

ENTERING THE EPOCH OF ENLIGHTENMENT Pro-Saucer Evidence Mounts

Dr. Walter R. Dornberger, guided missile expert, said in Chicago recently, "The only true flying saucers are those you see when you have an argument with your wife in the kitchen."

Soberly we ask: Is this Dornberger's personal experience or an attempt at humor? Less funny, however, are the observations of others of professional standing. March 7, Dr. James C. Bartlett, Baltimore astronomer, turned the light of science and commonsense on the discussion of flying saucers. In a lecture at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, reported the Baltimore Sun, Dr. Bartlett said that one thing is positive about the UFO—they do exist! According to the astronomer, the UFO's are probably of earthly origin and are controlled mechanisms. But there, he admits, his conviction fades into speculation. Says the Sun, Bartlett is impatient with individuals who have let speculation lead them into 'fantastic stories which are obvious hoaxes'.

Bartlett, according to the Sun's write-up, believes it is not impossible that the objects come from another planet, but the probability is that the answer is to be found on this earth. Other Bartlett comments: Analyzing studies of 1,593 reports made to the Air Force and a panel of experts, almost 27 per cent remain unexplained. Another 22 per cent are "borderline" cases. The reality of many UFO's observed over Baltimore and Washington in July 1952 is not to be challenged. They were caught by radar and seen by flyers and from the ground in evidence that could not be assailed.

After the lecture, Dr. Bartlett said he had seen both discs and cigar-shaped objects and has studied them through binoculars, adding the evidence of his own senses to the reports of others.¹

SCIENTIST REVEALS PERSONAL SIGHTING

Case 145, A scientific location, May 20, 1950—Richard Hall of New Orleans, La., sent CRIFO the following report received from a prominent scientist whose name cannot be revealed:

"I saw the object between 12:15 and 12:20 p.m. from the grounds of . . . It was moving from the Southeast to the Northwest. It was extremely prominent and showed some size to the naked eye, that is, it was not merely a pinpoint. During the last half of its visibility I observed it with 4-power binoculars. At first it looked like a parachute tipped at an angle to the vertical, but this same effect could have been produced by a sphere partly illuminated by the sun and partly shadowed, or by a disc-shaped object as well. Probably there are still other configurations which would give the same impression under proper inclination and illumination. I could see it well enough to be sure it was not an airplane (no propellor or wings were apparent) nor a bird. I saw no evidence of exhaust gases nor any markings on the object. Most fortunately, the object passed between me and a small bright cumulus cloud in the Northwest. Thus it must have been at or below the cloud level. A few seconds later it disappeared, apparently into the cloud. Against the sky it was very bright but against the cloud it was dark . . . estimates of cloud heights are rather risky, so I obtained their (U.S. Weather Bureau) observations of temperature and dew point, and

from the known lapse rates of these quantities in a convective atmosphere, calculated the cloud base to be at 12,000 ft. Thus, having some idea of the object's elevation and its angular diameter through the binoculars (about equivalent to a dime seen at 50 ft. with naked eye), I calculated its size to be 3 to 5 ft., for a height of 6-12 thousand ft., and a zenith angle of about 45 degrees. This size estimate could easily be in error by a factor or two, but I am sure it was a small object. The clouds were drifting from the SW to the NE at right angles to the motion of the object. Therefore, it must have been powered some way. I did not time it but for that elevation I would estimate its speed to be about 100 miles per hour, perhaps as high as 200 mph. This too, means a powered craft. However, I could hear no engine noise."

ED: The account was signed by the scientist with the following handwritten notation: "This a copy of the account which I set down within an hour of the sighting."

THE SATURNIAN AFFAIR

Case 146, Yonkers, N. Y., Aug. 28-30, 1955—Sighter Leo E. Wiegers introduces himself as civil service employee 20 years; at present employed by N.Y. City Board of Education. During the mid-1930's, Wiegers worked for the Westchester County Control Survey in connection with the U.S. Coastal Geodetic Survey. Wiegers describes his sightings by telescope as follows:

"At precisely 8:30 p.m., August 28, I sat on my porch idly studying the stars with my new Balscope Sr. Bausch & Lomb 30x telescope (60 m.m objective lens mounted on a 5 ft. tripod). The moon had risen but was not in view as I was looking in a southwesterly direction. Suddenly, I blinked my eyes at what seemed a fuzzy bright object. Hastily focusing the scope, the object soon became a clear-cut, bright image which I thought was Saturn—rings and all! Then I realized that was impossible with my power magnification. I checked with naked eye several times and could see only a tiny blurred object in line of sight, yet there it was about a 60 degree angle of elevation in the southwest sky moving slowly due west. I watched the object with my family and two neighbors through the scope for a full half hour until it was hidden by the foliage of a nearby tree.

"The object was pure white and very sharp in outline. The dome on top (as shown in Wieger's drawing) appeared too large for the planet Saturn in relation to its rings. There were no portholes and the bottom could not be seen as it was tilted away from New York over which it seemed to be hovering. I had no idea of its size, height or distance but it could have been passing over midtown or lower New York toward New Jersey. There is no question as to its being a solid object. It was of a beautiful milky white color and maintained the same (tilted) angle throughout its slow passage. Bathed in its own light, a faint halation or haze of a delicate blue tint slowly emanated from the whole left side and opposite to its direction. The next day I phoned the Hayden Planetarium and spoke to the Assistant Curator, Mr. Thomas D. Nickolson." Mr. Wiegers describes his conversation as follows:

¹Credit, Charles Seibold, Pikesville, Md.

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SAUCER VULGARISM

Two great U. S. magazines tried recently to steer public thinking against flying saucers. One suggested that every civilian researcher was as daffy as the next; the other claimed that saucers were a fad. Poor, poor public!

SatEvePost, March 10, featured, "He Runs Flying Saucer Headquarters" by John Kobler. In this jocund article Kobler dumps the entire UFO problem into James Rigberg's bookstore in New York calling it jibingly, "headquarters." Having fun, Kobler bypasses the real issues and cleverly entwines the serious researcher with saucerdom's weird assortment of dubious personalities. In short, the reader is led to think that everybody is daffy except Kobler. CRIFO, according to Kobler, "offers the theory that a war is now raging between the planets." In the same chuckling breath, he compares CRIFO's "startling" revelations with the accomplishments of the Cosmic Circle of Fellowship in Chicago who "receives messages from space every Friday night in Parlor E of the La Salle Hotel."

Life, who can't see the moon for the saucers, March 19, said sneakily, ". . . the Bridey Murphy craze has taken on the vulgar aspects of other great fads and conversation pieces and cites the following: "couicism in the 1920's, technology in the 1930's, bop music in the 1940's and flying saucers in the early 1950's."

Saucers spanked again by the big bullies, but, perhaps behind the hand that spanked is a *cunning born of wisdom which embraces a concern born from vital statistics*. Any way, *Life's* position in relation to saucers is not clear. *Life* implies that saucers were a fad in the early 1950's but surely it has not forgotten its own feature article in 1952 which saucerized the nation with these headlines, *Have We Visitors From Space?* Was *Life* duped by the facts the Air Force gave them in 1952? Is the new "fad" angle a belated admission of *Life's* gullibility, or, is the fad talk a nice way of covering up? *Life*, however, in alluding to the "vulgar aspects" has spoken a truth for in many instances, the subject of saucers has been seized upon by fanatics whose vulgarisms know no end.

Perhaps Kobler also recognized these vulgarities but why waste valuable space where there is a bigger story to be told to the waiting public!

Mr. W. "Was Saturn prominent in the heavens early last night?" W. gave location.

Mr. N. "Oh no, Saturn could not be seen at the time you designate or in that position in the sky."

Mr. W. "Could Saturn, if visible, be seen with a 30x lens?" W. gave approximate size of UFO.

Mr. N. "No, not at all; not that size and I doubt if you could pick out Saturn especially last night. By the way what did you see?"

Mr. W. Description was given.

Mr. N. "Was the moon out last night?" (Ed: Elementary my dear Nickolson)

Mr. W. "You know it was."

Mr. N. "What you saw was probably a reflection in your telescope."

Mr. W. "But from place of sighting the moon was on my left and hidden behind the house. Can moonlight bend around a corner?"

Mr. N. "Sorry, Mr. Wiegers, I'm afraid I can't help you in this matter."

Wiegers explained that August 29 was cloudy and unsuitable for observation. On the following night at precisely the same time, 8:30 p.m., Wiegers witnessed a similar UFO through his telescope. He remarks, ". . . the UFO was tilted at slightly sharper angle . . . higher . . . and a quarter smaller. It passed from view behind the tree at 9:05 p.m. During this sighting nine people were witnesses. I never saw the UFO again!"

REPORTS FROM TEXAS

. . . Mystery Object Hits Ground in El Paso

Case 147, El Paso, Texas, March 7, 1956—We cannot say that all peculiar objects alighting to earth are of UFO origin, but each case is interesting and merits mention and evaluation. Such is the unidentified metallic object which recently plopped into El Paso from nowhere. The *El Paso Times*, reporting on the incident, showed a photograph of the object and compared its size with that of a 25 cent piece. The only witness was Mr. J. W. Thompson who was working near his home at 8:30 p.m. when the object fell. He said it was ablaze and made a loud noise when it hit. The object, which was picked up by officials, was shaped like a small pipe and made of thin metal. After it hit the ground it scattered a grayish ash about the area. The Air Force indicated it was unlikely the object could have dropped from a jet plane for there were none reported in the area at that time. Major Robert Nelson, PIO at Biggs, AFB, declined to hazard a guess until the object could be examined by A.F. technicians. He said that it was hardly possible for a plane to lose such a part without being damaged to such an extent that the pilot would be forced to land immediately.²

. . . Fiery Object Explodes Near Pecos

Case 148, Pecos, Texas, Feb. 10, 1956—Military and civil authorities, according to the *El Paso Herald Post*, were unable to account for an aerial explosion about 25 miles northwest of Pecos. Several persons saw what appeared to be an airplane burning at high altitude, and while they watched, the object exploded. Searchers sought but found no wreckage. No aircraft was reported missing by Biggs AFB or international Airport officials. Walker AFB at Roswell and Carswell Air Base at Ft. Worth reported no missing aircraft. Major Robert P. Nelson of Biggs said that meteors are often mistaken for planes.³

MONTANA'S PHANTOM PLANE

Case 149, Helville-Ovando area, Montana, Feb. 15, 1956—Reminiscent of Case 119 and possibly akin to Case 148 is the Montana phantom plane mystery. To date there is no rational answer—unless the witnesses misidentified a type of fireball missile for an aircraft. Following is a composite account of the mystery from six articles appearing in the *Great Falls Tribune* and *Great Falls Leader*:⁴

² Credit, Mr. Murchison, El Paso, Texas.

³ Credit, Mr. Murchison, El Paso, Texas.

⁴ Comm. Charles Follick, DAV, Chap. 2, Great Falls, Mont.

Three women in the Ovando area, about 50 miles northeast of Missoula, reported seeing an airplane trailing smoke and falling from it, objects looking like parachutes. A ranchwoman told officers she saw a "board-like object" fall from the plane. Sheriff Ed Barrow and a deputy, despite falling temperatures and four feet of snow, made a ground search, joined by a ski-equipped plane which flew over the designated area, but nothing was found. Two days later there was new hope when a boy living near Ovando reported an explosion he had seen on a hillside near his home. He described it as a "big explosion with red and yellow flames", adding, "gray and black smoke followed billowing up from the hillside." The time and general location given by the boy agree with the stories told by the three women, officers said. Malmstrom AFB officials at Great Falls and Civilian and CAA authorities all agreed that no planes, military, commercial or private were missing. On Feb. 18, Carl Schirmer, coordinator of the Montana search and rescue team announced, "There is nothing warranting any further search. The Sheriff went up where the disturbance was reported to be seen and could not find a thing." On the 19th, Aeronautics Commissioner, Frank Wiley said the case of the phantom plane in the Upper Blackfoot Valley was closed. He said, "There is no information received that would substantiate their being an airplane crash. . . ."

THE BLACKBIRD PANIC

Case 150, Anderson, S. C., Feb. 17, 1956—Franklin Acker whose column, Around The Town, appears in the *Anderson Independent*, reported the following incidents, Feb. 21, 1956:

"It was Friday afternoon along about 4:15 when I saw the blackbirds' related Hugh Phillips, the Dean of South Carolina newspapermen. I was riding along the highway . . . when the birds came out of the south—millions of them. They were flying north. At one time they blotted out the sun, like the carrier pigeons did when they passed over back in the 1870's. The birds seemed panicky appearing like they were trying to get away from something. Exhausted birds fell in the field and on the highway. I counted a dozen fluttering around on the highway. Never before had I seen, or heard of, anything like it."

"About two hours later," writes Acker, "We suddenly remembered a phone call received early Friday. It was from a man who didn't identify himself other than to say that he lived at Homeland Park. He inquired if we had received any reports on the strange sky object. We replied in the negative. 'Well, I saw a peculiar looking thing about 4 o'clock,' he said. 'It looked like a highly polished metallic wheel. It seemed to revolve, but I couldn't get a good look at it because of a dazzling sunlight reflecting off it. Must have been one of those new-fangled airplanes.'"⁵

⁵ Credit, Ted Bloecher, of CSI, New York.

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ED: Theoretically, these incidents suggest that all terrestrial life flying naturally or mechanically are in potential danger from the too-near-approach of the UFO. Theoretically again—and a happy thought—is the possibility that the Anderson bird panic like others on record (see *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, pages 271-272) were caused accidentally! Certainly birds would not be wantonly attacked. Significant here is the fact that the same accidental causation may apply to aircraft losses, for while birds are instinctively shy and skittish, aircraft, on the other hand, particularly military, act contrarily. Thus by such behavior (UFO intercept) they become vulnerable to whatever destructive or crippling forces that lie within the UFO's unknown radial field.

MUCH ADO ABOUT VENUS

Case 151, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 20, 21, 22, 1956—Under glaring headlines accompanied by photographs, the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, March 22, reported the following: "An unidentified object burned like a bright beacon for at least 45 minutes high in the western sky. . . . That's how long it was observed by an *Enquirer* reporter and photographer who took up stations at North Bend following telephone calls. . . . To the naked eye, the object appeared to be an extraordinarily intense bluish-white light, suspended at about a 30-degree angle above the horizon. However, through binoculars, the object appeared to be a compact galaxy of lights, changing form as they revolved slowly. At one point, with binoculars set slightly out of focus, it assumed the appearance of a diamond brooch ringed with emeralds turning lazily on an eccentric axis. . . . The object moved almost imperceptibly away to the northwest, growing smaller and dimmer until, at 9:45 p.m., it disappeared. Residents of a large area in the downriver section reported that it was the third consecutive night 'the thing' has appeared."

The *Enquirer*'s jaunty play-up of the incident touched off a flurry of saucer reports and the proverbial controversy. The writer, among others, was called by the *Enquirer* and his statement published, which read in part, ". . . the period of lull may be breaking into a cycle of concentration". With this, CRIFO's phone jangled repeatedly. Most callers reported the bright luminous object hovering in the west. Living in eastern Cincinnati, I jogged outdoors several times but saw nothing save the usual array of stars and Venus. However, a few calls did not describe the bright hovering object which was obviously Venus. One told of a low-flying object changing from red to white, making no sound; another reported a steady green light darting away swiftly after hovering; another described an object with swept-back wings, but the most astounding of all was an incomplete report received during the daylight hours. Coming before the evening's rash of sightings, it told of a long metallic cigar-shaped object flying low over a highway near Harrison, Ohio. The object, "without windows or protruding parts", buzzed an automobile, terrifying three male occupants.

As it turned out, the mysterious object in Cincinnati's west was the celebrated "whipping girl", Venus—long used to explain away saucers. The writer knew this but his version was muffled by the experts who were called in for professional vociferation. Dr. Paul Herget, director of Cincinnati's observatory, said, "The planet Venus will keep getting brighter until the middle of May, and, every fool who goes out and looks at it for the first time will see a flying saucer." Herget, asked to explain why the object appeared like emeralds and changed shapes, commented, "A completely spurious image—your observation must have been made under poor conditions. And I don't want to explain your poor binoculars." Herget's voice was final. The *Enquirer* closed the case, and later refused to see CRIFO's analysis of the collective UFO reports.

ED: The writer agrees with Dr. Herget in regards to Venus, however, the astronomer's prejudice against "saucers" precludes his making a complete and objective analysis. To make certain that

Cincinnatians were impressed by the Venus explanation a Thunder jet of the Air National Guard was sent in with General Edsel Clark aboard. "Probably Venus," he said and it made the front page. By the weekend everybody was happy with the closed-door Venus explanation—save for CRIFO who felt that the public should know that out of 17 UFO reports received for a three day period, 10 were explanable as Venus, but six were not! These stubborn six defied all conventional explanation.

FLYING SAUCERS AND PUBLIC OPINION

"Trying to obtain a copy of Special Report No. 14, we made three inquiries at the A.F. Press Desk which were answered by Major William James. In his replies Major James said, 'The prohibitive cost of reproducing the report makes it impossible to fill requests' and 'You considerably overestimate the number of people interested in the saucer fantasy. Since the report was announced several months ago, there have been less than 100 requests for the book.' Then we contacted our congressman who inquired at the Press Desk and was told that the report had not been reproduced on any scale and could be seen only on a personal visit. . . .

"Saying that the report is too expensive to reproduce just isn't so. The Government Printing Office prints many books and reports the same size and larger than the saucer report. None of them are high priced, for example an 80 page manual costs \$2.00 and a 1329 page FCC report costs only \$4.25. Many of these are in less demand than the saucer report so why wasn't this report printed and generally released, too? The answer is that the Air Force is trying to kill the public interest in flying saucers, and by generally releasing the report, they would be defeating their own cause. . . ."

—Fred Kirsch, Director, *UFO Research, Organization, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.*

"The Air Force is desperately fighting to maintain its blackout on 'Flying Saucers,' despite hundreds of letters from readers of *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy* demanding the truth. Though many of these citizens have asked pointed questions about JANAP 146, AFR 200-2, and the Air Force refusal to release UFO reports, all these questions have been evaded. Instead of answering, the Air Force has dodged the questions by sending out the 'brush off' statement by Secretary Quarles, released on Oct. 25, 1955. As you have already shown, in the *Orbit*, this is one of the most misleading and contradictory statements on UFO's ever issued by the Air Force. The real evidence is omitted because it proves the saucers are interplanetary."

—Donald E. Keyhoe,
Major, U.S. Marine Corps, Ret.

"Do you think the authorities are withholding the truth about flying saucers from the public and censoring reports submitted by military and civil air crews?" That question has been put to me over and over again in the past few years and until just after New Year's Day I answered in the negative. To the saucer investigator this must seem strange. But it is not; and for this reason. For the past seven years jet planes have been a part of my life. I have turned up at my squadron's base at North Weald, Essex, 25 miles out of London, to fly as a member of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force—the equivalent to the Air National Guard—every weekend. I have flown on routine exercises; on intercept missions in NATO exercises over Britain, Europe and the Mediterranean; on

long distance flights to Malta and the Middle East on summer training. But not once have I been warned in any way to keep a sharp look-out for UFO's, nor have I been told to keep quiet about them.

"Many *Orbit* readers may have heard of the Flight Lieutenant Jimmy Salandin incident—when he was buzzed so close by a UFO that it more than filled his windscreens and shook him to such an extent that it took him several minutes to recover from the surprise. Jimmy is a close friend of mine. We served on the same squadron, so that I know the case history pretty intimately. But it was not until I had spoken to a V.I.P. of considerable standing in Britain that a request was made for a personal statement by Salandin. That to my mind was proof positive that little interest was being taken in this subject and I assumed—and I think justifiably—that censorship was non-existent.

"Since then I have changed my views. And on reflection, believe that censorship is being practiced so subtly that even people like Salandin are unaware of it. Remember, he had radioed a description of the incident to control; so there was no real need for a further report. Censorship is in fact being played so subtly and cleverly that it is known to few but the most important military and political leaders. On the other hand, the subject is not difficult to handle. The ships are a little elusive so that censorship is successfully imposed through ridicule.

"The reason for my change of heart comes as a result of several things. In the first place a highly placed U.S. V.I.P. told a friend that the "U" had been taken out of UFO. Secondly, one reign embassies in London has increased its subscription to *Saucer Review* to several copies for its ministers of defence, and thirdly, the interest shown by the majority of diplomats in the magazine. This common concern seems more than a coincidence—it delineates a pattern showing that there is little official doubt about the existence of space ships from elsewhere."

—Derek Dempster, *Editor of Flying Saucer Review, 1 Doughty St., London W.C.1, England.*

SAUCER SUNDRIES: By phone Frank Edwards told CRIFO that he is available for sponsored talks relative to the UFO on Saturdays and Sundays. His theme, in part, will cover the "pressure" put on him by the Air Force to keep the UFO reports out of the news. Write to Frank Edwards, c/o Station WTTV, Fairgrounds, Indianapolis. . . . Also out soon is Frank's book, *My First Million Sponsors*. . . . Also in the book line, watch for Gray Barker's opus, *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*. It covers the Bender "silencing" case—long a mystery. . . . Latest word from Southwest Pacific regarding mysterious submarine-like craft is that Russian subs were discounted—UFO's still in the running! . . . Plane crashes galore, but most are routine and non-sensational, several mystifying, one or two confounding. . . . The eight page *Orbit* was a financial loss despite advertising. Needed: 1000 more subscribers—Nix, 10,000 more! And, as we grow, we're getting stricter with our own evaluation of reports. Too much junk littering the saucer field lately. It's time for cool and sensible evaluation and reporting. Level heads are needed. Scientists who are willing to voice themselves on the UFO subject are afraid due to bad press . . . a letter received from one of the nation's foremost astronomers expresses this viewpoint.

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SKYQUAKES — THE AGELESS ENIGMA

Charles Fort, in *New Lands*, published in 1923, commented, "It is funny to read of an 'earthquake' described in technical lingo, and to have a datum that indicates that it was no earthquake at all, in the usual seismologic sense, but a concussion from an explosion in the sky. . . . The time is coming when nothing funny will be seen in this subject, if some day be accepted at least parts of the masses of data that I am now holding back, until I can more fully develop them—that some of the greatest catastrophes that have devastated the face of this earth have been concussions from explosions in the sky, so repeating in a local sky weeks at a time, months sometimes, or intermittently for centuries, that fixed origins above the ravaged areas are indicated."

The new ufological name for this phenomenon is skyquake¹ but the general characteristics are analogous to those cited by Fort. Since the concentrated advent of UFO's (tentatively 1945) skyquakes, according to reports, have increased. Most remain unexplained. Reports reaching CRIFO in recent months, describing this phenomena, are too frequent for chronological presentation, however, we believe, the following deserve review.

Case 152, Rhode Island and Mass., Feb. 16, 1956—A mysterious blast rocked houses and shook windows in a score of communities in Southern Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, touching off hundreds of phone calls to police and newspapers. An early unofficial report from the Quonset Point Naval Air Station said a jet presumably had broken the sonic barrier over Jamestown Bridge. Later, however, Cmdr. Joseph Kerrell, PIO, denied flatly that any jet had broken the barrier. The Rev. Francis Donohoe, assistant director of the observatory at Weston College, in Weston, Mass., was equally sure that the blast was not a result of a local earthquake. Residents of Jamestown, Newport, Little Compton, Portsmouth, Tiverton, Bristol, Fall River, New Bedford, all reported the disturbance. Officers at the Otis AFB, Falmouth, Mass., said the effects of the blast were felt there. They said it seemed hardly likely that a sonic boom could have reverberated over so widespread an area in the two states.²

Case 153, Rhode Island and Mass., March 3, 1956—The second explosion in little over two weeks and the third in five months was heard as far north as Touisset and west to Quonset Point. It defied explanation and brought the usual denials from the Navy and Air Force. That a military plane might have broken the sonic barrier. The blast was described variously as sounding "like a big gun" and "like a sharp crack."³

Editorially, the Providence *Bulletin*, commented, March 6th: "Every now and then, a noise like a giant thunderclap explodes over broad sections of Rhode Island, shaking homes, rattling windows, and alarming citizenry. The common assumption is that the noise comes from a jet plane breaking through the sound barrier. Local military

air commands, though, seem to be forming the habit of issuing denials, each time the thing happens, that any of their aircraft could have caused the blast. Exactly this occurred last Saturday for the second time in recent weeks. However accurate they may be, these automatic denials serve no useful public purpose. Frightened citizens don't want to know what *didn't* happen, but what did. And they have a right to be told. . . . People are jittery enough these days, and they aren't going to be reassured by piecemeal official denials that don't explain anything."⁴

Case 154, Philadelphia, Pa., March 22, 1956—A couple hundred phone calls were received at City Hall in a 15-minute period from alarmed residents who felt the earth tremble. Some heard explosions. The police radio room sent out patrol cars to hunt the cause—but didn't find it. Dr. I. M. Levitt, at the Franklin Institute, checked instruments there and reported the shock was not caused by an earthquake. At the North Philadelphia Airport some people reported the shock was felt on the field and in hangars, but from other locations reports described a short, sharp explosion. One caller said it "sounded like TNT . . . windows rattled, the building vibrated."⁵

Case 155, Clearwater to Punta Gorda, and offshore Florida, April 4, 1956—A mysterious explosion, or series of explosions, shook a 70 mile stretch of the Florida west coast. The Sarasota *Herald-Tribune* offices were flooded with phone calls from 9:10 until after 11 p.m. Some callers heard one blast, others, two. A pilot of the J & J Aircraft Inc., reported he was flying to Sarasota from Miami, cruising at about 8,500 feet just north of Immokalee, when he saw two flashes of light to his left, or southwest of Sarasota. Denham, the pilot, first thought it was flashes from a squall, but a weather check showed the area to be clear. A civil defense supervisor in Englewood reported he saw two flashes in the Gulf—the second brighter than the first. He said that a few minutes after he saw the second flash there appeared what looked "like a meteor flash across the sky and stop. It did not hit the water." At Cape Canaveral, on the Florida east coast near Cocoa, Major General, Donald Yates, air force missile test center commander, said, "We don't fire missiles in that direction." After three hours of searching, Cmdr. D. L. Hancock, CO of the Coast Guard, said the cause of the explosion was unknown. MacDill AFB reported all their planes were accounted for, and ruled out the possibility of any of their aircraft breaking the sonic barrier.

The next day brought official reaction, and the possible answer. The Coast Guard announced that two photoflash bombs were dropped by a jet bomber from high altitude. They exploded instead of burning brightly as they are

Continued Page 2

¹ See cases 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 76, 77.

² Credit, Wayne Fenner, Prov. R. Is.

³ Credit, Wayne Fenner, and Fred Collings, Lawrence, Mass.

⁴ Credit, Wayne Fenner.
⁵ Credit, H. G. Rovner.

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THIS AND THAT ABOUT ORBIT

Mail is sometimes slow. April *Orbit*, in reaching subscribers, was snail-slow as the complaints from everywhere indicate. One reader, living just four blocks away from CRIFO, received his copy on April 21st—12 days enroute! If this postal inefficiency is typical then we wonder about deliveries to California or Alaska? Of course, mailing *Orbits* out first class might help, but CRIFO's funds cannot sustain the high cost. We ask readers to kindly bear with us in this shortcoming. However, if your *Orbit* does not arrive in reasonable time let us know by postal card and we'll gladly forward you another copy.

Every so often someone not familiar with the publishing business questions the validity of *Orbit's* subscription price. They think that \$3.00 is high, that is, in relation to the amount of printed matter, or, in comparing *Orbit* with big slick mags with lots of pages and pretty pictures. The obvious answer to the latter is lots of advertising. However, let's examine the other question closer. Here, we might be surprised to learn that \$3.00 is not high, but actually low. Aside from the fact that typesetting and printing costs are high, *Orbit* is still lower than, or the same in price as most saucer publications on the market, considering frequency of publication and volume of printed matter per year. In the April issue, for instance, there appeared a total of 4405 words of news print, not including the mastheads or the advertising. Considering further that *Orbit*, is published monthly, the average words printed yearly runs in excess of 52,860. This figure does not include special editions with extra pages such as the March issue. Hence, by this token we see that in wordage one years' sub to *Orbit* nearly equals in printed volume the size of a book and most books sell for more than \$3.00. Sometimes, I feel that writing a book would be less ulcerating than maintaining the monthly *Orbit*, but thanks to loyal readers, *Orbit* will stay on. . . .

supposed to do. Cmdr. Hancock said the bombs were dropped by a B-47 from Lockbourne AFB, Ohio, over a designated bombing range about 10 miles west of Sarasota. Hancock said the information came from Air Force Flight Service at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala. Neither the Coast Guard nor Air Force establishments in this area had been notified that the bomb run was going to be made, said Hancock, and thus were unable to answer the queries from news reporters.

A MacDill AFB spokesman said they received word a Lockbourne B-47 suffered an equipment malfunctioning over the Avon Park bombing range and was told to release its photoflash bombs in a test area 30 miles out in the Gulf. The bombs were not faulty said the spokesman, and were released as a safety measure. The bombs are a new type and not the giant WW II variety said the Air Force.

However, following the Coast Guard announcement, April 5th, which pinned the explosion on a Lockbourne plane, an Air Force colonel at the Ohio base, according to the Tampa *Morning Tribune*, told reporters, "As far as it can be determined it wasn't our plane."

On April 7, the Sarasota *Herald-Tribune* reported: "There may be more explosions off the coast of Sarasota, according to an announcement yesterday by Col. Stanley Beerlie, director of operations of the 801st Air Division. The Lockbourne AFB yesterday confirmed that one of its jet bombers had dropped the photoflash bombs which shook the West Coast Wednesday night. Capt. Russell Ramsey, PIO, said an RB47 jet had dropped the flash bomb as part of 'normal operations.' He said the explosions were caused by 125 pound photoflash bombs which have a 'slight detonation' touching off magnesium fuel which flares brightly. The captain said that a 70-knot WNW wind blowing at the time carried the concussion into the mainland."⁶

Ed: Quite a wind! And, what of pilot Denham's weather check which showed "clear". A recent letter from a military officer holding command rank told CRIFO, "If this is a cover-up it is a sorry commentary on the intelligence of ATIC personnel or, perhaps, an insult to the intelligence of John Q. Public. Why bother with atomic or conventional bombs when a 'photoflash bomb' can shake up 70 miles of coast line." Another timely letter from Norbert Gariety, Coral Gables, comments, "I have seen these photoflash bombs dropped. More than that I was within 1000 feet of the target when they were dropped, and can only laugh uproariously at this news article claiming that two photoflash bombs caused windows to rattle over 70 miles strip. . . . Of course my own experiences were twelve years ago—maybe now they have photoflash bombs with atomic warheads!"

