

New 'Fireball' Raises An Old Question: Do Flying Saucers Exist?

Californian, Who 'Talks' to Men
From the Stars, Says 'Yes';
Scientists Assail Air Force

By ELLIOT CARLSON
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They're back. The latest was sighted a few nights ago by residents and pilots in the northern tier of states and Canada. They described it as an orange fireball. The Air Force at first called it an unidentified flying object, but now thinks it was a meteor. Some other people called it a flying saucer.

Several people say they saw the fireball land Thursday night. An 11-year-old boy in Lorain, Ohio, says he watched it drop into the woods near his home. A woman in Elyria, Ohio, 10 miles away, claims she saw it plunge into a vacant lot across the street from her home. Others say they saw it streak into Lake Michigan. Scientists and police combed a 75-acre area near Pittsburgh after a woman there saw the object crash to earth "smoldering."

Despite these witnesses and search efforts, however, the thing has yet to be found. In this regard, it is like all other unidentified flying objects, or UFOs, which are mysterious because they are seen but never found.

Whatever it turns out to be—meteor, satellite, part, hoax, weather oddity or man from Mars—it appeared in a banner year for such objects, which almost disappeared from public consciousness following a rash of reports of flying saucers in the mid-1950s. "We've had more reports this year than in any year since 1957, when we had more than a thousand," says a spokesman for Project Blue Book, the Air Force program set up in 1948 to evaluate reports of the phenomena.

Visitors From Outer Space

Nobody knows what the objects are or where they come from, but there is no lack of theories—or of controversy. The Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America, Inc., is sure the "saucers" come from outer space. How do they know? The "space people" have told them.

Not only that, says Gabriel Green, who heads the California group, "space people give contactees information about life on other planets and solutions to insurmountable problems on our planet." One suggestion allegedly made to Mr. Green in 1960 by a visit from Alpha Centauri, a nearby star: Run for President as a write-in candidate. (He campaigned briefly, then decided not to run.)

The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), a private research organization in Washington, doesn't hold with that theory. "We reject reports of noble beings landing on earth to solve all our problems," says a spokesman. So men from Mars are a lot of bunk? Not necessarily, says the committee. It believes a Congressional investigation would prove that UFOs "are real physical objects . . . under the control of living beings." As an afterthought, the spokesman says: "There are a tremendous number of egomaniacs who have been able to appoint themselves experts in this field because it's so confused."

One man who's not confused at all is Charles A. Maney, professor emeritus of physics and mathematics at Defiance College in Ohio. Says the professor: "These objects are unquestionably from outer space." He bases his reasoning on the fact that the objects often interfere with local electrical circuits, indicating to him they have "a means of propulsion associated with magnetic fields."

"There's Nothing To It"

Such notions are scoffed at by astronomers, however. "All this is imagination outside the realm of science," says Donald H. Menzel, director of the observatory at Harvard. "I have examined Air Force cases and discovered that UFOs all have simple explanations in terms of well-known natural phenomena. There's not one cause, but hundreds. Some are quite spectacular, such as reflections from ice crystals or bright stars, searchlights on clouds or high-flying spider webs. But to some people the existence of flying saucers is a matter of religious fanaticism," he says.

But Mr. Menzel reads more into the Air Force data than does the Air Force itself. Of the 9,786 UFO reports made to the Air Force since 1947, 673 remain classified as "unidentified," a spokesman says. He defines this category as containing sightings whose pertinent data can't be correlated with any known object or phenomena.

The spokesman quickly adds: "We have neither received nor discovered any evidence that proves the existence of intraspace mobility or extraterrestrial life and we continue to extend an open invitation to anyone who feels he possesses any evidence of such vehicles operating in our atmosphere." And he states: "No UFO report evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of a threat to our national security."

The Air Force's approach disturbs some people, however. "The Air Force should admit there are natural phenomena taking place under our noses of which we know nothing," says I. M. Levitt, director of Fels Planetarium at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. He adds: "The Air Force is trying to explain something that isn't susceptible to explanation."

Robert Risser, director of the Oklahoma Science and Art Foundation planetarium at Oklahoma City, believes "the Air Force must have had its star-finder upside down during August," when several reports of flying saucers were ascribed by the Air Force to sightings of stars. "The constellations of Taurus and Orion weren't visible at the time the Air Force said the sightings were made. I think they made an error."

The whole problem, says J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the department of astronomy at Northwestern University and a consultant to the Air Force, is that the matter should be studied more thoroughly.

"Pressures to conformity in academic circles and fear of ridicule have slowed the study," according to Robert Hall, a sociology professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

"The possibility of life on Mars is an unpopular thing to consider these days," says Frank B. Salisbury, a professor of plant physiology at Colorado State University. At the risk of being unpopular, Mr. Salisbury told the fifth annual Space Conference this year that "there may be some natural explanation of these things, but a tentative possibility to be considered is that UFOs are spaceships from Mars."

Fueling the flying-saucer controversy has been the large number of reports from what many people consider reliable witnesses—pilots with technical backgrounds. Since 1947, more than 100 private, military and commercial pilots have reported spotting strange objects in the sky, according to one study.

Pinning down such reports is difficult, however. "Some of the boys did report things they couldn't identify a few years ago," says a spokesman for American Airlines. "But our pilots haven't made a report for years."

Nevertheless, "we have on file a great number of reports from pilots who don't want their names used but still want to tell somebody what they've seen, claims J. B. Hartant, Jr., president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. And he says: "I haven't drawn any conclusions myself, but I think we've certainly got a good mystery on our hands."



