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SKYLOOK

NUMBER 27

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"We tell it as it is."

The grandest homage we can pay to truth is to use it.--Ralph Waldo Emerson.

SKYLOOK is the Official Publication of the Midwest UFO Network.
The address is SKYLOOK, Box 129, Stover, Mo.
65078

With the Editor

In the November issue, our editorial was concerned with The Enemy Within--the cultists and gimmick writers, ufology's camp followers.

William J. Finch, a freelance writer, commented on the editorial and added some thoughts of his own on writing which we believe will be of interest to our readers, and we couldn't think of a better spot than this to feature Mr. Finch.

"I too enjoy science fiction," he writes, "but greatly prefer factuality. I am in complete agreement that each has its place but should be properly labeled. There is enough stories based upon acceptable, even though not necessarily provable, evidence to give writers sufficient material for writing.

"The confusion in the UFO investigation is the result of a vicious circle. Hungry writers, pressured editors and gullible readers. I suggest that UFO articles (including my own) be checked by readers and if they find false claims, as Mike Jaffe did, that letters be written to the editors informing them. This will tighten editorial policy, assisting in elimination of creative writing instead of factual reporting.

On the other hand, some publishers tacitly encourage the addition of fantasy in order to embellish the facts with more excitement and entertainment, while packaging the whole as "true." Mr. Finch wrote of his own experience with a publisher who expressed interest in an article he (Finch) wrote and suggested he write a book based on his "novel idea" and to include case histories. Mr. Finch replied his report was not a "novel idea" but a factual experience and no case histories could be compiled. The publisher immediately lost interest. Mr. Finch wrote, "I am quite certain that I could have pushed tripe off onto this editor and had a book published."

Mr. Finch writes a regular column "E.S.P. Anyone?" for the WEEKLY AMERICAN and sent us a clipping of the Dec. 18, 1969 column which included mention of SKYLOOK and the Midwest UFO Network, and we appreciate the favorable publicity which has resulted in requests for sample copies and some new subscriptions.

Mr. Finch writes, "I am interested in any stories of the unusual and welcome letters * * * at the present time I am researching the various communications that are received through any means allegedly from UFOs." (You may write him at 5519 N. 35th Drive, Phoenix, Arizona, 85019)

At this time he is also investigating a report of a UFO explosion near Phoenix. He says: "I am truly digging into this one, but if and when it is written, you can bet the claims can be investigated. The witness tells of being held by the FBI for four days. I'll have the story from their side if it can be obtained. It may be denied, but other facts will indicate whether or not a cover-up is being used.

"My personal policy is to report my findings and let those who read

(Continued on next page)

With the Editor (continued)

reach his own conclusions. I attempt to write so that the casual can enjoy the story and the thinker can utilize the data."

Referring again to the SKYLOOK editorial, he says, "Again I extend congratulations to you. You may think you have expressed only your personal opinion and convictions but rest assured your thought is supported by many."

We thank Mr. Finch for writing, and we would like to hear the result of his investigation of the UFO explosion.

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SKYLOOK--Official Publication of the Midwest UFO Network

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Tell others you read it in SKYLOOK!

Blaze of Light Shoots Up from Circle on Ozarks Farm

Mr. and Mrs. X (name in SKYLOOK files) operate a business in a small town in the Missouri Ozarks and they live in a country home off Highway No. 135. It's an ordinary farm area with wooded hills, open meadows, a creek running across the property, and a farm house with a scenic view that is not at all "ordinary", out across the valley and rolling hills.

There is something else different about this farm too--on a level spot on a gentle slope leading down to the creek, there is a circle, 70 feet in diameter, where nothing grows but dead-looking grass with the appearance of having been swept over by fire--a strong contrast in summer to the lush green surrounding it. The circle is avoided by farm animals and wild life as shown by the tracks that edge the circle, but never cross it, as cattle etc move down the otherwise wooded slope to the creek.

Mr. and Mrs. X discovered the circle shortly after they moved to the farm about fourteen years ago, and they don't know if the former owners were aware of the circle or how far back it dates. They frequently visit the spot to ponder over what caused it and why it seems to repel every living thing.

Grass does grow in the circle, Mrs. X told your editor, but it never gets more than a few inches above ground and always bears that gray, ash-like appearance. "It just looks like it's covered with ashes you could brush away with your hand," she says.

Digging into the circle disclosed nothing unusual, but Mrs. X insists there is a "hollow sound" when spade strikes the soil and rock.

About three years ago something happened which caused Mr. and Mrs. X to wonder even more about their circle.

It was a summer evening, and neighbors, about two miles distant, saw a sudden whoosh of blazing light and flame shoot up into the sky from what they believed to be the X farmhouse, not visible from their home because of trees. Jumping into their car, they sped toward the X home until they reached a point where they could see the house was intact. Then feeling it must have been another farm home in line with the X farm altho they had been sure the blaze had been from the X home, they went on to discover the other house too was unharmed. There were no reports of fire in the vicinity, and as far as is known, only these neighbors saw the strange, fiery light that shot up into the sky that night.

Describing what they had seen to Mr. and Mrs. X, they said "it looked like a house on fire without any smoke in the flames." Going to the circle which they felt must have been the point of take off, they found nothing unusual other than the body of a dead hawk just over the line into the ashy circle. Since then, Mrs. X admits she feels a little uneasy every time she checks on the circle to see if anything has changed. It remains the same.

After receiving a lead from Mr. Art Epstein, APRO field investigator in St. Louis, this writer talked to the owner and operator of the Hager Service Station, located at Odessa, Missouri.

The owner said that on July 10, 1947, he and his wife were driving from Denver, Colorado, to Wyoming when they saw two silver discs in the morning sky. The objects, which appeared like two saucers with a dome on the upper section, were seen moving slowly in a clear sky. They were in sight about five minutes as one followed the other.

