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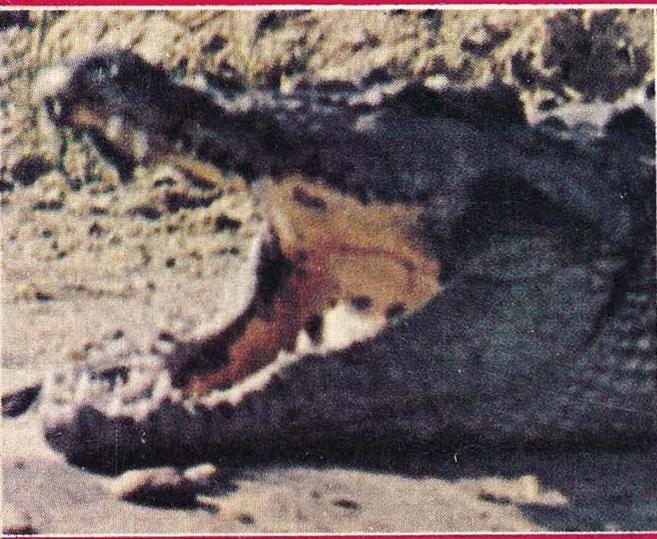
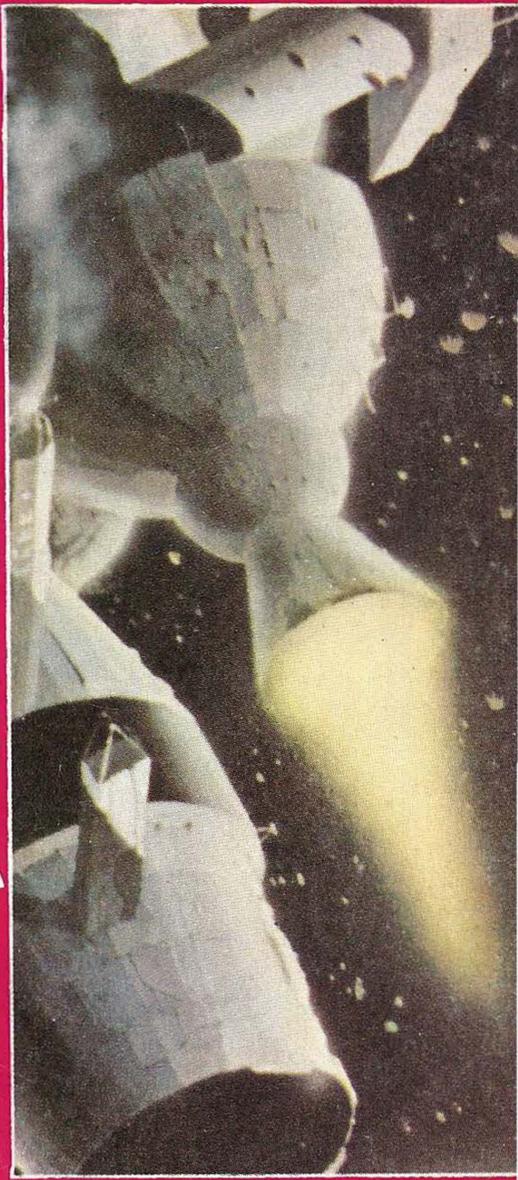
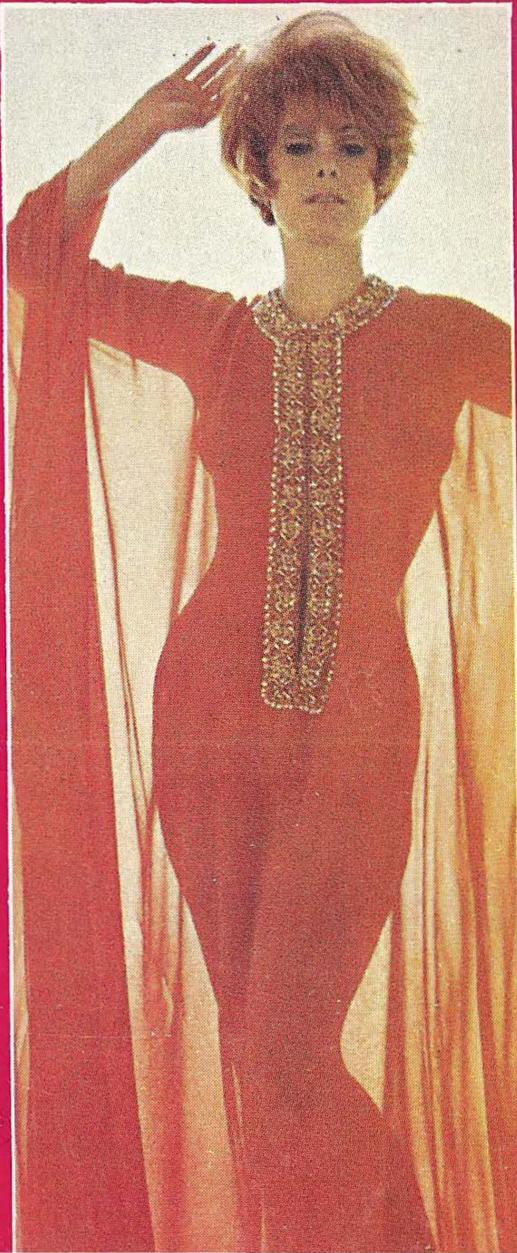
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N N U A L

