

v. com. Sonoma County, 1988-90; chmn. Santa Rosa Recipient Honor award Coalition for Adequacy, Merit award, 1991. Mem. AIA (chpt. bd. 1986). Avocations: snow skiing, wine, travel.

II biologist, administrator; b. May 24, 1927; s. J. T.; children: Barbara, Theodore, Anne, AB, J. H., 1950. MD, U. Vt., Burlington, 1954, PhD, M.D., resident, chief resident Columbia Presbytn. tr. medicine, 1958-60; prof., chmn. div. exptl. n., 1960-65; prof. medicine, dir. immunology of, chmn. immunology dept. Mayo Med. Sch., dir. Cancer Ctr., Disting. Univ. prof., chmn. c., Albuquerque, 1981-86; pres., CEO Roswell 1986—, chmn. dept. molecular medicine. of Secretions, 1976; contbr. over 200 articles to N., 1945-46. Mem. Am. Soc. Cell Biology, Am. Soc. Cancer Research, Am. Soc. Clin. Invest. arch. Assn. Am. Physicians. Roman Catholic. nting, fishing, gardening. Office: Roswell Park St Buffalo NY 14263-0001

financial planner; b. Stafford Springs, Conn., Sr. and Gertrude Ann (Burr) T.; m. Helen F. dren: Felicia Joy, BA, Quinnipiac Coll., 1966; P. Direct mktg. & sales Iroquois Brands, mer Tomasko Bus. Cons., Bethel, Conn., 1981-xcell Mktg., New Canaan, Conn., 1982; market rt, Conn., 1982-85; direct mktg. & sales Folz egistered rep. Moseley Securities, New Haven, c., Danbury, Conn., 1988-90; prin. Titan Value 90—. V.p. bd. govs. Quinnipiac Coll. Mem. 1993—, chmn. state conf. 1992-93). Republic. by, choir singing. Home: 20 Spring Hill Ln Titan Value Equities 2600 Dixwell Ave Ste 1

officer; b. Morgantown, W. Va., Mar. 29, 1953; Victoria, BA cum laude, Univ. Ky., 1974; JD Univ., 1979. Ptnr. Van Ness, Feldman & with FERC's Office of Gen. Counsel., Wash- House Com Interstate and Fgn. Commerce, coun. Federal Energy Regulatory Commn., insel Fed. Energy Regulatory Commn., Wash- Beta Kappa. Office: Fed Energy Regulatory 1st St NE Rm 10A-01 Washington DC 20426*

ANTHONY, accounting educator, consultant; 1945; s. Charles Pasquale and Flora Joan; July 20, 1982; children: Nicholas Charles, ie Joiner, BS, U. Santa Clara, 1967, MS, PA, Tex. Asst. prof. acctg. U. Tex., Austin, . prof., 1983-85, John Arch White prof. bus., hell & Co. Centennial prof. acctg., 1986-87; acctg. U. Ill., Urbana-Champaign, 1987-90, prof. acctg., 1990-93; prof., Ernst & Young J MIS Ohio State U., Columbus, 1993—; bd. tin. Contbr. articles to prof. journs. Grantee CPAs, 1971-72. Mem. AICPA, Am. Acctg. l Soc. CPAs, Soc. for Judgment and Decision is; collecting fine wines, antiques, golf. Home: gtn OH 43221-4329 Office: Ohio State U Dept Rd Columbus OH 43210-1309

cialist; b. Queens, N.Y., Apr. 28, 1955; s. none) T.; m. Patrizia, Aug. 5, 1978; children: cctg., Fordham U., 1977; JD, NYLS, 1980. obert Samuels, N.Y.C., 1979-80; tax assoc. Y.C., 1981; tax mgr. Coopers & Lybrand, itation Rexel, Inc., Coral Gables, Fla., 1991—. ra Cir Coral Gables FL 33134

r, choreographer, dance company executive; b. Marlene Rizzo, 1965; children: Kristinn, Er- Era Biased, Vera Volkova, Sch. Am. Ballet, ppenhagen. With Joffrey Ballet, 1961-64; prin- 76; N.Y.C. Ballet, 1970-85, artistic dir. San dir. Debut with Tivoli Pantomime Theatre, n of ridd, 1967, Stages and Reflections, 1968, dberg Variations, 1971, Symphony in Three 1974, Dybbuk Variations, 1974, Chansons n and Allegro, 1975, Union Jack 1976, Vienna Theme and Variations, Polonaise, Op. 65, Menuetto (for N.Y.C. Ballet) 1984, Beads of 1988, Handel's Celebration, 1989, Sleeping ct, 1994, others. Decorated Knight Order of Order of Falcon, 1990; recipient Silver medal etation, 1969, Golden Plate award Am. Acad. ag award, 1992. Office: care San Francisco ranisco CA 94102-4438

IERRILLS, retired lawyer; b. Belleville, Ill., nson and Mary Eckert (Turner) Merrills; m. pt. 30, 1952, m. Harrison J. Anthes, March 5, 40, LL.B. (now JD), Washington U., St. Louis, t. Appeals (D.C. cir.) 1958, Mich. 1974, U.S. U.S. Supreme Ct. 1954, U.S. Tax Ct. 1974, 76, Atty. Dept. of Agr., St. Louis and Wash- ator, Chief Counsel's Office, IKS, Washington aker & Hostetter, Washington, 1977-82, ptnr., t., 1989. Sec., S.W. Day Care Assn., Wash- om. Residents Assn. Village on the Green, . Mo. Bar, Fed. Bar, Village on the Green ellesley Club (Cir. Fla.) Episcopalian. Home: ood FL 32779-6037

II biologist; b. Budapest, Hungary, Dec. 23, ma, Pazmany Peter U., Budapest, 1953; PhD 1961. Rsch. assoc. cytochem. Inst. Genetics 6; fellow, guest investigator in genetics Am. asst. prof. to assoc. prof. genetics and bi- C., 1963-77, prof. microbiology, chmn. dept., Soc. Microbiology, Am. Soc. Cell Biology, er U Dept Biology 1230 York Ave New York

with Greek Armed Forces, 1953-54. Decorated medal of Meritorious Acts King of Greece, 1949. Mem. Am. Inst. Cert. Planners, Inst. Transp. Engrs. (assoc. editor Jour. Advanced Transp., Transp. Planning and Tech.), Am. Hellenic League (Phila. pres. 1967-71, 81-85, dir. 1971-80), AAAS, Regional Scis. Assn., Am. Soc. Planning Ofcls., Univ. City Arts League, Fedn. Am. Hellenic Soc. of Greater Phila. (pres. 1977-79). Club: Hellenic University. Home: 379 Montgomery Ave Wynnewood PA 19096-1718 Office: U Pa Translab 3400 Walnut St Philadelphia PA 19104-3411 *What we call success in life is indeed relative to what we want in life. My deep commitment to city planning led me to seek gratification in the process of solving urban problems, planning for new cities and sections of older cities, and in educating the young and aspiring planners. Searching not for convention or compromise, the stress is on innovation and accomplishment. What others call success is for me simply a struggle to achieve the best solution possible to each given problem.*