The observer and his wife heard a report of the objects carried by a Cheyenne, Wyoming radio station. More information is being sought.

Midwest UFO Network Director Lauds End of Project Blue Book

The Decatur (Ill.) Research Committee on UFO's regards the closing of the Air Forces's Project Blue Book as a step forward in UFO research.

"All the agency did was to accumulate reports and any good reports didn't remain in files but were turned over to secret groups," said Leonard Sturm, chairman of the Decatur Research Committee on UFOs. Mr. Sturm, an engineer with the Illinois Power Company and State Section Director (Eastern Illinois) of the Midwest UFO Network, was being interviewed by a staff writer on "The Decatur Review" and this report is taken from the Jan. 7th edition of the newspaper.

Sturm said the secret groups are government agencies that are investigating UFOs and has been informed of these groups through interviews he has had with officials in Washington.

"Project Blue Book never did anything about a solution to the problem of UFOs," Sturm said. He stated that civilian researchers and scientists believe the closing of the agency is "the best thing that has happened."

With its periodic news releases on UFOs the Air Force agency created a confusing situation, he said. In its news releases the agency would say that 95 per cent of reported UFOs were cases of mistaken identification. "But the other five per cent would also be classified in that same category of UFO," Sturm said.

He says his interest in UFOs dates from a radio news story he heard on a Sunday in June, 1955. The story allegedly was filed by the late columnist Dorothy Kilgallen while she was in England.

"She was taken to an English Air Force base and shown a flying saucer that had landed automatically after being hit in space by meteors," Sturm said.

"At the base she was also shown the preserved bodies of seven men who had been in the saucer. They were about 4 5/8 feet tall with black hair and looked like people less than 40 years of age," he said.

Sturm said that only a single American paper, a New York paper, carried
(continued on next page)

her story. He said he found out later that she had been requested not to release details of what she saw in England here.

Sturm heads the Decatur Research Committee on UFOs which meets on the last Tuesday of each month in the home of a member. "There are at the present time 8 to 10 members. We don't receive too many reports, perhaps one or two a month," he said. Most of the reports are from persons who see strange lights at night and "We don't put much stock in such reports because it is too easy to misidentify a satellite as a UFO and it is too difficult at night to make accurate identifications."

His group is affiliated with APRO and NICAP and has as its purpose the investigation of facts about various UFO sightings in the area. Persons with scientific backgrounds are encouraged to help on the various investigations and other individuals interested in the UFO phenomena are invited to join the Decatur organization.

Sturm said that on June 13, 1970, the leading UFO researchers and scientists will gather at Bradley University, Peoria, for a meeting. This convention is being sponsored by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization of Peoria.

Credit: Walter Andrus, Chairman Illinois Section APRO

UFO Sighting Said to be Rocket Shot

That bright light which shown in the Kirk-Fuego area 40 miles north of Klamath Falls Friday night apparently was not a UFO. It has been attributed to a routine missile firing from Vandenburg AFB, California.

Dan Cillis, 2428 Hope Street, supported Noel Cailloutte, Southern Pacific conductor, and John Burgoyne, S.P. engineer, in their description of the object.

Cillis said he was driving west toward Crater Lake from Klamath Marsh when he spotted the intriguing light about 6:45 p.m. Friday.

"It looked like the moon coming up, then a search light. It left a big, green streak, and then looked like it had burned a hole in the sky," Cillis reported.

He said that he was later informed that the bright light resulted from a missile firing.

Source: "Herald & News," Klamath Falls, Oregon, Dec. 9, 1969.
Credit: David Cannady and Lou Farish.

Bill Moore edits EYEWITNESS, a bi-monthly UFO bulletin concentrating on Ohio sightings of unidentified flying objects. The issue on hand as we write this review contains six neatly printed pages, and a larger one is promised for late January or early February. EYEWITNESS is \$1.75 per year and should be of particular interest to Ohio readers. The address is Box 34, Mt. Perry, Ohio, 43760. (A SKYLOOK review by Ye Ed)

'Saucer' Study to Continue

Chicago Daily News, Dec. 29, 1969 carried the following written by its science editor, Arthur J. Snider, under a four-column headline used above:

Boston--A conservative astronomer, director of two observatories, professor and chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University, dapper J. Allen Hynek's first flaunting of orthodoxy was wearing a goatee years before it was fashionable.

His second has been a resolute unwillingness to accept the conclusions of the recent Condon report which states unidentified flying saucers to not exist and that reports of them are worthless as objects of scientific study.

Participating in a panel discussion Saturday before the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science, Hynek said he will continue his interest, no matter how it may compromise his position with the scientific establishment of Northwestern.

"No one has made any suggestion to me that I drop my interest in the subject," he said in an interview. "In fact, the board of trustees asked me to address them on the subject of UFOs."

Allowing for reports from crackpots, cultists, hoaxsters, visionaries, fanatics and the deluded, there is still a small residue of observations by credible witnesses around the world still unexplained by the Condon report, Hynek declared.

To shut the doors of scientific investigation and to bar discussion in the scientific journals is deplorable, he insisted.

Hynek says he has always been an "organization man" and had he not been asked by the Air Force 21 years ago to investigate some sightings, he might still be as much a scoffer as most of his orthodox colleagues.

"It is easy to be down on what you are not up on," he said. "Unless one gets his hands dirty, it will be logical to regard UFO's as nonsense."

The panel discussion, which continued a day and a half, brought together 13 scientists with a wide spectrum of views.

Astronomer Thornton Page, program chairman, said Dr. Edward H. Condon of the University of Colorado, author of the report, not only declined invitation to participate but sought to prevent the symposium--even to the degree of asking intervention by vice president Spiro T. Agnew.

