

CIVILIAN SAUCER INTELLIGENCE OF NEW YORK  
c/o Lex Mebane, 138 West 92 St., N.Y. 25

CSI NEWS LETTER

Why The Pussyfooting?

Several times recently friends or members of CSI have commented on the omission of witnesses' names in reports of sightings printed in the News Letter; may we point out that the absence of names in no way alters the data contained in the reports. The persons involved have requested anonymity and we are complying with their wishes; the point is that we have their names on record and we know that what they've reported is factual and reliable.

But it has gotten us to thinking about the reasons behind the repeated requests for anonymity; it suggests an unhealthy trend. In nine years of UFO appearances, confusion still reigns and people continue to be intimidated into silence. For nine years the press has done little (save for a few notable exceptions) except ridicule the subject. In nine years of study, the Air Force has retained a sphinx-like facade, preferring not to confirm positively either the genuine existence of such objects or their final and unquestionable non-existence. The reluctance of official investigators to commit themselves one way or the other has left the door open to a far more assertive group, the lunatic fringe, which has come forth with stories ridiculous and misleading; as long as this group is encouraged by official silence, the observers of genuine UFO phenomena will continue to request anonymity.

We cannot expect any change of official policy in the near future; nor can we afford to let the crackpots make a further travesty out of the subject. It appears to be up to each sober UFO witness and every responsible researcher to come forth and state his case clearly without fear of ridicule; anonymity is not the solution to the problem.

-Ted Bloecher

Recent CSI News

Members' Meeting: On February 11th a members' meeting was held at the home of the Sec'y-Treasurer, Lex Mebane. 26 members were present and Marty Meyerson, who had just returned from a trip to the west coast and Hawaii, was scheduled to discuss his investigation of several unique UFO incidents. Due to the unforeseen pressures of a new job, he was unable to attend, although he did give us some details concerning the material he'd collected prior to the meeting; this was discussed briefly at the meeting. (He was fortunate in obtaining first-hand data of extreme importance, including details on the Hawaiian cases mentioned briefly in the January News Letter. Details of these cases are included in the section devoted to recent reports.) Members also discussed other recent first- and second-hand observations of UFO's that had come to their attention. The results of CSI's investment in Burrelle's Clipping Service were covered and the newspaper reports that have been received were reviewed in detail. It appears, from the number of news accounts received, that sightings have been gradually increasing, beginning about January 20th and continuing through the date of this issue; at least the papers appear to be carrying more reports. News clippings of sightings average about 8-10 per week at present, although many of the reports seem questionable, and lack sufficient detail to be conclusive. Also discussed was the practicability of organizing a lending library for members; Maurene Chenoweth, one of our newer members, Librarian at Long

Island University, said she would head a committee to work out details for a proposed library. Another project considered was a telephone alert system, to be used in case an intensified UFO visitation develops over the metropolitan area. Many saucerites feel that 1956 will be a big year for UFO appearances and a detailed plan for alerting members might prove to have some practicality, in spite of the many problems involved. The members were in general agreement that some organized attempt is better than none, and Ted Bloecher will work out a suggested plan for such a system and present it at the next members' meeting. All those who are willing to cooperate are urged to attend this meeting. (Date to be announced.)

March Meeting: Members will be notified either of a public meeting (if a worthwhile speaker is available), or of another members' meeting.

#### Other News

Forthcoming Books: In our last issue we asked about details concerning Frank Edwards' book; here they are: My First Ten Million Sponsors, published by Ballantine Books, will appear on March 12th. The hardcover edition will sell for \$2.00.....The date of publication for Gray Barker's They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers (University Books) has been postponed until May 10th.

Recent Books: Ruppelt's Report On Unidentified Flying Objects is of unique importance: it gives an insider's story of the Air Force's UFO investigations and much other information hitherto unpublished. Recommended qualifications: everyone must read this. Over 50 reviews have come to us through our clipping service; rather surprisingly, most of them are favorable. Ruppelt verifies many of the original points Keyhoe brought forth in his books and we're slightly puzzled as to Ruppelt's occasional digs at the latter. Both Ruppelt's and Keyhoe's books are now available to CSI members at a 40% discount: \$2.10 for Keyhoe, and \$2.70 for Ruppelt. Call either Isabel Davis, CH 3 6021, or Lex Nebane, SC 4 4613.

