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No. 40

M A R C H 1971

A Message from Your Director
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American Airlines Flight Captain and Passengers Watch
Sky Phenomenon
Strange Glow in Michigan Sky
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The 1897 Mysterious Airship
Dr. Allen R. Utke, Ph.D, Looks at the UFO Problem
A Catalog of Missouri UFO Cases
In Others' Words
Other Reports - Ads - Reviews - Organization Notes

This is another SKYLOOK "Special" - Extra Size

"We tell it as it is"

SKYLOOK

The Official Publication of the Midwest UFO Network

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SUBSCRIPTION: \$4.00 per year (published monthly). Sample copy, 35c. Send subscriptions and all material for publication to SKYLOOK, Box 129, Stover, Mo. 65078.

DEADLINE for copy is the 20th of the month.

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A Message from Your Director

MUFON extends greetings to new Associate Member Michael M. P. Ginter, 54 Fay St., Buffalo, N.Y. Mike and David J. Gras make a fine investigating team.

Ronald M. Anderson-WA9PAM, MUFON Amateur Radio Communications Director, is making a special appeal to all State Directors and State-Section Directors to cultivate the acquaintance of a ham radio operator near you who would be interested in providing voice communication from his station for you. The next two radio net drills will take place Sunday, March 14, and Tuesday, March 30, at 7 P.M. CST on 3.975 MHz in the 75 meter band via single sideband transmission. Stations in Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri have been "checking in" regularly to exchange UFO reports.

Another very active radio amateur group interested in the UFO phenomena is DATA-NET with headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. Mike Jaffe WB6RPL, is net control and Director

of DATA-NET. Jo Clark is the talented editor of their UFO publication. A fine working relationship exists between DATA-NET and MUFON.

The speakers' roster for the Midwest UFO Conference will be completed by March 1. Additional speakers are William H. "Bill" Hunkins, WA0KQ, Coralville, Iowa, lecturing on the topic "UFO Magnetic Detection Devices" and Allen R. Utke, Ph.D. discussing the subject "The Probabilities of Extraterrestrial Life." The UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis as hosts for the 1971 Conference, is doing a terrific job of detailed planning.

MUFON is very appreciative of the cooperation extended by Clinton C. Williams, Jr., Rochester, Mich. in the recent Michigan reports.

Our thanks to the MUFON members who have so promptly responded to sightings and follow-up reports this month. This is further evidence of the enthusiasm and group participation so essential to an organization dedicated to resolving the UFO enigma.

Walt Andrus, Director MUFON

Congratulations to astronauts Alan B. Shepard, Edgar D. Mitchell and Stuart A. Roosa AND to all the dedicated workers in the Space Program whose know-how made the Apollo 14 moon mission possible. We follow each moon flight with interest and awe, as we do all Space exploration; and if it's "square" to be proud of our nation's achievements in this field, then we're just about as square as you can get. --Ye Ed and Staff.

Second Annual Midwest UFO Conference Set for June 12, 1971

The Midwest UFO Network (MUFON) is pleased to announce that advance reservations are now being accepted for the 1971 Midwest UFO Conference to be held Saturday, June 12th in St. Louis, Mo. Host group for this year's event will be the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis.

The featured speaker for this outstanding event will be Mr. Stanton T. Friedman, noted nuclear scientist with 14 years experience in highly specialized fields of advanced technology and over 11 years of experience in research and investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs). Mr. Friedman, who has lectured to hundreds of colleges, professional, and lay audiences throughout the United States and Canada since 1967, recently stated in SAGA magazine that "the UFO is the most challenging, scientific problem of this or any other age."

Other speakers, committed at this time, and their subjects are: Ted Phillips, Jr., Missouri Highway Dept., Sedalia, Mo., MUFON State-Section Director for Central Missouri, active Field Investigator, and a staff writer for SKYLOOK, will speak on "Burned Circles and Flying Saucer Nests." Sherman J. Larsen, Glenview, Ill., MUFON State-Section Director for Chicago, Ill., active Field Investigator who also teaches Adult Education classes in Chicago on the UFO subject will speak on "Documentation." [Since this was written, we learn additional speakers are William H. Hunkins, Coralville, Ia. with the subject "UFO Magnetic Detection Devices" and Allen R. Utke, Ph.D, of the University of Wisconsin, on "The Probabilities of Extraterrestrial Life."]

Those wishing to make advance reservations or desiring further information on the Conference may write to: UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, c/o Mr. William F. Christian, 758 Lemay Ferry Road, St. Louis, Mo., 63125. (Checks should be made payable to: UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis.)

The ticket cost may be broken down into sessions, if so desired, as follows: Morning session, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00, \$1.50; Afternoon session, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00, \$1.50; Evening session, 6:30 p. m. (Stanton Friedman, speaker) including banquet, \$6.50--speaking session only, 7:30, \$1.50. Ticket for all three sessions and banquet, \$8.50.

Remittances will be acknowledged by receipt in return mail. May 31, 1971, is the last day for advanced reservations.

Reserved tickets for the above events will be held for you at the reservation desk of the UFO Study Group in Holiday Inn, North, 4545 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Mo., June 12.

ROOM CAPACITY LIMITED. SO PLEASE RESERVE EARLY.

Don't forget--check should be made to UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, and mailed to William F. Christian, 758 Lemay Ferry Road, Lemay, Mo., 63115.

--- UFO Study Group of Greater
St. Louis.

Cosmic Rays

Like past moonbound spacemen, the Apollo 14 astronauts saw mysterious flashes of light in their spacecraft. Scientists think the flashes are caused when invisible cosmic rays pierce the spacecraft skin and strike the astronauts' eyes, causing impulses their brains perceive as light. Further research is expected to gain new insight into the strange phenomena. (Source: Various Press Reports)

John F. Schuessler on Radio Station KMOX, St. Louis, Mo.

Thanks to a long distance telephone call from our good friend "Rosie" (Rosetta Holmes, of Carlyle, Ill.) we learned John F. Schuessler would speak on radio station KMOX, St. Louis, Mo., Thursday night, Feb. 18th. While radio reception was not the best due to weather conditions, we were able to get most of the hour program "At Your Service" from 9 to 10 p.m.

The first half hour was devoted to a discussion of UFOs between the host and Mr. Schuessler and followed by Mr. Schuessler answering questions telephoned in by the listeners.

We were impressed by the fact that the majority of questions showed a deep interest and considerable knowledge of UFOs, as many had read books and articles on the subject and several had personal experiences to relate.

One man told of seeing a bright light overhead which hovered, then made a fast 90 degree turn and darted away, rapidly disappearing from view. It happened about a year ago, he said, but he had told no one for fear of being laughed at.

Another told of a sighting six years ago when he was driving on a highway in Kansas about 60 miles south of St. Joseph (Mo.) when he saw a saucer-like object with light glowing from its surface. When first seen, it was hovering, then followed him for about 15 miles.

Listeners were invited to communicate with John by telephone or letter; and as the telephone calls were still coming in when time ran out, we imagine many will get in touch with Mr. Schuessler.

Mr. Schuessler handled all questions with ease and tact and in a manner which could not fail to convince all listening that the subject of UFOs is indeed a "serious business" and not one to be approached with a tongue-in-cheek attitude.

Another Astronomer Sights Object on Jan. 31

Since cutting the stencil for the amateur astronomer at Moberly, Mo. sighting an object "in the square of Pegasus" Jan. 31, 1971 (see story on another page) we heard from another astronomer in Texas, who gave a detailed account of sighting the same object. He doesn't want his name used at this time, as he is still checking all scientific data available before deciding the object should be classified as "unidentified." We are holding his report until we hear from him again--we hope before the next issue of SKYLOOK.

We find it extremely interesting that astronomers in Missouri and Texas should sight the same object, and we'd like to hear from others who may have seen the same object, and we invite MUFON Consultant John Preisack to comment--and he may have the answer. Mr. Preisack is the Assistant Director at the McDonnell Planetarium in St. Louis.

He's With Us!

Astronaut Frank Borman, command pilot of the first spacecraft to orbit the moon, told the crowd at a lecture in Pierre, S. D., Jan. 28, 1971: "Someday man will walk on planet Mars, and in the distant future we will encounter some other intelligent life in our solar system." Giving his first impression of the moon, he said "it appeared to be a pile of burned-out charcoal briquettes" but said that one of his most lasting impressions was the lunar sunrise. On the sight of the earth from the moon, "We could cover the earth with a fingernail," he said. Source: "The Daily Capital Journal," Pierre, S. D. Jan. 29, 1971. Credit: Lou Farish.

American Airlines Flight Captain and Passengers Watch Sky Phenomenon

The American Airlines Flight 275 from La Guardia, New York City, en route to Tulsa, Oklahoma, was 50 miles west of Harrisburg, Pa., at a heading of magnetic 275 degrees in a line between New York City and Indianapolis, Ind. when an announcement from the pilot, Capt. Kenneth G. Baker, came over the P. A. system.

