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We welcome UFO reports, newspaper clippings and letters from readers. Material will be returned if requested.

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Subscriptions, correspondence and reports should be mailed to the editor, Norma E. Short, Box 129, Stover, Mo. 65078. When possible, all reports should be in by the 20th. SKYLOOK is published the first of the month.

A UFO Sighting, Almost! By Ted Phillips, Jr.

This reporter, along with four other people, watched a very unusual object in the northern sky for about six minutes on the night of Jan. 26, 1969.

The sky was slightly hazy and the object appeared as a dim, reddish colored spot of light with what appeared to be a pink beam or ray of light extending from it to the south. The object did not move during the period of observation.

It was 35 degrees above the horizon (measured). I took a compass reading on the object and found it to be due magnetic north. My first thought was that it might be a comet or meteor train, however, as the object was in sight for the extended period of time, I thought this would not be the case.

The object measured 1 inch in length and 1/8 inch in width on a ruler held at arms length. It was about 2nd or 3rd magnitude and disappeared as clouds moved into the area.

I did take two photographs which were of excellent exposure. They show the object quite well and a tree is visible in the foreground. The exposures were 15 seconds in length on Tri-X film (ASA 400) at f/3.5 on a Yashica camera at infinity.

I sent a complete report and the negatives to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., for analysis. I received copies of the photographs and a letter from Dr. Hynek Feb. 15 and the letter reads as follows: "I think the mystery has been solved. The photographs you took are of a persistent train of a meteor or re-entry which was widely observed over many states almost due north at 1:00 A.M. and a few minutes after."

The morning after the sighting I did find several articles in various newspapers on the many reports of meteor-like objects seen to the north. At the time I could not imagine a meteor train lasting for over five minutes, but I have the greatest respect for Dr. Hynek and his evaluation.

I talked with Dr. Hynek for several hours at Columbia, Missouri, last October; and my wife and I visited the observatory at Evanston, Ill., where we talked with Dr. Hynek, Dr. Powers and Fred Beckmann for several hours in November and I feel that Dr. Hynek is quite sincere in his investigation into the UFO problem.

More on Springfield, Mo. Sighting

On checking further on the unusual flying object seen near Springfield, Mo. Jan. 12 (see February issue of SKYLOOK), Ted Phillips Jr. received this information from KPTS-TV, Channel 10: "An unidentified flying object was spotted over Springfield. It was described as being very large and white. It was first noticed in the vicinity of the rendering plant north of the city. A similar object was spotted a few minutes later near the Frisco Railway yards. Shortly after, the Sheriff's Deputy Ken Nobles saw an object and followed it for several minutes. He said he lost sight of it north of Springfield after it circled and picked up speed."

THE ASTRONOMY CORNER * * * By Ted Phillips, Jr.

The planet Mercury is visible low in the eastern sky before sunrise, the average magnitude of the small planet will be -1.0 during March.

Venus is still brilliant at -4.2 magnitude in the western sky for several hours after sunset. Venus is now near its crescent phase.

Mars is moving towards its close approach to earth, and will brighten considerably as it does. It is now at -0.6 magnitude, a gain of half magnitude during the last month. It is located in Libra.

Jupiter, magnitude -2.0 is in Virgo and rises about two hours after sunset.

Saturn, the ringed planet, is setting shortly after Venus and appears quite dim in relation to Venus.

Latest on Venus and Mars Probes

The two Soviet Venus probes are reported to be operating well and are some 4,500,000 to 5,000,000 miles from earth.

The Mariner 6 will leave Cape Kennedy for the red planet on February 24. If all goes well, the 900 pounds spacecraft will take close-up photographs of Mars as it passes the planet at about 2,000 miles. The Mariner 7 will be launched in March and both probes should reach Mars between July 31 and August 5. The probes will photograph about 20 per cent of the surface. Mariner 6 is to pass over the planet's equator while Mariner 7 will photograph the polar areas. The probes will also take the planet's surface temperature and determine the density and composition of the atmosphere.

"Crackling Clouds" Are Something New!

Hundreds of persons--including Police Chief James Alford--reported strange sounds coming from two clouds at Jacksonville, Fla. Feb. 3rd. One man described the sound as like "someone rattling cellophane." A woman said it was more like "someone walking on pebbles."

Alford ordered Capt. Harold Bryan to follow the first cloud. Bryan did so--to the edge of the Atlantic where the cloud dissipated. The listeners started to go back inside their homes when they said another cloud repeated the performance. Bryan also followed it to dissipation over the Atlantic.

