

J. P. McEvoy: Conversation Piece

Frank Scully's Flying Discs

EVERYBODY is reading "Behind the Flying Saucers" and talking about its author, Frank Scully—the flying saucer of the literary world. For some three years he has been going around the Mojave Desert muttering about a super-race of Mickey Rooneys from the planet Venus, who have designed saucer-shaped gadgets that fly by magnetic force; that they are scouting us on interplanetary missions, and that they mean us no good.

Well, maybe that's going too far. Frank hasn't actually interviewed any of these little Venutians, but he says he talked to a man who pried open one of these saucers and found 16 of these little fellows about 3 1/2 feet tall, all fried to a crisp—as Jimmy Durante would say.

One day I said to him, "Frank,

you're more phenomenal than any flying saucer. You should be their historian. Don't tell it—sell it." He did, and sent me a copy of his book.

After I read "Behind the Flying Saucers," I wrote Frank that I was bewitched by the book, but bewildered by the scientific words. What's a flying saucer? How does it fly? Who flies it? Why? and what of it? In no time at all I got an answer, for flying Frank Scully has only one leg, one lung and one good ear—but can cover more ground on his flying crutches and beat but more good copy on his flying typewriter than any of us in this noun-and-adjective racket.

MUTUAL ATTRACTION

"Dear Mac (he wrote). The flying saucer is not a hoax. It's not a secret weapon of this country or Russia or any other country on this earth, and it's not an optical illusion. You will never understand flying saucers if you don't remember first that the earth is a magnet and, second, that all the other planets in our solar system are magnets. Think

Senate Calls Siegel Pal, Virginia Hill

CHICAGO, Sept. 30 (UP)—Virginia Hill, adventures notorious for her friendship with gangsters, has been subpoenaed to appear before the Senate Crime Investigating Committee, an authoritative source said today.

It was not known whether the subpoena has been served. She was reported to be at Bar Harbor, Me.

She has a reputation as a fabulous tipper who handed out \$100 and \$1000 gratuities at the fashionable playgrounds of Reno, Miami, Hollywood, Paris and Nice.

She first gained widespread publicity in 1947 when Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, bigtime West Coast gambler and gangster, was shot to death as he sat at a window of her mansion near Los Angeles. She was in Europe at the time.

The Senate committee wound up three days of testimony taking in Kansas City today and was ready to move on here to open its investigation October 7.

Senate Estes Kefauver (Dem-Tenn.) said he would recommend the prosecution of Joe Digiovanni, one of the Kansas City witnesses, for perjury. Testimony given to the committee would be the basis of the charge, Kefauver said.

AX Falls Again in N. Y. Police Shakeup

NEW YORK, Sept. 30 (UP)—Police Commissioner Thomas E. Murphy, whose five-day reign has rocked New York City's police department, cracked down on the detective division today and removed 14 men from the police squad.

This brought Murphy's head-rolling total to 350 in five days. Yesterday he ordered the entire plain clothes division of 336 men back into uniform.

Murphy, who took over as boss of the 19,000-man police force on the heels of disclosures that police were netting as much as \$5,000,000 a year in graft from big bookmaking rings, made it clear his house cleaning was just beginning. It already was the biggest shakeup in the department's history.

INCREDIBLE MAN

Come to think of it, Scully himself is more incredible than any flying saucer.

When I first met him 25 years ago he was bedridden in a small villa above Nice, but everybody you ever wanted to meet in Europe could be found there—Frank Harris, H. G. Wells, Maxine Elliott, Jimmy and Betty Walker, even Bernard Shaw. Frank couldn't go to them, but he had some force more powerful, more mysterious than that magnetic business which drew them to him.

And more potent than even Frank was Alice—a cute little Norwegian, who first came to nurse him through desperate illness. Then he hired her to be his driver, then housekeeper, and finally his secretary, translator and researcher—for flat on his back, Frank was still the best reporter in Europe and covered the Continent for Variety.

One day he said to Alice: "I can't afford to pay you all these salaries. Let's get married." And they have been living happily ever after.

LITTLE MEN

Scully says flying saucers are the McCoy—and who am I to doubt him? He says they come from another planet where the inhabitants are so far ahead of us in science that the women use cosmic rays to curl their hair and that racket in the nursery is the kids splitting atoms. Flying saucers have been seen by the dozens by trained observers like air-line pilots. They have been found on the ground, and when pried open little men were found in them, as many as 16 in one of them.

"If the Pentagon denies this," says Frank, "don't believe them. Believe me. Remember that comic artist during the war who dreamed up some kind of a Buck Rogers weapon that used atomic power? Before he could say 'Albert Einstein' the 'FBI' were coming through the windows, under the doors, down the chimneys. They said: 'Keep your big mouth shut about atomic power—there ain't no such thing.' But not long after that anybody left in Hiroshima and Nagasaki could have told him another story."

