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FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON

By JULES VERNE



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FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON

By JULES VERNE



HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH BECKONS THE MOST MYSTERIOUS LAND IN THE UNIVERSE... THE MOON. SINCE MAN'S FIRST NIGHT ON EARTH, HE HAS WONDERED ABOUT THIS GREAT LAMP THAT HANGS IN THE SKY. THE MOON WAS FEARED BY SOME, WORSHIPPED BY OTHERS. WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE MOON? WHO LIVES ON ITS CELESTIAL SHORES?

HERE IS THE STORY OF A BAND OF BRAVE MEN WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES AND FORTUNES TO PROBE THE SECRETS OF... THE MOON!

WITH THE PASSING OF THE YEARS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR HAD ENDED AND THE GREAT CANNONS OF THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH WERE SILENCED, PUBLIC INTEREST IN ARTILLERY SUFFERED A SHARP DECLINE. ON OCTOBER 2, 1864, AT BALTIMORE'S FAMOUS GUN CLUB, THREE OF THE LESS ACTIVE MEMBERS DISCUSSED THE SITUATION.

WHAT A MISERABLE EXISTENCE WE LEAD WHEN AGAIN SHALL THE GUNS AROUSE US IN THE MORNING WITH THEIR DELIGHTFUL REMINDERS?

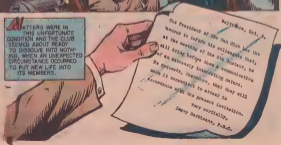
THOSE DAYS ARE GONE BY



AYE! AND NOT A SIGN OF WAR! PEACE, PEACE EVERYWHERE AND NOT ONE FIELD OF BATTLE WHERE A GOOD ARTILLERY-MAN CAN TEST HIS THEORIES ON GUNPOWDER, SIZE OF CANNONBALL, LENGTH OF BARREL AND ALL THE OTHER IMPORTANT IDEAS SO DEAR TO AN ARTILLERY-MAN'S HEART.



MATTERS WERE IN THIS UNFORTUNATE CONDITION AND THE CLUB SEEMED ABOUT READY TO DISSOLVE INTO NOTHING, WHEN AN UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCE OCCURRED TO PUT NEW LIFE INTO ITS MEMBERS.



TWO EVENINGS LATER, A GREAT CROWD GATHERED AT BALTIMORE'S GUN CLUB HALL.



WHAT HAVE YOU UP YOUR SLEEVE, BARNSBANE'S?

YOU WILL HAVE ALL THE DETAILS AS SOON AS OUR ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBERSHIP PERMITS ME TO MAKE MYSELF HEARD.



AFTER THE CROWD HAD BEEN QUIETED...

RECENTLY, I HAVE BEEN GIVING MUCH THOUGHT TO THE MYSTERIES OF THE MOON. AS YET, THE MOON IS A LAND UNKNOWN! EXCEPT FOR A STRAINED VIEW THROUGH THE ASTRONOMER'S GLASS, OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MOON HAS BEEN LIMITED BY OUR FAILURE TO PERCEIVE THE VAST DISTANCE THAT SEPARATES US FROM THE MOON. NOW, HOWEVER, WITH YOUR COOPERATION, I HAVE A PLAN TO CHALLENGE THAT DISTANCE.



YOU ARE ALL WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE TREMENDOUS POWER OF IMPROVED GUN POWDER, AND THE HIGHLY SCIENTIFIC CONSTRUCTION OF THE GREAT GUNS DESIGNED TO CARRY ARTILLERY BALLS FOR VAST DISTANCES... I PROPOSE WE BUILD THE GREATEST GUN IN THE HISTORY OF GUNNERY! I PROPOSE THAT WE THEN AIM IT INTO THE UPPER HEAVENS! AND I FURTHER PROPOSE THAT WE TAKE THE MOON FOR OUR TARGET!

WE'RE WITH YOU!
WE'RE WITH YOU!



BARNSBANE'S SPEED I SHOULD THE I ALL.

WHEN CAN WE HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS MARVELLOUS IDEA?

I WILL SUPPLY COMPLETE DETAILS TOMORROW. MEET ME THEN AT THE GUN CLUB, THREE O'CLOCK SHARP!



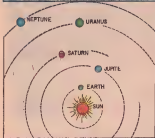
THE NEXT AFTERNOON BARBICANE EXPLAINED TO HIS CLOSE FRIENDS AT THE SUN CLUB.

BEFORE FIRING, THE VETERAN ARTILLERY-MAN MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT HIS TARGET. ONLY A FEW GENERATIONS AGO, OUR ANCESTORS KNEW PRECIOUS LITTLE ABOUT THE MOON, CALLING IT "QUEEN OF THE NIGHT". TODAY, WE KNOW THAT THE MOON ACTUALLY IS A REFLECTOR OF THE SUN'S POWERFUL LIGHT RAYS.



FIVE HEAVENLY BODIES REVOLVE IN A GREAT CIRCLE AROUND THE SUN. THEY ARE URANIUS, SATURN, JUPITER, NEPTUNE, AND OUR OWN EARTH. THEY REVOLVE IN THIS ETERNAL CIRCLE BECAUSE THE SUN EXERTS A PULLING FORCE KNOWN AS GRAVITY UPON THEM.

AS THEY REVOLVE AROUND THE SUN, SO DO SMALLER BODIES CIRCLE AROUND THEM. URANIUS HAS EIGHT SATELLITES, SATURN EIGHT, JUPITER FOUR, NEPTUNE POSSIBLY THREE, AND THE EARTH ONE. THIS LAST WE CALL THE MOON.



THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE MOON WILL VARY, BUT IT IS NEVER LESS THAN 238,857 MILES.

ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, WE CAN BOMBARD THE MOON WITH A GUN 900 FEET IN LENGTH, CAPABLE OF HOLDING 400,000 POUNDS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES, AND DESIGNED TO FIRE AN ALUMINUM CANNON BALL WEIGHING 19,250 POUNDS.



SEVERAL DAYS LATER, IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, CAPTAIN NICHOLL, A LONG-TIME ENEMY OF BARRICANE, SPOKE TO THE EDITOR OF THE "RICHMOND INQUIRER".

I TELL YOU, BARRICANE IS MAD! I SAY NO MAN CAN CONSTRUCT A GUN CAPABLE OF SENDING A SHELL TO THE MOON!



URING THE CIVIL WAR, NICHOLL HAD WON FAME FOR INVENTING ARMOUR PLATE THAT WOULD RESIST ARTILLERY FIRE. AS SOON AS BARRICANE, WHO WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S DIRECTOR OF ARTILLERY, INVENTED A NEW BALL OR GUN, NICHOLL INVENTED A NEW PROTECTIVE PLATE. THIS SCIENTIFIC GUEL SOON DEVELOPED INTO A VERY PERSONAL MATTER BETWEEN THE TWO SCIENTISTS. ONE DAY

BARRICANE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO PIERCE THIS!



WHEN THE NEW PLATE WAS TESTED AGAINST BARRICANE'S NEWEST AND MOST POWERFUL GUN.

AS I PREDICTED! NOT A FRAGMENT HAS PIERCED THE PLATE. I'VE WON AT LAST!

PARDON, SIR MR. BARRICANE WOULD LIKE A SECOND CHANCE HE WISHES TO MAKE A SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT AND REVISE HIS CALCULATIONS.



THE SECOND TIME, NICHOLL'S PLATE WAS SHATTERED AS WAS HIS DREAM OF IMMEDIATE VICTORY IN HIS PRIVATE FELD WITH BARRICANE.

I'LL PREDICT A PLATE YET THAT WILL RESIST ANYTHING THAT BARRICANE CAN DEVISE!



