

Men

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ANNUAL

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20 million have seen them—and here are some of their strange adventures

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—She handled a machine gun like an old-time Mafia hit man

• TRACY RICHARDS: POLICE HOOKER

—She trapped underworld rats with her made-for-sex body

20 Million Americans "I'VE SEEN A

51% in Gallup Poll Say They Believe U.F.O.'s Are Real

A Gallup survey released yesterday found that 51 per cent of those persons interviewed believe that unidentified flying objects, sometimes called "flying saucers," are real and not just a figment of the imagination or cases of hallucination.

In addition, 11 per cent in the poll said they had seen a U.F.O., double the percentage recorded in a previous poll.

By **DAVID LLOYD**

"THERE'S no doubt in my mind that so-called flying saucers exist. Until last July I had been more or less a skeptic, figuring that the government had made a thorough investigation of the phenomenon and that its various findings such as swamp gas, weather balloons, aircraft and outright hoaxes certainly explained all of the sightings. But now I feel differently. *Because I myself have seen a flying saucer. And I've seen who, or what, was inside the craft.*"

The preceding statement was made by John L. Wilkinson of Geneva, Ill. It is a portion of a letter written to the editors of *MEN*, one of several hundred letters dealing with UFO sightings that we have received since it began almost monthly coverage of the subject about five years ago. The majority of letter-writers said they had not reported what they had seen in any official authority or news-

paper for fear that they would be ridiculed and/or receive unwanted publicity. Of the several hundred letters received, we have decided to publish those with the most interest and detail. Only John Wilkinson and a few others would agree to the use of their names. Wilkinson *had* reported his sighting to local law enforcement officers. His account continues:

"It happened on the night of July 23rd. I'd closed the office early. It was a hot day and my last three patients had canceled out (I'm a dentist), so

