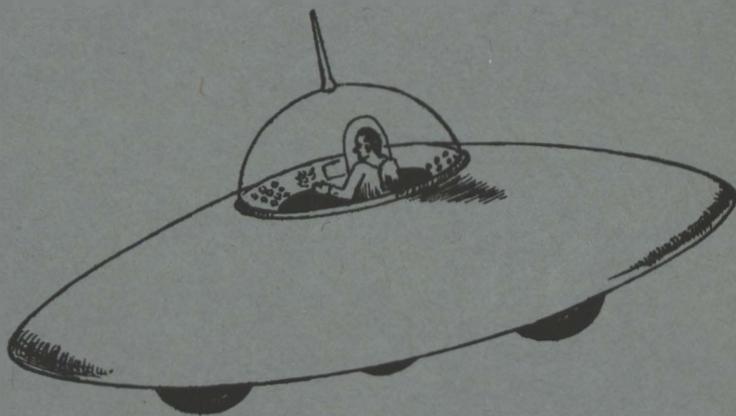


AUSTRALIAN

FLYING SAUCER

REVIEW

VICTORIAN EDITION





Australian

FLYING SAUCER

Review

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EDITORIAL.

The recent publication of the U.S.A.'s National Aeronautical and Space Administration's "Peaceful Space Activities for Human Affairs" suggests that there is a legitimate basis for the governmental policy of silence on UFO and related fields.

The report recommends that "since the consequences of such a discovery (of extraterrestrial life) are presently unpredictable because of our limited knowledge of behaviour under even an approximation of such dramatic circumstances" continuing studies should be undertaken to determine emotional and intellectual attitudes of society to the problem.

This question leads, continues the report, to a consideration of "how might such information, under what circumstances be presented to or withheld from the public for what ends? What might be the role of the discovering scientists and other decision makers regarding release of the fact of discovery?"

This revealing discussion of the psychology of silence by the U.S.A.'s paramount space agency gives weight to the ufologist's frequent assertion that information on UFO's has in fact been subject to governmental censorship (to a greater or lesser degree) since UFO's first claimed public attention in 1946.

To alter current governmental policy, would require convincing the authorities that apprehension concerning the impact on society of the revelation of the full facts about UFO's is ill-founded, which is unlikely in the light of the NASA report. Alternatively, it would be necessary to educate society to the extent that the possibility of the existence of extraterrestrial beings will no longer cause unreasoning fear.

Whichever way may be the easier (and the undertaking of both should not be incompatible) a heavy responsibility rests on all interested in UFO's, to act and speak reasonably and with discretion, lest the cause of the UFO's should be retarded through their excess of zeal.

WONTHAGGI SIGHTING REPORTS.

On Thursday, 19th September, 1963 at approximately 8 p.m. a telephone call came from a man living at Mt. Eliza, reporting that he and his family had watched an unusual object in the sky a little earlier that night. He was not sure of the exact time. The object, about 20 degrees to 30 degrees above the horizon, appeared blood red and was blinking on and off. It seemed larger than a star -- about the size of two stars. It made no sound. The red object was different from the red of plane lights and even if it had been an extra big plane, it would have been near enough to be heard. The object disappeared in a slightly easterly direction.

No other reports came in to us that day, nor the next. However, on Saturday, 21st September, 1963, the Melbourne newspaper "The Sun", reported that at Dudley South, near Wonthaggi in the Gippsland district, an object like an orange ball the size of a beach ball moved slowly across the sky out to sea, on the night of Thursday, 19th September, 1963. It was flashing on and off like an aeroplane, but it was many times bigger and brighter, moving much slower than a plane.

During the 25 minutes that the object was overhead, television sets in Dudley South and Wonthaggi lost their picture (the effect was felt within a mile wide radius).

On Sunday morning 22nd September, 1963, some committee members of this Society motored about 85 miles to Wonthaggi. The first call was made to the Wonthaggi Police Station, where the report was confirmed. We were advised to call on Mr. Tom Gannon, the editor of the local weekly paper "The Express". He also confirmed the report and gave us directions to travel another 2 miles to where we could interview Mr. Tom Lymer, PMG linesman, of Dudley Street, South Dudley, as he was the person who had first made the report.

We found Mr. Lymer very co-operative, and he assembled several other local residents who likewise confirmed the story.

Mr. Lymer had this to say: It was a clear night with no clouds. Children playing outside first saw the object and drew his attention to it. He saw in the west, about a mile away, a large deep orange colored object about the size of a beach ball, which appeared to be perfectly round and blinked on and off at regular intervals of about 1 second. It was at an angle of 45 degrees, was motionless and made no sound. Mr. Lymer watched for 3 - 4 seconds. Then a bright flash came from the front end and the object disappeared. Mr. Lymer searched the sky but could not find it again until the children picked it up over near the hotel, close to his home, from whence it travelled slowly away in a south-west direction towards the sea. Blinking more faintly, it disappeared, taking 4 - 5 minutes. The object gave the impression of having travelled in a

great arc. T.V. sets went off at approximately 6.50 p.m. and did not come on again until 7.15 p.m., but a further 10 minutes elapsed before viewing was back to normal. No T.V. channels made any reference to picture failure.

