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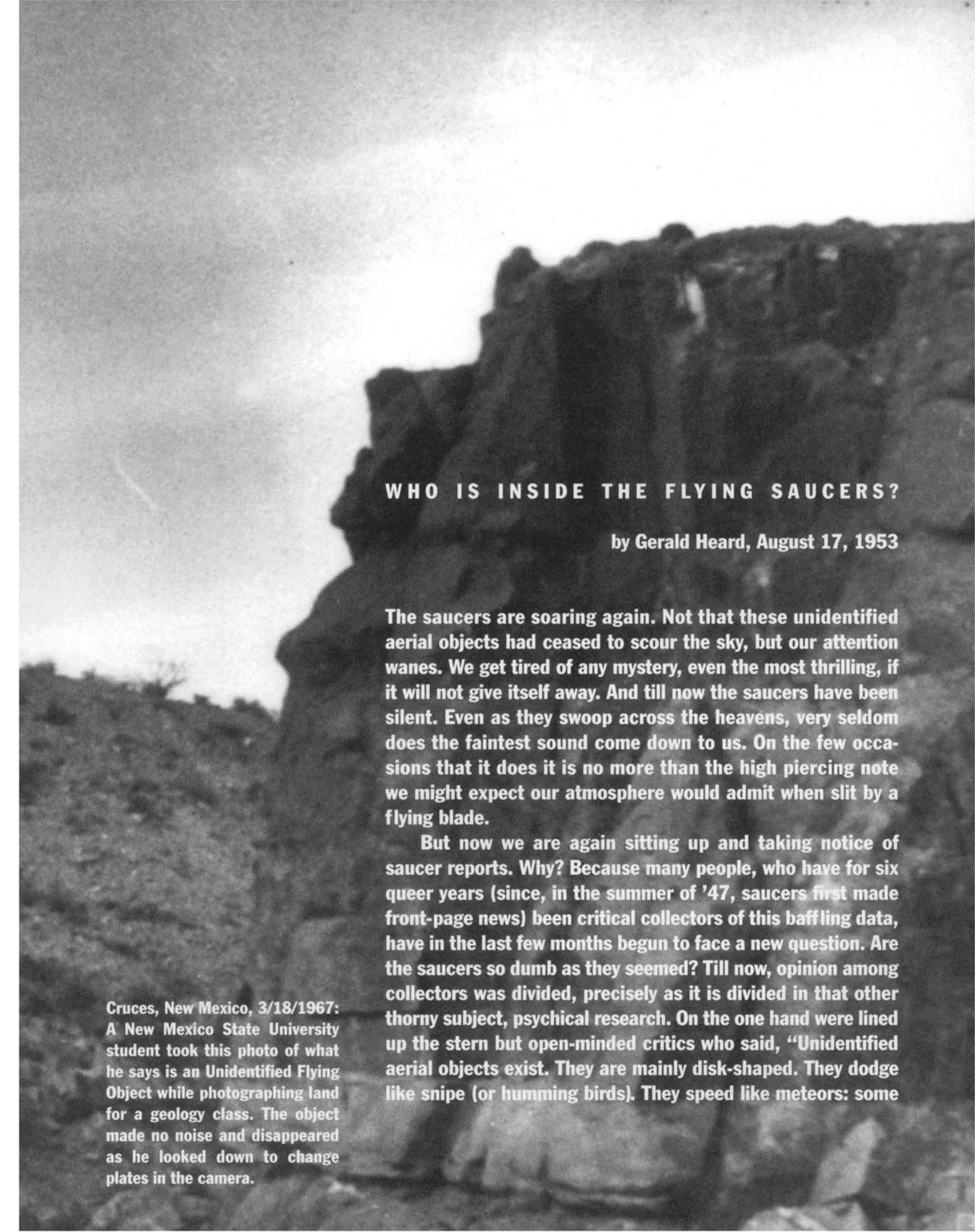


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UFOs





WHO IS INSIDE THE FLYING SAUCERS?

by Gerald Heard, August 17, 1953

The saucers are soaring again. Not that these unidentified aerial objects had ceased to scour the sky, but our attention wanes. We get tired of any mystery, even the most thrilling, if it will not give itself away. And till now the saucers have been silent. Even as they swoop across the heavens, very seldom does the faintest sound come down to us. On the few occasions that it does it is no more than the high piercing note we might expect our atmosphere would admit when slit by a flying blade.

