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## C i v i l i a n S a u c e r I n t e l l i g e n c e o f N . Y .

November 1, 1957

CIVILIAN SAUCER INTELLIGENCE OF NEW YORK  
67 Jane Street, New York 14, N. Y.

CSI NEWS LETTER

By The Light Of The New Moon

At five minutes after midnight (Moscow time) on Saturday, October 5, 1957, somewhere north of the Caspian Sea, a gigantic rocket rose into the sky, very deliberately at first, with the earth-shaking bellow of hundreds of pounds of gasoline exploding with oxygen every second. A few minutes later the earth's atmosphere was far below, a two-foot metal ball was falling around our planet at the speed of 18,000 miles an hour, and the human race had achieved space travel. Thus, thirteen years after the German V-2 opened the door to space by demonstrating the feasibility of the giant liquid-fuel rocket, the second step has now been taken. The third step may be expected to follow rapidly, perhaps before the year is out: a tiny package of flash powder will be man's first emissary to the moon. Then will come the manned satellite and eventually the "space station," though many years will be required for these formidable projects. Still following the arduous sequence of technical development mapped out so long ago by Ziolkovsky and Oberth, we are painfully boosting ourselves into space on our jets of hot gas--

Because we don't know any other way to do it.

Small as it is, the new moon sheds a bright light on the present state of space-travel developments on this planet. It is now very obvious, first, that the Russian effort on big rockets has been even more intensive than our own, and secondly, that they have just now arrived at the stage of being able to impart orbital velocity to a small object—a feat which they have suddenly and dramatically demonstrated, to the well-publicized chagrin and consternation of United States military, armchair-military, and journalistic circles. It seems that their development must be about a year ahead of ours: their (presumably) first satellite is (supposedly) of the astonishing weight of 184 pounds, and (apparently) it was successfully steered into its orbit on their very first try. Some questions remain about the state of progress of U. S. rocketry: we cannot be sure how much truth there is in the story that the Army could have put a satellite into orbit two years ago, if permitted (as alleged by two Army generals in Barcelona on October 8th). But regardless of what might have been, we do know that we are still at the stage where about half of our big rockets blow up when fired, and that the Russians are somewhat beyond that stage.

It seems perfectly clear that a situation like this is not consistent with any idea of revolutionary behind-the-scenes advances. Both nations (primarily because of its bomb-delivery aspects) are in grim earnest about their rocket work, and have poured billions of dollars into it—the U. S. spent three billions on missiles in 1956 alone! Yet the first ICBM and the first sputnik have only now been reached. Activity on such a massive scale, with such slowly maturing fruits, is no "cover-up." Any nation that had invented for itself, or discovered from study of crashed specimens, a principle of propulsion permitting inertialess maneuvers like those of the UFOs would have no further need of anything so primitive as the rocket, and would engage in no such gigantic, economy-sapping rocket programs as Russia and the United States are struggling to carry out.

But let us assume, per absurdum, that the enormous rocket-missile effort of the United States has been nothing but a false front to conceal its possession of that perfected aerial device known as the flying saucer. Then we must surely ask: Why has this amazing American advance not been revealed--not even hinted at--to explain what is everywhere viewed as this nation's "defeat" in the "race" for space travel? Could there ever be a time when it would be more opportune for the United States to unveil its great secret, thereby throwing the Russians' "great propaganda victory" with their footling old-fashioned rockets completely into the shade? Yet what has in fact been the response of our government? All have agreed in regarding the Russian achievement as a great victory over us, and have united in panicky demands to pour still more billions into the competition in rocket technology, so that we may boast that our sputniks are twice as big and twice as numerous as Russia's. In the midst of this rout, not a single voice has been raised to say--not even a single "informed source" has leaked to a columnist--that in fact, we are far ahead of all this childish fireworks approach to space travel.

It seems, we think, pretty obvious that we aren't. The race to the moon (the "old" moon) is on--but it's a rocket race. If nobody is riding a saucer, it's because they haven't got one to ride.

In the light of the new moon, we can see more clearly that ever before the absurdity of any theory that attributes the flying saucers to any technology existing on this planet.

-- The Editors

#### C.S.I. NEWS

Executive Committee Meetings were held on August 7th, September 5th and October 16th. On Aug. 7th, the officers discussed possible speakers for the program of the coming year. On Sept. 5th, an agenda was set up for the annual business meeting, scheduled for Sept. 27th. And on Oct. 16, plans were made for the meeting on the 19th, at which time Auriphebo Simoes was scheduled to appear. Arthur Shattuck was elected to the Committee as a member-at-large.

Members' Meetings: The first CSI meeting of the 1957-58 season, the Annual Business Meeting, was held on Friday, Sept. 27th, at Steinway Hall. Approximately fifty members and friends attended. President John DuBarry reviewed the past year's activities; Research Director Ted Bloecher briefly reviewed some of the significant sightings during the past year, such as the Galt, Ontario "landing" of July 30th; Administrative Vice-President Lex Mebane reported on membership (145, in spite of our reluctance to expand); Public Relations Vice-President Ivan Sanderson mentioned that we have received a good deal of unsolicited publicity; and Treasurer Isabel Davis presented a financial report, given in very abbreviated form below. Organizational Vice-President Harold Oksenkrug outlined our plans for the forthcoming year: we hope to have four or five public lectures. Hans Stefan Santesson, editorial director of Fantastic Universe, spoke generously of our articles (itemized below). Lee Munsick, just up from Washington and an arduous job of helping Major Keyhoe put the UFO Investigator #2 to bed, kindly gave us further information on the Galt landing, making it look considerably more like an acceptable case. The piece-de-resistance was a "preview" by Isabel Davis of the new book by Aime Michel which she and the other members of the Research Section are translating and editing: she illustrated Michel's "orthoteny" with a map, some tacks, and twine. Election of officers followed: the incumbents were reelected, with the addition of Victoria de Cervantes as Secretary, giving us a full slate for the first time. Special thanks were expressed to Mary Coryn for her repeated invaluable help with secretarial work; and Arthur Shattuck for tape recordings.

Abridged Financial Report: Isabel Davis presented the financial report for the period June 13, 1956 to June 30, 1957. Funds on hand June 13, 1956 were \$42.10; total CSI income during the period through June 30, 1957 was \$704.94. Total expenditures were \$720.98, leaving a balance on hand on June 30, 1957, of \$26.06. A complete financial report will be mailed to members as soon as time can be found to mimeograph it. In the meantime, if there are any members who would like to see a more detailed breakdown, or to inspect the books, please let Isabel know.

CSI Members Meet Auriphebo Simoes: Although the Simoes appearance had originally been scheduled for October 19th, a last-minute delay in Senor Simoes' European trip forced us to reschedule the meeting to October 27th, and to notify members by phone. Even so, more than twenty-five members were able to turn out at the last minute to hear our eminent guest.

Auriphebo Berrance Simoes, of Sao Paulo, Brazil, director of "C.P.D.V.,<sup>1</sup>" is one of a triumvirate of energetic, English-writing Brazilian UFOlogists who have appeared on the international scene in the past year. (The others: Dr. José Escobar Faria of UFO-Critical Bulletin and Dr. Olavo Fontes of Rio de Janeiro, who has made such noteworthy contributions to the APRG Reporter and APRO Bulletin.) Unlike most of us saucer researchers, all three are men of substance in non-saucer life: Fontes is a physician, the head gastro-enterologist at Brazil's National School of Medicine, and Escobar is a poet and a State Attorney in Sao Paulo. "Phebo" Simoes is a veteran airline pilot, and the Sao Paulo Operations Manager for Brazil's (and the world's) greatest domestic airline--Cruzeiro do Sul--in addition to running other business enterprises and appearing from time to time on television. He is also a witty and proficient writer in English, as readers of his O Disco Voador know, and a saucer researcher of unsurpassed shrewdness and good sense.

Captain Simoes, who speaks considerably better English than most of us, told us how his interest in flying saucers was aroused by a Brazilian serialization of Keyhoe's first book; how C.P.D.V. was organized in Sao Paulo in June, 1956; and of the saucer cases that they have investigated since then, including the four colorful "contact" yarns he has described in his recent issues of O Disco Voador. He explained also the somewhat tangled tale of the "tin-fall" in Campinas in December, 1954 (which we won't go into here until it has been somewhat straightened out); described his own sighting on July 28, 1948, while piloting a DC-3 from Sao Paulo to Rio de Janeiro, in the vicinity of Ubatuba, and of learning of a confirming report of the fireball-like UFO upon landing at Rio; and told of a second sighting in Sao Paulo on April 6, 1955, when he and others saw a silvery disc accompanied by three smaller red objects; and set us straight on the attitude toward UFOs of the Brazilian Air Force (generally indifferent--decidedly not pro-saucer, as it has seemed to us up here, after reading the statements of Col. Joao Adil de Oliveira).

We are honored to have Auriphebo Simoes as our guest, and we only wish that all the members could have the pleasure of meeting him.

New Book by Michel in Preparation: The Research Section is now working on the typescript of Aimé Michel's second book, Les Soucoupes Volantes et La Mystère de l'Orthoténie, to be issued in Spring by Criterion. This, the first book to deal in detail with the fantastic events of Autumn, 1954, represents something really new in saucer literature. Michel tells not only of the strange "little-man" landings (which seem in general to have been genuine occurrences) but of the peculiar and unexpected pattern that he discovered by carefully plotting these reports on the map. His newly-coined word "orthoteny" (a good Greek term meaning "stretching out in a straight line") did not appeal to us

at first sight, but we now feel it is a needed invention, and is certain to become part of the vocabulary of UFO research.

CSI Tells N.J. P-T.A. of UFOs: On Wednesday evening, October 9th, Lex Mebane addressed the Branchburg Township (N.J.) Parent-Teachers Association. This is Menger country, and Lex is still kicking himself for forgetting to warn this susceptible audience explicitly that the Menger story is a pack of lies; however, he attacked other "contact" claimants, so perhaps they got the idea.

And on November 25th, Ted Bloecker has been invited to address the local P-T.A. of Flanders; the invitation was extended to Ted by Mrs. Teresita M. Boyce. Mrs. Boyce's husband is an airline pilot.

Long John Appearance: As mentioned elsewhere, Long John was substantially "off saucers" during the summer months, but on the morning of Thursday, August 29th, Isabel Davis, Ted Bloecker, and Ivan Sanderson were guests on his program, along with Hans Stefan Santesson, who gave an enthusiastic plug for Isabel's article in his Fantastic Universe (see below).

CSI Articles In Fantastic Universe: It may be worthwhile, at this point, to give a list of these. The regular series, written by Ted Bloecker and Lex Mebane, with an occasional assist from Isabel Davis, has (for better or worse) been given the running title "Shapes In The Sky." Each article cites five to ten cases in illustration of some point or other. The first (March) used some first-hand cases to illustrate the diversity of UFO shapes. #2 (May) pointed out that the extreme diversity of UFO types shows that they cannot all be accounted for by any single explanation. #3 (July) gave a number of examples of "angel hair," completed in September with a newly-published case, an attempted link to "gossamer falls," and a tentative explanation in terms of UFO "animals." #5 (November) cited a few of the numerous examples of "mechanical" noises emitted by UFOs. #6 (December) ventured upon the shaky ground of attempting to link "skyquakes" to saucers. #7 (January '58) lists all the examples of saucer smells that we could find, including the Flatwoods and Des Vergers landing reports. #8 (February) will cite nearly a dozen noteworthy radar sightings, and #9 (March) will complete this with a discussion of the Washington sightings, radar "angels," and proposed explanations.

