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ROCKETS

THE MAGAZINE OF SPACE FLIGHT
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE UNITED STATES ROCKET SOCIETY



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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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EDITORIAL

Out of the welter of the past few years, consisting of hush-hush military progress, great emphasis (in their advertising, at least) by our great corporations on their devotion to pure research as exemplified by development of techniques for conquering space, and the myriads of books magazine articles and more sincere publications of the many rocket societies, certain facts begin to emerge about the Moon rocket.

First of these is the fact that the Moon is now definitely recognized as a goal. The satellite of course is a step to that goal, tho having great and valuable utility in itself. Television broadcasting, for example, seems to offer an economic justification of the satellite station alone, ignoring the value as a meteorological weather station and mapping point de luxe.

Second fact to be readily admitted is the immense amount of research that is being done, much of it under government contract, whose ultimate purpose is to enable man to span space.

Thirdly is the seeming irritation of the professional astronomer, who gives the impression that he is annoyed at the violation of his temple of mystery by the "engineers". That observational astronomy on this planet has reached a dead end is evinced clearly by a photo of Venus taken by the "big eye". It shows no detail whatever and could be a streak of white paint on a black background. Further evidence of this is the great growth of "radio astronomy". On earth, we are presumably at the limits of telescopic observation, and, also, to a great degree, of spectroscopic.

Every generation is handed a new universe and told "this is it". During the middle ages the ecclesiastical authorities tied this up for several generations. finally, when it burst all bounds, it fittingly enough reacted to the benefit of those countries who had been least bound by "authority", England, Holland and Germany.

Therefore, we should like to make a prophecy. UPON OUR CONQUERING THE THIRD DIMENSION, SPACE, WE SHALL AGAIN BE GIVEN A NEW UNIVERSE. I'M CONVINCED THAT THE DISCOVERIES TO COME, ONCE WE HAVE LEFT OUR ATMOSPHERE BEHIND, WILL LITERALLY GIVE US A NEW UNIVERSE, AND ONE HARDLY RECOGNIZABLE FROM THE ONE OUTLINED IN THE TEXTBOOKS OF TODAY. We of this generation have many of the answers, --- as far as we can know. It is up to YOU of a new generation to find the NEW universe. And it may very well be that it will be the lot of succeeding generations to find new universes thru all time. Let us hope that this will be a vision of sufficient glory to obscure for all men their petty hatreds, strifes and suicidal wars.

R.L.FARNSWORTH



No, my lipstick won't smear - and neither will my space helmet - unfortunately!

Experimenters

We have rec'd numerous letters from experimenters, too many in fact to reproduce them all. Among them are the following:

Oscar Wybrant, 5939 Hersholt Ave.
Bellflower, California
along with: Richard Butterfield
Ralph Wynkoop
Roy Wybrant & Paul Wybrant

Using a magnesium and sulfur fuel in a rocket 45" in length and 2½ inches outer diameter, they achieved a height of 1936 ft.

Ralph Robinson of Phenix City, Alabama, mixes kerosene, gasoline and alcohol.

Bob Symons, of 2270 Maravilla Drive
Hollywood 28, California

Has constructed a model spaceship. It is 7 ft. in height and is 8 inches wide constructed of balsa wood and covered with thin spring steel. It is equipped with lighting systems, ventilation systems, hydraulic landing gears, microphone, and loudspeaker.

Victor Root, of 1329 S. Avers Ave.
Chicago 23, Illinois

Has been conducting experiments at Lyons, Illinois, when he can get the time.

We should like to caution all experimenters that handling rocket fuels is of the utmost delicacy, and we strongly suggest that you wear at least asbestos gloves and goggles. In fact, a whole fireproof suit is most desirable. We still have a few of these left at \$15. each. They are complete suits with hoods, gloves, etc. **DON'T TAKE UNNECESSARY CHANCES WITH EXPLOSIVE AND INFLAMMABLE MATERIALS.** Your eyesight is most precious. **DON'T RISK IT NEEDLESSLY!!**

Also experimenters should note that one way in which amateurs can do some important work is in working out more practical means of landing rockets. There is plenty of room to experiment in this direction and it is of the utmost value; being one of the great stumbling blocks to high altitude recovery of instruments, etc. intact.

Rocket Associates, Inc. appointed U.S. Sales agent by famous British Telescope Maker.

Effective at once we can offer the following fine telescopes prices quoted are complete, with the exception of duties which are negligible on this type of product.

"ASTROMINOR" 5.7" Reflector

Model A	\$143.
Model B	\$216.
Model C	\$264.

