

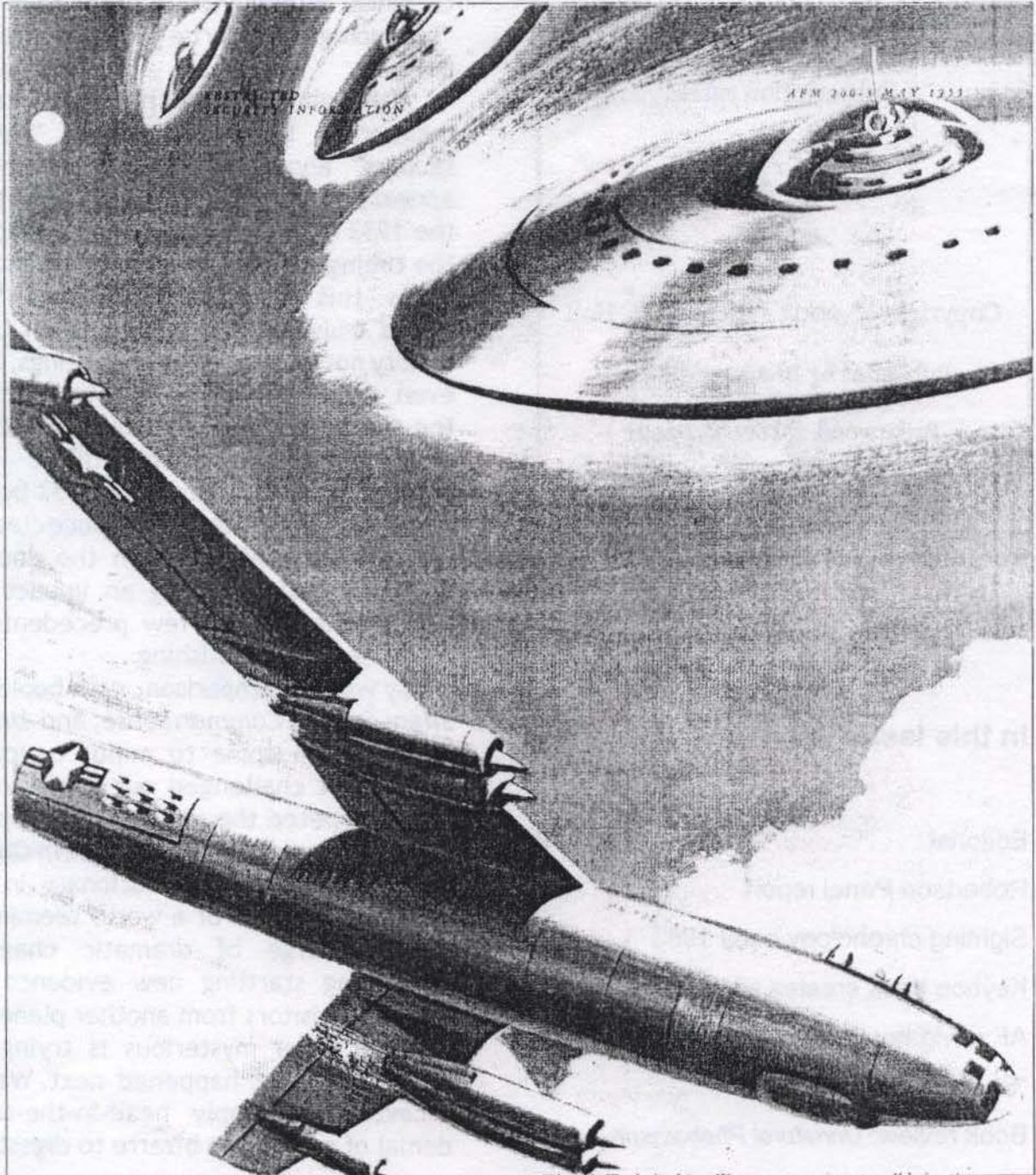
Journal of UFO History

A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives



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Air Force Manual 200-5: UFOs and "Technological Surprise"

Journal of UFO History

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EDITORIAL

The cover illustration this issue is from Air Force Manual 200-3, *Handbook for Air Intelligence Officers*, promulgated in May 1953. The manual's theme is the importance of having high grade air technical intelligence in order to avoid "technological surprise" from a foreign power.