Much more substantial than any of these was Isabel's long article "Meet The Extraterrestrial" in the November issue, which has elicited a great deal of praise from readers, as it should. This article was not only the first reasoned criticism of the "contact" claimants to appear in any mass-circulated magazine, but also the longest non-fiction article ever carried by any science fiction magazine.

In addition to these there have been four articles by Ivan T. Sanderson, written with his inimitable verve and brilliance. (These have not been "official" CSI utterances.) The first, "Introduction To Ufology" (February) attracted so much interest that Fantastic Universe has made free reprints available. (King-Size Publications, 320 Fifth Avenue.) The other three: August (some UFOs may be ionospheric animals, others may be Russian machines), November (UFO pilots: "what could not pilot a UFO?") and January '58 (some may be inanimate Fortean flotsam in the upper air).

Readers in general have found the saucer articles to their taste, so much so that they are now regularly mentioned on the cover. Among the hard-core science-fiction fans, apparently, response has been less enthusiastic. (Science-fiction writers and fans in general have always been anti-saucer, apparently associating the topic primarily with Ray Palmer, ill-famed among them for his cynical Shaver hoax.) One magazine, Cry of the Nameless, has grumpily referred to our efforts as "the maunderings of these pseudo-Forts." We do try not to maunder, but at least it is gratifying to be recognized as

as workers in the notable tradition inaugurated by Fort. And top-notch s-f author Cyril Kornbluth has expressed his shocked disapproval of Ivan Sander-son's UFOlogical writings in the December Fantastic Universe—with a spirited riposte from Ivan.

CSI's Legal Adviser Scores Triumph: On October 12th, one of the most sensational court cases in this area in many years was won in electrifying fashion by our legal adviser and distinguished bane of "contact" liars, Jules B. St. Germain. 52-year-old Thomas Stoelting, mining engineer and company promoter, not yet recovered from being shot in the belly by 15-year-old Sandra Hauck on April 3rd, had been charged by the plump schoolgirl with a hair-raising series of "carnal abuses" upon her. Since the charge was a dirty one, and Sandra's father is the politically-powerful former prosecuting attorney of Hunterdon County (N.J.), no New Jersey attorney cared to defend the penniless Stoelting. St. Germain, convinced that injustice was being done, stepped in to defend the invalid for no fee. He succeeded in convincing the jury that Sandra's whole story was as much a work of fiction as her neighbor Howard Menger's, and that her sexual adventures had in fact been with Stoelting's partner instead. The acquittal verdict was reached in the record time of 15 minutes, and the Flemington courthouse spectators crowded around to shake the defendant's hand. The testimony was so earthy that the New York Times found this case not "fit to print"; the other papers had a field day, though even they had to bowdlerize it. Congratulations to Jules for this noble and astoundingly successful venture in knight-errantry!

#### TWO UFO REPORTS FROM OREGON

July 10, 1957: Morgan Medlock and Buddy Taylor, both of Heppner, Oregon, were piling brush near Crawford Spring (nine miles out of Bull Prairie) at 12:10 p.m. when they saw a round, hat-shaped object moving rapidly toward the northwest at "terrific speed." They estimated its size as about "half that of a forest service Power Wagon Truck," and described it as brown in color, "similar to dried pine needles." Traveling in straight level flight at an estimated altitude of 3000 feet, the object left no trail and had no visible means of propulsion. However, the two men said it made a sound "something like a jet plane, only with a very noticeable whistle." As it disappeared from view, it made a sound described as a sort of "plup," similar to the sound of a bullet striking water. They viewed it for ten seconds. The men immediately reported the incident to the Madison Butte lookout high in the Blue Mountains, southeast of Heppner. (The "hat-shape" is reminiscent of the Twin Falls, Idaho report of Aug. 13, 1947 (Blue Book Report #14, case #IX); the Great Meadows, N.J. case of March 6, 1957 (N.L. #7, p. 23); and the Whittier, Calif. report of August 22, 1957 (see following page). The brown color is very unusual.) -- Heppner Gazette-Times, 7/11.

July 25, 1957: While driving northward along Springwater Road, in Clackamas County, Oregon, in the vicinity of the Estacada-Springwater highway, Brad Woodward and Carl Pollack, two county tax appraisers, were "almost blinded" at 12:35 p.m. when a brilliant disc-shaped object suddenly crossed the sky in front of them. They said the object resembled a "bright silver dollar" as it passed from their left to right at a "terrific" speed, about  $45^{\circ}$  above the horizon. "The object seemed to be spinning and was tilted at a slight angle...we didn't hear the slightest sound or see any sign of a vapor trail," the men said. They had it in view only several seconds before it disappeared from sight beyond the right-hand corner of the car's windshield. -- Oregon City Enterprise Courier, 7/28. (Since the object was definitely seen to be a flat disc, there is no question of its being a daylight fireball; moreover, a fireball would have been reported by many observers over a wide area.)

## MEXICAN HAT DANCE OVER WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

On the evening of August 22nd, numerous residents in and around Whittier, California reported watching a remarkable display of UFOs. Among the witnesses was Mr. Warner Little, his wife, three teen-aged sons, and his eight-year-old daughter Sandra, who first told of seeing the objects. Running into the house early in the evening, she told her mother "There are two eyes looking at me from the sky!" Mrs. Little, washing dishes, paid no attention. She then told her father, who was in the bedroom. He looked out of the west window and saw that there were two bright, round discs high in the sky. Directly behind them were two jets, recognizable by their exhaust trails. The time was exactly 7:39 p.m. Mr. Little ran outside, but he could no longer see the objects, although the jets were still visible.

Thinking there was a chance that the UFOs might return, Mr. Little returned to the house and got his telescope. The scope, a Bushnell, has a 60-mm. objective of 910 mm. focal length; he was using a 30-power eyepiece.

As he was setting up the telescope in the yard, Mrs. Little pointed up: "Here come two more of them!" While Mr. Little was sighting the scope on these two objects, approaching slowly from the southeast, someone else called out: "Look straight up--there's a whole fleet of them!" Actually, four more objects were visible near the zenith; no one had seen them arrive. The two from the southeast joined them and stopped.

The six objects were grouped in pairs: two were to the east of the zenith, two to the west, and the remaining two to the south. Although they were hovering motionless, each appeared to be rotating upon its own axis. All were inclined at a slight angle toward the center of the formation. Presently all six began revolving in a circular motion around the zenith; this continued for about five minutes. As they circled, still in pairs, they rocked slowly back and forth toward the center of the circle; this peculiar motion enabled the observers to see the upper portion of each object. They were carefully viewed through the telescope. All were identical: they were solid-appearing, with clearly defined edges, and on the top of each object was a pronounced dome-like protuberance. This dome was not rounded, but appeared more "angular," and blended in smoothly with the disc-like base of the objects. The overall resemblance to a Mexican sombrero was striking. The thickness of the objects was about one-twentieth of the diameter. To the naked eye, the diameter of each object was about equal to the diameter of a cigarette held at arm's length (about the same as the full moon). At intervals, one of the objects would be seen to emit a small puff of smoke from its trailing edge; this smoke dispersed quickly. It was noted that only one member of each pair did this.

When the objects finally began moving away, they did so at a moderately slow speed. Two made a right angle to the east; the other four moved to the north as a close group. Mr. Little was tracking one of the two objects in the east, while his eldest son watched through the eyepiece of the scope, when they saw the color change from a silver to a red, then orange, glow. The color change began at the base of the "super-structure" on top. The top of the "super-structure," as well as the edge of the disc, appeared to turn black.

At this point, the disc-centered on the cross hairs of the eyepiece at the time--suddenly vanished. Looking up, Mr. Little saw that it had vanished entirely from view. The rest of the witnesses confirmed that all of the objects had disappeared instantaneously. Mr. Little checked the time: it was 7:40 p.m. (Sunset that day was about 7:45.) He immediately called the Pasadena Air Defense Center, but got a "no comment" reply.

While the Littles were watching the objects from their yard, the aerial display was also being observed, independently, by their neighbors, Mr. & Mrs. John Iseli, and Mrs. Iseli's mother. Mr. Iseli, a former skeptic, reversed his opinions abruptly after seeing the strange objects. They confirmed precisely what the Littles had reported.

We are indebted to CSI members Idabel Epperson and Jackie Sanders, who obtained the details directly from the two families. In addition, they interviewed at least six other witnesses, including:

An elderly lady named Mrs. Fromm, living about two blocks from the Littles, who spotted the objects as she watered her lawn.

Mrs. Eugene Jones, who was in the back yard of her home, a mile away, when she noticed them.

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Rogers, also of Whittier, who, with a guest, were having a barbecue supper when they saw what they thought were three objects (Living four miles from the Littles, they apparently mistook the paired objects, as described by the Littles, for single objects. They did not have the benefit of using binoculars or telescope).

Mr. Don T. Frost, who lives in Rivera--6 miles away. He was with his little daughter watching planes in the sky when they beheld the aerial minuet.

Another Rivera resident--who flatly refused to have his name printed--was sitting on his patio. He was so shaken by what he saw that it wasn't until a day or so later that he told his wife about it--after he learned a neighbor had seen the same phenomenon.

Mrs. Epperson added that a triangulation of the various reports was made; it indicated an altitude of 2,300 feet.

One intriguing aspect of this affair--and perplexing as well--is the reported abrupt disappearance of the objects. The Research Section has at least two other cases in its files in which unidentified aerial objects have exhibited this same unorthodox behavior.

The first--a daytime sighting--took place near LaFayette, New York in May, 1946. Two young men were driving north toward Syracuse in an open convertible when they saw a large, metallic cylinder with sharply pointed ends, poised motionless in a clear sky northwest of their position. After watching the phenomenon--this was a year before "flying saucers" whirled into view--for several minutes, it abruptly and inexplicably vanished from sight.

The second incident occurred on the night of December 9, 1955, on the Jersey Turnpike near Teterboro Airport. A luminous green bullet-shaped object with two brilliant "portholes" on the side was seen to cross the Turnpike as a low altitude and at close range, and then to disappear.

Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization to study Unidentified Flying Objects. The officers are: President, John Du Barry; Vice President (Administration), Lex Mebane; Vice President (Organization), Harold Oksenkrug; Vice President (Public Relations), Ivan Sanderson; Research Director, Ted Bloecher; Legal Adviser, Jules St. Germain; Secretary, Victoria de Cervantes; Treasurer, Isabel Davis. The CSI News Letter is prepared by Ted Bloecher, Isabel Davis, and Lex Mebane, of the Research Section, with the assistance of other members; the views expressed by the editors do not necessarily coincide with the opinions of all CSI members.

Membership in CSI of New York (dues \$5.00 a year for those within 25 miles of N.Y.C., \$3.50 a year elsewhere) is by written application only, submitted to the Applications Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. For further information regarding the group and its policy, write c/o Davis, 67 Jane Street, New York 14, N.Y.

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS DEEPENS MYSTERY OF REPEATING "ICEFALLS"

When chunks of ice fell from the sky onto an eastern Pennsylvania farm last summer, the news aroused interest among students of unidentified aerial objects, who recognized a familiar "Fortean phenomenon." By the time a seventh fall had occurred in the same general area, seven weeks later, even people who never heard of Charles Fort were clamoring for an explanation.

The first incident took place on the evening of July 30th near Bernville, a small town a few miles northwest of Reading, Pa. The sky was devoid of "rain clouds" at the time. Edwin Groff, working on his farm, heard a peculiar whistling noise, and looked up in time to see a chunk of ice weighing about 50 pounds crash to the ground nearby. He called his wife to see it, and while they were examining it, a second piece, half the size of the first, fell almost at their feet. Both pieces came sailing in at an angle from the south, according to Groff--they did not drop vertically. The Groffs had the presence of mind to stash the pieces in their deep freeze, and they notified a meteorologist in Reading, Dr. Matthew Peacock, who called in M.J. Reider Associates, a Reading firm of consultant chemists.