It was 6:45 p.m. EST on January 20, 1971, and one of the passengers on Flight 275 was Michael M. Graham, an employee of McDonnell Astronautics, home address # 2 Lance Lane, O'Fallon, Mo. With others, Mr. Graham watched the "diffused circular blob on the left-hand side of the aircraft." He reported what he observed to John F. Schuessler, also of McDonnell Astronautics and originally scheduled to be on the same flight.

As Mr. Graham thought Capt. Baker lived in Tulsa, Mr. Schuessler contacted the Director of MUFON for cooperative network assistance in this case. Mr. Dwight Dauben, Consultant, and Mr. Wm. Irby, both of Tulsa and the latter State Director for Oklahoma, contacted American Airlines in Tulsa and obtained Capt. Baker's home telephone number in Boston, Mass., relaying this information to MUFON Director Walter A. Andrus, of Quincy, Ill.

Mr. Andrus then conducted an interview with Capt. Baker by telephone and found him very cooperative in willingly providing all the known facts relating to the sighting. (Captain Baker has 15 years as Captain and First Officer with American Airlines and 10,000 hours of flying time with American Airlines.)

A report on the interview follows: Capt. Baker made the announcement on the aircraft public address system because he felt the passengers would be interested in observing a rather unusual sight to the left and above the jet airliner.

Capt. Baker's description:--a bright white core, like a central explosion surrounded by a cloud, was the significant object. Southeast of this was a greenish-blue (turquoise) cloud of spherical shape, looking as if it was "squirting" out of the large bright white cloud. The cloud objects seemed to be stationary since during the observation starting at 6:45 p.m. EST the objects moved from 80 degrees to the left to a point aft of the jet liner (80 degrees to the left is a little forward of the left wing).

Conditions during the observation: the sun had set and it was nearly dark at the 16,000 ft. altitude of American Flight 275. The sky was clear with neither clouds below or above the aircraft, although it was a little choppy at that altitude. The cloud-like objects were 20 to 25 degrees above the aircraft. Capt. Baker had the feeling that the object picked up part of its light from the sun that was still striking the cloud at that angle.

In describing the object further, Capt. Baker said an explosion, like fireworks (sky rockets) appeared to be the central "glob" of illumination. The cloud grew rapidly at first (like a dandelion in its fuzzy-stage opening up). The cloud became generally weaker in light output as time passed. He did not record the events chronologically as did Mr. Graham, so Mike's observations on time should be utilized.

Capt. Baker was relatively sure of what he was observing based upon an experience that he investigated when flying east out of Chicago in 1968 in an Astrojet 400. He had observed one reddish and one blue explosion on this flight. He contacted the Kansas City (Communications) Center and inquired if any rockets had been fired in that general

(Continued on next page)

American Airlines Flight. . continued
direction. Through telephone calls the Kansas City Center confirmed that
two rockets had been fired from Wallops Island, Virginia. They had
fired copper needles which glow a blue color when exposed to radiation.

Capt. Baker did not report the Jan. 20th sighting to American Air-
lines or any other organization until he was contacted by MUEON. When
questioned, he stated that he knows of no official policy on report-
ing of UFO observations by American Airlines.

Mr. Andrus' conclusion: The object observed by Capt. Baker and
interested passengers was, in the opinion of Capt. Baker, probably an
experimental rocket fired from possibly Wallops Island, Virginia Test-
ing Station. The description given has several points in common with
the large object, shrouded by a cloud, that was observed hovering over
five hours over Bells, Texas, on August 1, 1965, during the tremendous
UFO "flap" in the southwest United States. This object was photographed
by Bob Campbell of TV Station KXII of Sherman, Texas. No firm conclusion
may be made in this case at this time since information must be secured
from Wallops Island to determine if such a rocket had been fired at
that date and time. The case remains open for further investigation.

Mr. Graham's chronological notes, as reported to Mr. Schuessler,
are:

5:50 p.m.--a smaller, more distinct, but still diffuse object began
to come into sight.

5:58 p.m.--diffuse cloud more horizontal (there is no background
of stars to check opacity).

5:59 p.m.--object slightly more diffuse. I sit opposite engine, and
object is pacing slightly forward of left wing.

6:02 p.m.-- Over Wheeling, W. Va., and object becoming more diffuse
(and larger). Initial cloud has now broken off and is ahead of origi-
nal object. Dark space in between. Seems to gain slightly on plane.

6:07 p.m.-- more diffuse (both). Haze overall atmosphere increasing.

6:08 p.m.-- object is still hazy and both clouds are now together
and appear to gain a little altitude after almost going under left
wing (line-of-sight wise).

6:12 p.m.--faded to invisibility by now--atmosphere is somewhat
clearer--lights on ground very distinguishable.

Credit: Walt Andrus

BIOVERSE is a new ufozine published bimonthly by Gary and Glenn
Ricker. We read our first copy and immediately sent for the back
issues and read them--and we don't know what to say about it. It just
doesn't fit into any of the usual categories, but is a wild mixture
of this and that--like a dish of ice cream topped with parsnips cooked
in some strange sauce. If, like Ye Ed, you like ice cream and gag at
the thought of parsnips, what do you do? Scrape off the parsnips and
salvage the ice cream? Perhaps Editor Ricker can best describe their
publication himself. He writes: "We are biased, yet factual; serious,
yet satirical. We publish BIOVERSE for fun; we sincerely hope you
enjoy it." So, to find out if this is your dish, we can only suggest
you send for a copy and make up your mind with no help from us. Sample
copy, 35¢, three issues for \$1.00. Write: Gary & Glenn Ricker, 1334
S. Wesley Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402. --A SKYLOOK review.

Our new cover and masthead is the surprise we mentioned in the
last issue of SKYLOOK. Our friend and donor doesn't want his name
mentioned, so we won't--but here's another "thank you." --Ye Ed

Strange Glow in Michigan Sky

"The News Palladium" of Benton Harbor, Michigan, and the St. Joseph Michigan "Herald-Press" carried reports of a strange glow in the sky Tuesday morning, December 15, 1970.

Oliver Harmon, an electronics engineer at St. Joseph's Heath Co. plant, was on his way to work from his home at Berrien Springs when he first saw the glow about 6:25 a.m. near the intersection of US-31 and Snyder road, and stopped his car to watch.

"It was glowing red and moved like the tail of a rocket," he said. The light was in a southerly direction from him toward Niles. When he reached the Heath Co. parking lot, he could still see a "tear-shaped red-glowing cloud" in the sky to the east over Fairplain.

A Benton Harbor police officer, Lt. Harold Harris, also reported seeing the glow in the same area in the sky and about the same time as Harmon. Harmon was driving home from police duty shortly after 6 a.m. when he saw the glow in a stationary position and "too bright to be the morning star."

Also reporting the sky phenomena was a Coloma city policeman Wayne Krietner and several employees of Hardings Market in Coloma.

George M. Smith, State-Section Director for MUFON, obtained more details from Mr. Harmon:--"I became aware of a dull reddish flash on the horizon at an east, southeast direction, my location at this time was two miles south of Berrien Springs. As I stopped before entering the highway I saw a shaft of glowing red, wider than the vapor trail of a jet and continuing to rise in a straight vertical direction from the horizon. The rise slowed but the trail still glowed from the high atmosphere to the horizon. There was not a ray of morning sun visible at such an early hour nor was there a sound of an explosion audible.

"The glowing embers of the shaft was massive, compact and of a deep red color. The visible embers did not show any signs of falling back to the horizon but seemed to be suspended in mid-air."

When Harmon reached the parking lot he "looked to the east and there above the horizon was a pear shaped cloud with the stem of the pear pointing in a south-east direction. This one, lone cloud was glowing a dull deep red. My time for clocking in was short so I could do no further checking."

Clint Williams, of Rochester, Michigan, read the reports in the newspapers and got in touch with his friend and fellow-APRO investigator William J. Whitney, of Royal Oak, Michigan. Whitney, "an extremely capable amateur astronomer," interviewed Mr. Harmon and found him sincere and very co-operative.

Whitney wrote Mr. Williams, who kindly passed on his conclusions to us, and we quote: "Regarding the 'Vertical Red Shaft,' the most likely explanation seems to be a sun pillar, caused by refraction of sunlight thru ice crystals in the upper atmosphere. The reasons for this explanation are: (1) The azimuth position in the sky, 120 Deg. East Southeast (2) The time of sighting, just before sunrise. (3) The color, brightness and shape match the typical appearance of a sun pillar. (4) I have seen three sun pillars in the last month, two in the morning, one in the twilight."

An explanation of light pillars, or sun pillars, is given in Marcel Minnaert's book "Light and Colour in the Open Air," page 201, of the Dover edition.

Ye Ed is grateful to all participating in this investigation and sending us their reports.