"ASTROMINIC" 2.4" REFRACTORS

Regular	\$168.
Simplified	\$ 85.

EYEPIECES

Standard ¼", ½" & 1" f	\$11. ea.
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SPECIFICATION MIRRORS (MADE TO ORDER)

6" aperture	\$ 85.
8" "	\$165.
12" "	\$550.
18" "	\$995.

UNMOUNTED TELESCOPES

2" aperture	x20, 40 or 80	\$30.
2.4 "	" " " "	40.
.3" "	x40, 80 or 160	75.

Gravity driving clocks \$85.

FOUCAULT PARABOLOIDS

6" aperture	\$40.
8" "	75.
7" "	50.
10" "	150.

SPHERICAL CONCAVE MIRRORS

6" diameter x 48" focus	\$25.
Diagonal	\$ 6.

LEE TAYLOR FINE TELESCOPES order from: ROCKET ASSOCIATES, INC.
(Catalogue on request) BOX 29, GLEN ELLYN, ILL.

ASTRONOMICAL REFLECTING TELESCOPES.

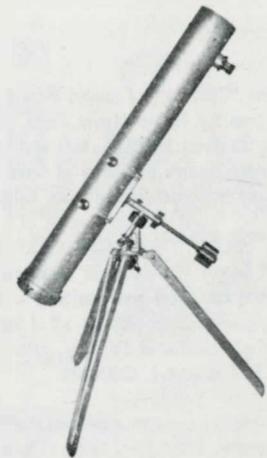
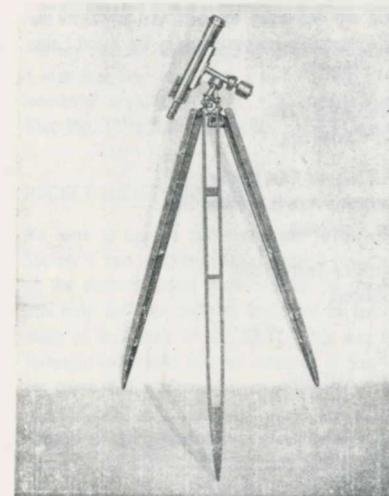
Amateur observers throughout the world are showing an increasing preference for portable reflecting telescopes in favour of the once popular three-inch refractor.

The reason is threefold. Firstly, a reflector costs about a quarter of the price of a refractor of equivalent aperture. Secondly, a reflector is perfectly corrected for chromatic and spherical aberrations. Thirdly, a reflecting telescope is only one third of the weight of an equivalent refractor.

Very useful and instructive planetary observations may be made with a reflector of over five inches aperture, as a telescope of this size reveals much surface detail quite unresolvable in a smaller instrument. Many Lunar maps have been made from observations made with telescopes of about six inch aperture, on magnifications of between x50 and x400.

In order to meet this growing demand for portable reflectors of a moderate aperture, yet reasonable price, we have designed the "Astrominor" series, details and prices of which are shown in the following lists.

LEE TAYLOR, Designers and Makers of all types of scientific equipment, lenses, mirrors, and special purpose mechanisms.

**ASTROMINOR****ASTROMINIC****ASTRONOMICAL REFRACTORS.****THE "ASTROMINIC" 2.4".**

As shown in the illustration. Fitted with a 2.4" clear aperture object glass of extremely high quality, mounted in a squaring-on type cell. This facilitates aligning the optical system so that a true diffraction image of a star may be obtained. Even many larger telescopes made by other makers are not equipped with this adjustment, and we confidently assert that our 2.4" telescope is actually superior to the more common 3" supplied without this type of cell.

Barrel. Made from brightly polished and lacquered brass. The focusing device is of the American pattern, and is screwed to take standard R.A.S. eyepieces. A star finder is also fitted.

Mounting. Of heavy Gunmetal, this is an Equatorial mount with split setting circles, verniers, locking wheels both axes, and an auto-manual drive operating from all standard mains voltages (A.C.).

Tripod. Five feet in height, the tripod is made from seasoned hardwood, and braced to give adequate support.

Power. Each telescope is provided with three astronomical eyepieces to give magnifications of x20, x40 and x80. The top power which this instrument will stand without loss of definition is approximately x200, and the resolution is about 2.0 secs.

Finish: Metallustre and bright lacquered brass fittings.

Complete with switch and flex.

A member recently passing thru Chicago from Idaho (a 1000 apologies for mislaying the slip with his name) advises us that Mr. Vickery is no longer the chap to write to in Baltimore. For rocket information at that point write to: Lt. Col. E.A. Crum, Air Research & Development Command, Air Force Rocket Program, Baltimore, Maryland.

