

#18

* Issue No. 6 *

* SAUCER INTELLIGENCE OF NEW YORK *

* CSI NEWS LETTER *

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* Note to CSI Members *

* This issue of the News Letter is more than twice as large as any
* of its predecessors. While it is impossible to do this regularly
* because of the enormous amount of time and work required (plus the
* additional cost of paper and postage), the editors felt that for
* this issue the extra costs were justified by the number of recent
* events in saucerdom calling for description and comment, and by
* the large number of good sightings that we have received during
* the past three months.

CIVILIAN SAUCER INTELLIGENCE OF NEW YORK

c/o Lex Mebane, 138 West 92nd St., N.Y.C.

CSI NEWS LETTERThe Need for Outspoken Criticism

This issue of the News Letter is devoted for the most part to recent events which, in our opinion, are not genuine. The Fall's crop of news items has for some reason consisted mostly of this sort of thing. Of course, all of us would prefer to lay emphasis on authentic phenomena, rather than to publicize the spurious; unfavorable comment always makes a more or less unpleasant impression on the reader, and can easily suggest motivation by spite or jealousy. Moreover, such writing incurs a decided risk. The publication of unfavorable verdicts of the sort one is often forced to make in this field may render the publisher vulnerable to retaliation by lawsuit, unless it can be shown that the criticism is made in the public interest. Thus personal inclination, good taste, and prudence all combine to suggest the wisdom of saying nothing, or as little as possible, about matters where frank comment would have to be unfavorable.

However, the editors feel that to take this safe-and-sane course would be to shirk our obligations as a responsible research group.

Everyone who has been seriously interested in UFOs for some time comes to realize that in addition to the genuine or apparently genuine data, there are three kinds of spurious pseudo-data that have to be weeded out and rejected: the false stories produced by deliberate and cynical hoaxers, the false stories produced by the insane or emotionally unstable, and the honest errors of observation that result from mistaking some natural or man-made object for a UFO. (In practice, the pigeon-holing is not so neat: paranoiacs often engage in the faking of evidence, and the "crackpots" who delude themselves with telepathic or ouija-board "messages" of subconscious origin stand halfway between psychosis and honest error.) But the newcomer to the field, and the public generally, is too often unaware of these necessary distinctions. "Saucer stories," for them, all fall in just one category.

As a result of this naive lack of discrimination, the public reputation of UFOs suffers entirely unnecessarily whenever a fraud is exposed (as in California on November 7th) or an error detected (as in Cincinnati last March - see News Letter No. 3). "Saucers are all the bunk," is the immediate popular conclusion, and ridicule is the order of the day. As reputable UFO researchers, we should be personally concerned to prevent repetitions of the November 7th disaster. Under present conditions of public innocence, the valid and important observations of thousands of honest and intelligent witnesses, and the reputations of those who devote themselves to the study of these data, are at the mercy of any swindler or paranoid who sees fit to declare himself a "spokesman" of the "saucers." If, out of politeness or timidity, those of us who know better tolerate these bogus representations and allow them to go unrepudiated, how can we expect to escape damage when they are finally publicly exploded? Respectable researchers can maintain respectability only if they definitely disassociate themselves from the saucer demi-monde.

Of course, realistically speaking, a scandal like that of November 7th blackens all saucers and saucer "believers" in the public eye, whether or not any sensible UFO researchers were involved. It is not enough merely to keep our own skirts clean; the serious UFO students, in their own interests and in the interests of public

education, must do what they can to avert the occurrence of such scandals. It is up to us to nip them in the bud. The exposure and discrediting of the saucer frauds must come from saucer researchers themselves, otherwise we shall have no hope of showing the public that there is any distinction between the two.

Two reputable saucer students, John Otto and Max Miller, deserve recognition for their outspoken efforts to deflate the "Hon-Ka" hoax before it blew up. If they failed, it was not for want of trying, but because the situation was already out of hand. On the other side of the picture, the disgraceful credulity of another "sincere" but naive saucer researcher was a major factor in the growth of the hoax.

This brings us to a second point. Frank criticism, disagreeable as it may be, is essential for our own education. It takes some time for a novice in UFO research to develop a judicious attitude: he almost always begins by accepting more than he should, and with increasing experience makes the painful discovery that he has a lot of "unlearning" to do. This has been our own history, and we believe it has been that of many others in the field. One reason why "unlearning" comes so slowly is that there is little indication, in the present-day UFO literature, that it is necessary: each one must discover for himself, with the help of his own native intelligence, the weeds in our garden. We believe it is the duty of responsible UFO researchers to help others to avoid the errors of over-credulity that they themselves have outgrown.

There is still a third reason why frank criticism has a proper place in UFO publications, because there is a third important group whose opinions should be of concern to us. Unless we have the courage publicly to repudiate the spurious, we shall not only betray our responsibility to other UFO students, and become a laughing-stock to the public at large: we shall also disappoint and repel those who are able to make the discriminations which we have shirked. There are many intelligent persons, particularly in the field of science, who realize that the subject of UFOs must have some factual basis; but on looking into the literature of the field, they have found it is riddled with evident fraud, and that even the would-be factual works are marred by overenthusiastic acceptance of the dubious. So long as "saucer research" is of this calibre, they will not endanger their own reputations by acknowledging their interest in it. They are capable of recognizing the irrationality of total rejection, as exemplified by Donald Menzel; but they will not accept a George Adamski, or even an H. T. Wilkins, as an alternative. They demand--and it is a justifiable demand--leadership which is not too obviously vulnerable to the ridicule of the skeptics. Probably none of us in UFO research today is capable of furnishing leadership of that quality. But we could do better than we are doing now; and the prime necessity is that we should let it be known that we are capable of detecting and rejecting errors of observation; that we can distinguish a madman from a sane man; that we do recognize that there are frauds among us; and that we intend to do what we can to keep serious UFO research free of association with all these things.

-- The Editors

The CSI News Letter is issued approximately bi-monthly by the Research Section of Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York, a non-profit organization. It is compiled, written, and edited by Lex Mebane, Isabel Davis, and Ted Bloecher. The views of the editors do not necessarily reflect those of all the members of the organization.

CSI MEMBERS' MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On November 7, 1956, CSI held its first members' meeting of the 1956-57 season at the home of the Secretary, Lex Mebane. Thirty members were present, the largest attendance to date at such a meeting. Since this was the annual business meeting, much time was devoted to the adoption of a set of By-Laws, which for the first time state in formal terms the structure of the organization. (A copy of these By-Laws will be sent to each member soon.)

After this business was completed, elections were held, and the following officers were elected: President, John DuBarry; First Vice-President (Administration), Courtland Hastings; Second Vice-President (Organization), Mrs. Mary Coryn; Third Vice-President (Public Relations), Ivan Sanderson; Secretary, Lex Mebane; Treasurer, Isabel Davis; Research Director, Ted Bloecher.

The Secretary reported that membership as of November 7 stood at 110, of whom 52 were residents of the greater New York City area. The organization's bank balance stood at \$28, (The 1955-56 financial report issued in June is still available for members on request.)

A report was then given by Lex Mebane on the "Mon-Ka of Mars" tapes, on the Van Tassel appearances, and the Menger case; Lee Munsick also contributed a great deal of first-hand information about the Menger report. (Written reports on these topics appear in this issue of the News Letter.) By this time it was well after midnight, and the two other topics on the agenda had to be deferred; these were a report by Ivan Sanderson on the new organization, NICAP - National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena - and a report by Ted Bloecher on his investigation late in August, 1956, of the numerous "little men" reports in the Cincinnati area in 1955. For information regarding NICAP, see pages 12-14, this issue. It is hoped that a written report can be issued regarding Mr. Bloecher's investigations in Cincinnati.

"MON-KA OF MARS" GIVES SAUCER RESEARCH A BLACK EYE

Hoaxer, Credulous "Saucer Fans" and Cynics Cooperate with Disastrous Success

On the night of November 7th, 1956, all of California was talking about "flying saucers." To be more specific, it was laughing at them, and at the silly people who "believe" in them. Max Miller, of Flying Saucers International in Los Angeles, did his best to head off this catastrophe; he tells us that it "set saucer research on the West Coast back ten years"; but this is too weak a statement, for ten years ago, in 1946, there was no prejudice against unknown aerial objects, whereas now they are synonymous in the public mind with nonsense. The Air Force, which has striven to inculcate this viewpoint, must be well pleased with this present, handed to it by the combined efforts of a saucer hoaxer, gullible and uncritical saucer fans and enthusiasts, and the irresponsible frivolity of the press, radio, and television.

The story is known to many of our members, but it should be put down here in brief form for future reference. It concerns some tape recordings, whose first public appearance was at the April 1956 "Space Convention" of saucer fans at Giant Rock, California, presided over by George Van Tassel. (For comments on Van Tassel, see next article.) It was alleged by their producer, an occultist group called "Solar Cross Foundation," that these records had been miraculously impressed upon a reel of blank tape in a sealed can (a new variation of the "slate-writing" trick produced by fraudulent mediums). The moving spirit of the "Solar Cross Foundation" turned out to be a man named Dick Miller (no relation to Max Miller), who had been associated with George Williamson's "Telonic Research Foundation" until last year, when Williamson denounced him. Dick Miller is competent in electronics, and has a history of applying this skill in his saucer "research," as the following item - brought to the attention of the public in October by John Otto - will illustrate:

"!...I exposed one of his attempted hoaxes here when he was a member of the Detroit Flying Saucer Club,' Randall Cox, auto dealer and Miller's ex-employer, told me by telephone. 'Miller told us he had information that on a certain date we were to contact a saucer in a certain area. When we went out there, he had us remain in the car to listen on the radio. Soon we heard his voice. He said he was speaking from the spaceship. He said he could see us on a kind of advanced-type screen aboard the saucer.

"Later, when he returned to the car, I was suspicious. I got the radio ham who assisted Miller to break down and tell me the whole story. About half a mile away, in an abandoned truck, we found the radio transmitter he had used to cut in on our car radio with his phony message from the spaceship."

