

Newsletter No. 3.

EDITORIAL.....

On the 28th July, 1971 we held our first A.G.M. which was a very proud moment for CONTACT (RHODESIA). Unfortunately, the attendance was not up to expectations which was rather disappointing.

However, undaunted, the out-going committee pressed on, and in accordance with our constitution the new committee was elected. The old committee was voted back in, plus a new member, Mr R. Webster, who we are sure will be a valuable asset to our committee.

List of committee members is as follows:

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| Chairman | Mr Peter Turner |
| Secretary | Mrs June Hickling |
| Treasurer | Mr Patrick Duffy |
| Committee Members | (Mrs Lea Harrison (Mr Peter Moore (Mr Richard Webster |

Due to Mrs Dippenaar's resignation as our International Committee Member, the International Chairman, Mr Brinsley Le Poer Trench asked Peter Turner to accept the post, this he did and is now ICM.

In the past we have tried to follow a policy of a little bit of everything. We have tried to keep away from an over-dose of any particular aspect of UFO's. We all know that the study of UFO's is extremely varied - from a straight scientific viewpoint - do UFO's exist; to the interpretation - UFO's extraterrestrial craft and their communication with Earth.

In Contact we are particularly interested in the latter, and we hope to dwell more on this aspect in the coming year. However, we will most certainly maintain our policy of open-mindedness and our endless endeavour of not allowing any one aspect to dominate our club.

RESUME OF THE PAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

Contact (Rhodesia) can feel pleased with itself, for we successfully achieved our aim of getting the club off the ground, and managed to maintain our monthly meetings.

It is difficult to fill a programme, for not only do we have to provide variation, but we also have to consolidate our basic ground work and knowledge.

We started the year with two talks given by Peter Turner, which formed the introduction of UFO's as a scientific phenomena and historical fact. As he said, 'this is important to study and re-study, for it is on these foundations that all other discussion rests'. Also, there is a tendency for us to forget so much of this type of material, much of which is case histories' of UFO sightings.

With the aid of Mrs Dippenaar's resources, we were able to put on a UFO slide show, and also have the pleasure of hearing a recorded talk by Rex Dutta. The latter was most interesting and very well received by members. We are indeed sorry that Mrs Dippenaar, because of her many other commitments, felt the necessity to resign completely from Contact.

Other various talks were given, one of great interest and importance was the talk by Mr Michael Booth on 'Space'. As an anti UFO man, but with a good working knowledge of astronomy, he gave us an insight into both the field of space, and reasons why many astronomers disbelieve UFO's to be extraterrestrial craft.

He felt that life could, and most probably does exist elsewhere in the universe, but he was adamant that space travel from the stars is beyond the realms of possibility. We were very fortunate to have him, and finally agreed to disagree of UFO's.

In the near future we hope to have talks on the telepathic aspect, also a talk on some of the modern interpretations of UFO phenomena. We feel sure you will join us in hoping that, through the coming year, we will be able to further Contact in Rhodesia, and endeavour at all times to meet our club aims.

One other point that we feel is worthy of a mention: Our Chairman recently had the fortune to appear in the R.T.V. production 'Shores of Infinity', to discuss the subject of UFO's. He claims that he felt totally inadequate to discuss this vast subject in a brief half hour programme, he found it difficult to 'get to grips', for no sooner was a point made, than he had to hedge-hop to another. However, we are sure that those of you who watched the programme in question, will agree with us that he didn't do too badly, considering that the other two gentlemen were decidedly anti UFO chaps.

INTERNATIONAL SKYWATCH

Several of our members participated in the skywatch which was held in the Matopos area, thereby joining thousands of enthusiasts throughout the world in watching the sky, to celebrate the memorable K. Arnold sighting on 24th June, 1947. Though somewhat compensated with a beautifully clear night and an abundance of shooting stars, no UFO's were sighted. In the coming year we hope the event will be more widely supported by our members and friends, and that we will be rewarded with a truly unforgettable sighting.

SIGHTINGS

Rhodesia

Over the past year we have had a number of sightings in Rhodesia, some of which were mentioned in the local press. Here are a few that did not reach the press.