CONFESSIONS OF A POLITICAL SPY
UFOs & ASTRONAUTS' STRANGE DEATHS
1973's GLITTERING NEW SEX STARS
BURT REYNOLDS: 'GATOR GRAPPLING
NEW OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUG SCANDAL
plus
Nuclear Pollution / Sky Divers' Fly-In
Psychic Sneak Attack / Pirate Gold



This much is fact: From the moment astronauts Virgil Grissom, Roger Chaffee, and Edward White entered the Apollo capsule at 1:19 p.m. on January 27, 1967, some peculiar things started happening, such as—the overwhelming odor of rotten eggs that filled the spacecraft (although the atmosphere was 100 percent oxygen), weird noises were heard on the communications network (which was a wire linkup, not radio), and, the most baffling of all, the sudden reading by an instrument of a disturbance in the electromagnetic field (and this instrument was not even hooked up for this particular test). Everyone familiar with the flying saucer phenomenon will recognize the telltale signs of activity, so it is more than a coincidence that investigators have found a connection between

By John A. Keel

UFO's and the strange deaths of our Astronauts or was it **MU**

AT 6:31 P.M. ON January 27, 1967, astronauts Virgil Grissom, Roger Chaffee and Edward White were suddenly engulfed in flames inside an Apollo space module high atop a Saturn rocket on Pad 34 at Cape Kennedy. In scant seconds they were burned beyond recognition in the U.S.'s first major space-age disaster.

Three months later, a fiery ball plummeted out of the skies over the Soviet Union. The date was April 24, 1967. The flaming sphere was the remnants of *Soyuz I*, an orbital space craft piloted by Col. Vladimir Komarov. His death was the first official tragedy in the Russian space program (there had been rumors of other unannounced deaths earlier in the program).

The deaths of these four men brought the ponderous machinery of the American and Soviet space efforts to a grinding halt. Man's first triumphant visit to the moon was delayed two years because of them. For a time, it looked as if these tragedies might have destroyed altogether our chances for visiting

our barren satellite. Congress and the general public were stunned by the disaster at Cape Kennedy and there was an outcry to terminate the costly and dangerous exploration of space. Officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) ordered a massive investigation. Even the FBI got into the act, searching the debris on Pad 34 for signs of sabotage. Eventually scapegoats were found and minor heads rolled among the NASA contractors responsible for the design of the Apollo module. The entire craft was redesigned and new safety features were introduced. Finally, on July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong planted the first human footprint in the lunar dust.

While the deaths of Grissom, Chaffee and White proved only to be a temporary setback to the U.S., the death of Colonel Komarov apparently all but destroyed Soviet hopes for sending men to the moon. Russia curtailed manned flights and shifted priorities instead to the development of unmanned robot devices. In 1970, they successfully