(Omar Garrison in the L.A. Mirror-News, 11/2/56. Cr. Idabel Epperson)

So much for the origin of the tapes. What were they like? The chief one was "Mon-Ka's Prediction." In portentous, extraterrestrial tones (an effect which sharp-eared CSI member Louis Gomola, an electronics expert, identifies as produced with the aid of a tape recorder with a bad "flutter") we hear the following awesome communication:

"Greetings, people of Earth. I am Mon-Ka. I am what you would call the head of my government. I speak to you this evening from the planet which you call Mars.... We, of the Space Confederation...speak now to you, people of Earth. We shall prove our remarks by bringing about an incident which will forever dispel any claims...that would deny our existence. On the evening of November 7, of this your year 1956, at 10:30 p.m. your local time, we request that one of your communications stations remove its carrier signal from the air for two minutes. At that time we will speak from our craft, which will be stationed at an altitude of 10,000 feet over your great city of Los Angeles. This ship will be visible to all of the people, as it will be illuminated by our force fields.... People of Earth, it is time you knew the truth...your planet is not ready.... May we, your brothers, share the great warmth and friendship of peace, and now, co-existence. I, Mon-Ka, have spoken."

(The full text is reproduced by Gray Barker in his Saucerian Bulletin, Vol. I, #4, October, 1956.)

It might be thought that few would be taken in by this childish play-acting, but many people in the saucer field are insufficiently critical. "The tapes were so 'phony' that we wondered how any thinking person could possibly be taken in by them; but I know a couple who go into ecstasies over them," an intelligent California member wrote to us. (Of course, at this time, Dick Miller's background was not generally known.) And a minor radio station, KATY of San Luis Obispo, agreed to go off the air on November 7, to give Mon-Ka his chance. However, the Miller tapes at first won notice only in West Coast saucer circles.

Their great notoriety came about some months later, by an accident. A California student, Kenneth Kellar, took them to England, and they were played in London at a public meeting on September 22. Lex Mebane, who was in London at the time, warned the Flying Saucer Review group, before the lecture, that the tapes were considered fraudulent by serious American researchers. But this warning had no visible effect on the outcome. Many of the audience, including Reginald Dutta, of the Review, were greatly impressed by "Mon-Ka," and Dutta told a reporter for the Empire News (one of London's Sunday newspapers) "I am quite satisfied that the report is authentic."

Now the press took the ball and ran with it. The next day the Empire News splashed the story across its front page. The reporter chose to use the

following words: "Flying saucer experts to whom I spoke all said that the report had come from 'an unimpeachable source,' though none was prepared to reveal it." (Perhaps Kellar couldn't remember offhand the name "Solar Cross.") And Dutta's endorsement was quoted. As if in a conspiracy to confuse the public, the Associated Press picked up this English Sunday-paper attention-getter, and on Monday, the 24th, it appeared in American papers from New York to Los Angeles. Two natural misconceptions immediately arose among saucer enthusiasts: 1) A confirmation of the Mon-Ka messages had been received independently by "unimpeachable sources" in England; 2) The genuineness of the Solar Cross tapes had in some way been verified by English scientists of some sort. The true situation - that southern California saucerdom was merely hearing an echo of its own voice from London - was not at all obvious from the AP account. Gray Barker's Saucerian Bulletin, Vol. I, No. 4, describes the excitement aroused in the Detroit Flying Saucer Club; Coral Lorenzen, in the September 15th edition of the APRO Bulletin, expressed perplexity, but cautiously counseled skepticism.

On October 8th the British Flying Saucer Review took the unprecedented step of issuing a press release in which it denied any intention of endorsing the tape. This was sent to all saucer groups. But by then the damage had been done.

The West Coast "fringe-group" saucerites were in their glory. Mass meetings of Mon-Ka's followers, under the aegis of a young man named Gabriel Green, were held in Los Angeles on October 13th and 27th. (At the second meeting, Green also spoke on "God's New Political Party.") On the 29th, Art Linkletter's "House Party" television program, tongue firmly in cheek, featured Green and the "Mon-Ka" tape. Of course, Green was taken as a representative of all saucer researchers, and Mon-Ka as representative of all saucer reports. The results for the reputation of UFO research, according to Max Miller, were precisely what could have been expected - they were disastrous.

Like several other concerned persons (Max Miller and Idabel Epperson among them) we had written to Linkletter before the broadcast, pointing out the irresponsible unfairness of lumping serious UFO investigators with those who were gulled by the Dick Miller tapes. This had no visible effect on the outcome. However, after Linkletter had perpetrated his show, he did offer to let us name a representative of the sensible saucer researchers to appear on his program as an attempted counterbalance. We suggested Max Miller and Mrs Epperson; Max Miller has recently informed us, however, that Linkletter has withdrawn the offer.

Came the fateful evening of November 7th; hundreds of the faithful gathered in the streets and on the housetops, and not only KATY, but KBIA of Los Angeles went off the air for Mon-Ka; Paul Coates of TV station KTTV had a plane in the air to watch for the spaceship. Other radio and TV programs also took part in the circus. The fiasco was total. Not even a hoax was attempted. (It seems reasonable to suspect that a spurious radio message, too brief to be traceable, may originally have been planned - compare with Dick Miller's earlier exploit. The fact that a large number of radio direction finders had been set up in advance by State Polytechnic students may have been responsible for the silence of the radio.) Gabriel Green was scheduled to be roasted on a TV program immediately after the collapse of his expectations; but (not unnaturally) he bowed out, and Orfeo Angelucci (!) was the representative of Ufology who took the roasting. John Otto also appeared and did his best to point out that the Mon-Ka hoax had nothing to do with serious UFO research, but under the circumstances, it was hopeless. A great horse-laugh went up that night from the skeptics. From this day forward, anyone who attempts to get unidentified flying objects taken seriously by sensible Californians will have the ghost of Mon-Ka to contend with - courtesy of Dick Miller and collaborators.

George Van Tassel And His Wonderful Rejuvenation Machine

Toward the end of October, New York was visited by Mr. George Van Tassel, a man well known in western saucer circles. The operator of a small airport at Giant Rock, in the California desert, he has a background of 28 years in the aircraft industry, having worked in "flying and flight test work" for Douglas, Howard Hughes, and Lockheed. (It might be interesting to check up on this history.) He is known in the UFO field for his 1952 pamphlet, "I Rode A Flying Saucer" (New Age, \$1) and as the impresario of annual "Space Conventions" at Giant Rock. These are now tremendous affairs attracting many thousands; at the last one, in April 1956, Ruppelt and Keyhoe were among the speakers. He also publishes a periodical, "Proceedings of the College of Universal Wisdom," with which C.S.J. is not familiar.

"I Rode a Flying Saucer" does not literally make this claim; it consists of "messages" telepathically received by the author and a group of his friends. Samples follow:

March 21, 1952—"Greetings. I am Totalmon, 4th projection, 7th wave, space patrol, realms of Schare. Elevation 750 miles above you, speed 170,000 miles per second; returning from the 2nd sector. Our light-cast instructs us to bring you blessings from the Center and the realms of Blaau."

Sept. 21, 1952—"In love and peace, I am with you. I am Ashtar, commandant quadra sector station, Schare. We are about to add further confusion to the minds of those who are attempting to diagnose our existence. We are about to be sighted under the surface of the water at many points throughout the oceans of Shan (Shan = the Earth--Eds.) You have been given sufficient evidence through the recent storm in your Pacific Ocean, through verification of much information advanced to you by us. My perception is that most of you within this cone have accepted us through proof. All future demonstrations on our part will establish us in the minds of the majority of those doubters throughout this planet Shan. I leave you with my love. I am Ashtar."

Judging by this solemn clap-trap, the Research Section had hitherto set Van Tassel down as an honest but deluded soul, revering as super-earthly wisdom the inventions of his own subconscious. However, the gentleman's current activities have given us a different impression.

Van Tassel and a small party are engaged in a lecture tour of the country by private plane. We know of the following appearances he made in the New York area: On Saturday, October 27, a lecture in his New York hotel, where Howard Menger (see below) presented himself. (Following this, Van Tassel was constantly associated with Menger.) Sunday and Monday, the 28th & 29th: all-night appearances on Long John's program (see following). Thursday, November 1: A brief appearance with Menger on Steve Allen's "Tonight," where they were treated in the bantering vein that Allen considers appropriate to the subject; here they visibly impressed the studio audience. Friday evening, Nov. 2: a lecture (without Menger) at the Pythian Temple. (The audience of 750 was almost three times that which attended Frank Edwards' lecture for CSI in the same hall.) Saturday: appearance on Long John's program, cut off at 3 a.m. that night by the emergency sessions of the U.N. All but the first two of these appearances were monitored by the CSI Research Section.

Mr. Van Tassel turns out to be a handsome, broad-faced, fair-haired man in his early forties, with a pleasant, deep voice and an easy-going manner of speech. It is impossible not to be struck at once by his evident "sincerity." His shrewdness is even more obvious: he is by no means a mere naive dreamer, as his 1952 pamphlet

had suggested. A person listening primarily to the sound of his discourse, and applying little thought to its sense, would probably never have reason to suspect that this big, sincere, affable, humble man was anything other than what he claims to be. What he claims, in his modest and ingratiating way, is merely that he is the close confidant of the angelic superhumans who operate the flying saucers, and that with their benign guidance (and your money) he is about to bring some aspects of the saucerians' heaven down to the Californian earth.

Here are just a few of the things we have heard him allege:

In the first place, he endorses everyone else's stories no matter how questionable they appear to others. Adamski's story is true. (Anyone who has studied this knows it must be false.) Daniel Fry's story is true--"one of the finest written." Scully's story (which originated with the convicted swindler Silas Newton) is true; in fact, two eminent brain surgeons told Van Tassel that they had examined the brains of the little men from Scully's saucer, and that from the appearance of these brains it could be calculated that the little men were several hundred years old. (In reality, age cannot be determined from the appearance of the brain.) Bethurum's story is true. (Its fictitious character is patent from internal evidence.) Howard Menger's story is true. (See next section.) With the support of his friends from space, he gives approval to each and all of these reports.