Mrs A. Hablutzel, a keen member of Contact (Rhodesia) reports a sighting on 23rd May, 1971. She states, that when driving out along the Matopos Road at 7.10 p.m. she saw a bluish/green coloured UFO about the size of a tennis ball, travelling fast in an E to W direction. She also noticed a smaller UFO near by. Mrs Hablutzel's husband confirmed her sighting for, on reaching home, he stated that he too had seen the object, and also the smaller separate object.

Our second sighting comes from a young lad, Master J. Mackay, who kindly filled in one of our sighting forms. On this sheet he states that he saw a UFO on the night of 23rd June, 1971 at about 8.30 p.m. over Bulawayo. He describes it as bluish/white in colour, star-like in shape and size, and travelling very fast in a N.E. direction. He heard no sound but did observe that the object gave off a faint trail.

The third sighting took place on 28th June, 1971 and involved our chairman, Peter Turner. He reports seeing a very bright, dazzling white object, about the size of a pin-head, over Bulawayo. The object was in sight for 2-3 minutes whilst he was travelling, in the early afternoon, from his home in Balla Balla to Bulawayo, it was at first stationary. The object disappeared twice and reappeared at the same point in the sky, before finally drifting below the treeline of the horizon. The sighting was also observed by Peter's mother-in-law, who was a passenger in the car. She stated that she was astounded, having never seen anything like it before.

South Africa

The following sighting by Mrs N. Bilger of Johannesburg took place on the 25th July, 1958, though this happened several years ago, we consider it an interesting report and trust that you will also find it so. Mrs Bilger observed a beautiful white light in the sky, which she at first mistook for an abnormally bright cloud formation. On closer inspection she saw a bright disc partially covered by clouds. Still unsure, she looked around for the sun, and on seeing that it was in a different part of the sky, realized she was observing a UFO. The object slowly disappeared, along with the clouds, which she feels were being generated by the UFO, maybe as camouflage.

May we thank all those concerned for divulging information of sightings, for we appreciate that even today, in our so-called enlightened world, the bug-eyed monster attachment is still with us.

' A Thought '

UFO research is very much at the crossroads today. No longer is it a case of straight forward study into the unknown phenomena, but also a study of sightings, field-work and research into Man's history.

It is worth noting that science today openly supports the notion of life elsewhere in the universe, even earth-like planets and conditions, belonging to other star systems, but most anti UFO persons, and even some pro UFO people, doubt the materialistic ability to travel the distance involved from one star to another.

In the realms of our present knowledge, I must agree, but this would be discounting two very important facts - UFO's do exist, UFO's that are, in my mind, extraterrestrial, why should we limit other intelligences to Homo Sapien's rather limited ability.

Man will progress, and if the last hundred years are anything to go by, 'the skys the limit' is a very out of date idiom, for the sky is now too mundane.

A few years ago, man walked an incredible speed of 3 m.p.h. Today he 'nips' along at a mere 25,000 m.p.h. some 8,300 times faster. A ten year trip was envisaged in walking to the moon, now, with the aid of rockets, we can make this journey in $3\frac{1}{2}$ days. If a speed of 25,000 m.p.h. could be maintained, it could be completed in a few hours.

Personally, I believe that Homo Sapiens are not the be all and end all to lifes limits, and that when the time is ripe, our 'space brothers', having fully prepared us for the tremendous psychological upheaval of really knowing that other beings are around, will contact us openly.

Today, at the crossroads, we are beginning to realize that man is not only capable of great realms, but may have achieved them in the dim and distant past. Such articles as appeared in the 'Scope' magazine, and books such as 'Chariot of the Gods' and 'Not of this World' have begun to unearth possible answers to Man's greater past. It is a pity that an author such as Churchward was not taken more seriously at the turn of the century.

However, whatever road we take, UFO research is slowly beginning to make an impression. Perhaps Man must delve further before he is prepared, for even we who are confirmed believers, still have far to go, looking into the whys and wherefores of UFO's. We must all have the courage to meet the challenge of new insight into UFO's, and yet remain honestly open-minded to others who see such investigation as misleading and damning.

Anon

FUTURE MEETINGS

To be held at the Toc H Cottage, Marvel Court, Main Street, Bulawayo, at 8.00 p.m.

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| September | Wednesday 22nd |
| October | Wednesday 27th |
| November | Wednesday 24th |

There will be no meeting in December.