

# *Serendipity*

## **THE ASTRONAUT'S DREAM—A TRUE STORY**

*This was told to me by the astronaut to whom it happened—I am not naming him, as I haven't asked his permission to tell his story, although it is not 'confidential', as I know he has told it to other people!*

A few weeks before his flight to the moon, the astronaut had a particularly vivid dream. He and his fellow astronaut had safely landed on the moon, and were exploring the lunar surface, driving their 'lunar rover'. To their surprise and horror, they came across another set of tyre tracks on the lunar surface. They could tell which way the tracks were going, and set off to follow them. After a few miles, they came to a stationary lunar rover, with two motionless astronauts sitting in it. They lifted the visors on the astronaut's helmets, and looked at their own—dead—faces! Before leaving the abandoned lunar rover, they cut off samples of different materials from it, to take back to earth. They returned to the lunar module, and in the fullness of time took off from the moon, rendezvoused with the command module, and returned safely to earth. Analysis of the materials they took back suggested that the abandoned lunar rover had been on the surface of the moon for 10,000 years!

That was the end of the dream, but the astronaut involved said that as he was coming in to land on the moon, the main thing on his mind was looking out for those tyre tracks—luckily, he didn't find them!

***Mike Whittle***