Thanks to this, we now have what is probably the first expert description ever published of one of these strange "erratics."

For the text of Dr. Malcolm J. Reider's three-page report of August 9th on the ice, and for some other important data, CSI is indebted to our well-known member Capt. William B. Nash of Miami, Florida, who has pursued a vigorous investigation of this matter for NICAP. Dr. Reider's cooperation with Bill Nash is gratefully acknowledged. We are also indebted to CSI member Dick Harpster, of Washington, N.J., who supplied us with numerous clippings covering the reported ice-falls.

Dr. Reider found that this ice differed sharply from the familiar "manufactured ice." It was cloudy and opaque in appearance, "presumably because of the presence of dissolved air," and its internal structure resembled a "popcorn ball," with many holes throughout the mass: in fact, the mass had clearly been formed by the fusing together of a great number of hailstones "about one-half to one inch in diameter." This was confirmed by the finding that the individual ice "spheroids" within the "popcorn ball" showed the onion-like, concentric-layered structure that is characteristic of hailstones.

"We permitted the ice mass to melt and subjected the resulting water to analysis." The results were perplexing. Hailstones normally consist of almost pure water, but this water was decidedly brackish (276 p.p.m. total solids; 50 p.p.m. chloride, twenty times that of ordinary fresh water) and quite strongly alkaline (pH 8.8). The major contaminant (10.6 p.p.m.) was calcium carbonate, accounting for the alkalinity. Iron, in contrast, was totally absent--showing that this water had never been in contact with the iron piping of a man-made water-supply system. "We conclude that this ice was atmospherically formed, but that in its genesis it has picked up large amounts of atmospheric debris, resulting in its high mineral content," Reider reported; but the difficulty was that these particular minerals could not have been picked up in the atmosphere--at least, not in the atmosphere of Pennsylvania. All that he could suggest was "the inclusion in the hailstones, during their formation, of alkaline dust raised from certain arid-alkaline areas of our western states." As to how it got to Pennsylvania, such atmospherically formed ice or hailstones along with their included contamination could be carried thousands of miles across our country by air streams, and let fall to earth when velocities decrease or the size of the hailstone agglomerates reach such proportions that they are no longer capable of being airborne."

Meteorologist Peacock's reaction to this theory was unequivocal: "Poppycock!" He was well aware that even ordinary hailstones, to say nothing of the fifty-pound blocks, cannot be carried across continents by the jet stream. He knew that it

takes the violent updrafts of a thunderstorm to hold hailstones in mid-air long enough for them to grow to their usual size, and that it takes the tremendous up-draft of a tornado to carry heavy objects through the air for a few miles. So Peacock thought "it just must have fallen from a plane." (Reading Times, 8/8.) On Aug. 27, Paul F. Sutton, meteorologist in charge of the Harrisburg Weather Bureau rendered a similar verdict, because weather balloons sent to 60,000 feet "had disclosed no turbulent weather conditions which would cause hailstones to form," while as for the jet stream, relied upon by Reider, it was running far to the north of Pennsylvania at the time. Reider's theory was therefore strictly impossible on meteorological grounds: the ice, said Sutton, could not have been "formed by natural processes known to meteorology." So Sutton suggested instead that the ice must have fallen from "Strategic Air Command jets rendezvousing at 30,000 feet"--and ignored Reider's demonstration that it was unmistakably a fused mass of hailstones. (Reading Times, 8/28.)

Reider, in his turn, has ignored the meteorological objections, and has continued to urge his jet-stream theory--"but, he adds, the whole business is pretty much of a mystery." (Easton Express, 9/27.)

To confound all theories, the Bernville ice-fall was followed during the next few weeks by a number of others in the same localized area.

On August 14th, at 7:45 p.m., a chunk of ice weighing 25 pounds fell onto the farm of Rufus Boyer, in Gowen City, near Shamokin. Again the weather was clear, and no planes were seen. The ice was preserved in a freezer, and this too was sent to Dr. Reider. It was found to be practically identical with the Bernville ice, which had fallen fifteen days earlier. It was a cloudy mass of fused hailstones, and the meltwater showed pH 8.7, no iron, 202 p.p.m. total dissolved solids, 128 p.p.m. CaCO<sub>3</sub>, 22 p.p.m. chloride. Radioactivity was not detectable. In Dr. Reider's report on this analysis (August 22), the presence of "a large amount of suspended sediment" was mentioned; this consisted of "silt fibres, finely divided mineral matter, and algae." It is not stated whether similar insoluble matter was found in the Bernville sample.

Thirteen days later, on August 27th, Camp Hill, just across the river from Harrisburg, was the scene of an ice-fall. Dr. Reider examined the ice. Its structure differed from those previously examined; it was a flat cake "composed of columnar crystals, giving it the appearance of a honeycomb." However, in its high alkali content the specimen differed from ordinary ice, and agreed with previous findings. (Easton Express, 9/27.)

Twelve days later, on the night of September 8th, a very large mass of ice, estimated at more than 100 pounds, fell onto an empty house in Chester, just south of Philadelphia; fragments eight inches in size shattered into the street. Dr. Reider, by now a dedicated man, examined the ice: it consisted of fused hailstones, and showed a high alkali content.

Four days later, on September 12th, a big chunk of ice plummeted through the roof of a sheet-metal warehouse in Philadelphia, punching a hole five inches in diameter and shattering all over the floor. Workmen were frightened, though not injured. This ice was described as "rather peculiar looking: milky, with brown spots in it," obviously similar to the other specimens, though Dr. Reider found its alkali content was lower. According to the AP story reporting this fall (Newark Star-Ledger, 9/13), "several weeks ago a large cake of ice plunged from the sky onto a farm near Norristown"; we have no details on this case.

On September 18, six days after the Philadelphia fall, a forty-pound cake of ice, 3' x 18" x 4", was found in a field near Annandale, New Jersey, by a road repair crew. No one actually saw this ice fall, and the sample differed in one respect from all other samples examined by Dr. Reider: the alkaline contamination was absent. Like the Camp Hill ice, it had a columnar or honeycomb-like structure,

rather than being composed of fused hailstones. But Dr. Reider felt that it could not possibly be man-made ice: he described its crystal structure as "unique," and declared that it has been duplicated in laboratory experiments only a few times, and has never been known to occur in nature--except once. This was in 1888, at Lake St. Moritz, Switzerland, where columnar crystals were described in a cake of ice said to have fallen from the sky. (Easton Express, 9/23.)

(It may be mentioned that this 1888 ice-fall is not one of those collected by Fort (omnibus edition, pp. 19, 65, 183-90). Fort remarks (p. 185) on the fact that these ice blocks were frequently explained away as "only" masses of congealed hailstones (with an implication that congelation had occurred on the ground after the fall of the hailstones). In the light of Reider's findings, this description applied to the older specimens is highly significant.)

While investigating the Annandale case, Dr. Reider learned of an occurrence antedating the Bernville fall, which had taken place at Quakertown, Pa., about 7 a.m. one morning in April. Peter Burger, operator of the Quakertown grocery store-postoffice, had been looking out of his kitchen window when he suddenly heard a loud "bang!" He glanced over toward his garage in time to see a large chunk of ice and a number of smaller fragments bouncing off the garage roof. Fortunately, he had deposited a piece in his store freezer, and Dr. Reider examined it. Burger's ice was found to be similar in every respect to the other high-alkalinity "popcorn ball" samples. (Easton Express, 9/27.)

It is obviously impossible to account for the characteristically Fortean repetition of these falls on any "normal" grounds. Dr. Reider has "theorized that the jet stream makes a left-hand turn somewhere in this area; the ice lumps are too heavy to make the turn, and are cast off." (Easton Express, 9/23.) This picturesque conception ignores not only the jet stream's complete inability to carry ice, but its widely shifting position during the weeks of the Pennsylvania ice-falls. On the other hand, the meteorologists' "airplane" theory ignores the structure of the ice, which is unequivocally not that of ice formed on planes; its peculiar chemical constitution; and the fact that ice blocks of apparently identical nature have fallen in the same way long before airplanes existed.

Actually, it would be much more reasonable to suspect these ice blocks of being true meteorites. Ice is now believed to be rather abundant in space, and the "brecciated" structure of some chondritic meteorites is not unlike that of these ice-masses. But this, too, fails to account for the localized repetition.

Perhaps the closest approach to a tenable theory, as Bill Nash points out, has come from Norbert Gariety in his UFO periodical S.P.A.C.E. (#9, Sept. 1957). Gariety suggests that the hailstones and dust were collected together not by winds, but by the artificial gravity field of a flying saucer, which subsequently got rid of its frozen accretions. The localization of the falls would then mean simply that the UFOs, for reasons best known to themselves, were frequenting that area at the time. (However, if there have been any reports of aerial objects in this area during the critical period, they have not come to our attention.)

Three further details of interest should be mentioned:

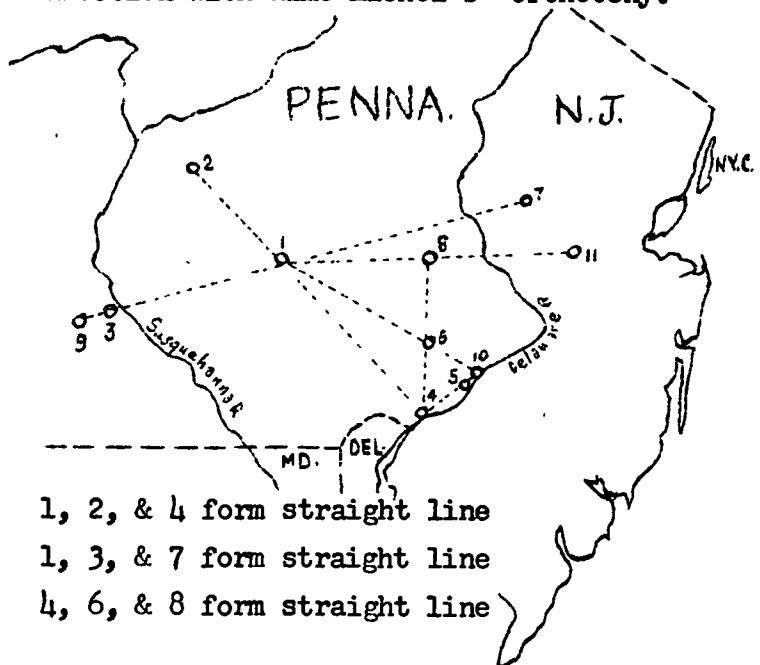
The Harrisburg State Police analytical laboratory informed Bill Nash that their sample of the Bernville ice contained small fragments of metal, which they found to be aluminum containing a small amount of magnesium; they considered this as proof that the ice had fallen from a plane. Dr. Reider did not mention the presence of any such metallic fragments in his specimens.

The UP story on the Bernville fall ended with this thought-provoking sentence: "At about the same time, police received numerous reports of strange 'rumblings' from scattered sections of Lancaster, Dauphin, and Lehigh counties." It would appear from this that this ice-fall was accompanied by "skyquake"-like sounds; nothing

similar is mentioned for the other cases, but something similar is found in Fort (p. 186): on August 13, 1849, after "an extraordinary peal of thunder," an irregular-shaped mass of ice "about 20 feet in circumference" fell at Ord, Scotland. Part of this mass looked like congealed hailstones; the rest was homogeneous ice.

Seven of the eight points plotted on the sketch map lie along straight lines, with three points on a line, as shown. We don't pretend to know what this means, but we thought it was interesting in connection with Aime Michel's "orthoteny."

