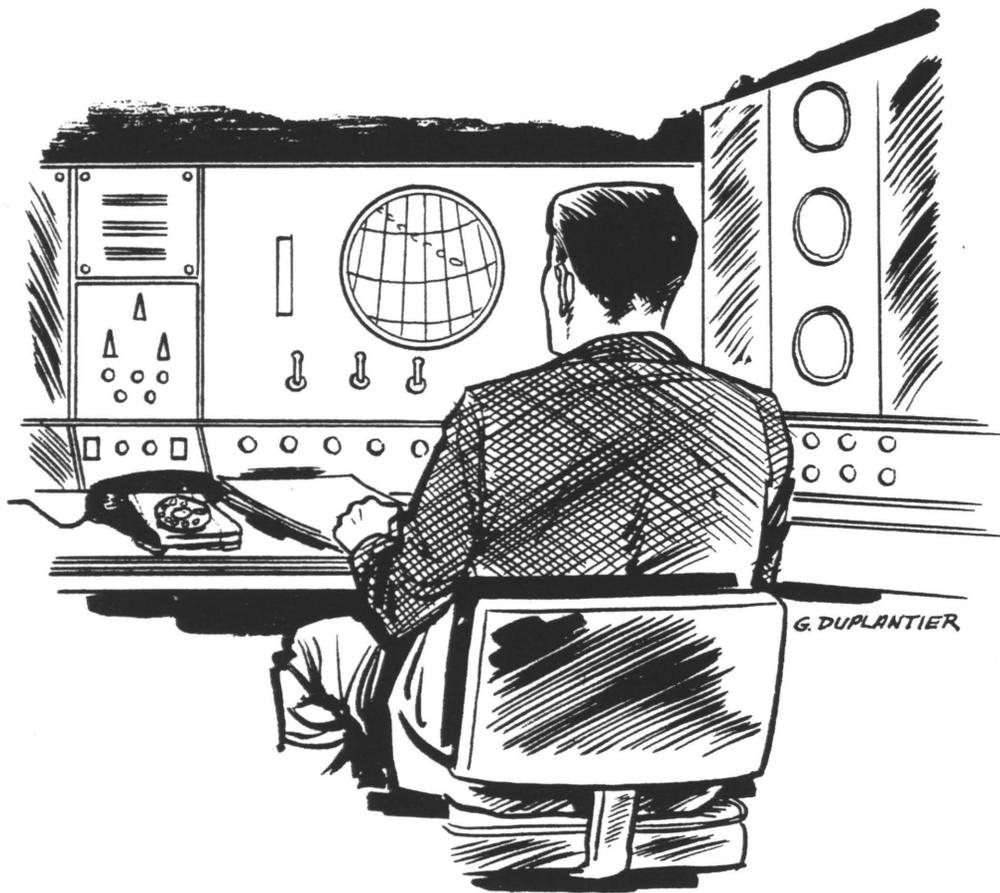


A GRAY BARKER



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Gray Barker (R. Hilberg collection)

A WORD ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

About the time I attended my first organized UFO meeting in the latter part of December 1958, I remember purchasing a magazine devoted to matters saucerish at a local news stand. It was, of course, Ray Palmer's *Flying Saucers*, and at that time was into its second year of publication. Wow, here was a great source of information as well as scores of the latest sightings! I would become a regular reader for the next fifteen years.

My favorite part of the magazine, however, would become the late Gray Barker's column, "Chasing the Flying Saucers." Gray was probably one of the finest writers that the UFO field would ever see, and his column was always the first thing that I read each issue. It was always filled with fascinating speculation on UFO and foratean topics, as well as recent sightings and gossip about people in the UFO field. As you will soon see, at times it was even outrageous; but it was always entertaining.

For many years I have wanted to do a "best of" look at Gray's column. After speaking with Robert Girard of Arcturus Books about my plans, he suggested that I instead start at the very first column and continue running them in chronological order. "After all," he said, "your publication can always be a part one." And that is what we are going to do, and sales of this booklet will determine if more is to follow in the months ahead.

Please note, however, that I have edited out some amount of irrelevant or extraneous material such as addresses of publications and organizations that no longer exist to save space for more interesting material. I have also used original capitalization and quotes, as Palmer's typesetting equipment did not have the ability for the use of italics.

And while I am presenting a retrospective look at Gray's *Flying Saucers* column, by no means do I suggest that his various *Saucerian* publications were any less significant. Maybe we can address this aspect of his body of work in the future.

The material that follows is from my personal collection of Barker material. However, much of his files were donated by his family to the Clarksburg, West Virginia Harrison Public Library. The Gray Barker Collection is housed in the Waldonmore Mansion on the library grounds and is open to researchers by appointment. For more information on this historic collection, call 304-627-2236.

I would also like to thank pioneer Canadian UFO/foratean researcher Gene Duplantier for his kind help in obtaining his artwork for this and future publications.

Join me now for a trip back in time to the early days of the UFO saga. Many people tend to think of the 1950s as a more simple and easy-going time, but notice Gray's references to the "Space Race" and other Cold War tensions. Those "simple times" would change in a hurry however, and so would the entire UFO field. So relive those times now long past, times of dreaming, wonder and awe.

I think that it is only fitting to dedicate this publication to Gray Barker, an important pioneer of the UFO movement.

Rick Hilberg
April 24, 2003

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FLYING SAUCERS No. 1, June 1957

To some, in the more southern regions of the Nation, spring had indeed come; but others still gripped in the now weakening grasp of winter, knew that only prematurely had Earth awakened from her sleep.

But soon they too, would be out of doors. Soon they too would be looking UP. What they would see might be only a queer looking cloud, which in its convolutions, would take on shapes of familiar things. But if not they, surely **some** would hit pay dirt. Sooner or later a watcher would detect a glint of silver and catch a breath. He, or she, too, would have seen what the Air Force hedged at and labeled "UFO," but what more honest folks called simply "Flying Saucer."

And for some reason, when the flying saucer was seen there would be a good feeling. Maybe the saucers themselves were good, here to save mankind from some awful catastrophe, or maybe they were only watching - waiting for the right time, an auspicious date to carry out some plan of evil. But whether the saucer watcher would have realized that for a brief instant or a brief minute or so he had looked far beyond himself. He had seen almost to the stars and knew that life was there.

He had known that he was not alone.

If the sighters had been indoors, the saucers nevertheless has still been flying, though most newspapers didn't want to touch them with ten foot linotypes. And although the papers had greeted their honest reports with derisive laughs, if not with complete silence, the people now had other voices. Voices that, although picked off one by one, had now rolled into a maelstrom of tongues. The small "saucerzines," published on shoestrings and each often reaching only a few hundred readers, did have two great advantages: there were a lot of them and their editors were honest. **They were getting saucer news before the public.**

Recently one such publication had regretably joined the silent ones. Leonard Stringfield's ORBIT, one of the largest saucer bulletins, reluctantly ceased publication. In bowing out, Stringfield tried to make it clear he had not been, in his words, "shushed up" by some mysterious visitor, but some remarks in a letter of February 7 sounded almost as if he weren't sure:

"Of course, the Silence Group is happy with Stringfield out of the way," he wrote, "but the axe they carry was not stuck in my head - instead they just sort of chopped around the edges."

If some mysterious personage or force had "shushed" Stringfield, they had done so more expertly than they had handled other persons and other publications. The writer thought he knew how it had come about, but like so many other matters saucerian, he could not put a finger on any concrete proof! If this had been a "shush-up" job, it had not been bungled as had been the Bender deal.

Coral Lorenzen's APRO BULLETIN was still raising a brave voice, though she, too, showed a slightly detectable hint of fright. In a recent issue she had published a small item, openly inviting the two darkly - dressed men, who had visited her house in a black Cadillac, to return when she was around to receive them!

But if the man on the street thought saucers had gone back to Mars, Venus, some distant galaxy or wherever they were coming from, he had some more guesses coming.

For once saucers had shown no signs of vanishing during the frigid months. They were still up there, though few people were outside to look for them. Despite the hush - hush policy of the Air Force, saucers were, for a change, receiving some attention from responsible men.

Retired Rear Admiral Delmer S. Fahrney, once head of the Navy's guided missiles program, told newsmen he had never personally seen a flying saucer, but that he had talked with scientists and engineers who swore they had. While not stating he thought the objects came from space, he did go on record that "No agency in this country or Russia is able to duplicate at this time the speeds and accelerations which radars and observers indicate these flying objects are able to achieve."

Definite signs pointed toward "intelligences" directing the things, he believed, because of the maneuvers they performed.

Admiral Fahrney gave his pro-saucer opinions shortly after he had become chairman of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (popularly abbreviated NICAP), in Washington, D.C. NICAP was organized by Townsend Brown, a physicist who at one time announced he was able to demonstrate an anti-gravity device which could power a miniature saucer.

Unfortunately, however, NICAP had got off to a bad start. An investigator for FLYING SAUCERS learned, first of all, that officers had voted themselves salaries totaling more than \$85,000 per year,

and the the number of votes granted members was determined by the size of their membership fees. After a sweeping re-organization, however, direction of NICAP was turned over to Major Donald E. Keyhoe, pioneer saucer investigator and the highly respected author of three flying saucer books. Frank Edwards, noted newscaster who had indicated he would resign from NICAP's Board of Governors, decided to stay after the re-organization, and the latest reports reaching the writer had it that NICAP was well on its way toward becoming an effective national setup for investigating the strange sky phenomena.

There had been so many saucer sightings it would be impossible to record all of them, and to publish only the more spectacular, the more authenticated would fill an entire magazine. So the writer threw up his hands and grabbed what he thought was the best from his bulging files.

One such report was quite different. It told how Maurice Waddops, an ex-railway fireman in England, had shot at a saucer from close range and how the saucer "shot back" at him.

Waddops went out early one morning to shoot a sparrow-hawk, but instead of the bird, a strange circular object swooped down through the low-swirling mist. It hovered soundlessly over his head at an estimated height of 45 yards. He thought it was "about six times the size of a penny held at arm's length (an English penny, that is, which we believe is larger than our familiar Lincoln copper - G.B.)."

Waddops ran for an adjacent clearing, loaded his gun and fired. There was a clanging sound, he said, as of metal striking metal. Then the charge of shot rebounded, hitting him in the chest.

Whoever or whatever was piloting the odd aerial machine apparently wasn't insulted or frightened, for the object continued to hover motionless above the tree tops for three or four minutes, after which it shot off at high speed.

Meanwhile authorities were trying to convince reporters that the hunter had shot at a metal pylon through mistake.

Also from England came a humorous saucer note, though it didn't concern the conventional type. It seems there is an amusement device at the Olympia Circus in London named "The Flying Saucer Wheel." Mixed in with conventional saucer reports was word that the machine had broken down, and at the very time an air - marshall of the R.A.F. was riding the thing. The distraught and embarrassed air - marshall was stranded for two and a half hours in a little flying saucer 50 feet in the air, giving rise to charming headlines, such as "AIR MARSHALL MAROONED IN FLYING SAUCER," - probably the first case on record. Desmond Leslie, in reporting the little incident, remarked, with his usual good humor, "One hopes it was his punishment for disbelief."

Back in the States one good saucer story bit the dust. Inez Robb, saucer enthusiastic daily newspaper columnist, had reported that a flying saucer had zoomed down and picked up a 500-pound steer at a ranch near Twin Falls, Idaho. E.L. Rayburn, a prominent Twin Falls attorney and owner of both the ranch and the missing livestock, said he and two employees witnessed the phenomenon. But under the writer's investigation the tale broke down. The attorney had been spinning an innocent tall tale.

Though not everyone had seen a saucer or saucers, everywhere people knew about them and seemed to be intrigued by them. A Sunday school publication, The Bethany Bible Student, published an ancient drawing of the sun, with various objects flying around it, labeled the illustration a "religious flying saucer picture," noting it was painted in the 16th century by a Swiss artist.

While some people had the opinion that the extraterrestrial variety of UFOs was here for mankind's good, in Covington, Ky., a disk-minded clergyman, the Rev. John Longworth, decided to help the spacemen along. He applied to the city commission to permit flying saucers to be dropped on the city, explaining they were small paper models designed to promote a youth revival meeting.

Elsewhere folks were taking their saucers more seriously, particularly the Air Force, who continued to be pestered by its favorite anathema.

Alerted by a radar network, jet planes roared out of Chicago after saucers in wholesale lots were spotted over Rockford and Belvidere, Ill.; Brodhead, Lodi, Watertown and Beloit, Wisc.,. Rockford, Ill., Morning Star headlines announced: "JETS CHASE UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS, FIND 5 BALLOONS," and it was supposed the Air Force had been up to its usual explanations. John C. Gregory, executive secretary of the Winnebago county civil defense, Rockford, personally spotted a glistening object about 50,000 feet in altitude, which seemed round to him, "perhaps a little flat at times." Various filter centers called reports in to Chicago where at one time five UFOs were on their boards. A

Chicago filter spokesman said the objects were weather balloons released by the General Mills Corporation, in Minneapolis.