Case 156, Jersey Coast; Barnegat Light to Cape May, April 6, 1956—We quote in part from the Philadelphia *Inquirer* as follows: "Offshore practice by a Navy dive bomber squadron shook a 100-mile section of the New Jersey coast and caused a long moment of fright, if not actual panic among thousands of seashore residents. Apparently, the normal noise and concussion of a routine bombing practice was amplified into a window-rattling and somewhat terrifying experience by an unusual atmospheric condition, even though the bombs were dropped 30 miles offshore. Four 500-pound bombs were detonated between 2:05 and 2:10 p.m. by a squadron flying out of the Pomona Naval Air Station. They went off at a point due east of Brigantine Island. . . . Rumors flew thick and fast. Some thought a jet plane might have broken through the sound barrier. . . . Others were sure the sea-going Navy was having target practice. . . . Speculation was quieted two hours later when Capt. Oscar Pederson,

CO of the Pomona Naval Air Station, announced that some of his dive bombers had been doing a bit of dive bombing off Brigantine and that they might have caused the 'explosions', although, as he added, they had been making similar practice runs for weeks without causing any commotion. The captain said he could not readily understand how such noise and concussion could be heard and felt at that distance. Only abnormal atmospheric conditions could have made that possible, he intimated. The Atlantic City Weather Bureau suggested that the explosion of four 500-pound bombs could very well have been greatly intensified by the heavy, cloudy atmosphere. A spokesman at the Franklin Institute said the seismograph showed no earthquake anywhere in this area."

H. G. Rovner who sent the *Inquirer* clippings, writes, "I was speaking to a friend who was a demolition expert in the Korean War. He claims no ordinary bombs could produce such blasts; that we have no bombs that could do this (other than atomic); and, that a large amount of the blast would have been absorbed by the water of the ocean."

Ed: I am in no position scientifically to comment on sonic phenomena, but find in the cases outlined sufficient anomalies to theoretically rule out natural and man-made causes. Thus, we turn to ufology and the great unknown for the possible answer. One feasible theory is advanced by an aeronautical engineer now residing in Caracas, Venezuela. In a letter to CRIFO, he writes, ". . . When the UFO proceeds from outer space, it is logical that it travels at tremendous speed. It is natural, that when the UFO penetrates the atmosphere, it is bound to reduce its speed. But, at the same time, behind the apparatus it creates a complete vacuum channel due to violent depression. This channel then closes with a violent knock, resulting in a tremendous explosion, and it is so rapid that in the same instant, the UFO coming from outer space at speeds greater than sound, probably, will have already travelled hundreds of miles. More rapid the speed of entrance in the atmosphere, more tremendous will be the knock and the explosion. When the channel closes, the collision of both air masses is so violent, that the union produces a disintegration of the air's molecules in the area. The difference of pressure is so great that it can create a difference in the potential of static electricity, so that the violent explosion is the consequence of a flash, generally seen in the sky related to the UFO. We do not know exactly what is the speed of the UFO. It can be the speed of light or a little greater than that of sound. But, the result is an enormous difference of pressure created behind the apparatus in the atmosphere."

WORLD-RENNED ASTRONOMER DESCRIBES SIGHTING

Case 157, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Aug., 1949—CRIFO, in its quest for authenticated sightings, recently received a first-hand account of a famous astronomer's sighting. We publish his signed statement as follows: "I saw the object about eleven o'clock one night in August, 1949 from the backyard of my home in Las Cruces, New Mexico. I happened to be looking at zenith, admiring the beautiful transparent sky of stars, when suddenly I spied a geometrical group of faint bluish-green rectangles of light similar to the 'Lubbock lights'. My wife and her mother were sitting in the yard with me and they saw them also. The group moved south-southeasterly, the individual rectangles became foreshortened, their space of formation smaller, (at first about one degree across) and the intensity duller, fading from view at about 35 degrees above the horizon. Total time of visibility was about three seconds. I was too flabbergasted to count the number of rectangles of light, or to note some other features I wondered about later. There was no sound. I have done thousands of hours of night watching, but never saw a sight so strange as this. The rectangles of light were of low luminosity; had there been a full moon in the sky, I am sure they would not have been visible." Ed: In previous correspondence the astronomer told the writer that he had seen three objects within the past seven years "which defied any explanation of known phenomena, such as Venus, atmospheric optics, meteors, or planes."

FLAMING PROJECTILE A MYSTERY

Case 158, Tampa, Florida, Nov. date unknown, 1955—The following account appeared in the Ft. Lauderdale *Sunday News*, April 1st: "Last November something flashed out of the sky, gouged a hole the size of a boxcar in a pasture and started a fire that burned 40 days. No one knows to this day what caused the hole in the land of W. R. Wacaser in the little Alafia section of east Hillsborough County. For a time Air Force officials thought it might have been caused by a faulty guided missile from the Cocoa Proving Ground. Officers from MacDill AFB checked the area with a Geiger counter but reported no trace of radioactivity. These officers told Mrs. Wacaser the hole was probably caused by lightning. They could not explain why the fire burned so long. And no one in the area remembers any big bolt of lightning at that time. 'We don't know what caused the hole but it sure was hot around the area', Mrs. Wacaser said. The grass around the area was burned, several trees were toppled and many others were burned on the sides nearest the hole. Vegetation has begun to grow there again but the burned trees have died. The area around the hole is very soft now, but elsewhere in that section the ground is hard."⁷

Ed: For timely comments on other mystery missiles mentioned in *Orbit* see letters in Flying Saucers and Public Opinion.

FLYING SAUCERS AND PUBLIC OPINION

"Re: Case 139. Desmond Leslie, Esq., was on the sight within a few hours, despite an all night drive through dense fog to reach it. Was surprised to find large crater but no 'throw out'. Found two eye witnesses, farmers, who had not been interviewed by officials. It was a large empty practice bomb. The witnesses saw it fall from a U.S. bomber. The crew apparently was not aware this had happened. Witness watched it flash down from the bomber and saw it hit in middle of field. The explosion was supersonic not combustion. Bomb broke sound barrier. Witness told me he heard explosion just before bomb touched. The lack of 'throw out' confirmed this. Live bombs make lunar type craters, this one was merely a large conical hole in the ground. Fragments were of bomb case. Muddle came when R.A.F. failed to identify fragments—natural as they were of U.S. design. U.S. at first reluctant to admit damages, until extensive inquiries found guilty crew who did not know bomb had fallen till they landed."

—Desmond Leslie,
London, England.

"In regard to Case 138—The Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake is 80 miles from Porterville. At this facility, the Navy tests rockets and guided missiles within the boundary of a rectangle of dimensions twenty by thirty miles. I lived in the China Lake area for six months and know that in spite of the sparse population of the surrounding area, the Navy is extremely careful to avoid firing across this boundary. Any object which could travel as far as Porterville, eighty miles, would be a long range missile and would not be tested at China Lake. The conclusions are three: (1) the object was a missile or rocket accidentally fired from an aircraft flying near Porterville, or (2) the object was a meteorite, or (3) a UFO. (1) is not impossible, but (2) is excluded since meteors do not 'circle'. In either case, China Lake would be interested; (1) would be their responsibility and (3), the UFO, could be studied best at China Lake because of its proximity, faci-

7 Credit, W. Simms, Hollywood, Fla., Alan Wilcox, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

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lities and seclusion. Thus the 'arrival of truck crew' does not guarantee ownership or blame! (The fact that the point of impact was the Baker Ranch, ten miles southeast of Porterville, does not void the argument since the Baker Ranch is still seventy miles distant from China Lake.)

—Thomas M. Olsen,
Graduate Student,
Dept. of Physics, Un. of Wisc.

"UFO censorship is presumed to operate in two areas—in the government and in the press. Before considering its causes and effects, let's define the term. By censorship I assume we mean deliberate interference with or suppression of communication, for reasons of policy. Such censorship has indeed taken place in the government, as Donald Keyhoe and Edward Ruppelt have showed us. Though the policy basis is still unclear—whether it's fear, stubborn disbelief, or simple bafflement, we don't know—there has been a more or less successful squelching of good UFO cases. In the press, however, the situation is different. No central command exists, as in the government, that can compel silence. From experience on both newspaper and magazine staffs, I know that most publishers and editors would react against any attempt to 'shut them up' about UFO's. I am sure that the government has not tried directly to do so. A few publications, I don't doubt, have adopted a self-imposed censorship as a matter of policy. (They don't believe in saucers, or they don't want to encourage public concern about them.) Most publications just don't know what to think and consequently accept Air Force pronouncements. They're silent, we can blame them for being negligent or gullible, but not for being censored. As a matter of fact, local newspapers report a fair number of UFO sightings, and news clippings are the mainstay of our UFO files.

"Therefore let's capitalize on this lack of censorship in the press. If UFO investigators and groups will take it as a major duty to give calm, reasoned, intelligent comments on observable phenomena in letters to editors, radio newscasters, etc., we'll get a hearing and we'll help to keep press channels open until conclusive proof is at hand."

—John DuBarry,
New York, N.Y.

"A friend of a friend of mine came to Miami on business but stopped to show me some 35 mm. color slides he had taken of a church in Monterrey, Mexico, in which some odd, spindle-shaped objects appeared in the sky. The objects looked familiar, and I checked the photos in my UFO library and found almost a duplicate on page 183 of *The Coming of the Saucers* by Ken Arnold and Ray Palmer. I have seen the picture other places and in spite of the caption in Arnold's book, the girl who took the pictures did not see the object until after the photo was taken and printed. Then she first saw it on the print.

"The friend who brought me his photos had them checked by a lens expert. After some deliberation the lens expert said, 'They are light reflections.' The things looked so strange that I was still in doubt, but the very next day after I saw the 35 mm. slides, I picked up a magazine, April, 1956, *Pageant* and as I rifled through the magazine, of all things I came across another spindle-shaped saucer in a photo—only this one's inside a theatre and directly opposite the bright light which apparently caused it. See lower left hand corner of top photo, page 10. So now I am convinced that all of these photos are reflections of light. In this analysis I do not include the strange photo taken by flashbomb by August Roberts⁸ which has the same pointed snout as some of the refractions, because there is a definite shadow on Robert's photo opposite the light source. I'm sending this along for your interest in getting at the real truth and eliminating the doubtful. As I say, researchers we should all be constantly aware for real . . ."

—William B. Nash,
Miami, Florida.

". . . I saw the Norwegian Eclipse film referred to in your February number. Two whitish objects appeared for a short time in the distance. The Norwegian Astronomer Royal was quoted as saying that they were 'either guided missiles or balloons.' They certainly were not balloons, and I know of no guided missiles which can remain nearly stationary. They were too far away to swear to, but they looked more like saucers than anything else. I didn't think the sighting was of much importance except for the fact that the film was taken under official patronage."

—Lord Dowding,
Air Chief Marshall,
R.A.F., England.

8 See Saucer Sundries, Vol II, No. 1, NEWSLETTER.

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THE LULL AND THE "LOCUSTS"

Saucers during late April and through May were out of character—they were hiding instead of seeking. This sudden vernal lull not only snubbed the experts who claim annually that saucers come with warm weather, but it threw off balance the serious ufologist whose slide rule figured saucers would swarm to earth like locusts in 1956—just as they had done in 1952 and 1954 when Mars was nearing its close opposition. It was too early to predict even next week's turn of events, but the current lull was a frustrating interlude, especially after the whirlwind of sightings concentrated in the first quarter of the year. We are now in the second quarter, wondering when the lull will break . . . and whether the break will bring on the locusts?

While waiting, we reflect upon the righ frequency of air disasters coincident with the early *high* in sightings.¹ What number of these disasters were caused by UFO interference we have no way of knowing, but a few stand out suspiciously. The writer uses "suspiciously" not only in reference to the incidents involved but upon his having confidential information concerning one past military affair in which a plane, vectored in to intercept UFO's, crashed leaving unexplainably bizarre evidence. This one incident, however, lends credence to the unpopular theory of *ufoperil and its effects on aircraft*, and while it does not reveal a pattern of hostility, its portent shadows over the vulnerable "opposition" months ahead when sightings are expected to increase. We ask, being commonsensically logical, is this the reason for the great saucer silence?

Case 159, Ottawa, Canada, May 15, 1956—We assigned this incident a number not because it arbitrarily involves a UFO, but because it may typify cases where the true facts are hidden under the wraps of white-lie security. For this we do not blame the Canadian government for the cover-up, but feel that CRIFO readers should be prodded into evaluating all reports describing obscure aerial activities. We quote for the record from the Cincinnati *Enquirer* as follows: "The defense ministry blamed a false alarm for sending up the jet plane that crashed into a nun's rest home and killed 15 persons. Ralph Campney, minister of defense, said the plane was one of two jets ordered to take off to intercept a plane spotted by radar but not immediately identified. Before the interception was carried through, the 'enemy' plane was identified through flight plans as an Air Force transport returning from the Arctic. The jets met the transport at 7000 feet. They then went up to 33,000 feet to practice interception tactics—a normal procedure to give pilots practice and to use up excess fuel that might endanger a safe landing. Campney said the plane that fell had given no indication of trouble. 'All evidence points to the likelihood it descended in a steep dive from a

very high altitude,' he said. . . ."

Ed: Says reader John Tobin of New Castle, Del., ". . . the RCAF took special pains to make it seem that the object the jet was sent up to investigate was only an airliner although it was not identified from the Arctic to lower Canada . . . there were other bases and interceptors further north!"

AIR FORCE INVESTIGATES STRANGE LIGHTS

Case 160, Pueblo, Colorado, Six successive nights, early May, 1956—Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* reported, May 11 the following: "Sightings of unidentified flying objects for six successive nights near Pueblo were reported Thursday by the Air Force. The first report was made to the 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron at Peterson Field here by the Pueblo GOC. Capt. Vincent Fintery, a member of the Air Force's Air Defense Filter Center, said he knows of no attempt to investigate the sightings with interceptor aircraft. Sgt. Gilbert Nelson, a member of the intelligence squadron, has been sent to Pueblo to investigate. He reported he observed six appearances of the objects between 9 p.m. and midnight Monday. 'They were dull, more or less fluorescent glows,' he said, 'faint but bright enough to see. Most of them were triangular in shape, but one was round and brighter than the rest.' Nelson said the objects were visible for only five or six seconds at a time, so great was their speed. The Air Force said it sent another team to Pueblo on Tuesday, but gave no report of its findings."²

UFO SIGHTED BY PROSPECTORS

Case 161, Salt Lake City, Utah, May 10, 1956—Even lulls are not lull-proof as witnessed by the time and geographical proximity sightings over Pueblo and the Great Salt Lake. On May 12, the *Desert News and Telegram* reported that three uranium prospectors saw a large silvery colored object "spinning or floating" in the air in the western part of Millard County, from atop Totum Knob. "We were searching with scintillators near the top when Wendell Stephenson spotted the thing," said Harvey Mecham, one of the prospectors. "I had a pair of 8x30 binoculars with me and looked at the object through them. It was no light reflection, absolutely not," he said. The object looked "like the bottom of a saucer except that it was elliptical rather than entirely round. It was the brightest silvery thing I have ever seen," said Mecham. The object remained stationary below some light fleecy clouds for about four minutes and then rose at about a 75 degree angle and disappeared out of sight. A strong wind was blowing the clouds to the west and the object went out of sight in the opposite direction, the men reported. Said Mecham, "This makes us certain that it was not a balloon. There was nothing hanging down from the bottom either." The men reported that they were about 8,000 ft. high and that the object was about 3,000 feet above them.³

¹ Richard Hall of New Orleans has supplied CRIFO with an excellent chronology of aircraft disasters since the first of year. We hope to enlarge on it and present it for review in the future.

² Credit, C. H. Marck, Jr., Denver, Col.

³ Credit, Mrs. R. S. Richardson, Salt Lake City, Utah.

C. R. I. F. O. ORBIT

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The writer enjoyed reading Frank Edward's new book, *My First 10,000,000 Sponsors*. While Frank devotes only one chapter to the UFO problem, he takes us through many other delightfully entertaining phases of his long radio career—and does a neat job of it. Easy to read, *10,000,000 Sponsors* offers a bellyful of chuckles, for Frank is up to his usual clever, witty and snap-to humor. Highly recommended for old and young—ufologist and otherwise. Write to Ballantine Books, 101 Fifth Ave., New York 3, N.Y.

We have just received Aime Michel's *The Truth About Flying Saucers* now translated from the French into English. We plan to read it soon and suggest you do the same. C.S.I. of New York highly recommends this book and their recommendation is good enough for the director. Just browsing through makes me want to start now. Price \$3.95, published by Criterion Books, Inc., 100 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y.

VACATION TIME—From June 11 through June 25 the writer and family plan to take a much needed vacation. Illness hexed family (and CRIFO) this past year and we feel the urgent need to go away. We may motor through Florida and with luck sail to Nassau . . . of course with eyes looking skyward. Like last year, we'll be a couple weeks late with July *Orbit*. Keep mail and clippings coming in as usual. Thank you.

FLYING SAUCERS AND PUBLIC OPINION

"Among the many features of the saucer problem, the frequent unexplained air incidents come into the picture somewhere. It may be that with the present saucer activity these are pure accidents or it may be, as been suggested in some quarters, that the earth's magnetic lines are being deliberately tampered with. I do not think we know enough yet to form a judgment on this but I am quite sure we ought to pay close attention to every air accident reported. There is a tendency amongst the public to think that air accidents are to be expected anyhow and to accept them without question. I do not think our mastery of the air is so incomplete as to make natural the very great number of accidents in the last few years. Among the incidents which I have tried to keep track of I select three which seem to have curious features in common.

"(1) The first concerns the flight of a Pan American Douglas DC7B from Rome to Brussels in December last. Over the north of Italy the captain saw one of his four engines break away from the starboard wing and go to ground . . . the second on the same side then went dead and the captain flew the aircraft back to Rome.

"(2) The second incident concerns a Pan Am Stratocruiser which plunged into the sea, 35 miles off the coast of Oregon. The airliner was on its way from Portland to Honolulu and Sydney. About half an hour after take-off the pilot radioed that the aircraft's No. 3 engine was wrenched from its mounting and that he had to go down.

"(3) My third incident is the K.L.M. Constellation which crashed in the Shannon last September. The details of this I believe were fully published in the press. The official inquiry, however, revealed some strange features, particularly the evidence of Captain Adrian Viruly. The take-off seemed normal but as they left the ground Capt. Viruly was aware of a 'peculiar noise'. He said, 'It was not a bang. It was more what I would describe as a change in No. 1 or No. 2 engines.' At 250 feet just before the accident, Capt. Viruly had the sensation that the aircraft was not meant to fly and that something was entirely wrong. 'There was normal speed so that one should have been able to climb. . . I tried to pull the wheel toward me and I recollect very clearly the very unusual resistance.' The plane was in a normal climbing attitude when it struck the water. *Capt. Viruly said he was convinced that the tail of the plane was the first part to touch the water.*

"The impression left on my mind by the complete evidence is that some force literally pressed the machine down. Three other details in this story may or may not be relevant. One, it was reported that a small defect had developed in the Very High Frequency set five minutes before the plane reached Shannon. Two, a private plane crashed in the area soon after the accident. Third, the radar personnel reported seeing a machine about ten minutes after the take-off on their scope, about 45 miles away which they took to be the Constellation. *But, the Constellation at that moment was lying in the Shannon mud two miles away.*

"I conclude by mentioning the report from Woomera Range in Australia. At the first public demonstration on April 11 of the plane-to-plane missile attack, the pilotless plane suddenly exploded before the waiting Meteor jets could intercept it. What was the force which tore this machine to bits?"

—Robert A. Nelson,
Colpetty, Colombo, Ceylon.

"I have been wanting to write you for the past month with respect to Dr. Walter Dornberger's provocative Chicago remarks reproduced in April *Orbit*, viz., 'The only flying saucers are those you see when you have an argument with your wife in the kitchen.' Let us not take the Dornberger comments too seriously. I know for a fact that the German-born rocket authority is not the skeptic he pretends to be. What he sometimes says about outer-space craft may, on the face of it, sound like skepticism, but, on closer inspection, it will be learned contains a note of inquisitiveness. During the past two years I have personally met Bell Aircraft's Dr. Dornberger on three occasions and twice talked with him on the telephone. Once Dr. Dornberger, U.S. Weatherman, B. Wiggins and I discussed flying saucers on TV in Buffalo. Prior to the program, the rocketeer bent his head toward mine and seriously asked me,

'Do you have any photos of the Italian saucers?' And, yet during the TV panel discussion, he vehemently denied the reality of the spaceships, labeling them 'curious natural phenomena.' The last time I saw Dornberger (late summer of 1955) he was desirous of knowing two things—namely, first, 'How are the bodies of Venusian pilots able to withstand the terrific speeds which their craft often reach?' Second, 'How are they able to walk around and live in our atmosphere, to which they are not accustomed?' Smart fellow—that inquisitive Dornberger! After you have talked a few times with the Bell Aircraft expert, you will realize that every remark he makes and every question he puts to you must serve a purpose. They are intended to help him. Indeed, Dr. Dornberger wants to know all about flying saucers. He wants to do, I am told, all he can to strengthen our air defenses."

—Dr. Benjamin D. Benincasa,
Buffalo, N. Y.

"*Flying Saucer Review* have selected June 30 and Sept. 8 as International Flying Saucer Sighting Days for 1956, in an attempt to get the maximum number of people all over the world looking out for UFO's and at the same time so that any seen can be timed and tracked across the world. The purpose of doing this is two-fold: to stimulate interest in UFO's before they are identified as the artificial satellites we shall see in 1957, and to pave the way towards cooperation with scientific groups during the International Geophysical Year. We have suggested that saucer sighting parties keeping watch on these two days report their findings to their local groups, i.e., time of sighting, locality, direction of travel description etc. so that all the information can be classified and correlated on a nationwide and worldwide basis. . . . Further details will appear in the May-June issue of *Flying Saucer Review*."

—Derek Dempster, Editor of *Flying Saucer Review*,
1 Doughty St., London W. C. 1, England.

"Twenty two years ago, it was my privilege to study organic chemistry under the late Dr. Townes R. Leigh, of nationwide repute in that field. In one of his lectures, he made point of the fact that ours is a life in which water is the great neutral medium. Starting with the hydrolysis of water, he developed a series of equations and relations basic to the processes of the chemistry of the life we know. Then he said that water was only one of several compounds that could conceivably assume that role. Taking ammonia as just one example, he compared its hydrolysis with that of water, and developed another series of equations and relations which substantially paralleled that of our water-based chemistry. Thus it was suggested that life may be sustained under conditions distinctly different from those to be found upon earth. We usually hear the planet Jupiter ruled out as a possible supporter of life, since its surface temperature is some 200 degrees below zero, its atmosphere largely of 'poisonous' ammonia and methane, and certainly no origin of space travelers, since its dense clouds would hopelessly discourage any interest in astronomy. But, it is suggested, in consideration of the relative boiling and freezing points of water and ammonia at Jupiter's probable atmospheric pressure, that the big planet's low temperature might be quite comfortable to an ammonia-based life. As for the clouds, one could question whether they would be opaque to organs of vision sensitive to waves much longer than the spectrum visible to the human eye. Water, in its gaseous phase, is a usual component of our motor exhausts. In parallel, we would expect ammonia, plus some ammoniac products, to comprise the exhaust of such prime movers as would be had by intelligents, from an ammonia-based world. Of those who have claimed to have been close enough to UFO's to sense them nasally, some have described the odor as 'ammoniacal.'

"I can suggest no reason whatever to suppose that a Jupiterian would bear the least resemblance to a human being. And our atmosphere would be no doubt both destructively hot and deadly poisonous to him. I would therefore expect his individual landings upon earth to be extremely rare—possibly only under emergency conditions—and then only when housed in such devices as described to Sanderson by May and Lemon. Were I a Jupiterian and wanted certain work accomplished upon earth, I would analyze earth conditions, duplicate them on incubator scale upon Jupiter, procure some specimen Earthlings, and adapt them to purpose. One would need to breed them down to convenient and manageable size—and to enable them better to endure Jupiter's 'G'—and perhaps in as many remarkably diverse varieties as are represented, in the canine world, by such extremes as Pekinese and Chihuahua. Green ones, with yellow eyes, for N.A. Sharp-clawed shaggy ones for S.A. Long-bearded bug-eyed ones for Europe. And, of course, some abominable type for the mountains of Tibet. Major Keyhoe, in his rather pathetic disappointment in the general physique of Venezuela's visitors, would be considerably cheered to know that they were not really the ones running the show. . . ."

—Walt Simms,
Hollywood, Florida.

"In your letter of March 31 you ask 'Is it true that you have adamantly refused to accept the much-kicked-around interplanetary theory, that is, in relation to the flying saucer?'

"'Adamantly' is not the proper word. I have always tried to approach the problem objectively, which is more than most writers do when they insist that saucers are interplanetary. Briefly, my position is this. I have studied the reported Air Force sightings. I have collected a number of sightings myself. I have talked with people who have seen flying saucers. I have seen many of them myself, including some that I was expecting to see and several outstanding ones that took me completely by surprise. Of the latter, I have at least four major sightings that would have been termed flying saucers by almost anyone but an experimental scientist. In all of these cases I was able to get not merely a satisfactory answer but undoubtedly the correct answer. My answer to your first basic question, therefore, is that the objects do not remain unexplained in my own analysis. There are, of course, some alleged sightings that cannot be accounted for in detail. Within the evidence presented, I believe that I can find a reasonable explanation. Whether it is the correct one I have no way of knowing. Actually, there are often several acceptable ones and it is difficult to choose between them.

"As for your question about which is more probable, an unknown meteorological phenomenon or an interplanetary vehicle, I say that the first is decidedly the more probable by a large factor. We know that there are unknown meteorological phenomena. We are coming across new ones from time to time whereas we have never seen an interplanetary vehicle. This statement does not mean, of course, that interplanetary vehicles could not exist. But such a vehicle must be subject to the same physical laws as any vehicle that we would put into space. In the reported behavior of flying saucers, their elusiveness, their ability to dodge, their tremendous speeds and accelerations, are the characteristics of the optical phenomena that I have investigated. I fully agree that the postulate of super intelligent beings equipped with interplanetary vehicles that defy all of our natural laws would adequately explain the observed phenomena. So would the postulate of ghosts, except that ghosts are out of date and interplanetary travel is on everyone's mind. But merely because a postulate is adequate does not make it correct. The writers about flying saucers, especially those who try to make a villain out of the Air Force and see Martians behind every cloud, do not subject the data to rigorous scientific reasoning. I could go into this point ad infinitum. The trouble with most of the people who have subscribed to the interplanetary explanation is that they know nothing about the mul-

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WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.

tiple peculiarities of atmospheric optics—and next to nothing about the peculiar behavior of radar and call those witnesses 'expert' who make certain statements about the infallibility of radar. I have talked with Dr. Clyde Tombaugh about his several sightings, only one of which—to my knowledge—had any aspect of the spectacular. Here I have two or three possible explanations, any one of which is more reasonable than the spaceship. Some of my sightings were considerably more spectacular. I have disclosed them to the Air Force and plan to publish them in detail whenever I get around to revising my book on flying saucers. I will state, however, that in March of 1955 a flying saucer flashing red and green lights twice buzzed an Air Force B29 in which I was flying between Point Barrow and Fairbanks, Alaska. Its estimated speed was something of the order of 100 miles per second—and yet it was not an interplanetary object. I also saw the green flying saucer from New Mexico, in early September 1954. One of the green fireballs.

"One of the greatest difficulties in dealing with flying saucers falls in what you call 'fringe' groups. Flying saucers have had their share of hoaxes. To these we must add the publicity seekers and those who are mere opportunists. Worst of all, perhaps, are those who write the weirdest sort of pseudo-science about interplanetary invasion, saucer bases on the moon, and panic in the Pentagon."

—Dr. Donald H. Menzel, Director,
Harvard College Observatory.

"Not too long ago, I was reading Miss Jacqueline Sanders' article in Gray Barker's *The Saucerian Review*, under the title, 'Panic in Kentucky'. It is an able account of the Hopkinsville, Ky., family who did battle for several hours last summer against some little men from a flying saucer. While I read this dramatic report (being pretty much a critic of such things), a persistent question kept voicing itself in my mind: 'Can this really have happened?' Suddenly in telling how the 'little men' approached the house from a landed saucer, the writer said: 'According to some of the witnesses they were not walking, but 'seemed to float' toward them.' Those words, 'seemed to float' rang a bell. Where had I heard them before? Then I knew! I dug into some of my files and came up with a letter which I had received from one John J. Swaim, a farm boy from near Coldwater, Kansas, who in response to my request, had written me in October, 1954, to tell of an encounter he had had with a 'little man' and a 'saucer' while discing in a field some weeks before. Here is a line taken from his penciled letter: 'I came on a terrace. He was crouched behind it. He jumped up and looked at me, and *kind of floated*. He jumped into the saucer and it lighted up and it took off. It went out of sight...' Had the folk from near Hopkinsville read John Swaim's description and used it to dress up their own hoax? I very strongly doubt it! To me, this is one of those subtle similarities which make us think twice before saying, 'This story is just a story and nothing more!'

—Rev. Albert Baller,
Greenfield, Mass.



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SAUCER LULL CONTINUES AS MARS APPROACHES

June's big story was, no story! Its skies, like May's and part of April's were almost saucerless. If saucers were present, then the world's people were not seeing or reporting them, for CRIFO's mail, usually overloaded with sightings, was now producing only a handful, none outstanding. Letters and periodicals from other researchers also revealed the paucity of sightings, many such tagging the quiet as the "lull before the storm." In character with this pattern of world quiet were Cincinnati skies. Since mid April only two local sightings reached CRIFO, a condition reminiscent to the low of June 1953. In sharp contrast was the tempest of last August and September, now seeming unreal.

During June's lull, the Stringfields drove to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, there spending a week relaxing, incongruously collecting shells and talking with CRIFO members. Then by steamship we visited colorful Nassau, but like Florida, the Bahamas were also keeping pace with the world's great saucer quiet. Not until we returned home did we learn by letter from Charles Paisley of Atlanta, Ga., that a "saucer" was seen over Greenville, S.C., on June 8. By a turn of fate, we moteled at Greenville June 9, completely unaware of the event. In Nassau, I learned from a taxi driver that saucers were there, too, but in March. He said that Nassau's airport was visited by a strange bright object which hovered then shot away at incredible speed. He said there were several witnesses. I found the colored natives there surprisingly conversant on saucers and one volunteered the notion that they were from outer space.

But just as the sudden disappearance of saucers everywhere seemed enigmatic, so were the months ahead unpredictable. Coming nearer was Mars (opposition Sept. 11) and saucerphiles favoring that planet as the most likely to harbor life in our solar system were perturbed by the Martians' failure to reveal their forces as they had done in previous years of opposition, notably 1952 and 1954. However, the June lull may be too early to pass judgement, for previous oppositions occurred earlier (March 23, 1950, May 1, 1952 and June 25, 1954) and most UFO sighting records will show that sightings were heaviest during the weeks nearing the actual opposition date and remaining heavy for several months after. Thus, by this timetable, the 1956 opposition may yet show action, climaxing in late July or August.

While postulating Mars as the home base for saucers, we might also consider some factors which may throw

cold water on the Opposition Theory. First, it would seem that Mars, regardless of its distance, should find additional space miles no barrier in sending supercraft to Earth. Secondly, it would seem that the Martians, interested in Earth as the saucers indicate, would have long ago occupied and perhaps colonized the moon. Using a lunar base, saucers could operate freely and thus disregard Mars' relative position. Finally, giant satellites, approximating 10,000 ft., in diameter, such as the one that hovered over Cincinnati in 1949-50, could be used for long periods and be wholly independent of Mars. Like the parent craft over Cincinnati, each could carry its brood of smaller devices. But, in our attempt to rationalize, we also realize that we know none of the actual conditions or problems involved in any Martian operation to Earth, for to explain or dismiss the oppositional visitations, we must not only understand the problems of interplanetary logistics, but the objectives of a mysterious Martian mind.

Speaking of Mars, we note that an unnamed Russian scientist recently opined, via Moscow radio, that "thinking beings" may live on the red planet. He predicted that rapid progress in science and engineering will make it possible to send a guided rocket to Mars in about 15 years.