At White Sands Proving Ground, write to Mr. M.A. Thomas, Dean of Engineering, A & M University, for information relative to the Co-Op program referred to in other parts of this magazine by young men who have gotten into rocketry thru this means.

Members will no doubt see the recent issues of Collier's magazine in which more material is being released about our country's long range program. This is certainly at variance with Dr. Gamow's predictions, which are mentioned elsewhere. Bear in mind also that any material released is already from 4 to 5 years behind actual results. "PHYSICS AND MEDICINE OF THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE" contains even more up-to-date material than these articles. (see book list)

Naval Rocket Stations

The following are addresses to which you may write the "Director of Personnel" for positions in the Naval Labs. in Southern California.

U.S. Navy Electronics Lab.
San Diego 52, California

U.S. Naval Air Missile Test Center
Pt. Mugu, California c/o U.S. Naval Sta.
Port Hueneme, California

U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station
Inoykern, California

ADS OF THE FUTURE:

"Manny's Space Suit Store. After last nites DISASTROUS FIRE all must go! Best deals on Ganymede! Suits for Venus! Suits for Mars! British Made. Goodyear specials. General Tire re-builts. All sizes, all models, ALL MUST GO! PRICES BLASTED! Space Pilots! FOR THAT REALLY SNAPPY SUIT - see MANNY'S. ALL SUITS COMPLETE! (head pieces slightly extra. Some accessories missing)"

A very fine "Dictionary of Guided Missile Terms" can be obtained from the Public Affairs Press, Washington D.C. (2153 Florida Ave.) for \$2.00. Well worth the money it is a very comprehensive dictionary of terms in a very new field. Issued in cooperation with the Antiaircraft Journal.

The Feb. "RECRUITMENT CIRCULAR" of the Board of U.S. Civil Service Examiners for Scientists and Engineers lists a great many very good positions in U.S. Naval ordnance and guided missile projects, all of them in California. If a qualified Scientist or Engineer, write to them at 1030 E. Green St. Pasadena 1, California.

The following is a communication from Monsieur A. Ananoff, 5, Ave. Mozart, Paris 16, France. (Translated for us by member W. E. Shawcross, 1052 Bayview Blvd. Norfolk, Va.)

"Dear Sirs: I regret to tell you that owing to the lack of comprehension of certain members of the Committee of the Astronautical Group of the Aeronautical Club of France, I thought it my duty to pronounce the dissolution of the G.A.F. and, at the same time, to give my resignation. Until a new organization is formed, there will not be any official astronautical movement in France, and I shall ask you to address all correspondence to my personal address above.

Be so kind as to accept my best wishes.

Signed: A. Ananoff

The Second Intl. Aviation trade show will be held June 9th through June 11, 1953 at the Hotel Staller in N.Y. City. Those interested should contact "Aircraft Trade Shows, Inc. Hotel McAlpin, Broadway at 34th St. N.Y. 1, N.Y.

Advertisement

ROCKET ASSOCIATES, INC.

COMMON STOCK \$5 per share

Address:

Rocket Associates, Inc.
Box 29, Glen Ellyn, Illinois

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

"Dear Sirs: I rec'd your letter and the last issue of our magazine. I'm very happy indeed to be a member of the Society; the mag is very good and I should like to know if the other issues are available. (Ed's note; sorry, no more available) It's a great sorry for me not to be at U.S.A. at this moment, but I'll go this year to study, I hope to C.I.T., and I think I'll be able to take a more active role. I should like members of the Society to write me to have best knowledge of the Society and flying saucers. Please send me a button. Write me to: CASILLA 40, LONTUE, CHILE, SO. AMERICA."

"Please add my name to your list of new members. Addie Huddleston, P.O. Box 1202, Cincinnati, Ohio 1." With pleasure Miss Huddleston, tho, as here-to-fore, more comprehensive lists will be sent in mimeographed form, to members only.

"There seems to be a lot of argument about the circulation figures of SF magazines. For the record, the undisputed leader is Astounding, with a proved figure of 119,000 per month in 1952 and an estimated 131,000 for 1953.