So, if any of the above-listed contact stories are in reality not true, there must be something wrong with the information that Mr. Van Tassel receives from his space people.

Moreover, he himself now claims a physical contact as well as continued telepathic communications. One night in August, 1953, we are told, an Adamski-type saucer landed at Giant Rock, and the pilots showed him around it. This tale is well told and (apart from his assertion that he understood the principle of the "magnetic" antigravitational engine just by looking at it), it offers no clear internal evidence of falsity.

It is otherwise with some of his other statements. The power utilized by the saucers in their engines is said to be the same as the power ("primary light energy") that keeps the earth moving in its orbit - "in fact, they copied it from the earth." Most people are aware that the earth's movements are not motor-driven: that they continue from simple inertia, with no power used or needed. But it seems that Van Tassel's extraterrestrial friends share his ignorance of Newton's First Law. This man who claims he knows how to build saucer motors ("any good mechanic can build them ... they use no fuel ... the Administration is suppressing the truth because of the effect it would have on the oil companies") explains that they are powered like the earth, which he thinks is powered, but which is not powered. It is interesting, incidentally, that he has not built any of these simple and highly economical motors which he understands so well and explains so revealingly.

Mr. Van Tassel is also under the impression that the planets are self-luminous: he explains that the saucers, "just like planets," are surrounded by a luminous force-field. It should be unnecessary to remark that it has been known since Galileo that planets are dark bodies, illuminated by the sun. It must be stressed that ignorance can be no excuse for Van Tassel; for all of these statements are presented, not as his own opinion, but as truths revealed to him by the saucerians.

Many will feel that the saucerians' Biblical criticism, as relayed by Mr. Van Tassel, is even more singular than their physics. (The two tend to be mixed together; there is a little something for everyone in a Van Tassel lecture. There is no space here to comment on his economic-reform theme; but it appears that - by an odd coincidence - the saucerians strongly advise the issuance of scrip, just as in the "Townsend plan" so popular with the elderly citizens of California who attend Van Tassel's meetings in the West.) We are told, for example - mind you, all this is given us not as conjecture, but as gospel truth - that Mary was a Venusian woman set down on earth by the spaceships shortly before the birth of Christ; nothing is said about her genealogy as given in the Bible. And just in passing, we are offered a saucerian etymology of the word "angel": it was originally "angle," and was applied by the Old Testament folk (who evidently spoke English) to the saucer beings. They called them "angles" to signify something unusual, out of the ordinary. (If we may presume to offer a word of counsel to Mr. Van Tassel, we would advise him to omit this tidbit in future. Even people who don't notice anything else wrong are apt to choke on this one.)

However, the most significant tale now being told by Van Tassel is the story of the Longevity Machine. It seems that it is by means of a machine, using "time fields," that the planet people are able to live so many centuries without aging. (Methuselah, who was a Venusian, had one of these machines, but since it gradually wore out, his descendants lived shorter lives than he did. You don't believe this? The saucer people say it's so.) Van Tassel knows how to build this machine, and he knows the theory of its operation: as we age, the electron orbits in our atoms become eccentric, and this machine rejuvenates us by restoring them to circularity. (As anyone with a smattering of chemistry or physics will recognize, this is arrant balderdash.)

His group has built a small working model of the machine, and has rejuvenated a number of lizards and horned toads; in one case, a lizard's head was crushed, but when the animal was put in the machine the tissue completely regenerated within three minutes. Now he is engaged in building a man-sized machine, which apparently is a far more complex project: it will require a building containing no metal. Van Tassel is raising \$40,000 for the purpose. (On another occasion he spoke of \$60,000 as the sum required.) "I have every reason to believe it will eliminate the medical profession," he remarks. It will first be used to extend the lifetime of the "senior citizens" of California; this is the express wish of the saucer people, who say that the reason the world is in such a bad state is that the elderly, who have learned wisdom, are dying when they ought to be running the world. "We will permit age to live with dignity and the vitality of youth." Rather surprisingly, in view of the dramatic results in the lizard experiment, it is specified that the treatment will not restore lost hair, teeth, or hearing; as a matter of fact, it will not produce any visible effect; but it will confer "youthful vitality," and several centuries of added life.

Those who wish to believe this yarn are at liberty to do so. The opinion of the Research Section is unanimously negative. Our expectation is that the principal effect of the Longevity Machine will be a lightening of the patient's purse. It may be remarked, in passing, that although the government does not take action against those who make fraudulent representations about flying saucers, it does proceed against those who perpetrate frauds in the medical field; so we may very likely hear from Mr. Van Tassel, in the not too distant future, that he is being persecuted by the government and "the medical interests."

WHY WE HAVE THAT BLEARY-EYED LOOK

Long John's Radio Broadcasts

On Sunday, October 28th, the CSI Research Section woke up to the fact that "Long John" Neville, who conducts a disc-jockey-and-chitchat program on WOR (Mutual Network) from 1 to 5:30 a.m. every morning, was now taking up flying saucers. Since that time the Research Section has been extra short on sleep. Long John is a keen-witted, hard-bitten young man who has been a professional magician and has a thoroughgoing mistrust of alleged marvels. He doesn't "buy" saucers, as he repeatedly says, but he knows a good audience attraction when he finds one, and he has found one here. His flyer in saucers began with some crank letters that were sent him in October by a so-called extraterrestrial. Shortly thereafter, he had Gilbert Holloway on the program, and on the morning of the 28th George Van Tassel was interviewed. The next night Howard Menger (see below) made his debut, in the company of Van Tassel. Since then, most of Long John's programs have consisted of an intensive discussion of some aspect of flying saucers, with particular emphasis on the Menger claims. There have been several appearances of Van Tassel, more of Menger, and Lee Munsick (North Jersey UFO Group) has been heard several times. On November 13th, Augie Roberts and Dominick Lucchesi were on; on November 22nd, top science-fiction writer Theodore Sturgeon proved to be well grounded in UFOs; on the 24th Dr. Leon Davidson presented his "secret-device" theory of saucers. As CSI representatives, Lex Mebane and Ted Bloecher appeared on the morning of November 11th, with the express purpose of letting listeners know the Research Section's unfavorable verdict on both Van Tassel and Menger. (We can testify that it turns out to be quite easy, and even pleasant, to sit around a small table for four and a half of the wee small hours and do nothing but talk.) Finally, on Sunday morning, November 25th, CSI Vice-President Ivan Sanderson was on; as might have been predicted, his fascinating discourse attracted an unprecedented volume of admiring phone calls, mail and telegrams. (He gave from memory a detailed account of the "Flatwoods Monster" case; stressed the diversity of UFOs with emphasis on the probability that one class of aerial objects can be identified as upper-atmosphere "life forms"; criticized Dr. Davidson's story of the Flatwoods case as inaccurate in some points; and touched on other aspects of ufology too numerous to mention.) As this is being written, the saucer discussions on Long John's show continue, with fresh revelations from Menger several times a week.

(N.B. Since the Sanderson appearance on the 25th, Long John has interviewed a New York attorney, Jules St. Germain, who spent a great deal of time questioning the Mengers; CSI member Steve Putnam, of Egypt, Mass.; and M. K. Jessup together with CSI Vice-President Courtland Hastings.)

A NEW "CONTACT" CLAIMANT: HOWARD MENDER, THE JERSEY ADAMSKI

On Saturday, October 27th, a 34-year-old signpainter of High Bridge, New Jersey, Howard Menger by name, was brought to New York to meet George Van Tassel. (How this initial contact with Van Tassel was brought about is uncertain: curiously enough, Menger has refused to discuss it.) The next night Menger appeared on Long John's program with Van Tassel; after that, his rise to celebrity was rocket-like. He has appeared at least five times since then on Long John's show, and on radio programs in Philadelphia and elsewhere; also, with Van Tassel, on Steve Allen's TV program on November 1st. Fairly detailed accounts of his claims have been printed in several New Jersey newspapers, but since New York and national media have not yet publicized them, they are widely known only to saucer aficionados. Even so, hundreds of believers are swarming to High Bridge every Sunday, and the Menger family is finding its life made almost intolerable by its disciples.

The story Menger has to tell is that from the age of ten he has had repeated telepathic and "physical" contacts with the saucer people. They are handsome human beings of the white race, who come from Venus, Mars and Saturn; their character is one of angelic nobility and altruism ("their purpose here is to help us") and they "live the laws of the Creator the way the Creator intended"; "Great love emits from these people." Also, they wear their hair long, dress in luminous "ski pajamas," and live for several centuries, after which they die and are reborn.

The first "contact," at the age of ten, is worthy of special mention. Menger had an overpowering impulse to go to a certain spot in the woods near his home; and there, sitting on a rock in a clearing, he found a beautiful girl with long blond hair, in translucent ski pajamas, who discoursed for several minutes "in a way that seemed out of this world, even then," although he was not then aware that she was an extraterrestrial. "She told me many things that have come out recently," but it has not been disclosed what these things were. (Menger frequently resorts to the explanation that he is not permitted to disclose certain things. Thus, he has asserted that there are various proofs of the truth of the story, but it turns out that these cannot be revealed at the present time.) Recently he has met this girl again, and has learned that her age is about 500.

Since the summer of 1956, his meetings with the space people have become more frequent, and he has by now taken eleven photographs, all of which represent luminous "space craft" hovering near, or on, the ground at night. He has also been out in space in a saucer, and has seen, through its three-dimensional "viewer" in the center of the craft, the people, animals, and sled-like vehicles of heavenly Venus.

Of course, all this is old stuff to anyone who has read Adamski. All the details of the Menger story may be found in "Inside The Space Ships": e.g. the 3-dimensional color screen in the space craft (p. 234-35), the iris-like door (p. 53), the sourceless light (p. 61), the Venusian heaven with gliding vehicles (p. 236), the Laws of the Creator (p. 238 and elsewhere)--not to forget the well-known ski suits and long hair!

The photographs also show a saucer rigorously identical with Adamski's--complete with an indicated face at one porthole.

May this remarkable agreement, perhaps, be interpreted as showing that both stories are true? No, it may not. The fictitious character of Adamski's story has been put beyond peradventure by the blunders he made in his second book. The agreement with Adamski indicates, therefore, ^{that} Menger's story is copied from Adamski's, and shares the fictitious character of its model.