Radio Nets--ATTENTION

Ronald M. Anderson, Director of MUFON Amateur Radio Communications announces a time change. He writes: "The time will be at 0100GMT that the nets will take place on the same frequency of 3.975 plus & minus 5KC. I would like to emphasize that all State Section and State Directors try and find a ham radio operator who will work with them in setting up a communications system with the network and check into the radio nets. If they need help in finding operators, ask them to contact me and maybe I will be able to give them some help. We do need more check-in's in the radio net to make it work."

John F. Schuessler to Lecture at Sisters of Notre Dame College

The Sisters of Notre Dame College of St. Louis have requested John F. Schuessler of O'Fallon to lecture on the subject of UFO's. The presentation entitled, "The UFO Generation Gap" will be presented Thursday, February 25, at 7:30 P.M.

Mr. Schuessler's illustrated lecture will present some of the facts concerning UFO's, while maintaining the recommendation to "keep an open and skeptical mind and not take an extreme position."

John F. Schuessler is Director of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis; Consultant in Astronautics and Missouri State Director of the Midwest UFO Network, (comprising 15 states and growing). He is a member of the Editorial Staff of SKYLOOK, official UFO publication for the Midwest UFO Network, and Editor of UFO Potpourri. From the "O'Fallon Times," Feb. 10, 1971

Two-Day Symposium on UFO's in Oklahoma City, Okla.

As we are getting this issue of SKYLOOK in the mail (all going well), Walter A. Andrus, Director of MUFON, will be attending a two-day symposium sponsored by the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, Okla., Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 27th and 28th, at the downtown YWCA.

The theme is "Flying Saucers, the Great Mystery of Our Time," with Stanton T. Friedman, speaking both days on "Flying Saucers Are Real" and "Scientific Approach to the Unknown." Other speakers listed and their subjects are: Dr. R. Cedric Leonard, "The Eternal Saucers"; Prof. James Maney, "The Significance of the Condon Report"; Hayden Hewes, "The Aliens"; Tony Kimery, "Oklahoma Encounters"; Eddie Laxton, "The Temple, Okla. Case"; Eula Page, Ph.D., "The Red River Case" (four occupants observed); plus a motion picture film.

The next issue of UFO COMMENTARY will be their first anniversary special research issue and will be out sometime after this month. This quarterly ufozine is \$2.00 per year, but the "special" will be \$1.50 per copy (to non-subscribers) and will include articles by Dr. David R. Saunders, John Keel, Lucius Farish, Allen Benz and others. The Winter issue is a neat, easy-to-read magazine with interesting articles and UFO reports, price-60¢. Editor and publisher, Patrick A. Huyghe, 72 Jefferys Drive, Newport News, Va., 23601.

Now STAR TREK, the famous space series, can be ordered on your own mono, stereo, eight track and cassettes recorder. Write for details and catalog to Future Recordings, Sound Track Recordings - 1221 E. Esplanade Ave., Davenport, Iowa, 52803. --Adv.
(This firm also puts out a STAR TREK newsletter, price 20¢. SKYLOOK was given space as "Magazine of the Month" in the January issue.)

Second UFO Sighting Changes Scoffing to Deep Interest

Editor's Note: One of our readers, Mrs. Shirley Marlowe, wrote us re a 1971 sighting (see report elsewhere) and mentioned her own sighting in 1966. We asked Mrs. Marlowe to tell us about her own experience, and received such an interesting and well-written report we are using it just as she gave it to us. We have her permission to use her name, but she prefers we do not give her address other than she lives in Illinois. Her account follows.

My first sighting was in October of 1966. I don't recall the date. It was a daylight sighting, occurring around 2 or 2:30 P.M. I had just fixed something for our youngest to eat while he was watching TV at the other end of our kitchen-family room. I was drying my hands by the kitchen sink (large picture window above sink) and I looked up and saw a circular object with a domed top, nestled in a small cloud. I had a good view of what appeared to be the underside of the object. There were ten holes circling what appeared to be a flat surface. There was some kind of vapor coming from four of the ten holes--I can't remember which four holes.

The object was hovering while I watched it. I have tried to determine the size since the sighting; this may not be accurate, but I would believe it to be the size of a coffee saucer held at arm's length. I had a very good view of the object, but because of the impact of the sighting of something so unusual, I didn't think of distance in relation to the ground or trees etc. My mental reaction was, "What is it?" I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I looked at our child across the room watching TV; then looked back at the object. It began to travel slowly toward the N.E., then rapidly shot out of sight.

While the object was hovering, it was in the northern area. I have no idea how long I watched, but my hand which I had been drying had no circulation in it, I had obviously been squeezing it so tightly. I can remember thinking while watching the object and trying to rationalize at the same time, "It's a test craft of ours, maybe Russia's or Red China's." Then I wondered what the heck a test craft was doing over a populated area. A friend of mine called shortly after and I told her she wouldn't believe what I had just seen. I told her of the sighting and she said that altho she had never seen one [a UFO], she believed in them. I told her she was nuts.

This is a typical case of not wanting to believe what you see. At dinner I told the rest of my family and we all had a good laugh, and it was soon forgotten until January 31, 1967, when we had a night, light sighting.

This occurred a few days after the severe snow storm our area had. Everything was covered with snow. My daughter and I were watching TV and facing a sliding glass door. There was a large red light visible thru the drapes. We looked at it and I thought it was a plane at first and started back to the couch when it hit me--if it were a plane, it was too low and was going to crash. We headed back to the door, parted the drapes and the red glowing light was now an intense white and rapidly climbing, with six or seven bright white flashes that lit up the whole area.

I don't recall any discussion on UFO's or having read anything about them previous to the sightings. While there is a strong possibility I had heard of them, I don't believe I had any feelings one way or the

(Continued on next page)

Second UFO Sighting... Continued
the other until the second sighting. Then we all began watching and saw some pretty spectacular things happen. We reported to the authorities at W.P.A.F.B. The sightings were still going on when we contacted the Air Force, but they were busy heading to Galesburg-Moline and Kankakee areas where there had been sightings. After a few weeks they finally got around to us. The man who interviewed us was right to the point in telling us we were either hallucinating or working on auto-suggestion. When he left, we were all wondering if it was wise trying to be concerned citizens.

More on October Angel Hair Report

On Oct. 16, Joe Gurney, of St. Louis, was on his way home from work when he saw "that white, fluffy spidery-web type stuff often referred to as 'angel hair.'" See complete report in the November 1970 issue of SKYLOOK.

Mr. Gurney sent some of the strands to the laboratory for analysis and John F. Schuessler, writes: "The Gurney angel hair is much like the angel hair of last year, yet it is different also. In fact, the sample contains two kinds of material. They are mixed but of two distinct sizes. The smaller, like last year's sample is about 3 to 4 microns in diameter. It is very straight, not at all kinky. Even stranger is the fact that it is partially transparent. Picture it like a piece of wire, with insulation on it. In other words, it has a solid looking core, about 15 microns in diameter. The covering, transparent, surrounds the core, covering it, to make up the total 45 micron diameter. An infrared spectrographic scan resulted in a plot resembling the cotton family, but not actually matching any of the known plots."

Reference to an earlier St. Louis "Spider Invasion" appeared in an article in the April 1970 issue of "Science Digest." We quote:

"Here's one report, based on information from John F. Schuessler, of O'Fallon, Mo: Unusual flying and floating material observed near St. Louis Airport at McDonnell-Douglas Space Center. Material drifting northward. Sizes range from dime size to 10-foot-long globules. Sample retrieved: pure white; sticky when in contact with grass, metal or other objects; appears fibrous; no cell structure under 800-power microscope."

The article goes on to report that D. A. Pecsok of the St. Louis County Health Department tentatively confirmed "what Schuessler suspected"--the material was strictly of terrestrial origin.

"We have concluded that it must be spider webbing," Mr. Pecsok said. "We are not certain of the species of spider that produces this webbing but it has tentatively been identified as a balloon spider."

More Broken Glass

The January issue of SKYLOOK told of sheets of glass falling from a 50-story building under construction, for no known cause. The "Miami Herald," Jan. 11 issue, says the Chicago Building Commission finds to their consternation that "\$1,300 windows are cracking all about them." Last December 33 of its bronze-tinted nine-foot by nine-foot windows broke--that brought total breakage to 300 or \$390,000 worth. Experts working on the problem say the breakage is caused by buildup of rust in the glazing channel of the windows--the rust caused by rain and cleaning fluid.

Our question: does rust form that rapidly in a new building under construction? (Credit: W. E. LeFevre, Merritt Island, Fla.)

The Moving Rocks of Death Valley

Through the centuries hundreds of rocks--from pebbles to half-ton boulders--have slid mysteriously across a large dry lake in Death Valley. The rocks leave distinct trails as they move, but apparently no one has seen them sliding.

Two years ago a California Institute of Technology geologist, Dr. Robert P. Sharp placed stakes near 25 rocks of various sizes, some weighing as much as 1,000 pounds. Since then he has returned to the lake periodically to note positions of the rocks.

