



June 1965



June 1966



Keeping the Memory Alive

Vol 9 June 2012

THE TRACKERS' CROCNICLE

We ran out of CRO supported NASA manned space flight missions of the sixties and seventies a while back, so until we can come up with a new, suitable and lasting, theme (suggestions still welcomed) the newsletter will a) continue to be somewhat patchwork in content, or b) have to be reduced in size. You will also gather that I am getting desperate for suitable material.

It is out there.

Included in this issue:

Museum Notes - Part 1.....2
Mystery Photograph - Solved .....2
Whereabouts.....3, 4
Quotations.....4
The Saga Continues.....5
50th Anniversary of Friendship 7.....5
A Blast From The Past.....6
7th Picnic Day.....7
"The Fisherman Who Rode a Horse" - ctd.....8
Social Club News .....9
Subscription Renewal.....10
Gemini V Trivia.....11
Tracking Station Tours -
From the memoirs of Ted Cockram.....12

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## Museum Notes - Part 1

*From: hitsradioptyltd@bigpond.com*  
*Sent: Sunday, 1 April 2012 5:47 PM*

Hi everyone,

It's been another busy weekend at the new museum site.

Another batch of volunteers helped us out this weekend with more painting and gardening on the schedule. Thanks go to some of the teachers from East Carnarvon Primary.



We now have a nice roll on lawn and garden, and the doors have had the first coat of paint. The grass will green up over the next couple of weeks.

This week should see the carpet go in, and in a week or so, the extra internal walls.

I head back to Perth on Wednesday night, and will start work on the interpretive panels which will be displayed in the museum which tell the story of the Tracking Station and OTC. I hope to have these printed and installed in about 3 weeks. Fingers crossed we'll be open by the end of April.

I'm away in the UK and France for 3 weeks in May. So John Spehr from IGA here in Carnarvon will be looking after things while I'm recharging the batteries ready for Buzz!

regards

Phil Youd  
 Chairman



## Mystery Photograph - Solved



Thanks to Tito Teraci, the mystery of the missing three from the photograph published last December has been solved.

Second from left is the indomitable Tito Teraci himself; second from right is Hans Lemmons, and the guy in the middle is Geoff Cardwell.

## Whereabouts

**A**s a result of Paul Dench supplying his "staffing list", augmented courtesy Brian Milne, the "Whereabouts" table of those for whom we have no contact details has expanded to more than one page. Thanks to those who have sent updates.

C Abott	Jim Crossland	Geoff Hammond
Eric Ainsworth	Noel Cunningham	R Hanes
Gay Albon	F Dawes	Bea Hardman
Bill Arbery	Peter Dawson	Peter Hardwicke
Allan Barber	Peter Del Fante	Ron Harmes
John (Allan) Barber	Andrew Dempster	Anne Harvey (Brookes)
Matt Barber	Jean DeVis	D Hatch
Keith Barnard	Marilyn Dick	Gail Heileman
Barrow	Olive Dick	Stan Hills
Deidre Beaumont	Phil Dickinson	Ernie Hindley
Elizabeth Beckett	Neville Dippell	Dave Hine
Keith Beveridge	Cheryl?Dixon	
Michael Billings	L Donkin	A Holgate
Denis Black	John Draper	Phyllis Hook (Watson)
G Bond	Mike Dresser	J Hopkins
S Boyce	Bruce Duff	Vivienne Lawer (Hopper)
Bill Boyle	I Dunleavy	Ted Hopper
B Bradley	Bob Dwyer	Deidre Howard
Phil Brindley	Dave Elliot	B Hughes
Hans Britz	J Erickson	B Hunter
Dave Brooks	Ross Eyre	D Hutchins
Charlie Brown		Ian Jones
T.F.A Brown	Ian Few	S ??? Judd
W Brown	Ian Findlay	Vera Kastropil
J Burdett	G Francis	John Keane
R Burdett	Ben Franklin	Mike Keen
Martin Burgess	David Froom	Jim Keenan
Robert Burns	Don Frost	John Kelman
Joe Cabone	Jamie Gardiner	Joy King
Joy Cameron	L Gardner	M King
Geoff Cardwell	S Garner	L King
G Carrick	C George	Roy Kjellgren
Brian Clarke	Joe George	Gloria Klarie
Brian Clifford	J Gerschwitz	Peter Kloppenburg
Keith Clifton-James	G Goodlace	Henry Larsen
Barbara Cobcroft	L Gore	Russ Leighton
Bill Comstock	Lyn Grant	G Linney
?? Coombs	Claude Granville	F Lippett
Ron Cottis	Bob Halse	Alex Liu

