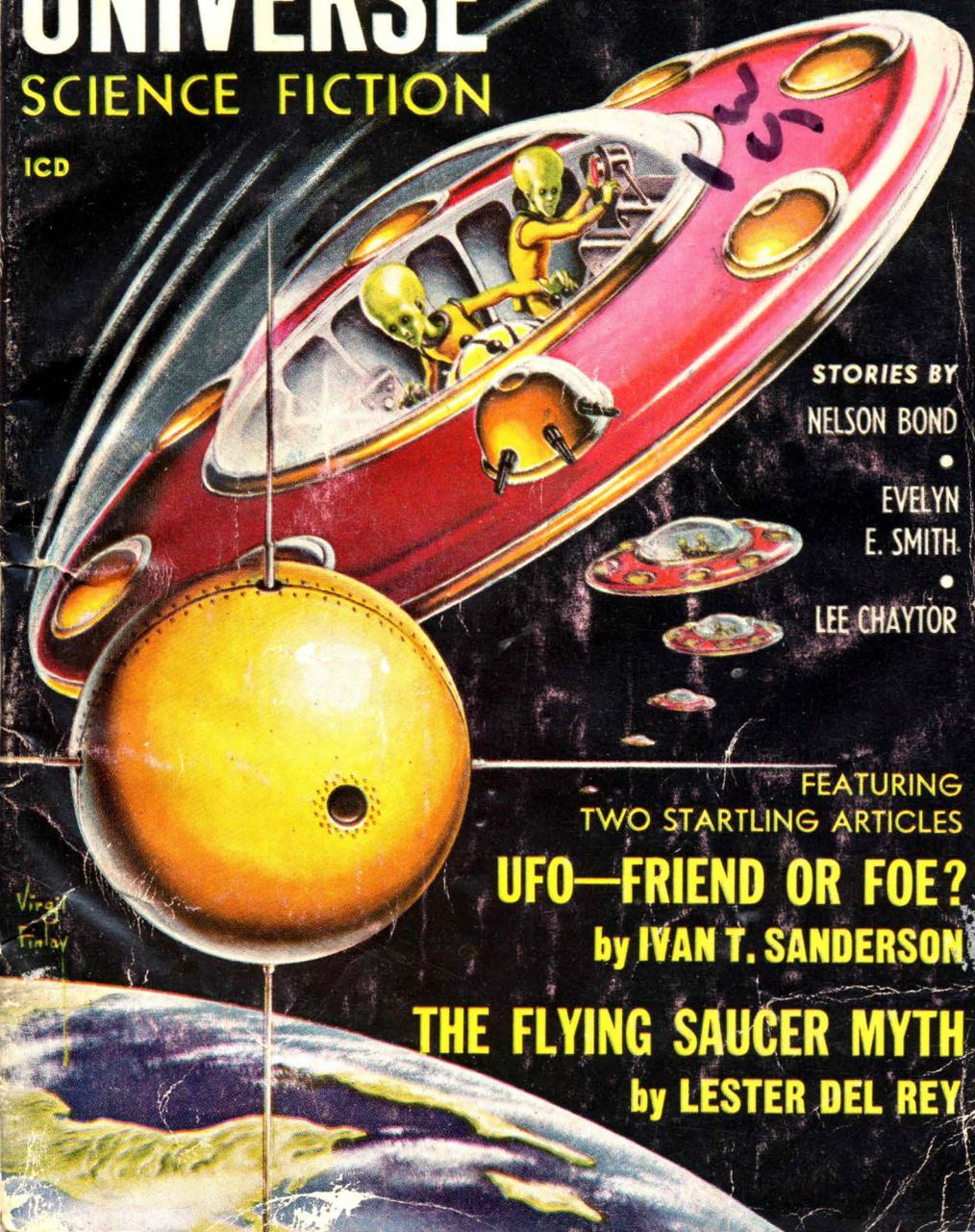


FANTASTIC UNIVERSE

SCIENCE FICTION

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STORIES BY
NELSON BOND

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FEATURING
TWO STARTLING ARTICLES

UFO—FRIEND OR FOE?

by IVAN T. SANDERSON

THE FLYING SAUCER MYTH

by LESTER DEL REY

Virgil
Finlay

the contact cases

by JOHN NICHOLSON

Who are these strange
extra-terrestrials who land
only at night, and then in
out of the way places?