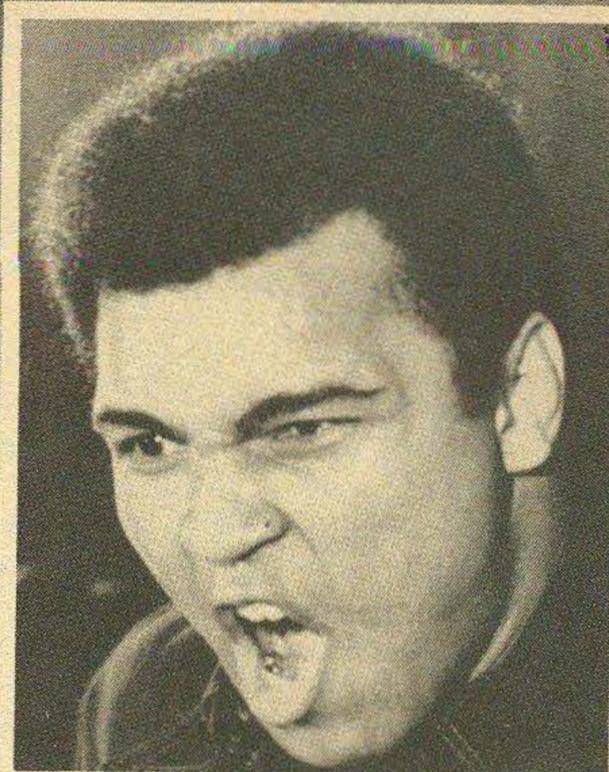
Declare U.F.O.'s



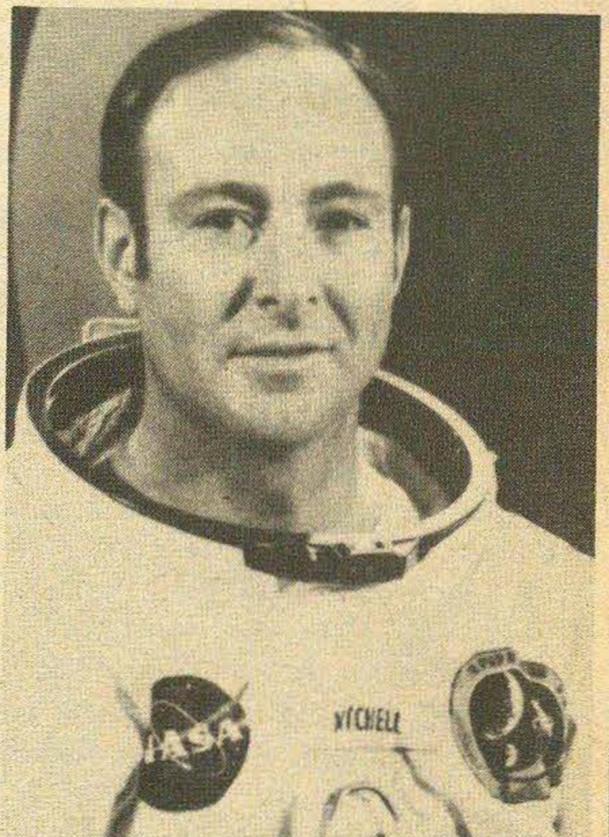
I decided it was a good time to go fishing. I knew this secluded little pond about ten miles outside of town, so that's where I went. I hardly ever caught anything, but as I said it was secluded and hardly anybody knew about it, so I could lean back against an old oak tree and take it easy, without listening to a bunch of yakking. The Lord knows, I've got some patients who could chew the ear off an old sow. Anyway, I got there, put my line in and dozed away into the evening. It was almost dark when I decided to leave,

and that's when I heard it. A high-pitched whine, a lot like the old diesel engines when they start up down at the station. Only this had an even higher pitch.

"It was coming from somewhere in the woods, so I decided to investigate. I was curious, because I knew no one lived in the area, at least not for several miles around. I'd gone about three hundred yards when I saw it. It was round, maybe thirty feet in diameter, but I'm not really sure. I'm not very good on measurements. Frankly, it (Continued on page 83)

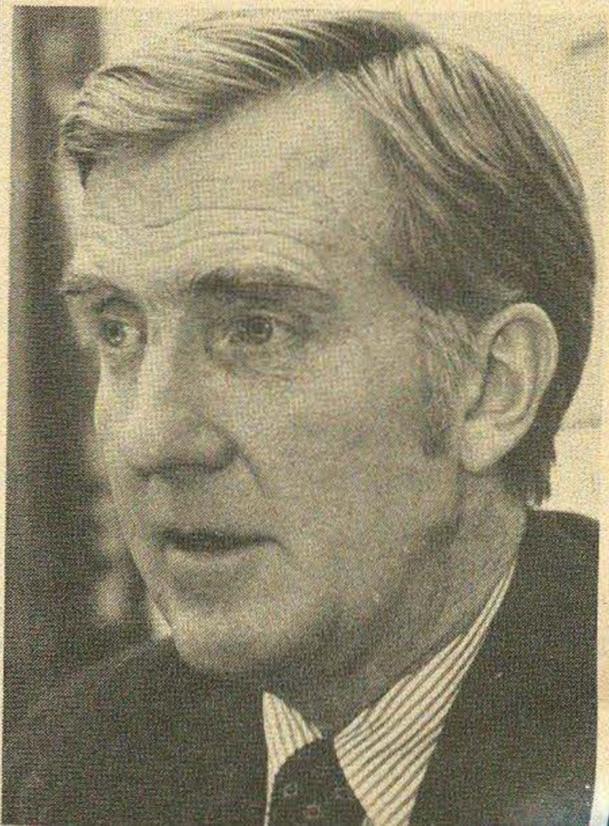


MUHAMMAD ALI: "It seemed to be just hovering there, watching me."



ASTRONAUT Ed Mitchell: "We all know UFOs are real. The question is, where do they come from?"

FORMER Ohio Gov. J.J. Gilligan: "I saw one the other night, so help me . . . I'm absolutely serious."



U.F.O.