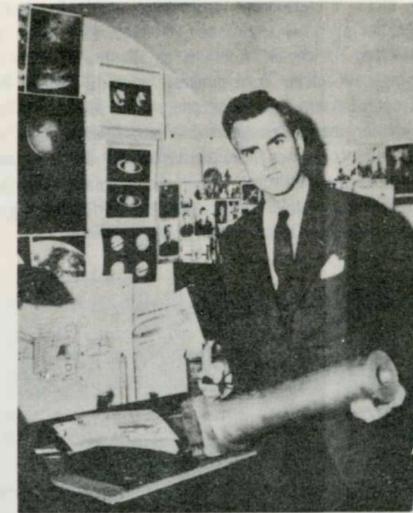
---Anonymous"

"If any members would like to write to a person overseas, I wish that they would drop a line this way. You are doing wonderful work, keep it up. G. W. Pickles, CD3, Hobby Shop Mgr. 103rd N.C.B. Navy 926 c/o FPO San Francisco."

ROCKET SOCIETY DISPLAYS

We were to have a full size photo in this issue of your Society's new displays. Unfortunately however all seven of the pictures taken were exposed by the photographer thru error and new pictures could not be taken in time to make up this issue of ROCKETS. This was the more unfortunate as we had delayed issuance of this issue awaiting these photographs. April issue should see this problem solved.

Anyone interested in co-operating with you Society in placing these displays kindly write us for more information. Men in the Armed Forces of course are not in a position to do this.



In reply to many requests we are showing a photo of Mr. Farnsworth in the Society's former office. Plans are on foot for more commodious quarters, as we are greatly handicapped for lack of adequate space to exhibit the great amount of material which the Society has accumulated on space flight in the past 20 years. If all members would renew their memberships it would be a big step in making our plans mature.

THE FACTS OF LIFE FOR ROCKETEERS

IT has long been our contention that the driving force behind progress is mainly economic. A perusal of several annual and inter-im financial reports of companies which deal largely in aircraft accessories and instruments reveal that their back logs of business, are, in many cases, up to 89% due to the current military program. It is apparent therefore, that any great effort made by the government to cancel these commitments wholesale will be strongly resisted by industry. At the same time the moral angle will be of great influence. What, therefore, can be of more welcome, to industry, to young men interested in aviation, and to the government, that the Conquest of Space? It will take the exact products now being made for war; and, possibly, many more of them! DON'T SELL SPACE SHORT.

For those interested in Helicopters, which are ideally suited for planetary exploration, the Dec. 1952 issue of "American Helicopter" contains an illustrated review of leading helicopters. Much progress is being made in the helicopter industry, and we prophesy a tremendous civilian market for them when peaceable conditions return. The large auto companies have the agencies, and the plane companies the facilities, it will be a great commercial contest when it really starts. American Helicopter Mag is at: 32 East 57th St. New York 22. N.Y.



The above illustration is that of a rocket powered car built by Daniel Hungerford and Joseph Farrell in Elmira, New York. Built during the years of 1927 - 32.

The other side of the Moon

Our British correspondent, Mary Elwyn Patchett, 10c Nevem Pl. S.W. 5, London, England, sends us a clipping from the Daily Mail, Jan 21, 1953, giving the results of H. Percy Wilkins, director of the Lunar Section of the British Astronomical Assn., work in deducing the characteristics of the other side of the Moon. According to his forecast the other side is much like the one we see, with, according to his theories, mountains taking the place of mares in anti-podal relationship. Due to the libration of the Moon it shows us about 3/5 of its total surface, and from this rays are plotted which converge on craters of the other side.

Mary Patchett complains that in a BBC children's series on space a cockney maid accompanies the crew on a space rocket. She should worry! How about the scar on "Destination Moon" when they loused up the crew with a phoney Brooklyn ball fan. It seems that the moral play of the middle ages is still with us. Always the corny jester, always the "gimmick" for laughs.

Mary Patchett also advises us that she has done "Ajax the Warrior" and "Kidnappers of Space" both children's books. In line with our policy of helping Society members above all others, we will probably carry these two volumes on our future book lists.

Those members who have read recent press releases that quote Milton W. Rosen, Director, Viking Rocket Project Naval Research Lab. Washington 25, D.C. as saying that space flight is far in the future should take this with a grain of salt. Inevitably, there is more or less jealousy between the various agencies that are engaged in this work and they seem to bend over backward in advising the public that they are getting no place. It would be very interesting to hear their story when they come before the Senate Armed Services Finance Committee and outline their progress for the purpose of getting more appropriations. We are sure it would make better reading than some of Mr. Rosen's pronouncements. Maybe he doesn't like Von Braun ---- eh? Could be!

Jupiter ready to pop?

According to Patrick Moore, F.R.A.S., Jupiter is now in the phase where it has lost much of its characteristic color. Thirty years ago its hues were intense. The present stage will no doubt be followed by one of violent activity, at least that has been the observable sequence in the past. Also, there is some proof that storms on Jupiter follow outbursts of the Sun as they do on Earth. The fury of storms on Jupiter are of violence unimaginable on Earth. Bear in mind also that the current theory of rock, ice and methane, as the state of Jupiter, are still a theory, and there is much evidence for latent heat of a considerable degree.

