

May 1, 1957

CIVILIAN SAUCER INTELLIGENCE OF NEW YORK

CSI NEWS LETTER - Issue No. 7

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May 1, 1957

CIVILIAN SAUCER INTELLIGENCE OF NEW YORK
c/o Lex Mebane, 245 West 104th St., N.Y.C.

CSI NEWS LETTER

The Price of Being "Too Factual"

As most of us know, the March 1957 issue of Leonard Stringfield's periodical, C.R.I.F.O. Orbit, was the last he will issue. So passes from the scene one of the major sources of factual UFO information.

Orbit made its initial appearance, under the name of C.R.I.F.O. Newsletter, in April, 1954, and changed its name in July, 1955. Almost single-handed, Len Stringfield and his wife Dell brought it out every month for three years—a fairly heroic achievement, when one considers that it had to be done on top of normal business and domestic responsibilities.

Its quality was unique, and nothing quite takes its place. Correspondents all over the world sent first-hand material to Stringfield, whose editorship was sharp-cutting and knowledgeable. To be sure, not all of his interpretations were accepted by all his readers—but that's natural in a field where almost no two people agree 100 percent. But, generally speaking, Orbit was as good an illustration of "sensible UFO research" as could be found anywhere on this planet. It was one of the handful of UFO publications that could be put before an intelligent skeptic without any apology.

Stringfield's eloquent valedictory in the February issue provokes some somber thoughts. The financial burden of publishing a monthly magazine finally became more than he could manage: printing costs kept going up, but subscriptions fell behind. They fell behind, he believes, primarily because his editorial policy was too scrupulously factual, refusing to pander to the cultist element.

All of us who call ourselves "serious" researchers ought to feel some degree of remorse that we did not do more to keep Orbit going. Research in this subject is not so rich in sensible publications that we can afford such a loss.

Needless to say, Len Stringfield was not "hushed up" by black-suited hombres or other sinister forces. His interest in the UFO mystery continues, and he intends to publish an illustrated booklet before autumn. It would help him if orders for this were placed now, before publication. (The price: \$2.00. The address: 7017 Britton Avenue, Cincinnati 27, Ohio.) Moreover, all of the 36 back issues of Orbit and the C.R.I.F.O. Newsletter, which will be collector's items some day, are still available at 25 cents each--a word to the wise is sufficient.

The demise of Orbit for being "too serious" brings to mind the demise three years ago of that outstanding organization, Civilian Saucer Investigation of Los Angeles; and it reminds us that we no longer have with us Elliott Rockmore's Flying Saucer Review, or the Bristol Flying Saucer News; and it brings to mind the commendable but short-lived "Project A" of Ohio Northern University. Once more we see that, in this field, the serious student of factual occurrences cannot command the mass audience that the tongue-in-cheek entertainer or the purveyor of a gospel is able to attract. Perhaps this is not surprising. But it bodes ill for the future of UFO research if the process of economic survival of

the fittest" results in the elimination of the sensible, and the preservation of the showmen and outright cranks. If this is the way it's going to be, what will "saucer research" be like in ten years from now?

We are fortunate at present in having a national organization which gives real promise of putting serious UFO research on a secure basis. Under its new management (see article below) NICAP is the most promising endeavor that has yet appeared in the field of UFO study. With excellent personnel, a sound program, and unprecedented prestige, NICAP can dissipate the murky atmosphere of mixed ignorant skepticism and perfervid cultism that now surrounds us, and inaugurate a new era in saucer research.

But NICAP will face the same problem as Orbit: Is there really enough interest in responsible UFO investigation to keep it going? As yet, there are no government or foundation grants for saucer research; its financial support will have to come from the public. NICAP membership will cost \$7.50, which is high compared to most saucer clubs and magazines. But it undertakes to do more than the others can, and it won't waste your money.

All of us complain about the present state of affairs: nearly ten years after Kenneth Arnold's historic sighting, the Air Force has the UFO subject sewed up, the press still thinks it's all a joke, and only the cultists seem to be able to prosper. NICAP is clearly our best hope for rescuing UFO research from this predicament. We mustn't let it go the way of Orbit. It's time for us to put up or shut up.

* * *

THE REBIRTH OF NICAP

In News Letter #6, we cast a jaundiced eye on the "National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena" (NICAP) set up in Washington, D. C. by anti-gravity claimant T. Townsend Brown. Within a few weeks, our article was obsolete. Rev. Albert H. Baller, who came from NICAP's January 15th Board of Governors meeting to speak for CSI three days later, brought the good tidings that NICAP was under new management. When the distinguished Governors (many of them recruited by Donald Keyhoe) had found themselves confronted with a proposal to pay salaries of \$15,000 and more to Brown and his associates, there had been an upheaval. A detailed and frank account by well-known saucer author Morris K. Jessup, who was close to these events, has been printed by Noseley in his Saucer News for Feb.-March 1957. According to Jessup, an attempt was made to take advantage of the peculiar provision, noted in our article, for "buying" voting strength. The Governors would not tolerate this apparent chicanery, and the outcome was an entirely new organization. The name, the address, and the Board of Governors remain as before, but Townsend Brown resigned on January 18th, and Major Keyhoe was appointed Director. Until urgent personal reasons necessitated his withdrawal on April 10, the Chairman of the Board of Governors was Rear Admiral Delmer S. Fahrney, a long-time friend of Keyhoe's. Fahrney, former head of the Navy's guided missile program (now retired), took an active part in the reorganization. His wholehearted, though brief, participation in civilian UFO research has already had noticeably beneficial effects. Thanks to his great prestige as "the father of American guided missiles," his straightforward statements to the press on January 16th were carried, at least in part, by practically all U.S. newspapers and by many abroad. (Incidentally, this confirms Wavenev Girvan's statement that there is no official "censorship" on the

subject, other than that most editors are bored with saucers and don't think they are news. All that's needed to get UFOs back on the front pages is a saucer story involving an eminent military man.) At the January 16th press conference, Admiral Fahrney stated (we quote NICAP's condensed press release, together with some further remarks reported by UP in the N.Y. World-Telegram & Sun, Jan. 19):

"Reliable reports indicate that there are objects coming into our atmosphere at very high speeds. No agency in this country or in Russia is able to duplicate at this time the speeds and accelerations which radar and visual observers indicate these flying objects are able to achieve. There are signs that an intelligence directs these objects, because of the way they fly: the way they change position in formations would indicate that their motion is navigated and controlled.

"As long as such unidentified objects continue to navigate through the earth's atmosphere, there is an urgent need to know the facts. The Air Force is collecting factual data on which to base an opinion, but many observers have ceased to report their findings to the Air Force, because of the seeming frustration--that is, all information going in, and none coming out.

"The reason the Air Force doesn't put out any information, of course, is because the visitors must not be from the earth--therefore they must be from some other part of the universe. The obvious question then is, where are they from, and why are they here? And the Air Force can't answer. So they say nothing.

"It is in this area that NICAP may find its greatest mission. Because of many advances, we now have at our command tools to examine reports of so-called unidentified flying objects, and we are in a position to screen independently all UFO information coming in from our filter groups. General Albert C. Wedemeyer will serve the Committee as Evaluations Adviser, and complete analyses will be arranged through leading scientists. After careful evaluation, we shall release our findings to the public. If we get enough data, we will eventually determine--we hope--where these objects come from, and why."

Adm. Fahrney also announced the addition of two more distinguished names to the NICAP Board of Governors: retired Air Force General William E. Kepner, and Dr. Earl L. Douglass, widely-known retired Presbyterian clergyman and writer.

There is no doubt that NICAP under its new management will be the closest approach to a "professional" civilian UFO-research body that the world has yet seen. Major Keyhoe has had offers of cooperation from experts in all the relevant fields: aeronautics, high-altitude research, astronomy, meteorology, rocketry, psychology. It is even more significant that NICAP will be a full-time organization. All of us who have dabbled in saucer research know that one just can't do it justice on a spare-time basis: the demands of one's regular occupation keep interfering with research work (and vice versa, of course). Although the assistance of spare-time volunteers will continue to be essential, NICAP will have full-time research personnel and secretarial workers. Salaries, of course, will be very small, since there is never likely to be a surplus of funds on hand, but workers can undoubtedly be found who are willing to make this sacrifice. As of

mid-March, only Keyhoe and NICAP stalwart Mrs. Rose Hackett Campbell were working on a full-time basis, with part-time and volunteer assistance. Unlike the old regime, they are proceeding vigorously with investigation and publication: the first issue of a 32-page photo-offset NICAP newsmagazine, expected to be an impressive production, will be out about the first of May. Once this first sample of NICAP's work is in print, expansion will get under way in earnest.

A large-scale civilian research organization and pressure group, untainted by crackpot influence, has been urgently needed ever since it became plain that the Air Force was abusing its monopoly on governmental UFO investigation. During the past ten years many excellent enterprises have been launched; some are still with us, others (including perhaps the best of all, CSI of Los Angeles) have given up the struggle. They have done splendid work, but none of them has been able to grow in size and reputation to the point where it could seriously expect to change the continuing situation of public indifference and official mismanagement. Now NICAP, under Major Keyhoe's leadership, sets itself that goal. CSI of New York feels that Keyhoe and his distinguished collaborators are well qualified to undertake this vital task, and we believe that if they are solidly backed up by those already in the field, there is an excellent prospect that they will succeed in accomplishing it.

NICAP's address is: 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

CSI NEWS

Executive Committee Meeting January 4, 1957: The Executive Committee drew up and adopted, by majority vote, the following Statement of Policy:

CSI of New York believes that:

There are as yet unidentified objects or manifestations in our atmosphere.
 They are of diverse forms, suggesting various origins.
 Some of them appear to be material objects.
 Some seem to be controlled by intelligences.
 Some appear to be constructions.
 Some of them appear to have landed.

CSI has no reason at this time to believe that:

UFOs have any occult or religious connotation.
 Anyone on this earth has had any communication with UFOs or their occupants.

CSI undertakes to:

Collect reports.
 Investigate at first hand, when possible.
 Evaluate evidence by established scientific principles.
 Disseminate its findings.

This statement, while it is not necessarily binding upon the private opinions of individual members, represents the official policy of the organization as a group, and members representing the organization in public are asked to make this clear.

Mrs. Mary Coryn, Organizational Vice President, resigned that office because of her domestic responsibilities, but accepted appointment to the Executive Committee as a member-at-large. Herman H. Mitchell was also appointed to the Committee in the same capacity.

