

To celebrate 225 years of Lancaster newspapers, we present this weekly series of 52 front pages from throughout our history. Many feature events that would shape the course of world history. Some feature events of great local importance. Still others simply provide windows into the long-ago lives of Lancaster County residents. Make sure to check in every week, and enjoy this trip through time with LNP.

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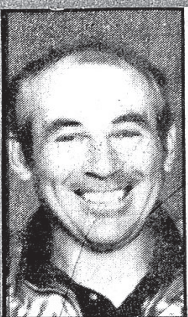
The 7 American Astronauts Who Died in Space Tragedy



Christa McAuliffe



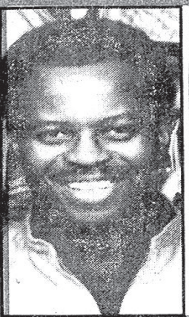
Francis R. Scobee



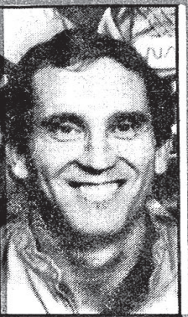
Gregory Jarvis



Ellison Onizuka



Ronald E. McNair

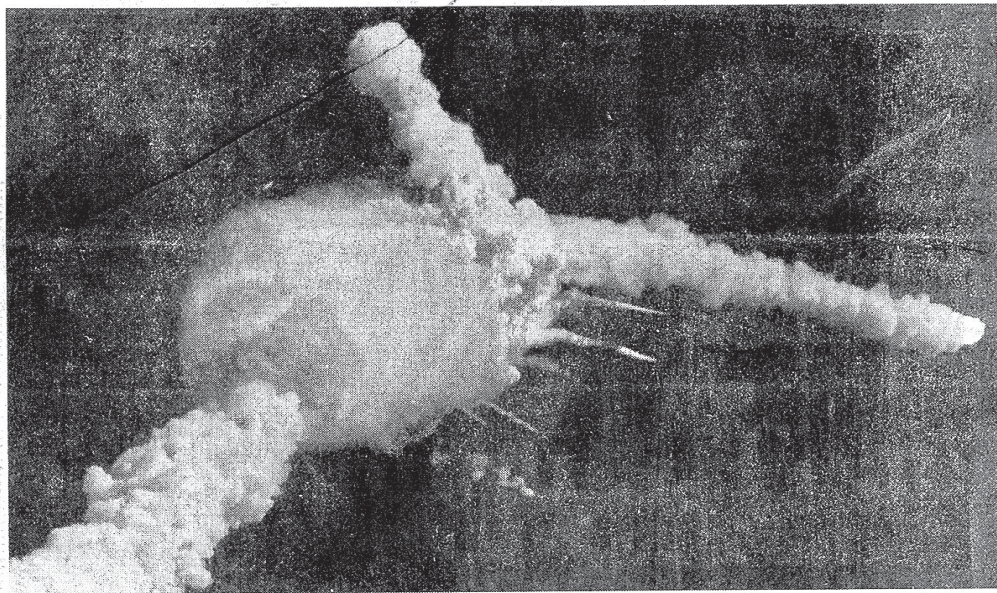


Mike Smith



Judith Resnik

6 Astronauts, Teacher Perish In Fiery Explosion of Shuttle



Associated Press Wirephoto

The Space Shuttle orbiter Challenger, with its crew of seven, blows apart Tuesday about one minute after liftoff from

the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. NASA officials said there were no apparent problems at the time.