Officials at the Mayport Naval Air station said they could offer no explanation, neither could other officials. On Feb. 11 the U. S. Weather bureau said the "crackling clouds" probably were sounds of crashing surf reflected from above. (Source, Sedalia and Kansas City press. Credit--Ted Phillips, Jr.)

Spoofoqram : Outer Space baby to earthling, "It's just as true that I came from swamp gas as it is that the stork brought you."

UFO Problem Deserves Further Study Says AIAA Committee

"The Committee has made a careful examination of the present state of the UFO issue and has concluded that the controversy cannot be resolved without further study in a quantitative scientific manner and that it deserves the attention of the engineering and scientific community."

This statement appeared in the December issue of "Astronautics & Aeronautics", a publication of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the committee referred to was formed about a year ago with members from: ESSA Research Laboratories, of Boulder; Martin Marietta, of Denver; TRW Systems Group of Redondo Beach, Calif.; Aerospace Corporation of Los Angeles; Georgia Institute of Technology of Atlanta; Meteorology Research, Inc., of Altadena, Calif.; Douglas Missile & Space Systems Division, of Santa Monica, Calif.; NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, of Greenbelt, Md.; and U.S. Army Electronic Command, of Fort Monmouth, N. J.

"This group made its own objective investigation of the UFO problem and issued the statement above, which speaks for itself. The committee plans to develop certain recommendations and to give some insight into its reasoning to the AIAA readership in future issues," the magazine states.

This, of course, is in direct contradistinction with Dr. Condon's conclusions that no further study of UFO's can be justified.
(Credit—John F. Schuessler)

Skylight Flashes In Mid-West Night

A brilliant flash of light burst acrosss the dark sky over sections of three mid-western states Jan. 26th. Authorities said the flash was probably caused by a meteor.

The flash was sighted as far north as Green Bay, Wis., as far south as Springfield, Ill., and as far west as Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Pilots guiding jetliners into Chicago's O'Hare airport reported sighting a smoking orange fireball over the airport at 1:12 a.m. It seemed to set off two brilliant flashes in quick succession, the pilot said.

A policeman in Appleton, Wis., said he sighted an orange fireball trailing a plume of blue flame at 12:55 a.m. He said it seemed to be directly overhead. The sighting was accompanied by a 2-second power failure and "balls of fire dripping from high tension wires," a police spokesman said.

At O'Hare and in Appleton witnesses reported flashbulb-bright illumination from the light. An observer in Dubuque, Ia., told police the flash appeared many miles north of the city.

A ground controller in the tower at the Springfield, Ill., airport said he witnessed a stunning flash that seemed to be about five miles north of the city. (Source, THE KANSAS CITY TIMES)

UFO's Reported at Tombstone, Arizona.

A number of the saucer magazines have carried stories recently of UFO's being seen at graveyards. One writer suggests the tombstones may appear to be homes of earthlings, thus leading occupants of space ships to investigate. At any rate, even the name "Tombstone" seems to attract visitors from out of this world.

Kurt Glemser sent us this newspaper clipping from the Phoenix "Arizona Republic" of Jan. 13, 1969. The complete account follows:

Tombstone--Besides the common variety tenderfoot tourists, the "Town Too Tough To Die" may also be drawing bug-eyed visitors from outer space.

An unidentified Oregon couple reported they saw some multicolored UFOs at 10 p.m. Saturday a scant mile from the city limits on U.S. 80.

Waitress Azzie Carter said she was working at Ray Gordon's Restaurant on U. S. 80 here when the couple rushed in, the woman in near hysterics and the man apparently badly shaken.

"We were about a mile west of here," the woman blurted out, "when my husband asked me to see what was following us so closely."

The woman said she turned around and beheld "what seemed to be a round orange-colored car with no headlights but a light on the dome.

"Then I saw other round things. Red, blue, green and yellow. First they were up in the air, then dropping down, then circling and changing places, and I was scared," she said.

Her husband confirmed his wife's tale.

"I took a look back too, and whatever those things I saw were, they made me hit the gas and take off."

Then, suddenly, the lights disappeared, the couple said.

Several cups of coffee later, the couple, apparently somewhat composed, left Tombstone.

Neither Tombstone police nor the sheriff's office said they received any report of the incident.

CANADIAN UFO REPORT

Just out is a new saucer publication--"Canadian UFO Report" with John Magor as editor and publisher. This slick paper bi-monthly may appear on the news stands in the future, but for the present may be obtained only by mail. It is \$3.00 per year. Address the magazine at Box 758, Duncan, B. C., Canada. A sample copy is 60¢.

