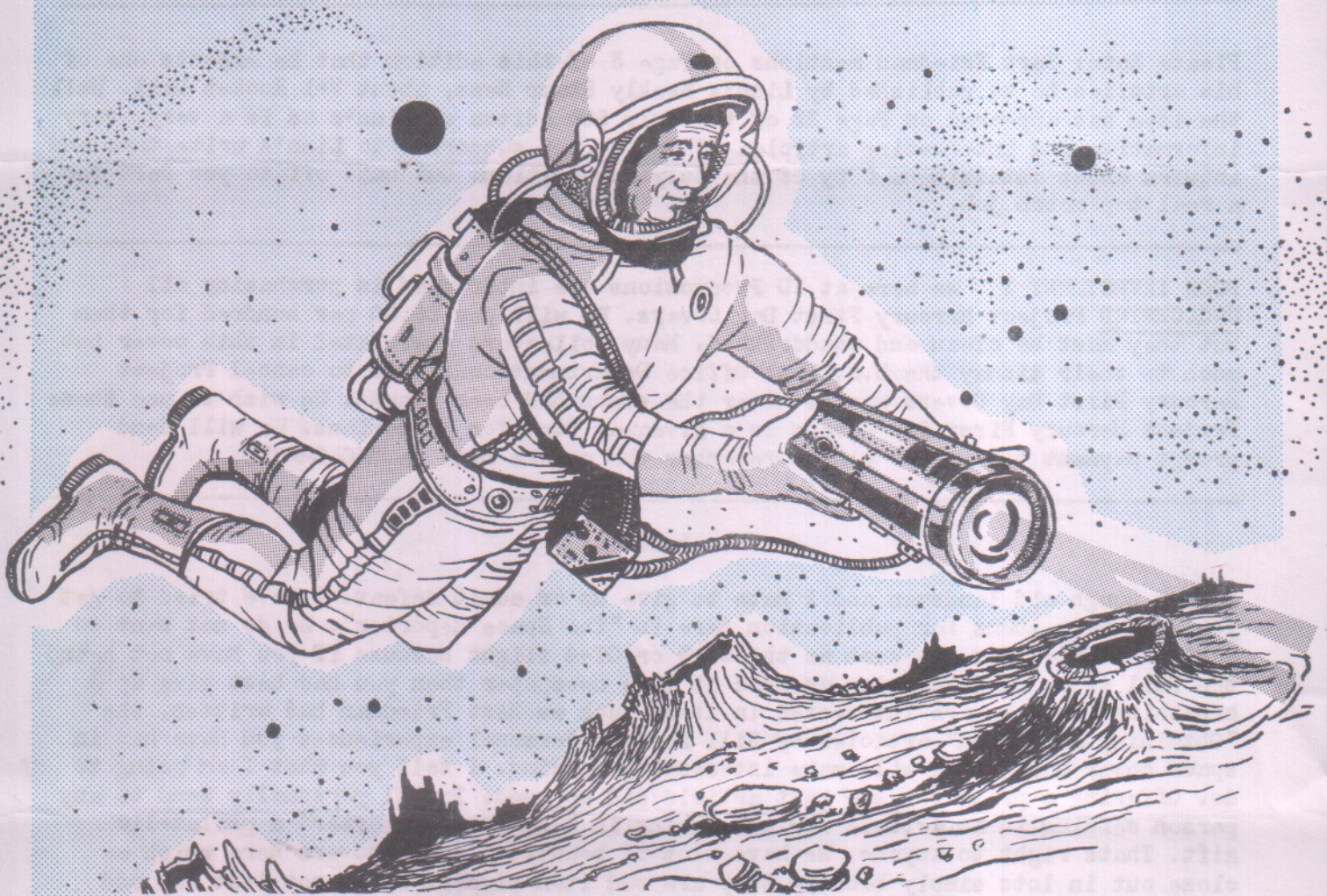


The

SPACE



REPORTER

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" The Space Reporter "

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Editor: Tom Dixon
Associate Editor: Bill Luetge
Gossip: Bert Friedman

Unhinged: Chester Claff
Roving Reporter: Jim Demarest
Public Relations: Jo Russo

Volume II, Number IV

Please Note: Bert Friedman mentions on Page 3 of this edition that he expects one of his articles to be published by Linn's Weekly Stamp News, about V-1 Rocket Mail. Well the item has appeared on Page 22 of the July 5th edition of Linn's as is a very, very informative and interesting article. If you do not subscribe to Linn's write them and inquire about obtaining a copy of the July 5th Edition. Our hats off to you Bert for a real top notch job.