*The quest continues; the list never seems to get very much shorter.*

*I have been given information concerning the possible whereabouts of a few of these, but so far have not been successful in obtaining, or confirming, details. The Reunion Dinner brought out some missing persons, but there are also a few who do not wish to be contacted.*

## Whereabouts ctd.

Gloria Lyon-Roberts	Don Pettitt	Ray Skender
Ross MacDonald	T Phillips	George Small
John Mahaffey	Diane Pitman (Housley)	Lyn Smart (Willis)
Peter Maine	John Platten	J Smith
Roy Mallinson	Gerry Plummer	Mary Smith
Bob Marr	D Powell	P Smith
Keith Mathieson	M.J.K Power	Roger Smith
Alec Matthews	Wendy Puccinelli	Bill Smythe
K McCarson	Lorna Quinn	Hazel Snook (Howse)
Ian McDonald	Roger Ramsden	Dave Standbury
S McDonald	A Rees	John Stanton
Frank McGregor	Dave Rendell	Alex Stevenson
Eileen McLaughlan	Frank Rice	Barbara Stephenson (Vernon)
Don McLellan	Doug Richards	Barbara Teahan
Nola Meiklejohn (O'Byrne)	D Richardson	Barbara Teasdale
R Miller	Harry Richmond	Des Terrill
Bill Mills	Ralp Richmond	Alan Thomas
Ray Mills	Dave Rickards	Christine Thomas
Marilyn Milner (Gobby)	G Riley	Howard Thomas
John Mogg	Brian Robinson	Don Thompson
Sharon Morgan (Todd)	Lynne Rosser	Jack Thompson
J Murray	Ted Rosser	Patsy Thompson (Nolan)
Dennis Naylor	Lindsay Sage	Larry Tomkins
Gloria Neal	Stewart Sands	Frank Toomey
Ellie Nichols	Ron Sargeant	Mike Travell
K Elton Nickerson	Russell Schwarzer	Norma Turner
Graham Nielsen	Bob Scott	Ernst Uhl
John Noble	Michael Scott-Malcolm	TonyVingerhoets
? O'Brien	Lorraine Scott-Malcolm (Erlandsen)	Dave Walker
Joan Oats	Dorcas Sefton-Bellion	Mrs B Ward
W Oliver	George Sefton-Bellion	Tom Ward
Denis Owens	D Selby	N Wardle
John Paddon	Ron Shand	A Watermeyer
??? Mrs Parkinson	Fred Sharland	Irene West
John Parkinson	E Sharples	Bernie Wilbourne
Alan Paterson	? Sheehan	Garnet Wilmott
? Paull	Jeff Shuttleworth	Brian Wilson
Mike Pender	P Sims	Ray Zatorski
Wendy Petersen		

## Quotations

*"The earth is the cradle of humankind, but one cannot live in the cradle forever."*  
- Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, 1895

*"The greatest gain from space travel consists in the extension of our knowledge. In a hundred years this newly won knowledge will pay huge and unexpected dividends."*  
- Professor Wernher von Braun

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish..."*  
- Proverbs 29:18

*"In the long run, a single-planet species will not survive."*  
- Michael Griffin, NASA administrator

## The Saga Continues

Despite the efforts of many ex-trackers, and now Phil Youd of [Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum](#), members of the journalist profession continue to astonish me with their factual errors.

It doesn't seem to matter how many times they are told, and are given the opportunities to present their stories replete with correct detail, they insist on not being confused with the facts.

Once again it is the same regional newspaper who offends; this time dated March 7<sup>th</sup>, in publishing a front page article on Buzz Aldrin's visit.

Not only do we have "*Retired OTC staff, the youngest of which (sic) is 65 years old, have been invited...*", but the caption for the large photograph showing Phil with the OTC Earth Station dish designates him as "*OTC president*".

