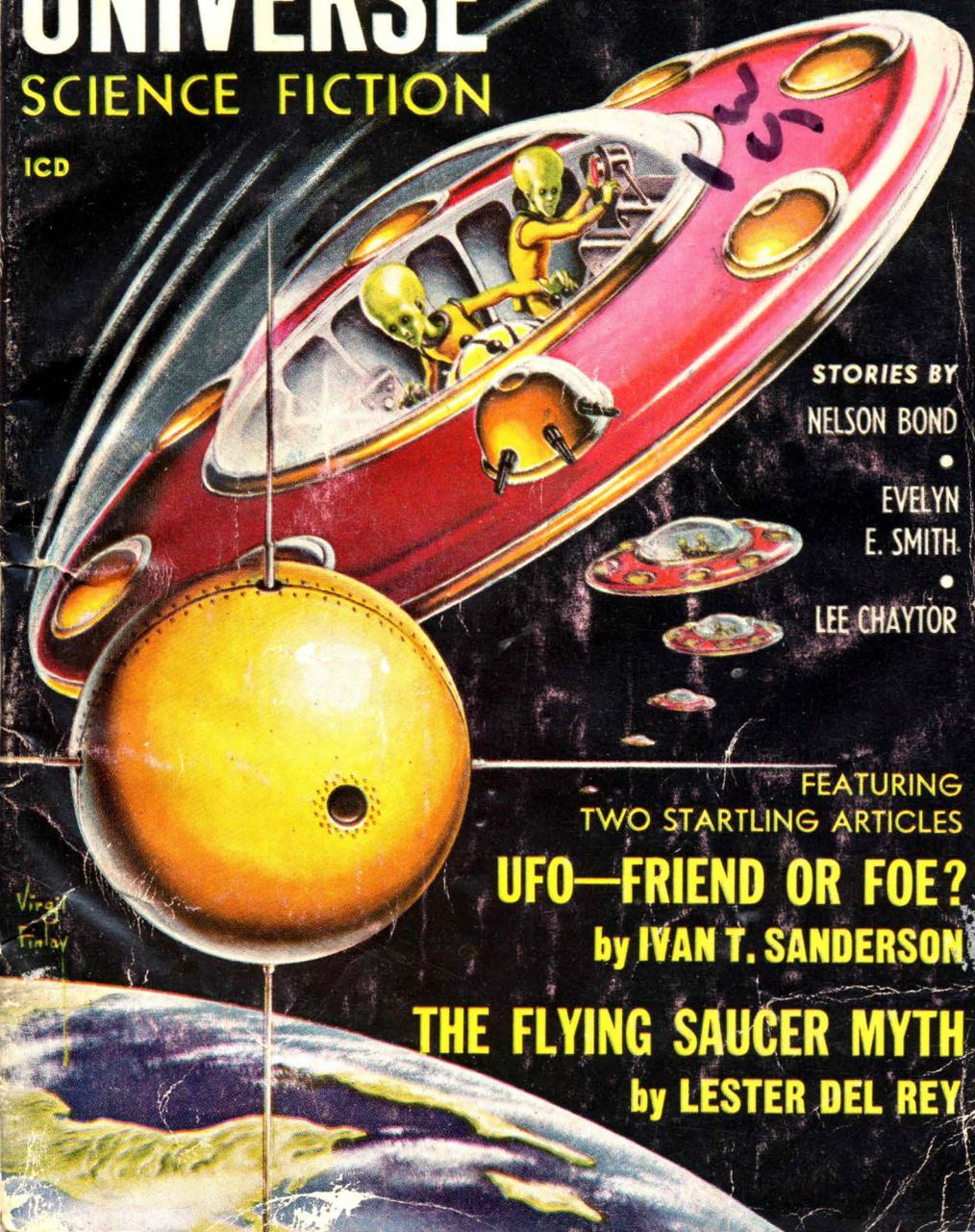


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FEATURING
TWO STARTLING ARTICLES

UFO—FRIEND OR FOE?

by **IVAN T. SANDERSON**

THE FLYING SAUCER MYTH

by **LESTER DEL REY**

Virgil
Finlay

**ufo-
friend
or
foe**

by *IVAN T. SANDERSON*

**What are these so-called
"Flying Saucers" or UFO?
Unknown life-forms? Or
alien-controlled machines?**

WE ARE assuming, since the official pronouncement of Rear Admiral Delmer S. Fahrney, released at the time of the organization of NICAP—the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena—and the appearance of the name of General Albert C. Wedemeyer on the prospectus of that organization, that there are UFOS, in point of fact, and that, at long last, intelligent men of standing and even working scientists are prepared to investigate them.

