

Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York

RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

To CSI Members:

Once there were some discontented News Letter editors. They used to say to each other, "Those were the days, back in July 1952! UFO sightings all over the country, every day! Reports in every newspaper and every newscast!" They would sigh and go back to their editing - finishing up News Letter #9, for instance, which is what they were doing on November 1 - trying to decide what could be and had to be omitted, because, even in the 1957 "desert," #9 looked like being another jumbo issue.

Then the roof fell in, as we all know. Saturday November 2, 1957, without any warning, one of the most spectacular weeks in the history of UFOlogy exploded. For six days all we could do was monitor the radio, the papers, and the telephone.

When the excitement started, News Letter #9 was almost all stencilled. When the axe fell again, and the papers - at least those in New York City - stopped reporting UFOs (as suddenly as they had begun), we picked ourselves up, looked at the wealth of material that had reached the CSI office (notes on first-hand sightings, letters, out-of-town clippings and newspapers piled high and still coming in), and made three decisions.

First, we would finish NL #9 as originally planned. Nothing here is obsolete because of the flap; on the contrary. Our editorial, for example, although it was written about Sputnik I only, goes double now that Sputnik II has been launched.

Second, we would issue #10 right on the heels of #9. It could contain not only some of the excellent material we had been compelled to leave out of #9 for lack of space, but also a brief rundown of the November 2-15 wave of sightings: a quick summary, a few of the excellent reports that never got beyond the pages of local newspapers, and some of the remarkable sightings that came to CSI through non-newspaper channels.

Third, we would return to the November wave in a later issue and do it justice. As soon as the translation of Michel's second book is off our hands and we can make an adequate analysis of these November events, we'll do so, possibly devoting an entire issue to it.

Accordingly, as you read this the stencils for News Letter #10 are beginning to be run off. Turning out two full issues in two weeks is a staggering job; we could not even try it without the help of several CSI members who are rallying to the ramparts and whose contributions we will acknowledge more specifically in #10. Meanwhile, we are deeply indebted to the many members who sent us clippings from their local newspapers - accounts we would never have seen otherwise - and to others who are making personal investigations of cases near them, to get further details.

Sincerely,

The Editors, CSI News Letter

CSI NEWS LETTER - Issue No. 10

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Civilian Saucer Intelligence of N. Y.

PANIC, SHMANIC

Many saucer aficionados - probably the majority - are convinced that the Air Force has secret knowledge that the saucers are extraterrestrial spaceships. When asked why this is being kept from the public, the most popular reply is that the Air Force knows that "there would be a panic if people knew the truth."

Would there? What causes people to panic, anyway? On September 16 we read in the Times that a TV program the day before had caused a panic in Hartford, Connecticut. Saucer program? Not at all. It was an overly-realistic enactment of what would happen if it were suddenly discovered that Russia was sending a fleet of bombers to destroy Hartford. The audience was told that "unidentified" (Russian) airplanes were approaching from the North Pole; that all military personnel were being summoned to their posts; and that the National Guard was being called out. There was widespread alarm in Hartford on the part of people who believed this to be true - and no wonder.

By coincidence, another panic was reported in the same news column - this one from Russia. Terrified residents of the Black Sea city of Tuapse had "sold or deserted their belongings and fled to the countryside in hysteria" after reading in their newspapers the first instalment of a science-fiction story that they mistook for a straight news item. No Martians in this one, either. According to the story, a "huge fiery mass," later identified as an "atomic reactor" launched by capitalists (from Hartford, maybe), was rushing upon Russia, and a cataclysmic collision seemed inevitable in a few days. Believing this to be true, why shouldn't they be terrified? (But, one thinks, those Russians must be pretty simple-minded to be scared by a newspaper - it takes radio or television to scare us!)

The most famous scare in this country was caused by the 1938 Welles-Wells "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast. In that program the audience was told that the Martian invaders were in New Jersey, wiping out all opposition with deadly heat-rays and poison gas, and were expected at any moment to extend their destructive conquest to the rest of the country. People panicked - and they had good reason to do so.

But what frightened them wasn't the idea of "Martians," any more than "Russians" frightened the Hartford people or "capitalists" frightened Tuapse. In each case, people were panic-stricken because they were told and believed that they were in immediate personal danger. The specific form of the danger makes no difference; it's when any kind of peril is on the doorstep that panic breaks out.

Anyone who thinks that the very idea of "Martians" is in itself frightful should consider what happened during the November sighting wave. Here we had an unprecedented spate of sightings, a number of which involved, or at least were alleged to involve, non-earthly beings. How many people ran screaming to the hills, or otherwise displayed "sudden, extreme, or groundless fear" (Webster) because of this? If anyone but the witnesses themselves were scared, we have yet to hear about it. During this period, the only "sudden and extreme fear" that we read about was caused by two little chunks of metal pushed into the sky at great expense by those blackguards on the other side of the hill, resulting in hysterical demands from our military men, legislators, and journalists to pour more and more billions into weapons research and production - and this was hardly the kind of "panic" that the Air Force would be concerned to avert. So engrossed are we terrestrials in our local squabbles, that little Laika up in her lonely doghouse threw a scare into this country that a regiment of little green men marching down Broadway couldn't have begun to equal.

An announcement that flying saucers seem to be extraterrestrial vessels, but are not a threat to us, would arouse great excitement, but there is no reason at all to think it would cause any panic. If the Air Force doesn't make such an announcement, it is not from fear of panic - unless they're even sillier than we think. May we suggest an alternative explanation for their repeated failure to "let the public know"? May we suggest that it is simply because they don't believe it themselves?

THE UNPARALLELED UFO "FLAP" OF NOVEMBER 1957

EGG-SHAPED UFO STALLS CARS ON HIGHWAY

COPS CHASE SKY OBJECT

MYSTERY AIR OBJECTS SEEN IN SKY OVER L. A.

These eight-column headlines* are only a sample of what appeared all over the national press during the first two weeks of November, 1957. Many moons have passed--two of them artificial (as of this writing)--since the press has displayed such open interest in UFOs; but then the remarkable incidents which they describe are undoubtedly without parallel in the history of "flying saucers."

Following hard on the announcement of the launching of "muttnik"--whether by coincidence or not--came the first reports of what quickly developed into a startling series: near Levelland, Texas, during the night of November 2/3rd, a number of truck drivers, state and local police, and other residents described seeing a vast 200-foot luminous "egg-shaped" object that hedgehopped the countryside around Levelland, landing on highways and in adjacent fields and mysteriously affecting car motors and headlights. (This effect on automobiles had previously been reported from France, in 1954.) Terrified witnesses reported their experiences to Weir Clem, Hockley County sheriff, and Clem, together with deputies and dozens of police officers, made a tour of the areas where the object(s) had been encountered. At 2:30 a.m., Clem himself saw "a streak of fire" flash across the highway to the south of his car; two highway patrolmen, following some distance behind him, confirmed his sighting. At least seven persons reported close encounters with the "egg"; at least four cars or trucks were stalled; and many others reported seeing the phenomenon at greater distance.

The West Texas reports were only hours old when sightings were made independently by two Army patrols in the old A-bomb testing range outside of the White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico. The first incident occurred at 3 a.m.; a two-man jeep patrol, consisting of Cpl. Glenn H. Toy and Pfc. James Wilbanks, watched a "very bright" egg-shaped object, about 75 - 100 yards in diameter, descend from the sky until it was about 50 yards above the old atom bunkers; then it went out. Suddenly it flared up again brilliantly, "like the sun, then fell in an angle to the ground and went out." No traces were found, and no unusual effects on the jeep were noticed. Seventeen hours later, at 8 p.m., Specialists 3/c Forest Oakes (sic) and Henry Barlow saw a "bright 200 or 300-foot light" hanging motionless about 50 feet above an old bunker; the light "took off at a 45-degree angle" and started blinking; then it disappeared. None of the men in either patrol had known of the Levelland reports.

About 3:15 a.m. on November 4th came a report from suburban Chicago: three Elmwood Park police officers and a fireman saw a low-hovering 200-foot cylindrical object, red-orange in color, above a nearby cemetery; they said it appeared to be "folding into itself" until they threw their prowl car searchlight on it, at which time it began "puffing out." At this point, the searchlight dimmed and almost went out. The object began moving off in a westerly direction and although the men tried to follow it in their car, it quickly disappeared from view--by "folding into itself."

Two hours later, from 5:10 to 5:30 a.m., radarmen on the Coast Guard cutter Sebago, 200 miles south of New Orleans in the Gulf of Mexico, reported tracking an unknown object; the high-speed target was also observed visually for several

* The above headlines are from the Alamogordo, N.M., Daily News, 11/5; the Hammond, Ind., Times, 11/11; and the Los Angeles Times, 11/6.

seconds at 5:22, and was described as "planet-like" in appearance.

At 1:10 p.m. the same day, Nov. 4th, James Stokes, an electronics engineer of the Air Force Missile Development Center, Holloman AFB in New Mexico, was driving south of Orogrande, N. M., when his car radio faded out and his motor stopped. Noticing a number of other stopped cars along the highway, he got out and saw a large egg-shaped object with a surface like "mother of pearl" coming out of the northeast. The object made several "shallow dives" across the highway before it departed to the northwest.

All of these reports were carried widely by the press, in stories marked by an absence of the customary "light touch"; the term "flying saucer" was nowhere in evidence. Sightings by Army patrols, Coast Guardsmen, engineers, and police officers--here were reports worthy of serious attention--and they got it.

But then the reports came thick and fast--from everywhere. People were not only seeing luminous "eggs" and "cigars," but a "red ball the size of a moon" on a highway at midday near Atlanta, Georgia (11/6); a "sofa-like object" that slid silently through the air, also at Atlanta (11/6); an "orange jack-o'-lantern" that quickly disappeared from view at Corona del Mar, California (11/5); a "flying lampshade" that rose from a field with an explosive sound in Dunn, N. C. (11/6); a "flying igloo" seen at Grapevine, Texas (11/6); and a "dart-shaped" object with fins at the front in Tarentum, Pennsylvania (11/6). Three Air Force weather observers saw six discs over the Long Beach, California, Air Force Base (11/5) and three Air Force pilots at Selma, Alabama watched a brilliant object flash through the sky (11/4). Car motors were stalled or otherwise affected by UFOs in Springfield, Illinois (11/3), Calgary, Alberta (11/3), San Antonio, Texas (11/5), and near Montville, Ohio (11/6). Radios and television sets were affected when UFOs were seen in Hedley, Texas (11/5), and Hammond, Indiana (11/10). Police car radios malfunctioned while officers chased objects in Danville, Illinois (11/6) and Plattsburg, New York (11/6), as well as at Hammond. Residents in Tamaroa and Du-bois, Illinois were baffled by a ten-minute electric power failure, while at the same time a Tamaroa woman reported seeing an object "shaped like a full moon;" it hovered "higher than the trees" and was accompanied by loud booms and flashes just as the power failure occurred (11/15). Landings occurred near Monroe, Louisiana (11/4), in Geauga County, Ohio (11/6), and near Port Huron, Michigan (11/6). At Pell City, Alabama, a 600-foot long "something" scorched the ground (11/6) and at Merom, Indiana a man was hospitalized after his face had been "scorched" by a bright 40-foot object that hovered 1000 feet above him (11/6). Other reports came from Centralia, Washington; Spooner, Wisconsin; Durango, Colorado; Panellas, Florida; Kalamazoo, Michigan; Manchester, N.H.; McMinville, Oregon; Casper, Wyoming; and McGehee, Arkansas.

But reports were not confined to this country: in the Fiji Islands, a luminous object had been seen for four nights in mid-October, leaving observers feeling "weak"; from Cairo, Egypt, where a flaming object, "identified" as a "highway reflector," fell into an Alexandria University yard; in Sunbury-on-Thames, England, where a red-hot mystery object smashed into a schoolyard; in Tromello, Italy where an object landed with a whistle and a thump, sending up a pinnacle of white smoke; and in Capetown, South Africa, where "thousands" watched searchlights play on a low-flying cylindrical object."

Photographs, for what they are worth, were printed in many papers. At Anaheim, California, 19-year-old Ed Leadford was driving homeward in the vicinity of Disneyland on November 7th when, at 12:10 a.m., he saw an object he took at first to be a small blimp; pinkish-red in color, it faded from view, then reappeared, much larger. "It appeared to be a weird gaseous mass." Taking out his Graphic Century camera, he set it at f4.5 and shot at 1/10th of a second; immediately afterwards, the object began ascending. It went out, reappeared and then went out again. Bert Klein, GOC supervisor at Garden Grove, said "we had almost continuous

sightings of a strange light in about the same spot near Disneyland... It was a large, orange-colored ball, and was reported continuously by Garden Grove observers. I don't know what it was." At Fargo, North Dakota, Fargo Forum photographer Alf T. Olsen saw and photographed a "cigar-shaped object" which hovered in view for several minutes about noon on November 9th. He was able to get three shots, one of which shows two additional circular objects in the vicinity of the larger. (No details are available concerning corroborating reports.) On November 5th, the Dallas Morning News printed a photograph, taken August 2nd, 1956, of a zig-zag trail left by an object seen near Amarillo, Texas by Dallas rock and gem collector J. G. Kirby and his family. And another Texas paper, the Fort Worth Sunday News Texan (11/10) printed for the first time a photograph taken with a telephoto lens in September, 1956 by Officer William Van Dyke of the Idaho State Police, at Sevrall, Idaho (on the Utah border). It shows two distinct disc-shaped objects; and according to reports, they were taken over a spot where an automobile accident had taken place at the same time. The victims of the accident told State Police that they had been forced off the road by a "saucer." Their car was covered with a peculiar white substance, and an investigation was supposed to have been made. (We are checking this and hope to report more fully later.)