VENUS SOUNDS OFF

But Mars is a mere planetary pebble in the seas of space. For all we know Mars itself may be host to some extra-stellar race, likewise Jupiter and maybe even the "runaway moon", Pluto. Lord only knows what's all out there, and, only the Lord knows who owns the saucers. However, there are a few who claim to know, and these few point dogmatically to Venus and to George Adamski as the man with the proof. Helping Adamski's cause unwittingly was Dr. John D. Kraus, Ohio State radio astronomer, who, on June 26 said that two distinctly different sounds have been received from the planet Venus during the last five months. Dr. Kraus believes the first sound—a cracking noise—may have come from a Venusian thunderstorm. But the second sound—a long sustained buzz "like the dash of the Morse code dot and dash"—is more of a mystery. Dr. Kraus declines to speculate as to its origin. But Venus will remain a mystery even with the perfection of the Lumicon, the new electronic device which will turn Palomar's 200-inch into 1200!

C. R. I. F. O. ORBIT

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A few critics, rattling skeletons, persist in dubbing CRIFO as the interplanetary war-monger. They chastise *Orbit's* play-up of aircraft disasters, "fireballs" hitting earth and other *outré* incidents, intimating that such are generally hogwash and not related to ufology. CRIFO certainly encourages critical thinking, but feels that a closed and unrealistic mind bent on categorically dismissing these suspect incidents is by far more dangerous. The most dangerous offender is the research slicker who pushes aside the facts to propagate the fairytale of interplanetary bliss. This charlatan finds every saucer crew on a mission of omniscient benevolence and rests his dogma on mystical hearsay, home-spun mumbo jumbo and in terms of his own lucrative rewards. And, there are others, who by mental make-up, are afraid to face up to ugly facts and prefer clinging to saucer pleasantries come hell and high water. Others, however, want more solid facts and, finding none more solid than those postulating the existence of saucers, fear their proud necks lest they should stick them out erroneously. And, of course, there is the truly objective critic who keeps an open mind. He studies all evidence but is usually non-committal for reasons he knows best. CRIFO does not pretend to know the mission of the saucer. But, whether it's in peace or in war, the evidences of suspect disasters still hover over saucer research *unsolved!* Until solved, CRIFO plans to continue reporting the good and the bad, for not to do so constitutes the evil of bias and censorship.

For the record, CRIFO has never claimed that saucers were hostile, although some of the information received would make it seem they were. And, for the record, CRIFO *still does not believe* there is sufficient evidence to suggest they are hostile. Nor do we have any valid evidence to suggest they are friendly — unless we wish to interpret the saucers' failure to destroy the earth as a sign of good will. The CRIFO controversy began when *Orbit's* November issue headlined, "The Case For Interplanetary War." While admittedly this selection of words was unfortunate, they, however, did not say that a war, as such, was raging; nor did the copy do more than speculate over certain suggestive evidence. But, we ask, is speculation an unhealthful trend? On the other hand, if we were asked to defend our use of the word "war", we would ask, in turn, what better word would describe the anomaly in which military aircraft, scrambling to intercept UFO's, risk counter aggressive maneuvers and possible tragedy. This novel action deserves a name, and while such incidents are not necessarily acts of *formal war*, they might illustrate a "police action"—but certainly not interplanetary bliss. On this point, it seems curious that the USAF, possessing more vital intelligence data than any civilian research group, should continue its policy of UFO interception. Is this policy just a lark, or is there a more cogent reason? It seems to us if the Air Force *knew* saucers were so friendly, they would have long ago called off their jets and sent General Twining not to Russia but to Venus with Adamski to join hands in interplanetary peace.

THE MOSELEY REVELATIONS

Leaving cloud-wrapped Venus and getting down to Earth, we fine, not too surprisingly, that our planet is still very much kleig-lighted as the home base for the *real* saucer. James Moseley, editor of *Saucer News*¹, and one of the arch protagonists of the earth-made saucer theory, chose the lull period to drop his toy time-bomb — loaded with hush-fearing secrets — onto the benighted public. We urge readers to review Moseley's revelations in *Saucer News'* June-July issue, but for the sake of convenience we quote from Lex Mebane's summary of the text, which appeared in the June 24 issue of C.S.I. of New York's *News-Letter*² as follows:

"Unknown to the public, radiative contamination of the earth's atmosphere has reached a very dangerous level, because not only bombs, but also secret non-bombs tests which 'got decidedly out of hand', have been contributing to it. However, there is not only secret contamination, but also *secret decontamination*, going on. This is done by what we know as flying saucers. The type of saucer involved is manufactured and flown from a super-secret underground base in the Southwest, and is sent out all over the world to *mop up atmospheric radiation*. It is powered by an atomic engine which converts atomic energy directly to electricity (a secret discovery) and uses this electricity in some manner to produce 'an entirely new and previously unknown type of propulsion'. There is a special branch of the government that carries out these operations; its existence is known to very few. Project Blue Book's investigators knew nothing of it and never discovered the truth. The radiation 'absorbed' by the saucers is converted to electrical energy and released to the air, 'overloading it with electricity', which accounts for various abnormal weather conditions of recent years. These 'mops' are remotely controlled. They are capable of the silent, super-fast flight in the atmosphere so characteristic of flying saucers: they reduce air friction to a small fraction of the normal by simply ionising the air in front of them. . . . 'I have proof,' Moseley declares, 'but it is of such a nature that I do not feel it advisable to identify it here.'

Mebane's review of the Moseley expose in C.S.I.'s *News-Letter* is rational must-reading. He comments, "...the story as it stands bears the marks of pseudo-science" and he lists seven reasons why. In fairness to Moseley, however, it is entirely possible that he may have stumbled onto some semi-true secret, but his story, which is written so surely as fact, is not entirely new to the writer. Give and take a few details, I heard a very similar story, explaining away saucers, in August of 1954. The information came to me verbally and in quasi-confidence from an official of the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Co. At the time, I was assigned by this official to "supervise" a flying saucer exhibit for public review in the huge lobby of that company.³

When I was first approached by G & E to work up a presentation, the interplanetary theme, which I recommended, was indeed popular and all plans went heartily in that direction. However, in the middle of preparations, the G & E official suddenly changed his views. He told me that he had talked with an officer at Wright-Patterson AFB, but without saying more, intimated that my theme was not advisable, and a new look was quickly enforced. Its theme was, "Flying Saucers . . . Fact of Fantasy." Needless to say, the new theme was dull, disorderly and disappointing, not only to the writer but to the public. However, it was just before the grand opening that I learned of the atomic radiation theory similar to the

¹—P.O. Box 163, Fort Lee, New Jersey.

²—Civilian Saucer Intelligence, 138 West 92nd St., N.Y. 25.

³—See CRIFO Newsletter, August 1954, page two.

main points proffered by Moseley. My informant was the G & E official, and while he was a sincere person and a trusted official, I could not subscribe to this newly advanced theory. To me, at that time, the story was more fantastic than saucers from space, and was hardly in line with the facts as I knew them. Anon, I dismissed the "mop" story as a rumor and perhaps one *subtly planted*. I remember reasoning, that because of G & E's position in Cincinnati, it was probably considered unwise to dramatize saucers as interplanetary . . . especially at a time when saucers were flying rampant over the nation. I still cannot disprove the radiation mop story I heard, nor can I, Moseley's in its entirety . . . but both fail to fit all the known, up-to-date saucer evidence by a wide margin.

SAUCER DESCENDS ON DARK STREET, SCARES YOUTHS

Case 162, Jacksonville, Florida May 9, 1956— This weird story first reached us by letter from Richard Scocchera of Buffalo, N.Y. We believe the incident, being unusual, deserves full review and thus will quote from Scocchera's comments regarding the sighter; the sighter's letter to her father (quoted by Scocchera) and finally a letter received by CRIFO from the sighter whose name is Joan Frost, then residing in Jacksonville. A co-sighter was Miss Gertie Wynn of Jacksonville. Following is Joan's letter to her father:

"Something happened to my girl friend, Gertie, and me last night that scared me out of ten years growth. We went to a dance on the outskirts of Jacksonville by bus. We didn't like it there so we left at 10:15. We were waiting for the bus to go home on this small side street. There was no one around and not too many houses and no cars. We waited until 11:00 or later, and this is what happened. We looked up and saw two stars moving very high. They were flashing on and off following each other. They were traveling across the sky at a terrific rate of speed. We thought at first they were falling stars except they didn't fall, but went out of sight. About 15 minute later, they came back and one went up into the other. It came over towards us and dropped lower and lower until it got just over us. It was round and red and had three lights on it. I started to run down the street and Gertie just stood there with her mouth wide open. The thing didn't make a sound, no engine or motor or anything. Just then the bus came and the object rose again. The door (on the bottom) opened up and the other object came out. The two objects started moving slowly away. There were only a few people on the bus and they and the driver got out. We all watched the objects go for about ten minutes. The bus driver said they couldn't be jet planes because being so low we surely would have heard the jet engines. We knew they weren't jets. Gertie and I shook all night long. We thought we were gonnars for sure. Whatever they were, they saw us standing there. After our experience, we bought two books on flying saucers and are going to study them."

Joan's father is a personal friend and co-worker of Richard Scocchera. Comments Scocchera: "His daughter had never shown much interest in anything pertaining to UFO's. She was a four year honor student in high school and always very serious minded. Mr. Frost has never known her to play pranks or perpetrate a hoax."

Following is Joan's letter to CRIFO, dated June 10: "I received a letter from you on May 25 inquiring about my "saucer" experience. I am sorry I did not reply promptly but I was in the process of preparing to come home here to Buffalo. My girl friend and I did not notify the police or anyone of this incident and as far as I

know, I do not believe the newspapers recorded the sighting. I have no idea of what size the object was as it was very dark and there were no street lights in that area. It was approximately a distance of three telephone poles above us or maybe four. There was no sound and we did not smell anything. However there was a breeze and if an odor was present it very likely could have been carried from us. The door on the bottom appeared to be like a bomb bay, shaped in a long square with only three cracks visible. As it came down toward us, and while in the sky, it appeared to have three white lights which were pulsating. However, as it tipped downward and hovered above us it seemed to be surrounded by an eerie deep red mist of light. That is why at first we thought it was a red hot falling star, but then realized that even though it was descending at a terrific speed, a star or meteor would drop even faster. I do not know any way of contacting the passengers on the bus or their names. The only way you might be able to locate the bus driver is by writing to the Jacksonville Coach Co., and this driver was operating the Lake Shore or number "22" bus at 11:00 on May 9th. You also asked me what kind of object came out of the parent object. This I do not know because when it did drop out both were very high and looked identical. We didn't say anything to anyone because we are young and felt people would just say we were crazy or making up a nice big story. I did write to my dad though because he knows that I am sensible and wouldn't relate anything that wasn't a reality. I didn't know there was such an organization as yours in existence but I think it is a wonderful thing."

MOVIE "UFO" REVEALS NEW EVIDENCE

Many readers have written in suggesting I comment on the late movie, "UFO". While the movie is self-explanatory, the cause for wonderment lies in identifying its true sponsor. Most material used is "old hat" and known to most saucerites, but as we see it, it is not so much the vintage of the cases portrayed as it is the release of new evidence surrounding these cases, notably the Washington D.C. radar episode of 1952. Also of interest is the release of the Tremonton and Montana films, long suppressed from public review. But, no one seems willing to tell how such film was finally extracted from super secrecy, or how and why the facts were disclosed regarding the intelligent maneuver of UFO's in the Washington radar affair. Curious, the writer wrote to the Air Force Press Desk asking many questions. He got this laconic reply, dated June 5, 1956, from Major William James: "I am sorry that the Air Force is unable to comment on the movie "UFO." This movie was not submitted to the Air Force prior to release."

Just as simple as that! But upon seeing the Tremonton film, I find the official explanation for that film not so simple. A letter received from Captain R. C. White, OPI, dated Nov. 17, 1955 read: "No definite analysis of the Tremonton film has ever been made and it is considered as an unknown. However, we think the tiny specks represent migratory birds. It is doubtful that any conclusive determination will ever be made since there is so little to go on."

Those who saw the film should be able to determine for themselves if the specks were birds. According to Capt. Ruppelt's late book, the photographer, Delbert Newhouse, says they were not and CRIFO concurs.

FLYING SAUCERS AND PUBLIC OPINION

"AN OPEN LETTER TO DR. MENZEL: I have always tried to approach the problem objectively, which is more than most scientists do when they insist that saucers are not interplanetary. I too have studied the reported Air Force sightings and have collected hundreds of sightings both military and non-military. My answer to you is that the objects do remain unexplained in my own analysis. There are countless sightings that cannot be accounted for in terms of human achievements or natural (the workings of mechanical nature) events. Within the evidence presented, I believe that I can find a reasonable explanation. Whether it is the correct one I have no way of knowing. Actually, there are few acceptable theories that take the facts into account without embellishment or distortion of data.

"We know that there are unknown meteorological phenomena. Meteorologists, like all of us, have much to learn. We also know that many people are deceived by commonplace phenomena. I cannot be as dogmatic as you in your statement that 'we have never seen an interplanetary vehicle.' I can only say we most likely have seen some. The alternative explanations such as extraterrestrial animals or hazy reflections are more unreasonable to me. This statement does not mean, of course, that extraterrestrial animals or light reflections could not exist. The fact is we may be dealing with something incapable of explanation by the narrow approach of science. We may not have comparable physical structures for points of reference. We may not have broad enough concepts to embrace seeming contradictions to our scientific 'laws.'

"The reported behavior of 'flying saucers', their elusiveness, their ability to dodge, their tremendous speeds and accelerations, are (or could be) the characteristics of advanced intelligence and technology. The fact that they appear to defy our natural laws does not mean that they are defying them. This hypothetical race of space travellers could easily have a more complete knowledge of natural laws and be able to apply the laws more effectively and in ways foreign to our knowledge. There are many conceivable ways that a saucer occupant could be shielded from the stresses science says must rule out intelligent occupants. One very reasonable alternative is the probability that other planets would develop their own unique forms of life. Our visitors could be from a place where their environment has conditioned them to withstand tremendous gravity. It is also reasonable to consider the possibility that the vehicles, if such they be, are engineered to simulate ordinary conditions within the cabin, much as pressurized air liners

do. I fully agree that the postulate of super-charged mirages equipped with intelligence would adequately explain the observed phenomena. So would the postulate of mad scientists plotting to drive us all insane with fiendish illusions, except that mad scientists are out of date and revolutionary meteorological events are on everyone's mind. The trouble with most of the people who have subscribed to the atmospheric optics explanation is that they know nothing about the phenomenon they are attempting to explain in terms of their own narrow outlook—and next to nothing about the many thousands of qualified observers who are capable of recognizing a fact when they see it. Radar certainly is not infallible nor does the case for 'saucers' rest entirely on radar reports. The 'experts' have told us that saucers do not exist, so don't accuse us of appealing to authority. You do not mention the fact that Dr. Tombaugh, who saw the events you dismiss so lightly, apparently does not agree with you that there is a 'natural' explanation.

"One of the greatest difficulties in dealing with flying saucers is that the full story is not openly aired in the news and openly discussed and investigated. 'Flying Saucers' have had their share of hoaxes, as have questions of science, art, religion, and anything humans have undertaken to explain. To these we must add the publicity seekers, the opportunists, the dogmatic deniers, the logically inclined. . . . Worst of all, perhaps, are those who write in an unassailable position of such certainty that the thought they are wrong does not enter into their minds. From a definitely closed position, inform us that 'saucers' could not reasonably be interplanetary vehicles. Better to fit them into our preconceived structures than to admit to a new situation which places earthly science in a subordinate position.

"I suggest, Sir, that you lend your scientific training to a constructive effort at eliminating the false from 'saucer' lore. Eliminate all you can by honest reasoning. Criticize specific instances. Demand evidence. Listen to airline pilots and others who see the objects.—Lend us your discerning eye. If you do, you will be aiding the cause of *Orbit*, not crushing it. *Orbit* reviews theories good and bad, but mostly honest attempts to explain the facts. Apparently our main point of disagreement is the 'facts'. It seems that you believe the Air Force summary which gives the impression that the 'facts' are but vague flashing lights which could be anything including mirages. That impression is manifestly false.

Richard Hall
New Orleans, La.

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VOL. III, No. 5

ULL IS BROKEN . . . SAUCERS ARE BACK

Saucers, operating on a pushbutton, were released to earth in July. So it seemed to CRIFO whose mail and phone suddenly became alive with reports of strange glowing objects and grotesqueries in the sky. First breaking the phone's quiet was news commentator Frank Edwards calling from Indianapolis, July 9. He related a striking incident occurring near Bloomington, Indiana which involved four boys on an early morning fishing venture. According to Edwards the boys were startled by a "tremendously bright light" which hummed over head then stopped over a clump of trees near a railroad switch. The boys ran a mile and a half and told their experience to the sheriff. Same date and also early in the morning, a Joe Morris of Terre Haute was fishing some miles west of Bloomington. He told Edwards that he saw a bright object which he judged to be about 500 ft. high flying from the east. He also heard the humming sound.

Like magic, following Edwards' call, Cincinnati eyes found enchantment in the skies. Starting on July 10, and without let-up, the CRIFO phone jangled with sightings, scuttlebutt and suppositions. Of the latter, some wondered about the nocturnal jets noising overhead; others, if Mars in the early morning sky was a saucer. While the local press turned its head, the renewed activity over other parts of the nation stirred a few newspapers to sober, straight reporting. Anyway, saucers were back and it seemed that the sky-stage was now set and the curtain was drawing, alas . . .

Case 163, Bromley, Ky., July 1 or 2, 1956—The sighters, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Grimes, are not sure of the date, but they are certain they saw a huge glowing object about a quarter the size of the moon shining through their bedroom window about 3 a.m. Both were awakened at the same instant by the intense yellow glow and Mr. Grimes estimated that it was about 30 degrees above the horizon. To him it appeared round and self-luminous. Reassuring himself that he was not being deceived by Mars or a bright star Grimes watched again, same time, the following night, but saw nothing.

Case 164, Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, July 10, 1956—Two Cincinnatians witnessed a circular object "lit up like a lantern" pacing an air transport plane heading for Boone County Airport, Kentucky. They said the object was bigger and brighter than the landing lights shown by the aircraft, and when the plane landed the object continued its course, then swerved and blinked out. Both sighters had been skeptical of saucers, but were changing their minds.

Case 165, Conway, Mass. July 2, 1956—Predating Fourth of July's fireworks, about the same time as the Bromley and Bloomington sightings, was an incident which involved a reversible UFO. The sighter, Jack Pease, thought at first the object was a shooting star or plane, but its behavior proved differently. Said the Greenfield *Recorder-Gazette*: "It appeared to be composed of one bright light and although traveling at what appeared to be a high rate of speed, was able to reverse

its course completely. A low-pitched hum, rather than a whirr was detected. The object crossed and recrossed the sky several times before speeding away." *1

Case 166, Yonkers, N. Y. June 29, 30, July 3, 1956—The *Herald-Statesman* of Yonkers, July 5 said: "Skywatchers report thrilling post-midnight sight. . . . It is of orange color, more nearly red. To one with a 30-power telescope, it appears round, then oval. It was moving at what seemed to be considerable speed. One report is that the phenomenon was noted after 1 a.m. on Saturday. Another report tells of the orange-in-the-sky around the same hour or a little later just ahead of the rainstorm. . . ." While the remainder of the newspaper's item gibbered in ridicule, a letter received from Leo Wiegers of Yonkers, describes his observations in more detail. Said Wiegers:

" . . . I phoned the *Herald-Statesman* and spoke to Oxie Reichler, editor, regarding my sighting on June 29-30. He asked, 'Are you talking about the orange colored thing seen in the sky over Yonkers?' I told that I didn't know anyone else saw anything and not to use my name if he were to write a story. Replied Reichler, 'We got a report that a red ball was seen before 2 a.m. only this morning (July 3). There were others, too. . . .' Wiegers then described his sighting of June 29 as follows: '9:45 p.m., clear evening, no wind. My wife pointed to a round, reddish-orange light to the left of the big dipper. It seemed to glow and was not too sharply defined in outline to the naked eye and emitted no sound. A moment before I had been observing Saturn with my 30x60 mm. Bausch & Lomb Balscope and turned when my wife said, 'Look at that peculiar light.' Quickly swinging the scope around, I first looked with naked eye and saw it standing still and silent. Then sighting it in the scope, it appeared orange, of a flashing brilliance. Suddenly, it began to move north and I soon found it extremely hard to keep in vision due to its accelerating speed. I tracked it for about 13 seconds before it faded from view in the direction of West Point.'

"On June 30, I was alone on the back porch about 10:30 p.m. and saw another object coming from the south. It was going directly overhead. My scope was not properly focused for this object but I recall it was of a silvery-whitish color and oval in shape. This, too, went by very rapidly and silently. I confess I was unprepared, and cannot say what it was—but I'm sure the previous night's UFO was the same type reported by Reichler."

Case 167, Los Angeles, Cal., July 16, 1956—We quote from the *Los Angeles Examiner*, as follows: A mysterious light that glowed brilliantly in the sky before it disappeared in a sudden blaze touched off hundreds of calls to police from residents in the southwestern area. Workers at the control tower at the International Airport estimated the altitude of the strange object at about 2000 ft. They said it emitted a strong reddish glow similar to the red nose light on a Constellation. As seen from the tower, the light moved in a southeasterly direction, about seven or eight degrees above the horizon. The tower couldn't estimate its speed, but said it moved at a blimp-like pace. A check, however, showed there was no blimp or plane in the area at the time. The light was visible for about four minutes from 11:02 p.m., on. Then it suddenly blazoned forth in an orange glow and vanished from sight. *2

*1 Rev. Albert Baller, Greenfield, Mass.

*2 R. J. Tompkins, Los Angeles, Cal.

C. R. I. F. O. ORBIT

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The July *Orbit* was late, but we had our reasons—first set-back was vacation followed by a typesetting delay by the printer, then came the confusion which surrounds a home when one of its members is hospitalized. The patient was Colette, my seven year old daughter, who underwent optical surgery. When *Orbit* was finally printed and delivered to Britton Avenue, July 21st, Dell, taking leave from hospital (while I stood watch) handled the entire mailing alone—a job well done by a dedicated wife! We thank everyone for bearing with us in this delay.

Received is a review copy of *UFO ANNUAL* by M. K. Jessup. The writer highly endorses this book which lists chronologically, sightings and important events in ufology for 1955. Equally absorbing is the author's scholarly opinion, elastic theories and occasionally trenchant comments which garnish the quotative text. The *UFO ANNUAL* is a well-timed sequel to Jessup's previous work, *The Case for the UFO*. 375 pages, price \$4.95, publisher, Citadel.

Something new for the saucer fan. Offered for the first time is a *Flying Saucer Chart* loaded with encyclopedic information. Excellent reference material for the busy saucer student, and recommended for beginners. 22 x 24 in back, white and red. A visual survey of the UFO picture. Shows 136 shapes, over 1400 items. Price \$1.00 Order: Keziah, 916 S. 21st St., Arlington, Virginia.

SAUCER SUNDRIES—Watch for *Orbit* exclusive—new facts on controversial O'Neil Moon Bridge. Supports H. P. Wilkins and Patrick Moore. . . . Buenos Aires (via N.Y. *Daily News*): "Monstrous spacemen reported to have landed in a thousand-foot-long flying cigar on an Andean peak." A mining engineer said he sighted "gigantic human tracks" on the extinct volcano El Macon. While urging Argentinians to keep calm, gendarmes said they had found other traces that might belong to "outsize space cadets" on frozen salt lakes in the Andes. (Credit, Paul Magnificent, Jr., Hartford, Conn.)

Case 168, Kansas, July 19, 1956—Said the *Denver Post* in part: ". . . the Kansas highway patrol reported radar at the Hutchinson, Kansas naval air station had picked up 'a ball of fire traveling east at a high speed.' A B-47 was sent into the air by Forbes AFB at Topeka to investigate the reports, centering around Arkansas City, Wellington and El Dorado, Kansas. The pilot said he found only 'waste gas torches in an oil field.' Said the patrol, 'The objects stayed in the sky long after daylight; one disappeared around 5:15 a.m. and the other a few minutes later.' Further east near Emporia, a Santa Fe railroad tower operator reported seeing what appeared to be an artificial light in the sky around 3 a.m. An Emporia policemen said he observed the same light for about 20 minutes. It appeared to 'come and go' like it was turning off and on. Brian Coyne, city editor of the Arkansas City *Daily Traveler* said 'a brilliantly lighted tear-shaped object with prongs or streams of light spraying downward' was sighted shortly after midnight. A second 'flying object' was sighted around 1 a.m.,' said Coyne. Accompanied by trooper Dick Hadsall and police from Arkansas City, Coyne observed the 'flying objects' from various locations. He said they 'did not appear to move rapidly but did move vertically and horizontally over a wide area of the sky. The prongs or streams of bright light' Coyne said, 'also were observed first as directed towards earth and then extending from the sides of the object.' He described the head of the object as being green in color or 'bluish green.'" *3

Case 169, Cincinnati, 1 a.m. June 17, 1956—The following case was related to CRIFO by Lloyd Kuwatch, member of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society, who vouches for the veracity of the sighters, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tasset. According to Kuwatch, the Tassets awakened, watched the strange object through an open window. At first it was a stationary, silent brilliant spot in the northwest sky, about 15 degrees above the horizon. Then it seemed to move closer, and without declination or swerve, it grew in size. In fullest view, it appeared almost twice the size of the moon, was fiery red and shaped "like a bowl facing downward." Dangling from the bottom were bright red streamers. In view for about 10 minutes, the object then retreated rapidly, became a pinpoint of light, then disappeared. On request of Kuwatch, the Tassets watched the same area the next night, but saw nothing.

Ed: Noted is the dangling red streamers which bears similarity to "streams of light spraying downward" described by Brian Coyne in Case 167. Another point, no other person reported the nondescript object witnessed by the Tassets despite its tremendous size. Such would indicate that the object was *nearby* and not a test flare dropped over the Madison Proving Grounds (Indiana) which lies over 50 miles to the southwest. Distance also rules out Wright-Patterson Field. Surely if such a huge flare had been dropped at those distances, the proverbial switchboards would have been busy and CRIFO would have heard.

3 Robert Wick, Chicago, Ill.; George Wilson, Santa Barbara, Cal.; Thomas Olsen, Baltimore, Md.; C. H. Marck, Jr., Denver, Colo.; Richard Hall, N. O. La.; L. A. Parker, Topeka, Kan. Also see photo July 30 issue, *Life*.

"AIR FORCE PLANE DOWNED BY UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT"

Case 170, In air over Pixley, Cal., July 22, 1956—The above headline quoted from the *Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Colo., typifies others appearing in the nation's press. However, for the story we quote from the San Francisco *Chronicle* as follows: "A Hamilton AFB transport plane survived a 9000 ft. vertical dive and landed safely with three-fourths of its tail elevator missing. The pilot, co-pilot and crew of two all blacked out following a mysterious mid-air incident that no one was able to explain. Major Merwin Stenvers, the pilot, said the C-131D, was cruising at 16,000 ft. over Pixley. 'Suddenly, there was a loud bang, a severe vibration and we went into a dive,' he said. Major Stenvers had the plane under manual control at the time. While he and his co-pilot battled to bring it out of the spin, the two crewmen were scrambling to regain their feet in the cabin. Finally, Stenvers saw the nose begin to come up, averting certain death. But then all four crew members blacked out. When he and his co-pilot, Capt. Robert Marble, came to, the plane was going almost straight up, he said. He guessed the craft had dropped to 7000 ft. before changing direction. Major Stenvers was unable to explain what happened. He said he saw no other planes about him. He thought a faulty port engine had caused trouble and feathered the propeller before landing at Kern County airport at 11:30 a.m. Only when he inspected the plane on the ground did he notice the badly damaged tail section. About 36 square feet of the left elevator was missing. The remaining portion was hanging shredded and torn. There also was a dent about ten inches in diameter under the left stabilizer. The two crewmen suffered minor cuts when they were thrown about the cabin. Major Stenvers and Capt. Marble were questioned by officials from Edwards AFB. All men were or are part of the 2317th Air Transport Squadron at Hamilton AFB."

"According to one UP report: One official said it looked like 'something had struck it from above but we don't know.' Another UP report said: The Air Force ordered tight security measures into effect and stationed guards around the plane at the airport. An AP report said that the sheriff's office investigated a report that another plane had crashed nearby but found no evidence." *4

Ed: Critics will say that this incident is "down the CRIFO alley"—True! While it ranks high on the suspect list, the case is by no means closed. We will await further evidence, and suggest that everyone read between the lines if more is said on the case.

ADDENDUM—As one reader put it, "Now comes the back tracking." In the July 24 edition of the San Francisco *Chronicle* it is said that Air Force investigators discovered that a jammed control device threw the ill-fated plane into a steep dive causing the damage. Said the *Chronicle*, "Earlier theories had the plane under attack from above by everything from a meteor to a flying saucer. . . . Capt. J. R. Smith of Edwards AFB information office said a series of rivets popped and jammed a rod which controlled the plane's elevator servo-tab. The servo-tab is a small control surface which serves a larger movable control. It is a sort of booster which makes the larger control easier to move. 'When the rod jammed the servo-tab flipped up,' said Smith. 'The elevator was forced down and stuck. When that elevator suddenly flipped down, it just pitched him (the pilot) over,' Smith said. 'Guess it would feel like he had flown into a brick wall, just like he said.'

4 John B'em, Danville, Cal.; C. H. Marck, Jr., Denver, Colo.; George Cicharz, St. Louis Park, Minn.; N. Cuandra, Oakland, Cal.; Arthur Rounds, Brentwood, Mo.; James Geer, Tiburon, Cal.; Geo Ormorod, Phoenix, Ariz.; H. G. Rovner, Phila, Pa.

Continued the *Chronicle*: The plane recovered so sharply from the dive that the pilot blacked out. 'During the recovery from the dive, it was necessary to make a quicker pull-up than normal,' the Air Force said. 'This resulted in stresses and strains which were far in excess of the allowable limit on the aircraft.' The stress of the pullout peeled off a section of the elevator one foot wide and five feet long." *5

HUSH HUSH HONG KONG STYLE

Case 171, Hong Kong, China, November 28, 1955—A letter addressed to the editor of the *South China Morning Post* gave an account of a strange light and a jet cavorting over Hong Kong. It reads as follows:

"On Monday, Nov. 28, at 9:40-48 a.m., another person and I witnessed a bright light about a few thousand feet over Lyemun Pass, too bright to be a reflection of any kind but a source in itself. First when I saw it, it was a line, bulging at the middle, the length of which was greater than a passenger aircraft. It appeared to remain stationary until a Meteor jet took off from Kai Tak airfield and flew towards it, seemingly in pursuit. Then the light gradually became a disc, still brighter than before, moved westward slowly as it diminished in size, indicating that it was actually on a southwesterly course. Now, viewing from Kai Tak, the light appeared to be over Shau-ki-wan, whence it went on a southeasterly direction, still diminishing in size and intensity of brightness, until it gradually disappeared over Lyemun Pass. All the while the light was changing at irregular intervals from a bulging line into a brighter white disc and vice-versa, and the surrounding mist was illuminated producing a mysterious effect. Meanwhile the jet had disappeared because of its distance, only to reappear a few minutes later and landed.

