

Mars-Apr-May
1968



Skywatch

QUARTERLY OF "CONTACT" (S.A.)

No. 4

March, April, May
1968

EDITORIAL

Congratulations to East London members for launching their Branch of Contact S.A. We wish them the best of sightings in this their first year, and a steady growth and progress in the future. Now we do sincerely hope that the Cape Town and Johannesburg members will follow suit. Here in Durban we started with a few and now have an enthusiastic band of supporters.

It may interest our Members to know that we have formed a National Committee quite distinct from the Durban Local Committee. Mr. Philip Human has been appointed Chairman of the Durban Committee and we offer him our congratulations, and feel that he is the right man in the right job.

The skywatching activities go on unabated and another trip up to the mountains is being arranged by the young enthusiasts of the Group. If you are living in the vicinity of Durban and are interested in these activities, please do contact our Secretary. By the way read the last page carefully because there, you will find the details of our next Public meeting, etc.

Our last Public meeting was a great success. Mrs. Stella North of Vereeniging being the Guest Speaker. The emphasis was on Spiritual men and women living on other Planets - what with the threat of total war still hovering over the Planet while the smoke of Atomic Explosions is still very evident in our atmosphere.

Apparently the Earth People have not yet had enough. The only solution to the problems of Mankind is a Spiritual one, and this is confirmed by our visitors from outer space. Our sceptics still refer to the U.F.O. Story as the "Twentieth Century Illusion", but time will tell who is right. What do you think? Please write and tell us. We will try to publish extracts from the best of these in our next issue of Skywatch.

TAKE HIGHER GROUND

by Brinsley Le Poer Trench
International Chairman of Contact

Recently, there has been a considerable tendency in some of the more prominent American and English flying saucer magazines to label the Sky People as hostile.

What is the truth? Are our visitors friendly or hostile? Let us take a look at the record and, also, at the evidence for hostility put forward by those who maintain that viewpoint.

Flying objects have been observed in our skies all through recorded history. Since the end of the last war there has been a tremendous increase in these sightings. Literally, hundreds of thousands have been reported from all over the world during the last two decades.

Some writers on the subject have taken the view that these intensification of sightings over the last twenty years means that an imminent invasion of this planet by the space people is on the cards.

It seems odd that any civilisation so highly advanced would require twenty years to conduct a military reconnaissance of the earth. If they had desired to do so the visitors could have destroyed us in the twinkling of an eye with their super-technology. They have not done so.

So much for a long time record. What is the result? You and I are still here breathing God's fresh air.

Now, let us turn to some of the points that have been

advanced as evidence that the saucers are hostile.

The oldest one that comes to mind is the tragic death of Captain Thomas F. Mantell. This has frequently been put down to hostile action by the visitors.

A huge glowing object was seen over the state of Kentucky by thousands of people on the afternoon of January 7th, 1948. State police notified Godman Air Force base and soon afterwards the UFO was spotted from the control tower. The C.O. radioed Captain Mantell who was then airborne with his squadron on a routine training flight. Mantell reported back that he had sighted the object and his squadron was going after it. After some time the three other pilots gradually dropped out of the chase due to lack of oxygen, leaving Mantell climbing after the UFO in his F-51 mustang fighter.

After about half an hour Mantell's voice suddenly came over the radio, "Its directly ahead of me and moving at about half my speed. I'm closing in now to take a good look. The thing looks metallic and is tremendous in size".

Then silence. About an hour later the wreckage of his plane was found scattered over a very wide area.

The official view of the U.S. Air Force was that Mantell had been chasing one of the huge Skyhook balloons sent up by the U.S. Navy for research into the upper atmosphere. Whether it was a UFO or a Skyhook balloon the U.S. Air Force in their official report cleared the object Mantell was chasing from any blame. The report states: "The UFO was in no way directly responsible for this accident. However, it is probable that the excitement caused by the object was responsible for this experienced pilot conducting a high altitude flight without the necessary oxygen equipment...." (Note: underlining by U.S. Air Force.)

We have it then directly from the U.S. Air Force that the UFO was not responsible for Mantell's death.

Many people have suffered burns from rays emanating from UFO's when they got too close to these craft. The answer to this is quite simple. It is a matter of pure ignorance on the part of

those unfortunate human beings. Incidentally, this lack of knowledge on the part of mankind may well be one more reason why the saucers do not land more frequently and why they tend to keep away.

No reasonable human being would stand close to an aeroplane's propeller or near the jets of a modern aircraft. It is equally dangerous for anyone to stand under a UFO that is hovering at a low altitude or attempt to go near one that has landed. There is a danger of contacting radiation sickness and burns from being in the close proximity of UFO's. However, let me emphasize this is not hostility on their part. It is the duty of all of us aware of this information to spread it around.