- 1 - Bernville, Pa.
- 2 - Gowan City, Pa.
- 3 - Camp Hill, Pa.
- 4 - Chester, Pa.
- 5 - Philadelphia, Pa.
- 6 - Norristown, Pa.
- 7 - Annandale, N.J.
- 8 - Quakertown, Pa.
- 9 - Mechanicsburg, Pa.
- 10 - Kensington, Pa.
- 11 - Belle Mead, N.J.



For lack of space, we must omit reference to the many similar ice-falls that have previously been reported in the UFO age. Readers will probably remember several of them, such as the chunk that bashed in the roof of a car in Valley Stream, L. I., last March 2nd; a fifty-pound chunk that punched a 48-inch hole in the roof of a home in San Gabriel, California on March 19th, and a similar fall the previous day in Los Angeles; and the epidemic of ice-falls in southern England in November, 1950, which was officially investigated under the name of "Project Ice-Bolt" and finally attributed to "frozen waste from airliner washrooms."

Postscript: The above article was written in October. Since then, three more ice-falls have been reported in the same area, and have been added to the map above.

(9): Some time in late September or October, ice fell in Mechanicsburg, Pa. According to Dr. Reider, this ice was similar to the Camp Hill and Annandale specimens. "The crystal structure is almost prismatic, and the ice is rod-like--it looks almost like a handful of frozen cigars crushed together", he said, according to the Allentown, Pa. Sunday Call-Chronicle, date unspecified. (From APRG Reporter, Oct.)

(10): At 8:15 p.m. on November 6, a block of ice weighing at least ten pounds struck the roof of a house in Kensington (eastern Philadelphia) "with an explosive roar" and shattered into fragments. It frightened the occupants, but did not puncture the roof. No data on its characteristics. (Philadelphia Inquirer, 11/7/57.)

(11): Early on the morning of Nov. 12, a football-shaped mass of ice a foot in diameter was found on the front lawn of Charles Wilbur of Belle Mead, N.J., having apparently just fallen. According to Mrs. Wilbur, it was "beautiful--like an oversized snowflake." She says it has a horizontal-layered structure ("layers of frosted crystals") and is definitely not a fused mass of round hailstones. It is clear ice, but contains dirt inclusions. A portion has been preserved in a freezer. Although it has not yet been examined by Dr. Reider, this is undoubtedly ice of Camp Hill-Annandale type. The Wilburs had not been told about any other icefalls. (Cont.p.22)

### "LUMINOUS BLUE STONE" FALLS IN N.J. AS UFOs ARE SEEN

A handful of provocative clippings from New Jersey papers described an apparent cluster of interesting UFO observations on the evening of August 1st, 1957. Reports came from Hudson County, across the river from New York City; from the Paterson area; and one from Watchung, New Jersey. We followed up on these newspaper stories, and were able to secure first-hand information from several of the eyewitnesses.

At 9:30 p.m., Eugene Dernbach, of Union Pike, North Bergen, was seated on his front porch, which faces south. To his left, in the direction of Manhattan, he suddenly noticed a round, yellow-orange object, slightly smaller than the full moon, which seemed to be descending slowly, straight down, on midtown New York. Two smaller objects directly above it were following it down. The objects faded rapidly and silently from sight, "without diminishing in size." The Hudson Dispatch for August 3rd said that Dernbach watched them for 30 seconds; but he told us that it was considerably less than that.

At the same time, Robert Busso of North Bergen, and four other teenagers, all saw an object, "bright blue and round, with fuzzy edges," overhead and somewhat to the west of them. Sparks were emitted from the sides and tail. It moved slowly from straight overhead toward the east, and then downward. (Busso thought it was going to land in the river.) After five or six seconds the luminous object was lost to view behind some buildings. They did not notice the two smaller objects reported by Dernbach.

In West New York, just south of North Bergen, a truck driver named Michael Flaherty and five friends saw "a cigar-shaped object, illuminated inside," three-quarters the size of a full moon, accompanied by two smaller, round objects. Their light, he said, blinked on and off, and the objects' course was "swivering--smooth and wobbly." The observers, who were facing north, watched the objects move slowly overhead from their left to their right, in an arc toward New York City, until they vanished into the distance. Mr. Flaherty's drawing of his cigar-shaped object represents it with carefully truncated ends and bands of illumination, pretty clearly influenced by Adamski's photographs.

Although these witnesses all agree on one point--the objects' disappearance over New York City--we have not heard of any observations from the city.

There were reports west of Hudson county, however. A round, brilliant, fast-moving light was seen passing through the sky "about 10 p.m." by Mrs. Joseph R. Deck, of 50 Lakeview Avenue, Watchung, New Jersey. Mrs. Deck speculated "that the object might have been a meteor." (Plainfield Courier-News, 8/3.)

In West Paterson, 16 miles northwest of North Bergen, and 23 miles north northeast of Watchung, several persons reported seeing a flaming blue ball of fire. Not only that, but they said it fell to the ground in a neighboring yard, and they had found the "meteorite."

At 9:30 p.m., Mrs. Thomas Antonucci of 51 Mereline Avenue was sitting in the side yard of her neighbor, Mrs. Edwin Fisher. Both of them saw, to the south, a flaming blue object coming out of the sky at a sharp angle toward the earth, traveling in a general southwest-to-northeast direction. They were certain they saw it plunge down through the trees into the yard on the other side of the Antonucci home, less than a hundred feet away. They heard no noise, however. Afraid to approach the part of the yard into which they thought the object had fallen, they called Mr. Fisher from the house and he, together with Mrs. Antonucci's 13-year-old son Thomas, made a search of the yard. A few minutes later, under some trees, they found the object of their search--a four-pound stone about 3" x 4" x 5", imbedded slightly in the ground. It was in a part of the yard where such a large rock should not have been. Reddish-grey in color, it was generally smooth-surfaced

except for some abrasions and some dried red mud in the hollows. One end showed a broken surface, dark blue-grey in color. Mr. Fisher caught it in the beam of his flashlight, and both he and Tom thought it had a bluish "glow," or shine to it. It was still warm to the touch. (Tom added that it had been a hot day, evidently not too certain that this was unnatural.) It had a peculiar, smokey odor.

Feeling fairly convinced that this rock was indeed what the women had seen plunge from the sky, presumably a meteorite, they called the Paterson Call and related their story. Several other persons confirmed the report. Jules Lazicki, who lives across the street from the Antonucci home, was at the Totowa Drive-In theatre, a few miles to the west on Route #46, when he saw the blue fireball fall in the direction of his home in West Paterson. Billy Foglio, a boy living just to the north of the Antonuccis, told them that he too had seen the fireball land in their yard.

On Friday, September 13th, we went out to Paterson and interviewed the Fishers and Antonuccis, who were extremely cordial and helpful to us in our inquiry. They went carefully over the details of the sighting, and reconstructed the discovery of the rock, which at this time showed no trace of luminescence or odor. They very kindly turned it over to us with our promise that we would take it to the Hayden Planetarium for examination, although we had to tell them that the rock looked to us extremely unlike a true meteorite, and we did not anticipate a positive verdict.

On Monday, September 16th, Mr. David Seaman, head of the Mineralogy Department at the Museum of Natural History, took one look at it and shook his head. He classified it, at first glance, as a chunk of typical basaltic "traprock," found in abundance throughout the Paterson area, and remote from any meteoritic mineral.

But we know from Fort that "non-meteoritic" rocks also fall from the sky. Was this perhaps such a case? Ted Bloecher and Lex Mebane, who examined the stone, are not inclined to think so. It is a thoroughly ordinary specimen of local rock, and its scratches and dried mud seem to show unmistakably that it had been knocking about on the ground for some time before its discovery. It would appear that the rock is an impostor, and that the Antonuccis and Fishers were mistaken in believing the fireball they saw had plunged into the next yard. Strange as this may seem, it is an error that's very easy to make: time after time, witnesses of a fireball meteor will report that the object has landed "in the next field" when it is actually scores of miles away--sometimes over a hundred.

What then may we deduce from the "saucer" reports that evening? Since the time was the same, it is reasonable to assume that all the witnesses saw the same phenomenon. On comparing their testimony, it appears that a brilliant object, obviously a large meteor rather than a UFO, entered the atmosphere somewhere over western New Jersey, moving east northeast at a sharp angle toward the earth. Although from Paterson it appeared to plunge to earth less than a hundred feet away, it must actually have been high enough so that its downward trajectory took it to the east of New York City, since Hudson county witnesses saw it fall straight down over Manhattan.

It's an interesting coincidence that an even more spectacular fireball was seen on the West Coast exactly four hours later, at 9:30 PDT. Although one saucer investigator has written up the West Coast fireball as a bona-fide UFO case, we may thank Coral Lorenzen for giving readers a more critical appraisal. (See the APRO Bulletin, September, 1957. The APRO account is well worth studying, as a typical example of the extraordinary contradictions always found in eyewitness descriptions of a fireball.) We earnestly wish that more UFO researchers would be less incautious in their interpretation of fireball reports. Fireballs and large meteors nowadays are very frequently reported as UFOs, and it's up to us investigators to catch such errors and keep them out of the authentic-sighting category. If we don't, we are making a mistake--in reverse--like that of the Air Force consultants who explain away genuine UFO reports as "meteors."

"VERY SINCERE FELLOW" HOWARD MENGER RETURNS TO LONG JOHN PROGRAM

After the rousing battle of June 21st (N.L. #8), the dove of peace descended upon WOR. For three and a half months, Long John Nebel had neither "contact" claimants nor, for that matter, any other major saucerites on his show--with the sole exception of Aug. 29th (see CSI News). Had big bad CSI chased them all away? No, indeed; but in July Dr. J. E. Schmidt, a psychiatrist of Charlestown, Indiana, had complained to the Federal Communications Commission that LJ's show was "a public hazard to mental health," and requested its removal from the air. Whether Dr. Schmidt perceived any distinction between Van Tassel and CSI, we don't know--we suspect not--but he objected particularly to flying saucers. What followed was that saucers were, in fact, played down for some time, and it seems possible that Dr. Schmidt's protest was the cause. Long John has more than once publicly expressed his resentment of Dr. Schmidt's censorship attempt, and of course we quite agree with him in condemning it on principle--but there have been times, all the same, when we have felt a sneaking sympathy with the doctor's point of view.

One such occasion was the morning of Friday, Oct. 5, when LJ's star attraction, Howard Menger, returned to the program. LJ's attitude, as always, was that "in my book, Howard is a very honest, sincere fellow...but I just don't buy his story." (Quoted from his comments the next night; to do him justice, Long John couldn't help laughing after uttering this, and admitted frankly that it "sounded paradoxical.")

Menger has given up his sign-painting business to "devote my life to spreading this information." He now spends much of his time on lecture tours, and is hoping to make a financial success of his forthcoming book. (All professional contact claimants write books: their lecture audiences practically demand it.) Under Long John's guidance, he ran through his earlier repertory of stories--still, as of old, in an excruciatingly halting and effortful fashion, with copious use of time-gaining interjections such as "I would say" and "I believe." The only new episode disclosed (up to 4 A.M., at least) was of a singular nature. A policeman had seen his car speeding and passing a red light, and had taken its license number; but when he appeared in court to answer the summons, Menger declared (backed up by his followers) that at the time of the alleged infraction, he had actually been indoors conducting a meeting of his disciples. Moreover, the car that the policeman "thought" he saw had been sold some time before, and was in a Philadelphia garage at the time. Menger's explanation of the incident was that he had happened to daydream for a few minutes about driving in his old car ("I'm sentimental at times"), and had inadvertently created a thought-image, which the police officer had seen going through the red light. The bewildered judge, who said this was the weirdest defense he had ever heard, dismissed the charge. (We haven't heard the policeman's version of this story; it's probably not fit to print anyway. We have learned, though, that Menger had his license revoked for a while this spring because of his repeated traffic violations.)