On November 5th, the N. Y. Journal-American proclaimed in inch-high scare-heads: "NEW MYSTERY BEEPS IN SPACE BAFLE U.S. OFFICIAL LISTENERS." First heard on November 3rd, the signals had been received at Army listening posts, commercial radio companies, and "ham" operators on a frequency of 14.286 megacycles. The FCC got itself into hot water when it first called the information concerning the signal "classified." An FCC spokesman later amended this: "It isn't classified; we just don't know yet what it is." Widely reported in the northeast, as well as at scattered points from the North to the South Pole, the signal was described as a long note of low pitch, followed after a few seconds by two short notes. Some listeners said the signals sounded like a radio teletype circuit; others thought they resembled radio jamming. There was considerable speculation about a possible Russian moon rocket. At one time the signals were picked up simultaneously from points in Alaska, Australia, and Antarctica. There was no correlation between the signal and the two Sputniks, according to the FCC.

On November 7th, a new signal was picked up on a frequency of 200 megacycles by RCA in Riverhead, Long Island. It was described as a continuous tone with a modulation of about 200 cycles. When the signals finally ceased on November 8th, their source had still not been identified.

Things were becoming a bit too interesting. In Kearney, Nebraska, Reinhold Schmidt told in a straightforward manner of a half-hour "contact" on November 5th with a grounded saucer crew--four men and two women "in everyday clothes." They spoke "high German." Footprints seemed to confirm Schmidt's story. But he was quickly revealed as a former embezzler, was grilled unmercifully by the police, was examined by psychiatrists, and in two days had been committed to a mental institution as "very ill."

Near Knoxville, Tennessee, early on the morning of November 6th, 12-year-old Everett Clark said two men and two women, normally dressed, talking "like German soldiers in war movies," emerged from a grounded cigar-shaped object and tried to make off with his dog; he claimed that he hadn't heard of the Schmidt case. An imprint in the grassy field where the object had rested was found by Knoxville reporters; the boy maintained that this discovery was as new to him as it was to the reporters.

Also on the morning of November 6th, Richard Kehoe of Long Beach, California, said two short (5' 5") crewmen landed on the beach at Vista del Mar and spoke to him in broken English, some of which he understood. And at dusk in the evening of the 6th, John Trasco, of Everittstown, New Jersey, says he went outside his

home to feed his dog, saw a brilliant egg-shaped object hovering in front of his barn, and was confronted by a three-foot being with "a putty-colored face and large frog-like eyes." Mr. Trasco thought the creature said in "broken language" that "We are peaceful people, we only want the dog." Frightened, Trasco shouted "Get the hell out of here!" The creature fled into the object, which took off straight up. (Both the Kehoe case and the Trasco case are discussed in detail elsewhere in this issue.)

The following morning, November 7th, truck driver Malvan Stevens said he encountered an egg-shaped object on the highway near Meridian, Mississippi. From it emerged three "queer-looking people" four-and-a-half feet high--two men and a woman with "pasty-white faces" and dark hair. They "chattered" unintelligibly, and "shook" Stevens' hand. A companion corroborated his story.

Are these cases, most of which appear to fall somewhere in between "contact" stories and reports of "little men," all hoaxes? Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient information with which to render a verdict. One thing is certain: the press, ever skeptical of such stories, seized upon these with gusto--particularly the Schmidt case, for it appeared to be an open-and-shut hoax. With the appearance of these bizarre tales, a deterioration, eclipsing the sobriety of the early reports, commenced: the situation went rapidly from bad to worse.

Adding considerably to this deterioration of press coverage were the all too familiar utterances of Donald Menzel, who felt obliged to set everyone straight. Attending his press conference on November 5th were two CSI members; they told us that newsmen covering the affair had swallowed Menzel's "hot air bubbles" hook, line, and saucer. The melancholy results appeared in almost every national paper the following day. Edward J. Ruppelt immediately threw cold water on Menzel's claims: he unequivocally denied that UFOs could be explained as optical tricks. "There has been a lot of talk about mirages," said Ruppelt. "This is one thing we proved that saucers were not." (Ruppelt was head of Project Bluebook for more than two years.) "We went to Dr. Joseph Kaplan, the UCLA meteorologist, and others, and we spent a lot of money to determine if mirages were the answer. The only positive answer we got was that they were NOT mirages."

But Ruppelt's knowledgeable information on this subject went unheeded by the national press; his words appeared only in local California papers.

On Wednesday night, November 6th, an unusual auroral display, featuring weird-looking red glows, further confused the issue; and by Thursday the Air Force had gotten into the act in characteristic fashion, having replayed their all-purpose tape recording about no evidence of saucers, etc. This seems to have been taken as gospel by most papers, although there was some praiseworthy editorial skepticism concerning the "explanations." Notable in this respect was George Todt, editorial writer and columnist for the San Fernando Valley Times; and Arthur Edson, Associated Press reporter in Washington.

But by Friday, November 8th, many papers--certainly those in New York City--were no longer carrying reports of sightings, and reports in local papers were once more getting the "humorous" treatment. (No longer are they called "flying saucers;" they are now referred to as "whatniks.") The status quo had again been preserved, and the American people were as much in the dark as they ever were.

The unprecedented wave of sightings in early November is unquestionably unique in that it descended with no advance warning, and reached an incredible peak--November 6th--in record time.

It is apparent, from clippings being sent us by numerous members and from our clipping service, that sightings are still being made throughout the country, although the spectacular developments of the week of November 2nd - 8th appear to have subsided considerably. It is totally impossible at this time to deal with all this material in detail, but we hope to present more in future issues of N.L.

"AIR FORCE REFUTES FLYING SAUCER TALES"

With this headline for a hearse, the N. Y. Times of November 26 buried the November reports and registered another triumph of Air Force formula over facts. Two weeks from the first reports to the funeral - how did the AF dispose of the body in such record time? One method is Standard Operating Procedure; the other, less often used, nevertheless bears all the hallmarks of Air Force brass.

First they rushed into print (Nov. 5) with a "Fact Sheet": a press release repeating the old rigmarole about geese, kites, etc., reported as saucers; about the small number of reports that turn out to be true Unknowns - "only 1.9 percent out of 250 reports in the first half of 1957"; and about the Unknowns that would probably turn out to be geese too, if someone would just report they heard a honk. (The shifty statistics of the AF deserve an article all to themselves. Notice, for example, how much smaller, and how much more scrupulously exact, that "1.9 percent" looks than "2 percent." But 2 percent of 250 reports would be five reports, while "1.9 percent" of 250 figures out to four and three-quarters reports!) Most people and newspaper editors, however, certainly got the desired false impression that all but 1.9 percent of all reports have now been explained.

The Air Force also took the unusual step of referring to specific cases. An AP dispatch from Washington (Nov. 15) began: "The Air Force has looked into five recent reports ... and there isn't a flying saucer in the lot." Five reports out of scores or hundreds received? Was the Air Force, perhaps, practicing frugality? We might think so, in the light of another Washington dispatch (Science Service, Nov. 7), which said: "Each major track-down costs about \$10,000, including sending out investigating personnel, paying transportation expenses, sending planes aloft to investigate intruders and taking pictures of, perhaps, Venus - plus administrative work." But on this point there is some instructive evidence (see below).

Of the five cases "looked into," one could be promptly dismissed as a hoax (the Schmidt case, Kearney, Nebraska, Nov. 5). The other four cases, concluded the AF, were either (a) exaggerations, or (b) misunderstood natural phenomena. What about these natural phenomena?

At Levelland, Texas, the luminous egg-shaped object 200-300 feet long that stopped car motors and radios was identified as: "a natural electric phenomenon called ball lightning or St. Elmo's fire." Apparently the technical investigators who conducted this particular \$10,000 investigation were not aware that these are two entirely different electric phenomena; or that the average diameter of ball lightning is 8 inches; or that a good many scientists deny that ball lightning even exists; or that St. Elmo's fire is invariably attached to some solid object. As for the stalled car motors, continued the AF, the same weather that produced St. Elmo's ball lightning might have - MIGHT have, notice - "soaked the ignition systems of cars." And what might have dried them out so quickly once the light departed? And did anyone's ignition in fact become soaked? Were the witnesses asked this? (One report, said the AF, arose from "an automobile mechanic's mistake"; no details are given.)

The investigators said further (note that plural) that they could find only three witnesses who actually saw the big light. The miracle is, they found as many as three. For we know, in this case, exactly what the Air Force investigation amounted to. On November 6 the Levelland Daily Sun News reported: "Air Force 'Mystery' Man Leaves City; Actions, Identity Cloaked in Secrecy." The anonymous visitor drove an AF vehicle, wore civilian clothes, and "said he could not give his name or any identification" (italics ours). Around noon on the 6th he spent 30 minutes in Sheriff Weir Clem's office. He returned about 2:30 p.m. for another half hour. About 3 p.m. he headed for Lubbock (30 miles away); he came back about 6:30, said to Sheriff Clem, "Well, I'm gone," and drove off into the dark, drippy night. Adds the paper, "There was never any hint as to what he found out or whether he was really a civilian or an Air Force officer."

Does the Air Force call this a "major track-down"? We won't even bother to laugh. Do they say that the activities of the mysterious gentleman's 7-hour day cost \$10,000 or anything like it? Then the taxpayers had better start yelling bloody murder, for they are being well bilked. Yet it was on the basis of this feeble parody of an investigation that the Air Force, on November 15, uttered its "conclusions" about the Levelland object!

With respect to the Gulf of Mexico case, the AF investigators "concluded" that jet and propeller aircraft, and "possibly" radar echoes, accounted for sightings "in an area where both the Air Force and the Navy make many flights." But did either of them in fact make any flights over that area that morning at the time of the alleged sighting? Was this point definitely checked, or have we here still another case where an untested hypothesis was blandly transformed into a final conclusion?

As for the White Sands sightings, the AF explanation speaks of "lights seen by planes patrolling the area." This is the first mention anywhere of planes; all the newspaper accounts said lights were seen by two two-man jeep patrols - by one at 3 a.m. and by another at 8 p.m. the same day (Nov. 3). Didn't the AF know about the jeeps? Did it know about them and prefer to ignore them, and why? Or were they merely being careless about their \$10,000 facts? Were the lights also seen by planes? Whatever the reason for this discrepancy, we can test the AF conclusions only against the reports of the jeep observers. Says the AF: "The reports of the plane pilots were apparently explainable by the planet Venus in an unusually favorable position for observation, or by cloud formations around the moon." So far as the jeeps are concerned, the first explanation is all wrong and the second is preposterous. Venus is NEVER visible at all at 3 o'clock in the morning, and on November 3 it had set at 7:30 p.m., half an hour before the second jeep patrol saw anything. As for the alternate explanation suggested, the soldiers' descriptions of what they saw (page 2) indicates that such celestial acrobatics of "cloud formations around the moon" (in New Mexico's notoriously clear skies) were never seen before nor since.

If the Levelland, Gulf of Mexico, and White Sands reports were "misunderstood natural phenomena," then the "exaggeration" must be the report from Alamogordo by James Stokes. "Stories of a light strong enough to cause sunburn," said the AF, "were not verified on interview with the originator"; and he also "acknowledged that the fade-out of his radio was the same sort of thing that had happened in that area before." If these statements mean anything at all, they are plain hints that the AF thinks Stokes was lying. What else they might mean we are in no position to say. Stokes is employed as an electronics engineer at Holloman AFB, and there are more ways than one to skin a cat. Perhaps the Air Force was being tactful about an employee's unstable temperament; perhaps Stokes was willing to help them out of their explanation problem by agreeing that his radio had faded out in that area before. But had his motor faded out also? And what about the other witnesses, in cars on the road behind Stokes, who experienced the same trouble? True, these witnesses could not be found; but having seen the Levelland investigator at work, we may certainly doubt that the AF made any real effort to locate Stokes's supporting witnesses.

From these November examples and many others, we can see that the picture of Project Blue Book so assiduously drawn by the Air Force - thorough investigation, technical personnel, evaluation by experts, "improved methods of analysis" - and thus conclusions invested with a high degree of infallibility - is quite false. This sort of window-dressing can be fobbed off on the general public, which is not in a position to challenge it. But it is never going to satisfy the serious UFOlogist. He thinks that more time spent in honest investigation, and less time given to writing glib and hollow explanations, delivered with an authority the AF has done nothing to earn, might result in our actually finding out a few facts about saucers.