Public Meeting January 18, 1957: On this date an audience of 200 people heard the Reverend Albert H. Baller, member of the NICAP Board of Governors and a long-time member of CSI, speak in Steinway Hall. Rev. Baller discussed his intensive investigations of UFO reports in and near his home, Greenfield, Massachusetts, where he is pastor of the Robbins Memorial Congregational Church, and where his own observation of three spherical objects, on February 20, 1952, first aroused his interest in the subject. His lecture was accompanied by magnificently executed slides in color, illustrating various witnesses' descriptions of what they had seen, and by playback of Rev. Baller's taped interviews with a number of these witnesses. A summary report of this exceedingly interesting meeting, which drew our attention again to the many remarkable sightings in the earlier years (1947-52), will be made available to our members; we regret that it has not been possible to prepare this sooner.

Members' Meeting March 8, 1957: This meeting was held at 105 West 55th Street, in the offices of the Handicapped Children's Home Service, and was attended by 31 members and their guests. President John Du Barry read a letter of resignation from Administrative Vice President Courtland Hastings, which the membership voted to accept. (Mr. Hastings' resignation had been requested because of his numerous public expressions of disagreement to Section 2 of the CSI policy statement, on Long John's program and elsewhere.)

Mr. Du Barry reviewed recent developments in NICAP and urged members to support the organization and Major Keyhoe in their efforts to establish UFOs as a serious topic on a nation-wide basis.

Ted Bloecher then described in detail his visit to Cincinnati last August, when he and Leonard Stringfield investigated six reported encounters, in the spring and summer of 1955, with dwarfish semi-human bipeds. Several strikingly weird sketches obtained from the witnesses were exhibited. Ted hopes to prepare a special written report on these cases for CSI members as soon as time becomes available.

After refreshments, a taped lecture by Wavenev Girvan, the English UFO author and publisher, was heard. Girvan chided British "saucerers" for their readiness to assume that governments possess secret knowledge about saucers, and that newspaper editors have instructions to "clamp down" on flying saucer news. "It just isn't true that there is censorship," he said. "Most of the editors I know are skeptics, and they fear ridicule. Their attitude at the moment is that flying saucers are nothing more than last year's stunt. And I think, in the attitude of governments, there is much more evidence of genuine puzzlement than there is of suppression of the truth."

Executive Committee Meeting April 5, 1957: At this meeting, attended by Committee members and several guests, Harold Oksenkrug, Vice President of CSI in 1954, was appointed pro-tem Organizational Vice President. He will serve, in that capacity, as Chairman of the Program Committee. Lex Mebane was shifted from Secretary to Administrative Vice President, leaving the office of Secretary temporarily unfilled until a qualified candidate can be found to handle the responsibility. Jules St. Germain consented to serve as CSI's legal advisor.

Report on Hopkinsville Finished, Must Still be Printed: The long-awaited "Hopkinsville landing report," by CSI members Isabel Davis and Arthur Ledwith, has now been completed in preliminary typescript form, under the title of The Landing at Kelly - August 21-22, 1955. This landing case - which the authors consider genuine - is one of the most protracted and most extraordinary on record. The authors have investigated it very thoroughly and they present their results in detail, including maps, diagrams, photographs, and sketches of the "little men" as described to Mr. Ledwith by the eye-witnesses the day after the incident occurred.

The report, 80 pages long as it now stands, will be made available to members after final revisions have been made, a fair copy has been typed, and a photo-offset edition has been printed.

"Fantastic Universe" Articles by Research Section Continue: In the July issue of Fantastic Universe (on newsstands about the first week in May), CSI's third article in its series on unidentified flying objects will summarize eleven cases in which "angel hair" has been reported in connection with unknown aerial objects. In the August issue Ivan Sanderson, CSI Vice President for Public Relations, will again be represented in an article entitled "UFOs - Friends or Foes?"; Lester del Rey's animadversions on the flying-saucer "cult" (see item below, regarding convention) will be reprinted; and there will be an article on "contacts." The September issue will conclude CSI's remarks on "angel hair."

Reprints of Ivan Sanderson's article, "An Introduction to Ufology" (Fantastic Universe, February 1957), are being made available gratis by the publisher, King-Size Publications, 320 Fifth Avenue, New York City. The editor, Hans Stefan Santesson, is anxious to learn readers' opinions concerning the UFO articles - don't hesitate to write.

CSI - Davidson "Debate" on Long John Program: On two successive Sunday mornings back in January (the 6th and the 13th), Ted Bloecher and Leon Davidson appeared with Long John, nominally to debate the merits of Dr. D.'s theory that flying saucers are U. S. government devices; but the discussion wandered into many other fields, and bore little resemblance to a debate. On the first occasion, Ted was accompanied by Ivan Sanderson; on the second, by Isabel Davis and Lex Mebane.

CSI Represented at Science-Fiction Convention: On Sunday, March 3rd, a convention of the Eastern Science-Fiction Association was held at Slovak Sokol Hall, a ramshackle frame structure, in Newark, New Jersey. A symposium on "flying saucers" had been scheduled, and at Lee Munsick's suggestion, Ted Bloecher and Lex Mebane, representing CSI, were among the panelists. An audience of about 100 - Long John listeners, science-fiction fans, and authors - filled the smoky room. Author Lester del Rey led off with a lively and thought-provoking jeremiad on the decline in intellectual tone of science fiction, which he blamed on its invasion by "cultists," their latest manifestation being the flying saucer cult. He showed the usual haziness about the facts of the situation, stating that the cultists believe in little green men (they believe in tall, handsome "space brothers"); that only about 0.1% of the observations are unexplainable (the Air Force figure is 30%); and that Menzel-type mirages account for most of the sightings (they account for practically none). He also seemed to be under the impression that Ray Palmer was the inventor of flying saucers. Lee Munsick replied, distinguishing serious UFO study from its cultist offshoot, and citing the

strong evidence for the reality of UFOs; Ted Bloecher, although not feeling well, briefly described CSI's position; and Hans Stefan Santesson spoke at some length, deplored emphasis on little green men. The well-known science-fictionist and article writer L. Sprague de Camp returned to the attack, suggesting that saucer reports are mostly fraudulent, and that Menzel's wing-tip mirages account for most of the sightings by pilots. He attempted to rule UFOs out of the area of legitimate scientific study altogether, arguing that since they are "not a reproducible experiment" and "no consistent explanation is possible," they ought not to be considered as real phenomena at all. Ivan Sanderson, who spoke next, deflated this bit of wishful thinking; he also pointed out the great variety of things seen in the sky, and suggested that many are living creatures. The moderator, Dr. Thomas Gardner, said that "scientists generally feel that eyewitness testimony has zero value." These overly numerous opening statements were followed by an overly brief, though lively, discussion, and Gardner's exaggeration was not permitted to go unchallenged. An amicable dinner for all concluded the evening.

Although science-fiction writers in general are strongly hostile to flying saucers and regard the subject as a crackpot one, their attitude is mainly attributable to lack of knowledge; a serious conference with them (which this scarcely was) would undoubtedly prove fruitful.

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NIGHT LIFE WITH LONG JOHN

Long John Nebel and his WOR Mutual program for night people (now from midnight to 5:30 a.m. every morning except Monday) have led us all such a dance over these last few months that it's a relief to be able to report that, as of this writing, saucers are being subordinated to other "off-beat" topics such as psychic phenomena and hypnotism. This permits us, if we remember how, to get a little sleep at night. In the meantime, LJ's audiences since the first of the year have been presented with:

Lee Munsick (appearances, up until April 4th, too numerous to itemize); Courtland Hastings (ditto); Morris K. Jessup (Feb. 5, March 9, 30, 31, April 21); Ivan Sanderson (Jan. 6, March 21); LJ's star attraction, Howard Menger (Jan. 12, Feb. 11, March 30, April 7); Jules St. Germain (Jan. 11, Feb. 11, 14, 28, April 7); John Otto (Jan. 7, 10, 12, April 7); Gray Barker (Jan. 28); Ted Bloecher (Jan. 6, 13); Isabel Davis and Lex Mebane (Jan. 13); Leon Davidson (Jan. 6, 13); August Roberts (Jan. 28, Mar. 17); and many others.*

The general tone of Long John's attitude toward Howard Menger, George Van Tassel, etc., and their disciples has been gradually increasing in cordiality; in fact, by the end of March, he was announcing his intention of visiting Van Tassel's "Space Convention" (to be held in May), where he will interview Adamski, Bethurum, et al. This doesn't mean that Mr. Nebel is a credulous soul who is letting the wool be pulled over his eyes—that would be far indeed from the truth: his sharp and skeptical comments reveal a keen critical mind. But, as all showmen do, he tailors his public attitude with an eye to pleasing his audience, and the result has been a tongue-in-cheek playing-along with the "contact" claimants. Recently, one listener polled 60 Long John fans in Summit, New Jersey: 37 out of this 60 voted Menger the most interesting and significant guest on the show. If this is

* This list is unfortunately incomplete, since records were not kept regularly; it's hoped that LJ will make a complete chronological list available soon.

representative, more than half of Long John's audience believes, or is inclined to believe, in the truth of Menger's tales.

The ethics of "giving the audience what it wants" is certainly questionable in this case. It may perhaps be urged that no harm is done to these innocent believers--that they stand to lose nothing more valuable than their reputation for good judgment (assuming that they had any in the first place). But the irresponsibility of pandering to popular credulity is more evident when it involves playing along with men of Van Tassel's stripe, whose followers (if our analysis is correct) stand a good chance of losing not only their reputations, but their shirts.

Under the circumstances, the editors feel that Long John's contribution to the saucer picture, in which the "contact" cult occupies a sunny spot in the foreground, is rather a dubious blessing. Gribble's APRG Reporter (formerly the CFSI Flying Saucer Review) for February declared that "Long John is the UFO's best friend in the United States today." We wouldn't agree; anyone who publicly confounds the study of unidentified flying objects with the "contact" hoaxers, as LJ habitually does, is a peculiar sort of friend to the naive public, and a risky sort of associate for the UFOlogist.

In spite of these reservations as to its overall effect, it can be an effective show, often amusing and sometimes exciting. Many of these symposia were worth preserving, at least in part; but only that of April 7th has been taped by the Research Section. (We understand that Lee Munsick, Arthur Shattuck, and Leon Davidson have recorded a number of the others.) The flesh being frail, all of us have missed a great many, and this, together with the limited space here, makes adequate commentary impossible. The three items that follow will have to suffice as an indication of some of the things that have been going on.