(Continued from page 23)

looked about as big as a small house only not nearly as high. It was propped up on metal . . . legs, I guess you'd call them.

"I wasn't afraid, at least not at first. I suppose I was too curious to be afraid. I just stood there, leaning against a tree, trying to figure out what I was looking at. And then some sort of hatch opened up in the bottom of the thing. That's when I got the smell. It was like standing in the middle of a neighborhood with half the septic tanks overflowing—only worse. I put my handkerchief over my nose, the smell was so bad.

“AND then the thing came out. It was small, maybe four feet in height, I'm not sure. It resembled the human form in that it had a torso and four appendages that looked like arms and legs, and it had what you might call a head, except it was much smaller than a normal head would be in relationship to the size of the rest of the body. It had some sort of coating. Not a space suit exactly, not clothing as we knot it . . . just some sort of coating that kind of glistened. I can't describe the face, if it had one; it was too dark. And the little bit of light coming from inside the craft, it was bluish as I remember, had about as much illumination as a couple of candles.

"It seemed to spot me right away, as soon as it stood on the ground. And it seemed to be upset about me being there. It immediately pulled itself back into the craft and the hatch closed. It did this rather slowly though, as if our gravity was too much for it.

"Anyway, I decided I'd seen enough. Fear and I suppose common sense told me to get the hell out of there. And I did . . ."

Sounds pretty fantastic, doesn't it? It did to us, too. So we did a little checking on Dr. Wilkinson. We found nothing to indicate that he would be putting us on. He is a responsible citizen who has lived in Geneva all of his 46 years. His dental practice had been a good one, until his story of his encounter with a UFO was published in the *Geneva Republican*, a local newspaper. He is a good family man and has been very active in civic affairs. Hardly the history of a hoaxer. In fact, his sighting and subsequent revealing of the sighting has caused him to think seriously of giving up his practice, selling his house and moving to another state.

We checked up on the other MEN readers who had written us concerning their UFO sightings and whose letters we are publishing portions of, and found them all to be responsible Americans. Their only "crime," as far as we can determine, is that they happened to see a flying saucer.

From a Frank Gibbons, 31-year-old Virginia factory worker, father of two:

"I was coming home from work and I just happened to look up into the sky,

and there it was—a UFO the color of burnished silver. It was shaped like an overturned soup plate with a cupola on top. At the very top of the cupola, there was a round object giving off a fixed sky-blue light. Lower on the cupola, I could see a row of small windows, like portholes in a ship. On the bottom of the object was what I guessed to be what made the ship go . . . a dark red, throbbing light that was aimed toward the ground from a sort of turbine in the middle of the upside-down plate. Near the turbine-like part, I could see objects that looked like half-eggs. It was visible for about a minute, and then it vanished, just like that. *Poof.* One second it was there, the next second it was gone.”

From Jim Hedlee, a Georgia farmer, age 29, married with three children:

“It was evening and I had just finished in the fields. The object was hovering over the barn. It looked like an egg and was orange-red in color, and pulsating, its light dimming, then brightening every few seconds. I couldn’t hear any sound coming from it. I ran into the house and got my wife. She came out and saw the thing, too. Then it moved straight up like a helicopter, only faster, then zipped forward and disappeared.”