From the other residents we gleaned this further information. On Tuesday, 17th September, 1963, Des. Pugh, aged 15 years, saw a quick green flash at 9.30 p.m. when he was out searching for a lost cow. He was quite startled and thought something must have blown up. There was no noise and no thunder. The flash was in a north-east direction. Later enquiries revealed that sometimes a type of flare is let off in this area, which could have accounted for the flash. However, Des. Pugh also saw sky objects on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Brian Pugh, 12 years of age, who was the first to see the object on the Thursday night, said that he had also seen them for 4 nights -- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Joyce Pugh, aged 7 years, said she saw 2 objects on Saturday night.

Mr. Chris Jolly, retired farmer, said that at approximately 7 p.m. on Saturday night, he saw an orange-colored blinking light. It did not travel fast, and he would like us to check for navigation lights for fishing boats. He thought it appeared to be an aeroplane light, but only one light blinked and he could not see red or green lights. It seemed to go away at an angle. Mr. Jolly said that his T.V. did go off on Thursday night.

A relative of Mr. Lymer's reported seeing an object on Saturday night. The children said it was even bigger than previously, but not having seen the other objects, this man was unable to make a comparison.

Johnny Water, a student about 17 years of age, said he saw two objects on the Saturday evening. There were a few clouds. This object appeared bright red above the horizon, travelled in an arc and did not stop. It seemed to glow orange as though pulsating, but did not actually go off. The second object came over a bit higher, the same in color and following the same trajectory as the first. He wondered if they were satellites.

In all these reports, the time is about the same - 7 p.m., just before and after. We were told that malfunction in the T.V. sets varied considerably. There were white screens, grey screens, snowflakes, streaky or with lines and two pictures in one, of the same picture (duplication). We did not hear that radio sets were affected, nor did we hear if anyone had the radio set tuned in at the particular time.

Another witness was Tom Ruby, 48, truck driver, who reported to the local editor that the strange object, after hovering

and flashing on and off brightly, moved over to the sea and disappeared.

Later this Society made extensive enquiries from the R. A. A. F. and also the special department of the R. A. A. F. which investigates UFO reports; also the Civil Aviation, the Moorabbin Light Aircraft and the Weather Bureau, in order to ascertain if there were any normal explanations for the object having been seen. The latter department gave details of types of balloons, times they are released, and also the wind directions for the whole of that particular week. With all this, no further light could be shed on the subject. We have since heard that about 60 people saw the object at Dudley South.

On Thursday, 26th September, following a conversation with a reporter from "The Sun", that paper printed another short article, saying that this Society thinks the object was probably a flying saucer.

On the afternoon of 31st October, 1963, Mr. Gannon (editor of "The Express") excitedly telephoned through a report of another sighting which had occurred at 4.15 a.m. that morning and at Dalyston, near Wonthaggi. He intimated that there was no need for us to make another long trip and that he would write up the event in full the following week.

Accordingly, on 7th November, the local paper carried a block-sized heading on Page 3 - "A FLYING OBJECT SHOCKED BREADCARTER" - and continued to this effect:

In pre-dawn darkness, breadcarter Jim Davidson, 28, years, of Hagelthorn Street, Wonthaggi, noticed a slight glow in the sky to his left, which increased in size as it came towards him. When it reached him, it turned and took up his course, staying 100 yards ahead and 80 feet up. It was 8 feet to 12 feet long and glowed orange, except for two tail fin sections at the rear which glowed red. In Mr. Davidson's own words: "It was weird. It was not metallic or any substance like metal; it was more like a cloud. But it was not a cloud". Mr. Davidson followed it for two miles, at times closing his eyes hard to make sure he was not seeing things. It gave him a fright when it moved across the road to his right and continued to pace his bread van. Then it moved further to the right, accelerated up a hill and started to descend. Mr. Davidson went on to say: "I was frightened. I stopped for about 10 seconds. I did not want to go on. Then I realised I had bread to deliver to Nyora and drove on. I expected to see it on the ground over the other side of the hill, but nothing was there. I looked around and several miles out to sea I could just make out a moving orange glow".

At the same time that Davidson made his sighting, two

other bread carters in three mile distant Wonthaggi saw a red glow over Dalyston. They are Frank Coleman, 43 years, of Henry Street, North Wonthaggi, and Norm Veal, 42 years, of Watt Street, Wonthaggi. Mr. Veal said that he thought it was a fire, but it did not give off the skywards glow of a fire. They watched for a while, trying to establish what it was as it was most peculiar. Ten minutes later when they arrived at a higher part of Wonthaggi, they looked again, but could see nothing. When they returned to the bakehouse they learned of Jim Davidson's experience.

