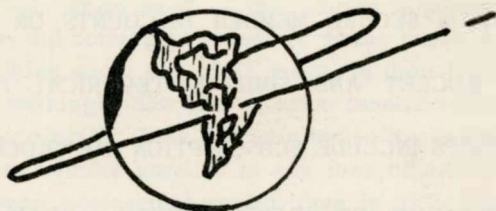


# ROCKETS

THE MAGAZINE OF SPACE FLIGHT

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE UNITED STATES ROCKET SOCIETY**



**Editor & Publisher:**

**R.L. Farnsworth**

**Box 29, Glen Ellyn, Illinois**

**The United States of America**

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### EDITORIAL

Since this issue is largely devoted to the coming Science Fiction Convention it is no more than fair that we give SF a little going over.

EDITORS: While no authority, it seems to us that for many years editors of Science Fiction mags, with one notable exception, were orphans of a particularly virulent storm. Also, under various pen names these editors, I have been told, wrote most of the stories appearing in their mags. This, of course, did nothing to endear SF to the capable authors. Another extremely odd thing about eds of SF mags, is their horrific narrow mindedness. It is strikingly like that of some fanatic religious sects, "you think our way or else!". This has resulted in a mess of taboos, restrictions and edicts without parallel in any form of art. In no form is the thought policeman more reprehensible than in SF. And in NO OTHER BRANCH OF LITERATURE DOES HE FLOURISH SO DEVASTATINGLY. And this, in JUST THE BRANCH OF LITERATURE WHICH SHOULD BE FREE OF SUCH SHENANIGANS. We can laugh it off in books. Like the Winston "SF Series", which frankly admits that Cecile Matschat, the editor of the series, is out to propagandize racial relations, and the "new" social order. Thats a hell of a way to write Science Fiction. And unless someone with guts gets in the publishing business it will spell the death knell of SF, and a disgusted public will turn once more to sheer detective story entertainment. Then there is the editor who thinks that he is a crusader; for the particular groups that have sought his favor. He is more to be pitied than censured; this is a big old world, and we haven't left it yet!

AUTHORS: These poor benighted souls, struggling under an awful blanket of editorial ukases, by and large do as well as they are permitted. I must object however to what I call the "present day threat" type of story. In the immortal words of Dorothy Parker, they make me want to "frow up". You know the one. Where the evil villian is Hitler, or Stalin, or Hirohito. Even Astounding recently had one, even illustrated. This is perversion of SF at its worse. As soon as you see the pic of the "villain" you know the story is a stinker. If we do not watch out, authors, to go with the stream, will soon be writing thoroughly uncon-

vincing stories about the brave sociologists and intrepid bio-chemists, who create a race of heroes, who follow whatever political line happens to be currently in style. Ugh! In Russia they turn out pap about heroic drainage ditch workers. (Here our drainage ditch worker rides a machine and makes \$150. per wk.) And this in a country which has produced some brilliant astronomers! That will show you the danger of the political line.

**LOCALE & PROPS:** No one who reads SF today can escape the conviction that a deadly mess of rubber stamp situations is growing up very rapidly. Now the greatest, and most persistent preoccupation of people, ALL PEOPLE, is what they are going to have for breakfast, lunch, supper or snack. Next, is the weather, and after that personal arrangements. (Clothes, excretion, gamishment, etc.) In SF this is entirely ignored. Giving the stories an air of cardboard cut-out people. (Cut your characters out of a com flake box.) How many times have you read where the hero is away from base and has only so much time before the air runs out of his suit? And the villain is also mixed up and the whole thing is so dashed dramatic! I will wager my Wilkie button that for every dramatic situation of that kind that occurs in the future there will be 100,000 where the hero is in a hell of a mess because he can't get back to the base and the bathroom in time! Another thing, much too little attention is paid to the weather. When you realize how much everyone is concerned about it; just imagine what it will be like on Mars, where everyone is trying to keep warm; and on Venus, where everyone is trying to keep cool. I sell heavy refrigerating equipment and I can tell you that it is one sweet job to keep things cool. (I'll be glad to set up a story plot for any author along these lines.) These are the things that concern people today. They will concern them even more on the infinite worlds of the future. Why can't authors see the vast possibilities in stories based on meeting these problems? My hunch is that probably they can but that editors are afraid they won't sell. Bosh! Food, weather, arrangements, these strike at the very heart of all living things. Lets go editors, cut loose from all the silly taboos that make SF harder to sell than ball point pens, and see the money roll in! Thank you, your welcome! See you at the convention! (I'll have a bodyguard!)

