

ARMED FORCES

Focus on UFO

Winking, blinking and nodding — red lights over Pasadena, blue lights over Greensboro, silver cigars over Detroit — people kept seeing strange flying objects, and officials kept saying nothing was out there.

But in recent years, and particularly since last summer, the pressure had been mounting for either a full-scale Congressional investigation or for the establishment of an independent, civilian-controlled investigatory agency.

It had been a big year for Unidentified Flying Objects. The sightings had come in bunches, the bulk of them last spring and summer. And the reports had come from all over.

"Like Neon Lamps"

Among the most intriguing items in this year's crop:

- At Milan, Michigan, 15 miles south of Ann Arbor, bluish-yellow bars of light were spotted, looking "like neon lamps dangling in the sky."

- In East Delhi, Mich., a 15-year-old boy called in to report seeing lights in the sky alternately standing still and moving, sometimes flashing on and off.

- In Altadena and San Marino, Calif., police switchboards logged dozens of calls after a pair of red lights in the sky were reported by residents.

- In Toledo, Ohio, officials at the local airport received seven calls from persons who said they saw a glowing object that was red, green and white.

- In suburban Detroit, a man saw a noiseless, wingless, cigar-shaped flying object.

- In Bryan, Texas, residents said they heard a star-like object purr.

- Over Valdese, N.C., a "glowing blue thing" exploded, then lit up the town like a giant flashbulb.

Sometimes the alleged sightings spilled over into the bizarre. A space ship full of little men allegedly landed in a farm yard near Hopkinsville, Kentucky. The little men glowed, and they were described as "three feet tall, with eyes like saucers and hands like claws."

A grain buyer in Nebraska said he was invited into a space ship where he chatted with four men and two women. They spoke only broken English — but fluent High German which, as it happened, was the grain buyer's native tongue.

Silvery Cigar

Nor did America have any corner on the UFO market. In Northern Ireland, Tom Hutchinson saw a saucer drop into a peat bog near his home in Moneymore. It was eggshaped, three feet in di-



UPI Telephoto

DR. CONDON
Saucer-watcher

ameter, 18 inches high. It began to spin and Hutchinson grabbed it. He was carrying it to the police, who described him as "level-headed and God-fearing," when the thing twisted out of his hands and got away.

And in Warminster, England, a city council worker said he saw a silvery cigar shape drifting over the village downs. After a time, he said, it seemed to stretch. Then it seemed to divide amidships with a flash of orange light, although there was no noise.

Flaming Object

Not all the sightings could be easily written off as the phantasmagoria of kooks, cranks and drunks. And, unless one subscribed to a theory of mass hallucination, it was difficult to explain away simultaneous sightings confirmed by many rational witnesses — such as the flaming object that was seen last April by thousands of East Coast residents from Washington to Boston and even temporarily disrupted a ball game between the Chicago White Sox and the Washington Senators in Washington, D. C.

Or the incident in Hills-

dale, Michigan last March, in which a Civil Defense Director, an assistant dean, and 87 coeds reported that they had seen a glowing object zip past their college dormitory and hover in a swamp for hours. Witnesses said they watched from the second floor of the Hillsdale College girls dormitory as the object wobbled, wavered, glowed eerily and once zipped right at a dormitory window before stopping suddenly.

A Meteor?

The Air Force, charged with investigating every one