Thus, after a long, hard fight, reason has triumphed over scepticism and the science of Ufology has been established. Now it has to be accepted.

Before this happens, though, we are going to have many trials and tribulations. Every new science has today and for the past thousand years.

And there are danger signals out already. One of them is a veritable storm warning.

This is a strong indication that what may be called "Reader's-Digestism" is almost universal among serious-

Ivan T. Sanderson writes about the recently reported visitors from Outer Space in the present article—the second of three being written specially for this magazine by the noted scientist and Ufologist, author of the recently published MONKEY KINGDOM (Hanover House), and HOW TO KNOW THE AMERICAN MAMMALS (New American Library).

mindful Ufologists: that is, they seem to believe that all things can be given simple tags. A good example of this fallacy is the notion that there is an animal called "The Whale". Actually, there are more than one hundred and fifty entirely different kinds of whales alive today, varying in size when full grown, from seven feet to 113 feet in length, and showing a very wide range of physical features and behaviour.

There has long been a tendency among many who are interested in the subject of Ufology, to assume that the objects are all either identical, of one kind or, at least, of one class. This is a most dangerous concept but one that has, nonetheless, already shown up in the statement of intentions of NICAP. Admiral Fahrney in his first press release stated that "There are signs that an intelligence directs these objects because of the way they fly" and that "Reliable reports indicate that there are objects coming into our atmosphere at very high speeds". This may, indeed, be true, but it appears to represent only a minor aspect of the whole problem of UFOS.

UFOS are possibly and probably as various as, say, means of transport, and, in view of this possibility, they should be classified. To this end we may set up four major categories. These are:-

(1) As yet unexplained

natural phenomena of a physical nature, but not *alive*.

(2) As yet unsuspected Life-Forms, feeding on pure energy, and indigenous to our own (and possibly other) atmospheres, and / or to Space itself.

(3) Constructions (machines) built on other of our own Solar System's planets or on planet's of other stars, controlled by intelligence.

(4) Aerial machines constructed on this Earth by our own race, that may be considerably in advance of our best aircraft up to now shown to the public.

From the vast accumulation of UFO sightings, reaching back to early classical and even to ancient times and now pouring in daily from all over the world, *all* these four types at least, seem to exist. Moreover, there is evidence that there may be several other categories as well. Let us, however, take these first four basic types, one at a time.

Category number one is the least offensive, the easiest to comprehend, and the easiest to "explain away or "wipe" —a pertinent expression originally coined by that elegant master of tomfoolery but most agile of all open minds, Charles Fort. "Explaining away" has regret-

tably become a stock-in-trade of established, entrenched, or orthodox Science when dealing with anything that it does not understand, which is not in its textbooks, or which might cause the individual scientist professional or financial embarrassment. If ten thousand honest citizens say they see a glowing blue-green globe manoeuvring round low hills, somebody has to be set up as an "expert" to explain the phenomenon, otherwise a "panic" may ensue—though the public is often enormously solid about most such matters, and Science—the Holy Cow—will lose face. The Press therefore picks some poor benighted, overworked, and usually underpaid scientist in some hallowed institution and demands from him an explanation. Almost invariably he gives one, and often the first one that comes into his head, in pure desperation. Usually this is peurile; sometimes it is as fantastic as the original report. Professor Menzel of Harvard and his hot air is an example. Though I cannot say whether this learned gentleman is underpaid, I am sure he is overworked, and he is certainly not an expert in the field of Ufology, despite his standing as a Meteorologist.

There are lots of funny things in our sky and many others that "legitimately" fall from it—bolides, meteorites, tactites, and now even

blocks of angular ice and live fish. The ice can, of course, be explained away by refrigerators in airplanes even if none are flying above, but fish are less pleasant. However, one load has now landed on a "professional" (which means working for a recognized scientific establishment) ichthyologist, so it cannot be denied. There are auroras, and explosions in the sky, and other aberrations, so that even the radio technicians state there must be things going on up there which are quite "decent" but which we have not yet pinned down and explained. Quite a large percentage of alleged UFO sightings may indeed be perfectly natural, non-animate phenomena.