The Air Force is entitled to draw what conclusions it likes about UFOs, or lack of conclusions. They are not entitled to lie to the public, either in so many words (#9, p.27, and pp. 25-26, this issue) or indirectly. They are not entitled to claim that they are doing a proper job of scientific inquiry, when it is as plain as the nose on your face that they are not doing anything of the kind - nevertheless playing Space Dog in the Manger and refusing to give any of their material (see page 8)

C S I N E W S

Sanderson Meeting on November 15 All Too Successful: To members and friends who found it impossible to get into the November 15 public meeting, or who suffered from the serious confusion at the door, we extend our sincere apologies. We greatly underestimated the attendance - which was stimulated by the November sighting wave, by Long John's generous publicizing of the lecture on two of his all-night programs, and by Garry Moore's unexpected mention of it that morning on his TV show. Too late, we tried to get a larger hall - there was none to be had. Matters were complicated by the evaporation of the door committee that had been expected to help out. Those who did find seats (about 180 out of an estimated 250) enjoyed a scintillating talk by Ivan Sanderson, followed by a report by Ted Bloecher on the exciting events of the previous fortnight, and a panel-type question-and-answer period with Sanderson, Ted Bloecher, Lex Mebane, Hans Stefan Santesson, and as an unexpected bonus, M. K. Jessup and Jules St. Germain.

Members' Meeting December 19 for Coral Lorenzen: On Thursday, December 19, CSI members will have an opportunity to meet Coral Lorenzen, Director of APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization) and editor of APRO Bulletin, the longest-established UFO periodical in the world. Mrs. Lorenzen will be in New York, from her home in Alamogordo, New Mexico, during the week of December 16, and although it is a very busy time of year, we thought members should have an opportunity to hear and talk with this distinguished UFO researcher. (She herself refers to UFOs as UAOs - Unidentified Aerial Objects.) Local APRO members have also been invited to attend this meeting, but it is not open to the public.

CSI Member Henry J. ("Duke") Schilling will address the Physics Society of City College at the group's noon meeting on December 12. The meeting time is a difficult one for business and professional men, and CSI and the Society are fortunate that Mr. Schilling was able to arrange his schedule to make this talk on UFOs.

The Editors Suggest that you read this even-larger-than-usual issue of the News Letter slowly, for it must last our members quite a while. The Michel translation is breathing down our necks, and with the exception of a few top-level events (such as Coral Lorenzen's visit), we are going into seclusion to get it done.

Acknowledgments: It is a pleasure to let all CSI members know how deeply the editors are indebted to the members and friends who have helped in getting out NL #9 and 10: Victoria de Cervantes, who has typed several sets of members' mailing labels in advance, which speeds up the mailing a great deal; Herb Taylor, who has recently joined the Production Department, Mimeographing Branch, and is fast learning how to humor our old machine; Mary Coryn, who has proofread stencils, checked addresses, helped to collate the multi-paged monsters - and found time to do seven hours of correspondence filing besides (enabling us to discard the Burrow System for locating letters); Julie Coryn, who helped label, stuff, and seal the envelopes, conversing lightheartedly at the same time (an art we'd like to learn; the editors tend to get grim around the deadlines).

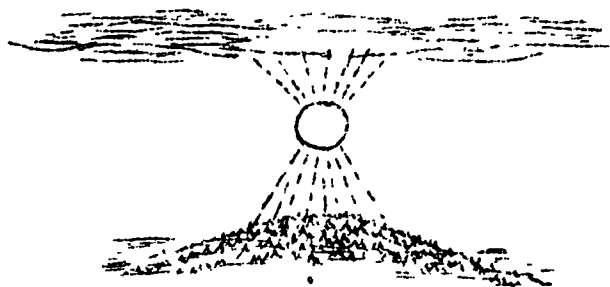
(cont. from p. 7) to a competent civilian agency that would do the job. Least of all are they entitled to treat civilian questions as a mere nuisance, civilian doubt as a wound to their sensibilities, and civilian criticism as a form of blasphemy. Whatever reasons may be offered to account for these disingenuous - or dishonest - statements by the Air Force, their effect on the serious UFOlogist is certain: they compel him to wonder whether distortion or concealment of an even more serious nature may not be going on. If this mistrust pains the Air Force, they have only themselves to blame. As one UFOlogist commented: "I'm perfectly sure that the saucers come from space. But there is one thing that would make me doubt it: if the Air Force boys began to support the theory."

FIRST-HAND REPORT OF A UFO EMITTING A RADIO SIGNAL

The following extraordinary observation came to us via Lex Mebane, through the courtesy of a mutual friend, Mr. Anthony M. Bender (no relation to Albert K. Bender of Connecticut), who arranged for Lex to meet and interview the witness two weeks after the event. This is one of the perhaps-unprecedented crop of UFO appearances on November 6th that made that day such a dies mirabilis in American saucer annals.

The observer was Mr. Jacques N. Jacobsen, Jr., of Staten Island, a young man trained as a microbiologist, who now holds a responsible position in New York City with a large railroad company. In the first week of November he was on vacation, hunting deer in the big woods of Quebec with three friends, William Munday, William Totten, and Robert Dawson. They were staying at Sullivan's Hunting Lodge on Lake Baskatong, about 100 miles north of Ottawa. There was no electricity at the camp, but they had with them a portable radio of the ordinary kind and also a portable short-wave radio "of the type used in World War II landing craft." (Both Munday and Dawson are professional electronics workers, and radio hams on the side.) On the evening of the 6th they were listening to the radio, which was reporting UFOs seen everywhere; reception was subject to fading, but many stations could be picked up.

At about 9 p.m. Totten went out to the outhouse; he came back breathlessly exclaiming: "There's a flying saucer out here!" The others laughed, and suggested that he invite the little green men in for coffee. (Mr. Jacobsen thought he'd better stress the fact that "the whiskey had run out two nights before.") However, he insisted. They went out on the porch and sure enough, there it was. To the east of south, a "huge brilliantly-illuminated sphere," one-eighth to one-sixth the apparent diameter of the moon, was hanging a few hundred feet over the summit of a hill two or three miles away. Might this actually have been a misinterpretation of some celestial body? By no means. The sky had been completely overcast by low-hanging clouds for several hours, and the object was beneath these clouds. This was beyond any possibility of doubt, because conical beams of light fanned out from both the top and the bottom of the object. The lower beam lit up the tops of the pine trees on the hilltop; the upper beam illuminated the under surface of the low clouds. (See the accompanying sketch, copied from Mr. Jacobsen's.) The bright-



ness of the object was dazzling--"like looking into a gas-mantle"(they were using gas-mantle lamps at the camp)--but its color was yellowish-white, not the bluish-white of a mantle. Because of the glare, its edges were not sharply defined. It did not flicker, pulsate, or oscillate. 8 x 25 binoculars revealed no further detail. For fifteen minutes it remained in the same position.

Mr. Jacobsen took two 35-mm photographs, which had not yet been developed two weeks later. (It is hardly to be expected that they will show anything more than a dot of light.)

While this was being seen, it was discovered that there was "no reception" on the portable radio. Munday tried the short-wave radio, with the same result: on none of its bands could anything be picked up--not even the government time signal, which invariably came in clearly. But there was one exception: at one frequency a very strong signal was received. It was a rapidly modulated single tone, somewhat like Morse code in effect--but not Morse, which would have been recognized. Mr. Jacobsen could not recall the frequency, but thought it was in the vicinity of 2.5 or 25 megacycles--not 14.286 megacycles, where a "mystery beep" signal from something moving in the sky had been received that week all over the earth, pole to pole.

At 9:15 the object was beginning to float slowly upwards and move off to the south, over a trackless area of lake and forest. It had entered the clouds and its light could now only be seen intermittently; in another fifteen minutes it was out of sight. The radios were now tried again, and proved to work normally; the batteries were apparently not affected by the episode.

The four hunters bolted the cabin door and loaded all their guns before going to bed.

Before their return to New York, the party heard of three more UFO observations of that same day. On the 7th, Dawson called up his wife in Shawbridge (50 miles northwest of Montreal), using the fire rangers' telephone, to tell her of their unnerving experience the night before. He found that she wanted to tell him about her sighting. On the afternoon of the 6th, numerous silvery specks had moved over Shawbridge--singly, in pairs, and in groups up to ten. Citizens watching on the ground had seen jets repeatedly attempt to catch these objects, which always put on a burst of speed and outdistanced the pursuing aircraft.

On Saturday the 9th, the hunters drove back to New York. Shortly before noon they passed through Plattsburg, N.Y. Here they heard the local radio station reporting that a Plattsburg citizen of the highest reputation had had his car stalled and its radio killed at 5 p.m. on the 6th by what proved, when he got out of the car, to be a silvery sphere hovering directly overhead. According to the radio, there had been several other reports of the same sort, but this one was especially impressive because the witness could not be suspected of hoax.

The four hunters stopped for lunch at Schroon Lake, 75 miles south of Plattsburg. Here they got into conversation with two State Troopers. Had the troopers seen anything on the evening of the 6th? They certainly had! A metallic-looking sphere had hovered for five or ten minutes directly over their barracks, and had stopped cars in Schroon Lake. The troopers had also talked to jet pilots from Plattsburg AFB, who (as at Shawbridge) had been up after the objects on that day, and who expressed themselves as being "just as glad that we couldn't catch up with them--we don't mind chasing bombers or fighters," they had said, "but we don't like to chase these damn saucers, because we don't know what they can do."

Mr. Jacobsen's mother told us that when he returned home, he was "shaken."

Upon reading this remarkable report, one might suspect a hoax; however, as far as Lex Mebane is concerned, such a possibility is totally out of the question. The veracity of Mr. Jacobsen is beyond doubt.

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SPACEMEN ON THE VISTA DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA, BEACH?

On November 6th, the Los Angeles Mirror-News printed an account of an incident said to have occurred early that morning (5:40 a.m.) on the beach along Vista del Mar at Playa del Rey. According to a Long Beach man named Richard Kehoe (not to be confused with Keyhoe), he had been driving to work at Santa Monica when his car motor stalled and quit; two other drivers who had been similarly afflicted Kehoe identified as Ronald Burke of Redondo Beach and Joe Thomas of Torrance. As he got out of his car Kehoe saw an egg-shaped object "in a blue haze on the beach." He described it as "solid metal, tan or cream in color, with two metal rings around it on which it rested." Two five-foot-five men, dressed somewhat like motorcyclists, emerged and spoke to the three "frightened" witnesses in broken English.

"They wanted to know where we were going, who we were, what time it was, and questions like that," Kehoe said. "Their skin seemed to be sort of yellowish-green in the early light, but they looked like earth-people to me. I thought they invited us to coffee, but I couldn't understand too well and said I had to go to work."

Kehoe later said that had never seen "flying saucers" before "or anything like that."

Two days later Paul V. Coates, Mirror-News columnist, commented as follows: "It goes against my nature to believe Kehoe's tale. But a few years ago I would have made a flat statement. And now I can't. If those two witnesses were there, I wish they'd come forward. Because, gentlemen, while I hate to admit it, I'm all shook up."

Meanwhile, West Coast CSI member Idabel Epperson was busy checking. "Because of the similarity of the name Kehoe to Keyhoe, I was suspicious at first; having had a little experience behind the scenes in politics, I have no illusions left as to ways and means of discrediting people. NICAP's pressure is beginning to be felt, and I could not help but wonder if this was some kind of scheme to discredit Donald Keyhoe in the eyes of the public who have not yet heard of him. After all, Reinhold Schmidt was a sensation and a recognized mental case overnight. By the same means, the name Keyhoe could be made notorious overnight to many people. You can readily see where this would put NICAP. However, I believe now that the names being so nearly the same is purely coincidental."

Mrs. Epperson attempted to locate the alleged two other witnesses. Checking local telephone directories, she found six "Burkes" in Redondo and three "Joe Thomases" in Torrance. She began calling the Burkes and simply asked for "Ronald."

"In every case they said 'there is no one here by that name.' When I asked if there was anyone in their family named Ronald, they all said no. Then I asked if anyone else had called and asked for Ronald Burke, and in every case, they said 'no'."

None of the Joe Thomases Mrs. Epperson called were the Joe Thomas she was looking for, but all three said they had received similar calls.

The payoff came, as far as Mrs. Epperson was concerned, when Richard Kehoe appointed a "manager," one O. B. La Voie. Mr. La Voie is a "professional" manager, having handled such old pros as Truman Bethurum, Calvin Girvin and, temporarily, Todd Kittredge (see N.L. #6). When an acquaintance of Mrs. Epperson's, Mrs. I., called Richard Kehoe to ask him if he would come over to her home and informally describe the incident to a group of her friends, she was advised, by Kehoe's "representative," that she would have to discuss the matter with him. He said that he doubted that Mr. Kehoe would have the time--he was much too busy, that he was "booked up" for lectures, that his time was "very valuable." Mrs. I. described his attitude as "rude and high-handed."

It was made clear to her that she would have to offer Kehoe money for any "services" he rendered, and Mrs. I. was thoroughly convinced the whole thing was a hoax.

However, after discussing the situation with her friends, Mrs. I. still felt that a first-hand impression would be extremely valuable, so she called Mr. La Voie and agreed to "pass the hat" for his protegee if he would appear. But Kehoe did not show up for the proposed appearance.

Meanwhile, his manager was busy scheduling him for television appearances. Kehoe appeared on the Paul V. Coates show on Sunday, November 17th. The fact that Kehoe had spent a very short time in the military service, but had a medical discharge for a "nervous" trouble, was brought out but very quickly passed over. And the similarity of his name to Keyhoe's was mentioned; it was made clear that there was no relation between the two. (Coates spelled Kehoe's name with a "y" in his column on November 8th.) Sharing the spotlight with Kehoe was, oddly enough, Edward Ruppelt.