"Now I am quite certain that the bright light was neither a vision nor anything else but some kind of 'flying saucer' reportedly seen elsewhere. But I am indeed surprised that such a conspicuous sight could be seen, excluding us, by none or so few that the matter did not go into the newspaper, and that is why I did not write until now, having expected that the press got news of it. Didn't anyone else see it? Surely the pilot who flew the Meteor jet must have seen it directly in front?"

Ed: According to my Thailand correspondent, an editorial note dismissed the story with an Occidental excuse—meteorological balloon. Please!

FLYING SAUCERS AND PUBLIC OPINION

"About ten days ago a friend of mine at WFBR informed me that Major Keyhoe would give a talk at the Enoch Pratt Library on July 11. This past Monday when I called the library I was informed that the occasion would be 'Awards Presentation Night' for the Ground Observer Corps (GOC). Enclosed is the official program. Note that Major Keyhoe 'author of several books' is listed as a speaker. At the meeting Major Keyhoe spoke for forty minutes. He prefaced his remarks by saying that it must be puzzling to many GOC personnel who have sighted UFO's and reported them to later learn that as far as the Air Force was concerned nothing had happened. He cited one instance in a mid-Western city where four UFO's estimated as being 500 feet in diameter were seen circling over the city. The Filter Center was alerted, jets scrambled up to intercept them and the whole thing was pretty obvious to a lot of citizens—yet the Air Force took the attitude 'nothing happened'.

"The Major then went on to explain about the two highly secret reports which were made by scientific groups assigned to investigate UFO's in 1947 and 1948. He mentioned that both of these reports were suppressed. He went further to explain the apparent ambivalence on the part of the Air Force where one high officer laughed off UFO's and the next man claimed they were some seemingly extraterrestrial craft. In a word he touched on the whole fantastic policy of the government in re UFO's during the past nine years. The Major wound up his report by telling about his experience when he submitted 12 questions to his senator (Byrd, Democrat, Va.). These were apparently forwarded to an Air Force colonel who acts as liaison officer between the Senate and the Air Force. (Ed: Answer to Sen. Byrd came from Joe W. Kelly, Major General, USAF.) This officer, apparently picked for his ability to double-talk, failed to even touch on any one of the questions in his reply. The Major cautioned the GOC not to reveal any sightings of UFO's to unauthorized people. He said that many

5 John Blemer, Danville, Cal.

wrote him but that he never used this material although it was of great interest. The Major said further that many Air Force officers and commercial airline pilots had observed UFO's and did not agree with the current policy of double-talk adopted by Secretary Quarles. Major Keyhoe advised all citizens who had an interest in democratic government to write their political representatives in Congress and insist on release of the two suppressed reports. . . . There was no mention of Major Keyhoe's address in the Baltimore Sun. Some weeks ago, however, a small group here, which is interested in UFO's and kindred phenomena had a woman speak at their monthly meeting. This lady, from the Pacific coast, claimed to have taped conversations with people from UFO's. The Sun played this real big—with all kinds of facetious references to the 'thirty-third dimension', hypnotism and other sneering remarks about UFO's. In a word, the paper played up anything that would discredit UFO's and completely ignored Keyhoe's speech before a group of dedicated public servants and Air Force officers."

—Charles A. Seibold, Jr.
Pikesville, Md.

Ed: Two days later a follow-up letter was received from Seibold which reads as follows: ". . . In the Evening Sun for July 12, there appeared the enclosed item. It is clipped from a humor column titled Mr. Peep's Diary which includes various light or trivial items, occasionally humorous. I think the cartoon accompanying the Keyhoe item explains what I mean. . . . So the Sun did not actually ignore Keyhoe but it sort of damned him with faint praise. Nothing was said about Keyhoe's suggestion that all interested citizens write their Congressmen. . . . You can see the whole thing has been played up as sort of 'space cadet' gag."

"UFO's making renewed appearances in Southern theatre. Four separate parties in Wellington (one party in Nelson with ex-air force officer) sighted three cigar-shaped objects flying in formation . . . objects clearly defined, dark in color giving off bright glow in daylight sky. Sighted at 4:30 p.m. Wellington, flying south: sighted 5:54 p.m. Nelson, flying north in line formation. Orange colored discs also reported other Nelson observers. These reports made 30th June, 1956. Press reported . . . Sightings of silvery discs in daylight sky giving off bright light over Sydney 19th June and 6th July. Failed to locate reports RAAF. Tremendous aerial explosions rocked Melbourne on June 29 at 3 p.m. Shocks felt over 60 mile arc. People knocked to ground, windows broken, brick wall collapses. RAAF admits Sabre airborne on test flight might have broken sound barrier, but there were a number of following explosions... Dunedin (N. Z.) residents report watching a bright green ball, tennis size, appear on the western horizon. It moved eastwards across the sky gradually enlarging to football dimensions and at the same time changing color to orange. Another strange light was seen to cross the sky leaving a multi-color trail at 10:30 p.m. . . .

Traveling rather slowly, a brilliant red ball of fire moved across the sky at 6:10 p.m. on June 24. Two observers stated, 'largest and brightest' they had ever seen. A Flight Sergeant friend of mine at Whenuapai, technician, witnessed this sight also. Was much impressed, seen nothing like it before. . . . On June 10, received details of sighting (near Auckland) and subsequently interviewed the sighter (Airman B.L. Lovelock). Consider his observation genuine, appears to be person of good calibre. Lovelock was extremely scared by what he sighted. It was raining heavily and blowing hard at time of observation. The object appeared to be rather close to the observer. Guess your news to come will report likewise renewed activity from the U.S. theatre."

—Harold H. Fulton, Pres.
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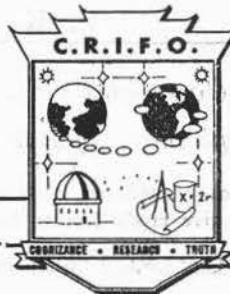
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SAUCER SIGHTINGS MOUNT AS MARS SWINGS CLOSE

Mars winking in the Southern skies and saucers appearing in the skies everywhere highlighted late July and August. Reports of both sharply increased over early July, but saucers were statistically far ahead and the bulk of these sightings was generally good. Locally they were approaching the tempest of August 1955—minus one corollary, the “little men.” To give the reader the fullest possible coverage of recent events, we shall dispense with further commentary. In brief, here’s the run-down:

Case 172, Washington, Indiana, July 10, 1956—Frank Edwards of WTTV, Indianapolis sent CRIFO the following item which appeared in the *Washington Daily Times*. The observers have withheld their identity for “obvious reasons”. We quote thus: “It all started at 3:40 a.m. when I sneezed and awoke from a deep slumber. As I opened my eyes and looked out of the window I saw this bright, star-like object moving in a due east direction. Suddenly it stopped dead still. I awakened my wife. I pointed it out to her by aligning it directly above a neighbor’s chimney. The object had a bluish cast and appeared to pulsate—it was brighter than most stars. . . . I focused binoculars on the object and made it out quite clearly. It consisted of eight lights. One bright light in the hub with two smaller one on each side of the hub in all four directions of the compass. Then there were two smaller lights, one spaced to the northeast of the hub and one to the southwest. The center light was brighter than the rest and emitted a pulsating light that would change from red to blue and blue to red. All the lights would pulsate in unison, causing a twinkling effect although all of the other lights except the hub remained bluish. Finally it started moving again toward the east, made a semi-circle and stopped motionless again. The sky was getting brighter and the stars disappeared, but the object remained as clear as before. At 5:15 a.m. the object began to climb higher and higher and moved off in a southeasterly direction.”

Case 173, Gary, Indiana, July 14, 1956—Said the *Gary Post Tribune* in part: “. . . The brilliant stranger appeared high in the southeastern sky, was visible for more than an hour and then moved into ‘the infinity’ of the south. . . . Five substantial citizens of Gary saw it and were ‘enthralled and amazed.’ According to the *Post Tribune* one of the sighters, August Barnett said it was like a beautiful jewel. He described it as big as a full moon and that it seemed to have a bright white light in its center. He added, “the outer edges could have been dotted with rubies it was so brilliant.” At 12:45 a.m. (Saturday) Barnett called the civil defense director, Bud Bardowski, and told him to look. According to the *Post Tribune*, Bardowski saw it too and reported it to the Air Defense Command at Truax Field.¹

Ed: The *Post Tribune* depicted an artist’s conception of the “jewel” over Gary and there is striking similarity to object witnessed in Case 172, which was also sketched and presented in the *Washington Daily Times*. Both Barnett and Bardowski used binoculars.

Case 174, San Bernardino, Cal., July 19, ’56—In San Bernardino readers of the *Daily Sun* got an eyeful; in four columns was the story and a large photo of a saucer. AP carried a wirephoto which was printed in the *Los Angeles Daily Mirror* and *The Times*. Briefly, the story is centered around one Michael Savage, 15-year old son of a doctor. According to the *Daily Sun*, Michael’s story ran like this: “. . . I was lying on the grass in my backyard about to take a picture when a movement caught my eye. I turned to see it and saw a disk-shaped object not far away which was receding rapidly. Immediately on seeing it, I turned my camera and took a quick shot at it because of its strange shape. After taking the picture I tried to watch the object and crank my film at the same time. The result was that I overcranked the film and the next shot turned out to be a blank. The object did not disappear over the horizon, but seemed to shrink or dwindle as it disappeared. It was gone within 30 seconds after I spotted it.”²

Ed: Officers at George AFB expressed interest in the photo and wanted to see negatives. Of interest also is the fact that the photo was taken on the same date as sightings over Kansas. (See Case 168, *Orbit*, August, 1956.)

Case 175, San Joaquin Valley, Cal., July 22, ’56—Said the *Los Angeles Evening Herald Express*: “Authorities listed as ‘flying saucer’ stories reports of two mysterious flying objects over San Joaquin Valley. Investigators failed to find any trace of the craft which a woman near Fresno described as an oval object emitting a greenish light from its tail. A Tulare county resident said he saw a similar jet-like craft crash and explode near Pixley.”³ Both incidents took place about 5:30 a.m., a little more than five hours before the “collision” between a C-131D and “unknown object” over Pixley. (See Case 170, *Orbit*, August, 1956.)

Case 176, Sierra region, Cal., July 22, ’56—Also pertinent is another report written in to CRIFO by Miss Jane Purcell of Fresno. She writes, in part, “. . . A friend, Miss Imogene Okes, and I were camping out at Lake Mary, a spot of 9000 feet altitude in the Mammoth Lakes Region in the Higher Sierra country. At approximately 5:45 the next morning (July 22) Miss Okes, unable to sleep, was looking at the sky. . . . In the northwest sky she saw a ball of light followed by a short pointed tail. The colors, she said, were similar to those of a bunsen burner and were arranged in the following manner: first the blue ball which faded into green, then yellow green, then yellow, then orange and lastly diminishing into a trail of red sparks—the whole taking the shape of a cone with the axis in a roughly horizontal position. . . . It was in view for about 3 or 4 seconds traveling from east to west. . . .”

² Ernie Ratliff, Fontana, Calif.; George C. Wilson, Santa Barbara, Calif.; Mrs. I. E. Epperson, Los Angeles.

³ Mrs. I. E. Epperson; Melvin G. Neeley, Sacramento, Calif.; Jane Purcell, Fresno, Calif.; George Lew, Los Angeles; Viviane Machu, Los Angeles.

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Following is the text of a recent newscast as announced by Ben Shirley of radio station, WSMB, New Orleans. A copy of the transcript was procured by Richard Hall and sent to CRIFO with permission for publication. We quote from it as follows: "This is Ben Shirley at News Headquarters of the Air Force Association Convention in the Roosevelt Hotel. Dramatic news which could affect the lives of every man, woman and child on this earth has been given exclusively to WSMB and this reporter. The basic story revolves around two of the most publicized events in the history of this or any other nation: Flying Saucers and the Earth Satellite Program. . . . For years, hundreds and thousands of reports of so-called flying saucers have been studied, analyzed, and reviewed by the U.S. Air Force ,and by top scientists both in this country, and abroad. As you know, some 30 or more countries are taking part in what is technically known as Project Vanguard. . . . That project is the launching of those 20-inch globes into outer space next year by this country, as a part of its participation in the Geophysical Year. Now, here is the meat of this exclusive report to New Orleans and the world: WSMB had been told by some of the highest ranking government officials in this country that the Air Force, in spite of claims to the contrary, is vitally concerned about flying saucers. Publicly, the Air Force *has never denied* that these flying saucers could be space ships from other planets. Next year, when those earth satellites are shot out beyond the earth's atmosphere, at least two, and possibly more of them, will be equipped with special electronic instruments which will be used to study flying saucers when they are observed. This has never before been told to the American people. But, the top scientists of this and other countries are convinced that flying saucers are not merely the results of somebody's imagination, or having too many highballs. They are *convinced*, even though no public announcement has been made, that the earth is under constant surveillance by these vessels from outer space, and it is for this reason that at least two of those multi-million dollar earth satellites will be especially equipped to study the so-called saucers. . . . It all boils down to this: While this and other governments are officially ridiculing flying saucers, they are secretly doing everything possible to study the space ships. . . . This is Ben Shirley, returning you now to your studios. . . ."

Case 177, Cadillac, Mich., July 28, 1956—"A brilliant white light" was reported in the sky by tourists and police, but air force radar and interceptors could find nothing. According to the Detroit Free Press, the first report on the object was made by Willard Wood at 3:30 a.m. "At first I thought it was a plane so I stopped my car and got out hoping to hear the motors—but I didn't hear anything," said Wood. He said the light looked like a clear glass light bulb. He then went to the Cadillac Police station and reported it. Two officers, John Langley and Merrill Taylor, were sent out to look. Langley said the object approached and withdrew several times and as night faded and stars disappeared, it seemed to grow brighter. "Suddenly it faded right out in the matter of a few minutes," Langley said. Taylor said there was no doubt in his mind that it was not a star. Wood said that he saw occasional red flashes in the intense white light. He said the light approached as close as 300 feet from the ground. The object was also seen near Bad Axe, Mich., according to the port Huron Times-Herald. Three Detroit men driving into the "Thumb" area stopped at the State Police post and reported a "brilliant" object to Trooper Calvin Glassford. Said Glassford, "When I looked at it with the men, it was shining steadily although they told me that the light was on and off as they drove from Marlette to Bad Axe."⁴

Case 178, between Port Austin and Bad Axe, Mich., July 30, 1956—We quote from The Saginaw News, in part: Huron County Deputy Sheriff Fred Cubernuss and William Gravlin, announcer for station WLEW, Bad Axe, reported seeing a luminous object about 500 ft. in the air, traveling very fast. Both men, traveling together, said the object was visible for about 10 to 15 seconds. Cubernuss said later that the Sheriff's office had received two reports of other strange lights at 9:05 and 9:35 p.m., moving in a southerly direction. Earlier reports were received of a large rapidly moving colored light spotted in Saginaw, Gratiot, Midland and Clare Counties. The Burt GOC reported the light shortly after midnight. The object was described as red, white and blue, moving rapidly. A State Police trooper said the light was too large and moved too fast to be an airplane. Air Force F-89's flew to the area to search at 1:53 a.m., but did not report finding any objects.⁵

Case 179, Brentwood, Cal., July 28, 1956—The Oakland Tribune reported that a three hour search failed to solve the mystery of a "sparkling green light" which appeared to land in an orchard. Six residents and an Oakland visitor reported to the sheriff's deputy that at 9:55 p.m. Saturday they saw a "green flash going through the sky and then fall or land in the orchard. Television reception was reported temporarily interrupted at that approximate time. Four sheriff's deputies and several reserve officers searched a square mile area at the "landing spot" but found nothing. Officials at Oakland Airport and Hamilton and Travis AFB's said they knew of no planes in the Brentwood sky at the time.⁶

Case 180, Greenfield, Mass., Aug. 1, 1956—The following report is related by its investigator, Rev. Albert Baller: "Mr. George Kendrick awoke at about 2 a.m. From his bed he could see through a window to the East. His attention was drawn to an extremely bright orange 'star' of enormous size which hung about 10 degrees above the horizon. He awakened Mrs. Kendrick who went outdoors to get an unobstructed view of it. She gives its apparent

⁴ Jane Merino, Byron, Illinois; William Witkosky, Detroit; Arthur Rounds, Brentwood, Mo.; Leonard Bulkow, Sheboygan, Wisc.; William Gatz, Saginaw, Michigan.

⁵ William Witkosky; Mrs. Elaine Smirnow, Detroit; William Gatz.

⁶ John Blemer, Danville, Calif.

size as 'about half the size of the full moon' and its color 'a deep orange.' Not noticed at first, but later in her two hours of observation, was a 'narrow, rope-like beam of light' which emerged from one side of the disc and extended vertically for 'considerable distance'. Also, after watching this object for a short while she noted another object (not clearly visible at first, because of the brilliance of object No. 1) which was a short distance in front of the disc and of a dull, silver color. Also, this second object, which looked 'like a large silver peanut standing on end', showed a rather irregular contour and its edges were not sharply defined as with the disc. After watching this spectacle for a time, Mrs. Kendrick reports that a new development took place. Suddenly the bright orange disc began to 'spit out tiny white stars' which began to fly every which way over Greenfield. They flew with no obvious pattern, sometimes one alone, sometimes two or three together in a 'crazy series of maneuvers'. She counted them as they appeared and found that there were eight. When Mrs. Kendrick looked again at the disc at about 4 a.m., these smaller star-like objects were no longer apparent.⁷

Case 181, East Hartford, Conn., Aug. 8, 1956—Five objects emanating a pinkish glow in the sky between 9:30 and 10:10 p.m. were reported by Mrs. Mary Calaci to the local press. She said that she and three others watched the unidentified objects from her lawn. One was headed north, one northeast, one south and one west. Another object followed the one heading west with a flashing white light. All objects appeared round, she said. Another object was seen by a retired city fireman, who said that he saw an "oblong aluminum-colored" object about 8 p.m. He said that it appeared to be going at least four times as fast as any jet plane he had ever seen. "It wasn't a plane, I'm sure of that" he said, "And yet it wasn't a reflection. It was a solid, with a sort of a smoky crown around it."⁸

Case 182, Ipswich, Mass., Aug. 7, 9, 10, 1956—Mysterious lights were first seen by Edwin Damon and Russell Green Tuesday night. The lights reappeared more brilliantly on Thursday when the skywatchers were joined by two more neighbors. Green who watched till 2:45 a.m. Friday said that it was a ball of light, very bright. He said that it changed shape from a disc to a crescent and faded away only to return. He described it as moving slowly from right to left and up and down. Following it with binoculars Green said that it appeared to have a nimbus or colored light around it. Civil Defense said that radar had been involved in the sightings and that the results were being scrutinized at top headquarters of the Eastern Air Defense Command. Temperature invasion was considered as an explanation.⁹

Case 183, Tarrytown, N.Y., Aug. 9, 1956—At 12:15 police headquarters received a phone call from Walter Kocher who saw a mysterious light in the sky. Sgt. Fin-tan Maegerle was dispatched by radio to investigate. He confirmed the report together with two other officers. Sgt. Maegerle, a World War II pilot who holds a commercial license, described the light as yellowish, and "five to eight times the size of any star in the sky." He could not estimate its altitude, but said it was moving in jerks in a generally southeasterly direction. In his flying experience he had seen nothing like it. . . . About 1:30 a.m., the light disappeared.⁹

Case 184, Durango, Colo., Aug. 8, 1956—A Durango weatherman, Malcolm Dayton, who watched a mysterious object for nearly an hour through powerful binoculars, described it as a bluish-red, football-like craft which finally left the scene at phenomenal speed. "Whatever it was", said Dayton to the *Rocky Mountain News*, "—it was nothing of any natural phenomenon." Dayton said the object—shaped like a "football with one side pushed in"—gave off a constant blue-red radiation and was occasionally obscured by a steamlike haze. After changing position several times the device moved away swiftly, "going completely out of range in four or five seconds." Said the weatherman, "From its movements it seemed to be controlled."¹⁰

Case 185, Denver, Colo., Aug. 12, 1956—Mrs. Mary McCaffrey and son were gazing west from the window of their room on the eighth floor of the Cosmopolitan Hotel when they saw the saucer move east from the mountains. "It was bigger than the largest airplane and the edges were clearly defined," she told the *Rock Mountain News*. "It had blazing white lights and we could see it plainly. It stopped fairly low in the sky and remained stationary for several minutes. Then it moved west in the same path as it approached." On the same night mysterious lights floating in the sky over and near Aurora had residents in a quandary. Callers jammed the switchboards of the *News*, the Police Dept., and Lowry AFB. Police Sgt. Jim Mullins said there appeared to be three white lights which floated and bobbed in the northeast. He said they looked like they were suspended from balloons. Other observers said the lights changed colors.¹¹

Case 186, Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 11, 1956—Said the Pittsburgh *Sun-Telegraph*: "Mrs. Florence Stauffer reported watching a 'bright steel-gray ship' for more than two hours on Saturday morning. She said, 'I don't imagine things. I really saw this thing.' Said Mrs. Stauffer, 'it apparently came from the direction of East Liberty, hovered about for two hours and then disappeared in a westerly direction. The object was circular and real bright.'¹²

Case 187, Parkersburg, W. Va., Aug. 12, 1956—According to the Parkersburg *Sentinel* the UFO was seen at 9:30 p.m. by reliable observers. A *Sentinel* reporter and his family had a 15-second view before the mystery object disappeared. The object looked round with an "orange-silver" color considerably brighter than the stars. Size and altitude could not be determined. It appeared to be traveling at a high rate of speed and made weird, un-aircraft-like movements. There was no sound. The observer said it came from the north and looked like a shooting star at first. Then it darted to one side and went east at a high rate of speed. A request by the *Sentinel* asking for verification of the sighting brought results. Said the newspaper, "At least three residents reported seeing the mysterious aerial object." All three witnesses said the object looked round and appeared to be "orange-silver" in color. One observer said at first she thought it was the moon, but saw it moving very fast. Still later reports confirming the object came from Vienna, Belpre, Williamstown and Harrisville.¹³

Case 188, Cortland and Ithaca, N.Y., August 14, 1956—In a letter to CRIFO, Lynn Strauff writes in part, "Around 2 a.m. a very clear night my brother, age 11 and myself, age 27 were on a hill overlooking Cortland and at a point which should put Cortland in the southwest. We saw two faint reddish objects move slowly from the south, about a half hour apart. There was no sound or blinking lights from the unknowns except one flicked off its lights for a

⁷ Paul Magnificent, Hartford, Conn.; Rev. Albert Baller, Greenfield, Mass.

⁸ Mrs. Adele Robertson, Ipswich, Mass.

⁹ Leo Wiegers, Yonkers, New York.

¹⁰ C. D. Marck, Denver, Colo.

¹¹ C. D. Marck, Denver, Colo.

¹² John P. Bessor and Wm. McCandless, Pittsburgh.

¹³ Raymond Angier, Marietta, Ohio.

matter of seconds and then came on brighter than before, then it moved out of visual sight. The climax came at 3:30 a.m. when my brother and I started home. All of a sudden we saw six lights in a long line spread apart. We saw them move into this formation and then start to move slowly toward Ithaca. These six lights were much brighter than our earlier observations. They looked like stars, but every so often one would move closer to the next one to it. Unless anyone were watching the sky as we were these lights could easily be mistaken for a formation of stars, but we know they were not. I'll swear to it! This sight certainly puts a different light on saucers for me."

Ed: A possible tie-in to Case 188 is a report from West Hartford. Said an item in the *Hartford Times*: "A ground observer and four residents spotted white lights heading west shortly after 9 p.m.¹⁴ In a later letter Strauff said that the line of lights seemed to bend once in a while. He added that there seemed to be intelligence behind the lights.

Case 189, Cincinnati, O., Aug. 15, 1956—Bill Jones, amateur astronomer, with witness while fishing on lake in Blue Ash north of Cincinnati saw two distinct UFO's. Time was about 6 p.m., the sky, deep blue, visibility limited. Said Jones, there was unusual plane activity, suddenly one distinct object caught his eye about 30 degrees off the east horizon. The object was "extremely bright, like polished metal and was without shape, like a blob." As it moved speedily through the sky, going south, it assumed the appearance more like "an arc welder's torch, almost bluish white." At no time could Jones see wings or any appendages, nor did the object make sound. While watching the object Jones then saw another similar object come in view in the west about 30 degrees off horizon. It also looked like an arc welder's torch and made no sound. Both objects disappeared into infinity and Jones was sure they were not jets. Confirming Jones, CRIFO later learned that the same object (one of them) was seen soaring over Cold Springs, Ky., at about the

¹⁴ Paul Magnificent, Hartford, Conn.

same time. Object was heading south, making no sound and looking like "an arc welder's torch."

THE U. F. O. AND YOU BY RICHARD HALL

(Editor's note: I have long respected the critical and fact-searching letters written by Richard Hall. To CRIFO he has contributed enormously, not only massive clippings, but with bits of integral information that he obtained through his prolific letter writing. While Hall is a boon to saucer research he is also impartial and has often criticized Orbit on blunders in spelling to poor selection of material . . . but down deep, Hall is essentially pro-saucer, pro-Orbit and a protagonist of truth. Hall asked me for the opportunity to express his views in Orbit through a column and I feel that he deserves recognition. His views are entirely his own and may or may not coincide with those of my own. For this issue Hall writes on a topical subject.)

In September, several groups will be watching the closest possible approach of Mars. For astronomers, Mars will be in the best position for observation since the last favorable opposition in 1941. In 1954, striking changes on the surface of Mars were observed and photographed by astronomers. Most obvious was an independent new green marking covering an area of about 200,000 square miles. The marking is considered the greatest change since the first surface map of Mars was drawn some 125 years ago. It is thought to be vegetation which has developed noticeably in the past years. Faint atmospheric belts, and icy blue cirrus-like clouds were seen. Photographs confirmed the existence of the controversial canals, which gave the appearance of being vegetation along the water.

Early in 1954, scientists announced their intention of determining whether the canals lay in "great circle paths" (i.e. the shortest distance between two points on a curved surface). Such a finding, they said, would suggest that the canals were artificial. Presumably findings were inconclusive, for the promised immediate announcement never came. This question may be resolved in 1956. Heretofore, Mars has been considered a desert planet with only occasional oases. The new findings indicate enough water to support huge areas of plant life. In 1956, scientific observations are certain to augment knowledge of the Martian surface. The likelihood of intelligent life on Mars will be weighed. UFO investigators should examine all reports by the Mars expeditions and watch for comments on the canals. Mars is generally considered the most likely abode of life, as we know it, within our solar system.

Orbit readers with some scientific or literary training will find local newspaper editors receptive to intelligent letters on UFO's. Unless intelligent people act, the fringe groups will continue to dominate the field, causing scientists to remain silent. Address criticisms to 721 Burdette St., New Orleans 18, La.

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THE GREAT SAUCER BOOM — A Preliminary Report, U.S.A.

We're swamped! Never has the CRIFO desk been so amassed with saucer reports. So, the less we say editorially in *Orbit*, the more reports we can squeeze in. Most describe unidentifiable aerial objects; others are "Mebanical"¹—having probable astronomical explanations—while one, described as "cometary", may well be truly a saucer! In this latter instance we refer to Dr. Tsuneo Saeki, Japanese astronomer, who, while observing Mars, sighted a bright object which he believed to be a comet visiting that planet. Other astronomers, unnamed in the news release, expressed doubt about its being a comet.² Curious, we ask: If not a comet, was the object a saucer from Mars, or, a saucer visiting Mars, and if the latter, from where? But, while we must wait for the answer, let's review the saucer boom closer to home. . . .

Case 190, Cuyahoga, Falls, Ohio, 10:15 p.m., July 24, 1956—Sighter Paul Hanson writes: "Object first appeared about 20 degrees up in NW sky. It moved directly overhead then directly into the moon from which it did not appear again. Speed was constant. To naked eye the object was bluish-white. Through 7 power glasses it had a definite orange color. Brightness comparable to first magnitude star. Minute later, a jet plane traversed the sky on the same course as the unknown. It was also lost in the full moon but it emerged below the moon and disappeared on the horizon. To the naked eye the jet was blue-white, the same as the unknown but in contrast to the unknown it was also blue-white through the glasses."

Case 191, Provo, Utah, July 25, 1956—We quote from the *Deseret News and Telegraph*: "Reports of a 'strange streak of light and a flare-up' at the crest of Mt. Timpanogos touched off aerial and ground searches. CAP searchers could find no trace of any crashed plane. No aircraft were reported missing. It was presumed the nocturnal fireworks were caused by a meteorite. Search craft returned with reports of a fresh rock-slide near the north end of the mountain. The CAP sent its plane into the air in an effort to trace reports from three residents of American Fork who saw a streak of light followed by a 'flare-up'. The flare appeared to be over the crest of the mountain on the east side away from American Fork. They said the fire lit the sky at the top of the mountain. One said it appeared to be a meteor which struck and then bounced. . . . Capt. Verg Collins of the CAP said the search found no traces of the flaming object."³

Case 192, Plymouth, Mass., July 26, 1956—According to a brief item in the *Concord Monitor*, two Ground Observers Corps spotters reported seeing an unidentified flying object which was bright yellow and left a trail similar to a jet. One observer said the object appeared to be moving slowly and made no sound.⁴

Case 193, North Windham, Maine, Aug. 14, 1956—A brief item appearing on the front page of the Hartford

Times, said, Attorney Hyman Jacobson and Dr. William Mac Vane of Portland reported seeing a "shining silver" object whip through the sky in the afternoon over little Sebago Lake. . . .⁵

Case 194, Willsboro, N.Y., Aug. 15 (and earlier) 1956—At least a score of Essex Court residents contend they have seen a UFO hovering over Lake Champlain. Mark Berman, one of the witnesses, describes what he saw: "It was a round, basketball-like object that glowed with an orange color. It appeared to bob around in the sky with a weaving motion." He said he had sighted the object three times at about 10 p.m., the most recent observation on August 15. Other summertime residents said they had seen the "round glow" four times earlier in the month, three of them on consecutive nights. One witness said the light cast from the object was bright enough to form a golden-hued path on the surface of the lake.⁶

Case 195, Santa Monica, Cal., Aug. 16, 1956—At 1:42 a.m. two police officers saw a ball of white light, with some orange in it, floating overhead. It looked as if it were being turned on and off, they said. Said the Los Angeles *Examiner*, fifteen minutes later, the police received another call, reporting a similar light.⁷

Case 196, Los Angeles, Cal., Aug. 21, 1956—A letter from Viviane Machu relates: "My father saw a ball of fire traveling across the sky at about 8:15 p.m., in a straight horizontal course. After his report, my cousin and I went out on balcony to look, and in 45 minutes, having seen nothing we went to bed. Five minutes later we saw a fireball and rushing outside we were in time to see it completely reverse direction without turning or stopping. It was heading north one moment, and the next, it was heading south. It accelerated more going south and went over a plane that was coming in. It passed the plane, changed directions again and got over the plane. The next moment, both the ball of fire and the plane vanished. I noticed that a much smaller ball of fire followed the plane, and two others were underneath it. My cousin said she didn't notice this."

Ed: The L.A. *Times* reported "other flying stuff" for the same evening. Police reports said folks saw an orange-red object close to the edge of the moon about 9:30 p.m. Others saw an associated object of elongated shape, which appeared to be bathed in the glare of spotlights and to be going up and down like an elevator. Valley Division police reported a flurry of calls concerning a "missile" seen cruising across San Fernando Valley skies. Of concern to the writer is what Viviane meant when she said the plane vanished. Our guess is that it disappeared into horizon rather than into the fireball.

