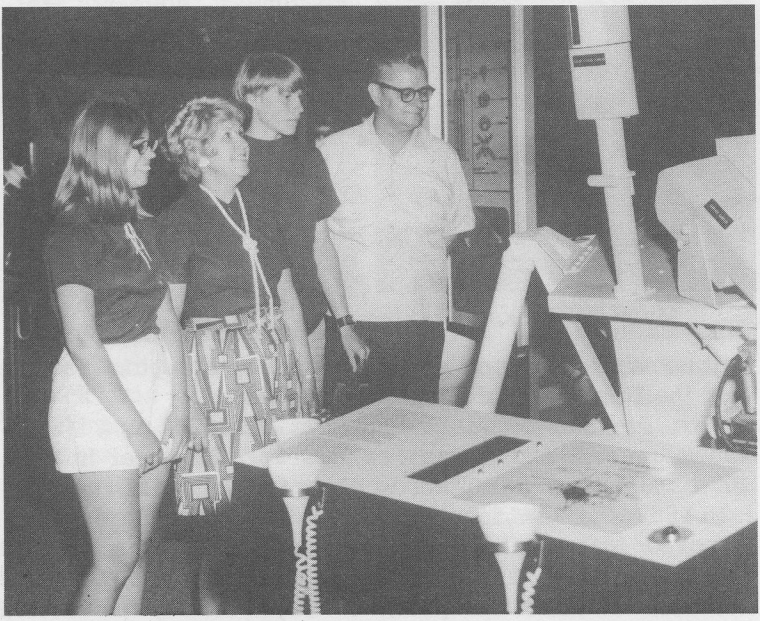

FIRST VISITORS: First visitors to the Visitor Center on its first anniversary were members of the Ervan J. Holtmann family. Shown viewing an engineering model of the Viking Lander spacecraft are (from left): Pattie, Mrs. Holtmann, Jon, and Ervan J. Holtmann.

Visitor Center National Attraction

During its first year of operation, the Visitor Center proved to be a national attraction with representatives from all 50 states and more than 20 foreign countries touring the facility.

The Center was dedicated on June 3, 1971, and opened to the general public on June 8. More than 175,000 persons entered the doors of the Center during its first year.

The Visitor Center was originally conceived as a place where the general public might come to learn and understand more about NASA and its mission, with particular reference to some of the work conducted at the Langley Research Center. The Center has served that function well, as indicated by the many favorable comments made by the many visitors.

The Visitor Center honored the Ervan J. Holtmann family of Terre Haute, Indiana, as the first family to enter the Center on its first anniversary. The Holtman family, which includes Mr. and Mrs. Holtmann, Pattie and Jon, is on a six-week tour of Northeastern United States. They feel that the Visitor Center is a must stop for citizens wanting to become more familiar and knowledgeable about NASA and its mission. Holtmann toured the facility in May and brought his family along for a return visit.

Highlights of the Visitor Center's first year of operation are featured in a photographic montage shown on Pages 4 and 5 of this issue of the Researcher.