Lee Munsick On, Off With Long John: Lately, our esteemed colleague Lee Munsick, of the North Jersey UFO Group, has been much in the public eye (or ear); one of Long John's most chronic guests, he has made a fine spokesman for sensible saucer study, and furnished a welcome antidote to LJ's spreading of the "contact" gospel. However, as this is written, Lee is out of favor at WOR: on April 4th, LJ asked him, "If I said I had made a physical contact with space people, would you believe it?" Lee undiplomatically gave him the correct answer. (Naturally, any such tale suddenly emanating from a man of Long John's background and present interests would be unhesitatingly assumed to be a deliberate concoction, and it would almost be impossible to convince skeptical UFO investigators to the contrary.) At this slight, Long John took real, or feigned, offense, and--off with his head!!

Meanwhile, Lee has broken into the saucer-publishing field in earnest, with a 28-page mimeographed "Newsletter #7"--bigger than our last one, and produced almost single-handed! It's a whale of a production, single-spaced throughout, with dozens of items, including two extremely evidential and well-described--and pictured--recent Jersey sightings. This is something well worth having, and he is asking only 25 cents (plus 4¢ postage) for it: P. O. Box 606, Morristown, N. J. Advertising it on Long John brought in nearly 4000 orders--for which he'll have to make up a photo-offset second edition, probably making very little financial profit. Congratulations to Mr. Munsick for his energy in giving the saucer world another substantial and respectable periodical.

How John Otto Proved Menger Genuine: John Otto, Chicago saucer enthusiast and pioneer of attempts to "communicate" with them by radio and photophone, was in town in January, and appeared on Long John's program several times. The

News Letter editors did not meet him personally, although one of our quondam officers saw a great deal of him. Otto used to get telephone calls from space visitors and all that sort of thing, but as time goes on he is apparently having less and less success in getting through to them. On January 7, on LJ's program, he duplicated a celebrated Chicago experiment of 1954, in which the saucer people were invited to speak over the radio during brief intervals of silence. Results exactly duplicated those of 1954: the radio remained obstinately silent, but a few listeners later wrote in to say that they had heard something, and one claimed that a "space message," though inaudible to the human ear, had miraculously been inserted in his tape recorder. (Indeed, it was obvious that this was the process, for the WOR carrier signal is not heard during the insert.) That the process in truth was a miraculous one is perhaps not so firmly established as it might be: a mark resembling a welded splice (possibly just a pencil-mark?) appears on the tape just before the insert. The "message," incidentally, duplicates that of 1954 in that it consists of a specimen of teletype broadcast, such as can be picked up at any time at several frequencies by anyone with a short-wave receiver. (Teletype broadcasting produces a very rapid succession of short notes on five different pitches; when slowed down, it resembles monotonous, accentless music on a pentatonic scale.) The favored soul who "received" it was none other than the well-known Howard Menger of New Jersey. Otto jubilantly announced at first that this marvelous event conclusively proved the genuineness of Menger's claims; but later he withdrew from this certainty, and said the tape would "require study." On Easter morning, April 21st, he was back with the verdict: the Menger tape was authentically miraculous, could not possibly have been faked. (His argument to this effect was obscure to Long John, co-guest Morris K. Jessup and the audience: he apparently was under the impression that the whole tape would have had to be re-recorded, though in reality nothing could be simpler than to fill the thirty-second silence with a sample of teletype. "I'm short for words to express to your state of comprehension what I'm trying to express," he remarked in despair at the failure of LJ and Jessup to agree to his complicated rationalization.) So Menger has officially received the accolade. (Otto, by the way, also "knows that the Adamski pictures are valid.") On the same program, he unfolded a preposterous scheme: two boats are to set forth into Lake Michigan on April 30th, to "make contact with the spacemen" out on the lake. This crackpot argosy will undoubtedly get plenty of publicity, and will help to reinforce the public image of flying saucers as the exclusive province of the zany.

(In Otto's favor, it should be recalled that during the fall he vigorously denounced the Dick Miller "Mon-Ka" fabrication, which he happened to know emanated from a proved hoaxter, and did his best to keep it from being widely swallowed.)

You, Too, Can Be A "Saucer" Hoaxter--Jules St. Germain Shows How It's Done: In George Van Tassel's "Proceedings of the College of Universal Wisdom" (sic) for January, 1957, there is featured a letter from one "H. O." detailing an observation of luminous saucers over Hither Hills State Park, on Long Island, in December. It is accompanied by two photographs, with a dark background, obviously of real three-dimensional objects (not of paintings, like Menger's). It takes most people a minute or so to notice that these photographs show non-luminous objects illuminated from one side and with the other in shadow, while the text clearly speaks of "luminous" bodies; and that the story therefore must be a hoax.

On the morning of April 7th, on Long John's program, Jules St. Germain was trying unsuccessfully to point this out to the other three guests, Howard Menger--who insisted that he had photographed identical objects himself; Lester Levinson--who said he had investigated "H.O." and found out that he was a technical man and a reliable witness; and Courtland Hastings, who was inclined to work up a little righteous indignation at St. Germain's mean-spirited suspicions. As to Van Tassel, he had lauded the story as "conclusive evidence," and had invited "H. O." to join Menger and the other illuminati on the podium at his Spacecraft Convention.

When St. Germain dramatically disclosed that he himself was "H. O.", and had made the photographs in his study with the help of a cocktail shaker and a plastic "flying saucer" from the dime store, there was consternation among the faithful. Faith in "H. O." died so hard that a spirit of skepticism sprang up in places where it had never been seen before, and St. Germain was pressed for proof that he was in truth the hoaxter. When he produced the cocktail shaker, the toy saucer, and his copy of the "H. O." letter, there was not much left to say, except accuse him of playing a dishonest trick; upon which "H. O." triumphantly reminded his indignant ex-adherents that the hoax was a perfectly transparent one, because of the obvious discrepancy between the story and the photographs, and that anyone who swallowed it had only his own credulity to blame.

Much to St. Germain's credit, he did not let the matter rest with this edifying object lesson in the psychology of the True Believer, but went on to press a determined attack against the credibility of Menger's yarn and the motivation of Van Tassel, emphasizing the bald-faced humbuggery of V.T.'s alleged "rejuvenation machine" and the fact that V.T. is soliciting large sums of money, ostensibly for funds to build and house this bogus machine. Interestingly enough, Menger himself testified to the fact that work has not even begun on this project: as of late March, all that Van Tassel has erected is a comfort station, required by the sanitation ordinances.

Credit for this program goes entirely to Jules St. Germain (ably assisted by Hans Stefan Santesson); it's unlikely that Long John would have permitted such strong criticism if he had been able to head it off. Let it be noted too that St. Germain scrupulously distinguished between honest UFO study and the Menger-Van Tassel type of activity, and on two occasions took explicit exception when Long John lumped both under the blanket term "flying saucer." It took courage for Jules to put his head in the lion's mouth in this way, and we salute him for a real public service. Also for a corking good show!

(It may be of interest to add that, according to our information, two-thirds of the letters received by Long John after this show castigated St. Germain, and reaffirmed their writers' untarnished faith in the "contact" claimants.)

Long John On The Teevees: Long John's troupe of performers was given a half-hour television tryout on Thursday evening, April 18, on the "X-13" program over WOR's Channel 9. However, the effect was overcrowded and confused. Morris K. Jessup spoke; taped remarks from Keyhoe were heard; Howard Menger described how he teleported his pipe; and a few ghosts were thrown in to complete the pot-pourri.

"CONTACT" CLAIMANT ARRESTED IN CONFIDENCE SWINDLE

A 58-year-old sign painter who claimed to have visited the planet Venus was arrested yesterday by the FBI on charges of defrauding Miss Pauline Gobel, a Washington, D.C. secretary, of \$40,000 in money and property. Harold Berney, 555 N. Craft Hwy., was jailed in lieu of \$25,000 bond. Fred Hallford, special agent in charge of the Mobile FBI office, gave this account:

Berney incorporated a business named the Telewand Corp. to make television antennas. He told prospective investors that representatives of Venus "contacted" him in Texas and told him he had been selected to develop on earth a device called a modulator. He said the Venusians on two occasions took him to that planet and permitted him to study their science and culture. He then wrote a book describing his adventures in outer space.

Hallford said Berney has a record of arrests for grand larceny, violation of postal laws, and embezzlement in West Virginia, Michigan and Florida dating back 30 years. The FBI agent said he was released from Raiford, Fla., State Prison Dec. 15, 1945, after serving a state term for embezzlement.

(The above item is taken, somewhat abridged, from the Mobile (Alabama) Register, March 26, 1957. Berney's book should be an interesting curio; has anyone ever heard of it?)

RUN-DOWN ON MINGER

Howard Menger, local "contact" claimant, has been a busy man, and this report is by no means complete, but it will give some idea of his activities. No unequivocal exposure has yet been achieved, but many of his earlier disciples are now disaffected, and the future may bring him problems. Back on Dec. 8, he claimed a "teleportation" of himself over 60 miles, leaving a pipe with his sister-in-law as proof of his miraculous visit. (Jules St. Germain has informed us that the sister-in-law is no longer willing to support the truth of this story.) On almost the same day, he produced several new photographs (which we have not seen) of saucers near the ground, said by Long John to be quite different in appearance from the original set done from paintings. He has spoken in New York (Courtland Hastings presiding) on Dec. 16th at Pythian Temple, and on April 21st (with Hastings, John Otto, and M.K. Jessup) at Steinway Hall; in Philadelphia on Dec. 15th; in Trenton on Jan. 13th; and on several other occasions. At least two more "contacts" with the regular group of two tall young men and one tall young woman have been made (indoors because of cold weather) on Dec. 29-30 and Feb. 10-11. During late March, he visited Van Tassel in California; while there, he claimed another contact, with the usual absence of confirmatory evidence. His readiness to expand his claims is noted by all who have met him: whatever someone else claims, he will match with a claim of his own. Thus, after hearing Mark Probert on Long John's show go into a trance and speak in unknown tongues, Menger did the same; his "teleportation" followed Joe Bozak's radio discussion of the subject; and when John Otto spoke of receiving a "jingle-bells" message on tape, Menger immediately produced one of his own. He now claims to have photographed saucers before Adamski did, and feels that the type of spacecraft depicted in his and Adamski's pictures ought to be known as a "Menger saucer" rather than as an "Adamski saucer." He is writing a book.

A good analysis of his photographs by Lonzo Dove, with illustrations, appeared in the February-March issue of Saucer News.

(To avoid misunderstanding, it should be noted that Menger is not the same type of contact claimant as his fellow sign-painter Berney. There are others whom that cap fits, but Menger is in a different class, along with Bethurum and Angelucci.)

ERRATA IN NEWS LETTER #6

This is a list of some embarrassing slips we made last time, which should be set straight:

Page 2, par. 2: The word "reputable" should be moved from its present position to precede "Max Miller." (When we originally wrote this, we had not yet heard John Otto speak.)