In Baltimore, Md., two men, Curvin Bush and Robert Bruant, reported seeing a flying object streak away from a large transport plane while they were standing at Charles and Center Streets. The witnesses, who are guards at the Walters Art Gallery, said at first they thought a wing or tail section had broken loose from the plane, but weren't so sure when they saw the plane reverse direction to follow the object. The UFO was "flat, oval-shaped and very bright," appeared to be spinning counter-clockwise. Soon it went behind a building, and that was the last they saw of it.

Four soundless saucers which replied to flashlight signals were reported by Donald Haddan, who witnessed the strange sky parade on January 11 at Brazil, Ind., just as it had become dark.

Haddan's mother first noticed the objects, but he was skeptical when she called to him and reluctant to go outside to look - it was ten degrees below zero at the time.

His mother first saw three glowing objects moving in formation, and which moved off to the east and disappeared when a plane was heard. By the time Haddan went outside they were back, then in the company of one additional object.

"They were approaching from the east very slowly," Haddan told FLYING SAUCERS. "They were about twice as bright as a first magnitude star, and a sort of yellow-red color. I could see no solid object back of the lights, but I am sure I could have told more about them had binoculars been available."

When the objects began to maneuver, he knew they were not planes because, for one thing, they were noiseless. First Haddan snapped the objects with his Kodak Brownie Holiday camera, but at press time it could not be learned if the objects had come out on the film. Then getting a sudden idea, he ran inside, grabbed his flashlight and signaled to the saucers in Morse code, sending the amateur radio operator's "CQ." To his amazement the objects grew brighter after he signaled. He flashed the code again, and again the objects appeared to respond.

Finally they moved toward the horizon, where they hovered for a few seconds, and that time, instead of merely glowing in response to the flashlight, they lighted up brilliantly. Then they disappeared rapidly over the horizon. Noted newscaster and saucerenthusiast Frank Edwards, on an Indianapolis television news program, reported that one other person had seen a group of four similar objects the same night.

An aerial object that first sounded like a plane, but when overhead gave off an "unearthly drone," was reported by a FLYING SAUCERS correspondent, who is a housewife, had gone into a darkened bedroom for an ashtray at 8:00 P.M. on January 30. There she was attracted to a hovering yellow light due northwest, viewed through the window.

Startled, she called to her husband and children to come and look, and the family group watched it move in an erratic "yo-yo" pattern. The family ran to the rear door of the house to better observe the object, but by that time the saucer had moved directly overhead, and they saw long rows of light, like portholes, with a large bright yellowish light flickering in the rear. Then the object moved out of sight.

Earlier in the winter, a flying saucer, or something weird, had visited the peaceful little town of Forest Lake, Minn., where Mr. and Mrs. Ford Moffet had given the thing a merry chase down Highway 97 in the family car.

Ford said he first spotted the saucer about 9:45 P.M. as something bright caught his eye through the living room window. He saw a brilliant light low in the sky and thought an airplane was in trouble. The family then ran outdoors to investigate, where they saw the object, moving back and forth, up and down, at about tree-top height only a few blocks away.

They still thought it must be a plane, though they soon noted there was no motor noise, and decided they had never seen a plane that looked quite like the odd contraption. It appeared to have two windows, one a "luminous red" and the other a "luminous green." When asked what she meant by "luminous," Mrs. Ford explained the color was "luminous, like a halo or spray of color, with points flaring in all directions." The thing was oblong in shape. When it began drifting southeastward they followed it in their auto, but at a slow rate of speed because the object continued to hover low over the treetops and to move slowly. After about an hour of stalking, during which time the family was unable to drive directly under the object, they gave up chase and returned home.

It probably had nothing to do with saucers, but in early 1957 two American medical researchers took off for India to scientifically investigate the claims of Indian mystics, and to determine whether, by controlled experiments, the adepts were indeed fakirs or just "fakers."

Although scientific men weren't expected to give benefits of any doubts to the famous Indian mystics, it did mark the first time that established medical authority expressed sincere interest in such a matter that ordinarily would be weakly explained away and forgotten. Dr. Basu K. Bagchi of the University of Michigan, and Dr. M.A. Wenger, of California, took a special machine with them, a compact 78 - pound contrivance built with transistors, donated to the project by the Rockefeller Foundation.

What would the machine do? It would measure metabolic processes, such as any slowdown of the heart beat, when a fakir placed himself in the claimed state of suspended animation. If some positive evidence were turned up, it would prove there existed a third "state" of mind - other than consciousness or coma - a state which indeed could be authoritatively termed "suspended animation."

And so, little by little, science itself was pushing back frontiers its learned men had for years found forbidden. Already mental telepathy was recognized as a respectable project by Duke University, even though results were still disputed.

In Washington even the Pentagon was trying to develop perception, this time the extrasensory kind. Though some jokes would be made and it would be said that the study of perception would begin in less complicated fields, the Joint Chiefs of Staff were seriously studying the possibility of using ESP not only to read the minds of the Soviet leaders, but to "influence their thinking by long - range thought control."

It had taken men like Einstein to break through some of the barriers. The genius who had advanced the theory of relativity proved mathematically that time was not immutable as some thought it to be. Einstein stated it could become dilated. For example, if a father went aboard a space ship and traveled at speeds approaching that of light, time would show down for him, according to the late mathematical genius. Landing again on Earth, the father would find his son grown older than he! Fantastic? Perhaps reigning scientific authority found it difficult to accept, but they knew Einstein must be right. After all, had he not written a fateful letter to Franklin D. Roosevelt, a letter which stated that the building blocks of the universe, atoms themselves, could not only be split, but with an explosive force which could presumably wipe out the world itself? Then Nagasaki and Hiroshima!

Even the little laboratory worlds of the physicists were growing larger, as some of the almost sacred laws were reluctantly discarded. Only lately had they come across a startling and perhaps to them, frightening thing. As surely as there was matter, there certainly existed a direct opposite. They termed it "anti - matter," which they knew existed as a result of discovering an "anti - proton" during atomic experiments. Entire universes made up of anti - matter, populated, perhaps, by anti - men, who ate anti - beef - steaks and maybe even saw anti - flying saucers, very likely existed.

But what would happen should conventional matter come into contact with its antithesis? Although there was little danger of that happening, physicists speculated that whatever would happen, it would be plenty violent, because the two forms of matter would be entirely incompatible. Some kind of tremendous reaction would surely take place and both would vanish in a great flash of energy.

To the man on the street reading the science feature stories it seemed almost laughable, but to the thinkers here was something awe - inspiring and gratifying. Scientists were opening doors into formerly forbidden territories; they were accepting what were once termed "borderland" sciences. Maybe rugged and bold pioneers like Meade Layne, head of the Borderland Sciences Research Associates, could take it easier; what they had long advanced as truths and what they had predicted generally. Men like Richard S. Shaver, who had stated gravity was a push, not a pull, might have one long last laugh. But it would be with a note of sadness that such men at last could settle into easy chairs. Their work would almost be completed, and all the drama and adventure might fade away. But there would always be somebody to probe into even more forbidden fields, into theories so foreboding and stupefying that perhaps even Meade Layne would repress a shudder at the mere thought of them and mutter at the younger generation.

Frank Edwards, formerly a Mutual Broadcasting Corporation newscaster before his employer, the American Federation of Labor, fired him because, among other things, he broadcast saucer reports, was still saucering. Employed as news director of station WTTV, Indianapolis, Ind., Edwards still kept

his ear to the ground and his eyes on the stars, and, as could be expected, came up with some spectacular UFO reports, among them the following:

Young Charles Mallot, 17-year-old mechanic of Petersburg, Ind., was giving a truck a road test on State Highway 61 when he heard a noise at the rear of his vehicle. It was an unusual noise, one he found difficult to describe, though he said he could compare it with "three old time thrashing machines," all running at the same time.

He stopped to investigate, found the noise was coming from behind a wooded area near the highway. Something seemed to be taking off from the ground with a queer throbbing and buzzing that made him decidedly uncomfortable.

Soon a spherical thing, with no wings, ascended vertically from the woods, as if it were being pushed upward by some giant hidden propeller. When the object had risen to around 150 feet the noise ceased and the thing took off in a northeasterly direction at a great rate of speed, gaining altitude all the while.

According to Mallot, it was about 16 feet in diameter. There were no configurations that would identify it as a plane. He saw no windows, nor were there any wings, tail or landing gear.

This department was hot on the trail of a lead on two persons mentioned in the Kenneth Arnold - Ray Palmer book, "THE COMING OF THE SAUCERS," namely Harold Dahl and Fred Crissman, both of whom disappeared shortly after odd circumstances related in that book (now out of print). One of the two had witnessed a strange doughnut shaped craft which expelled metallic slag. The strange residue later was responsible for the deaths of two Air Force investigators. A source in Tacoma, Wash., where the events described in the book took place, had run across an elderly woman who claimed she had the information as to just WHERE Dahl and Crissman had gone, and knew something about the motives for their disappearances. Just as we were getting in contact with this informant, our source of information in Tacoma air mailed a clipping, headed, "TACOMAN DIES AFTER MISHAP," and which related how the alleged informant was killed when her car unaccountably swerved across four lanes of traffic on U.S. Highway 99 near Tacoma and crashed into a power pole.

If you're within reach of New York's station WOR (a powerful station, especially at night), tune in "Long John," a former disk jockey (wax disks that is) who found some interviews with saucer-enthusiasts were more interesting to listeners than the music he customarily played. Now he plays little music, spends most of the show, which runs from 1:00 A.M. to 5:30 A.M., discussing flying saucers and other controversial subjects with various guests.

When the writer was on the show Long John told us that the so-called "Shaver Mystery," thought by many now to be defunct, had been taken to listeners' hearts and that they believed there was a great deal of truth in it, considering their favorable letters.

Long John startled many listeners by relating some information about an apartment house in Chicago where an elevator was said to stop conventionally at the basement level, but which would also go down, down, down, to a much lower level, when the "down" button was pushed in a certain coded manner. Presumably there was a subterranean passageway at the bottom of the shaft, and Long John hinted it was indeed an entrance to the caves that Shaver swore existed.

Speaking of the Shaver mystery, we have this communication from one man who continued to investigate the controversial matter even after AMAZING STORIES gave it up when it got too hot to handle: "Must make this short - it is time to get OUT, and time's a wasting. Where to is questionable, as long as I operate. Have destroyed all files, records, sent some to various parts of the U.S., but I haven't given up. I will write the whole works up, and send copies to various people who will expose it."

He did sound pretty scared, and since that communication we have heard no further from him.

It is not always the new which proves novel and strange; it is only because the intellect has comfortably forgotten it, has damned it, as Charles Fort would say, simply because it is uncomfortable to regard too closely something untenable to tradition.

Take that strange night of June 23, 1953, one of the earlier years of this haunted decade, when Mrs. Madeline S. Ward, of Forest Hills, Long Island, was sitting alone on the front porch at a little after midnight. She was admiring the ripple of moonlight on the bay, knowing her six-year-old son was peacefully asleep inside the house.

Suddenly she saw what she first thought was an airplane, about one half mile away, directly

across the bay and southwest of the home.

"This machine seemed very low, only about 100 feet up from the shoreline," Mrs. Ward told **FLYING SAUCERS**. "It looked just as if it had a continuous neon red light around the outside of the craft. I thought its speed was not great enough for an airplane, and it continued to lose altitude. If it were a plane, I reasoned, it must be about to crash, and it was headed directly for our house! I jumped up, quite excited, but was relieved to see it pass by our porch a short distance away. It must have been about 60 feet from the ground when it stopped, then backed up until it was directly in front of our porch, where it hovered."

By that time Mrs. Ward knew it certainly was no airplane, and she remembered saying aloud, "What is it!" She looked for propellers or jets or an insignia, but there were none. Only a low hum came from the strange machine.

"It came down to about 25 feet above the ground, then it tilted away from me, and I could see the bottom had a conical shape. It was only about 25 feet away from me.

"Only then did I remember the flying saucer reports I had occasionally read, and I thought this was what it must be. I tried to hide, but seemed unable to move, so I just stood there, perfectly still I remember, every muscle and bone frozen; though I do remember my knees felt weak and I was afraid I would collapse.

"The saucer, if that is what it indeed was, then tilted my way, and I could see the lights; not a continuous neon red light, but hundreds of red lights, spaced evenly apart on a small deck – like affair around the craft. I would estimate the saucer to have been about 100 feet in diameter. In the center was a single post supporting a cabin, which was about 10 feet high and about 25 feet long. I could see four queerly shaped windows – I would say they were like tear drops, on the side next to me. At the rear of the craft was a tail fin similar to those I have seen on planes.

"As it tilted my way I could see through the first window of the cabin, which was lighted by a peculiar continuous blue luminosity, very brilliant, and it lighted what I thought to be an instrument panel, which had odd dials on it. The saucer then leveled itself, and the center post seemed to raise the cabin upward several feet; the cabin swiveled away from me, then directly toward me.