Correspondence with the journalist concerned elicited the facts that she was:

a) aware that the OTC Earth Station and the NASA Tracking Station were separate sites because Phil told her, but

b) **thought** (her word) that we came under the same umbrella.

Don't journalists carry out their own research these days; especially for a front page story?

However, all is forgiven since the journalist in question is developing an article which will go toward dispelling the myth that the OTC dish tracked Apollo to the moon.

In contrast. Thank you to *The West Australian* of 18<sup>th</sup> April for publishing the factual article by Malcolm Quekett, entitled "*BUZZ IS THE BIZ*".

*The Editor*

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Friendship 7 Flight



*Ex-CRO Trackers and wives with Muechea veterans Jack Duperouzel and Clarry Olsson and their wives*

# A Blast From The Past

Thanks to Mick Coffey we have a page from a 1965 issue of "The Australian Women's Weekly", courtesy the National Library.

It relates the experience of his mother, Isabelle Coffey, after observing the Tracking Station at work during Gemini IV, June 1965.



### When the recipe says 'milk'—MAKE it with Bonlac Non-Fat Milk!

A rich, creamy taste... a satisfying, satisfying dessert... spicy, flavoured, luscious pie... all these things that would delight the whole family.

Just a bit less rich and fattening, you say? They won't be if you cook with Bonlac—the popular, nutritious, Non-Fat Milk. Bonlac can keep all your cooking fat-free and completely fat-free. Instead, give your family 50% more protein than full cream milk—without the fat!

So, when the recipe says 'milk', make it with Bonlac Non-Fat Milk and watch your family glow with robust good health!

**NON-FAT SALAD DRESSING**  
1 cup milk, 2 medium eggs, 1/2 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp mustard, 1/2 tsp vinegar, 1/2 tsp oil, 1/2 tsp sugar, 1/2 tsp Worcestershire sauce, 1/2 tsp onion salt, 1/2 tsp paprika, 1/2 tsp celery salt, 1/2 tsp black pepper, 1/2 tsp garlic powder, 1/2 tsp dill weed, and 1/2 tsp parsley. Mix well and serve with the dressing. Makes 1 1/2 cups.

**TEA-TIME SCONES**  
1 cup milk, 1/2 cup butter, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup flour, 1/2 cup baking powder, 1/2 cup raisins, 1/2 cup currants, 1/2 cup walnuts, 1/2 cup almonds, 1/2 cup pecans, 1/2 cup cashews, 1/2 cup hazelnuts, 1/2 cup pineapples, 1/2 cup kiwis, 1/2 cup mangoes, 1/2 cup guavas, 1/2 cup papayas, 1/2 cup mangoes, 1/2 cup guavas, 1/2 cup papayas, 1/2 cup mangoes, 1/2 cup guavas, 1/2 cup papayas.



## Says a reporter at Carnarvon: I ORBITED WITH GEMINI IV

By ISABELLE COFFEY

● America's latest Gemini twins are safe in their homes, but after three days' association with them in space it is taking me a long time before I can fire my own mental retro rockets and come down to earth.

IN the world of journalism my position is that of country correspondent, but I was one of those reporters allowed into the tracking station at Carnarvon, Western Australia, during the flight which was such an important step in America's progress toward the moon.

The tracking station is two miles east of the town, in low hills, where white tents and equipment are set up. Here America's first work in automatic on each of the two stages of the flight. My room is located in the distance from the second stage on.

There was only a big glass window opening in from the station.

When the window there I could have watched the and tracked the Gemini as it flew the distance in, and only a few miles away was the Communications 16 Freddell, being usually back in a big, comfortable chair.

**Felt strain**  
We could hear the communications station ringing messages and information in the case of tracking station around. Our work is the opposite part of the day.

A few minutes before the Gemini was due to "burn out" the air—my eye captured, meaning to appear over the horizon—the flight controller, all of the Gemini was seen.

I felt a knocking in my stomach as I sat down and reported for the first time from the capsule, as far away, so many, many miles around the earth as the sun and moon.

In my mind's eye I could see the horizon of the Gemini outside, reaching the horizon in the sun, then the Gemini's attitude as it flew back in to the capsule and long it will be disengaged with the opposite Gemini one of stage, which is after 22,000 miles.