TOMBAUGH, CLYDE WILLIAM, astronomer, educator; b. Streator, Ill., Feb. 4, 1906; s. Muron D. and Adella Pearl (Chritton) T.; m. Patricia Irene Edson, June 7, 1934; children: Annette Roberta, Alden Clyde, AB, U. Kans., 1936, MA, 1939; DSc (hon.), No. Ariz. U., 1960. Asst. Lowell Obs., Flagstaff, Ariz., 1929, asst. astronomer, 1938; instr. sci. Ariz. State Coll., Flagstaff, 1943-45; vis. asst. prof. astronomy UCLA, 1945-46; astronomer Aberdeen Ballistics Labs. Annex/White Sands Missile Range, Las Cruces, N.Mex., 1946—, chief optical measurement sect., 1948, chief research and evaluation br. planning dept. Flight Determination div., 1948-53, chief investigator search for natural satellites project, 1953-58, planetary astrophys. researcher, 1958—; research assoc. prof. astronomy N.Mex. State U., 1955-59, prof., 1965-73, prof. emeritus, 1973—, with planetary astrophysics research program, 1959—; discoverer planet Pluto, 1930, 1 globular star cluster, 1932, 5 galactic star clusters, variable stars, asteroids, clusters of galaxies; extensive search for distant planets and natural earth's satellites, studies in apparent distbn. extragalactic galaxies, geol. studies Mars' and Moon's surface features, prodn. telescope mirrors; mem. expdn. extension satellite research project, Quito, Ecuador, 1956-58; lectr. in field. Author: *Out of the Darkness: the Planet Pluto*, 1980; contbr. articles to prof. journs. Paul Harris fellow Rotary Internat.; Edward Emory Slosson scholar in sci. U. Kans., 1932-36; recipient Jackson-Guitt medal and gift Royal Astron. Soc. Eng., 1931, Fairbanks award Soc. Photog. Instrument Engrs., 1968, Bruce Blair award, 1965, Disting. Svc. citation U. Kans., 1966, Rittenhouse award, Phila., 1990, Golden Plate award Am. Acad. Achievement, 1991; named to White Sand Missile Range Hall of Fame, 1980, Internat. Space Hall of Fame, Clyde Tombaugh Scholars Endowment Fund established in his honor at N.Mex. State U., 1987. Fellow Soc. for Research on Meteorites, AIAA; mem. Am. Astron. Soc., Internat. Astron. Union, Astron. Soc. Pacific, Sigma Xi. Mem. Unitarian Ch. Avocations: grinding telescope mirrors, designing small telescopes. Home: PO Box 306 Mesilla Park NM 88047-0306

TOMBERLIN, WILLIAM G., principal. Prin. St. Simons (Ga.) Elem. Sch. Recipient DOE Elem. Sch. Recognition Program award, 1989-90. Office: St Simons Elem Sch 805 Ocean Blvd Saint Simons Island GA 31522

TOMBLIN, EARL RAY, state official; b. Logan County, W. Va., Mar. 15, 1952; s. Earl and Freda (Jarrell) T.; m. Joanne Jaeger, Sept. 8, 1979; 1 child, Brent Jaeger, BS, W. Va. U.; MBA, Marshall U.; postgrad., U. Charleston. Former sch. tchr., businessman; mem. W. Va. Ho. Dels., 1974-80; mem. W. Va. State Senate, 1980—, pres., 1995—; lt. gov. State of W. Va., Charleston; mem. exec. com. So. Legis. Conf. Former pres., bd. dirs. Appalachia Ednl. Lab., Inc.; mem. Logan County Devel. Authority. Mem. Kappa Alpha Democrat. Presbyterian. Office: Capitol Bldg Rm 229M Charleston WV 25305 Address: PO Box 116 Chapmanville WV 25508*

TOMBLINSON, JAMES EDMOND, architect; b. Flint, Mich., Feb. 12, 1927; s. Carl and Edna Ethel (Spears) T.; m. Betsy Kinley, Sept. 26, 1959; children: Amy Lisa, John Timothy (dec.), B.Arch., U. Mich., 1951. Draftsman firms in Detroit, 1951-53, Flint, 1953-54, 56-57, San Francisco, 1955-56; field engr. Atlas Constructors, Morocco, 1952-53; architect Tomblinson, Harburn, & Assos., Inc. (and predecessors), Flint, 1958—; pres. Tomblinson, Harburn & Assos., Inc. (and predecessors), 1969-95, chmn. bd., 1995—; chmn. Mich. Bd. Registration Architects, 1975-77; sec. Mundy Twp. Planning Commn., 1974-85, Grand Blanc Planning Commn., City of Mich., 1985—; chmn., 1988—. Pres. Flint Beautification Commn., 1968-69; bd. dirs. Grand Blanc Beautification Commn., 1969-84; founding mem. bd. dirs. Flint YMCA, 1969-75, chmn. camp com., 1971-75; founding mem. bd. dirs. Flint Environ. Action Team, 1971-77, v.p., 1971-73; elder First Presbyn. Ch. Flint, 1983, trustee, 1986—; exec. com. Tall Pine council Boy Scouts Am., 1975—; bd. dirs. New Paths, pres., 1985-86. Served with AUS, 1945-46. Recipient various civic service awards. Fellow AIA; mem. Mich. Soc. Architects, Flint Area C. of C. Clubs: Greater Flint Jaycees (dir. 1957-63, v.p. 1963), Flint City, U. Mich. (pres. Flint chpt. 1980—). Lodge: Rotary (pres. 1984-85). Home: 686 Applegate Ln Grand Blanc MI 48439-1669 Office: THA Architects Engrs 817 E Kearsley St Flint MI 48503-1913