If there was anything needed to show how far current Science Fiction mags are lagging behind the present strides of science, it was Harold Browne's howler of an editorial in a recent issue of "Amazing Stories." In it he comes out flat footedly against space travel, and joins the moumers of yesteryear. Says ponderous Browne, "Homo Sapiens will never get into a space ship and roam the void." Ever hear of White Sands?

VERY IMPORTANT !!! PLEASE ! PLEASE !
WHEN CORRESPONDING WITH YOUR SOCIETY,
PARTICULARLY ABOUT ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE
GIVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER!!

For the convenience of our members we are listing here with a few companies who are definitely in the space travel category. That is, they either are at work on rockets or their components, or they are good bets for rocket work in the future. Employment in them might lead to other worlds; in the excitement of the first trip, we are prone to forget that there will be OTHERS! Until the end of time and all that is.

Aerojet Engineering Co. (Div. Genl Tire)
Azusa, California

Reaction Motors, Inc.
Route 23 Pompton Plains, New Jersey

Lockheed Aircraft Corp.
Burbank, California
Marietta, Georgia

Statham Laboratories
Los Angeles 64, California

Bourns Laboratories
6135 Magnolia Ave. Riverside, Calif.

Radio Corp. of America
RCA Bldg. New York, N.Y.

Fairchild Engine & Airplane Corp.
Hagerstown, Maryland

Douglas Aircraft Corp.
Long Beach, California

Consolidated Engineering Corp.
300 N. Sierra Madre Villa
Pasadena 15, California

General Electric Co.
Schenectady, N. Y.

Westinghouse Elec. & Mfg. Co.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Allen B. DuMont Labs.
750 Bloomfield Ave. Clifton, N. J.

Boeing Airplane Co.
Seattle 14, Washington

North American Aviation, Inc.
12214 Lakewood Blvd. Downy, Calif.

American Bosch Corp. Arma Div.
Mineola, N. Y.

Sperry Gyroscope Co.
30 Rockefeller Plaza, N. Y., N. Y.
Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corp.
San Diego, California

Thompson Products, Jet Division
Euclid, Ohio Harrisburg, Pa.

Martin Aircraft Co.
Middle River, Balt. Co. Maryland

General Dynamics
New Haven, Connecticut

There are, of course, many other companies who will be interested in components for space travel. All of the instrument companies, miniature controls makers, chemical companies etc. The above are rather representative. Consolidated-Vultee seems a very good bet as they are working on the CONVAIR atom powered plane project.

If still in school, we recommend that you write to these companies in which you might be interested and find out their requirements and in what fields the greatest need exists, then fashion your educational courses accordingly.

If already engaged in business, contact them for engineering or scientific openings, provided that you are qualified.

4th International Congress on Astronautics 1953. To be held at Baden, Switzerland, from the 3rd thru the 8th of August. Should you wish to attend, write: To the Secretary Swiss Astronautical Association, P.O. Box 37, BADEN, SWITZERLAND. Actual meetings will be held in Zurich, but write to the Secretary as above.

Letter from Robert Phippeny, 10859 Lindblade St., Culver City, California.

"Has there ever been any suggestion of using Perchloric Acid and Acetic Anhydride as a Rocket fuel? Judging by an explosion of an electro-plating plant here, it must have potentialities. I am told that the catalyst is metallic dust."

Letters from Members

"Please change my mailing address to Genl. Del. State College, New Mexico. I, like many others in the Society have gotten into the Co-op educational program at White Sands. I would like to thank the Society because it was in the first issue of "Rockets" that I found out about the program. Once again, my thanks to the U. S. Rocket Society."

Yours truly,
Joseph H. Hildebrandt 135

"I can not understand your favoritism toward Science Fiction. I feel that it has degenerated horribly. Seems in direct ratio to increase in circulation. Recent issue of Astounding had the "Hero", a spy for the United Nations, wherein he murdered the "Villain", a U. S. Army General, in his bed. SF seems to have taken the old detective story formula to heart. You know, the "Smart" D.A. or reporter and the "Dumb" cops. Only in SF its the "Brilliant" "Sensitive" scientist and the stupid, dumb, animalistic Army. This totally overlooks the facts. Such brilliant men as the late Forest Ray Moulton, and the very clever Col. James Randolph, are in and have held commissions in the Army. We owe practically all our rocket development to the Armed Forces, ---- I think that SF is missing the boat, and worse, has become a vehicle for out and out propaganda. When you read Verne you get science and entertainment. I will not even mention the other so called "Science" Fiction mags, most of them simply drip sex and sadism. Torture certainly doesn't belong in SF, yet recent issues fairly reek with it, either present or implied. Leave out my address, I do not want a lot of SF fanatics sending me time bombs."