Miscellaneous: One of the March issues of the Saturday Evening Post will have a saucer article by John Kobler; it will probably be another attempt to debunk saucers, this time focusing on the "crackpots".....The New York Daily Mirror carried an incoherent series of articles on UFO's in its February 19-23 issues.....The New York Times Book Review for February 26th carried three letters protesting J. Leonard's review of Ruppelt, Keyhoe and Wilkins: one was from our Sec'y-Treasurer, Lex Nebane, one from Prof. Charles A. Maney (head of the Physics Dept. of Defiance College, Ohio, and a member of CSI) and one from Harold Fulton of New Zealand.....Another triple hatchet job by Siegfried Mandel--bad, but not nearly so bad as Leonard's--appeared in the Saturday Review, Feb. 25--accompanied by remarks from Keyhoe, Ruppelt, Wilkins, Lienzel and Jackie Gleason(!) Since Keyhoe's contribution was shorn of two vital paragraphs of data(verified by Keyhoe during a recent phone conversation with CSI), Gleason's actually makes the best impression.....Those of you who are home during the daytime ought to get into the habit of listening to Paul Harvey, a newscaster broadcasting out of Chicago. Hear him weekdays at 1:30 p.m. over WABC, and Sundays at 6:15 p.m., same station. He carries UFO reports fairly frequently.

Additional Summary Reports of Recent Meetings: Additional copies of Keyhoe's 22-page Summary Report are available at 25 cents per copy while they last; Summary Reports of Ted Bloecher's talk are available for 15 cents(8 pages).

Reports of Recent UFO Sightings

September 22, 1955: More details on the cylindrical object seen over Hickam Field, Oahu, mentioned in our last News Letter, were brought back from Hawaii by Marty Meyerson; the object was seen visually and tracked on several radar sets at 7:30 p.m. Apparently a huge device, it was travelling at 1700 mph, according to calculations worked out by triangulation, at 32,000 feet. It was seen by many and described by some as "sausage-shaped." Apparently there are no photographs, as first reported.

December 9, 1955: A confirmation of the sighting over the Jersey marshes (News Letter No. 1) has come from a woman who lives in Boonton Township, N.J., some 18 miles away. She told Ted Bloecher and Lex Mebane, at a meeting of the North Jersey UFO Group in Morristown on January 19th, that after supper on Dec. 9th, her husband called her out to their terrace, which commands an unobstructed view of the New York skyline. They both saw a bright blue-white, elongated object above the Empire State Building and slightly to the right. It was slowly descending toward the ground; after several seconds, they saw it suddenly "blink out as if its lights had been turned off." By that time it had descended well below the skyline. At this distance the object appeared too small to see the two "windows" described by the former witness; but the brilliance of the light emitted from these "ports," as described by Wm. S., would account for the differing color noted by the Boonton couple. (You'll remember that the first report described it as green.) These details were given to Lex and Ted before any mention was made of the Wm. S. observation.

December 17, 1955: An object was seen streaking across the sky near Fort Worth, Texas, moving so fast that no definite form could be made out, but giving the impression of a streak with two white lights, one behind the other. It was seen from the corner of 10th and Houston Streets in Fort Worth, at about 5:10 p.m., the sky being dark blue and clear. The observer was walking northwest and the object crossed from her right toward the left, or from the north toward the southwest. It was moving in a straight trajectory "low enough in the sky so as to appear above the lamp posts but on a line with the tops of the office buildings which were 30 stories high." After the object had travelled 100-150°, it seemed to explode in a brilliant blue-white flash with an almost simultaneous after-glow of dark red-orange. The object vanished with the flash. There was absolutely no sound, although the witness waited, listening for it. It appeared to the witness as though the streak had "squashed" against an invisible barrier in the sky, telescoping into itself rather than truly exploding. The observer was Miss Sidonie Coryn; details were made available by her mother, Mrs. Mary Coryn, a member of CSI.

January 7, 1956: More details on the UFO "landing" in Honolulu were supplied by Marty Meyerson upon his return. Army Sgt. William Wannall and six members of his family watched a beautifully colored disc-shaped object hovering over the St. Louis Heights section of Honolulu at about 7:55 p.m. The disc appeared to have a red center and changed colors about the rim, from green to yellow to white. It was estimated to be 1500 feet above the ground and about two miles away. It hovered over the same area for twenty minutes, swaying slightly back and forth, changing its position relative to the observers who, with the aid of binoculars, could ascertain its true disc-shape. When an unspecified aircraft flew near the area at 8:15, the disc sank toward the ground in an isolated section of St. Louis Heights, where it remained motionless for another twenty minutes. Suddenly it shot into the air and streaked off toward Koko Head,

leaving a shower of red sparks in its wake. Seen by dozens of Honoluluans as it streaked off, the shower of sparks was apparently very spectacular. The following day, a group of 15 people, including Marty, investigated the area in which the object had been seen to land; they found a small area where the cacti were scorched on their upper surfaces. Marty also interviewed at least a dozen people who had seen the object as it ascended and streaked off across the island.

