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SKYLOOK

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With the Editor - "A Time to Work."

Dr. Hynek to Lecture in St. Louis

Many Missouri UFO Reports

Car Rises from Highway as UFO Passes Overhead

The Astronomy Corner

Saucer Landing Reported in Alabama

Strange Blue Ice Falls from Sky

Oregon Youth Watches Object Plunge Earthward

North, South, East and West of the U. S. A.

In Others' Words

With Other Writers

Midwest Organization Reports

Other Reports

"We tell it as it is."

With the Editor

AIR FORCE GOING OUT OF UFO BUSINESS says "Tulsa Daily World," Dec. 18th
FLYING SAUCER BELIEVERS UNMOVED BY END OF AIR FORCE PROBE says "Tulsa
Daily World," Dec. 19th (1969).

Secretary of the Air Force Robert C. Seamans Jr. announced Wednesday (Dec. 17) that project Blue Book, the Air Force agency which kept voluminous files on reported sightings of unidentified flying objects, is being closed immediately.

He sent the chief of staff, Gen. John D. Ryan, a memorandum saying Project Blue Book "cannot be justified either on the ground of national security or in the interest of science."

Since 1947 to the present, the Air Force has received reports of 12,618 UFO sightings. Of these, 701 went into the books as unidentified.

Briefly, the above is the crux of the first Associated Press report, with the Condon Report quoted as justification for dropping the study. Dr. Condon's opinions are too well known to all our readers to need another rehash, so we won't waste our time and yours.

The second story opens: "Twenty-two years ago, a businessman-pilot reported nine strange moving objects over Mt. Ranier, touching off the 'flying saucer' era in the United States." It goes on to state that the government closing its investigation "isn't likely to change anyone's mind about UFOs, pro or con."

The usual explanations are given to account for unidentified flying objects--reflections, distant planes, balloons, kites, clouds, stars, planets, fireballs, the moon (!) and so on. You've read them all time and again.

Air Force headquarters will continue to handle requests for information from the public, the first article states, and suggests you call the local air base to determine if the base has seen and identified the UFO you have observed.

It will be interesting to see if the Air Force will now lift the iron curtain from classified reports which have not been released to the public. If not--then WHY not?

Most timely is the following from an article written for SKYLOOK by Brian C. Cannon, Canadian investigator and writer, BEFORE the above announcements:

A Time To Work

It seems quite clear, at this point, that the UFO phenomenon is very much alive. There is little doubt that UFOs are still active in our atmosphere and reports are again beginning to flow in to the UFO organizations and the news media. (Editor's note: we have omitted his first paragraph re the Condon Report.) This fact alone is significant and indicates that SOMETHING is being seen by countless numbers of persons--something that is tangible, machine-like and totally unconventional.

(continued on next page)

It is almost a paradox that many scientists are now taking a stand on this mystifying subject. The Colorado Report has served a real purpose in stimulating a knowledgeable debate which, heretofore, most scientists chose to ignore. In Canada, UFO research is out of the hands of the government defence agencies and is being handled by the National Research Council, a scientific body supported by public money. Similarly there is a strong indication that with the retiring of Major Hector Quintalla, Project Bluebook will expire and the U. S. Airforce will divorce itself of the responsibility of investigating UFO cases. Now, every UFO group has a real opportunity - yes, even an obligation - to get down to the business at hand! It is time to direct all of our attention to the gathering of UFO data and to a method of cooperation in attempting to find the solution to the UFO mystery.

On December 26 and 27, 1969, there will be a symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects in Boston, Mass. and no less than 16 scientists will be participating in the discussions. The purpose of the symposium is " . . . to demonstrate the application of scientific methodology to a contemporary controversy, and to acquaint scientists with the wide variety of facts and interpretations." In spite of the Colorado study, scientists are still interested in the fact that UFOs, and reports of strange aerial craft still exist. UFO study groups and organizations have a part in gathering the information resulting from thousands of sightings that occur each year. It is indeed "a time to work." (End of Mr. Cannon's article)

We can't improve on that--so let's get busy.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek to Speak in St. Louis, Jan. 22nd

Mr. John C. Preisack, Assistant Director at the McDonnell Planetarium in St. Louis and APRO investigator, informs us the date has been set for Dr. J. Allen Hynek, of Northwestern University, to speak in St. Louis.

Dr. Hynek will speak on "UFO's" at the Planetarium on January 22nd, 8 PM and there will be an admission charge of \$1.50. Tickets may be purchased in advance by sending money orders payable to the McDonnell Planetarium and to: McDonnell Planetarium, 5100 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Mo., 63110.

Dr. Robert M. Walker, of Washington University" will make a "Report on Moonsamples" on Feb. 18th (this date tentative) and there will be a dollar admission charge. You are urged to get your requests for tickets in before Jan. 12, for Dr. Hynek's lecture, and by Feb. 4th for Dr. Walker's report. Only 400 can be seated, and both lectures are expected to be sell out's. 8 PM

Dr. Hynek, director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center, Evanston, Ill., was one of the speakers to address more than 330 Oregon science teachers attending a conference at the Lewis and Clark College early in December and the Oregon Journal (Dec. 10) quotes him: "It is important to continue the scientific studies of UFOs. It is the duty of scientists to document, observe and examine all data, not shove it under the carpet."

(Thanks, Leo V. Bartsch, Coos Bay, Ore., for news clipping.)

Old Year Goes Out with Many Missouri UFO Reports Coming In

MARSHALL. A cigar-shaped object was seen by a Marshall, Mo., couple Sept. 26, 1969, and a good description was given to Ted Phillips, of Sedalia, who interviewed Mr. Jones (not the real name) recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones were returning to Marshall from Columbia, Mo., on Interstate 70, heading west, and had just passed the last Boonville exit when Mrs. Jones saw the object. It appeared as a fairly bright, reddish light some 5 degrees above the horizon and right down the middle of the highway. It did not seem to be moving at first and Mr. Jones thought it might be a tower light. As both continued to watch, Jones noted it was not flashing as a tower light does.