Messrs. Harold Urey, Harrison Brown, and other scientists who studied meteors and meteorites after the conclusion of their stint with the Manhattan Project—and as a counter to its horrors—came up with the idea that one of our Sun's planets blew up, or blew itself up, some time ago, giving rise to the asteroid belt and a lot of junk that still meanders into our atmosphere to this day. Goodness only knows of what this junk may consist, but it certainly includes bits of sedimentary rocks—and, perhaps even of statuary? Then, there could be all sorts of remnants of other "heavenly" bodies of long ago, streaming across our space-time continuum,

which we might run into or overtake. The limits of as-yet-undescribed but purely that could drift in here are almost without bounds.

Our second category of possible UFOS presents quite another set of problems. This is something that the Airforce admits it once considered, though it seems finally to have abandoned the idea. It is, simply, that some UFOS may themselves be alive. This is to say, they may be a Life-Form, equivalent to but not specifically either Animal, Vegetable, or Virus, that may dwell in the upper atmosphere of this or all planets or live in space itself.

This theory was, as far as I can ascertain, first put forward in a Berlin magazine by the Countess Zoe-Wassilko-Serecki—now resident in Austria and well known in (rather surprisingly) astrological circles—though Charles Fort, of course, mooted the idea some forty years ago.

As mentioned above, it was apparently considered by the Airforce investigators but was abandoned for no clearly stated reasons.

However, there was a comment in the Blue Book report issued by that body to the effect that, in addition to sundry fairly sensible ideas, some that were considered to be slightly balmy had also been taken into consideration and rejected.

The "life-form" theory was one of these. In substance it goes as follows.

Some, and in fact quite a high percentage of UFO reports contain a number of statements as to the *behaviour* of the objects and this can only be likened to that of animals or other mobile living things. They dance; they play tag; they even appear to breed (by joining in pairs and giving rise to a lot of little ones, plus a blinding flash of light); they are highly inquisitive but they try to keep out of harm's way; yet, if cornered, they fight back apparently with bolts of pure energy. They are also either awfully stupid or of a "low order" of intelligence, like the lower animals. As a result of such considerations, Miss Wassilko-Serecki pondered the possibility of these types of UFOS being "animals" or some other life-form, and in doing so she struck upon a most significant point.

We all know that animals feed almost exclusively, if not entirely so, on matter. Plants on the other hand feed partly on energy, *via* sunlight, and partly on matter in the form of the air they breathe and the liquids they absorb through their roots (or, in the case of many aquatic plants, their cuticle). At the same time, the viruses—which are mostly parasites or saprophytes, and thus feed on matter—can, in some

cases (*vide*, the bacteriophages) at one time be crystalline and thus inanimate, and at another time colloidal and animate, or alive. Considering these facts, Countess Wassilko-Serecki postulated the existence of life-forms that feed on pure energy and which are mostly composed of energy, though concentrated around a core or body of highly tenuous matter. Where, she asked, could and would such creatures be most likely to dwell?

The obvious and perhaps the only answer is at the outer limits of our atmosphere or beyond it, in space itself, where some matter exists, though in minute quantities, and where enormous supplies of raw energy are available in many forms—photons, cosmic rays, and so forth.

She then further developed this theory by considering the size of living things in a liquid medium—*i. e.* the seas and oceans—and came up with the true observation that the largest animals therein live at the surface, the smaller at the bottom, or to put it another way, all large ones, that we know of, live near the top while only very small ones appear to be able to dwell at the bottom. This does not exclude very large ones—like the Sperm Whale—from diving to the bottom for a time; nor does it exclude the occurrence of minute ones at the surface. Then another thing, animals that

burrow in the ground move very slowly; animals at the bottom of the oceans move faster; those at its surface faster still; whereas things in the air move fastest of all. On the surface of the land, the Cheetah can top seventy miles an hour; in the air a kind of bird—the Giant Swift of the Middle East—has been paced by a plane flying at over one hundred and fifty miles an hour. In fact, the higher up one goes and the less dense the medium becomes, the larger the life-forms therein to be able to grow and the faster they can move.