Case 197, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Aug. 21, 1956—For twenty minutes, six vacationers watched three strange objects cavorting over the Atlantic Ocean. First in view, as seen from the beach, were two brilliant white lights which, according to one witness, seemed to be playing

¹ Named after Alexander Mebane of CSI, N.Y., whose painstaking investigation and analysis of many UFO reports show that a large percentage of them may be misinterpretations of astronomical bodies, i.e., Mars, Venus, stars, meteors, bolides, etc.

² Richard Hall, N.O., La.; Max Miller, editor of *Saucers*.

³ Mrs. R. S. Richardson, Salt Lake City.

⁴ Robert Heath, Concord, N.H.

⁵ Paul Magnificent, Hartford, Conn.

⁶ Charles Smith, Albany, N.Y.; Mrs. Earl Spencer, Elizabethtown, N.Y.

⁷ R. J. Tompkins, L. A., Calif.

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In this issue of *Orbit* we had hoped to include contemporaneous UFO sightings from overseas—but, lack of space cancelled them out. Fact is, many U.S. reports were likewise omitted. We hope, rather than promise, to publish some of these foreign reports in the November *Orbit*. Indeed, among the many are some excellent reports, some leaving little margin for mechanical analysis. Unusually heavy, were the clippings received from Harold Fulton, of CSI, New Zealand, which describe UFO's in the SW Pacific theatre. And, from Horacio Gonzales, of Venezuela, we received another impressive collection—and with a promise of more to come. Cuba has also contributed to the recent saucer boom, according to word received from our correspondent, Cesar Perez Villar.

Recently we promised news concerning our moon. Well, this news, in the form of a written report describing the moonbridge, has not yet arrived. We do, however, plan a special "Moon" issue for the future, which will include several items of interest, and, we hope the "moonbridge" story. Also, we will talk about Dr. H. P. Wilkins' forming the International Lunar Society—which promises to publish all known facts about the moon. Apparently, the public has been told little. . . .

Visiting the writer's home, Aug. 25 to Sept. 2, was Ted Bloecher, Research Director of CSI, N.Y. Ted, inspired by the Hopkinsville "little men" findings by associate Isabel Davis, came to investigate similar stories, reported in *Orbit* last Sept. and Oct., describing incidents in the greater Cincinnati area. Together, we probed into each known case and in doing so, uncovered some new ones. Seems that the little men—or shall we call them "gnomen" for obvious reasons—are polymorphic. In no two cases are the gnomen identical—but one feature stands out: *They are not green!* When *Orbit* first reported the local incidents, the initial news received by the writer was sketchy and incomplete. Follow-up at the time was almost impossible due to the incredible interruptions caused by the concurrence of UFO activity. Thus, the accounts as written in *Orbit* for Sept. and Oct., 1955 are not accurate. Ted Bloecher, a very capable investigator, is now preparing a paper on our recent discoveries which should be of vital interest to everyone.

tag. Un-aircraft-like maneuvers included dipping in and out of the ocean. Later a third object appeared on the scene. It was larger, round and red and became stationary. None of the objects made sound.⁸

Case 198, New Orleans, La., 8:35 p.m., Aug. 23, 1956—Richard Hall writes: "We have been on sky watch for several nights because of increase in UFO reports, and to view Mars and the moon with a 4" reflector telescope. We had seen several meteors and were familiarizing ourselves with the appearance of planes at night, too high to be heard. Earlier, we had seen two or three such planes, so we were not startled to see an orange dot of light exactly resembling a plane moving overhead. I raised the binoculars and commented that I could see no wing lights. I noted the object in relation to a bright star and continued to watch from my comfortable lawn chair. Abruptly, the object made a 180 degree turn which brought me out of my chair. Then it made another 180 degree turn, with no apparent color change and continued to the NE. It proceeded about 20 degrees across the sky, then suddenly began a series of violent maneuvers, impossible to reconstruct. At this point, the object repeatedly blacked out or disappeared, returning momentarily as a flash of green light. It zigzagged and flitted here and there in impossible changes of direction. Gradually, the field of motion diminished and the object was nearly stationary in a thin haze layer toward the NE. I lost sight of it when I tried to locate it in the finder scope of the telescope, and we didn't see it again. Using the star it passed, and the landmark above which it was last seen, I estimated that it traversed a minimum of 45° to 50° of arc. The sighting lasted 25 seconds or more."

Case 199, Torrance, Cal., Aug. 23, 1956—Headlined the *Torrance Press*: "15 Guardsmen See Flying Saucer". The men are members of Torrance's Nat'l Guard unit. Their convoy was just returning from maneuvers. Among those who observed the UFO was Capt. Douglas Horlander, C.O. of Co. E, 132nd Armored Engineer Battalion. Said Capt. Horlander, "It was 6:10 p.m. Our convoy was about six miles north of Santa Barbara at Goleta. We were going about 25 mph. I was sitting in the front seat of the jeep, half asleep. Suddenly, M/Sgt. William Lyons tapped me on the shoulder. 'Hey, Cap,' he said, 'I've been watching this thing.' I looked up, and there I saw this round object standing perfectly still at about 1000 ft. elevation. It was round and shiny like the top of a tin can. It looked like the sun, only the sun was coming from another direction. First I thought it was a blimp. It was at a 45 degree angle from us, toward the left. All at once it zoomed sideways and then instantly up to about 5000 ft. at a right angle, like the beam of a flashlight. Then I thought it was a weather balloon, but suddenly it came down again to a 2000 ft. elevation. We saw the object for about eight minutes before it disappeared. This happened just as it was time to halt the convoy. Some of the men had seen the object, too. To look at them, you'd think they'd seen a ghost." Added the Captain, "We spotted the thing close to Pt. Mugu, the Naval Guided Missile Testing Station. I think the flying saucer belongs to us." Said Sgt. Lyons, ". . . I think it was possibly from outer space. I don't think we have anything like it."⁹

Case 200, Ft. Collins and Loveland, Colo., Aug. 24, 26, 27, 29, 1956—Nothing timid about the *Denver Post* headlines which prefaced a day-by-day account of the activities of a UFO seen over Northern Colorado. The mys-

⁸ Herb Clark, Jr., Cin'ti, O., who interviewed witness.

⁹ Harry Boynton, Torrance, Calif.

terry object not only caused the telephone switchboards of the police department and newspapers to be swamped with calls but caused embarrassment to the experts who tried to explain it away. Most observers agreed that the object was round and "intensely red." Bob Scott one of the witnesses, and a reporter for radio station KCOL, said the object glowed bright red in the center, diminishing in intensity toward the outer borders. He said the glow was constant, rather than pulsating. "It couldn't have been a star" he said. "It was a clear night, the stars were out, but this object was a bright red, much larger than a star, and it was moving. It looked as if it were leaving a very slight smoke trail." Another witness said it was just a little "smaller than the moon, moving very slowly in the sky. . . Sometimes it appeared flattened or disk-shaped and then it would change to a ball-like shape. When it finally disappeared it seemed to fade out as though it were passing behind a cloud. The only thing wrong with that explanation is that the sky was clear in that area. There weren't any clouds." Some observers thought it might be Mars, but Dr. Gordon Newkirk, astronomer at the University of Colorado ruled out this explanation, thus: "Whatever it was, it appeared in the wrong sector of the sky to be Mars." Said Newkirk, "Most aircraft transit the sky in a fraction of the time. . . Meteorological balloons sent aloft with recording instruments formerly carried lights to aid scientists in tracking them at night. Such lights seldom are seen on these balloons nowadays, since radar affords a better method of following a balloon." A check of Lowry AFB and other air installations in the area failed to disclose any balloon release or aircraft flight that could have accounted for the phenomenon. Said Capt. George Sanderson, meteorologist at Lowry AFB, "Recurrence of the Ft. Collins object for several nights makes temperature inversion an unlikely explanation in this case."¹⁰

Case 201, Tiburon, Cal., Aug. 26, 1956—By letter James Geer tells of his experience as follows: 'About 7:30 this evening, while driving home, I noticed what appeared to be a flock of nine small birds flying northward. They were dark against the blue sky and were all about the same size, although, being able to watch them only in glances, I can not estimate their size or shape. They flew in a clump, without rigid formation, moving freely among themselves like birds, although their general course seemed straight. I believed they were birds until they passed behind a nearby hill. Measuring with my car speedometer, I found the distance between the point of observation and a point closely approximating the top of the hill to be one mile. They made the arc of about 60 degrees in about five seconds. Allowing for an error of 100% on the distance of the objects and another error of 100% on the angle, these objects, in order to pass just behind the hill, had to be traveling at least 90 mph. If my estimates are more nearly correct, however, and the objects were not just behind the hill but over the bay at, say two miles distance, they were traveling well over 1000 mph. There is no chance that the objects passed in front of the hill. The objects were quite dark and the hill a bright amber.'

Case 202, Fairhaven, Mass., Aug. 27, 1956—Miss Norma Mello tells of an observation made by her aunt and uncle. She writes: "At about 3:25 a.m., Mrs. F. W. Bence was startled by a brilliant light coming through the east window. The light had not been there 25 minutes earlier when Mr. Bence had awakened. The object, which was motionless, appeared to be about the size of a

grapefruit and was quite low on the horizon. Mr. Bence went outdoors to watch the object and saw a small reddish light to the right of it. There was no sound. Mr. and Mrs. Bence continued watching it until it faded away about one-half hour later. Twenty-five minutes later, Mrs. Bence looked again and the object was back, although not as bright. At this time it began to move horizontally back and forth in the same area. About 5 a.m., it faded away as if into a mist."

Case 203, Eureka, Cal., Aug. 30, 1956—The New Orleans *Times-Picayune* reported, three persons saw a "meteor" early Thursday as they drove toward Eureka. One observer said it was the biggest fireball he had ever seen, and that it lit the highway as bright as day.¹¹

Case 204, Williamstown, Ky., 11:30 p.m., Aug. 30, 1956—Driving south toward Williamstown, the Research Director of a Cincinnati manufacturer saw a large brilliant ovoid suddenly zip from west to east across the horizon. "It was so low," she said, "it looked as though it were going to hit the ground." The object, oval-shaped and as large as a dime held at arm's length, looked "green on one side and white on the other"—but she said the speed was so great that the true colors were indistinguishable. Noticeable, however, was a bright halation or glow around the object. Another witness, and a friend of the Research Director, was also driving south about a block behind when she saw the same object. Her description tallied, and she agreed that the object seemed to be slanting in toward earth.

Case 205, Cincinnati, Ohio, 10:05 p.m., Aug. 30, 1956—A prominent lawyer phoned the writer describing a single white light zigzagging to the north as though it were "following a heavenly saw". Its flight was jerky, he said, like a "boat being rowed in thrusts upon the water" and rhythmically it flickered off and on—making no sound. The object disappeared into infinity. . . .

Case 206, Cincinnati, Ohio, 6 p.m., Aug. 31, 1956—Harry Baston driving in heavy traffic was stopped long enough to get a good glimpse of a solid device shaped like a mushroom. He said the object was intensely white and quite large in the clear sky and was traveling in a straight line to the south. At one time the object seemed to fade out, said Baston, but reappeared still traveling south looking much smaller.

Case 207, Irvington, N.J., Sept. 3, 1956—Said the Newark *Star-Ledger*: Thomas Gann, private pilot, and Joseph Malenowski, both employees of RCA, reported seeing two mysterious objects while driving. Said Gann, "We saw a Piper cub at about 3000 feet altitude, coming in for a landing. Then we noticed two shimmering discs, hovering about 4000 feet higher than the plane. After a moment, they both shot with incredible speed into space."¹²

Case 208, Norwood, Ohio, Sept. 3, 1956—Eugene Kingman, flight radio operator in the Air Force during World War II, was coming down a ladder outside his home. Looking up he saw the sun and to his surprise, another object, colored orange which was stationary. Shortly, another object, bluish white came into view and passed near the orange object. With Kingman were two other observers, one a former skeptic of saucers. Together they watched the skies, then suddenly three more objects appeared all bluish white. These were joined in a triangular formation—the two in rear less intense in luminosity than the leader and according to Kingman, flew away from the motionless orange object, which was larger than the others. After innumerable minutes a stranger passed by and joined in watching the spectacle

¹¹ Richard Hall.

¹² H. G. Rovner, Phila., Pa.; Raymond Angier, Marietta, O.

and immediately pointed out two more luminous objects, looking like spinning balls. Said Kingman, the oddest feature about these two objects was the "streak of lightning" which seemed to connect them in their flight. The large orange object remained in view for about 20 minutes, during which time, no sound was heard.

Case 209, Kalispell, Mont., Sept. 3 and 4, 1956—A UP report told of a "shining triangle" surrounded by a yellow glow which hovered in the sky throughout the night. It disappeared westward early Tuesday. Said the report, five jet interceptors from Malmstrom AFB were scrambled in an attempt to sight the object, but were thwarted by low clouds. Air Force and civilian officials viewed the object, but were unable to explain it away as a natural phenomenon.¹³

Ed: Mars is suspected, but certainly the AF and at least one of the civilian officials should be able to recognize Mars, and jets do not scramble to chase a planet 35 million miles away. According to the Great Falls Tribune, which contradicts the UP accounts, the object was seen in the sky southwest of Kalispell . . . then it faded into the east when the sun came up."

Case 210, Pasadena, Cal., Sept. 6, 1956—The Los Angeles Times reported that members of the Air Force at the GOC spotted a strange light which moved erratically in the night sky for 47 minutes. According to the Times, 1st Lt. Mark Matlock of the Air Defense Command said, "Pasadena police had many calls from people who saw it. So did we. Our first call was from a Western Air Lines pilot. I hurried to the roof of our building and saw a white light in the sky. It was moving slowly northwest. It kind of paused and jerked in flight and then would snake along. I knew it wasn't a conventional aircraft." . . . Finally two jets were scrambled.¹⁴

Case 211, Burlington, Wisc., Sept. 7, 1956—Several residents called the sheriff's office Friday afternoon after they saw a UFO traveling eastward at a high rate of speed. Coast Guard observers at the Wind Point Station also saw the object. They tentatively identified it as a weather balloon, but said they knew of no agencies in the area which launched such balloons.¹⁵

Case 212, Twin Falls, Idaho, Sept. 7, 1956—Said the Idaho Falls Post Register: "A Twin Falls attorney reported that a flying saucer swooped down on his ranch and apparently made off with a 400 pound steer. E. L. Rayburn reported this story to the sheriff's office: 'I was at my ranch about 40 miles south of here when I saw a

¹³ C. H. Marck, Denver; Dean Strawn, Corona, Calif.; Claressa Van Hoof, Williston, N. Dak.

¹⁴ Viviane Machu, L. A., Calif.

¹⁵ Leonard Wieczorek, Racine, Wis.

strange object about 200 feet in diameter flying overhead. It had a whirling effect on top and gave off an orange glow. It came in fast overhead and swooped to the ground near a spot where a 400-pound white-faced steer was standing. Then the object sped off like a streak of light and the steer was gone." Rayburn said two employees on the ranch, Joe and Dick Parker, also saw the object. He said no trace has been found of the steer."¹⁶

Case 213, Batavia, Ohio, Sept. 8, 1956—Driving over Highway 132 at 9:30 a.m., Mrs. Harold Thomas, watched a round, tailless, wingless object, its color a dull silver. She did not stop her car but had the impression that it was motionless. No sound was audible, save that of her car's engine.

Case 214, Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 8, 1956—A steady orange light, "brighter than Arcturus" was seen by a lone observer at 9:40 p.m., traversing 90 degrees of sky in about a minute. It was traveling north parallel to the observer's horizon. No sound.

Ed: Cases 213 and 214 are interesting in respect to the International Flying Saucer Sighting Day program which set aside the dates, June 30 and Sept. 8 for special observation. All sightings will be correlated by the editors of the British magazine Flying CENTS & Review. See letter by Derek Dempster, June 1956 Orbit.

Case 215, Cut Bank, Montana, Sept. 9, 1956—The Great Falls Tribune reported that a motorist, Don Le Grande, saw a "bright blue light which went straight up, then down, then circled toward Great Falls." He said it moved at "tremendous speed". The Helena Filter Center said a Malmstrom AFB jet was dispatched to the Cut Bank area to identify "mysterious objects" in the sky.¹⁷

Case 216, Florence, Ky., Sept. 9, 1956—Jack Juelg and two witnesses, while parked in a drive-in theatre, observed an "extremely bright light" following another light, the latter of which was quickly identified as an aircraft. Curious, the trio watched the strange light, and to their surprise, when the aircraft circled, the light followed—then with a burst of speed shot straight away and disappeared. Soon another plane, easily identified, came into view—but, to the astonishment of everyone, it was also being followed by the mysterious light! During this incident, the plane continued on a straight course, while the UFO, suddenly accelerating, cut off to the right. Then making a gradual circle, the unknown pursuer disappeared. Said Juelg, "The most unusual thing I've ever seen."

¹⁶ Mrs. R. S. Richardson, and, numerous clippings of the Inez Cobb syndicated column, which rehashed the story.

¹⁷ Claressa Van Hoof, Williston, N. Dak.

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SIGHTINGS, SILENCE AND THE STATUS QUO

Locally, saucer sightings remain high, many are reported directly to CRIFO by the sighter. Unknown is the number of local sightings never reaching CRIFO—those self-silenced by observers for personal reasons; those reported to "authorities" such as the police department, the air ports, weather bureau, the FBI, the observatory and to the military. Also unknown is the number reported to the three local newspapers.

Thus, for the sake of statistics, the number of UFO's seen locally in recent weeks, are beyond estimation—but, conservatively, if we were to add just two sightings to each one known by CRIFO, the total would be astounding. Even assuming that half of these reports described explainable objects or phenomena, the balance would still show a remarkable incursive frequency in one small geographical area. In summary, the local scene is conceivably in the midst of its greatest saucer boom, or, at least a boom equal to the previous local highs witnessed in the late summer 1955, late summer 1954 and the all-time quasi high of summer 1952.

Despite the recent upswing of activity, the local newspapers have not published one local sighting. Even the goofy reports are missing. If, then, the Cincinnati case is typical of the nation and the world, perhaps we are now nearing, or, in the midst of the predicted big boom of 1956—and we can't recognize it for the reports lost forever in silence. . . .¹

Case 217, New Orleans, La., Sept. 12, 1956—Said the *Times-Picayune*, in part: "Jesse Rodriguez, night watchman with Commercial Solvents Corp., reported four round lights. He said they started out in a 'Y' formation, stood still five to ten minutes, formed a vertical up and down position, then scattered toward the lake. Other reports were basically similar. Sometimes it was a diamond-shaped formation, rather than the 'Y'. Some said the lights looked like stars. Others mentioned a long fiery tail." Added the *Times-Picayune*, "The air route traffic control center at New Orleans said the lights were simply aircraft from regional military bases on a routine training mission. . . ."

Richard Hall writes: About 9:55 p.m., Jim Kincaid saw three motionless lights as bright as Mars from a parked car. Elevation about 30°, below and to the left of the moon in the southwest. Observed for about a minute—objects did not move, but 'twinkled'. At about 10 p.m. while driving away, Jim heard newscast that hundreds of calls had come in about objects above downtown building. He returned to his original parking place and the objects he had seen were gone."

Case 218, Elsinore, and Corona, California, Sept. 12, 1956—Dean Strawn, of Corona, is a trained observer and able investigator. He flew five years in fighters and scout

bombers and was senior air adviser for Admiral Hewitt in the Mediterranean and Admiral Kitt in Asia on the flagship U.S.S. Helena, during WW II. In a series of letters to CRIFO, Strawn reveals the following . . .

"At 11:40 a.m. there were three sharp blasts within about a 20 second period with the time interval between the second and third blast seeming slightly longer than that between the first and second. The blasts were followed by less loud echoes like the burst of anti-aircraft guns. It was hard to tell whether the blast came from above the earth or not, but it seemed to come from above and to the southeast. It shook houses and rattled windows and objects seemed to jump around me. I was outside talking to my neighbor at the time, Mr. Patton, an old timer in his seventies. At the time of the blast there was no sign of aircraft by eye or ear, but at 11:53 a.m. there was much jet activity in the air by ear, but the haze prevented visual sighting because they seemed very high. No vapor trails. . . Jet sounds very active for the rest of the afternoon and into the night."

Strawn added: "Weather: Sunshiny, cloudless sky with heavy haze on the horizon making visibility limited. Off in the distance to the SE were thunder head cumulus clouds. Witnesses: Most of the population of Corona out looking into sky . . . flooded newspaper and police with phone calls."

A second letter, dated Sept. 16, was attached, in which Strawn explains, "After writing my first letter of Sept. 12, I decided to hold it for awhile and see if anything would show up to substantiate my feelings of an unusual occurrence or prove it to be a false alarm. I had talked over the blast with a friend of mine on the police force . . . and the next day he brought me the clincher. It was a clipping from a newspaper telling of a saucer sighting by Mr. Dwight Lewis. . . ."

Said the *Riverside Daily Enterprise*: "County Schools Consultant Dwight Lewis, an erstwhile scoffer of flying saucer stories had a change of heart today when he saw a 'glittering oval-shaped aircraft' hovering above the Elsinore area forest fire. Lewis was returning to Riverside from an Elsinore Valley school call at 11:30 a.m. when he noted an explosive whirling motion of what appeared to be wind, smoke and ashes directly above the big fire site. It was such a spectacular wind commotion that Lewis pulled to the side of the freeway to observe it. While he was watching the unusual air current behavior, Lewis said, something emerged from the cloud of smoke and ashes and hovered lazily at an approximate 5000 foot elevation. For a moment he said, it looked like an enormous flock of birds flying in close oval formation. But shortly the object floated in such a way that the sun reflected from it, he said, and it appeared to be a glittering oval-shaped aircraft. While it hung in plain view, Lewis attempted unsuccessfully to flag down motorists in order to gain corroboration for what he feared would be 'an unlikely sounding story.' After the object had lingered for about five minutes, however, it suddenly 'took out in a southerly direction.' On reaching Riverside, Lewis phoned the GOC filter station in Pasadena, but learned that the object had not been reported."

We resume quoting from Strawn's letter: "I called Mr. Lewis and arranged to see him right away. We had a very interesting chat. . . He saw a saucer about the size of a close formation of eleven B-29's and it sort of swallowed down the valley with one side dark and cigar-shaped while the other had many spots that glistened like light metal. As you may notice our times are within 10 minutes of

¹ In a letter to CRIFO, Fred Stone, Dir. of The Australian F. S. Research Society, says, ". . . over here things have been abnormally quiet, although Harold Fulton (CSI, New Zealand) seems to have been kept busy. But, I put a lot of it down to the fact that it is not because saucers are not seen but because people do not report them for the usual fear of public opinion." Stone's reference to Fulton being busy is quite true. With two recent letters, Fulton sent CRIFO countless clippings describing UFO activity in New Zealand. In one letter Fulton says, "Many UFO reports to investigate, have interviewed many who sighted Sept. 3rd rocket-like object . . . received 200 press clips from New Zealand papers, dated Sept. 4-9. About 40 separate sightings. . . Looks like our forecast accurate." Thus, we can see the ridiculous difference in reported UFO activity of two neighboring SW Pacific countries. Perhaps the basis for each is in the people's attitude, perhaps it is a geographical-social condition, or, maybe in New Zealand the press is more people-conscious, or maybe it is because of the fact that Harold Fulton and CSI have conducted a vigorous campaign of UFO education to the public. Whatever the answer, New Zealanders are seeing UFO's, they are reporting them, and the nation's press is publishing them.

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American newspapers, it seems, were carried away by the recent announcement from an "unimpeachable source" which said that a flying saucer would appear over Los Angeles, November 7th and that its occupants would "speak to Earth" if local radio networks cleared the air for two minutes, etc. Some quarters attributed this source as being that of the British magazine, *Flying Saucer Review*. Concerned, many readers have written to CRIFO asking for more information about the *scheduled* event, and, asking if we could identify the unimpeachable source. Frankly, we know of no unimpeachable sources in this weird business of saucers, but to clear the air for one *accused* source, the *Flying Saucer Review*, we quote from a letter received from that magazine's editor, The Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench, as follows: "The statements in the Press attributed to one of the directors of the *Flying Saucer Review* represent purely his own personal viewpoint, to which he is fully entitled. These statements do not represent the policy or viewpoint of either *Flying Saucer Review* or its Editor. Neither do they necessarily represent the views of other directors of the magazine." Next, let us quote from Gray Barker's *The Saucerian Bulletin*, Vol. I, No. 4, "Reason saucerers got so excited over this story was that it was misinterpreted to suggest that recognized scientific authorities had heard and recorded the space messages, and were confirming that fact officially. Unfortunately, this was not the case and a little checking disclosed that the story originated from the experiments of Dick Miller, and that the space messages mentioned were the tapes recorded and distributed by Miller." CRIFO, summarily, recommends that no one lose sleep over the event. We believe the story is bogus, which is the reason we never published it in Oct. *Orbit*—and, the very reason why the nation's press played it up so beautifully!

In answer to those wondering what became of Richard Hall's column, *The UFO and You*—Yes, it will definitely appear again, and so will such features as *Flying Saucers and Public Opinion*, and *Saucer Sundries*. Reason for omission in Oct. and Nov. issues was on grounds that we tried to publish as many UFO reports as possible in the given space we have to work in. Matter of fact we have two articles in reserve from Richard Hall, one of which may appear in the next issue—providing some great event does not crowd it out. . . .

Says Inez Robb in her syndicated column, Oct. 6—" . . . I believe I have uncovered the one issue that can easily supply the margin of victory in the 1956 presidential race, if it's as close as the pundits predict. . . . It is obvious that the first candidate who will come out frankly, four-square and unafraid on the flying saucer issue and wring the truth out of the Air Force as well as make the newspapers print it, will win in a walk."

each other and he wasn't sure of his time, and my source could have been off a few minutes. This object seemed to be interested in the fires as it moved along. One fire in the area was started by a butane tank explosion, but the cause of several others in the area are unknown. . . . The object was around Elsinore which is southwest of Corona where I was standing. The object was near the smoke, but it was engulfed in a black oil looking smoke of its own. He said the smoke seemed to puff in and out about three times or more, like it was breathing, and there seemed to be an explosion."

On Sept. 27, Justin Hammond, Publisher of the Corona *Daily Independent* sent CRIFO a letter confirming the blasts. It reads in part as follows: "Dean Strawn was in the office today to ask if we had carried any publicity in the paper regarding some blasts that we heard in this vicinity recently. . . . One of our reporters made inquiries to the Minnesota Mining Co., south of Corona to find out if there had been mining blast out there. The answer was negative. Calls to the local police also failed to provide any explanation. Finally it was decided, on the basis I believe of a call to someone else whom I could not identify, that the explosions had been caused by sonic blasts. Since sonic blasts occur in this neighborhood frequently we did not consider it to be of unusual news value and did not carry any story on it. However, three blasts in such quick succession is a type of noise I do not usually associate with sonic blasts. The employees here in the office were aware of the explosions also and felt the jolt that it caused. We also received a number of telephone calls inquiring as to whether or not we had any explanation for it."

Case 219, Wilmington, Dela., Sept. 12, '56—While Case 218 illustrates the possible tie-in of saucer and skyquake, another case, minus saucer, happened on the same date. We quote the following from the *Wilmington Journal-Evening*: "Telephone calls swamped police—both city and state—and the *News-Journal* offices shortly before 11:00 p.m. seeking to determine the cause of an explosion, or blast, which was felt and heard in many sections of Wilmington. Although hundreds of persons reported hearing a 'booming thud' which rattled windows in their homes, cause of the explosion could not be determined. Air Force officials at the New Castle County Airport said no planes based at the airport were in the air at the time and no trouble had been reported."²

Case 220, Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 17, '56—In a letter to CRIFO, Mrs. Frances Mueller writes, "This afternoon about 4:30 p.m., I was walking down Young Street when I looked up and saw a bright white light in the southern sky, going west not very fast. Suddenly it was gone. Another lady, a stranger, with me, saw it too. If the object had any shape, it would be verticle and wider at the foot."

Ed: Driving home from work at 5:30 p.m., I saw a brilliant bluish white pinhead of light hovering 25 degrees over the Kentucky horizon. My first impression was that the light was a reflection of the setting sun on an aircraft, but when I stopped my car at a traffic signal, I was surprised to see that it was motionless. With my Bell & Howell movie camera at my side, I was tempted to start it rolling, but the madness of "going home" traffic influenced by a green light forced me to abandon the idea. Driving on to the next intersection which afforded a clear view of the Kentucky skyline, I thought of the balloon explanation but on this point the luminosity seemed much too brilliant. Reaching the clearing, I had another good look. It was still there, motionless and dazzling white against the blue sky. Several minutes later, by the time I had reached another open view, the object had disappeared. This ruled out a balloon. When I reached home, I phoned the ADC Filter Center. . . . Flying saucer? Don't know. Too little evidence under adverse "seeing" conditions. Anyway, I believe Mrs. Mueller saw something neither aircraft or balloon. But we shall never know what. . . .

Case 221, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 22, 1956—Said the *St. Paul Dispatch*: "Residents in the area of Mendota and Euclid discussed a mystery light from a small molten mass that burned a hole in the street surface and lit up the neighborhood at 12:30 a.m. George White said he awakened at that hour to find his room as light as from a ceiling light. He noted that the light came from the intersection but when it died out a few minutes later he went back to sleep. This morning residents found a hole about

² John Tobin, New Castle, Dela.

a foot long and two inches wide and deep in the black-topping. The hole was encrusted with a molten white material resembling plaster of paris but heavier. 'There were no barricades and no warning lights in the area to cause fire,' White said. 'It's my belief the thing fell from the sky.'³

Case 222, Williston, N. Dak., Sept. 22, 1956—We quote from the Williston Plains Reporter as follows: "It was less than a thousand feet in the air. As large as a commercial airliner, it was low enough that I could actually see tiny, distinct pinpoints of light. The object had a shiny, metallic gleam and was moving at a speed I would estimate at about 150 miles an hour." With the above statement, Reuben Borrud described an airborne object he saw 'plainly and clearly' from the backyard of his home Saturday night about 7:50 o'clock. Mr. Borrud said he was looking south when he noticed the object just east of the Great Northern RR smokestack. The object, he said, appeared to follow the course of the river until it was lost from sight over the tree tops. In going into detail, he said there was no muffled sound or motors but that he estimated its speed at about 150 mph... He described the object as being circular, as well as V-shaped. As it flew, he said, it oscillated from side to side, much like the pendulum of a clock although not as pronounced. Borrud said he notified the Weather Bureau of the object. The bureau then notified the police and Wright-Patterson AFB. Mr. Borrud, who is an amateur astronomer, said that although he was adjusting his telescope Saturday night, he saw the object with his naked eye."⁴

Case 223, Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 25, 1956—According to the Grand Rapids Herald a pilot said two strange airborne objects whizzed by his plane near the Grand Rapids Airport Tuesday afternoon. William Marcus, the pilot, who was returning to Grand Rapids from South Bend, told the following story: "Around 4 p.m. between Dorr and Byron Center and at about 120 mph, altitude 2000 feet, I was approaching the field when something went by under my right wing, going like the merry blazes. I got a good view for a second and then saw a second object pass under my right wing. I made a turn to get a better glimpse but they were gone. The first object I saw was tan, had a Delta wing shape and appeared to be smaller than my Cessna plane, but considerably larger than any large bird of any sort. The objects were going due south and they positively weren't weather balloons."⁵

Case 224, Dallas, Texas, Sept. 25, 1956—In a letter to CRIFO, Mrs. M. A. Ferraro writes: "... I took my children to the Drive-Inn for the first show about 8:20 p.m. At approximately 9 p.m. I saw a sharp blue light west of the screen. Its movements were erratic, darting downward, instantly reversing and going back west. I watched to make certain the object could not be a firefly caught in the projection beam. It couldn't have been for I was the last car in the far west aisle, therefore what I saw was moving behind the screen, where the beam could not reach. By the time we left the movie, there were four of these lights, all in an area extending over about three degrees, all performing the exact fantastic maneuvers. . . . Their sizes were that of a pencil eraser at arm's length, round and sharply defined. At other moments they were about the size of a bottle cap, at arm's length. They could vanish in a second, then become visible again, but far to the right, left, above or below the point at which they vanished. . . . I decided to call the tower the next day. I got Mr. Fetschenbach on the phone. I told him about the blue objects seen the night before. I did not tell him how

many of these objects I saw. He said, there were four F-96's or F-84's, I forgot which, up on Tuesday night. They were carrying 'meson' blue lights. I thanked him and hung up. . . . How did Mr. Fetschenbach know I saw four objects? Could I be wrong? Personally, I don't think so. Whether there were jets up or not, jets cannot streak up and down. Some went straight up or down in about the time it takes a meteor to cross a degree of sky, one degree that is, so the time would be one second.