Several other TV producers also considered having Kehoe appear on their programs but took the precaution of consulting Max Miller, whose good judgement in such matters has become well known locally. Miller wisely advised against such

appearances, and the producers dropped the idea.

Of course a final verdict on Kehoe remains to be made. His future activities will provide more definite clues. (Mrs. Epperson has learned that, according to La Voie, he and Kehoe were trying to locate the two alleged witnesses by going down to the highway at 4:30 each morning hoping to see the cars that the two men drove!) It is possible, of course, that Kehoe has been made an unwitting dupe by unscrupulous parties; and that the two corroborating witnesses may yet make themselves known. But until they do, the story will remain suspect, if only for the manner in which Kehoe has conducted himself since his encounter with the "space-men on the beach."

THE KEARNEY, NEBRASKA "CONTACT" CLAIM

This story was unusual in that it told of a "contact" with saucer pilots who might be no "spacemen" at all, but ordinary human beings from somewhere on earth, presumably East Germany or Russia. It was important in that it received very wide publicity, and so could be suspected as the possible inspiration of somewhat similar stories told immediately afterwards, such as Everett Clark's of Dante, Tenn. As we write this, we must admit that we don't yet feel absolutely certain of the truth or falsity of any of these stories--even Schmidt's, on the basis of the information now available, might just possibly be true. Since this case is undoubtedly one of interest to our readers, we give below a summary extracted from the Kearney Hub and some three dozen wire-service clippings from various newspapers.

The teller of the story, Reinhold Schmidt, 48, a grain buyer from Bakersfield, Calif., drove into Deputy Sheriff Dave Drage's office late on the afternoon of Nov. 5th, "white-faced and asking to see a minister." He said that his car engine had died when he drove to within twenty yards of a silvery blimp-shaped object 100 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 14 feet high, with a vertical tube containing a large fan at each end, which was standing on four posts. As he got out and approached it, a staircase-like ramp came out, and two middle-aged men emerged. One flashed something like a flashlight at him, which seemed to paralyze him temporarily. The men searched him for weapons, and one said: "We'll have to be here a little while--you might as well come inside." From inside, the walls appeared transparent. There were two more men and two not-so-young women, all dark-haired and dressed in ordinary clothing, engaged in repairing some wiring. Among themselves they spoke what Schmidt called "high German." To move to and from certain sections of the ship, the crew "slid" about in an incomprehensible way. He remained in the vessel for a half an hour, but was not given any information about it--or any uplifting message, either. The spokesman said, in rather broken English: "Tell the people we're doing no harm. In a short time you may find out all about it." He was asked to leave, the vessel rose silently "like a helicopter" and disappeared, after a flash of light, by "blending into the sky." After it vanished, he found he could start his car.

Schmidt led Drage and Kearney police chief Thurston Nelson to a sandy place on the bank of the Platte River, where were found the footprints of two men approaching a third: the three tracks united and then suddenly came to an end, as if they had stepped off the ground. The police also found splotches of a green, oily fluid. (INS said, apparently incorrectly, that four holes in the ground had been found.)

Late on the night of the 5th-6th, Long John played a tape of Schmidt telling his story. It was straightforward, self-possessed, and quite devoid of suspiciously subjective features - far more convincing-sounding, for example, than Menger. Schmidt's employer, Donald Woodill of the Val-U-Pak Co., called him quiet, reliable, a non-drinker, and "not the type to fabricate something." However, he had known him for only about six weeks.

By morning on the 6th, the UP had found out that Schmidt had served time in the Nebraska penitentiary in 1938-39 for embezzlement. And the Hub and the AP reported that an empty can of green motor oil had been found not far from the spot where the "saucer oil" was found, and "another can of the same type of oil was found in the trunk of Schmidt's car." Schmidt had been held all night at the county jail and grilled, being permitted little sleep ("Law officers questioned Schmidt throughout the night"--Hub).

By afternoon, an INS dispatch reported that two Air Force investigators from Colorado Springs were also participating in the questioning of Schmidt, who had been "interviewed through most of the night but stuck to his story," and that the court, at his request, had assigned him a lawyer. It disclosed also two facts that never appeared in the Hub: that he had refused to take a lie-detector test, and that "Scottsbluff County sheriff Steve Warrick said he had known Schmidt for years, and described him as a 'mixed-up boy.'"

On the morning of the 7th County Attorney Kenneth Gotobed "filed a mental-illness complaint" against Schmidt after an "extensive examination" by two psychiatrists the preceding evening. Gotobed said that Schmidt "continues to use almost the exact words each time he tells his story" and that according to the doctors he "greatly desires recognition and publicity" (Hub and AP). If found sane, however, he would be "free to go his own way"; government officials "discouraged filing charges in such cases, for fear that other persons might refuse to report significant events" (UP).

A hearing by the county board of mental health was held the same evening, 7:30-9:45 p.m. The examining psychiatrists advised that Schmidt was "very ill" (AP) and "in immediate need of psychiatric treatment" (UP), and he was committed to the Hastings State Hospital "for an indefinite period."

The UP story also reported that "authorities said they had received information from his family that Schmidt was suffering from seeming 'instabilities,' and demands on him from unidentified persons and 'crackpots.'" This last phrase suggests paranoid delusions. However, we find from the Hub that it was not Schmidt himself, but the Kearney police, who had complained of "an increasing demand on the part of unidentified persons and obvious crackpots to place a greater strain upon Mr. Schmidt." (Undoubtedly this refers to requests for interviews by saucer aficionados.) The Hub (11/8) added that "concern for the well-being of Mr. Schmidt was increased Thursday afternoon by observation of his condition and conduct" - but it supplied no details.

On the night of the 8th-9th someone telephoned Long John, stating that he was calling from Kearney; that he had witnessed the Schmidt "contact" from a distance and could confirm its truth; but that he could not come forward publicly because he was a political figure in Kearney and could not afford to be involved in such a business. This story was unquestionably a complete hoax. Few, if any, radios are able to pick up WQR from central Nebraska; and the caller was unaware of the fact (which had appeared in Kearney papers, but not yet in New York) that Schmidt had been committed on the preceding evening.

What happened to Schmidt was publicized by nearly every paper in the country, and the Air Force was obviously happy to give the incident prominence as "one of the only five worthy to be investigated." Regardless of what the true facts are in the Schmidt case, it is an example that will certainly tend to discourage future witnesses of saucer landings from reporting their experiences.

We must assume that the psychiatrists were justified in their verdict; it seems impossible to take seriously the idea that they would be party to any "railroading" conspiracy, or that they were unable to distinguish nervous strain from insanity. But the extraordinary speed of the commitment, the participation of the Air Force, and the fact that no conclusive proof of Schmidt's insanity was ever made public, are bound to arouse a great deal of suspicion in the saucer world. We are glad to say that Jules St. Germain (CSI's legal adviser) intends to look into the legal aspects of the case. We hope that his findings and comment can appear in the next News Letter.

Curiously enough, the Tennessee report from the schoolboy Everett Clark (page 4) resembles Schmidt's story in several important respects; but, so far as we know, the Clark report aroused no official investigation at all. We have asked our Knoxville member, James McAshan, to find out more about this case if possible. But the attempted dognapping in the Clark story is weirdly echoed in the following extraordinary report from New Jersey (page 14).

FROG-EYED - DOG EYED

Among the many remarkable reports dated November 6, 1957, the following almost escaped our attention. A physician friend told Jules St. Germain about the story, which appeared in the Delaware Valley News (a weekly) on Nov. 15. At Jules' request Dick Harpster, CSI member and a veteran newspaperman who lives in Washington, N. J., and has actively participated in investigating the Menger tales, talked to the witnesses. He also sent us the story from the News, and intends to get more information to answer further questions from the data-greedy Research Section of CSI.

About dusk on November 6 John Trasco had just returned to his home in Everittstown, N. J., from his work at a paper mill in New Hope, Pa., and went outdoors to feed King, the 6-year-old, charcoal-colored, half-blind, bad-tempered Belgian police dog who was tied up at the side of the house. Mrs. Trasco, at the kitchen window, heard King barking furiously, and looked out to see a bright light in front of the barn, which is 60-70 feet from the house, with shrubbery between. "I thought at first it was a pond or puddle of water" (reflecting the last light of the sky), Mrs. Trasco said. Then she realized that she was looking at a luminous egg-shaped object, 9 to 12 feet long, hovering - "just going up and down" - a few feet off the ground in front of the barn.

Because of the shrubbery she did not see the "little man" that her husband confronted. The visitor was 2 1/2 or 3 feet high, "dressed in a green suit with shiny buttons, with a green hat like a tam and gloves with a shiny object at the tip of each glove." He had a putty-colored face, a nose and chin, and large, protuberant, frog-like eyes. In a voice that was "sharp and scary" he spoke to Mr. Trasco, in "broken language, as if he came from the other side." What Mr. Trasco thought he said was, "We are peaceful people. We don't want no trouble. We just want your dog." Mrs. Trasco, inside the house, could hear the sound of the voice, and she clearly heard her husband, frightened but angry, yell, "Get the hell out of here!" At this the creature re-entered the object - by what means, is still uncertain, since Mrs. Trasco said her husband had seen no door, portholes, or other opening. (He also reported that there was not much noise: "It was about like what you'd hear inside a ship.") The object then went fast up into the sky, like a tatter of flame that breaks off an outdoor bonfire and goes up, as Mrs. Trasco put it. King, by this time, was so worked up that he was frothing. "Was there any evidence left behind at all?" Harpster asked Mrs. Trasco (when we talked to Dick, he had spoken only to Mrs. Trasco). "Well, John tried to grab one of them," she said (another detail to be checked, since there was no other specific statement indicating more than one creature), "and he got some kind of green powder on his wrist, but it washed right off. He found some under his fingernails the next day, too." There are no houses on the road opposite the Trascos, and the houses on either side of them were unoccupied.

The couple told no one of their experience, because "we knew no one would believe us," except a sister-in-law, through whom the story probably reached the newspaper. The sister-in-law had attended a meeting conducted by Howard Menger about a year before; but the Trasco's had not been at all impressed by her report on Menger; in fact, they take only the mildest interest in even such things as Sputnik. In the same issue of the News that printed their story appeared an editorial that scoffed at the entire report.

Says Mrs. Trasco, "If it happens again I'll probably get right in the car and go away from this place." To Mr. Harpster she added, "But I told John, we should have let them take King. He's half-blind and so cross I don't know who else would ever want him." Says Dick Harpster, "I just haven't been able to think of one reason for not believing them." One final detail: the night after the visit, two lights shone over the house. Mrs. Trasco says, "they didn't move, as the lights of an airplane do." They lingered for a while, then disappeared without a trace.

"THINGS" THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

The reader will have noticed that the November 1957 sighting wave in the U.S., like the Fall 1954 wave in France, has been marked by numerous reports of landings, with and without occupants. The skeptic who disbelieves all of these stories must conclude that the US population possesses an unsuspected streak of imagination, since, along with similarities, the stories show differences of unexpected details that call for considerable powers of invention. Take, for example, the story told by Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Potter, of South Lee, Mass., who were interviewed at their home by the Reverend Albert Baller of Greenfield after WBRK (Pittsfield) broadcast, on Nov. 6, Mrs. Potter's account of the experience, which had taken place about two weeks before. The following comes chiefly from Mr. Baller's letter about his talk with the Potters.

Between 2 and 3 a.m. the Potters were awakened by a noise like a jet about to land - "but not really like a jet, either." Looking out of their bedroom window, they saw the back yard illuminated by light that came around the corner of the house from a source that was then invisible. The lighted area "went bright and dim, bright and dim," and they could see three dark figures moving around, that "kept bumping into things and making a lot of racket." The "jet" noise had been replaced by a high-pitched whining sound; "it made my head ache all the time," Mrs. Potter said. "After a while" Mr. Potter shouted at the "things" to go away, and they ran behind a shed. About then, the source of the light moved around the corner of the house. It was "a kind of floating thing, about two feet from the ground and about six feet from the ground at the top." It was "sort of without any sharp or clear shape, but gave out light in front of it and under it; it was dark behind it." The figures "moved away," and the object moved off "up the hill," then into the sky. In the morning the Potters found the high grass in the next field matted down, objects near the shed kicked over, and a shovel broken. Mr. Baller was impressed by the way the observers told their story, and by its agreement in all essentials with the tape of the radio interview. A copy of this tape is being made for CSI.

Reports of physical distress seemingly caused by the proximity of a UFO, like Mrs. Potter's headache that went away when the "object" left, are not absolutely unique; but the blundering about, as if in the dark, may be the first report of its kind. (Note: Our remarks in the first paragraph are not to be taken as indicating that CSI accepts this report, or any other in this issue, at present. However, we give great weight to the opinion of our respected colleague, the Reverend Baller.)