"I said, 'This is it, the end!' and I thought of science fiction stories and how a ray gun was sure to get me for good. However nothing happened. The cabin was lowered, the thing tilted its front end upward on a sharp angle, and the machine shot upward into the sky in a matter of seconds."

FLYING SAUCERS No. 2, August 1957

There is sometimes a stillness that is alarming in its quietness, like the stifling hotness preceding the fury of a tropical storm, like the so-called "earthquake weather" old-timers say they can feel in their bones before the ground groans and shakes.

For the saucers there was no silence, although the papers were still shying away from them. They were still being seen and being reported. Although the man on the street didn't seem to be joking about them as much as he once did, neither was he taking them seriously. Maybe he was trying to forget a puzzling and unpleasant subject. To others it was a kind of ennui made of too many saucers!

To the researchers the ennui may have grown from an incapability of cataloging the number of reports they were receiving, and the failure to make any real provable sense from the reams of sightings loading their files. For years they had looked for the break-through – some item of REAL proof, an admission from the Air Force, perhaps, maybe an actual saucer crash the details of which no one would be able to suppress.

At long last saucers were something that could be taken for granted.

"I personally don't accept that there is anything ominous about them," said Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, author of three saucer books and the country's most highly respected UFO researcher. "They've had many years to attack us."

"But," he added, "we have a right to know the facts," suggesting, in a lecture to a large Cincinnati, Ohio, audience, that the Air Force would be wise to release saucerfacts to the public, if only slowly.

If arch-saucerer Keyhoe had begun to worry less about a possible saucer menace, it no more than reflected the thinking of many researchers. After all, had not the saucers been watching the earth for centuries?

If the men – or the things – in the saucers DID mean to do mankind dirt, and were conscious of

man's thinking, they could not be more pleased. Once they were half-forgotten, unnoticed, or taken for granted, perhaps they could carry out whatever strange plan they had instituted so long ago.

Soon Air Force designers would have their own saucer-shaped craft in the skies, if they did not have already. They would zoom them over the heads of watchers at air shows. The magazines would be full of them. Eventually the public would forget about the first saucers, the strange constructions that seemed to come out of nowhere, likely from the mists of some distant world.

What would happen then? Maybe nothing. It would be hard to say.

Perhaps the original flying saucers would go back to where they came from; perhaps they would stay. But there would be a few hardy souls who would risk their reputations for sanity and would keep up a yammering. To such Charles Forts of the possible future the going would not be easy. They would be laughed at, as have all pioneers who have dared to disagree with the ruling intellectual authorities.

There were still hardy researchers, however, who were not too overwhelmed with work or bored with the sameness of reports to keep hammering away.

Coral E. Lorenzen, director of one of the oldest UFO investigating groups, the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, in a recent issue of her A.P.R.O. **Bulletin**, was on the warpath. She challenged Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, director of the National Advisory Committee For Aeronautics, who made the statement, "There is no such thing as a flying saucer," behind a closed door hearing by a House appropriations sub-committee.

Lorenzen pointed out, first, that Dr. Dryden is not an expert on UFOs, though he is a recognized authority on aeronautics. "We will challenge Dr. Dryden to prove that **unconventional aerial objects**, commonly referred to as "flying saucers" which have been seen by reliable, capable observers, which have caused at least three aircraft accidents, and on several occasions have been seen **resting on the ground**, do not exist.....There is a far weightier group of facts and theories supporting the existence of UFOs than there is to support the opposite argument."

Riley Crabb, writing in a bulletin issued by the Aukalele Research Group in Honolulu, also was up in arms, shouting at the authorities for either refusing to investigate or suppressing information about a number of aircraft crashes during March. Crabb believed that certain details which had leaked out pointed a suspicious finger toward UFO activity.

"The fact is that 116 people are gone, 33 of them dead for sure," Crabb wrote, "and the other 83, who knows where they are or what had been done with them?"

It may have been illogical to blame saucers for plane crashes, but somehow during the past few years there had been something weird about the tragic accidents. The strangest clue was the fact that such disasters **came in bunches!** Slowly some unearthly pattern seemed to emerge. It was a pattern which usually began, after a period of air safety, with a major passenger plane disaster. The first accident seemed to set off a chain reaction in the skies, with planes falling right and left, including military craft and even small private planes.

Even if saucers weren't involved, here was something puzzling. Was it some weird psychotic streak in the minds of pilots, something that made them "accident prone"? Hardly, it seemed. Was it some nefarious wave of sabotage? Seemingly impossible.

But the newswires on March 9 buzzed with a story that cast suspicion that should make all but the hardest of pilots, it would seem, want to ground themselves.

Capt. Matthew A. Van Winkle's Pan American Airways ship was high over the Atlantic Ocean that night, half-way on a flight from New York City to San Juan, Puerto Rico when the incident occurred. The weather was clear, and the ship was on automatic pilot.

Suddenly Capt. Van Winkle saw a bright light ahead of him, and in the next split second realized that the thing, whatever it could be, was heading directly toward the plane on a collision course.

Instinctively he pulled the plane up and to the side, and the movement being so sudden and violent that practically all of the 44 passengers were thrown out of their seats, many of them injured.

In Capt. Van Winkle's own words, "It looked like it was coming right at me from at most a hundred yards away. But what 'it' was, I have less an idea today than when I tried to evade it.

"My impression was that the flying object looked like a big spotlight. I believe it was round. It appeared to be on a collision course ahead of my plane. My flight engineer, John Washuta, spotted it the same instant I did. I heard him catch his breath. For a split second I was bewildered. By reflex

and instantly - as you have to reason when you have the tremendous responsibility of passenger safety in your hands - I reasoned something like this:

"My first reaction was that it might be a jet fighter intercept, since the light from the object seemed to be like the afterglow from a jet exhaust, but then again in the same split second I ruled out such an intercept because jets always come in at least twos.

"After reasoning all this out in less time than it takes to sneeze, I felt there was only one thing for me to do to save my passengers and my ship. That was to pull up sharply, to take evasive action. I did so at once.

"I saw whatever it was slip by under my right wing and knew in an instant it hadn't hit us. Then I had to report the incident to the ground by radio.

"When I picked up the radio, all, or most, of the other pilots seemed to be chattering at once. I could make out a word here and there: 'Brilliant light to starboard'; 'UFO report'; 'What is it?'

"Capt. Ed Perry, piloting Pan American's Flight 269 about 175 miles behind me, had seen it almost the same instant I had!

"I have been flying all over the world for the last 15 years but I've never seen anything like this before. I know it wasn't a meteor because they come at you from above, headed downward. We see hundreds of them."

From the authorities the usual explanations and denials were expected - and forthcoming. James Pickering, assistant astronomer at the Hayden Planetarium, said, "The brilliant glow Van Winkle saw was probably a burning meteoroid and the ionized atmosphere around it." Pickering also postulated that the meteoroid was going "at a rate of 10 to 40 miles a second." Dr. Charles P. Oliver, president of the American Meteor Society, said, "All the information I have seems to fit the hypothesis that the object was a fireball, or bolide."

In Washington, a Defense Department spokesman said no report on the incident had been received, nor did the Pentagon know of any scheduled firings from the guided missile test range at Cocoa, Florida, which some figured might have been responsible for the near tragedy.

Saucers always had been complicated, but it seemed they were becoming even more so. One of the strangest saucer reports ever to reach the Baltimore News-Post came from three brick masons, whom the paper didn't identify.

"We were at the Du Pont Plant on emergency repair work when I saw this strange object hovering over the plant at a very considerable height. I had heard of flying saucers, but had never seen one, and I nudged by companions and made them look. At first we thought it might be a cloud reflection from a floodlight on the ground, but there was no floodlight. It seemed to be moving very slowly away from us, and instead of lying flat, it looked as though it was on edge. The glow of it would increase and then diminish as though it was moving through cloud formations. It got more and more distant, and finally we lost sight of it."

The thing, described as being "an orange-colored mass which was oblong in shape," was seen over Curtis Bay.

Five strange floating objects which looked "foamlike" were observed by former Air Force man W. B. Brown, of Charlotte, N.C., about 9 p.m. on March 20. Five of the things were traveling in an easterly direction, but while he watched, one of them veered away from the other four and crashed to the ground about 60 feet away.

He and his wife, who was with him at the time, ran to the spot. They were almost driven back by a nauseating odor, described by his wife as "like burning matches." Bravely they examined the remains of the object, which they said had looked like "ice breaking up" as it hit the ground. It was now a liquid, "slimy" to the touch and "cooling or numbing" to the fingertips.

Harold Thompson, a Cottonwood County, Minn., farmer, said he and his wife had been "laughing about all these flying saucer stories from South Dakota (A concentration of sightings had recently been reported from that state - Barker)."

But they were not laughing any longer, after the look through the binoculars!

Thompson spotted the object while doing his usual evening chores. "I had just finished some work in the barn," he said, "and was walking to the house when I saw the thing hovering about three or four hundred feet off the ground. At first I thought it might be an airplane, but then it shot straight up in the air and hovered there for awhile."

He rushed into the farmhouse for his binoculars and watched the saucer-shaped object change from a light red to a cherry red as it gained altitude rapidly after which it suddenly disappeared.

"Let me be struck by lightning if I'm lying," he said, "but that was a MACHINE of some kind! I could see the windows in it!"

A sudden flash of light brought hundreds of "what is it?" inquiries from excited citizens in a half dozen states, from Florida to Texas, and as far north as Little Rock, Ark., on March 15. Police and astronomers (we don't know since when policemen have become experts on astronomy) said the flash was the result of a meteor or meteor shower. A group of teen-age boys in New Orleans said they dug up a chunk of metal from a crater after they saw a piece of a flaming object hit the ground. But the metal could not be identified as a meteor fragment.

Three days earlier a mysterious explosion frightened residents of the Lancaster, Pa., area, though exhaustive checks failed to uncover any explanation. Authorities said it was either an exploding meteor or a jet plane "cracking" the sound barrier.

Two weeks later a mysterious blast was heard or felt through six counties of north New Jersey and even in Philadelphia, blew out windows, cracked sidewalks and even shook the State House in Trenton. Air Force officials denied any jets had been operating over the area at that time, and said that their "sound breakers" were under orders to fly 30 miles out to sea. State Geologist Meredith Johnson discounted the possibility of an earthquake, explaining that Trenton does not lie on any major fault which could cause a quake.

Just as it was too easy to blame jet planes for the many mysterious blasts heard in recent years, there was also a tendency to blame flying saucers for the noises, since no explanations could be offered. And why not? Saucers have been reported traveling at tremendous speeds; researchers have speculated they may utilize force fields or other mystifying mechanical or electronic devices. If, for example, a saucer were utilizing a force field that would shove the atmosphere away from its surface for some distance, and suddenly turned the field off, what would happen? Likely a hell of a racket!

But at press time it was hoped that at least one of the "sonic boom" cases might have left some kind of evidence and explanation. The Pasadena, Calif., *Star-News*, reported on April 10: "Military officials clamped a strict veil of secrecy around a Temple City home today because of a crater found in the backyard after an unusually heavy sonic boom jarred the San Gabriel Valley before dawn yesterday."

This column's Anonymous West Coast Correspondent, well known to readers of THE SAUCERIAN BULLETIN, although not by name, wired a few more details which had been hard to come by.

Mrs. Virginia Murphy, of 8831 Greenwood Ave., and her two children, were wakened about 4:45 a.m. by a flash and blast in their back yard. Investigating, they found a three-foot crater.

"There is a squad of soldiers there digging now, and they won't let civilians in - that's why I'M NOT THERE DIGGING!" Our correspondent added, "The family was ordered inside the home, to lock the doors and not to talk to anybody."

National Guardsmen kept close surveillance on a weird freight shipment as South American saucer enthusiasts buzzed at the rumors slipping out from the authorities.

A huge unidentified object, strangely light in weight, was being transported to Antofagasta, Chile by train after the odd construction had been found on the ancient slopes of a volcano high in the Andes.

The press had received some incomplete reports on the object. These reports had it made of transparent material, but with a metallic center of some sort.

"The object contained a strange plastic object with an oval-shaped piece in its insides of about 30 centimeters of circumference and 3 kilograms of weight, and made of aluminum-like stuff. It carried a ring made of the same metal and on its underside it had the letter "T" carved upon it."

So far that is all - FLYING SAUCERS has ears to the ground for additional reports.

Often buried in foreign papers are many UFO items that unfortunately are seldom seen by U.S. researchers and saucerenthusiasts. Thanks to the *A.P.R.G. Reporter*, published by the Aerial Phenomena Research Group of Seattle, Wash., we can publish what may turn out to be the most important saucer report in history!

In way of introduction, readers may recall that Maj. Donald Keyhoe mentioned, in his first hard

cover book, **FLYING SAUCERS FROM OUTER SPACE**, a suppressed report on a large disk allegedly found near Spitzbergen by Norwegian jet fighters. According to this early and fragmentary report, the saucer was dismantled and taken to Narvick, Norway, for further study. Rumors growing around the report had it that Russian symbols were found on the strange machine.

