



**BONUS EPISODE**  
**APOLLO STORIES**

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,600  
[MUSIC]

2  
00:00:01,600 --> 00:00:03,200  
Hello!

3  
00:00:03,200 --> 00:00:04,200  
Hello, NASA.

4  
00:00:04,200 --> 00:00:06,000  
Hi NASA, it's me!

5  
00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:11,070  
The day was one of the ones that stand out  
in my life-- 50 years later.

6  
00:00:11,070 --> 00:00:13,730  
We told each other, can you believe we're  
seeing this?

7  
00:00:13,730 --> 00:00:18,180  
We could just make out the grainy images on  
our little black-and-white television.

8  
00:00:18,180 --> 00:00:22,920  
It was just amazing to think that there were  
people on that Moon up there that we could

9  
00:00:22,920 --> 00:00:23,920  
see.

10  
00:00:23,920 --> 00:00:27,170  
I had just turned five and we got to stay  
up late to watch it on television.

11  
00:00:27,170 --> 00:00:31,060  
It was July 20, 1969.

12

00:00:31,060 --> 00:00:32,790  
[MUSIC]

13

00:00:32,790 --> 00:00:37,840  
NARRATOR: Welcome to NASA Explorers: Apollo, the  
bonus episode!

14

00:00:37,840 --> 00:00:42,700  
Throughout the series, we brought you stories  
of our Moon and the people who explore it.

15

00:00:42,700 --> 00:00:47,460  
You met a Moon detective, learned about the  
MNGRL lab, and took a musical tour through

16

00:00:47,460 --> 00:00:50,650  
the last half-century of lunar science.

17

00:00:50,650 --> 00:00:55,040  
You also heard from people all over the world  
whose lives were shaped by the epic adventures

18

00:00:55,040 --> 00:00:57,050  
of the Apollo program!

19

00:00:57,050 --> 00:01:02,460  
To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Apollo  
11, we asked you to help NASA tell the story

20

00:01:02,460 --> 00:01:04,460  
of the first Moon landing.

21

00:01:04,460 --> 00:01:10,580  
We received over 300 stories from people all  
over the world. You heard some of these stories

22

00:01:10,580 --> 00:01:16,859  
in the series, and we're so excited to share  
a few more with you before we say goodbye.

23

00:01:16,859 --> 00:01:22,299

John Oliver Smith, from Ohio, taped the whole thing with a reel-to-reel recorder.

24

00:01:22,299 --> 00:01:27,220

In his Apollo story, he shared some of that tape and reflected on what the historic moment

25

00:01:27,220 --> 00:01:29,140

means to him.

26

00:01:30,140 --> 00:01:34,360

JOHN:I recall it was hot and humid-- a typical July day in western Ohio. It was one of those

27

00:01:34,360 --> 00:01:39,350

summers I spent swimming at the pond, doing chores with Dad, playing out in the fields,

28

00:01:39,350 --> 00:01:41,680

and making my own discoveries.

29

00:01:41,680 --> 00:01:46,240

My older brother Jim was out traveling the world somewhere. My teenage sisters were busy

30

00:01:46,240 --> 00:01:51,119

with their friends, and one of our local natives was in a small spaceship headed for the Moon.

31

00:01:51,119 --> 00:01:54,270

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE: Eagle, you're looking great. Coming up nine minutes.

32

00:01:54,270 --> 00:02:00,859

JOHN:I had a reel-to-reel tape recorder, a household item before VCRs, DVDs, and iPhones. I carried

33

00:02:00,859 --> 00:02:04,420

it everywhere. This was obviously a day to be recorded.

34

00:02:04,420 --> 00:02:12,550

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE: July 20th, 1969. It is 10 p.m. The following are the voices of Neil A. Armstrong, Air Force

35

00:02:12,550 --> 00:02:17,070

Colonel Edwin Aldrin Jr. They are the first men to ever walk on the Moon.

36

00:02:17,070 --> 00:02:21,570

JOHN: Neil Armstrong was a local boy. He grew up no more than 20 miles away, and his parents

37

00:02:21,570 --> 00:02:27,660

still lived nearby. Grandma and Grandpa were coming over. Mom had cooked something special

38

00:02:27,660 --> 00:02:32,390

and we were getting ready to watch Neil Armstrong do what no man had ever done before.