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Mr. Baller's letter also mentioned briefly three other reports he has recently received. We must mention them even more briefly, with fuller accounts later if possible. 1) November 6, 1957, 4 p.m.: a "very large, silver, cigar-shaped object" seen moving slowly down the Connecticut Valley; "it had no wings, and was like nothing I ever saw before." Possibly corroborated from N. Leominster, Mass., 40 mi. east of Greenfield, where a silvery cigar-shaped object was reported seen at 4 p.m., to the west. 2) November 13, 1957, 8:40 a.m.: a "tremendous" sonic boom "crashed" over Greenfield; Mr. Baller's house was violently "hit." An hour before this (he was told later), at 7:45 a.m., two Greenfield residents saw a very bright silvery disk below the moon; it moved upward, diagonally across the face of the moon, turned from silver to "bluish-pink," and suddenly disappeared. (It is extremely rare for a UFO to be reported in connection with a sonic boom at all, and in the present case the time sequence may be entirely without significance, Mr. Baller points out, and we agree.) 3) November 6, 1955, about 5:30 a.m.: A lens-shaped disk came out of the sky on edge, levelled off to a horizontal position, hung motionless over Boston for a minute or two, then "stood on edge" again and went off into the sky. "I was amazed at the size of the thing," says the witness who reported this to Mr. Baller (and who has always thought he saw a U.S. secret device). "Compared with the Boston skyscrapers, it was as large as a ten-story building."

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CLASSICAL "SAUCER" HOVERS NEAR BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY

There are few sections of Broadway from which one could watch a saucer hovering over an open field a few hundred feet away. One such section - perhaps the only one - is in the northern Bronx, just south of the Yonkers line, where the avenue is built up only on the west side, and the east side gives on the wide playing fields of Van Cortlandt Park.

At about 4:30 a.m. on the morning of November 5, a truck-driver for a rubbish-disposal company, Frank C. (he has requested us not to publish his name), was driving his garbage-collection truck down Broadway from Yonkers on his regular rounds. He had stopped at the bus shelter about two blocks north of the 242nd Street subway terminus, and was talking to a bus driver there as he emptied the trash cans, when his attention was suddenly arrested by something strange in the air over the park. "Look at that!" he exclaimed to the bus driver. Then, as he puts it, he "froze." He realized that he was looking at a flying saucer, no more than a quarter-mile away. Dully metallic in the dim light of the Broadway street lamps (dawn was not yet brightening the sky), it was of the "classic" shape: a flat, disk-shaped base surmounted by a derby-hat-like dome, with portholes. The dome was motionless, but the base was spinning, emitting a purring noise "like a Hollywood muffler two blocks away." The object was not luminous, and bore no lights. Its apparent size greatly exceeded that of a full moon, and it was hovering over the field at a height that seemed to be "about that of a five-story building" - perhaps two of its own diameters. Mr. C. saw it in profile view, and could not see the under surface of the disk. He thinks he and the bus-driver watched it for about half a minute. Suddenly, there burst forth from it a most brilliant yellowish light, that lit up every corner of the broad field, and the saucer took off "just like a shooting star," leaving the witnesses dazzled and gasping.

An hour or so later, Mr. C. was in a diner with his helper, telling him of what he had seen. The other man was all for going back to the park to look for traces on the ground where the UFO had been seen, but Mr. C. had no desire to go anywhere near it again. When we talked to him a month after the sighting, he told us, "I stay far away from that park now."

Mr. C. has never heard of Adamski or Menger - unless he is deliberately concealing the fact, which we think is most unlikely. He seldom reads books, and was not acquainted with Long John's radio program. He does not drink. Although we can't claim to know him well, it is our understanding that no suspicion has ever been cast on his truthfulness. At present, we see no reason to doubt that this report is perfectly authentic - one of the most noteworthy UFO sightings in New York City that have ever come to our attention. We thank Harold Oksenkrug for informing us of it.

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

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

APRIL-MAY 1957 - THREE LANDING OR NEAR-LANDING CASES IN FRANCE

In News Letter #9 (p. 25) we mentioned the excellent accounts of three 1957 sightings in France, personally investigated by Jimmy Guieu and Marc Thirouin, whose reports were published in Ouranos #21. The first case was the landing at Vins, in Provence (department of Var), on April 14 (NL #8, p. 13). The second was the extraordinary object seen at Palalda in southwestern France (department of Pyrenées-Orientales) on April 22, not previously described in this News Letter. The third was the "little-men" report of May 10, at Beaucourt-sur-l'Ancre (department of Seine-et-Oise), north of Paris. (See NL #8, pp. 15-16.)

The stories are noteworthy not only for the events but for the quality of the investigations presented in Ouranos, from which we quote below. Readers who are at home in French are urged to read the original accounts, for the magazine presents sketch maps and photographs, together with a number of other interesting details omitted here for lack of space.

Vins-sur-Caramy - April 14, 1957

Our report in NL #8 was taken from the Nice-Matin of April 20, as reprinted in the Courrier Interplanétaire of May 15, 1957. From the Ouranos account it is clear that the newspaper story was incorrect regarding several aspects of the affair.



The object seen landing on Route D-24 (corresponding to a state highway in the U.S.) was described inexactly by the paper as "a metallic construction, circular in form, 3 ft. high, about 6 ft. in diameter, with a swelling on the upper surface; the witnesses spoke of a 'giant top'; surmounted by antennas resembling radar apparatus." As the sketch shows, the object was conical, with a convex top, and rested on its point. It was about 5 ft. high. From the surface of the cone there projected at right angles many little rods, apparently metallic, which were in rapid vibration.

The object itself made no sound at any time; but as it settled down on the highway, a deafening noise came from a metal road sign about 12" x 30", mounted on a post about 5 yards from the landing spot. This sign shook and vibrated violently, further terrifying the two women who were about 100 yards away - Mme. Rami, wife of the village constable, and her friend Mme. Garcin. (Contrary to the newspaper account, both of the women heard the noise.)

The racket was also heard by M. Jules Boglio, tending his beehives on a hill about 300 yards to the north. Thinking that two cars had collided, he ran toward the highway, and as he ran he saw the object take off. Again there was the loud metallic vibration from the sign. The "cone" swerved eastward, traveling only 15 or 20 feet above the ground, and dropped down again on a dirt road about 200 yards from the place where it had landed the first time. During this brief "hop" it passed above another road sign, which vibrated as noisily as the first. (Note: the Nice-Matin story indicated that the women were on the dirt road when the object appeared first. This is incorrect; they were on the highway.)

The thing then took off again, "pitching from side to side," and flew toward the southeast at moderate speed. The entire affair had lasted about one minute.

Mme. Rami immediately notified her husband, and the constable went to get the police from nearby Brignoles. The two landing spots were examined: on the highway, the ground beside the road seemed to have been violently "swept," as if by a powerful blast of air. On the dirt road the traces were even more conspicuous; the earth was "scoured away" in a circular spot about four feet in diameter.

Three days later Jimmy Guieu, with M. Pierre Ayraud of Radio Monte-Carlo, visited the Brignoles police station as the first step in their investigation. They were shown the official police report on the case - which made it clear that the witnesses were above all suspicion of having perpetrated a hoax. Proceeding to Vins, Guieu

was at first unable to get in touch with the witnesses (by that time they were publicity-shy). Under the skeptical gaze of police, and of a brigadier who insisted that the object was a guided missile, Guieu tested the possibility that the vibration of the signs had been caused by the influence of a magnetic propulsion field. The results were striking.

Guieu first tested his compass at the steel body of his car, which deflected the needle only slightly. He then placed it on the ground exactly where the object had first landed - with no effect on the needle whatever. But as he approached the metal road sign that had vibrated so noisily, the compass showed a deflection of some 15°. The same deflection occurred at the sign above which the object had flown. But a third sign of the same kind, 25 yards from the first landing-spot, did not affect the compass. The second landing-place, in the dirt lane, was also negative; but a 16" iron irrigation culvert, a few feet from the second landing-place, likewise gave a 15° compass deflection.

Back in the village, Guieu found that once the witnesses were convinced that he was not another journalist but a serious researcher they were willing to talk to him. The tape-recorded interview was broadcast that same evening over Radio Monte-Carlo. Guieu states that the case was investigated by the Air Police (equivalent to the ATIC in the United States), but not, as asserted in the Nice paper, by the D.S.T. (equivalent to our FBI).

Beaucourt-sur-l'Ancre, - May 10, 1957

Thanks to Michel's personal inquiries, our account of this case was not based entirely on newspaper stories, and requires little correction. Several additional points from the Ouranos article are of special interest, however. For example, the photographs accompanying the article show plainly how close the road is to the window of the kitchen, from which five, and later six people watched, for half an hour, the red-and-white-lighted "object" and the three silhouettes of the "little men," "standing upright and motionless on the road, their arms hanging at their sides, concealed below thigh-level by the roadbank." (During part of the time the figures moved about, with a "tottering" gait, the witnesses told Michel.)

A second interesting fact is that there was another, anonymous, observer of the scene. While those in the kitchen watched the road, an automobile went past. By its headlights, however, the witnesses continued to get a glimpse of the little men, still motionless by the roadside; the driver of this car must certainly have seen the creatures standing there.

Ouranos also discloses that the official "explanation" of the incident, attributed to M. Châtelain, the mayor of the town - namely, that the "light" was a lantern carried by Mme. Châtelain, and that the "little men" were the cows she had gone into the field across the road to look after - was tested. But the attempt to reproduce what the witnesses saw, by using a lantern in the field, demonstrated that no such confusion was possible. Furthermore, the mayor himself, when interviewed by Marc Thirouin, exhibited embarrassment, emphasized his agreement with other neighbors that the witnesses were "sincere, calm, and logical people," and gave the impression that he felt his original signed statements had been somewhat premature.

Finally, Thirouin obtained an interesting report about the next night (May 11-12) from an elderly couple, the Laines, whose house is only about 20 yards from the landing-place on the road. On the night of May 10 the Laines had been asleep and saw nothing. But about 3 a.m. on the night of May 12 M. Laine saw, from the window of the bedroom, "a big orange light, the size of the full moon, shining in a field about 80 yards away. My wife came to the window and saw it too; a few minutes later the light went out, and since we did not see it come on again we went back to bed."

The curious tarry, elastic "plaques" found on the road, around the circumference of a roughly circular area about 5 yards in diameter, were identified as "asphalt used in road-mending," but no one could suggest how they came to be there. Compass

tests made by Thirouin were less conclusive than those made by Guieu at Vins, since at Beaucourt all the iron stakes along the roadway attracted the needle strongly.

Palalda - April 22, 1957

Since this case has not been described previously in the News Letter, we give below a practically complete translation of Guieu's article in Ouranos about his personal investigation.

On Monday, April 22, at 1 p.m., M. and Mme. Firmin Basou, farmers of Palalda, were in their cabin beside their cherry orchard. Mme. Basou was washing the luncheon dishes when she became aware of an unusual roaring noise outside. She stepped outdoors to see what caused the noise, and saw an enormous vortex of blue and red flame approaching from the north. At an altitude of only ten or fifteen yards above the ground, it was descending toward their vineyard. It had the appearance of a cone of flames, spinning very rapidly but moving forward slowly. Frightened, Mme. Basou called her husband. They watched the flying object together, as it hovered for about a minute at a point 15 feet from the western edge of the field and 15 feet above the ground. The vine shoots near it were violently agitated, and the soil was set spinning in a cloud of dust that seemed to be sucked up toward the object. Throughout, a deafening uproar was emitted. The vortex then resumed its flight southward above the field, but stopped again after traveling 400 yards and hovered 15 to 30 feet above some cherry trees in a hollow, near a bridge. The branches and foliage of these trees were violently whipped about and "bent back and forth in every direction," until it seemed that the limbs would be torn off. The cone then resumed its slow course and "climbed" a hill - keeping about 30 yards above the ground; but at the top of the hill it rose abruptly into the sky and shot away at prodigious speed toward the southwest.

No solid "machine" was discerned by the witnesses - nothing but a conical vortex of red and blue "flame," the point downward, whose diameter at the top was about 15 feet. The size and shape could not be stated precisely, because some of the "flames" emerged in all directions from the whirl, but in general it was conical.

Where the UFO had hovered in the vineyard, the ground was violently swept about and disordered. The vines were not in the least scorched, although the cone had been only 15 feet above them; so probably the "flames" were not ordinary flames but some form of ionization phenomenon.

About five yards west of this stopping-point runs a metal fence in a very bad state of preservation, consisting of an irregular wire mesh strung on rusty iron uprights of T-shaped cross-section, interspersed with wooden posts. The only fencepost showing magnetism was the iron one closest to the stopping-point, which deflected a compass needle by 30°; the effect was noticeable even a foot away from the post. The other iron fenceposts - the nearest of which is five yards from the magnetized post - caused no compass deviation at all. This tends to show that something unusual had affected the one first examined. Neither was there any residual magnetism detectable in the ground. These tests were made in the presence of Messrs. Jacques Verpillot, Ouranos investigator from Marseille, and Paul Jaubert, retired magistrate and Ouranos correspondent for Palalda.

In company with Dr. Marcel Pagès, Ouranos investigator for Pyrenees-Orientales, M. Verpillot and I visited the police station at Amelie-les-Bains and informed them of this sighting, playing the taped interview with the witnesses for them. The gendarmes told us that the Basous enjoy an excellent reputation in the community, but expressed surprise that the incident had not been reported to them in the first place. We explained that this was because the witnesses had feared ridicule; this fear had been disarmed by the scientific character of our investigation. We assured the police that, on our request, the Basous were willing to give them a complete report. On May 21 the police went to the farm to make inquiries.