The A.P.R.G. REPORTER got the following details from a Dutch UFO publication, which had republished an account appearing in the **Stuttgarter Tageblatt** of September 5, 1955.

Translation of the report follows:

"Oslo, Norway, Sept. 4, 1955. Only now is a board of inquiry of the Norwegian General Staff preparing for publication a report on the examination of the remains of a UFO which crashed near Spitzbergen, presumably in 1952.

"Chairman of the board, Col. Gernod Darnbyl stated, during a briefing of Air Force officers, 'The crashing of the Spitzbergen disk was highly important. Although our present scientific knowledge does not yet enable us to solve all riddles, I am confident that the remains from Spitzbergen will prove to be of utmost importance.

"Some time ago a misunderstanding was caused by saying that the disk probably was of Soviet Russian origin. We wish to state emphatically that it has not been built by any country on this earth.'"

The materials used in the construction of the UFO, the report continued, were completely unknown to all experts who participated in the investigation.

Facts about the UFO were not made public, and would not be until "some sensational facts have been discussed with U.S. and British experts. We should reveal what we have found as soon as possible, since misplaced secrecy might well lead to panic,"

The **Stuttgarter Tageblatt** continued to discuss the government's statements, and revealed that two lieutenants, whose last names were Brobs and Tyllensen, had been assigned posts as special observers in the Arctic region since discovery of the crashed disk. The paper said that "contrary to information from American and other sources," the two officers claimed that saucers had landed in the polar regions often.

"I think that the Arctic is serving as a kind of air base for the unknowns," stated Lt. Tyllensen, "especially during snow storms when we are being forced back to our bases."

Happy Valley is a beautiful glen nestling at the foot of Sutton Bank, the famous North Yorkshire, England, beauty spot. Lately, though, it had not been so beautiful there, because three men had met their deaths in Happy Valley.

Local residents called it a "hoodoo," but a **FLYING SAUCERS** English correspondent suspected saucers might have something to do with the tragedies. Each death had been preceded by an eerie flash of light in the sky.

First there was Flying-Officer Colin Grabbem, of Dover. A bolt of lightning, newspaper reports claimed, rent the air, and his Sabre jet plummeted to a crash - right onto an ancient sacrificial altar built by the Druids of antiquity. That was in September, 1954. In April of 1956 glider pilot Stanley Skelton died when his craft collided with another glider. Again a flash of light in the sky was seen prior to the mishap, and again the victim was found in the wrecked aircraft amid the splinters of the shattered Druid altar.

A month later the eerie light flashed again, and Arnold Astbury, a motorcycle salesman of Redcar, collapsed and died in a motorcycle trial in Happy Valley.

Call it vengeance of the ancient Druids, call it the Devil or "hoodoo," but there seemed to be some awful pattern to it all, and the weird illumination in the heavens suggested to our correspondent that saucers might not, indeed, represent only sweetness and light - but in this case light followed by death!

New Zealand skies were full of saucers during the late months of 1956, if the reports in the **Civilian Saucer Investigation's** (of New Zealand) publication represented a measuring stick. The latest issue contained more than a hundred sighting reports, among them an interesting account of a strange object which startled a farmer.

The farmer, B. Thompson, was certain the 60-foot long, 30-foot wide object was "something out of this world."

Thompson got out of bed about 1:30 in the morning to treat a sick farm animal. While walking

toward the barn he heard a hissing noise that gradually increased in intensity above him. He looked up and saw an approaching light; then as the noise became nearer and louder he could make out the shape of a huge aircraft, unlike any he had ever seen before.

Thompson said it appeared to have a turret-like glass nose which bulged out at the front, and a dome on top from which a blue light of brilliant intensity shone. There was a bright white light in the turret. The object disappeared at great speed over the horizon. Other New Zealand reports:

L. Provis saw a bright cigar-shaped object in a vertical position, with the top end rounded off and a bottom which tapered. He said it also had "little objects on the lower end of it." This was about 10:00 p.m., and he said the thing was "brighter than any star."

Two elderly ladies on their way to church, were walking along Harwood Street in Hamilton, when they sighted a large, bright orange-colored cylindrical object stationary in the sky. They watched it all the time as they walked the full length of the street and it was still there when they went inside the church.

The crew of a north-bound freight train saw four objects flying in formation which the engineer described as "fantastic." The objects appeared as four large balls of intense white lights, no more than 500 feet high, the engineer said. "They were circular in shape and appeared to be masses of white light." Suddenly they reversed direction, shot off at high speed in the air and over the back of the train.

All of which leads up to one of the most unusual saucer accounts of all time, a report printed in the **Central Hawkes Bay Press**, of New Zealand.

W. R. Kibblewhite, whose farm is located 12 miles from Eaipukarau (they have some mighty odd names for places in New Zealand), awakened with a cramp in his knee in the early hours of the morning. He said he got up and was walking around the room, trying to work off the cramp.

He had turned away from the windows, on which the blinds were up, and was ready to go to bed when he noticed a bright flash in the mirror he was facing and which itself faced the window. Thinking someone was shining a light at him through the window, he turned, noted to his surprise and with some alarm that a very thin beam of light, about three inches across, was shining down into the room diagonally from the sky. Following the beam with his eyes he saw it was coming from a circular object in the sky, "about three times as large as a star," and bluish in color. A bright center of the object seemed to diminish in brilliance toward the edge, which ended in a halo effect, so that there was no clearly defined edge.

As soon as he caught sight of the object he saw a blue flash, and a large bluish beam shot down from the object, into the room and right on him, replacing the small beam of light. It must have been on him about three or four seconds, he believed, when he stepped out of it and it disappeared as if a searchlight had been turned off.

While the beam was on him he said he experienced a very odd sensation, "as if someone was staring at me."

Probably the most amazing part of Kibblewhite's narrative was his detailed description of the beam of light. He said it was a bluish-silver color, "the like of which I have never seen before."

There was no diffusion of light around the beam, as there is from searchlight beams. It was exactly round; its edges were clear cut, just like a pipe. It converged only slightly and the beam seemed to be opaque; he said he could not see through it as one could an ordinary beam of light. When he looked toward the blue star-like object the light from it did not dazzle him.

After he stepped out of the beam the object from which it originated began spinning, then disappeared.

A correspondent which sent the report to the Civilian Saucer Investigation headquarters vouched for the farmer's honesty and reputation for truth.

After the report appeared in the paper another man, R.B. Reehal, of Puketapu, told of a similar experience. At 11:30 p.m. the same night, two hours and 40 minutes before Kibblewhite's eerie experiences, Reehal also had been awakened by a beam of light shining into his room. He jumped out of bed and ran out on his veranda, where he could see the beam of light shining down through some poplar trees. It came from an object identical in description to that seen by Kibblewhite. In fear of derision Reehal had not told anyone about his experience until he had seen Kibblewhite's report in the papers.

James W. Moseley, who tries to bamboozle his readers of SAUCER NEWS with his theories of earthmade saucers, has again departed for South America, ostensibly on a treasure hunt. The writer has just come across some "hot" inside information on Moseley, which he hopes to print in an issue of his SAUCERIAN BULLETIN, as soon as clearance is obtained.

FLYING SAUCERS No. 3, November 1957

Those high in government who should know or make it their business to know just what was going on in the skies, either no longer looked up, or, if they did so, gazed with repressed shudders.

Since 1947 two kinds of important people had double-talked saucers: Reigning intellectual authorities such as astronomers, physicists and other scientists - and those at the helm of government, including public servants in vital Air Force positions.

To construct just what they actually were thinking about saucers would be hypothetical. Perhaps saucers HAD crashed. Perhaps there WERE little men, as some had postulated, pickled somewhere in alcohol.

The little men, if they actually existed behind heavily guarded laboratory doors, could throw the whole argument off. That would be PROOF. But in the ten years since Kenneth Arnold gazed awe-struck at shining disks over Mt. Ranier the pattern of official reaction to the UFO had begun to emerge.

More and more it became evident that the scientists and the government men, although they probably knew a great deal more than the man on the street did about the saucers, were hedging for a very serious (to them) reason.

They just didn't know exactly what the saucers were and where they came from.

And they were worried.

Not so much for fear of attack or ray guns or green men from outer space.

Some day they would have to admit they had failed to uncover any real answers.

Gradually they began admitting grudgingly to themselves that people were seeing something. They knew this to be a fact for they, themselves, had seen the saucers.

Not ALL the saucers were hoaxes, hallucinations, mirages, misinterpretation of conventional objects or sex repressions.

But once they had admitted to themselves the saucers were real they were faced with an even more glaring question mark: **What were they? Where did they come from?**

If they admitted to the public that they were convinced the saucers were real the public would say, "Mr. Government Man, if they are real, **JUST WHAT ARE THEY?**"

And the government man could not answer and would lose Votes.

Somewhere in secluded mountaintops other men had wondered. Men who were supposed to know everything going on in the heavens. The men who had been assigned complete authority, if only in an intellectual way, of the universe.

The astronomer, also, had seen the saucers with his own eyes, and no doubt had access to a lot of classified reports telling about how other reliable people had seen them. He, too, grudgingly admitted to himself the saucers were real.

But he, too, was faced with a problem.

If he said he thought the saucers were real, he too would be asked further questions. It would be extremely unwise to find himself in a position whereby he could only say, "I don't know!"

The man on the street would say, "Mr. Astronomer, just where do these saucers come from?"

If the astronomer said he didn't know, the man on the street would lose a hero.

So the government and the scientists tried the next best thing. They began to ignore the saucers, hoping they would go away, hoping the public would forget about them.

But there were those who would not allow them to forget. And finally there were people in highly respected positions to be reckoned with.

Henry J. Taylor, newly appointed Ambassador to Switzerland, told a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing **there is something disturbing and mysterious going on in the heavens.**

Although he felt that 90 per cent of the reported saucer sightings represented "ridiculous stories by publicity seekers, misconceptions or optical illusions," there was still 10 per cent that must be real.

Although he said he did not have "the faintest idea what is happening," Taylor added, "it is very difficult to deny that something is happening around us that we just don't understand."

"The more you get into that thing the more fascinating it is," he added.

The last time the spacemen visited him, they ate up all the ham and eggs in the house, or so Howard Menger, of High Bridge, N.J., told a final day gathering at the fourth annual Interplanetary Space Craft convention at Giant Rock in California.

More than 7,000 people gathered at the airport, operated by George Van Tassel, near Twentynine Palms for the annual get-together of saucer fans and to hear people from all over the country talk about saucers.

Menger told the enthusiastic gathering how he had been buddying around with saucerians since the age of 10, and how recently he had been permitted to take Polaroid photographs of their space ships, and had even taken a ride in one of them.

His experiences with extraterrestrials, who, he said, were "here to help us," began when he was a child. Experiencing an overpowering urge to take a walk in the woods near his home, he met a beautiful girl with long blonde hair, clad in transparent ski pajamas, who talked to him "in a way that seemed out of this world, even then." Recently he found the same girl among the crew of a saucer, learned to his amazement that she was 500 years old! Menger received world-wide publicity after relating how flying saucers were landing regularly near his New Jersey home. He told the convention assemblage that not only he, but his wife, his children and neighbors had seen the space visitors.

While Menger was speaking, James A. Lee, of Abilene, Tex., was cruising the desert in a special car rigged with an "infra-beam" detector which he hoped would track any saucers that may have been flying near the convention site.

Only one near brush with space people at the convention came when the crowd spotted a strange figure which trekked in out of the vast desert and was thought to be a visitor from outer space.

"The spacemen want peace; Nothing can stop us now!" the visitor declared, but it turned out the figure was the "peace pilgrim," who recently had been making a walking tour across the nation in the interest of world peace.

Back to Menger briefly, it has been interesting to note reactions of non-saucerers who have happened to hear him speak on radio and television interviews. We have spoken to many business acquaintances, who though they have only a casual interest in saucers, have been intrigued by the Menger account. Although they find it difficult to believe the story, they nevertheless have expressed their impression of the apparent honesty of Menger.

And comments would not be complete without relating a statement from the Michigan Flying Saucer Federation in regard to Menger's lecture before them on April 20. One member of the audience, described as "a serious UFO investigator," whose name was withheld, observed a small disk (which he believed was a "monitoring disk") enter an open window of the auditorium and flit into the recording room where several individuals were taping the lecture!

People in the village of Beaucourt Sur-L'Andre, near Amiens, France, got quite a scare after a flying saucer reportedly landed on a nearby road and four little men dressed in grey got out of it.

Michel Sekete, a 29-year-old Hungarian refugee, said he was cycling home when he ran across a reddish-colored saucer. Hiding behind a telegraph pole while trying to make up his mind as what to do, he became even more frightened after seeing four little men walking along the road.

Thinking he should vacate the scene as quickly as possible, he made a run for his bicycle when, as he told the police, "the four little men came toward me in a threatening manner."