The last phase of UFO activity in the district occurred on Friday, 8th November, when a sighting was made at 7.50 p.m. by Ted Colbert, 22 years, auction room clerk, of Broome Crescent, Wonthaggi, and his fiancée, Jennifer Hughes, 17 years, shop assistant, of Wishart Street, Wonthaggi.

As the young couple were driving along the South Dudley Road, half a mile from Bass Highway, a glow over South Dudley attracted their attention. Mr. Colbert stopped his car and the thought crossed his mind that No. 5 mine brace was on fire, but then he realised the orange to red glow was moving slowly. Furthermore, he noticed what appeared to be light rays issuing from the top of the glow. Mr. Colbert said: "We sat hypnotised for a few minutes, before we realised it was moving around the coast. We headed for Dalyston, three miles away, for a better look. At Dalyston we could see only a faint glow, so we drove on to Kilcunda, 4 miles away. At Kilcunda we lost sight of the glow and hurried back to the South Dudley Road. There we could still see the orange-red glow, but it seemed smaller and further away". Colbert added that it was IMPOSSIBLE to explain it. He said: "I do not believe in flying saucers, but I do know I saw something and would like to know WHAT it was".

Colbert told Colin Lamers, grocer, who works next door to him in McBride Avenue, of the sighting. The following night Lamers scanned the sky for 1½ hours with binoculars, but saw nothing.

At Kilcunda at 2.30 a.m. on Monday, a 21 year old motor mechanic, of Wonthaggi, saw an object similar to that seen by Colbert and Miss Hughes. However, fearing ridicule by workmates, he was reluctant to give his name.

Footnote:

We have since heard that 60 people in South Dudley saw the object and T. V. sets were affected in a mile wide radius. We have had other reports from the Latrobe Valley area which produces one half of the electric power for Victoria. This and the mines may be the reason for attracting the objects to this area. It is a well-known fact that they appear around points of scientific interest such

as power-generating stations, atomic plants, launching pads and missile centres.

Sightings:

STRANGE LIGHT AT NORSEMAN. "West Australian", Perth, W.A. 4th Dec., 1963.
KALGOORLIE,

Tuesday - Several people telephoned the Norseman police last night with reports of a possible disabled air-craft after an unidentified lighted object had passed over the town.

A number of Norseman people went to the area where they thought the object might have landed, but found nothing.

A police officer who saw the object was sure it was a meteor.

He said it passed over Norseman about 9.10 p.m. travelling from the south to the north-east. As it neared the horizon it split in two and faded away.

In Perth the Department of Civil Aviation said yesterday that there were no aircraft in the area of the sighting at the time, and no aircraft were missing. It assumed the object was a meteor. Government astronomer, B. J. Harris, said he had not been given enough information to be able positively to identify the object.

THE "THINGS" ARE BUZZING. "Courier Mail", Brisbane, Q. 23rd Dec., 1963.

LAIDLEY - A group of mysterious flying objects yesterday "buzzed" a house at Summerholme, about six miles north-west of Laidley.

The "things" were accompanied by a hissing sound.

They just cleared the roof of Mr. W. H. Geirkie's dairy farm, and plunged towards the ground about half-a-mile away at 7 a.m.

Mrs. Geirkie said she heard a loud hissing sound and ran to the kitchen to see if anything was wrong there.

Outside, her sons Ronald, 22, and Allan, 12, saw "eight or nine" cylindrical objects about 1 ft. in diameter swoop low over the house.

The brothers said the objects were travelling "at a terrific rate". They saw the group of objects disappear into the ground about half-a-mile away.

An all-day search by the family yesterday proved fruitless; they will continue searching at first light today.

NO TRACE OF 'OBJECTS'. "Courier Mail", Brisbane, Q. 24th Dec., 1963.

LAIDLEY - An extensive search yesterday by the Geirkie family failed to find the mystery flying objects which narrowly missed their house at Summerholme at 6.30 a.m. on Sunday.

Ronald Geirkie, 22, and his brother Allan, 12, said they saw metal objects plunge into a paddock about half-a-mile from the house.

Sightings: (Contd.)

LAIDLEY (Contd.)

Ronald said the objects were bright, but not glowing, and one appeared to be 1 ft. by 9 ins. in size, and was travelling slightly lower than the other eight or nine.

The family plans to organise a further search for the objects over the holidays.

Neighbours said yesterday they had not heard or seen the objects.

Most feasible theory on the objects is that they fell from a high-flying aircraft.

SPACE IS GETTING CLUTTERED. "Herald", Melbourne, Vic. 10th Jan., 1964.