January 11, 1956: Hawaii was again the focal point of UFO visitations. At 11 a.m. a disc-shaped device was clearly seen hovering off the Oahu shore in the vicinity of Hickam-International Airfields. According to the report obtained by Marty, there was a radar confirmation along with the visual reports. Jets were scrambled immediately with complete disregard of normal air traffic at International Field, but the object had departed by the time the jets were airborne.

January 18, 1956: At 11:45 p.m. Mrs. Betty Allen, of Cranford, N.J., was driving near Plainfield when she saw a red-orange, oval-shaped object high in the sky. According to the details in her letter to CSI, it appeared very large--about the size of a silver dollar held at arm's length. It took a minute or two to disappear into the distance on a WNW course.

January 21, 1956: A disc or globe-shaped object, very similar to that just cited, but 49 hours later, was seen over Walden, N.Y. at 12:40 a.m. by Mrs. Jessie Fleury. Looking like a "big orange moon", it glided smoothly in a north-westerly direction until it disappeared from view over the Shawangunks. About ten minutes later, Mrs. Fleury saw a jet plane streaking through the sky in the same direction; however, military and defense agencies in the area admitted no knowledge of any flying object in the area. (Walden, N.Y. Citizen-Herald, January 26.)

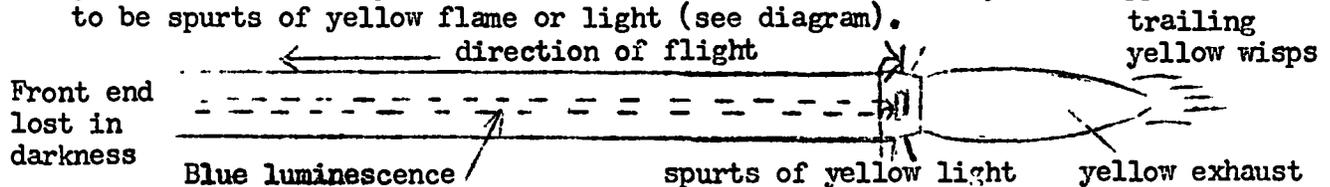
January 21, 1956: Captain J. W. La Belle and 3rd Officer P. Kanellos, of the S.S. Excalibur, were steaming from Norfolk to Baltimore when they saw a brilliant meteor at 3:39 a.m. It first appeared about  $355^{\circ}$  true (slightly west of due north) at an altitude of  $15^{\circ}$  from the horizon. It moved westward (sic) with increasing intensity and at midpoint through its arc of travel, it commenced trailing a reddish-orange tail which remained visible until the meteor disappeared on a bearing of  $020^{\circ}$  true, at an altitude of about  $5^{\circ}$ . Visibility was clear and the wind was NNW at 4 mph. Ed. note: the westward direction is questionable since the object moved across the northern sky from a bearing of  $355^{\circ}$  (slightly west of north) to  $020^{\circ}$  (north northeast). (Notice to Mariners, Feb. 18 issue, Section VI. This is an official U.S. Navy Department publication.)

January 21, 1956: Taking into account the alleged mistake in direction in the above mentioned case, we have from Baltimore a confirmation of this sighting. An unnamed witness was driving north in his car about 3:45 a.m. when he saw a distinctly elongated object, "like a V-2," and as big as a full moon, moving from west to east and falling toward the ground at a  $15^{\circ}$  angle to the horizon. The front and underpart appeared a brilliant green and it trailed a yellowish exhaust. (Baltimore Sun, Jan. 22.)

January 21, 1956: In Clifton, New Jersey, two bakery workers noticed a "large blue ball of fire with a white flashing tail" at 4 a.m. No further detail is given in the account that appeared in the Passaic Herald-News. This may have been the same object seen from Maryland; if so, this wide visibility is suggestive of a true meteoritic fireball.

January 22, 1956: In Clearwater, Florida, a bright white object was seen flashing in from the Gulf at 7:27 p.m., losing altitude at a 30° angle. The object abruptly levelled off, and disappeared toward the east in ten seconds. Many reports were received from Gulf Beaches and Upper Pinellas. (Clearwater Sun, Jan. 23.) The same object or fireball was reported in St. Petersburg and Largo. Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth C. Walker of Largo saw a bullet-shaped object speed through the sky south of town. It had a white head while the rest of the object, which had an apparent size of three feet, was colored "much the same as a fire hydrant." (Anyone know what color fire hydrants are in Largo, Florida?) (Largo Sentinel, Jan. 26.)

