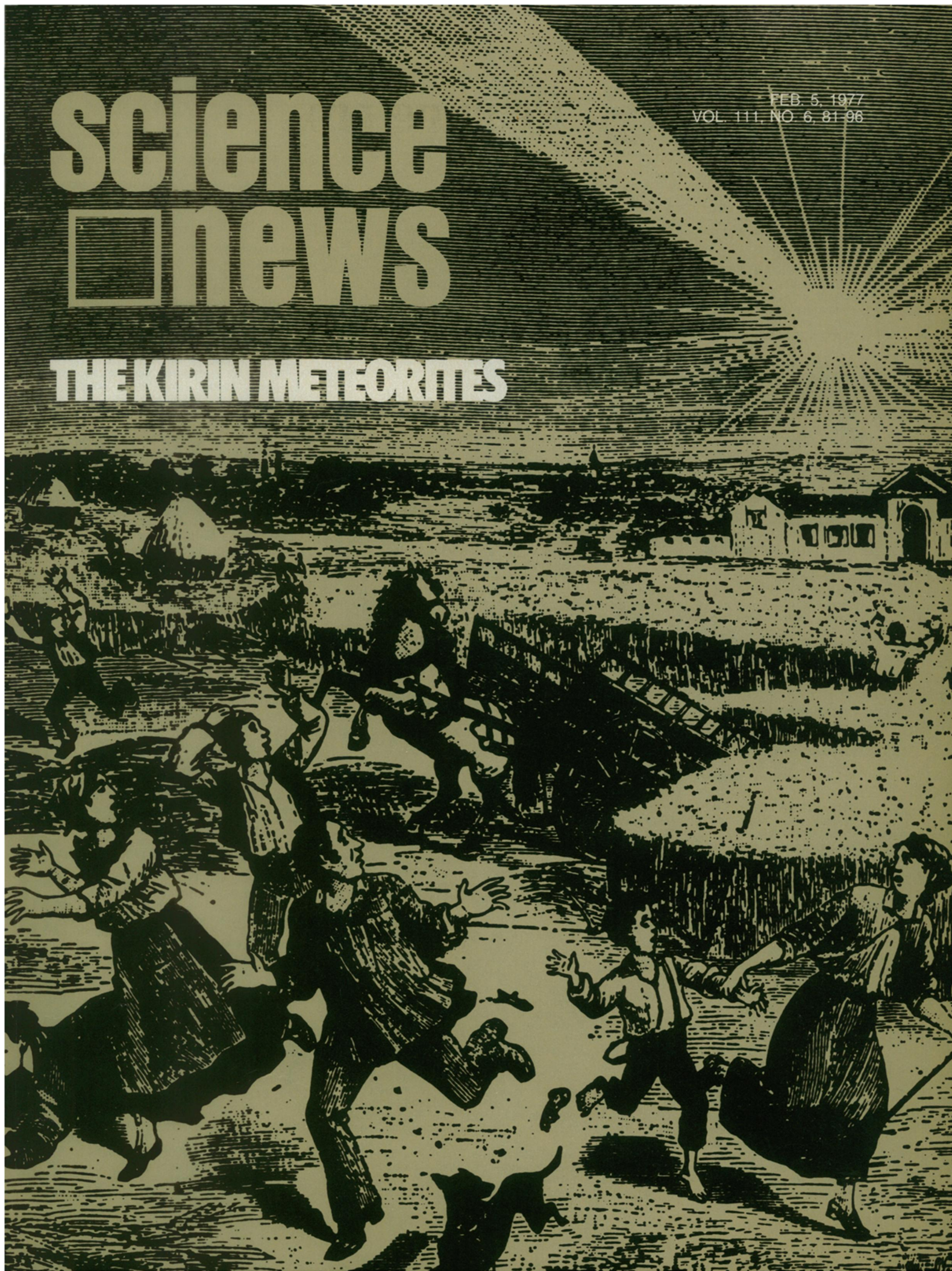


# science news

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## THE KIRIN METEORITES





# SCIENCE NEWS®

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**COVER:** Old drawing of the fall of a meteorite. A scene much like this occurred in the Kirin province of northeast China March 8, 1976. A brilliant fireball, widely observed, broke into pieces scattering meteorites over 500 square kilometers, the world's largest stone meteorite distribution area. The biggest piece struck near a village and is the largest stony meteorite known. See p. 92. (Drawing from *L'Astronomie*)