The other guests, Chet Braley and Charles Leedham (new names to us, and we may be misspelling them), were disbelievers, but Menger was too cautious to give them much to seize on in the way of provable falsehood. His worst indiscretions came in describing his interplanetary trip. He spoke of going "about three-quarters of the way" to Venus, which then looked to him as big as the full moon. Leedham was onto this bit of quantitative data like a hawk, pointing out that one would have to be within a million miles of Venus to see it of that size, but Menger simply agreed, with a chuckle, that "I guess I went further than I thought." Then he mentioned that on this trip to Venus, he had never seen the sun (Leedham: "I wonder how that came about!"). He explained that interplanetary distances, due to a distorting "vortex", look much bigger than they really are (Leedham: "Our ideas about these things aren't based solely on visual evidence, you know...I wonder how the radar measurement of the moon's distance was affected.") And he followed Adamski in telling of "a very beautiful area, with trees and everything" on the moon. But when this brought on questions about lunar geography, he abruptly changed the subject to Houdini's famous escape acts.

Only once was any allusion made to what had been brought out over the same program five months earlier, and that was a brief and cryptic reference by Menger himself, who suddenly volunteered the gratuitous information that "Some of my witnesses have been completely brainwashed - I've been told they've been hypnotized - and have turned right around and denied everything." No one picked up this unsolicited lead - Braley and Leedham didn't know what he meant, and LJ let it pass - and the conversation immediately returned to Houdini.

What Menger was alluding to had happened on the morning of May 4th: a sweeping expose of his pretensions by Jules St. Germain! LJ's other guests that night were Ted Bloecher, Isabel Davis, and Courtland Hastings (a contact believer). Hastings opened the program with an eyewitness account of John Otto's Lake Michigan "contact" argosy (NL #8). After this, St. Germain was invited to present some results of inquiries he had recently made in Menger's home town of High Bridge, N. J. He reported that he had spoken to Menger's original followers, and had found a "renaissance of sanity" among them.

One woman had had her eyes opened by discovering imposture at a "contact" staged on the night of Saturday, December 29. According to Howard and Rose Menger, this meeting took place in Pennsylvania, about sixty miles from High Bridge, and involved two "spacemen" and a "spacewoman." This story was an agreed-upon lie. Actually, the meeting took place in Menger's paint shop in nearby Washington, N.J., and involved only one woman, referred to as "C.W." - of the terrestrial variety. (C. W.'s full name is in our records.) She was dressed up in a robe and stationed in a dark room, into which four thrilled disciples were conducted, one by one, to receive her benediction. As bad luck would have it, at the time one of these was admitted some light from the door accidentally revealed the "spacewoman's" face, and the startled woman recognized "C. W.," whom she knew well, having talked to her at Menger's house a week before. This was too much to swallow, and Menger lost a disciple then and there. At first he tried to tell her that the girl was a spacewoman, but this would not wash, and Menger later retracted that claim. Finally he appealed to the disillusioned ex-believer to keep silence about the deception she had detected. To her credit, she refused to be a party to any further fraud.

St. Germain's second finding concerned the circumstances under which Menger had "received" on a tape recorder a "code message from outer space" (NL #7, p. 9). This incident took place on the morning of January 7, 1957, when John Otto was on Long John's program, appealing to the spacemen to send a radio message: Menger was the only person who claimed afterwards that he had in fact received one from them. St. Germain learned that the true sequence of events was somewhat different from the account of them given by Menger. People who were present told him that when the tape of the Otto broadcast was played back in Menger's kitchen immediately after the program ended, it resembled everyone else's tape in containing no "message," but only a minute of dead silence. But then, they said, Menger took the tape and recorder away to his paint shop. Twelve hours later he returned, and lo and behold! the tape now "inexplicably" carried a "space message" (actually, a snatch of teletype broadcast) on the portion that had previously been blank. "Do you suggest that this tape was faked?" asked Long John. "I don't suggest, I state it was faked," replied St. Germain.

He also brought out that Menger's story that he wore his arm in a sling for a time, because of an injury caused by a saucer, is categorically denied by one of his friends; that a number of witnesses remember seeing the photograph showing grass half as high as the "saucer" (Menger now claims that no such photograph ever existed); that Menger once claimed he had built a small "spacecraft" in his kitchen, which took off and made a hole in the roof (Menger now claims he never told

this story, but several people remember it well); that Menger had claimed to one person that he was in telepathic communication every morning with Van Tassel, but by Eester had told the same person that Van Tassel was a liar; that Menger had claimed more recently that he can "change himself into little lights" and enter people's bedrooms; and finally that Menger has admitted to one acquaintance that "I have told lies sometimes."

So much for this latter-day saint's present way of life, as revealed by Jules St. Germain and others. What of his past? A most illuminating fact has recently been unearthed by newsman Dick Harpster of Washington, N.J., who has been close to the Menger case from the first. It now appears that long before the saucer stories Howard Menger was known to his intimates as one who habitually related imaginary fabrications under the guise of truth. To give only one example, he once told a friend that on the fireplace mantelpiece in his parents' house stood a pair of very valuable marble busts of George and Martha Washington. Soon afterwards the friend had occasion to visit the house, where he found no busts - and no mantelpiece or fireplace either.

We have neither space nor competence to discuss this from the standpoint of psychiatry, but of course psychiatrists are quite familiar with this sort of thing (see, for example, Healy, Pathological Lying, Accusation, and Swindling). In view of Menger's present conduct, any psychiatrist would have predicted that investigation would disclose previous behavior of the same kind.

What strikes us most forcibly about all this is the slowness and difficulty of bringing these basic facts to light, in sharp contrast to the ease and speed with which Menger's sensational claims have been circulated. One would tend to suppose that the reputation for veracity of a "contact" claimant would play an important part in the evaluation of his story. But this does not appear to be the case. The backgrounds of claimants do not normally receive publicity; they are revealed only through close and patient investigation. Even when the truth has been brought out (as on May 4th), the tendency of publicity agencies is to bury it, and to continue to spread the audience-attracting fabrications as if nothing had happened (as on October 5th). Our press and broadcasting media are not invariably concerned primarily with the propagation of truth; sometimes they are primarily interested in a good story. Everything, in fact, conspires to help the audacious "contactee" on his path to fame and fortune - and in the process, to help wreck the reputation of flying saucers, which are more and more indissolubly linked, in the public mind, with the fantasies of these well-publicized tale-spinners.

#### TELETYPE MACHINES READ "SPACE MESSAGES"

As part of his investigation of the Menger claims a few months ago, Jules St. Germain secured a copy of Menger's tape recording of John Otto's WOR broadcast of January 7, 1957; this tape carried an alleged "space message" (NL #7, p. 9). He also obtained a tape copy of the prototype of this "message," the one that had been wire-recorded by Mildred Maier of Chicago, after Otto's original "come in, outer space" radio experiment, which took place late in 1954 over WGN. (See Flying Saucers, Fact or Fiction, by Max Miller, pp. 44-45; Saucerian, Spring 1955, pp. 37-40; Saucer News Confidential Newsletter #3). Experienced people have said all along that both of these "messages" sounded very much like snatches of standard shortwave teletype transmission, but Otto has continued to insist that they are something quite different and awe-inspiring. Jules St. Germain put the matter to the test by

feeding the tapes to standard teleprinter machines, which had no difficulty in recognizing the signals as teletype, and obediently printed out their contents. The 1954 tape reads:

XMQEVMMWSKQWPFYQX; QQQMUMIX

QVBCUQFCAUCEKWLAVKESVBAGGKMQAVWT

This is obviously in code, like much teletype broadcasting. On the much-copied tape the fidelity was poor, and about 10 percent of the letters varied on repeated running through the teleprinter; in any case, the sample is too short to decode by the usual cryptographic methods. However, Leon Davidson is able to state, from his knowledge of cryptography, that it seems to be in English, enciphered by simple substitution ("Q" doubtless representing "e") and transposition. Menger's specimen was quite similar, likewise in a code using Q as the most frequent letter.

There is not much mystery about how the teletype "message" got onto Menger's tape (see the preceding article), but Mrs. Maier's is a more puzzling case, since she appears to be an honest person. Dr. Davidson has been trying for many months to obtain the report of the unnamed government agency which (for undisclosed reasons) examined a copy of Mrs. Maier's tape in Chicago, back in early 1955. In August 1957 the A.T.I.C. informed Dr. Davidson that "analysis by another government organization confirmed that the recording contained only identifiable Morse code (sic!) which came from a known U.S.-licensed radio."

On further inquiry Dr. Davidson was promised - orally - the actual English text, as decoded by the still-unnamed government agency (Leon thinks it's probably the cloak-and-dagger outfit called the National Security Agency, which the public isn't supposed to know about). On the evening that A.F. Colonel V.S. made this promise to Leon, at his home, Ted Bloecher and Lex Mebane were present.

But as we go to press, we hear from Leon that the Colonel has now telephoned him to say, with fulsome apologies, that the material on this subject "seems to have been thrown away or mislaid." So now it appears that we will never learn just what the teletyping "spacemen" had to say.

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#### RECENT REPORTS FROM METROPOLITAN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

July 2, 1957: About 4 p.m. on the same day that CSI vice-president Harold Oksenkrug sighted a UFO at Lake George, New York (see N.L. #8), another interesting observation was taking place nearer home--in Teaneck, New Jersey. Mrs. Leone Marcus, her 12-year-old son Robert, and his 12-year-old friend Richard Levine, saw a brilliantly shining UFO of peculiar shape--"like a kettledrum." In the course of a long phone conversation with the Research Director, Mrs. Marcus confirmed the similarity of the object's shape to that of a kettledrum--round on the bottom, flat on top.

When Mrs. Marcus and the boys first noticed it, the "flying kettledrum" was east of their position and apparently somewhat south of the George Washington Bridge. (They live about three miles west of the Hudson River, and a few blocks north of the bridge.) The object, at an elevation of at least 50 degrees, was moving rapidly and silently in a northerly direction ("toward Tenafly") in a straight, smooth trajectory. It left no trail. In angular size, it exceeded the full moon--so confusion with a conventional aircraft is out of the question. The edges were sharp and clearly defined, and the object had a decidedly "solid" appearance. Its color was brilliantly metallic, appearing precisely like highly polished chromium plate. No windows, openings

or protrusions of any sort were to be seen--the surface was "just an unmarred shine."

But as it proceeded northward, its shiny finish abruptly turned to a dull, cloud-like, greyish-white color. Mrs. Marcus had the distinct impression that this change occurred within the surface of the object itself, and was not due to the sunlight reflecting off it. The sky was moderately overcast, although the sun was shining at the time. The object did not pass in front of, or behind, any clouds. It gradually diminished in size and disappeared from view in a northerly direction, without changing course or losing altitude. It was in view for no less than ten seconds, and no more than twenty.

The incident first appeared in the Bergen Evening Record, July 3rd. Mrs. Marcus had requested the reporter who took her story to advise her of any corroborating reports; he called later and told her that there had been none.

