

Ask Andy

Moon Is Vital Port of Call in Space

Andy sends a complete, 20-volume set of the World Book Encyclopedia to Ron Benedict, age 12, of Lansing, Mich., for his question:

Why do we want to land on the moon?

If there were a solid road to the moon, you could walk there in nine years and one month. In a car, you could cross this imaginary road in five months and a half. The distance is only about ten times the length of the earth's equator — but there is no road or sea lane to the moon. To get there we must cross the ocean of space — which is the greatest of all human adventures.

Early man singed his whiskers, scorched his fingers — and learned to control fire. Later men went searching for spices and found a new continent. Still later they probed into the private lives of mi-

crobes and found molds that cure human diseases. Man is by nature curious—and his curiosity and intelligence, his curiosity has led to untold benefits, many of them unexpected.

The qualities of curiosity, courage and intelligence make us all natural explorers. All of us, except a few old stick-in-the-muds, are thrilled to be alive in the Space Age and we would not stop this great adventure, even if we could. Man, the explorer, is going to other worlds and the great undertaking has already given us some unexpected benefits. New methods of world-wide communications and a new picture of the weather are but two of the many gifts made possible by our probes into space.

The moon is a vital port of call in man's voyage across the ocean of space. Its gravity, one sixth of the earth's, will make it possible for space ships to the planets to take off with less speed and less fuel. Telescopes on the moon can reveal the distant heavens without the distortion of an atmosphere. Perhaps we shall find valuable minerals and be able to build health resorts on the moon. Aside from the known and suspected gains of a lunar landing, there are sure to be those unexpected benefits which

always reward man's intelligent curiosity. Unmanned rockets can photograph, gather data and maybe even pick up rock samples from the face of the moon. But a human observer can



WINNER — A winner in today's "Ask Andy" column is Terry Collins, age 10, or 361 Pearl St., Eugene, Terry, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Collins, won a Hammond's Nature Atlas for his question. He will be in the fifth grade at Lincoln School next fall.

gather far more useful information. Besides, the moon is our first port of call. We must land there before we can build bases to launch our planet ships on their voyages across the vast ocean of space.

The conquest of space calls for our best efforts and careful planning. Every satellite, whether its launching is successful or not, is a step forward in the program. In a few years, the lunar landing will be an old story and we shall see it as just one step forward in the greatest of all human endeavors.

Andy sends a Hammond's Nature Atlas of America to Terry Collins, age 10, of Eugene, Ore., for his question:

What is a beluga whale?

We borrowed the word beluga, which means white, from the Russians. The ten-foot beluga, or white whale, is a member of the dolphin family and the order of fishy mammals called Cetacea. His 40-foot cousin the sperm whale sometimes has an albino child and the famous Moby Dick was one of these big, white sperm whales.

The adult beluga is always white. With a troupe of relatives, he enjoys life in chilly, northern seas and sometimes swims up the brackish waters of the great St. Lawrence river.

America's Development Traced

Book Depicts Landmarks of Liberty

WASHINGTON—"How hard it be," wrote an early emigrant bound for America, "for one brought up among bookies and learned men to live in a barbarous place where is no learning and less civility."

Only a century later, in 1760, another traveler was to express a new European attitude: "Every one is looking forward with eager and impatient expectation to that destined moment, when America is to give law to the rest of the world."

The words of these long-forgotten men lie coveyed in history. But they give immediacy to the Nation's surging story, as depicted in the National Geographic Society's new book, "America's Historylands, Touring Our Landmarks of Liberty."

From Columbus to Canaveral

Poet Carl Sandburg and other distinguished historians trace America's development from Atlantic to Pacific and from Columbus' landing on Puerto Rico to the departure of spacecraft from Cape Canaveral.

Of 676 illustrations, 463 are in color. Historical paintings, drawings, and rare charts supplement photographs and newly designed maps of national shrines visited by millions of Americans each year.

Society President Melville Bell Grosvenor, in his introduction, says "America's Historylands" was designed to "capture the heart, spirit, and stirring traditions of America in terms of places where the great events occurred."

Land, not political or religious freedom, probably was the strongest lure of the American colonies. Newcomers could raise themselves to a higher economic and social level through enterprise. But they were not rubes.

Virginia's William Byrd II, whose mansion, Westover, stands in Georgian grandeur on the James River, wrote in his diary: "I rose at 6 o'clock and read a chapter in Hebrew and some Greek in Lucian." Many wilderness libraries contained well-thumbed classical "bookies."

Nor were the colonials without humor. Choleric John Custis, master of Arlington on Virginia's Eastern Shore, did not bother to hide his aversion to his wife. Once he angrily drove their carriage into Chesapeake Bay. Asked where he was headed, Custis roared, "To hell, madam."

"Drive on," she said coolly. "Any place is better than Arlington."

"America's Historylands" is rich in details about the individuals—famous and obscure, saintly, flawed and flamboyant—who in Sandburg's words left "tall landmarks of liberty, of discovery, invention and culture."

The book chronicles the leap to the west—to bawling longhorns and the Pony Express, the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill and the rush to San Francisco, Tombstone and Deadwood.

Contrary to popular notion, western Indians did not hit the warpath until after the Civil War. But when trouble started, settlers and laborers often had to fight alongside the troops. As General George Crook remarked, it was difficult to surround three Indians with one soldier.

'Neck-Tie Party'

An obscure town, now a symbol of nocturnal high life, posted this warning to "thieves, thugs and fakirs," in 1882: "If found within the limits of this city after TEN O'CLOCK P.M., this night, you will be invited to attend a GRAND NECK-TIE PARTY. The Expense of which will be borne by 100 Substantial Citizens." The town? Las Vegas, Nevada.

Then came the "Age of Enterprise," when men without too much "learning" could and did become giants, moguls, titans. "I got to be a millionaire," cattleman Daniel Drew liked to say, "before I knewed it, hardly."

"America's Historylands" may be obtained only from the National Geographic Society, Department 89, Washington 6, D.C., \$11.95 per copy, postpaid.