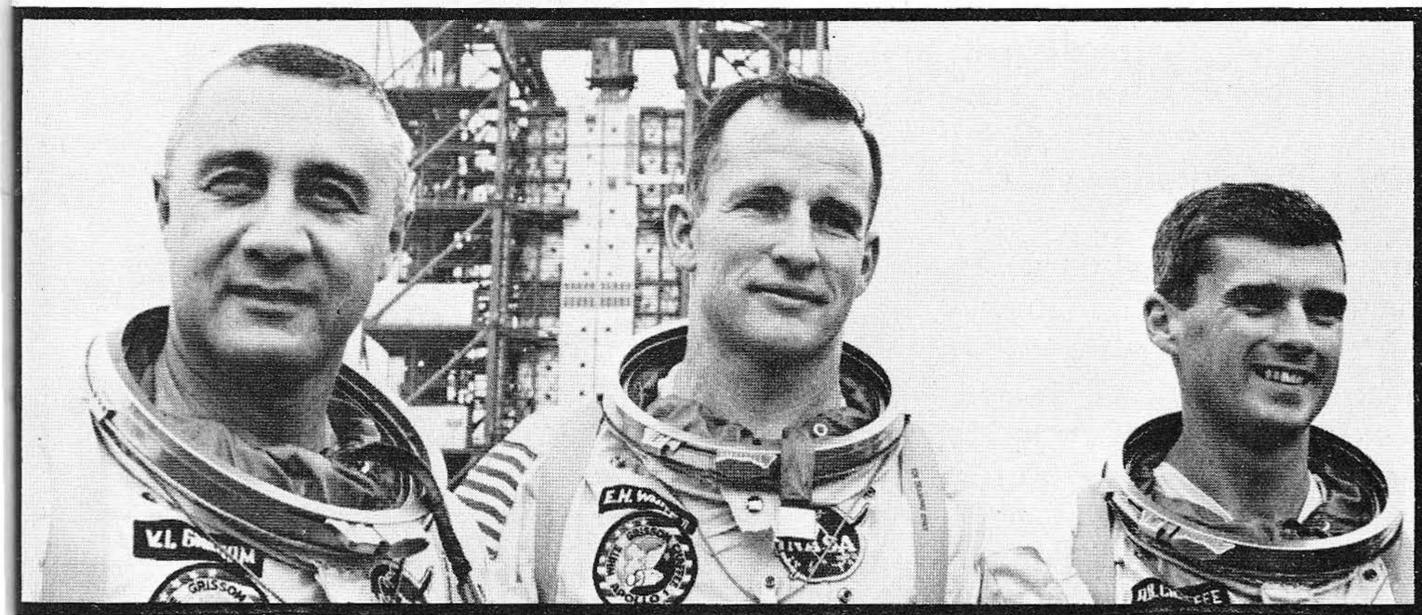
landed such a device on the moon. The truth is—and the Russians have made no secret of this—*Soviet cosmonauts have experienced so many strange medical problems in space that Soviet scientists have concluded that man could not survive for any long period in outer space* and so it isn't worth trying to attempt it.

All of this is the prelude to an amazing story; an incredible set of coincidences and improbable events which have not been discussed at all in the mass media. No mysterious agency has censored this story. It is simply so bizarre that editors were afraid their readers wouldn't believe it.

It began three years before the tragedies (and *exactly* three years before Colonel Komarov's disaster in space on April 24, 1967). About 10 a.m. on the morning of April 24, 1964, Gary Wilcox, then 28 years old, was spreading manure on a field on his farm outside of Newark Valley, N.Y., when he noticed a white object on the edge of the field near some woods. According to the sworn statement he dictated to Miss Priscilla J. Baldwin, of the Tioga County Sheriff's Office, on April 28, 1964 (the author has a photocopy of this document in his files), he was curious and drove his tractor closer to the object.

"I thought it to be a fuselage (or fuel tank) from a plane," Wilcox said. "I thumped it and kicked it. Felt like metallic canvas."

Suddenly two men appeared from under the object. They were unlike anyone he had ever seen before. Both were about four feet tall and they were dressed in metallic suits. "I don't know where they came



BORDER?

from," Wilcox said in his second sworn statement, signed in Sheriff Paul J. Taylor's office on May 1, 1964. "Each of them was carrying a tray about a foot square. Inside the tray was what appeared to be sod. I was standing about a foot away from the ship. I will refer to this object as a ship from now on. I first thought it to be a tank.

"The two little men started walking toward me from under the ship. They stopped about one yard away from me. Then it sounded like one of them spoke and said, 'Don't be alarmed, we have spoken to people before.' Their voices did not sound like a voice I could describe. I could understand what was said but cannot tell whether they were speaking English or not. One of the men was standing in rear of the other. . . They were quite broad for such short persons. I could not distinguish whether they had shoulders or not; they seemed to go just straight down. They had no face, such as eyes, nose, mouth, or hair. The voice seemed to be coming from about them rather than from either of them. There was a voice, but I don't know where it was coming from insofar as their body was concerned. They seemed to have a sort of suit on that covered where the head would normally be located all the way down. When they raised their arms, you could see a wrinkle where our elbow would be located. The color of this completely smooth cover-all-type suit was whitish-aluminum-tint color. There was no evidence of hair. There were no seams or stitches, pockets. The only thing I noticed was the wrinkle when they moved their arms at the elbow."

In his statement of April 28th Wilcox said, "I talked and answered their questions for two hours and learned they had been watching me for quite a while."

In his May 1st statement he described the alleged conversations in greater detail; "They asked me what I was doing. I told them I was spreading manure. They asked me to explain what this was in more or less detail. They seemed interested what this manure did. After I told them what it was and where it came from, they asked what else I made stuff grow with. That's when I told them about the lime and fertilizer. They did not say anything

about the lime but were interested in the fertilizer. I told them it was made of bones from dead animals. During the time I was explaining to them the function of fertilizer, they asked if they could have some. I told them that I would have to go down to my barn and get some.

