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The Rev. Stanley Stiver, whose acute sense of history is treasured in Catawba County, has a collection of Apollo 11 moon landing front pages from newspapers around the world.

# All eyes on the moon

## Collection shows European news

**T**hirty years ago, the Rev. Stanley Stiver stood far from his Claremont home, his church and the first country to put a man on the moon.

Two U.S. astronauts walked on the moon, while Stiver, his wife, Mary Jane, his older son, John, and several friends enjoyed a three-week vacation in Europe.

The Stivers were in Rome during the lunar landing on July 20, 1969.

"We were so busy seeing Rome, we didn't see (the moon landing) on television," Stiver recalled. "We heard about 'the man on the moon,' though."

The next day, the vacationers headed for Lucerne, Switzerland. Stiver's first stop in Lucerne was a newsstand, where he bought every paper whose front page mentioned something about the moon landing — an armload of papers from around the world.

"I just went down to the newsstand and purchased as many papers as I could that had these words on them," said Stiver, now a resident of Hickory.

Mary Canrobert



COMMENTARY

"These words" included a variety of versions of the word "moon": la lune (French), maan (Dutch), manen (Danish), mond (Romanian and German) and luna (Italian).

Stiver had no trouble recognizing "moon" in the headlines of two British newspapers. London's The Daily Telegraph shouted, "Americans First on the Moon," while the English Daily Express devoted almost an entire front page to the story, "Man Is on the Moon."

On the evening of July 21, Stiver's group watched a repeat of the moon walk on a TV in a Lucerne shop window. "Television wasn't in hotel rooms then," Stiver said.

When the pastor returned to America from his European vacation, he carried nine front pages. He had them mounted on cardboard and covered in clear plastic.

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The front page of the Paris paper, France Soir, featured astronaut Neil Armstrong.

A Romanian newspaper downplayed the American moon landing.



# Front-page collection displays news in Europe

## MOON from IV

Other than a July 1979 stint on a display shelf in the Catawba County Library in Newton, the front pages have been stored in the Stivers' home.

Only a master of languages can fully appreciate the words on all nine front pages. But it doesn't take a linguist to figure out how much importance each paper allotted Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins' trip to the moon aboard Apollo 11, the landing of "the Eagle" in the Sea of Tranquility, or the footprints made on the moon.

All nine papers ran with the moon landing as their top story, and all included photos or drawings of some kind.

When the nine pages are placed side by side, though, it is the newspaper France Soir (Evening France), that catches the eye. Covering almost the entire page is a color photo of Neil Armstrong in his astronaut's suit.

Beneath the huge likeness are the words, "Voici le premier homme qui a marche sur la lune" (Here is the first man who walked

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**REV. STANLEY STIVER**  
SAVED MOON WALK FRONT PAGES

on the moon.) Several papers had obtained and used photos of the spacecraft landing or the astronauts' trek on the lunar surface. Some simply ran pictures of the astronauts.

One included only a cartoon drawing of the moon with a small spacecraft orbiting around it.

The front page of the English paper Daily Express was covered in moon-related stories, photos and cartoon drawings, with the exception of the lower right corner that housed an advertisement.

This front page included a cartoon that highlights the British people's love of understatement.

A woman hangs out of her window and looks at the moon, which has the words "COCA COLA" branded on it in huge letters. The caption reads, "I rather think they've arrived."

The Daily Telegraph, the other British paper picked up by Stiver, refers to the astronauts as "lunar-nauts" and gives the time of the Eagle's landing on the moon as 9:17 p.m. British Standard Time.

Most people who know the 78-year-old retired minister don't think of him as the man who gathered a bunch of newspapers while visiting Europe in 1969. They think of Stiver as "the man with the crosses."

From all over the world, Stiver has amassed a collection of more than a thousand crosses. Many times through the years, Stiver has carried a sampling of his crosses to church and civic meetings for his informative talks.

The truth is out now, though. Stiver not only has one of the best collections of crosses, but he probably has the best collection of July 21, 1969, front pages as well.

Mary Canrobert's column appears Wednesdays and Sundays.



The Milan, Italy newspaper devoted its entire front page to the American moon landing.