POOR INVESTMENT ? We here at TD Productions are interested in purchasing all UNCAHETED Project Mercury First Day Covers. We will pay \$6.00 per hundred for them but they must be clean and unaddressed. Many collectors speculated in this cover but much to their dismay the U.S. Post Office Department continued to cancel Project Mercury First Day Covers months after the stamp had been issued. We wish to use these Project Mercury First Day Covers as a giveaway item for promotions. We will send prompt payment to you but please remember the covers must be UNCAHETED.

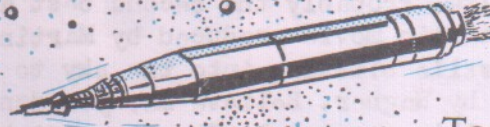
Dear Readers:

I am a tough old landsman and I hate to give up or admit defeat. I have tried to get you to submit items for publication here in "The Space Reporter". We do not want to publish stories for you such as the GT-3 or GT-4 flight because if you have not heard the full story on television or read it in a newspaper then you had best give up breathing also. We are interested in items such as Bert Friedman has written, the "Obtaining Autograph" articles by Bill Luetge. Personal experiences you have had in space cover collecting will make interesting reading. I tell you what I am going to do. Offering a prize for the best article did no good. I will personally send to any person sending in an article for publishing in "The Space Reporter" a philatelic gift. That's right to anyone. We have a lot of beautiful space covers here which we close out in lots simply because they are odd item pieces. We do not list any odd (single piece) covers on our price list. I want you to take me up on this and you will not be sorry and I hope we get articles from 50 readers. We are trying to give you information which cannot be obtained in any other medium. Lets keep this publication informal but lets get rolling. I promise you that if I receive 10 articles within the next month for publication then I will write a few articles that will be well worth all the money you will spend on space covers for the next 10 years. Please take me up on it and lets get going.

I would like your feelings on the following. I have been trying with the idea of publishing a "Space Launch Cover Album". Do you think our hobby is ready for this type of thing? Would you purchase a "Space Launch Cover Album" if one is made available to you? I would appreciate it very much if when the next time you write us you would be kind enough to give us your feelings on this. Thank you Tom Dixon

SPACE

Editorial



By

Tom Dixon

I begin this edition of "The Space Reporter" with another sad note. Covers will no longer be serviced for the missile shots at the Pacific Missile Range, Kauai Hawaii. No reason was given but I am sure its the same old thing, collectors greed. The more I am in this business the more good things I have seen killed. In the several articles I wrote concerning the servicing of covers at this site I warned collectors not to send more than 3 covers per launch. Well thats down the drain now but I think its about time collectors realized something.

The people at Kauai Hawaii were doing this out of the goodness of their hearts and their service fee was NOTHING. In the event you do not realize it, there are people in the launch areas here in the United States who charge 10¢ per cover to cancel covers. From the standpoint of us (TD Productions) as dealers we are allowed a little break because we cancel in huge quantities BUT even in huge quantities we still must pay 10¢ per cover to have our covers serviced. I wanted to speak out about this many times and this provides me with a good opportunity. A 10¢ cover fee PER COVER is outrageous and just plain thievery but pay it we must. As dealers to service First Day Covers, and mind you the servicer puts the stamps on each cover, returns them to us under seperate cover, at 2¢ per cover.

Perhaps this will make you think twice when you send covers to people who are extending a courtesy, and goodbye to another good thing.

In all the articles I have read about obtaining autographs I have yet to see the following Astronaut's names listed. Believe me they are Astronauts and you can obtain their autographs by sending one cover to each one as follows.

Name of Astronaut
Edwards Air Force Base Test Flight Center
Edwards Air Force Base, California

The names of the Astronauts: Major James W. Wood
Major Henry C. Gordon
Capt. William J. Inight
Major Russell L. Rogers
Capt. Albert H. Crews Jr.
Milton O. Thompson
Robert Rushworth
Capt. Joseph Engels
Joe Walker

Please note above I mention we must still pay 10¢ per cover but some cover servicers do allow us a break ?, but some we must still pay the good old dime. See you next time around and have a nice summer.

