

BOB CONSIDINE

On the Line



At the zenith of man's ages of exploration, the voyage of Scott and Irwin to the mountains of the moon, indignant calls to local newspapers, wire services, and radio-TV stations were relayed to the New York City weather office.

Crackpots were complaining that the Apollo 15 mission was the cause of the weekend's fun-ruining rain.

Some of the callers were not easily placated. They pointed

out to the resident meteorologists that previous moon excursions also coincided with bad weather around the city. And how about the completely unscheduled tornado that ripped up things around Lake Mahopac, N.Y., as Apollo 15's lunar landing module made ready to descend from moon orbit?

John A. Mayer, one of the meteorologists the news media passed the buck to, was in a mood to forgive the grumbings. He told us:

"Happens every time unusual weather — such as our four-day rain — comes along just when something of more or less historic importance is happening elsewhere. Or some technological breakthrough has been made.

"The heavy rains that swept much of Western Europe in June, 1815, were attributed by many persons to the intense cannonading at the Battle of Waterloo. Early railroads were blamed for all kinds of disasters they had nothing to do with. The airplane caught its share of blame, and, of course, nuclear weapons tests. Wait'll somebody sneezes very loudly in China."

There were other carpers, some quite eminent.

John Glenn, America's first man in orbit, came on one of the networks' panels of experts, to say that N A S A made a fundamental error some time ago when it put so many of its

eggs in the one basket of manned exploration of the moon. He wondered whether its head had not been turned by President Nixon's rapturous statement to the Apollo II crew that their conquest of the moon was the greatest event in creation.

"He seemed to have overlooked a few other important events," Glenn said with a smile. "Such as the birth of Christ."

TV anchormen and their deputies give remarkable performances during Apollo missions. Their treasury of knowledge, understanding of the bewilderingly capsulated commentaries by Mission Control at Houston and by the astronauts themselves, is not gained by any overnight "crash" course. All of them rendered a great service to journalism and the sum of mankind's learning, thanks to

endless hours of disciplined study.

It moved millions of hearts and pulses all over a planet which often tends to forget what inspirational heights its denizens can reach.

Great Worden. Great Irwin. And by all means, Great Scott!

New Sister

Sister Mary Irene of Our Lady of Fatima O.P. took her simple vows at the Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary in Fatima, Portugal, on the Feast of St. Ann July 26. The ceremony was the new simple procedure used for the first time this year.

Due to recent emergency eye surgery, Sister Irene's mother, Mrs. Eldora Scott of Holcomb, was unable to attend her daughter's ceremony.

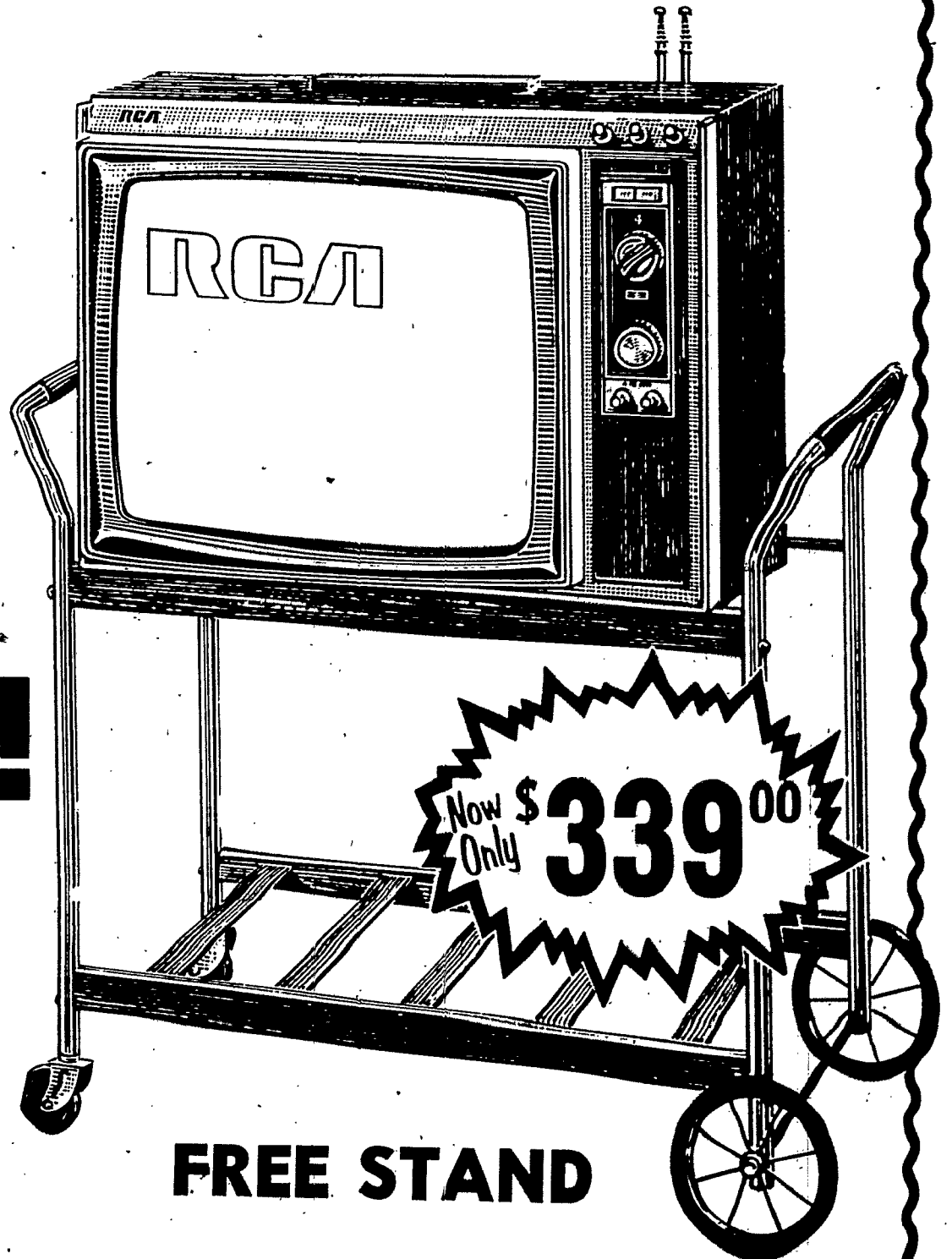
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