39

00:02:32,390 --> 00:02:36,420

Grandpa was sipping his drink-- wine or scotch, I don't remember which. But he was already

40

00:02:36,420 --> 00:02:41,760

on his second. Mom said he'd better land on the Moon or Grandpa will get there first.

41

00:02:41,760 --> 00:02:45,200

FAMILY FOOTAGE:Hurry up, or Grandpa'll land first!

42

00:02:45,200 --> 00:02:53,400

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE: We copy you down, Eagle. Houston, uh, tranquility base here. The Eagle has landed. Rocket to

43

00:02:53,400 --> 00:02:58,630

Tranquility, we copy on the ground. You got

a bunch of guys about to turn blue. We're

44

00:02:58,630 --> 00:03:00,370

breathing again, thanks a lot.

45

00:03:00,370 --> 00:03:05,510

JOHN: My father, the engineer, was explaining the events on TV moment by moment. We all held

46

00:03:05,510 --> 00:03:08,230

our breath at 9:56 p.m.

47

00:03:08,230 --> 00:03:15,930

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE: That's one small step for man. One giant leap for mankind.

48

00:03:15,930 --> 00:03:20,190

JOHN: When we mark the anniversary this summer, I will fall back 50 years to the day I first

49

00:03:20,190 --> 00:03:25,240

heard that phrase-- a giant leap for mankind. But I won't be thinking of only Neil Armstrong.

50

00:03:25,240 --> 00:03:29,480

I'll see perfectly my mom, dad, grandma, and grandpa all sitting in the living room

51

00:03:29,480 --> 00:03:34,400

around the television in our little house in western Ohio. I'll also be sitting with

52

00:03:34,400 --> 00:03:39,960

my beautiful wife, children, and grandchildren, and thinking of the future, imagining discoveries

53

00:03:39,960 --> 00:03:42,710

yet to come, and wondering what they will remember.

54

00:03:42,710 --> 00:03:43,910

[MUSIC]

55

00:03:43,910 --> 00:03:48,790

NARRATOR Candy was in Rome when the first people walked on the Moon! Here's what she remembers:

56

00:03:48,790 --> 00:03:54,870

CANDY: I had the privilege of visiting Europe when I was 17 years old in the summer of '69

57

00:03:54,870 --> 00:04:01,030

with the All Ohio Youth Choir. Although we were warmly greeted everywhere we toured,

58

00:04:01,030 --> 00:04:07,370

one day as we exited our bus in Rome, we were greeted with hugs and kisses, cheers and bouquets

59

00:04:07,370 --> 00:04:08,710

of flowers.

60

00:04:08,710 --> 00:04:14,010

We had no idea what the extra affection was about until our translator explained that

61

00:04:14,010 --> 00:04:18,930

the Italians were congratulating us as Americans for landing on the Moon!

62

00:04:18,930 --> 00:04:26,030

I bought a local paper with the headline "Luna" in bold block letters that day, which I still

63

00:04:26,030 --> 00:04:32,430

have to this day. And I remember the excitement and pride in the American spirit, and the

64

00:04:32,430 --> 00:04:37,550

worldwide community cordiality with our success,  
which was success for mankind.

65

00:04:37,550 --> 00:04:44,600

Congrats, fellow Americans and the whole world  
on the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing.

66

00:04:44,600 --> 00:04:49,789

NARRATOR: Whenever Richie from Washington thinks  
of Apollo, he thinks of his grandfather and

67

00:04:49,789 --> 00:04:55,539

a special moment they shared together. While  
they watched the Moon landing, his grandpa

68

00:04:55,539 --> 00:04:57,909

said something Richie would never forget:

69

00:04:57,909 --> 00:05:07,849

RICHIE: In 1969, July, I was 13 years old. We were  
on vacation at my grandparents' house in

70

00:05:07,849 --> 00:05:17,360

rural Nebraska. My grandfather was in his  
early 80s, I believe at the time, and we sat

71

00:05:17,360 --> 00:05:21,449

and watched on their black-and-white TV the  
launch of Apollo 11.