Ed: I note with interest the dates of the Grand Rapids and Dallas incidents. Shortly before 5 p.m. on Sept. 25th, Dell, my wife, watched "something" white float down in the front yard of our home. Remembering the ado over mysterious "angel hair" she gathered the strands of white fibrous substance on a stick and put into a glass jar for safe-keeping. The stuff was sensitive, she said, curling when she touched it. Unlike the Marysville, Ohio "angel hair" incident, Oct. 22, 1954 (See Case 32) the substance did not leave a green stain on the hand, however, my wife said she touched it only briefly. To the writer the substance looks similar to other photographed specimens of the so-called angel hair, reputed to be a saucer by-product. For analysis the substance was picked up by A.T.L.C., Wright Patterson AFB. Can't say, but the stuff might have been spider-spun. On the other hand, perhaps the saucers seen near Grand Rapids at about 4 p.m., were also over Cincinnati. Notably, my wife saw the angel hair just before 5 p.m., which is 4 p.m. in Grand Rapids.

Case 225, Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 27, 1956—Said the News-Reporter, a local suburbanite weekly paper: "A Northern Hills physician and wife, who asked that their identity be withheld, told a story of witnessing an eerie demonstration of precision flying among a group of glowing, multi-colored objects. The couple said they were awakened about 3 a.m. when a pane in their bedroom window set up a vibration. 'I got up to find out what was causing the noise,' the doctor said. 'At first I thought someone was trying to get into the window. Then I looked out and saw these objects that looked like little balls zooming around in the sky. . . . It was quite a spectacle. The balls were all colors—red, green, yellow and several colors that I can't describe. Then the objects just disappeared before our eyes. It wasn't a gentle trailing off like you might expect to see when watching fireworks pop in the sky—the objects just seemed to be snatched into the void.' The doctor said he and his wife watched the demonstration for almost a half hour."⁶

Case 226, Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 28, 1956—According to the Columbus Dispatch, a former air force pilot and local businessman said that he and his father witnessed eight cigar-shaped objects follow an airliner at 11:20 a.m. He said, "The things were brighter than the aluminum on the plane. They followed the plane, suddenly stopped and reversed themselves. Then they flew south for a short distance and then went up and out of sight. I won't identify myself because people will think I'm crazy."⁷

Case 227, Norwich-Sydney area, New York, Sept. 28, 1956—We quote from a letter received from Mrs. Kenneth Leslie, Binghamton, N. Y., as follows: "Last night between 8 p.m. and midnight scores of residents witnessed a large object in the sky which turned from red to green to white and back again. It pulsated and remained a bright orange color for some time and then disappeared. The State Police received a number of calls from disturbed residents, and, after checking the object themselves they alerted Rome AFB. A squadron of jet fighters were scrambled and as yet no reports have been received as to what the object was or what they found. The story was headlined over the newscasts of radio station WINR all day."

Case 228, Detroit, Mich., Sept. 28, 1956—Under the headline, "Mystery Blast Unexplained" the Detroit Times said the following: ". . . The blast occurred shortly after

³ Elmer Dahl, St. Paul, Minn.

⁴ Clararessa Van Hoof, Williston, N. Dak.

⁵ Frank C. Gallagher, Roseville, Mich.; Wm. Witkosky, Detroit, Mich.

⁶ Mrs. Charlotte Stahley, Cin'ti, O.

⁷ Mrs. Charles Nash, Columbus, sent in radio report; Arthur Martin, Columbus, sent in clipping.

2 p.m. Police departments of a dozen communities were besieged with calls reporting the explosion. . . Selfridge AFB authorities said there was only one jet flying at the time in the Detroit area and it had not broken the sound barrier.”⁸

Case 229, Trenton, N. Jersey, Oct. 2, 1956—We quote from the Trenton *Evening Times* as follows: “Harry Sturdevant is a night watchman . . . whose job is to guard equipment on a road project. At 3:45 a.m., Sturdevant was in a trailer office when he saw a terrifying sight. A large glowing object swooped down out of the sky over the Delaware River. It came within a few feet of the water and then, as suddenly as it appeared, it took off again into the air. . . Sturdevant recalls that it was very large—probably over 100 feet in length—that it did not have wings, that it made a hissing sound as it skimmed over the water, and that it gave off an overpowering noxious odor. Sturdevant remembers the odor more vividly than anything else. It was so nauseous that he was afraid he was going to become ill.”⁹

Case 230, Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 7, 1956—A letter to CRIFO from Edward Miskin contained four individual statements by witnesses having seen a UFO. Sighted at 5:30 p.m., the object was generally described as oval-shaped and metallic or silver. Said witness Richard Winderman, “The object was directly overhead. It looked oval and was shining like polished aluminum. . . . Moving in a southerly direction, it gave off no audible sound. Ed: While many cases in themselves are not sensational, it is noteworthy that many recent sightings have been daylight occurrences.

Case 231, Springdale, Ohio, Oct. 9, 1956—By phone, Mrs. James Petrey, reported the following in brief: Four witnesses, at 3:30 p.m. watched, against a deep blue sky, six pinpoints of light moving with fantastic speed. It was difficult to watch them all, she said, as they darted up and down, side to side. Strangest of all was the silverish streak that seemed to connect three of the objects, she

said. Later, to the surprise of the witnesses, a countless number of red objects, swarming like birds, came in from the east. Flying in a straight horizontal path, the silent objects began flopping over and over, then disappeared behind some trees. It was an astounding sight, said Mrs. Petrey.

Case 232, Denver, Colo., Oct. 12, 1956—Reports the *Denver Post*, “A mysterious ball of fire whizzing through the sky followed by a loud explosion sent police and firemen on an unsuccessful search for a meteorite. Denver and suburban police and fire stations received hundreds of calls from persons who saw the strange object about 5:30 p.m. Tom Nalty, assistant fire chief at station 15, said he saw a ‘teardrop’ object fly over the firehouse at about 2000 feet at a high rate of speed. It was headed southeast and had a glowing reddish head and a blue tail, he said. Ralph Churches of Golden, said he saw a bright red object hanging about 200 feet over one of his corrals.”¹⁰

Case 233, Lake Michigan shore from Racine to Whitefish Bay, Wisc., Oct. 13, 1956—Clippings from both the *Racine Journal* and *Milwaukee Journal* describe a great shocking boom that echoed along the Lake Michigan shore about 8:30 a.m. Saturday. Said the *Milwaukee Journal*, “It prompted citizens to look up, look down, straighten upset furnishings and rush to their telephones. Coast guardsmen on the lake front said they heard what sounded like a clap of thunder. Sheriff’s department employees noticed that the windows on the south side of room rattled. Spokesman at Truax Field, Madison, and O’Hare Field, Chicago, denied having planes capable of passing the speed of sound in the area. Many residents believed the noise was an earth tremor beneath the lake. A seismometer in Milwaukee, however, recorded no earth movement. A similar device recorded no shift in the lake waters.”¹¹

10 C. H. Marck, Jr., Denver, Colo.
11 Leonard Wleczorek, Racine, Wisc.

8 Dick Humphreys, Pontiac, Mich.
9 Mrs. Geo. Lucas, Bordentown, N. J.

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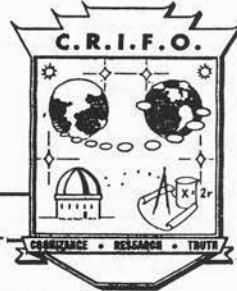
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C. R. I. F. O. ORBIT

The Official Publication of Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects

DECEMBER 7, 1956

VOL. III—No. 9



UNDER THE WAR CLOUDS -- "EARTHLY SHENANIGANS"

The initial shock waves from embattled Hungary and Egypt almost swept saucers from the news, but saucer-eyed Americans were quick to sweep them back. With the very first sign of peaceful intervention in the Near East crisis, sighting reports began filtering in, some soberly factual. But the most colorful stories, war or no war, came from the thumping visionary set. Setting their ceremonious stages on the east and west coasts, the visionaries, according to a New York correspondent, "whipped the fringe hereabouts into a frenzy." He told of radio station, WOR, New York, acting as a veritable podium for the patter of the extremist element of saucerites. Enthralling listeners most were the revelations voiced by a 34 year old sign painter, Howard Menger, from High Bridge, New Jersey. A newcomer, Menger claimed personal and telepathic contact with space people, since the age of ten, from all planets. Hoping for more enlightenment, huge crowds milled around the Menger home. Said Menger, his boss would let him go if he didn't soon catch up with his sign painting.¹ Said CRIFO's informant, "Things are going crazy here, it seems. No saucers, all strictly earthly shenanigans."

And, out west, saucerites were the happiest—that is, until the promised hour when the Martians were to rendezvous over Los Angeles, November 7, but the promise was not kept. Writes Mrs. I. E. Epperson of Los Angeles, "The public who knows only what they read in the headlines have been left with only one impression . . . It'll take 20 years to dig out from under this one."

Pundits were suspicious and were calling the coastal side shows a clever Air Force plot—a sure way to kill off serious saucer research. But most saucer-conscious Americans were more realistic. They were forgetting their petty criticisms of Air Force policy and were thinking of the USAF in a different light—its potency in the defense of the USA should Russia try a sneak attack.

THIS QUESTIONABLE AFFAIR—ANGEL HAIR

The writer noted under Case 224, Vol. III, No. 8, *Orbit*, the acquisition of "something" resembling the much-talked-about angel hair—a substance which seems to have a penchant for alighting to earth during or near the month of October. The angel hair was turned over to the authorities at ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB for analysis. On November 15, ATIC sent the following explanation:

"The sample purported to be so-called 'angel's-hair' reportedly a volatile by-product of the fuel in 'flying saucers,' was given both chemical and microscopic tests and is, without doubt, cuprammonium rayon, which is more commonly called 'Bemberg Rayon' in the United States. This material, after exposure to air for 72 hours in the Materials Branch, did not volatilize. This is the type of industrial or waste product 'lint' that may be ejected into the atmosphere by certain manufacturers of textiles, in this case rayon. Incidentally, there appears to be no basis whatsoever for the assumption that the material was other than the industrial waste product described."

Case 234, Cherry Valley, Illinois, Sept. 30, 1956—By letter, Mrs. L. L. Leonard relates, ". . . Looking overhead and slightly East, I thought I saw a jet but it was going so fast that I changed my mind when I saw a few more of the same white objects. My husband got the binoculars, 7-50, and through them the objects appeared white and half the size of a pea at arms length. The objects, traveling very fast, suddenly ejected long white streamers, which floated in the air hanging absolutely perpendicular. One of these round white 'things' came just a little lower than our tree tops and I ran after it, trying to see where it landed but I lost it. On one of our evergreens there was something that looked like spider webs, but on picking off a strand and handling it, it had the consistency of spun glass. As we were watching these white 'things'

explode we looked up at a section of the S.W. sky and there was a concentration of these silver streamers, which looked like stationary silver rain, a most eerie sight. We didn't see the phenomena without the glasses. These silver streamers must have been of an enormous length. My car was parked in the garage with the double door opened all the while, and when I took it out the next morning, a long piece of 'something' was plastered on the fender. . . It seems that there were two kinds of the streamers, some were like spider webs and the other was the ribbon type."

Case 235, Bellingham, Wash., July 19, 1956—It is CRIFO's policy to review all interesting or controversial sightings, regardless of date and chronological order. Following are details of sighting gathered by Richard Hall from observer, Rev. J. E. Church. A clipping from the Bellingham *Herald* related, ". . . skeptical of reports about 'flying saucers' Rev. Church said at first he didn't believe what he saw but after blinking his eyes he was convinced that he was looking at something unusual. His description of the object was that it was round, about the size of a house and that it cruised within eye range rather slowly for a short time then shot swiftly out of sight. 'It was a silvery object with a sharp brightness like a halo,' said Church." By letter, Rev. Church said, ". . . looking south, I saw a queer looking object . . . it did not turn fast but circled to the right as it went. The brightness is beyond my power to explain . . . the sides (of the halo) looked as if they were wrapped around the object. I saw no object within the circle but as it turned I saw part of the bottom which was not bright but misty." A questionnaire filled out by Rev. Church revealed that the time was about 2 p.m., the sky clear, no wind and the temperature 90°. The object made no sound, did not change color, its shape, nor did it throb or pulsate. A drawing by Church showed a halo-shaped object. (Ed: See cases, 168, 174, same dates.)

Case 236, Springfield, Mass., July 23, 1956—We credit Rev. Albert Baller for sending CRIFO the following reports, which were contained in a letter from sighter Virginia Maratea, of Putney, Vt. We quote from Miss Maratea's letter as follows: "I will be glad to give you the details of the sightings . . . which occurred on July 23 and 25, 1956 . . . at intervals from 9:30 p.m. to midnight. The weather was mild and the sky clear. . . On both nights (with my sister-in-law) the lights we watched were about the size of golf balls held at arm's length. They were yellow and moved swiftly, sometimes coming to a sudden stop and turning blue-white. Then they would quickly dart off in a different direction. Each time that jets roared over, these little lights quickly darted away. The jets traveled in twos. Also we saw two objects which were larger and different from the little lights. The first one was the thing which first drew our attention to the sky. We were on the back porch facing west when suddenly a glowing red object came into view. Its speed was as amazing as its appearance. (Ed: At this point, Miss Maratea draws the object. It is bell-bar shaped, the

¹ Credit John Detweiler, Middlesex, N.J. for clippings covering Menger story. We chose to withhold the name of our N.Y. correspondent.

C. R. I. F. O. ORBIT

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GIVE SUBSCRIPTION TO ORBIT FOR CHRISTMAS

Just a timely reminder. With Christmas closing in and shopping getting hectic, why not give a year's subscription to *Orbit* to a friend or relative? Send us the recipient's name and we will start the subscription with the December issue. Enclosed with it will be a card bearing your name as the giver.

Received word that the printing of *Air Force Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14*, as announced in *Orbit*, June 1956 issue, will be completed soon. Those who wrote to Box D-40, 64 Prospect St., While Plains, N.Y. expressing interest in obtaining this report, will be notified soon when to send for their copies. The publisher is charging \$1.00 for a copy, and has assured the Air Force that the sales are to be handled on a non-profit basis. Said the publisher, "I plan to print 500 to 1000 copies, and if all are sold, what profit there is will be turned over to the U.S. Treasury as a contribution."

From time to time, readers have asked how they might obtain tape-recordings of popular UFO lecturers, authors and investigators, etc. While CRIFO now owns a tape recorder, it has no tapes for public distribution. However, we are happy to announce (belatedly) that there is a non-profit organization who is set up to supply such tapes. Write to Dr. A. G. Dittmar at Au Sable Forks, N.Y., who is General Coordinator for *Tape-Recorded UFO Info Service*. Send a self-stamped and addressed envelope for particulars and listings.

One *Orbit* reader said he would cancel his subscription unless we published the full text of one of Paul Harvey's recent radio broadcasts which touched on the subject of Air Force secrecy over saucer information. We do not have Harvey's broadcast, but we believe what he had to say in greater detail might be covered in the following excerpt taken from the N.Y. *World-Telegram*, dated Washington, Nov. 15—"House investigators asked Pentagon officials today to explain the Defense Department's flip-flop secrecy policies on such matters as flying saucers. . . Later, Air Force officials faced questioning on how they alternately unclassified, stamped secret and then unclassified again a report on flying saucers. . ." We are indebted to David J. Swartz of Brooklyn for the clipping.

bulbous ends connected by an amorphous bar. The ends scintillated.) The two ends were fiery red. The part in the center was dimly visible. I would say this was about the length of a larger bomber at high altitude."

Case 237, Springfield, Mass., July 25, 1956—We continue quoting from Miss Maratea's letter—" . . . The second large object . . . was as beautiful as the first one was weird. By twilight, we were seated in the living room when I called my sister-in-law's attention to a large sparkling object slowly crossing the northeast horizon. It was the size of a high full moon and of an intensely brilliant white color. There were sparkling rays coming from it like a huge jewel. Around the top were red lights either blinking or twirling. We went outside to watch this and it slowly went behind the treetops. Soon two jets roared in the direction in which the object had gone. It was later in the evening, after dark, that we again watched the little yellow lights. Perhaps this sounds fantastic—I know it did when we spoke of it. We certainly were ridiculed and I was glad to come home to Putney. . . Maybe there is a reasonable explanation for these things."

Case 238, Near Billings, Mont., Aug. 21, 1956—J. Gordon Campbell is president of Satterlee Co., a machine tool and industrial supply company in Minneapolis. He has in excess of 5000 hours of flying time to his credit. For the Labor Day weekend, Campbell and family were flying to Billings, Montana and here's what they saw, as told to Hal Seymour of the Minneapolis Star: "We were flying between Sheridan, Wyo., and Billings about dusk. The sun already had set, but there was a glow in the sky. I'd say it was after 8 p.m. We were about 8000 ft. above sea level. That's about 4000 ft. above the ground. . . Scotty (10 years old) noticed it first. I looked and said, 'That's an airplane we're overtaking.' The Billings tower was talking to an inbound plane in our vicinity at the same time, and I commented it must be that plane. It wasn't very long before we knew it wasn't. *It came right at us* at what must have been a terrific rate of speed. A great big object. I called the Billings tower and suggested they track it on their radar. They couldn't get it. Then it went away. If you can imagine how a cartoonist would draw a dogbone, that's what it looked like. It had knobs at each end; all black. It was awfully hard to tell how close we were. When it seemed to be a quarter mile away and hovering, it was about 150 feet long. During the time it seemed to hover close to us, we had a true air speed of close to 180 mph, and it was right with us—between us and where the sun had gone down. When I called the tower and suggested it use the radar, it went in a northwesterly direction. In a matter of three seconds it went about 55 miles. (That would be about 1000 mph.) When that one disappeared, four more came towards us and they hovered. I called the control tower again. They couldn't get them on the scope and they went away. We landed and immediately started telling people about it. There were two or three who saw it, besides us." (See case 206, same date.)²

Case 239, Mansfield, Ohio Sept. 3, 1956—Following is a first hand report signed by John Adamescu of Mansfield, which was forwarded to CRIFO by Dan B. Haber: ". . . at 5:29 p.m., while I was seeding my back yard, I heard a light private plane flying overhead. As I looked up towards the plane my eye caught a silver object in the eastern part of the sky. On first sighting the silver object, it appeared about an eighth of an inch in diameter and increased to the size of a half dollar by the time it was directly above me. . . It took an estimated five seconds for the object to pass from the eastern part of

² Ray Scrimshaw, Minn.; John Dixon, DeLand, Fla.

the sky on an arc to the northwestern section of the sky, where it passed out of sight. In my opinion, if I would have taken my eyes off the object for a second, I would have lost it into space. I would estimate its speed to be between 1000 and 1500 mph..." Adamescu later phoned the State Highway Patrol and the C.A.A. at Mansfield's municipal airport. They had not received other reports. During WW II, Adamescu was an aerologist in the U.S. Navy. (See cases, 207, 208, 209, same dates.)

Case 240, New Bloomfield, Pa., Oct. 10, 1956—Said the Harrisburg *Sunday Patriot-News*: A Carson Long Institute cadet, William Hand, first noted the mysterious object from the third floor window of his dormitory, at 9:55 p.m. He excitedly called his roommate, Jerry Cohen. The "blindingly brilliant object", according to the pair, seemed suspended in the night sky. While Hand watched the motionless globe of light, Cohen ran to call other cadets. Four others joined in the watch and before their amazed eyes, the object suddenly seemed to take life. It streaked eastward, leaving a phosphorescent tail in its wake, like a comet. According to the *Patriot News* article, the object did not vanish, but receded to a great distance, then pause again as though stuck in the sky. In the meantime, Lt. Harold Weiss was making his last rounds prior to 10 p.m. taps, when the object was called to his attention. From its stationary position, the object moved again, this time westward, toward the watchers, but at a lower point in the sky than before. It did not come as close, until it paused again. Slowly it began to rotate in a counter-clockwise direction, with a "spinning and bobbing motion" then again to move away toward the east. Several times the mysterious object reversed its course, but continued to spin in the original counter-clockwise direction.

The *Patriot News* went on to say that for nearly an hour the weird gyrations continued, while at least 25 other cadets joined in the watch from various rooms in the military academy. Approximately an hour after it first appeared, the object simply vanished. When questioned individually, the cadets told fundamentally the same story. The discrepancy was in the color. When questioned the following evening in the apartment of Lt. Weiss as a group, the majority agreed the object glowed a brilliant silvery blue. Some felt the hue varied from time to time to pastel shades of pink and yellow, but this was explained by one of the teachers at the institute as a natural reaction of the human eye that seems to see complimentary colors after gazing too long at any fixed color.³

Case 241, Eastern Pa., North N.J., and lower N.Y., Oct. 13, 1956—The *Daily Record* of Stroudsburg, Pa., reported that hundreds of Monroe County residents couldn't quite make out the phenomenon which hovered in the air high over the Poconos for more than an hour. One witness described the object thus, "For a time it was white as snow, then it turned orange, then to blood red. It stood there for sometime, then disappeared like a snap of your finger." According to the *Daily Record*, "official" sources said the object was a large weather balloon. They learned that a plane had been dispatched from Newark Airport and placed the balloon at 18,000 feet. Officials at Idlewild Airport theorized that the balloon could have been the same one they released Saturday.

A letter from Ted Bloecher of CSI, New York tells us more, and we quote from it as follows: ". . . thousands 'n thousands of residents saw what apparently was a balloon-caught in the rays of the setting sun. . . Among the observers was my Dad, in Kenvil, who watched it on-and-off for over an hour; and Ivan Sanderson, who was on his way to his farm in Belv'dere (on the Delaware) when he snagged sight of it in Hackettstown. By getting the bearings as accurately as possible from both Ivan and my Dad, we were

able to triangulate and work out some specific figures. The first set floored us: the maximum height came out 60 miles above Monticello, N.Y., 51 miles due north of Kenvil. The balloon's size came out to be a thumping 1,200 feet diameter! Obviously, our figures were wrong somewhere. . . We discovered our mistake when we found that my father's compass bearing was based on magnetic north, and Ivan's on true north. With this adjustment, the figures were more reasonable, placing the balloon approximately on the N.J.-N.Y. border, a little west of true north from Kenvil. It still was a big balloon, seen simultaneously from the Delaware Valley to Hudson County . . . and as far south as New Brunswick. . . I'm almost entirely convinced it was a Moby Dick or skyhook, probably from Minneapolis. Pittsburgh residents reported a balloon passing over Saturday morning."

Case 242, Greater Cincinnati area, Ohio and Ky., Oct. 14, 1956—Incident (A)—Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schneider sighted strange object in northeast from Highland Hts., Ky., at about 1:30 p.m. The object was described as large, about the size of a nickel held at arm's length. It was gun metal gray and without apparent wings or tail or other appendages. Object appeared to be stationary for about a minute and was quite low.

Incident (B)—Mr. Harlan Grimes, while driving in heavy traffic, said he saw a brilliant object against a deep blue sky from Covington, Ky., about 4 p.m. The object was large, about a quarter the size of a full moon, and appeared stationary. By the time Grimes had reached another clearing, a block away, the object had disappeared. He ruled out any notion that the sun was reflecting on aircraft.

Incident (C)—Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thomas and son watched a strange object while traveling east on U.S. highway 52, between Ripley and New Richman, Ohio. Said Mr. Thomas in a note to CRIFO, ". . . At about 6:30 p.m. I saw a reddish orange object in the sky. At first I thought it was a jet making a vapor trail, but the trail didn't seem to get any larger, in fact it all seemed to be traveling at the same speed, and, in a northerly direction for at least a minute. Then it turned straight up and disappeared out of sight. . . When the object turned it did not make an arc, but made a sharp turn like this (Ed: a pencil drawing shows the sharp angular turn). The whole thing seemed to turn at one time. A jet would have had a curve to its turn, but this did not. My wife and son were with me at the time. She was driving so I did not take my eyes off it until it was out of sight."

Incident (D)—Mr. Harry Baston is a photographer and amateur astronomer. He owns a 6 in. telescope, and is particularly interested in lunar studies. On the evening of Oct. 14, Baston had taken several experimental photos through the telescope, three of the moon. In one open-space photo, the moon not showing, appears one luminous object. The object, depicted off-center, is cut off at the edge of photo, but the portion showing, is semi-ovoidal and sharply defined. Radiating around the semi-ovoid is a misty aura of light. The background is total black, no celestial bodies showing. Baston says he cannot explain the object, or image, and is certain that it is not a type of Newton Ring, or other optical phenomena. Baston is also of the opinion that the apparent object was not a result of the film's development fluid, for he has the negative, and this also shows the semi-ovoid and the aura. Baston does not claim that the apparent object is a saucer, nor did he see a moving object in space through his telescope while snapping the photograph. Baston is mystified, and so are we. The photos and negatives are now being scientifically analyzed. . .

Case 243, Willowbrook, Cal., Oct. 21, 1956—Said the Los Angeles *Examiner*, "Report of a mysterious fireball exploding and setting two houses ablaze, injuring one person, sent four carloads of Firestone Park Sheriff's deputies to East 113th Street. Houses at 2412 and 2410 were burning, but deputies and county firemen were unable to find a trace of the supposed phenomenon. Deputies said an unidentified woman reported an object resembling a 'fiery moon' plunged from the sky to strike the dwellings. William Amon, of the 2410 address, was overcome by smoke, and some \$700 damage done to his home. The other, a vacant two-story building, was destroyed."

Case 244, Putney, Vt., Oct. 29, 1956—Again we quote from the letter, written by Miss Virginia Maratea, which was forwarded to CRIFO by Rev. Baller. "The time was 7 p.m.—it was during a station break on a TV program. I heard a plane which was flying low. The windows were vibrating and when the TV picture zig-zagged and began to blink, I went to the back window to see how low the plane was. Hanging in the sky was something with two bright green lights, both the size of

baseballs. The plane came into view and passed under this thing. After the plane had gone some distance beyond, the green lights blinked out and a dull orange glow began to appear. It now looked like one large, round object. It began to move, slowly at first, then with greater speed and soon appeared to be at the side of the plane. I watched until both had disappeared from sight over the mountains on the New Hampshire side of the river. The weather was clear and cold."

Case 245, East of Parkersburg, W. Va., Nov. 8, 1956—By phone, Raymond Angier reported seeing, about midnight, a lone yellowish pinhead of light, which stood out among the firmament of stars. This lone light, said Angier, moved "peculiarly". It would race straight up and down, then move sideways. During these maneuvers, its light blinked off and on. Commented Angier, who watched with 7x50 glasses, "the light was not an atmospheric distortion."

Case 246, Covington, Ky., Nov. 12, 1956—Sighter Harlan Grimes told the writer that he has seen many unexplainable lights in the sky in recent years (not necessarily saucers) but the object he saw zipping over Newport at 5:07 p.m., as seen from Covington, was most definite yet. Grimes said the object was oval-shaped, sharply outlined, and appeared flat-white in color, like a ping pong ball. The size was about one eighth of that of the moon, which Grimes said it conveniently passed over in its flight south. In view for more than 10 seconds, Grimes said the soundless object diminished in size as it sped away, finally disappearing into a cloud bank. Calling the Weather Bureau in Cincinnati, Grimes learned that the clouds were at 4,500 feet, and the wind direction, WNW. Grimes, who owns a pilot's license, said the object had no wings, no tail, and from his computations, estimated the object's actual size to be about 40 feet in diameter; its speed about 500 mph.

Case 247, Pelican Rapids, Minn., to Redfield, S.D., Nov. 14, 1956—Reported the Duluth *News-Tribune*: "A young truck driver Marlen Hewitt, who said he 'never held any stock in flying saucer stories', told this story, 'It was about 1:15 when I first spotted it as I drove along. At first I thought it was a star, but I've never seen a star that bright. As I went on down the road toward Graceville, it changed colors a couple times. I thought my eyes were playing tricks with me. I stopped, turned off the lights and got out of the truck. As I rounded

the back of the truck, this thing swooped down about a half mile to the east of me and stopped about 1000 feet up. I was terrified. If it had been on the ground, it would have covered about a square block. It looked to be about 12 feet thick. It was a slate gray color, and from the distance looked like it was metal. It was round, and at the base was an opening about 1/10th the size of the object from which a very brilliant light was shining. It would tilt around and back-and-forth, gaining maybe 3,000 or 4,000 feet in the flick of an eye. Around the edge of this thing was a lighted outline. I couldn't tell if there were windows in the lighted part or if there was exhaust coming out all around it. It would change from a blue-white or orange to red. I wanted to get out of there so I jumped back into the truck and turned on the lights. When my lights went on, the thing turned a bright cherry red and shot up into the high clouds. It moved faster than anything I ever saw. As I drove toward Ortonville, it dropped down and went to the southwest at a tremendous rate of speed. Then it stopped and hovered. I could still see the light in the cloud when I got to Ortonville, and some editors who were going to a meeting came out of an eating place and watched it with interest." After I got to Big Stone City, it came down out of the clouds again, still changing colors." Hewitt said the object disappeared about five hours after he first spotted it. He had traveled about 150 miles. Hewitt said the object made no noise."⁵

Case 248, St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 14, 1956—Reported the St. Paul *Dispatch*, "The flying saucers—or something—are back again... Mrs. William O'Keefe said she and her husband were sitting in their home about 10 p.m. when they saw, 'a big round ball of light approaching from the south. It moved too slowly for a plane,' she said. 'I thought of a dirigible but I called the airport and was told there were none in the area. The bright object with a trailing spot of red, moved off to the west when it got near us.' Mrs. Milo Vail, said she saw the object shortly before 10 p.m. and described it as 'more the shape of a cigar than anything else and bright and shiny. It seemed very close,' she said. 'The bright object seemed to have a projection on it that made me think of a painter's scaffold.'"⁶

⁵ H. B. Williams, Indianapolis, Ind.; Elmer Dahl, St. Paul, Minn.; Claresa Van Hoof, Williston, N. D.
⁶ Elmer Dahl, St. Paul, Minn.