Page 6: We were in error in stating that Keyhoe spoke at Van Tassel's "Space Convention." To his credit, Keyhoe has never had, and never will have, any dealings with Van Tassel. The statement that Ruppelt appeared may likewise be erroneous.

Page 9, line 2: "Neville" should be "Nebel."

Page 12, penultimate line of Menger article: The word before "embarrassment" should be "much," not "mush!"

Page 12, last line: "Delbert" should be "Delmer."

Page 14, par. 2: The Dean McLaughlin who wrote a satire on saucer authors in the February Fantastic Universe is actually the son of the well-known astronomer of that name.

Page 25, last line: Frank Edwards rejoined the NICAP Board of Governors soon after the News Letter appeared.

"MARS CORRELATION" BROKEN--OR AT LEAST BENT

In ten years of concentrated attention to the UFOs, we have learned surprisingly little about them. One of the very few generalizations that have been apparent--and probably the most significant one--is the "26-month cycle" of their appearances. Provided we ignore the Fortean data, and the June-July, 1947 visitation that inaugurated the modern era (which doesn't fit), we can say that subsequent peaks of UFO activity have come at roughly 26-month intervals: March-April, 1950; June-August, 1952; August-November, 1954. In each case the maximum frequency came about three months after the opposition (closest approach) of Mars, which occurs at 26-month intervals. This apparent correlation, which seems so unmistakably to indicate a Martian origin for UFOs, was independently "discovered" between 1952 and 1954 by several investigators, among them Edgar Jarrold¹, Elliott Rockmore², Wilbert Smith of Canada's "Project Magnet"³, Coral Lorenzen⁴, and the Italian astronomer Prof. Paolo Voccia⁵. (Apologies to any discoverer we've overlooked; please let us know about it.) These investigators predicted a peak of activity in the autumn of 1954; and, as we know, the prediction was spectacularly fulfilled by an unprecedented wave of not just aerial observations, but of landings, mostly in France and Italy; these were topped off by some sensational cases in South America. After this, most saucer aficionados felt pretty safe in predicting that the climactic opposition of Mars on Sept. 7th, 1956 would be duly followed within three months by an outbreak of UFO sightings that would put in the shade anything we had yet seen. The French acoustic engineer and UFO author Aimé Michel, who learned of the Martian correlation from Smith, was so impressed by its verification in 1954 that he went out on a limb with a more specific

version: each wave of activity, he declared, was larger than the preceding one, and the area affected (the United States in 1952, western Europe in 1954) shifted eastward each time. Thus he was led to predict that the climactic 1956-57 landing wave would be concentrated "somewhere in Eastern Europe or the Middle East."⁶

Have these expectations been verified? It now seems clear that they have not. If a landing wave at all comparable to that of 1954, which stood France on its ear, had taken place anywhere in the world in the November-February period, some news of it would by now have got out to the saucer world. Had such a thing occurred in Russia or China, we should at least have seen it in their newspaper's angry dia-tribes against those "backward elements" who had permitted the "imperialist war-mongers" to stampede them into such a state of "hysteria" that they imagined they saw "flying saucers and other such stupidities." (This peculiar psycho-political theory of the nature of UFOs has been followed consistently in all Communist references to the subject in the past.) It can hardly be seriously maintained that startling events did indeed occur behind the Iron Curtain, but were taken so seriously that news about them was totally suppressed. It seems, rather, that the correlation--at least in the strict form given it by Michel--has broken down.

As a matter of fact, there was a sighting wave in November-December, in the North Central United States (the Dakotas and Minnesota). Was this the looked-for biennial Martian expedition to Earth? If it was, its appropriations must have been cut severely by the present Martian administration. (Perhaps the unprecedented dust storm seen on Mars by our astronomers at the time of opposition strained the Martian economy and forced cutbacks in their research budget?) Most of these North Central sightings concerned luminous objects, usually red, seen by night, and some of these could have been astronomical errors⁷; there were only a few vaguely al-luded-to landings or near-landing reports⁸, and apparently no encounters with UFO occupants. (The Research Section has a total of 40 press clippings referring to 32 cases specifically for the month of November, as well as several first-hand reports--all occurring, of course, in the localized region referred to above; these data are by no means a complete accounting of all North Central reports.)

Thus this flurry was in no way comparable with the events of 1950, 1952, and 1954--nor, may we add, with the extraordinary U. S. landings of the spring and summer of 1955, which took place at a time when Mars was in superior conjunction, at its maximum distance from us! It seems safest, in the future, to place less re-liance on the red planet, and to expect the occurrence of UFO-activity peaks at totally unpredictable intervals.

Sources

- (1.) Bender's Space Review, July, 1953; Australian Flying Saucer Magazine, Aug., 1953.
- (2.) Rockmore's Information Sheet, Feb., 1954.
- (3.) Max Miller, Flying Saucers - Fact or Fiction?, p. 19.
- (4.) Coral Lorenzen's APRO Bulletin, Sept., 1953.
- (5.) Article by Sirio Vocca in L'Unione Sarda (Cagliari, Sardinia), Aug. 26, 1956; sent to CSI through the kindness of Ernesto Thayaht of CIRNOS.
- (6.) Gray Barker's Saucerian Bulletin, Sept. 15, 1956.
- (7.) Brief accounts of the November "flap" are given in Rob't Gribble's APRG Reporter, Feb. & Mar., 1957; Max Miller's Saucers, Winter, 1956-57; Len Stringfield's CRIFO Orbit, Jan. & Feb., 1957; and CSI News Letter, Dec. 16, 1956.
- (8.) Vieblen, S.D., date unstated: see brief reference in Saucers, Winter, 1956-57, pp. 18-19; in DeGrey, S.D., on Nov. 25: see Pierre Capitol-Journal, Nov. 26 (reprinted in CSI News Letter No. 6, pp. 23-4); and Gascoyne, N.D., on Nov. 26: New England (N.J.) Slope Messenger, Dec. 6.

"SKYQUAKES" GIVE JERSEY, CALIFORNIA, THE SHAKES

On March 5, 1957, two-inch red headlines in the Los Angeles Herald-Express screamed: "JET BLAST RIPS L.A." The front page story included pictures showing cracked plaster and windows, damaged by the force of the blast, which had occurred at 9:20 a.m. The news accounts gave the same descriptions as in other reports of "skyquakes," and itemized the more noteworthy (albeit non-serious) damages. The concussion was heard from San Fernando southward across Los Angeles to Hawthorne, and westward to Whittier, a distance of over 35 miles. The story would not be typical without the accustomed implication of sonic-booming jets, as indicated in the headlines. Typical too is the denial: the L.A. Mirror-News for March 26th reported that "W. P. Plett, regional CAA administrator, advised the (Los Angeles) Council that an investigation of all aircraft manufacturers and military air bases within a 100-mile radius of Los Angeles was made without success. Plett said his office had failed to ascertain the cause of the blast."

New Jersey has been the scene of repeated "skyquakes" or "sonic booms" in recent years. During 1956 there were at least five reported: May 13; May 28; June 19; June 23; Sept. 1. The first of 1957 occurred at 4 p.m. on February 8th, when a "series of explosions" was heard and felt over seven north and central Jersey counties. Windows were broken in several communities. A Plainfield GOC spotter said "a northbound jet traveling at 10,000 feet left a clean vapor trail in its wake." Presumably the same vapor trail was observed from Mendham, 15 miles north. In North Plainfield, the GOC supervisor said he observed "the jet change course from north to southwest over Murray Hill." Flight Operations at McGuire Air Force Base, in Trenton, admitted that they had had jets in the sky all day long but that there were strict orders about breaking the sound barrier over populated areas, violations resulting in disciplinary action. Standing orders for the pilots are that they must be "thirty miles out to sea...if there's any chance of breaking the sound barrier."

It would be interesting to learn if disciplinary action resulted for the pilot responsible for the mysterious explosion reported throughout Hudson, Essex and Middlesex counties on March 21, at 11 a.m. This one cracked windows in Newark and in the South Amboy City Hall. No reports of jets having been seen in this account; nonetheless, "it was apparently caused by a jet plane breaking the sound barrier."

By a strange coincidence, a true earthquake was felt in Hunterdon county, near Lebanon and Flemington, two days later. The quake, verified by seismographic instruments in Weston, Mass., appeared to be centered along the Prescott Brook fault, near Round Valley. (Newark Star-Ledger, Mar. 31.)

"JERSEY AREA SHAKEN BY 'VIBRATIONS,'" shouted the New York Journal-American headlines on April 2. Between 10:10 and 10:15 a.m., "a mysterious roar, accompanied by earth-shaking vibrations," had swept across north and central Jersey, and was heard as far south as Philadelphia and Cape May. A night-shift printer in Whitehouse was thrown out of bed; a window was broken in Franklin Township; in Kenvil, Ted Bloecher's father hurried outside thinking that there had been another explosion at Hercules Powder Company; the State House in Trenton shook. Speculation again turned to "earthquakes"--although, as on Feb. 8 and March 21, there was no record of a tremor on the seismograph maintained by Columbia University at nearby Piermont, New York; and jets breaking the sonic barrier played a close second as possible explanations preferred by the press. But McGuire Air Force Base again denied any of its jets were responsible--none were in operation over the state on the morning of the 2nd. But according to the Newark Star-Ledger (April 3), "Police on patrol in the area where the blasts were felt said jet planes were overhead at the time." (see below.)

The next day, an item from Washington stated that "after an all-day investigation, Air Force and Defense Department officials failed to come up with a solution to the mystery... They added that similar blasts have been occurring all over the country in recent years and they have never yet been able to determine the cause." (Star-Ledger, April 4.)

It is all very well for the press to pin the "sonic-boom" label routinely on all such reports, but in the light of official statements to the contrary, what is the public to think? Perhaps some of these cases can be laid to irresponsible jet pilots, but can we assume such a repeatedly flagrant violation of rules by boom-happy pilots? Were jets responsible for the Moodus Noises in Connecticut? the Barisal Guns in India? the "detonations" at Comrie, Scotland? the scores of similar nineteenth-century "cannonading" referred to by Charles Fort?

It will be noted that in some cases jets are seen during a "skyquake," but it is not illogical to assume that their presence in the air may be the result of the phenomenon, not the cause.

In support of this speculation, we refer to a story recently brought to our attention by Lee Munsick over Long John's radio program two nights after the April 2nd "skyquake." Lee had been told of an unnamed National Guard pilot who was flying over Jersey at the time of the boom. The pilot picked up radio messages from a jet pilot on an intercept mission to investigate a "bogey." Just after the concussion, he heard the pilot tell his base: "I did not-repeat, not-break the sound barrier; the object did." If this important datum is true (which isn't certain), it is the first direct evidence in support of the suspected relation between UFOs and "skyquakes."

