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For Immediate Release

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A tree grown from a seed carried to the moon and back by Astronaut Stuart Roosa aboard Apollo 14 will be planted in Washington Square facing Independence Hall Tuesday, May 6, at 10:30 a.m.

Dedicated to "Honoring Earth's Green World of Trees", the planting will inaugurate a series of Bicentennial events across the nation that will focus attention on past and future importance of trees and forest resources.

Sponsors of the First Bicentennial Moon Tree Planting are the Forest Service USDA, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Washington Square Association, Philadelphia '76, and the Fairmount Park Commission.

Colonel Roosa, a Forest Service Smokejumper before he joined the Air Force; John R. McGuire, Forest Service Chief, and Philadelphia Mayor Frank L. Rizzo will be among the score of dignitaries on hand for the planting. Woodsy Owl, the famous Forest Service environmental character, will be there with special entertainment for children.

Chief McGuire hopes that a "Moon Tree" can be planted in each state during the Bicentennial year. "Forests helped make this country a seafaring nation," he said. "They became the material on which we built our nation. Today, tree by-products are vital in making space travel possible. Products such as rosin-core soldering flux for the thousands of electrical connections on a space vehicle, nylon for reentry chutes, balsa wood to protect fuel insulation systems, cork for the heat protective cover, and solid rocket propellents--all come from trees. Beyond this exciting space age, trees, the renewable resource, will play an important role in the nation's future."

The public is invited to the planting.