" Gossip " by Bert Friedman

For those readers that intend to visit New York and take in the fiasco of Flushing Meadows (The World's Fair), I think I'll give a short space guide. The United States "Space Park" is certainly the main attraction for rocket buffs. Be sure to take your camera as many probes are on exhibit, along with boosters such as Atlas, Titan, and the Thor-Delta. Probably the second best area is the "Hall of Science". They have a really fantastic movie produced by Martin-Marietta. This free film shows missile after missile blasting into the sky to the background theme of "The Ride of the Valkyries" by Wagner. Believe me, you don't have to be Teutonic to tingle all over while viewing this spectacular. The Missouri building shows a few of the capsules built by McDonnell such as the Mercury and Gemini. There is also a movie "To the Moon and Beyond" in the transportation area. This was rather dissapointing as a film to me, as it cost 75¢ for just a 20 minute showing, and somehow was not as striking as the Martin-Marietta movie. There are a few other exhibits showing various sidelines of space progress, but I believe I have mentioned the main ones.

I was amused to note that right along side my last column attacking the rash of amateur rocket mail, Tom Dixon was plugging the R.R.I. rocket covers. To my chagrin, I must admit that I personally subscribe to their rocket service myself. They do really lovely work, as is proven once again by the Grissom-Young covers that I have recently received from them. However in all honesty, I don't believe that you should put too much faith in these covers ever amounting to much in the way of rocket mail. I suggest you simply collect them as beautiful commemorative covers, and hope for the best.

I hope that you read the recent "Reader's Digest" article on "Italy's Amazing Space Watchers". It is a fascinating story of what young men can do with no money, but loads of intellect and effort. It seems that there may be some fact to those rumors that we have been hearing about the losses of Russian Cosmonauts. Besides this article, in a recent edition of "missiles and rockets" there was another mention of men being lost in space by the Russians. Perhaps one day we shall hear the true story of their lunar program.

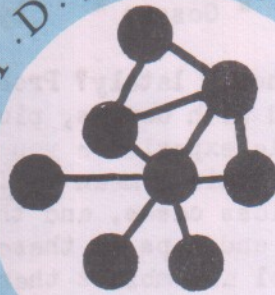
While on the subject of Russia..Is it safe to say that the tide is finally starting to turn in this sea of space we are both trying to explore? While we are at this moment on a "hot" streak of three Ranger and four Gemini successes, the Russians have muffed two in a row. I refer of course to the deep space probe "Zond 2", and the failure of Lunik V to soft-land on the Moon. By the way, I have not heard much about the Lunik IV failure of 4/2/63. This probe took three days to reach the moon, and I have always considered that it too was an attempt to soft-land on the lunar surface.

In my last column I promised a short article on the V-1 missile mail (leaflets) and inquired if there was any interest. Linn's Weekly Stamp News was very interested and has asked for a brief discussion of the V-1 flights plus illustrations. I hope that you will look for it, or if this edition of "The Space Reporter" is late getting out (Ed. Note ????? Grrr Grrr Grr), I hope that you saw it. I'm a buff for V-1 mail, but unfortunately can't afford to buy any of the darn things.

con't page 5

ASTRO

T. D. Productions



QUERIES

by



" More Autographs " by Bill Luetge
Associate Editor

Having read Mr. Art Silhanek's fine article appearing in Volume II, Number III of "The Space Reporter" regarding autographs of persons involved in our space program I have some to add which might be of value to the readers of this publication.

Although none are presently, actively, engaged in our space program, their contributions to space research, which appears below, makes them fall into the collection of such personalities as have broadened man's knowledge of space. This is not to be construed as a complete list of such personalities. If any of you readers have information about others who have added to our knowledge of space, "The Space Reporter" would be happy to hear from you. Of course you will be given credit for the information you submit. The list appears as follows:

Willy Ley, 37-26 77th Street, Jackson Heights 72, N.Y.. Mr. Ley conducted many rocket launch experiments.

V. M. Slipher, Post Office 326, Flagstaff Arizona 86002. He discovered information which discovered the rotation periods of the planets. His discovery of molecular bands in the planetary spectrum ultimately led to the identification of their atmospheric composition. He organized and guided the search which resulted in the discovery of the Planet Pluto.