TOMBRELLO, THOMAS ANTHONY, JR., physics educator, consultant; b. Austin, Tex., Sept. 20, 1936; s. Thomas Anthony and Jeanette Lilian (Marcuse) T.; m. Esther Ann Hall, May 30, 1957 (div. Jan. 1976); children: Christopher Thomas, Susan Elaine, Karen Elizabeth; m. Stephanie Carhart Merton, Jan. 15, 1977; 1 stepchild, Kerstin Arusha. B.A. in Physics, Rice U., 1958, M.A., 1960, Ph.D., 1961. Research fellow in physics Calif. Inst. Tech., Pasadena, 1961-62, 64-65, asst. prof. physics, 1965-67, assoc. prof., 1967-71, prof., 1971—, tech. assessment office, 1996—; asst. prof. Yale U., New Haven, 1963; cons. in field: disting. vis. prof. U. Calif.-Davis, 1984; v.p., dir. rsch. Schlumberger-Doll Rsch., Ridgefield, Conn., 1987-89; mem. U.S. V.P.'s Space Policy Adv. Bd., 1992; mem. scientific adv. bd. Ctr. of Nanoscale Sci. and Technology, Rice U., 1995—. Assoc. editor Nuclear Physics, 1971-91, Applications of Nuclear Physics, 1980—, Radiation Effects, 1985-88, Nuclear Instruments and Methods B, 1993—. Recipient Alexander von Humboldt award von Humboldt Stiftung, U. Frankfurt, Federal Republic of Germany, 1984-85, NSF fellow Calif. Inst. Tech. 1961-62; A.P. Sloan fellow, 1971-73. Fellow Am. Phys. Soc.; mem. AAAS, Materials Rsch. Soc., Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Delta Phi Alpha. Avocations: reading, jogging. Democrat. Office: Calif Inst Tech Dept Physics Mail Code 91125 Pasadena CA 91125

TOMBROS, PETER GEORGE, pharmaceutical company executive; b. Oak Hill, W. Va., June 12, 1942; s. George P. and Mary Jane (Boliski) T.; m. Ann Riblett Cullen, June 12, 1965. BS, Pa. State U., 1964, MS, 1966; MBA, U. Pa., 1968. Mktg. asst. Pfizer Labs. div. Pfizer Inc., N.Y.C., 1968; asst. product mgr. Pfizer Inc., N.Y.C., 1969, product mgr., 1970-71, group product mgr., 1972-74, v.p. mktg., 1975-80; sr. v.p. gen. mgr. Roerig div. Pfizer Inc., N.Y.C., 1980-86; exec. v.p. Pfizer Pharma. div. Pfizer Inc., N.Y.C., 1986-90, v.p. corp. strategic planning, 1990-94; also corp. officer Pfizer Inc., N.Y.C.; pres., CEO Enzon, Inc., Piscataway, 1994—, also bd. dirs.; adv. panel Penn State BS/MBA, 1992—, alumni fellow Penn State, 1993; bd. dirs. Pfizer Pharm. Inc., AL Pharma Inc., Oslo, Norway. Bd. dirs. Am. Found. for Pharm. Edn., North Plainfield, N.J., 1980—, past chmn.; trustee Fick II Nashville 1996. Dominican Coll. Ossining, N.Y.

Trivial pursuit

For all of ufology's history ufologists have sought, on one hand, to investigate and document reports and, on the other, to counter those forces that would trivialize the subject. Since 1947 we have seen the UFO phenomenon trivialized by authority-figure bigots, who misrepresent the evidence (if they understand what it is at all) so that they can belittle it, by supermarket tabloids (the words "UFO" and *National Enquirer* now seem inextricably linked), and by pop culture's smarmy minions. Worst of all, the phenomenon has been trivialized by those who are supposed to be its friends.

As ufology's serious proponents have argued the case for scientific UFO study, they have also had to do battle with naive flying-saucer fans whose critical sense seems as limited as their credulity is boundless. In the 1950s the field's elite figures were bedeviled by contactees and their followers, who threatened to turn UFO research into a new science-fiction/occult faith—a faith that, perhaps not so incidentally, had nothing to do with, even actively contradicted, what real evidence was telling us about the nature of the UFO phenomenon (not to mention, of course, what astronomy was telling us about the probability of advanced human civilizations on Venus and Mars). If the many questions surrounding UFO sightings were to be answered, the serious proponents insisted, those answers would have to be based on properly documented information gleaned from careful investigation and exacting analysis.

Of course such was, and remains, easier said than done. The cerebral level of most ufological discourse is not staggeringly high, and often enough even basic common sense is an elusive presence, if that, in the ruminations of ufology's intellectually helpless. (At the same time, fairness demands this parenthetical insertion: as I know from reading my *IUR* mail, ufology's ranks also contain good, smart people whose ties with consensus reality are firm and unshakable. Unfortunately, these usually aren't the people who attract all the attention, probably because, unlike the headline-hustlers, they don't demand it.) In recent years lunatic tales of man-eating aliens, sinister U.S. government/ET conspiracies, slave colonies on Mars, and other delirious dementia have been widely accepted by wide-eyed acceptors who, possibly because they don't read the newspapers, don't find the real world sufficiently terrifying.

My point here, however, is not to belabor the obvious



Jerome Clark

point that credulity is an obstacle to understanding the UFO phenomenon. Because ours is a free country and because "ufologist" is an identification anyone can claim, we are always going to be stuck with naive individuals and movements, and all we can do is distance ourselves from them and make clear our own very different priorities. It is those priorities, and the strange state in which we find them now, that I wish to address here.

In this space in the last issue of *IUR*, CUFOS scientific director Mark Rodeghier, echoing the refrain of an old Rolling Stones song, remarked, "You can't always get what you want." All too true; but what if it happens that you do get what you want, and you refuse it, having decided somewhere between the wish and the fulfillment that you would settle for something much less?

There was a time, not all that long ago, when ufologists heaped scorn on scientists, academics, and debunkers who would apply patently inadequate "explanations" to UFO experiences. As Allen Hynek once had occasion to observe, thinking of Donald Menzel, Carl Sagan, and others, "Science is not always what scientists do." Behavioral scientist David J. Hufford has written that academics tend to forget all of their academic training in their haste to transform extraordinary experiences into ordinary misperceptions, even if that means ignoring what people say happened to them so radically as to substitute an invented experience for the real one. The result is an explanation for something that took place only in the explainer's imagination.

As neoskepticism, in the form of interpretive frameworks grounded in often airy psychosocial and geophysical speculations, has taken hold as a major force in world ufology, these sorts of abuses of evidence and logic have become distressingly ubiquitous. Not only that, the neoskeptics pride themselves on their wholesale dismissal of witnesses' testimony, which they declare irrelevant for an obvious reason: it is incompatible with what they want UFO experiences to be.