Naturally there were explanations as officials tried to explain away something they could not cope with. M. Chatelain, mayor of the village, had a labored one. He said his wife had been worrying about her cows during the night, had gone to the pasture to check on them. The lantern she was carrying, which contained one pane of red glass accounted for the saucer with flashing lights he explained. But the little men? "Simple," explained M. Chatelain: "Only Madame Chatelain's cows."

Although the explanation had apparently sufficed to calm the townspeople's fears, some of them were still wondering about the strange tracks found on the road surface and a black lava-like substance discovered at the scene.¹ Six people, including a railway station watchman and his wife, averred they had seen the saucer. ¹We can imagine the explanation for that one!

Royal Air Force officials and Air Ministry chiefs were in a tizzy, trying to explain away a 1,000 mph UFO which a squadron of supersonic Javelin fighters failed to catch.

The object was first sighted on one of Britain's most advanced radar setups, the system which

maintains watch over the city of London and the south coast. Streaking over the English Channel the object was plotted flying westward at about 48,000 feet. Immediately the Javelin fighters scrambled from a field at Odiham, Hants, to intercept the object, were homed in on it near St. Margaret's Bay, Kent, but failed to make contact with whatever had buzzed England. Although the exact speed was secret, officials said the Javelins could attain a speed of more than 700 miles per hour.

While some wondered if the object could have been a Russian long-range plane on a test flight, officials declared the Soviets had no planes capable of flying faster than English or American craft, all the while announcing they were checking private companies which might be testing "high-speed prototype aircraft such as the Fairy Delta 2 and the English Electric P-1 fighter to see if they had any aircraft flying this course and speed on Monday night."

Since no other radar stations picked up the object, and the Javelin fighters also failed to get it on their screens, Air Ministry officials first blamed faulty radar for the sighting, later said it likely was a meteor.

The Air Ministry did admit, however, that the strange object seen by David Meyers, a 16-year-old school boy, of Tooting, might have represented a visual report of the object seen on radar.

David was saying good night to his girl friend, Sandra Lewis, at 11 p.m. the same evening when they saw an object, "about the size of a big star glowing orange." It was about 45 degrees from the horizon in a northeasterly direction, David added.

"It was moving toward the west and climbing. Then it dived and disappeared below the houses."

Seconds later it paid them a return visit, appearing twice as big, directly overhead, and this time making a high-pitched whistling noise. The thing then stopped and hovered, but after a few seconds moved off to the north and faded out.

"No one believes me," said David, "but it is true. I don't believe in flying saucers, but it could not have been a meteorite or a comet because it was changing direction."

His girl friend added that "It was just like a golf ball flying in the sky."

Meanwhile the House of Commons which lately had been riding the RAF about UFOs, was said to be readying some embarrassing questions to ask the Air Minister. Also the case of the strange "flying bowl," sighted in the English sky a week earlier, would get attention in Parliament.

A few days earlier two mysterious explosions, 350 miles apart, baffled English police and bomb disposal experts.

The first explosion dug a five-foot crater on the Epsom Downs racecourse. Around the crater police found fragments of metal casing.

"Most peculiar," stated Major Arthur Hartley, of the Royal Engineers, who investigated the incident. Slates had been blown off nearby houses by the shock of the blast. Maj. Hartley said fragments found in the crater looked like part of a home-made bomb. There were no scorch marks on the earth, but tree branches had been snapped and rubble thrown about.

The second explosion, near Glasgow, almost lifted A.W. Buchanan's car off the road. "I saw a ball of fire - like a blazing beacon hit the earth - A cloud of blue smoke drifted up in mushroom shape."

The explosion came as the object fell into a nearby field. Buchanan, whose wife also witnessed the odd event, said, "The explosion was followed by a cloud of blue smoke which drifted away like an atomic mushroom." Investigators discovered a two-foot crater, in which they found a mysterious white-gray powder.

Later, a mystery blast shook a 25-mile stretch of Exmoor, England, and houses trembled as far away as the North Devon village of Chittlehampton. This time the R.A.F. authorities ruled out the possibility of a jet. **All planes had been grounded because of bad weather.**

The loud booms were posing quite a public relations problem, and authorities didn't know how to handle the difficulty. If they stated the booms were caused by planes, the public would demand more careful control of plane testing; if they said they didn't know what caused the explosions, the public would demand that they find out just what was going on. Officials would probably just start ignoring them, as they had saucers. Or call them **hallucinations of the ears!**

Back in the states people were also hearing loud noises, though the newspapers accredited the explosionlike sounds heard in West Haven, Conn., to a jet plane breaking the sound barrier.

An on the spot report from B. Macauley, of West Haven, reports the explosions heard at 6:00 A.M. and later at around 11:00 A.M., on June 6, were so intense windows rattled, and in certain spots

houses shook and the ground trembled. Frantic calls jammed official switchboards. The general fear was that the Olin Industries Powder Factory had blown up, some indication of the intensity of the blast. Officials denied the presence of a jet anywhere near West Haven at the time, and no other explanation can be found, though later the newspapers assured the public it was a plane.

"I was walking to work," reports Macauley, "when suddenly the sky was split with a ripping, rending blast from a clear blue sky. No planes were visible, nor were there any jet trails in the sky."

An interesting sidelight to the explosions was the peculiar weather conditions the following day. Macauley reports that on June 7 the temperature dropped to 60 degrees, the skies became overcast with gray, and a thick smog saturated the air. "The air had a burning sensation to the skin, and breathing was uncomfortable. My face and hands felt sunburned, and my skin turned slightly red."

Maybe people blamed flying saucers for everything that could not be explained logically in other ways, but some reflection on the increasing frequency of strange blasts heard lately is interesting.

If saucers are real, are solid, and travel at supersonic speeds, it would appear that quite often they might break the sound barrier and create sonic blasts. Then, too, if saucers carry force fields which have some effect on the air around them, a sudden turning off of the field could conceivably play some havoc as large masses of air rushed back together or became unaffected by the field.

Saucerians with files running back to 1953 may recall that the recent noises around West Haven are nothing new. On August 20, 1953, those residents of that city, who believed in prophecies, thought the world was coming to an end – for that was the fateful day, according to prognosticators who used as their authority prophetic information gathered from poking around inside the damp darkness of the Great Pyramid of Egypt.

Anyway, a great swooshing noise was heard about 9:00 P.M. Lights dimmed, buildings shook, and some feared an atomic bomb had fallen. One woman suffered a miscarriage as a result of the excitement.

Hurried investigation by police revealed an untoward thing had occurred: A red ball of fire about six to eight inches in diameter had smashed through a signboard, ripping a hole more than a foot wide in the 20-gauge steel. An eye witness declared he had seen the fireball penetrate the sign board, then changed its course, tear through the top of a large tree, just missing telephone and power lines, and disappear over a hill about a half-mile away. Analysis of a metallic residue left by the object showed simple copper oxide.

Flying saucer history shows that although it is comparatively easy to see UFOs, if one only watches the sky, capturing them is a saucer of a different color!

William West and Wallace Widdell (aged 47 and 34) had one almost in the bag in Belfour, New Zealand, but it got away, leaving them with only a shaking experience to remember.

It all began with the men standing outside West's home, near the garage attached to his house. It was 3:10 in the morning. A party was almost ending inside, and they had stepped outside for some fresh air. (I suppose we're leaving ourselves open for this one!)

FLYING SAUCERS, official publication of the Civilian Saucer Investigation of New Zealand, whose representatives investigated the report, described the morning dark and calm, with no stars or moon showing. A drizzle was beginning to fall.

Suddenly a bright object, which looked like a star attracted their attention. It was moving, came near the house, slowed down and leveled out about 12 feet above the ground, all the while glowing with a fluorescent blue-white light. As the object slowed, the brilliance diminished.

Since the thing was moving toward the house the men figured it was going to land on the roof, but according to West, in a statement to CSI, "It turned away from the house and almost landed as it hovered about 3 feet above the ground; its appearance was of a bird, oblong in shape and fluorescent lighted."

West, braver than some men, decided to make a grab for the UFO, but as he moved in on it was blinded by the intense light radiating from it. As he moved toward it, the object, which had then changed shape to that of a sphere about 15 – 18 inches in diameter, quickly moved back about six feet to avoid capture.

Undeterred by the blinding light, West made two more attempts to grab the object, but each time he almost had it the thing jumped out of reach. As if apparently tired of the catching game and afraid West might be successful, the sphere finally took a faster and bigger jump, clearing an eight-

foot fence near the house! As it began a hurried departure it glowed more brilliantly, developed a red center, and grew smaller in size. Then it completely disappeared from sight.

When questioned carefully by a CSI investigator, both men agreed newspaper reports of the strange encounter had been absolutely true, further added that although the object emitted a blinding light, it did not radiate heat, and they had been quite near it. All the while it had seemed to the men that the object was either intelligently controlled or was of some strange intelligence itself.

Local authorities tried to explain away the sphere as ball lightning, although FLYING SAUCERS had not heard of the phenomenon behaving in a manner such as the sphere. The publication quoted a book on natural phenomena by Frank W. Lane, "THE ELEMENTS RAGE," which said, of ball lightning, "It will often enter buildings via chimneys, doors or windows, seemingly explore around and leave via the same or another exit. It usually avoids touching objects in the vicinity and on reaching open air again usually explodes with some violence." The magazine pointed out, however, that there was never any record of ball lightning avoiding attempts to capture it, making apparent changes of shape or colors.

The account is somewhat reminiscent of an Irishman's encounter with a saucer last September, though in that case the capturer had the thing in his hands before it made an escape just in time to avoid being taken to the authorities.

It happened in Northern Ireland, near Moneymore, where Thomas Hutchinson, described by neighbors as "a level-headed, God-fearing man," saw a strange egg-shaped object descend from the clouds and land in a bog about 200 yards from his front door.

The saucer was about 18 inches in diameter, according to the farmer who further described it as "bright red with two dark red marks at the end and three dark red stripes. It had a saucer-shaped base. I kicked it over, but it returned to its original position." When he got down on his knees for a closer look, it began to spin, he said, so Hutchinson put a hammer lock on it!

Meanwhile Mrs. Hutchinson, looking on, grew pale with fright, ran to the house and started praying. But her indomitable husband held on. He decided to take it to the police station. Evidently the saucer was quiet until Hutchinson made one big mistake: To get across a hedge he momentarily had to take his grip off the thing, whereupon it began to spin again. This time he wasn't able to get a good hold on it, and in the resulting fracas with the thing, "The monster nearly pulled my husband off his feet," according to the good wife.

Although the authorities tried to make out it was a water-logged weather balloon, the farmer had stated definitely, in an interview with Desmond Leslie for the British FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, that the object had remained perfectly dry all through his bout with it.

And so it was that although would-be saucer owners got close to them, and even had them in their grasps, somehow they always managed to get away. The proof that might change the face of the world and mankind's entire thinking, was still elusive. And one wondered if the U.S. Air Force, also, had not been similarly eluded. In all the reported incidents of jet aircraft encounters with saucers, the stories had similar endings. The saucers got away, unscathed, though it was not always apparent that the aircraft had enjoyed such safety.

In England other citizens were having brushes with the unknown. Mrs. Dorothy Fitton, of Wardle, became so frightened after a saucer encounter that she retreated into her home, shouting, "Good, God, they're here!"

Late in February, 19-year-old Gwynneth Fitton was walking along the dark lonely lane toward her home when looking up she saw a frightening sight. There above her up the hillside and only a few feet off the ground was a circular object which gave off a brilliant white glow. Below the object was a second, but smaller, sphere, which constantly changed from red to white.

Rushing into the house she shouted for her mother to go and look. Mrs. Fitton went outside, and by that time the object had come nearer, was only a few yards away, where it stopped.

Both mother and daughter ran inside the house, but finally marshalling courage, slipped out for another look. By that time it was almost on the ground, but then began to climb very gently. Finally it was above some nearby telephone poles and disappeared from sight.

Investigators learned the experience could hardly have been an hallucination for other Wardle residents had also seen it. The sightings aroused so much public interest that J.A. Leavey, M.P. representing Wardle, tabled a question to the Secretary of State For Air, asking: "Whether he is

aware that an abnormal and highly illuminated airborne object was seen near Wardle, Lancashire, at about 10 P.M. on Friday, February 15, and whether any warning was given by the radar system."

It may have been there weren't more saucers, but just simply more young loves, walking in secluded lanes and probably looking at the moon in non-astronomical manners. Many reports proved that such intimate times were excellent occasions for seeing saucers. If saucers broke up many a necking party, they nevertheless gave lovers something else exciting to think about.

For example, while David Wood, 17-year-old apprentice painter of Wath, South Yorkshire, England, was walking with his girl, he sighted what he termed "a spinning object surmounted by a dome and surrounded by a luminous halo." He was convinced it was a flying saucer.

"I was flabbergasted," he told reporters. "It looked so weird. It was spinning fast and spun toward Cortonwood Colliery, not making any noise. I watched it thinking it would fall to the ground like a shooting star, but it turned in a most strange way and came back overhead, disappearing in the night."