7/52

R. L. Farnsworth

### Tenth Anniversary World Science Fiction Convention

In another page of this issue of "Rockets" you will find an ad, donated by R. L. Farnsworth, calling your attention to the Tenth Science Fiction Convention to be held at the Morrison Hotel August 30, 31 and Sept. 1, 1952. This will no doubt be the biggest and best such function ever arranged and we urge all of you who can to try and attend. The United States Rocket Society, Inc. will have a suite, (paid for privately by

Mr. Farnsworth) and we particularly want to see members of the Society. ✓ This will be a fine opportunity to plan for your Society's future and we want you to try and be present. Of course, to those of you who are in Fandom, you will be here if you can. While we have no official connection with the Convention we will cooperate to the fullest extent to make it a success. SEE YOU THERE!

### WHITHER "ROCKETS" ?

From time to time we receive letters from members asking us why "Rockets" doesn't have more technical articles, or why we do not have comic strips, or why we do not have discussion pages, etc. etc.

There is a very simple answer to this. More than any other such publication on the market "Rockets" is what you make it. We will be glad to run technical articles donated by members, or any other material deemed suitable. We are endeavoring to steer a course between the heavy technicality of the Journal of the American Rocket Society, and the ultra conservatism and moralizing line of the Journal of the British Interplanetary Society. Tho in this connection we would like to say that we think the B.I.S. does a superb job with their Journal, and it is the result of much work BY MANY CONTRIBUTORS and gives evidence of much more ample funds than are available to us at this time.

In this issue is what we think is a super cartoon by R. B. Hunter, who can certainly do rings around many of the present pulp SF illustrators. Mr. Hunter shows you the way. It's up to YOU!

Canadian Rocket Society::: Communications addressed to this Society at 58 Hilton Ave., Toronto 10, Ontario, Canada, have been returned by the post office at this location marked "not known". Any member knowing the address of this Society will do us a service to advise us as we have a number of Canadian members who would be interested.

Recruitment Circular::: Those interested in government positions which are either directly or indirectly connected with rocket research should write to: Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners for Scientists and Engineers, Navy Department. 1030 East Green St., Pasadena 1, California. Ask for their latest "Recruitment Circular". These are positions open in California.

Flying Saucers::: We are in receipt of a postcard as follows: "Join! The International Flying Saucer Bureau Today! At Bridgeport, Conn. Box 241. We are the friends of the flying saucer occupants! etc.". We decided long ago that we would have to refrain from joining everything so are passing this invitation along to members who may be interested.



Columbian Rocket Society::: Mr. Carl Rose, 1236 S. Scoville Ave., Berwyn, Illinois wishes to announce the formation of the Columbian Rocket Society. Those interested, in the vicinity, can reach him at the above address.

Journal of the British Interplanetary Society::: We still have on hand a few copies of the March 1947 issue of the Journal of the British Interplanetary Society. They are of interest not only for their content but as collectors items. We have decided to distribute them as a membership bonus with book orders. First come, first served! If you do not get a copy with your book order it is because they will have been all distributed.

Tape-Respondents, International::: Fred Goetz, Sec'y. 3488 - 22nd. St. San Francisco, 10, California, U.S.A. "The new and fascinating hobby-- Tape-response or Wirespondence-- is the most modern and lowest priced means of communication between owners of recorders. --T.R.I. is an association of congenial people who want to make friends everywhere by exchanging "talking letters" with people all over the world. Here is something new, fascinating, intriguing, something fine. This is far more than just a hobby, we think it's great, and we want you to share it!" If you have a tape or wire recorder drop Fred a line, he is a great S Fiction Fan.

New German Rocket Book::: We are advised that fall will see the publishing of "Menschen zwischen den Planeten", by W. v. Braun and Fr. L. Neher. This book will be printed in German but we can get you copies if you so desire. Do not write in for a few months as we do not yet know the price.

Italian Weekly started::: We have been advised by Ing. Armando Silvestri, Casella Postale 515, Italy, Milan, that he is the editor of ALI, which deals with rocketry in Italy. However he did not send a copy so we have only his notice to go by.

MOON MAP::: H. P. Wilkins, FRAS, 35, Fairlawn Ave., Bexleyheath, Kent, England, is the maker of a very large Moon map which is the result of many years work. Should you be interested in such a map kindly contact him direct. We understand it is a 100 inch proposition.