One rock traveled 212 feet in several slides. Others moved shorter distances. Sharp theorizes that rocks with the flattest bottoms slide the easiest and thus travel the farthest.

But what moves the rocks? Scientists as well as casual visitors have been baffled. Donald W. Carney, a ranger at Race Track playa, the 3-mile long, mile-wide dry lake crisscrossed with trails, says, "Some of the theories are pretty far out. One of them is that visitors from outer space spot the shining playa in the moonlight. They're supposed to land their saucers on the dry lake bed and move the rocks to bewilder earthmen. (Or perhaps for the same reasons earthmen move rocks on the moon?)"

"Others say it's the gravity of the moon (or the pull of the earth's magnetic field. Some insist there's a fault nearby--that the rocks move from earthquake vibrations." Carney has been assisting Sharp since the geologist began studying the rocks late in 1968. "From a scientific standpoint," Sharp says, "the moving rocks have always been a curiosity. But I have always been amazed to discover no one has ever carried out a continuous, reliable observation program to determine what causes the movement, how often the movement occurs and at what rate."

Sharp thinks he has the answer. He thinks the rocks are windblown over a slick surface after a rare rain. "The secret of the thing, I expect, is to catch the playa at precisely the right moment--saturated with a 1/4 to 3/8 inch of water, the surface still firm but slick as a whistle," Sharp says. "If the water has saturated any deeper, the rocks will sink, get bogged down in sticky gooey clay."

Our source for this article was a report in the January 7, 1971 issue of "The Kansas City Times." It fascinated us, and that's the reason we're passing it on to you. We have no theories and no conclusions of our own to explain the moving rocks.

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Tell others you read the ad in SKYLOOK. It's good publicity for us, and the advertiser likes to know too. Thank you.

"Man Reports Arm Burn from Something Dropped from 'Bright Light'" heads a report in the May 1970 issue of SKYLOOK. "The substance on the newspaper was purple colored with what appeared to be metallic speckles. Fletcher went into the house and wiped his arm again with a wet rag. He said the rag where it was stained by the substance, turned to a purplish blue." The paragraph is from a UFO report made by a man in Henrico County, Va., and reported to "The Richmond Times Herald," June 14, 1967:

NICAP's "Strange Effects from UFO's" told of a UFO seen in Cherry Creek, N. Y., Aug. 19, 1965 and ". . . Harold discovered a purple liquid oily-smelling substance and gave a sample of it to the state police who turned it over to Captain James Dorsey and five others from the Niagara Falls Air Force Base, who came to investigate the report." (For complete stories, check the references given.)

I have noticed amazing similarities in many UFO reports made by apparently intelligent observers who describe in detail UFO occupants, UFO shapes (McMinnville, Ore. and Rouan, France, good examples), UFO colors etc. Reactions of UFO occupants--In Indiana, Pa., a witness saw two occupants in a UFO and one pushed a lever; in Duncan, B. C., Canada, a nurse saw a UFO with two occupants and observed one push a lever. (The latter was reported in CANADIAN UFO REPORT, Vol. I, No. 8 and in many other UFO publications.)

There are many other similarities, and I believe a great deal can be learned by studying them.

Amateur Astronomer Reports Unidentified Object

W. E. (Bud) Shewmon, 518 Monroe Ave., Moberly, Mo., reports seeing an unidentified object in the sky about 6:40 p.m. CST, Jan. 31, 1971. Mr. Shewmon, an amateur astronomer, had set up his six-inch telescope in the backyard of his home and "happened to see a very bright object high in the western sky, exactly in the center of the Square of Pegasus."

He estimated its magnitude to be -4 except that it was covered by a round spot of haze about one degree in diameter. It was moving slowly in an east-southeasterly direction, he told a reporter of the "Monitor-Index." He called Mrs. Shewmon and she observed the object with binoculars. Shewmon observed it through the telescope with a 70-power eyepiece and "it resembled the head of a comet with a bright coma and a brilliant nucleus."

At 7 p.m. the object had moved about 5 degrees to the corner of the Square near the star Alpha Andromedae, but the bright nucleus had faded out completely and the haze had grown to about 2 degrees in diameter, Shewmon said. At 7:15 p.m. the hazy spot had grown to about 3 degrees then faded out completely. There were no clouds or other haze in this area of the sky.

Shewmon commented, "This was the day Apollo 14 was sent up and I have wondered if the above event might have been one of the parts of the Saturn rocket re-entering the earth's atmosphere and burning up. Otherwise I have no explanation for this sighting."

Credit: Larry Yoder, Moberly, Mo.

Editor's Note: We invite comment from other astronomers who may have observed the object and be able to identify it. More in this issue!

Unusual Lighted Craft. On Thursday, Jan. 21, 1971, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Todd, of Hamilton, Ill., watched an unusual arrangement of lights in the sky as they traveled east toward Carthage, Ill., about 6 PM. The lights were moving from east to west and resembled a light plane in height and speed. But the object had three yellow lights in a triangle and one blinking green light off to the left.

The Todds stopped their car as the lights passed overhead, but they could hear no sound. They assumed the lights to all be on one object since they moved in perfect formation.

February Sky Phenomenon. Mrs. Ruby Simmons was traveling by auto south on highway 96 toward Carthage, about 5:30 AM, Tuesday, Feb. 2nd, when a bright flash in the southeast caught her attention. The sky was mostly overcast but through a break in the southeast she saw a teardrop shaped light dropping downward. It was much larger than a star, had a fire-white color on the bottom and a red glow, like a tail on the top. No trail or streak was left. The light quickly disappeared behind more clouds within a few seconds. (See another article on this Feb. 2nd light elsewhere in SKYLOOK.)

Flashing Lights Seen in Nov. 1970 The following appeared in the "Nauvoo Independent" newspaper, Nauvoo, Ill.: "An intense flashing light was seen in the sky about 1:45 Sunday morning (Nov. 29, 1970) by a number of Nauvoo residents. Whatever the phenomenon was, we don't know, but it interfered with television. . . and other electrical appliances. Street lights were put out for a time."

Upon interviewing several residents concerning the event, it has been learned that TV and other electrical appliances turned off and on several times for short durations during a 30 to 60 second period. Flashing sky phenomena seen by these people was variously described as pinkish and resembling distant bombing and lavender alternating with white.

An elderly couple seemed the most highly affected. They reported the wife was awakened by a truck motor sound which seemed to come from the sky southeast of their home. Several minutes later (perhaps a half hour) she saw a bright blue and green flashing coming in a window on the east side of their home. She called her husband who bounded out of bed and into the kitchen. He witnessed a predominately red and orange flashing coming in a west window. There was electrical interference as described above and the sound compared to a truck motor could be heard overhead, varying in intensity. The light and sound seemed to be moving in a northeasterly direction.

It should be noted that Fort Madison, Ia., a mile northeast of Nauvoo, also experienced this event.

More on a 1968 Sighting

An additional witness has been found to confirm a Dec. 31, 1968 sighting of an orange, firey ball. It was seen traveling up the Mississippi river between Hamilton, Ill., and Keokuk, Ia.

This sighting was mentioned briefly on page 1 of the February 1969 issue of SKYLOOK as reported by Gary Hanson, 20, of Hamilton, who summoned two additional witnesses. Together they watched it travel north from the general area of the Union Electric Power Plant and Lock and Dam #19. As it neared the Illinois side of the river, it seemed to dip lower to the icy river and then dim out. Now, Mr. Don Bricker and his wife, of Hamilton, remember seeing a firey orange ball moving over the river parallel with their auto as they were driving up river on the Illinois side, on their way to a New Year's Eve party.

THE ASTRONOMY CORNER: The March Sky By Ted Phillips

Venus is seen as a very brilliant object in the eastern sky before sunrise throughout the month. On March 1st, it rises at 4:50 a.m. --on April 1st, at 4:30 a.m. Mars may be seen in the early morning hours in the low east-southeastern sky. On March 1st it rises at 2:25 a.m. and at 1:40 a.m. by April 1st. Jupiter is the third bright object in the morning sky, rising at 1:a.m. on March 1st, and may be seen rising at 11:00 p.m. April 1st. The ringed planet, Saturn, is visible in the evening sky throughout March. It sets at 11:30 p.m. March 1st and at 9:40 p.m. April 1st. All times given are central standard.

First quarter moon, March 3rd; full moon, March 11th; last quarter, March 19th; new moon, March 26th.

The Constellations. No. 4 . Cancer (The Crab) By Mark Herbstritt

The constellation Cancer (the Crab) is near the meridian this month. The crab conception comes from the Greeks, who called this group of stars Grapsias, which also means "the crab." The Egyptians called Cancer a beetle, and the people of India called it a tortoise, but the Chaldeans pictured it as a crab which is probably where the Greeks got the idea.