(Menger at first denied categorically that he had read Adamski's books. It was then brought out that he had read and discussed "Flying Saucers Have Landed" three years ago, and that "Inside The Space Ships" has been inside his house all summer.)

Of course, this conclusion does not rest only on the evident plagiarism of Adamski, but is directly supported. Of the eleven photographs, one was early called into question, because it showed grass whose height relative to the "saucer" indicated either that the grass was immense or the saucer small. This photograph has now disappeared, and Menger indicates that he does not know what became of it. A second photograph, showing a large saucer in good focus, is judged by the Research Section to be unmistakably a photograph of a painting (in luminous paint on a black background), the touching-up being particularly noticeable around the edge of the cupola. (Menger's profession should be recalled.) This same painting appears to be used in several of the other views. In a third photograph, a remarkable differentially-lighted effect is exhibited; such an effect can be obtained by illuminating

fluorescent paint with an ultraviolet lamp held off to one side, and in confirmation of this diagnosis is the fact that under the slanting light a criss-cross texture shows up, apparently canvas.

(It may be added that these tell-tale details will disappear in half-tone reproduction, and the paintings, which are well done, will then appear fairly convincing, though they will still have a two-dimensional quality.)

For these reasons the photographs appear to us entirely unacceptable. Nevertheless, this is not to say that Menger is in exactly the same class as George Van Tassel or Daniel Fry. He is, rather, in the same class as Truman Bethurum, Orfeo Angelucci, and (probably) Adamski himself. All those who know him, although they have all caught him in tell-tale inconsistencies, emphasize that he is a sincere, high-minded young man who obviously and impressively believes his own story. Everyone spontaneously likes him and feels sorry for him. (His history, it should be noted, is one of misfortune: for years he has been under the strain of serious illness in his family, involving medical expenses beyond his capacity to meet.)

Now this seems to be typical of this group of "contact" claimants--i.e., those who believe their own fictions. A West Coast member, before hearing anything of Menger's character, remarked in a letter to us: "Besides Bethurum, this seems particularly true in the case of Orfeo Angelucci. No one seems to believe him, and they indicate that they believe he is suffering from delusions, but they feel he is sincere and feel sorry for him. This tolerant and kindly attitude towards a human being they feel to be harmless and simple-minded is undoubtedly commendable, but it surely isn't furthering the cause of objective saucer research." The parallel here is certainly striking, and the comment is a pertinent one. During the first part of November, out of sympathy for Howard Menger and his family, and a desire to protect them against exploitation, Lee Munsick associated himself more closely with Menger than seemed appropriate. (Although Lee's motives were altogether honorable, they might well have been misunderstood.) This connection was abruptly ended on November 22 by the Mengers themselves, who 1.) resented Lee's having publicised their familiarity with Adamski's works, and 2.) had misinterpreted a quotation by Lee of someone else's unfavorable conclusions as an expression of his own opinion.

However, the Menger case cannot be completely disposed of as a simple "paranoid hoax." There is more to it than one man's unverified story and unacceptable photographs. There is confirmatory testimony (of a sort) by other witnesses. The ramifications of the case have been explored at first hand by Ivan Sanderson, Lee Munsick, and Jules St. Germain, and the Research Section's knowledge of it comes from these researchers. It appears that on a number of occasions, friends of the Menger family have been led outdoors at night and shown, at a respectful distance, "spacemen" and "thought-discs." The "spacemen," at least three of whom have been seen at one time, are described as tall (one extremely tall), wearing luminous (or white) "ski pajamas"; on one occasion (Sept. 29), they leaped and bounded about "like clowns" in Menger's apple orchard. Some who saw this strange performance thought their leaps were superhuman; but others thought not. They have never shown themselves except in the dark and at some distance, and have not been heard to speak. One of them has been thought by some witnesses to be a girl. Witnesses are not permitted to bring flashlights: it is explained by Menger that their light--and that of auto headlights--is "unnatural." (However, Menger has been known to confer with people, said to have been spacemen, who have driven up in cars; automobiles are more "natural" than their headlights.)

The "thought-discs," as described by Menger's supporting witnesses, are

lenticular objects ranging from 18" to (questionably) 6 feet in diameter, which simply lie on the ground in the woods. They glow in the dark: red-orange, green, and dull blue-white. Menger says they are sent by the spacecraft to record the emotions of "animals, men, and other such things." (For Adamski's prototype, see Inside The Space Ships, pp. 147-155.) To produce the effect artificially would require only some mock-ups sprayed with fluorescent paint (which comes in exactly the colors that have been reported) and an ultraviolet spotlight concealed in a tree. Implausible to suppose that Menger would have access to such materials? By no means: he is known to have worked on fluorescent signs, and a friend of his, W.L., works for an industrial-lighting concern. This friend, whose name has not been published, has been closely connected with the story from the first. He supports Menger's story, and claims that he too has photographed the craft. The two photographs he has produced are of exactly the same character as Menger's.

Witnesses are not allowed to approach the "thought-discs" too closely. Menger alleges, as a reason, that they are dangerous: he once touched one and got a shock that paralyzed his arm for a week (cf. Leslie-Adamski, p. 208.) (Actually, the damp ground on which they lie would certainly ground any charge they might carry.)

Witnesses are not allowed to turn "unnatural" flashlights upon the thought-discs.

We must assume, either that the claims are true (which is hardly likely) or that at least three people in addition to the Mengers have been going to considerable trouble to stage some nocturnal demonstrations to strengthen Menger's story. (None of these demonstrations seem to have been given since the story became public.) To the Research Section, the latter alternative seems as good as certain. It is clear how the photographs must have been made, and how the luminous effects at night could have been produced. But at the same time it must be admitted that the case has not been proved to be fraudulent. The paintings used for the photographs have not been discovered. The merry local youths who presumably impersonated the "spacemen" have not been laid by the heels. The ultraviolet lighting apparatus has not been definitely traced to Mr. W. L. Neither Menger nor W. L. has cracked under questioning - they have merely made absurd and unbelievable statements, which is not the same thing. (Menger, be it noted, has withdrawn his original offer to take a lie-detector test.) So far as reasonable people are concerned, the case has been discredited; but it has not been conclusively disproved. We may hope that such disproof may be forthcoming before Menger's story joins Adamski's in the pantheon of saucer mythology. (The situation changes almost daily; there's no telling what may have happened by the time you read this.)

A factor that has helped Menger's claims win credence locally is that there have long been an extraordinary number of authentic UFO sightings in his neighborhood (the Delaware Valley). Those who learn of this fact are apt to misinterpret it as confirmation of Menger's story. Most unfortunately, the exposure of the Menger story (which seems inevitable sooner or later) may be expected to make the investigation of these genuine cases almost impossible: through its lamentable association with Menger, the term "flying saucer" will then evoke as much embarrassment, contempt, and exasperation in western New Jersey as it now does in California.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS CHOSEN BY N.I.C.A.P.

On November 3 the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) named a nine-man board of governors. As reported next day in the New York Times, which described NICAP as "a non-profit organization set up recently in Washington to ... start a detailed scientific investigation of flying saucers," those elected to the board were Dr. Charles A. Maney, professor of physics, The Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio; Rear Admiral Delbert C. Fahrney, ret.; A. M. Sonnabend, president of Hotel

Corporation of America, Boston; the Rev. Albert H. Baller, Robbins Memorial Congregational Church, Greenfield, Mass.; Brig. Gen. Thomas B. Catron, ret.; Frank Edwards, radio-TV commentator, Indianapolis; Talbot T. Speer, Speer Foundation, Baltimore; the Rev. Leon C. Levan, New Jerusalem Christian Church, Pittsburgh; and Robert Emerson, nuclear physicist, Kaiser Aluminum Company, Baton Rouge, La.

This is an imposing list of names, and we are glad to see on it those of our good friends Frank Edwards*, Albert Baller, and Dr. Maney. If NICAP can do what it has set out to do, it will deserve the enthusiastic cooperation of all other saucer-research organizations; a civilian UFO investigation on this scale has been sorely needed. So far, however, there has been a tendency - possibly a quite unjustified tendency - on the part of serious UFO researchers to view NICAP with some caution. Its organizer and sparkplug, T. Townsend Brown, is something of a mystery man. Apparently competent as a physicist (though he has no degree), he is one of those who have claimed to have constructed electromagnetic devices that develop a true antigravitational effect (see Interavia, May 1956, English edition, pp. 373-4.) Now, this is a much more sensational and extraordinary claim than most people realize. Any success of this sort would revolutionize physics: it would be the most important scientific discovery since man began to use fire. Hence, there is a very strong a-priori presumption against the bona fides of any such claim. Although our judgment is admittedly much hampered by the fact that an enormous amount of important scientific work over the past fifteen years has been carried out under military secrecy, it appears very improbable that anyone has yet discovered any way of counteracting gravity. The center for such studies, the Gravity Research Foundation of New Boston, N.H., though it has not been able to obtain information from Brown about his experiments, informs CSI that, to the best of its knowledge, "no real breakthroughs have been made recently in electrogravitics." Dr. Bryce DeWitt, head of the Institute of Field Physics at the University of North Carolina, who spoke on "Current Research On Gravitation" at a New York meeting of the American Astronautical Society on Dec. 7, confirms this. His own work is an attempt to reformulate general relativity in "quantum-mechanical" terms - an heroic mathematical endeavor with no promise of any concrete results, which would certainly not be undertaken if gravitation had yielded to direct experimental attack. In our judgment, the rather bleak picture of antigravity research presented by these outstanding authorities must be accepted. It is quite unreasonable to imagine that they are scheming to conceal the true situation. (Incidentally, this conclusion is in sharp contrast to the rosy impression given by Ansel Talbert's Herald Tribune articles a year ago.)

The question as to what Brown has actually accomplished is therefore a significant one. At present, we are unable to answer it. Certain allegations concerning Brown's work, which would be disturbing if true, have come to the attention of the Research Section from persons on the West Coast and elsewhere.

