

Fantascience Fan

VOL. I -- NO. I

JANUARY 23, 1946

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Science Fiction? Not Any More, Brother.....

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 -- The first man-made contact with the moon was achieved on Jan. 10, when the Army Signal Corps beamed a radar signal on the celestial body and 2.4 seconds later received the echo reflected by the planet, it was announced here tonight.

The signal, covering a round trip distance of an estimated 477,714 miles, was sent out from the Evans Signal Laboratories at Belmar, New Jersey.

Applications almost beyond immediate comprehension were foreseen as a result of the electronic achievement. New and far more accurate study of the universe, perhaps ultimately resulting in the detailed topographical mapping of distant planet, was anticipated.

Detection of enemy missiles flying through cosmic space also was expected to be possible from the new definite proof that radio waves could penetrate beyond the earth's atmosphere.

The first word to reach the public ear, however, came several hours earlier under circumstances anything but formal. A group of reporters crowded into a small upstairs reception room in a hotel and a quiet, 39-year-old officer, Lt. Col. J.H. DeWitt who supervised the experiment, calmly announced what had been done.

Col. DeWitt professed a disliking for speculation of a "Buck Rogers or Jules Verne" character, but did acknowledge that the Army scientists hoped to in-

crease their transmitter's power so that it could be modulated in voice.

"We should be able to say 'Hello' and hear the moon say 'Hello' back," he said.

Col. DeWitt was formerly a radio engineer, and hails from Nashville, Tenn.

(From The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, January 25, 1946, page 1.)

THE FANTASCIENCE FAN, edited & published by Van Splawn, 5201 Enright, St. Louis 8, Mo. Free to those who send occasion a 1 news bits and interesting items
Issued Weekly

Fantanotes

Sun Spots # 27 out in about a week (if all goes well), reports Gerry de la Ree.

Walt Daugherty urges everyone to join the Pacificon Society so that plans can really get under way. Stationary, stickers, and membership cards will be mailed to new members as soon as possible.

Lionel Innman and neophan Wallis Knighton, both of Ripley, are planning a fanzine of some sort, with photos used in some way. Innman reports Knighton is a photographer, and a sincere fan.

Can anyone tell us if The Buffalo Book Company has released "Skylark of Space" as yet? We've never received our copy. Action, gentlemen!