

UFO expert completes his final orbit of Sol

HYNEK, from Page 1B

investigation. After interviewing scores of people, he ascribed certain sightings to luminous marsh gas rather than something from space. Nevertheless, he said, "Scientists in the year 2066 may think us very naive in our denials."

He long asserted that UFOs should be taken seriously and he eventually became displeased with the Air Force approach. He said that its methods were slipshod and that it was not conducting a scientific study. The Air Force, in turn, concluded that there was no evidence of extraterrestrial craft and the UFO project was abandoned.

In an interview in 1974, Hynek said that he had remained with the program as long as he did to retain access to Air Force data and to avoid being marked a "UFO nut."

Hynek founded the Center for UFO

Studies in Evanston in 1973 and took it with him when he moved to Scottsdale.

He is credited with coining the phrase "close encounters of the third kind" to describe humans meeting creatures from space. He used the phrase in his 1972 book "The UFO Experience" and it became the title of the 1977 Steven Spielberg film, on which he served as technical adviser.

When a reporter once suggested that Hynek might be remembered not as an astronomer but as the man who made UFO's respectable, he replied: "I wouldn't mind. If I can succeed in making the study of UFO's scientifically respectable and do something constructive in it, then I think that would be a real contribution."

He resigned from the center he founded a few months ago for ill health, according to the director, Tina Choate.

In World War II, Hynek was a civilian scientist at the Johns Hopkins Applied Science Laboratory, where he helped to develop the Navy's radio proximity fuse for bombs.

JOSEF ALLEN HYNEK was born in Chicago, Ill. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1931 and earned a PhD there in 1935.

He joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Ohio State in 1936. After the war he returned there, rising to full professor in 1950.

In 1956 he left to join Fred Whipple, the Harvard astronomer, at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, which had combined with the Harvard Observatory at Harvard. Hynek had the assignment of directing the tracking of an American space satellite, a project for the International Geophysical Year in 1956 and thereafter.

In addition to 247 optical stations

around the world, there were to be 12 photographic stations. A special camera was devised for the task and a prototype was built and tested and then stripped apart again when, on Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched its first satellite, Sputnik.

"We had always assumed that the United States would have the first satellite," Hynek said ruefully at the time. "If I've ever had a traumatic experience, that was it."

Observations of the Soviet satellite were received, and with twice-daily news conferences, Hynek and Whipple began to reassure the public after what Hynek called "this intellectual Pearl Harbor, a real gutsy sock to the stomach."

Once things in satellite tracking settled down to a routine, Hynek went back to teaching, taking the chairmanship at Northwestern in 1960.

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