Both Wood and his girl saw the saucer a total of two minutes. As to her opinion, she observed, "It makes you think when you see something like that."

Also in England Mrs. Jessie Roestenberg, of Stafford, was revisited by saucers. Walking in her garden on a starry night, and probably looking for saucers, remembering her first dramatic sighting, she gazed upward, and there the thing was!

This time it was a long cigar-shaped object, with orange flames shooting out the end. It had an apparent size of 18 inches long, in her opinion, was completely silent and soon moved upward and disappeared when a plane approached the spot where it had been hovering.

But this time she was not afraid, and she remembered her terror of two years before with some amusement, for now she had become convinced that visitors from space were here on friendly missions. The time of her latest sighting was strangely the same as the first one: about 5:00 P.M., just after darkness had fallen.

It was in 1955 that her two little boys fell to the ground prostrate with terror when two human-like beings stared at them through the transparent cabin of a flying saucer. They had been in the garden playing. Mrs. Roestenberg went to call them into the house, when she, too, emitted a shriek of terror. Hovering immediately above the house was a huge spherical object, with two men gazing intently at the children, apparently from the cabin of the machine. They had long hair, and high foreheads. "They looked just like pictures of by-gone kings," she observed.

She ran to the children, picked them up and ran into the house, bolting all the doors.

FLYING SAUCERS No. 4, FEBRUARY 1958

Soon the year 1957 would be only a memory and FLYING SAUCERS FROM OTHER WORLDS would be almost a year old. At copy deadline for the issue you are reading (Oct. 10, several weeks before the magazine was printed) it looked as if, saucerwise, it would have been a most interesting year.

As almost everyone, by the beginning of 1957, silently predicted, no sure answer to the origin and purposes of flying saucers had been found - at least answers that everyone could accept.

In a telephone conversation just before deadline Prof. Charles A. Maney, of the Physics Dept. of Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio, was still convinced saucers represent extraterrestrial physical craft, mechanically constructed, was in possession of a piece of metal he felt just about proved his point.

Others, also convinced of an extraterrestrial origin, were just as greatly convinced there was no truth in the contact stories related by those who claimed to have interviewed space people; while the "contactees" were just as convinced that they HAD met extraterrestrials.

Civilian Saucer Intelligence, of New York City, felt saucers could be a number of things, including upper-atmosphere animals which feed on energies released by atomic experiments. In New Jersey, James W. Moseley, editor of the controversial SAUCER NEWS, still held that the disks were constructed by earth people, perhaps by a secret "Organization," a supra-governmental agency. Moseley's saucers also fed upon radiation; but in his opinion they were machines, constructed for the purpose of absorbing or "wiping" away harmful by-products of the Bomb.

In California, Trevor James, who authored a book titled, "SPACEMEN - FRIENDS AND FOES" asserted the saucers come from underground, agreeing, in part, with Richard S. Shaver; but James' saucers were unsubstantial, astral things, existing tenuously in a different dimension.

Meade Layne, director of the Borderland Sciences Research Associates, in San Diego, Calif.,

would still lay his subscribers' money on a kind of fourth dimensional origin, though he agreed with James that there also might be some honest-to-goodness flesh-and-blood spacemen around - "moon physicals" for example, which the latter felt might have conversed with George Adamski and taken him for rides in space ships.

This writer, however, still didn't want to make up his mind on the subject. But he was ready to state that saucers were still mighty complicated, likely represented many kinds of phenomena.

Regardless of what the saucers were or what they had in mind, there still was an awful lot of them.

The saucers continued to be exasperatingly complicated, as varied in configuration as the 1958 automobiles. Near Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan, Lawrence Cheveldayoff saw a strange object, shaped "like a derby hat with a white light on the top section," hovering about 200 feet above the ground, then disappearing toward the earth. He was on a farm tractor, about a mile away, and didn't get a good look at it.

In Cornwall, England, Eric Pengelly, a 33-year-old postal employee, observed a dome-shaped object like "a sliced egg," and elsewhere in Great Britain, H. G. Clark, of Northampton, taking things easy after some gardening, saw what he described as a "flaming onion."

A new type of flying saucer, or flying whatzit, interrupted the explorations of Dr. W. Clinton Giles, geologist of Rapid City, S.D., during the summer. Dr. Giles was doing geological work in the Canyon Branch of Little Oil Creek when his attention was drawn to a rapidly moving object.

A long fiery thing, which he estimated to be about 300 feet long and ten feet in diameter, whizzed by him and flew at great speed about 2000 feet below the top of the canyon. Visible for only about five seconds, it vanished toward the Black Hills to the east. The object made no noise.

Dr. Giles was so upset by the sighting he abandoned exploration and headed home.

London, however, was agog over a UFO with an almost comfortingly familiar shape. Four people living in areas north of London telephoned the Air Ministry reporting they had seen a cigar-shaped and intensely luminous object traveling across the sky at high speed. One witness, a resident of Buckhurst Hill Essex, said the object appeared to be composed of glass or plastic. "It was one mass of blue-green light. It was traveling at an incredible speed, much faster than any jet plane I have ever seen."

Later an Air Ministry spokesman explained the cigar was "probably a cosmic balloon caught in a fast airstream."

Meanwhile saucer enthusiasts with a flair for the unusual had many things to hash over.

It probably had nothing to do with saucers, but in Flemington, N.J., a White Leghorn hen baffled Rutgers University chicken experts when in a five-day period the feathered prodigy laid 17 eggs. Also at Rutgers the experts tried to feed Leghorn hens tranquilizer pills, on an assumption that the highly excitable fowl would be calmed down and eat less food. But to their dismay the chickens moved as fast as ever, and ate as much as ever.

In Roswell, N.M., workers got started on the world's tallest manmade structure, a 1,610 TV tower, a modern Tower of Babel, some wags who wished to comment unkindly on current television programming might observe. In Long Beach, Calif., a heat wave wiped out flea trainer Bob Matthews' troupe of performers, and he reportedly was looking around for a dog.

"It made a queer kind of throbbing and humming sound, not like anything I ever heard before. I don't know if that's the first thing I noticed or if it was the light I saw first.

"I thought sure it was a plane, but then I saw it was round and know that a plane doesn't make a noise like that.

"I watched it until it landed and then I got out of there fast."

That was what Jack Stephens, 15-year-old resident of Galt, Ontario, Canada, told Gene Duplantier, of Toronto, Ont., who, after hearing that the spectacular saucer sighting had been a hoax, went to the nearby town to investigate for FLYING SAUCERS.

He came away convinced the boy had experienced a close brush with something from another world.

Newspaper accounts said the 17" x 8" "tracks," about two inches deep, left after the saucer had landed, were not "monster" tracks, but artificially made, added they bore evidence that a metallic object had been dug into the ground and dragged backward to make the impressions.

Shown over the landing site by young Stephens, Duplantier learned the newspaper stories had been erroneous in general; Stephens had not claimed to see any monster, believed the tracks had been made by landing gear on the saucer, though he had been too frightened to note many details as the actual landing took place.

The marks were exactly 15 feet apart, according to Duplantier, who noted they formed the shape of a triangle. Earlier, before curious visitors had trampled over the site, the tracks had contained further, vein-like markings, similar to those in a leaf, though not as regular.

Stephens showed Duplantier how branches of bushes had been broken off within the circumference of the saucer as it touched down. Some of the branches were also scorched.

The saucer landed in a field where corn had been grown but had since been harvested, leaving stubble. Two bales of hay, done up with wire, happened to be under the saucer, and had been ripped open, though only some of the hay had been scorched.

Slowly young Stephens went over the incident which occurred on July 30. He was alone with his dog on a farm owned by a G.S. Knapp, when he was attracted by the light and the strange noise. The object, which he estimated to be about 40 feet in diameter, and ten feet high, descended about 300 yards from him, then hovered over the field.

The saucer consisted mainly of a dish-shaped body which spun, under a kind of dome which remained stationary. The lower part had a dull aluminum appearance, but the turret was much brighter, like chromium on a new car. At the bottom a protuberance was visible from which a red glow came, not flames as newspaper accounts had it.

"As I watched," Stephens told Duplantier, "the thing just dropped down like a helicopter and I saw light around it." As the speed of rotation decreased Stephens noted that the light broke up into openings, which he called portholes, around the lower rim of the saucer; but they could have been jet exhausts, he said. The boy saw no sign of any occupants, but wasted no time running from the scene when the hovering craft suddenly landed.

As Stephens retreated he saw, in a hasty look over his shoulder, the object take off suddenly, this time without sound, and zoom away over a lake.

A few days later in Toronto two teenage girls were given "the scare of their lives" by a strange flying object, according to local newspapers. Colleen Weiler, 16, and Diane Kloepfer, 15, were terror stricken when the object circled about 100 feet above them, as Colleen was walking part of the way home with Diane, who had been playing tennis at home.

They had started home about 10:30 p.m., arrived at an intersection near the Bank of Montreal when Colleen was attracted to a bright light apparently hovering over the bank building. Colleen stopped, stared at the object; then Diane saw her looking and also discovered the object.

"It was round and the light was blinding," said Colleen. "I couldn't look at it for any length of time at all or my eyes would have been more painful than they were. It was stationary for a short time, then it would spurt away and then would return to a position above us."

"It was really scary and so close to us," added Diane. "I noticed the flames, or it was more like white heat coming out of it on each side. When it would start away it would grow dimmer, and there seemed to be a dark plate or spot in the middle of it at such times. We never did see the top of it. It seemed to be as big as a large room."

The girls parted hurriedly, each running toward her own house. The object followed Colleen back along Church Street to her home.

"As I ran, it was right there behind me, every time I looked over my shoulder. I was really scared."

Her mother confirmed Colleen's fright. "Colleen came running into the house and told me what she had seen and I could see by her face and eyes that something had happened to her. Her eyes were red and bloodshot and they were watering. I tried to pass it off as nothing, but I was so frightened myself that I wouldn't go out and look."

The mother added the girls had just returned from summer camp and to her knowledge knew nothing of the saucer scare set off by the Galt landing.

In further reference to older news, one of our readers is trying to track down the actual clipping which he remembers reading in a scrapbook before saucers became publicized. As he, Lewis P. Brown, recalls it, a clergyman of a southern state, in horse and buggy days, was driving home one

night when he saw a flash of light and something land in a nearby field. He went to the spot and dug out an object which had buried itself there.

It was a disk about three feet in diameter, and composed of an unknown metal. Along with the characters of an unknown language was engraved a drawing of a dinosaur. Could it have been a message, informing Earth both in picture form and some alien tongue that humankind has been under observation since prehistoric times?

Still in the way of old news is a real weirdie reprinted in the Aug. 8, 1957 edition of the Harriman, Tenn., **Record**, taken from the original story in the Jan. 6, 1898, edition of another Harriman newspaper.

The somewhat ancient account related how Binghamton, N.Y., scientists were puzzling over a strange metallic substance which had fallen with a blinding flash of light and buried itself in the ground near Park Avenue. The substance was broken apart, was found to contain a piece of metal on which were a number of curious marks resembling Egyptian writing. No one could decipher the strange tongue, however, nor could the metal be identified; and speculation was that the strange fall had been an attempt at communication by another world. The thing was put on exhibition and would be placed in the geological collection of the local high school, the story concluded. We wonder if it is still around and if any readers have heard of this or the previous account.

In Greencastle, Ind., a curious saucer followed four teenagers, then dropped a "bomb" on them.

George Bennett, 17, Jack Glover, 18, Bob Coleman, 18, and another teener, Jerry Brattain, had been in Russelville, a nearby town, were driving home on Rt. 234 when they saw a huge red light in the sky.

According to Kenneth Bennett, publisher of **The Putman County Graphic**, and father of George, the boys parked the car in order to get a better look at the light.

Immediately the red light seemed to become aware of them, for as soon as the car halted it moved directly over the boys.

"Hey, it's comin' down," Glover yelled, while the others gawked at the thing, now taking on a definite physical configuration.

According to Glover, "It wasn't shaped like anything we had ever seen. It appeared to be about 50 by 100 feet in size, equipped with large white lights on each side. Several other colored lights were also visible." One of the other boys noted it was kidney shaped.

Instead of hot rodding it out of there, as the Eastern Editor would have done, the boys decided to stay and see what would happen, though they admitted they were even then "pretty scared." One of them thought about the spotlight, and turned it upward at the object. When the light hit the saucer the thing came right down at them!

Almost at the same instant something exploded in the car, against Glover's cheek, after seeming to bounce from the floor. That was enough for the boys. They jammed the car in gear and "burned rubber for a hundred yards getting out of there."

The saucer couldn't "burn rubber," but it appeared to be as anxious as the boys to leave. As they departed they saw the thing shoot upward at great speed and "then move north like a bolt of lightning," to quote Glover.