At this point, they were driving towards the object at about 65 miles per hour and it seemed to be approaching in a level flight with no vertical motion. In less than a minute, it was apparent to the young couple that the object was not an aircraft or any familiar object, and they pulled off the highway to watch as the object passed slowly overhead to the east.

Jones described the object as being cigar shaped with a blunt nose which glowed a bright red, while the object as a whole was "much like a bright, white light as seen through red plastic." There were no visible lights on the object, but as it passed directly overhead, a "bright area" was visible on the rear section which seemed to be an exhaust of some sort. It also glowed red, Jones said, and there seemed to be sparks or particles reflecting the exhaust glow coming from the inside of the rear opening. These sparks or particles did not trail the object, and there was no trail from the exhaust glow or flame. The rear glow was unlike the nose glow in that it changed in brightness, Jones said. It appeared to come and go and move around inside the rear of the object, much like looking down the exhaust of a jet aircraft. There was no sound from the object at any time.

It was a clear night. The nose section appeared to be the apparent size of the full moon, Jones explained, while the entire length of the object would have been about four times that of the full moon's width. An orange held at arm's length would have just covered the object which was in sight for about two minutes before it passed overhead and about one minute afterward. It was still visible, moving east over the highway as they left the area.

There was a highway patrolman and Jones was sure he had also seen the object, but on contacting the patrol office, Jones was told there had been no report made. A brief account of the sighting was given in the Marshall "Democrat-News."

Until the two observed this unidentified object, Mr. Jones had no interest in UFOs, altho his wife had some interest in the subject.

CLARKSBURG. Another sighting was investigated by SKYLOOK's reporter, Ted Phillips, and this one occurred Nov. 22, 1969, and was witnessed by

(Continued on next page)

at least eight people south of Clarksburg, Mo.

The sun had just set and the western sky still had the reddish cast of twilight. A full moon was visible some 20 degrees above the southeastern horizon, but only the brightest stars could be seen due to the moon's glow.

The strange object in the sky was first sighted by four children, ages 14, 12 and 11, who were outside removing some garments from a clothes line. They ran into the house and four adults present (who do not wish their names used) ran outside to observe the object. It appeared as two bright, yellow lights with a dark area of separation visible between.

The lights did not pulsate, dim or brighten and there was no sound. The object was about 10 degrees above the east-northeast horizon, and remained motionless for about 10 minutes. One of the observers checked his watch to make sure of the time. Observed through a telescopic rifle sight, no details could be seen on the object.

After about 9 minutes, the lights suddenly dimmed and seemed to get smaller, as though the object was moving directly away and into the distance. In less than a minute, it disappeared from view. No up and down motion was observed at any time.

There are no ground lights that might account for the object, and the nearest airport is 30 miles from the viewers' area.

As this object was in sight for ten minutes, it is probable that others in the vicinity also observed it, and SKYLOOK would like to hear from any other witness.

UNIVERSITY CITY. Mrs. W. P. Armstrong, one of our St. Louis readers, sent a report from the "St. Louis Globe-Democrat" of Nov. 13, 1969, concerning a report made by two University City teen agers who were frightened by a huge white light in the sky which followed them along Price road the night of Nov. 11.

Joseph Miller, 19, of 7357 Melrose Ave., and Miss Barbara Knehans; of 7011 Lindell Ave., described the object to University City police as "very bright and white in color, about 30 feet long, with red and pink lights."

Miller, a student at Meramec Valley Community College, told the Globe-Democrat he and Miss Knehans were driving north on Price road in Ladue about 11 p. m. Tuesday when they first noticed the object. "It was real high up and looked like a star," Miller said. "It came to about ten feet over the car. I got scared and Barbara started crying.

"We tried to get away from it. When we turned onto Delmar Boulevard, it took off without any noise in a westerly direction."

Miss Knehans, who was described by University City Police as hysterical when she was at the station Tuesday, told the Globe-Democrat

the next day, "I don't want to talk about it."

Miller said he also reported the incident to Ladue police.

Both police departments received no other reports of a strange object in the sky, and officers surmised the couple may have seen the landing light on the nose wheel of a jet airliner before it entered the flight pattern of Lambert-St. Louis Municipal Airport.

CLARK NATIONAL FOREST. Art Epstein, APRO field investigator and member of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, and John Priesack, Assistant Manager of the St. Louis McDonnell Planetarium, and a new member of the study group, have been busy investigating sightings in the St. Louis area and one in the Clark National Forest, 78 miles south of St. Louis. John F. Schuessler, SKYLOOK Staff member and APRO consultant, sent in their reports.

We will cover the sighting at the Clark National Forest first. The observers were: John Chaklos, 3818 Iowa Ave., St. Louis; his next door neighbor, Paul Cogar, and John Voss, also a neighbor.

The men were squirrel hunting on the Delbridge Ridge, before sun up with stars visible, between 5:30 and 6:30 the morning of October 19, 1969 when they saw a bright light through the trees. They thought it might be another car on the road coming toward them--then the light rose above the tree tops at an estimated angle of about 45 degrees.

They judged it to be three to four times larger than the morning star, Venus. During its ascent it made several zig-zag movements right and left that were estimated to cover a span of a one foot ruler held at arms length. It also made several up and down movements, seven to ten times.

Mr. Voss thought it appeared to be not as large as a full moon, but almost that large. At about 6:15, a second light appeared and approached the first one, getting to within about six inches. It also made zig-zag motions along its course and was compared to a soft ball in size.

Both lights, as they rose above the horizon, got bigger in size. In Mr. Priesack's opinion, this rules out the planets because they tend to get smaller as they rise above the horizon. Mr. Cogar said he had been hunting in those woods too many years to mistake the lights for stars--they were too large and too bright.