The first issue specializes in UFO sightings in the Yukon territory. The articles are well written and illustrated. SKYLOOK recommends this one. (Review)

Flying Saucer Image on TV Set

As reported by J. M. Ross of New Milton, Hants, England, Mrs. A. A. and two friends were watching TV at Mrs. A's home in Cornwall about 9 P.M. one evening in November 1966, when "suddenly the picture distorted itself and on the screen appeared the perfect shape of a flying saucer. We couldn't move it. We twisted the knobs, changed the channel, but no, that was the end of TV for that night. We all went outside to see if we could see anything in the sky, but it was cloudy and we could see nothing," Mrs. A. said.

In the morning she phoned the dealer who had sold her the Marconiphone Portable, and when a man came to pick up the set that afternoon, he was amazed to find the saucer image still occupying about two-thirds of the 12" diagonal screen. He could find nothing wrong with the set and took it to the shop where it was examined for two days. On the third day the dealer agreed to replace the set with a new one--but on trying the set once more, the saucer image vanished, and the set was returned to Mrs. A. The image was described as being a "typical" shape for a saucer--color, misty grey, lighter in tone than the screen, and having "porthole" lights in a whitey-blue. (Credit, SAUCER SCOOP--6464 34th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33710)

Physicist Calls on Scientists to Challenge UFO Report

Tucson, Arizona.--Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the University of Arizona Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Monday called for scientists to challenge the just-released Condon Report on unidentified flying objects.

McDonald said in a statement, "This report must be vigorously challenged lest it succeed in cutting off serious scientific attention to a matter of extremely great importance." He continued, "Condon evidently didn't realize that the report he has submitted runs about 15 to 20 per cent unexplained cases, whereas the Air Force Project Blue Book has been putting out percentages close to 3 or 4 per cent for years." And " * * * he has given only superficial attention to the hundreds of classic unexplained cases of the past 20 years." (Source, ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Jan. 14, 1969. Credit--Lou Farish)

CAPRO Marks Anniversary

CAPRO (P. O. Box 1316, Winnipeg 1, Manitoba, Canada) published an anniversary issue--their November-December copy. This magazine, with B. C. Cannon as director, has interesting UFO reports from all over the globe and is recommended by SKYLOOK. An unusual feature in this issue is "UFO's and Poltergeist" and relates two remarkable cases--one in Ontario, July 1968, and the other reported by Jennifer Stevens (Editor of SKYWATCH) in Scotia, N. Y. in April 1967.

Have YOU seen a UFO? Send your report to SKYLOOK.

20 Fireballs in Night Sky Reported Seen Near Tokyo

Asahi Evening News, Tokyo, Japan, Jan. 8, 1969.--Officials of the Tokyo Astronomical Observatory in Mitaka City on the western outskirts of Tokyo were busy Tuesday night with reports and inquiries from Chiba, Yamanashi, Saitama and Kanagawa prefectures about many fireballs dropping to the ground from the north or northwest skies.

Over 20 calls came in between 8 and 9 p.m. from excited people in those neighboring prefectures. Callers reported seeing as many as 20 fireballs of various sizes, each trailing a long tail and falling to the ground.

Officials of the observatory, however, were unable to answer the inquiries, as space observations had stopped for the day due to trouble with astronomical instruments.

About 8 p. m. the navigation section at Tokyo International Airport received an inquiry from the Niigata Airport office saying that a bright object had been seen dropping from the skies north of Niigata at a speed faster than an airplane and asking whether it was an airplane accident. A check revealed that it was not.

A report from the Sahara Police Station to Chiba Prefectural Police Headquarters said that two police officers had seen three fireballs, each with a 200 or 300-meter-long tail, speeding in the direction of Ibaraki Prefecture from the skies over Chiba Prefecture about 9 p.m.

All eyewitnesses said that the fireballs were not accompanied by a noise like jet planes. The average number seen by the people was five although some saw as many as 20.

On the same date the Japan "Times" of Tokyo reported: "Yasuo Baba, pilot of a Japan Domestic Airlines plane bound for Tokyo from Oita reported he saw a ball of fire of pale blue color flying toward the north at a very high speed when the plane was flying between Ise Bay and Oshima Island. He said the fireball flew at a much higher altitude than his plane which was flying about 15,000 meters at the time.

"The bright object was seen for about 30 seconds, according to witness reports. Some Niigata reports said it split into three and fell into the sea, while eyewitnesses in Tokyo said the ball of fire trailed a long tail.

"An astronomer at the observatory said that it could have been either a comet or an earth satellite that burned up in the atmosphere. Judging from the reports that light emitted by the object was pale blue, it was more likely to have been a comet than a satellite, he added. (Credit, Walt Andrus, Jr.)

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Those Men in Black!

