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MOON SCRATCHER WARMS UP: A steel-tipped digger aboard Surveyor III -- scheduled to sample the Moon's surface in April -- is given a good work-out at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory prior to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration lunar mission. If all goes well, the sampler will test the lunar soil in several places and dig a trench up to 18 inches deep, 18 inches long, and a foot wide. The aluminum flexing arm extends out to five feet from the spacecraft and can swing in a 112-degree sweep over an area of 20 square feet. The purpose is to determine the Moon's surface composition and bearing strength before Apollo manned-spacecraft landings.