72

00:05:21,449 --> 00:05:27,350

I was a little disappointed because we were  
a long way from a television transmitter and

73

00:05:27,350 --> 00:05:33,969

the picture was a little fuzzy. And as it  
lifted off, I looked over at my grandfather

74

00:05:33,969 --> 00:05:34,969

and he was crying.

75  
00:05:34,969 --> 00:05:39,650  
There were tears in his eyes, and I was like,  
“Grandpa! This is like, the greatest achievement

76  
00:05:39,650 --> 00:05:42,400  
on mankind. Why are you crying?”

77  
00:05:42,460 --> 00:05:49,520  
And he paused a moment and looked at me and  
said, “When I came to Nebraska, it was in

78  
00:05:49,520 --> 00:05:50,780  
a covered wagon.”

79  
00:05:50,780 --> 00:05:57,740  
And I kind of shrugged and didn’t quite  
get it at the time. A few days later, the

80  
00:05:57,740 --> 00:06:04,539  
landing happened and we were back home in  
Chicago and when I heard Neil Armstrong say,

81  
00:06:04,539 --> 00:06:12,279  
“One small step for a man, one giant leap  
for mankind” I instantly got it.

82  
00:06:12,279 --> 00:06:19,990  
During my grandfather’s lifetime, the practical  
automobile was invented and perfected. Aviation

83  
00:06:19,990 --> 00:06:27,289  
was invented and perfected. Space science,  
rocketry, computers, all of that and here

84  
00:06:27,289 --> 00:06:35,180  
he was, after seeing all that, watching human  
beings take off to go to the Moon.

85

00:06:35,180 --> 00:06:41,289

Whenever I think of Apollo 11, I think of my grandfather as a child riding in the back

86

00:06:41,289 --> 00:06:48,309

of a covered wagon, going to Nebraska to a kind of an uncertain future. Homesteading.

87

00:06:48,309 --> 00:06:54,100

And I kind of wonder, when will we go back? When will we get a chance to homestead?

88

00:06:54,100 --> 00:06:57,600

Hopefully soon.

89

00:06:57,650 --> 00:07:02,199

NARRATOR: Our next story comes to us from Ellen who lives in California. She remembers trying

90

00:07:02,199 --> 00:07:06,400

to find the Apollo 11 crew in the night sky as a little girl.

91

00:07:06,469 --> 00:07:13,449

ELLEN: Do I remember the Moon landing? You bet I do. Mom was always a big fan of the space

92

00:07:13,449 --> 00:07:20,059

program, so we were all glued to the television that day. Mind you, this is a television that

93

00:07:20,059 --> 00:07:24,750

only got three channels, so I'm grateful that we were able to watch.

94

00:07:24,750 --> 00:07:31,639

It was quite fuzzy, but it was so exciting. And me, being young, I immediately went outside

95

00:07:31,639 --> 00:07:36,719

with a pair of binoculars to stare at the Moon to see if I could see Neil Armstrong

96

00:07:36,719 --> 00:07:37,939

walking on the Moon.

97

00:07:37,939 --> 00:07:44,020

You know when you're young, anything is possible. I know it sounds silly, but it was

98

00:07:44,020 --> 00:07:50,830

very exciting. I am so proud that we were able to do that. NASA, thanks to you. You

99

00:07:50,830 --> 00:07:56,800

all got the job done. You pulled off the big one. Thanks again.

100

00:07:56,810 --> 00:08:01,309

NARRATOR: We also received a very sweet recording from Abi in England. She interviewed her six-year-old

101

00:08:01,309 --> 00:08:04,600

daughter Sennen about her thoughts on the Moon.

102

00:08:04,659 --> 00:08:11,490

ABI: I live in Cornwall, in the UK, and I'm here with my daughter Sennen, who is six.

103

00:08:11,490 --> 00:08:13,490

SENNEN: Hello!

104

00:08:13,490 --> 00:08:19,729

ABI: So Sennen, what do you think it would be like to see humans walk on the Moon again?

105

00:08:19,729 --> 00:08:21,729

SENNEN: Exciting.