JUST AS NICHOLL COMPLETED WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE PERFECT PLATE, THE WAR ENDED AND BARRICANE REFUSED TO EVEN TRY TO DISPROVE NICHOLL'S POINT. NICHOLL'S HATRED KNEW NO BOUNDS AND HE NEVER FORGAVE BARRICANE. THEREFORE, HE DID ALL HE COULD TO BROOK BARRICANE'S PLANS TO REACH THE MOON.

I KNOW THAT BARRICANE WILL FAIL. THEREFORE, I WANT YOU TO PUBLISH THE FOLLOWING: I RAISE \$1,000 THAT THE GUN CLUB WILL FAIL TO RAISE THE NECESSARY FUNDS, \$2,000 THAT A GUN 900 FEET IN LENGTH CANNOT BE SUCCESSFULLY MANUFACTURED, \$3,000 THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO LOAD THE GUN WILL RESULT IN FAILURE, \$4,000 THAT THE GUN WILL BURST WHEN FIRED, \$5,000 THAT THE SHELL WILL RISE NO HIGHER THAN SIX MILES, WILL FALL BACK AND SHATTER THE EARTH A FEW SECONDS AFTER ITS DISCHARGE.

NICHOLL'S WAGER WAS DULY PUBLISHED. INSTEAD OF THE HEATED REPLY WHICH HE EXPECTED, HE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING SIMPLE REPLY TO HIS CHALLENGE.



ONE MONTH LATER.

GENTLEMEN, I HAVE WON THE FIRST PART OF CAPTAIN NICHOL'S WAGER. THE CITIZENS OF THE WORLD, BELIEVING IN OUR PROJECT, HAVE CONTRIBUTED WELL OVER FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. THAT AMOUNT SHOULD PROVE JUST ENOUGH FOR US TO WORK ON.



TIME IS NOW OUR GREATEST ENEMY. IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED, WE MUST FIRE OUR SHOT WHEN THE EARTH AND MOON ARE NEAREST EACH OTHER. THAT PRECISE MOMENT OCCURS ONLY ONCE EVERY EIGHTEEN YEARS. IT WILL OCCUR NEXT AT PRECISELY 40 MINUTES, 20 SECONDS PAST TEN O'CLOCK ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER FIRST OF NEXT YEAR. SOME 13 MONTHS FROM TODAY.



AS FOR THE PLACE FOR MOUNTING AND FIRING OUR GREAT GUN, WE MUST USE THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF EITHER FLORIDA OR TEXAS. ACCORDING TO ALL CALCULATIONS, NO OTHER SPOT IN AMERICA WILL DO. EACH OF THESE STATES HAS SENT A DEPUTY TO ARGUE HIS OWN STATE'S CASE. WE WILL NOW HEAR FROM THEM.



THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FLORIDA AND TEXAS WERE HEARD. SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION, BARBICANE ANNOUNCED...

THIS DECISION WOULD STRAIN THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON. BOTH OF YOU OFFER SITES OF ALMOST IDENTICAL QUALIFICATION. HOWEVER, TEXAS OFFERS THE CHOICE OF ELEVEN DIFFERENT TOWNS WHILE FLORIDA OFFERS ONLY ONE. KNOWING THE FERCE PRIDE OF NATIVE TEXANS, I FEAR THAT THE CITIZENS OF THE ELEVEN TOWNS WOULD FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES FOR THE HONOR OF HAVING THEIR SITE CHOSEN FOR THE EXPERIMENT. THEREFORE, IN THE INTEREST OF INTERNAL HARMONY, WE WILL CAST OUR GUN AT TAMPA, FLORIDA.



SEARCHING FOR JUST THE RIGHT SPOT TO CAST AND MOUNT THE GUN...

NOT EXACTLY A FIRM LOCATION FOR A CAST IRON GUN.

A POOR SPOT, THIS YONDER PLATEAU MAY BE A MORE LIKELY PLACE. IT IS CALLED STONES HILL.



AT THE TOP OF STONES HILL...

THIS IS SURELY A FINE LOCATION.

THE SOIL APPEARS TO CONTAIN MUCH CLAY AND IS IDEAL FOR OUR PURPOSE. THIS LARGE PLAIN COULD ACCOMMODATE OUR WORKSHOPS, FURNACES AND WORKMEN'S HUTS. YES, I HAVE DECIDED. FROM THIS PLACE SHALL OUR SHELL BEGIN ITS PERILOUS FLIGHT INTO THE OUTER REGIONS OF THE SOLAR WORLD.



BY THE END OF A MONTH, STONES HILL GUN STATION WAS READY FOR OPERATION. FIFTEEN HUNDRED SKILLED MEN CAME TO WORK FOR THE HIGH PAY AND CONSIDERABLE BONUSES OFFERED BY THE BALTIMORE GUN CLUB.



THE FIRST GROUND WAS BROKEN BY IMPREY BARBICANE.

LET US WORK TOGETHER FOR THE CONQUEST OF THE MOON.



TO CAST OUR GREAT GUN, WE MUST FIRST DIG A ROUGH GUN MOLD 900 FEET DOWN INTO THIS HILL. THE MAMMOTH EXCAVATION WILL MEASURE 60 FEET IN DIAMETER.



A DEPTH OF 15 FEET WAS REACHED WITHIN FIVE DAYS.

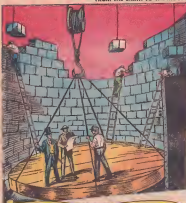
"AFTER THE GREAT EARTH TUBE IS COMPLETED, WE WILL CAST AN IRON GUN WITH WALLS SIX FEET IN THICKNESS. WE NEED THIS GREAT STRENGTH IF OUR CANNON IS TO WITHSTAND THE EXPLOSION OF THE 400,000 POUNDS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES REQUIRED TO SEND OUR SHELL TO THE MOON!"

900 FEET



A GREAT WOODEN WHEEL, MADE OF STURDY OAK, WAS ENGINEERED TO SERVE AS A SORT OF INSIDE SCAFFOLD OR PLATFORM FOR THE STONE WORKERS





THE WHEEL SERVED AS A PLATFORM FOR THE MEN DIGGING OUT THE EARTH AND ALSO AS A BASE FOR THE STONES AND BRICKS THAT WENT INTO THE MAKING OF THE WALL OF THE GUN HOLE. IN THIS WAY, BOTH THE DIGGERS AND THE MASONS WERE ABLE TO WORK AT THE SAME TIME.

THE BORE-HOLD WAS A COLUMN OF SAND AND CLAY EARTH WHICH WAS BUILT IN THE CENTER OF THE GIANT HOLE. THIS COLUMN EXACTLY FILLED THE SPACE RESERVED FOR THE BORE OF THE CANNON.

EIGHT MONTHS LATER, THE STONE LINING OF THE GUN HOLE WAS FINISHED AND BARRICADE WAS READY FOR THE NEXT STEP...

NOW, WE MUST BUILD THE BORE-HOLD.



WHEN THE BORE-HOLD WAS READY, IRON BARS WERE MELTED DOWN IN FURNACES BUILT IN A CIRCLE AROUND THE EXCAVATION...



WHEN THE LIQUID IRON WAS Poured INTO THE EXCAVATION AROUND THE BORE-MOLD, THERE WERE MANY ANXIOUS MOMENTS AS THIS OPERATION STARTED, THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE IRON WOULD CRUSH THE BORE-MOLD AND ALL THE WORK WOULD BE IN VAIN



THE OPERATION, HOWEVER, MET WITH SUCCESS



WASTON, IN HIS GREAT EXCITEMENT, LEANED OVER TOO FAR AND WAS SAVED FROM A FRIGHTFUL FALL ONLY BY THE SWIFTESS AND STRENGTH OF COLONEL BLOSSBERY.