Mr. Chaklos was so impressed by the strange lights, he called the McDonnell Planetarium as soon as he returned home about 2:30 that afternoon. The area where the lights were observed is about six miles west of Belgrade, Mo.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY. A telephone call was received by Mr. Priesack at the Planetarium on Oct. 2, 1969, which resulted in an investigation by Art Epstein and Robert Hertell, of Bridgeton, Mo., another field investigator.

Michele Lee, 18, of 304 Weidmann Road, St. Louis County, and Randy

Missouri Sightings ----(Continued)

Kaup, 19, of 3137 Tablerock Drive, Manchester, Mo., were in a car on the Weidmann Road, about 11 p.m., Oct. 1st, approaching the home of Miss Lee's parents, when both saw the very bright light about 300 feet above the horizon and a little to the left, over the Lee residence, 200 yards off the Weidmann Road on a 13-acre tract. It was a clear night with moon and stars visible.

Randy lowered the left window as he was driving and slowed to a stop to observe the light. They were on the Weidmann Road, looking north, and within 0.8 of a mile from the residence. There was no sound of any aircraft.

Randy described the light as extremely bright and four in number, flashing on and off in sequence. The most peculiar part of the intensity of the lights was that they were sparkling "like 4th of July sparklers" as they went on and off. The lights seemed to be hovering, when Randy stopped the car, and the rate of flashing was about 2 times per second. Then as the object moved away, the rate speeded up. He estimated the 2 lights at the extremities to be about 60 feet apart. The two lights in the middle appeared one behind the other. He could see no other shape or outline except the distance from front to back.

Miss Lee confirmed Randy's observation, but was not sure of the individuality of each light, as they appeared more "blurred" to her.

Randy noted the lack of any other color of lights--no red or green at all. He estimated the closest they came to the object was within a quarter of a mile.

Mrs. Lee reported both young people were very excited when they came running into the house and insisted that she go outside to see the lights. However, the lights had disappeared by the time she left the house. She and Mr. Lee had been watching television prior to the young couples' arrival and reported seeing and hearing nothing unusual while the object was in the vicinity.

The young people believe the lights were in view from two to three minutes.

The Lee home is located in a suburban area with many large tracts of open farm ground, and a high tension line parallels the Weidmann Road, running north and south to the west of the Lee residence.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY. Another unidentified light was the subject of an investigation by Art Epstein and John Priesack, on October 29, 1969, when an incident of July 4, 1965, was reported.

Ten members of the A. Benach and J. P. Lynch families watched a large, glowing object hovering and moving over the Crestwood Shopping area a little more than a mile from their homes in St. Louis County. Mr. and Mrs. Benach and their three teen age children reside at 10124 Harwick Drive, Crestwood, Mo., and Mr. and Mrs. Lynch and their three teen age children at 10140 Harwick Drive.

Crestwood is a western suburb of the city of St. Louis and is heavily
(Continued on next page)

Missouri Sightings---(Continued)

populated. A view due east of the front of the Lynch home includes three television towers. The two families were outside the night of July 4th, between 7 and 8 o'clock, when they observed a light approaching from the east. It grew larger as it came closer, and Mr. Benach estimated it to be as large as their oval-shaped dining room table, four feet across. This is compared to arm's length distance.

The group at first thought the object was an airplane with its landing lights on. It stopped and hovered over the Crestwood shopping area and at this point, Mr. Benach saw red, blue and green lights revolving in the same plane, right to left on the object. Its movements were "like a bobbing, fishing cork as it moves quickly from one spot to another. No helicopter could move that fast or jerky," he said. No noise was heard.

The object moved to the west side of the group in going directly overhead and then hovered again. It moved from right to left two or three times. All witnesses agreed that the motions were too fast and erratic to be any type of conventional aircraft. Terms used to describe the shape of the object were "hamburger bun" and "mushroom."

STOVER. Another, older sighting in Stover, Mo. has been reported. Your editor talked to Mrs. Melvin Soursley who, with her son Dennis, 15, watched a strange light move across the sky from west to east about 7:30 one evening in the fall of 1968.

Mrs. Soursley had stepped from the kitchen to her back porch when she saw the light rise above the tree tops to the west, and called her son. Both watched it streak across the sky to disappear in the east in a matter of seconds. It appeared as a "red streak" and was at an eleven o'clock position when at the highest point. There was no sound.

Asked to compare the light with the full moon as to size, Mrs. Soursley said it was as wide as a full moon, and three moon-widths in length. She compared the sweep across the sky to that of a searchlight, but the light was too intense and there are no searchlights in the Stover area. A meteor?

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LET US KNOW if you don't receive your copy of SKYLOOK. Since January 1968, we have never failed to get SKYLOOK in the mail EVERY month, sometime between the 25th and 30th, so as to reach you on or before the first of the month, date of issue. Yet, some of our readers fail to receive their copies until two or three weeks after mailing date. We can't help this, and we regret--and resent--this unexplainable delay. Since our editorial in the December issue, we have heard from other publishers who are experiencing the same difficulty in getting their publication to the reader. One editor mailed three copies to a subscriber before one was received. What happened to the first two, nobody knows!

We want you to receive SKYLOOK. If you don't, let us know, and we'll mail another copy at once. As this issue will be mailed during the rush of Christmas mail, a reasonable delay in delivery is to be expected and understood.

When do YOU get your copy?

(Editor's Note: We usually rewrite a UFO report, narrative style, but we are using this one just as it was recorded by the investigator, as a good example for some of our amateur investigators to follow in doing their own research. It would be well to make a copy of this outline for your own use. Note how all details are covered.)

DATE: November 30, 1969. TIME: 5:30 p.m., C.S.T.

EXACT LOCATION: State Highway #96 between Plainville and Payson, Ill. thirteen miles southeast of Quincy, Ill. (12 miles SSW of Baldwin Field Quincy Municipal Airport).