This incident presents obvious analogies to that of Vins-sur-Caramy, although at Palalda a cone of spinning flames concealed the body of the machine, and it produced a loud noise. However, "flying saucers" are often masked in a "flaming" aureole or a dazzling luminosity, probably an ionization phenomenon.

It should be mentioned that both at Vins and at Palalda the weather was fine; there is therefore no question of invoking "ball lightning," which occurs only during thunderstorms. (This fact also rules out any identification of this object as a small tornado, a phenomenon rarely seen in Europe.—CSI Editors.)

Note

Ouranos follows these three reports with an article by Jean Champbeyrat, engineer, who cautions that it is difficult, without extensive control experiments, to distinguish between an "ordinary" magnetic effect and an "extraordinary" one, since the nature of the steel alloy, its history, and its position will all affect its observed magnetic properties. He says that a vertical iron fencepost will normally show a "south" pole at the top and a "north" pole at the bottom, and points out that some steel alloys are incapable of retaining any magnetic effects.

SAUCER FRAGMENTS

Lee Munsick Leaves NICAP: On October 3 Lee Munsick, the well-known saucer researcher and publisher of UFO Newsletter, reluctantly left the staff of NICAP to become News Director of a radio station in eastern Pennsylvania. Lee's timely assistance to the fledgling NICAP was of inestimable value, and saucer research should be grateful to him for his many months of hard, energetic, and devoted work as right-hand man to Major Keyhoe and Associate Editor of the UFO Investigator. NICAP will sorely miss him.

The President's "Big Saucer Announcement": A good many saucer people we know were more than half convinced, in the first week of November, that the dramatic events of that week must have some sort of behind-the-scenes connection with President Eisenhower's "big" television talk on our rocket program, scheduled for the night of the 7th. They thought Ike might very well unveil some sort of revelation about UFOs. The CSI Research Section didn't share this wishful thinking. We insisted that UFOs are not American (or Russian) secret devices, that it's not true that the Air Force, at top level, is secretly convinced that they're extraterrestrial - and that, consequently, there couldn't be anything to "reveal." Well, November 7th came and went, with no such revelation; we hope the incident will induce people to be more cautious next time.

"Saucer Photos - Made in Holland": Back in January 1955 the Dutch meteorological magazine Hemel en Dampkring published a 16-page discussion by J. J. Raimond, on "Vliegende Schotels." With the aid of Mrs. Mebane, Lex hopefully translated it, but was disappointed to find it entirely worthless, with the exception of its illustrations. Two show the sun glinting on plastic balloons - which unquestionably would look mystifying from a distance. On another page is reproduced Adamski's photograph, which appeared in both his books (titled "Cigar-Shaped Space Craft Releasing Flying Saucers" in the first, and "Mother Ship Releasing Scout Craft" in the second), and on the dust jacket of Inside the Space Ships: six blobs of light and an unexplained diffuse glare superimposed on a dark cigar-shaped silhouette, whose edge shows through one of the blobs supposed to represent a solid, metallic "scout." On the facing page is a photograph of precisely the same sort, even to the diffuse glare, labeled "Vliegende Schotel - Nederlands Fabrikaat," made by K. van der Lely, a photographer of the Delft Laboratory for Technical Physics. There is no doubt that van der Lely has "rediscovered" the method used by Adamski to produce his fake - but, unfortunately, Raimond does not bother to tell us what method this was.

A FLYING SAUCER WAVE IN THE 1930's

The period between Fort and Foo-fighters was one in which sky objects were in eclipse; very few sightings for that period have trickled in, though the Nicholas Roerich sighting of August 5, 1927, and the Los Angeles Object(s) of February 25, 1942, may be cited as examples. However, we learn from Sievers' book Flying Saucer Uber Sudafrika that there was a real UFO "flap" in Scandinavia in 1934. On page 87 we read: "The modern saucer epidemic actually began in 1934, in the Scandinavian countries. In the spring of that year, the Swedish periodicals were full of reports on ghostly light appearances in the skies, which were soon dubbed "ghost airships" (Spokflygaren). These disappearing or hovering lights were seen from the south Norwegian fjords to Finnish Lapland, which caused people to suppose that they came from Russia. Some would have it that this was known for certain, and a pamphlet was published called, "The Ghost Airplanes are Russian Spies." However, the solution to the riddle was never found. The phenomena at that time were the same as those we encounter in today's reports. From the 9 sharp balls of light seen over the snowy landscape by the Stensele policeman, Ture Gustaffson, on New Year's night, 1934, up to the "wandering light, like a dish," seen by the farmer John Norberg of Harnosund on October 9, 1945, it was always saucers, teacups, coins, and discs of light. By the year 1946, the archives of the Swedish General Staff alone contained more than 1000 reports, 10 percent of which were considered unexplainable." Sievers gives as reference an article by E. M. Salzer in the inaccessible German religious magazine Christ & Welt, #6 (January 1955, Stuttgart). Can any Swedish-reading member furnish further information?

VESTIGES OF PRE-VENUSIAN ADAMSKI UNEARTHED

Somehow it never occurred to us to look up "Adamski" in the Public Library, but it occurred to Mr. Don Moore of United Features Syndicate, and he dug up a mildly interesting fossil dating from the pre-contact era. It's a 57-page booklet called "Wisdom of the Masters of the Far East," published in 1936 by "The Royal Order of Tibet" (no address given, but doubtless it was Southern California), and "compiled by Professor G. Adamski." The "Professor" has a short preface in which he states: "The purpose of this book is to enlighten the student or seeker of truth along the many questions oftentimes asked by one. These questions are answered on the basis of Principle which is the foundation back of everything ... The Royal Order of Tibet is interested only in revealing what is thought to be mysteries so that they may be used practically in the present field of life ...," etc. There follows a long series of oracular religio-philosophical replies to such questions as, "If man is perfect how can he sin?" and "What is the truth about God and the Devil?" couched in correct and dignified English; in addition, some are quite competently versified. The author, obviously not Adamski, is not named.

Of course, Adamski nowadays makes no secret of the fact that, in this country at least, he has always been a professional cultist. According to him, this way of life eventually qualified him to be the one chosen by the space people for "contact."

However, it might be noted that nothing at all was said about this aspect of his career in his first publications on saucers in FATE some years ago, where he presented himself as an astronomer. We wonder how many members recall these early saucer photographs of Adamski's? The first, in the September 1950 issue, showed what seemed to be obviously static-electrical spark markings (a not-too-uncommon photographic accident); but the "Professor" (as he still was at that time) declared that he had seen these "objects," and readers and editor had at that time no reason to call him a liar. A more ambitious group of "saucers on the moon" followed (July, 1951), but these came to grief when Lonzo Dove and several other readers pointed out that one showed a "shadow" cast on the moon in a wholly impossible manner (October 1951). These photographs were prudently omitted from Flying Saucers Have Landed.

AN 1892 "GOSSAMER" FALL - AND WHAT THE EXPERTS SAID ABOUT IT

Undoubtedly most UFO students have conjectured that mysterious showers of "gossamer," conventionally considered as spiderweb, may really be identifiable with the "angel hair" that has many times been seen to fall from unidentified aerial objects. (We voiced this idea in an article in Fantastic Universe for September, 1957.) Gossamer showers - like angel hair, a characteristically autumnal phenomenon - are even more frequent than icefalls, although none of these "Fortean falls" can be said to occur really often. If we can justifiably take "gossamer" away from the spiders and give it to the saucers, we thereby annex for the UFO a respectable chunk of pre-1947 evidence. But one hesitates to make the snatch, because the stuff does seem so obviously spiderweb-like, and because spiders do, to some extent, spin aerial threads in autumn.

In the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington, D.C., Vol. 2 (1892), pp. 385-88, we found a gossamer fall that Fort missed, which seems to give us a certain amount of aid and comfort. We present it in condensed form, but essentially verbatim. Dr. George Marx, President of the Society and a distinguished arachnologist, was speaking.

On September 20 (1892) there fell in great quantities in Florida, in localities ten or more miles apart; a substance of which I herewith present a sample.

The postmaster of Gainesville, Florida, writes: "I enclose you something which has created a great deal of curiosity in our community; it was discovered late this afternoon floating in the air or falling from the clouds. People who live at least ten miles apart tell the same story - that it sometimes falls in long strands like spider webs, two and three thousand yards long (sic!—but this can't be correct.—Eds.), then doubled up into strands or wads." Mr. J. O. Andrews, of the same place, states: "...There was first a light rainfall, and during the rain the air appeared filled with this substance, which, coming apparently from the southeast, floated gracefully downward into the trees, on the balconies, and on the ground, in large quantities. Some of it looked like immense white spiderwebs; some had the appearance of a perfect piece of blotting-paper, and some looked like the enclosed." Mr. J. J. Thompson, of Arredondo (about ten miles from Gainesville) states: "For more than two weeks a white substance streaming in long thread-like cobweb has been floating in the air when it was dry (if raining we don't know) over a territory ten or fifteen miles square, and settling on the weeds, cornstalks and trees; in some places great handfuls could be gathered." A Gainesville correspondent writes to our fellow-member Judge L. C. Johnson:

"Of all the curious things in nature the enclosed webs are among the strangest. Yesterday great white sheets were seen floating with the daily showers, resembling large, pure white spiderwebs, some of them fifty yards or more in length. The trees in many places are covered. Near the house some of it extended as an immense web; in other places it rolled up into a ball. To me it seems like the silky down of milkweed (*Asclepias*) or some such plant. This is something for your naturalists."

I have been convinced by a thorough microscopical and chemical examination that it is a product of animal origin. The microscope shows an entire absence of structure: fine slender threads rather spirally contracted, appearing like glass rods under the microscope; not hollow; not the slightest appearance of a cell-wall, which would indicate vegetable nature. Water contracts it, the spirals being shortened and the fibres rendered more opaque.

Chemical examination showed all the characters of animal substance. It burns readily in a flame, so cannot be of mineral origin. Iodine turns it a yellow-brown color. Nitric acid coagulates it, leaving only a small sediment or burned residue. Nitric acid followed by iodine simply gives the brown color of the iodine to this residue; were the substance of vegetable origin, it would take a pronounced blue color. Sulphuric, or phosphoric acid, and iodine likewise give nothing of the appearance of blue. Zinc chloride partially destroys it, and does not produce the violet color which would result were the substance cellulose. It is destroyed or coagulated by hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, and potassium hydroxide. Not one of these reagents destroys vegetable fibres.

The length - hundreds of yards - and the minuteness of individual threads, warrant the opinion that we have before us the product of the spinning glands of a spider, or rather, thousands of spiders.

You know that young spiders are in the habit of availing themselves of their spinning product to migrate from their birthplace by floating through the air to very remote localities; if rain should moisten these weavings, they mat together, and thus become too heavy to float, and fall to the ground.

The species of spider which makes these weavings is of course unknown to me; but they must occur in immense numbers; perhaps they are foreigners to our country and come sailing through the air from the distant shores of the West Indies and Pacific Islands.

In the discussion of Dr. Marx's paper, Prof. Riley (the Society's most eminent member--Eds.) stated that before the chemical tests, he had been inclined to consider this substance as milkweed silk; spiders' silk when collected in quantities presented an appearance quite different from the substance exhibited by Dr. Marx. (These italics and those below ours--Eds.)

Mr. Schwarz (one of the Society's founding members--Eds.) said that if the substance was spiders' web it must have greatly changed by long exposure to atmospheric influences ... and suggested that it came either from Asia or Europe (! -- Eds.), where gossamer spiders were much more numerous than in North America.

Dr. Marx, in reply, emphasized the fact that upon chemical examination the substance was found to contain no cellulose; hence it could not be of a vegetable nature. He was inclined, therefore (and obviously only for this reason!--Eds.) to consider it as spider's web - although no remnants of spiders had been found adhering to it.

The absence of spiders is usual in gossamer falls, but the reluctance of experts to believe that the substance before them was spiderweb is unusual, and highly significant. It is evident that Dr. Marx accepted it as such solely out of the assumption that a non-cellulose, structureless fibre had to be spiderweb.

Compare with this the following, from the quarterly journal of CSI of New Zealand (Harold Fulton, editor) for Sept.-Dec. 1956, quoting the Bournemouth (Australia) Echo, July 10, 1956: "Web-Like Threads Puzzle Scientists.--Millions of white web-like threads drifting through Melbourne's seaside suburbs hang from lines and wires, stick to cars and clothes, catch in trees - and vanish in a few hours. Six scientists of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organization have studied the threads. Said one of them: "It's not wool, it's not cotton, it doesn't come from feathers, it's not cellulose fibre, and it doesn't look like a synthetic fibre." Some of them are thinking in terms of webs of spiders yet to be identified; but, as the threads have a melting quality, they are further puzzled." This "melting quality," a rare detail in gossamer reports, is of course a strong further indication of a close connection with the usually-fugitive angel hair. The time of year violates our generalization, but since July in Australia is midwinter, it is, at least, not very favorable to the spider theory.