Condon reportedly feels he has written a definitive study and that putting the subject on the program of a prestige society would only give aid and comfort to dissenters.

Two of Condon's associates in the study, Dr. Franklin Roach and Dr. William Hartman, in general supported his conclusions. Roach, however, dismissed the common argument of orthodoxy that an astronomer using telescopes has never seen a UFO.

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Saucer Study to Continue (continued)

All 310 astronomical telescopes of the world cover less than one one-hundredth of one per cent of the sky, Roach said. On the other hand, Dr. Kenneth Hardy said that no UFO's have been sighted in five years of radar operation at Wallops Island.

Also supporting Condon was Prof. Donald Menzel, Harvard University astronomer who was one of the earliest debunkers of flying saucers.

Menzel said most objects are nothing more than flocks of birds or insects, and even windblown paper, and the others can be explained by atmospheric physics.

In Hynek's corner was Prof. James C. McDonald of the University of Arizona, who said science has been in default in the 22 years of the Air Force's Project Blue Book, the UFO surveillance program recently discontinued.

The inadequacy of investigation has not been due to an Air Force conspiracy but rather to incompetence, McDonald said.

Prof. Robert Hall, behavioral scientist at the Chicago Circle Campus of the University of Illinois, reminded the group that orthodox scientists have been wrong before in refusing to open their minds to what appeared to be heresy.

He agreed with Hynek there are some hard-core reports that stand up better than many court cases, as far as witness reliability goes.

Editor's Comment: It seems significant that Mr. Snider, in reporting panel discussion, gives more emphasis to Dr. Hynek and other scientists favoring further study of the UFO phenomena, rather than implying the study is a closed book because of the Condon Report and the cessation of Project Blue Book.

Walt Andrus sent in the above article, also a clipping from the "San Jose Mercury-News" (Calif.) of Jan. 4, 1970, which also quotes Hynek and McDonald et al and goes on to state: "Soviet newspapers have published stories that Russian scientists are coming around to the theory there might be UFOs. They quote their scientists as observing that UFOs behave 'sensibly,' maintaining a pattern in group formation flights. They are most often spotted over airfields, atomic energy installations and other vital government sites, Russian scientists have claimed.

"The most recent investigations by the Soviet Academy of Sciences indicated the Tungusky meteorite of 1947 seems to have been an artificial flying craft from some other planet. The Tungusky explosion had every characteristic of an atmospheric nuclear blast and left radio activity in its wake, the Russians insist. They claim too that before the explosion occurred, the Tungusky meteorite achieved a 375-mile arc in the atmosphere that appeared to be a deliberate maneuver."

The newspaper quotes Dr. Carl Sagan, Cornell University astronomy professor, in saying that if the earth is being watched by others, "it would be folly to ignore it. . . It is not beyond question that we could be visited."

Newspaper Reporter Becomes Interested in UFO's Relates Strange Happenings in New York State

Editor's Note: The following article was written by Bob Curran, writer for the "Buffalo Evening News," Buffalo, N. Y. and appeared Nov. 21, 1969. Thanks to David J. Gras, Research Consultant for UFOARB, for sending it to us.

Maybe you heard about the blasts at the Howard Lacey farm in Venice, which is near Ithaca. For two years, a mysterious explosion happened on the land between 12 and 12:35 AM on Nov. 12. Last year nothing happened. The next day between 12 and 12:35 the explosion came. Then someone said: "Of course it was a day late. This is a leap year."

So the other day a couple of thousand people came to the Lacey farm to see the next explosion. Again there was no explosion. And, of course many of the people who were there said it was all a fake.

Naturally this piqued my curiosity and I did some digging. And my path led me to a man named Larry Moyers, the president of the Akron, O., Unidentified Flying Objects and Flying Saucers Investigating Committee.

"Of course we can't be sure," Larry said. "But we have to analyze this. There was a team from Cornell and they said there was no evidence of something earthly. No sort of explosives such as we have. So it can't be a hoax. Or, I should say, it would be an elaborate hoax. Which we have to doubt.

"When it happened the first time, the people all said it was an ice meteor. Then it happened again at the same time and you can't figure that as a coincidence. The third year was off until we remembered that it was a leap year.

"I don't know why they picked this special section, but there is talk about a nuclear reactor at Cornell. The people from out of space may be interested in that and that could be the reason for their landing here. And, of course, you know that this is a very electric area."

I didn't know, but I found out. The countryside has had some strange things going on. One time a woman in her early 30's was driving along and saw a flying object approaching her car. Minutes later the car was out of control and she was in a ditch. Thirty minutes after that she was able to get the car rolling again.

A few months later another woman came along in a car and saw a flying object. She was burned so badly she had to stay in a hospital for three weeks. Till this day she doesn't want to talk about it, but the three people who were in the car with her swear some object came out of the sky and almost hit them.

Not too far from the spot where the first woman was hit, two farm boys saw an object coming in at tree-top level. It got the animals very excited and it also excited Allen J. Hynek, a Northwestern University professor who was the consultant on Unidentified Flying Objects for the Air Force for some 25 years.

(Continued on next page)

Strange Happenings in New York State--(Continued)

"Animal behavior is very interesting," Hynek says. "Because animals don't lie. Humans may get carried away by their imagination, but animals just react."

So back to Venice and Larry Moyers and the next question is: "Why do you suppose they didn't show up this year? Did the crowd affect them?"

"I couldn't say," Larry answered. "But I have to think that would be a good reason. They say there were about 200 people waiting at the farm. I have to think there were more. Many kids came over from Wells College in Aurora to see what was going on. They told us that they had been knocked out of bed by the first three explosions and they just wanted to see what was doing this."