Dutch Rocket Society::: We are advised that the following organization has been started in Holland for Space Travel. "Nederlandse Vereniging voor Ruimtevaart. Mr. de Groot, Secy. % K. N. V. v. L., Anna Paulownaplein 3, den Haag Holland

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### VERY IMPORTANT! VERY IMPORTANT!

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WHEN CORRESPONDING WITH YOUR SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY ABOUT ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE GIVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER!

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The Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Jet Propulsion Centers are now located at Princeton Univ. on the east coast and at the California Institute of Technology on the west coast. At Princeton the Guggenheim Center is a part of the Aeronautical Engineering Dept. and is now being re-located at the new James Forrestal Research Center, on 800 acres recently acquired by the University. The rocket research program is directed by Dr. Luigi Crocco, who is Robert H. Goddard professor of jet propulsion. The set-up at Cal-Tech is roughly similar. Dr. Hsue-Shen Tsien is Robert H. Goddard professor at that institution. If your name is Smith or Jones and you were just born in the United States, better Join the Navy! (See notice elsewhere.) As pink goes, there is nothing pinker than the Daniel Guggenheim Foundation. How old John D., Harriman, Field and Guggenheim must be spinning in their graves!

"CREDITS"::: Science Fiction readers are so accustomed to the use of "credits" for money, by beings of the future, that they accept this as a sure development of the future. What many do not know, however, is that such a thing is slowly taking place today. "The Diners Club", located at 350 - 5th Ave., New York 1, N.Y., started out as an arrangement whereby if you had one of their credit cards you could charge meals at various restaurants. This is such a peachy deal, particularly for income tax purposes, that the gimmick is growing like wild fire. The U.S. is on a credit and checking basis, so why use currency, with all its attendant risks? The Diners Club service now includes auto rental service, hotel accommodations, gift, flower, food and photo services. Also, many credit groups are being formed where one card covers all the dept. stores, etc. in a city. Remember, the FUTURE is in the making TODAY!

### LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Gilbert E. Menicucci, 675 Delano Ave., San Francisco 12, California, writes, --- "it seems strange to me that "Rockets" doesn't come out every month! Other than that your magazine is excellent. --- I would like to have some members of the Society write to me, particularly if they read Science-Fiction." O.K. Members in the Golden Gate area, drop Gil a line.

William P. Harris, Box 124, State College, N.M. "As a result of your article in the last issue of the Society's magazine about the White Sands Proving Ground Cooperative Program, I am now enrolled in the same and I wish to express my appreciation to you for making this possible. Distributing such information is among the highest functions which the

Society can carry out. I only hope that others were likewise able to make use of the information. I look forward to meeting you at the Science Fiction Convention in Chicago over Labor Day Weekend."

Thanks, Bill, we'll be looking forward to seeing you.

Aluminum for meteor shielding:: According to the "Alcoa Aluminum News-Letter" Dr. Fred Whipple of Harvard University, has stated that a thin covering of aluminum, a mere hundredth of an inch in thickness and separated from the main hull by a quarter inch of space, would deflect or simply "explode" these meteors before they could penetrate the inner workings. Do you want to go first Fred, or shall we let the Rhesus monkeys try it out first? Seriously, we have read all we can find about the meteor problem and it all boils down to "nobody knows", we'll have to make the trip to find out. Exploding a meteor a quarter of an inch away from your ships shell might be more disastrous than having it whizz right thru ---- providing you weren't in the way of the whizzer!

#### NEW MEMBERS:

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Lt. T. H. Chenoweth  
512 Knollwood Dr. Apt. 7  
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Arthur M. Chambers  
P.O. Box 80  
East Northport, N.Y.

Richard C. Pierce  
2723 Webb Ave.  
Bronx, N.Y.

Kessler Alley  
Rock Valley Can. Co.  
Belvidere, Ill.

Fred Seeley  
4434 Towle Ave.  
Hammond, Ind.

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3701 S. Lincoln  
Englewood, Colo.

Lee Tower  
4312-14th St. N.W.  
Washington 11, D.C.

David C. Deaton  
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Rt. 11  
Minneapolis 22, Minn.

One of our new members; Mr. Patrick Moore, FRAS, and member of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, is getting out a new book on the Moon, which he expects to be finished next year. At that time we will know more about it. No doubt he will include new material, particularly about observations with the large French telescope. Contrary to what we have always been told, a great wealth of detail is revealed about the Moon with the larger telescopes. It seems strange that our great 200 inch is not used to give us more information about our first way-station in space.