GOSSAMER FALL HERALDS SAUCER WAVE

In view of the good evidence in the preceding item that "gossamer" may properly be identified with angel hair - or, at least, may not properly be identified with spider web - it may be significant that a typical gossamer fall occurred at Portales, New Mexico, on October 23-24, 1957. Levelland, Texas, the scene of UFO landings ten days later, is only 66 miles southeast of Portales - a remarkable coincidence, if it is a coincidence. (Aimé Michel writes that the great European landing wave of late 1954 was likewise ushered in by angel-hair falls.) Our source for the details is the Portales News-Tribune, October 24, 25, 27:

The cobwebby strands, "apparently falling from a great height" and up to 50 feet long, began to fall west of Portales in the late afternoon of the 23rd, and by the next morning were drifting down on Portales itself. Characteristically, they fell in enormous quantities, "a lot heavier south of here than in Portales ... all the way to Hobbs" (110 miles south of Portales). Most likely it was falling also at Levelland, which is closer to Portales than Hobbs is. It was found not to be radioactive. Apparently, not a soul had ever heard of gossamer falls, and an extraordinarily ridiculous theory was propounded by an anonymous "engineer at the Sandia Base at Albuquerque," who declared that the threads were composed of "atmospheric dust" matted together in strands by a static electricity charge. This "explanation" was syndicated by AP all over the country. Eventually, however, someone was found who knew that gossamer is supposed to be spider web: "Dr. William Kister, University of New Mexico biologist, offered the spider-web explanation tentatively, without examining the material." The News-Tribune editors went to the library, found that the books said the same thing, and happily published a story (Oct. 27), with the flat headline, "Gossamer Shower Due to Spiders." The only corroboration: "Airmen at Cannon Air Force Base reported they found tiny spiders attached to the silken threads." (No one in Portales had noticed anything of the sort, and we doubt very much that this "report" is accurate.) The AP syndicated this explanation across the country, and ten days later, in precisely the same area, the November saucer-landing wave erupted.

PUBLICATIONS

Icefall Coverage in Newspapers: The Philadelphia Bulletin published three informative articles on the Pennsylvania icefalls (NL #9): "CAA Studies Flying Ice Mystery" (9/15); "CAA Prober Picks Up Data" (9/22); and "CAA Admits It's Stumped" (10/17). Martha Martin of the N.Y. News, using these and other sources, produced an excellent illustrated double-page spread on the subject in the Sunday News of Oct. 27. However, for what we consider the best review yet on the whole subject of icefalls, past and present, you must wait for CSI's article in the April issue of Fantastic Universe (advt.). ... Frank Edwards's Article, "How to Fake a Saucer," in the December FATE, is amusing and sagacious, probably the best thing he's done for FATE so far. It's the sort of article we'd like to have written ourselves, but we couldn't have matched Frank's light touch. We hear he has another book in preparation; CSI member Harold Salkin is helping put it together. ... Willy Ley, Of All People, Gives Aid and Comfort to the Contactists: In a recent article in This Week (N.Y. Herald-Tribune), rocket authority Ley, who has consistently maintained that saucers are probably some unknown natural phenomenon, explains why we should expect that intelligent extraterrestrials who may land on this earth (not that he thinks any have landed) will look very much like human beings. Of course he doesn't realize that his article will be seized upon as gospel by the believers in Adamski-type "spacemen." ... Newspaper Honors to Arthur Edson of the AP, author of an excellent article on UFOs. We read it first in the Newark, N.J., Star-Ledger of Nov. 17, entitled "Flying Saucer Legend Survives AF's Shower of Cold Water." It is refreshingly well-balanced. Mr. Edson is evidently quite able to grasp the fact that only some saucer believers are lunatic fringe; that there is a huge body of reports from reliable observers; and that NICAP exists and functions on a high level of responsibility. He is even able to distinguish between Air Force "fact sheets" and facts. More stories like this one would go far to cure us of our jaundiced view of the national press.

More About the Release of Project Blue Book Special Report #14

Dr. Davidson showed us the record of the Moss Subcommittee's inquiry which led to the lifting of an illegitimate censorship from this report. We found it a fascinating document, and though it is now almost a year old, it seems worth while to reprint, for the edification of CSI members, some of these illuminating exchanges in which General Kinney was grilled on Air Force double-talk. We quote (with some abbreviations) from the Government Printing Office publication, "Availability of Information from Federal Departments and Agencies - Part 7 - Department of Defense, Second Section," pp. 1941-1945 and 2002-2005. The date was November 15, 1956, and Brigadier General Andrew J. Kinney, the Air Force's Director of Information Services, was being questioned by Rep. Moss (D., Cal.), chairman of the subcommittee, and his chief counsel, John Mitchell.

Mr. MITCHELL: General Kinney, the subcommittee has a series of letters concerning a subject matter known as "Unidentified aerial objects (so-called flying saucers)." These will be placed in the record (Exhibit XIV, pp. 2002-2005). General Kinney, can you explain to the subcommittee the whole purpose of the withholding of the information from Dr. Leon Davidson? He was told in a letter from the Air Force dated November 1st ^{1/} that the subject matter was classified for official use only, yet the subcommittee had been told there was no classification of any kind on the document.

Gen. KINNEY: The production of this Blue Book is an expensive proposition. I am told the copies come to about \$15.00 each. It was determined, therefore, not to make a very large number of these books up, and therefore not to make the full report available to any and all who might ask for it.

However, there have been copies of this book in our New York offices, in the Pentagon Building, and in our Los Angeles offices available to anyone who wished to come and look at them, photograph them, copy them, or whatever.^{2/}

The letter of November 1 can best be explained as a goof. It was not correct when it was written, and had I known, I would have stopped it. I have since written Dr. Davidson explaining the matter and stating we cannot undertake to furnish this very voluminous thing, which is several inches thick and quite complicated in construction,^{3/} at Air Force expense for use in commercial enterprises, publication of a book, or whatever purpose.

Rep. Dante FASCELL (D., Fla.): When Dr. Davidson was notified that this was "classified for official use only," what you were actually trying to do was avoid making this voluminous report available generally?

^{1/} Text of this letter: "Dear Dr. Davidson: The Secretary of the Air Force has asked this office to reply to your letter of October 24 concerning publishing an analysis of Project Blue Book Special Report #14. The special report continues to carry a classification of 'For official use only,' which prohibits its dissemination (sic) to the general public. Therefore, you are readvised that the Air Force does not sanction the reproduction of this report either in part or in its entirety by private individuals. No further comment on your proposal to do an analysis of the report is offered at this time.--Sincerely, Andrew J. Wood, Major, USAF, Executive Officer, Public Information Division."

Dr. Davidson immediately sent this letter to Rep. Moss, pointing out that it flatly contradicted Quarles' letter of July 5, 1956, to Moss in which Quarles stated: "The Air Force has no intention of withholding this information from the public."

^{2/} This statement by Gen. Kinney was not true, at least as regards the New York copy: Col. Day there expressly forbade us to copy from it when we originally requested permission to do so.--CSI eds.

^{3/} The report is somewhat over an inch thick, and spiral-bound. Most of the bulk is contributed (designedly, it would seem) by the very numerous and largely worthless tables. Davidson reproduces the whole text, all important graphs, and a very few of the most important tables, in 84 pages, about 3/16" thick.

Gen. KINNEY: Yes, sir.

Rep. FASCELL: We run into many instances where, rather than explaining what this man should have been explained in the first instance, it is easier just to say, "This is classified for general use." That is the attitude that might lead to difficulty.

I can understand your hesitancy to distribute generally a report that is several inches thick. But might you not make a copy of the summary available to anyone who is interested?

Gen. KINNEY: We did that.

Rep. FASCELL: The case histories, which I believe were about 12, could very easily be made available and subject to anyone's interpretation free and independent of the interpretation placed on them by the Air Force?

Gen. KINNEY: That is quite right.

Rep. FASCELL: That has not been done?

Gen. KINNEY: No. The only general distribution has been of the summary containing the conclusion of the Air Force, with a press release that went out explaining the summary.

Mr. MITCHELL: General Kinney, in your reply to Dr. Davidson, which we have not yet had a copy of, ^{4/} did I hear you correctly that you told him he could go in the New York office and photostat this report or make a copy of it?

Gen. KINNEY: Let me correct myself. I do not think we used exactly those words. I told him the full report was available in those three places, and access to it had never been denied to anyone.

Mr. MITCHELL: He already knew the report was there. To be more specific, is he not requesting permission to reproduce this on a nonprofit basis, and did he not assure Secretary Quarles that he could go into his books on accountability and if there was any profit it would be turned over to the Treasury?

Gen. KINNEY: That is my understanding, that he intended to reproduce part of the report or the whole report at his expense, which we had no objection to his doing. The only question was, who gives him the report? If he wishes to go to New York, and photostat or photograph it and then use it in his production, he is free to do so.

Mr. MITCHELL: Reading from Secretary Quarles' letter of July 5 to the chairman: "In rare cases of obvious need, a copy of the report is made available on loan for reproduction. As an example, one State university has requested and been granted permission to reproduce this report at their own expense." --- There is a curious phrase there.

Gen. KINNEY: If I may explain that, what Mr. Quarles had in mind, I believe, was the difference between the efforts of a private individual engaged in a venture that he expected to receive a personal return from, and the merits of the case of a university which would make it available to a larger number of people.

Mr. MITCHELL: You already have written assurances from Dr. Davidson that he has no intention of making a profit.

Gen. KINNEY: My point is simply as between an individual and a university.

^{4/} Because it was dated Nov. 15; apparently it was written just before (perhaps just after) Gen. Kinney's appearance before the subcommittee. It stated: "We did not distribute the report because the cost was prohibitive. While the Air Force has never denied anyone access to the above-mentioned locations for the purpose of either reading or copying the report, we have not felt justified to expend public funds to assist in commercial reproduction of the report. I trust this serves to make clear the position of the Air Force."

DR. CLYDE TOMBAUGH PROVIDES DETAILS OF HIS OWN FAMOUS SIGHTING

We take it for granted that few of our members need to be reminded that Dr. Tombaugh, the celebrated astronomer who discovered the planet Pluto in 1930, has more recently conducted a search for small satellites of the earth, using methods similar to those used later by Moonwatch. He found none; but this was in 1954-55, pre-Sputnik by at least two years. Since his famous 1949 UFO sighting he has been quite outspoken in his public endorsement of the reality of UFOs - and it requires courage for an astronomer to take this stand.

For the privilege of printing the following first-hand description of his sighting we thank Richard Hall, who wrote to Dr. Tombaugh earlier this year. It would have been printed in Satellite if that excellent magazine had continued to appear.

"I saw the object about 11 o'clock one night in August, 1949, from the back yard of my home in Las Cruces, New Mexico. I happened to be looking at the zenith, admiring the beautiful transparent sky of stars, when suddenly I spied a geometrical group of faint bluish-green rectangles of light similar to the 'Lubbock lights.' My wife and her mother were sitting in the yard with me and they saw them also. As the group moved south-southeasterly, the individual rectangles became foreshortened, their space of formation smaller (at first it was about one degree across, twice the diameter of the full moon), and their intensity duller, fading from view at about 35 degrees above the horizon. Total time of visibility was about three seconds. I was too flabbergasted to count the number of rectangles of light, or to note some other features I wondered about later. There was no sound. I have done thousands of hours of night sky watching, but never saw a sight so strange as this. The rectangles of light were of low luminosity; had there been a full moon in the sky, I am sure they would not have been visible."

Dick Hall also asked Dr. Tombaugh whether he had any comments on Menzel's far-fetched theory that what he had seen was lights on the ground, reflected in some way from a layer of air in the sky. On September 10, 1957, Dr. Tombaugh replied:

"Regarding the solidity of the phenomenon I saw: My wife thought she saw a faint connecting glow across the structure. The illuminated rectangles I saw did maintain an exactly fixed position with respect to each other, which would tend to support the impression of solidity. I doubt that the phenomenon was any terrestrial reflection, because in that case some similarity to it should have appeared many times. I do a great deal of observing (both telescopic and unaided-eye) in the back yard and nothing of the kind has ever appeared before or since."

Dr. Tombaugh added that since this is all he is able to furnish, either in observational details or interpretation, he hopes that other saucer researchers will be kind enough to refrain from addressing further inquiries to him about this sighting.

TOP NAMES ON "CLETE ROBERTS' SPECIAL REPORT," NOVEMBER 17, STATION KNXT

During the November sighting wave, hundreds of radio and TV programs must have mentioned saucers. CSI member Viviane Machu of Los Angeles has kindly sent us her notes on the above TV program, particularly interesting because of the standing of the men interviewed. After quoting at some length from the Air Force report of November 15 (see pp. 6-7), Roberts interviewed Ed Ruppelt, Al Chop, William Lear, Gerald Heard, and Arthur C. Clarke. Ruppelt did not commit himself as to what saucers are; Clarke (known to be a skeptic) appears to have admitted the possibility of other beings superior to man, whose existence has been so short. The other three men came out for the extraterrestrial origin of UFOs. The final guest was Richard Barthal, psychologist at UCLA. He began by saying that "People want to see things." But when Roberts asked him what he thought of sightings by pilots, radar, and the like, Barthal replied, "These are the sightings that make us think."

A FORMATION OF 150 ROARING UFOs IN THE PACIFIC IN 1942

The following letter was sent to the editor of Fantastic Universe, who forwarded it to CSI. We reprint it verbatim.