ON THE 22ND OF SEPTEMBER, THE BORE-MOLD WAS REMOVED, LEAVING A PERFECT BARREL FOR THE CANNON.

CAPTAIN MCHOLL HAS LOST HIS SECOND WAGER! WE HAVE CAST THE GREAT GUN WHICH HE CLAIMED COULD NOT BE CAST.



HUNDREDS OF FEET BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE GUN CLUB CELEBRATED THEIR GREAT ACHIEVEMENT THEY HAD BEEN LOWERED BY MEANS OF A BASKET SUSPENDED FROM A STEAM CRANE.



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, MANY WERE THE PEOPLE WHO PAID FIVE DOLLARS EACH TO PENETRATE THE DEPTHS OF THE COLOSSAL GUN.



SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, A TELEGRAM WAS DELIVERED TO BARBICANE.

PARIS, FRANCE
30 SEPTEMBER
BARBICANE, TOWN TOWN, FLORIDA, U.S.
SUBSTITUTE A CYLINDRO-CONE, PRO-
JECTILE FOR YOUR ORDINARY CANNON-
BALL. I SHALL SO RESIDE. SHALL
ARRIVE BY STEAMER "ATLANTA"
MICHEL ARDAN

A BRAVE FRENCHMAN HAS JUST MADE HIS RESERVATION FOR MAN'S FIRST TRIP TO THE MOON!



THE MAN MUST BE AN IDIOT!

THIS MUST BE A JOKE OF SOME KIND!

WHAT A GRAND IDEA!





I WONDER IF MICHEL ARDAN IS FAMILIAR WITH THE TERRIBLE NATURE OF THE MOON?

THE MOON IS RIDDLED WITH GREAT CRATERS, PROBABLY DUE TO VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS THAT TOOK PLACE SOME SEVERAL BILLION YEARS AGO.



ALSO, WE HAVE THE GREAT MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON. ASTRONOMERS HAVE ESTIMATED THE PEAKS TO RISE SOME 23,608 FEET.



DO YOU BELIEVE THE MOON IS INHABITED?
NO ASTRONOMER HAS EVER SEEN SIGNS OF LIFE ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON. PERHAPS MICHEL ARDAN WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION SOMEDAY.



ON OCTOBER 20th, MICHEL ARDAN'S SHIP ARRIVED AT TAMPA FROM FRANCE. A GREAT CROWD WAITED TO SEE WHAT THIS MAN, WHO WANTED TO BE SHOT TO THE MOON, LOOKED LIKE.



AFTER THE SHIP DOCKED, BARBICANE RUSHED ABOARD.

MICHEL ARDAN?

YES YOU MUST BE PRESIDENT BARBICANE PLEASE COME TO MY CABIN

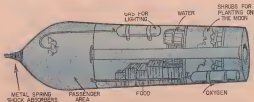
IN ARDAN'S CABIN...

WE HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING IMPATIENTLY TO HEAR THE DETAILS OF YOUR PROPOSED VOYAGE TO THE MOON.

MONSIEUR, YOU HAVE A GREAT GUN, I HAVE COMPLETE PLANS FOR THE SHELL. LET US GO ASHORE AND TOMORROW MORNING I SHALL OUTFIT MY PLANS TO YOU AND YOUR MEN.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

HERE IS A DRAWING OF MY SHELL... THE FORM WILL KEEP THE SHELL POINTED AT THE MOON AT ALL TIMES. THUS, I WILL BE ABLE TO STAND ERECT AND AVOID TIPPING AND TUMBLING HEAD OVER HEELS, AS WOULD BE THE CASE IN AN ORDINARY BALL.



BARRICANE'S ARCH RIVAL, CAPTAIN MICHOIL, SUDDENLY APPEARED IN THE DOORWAY

MR ARDAN, HOW WILL YOU AVOID BEING ROASTED TO DEATH BY THE HEAT OF THE FRICTION CREATED WHEN YOUR SHELL RUSHES THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE?

THOUGH I DO NOT KNOW YOU, SIR, I WILL ANSWER YOUR WELL-PUT QUESTION AT THE SPEED PROMISED BY BARRICANE'S GUN—12,000 YARDS PER SECOND—IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF SECONDS BEFORE I AM IN OUTER SPACE WHERE FRICTION DOES NOT EXIST



WHAT SHALL YOU DO FOR AIR?

I SHALL MAKE AIR BY CHEMICAL PROCESS

HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO SURVIVE THE EXTREME SHOCK OF THE TAKE-OFF EXPLOSION?

I BELIEVE THAT CAN BE WORKED OUT IN SOME WAY.



AND WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND ON THE MOON WHEN YOU ARRIVE? HOW CAN YOU BE SURE YOU WILL FIND THE MEANS WITH WHICH TO SUPPORT LIFE?

I SHALL TAKE A TWELVEMONTH SUPPLY OF FOOD WITH ME AS FOR YOUR FIRST QUESTION, IF I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT I MIGHT FIND ON THE MOON, THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR ME TO MAKE THE TRIP



BARRICANE, WHO HAD BEEN QUIET ALL THE WHILE, INTERRUPTED...

MR. ARDAN, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BOTHER WITH THIS MAN'S QUESTIONS. HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR PROJECT EXCEPT TO TRY TO HINDER US.

NONETHELESS, I SHALL PROVE TO HIM AND TO ALL DOUBTERS THAT OUR MISSION IS REASONABLY CERTAIN OF SUCCESS.

NICHOLL THEN ASKED...

ASSUMING THAT THIS RIDICULOUS GUN MANAGES TO SHOOT YOU TO THE MOON IN ONE PIECE... HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO RETURN TO EARTH?



WHILE THE QUESTION TOOK ALL THE SPECTATORS BY SURPRISE, ARDAN'S QUIET REPLY ASTOUNDING THEM...

I DO NOT EXPECT TO RETURN!



YOU MEAN YOU WILL RISK YOUR LIFE TO DISCOVER FACTS ABOUT THE MOON WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REVEAL TO YOUR FELLOW EARTHMEN?

AFTER MY ARRIVAL ON THE MOON, I SHALL BUSY MYSELF PROVING METHODS TO RELAY WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE MOON. I MAY USE THE BLOCK-LETTER SYSTEM.



THE BLOCK-LETTER SYSTEM USES STONE BLOCKS TO SPELL OUT MESSAGES. THE LETTERS ARE MADE SO LARGE THAT THEY MAY BE SEEN FROM VAST DISTANCES THROUGH POWERFUL TELESCOPES.



NICHOLL BECAME WILD...!

YOU WILL KILL YOURSELF!
AND YOUR DEATH WILL BE
THAT OF A MADMAN, USE-
LESS EVEN TO SCIENCE!



PULLING A PISTOL FROM HIS COAT, NICHOLL
TURNED AND POINTED THE GUN AT BARBICANE.

AND YOUR DEATH WILL BE
THE FAULT OF THE IGNORANT
WHO ORGANIZED THIS ABSURD
AND IMPOSSIBLE EXPERIMENT,
MREY BARBICANE!



MASTON IMMEDIATELY GRABBED NICHOLL
FROM BEHIND. BARBICANE STORMED AT
HIS RIVAL AND WOULD-BE KILLER...

YOU HAVE PUBLICLY INSULTED ME,
CAPTAIN NICHOLL. I CHALLENGE
YOU TO A DUEL, WITH RIFLES!

ACCEPTED!
NAME THE
TIME AND
THE PLACE!



THE FOREST OF SKERSHAW,
THREE MILES FROM HERE, AT
FIVE IN THE MORNING. YOU
ENTER FROM THE NORTH
AND I SHALL ENTER FROM
THE SOUTH!