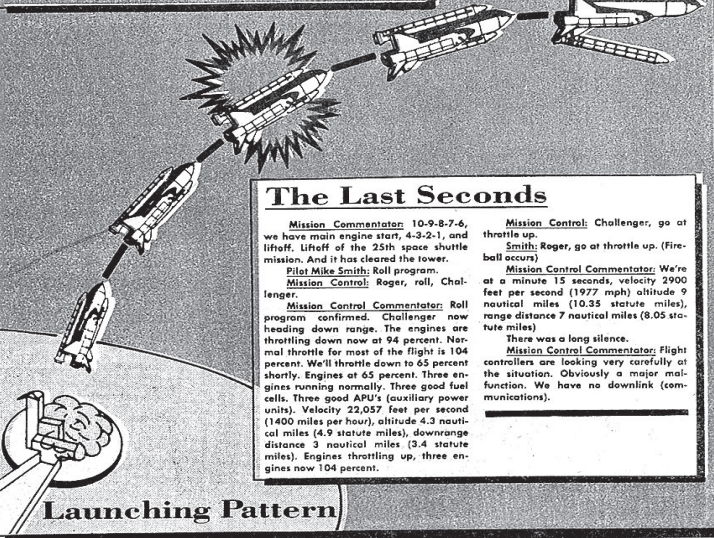
Search For Survivors Continues

By Richard Halloran
New York Times News Service
WASHINGTON — The Coast Guard operations center in Miami coordinated an air and sea search over 1,200 square miles of the Atlantic Ocean Tuesday for possible survivors of the explosion that destroyed the space shuttle Challenger Tuesday morning.
By nightfall, according to Lt. Comdr. James Simpson, a spokesman for the Coast Guard in Miami, there were no signs that any of the seven members of the crew had survived. Nor were there any reports of sightings or recovery of wreckage, he said.
Ten aircraft and 10 ships were employed in the search, centered about 30 miles southeast of Cape Canaveral.
Simpson said that the 10 aircraft, flown by crews of the Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, continued the search until dark, then broke off to return to their bases. He said the Coast Guard planned to resume the aerial search at dawn today.
In addition, said Simpson, who was reached by telephone.

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Space Shuttle Explodes

10.35 miles high - 8.05 miles downrange from launching pad



The Last Seconds

Mission Commentator: 10-9-8-7-6, we have main engine start, 4-3-2-1, and liftoff. Liftoff of the 25th space shuttle mission. And it has cleared the tower.
Pilot Mike Smith: Roll program.
Mission Control: Roger, roll, Challenger.
Mission Control Commentator: Roll program confirmed. Challenger now heading down range. The engines are throttling down now at 94 percent. Nominal throttle for most of the flight is 104 percent. We'll throttle down to 65 percent shortly. Engines at 65 percent. Three engines running normally. Three good fuel cells. Three good APU's (auxiliary power units). Velocity 22,057 feet per second (14,000 miles per hour), altitude 4.3 nautical miles (4.9 statute miles), downrange distance 3 nautical miles (3.4 statute miles). Engines throttling up, three engines now 104 percent.

Mission Control: Challenger, go at throttle up.
Smith: Roger, go at throttle up. (Fireball occurs)
Mission Control Commentator: We're at a minute 15 seconds, velocity 2900 feet per second (1977 mph) altitude 9 nautical miles (10.35 statute miles), range distance 7 nautical miles (8.05 statute miles).
There was a long silence.
Mission Control Commentator: Flight controllers are looking very carefully at the situation. Obviously a major malfunction. We have no downlink (communications).

U.S. Suffers First In-Flight Disaster

By Howard Benedict
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A catastrophic explosion blew apart the space shuttle Challenger 74 seconds after liftoff Tuesday, sending schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe and six NASA astronauts to a fiery death in the sky eight miles out from Kennedy Space Center.

"We mourn seven heroes," said President Reagan.

The accident defied quick explanation, though a slow-motion replay seemed to show a flame or other abnormality on one of two peel-away rocket boosters followed by the detonation of the shuttle's huge external tank. The tank-turned-fireball destroyed Challenger high above the Atlantic while crew families and NASA officials watched in despair from the Cape.

Other observers noted that the boosters continued to fly crazily through the sky after the explosion, indicating that the problem might have originated in the giant tank itself.

