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SKYLOOK

Vol. 1 - No. 4

Let's Separate Fact From Fantasy

December 1967

DR. HYNEK LECTURES ON UFO

We are indebted to John F. Schuessler and Willard P. Armstrong for two fine reports on Dr. Allen Hynek's lecture "The UFO As a Scientific Problem" given at the Graham Chapel on the Washington University Campus, St. Louis, the evening of Nov. 24. The lecture was sponsored by Alpha Sigma Lambda and was well attended.

Our readers are doubtless well aware of Dr. Hynek's status and qualifications as a scientist, but a brief resume will not be amiss. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago and taught at the Ohio State University from 1936 to 1960 in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, progressing from instructor to professor and Director of the Applied Physics Laboratory, John Hopkins University, lecturer in General Education and Astronomy at Harvard, led the Ohio State University Eclipse Expedition to Iran, served as Associate Director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and head of the Section of Upper Atmosphere Studies which included the Optical Satellite Tracing Program. He was in charge of setting up twelve satellite observing stations around the world. From 1960 to date, he has served as Professor of Astronomy, Director of Dearborn Observatory and Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University and Director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center. From 1953 to the present, he has served as Scientific Consultant to the U.S. Air Force on UFO's. -----

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BRIGHT OBJECT SEEN IN ILL. AND MO.

A bright unidentified flying object was seen early Wednesday morning, Nov. 8, over Freeport, Ill., and may have been the same one seen the same morning over Salem, Mo.

The St. Louis GLOBE*DEMOCRAT carried a story Nov. 9 on the Freeport sighting. Freeport is located in the north western part of Illinois and the object was reported by Police Sgt. Harvey Toepfer who said two motorists told him they saw the object as they drove the 28 miles between Rockford and Freeport, and it "seemed to follow them."

Four Freeport police officers said they also observed the bright object and attempted to get under the UFO in a squad car, but the object seemed "to remain a constant distance away from the car." The object seemed to remain stationary over the Freeport-Rockford area for about 1½ hours. -----

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DO YOU WANT A GROUP MEETING?

John Schuessler has suggested that we might have a group meeting, dinner and possibly a guest speaker some time in the Spring, tentatively April or May, at a convenient location for all, possibly Columbia.

It sounds like a good idea to us, and he has offered to organize the meeting and make arrangements for program and press coverage -----

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AS DESIGNERS SEE UFO'S - PART II

Silent flight is, of course, one of the biggest mysteries. There have been almost no reports of UFO's making the sort of loud operational noises one usually associates with high-performance flying machines. No roar of a jet or blast of a rocket--Only a soft hum, whirr or buzz from those encountered at all. Yje 1964 case of a New Mexico police officer who saw a UFO hovering 10 feet from the ground, less than 200 feet away, yet "so quiet you could have heard a pin drop" is a classic example of the baffling silence of UFO's. No known or seriously theorized power system would be capable of silent operation. Anti-gravity devices? Magnetic field propulsion? This amounts to trying to explain one unknown by means of another unknown.

A vehicle capable of making firht-angle turns at high speed without slowing down is equally far from accomplishment and encourages some to conclude that we are dealing with machines having no mass. Yet, the right-angle turns may be an illusion caused by the eye's inability to detect a very small radius of turn at a great distance. If this is the case, then we are dealing with merely superior maneuverability, rather than something 100% unique.

There have been many radar trackings of UFO's (150-plus in USAF records, about 100 in NICAP files), many of which were confirmed visually. The numerous instances in which UFO's should have been picked up by radar but weren't could possibly be explained by special antiradar techniques familiar to the military people but rarely discussed in public. Over the years however,

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*****WITH THE EDITOR*****

We are sorry the November issue of SKYLOOK was delayed in reaching you but our publisher, student at U.M.K.C. had some heavy studying to do for a series of test, also extra work in his research, and we are sure you will agree with us in feeling this has to come first. Cutting the stencils and running off copies of SKYLOOK is a time consuming job and some days there just aren't enough hours to meet all demands of a heavy work schedule.