"Now if there were any intelligent direction from the outside, the people--if they are people--involved would know that an explosion like the ones we had the first three years would kill about 500 people. That could be the reason we didn't have a landing this year."

"Since this happened three years in a row, weren't there people curious about it before?" I asked. "Were there any witnesses before this last wait?"

"Yes, there were," Larry answered. "Last year about four neighbors came over and they are sure they saw an orange-red fireball approach the landing spot--just before the explosion. They didn't see it land. But we men who have been working on this for 15 years have to believe that we are having visitors from outer space."

"How else can you explain all these reports?"

"And I have to wonder why there was no happening this year at the farm except to say, as I did before, that some intelligent director knew that 500 people would be killed if they landed as they did the last time."

"The last time windows miles away were blown out. The craters in the ground were big--one of them was about 18 feet wide and 5 feet deep. That was a big force. And there is no way you or anyone else can explain why the first three explosions happened within 5 minutes of each other."

"That can't be coincidence."

Why did Mr. Lacey's farm become the landing spot? "No way of knowing," Moyers answered, "but we have to figure that the reactor at Cornell has something to do with it. And Mr. Lacey's farm has a lot of acreage and would seem to be a good landing place."

Editor's Comment: Our readers have probably read about this before. The "National Enquirer" carried an interesting report last year, and other articles have been written, but we thought you'd like to add this one to your collection, as it is a good report. Investigations have been conducted by the Army, the Air Force, the New York State Police and by scientists from Cornell and Syracuse universities but the phenomena remains unexplained.

Child Spanked for Reporting Strange Object, Repeats Story 42 Years Later

Back in 1927 when Col. Chas. A. Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic, a little boy five years old, living in West Frankfort, Ill., was sent to the store on a bright and sunny day in March or April (he isn't sure of the month) and when he got back home, his mother spanked him for telling a "whopper" to explain his delay.

On December 26, 1969, the story of what the child had seen was told to Art Epstein, John Priesack and David Schroth, APRO investigators and members of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis. The little boy, now a respected business man, remembers the experience vividly and related the following to the investigators:

The observer (he doesn't want his name used) was on his way to the store one block from his home. He happened to look to the west and a bright, shiny disc flashed in the sky and he stood there and watched as it approached in his direction.

It came to a suspended, hovering position over the house across the street from him, about 100 feet distant. It was a big round sphere, almost as big as the house it hovered over. He estimates, remembering the house, the object must have been about 40 feet in diameter and it seemed to be made of a perfectly smooth, shiny material that he compares to stainless steel. No seams or rivets were visible.

There was an attached "gondola" underneath and seemed to be a part of the sphere with no visible partition. As the object approached, it was revolving from right to left, but ceased the revolving movement as it stopped to a hovering position over the house.

He recalls that four or five portholes around the gondola section all opened up at the same time and the inside of the gondola section appeared to be illuminated. The color of the light was blue-white like a modern day arc light. There was no sound during the entire sighting.

After hovering over the house for some time, the object drifted about 100 feet to the right and stopped again. At this point, the child saw a thin line of something that reflected light drop straight down from the bottom of the object. Terms like "glass rod" or "pencil-thin" pipe or wire seem best to describe the line. Soon after, the portholes closed and it began to rotate again and departed in the same direction from which it came. The opening and closing of the portholes was compared to the iris shutter of a modern day camera.

The observer estimates the sighting lasted about 30 minutes. He remembers that he observed the spot the object hovered over the next day and the area looked as if oil had been poured on the ground and had soaked in.

Editor's Note: Mr. Epstein, Mr. Priesack and Mr. Schroth were guests on "Hot Line" program of radio station WILY, Centralia, Ill., on Dec. 26. Questions are telephoned in to the station and the members of the panel answer. Mr. Epstein informs us arrangements for them to appear on the program were made by Mrs. Rosetta Holmes, of Carlyle, Ill. Rosetta is a tireless worker in the ufology field and has become a good friend of Ye Ed through correspondence. We hope to meet her in person some day.

Plane? UFO?

By Robert Smulling, Chairman TRI STATE UFO GROUP

On Tuesday morning, Dec. 2, 1969 Mrs. M. G. Sterne, Jr., of rural Hamilton, Ill., was driving north from Hamilton on highway 66. This drive is along the Mississippi river. Looking out over the water Mrs. Sterne saw a small (not more than eight feet long) white plane coming toward her. She slowed to about 30 MPH wondering if the plane would hit her car as it was lower than tree top level.

It banked over the car and went back out over the water, heading up river. The plane was doing not more than 20 MPH as it paced the car for a couple miles. No noise had been heard from the plane, but all the windows were up in the car.

Mrs. Sterne thought at the time it was a radio-controlled model because of its small size. She looked for a cockpit but could see none. Also, because she thought it might land on the water, she looked for pontoons but it did not have any. For that matter she could not see any landing gear whatsoever. Upon further questioning she really didn't think it had a propeller. This didn't bother her at the time since she didn't think a radio-control would need an engine. But after second thought, she realized it would have to have power of some type. It had no identification other than a small blue strip on each wing tip, and she thinks she saw a thin blue stripe lengthwise on the body of the object.

That evening as she mentioned the plane to her family, her son, Toby, told of he and his friends seeing a small white plane while at school that day. It was headed in the direction of the river, and he assumed it was a glider as it was just above the tree tops. Toby thought it might have been as long as twelve feet, but it was approximately four blocks distant and his mother, who had a closer look, had a better chance to estimate the size. It must be noted that two weeks later when his friends were questioned, they could not remember having seen it.

A veteran flyer at the local airport (Keokuk, Ia.) was questioned but did not have any idea what it would be except that certainly it was not a glider, in his opinion.

