

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

CSI NEWS LETTER

What About Keyhoe?

Recently it seems to have become fashionable in some UFO circles to ignore Donald Keyhoe or to belittle his contribution to saucer research. The most glaring omission is in the new movie, "Unidentified Flying Objects" (mentioned in News Letter #3). In this film, although it is excellent in other respects, Keyhoe is conspicuous by his absence; according to the film, the first nation-wide wave of interest in saucers broke in 1952, when Life published an article on April 7, and Look published one on July 1.

This of course is completely misleading. These articles were indeed important, but more than two years earlier, in January 1950, True magazine published "The Flying Saucers Are Real," by Keyhoe - the results of the extensive investigation Keyhoe had made for True, the investigation that led Keyhoe himself to accept the extra-terrestrial theory of the origin of saucers.

He was thus the first professional aviation writer to commit himself publicly in favor of this theory in a magazine of national circulation. (Fate had been launched, in 1948, with a number of saucer articles, but Fate is a specialized magazine with a limited audience. Sidney Shalett's articles in the Saturday Evening Post of April 30 and May 7, 1949, followed the Air Force line of explaining the objects away.)

Keyhoe's article aroused immense interest all over the country; that issue of True is said to have sold over two million copies. Keyhoe's professional standing made it impossible to shrug off the article or dismiss it as crackpot stuff.

From then on Keyhoe continued in the frustrating and difficult job of saucer research. He wrote many more articles, for True and other publications. He has lectured before many civilian and professional groups - lectures of high quality, as CSI members and friends know. He travelled widely to make personal investigations of new sightings. His two later books, Flying Saucers From Outer Space (1953) and The Flying Saucer Conspiracy (1955), gave other saucer researchers great quantities of valuable information, much of it not available elsewhere.

But today some UFO researchers seem willing to forget how much they owe to Keyhoe, and how fortunate they are that a man of his qualifications came to accept the extra-terrestrial hypothesis. No one without aviation experience and many personal and professional contacts in aviation, both military and civilian, could have obtained this information in the first place. No one without experience in journalistic writing could have presented the story of his investigations, and his conclusions, in such a way as to arouse the interest of the general public.

Most important of all, it required a man with the courage of his convictions to come out so strongly in support of the extra-terrestrial theory. Every saucer researcher knows there are many professional and technical people who accept this theory privately but are afraid to risk their personal and professional reputations by saying so out loud. Keyhoe was not. He went out on a limb before anyone else did, and he has continued to conduct a vigorous campaign ever since, without any pussyfooting.

Of course his books aren't perfect. (No one will ever write the perfect UFO book.) But their defects are trivial compared to the solid stuff they contain - the specific, concrete, thoroughly-checked details of hundreds of sightings by top-notch observers. Nor are we saying that any writer is so sacred that he should be protected from any honest criticism. But recent criticism of Keyhoe seems to concentrate wholly on unfavorable points, with no recognition of his immense positive contribution; and some of it is very petty indeed - hardly more than a derogatory sneer, with no substance at all.

Many other investigators and writers have recently brought to light much other valuable material. This is no excuse for disparaging Keyhoe. Over the past seven years no other one individual has done as much as he has to make the whole subject of flying saucers "respectable," and therefore to make the work of other researchers possible. If he had not broken the trail, the entire subject might today be regarded as completely crackpot.

- The Editors

Recent CSI News

Barker Meeting: On May 26, CSI members and guests had the pleasure of listening to Gray Barker discuss the events in his book, "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers," amplifying the material with events that have taken place since the publication of the book. The CSI mailing list had been supplemented for this meeting with the list of University Books; as a result, the lecture was much afflicted by crackpots, and one man who was obviously clinically insane insisted on telling of his past and future "contacts," to the enthralled delight, we are sorry to say, of a large minority of the audience. The report of Mr. Barker's interesting talk will be available to members shortly.

Members' Meeting: On Saturday, June 2, a members' meeting was held at the home of the Sec'y-Treasurer, Lex Mebane. Under discussion was the formation of a Program Committee to handle next season's series of meetings. All of those present at this meeting were in agreement that the program for next year will be organized, by necessity, on a more modest scale. Costs involved in organizing large-hall meetings and disappointment at small turnouts do not justify the work involved with big productions. Bruce Lansbury generously volunteered his services as Chairman of the Program Committee, and during the summer, a tentative itinerary for the coming season will be set up. Also serving on the committee are Vincent Franco, and Steve & Bea Roman. A general discussion followed and light refreshments were served.