Another datum that is perhaps relevant is found in the Los Angeles Examiner and Los Angeles Times, April 11. Another skyquake "rocked" the San Gabriel Valley at 4:45 a.m. two days earlier. Residents were awakened by the "so-called sonic-boom," the force of which "rattled windows and knocked toys off the shelves." But the novelty of the "skyquake" was eclipsed by an additional feature: a thirty-inch wide, two-foot deep conical hole was found in the backyard of the home of Oscar M. Murphy, a venetian-blind salesman. His 10-year-old son Patrick, who said that he heard something land with a "thump" about 5 a.m., found the hole on his way to school, and told his father about it that evening. Murray informed the Temple City sheriff's station of the hole, deputies investigation, and the matter was turned over to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal squad at Fort MacArthur. Captain Robert B. Jackson said that "something from the air had entered the ground--something about six or eight inches in diameter that could be any length." He added that the hole was similar to one made by a small dud bomb; speculation also included the possibility of a meteorite or "one of those confounded flying saucers." Jackson and his men dug cautiously and by 5 p.m. (April 10) they had reached a depth of ten feet without uncovering any dud bombs, meteorites or flying saucers. Jackson said that they would continue to dig to a depth of 20 feet, and should nothing be found, "there will be a hole available." Apparently there is now a 20-foot hole available: Mrs. Idabel Epperson (to whom we are indebted for all of the California news clippings) writes us that subsequent news accounts reported the search for the "unidentified object" was fruitless.

Of course, the possibility that the "object" responsible for the hole was a meteorite is strong, although none was found. But the connection between the hole and the "skyquake" remains unknown. Apparently, there was "nothing to indicate that anything exploded when it hit the ground," according to Capt. Jackson.

REMARKABLE NORWEGIAN NEAR-LANDING CASE OF 1954 NOW PUBLISHED

In the March, 1957 issue of SIR! magazine (thanks to Theodore W. Hill of Woodbury, N.J. for sending it to us), Norwegian newspaperman Oddvar Larsen tells of an extraordinary sighting, which he believes to be authentic. (Incidentally, publication in a magazine like SIR! might raise a question of whether the whole thing is a piece of fiction; fortunately, we can attest to the bona fides of Oddvar Larsen.) Larsen writes directly in English: the article is not a translation.

The date was November 23, 1954--a time just after the great landing wave in France, when notable sightings were being made in many places, among them Italy and Brazil. The witnesses were three little girls, Anne and Tora Storedal and Tora Moy Haugo, of Torpo, in the Hallingdal district; Anne was ten years old, the other two were nine, and all were frightened out of their wits. As they were coming home from school near some woods, a black object descended rapidly from the sky, knocked snow from the tree tops, and stopped only a few feet above the girls' heads. They gave the following weird description of it: "It looked like a stone...like a ball ...about ten feet across; the lower part was black, but trimmed with yellow spots which could have been made of glass, and there were also a number of small, red jags." The upper part was transparent--the trees could be seen through it--and a human or at any rate semi-human pilot was visible inside, operating controls of some sort. Dressed in black, this man or entity had "big eyes, covered by a pair of immense, red glasses", with which he looked straight at the girls. The craft then rose again with a droning sound, brushing a high-tension line and striking a shower of sparks from it; an odor compared by Tora Moy to "fried sausages" (ozone?) filled the air; and the little girls ran for their lives.

When Larsen first heard of this story, he was naturally skeptical; but after hearing tape recordings of an on-the-spot investigation of the case, he was convinced that neither hoax nor helicopter could account for it. He cites, for example, this detail given by Tora Storedal:

"When the stone came down toward me it had a long, white tail behind, but when the stone turned and moved away, the tail went first. That was funny, I thought."

In the snow, there was found and photographed a disturbed track 25 yards long, presumably made by the craft after the girls had turned their backs on it.

The Research Section is of course not in a position to endorse this case, but Larsen's writing gives a favorable impression of his good sense, and the evidence as he reports it appears good.

A striking parallel is apparent between the Torpo case and the Hemmingford, Quebec landing of August 23, 1954. Here too a spherical craft was reported, with "men" (seven feet tall) dressed in black, with "big round eyes" (unfortunately, no further detail is available.) The Hemmingford case's claim to acceptance likewise rests principally on the good impression of honesty and sanity given by the witnesses (Mrs. Coupal and sons) in a taped interview, for which the saucer world is indebted to investigator Dr. A.G.Dittmar of Au Sable Forks, N.Y. (Dr. Dittmar, director of Tape Recorded UFO Information Service, generously offers to copy tapes from his collection for those who send a spool of blank tape with directions about speed, etc. Although he does this gratis, you ought to send a couple of dollars to repay him for his time.)

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A PERSONAL REQUEST TO SAUCER RESEARCHERS: Will you check your files to see if they contain any reference to a man named Stoelting? Probably in connection with a Scully-type tale about a little "Venusian" preserved in a jar--the date probably 1949-1950. Any leads on this would be of urgent interest and importance to us now.

REPORT ON VAN WINKLE SIGHTING

This incident received wide newspaper mention. The Research Section has investigated it, as special representatives of NICAP as well as for CSI, and the following account is the result.

A few minutes before midnight on March 8, 1957, Captain Matthew ("Rip") Van Winkle took his airliner up from Idlewild Airport, bound to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Co-pilot Dion W. Taylor, Flight Engineer John Washuta, and stewardesses Julie Santiago and C. Silva completed the crew on Pan American Airlines flight 257. There were 44 passengers aboard. The flight was routine, except that it was necessary to keep to the west of the normal flight course in order to avoid a storm center farther out in the Atlantic.

At 3:33 a.m. (EST) the plane was far out over the Atlantic, about 650 miles to the east of Jacksonville, Florida, flying at 19,000 feet on a south-by-east heading (between 160° and 175° true). At this point, the flight abruptly ceased to be routine. About 80° to their right, Van Winkle and Washuta simultaneously saw a brilliant light. Van Winkle had the impression of seeing an orange glow at first, although he was later uncertain about this detail. At any rate, it seemed to "come out of nowhere," and immediately assumed the appearance of a round, brilliant greenish-white "spotlight," almost as large as a full moon.

The light appeared "contained," having a clear and well-defined edge; Washuta described it as "rim-like" around the edge. This "rim" seemed to reflect a greenish color, while the center was a brilliant white. It looked like a spotlight directed to the front of them, so that they were not looking directly into the source of light.

Van Winkle's first thought was that it might be a jet interceptor with a spotlight in the nose, but he immediately rejected this idea because of the brilliance of the light, and "because they (interceptors) always come at least by twos - one pulling alongside of you ready for action, the other throwing a spotlight on your identification markings from a distance to find out who you are."

The object seemed to be of about airplane size, and no more than a half-mile away (an erroneous impression, as he discovered later). It was exactly level with him, and apparently heading horizontally across the nose of his plane, on a collision course. Within two seconds after first seeing it, he pulled the plane up and to the left in a violent evasive manoeuvre to avoid possible collision; the plane climbed 1500 feet in a matter of seconds. In concentrating on handling the plane, he lost sight of the object. (The news accounts reported that V.W. saw the object "slip by under my right wing." Actually, Van Winkle explains, this was not so: the object was hidden from his sight by the right wing as it lifted.)

Washuta, who was seated in the right of the cockpit, had a better view of the light, and reportedly observed it for about four seconds, after which it "went out." By the time Van Winkle had righted the aircraft, the light was no longer to be seen. Neither the co-pilot, busy with the navigation instruments, nor any of the passengers, had seen it.

In the cabin, there was pandemonium. All those who had not had their seat belts fastened had hit the ceiling of the cabin when the tail dropped, and three people were more or less seriously injured: Miss Santiago with a possible concussion, Mrs. Abraham Gitlow of Philadelphia, who appeared to have a broken rib; and one Monserrate Soto, injuries unspecified.

Miss Silva and the co-pilot tried to assuage the panic in the cabin, but it was Van Winkle's calm reassuring voice over the loudspeaker that was most effective in settling the passengers. The knowledge that a UFO had been responsible for their distress seemed to calm their agitation. (INS erroneously reported that, according to passengers, a strong light "like a hundred suns" filled the cabin of the aircraft.)

Immediately following the incident, Van Winkle's radio suddenly came alive: at least six other aircraft had seen the object. All were flying roughly SSE on the same route, and they occupied an area, from north to south, more than 300 miles long.

About 150 miles to the north of Van Winkle, at $31^{\circ} 35' N$, $70^{\circ} 50' W$, was Capt. Ed Perry, piloting PAA's Flight 269 at 19,000 feet. Capt. Perry and Flight Engineer Don Sheehan saw the object to the WSW, as did Van Winkle, and described it as arcing upward and then falling slightly in a concave trajectory as it moved on an apparently ESE course. According to the press, Perry described it as being "almost a magnesium flash, white with pale greenish tints around it ... At first I thought that it was a flare, then I thought it could be another of those 'mis-guided' missiles. I saw it for about five seconds - it must have been moving at a terrific speed."

Flying 15 minutes ahead of Van Winkle, Capt. D. Shrum, piloting PAA's Flight 257-A at 15,000 feet, did not notice the object. (Van Winkle gives his own position as $30^{\circ} N$, $70^{\circ} 40' W$.)

Some 180 miles to the southeast of Van Winkle, at $28^{\circ} 20' N$, $68^{\circ} 15' W$, was PAA Flight 215, flying at 17,000 feet. Capt. Robert Wyland and Flight Engineer Jerry Noosinow saw the object, again to the west of them. "It appeared first as a bright light, traveling fast ... it grew in intensity until it was exceedingly brilliant for a moment as it passed, then it seemed to fade." Its angular size, to Wyland as to Van Winkle, was "as large as a full moon at the zenith." It was greenish-blue at the perimeter, blending into a white center. He said it "looked at first as though it were coming directly toward us on our flight level. It either veered slightly, or our original impression was in error, as it slanted diagonally across our starboard quarter descending, and seemed to 'go out.' As it passed, there was a definite reddish tinge to the tail or rear portion, and a piece seemed to fall off, or was ejected. The portion that dropped off was 10% the size of the whole, and was definitely reddish in color." Wyland had the object in view from two to five seconds.

About 220 miles SSE of Van Winkle, at roughly $27^{\circ} N$, $69^{\circ} 20' W$ (650 miles east of West Palm Beach) was PAA Flight 215-A, piloted by Capt. Ken G. Brosdal, flying at 19,000 feet, the same altitude as Van Winkle and Perry. Brosdal did not see the object reported by the other pilots, but he had seen something identical almost two hours earlier. Brosdal's flight engineer, Richard Smith, saw the object(s) involved in both incidents.