By the current fad called extrapolation, moreover, it can be demonstrated within very fair limits that life forms living in the upper atmosphere at various altitudes should, in fact, be of just the sizes and be able to move at just the speeds that UFOS seen at those levels have been reported to be and to be able to travel. Even the half-mile long jobs that have been reported to travel at some 19,000 miles an hour—which have caused so much merriment—are not by any means impossible and may, in fact, be quite probable.

Two questions are invariably asked at this point. First, why aren't these creatures seen all the time and, conversely, since they are not, why are they seen sometimes? The answers are quite simple. To the first question, let it

be said that they normally live so far up (even beyond our atmosphere) that they are not visible to the naked eye especially through the scatter-effect of our dust-laden atmosphere. At the same time, telescopes are focused either on planes and other objects well *within* our atmospheric envelope or, at night, far *beyond* it, on heavenly bodies. You can even shove a four-engined bomber up so high you can't see it. The answer to the second question is much more pertinent.

If you map all the "reports" of UFOS and especially of this type, both reliable and vague, you will find that there are heavy concentrations in certain countries and around certain spots in those countries. Further, these "reports" string out between these spots along thin, straight lines. The spots are almost invariably areas where there is a high concentration of Power manufacture—hydro—electric plants, atomic energy installations, or even powerful radio and TV outlets. The tenuous lines connecting them can be very well matched by the radio beams for guiding aircraft. Why should such sightings form this network on the map? Miss Wassilko-Serecki has a good answer to this also.

If these life-forms that dwell in the upper atmosphere feed on pure energy, and if they occasionally—per-

haps because of wounds, old age, "sickness", or such—do drift down into the lower levels of our atmospheric sea, to what would they most likely be attracted? Naturally, to sources of their food—i. e. to sources of freely radiated energy. Moreover, in the olden days, there was little of this available on the surface of this earth for them to "feed" on, so they seldom bothered to come down. Today, humans are spouting untold quanta of energy into the air: a sort of free-lunch counter for the creatures. They are, in fact, beginning to deep-dive to get a free meal: Whacky; incredible? Probably, but none the less possible.

Those who accept the possibility of this theory usually want to know if its originator has conceived anything of the construction of these creatures. She has, and her ideas are not without reason. They could be vast, virtually empty—except for their entrapped energy—bladders of tenuous matter, and particularly of silicones in a special form, that would automatically adopt spherical (when stationary) or pear-, spindle-, lenticular-, hexagonal-, kite-, tetrahedral-, or other forms that are almost automatic in a liquid or gaseous medium or in space, and which can be seen under any microscope focussed on the tiny life-forms found in almost any water. As they move, their

form should change, since they are, from our point of view, nothing but vast jelly-like masses. Those of a spherical type could become pear-shaped at low speeds in a dense medium, or a spindle at high speed in highly rarified air. Further, they could, being pure energy, glow at night, and due to their fine, membrane-like outer "skins", shine like burnished aluminum by day. Many UFOS do either or both.

The Wassilko-Serecki theory is worthy of the profoundest consideration by all Ufologists. It has cogency and it does not conflict either with observation on the one hand, or with purely scientific possibility on the other. It may sound fantastic and even a bit farfetched, but it is no more whacky than was Charles Darwin's theory of the descent of man, and it does not offend so many cherished shibboleths, age-old notions, or preconceived ideas. But it does not profess to explain *all* UFOS.

There remain, then, two further categories of possibility. The first is that mooted by Admiral Fahrney, namely that there are intelligently controlled machines or constructions entering our atmosphere from outer space at speeds which we cannot as yet duplicate. This is a department that requires even more "explanation" than the Wassilko-Serecki "life-forms". It is a very vast sub-

ject indeed that calls for an exposition of a number of cosmological and astronomical principles before it can even be discussed. These vastnesses can be given in capsule form and this we propose to put forward in a subsequent article. Without acceptance of these established principles, however, and a willingness to take the accompanying statistical data as read, nobody should be asked to accept the idea of intelligent life existing elsewhere in the Universe as being possible. Let it be said, however, that, armed with the appropriate findings of modern science, nobody in their right mind should make so bold as to deny the possibility—nay, rather the probability—of there being life of an intelligence higher than ours on other heavenly bodies, and the possibility that these creatures have visited our small planet since early geological times.