#### LOW-FLYING DISC FRIGHTENS EARLY MORNING FISHERMAN

July 23, 1957: Dominick Drago, a beauty-shop operator of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was driving northeast on Route 521 in Warren County, New Jersey, en route to Swartswood Lake (Sussex County) to fish. It was 5:15 a.m., just before sun-up. He had just passed through Squire's Corner, a little village about three miles north of Blairstown. To the right of the road about a quarter of a mile away is White Pond. Drago was driving up a slight grade when he suddenly saw a large greyish oval-shaped object emerge from above a row of trees on the left side of the road some distance ahead. It moved swiftly to his right (northwest to southeast) in a straight, level path at a 15 degree elevation until it passed beyond the right side of the road, when it ascended slightly and made a sweeping counterclockwise U-turn toward the north and back toward the road. Stopping abruptly, it hung motionless in the air to his right, somewhere between the road and White Pond. There it remained as the observer drove past, and it was still there when he lost sight of it.

Its altitude was relatively low--it seemed to Drago to be no more than a few hundred feet away from him. It appeared very much larger than the full moon: by actual comparison with coins, it was similar to a quarter held at arm's length, and tilted toward the observer from a horizontal position. It was a sharply defined solid body, but non-metallic in appearance; its color was grey, "like a dull mist." (Compare with previous report.) Although darker than the brightening dawn sky behind it, the observer was certain that the object had a slight, colorless luminosity. The shape was definitely circular; the bottom flat, or flattish; and the top might have been irregular, although he was uncertain of this detail. He did not see any cylindrical rim, or edge, as on a coin. When the object crossed the road, it presented a full ellipse; while hovering, the visible ellipse appeared narrower, and more pointed at the ends, and at this time it was inclined at a slight angle to the horizontal.

Mr. Drago had the object in view for at least two minutes, but since he was driving, it was not under uninterrupted surveillance. It was still ahead of him, and to the right of the road, when it commenced hovering, but he drove on past and left it behind as fast as possible, for he was alarmed by its sudden appearance and peculiar behavior. ("Nothing ever scared me before," he remarked to us, adding that, uncertain as to what it might do next, it made him feel "trapped" in his car.) He finally lost sight of the object when the car passed under a bank of trees further along the road.

Mr. Drago was interviewed in his home on Sept. 2nd by Ted Bloecker, Lex Mebane, Ivan Sanderson and Stefan Santesson; we have Chester Ehrie to thank for bringing the report to our attention. All the interviewers felt that Mr. Drago was a thoroughly trustworthy witness and that he gave a straightforward and unembroidered account of what he had seen.

## MORRIS COUNTY RESIDENTS SEE SEARCHLIGHTS--AND SOMETHING ELSE

August 3, 1957: (The two observers involved in the following report have requested that their names and employer be kept anonymous. This information is included in CSI's record of the report. The details were secured by Allen and Lois Van Iderstine of the North Jersey UFO Group. They are friends of the witnesses.)

Two company guards, WS & JM, at a plant in Denville, New Jersey, were on duty about 10 p.m. when WS, in charge of the Guard Post, received a telephone call asking whether his company was responsible for something being seen in the sky. WS looked outside the guard shack and saw that about eight powerful searchlights were playing on the cloudy sky. He and JM watched the unusual patterns of the searchlights for a short time, then JM continued on his rounds.

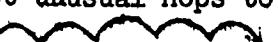
About two minutes later, WS shouted to JM: he had just seen a "strange object"--not due to searchlights--pass overhead. Both men watched for several minutes for it to reappear. Suddenly they saw an object, or pair of objects, coming into view from a northwesterly direction. It consisted of two flattened disc-shaped bodies which were circling each other in perfect alignment, as if they were rigidly connected, although no "connecting rod" could be seen. They appeared to be "about the size of basketballs" (distance unspecified) and were amber in color--bright enough for the witnesses to be positive of the shapes. The light appeared to come from the underside. Although no "rim" could be seen, as on a coin, the edges were sharply defined and the objects appeared as solid bodies. Although whirling about each other, the pair moved in a straight, smooth trajectory; they vanished into the distance in the southeast after being in view for about 20 seconds. No noise had been heard. The guards said there were planes in the area before and after the sighting.

On August 5th, the Morristown Daily Record and Newark Evening News reported numerous accounts of "flying saucers" and "strange lights" throughout Morris County on the night of August 3rd. Eight "alarmed" callers contacted Dover police between 9:30 and 10 p.m.; they said the lights appeared to be moving about the Morristown area. One Dover resident said he saw three "flying saucers" over that area. Calls were received by police in Morristown and by Morristown State Troopers from persons who had been "alarmed by the light in the sky." Ten calls were received by police in Livingston, between 9:30 and 10 p.m., and other calls were made by Lake Telemark residents in Rockaway Township.

The papers explained that the callers had all been fooled by searchlights playing on low-hanging clouds, operated by the Pine Brook Auction on Route 46, which was celebrating its tenth anniversary. While many calls undoubtedly were attributable to these searchlights, it is clear from this report that there were unidentified interlopers present that night in the sky over Morris County.

## A HOPPING UFO OVER OLD GREENWICH, CONN.

August 6, 1957: Mrs. Hope Hurd, of Old Greenwich, Connecticut, was standing on her front porch, which faces south and overlooks Long Island Sound. It was 9:26 p.m.; no trace of daylight was left in the sky. Her attention was caught by the sudden appearance of a large oval object in the sky due south of her; it was approximately 25 degrees from the horizon. Although elliptical in shape, the object was roughly equivalent to the full moon in angular size. The color was luminous yellow and it was about as brilliant as the headlight of a car a block away. The edges of the object were sharp and clearly defined.

Mrs. Hurd had barely noticed this object when she saw it suddenly execute a series of most unusual hops to the west, a maneuver which she described as "scalloping":  After about ten "scallops", it disappeared in

the southwest as suddenly as it had appeared. It had not faded from view or grown appreciably smaller as it moved away, and she thought it must have entered a scattered cloud layer in the southwest.

Her impression was that the object was small and nearby, rather than large and distant; however, if it did disappear into the clouds, it was evidently larger and farther away than it appeared to her.

The editors are indebted to Mrs. Madeleine Cooper of Old Greenwich, who referred Mrs. Hurd's report to CSI.

#### **DOG AND OTHERS OBSERVE HUMMING OBJECT MANEUVER OVER FOREST HILLS**

August 14, 1957: New York News columnist Charles McHarry printed the following account of an observation made by a friend of his in Forest Hills (Queens):

"On Aug. 14 at 2:30 a.m., newspaperman Dick Engler took his boxer dog Esther out for her customary bedtime walk. Outside, the dog stopped, growled, and refused to go any further. Engler took her back in the house and returned to the street. Then he was aware of an insistent humming noise. In the sky, in a southerly direction, he saw an object he took to be a falling star, falling toward the earth on a 45-degree slant. This object stopped, remained motionless for about 10 seconds, then took off toward the east on a horizontal course. After 30 seconds it stopped again, once more hung motionless, and then shot straight up. After five seconds of upward flight it again paused, then veered east once more, finally shooting out of sight. The humming sound was loudest during its horizontal flight. The noise faded when the object disappeared."

McHarry asked whether any reader could confirm this sighting. Nine days later he was able to print a confirmatory report from Joseph Abarno, Al Malfatone and Carl Thomas, ambulance drivers for Kings County Hospital. They were having cigarettes outside the hospital at 2:37 a.m. when they beheld an object "exactly like the one Engler saw." A man in Jackson Heights had heard "a powerful, deep humming noise", and a woman in East Northport had been awakened by a sound "such as would be heard when a string on a musical instrument is plucked" which "sounded as though it was right over the house." At midnight, a Queens couple had seen a UFO which "made a sound like the hum of a bee." --New York Daily News, Aug. 20 and 29.

#### **TWO SIGHTINGS OF UFOS APPARENTLY DROPPING "ANGEL HAIR"**

##### **I: Plane Spotter Sees Circling Objects Drop "Flimsy Material"**

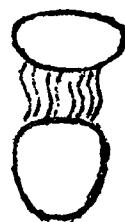
This sighting took place on Tuesday, Sept. 10, in Pleasant Valley, N.Y. (on the upper Delaware River in the Western Catskills.) Richard Holsapple, a self-employed builder, saw three objects circling silently in a clear sky, "near military planes, which took no notice of them." "Two were silvery and the other was somewhat darker," said Holsapple, who is a member of the Ground Observer Corps. "It was very hard to judge how far up they were, but they were certainly not high-flying jets. It looked to me as though they were flying faster than any jet I ever saw--at least 2000 miles an hour." Holsapple's father also saw the circling UFOs.

What makes this observation noteworthy is that "he reported also that strings of flimsy material dropped from the mystery craft and drifted earthward far away to the south." (Source: Danbury (Conn.) News-Times, Sept. 12, 1957.)

##### **II: Plane Spotter Watches Odd-Shaped Object(s) Eject "Silvery Stuff"**

At about 2:40 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin R. Cooper were having sandwiches in the back yard of their hilltop home in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. Mrs. Cooper, a valued CSI member and an experienced GOC plane-spotter, had her 7 x 50

binoculars out and was examining a small plane flying over Long Island Sound to the south, when her husband commented that there was something in the sky above the plane. To the naked eye it was a small but definite silvery disc, about 1/20 the size of the moon. Mr. Cooper asked for the binoculars, expecting to see a balloon. Instead, the glasses showed him something of puzzling shape "like an upside-down parachute." Unable to make out just what this was, he returned the binoculars to his wife. Just at that moment the object moved off to the right, described a wide horizontal circle, and returned to its former position in the south-southwest, about 35° above the horizon. After a few seconds, it repeated the maneuver. After this it was motionless again for fifteen or twenty seconds, during which time Mrs. Cooper had it continuously in view through the binoculars. The accompanying sketch shows what she saw. The objects "resembled frosted glass" and appeared to be spinning; the connecting silvery strands were wavy, as shown. While she was watching, two smaller white objects rapidly crossed the field, but these were not clearly seen. Suddenly, something like silvery sparks "exploded" out of the top of the object, or pair of objects, and almost at once it moved suddenly off to the right. Trying to follow it with the glasses, she caught the sun and was temporarily blinded, but Mr. Cooper saw that the object described a third circle like its two previous ones, terminating it this time with an abrupt and final vertical ascent. The object dwindled as it rose through the clear sky, and was out of sight in a few seconds.



Mr. Cooper, whose distance vision is excellent, had also noted the ejection of the silvery material, which he saw begin to float downwards as vertical strands, glittering in the sun. He compared the appearance of these glittering strands to "spider web." It drifted away from them toward the south and was not visible very long; Mrs. Cooper, still dazzled by the sun, did not see it. She asked her husband whether it might have been smoke or cloud-mist (like a jet contrail), but he was definite about the comparison to spider web. Mr. Cooper had never heard of "angel hair"; if his wife had ever mentioned it to him, he had paid no attention, for she found that the term conveyed nothing to him. His visual impressions were therefore entirely uninfluenced by suggestion or expectation. (He has taken very little interest in saucers hitherto.)

A few minutes after the UFO had disappeared, two red swept-wing jets, possibly Vulcans, passed over heading southwards and climbing. Later other jets were seen to the south. Whether the unusual jet activity was provoked by the UFO isn't known.

No more intelligent, trustworthy, and non-credulous witnesses than Mr. and Mrs. Cooper could be desired. (Neither had ever seen a UFO before.) They have, of course, wondered whether what they saw might be explainable as some unusual type of balloon, but after discussing it with the Research Section there was general agreement that it is pretty safe to accept this as an authentic UFO sighting.

Mrs. Cooper felt that what she saw looked like "two UFOs doing whatever it is they do with that angel hair--maybe refueling each other", and that it appeared "more animal than mechanical." This certainly seems acceptable. Some of us would go a bit further, and would suggest that we may have here an observation of the mating of two UFOs.