106  
00:08:21,729 --> 00:08:22,729  
ABI: Why do you think that?

107  
00:08:22,729 --> 00:08:28,020  
SENNEN: Because I...because it...makes me feel like I'm on the Moon.

108  
00:08:28,020 --> 00:08:35,789  
ABI: Wow, that is exciting, isn't it? When you think about the Moon, what do you think about?

109  
00:08:35,789 --> 00:08:40,849  
SENNEN: I think it...I think it's a big block of cheese!

110  
00:08:40,849 --> 00:08:45,180  
ABI: And Sennen, what do you want to know about the Moon?

111  
00:08:45,180 --> 00:08:55,800  
SENNEN: Um, how it fits in the air in the sky, and floats around a bit.

112  
00:08:55,800 --> 00:08:58,800  
ABI: Is there anything else you want to say about the Moon?

113  
00:08:58,801 --> 00:09:06,200  
SENNEN: Um, how the Sun comes up and where does the Moon go?

114  
00:09:06,200 --> 00:09:09,600  
ABI: Wow, thank you Sennen.

115  
00:09:09,600 --> 00:09:10,600  
SENNEN: Bye!

116  
00:09:10,600 --> 00:09:13,500  
NARRATOR: Thank you Sennen and Abi.

117

00:09:13,500 --> 00:09:17,971

And thank you to everyone who has helped us tell the Apollo story so far. The stories

118

00:09:17,971 --> 00:09:24,440

you sent in surprised and delighted us. They're a reminder that our history is a shared history,

119

00:09:24,440 --> 00:09:28,160

and that exploration brings us together.

120

00:09:28,160 --> 00:09:31,120

If you have a story you'd like to share, it's not too late.

121

00:09:31,120 --> 00:09:36,300

We'll be collecting stories throughout the year, sharing them on social media and adding

122

00:09:36,300 --> 00:09:39,130

them to the NASA archives.

123

00:09:39,130 --> 00:09:42,323

Check out [nasa.gov/apollostories](https://nasa.gov/apollostories) to learn how to get involved.

124

00:09:42,323 --> 00:09:46,580

[MUSIC]

125

00:09:46,580 --> 00:09:52,160

So, That's all for this season of NASA Explorers.

126

00:09:52,160 --> 00:09:58,329

We hope you enjoyed this series ... we had a ton of fun making it for you. Thanks to

127

00:09:58,329 --> 00:10:03,850

everyone who supported this audio series,

including NASA Goddard's Solar System Exploration

128

00:10:03,850 --> 00:10:08,329

Division and the NASA Explorers team.

129

00:10:08,329 --> 00:10:12,759

If you like NASA Explorers, why not leave us a rating and write a quick review in your

130

00:10:12,759 --> 00:10:16,269

podcast app? It helps us grow.

131

00:10:16,269 --> 00:10:22,100

And, if you're looking for more Moon stories from NASA, you're in luck.

132

00:10:22,100 --> 00:10:27,740

You can check out other NASA podcasts, like Gravity Assist or Houston We Have a Podcast,

133

00:10:27,740 --> 00:10:31,149

to learn more about the Moon and human spaceflight.

134

00:10:31,149 --> 00:10:36,500

Then, check out the On a Mission podcast from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to take

135

00:10:36,500 --> 00:10:39,740

a deep dive on the InSight mission to Mars.

136

00:10:39,740 --> 00:10:48,300

You can find all of these shows on Apple Podcasts, Soundcloud, and Google Play.

137

00:10:48,330 --> 00:10:53,190

VARIOUS VOICES: Tape recorder's running, right?

138

00:10:53,190 --> 00:10:56,870

-I remember feeling both excited and scared.

139

00:10:56,870 --> 00:10:59,680

-It was just the most exciting thing that ever happened.

140

00:10:59,680 --> 00:11:03,670

-I remember huddling around a very small black-and-white TV screen.

141

00:11:03,670 --> 00:11:07,600

-I was the kid in school with a three-foot Saturn V model rocket.

142

00:11:07,600 --> 00:11:12,910

-This was the culmination of what was, to me, literally a life-long effort.