There have been many well-authenticated cases of landed saucers where the occupants have got out to take a look at the scenery. Suddenly, they have been surprised by the unexpected arrival in the area of earth people. The space pilots have used some kind of ray gun to temporarily immobilise the newcomers. This has allowed the crew to re-enter their craft and take off into the blue. No harm has come to those immobilised. They have undergone a temporary paralysis which after a short time disappears.

Some of us may not think that this is very nice behaviour on the part of the visitors. However, we must realise that the saucer occupants are probably coming from many areas. The more advanced ones would not need to use such tactics.

We should remember too, that earth people have been known to fire at both the saucers and their occupants. There are many cases on record of an inhospitable attitude on our part. Word has probably got around the galaxy that the natives on this planet are dangerous. It is only natural that some of the visitors take precautions.

If any people deserve to be called hostile it is the human race on Earth. Take a look at the long terrible record of savage wars waged in the sacred names of Religion, Nationalism, Greed and Despotism. Look at the Spanish Inquisition with its ghastly tortures. In more modern times look at Belsen and Hiroshima.

Look at the way crime and skulduggery flourish everywhere. Look at the murders, sexual assaults, bestiality to children and racial hatred. Look too at mankind's cruelty to animals.

I fully appreciate that there are thousands of wonderfully evolved, spiritually-minded people with us to-day, but unfortunately there are many who are not in that happy state.

Let us remember mankind's built-in tendency to regard anything that he does not understand as something to be feared. Therefore, he is apt to consider anyone coming from off this planet as a probable enemy. The spate of horrific science fiction films shown on both television and the cinema has only added fuel to the bonfire of fire and suspicion in people's minds.

I am not so stupid as to categorically state that all flying saucers are necessarily friendly. There maybe a few undesirable ones around. This universe and the interpenetrating invisible ones are very large indeed. However, those Sky People that have been more intimately associated with us since time immemorial are keeping watch over us and it is that that we hope to contact before very much longer.

The power of thought is a marvellous force, used correctly. It was Shakespeare who wrote "thinking maketh it so". How right he was. Have you noticed how in everyday life this operates? If you think little petty thoughts you will get back the same sort of things. If you think big positive thoughts you will achieve a great deal.

I would like to suggest that if you think the saucers are hostile then you may well conjure that kind up for yourself one fine day. Have you noticed how many air disasters all seem

to happen over a short period? The same with train disasters. Recently here in England we have had a whole lot of accidents at railway crossings. I have a hunch that all this is due to the power of mass negative thought lingering over the first accident. This tremendous negative force may cause the rest. This is the damage that newspapers do to-day in presenting at great length the most sensational news on the front page and in a big story on the inside ones as well. Wars, crime, sex, aeroplane and train disasters. These are the news items that sell the papers. It is not entirely their fault. After all they are in business to sell as many copies of their papers as possible. They would not go to such lengths to describe in every gory detail all the horrors of a train disaster if there was not a demand from the public for that sort of thing. Unfortunately there is a demand. Just look at the millions of copies sold of the "Bond" books, specialising in violence, sadism and sex. Unfortunately, many human beings take a vacarious pleasure in reading about all these sordid matters in both books and newspapers. They partially identify themselves with the actors in these dramas and get a "kick" out of it.

In the same way, regrettable though it is, there are some saucer magazines who thrive on sensationalism in our subject. To them the saucers must be hostile. They like reading about people allegedly "silenced" by "phoney men in black". It all makes sensational reading and they are apt to identify themselves with those that have been "silenced". Soon, they too, are telling their friends they have received threatening telephone calls from mysterious beings. And so it goes on. Its a great game and exciting for those little-minded people who play it.

However, there are others who believe in the existence of the Sky People who take a more positive view and are aware of the deeper aspects of this subject. We are not all playing silly games.

Therefore, let us continue to take "higher ground" and as I have stated more than once on the public platform "IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT WE WILL NOT SEE THE DARK!"

* Flying Saucers: special issue of LOOK Magazine, 1967.

"ESSENTIALS OF ASTRONOMY"

by Gregory Roberts

At the centre of our Solar System is the Sun, which is also the nearest star to the earth, since our sun is by astronomical standards a dwarf star halfway through its life cycle before it will eventually burn out and become dead, non luminous ball in space. With a diameter of 865,370 miles and approximately 95 million miles away, it is 400 times further and larger than our moon, so they both appear to have the same apparent diameter in the sky which is about $\frac{1}{2}$ a degree.

The temperature of the sun near the surface is about 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, whilst the temperature near the centre is about three times higher. The sun is in fact a gigantic atomic reactor giving out the heat whereby we are able to survive on this earth.