No "natural" explanation for UFO sightings, for example, convincingly accounts for the many thousands of reports of structured, metallic, craftlike objects, or the

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EDITORIAL — *continued from page 3*

seemingly intelligent behavior such UFOs have traditionally exhibited. There was a time when those who wanted to know what was going on listened to what witnesses reported instead of telling them what they experienced. Not that they failed to appreciate the occasional fallibility of perception; of course they understood that. But they also understood, as do all who depend on eyes and ears to get them across the street, that perception can usually be depended upon to record experience accurately enough for practical purposes and even, as scientists have found in any number of instances, scientific ones as well. After all, meteorites *are* stones falling from the sky, not (as an earlier generation's psychosocial hypothesis had it) lightning striking earthbound stones as filtered through the naive misperceptions of superstitious peasants conditioned to believe in magical events. And, moreover (an obvious point but one whose significance seems to have eluded just about everyone), most identifications of IFOs can be made *from witnesses' descriptions alone*.

In short order (in mid-June, to be specific) Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt's long-awaited *UFO Crash at Roswell* will be out. It records the most thoroughly investigated, the most completely documented event in the history of ufology. The Roswell incident is, of course, also the most important case of all. As its secrets are unraveled (and the investigation continues), ufology's big questions, the ones that brought our field into being in the first place, are being answered: What are UFOs? Who pilots them? What does officialdom know, and when did it know it? Those whose interpretation of the UFO phenomenon is based in empirical evidence will rejoice as that heretofore unkillable canard, that UFO research has made no progress in four decades, is disposed of once and for all.

Yet, as no one could have predicted four decades ago, the last thing many ufologists of the 1990s want to hear is any of the above. One influential figure in the anti-ETI camp candidly acknowledges he would be "disappointed" if UFOs turned out to be spacecraft. Perhaps this says something about how jaded some of us have become, or how alluring a metaphysical approach is to some. Another theorist of a militantly New Age disposition seeks justification in geophysics, or his version of geophysics, for a nature-based metaphysics with which he has managed to link the UFO phenomenon, or his version of it—a version those outside the faith may fail to recognize and that can be sustained only by wholesale dismissal of witness testimony and unrelenting condemnation of all who presume to find meaning in the mass of contrary evidence. Other ufologists, including some good friends of ours, are now trumpeting something called "plasma vortexes" as the solution not just to UFOs (a mystery no longer, at least one book has already assured us) but to just about everything else you can imagine. It is astonishing that such views, remarkable

chiefly for the legions of questions they manage to beg, should be embraced so enthusiastically when their irrelevance has never been more apparent.

Cynicism, intellectual timidity, religious commitment, fear, a desire (surely an understandable one) to maintain the comforting illusion that we live safe, unseen, and unviolated out in the galactic provinces—what chance does evidence of an unsettling, even disturbing claim have in the face of these? As the Roswell saga unfolds, we will see these human foibles in abundance. One would like Roswell's critics to surprise us with something other than sweeping denunciations or invented "facts," which by now, having long since lost their capacity to surprise, are only dismayingly familiar. We are unlikely to hear anything else until we demand of our critics what we demand of ourselves: that our beliefs be grounded in what we can reasonably demonstrate to be true. If critics cannot provide us with this much, the debate is already over.

In the days ahead we are going to find out how relevant investigation and documentation are to current ufology. At the very least we must insist, if the debate is to be kept honest, that claims be *referenced*—in other words, demonstrably not made up on the spot. Critics must exhibit the same meticulous concern for factual accuracy and logical coherence that Roswell proponents have shown over and over again.—*Jerome Clark*

Abduction—*continued from page 6*

come to orgasm merely by thinking of having sex. So, yes, these recollections could be fantasies.

What the FPP cannot account for is the confirmation by Rachael that on the night of one of Susan's abductions she saw a ball of light enter the room. Moreover, two weeks prior to my writing this article, Susan revisited the dentist for the first time in 10 years and in the course of treatment had an x-ray taken of her upper gums. I have spoken with the dentist, who confirms that this x-ray shows two unusual straight metal-looking pieces in either her upper gum or bone, beneath her nostrils. He tells me he has never seen anything like them before and cannot explain them in terms of any dental treatment with which he is familiar. This x-ray is now in my possession and I am investigating. ■

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I remember Blue Book

by Jennie Zeidman

■ ■ Jennie Zeidman, author of *A Helicopter-UFO Encounter Over Ohio* (1979), is a CUFOS board member and a contributing editor to *IUR*.

The dark recesses of the CUFOS archives have yielded up a paper titled *Report to Stork on Blue Book Henry*. The by-line is my own; the date is August 1953.

The document is a compendium of 148 “FLYOB-RPTS” (flying object reports) and their cursory analyses as they passed from the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) through the hands of J. Allen Hynek (and me) between January and July 1953. (See illustrations 1 and 2 for examples.) The report also summarizes correspondence with the 35 amateur astronomical societies, 19 Ground Observer Corps Filter Centers, and 48 CAA (now FAA) Control Towers which were contacted with the objective that they would or could provide corroborating (or disconfirming) information for the official reports, specifically with regard to phenomena such as bright meteors/fireballs, normal aircraft, or meteorological phenomena.

The report itself is of little import. The Air Force favored astronomical answers, and Hynek was able to provide many from the selected raw reports presented for his analysis. (See bar graph.) The extremely high number of unknowns (22 percent) and cases of insufficient data (another 10.8 percent) reflect not so much the high strangeness of the information presented as the inadequacy of the reporting mechanism. One paragraph of teletyped tidbits was supposed to provide enough information for a justified, probable, or at least possible identification. Of course it couldn't be done. I don't recall our criteria for differentiation between “unknowns” and “insufficient data.” The only certainty I can see in perusing this report is that Venus was in eastern elongation during that time period and that lots of people, even those from college physics departments, couldn't identify it.

Of greater interest than the report may be some associated memories of those heady times: the convolutions of funding of UFO research, the desperate emphasis on hush-hush amid an environment of ludicrously slipshod security, and the unfolding mystery of where Hynek's consultancy to the Air Force on Project Blue

Book really fit into the larger scheme of the UFO hierarchy. Enlightening discussions of these matters appear in Hynek's *The Hynek UFO Report* (1977) and David M. Jacobs' *The UFO Controversy in America* (1975). The remarks that follow reflect my personal involvement and interpretations as Hynek's assistant between 1953 and 1956.

Project Stork

Let us start with Project Stork. I doubt, 38 years later, that I'll ruffle any feathers with that name. Heaven knows, it's been mentioned in print, and from time to time I've come across persons (there must have been thousands of us, worldwide) who worked on various phases of it. The fact is that the mission of Stork was to ascertain the capability of the Soviet Union to engage in technological warfare. The specific interest for our purpose is that the group at Battelle Memorial Institute which produced the (in)famous *Project Blue Book Special Report 14* was associated with Project Stork. Okay, let's not beat around the bush. *Special Report 14* was a product of Project Stork.