FLYING SAUCERS received the original lead from **The Indianapolis News**, and hesitant to accept the story at face value, was able to reach the writer, who turned out to be Kenneth Bennett. Besides publishing the weekly **Graphic** at Greencastle, he occasionally submits news to the Indianapolis daily, and on the telephone gave the impression of being a reliable reporter. He had been in the newspaper business eleven years, he said, also was the publisher of a house magazine issued by the Arketex Ceramic Corp., a large Indiana firm.

Speaking of the witnesses, Bennett said, "I've never seen a bunch of boys as excited as they were," when they rushed into his house to report the incident. About the veracity of his son, he said, "After knowing my boy for 17 years I should be able to tell whether he is telling the truth. I've fed, clothed and schooled him all these years, and I don't think he'd lie to me."

Other sightings in the same area lent credence to the report. So many objects had been seen that County Sheriff Joe Rollings advised young people against visiting the scene of the sighting. Other reports, from residents in the northwest part of the county, included descriptions of saucers resembling the type reported by the four youths.

Other Indiana saucernews:

Over Frankfort in early July, Clarence Greeno spotted a "very bright object which looked like a ball of silver," and which "appeared to move very slowly, but it was quite high in the sky." Some conjectured it was a test run of one of the new earth satellites.

On August 13, Mrs. Elfa Levi and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Collins of Gary saw a large saucer hovering over a lake near their home. Mrs. Levi said, "It looked as if it were made of two saucers, one of them upside down, glued together. It had a sloping hump on top and another on the bottom, and it tapered to an edge all around." The object, which she estimated to be 60 feet in diameter by about 15 feet in its thickest part, emitted a brilliant white glow and revolved slowly. It was floating about 50 feet above the water and was about 300 yards from her lakeside home. After she had watched the object for about 15 seconds, the light slowly dimmed and it vanished from sight.

Another cornfield was involved with a saucer, this time in Addison Township, near Shelbyville, where an anonymous woman saw a flat, spherical object about 10 feet in diameter and four feet thick descend to within 100 feet of the ground. It hovered there for a few seconds, then floated away. She saw the object from her front porch where she was sitting about 9:00 in the evening. She reported lights of various colors around the rim of the saucer. As the saucer departed it made a "clanging noise," according to the witness who did not give her name because she feared ridicule.

While conservative UFO investigators fussed and fumed at George Adamski and others who claimed they had conversed with saucer men, and while James Moseley, in SAUCER NEWS pointed out the mysterious symbols on the footprints left by Adamski's Venusian friend had changed shape remarkably in different published versions, the Mt. Palomar saucerer was still going strong.

More than 300 people listened to Adamski lecture in Detroit, Mich., with an accompanying film which contained a scene of a jet with vapor trail rising and passing under two very large disks moving across the sky, and a smaller one, which Adamski termed a "recording disk," maneuvering in front of a bank of foliage while a larger craft controlling it hovered over and in back of it. The larger craft was invisible to the eye when the film was shot, Adamski said, but came out on the color film. Adamski's movie began with drawings from Africa and Japan offering interpretations of the Venusian footprints, and symbols allegedly left on a photographic plate given to him by the saucerian, as reported in "FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED."

Meanwhile the going for two other California saucerers had been rough on a "Long John" broadcast over station WOR, New York City, before the all-night jockey of both kinds of disks clammed up on saucers.

Jules St. Germain, Lex Mebane, and Ted Bloecher, all of Civilian Saucer Intelligence, NYC, disputed claims by George Van Tassel, who was being interviewed by Long John. Although funds running into five figures had been collected by Van Tassel's College of Universal Wisdom for construction of a physical plant to house that institution, only an outhouse, CSI developed, had actually been erected.

Most dramatic part of the allnight discussion came at the end of the show when Dan Fry, also present, indicated an object he had placed on the table was an interplanetary artifact. Mebane made a grab for it, pocketed it, and Fry made a dive for Mebane, with the intention of recovering the brown, metallic, perforated disk. But it so happened the object fell to the floor through a hole in Mebane's pocket. Fry recovered it and the world was deprived of a scientific analysis.

"Pilot to GC1. Have unidentified blip about 20 miles away. Thirty degrees to left. Do you read it too?"

"This is GC1. Nothing on our scope. Over."

"Blip showing up clear. Good target. Ask permission to investigate."

Such goes a possible dramatization of an Air Intelligence Information Report released to the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, in a sudden reversal of the usual tight-lipped-everything-classified policy.

It happened on an undisclosed date in December, 1956, when two jets were practicing ground radar positioned intercepts on each other at an undisclosed vicinity.

With permission from the ground, the pilot took after the blip, and the jet's radar showed he was gaining on the target at better than 700 miles per hour. Eight miles from the target the pilot obtained direct visual observation of a round object, exactly where the radar said it was. The pilot said it was

"the size of a lead pencil eraser if placed against the windscreen," which indicated the object had been at least 200 feet in diameter, probably larger, according to NICAP estimates.

Close enough to get a "lock-on" by radar, the pilot let his plane be guided automatically toward the UFO.

But the saucer, or whatever it was, seemed to become aware of the pursuit, for according to the pilot, some kind of strong interference jammed the radar. But the terrestrial pilot had one ace up his sleeve the other intelligence evidently didn't foresee. He switched frequency, a common anti-jam procedure, and for ten seconds all was well. Then the mysterious interference again tried to interrupt the radar's functioning; this time it was not strong enough to break the "lock-on."

Five miles away from the object, the pilot saw the UFO make a shallow left turn. He then could see it was a circular thing, of a golden tan color; however it did not reflect the sun.

Suddenly the object sped away, at a speed of about 2,000 miles per hour, although the AF said the speed was only an estimate, since the UFO's rate of departure was faster than the radar could indicate. The blip soon disappeared from the scope.

After the pilot had landed and reported the encounter, ground personnel went over the ship with a fine toothed comb. The radar operated correctly; all electrical systems were normal.

If there were "shush-ups," if there were pressures, if there was deliberate discouragement directed toward those who investigated or beat the drum for saucers, it was hard to point an accusing finger at a pinpoint source.

Maybe there wasn't a formal organization, existing in secrecy, which silenced saucerers. But if there wasn't anything so dramatic as all that, the pressures WERE there. Maybe it was the result of individual fears, fears of something new and upsetting, something which might change the face of the earth and the way men lived.

Back in the hills, at Mountain View, Mo., an old man probably knew that sooner or later he would feel the pressure close in. Buck Nelson is a peaceful soul who bothers nobody, except that his story may be disturbing to some. Nelson states space people have visited his house, and on one occasion took him for a ride in their saucer.

Nelson was trying to make out on a state pension of \$55.00 per month, before even that small amount was taken away. It was cut off because Buck persisted in telling about his visits from space people. Here is how it came about, in Nelson's own words:

"My case worker came to my home and said to me, 'Anyone that saw a flying saucer, or said that they rode in one is CRAZY!' She was very mean and ornery to me. What I had to take from her was a shame. She said that I would have to take an examination for my sanity to get my pension back, but I said I would NEVER get it back, as I would be railroaded to an insane asylum. She said she was talking for the state and county, and that it would stop my story, and that was what they wanted, and they would starve me out and try to force me that way to stop my story."

Nelson also said he had received a letter from his case worker which stated he would have to take an examination for his sanity.

"I have also been called a Communist because I am against war and the bomb tests," he added later in a letter to FLYING SAUCERS.

FLYING SAUCERS No. 5, May 1958

To those looking for saucers it had already been an interesting year. As readers of FLYING SAUCERS would testify, 1957 had shown no letup in sightings of the things, whatever they were.

Some felt the saucers stood for hope, some were indifferent to them, and some were frightened of them. But as the earth ground toward the end of her orbit, and the leaves turned red, then faded, saucerers gazed at something they were more immediately concerned about.

Casting a grotesque shadow across the free world, the Russian Sputnik could mean a number of things. Immediately it was something to get shaken up over. Russian scientists had apparently beaten us to the punch. The size of the Red moon alone indicated the U.S. was not only behind in firing a satellite into orbit, but behind in missiles as well. "Sputnik I" was said to weigh 184 pounds; the first U.S. experimental "moons" would weigh only four pounds and measure only six inches in diameter.

As the U.S. continued to assure citizens the free world would soon catch up with the Reds, Russia did it again. "Sputnik II" was even larger, showed even greater capacity in rocket development and

production. And it contained the first living space traveler, Laika, a dog, blasted into orbit to circle the earth alive, until the life giving oxygen and electrical power in the satellite gave out.

Then it happened! The biggest saucer scare in history broke loose. For once neither the papers, nor the people, could ignore them. They were everywhere!

FLYING SAUCERS realized that with advance deadlines it was impossible to get out with the news while it was still fresh; besides, all the papers had been carrying the most of it. Instead, the editors concentrated upon getting the complete story, with the background necessary to arriving at some conclusion about the mass sightings. The editors felt that more important than merely reporting the best sightings, **some conclusion should be reached, if possible. FOR THE SAUCER "FLAP" HAD OCCURRED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE LAUNCHING OF "SPUTNIK II."** Of course it could be coincidence, but that was the least obvious conclusion. **THERE MUST BE SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SECOND MOON AND THE BIG SAUCER "INVASION!"**

Pedro Saucedo was driving out to a farm, on State Route 116, near Levelland, Texas, when the first publicized sighting of the big saucer flap took place. With him was a friend, Joe Salaz. Suddenly they saw a huge torpedo-shaped object in the sky, headed toward them. The lights of his truck went out; then the motor died. Let Saucedo tell it in his own words:

"I jumped out of the truck and hit the dirt because I was afraid. I called to Joe, but he didn't get out. The thing passed directly over my truck with a great sound and a rush of wind. It sounded like thunder and my truck rocked from the blast. I felt a lot of heat. Then I got up and watched it go out of sight toward Levelland."

Later he described the thing as "torpedo-shaped," or "like a rocket, but much larger." Lights on the object seemed to be winking on and off.

On the same night a number of drivers reported seeing what evidently was the same object, or others just like it, as police switchboards were flooded by reports. Among them:

Ronald Martin, 18-year-old Levelland truck driver, had a brush with the unknown similar to Saucedo. The lights of his truck also went out and the engine died when he saw what he described as "a big ball of fire" which dropped onto the highway, right in front of him. As it settled to the highway it changed to a bluish green color; then to a fireball again when it rose straight up and disappeared.

James D. Long, another truck driver, drove up on the object while it was "sitting on the road," as he put it, about four miles west of Levelland. He was driving on a county highway known as the Oklahoma Flat Road, and brought his car to a stop when he spotted the object. Then his motor died and the lights of his truck went out. Long told officials he was "never so scared in all my life," didn't know how long the object was on the road before it took off because he had fainted. After the thing left, he, like the others, was able to start up the truck without difficulty.

When it was learned that Hockley County sheriff, Weir Clem, and his deputy also had seen the object, James Villard, editor of THE UFOLOGER interviewed him by telephone. Following is a partial transcript:

Villard: I understand you recently had a sighting of a UFO.

Clem: Yes, that is true.

Villard: Could you tell me briefly what happened?

Clem: Well sir, as the witnesses around town have said, this object has been spotted on the ground three times, and as they got close to it, it would kill the motors on their cars, and also their headlights.

Villard: Would you tell me what size it was and how it looked?

Clem: Well, they said it was approximately 125 to 200 feet in diameter; it was oval shaped, with a flat bottom, and it had a glow of greenish-blue light.

Villard: Did you see the object personally?

Clem: No, sir, I did not. I did see the light from the object.

Villard: Do you have any opinion where the object came from or what it may have been?

Clem: No, sir, I do not.

In Birmingham, Ala., a milkman also had ignition trouble when he spotted an immense 600-foot long object which he estimated to be 150 feet wide. James Moore said he was driving to work when the "sky lit up" and his ignition system conked out. The thing, about a mile away, was hovering about 200 feet above the ground. Moore said he "took a look and left." We suspect that is quite an

understatement.

In Urbana, Ill., state troopers Calvin Showers and John Mautulis were chasing a brilliant flying object in their cruiser when suddenly their police radio went dead. A police patrol at Elmwood Park, Chicago (where hundreds of sightings also were reported), also noted electrical disturbances when the officers sighted a huge reddish-orange disk drop out of the sky, then zoom upward and disappear on November 4. Policemen Joseph Lukasek and Clifford Schau, and Fireman Robert Volz said they were riding west on Belmont Ave. in a squad car when they spotted the thing over the Elmwood Park Cemetery. They took off westward toward the descending disk, but as they drew closer the lights on the car dimmed and the motor sputtered. As the disk rose into the air, suddenly the lights brightened and the motor functioned normally.

Generally the flying objects were described as egg-shaped; by night fiery and by day exhibiting a smooth surface, opalescent in color. Most reports contained the absence of portholes, fins, or other aeronautical configurations.

But near Covington, in west central Indiana, farmer Robert Moody reported the egg had changed its shape. Working on a combine in a field he spotted a flying object resembling a huge fried egg - sunny side down - going over with a screaming noise. Immediately the motor of his combine went dead.