APPROXIMATELY ten thousand people were expected at last month's Interplanetary Spacecraft Convention near Yucca Valley, California—ten thousand people who had come out to Giant Rock Airport in the California Desert, to hear reports from men who had talked with men "from other worlds" and ridden in the machines generally called Flying Saucers.

What is the truth about these Flying Saucers?

Are they friends—watching over us with increased concern as we experiment with forces that, unleashed, can mean the destruction of a world?

Or are they alien intelligences, waiting and watching, preliminary to an invasion? *Will a Flying Saucer one day attack a man-made Satellite?*

Will spokesmen for the "oldest truths", from Mars, from Venus or from Planet X, step out of a landed Saucer one Sunday morning and bring to us the finite message of World One-ness?

Or is there a more sinister explanation?

John Nicholson is the pseudonym of a writer and editor who has become interested in Ufology and increasingly concerned about the curious pattern of the reported contact cases where golden haired men and women from other planets, resembling us, are said to have met with and talked with and "taught" people all over the country. What do they teach? ..

WHATEVER the final truth may be, it is obvious that we must agree with Edward J. Ruppelt in his **THE REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS** (Doubleday, 1956) that,—
 “When a ground radar picks up a UFO target and a ground observer sees a light where the radar target is located, then a jet interceptor is scrambled to intercept the UFO and the pilot also sees the light and gets a radar lock on only to have the UFO almost impudently outdistance him, there is no simple answer. *We have no aircraft on this earth that can at will so handily outdistance our latest jets.*” (my italics) (*1)

By now the problem is therefore no longer whether there are any Flying Saucers. The problem is what, and perhaps who they are. There have been too many sightings, too many times when responsible and decidedly hard-headed persons saw these “shapes in the sky” for the question of whether they exist to be dismissed as pure fable. As Ivan T. Sanderson pointed out in his definitive article, **AN INTRODUCTION TO UFOLOGY**, in this magazine, some months ago,— “If it is all from imagination, we have to start with some editing of the Bible and sundry early Chinese, ancient Egyptian, many medieval and other texts, a drastic revision of a large number of scientific

ic journals, and the immediate censoring of several recognized astronomers, and the prompt suspension from duty of quite a significant percentage of professional airline pilots.” (*2)

We are not concerned here, therefore, with whether Saucers are a “myth”, and we are not, for that matter, concerned with reported saucer landings and little men, green or otherwise, who have a suspicious talent for frightening people. We are not even concerned with the occasion, in 1950, at a French airfield, when two fifteen foot saucers “with windows around the edge” are said to have hovered just off the ground, and two “normal men” got out to make repairs, briefly answering two questions in French before taking off. (*3) Read further and you may find a possible explanation of this sighting... And we are not too concerned, here, with retired Brazilian navy Commander Paulo Justino Strauss’ theory that “these mysterious engines come from the centre of the Earth, where it has long been believed that life exists to a degree advanced over our own civilization.” Commander Strauss believes that these center-of-the-earth based saucers may have been responsible for the disappearance of Colonel Fawcett, in the Amazon jungle, years ago, while Fawcett was searching

for a legendary city of gold. (*4)

We are concerned here with what are called "contact cases", instances of alleged contacts with extra-terrestrials visiting us in these saucers or UFOs.

TAKE the interesting George Van Tassel, Director of the College of Universal Wisdom, a "Non-sectarian and non-profit organization for Para Psycho-Physical Research", and impresario of these annual Spacecraft Conventions in the California Desert. Van Tassel's **I RODE A FLYING SAUCER** (New Age, 1952) does not actually claim that he did this—that happened later. The pamphlet consists of messages received telepathically by the author and a group of his friends, messages such as the following, (*5)

March 21, 1952— "Greetings. I am Totalmon, 4th projection, 7th wave, space patrol, realms of Schare. Elevation 750 miles above you, speed 170,000 miles per second; returning from the 2nd sector. Our light-cast instructs us to bring you blessings from the Center and the realms of Blaau."