Does that mean that the government thought UFOs might be Soviet technology? Or does it mean that the government already knew (five years after the Roswell incident) what UFOs represented, wanted to see what the Stork statisticians came up with, and then made sure that the “analysis” met with government “standards”? (Shades of the Condon Committee 15 years later.)

The answer is: probably not. The Condon Committee's blatant objective was to pacify the public, whereas *Special Report 14*, within Battelle/Stork, was Top Secret. It didn't *need* to be created (for public consumption) if the answer was already known—in other words, that the empirical characteristics of UFO reports were statistically different from those of reports that were ultimately resolved into mundane phenomena. Or was Stork perhaps merely a convenient funding vehicle for *14*, a legitimately asked question, a relatively small effort that could be justified (or hidden) under the scope of the Stork mission? Regardless, Battelle was the right place for the work to be done. It is a superb group of scientists and engineers scrupulously devoted to excellence.

Battelle's involvement with the fringe subject of UFOs was therefore a source of great embarrassment to it—a family secret, a skeleton in the closet equivalent to

Grandpa's alcoholism or Uncle Ray's penchant for little boys. One absolutely did not mention Battelle in connection with UFOs. And since I had no need to know, the fact of this involvement (in spite of my Secret clearance) was kept from me for over a year.

In the spring of 1987 I found myself at a dinner party seated next to a Battelle executive—an old timer who I knew had worked on 14 as a member of Project Stork. I asked him if after 34 years he had anything he wanted to say about it.

My question made him uneasy. "We were concerned," he said. He was referring to the data and to the Battelle scientists' interpretation of those data. He was referring to the thoughts of his fellow scientists on the question of "What are UFOs?" "We were concerned," he said, and he would say no more.

Project Henry

During the first month (January 1953) I worked for him, Hynek went to Washington to attend the meeting of the Robertson Panel. He was an associate member, a second stringer, which was odd because he had been working directly with the data for about five years. I remember his return on a cold, wintry day. I expected him to announce there would be a major scientific undertaking on the subject. Instead, he told me, "They're not going to have a scientific investigation. For some strange reason they voted it down. They didn't even take a decent look at the data, and they decided to discredit them."

Perhaps he needed some levity that day when he looked up from his coffee and crackers and suggested that we should have a name for his consultancy project, "something that captures the idea that these things flit around the sky." An old-time popular insecticide was called Flit, and its trademark showed a hand-pumped sprayer and, I believe, a harried woman who had just been scared by a bug. "Quick, Henry, the Flit!" she is shouting. Hynek latched on to the word Flit, and thus Project Henry was named (Flit being too obvious and Project Insecticide somewhat cumbersome). Readers familiar with Hynek's sense of humor know I couldn't possibly have made this up.

This is the way Henry worked:

About once a week a courier from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (I assumed he was from Wright-Patterson) would arrive at Hynek's office at Ohio State University with a manila envelope stuffed with TWXs—teletype UFO-sighting reports received from military facilities around the world.

Were they all of the reports Blue Book received—the total number it took in? Surely not. (Hynek often said he knew the best cases were withheld.) I usually looked them over before Hynek did. I had a Secret clearance by then (mid-1953), but only a few were ever classified beyond Restricted, and the sensitive material usually had to do with the installation or facility of report origin, not

with the contents of the report per se. If Venus was in western elongation, there would be a whole slew of reports of a bright white light in the predawn east, and Hynek would chuckle and mutter about how darned uneducated the public was. When we would get a report of high strangeness, he would scratch his chin—beardless until the fall of 1953—and say this might bear looking into. We would outline the information we wanted to have, and we would pass that on to Blue Book. But it hardly ever followed up for us. If we really wanted some information, we would have to go out and try to get it ourselves.

Hynek was paid to investigate only reports allocated to him by Blue Book. That meant that if we heard of a case in some other way—if someone called the observatory, say, or there was a newspaper story—we could not count it as an official case, and any expenses incurred by Hynek or me were not reimbursable. Many times we asked people to send a report in to Wright-Patterson so that a case we were already working on (privately) and had spent money investigating could become "official." Sometimes it worked; sometimes it didn't.

Hynek went to Wright-Patterson two or three times a month, and about once a month I went along. The Blue Book facility—building 263, not Hangar 18—consisted of three cramped, crummy little offices. The paint was peeling, and the file cabinets were warped. There were a United States map with pins stuck in it, a sergeant gofer, a gum-cracking, beehive-hairdoed secretary (a civilian), and a dried-out coffee pot on the window sill. This was before computers, of course, so the cases were filed chronologically. If you knew the date, fine. If you knew only the location, try the card index, and lotsa luck. No wonder I never saw Capt. Ed Ruppelt, the Blue Book head, smile. (I remember him as a by-the-book sober-sides. I don't recall a human side of him, even when we were having an informal lunch. But I seem to remember intense blue-gray eyes.)

In the early days of my association with Hynek, my title was research assistant, OSU department of physics and astronomy. I worked a few hours a day, spending about half my time on UFO matters and the rest as teaching assistant for Hynek's undergraduate astronomy course and general Girl Friday for OSU's McMillin Observatory. (I was also carrying 15 hours in my second-to-last undergrad quarter.) As the year progressed I graduated, my Secret clearance came through, I worked full time, and my UFO work increased proportionately.

The 1954 flap was underway, and one day I asked Hynek how it was that OSU was willing to keep me on as research assistant when most of my work was for ATIC.

"You're not working for ATIC," Hynek said. "You're working for a contractor."

I had no idea what he meant. "A contractor," he repeated. "A contractor who doesn't want to be known. But don't worry about it. I've already told you too much."

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ACTION

J. Atta

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER
BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

3. Atta
4.C. files

AIR 008
RR JEDWP JEDEN 222
DE JEPHQ 179C
R 202210Z
FM HQ USAF WASHDC
TO JEDWP/CGAMC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO
INFO JEDEN/CGADC ENT AFB COLO

/C O N F I D E N T I A L / FROM AFOIN 54365 CGAMC PASS TO CG ATIC
ACTION ON MESSAGE QUOTED BELOW FROM HQ ADC ENT AFB COLO IS TRANSFERRED
TO ATIC CMA THE ORGANIZATION HAVING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR UFO
PROGRAM. NO ADDITIONAL INFO AVAILABLE THIS HQ. MESSAGE READS
CMA NUMBER COC 86 DTG 20053Z. OUR AP RADIO NEWS SERVICE MSG
AP 182 5TH 15 MIN SUMMARY CMA TENTH ITEM CMA SLUGGED /DISC/
STATES THAT LUMINOUS OBJECTS TRAVELING AT SPEEDS FASTER THAN SOUND
HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AND TRACKED ON RADAR WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS IN
PORK CHOP AND OLD BALDY HILLS AREA WESTERN KOREAN FRONT.
/5TH 15 MIN SUMMARY SIGNED BY 1028 PES 19/. IN VIEW OF RADAR
SIGHTING OF POSSIBLY SIMILAR SUPERSONIC OBJECTS LAKE SUPERIOR
AREA 20/0135 TO 20/0200Z APR FURTHER INFO OR EVALUATION OF THIS
AP REPORT IS REQUESTED
20/2314Z APR JEPHQ

Suspense
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But I did worry about it. My paychecks said Ohio State University. The phrase "laundered money" was not in common usage in those days.