"Then one spoke up and said that they were traveling this hemisphere. I don't know which one it was; as I have said before, the voice seemed to come from the front one, the one closest to me. They then said that they could only come here every two years.

"Their conversation seemed to shift rapidly from one subject to another. They mentioned that we should not send people out into space. They said that they have watched us. They said that we could not survive there at Mars and that they could not survive here on Earth. . .

"They seemed to know more about planets, air, and all that kind of stuff, but they did not seem to know much about our agriculture. They also said that our people that had entered into space would not survive over a year."

In his first statement, Wilcox claimed, "They also mentioned that astronauts Glenn and Grissom, and the two astronauts from Russia would die within a year, due to exposure of space." Although several American astronauts were in training at that time, it is interesting that the "Martians" singled out Virgil Grissom. Glenn, of course, was the best-known of all American spacemen because he had made the first orbital flight.

"They then walked back under the ship," Wilcox continued, "and disappeared. They ducked a little bit when they went under it. The ship seemed to hover. I heard a noise that sounded like a car motor idling. It was not loud. Then it just took off slowly forward above the ground in a gliding manner and disappeared into the air when it was about 150 feet away. There was no heat, blasting, wind, dust, noise (other than the idling sound), light, or anything else left behind when the ship took off."

After the object had vanished, Wilcox returned to his farmhouse, where he lived alone, and called his mother to tell her the story. Later, he carried

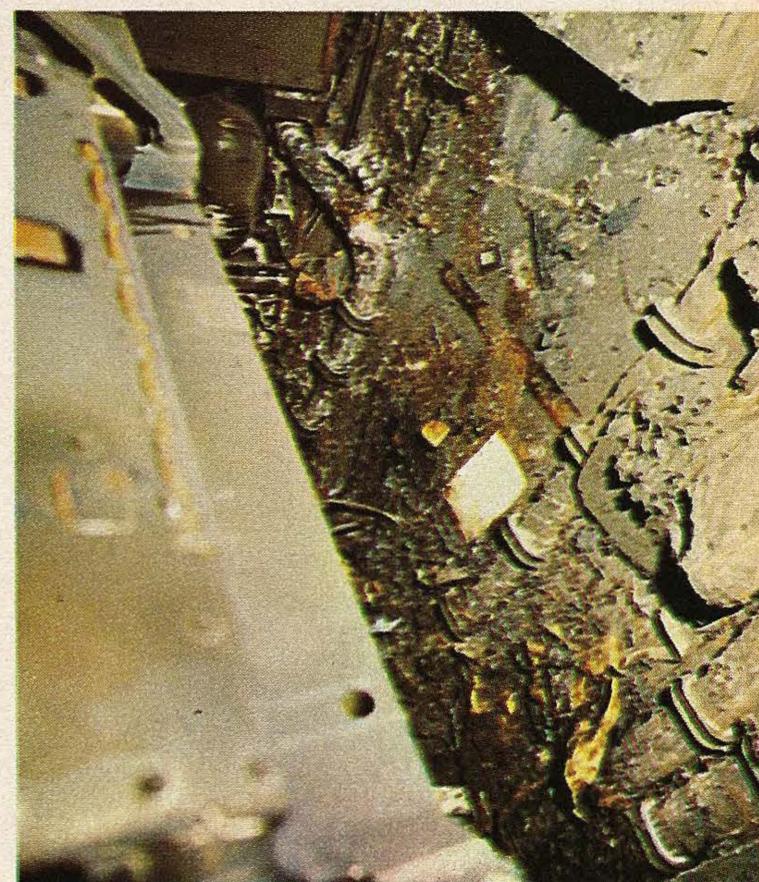
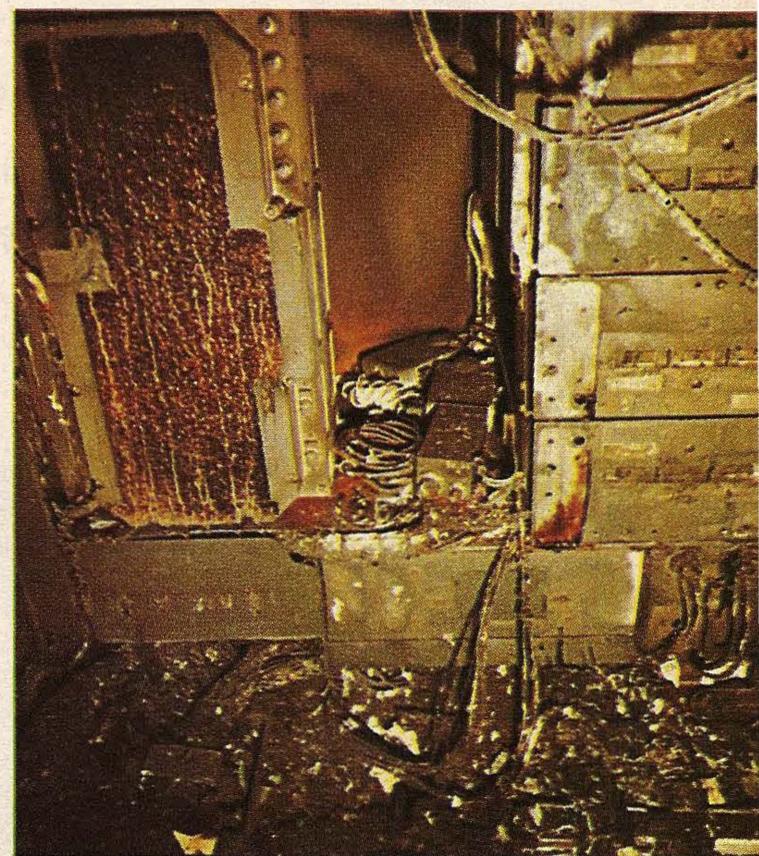
a bag of fertilizer to the spot and left it. The next morning it was gone. He intended to forget about the matter but his mother repeated the story to others and eventually it came to the attention of Miss Baldwin. A week later he was inundated with reporters, scientists from nearby universities, and a wild assortment of kooks and self-styled UFO investigators. Phony newspaper stories appeared claiming he was in a New York City hospital being treated for radiation burns. A college graduate, Wilcox is also something of a loner, and he resented the hoked-up news stories and the invasion of his privacy. He turned down offers to lecture on his experience, and even rejected an offer from a national magazine which wanted to pay him for publication rights to the full story. In 1968, Dr. Berthold E. Schwarz, a prominent New Jersey