#### SPACE "CATERPILLAR" LAYS EGG

October 13, 1957: Shortly after midnight on this clear Sunday morning, Mrs. Sophie Rashkoff and Mr. Armand du Puy, in Long Island City, noticed a very large white light in the west-northwest, about 25° above the horizon. It was certainly no heavenly body, for it was horizontally elongated, in length about the diameter of the moon, and resembled a "caterpillar", with a dark dot on each "segment." This "caterpillar" was shrinking and stretching, contracting and expanding, and

dancing about the sky in a small area. Its color constantly fluctuated between white, blue, green, and yellow, with flashes of red, but blue and green were the predominant colors. For a period of five minutes there was an appearance of yellow rays emanating from the left-hand end of the object. At one time, the object was seen to "shake itself", and then a red ball of considerable size--"about the size of a red stop light"--dropped out of its bottom, trailing "reddish-gray mist". This red object went dark as it fell, and disappeared. Altogether the "caterpillar" was watched for half an hour, and was still performing in the same spot when the witnesses stopped watching it. (Source: personal conversation with Mrs. Rashkoff, the mother of CST member Benjamin Rashkoff.)

**Comment:** The blue-white star Vega, second only to Sirius in brilliance, was in the position indicated, and both the dancing motions and the prismatic colors are reminiscent of a twinkling star. But it seems inconceivable that the rest of the description could possibly be applied to a star by anyone; so this extraordinary observation is evidently an authentic one.

October 15, 1957: At about 6:45 p.m. EDST, half an hour after sunset, Mrs. Mildred E. Simms was driving home from Morristown, N.J. She was two miles from Bernardsville and had just turned from Route 202 into North Maple Avenue, which runs south to Basking Ridge. At that moment her attention was suddenly attracted by an extremely brilliant golden-yellow light to her left, "as large as two fused headlights." Her first impression was that an airplane with landing lights on was coming right at her. She stopped and rolled down the window; no sound could be heard. Some Black Angus cattle were grazing in the field; the light was beyond them, but she could not estimate its distance. It was well above the ground, though she was only certain of this the next morning, when she inspected the site by daylight, and noted that there was no hill or tower in that direction. Its direction was east-northeast, exactly opposite to Venus (with which, besides, Mrs. Simms is perfectly familiar; this light, she says, was incomparably larger and more conspicuous, though still smaller than the full moon.) It seemed to wobble, but this may have been illusory. After watching for five minutes, she started up and drove on southward. The light remained visible, apparently in the same place (now being left behind her.) Near Lyons, three miles to the south, she stopped and watched it again. From here it appeared in the north-northeast, smaller, but still large enough to see that it had apparently tilted: it presented a luminous crescent convex upward, with a dark rounded portion (perhaps the lower surface) below the crescent. She drove over the hill and lost sight of it.

Mrs. Simms's intelligence, and the facts that she is familiar with astronomical objects and took no previous interest in UFOs, influence us to take this report more seriously than if it had emanated from a witness not known to us. Information was obtained by Lex Mebane from Mrs. Simms's daughter (a co-worker of his) and subsequently directly from the observer.

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 ICEFALLS (Continued from p. 11): (Information on the Belle Mead fall from Somerville, N.J., Messenger-Gazette of Nov. 14, and telephone conversation with Mrs. Wilbur.)

As the map on p. 11 shows, all eleven points now lie on at least one straight line of three or more points: Mechanicsburg (9) lies on the previously-noted 3-1-7 line, Belle Mead (11) makes a very good line with 1 & 8, and Kensington (10) is moderately well aligned with 1 and 6. The nexus at Bernville (or, strictly speaking, at a point a couple of miles southeast of Bernville) is particularly striking. Of course this apparent pattern seems to make no visible sense. Can it be purely accidental? We suggest, as an interesting exercise, a search for similar lines connecting eleven towns picked at random on a map. Readers interested in this sort of thing will certainly find Michel's forthcoming book a fascinating one.

## SAUCER BOOKS

Inside Saucer Post ... 3-O Blue; CRIFO Views the Status Quo: A Summary Report. By Leonard H. Stringfield. Pub. by Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects, 7017 Britton Avenue, Cincinnati 27, Ohio. \$2.50.

Into less than 100 pages Leonard Stringfield has packed more solid UFO information - names, dates, times, places, witnesses, references, sources - than many another UFO author in four times the wordage. His picture of what it meant to be a serious researcher in one of the hottest spots of the country for sightings, during one of the hottest times for reports - to have his telephone and mailbox serving as the Times Square (on New Year's Eve) of the UFO world, to write, publish, and mail a monthly saucer magazine, to enjoy the whimsical sunshine of Air Force cooperation - and all this on top of holding down a responsible job in advertising, for a full working day - makes lively and informative reading.

Some of the material had appeared in the late lamented Orbit, but most of it is new. Particularly interesting are Stringfield's account of his own first UFO sighting, over the Pacific in 1945; the story of his dealings with the Air Force (the book's title is part of the code identification the ADC gave him in 1955 when they officially designated his home a "UFO reporting post"); a detailed account of the famous "Norwood searchlight case," with a striking photograph of the "object" in the beam; many facts about the astonishing Cincinnati "little men" reports of 1955 (which CSI's Research Director, Ted Bloecher, personally investigated with Stringfield); and an almost unbelievable interview, in August 1957, with Mr. Spencer Whedon, head of the ATIC Information Services Office at Wright-Patterson AFB. Included also - but plainly distinguished from the factual data - are many of Stringfield's personal speculations, theories, and conclusions.

All this valuable material is presented in a spirited style (Len's diction is sometimes on the daring side) appropriate to the dramatic events he describes. But he is not a rumor-monger nor a sensationalist; unverified or unverifiable information is presented as such, and no melodramatist would come to Stringfield's temperate final conclusion about newspaper censorship.

This book makes it clear all over again what UFOlogy lost when it lost Orbit; but it also makes clear that in spite of all difficulties and frustrations, Stringfield has kept his interest and curiosity about the saucer puzzle. His contributions to the "answer" - if we ever find it - are permanent. May he make many more of them.

They Rode in Space Ships. By Gavin Gibbons. Pub. by Neville Spearman, London, 1957. \$3.50. 214 pp. In this curious production Gibbons serves up for English audiences three American books: The White Sands Incident and A-Lan's Message to Men of Earth, by Daniel Fry, and Aboard A Flying Saucer, by Truman Bethurum. Although the texts are essentially the same as before, no indication whatever is given that the material is reproduced from the American books - their names are never mentioned!

But as to "style," Gibbons has not scrupled to revise and improve the original authors' wording to suit his own more fastidious taste. He gives us a Bethurum carefully purged of his tell-tale doggerel rhymes, and even goes so far as to present us with a Fry whose spacemen use Gibbons's home-grown pseudo-Sanskrit saucer nomenclature: for example, spaceman A-Lan (improved by Gibbons to "Aylan") is represented, in this "translation", as telling Fry that "all our vimanas are on the vunu."

Oddest of all, this Anglicized rewrite of American contact yarns is now being issued by an American publisher, Citadel Press. (We wonder what Fry's and Bethurum's original publishers are going to say about this apparent piracy of their copyrights.) Citadel's preposterous blurb calls the book "a scientific report ... by a shrewd and skeptical expert," and goes on to even more extravagant statements.

Gibbons prefaces the Fry and Bethurum stories with some sound remarks on the bad name given saucers by the activities of professional occultists with fertile imaginations, and their following of ignorant enthusiasts who accept the grossest absurdities and "see" saucers everywhere. It is amazing to realize that he thinks of his own Adamski-Fry-Bethurum acceptances as representing a sensible and critical view of the subject - whereas, from our perspective, no difference is apparent between his own credulity and that of the people whose crackpottery he condemns.

Note: This book should not be confused with Gibbons's earlier The Coming of the Space Ships, which dealt in an uncritical way with English UFO observations.

#### Constance and Williamson: Two Reviews We Had to Abbreviate

We would have liked to set forth in some detail the shortcomings of Arthur Constance's The Inexplicable Sky - which in our opinion, in spite of a literate author, some splendid material, the benign influence of Fort, and handsome printing, comes short indeed. Although space forbids an extensive review, we can fortunately refer readers to Jim Moseley's excellent discussion of the book in his October-November Saucer News. Moseley correctly points out that the book's admirable qualities are intolerably blemished by the constant and uncalled-for intrusion of the author's crankish self-conceit and atrabilious rantings against "materialistic scientists." Happily, the saucer chapter is the best, with some fascinating new data from Europe. It deserves reading, and so do several others. But all saucer researchers should take note of Chapter IX, on the "UFOs" of March 24, 1955. (This previously appeared in the British Flying Saucer News for Autumn, 1955.) It is a classic example (though the reasons are too numerous to present here) of the errors into which the unwary and overconfident enthusiast can fall by misinterpretation of observations on a meteoritic fireball.

Any adequate dissection of George Williamson's contactist scriptures, Other Tongues - Other Flesh, would also be far too long to print here, tempting as it is to explore its incoherent ramifications. The book, though of course crazed, is impressive in scope; it is the first attempt to codify the hitherto unorganized revelations of the new contactist religion; it is bound to be swallowed whole and it may even make itself a place among the crank classics, somewhere between Churchward's Mu books and Oahspe. (Additional comments on it will be found in the article in the November Fantastic Universe, "Meet the Extraterrestrial.")

#### New Editions of Two Outstanding Publications

Jim Moseley has reprinted his "Adamski-exposé" articles from 1955 issues of Nexus (the earlier title of Saucer News), and in our opinion he has rendered a public service by doing so. Novices to saucer study, knowing nothing of Adamski but the image he presents in his books, are inclined to give him "the benefit of the doubt." After reading the inside material collected by Moseley - which he has presented with scrupulous honesty - they will be in a position to make a more informed judgment on the matter. We have recommended these Nexus articles as unique required reading for anyone interested in evaluating "contact" claims ever since they appeared, but the originals are now out of print. Moseley's new collection of the set, which he calls a "special issue of Saucer News," contains 20 pages (photo-offset, with photographs) and sells for \$1.00. His address is: P.O. Box 163, Fort Lee, New Jersey.

And Leon Davidson is issuing a second printing of one of the most important of all UFO publications, the Air Force's Project Blue Book Special Report #14, which (as described in NL #6) became available to the public solely through Dr. Davidson's vigorous and persistent efforts. This second edition, somewhat more handsomely dressed than the first, is \$1.50. (Incidentally, it should be mentioned that Dr. D. didn't make a cent from the first edition: all profit was donated to the Air Force!) CSI members may obtain it from us at the old price of \$1.00, postpaid. 96 pages, including brief but acute comments on the report by Davidson.

## SAUCER PERIODICALS

The second issue of saucer research's most important periodical, NICAP's UFO Investigator, appeared about October first. As we have come to expect, it contained highly significant material unavailable elsewhere. A detailed Intelligence report released to NICAP by the Far East Air Force is perhaps the "strongest" case ever publicly described: a circular, golden-tan UFO at least 200 feet in diameter sent out pulses to interfere with the pursuing jet's radar! (If this seems almost too much to believe, it should be remembered that other electrical effects of UFOs have been very much in the news since this case was published.) Needless to say, the jet could not catch the UFO, which departed at more than 2000 mph. Since this case, impressive as it is, is the only one ever made available to NICAP by the Air Force, the Investigator's other lead article very properly deals with the Air Force's current false claim that "Major Keyhoe has received all the information in the hands of the Air Force"; this lie was sent to John Wingate of Nightbeat (see Saucer Fragments), to Rep. Frelinghuysen of N.J., and to Admiral Hoskins, Director of Declassification Policy. Other important news: CAA sightings will be made available to NICAP on request; Sen. Barry Goldwater expresses interest; Capt. Robert McLaughlin and Delbert Newhouse become advisers to NICAP; Air Force issues new statement claiming only 2 percent of current sightings are unexplainable; details on Galt, Ontario, landing; authoritative history of film "UFO" (contrary to a widespread impression, it received no Air Force co-operation); report on contact claimants' answers to NICAP questionnaire; W. J. Hull's sighting, from the last CSI News Letter; guide to UFO organizations and periodicals; critique of "government-device" theory; and many other interesting items. Major Keyhoe and Lee Munsick have here produced what is undoubtedly the most substantial saucer magazine issue yet seen. The rather confusing make-up of the first issue - its sole blemish - has been completely corrected, and the typography is now worthy of the contents. NICAP's address is 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D.C.; membership (\$7.50 a year) is essential for anyone interested in unidentified flying objects.

