

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Harrison Hagan “Jack” Schmitt

ORAL HISTORY: 14 July 1999
16 March 2000

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BS in Science, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 1957
University of Oslo, Norway (under a Fulbright Fellowship), 1957-1958
Ph.D. in Geology, Harvard University, Massachusetts, 1964

PRE-NASA CAREER:

Geologist, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Southeastern Alaska, Western Norway, New Mexico, and Montana (1957-1961)
Teaching Fellow, Ore Deposits, Harvard University (1961)
Project Chief, Lunar Filed Geological Methods, United States Geological Survey’s Astrogeology Center, Flagstaff, Arizona (1961-1965)

NASA CAREER:

Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Texas
Astronaut (1965-1975)
Chief, NASA Scientist-Astronauts (1974)
NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC
Assistant Administrator for Energy Programs (1974-1975)

POST-NASA CAREER:

Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Scholar, Caltech (1973-1975)
United States Senator (Republican) for New Mexico, Washington, DC (1977-1983)
Member, President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Independent Consultant in Science, Technology, and Public Policy
Adjunct Professor of Engineering, University of Wisconsin

MISSIONS:

Apollo 17 (AS-512)

- Crew: Commander Eugene A. Cernan, Command Module Pilot Ronald B. Evans, Lunar Module Pilot Harrison H. Schmitt
- Launched: 7 December 1972 at 12:33:00 A.M. EST from Cape Canaveral, FL
- Duration: 12 Days, 13 hours, 52 min
- Landed: 19 December 1972 at 2:25 p.M. EST in the Pacific Ocean

- Mission Highlights: Harrison H. “Jack” Schmitt became the first scientist-astronaut to land on Moon. Cernan and Schmitt set up the sixth automated research station. Completed the longest Lunar Roving Vehicle (LRV) traverse to date, totaling 30.5 km. Completed the longest lunar surface stay of 75 hours. Gathered 110.4 kg (243 lbs) of lunar material.

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Member, Geological Society of America
- Member, Geophysical Union
- Member, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Member, American Association of Petroleum Geologists
- Member, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Member, Sigma Xi (National Scientific Research Society)

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Fulbright Fellowship, 1957-1958
- Kennecott Fellowship in Geology, 1958-1959
- Harvard Traveling Fellowship, 1960
- Parker Traveling Fellowship, 1961-1962
- National Science Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Department of Geological Sciences, Harvard University, 1963-1964
- Johnson Space Center Superior Achievement Award, 1970
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal, 1973
- City of New York Gold Medal, 1973
- Nassau County New York Distinguished Service Medal, 1973
- American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, Petroleum Engineer's Ceremonial Medallion and Certificate of Honorary Membership, 1973
- Honorary Fellow of the Geological Society of America, 1973
- Arthur S. Fleming Award, 1973
- Honorary Doctorate of Engineering, Colorado School of Mines, 1973
- Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences' Richard Hopper Day Medal, 1973
- Republic of Senegal's National Order of the Lion, 1973
- Honorary Life Membership in the New Mexico Geological Society, 1973
- Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Scholar, Caltech, 1973-1975

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Harrison H. Schmitt Address. Congressional Record 119, No. 11 (1973): H373-H374, United States Congress, Washington, DC.

Harrison H. Schmitt Address, New Mexico State Legislature Record (31 January 1973), Santa Fe, New Mexico.

- Levinson, A. A., ed. Proceedings of the Apollo 11 Lunar Science Conference. Introduction by Harrison H. Schmitt. With Gary Lofgren, G.A. Swann, and Gene Simmons. New York: Pergamon Press, 1970.
- Mellberg, William F. Moon Missions: Mankind's first voyages to another world. Foreword by Harrison H. Schmitt. Plymouth, MI: Plymouth Press, Ltd., 1997.
- Ryder, G., H. H. Schmitt, P. D. Spudis, eds. Workshop on Geology of the Apollo 17 Landing Site. Houston: Lunar and Planetary Institute, 2-4 December 1992.
- Schmitt, Harrison H., Editor. Equilibrium Diagrams for Minerals at Low Temperature and Pressure. Cambridge, MA: The Geological Club of Harvard, 1962.
- Schmitt, Harrison H. "Petrology and Structure of the Eiksundsdal Eclogite Complex, Hareidland, Sunnmore, Norway." Ph.D. Thesis, Harvard University, 1963.
- Schmitt, Harrison H. "Metamorphic Eclogites of the Eiksund Area, Sunnmore, Norway" (abstract). Washington, DC: 45th Annual Meeting American Geophysical Union, 1964.
- Schmitt, Harrison H. "Apparent Igneous Features in the Copernicus Region of the Moon" (revised abstract). Washington, DC: 48th Annual Meeting American Geophysical Union, 1967.
- Schmitt, Harrison H. "Geologic Map of the Copernicus Quadrangle of the Moon." With N.J. Trask, and Eugene M. Shoemaker. United States Geological Survey, I-515 (LAC 58). Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1967.
- Schmitt, Harrison H. "Preliminary Geologic Studies of the Buell Park Kimberlite Pipe." With G.A. Swann. Washington, DC: 49th Annual Meeting, American Geophysical Union, 1968.
- Schmitt, Harrison H. "Memorial of Harrison Ashley Schmitt." American Geological Society Southern Arizona Guidebook III. ed. S. R. Titlay. Tuscon, AZ: American Geological Society, 1968: V-XII.
- Schmitt, Harrison H. "Now, We Can Teach the Moon." The Science Teacher 39 (1972): 38-40.
- Schmitt, Harrison H. "Pilot's Report." Apollo 17 Mission Report. With Eugene A. Cernan and Ronald E. Evans). Houston: NASA Johnson Space Center, 1973.
- Schmitt, Harrison H. "A Geological Investigation of the Taurus-Littrow Valley." With Eugene A. Cernan. Apollo 17 Preliminary Science Report. ed. R. A. Parker. Washington, DC: NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, 1973.

Shoemaker, Eugene M., Harrison H. Schmitt, et. al. "Utilization of high resolution photographs in manned lunar geological investigations; in Progress in the analysis of the fine structure and geology of the lunar surface from the Ranger VIII and IX photographs." JPL Technical Report No. 32800. California: NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (1966): 326-335.

Wolfe, E. W., V. L. Freeman, B. K. Lucchitta, D. H. Scott, J. W. Head, and Harrison H. Schmitt. "Geologic Setting of the Apollo 17 Landing Site" (abstract). Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs 4, No. 7 (1972): 710.

Wolfe, E. W., V. L. Freeman, W. R. Muehlberger, J. W. Head, Harrison H. Schmitt, and J. R. Sevier. "Apollo 17 Exploration of Taurus-Littrow." Geotimes 17, No. 11 (1972): 14-18.

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Michael Cassutt, Who's Who in Space: The First 25 Years (Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1987), s.v. "Harrison Schmitt."

Andrew Chaikin, A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts (New York: Penguin Books, 1994), 591.

"Harrison H. Schmitt," NASA Biographical Data Sheet, May 1974, Biographical Files, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET CREATED: 13 MARCH 1998