Special Report on Hopkinsville "Landing": Readers will recall the reported landing of last August 21 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, at which time a number of small humanoid creatures allegedly besieged a farmhouse full of people. On Monday, June 11, Isabel Davis went down to "Hoptown" and spent the rest of the week making a thorough investigation of the report. She returned to New York the following Saturday armed with extensive notes, drawings and photographs. In her opinion, the events took place as reported, although minor details were at odds with some of the published material about the case. Among the rumors she was able to scotch immediately was the yarn about the family's "mysterious disappearance" shortly after the incident - they had not been spirited away either by the Air Force or "little men from Mars." Miss Davis could not establish definitely that more than one creature at a time had been seen; nor were they the fabled color "green." A full special report will be compiled for members and made available shortly. In the meantime, a special members' meeting will be held at which time Miss Davis' investigation will be covered, and all questions answered. (See announcement following.)

PLEASE NOTE:

Announcement of Special Members' Meeting: On Monday, July 9, at 8:30 p.m., a special members' meeting will be held at the home of the Sec'y-Treasurer, Lex Mebane, at which time details of the Hopkinsville investigation will be given by Miss Davis. We hope those members who are seriously interested will take advantage of this meeting. Directions: 138 West 92nd Street is a brownstone front 1 1/2 blocks west of Central Park West. Amsterdam Ave. bus (uptown) stops at 91st, IRT Broadway subway at 91st and 96th St.(express). Climb stoop and ring bell.

CSI Financial Status: The Financial Statement for the season just ended is enclosed for members. If there are any questions, please get in touch with the Sec'y-Treasurer.

Books: Aimé Michel's "The Truth About Flying Saucers" is now available for members at \$2.40, a 40% discount over list price....M. K. Jessup's 379-page almanac of UFO events during 1955, "The UFO Annual," was published early in June by Citadel Press. This magnificent collection of data is a must for all UFO researchers and sells for \$4.95 at all bookstores....A limited number of Gray Barker's Saucerian Review, covering major UFO events of last year, may be purchased from us at \$1.00. This interesting collection contains, among other things, an investigation of the Hopkinsville affair by Jackie Sanders, Eastern Editor for Barker's Saucerian.

UFO NEWS

UFO Spotters' Alert: Derek Dempster, editor of the British Flying Saucer Review, suggests an interesting project in the March-April, 1956 edition of his publication: two days during the summer months have been set aside for a concentrated observation of the skies by all who are interested in the UFO enigma. No results can be promised, but if the project has the cooperation of all those anxious to contribute something to serious research, the effort may possibly turn up some positive results. The two dates selected by the editor of the Review are June 30 and September 1; it's been suggested that the observer arrange to watch for no more than two or three consecutive hours sometime during the day or evening since any longer period will prove fatiguing. Also, it will be wise to have one or more companions to accompany you during your watch. Cameras, binoculars and telescopes should be used, when available. We hope all CSI members will participate in this project; if there are any positive results, turn in full details promptly to either Lex Mebane (SC 4 4613), or Ted Bloecher (TR 9 3099). Any and all reports will be compiled and sent on to the editor of F.S. Review. If you are interested in learning more of this excellent British bi-monthly publication, get in touch with Bruce Lansbury, the American agent, 55 West 92nd Street, N.Y.C. 25.

Movie Reviews of "UFO": The Clarence Greene-Russell Rouse film opened in New York on June 12 at the Mayfair Theatre to an excellent set of reviews by the city's seven major papers. Archer Winston, of the Post, said: "This is a sober documentary. The obviously amateur acting of some of the people...adds to the impressions of reality and detracts little from the intrinsic drama of the events." A. E. Weiler, of the Times, was left with "an impression of restrained documentation that is instructive and sobering." The Herald Tribune reviewer felt it would be "hard to believe anyone will come away from this movie without scratching his head. It is baffling and fascinating."