San Jose Man, Wife Wounded in Shooting

Santa Clara police stopped Lastera's erratically driven car as he neared his mother's house, and found him lapsing into unconsciousness from loss of blood.

He underwent two blood transfusions tonight at Santa Clara County Hospital, where his wife, Josephine, was also taken. Lastera's condition was critical.

Police said Lastera, unemployed fruit worker on relief, got drunk at his home, 977-C Plummer avenue, and fired a shot from a .32 caliber target pistol at the oldest of his nine children, Margaret, 18. He missed.

Losses Cut to \$18,880 in 'Brasserie' Thefts

MIAMI, Sept. 30 (AP)—The Southern Bell Telephone Co. said today its losses to the "brasserie brigade," now charged with grand larceny, will not exceed \$18,880.

Three girls are accused of stuffing rolls of quarters from pay station collections into their brassieres and carrying them out of the telephone company's counting room.

I. T. Mills, West Miami safety director who first broke the case, estimated the losses at \$100,000, based on the word of one girl that the brasserie operation went on for years. Police checked back only two years because the statute of limitations protected beyond that.

Beauty...

You Never Knew You Had

New York beauty expert Jennie Dawson tried an experiment. She selected coeds, working girls and older women, and strove—with care, diet, clothes and exercise—to bring out their latent attractiveness. Her methods and their astounding results suggest how you too may bring out your natural sparkle. Miss Dawson's experiments will be presented weekly, beginning next Sunday in THE CHRONICLE.

WOMEN'S WORLD

Civil Aviation Defense

Blueprint for Integrating Private Pilots Presented to the CAA

By WILLIAM FLYNN
Aviation Writer, The Chronicle

A blueprint for integrating civilian aviation resources into any local or State civilian defense plan has been presented to the Civil Aeronautics Authority by an industry-wide Aviation Development Advisory Committee.

The proposals are of particular interest to those responsible for civilian defense in Northern California. The area has several thousand planes and more than 3000 pilots available for call.

The committee's report is based on the theory that the Nation has an invaluable civilian defense asset in its non-scheduled civilian aircraft industry—the light personal planes that carry from two to four and sometimes five passengers on business or pleasure flights.

SUGGESTED WAYS

These are suggested ways in which civilian defense authorities might plan to use such a resource:

- 1—Swift transportation of medical personnel and disaster specialists, as well as critically-needed supplies, to a disaster area.
- 2—Evacuation of wounded, or of whole communities if necessary.
- 3—Decontamination of areas rendered dangerous by atomic or bacteriological warfare.
- 4—Surveillance and control of congested ground transportation.
- 5—Emergency communications.
- 6—Security patrol flying.
- 7—Disaster area reconnaissance to locate survivors, determine extent of damage.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Utilization of these resources, however, will require careful and advance planning. In this respect, the committee comments:

"We have been warned repeatedly that the next war may come with the speed of lightning in a surprise attack upon our communities and key industries.

"In such an hour of crisis there will be no time for planning the details of priority and procedure; every citizen must know his place of duty and stand ready to serve in his most useful capacity."

"Without adequate planning for the mobilization and use of non-airline civil aviation resources, their value will be depreciated, and assets dissipated in the event of war or extreme national emergency."

Destruction of the Golden Gate and Bay bridges and blocking of Peninsula highways would have no effect on the operation of the hundreds of light planes that could

be used to deliver required medical supplies from storage depots outside the target area.

USE PROBLEMATICALLY

With two-way communication, the light planes could fly patrols over the highways providing exits from San Francisco and by directing traffic and diverting the streams of vehicles around traffic jams and pileups could contribute greatly to any mass migration.

Whether this resource would be used is problematical.

San Francisco at present has a Sheriff's air squadron, but it tends to be a bit on the social side. Members, however, along with members of such organizations as the Air Craft Owners and Pilots' Assn., would be more than willing to offer their skills and equipment for such an effort. It remains for them to be given effective leadership.

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Police said Lastera, unemployed fruit worker on relief, got drunk at his home, 977-C Plummer avenue, and fired a shot from a .32 caliber target pistol at the oldest of his nine children, Margaret, 18. He missed.

Mrs. Lastera was wounded as she struggled with her husband for possession of the gun.

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Fall Registration at Heald College

Registration for the fall term at Heald College will begin tomorrow and continue through the week. The college, at Van Ness avenue 8 m. and for the engineering school and Post street, will be open for Tuesday and Thursday evenings until registration from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m. till 9:30 p. m.

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