I SHALL
BE THERE!



THAT NIGHT, A MEETING WAS HELD IN ARDAN'S HOTEL ROOM.

WHAT A SET-BACK FOR SCIENCE IF EITHER BARBICANE OR NICHOLL IS KILLED IN THIS DUEL.

IT'S AN AFFAIR OF HONOR.

THEY'VE BEEN ENEMIES FOR YEARS. WHAT CAN WE DO?



LET ME REMIND YOU HOW HORRIBLE A FOREST DUEL WITH RIFLES CAN BE. EACH MAN BECOMES A MAN-HUNTER.



IMAGINE THE TWO ENEMIES, EACH ARMED WITH A HIGH-POWERED RIFLE, TRACKING EACH OTHER DOWN LIKE WILD BEASTS!



A FATAL AMBUSH IS THE TRAP, AND DEATH IS THE REWARD!



I MUST SAVE THE LIVES OF BARBICANE AND NICHOLL. SOMEHOW, I MUST CONVINCE THEM TO GIVE UP THIS DEADLY MANHUNT!



GOOD LUCK!

TOWARD DAWN, ARGAN REACHED THE FOREST. HE CLIMBED INTO A TALL TREE AND SCANNED THE FOREST WITH HIS BINOCULARS...



THERE'S CAPTAIN NICHOLL...

CAPTAIN NICHOLL WAS STRUGGLING TO FREE A LARGE AND BEAUTIFUL BIRD FROM THE DEADLY WEB OF A GIANT TROPICAL SPIDER...



ARGAN HURRIED TO NICHOLL'S SIDE.

YOU HAVE BEEN MERCIFUL TO THAT BIRD, WHY DON'T YOU SHOW THE SAME MERCY TO BARBICANE? CALL OFF THIS TERRIBLE DUEL, AND I WILL MAKE YOU A MOST FASCINATING PROPOSITION!



WHAT IS YOUR PROPOSITION?

I HAVE SUCH A TREMENDOUS OFFER THAT IT CAN BE REVEALED ONLY IN THE PRESENCE OF BARBICANE. LET US SEARCH FOR HIM.



THEY SOON CAME UPON BARBICANE

AN OFFER BY ARGAN TO REVEAL AN IMPORTANT PROPOSITION HAS CAUSED ME TO LAY MY GUN ASIDE. LET US LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

SINCE YOU BOTH DISAGREE ABOUT MY CHANCES TO REACH THE MOON, I INVITE YOU BOTH TO COME WITH ME...TO THE MOON!



GO ALONG WITH YOU TO THE MOON?

I WILL DESIGN SPACE.

WOULD THERE BE ROOM FOR THREE?



PAST DIFFERENCES WERE QUICKLY FORGOTTEN IN THE INTEREST OF SCIENCE.

LET US GO TOGETHER, THEN? I HAVE JUST WORKED OUT A WATER FORMULA DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE SHOCK AT THE DEPARTURE OF THE PROJECTILE.



SEVERAL DAYS LATER, THEY PREPARED A PRELIMINARY WATER-SHOCK TEST...

IF THESE TWO ANIMALS SURVIVE THE SHOCK OF BEING PROPELLED INTO SPACE AND LANDING IN THE WATER, WE SHALL KNOW THAT WE THREE HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF SURVIVING THE SHOCK OF THE TAKE OFF.

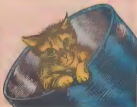


THE CAT AND SQUIREL WERE PROPELLED ON THEIR WAY.



THE CAT WAS ALIVE AND SEEMINGLY HEALTHY... THE SQUIREL WAS MISSING.

OUT IN THE HARBOR, MASTON AND BLOMBERG RETRIEVED THE SHELL...



LATER IN BARRIBANE'S OFFICE

VERY PERTUSSING! THE CAT SEEMS ALL RIGHT BUT THE SQUIRREL IS SOME WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?

A SAD TALE WITH A SAD EXPLANATION. THE INNOCENT SQUIRREL WAS EATEN BY THE GREEDY CAT!

NOTE THE ROBUST STATE OF HEALTH ENJOYED BY OUR FELINE FRIEND, MR CAT. HE HAS SURVIVED A MOST VIOLENT SHOCK, AND WHAT THIS CAT CAN DO, WE CAN DO ALSO!



THREE EVENINGS LATER, THE LOADING WAS COMPLETED.

AFTER PLACING AN ORDER FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF THE GREAT SHELL, BARRIBANE AND HIS FRIENDS TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO THE DANGEROUS PROBLEMS OF LOADING THEIR GREAT GUN WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVES.



ONE MISJUCK HERE AND WE'LL ALL EXPLODE LIKE COUNTRY POPCORN!

EASY, EASY

I AM PAYING OFF THE THIRD PART OF MY BET I WAGERED THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LOAD YOUR GUN WITHOUT A MAJOR EXPLOSION. I WAS WRONG CONGRATULATIONS!

I WILL USE THE MONEY TO HELP DEFRAY OUR EXPENSES. NOW LET US MAKE READY TO LOWER THE SHELL INTO THE GUN!



THE GIANT CRANE DESCENDED TO DROP THE GREAT SHELL...



MEANWHILE, ON LONG'S PEAK, IN MISSOURI, WORKMEN COMPLETED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GREAT TELESCOPE.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?



EXCELLENT SEE FOR YOURSELF THE MOON SEEMS TO BE ONLY FIVE MILES AWAY

AT THE COMMUNICATION SHED WHERE TELEGRAPH LINES CONNECTED THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN TELESCOPE WITH TAMPA...

SEND THIS MESSAGE BARKANE, WE ARE READY WITH OUR TELESCOPE TO FOLLOW YOUR FLIGHT TO THE MOON WE WILL HAVE YOU UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATION AT ALL TIMES GOOD LUCK FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT LONG'S PEAK.



FINALLY, THE DAY FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE SHELL FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON ARRIVED. ALL WAS IN READINESS FOR THE JOURNEY ABOARD HAD SUPERVISED THE LOADING.

YOU HAVE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING... EVEN TWO DOGS!

YES, WE SHALL CALL THEM NEP TUNE AND SAFELITE.

AS DEPARTURE TIME NEARDED, THE MOON SWUNG EVER CLOSER TO THE MINIMUM DISTANCE OF 210,657 MILES FROM THE EARTH.

210,657 MILES

SOON, JUST THREE MINUTES REMAINED BEFORE BLAST-OFF TIME. THE THREE PIONEERS OF SPACE AND SCIENCE FIRED INTO THE SHELL.

NOTHING WAS LEFT TO CHANGE...

HOW ARE THE ROCKETS?

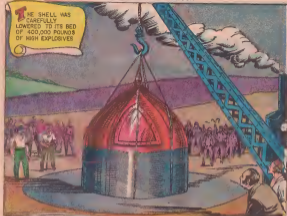
POWERFUL. READY TO BE FIRED AT THAT LAST MOMENT BEFORE WE LAND ON THE MOON! THEN THE FORCE OF THEIR BLAST WILL SLOW OUR LANDING SPEED ON THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT!

BE SURE YOU FASTEN THIS ENTRY PORT SECURELY

DEPEND ON ME



THE SHELL WAS CAREFULLY LOWERED TO ITS BED OF 400,000 POUNDS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES



INSIDE THE SHELL

20 SECONDS TO GO!

THIS IS THE MOMENT OF A LIFETIME!

WE MUST NOT FAIL!



NINE HUNDRED FEET ABOVE THEM, MASTON PREPARED TO PRESS THE ELECTRIC DETONATOR!