UFO Fiction on TV: On Wednesday, June 20, at 9 P.M., Kraft Theatre (Channel 4) presented a drama called "Flying Object at 3 O'Clock High", by DeWitt Copp. The plot concerned the "kidnapping" of an Air Force jet by a UFO, and the Air Force's attempts to hush up the affair. Although the play went off the deep end during the last act, showing the pilot returned by the UFO in a dying condition, up to that point it was outstanding in its adherence to reality. The Kimross case and the angel-hair phenomenon were referred to. The Air Force was depicted (following Keyhoe) as knowing all about the extraterrestrial nature of the saucers, but paternalistically keeping it from the public's knowledge. The acting was on a decidedly more convincing level than that in the Greene-Rouse film. Mr. Copp and Kraft deserve our thanks for a well-done job showing knowledge and taste. Probably its qualities were lost on the public at large, if we may judge by Jack O'Brian's review (N.Y. Journal-American): he found it "an extended Space Cadet caper."

Theory of Saucer Propulsion: Jean Plantier's small book, "La Propulsion des Soucoupes Volantes" (Mame, 1955), was published a year ago but has just been brought to our attention by Lee Munsick of the North Jersey UFO Group. It is now available to C.S.I. members in our lending library. (Requests to borrow UFO books should be addressed to Lex Mebane, since the Librarian will be on vacation until September.) Plantier earnestly examines the consequences of assuming that saucers are propelled by some force acting on their atomic nuclei, so that inertial effects are circumvented (a hypothesis, if our recollection is correct, first invented by E. E. Smith in his early space-opera classic, "The Skylark of Space.") The theory is science-fiction rather than science, because it is not made clear what the thrust is applied against, but to his credit Plantier does his best to satisfy objections in some acceptable way. For French-reading members this is well worth examination. (It is a more adequate presentation than that given by Michel.) Rather extensive and striking deductions are drawn. An appendix lists 28 cases, many new. An English translation will be available very soon.

The New "Dust-Mop" Theory of Flying Saucers

Our colleague, Mr. James W. Moseley, whose Saucer News is one of the most intelligent and enterprising of all saucer periodicals, has now unveiled what he calls "The Solution To The Flying Saucer Mystery" (Saucer News, June-July, 1956.) This is the revelation for which "irrefutable documented evidence" was promised for the November, 1954 issue of Nexus (the former name of Saucer News.) But instead of the anticipated "startling data", there appeared in that issue these sinister words: "The documents referred to are no longer in my possession, and I am not at liberty to make any further reference to them...I would like to advise all flying-saucer researchers to be extremely cautious in dealing with certain phases of the Saucer Mystery." This mysterious warning caused some concern at the time, though since it was not specified what "phases" required caution, it is probable that it had little effect in practice. Since that time Jim Moseley has been renowned, or notorious, for his resolute adherence to the "government-device" hypothesis, which virtually all other well-informed students of the problem have discarded. Nettled by the criticism that this unpopular position has brought him, he has now "decided to take a big chance, and publish some of the information I received back in 1954." Saucer News should be consulted for details, but the tale unfolded by Moseley is briefly as follows:

Unknown to the public, radiative contamination of the earth's atmosphere has reached a very dangerous level, because not only bombs, but also secret non-bomb tests which "got decidedly out of hand", have been contributing to it. However, there is not only secret contamination, but also secret decontamination, going on.

This is done by what we know as flying saucers. The type of saucer involved is manufactured and flown from a super-secret underground base in the Southwest, and is sent out all over the world to mop up atmospheric radiation. It is powered by an atomic engine which converts atomic energy directly to electricity (a secret discovery) and uses this electricity in some manner to produce "an entirely new and previously unknown type of propulsion" (another secret discovery of profound importance.) There is a special branch of the government that carries out these operations; its existence is known to very few. Project Blue Book's investigators knew nothing of it and never discovered the truth.

The radiation "absorbed" by the saucers is converted to electrical energy and released to the air, "overloading it with electricity", which accounts for various abnormal weather conditions of recent years.

These "mops" (as we may call them for brevity) are remotely controlled. They are capable of the silent, super-fast flight in the atmosphere so characteristic of flying saucers: they reduce air friction to a small fraction of the normal by simply ionising the air in front of them.

There are also other kinds of earth-made saucers: manned discs, and cigars, which use a different method of propulsion.

"I have proof," he declares, "but it is of such a nature that I do not feel it advisable to identify it here."