"Gemini IV, Gemini IV, do you read me?"  
The call is repeated, and then the voice of the command station, Major James McDivitt: "This is Gemini IV. I read you fine."  
I breathe out relief. Ed White is sending health McDivitt 170 miles up in the air, and Ed Freddell has a few yards from where I sit.

All kinds of information direct to the operator's room, and control is under the control of flight control officers.

A brief eight minutes and the capsule is over the ocean of Australia. Another few seconds later.

The Gemini's first orbit is high above the earth. The Gemini's left to touch with all the best part of the tracking station, which before then long since.

Gemini's had another orbit one type of orbit with two orbits. The Gemini's said they could see nothing but stars, clouds for days.

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Don't, "All we need is a little sleep."

He waited for our next question to be answered. "Don't," said McDivitt, "that's the only thing in the window and I can't see a thing."

However, our disappointment changed to jubilation when we found we were going to be allowed to be in the station during the approach and splashdown.

**The blackout**  
We found out the real reason the blackout in the time of the capsule's orbit ended and wanted to immediately take a look at the Gemini's "blackout" in space. During that period there is no communication as to how the Gemini's or a Gemini's through the atmosphere, the way it is being hit at 10,000 ft per the Gemini's orbit.

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### STITCH IT WITH BRIDGET

**BRIDGET MAGINN** ("Stitch It With Bridget"), whose dressmaking classes are famous across the United States, has arrived for a lecture tour sponsored by The Australian Women's Weekly, Butterick Patterns, and Singer Sewing Machines.

**SYDNEY:** Lectures will be given at Farmer and Co. Ltd. from July 15-16 inclusive, and lecture proceeds, combined with the lecture, will be staged daily.

The afternoon lectures will be of special interest to domestic science students from secondary schools and high schools. Dates are: Lectures 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily in New River Restaurant, Paradise 115 p.m. Fabrics Dept. for Dress. Bookings free. Tickets for lecture series of lectures available from July 7. No phone calls or written communication. Tickets can be obtained from: Parsons Dept., 1st Floor, Mrs. Manning will also give a series of five lectures in Sydney. Details will be announced later.

**NEW ZEALAND:** Miss Maginn will lecture in three cities in New Zealand from August 23 to September 10. Fashion patterns, consistent with the lecture, will be staged daily. WELLINGTON: D.I.C., August 25-27 inclusive. Lectures 9 p.m. daily. Otago: Otago Rooms, Paradise, 1220 p.m. and 120 p.m. daily. Lectures bookings, 5/-, Fabrics Dept. CHRISTCHURCH: D.I.C., August 28-September 3 inclusive. Lectures, 10 a.m. daily. Restaurant Paradise, 1220 p.m. and 120 p.m. daily. Lectures bookings, 5/-, Bookings 130a. DUNEDIN: Miller and Clark, September 6-8 inclusive. Lectures, 11.30 a.m. daily. Maxwells Parade, 12.30 p.m. and 1.20 p.m. daily. Lectures bookings, 5/-. General Dress Bookings Office. Next week's issue will contain a "Stitch It With Bridget" — see page 4.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Picnic Day

*"Five years is still a long time between drinks."*

By all reports, and personal experience, the 7<sup>th</sup> picnic day was a resounding success.

It was great to meet up with fellow trackers again, particularly John Riolfo, and Ann of course, whom I had not seen since 1970.

Good, too, to see sons of trackers — helping to keep the memory alive.



*Photograph Phil Youd*

Another plus was seeing Bob Hocking looking so well.

Phil Youd, of Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum, gave a run down on what has been planned for Buzz Aldrin's visit in June together with a plea for suitable material to be displayed in Phase 1 of the museum.

The *pièce de résistance* for the picnic table was provided by the "cake lady"; maybe better known as Barb Mitchell. We all remember her fabulous Tracking Station cake made for the 1994 reunion hosted by Trevor and Val Mosel.

Finally, a personal, and grateful, "thank you" to all those who contributed so generously towards the cost of hiring the shelter.

*The editor.*



*Cupcakes Galore*

## The Fisherman Who Rode a Horse

*Continuation of an extract from the autobiography of Ken Watters.*

As we pulled up at the corner Bub's would be protagonist came across and putting his head in the passenger side window started giving Bub plenty of verbals.

