

# Space Journal

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## Vox Populi

Rocket City Astronomical Association

Space Enterprises, Inc.

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# REACTION

vox populi

In order to prevent delays, all reaction mail and manuscripts submitted to SPACE Journal must be addressed to SPACE Journal, P.O. Box 82, Huntsville, Alabama. Similarly all subscriptions or inquiries concerning subscriptions must be addressed to SPACE Journal, P.O. Box 94, Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the copy of the spring edition of SPACE Journal, which is dedicated to my late husband.

You have every right to be proud of your publication, and to be particularly proud of the article about my husband. It is one of the very best that will be in the book I keep for published stories about him.

With congratulations on this fine story, and appreciation of your courtesy, sincerely  
Worcester, Mass. Mrs. Esther C. Goddard

Dear Editor,

I have read your first issue of SPACE Journal very completely and from my observation I would like to state that of all such publications on the market, yours is by far the most superior. I offer my congratulations for a terrific job. . . .

W. A. Shuping  
Director of Operations

Missile, Rocket and Space Division  
Vitro Corporation of America  
Martinsburg, W. Va.

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed your spring issue very much, but I would like to call your attention to figure 4, page 12. I am sure that you will find that it is not the Crab Nebula but that it is the Whirlpool galaxy (sometimes called Whirlpool Nebula), M51, as listed in Charles Messier's list.

Nashville, Tenn.

Frank H. Reeves

Dear Editor,

Your Vol. 1, No. 2, of SPACE Journal has just fallen into my hands. As I am a science teacher in the Lake Geneva High School, I was very interested to see what you had to offer.

. . . I was shocked however to find that the photograph on page 12, figure four, was captioned the Crab Nebula. This must be an error. It looks more like M51, the Whirlpool Nebula in Canes Venatici. . . .

I am also the sponsor of the Lake Geneva science club. My club members have asked about starting a rocket division in the club. Now I am well aware of the dangers that lie in such an operation, and I do not want anyone to get hurt.

I have told my people that I do not want them to build any overnight rocket and that there is little to be gained from just throwing something together and shooting it off. I want a lot of study to go into such a thing before it is done, if ever.

Frankly I would like some good sound advice on how to proceed with the organization and operation of such a club. I know nothing about rocket fuels except that they are very touchy and dangerous to handle. Is there some kind of program that we can undertake that would interest the club members and still be safe and constructive?

Photo Service Department Donald W. Carter  
Yerkes Observatory  
Williams Bay, Wisc.

Readers Reeves and Carter, and a host of others, are correct in identifying the illustration on page 12 as the Whirlpool Nebula, or M51, in Canes Venatici. The mix-up occurred when the staff was attempting to rush the second issue through the printers after celebrating the successful orbiting of Explorer I. While this is certainly no valid excuse, we feel that the circumstances were at least mitigating. As for reader Carter's science club and its activities in rocketry, I urge you not to attempt to build rockets propelled by any form of explosive, such as black powder, home-made mixtures based on powdered metals, compressed gasses, etc. You should begin by studying the basic physical principles which underlie rocketry. It may not sound inviting or exciting to begin a project in rocketry by reading physics. However, you will find that your project will take on new depths of meaning and possibilities as you delve into these basic principles. Only after you have mastered the fundamentals and have become completely familiar with the deadly power of even the most simple explosive will you be ready to attempt the construction of rockets. Editor.

Dear Editor,

Our group has recently become very interested in the properties of space. We found some questions for which answers were unobtainable. Since we have heard of your magazine, we wondered whether you could be of assistance to us. Would it be possible for man to adapt himself to the moon in a great number (perhaps millions) of years?

We would appreciate any aid which you could supply on this subject.

Ridley College                      Joe F. Law  
Ontario, Canada

In answer to your question "Would it be possible for man to adapt himself to the moon in a great number (perhaps millions) of years?", I must give you both a yes and a no, qualifying each according to my interpretation of your question.

The answer is no if you are thinking about adaptation by way of what we call evolution since all forms of life, as we know it, require oxygen.

If you mean by adaptation man's ability to create artificial environmental conditions on the moon which will eventually permit establishment of experimental scientific laboratories, mining, factories, and even cities, the answer is a very positive yes. Editor.