I stewed over this for a few days—not more than a week or two—and then the courier came with the weekly reports. Same man, same car—a Chevy that bilious shade of GI green. For some reason I walked him back out to his car, and did an incredible double-take as he drove away. It wasn't a government car. It was his own car, with Ohio plates. This man's initials were V.E., and the car license plate was VE-29. What a stroke of luck: a spook with vanity plates!

Furthermore, he was from Columbus. The local Chevy dealer's name was on the license-plate holder.

Within five minutes I had raced over to the main OSU library, pulled down the Columbus city directory, and found the man's name and his place of employment: Battelle. Confronting Hynek with my intelligence coup resulted in a few days of negotiations with Stork followed by an increased work load.

I went on a number of field trips for Henry, and the security situation was almost invariably deplorable.

Hynek arranged for me to visit astronomer Clyde Tombaugh at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, during a trip I had previously planned for winter break

1952. (This was a private trip; I paid for it myself.) Tombaugh, who in 1930 discovered the planet Pluto, had himself experienced an extraordinary UFO sighting in 1949. A large, transparent fuselage with lighted windows had sailed across his view as he enjoyed the evening in his backyard.

I arrived at White Sands after a cold and miserable pre-dawn bus ride from El Paso, and Tombaugh sent someone out to the gate to escort me to his office. We walked through hangars and offices and laboratories. "Oooh, what's *that*?" I asked. There were rockets and fancy instruments and equipment lying all over the place. "That's the new Nike," my escort said, "and that one over there's the Honest John." I was carrying no documents to identify myself as affiliated with ATIC. No one asked what kind of clearance I had. And at that time, December 1952, I had none.

The fifth horseman

Hynek also arranged for me to meet with Lincoln LaPaz, the eminent meteoricist at the University of New Mexico. LaPaz had been consulted by the Air Force during the spate of green-fireball sightings over the Southwest. It was common knowledge that he was

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FM CO 49TH FTR INTCP SQ DOW AFB BANGOR MAINE
TO JEPHQ/HQ USAF WASH 25 DC
INFO JEDWP/AIR TECH INT CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

Mar 8, 1953
Maine

/R E S T R I C T E D / FLYOBRPT / ATTN DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE,
USAF. ATTN ATIAA-2C, AIR TECH INTELLIGENCE CENTER

INTEL 3-35. Unidentified object sighted at 0202Z, 8 March, 1953
near Kent Hill, Maine. It was described as a big red ball of fire
going west-north-west and was observed for about 12 minutes until
it disappeared beyond the horizon. A similar object was observed
at 0400Z, 1 Mar, 1953. High speed, no maneuvers, no exhaust. It
was a visual observation from the ground with no electronic equip-
ment used. The observer, Mr. Van Ethen, Physics Department, Kents
Hill Academy, was located at 70-degrees west and 44-degrees 24 minutes north.
He estimated that the object was 40 to 60 miles away and low in the sky.
The object was observed by three faculty members and ten students of the
academy. The weather was cold and clear with no wind. No physical
evidence available, no interception action taken and no known air
traffic in the area.

09/2200Z MAR JEPDW

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BREAKDOWN OF THE 148 FLYOBRPTS
RECEIVED FROM ATIC
15 Jan - 15 Jul

VENUS J	[REDACTED]	18
VENUS P	[REDACTED]	11
FIREBALLS J	[REDACTED]	10
FIREBALLS P	[REDACTED]	6
BALLOONS J	[REDACTED]	6
BALLOONS P	[REDACTED]	12
MIRAGES	[REDACTED]	1
INSUF DATA	[REDACTED]	16
BIRDS	[REDACTED]	2
REFLECTIONS	[REDACTED]	4
OTHER ASTRO.	[REDACTED]	12
METEOROLOG.	[REDACTED]	2
RADAR ANOM.	[REDACTED]	2
UNKNOWN*	[REDACTED]	33
HOAX	[REDACTED]	1
UNCONVEN A/C	[REDACTED]	2

* Follow up requested

J Justified by data

P Probable

interested in UFOs. (LaPaz is mentioned prominently in Ruppelt's *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* [1956].)

I found LaPaz in his office at the university. I remember the formality of the room, he behind a large wooden desk, I in a straight chair at right angles. In contrast to the easy-going Tombaugh (and his family, who treated me to a Mexican lunch), LaPaz was a formidable presence, and I felt a bit uncomfortable. We discussed UFOs in general terms. He chose his words carefully, suggesting that the U.S. government knew plenty about UFOs. I brought him up to date on Hynek's work and the general skepticism that I felt pervaded Hynek's philosophy (and mine, too).

LaPaz listened to what must have been my naive jabberings. Then he pinned me with a solemn stare. "UFOs are the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse," he said, and I was soon dismissed.

Pentence, War, Famine, Death, and...? As the years have passed, LaPaz's chilling pronouncement has caused me growing concern. His name is not listed on the controversial MJ-12 document. But if such a group, or its equivalent, existed, he would have been a logical candidate for membership.

Back in Ohio the summer of 1953 produced a changing of the guard. For a few months Ruppelt was away, and Lt. Bob Olsson was in charge of Blue Book. At some time in that interval Hynek was going out of town, and he told me to expect a visit from some people from Wright-Patterson. Olsson (whom I already knew) came in, with the sergeant gofer and another man, probably also a lieutenant, to whom I was not even introduced.

It was a hot, stuffy day sans air conditioning. The soldiers took me into Hynek's inner office at the observatory, and the lieutenant arranged the chairs: a straight chair in the center of the room—for me—and three other chairs at 10, two, and six o'clock positions. The anonymous lieutenant and Olsson faced me, and the sergeant sat out of my vision with a clip board and pencil.

They asked me how things were going with the project. What was Hynek's attitude? What was my attitude? How did I like the work? What did I think of the case of that? My utter disingenuousness carried me through this ordeal. In my naivete I was probably even flattered to be the object of so much attention. In retrospect the third man reminds me of that nutty CIA man in the *M.A.S.H.* television series—the ludicrous paranoid who was forever finding devious plots in the most innocent situation.

