

minutes

MAGAZINE OF NATIONWIDE INSURANCE

APRIL 1967



nuoc mam is a fermented fish
e that is almost the only source
protein for a people who live
ly on rice and other starchy
s. The need for increased supplies
nuoc mam is great, especially
ing refugees, who now depend for
ein on the fats and oils they get
n CARE.

nuoc mam is produced by mixing
e parts of fish and two of salt in
a vats and letting the mixture fer-
t for six to ten months. When
y, it is packaged for the market.
uring the monsoon season when
couldn't go to sea, fishermen had
to start batches of nuoc mam,
they didn't have the money to buy
big wooden vats and other mate-
necessary for volume production.
they formed a co-op and CARE
plied eight vats, at a cost of
20. Four of them are each large
gh to hold nearly 8,000 pounds
sh and 5,300 pounds of salt, and
roduce 4,000 liters of the finished
uct.

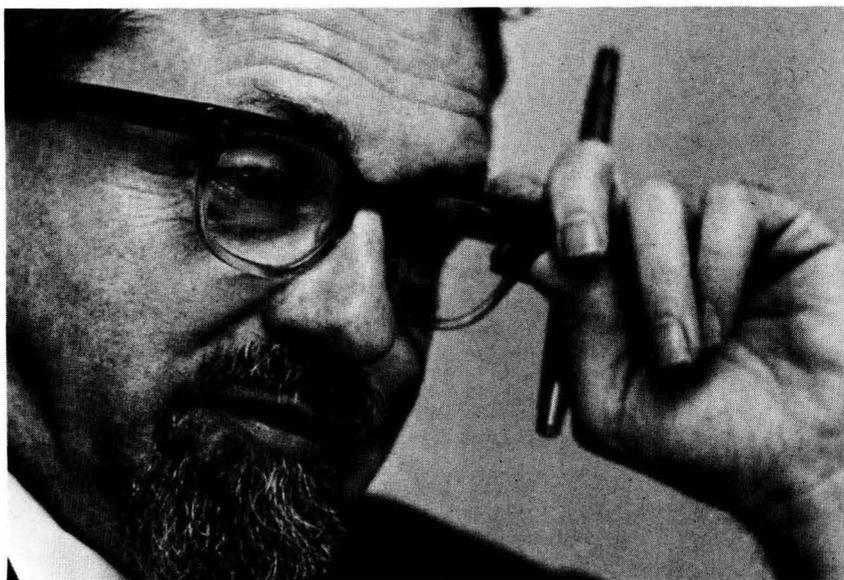
In this case, too, CARE is currently
main customer. For distribution,
sauce will be packed in tins of
e-liter capacity, each tin holding
gh protein to supply a refugee
ly for one month. CARE will
the co-op for the produce, and
handle distribution.

he poultry co-op, the widows'
p, and the Qui Nonh co-op are
cal of CARE projects, but they
only a small part of the total
t. In the last five months of 1966
RE distributed aid to South Viet-
ese in the amount of \$386,000.
the need is still acute.

CARE officials look beyond the re-
of immediate want. The main
ose is to lay a foundation that,
the fighting stops, will enable
people to build a sound and pros-
us economy. ◀

UFO's?

I've never seen one



A Report on the UFO Phenomenon

by J. ALLEN HYNEK, as told to LYNNE BAGNER

WHEN PEOPLE find out I've been investigating unidentified flying objects for the past nineteen years, the first question they usually ask is: "Have you ever seen a UFO?" And I must reply, "No, I've never seen one." Sometimes I jokingly add, "That's some proof of extra-terrestrial intelligence — they've been intelligently avoiding me."

Not having witnessed a UFO doesn't discourage me a bit. I intend to continue studying the phenomenon, and I hope I'm still around when and if the problem is solved.

Man has seen strange objects flying

through the air since Ezekiel's time, but in the past twenty years "flying saucer" reports have reached voluminous proportions. Despite this intriguing body of documents, I was for a long while the only scientist delving into the problem. Because I thought it foolish to ignore a phenomenon which obviously exists, I frequently urged the Air Force and the scientific community to begin a thorough investigation of the subject.

When the Air Force finally decided to authorize research, it had some trouble finding a university which would undertake an independent

study. The University of Colorado bravely agreed. In 1966 it formed a committee composed of physical and social scientists, headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon, to determine whether there is any physical basis to UFO's, and to establish psychological and sociological data related to the phenomenon. In early 1968 the public will learn the first results of their research.