The fourth possible category of UFOS is of quite another nature and is far the most unpleasant—as opposed to psychologically "unpleasant"—of all. The suggestion here is that some of these unknowns may be aeroforms, or planes, or other developments of Man's technology, and specifically of the Russian and/or United States armed forces, and/or other government agencies.

Unknown objects are reported as flying through our

radar screen at a rate of about four per day. These reports, we know for a fact, are logged but are regularly treated as mere crackpot hallucinations and, although the logs are subsequently passed on to some central control, not one thing is ever done about them. Further, there is absolute and concrete evidence on paper that the Russians have a "saucer-like" aeroform or plane that was captured from the Germans over ten years ago along with its designers, its blueprints, and even the metallurgists who developed the tubes for its twelve rocket engines. This plane flew and there is an engineer who worked on it now living in the United States who saw it do so. This "plane" was disc-shaped and is alleged to be able to fly for fifteen hours without refuelling at speeds far in excess of those at which any pilot could remain alive or maintain control. One example is said to have done so over the Baltic, under robot control.

Such an aeroform could rise to the limits of the atmosphere, move in a matter of minutes over the United States, and then descend vertically to our soil, thus "hopping over" our radar screen. If such "planes" pick out-of-the-way country districts in which to land they could come and go at will without detection. If detected, or if their occupants were caught

redhanded alighting, they could claim they were "Space-people" and probably get away with it among the awed locals. They might even indulge in a little psycho-warfare technique or frank propaganda by telling these locals that they are "all wrong", misguided and miserable due to faults of their government, and persuade them to believe that they are Spacemen and have come from another planet to help us put matters to rights for the benefit of humanity. They might even advocate the overthrow of the United States Government to pave the way for the coming of Salvation from the stars.

Does any of this, dear reader, sound at all familiar? Haven't we heard all this before, both in Communist manifestos and in the writings of those people who claim to have met and talked with Spacemen arriving in Flying Saucers?

The whole business is just too pat to be disconnected, and unfortunately it is getting just too common to be brushed off as either a coincidence or as mere "crackpotism!" What could be a better cover for penetration of "enemy" territory than some innocent do-gooder's backyard when the whole local populace regards that innocent as a harmless evangelist. What better fifth column than a bunch of innocent people dedicated to righting the

wrongs of the world, fired with missionary zeal, sworn to secrecy, and fighting the monster of "misguided" Authority. After all, beautiful girl athletes in white ski-suits coming from another planet, far advanced in knowledge, sweetness, and light, are enough to impress anybody. The old Party-Line itself started out all sweetness and light, and lots of honest souls fell for it.

On the other hand, the low-flying, obviously guided "Saucers" may be our own inventions. If so, our Government is not doing the right thing by us. They may have very valid reasons for not telling us about them, but

the business has now gone too far for secrecy. Too many sane citizens and radarscopes have seen these things, so if they are ours, it is high time we were appraised of this.

In the meantime, the science of Ufology has gotten itself established and it is up to all who are interested in its future to aid its growth and ultimate acceptance. To do this, the first thing we need is to establish some proper methodology, and in every new science the descriptive stage must come first. Classification or systematization comes next. We have had ten years of the former. We have got to get to work on the latter.

STATEMENT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS BY ADMIRAL DELMAR S. FAHRNEY, USN (RET.)

Admiral Fahrney, while Chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, in Washington, made the following statement:

"Reliable reports indicate that there are objects coming into our atmosphere at very high speeds. . . . No agency in this country or Russia is able to duplicate at this time the speeds and accelerations which radars and observers indicate these flying objects are able to achieve.

"There are signs that an intelligence directs these objects because of the way they fly. The way they change position in formations would indicate that their motion is directed. The Air Force is collecting factual data on which to base an opinion, but time is required to sift and correlate the material. As long as such unidentified objects continue to navigate through the earth's atmosphere, there is an urgent need to know the facts.

"We are in a position to screen independently all UFO information coming in from our filter groups. General Albert C. Wedemeyer will serve the Committee as Evaluations Adviser and complete analyses will be arranged through leading scientists."