NAME, BACKGROUND, AND QUALIFICATION OF WITNESS(ES): (1) Russell Ator, age 46, Xray Technician (employed by Dr. Ralph Davis), Quincy, Ill. (2) Mrs. Russell (Elizabeth "Betty") Ator, age 43, employed by Motorola Inc., Quincy, Ill. (3) Alex Ator, age 11, (son) student at Ellington School, Quincy, Ill. Address: 13 Hamilton, Quincy, Ill., 62301. Telephone: 223-1735 (Area Code 217).

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS: Weather observation at Baldwin Field, Quincy, Ill., F. A. A. : 5:00 p.m. C.S.T., high scattered cirrus clouds, 15 miles visibility, temperature 47, dew point 27, wind 290° (WNW) at 10 knots, pressure 29.86.

LIMITING FACTORS: Late dusk, practically dark. The moon had not risen yet from the northeast. The western sky at dusk was covered with criss crossed jet contrails.

FLIGHT PATH OF OBJECT: A red flashing light was moving straight west 200-300 yards to their right prior to the observation reported. The Ators were driving northwest on State Hwy. 96 toward Quincy, Ill. The flashing red light disappeared in the west. Very shortly thereafter a continuous red glowing triangle object appeared in the west coming toward the Ator automobile (1965 Ford). Russell said at a distance it appeared to be a circle of red lights, but when it got close to the observers, the entire object glowed a fire red or neon red color. It dipped down over their automobile as it turned from flying straight east, swinging across the highway to the south where it disappeared behind some trees within seconds.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Color - fire red, or neon red, emitting a continuous light except for periods previously specified. Shape - equilateral triangle, but with rounded corners and sides. Altitude - could be compared to an airliner about to touch down at the end of a runway as it passed over their car. Sketch of object: Top Bottom. Size - when it passed over their automobile, it was larger than a light plane, but not as large as the Fairchild Hillers flown by Ozark Air Lines serving Quincy, Ill. Russell said it was the size of the moon as it approached their car.

PHYSICAL REFERENCES: No reference when it approached automobile, since it was descending rapidly toward the automobile and highway. When it pulled up after passing over the automobile, it disappeared within seconds over the tree tops to the south.

DURATION OF INCIDENT: Five seconds from the time they noted the object approaching the automobile until it passed over the car. Disappeared within 2 seconds thereafter over the tree-tops to the left and behind them.

SPECIAL DATA: There was no sound associated with the object that could be heard over the engine noise. The auto radio was not turned on.

GENERAL: Alex observed object first moving west. (Provided it was the same object.) He also observed it along with Russell Ater as it went over the trees behind them. Betty could not see the object after it passed over their car due to her position in the right front seat. Since Russell was driving, he couldn't watch the object continuously as did Betty and Alex. They were driving between 55 and 60 mph, on a straight portion of the highway. Betty was frightened; Alex was intrigued; and Russell accepted the sighting casually except for one very impressive reaction. When the object was directly over their automobile, their car, according to Russell, seemed to rise from the paved highway about ten inches and then settle back to the paving with only a noticeable thump. He thought it was conceivable that it might have been less than 10 inches, but the car raised up as if there were a suction or a force acting upon it. There was no sound of rushing air and the automobile did not sway either right or left, but remained directly in the right lane of traffic. Both Russell and Betty, when questioned, felt definitely that it was not a bump or dip in the paving that gave this effect of rising. Russell's first impression was that it must have been a helicopter, but none of the visible observations substantiate this. There were other cars on the highway, but the traffic was light. They were too busy watching the object to say whether there was a car following them or not. The car engine was not affected and the auto radio was not turned on. No one else has reported this sighting to date.

Note: This report was also sent to APRO headquarters at Tucson and doubtless will appear in the APRO BULLETIN with credit given Mr. Andrus for this fine, detailed account of a very interesting event.

Are UFO's Hostile?

SENTINEL, edited by F. M. Castator, devotes most of its December issue to a discussion of "The Hostility Question" re UFO's. One of our staff recently called our attention to the great improvement in this publication, and we agree. (This is not an ad) You can depend upon its reaching you every month too. The subscription is \$4.50 per year, and the address is Aerial Research Systems, P. O. Box 715, Banning, Calif., 92220.

Your editor has always believed in giving a fellow editor a plug when we feel it's deserved, and we shall continue to follow this policy.

Are you moving? Then don't forget to send your change of address to SKYLOOK, so you won't miss a copy. We understand third class mail is not forwarded.

A Look at the Sky

Mercury will be visible in the western sky for a very short period of time just after sunset. It will appear as a faint star.

Venus, the brightest of the planets, will not be visible this month.

Mars can be seen in the southwestern sky until about midnight as a fairly bright, reddish star.

The largest planet, and now the brightest visible, can be seen in Virgo, rising some 1 - 2 hours after midnight.

The planet Saturn is visible throughout the evening in the high southern sky.

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Meteor Trains of Long Duration

We quote from the December, 1969, issue of "Sky and Telescope:" A new catalog of 456 meteors leaving trains visible to the naked eye for at least 10 seconds has been published by Charles P. Olivier, mostly from observations by American Meteor Society members. Two of the meteors listed are said to have trains persisting one hour and 16 lasting at least 30 minutes.

This writer and four others observed a very unusual "train" in the northern sky at 1:30 a.m. January 26, 1969. The train was visible for some 6 minutes until clouds covered that portion of the sky. Two photographs were taken of the faint red-pink object.

* * * * *

Diamonds in the Sky?

Remember the old rhyme in your grade school books: "Twinkle, twinkle, little star. . . How I wonder what you are . . . Up above the world so high . . . Like a diamond in the sky."

The author may have been smarter than he realized. According to a report in the "Kansas City Times," (11/20/69) Dr. David Cudaback of the University of California at Berkeley says recent observations indicate some of the vast dust clouds in space may contain great quantities of tiny grains of diamonds.