LONDON - Thur. - More than 400 man-made objects - some of them "junk" - are now circling the earth.

Many may remain in orbit for hundreds of years, the British Aviation magazine Flight reported today.

Listing the world's total space launchings since the pioneer Soviet Sputnik shot on October 4th, 1957, the magazine said the majority of objects - which included satellites, empty final-stage rocket bodies and metal fragments - were of American origin.

Most of the fragments resulted from the break-up of the United States Navy's Transit 4-A rocket, launched in 1961, and from Soviet planetary bids.

Perhaps, at some time in the future, a meteoroid detection satellite will be launched to determine the chances of a manned lunar space-craft being hit by a long-forgotten piece of man-made junk, Flight said.

LIGHTS IN THE SKY. - "Herald", Melbourne, Vic. 29th Jan., 1964.

Many people telephoned the Herald and the Weather Bureau with reports of colored lights in the northern sky about 12.30 p.m. today.

Weather men said the effect was caused by the sun's rays refracted through ice crystals in high cirrus clouds.

MYSTERY LIGHT A SATELLITE? "Sun", Melbourne, Vic. Date not known.

Scores of people rang the Sun last night to report a light in the sky above Melbourne.

For 20 minutes from about 9.10 the calls came from people at East Preston, Parkville and Ashburton.

Most callers described the glowing light as travelling from north-east to south-east.

Weather Bureau officials said last night that they believed the light was an American Echo satellite which usually showed a bright light. The satellites are used for relaying radio signals.

Mr. R. Minion, of Beatrice Street, East Preston, said: "It was travelling fairly fast and seemed far too high for a plane".

Sightings: (Contd.)

FLYING SAUCERS SIGHTED OVER BAIRNSDALE. "Pictorial News",
Bairnsdale, Vic. 24th April, 1964.

Most people are sceptical about reports of "Unidentified Flying Objects" in the sky, and Mr. Henry Ryan, of Rupert Street, Bairnsdale, was one of them.

Now, however, Mr. Ryan is not at all sure, because he has seen something quite inexplicable.

It was at 9.30 on Monday night, April 13th, when the sky was too dull for stars, that Mr. Ryan first saw a vivid blue flash which seemed to come from two to three miles away in a north-westerly direction.

He watched in amazement for a few minutes while the blue and orange lighted object spiralled towards earth.

He observed that once the object - for want of a better word - came close to ground level, it swung swiftly upwards in an arc to again begin its zig-zagging descent.
UNBELIEVABLE - Naturally enough, he could scarcely believe his eyes. Mr. Ryan said he called his wife and two visitors, Mrs. E. Henderson and her son George, both of Picnic Point.

Mr. Ryan did not have to tell them what to look for. The first thing the three noticed was a brilliant blue flash.

They stood watching for about a half-hour, and the lights spiralled and arced regularly 12 times. After a few minutes Mr. Ryan timed the intervals between the blue flashes, and these occurred every 10-15 seconds. There was no storm that night, and the object made no noise.

It took only 12 seconds for this flying saucer (or call it what you will) to disappear from sight, and Mr. Ryan was emphatic that it travelled faster than anything he has seen.

Four jets, very like vapor trails, but much shorter and in brick and orange colors, appeared behind when the object flew off at about a 45 degree angle, he said.

Mr. Danny Haylock, who is a representative of the Vic. Flying Saucer Research Society, was pleased to hear Mr. Ryan's story. He said people who do see such peculiarities are usually unwilling to admit it, for fear of being thought eccentric or odd.

Mr. Haylock said the society was trying to find enough genuine sightings to form some type of pattern.

So far in Gippsland the sightings have been in a straight line from Mallacoota to Warragul, but still a great deal more co-operation from people who live in this space age is needed, he said.

SURVEILLANCE FROM OUTER SPACE by Paul Norman.

During the past two decades, artificial barriers constructed by orthodoxy concerning outer space have been shattered. Only a few years have gone by now since the prevailing opinion of astronomers was that our solar system was an accident; a sun hurled by our sun resulting in great chunks being pulled from each which became the planets. They reasoned this could only happen

once, consequently this solar system remained a sort of freak phenomenon ---- we were alone in the universe.

Why, now, has this opinion changed to, "we are NOT alone in the universe?" Spectroscopes and meteorites have brought evidence of organic matter from the stars, the study of nearest sun movements reveals their motions can be caused only by the drag of a family of planets.

Most professional astronomers now agree on the possibility that billions of planets throughout the universe support intelligent life, while a few readily accept the mathematical odds that life will find us first, most cling to a pet illusion that earthly intelligence is not surpassed and any intelligent beings in outer space could only be sitting around twiddling thumbs and/or fins. During World War II there appeared in our skies disc-shaped objects which the Axis Powers mistook for Allied craft; at the same time Allied intelligence officers thought the craft were secret weapons of the Axis nations. The craft were too fast for either to overtake. After the war intelligence officials realised these mysterious machines belonged to neither. Since that time every major nation on Earth has organised systematic investigation projects which, according to General Twining, have engaged, "The best scientific brains to solve the U.F.O. mystery". These "best brains", however, remain under tight censorship.

