1969

Apollo 8 Astronaut Col. Frank Borman at Illinois Wesleyan University

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MARK EVANS OBSERVATORY
Cornerstone Ceremony

We are gathered here this morning to make a new beginning, to place a cornerstone in the walls of our new Mark Evans Observatory, to emphasize our need for renaissance and relevance in higher education. Nothing could symbolize better Wesleyan's lift-off into the space age than the construction of a new astrophysics laboratory with the initial dedication by one of the first men to journey to the moon. After today, we shall never be the same again -- a new dimension has been added to raise our aspirations and ambitions anew in the explorations of learning.

We are placing a time capsule in this new observatory to be recovered in seven years, not by future archaeologists sifting through the debris on the mound of higher learning at some indefinite time in the future. Seven years obviously takes us to the two hundredth anniversary of American independence, but it has even larger significance for us. While life has lengthened, change has accelerated. Four years marks out a college generation and the pace of events threatens to alienate the young from the old in a desperate search for relevance now. We have always had change, our problem is that we must learn how to adjust our lives to it more quickly. Joseph forewarned the Pharaoh to prepare for seven years of famine in seven years of plenty. Seven years elapsed from Independence Hall in Philadelphia to the Treaty of Ghent, Frank Borman's career as an astronaut has lasted seven years, and seven years is the approximate average tenure for college presidents, including those at Wesleyan.

In seven years our present goals and plans for improvement at Wesleyan will be achieved or not, or at least visibly on their way. We shall know by then whether or not what we have started today has made a difference. Progress toward academic betterment requires new buildings and new equipment, but more significantly new efforts on the part of faculty, students, and trustees alike. We are determined that today we have made that beginning.

The 1976 Wesleyan time capsule that Frank Borman is about to put in place contains a mixed collection of mementos from this small University, activities underway in this community, and the Apollo space program. The list of items alone is ample testimony to the part we have had in supporting the U.S. space achievements. Admittedly, Illinois Wesleyan is reaching for the stars and stellar achievement as
a private institution of higher learning. I shall name each item in the capsule, and as I do so, will the representative step forward. Let us hold our applause until the conclusion.
Thank you all for joining with us on this occasion. The journey of our capsule and its hopes for Wesleyan through time will be circumscribed only by the spirit of those who have joined together in this joint enterprise. And we are grateful for the presence here this morning of Col. Frank Borman, and by the encouragement his visit has given us.
Admiral Corporation

F. Beich Co.

Caterpillar Tractor Co.

Eureka Williams Company

Field Enterprises and NASA

Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.

Funk Brothers Seed Co.

General Electric Co.

General Telephone Co.

Illinois Agricultural Association

Portable Elevator Company

State Farm Insurance Cos.

Evans Family

City of Bloomington

Kresge Foundation

U.S. Office of Education

Col. Frank Borman, USAF

Illinois Wesleyan University

TV Gun Circuit Board Annual Report

Package of Space Food

Miniature Engine Vol. 1, No. 2, Caterpillar Energy Management

Thermal Battery like one going to moon in LEM

Astronauts' Christmas Eve Tape

November 5, 1968 issue of "Non-Skid"

Packet of High Lysine Corn

5 - Electric Relays Apollo Ground Monitoring

Electronic Integrated Circuit Microfilm Bloomington-Normal Phone Directory

IAA RECORD and 50-Year History

Current Product Descriptions Road Atlas

Mrs. Evans' Remarks at Ground Breaking Biographical Sketch of E. M. Evans

'Decade of Progress' Brochure

Facsimile of Letter of Transmittal of Grant Awarded for this Project

Facsimile of Grant Application

Dr. Eckley Inaugural Response

Dr. Eckley address to fall faculty conference Fine Arts Brochure Founders Day Program Behr Telescope Description Argus