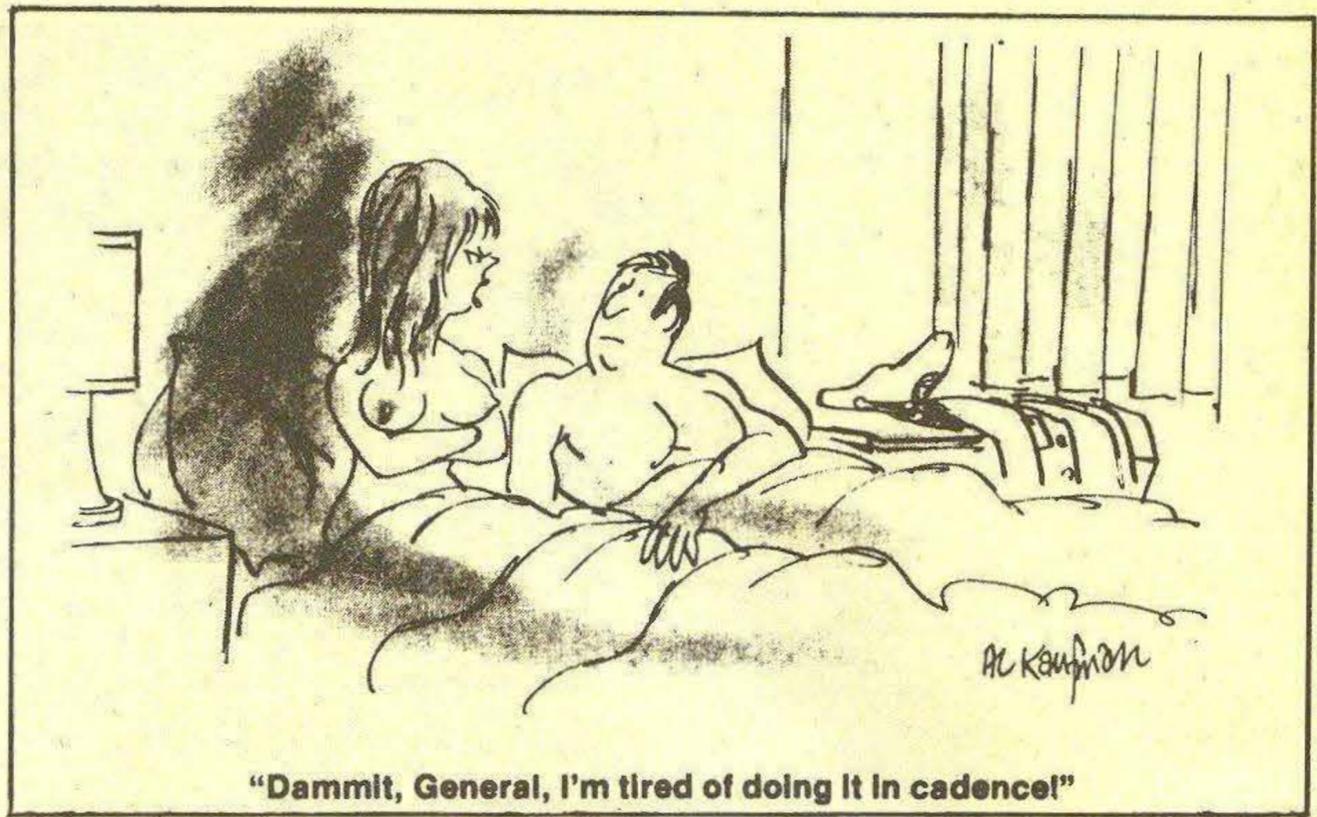
FROM Michael Cini a 36-year-old salesman who lives in Arizona and whose territory covers a good portion of the Southwest:

“It was during the day, around noon, and I was driving along this two-lane highway. Suddenly the sun became unusually bright. At least I thought it was the sun at first. But this was a UFO, a bright yellow ball, but I knew it wasn’t the sun when it came directly towards my car. I thought the thing was going to hit me, whatever it was, but it stopped a few yards in front of me, maybe fifteen feet above the road. I put the brakes on and then the car engine just died. I just sat there staring at the thing for about five minutes, not really sure what to do. Then it just shot up and away, never making a sound. Whatever it was, it scared me silly.”

From a Delaware couple, in their late 20’s:

“We were out on a picnic, my husband and I and the kids. It was late afternoon when the saucer appeared. It didn’t fly in or anything; it just appeared. It was at tree-top level and it just hovered there, for about half an hour. It made this awful sound, a piercing whistle that made us put our hands over our ears. We didn’t know what to do. What could we do? We waited and finally the thing took off. It left a trail of smoke behind it when it did. We’ve never told anyone about it until now, not even our friends. They’d think we’d all gone crazy.”

