

100,000TH GUEST REGISTERS AT LANGLEY VISITOR CENTER

Although open only eight months, the Langley Visitor Center recently welcomed its 100,000th guest. The occasion coincided with a tour of the Center by a group of children and adults from the Peninsula Cerebral Palsy Training Center of Hampton, headed by Clifton Pleasants, Director.

Cited as the 100,000th visitor was a teenage youth, Geronimo Austin, and in recognition of the special event, he was presented a copy of the book "This Island Earth" and a replica of the plaque left on the surface of the Moon by the Apollo 11 astronauts. Dr. John E. Duberg, Associate Director of Langley, was



Dr. John E. Duberg, Geronimo Austin, and Harold Mehrens.

on hand to welcome the special visitor and make the presentations.

A look at the guest book at the Visitor Center shows that the visitors have come from all 50 states of the Union and from 17 foreign countries. Many of the visitors take the time to make individual comments on the different aspects of the Visitor Center and the vast majority of them have been very favorable. The displays and the orientation film are usually cited for special recognition.

An attempt has been made to provide special displays designed to encourage repeat visits from people in the local communities and many of the visitors have been back several times. For examples, special displays of NASA art, the lunar rover vehicle, and the present display of biosatellite have served to maintain interest, in addition to the showing of a wide assortment of NASA and industrial films in the theater.

Harold Mehrens, Manager of the Visitor Center, is currently working on special educational enrichment programs which will be conducted at the Center for elementary and high school level students, in cooperation with the local school systems. Every day a number of school busses can be seen outside the Center, having brought a group of students for a tour. The program which Mehrens is working on will be an extension of the school visit, wherein NASA Spacemobile lecturers will subsequently visit the schools and put on special science programs of longer duration than would be possible at the Center.

Mehrens also indicated that he and the staff of the Visitor Center are looking forward to the upcoming tourist season and to the large influx of visitors.