FIFTEEN SECONDS TEN SECONDS FIVE SECONDS FOUR THREE TWO GO!

A GREAT RED FLAME RUSHED UP FROM THE MOUTH OF THE GUN MASTON WAS BLOWN OFF HIS FEET



RUSHING AWAY FROM THE EARTH TOWARD THE OBTANT MOON, THE GREAT SHELL WENT THROUGH SPACE AT AN ESTIMATED SPEED OF 12,000 FEET PER SECOND. THUS FAR, THE GREAT PROJECTILE HAS SURVIVED THE CRUSHING PRESSURE OF THE EXPLOSIVE FORCE WHICH SENT IT ROCKETING INTO THE HEAVENS, AND WAS RESISTING THE TERRIBLE HEAT CREATED BY FRICTION. FOR THE FIRST TIME, MAN WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE MOON!





IN THE SHELL, TEN MINUTES AFTER TAKE-OFF...

THE BLAST! IT WAS OVERPOWERING!



WHERE AM I?

FLYING TO THE MOON, AS YOU WILL SOON REMEMBER. BRING YOURSELF TOGETHER AND HELP ME REVIVE OUR ESTEEMED COLLEAGUE.

FOR A MOMENT, ALL WAS BLACKNESS, BUT NOW I AM AWAKE TO SHARE IN THIS PIONEER EXPERIMENT IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN SCIENCE. HOW FAR HAVE WE TRAVELLED?

WHO KNOWS? WE MAY BE SITTING YET IN THE BOTTOM OF THE GUN! I HEARD NO EXPLOSION!



A METAL SHIELD WAS REMOVED FROM A STRONG, THICK CRYSTAL PORT HOLE.

TAKE A LOOK DOWN HERE AT YOUR FEET, BARBAGONE. TELL US WHAT YOU SEE.

WE ARE LEAVING THE EARTH AT A GREAT RATE OF SPEED!

OBVIOUSLY, WE WERE SHOT FROM THE CANNON'S MOUTH, BUT WHY DID WE NOT HEAR THE EXPLOSION?

I HAVE IT! WE DID NOT HEAR THE EXPLOSION, BECAUSE WE WERE TRAVELLING FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF SOUND. OUR SPEED WAS 12,000 FEET PER SECOND! THEREFORE, SOUND HAS NEVER HAD TIME TO CATCH UP WITH US!



SUDDENLY

WHAT IS IT?

LOOK! OUR DOOM APPROACHES!

THAT FLAMING ASTEROID IS HEADED DIRECTLY ACROSS OUR PATH! WE WILL COLLIDE WITHIN SECONDS!



THIS FIERY BODY WAS NONE OF A NUMBER THAT REVOLVE AROUND THE EARTH!

HOW CAN WE SAVE OURSELVES?

WE CAN'T. OUR ROCKETS MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF CHANGING OUR COURSE, BUT THERE ISN'T TIME TO IGNITE THEM!

IT'S THE MOMENT OF COLLISION NEARED...

TO THINK THAT OUR GLORIOUS EXPERIMENT WILL END IN THIS FASHION!

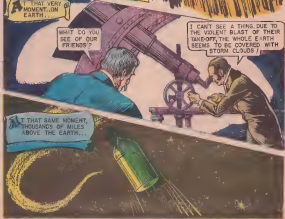


AT THAT VERY MOMENT... ON EARTH...

WHAT DO YOU SEE OF OUR FRIENDS?

I CAN'T SEE A THING. DUE TO THE VIOLENT BLAST OF THEIR TAKE-OFF, THE WHOLE EARTH SEEMS TO BE COVERED WITH STORM CLOUDS!

AT THAT SAME MOMENT, THOUSANDS OF MILES ABOVE THE EARTH...





A MOMENT LATER, A TERRIFIC SHOCK WAS FELT

WE HAVE BEEN HIT!



NO! A KINDLY PROVIDENCE HAS BEEN FIT TO PROTECT US!

I WILL THINK PROVIDENCE NOT TO GIVE US SUCH A SCARE IN THE FUTURE!



SUDDENLY, A WEIRD CRY WAS HEARD

ARE WE NOW TO BE HAUNTED?

COULD IT BE THE GHOST OF THE ASTEROID THAT NARROWLY AVOIDED FRYING US INTO ETERNITY?



THAT IS THE PAINFUL CRY OF ONE OF OUR DOGS!

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SATELLITE APPEARS INJURED!



THE DOG HAD BEEN THROWN AGAINST THE ROOF.

MY POOR SATELLITE IS DEAD.



NOW ANOTHER PROBLEM PRESENTED ITSELF

HOW CAN WE BURY A DOG BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE MOON?

OPEN THE FLOOR PORT, AND CAST HIM OUT!



QUICKLY! WE MUST NOT LOSE PRECIOUS OXYGEN



SOME MINUTES LATER

I FEAR SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH OUR SPEED ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, WE SHOULD BE MUCH NEARER TO THE MOON!



THE ABSENCE OF GRAVITY
HAD AMUSING RESULTS



FOR THE MOMENT, WE
ARE SUSPENDED IN A
WORLD WITHOUT WEIGHT.



I'M DELIGHTED TO REACH THIS
POINT IN OUR JOURNEY, BUT
WHAT CAUSED ME TO MISCAL-
CULATE OUR SPEED?



YOU DID NOT MISCALCULATE / THE
FIERY ASTEROID IS AT FAULT, THE
FORCE OF IT AS IT PASSED US
KNOCKED OUR SHELL OFF ITS
COURSE.

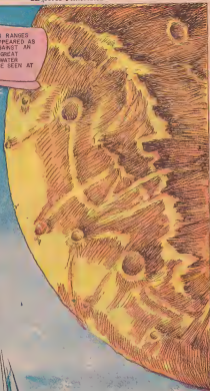


ARON MADE
HIS WAY TO
THE VIEWING PORT

BEHOLD,
THE MOON!



1 GREAT MOUNTAIN RANGES
ERUPTIONS THAT APPEARED AS
FORTIFICATIONS AGAINST AN
UNKNOWN ENEMY GREAT
CANALS WITHOUT WATER
ALL COULD NOW BE SEEN AT
CLOSE RANGE



ACCORDING TO ONE ASTRONOMER,
SOME OF THOSE CRATERS WERE
DUG BY MAN

DUG FOR
WHAT
PURPOSE?



FOR PROTECTION
AGAINST THE HOT
RAYS OF THE SUN
REMEMBER, A DAY
ON THE MOON IS
EQUAL TO FIFTY
DAYS ON EARTH



LOOK FOR TURTLED FIELDS!

YOUR FIELDS LOOK
MORE LIKE THE
BEDS OF DRIED-
UP RIVERS!



I HOPE WE WILL
HAVE THE OPPOR-
TUNITY TO DISCOVER
THE TRUTH OF YOUR
SPECULATION!

PERHAPS TRUE VEGETATION-
TREES, FIELDS, AND SHRUB-
BERIES—MAY BE FOUND AT
THE BOTTOM OF THE GREAT
CRATERS



WE ARE NOW ENTERING THE MOON AREA WHICH IS BATHED IN SHADOWS

THE NIGHT WHICH LASTS FIFTEEN EARTH DAYS!

THE TEMPERATURE IS DROPPING!



KEEP THE GAS LOW OUR SUPPLY IS LIMITED WHAT WE ARE ABLE TO SEE IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO OUR ARRIVAL

OUR PRESENT SPEED SHOULD SUFFICE TO CARRY US INTO THE DAY-LIGHT AREAS NEAR- WHILE, THE HEAT OF THE GAS WILL HELP RELIEVE THE ACHING COLD WHICH IS BEGINNING TO SEIZURE US!