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We wanted to mention in NL #8 the outstanding July, 1957, issue of APRO Bulletin (printed, 10 pp.). It contained not only several exceptionally good sightings (including one from the Association of Lunar & Planetary Observers) but a long and brilliant article by Dr. Olavo Fontes detailing some outstanding UFO cases from Brazil - including a late-1954 landing of grotesque little men. In the same issue was an airline pilot's report that pugnacious little men had once again been encountered in Venezuela. The September issue was also of high quality, with a fine sighting of a metallic object by White Sands rocket scientist Nathan Wagner, and many other good things that you won't find duplicated in our News Letter. Director Coral Lorenzen, whose work has always been outstanding, is outdoing herself nowadays with this handsome, well-edited publication of the highest standards. Recently there has been emphasis on UFO ("UAO" to APRO) observations by scientists and technical men, many of whom are members of APRO. (\$3.50 subscription is by membership only, same as with CSI; address 1712 Van Court, Alamogordo, N. M.)

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Ouranos, bimonthly, ed. Marc Thirouin; address 27, rue Etienne-Dolet, Bondy (Seine), France; annual subscription 1300 francs (\$3.50, which includes postage). --We saw our first copy of this French saucer magazine recently, thanks to Dr. Davidson. It is printed, 16 large pages, colored cover, many diagrams and photographs. If all issues are comparable to #21, this is unquestionably another of the world's fine UFO periodicals. The issue gave details on Ouranos' personal investigation of three recent French landing cases. Two of these landings were mentioned in our

#8, but the Ouranos account was so much more complete and authoritative that we translated it to reprint in this News Letter; it was crowded out of this issue, but we hope to run it next time.

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We regret to report that Richard Hall of New Orleans, top-flight saucer student and editor, was forced by mounting expenses to give up the publication of his Satellite just before Russia made the title topical. We hope his talents will not be permanently lost to the world of UFO publishing. He has generously sent us some valuable material intended for use in Satellite.

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Shortly before Auriphebo Simões arrived in New York, we were surprised to receive no less than four new issues of C.P.D.V.'s O Disco Voador (English edition The Flying Saucer), each one ten pages long, legal-size paper, single-spaced. In a period of a few days before leaving Brazil Mr. Simões, single-handed, had written, stenciled, mimeographed, and sent out to his mailing list some 30,000 words, written in what is to him a foreign language (although his sinewy, colloquial English style is much better than most native English-speakers can command). This remarkable feat is one more indication of "Phebo's" capacity for clear thinking and energetic action. What he has written is witty, sound, and full of new information. He gives an extensive, fair, and illuminating account of four Brazilian "contact" stories, concluding: "All 'contacts' in Brazil, so far, are hoaxes." Issues #4, 5, and 6 deal in detail with Aladino Felix ("Fidelis," "Dino Kraspedon"), a typical Menger-like pseudologue who dreamed up an elaborate and quite interesting tale that is not a mere slavish copy of Adamski's; and #7 offers an authoritative first-hand report on the claims of Prof. Freitas Guimarães. Simões also gives us a brief article on the "moon bridge" ("To all appearances the whole issue has not yet been satisfactorily explained by Wilkins"); and in #6 and #7 the fullest available account of what was then known on the "tin dropped by a UFO" in Campinas, Brazil, in 1954 (see Saucer Fragments). He clarifies the attitude of the Brazilian Air Force: "There is nothing secret about saucers here. Some officers (for example, Col. João Adil de Oliveira--eds.) are curious and make public statements, but the Air Force does not care for saucers. Recently the Air Ministry stated that the B.A.F. has many more serious things to get busy with, and he meant it." And we can't resist quoting Mr. Simões' novel description of our publication: "Do you like Truth as ugly as it is? Read CSI Newsletter," nor his recommendation of NICAP: "If you are undecided between The Flying Saucer and The UFO Investigator, you are not thinking properly, therefore you need some advice: Subscribe to the UFO Investigator and be a NICAP member."

While we endorse this last sentiment, we think a good many people will want to subscribe to both. The Flying Saucer was distributed gratis in 1957, but for obvious reasons this generosity cannot be kept up indefinitely, and subscriptions will be \$3.00 in 1958. (Make checks - on any U.S. bank - payable to Auriphebo Berrance Simões, Caixa Postal 8449, São Paulo, Brasil. Do NOT send International Money Orders or International Reply-Coupons.)

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Argosy for November carries an admirable article by Jules St. Germain on the Menger case, full of details we were never able to squeeze into CSI NL. It is as explicitly revealing as any printed article can be; experienced readers between the lines will find the article doubly interesting.

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The October issue of Amazing Stories - doubtless inspired by Fantastic Universe - contained eight articles on saucers, including a contribution by the long-silent Kenneth Arnold. None of the articles were outrageously wild-eyed; Richard Shaver, however (who made his debut as a mythographer in the pages of Amazing, and for years turned it into the opium den of science fiction), blew his horn as a contact claimant - while advising, of course, disbelief in all the others! In other articles Gray Barker told of five fantastic reported encounters with non-human saucer occupants; Ray Palmer charged the military with censorship; two statements by the Air Force were given; and a minister lent a religious tone to the symposium.

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We've been sent the September issue (#2) of a new 18-page (mimeographed) magazine called UFO Bulletin, published by the U.F.O. Investigation Centre, of Sydney, Australia. We were delighted to find that UFOIC and its publication are strictly factual-minded, well-informed, and clear-thinking. It will certainly, at this rate, restore Australia's reputation in the world of saucer research, which has been somewhat tarnished of late. This issue includes some well-reported sightings and a valuable compilation of published opinions of scientists on the UFO question (through 1952, with some later additions). Congratulations to editor Andrew Tomas. "All enquiries are to be addressed to the Hon. Secy., Miss J. Croser, 11 Woodbine Street, Balgowlah, New South Wales, Australia."

#### PILOTS SPOT A PSEUDO-SPUTNIK

(Note: A large percentage of the early "sightings" of the Russian satellite were wholly spurious. For people unaccustomed to looking at the sky, high-flying jets probably accounted for most of the mistakes; but some reports, especially those from more experienced observers, were undoubtedly saucer sightings. The following case appears to be a pretty clear-cut example.)

October 8, 1957. Veteran Pan-American pilot Joseph L. Flynn, arriving in a DC-7C from Paris, reported that he and his co-pilot saw what they at first believed was the first Sputnik. The plane passed over Boston at 7 a.m.; about five minutes later, co-pilot William Box called Capt. Flynn's attention to a "bright silver object" to the right of the plane. Their altitude was 14,000 feet; speed 310 mph; heading 235° true (southwest). The object, described as brighter and larger than Venus, appeared to the west of them, about 40° to the right of the plane, and moved on a horizontal path toward the south. It seemed to be about 15° above the horizon, and maintained approximately the same elevation as long as it was in view. At this same time the sun was rising, behind and to the left of the aircraft.

The object was in view for about five minutes as it moved to a point almost directly ahead of the plane, before disappearing. Although the witnesses were uncertain about the manner of disappearance of the object, it was presumed to have been lost from view in a layer of thin cirrus clouds. The long duration rules out any possibility of a meteor. "Sputnik" was also ruled out when they learned that the satellite passed over Boston just an hour later, at 8:05 a.m. Since the period of the satellite is 96 minutes, it was nowhere near New England at 7:05 a.m. Both pilots have expressed skepticism about flying saucers, but they admit that the object they saw appears to be unidentified.

The observation was mentioned in all N.Y.C. afternoon papers for October 8, and in all morning papers for October 9. Additional details were obtained from Mr. Box by CSI member and researcher Herman Mitchell; although Mr. Box declined to make any statements to the press, we are obliged to him for permitting us to use the information he gave us.

**SAUCER FRAGMENTS****"NIGHTBEAT" BARES AIR FORCE LIE**

On the night of Thursday, September 26, Major Donald Keyhoe, Director of NICAP, appeared on television in a half-hour interview with John Wingate of "Nightbeat" (Channel 5). Unfortunately, this was a last-minute substitution and was not announced in the newspapers; if the editors had not been notified that afternoon by a wire from Lee Munsick, we would certainly have missed it, as most CSI members undoubtedly did. At the outset Wingate gave an impression of hostility, asking frivolous questions suggesting that all UFO observations were hallucinatory; but after Keyhoe had patiently dealt with these queries, the interview came into better focus and it became apparent that Wingate did have some comprehension of the subject. Keyhoe, though showing the strain of his gruelling work for NICAP, made his usual excellent impression, and in the brief time of the interview gave a remarkably good view of most of the aspects of the UFO question. One part of the conversation was particularly significant:

Wingate: The Air Force told "Nightbeat" today that ATIC at Dayton, Ohio, has furnished you with everything you've asked for. Would you care to comment on that?

In reply, Keyhoe read a letter dated July 18 from Major Robert Spence, Deputy Chief, Operations Branch, Public Information Division, which stated: "We must decline your offer to review and publish Air Force reports on this subject." Keyhoe also pointed out that it had been several years since he had been able to get access to a single sighting report in Air Force files, in spite of repeated specific requests both on a personal basis and as Director of NICAP.

Wingate: Well, then, did the Air Force lie, or withhold information, to "Nightbeat" today?

Keyhoe: They certainly did. Somebody was ordered to tell you that as a matter of policy.

The Air Force's misrepresentation to "Nightbeat" is another example of the equivocation and lack of candor for which their statements on this topic have unfortunately been distinguished. It is to Wingate's credit that, on finding he had been misinformed, he did not hesitate to make the incident public, and to Keyhoe's that he did not hesitate to call a spade a spade.

**"SAUCER TIN"**

We have no intention of giving the whole story of the molten "tin" that fell in Campinas, Brazil, on December 20, 1954, supposedly from a saucer, since most of our readers are probably familiar with the main facts already. (If not, see Simões's Flying Saucer, #6 and 7; APRO Bulletin, July 1957.) But we should mention that two samples kindly brought to New York by Simões disappointed everyone, because they proved, on testing, to be composed of tin and lead. They appeared, in fact, to be identifiable as solder - which hardly suggests any extraterrestrial origin. However, this proves nothing, since these drops of metal could not be guaranteed to be part of the original material: it is possible that they were brought in later by a prankster. (The sample in the possession of Dr. Charles Maney is of similarly hazy origin.) The exact nature of the original material - supposed to be phenomenally pure tin - is still not really certain, and it will remain uncertain until someone succeeds in getting more information from Dr. Visvaldo Maffei of Campinas, the chemist who originally examined it. The case is a very important one if authentic, but verification is still needed before we are justified in saying that chemical analysis disclosed evidence that this saucer metal was of non-earthly origin.

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The Clouded Crystal Ball: Mr. Adam Barber, prophet of imminent disaster to the earth, writing in Gribble's APRG Reporter for September: "Based on my calculations in my book, I predict the artificial satellite will be a complete failure."