People at the local hobby shop were also interested but they did not know anyone who had a radio-control model with a corresponding description. The distance it traveled (from northeast of the school to the river then at least a couple of miles upriver) also seemed to be a problem, as a radio control must be in view of its "pilot."

Editor's Note: Mr. Smulling added a note, saying the local paper had run a short "did anyone see" item, but no additional information was obtained.

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---AD---

War Time Sighting Reported in Italian Publication

(Editor's Note: We are grateful to Mrs. Wm. F. Christian, a member of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, for sending us a translation from the Italian magazine CENTRO UNICO NAZIONALE, of Bologna, Italy.

We are initiating a new column devoted to Flying Discs. The following is the first of our UFO reports. This signed letter is from one of our readers.

I am an avid reader of your newspaper. Now I find the courage to write to you, the director of "Il Candido." I have kept in my mind and memory for twenty-four years, the thing I saw in 1944. It was war time. At that time the Germans were in the north and the Americans were in the south. I was on a mission going toward Porta Venezia. I was well schooled in knowing any weapon instantly and knowing from which country they were. Also I had special training for recognizing any and every type of airplane or anything that was known to fly in our skies. My vision was recorded as 20-20, excellent, by the army physician. I am now forty-four years old as I write this, and I say here and now that I feel I am of sound mind. I hold a good position with a reputable firm at present.

It was, I believe, about the seventeenth of October, 1944. I was on a special assignment for my Battalion, N. P. Even now all that I can tell about my mission is that it was a sabotage mission against the Germans. I did not then, nor have I ever, suffered from hallucinations. To get on with my letter, I shall tell what I saw for I remember it as though it were yesterday, and I shall never forget it.

I was walking and approaching Piazzale Loreto when I heard people screaming. Instantly my hand went down to my revolver and I advanced toward the screams (I was about 100 meters away at the time). As I reached the people who were screaming, more of them joined in and the cars and traffic all stopped. All of the people were running, getting behind a shelter and looking up at the sky over the Piazza, very frightened indeed. I looked around quickly and did not see any danger. Then I noticed the people were looking up at the sky. I looked up also and when I did, I felt I had turned into stone. I could not move, I stood there petrified with my hand still on my revolver. There it was, a large disc, like a big frying pan without a handle, I thought, of copper color and glowing as though lights were about it. The sky was limpid and it was afternoon. My mind raced through all I had studied, but always the answer was, "No, it isn't anything known to me." The Air Alert Patrol turned on the alarm sirens. I stood there and said, "Oh, my God, it must be some secret, devilish new weapon sent by the Germans." It was all of 2-3 minutes or longer, but no less, that this disc stayed there directly overhead of the Piazzale Loreto, about 300 meters up from us. Then, though it had stayed quite still over us, in a split moment it completely vanished from our sight. The sirens stopped and I stood there another minute looking at just the limpid skies above me. I could not figure what it was I had seen. To this day I have not seen anything like it again. The people came out into the open again, traffic resumed and I went on my way bewildered, but never forgetting.

If anyone reads this who was at the Piazzale Loreto that day and saw the flying disc, as I saw it, please write to "Il Candido" and let it
(Continued on next page)

be known now. Many have kept silent about that October day in 1944 for fear they would be considered lunatics if they told what they had seen. I tell you, Mr. Director, that day I did see a flying disc, it was not a vision or hallucination.

(Signed) Gioacchino Robatto.

How About a Decoy?

Mayor Paul Cassel, of Ogallala, Nebr., says, "If the planet earth is under surveillance by flying saucers from outer space, we feel it's only logical they will land at a spot where there are decoys."

And Ogallala has just done this. They painted their new water tower with fluorescent paint and at night with its intricate lighting, it resembles a flying saucer. People had been reporting an object with revolving orange lights, a green fluorescent glow and there were figures peeping from its eight portholes. Mayor Cassel hopes "it will draw travelers, not only from outer space but from the planet earth."

Credit: SAUCER MAGAZINE, 1911 Main St., Bellevue, Nebraska.

UFO's Visit Point Pleasant, Ohio

Mrs. Rosetta Holmes, of Carlyle, Ill., sent us a collection of clippings from the Athens, Ohio MESSENGER dating from May 1967 through June of that year, relating a series of UFO sightings in Mason County and the Point Pleasant area.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Plantz, 35 Burdette Addition, Point Pleasant, were among those who reported a cluster of five disc-shaped, aluminum-colored objects seen near the old powerhouse. The objects circled about 400 feet in the air, then came out of formation and formed a straight line, heading northward about one mile apart, then circled and went across the Ohio river and out of sight. They were in view about 15 minutes.

Witnesses said there were two red lights, one a bright red circular type and the other stationary. They reported the objects sometimes were so near the ground that trees obscured the view. There was no detectable sound. All observers agreed that the objects, whatever they might have been, definitely were not airplanes.

A visitor to Mason County three days later was startled when she suddenly saw two bright lights that were almost blinding on a nearby hill as she drove along a country road in the northern part of the county enroute to visit relatives. She rushed to her destination to tell of her experience, and all returned to the scene and the two lights were still there. They started to investigate and the UFO suddenly soared out of sight.

Other sightings were reported over the month, one being of an object that looked as if it had something resembling a stove pipe at the top. Another was said to be bright orange encircled in black.

For whatever reason--public apathy, most likely--books and magazine articles dealing with the UFO subject are rather scarce at the moment. As a rule, we have several notes each month concerning items intended for use in this column. This time, we have only one note concerning a magazine article, plus a few random comments on an upcoming book.