British Interplanetary Society moves::: This vital and dynamic group has outgrown its old quarters and moves to: 12 Bessborough Gardens, S.W.1, London.

From our British Correspondent, Mary Patchett:::

The story goes that Harwell metallurgists are said to have developed a new alloy making possible the construction of a compact atomic reactor capable of generating tremendous power. A thin shield of this will do away with the need for heavy concrete radiation shieldings. Its mountable on a 4 ft. sq. base. Think that's the essence of the thing. (Mary, you're not just batting your gums! We, too, think that it's the thing!)

Attended the 6th Science Fiction convention in England and enjoyed it very much. One of the chief organizers was Ted Carnell, who edits "New Worlds". I met one R.A. Fairthorne who is great electronics expert and one of the 6 top scientists on electronic brains. In fact I went to find out how SF ticks monetarily, enjoyed myself no end and it was an eye-opener. (For near-shut eyes, stiff necks, and swollen egos, we recommend SF chappies!)

TASS reports on Planetary Life::: Gavriel Tikhov, a Soviet Scientist and Astronomer, was quoted by Tass, as saying that in his opinion both animal and vegetable life exists on Mars and Venus, and probably micro-organisms on Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Said he, "—researches show that life is an extremely persistent and pertinacious phenomenon. It can exist in widely differing environments. Life can, and should, exist not only on the planets of the Solar System, but on planets which are moving near the innumerable stars of the endless universe". We certainly agree with this far thinking man. Who can contemplate without a thrill the fact that vast clouds of calcium are said to eddy thru space; and then to realize that the very frame which supports our life and the case within which is our mysterious mind, is calcium! The very elements of the stars are within our very bodies. We are one with the universe! Why, then, deny life elsewhere?

Oddest remark of the year::: "God help religion", said a SF friend of ours, "when Man finds alien life thruout the galaxy!" YOU figure it out.

V-2's in Advertising::: It is a thing of the utmost irony to ye ed to find that, after years of trying to show advertising people the tremendous popular appeal of rockets and space travel, pictures of the poor old V-2 are becoming almost as prominent as the visage of the queen of morons, Elsie the Cow! Just recently the Association of American Railroads finally found out what they were hauling to White Sands and ran a nice full page ad in many mags featuring a V-2 and the slogan, "Can you find the railroad in this picture?" The message being that the faithful old iron horse hauls the fuel and stuff to the new pegasus. V-2 pic used was the same as that being used by Oldsmobile. Could be the same agency, who knows?

#### ROCKET ASSOCIATES, INC.

We have had many inquiries from members and other interested parties, about just what ROCKET ASSOCIATES, INC. is, and what the connection is with the U.S. Rocket Society, Inc. To begin with, the United States Rocket Society, Inc. is a not-for-profit corp. organized under the Laws of the State of Illinois. As such all members have equal voting rights and a pro-rata share of assets, if any, upon dissolution. However it was early found that due to high printing, postage and promotion expenses, the Society was unable to purchase books in quantities sufficient to extend discounts to members, because of lack of cash.

It was therefore necessary to originate a company to handle book sales, and to do this and raise money, "ROCKET ASSOCIATES, INC." was formed. Due to rising costs of books this has proved a losing venture, particularly in the technical book field, where the commercial discounts are very small. However the service will be maintained, as a membership benefit. This is due to the fact that the Society itself holds substantial stock in "ROCKET ASSOCIATES, INC."

We have decided however to branch out in a much stronger fashion, using "ROCKET ASSOCIATES, INC." as the medium. Last winter one of the directors traveled thru the southwest, seeking sites for rocket experimentation and found several very good sites. In addition, land is cheap and mineral rights are always a long term speculation. Sites were also looked at in Wyoming and other parts of the west. An interesting side light was the interest of some municipalities in having the Society conduct its operations from their locations.

A very interesting point is also the fact that in the opinion of many the time is now ripe for a private approach to the problem of space travel. The very large corporations, whom at first glance would be the first to jump into the fray, are the very ones who are content to receive govern-

ment contracts to develop government rocketry and show a surprising lack of interest of their own.

We are now at the point where we must go forward; and strongly. It is our intention to sell our unissued stock and to invest the proceeds in such companies which, in our opinion are directly concerned with space travel and atomic enefgy. We believe that vast profits will accrue to companies in these fields, even before the first moon flight. We therefore are now offering stock in "ROCKET ASSOCIATES, INC." at \$5.00 per share. No dividends are being paid at this time nor are any in prospect. It is an out and out speculation --- but then I have seen people who should know better put \$125. in a slot machine in a few minutes. If you like long shots-----what's longer than a SHOT TO THE MOON?