(Continued on page 108)



Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov (above) undergoing medical tests prior to his space flight. Ufo-nauts warned Gary Wilcox that both Russian and American spacemen would die exactly three years before Komarov's fatal space mission. Three photos at right show the Apollo capsule after disaster had struck. Three courageous astronauts, Grissom, Chaffee and White, lost their lives in a fire that's never been satisfactorily answered by NASA.

On January 27, 1967, America's three astronauts were instantly consumed by the tremendous flames that mysteriously raged through their space capsule on Pad 34 at Cape Kennedy. Three months later, Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov's body was removed from Soyuz I, an orbital space craft, that fell from the sky in a fiery ball of flame. Both the U.S. and Russian governments quickly explained away the spacemen's deaths, but if they had listened to Gary Wilcox and the warning he had received from two white-suited ufonauts on his farm in Newark Valley, N.Y., predicting exactly to the day three years before the tragedies occurred that Grissom and the Russian would die, these men and the other astronauts who have "accidentally" died might still be alive today!



MURDERED ASTRONAUTS?

(Continued from page 40)

psychiatrist, interviewed Wilcox and examined him medically.

In a full summary of the case published in England's highly reputable *Flying Saucer Review*, Dr. Schwarz stated: "Mr. Wilcox's attitude was open and cooperative, and produced no material that conflicted with previous reports. He spoke in a polite, refined manner, and his answers had a literalness about them. There was no tendency toward expansiveness or embellishment. He was quite reserved . . . Wilcox had no past history for neo-natal disturbances, serious illness in the formative years, neurotic character traits, dissociative or amnesic experiences, fugues, sociopathic behavior, school problems, head injury, encephalopathy, surgery, or any kind of aberrant behavior . . . He did not use alcohol or tobacco and has always enjoyed excellent health. Mr. Wilcox was characterized as a serious, truthful, hardworking man who had little time for frivolity. . . (There is) no evidence for any disrupting psychopathology, psychosomatic reactions, dishonesty, or proclivity for playing practical jokes or hoaxes."

In short, Gary Wilcox is a sane, rational man who seems to have undergone an extraordinary experience. However, students of flying saucer literature and poorly publicized "contact" stories will recognize many factors in his account which correlate exactly with similar stories from all

parts of the world. In fact, an equally impressive witness, a police officer in New Mexico, apparently had an identical experience (although no words were spoken) *that very same day*.