January 22, 1956: Pan American Airlines flight engineer Robert Mueller, flying direct from Houston to Miami, saw a UFO flash from horizon to horizon in some six seconds. The time was 8:30 p.m. and the aircraft was abeam New Orleans at 20,000 feet on a southeast heading. The object travelled from the south in a north northeast direction some 20° above the aircraft's flight level. It was a moonlit night with only wispy cirrus clouds. The object appeared to be long and cylindrical with a blue luminescence running along the side; it emitted a bright yellow flame or light behind it, which left trailing yellow wisps in its wake. The front end of the object was not clearly seen. Toward the rear of the device, there appeared to be spurts of yellow flame or light (see diagram).



Mr. Mueller described the UFO as being "very large" and is now another converted skeptic. The object flashed out of sight before he could draw the other crew members' attentions to it. He was seated in the co-pilot's place at the time. The details of this case were secured from the witness by Bill Nash of Miami, and passed along to CSI.

January 24, 1956: A "balloon" hovered for 18 hours over Bayou Lafourche, La.; witnesses said "it never moves, goes up a little maybe, down a little, but always comes back to the same place." It appeared to be at an altitude of 1000 feet. A pilot circled it in a light plane and gave as his opinion that it was "some kind of a balloon." (New Orleans Times-Picayune, Jan. 27.) Meanwhile, a "mysterious phenomenon, variously described as a 'streak', or a 'flash'", was reported from Mobile, Alabama, according to a brief UP account in the N.Y. World-Telegram & Sun, January 26th. This sighting occurred on the morning of the 26th.

January 26, 1956: A two-pound chunk of "clinker" smashed the windshield of Mr. John Watson as he drove on the Pulaski skyway. Investigated by CSI member August Roberts, a piece of the object was obtained and it was definitely established that the "clinker" was not meteoritic.

January 26, 1956: In Toledo, Ohio, Mrs. Leslie Harroun reported seeing a silvery, silent, pancake-shaped object larger than an airplane. (Toledo Blade, Jan. 28.)

January 30, 1956: A bright light was seen hovering over Long Island Sound high in the sky for 45 minutes, at 11 p.m. A stormy night, high winds rule out a balloon; reports came from North Shore residents and several hundred people in Stamford, Conn., according to the N.Y. Mirror of Feb. 1. One observer was CSI member Mrs. Florence McLorn, of Massapequa, L.I., who said she had watched it for ten minutes when "suddenly it wasn't there."

February 3, 1956: In Great Barrington, Mass., an object "tentatively identified as a weather balloon," after drifting slowly for 45 minutes, was observed by J. Gordon Holt, assistant editor of High Fidelity magazine, to "shoot off over the northeastern horizon in about two seconds." Some reported a second object. (Pittsfield Berkshire Eagle, Feb. 4.)

February 3, 1956: In Somers Point, New Jersey, between 7:30 and 8 p.m., a couple saw a bluish-grey luminous disc with brighter spots, hovering and darting back and forth. "At one time it was almost above me, then it moved away and looked like a light burning out. Then it would dart across the sky with a bright light in front and a glow following it. Sometimes there would be a bright light in the center. Sometimes it would go straight up in the air..." (Atlantic City Press, Feb. 7.) This object was also seen by some teen-agers in Belleplain, who watched it for ten minutes and said it was "round, fuzzy at the edges, and had a dark hole in the center, like a doughnut," and by two women in Somers Point, who "vigorously denied it could have been a searchlight reflection" and who hypothesized that it may have been "created by electricity in the telephone wires." (Vineland Times-Journal, Feb. 9.)

February 8, 1956: Another silvery-white object was seen at St. Petersburg, Fla. (cf. Jan. 22); this time it crossed the sky from east to west, then returned in the opposite direction, followed by jets. MacDill Airbase denied all knowledge. Mrs. Robert Hoyer, a former airplane spotter, described it as brilliant and star-like. (St. Petersburg Times, Feb. 9.)

February 9, 1956: At Redondo Beach, California, a "ball of fire" was reported to have fallen into the water 75 yards offshore. Witnesses could see the reflections of the object on the water surface, but when some men rowed out to the spot where the object had submerged, the light went out. Divers went down after daybreak and found a small Army battery-operated signal light. (Los Angeles paper, Feb. 9-10, 1956.)