But now we are again sitting up and taking notice of saucer reports. Why? Because many people, who have for six queer years (since, in the summer of '47, saucers first made front-page news) been critical collectors of this baffling data, have in the last few months begun to face a new question. Are the saucers so dumb as they seemed? Till now, opinion among collectors was divided, precisely as it is divided in that other thorny subject, psychical research. On the one hand were lined up the stern but open-minded critics who said, "Unidentified aerial objects exist. They are mainly disk-shaped. They dodge like snipe (or humming birds). They speed like meteors: some

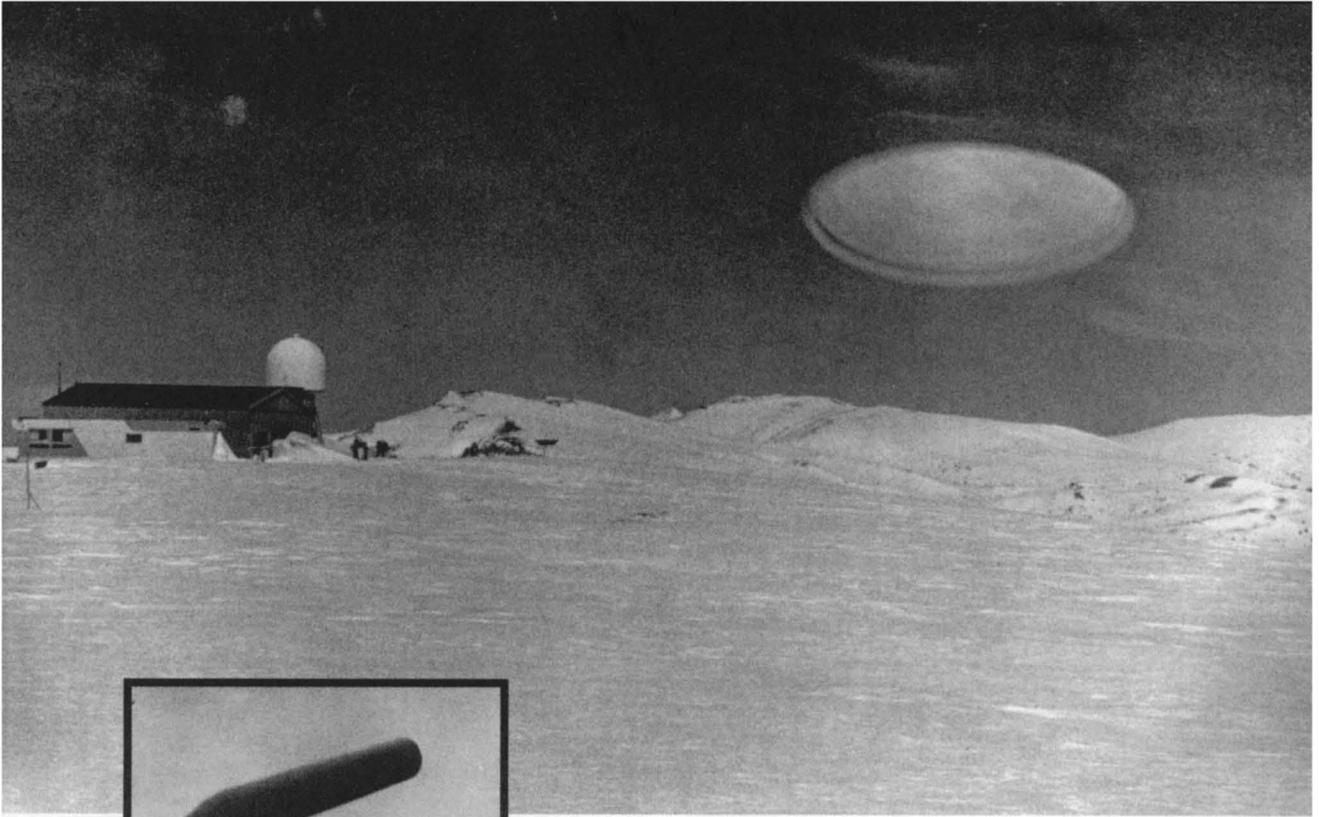
Cruces, New Mexico, 3/18/1967: A New Mexico State University student took this photo of what he says is an Unidentified Flying Object while photographing land for a geology class. The object made no noise and disappeared as he looked down to change plates in the camera.



