

## Armstrong Designated as First To Set Foot on Lunar Surface

By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD  
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WASHINGTON, April 14—The first human being to set foot on the moon will be 38-year-old Neil A. Armstrong, according to space agency plans announced today.

This ended weeks of speculation over whether Mr. Armstrong, a civilian astronaut who is the Apollo 11 commander, or his co-pilot, Col. Edwin E. Aldrin Jr., of the Air Force, would take the first historic step—or whether there might be an Alphonse-and-Gaston scene at the hatch of the landing craft.

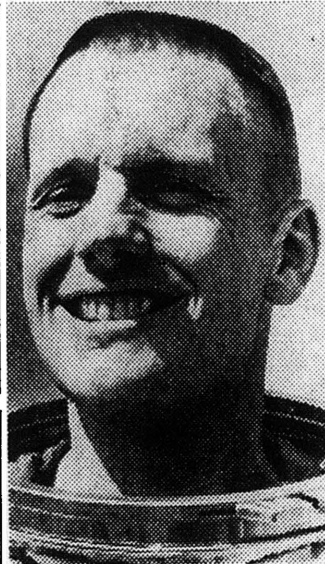
George M. Low, manager of the Apollo spacecraft program at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, said plans called for Mr. Armstrong to be the first man out after the moon landing, which is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, July 20.

A few minutes later, Colonel Aldrin will follow Mr. Armstrong down the ladder of the spider-like landing craft. The two men are scheduled to remain outside their vehicle for no more than two hours and 40 minutes of their 22-hour stay on the moon.

As Mr. Low outlined the plan, the astronauts' first order of business after touchdown will be to check all instruments and prepare for the launching off the moon. Then they are supposed to rest about four hours before opening the hatch.

As soon as Mr. Armstrong steps out, he will pick up a bag full of lunar soil and hand it up to Colonel Aldrin. Consequently, even if their visit is cut short, they will have a small sample of lunar dirt to bring back.

Together the two men plan to walk around, picking up more soil samples, setting up a radio transmitter and seismom-



Associated Press

Neil Armstrong

eter, taking pictures and transmitting television back to earth and generally testing their ability to move about where gravity is only one-sixth that of earth.

The men will be restricted to an area 50 to 100 feet from the landing vehicle.

When the Astronauts return to their vehicle, they are scheduled to take another long rest and then fire the ascent rocket to take them to their rendezvous with the mother ship waiting 70 miles up in lunar orbit.

There they will rejoin Apollo 11's third crewman, Lieut. Col. Michael Collins of the Air Force, and begin their return to earth. The landing craft will be jettisoned in lunar orbit.

Apollo 11 is scheduled to be launched from Cape Kennedy, Fla., on July 16. The primary landing site is on the flat desert-like Sea of Tranquility on the right side of the moon's face.