

CIVILIAN SAUCER INTELLIGENCE OF NEW YORK

Members' Meeting, April 28, 1955, at 67 Jane Street

Twelve members were present. James Moseley, CSI President, announced that he was leaving early in May for a two-months' exploration trip in South America. Mr. Meyerson, the Secretary-Treasurer, announced that the speaker for the next meeting, which would be open to the public, would be Dr. J. Gordon Veeth. (See detailed announcement enclosed.) The meeting would be on June 3, and would be the last open meeting of the current season.

Ted Bloecher described the research program being carried out by himself and Isabel Davis. It involves listing in a card index all UFO reports described in books, magazine articles, saucer publications, and newspaper accounts, as made available to the researchers, as well as personal unpublished accounts. The card has space for all the pertinent data in each sighting, and for listing all the sources and references to each case. A total of more than 2000 cases is expected when the carding is complete; to date more than 1000 cases have been carded, representing about half of the printed material now on hand. When possible, additional material will be obtained from witnesses by correspondence.

This index should eventually make it possible to prepare a number of lists, tabulations, and statistical analyses of reports. It is impossible to foretell whether any patterns will be revealed, but even the absence of pattern may perhaps be significant, if proved.

The research has recalled a number of interesting "early sightings" - that is, reports made between 1940 and mid-1947 (when Kenneth Arnold made his "trigger" report, June 24, 1947). Mr. Bloecher described a few of these briefly, including the wartime foo fighters, the Swedish ghost rockets of 1946, the Byron Savage sighting over Oklahoma City in May 1947, and the Sahara desert sighting at Oualien in 1942.

Copies were distributed of the CSI "Check List for UFO Sightings," and members were urged to use it in reporting their own sightings and those of others. The research notebooks, and samples of the completed cards, were circulated for the information of members. Mr. Moseley also circulated for inspection a new English book, Flying Saucers and Commonsense, by Waveney Girvan - unfortunately not yet available in this country.

Four interesting unpublished UFO sightings were reported by members. John Du Barry told of a report he received by mail while he was with True magazine, in which a bright light was observed that raced across the sky, horizon to horizon, in about 10 seconds. Yeaman Condict related two accounts. The first, which was told to him in October 1953, concerned the daytime sightings of an object that followed a private airplane; the pilot took color movies, which had not been turned over to the authorities. The second was the experience of a young couple from the Bronx who were driving at night in the summer of 1954 when they saw a lighted object. They thought at first it was the moon until they noticed that it seemed to follow them. They stopped their car; the object stopped also, then went vertically into the sky. CSI members asked Mr. Condict to try to find the observers in both these cases, which had come to him second or third hand, and get full details directly from them. Miss Davis reported a 1946 sighting near Syracuse, New York, by an exceptionally careful observer; two young men in an open car saw a silvery cigar-shaped object in the sky. It remained completely motionless for two minutes, then vanished suddenly and completely.

A twenty-minute film showing some of the history of rocket and jet airplanes, "Jet Propulsion," produced by General Electric, brought the meeting to an interesting conclusion.