The #7 issue of STAG ANNUAL has an article by David Lloyd entitled "The UFO Link to World Disasters." Lloyd attempts to show correlations between UFO appearances and earthquakes, power blackouts, volcanic eruptions etc. Granted, there have been UFO sightings in close conjunction with such events, but there is certainly no proof that the happenings were UFO-caused. In summary, the Lloyd article is mainly re-hash, but since there is such a scarcity of printed material at present, you might like to read it anyway!

Readers may remember our somewhat caustic comments regarding the Renato Vesco "Canadian flying saucers" article in the August 1969 issue of ARGOSY. We note that Mr. Vesco's book (from which the ARGOSY article was adapted) will be published by Grove Press in the fall of 1970. It appears we will be treated to some 350 pages of Mr. Vesco's arguments, a prospect which somehow fails to thrill us. Nevertheless, we shall report further upon the book when it does appear in the English edition.

In connection with those alleged Canadian UFOs, an interesting letter appeared in the December 1969 issue of ARGOSY from a former member of the Royal Canadian Navy. A Mr. D. Bonner asserts that he has not only seen one of the machines, but that he "spent some time guarding one... in an Air Force hangar at H.M.C.S. Shearwater, Halifax, Nova Scotia, back in 1952." Bonner admits that he did not see the machine uncovered, but that it was "approximately seventy feet in diameter, saucer-shaped and covered with canvas." If Mr. Bonner's testimony is true, perhaps we should reconsider the old much-maligned "captured saucer" theme. It seems only slightly more unbelievable to think that Canada possesses a captured UFO in 1952, as to believe that Canadian secret weapons have been overflying the entire world since 1947. We can only hope that the editors of ARGOSY have contacted Mr. Bonner for further details, on the chance that his story might be true.

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Georgia Reports Wanted

Mike Sand, 647 North St., Winder, Ga., 30680, is trying to set up a UFO organization in Georgia and plans to issue a bulletin with Georgia sightings only. He would like to hear from readers in his state, who are interested, and to receive any UFO reports from Georgia.

If you have friends in Georgia, send them Mike's address, and tell them about SKYLOOK too. We have no subscriptions from that state, and we're interested in UFO reports from everywhere.

Reader
Service

We haven't mentioned SAUCERS, SPACE & SCIENCE for some time, and this Canadian quarterly has long been one of our favorite "ufozines" (think editor Gene Duplantier coined that word--at least we first saw it in his publication, and we have adopted it for our own use). This is a photo-offset, easy-to-read magazine with Gene's own drawings, and photographs to illustrate the interesting articles. There is always a wealth of UFO reports, and the price is \$2.50 for four issues. Address all communication to Gene Duplantier, Dept. K, 17 Shetland St., Willowdale 443, Ontario, Canada.

John Schuessler, on our own staff, edits UFO POTPOURRI, a now-and-then bulletin of UFO reports, and it is available through exchange only--exchange with other UFO magazines or individuals who send in news clippings and reports with their request for a copy. It is interesting and informative and should be on your list. The address is: John F. Schuessler, P. O. Box 9, O'Fallon, Mo. 63366.

Rod Dyke's UFO RC Clipping Service is almost a "must" for the editor who wants to keep up with the latest UFO reports from everywhere. Since Rod started this service, he has never missed a month's mailing, and you get a large number of reports. We just stopped to check the November list--fifteen legal-size pages, and 52 individual reports. We also recommend this monthly service to UFO study groups as a valuable addition to their library. Write Mr. Dyke at: UFO Research Committee, 3521 S. W. 104th St., Seattle, Washington, 98146.

The last issue of Mike Merandino's NESRC NEWS is a neat, easily read ufozine with an interesting collection of UFO reports and some related articles. Mike heads the New England Saucer Research Club, 24 Boston St., Salem, Mass. 01970 and is assisted by Kenneth Gilbert in editing the bi-monthly bulletin which you receive on paying the club membership fee of \$3.00 per year. The magazine is also available on an exchange basis. We just heard from Mike and he says his next issue will be delayed as the printer went out of business, and he now has to make other arrangements. We all have our troubles in this business, Mike don't give up.

Ed Minasian, editor of CAPRI NEWS, 61 Ames St., Dorchester, Mass., 02124, has some difficulties to overcome too. A long illness has been the biggest problem, but he writes: "CAPRI is FAR from folding, believe me. Once we get caught up, our publication, with many drastic changes, will be better than ever. We should be back on schedule very shortly." He adds some kind words for SKYLOOK, and we thank him for his good opinion. Ed has taken over Joan Whritenour's subscribers (SAUCER SCOOP) and this will add a lot more readers to his list.

Our own Ted Phillips is still looking for reports of Missouri UFO sightings, old and new, so send yours to Ted at P. O. Box 615, Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

UFOzines reviewed above reflect the personal views of Ye Ed.

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Has your subscription expired? If there is a red x by your name on the address label, this is your last copy. Why don't you renew today before you forget about it? SKYLOOK hasn't missed a publication date since Ye Ed became publisher as well as editor. You like?

A Look at the Sky

On February 5, the planet Mercury will be some 25 degrees west of the sun. At sunrise it is some 15 degrees above the horizon in the constellation Sagittarius. It is a zero magnitude object.

Venus is quite near the position of the sun and is not visible.

Mars is in Pisces, setting in the southwest at about 8:30 p.m.

The planet Jupiter rises about four hours after sunset and is the brightest object visible during the evening.

Saturn is in Aries in the high south-southwest, setting four hours after sunset.

Bright Meteor Seen Over Large Area

By Ted Phillips, Jr.

A very bright meteor was seen over a wide area of the central United States on Jan. 3, 1970 at about 8:30 p.m., C.S.T. The meteor was seen in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Two reports from the Sedalia, Mo., area were given to this writer. Both reports came from an area just south of Sedalia. The meteor was so bright that it was seen from inside the lighted homes in both cases. It was described as a brilliant ball of fire, yellow-red in color, moving toward the southwest. Both observers said it appeared to fall to the ground near their homes and thought it to be an airplane in flames.