At the latitude of New York City Cancer is about 70 degrees above the southern horizon at transit. Cancer is one of the faintest constellations and it is only significant because it is in the zodiac. Thousands of years ago it marked the summer solstice when the sun was 23½ degrees north of the celestial equator. This was called the tropic of Cancer. None of the stars in Cancer is brighter than the fourth magnitude. There are two interesting clusters in Cancer: the Beehive cluster (M-44) can be seen without a telescope on a clear night. M-67 is a telescopic object and is a faint open cluster.

White Rock Is Moon Riddle

Scientists opened the first box of moon rocks collected by Shepard and Mitchell in the Fra Mauro highlands. The container opened yesterday had about nine pounds of the 95 pounds of material brought by the astronauts. But in it was a three-inch-long chip off a large white rock which the moonwalkers described while on the surface.

Geologists have speculated it might be part of the primitive lunar crust that they theorize underlies the area.

"Nobody knows what the rock is and obviously there is going to have to be a lot of work," said Dr. Robin Brett, chief of the geochemistry branch at the Manned Spacecraft Center.

Brett reported another rock analyzed for radioactivity had 10 times more potassium, thorium and uranium than was found in the lunar samples returned by the crews of Apollos 11 and 12 in 1969. This indicates, he said, that this particular rock underwent a greater changing process than the rocks from the early sites and thus is probably older.

The material from the relatively flat Maria areas of Apollo 11 and 12 ranged in age from 3.2 billion to 3.7 billion years. Scientists hope some of the Fra Mauro rocks will date back 4.6 billion years to the formation of the moon, the earth and the solar system.

Source: "Detroit News," Feb. 13, 1971. Credit: Clinton C. Williams

The early bird gets a seat--order your tickets NOW for the Midwest UFO Conference to be held in St. Louis, Mo. June 12. Don't miss it.

Moving Object Observed over Versailles, Mo., Feb. 6, 1971

Mr. X had just left the local movie theater, located on the square in Versailles, Mo., when he observed a round, white object below the clouds. He glanced at his watch and it was 11:30 p.m. It was snowing heavily at the time, and the object was fairly high in the western sky. It was very bright--"brighter than the full moon," and the witness said a dime held at arms length would not have covered it. It moved with some vertical motion, rising, then falling to its hovering position. While in motion it appeared to dim, but was bright while hovering.

The witness, feeling he was seeing something really unusual, called to a couple in a nearby car, and they also observed the object.

Mr. X then drove home, watched the object for several minutes from that location, then returned to the square. The object was now directly overhead and was rising, falling, then hovering as before. After watching for several minutes, Mr. X reported the object suddenly moved away towards the northeast at a high rate of speed and disappeared into the distance.

Versailles, population 2,047, is north of the Lake of the Ozarks in central Missouri. Ted Phillips, who reported this sighting to SKYLOOK, says Mr. X is a friend of several years, and he considers him a reliable witness. Mr. Phillips is now contacting other observers of the sky object.

1965 Missouri Sighting Reported

Joe Troutman, of Gravois Mills, Mo., reported a sighting of Dec. 7, 1965. At that time the Troutmans were living on a farm at Pleasant Hill, Mo.

Mr. Troutman told your editor he stepped outside about 5:45 a.m. and at once noticed a bright light emanating from a large, round, yellow-orange ball and his first thought was that it was the moon; then he realized instantly this was not the case. The object was hovering about 200 feet above a shed; then moved to the northwest about 75 feet directly over a pond. The water and trees were seen as clearly as if in the glow of a strong searchlight, Mr. Troutman said. The object seemed to be settling, then suddenly flared up in an intensely bright, white light and then "went out."

It is interesting to note the farm dogs were howling and apparently terrified as the object passed over the farmyard to the pond. Later when it was daylight Mr. and Mrs. Troutman (she too had seen the object) went to the area where the object was last seen, but could find nothing out of the ordinary.

Asked about the size of the object, Mr. Troutman said it looked as if it were three feet across. There was no sound, and the observation lasted "just a few minutes."

Object Seen Over Canton, Ill.

Edward L. Sale, a MUFON state-section director, of Canton, Ill., reports: "Upon returning home from a visit with friends in Canton, Jan. 24, 1971, my wife and I observed an unusual object traveling from north to south across the highway ahead of our car as we were traveling east. I cannot give any other description other than it was about the size of a pea held at arms length, predominantly orange-toward-red. It was first observed in the north at about 50 degrees and suddenly disappeared at about 130 degrees south. No blinking of lights were observed. The sky was entirely clear and the temperature 31°F. Elevation undetermined. Total time of observation was 4 minutes, beginning at 10:55 p.m."

Illinois Man Watches Ball-Shaped Object

Arnold T. Wessel, TV repairman of Aviston, Ill., observed an unidentified flying object for about 15 minutes while driving his car between Aviston and Trenton, Ill., the evening of January 26, 1971. It was about six o'clock when he observed the object in the sky through the windshield of his car. It appeared to be a half mile distant and in a hovering position. It looked like "a Christmas tree with the top cut off," or bell-shaped and he judged it to be ten feet tall. It appeared as a bright light with fuzzy outlines.

Mr. Wessel was making a house call and continued on his way, but later reported the sighting to Rosetta Holmes, of Carlyle, Ill., a member of the SKYLOOK staff.

Maine Reader Observes Square UFO

Mary C. Kimball, of Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, sent us a report of a square UFO seen the evening of Dec. 28, 1970. It was 4:05 p.m. and Miss Kimball was standing on the sidewalk outside the building where she has employment. The sky was cloudy and there was no wind.

A strange, reddish object shot straight down from the sky. It was far away when first seen and at first she thought it was a jet plane. Then the object hovered at tree-top level less than 1000 feet from the observer.

The object was very red and "glossy" and square in shape, but upon tilting slightly in making a "quick, sharp turn" the back seemed to be slightly higher than the front. She judged it to be between two and three feet high and wide. "It was a very solid thing," she wrote, and she could see no openings of any kind and there was no sound, heat or odor. On making the sharp turn mentioned, the object took off at a high rate of speed, leaving a very vivid vapor trail, the trail being the same color as the object. Its course was northwest to southwest.

Editor's Comment: A very interesting report--and we invite all of our readers to send in their UFO sightings. We do want YOURS.

Pink and Yellow Circle Seen Near Markham, Ill.

Mrs. Helen Swanson, a housewife, of Homewood, Ill., and her two nephews, Gary (12) and Ricky Crawford (14) observed a sky phenomenon the evening of Jan. 26, 1971, which left Mrs. Swanson with a chill going through her because of its strange appearance.

The weather was cold, with a clear sky, and Mrs. Swanson and the boys were in a car when they observed the object at 5:45 p.m. and watched it for at least five minutes. The object appeared in the south, low on the horizon and was "larger than the sun." It was an "odd, odd sight," she reported. A large, pink circle was surrounded by a perfect yellow circle. A hazy, white cloud-like circle bordered the yellow circle. They "all looked fluorescent," she told Shirley Marlowe, who sent us the report.

Here's a Real Bargain!

Ye Ed is indebted to Clint Williams for a copy of a beautiful book "Exploring the Moon Through Binoculars," by Ernest H. Cherrington, Jr. This hard back book with 53 photographs and moon phase charts may be obtained from Marboro Books, 131 Varick St., New York, N. Y., 10013, for \$1.75 (\$1 plus 75¢ handling and mailing charges, two copies for \$2.75, three for \$3.75 etc.). Lou Farish also has a copy of this book and tells us it had a price tag of \$10 when first published in 1969. Marboro Books buys surplus stocks and sells them at a discount price. If you have the slightest interest in the moon and the Apollo flights, you'll send for this book. It's a treasure! (And thanks again, Clint.)

The UFO: Just Beyond the State-of-the-Art . . . By John F. Schuessler

Part II:--Since the propulsion system dictates the size, shape, weight, environmental design parameters, payload, etc., it follows that we should upgrade our technology in that area first. Letting the imagination wander a little several approaches come to mind. Consider the ducted-fan as used in ground effect machines. Several enterprising inventors have built very authentic looking flying saucers capable of gliding along several inches off the ground. They may look far out but none have been able to go through the transition stage to permit flight out of ground effect.

Then in the early 1960's large-scale wind-tunnel tests were conducted on a circular plan-form aircraft with a peripheral jet for lift, thrust, and control. The tests were conducted at the Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California. The craft was 18 feet in diameter, 3 1/4 feet thick, and was propelled by a 5-foot-diameter turborotor driven by the exhaust of three J-69 jet engines. The air intake for the turborotor and the jet engines was from openings on the upper surface of the wing. While an air-breathing engine could not be used for space travel, the tests demonstrate the potential for a disk-shaped craft to operate in the atmosphere. The craft did lack static aerodynamic stability, pointing out the need for an automatic stabilization system. Transition studies established that the aircraft had a thrust deficiency which demonstrated that a more advanced propulsion system was needed.