DEATH BY FREEZING HAS BEEN MY GREATEST FEAR

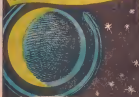
BE PATIENT WE WILL SOON FIND LIGHT AND A SAFE LANDING



MOVING INTO THE AREA OF DAYLIGHT IS NOT ENOUGH WE MUST MOVE DOWNWARD! IF WE FAIL TO LOSE ALTITUDE, AND REMAIN SUSPENDED, WE WILL LIVE OUT OUR BRIF TIME BEFORE DEATH CIRCLING THE MOON IN THE MANNER OF A MINOR SATELLITE!



IF BARBICANE'S THEORY BECAME FACT, THE SHELL WOULD CIRCLE THE MOON FOR ALL TIME. IT WOULD NEVER COME ANY CLOSER, NEVER TRAVEL ANY FARTHER



WHEN WILL WE KNOW?

OUR FATE WILL REVEAL ITSELF WHEN WE HAVE RETURNED TO THE DAYLIGHT AREA. IF WE ARE NO CLOSER TO THE MOON THAN WE WERE BEFORE WE ENTERED THIS NIGHT AREA, THEN WE WILL BE SURE OF OUR DOOM!



THREE HOURS LATER...

CAN IT BE THAT WE ARE EMERGING INTO THE DELIGHT OF THE MOON?

WILL WE LAND?

I AM TAKING A READING ON MY NAVIGATION INSTRUMENT, ONE MOMENT, AND I CAN TELL YOU WHETHER WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO LOSE ALTITUDE AND DRIFT MOON-WARD!



BARBICANE TURNED AND PRONOUNCED THEIR FATE...

I REGRET TO SAY THAT WE ARE DOOMED TO CIRCLE THE MOON AT THIS ALTITUDE UNTIL DEATH OVERTAKES US AND OUR SHILL DISINTEGRATES AND FLOATS AWAY! WE LACK THE POWER TO SAVE OURSELVES!



FOR A MOMENT, THE SPACE TRAVELLERS WERE STUNNED. THEN...

WHAT ABOUT OUR ROCKETS?

THE ROCKETS WERE INSTALLED TO BREAK OUR FALL WHEN WE LANDED ON THE MOON.



ROCKETS HAVE POWER, THAT IS A FACT! PERHAPS WE CAN USE THAT POWER TO BREAK OUT OF THIS CONFOUNDED CIRCLE WE ARE TRAVELLING.

THEN WE WOULD BE FREE TO LAND ON THE MOON. IT MIGHT BE A ROUGH LANDING, BUT ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS.



STRIKE THE MATCH!

MY SWEET, DEAR ROCKETS! BE SO KIND AS TO EXPLODE AND DELIVER US TO THE SURFACE OF THE MOON!



THE POWERFUL ROCKETS CHASED THE SHELL TO BREAK FREE FROM THE CIRCULAR SPACE PATH AROUND THE MOON THE TRAVELLERS WERE SET FREE!

ROCKETS AWAY!



WAIT A MOMENT! I FEAR WE MAY NOT BE HEADING FOR THE MOON!

WE ARE FALLING BACK TO EARTH!



WHY WE MEET ON THE MOON!

GOOD LUCK, MY DEAR FRIENDS!

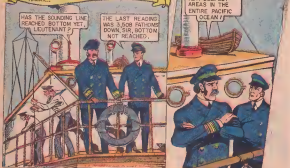


IN THE EARTH FAR BELOW, THE U.S.S. "SUBOQUANA" WAS ON A MISSION TO RECORD THE DEPTHS OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN BETWEEN HONOLULU AND SAN FRANCISCO, TO GUIDE THE LAYING OF THE FIRST TELEGRAPH CABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES TO HAWAII...

HAS THE SOUNDING LINE REACHED BOTTOM YET, LIEUTENANT P?

THE LAST READING WAS 3,500 FATHOMS DOWN, SIR, BOTTOM NOT REACHED.

THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE ONE OF THE VERY DEEPEST AREAS IN THE ENTIRE PACIFIC OCEAN!



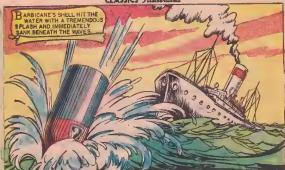
IT OCCURS TO ME THAT LIFE SO FAR DOWN IN THE SEA MUST BE AS STRANGE AS LIFE HIGH ABOVE ON THE MOON!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, SIR, I WONDER HOW THAT BRAVE TRIP FROM THE BALTIMORE SUN CLUB ARE MAKING OUT IN THEIR TRIP TO THE MOON?

LOOK OUT ABOVE!



BARRIBANE'S SHELL HIT THE WATER WITH A TREMENDOUS SPLASH AND IMMEDIATELY SANK BENEATH THE WAVES.



A SEARCH PARTY WAS IMMEDIATELY LOWERED, BUT SEVERAL HOURS LATER

NO SIGN OF THE MOON TRAVELLERS, OR

WE'LL STANDBY 'TIL DARK, AND WATCH FOR WRECKAGE!



YOUR MOON TRAVELLERS HAVE LANDED ON THE EARTH!

RATHER IN THE WATER, SIR!



LET US THROW OUT A BUOY MARKER, SIR, THEN, FAILING TO FIND ANY SIGN IN THE MORNING WE CAN STEAM POST-HASTE TO SAN FRANCISCO, NOTIFY THE GOVERNMENT, AND PERHAPS RETURN WITH A SEARCH FLEET.

VERY GOOD IDEA, LIEUTENANT.

I WILL ALERT THE MEN TO PREPARE FOR A SPEEDY RETURN TO SAN FRANCISCO MEANWHILE IF OUR FRIENDS HAVE SURVIVED THE SHOCK OF FALLING FROM THE MOON, I'M SURE THEIR OXYGEN-MAKING EQUIPMENT WILL KEEP THEM SAFE FROM DROWNING.



LACKING WIRELESS TELEGRAPH EQUIPMENT, THE U.S. "GUSQUEHANNA" PUT ABOUT FOR SAN FRANCISCO, THE LONELY BUDY REMAINED BEHIND, MARKING THE SPOT WHERE THE SHELL HAD FALLEN INTO THE SEA...

UNDER THE SEA, THE SHELL SWIRLED aimlessly WITHOUT A RUDDER, THE GREAT PROJECTILE WAS A PRISONER OF THE WATER, EVEN AS IT HAD BEEN A VICTIM OF THE FORCES OF SPACE!



THE NAVAL BASE AT SAN FRANCISCO...

WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?

IT SEEMS THE "GUSQUEHANNA" HAS NET UP WITH THREE MEN WHO WERE LAST SEEN ON THEIR WAY TO THE MOON!!



THE STRANGE STORY WAS THEN TOLD TO THE ADMIRAL AT SAN FRANCISCO...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPORT, GENTLEMEN. I'LL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR AT THE POLYGON AT ONCE. THE POLYGON WILL NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT. ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT COULD YOU NOTIFY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GUN CLUB IN BALTIMORE?

AN EXCELLENT IDEA! I DARE SAY IF ANYBODY CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO FISH THAT CONFOUNDED SHELL OUT OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE GUN CLUB!



FOUR DAYS LATER, JT MASTON WAS ABOARD THE "SUSQUEHANNA"...

YOU WILL NEED SPECIAL AND HEAVY TACKLE, IF YOU PLAN TO LIFT OUR FRIENDS TO THE SURFACE! THE GROSS WEIGHT OF THEIR SHELL IS 18,250 POUNDS!



EQUIPMENT WAS QUICKLY ACQUIRED AND RUSHED ABOARD...

I HOPE MY FRIENDS ARE STILL ALIVE! WHAT STORIES THEY WILL HAVE TO TELL!