Dear Editor,

Since the first issue of SPACE Journal was dedicated to Prof. Herman Oberth, "Father of Astronautics," and the second to Dr. Robert H. Goddard, "Father of Rocketry," it is fitting to note that the careers of these two great scientists crossed briefly in 1921.

On learning of Dr. Goddard's report "A Method of Reaching Extreme Altitudes," Prof. Oberth, then a student of mathematics at Heidelberg, wrote to Dr. Goddard, in his limited English, as follows:

"Dear Sir:

Already many years I work at the problem to pass over the atmosphere of our earth by means of a rocket. When I was now publishing the result of my examinations and calculations, I learned by the newspaper that I am not alone in my inquiries and that you, dear Sir, have already done much important works at this sphere. In spite of my efforts, I did not succeed in getting your books about this object. Therefore, I beg you, dear Sir, to let them have me. At once after coming out of my work I will be honored to send it to you, for I think that only by common work of the scholars of all nations can be solved this great problem.

Yours very truly,  
Hermann Oberth  
Student Math. Heidelberg"

Huntsville, Ala.

George A. Ferrell

Thanks to reader Ferrell for bringing this interesting letter to the attention of our other readers. In May or June of 1922, Dr. Goddard sent a copy of his work to Prof. Oberth. By the time that Prof. Oberth's own work was published in Germany in 1923, Dr. Goddard had carried his experiments in liquid-fueled rockets to the point of actual testfiring. Editor.



Dear Editor,

I read your copy of SPACE Journal while making fudge. Although the fudge wasn't any good, I thoroughly enjoyed your magazine. Articles I especially liked were Dr. von Braun's "Where Are We Going?", "Father of Rocketry," "Rocket Mail," and "Reaction."

SPACE Journal has everything in it that I have always wished for but never found until now. Please continue the good work, but please don't discontinue the poetry or space fiction.

St. Louis, Mo.

Donna Lucido

Dear Editor,

I have just finished reading Vol. 1, No. 2, of SPACE Journal. I especially enjoyed the article "Mars and Beyond." A number of other boys here at school are interested in space travel. We have all found your publication helpful in the classroom. I've read a number of magazines concerning space travel, but I find yours the most factual. I like the way it gives a broad view of the topic you are discussing.

I beg to differ with Joe Gibson ("Reaction," Vol. 1, No. 2). I think that the short story gives a bit of variety to the magazine and that you should continue it.

St. John's Military Academy Barry Hackner  
Delafield, Wis.

Dear Editor

You would do your magazine and its readers a service if you dropped the space fiction.

William E. Dennen  
Associate Editor

Children's Books  
Little, Brown and Co.  
Boston, Mass.

*Readers Lucido, Dennen, and Hackner touch upon a point which has had the staff in grave doubts: the desirability of continuing space fiction and poetry in SPACE Journal. So far opinion has been evenly divided among the editors, but the final decision will have to come from the readers. For this reason, we are most anxious to have the reaction to space fiction and poetry from as many readers as possible. We also suggest, parenthetically,*

*that reader Lucido read her SPACE Journal either before or after—not while—making her next batch of fudge. Editor.*

Dear Editor,

My copy of SPACE Journal, Vol. 1, No. 1, second printing, has for its cover a reproduction of Chesley Bonestell's painting depicting the separation of the first stage of a four-stage spaceship. Yet the caption on the contents page reveals that a portrait of Prof. Oberth should have graced the cover. This is borne out by the photo on page 31 of issue No. 2, showing such a cover. The cover change, I assume, was due to the need for a second printing, but why didn't you change the caption? Then too, different covers for the same issue may confuse things a bit for readers who wish to collect and bind SPACE Journal. An unimportant matter, but I thought that it should be brought to your attention.

I too shared Mr. Gibson's feelings (reaction, spring issue) when I first saw your magazine on the newsstand. And I too became a convert after glancing through it. Yours is an excellent publication.

Chicago, Ill.

Ken Sablik

*The reprinting of the first issue was done in a hasty manner. The change in cover was done not with guile but with the advice of a large news distributor. The discrepancy which reader Sablik notes on the contents page was a blunder which resulted from the haste in getting the second printing out. Incidentally, the cover on the second printing of the first issue is a product of SPACE Journal's art staff—which is inexpressibly proud of having its efforts mistaken for that quality which space enthusiasts have come to identify as the Bonestell touch. Editor.*