At approximately 7 p.m. on April 24, 1964, Patrolman Lonnie Zamora of the Socorro, N.M., City Police, heard an explosion and came upon a white egg-shaped object in a gully on the edge of town. Two small figures in white uniforms were outside the object, he said. While he radioed for help, the figures scurried into the object and it shot off with a loud noise. Unlike the Wilcox case, the incident at Socorro immediately gained national attention in the press. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, then UFO consultant to the U.S. Air Force, was sent to investigate. Mr. and Mrs. James Lorenzen of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) in Tucson, Ariz., quickly arrived on the scene, along with reporters, curiosity seekers and even FBI agents (the FBI has quietly investigated many flying saucer incidents over the years). Zamora's sighting has since become a major classic in UFO annals because of the publicity it received. Dr. Hynek, who was then an outspoken skeptic of the flying saucer phenomenon (he is now pro-UFO) admitted he was baffled. He even ordered a check within the Air Force to find out if Zamora might not have inadvertently stumbled upon a secret aircraft of some sort. The answer was negative.

Is it possible that Officer Zamora saw the very same little men who spoke to Gary Wilcox earlier that day? Newark,

N.Y., is about 1,800 miles northeast of Socorro, N.M., and there is a three-hour time difference. When it was 7 p.m. in Socorro it was 10 p.m. in New York, or exactly 12 hours after Wilcox's peculiar conversation began. If we accept Wilcox's story at face value, he spoke with the ufonauts for two hours, meaning that they flew off about 12 noon. Note that the object did not sail off into the wild blue yonder but *disappeared instantaneously* when it was about 150 feet from the young farmer. (In another interview, Wilcox claimed he had been told that the "Martian" craft were *invisible* to human eyes at distances of 100-150 feet.) This would have given the object 10 hours to cruise to Socorro at a leisurely 180 miles per hour. Whatever the case, our first interesting coincidence is that two reliable witnesses 1,800 miles apart underwent similar experiences on the same day, and that the less important incident received the most publicity. Wilcox did not learn of the Socorro sighting until three weeks later, around May 11, 1964.

At the time of the Newark Valley landing, the information allegedly conveyed by the ufonauts seemed patently ridiculous. There had been a total of 10 manned space flights, three American and seven Russian, by April 1964. Virgil Grissom, who was *specifically* named by the ufonauts, had made a suborbital Mercury flight on July 21, 1961, and was nearly drowned when the hatch on his capsule blew prematurely and the capsule sank and was lost. None of the American astronauts had experienced any serious ill ef-

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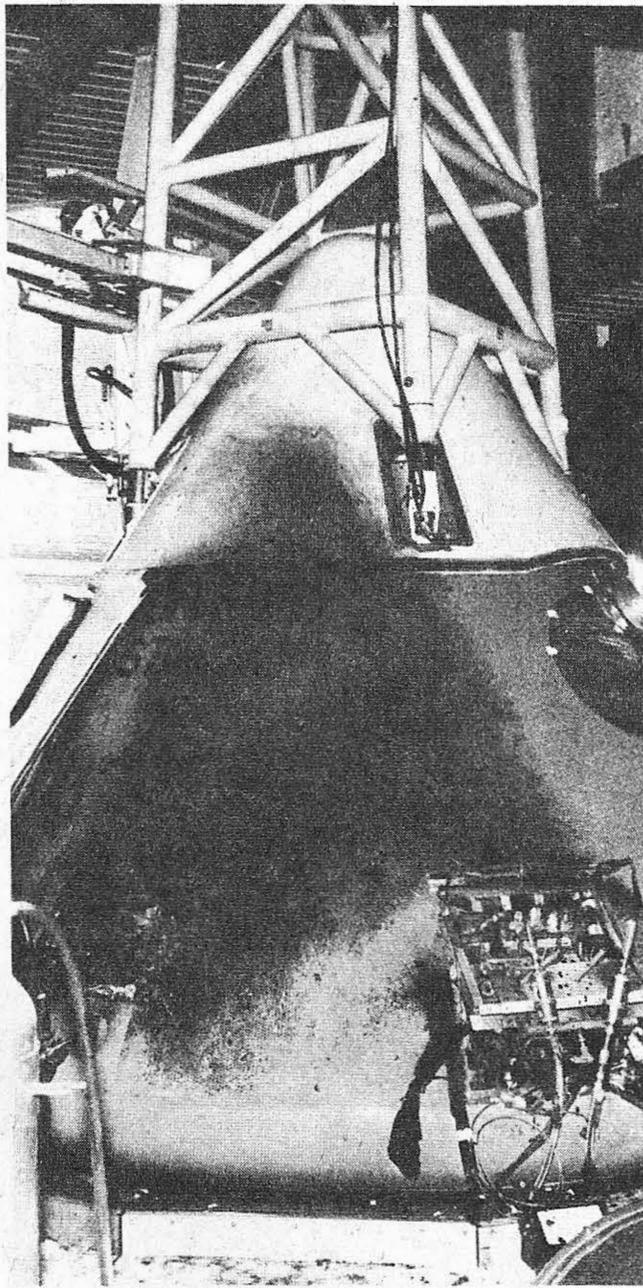
fects. On March 23, 1965, Grissom and John W. Young made the first Gemini flight, orbiting the earth for four hours and 53 minutes. Vladimir M. Komarov made his first space flight on October 12, 1964, accompanied by Konstantin P. Feoktistov and Dr. Boris G. Yegorov in a three-man space capsule. The Russians were already very concerned with the medical affects of space and, as of 1964, they were four years ahead of the U.S. We would not place three men in orbit until October 11, 1968.