The sun is a fascinating object in a small telescope, but also very dangerous. Under no circumstances look at the sun through a telescope. The telescope concentrates the sun's heat and an observer can be permanently blinded should he attempt so rash a thing. The procedure the writer uses is to cut an aperture of the telescope down to about 1" and cover this small aperture with two or three layers of welders' glass. In this way the heat and light is cut down before even entering the telescope. However the safest way is to project the sun's image onto a card held a foot or so away from the eyepiece.

What can one expect to see? Almost invariably sunspots will be sighted, ranging from small specks to enormous spots which can even be seen with the unaided eye, suitably protected. These are actually storms in the outer gaseous layers of the sun and have a marked effect on radio communication and reception on earth. By observing the sun over several days, the motion of the spots will become obvious and if the spots last long enough, the observer will be able to deduce that the sun rotates once every 27 days. With direct examination of the sun the fine texture of the sunspots can be examined

and it will be seen that the sun's brightness fades off as we go out to the edge of the disc. The sun presents a mottled or grain like surface under good conditions, and extra bright areas or faculae may be seen in various parts.

Photography of the sun is easy as here we have an excess of light. Generally use a very slow film and shoot at about 1/500 sec at f/11 or higher. More specialised instruments can be constructed fairly easily which will show the flames leaping off the edge of the sun and streaming out into space, normally only visible during a total eclipse of the sun which is a fairly rare event for any one particular location. However such instruments are expensive and as far as is known, there are no such instruments in amateur hands in S. Africa as yet.

The next most conspicuous object in the sky, after the sun, is the moon, Here is the amateur astronomer's paradise and it is no wonder that visitors to the observatory are always shown the moon. Although the moon always turns the same face to the earth, the surface never looks the same as the conditions of illumination are always changing. It is strange that most people think that the best time to see the moon is when it is full - this is actually the worst as the moon is then directly opposite the sun as viewed from the earth and there is no shadow on the moon, so no impression of relief can be obtained. At first quarter or half moon, the shadows are long and even the most uneducated can see that he is looking at a gigantic mountain range or a deep crater.

The surface of the moon is covered by literally thousands of craters, ranging from as small as can be distinguished to giants some 180 miles in diameter. The walls rise several thousand feet above the surrounding plains and frequently there are central peaks inside the craters. Occasionally breaks can be seen in the walls where erosion has taken place. Mountain ranges cross the surface and their lofty spires can be easily seen by the jagged shadows cast, cracks criss-cross the surface, and one looks like a cobra head and is in fact so named.

The moon, with a diameter of 2160 miles and some quarter million miles from earth is the nearest celestial body to the earth and the next few years will find man landing and exploring this world. Many people report having sighted moving lights and other phenomena in particular areas of the moon and it may well be that these were UFO's either seen projected against the moon, or actually on the surface of the moon. Occasionally flashing lights have been seen on the dark portion of the moon and these may be natural or artificial.

In recent years a great deal of attention has been paid to the moon and the moon is now known to be not so dead as originally thought, as several volcanoes have been observed erupting. In addition certain areas have been seen to change colour and move across the moon's surface. All this can be seen in a typical amateur telescope, provided he has the patience to wait.

The next article will deal with planetoids, comets, meteors and novae.

RESPONSE TO TRENDS IN THE NEW YEAR.

This has been good in Durban. Gregory Roberts will be heading the Astronomy group which will meet each month at the Centre. All those who would like to become familiar with the starry heavens may contact him at P.O. Box 2320, Durban.

The space communication and electronics group have met and have decided that until they can, either singly or collectively, obtain some form of direction, through any source available, they will wait before building a radio constructed to receive voices from space. Good luck to them - a suggestion - nothing ventured nothing won!*

On the metaphysical side this is still in the sorting out stage. We will inform those interested when we get going.

*The information needed is what megacycle to use when tuning in the radio set to the space ships. Anyone who has had any success at all please contact the Secretary

All information will be regarded as confidential if wished. The Electronics group do need to have a lead in this !!

THE DICK MILLER STORY

by Mark Smith

The following extract came from AFSCA (Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America) in the Journal July - August, 1959 - Issue No. 10.

The Dick Miller story is not a figment of imagination, but an account of one man, who through his sincere desire to be of service, found himself experiencing one of the most heart-warming events ever afforded modern man.

It was early in the month of January, 1948, during a time when I was serving in the United States Air Force at Scott Field, Illinois. It was a bright and cheerful day with just a touch of the coming Spring in the air. Certainly a day which was destined to change my entire life. A day that I would never forget. A day which others would like to forget, but can't. My duties were light at the time and I walked into the operations room at the field to see what was going on. As I entered the door I was immediately confronted with a vibration of intense excitement. Those present in the room were listening to an account being radioed over the main radio communication network, linking various air bases in that sector. This account was originating from a plane flown by Capt. Thomas F. Mantell, who was on a routine training flight from Godman Air Force Base, in Kentucky. Capt. Mantell was busy giving a description of his chase of an unidentified flying object, he had spotted while on his way back to the base.