At first, the flying saucers were called "foo fighters" and seemed to concentrate on surveillance of our military 'planes, naval ships, war machines and battle activity. The foo fighters were observed by hundreds of pilots and other military personnel. Former British Air Marshal, Lord Dowding, estimates the reports to be more than 100,000 sightings. Since the war the objects have been observed by witnesses from every walk of life, including astronomers and scientists. These mysterious machines have paced our 'planes, trains, motor cars and ships. They have been observed over games of sport, military bases and factories, but later seemed to concentrate on surveillance of atomic plants, missile centres and launching sites. More recently the objects have been seen pacing man-made satellites, and lastly, our manned space flights.

Every one who follows developments in flying saucer research knows of the photographs taken from the X-15 experimental 'plane over the United States, and more recently the encounter with a flying saucer by astronaut Gordon Cooper whilst over Western Australia during the fifteenth orbit of his flight. Due to the concentration of these strange objects around our space efforts it seems the primary concern of these unknown observers lies within this field. The leading questions among official government investigators are: From whence do they come? Do they view our expanding space efforts with curiosity or alarm? Why are they here? What will be their final action?

Of secondary concern with world leaders is public interest in and reaction to the presence of these unknown craft. What would be the effect on the civilisation of this planet of an official admission that they are interplanetary space craft? The concern of an encounter with beings from outer space led the National Aeronautics

and Space Administration to spend thousands of dollars on a study of reactions of peoples whose civilizations have met for the first time.

The outstanding problems with regard to the flying saucers are attempts to gain more knowledge of the mystery and follow a strict policy of censorship toward the general public.

The secrecy policy is becoming more and more difficult. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the appearance of the objects cannot be controlled or confined to restricted areas by the censors. For this reason witnesses are increasing. It is only a matter of time before the secrecy lid will be blown sky high by either a mass sighting, a landing or official admission.

Meanwhile, as the clues continue to accumulate, more serious private groups are carrying out investigative work and interest and activity in space matters is increasing ---- both the known efforts of Mankind and the activities of an unknown race or races.

The Moon, long declared dead, is now very much alive and is under observation by our largest telescopes. Indications of U.F.O. bases on the Moon continue to increase. The idea of intelligent life on Mars (either native or alien) meets less resistance now while better instruments are being devised for close-up views of these nearby bodies.

In 1961 a Russian astronomer, Nikolai Kozyrev, was laughed at when he reported what he termed 'an eruption' on the Moon. The sneers and smirks are now fading from the faces of the knowing as telescopes are being trained on the Moon to diagnose this claim.

In October, 1963, mysterious spots were observed near Aristarchus, and a close watch was ordered on this crater which is 27 miles in diameter. In late November the spots were seen for a short period again from Lowell and Perkins Observatory of Ohio State University. Were the spots natural or artificial? Were they eruptions or red dust or U.F.O.'s or what?

On September 16th, 1953, a peculiar, bright, yellowish-orange flash was seen on the Moon by Rudolph M. Lippert, a member of the British Astronomical Association. On March 30th, 1950, the late Dr. H. P. Wilkins noticed a weird glow in the Aristarchus-Herodotus region. It was oval-shaped and strangely brilliant: perhaps from some type of machine hovering near the crater floor and emitting a powerful glow? Three months later an almost identical light was sighted at the same spot by American astronomer, James C. Bartlett Jr. What has been described by astronomers as small white hills have been observed to come and go on certain areas of the Moon, which leads one to wonder if the hills are actually domes similar to those designed here for lunar exploration.

Astronomers are studying with increasing interest the peculiar behaviour of the two tiny moons of Mars. This has led to speculation that Phobos and Deimos may actually be space stations hurled into orbit just prior to 1877, the same year as Schiaparelli made the discovery of the geometrical network of lines linking the polar caps.

In 1937 the famous Japanese expert on Mars, Dr. Tsuneko

Saheki reported a strange bright flare on Mars. Two years later, Dr. Slipher of Lowell Observatory reported a mysterious change in the Solis Lacus region, a dark area he described as approximately the size of Australia. The change, he reported, "indicated a new expansion". In 1949, this same Mars expert observed a brilliant glow which lasted several minutes - "To be so brightly visible across millions of miles, the flare would have had to be tremendous". Saheki suggests it might have been an atomic explosion.

There was a sudden increase in sightings of unidentified flying objects during this same year as Mars approached its closest opposition to Earth ---- a logical time for closer surveillance from outer space.

