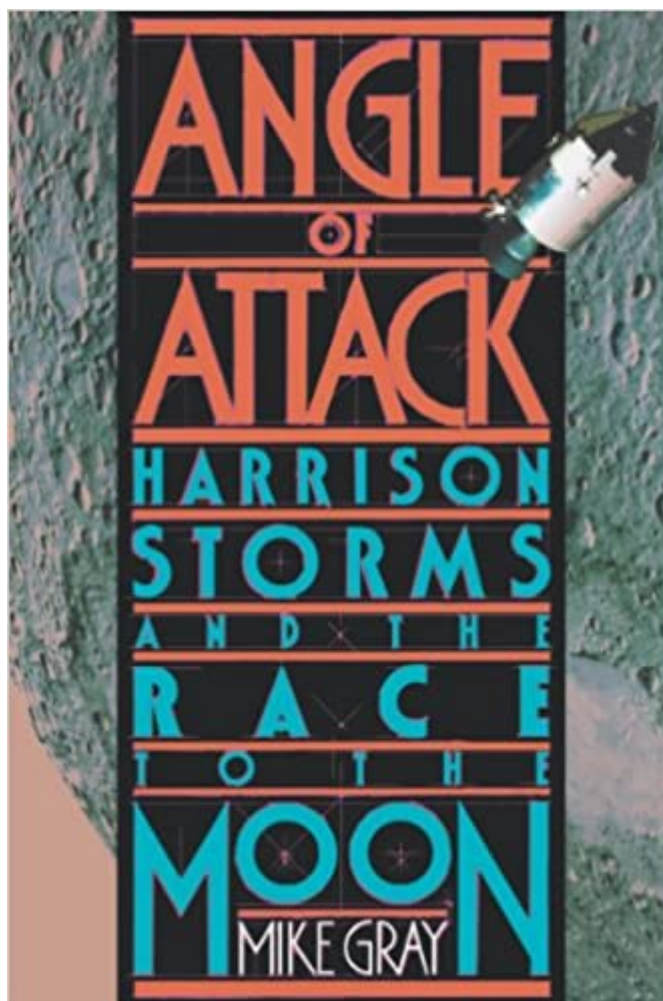


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Angle Of Attack: Harrison Storms And The Race To The Moon



Synopsis

â œFew people know the real story behind the building of Apollo, but Mike Gray has managed to capture the drama and excitement of those urgent times. This is a fascinating book full of lessons about what America can achieve with vision and teamwork.â • â •Buzz Aldrin Centuries from now, when the Cold War is as remote as the War of Roses and the passions of our time have faded into footnotes, humanity will still remember July 16, 1969, the day the first human beings departed from earth bound for a landing on the moon. Angle of Attack turned out to be a story of ordinary people organized for an extraordinary purpose. It is an anthem to human cleverness, and it is a vivid reminder of what we are capable of when we choose to follow leaders with courage and vision.

Book Information

Paperback: 308 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1st edition (October 1, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 039332513X

ISBN-13: 978-0393325133

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #342,978 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #192 in [Books > Textbooks > Engineering > Aeronautical Engineering](#) #383 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Astronomy & Astrophysics](#) #471 in [Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Aeronautics & Astronautics](#)

Customer Reviews

Imagine a version of The Right Stuff whose protagonists are engineers rather than cocky test pilots-turned-astronauts. Author Mike Gray gives a gripping account of the men who led the North American Aviation Company through one of the largest and most daunting engineering projects in history, the development of the S-2 rocket engine, and the Apollo spacecraft. Filled both with detailed technical background and explorations of the psyches who drove--and were sometimes crushed by--the race to the moon, Angle of Attack offers a captivating look at the monumental accomplishments of a bygone era. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This swaggering portrait of NASA's Apollo project might well be called Indiana Jones and the Engineering Mission of Destiny. Harrison Storms, the tough but adored head of North American Aviation's Space Division, has the title role, but Gray (The Warning) introduces hundreds of other characters, both human and mechanical (often blurring the distinctions)--a load that weighs heavily on his occasionally breathless prose. More than 30,000 people worked on the mission to put a man on the moon, beginning with the Cold War politics of the 1950s race for space and ending with that triumphal one small step in 1969. Under Storms's right stuff leadership, the project ran a corporate and governmental gauntlet toward a goal that defined the technological era: Man, Moon, Decade. Even NASA fans disillusioned by recent revelations of the agency's flaws will feel reinvigorated by the pure sense of mission manifest in this account. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I worked for North American Aviation on the Apollo Program. I remember Harrison Storms. I never knew him, I was just a worker bee. However, I remember all the excitement there was about sending men to the moon. I had no idea how political the program was. I do remember when Apollo 1 burned, and how the company took the blame because the unwritten rule is "never burn your customer," so the fact that NASA sped up things, eliminated certain tests, and went ahead with pure oxygen despite advice about how dangerous it was, didn't get any press. I had no idea that the astronauts died from toxic fumes caused by the Velcro they placed inside the capsule. Like many other Americans I assumed they burned to death. This book was an eye opener about how much information was kept from the workers and the press. Because of that, a little company (Rockwell) was able to purchase, at rock-bottom prices, the biggest aerospace company in the country. Yes, we made it to the moon, and I'm proud of that. Mr. Storms, who fought hard to get the Apollo Contract, was made the scapegoat of the Apollo 1 tragedy. Sad.