The Condon Committee began its study at a time when sensationalism surrounded the very mention of UFO's. A barrage of books and articles, mostly by journalists, has appeared recently, and a spate of pulp publications now caters to the curious and credulous. Unfortunately, much of what is printed contains more fiction than science.

The most deplorable aspect of this sensationalism is that it creates misconceptions about a serious problem. The public is concerned and wants to know what it can believe. Too often it is led astray by garbled or false stories in the news media.

One example of inaccurate reporting was about an experience I had in March, 1966, while trying to check out a UFO sighting in Michigan. Eerie

lights were seen dancing in a dark, marshy area, but only a few witnesses mentioned an object hovering in the air. I wasn't too excited by the reports; better ones lay dormant in the Air Force files.

When I reached the sighting area, an atmosphere of contagious hysteria prevailed, and it was difficult to make accurate observations. Before I could come to a final conclusion about the lights, a press conference was called. I stated to the reporters that the lights could *possibly* be caused by a natural phenomenon known as swamp gas. Immediately stories across the country declared that I believed UFO's — all UFO's! — were only swamp gas. I'm sure this made more interesting copy than my cautious, but scientific statement. And I immensely enjoyed the cartoons that followed; I have a collection of them.

In a way, the sensational publicity is understandable. Some science fiction stories rather accurately prefigured our explorations of space; now man's imagination has vast new concepts to play with. We have discovered the secrets of nuclear energy and space travel. If there are civilizations on planets outside our galaxy, our

Editor's Note: Since 1948 Dr. Hynek has served as the Air Force's scientific consultant on the UFO phenomenon. He is Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University, and Director of the Dearborn Observatory and of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center.

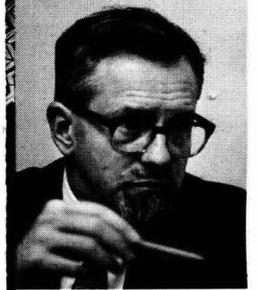
During World War II he was Supervisor of Technical Reports at the Applied Physics Laboratory of the Johns Hopkins University, which developed the radio proximity fuze that played an important role in both the Pacific and European Theaters.

An astrophysicist, he headed the optical satellite tracking program of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, and was scientific director of the Air Force balloon astronomy project known as Stargazer.

activities certainly could draw their attention.

Why, then, couldn't "cercers" come from afar? is that they *could*, but we know. If we did, we would term *unidentified*. All we with certainty is that the nomenon is real, and that solve the puzzle it presents.

We need accurate, publication about the enigma in the



research to everyo it might our enti tion. Th we know radically the resul tigation now onl This sho frighten

— no one was ever Galileo's discovery of st Newton's discovery of g now we suffer from cos cialism, but we should understand everything w our universal environmen

Most people who t UFO's at all have def opinions. Unwarranted founded beliefs, and extre tend to hamper investiga

At one extreme are regard other-worldly in preposterous; most scien in this group. For years, colleagues regarded the s bizarre and embarrassing conversation. It's a relief finally to talk openly with tists. Many of them—sin lishment of the Condon C have admitted being se ested all along.

At the other end of t

dancing in a dark, only a few witnesses subject hovering in the excited by the reports; dormant in the Air

ed the sighting area, of contagious hysteria was difficult to make tions. Before I could onclusion about the nference was called. porters that the lights caused by a natural own as swamp gas. ies across the coun- I believed UFO's — re only swamp gas. ide more interesting utious, but scientific immensely enjoyed followed; I have a

sensational publicity e. Some science fic- r accurately prefig- tions of space; now n has vast new con- h. We have discov- f nuclear energy and here are civilizations de our galaxy, our

as served as the Air O phenomenon. He stronomy at North- Dearborn Observa- al Research Center. rvisor of Technical ratory of the Johns the radio proximity both the Pacific and

cal satellite tracking al Observatory, and e balloon astronomy

activities certainly could be attracting their attention.

Why, then, couldn't "flying saucers" come from afar? The answer is that they *could*, but we just don't know. If we did, we wouldn't use the term *unidentified*. All we can say now with certainty is that the UFO phenomenon is real, and that we must solve the puzzle it presents.

We need accurate, public information about the enigma in the sky. UFO



research is important to everyone; in time it might even affect our entire civilization. The world as we know it could be radically altered by the results of investigations which are now only beginning. This shouldn't be a

frightening thought — no one was ever harmed by Galileo's discovery of sun spots, or Newton's discovery of gravity. Right now we suffer from cosmic provincialism, but we should be eager to understand everything we can about our universal environment.