Hermann Oberth, 8561 Feucht, West Germany. Mr Oberth worked with Dr. von Braun in Germany during World War II in rocket experiments. He was an early rocket experimenter.

Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge Mass.. Mr. Shapley led pioneer studies of the Milky Way. He showed that Cepheid variables cannot be eclipsing binaries, and was the first to advocate the theoretically important view that they are pulsating stars.

Tsung-Dao Lee, Columbia University & Chen Ning Yang, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton New Jersey. Both won the 1957 Nobel Prize in physics for their discovery of the violations of the principle of parity (the principle of space reflection symmetry.) End

Ed. Note: I doubt if collectors know it but Dr. Kurt Debus, Director of Launch Operations at Cape Canaveral also worked with Dr. Wehrner von Braun in the early rocket experiments at Peenemuende Germany as did Hermann Oberth. These three men along with our good Dr. Robert H. Goddard are true pioneers in the field of rocketry.

What have you done for your hobby lately? Probably every person reading this column has a couple of books filled with covers, pictures, autographs etc. on the field of space. No matter how little experience you have, there is a certain duty we owe to our hobby and each other. By this I mean EXHIBITING. Do you realize that every library in the country has a few glass cases, and that librarians hate to be bothered with the continual change of books and maps in these cases? Do you realize at Cub Scout meetings, or elementary school assemblies there is a constant search for new intellectual pursuits to challenge the mind of youngsters? And so as not to appear too motivated by charity, do you realize that every new person brought into this hobby ultimately makes your own collection more valuable? I have started a personal crusade to get people in my area interested in space material. I talked the head librarian of the Astoria Branch of the Public Library into allowing me to exhibit space material from May 3rd to May 17th. Much interest was shown in the exhibit, and I now have been requested by a Librarian in Larchmont New York to ship the exhibit up there later in the year. Now I went to no trouble or expense in putting the exhibit together. A few pages from various albums of mine showing lunar shots, an autographed cover of Glenn and Titov, some Ranger 7 photos, and filled up the case with colorful space books taken right off the shelves. What could be easier? I would like each of you out there to take it upon yourself to start showing your material. In fact I am going to volunteer Tom Dixon as a prize giver (Ed. Note Grrr Grr) for this operation. I'm sure that he knows as well as I do that publicity is the key to his own interests in this field. If each reader will send me a note stating where he has shown his material, to how many etc., I'll keep on Tom's back until he gives a nice prize of some kind to the one that over a period of...lets say the next six months, does the most for space collecting. I will be happy to publish your names in this column upon receipt of your letters. Wait until Tom hears about this ??????. end

An open letter to Bert Friedman:

Bert first I would sincerely like to apologize to you for plugging the R.R.I. flown items in my Editorial while you had an article in the same edition warning collectors about some of this JUNK. By your own admission you own some of this material Bert and you probably have overlooked the reason why. First this is a non-profit organization and there items are modestly priced. Which is a far cry from some of the foreign flown junk. I think collectors would drop dead in their tracks if they saw some of the rockets (?) in which their covers were flown. Nothing more than damn pipes and I have photos of some of them. This I agree is sucker bait as you put it. Lastly Bert I did not read your article before it ran or I would never have chosen that edition for plugging the R.R.I.. In summation I am sure you will agree that the R.R.I. does produce nice covers and very modestly priced.

Bert I would be more than happy to present a prize (and a damn nice one) to the person who you feel has done the most to promote our hobby, as outlined by you above. Bert we are a little late with this edition of "The Space Reporter" so I would like to have the following collector placed in contention for this prize. His name is Mr. David M. Tattersall, 731 Wall Street, Salt Lake City Utah. Mr. Tattersall really did accomplish something in that he won FIRST PRIZE with his "Conquest of Space" exhibit out of 32 entries in the Topical Section at the Cottonwood Mall Salt Lake City which was sponsored by the Utah Philatelic Society. Mr Tattersal is Vice President of the Utah Philatelic Society.

Bert I will go along with the prize but people (or readers) must cooperate, as I am sure you can understand. I sincerely look forward to some more articles from you since I consider your writing top notch. You always have something new and important to say in your articles and you do not re-hash and hash over the same old items.

end

Sincerely,
Tom Dixon