Top: Paris, 1/6/1958: The “flying saucers” apparently orbiting around the Eiffel Tower in this unretouched photograph hoax are actually reflections of lamps and their shades in the window of the Palais de Chaillot.



Inset: Wall Township, New Jersey, 3/1966: Photograph taken by a thirteen-year-old boy walking his dog. The boy turned the photograph over to the Army.



Top: Climax, Colorado, 11/16/1967: A field technician at the mountain laboratory weather station on Chalk Mountain discovered this unidentified object on his negative after he shot a roll of film in the area.

Bottom: Amarillo, Texas, undated: A farmer from Loco, Texas told a polygraph operator that this Polaroid snap shows an alien spacecraft 80 to 100 feet long.

have been timed at 18,000 m.p.h. There is also some undeniable evidence that they are radioactive or surrounded by a radioactive field. For Geiger counters double their discharge, tick twice as fast, when a disk is overhead. Beyond this we know nothing. All else is empty speculation shot through by the impudent fireworks of fraud.”

So those who accept that such objects exist (and no one who has investigated the official evidence can doubt it) are bound also to sift critically and patiently any evidence for landings. Such a thing could have taken place. Then where and when and how many people saw it? As time has gone on the investigation has become more intimate, closer-up. And when we think it over, that surely is what we should expect. If the disks are from out of this world, they would be bigger fools than their design-power indicates if they thrust their attentions on us before being as sure of our intentions as long distance investigation could make them. They should assume that our powers are explosive, our conventions inexplicable, our reactions unforeseeable



and violent. . . . They may also assume with high probability that our viruses are deadly—a single sneeze from us might mean a Black Death pandemic for them—every one of their crews wiped out by our breath of death more effectively than by the most prodigious sky-defense barrage. No further proof is required to account for their preliminary caution.

What are we then to say about our present state of information in answer to the question, “What if anything is inside a saucer?” We have to follow the most difficult of mental disciplines, we have to keep an open mind. We have to take all the evidence and test its probability. Disks do exist. The weight of evidence is heavy enough to tip the scales in favor of that conviction. But as to who or what guides and maybe cruises in them all we can say is that it is not true to say there is no evidence that no one is inside and no one has ever been seen outside. Now that we know space travel is a possibility, the possibility of coming in touch with another form of life that is intelligent, and, we may hope, also already ahead of us in its knowledge and behavior, is far too promising a proposition for us to lose any chance of gaining more insight into so fascinating a mystery.



Left: Taormina, Sicily, 1954: Four Sicilians gaze skyward at two UFOs.

Right: Cluj, Romania, 9/1968: This photograph, taken by a tourist, shows an Unidentified Flying Object flying over Romanian territory.

Inset: Onomichi, Japan, 10/11/1974: This photograph was taken by a fifteen-year-old high school boy, Kazuhiko Fujimatsu, who claims to have seen a hat-shaped flying saucer near Hiroshima in Western Japan.