THE RESCUE FLEET SOON PUT OUT TO SEA.

I TRUST YOU'LL ACCOMPANY US WHEN WE GO BELOW THE WAVES TO SEARCH FOR MY MISSING FRIENDS?

YOUR DIVING BELL IS MOST ADMIRABLE, BUT I PLAN TO CONFINE MY SEA DUTY TO THE SURFACE.



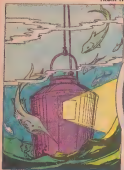
FOUR DAYS LATER, THEY WERE AT THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE SHELL HAD GONE DOWN...

I WILL GO BELOW AND SEARCH FROM MY DIVING CHAMBER.



GOOD LUCK, MR. MASTON! I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR FRIENDS.





FIVE HOURS LATER.

SHALL WE RETURN TO THE SURFACE, MR. MISTON?

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO? THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A SIGN OF BARBICANE AND THE OTHERS ANYWHERE!



NO LUCK, SIR!

HOW UNFORTUNATE NOW WE MUST CONDUCT A SURFACE SEARCH.

FIVE DAYS LATER.

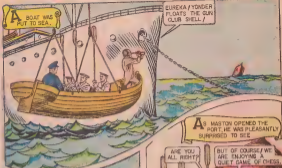
NOT A SIGN! I'M AFRAID WE MUST PUT BACK TO FRISCO!



AND? I THINK I SEE OUR MISSING BOY!

ONE MILE AWAY, AN AMERICAN FLAG WAS FLYING FROM A DIM OBJECT!





A BOAT WAS PUT TO SEA.

EUREKA / YONDER FLOATS THE GUN CLUB SHELL!

AS MASTON OPENED THE PORT, HE WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO SEE

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

BUT OF COURSE! WE ARE ENJOYING A QUIET GAME OF CHESS.



AS THE BOAT APPROACHED, AN OMINOUS SILENCE HUNG OVER THE SCENE.

NO SIGN OF LIFE / I HOPE ALL IS WELL!



WERE YOU AFRAID?

WHEN A MAN IS NEARLY DOOMED TO A LIFETIME OF CIRCLING THE MOON, THEN SURVIVES A PLUNGE OF 200,000 ODD MILES INTO THE PACIFIC... HE LEARNS NOT TO BE AFRAID!

The End

NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THE CLASSICS Illustrated EDITION, DON'T MISS THE ADDED ENJOYMENT OF READING THE ORIGINAL, OBTAINABLE AT YOUR SCHOOL OR PUBLIC LIBRARY.

JULES VERNE

ON the morning of February 8, 1828, Pierre and Sophie Verne smiled proudly over their newly born son, Jules, little realizing what the future held in store for their fine looking infant. The father, himself a practicing lawyer, envisioned the day when his son would step into the law office and take over the practice.



Jules spent his boyhood at his birthplace—the island of Foyseau, in the River Loire near Nantes, France. There, amidst the colorful atmosphere and wonderful tales brought back by the crews of the many ships harboring nearby, young Jules fell in love with the sea and the adventures of the world around him. His early desires to put to sea were never realized except in the realms of fiction that he has spun about the wonders of maritime life.

Pierre Verne was a strict disciplinarian and stood over his son with a firm code of living. Frustrated by his father, Jules tried to run away to sea when he was eleven years old; however, his father heard of his plot and had him returned home by the captain of the ship. This escapade made the father all the more strict with Jules, and his activities were closely watched. He told his mother, to whom he turned for companionship, that thereafter he would travel only in his imagination. How true this statement was is borne out by the great works that he later bestowed upon the reading world.

Returning to school, Jules turned his fanciful thoughts to paper and started writing for his own amusement while still preparing for law school. After finishing

his education in Nantes, Jules was sent to Paris to study for the bar. His father was very insistent that he prepare for the profession he himself had chosen for his son, even though Jules wanted to write professionally.

As a student in Paris, Jules was made to live in typical students' quarters on a meager allowance, most of which he spent in the shops of booksellers. His thirst for reading was insatiable and he pored over everything he could afford to buy or borrow.

In 1857, Jules decided to marry a young widow and moved her and her two young children into his small quarters. To maintain his newly acquired family, he secured a position with a stock brokerage house in Paris and spent his spare time writing plays and short adventure tales.

Six years later, he wrote his first novel, "Five Weeks in a Balloon." He had great difficulties in finding a publisher to accept this work. Finally, a M. Hetzel decided to take a chance with this new author and published his book. It became a great success and M. Hetzel became Jules Verne's sole publisher.

In 1869, Verne wrote "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea," which he always considered his best work. It was published in 1870 and Jules Verne was an assured success. There followed many more works, among them "Michael Strogoff," "Mysterious Island" and "Around the World in Eighty Days."

Death came to Jules Verne on March 24, 1905.



AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

An Incident in the Life of Andrew Johnson

FOLLOWING President Lincoln's assassination in 1865, Vice-President Andrew Johnson became the 17th President of the United States.

Johnson was a rugged, self-made man who had begun working as a tailor's apprentice at the age of fourteen. He had never gone to school but through hard work and study, had taught himself to read. After he was married, his wife taught him to write and to do simple problems in arithmetic.

It was such a "man of the people" who took over the reins of government. A sincere, honest man, Johnson was, nevertheless, a coarse, tactless, vehement speaker who did not endear himself to Congress.

Although from the South, Johnson was opposed to secession. As a Senator from Tennessee, he had fought hard to save the Union. As President, he opposed vigorously the turning over of the governments of the Southern states to the liberated slaves. He believed that they were not yet ready for self-government.

The North, however, anxious to assist in Congress only those of the South willing to agree with its views, passed laws that Johnson thought unjust. Therefore, he vetoed those laws. The laws went back to Congress and were passed over the President's veto. During the controversies between the President and Congress, the hatred of each for the other increased until the breaking point was reached. That came in 1867. President Johnson, respecting Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton of double-dealing, asked him to resign. The Secretary refused and on August 12th of that year, the President removed Stanton from office.

This act was in direct violation of the Tenure of Office Act passed by Congress in 1867. The specific purpose of the act was to tie the President's hands. The act forbade the President to remove any of his cabinet members. President Johnson, in removing Stanton, claimed that Congress had exceeded its authority. Congress, furious at what it con-



sidered Johnson's high-handed disregard for the limitations of his authorized powers, reinstated Stanton.

The President, still determined to have his way in what he believed to be his right, removed Stanton once more on February 21, 1868. The following day, the House of Representatives, by a vote of 116 to 47, resolved that Johnson be impeached (brought to trial) for "high crimes and misdemeanors in office."

The case was tried by the Senate, with Chief Justice Chase of the United States Supreme Court presiding.

Throughout the time of his trial, Andrew Johnson, with an iron will and resolution, maintained his poise and waited out his ordeal. At his side waited his wife, a woman as steadfast in her love, as strong in her way as Johnson was in his.

The trial, which began in February, 1868, ended on the 16th of May of that year when the Senate voted. A reading of the charges by the secretary was followed by the request of the Chief Justice: "Call the roll!"

The secretary began: "Mr. Senator Anthony."

"Guilty!"

"Mr. Senator Bayard . . ."

"Not guilty!"

Fifty-four votes were to be cast. Thirty-six votes, two-thirds of the total number voting, were needed to convict the President. They came, the "guilty's" and the "not guilty's," on through the session like the passage of doom. Thirty-four, then thirty-five votes for impeachment . . . eighteen votes against. Then, while the Senate and the country held its breath, the last vote was cast: "Not guilty!"

The Chief Justice rose. "Two-thirds not having pronounced the President guilty, he is acquitted!" By the slim margin of only one vote, Andrew Johnson remained in office.

