

Missing Inventor Hunted for Clue to 'Saucers'

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Gurnea _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Pennington _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

By United Press

Air Force investigators—skeptical but intrigued—are trying today to locate an eccentric inventor who more than 10 years ago built two contraptions that look like “flying saucers.”

The disc-type ships, battered and damaged, were found yesterday in an abandoned barn near Glen Burnie, Md., where they had lain untended for nine years.

“It is apparent that both ships would give the appearance of flying discs,” an Air Force spokesman said.

NO REAL PROOF

An Air Force officer last night described the two craft as “definite prototypes of flying saucers,” but the service hedged today.

A spokesman objected to the word “prototype,” saying the Air Force has only reports of what flying saucers look like and has never established that such things actually were seen.

The Maryland inventor, Jonathan E. Caldwell, disappeared in 1940. The only possibility of any connection between his old abandoned devices and the rumored “flying saucers” of recent years would lie in the possibility

that he went to some other part of the country, developed better models and flew them successfully.

A good many officers find it difficult to believe he could have done that without coming to public attention during the periodic excitement over “flying saucers” in the past two years. But they would like to find out what happened to Mr. Caldwell after he left Maryland and talk with him, if he still is alive.

Mr. Caldwell, who would be about 70 today, left the Maryland farm hastily nine years ago, after getting into financial trouble with the state. He took with him his wife and son. Maryland authorities at that time had ordered him to stop selling any more stock in his enterprise, “Gray Goose Airways, Inc.” Previously, he had been ordered to stop selling stock in New Jersey and New York.

NOT NATURALLY DISHONEST

Robert E. Clapp, who as assistant Attorney General for Maryland, conducted the investigation of Mr. Caldwell's operations in 1940, said in Baltimore today:

“Whenever he needed more funds he went out and sold stock, and he continued to run the business as though it were his own. He wasn't the ordinary type of fraudulent stock salesman. I believe he sincerely thought

he had something and I doubt if he thought he was being dishonest.”

For two years Air Force investigators have been running down clues from coast to coast on reports of flying saucers. The Air Force in the main has taken a skeptical attitude toward the reports. Its last official report said it just didn't have conclusive evidence that they either did or didn't exist.

ONE TESTED HERE

Some of the flying saucers have been reported seen from the air, but traveling at such high speed as to make pursuit impossible. One military pilot crashed to his death, reportedly while chasing a flying saucer.

One of the craft found in the Maryland barn reportedly flew here briefly around 1939. It was said to have gotten only 75 feet in the air.

One ship resembled a helicopter. But instead of rotor blades it had a disc-like device about 16 feet in diameter. The device resembled two saucers revolving top to top. Small rotor blades jutted from between the two saucers.

The other craft, named the “Roto-Plane,” looked like a plywood tub about 14 feet in diameter. The pilot sat in the middle. The engine was in the tub. Around top and bottom rims of the tub were four-bladed propellers which revolved in opposite directions.

Flying Discs

INDEXED - 80

62-83894-A
NOT RECORDED

84 SEP 23 1949

AUG 20 1949

WASHINGTON NEWS
Page 6

60 SEP 27 1949
33

file 584