SKYLOOK's editor has been inclined to take a dim view of reports on the Men in Black, altho we try to hold an open mind on a controversial subject. We have asked members of our staff and others their opinions on the MIB and have found, for the most part, few are ready to make a positive statement pro or con.

Too many cases of visits from the dark-robed ones seem to be obvious fabrications designed to attract publicity--as are many of the contactee stories--but on the other hand, there have been instances of--well, there have been instances. . . .

A lengthy article "An Analysis of the Men in Black" by Kurt Glemser has aroused our admittedly flagging interest in the MIB. Space does not permit publishing Kurt's article in its entirety, but we will cover the high points.

Kurt too questions the authenticity of the majority of claims and he marks off the stories of Harold A. Dahl, A. K. Bender, George Adamski, Buck Nelson, Norman Schreiberstein (who in addition to being visited by the MIB claims his body is taken over periodically by an alien named Zayron), Joseph Henslik (his story was investigated by John Keel who did not believe the claims), and a number of others. It seems pointless to list these in detail.

Kurt writes, "A friend of UFO investigator Brad Steiger was harassed while investigating a UFO flap. This occurred in mid-February 1968. The story was reprinted in many UFO publications and is quite well known. It stands a good chance of being true. The MIB in this case could be agents of the government."

He makes a good point in suggesting much of the telephone harassment by the MIB is simply "crank calls" directed at anyone and not just ufologists. He quotes a "Science & Mechanics" article "Fighting Telephone Terrorism" in which Ross Olney says, "Breathers are becoming quite numerous. They get their kicks by listening to the reaction as they pant into the phone." Treatment--don't "react"--just hang up.

Several ufologists have challenged the MIB to visit them--two being Joseph Ferriere, editor of "Probe" and John A. Keel, writer. As far as is known, Kurt writes, the challenges were ignored.

Another much publicized case of alleged visits by the MIB was that of Carroll Watts who claimed he received threats and shots were fired into his home after he told of seeing a spaceship and space men. Watts' whole story has been pretty much discredited (see SKYLOOK issues of May and June 1968).

We are reminded of a remark made by Lou Farish last summer when he observed the MIB seemed to have been "demoted" as the latest reports had them driving red Volkswaggens instead of the former black Cadillacs. "Times are getting tough all over," he added.

If you feel we have treated the whole subject of the MIB too lightly, we invite your comment. Make it brief and to the point and we'll use it on the Reader's Page.

A Reader Talks Back

If you have been a ufology student for the past several years or even longer, chances are you did not agree with the Condon Report--but did you do anything about it aside from a little mumbling and grumbling with your friends?

August W. Hearst, of 1204 Ashford Drive, St. Louis, did something. He wrote a letter of protest to the "St. Louis Post-Dispatch" and his letter appeared on the editorial page Jan. 19th and thousands of readers had a look at the other side of the coin.

Here it is:--"Congratulations! The Post-Dispatch has done it again. I admire the way your editorial of Jan. 10 infers that those interested in the solution of the UFO mystery are all nuts. Did it ever occur to you that Dr. Condon has done practically no personal investigation of "Flying Saucers"? His knowledge of the UFO phenomenon would hardly fill a small-sized thimble. Most people feel as you do until they have actually witnessed a close-ranged sighting themselves.

"As for the scientific method, why don't you quote persons who have made an extensive study and investigation of UFOs such as Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Dr. James McDonald, Jacques Vallee, Maj. Donald Kehoe, James Lorenzen, among others? A closed mind has always been the scourge of civilization and your newspaper reflects this in print on many subjects. You take much for granted and may I suggest more study on UFOs by your staff? We already suffer from too much provincial thinking.

"For those who really want to know the facts about the Air Force sponsored Condon Committee and their UFO report, I would suggest that they read the "Flying Saucer Fiasco" published by Look Magazine, May 14, 1968, instead of irresponsible Post-Dispatch editorials.

August W. Hearst"

Mr. Hearst is a member of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis.

Another St. Louis resident, Terry Piskos, of 5046 Murdoch, wrote the "St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Feb. 2nd, and his letter reads in part:

"If UFO's do not exist, why has the Air Force issued specific orders to pilots encountering them? AFR 200-2 instructs pilots on how to react to and where to report these extraterrestrial objects.

"An order was issued by the Inspector General of the Air Force to every air base commander stating "unidentified flying objects--sometimes treated lightly by the press and referred to as "flying saucers"--must be rapidly and accurately identified as serious USAF business."

If everyone in disagreement with the Condon Report would write his home town paper, all the letters would not be published--but at least the editors would be forced to see the great and growing interest in the UFO phenomenon and this could lead to more publicity being given to actual UFO sightings and less to the kook reports.