Several groups of UFO enthusiasts have followed the more parochial path of attempting to leap into space by mechanical means, bypassing the need for technological sophistication. The ideas range from fly-wheel devices, to spring-link systems, to huge magnetic motors. Each hopes to use a little wasted energy or maybe even perpetual motion to move the vehicle. So far, Mr. Newton and his law of motion keeps getting in the way.

A more far-out approach is the use of a gravity shield. H. G. Wells wrote about such a device in his story, "The First Man in the Moon." A British inventor, Mr. Cavor, devised a disk of material which he called "cavorite." This material could create a gravity shadow and cause any object above the disk to be weightless. He built a spherical gondola surrounded by cavorite shutters which could be opened and closed. By simply closing the shutters on the Earth's side and opening those on the Moon's side, the Earth's gravitational pull was terminated and the Moon's gravity pulled Mr. Cavor right into space. Easy, wasn't it?

Influencing gravity is not totally impossible for experiments have shown that an electric charge applied to the surface of a rocket or missile will increase its velocity and stability. The idea is to offset the effects of gravity by maintaining a positive charge on the vehicle so it will be repelled by the Earth's positive charge and will be attracted by the increasing negative charges as it rises into the upper atmosphere. In tests with more than 200 miniature rockets the most successful material was a non-conductive plastic material coated with a conductive varnish. The experiments were so successful that in 1953 a patent was granted to the inventor, a retired Navy captain, Horace C. Dudley.

Cavorite seems to provide the optimum flexibility in anti-gravity systems. It really is too bad that it is not all that simple. The fact

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The UFO . . . (Continued)

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that the Earth's gravitational field is energy conserving means that a spacecraft must not only expend an enormous amount of energy to "break free," but it must again dispose of that energy when returning. This can be done through the use of retro-rockets and/or the dissipation of heat. A good example is the return and reentry of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo spacecraft. The anti-gravity system on the other hand could make use of the gravitational field, through reversibility, to permit flight with little or no expenditure of energy. Sounds like science fiction, doesn't it? Well, most of today's science was yesterday's science fiction. So let us proceed.

Einstein's Principle of Equivalence states that gravitation and inertial forces are indistinguishable and equal. It follows that electromagnetic forces are also related, although Einstein died before he could prove his Unified Field Theory. Control then becomes common to all forces. This could be accomplished through a combination of an electromagnetic screen and special capacitor. The screen would isolate the spacecraft from all outside forces allowing only computer selected forces to act upon it. Naturally, the forces would be selected in the correct combinations to provide stability, control, and movement. The capacitor would store electromagnetic energy for use in ascent and recharge during descent. This energy exchange system not only lets us penetrate the gravitational energy barrier, but it also explains the halo effect sometimes seen in UFO photographs or when observed through polaroid glasses, or even the luminosity observed in nighttime sightings.

Scientific advances are taking place so rapidly now that it is very hard to draw a line that separates the possible from the impossible. For instance, a new super-conducting material has been discovered that can withstand 410,000 gauss with no loss in superconductivity. This magnetic field is a million times greater than the Earth's field and retains its superconducting ability up to 21 K. Another example is the development by Avco Corporation of very finely-divided particles that can give water magnetic properties. Water, as such, could be made to float almost anything, even heavy steel structures. The search for magnetic monopoles goes on. The magnetic monopole is a hypothetical particle that has only a single magnetic charge, either a north or south pole alone. Although theory predicts the existence of such particles, they are still not identified. The reality of antimatter has been theorized for over 40 years, but the first anti-nucleus, antihydrogen 2 was not found until 1966. Now a three-particle anti-nucleus, antihelium 3 has been found. Research on neutrinos and antineutrinos, massless, chargeless particles emitted in nuclear processes, is beginning to pay off. These particles always have their spin axes aligned with the direction of their motion. The direction of spin for neutrinos is left-handed and the spin for antineutrinos has been determined to be right-handed. The energy potential of the pulsar and the quasar is now being considered as a future source of energy for mankind. Discovering the mechanism by which they release that energy could open the doors to a new science.

As I mentioned earlier the old smoke and fire breathing jet engine of the Ames experiment is interesting but useless in space. It could, however, be used as an auxiliary power source for take off and landing or even near-earth hovering. This could account for the numerous reports of smoke, flame, noise, scorched earth and the like. Consider the reports by Lonnie Zamora at Socorro, New Mexico in 1964,

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The UFO . . . (Continued)

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and by Kathy Barr at Garrison, Iowa in 1968.

The vast amounts of power required for operation of the gravity-screen, electrostatic capacitor, etc., could be supplied by a controlled thermonuclear reactor (CTR). We presently do not have the ability to construct a practical CTR system, even though we have utilized the power of fusion for several years in weaponry. The increase in background radioactivity levels detected in near-UFO encounters and the burns sustained by persons coming in contact with UFOs indicates that just such a system is now in use.

Once the propulsion system is selected, other systems can be defined to fit the overall plan. Because of the severe weight restrictions placed upon all our spacecraft to date we have had to refine and miniaturize all designs to be able to put ten pounds of equipment in a one pound slot. This sophistication will be most useful to us in the future, for it will provide the way to design of a truly modern spacecraft.

If a spacecraft is to be manned, it must have a life support system capable of sustaining human life for a specified mission duration, potentially several hundred days. This means supplying the proper atmospheric gas mixture, moisture level, temperature level, and trace contaminant control system. Presently this highly complex equipment must not only be designed to sustain life, it must be designed to survive the launch environment. For example, a piece of equipment might operate perfectly in space if designed like a fine watch. However, the extreme vibration and launch acceleration forces imposed by the launch vehicle might cause that same part to be designed like your washing machine motor, just so it could survive the launch into space. The task doesn't just stop here either. Not only must the piece of equipment be designed to meet the rugged criteria, it must also be tested to prove it. The testing then requires simulation or test equipment that will thoroughly de-bug each item. Multiply this by the thousands of pieces of equipment necessary to fly a space mission and you see the complication involved. Our energy exchange vehicle eliminates the need for all this "survive the launch" design and testing.

The life support system design is often hampered by the limited power available for system operation. Our Controlled Thermonuclear Reactor solves the power problem and the associated heat source could be put to good use in the life support system. On long missions, one avoids dumping waste such as carbon dioxide, sweat, body waste, etc. overboard. Instead, conventional systems can be employed to remove the contaminants from the atmosphere, while a reactor is used to recover oxygen and a condenser/purifier saves the water. Supplies, other than food, could be obtained by entering the atmosphere of a planet and scooping up whatever gas and moisture available, liquifying it for storage and later recovery through the normal reduction system.

The guidance and control system would require both automatic and manual capability, both within reach of our present day technology. The chief improvement would be in the manual reaction time of the pilot. The man/machine system could be so designed to permit control of the vehicle through the pilot's eyeball. A sensing device would detect minute changes in the eyeball orientation adjusting the spacecraft attitude to it. Gross changes, of course, would be ignored by the system through an automatic override characteristic. This system might tend to make the vehicle oscillate slightly during a slow flight

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The UFO . . . Continued

within the atmosphere, but it would be held within the tolerances of the sensing device.

Through all normal flight sequences, communication would be via laser, unless the crew was tuned in to ESP as I understand the Russians are trying. Very little advance in the state of the art would be required here, unless picture image projection was desired. Again the power should be available for such a system.

As you can see, sophistication on every level is required; but consider the great strides in space technology that we have made in the last 12 years. We are limited only by the vision of those scientists and engineers of the future. I realize that hindsight is often rated as 20:20, so why not foresight also. All men are not bound by convention and those that stray from the path of scientific egotism usually establish a new science. For what man can conceive, he can build, even though he may not always do it in the conventional manner. I think that the UFO or flying saucer of today fits into that category --JUST BEYOND THE STATE OF-THE-ART.

End

Editor's Note: Our regular readers need no introduction to John F. Schuessler, but for the benefit of new subscribers---Mr. Schuessler is Group Design Engineer at the McDonnell-Douglas Aeronautics, Eastern Division, St. Louis, Mo. He supervises the engineering group responsible for all the mechanical equipment to be used in the Air Lock Vehicle, a part of the Apollo Program "Orbital Workshop." This space station will be manned by astronauts in the future and should have a useful orbital life of approximately eight months. Prior to his association with the Apollo Program, he was assigned to the Gemini Project and is credited with the design of the environmental central system on the Gemini space crafts.

Mr. Schuessler is the Missouri Director and Consultant to the Midwest UFO Network, director of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, and--we add with pride--a staff member of SKYLOOK.

Part I of Mr. Schuessler's address appeared in the February issue of SKYLOOK. Back issues available.

Flashes of Fire Seen in Sky

Mysterious flashes of fire were seen in the sky over the Mid-South early Feb. 2, 1971, principally by airplane and riverboat crews.

The Memphis (Tenn.) "Press-Scimitar" reported that Marine radio station WJG received reports from boats north and south of Memphis. Crews of the motor vessel Hamilton, 35 miles north, reported having seen a flash of fire overhead at 5:30 a.m.