In addition, Dr. Leon Davidson has pointed out to us certain features of the proposed organization of NICAP which would seem to indicate a danger of excessive central control by those in a position to buy preponderant voting power.

It has so far not proved possible to discover, by inquiries in Washington and London, any information whatever on the firm of "Whitehall-Rand", Townsend Brown's present business connection, which he was to have joined in London in December.

We hesitate to voice these doubts, for fear they will be taken too seriously. We must emphasize that NICAP may indeed develop into the responsible, influential central clearinghouse we have all ardently hoped for; and we do not want to jeopardize its chances of success. Perhaps our reservations are mere paranoid suspicion, quite unwarranted by the real situation. But the consequences to the reputation of UFO research, if NICAP were to develop along improper lines, would be so grave that we feel it is

*See p. 25, last line

necessary to let our colleagues know that some legitimate questions about this project have still not received a final answer. We hope that when the Board of Governors meets in January, these matters will be cleared up to the satisfaction of all concerned.

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Saucers Flying in Fantastic Universe: With its February issue, now on the stands, Fantastic Universe Science Fiction begins presenting a series of articles on the subject of UFOs, as had been announced in News Letter #5. In the current issue Ivan Sanderson contributes "An Introduction To Ufology," which states cogently the need to establish a recognized science for the study of UFOs. There is also an article by Gray Barker called "The Truth Is Fantastic" in which he discusses the Bender story, and an assault on the more notorious saucer authors by Dean McLaughlin entitled, appropriately enough, "How To Be A Saucer Author." (Dean McLaughlin is a professional astronomer at the Observatory of the University of Michigan.) In the following issue of Fantastic Universe (March 1957) the CSI Research Section will initiate a regular bi-monthly factual column on UFOs. The first article in this series will be entitled "Shapes In The Sky" (on the stands January 10). The second in the series will appear in the May issue.

The publication of these articles on UFOs by Fantastic Universe and its editor, Hans Stefan Santesson, is in striking contrast to the condescending attitude usually exhibited by science fiction magazines. CSI members and friends are urged to send in their comments on this series to both the CSI Research Section and to Fantastic Universe. We will welcome any suggestions for this series that might be of interest to the readers of the magazine.

Recent Book From South Africa: Published last year in Pretoria, South Africa, Edgar Sievers' Flying Saucer Über Südafrika is now available in this country. Anyone with a knowledge of German should add this big volume (415 pages, with index and bibliography) to his collection. Its style is polemical and witty, like Waverly Girvan's; and it concludes with an extended and amusing scene of "the trial of George Adamski," in which Adamski is acquitted." (Sievers had not yet read Inside the Space Ships.) CSI member Herman Mitchell has kindly translated for the Research Section the South African sightings described by Sievers. (Some of the author's "saucers," it should be noted, were apparently bolides.) Most remarkable is a series of widespread observations in August-October, 1914, of a torpedo-shaped, winged "airship" equipped with a strong searchlight and an engine making a "loud, rushing sound." The High Command at Pretoria issued a bulletin asking citizens to try to shoot down the "enemy airplane" or, "should he discover one at rest, he is requested to capture it and report the case immediately to the nearest police station." From the descriptions given, this object could not have been an astronomical misidentification, nor was its performance that of an airplane (especially of 1914 vintage). Acceptably, it was the same "airship" which in January-April, 1913 had explored the skies of England and Wales--the similarity is remarkable (Port, pp. 512-516).

Those who would like to order copies may do so by contacting Herman H. Mitchell (American agent for Sievers), 22 North Street, Huntington Station, Long Island (Telephone HAmilton 3 5063). \$3.82 postpaid.

Two New Books by CSI Members: By Max Miller, Flying Saucers - Fact or Fiction; to be published in February. This will stress factual evidence, and will include more than 100 photographs. 128 pp. ~~\$3.82 postpaid, from~~ Trend Books, Los Angeles ... By Lawrence Barth, Universe Inside Me, January publication; not a saucer book; it is about the mystery of being human. 100 pp. \$2.00 postpaid. Order from the author, Box 99, Village Station, 150 Christopher St., N. Y. C.

REV. BALLER TO BE SPEAKER AT C.S.I. PUBLIC MEETING

The season's first public meeting of C.S.I. of N.Y. will be held early in January. It is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Friday, January 11th; when the final date is set, all members and those on our mailing list will be notified. The Reverend Albert Baller of the Robbins Memorial Congregational Church in Greenfield, Mass., who is well known as an outstanding saucer investigator, will present a lecture illustrated with slides and tape recordings.

West Coast "Contact" Claimants Tell A Phony-Sounding Tale

The following account of an investigation of weird doings on the West Coast is condensed from one of the vivid and detailed letters that C.S.I. has been privileged to receive from our highly esteemed Los Angeles member, Mrs. Idabel Epperson. The very similar Menger case in our own area lends it added interest.

We first heard about this case on the radio. On Thursday, July 19th, two men and a woman living in the San Fernando Valley telephoned the Hollywood Citizen-News to report "golden balls" landing, and contact with space visitors. The first, a 23-year-old Van Nuys man named Todd Kittredge, told the reporter that a "gold ball" had landed in his front yard at 4:20 a.m. on Monday, July 16, and that it had come back again on the 19th. The other man, who refused to give his name, said he was an electrical lineman and was up a pole when the "gold ball" landed right beside it. Although frightened at first, he finally got the nerve to come down the pole and talk to the visitors. The woman, who also refused to give her name, said the golden ball landed in her back yard while she was working in her rose garden. All described the "space visitors" in exactly the same terms: three spacemen about 6 feet tall, looking almost alike, dressed in green "ski suits", with long blond hair that reached to their shoulders, and "powerful eyes" that seemed to penetrate... One of the three, who did all the talking, said they were from Venus, and wanted to help the people of earth, etc., etc.

As the distance was not too great, I decided to investigate. I telephoned Todd Kittredge Saturday afternoon, July 21st, and I'll have to give him credit - he said all the right things! He had not believed in flying saucers before - thought anyone who did was "nuts" - had never heard of Adamski, or anyone else - wished he had never told the newspaper, because they had given out his name against his wishes, and all the crackpots in the world were calling him night and day. In fact, I was the first sensible person he had talked to. He seemed absolutely sincere - youthful, disturbed, and a little frightened. I admit I fell for all of it. He said the saucer had broken a part of a tree in his front yard, and invited us to visit his home and see it. We accepted the invitation, and after a two hours' visit we left thoroughly impressed by his evident sincerity. However, we did notice that the tree in question had a Siamese-twin trunk, so that it seemed possible that the weaker side could have given way and fallen, on the morning of the 16th, without assistance from saucers.

None of his neighbors saw anything unusual, though they heard his dogs barking. He told us the dogs woke him up, and when he went out he saw the gold ball slowly settle down in his yard, breaking the tree. He described his fright, and how the dogs ran all around the "thing," barking. The moment he looked into the eyes of the "space visitor" he no longer felt fear, but he had the strange sensation that he was no longer thinking his own thoughts. When one of the dogs took a nip at the spokesman's coat sleeve, the visitors seemed to become nervous, and "backed" into the gold ball, which took off instantaneously.

The following morning Todd Kittredge called us up, quite excited, to tell us that the "rose garden" woman had now got in touch with him, and would I please talk to her if she called us. Sure enough, no sooner had he hung up than the phone rang again. She said she was sure I would think she was crazy, but she had to tell her story to someone. I reassured her, and she went on, though she still refused to give her name. She was a schoolteacher, married, with a little girl. The "gold ball" had landed quietly behind her as she was working in her garden. She went on to elaborate on the wonderful messages the visitors had given her. I asked how many times she had seen them. She announced that they had been there three times, adding, "They are here now." When I had picked myself up off the floor, I managed to say "What?" She repeated it and went on, in a rather gleeful tone, "They are drinking coca-colas - I offered them cokes and they seem to be enjoying them." Then she asked if I would excuse her for a minute. When she came back she seemed upset, and told me that the "visitors" were angry with her for telling me about their being there - that they threatened to leave and never come back. At this point she began to cry, and then between spine-tingling sobs she almost screamed, "They are going to take me away with them!" - and the phone was hung up suddenly.

It is difficult now for me to describe my first reaction. It had happened so suddenly that my reason had not had time to overcome my emotions. It seemed like a nightmare; the pit of my stomach was gone, and I felt faint. My daughter phoned Todd Kittredge to tell him about it; he acted surprised and bewildered. Then their conversation was cut into by some weird sounds - whistles, screeches, etc. After two or three minutes the line cleared, and Todd exclaimed, "What was that?" My daughter suggested that he look out the window to see if someone was working on the telephone line. After leaving the phone a minute, he came back and in a breathless tone said, "It's there! The gold ball - it's on top of the telephone pole!" And then there were more whistles and strange noises.

By this time, however, my daughter recalled that Todd had told her the previous day that one of the sound engineers at CBS was a friend of his. But we decided to go along with the gag, and see where it led.

Our patience was rewarded with eight more telephone calls from Kittredge, and five from the "rose garden woman," before the day was over! By nightfall, my ambition to investigate "contact" cases had vanished, and I didn't ever want to hear the word "flying saucer" again.

The second time the woman called, she told me in a very quiet and calm manner to disregard her first call - she was only "having a little fun" - and hung up before I could say much in reply - probably just as well. Then Todd phoned again and more of the same nonsense - and then the woman again - quite emotional this time - telling me that the "space visitors" had forced her to call me and tell me that her original story was false, etc. By now we were convinced there was teamwork going on - and during her fourth and fifth calls the whistling and odd noises were used. But whoever was doing it was getting out of breath by this time, and it no longer sounded professional. When Todd made a final effort about 9 p.m., my daughter was rather curt.

Todd and the woman have never called since. I have phoned him two or three times - he is friendly and polite, and says that nothing else has happened. Other sources of information tell us a very different story. We hear that he is claiming that the "gold ball" came back and took him for a ride, etc., etc. One of the promoters has taken him under his wing; someone is going to write a book about it. But he still tells us that absolutely nothing has happened.