Victor Van Osborne Browne

Dear Mr. Farnsworth:

"Being a member of the Society, 1065, I feel that you will be interested in the enclosed statement made by Dr. Geo. Gamow, of Geo. Wash. Univ. concerning rocket travel to the Moon. Dr. Gamow, who seems to be a person of some note in the astronomical world, feels that the Moon has no military or commercial value whatsoever. I thought this to be quite absurd, and felt it my "duty" as a member of an

organization furthering interest in rocket travel to the Moon, to do something to show this gentleman the foolishness of his statement, perhaps through the medium of our organization. I feel that if we, as an organization, could do something to convince Dr. Gamow of the Moon's military and commercial importance, it would be a worthwhile step in furthering our cause. Dr. Gamow's address is: Dr. Geo. Gamow, Geo. Washington, Univ., Washington D. C."
Norman Keegan, 204 Danbury Dr.
Syracuse 9, N. Y.

Eds. Note:

Dear Norman, we do not have to worry about Dr. Gamow, he is more at home in the interior of the Sun, about which he can write very convincingly, as no one (YET!) can check up on him. As to convincing him of rocket travel; it is very apparent that it now makes news to REFUTE the possibility, so of course he does not wish to be convinced. Any way, it will not be too long before N. American Aviation, Consolidated-Vultee, Boeing, or some of the others, will make the smug Drs. lecture a forgotten oddity. Like the famous proofs that heavier than air flight was impossible.

"Dear Society:

In one of your late issues of "Rockets" I read about the Student Co-op training that was being offered by the N. Mexico College of A. & M. and White Sands. At the moment I am signed up for the same and will start early in Feb. at W.S.P. Grd. The journey which I took to W.S.P. Grd. in order to take the requirement test was very interesting. it couldn't help fill a young space enthusiast with jet fire! White Sands and the surrounding desert just speaks SPACE! The Organ Ms. to the west have a very remarkable similiarity to the Lunar peaks. They are very high and pointed which creates a panoramic back drop for the work which is being done out there. Kindly send me a book of U.S.R.S. matches. \$1 enclosed.

Charles F. Capen, 486
Home address: 2021 S. State Street
Springfield, Illinois

"SPACE WILL NOT BE CONQUERED BY PEOPLE WHO
MERELY WRITE ABOUT IT." R. L. Farnsworth

"A MATTER OF TASTE" Fiction Victor Van Osborne Browne

A new "ROCKETS" fiction feature: original idea, science fiction, COPYRIGHT

"Well, damn it, what DO you make of it Captain?" The questioner was obviously nettled. He was a stocky rather soft appearing gentleman, who bore himself as one who had obtained his office of colony space administrator more thru his political power than thru his background. He was one of many men, who, when space began to require vast expenditures of maney, got on the bandwagon in a hurry. Not too old, (no one traveled in deep space who was) he was still too young to realize that if he had lived only thirty years ago he would have called rocket enthusiasts "nuts" and would have had a cushy job with ECA, OPS, or whatever alphabet happened to be around when he reached out his soft little paw. As it was he kept patting the hair on the back of his sleek head while trying to get information from the Capt. of the Venus bound ORION.

"Oh, I really don't know, Administrator. We just do not get the reports thru communications that we should get from as capable a crew as are on Venus."

Captain Lars Benning was the very opposite of the Administrator. Not too lean and hard, (a little fat under the skin was felt to be of some advantage in space) he was still athletic beside the administrator. In the bow blister he gazed out thru the special glass alloy window at the tremendous glory of space. No matter how cramped the quarters, nor how monotonous the trip, he could not fail to thrill at the spectacle of the Universe. The vastness that was at long last to feel the booted tread of MAN. "But-but", sputtered the official, "The Crane expedition has been on Venus 18 months now and we don't know much more than we did before! How can we justify the expense, how can we put it on television, how the Hell are we going to show results to the public? Look how the Moon paid off! Hundreds of millions for movies alone! Labs, factories, launching sites! On a damn dead hunk of rock! What's ON Venus? You've been there, haven't you?"