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SAUCERS PERSIST AS NATION YAWNS INTO NEW YEAR

Going into December, preliminary reports received by CRIFO suggest that UFO sightings for this month will be heavy—but trends can be deceiving. Geographically, most of the recent sightings are centered in the Dakotas. Curiously, the quietest is Ohio—the recognized hot-bed. Meanwhile, reports describing scores of incidents occurring during the autumnal months continue to pile up. Among these are some good reports which deserve case references in *Orbit*. Doing so, however, is at the expense of chronological order. Also sacrificed, for want of space, are sundry UFO topics of interest—but most readers have expressed their desires to be kept informed on sightings. In conformity, recent CRIFO policy has been to publish all UFO reports received, regardless of date, and so long as they reveal sufficient detail for evaluation. The writer is first to recognize the fact that all UFO sightings so described are not necessarily "saucers", but whether or not they are strongly factual, or even suggest an astronomical explanation, they deserve review. In each may be hidden some vital fact which may help lend credence to the tormented Interplanetary Theory—or a tell-tale leak which may expose the fraud behind a series of more sensational stories.

Case 249, Miles City, and Southeastern Montana, Nov. 16, 1956—Said the Great Falls *Tribune*: "... Lyman Choate, area search and rescue director, said the search began Friday evening after a rancher reported seeing several bright lights suddenly 'explode' and plunge earthward. About the same time the Miles City radar station was tracking a plane which suddenly appeared to vanish in the same vicinity. After rancher Otis Miller's report stirred speculation that a plane might have crashed, radio appeals were broadcast for confirmation. A Northern Pacific Railway fireman telephoned from Forsyth; rancher Bert Sullivan called from Colwood-Olive area, and John Dennis of Brandenberg reported similar sightings. A Sidney pilot, John Burns, reported seeing a meteor while flying from there to Sheridan, Wyo., at the time the lights were seen. Choate said the Burns plane apparently was the one observed on the Miles City radar."¹

Case 250, Bismarck, N.D., Nov. 16, 1956—UP reported that three persons saw a fiery object streak through the sky. Said the report, "A radio announcer, Eldon Ray, described the object as a 'reddish-white ball of flame trailing blue flame.' He was only able to glimpse it for a few seconds before it disappeared, but he said it appeared to be erupting as it sped west. A Frontier Airline pilot passing over the city said he thought it to be a meteorite. A CAA representative at the Bismarck Airport discounted this. It 'didn't act like a meteorite' he said. He described it as being 'of a glowing nature, bluish-green.'"²

Case 251, Rapid City, S.D., Nov. 16, 1956—St. Paul's *Pioneer Press* reported that the Rev. Willis Mountain and family saw a strange light in the sky about five miles south of Hermosa about 6:30 or 7 p.m. Rev. Mountain said the light appeared to be about 30 feet long. The object was bright at the front end and 'there were flames shooting out the back.' At first he thought it might be a jet plane but he could hear no sound. He said the object disappeared after 30 seconds.³

¹ Charles Follick, Great Falls, Mont.

² C. H. Marck, Jr., Denver Colo.; Charles Follick, Great Falls; Eugene Metcalfe, Paris, Ill.; Ray Scrimshaw, Minn., Minn.

³ Elmer Dahl, St. Paul, Minn.

Case 252, Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 16, 1956—By phone, Mrs. Frank Simpson reported the fireball to the writer. She said that she and her husband were driving south on Miami Rd. at 7:55 p.m., when they watched the huge "apple green" fireball, with a "red tail, long-pointed" descend almost vertically into the hills. Stopping the car, Mrs. Simpson asked a nearby boy, in his late teens, if he had seen the object. The boy, with camera, said that he had, adding, "I got a picture of it." Asked what he thought it was, the boy replied, "fireball".

Case 253, Knoxville and Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 16, 1956—By phone Jim McAshan, III of Knoxville first reported the fireball over his city. Later he sent a clipping from which we quote as follows: "A Concord mail carrier, J. A. Gheen said he saw a flaming meteor near Nashville about same time one was glimpsed from Knoxville. Gheen said he was coming from Memphis and was just about 15 minutes out of Nashville. He gave the time as about 7:15 p.m. That was the instant a *Journal* reporter saw the meteor flash across the western sky. 'It looked just like a stick about four feet long and blazing a thousand feet or so in the air,' he said. 'It came down north of the highway, leaving a trail of fire and landed in a field near a house.' The U.S. Weather Bureau at McGhee Tyson Airport said the observer in the tower saw the meteor and talked to the pilot of a plane who also saw it.

Case 254, Near Romeo, Mich., Nov. 15, 1956—Recent policy dictates that citing all unusual aircraft disasters is beyond the scope of saucer research, but occasionally a freak incident occurs which bears study—for the time, date and geography of the incident may coincide with the presence of a saucer. Out of speculation, Frank Gallagher of Roseville, sent CRIFO a welter of clippings covering the recent disappearance of a navy craft near Romeo. To date not a trace of the plane has been found despite intensive and extensive search, even into Canada. When the military decided to abandon search seven days after the disappearance of the F-80, the wife of one of the Marine flyers sent President Eisenhower a telegram begging that the search be resumed and widened. The Texas-based plane had flight plans scheduling a landing at Willow Run Airport with Selfridge AFB as an alternate. Selfridge picked up a plane on its radar screen and then lost it. The radio tower picked up a brief message from the pilot who said, "I'm in an unusual position" and then started sending an emergency SOS.

Case 255, Winfred, S. Dak., Nov. 23, 1956—Said the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*: "... Mrs. Robert Wassanaar and her two sons were coming from Madison about 5 p.m. when one of the boys spotted a strange light. She said the large, round, reddish-orange object seemed to be suspended in the sky over Winfred and then moved north, then south and finally disappeared. The object lit up the entire sky."⁴

Case 256, Rapid City, S. Dak., Nov. 24-25, 1956—Reported the Williston *Herald*: "... enthusiasm for saucers mounted Sunday night as Sheriff Glenn Best and patrol-

⁴ Credit, Elmer Dahl.

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THE U.F.O. AND YOU

by Richard Hall

Why Secrecy?

Those who remain unconvinced that UFO's are real reason that officials would not, or could not, keep such a fact secret. Surely the government would tell us if they knew spaceships were in our atmosphere. Moreover, Scully's story was proven to be a hoax, and Adamski brazenly contradicts science. What reason have we to worry about UFO reports? The Air Force repeatedly tells us that UFO's can be identified as conventional objects whenever sufficient data is available. This very popular skeptical argument hinges entirely on 'authoritative statements.' How often do we hear the argument, 'Dr. Myopic, who did not see the object, said it was obviously a meteor?'. The accepted authorities nearly always negate "saucers" by singling out the subjective and imaginative books as being crucial to saucerism. Well established objective facts (e.g. that jets have seen and pursued "unknowns") are neglected. Citizens, on the whole, haven't time to judge situations which are the rightful concern of government agencies. Expecting a prompt and honest report of the situation, they place their faith in the agency authorized to do the job. Why bother with obscure and fantastic arguments which contradict the authorities? The apathetic condition that prevents coordination of the UFO story can be traced ultimately to misleading authoritative statements. In that sense, the authorities are guilty of obscuring the facts and preventing the public from realizing the extent of UFO activity. Misguided journalistic humor, by making "saucers" a joke, is the second greatest deterrent factor. Why does the government allow UFO's to remain clouded in mystery? To answer, it is necessary to ask hypothetically: *would* the government inform the public if they knew spaceships were present? In all probability, no—at least not immediately. The implications might necessitate silence. Urgent questions would be raised: Are they 'people' or something abhorrent? Are they friendly, hostile, or indifferent? Are they a threat to world institutions regardless of intent? Could the public assimilate even the fact of their presence without panic? Until some of the answers were known, a sudden official announcement would be risky. Alternatively, it may be that UFO's remain unidentified. The Montana and Utah films show that UFO's exist, but not that they are spaceships. Apparent signs of intelligence do not rule out guided objects, or for that matter some strange life forms. If the identity of the object is not known, secrecy might result. In any case, if the public was to be informed of the presence of some alien intelligence, the process would undoubtedly be gradual and subtle. In devious ways we would be made space-conscious, and be led to consider life elsewhere in the universe. We would see space-satellite projects, International Geophysical Years, unofficial but convincing movies like "UFO", and scientific statements about probable life elsewhere. It takes time for a revolutionary new idea to penetrate. Prejudices and social pressures are stubbornly defiant roadblocks. The problems inherent in the UFO situation supply ample reason for a 'secrecy' policy, without recourse to imaginative tales of horror.

man C. D. Erickson chased a luminous object toward the Badlands. They said it changed colors, showing different shades of green, red and white as it moved and then remained stationary in the sky. Sheriff Best said, "I don't know what I saw but I've never seen anything like that before." Best is a pilot. Meanwhile, numerous scrambles were reported for the 54th fighter-interceptor squadron at Ellsworth AFB during the weekend. Rumors were ripe in Rapid City that blips were sighted on radar by the pilot of one of the jet fighters and by the scanners in the 740th control room.⁵

Case 257, Pierre, S. Dak., Nov. 24-25, 1956—Continued the Williston *Herald* in a full column story, "... Patrolman Don Kelm and Jack Peters, dispatcher for the state police radio system, said they got within a block of the thing and attempted to take a picture of it. The 'saucer' was seen at 12:43 a.m., Sunday in a gully about 23 miles east of Pierre. The two estimated the bright red object was hovering about 50 to 100 feet above the ground. It was deep red in color, changed to light red as it rose to an altitude of about 7000 feet", Kelm and Peters said. The two were looking for a stolen pickup truck when they spotted the object. 'It was shaped like half an egg shell with the bottom round,' Peters said. 'It appeared like someone was shining a red light on a mirror. There was enough light from it to make the center lines of the highway gleam.' Kelm said the object appeared about the size of an ordinary car. The CAA at Pierre reported the weather was clear and a stiff wind blowing at the time. Peters said he took several pictures of the object, using a fence post to steady the camera. However, he said he doubted the pictures would be any good 'because it wasn't my camera and I don't know what kind of film it had in it.' Kelm and Peters said there was no sound from the object.⁶

Ed: In the Nov. 28th edition of the Minneapolis *Star*, appears the results of Jack Peter's photographic efforts. It shows the object "shaped like half an egg shell with the bottom round" just as he had earlier described it.⁷ According to the Williston *Herald*, Nov. 28th, "South Dakota is literally being invaded by flying saucers. State police radio said 'saucer posses' saw at least ten Monday night (Nov. 26). Mysterious objects were reported at Redfield, Sioux Falls, Dell Rapids, Virgil, Custer, Hot Springs and Pierre."⁸

Case 258, Hot Springs, S. Dak., Nov. 25, 1956—A group of Hot Springs residents spotted a "flying saucer", and according to the UP dispatch, it was seen at the same time that a jet interceptor from Ellsworth AFB registered a blip on its radar. Sheriff Allen Coates and his son, Robert, said the object was brilliantly illuminated and bobbed up and down in the sky. Robert also said a jet interceptor made three passes at the object and on the third, the pilot radioed that a blip had registered on his screen. Coates said the jet's radio was monitored by the police radio.⁹

Case 259, Webster, S. Dak., Nov. 27, 1956—We quote from the Webster *Reporter & Farmer*: "The first Day County report came from a county highway department crew which left Webster before daybreak enroute to the Harper gravel pit near Lily. On Highway 25 near the airport they saw the 'thing' at about 7:15 a.m. It was about a half mile west and an estimated 1500 feet in the air. It was of a greenish color and as they watched it, it turned to a light yellow. It traveled in the same southwesterly direction that they were going and was in their sight until they were near Lily. Then it climbed higher in the sky and was finally lost in the clouds. When asked what it looked like, the driver, Otto Premus,

⁵ Credit, Claressa Van Hoof, Williston, N. D.

⁶ Credit, Claressa Van Hoof.

⁷ Credit, R. H. Scrimshaw, Minn., Minn.

⁸ Credit Claressa Van Hoof.

⁹ Credit, David J. Swartz, Brooklyn; Thomas Olsen, Baltimore; Miss Kathryn Lewis, Alexandria, Va.

said it was oval-shaped about like a turkey egg and appeared to be the size of a caterpillar tractor. It made no noise."¹⁰

Case 260, Cottonwood, Minn., Nov. 29, 1956—KSTP radio and KSTP-TV, St. Paul, reported the following: Harold Thompson saw an object near Cottonwood about 10 p.m. It hovered 300-400 feet above the ground before shooting away. It was saucer-shaped and appeared to have a number of small windows. It was light red, cherry red, purple and green at various times while he watched it.¹¹

Case 261, Bismarck, N. Dak., Nov. 29, 1956—Said radio station WCCO, Minneapolis: "An entire Junior High School class claims to have seen a strange, tiny flying object in the sky. The students say it was white, round and shiny."¹²

Case 262, Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 30, 1956—WCCO also reported that Fred Ewing who let out his cat at 5:15 a.m. watched a bright orange object moving across the sky. His wife, awakened, agreed that the object looked like a large light bulb.¹³

Case 263, Vermillion, S. Dak., Dec. 4, 1956—Said the Williston *Herald*: ". . . James Kavanagh, director of speech and hearing clinic at the Un. of S. Dakota, reported that at 6:45 p.m. he sighted what he described as moving white spots which changed to a bright red, traveling from west to east. Being a skeptic, Kavanagh said he checked the possibility the bright light might have been the reflection of car lights on low clouds or an airline beacon but decided neither possibility fit the circumstances. When he arrived at Alcester, where he was to conduct classes, two members of the class said they also had seen the same light at the same time. All three reported the object appeared to be the shape of a cigar lying on its side."¹⁴

Case 264, Cincinnati, Ohio, 3:30-4:00 p.m., Sept. 2, 1956—The following report was submitted to ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Sept. 5, by M. J. Furst, then employed as technical writer at the Allison Plant, Indianapolis: ". . . Observers other than myself were Miss Shirley Kien, Miss Margie Pleasant and Edward E. Miller. The four of us were swimming at Coney Island in Cincinnati when I first sighted a silvery object flying toward the east. It was moving about the speed of a commercial airliner. Considering the angle to the sun, my first impression was that it was sunlight reflecting from a plane. The sky was clear. When the object was about 1 o'clock overhead it suddenly banked about 20° and took off at tremendous speed. I called Miss Kien's attention to the object and I started timing it. The object traveled from a position overhead to about 5 o'clock on the eastern horizon where it disappeared in about 20 seconds. . . After the original sighting we looked around and immediately sighted a large red luminous object toward the west. The intensity was about 3 to 4 times the magnitude of Venus. We all had the impression that it was very large and very high. While we watched it went straight up, disappearing from sight in about one minute. Another silvery object then appeared slightly east of overhead and passed out of sight to the west in about 30 seconds. During the next 20 minutes we made several additional sightings of the silvery objects, none of the red again. At no time were there more than two objects sighted together. All in all, of the single sightings, there were three that came across toward the east and two toward the west. These were in addition to the two that went straight up. There were two instances where two of the objects were seen

at once. In one, the two kept criss-crossing, reversing positions as they traveled west. In the other instance, one was traveling westward when another came down from above at terrific speed, buzzed in front of the first, then came up below. Then they stayed an equal distance apart and went out of sight in the west. There were two sightings where the objects seemed to change shape, becoming elliptical. . . ."

Ed: Replied the Air Force, Sept. 19th, in part, ". . . Definite identification of your sightings has not been made to date; however, the information will be used in our continuing analysis. As you undoubtedly know, the outlying areas of Cincinnati are surrounded by numerous air bases, airports, both military and civilian, weather balloon stations and other aerial activities. Aircraft at distances, and at certain conditions of reflected light, resemble moving blots or points rather than the outline of aircraft. . . ." Also note Case 208, dated Sept. 3, with similar details.

Case 265, Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 15, 1956—In response to a special TV program by Frank Edwards, many letters were received telling of UFO experiences. We quote in part from one received from Mrs. Evelyn Smith as follows: ". . . when I was out hanging up my laundry, I happened to see a bright flicker of light in the west. . . I will try and describe it for you: The object was round and disc-like, and it was floating along just like a balloon. In fact I thought it was a balloon until I saw white stuff of some sort coming from the bottom of the object. This strange white stuff seemed to be dropped in spurts. Object itself was not moving too fast at first, then all the sudden it seemed to come to a sudden stop and then shot straight up and vanished before my eyes. . . . The object appeared to be the size of a grape fruit and brilliant."

Ed: A possibly relevant commentary to Case 265 is contained in the following excerpt from a letter received from James Quirk, Morton Grove, Ill.: ". . . I live near O'Hare Field in Chicago and on Oct. 15 there was a scramble of two F86's with afterburners in full use. They were headed in a NE direction. On the 18th I was talking to some friends about UFO and they said they knew an officer at one of the radar sites and would see about all the noise. She called the 19th and said there had been a UFO chase but that the planes had missed the target by 10-15 minutes."

Case 266, Biscayne Bay, Florida, mid-October, 1956—Writes Harry Emerson of Miami, ". . . I saw a line of equi-distant orange colored lights out over the bay. The air glowed all around them as from great luminosity. There were seven moving slowly as though sight-seeing. Off in the distance to the SW was another which could have been mistaken for a star except for its color which was identical with the group. I fixed this single one in a cross between an electric pole and a tree branch. It did not move for about 20 minutes. The group disappeared and the single one moved directly toward us. When it was overhead there was no sound. I could not ascertain its height or size. It was so large that the 5 power binoculars were filled with its image. There were five people watching it—each taking turns with the binoculars. But I'll be damned if I could get two to agree on what they saw. My observation is as follows: It was spherical in shape. It appeared to be made of shiny metal. There were three fat round balls placed in a triangle on its bottom side. It moved slower than any plane. Having passed us, it veered about 90° toward the west and picked up speed, disappearing from sight very quickly."

Case 267, Bedford, Ind., Oct. 16, 1956—Writes John Michael in a letter to Frank Edwards of WTTV, Indianapolis: ". . . having retired early, I was aroused by a noise buzzing over my house. I went to the front door to look and as I stepped out on the darkened porch, I found myself directly under the beam of a white light from an object in front of the house, its nose pointed directly at me as it approached. Missing the power lines and the house, it flew on south. I ran inside for the

¹⁰ Credit, W. G. Dietiker, Allen Park, Mich.

¹¹ Credit, R. H. Scrimshaw.

¹² Credit, R. H. Scrimshaw.

¹³ Credit, R. H. Scrimshaw.

¹⁴ Credit, Claraessa Van Hoof.

rest of my clothes and as I stepped out again the same ship had circled back and the searchlight was again being focused directly upon me. Then it pulled sharply up again to miss the power lines and the house. The big ship now took off south and began a sharply cut circle back. As it did I could see the shape of it. The wings sat back at dead center and many lights were flickering off and on, from the wings, the tail and the front. There were at least four colors of lights, red, blue, yellow and the white of the searchlight. Now it was headed back and as it stood on the east side of the house it again pointed the light and the nose of the ship at me. I expected it to land on the vacant lot in front, but suddenly it stopped as if powerful brakes had been applied. For an instant only it seemed to stop, then pulling the nose almost straight up to avoid the power lines it missed them and the church dead ahead, and flew eastward. But I had gotten a fairly good look at the wings, body of the ship and cabin, lit with a blue light. I had been impressed by the design of stars underneath the wings. . . Also it seemed the ship had cabin apartments in both the wings and the body of the ship. It made considerable noise from sort of power plant. I saw no persons but by the action of the ship and lights, intelligent direction aboard must have controlled it. I called the airport and asked a living near there if the ship had landed as it flew over that area. He said he had seen the ship but had taken it for a navy plane. . ."

Case 268, Lebanon, Ind., Oct. 18, 1956—Another letter to Frank Edwards from Mrs. Ed Coupland. We quote: ". . . at about 8:50 p.m. I saw a green ball appear in the sky north of me, continue in a straight diagonal line and disappear. It was traveling from east to west. It had an orange colored tail, very short, and it seemed to come from the top rather than the back. The ball itself was green, the only color I know to compare it with is the green of a traffic signal light. It did not flash on and off nor did it blink or change color in any way. It appeared about the size of a large orange. The sky was clear. There was no noticeable sound. It appeared, followed a straight climbing course and disappeared in a matter of seconds. It did not arch like a falling star and did not go down—it went up."

Case 269, 75 miles SSW of Miami, Florida, Nov. 8, 1956—Belatedly the following report made many U.S.

newspapers, but we received the original from Norb Gariety of Miami who got the details direct from the radar operator, Don Freestone. We quote from that report: ". . . while working on Bendix RDR-1A weather radar a strange target return was observed. It appeared at approximately 75 miles SSW of Miami, altitude of between 7000 to 8000 feet. It disappeared and re-appeared several times. I found that by turning the antenna tilt up it could be brought back on the screen. It disappeared once at 70 miles and reappeared at about 55 miles. It then moved into 50 miles and remained stationary for between 2 to 3 minutes. Then it began going off in the SSW direction it had come from. One time it was noted that the target moved 20 miles in about 6 sweeps or rotations of the antenna which rotates at a speed of about 20 times a minute. The target was last observed at about 100 miles from Miami still moving SSW. It was watched on the radar screen for about 20 minutes, and seen by six people from 11:15 to 11:35 on both PPI's. From the return, the target was fairly large being 4 to 5 times larger than any aircraft observed in the past. It had a definite shape and moved on a definite course so is not believed to have been a freak weather return."¹⁵

Ed: Reported the *Miami Daily News*, Nov. 8, "They Won't Say Why—Homestead AFB Alert Ordered." Said the quizzical article, spokesman at the base grudgingly admitted there was an alert. At denied it had anything to do with the current general tightening of U.S. defenses throughout the world. . ."¹⁶

Case 270, Bristol, Tenn., Nov. 11, 1956—According to a UP report, "CAA officials have confirmed reports that a 'silvery object' crashed into Holston Mountain. 'Something definitely fell, but we don't know what it was' a spokesman at Tri-Cities Airport said. 'So far, no one has been able to find it.' CAP planes from Bristol and Kingsport scanned the area in search for the object but were unable to find any trace. First official confirmation of the incident came from ground observers at Holston Lake. One spotter reported to a Knoxville radar unit and the message was relayed to Atlanta to the Tri-Cities airport."¹⁷

15 Credit also for clippings, Rev. A. Baller, Greenfield, Mass.; Mrs. George Lucas, Bordentown, N. J.; Walt Simms, Hollywood, Fla.; Mrs. Janet Wilcox, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

16 Credit, Norb Gariety, Coral Gables, Fla.

17 Credit, Ken Smith, Knoxville, Tenn.

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"ORBIT" BOWS OUT

The scheduled March issue of *Orbit*, Vol. III, No. 12, will terminate the publication of this monthly bulletin. Decision was reached in January after reviewing all the multifarious factors, and complex problems, involved in the administration and in the production of a monthly publication. Also considered were the overall pressures of the CRIFO project on the writer's private life and business responsibilities. The decision was not easy, nor was it a happy one.

Among the more specific reasons which behooved the writer's decision is his regrettable inability to acknowledge or answer properly the voluminous influx of mail—much of it containing valuable information or leads requiring prompt follow-up. This failure invites readership phlegmatism, which in turn hurts subscriptions and the vital flow of information. The writer is indeed in sympathy for he too has often felt the hopelessness or chagrin resulting from a letter to an authority which was ignored or answered with a laconic, evasive brush-off. Reciprocal correspondence is the lifeblood of a saucer research paper. To answer every deserving letter, promptly and intelligently, would require a staff, trained and disciplined to CRIFO's policies and principles, or it is dependent on the director's own indefatigability in keeping the midnight oil burning—seven days a week. To do less is doing an injustice to the spirit of cooperativeness with informants, and to the bulletin, such as *Orbit*, which informatively commands and monetarily demands a large readership.

Another deciding factor is that *Orbit*—its format, policies, theories etc.,—seems to be out of character with the beliefs and principles of saucerdom's growing coterie of demagogues, extremists and sensation-hunters. It seems, too, that to prosper in civilian research one must show sympathy with all the astronauts who frequently slip off to Mars or Pluto and come back with wondrous tales of omniscient races who want to help us poor earthlings. Others who seem to prosper do so by their errant, pixie-like personalities. Such rubs off in their writings or lectures and by this they sell themselves or subscriptions rather than honest-to-goodness work. Then there are those who peddle only the sensational "inside" stuff—or a vitriolic hate for the Air Force. Following none of these courses, *Orbit* soon got the cold shoulder in some quarters, and in others became the target of smear and surreptitious sniping. For about a year the writer ignored all the snubs and snipes but when it began to appear that subscriptions were dropping off in the midst of a new era wherein personalities dominated research, it seemed high time for a change.. It is now obvious that *Orbit* is "over the hill" in this new era—its usefulness and prestige gone!

Saucer research in civilian hands, today, is at the crossroad of do or die. While several regional groups in the U.S.A., such as C.S.I., New York, have made energetic, honest and even successful inroads to the problem of fact-finding, others soon break up in their befuddlement over purpose and platform and some die on paper. A few manage to survive, but are so small they must depend on the guidance of new saucer books and saucerzines to keep up stimulated interest. Often the wrong literature gets in their hands. The most promising blueprint for a civilian group to date is NICAP with its headquarters in Washington, D. C. But, while they have earned some nationwide publicity there is no authoritative word about their progress, or, who is who, who is doing what—if anything. However, on January 16, NICAP announced in a press conference through Rear Admiral Delmar Fahrney, Ret., that "there are objects coming into our atmosphere at very high speeds," etc. This made the newswires, TV and radio—and it may be the long-awaited auspicious sign indicating that NICAP is stepping in the right direction.

In the meantime, it's still the saucerzine that fans the flame in saucerdom—myriads of them, small and large, sleazy and sleek and offering everything from straight sighting reports to Christ's activities on the moon to dietary advice. Regardless of the saucerzine's editor's qualifications or modus operandi, the nation's enthusiasts depend on their latest newsbits, scoops, diatribes and rumors. Longest in business is Coral Lorenzen, whose APRO bulletin just recently changed its format to typesetting. The newest is SPACE by Norb Gariety of Coral Gables, Florida—but in between are scores of other spartan souls whose editorships, good or bad, have done so much to shape the character of saucers in the eyes of Americans. Hats off to them all—Max Miller, Gray Barker, Jim Moseley, Robert Gribble, Meade Layne, Mrs. Walton Concord John, Tom Comella, George Williamson, George Van Tassel, Albert Bender, Elliott Rockmore, Henry Maday, etc., etc.

Said *Business Week*, January 19, "Magazine publishing is a curious business . . . When it's viewed as an institution, through the eyes of the public and of its editors, a magazine's readers are its customers, and they have to be pleased . . . the money they pay often hardly does more than cover the cost of inducing them to buy the magazine. . . ." But, the institution of *Orbit* has learned that pleasing all the "customers" all the time is no simple matter. In the main, *Orbit* has found many warm friends, many taking time out to express a simple word of encouragement, but, like any publication, in or out of saucerdom, it has also been raked over the coals. In some instances, the point of criticism was well-founded, thus duly corrected. But, perhaps, the biggest factor which turned away subscribers was *Orbit*'s over-emphasis on sighting reports. No doubt many subscribers brooded over this dullness—wanting instead more O'Mara incidents or whoopla about interplanetary war—but "inside" stuff is hard to come by and theories are a dime a dozen. Unless we are willing to believe in the contact stories, which one pundit said was a subject for the "advanced" student, there seems little else to go on other than what can be ascertained from the sighting reports. Of the thousands of reports now in hands of civilian researchers it seems certain some basic truths in them can be correlated and revealed—just as those truths determined, but held secretly by the Air Force. Agreeably, many reports are rudimentary and repetitious, but their continued review in *Orbit* became policy as a result of the demands and endorsements of that bulletin's high-level and respected readership. While appealing to this group, *Orbit* lost out on the other—and the other represented that necessary monetary backbone.

. . . Which brings us to the financial factor. Cost-wise in the past year, *Orbit* has increasingly become a burden. Despite a flurry of new subscriptions resulting from Major Keyhoe's, *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, the cost of operations has far exceeded the income. Holding costs to a certain level was one problem, but the biggest was finding some unceremonious method by which the income,

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A NEW SAUCER BOOK — WITH NEW SALES APPEAL

A new book with a new slant will be published in February—it's Max Miller's *Flying Saucers—Fact or Fiction*. Writes Max, "It will be available on the newsstands for 75c per copy. . . . Despite its book-length text, it contains probably the largest compilation of UFO and related photos ever to appear between covers." The writer endorses Miller's book, for the subject he treats is long overdo for an airing, and is in constant demand by enthusiasts everywhere. Whether every photo shown is a true saucer is beside the point—the point is that it will enable the critical eye of genuine research to see and decide for itself what is good or bad.

LATE WORD ON NICAP

Writes saucer author, M. K. Jessup, in part, "On January 15th the Board of Governors met, and it is to the everlasting credit of the Board, headed by Adm. Fahrney, and abetted by Jim McAshan of Knoxville, that they made a thorough housecleaning in NICAP, both as to policy and personnel. All previous personnel has now been dropped, except Mrs. Hackett whose honest devotion to duty has remained unquestioned. Major Keyhoe was appointed temporary director and he and Mrs. Hackett are now busy trying to re-establish NICAP as a truly UFO enterprise. They have a good chance of success, and their good intentions are beyond question. It is not my belief that there is any connection with government, nor that any move is under way to use NICAP for damaging the interest of UFO, contrary to reports. I recommend that the 'thumbs down' attitude of the past few weeks be replaced with watchful waiting and the acceptance of any cooperation or information into which Major Keyhoe can bring about. It is a tough assignment, but everybody knows Keyhoe and has confidence in him. . . ."

CORRECTION—Accuracy of facts are mandatory in research, thus we call attention to *Orbit's* typo error in Case 238. Change date of the incident to August 31, 1956.

Richard Hall reminds us of this excerpt from *Pragmatism*, by William James: "New truth is always a go-between, a smoother-over of transitions. It marries old opinion to new fact so as ever to show a minimum of jolt, a maximum of continuity. . . . By far, the most usual way of handling phenomena so novel, that they would make for a serious rearrangement of our preconception, is to ignore them altogether, or to abuse those who bear witness for them."

secured only through subscriptions, could be kept on par with, or augmented above, the cost level. Promotions were planned but were abandoned for each called for additional investments—usually greater than the available funds. Finally, only one statistic stood out—new subscriptions and renewals were on the decline. One accountable factor was the strangulation of saucer news nationally. Gone were the days when Frank Edwards championed saucers on a national radio network, and, almost gone was the press' role of keeping the subject controversial. This play down has unquestionably put a damper on the nation's potential enthusiasm—and, in turn, on *Orbit's* chances of spiriting new subscribers. Such a gap hurts the small, but expensive-to-operate publication, like *Orbit*, for the potential in this gap is the cushion from which the editor looks to plan his future—and from which he meets the steady monthly costs of typesetting, printing, postage and miscellaneous items. To help offset this gap, the writer decided to try another approach, that of accepting advertising in *Orbit*, but this venture was short-lived. Some readers were quick to call it out of character; some tagged it as a money-making scheme. True, the ads were incongruous and space-consuming, but the pop-offs about profiteering were just mental pixie-twists of the rumormonger. The final deed of doom, however, came when the costs of typesetting and printing were hiked with the January issue of *Orbit*.