As to the telephone lineman, he has never been heard from since. It is possible that Todd could have made that call also, to lend more credence to the story.

A final bit of this story came to me. Another investigator visited Todd, and offered to arrange a television appearance, provided that the "rose garden woman" could also be on the program. Todd was on the spot, because according to his story he was not supposed to know who she was or how to contact her. But, about half an hour after he got home, the investigator's telephone rang, and it was the woman. How did she get his number - by telepathy? CBS did arrange a television program (KNXT, July 22, at 11 p.m.). It was quite convincing, I'm sure, to those who did not know the details.

You may wonder why I have taken the trouble to tell you all this. It is because I believe that this sort of thing is retarding the progress of sincere and conscientious saucer investigation. I believe we should expose a hoax as quickly as possible - before it gets a firm hold. Unless it is nipped in the bud, there will be many persons who won't believe the truth about it even when proof is shown. And by the same token, we should actively defend, and sharply distinguish from such hoaxes, any case that we feel is legitimate.

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RECENT SAUCER SIGHTINGS

UFO sightings throughout the early fall continued to consist chiefly of night-time observations of lights, a number of which were suspiciously like astronomical bodies. Balloons turned up once again in October over several areas, but about the middle of November a new phase seemed to begin in the northern Middle West: reports from North and South Dakota and Minnesota indicated a definite localized activity of a spectacular nature. These sightings, although mainly at night, involved not merely lights but lighted objects, apparently structured. By the end of November the objects seemed to be coming in greater numbers and at lower altitudes, at least in one locality.

*

August 31, 1956. J. Gordon Campbell, president of a machine-tool company of Edina, Minnesota, was flying with his family in their private plane near Billings, Montana, at about 8 p.m., on their way to Lewiston, Montana, for the weekend. They were flying northwest at a ground altitude of 4000 feet (8000 feet above sea level) when they noticed what they thought at first was another plane. Actually, the object, which was coming toward them at a terrific speed, turned out to be a huge "dog-bone-shaped" UFO. All black in color, it had knobs on either end "just like a cartoonist's version of a dog-bone" (see illustration, from a cut-out model made by Campbell). "It was awfully hard to tell how close we were. It seemed to be a quarter-mile away and about 150 feet long." (If this estimate is accurate, the object was 13 times the apparent size of the full moon--Eds.) "During the time it seemed to hover close to us, we had a true air speed of close to 180 miles an hour, and it was right with us - between us and where the sun had gone down."



As soon as the Campbells were certain that the object was not a plane, they called the Billings control tower and asked if there was any trace of the object on their radar. There wasn't. Immediately after this the object disappeared to the northwest - in a matter of three seconds it was out of view. Almost immediately four more objects came into view, hovered, and then sped away after the Billings radar operators had reported inability to "get" them.

As soon as the Campbells landed at Billings, they reported their observations. "Another one came over while we were on the ground. There were two or three who saw it, besides us." Later, they discovered from clippings that a number of other people had reported seeing "things following much the same description" at the same time.

"A couple of years ago," over Illinois, the Campbells had seen a "glowing object with fire inside, flying level at the same altitude as our plane - it came toward us, and passed us so close we turned to avoid it. We had the thing in sight perhaps 30 seconds before it reached us. That one, I think, could have been a fireball meteor. This other one I cannot explain." -- Minneapolis Star 10/29/56.

September 2, 1956. Sandra Mitchell, ten-year-old daughter of Herman Mitchell, was in the yard at the Mitchells' home in Huntington Station, L.I., when at 4:30 p.m. she saw an egg-shaped, "black-silver" object, slightly smaller than the full moon, moving soundlessly from east to west, south of her position. The object appeared to be at a vertical angle of 45° , moved through about 15° of arc, and disappeared from view behind trees. Sandra said that there were no markings, "windows," or protrusions, but she did have the feeling that the object was spinning about a vertical axis. At one point, the sunlight was brilliantly reflected off the surface of the object. The observer was carefully questioned by her father, who then reported the details to the Research Section.

September 5, 1956. Mrs. Fred de la Torre, of East Rockaway, L.I., was taking clothes off the line at 8:14 p.m. when she and her granddaughter noticed a "fiery ball" in the northwestern sky. It was a fiery orange in color, and somewhat smaller than a full moon; moving directly away from her, it became smaller and smaller, finally disappearing from view. It had been in view more than 30 seconds. (Mrs. de la Torre, mother of CSI member Mary Lou Gillespie, also had an interesting observation last February; see News Letter No. 2.)

September 6, 1956. Four bright, circular objects were seen by Sgt. and Mrs. Robert Smith, who live on U.S. 40 about 3 miles west of Junction City, Kansas, at about 11 p.m. The Smiths had gone outdoors to view Mars (then at its closest proximity to Earth) when they spotted the four lighted objects hovering to the north at a distance estimated by the Smiths as half a mile. The first thing Mrs. Smith thought of was that they might possibly be "flying saucers," because of their apparent circular shape, she reported. They seemed to be quite close to the ground, because they were hidden by the house when they passed behind it; and circular, "with the light showing up the edge of a saucer." The light along the edges was rather bright yellow, blending into a pinkish haze outside the apparent rim of light. "They were quite bright." The Smiths watched the objects hover motionless for a few minutes; then they began to move toward the southwest. Moving horizontally, in a line, they would travel at high speed, stop and hover for a while, and again take off at high speed. When they moved, they would pale a little. The Smiths estimated that the objects were about 100 feet across, with a somewhat greater distance separating them. Their estimated altitude was 1500 feet. No sound was heard, and they were viewed for several minutes.--Junction City Union, 9/7/56.

September 7, 1956. Driving north on the Merrick Parkway at 2:30 a.m., just beyond the New York-Connecticut border, a group of seven adults, including CSI member Paul Morris, observed a bright, blue-green, star-like light 30° to 40° above the horizon in the NNE sky. The light appeared to be pulsating slowly, and the observers saw a haze around it. The haze diminished and increased in intensity throughout the observations, although there were no clouds in the sky and the stars shone clearly and steadily.

After passing through Willimantic, Connecticut, the observers stopped their two cars and got out to view the light more carefully. Mr. Morris, an amateur astronomer, said it was four times as bright as Mars, then shining brightly in the southern sky. Through 7 x 50 binoculars the light did not appear much larger or more clearly defined. The pulsation rate - from brightest to dimmest, or vice versa - was five to eight minutes. It was observed in the same section of the sky

for three and a half hours, from the New York-Connecticut border to Providence, Rhode Island - 125 miles. When they reached Providence, toward dawn, the light appeared to move away toward the east.-- Data received from Mr. Morris.

September 7, 1956. A 20-foot oblong object, with flame shooting out of the bottom, was seen by a number of Indianapolis residents over the west side of the city at about dusk. Some witnesses said that "it got shorter as it flew," and disappeared over the treetops after several minutes. One couple said they watched it for almost half an hour while parked on White River Parkway, and that several other cars had also parked while the occupants watched the object.--Indianapolis News, 9/8/56.

September 13, 1956. Ronald Martin was driving a truck on Route 66 through Litchfield, Illinois (about 45 miles south of Springfield) when he and a hitch-hiker passenger saw three objects "resembling flying saucers" with a "big one in the middle and two others, each half the size of the big one, on either side." When Martin slowed his truck to get a better look, the trio of discs "dipped, and there was a reflection on their tops like you get when you shine a flashlight into a mirror." They then moved off and disappeared from view. Both Martin and his passenger were convinced that the objects were "some type of aircraft." They were seen at 8:50 p.m. --Springfield State Register, 9/13/56.

September 22, 1956. Reuben Borrud, an amateur astronomer in Williston, N.D., reported observing, "plainly and clearly," a shiny object with a dull, metallic gleam, and "a row of very small pinpoints of yellowish light on the topside." Seen at 7:50 p.m., the object appeared to oscillate, or rock, as it flew at low altitude (estimated 700-900 feet) eastward, following the course of the Missouri River, about one-half mile south of the viewer. In size, it appeared to be about the same length and diameter as one of the small Frontier airplanes would be at that distance. The object appeared at times to be elliptical, as well as "V-shaped," possibly "because of the rocking, or swinging, motion which caused the outer edge of the object to cast a shadow near an area where there could possibly have been a dome. The outer edge on the top, or the domed part, reflected light, while the bottom part of the dome, or central area, was in shadow - which caused it to look V-shaped. Then, when it tipped in the other direction, the whole object reflected light." No exhaust could be seen, nor was any sound heard. Moving at an estimated 150 miles an hour, the object was in view for 8 to 12 seconds, and disappeared over the roofs and treetops southeast of the observer's position.--This description was sent to the Research Section by the witness; reports had previously appeared in the Williston Plains Reporter and the Williston Herald, 9/27/56.

September 24, 1956. Two strange objects were seen near Kingsport, Tennessee, by Lloyd McMillan, about 3:30 p.m. The objects, first spotted over Gibston, were estimated by McMillan to be 1000 feet in the air, and one of them appeared to rock while the other merely hovered. They seemed to be about 30 feet in diameter and 6 to 8 feet thick; they were dark grey with darker rings "circling the outside." Although McMillan didn't believe in flying saucers, "I saw what I saw, and I'd take an oath that the objects were mechanical." He watched the objects for two or three minutes before they suddenly took off "at terrific speed" to the east, toward Bristol.--Kingsport Times, 9/25/56.

October 2, 1956. Harry J. Sturdevant, a night watchman for Herbert J. Elkins, Inc., in Trenton, N. J., was on duty at 3:45 a.m. when he saw a huge glowing cigar-shaped object swoop down toward the Delaware River, emitting a hissing sound "like escaping steam" as it skimmed above the water. He said it appeared first "as a red light in the sky," then in a matter of seconds "it shot down past me and went into

thin air," sweeping back into the sky and disappearing almost as quickly as it had appeared. He estimated that it was 50 to 100 feet long and about 15 feet in diameter. It was wingless, and the witness said that it gave off an overpowering stench that nearly made him ill on the spot. "It was something I had never smelled before; something like fire and brimstone ... I don't know what it was except that it was very nauseating and it made me very sick." *

Mr. Sturdevant has been awarded medical expenses by a State Workmen's Compensation referee, who ruled that it did not matter whether the witness really saw anything; the important point was that he thought he saw something and it was his duty to investigate. Sturdevant's employer will appeal the decision.--Trenton Times, 10/2/56; Newark Star-Ledger, 11/27/56 (UP).