"I want to thank you for clarifying a mystery that's been plaguing me for the past 15 years. Heretofore, I have always understood that the UFO's flew in silence. Since reading your article on 'Saucer Sounds,' however, (F.U. November 1957) I feel I have reason to believe I saw a huge formation of 'Flying Saucers.' At the time of the sighting, I thought they were a formation of silvery, high-flying Japanese planes.

"The sighting occurred on August 12, 1942, about 10 in the morning while I was in bivouac with my squad on the island of Tulagi in the Southern Solomons, west of Guadalcanal. It was a bright tropical morning with high banks of white, fleecy clouds. I was cleaning my rifle on the edge of my foxhole, when suddenly the air raid warning was sounded. There had been no 'Condition Red.' I immediately dove into my foxhole, with my back to the ground and my face turned up to the sky. I heard the formation before I saw it. Even then, I was puzzled by the sound. It was a mighty roaring sound that seemed to echo gloriously in the heavens. It didn't sound at all like the high-pitched 'sewing-machine' drone of the Jap formations. A few seconds later, I saw the formation of silvery objects directly overhead.

"At the time, I was in a highly overwrought state; it was my fifth day in combat with the Marines. It was quite easy to mistake anything in the air for Jap planes, which is what I thought these objects were. They were flying very high above the clouds, too high for a bombing run on our little island. Someone shouted in a nearby foxhole that they were Jap planes searching for our fleet. I accepted this explanation, but with a few reservations. First, the formation was huge, I would say over a hundred and fifty objects were in it. Instead of the usual tight V of 25 planes, this formation was in straight, majestic lines of 10 or 12 objects, each behind the other. The speed was a little faster than Jap planes, and they were soon out of sight. A few other things that puzzled me: I couldn't seem to make out any wings or tails. They seemed to wobble slightly, and every time they wobbled they would shimmer brightly from the sun. Their color was like highly polished silver. No bombs were dropped, of course. All in all, it was the most awe-inspiring and yet frightening spectacle I have beheld in my life. The formation looked like this:

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Sincerely,
 Stephen J. Brickner
 ex-Co. A, 1st Para. Bn.
 1st Marine Div., U.S.M.C."

Editors' Note: The large number of objects, the strict formation, and the great volume of sound make this reported sighting highly unusual. Perhaps the most significant detail is that "wobble" - which has been mentioned by so many observers that it is almost the trademark of a UFO. Note, incidentally, that no terrestrial aircraft in good health would move with a repeated wobble.

Steps To The Stars, by Daniel W. Fry. (Understanding Pub. Co., 1956; 83 pp. \$2.50.)

This attractively-produced cloth-bound booklet, published by the author, purports to be an exposition of some of the new principles of physics taught him by his space friends. "Most of those persons who have established contact with beings from other worlds have, as a result of this contact, received, among other things, certain somewhat advanced concepts of the physical science." This is the closest the prudent Fry ever comes to making any explicit or unequivocal claim that his statements are of heavenly origin--a careful avoidance of definite commitment that is characteristic of the author. But his enthusiastic disciple Gavin Gibbons, presumably with Fry's consent, has not hesitated to reprint virtually the entire text of "Steps To The Stars" in the form of a direct quotation from Fry's space crony "A-Lan" (see NL #9, p. 23.)

"It will be interesting and perhaps helpful to consider and discuss the basic physical concepts necessary for the construction and operation of a true space vehicle" (p. 21.) However, Fry coyly adds, "those who hope to find herein a blueprint for the construction of a space ship may be disappointed"--because "I have no desire to accept the responsibility which will devolve upon the individual who first builds one." At the end (p. 81) he expansively announces: "Having resolved the misinterpretation of our mathematics, the job of the theoretical physicist is done. The next move is up to the practicing physicist and to the engineer."

What Fry has done in the sixty intervening pages to justify this grandiose claim is undeniably a well-executed piece of mountebankery. He has tossed back and forth a salad of physical terms and impressive-sounding dicta with an air of confident authority. The awestruck layman can be counted on to be so far out of his depth that he is quite unable to say whether Fry has indeed "resolved the misinterpretation of our mathematics" and "done the job of the theoretical physicist" or not. All he can honestly say is that Fry certainly gave the impression of knowing what he was talking about. And of course those who do not understand what he has said are at liberty to suppose that he has said something profound, even though they cannot explain just what it is.

Like many intelligent self-taught men, Fry has picked up a smattering of physics sufficient for him to formulate science-fictionish, or crankish, speculations--which, unlike most men, he sees fit to dress up in the robes of Revealed Truth. To expose all his fallacies would call for a physicist as reviewer; we can only point out a few tell-tale instances.

"The term velocity has no significance except as an observed kinetic energy differential": this absurd statement occurs on p. 61. It is made in order to justify the following assertions about c (the velocity of light): "The velocity c represents the greatest kinetic energy differential which can exist between two given reference points" (p. 27); "the quantity c is actually the kinetic energy equivalent of the mass energy of matter" (p. 26, followed by a fallacious assertion about mass-energy conversion "which can easily be verified by anyone who is mathematically inclined.") Clearly, to call c an "energy" (or energy differential), rather than a "velocity", is a pet notion of Fry's; yet such a use of words is entirely inadmissible. Velocity, as defined in physics, has the dimensionality "v", and energy has the dimensionality "mv²"--that is, energy is proportional to mass, while velocity is independent of mass. Only a person who does not understand what he is talking about--or who cynically thinks he can get away with it--would propose to equate the two terms.

Fry goes cheerfully on to compound the confusion. Having illegitimately imported the impressive-sounding word "energy", he converts it by Planck's equation into the even more crank-beloved term "frequency": "We can now see that a frequency differential which by Planck's formula is equal to 9×10^{20} ergs per gram (c²: Ed.) also represents the quantity c. When such a frequency differential exists between the observer and the point which he is observing, such as a spacecraft upon or near the surface of the earth, it would cease to exist as matter and would enter the plane of energy insofar as the observer on earth was concerned" (pp. 62-63.) This idea that a material object, considered as a whole, possesses a "frequency" is one that has long been dear

to the hearts of cranks of all kinds, who are unaware of the fact that it has no physical meaning whatsoever.

Fry (or A-Lan) also has some notions about gravitation that deserve comment. He asserts flatly that an electron, though it possesses inertial mass, "is not in the least affected" by gravitation (p. 46); which is untrue. He asserts that nuclear fission reactions, such as that of uranium, are due to a mysterious reversal of gravitation in unstable nuclei; which is not only untrue, but absurd, since gravitational forces in the nucleus are known to be negligibly weak compared to the nuclear binding forces. He asserts also that at very great distances the force of gravitation becomes negative--which is not provably false, though improbable--and jumps from this to the conclusion that therefore gravitation can be reversed (in his pretentious language, "the spaceship can be placed within the negative portion of the curve") at any distance one pleases. Of course, he does not indicate how this is to be done. ("When we acquire a better understanding of the laws...the pattern for the modulation of the gravitational curve will soon become self evident.") And on pp. 41-42 he draws a false analogy between the gravitational field (which is unipolar) and the magnetic field (which is bipolar), again showing his failure to grasp essential distinctions.

Fry thinks that "any physicist will agree" that light has mass, and that therefore any beam of light disproves Einstein's conclusion that infinite energy is required to accelerate a mass to the speed of light (p. 50.) It would appear from this that our author's acquaintance with physicists is as slight as his acquaintance with physics.

Chapters 5 and 6 represent Fry's attempt to demonstrate the error of Einstein's theory of special relativity (the speed-of-light restriction); but since he does not understand what he is undertaking to criticize, a royal mess results. The imaginary spaceship experiment described at great length on pp. 69-77 begs the question by simply taking it for granted that there is no difficulty about going faster than light, and ignoring relativistic effects throughout; it reads like a science-fiction story of the '20s, before s-f writers were expected to know about the Lorentz-Fitzgerald contraction.

At the end of his performance, Fry adds insult to injury by recommending Keyhoe's book "The Great Saucer Conspiracy" (sic!)

It should not be thought that we take Fry lightly. He is undoubtedly the most dangerous, because the most sophisticated, of the "contact" claimants now in business. His book of pseudo-science is ably and plausibly, though pompously, written, and contains many perfectly true statements and some acute comments, along with its false and fallacious allegations. It shows lack of education, and of course it shows lack of honesty, but it does not show lack of intelligence. Probably three out of four of its readers will be unable to discover anything definitely fishy about it--which is more than can be said for the more transparent fictions of Adamski, Angelucci, Bethurum, Van Tassel, or Buck Nelson. In this sense, Mr. Fry deserves to be congratulated: his new book will doubtless serve him well for the purpose for which it was intended.

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Fads and Fallacies, by Martin Gardner. (Dover, 1957; 363 pp. \$1.50, paperbound.)

This is Gardner's 1952 book, In The Name Of Science, reissued by Dover with notes and comments on each chapter to bring it up to date. It's a treasury of cranks, crackpots, and pseudo-scientists, and it's extremely amusing--as well as decidedly valuable and pertinent. All saucer students ought to be familiar with the earmarks of the crank. But watch out for your blood pressure! You'll find that Mr. Gardner isn't too discriminating. To him, UFOs--like dowsing, general semantics, and parapsychology--are just one more "mania."

We hope Mr. Gardner won't mind if we quote from his friendly postcard of October 22 to Lex Mebane: "...Would you care to go on record by stating a future date (1960? 1967? 1977?) at which you will be willing to agree with my original chapter and call the whole thing a mass mania, if no evidence stronger than just someone's visual report has turned up by then?"

Well, that's Martin Gardner as of 1957--unchanged since 1952.

WHO "DISCOVERED SPACE ANIMALS"?

After we'd written an article for the September Fantastic Universe suggesting that "angel hair" might be interpreted as organic tissues cast off by stratospheric creatures, we began to wonder who was the first to think of UFOs as animals. Consultation of our non-too-complete records showed, as usual, independent "discovery" (or "invention") of the idea by several people. Ivan Sanderson, probably its most eminent advocate nowadays, was principally influenced by the detailed exposition of Countess Zoë Wassilko-Serecki (published in this country in American Astrology, September 1955). This theory postulated ionospheric, energy-feeding, quasi-electrical entities. In Paris-Montparnasse, Summer 1954, French engineer Rene Fouéré had published a somewhat different hypothesis, conceived in late 1953 (and since abandoned in favor of the spaceship interpretation): that the UFOs were "disc-beings" able to live and move in interplanetary space (see the English translation in Uranus, February 1955). Quite independently, Commander Walter Karig had remarked, in American Weekly (November 22, 1953), that the behavior of UFOs was more suggestive of "puppies" than of spaceships.

Desmond Leslie, in his noteworthy, though badly flawed book of 1953, played with the thought that the cylindrical UFO of Oloron-Gaillac might have been a "huge living thing" which its escorting saucers "had just captured in some backwater of the atmosphere" (Flying Saucers Have Landed, p. 138). He even suggested that the angel hair that fell was organic matter related to ectoplasm. (Leslie thought it had fallen from the cylinder, but actually, it fell from the "saucer" objects, which Leslie takes for granted were space vehicles.)

Going further back, "I believe that the small saucers are the beings themselves" (David W. Chase in FATE, January 1951). This prompted veteran saucer researcher John Philip Bessor to put in a claim to priority on the conception: "The saucers are a sort of 'poltergeist-animal' capable of materialization, which normally inhabit the stratosphere ... I presented this theory to the USAF July 7, 1947" (FATE, May-June 1951). Some time during this period, too (we don't have definite references), the idea was first publicly advanced by pioneer saucer investigator Kenneth Arnold, and by an unidentified "top biologist" (FATE, April 1953, p. 9). In Project Sign's thoughtful essay released by the Air Force April 27, 1949, the authors remark that "the possible existence of some sort of strange extraterrestrial animals has been remotely considered, as many of the objects described acted more like animals than anything else." Who suggested this isn't stated, but aeronautical engineer Alfred Loedding, who says he was "the civilian head of the first Air Force investigation" in 1947, has stated, "I suspect that they may be a kind of space animal" (Trenton, N.J., Times-Advertiser, October 10, 1954). And in 1948 the famed physicist Luis W. Alvarez had remarked that radar "angels" or "gizmos" appeared to be "alive" (quoted by Wesley Price, Saturday Evening Post, March 6, 1948).

In prehistoric times (i.e., pre-1947), the idea was already an old one in science fiction; see, for example, Raymond Gallun's "The Beast of the Void" (Astounding, 1936: free-space life) and Eric Frank Russell's famous "Sinister Barrier" (Unknown, March 1939: ionospheric energy-feeding entities). Russell acknowledges his debt to—who but Charles Fort? We see once again that old Papa Fort had thought of all these things before half of us were born. See Chapter 16 of The Book of the Damned (1919): "hosts of rotund tourists in interplanetary space," etc.; Chapters 10 and 14 of Lo! (1931): "Unknown luminous things, or beings, have often been seen," etc.; Chapter 17 of New Lands (1923): "It seems no more incredible that up in the seemingly unoccupied sky there should be hosts of living things than that the seeming blank of the ocean should swarm with life."

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P.S. This brief review is doubtless quite incomplete; readers can do us a favor by bringing to our attention any important "space-animal" theorists we have overlooked.

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