

# Moon Pioneer

## Lands in LW

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To place a man on the moon and bring him back was the scientific achievement of all time

To accomplish that near-perfect mission, the help of hundreds of experts was needed

WITH A choice from among the most learned minds in the world, the task of selecting those individuals, in the early stages of the lunar probe, most likely to make it succeed, was assigned to Robert P. Bryson, now a Leisure World resident

He has completed a quarter century with the United States Geologic Survey when he joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to launch the lunar program

Bryson became a scientist's scientist. He had to select the finest from

the country's top universities, from those on other Federal projects and from industrial corporations

THIS BEGAN with the Meteorite Program, long before the Apollo series. Bryson relates he was responsible for the supporting phase in the research area during the developing stages. One of the main functions then was interpreting existing data

His team then obtained and assembled all existing information on meteorite samples that were located in university laboratories and museums, and in private collections, to determine the type of soil likely to be found on the moon

Soon they were certain the surface would support a heavy landing and return vehicle

BRYSON AND his support project scientists then moved onto the Ranger program that dispatched a missile to the moon, sending back pictures before crashing

Next was the Surveyor program that provided a soft landing and tremendous data for evaluation and analysis

The unmanned Orbit program later returned high-resolution

photographs from which future landing sites on the moon were determined

WHEN THESE superscientists started on the manned Apollo series, all the guesswork was ended. The support researchers reported: "All systems, go"

Bryson modestly declares today; "Every one of these men was smarter than I. My assignment was to choose the most capable from among a most capable field. They didn't need training, and just a minimum of instruction. They were meticulous perfectionists, and many were unique in their specialities.

Bryson is a Southern California native. He graduated from Fairfax High School in Los Angeles. He attended Los Angeles City College, then onto UCLA for a bachelor's degree in geology.

HE OBTAINED his Master of Arts at UCLA on the same day he received his Master of Science at California Tech Institute, in 1937.

With the U.S. Geological Survey, Bryson mapped out oil fields in his home state that are just now being utilized

He did the same in Southeast Montana, mapping thousands of miles of coal deposits; his expertise determined were, in some areas, more than 100 feet thick. These, he finds, are also in the beginning stages of development because of the energy shortage

WITH HIS WIFE, Frances, Bryson left West Virginia when he retired from NASA, and came direct to Leisure World, where his mother lives

The very next day after his arrival, he was teaching a course in geology at Saddleback Community College. The Brysons are active in community affairs also