As a bonus for your patience, we'll try to get out an extra this month. We are sure you are anxious to read the report of Dr. Hynek's lecture in St. Louis, and again we thank those who sent in reviews.

GET YOUR STORIES IN SOON

ANOTHER MAGAZINE OUT

Steve Erdmann, one of our readers and a member of APRO, is editor of DISSENTER/DISINTER, a bi-monthly magazine, subscription \$3.00/year.

In addition to articles on UFO's he covers a lot of other subjects,

FLYING OBJECTS OVER LAKE SUPERIOR

Silver-blue and gold glowing objects moving at high speed over Lake Superior in September were reported by the MILWAUKEE SENTINEL (Sept. 9) and the GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE (Sept. 10).

Five Marquette (Mich.) policemen were among many persons who reported seeing the objects nearly every morning, usually between 4 am and 6 am for a week preceeding the 9th. A couple living on US 41, south of Marquette, were among others reporting.

The patrolmen who watched the UFO's said they moved at high speed in erratic patterns, stopping and zipping off frequently. Two objects were described as being silver-blue and two gold. One was reported to have remained visible until 10:06 am one morning.

Police Chief George Johnson (Marquette) notified the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base and officials there said an attempt would be made to photograph the objects.

(If any of our readers have seen a follow-up on this story, please send your clipping to SKYLOOK.)

NOVEMBER SIGHTINGS IN KANSAS

Corbyn Jacobs, postmaster at Palmyra, reports that on Nov. 4th and 5th KCMO, Kansas City, Mo., interrupted their regular programs to announce that (Saturday) four UFO's were seen over Salina, Kansas, and (Sunday) to report four objects were in view over Junction City, Kansas. At one of the sightings the Smokey Hill Air Force Base sent up interceptors, and one fighter plane was given permission to fire a rocket. The UFO's pulled away from the interceptors at great speed.

These sightings were not given news coverage in the local newspapers and the listener reporting above heard nothing more on TV or radio.

Thanks to Walt Andrus, of Quincy, Ill., for this report.

ON THE PERSONAL SIDE

Every contributor to SKYLOOK is a member of the staff. This month we are glad to introduce one of the best

John F. Schuessler

P.O. Box 223

St. Charles, Mo. 63301

He was born in Jacksonville, Ill., and grew up in Decatur, attending Millikin University and the University of Illinois, majoring in mechanical engineering with some specific aeronautical interest.

He is now a Senior Design Engineer at the McDonnell Astronautics Co. in St. Louis. John was the Environmental Control Systems Engineer on the Gemini Spacecraft Program, responsible for the specifications for subcontracted life support equipment, and is serving in a similar capacity on the Airlock (spent stage Orbital workshop) program.

He was a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve for 12 years and served two years on active duty as Chief Petty Officer.

He recently spoke at the Edwardsville, Ill., Lions Club and frequently addresses groups in connection with his work and on the subject of UFO's. A member of APRO, he says he would like to see the scientific method applied to the UFO, not just at the University of Colorado, but throughout the world."

Other interests are cartooning and fishing, and one of his pet projects is the YMCA Indian Guide Program for fathers and sons. As Bear Claw, chief of the Chickasaw Tribe of the Sioux Nation, John takes an active part in this program and is one of its most enthusiastic supporters.

Kathy, his wife, is a photo colorist and artist, as well as housewife and mother, and shares all her husband's interests.

DR. HYNEK - CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

His publications include numerous professional journal articles and he is responsible for the section on UFO's in the current ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA.

And now for his lecture--and we are happy to compile facts from each report sent us so our readers may have full benefit of Dr. Hynek's discourse

He began by explaining what a UFO is as compared to an IFO. He described how satellites, aircraft, planets etc. are responsible for about 95% of the objects reported, making them IFO's.

The issue is also confused by the many "Kooks" and sensationalists who clutter the press with wild claims and purported conversations with little green men. Unbiased investigation is also hindered by the "circular reasoning" of some scientists, e.g.: the reported phenomena are contrary to the known laws of physics; therefore they cannot be real; therefore why bother to investigate them? Dr. Hynek feels the Air Force follows this school of thought and points out that the government has never given a UFO report a thorough investigation. Project Blue Book takes each UFO report one at a time and settles on an answer. They never analyze a group of sightings to determine similar characteristics or patterns.