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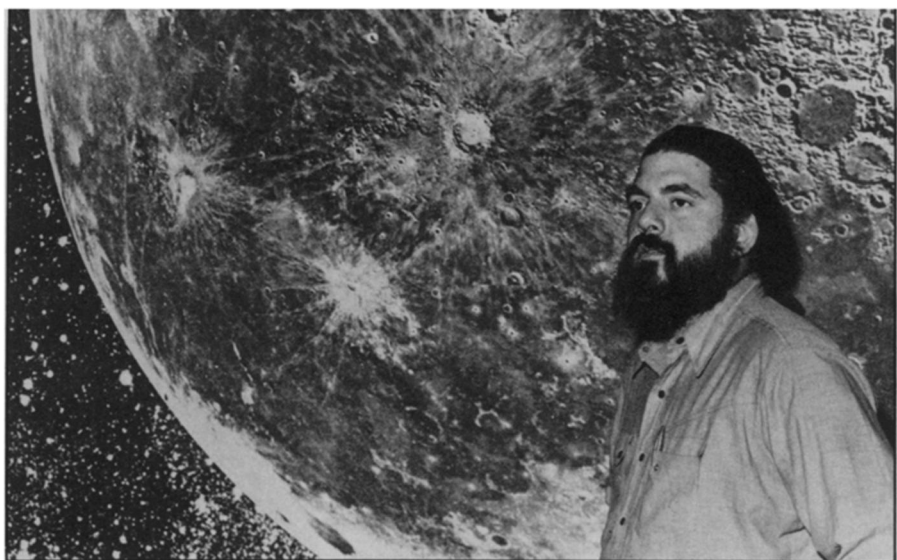
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"No question about it, [Project Viking] is as far removed from a walk in the woods as the Concorde from a butterfly. But if all that comes out of it is a rousing cheer for technological flash—and there's plenty of that—then the real meaning of the accomplishment will have been lost. . . . [A]ll this science and all this technology offer, to take only one example, a window on the past—a past in which Mars may have had gurgling brooks, gentle breezes and white clouds scudding across an unpolluted, blue sky. . . . The medium, Emily, is not the message here. Beauty is in the heart of the beholder."

With such thoughts, in a commentary introducing a special pre-landing Viking issue last June, Jonathan Eberhart, our space sciences editor and clearly a man whose heart beholds great beauty in humankind's quest to explore the planets, initiated SCIENCE NEWS's 1976 coverage of the U.S. Viking landings on Mars. In the ensuing months, from June through early November, Eberhart, reporting from Viking headquarters in Pasadena, researched and wrote 25 additional articles on Viking that appeared in 21 consecutive weekly issues of SCIENCE NEWS.

For the excellence of all these Viking articles, Eberhart has now won the American Association for the Advancement of Science-Westinghouse Science Writing Award for Magazines for 1976. It is widely considered to be the top science writing award for magazines in the United States. He will receive the \$1000 award on Feb. 22 during the AAAS annual meeting in Denver. Needless to say, we are delighted.

By a peculiarity of our format that leaves articles in our "Science News of the Week" section unsigned, almost all of Jonathan's coverage went without byline. But to those who know him, it had his unmistakable marks: Thoroughly reported to the nth decimal place, the articles conveyed his scrupulous fidelity to accuracy and detail and his deep fascination with all the ramifications—scientific and philosophical—of humanity's first successful landings on another planet.

Jonathan is the veteran of the SCIENCE NEWS staff. He first began working here during summers in the early 1960s while still a student. He joined the staff full time in 1964. During that time he has covered nearly all the space and planetary science activities of the United States.

Jonathan has an intense interest in everything to do with space science and exploration. He is a voracious reader of science fiction, a collector of original space paintings and a confessed fan of Star Trek.

He is a man of many other interests as well. In fact, as his friends and colleagues know, he has almost a second career: music. A talented and committed musician, Jonathan's primary interest is in ethnic, folk and experimental music. He collects folk music instruments from around the world and can play many of them. He has performed for many years in concerts in Washington and elsewhere, at numerous folk festivals and on recordings with such performers as Pete Seeger and Louis Killen. For several years he has hosted a weekly radio program consisting of ethnic and experimental music, talk (sometimes on science) and guests. This activity was temporarily side-tracked by his need to be in California for Viking, but he expects it to resume soon. In 1970, after the Apollo 11 mission, Jonathan's musical talents took him away from SCIENCE NEWS for awhile to accept an invitation to be a member of the musical group officially representing the United States at the World's Fair in Osaka, Japan.

He returned to the staff in March 1973, anxious to begin science reporting again. Since then he has covered such events as the Pioneer 10 and 11 missions to Jupiter and Mariner 10's flyby of Venus and its three flybys of Mercury. And then Viking.

His (our) Viking coverage continues. He was in California again last week following up leads on the latest Viking results, after five days covering the meeting of the planetary sciences division of the American Astronomical Society in Hawaii. The 1970s are a time of tremendous excitement in planetary exploration, and Jonathan has been participating in that grand adventure. And, through SCIENCE NEWS, so have you.

—Kendrick Frazier