According to Smith, the object seen at 3:33 a.m. - observed by all the other pilots - was seen to the west of his plane and appeared to be going parallel to his direction. He said it seemed as large as "a dime held at arm's length." The second engineer, who called Smith's attention to the phenomenon, estimated that it was in view for two or three seconds. Round, it had no ragged edges - "smooth" was Smith's word for it - and was a brilliant greenish-white in color. He saw a slight projection at the rear that detached itself and turned red as it fell. At this point, the main section began to arc downward at a slight angle, and then suddenly went out. Smith did not think the object was a meteor.

Almost two hours earlier, about 12:45 a.m., while Flight 215-A was in the vicinity of Delta Oscar (a positional marker located off the Carolinas), Brosdal and Smith had seen a similar object - "smaller than a full moon," according to Brosdal - streaking north or NNW. This object was also due west, or almost due west, of their position. It moved in a completely horizontal trajectory, and had a red tail-like projection, which suddenly dropped off, and fell "like a flare." The main part, which was green, continued in a straight line and passed out of Brosdal's range of vision. Smith, who was seated on the right side of the cockpit, looked back as it passed, and thought he saw it quickly disappear into clouds; however, a later check indicated that there were few, if any, clouds in the area. Brosdal said he saw it for about three seconds; Smith slightly longer. Several of Brosdal's passengers had seen it also.

Returning to the 3:33 a.m. object, three other aircraft are reported to have observed this: another Pan-American flight (unidentified); the pilot of an Eastern Airlines plane who thought the object was a two-stage rocket; and one Trans-Caribbean pilot who said it was a meteor. We have not been able to get in touch with any of these pilots.

It is quite clear from the testimonies of the pilots that the object they saw was much farther away than they at first realized. Note that over a 300-mile baseline, all of them saw it to their west or southwest; that it appeared to be moving in roughly the same direction relative to all observers; and that its angular measurement from all of these widely-separated points was approximately half a degree. These circumstances obviously indicate an exceedingly large object seen at a distance measured in the hundreds of miles. The nearest possible location for the appearing-point permitted by the geometry is at about 29° N, 78° W. This point is 80° to the right of a 160° heading for Van Winkle, 100° to the right of a 185° heading for Wyland (assuming this is 185° true, not magnetic), and places the object about 250 miles from Wyland, and somewhat more than 100 miles from Van Winkle. However, since it appeared no larger to Van Winkle than to Perry, Wyland, and Smith, a location so close to Van Winkle is not very plausible; something like 28° N, 75° W, 300 to 400 miles from all the planes, is more likely. Wyland himself has calculated that it was from 300 to 800 miles distant from him. An angular measurement of one-half degree at four hundred miles gives the object a diameter in excess of three miles; but such calculations are misleading when applied to luminous bodies, which always appear far larger than they are.

This large scale of the phenomenon is highly suggestive of a meteoric fireball. However, it should be noted that none of the four witnesses (Smith, Brosdal, Wyland, and Van Winkle) whom we have interviewed believed that it was a meteor. Van Winkle said he has seen some extremely spectacular meteors, but none has ever resembled this object. The absence of any visible tail; the difference in quality between this "contained" light and a flaming fireball; and its substantially horizontal trajectory at unreasonably low altitudes, seem different from what would be expected of a meteor. And the chances against seeing two such remarkably similar "meteors" over the same area within the span of two hours are "astronomical."

On the other hand, the object appeared for only five seconds at the most - typical of meteors; it exhibited no sort of controlled manoeuvre; and the wide area over which it was observed is typical of fireballs rather than of UFO phenomena.

One is inclined to say that this was neither a "normal" UFO nor a "normal" fireball. Can it be classified as a "green fireball"? It was certainly not a deep Kelly-green in color, but the behavior was very similar (cf. Ruppelt, pp. 72-3, 78). There is a large group of sightings strikingly similar to this one, some of them in

this same area. On May 8, 1952, at 4:30 a.m., a pilot had a near-collision with a similar object while en route to San Juan. (See The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, by Ruppelt, pp. 178-80.) On April 23, 1954, several PAA pilots saw an "object with an orange-green light zip by." (Flying Saucer Conspiracy, by Keyhoe, p. 133.) Auriphebo Simoes is one of those who have seen such a "fireball" (O Disco Voador, #3).

And on March 25, 1957 - not three weeks after Van Winkle's report - Capt. E. Munson, piloting PAA Flight 216, San Juan to New York, had a daytime sighting along the same route. (Details on this observation are now being sought.)

(Note on sources: Besides the data secured directly from four of the witnesses, additional information on the March 9 sighting was gleaned from the N. Y. Times, 3/10 (UP 3/9); N. Y. Mirror 3/10 (AP 3/9); N. Y. Journal-American, 3/9 (INS) and 3/11 (INS by Van Winkle); and numerous other papers carrying substantially the same wire accounts. Our thanks go also to Bill Nash of PAA and Chris Pantages of Riddle Airlines for their valuable assistance.)

SIGHTING REPORTS

November 16, 1956. CSI has received a confirmation of the observation by Miss Rena Dickey, of New Rochelle, that was reported in News Letter # 6 (p. 22). The confirmation comes from Mrs. G. O. Reynolds, also of New Rochelle. While she was walking her dogs near an inlet of Echo Bay, shortly after 10 p.m. that night, a luminous ball with a little flame-like tail emerged from behind trees in the northeast, and moved slowly on a southwesterly course toward New York City. The object, apparently moving over Long Island Sound, was in view for about 30 secs. before it disappeared behind trees to the south. In less than a minute, a second object appeared, traveling over exactly the same route. Each object was about half the apparent size of the full moon, and "the color of yellow fire." The leading edge was sharply defined, the rear edge fuzzy, with a tail. The objects moved "about as fast as airplanes" and were fairly low on the horizon. Mrs. Reynolds had the impression that the objects were quite small, and traveling lower than normal aircraft usually fly. She watched until about 10:30 p.m., and counted 9 or 10 objects in that time. When she left, they were apparently still moving over the Sound in the same direction. Undoubtedly these are the same objects that were reported by Miss Dickey, even though there is a slight discrepancy in the directions reported by the two witnesses (Miss Dickey thought that they traveled from east to west). (Compare Beirut "parade," Michel, pp. 123-27.)

December 18, 1956. At 7:25 p.m. Mr. Al Kramer was in his 16th floor office at the KVS Art Studio on 45 Street (between Fifth and Sixth Aves.) in New York City. Through his office window, which faces west, he saw an elliptical or cigar-shaped object, with blunt ends, appear from behind the Paramount Building on Times Square, "a pretty good distance below the Paramount clock," moving northward. It glowed blue-white and had an exhaust trail of the same color, though this was not as intense as the object itself. The apparent length of the object was "a little more than the thickness of one finger"; the exhaust was at least four times as long. The object was fuzzy-edged. The observer's first impression was that the object was going north directly over the Hudson River; but he later decided that it was farther away, somewhere over New Jersey. The object traveled horizontally about 5° (ten times the diameter of the full moon), then turned up and westward (the tail curved and the object appeared shorter). It then vanished "as if turned out," having been in view for about 3 1/2 seconds. Another artist, sitting beside the window, believed it was a meteor. (This opinion is shared by Lex Mebane of the Research Section, who compares it to the Van Winkle object.) The report was brought to CSI's attention by Paul Morris.

December 31, 1956. Joel Gross, who lives in Washington Heights, N.Y.C., noticed an exceptionally bright light from his 8th floor window at 11:35 p.m. Busy at the moment, he paid little attention until the intense brightness made him look out the window, which faces north and commands an unobstructed view of the Hudson River. The object was spherical, white with a faint tinge of green; its edge was sharply defined. At the rear was a tail-like projection, inclining slightly upward. This "handle" was as long as the diameter of the main object, and about half as thick. The entire object, including "handle," was as large as the full moon, and far more brilliant; its brightness lit up the river beneath it. It left no trail. The "handle" definitely seemed to be part of the object. There were no wings, "windows," or other structural features visible.

When first seen, the object appeared to be directly over the river, north of the George Washington Bridge, traveling westward at about twice the speed of an airliner as it passes over the same area at a normal altitude. Its elevation was estimated at 30° to 40°, and Mr. Gross had the impression that its altitude above the river was only about 1000 feet. When the object reached a point about 20° above the Jersey Palisades, it petered out, "like the closing down of a camera diaphragm." Mr. Gross is sure it did not disappear at high speed into the distance, but simply shrank and "went out." About 10 seconds elapsed from the moment the light was noticed through the window until the object finally disappeared; the object itself was under good observation for about four seconds. No other aircraft in the area; no noise heard; as yet, no confirmatory reports.

The resemblance to the Van Winkle object will be noted.

February 12, 1957. At 7:18 p.m. a New York Airways helicopter, approaching LaGuardia Airport, advised the tower that they had an object "shaped like a bell" with a red light in sight over the Aquacade of the old World's Fair site. The tower replied that about 15 minutes before they "had one out there ... with an expansive, wide light. It went up and down for a while. Some pilots saw it, others didn't." (Credit: Leon Davidson.)

February 14, 1957. CSI member Yeaman Condict was walking northward in Laurelton, Long Island, at 7:10 p.m., when his attention was attracted by a bright "fireball" near the northeastern horizon. It was a brilliant incandescent yellow-orange in color, one-fourth the size of the recently-risen full moon, which was just to its right. The meteor moved downward and to the observer's right as he faced it, and "looked as if it were going to hit the ground"; but being somewhat low on the horizon, it disappeared from view behind buildings after being observed for 2 to 3 seconds. Mr. Condict hurried to the corner, but it had disappeared.

The observation, one of a group of recent local sightings of fireballs and more or less fireball-like objects, is included here in the hope of obtaining corroborating reports for the purpose of triangulation.

February 15, 1957. Dr. H. B., a well-known physician of Mamaroneck, N. Y., was watching television with his wife when she noticed a bright light outside the eastward-facing picture window in their living room. Both of them went outdoors, to the terrace, where they saw the object as "about twice as big as the landing light on a plane." It was oval, with a bright white center and a red-and-pink "aura" around the edge. It was swinging back and forth like a pendulum in an arc of about 10 degrees; the swings were north-south and rather slow. Then, from the top of the object, four smaller objects emerged in pairs, two from the right "edge" and two from the left. These rose very rapidly, were in view several seconds, and disappeared abruptly. No noise was heard. The main object was in view for nearly half an hour; then it rose straight up at terrific speed and

disappeared. The view from Dr. B.'s terrace offers an unlimited view toward the east, and the object appeared to be beyond the hills in the general direction of Rye, N. Y. The object was seen again on a number of subsequent nights, including the following.