There is no doubt that Moseley believes firmly in the truth of this tale, which evidently came to him as a "leak" from someone he considers highly reliable. As he points out, a situation of this sort would account nicely for the "shush-ups" of certain saucer researchers by mysterious quasi-official agents, as described by Gray Barker. Indeed, he fears that he himself may get into trouble for revealing the fearful secret. (Note: we understand that his anxiety on this score seems to have been unnecessary: nothing happened.)

UFO students would probably do well to take all this with a saucer of salt. "Inside dope" is notoriously unreliable: on investigation, "professors" and "great geophysicists" have been known to turn out to be restaurateurs or professional swindlers. Something like that may be suspected here, because the story as it stands bears the marks of pseudo-science. We have submitted it to professional physicists for their opinion; in the meantime, the following points may be made:

(1) It is alleged that the level of atmospheric "fallout" radiation is much higher than is generally known. But this is not something that can be kept a secret; measurements of airborne radiation are very frequently published. Those who measure it consider that it is all accounted for by known bomb tests, and corresponds well with expectation. At the present time it amounts to only a few percent of the normal and inescapable "background" radiation (due to cosmic rays and radioactive elements in the earth) which human beings have always received. (See N.Y. Times, June 13, 1956.) This fact alone suffices to remove all plausibility from the "mop" story. The National Academy of Sciences recommends that radiation exposure be held below 0.33 roentgen per year; at present, we are receiving an average of 0.27 roentgen, of which only about 0.003 roentgen comes from atomic contamination, as compared to 0.15 roentgen from natural sources. Yet this insignificant contribution is supposed, according to the "mop" story, to have provoked a technical enterprise of incredible advancement and unprecedented secrecy. The story was clearly invented by someone ignorant of the actual radiation levels.

(2) Radiation, as such, cannot be "absorbed", except in the same way that light is absorbed by a black object. (It seems likely that the concocter of the story was not aware of this.) The only sensible interpretation would be that the saucers sweep up the radioactive dust and gases of the fallout clouds, in the fashion of air-conditioners or vacuum cleaners. But to sweep large volumes (cubic miles) of sky clean with flying vacuum cleaners only thirty feet in diameter is a preposterous program. It is like setting a mouse to drink up a lake.

(3) We are asked to believe that not one, but several amazing discoveries in physics have been made, and secretly developed to a high technological level as

early as 1947. Yet all of this amazing scientific advance and industrial enterprise has remained for nine years undiscovered by "open" science, and unsuspected by the Air Force's saucer investigators. Is this a credible proposition?

(4) We are asked to believe that these utterly secret devices are being flown over populated places both here and abroad. The improbability of such behaviour needs no underlining. It is explained that this desperate risk is taken because it is "necessary", since the need of decontamination is so acute. We have seen under point (1) that this is not true.

(5) It is alleged that the activity of the saucers has increased the frequency of thunderstorms. There has been no such increase.

(6) It is alleged that the saucers virtually eliminate air resistance by ionising the air. Unfortunately, in actuality this would not produce the desired effect.

(7) It is obvious, and is admitted by Moseley, that there are many authentic observations--the Hopkinsville landing, for example--which cannot be reconciled with a "dust-mop" identification, or indeed with any terrestrial-origin theory. Can a theory which has to exclude such cases--even supposing that it were true--be properly called "the solution to the flying-saucer mystery"?

And if such cases are authentic, which is the more plausible alternative--that most flying saucers are of a similar sort, or that (as Moseley must argue) these cases have no connection with the true and typical flying saucer?

Now, it is not impossible that the rumour "leaked" to Jim Moseley may have a factual foundation of some sort. We must presume that the military agencies of this nation are carrying out many enterprises held secret from American citizens--though probably not from the Russian government. But the particular allegations made in the "mop" story--quite apart from the fact that they fail to account for flying saucers--are beyond rational credence. They bear the stamp of fiction. Mr. Moseley owes it to his readers to examine more critically the credibility of his sources.

