

A Dream Fulfilled

It is the summer of 1956. The place is Bright Park, Hialeah, Florida. The sun is setting as the 14-year-old pitcher steps up to the mound and starts his wind-up. He stops suddenly, as he notices several people in the stands are staring at the sky. There is an eerie feeling within the crowd. The young pitcher turns and looks over his shoulder at the eastern Sky. There he sees what everyone is gazing at. A very bright object, that looks like a star is moving across the sky. The object glitters like a diamond in the afternoon sunlight. This was definitely a “UFO”, he thought; as he watched it gradually disappear from sight. It was easy for Leonard, the pitcher, to believe that this object was not of our world. After all, it was just last week that he had seen the science fiction movie “Destination Moon”. The next day the newspapers reported that thousands all along the East Coast of Florida had seen this mysterious object. The Air Force explained it was a Rocket launched from Cape Canaveral. Leonard was fascinated with the thought of someday working on the launch team for such a grand adventure. He was aware of Dr. Werner Von Braun’s work on the German V2 rocket. He had read one of Von Braun’s books. He dreamed of someday meeting Dr. Von Braun and working with his team to launch the first Rocket to the Moon. Most of the summer was spent playing baseball with the Kenny boys that lived near by. Mr. Kenny was a very interesting man, with a strong interest in science fiction. He would often tell stories of what it was going to be like when men first traveled to the Moon. He believed that men would walk to moon within the next ten years. This was in 1956, when there was almost no talk of a moon mission. Mr. Kenny was only off by three years. Those stories seemed so real, that Leonard would frequently dream of working on the first Rocket to the Moon. Little did he know that one-day he would fulfill that dream.