FLYING SAUCERS reports these particular experiences because they seem to effectively rid us of an important theory: the mass sightings could hardly be imaginary and a psychological reaction to "Sputnik II." True, a frightened driver might make some reflex action which would cause the motor to stall, but in such an emergency he would hardly switch off the lights! And the widespread reports of similar nature had established a definite pattern of electrical disturbances in connection with sightings.

Saucerers are indebted to Coral E. Lorenzen, head of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization for bringing to light the amazing narrative of James Stokes, a civilian expert on high altitude research at Holloman Air Force Base, near Alamogordo and White Sands Proving Grounds.

It is a good thing Stokes happened to be a personal friend of Lorenzen, for it was she to whom he came after his close contact with a fiery egg-shaped object while he was driving on U.S. Highway 54, toward El Paso. Unfortunately it is now extremely difficult, if not impossible, to reach Stokes for comment. When NICAP tried to interview Stokes shortly after his original report, it was learned he had been muzzled. Maj. L. J. Tacker informed NICAP that Stokes had been in the hospital "for nervous tension," and that the missile engineer now believed he "might have seen some kind of weather phenomena."

But before the silence group could clamp the muzzle on Stokes, Lorenzen rushed him to radio station KLAG to report what he had seen, and the following is what he told:

Ten miles out of Orogrande his car radio faded, and as he reached to turn the volume up the set died completely. The next thing he noticed was a sputtering in his engine, then it too suddenly went dead. It was then that Stokes noticed he was approaching considerable traffic halted on the road ahead, and people standing on the highway, pointing excitedly at the sky.

Stokes looked where they were pointing. A huge egg-shaped thing, with a mother-of-pearl iridescence, was approaching. Suddenly it made a turn and swept over the highway, then took another pass at the road.

Not taking time to think about his stalled engine and dead radio, Stokes was mainly concerned about the strange feeling of oppression he was experiencing as the thing passed over him. He said it was either heat or a "wave of pressure," he wasn't sure which.

The object suddenly rose upward and seemed to vanish into space. After the initial excitement had died down, Stokes joined the excited conversation of the other witnesses, noted that one man had a camera and had shot pictures. Then Stokes entered his Mercury and tried the starter. It ran perfectly!

In the confusion Stokes did not ask for addresses of the other witnesses, though he did remember the names of two of them, who couldn't be located. The APRO director believed many of the witnesses were employees at White Sands, that they had made reports to their superiors there and had been shushed up.

Apparently the widespread sighting caught the AF unawares, as they fiddled with the text of a forthcoming Report on saucers, probably working overtime imbuing the copy with even more double

talk than contained in the previous ones. As a result of AF relaxation, several reports which should not have reached the public did just that – reports quite damning to the positions that most sightings could be explained away as a natural phenomena, hallucinations, and the like.

We believe the following report is a slip. It concerns two dramatic sightings smack dab on the White Sands Proving Grounds, by two military patrols, who made their reports independently of each other.

The amazing thing about the following is its being a direct and apparently official report from White Sands, taped from the telephone and broadcast by the Mutual Broadcasting Corp. Considering the later position of the AF on sightings, it is almost unbelievable the public information officer would have dared couched his report in such straightforward terms. We imagine that Bill Haggert caught some hell after this one went over the air. Here it is, and we quote:

This is Bill Haggert, Public Information Officer of White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico.

Three young military policemen who spotted a mysterious object over White Sands Proving Grounds Sunday agreed here tonight that what they saw looked like a landing and takeoff of some controlled object from outer space. In open session here with the public information and intelligence officials, the youths pieced together a startling tale of what appeared to be the movements of a controlled device.

Working on two shifts of routine patrolling of the off-range area, the soldiers said they had not talked to each other about what they saw until after both reports had been turned in to the Provost Marshal's office. They stated further that prior to their sighting of the object they had read no newspaper accounts, nor heard anything about mysterious objects elsewhere. The youths emphasized that the object looked as bright as the sun, but that it did not light up any of the sky around it.

Cpl. Glenn H. Toy, with his buddy, Pfc. James Willbanks, saw the object first about 3:00 A.M. Sunday. The object came down slowly, to about 50 yards from the ground, the corporal said. It stayed up there about three minutes, giving off a brilliant, reddish light. Then it came to the ground fairly fast, at about a 45-degree angle, and the light went out quickly.

"This was about two or three miles away from me (Cpl. Toy stated). It looked like a completely controlled landing."

Willbanks has been on a three-day pass, not present to interview. His pass had been approved some days previously. The other two MP's, Specialist Third Class Richard Oakes, and Specialist Third Class Henry Barlow, spotted what appeared to be the same object some 17 hours later, about 8:00 P.M. Sunday, when they were on patrol together in a jeep.

They first noticed the object hovering motionless about 50 yards from the ground, and then saw it rise slowly into the sky and stop again. "It got so far up finally that it looked like a star," said Oakes, "then all of a sudden we didn't see it any more."

"I know it couldn't have been an aircraft," said Barlow, "because it remained motionless for several minutes."

The second patrol also saw the object from a distance of about two miles. It was about the same area. The patrols possibly were about a mile apart. The terrain at the northern tip of the range is 90 miles north of White Sands Proving Grounds Headquarters, and is near the bunkers used in the first atomic bomb explosion in 1945. The terrain is flat desert land, and it is possible to see clearly for several miles. I think that covers it.

It was evident that the psychological explanation, as well as the other standard evasions used by the AF, was losing ground. Not only the White Sands sightings, but others, earlier and during the November flap had involved military personnel and other trained observers.

AF explainers quickly released a statement on the White Sands incident, probably the best one of their current lot. One of the patrols had seen the planet Venus, the other was looking at the Moon!

They quickly disposed of some of the other ones to the satisfaction, incidentally, of few. The Levelland scare was caused by ball lightning, and the cars had stalled because electrical circuits were wet. They hinted Stokes was pulling a hoax.

The widely-known case of the Coast Guard Cutter Sebago, the crew of which had sighted a 1000 mph UFO both by radar and visually, was dismissed as faulty interpretation of the radar scope, operated, we might mention by trained radar technicians. We suspect the Coast Guard somewhat grudgingly withheld comment about this rather obvious slam upon the quality of its personnel.

In Knoxville, Tenn., schoolboy Evertt Clark averred that a "long round spaceship" had settled down in a cow pasture outside his window.

Two men and two women, talking like German soldiers in war movies he had seen, got out, he declared, and kidnapped his dog, Frisky. They also tried to kidnap another dog, which ran away.

Reporters were less skeptical after finding "a peculiar imprint in the grass," 34 feet long and five feet thick.

Could saucerians be interested in bringing the canine species to their home planets? Or maybe saucerians, too, are just simple decent folks who like dogs. Or maybe after the stories hit the papers John Trasco, of Everittstown, N.J., simply wanted to get into the act.

Thanks to the Civilian Saucer Intelligence, of NYC, here is another parallel account of spatial dog fanciers. About dusk on Nov. 6. Trasco had just returned to his home when the barking of the family dog attracted the attention of him and his wife. Looking toward the baying they saw a luminous egg-shaped object, which they said was about 10 feet long, hovering a few feet off the ground near the barn. The account isn't complete as to whether Trasco approached the saucer, but the pilot evidently was able to converse with him, at least at shouting distance.

According to Trasco, a little man only 2½ feet tall, "dressed in a green suit with shiny buttons," emerged from the egg-shaped thing and addressed him in broken English. Apparently there were some exchanges in conversation before Trasco fully understood what the saucerian wanted: to take the farmer's dog. Trasco then shouted, "Get the hell out of here!" and the little man complied, as he jumped back into his saucer and took off.

In New Orleans, La., interplanetary thievery took on its worst aspects when a resident claimed that some little green men landed in his front yard, robbed him of his billfold, also entered his home and took several articles - all this according to a radio report.

Another interesting space man report came from Los Angeles, Calif., a region long beset with unlikely phenomena. It was a bizarre account of how three motorists saw a mysterious egg-shaped space ship resting on a beach in a "blue haze" and an unusual story, too, because of the name it involved.

Richard Kehoe, not to be confused with Major Donald E., Keyhoe, told L.A. Mirror-News reporters that after his car engine died, he got out and talked with two little men, about five feet, five inches tall, who had emerged from the craft.

The ship appeared on the beach in the area between Imperial and Century Blvds., Kehoe said, while he was driving to work at the General Telephone Co. shops in Santa Monica. The craft appeared to be composed of "solid metal," was "tan or cream in color, with two metal rings around it on which it rested." The occupants of the machine wore black leather pants, white belts and light-colored jerseys.

"They wanted to know where we were going, who we were, what time it was and questions like that," Kehoe said. "Their skin seemed to be sort of yellowish-green in the early light, but they looked like Earth people to me."

Kehoe thought they also invited him to have coffee with them, but finding himself quite shaken and unable to understand everything they were saying, he made an excuse of having to go to work, and departed hurriedly.

The two other drivers, Ronald Burke of Redondo Beach, and Joe Thomas, of Torrance, could not be reached. Kehoe said he was so excited he didn't bother to write down their addresses.

Meanwhile some suspicious saucerenthusiasts were speculating whether the Kehoe case could not have been deliberately fabricated to discredit Major Keyhoe, who, as director of NICAP, had been giving the AF silence elements a bad time of it.

Nor was the November flap limited to the United States. Reports were coming in from all over the world, but, as usual, FLYING SAUCERS didn't have space to report all of them.

One intriguing report came from Dr. J. de S. Pacheco (a MD), of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who is seriously collecting data on UFO sightings in that country. Dr. Pacheco obtained the information from a judge (whom he does not name), who interviewed the witnesses.

On November 19 a man (not named) driving a truck, and his companion, Miguel Espanhol, a mineralogist, spotted an intense light coming from an object about a mile ahead. The light was so strong both witnesses were blinded momentarily, as, at the same instant, the truck engine went dead.

The saucer, which had advanced toward the truck, passed over it and stopped about 130 feet away, settling to the ground. The huge machine appeared to be about 400 feet in diameter, and about 40 feet high. It was separated by a space of about 50 feet (We know this isn't a clear description, but that's all we have on it - G.B.). On the top was a huge mast or antenna which glowed with a reddish light.

Then the witness had another surprise. A door opened and seven persons, who appeared to be terrestrials, yet who had long hair and wore garments with a luminous tint on the chests, emerged. The mysterious personages encircled the truck and examined it for about three minutes, after which they reentered the saucer and began to ascend. At about 1500 feet the huge machine released two small disks, one slightly larger than the other, and the two small saucers went in opposite directions.

Partially recovered from their scare, the two men tried the engine, which functioned normally.

Dr. Pacheco assured the writer he has similar cases in his files, many of the accounts involving persons of known reliability and good character.

And erasing all skepticism in the writer's mind that something was really being seen was a dramatic sighting on Holly River near the scene of the famed Flatwoods Monster of 1952, and consequently right in G.B.'s own stomping grounds. I think I have lived in this part of the country long enough to know these good, honest people well, and that I can tell when they have witnessed something strange and are telling the truth about it. This sighting, involving a cigar-shaped obviously mechanical craft, is such a good one I have asked Ray Palmer to give me the space to print verbatim a taped interview I made with the witness for Hugh McPherson, who conducts a weekly saucer program over Radio Station WCHS, Charleston; and this will likely be carried at a later date.

Even if the writer could not make up his mind exactly what the November flap had meant, as he had never been able to make up his mind altogether about saucers in general, there were, he felt, a few valid conclusions that could be reached.

It was evident not all the sightings had been psychological in nature. Although the saucers had closely followed the launching of "Sputnik II," they could hardly represent hysteria. For one thing, the American public had greeted "Sputnik II" quite calmly, perhaps even too calmly for its own good. "Sputnik I," which came more as a surprise, was not accompanied by a decided step up in saucer sightings. If the saucers were merely psychological, should they not have appeared much earlier?

It is also true that the average individual does not watch the skies, is relatively unconcerned with what goes on there. The launching of the Red satellites surely resulted in an increased awareness of what was going on in the heavens, and, given only a fixed number of saucers, more people looking up were most certainly likely to see more of them. But people were watching for the first satellite - why not more saucers then?

Reliable witnesses were involved. Even the military itself reported sightings. Yet trained observers were once again ridiculed by the AF.

The "contact" stories, although of a new variety, could have been made up - maybe only some of them, maybe all of them. Was the fear of foreign powers reflected in the accents the saucerians were alleged to have? Did the natural concern of warm-hearted Americans for the lonely mutt in Sputnik lead to a kind of identification transfer whereby saucerians were attributed to be dog stealers? Perhaps.

But one could never be certain, unless somehow, some day, the entire enigma could be figured out.



"Only those who know little of a matter can have a clear and definite opinion on it." - Charles Fort in "LO!"



Gray Barker (left) Rick Hilberg (center) and John J. Robinson (right) at the 1969 Congress of Scientific Ufologists. Gray is giving John Robinson the award for being the 1969 "Ufologist of The Year." (Michael Mann photo from the R. Hilberg collection)