February 21, 1957. On this occasion it was seen from 9:35 to 10:15 p.m. This time it was hovering motionless at first; a few minutes later it began to rock back and forth like a pendulum again, and following this, the two pairs of smaller red objects were again launched upward. About 10 minutes afterward, the object rose and disappeared, seeming to be "turned off."

The reported incidents were investigated by Bill Blades and John Burton of White Plains. Although the repetitive nature of the phenomenon is perplexing, Blades, who is an amateur astronomer, has carefully checked the data for possible astronomical misidentifications, but cannot identify it with any star or planet.

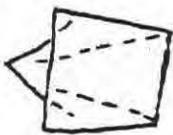
February 16, 1957. A spectacularly brilliant blue-green fireball exploded over the vicinity of Brunswick, Maine at a time variously given as between 4:35 and 4:42 a.m. The light was seen over sections of three states, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and was described by most observers as lighting up the sky "as bright as day." (Certainly this was not identifiable with the non-exploding fireball-like objects described elsewhere in this issue.) --Boston Globe, 2/17, etc.

February 16, 1957. Another fireball-type UFO (or actual fireball) was seen by a White Plains policeman and his wife. They were driving east of White Plains at about 7 p.m. when they saw a brilliant object to the east of them, bluish-green with a whitish cast, in size considerably smaller than a full moon. It was first seen on a compass bearing of about 45° (N.E.) and moved rapidly in a precise horizontal trajectory to the south, at a constant elevation of about 15° . In turning away to concentrate on the road, the driver of the car reported he last saw it on a compass bearing of 110° (E.S.E.); his wife watched it disappear behind buildings farther to their right. There was an impression of a tail, but the speed was so great that the witnesses felt the tail might be illusory. It was viewed for three seconds by one witness and slightly longer by the other. Again we request any additional information that might be supplied by readers.

February 20, 1957. Two F-86's were sent aloft to investigate a translucent, oddly shaped object hovering motionless over Westchester County Airport around noon. The information comes from a CSI member (who asks that his name be withheld), who was at the airport when the alert was sounded. In the office, he heard the "squawk-box" saying, "... hold your positions ... hold your positions." A DC-6 was just completing a landing, and at the far end of the field two F-86's were readying for take-off. The observer went out to watch them and saw their objective floating in the sky south of the field, at about 60° elevation.

It was a lop-sided square object, translucent white, and the observer reported a point-like projection on the left side of the object (see diagram). The object was similar to a square-based pyramid on its side; the size was that of a full moon. It did not move. As the two jets headed toward the object, the

witness went to his car, hoping to get home in time to get his camera and take photographs. Driving away, he saw the jets making a 360° turn around the object. This was the last he saw of the object, for it had vanished when he reached home 20 minutes later; he did see one jet getting ready to



land at the airport - possibly one of the two that had been scrambled earlier. The observer felt that the object might possibly have been a partially deflated weather balloon, although he was definite that he did not see the object drifting with the wind, or floating to the earth. The day was very clear and quite cold; the observer himself did not notice any wind.

March 6, 1957. On Wednesday, March 6, 1957, at about 2 p.m., Mrs. John Stuart Martin, wife of a well-known writer and former editor of Time magazine, saw an unearthly object hovering low over a field behind her house. The Martin property is situated on the eastern slope of the Jenny Jump ridge in Warren County, western New Jersey, and the house, on Shades of Death Road, commands a glorious view from the rear of the Great Meadows valley, to the east.

On the day in question, the sky was overcast, with a ceiling that grazed the 1100-foot summits of the Jenny Jumps. Mrs. Martin was talking on the phone when she became aware of a commotion from the hounds in their pen in the back yard. Hanging up, she went into the den to see what was disturbing them - as the weather had been warm, a neighboring farmer had already turned his cows out to pasture, and she was afraid that they might have wandered into her yard through a breach in the fence. Looking out through the den window, which faces due east, she saw the dogs clustered in the corner of their pen closest to the adjacent field; and hovering over this field, somewhat to her left and about 10 to 15 feet above the ground, was a huge, white, derby-hat-shaped construction. Mrs. Martin immediately ran outdoors to the end of the yard, facing the field.

"The shape of the object closely resembled a huge derby hat, with a rounded domelike crown 30 to 40 feet high and at least 50 feet in horizontal diameter, above a slightly curled-up 'brim' that extended outward for 12 to 15 feet on each side of the bottom of the crown. This 'brim' seemed to be sealed over smoothly and completely in a gentle curve, with no holes or ports or windows or vents of any kind.

"The color of the object was a uniform white, dull but clean, with no spots, stripes, or other markings whatsoever. Its texture was apparently non-metallic, and reminded me strongly of pipe clay."

The object was hovering almost stationary over the field. The witness described a gentle rocking motion from right to left, "like a boat at anchor in the water." At the same time, she heard a low "growling, or rumbling" noise coming from the direction of the object; this noise rose and fell in cadence with the slight rocking motion of the device.

Underneath the base of the object was a continual display of shimmering, wavy "lines" or "rays" that extended vertically almost to the ground. The effect was similar to the tinsel which hangs on a Christmas tree, although the substance, whether of material or non-material nature (the witness thought it might be some sort of "light ray") was not nearly as well defined as Christmas tree tinsel. Mrs. Martin thought that there was really only one wavy "line" or "ray" that shimmered rapidly downward toward the ground and then disappeared, immediately reappearing elsewhere with such rapidity that it gave an impression of more than one of these "lines."

Mrs. Martin watched this thing for a total of fully a minute. Abruptly, then, the object rose almost vertically into the sky with a slightly northeasterly slant, at an "immense rate of speed." As it rose from the field, she heard

a "soft rush of air, sucking away and not blowing toward me." During its ascent the base of the object remained horizontal to the ground, and Mrs. Martin did not see any vents, openings, or markings of any kind through which the "rays" she described could have come. In a matter of seconds, it had risen through the overcast clouds just above the mountain tops. The dogs stopped barking.

At the time of her sighting, Mrs. Martin's husband was in New York City; he called her a short time after the incident and learned of it then. "I told him what I had seen, and told him again in fuller detail when I joined him at 7:20 that evening in the city. At his insistence I later that evening repeated my account, and answered many questions while my memory was still fresh, at the home and in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Ormand G., of New York City. I told it reluctantly again to several other friends in the next three days (March 7, 8, and 9), but made no formal report to any authorities, fearing ridicule."

Mrs. Martin was referred to CSI through the good offices of Richard Harpster. On March 24, for Ted Bloecher and Ivan Sanderson, she very kindly went over the details of the observation once again. It proved possible to estimate the size of the object, because Mrs. Martin had noted at the time that the left edge of the "brim" was framed by a dead tree at the border of the far side of the field, while the right "brim" was framed by a pile of dead undergrowth. Mr. Martin paced the distance between the two landmarks and found it to be 40 long-legged paces - 120 feet. The object was approximately 150 yards from Mrs. Martin. The base of the object appeared on a level with, or slightly below, Mrs. Martin's eye-level (as the field slopes downward and to the left, the Martins' back yard is on higher ground than the part of the field over which the object was hovering). The top of the object as seen from the yard rose above the tops of the Jenny Jump range to the northeast.

(This is one of the most detailed and definite sightings that has ever been reported to us, and the possibility of a mistake caused by some "conventional" object can be immediately excluded. It is always necessary, of course, to consider the possibility of deliberate invention, and in this connection it should be noted that Mr. Martin had very recently had his interest in flying saucers aroused by the Mengier claims, whose falsity he soon detected. His wife's exceptional sighting just at this time therefore strikes one as an unusual coincidence, and one may think of the "H.O." episode. However, in the judgment of the Research Section, only a person sophisticated in the saucer literature could concoct a story whose details agree with, and yet differ from, existing observations in so convincing a fashion. It seems unquestionable that neither Mr. nor Mrs. Martin had at that time the background necessary to invent a tale like this, and our present feeling is that it should be accepted as a perfectly genuine and extremely informative observation of an artificial construction which obviously did not originate on this planet.)

March 8, 1957. Victor Hancock and Guy Miller, pilots for Tennessee Gas Transmission Company, were flying a company DC-3 from Beaumont to Houston, Texas, when they encountered a UFO. At about 9:45 p.m., as they were flying over Pasadena at 1500 feet, an object "with three large, white, brilliant lights" darted in front of their aircraft. "It was going from south to north," said Hancock, a veteran of 12 years in the air. "We were going at least 200 miles an hour, and it went by us easily." He said that it hovered, then sped off, had no navigation lights, and acted unlike an airplane. The brilliance of the object's lights kept the pilots from getting a definite idea of its shape. "I still don't know what it was," Miller said. "When it wanted to, it kept ahead of us easily. It would

stop, or seem to stop, just under us. We would bank around, get close to it and it would be gone again." They got within a quarter-mile of the object. "I got the idea that it was at least the size of our plane," Hancock said. "I felt that it was just messing around with us. I know that it knew we were following it." The object was seen approaching Ellington Air Force Base's main runway by the pilots, and it "cut across military traffic." At the time the object vanished, it seemed to be 200 feet over the runway, proceeding southward. "We flashed our landing lights at the object, but there was no reaction." Both men notified Ellington AFB, and Houston International Airport and Ellington officials were investigating. Hancock said the Civil Aeronautic tower's radar operator reported to him by radio that he had picked up an object close to the plane's position, then lost it; but UP reported that the "Air Force was unable to pick up the flying object on its radar." --Houston Chronicle, Mar. 9; Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mar. 9; Washington Post & Times Herald, Mar. 10 (UP); Newark Sunday News, Mar. 10 (UP); N. Y. Times, Mar. 10 (UP).

March 20, 1957. At Charlotte, North Carolina, five small, spherical objects were seen floating 30 feet in the air just over the rooftops of the buildings along Central Avenue, by Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Brown, as they were returning to Mr. Brown's office at 1239 Central Avenue, about 8:45 p.m., after mailing some letters. White in color, the objects "were like bubbles ... about the size of a basketball. They didn't have any light of their own; they just reflected lights on the ground. One of them broke away from the others and began to change color, to red. Then I saw that it was just reflecting red light from the State Farm sign out front." The other four objects "sailed off" and the fifth slipped toward the ground and splattered against the asphalt of Central Avenue. "It sounded like a thin sheet of ice slapping against the ground." Brown and his wife found the street wet where the object had hit, and moisture had spread over a 15-foot area. "It felt slippery to the touch, like an alkaline solution," and was "cooling or numbing" to his fingers. "I have a cold and couldn't smell it, but my wife said it smelled sort of like burnt matches." This case seems like good evidence for Ivan Sanderson's "unknown aerial life-forms." --Charlotte Observer, Mar. 22.