I liked Bob Olsson. He often included his own evaluations and a friendly note on the reports sent to us, and I felt he was genuinely interested and conscientious in his work. Perhaps that's why he lasted only a few months at Blue Book.

By mid-1956 Hynek had moved to Harvard for his work on the International Geophysical Year, and I had moved to the main Battelle campus (about a mile from

OSU) where my work for Stork also involved the IGY. The subject of UFOs was never mentioned.

Blue Book and beyond

Though I was officially removed from Blue Book business, Hynek and I continued to communicate regularly about UFO matters.

At midnight on March 26, 1966, my husband got me out of a shower for a call from Hillsdale, Michigan. It was Hynek, pleading with me not to get upset when I saw the morning papers. The Air Force had backed him into a corner. *Say something*, he was told. So he had said something. He had said that swamp gas was a possibility as a natural explanation for some lights over a marshy area, and the press jumped on it. The swamp-gas incident distressed him terribly because in effect the Air Force had forced him to compromise his scientific integrity.

Blue Book folded the end of 1969 following the publication of the Condon Report. Within a few months of the start of the Colorado project, Hynek had told me he knew it had been decided that the findings would be negative. For years he had understood that he was being kept out of the inner circle, that even with his high security clearances it was judged that he had no need to know what was really going on. He knew he had been used. He seemed actually relieved, then, when his Blue Book work was over. Now he was free to pursue UFO research from a purely scientific viewpoint without the restrictions imposed by his government contract.

But was Hynek's government UFO work *really* over?

In October 1973 he called me to pick him up at Wright-Patterson and bring him to Columbus. It was the height of the Yom Kippur war, and Wright-Patterson was on highest security status because supplies for Israel were being flown from there. I took a wrong turn near the Air Force museum entrance and wound up driving out onto the perimeter of the field. I drove half a mile out on a taxi strip before I could turn around. No challenge. No one came after me.

I finally got reoriented and drove up to where I was supposed to pick up Hynek. It was a small one-storey building, and Hynek was standing in the doorway as I drove up. Another man appeared from the building. He was in dress uniform and may have been a major. I got out of the car, and Hynek made it a point to introduce me. Of course Hynek was always polite, but he easily could have just gotten into the car with no introductions. It seemed to me that the introduction was a purposeful act which I assumed had something to do with the fact that I was a UFO associate.

On our way to Columbus I asked Hynek in general terms what was going on. He would not tell me anything about what he was doing at Wright-Patterson. In face of his reluctance to explain, I felt I could not pursue the subject. But he was agitated on that trip and seemed

continued on page 23

Blue Book—continued from page 12

reoccupied with whatever had occurred earlier that day. Of course Wright-Patterson housed other projects than those under the Foreign Technology Division.

But Hynek was working for FTD. Researcher Brian Parks has recently obtained, through the Freedom of Information Act, Hynek's record of employment as FTD consultant from 1970 to 1974. He worked only a few days each year, but it was an ongoing consultancy, an executive appointment, beginning in April 1970, less than six months after Blue Book's official closure. Was this work related to UFOs? At this point we still do not know.

On December 26, 1976, in the front third-floor office of the Hynek home in Evanston, Illinois, Hynek and I were talking theory as we had so many times over the years. Hynek was not a man to make bold statements, and I recognized the remarks of a man whose thinking had evolved with reluctance and deliberation over 28 years.

"It's very definitely connected with intelligence somewhere," he said, not with excitement and awe but with acceptance and resignation. ■

Debunking—continued from page 15

Russians love to read, and Russians love to dream. Food shortages will not stop them from gazing into the skies, looking for an explanation of who we are and whence we all come. As the Soviet Union opens up, the ranks of those who seek explanations for UFOs and for the riddles of antiquity expand, and the pace of publishing in these areas quickens. Countless new magazines deal with the UFO phenomenon, sprouting like mushrooms in a rain-drenched forest. In trying to bash these heresies, Kondratov, Shilik, and their ilk have their work cut out for them. ■

Crop circles—continued from page 19

long, constructive comment suggested parameters for statistical studies and an exchange of information. A comment about tourism was not unexpected but reveals a naive view of the places where circles are located, especially in Canada. As for people who enjoy being "in the spotlight," it is a fact that many owners of fields with crop circles avoid publicity and do not even report the circles for fear of ridicule. On the other hand, souvenir stands at crop-circle sites in England and Canada have been set up (and some field owners are charging admission).

The survey shows that agriculturists are less than experts on the phenomenon of crop circles. Their expertise in examining field markings, however, makes them useful sources for investigations and research. Ufologists probably have the most extensive backgrounds for crop-

circle research in terms of having historical data for comparison, but they may tend to be biased in favor of the UFO explanation. Similarly meteorologists may be the most versed in weather explanations, but they will not have the advantage of agricultural experience possessed by farmers. This all suggests a multidisciplinary approach to crop circles may be the best answer. It would not hurt to have police and other law-enforcement officials involved, either.

The survey conducted in Manitoba was of limited scope, and similar studies in other regions may yield different results. It would be best to have as large a database as possible to draw upon for information, but since the survey gathered only opinions for the most part, the amount of useful information gained for crop-circle research is minimal.

Crop-circle researchers are encouraged to draw upon a wide variety of resources in their investigations and to communicate their ideas and discoveries to other interested persons and organizations. Data about circles should be exchanged freely, especially because circles seem to be a global phenomenon. More important, researchers should not feel committed to any one theory until more data have been examined and experts in the fields of agriculture, meteorology, and law enforcement as well as local farmers should be consulted in investigations.

Crop circles may be explained as simply as hoaxes, but we would then be in a position to ask the sociological question *why*, the psychological question *who*, and the mechanical question *how*. If the circles (and triangles and rectangles and spirals) are caused by aliens, then we can ask what is their motivation (though realizing that we have no way of comprehending extraterrestrial logic). If the crop circles are weather effects, why have they appeared recently in such numbers? If they are a rare phenomenon, then they should not have increased so dramatically in number. If they are so common, then why would they concentrate in England, and why have some farmers with many decades' experience insisted that the circles resemble nothing in recent memory? ■

Airships—continued from page 24

Vallee, Jacques. *Passport to Magonia: From Folklore to Flying Saucers*. Chicago: Henry Regnery Company, 1969.

Wagner, Audrey M. Letter to Jerome Clark (November 23, 1990).

Wagner, Audrey M. "Report from the Readers: Disappointed." *Fate* 43,7 (July 1990): 99-100.

