

February 15, 1955

Announcement of Next Meeting

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Civilian Saucer Intelligence is pleased to present a speaker of unusual qualifications for the February meeting. RICHARD VICTOR is Field Service Representative in the Electronics Division of Curtiss-Wright Aviation. He has an extensive background in electronics and aviation, and has been interested in UFO's for more than 16 years. He will discuss the saucers from the viewpoint of aviation and radar, describe personal sightings and others that have been reported to him, and suggest a theory to account for their origin and purpose.

Friday, February 25, 1955 - 8:30 p.m. - PLEASE BE PROMPT

Steinway Hall, 113 West 57th Street, New York City - 6th floor

Summary of January 28 Meeting

Dr. Ivan Sanderson gave an extremely interesting lecture on saucers and other Fortean phenomena, and Mr. Tex Ziegler showed a moving picture of a saucer which he took in December 1952 in Minnesota. A two-page summary of these talks is attached for members. Non-members may obtain a copy of this report by sending 10 cents in coin and a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Marty Meyerson, Secretary-Treasurer, Civilian Saucer Intelligence, 67-90 Groton Street, Forest Hills, New York.

Corrections, Please

In Meyer Berger's column in the New York Times of February 7, 1955, appeared an item about flying saucer fans. Several statements in this story were inaccurate and misleading. First, Civilian Saucer Intelligence does NOT hold its meetings at the Rigberg bookshop on Third Avenue (nor in the Philosophical Research Building). Second, references are made to "the society's New York journal." Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York does NOT publish a magazine of any kind. Mr. and Mrs. Rigberg are not members of the group and the organization has no connection with their "Flying Saucer News"; the magazine is NOT the official publication of CSI. Third, the statement that the group "has a rather strong strain of occultists in it and some wide-eyed teen-agers gripped by space virus" gives a false picture of the present organization and purpose of CSI, which is trying to concentrate in a serious and responsible way on the factual material involving unidentified flying objects.

Frank Edwards

As announced by CRIFO, Frank Edwards is making recorded commentaries for Sunday broadcast. He is sponsored by locals of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. If you want to hear Frank Edwards again in the New York area, write or phone the following locals:

Manhattan: Local 946, 254 West 31 Street, LO 4-4760
Queens: Local 517, 91-16 143 Street, JAMAICA 6-0510
(The union has no locals in the Bronx, Brooklyn or Richmond)

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February 14, 1955

CIVILIAN SAUCER INTELLIGENCE -- Summary of Meeting January 28, 1955

The Secretary, Mr. Meyerson, outlined briefly the plans for meetings and speakers in the Spring program. The Vice-President, Mr. Oksenkrug, then introduced Dr. Ivan Sanderson, the well-known naturalist, author, and long-time student of Fortean phenomena.

Dr. Sanderson pointed out that the generally negative attitude toward "saucers" has one advantage: it forces us to realize that we have actually got very little in the way of tangible evidence on the subject. He recalled that when his grandmother saw an early experimental TV show, in 1917, she found herself unable to comment on it because it was completely outside anything she had ever experienced before.

He said that he too believes the saucers themselves - that is, the disk-shaped UFO's - may be devices of our own government or some other nation. A popular opinion at present is that they come from outer space. But these saucer-shaped devices do not complete the list of unexplainable phenomena. Many other unauthorized objects are flitting about the skies - cigar shapes, torpedo shapes, spheres, cylinders, and things seen only as lights of various colors and kinds. Charles Fort did a magnificent job of collecting reports of such "inexplicable" sights. He has few references to saucers specifically, but many references to other floating objects. Dr. Sanderson mentioned that one of the earliest stories of a cigar-shaped UFO seems to be in the Old Testament, where Elijah is described as "taken up to Heaven in a fiery chariot." The original text says, however, that the prophet was swallowed by "a great fish belching flame from its fundament."

Thus we have a vast collection from the past, constantly supplemented by current reports, of things that seem to have no place in the orthodox world of events. Therefore if we find ourselves stumped, in studying the saucers, by having little or nothing concrete to work on, we can turn to related areas.

