

MYSTERY ON THE MOON

By Dan Lloyd

Pressure of current UFO events has kept this article out of several recent issues. Nevertheless we feel our readers would like to see this remarkable photograph.

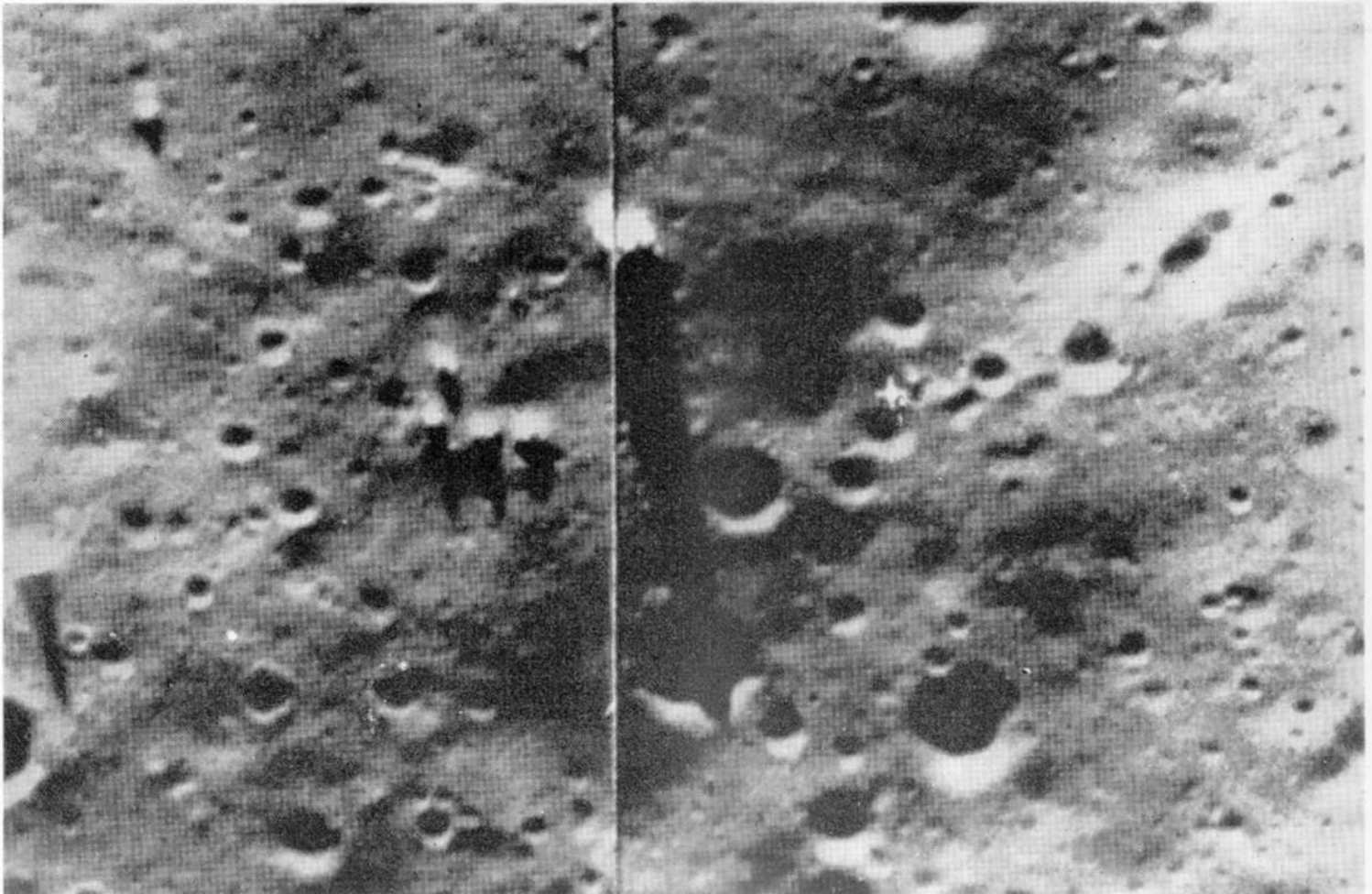
EVER since man first gazed up at the sky and speculated about the heavenly bodies, the Moon has been an object of awe and reverence. Ancient worshippers looked up to it as a Deity; poets and lovers have always felt something of the same numinous attraction; and now our Space Age scientists have added one more mystery to the eternal riddle of the Earth's satellite.

In November 1966, the American spacecraft Lunar Orbiter II was launched from Cape Kennedy and began its survey mission of the Moon on November 18. On

November 21, at an altitude of 48 kilometres (30 miles), the spacecraft's telephoto lens relayed to Earth a series of photographs taken of a small section of the Sea of Tranquility, a dry plain just North and East of the Moon's centre.