UNUSUAL CLOUD FORMATIONS

This article was written by a member of V.F.S.R.S. who has been connected with studies in atmospheric sciences.

It is an established fact that some of the reports of moving lights in the night sky have turned out to be the planet Venus or Mars. Our vision can be subject to aberrations when it is exercised in the absence of a fixed background.

What are the chances that in daylight, or in the reflected sunshine of the Moon at night, a saucer-shaped object can be seen among common cloud formations or that a camera could record the object exactly as the observer saw it, providing lighting conditions were adequate? As we know only too well, the probability that one individual sees such an object (or a U.F.O. for that matter) generally is very small. The value of reports of all kinds of U.F.O.'s lies in their world-wide statistical coherence as regards shapes, colours, movements etc. So that an assessment of the physical nature of the phenomena or objects can be made, it will be essential that the statistical data be cleansed of all irrelevant sightings, and that also in the future no reports of irrelevant sightings be classified as U.F.O.'s.

Here we shall discuss just one kind of saucer-shaped object in the sky that could (and probably has been) mistaken for a space ship or the like, even by a sincere, if misguided person. The object in question is a particularly well developed and perfectly shaped specimen among a group of wave clouds that in suitable atmospheric conditions form to the leeward of an obstacle such as a mountain top or another large cloud of the cumulo-nimbus type.

The most common among wave clouds are those that lie in the crests of waves produced in the airflow by hills. These clouds are lens-shaped (or lenticular in the terminology of the meteorologist). The air enters the side of the cloud facing the wind and emerges from the other side. The clouds are often solitary and they do not move, or very little, even in strong winds.

One can sometimes observe these clouds, especially during winter and spring, from the Melbourne area looking in the direction of the Dandenongs or Mt. Macedon. The wind must be from N or NW and strong aloft. At times groups of billow clouds occur among

the wave forms. Occasionally an individual wave cloud is cigar-shaped, and if one such cloud was visible just after sunset and other wave clouds were being obscured by ordinary moving layers (stratus) or cumulus clouds, the distant observer could get a fleeting impression of a hovering space ship. However, in these, or similar cases, a close look will reveal that the object is a standing wave cloud.

There are other cases too, when even the most scrupulous observer can be deceived. It can happen that the air stream has shallow humid layers sandwiched between drier layers in which condensation occurs over a smaller area of the wave crest. In such atmospheric conditions a lee-wave cloud can be laminated and assume most striking forms.

Photo. No. 1

The cloud shown here was photographed by a staff member of the Australian Antarctic Research Expedition to Heard Island. It was seen in the lee of the 10,000 ft. conical peak of H.I. (53 degrees S. 73 degrees E.) The base was at about 10,000 ft. and the top at about 20,000 ft. This cloud was 'hovering' at a fair distance from the peak.



Photo. No. 2

In this photo., taken somewhere in England, we see to the left two very large cumulus clouds in the stage of developing into thunder clouds. A so-called pileus (consisting of ice particles) has formed over the top of the smaller of the cumulus clouds. Another pileus, larger and laminated, lies further to the right. This saucer-shaped cloud has a striking resemblance to the lee wave cloud in the photo. above. In contrast to the rapidly upward and side-ward spreading movements in the cumulus clouds, it was practically standing still. It owes its formation probably to the effect of the generally strong wind that increased at this height, the larger thunder clouds acting as obstacles to the strong upper winds.



Readers who are interested in keeping abreast of current happenings in the saucer field may find this list of overseas publications of interest. Subscriptions must be sent to the magazine concerned, not to us.

Flying Saucer Review, 31 Furnival Street, London, E. C. 4.
£1/6/- (stg).

Saucer News, P. O. Box 163, Fort Lee, N. J. U. S. A. \$2.

The A. P. R. O. Bulletin, 4145 E. Desert Place, Tucson,
Arizona, U. S. A. \$3.50.

Orbit, 41 Deanham Gardens, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5,
England. 8/- (stg.)

Flying Saucers, Ray Palmer Ed., Amherst, Wisconsin, U. S. A.
\$2.

The Little Listening Post, 4811 Illinois Av., N. W. Washington
D. C. \$3.

Saucers, Space & Science, Gene Duplantier Ed., 17 Shetland
Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada.

Space Review, Miss Susanne Stebbing Ed., 2 Station Rd.,
Frimley, N. Aldershot, Hunts., England. \$ £2.

FLYING SAUCER RESEARCH AT BALLARAT.

Under this heading, the Melbourne "Herald" recently published the following:

The Ballarat Astronomical Society will invite research workers and scientists from other States to attend or contribute papers or tapes to a public meeting next February on flying saucers.

This was decided after a recent lecture in Ballarat on unidentified flying objects.

The society hopes Ballarat may become a meeting place each year for those interested in investigating flying saucers.