September 21, 1952— "In love and peace I am with you. I am Ashtar, commandant quadra sector station, Schare. We are about to add further confusion to the minds of those who are attempting to diagnose our existence. We

are about to be sighted under the surface of the water at many points throughout the oceans of Shan "(The Earth)." You have been given sufficient evidence through the recent storm in your Pacific Ocean, through verification of much information advanced to you by us. My perception is that most of you within this cone have accepted us through proof. All future demonstrations on our part will establish us in the minds of the majority of those doubters throughout this planet Shar. I leave you with my love. I am Ashtar."

Mr. Van Tassel, active in a part of the country that more recently accepted as bona-fide the famous Mon-Ka of Mars tape recordings, records miraculously impressed upon a reel of blank tape in a sealed can, (*6) has founded what can only be described as a cult on the basis of these and later direct contacts, teaching the "truths" revealed to him by his extra-terrestrial visitors, "truths" such as the fact that the power utilized by the saucers in their engines is said to be the same as the power, "primary light energy", that keeps the earth moving in its orbit. "In fact, they copied it from the earth." (*7)

The increased number of these direct contact cases, these "slightly incredible" contact cases, to quote Frank

Edwards, (*8) raises several questions, largely because no contact case has as yet been fully authenticated.

Where do these alien visitors come from?

Truman Bethurum's idyllic Clarion?

Howard Menger's equally idyllic Venus?

Or are they alien psychological warfare agents, exploiting the credulity of the naive and the gullible, as suggested by Ivan T. Sanderson in the course of a recent broadcast? (*9)

Let's turn to Truman Bethurum who had eleven visits with Aura Rhane, the beautiful captain of a flying saucer.

We learn that Mars is beautiful. "Yes, there are people there, just like you and me. The halo you see about the planet is made of air and dust. Mars is a great manufacturing planet. Every home has a beautiful lawn where flowers and shrubs abound; each is a country estate and has five acres of ground. But as for where we live, Clarion, I think man may visit there soon and see our beautiful planet on the other side of the moon, and learn how our government is directed by others and me." (*10)

Aura Rhane describes a wedding on Clarion, the planet on the other side of the moon, in the gardens of an "ancestral castle", the castle built of rarest marbles and exotic woods, the wedding it-

self uniting "a lovely maiden and the handsome son of our master plumber." The bride "wore a beautiful gown of white satin and lace, and a long trailing veil crowned by a coronet of fragrant blossoms". They would "settle down in a lovely town and enter a business together. The husband will attend to all the outside chores around their home and his wife will manage the home." (*11)

Idyllic—but familiar?

Take life on Utopian Venus—the Venus from which Howard Menger's visitors come.

Wars have been unknown for many years. The people live in complete harmony. Want and poverty are unknown. The spirit of brotherly love prevails. The Venusians are strict vegetarians. While there is little, if any, sickness on Venus, if anyone does fall ill, this is immediately cured by thought projection and prayer. The Venusian life span is 700 to 800 years. Death, to a Venusian, is not a sad event, but a cause for celebration, for "at the moment of death the soul is liberated and transferred to another body." (*12)

Menger, Adamski, Allington, Angelucci, Bethurum and all have been impressed by the spirituality of the Space Men, Menger referring to the similarity of the extra-terrestrials he has met to Jesus Christ. (*13) He describes Ve-

nus as similar to the Garden of Eden, where people live in harmony and peace in their dome shaped houses. The atmosphere is rich and heavy. The sunlight is not seen. They have no streets in our sense of the word, but their vehicles use "magnetic line free power." (*14) In other words, the Venus of Howard Menger is an idyllic world.

But what is a possible explanation for the curious selectivity—as far as contacts are concerned—of these extra-terrestrials?

What was the justification for choosing journeyman engineer and welder Truman Bethurum? (*15)

Or Orfeo Angelucci, California aircraft plant worker, author of *THE NATURE OF INFINITE ENTITIES* with its chapters on "Atomic Evolution, Suspension and Involution", and "Origin of the Cosmic Rays"? (*16)

Or the interesting Mr. George Van Tassel, impresario of these Spacecraft Conventions, visited at isolated Giant Rock Airport in the California desert? (*17)

And Howard Menger, sign painter from Highbridge, New Jersey, who seems so convinced of the truth of what he claims to have seen...

