

SOUTH LINES

U. F. O.

STUDY GROUP

SUMMER
1969



NEWSLETTER

Lights baffle publican. On the eve of the massive American moon shot, a Wiltshire publican reported seeing mysterious red lights hovering above his inn.

Mr. Harold Wilson, the landlord of the Holford Arms, Sherston, near Malmesbury, saw the objects just after closing his pub last night. "They could have been something about 5,000 feet high I should think, and they seemed to be bobbing together and away from each other like a couple of butterflies."

Bristol Evening Post. 16.7.69.

Solved. Paul Twitchell, the American leader of Eckankar, an International religious movement concerned with "the ancient science of Soul Travel"; says, U.F.O's are not visitors from outer space but psychic phenomena, only visible to people with extra-sensory perception.

UFO? Great Balls Of Fire! Many of the "flying saucers" seen all over the world were probably nothing more than thunderbolts or balls of lightning, say two scientists who have been studying unidentified flying objects.

Glowing grapefruit-sized thunderbolts or balls of lightning are quite common, say Dr. Martin Uman and Dr. John Lowke, of U.S. Westinghouse Electronics firm.

They conclude that people reporting "flying saucers" have probably seen ball lightning " which is viewed by about five people in every 100".

Ball lightning is a mixture of extremely hot air and soot or small particles caused by lightning striking a tree or similar object. This results in a ball of fire drifting horizontally near the ground, giving off a five-second glow about as bright as a 100 watt light bulb.

But the two scientists cannot explain away many of the sightings which have described fast-moving, glowing objects of all colours, varying in shape.

Many of these stayed in sight for much longer than five seconds, and some were seen by pilots at a considerable distance above the ground.
The Sun.

Watch Out For The Flying Saucer Brigade. Cape Town: Good news for security forces footslogging through miles of scorched bush to combat terrorist infiltrators: Relax and let a flying saucer do the job for you.

Far-fetched? At first sight, yes. But a Cape Town team of spare-time backyard boffins is hard at work on an invention to take the slog out of security operations.

It is an invention calculated to make H.G.Wells spin in his grave and science fiction writers turn to nursery rhymes in despair.

No more, no less, than a wide-ranging, unmanned flying saucer that the boffins claim can scan the bush and draw hidden terrorists out into the open; and it is virtually indestructable.

The knock-out punch in this modern bushbaby is a constructional device that will knock Newton's apple into a cocked hat.

"The revolutionary construction and incorporation of secret materials," says Mr. Roland Wood, its 30-year-old designer, " will neutralise weight.

"Our craft will be virtually anti-gravitational. We have stumbled on the greatest discovery since the wheel."

Mr. Wood is clearing up details of the "bushbaby" with two other local boffins, both electronics experts and former army technicians. They hope to have a prototype ready for trials early next year.

The designer was understandably tight-lipped about the technical details of his invention.

But he did reveal that the craft could act as a reconnaissance vehicle relying on a television system to scan terrorist territory.

"It could be a tremendous boon to security forces. Two men will be able to direct it by ~~spot~~ remote control. When they spot terrorists they will operate a device that will draw them out of the bush into the firing zone. How? I'm not saying at this stage.

"We are actually going to put flying saucers in the air. Being almost weightless our craft will be able to match jet speed or hover like a helicopter.

"The anti-gravitational principle can also be used in other types of saucers for passengers, freight, in fact, anything. This will be a tremendous scientific first for South Africa." - Tribune Correspondent.

Space-Shots That Come From Jupiter. The theory that the planet Jupiter may also be blasting objects into space is put forward by a leading Russian astronomer, Professor Sergei Veskhsvyatsky.

But the objects he has in mind are not man-made nor intended for any intelligent purpose like earth's Sputniks and spacecraft. All they do is wander endlessly and aimlessly round the solar system.

For the objects, says Professor Vsekhsvyatsky, head of a Kiev University research group, are comets, those mysterious, long-tailed apparitions which have puzzled scientists down the ages.

What exactly were they and where did they come from? No entirely satisfactory answers have been found, but it is generally believed that comets are composed of rocks, gas, and ice crystals.

Some, like Encke's comet, turn up every three to five years, but others come back after much longer intervals - or "periods" as astronomers call them. The famous Halley's comet, for example, comes back at intervals of 76 years and is due again in 1986.

It has long been thought that the short-period comets (about 30 of them) may be connected in some way with Jupiter, by far the largest planet in the solar system. But Vsekhsvyatsky believes that they actually come from the planet.

His theory is that the comets, composed of ice and ash, were spewed into space by volcanic eruptions on the planet. In order to study the subject fully the Russians are building a special comet observatory at Kiev.

A spokesman for the Royal Observatory said yesterday that the Russian theory seemed reasonable but a lot of research was needed before it could be generally accepted. In any case, it seemed unlikely that it could apply to long-period comets which appeared to come from outside the solar system.

The Sunday Express. 19.1.69.