I had already convinced Bub that he had to call him out and tell him to put up or shut up and that is exactly what Bub did. I was real proud of the way Bub handled it. The Mallard boy was a lot bigger than Bub but Bub showed no sign of fear. I think that the only reason he had not been into town before this was because he was worried about Mallard's mates getting in on the act. With me there in support there was less chance of this happening. The reputation that I had earned in Denham had followed me to Carnarvon and the local aboriginal community treated me with respect. I got out of the Landrover and came around to face Mallard.

"What is your problem mate I asked?"

"That fella is messing with my girl."

"That fella is my brother and he says he hasn't touched your girl and I believe him."

"I'm gunna punch his lights out", came back the reply.

"OK lets see you do it right now over in the park."

"The little chicken won't come across."

"We'll both be there as soon as I can turn this bus around", I replied walking back around to the drive's door.

There was a park right where the Shire offices are now with a public toilet block and plenty of gum trees to screen the action from view. We pulled up to find the Mallard boy already stripped to the waist shadow boxing inside a circle of his mates. Bub took off his shirt and although I could see most of his ribs there was plenty of wiry muscle showing on his arms and deep lines of pectoral muscles arcing across his lean belly. Bub had learned all of his boxing skills sparring with his mates on the school grounds at Denham and there was a quiet confidence about him. I stepped into the circle.

"I am going to referee the fight fella so no boots, biting or dirt OK?"

"I don't need to put the boots in to sort this prick out", came the reply.

Bub stepped into the circle.

"Righto shake hands and fight clean", I said sounding confident in Bub's ability.

"Get stuffed", Mallard said as he took a wild swing at Bub's head.

Bub must have been waiting for it, weaving to one side as it whistled past his ear. They circled each other with Mallard throwing punches one after the other and Bub miraculously avoiding all but a few that barely grazed his cheek.

Bub landed a few but they did not seem to carry much weight with them. It was obvious very early that he was outgunned on this occasion and given time Mallard was going to land a killer.

*To be continued*

## Social Club News - April 1969

### THE FULL LIFE

BY BURGEE

Yachting, say some people, is like others standing in a hole in the ocean throwing away pound notes. The Water Rat tells us however, that "Nothing is quite as satisfying as simply messing about in boats". Personally, I don't find that tearing up pound notes is a very satisfying procedure - less so when standing in a hole in the ocean, so wherein lies the water rat's secret? Let me reveal it to you, as Carnarvon has revealed it to me.

There are basically two modes of sailing at Carnarvon - the standard and the professional. The standard mode is in Quickcats - (semi-buoyant systems of wood, string and cloth) which are sailed for a few hours each weekend in, over, round and under the fascine. These high performance craft, with a skillful helmsman are, during this time, supposed to (a) ram other Cats, with luck shearing the other man's bows clean off, (b) run aground, (c) get holed by a tree, (d) turn upside down and make like a diving platform. Like all sports, it takes time to achieve perfection, but occasionally, all can be achieved on the first attempt,,if you happen to work for the DOS.

However, should you happen one day to be in the Crew Room minding your own business, discussing such erudite subjects as the cut of someone's jib, the flow of someone's buttock lines, or a fore and aft aspect ratio, then perhaps your interest might be overheard and recognised. The result is promotion to the professional mode of sailing, and an invitation to join the big-time. Now, as opposed to 3 hours sailing a mere 2 hull boat, one is asked to spend a whole weekend on three boats at once - known for short as a TRY, or in other words, to have a Trying weekend. Firstly though, a word or two about trimarans.

One of the problems of a single hulled boat is that if you erect a long stick with sails on it in the middle of the boat, the whole contraption is apt to fall over. It is necessary therefore, to hang a lead weight on the bottom of said boat to try and keep it upright, but this in turn (a) catches on the ground, (b) sometimes falls off. If you are rich however instead of using a lead weight, you can buy two more boats and fasten them one on each side of the first, the theory being that even if one comes loose, the other will still prevent you from falling over.

# Subscription Renewal

Regrettably it has become necessary for me to increase the subscription charge for those electing to receive the *CRONicle* by post.

