, would we have space stations or would we have a supply depot on the moon?

Dr. I would also like to know your feelings about the lunar landing made last July, and also about further space flights.

Yours truly,

*Kathy Jones*  
Kathy Jones

Citation: Records of the  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



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OCT 1 1969

Miss Kathy Jones  
2382 Bowers Avenue  
Santa Clara, California 95051

Dear Miss Jones:

Thank you for your letter of September 18. I shall try to provide brief answers to your several questions.

As to the next step in space travel after a manned Mars landing, I think we will go on to explore the other planets. The Space Task Group's Report to the President, which recommends our future goals in space, calls for exploration of the solar system, with a manned landing on Mars as the focal point for the immediate future.

I am sending a copy of the Report to the President, for your study. If you are a young student, as I suspect, you may want to ask your teacher to help you interpret some of the material.

No, I don't imagine that I will live to see regular personal interplanetary travel. But I should see the first such journey.

Your other questions on the possible use of space stations and lunar bases are answered in the report, I believe.

Your final question concerned how I felt after the first lunar landing. I was simply delighted. It was the realization of a lifelong dream. But more than that, it was the beginning of a new age of man.

We certainly appreciate your interest in our work.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By  
Wernher von Braun  
Wernher von Braun  
Director

Eng:  
As stated

JMJones:smh 9/29/69

RECORD COPY

*J*  
*A*

*Jones*