**Eyewitness accounts of people watching the Apollo 11 moon landings on TV**

Although I had only recently celebrated my fifth birthday, I have a very vivid memory of that day. We were all glued to the television at our kitchen table. My brothers and sister and I were gathered around our parents. I was the smallest boy, so I got the privilege of sitting on Dad's lap. I remember, my father being very quiet and mindful of what was being described on TV. Then when Neil Armstrong started down the ladder, I felt a tremor run through my Dad. When he made his famous speech, I felt something wet drop onto the top of my head - I turned to see profuse tears streaming from my father's eyes and rolling over his cheeks. My father would later say, "Even serving in the war (WWII) paled in comparison." He was never more proud of being an American than on the day our flag flew on the moon.
***Christopher Flournoy, USA***

I was lucky enough to be sitting on the control console at the Honeysuckle Creek tracking station near Canberra in Australia on the 21st July 1969 (yes it was the 21st here). Born in London, I emigrated to Australia in 1966 specially to take part in Apollo and manned and un-manned missions. I worked the Console as Operations Supervisor for all the Apollo missions, then Skylab and many other manned missions - the golden years of spaceflight, in my opinion. We had a visit from the Australian prime minister on the day - otherwise the mission was similar to many of the simulations (without all the problems :-). No time to worry that it was a bit of 20th century history - just that we didn't make too many mistakes. It only occurred to me later that we had supplied those first pictures to the world and that they would eventually become the most requested news clip of all time.
***John Saxon, Australia***

I was in Karlsruhe, Germany on a school exchange trip. There was much excitement about the landing and I was invited to sit with the family and all of their neighbours and friends who had come round to watch the event on their television. They kept asking me to interpret what had been said and one gentleman repeatedly asked 'Was ist LEM?' Unfortunately, I had no idea and my German was not up to the task of answering or explaining many of their questions. I think the overriding emotions were of awe and trepidation. There had been speculation in the press about what the surface of the moon was like; would it be an immense, deep sea of powder, into which the astronauts would instantly vanish or so hot that it burned the astronauts? Would they ever get home again? All of these worries tempered the excitement of seeing the event, live, on the flickering television screen. An awesome event that I will never forget.
***Peter Webb, UK***

I wasn't born in 1969. However, I watched a one-night recap that German TV broadcast, I think it was for the 25th anniversary. The moon landing has not lost its fascination! The only thing that made watching the landing a sad thing was the knowledge that the enthusiasm for space exploration seems to have mostly died. We left Earth, our cradle, took a "small step" out onto our front porch, and then crawled back. There's a whole universe out there to explore. It's time we add more steps and go for an interplanetary walk.
***Nils Jeppe, Germany***

I was 32 years at the time, and having a haircut in a barbershop in Brittany, France. The TV in front was showing the first landing, with the jerky figures moving around on the surface, with the flag sticking out. We could not believe our eyes, and the barber slowed down noticeably as he was watching too. We kept silent and somehow or other he got through the haircut. But he refused to accept money for his work, and said that such an historic occasion should be remembered forever. "So, on your way," he said, looking at the TV all the while. So my memory is of Neil and Buzz on the moon, and of Mike Collins waiting upstairs in orbit, and of my free haircut. Not something to forget easily.
***John Boos, Canada***