Thus ended the first and only trial to date for the impeachment of a President of the United States.

Great Lives PONCE DE LEON and the Fountain of Youth



Ponce de Leon and his mission was, in part, a strange one.

It was not extraordinary that he sailed to search for gold and for slaves that would bring a high profit. The extraordinary part was that, although Ponce de Leon was only 53 years old, he also hoped to find the Fountain of Youth, a legendary healing spring capable of restoring youth to those who bathed in its waters.

Ponce de Leon had been a soldier from the age of thirteen. He had sailed with Columbus on his second voyage in 1493 and became governor of Puerto Rico in 1509. When he completed his term of office, Ponce de Leon gained authorization from King Ferdinand V of Spain to search for and take possession of *Bimini*, location of the Fountain of Youth.

Ponce de Leon's ships sailed until they came to an unfamiliar shore. They followed it north and on March 27, 1513, they landed on a white sand beach where the city of St. Augustine was settled in 1565.

In his armor and holding the banners of Castile and Leon, Juan Ponce de Leon knelt on the wave-lapped sand and took possession of the land in the name of his king. He called it "La Florida," for it was the time of Paschal Florida, "fowery Easter." Ponce de Leon was the first white man to touch foot on Florida soil.

For several days he searched in vain for the Fountain of Youth. He then cruised south along the coast and thence along the keys and west to the Tortugas, so named because of the giant green turtles found there.

Near the Ten Thousand Islands, the men

went ashore but were savagely attacked by Indians.

Ponce de Leon finally decided that Florida was not the island of *Bimini*. None of the fresh water springs in which he had bathed had brought back his youth.

Disappointed and discouraged, Ponce de Leon returned to Puerto Rico. Neither he nor his men attached any importance to the land which they had discovered.

In the years that followed, Ponce de Leon began to think again of the "island," Florida. Perhaps if he had explored inland, he might have found gold and treasure. Then, too, he was in his sixties and the idea of the Fountain of Youth became even more attractive.

In 1521, he left for Florida, this time carrying two hundred men and supplies for colonization.

Sailing up Florida's west coast, Ponce de Leon anchored his two ships not far from Tampa Bay and began sending supplies ashore.

Suddenly, there was the twang of a bowstring and a Spaniard pitched forward, an arrow in his throat. More arrows and darts rained on the men from the low line of trees beyond the beach.

Juan Ponce de Leon came ashore to rally his men. He made a stately figure as he strode up the beach in his armor—a stately figure but a good target. His men stood aghast as an arrow struck between the armor joints, dropping their leader to the sand.

He was carried to his ship and the expedition returned to Puerto Rico. Ponce de Leon died soon after he was brought ashore.

Thus it was that Juan Ponce de Leon, who dreamed of wealth and eternal youth, found only disappointment and death in Florida.

Time has proved, however, that Ponce de Leon was not too far off in his search. Every year, thousands of visitors flock to Florida to bask and bathe under its sub-tropic sun to find, perhaps, their own healing spring of youth.

STORIES OF EARLY AMERICA

The Oklahoma Land Run

IN THE language of the Choctaw Indians, Oklahoma means "Land of the Red Man" and up until 1889, it was just that. Not that white men did not want to settle there, but the government had set it aside for the Indians.

Then came a proclamation by President Benjamin Harrison. It read in part: "At the hour of twelve o'clock, April 22, 1889, that part of Oklahoma Territory known as unassigned public lands shall be thrown open to settlement." The unassigned public lands formed an island of nearly two million acres in the very heart of the Territory and was surrounded by Indian reservations. What President Harrison's proclamation meant was that lands formerly held by the Creek and Seminole Indians would now be free to the first person who could "stake out a claim" on a plot.

The land had been surveyed and divided into tracts of 160 acres each. Those who wanted to claim tracts had to be twenty-one or more years of age, or the head of a family, and not own more than 160 acres elsewhere.

Homesteaders thronged to the Territory's borders on foot, by train, in wagons with signs on their sides, "Oklahoma or Bust," "Bound for a Home," etc. An estimated 75,000 men, women, and children camped on all four sides of the land. They pitched tents, chatted with future neighbors, and sang away their evenings around campfires.

Troops of cavalry restrained those who would jump the gun. Angry rumors spread along the line, telling of men who had sneaked across before the date set to hide on choice tracts of land and claim them after the run started. These men were called "Sooners," but they were few in number and most did not make good their false claims.

Then came the day of the run. It was

almost twelve o'clock. The soldiers raised their carbines. Then bugles sounded and the reports of the soldiers' guns were muffled by cheers and shouts. The great horde of people rushed forward. The run was on.

Swift horses raced ahead of the human stampede. There were yells and pistol shots as wagons and buckboards bumped and pitched and dust rose in the air like the smoke of a sweeping prairie fire. There were even special trains on the Santa Fe running into the Territory from the north and south which were to move no faster than the speed of horses.

The first man to set foot on the piece of land he wanted would drive a stake in the ground and wave off all others. People jumped from the windows of the over-crowded train coaches when they spotted a choice farm site.

There were arguments, there was gunfire, there were tears when a wagon wheel broke or a horse stumbled and fell. But in spite of all the confusion, farm lands were selected and town lots picked.

Oklahoma City, Norman, Stillwater, Edmond, and Kingfisher became bustling

towns in one day with streets laid out and businesses operating in tents and shanties. Guthrie, not in existence that morning, became a city of 10,000 people by nightfall.

Oklahoma is still very much a "Land of the Red Man." The more than thirty tribes in Oklahoma comprise almost one-fifth of the Indian population in the United States. Many prominent Oklahoma men and women can boast of Indian blood. The state's most famous son, Will Rogers, was part Indian.

Today, the nickname for Oklahoma is the "Sooner State." "Sooner" is no longer a term of reproach as it was in the land-run days. It now means an alert, ambitious and enterprising person who always takes the lead.



Classics Illustrated Junior

BEST LOVED STORIES FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FAIRY TALES



- 501 SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS
- 502 THE LILY DUCKING
- 503 CINDERELLA
- 504 THE RED SHIRT
- 505 THE SLEEPING BEAUTY
- 506 THE 3 LITTLE PIGS
- 507 JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
- 508 GOLDILOCKS AND THE 3 BEARS
- 509 BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
- 510 LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD
- 511 PUMPKIN-BOOTS
- 512 RUMPELTUTZEN
- 513 PINOCCHIO
- 514 JOHNNY APPREHEND
- 515 ALADDIN AND HIS LAMP
- 517 THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES
- 518 THE GOLDEN GOOSE
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- 521 KING OF THE GOLDEN RIVER
- 522 THE NIGHTINGALE

- 523 THE GALLANT TAILOR
- 524 THE WILD SWAN
- 525 THE LITTLE MERMAID
- 526 THE FROG PRINCE
- 527 THE GOLDEN HAIR
- 528 THE PENNY PRINCE
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- 530 THE GOLDEN BIRD
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- 534 THE GOLDEN TOUCH
- 535 THE WEAR OF OZ
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- 537 THE THREE FAIRIES
- 538 SILLY HANS
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- 541 SNOW WHITE & ROSE RED
- 542 THE DONKEY'S TALE
- 543 THE HOUSE IN THE WOODS
- 544 THE GOLDEN PURSE
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- 546 THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER
- 547 THE WISHING TABLE
- 548 THE MAGIC PEPPER
- 549 SIMPLE KATE
- 550 THE SINGING DONKEY
- 551 THE QUEEN BEE
- 552 THE 3 LITTLE SWANS
- 553 KING SHEPHERD
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- 555 THE 3 GOLDEN APPLES
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