"It was once thought," he said, "that the dust clouds were made of ice particles because they turn starlight red just as water vapor in our atmosphere reddens the sky at sunset."

"But we haven't been able to detect any evidence of ice in the dust clouds. The only other substance we can imagine that would cause such reddening of light is diamonds."

Atoms of carbon, the basic ingredient of diamonds, have been detected in the dust clouds by radio telescopes, Cudaback says.

An orange-red object was observed in the sky shortly after 11 p.m. Oct. 17th by Edward Hagerman, of Montoursville, Route 3. Mr. Hagerman, who had completed his second shift work at Lysock View was on Four Mile Drive near the Four Mile School when he saw what appeared to be a funnel shaped cone just above the mountains in South Williamsport. He reported it looked like a funnel on its side with the larger end facing west, and at first he thought it was from the bright lights of businesses in the south side area. It disappeared after several minutes.

Source: Williamsport, Pa. "Sun-Gazette" Credit: Lou Farish

Saucer Landing Reported in Alabama

Two Mobile, Ala., college students reported seeing what appeared to be a flying saucer land in the western section of Mobile on Tuesday night, Oct. 28, 1969.

Cedric Sutherland, 18, and Jerry Talbert, 21, said they were driving along a street and saw what they at first thought to be a plane descending. Sutherland said it continued descending and landed in a field about 200 feet from them.

"It was circular in shape, about 35 to 50 feet wide and about 15 feet in height," he said. "It had a white pulsating light in the center, which varied in intensity and this was surrounded by two rings of red lights."

Sutherland said they drove to a nearby grocery and called the police. He quoted Patrolman G. L. Presnal as saying he thought he saw an object speeding off in the darkness as they approached.

Source: "Birmingham News", Oct. 20, 1969. Credit: Lou Farish

Students Watch UFO

Canton--Bruce Cupual, ATC student, reported sighting an unidentified flying object from his window in the East wing of his dormitory, Wednesday night. He and other students sighted a UFO displaying vari-colored lights. The village police sighted an object, apparently motionless just above the horizon in the east.

It was later sighted further south but still just above the horizon. Village police have sighted a similar object on other occasions. Potsdam police also received a call reporting the object.

Source: Watertown, N. Y. "Times." Credit: Lou Farish

The SKYLOOK editor and staff wishes every one of you

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR, and the best for every day of

1970.

It fell out of the sky with a resounding thud, but whence it came nobody in Shenandoah knows.

"It" appeared to be a large chunk of dark-blue ice emitting a gaseous odor, similar to that of formaldehyde. The object plummeted from the heavens at noon Monday (Oct. 13, 1969) and crashed into the roof of the Frank Kuzma residence, 430 West Centre street (Shenandoah, Pa.).

John Prybolsky, who saw the object fall as he was sitting in front of St. Michael's Hall, said the chunk bounced off the roof onto the street.

Mrs. Kuzma said the heavy thud prompted her to think "the end of the world had come."

The object shattered into 20 or more pieces when it hit the street according to Cal Demmi. It then appeared to melt or disintegrate.

Demmi surmised that the chunk might have been a form of fuel from a jet. No aircraft was seen passing over the scene, however.

Some of the fragments were taken to Bereschak's Distributors and to the home of Alberta Lewczyk, where they were refrigerated.

No one in the neighborhood could recall having heard any aircraft overhead prior to the ice fall, although jet planes frequently fly at altitudes which take them out of sound range.

A few of the more imaginative speculators suggested that the object was dropped from the Russian space flights which have seven cosmonauts in earth orbit.

Source: "Shenandoah Herald", Oct. 14, 1969. Credit: Lou Farish

Oklahoma Residents See Large, Floating Object

Residents of Hooker, Okla., were baffled the morning of Oct. 15, 1969 when they saw a large object floating over the city.

Ray Roberts and Jack Flynt took off in a small plane to get a closer look and reported reaching an altitude of 16,100 feet and the object looked far above them.

Field glasses, binoculars, telescopes and bifocals failed to yield a clue to the "flying saucer." Most thought the white object to be a weather balloon.

It was reported that jet planes were tracking the object.

Source: "Hooker Advance", Hooker, Okla.

Has your subscription expired? It has, if there is a red X by your address label. Remember, SKYLCK is now \$4.00 per year--twelve issues.

Oregon Youth Watches Object Plunge Earthward Oct. 10

A reddish-orange object the size of an airplane plunged earthward west of Stukel Mountain about 10:35 a.m. today and broke apart before it disappeared from view, a 15-year old Klamath Falls youth told the "Herald and News" today.

Steve Kemp said he was entering his house with some milk this morning when his attention was attracted to an object which appeared to be affixed in the sky above Stukel Mountain. He said the object appeared to split in two before it became obscured by a tree about 200 feet above the ground.

Sources in the air tower at the municipal airport said that no aircraft was overdue in this area. The Air Force at Kingsley Field and the Oregon State Police indicated they had not received any reports of unidentified flying objects.

Source: Klamath Falls, Ore. "Herald & News." Credit: Lou Farish

Object Hovers Two Days in North Carolina Area, Oct. 8-9

It's a bird, it's a plane--no--it's an unidentified object in the sky that has been hovering over Lincolnton for two days now according to informed sources.

Residents of Route 1, Lincolnton first noticed the bright, shiny object that appears to be unmoved in location Wednesday.

As the news spread all over Lincolnton, citizens up and down Main Street could be seen looking up into the sky. Telephone lines at the Times-News were kept busy for approximately one hour today with reports of the mysterious object.

Source: Lincolnton, N. C. "Times-News." Credit: Lou Farish

Fiery Object Roars Through Peninsula Sky, Nov. 10

A yellowish ball that trailed a short train of vaporous flame and was accompanied by a roar flashed over the Peninsula last night.

