

June-July-Aug.-68

Skywatch

QUARTERLY OF "CONTACT" (S.A.)

No. 5

EDITORIAL.

The sands of time certainly appear to be running out for those who advocate war, disruption and poverty as the basis upon which to build civilisation. This is becoming more and more evident as the signs of the New Age spring up all over the planet. Visions of the Madonna and the Master appear in different parts of the world. This is not only in conformity with Biblical Prophecy, but also with the more recent predictions made by "Visitors" to our planet from space. A change is coming and we believe that this will be soon.

Appropriately, members of "Contact", together with progressive thinkers in South Africa and other countries, align themselves with the forces of Light to form a solid foundation upon which a lasting Peace can be built, one that will enable man to fall in line with other more progressed planets, and proceed along the Path of Spiritual Evolution. The Implication would seem to be that we have made no spiritual progress in the past; this is not so, as it has been said that the Earth is the School of Learning. This seems likely as we certainly appear to have chosen the hard way; let us hope that we have learnt our lessons well and will not make the same mistakes in the future.

How wonderful it will be when a lasting Peace is established on Earth and we can receive, as guests, our "Visitors" from planets all over the Universe, learning from and co-operating with them to fulfil the Plan that God has prepared for us.

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NEWS OF OTHER CENTRES.

A "CONTACT" group has commenced in Johannesburg. Well done and welcome to an ever expanding group of people studying this exciting and mystifying subject of the "Unidentified Flying Objects". U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations has said that next to the war in Vietnam the question of U.F.O.'s is the most important problem facing modern man today. We also believe this to be so.

As a very young group (we commenced in February 1967) in this facinating study we are already in touch with twenty or so groups throughout the world. Every month new groups draw together to study this subject. It is no longer unfashionable to talk about the "flying saucers" and even the more clear sighted amongst the world's scientists have banded together in one of the most exclusive clubs; qualification for admission at least one University degree in the Sciences, to study the evidence up to date. Below are some of the countries and groups with which we communicate. Newsletters and Magazines are exchanged with many on this list. If there are any members who would like to see these publications for themselves, they may do so by joining the Contact Library and paying a nominal fifty cents. They will then be able to take the magazine away to read at their leisure. The library is open at all meetings and we can also arrange to post books and magazines if this is so desired. Please contact Miss Elsbeth Murray, "Contact Librarian", P.O. Box 2320, Durban.

International U.F.O. Groups with which we are in touch:-

- AUSTRALIA: Sydney and Melbourne.
- CANADA: Ontario - two separate groups.
Montreal - two separate groups.
- DENMARK: Copenhagen.
- ENGLAND: London and Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- GERMANY-WEST: Munstermm Annstrabi.
- INDIA: Ceylon.
- NEW ZEALAND: Henderson and Timaru.

NORWAY: Oslo and Bon.

RHODESIA: Salisbury.

SOUTH AMERICA: Buenos Aires - Santiago.

SWEDEN: Stockholm.

SWITZERLAND: Geneva.

U. S. A.: Defiance, Ohio, Mount Rainer & Washington.

Monday 24th June is International Sky Watching Day. We are hoping to hear from many, accounts of U.F.O. sightings around this time. Please make up small parties to watch the skies. Last year South America was given a spectacular display of six U.F.O's speeding over Ascension Airport disrupting all communications.

This year is the 21st anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's sighting of U.F.O's over Mount Rainer. These craft have been visiting the earth throughout the centuries, and this date is only the beginning of public recognition for our visitors. Do we become of age? Time will tell!

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INVITATION BY TELEPATHY.

We have been invited to link up on Friday evening 21st June, 1968, with all other members of Contact throughout the world in an experiment, called "Invitation by Telepathy". The idea is that sometime on Friday evening, either together or individually we sit quietly for fifteen to twenty minutes stilling the mind. Then we send out the thought of Contact with the Visitors and mentally concentrate on a space ship.

For those practised in the art of Telepathy the message suggested is:- "an offer to help in the Great Work; direct the thought to the Cosmic Centre in Central Asia: desire to contact, offer of assistance in raising humanity (that's their main work) and offer to take the responsibility of such a contact.

For a further 15 to 20 minutes let everyone receive some response by sitting quietly attuned to the Christ.

The leaders of the various Contact groups will link up with each other linking all groups together.

The next evening 22nd June throughout the night, and the following day for the energetic skywatchers, we will keep our vigil for the "Visitors" to our Earth.

We hope you will all join with us in this; the first organised experiment in Telepathy, either in groups or individually.

Please let us know the results with information on sightings and contacts.

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"ESSENTIALS OF ASTRONOMY"Gregory Roberts.