The "Sedalia Democrat" reported: "The meteorite sighted in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas, Jan. 3rd, may have been from Mars' orbit," a spokesman for the Smithsonian Institute said Monday.

The 22 pound meteorite was discovered near Lost City in northeastern Oklahoma, Jan. 9 and was shipped to the Smithsonian for study. George Berklay, Institute press officer, said the meteorite was photographed in flight, the first time that had happened in the United States. The only other known instance was in Czechoslovakia in 1955, he said.

The meteorite was found by tracing its trajectory from the photograph.

The meteorite was found on a snow-covered road by Gunther Schwartz, of Lincoln, Nebr., chief of the photographic network, the "Kansas City Times" reported. Schwartz told of sighting the black rock jutting up from the snow and when he realized it was the meteorite, he related, "I became hysterical. There was no one to share this great find with. I forgot all I knew." Asked if the meteorite had made a small crater, he said he was so excited, he was very unscientific. "I didn't even brush the snow away."

The meteorite consists of three types of materials, according to Roy Clarke of the Institute--nickel and iron represent 15 per cent, sulphates 5 per cent and the remainder, silicates.

NORTH, SOUTH, EAST and WEST of the U. S. A.

Odd Shaped Object Seen in England, August 23, 1969

Mr. and Mrs. Black, of Leicester, England, were about to retire for the night when they noticed what they first assumed to be the moon through the bedroom window. They quickly realized the object was not the moon, as it was crescent-shaped, and a bright orange in color. The object had a blurred outline and was hovering with a "shimmering" movement, then started to move away. As it did so, a white light shot upward from the side, like a shooting star, then faded. The object diminished to a point of light as it moved into the distance, then returned to its first position. The crescent then tilted upward and both witnesses were astonished to see it change into a circle of 20 to 30 yellow lights which were slowly rotating. All the lights were evenly spaced.

At this stage, Mr. Black decided to rouse the neighbors, hoping to borrow their binoculars. While he was away, Mrs. Black continued to watch the object. Again it moved away until it was a point of light in the distance, then was no longer visible. It did not return.

The entire sighting lasted about four minutes, and the two were so excited they did not think to listen for any sound and later could remember none.

The couple were interviewed by several investigators. Two of them submitted reports to UFOLOG and the editor states the details and drawings were the same in each. Both investigators stated they found the Blacks to be intelligent observers and were impressed by their sincerity.

Credit: UFOLOG, Ringlemere, Colwell Road, Colwell Bay, Isle of Wight.
Editor's Note: We have mentioned this English publication before, and it also follows the policy of telling it as it is.

People Think Corrigin Is on UFO Crossroads

Many people at Corrigin, 145 miles from Perth (Australia), think the town is on the crossroads of UFO tracks. One woman resident says that about 200 unidentified flying objects have been sighted within an 80-mile radius of the town in the past 18 months. The more dedicated UFO watchers keep detailed maps of recorded sightings, which, they say, support the crossroads theory. Others have seen so many that they have become quite blasé. There are a few in Corrigin who don't like to talk openly about UFOs because of fear of humiliation, but they are definitely in the minority.

The bulk of the UFO stories come from solid farmers. Seeding and ploughing time at Corrigin - when farmers start up their tractors at 4 a.m. - are the main UFO sighting times. Alan McAndrew said one morning when he was ploughing, everything turned blood red. He blinked and shook his head, thinking something was wrong with his vision, but the tractor and ground was illuminated with a red light that blinked off and on and then disappeared. A neighbor also reported a flashing red light.
Credit: Australian UFO Bulletin, Mocrabbin, Victoria, Australia

MIDWEST ORGANIZATION REPORTS

UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis Meets

The "St. Louis Globe-Democrat" on Jan. 5th carried a report of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, beginning its article: "With or without the U. S. Air Force, the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis will continue to scan the skies for those elusive inter-galactic visitors."

Mentioning that the group held a meeting Sunday (Jan. 4) at the John F. Schuessler home at O'Fallon, Mo., the GLOBE continued: "In an economy move, the Air Force recently closed its Project Blue Book, the official government investigation of UFO sightings."

"The scientific study of UFOs has been placed in the lap of the scientific community," said Schuessler Sunday. "The end of Project Blue Book was a logical step in a time of tight dollars. Now the scientific community will bear the burden of investigating UFOs."

"In spite of reports that UFO sightings are becoming less frequent, Schuessler said that such sightings are on the increase in Missouri."

More than 30 members were present at the meeting, with Walt Andrus, of Quincy, Ill., supplying the news and inspiration of the day, with his description of the plans for the Midwest UFO Network. He emphasized that APRO leads in reporting and investigating unidentified flying objects and has the support and cooperation of all members. With financial studies doubtful with the cancellation of Blue Book, local groups must now shoulder the load. "This period will separate the men from the boys," he said.

Some questions he asked, in setting group guidelines were: (a) Are there craft (intelligent) visiting earth? (b) If so, how are they powered? (c) How are they able to travel great distances? (d) Occupants--what are they like?

Walt pointed out that we must educate the public, but even more important, we must investigate UFOs.

Of interest and importance to all was information given about the Midwest UFO conference to be held Saturday, June 13, 1970, at the Bradley Student Union Building in Peoria, Ill. An impressive list of speakers is being lined up.

The day went much too fast. One thing is certain--only Blue Book is dead. The UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis is very much alive.

The following representatives were selected: Director--John F. Schuessler; Community Relations Representative, Art Epstein; Special Investigative Consultant, Bob Hertell; Ham Radio Representative, Willard P. Armstrong (also a Data-Net member); and Program Representative Mrs. Doris Schneider, assisted by Mrs. Rosetta Holmes.