Employees at the Federal Aviation Administration air control tower at the Memphis International Airport said two commercial airline pilots and one Air Force pilot reported they saw the flash about 6:05 a.m. (Credit, Minnie Thompson, Memphis, Tenn.)

UFO Tracked Across Midwest

So read the headlines in the Feb. 3rd edition of the "Chicago Daily News" with a report out of Terre Haute, Indiana stating sightings of a brightly-lit object flashing across the early morning sky Tuesday (Feb. 2) caused a rash of plane-crash reports from Ohio to Missouri.

Federal Aviation Administration officials at Terre Haute said reports of a "huge fireball" came from as far away as Dayton to the east and St. Louis to the west.

(Continued on Next Page)

UFO Tracked . . (continued)

A Danville (Ind.) farmer told Indiana State Police the object may have crashed on his farm south of Indianapolis, but police searchers failed to find any foreign object.

Military authorities at Ft. Campbell, Ky. denied early reports that the object may have been a stray rocket from that base. The base has no rocket facilities, they claimed.

Officials at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., near St. Louis, also confirmed reports of sightings near there, but could not determine the cause.

George Jones, a Continental Trailways bus driver from St. Louis, spotted the object between St. Elmo and Vandalia in central Illinois.

"It lasted three to four seconds. . . it was just like somebody shooting a flashbulb in your eyes," Jones reported.

Similar sightings have been reported several times in recent months over the same area, according to reports out of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton.

FAA and Air Force officials also have discounted earlier reports that the object might have been a spent weather-seeding rocket launched at the Elgin Air Force Base in Florida. (Credit, Loren Coleman, of Decatur, Ill.)

Three Report Falling Object

An unidentified flying object, or at least, an unidentified falling object was seen this morning by at least three Decatur residents.

One, a newspaper carrier, called "The Daily Review" to report that as he was delivering his papers, about 5:30 a.m., he saw a fireball in the southern sky.

Another, a patient in St. Mary's Hospital, called to report that he watched from his hospital window as what looked like a meteorite fell.

The third UFO spotter was a Macon County sheriff's deputy who was on patrol near the intersection of Pershing Road and North Water Street when he saw the object. He said it looked as if it were falling into the southeastern part of the county.

A check of area county sheriffs revealed that a truck driver driving from Bloomington to Decatur reported seeing a fireball in the sky to the south as he passed through Heyworth about 5:30.

A Christian County sheriff's deputy also spotted the object. He reported that it lit up the sky and appeared to be in the direction of Assumption. ("Decatur Daily Review, Decatur, Ill., Feb. 2, 1971. Credit, Loren Coleman, of Decatur")

A newspaper clipping from the "Decatur Herald," Feb. 3, 1971, also supplied by Mr. Coleman, had the same reports as given in the Daily Review, but added that an Eastern Airlines pilot said he saw what appeared to be a meteorite streak across the sky and strike the ground in the Centralia-Mount Vernon area shortly before dawn. . . . A helicopter traffic pilot in Dayton who spotted the object described it as possibly having been a meteorite.

Mystery Flash Lights Illinois Sky

A brilliant object that flashed over central Illinois early Tuesday, Feb. 2nd, may have been a meteorite, Edwin Friton, regional director of the American Meteor Society, said, as reported by the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 1971.

Friton said the brilliant flash reported by observers is characteristic of many meteorites. "Brilliant meteorites--the ones that drop stones--are sometimes accompanied by sound," he said.

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Mystery Flash. . . continued

SKYLOOK

Observers of the phenomenon are asked to send their descriptions of the object to Friton at 509 Marshall Ave., Webster Groves, Mo., 63119 (we're sending this issue of SKYLOOK). He would like to know the direction the object was going when it was sighted, how high it was, the color, brilliance, and size of the object compared to a full moon. (Credit--John F. Schuessler and Rosetta Holmes)

Mrs. Holmes also sent us the report of Cebert V. Turner, of Beckemeyer, Ill., who saw the Feb. 2nd object. Mr. Turner, who is an inspector on the B&O Railroad, was sitting in his car outside a friend's home waiting for him to accompany him to work "When all of a sudden, the whole sky lit up, and I glanced over my left shoulder as I was facing west and there was what appeared to be a giant fire ball in the sky. Then it went out as you would turn off a light bulb. The house partly obscured my vision as it appeared as if had fallen a short distance. It appeared as larger than the sun." The object was sighted at 5:30 a.m. and was observed four seconds, Mr. Turner reported.

What Was It? (Recorded as a Fireball)

Lt. Col. Ralph R. Vaught, Defense Attache, American Embassy, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, passed the following report of a possible meteorite fall to Dr. Donal H. Johnson, of the U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Geological Survey:

"On the evening of 8 January 1971 a Saudi Arabian radio operator in the town of Sakakah, Saudi Arabia, was aroused by a flash of light lasting about a minute to the east of Sakakah. He went outside (whether before or after the light ended is not known) and almost immediately heard and felt shock waves severe enough to break windows in several buildings of the town.

"A pilot who flew into and out of Sakakah during daylight later reported he was unable to see any signs of impact in the vicinity."

This was reported to the Smithsonian Institution Center for Short Lived Phenomena at Cambridge, Mass., and their comment in listing the event was "A meteorite large enough to leave an impact crater visible from the air would probably have been noticed over a much wider area." (Credit, Clinton C. Williams)

FOR SALE: Back issues of "Saucer News," No. 71 to 75; "Spacelink," Four Manned Orbital Flight N ASA-SP-45. Paperback books: "Anatomy of a Phenomenon," "Flying Saucer Occupants," "Flying Saucers-Serious Business," "The Flying Saucer Reader," "From Outer Space," "Report on UFOs" by Ruppelt, "Incident at Exeter," "UFO-Top Secret." UFOFC Clipping Service, Nov. '69 through October '70 except Jan. '70--\$1.00 each. Jim Moseley's book of Saucer News Document 96, Gray Barker's book of Adamski, Strange Case of Dr. M. K. Jessup, UFO and the Bible by Jessup, Flying Saucers are Watching You, UFO Warning. Hard cover books: Flying Saucers-Serious Business; Flying Saucers-Here and Now; Men Among Mankind. Subscriptions to Spacelink and Eyewitness. Also Outer Space Maps, showing planets, rotation and revolution etc. \$1.25 each. Write: Mark R. Herbstritt, 967 Theresia St., St. Mary's, Pa. 15857.

"Personally, I enjoy Lou's IN OTHERS' WORDS the best, but also find your editorializing and unusual sighting reports most interesting * * the light-in-the-sky reports are the most uninteresting to me and could probably be summed up in a half page every month."-Paul Braczyk.

BEFORE

By Lucius Farish

No. 12 in a series of pre-1947 UFO reports.

ENGLISH MECHANIC AND WORLD OF SCIENCE, August 18, 1916--A letter from an observer signing himself "Rigel," living in Limerick, Ireland, told of the following phenomenon: "Re the light seen by 'An Observer,' Ballinasloe, / See last month's column/ I have just come upon some old notes which show that I saw a similar but fainter light on the night of December 24, 1909. On the night I saw it, the whole sky was cloudy. At 8:30 p.m. I observed a ball of light, which was nearly as bright as Jupiter, rise from the North-eastern horizon and slowly move to the South. At 8:50 p.m. it reached its highest point in the sky. At that time it was due East about 30° from the zenith. At 9 p.m. I examined it with a telescope, and did not find any difference between it and a star or rather a planet. At 9:2 p.m. it again slowly descended in the North-east and disappeared beneath the horizon in the same place from which it rose. The nature of this light still remains a mystery." (Credit: Charles F. Flood).

No. 8 of the Series "The 1897 Mysterious Airship"

Research by Walter H. Andrus

(Continuation of the Report in the April 13, 1897 "Quincy Morning Whig" in last month's account)

A balloon such as has been made for a trip to the north pole might be wafted back and forth over the central states for several days, and it could be so arranged as to keep a fixed altitude. But it is impossible for a balloon of such size and expense to have been launched without people knowing it. The same might be said of an airship, only there would be more to gain by the launching of an airship secret than of a balloon.

It would indeed be wonderful if the great problem is solved at last, and in the face of such testimony I can not gainsay but it has. The matter has now become a matter for investigation by scientific men and the professors of Washington university will do their utmost to solve it tonight."

The opinion expressed by Prof. Pritchett was that of other scientific men of St. Louis. The matter has caused great excitement in St. Louis and was the subject of general comment down town Saturday.

In connection with these remarkable observations it may be stated that three weeks ago a letter was received by a prominent St. Louisan stating that positive information had been obtained by the writer--a Chicagoan--to the effect that an airship was about to be launched, and it was believed the aerial craft would start from the vicinity of St. Louis, hover over the central states until the curiosity of the civilized world was excited, then drop to the ground at Chicago. The letter was laughed at then but is being thoroughly investigated now.