Very engagingly written, a story of immense challenges for engineers and administrators...again shows how politicians and the press can ruin people who work their whole lives for something worthwhile.

My dad worked for "Stormy" and I was privileged to grow up where aspects of solid rocket fuel was normal dinner time conversation. This book captures the excitement and challenges to reach for the moon. The astronauts were the face of the program, but it could not have happened without the dedication of men like Harrison Storms and the engineers who figured out how to build the Saturn

rocket from the German V2. Awesome.

Storms is a national hero. Wish my Tech Ed students had had the vocabulary to read. Really describes the "pre-Hippie" America they THINK is the 1960's.

I had just visited NASA in the Houston Space Center and had photographed the Saturn V Space Rockets. I have read the stories of the men that travelled and landed on the moon; however I had never thought about the men, engineers, scientists that designed, tested, manufacturer all these wonderful sophisticated machines; in the era when we were just developing computers and calculators; everything was designed using sliderules, drafting tables, etc. The story of Harrison Storms the designer of WWII airplanes like the Mustang, and the first rocket plane the X-15 is fascinating. Who took the glory of flying and reaching the moon? Read the story of these pioneers, and how it affected their families. Over 400,000 engineers, scientists, craftsmen, etc worked in the space program since the inception of NASA. What was the role of North American Aviation??? Find out in this book.

Go behind the scenes with aerospace engineers and executives of North American as they undertake the impossible. Making "every molecule" of the Saturn V second stage work after being given the slimmest of weight budgets. Taking the brunt of the capsule fire that killed three astronauts. Watching the Apollo 11 mission from the outside for many of the major players who had been replaced in the aftermath. This is a real life drama beyond anything a screen writer could think up.

I am thankful this book is still in print and I commend the publisher for making sure that it is. Angle of Attack is a very worthy addition to the history of Project Apollo. There have been few books from the contractor's viewpoint, and there should be many more. This fast-paced book covers the efforts of North American Aviation and Harrison "Stormy" Storms to engineer and build both the S-II second stage of the Saturn V and the Apollo command module. However, it also delves into the intense battle by aerospace contractors to get a piece of the Apollo pie and it is fascinating; it does so at a very human interest level. Most people have no idea the staggering amount of engineering hours and the sacrifice of the hundreds of thousands of people who worked, sometimes to the point of collapse, to achieve president John Kennedy's goal of landing men on the moon by the end of the decade. Angle of Attack proves the story of engineering Apollo does not have to be dry as dust.

These were real people laboring to achieve the greatest effort of exploration in the history of man. This book truly was a page-turner for me--a great read. It will certainly appeal to every Apollo enthusiast, but also to those who have wondered about the people who really made it happen. Harrison "Stormy" Storms was one of them and I for one consider him a hero of the Apollo age. Sadly, there is not a single photo in the book so we have no idea what Storms even looked like. Thank you Mr. Storms and all those who worked with you and for you.

Sometimes it takes a very long time before I warm up to a subject. I always recognized the achievements of our engineers and astronauts as a unique time in our country. However, it took the death and obituary of Mike Gray and reference to this book before I ordered a copy. Once I began reading I was transported back to a time when I was a teenager and I was engrossed. The story is action packed with lots of inside stories of endless hours working on deadlines in order to complete projects. It made me realize that whatever pressure I feel on work projects are dwarfed by the men and women who worked on delivering the technology which by the end of the decade delivered a visit to the moon.

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