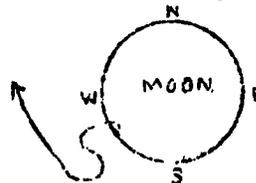
- Alexander D. Mebane

Corrections on the Merkel Crash: The date of the tragic crash of Lt. Col. Lee J. Merkel's F-51 Mustang occurred on January 31, 1956 - not January 9, as was erroneously printed in News Letter No. 3. The commander of the Air National Guard unit at Louisville plummeted to earth near Harrodsburg, Indiana, at about 3:30 p.m. Witnesses in that area reported that the plane was flying very low and sounded as if it was in trouble; one woman saw "pieces of the fuselage in the air" as it flew overhead. The pilot's "dismembered" body was found some 30 yards behind the wreckage of the plane, his red and white parachute strung out beyond that point. Apparently the plane had exploded at low altitude and nosed sharply into the ground; most of the forward section was buried into the earth, and only one wing and the top of the wreckage were visible. Fragments of the wreckage were scattered over a quarter mile area. No confirmation of a UFO intercept mission has yet been definitely established. However, on the date originally given (Jan. 9), numerous Indiana newspapers carried extensive reports of five or more lighted UFOs observed by GOC personnel and numerous residents over several sections of the state on the previous day. One further note: Merkel will be remembered as one of the pilots scrambled to investigate a UFO (later alleged to have been a high flying balloon) over Louisville on November 12, 1954. (See Len Stringfield's C.R.I.F.O. Newsletter - now ORBIT - for December, 1954.) The details concerning the Merkel crash come from the Daily Herald-Telephone of Bloomington, Indiana, February 1, 1956, and the Louisville Journal Courier, February 1 & 2, 1956. The Louisville Times of February 27, 1956 carried statements of military officials at the ANG unit in Louisville, in which they attribute Merkel's crash to "oxygen failure." General Philip Ardery said: "We have evidence to indicate that the oxygen regulator might not have been functioning properly..."

RECENT SIGHTINGS

January 8, 1956: At 4:10 p.m., CSI member Benjamin Rashkoff, Jr. saw from the roof of his apartment house in Long Island City a white object almost directly overhead, apparently at a very high altitude. Unlike a star, it was not luminous. When observed through 10-power binoculars, it appeared as a chalk-white disc, "as large as a pea," with a very sharp edge. The object was also observed by Mr. Rashkoff's wife. As he watched it through the binoculars, the object appeared to "fall apart," and what had at first been seen as a disc now appeared as a cluster of many smaller objects without any formation or pattern. The smaller objects continued to multiply and spread apart, and at least 27 were counted before they grew too numerous to follow. There were four or five larger objects around the outside of the smaller objects, which grew fainter as they became more numerous. The smaller objects could not be seen with the naked eye. After about 10-15 minutes, nothing more could be seen. The observer guessed the height as 40 - 60,000 feet. There were no clouds in the sky at the time. (Comment: Possibly a large balloon at high altitude; under certain conditions, providing the temperature is cold enough, the plastic bag of the balloon can become brittle and burst. However, no pieces of plastic were reported to have been found--TRB.)

About January 24, 1956: During a telescopic observation of the near-full moon (using a 60-power eyepiece) at 4:15 p.m., John Conroy, of New York City, saw an object, "about the size of a pinhead," rise from the area of the Cordillera Mountains, apparently from Mare Grimaldi, on the terminator, and execute a tight turn against the background of the blue sky. (See diagram.) The velocity of the object, if actually at the distance of the moon, was of course incredibly high. This interesting lunar observation was reported directly by the witness to the CSI researchers.



March 19, 1956: The following observation is quoted directly from the report by the witness, CSI member Mary Gomola: "...at approximately 7:30 p.m....the sky was clear and visibility unlimited. I was riding in a car near the Crestwood Station in Tuckahoe (Harlem Division of N.Y. Central R.R.) when I noticed a bright orange-red light in the western sky. The object was to the south of Venus and lower on the horizon (circa 30 degrees above the horizon). The object appeared larger than Venus, as I compared the two in the sky. The object was not moving, but I cannot be certain (of this) because I was in a moving vehicle. As we approached Tuckahoe proper my view of the object was obscured by buildings. When we reached a point where I could see clearly again -- the object was gone. (It) was in view for about four minutes."