The next meeting will be held Feb. 9, from 6 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Buder Branch Library, 5320 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Midwest Organization Reports (Continued)

Tri-State UFO Study Group

The Tri-State UFO Study Group met January 14, 1970, in the home of Walt Andrus, 40 Christopher Court, Quincy, Ill. After the secretary and treasurers' reports were made, President Bob Smulling, of Hamilton, Ill., introduced the new officers for the coming year and guests.

The meeting was then turned over to Walt Andrus, and an open discussion was held on the various sightings reported in the immediate tri-state area. Captains of investigative teams were appointed; and after they have organized their teams, they will report names and addresses.

Vice President Barry Dimmitt reported on a meeting of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis attended by him and Walt Andrus on January 4, and plans were discussed for attending the lecture by Dr. Allen Hynek to be given Jan. 22 at the McDonnell Planetarium in St. Louis, Mo.

Walt Andrus played a taped interview which he and Bob Bybee had made with an Edina, Mo., resident who had observed a UFO during the first part of January 1969.

It was decided that dates of future meetings would be changed from the third to the second Wednesday of each month, with meetings to be held in the homes of members with the exception of those meetings having guest speakers which will be open to the public. Visitors are invited to attend, and they may contact either President Bob Smulling, Hamilton, Ill., or Walt Andrus for more information regarding time and location of meetings.

Reporter: Grace C. Oberling.

What Was the Light?

The "Arkansas Gazette" carried a long report of the Apollo flight, and the closing paragraphs are of particular interest, and we quote:---

Bean later reported a mysterious bright light shining at them from the center of the globe. He said he did not know what it was, but that it was a steady light and as bright as the planet Venus. It was coming from the eastern coast of India, he thought, just south of Burma.

"I can't imagine what that is," he said. Ground control said they were just as puzzled.

"It's a steady light. It's as big as some of the thunderstorm flashes," he said. "Looking at the airglow with the binoculars--there's another sight now that's not like being in earth orbit whatsoever. It's a bright red next to the earth and then it's got a green band in it and then it's got a blue band."

"That must be a record for seeing lights," ground control observed.

Credit: Lou Farish.

Ode to Death of Project Blue Book By Clint Williams

Somewhere in that naked sky, black as Satan's breath. . . the saucer flies. . . its pilot dies of laughter unto death.

1878 Saucer Report Found

Reprinted in the "Dallas Morning News" is what some historians claim is one of the earliest reports of a UFO, as it appeared in the Jan. 25, 1878 edition of the Denison (Texas) Daily News" under a one-line heading, "A Strange Phenomenon."

Mr. John Martin, a farmer who lives some six miles north of this city (Dallas), while out hunting, had his attention directed to a dark object high up in the northern sky.

The peculiar shape, and the velocity with which the object seemed to approach, riveted his attention, and he strained his eyes to discover its character. When first noticed it appeared to be about the size of an orange, which continued to grow in size.

After gazing at it for some time, Mr. Martin became blind from long looking and left off viewing it in order to rest his eyes. On resuming his view, the object was almost overhead and had increased considerably in size and appeared to be going through space at a wonderful speed. When directly over him it was about the size of a large saucer and was evidently at a great height.

Mr. Martin thought it resembled, as well as he could judge at such a distance, a balloon, which seemed to him to be the most reasonable solution of the strange phenomenon, though he is of the opinion that it was probably one of the heavenly bodies.

It went as rapidly as it had come and was soon lost to sight in the southern sky. Mr. Martin is a gentleman of undoubted veracity and this strange occurrence, if it was not a balloon, deserves the attention of the scientists.

Credit: John F. Schuessler.

More on Closing of Project Blue Book

Your editor thanks the many who sent clippings relating to the Air Force closing Project Blue Book after 21 years of investigating unidentified flying objects.

Joseph Gurney, member of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, sent an article from the "St. Louis Post-Dispatch" (Jan. 4, 1970) which states the unclassified file compiled by the Air Force would be transferred to archives at Maxwell Air Force Base near Montgomery, Ala. The Air Force has revealed no plans for preservation of secret files of Project Blue Book. These are said to contain reports by Air Force personnel that have not been adequately explained, as well as episodes involving secret military projects. It is feared these will be burned. Mr. Gurney writes: "Chances are these secret reports will not be burned due to classification laws applicable to the military. However, every attempt should be made to declassify the reports and make them available for scientific study."

Agreed!

Lou Farish Writes about Old UFO's

In his column "In Others' Words," Lou didn't mention his own two articles "Some Old UFOs" in the January and February 1970 issues of FATE, and we feel they rate special attention.

"For as long as man has gazed at the sky he has seen strange aerial objects." Thus begins Lou's article which covers sightings over a 166-year span from 1742 to 1908.

Beginning with a sighting in England in 1742 made by a Fellow of the British Royal Society, Lou goes on to 1808 to eye-witness reports relayed to the Swedish Academy of Science; a sighting at Amherst, Mass., in 1810 and found in the "American Journal of Science"--another found in the Journal on an 1834 report in New York State; an English sighting in an 1854 issue of the "Illustrated London News"; an 1874 account in the Melbourne Australia "Argus"; a sighting in Germany in 1880 and recorded in the British scientific journal "Nature"--and so on, continuing up to 1908.

Lou closes his article by pointing out that "A thorough search of the files of newspapers and scientific journals of the past undoubtedly would bring to light many more accounts. . . ." and he urges all interested persons to conduct such research. We might add here that we are sure he would like to hear from anyone having an old report to add to his growing collection. Write him at Route 1, Plumerville, Ark.

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