

Seattle, WA

Times

(Clr. D. 246,690)

(Clr. S. 331,060)

26 May, 82

UFO ARTICLES 1982

UFO believer hopes scientific study will jar public attitude

LIMA, Ohio (AP) — The public's scoffing attitude toward UFOs bothers John P. Timmerman.

The 58-year-old Lima man is raising funds for a scientific UFO study to reverse the public's "attitude of disbelief and ridicule."

The former businessman's interest in UFOs isn't a passing fancy. He is treasurer and chairman of the board of directors for the Center for UFO Studies.

He recently began spending much of his time as production manager for the "International UFO Reporter," a bimonthly magazine published for members of the UFO center. The magazine is put together at Timmerman's home.

The first issue of the independent magazine, which temporarily was published jointly with another periodical, was printed in Lima. It contains drawings and accounts of UFO sightings from across the world, as well as book reviews, letters to the editor and an index of reports received by the center.

Timmerman says the center has more than 1,500 members, who contribute to its \$75,000 budget for the magazine's costs and for field work on sightings.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the center's scientific director and president, writes the magazine. Hynek has served as chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and also worked on the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book, the official study of UFO phenomena by the federal government.

"We're not examining little green men, and we're not supporting any theory," Timmerman said. The magazine defines a UFO as an abnormal aerial phenomenon whose appearance cannot be ascribed to conventional or man-made causes.

Timmerman first began reading about UFOs in 1946 as an undergraduate at Cornell University. While establishing a heating and air-conditioning business in Lima, he continued his reading. In 1952 he volunteered to be a field investigator for a UFO study at Ohio Northern University.

After selling his Lima business interests, Timmerman decided to devote more time to his hobby. He joined the center's board of directors in 1980.

Timmerman says his dedication to the subject stems from an "intense intellectual curiosity." He says he doesn't jump to hasty conclusions about phenomena reported to the center.

But he said, "Maybe we're seeing the shadow of something approaching us. It might . . . could . . . possibly indicate other life forms monitoring our planet who are able to disappear and reappear and apparently involve technology completely above our understanding.

"It's as if an aborigine were to look up and see a 747 jet. The analogy may not be too far off. We're rather young as far as life forms go."