I can vividly remember standing there listening to his account while around me others displayed a look of sheer amazement written on their faces. My own heart was pounding with the excitement of the phenomena taking place many miles away and thousands of feet in the air. The time was 3.05

in the afternoon. Mantell said "I've sighted the thing. It's metallic and it's tremendous in size!" He paused, "the thing's starting to climb". At 3.10 he spoke again. "It's climbing higher. It's twelve o'clock high, making half my speed. I'll try to close in". At 3.15 Mantell again reported his progress. "It's still above me, making my speed or better. I'm going up to twenty thousand feet. If I'm no closer, I'll abandon chase." Three minutes later he reported. His last statement has never before been released to the public and is, in my opinion, by far his most important one. Capt. Mantell hesitated and then spoke rapidly into his microphone: "My God..... I see people in this thing" Then there was silence. That was all that was ever heard spoken again by the Captain. His death was not announced until later that day by the authorities at Godman Air Force base.

As a great many know, Capt. Mantell's death has never been satisfactorily explained. Many theories were advanced from as many sources as to what the Captain was pursuing and how he met his death. I consider myself fortunate in being one of the few persons ever to listen to his amazing pursuit.

If a reader would like to know the rest of this story it has been printed in the issue of the journal of AFSCA in two parts.

ACTIVITIES IN THE SKIES.

The mass sightings of space ships over England has subsided and left many people very thoughtful but "our Friends" are busy elsewhere. News has come in that Ireland is having her share of sightings and these space ships have been seen by many hundreds in Ireland.

In Southern Africa, Durban, on Christmas morning Beverley Vincent and Brian Hobbs of "Contact S.A." saw an Adamski

shaped craft (circular base with dome) at 3.15 a.m. for thirty minutes. They were returning to their homes on the Bluff and were able to awaken three other people. All five clearly saw this craft and some of them observed it through binoculars. No port holes or landing gear were seen but the colour of the craft was gold.

At New Year at Amanzimtoti (South Coast of Natal) Philip Human's native servant reported an UFO the size of a full moon which sailed majestically across the sky and hovered for several minutes and then went off inland. The colour of the craft was red.

A report heard over the National news comes from Vereeniging that several people saw an UFO early in February but we are unable to obtain any details. Perhaps someone reading this would be able to give an account of this.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SIGHTED OVER GLENCOE.

The following account comes out of "Blast-Off", the official publication of the University of Natal Rocket Society and Research Group, Durban, Volume 2 - No. 1 - 1961.

On Tuesday night 13th December, 1960 Gregory Roberts and his 14 year old brother Graeme were observing the Geminie meteor shower. At 9.20p.m. they both saw a very unusual sight. Mr. Roberts states, "in my fourteen years of observing the skies as an amateur astronomer, I have never seen anything like this before. My brother first noticed it above the south horizon and by the time I managed to see it, it was almost directly overhead, but slightly to the south west and moving swiftly northwards. I happened to have my camera ready to photograph the meteor shower and did an exposure as

as it moved northward. Suddenly it veered through about 90 degrees and moved towards the eastern horizon where it hovered momentarily and then disappeared behind some distant trees. THE WHOLE EVENT OCCURRED IN THE SHORT SPACE OF NINE SECONDS.

The object had an apparent diameter about equal to the moon and in appearance it was slightly circular with sharply defined edges and resembled the Magellanic Clouds, both in magnitude - about +5 and in appearance - appearing translucent. It was faint but at no time disappeared from sight. The possibility of it being a satellite, aeroplane, shooting star, or weather balloon can be completely ruled out. The object was completely silent and the sky was cloudless and dark with no wind. I developed the film shortly afterwards and in spite of using twice the normal developing time the negative reveals nothing. The film was Adok KB 21 exposed at f/2.8 for about 2 seconds. I have no idea of its altitude or size. I was later informed that two other observers - Indians - had seen it from a locality some ten miles away.

I again saw an identical one over Durban in August, 1965 at about 3a.m. whilst tracking satellites. This passed from the South West to the eastern horizon though overhead in a few seconds. Appearance and size were identical to the one seen in 1960. Unfortunately I have not seen anything more spectacular, but I am very hopeful.

See over for Notices

NOTICES

MEETINGS : DURBAN

March 30th - Saturday
April 25th - Thursday
May 25th - Saturday
June 27th - Thursday

Time and place as usual - 7.30p.m. at
"THE CENTRE", 3rd Floor, Prince of Wales
Building, 380 Smith Street.

Doors open at 7p.m.

TELEPHONE NO. 29167

*Questions, suggestions, articles in both
English and Afrikaans are welcome.*

Acceptance is subject to approval.