April 5, 1956: Several members of a celestial navigation class at Harlingen Air Force Base in Harlingen, Texas reported seeing a "bright orange circular shaped object with a bright white aura" moving across the night sky from a point below the "tail" of the big dipper. It followed a straight course southeastward until it disappeared into the distance, traversing two-thirds of the whole sky in 30 to 40 seconds. One of the observers, who reported the sighting to the local paper, was "sure it wasn't a star or a meteor or a plane." Intelligence officers, who questioned the men extensively the following day, concluded that "what the men saw must have been a large meteor." The account appeared in the Harlingen Valley Morning Star of April 7. (Comment: description, speed and direction agree with a "procellional" fireball, though certainly not with any other kind of meteor--ADM.)

April 16, 1956: Two Lexington, Kentucky patrolmen, James Perkins and Bert Williams, reported seeing a small, pale-red object in the western sky at about midnight. Williams called Perkins' attention to it while they were on their beat, and they watched the object gradually grow larger until it appeared "about the size of a basketball." The men drove in the direction of the object, keeping it in sight at all times. After about five minutes, it suddenly disappeared, and left a glow in the sky for a few seconds. Perkins described it as "perfectly round" when first observed, then changing to an "ellipse" and then back to a circle once more. The report was printed in the Lexington Herald, April 17. (Comment: Venus set in the west at 11:16 p.m. at that place and date, though this hardly sounds like Venus--ADH.)

May 3 - 8, 1956: Observations of flights of unidentified lights were made by local GOC members of Pueblo, Colorado on six successive nights. On Monday night, May 7, Sgt. Gilbert Nelson, of the Air Force Intelligence Squadron at Colorado Springs, went to Pueblo to investigate: between 9 p.m. and midnight, he saw six faintly luminous lights fly over at great speed. "They were dull, more or less fluorescent glows, faint, but bright enough to see. Most of them were triangular in shape, but one was round and brighter than the rest." It was his opinion that all the lights but this one could have been birds flying over with the lights from the town reflecting on them. The round one appeared to be itself a source of light, rather than a reflection. The objects were visible only five or six seconds. No direction of flight was indicated. Captain Vincent Flintery, of the Colorado Springs air defense filter center, said he knew of no plans to investigate the objects by intercept aircraft. The Air Force did report that on Tuesday night (May 8), a team was sent to Pueblo to investigate the sightings, but gave no report of its findings, if any. Flintery gave Carl D. Bryan, county civil defense director, "no indication of what the objects might be, nor did he tell us what the Air Force knew about them." Bryan reported that the sightings ceased on Wednesday night, when nothing but meteors could be observed. Reports were received of similar objects being seen near Wetmore, Colorado. References: Unnamed Denver paper carrying AP wire service account, dated May 10 (sent to CSI researchers by an anonymous contributor); Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, May 10; and the Pueblo Star-Journal, May 10.

May 4, 1956: A minimum total of 24 unidentified objects were seen flying over Marinette, Wisconsin by the Reverend Charles Burmeister and his son, Jonathan, age 13. An amateur astronomer, Pastor Burmeister was observing the planets through his 'scope at 8:30 p.m. when he happened to glance up toward the zenith, and with unaided eye saw about five orange "blobs of light," in a shallow U-formation, move westward at a high rate of speed. They disappeared over the western horizon in about five seconds. He estimated their height to be about 30 - 40,000 feet - no basis for estimate given. No sound was heard. About three minutes later, two more lights flashed across the sky in the same direction, and in another three minutes, nine more. He then summoned his family, and he and his son watched first one, then six other objects, all proceeding westward. Single objects were again seen at 9:30 and 9:55 p.m. All of them were viewed with the naked eye. Pastor Burmeister, familiar with aerial observation, ruled out all natural explanations as unable to fit the description of the objects he saw, although he remains skeptical about "flying saucers." The account was printed in the Marinette Eagle-Star, May 5. (Comment: this would look like a typical processional - fireball case if only the direction of movement were southeastward and the velocity slower--ADH.)

May 16, 1956: A glowing, rapidly-moving object was seen by a Woodstown, New Jersey building contractor, Charles L. Locuson, at about 10:15 p.m. Returning to Woodstown from a visit with a relative, he first noticed an orange-red light streak across the sky in a northerly direction; then it veered westward toward the Delaware River, and then southward toward Delaware Bay. He stopped his car and got out to watch. He described the glow of the object as similar to "an electric arc" such as would be created by the spark plugs of an automobile. It moved "like lightning," he said, traveling in a zig-zag, or jerky, manner. He watched the light's maneuvers for six minutes before it finally disappeared from view. The account appeared in the Salem (N.J.) Sunbeam, May 22.

