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Is it time for U.F.O.s?

Believers are gathering for outer-space guests

"In the latest survey, 57 per cent of those aware of U.F.O.s believe they are real, while 27 per cent doubt their existence. The survey also shows that as many as 1 American in 11 (9 per cent or a projected 13 million persons) has had a "close encounter"; that is, has actually seen what he believes to be a U.F.O.



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"Among those who have made a sighting, opinion is overwhelming (90 per cent) that U.F.O.s are the real thing. But even among those who have not seen a U.F.O., believers far outnumber disbelievers."

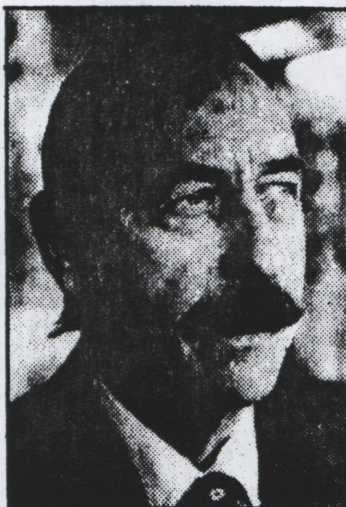
— From the Gallup Poll, May 25, 1978.

It is time for the summertime Wayne Aho story, the nice, soft-spoken 64-year-old man whose message has not changed for two decades. It's just that now a few people are taking him seriously — enough so that several hundred are expected to spend this weekend camping at a wooded 14-acre resort near the entrance to Mount Rainier National Park.

It is there that the New Age Foundation, of which Aho is founder and president, will hold its 20th annual convention. And, as always, Wayne Aho will hope that this will be the convention visited by beings from outer space. He even has designated a grassy area as the official flying-saucer landing site.

"I have been called 'Mr. U.F.O.,'" Wayne Aho was saying. "I think I will be remembered as a pioneer of space ventures. When I first began to research U.F.O.s, only a small percentage of the people could accept the possibility. But now . . ."

Now, according to that one poll, it's over half of the population. Wayne Aho is proud of that poll, and he frequently mentions it. For him, it is a vindication of sorts.



Wayne Aho
'Mr. U.F.O.'

ment that I have known for close to 20 years that will take me away from this earth. Whether this will happen while I'm still in the flesh, I don't know."

It was in 1957, while attending a U.F.O. convention in the Mojave Desert, that Wayne Aho said he had his revelation. He said he cannot talk about his assignment.

"I had what I call a close encounter of the ultimate kind," he said. "All through the night, I was guided by a spacecraft. I was shown and told things, much of it telepathic. I was shown crisis periods on earth that came as much as 10 years later."

It means to him that perhaps the public will accept his other theories, the one about Mount Rainier once being headquarters for an advanced civilization, the one about how many people on earth are descendants of space beings.

"I am one of those persons not native to this earth," he said. "My hope is that I may not die on this planet. I have an assign-

It is when we're on the verge of a nuclear war that the U.F.O.s will begin landing in mass, Wayne Aho said. "They want to save lives. They have been watching this earth and are preparing for that."

If you're still a nonbeliever, Wayne Aho said to read the Bible. "It has been called the best flying-saucer book in the world," he said. "You don't even have to be a student of the Bible to know that."

The fiery chariot, the parting of the Red Sea, the angels . . . "It is very much a book about space. Then there are the words of Jesus, 'I am not of the earth,' implying he had space origin."

The recent space movies have all helped gain believers, he said, with the best of the bunch being "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Some of the stuff in it was a little extreme, Aho said, "but it had much of the emotional impact that happens to anyone who's had one of the encounters."

The last time Wayne Aho said he saw some U.F.O.s was two years ago, during a New Age convention. "I saw about five flying in formation during the night," he said. "I remember a man from Oregon said they lit up his tent as they went over."

Wayne Aho said that as if it was proven fact, which to him it was. "I truly believe that we are not alone. I believe that I'm propelled to doing this by intelligences not of this earth."

Who will attend this weekend's convention? What sort of person will camp out by the mountain and at night look up to the sky in search of the moving lights?

"This is a beautiful, serene area," Wayne Aho said. "It's very high in spiritual energy. The thinking people of all ages will come, the people who have the courage to stand up for their convictions."

"That which challenges the thinking of one generation becomes the acceptance level of the next. To me, this is a mission for which I'm doing the best that I can."