Apollo 11 Is To Blame. The general comment from people I met on Tuesday, July 29 was "Isn't the weather awful today?" But what some of them, perhaps none of them, realised, is that it was not "the weather".

It was a "ring ripple" of atmospheric disturbance caused by Apollo 11 moonflight. Look back at the weather for last Tuesday and you will notice that it was quite sudden; first rain and then gale.

I've noticed it before on all moon rocket experiments. Within a week, no matter what the weather was like, there has come a "rushing mighty wind". If you examine the weather conditions you will see that the atmosphere was disturbed after each moon rocket launching.

Jack Hewitson. 36, Collingwood Road, Southsea, Hants.

The Sunday Express. 3.8.69.

Lonely Girl Who Waits For The Men On The Moon. Hongkong: America's moonmen are being asked to watch for a beautiful Chinese maiden who is said to have lived on the moon for over 4,000 years.

Old people here are writing to the astronauts asking them to give their regards if she is sighted.

According to legend, the maiden Sheung Ngor married a man of Royal birth in ancient China. One day, while walking in the country, she discovered a magic drug which when inhaled enabled her to fly.

Then Sheung Ngor and her husband had a terrible argument. Saddened, she inhaled some of the magic drug and flew off to the moon to be alone.

But once there, without the drugs to smell again, she was unable to fly back to earth.

Thousands of Chinese believe she is still there. Each year, during the Chinese Moon Festival, they pray to her - and point to her predicament as a reason why there should be happiness in the home.

Mr. Henry Chan, chairman of an old people's organisation, said: "Of course Sheung Ngor is still there. This Neil Armstrong will be only the second person to land on the moon.

"We doubt if she will want to return to earth - there is so much

unhappiness here."

The Sunday Express. 13.7.69.

Homo sapiens has demonstrably for at least thirty thousand years and probably far, far longer, been more closely related physically and mentally than we tend to suppose. At Kanjera, north east of Lake Victoria in East Africa, skulls belonging to sapiens-like man have been found which are no less than three hundred thousand years old and indicate that neither Peking nor Neanderthal man was the prototype of the human race.

From "The Silent Past" by Ivar Lissner.

Space, Mars And The Moon. There are now about 1,722 bits of junk, littering up space. Apart from the rubbish left on Venus and the moon; chunks of exploded rockets, nose cones, canisters and stabilisers are floating around in space. These make up around 1,300 of the total, while the other 400 or so are, or were, satellites. Many light years from Earth, vast interstellar dust clouds, which often blot out the stars are thought to be formed of diamonds. The heat generated by these clouds is so intense that only diamonds could survive it.

Methane and ammonia gases were detected by Mariner 7 on Mars. These gases are at the origin of the life evolution chain on Earth. According to Russian experiments, cacti can survive under the conditions that are believed to exist on Mars.

A few years ago new instruments for measuring the moon's distance from the Earth, showed that the moon is falling towards the Earth at the rate of several feet per century.

Some scientists say it will not crash into the Earth, but will break up due to the pressure of Earth's gravity. And it will be changed into a brilliant ring around the Earth. Eventually this will fall in meteorite showers.

Titanium has been found in the moon dust. The dust is made up of pieces of rough and smooth glass and fragments of various minerals. Professor Samuel Tolansky had told the Royal Society in London, earlier in the year, that the moon was covered with marbles.

The moon dust contains a high amount of rare gases - large amounts of helium, neon, argon, crypton and xenon.

Chemical analysis of the moon rocks has shown that they could possibly be up to 4,500 million years old. An interesting figure, as one theory of the moon's formation is; that it was formed by an accumulation of solid objects in space and was then captured by the Earth's pull as it flew by - about 4,500 million years ago.

It Just Fell Out Of The Sky! In August last year Mrs. Jane Williamson Of Sevenoaks in Kent, heard a bang like thunder, looked out of her window, and saw blocks of ice in her garden. She collected 18 ice blocks, each about 12 inches round and six inches deep. A neighbour found another ice block over 2 feet across in her loft.

The police told Mrs. Williamson that it was probably a sonic boom, and that the ice may have fallen from the wings of an aircraft.

In November 1968, a loud explosion shook windows and rumbled doors in the village of Bunny in Leicestershire. Explosions had been carried out in the area during excavation work, for several weeks. A spokesman for the works said he could not understand why this specific one had caused comment as it had been no stronger than the others.

An unidentified flying brick just missed Mr. Geoffrey Harrison of Loughborough. This was also in 1968 in August. He heard the "whoosh" seconds after he had got into his car. Embedded at an angle, and two inches into the gravel drive a few feet away was the brick; soot and concrete stained.

Police and firemen who were called, experimented with the brick, but no one could reproduce such a big crater by hurling it at the drive.

And also in August 1968 - live fish, some a foot long appeared in gardens in Harlow, Essex. A housewife, Mrs. Jane Sampson said;

"We don't know whether they were thrown or just fell from the sky.

It's funny..... one day it rains cats and dogs, the next fish."