May 17, 1956: At 6:30 a.m., several persons living in South Bay, New York (on the east shore of Lake George) saw a saucer-shaped metallic-appearing object "apparently encircled by a rim-like affair" hovering over nearby East Mountain. Mr. & Mrs. George Winchell, Charles Green, and Jesse Harris watched it "for some time," until it suddenly disappeared. The report appeared in the Glens Falls (N.Y.) Post-Star, May 18.

June 11, 1956: A relatively bright white light, similar in color to the light from an incandescent bulb, was seen by five CSI members about 9:40 p.m. over Brooklyn. The light appeared at a 45° elevation in the west southwest, bearing northeast toward the zenith. It moved at the speed of conventional aircraft at average altitudes, and moved in a wide arc near the zenith in a north, then west heading. It kept circling, moving south and finally disappeared in the southwest at an elevation of about 30 - 40°. No sound was heard. All observers had a chance to watch the light through binoculars, and at no time were any conventional navigational lights seen; although the binoculars increased the size of the object, no further definition could be made out. The light was in view for about a minute. The observers were Bruce Lansbury, Vincent Franco, Ted Bloecher, and Steve & Bea Roman; the observation was made from the home of the Romans at 66th Street and 7th Avenue in Brooklyn. (Comments: Light could not have been a lighted balloon - its movement was too smooth and determined. Not a meteor, for obvious reasons. Possibly a high flying plane carrying special type of large bright light, though absence of navigation lights appears to rule this out - such lights would certainly be visible through 6-power binoculars--TRB.)

LANDING ON LONG ISLAND?

A Detective Story

At 4 p.m. on June 4th, Isabel Davis received a phone call from someone who alleged he had seen a UFO "land" in the vicinity of Hempstead and Hicksville, Long Island. He said that he had been driving along Northern State Parkway at 12:15 a.m. on June 4th, from Hempstead to Hicksville, when he saw a bright bluish-white light about one to two degrees above the horizon. It appeared to grow brighter and dimmer, being more bluish when bright; although bright, its edges were fuzzy. It oscillated in a straight back-and-forth motion. Then it suddenly descended rapidly into a wooded area.

There were no houses nearby, and the witness stopped his car along the Parkway and climbed a fence with a "No Trespassing" sign on it. The light could be seen at all times through the trees - he insisted that it was at least 200 feet in diameter. About 700 yards away from the light he became conscious of "an intense heat," and had the feeling that he was unable to get any closer - "like a wire was holding me." As he watched he heard a sound - at first similar to thunder - then a "crashing, like trees." Immediately, the light went out.

He hurried back to his car to fetch a flashlight, and took it back to the wooded area where the light appeared to have been. He found a circular section of the grass, 250 feet in diameter, flattened down; no traces of burning could be found, nor was there any depression in the ground itself. It had taken him about five minutes to go back to the car for the flashlight and return to the spot; the entire incident, from the moment he first saw the object, had lasted about 15 minutes. There was absolutely no sign of the object itself when he had returned.

He tried to use the phone at a home nearby, but was refused; later (exact time not specified), he called Mitchel Air Force Base and spoke to a Captain Doyle, who told him that they already had a couple of reports (whether of this particular incident or another was not made clear). According to Miss Davis' informant, Captain Doyle said: "We know what this is all about; forget it. You'd just get alot of publicity. We have our reasons."

The caller said that he was with the GOC in Hempstead, and previously had four years of experience at an unspecified Air Force control tower. He didn't believe in "flying saucers" until this incident, but "after last night, I don't know what to think."

The report sounded good, except for one thing: the informant didn't leave his name. However, he had promised to call again that evening, when any further questions would be answered. We never received the call.

With very little in the account on which a check could be made, the report seemed questionable, especially after no further effort was made to contact us. But the following Wednesday (June 6), we called Mitchel Field and ascertained that Captain Frank H. Doyal is the Public Information Officer there. Captain Doyal didn't recall any reports on Monday morning about a UFO landing in that area, although he vaguely remembered that someone had called to ask if there had been a plane crash in that vicinity, and the caller had been assured that no plane had crashed.