February 8, 1956: Three or four bluish-luminous objects circling back and forth were seen from Pleasureville & Harrisburg, Pa., about 7:30 p.m.; similar to the Somers Point case, it was explained by the weather bureau as searchlights on clouds. (York Dispatch and Harrisburg Patriot, Feb. 9.) Similar reports came from Longport, N.J., at 6:15 p.m. (Atlantic City Press, Feb. 9.)

February 22, 1956: Over E. Rockaway, L.I., a "tremendous disc" was seen by the mother, previously a skeptic, of CSI member Mary Lou Gillespie. It appeared over a low-flying airliner, first as a "slanting dark line"; then, flipping over, it was seen to be a light-colored, thin disc, with a darker edge. It moved in a semi-circular arc, then shot off toward N.Y.C., leaving a red-luminous trail. The observer called Mitchel Field, but the officer she spoke to, a Lt. Neubauer, was so sarcastic that she gave up the idea of reporting details to him. The disc was seen shortly before 3 p.m.

February 23, 1956: In the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, Army Sgt. George Pierce watched for 15 minutes the maneuvers of a blue-luminous disc similar to the Somers Point ones. It emitted a "loud rumbling noise, like a plane in trouble" and left a white smoke trail. It seemed to circle around Idlewild Airport and then headed back toward the East River. (N.Y. Journal Amer. 2/24.)

February 17-18, 1956: Radar sets at Orly airdrome in Paris tracked an unknown for four hours; twice the size of an airliner, the object made 2000 mph bursts of speed. A visual sighting was briefly made by the pilot of an airliner coming in for a landing at 11:55 p.m. (N.Y. Herald-Trib. Feb. 21, 1956.)

## The Operators of the Saucers

Lawrence Barth \*

The "creatures" aspect of the saucer problem is, of course, too inconclusive for discussion in more than very generalized terms. First of all, let's recognize that many people who believe that saucers are extra-terrestrial feel a little "funny" about discussing such creatures seriously. Part of the reason lies, I think, in the term "little men" itself; it has associations with vaudeville midgets, with elves, gnomes, and other mythical folk. Accordingly, I think we should settle on "creatures" or "beings" instead.

Probably the principal reason for our uneasy approach to the puzzle is simply our fear of having to adapt our whole lives to something so wildly new and different as beings from another planet - organisms that may not only be very unlike us physically but may also have a psychology completely out of line with ours. For instance, the apparently friendly attitude of some saucer operators may be merely a detached scientific curiosity, like our own attitude toward non-pathogenic microbes. If planes and men that have disappeared without trace have been abducted by saucers (as seems possible), this action would apparently point to such a psychology.

In addition, we fear for our intellectual reputations if we discuss these creatures and formulate ideas about them on the basis of our present information, which is still meagre. One way to avoid this attitude is to keep before our minds this reasoning: if extra-terrestrial saucers exist, they were built by intelligent beings, and even if remote control of the craft from their home planet is possible, the greatest probability is that the creatures would ride in them personally. If we accept the saucers' existence, it is completely logical to expect that they will carry the creatures who built them. So if someone exclaims, "Saucers, of course! But Little Men? What nonsense!" we should ask, "Does your car ever drive around town by itself, with no one at the wheel?"

We need to examine the various "creature" tales and decide, on a very conservative and careful basis, which of them seem highest in authenticity. One essential is to get the greatest possible amount of detail in each story. For if we have thirty details of a story, and only one looks phony and all the rest logical, then the one bad datum may be an error and the story should rate high in probable validity; but ten or fifteen phony-looking details would almost surely disqualify it. Another check-up, as Ted Bloecher has pointed out, is to look for details that a hoaxer would not be likely to invent because they would not seem startling enough for a fabricated story. Commonplace, undramatic, even trivial details often carry more conviction - though of course dramatic events shouldn't be automatically discredited. A third essential check-up is to seek character references for the sighter.

Taking those few cases that seem most authentic, we then compare them, point by point, as to the physical details of the creatures, the times, places, behavior, and so on. From such a comparison new insights may emerge. It might also be helpful to find out what physiologists and astronomers have said about why the human body is built as it is, in relation to the earth's gravity, atmospheric composition, and other factors; and what body form might develop on another planet with different conditions, such as Mars. Life on Other Worlds, by H. Spencer-Jones, formerly the Astronomer Royal of England, presents such data (Mentor Books, 35 cents). Information of this kind might give us clear-cut leads as to the planet that might be the birth-place of a specific type of saucer creature.

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\* Lawrence Barth is the pen name of a professional writer who is a member of CSI. Following the meeting of January 28, at which saucer landings and "little men" were discussed, he was led to contribute these provocative comments.