The ufonauts had allegedly told Wilcox that earthmen could not survive in space for long periods. By the end of 1966, NASA's medical studies had discovered that astronauts suffered a reduction in blood quantity and a serious loss of calcium when they remained aloft for long periods. The Russians were experiencing even worse problems. Soviet cosmonauts were undergoing fits of nausea and other severe symptoms while in orbit. During EVA (extra-vehicular-activities) in space, astronauts suffered extreme exhaustion while attempting simple tasks in a weightless condition. The dramatic space walks unleashed a host of unexpected medical problems. NASA underplayed these discoveries but the Soviet scientists openly discussed the grim realization that earthmen probably could not function for very long in space and any voyages of excessive duration (such as a trip to Mars) might even prove fatal. The Russians began to shift their priorities, giving up the idea of a manned space flight to the moon to concentrate on the development of satellite space stations which would orbit the earth, and unmanned robot devices to explore the moon and planets.

To return to our catalog of coincidences, one of the spacemen to die in 1967, Colonel Komarov, made his first flight in 1964, the year of the Wilcox encounter. Wilcox was also told that John Glenn and two Russian cosmonauts would "die within a year." This prophecy laid a large egg but . . . John Glenn, the first American to make an orbital flight, entered politics in 1964 and dropped out of a congressional race when he suffered a bad accident. He slipped in his bathtub and injured his inner ear which affects the sense of balance. He was troubled by this accident for nearly a year afterwards. Coincidentally, around the same time (exact date unannounced) Yuri Gagarin, the first Russian to make a manned flight *also slipped in his bathtub*, damaged his inner ear and had to retire from space flight. Were these two reported accidents really cover stories to hide the fact that the world's first two space pilots were experiencing medical difficulties of an identical nature three long years after their historic flights?

If you have been following the UFO reports in SAGA you know all about two of the bizarre effects which often occur during flying saucer sightings. The first of these is the famous electromagnetic (EM) effect which frequently stalls auto engines, disrupts radio and television sets, and fouls up telephone communications when UFOs are nearby. These EM effects have been reliably observed and reported thousands of times in the past 20 years. Ufologists assume that unidentified flying

objects are surrounded by powerful magnetic fields which produce these effects, or even that they are able to direct focussed beams of magnetic energy at earthly machines and installations. The second widely reported effect are the awful smells which accompany UFOs. It is generally described as smelling like "rotten eggs" which probably means that it is similar to hydrogen sulfide . . . the "brimstone" of the ancients.



Both of these effects occurred on the day Grissom, Chaffee and White were killed on Pad 34. The three men entered the Apollo capsule mounted on a Saturn rocket at 1:19 p.m., January 27, 1967, for a "plugs out" test, meaning that the rocket contained no fuel and that all explosive bolts and other dangerous devices were not activated or connected. It was to be a routine dry run. The atmosphere inside the spacecraft was 100 percent pure oxygen. As soon as they had settled into their places they detected a "sour odor." The test was halted immediately and a team of specialists known as "the watermelon gang" entered the craft and took air samples with a gadget resembling a watermelon. The odor disappeared. The specialists shrugged in bewilderment and left the cabin and the dry run continued.

Next, the telephone communications between the Apollo spacecraft and the control room in the blockhouse a short distance away were drowned out by static and weird noises. This was a *wire* linkup, not radio.

"If you can't hear me from here," Grissom complained, "how do you expect to hear me from the moon?"

Technicians swarmed over the equip-

ment and lines but could not find the cause of the peculiar interference. It continued throughout the fatal afternoon.

An hour after the men entered the capsule, the foul odor returned. Once more the countdown was stopped while the watermelon crew again entered the cabin, searching fruitlessly for the source of the smell. It did not smell like something burning.

The test continued but by 6 p.m. the communications problems had become so severe that NASA officials discussed "scrubbing" the test altogether until the mysterious interference could be located and corrected. They decided to keep going.

