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# 35 years of UFOs

Not all sightings were explained

By SAM SMITH  
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — For 35 years now, reports have persisted of pulsating cigar-shaped objects hovering over open fields and strange lights dancing in moonless skies, like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

There have been those who claim they have the physical evidence, like photographs showing what appear to be landing strips for spaceships on Peruvian mountaintops and drawings of alien beings on cave walls and comingling with ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics.

There have been those who claim to have the usual proof, like Betty Hill of Portsmouth, N.H., who said she was chased by a flying object one night 20 years ago. Later under hypnosis, she told of eleven 4½-foot tall creatures, gray, hairless with large eyes and no ears and wearing green uniforms (evidently a good color for aliens) taking her into their craft, where she received a physical examination. It's not clear, though, whether she passed.

And there have been those who may have experienced too much, like Frederick Valentich, a 20-year-old Australian pilot whose plane disappeared in 1977 shortly after he reported seeing a mysterious object while he was flying. Just before his radio went dead, Valentich reported that the large green object appeared to be "playing games" with his plane.

Valentich's father said, at the time, he expected that the aliens wanted to keep his son for a week or two for observation. But Valentich never turned up.

Actually, much of this heavenly attention got going in earnest in 1947, when a man named Kenneth Arnold, piloting a plane in the Pacific Northwest, said he was buzzed by nine pie-shaped objects.

Arnold told a reporter of his experience. The reporter called them flying saucers and, prompted by a public that began seeing lights flashing hither and yon, the government kicked off its 23-year investigation of unidentified flying objects, officially called "Project Bluebook."

Societies to chart UFOs sprang up, one of the largest appearing in Evanston, Ill., where J. Allen Hynek, the former astronomy department head at Northwestern University, directs the Center for UFO Studies, lectures and monitors UFO sightings about 1,000 every year, he says.

Futuristic movies such as "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" (Hynek coined the phrase, which means encounters with alien beings) have kept public interest high, and increasingly reports have surfaced of respected scientists observing strange objects in the sky.

Even former astronaut Gordon Cooper said he believes UFOs have visited Earth, and former President Jimmy Carter reported seeing UFOs one night in Georgia before he became president.

The government, however, still appears to be unconvinced.

The Reagan administration, in its

budget cutting mania, recently killed a NASA program aimed at finding extraterrestrial intelligence. The program, about one year from completion, involved searching the universe for radio signals from advanced civilizations.

The 6-year-old effort, though, always was controversial and three years ago earned a "Golden Fleece" award from Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., for government waste.

*'It is hard enough to find intelligent life right here in Washington.'*

— Sen. William Proxmire

*'It is hard enough to find intelligent life right here in Washington.'* Proxmire said at the time.

As is the case in other parts of the country, those shiny yellow football-shaped objects, and green egg-shaped ones, and blue and white fish-shaped ones with flashing, blinking or pulsating lights seem to have spent some time hovering around the Chicago area.

Locked away in the bowels of the National Archives are hundreds of reports of UFO sightings in the Chicago area among 20,000 nationwide from the Project Bluebook files.

Witness, for example, an Air Force major on the city's Northwest Side who followed a series of lights that formed a triangle. And a suburban Crete, Ill., farmer who watched an object hover and then dart away. Chicago area citizens had UFO stories to tell the government that ranked with the most bizarre on record.

*'He was . . . dressed in a green, one-piece suit . . . but I couldn't see much. He blended in with the grass.'*

— Chicago woman

And yes, there were little green men. On Lake Shore Drive, no less.

The woman who saw them, according to the Air Force investigator who interviewed her, was "cultured." She spoke several languages, he wrote in his report, and she lectured widely on psychology. Maybe a hint, he must have thought, to what she claims to have seen that spring night in 1954 as she peered east from the picture window of her apartment.

It was a "parachute-like object," she said, that skimmed across the water-

front near Belmont Harbor. The object was very bright and hovered for a while before setting down in the parkland adjacent to Lake Michigan.

This is what she said she saw next: "Somebody got out. He was short, but natural in structure, dressed in a green, one-piece suit with a simple tight-fitting head and chin head-dress. He walked up and down the lakeshore, but I couldn't see too much. He blended in with the grass."

The investigator's response was not included in the eight-page report, even though Hynek maintains it wouldn't have mattered since he claims the Air Force's mission in Project Bluebook was to find a logical explanation for every UFO sighting.

They apparently could not in this case. "Unexplained," was the way the entry read.

The government, likewise, didn't really explain what Maj. John Eleveid Jr. claimed he saw one night in June 1952.

Eleveid, according to the Project Bluebook report, saw two extremely bright lights he was unfamiliar with near Foster and Harlem Avenues in Chicago, and watched as they moved slowly northwest, where they were joined by a third bright light near what is now O'Hare International Airport (at that time a military airfield).

The three lights, now moving more quickly, formed a triangle, then moved into single file again and disappeared in an instant.

According to the files, the Northeastern Illinois skies were busy that month in 1952 with strange lights and objects.

On North Linder Place, several members of a family said they saw an egg-shaped object, yellowish, extremely bright and sporting a long red tail, making large circles, at high speed, around a commercial airfield.

That same week, a Broadview, Ill., man said he observed three slow-moving bright lights form a "V," hover above an aircraft moving at jet speeds and then flash into the night.

About the same time, according to the files, three airmen from O'Hare, including a veteran staff sergeant, watched a polished silver and blue oval object hover, then accelerate quickly and disappear.

They checked the radar logs but found no planes, military or commercial, reported in the area at the time.

## Bad news for some, but good for others

ITHACA, N.Y. (UPI) — A Cornell University poultry specialist says the outlook for 1982 is not especially rosy for farmers but good for consumers.

Dan L. Cunningham says record grain crop production last year should help keep feed costs down this year.

The assistant professor of poultry and avian sciences says broiler prices are expected to strengthen slightly from last year's levels and producers are planning to expand production by about one percent.

They contended that with all the planets on one side of the sun, their collective gravity would act on the sun, causing intense eruptions, or "flares," that throw out high-energy particles.

### Earthquakes

These, the authors said, would affect the Earth's magnetic field, inducing a torque that would alter the

motions of the plates that form the planet's surface, or would change global wind patterns, increasing friction between air and the Earth.

The resulting drag on the Earth would then induce catastrophic earthquakes.

Many readers accepted these arguments as valid, says the analysis, because of the "apparent professional qualifications" of the authors. Both had doctorates.

one in astrophysics and the other in astronomy.

But the Kitt Peak analysis said that "scientists have been universally critical of the theory." The scientists say the planets are so small relative to the sun and so distant from it that their gravitational effect on the solar surface is negligible, even when all are on the same side of the sun.