He stated the real raw material for the study of UFO's is the UFO reports nothing more. People don't bring in saucers or little green men---they bring reports. Most of the reports, as mentioned, are obviously normal objects easily recognized by the trained investigator. But, once in awhile a report will be outstanding and, as he says, "It really jars you."

Characteristics of the latter type of reports are:

- (1) The witness describes an "escalation of hypotheses"--he first thought the object was a meteor, then an aircraft about to crash, etc.

- (2) The object either is entirely silent, or emits a high-pitched whining sound.
- (3) Animals in the vicinity become nervous and excited.
- (4) Where a vehicle is concerned, there is often stoppage of ignition, lights and radio.
- (5) UFO's are often seen by police on patrol late at night. These same men whose testimony is accepted in court may not be believed when they make reports on this subject. Airline pilots also see UFO's fairly often but hesitate to make official reports as they might be sent to a "headshrinker" or made to take an enforced rest.
- (6) Reasons for making reports often are conscience (considering it a public duty), and curiosity--a wish for an explanation. Reports are now coming in from people who had UFO experiences years ago but did not report them at the time for fear of being thought queer.

When Dr. Hynek began his work as consultant for the USAF in 1948 he was sure that UFO's were nonsense. He believed by 1952 the whole thing would just fade away--but instead, as he pointed out, the UFO problem has become global and is still with us today.

Dr. Hynek quoted the 1966 Gallup Poll which showed that over 5 million Americans reported seeing UFO's, fifty million people in the US believe UFO's are "real", thus indicating an extremely high awareness of the phenomenon.

Before accepting a photograph as evidence, Dr. Hynek would like to see the camera and negative, talk to the photographer and also at least one witness. Photographs can be faked with relative ease, he pointed out, and while he showed some apparently excellent photographs, he did not say categorically that any of them was genuine.

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DR. HYNEK - CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

He also showed some interesting sketches of UFO's and said he finds them more interesting than most photos. He also showed some cartoons from his extensive collection. These brought a delighted response from the audience, as did the many witty remarks with which he laced his talk, although his general tone was serious and expressive of a genuine curiosity and open-mindedness toward the UFO phenomena.

He also showed some slides of spiral galaxies, as well as "close-ups" of sections of our own galaxy. He pointed out there are billions of stars in each galaxy. It would be extremely provincial of us to believe that among all these only our sun has a family of planets, with only one of them supporting intelligent life. The odds are overwhelming that there are billions of such suns. The great question is, as he pointed out, how could craft from distant stars reach our earth? That is the impossible thing according to our present knowledge. But consider how impossible a jetliner would have looked to a covered wagon traveler 100 years ago. Then consider that the inhabitants of other planets circling other stars may have got their start millions of years ago. Would we not expect their technology to be immeasurably beyond ours?

Dr. Hynek says he has never seen a UFO himself, but gives his opinion that the possibilities indicated, if reports are true, are exciting. As a scientist, he cannot accept them all until they have been reliably investigated, or until he himself has experience with UFO's.

The lecture ended with a question and answer period. A report on this and Dr. Hynek's suggested plan of a panel of investigation will be given in the next issue of SKYLOOK.

Mail to Dr. Hynek should be addressed as follows:

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Dept of Astronomy
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

TEACHER AND FRIENDS WATCH UFO'S

Mrs. Janice Shipley, of 404 N. 5th St., Hannibal; Mrs. Betty Joel and two children, of Vancouver, Washington, and Steven Gramling, age 16, of Kirksville, were sunning themselves on the beach at the State Park lake, ten miles north of Kirksville on a sunny afternoon in August (the 20th) when all observed three groups of objects flying from southeast to northwest, following an identical path about 85 degrees above the horizon, spaced about 10-15 seconds apart.