Postal charges have increased considerably since this newsletter was first published and up until now I have carried those increases.

Those who have paid in advance will not be affected.

Your prompt payment will help to ensure the continuation of *The Trackers'CRONicle*. Any contributions to the content will also be of great assistance in providing suitable reading.

As a matter of interest, the *Battye Library* of WA, at their request, hold copies of all issues of the *CRONicle* for posterity to enjoy.

## Subscription Renewal Form 2012-2013

Name: .....

Mailing address: .....

.....

E-mail address: .....

**Amount:** \$11.00 inc. GST (E-mail (pdf) in colour); \$13.40 inc. GST (b&w postal delivery)  
(For non-Australian residents — \$AU10.00; \$AU16.00 for airmail delivery)

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Payment may be made by personal cheque; or

money order; or  Payable to TM & VA Kierans

by inter-bank transfer (contact me for account details)

Credit card - **non-Australian residents only** - (Visa/MasterCard) —www.stratapay.com ref 100426593.  
(Please print name in “Comments”)

Signed: .....

Name: .....  
(please print)

Date: .....

## KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE



### Carnarvon Tracking Station 1964 - 1975



Present Day

[Click for full size](#)

*Mick and Sue Coffey's Carnarvon Steel Supplies of Cornish St Carnarvon fabricated and donated the sign*

*Signwriting generously donated by W&K Painting of Egan St, Carnarvon*

*Photograph by Phil Youd - Edited by Terence Kierans*

[Click here to commence entry to the original station](#)

**M**y sincere thanks to all of those who have contributed to the website so far; listed at: [http://crotrak.com/thank\\_you.htm](http://crotrak.com/thank_you.htm) .

There is a lot to come including more photographs from the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Dinner, courtesy Trevor Housley, Tito & Joan Teraci, Margaret Hall and Max Garth. Just wish I had more than two hands, and more free time - I need to get them done before the next dinner

I can arrange copying, scanning, whatever, so as to get them uploaded to our website; you need have no fears regarding their safety.

## Gemini V Trivia

**R**eproduced in the Sydney "Sun" newspaper of 27 August 1965, headed "Pops and Poetry in Space." The article reads, in part:

*"For the second day, mission control acted as a space disc-jockey service to the astronauts. But instead of yesterday's steady diet of Dixieland jazz, a tape-recorded medley filled the spacecraft. It included such tunes as 'Oklahoma,' 'Hold That Tiger,' 'I've Been Working on the Railroad,' and, perhaps ironically, 'Never on Sunday.' Later, mission control told the astronauts, 'Stand by for an important announcement.' This was followed by a recording of 'The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You.'"*

# Keeping the Memory Alive

## Tracking Station Tours

*From the memoirs of Ted Cockram*

The most interesting NASA film was DOORWAY TO TOMORROW that featured the complete operational change from the Gemini to the Apollo programme.

Prior to Apollo each mission required a new launch tower and Cape Canaveral/ Cape Kennedy was littered with derelict launch towers. With the Apollo programme that was to take man to the moon the giant Saturn Five Rocket was assembled in a single cavity building that was some 49 stories high, it was so large that it generated its own internal atmospheric conditions.

The main rocket components were too big for transport by land and were carried on barges via specially constructed canals. The rocket was assembled in the building on top of a two story high mobile platform that weighed three thousand tons. This self-compensating platform with its own launch tower moved on crawler tracks in which each cleat weighed one ton. It carried the vertical Saturn Five rocket

some three miles to a launch pad that could be used again and again.

Another film related to a visual acuity study after one of the astronauts reported seeing a tiny speck of white followed by a trail of dust when passing over the Mojave Desert.

This had not shown on film footage so a very sophisticated experiment was set up to assess if the human eye could see what the camera could not. It was ascertained that at the time there was a vehicle with a white roof travelling in that location and that was what the astronaut had seen.

The study proved that the human eye could see what the camera could not.

Another very interesting black and white historic film showed Professor Goddard launching the first X 15 experimental rocket, I don't recall the period but it was possibly in the 1920s.

Another film told the Gemini story of docking in space in preparation for the moon landing.

*To be continued*

If undelivered, please return to:

**CRO Trackers**

PO Box 93, Quinns Rocks, WA 6030