If this Delaware couple are crazy, then you might say more than half the country is equally crazy. The fact is, according to the latest Gallup poll, 51 percent of the people in the U.S. believe that UFOs are real. That’s right, 51 percent. Over 100 million people. That’s a lot of crazies. All 11 percent of those polled claimed they had seen a UFO. Which lends a lot of credence to the accounts of MEN readers who said they had seen a flying



“Dammit, General, I’m tired of doing it in cadence!”

saucer.

Supporting this 11 percent of persons polled, and our readers, are some very prominent people. At a press conference in Columbus recently, Governor John J. Gilligan was asked about sightings of UFOs in Ohio, and he startled newsmen by replying: “I saw one the other night, so help me.”

The governor went on to say that one Monday night when he and his wife were driving home from a weekend at their summer home at Lake Leelanau, Mich., on Route 23 near Ann Arbor, they saw the UFO.

“It was a vertical beam of light, amber colored, and we watched it for about 35 minutes,” Gov. Gilligan said. “It couldn’t have been a reflection. It would fade out and get bright. I frankly don’t know what it was. I’m absolutely serious. I saw this. It was not a plane, it was not a bird, it didn’t wear a cape, and I really don’t know what it was.”

ANOTHER famous personality, Muhammed Ali, former world heavyweight boxing champion once known as Cassius Clay, claims to have seen a UFO while he was training in New York’s Central Park. Said the champ:

“I was out jogging just before sunrise. It was the day before one of my fights and I happened to glance up and see this bright light coming up from Manhattan’s towering skyline. It seemed to be just hovering there, watching me. The thing grew in intensity, moving closer until it just stood out like a huge electric light-bulb circling overhead in the sky.”

A newspaperman and Ali’s trainer were also witnesses to the UFO, which lends believability to his story, important because of Ali’s known habit of joking with the press.

Arthur Godfrey is another well-known personality who has gone on record as encountering a UFO. In fact, Godfrey, who is a licensed pilot, almost had a head-on collision with a flying saucer.

Even astronauts have seen UFOs. There are three visual sightings made by the astronauts while in orbit which have not been satisfactorily explained:

*Gemini 4, with astronaut McDivitt.

Observation of a cylindrical object with a protuberance.

*Gemini 4, with astronaut McDivitt. Observation of a moving bright light at a higher level than the Gemini spacecraft.

*Gemini 7. Astronaut Borman saw what he referred to as a “bogey” flying in formation with the spacecraft.

And the sixth man to make tracks on the moon, Captain Ed Mitchell, is a firm believer in UFOs. At a recent conference concerning flying saucers, he stated: “Gentlemen, we all know that UFOs are real. The question is, where do they come from?”

That’s a good question. No one can say for sure. Or, at least, no one is saying he knows for sure. But many people, such as our MEN readers, are talking about what they’re seeing. And that’s a step in the right direction. If everyone clammed up and said nothing . . . well, who knows, maybe the next President would turn out to be an alien, a UFO pilot. And I’m sure a lot of people would say ‘marvelous, why not?’ But would it be better? I doubt it. Like it or not, we earthlings have to be governed by earthlings. It’s like the rule of physics—up is up and down is down—at least on this planet.

Anyway, the fact remains that UFOs exist. Backing that up is one of the world’s foremost space scientists who claims to have proof that UFOs are a most definite reality. According to Dr. Claude Poyer, chief of the exploratory rockets division for the French equivalent of America’s NASA:

“BY application of universally accepted scientific laws, my computered statistics prove beyond all possible doubt that UFOs exist and that thousands of them have landed.”

But Dr. Poyer does not, as so many other believers, know what UFOs are or where they come from or what they want or even what they are. As he says: “For me, there will be no rest until the mystery is solved.”

Mystery is something that UFOs still are. Meantime, the evidence is in. They are there. And until the mystery is solved, well, as the man says, “Ya gotta believe.”