Reference was made above to the corroborative evidence that had been received at many points regarding observations made Friday night. The statements, condensed from telegraphic dispatches, are here given:

Max L. Hosmer, secretary Chicago Aeronautical association: it was an airship. I know one of the three men who are in it. The ship is

(Continued on next page)

1897 Airship . . (Continued)

the customary inflated gas reservoir, but the inventors have discovered the secret of practical propulsion. They can steer the vessel in any direction. Word reached me several weeks ago that the craft had started from San Francisco and would stop here for the purpose of registration. The object of all the mystery is to arouse great interest in aerial navigation and demonstrate its practicability. The trip is to end at Washington.

Press dispatch from Omaha: Several hundred persons in Omaha are prepared to swear that an airship of gigantic proportions has been hovering over this city at night for some time. It has been seen repeatedly. Six months ago, it was heard from in the interior of the state, and since that time it has been seen in various parts of Nebraska. During the past two weeks it has appeared almost nightly over this city. Invariably its description has been the same. Still more persons have observed the great headlight of same, than have seen the outlines of the vessel, though a great many claim to have caught glimpses of its workings. The general description is this: A long steel body shaped like a cigar, 50 feet long and 6 to 10 feet in diameter, with wing-like attachments on the sides, while fore and aft appear wheel-like connections similar to the steering apparatus of a steamboat. The top is capped by a balloon-like bag, though oblong, and seemingly attached to the cigar-shaped vessel by ropes, as the upper part has been observed to sway violently.

Richard Butler, farmer of Wolf Creek township, Ia.: I was driving home Wednesday night when I observed a light in a field close to the road. I knew no house was there and stopped to investigate. The light had a glow more like that of an electric lamp than the kerosene burners usually employed by the residents of the Wolf Creek district. I was astonished to see a dark mass, through the windows of which the lights shone. It was a long, narrow car, resembling a corset box in shape, but perhaps thirty or thirty-five feet in length as the car was and eight or ten feet thick at its greatest diameter. At this moment my horses caught sight of the ship, bolted precipitately for the opposite side of the road and tumbled me into the ditch. By the time I had crawled from the wreck the machine was moving briskly in a southerly direction, and at the same time ascending at an angle of about fifty-five degrees.

The Trenton (Mo.) Republican says the airship was seen by a number of persons in that vicinity.

Bloomington, Ill., April 12--An object believed to have been the mysterious airship which has been sailing over Illinois, was seen at noon today floating over Bloomington. It was going in a northeasterly direction at a great altitude. It was yellow in color and seemed to be rectangular in form.

(To Be Continued)

WANTED: A copy of the book "The Challenge of Space" by Arthur Louis Joquel. If you have this book and will sell or lend it, or if you know where a copy may be obtained, please write at once to Lucius Farish, Route 1, Plumerville, Ark., 72117.

Don't forget

Saturday, June 12, 1971

The Midwest UFO Conference will be held in St. Louis, Mo.

~~This Stuff Turns Up In The Darndest Places Dept.~~: "This stuff" being UFO material, of course. The latest seemingly unlikely place for such information to appear is in the February issue of SOUTHERN LIVING magazine. Author Jerry Flemmons recounts the story of the Aurora, Texas, "crashed airship" hoax from 1897. Because the Aurora story was a fabrication, Flemmons concludes that the entire 1897 flap was the product of overactive imaginations and practical jokes. While most UFO researchers will not agree with his premise, Flemmons does include some "airship" data not previously publicized, so the article is well worth reading.

UFOs are featured again in the Feb. 28th issue of NATIONAL ENQUIRER. This half-page article describes some interesting British sightings of recent date.

Otto Binder's latest attempt to place Ted Owens in the "modern legend" category is to be found in the March issue of SAGA. Binder once again reports on Owens' claimed contacts with the "Space Intelligences" and their assistance with his various "mind over matter" exhibitions. Tune in again next issue and for only 60¢ more, you can read the final thrilling installment!

An excellent historical UFO report is detailed in the March issue of FATE. The locale is Helmer, Indiana; the date is March 17, 1903. A huge object, shaped like "a gigantic ripe cucumber," is seen hovering over a pasture, emitting an unusual light through rows of square windows in the sides. A truly fascinating article.

The March 8th issue of the weekly tabloid, MIDNIGHT, carries an article on UFOs allegedly seen by the crew of the Apollo 12 spacecraft during its trip to the Moon and on the return voyage. In the past, MIDNIGHT, as well as other weekly tabloids, concocted all sorts of wild tales to boost their sales figures. This particular article, however, appears to present the facts fairly straight. There were UFO sightings associated with the Apollo 12 flight and the tape transcripts quoted in the article seem to ring true, for the most part. A UFO photo, alleged to have been taken during the Apollo flight, was actually taken by Astronaut McDivitt on a Gemini flight, but for MIDNIGHT, that's pretty close! Identifying Timothy G. Beckley as the "nation's leading authority" on UFOs will undoubtedly widen MIDNIGHT's credibility gap, but perhaps it is already beyond the "point of no return."

Brad Steiger's article, "Flying Saucers Scorch Iowa Farms," in the April issue of MALE, presents material which may be of particular interest to SKYLOOK readers. For that matter, portions of the data (such as the Warren Barr "landing mark" case) have already appeared in SKYLOOK several months ago. Steiger quotes extensively from reports compiled by Iowa ufologist Glenn McWane and presents at least one photo which has not been publicized heretofore. A very good summary of the events which are typical in "flap" areas. [Ed. Note: Mr. McWane is a State-Section Director for MUFON.]

Erich von Daniken's book "Chariots of the Gods?" is now available in a paperback edition from Bantam Books at \$1.25. His second book, "Gods from Outer Space," (published in England under the title "Return to the Stars") will be published by G. P. Putnam's Sons in April. If at all possible, a review of this later title will appear in this column shortly after publication of the book.

Send us 35¢ and the address, and we'll mail a copy of this Special Issue to a friend. You'll be doing both of us a favor.

Another Report on the Feb. 2nd Light in Sky

Howard W. Killebrew, an electronic technician with the U. S. Army Engineers, stationed at Shelbyville, Ill., adds his testimony to those observing the flash of light in the sky the morning of Feb. 2nd. He was driving on Highway 104, 10 or 15 miles southeast of Jacksonville, Ill., heading east at 5:32 a.m. when he observed an object 85 degrees above the horizon to the southeast. It was a reddish-mellow color and the size of a quarter held at arms length when first seen. The sky was dark with high, thin cirrus clouds.

The object; or light, moved straight down from the 85 degree angle toward the earth, getting larger as it fell, to the size of a basketball held at arms length. At the 10-15 degree point above the horizon "the light simply went out," Mr. Killebrew reported to Walt Andrus, of Quincy

The observation lasted five seconds and during that time the sky from directly east of the observer to the south was lit up as if by a magnesium flare, Mr. Killebrew said.

At Olney, Ill., Killebrew talked to a truck driver who had also seen the light and said it expanded to the size of the cab of his truck.

A Paper by Stanton T. Friedman

Mr. Stanton T. Friedman, who will speak at the MUFON Conference in St. Louis, June 12, has sent us a copy of his 10,000 word paper, "Flying Saucer Energetics" which he presented at the Energy Conversion Engineering Conference held in Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 23, 1970.

He reviews some of his reasons for believing that the earth is being visited by intelligently controlled extraterrestrial vehicles and suggests some of the energy investigation areas that might benefit from a careful engineering approach to obtaining technological data about UFOs. Recommendations are included for methods of getting more data about UFOs.

Mr. Friedman, who recently subscribed to SKYLOOK, informs us our readers may have copies of this paper, directly from him, at 50¢ each. His address: Stanton T. Friedman, 18434 Mansel Ave., Redondo Beach, Calif. 90278. We suggest you add this paper to your permanent library on ufology and recommend it as background reading before hearing him lecture at the St. Louis Conference, June 12.

SHORT NOTES:-Thought we'd have a whole page this time, but again we've run out of space, even with a special issue which we can't afford--but had to have one last fling before the postal rates go up again. . . . As usual, we have more copy than we can use--thanks to our wonderful staff and contributing readers-- and again, as usual, we'll try to use some next month. It is all appreciated and held for future reference. . . . We get letters from readers asking when MUFON is going to set up an organization in their state, and we're passing them on to Walt. Just be patient, folks! It takes time to set up a good working organization and MUFON is growing--thanks to a great Director and a lot of cooperation and good will plus an ever-increasing public interest in UFOs. . . . A lot of people have to set up their vacation plans now so someone will be left to "keep the store" during the months when most people want to be on the road. Why not make plans now so you can include the MUFON Conference in St. Louis June 12? There's a lot to see around St. Louis too, so plan to spend a couple days. Write the Chamber of Commerce for some sight-seeing folders. . . . Another reason we mention the Conference NOW is because we're almost sure this copy will reach you before June 12th! --Ye Ed.