The photograph shown here covers an area of about 165 by 225 metres and was enlarged five times from the original film recorded at the Goldstone Tracking Station in California. The photograph clearly shows six spike-like shadows on the Moon's surface. Scientists have hailed these shadows as one of the most unusual

MYSTERIOUS MOON SHADOWS PHOTOGRAPHED BY ORBITER II. These six spike-like shadows on the Moon were photographed and relayed to Earth by the Lunar Orbiter II spacecraft November 21. The tapered shadows range in length up to 22.5 meters. All were in a small section of the Sea of Tranquility, a dry plain just North and East of the Moon's center. Scientists have hailed the shadows as one of the most unusual features of the Moon ever photographed, but feel that the protuberances casting the shadows are naturally-occurring features of the lunar surface. The photo covers an area about 165 by 225 meters and was enlarged five times from the original film recorded at the Goldstone Tracking Station in California. The small white crosses are reference marks used by scientists for photographic measurements. This photo, part of primary site 4, was taken by the Orbiter's telephoto lens from an altitude of 48 kilometers above the Moon. Orbiter II, launched November 6 from Cape Kennedy, began its survey mission November 18 to take up to 422 pictures of 13 possible landing sites for Apollo astronauts. (U.S.I.S. caption)



Photograph by courtesy of USIS.

features of the Moon ever photographed, but feel that the protuberances casting the shadows are naturally-occurring features of the lunar surface.

However, Mr. William Blair, a Seattle anthropologist and a member of the Boeing Company's biotechnology unit, has stated that the "spires" form a geometric pattern similar to columns built by man.

Emphasising that he is not asserting that the spires are the work of a transitory intelligence, he adds:

"If such a complex of structures were photographed on Earth, the archaeologist's first order of business would be to inspect and excavate test trenches and thus validate whether the prospective site has archaeological significance."

When he went over the photo with a compass and protractor, Blair found that the spires formed a basic X, Y and Z right-angle co-ordinate system, six isosceles triangles and two axes consisting of three points each.

He also discovered in the photo what appears to be a large rectangular-shaped depression, or "pit", directly west of the largest spire, estimated to be as tall as 70ft. The shadow cast by this depression, says Blair, seems to indicate four 90-degree angles and resembles the profile of an eroded pit structure.

Blair analysed this Moon spire photo the same way as he used aerial survey maps to look for possible prehistoric archaeological sites in the south-west United States.

He would look for geometric patterns in earth structures because, "except for primitive, nomadic peoples, man tends to construct single and multiple structures in geometric forms."

Blair's speculations were discounted by most of the space scientists of the Boeing Company, which built the

Lunar Orbiter. They believe that some geophysical event is responsible for producing the spires.

Dr. Richard W. Shorthill of the Boeing Scientific Research Laboratory, an expert on Moon topography, says that there are many of these rocks on the Moon's surface. By picking some at random, you will eventually find a group that seems to conform to some kind of pattern.

But Blair is adamant. If this same "axiom" were applied to the origin of such surface features on Earth, he states, more than half of the present known Aztec and Mayan architecture would still be under tree- and bush-studded depressions—the result of natural geophysical processes.

"The science of archaeology," he says, "would never have been developed, and most of the present knowledge of man's physical evolution would still be a mystery."

And so, while the scientists wrangle, the Moon remains as big a puzzle as ever.

It is tempting to speculate about the possible connection between the giant stones of Stonehenge and similar prehistoric memorials and the spires on the Moon's surface. But such speculation, while affording intellectual diversion, is no substitute for the objective accumulation of facts. When enough facts have been gathered, they will speak for themselves. Theories may be adapted to suit the facts, but the facts should never be twisted to fit the theories. And we are going to need many, many more facts about the Moon before Man will be in a position to read her inscrutable smile.

Reference: *Los Angeles Time* of January 26, 1967, (by courtesy Mr. W. H. Church).

ON THE ROAD TO TAMPICO

By Jesus H. Garibay

Our contributor is APRO representative in Mexico

WHEN I read the article *Can they see us?* by Dr. Bernard E. Finch, in the March/April 1968 issue of FSR, I realised there was some support for his hypothesis in an incident that recently occurred in my country. It is possible that there could be a natural explanation, but let us first look at the interesting facts, and then decide.

I first learned of the story from the Mexico City newspaper *La Prensa*, where I read that the witnesses were Salvador Flores and Rafael Martinez, drivers of bus No. 42 on the route Mexico-Tuxpan-Tampico-Barra Alamos, which is served by the Omnibus de Mexico Company.

At 11.00 p.m. on March 23, 1968, the bus set off from Mexico City en route for Tampico, State of Tampico. After they had travelled for approximately 120 kilometres (the time by then was 1.30 a.m. on March 24) an "object" approached the bus at an estimated altitude of 50 metres. It was Flores, the senior driver, who first saw the object. He could not distinguish any particular shape in the powerful blue-white light which was pain-

ful to the eyes. Badly dazzled he awakened the second driver, Martinez. As they watched, the "light" quickly changed its colour to red, then to violet, and then it extinguished—or disappeared.

Flores had stopped the bus abruptly and, presumably, had awakened a few of the passengers. In fact, the drivers discovered that three or four of the passengers had also seen the "thing".

"Whatever it was—and I have been in a number of tough fights—it made me feel very panicky" said driver Flores. Continuing his description of the incident he told how: "The thing passed close to our left hand side, and it was a miracle we did not fall over a little precipice to our right. At first I thought it was a car on the hill to our side. Then I thought it was a plane; then a shell exploding. However, it was not one of those things."

Flores did not hear any strange noises, but he observed that his wrist watch stopped for five minutes.

When they reached the next town—Tulancingo, State of Pachuca—Flores was unable to continue driving, and his partner Martinez had to take over.