March 23, 1957. In California, Ventura County Deputies Dick McKendry, Bob Corshaw and John Murphy, on patrol in the Ventura-Camarillo area, reported seeing a red-dish, glowing object in the sky near a runway at Oxnard Air Force Base, at 12:22 a.m. They said they watched it hover near the field and dart about the valley until 1:37 a.m., when it disappeared to the north. Two police officers at nearby Port Hueneme reported a similar sighting at about the same time. Mrs. Robert Beaudoin, wife of an officer at the air base, telephoned the field shortly after midnight to report what she described as a "brilliant, flashing red object" in the sky over Santa Rosa Valley. A jet interceptor, in the air at the time, was ordered to check, but spotted nothing. Col. E. F. Carey, Jr., air base commander, said that a radar check proved negative. --Los Angeles Mirror-News, Mar. 23 (Credit: Mrs. Idabel Epperson).

April 4, 1957. At an RAF station near West Freugh, Wigtownshire, in southwestern Scotland, three radar operators at two posts independently tracked an "unidentified object" which "flashed across their screens traveling at 60,000 feet. The operators said the object suddenly dived to a height of 14,000 feet, made two whirls, then vanished to the south. It was last reported seen heading toward the Isle of Man." (UP declared that "officials refused to say in which direction and at what speed it was traveling.") "We do not know what the object was," an Air Ministry spokesman said. "Intelligence experts are studying the report and

a detailed statement may be made next week." (UP also stated that "a mystery object spotted on radar screens in Scotland may have been a Soviet reconnaissance plane.") Royal Air Force officials said no planes were in the area at the time. Unofficial sources described it as "too fast, too big, and too manoeuvrable for a plane." Full reports of the incident were turned in to the Air Ministry in London. It was stated officially that "their experts take a serious view" of such reports. No further details have been forthcoming. — N.Y. Journal-American, Apr. 6 (INS); N.Y. Sunday News, Apr. 7 (UP Apr. 6); N.Y. Sunday Mirror, Apr. 7 (AP Apr. 6); Newark Sunday News, Apr. 7 (AP); London Sunday Dispatch, Apr. 7.

April 21, 1957. On Easter night 23 blue-green oval objects were seen by a number of residents of Flanders, Long Island (at the eastern end of Suffolk County.) They glided silently over at half-minute intervals (for similarities, see the Nov. 16 report from New Rochelle) and one witness, Michael Pace of 869 Flanders Road, estimated their altitude at 1000 feet and their speed at 200 to 300 mph. Lt. Col. Frederick Fleety, executive officer at the Suffolk County Air Force Base, said the Air Force is investigating. "I have no idea what these objects could be," he said. "We had nothing but routine patrols in the air." —Long Island Daily Press, April 22, 1957.

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SAUCER MAGAZINES

Another "professional" saucer magazine is about to appear: Flying Saucers from Other Worlds, a bimonthly published by Ray Palmer, editor of Search (formerly Mystic) and former publisher of Fate and Amazing Stories. Palmer's reputation is muddy: his best-known exploit, as those who've been keeping an ear on Long John will recall, is his cynical promotion of the Shaver paranoid-hoax tales about the diabolical "deros" who dwell in secret caverns in the earth. (In fact, "Shaver's" stuff is more than half Palmer.) Palmer, who is well aware that the cracked side of the saucer is the one with the butter on it, is also the publisher and promoter of Orfeo Angelucci and George Williamson; so his new magazine will undoubtedly be on the "open-minded" or caveat emptor side. Nevertheless, saucer students will have to have it. An encouraging sign is the choice of Gray Barker for Eastern Division editor. Look for it on the newsstands.

Auriphebo Simoes, editor of Brazilian saucer magazine O Disco Voador (address: Caixa Postal 8449, Sao Paulo, Brazil), turns out to be a veteran commercial airlines pilot, and one of the best-qualified saucer researchers we've heard of. His issue # 3 is the first saucer publication yet to point out the contradictory character of the O'Neill-Wilkins "bridge on the moon" (minimized since '54 by Wilkins himself). Olavo Fontes, still contributing new and important stuff monthly to Gribble's APRG Reporter, is a Brazilian physician, and one of Simoes' high-powered C.P.D.V. group. Dr. Jose Escobar Faria, a Brazilian attorney who founded C.P.D.V., is now on his own instead, publishing the English-language UFO-Critical Bulletin; it's smaller than O Disco Voador (and more picturesque in its English), but good and sound. (Write: Rua 13 de Maio n. 1240, Sao Paulo, Brazil.) Brazilian saucer research seems to be in good hands all round, not a crackpot in the bunch! (Escobar's irresistible definition of the crackpots as "errant knights of a bedlam" is particularly appropriate.) Incidentally, Simoes may be in New York about May 1 - we'll let local members know if this works out.

We've just received a brand-new monthly periodical called Satellite, edited by amateur astronomer Richard Hall, whose articles have appeared in Orbit and in Escobar Faria's UFO-Critical Bulletin. The first issue, four pages of outstandingly

clear mimeographing, carries a first-hand account by Dr. Seymour Hess of his observation of May 20, 1950; Dr. Hess was on the staff of Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, at the time. (His name is not used in the Satellite article, but the identification is obvious.) The issue also reprints in part Ivan Sanderson's Introduction to Ufology article; gives six recent observations here and in England; and establishes an editorial policy of high acuity. Satellite promises to be a welcome contribution to factual UFO study. \$2.00 a year from Mr. Hall, 721 Burdette St., New Orleans 18, La.

Flying Saucer Review of London, the handsomest of saucer periodicals externally, is getting to be a "whited sepulchre" - aside from some good sightings. The current March-April issue goes the whole hog on credulity - even referring to the convicted con man Silas Newton as a "scientist"! London badly needs someone like Simoes or Hall.

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SAUCER BOOKS

Max Miller's new paperback book, Flying Saucers - Fact or Fiction? (Trend Books, 75 ¢) is in the bookshops and drugstores now; don't miss it. Handsomely produced, and with a lot of previously unpublished material, it's the biggest value yet for your money. Organization could be tighter, and the degree of respect shown toward "communication with saucers" and "contact" claims exceeds what CSI would think reasonable (we understand the publisher, anxious not to alienate any customers, had a lot to do with that). But it's an indispensable compilation. Such valuable material as an extensive account of the Canadian "Project Magnet," Oberth's statement of 1955, Keyhoe's eleven unanswered questions to the Air Force, and Ruppelt's comments to Miller on the Blue Book report are reprinted here in extenso; there's also a whole chapter on Mars, which may or may not be really relevant, but is fascinating anyway. All profusely illustrated.

Anyone who was so negligent as not to buy Ruppelt's Report on Unidentified Flying Objects last year can now remedy his oversight at a cost of only 35 cents: this soundest and most authoritative of saucer books is now available in paperback reprint (Ace Books - look for a greenish-blue cover).

We have acquired several copies of The Books of Charles Fort, certainly one of the world's greatest books both as science and as literature. Among other things, it is the original and fundamental work on unidentified aerial objects. Available to CSI members at \$4.00 postpaid (Bookstore price, \$6.50). Order from Isabel Davis, Treasurer, 67 Jane Street, New York 14; make checks payable to Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York.

In contrast to 1955-56, this has been a season almost devoid of new saucer books. In our next issue we will discuss some notable crackpot books by Williamson and Stanford; also Jessup's Expanding Case for the UFO, which will certainly be worth examining (supposed to be out any day now).

An anthology called The Best from True has appeared. Although it was Keyhoe's 1950 articles on UFOs that really put True on the map, Keyhoe's name does not appear in this collection, and not a word is said in it about flying saucers.

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SAUCER FRAGMENTS

Good news for the Swiss? We know it sounds implausible, but on April 12 news commentator Henry J. Taylor was nominated U.S. ambassador to Switzerland. Taylor is known in the saucer world for his bum-steer story of seven years ago that saucers were "good news for the American people" - U.S. secret weapons: he said that they were "harmless" remote-controlled discs up to 250 feet in diameter, which "usually disintegrated in mid-air." (U.S. News & World Report, April 7, 1950.) He has not returned to the subject since.

"Visit to a Small Planet": The surprise hit Broadway comedy is all about a "space visitor," who lands his saucer in the garden (offstage) with a fine display of pulsating blue-green lights and sound effects. Neither a long-haired demigod nor a troll type, this one (Cyril Ritchard) is an over-civilized superman who just wants to see a good war. Curiously, the Army, rather than the Air Force, is represented as having the hot-potato responsibility for flying saucers. Good fun, if pretty broad.

Want to see Frank Edwards on Television? There's a possibility that Pabst Beer may sponsor a Frank Edwards program on a national TV network, where we can all see him. It might be helpful to write to Pabst (Marshall Lachner, President, Pabst Brewing Co., Merchandise Mart, Chicago, Ill.) to let them know you'd be grateful for a chance to see Frank in your area. Your letter might tip the scales. Thanks to Lee Munsick for this suggestion.

New "Contact" Claim: Some good-looking photographs reproduced by Miller on his inside front cover go with a "contact" story told by Mrs. Elisabeth Klarer, of Natal, in southeastern Africa. This is the first foreign feminine emulation of Adamski that we've heard of. The story as told in Flying Saucer Review, Nov.-Dec. 1956, is an obvious and rather pathetic wish-fulfillment fantasy, directly inspired by Adamski's books. A different and much more elaborate version was given by Klarer to the South African magazine Outspan (credit Herman Mitchell for this information). Edgar Sievers of South Africa endorses both Adamski and Klarer - which tells us more about Sievers than about Klarer. (His piece in the March-April Flying Saucer Review is similarly informative.)

"Contact" claimant Buck Nelson, one of the most obviously loony, had a big success in Washington about the first of the year, lecturing on his recent trips to Venus, and selling, as proof of their veracity, tufts of hair from a dog that the pet-loving Venusians had given him. (Thanks to Lee Munsick for this tidbit.) We understand he sold several dogfuls. There is something in this inspired exploit that even we bluenoses can't help admiring.

The Officers of Civilian Saucer Intelligence of N.Y. are as follows:

President: John Du Barry; Administrative Vice President: Lex Mebane; Organizational Vice President: Harold Oksenkrug; Vice President for Public Relations: Ivan Sanderson; Research Director: Ted Bloecher; Treasurer: Isabel Davis; Legal Advisor: Jules St. Germain.

The CSI News Letter is compiled, written and edited by Lex Mebane and Ted Bloecher of the CSI Research Section. The opinions of the editors do not necessarily reflect the views of other members.