The planetoids, astenoids, or minor planets occupy a broad belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. These were unknown in early times and it has only been since the advent of the telescope and more especially the camera that these objects have been tracked. Since the first discovery in January 1801 of the asteroid Ceres by Piazzi some 2,000 have been located. The main difficulty nowadays is not in trying to find more but to keep track of the ones discovered so that they will not be confused with new discoveries. The largest Ceres, has a diameter of 437 miles followed by Pallas at 287 miles. Thereafter the size drops rapidly until one ends with mere lumps of rock.

Very few asteroids appear to be circular or spherical in shape, one actually suspected of being cylindrical. Their are not confined to a particular kind, but range to different parts of the Solar System. Hidalgo goes beyond the orbit of Saturn, whilst Hermes actually can go between the moon and earth and thus only miss by a mere 1/4 millions miles. Icarus, a typical asteroid makes a close pass of 4 million miles from earth in June 1968.

No one knows where these asteroids originated, the most likely explanation being that it is the remnant of a planet that burst asunder ages gone by. Even if this was the case, the original planet could not have been more than a few hundred miles across.

Of all the heavenly bodies visible to the naked eye, comets are perhaps the most spectacular. Although bright comets are a not too frequent occurrence, most people can see a comet or two during their life time. With a telescope it is possible to see several each year.

Comets move in a variety of orbits some moving in elliptical orbits about the sun and hence reappearing every few years, whilst others plunge into the Solar system from outer space, speed past the sun and out again into space never to be seen again. These invariably are the more spectacular ones. Halleys comet with a period of 75 years was last seen in 1910. Few people see this comet twice and remember it.

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The nature of comets is not very well known at present. Astronomers suspect them to be cold, mostly gaseous bodies with the tail formed as a result of some reaction with the sun light. Generally a comet appears as a large fuzzy object with a long tail. Their size can be remarkable - the smallest being about 10,000 miles in diameter whilst the largest was that of 1811 with a diameter of 1,225,000 miles. The tails are even more tremendous, the longest being that of the comet in 1843 which was 200,000,000 miles long.

American scientists plan to try and land a spacecraft on a comet and use the comet to carry the satellite out into space. This may be attempted with Halleys comet or even perhaps with one of the rare visitors to our Solar system.

The objects commonly known as meteors, shooting stars, fireballs or solides are familiar to everyone. When they actually impact the earth they become known as meteorites or aerolites. Some 10,000 enter earths atmosphere every day, though the naked eye sees approximately 10 per hour, with the greater number occuring after midnight. A meteor is a lump of rock that floats around in space. When it comes under the gravitational pull of the earth it speeds earthwards as it passes through the thin layers of the upper atmosphere, the friction causes it to glow and invariably burn up before reaching the earth. Burn up usually occurs at 10 to 60 miles up when the objects are moving at 5 - 6 miles per second.

Occasionally the earth in its journey around the sun intersects a stream of meteors in space, some of which follow a definite path, and we have a meteor shower. In rare cases up to 400 or so meteors per hour have been observed. The best shower of all is the Perseids but this is not well placed for southern hemisphere observers, who have to tolerate the next best which is the Geminids in early December. The rate here is about 40-50 per hour and they are very bright.

The size of the meteors range from small specks to giants - the largest recovered being that that fell in the Adrar district of French West Africa which weighs about a million tons. The average meteor however is the size of a pea. We are fortunate in having a protective mantle of air around the earth as the greater majority of meteors burn up before hitting ground.

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Two famous falls are that of the Azina meteor crater in the U.S.A. and the Great Siberian meteor of 1908. If the latter had fallen 4 hours 47 minutes earlier it would have obliterated Leningrad.

In our next issues, before venturing out of the Solar System, we shall discuss telescopes.

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ON THE ROAD FROM SYDNEY
TO MELBOURNE,

by Joanna Hugill.

Taken from March/April 1968 edition of "Flying
Saucer Review"

Mrs. Hugill prepared her article from the transcript of a taped interview with the witness - a very thorough cross-examination - by Peter Norris, LL.B and N. Thornhill, both of Melbourne, Mr. Norris is chairman of the Victoria Flying Saucer Research Society of P. O. Box 43, Moorabbin 3189, Victoria, Australia, and we are greatly indebted to him for his co-operation. Flying Saucer Review has complied with the request to withhold the name and address of the witness, a nicety which, it seems, has not been observed elsewhere.

The story of the refusal by an Australian motor-cyclist to respond to the invitation of two silver-clad figures standing beside a saucer-shaped craft has been sent to us by the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society, whose investigators, P. Norris and N. Thronhill, closely questioned the witness.

The motor-cyclist, whom we shall call Mr. Hunter, has asked us not to reveal his name because the reaction of friends to whom he described his strange experience was derisive comments and laughter. The two investigators of the V.F.S.R.S. are convinced that his story is true.