Mr. William H. Sloane, a member of V. F. R. S. and the Ballarat Astronomical Society, has kindly supplied us with the following additional information about this most worthy venture.

FLYING SAUCER CONFERENCE

The Ballarat Astronomical Society has been studying Unidentified Flying Objects for a number of years. The success of Peter Norris's lecture in Ballarat City Library on 15th February, when the hall was more than filled, has encouraged the society to make this an annual function, and to enlarge the gathering to include research workers from other states.

It is hoped for some co-operation from other astronomical societies, and there is evidence of public interest in Ballarat. Any public, or private body, or individual interested in the Flying Saucer problem is welcome to attend, or submit a paper, tape, or

slides. We should all benefit from meeting at this function, and some review may be made of our progress in research into our subject.

It is suggested that groups concentrate on different avenues of research, and this year it is proposed to ask the Darwin Society to submit findings concerning aboriginal paintings of "Moon Totem Men" found in Northern Australia. It is requested that the other groups review the knowledge, or conjecture, on the following subjects.

Victoria	"Occupants of U. F. O."
N. S. W.	"Purpose of Coming to Earth"
S. A.	"Mechanics of U. F. O."
Queensland	"Origin of U. F. O."

It is realised that although present knowledge on these subjects may be slight an answer to these questions is our goal. By meeting and making public our findings, there should be progress in research and an improvement in public relations for those engaged in this important branch of science.

BOOK REVIEW

FLYING SAUCERS AND THE THREE MEN BY ALBERT K. BENDER.

REVIEWED BY I. H. GODDEN.

Those who have read Gray Barker's book, "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers", written in 1956, will be familiar with what is termed the 'Bender mystery'. Barker devoted several chapters to an account of how Bender, the leader of I. F. S. B. (International Flying Saucer Bureau), was silenced by 'three men in black' who revealed the secret of the saucers to him and pledged him on his honour 'as an American' to keep the secret on peril of dire punishment. The assumption was that these visitors represented some organisation of the U. S. government. Bender kept his secret until early last year when the book under review was published by Barker's publishing firm, Saucerian Books. It has since been republished in England.

Thus the reader takes up Bender's book with a thrill of anticipation and eagerly scans its pages to learn the secret of the greatest mystery of modern times - the enigma of the U. F. O.'s. Only a cursory examination, however, is enough to dampen his enthusiasm for it is soon, all too plainly, revealed that this is but another offering from the ever-widening lunatic fringe of saucer research. Let me state immediately that this book is one of the most monstrous pieces of clap-trap yet foisted onto the long-suffering U. F. O. researcher; in short, it is an insult to the intelligence.

What is the 'solution' to the mystery? It appears that the three men in black were beings from another planet. In their natural state they were a particularly revolting type of monster. They assumed human form by carrying off Earth people and making use of

their bodies. Bender is taken to their base of operations on Earth, a vast, underground laboratory beneath Antarctica. Here they engage in carrying out their mission on Earth. The reason they have travelled vast distances across space to this insignificant world is no more nor less than that they wish to steal large quantities of water from our oceans. From this they manufacture a product of such secrecy that Bender is told nothing about it. This massive undertaking is to occupy 15 years (1945-60). Then they were to go away never to return. Bender is sworn to secrecy; he is told that if the space people are discovered they will, "detonate every bomb you have in your stockpiles all over the globe, causing almost total destruction to your planet", and apparently vapourising most of our invaluable sea-water in the process. There is a lot more in similar vein to this; there are even the usual beautiful blondes who find it necessary to remove Bender's clothes for the purpose of anointing his body with a cure for cancer.

What manner of man is this Bender? He tells us, early in the book, how he set up a chamber of horrors in his step-father's house in Bridgeport, Connecticut. For "table ornaments and shelf decorations" he used, "skulls, shrunken heads, bats, spiders, snakes and the like." When he invited a group of friends from work he made use of, "some ingenious devices about the room which dropped spiders into their (his guests) hair." The early chapters contain accounts of various phenomena which Bender was subjected to by the space people before they revealed themselves to him. These included blue, sulphurous-smelling lights, mysterious visitors who stole his U. F. O. documents and a strange bulbous-eyed being who played a sort of game of musical chairs with him in the local picture theatre and frightened him while he was looking in shop windows. As if this arrant nonsense were not enough, Bender's story of why the space people contacted him is the crowning absurdity. In Barker's book Bender made much of the fact that he had stumbled onto the secret of the saucers and was silenced for his pains. From all the evidence Bender was not one whit closer to solving the mystery than anyone else. The interplanetary visitors jeopardised the success of their visit by revealing all to Bender because he was an earnest, average, hard working investigator. The visitors are not reticent about telling how they have quickly killed off any Earth people who hindered their activities. (This point is not elaborated and we are left pretty much in the dark about the details. Why should the visitors reveal their presence here to Bender when neither stood to gain anything by it? A comparison of the material in the present book with Bender's comments to Barker in the earlier one show that he has changed his story considerably since those days.