Moving on a north-to-south course, it seemed to explode at the end of its path, shortly after 5 p.m., according to observers at the San Jose Municipal Airport.

A spokesman at Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton suggested that the object might have been a meteor.

Source: San Francisco, Calif. "Examiner." Credit: Lou Farish

Iowa Youths See UFO

Daryl Whitehead, Dan Tedlie, Tom Neester, Steve Kerr and Jerry Sires, of Cedar Falls, Ia., reported seeing an unidentified object with three big, red lights "bigger than street lights" over the city shortly after 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3rd. Police and Patrol were notified but were unsuccessful in tracking down the object. Source: Cedar Falls "Record." Credit: Lou Farish

SKYLOOK

NORTH, SOUTH, EAST and WEST of the U. S. A.

Dead Vegetation Alerts UFO Experts

Auckland:--New Zealand has been puzzled for the last couple of months by the mysterious appearance of circles of dead vegetation on widely-separated farms in various parts of the country.

Scientists claim all of them can be explained, but their explanations have not convinced a good many people who have visited the sites.

The first phenomenon appeared early in September near the township of Ngatea, where a 60-foot circle of scrub was found dead and bleached on a farm, with three V-shaped grooves inside the circle and pointing to the center. There were no marks of a tracked vehicle anywhere near.

Members of the Auckland University Unidentified Flying Objects Research Group visited the spot and were certain the phenomenon was no hoax and rejected a plant disease as responsible.

A horticulturist claimed that the scrub was cooked from the inside out and that "no earthly source of energy" would cause such an effect.

However, government scientists who visited the site some time later gave an opinion that the cause was saprophytic fungus living in the dead tissue probably following blight. An official government statement denied that there was any radioactivity present. Other scientists said the marks on the ground were caused by pigs rooting.

But the farmer on whose property the phenomenon appeared is far from happy with the findings. He denies that fungus attack produces an effect such as described, and says he knows perfectly well what pig rooting looks like and it does not resemble the marks on his farm.

Meanwhile, two mysterious circles of burned grass appeared on a farm at Kaharoa, in another district. The owner of the farm was riding his horse when he saw the brown circles, but the horse became "spooky and silly" and refused to go near the area.

A government geologist who examined the marks could offer no ready explanation. Later, a third circle was found lying across a fence line--and the fence was undamaged.

A farmer some distance away reported that he saw two bright orbs of light following each other low in the western sky one night at about the time the circles appeared.

Later, reports also claimed that disease or a spray could have been responsible for the circles, but local people again reject the theories.

Another burned circle was found a few days later in still another area at Puketutu on a small island in the middle of a pond. A farmer was herding cattle down to the pond, but suddenly they turned about and rushed away. A dog would not drink from the pond and further attempts to

(continued on next page)

North, South, East and West of the U.S.A.----- (continued)

get the cattle near it were fruitless.

Still further circles have been reported elsewhere. But government scientists now decline to continue conducting tests. They say reasonable causes of phenomena examined have been found, and that the circumstances in each area are in accord with root rot, blight, and fungi and that there is no point in rushing about to study every new report.

Source: Canada "Winnipeg Free Press" of Nov. 6th. Credit: Lou Farish.

Saucer Nests?

We received several photographs from Bill Moser, secretary of UFOIC, Australia. Among them is a photo of the "Tully Nest" taken in Queensland, Australia in 1966. It shows the well publicised circle of flattened grass about 10-15 feet in diameter. Nearer the center, the grass is flattened in a circular manner. In the background of the picture stands a man watching the circle.

At the time that these "nests" were discovered (there are several) many UFOs had been sighted. The "nests" have generally been attributed to UFO landings. We would like to remind you that these "nests" were discovered in very remote areas not generally visited by man.

Going through back issues of the DATA-NET REPORT we find the first hand eye witness report from Mexico in 1954. In this case a flying object had been witnessed by many citizens. Watched by all from a distance of less than 50' until it finally left, leaving behind a circle of flattened corn. To this day nothing grows in that circle.

We now come to a most puzzling phenomena concerning the earth's surface. There are countless patches of earth, somewhat circular in shape, in which plant life refuses to grow.

One of these circles, 40 feet in diameter, is located ten miles from Silver City, North Carolina. It is called the "mystery circle" and has for many years been a tourist attraction. Efforts to force life to grow in that area have failed. Transplanted grass died. Birds, dogs and insects stay out of this area. Why? And, what causes these circles?

Credits: Mike Jaffe, DATA-NET REPORT, 624 Farley St., Mountain View, Calif.

Another Canadian Circle

The UFO INFORMER writes about a 50-foot diameter circle on a farm near Ballantrae, Toronto, Canada. It was discovered in June 1964. A strip about three feet wide along the outer edge of the circle was seared to a crisp, leaving bits of charcoal. Slight vegetation now grows inside the circle but there is nothing substantial.

Outside the circle there are flattened trees and toppled long grass, still dead. Above the circle 150 ft. tall oak trees still grow, but the branches hanging over the circle are dead. Vegetation in the surrounding area grows normally.

Credit: UFO INFORMER, 134 Hanna St., Carrboro, N. C. 27510.

With Other Writers

Mrs. Josephine J. Clark, editor of DATA-NET REPORT, recently had a good write up in "The Valley Press," of Felton, California. Jo lives at Ben Lomond, Calif. (340 Harvard Drive) and is a busy housewife, but finds time to write, cut stencils and mimeograph the monthly publication which, in this editor's opinion, is one of the very best UFO mags you will find. Michel M. Jaffe, 624 Farley St., Mountain View, Calif., is "Control," heading the three-year old network of radio operators across the U. S.A. and some foreign countries, interested in the unidentified flying objects. A long list of Control stations is given in the big November issue of DATA-NET REPORT. The one at Mountain View is WB6RPL and Mike would like to hear from other radio amateurs who would like to join the network. Membership is \$4.00 per year.