A later check proves that there is no "GOC in Hempstead"; the Nassau County Civilian Defense has GOC posts in nearby Freeport and Farmingdale. Since the original caller stated that he had just gone off duty at midnight and was on his way home when the sighting occurred, we have telephoned twice to Mr. R. E. Lackey, of Nassau County Civilian Defense, but so far we have not been able to obtain the names of those on duty on the night of June 3rd.

This was not very favorable, but on Friday, June 8th, we received a second call about a "landing" at precisely the same time, in approximately the same area, and apparently independent of the original report. The information came to us through Mr. C. R. Miglio, of Astoria. His girl friend works with a woman who had been driving from New York to Islip, L.I. when the incident occurred. She described the light, Mr. Miglio said, as bright blue-white, and added that it "wobbled" in the sky before it dropped down out of sight. Mr. Miglio agreed to get further information for us.

On Saturday morning, June 9th, calls were made to the Second Precinct of Nassau County Police Force; to the Parkway State Police; to the watchmen at former Roosevelt Airfield; and to the Long Island Newsday, published in Garden City: none of these agencies had received any calls about a UFO landing, nor had anyone at these places seen anything unusual. On subsequent days, Lex Hebane called up all CSI members and mailing-list people (8 in all) who live within a few miles of the area. None had any information to offer.

On Saturday afternoon, Steve and Bea Roman, Lex Mebane and I drove out along Northern State Parkway in an attempt to locate the site of the first caller's experience. The route was thoroughly covered, and it was found that there was only one sparsely-settled area, and that one was devoid of a fence. Thus the event could not have occurred on the Parkway as stated.

On Monday Mr. Miglio called with further information concerning the second witness's observation. She had been driving east along Sunrise Highway, had just passed through Freeport, and was in the vicinity of Merrick, when she noticed to the north of her a bright blue-white light. It first appeared tubular, and then its shape became circular. It appeared to be half the size of the full moon. It grew larger and smaller, and would alternate between bright and dim; and at the same time it "jumped" or "wobbled" before it suddenly dropped down out of sight. She had watched it about a minute, though no exact time check had been made. She had the impression that it was somewhere over Nassau County Park, about 9 miles north of her position. She insisted on anonymity.

The Long Island road map indicates that in order to go to Hicksville from Hempstead, using the Northern State Parkway, the most obvious route to take is the Post Road north to the Parkway, then east toward Hicksville. The Post Road goes along the western boundary of Nassau County Park. The Parkway is only a quarter-mile north of the Park. Incidentally, Mitchel Field is on the other side of the Post Road, only a few blocks west of the Park.

Had it been possible to talk to the first caller again, the exact location could undoubtedly have been determined, and a prompt examination of the "landing site" would have shown us whether there was in truth a circular area 250 feet in diameter where the grass had been flattened. A test with a Geiger counter might have turned up something more definite. But as it now stands, the names of both observers are unknown, the location of the "landing" is only approximate at best, and any possible traces will by now have disappeared.

In spite of the two reports that apparently corroborate each other, this case remains open to question because of the problem of anonymity. This is still another example of the way in which serious examination is impeded by witnesses' fear of ridicule - fear which the Air Force's attitude does nothing to diminish.

Meanwhile, what happened out in Nassau County Park, or thereabouts, on the night of June 3d? Do the "authorities" know more about it than we do? If anyone can contribute any further information on this puzzle, please let us know about it without delay.

- Ted Bloecher.

Postscript on "L'Astre Cincinnati"

In Newsletter #3, commenting on the published statement of "graduate astronomer" Everett C. Yowell that the object seen in Cincinnati was "not one of the normal celestial bodies", we suggested that he was probably misinformed as to its position, since it was obviously Venus. This conjecture has been confirmed. Dr. Everett I. Yowell, Emeritus Professor of Astronomy, Univ. of Cincinnati, writes:

"My son, who studied astronomy at Columbia, was told by the Enquirer (over the telephone) that the phenomenon was seen in the northwest. He stated, correctly, that there was no prominent celestial object in that part of the sky. I have no doubt that Venus was the object observed, and I regard the confusion and contradictions as due to the inability of people to describe accurately what they have seen." --Here's another example of that: on May 7th, a balloon over St. Louis was described by one witness as resembling a pawnbroker's sign; another witness "insisted it had a blue nose and two yellow jet streams." --A.D.I..