October 13, 1956. For almost two hours about sundown, thousands of residents in northern New Jersey, part of southern New York, and eastern Pennsylvania excitedly watched a balloon. It was variously described as a flying saucer, a mushroom-shaped object, an inverted teardrop, a silver sphere, a large floating heart, a parachute, and a star. That the object in question was in fact a balloon can hardly be denied, as many observers watched it through binoculars and described the apparatus that hung below. A photograph taken at Stroudsburg, Pa., and published in the local press, shows a decidedly balloon-like pear-shaped image; and 12-year-old Jeffrey Hoyt, who observed it with the aid of a telescope, "reported to his anxious assemblage that it was a weather balloon," according to the Newark Sunday News. The word "weather" here is erroneous. According to a widely reprinted newspaper account, the balloon was a weather balloon, 10 feet in diameter, floating at 18,000 feet over Caldwell, New Jersey, and was "almost definitely" one of four such balloons released daily from Idlewild International Airport. All of this turned out on investigation to be wholly spurious. Ted Collen of the North Jersey UFO Group obtained the log of the accused weather balloon from Idlewild; it had actually gone off toward the southeast, over the Atlantic, rather than westward to New Jersey, as alleged in the newspapers. In any case, the fact that it was seen almost simultaneously from Scranton, Pa., New Brunswick, N.J., and Port Jervis, N.Y., certainly indicated a balloon much larger and higher than any weather balloon.

The Research Section had four precise and well-checked first-hand testimonies to work from: at Morris Plains, N.J., the balloon was seen by Mrs. Allen Van Iderstine (of the North Jersey UFO Group) and her family; at Kenvil, N.J., by Frederick W. Bloecher, Sr. (father of the Research Director); at Hackettstown, N.J., by Ivan T. Sanderson (CSI Vice-President); and at Avoca, Pa., by Richard Simmermacher, Meteorologist in Charge, U.S. Weather Bureau. All these sightings were made between 6 and 6:30 p.m., when the balloon was virtually motionless.

From triangulations based on these data, it could be established with fair certainty that at about 6:15 p.m. the balloon was over the Franklin-Newton-Sparta region (Sussex County, N.J.) at a height of about 15 miles. Since the apparent size of the balloon was reported independently by both Ivan Sanderson and Mr. Bloecher as "one-third the size of the full moon," the actual diameter comes out at about 250 feet - enormously larger than any weather balloon, and excessive even for a Skyhook. (This may be accounted for in terms of a natural observational error: the brilliance of the balloon in the setting sun would make it appear larger than it actually was.)

That it was a balloon of Skyhook or even Moby Dick dimensions is clearly indicated. What was its source? Here the clipping service, even though incomplete, became extremely useful; a total of twenty clippings from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio enabled us to reconstruct the course of the balloon.

The Pittsburgh weather bureau reported that a balloon was seen there early Saturday morning; 150 miles farther east, it was seen over Danville and Selins-

* Other examples of fiery-red objects, not meteors, that gave off sickening odors: Flatwoods, W. Va., 9/13/52; New Haven, Conn., 8/19/53.

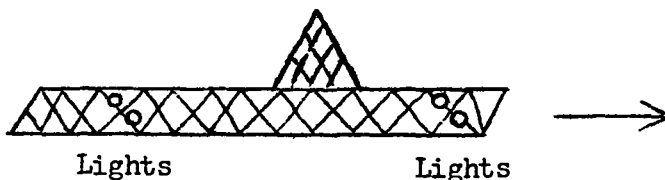
grove, Pa. (north of Harrisburg) about 2 p.m. An enterprising Danville News reporter discovered that the Selinsgrove CAA station had been advised that General Mills, in Minneapolis, had released a Skyhook balloon "earlier" for "research on high stratosphere conditions," and that this balloon had been carried eastward by strong winds. Beyond this point, newspapers uniformly called the object a "leaking weather balloon." Over Hazleton, 50 miles east of Danville, the "weather balloon" was seen at 4 p.m., and from Allentown and Easton, 50 miles farther east, an hour or so later. Reports began pouring in to newspapers and police stations from Stroudsburg, Pa., and North Jersey about 5:30, and it was in view in this region until nearly 7:30. After turning red as the sun set, it was seen to rise rapidly, until it was finally lost to view. Its final fate is unknown.

On the afternoon of Friday, October 12, a balloon traveling slowly eastward had been seen over Toledo, Ohio, and at 6 p.m. it was seen 100 miles farther east, to the north of Cleveland. There is a possibility that this was the same balloon seen the following day over Pennsylvania and New Jersey - although, if so, it must have traveled very slowly from Cleveland to Pittsburgh (at 10 mph or less).

This case illustrates three points: 1) Balloons are sometimes mistaken for flying saucers; 2) Observers' descriptions of shape are apt to be unreliable; and 3) "Explanations" given in newspapers are apt to be unreliable.— Toledo Blade, 10/13/56; Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/13; Danville, Pa., News, 10/15; Hazleton Plain Speaker, 10/15; Hazleton Standard Sentinel, 10/15; Allentown Chronicle, 10/14; Scrantonian, 10/14; Wilkes-Barre Independent, 10/14; Stroudsburg Record, 10/15; Trenton Times-Advertiser, 10/14; Morristown Record, 10/15; New Brunswick Home News, 10/14; Newark Sunday News, 10/14; and others.

November 5, 1956. Miss Louise E. Jenkins, a music teacher from Somerville, N.J., was walking her dog at about 9 p.m. when she saw a peculiar object pass low overhead. The object was "open," like a "bridge girder," and had pointed ends "like a submarine." (See illustration, copied from Miss Jenkins' drawing.) On both front and rear ends were large green and white lights, apparently 8-10" in diameter; the white light was on top and the green diagonally underneath. The length of the object appeared to be about 35-40 feet, and its altitude only 50 feet above the ground. It was moving at the approximate speed of a blimp, and making a "purring" sound. After about a minute, it disappeared over the roof of her house, and she ran to the corner (two houses away) to get another view of it. However, to her great astonishment, it was nowhere in sight. More than anything else, this apparent abrupt disappearance impressed Miss Jenkins as inexplicable. She said that the object itself appeared to be illuminated, and appeared "like iron," but she was not sure whether it was self-luminous or was lighted by the street lights. In her opinion, the latter was less likely. The night was clear and the stars shone brightly. She notified the police, who "laughed" at the report, and the Somerville Gazette, which printed it.—The information was obtained directly from the observer by Lex Mebane.

Comment: If this was not a UFO, it could only have been a helicopter of some unusual type. (Nothing at all similar can be found in Jane's Aircraft.) But the reported "purring" sound seems far too quiet for that of a helicopter, and the witness herself is certain there were no rotors.



November 8, 1956. At about 8:30 p.m. (MST), Laudie Dvorak was driving into his farm-yard 19 miles north of Dickinson, N.D., when he glanced to the north and saw what at first appeared to be a falling star. In a few seconds "it appeared to be right in front of me," he said. He thought then that it might have been an airplane, but "it went too fast even for a jet - maybe 800 to 1000 miles an hour. It was just a streak through the buttes as it approached from the north and traveled in a southerly direction."

"When the object was directly in front of me, it appeared to be a large, black spot in front of a fire, but 25 feet long. There was no noise to it at all." He was so startled by the incident that he decided not to tell anyone for fear of ridicule; it was only when a number of other reports came from the same region that he told of the experience.—Mandan, N.D., Daily Pioneer, 11/17/56

November 13, 1956. Marlen Hewitt, a Redfield, South Dakota, dairy trucker, was terrified, he said, when he sighted a huge object that changed colors and moved with tremendous speed, as he drove from Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, to his home. Hewitt said the object swooped down to 1000 about half a mile from him. He described it as a grey, round object, apparently made of metal ... "about a block square, around 12 feet thick, and with an opening at the base about 1/10 the size of the object itself, from which a brilliant light was shining." The light flashed blue-white, then to orange to a bright cherry red, he said.

The object was still in view when he reached Ortonville, Minnesota, on the South Dakota border. Hewitt stopped in a cafe and called out five hunters, three of them newspaper men, to witness the phenomenon. Among them was L. A. Kaercher, a weekly newspaper publisher, who said that all five men saw "a very bright object that disappeared almost immediately." The Leonids make their annual appearance on the night of November 14, and the news accounts attempted a naive and feeble connection between these meteors and Hewitt's experience.—Minneapolis Star, 11/14; Fargo Forum, 11/18; Mandan, N.D., Daily Pioneer, 11/19.

November 16, 1956. Miss Rena Dickey, of New Rochelle, N.Y., saw through her bedroom window a procession of 26 round yellow objects moving silently from east to west. Each object was a little smaller than the full moon, and they came at intervals of less than a minute. Some of the objects were brighter than others, and a few "wobbled" a bit. The witness reports that they were "a yard above the treetops," although she does not give the basis for this measurement. Exactly how many were seen at one time is not specified.—After an account appeared in the New Rochelle Standard-Star, 11/17/56, the Research Section contacted Miss Dickey, who sent additional information.

November 16, 1956. Numerous observations from the Dakotas and Minnesota were reported between 6:30 and 7 p.m., describing a bright fiery object or objects over that area. There is a strong possibility that a large meteoritic fireball was seen at great height, but the contradictory nature of the observations below is puzzling.

1) Mrs. Tony Schmidt, of St. Paul, Minnesota, said she saw a "big blazing object" in the sky, from her home. She said the center "looked larger than the rest of the object and had a dark streak." It was heading rapidly toward earth, and she thought at first it was a jet plane on fire.

