APOLLO AT 25

APOLLO 17





HARRISON SCHMITT

Chosen with the fourth group of astronauts in 1965, Harrison "Jack" Schmitt was Lunar Module pilot for Apollo 17 and the twelfth man to walk on the Moon.

As a trained geologist, receiving his Ph.D. from Harvard University, it is no wonder that when Jack Schmitt stepped onto the lunar land-scape on December 11. 1972. he said: "A geologist's paradise if I ever saw one."

Schmitt spent a total of 10 years working in NASA, eight years of it focused almost totally on Apollo. "I was involved in every mission that went to the Moon. It was a heady time for me and thousands of other Americans who were doing what they believed was the most important thing they could do with their lives," Schmitt recalls.

"With Apollo, that meant you got 16-hour days and eight-day weeks from everybody, sometimes to the detriment of families and physical health. But you got it because people believed that's what they ought to be doing."

Following his Apollo 17 voyage, Schmitt was named NASA's assistant administrator for Energy Programs in May 1974, but resigned that post in 1975 to enter politics. He became a U.S. Senator from the State of New Mexico from 1977 to 1983.

As a geologist, technologist and a former politician, Jack Schmitt has spent a number of years questioning the nation's energy policies regarding the use of fossil fuels. Moreover, his old stomping grounds—the Moon—fits into Earth's energy equation for the future.

"The real source of the vast increase in energy that we're going to need for the future is going to come from space," Schmitt believes.

"My own personal belief is that it will probably come from the use of the Moon's resources. I just have a feeling that, in the final analysis, it's going to turn out to be much more economical and much more reasonable to utilize the fusion energy resources that we found on the Moon, and particularly this isotope of helium called Helium-3," Schmitt says.—Leonard David



COLOR TV CAMERA ON BOARD THE LUNAR ROVER.