At 6:30 p.m. astronaut White's pulse unaccountably increased. Four seconds later, other instruments in the cabin registered sudden movements of the crew. Then, according to Erik Bergaust's authoritative *Murder On Pad 34* (Putnam's, 1968), "at 6:30:50, a circuit of an atmosphere analyzer, called a gas chromatograph, started sending unusual signals. This was most remarkable, *since the instrument was not hooked up for this particular test* (Italics added for emphasis—The Editor.) However, the instrument's open or live circuit seemed to be acting as an antenna, reading changes in the spacecraft's electromagnetic field, to add to the confusion in the blockhouse."

Moments later disaster struck inside the Apollo cabin. Within seconds the three men were charred beyond recognition despite the fact that *pure oxygen itself does not burn* and while there were combustible materials in the spacecraft there weren't enough such materials to produce a fire of such incredible intensity. You may recall that NASA lowered a news blackout for several hours after the incident because it all seemed impossible and the cause seemed elusive and mysterious. Temperatures in the cabin passed 1,000 degrees F. almost instantly and cabin pressure built up so fast that the skin of the spacecraft was ruptured only 14.7 seconds after the men cried the feared word, "Fire!" according to the official report on the accident published January 30, 1968. The fact is, *the origin and nature of this tragic fire was never pinpointed or explained!* It was almost as if an incendiary bomb had exploded inside the Apollo capsule.

The ufonauts had told Gary Wilcox that Glenn, Grissom and two Russian cosmonauts would die. Fortunately, they were wrong about Glenn but they were horribly right about Virgil Grissom.

On April 23, 1967, Col. Vladimir Komarov was launched in *Soyuz I*, the largest manned spacecraft launched up until that time. Shortly before he took off, Komarov reportedly told a Russian newsmen that he had a "premonition" that he was about to die in a crash. The Soviet propaganda machine ballyhooed his successful launch as a great new triumph in the space race. Then, very suddenly, they fell silent. Newspaper stories appeared throughout the U.S. quoting officials of NASA and NORAD (North American Air Defense) as claiming they had been monitoring the radio broadcasts from the So-

yuz I and that it was "in trouble." Later, when science writer Lloyd Mallan confronted these same officials they flatly denied those news stories and said they had *not* been monitoring the Soviet space shots!

It was expected that Komarov would stay aloft for several days. Instead, at approximately 6:15 a.m. Soviet time on April 24, 1967, *Soyuz I* hurtled to earth in a ball of flames somewhere in the Soviet Union. As soon as his body was recovered it was cremated *immediately*. The official explanation was that his parachute lines had fouled. The rumors, and there were many, were that he had died of a heart attack while in space and that his craft had crashed uncontrolled, a dead man at the helm.

At the time of his death, Komarov was one of 11 men in the Russian's cosmonaut program. Thus he represented 9.1 percent of the Soviet cosmonaut team. On March 27, 1968, Yuri Gagarin was killed in a plane crash at the age of 34. And on January 10, 1970, Col. Pavel I. Belyayev, commander of the *Voskhod II* flight in March 1965, died in Moscow. Three out of the original 11 cosmonauts, 27.2 percent, are now dead.

Early in 1968, there were 36 American astronauts in training, or had been in training. Nine of these, or 25 percent were killed in automobile and airplane accidents, and Grissom, Chaffee and White died in the Apollo fire. When you consider that all of these men were carefully selected and were of superior intelligence, had highly trained responses, and were certainly healthier than most, their high death rate is a mystery in itself. Granted, being a spaceman is a hazardous business, but equally hazardous occupations such as racing car drivers and deep sea divers do not have an incredible 25 percent death rate.

Recent Apollo moon shots have been plagued by extraordinary bad luck. One was struck by lightning upon launch. Another suffered an explosion which demolished its power system and nearly caused the flight to end in disaster. Our spacemen have been troubled by anomalous radio signals, some sounding like fire engines and Indian war whoops, and strange lights have pursued some of our spacecraft for thousands of miles through space. Russian cosmonauts have acknowledged similar mysteries in their own space program.

All of these weird happenings have reinforced the beliefs of many ufologists who insist that the "flying saucer people" are trying to prevent man from making the leap into space. One school of thought contends that the UFOs are hostile and wish to prevent us from spreading across the cosmos like some disease. In that view, man is a germ that threatens to infect the whole solar system. Others cling to the hope that the "Big Brothers from Space" are benevolent and are only trying to protect us from ourselves.

Virgil Grissom, Vladimir Komarov and 10 others are dead. All of this can be explained away as mere coincidence, but as Ian Fleming wrote in *Goldfinger*, "Once is happenstance, twice is coincidence, three times is enemy action." ★THE END