Lars sighed, he could not help a bit of envy. He had gone thru the grueling training, done the tricks, took the chances; along with Ellison and the --others. They got the Moon. But it seemed as how the Administrator, and others like him, got the profits. But he smiled to himself, after all he had the glory, and, if he wanted to, he could get a little sadistic pleasure out of the Administrator. His first trip! He turned slightly, and more or less guided the Administrator so he had to look out of the view-port. "Look out there." At the blinding glory of the sight, the Administrator quailed, "Just think, there is NOTHING under us but INFINITY, nothing ahead but in the great distance, another little world."

The Administrator began to pale, then to shake uncontrollably. The Capt. had gone thru it; all space men did --if they were to stay in space. Some never did. On Earth no one stops to think that there is NOTHING overhead, but always takes it for granted that there is a "ground". Even falling to death from a plane, is the feeling of falling down, home, on Earth again. Men working at great heights, even after years in their job, will sometimes become paralyzed with fear and freeze onto the nearest girder, so that screaming, their fingers must be pried away to get them down. They are then grounded forever.

"There is nothing between us and infinity, Administrator, except this thin flo--"

"Stop!" shouted the terrified office holder, "I can't stand the thought of it."

"Oh, Sorry Sir," murmured Benning solicitously, "Maybe you'd care for a medicinal draught?"

"Do you? My God Capt!, I'll not forget you, I could do with a drop or two." Then, suddenly realizing that some regulations were being broken, he grinned slyly.

"You know Capt., a man who knows when to break the rules can go places!"

Benning laughed, rather shortly, "The reason you went thru that Sir, is that I thought it might give you an idea as to what happened on Venus, maybe the Crane expedition doesn't want to come back. Maybe they couldn't stand the trip."

"By God," ejaculated the Administrator, his confidence restored by sitting down, gripping the chair tubing and gulping down the fiery liquor, "I never even thought of that, until now I mean! Tho whats it like? Can they live?"

Benning grew thoughtful.

"Actually Sir, I really know very little about the planet. When I landed the expedition we were all on radar, and landed almost blind on this portion well up on the northern hemisphere. We landed in a great plain, bordering a very rocky region. Trouble is the cloud cover is 150 miles thick, and seems to descend to the ground level in rhythmic order, like the 5 o'clock fog in San Francisco. It was terribly hot, and we think it had just rained, or else the ground was like Yellowstone Park. The light was strongly yellow, but there was vegetation, beyond a doubt."

"But air, Man alive, they must have made air or some damn thing to have kept alive all this time!"

"Ah, but Administrator, are we sure they are alive?"

"Ugh!" The official shuddered, "What a horrible thought, we do get some messages, don't we?"

"Yes, very short, terse, simply 'we are busy in survival' or 'no evidence of minerals in this location,' nothing vivid, nothing really of any importance to US!"

"But why no pictures? We've just got to get them on TV before next election!"

"Well Sir, it could be the light. Even with the thick cloud cover the radiation must be intense."

"Good," chortled the wily official, "it may be just as well, maybe WE can get the first ones? When do we land Capt?"

"In three days now Sir," replied Capt. Benning, and a great wonder grew in his mind as to how a man could fear the void, when landing, the most to be feared of all space navigation, held no terrors for him.

The Administrator, of course, slept thru the intricate landing maneuvers. He would, thought Benning, and be tip top when he tumbled out on Venus, while the rest of them were worn to a frazzle. The radar crew and the engine men were not even curious to get out on the limitless plain on which they had landed, blind, in a yellow-green fog, they were

set for a good sound sleep; now they were on Venus-firma. Benning, the Administrator and the Radar head assembled the little helicopter and took off, slowly, toward the pips which showed the earth colony, some ninety miles away. Within the dome of the copter, they breathed their own air, the heavy atmosphere of Venus seeming more like water than earthly air. As far as they could see the brown plain was covered with a brownish green plant, the fronds of which were covered with moisture. The heat was enervating and all overpowering. They were relieved to soon see the domes of the earth colony loom up ahead out of the swirling mist.

They were greeted by Lt. Col. Isherwood. With him in the dome were the other 11 members of the now famous Venus colony. The first Venusians?

"Wait a minute," laughed Isherwood, "don't pull that corny 'Dr. Livingstone, I presume' routine, we've been dreading that."

"I can appreciate how you would Col.," answered the Capt. "But we can't tell you how glad we are to find you all alive and well."

"I'm afraid," remarked the Col. "that we have put on a little Venus tan."

"Tan!" exploded the Administrator, "you're as black as the ace of spades."

It was true, all of the Venus colony were tanned a deep mahogany; even thru the treated domes the blazing radiance of Sol, thru 150 miles of cloud, had branded them as his.