About 5 p.m. on August 24, Mr. Hunter was riding his motor-bicycle at 70 m.p.h. on the highway from Sydney to Melbourne. The sun was low on the horizon, the sky above him clear, with some cloud in the distance. Suddenly he was engulfed in a bluish-white light, so brilliant that it almost blinded him, and was forced to stop. The source of the light seemed to be directly above him; its brilliance, like that from a welding torch, blotted out the surrounding countryside. All he could see for a few minutes was a short section of the road ahead.

Taking off his tinted driving goggles, Mr. Hunter wiped his watering eyes. When his sight began to clear he saw, about
/100 ft.

100 ft. away in a wide grass clearing sloping gently down from the road, a metallic object hovering 3 to 4 ft. off the ground, with no visible means of support. It resembled two saucers, one inverted over the other, separated by a band of metal 9 to 12 in. deep. On top of the object was a small dome, some 5 ft. high, surmounted by what the witness described as a small flat-topped bell about 12" deep.

The lower half of the object had a protrusion about a foot deep and a third of the overall width, which Mr. Hunter compared with the lip on the bottom of an ordinary saucer. The protrusion was black, and the lower half of the craft appeared a dark grey. The upper half was made of metal resembling highly polished chrome, while the dome, crowned with its flat-topped "bell" was also made of a silvery metal, but was unpolished, with no reflecting surface. Mr. Hunter estimated the width of the object as 25 to 30 ft. and the depth, from the base of the protrusion to the top of the bell, to be about 15 ft.

On the dome, and almost out of Mr. Hunter's sight, was a black, crescent-shaped mark about a foot high and 2 in. wide. He felt that it could have been part of a larger insignia out of range of his vision. He stood looking at the UFO in amazement until his eyesight returned to normal, when his attention was caught by what he thought to be a passing car.

He looked away for a few seconds but saw no car; when he turned back towards the machine, he was startled to see two silver-clad figures standing beside it. From a distance of 100 ft. they looked about 5 ft. tall, and wore silvery overalls which covered both hands and feet. Mr. Hunter could see no sign of pockets, seams or fastenings, and he described the "overalls" as being so close-fitting that they looked like silver skin. On their heads the humanoids wore helmets that resembled opaque fishbowls, through which he was unable to distinguish any features. There was no visible opening in the side of the craft facing the road, to show where they had emerged.

From the direction in which their bodies were turned, Mr. Hunter presumed they were studying him. Curious and a little frightened, he stared for a few moments, then took a cautious step in their direction. The two figures did likewise, their movements similar to those of a human being. Scared, Mr. Hunter stood his ground. For a few moments man and humanoids stood still, looking at each other, until the figure on the left took two steps
/forward

forward, raised his arm and beckoned. The motor-cyclist wasted no more time in investigation. Badly frightened now, he jumped on to his machine and set off as fast as he could. Flat out along the road and slowing for corners as little as possible, he estimated that he was doing 100 to 120 m.p.h. determined only to put as much distance as possible between himself, the strange craft and its occupants. But above the noise of his engine, he heard a deep, steady hum, and looking up he saw the craft, now surrounded by a pink glow, following him at an estimated height of 100 to 200 ft. and about the same distance from the road. Mr. Hunter slowed down and tried to flag a couple, but the drivers neither stopped or appeared to see the craft. As he sped along, he looked for a house or farm where he might find witnesses to the unusual sighting, but there was none to be seen. Feeling there was no escape, Mr. Hunter once again drew into the side of the road and stopped his engine, intending to take another, closer look.

As he came to a halt, the craft stopped as well, but this time it tilted its base about 45°. The pink glow about it - through which the silvery shape was still clearly visible - changed to a deep, brilliant red, the protrusion at the base standing out black against the blinding colour. The UFO shot straight up into the air at tremendous speed and vanished almost immediately. It did not reappear during the rest of Mr. Hunter's journey.

Although he sometimes read science fiction, Mr. Hunter told the investigators that he took no interest in unidentified flying objects, and had read only a few newspaper reports about them which he had regarded hitherto as nonsense.

If there are any of our readers who would like to subscribe to this excellent magazine we will be happy to organise this for you.

The Flying Saucer Review goes to such places as the Library of the House of Commons, London, the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., the Soviet Academy of Sciences and to the Library of the United Nations Organisation, at the special request of the above powerful bodies. It also has a world wide circulation and is one of the finest magazines for the study of the UFO phenonema. If you would rather order it direct write to the

Editor/.....

Editor, Flying Saucer Review, 21 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road,
London W.C. 2. Subscriptions go to 49a Kings Grove, London
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(£1.10.0) for six copies.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Dear Members all, your Committee has a problem on its hands which we feel you are in a position to enable us to solve happily. It concerns the matter of the monthly meetings in Durban.