The book is not improved by an asinine epilogue from Barker, whose main interest in saucers these days seems confined to publishing books by people of similar convictions as Bender. In this epilogue there is much double-talk; Barker says, in effect, that Bender has indeed solved the mystery, and also that he hasn't solved it; that Bender had a real experience, and also that he imagined the whole thing. Barker does not want us to doubt his own courage, "As for the visitors from other planets, I never was

greatly afraid of them personally." I imagine that we are to deduce from this that had the visitors revealed themselves to him he would have shouted their secrets for all to hear without fear of whatever retribution he had been threatened with.

When the truth is finally revealed about the saucers we will KNOW; the truth has a good, clean ring to it. This is something that this book hasn't got.

After the above was written I came across an interesting article in Ray Palmer's "Elying Saucers" magazine (April, '64) called "The Bender Mystery: A Re-examination" by Jerome Clark. Readers interested in what happened to Bender and others are referred to the article.

A READER'S DIARY.

New Books of any value to researchers in the U. F. O. field are rare these days. No new book of any importance has reached us since 1962 when Coral Lorenzen, Director of A. P. R. O. published her perceptive and comprehensive study of the U. F. O. enigma, "The Great Flying Saucer Hoax". During the 1950's when saucer study groups were most numerous and active, and the sense of wonder about this mystery was at its height, there were many books published, but these have steadily decreased in number and these days we get little more than the privately printed mutterings of cranks and other dwellers on the fringes of saucer research. It is interesting, however, to note some of the references to flying saucers that one comes across in one's reading outside the field of U. F. O. literature. Here are some recent ones.

One of the most remarkable books of any kind to appear in 1963 was the translation from French of "The Dawn of Magic" by Louis Pauwels & Jacques Bergier. This book is something in the tradition of Charles Fort and has been called, "an inquiry into the fringe regions of scientific unorthodoxy". The authors devote a laudatory chapter to Fort and his life-long crusade against scientific philistinism. The subject matter of Fort and the present writers is almost entirely dissimilar. Pauwels was, for some years, a disciple of the French mystic and philosopher Gurdjieff and is principally concerned with metaphysical speculation. Bergier's research into alchemy has led to some fascinating conclusions which are expounded here in detail. Both authors fought in Hitler's war (Bergier spent some time in a concentration camp) and this may have sparked off their tremendously detailed research into the mystico-political forces behind the rise of the Nazi party. The most interesting section of this thought-provoking book is that devoted to the nature of the human mind. It is in this otherwise excellent section that two paragraphs (the only ones in the book) are devoted to an attack on 'flying saucers'. According to the authors, "reports (of U. F. O.'s) began to flow in from every country

(sic) "in 1954 following an announcement by the United States Secretary for War that, "The United States and Russia from now on have the power to annihilate the entire world" '. This, then is directly responsible for the "origin of the myth of the flying saucers" which led to, "space-ships from which little men descended to gossip with railwaymen (Bethurium?) and sandwich-sellers (Adamski?)". It seems to me to be a grave pity that men of the u doubted intellectual power of these writers can see no more in the F. S. mystery than, "A significant social phenomenon".

Most readers of this magazine are no doubt all too familiar with the attempts of laymen to 'explain away' flying saucers as a myth along the lines of the French authors quoted above.

I recently came across another example of this in an essay written in 1953 by the American novelist Philip Wylie. This essay is an hysterical attack on the then U. S. Government for its refusal to share atomic secrets with the people of a democracy. His thesis is that the refusal of the authorities to share scientific data with the public leads the latter to form a mythology as a substitute for truth. Wylie goes on to state that this can be proven by the existence of 'flying saucers' and then quotes Jung, Freud, Adler etc. on 'random myths' and 'invented legends'. Wylie has apparently taken the usual explanation for granted without taking a second look at any U. F. O. reports, for he says: "If something is seen in the sky that nobody appears able to explain that "something" begins to "appear" all over the world, in countless forms, doing sifferent things". That is all very well, but what is the 'something' in the sky in the first place. Wylie has apparently overlooked this entirely.

Readers of the ultra-conservative Times Literary Supplement are not often rewarded with references to flying saucers, but recently (5/12/63) they rated a mention. In a short review of "In Mountain Lakeland" by A. H. Griffin, a collection of articles about the high land of the English Lake District, mention is made that one of the articles is concerned with "the Coniston boy who saw a flying saucer". This, of course, is Stephen Darbyshire who, with his younger brother, not only saw the flying saucer but photographed it, revealing a craft remarkably similar to that shown in the Adamski 'photos'. This sighting, which took place a decade ago, must have created a powerful impression if it is thought worthy of inclusion in a book of this type today.