4-18-66

'Report Them . . . Forget It—
I Have Enough Credibility Problems As It Is'

London, Ontario Free Press 3-26-66

100 Watch UFO

Disc-Like Object Hovers, Rises
For Two Hours East of Kettle Point

By JIM ETHERINGTON
Free Press Sarnia Bureau

SARNIA — A revolving object, sighted in the sky east of Kettle Point last night, was watched for more than two hours by about 100 persons.

Lawrence Bressette, who operates a store on the Kettle Point Indian Reserve, said a motorist brought the object to his attention about 8 p.m. He said he looked at it through binoculars and could see red, blue, green and white lights flashing from the disc-shaped object.

Mr. Bressette said it remained motionless for about an hour flashing lights, then slowly began to rise. Cloud cover rolled in about 10 p.m., allowing only periodic sightings.

"I've never seen anything like this," he said. "We all saw it. It was low—about 200 or 300 feet off the ground to the east. Then it slowly began to move up."

Mr. Bressette said it could not have been swamp gas which was suggested as the cause of unidentified flying object sightings in the Detroit area last week.

"I've seen swamp gas lights. This was not the same," he said. "Besides there hasn't been any swamp gas lights around here since before the war."

Mr. Bressette said his brother, Jeffery, also reported seeing an object over Sarnia. This one stayed stationary for a short time then shot across the sky at a very high speed.

An officer in control operations at Selfridge Air Force Base, Mount Clemens, Mich., said the Canadian sighting was the fourth reported to him last night. The other three were from the Detroit area.

He said no radar reports had been obtained on any of the sightings.

Mr. Bressette reported jet planes in the area at one point while the group watched along the Lake Huron shore. But there was no possibility the object he saw was a jet.

In Michigan new reports of

UFO sightings were received Saturday night as far north as the tip of the "Thumb" in Lake Huron.

Odd lights were reported in the sky over Oakland County and the neighboring Detroit area. Others were reported westward in the Lansing area.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force said phenomena seen at Dexter and Hillsdale on the night of March 20 probably were the result of swamp gases.

Sheriff Douglas Harvey of Washtenaw County and civil defence director William Van Horn of Hillsdale County criticized Dr. Hynek's report. Van Horn said the swamp gas explanation was an attempt to "explain it away arbitrarily."

Flying Saucers Gain Proponent

N.Y. Daily News Dispatch

NEW YORK — The nephew of the late Dag Hammarskjold has startled America's top science writers by telling them he believes that flying saucers exist and that they come from outer space.

Knut Hammarskjold, whose late uncle was secretary general of the United Nations, spoke to a convention here of the aviation-space writers association.

Hammarskjold also suggested that our space neighbors are becoming more and more interested in what people are doing on earth.

"The possible existence of neighbors in space will, if confirmed, create problems of legal, political and technical characteristics," he said.

UN Watch For Saucers Urged

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 7 (AP)—Colman Vonkevitzky, an employe in the U.N. Office of Public Information, proposed to Secretary-General U Thant today that members of the United Nations establish a network to observe flying saucers.

Vonkevitzky, who says he believes someone in out-

Hong Kong China Mail

Flying saucers mystery

2-3-66

PEOPLE in North Queensland are mystified by three separate reports of Flying Saucers.

The first report came from a 27-year-old banana grower, Mr G. Pedley, who while driving a tractor through a neighbouring property on his way to his own farm, heard a loud hissing noise above the noise of the tractor.

Suddenly about 25 yards ahead of him, a blue-grey saucer shaped craft about 25 ft across, and 9ft high, rose vertically to about 60ft and travelling at a terrific speed headed off in a south-westerly direction.

On investigation, a nest of flattened reeds was found, the circle being about 30ft in diameter and since then four other nests have been found close by, some of them newly made.

During the last eight months, no less than seven different sightings of Flying Saucers have been reported in the North Queensland press.

Hundreds of sightseers have flocked to the Horseshoe Lagoon in the Tully District during the last few days to view the circles which are partly hidden by dense scrub.

The RAAF has taken the reports seriously enough to ask for clippings from the nests which will be examined, and any further flying saucer sightings from the area will be investigated.



Feb. 7, 1966
Los Angeles Herald-Examiner A-11

STRANGE OBJECT OVER MT. WILSON

A-2 Los Angeles Herald-Examiner

There was something over Mount Wilson early today but it didn't catch the entire city napping.

Police and newspaper switchboards were flooded with calls describing the object variously as a "puff," a "greenish ball," a "flat oval green object with a long tail and a light at the end."

It was first sighted about 4 a.m. and remained in view for about half an hour.

A similar fireball was sighted about the same time from Sacramento and from Vanderberg Air Force Base, it was reported.

Vanderberg reported no launches during the preceding 24 hours which might account for the phenomenon and said radar

8★ Thursday, April 21, 1966

there picked up "no unusual activity" during the period.

An Air Force spokesman at Vandenberg said the Air Force's "Project Blue Book" office in Washington was investigating.

An observer at Mather Air Force Base near Sacramento theorized that the object may have been gas residue left from Nevada missile firings which reflected light.

Sgt. David Tellotson, of Hollywood division, said the object here appeared to be over Griffith Park. "It was a bright green splotch, elongated, and not blinking," he said.

The only solid fact emerging: A lot of people are up at 4 a.m.