"We will not speculate as to the specific cause of the explosion based on that footage," said Jesse Moore, NASA's top shuttle administrator. National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials are organizing an investigating board and Moore said it will take a "careful review" of all data "before we can reach any conclusions."

It was the first in-flight disaster in 56 manned space missions. John Glenn, the former astronaut, recalled that three astronauts died in a launch-pad training accident 19 years ago and said the history of pioneers is often one

"of triumph and tragedy."

The explosion followed an apparently flawless launch, delayed two hours as officials analyzed the danger from icicles that formed in the frosty Florida morning along the shuttle's new launch pad.

"There were no signs of abnormalities on the screens," as flight controllers monitored Challenger's liftoff and ascent, a source said. The source, at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, said the blast occurred "unexpectedly and with absolutely no

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Americans Assemble In Anguish

By Sara Rimer
New York Times News Service

The nation came together Tuesday in a moment of disaster and loss. Wherever Americans were when they heard the news — at work, at school or at home — they shared their grief over the death of the seven astronauts, among them one who had captured their hearts, Christa McAuliffe, the teacher from Concord, N.H., who was to have been the first ordinary citizen to go into space.

Shortly before noon, when the first word of the explosion came, daily events seemed to stop as people awaited the details and asked the same questions: "What happened? Are there any survivors?"

In offices, restaurants and stores, people gathered in front of television sets, mesmerized by the terrible scene of the shuttle exploding, a scene that would be replayed throughout the day and night. Children who had learned about McAuliffe were watching in classrooms across the country.

It seemed to be one of those scenes, enlarged and frozen, that

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Today's Weather

An 80 percent chance of snow. High 20 to 25. Flurries likely tonight. Low 15 to 20. Details Page 4.

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CHALLENGER EXPLOSION

"We come to a time where something happens, and we have a tragedy that goes along with our triumphs. I guess that's the story of mankind."

Astronaut John Glenn spoke these words hours after one of the greatest air tragedies of the 20th century. On Jan. 28, 1986, the Challenger space shuttle exploded in the sky over the coast of Cape Canaveral, Florida, killing all seven people aboard just less than a minute and a half after takeoff. Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Judith Resnik, Gregory Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe died in the first in-flight disaster in 56 manned space missions, according to the Intelligencer Journal. McAuliffe, a social studies teacher, was to be the first teacher — and the first civilian — in space.

The causes for the rocket's failure were many and, as forensic tests would later prove, mostly avoidable. On the morning of the

launch, the temperature was below freezing, much lower than the previous record of 54 degrees. Though teams were dispatched to remove ice from the launch tower, the shuttle was never proven to be able to launch in the frigid conditions. Another cause of the explosion was NASA's use of rubber O-rings. O-rings were used to seal the joints on solid rocket boosters. In the original design, O-rings were designed to close tightly when the rocket ignited. However, tests showed that booster combustion could potentially lead to hot gas leaking through and destroying the joints. By 1985, numerous shuttle launches had shown examples of extensive O-ring damage, but plans went ahead.

During a preflight conference call, engineers made their case for delaying the launch to a warmer day but were ignored. The take-off already had been delayed from its initial Jan. 22 launch date because of problems and setbacks. Their concerns unfortunately

would reach fruition quickly after launch, as smoke could be seen emerging from one of the boosters, confirming the failure of the O-rings. Pressure dropped because of a large hole developing in a liquid hydrogen tank. Just before the breakup of the aircraft, pilot Michael Smith can be heard saying, "Uh oh," which was the last audio retrieved from the Challenger.

The exact point at which the seven people onboard died has never been pinpointed. There is evidence that the cabin was not depressurized before impact, but even if there was enough oxygen to keep crewmembers conscious, none would have survived the cabin hitting the surface of the Atlantic ocean at more 200 miles per hour. In the weeks and months that followed, tributes, eulogies and promises to prevent similar disasters were made. Nearly three years later, space shuttle Discovery would lift off successfully, giving hope to a future filled with renewed confidence in the future of space travel.