The sky was clear with a few high cirrus clouds scattered to the south. Visibility was good. The first object was sighted at 6:19 pm, CDT, and was of an oval shape. Mrs. Shipley, who made the report to the 179th Radar Squadron Base at Kirksville that evening, compared it to a cigar and said it glistened like polished aluminium. It was traveling at a constant speed and there was no jet stream or propeller visible. Mrs. Joel saw small aluminium colored objects being ejected for and aft from the object. About 15 seconds after the UFO was out of sight, another appeared on the same flight path. This was made up of two parts that were square or rectangular in shape and aluminum in color. One was above the other and connected by an umbilical cord. They moved in an undulating fashion with the top object slightly in the lead.

Mrs. Shipley has observed tankers refueling aircraft in flight and these did not have that appearance. She said they looked "like two sheets of metal flying together" and seemed to lack any propulsion.

The third object, globe-shaped and aluminum in color, followed the first two along the same path and apparently at the same rate of speed.

Mrs. Shipley, who has her B.A. from the Kirksville State Teachers College, and is working toward her Masters, gave a very clear and concise report of what she and her friends saw.

AS DESIGNERS SEE UFO'S -CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO -

Mr. Berliner writes, a little information has leaked out, though nothing has ever been formally confirmed by Government sources. Among the techniques are RAM (Radar Absorbent Materials), such as exotic paint jobs which refuse to reflect radar beams to give false information concerning the number, location and speed of the aircraft.

Any one of these technology areas would be enough to keep a major firm busy for untold years, assuming it was seriously trying. Until quite recently, there was little effort being expended toward the solution of the big problems of silent flight, extreme acceleration and speed at low altitude. But now the picture is beginning to change. A serious look is being given at the reports of UFO'S and the technological advances they seem to indicate.

Acceptance of a \$300,000 contract from the USAF to study the subject of UFO'S has propelled the University of Colorado into the spotlight as the first substantial institution to publicly recognize UFO'S as a subject worthy of scientific groups in private industry, other universities and even the military, both here and abroad.

Numerous large corporations, sensing the research and development potential of UFO investigation, have quietly begun pilot projects aimed at cashing in on an expanded Government-financed study which would almost certainly follow any positive conclusion by the University of Colorado. Mr. Berliner goes on to mention several projects under study and says one of the "Big Four" auto manufacturers has agreed to handle the puzzling cases of auto electrical system failure for the University of Colorado. Enough interest has built up to assure steadily increasing activity on the part of the aerospace industry, thanks to such events as the concern over UFO'S by Soviet astronomer Felix Zigel.

Editor's Note: We thank AIR PROGRESS for permission to use material from "The

U.F.O. From the Designer's Viewpoint" by Don Berliner in the October issue.)

BRIGHT OBJECTS - CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

Sgt. Toepfer said at least 25 employees of the Freepport Memorial Hospital and several members of the Stephenson County sheriff's department also had seen the UFO.

The object was describe as appearing "larger than a baseball and about six times brighter than a star."

Salem is a thriving little Ozark town south and west of central Missouri, and the SALEM NEWS of Nov. 13th reported that Mrs. Dee Headrick saw a bright object about 2 a.m. Nov. 8th. She called a neighbor, Mrs. Violet Cotner. Both ladies watched the object which they described as being "bigger than a grapefruit and much brighter than a star" off and on until about five o'clock.

The Nov. 16th issue of the SALEM POST gave further reports from those who had seen the UFO on the 8th. Mrs. Wilma Hedley saw it seemed to be about the size of a half-moon, was round in shape, and was about the same "color of light as the moon" and it moved slowly. She too called a neighbor to check her sighting.

Rosanna Freeman, of Salem, reported that she too saw the object in the sky about 5 a.m. She wrote "The sky was pitch dark with nothing else in the sky but this bright object and behind it was a slight breach in the cloud with light behind the cloud and object. It seemed odd as there wasn't any other breakage of clouds except right behind the object as though the moon might be shining there. There wasn't a moon or any stars. I turned away from the object, looking at the sky around me, seeing if stars would come peeking through, but there wasn't, and I turned to look at the object again and it was gone as though it were swallowed up or covered by a morning cloud."

She added that it seemed to be "about the size of a grapefruit" and she had watched it for about 15 minutes.