To purchase stock, from 1 share up, send funds in multiples of \$5, to: "ROCKET ASSOCIATES, INC." Box 29, GLEN ELLYN, ILL. U.S.A.

#### "SAUCERS" again in the News:::

As members have no doubt heard, since we are just going to press today, (the 30th of July) "Flying Saucers" are again very much in the news. All of us however should warn observers and news agencies against the unfortunate use of the word "saucers". There is not much doubt but that this name comes from observations of Navy and Air Force high altitude research balloons. These balloons, of a translucent plastic, afloat at high altitudes, look, from the bottom, like saucers or disks. Most of the reports of "unidentified" objects, which have reached us, are of an ellipsoid, or egg or raindrop shape. However, in "200 Miles Up", by Gordon Vaeth of the U.S. Navy high altitude research staff, Vaeth states that while on location, with their instruments tracking their balloons, "unidentified" objects did cross their trackings and upon noting them their instruments were taken off of the balloons and entered upon the objects.

Recently news dispatches tell of such objects over Washington, D.C. On the night of July 27 Mr. Farnsworth was called by United Press and asked to give his opinion or a statement about his view of these releases. This was given wide publicity, over the entire United States and should be to the Society's credit. Next night we were called by the Society Vice-President, Mr. John M. Griggs in New Jersey, and told of a news dispatch which purported to say that the Armed Forces had orders to shoot these objects down on sight. At this Mr. Farnsworth immediately sent the following wire to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army and of the Navy:

"I respectfully suggest that no offensive action be taken against the objects reported as unidentified which have been sighted over our Nation. Should they be extra-terrestrial such action might result in the gravest consequences, as well as possibly aliena-



ting us from beings of far superior powers. Friendly contact should be sought as long as possible. Signed, Robert L. Farnsworth, Pres. U.S. Rocket Society, Inc."

the next day, July 29, 1952, through the courtesy of Radio and TV station WGN, Mr. Farnsworth appeared on a short news interview given by Spencer Allen at 6:45 Chicago time. The Society stand on this phenomena is as follows:

The objects must be one of four things.

1. Natural objects.
2. Constructions of a foreign government.
3. Constructions of our own government.
4. Extra-terrestrial in origin.

1. If natural objects, (meteors, fire-balls, clouds, etc.) we must throw away very good testimony by competent observers. This does not make very good sense; IF we can trust reports of change in speed and direction of the objects, which indicates intelligent guidance.

2. Even more fantastic, in our opinion, is the view that they are constructions of foreign governments. It hardly seems possible, when we are just starting to build atomic powered craft, that any power on earth is this far ahead of us.

3. It can not be discounted that they could be constructions of our own government and the whole show is one for larger military appropriations. However it is hard to conceive of any government playing "footie" with its taxpayers to such an extent.

4. The least fantastic idea is that they are truly visitors from space. It must be borne in mind that it has only been in the last 50 years that the handi-work of man would be visible on the night side of Earth. The electric light and the vast growth of the worlds cities, make easy observation of growing light areas on Earth. Again, it has only been in the last 25 years that we have flooded the heavens with radiations of all kinds. Radar, Radio, Television, X-rays and of course the numerous atomic explosions that have taken place in the last few years. While it is fruitless to speculate on where these objects originate, Mars can not be ruled out. Solely because of its splendid location in being able to observe the dark side of Earth quite readily. Any intelligences with instruments even only similiar to ours could readily find plenty evidences of life on Earth. Then, when it is realized that only a few years have sufficed in all of Man's history to have brought about our technical advances, it is surely conceivable that older races might be greatly

ahead of us in this respect. Also bear in mind that it is only a tiny sector of Earth which today has these advanced techniques and most of the world's population is still sunk in ignorance and savagery.

When accepting the idea that these objects are extra-terrestrial in origin, "the sky is the limit" on guessing who, what and where.

If Charles Fort were alive he might say;

"Maybe it's our keepers!"

All such speculations are based upon such reports as have filtered to us thru the government, our members and the press. If these reports are erroneous our conclusions are in error also.

#### New Members (continued)

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MASH 8225th AV  
APO 301 PM San Fran., Cal.