Welsch, Roger L. "This Mysterious Light Called an Airship," Nebraska 'Saucer' Sightings, 1897." *Nebraska History* 60,1 (Spring 1979): 92-113.

Wieland, Fred. Letter to National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (January 10, 1961).

Williams, Richard W. "Summary of Findings in CSI's First 220 Sighting Reports." *Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly Review* 1,1 (September 1952): 1,6.

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ABSTRACT

Early in 1950 the Geophysics Research Division received a directive to investigate peculiar light phenomena that had been observed in the skies of the southwestern United States. Project Twinkle was established to check into these phenomena and their explanation.

The gist of the findings is essentially negative. The period of observations covers a little over a year. Some unusual phenomena were observed during that period, most of them can be attributed to such man-made objects as airplanes, balloons, rockets, etc. Others can be attributed to natural phenomena such as flying birds, small clouds, and meteorites. There has been no indication that even the somewhat strange observations often called "Green Fireballs" are anything but natural phenomena.

Our recommendations are in essence that there is no use in sinking any more funds into this at the present time and that we will keep in connection with one of our meteor studies a sharp eye on anything unusual along this line.

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4. Post Contractual Inquiry

In view of the unproductive nature of the contract with Land-Air, it was decided to make further inquiry concerning recent aerial object developments in New Mexico. On 9 August 1951, the situation was discussed with Lt. Col. Cox of the 17th OSI District (Kirtland AFB). Until 15 March 1950 the District had been diligent in forwarding copies of their reports on aerial object phenomena. Since then, no reports have been received by the Geophysics Research Division. Colonel Cox advised that reports of strange aerial phenomena were still received by the 17th OSI office, at the rate of once or twice a month but little attention was being given to this matter. Most of the reports originated from personnel at Los Alamos. The OSI files were reviewed. (A summary covering recent reports is attached.) It was learned that representatives from LIFE and also from ARGOSY were interested in publishing articles on aerial object phenomena.

On 27 August 1951, developments concerning aerial phenomena were discussed at Holloman AFB. Lt. John Albert previously associated with the project had now been transferred from Holloman. Therefore, the project was discussed with Major Edward A. Doty who had assumed responsibility. Major Doty, who seemed to be thoroughly acquainted with the situation, advised that there have been very few reports of

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aerial phenomena in the vicinity of Holloman since September 1950. The populace around HAFB seem to have lost their sensitivity as observers. Even during the meteor shower of 11-12 August 1951, no alarming reports were received. However, on 14 March 1951, nine Bell personnel reported sighting between fourteen and twenty bodies "not unlike a flock of geese". On 9 July a "red glowing ball" was sighted by a sergeant stationed at the Corona Experimental Radar Site at Corona, New Mexico. (Copies of both reports are attached). More recently, a pilot reported some aerial objects which, after investigation, were identified as planets.

Mr. B. Guildenberg, who is an assistant to Major Doty and an active amateur astronomer, commented that he has been spending several hours at his telescope almost every night for the past few years and never once observed an unexplainable object; that on one occasion, an excited acquaintance was pacified when a "strange object" showed up as an eagle in the telescope; that Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of the planet Pluto and now engaged in activities at White Sands, never observed an unexplainable aerial object despite his continuous and extensive observations of the sky; that Fred Whipple in his work photographing meteors at Las Cruces, never detected a strange aerial object with his Schmidt cameras; and that the A and M College at Las Cruces engages in astronomical observations but had never observed strange aerial phenomena.

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It was learned from Major Doty, that Col. Baynes, C. O. at HAFB, no longer felt there was any justification for the allocation of funds for maintaining systematic investigation. Rather, he provided that the project be maintained on a standby basis and without official Air Force status. This entails assignment of an officer (Major Doty) to collect incoming reports, make periodic review of the files "for patterns or persistent characteristics in the reports", maintain liaison with OSI, Provost Marshall's Office and any other agencies whose activities may serve to provide information concerning future aerial phenomena developments. Land-Air has agreed to report and if possible photograph any abnormal sightings made during their scheduled periods of operation (about eight hours each day). The weather station will function similarly. Also, all pilots have been briefed to report any unusual observations. If necessary, the project can be activated very quickly, even to the extent where funds will be made available, for the purchase of equipment.

Major Doty also arranged a conference with Mr. Warren Kott, who is in charge of Land-Air operations. Mr. Kott pointed out that a formal report covering the year's vigilance period had not been issued since the contract contained no such provision. Actually, a time correlation study should be made covering the film and verbal recordings at both Askania stations. This would assure that these records did not contain significant material. However, such a study is quite laborious, and would require about thirty man days to complete. Again, no provisions are contained in the contract for this study, but Mr. Kott felt that

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this could be done by Land-Air at the additional expense in the near future when the work load diminished. Mr. Kott requested formal authorization to do this and Major Doty agreed to issue this letter of authorization. It was arranged further that at such time when the study is completed all photographic and tape recordings would be sent to the Geophysics Research Division. Prior to departing HAFB, the project files were reviewed. Major Doty advised that access to the files had not been requested by any periodicals.

On 28 August 1951, the subject was discussed informally with Dr. Lincoln La Paz, who expressed disbelief in all aerial phenomena except for the green fire-balls. The red fire-ball occasionally reported he believed was the visual after-effect of the green. Their recent origin (1947) and peculiar trajectories did not permit, according to Dr. La Paz, them to be classed as natural phenomena. The most recent that has come to his attention occurred over Detroit on 7 July 1951. It crossed the city from Northwest to Southeast with a sharply descending trajectory which leveled out and was observed by many residents of the city. Dr. La Paz expressed the opinion that the fireballs may be of our own military origin, but if not, they are a matter of serious concern.

5. Conclusions

Undoubtedly, a good many of the observations reported are attributable to ordinary man-made objects such as airplanes, balloons, smoke rockets, etc. It appears that balloon observations especially are responsible for a large number of the reports. The possibility of small

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C E R T I F I C A T E

11 July 1951

On 10 and 11 July 1951, Sgt. Jack Meadows who is stationed at the Corona Experimental Radar Site about 18 miles southwest of Corona, New Mexico made the following verbal report to Capt. Dyvad and myself:

About 2230, 9 July 1951 I noticed a red glowing ball of light about the size of a full moon to the west or west south west of the station low above the horizon. I called the civilian Security Guard, Mr. Alfonso Sandoval, and we both watched it slowly descend for about thirty seconds before it went below the trees. There was an after-glow for another ten seconds. No sound was heard that might have come from the object. Visibility was slightly poor and although some stars could be seen, there were dark clouds over part of the sky. The light was nearly circular in shape and uniform in the red glowing color.

EDWARD A. DOTY
Major, USAF
Holloman AFB

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