Dr. Sanderson stated his belief that there does exist in nature some means of transporting objects from one place to another without the use of any known force and described two cases of such teleportation that he had observed personally, both on the island of Sumatra. Visiting a wealthy resident who lived at one end of the island, he found himself one of a number of guests for dinner on the first evening of his visit. During dinner he and others began to notice that tiny stones, about the size of BB shot, were appearing on the white tablecloth, rolling across it, and dropping to the floor. When curiosity finally overcame conventional politeness, and the guests asked what was happening, their host gave them the following facts. The stones fell every night after sunset, and in greater number when guests were present. They never struck a person, a dish or glass, or anything else but the tablecloth. The guests had to be careful when leaving the dining-room, however, not to step on any of the stones - several people had slipped and fallen that way. The stones could be seen falling for a short distance above the table (about two or three feet), but could never be observed above that point.

After dinner the host took them outdoors and showed them the accumulated pile of stones, swept up every day by the servants during the years since the phenomenon began and deposited on a heap that was now about three feet high and twenty-five feet long. The geologists had found only one place in Sumatra where stones like these could be found - near a volcano in the center of the island, where similar material was found in sizes from sand to huge boulders; this was about 400 miles away.

The other example, which we have not space to report in full, occurred on a rubber plantation at the other end of Sumatra, at an earlier date. This also involved the mysterious appearance of stones.

Scientists are now discussing the theoretical results of exceeding the speed of light - which may prove after all to be possible (scientists by the dozen used to prophesy that no plane could ever go faster than sound). One theory involves "time dilation" - a stretching or shrinking of time on one side of the "light barrier" relative to the flow of time on the other side. Some very curious effects might be expected if we could travel faster than light - among them, "appearances" and "disappearances" like those reported in many UFO sightings. There are natural laws on earth that we know very little about, and it is quite possible that these phenomena may eventually be explained in terms of the effects of faster-than-light travel.....To sum up: Dr. Sanderson feels that the hypothesis that UFO's come from outer space is by no means the best one; they may come instead from "outer time."

Dr. Sanderson then introduced Mr. Tex Zeigler, who showed an intensely interesting short movie of a UFO. Mr. Zeigler has been a lecturer, commercial airlines pilot, hunting guide (in Alaska), and newsreel cameraman; he took the movie in December 1952, while driving at night, on a lecture tour, between Duluth and Minneapolis. He and his driving companion, noticing a brilliant red light in the sky, got out of the car. The light could NOT have been a star or planet; it was in the wrong place and was too large (later study of the film indicated the diameter as about 40 times that of Mars). Mr. Z. set up his camera on a tripod, firmly on the cement road, and took 35 ft. of film at 8 frames per sec. (run at CSI at 16 frames). He used a 3" lens.

The film showed a glowing light, of the apparent size of a half dollar, changing from red to white and pink, sometimes elliptical and sometimes round. When round, a blue central spot could be discerned; this seemed to remain almost constant, the surrounding lighter area pulsating. (Size, shapes, and the central darker spot are confirmed under a magnifying glass, Mr. Z. stated.) The object had seemed quite high, but he had no way of estimating its altitude with any exactness.

Most remarkable, the light several times vanished from one part of the sky to appear in an instant somewhere else. Mr. Z. said the distance covered in any one of these "jumps" had not seemed more than 6-8 degrees of arc, and the total area within which the object moved no larger than 8-10 square degrees. No motion was visible between jumps; but Mr. Z. thought that if the film had been taken at 64 frames p.s. and run off at 16, some motion might be detected.

He and his friend watched the light for about half an hour, then left because of the cold (30 below). It was still there when they drove away, and other cars had stopped to look at it. He saw no reports in local papers about the object. No blow-ups have been made from the film. The film has not been shown to the Air Force.

Mr. Zeigler said further that in June 1951 he had watched a similar performance on a radar screen, on the Coast Guard icebreaker Icewind, in the Bering Sea. For an hour the UFO radar pip made jumps between East Cape, Siberia, and Alaska. At times the object could be tracked "slowly" - that is, it would leave several separate pips in a straight line, covering a large part of the 800-mile screen, in 2 seconds. Then it would vanish and reappear at another place on the screen.- For technical reasons the distance could not be determined. Visual confirmation could not be attempted because a heavy fog was over the Bering Sea. The Air Force at Nome said "no aircraft in the vicinity." A report was sent in by the Icewind, but no one ever learned what became of it. In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Zeigler agreed that the object might have moved between radar pulses; this would have had to be at a very high speed, though nowhere near the speed of light.

After thanking Dr. Sanderson and Mr. Zeigler for their extremely interesting talks, the Vice-President adjourned the meeting.