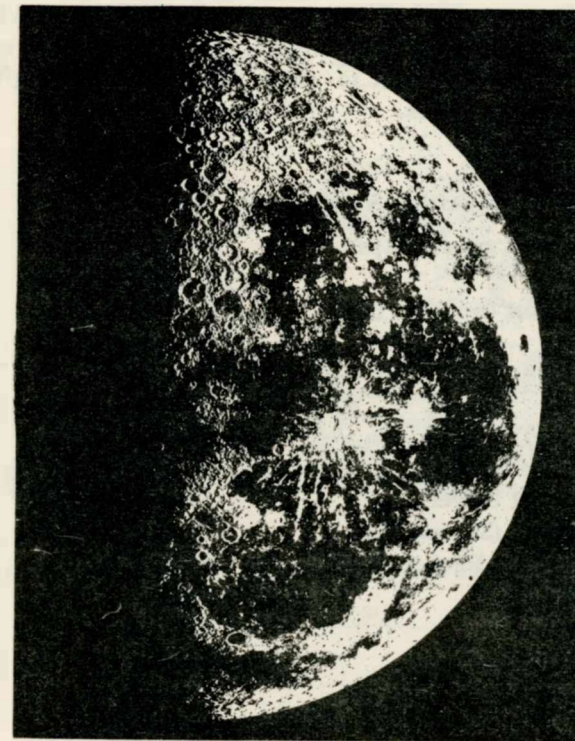
Capt. W. K. Douglas  
19967-A 6602nd  
Med. Grp. APO 864, PM, NY



NO! You are not seeing things! This is a member of the United States Rocket Society, Inc. and she wins our picture contest for this issue. (And gets a choice of any book on our book list) The adventuresome young lady, (whom we would most like to see in the space suit next to us on the Moon), is Lois Nixon, of 419 S. New St., Springfield, Illinois.

Of one thing you may be fairly certain. If the first rocket to the Moon or Mars is all men, the next one will contain Women. And then the trouble will start! We are apt to forget that all ancient Armies and Navies and exploration parties took their women with them. Even up to modern times women followed the Armies. Present day organizations, due to rotation of service, furloughs, etc. have dispensed with the ladies, for a while. For now the WAC'S and WAVE'S are a part of our Armed forces. It is a matter of distance and transportation. No permanent conquest of the planets can be made without the Women -- "Tom Smith! You simply can't go out in that space suit another day with that old suit of space underwear on!"

Along side of the ox team; behind her man with the Long Rifle and the axe, strode the woman of the pioneer, carrying in her arms the future of the race, and the Nation.



## THE OBJECTIVE

Let us not forget; among the vast bulk of pages of mathematical formula, among the long years of technical training, research, investigation and planning, that out there, within 220,000 miles (mid-gravity point) lies our objective. A Global Empire! Upon which in all recorded history the foot of man has never trod! A vast world! A challenge to all scientists and engineers! The great metropolis of the interplanetary future! The goal of the struggles of a thousand laboratories! The unspoken problem of tomorrow in the chancellories of the world! The Key to Space! The riches of a million golcondas! Members of the United States Rocket Society, Inc., do not lose sight of our objective; THE MOON! Given the funds, the will and your cooperation, it CAN BE OURS! MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT: IT IS UP TO YOU! Not to the U.S.Army, not to the U.N.; but, if YOU want it, WE can have it! It is purely and simply a matter of money! And so was the voyage of Columbus!

## JULY BOOK LIST

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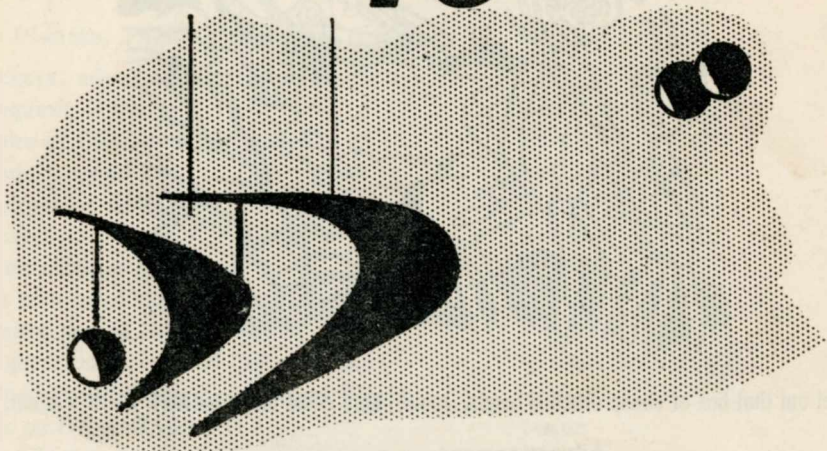
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