DATA-NET REPORT is full of UFO news from everywhere. We look forward to Mike's personal comment which sometimes sizzles, and Jo's fine writing contributes to a very readable magazine. You can get a sample copy for 35¢.

Victor Kucharek, 6721 Miller, Detroit, Michigan, informs us the Detroit U.F.O. Information & Research Center will discontinue as of June 1970. Subscribers to the newsletter will receive their copies according to expiration date, but new and renewal subscriptions are not being accepted. Mr. Kucharek and his wife plan to continue their own private research in ufology and invite correspondence. We will miss this informative bulletin which has been interesting reading for the past 3½ years.

Brian Cannon, 91 Voyageur Ave., Winnipeg 22, Canada, sends holiday greetings and informs us the National Research Council of Canada received 186 reports of UFOs in 1968 and 167 reports from January to October 1969. Brian recently returned from a trip west where he met Dr. P. M. H. Edwards, APRO advisor in Victoria, B. C. and visited John Magor, editor of CANADIAN UFO REPORT, that fine bi-monthly publication, which is \$3.00 per year. Address--Canadian UFO Report, Box 758, Duncan, B. C., Canada. Brian is a contributing editor.

We think Mark Bouge's SAUCER MAGAZINE is much improved in appearance and content in recent months, with more and better written UFO reports. It is published monthly and is now \$3.00 per year. Checks should be sent to Mark Bouge, 1911 Main St., Bellevue, Nebr. 68005.

The September-October issue of the UFO INFORMER, edited by Angelo Capparella III, 134 Hanna St., Carrboro, N. C., is a double issue of 20 pages. The editor and John Vining co-author "Mystery at Spitzbergen" a review of a reported UFO crash at Spitzbergen, Norway in 1932, an interesting article. This monthly publication is \$4.00 per year, and a sample copy is 30¢. This special double issue is 35¢.

Donald A. Johnson, Sand Hill Road, Portland, Conn., writes that another issue of the FLYING SAUCER OBSERVER will be in the mail soon. It is a now-and-then publication, but worth waiting for, and you get every copy you pay for-- 5 for 75¢ or 10 for \$1.50. UFO reports in the New England states are featured.

The above reflects the personal opinion of Ye Ed. We'll take up others in future issues.

PASSPORT TO MAGONIA is the title of Jacques Vallee's third book on the UFO subject. It is a rather startling departure from his previous writings, as Vallee says he completely forgot he was a scientist while writing the book. The material presented by Vallee was taken in large part from legends and folklore. He attempts to show that, in all ages, people have believed in preternatural beings of various kinds. From fairies and elves, we have progressed to "Ufonauts." While it is believed that research of this type should definitely be done, one finds it hard to agree with some of Vallee's statements. His comments on the non-likelihood of space visitors are reminiscent of the Condon Report's statements concerning the lack of extraterrestrial contact within the next 10,000 years! It is ridiculous assertions such as these that serve to make people doubt the word of authorities in general. PASSPORT TO MAGONIA is not all bad, however. It contains some very fascinating accounts and is well worth reading, flaws and all.

Again, the NATIONAL ENQUIRER is a good source for UFO material. The December 14th issue contains an article dealing with the researches of two Cleveland, Ohio, youths and the publication they are now distributing. The December 21st issue tells of how the wife of British TV star Peter Cook tape-recorded the sound emanating from a UFO which she saw over the Mediterranean island of Majorca. Sound technicians have been unable to identify the recorded noise.

Another Award Books paperback, edited by Brad Steiger & Joan Whritenour, is now on sale. Entitled FLYING SAUCER INVASION TARGET--EARTH, it is a collection of articles by various UFO researchers. Subjects range from historical reports of UFOs so the "Men in Black," sightings by pilots, etc. An interesting book, even if a trifle "re-heshy."

John G. Fuller's latest UFO book, ALIENS IN THE SKIES, is also available in paperback. The contents are perhaps 90% reprints from the "Symposium on UFOs" document which was issued by the Government Printing Office some time ago. Fuller has added an introduction and general comments, but this is essentially the testimonies of those scientists who participated in the hearings before the House Committee on Science and Astronautics on July 29, 1968. For those who may have missed this document, this is a very good summary of the day's proceedings.

The January issue of SAGA contains an article by Otto Binder concerning the "strange" deaths of UFO researchers over the years. On the speculative side, but some curious "coincidences" are spotlighted.

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PERSONAL: Your editor thanks all who sent beautiful Christmas cards and deeply appreciates the good will and thoughtfulness which prompted the personal messages.

To Our Readers: We have to have a deadline--the 20th of each month--in order to have a working schedule that will work--but because of the holiday mail, some material was understandably late in arriving, and we made an exception this month (December preparation of your January issue) and held up assembly of SKYLOOK pages in order to add another two pages (this). SKYLOOK will be in the mail no later than the 27th--it just means extra work on Ye Ed's part at the last--so remember, the 20th is the deadline. And thanks for listenin'!

1970 Goals to be Discussed at UFO Meeting

The UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis will hold an important meeting at the home of the Director, John F. Schuessler, 808 Primrose Court, O'Fallon, Mo., at 1:30 pm, Sunday, Jan. 4th.

Mr. Walt Andrus, of Quincy, Ill., Director of the Illinois Chapter of the Midwest UFO Network and also the Illinois Section of the APRO, will present the status of several important projects. His vast knowledge in the UFO field can be of value to all.

Some of the topics to be covered are: Status of the Midwest UFO Network, Plans for the Midwest UFO Conference, The Midwest Network and APRO, and Organization of the Missouri Chapter of the Midwest Network. Plans will also be made for future meetings.

More Information Wanted on Nov. 30th Sighting

The "Herald-Whig," of Quincy, Ill., on Dec. 16, gave an account of the November 30th sighting, reported by Walt Andrus in this issue of SKYLOOK, and adds that members of the Tri-State UFO Study Group are hunting for other persons who might have seen the object that night.