With the passing of *Orbit*, rumors will be rife in saucerdom. Dark ones will tell of mysterious men dressed in black, threatening Stringfield into silence. Others will have the Air Force's hoodlums at work with floodlamps and pins-under-the-nails—and, of course, there will be the one claiming that Stringfield left for Mexico in a Cadillac with lots of loot. But the truth of the matter is that while *Orbit* was shelved, its bowing out is not a goodbye from CRIFO or its director. Here are the plans:

First of all, CRIFO intends to square itself financially with every paid subscriber. This may require several months, for it means that the writer must meet the responsibility of reimbursement out of his own savings, being that the current CRIFO funds are inadequate. Plans presently are that following the final March issue, a form will be sent to each subscriber, upon which will be marked the amount CRIFO will refund in lieu of succeeding issues. Then to help CRIFO's bookkeeping, each subscriber will be asked to designate the manner by which he or she prefers to be refunded. Our first suggestion is that the subscriber consider the option of applying the balance of the refund to a booklet the writer plans to publish in the not-too-faraway future. At this writing it is difficult to say when this booklet will be completed—much depending on finances and moral support—but its preparation will begin as soon as Orbital matters are sufficiently cleared. The booklet will be a candid report on a multitude of UFO topics—many covering material never published in *Orbit* for want of space or other reasons. The booklet will also include charts and maps or drawings which will illustrate the text—an idea long-proposed by fellow researchers, Richard Hall and Charles Paisley.

It is estimated that the price of the proposed booklet may run up to \$2.00—again depending on production costs, including plates, etc. Once established, however, the price would reimburse most subscribers—and also might prove attractive to the general public. Those subscribers with less than \$2.00 refunds may also reserve a copy of the booklet, by remitting any balance, so marked on their forms. Foreign subscribers are also eligible to receive the booklet, but the 60c charged extra for subscriptions will be absorbed in extra postage overseas.

Those subscribers not desiring to reserve the booklet, with the balance due them, may receive full monetary reimbursement. However, to help CRIFO's bookkeeping and for general convenience, it is preferred on refunds less than \$1.00, that subscribers ask for postage stamps. One other vicarious refund, and a selfish boon to CRIFO's status quo, would be the subscriber's acceptance of back issues of *Orbit*—all of which are available, some getting rare, at 25c per copy.

By all means, quitting *Orbit* does not suggest that subscribers, new or old, must stop writing or sending saucer material to the writer. CRIFO is not dead—and ahead is the booklet which, if it is to be achieved, will depend on the flow of the latest and best material. And, after *Orbit's* bookkeeping is cleared, perhaps the writer may then be able to do justice to his correspondence. Priceless is the far-reaching friendships created through *Orbit*, and none will be overlooked in future ventures.

IN THE MEANTIME—MORE SAUCERS!

Case 271, Dyersburg and adjacent communities, Tenn., Nov. 18, 1956—AP reported that an unidentified object high over Northwest Tennessee caused considerable excitement. Ernest Stanley, CAA official, said the object was probably a giant balloon. Hundreds of area residents watched the object for more than an hour. It was reported seen from Gleason, Union City and Reelfoot Lake. Stanley estimated the height at 75,000 feet.¹

Case 272, Dallas, Texas, Nov. 24, 1956—Said the Dallas *Morning News*: "Personnel at the Love Field control tower were agog over a brilliant fiery meteor they thought was headed for them. 'We sat there with our mouths open' declared J. J. Jobe. 'It looked like it was going to hit right in the middle of the field.' The phenomenon was first sighted about 6:18 a.m. by Ray Pharr who described it as 'big as the moon.' Jobe said it was sighted at a position about 45° up in the sky, fell at an angle of about 20° and disappeared due south of Love Field about 10° above the horizon. 'There was a sort of halo around the leading edge of the main ball,' described Jobe, 'with long sparks shooting off the tail. The center of the tail was completely dark. And on either side of it flames of blue, white and green fire streamed back as the meteor streaked towards the earth.'

Oscar Monnig, meteor expert, tried to track down the meteorite. He said, "The one seen from Love Field must have been a big fellow with light for at least 5 seconds. It was just an optical illusion that the thing seemed to fall on Dallas. I'd say that its end point was at least 150 miles south. Monnig had one report from a motorist on the road between Itasca and Grandview. I called control towers at Bryan, Austin and San Antonio and none had observed the meteor." Monnig said that meteors have a way of dropping into lightly settled land or wilderness as if some intelligence were guiding them to secret landings.²

Case 273, Southern Wisconsin and Northern Ill., Nov. 27, 1956—The headlines in the Rockford, Ill., *Morning Star*, read: "Jets Chase Unidentified Objects, Find 5 Balloons." Said the copy, "Variously described as orange, red, white, blue and 'some like the moon', the objects were spotted over Rockford and Belvidere. In Wisconsin, sky-watchers saw them above Brodhead, Lodi, Watertown and Beloit. At the air force filter center in Chicago, military personnel said at one point their boards showed 'five unidentified objects.' With help from the radar network, jet planes roared out of Chicago, dispatched to the critical areas by the air defense command. 'We sent out jets to check. I can't tell you anything more about that,' a

spokesman said at the filter center. An alert call from Rockford was recorded there at 4:46 p.m., sent in by John C. Gregory, executive secretary of the Winnebago county civil defense. After calling Chicago, Gregory notified *Morning Star* employees who spotted one object high in the western sky, heading due east. Switchboard operators received half dozen calls. About 5:30 p.m., members of a northeast side family said they spotted objects over the southeast section of Rockford. Gregory estimated the glistening object he saw was 50,000 feet high, 'seemingly round—perhaps a little flat at times, resembling a white light.' In Chicago, a filter center spokesman said the objects were weather balloons released by the General Mills Corporation, Minneapolis. . . ."³

Case 274, Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 27, 1956—Just for the record, another unexplained skyquake. Reported the Columbus *Dispatch*, "A mysterious blast heard Tuesday morning by residents in the eastern and northeastern sections of the city brought a flood of calls. A check with officials at local airports revealed the blast did not result from any locally based planes breaking the sound barrier. The police department . . . had not been able to determine what caused the blast." One report described the blast as a double explosion and said it shook windows and knocked small ash trays off window sills.⁴

Case 275, Petersburg, Indiana, Nov. 30, 1956—From a mass of UFO reports sent to CRIFO by Frank Edwards, WTTV, Indianapolis, we quote from one as follows: "... Charles Malott, aged 17 is an employee at Pete's Drive Inn, Petersburg. Thursday at noon, young Malott drove his truck three miles south, on State Highway 61 to give the truck a test after he had worked on it. He turned at the top of Half Mile Hill and was driving to Petersburg and had gone only a half mile when he heard a noise at the rear of his truck, likened to 'three old time thrashing machines' all operating at the same time. He drove off to the side of the highway and discovered that the noise was emitting from something that was slowly taking to the air from behind a woods about 1,000 yards southeast of the state highway. The object soon became visible and was spherical in shape, void of wings, had a diameter of about 16 feet and a height of 6 to 7 feet. After attaining a height of about 150 feet, the strange object ceased to make any sound and took off in a northeasterly direction traveling at great speed, and attaining altitude until he lost sight of it. Malott is a mechanic, and has been around airplanes and helicopters. He declares that what he saw was different from anything he ever saw, or heard about. The object did not appear to have any windows, nor was it equipped with a tail. It arose vertically as though being pushed upward off the ground by some hidden giant propeller. He saw no landing gears attached to the object. He was surprised when it arose 150 feet that all noise ceased."⁵

Case 276, Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 30, 1956—Letting out a sick dog at 5:55 a.m., Mrs. L. saw a strange, large and brilliant light to her east. Dumbfounded, she watched it move slowly to a point about midway from her home and a lodge about 400 feet distance, then it stopped. In the early morning gloom, Mrs. L. said the object, round and glowing a soft dull olive green, stood out against the lodge's 50 feet high chimney. Mrs. L. estimates that the size of the lodge was 30 x 40 feet and noted that the object completely covered its view from her vantage point. Making no sound, Mrs. L. said the object soon started to move up and while doing so, turned solid red.

¹ Credit, Ken Smith, Knoxville, Tenn.

² Credit, Mrs. Ray Peterson, Longview, Texas; Jack Davis, Dallas.

³ Credit, Peter Bartkus, Rockford, Ill.

⁴ Credit, William Jones, Columbus, O.

⁵ The report was signed, "Veeck".

It disappeared behind some trees on a ridge nearby. Mrs. L. called her husband, but he arrived on the scene too late for a good look, but did see a light receding into the sky. The Weather Bureau was phoned, but they had no explanation for the phenomenon.

Case 277, Baltimore, Md., Dec. 3, 1956—Quoting the *Baltimore Sun*, "Two men reported they saw a flying object streak away from a large transport plane while they were standing at Charles and Centre Streets. Curvin Bush and Robert Bryant, guards at the Walters Art Gallery, said, 'We thought at first the tail or a section of a wing had broken loose. But then the plane reversed its direction from northeast to southwest to follow the thing.' They said the object was 'flat, oval-shaped and very bright.' It appeared to be spinning counterclockwise. They said they watched it until it disappeared behind a building. . . ."⁶

Case 278, San Luis Obispo, Cal., Dec. 2, 1956—Reported the *San Diego Union*, "Five mysterious lights were seen in the sky. One observer said they were too bright to be stars. Three policemen and a newspaper reporter watched the lights for 45 minutes and described them as having a pulsating red glow, then changing to blue and finally to white."⁷

Ed: San Luis Obispo made news in November when it was selected as the site for Mon-Ka the Martian to contact earthlings from his saucer. Saucerites claim that saucers did appear over San Luis Obispo on the designated date, but authorities counterclaimed that the objects seen were balloons. However, the predicted radio contact never took place—and the affair was tagged a hoax by most civilian researchers. With so much emphasis put on San Luis Obispo, it seems in line that other sightings, such as the one of Dec. 2, should take place and be publicized.

6 Credit, C. W. Selbold, Jr., Baltimore, Md.
7 Credit, J. R. Tucker, San Diego, Cal.

Case 279, Stow, Ohio, Dec. 4, 1956—Investigator, Herbert Clark, now residing in Akron procured the following report for CRIFO, but did not get permission to use the sighter's name. Writes Clark: "Time, 11:55 p.m. Sighter . . . former Marine sergeant. Sighter looked overhead, saw reddish object, 'flying much faster than a jet'—flying NE, very high, no sound. Object appeared size of a star. Two objects at approx, one to two second intervals, came out at 90° from first object. This would make them flying to the NNW. Disappeared quickly. Main object remained on course until it disappeared from view. Entire incident, according to sighter, occurred in approx, 6 to 8 seconds." Comments Clark, "From what I could gather in the conversation, the witness seemed reliable. However, I have to wonder about the time sequence."

Case 280, Patrick AFB, Florida, Dec. 11, 1956—Writes a correspondent whose name we will not use, "Today . . . a rocket was fired and it went quite away upstairs. On the return flight a jet was covering the [redacted] and out from behind the rear bounced two saucer [redacted] at 25,000 feet. Through 7 x 50 glasses they were bright and gleaming—as the sun on a bright day. One was 400 feet to the rear and the other farther back and both traveling at 4500 or faster speeds. . . ." CRIFO's correspondent goes on to tell of the objects making a 90° turn—and the jet trying to turn with them, but without luck. He comments, "The machines left him (the jet) holding his hand."

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MARCH 1, 1957

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"AN ORGY OF CRASHES"

The headline above prefaced an editorial appearing in the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, February 6, 1957. Said the editor, "In the space of three days, late last week, 11 American aircraft crashed or collided. . . . It was a grim 72 hour interval in the history of U.S. aviation. . . ."

To the untutored, unsuspecting or casual mind, this orgy is but another tragedy in the daily lot of news. But, to the theoretician—mindful of aviation problems and the UFO—the recent orgy is more than just coincidence. To his critical rationalization, certain incidents seem to follow the pattern of other mysterious or bizarre disasters—never satisfactorily explained. Inasmuch as interlopers were not reported as having caused any one of the eleven crashes, early press accounts, describing two of the incidents, give reason to suspect a smothering of evidence. We refer briefly to these accounts . . .

Case 281, Van Nuys, Cal., Jan. 31, 1957—Said AP, "A giant airliner crashed like a bomb into a schoolyard full of playing children after colliding with a jet fighter plane at 20,000 feet. . . . The jet struck the airliner a glancing blow, apparently from the rear. Both were disabled and nosed into death dives. The jet survivor (radarman) parachuted to safety. He said at hospital, "We had just completed the second of three passes to test our new radar. I saw something loom up on the left side * * * there was a crash. We lost our cockpit canopy. Fire came in. There wasn't time to think of anything. . . . I guess I bailed out. I can't figure how we collided with that airliner, if that's what it was * * * I just can't figure it." (Ed: Curious are the deletions in the pilot's report.)

Case 282, New York, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1957—Said AP, "A packed Miami-bound airliner, held up for hours by weather, finally roared away from LaGuardia Field in a blizzard. Moments later, it crashed with a brilliant, eerie flash of light onto Rikers Island." Said one survivor, according to the report, "We were hardly off the ground when she blew up. It hit something. When I got out the plane was really blazing."

Ed: According to a feature story special to the Detroit *News*, the pilot, Capt Alva Marsh, of the ill-fated plane said he did not know what caused the crash. In a statement he said the plane was below its maximum weight, was clear of snow and ice and was completely checked before he departed. Capt. Marsh also declared there was no evidence of a fire before the craft fell. However, a survivor said he saw flames "three feet high on both wings" before the plane struck the ground. According to the Detroit *News*, the survivor said, "I fly often and I know the difference between fire and ordinary engine exhaust flames. These flames were red or orange, three feet high. They were not blue." The Captain's statement also seemed to contradict the unofficial theory that icing on the wings, motor exhausts or carburetors brought the plane down. According to the *News* story, Joseph Fluet, chief CAB investigator in the New York area, said he ruled out the report that the plane struck a pole on Rikers Island. He said, "I went over the path of the approach very carefully by helicopter and I found nothing to indicate that there was any collision with an object."¹

¹ Credit, Frank Gallagher, Roseville, Mich.

While Fluet was referring to the pole and/or any other man-built obstruction in the flight path, he does not propose, for reasons of security, that some other force or object could have caused the crash. Admittedly, the evidence in both cases above only points hazily to interference of a mysterious force, but our suspicions are sharpened upon reflection of two other recent air disasters, both of which reveal more definitive evidence of unidentified forces—or *interlopers*.

Case 283, Chapman, Maine, Nov. 30, 1956—Said an AP report, "An Air Force jet fighter crashed and exploded in the wilderness at Chapman just before midnight, killing the two occupants. The plane, based at Presque Isle, had taken off to track a reported unidentified aircraft."² (Ed: It is perfectly logical that the AF would tag the interloper as an "aircraft", for the AF has repeatedly stated that saucers do not exist.)

Case 284, Isle of Pines, south of Cuba, Jan. 24, 1957—Reported UP, "Two B-47 Stratojet bombers collided in flight south of Cuba, and three of its missing crewmen were rescued. Sister planes of the downed craft reported upon their return to Homestead AFB, Florida, that they saw a 'huge bolt of fire' and then saw flames shoot out in 'many directions' toward the sea. One of the first rescue planes on the scene radioed that 'fires spread over a wide area' and said there were signs of 'something' turning south of the Isle of Pines."³

Ed: Not clear in the report is the cryptic reference to "something turning south." If the alleged object were a raft, then why didn't the rescue plane investigate, thus carry out its mission? Also, the phrase, "turning south" suggests that the *something* was propelled, and here again, it seems that the plane investigating would have been able to identify a surface vessel. Hence, we deduce that the object was airborne, and being so, may have been responsible for the disaster.

Whatever the cause of the latest *flap* of air crashes, the writer wishes to stress one fact—that of pointing to the UFO as the responsible entity or force for causing several past air disasters. One highly placed informant long ago told the writer of the military's concern over this problem and cited, circuitously, one particular case which provided the writer with strong enough evidence to force the issue openly in *Orbit*—even though it was unpopular with readership. While the facts of this one case must remain silent, they do not suggest necessarily that the saucer is belligerent or bent on earth destruction. Biggest danger, according to one advanced theory, is the saucer's force field—an indefinable and unmeasurable radial zone which can cause a plane, entering through it, to either disintegrate, have sudden power failure, or perform freakishly. While this theory may provide the simplest or most expedient answer to some bizarre incidents, it, however, does not seem to apply to those where the UFO and the aircraft collided—if such were the circumstances. At this point the writer must take leave, for in this macabre matter he is not the authority, but merely one realist who asks all readers to *think*.

² Credit, H. G. Rovner, Phila., Pa.

³ Credit, Mrs. Fred Zimmerman, Tamaqua, Pa.

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So much to say and so little space—that's my problem in this 36th and last issue of *Orbit*. Might say I'm relieved knowing that I will no longer thread copy through a needle, or that I must meet deadlines. Or, I might say, reaffirming my beliefs, that flying saucers are from outer space; that the Air Force is sitting atop a powder keg of information, or, that all "contact" stories seem more factitious than factual—but, the hardest thing to say, or admit, is that *Orbit* is now finished. To me, *Orbit* was more like a member of the family—it breathed triumph and despair, it had complexes, it joined in at the dinner table, and it was a brief sleeper. What others thought is best told in the recent deluge of letters and phone calls from readers and prominent researchers—even critics. Truly, the writer is overwhelmed, and of course, deeply gratified, for he had never fully realized that his bulletin was so close to the heart and mind of so many. Such would make any writer, on any subject, proud, knowing his efforts were not in vain.

Ahead, lies a new project—the booklet proposed in *Orbit's* Feb. issue. If all goes well, it should be published sometime next fall. Good material is needed, so continue sending in sighting reports with good documentation, facts concerning the Geophysical Year, astronomical and particularly lunar information, and news about unusual air disasters.

CRIFO's hard-working bookkeeper, Dell, sincerely thanks subscribers who kindly wrote in advising a cancellation of their refund, but she also asks that each and everyone fill in and return the Refund Status Form, which is being enclosed with this issue. Returning this form promptly will help systematize her bookkeeping, and will let the writer know how everyone feels about his proposed booklet. If the first one goes over, there indeed will be sequels. Those desiring a first edition, autographed copy of the booklet may reserve a copy by sending remittance with the Refund Status Form.

Major Donald E. Keyhoe has been invited to lecture in Cincinnati, tentative date, Sunday, April 7, under the auspices of the local UFO Society. Tickets are now being sold, 90c per person by Mrs. Catherine Carter Golden, Chairman, at the following address: 230 Ludlow, Apt. 3, Cincinnati 20, Phone AVon 1-0990. If plans work out, Major Keyhoe will speak at Hughes High School Auditorium, capacity 2,000. Watch for his appearance on local TV and announcements in newspapers. See you there!

Case 285, Near Missoula, Montana, Nov. 18, 1956—According to the Great Falls *Tribune*, reports of flashes in the sky went unsolved. Two Northwest Airline pilots reported a blue flash of flame about 8 p.m. A highway patrolman also reported a flash at the same time. A later *Tribune* report revealed more witnesses. Cattlemen, E. T. Latta and Lyle Faulkner both saw the light, "definitely blue" at 5:50 p.m. Latta said it was about a quarter of a mile from them and about 50 feet above the ground. "There was just a tinge of white to it," he said. "When it went down, it must have landed in the Clark Fork River. Faulkner said it kind of came floating down, "then it disappeared into thin air."⁴

Case 286, Forest Lake, Minn., Dec. 2, 1956—Five members of the Moffett family, all adults, were willing to testify they had seen a saucer, said the Forest Lake *Times*. The elder Mr. Moffett saw it first, about 9:45 p.m., as he glanced outside through the living room window. He saw a brilliant light low in the sky. Then, all the Moffetts went outside and saw the object, moving back and forth, up and down. They agreed it must be a plane in trouble but wondered why they heard no noise. According to Mrs. Moffett, it appeared to have two windows, one luminous red and the other green. She described the color as "luminous, like a halo, with points flaring in all directions." She said it was oblong in shape. It was definitely not a plane, she said, and described it as "an object foreign to all of us." It hovered, then drifted to the southeast.⁵

Case 287, Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 11, 1956—Writes R. H. Scrimshaw, "John Talley, disc jockey at the radio station was on his way to work at 5:30 a.m. He turned off the highway and was looking at what he thought was the morning star—but it was unusually bright. Then it began to move, and then very fast. It had an orange cast to it, and what appeared to be a vapor of sparks. He wasn't going to say anything about it, but upon arriving at the station he noticed an AP report had already preceded him, and decided then to tell others. . ." The AP report, writes Scrimshaw, described a sighting by three watchmen, timed at 5:20 a.m.

Case 288, Augusta, Maine to Manchester, N. H., Dec. 21, 1956—Said the Kennebec *Journal*, "A brilliant object flashed across the NE sky and left a trail of comment. . ." One couple told Augusta police they saw a 'long object with a blue glow fall toward the ground.' They thought it was a falling plane—as did most observers who phoned the police stations, airports and GOC posts. One GOC post reported, "a silver object without wings, traveling extremely fast at a high altitude. It disappeared behind a cloud bank NE of Augusta. CAA Communicator, E. L. Bracy, on duty at the airport, said the object was reported by an airline pilot, 15,000 feet over Montpelier, Vt. The pilot said the object fell almost vertically from above his aircraft, split at mid-point in his line of vision, and faded out. It left a blue trail. Time 9:25 p.m."⁶

Case 289, Narberth, Pa., Dec. 21, 1956—Writes, Edward Blanchard, "On the night of Dec. 21, my friend, Scott Cornelius saw a weird sight. He was walking home from a friend's house when he chanced to look into the sky. . . I quote from what he related to me: ' . . . at 10:40 p.m., I saw an object in three cloudy sections (Ed: drawing shows the UFO in successive stages, the first indicating

⁴ Credit, Charles Follick, Great Falls, Mont.

⁵ Credit, Elmer Dahl, St. Paul, Minn.

⁶ Credit, Mrs. Eleanor DuPont, Hallowell, Maine.

three units or sections, the middle of which is ovoidal while the lateral units are rectangular with a concave top). The two end parts disappeared and the middle became larger and brighter. It was shaped like an egg. Then it got smaller, finally to a pinpoint. After this, it formed a cloudy figure like it did in the beginning. About five minutes later, it disappeared. The moon was not out at the time, and this made it easier to see."

Case 290, Upper Peninsula, Mich., Dec. 22, 1956—Reported the Detroit News, "A blinding blue-white light accompanied by a roar flashed high in the sky. . . Aircraft pilots as far away as Ottawa, 400 miles east, and Ft. Wayne, 500 miles south, reported the light, which lasted from 5 to 10 seconds and lit up miles of the Upper Peninsula with the radiance of a midday sun. Radio operators for Capital Airlines at Kimross ruled out the possibility the light was caused by an electrical storm. There were no clouds at the time and no electrical disturbances on radio circuits. . ."⁷

Case 291, Near Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 1, 1957—Writes R. H. Scrimshaw, "I was driving on highway 169, watching the horizon as usual. I had glanced at my watch, it was 11:15 p.m. Just as I made a slight curve to the left, about one minute later, a large object appeared on a slight arc, then plummeted straight down. It was from 2½ to 3 inches wide and about 4 inches high—about 3 inches of the height was blue-green, the top white-hot. No sparks, very clean definition."

Case 292, San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 2, 1957—Said the SF Chronicle, "A flaming object shot through the sky over the International Airport at 6 p.m. and disappeared over the ocean. Attendants in the control tower reported it was blue-green with an orange tail. They could hear no noise as it passed over. Several people called the Chronicle to report what looked like a burning plane. . ."⁸

Case 293, Williston, N. Dak., Jan. 5, 1957—Reported the Williston Herald, "Larry Wagenman and sister, Joy, watched a 'bright orange flying object' while enroute to their home. The object was oval-shaped and traveling west. After watching it a short time, the object disappeared over a hill. They drove on and saw it again in the distance, stopped the car and watched it out of sight again. The object's size seemed about twice the length of the moon crescent, said Wagenman, and they could hear no sound. Speed was estimated as very fast. . ."⁹

Case 294, Las Vegas, Nevada, Jan. 14, 1957—Said the Las Vegas Sun, "Mr. Art Johnson, baritone at Desert Inn, Las Vegas says he and his wife were driving on Decatur Blvd. at 5 a.m. . . when suddenly a huge white ball came straight down out of the sky, then headed toward Nellis AFB. 'The object shot out a blast like at least 50 jet planes at once,' declares Johnson, 'A flaming exhaust colored red, blue and orange. . .'"¹⁰

Case 295, Yakima and south-central Wash., Jan. 21, 1957—The Oregonian reported that an intently bright flash, accompanied by an explosion, was witnessed in widespread parts of Washington. It said that an airline pilot flying between Seattle and Ellensburg described the light as bright enough to light his cockpit. Yakima residents saw it, too, accompanied by a rumbling explosion strong enough to rattle windows.¹¹

Case 296, Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 21, 1957—Amongst a mass of clippings sent to CRIFO by Ken Smith, two items, from the Knoxville Journal, stood out. One said, "Smoke, acrid and thick, covered South Knoxville like a shroud but the Fire Dept. could find no fire to account for it. Telephone reports began about 8:30, describing the phenomena as 'eerie' and 'choking'." The second item featured a picture showing Mr. Addis Williams pointing skyward. Its caption told of a "ball of fire" he saw over Knoxville which he believed was responsible for the heavy smog in that area. To the writer the two items warranted checking, so by letter Ken Smith was asked to do the job. Ken came back with a long letter (with maps) and tells of his investigation. We quote from Ken Smith's letter in part, ". . . He (Addis Williams) and wife are demonstration representatives for household wares, and that is why he was in the area where sighting occurred. . . He sounded sincere in his story but showed no interest in subject as we know it. So here is composite of his tale after my questions. . . ."

Addis Williams: "I left a demonstration in home about half past eight, Jan. 21 as I wasn't feeling well, so waited in car while Mrs. Williams continued demonstration. I was parked on unlighted street with overcast prevailing. Suddenly the street lit up with illumination brighter than a full moon and at same time I saw a seemingly ball of fire, the size of a full moon, pass across my view thru windshield and disappear over the hill to my right. It was white with no variation in color, no spots on it, no tail, but with smooth edges. No sound was noticed. It glided in a straight line descending just over the hill. I wondered what it was but did nothing. Within a few minutes the view around me became foggy with indescribable odor. Within minutes I heard two fire department calls in vicinity. Shortly, the smoke disappeared. I did nothing until next day when I read in the morning paper about the smoke incident. I then reported my experience to the paper thinking the two incidents were related."

We continue quoting from Smith's letter—" . . . I called the lady where he was giving demonstration. She knew nothing of sighting, but had her calendar marked for appointment, 1-21-57. . . I phoned Mrs. Paul Scruggs—she's working in GOC Filter Center. She was not aware of sighting, but a neighbor had called her about the smog. She checked the files at the Filter Center the next day, but no sightings were reported. . . ."

Case 297, Baltimore, Md., Jan. 24, 1957—According to the Baltimore News-Post, the weirdest saucer ever reported in this area was seen over Curtis Bay by three brick masons—an orange-colored mass which was oblong in shape. Said one of the witnesses, "We were down there at the DuPont plant on emergency repair work when I saw this strange object hovering over the plant at a very considerable height. I had heard of flying saucers, but had never seen one, and I nudged my companions and made them look. At first we thought it might be a cloud reflection from a floodlight on the ground, but there was no floodlight. It seemed to be moving very slowly away from us, and instead of lying flat, it looked as though it was on edge. The glow of it would increase and then diminish as though it was moving through cloud formations. It got more and more distant, and finally we lost sight of it."¹²

Case 298, Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 24, 1957—Police officers, Bob Pope and Mel Burbrink had parked their cruiser near the city's incinerator at Spring Grove. It was 6:30 a.m., the moon was out, the sky clear. Suddenly, Burbrink, who was standing outside the cruiser, sighted four strange lights in the southern sky. He called to Pope who got out for a good look. Together, they watched, and according to Pope, the objects were bluish white, about

7 Credit, Richard Hall, New Orleans; Frank Gallagher, Roseville.

8 Credit, J. Geer, Berkeley, Calif.

9 Credit, Claressa Van Hoof, Williston, N. D.

10 Credit, Wm. B. Nash, Miami, Fla.

11 Credit, Kathrynne Decker, Portland, Ore.

12 Credit, Thomas M. Olsen, Baltimore.

the magnitude of Venus, and were traveling east to west in a straight line. Said Pope, the objects held a precise pattern of flight, the leader keeping several paces ahead of the others. He also noted that the foremost object of the latter three seemed larger, brighter and more elongated than the rest. They all disappeared into the dark sky's infinity, making no sound. Officer Pope was convinced they were not aircraft.

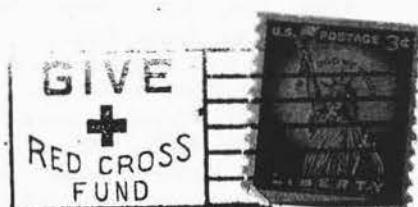
Case 299, Burbank, Calif., Feb. 13, 1957—Said the Los Angeles Times, "Two mystery objects . . . darted through the skies, stood still and changed color were seen over San Fernando Valley for 15 minutes, Burbank police reported. . . . Officer Bob Wells was sent out at 6:30 p.m. to check numerous reports that flooded police switchboards. He said that he stood with dozens of residents who gathered on lawns to watch the sight. . . ." Additional information concerning the incident is revealed by letter, received from Mrs. I. E. Epperson—from which we quote:

" . . . I heard the news first on radio at 8:30 a.m. on KFI. I immediately phoned the station and talked with the news announcer, Pat Bishop. He told me he had two reports, one sighting at 6:30 Wednesday evening and one for 4:10 the following morning. He read the reports to me again and I got the name of the couple who called the Burbank police, a Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Haskins, so I phoned. . . . Mrs. Haskins told me that she had gone out to shut the front gate about 6:30 p.m. and saw a large round object hovering directly over the Lockheed Aviation plant. She called her husband—and he called the police. . . . She told me that she and her husband watched the object for about five minutes as it hovered

motionless, and then she said it started to move in a very strange way—she described a jerking from side to side for a minute, then it shot up suddenly. I asked how high it was and she thought for a bit and said about 1,000 feet or less, while hovering. She told me that when the police officer arrived that he told them that he had seen it already and indicated that there were more than just the one. The officer also told them that he had phoned the Air Base and they told him there were unidentified objects in the area . . . I asked Mrs. Haskins to describe the object and she said it looked rather dark at first—that it was *perfectly round*. After it took off, it seemed to light up real bright. . . . When I asked how large it was, she guessed about 15 feet across. . . ."

Case 300, Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 27, 1957—Unexplained were the strange lights, seen by scattered observers, flashing over downtown Cincinnati and along the Ohio River in a dark and drizzly sky at 5:30 a.m. Reports described the phenomena as multiple flashes of light and as long sweeping beams. Uncertain, however, was the direction of the beam—up or down, but its brightness in the fog was visible as far east as Terrace Park. Stan Matlock, of WKRC radio popularity, said he saw the lights on his way to work while driving on Columbia Parkway. For a possible answer, the writer checked with the U. S. Weather Bureau, located in the heart of activities, but they could offer no explanation—other than the phenomena were "not meteorological". Also interrogated by the writer were crew members of the Coast Guard Cutter, Sycamore, at port on the river, and the tower of the Greater Cincinnati Airport. Neither agency claimed responsibility for the lights, or could offer explanations.

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