2) Bill Nemins, 33, of Crookston, Minnesota, was driving east on U.S. Highway 2 toward Crookston at 6:45 p.m. when he saw what "looked like a falling star." He said that when it got to "about 500 feet above the ground" it stopped and "seemed to hang motionless in the sky." He said the object was bright green and emitted a white light. "It resembled a piece of chrome with a brilliant light to it," he said. Another car behind him veered onto the shoulder of the road and Nemins said "he must have seen it too."

3) Bernard Hall, a farmer in Des Lacs, North Dakota, said that both he and his wife saw a "huge ball of fire" over his home during the night. He estimated the strange light was "about 800 feet high," traveling at "terrific speed," and was noiseless. At first Hall thought the object was an airplane on fire before it disappeared.

4) At Bismarck, North Dakota, radio announcer Eldon Ray said he saw a "reddish-white ball of flame, trailing a blue flame, speed westward over the city. He estimated its height as "1500 to 2500 feet"; it seemed to be "erupting." Several other persons in Bismarck saw what was presumably the same object.

5) At Rapid City, South Dakota, the Rev. Willis Mountain said he and his family saw "a strange light in the sky" about five miles south of Hermosa about 6:30 or 7 p.m. He said the light appeared to be about thirty feet long. The light appeared to be bright in the front, with "flames shooting out the back." At first he thought it might have been a jet plane, but he could hear no sound. He said the object disappeared after thirty seconds.

Sources for the above reports: Bismarck, N.D., Tribune, 11/17/56 (AP); Mandan, N.D., Daily Pioneer, 11/19; Fargo, N.D., Forum, 11/18 (UP and AP), and 11/19; Newark, N.J., Sunday News, 11/18 (UP).

Note: In a letter from Mr. Zeno Muggli, of Richardton, N.D. (several miles east of Dickinson), an observation by Mrs. Muggli - "typical of a meteor" - is referred to. "Mrs. Muggli stepped outside to call the children for supper and ... noticed a bright object in the eastern sky. It was visible for several seconds (she estimated about 5) and it became bright until it burst into a display similar to a 'Roman candle.'" Although Mr. Muggli was not specific about the date, he refers to other sightings of the group mentioned above (presumably), as occurring "on the same night," and it can therefore be reasonably assumed that this report belongs with the others of November 16.--Eds.

November 17, 1956. Jack Messmer, a police patrolman in Dickinson, North Dakota, saw a "red light" along the railroad tracks; as he and another patrolman watched, the light suddenly shot up into the sky at a terrific rate of speed. The time was 2:30 a.m. They watched the light for two hours as it changed color from red to green to white, and bobbed back and forth and up and down. At 4:30 a.m. it disappeared. Messmer reported that the light had been seen by others.--The data were kindly volunteered by the observer in a letter to the Research Section.

November 17, 1956. Reuben Koep, 31, of Hopkins, Minnesota, said he saw a large red object in the night sky as he was driving near Minneapolis. "It was a revolving flame with a silver inverted cone-shaped structure underneath," he said. The object hovered momentarily, and then suddenly shot upward again. He said it then came down once more and disappeared behind a hill. He thought at first the object was a meteor, until it stopped and shot back up into the sky.--Fargo Forum, 11/19.

November 18, 1956. Keith Lowry, of Aberdeen, S.D., reported a huge red ball early Sunday morning between Aberdeen and Redfield. It was spotted a few minutes later by Redfield policemen Burt Englet and Curtis Buss. The officers said it was flashing red, and was about 4 miles west of Redfield. Before they could report the object by radio, it had disappeared.--Fargo Forum, 11/19.

November 25, 1956. While driving east shortly after midnight on Highway 34, about 25 miles east of Pierre, S.D., State Motor Patrolman Don Kelm and his radio dispatcher Jack Peters saw a weird light about a mile or two ahead of them in the road. "We came over the top of this hill," said Kelm, "and gee! - right down there in the valley below us was this object. We were within a block of it. I slammed on the brakes - I thought we were going to run into it, we were that close."

The two men got out of their car and watched the object for several minutes. When they first saw it, it was hovering a few feet off the ground on the north side of the road. As they watched, it rose up and moved away toward the east. They described the object as about the size of "an ordinary car," rectangular in shape when it was hovering, but egg-shaped on the bottom and flat on top when it moved. Bright red when nearby, it became a lighter mottled red at a greater distance. No smoke or exhaust was seen, nor were there any windows or other markings. No noise was heard.

The men got back into their car and attempted to follow the object, but it stayed about a mile ahead of them, weaving back and forth across the road. They followed about 7 miles before turning back. It never went ahead of them; they always saw it to the east. Peters had taken a photograph of the object with a 35 mm. camera, lens opening of f 3.5 at 1/10 second. All that came out in the photo was a bright pinpoint of light. Enlarged 180 times, this appears as a fuzzy-edged half-circle of light, the straight upper edge inclined at about 30° from the horizontal. Mr. R. B. Hipple, editor of the Pierre Capital Journal, said it appeared to him to be "a mirage caused by the elements." (Fort would love this!)—Pierre Capital Journal, 11/26 and 11/28; Bismarck, N.D., Tribune, 11/27 (AP).

November 29, 1956. A woman who lives in Newcastle, N.Y. (near Ossining) said that at about 3:30 a.m. she was awakened by a light coming through her bedroom window. Looking out, she saw two lights, each about the size of the moon and "quite close together" — separated by about five diameters. They moved slowly and smoothly from east to west. The objects were circular; "they looked like plates" seen on edge. The outlines were fuzzy, not sharp. She watched them for an hour.—The observer's son reported this to CSI member Paul Morris.

November 29, 1956. Harold Thompson, a farmer in Cottonwood County, Minnesota, reported seeing a bright object hovering 300-400 feet above the ground, as he left his barn, and got his binoculars from the house. He described the object as saucer-shaped, with what appeared to be a number of little windows. The object changed colors rapidly before it shot higher into the sky and disappeared. Thompson said it was light red, cherry red, purple, and green during the short time he watched it.—Dickinson, N.D., Press, 12/1 (AP).

November 29, 1956. At 10 a.m. Richard Fowler was in his arithmetic class at the Bismarck, N.D., Junior High School when his attention was suddenly drawn to an object seen through the classroom window. "I was so startled I just stared at first, then I cried out 'Flying saucer!'" Then everybody looked and they all saw it." The object was white, round, and shiny. The students said they watched it for about 15 seconds before it passed out of view of the windows. "It wasn't a big saucer," Richard declared, "only about the size of the junior high school, I'd say. It looked like it was about 1000 feet away." No one else in town reported seeing this "small" UFO.—Bismarck Tribune, 11/29/56.

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SAUCER INVESTIGATOR T/ISTS AIR FORCE'S ARM AND PUBLICIZES BLUE BOOK REPORT

The Air Force's Project Blue Book Report No. 14, prepared in 1953 and "released" in October, 1955 (CSI members recall our wall display of this document at two meetings) has been made available in photo-offset form by Dr. Leon Davidson, 64 Prospect Street, White Plains, N. Y. He charges \$1.00 for it (probably less than it costs him) and includes a good commentary (though we would naturally have preferred one of

our own, since Dr. Davidson's viewpoint is that UFOs are secret military devices of the American government).

The document is a fascinatingly repulsive exercise in gobbledygook, whose peculiar reticences and distortions can be interpreted in several ways. Serious UFOphiles ought to study it. Order directly from Davidson.

Dr. Davidson really twisted Air Force Secretary Quarles' arm over this! The AF at first, in a letter signed by Quarles, haughtily denied him permission to copy it, claiming it was classified "For Official Use Only." Davidson promptly cried "censorship!" to the Moss Subcommittee on Government Information (investigating government abuse of secrecy). He pointed out that this "classification" was no longer authorized, and that the AF's own press releases had claimed the report had been "made public." Rep. Moss agreed that the situation came under his jurisdiction, and put the case on his agenda. At this, Quarles made a rapid about-face; the Pentagon ordered Col. Day's Public Information Office in New York to send Davidson a copy for his use, which they did at once. But the matter is still on Moss's agenda, and will be taken up when his Subcommittee meets in January.

We are all in debt to Dr. Davidson for being the first saucer investigator to get Congress officially interested in the Air Force's bungling conduct of the UFO investigation. A Congressional inquiry into the matter has long been needed. This might be the opening wedge.

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Saucer Fragments

Gray Barker's Saucerian Bulletin for November 15 reproduces a revealing article by George H. Williamson - a pathetic document from a man who only a few years ago was a young anthropologist of unusual promise. * According to Barker, both Williamson and Adamski have recently transferred their operations across the border to Mexico - reasons unstated. * The current jumbo issue (Oct.-Nov.) of Gribble's Flying Saucer Review (Seattle) contains a surprising wealth of July and August sightings new to us. Some, of course, appear to be misidentifications of Mars or Venus, but many others are noteworthy cases. Recent issues have also included some outstanding contributions by a new name in saucer research, Olavo Fontes of Brazil. * Members will be glad to hear that George Warren, who has done so much for CSI, is out of the hospital and virtually recovered after a serious operation in November. * The illness that has been plaguing Maurene Chenoweth, one of our best researcher members, will make it necessary for her to return to Idaho; this means that though we shall miss her, some superior news and sightings will come to CSI out of the West. *

A Brazilian saucer group unconnected with Fontes, but setting an equally high standard, is the "Centro De Pesquisa Dos Discos Voadores" (Flying Saucer Research Center), Caixa Postal 8449, São Paulo, Brazil. Its mimeographed periodical, O Disco Voador (English edition, The Flying Saucer) is sent on an information-exchange basis, without charge (we suggest that readers who ask for it should at least send a contribution). The editor, Auriphebo Simões, writes fluent English, and his rigorously factual standpoint deserves applause: "Our organization studies the phenomena objectively ... we prefer the Cartesian method of 'accepting as truth only what is evident.' Now, even if the UFOs are evident, this does not mean that we accept without material evidence any kind of alleged 'contact', as has been divulged a few times by mystic investigators or story-tellers." * Last-minute news: Still another "contact" claimant has arisen: "Mel Kiner" of Manhattan, who appeared on Long John's program Dec. 5-6. CSI has no information on this now, but advises skepticism. * Frank Edwards has resigned from the Board of Governors of NICAP (see page 12).