From the beginning of the year the attendance has been increasing steadily, which we regard as an encouraging sign that we are doing the right thing and giving you the kind of talks which you want. Lately, however, we have heard that some of our members have not been very happy about the amount of U. F. G. subject matter brought up at our meetings.

While we appreciate this point of view very well, we are trying to vary the programme as much as we can, (and after all, is not variety the spice of life?) though the topic of U. F. O's is a vast one embracing many fields, both physical and metaphysical. The job is not as easy as it sounds, for it means finding speakers who are both willing and able to speak with some authority, or from personal experience, on one or more facets of Ufology. We should very much like to arrange a meeting where the speaker can say, in effect, "I have seen and spoken to the Space people and here I am to tell you all about it". Where can one contact such a person?

The facts to date are these. We have put our problems to you on a previous occasion, suggesting that meetings should be held bi-monthly or even quarterly, due to the apparent lack of suitable speakers. The concensus of opinion was that we should continue to meet once a month willy-nilly. We then asked for suggestions on what we should do or discuss at our get-togethers. The result? Nothing forthcoming.

Your Committee is trying to do its best but can only be guided by the views of all you members. So why don't you write and tell us what you think? We would very much like to publish a few of your letters and stimulate discussion, not only on this but other topics as well. So - over to you, go to it and let's hear from you!

- 9th March, 1968
8.20 p. m.
Middelburg,
Transvaal.
- Mrs. Faith ffrench-Coulston -
Two separate U.F.O's were seen distinctly with the naked eye by four people; two people followed one U.F.O. and the other two followed the other U.F.O.
- 11th March, 1968
6.15 p. m.
Mabasu,
Swaziland.
- Carolyn Jerman reports: An object appeared three times the size of the sun; there was another object with the first one; much smaller in size but the same shape as the bigger one. It was dome shaped with pink "candy floss" clouds under it which appeared to be lights. Object was silent.
- 12th March, 1968
7.15 p. m.
7.25 p. m.
8.55 p. m.
Johannesburg,
Transvaal.
- Mrs. Marlene Claydon - Three times an U.F.O. was seen; the first object was seen in the East rising very steeply; veered and streaked off South. It either appeared twice within ten minutes or another U.F.O. was seen. No. 3 was seen for approximately seven minutes; there were many stars in the sky and the moon was bright. All the U.F.O's pulsed and appeared solid and the edges were like a bright star; the area over which these U.F.O's were seen was residential.
- 4th April, 1968
7.00 p. m.
Transvaal.
- Tommy Mitchell - A pinpoint of light was seen flashing through the sky at incredible speed. A little later a glowing ball appeared in the sky and grew in size; it grew to half the size of the full moon; now it turned sharply and headed across the sky from North to South when it disappeared suddenly (no clouds!). It was seen for two minutes and it covered about a third of the sky.
- 8th April, 1968
Middelburg,
Transvaal.
- Mrs. Faith ffrench-Coulston - The time was not noted but it was dark and there were many stars. A large white object passed silently overhead; it was too close to be an aeroplane.

15th April, 1968
7.58 p.m.
Cape Town.

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Roberts - Looking due West two elongated objects travelled swiftly and silently towards the South-West. They were identical in appearance and separated by about half a degree as they flew parallel to one another.

The upper one was leading by about a degree or so. During the five or six seconds of observation they crossed an arc of about 70 degrees measured along the horizon. They were not bright, third or fourth magnitude and there were no local concentrations of light. They were four to five times as long as wide, had an elevation of 15° and left behind a hazy trail (very much as a jet would have).

21st April, 1968
5.55 p.m.
Durban.

Miss E.F. Murray, Mr. Roland Sieley and Mr. Brian Chapman - An object appeared over the sea in the direction of North East; it was seen for five minutes - there was no sound and only a few stars were out at the time. It hovered for thirty seconds and then receded into the distance fast. A plane was flying below the object flicking its lights.

May -

At the time of printing no sightings have been reported for May!.

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N O T I C E S.Durban

June 23rd - Sunday, all day sky watch picnic.
Meeting, Sandy's Supermarket, 9.15 for 9.30 a.m.
Destination to be decided upon.

July 27th - Saturday
Aug. 29th - Thursday
Sept. 28th - Saturday
Oct. 31st -

Meeting place, The Centre, Prince of Wales
Building, 3rd Floor, Smith Street, Durban at
7.30 p.m.

Johannesburg

June 10th -
July 1st - At 17 Westmeath Road, Parview, Johannesburg,
August 5th - at 8.00 p.m.
Sept. 2nd -

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Correspondence Address : Secretary, P.O. Box 2320, Durban.