Most people who think about UFO's at all have definite, closed opinions. Unwarranted fears, unfounded beliefs, and extreme attitudes tend to hamper investigation.

At one extreme are those who regard other-worldly intelligence as preposterous; most scientists are still in this group. For years, many of my colleagues regarded the subject as too bizarre and embarrassing for serious conversation. It's a relief to be able finally to talk openly with other scientists. Many of them—since the establishment of the Condon Committee—have admitted being secretly interested all along.

At the other end of the spectrum

are the "true believers." They *know* that creatures from outer space are trying to contact us, and perhaps take over our planet. They regard science as bilge, and await the full-scale arrival of the space people.

These extreme attitudes have confused and discouraged the public. Now that UFO's are respectable enough for research, I hope more people will take an objective "let's find out" position.

The many misconceptions about UFO's should be debunked, just as I've had to debunk thousands of sighting reports that proved to be birds, satellites, meteors, planes, balloons, kites, hallucinations, and hoaxes. A scientific investigator must discern the true "signal" in the midst of much "noise." In the same way, laymen should learn to sift facts from fantasies.

One of the most common misconceptions is that only "saucer buffs" see and report UFO's. The fact is, very few reports — none of them credible — are made by the "true believers." The really puzzling and reliable reports are from people who either never thought about the subject, or else considered it ridiculous until they had a direct experience.

Most good reports are made by stable, educated people who write articulately about what they observed. Some of the best reports have been turned in by scientifically trained people. Pilots, weather observers, radar men, engineers, scientists, and professors have witnessed the phenomenon. Often their statements were accompanied by requests for anonymity and disclaimers of belief in "flying saucers." Nonetheless, they did observe something extraordinary and unsettling which they could not identify.

Very often the popular image of

a UFO is a multicolored, saucer-shaped interplanetary vehicle piloted by little green men. The myth of the little green fellows is a curious thing. In the thousands of reports I've been privy to, I've never encountered one word about a small *green* man. When humanoids are described, they're usually either normal



man-size, or of the stature of dwarfs, and are clothed in what resembles silver diving suits. I hasten to add that none of these reports has been confirmed.

Many contacts with aliens have been reported, some of them by sincere, stable people like Betty and Barney Hill of New Hampshire. Under hypnosis, this couple told of a traumatic encounter: they were taken aboard an alien space craft and subjected to a series of tests, after which they were released unharmed. I have met the Hills, and am convinced that they genuinely underwent some kind of frightening experience. But I am not prepared to say that they actually met with extraterrestrial beings.

If we are to remain objective, we must be skeptical of contact stories until someone obtains irrefutable evidence of meeting with visitors from another galaxy. The best evidence, of course, would be the visitors themselves — but according to reports, these fellows don't seem inclined to stick around.

Many people think that UFO's are never seen clearly, are always far away and obscured. The files do fairly bulge with vague reports, but the cases worth investigating contain concrete details. By correlating worldwide sightings, we have been able to dis-

cern patterns of UFO activity, and to establish categories of objects seen. Consistent descriptions of size, shape, color, sound, and flight patterns indicate that either the observers have witnessed UFO's with clearly defined characteristics, or that thousands of people have experienced amazingly similar hallucinations.

Scoffers often assert that "flying saucers" have never been picked up on radar or satellite tracking cameras. This is true, but only because "flying saucer" and "unidentified flying object" aren't interchangeable terms. Radar and tracking equipment have picked up a number of unidentifiable oddities. Natural explanations may exist in each case, but we haven't solved the mysteries yet.

Frequently, when the subject of UFO pictures is raised, so is controversy. Many photos of alleged alien craft have been proved hoaxes. I've seen lots of photographs, but to date none has been authenticated, despite news stories to the contrary.

Recently two boys in Michigan took Polaroid pictures of what they thought was a UFO. Some newspapers quoted me as saying that these photos were "obviously not a hoax." What I really said was that the data were inconclusive, and if the photographs were fakes, they were "not an obvious hoax."

Obtaining authentic photographs would be tremendous progress. I always carry a camera in my briefcase. I have suggested that at least one police cruiser in each area should be equipped with a camera loaded with color film, because the police often are the first to be alerted when someone spots a UFO. If the officers were prepared, we might be able to collect a series of pictures that would be invaluable to scientific investigation. The cameras could be used also for

regular police business, which alone would justify the expense.