"Now that we are settled for a while Col. we would like to know how things are here, how you are making out and how, — ah, comprehensive your reports have been."

"Administrator," queried the Col. earnestly, "Have you noticed the heat?"

"Gad! Have I," ejaculated the official, "I don't see how you can do anything, it's terrible!"

"Exactly," added the Col. "That has been our trouble in a nut shell. Most of our power sources, instead of being used for communications equipment have had to be utilized for refrigeration."

"Refrigeration?" laughed Benning, "Where? It must be 110 in this dome room!"

"Better than that" supplied the Col. "It's 120, but dry heat!"

"And outside?"

"During the day," mused the Col., meanwhile assuming a somewhat languid pose on the simple furniture, "In the summer, in this latitude which corresponds to Winnipeg, Canada, the noon day temperature reaches 240 degrees."

"Impossible," breathed Benning.

"It would be," put in Dr. Kelling, of the Venus staff, "If it were not for protective effects of the fog, this brings the effective temperature down to 170 or so. Right now, which is fall, though our seasons here are slight compared to Earth's the outside temperature is around 140, kept so thruout the day; night bringing a surprising drop, sometimes to 90 or less."

"Can you live off the land?" questioned the Administrator. At this question it seemed to Capt. Benning that the entire Venus staff jumped slightly; later on the trip back, he analyzed just what the reaction to this innocent query was, but it was not for many years that he was to know the answer.

"Why — yes," replied the Col., somewhat hesitantly, "and while I think of it, we might as well have a little snack, what? Tho we only eat twice a day here, it is near "supper" time. Doctor, would you and the boys care to eat with us?"

"No," said the Dr. surprisingly, "I'll take a little nap before the cool."

"Certainly Dr." responded the Col. and then, in an aside to the Earth party he added, "strange worlds, strange habits, eh Administrator? It's the heat you know, not the humidity! Ho ho ho ho!"

The meal was simple, a few vegetables, a multi-distilled water, and ----- meat.

"Goddard!" exploded Benning, "What kind of meat is this? I never tasted anything like it!"

"Me neither," said the Administrator, forgetting grammar and manners alike with a great mouthful of the dainty meat.

"Yes," remarked the Col. with a sort of forced absent-mindedness. "it's a dish we've taken quite a fancy to ---- very tasty, isn't it?"

"Tasty is not the word," replied the official. "Delicious is a weak word for it. Say! Why couldn't this stuff be an article of trade between Earth and Venus? Have we a freezer aboard Capt.? Could we take one of these --- uh, animals home for a sample?"

During the Administrators enthusiasm over the finding of an article of trade Benning noticed an almost electric gasp go through those of the Cols. staff at the table. Sauvely however the Col. rose to the occasion.

"A damn good idea, Administrator. the only trouble is we only get one of these animals rarely ---- like pandas you know, or great auks --- very scarce."

"But I thought you said you lived off the land?" replied the disappointed official.

"Sure, we do," remarked the Col. pleasantly, "but mostly vegetarian, the heat you know! Wouldn't do to get a habit, (here he glanced strangely at the rest of the colony) a habit of eating this delicious RARITY. Now Administrator, perhaps you'd like to try a wine we made, to go with ---, with our frugal meals."

"And," thought Benning, "no time to send reports!"

"Lt. Manning," said the Col. late that night, "give the Administrator a handful of those uncut diamonds as a confidential souvenir."

"Agreed!" snapped the Administrator later, "The next ship will bring you a cargo of lovely and intelligent brides, to grace New Venus! Good-Bye Col! We blast off in one hour, according to Benning."

"Thank God! They've gone!" shouted the Col. "Lt., get Davis, Berman and Holly and get back in the brush there and cut off a few more of those delectable little rascals before they get back to their city! It's just damned unfortunate that the intelligent life on this planet makes the best eating in the Universe! And keeps you cool at the same time! Gad! Manning! Just imagine! A civilization being extinguished, because, Ho - ho - ho - ho, ha - ha (the Col. was convulsed with laughter) because they suffer from an excess of good taste!"

"As an anti-climax Col." added the smiling Lt., "it strikes me as rather humorous that we wine and dined the Administrator over a ancient volcanic diamond pipe!"

"Oh, sweets to the fair my boy," answered the Col., "we will have to polish a few of these brilliants to present to our brides, when they arrive in the good space ship ORION."

"And Capt. Benning?" queried the Lt.

"The good Capt. will get a well deserved promotion," answered the Col. "He will become master of the new flagship of the Venus fleet, the erstwhile, earthian, ORION!"



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