Ivan T. Sanderson, noted scientist, lecturer and TV personality, raised a disturbing possibility in a recent broadcast, pointing out that

all of these Contact Cases had certain similarities, that the alleged extra-terrestrials only appeared at night, that their craft only landed in out of the way places, and that people had been warned never to approach them carrying weapons or flashlights.

These extra-terrestrials, speaking from the "shadows, preach a doctrine of brotherly love and urge constantly that we should abandon our experimentation with atom and hydrogen bombs. (*18)

Who are these occasionally golden-haired men and women who are sometimes glimpsed on the streets, in the factories, in the traffic passing you, or run into the way Bethurum met the beautiful beret-wearing Aura Rhane one day? (*19)

Undoubtedly, as Sanderson points out, "some form of craft have landed here, unknown to the authorities. If any country has developed very fast aeroforms that can go up to the limits of the atmosphere and then descend straight down, these craft could hop over our radar screen. Also there is published evidence, plus personal notes given to me by a former engineer of the Messerschmidt airplane factories in Germany to the effect that the Russians RIGHT NOW have such a plane or aeroform. This engineer worked on the prototype and actually saw it fly." (*20)

What is the answer?

Is Ivan Sanderson right?

Or are the men right who are making—not a religion, but a cult—out of the sightings, exploiting our fears and our uncertainties, claiming these extra-terrestrials bring us the Final Message, only glimpsed hitherto in Blavatsky and the Yogas?

Are men like Howard Menger and the others right? Have they really spoken with men from Other Planets—these men like Menger whose eyes look off into an unseen distance, and cloud a little, as he begins to tell how Venus is a veritable Garden of Eden... (*21)

Who knows?

- * 1. — pp.314-315. Edward J. Ruppelt, **THE REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS**, 1956. Doubleday
- * 2. — Ivan T. Sanderson — **An INTRODUCTION TO UFOLOGY** — Febr. 1957, **Fantastic Universe**
- * 3. — Mentioned in supplement to transcript of speech by Ted Floecher, Research Director, Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York, on January 28, 1956. Report is one of a group whose claims to credence are considered "very strong".
- * 4. — p.88. January 1956, **The Saucerian Review**, edited by Gray Barker, p. 193, **UFO Newsletter No. 7**, April 1, 1957, issued by North Jersey UFO Group.
- * 5. — page 4, **Civilian Saucer Intelligence Newsletter No. 6**, December 15, 1956.
- * 6. — page 3, *ibid.*
- * 7. — page 7, *ibid*
- * 8. — Transcript of speech by Frank Edwards at Civilian Saucer Intelligence Meeting. April 28, 1956
- * 9. — "Are Soviet Spies Back of Saucer Contacts?", by Ben Gross. **New York Daily News**, April 4, 1957. A report on Sanderson's discussion of the question on Long John Nebel's program on WOR, "The Party Line"
- * 10. — page 85, Truman Bethurum—**ABOARD A FLYING SAUCER**, 1954, De Vorss Los Angeles
- * 11. — pp. 157-158, *ibid*
- * 12. — From Jules St. Germain's unpublished memorandum on the Menger case, **THE STRANGE AFFAIR AT HIGHBRIDGE**
- * 13. — *ibid*
- * 14. — During discussion on Long John's "Party Line", WOR, Saturday evening, April 13, 1957
- * 15. — pages 20-21, Truman Bethurum, **op cit**. Letter signed by Treasurer of Local 12, International Union of Operating Engineers.
- * 16. — See Foreword of Orfeo Angelucci's **THE SECRET OF THE SAUCERS**, Amherst, 1955
- * 17. — **Civilian Saucer Intelligence Newsletter No. 6**, Dec. 15, 1957, page 7
- * 18. — Ben Gross, **op cit**
- * 19. — pages 90-94, Truman Bethurum, **op cit**.
- * 20. — Ben Gross, **op cit**
- * 21. — During discussion on "Party Line", Saturday evening, April 13, 1957.