Another false idea which prevails, despite efforts to correct it, is that the Air Force possesses data which it keeps secret to avoid alarming the public. The Air Force has simply collected reports, and tried to find mundane explanations for each. This effort, I might add, has not always been successful. Cases that couldn't be explained conventionally are still listed as unidentified. The official Air Force position is that UFO's are simply misidentifications of natural or man-made objects. It has no proof that UFO's are not extra terrestrial vehicles; how then could it be suppressing evidence that the opposite is true?

OCCASIONALLY someone interested in the UFO phenomenon will ask me what he, as a layman, can do to help solve the problem. I tell him that he should keep an open, inquiring mind, and avoid joining the cultists who bring disrepute to the subject. His serious attitude will convince others to adopt an objective stand.

He can also encourage research. He could write a few letters to his Congressman, or he might try to win the support of local civic and service organizations in supplying police cruisers with cameras. He should also learn how to take an accurate, informative sighting, on the chance that he might observe a UFO.

It might not sound like much, but these suggestions are important.

A major step was taken when the UFO phenomenon was brought into the domain of scientific research. I do not anticipate that a solution to the bewildering problem will be found soon, but when the discovery is made, it very probably will have been worth the wait. ◀

ns of UFO activity, and to categories of objects seen. descriptions of size, shape, and, and flight patterns indicate either the observers have UFO's with clearly defined stics, or that thousands of ve experienced amazingly llucinations.

often assert that "flying ave never been picked up r satellite tracking cameras. ue, but only because "fly- " and "unidentified flying en't interchangeable terms. l tracking equipment have a number of unidentifiable Natural explanations may ach case, but we haven't mysteries yet.

tly, when the subject of res is raised, so is contro- ny photos of alleged alien been proved hoaxes. I've of photographs, but to date been authenticated, despite es to the contrary.

y two boys in Michigan roid pictures of what they as a UFO. Some newspapers as saying that these photos ously not a hoax." What I was that the data were ve, and if the photographs , they were "not an obvious

ng authentic photographs tremendous progress. I rry a camera in my brief- e suggested that at least one ser in each area should be with a camera loaded with because the police often t to be alerted when some- a UFO. If the officers were we might be able to collect pictures that would be in- to scientific investigation. ras could be used also for

regular police business, which alone would justify the expense.

Another false idea which prevails, despite efforts to correct it, is that the Air Force possesses data which it keeps secret to avoid alarming the public. The Air Force has simply collected reports, and tried to find mundane explanations for each. This effort, I might add, has not always been successful. Cases that couldn't be explained conventionally are still listed as unidentified. The official Air Force position is that UFO's are simply misidentifications of natural or man-made objects. It has no proof that UFO's are not extra terrestrial vehicles; how then could it be suppressing evidence that the opposite is true?

OCCASIONALLY someone interested in the UFO phenomenon will ask me what he, as a layman, can do to help solve the problem. I tell him that he should keep an open, inquiring mind, and avoid joining the cultists who bring disrepute to the subject. His serious attitude will convince others to adopt an objective stand.

He can also encourage research. He could write a few letters to his Congressman, or he might try to win the support of local civic and service organizations in supplying police cruisers with cameras. He should also learn how to take an accurate, informative sighting, on the chance that he might observe a UFO.

It might not sound like much, but these suggestions are important.

A major step was taken when the UFO phenomenon was brought into the domain of scientific research. I do not anticipate that a solution to the bewildering problem will be found soon, but when the discovery is made, it very probably will have been worth the wait. ◀

IF YOU SEE A UFO...

1. Try to remain calm and observant.
2. Note time and duration of sighting, place, direction, and pattern of object's motion.
3. Hold a penny (or matchhead) at arm's length. Does it cover the object entirely?
4. Are the object's edges sharp or fuzzy?
5. If sighting is of a light, *how* bright? (Compared, say, to a street light, or star, etc.) Did it change brightness and color?
6. Did object or light pass behind, or especially *in front of*, something (cloud, trees, etc.)?
7. Note whether sky is clear or cloudy. Is sun or moon visible? Stars?
8. If possible, get other witnesses — and a photograph!
9. Write a narrative account of the sighting. Clearly describe the object's approximate size, shape, color, and sound (if any). Include all details of your observation. If you can, estimate height and speed of object.
10. Send your report to the nearest Air Base, to Project Blue Book at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, or to the local police.

Dr. Hynek has said he would appreciate receiving a copy of any good, detailed report. Statements can be sent to him at the Department of Astronomy, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois 60201.