Walt asks that anyone having information call him at 222-8374, after 6 p.m.

Bright Red Flash Observed in Arizona

A "bright red flash," possibly a meteorite passing close by or hitting the ground, was observed about 30 miles southwest of Buckeye, Ariz. Dec. 17, 1969, as reported by the "Phoenix Gazette."

Larry Rankin, air traffic controller at Luke Air Force Base, observed the flash about 6:57 a.m. He said it appeared as a single flash similar to internal cloud lightning.

At least two Luke pilots, one en route to the base from the Buckeye area and the other taking off, also saw the flash, as did observers at Sky Harbor tower. One pilot said he saw the flash "hit the ground" but could not estimate the distance. A quick check accounted for all civilian and military aircraft. A brief search of the area was made but nothing found to indicate an explosion or meteor crater. The sky was clear and possibility of lightning was eliminated.

Credit: William J. Finch, 5519 N. 35th Drive, Phoenix, Ariz.

Editor's Note: Due to lack of space, we cannot use a fine letter from Mr. Finch this month. We plan to use it as a "guest editorial" in the February issue. Don't miss it--Mr. Finch also "tells it as it is."

Minnesota Deputy Sheriff Trails Low Flying Object

"I was on a little township road west of Vernon Burgeson's when I first saw it--I saw this flashing red light north of me and it didn't seem to move." That's how deputy sheriff Ernest Tande described the start of his early myning experience, Nov. 12, with an unidentified flying object.

He set the time as about 2 a.m. and the place as being about four miles south and east of LaSalle. The light traveled towards Godahl, St. James, back towards Godahl then to the northeast before disappearing from sight, Tande told the St. James, Minnesota "Plaindealer."

Verification of the object came from St. James patrolman Steve Benson who spotted it after being alerted by Tande via radio through the communications center.

Tande said he couldn't see anything other than a light and there was no noise from it. He stood outside his car to watch and listen, but there was no motor noise. "It was low," he said, "even trees would break the view of the red light. The sky was clear.

When he first sighted it, the object seemed to hover. "A little bit later it took off toward the northwest and when it got over by the Godahl tower, it stopped again and then started toward the southwest. It made a big arc and seemed to be traveling faster and closer to the ground," he said. It was then he called the communications center.

Patrolman Benson headed for the north part of St. James and while out near Sonny's Supper club he spotted it. Tande related that Benson exclaimed, "Holy smoke, that thing's just about sitting on the ground."

Tande was driving west then and was near near LaSalle when he saw the object again over by the Godahl tower. He followed it east along the county line road and notified Brown county authorities by radio as he went along.

"It wasn't going very fast--it disappeared over the horizon," he said.

The Sleepy Eye, Minnesota "Herald-Dispatch" reported Tande as saying he believed he was within a couple of miles of the object and "I'm sure it wasn't an airplane. I just don't know what it was. It's got me buffaloed."

Credit: Lou Farish

Railroad Men Spot UFO

Three Southern Pacific Company railroad men on a train with 106 cars moving southwest toward Klamath Falls, Ore., saw a UFO the night of Dec. 5th, as reported by the Klamath Falls "Herald & News" on Dec. 8. Noel Cailloutte, the conductor, said "It was a bright light heading north. It had a long, narrow beam. It was moving diagonally across the tracks." He added. "I tell you, it gives you the creeps." He thought the light was at least 5,000 ft. high as it crossed the track in front of them. "I've never seen anything as bright as that," he reported. The engineer and flagman also saw the object. (Credit: Lou Farish)

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MIDWEST ORGANIZATION REPORTS

APC Met Nov. 10th

On Monday, Nov. 10, the Aerial Phenomena Club of Central Illinois held its regular monthly meeting at the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Peoria. The topic for discussion was "Missing Persons."

Also discussed was the Ufologists' Convention planned for Saturday, June 13, 1970. We have a few more details for the SKYLOOK readers planning to attend. Two of SKYLOOK's feature writers, Ted Phillips, of Sedalia, Mo., and John Schuessler, of O'Fallon, Mo., are definitely included in our plans. Also, tentatively planned, are at least two of the most renowned ufologists in this country. Of course, their names cannot be released until all arrangements are firm.

The topic for the Dec. 8th meeting will be "UFO's B. C." which, of course, will cover UFO sightings before 1 A.D. Michael Morey will be program leader.

This group meets on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church at 7030 N. Rt. 88, Peoria, Ill. The meeting usually lasts for around two hours, and visitors are always welcome.

Reporter: Michael Morey.

Tri-State UFO Study Group

The monthly meeting of the Tri-State UFO Study Group was held Thursday, Dec. 4, in the home of Walt Andrus in Quincy, Ill.

The meeting was opened by President Bob Smulling, of Hamilton, Ill. and the secretary and treasurers' reports were read and approved. Mr. Smulling introduced Mr. Andrus, who opened the meeting to an informal discussion regarding plans for 1970.

Among new projects to be undertaken are a library of UFO books and literature, construction of UFO detectors for members, appointing more investigative teams, and the acquiring of tape recorders for use by the teams. Also discussed was the UFO Convention to be held June 13 in Peoria, Ill.

Officers for 1970 were elected and are: President, Bob Smulling, of Hamilton, Ill.; vice president, Barry Dimmitt, of Hannibal, Mo.; secretary, Mrs. E. J. (Anita) Lavery, of Quincy; treasurer, Mrs. Ann Viar, of Quincy; librarian, Harry Hastings, of Quincy; and SKYLOOK reporter, Mrs. Grace C. Oberling, of Coatsburg, Ill.

Because of the holiday season, the November and December meetings were combined, and the next meeting will be held in January.

Following adjournment, refreshments were served.

Reporter: Mrs. Grace C. Oberling.