Although UFOs are not specifically mentioned, the illustration of "flying saucers" above an Air Force bomber appears on page 9-3 of the manual, and the 1953 chronology (see page 7) shows the timing/context of its publication.

As this issue demonstrates, 1953 was a truly extraordinary year in UFO history not only in terms of sightings, but even more so with regard to behind-the-scenes military and political public policy maneuvering about UFOs.

Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe's 1953 book *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* clearly had a strong influence on the course of public policy, having an impact on public opinion with few precedents in the history of publishing.

By way of comparison, such books as *Silent Spring*, *Common Sense*, and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* come to mind; typically books that challenged our world view and trumpeted the need to wake up to new realities. *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* was, in 1953, revolutionary in its conceptualization of a world seemingly on the verge of dramatic change, presenting startling new evidence of apparent visitors from another planet.

Even more mysterious is trying to figure out what happened next. Was it a cover-up or simply head-in-the-sand denial of events too bizarre to digest? □

CIA SCIENTIFIC PANEL ASKED TO ASSESS UFO DATA

By December of 1952, following the dramatic wave of UFO sightings through the summer and fall, the then 5-years-old Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had been tasked with studying the data and advising Government officials on a course of action.

Most well-informed writers on the subject have suggested that the sole concern of the CIA was to debunk UFOs for pragmatic reasons, but it seems exceedingly unlikely that the analysts studying the accumulated data could avoid taking UFOs seriously in private.

The repeated sightings by Air Force and Navy pilots, often with multiple airborne and ground radar confirmation, could hardly be ignored as serious evidence of real "intruders" of some kind. Furthermore, the CIA analyzed radar-scope photographs showing UFO images, the results of which study have never been made public.¹

In December 1952 the CIA finalized plans for a scientific panel to review the UFO data presented by the Air Force. The so-called Robertson Panel convened in Washington, D.C., on January 14, 1953, chaired by Dr. H.P. Robertson, a physicist and Government employee.

"All had extensive backgrounds in classified government service," Jerome Clark reported (pp. 513-15), "and all were skeptical of UFO reports....Page and Goudsmit were openly hostile to

¹ CIA documents related to UFOs also refer to their "finished intelligence reports" on the 1952 sightings, also never released.

CIA SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON UFOs

Dr. H.P. Robertson, physicist, DOD & CIA consultant, Chairman

Dr. Samuel A. Goudsmit, physicist, Brookhaven National Laboratories.

Dr. Luis Alavrez, physicist (and later Nobel Prize winner).

Dr. Thornton Page, astrophysicist and deputy director, Johns Hopkins University Operations Research Office.

Dr. Lloyd Berkner, Navy scientist and a director of the Brookhaven National Laboratories.

Associate members: Frederick C. Durant and Air Force UFO consultant, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, astronomer.

the subject." The panel, said Clark, spent a total of 12 hours reviewing 6 years of UFO data, including the 1950 Montana film and the 1952 Utah film taken by Delbert C. Newhouse (see Vol. II, No. 2). They were briefed by Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt and Maj. Dewey Fournet.

The panel's published conclusion was that most of the sightings could be explained, and it was hardly worth the effort to continue studying the reports since with better investigations the rest no doubt could be explained eventually. However, since the mass of "low-grade" UFO sighting reports were clogging up intelligence communications channels, it would be desirable to

(Continued on next page)

Robertson Panel, Continued



H.P. Robertson
circa 1949

debunk UFOs and to "strip the aura of mystery" from the subject. This could be done by educating the public via mass media programs to show that the "flying saucers" were not of any significance. Also, private UFO groups should be

monitored because of their strong influence on "mass thinking" and their potentially subversive nature.

The conventional wisdom is that the CIA was only concerned about what use unfriendly powers might make of UFO reports, perhaps to spread confusion or suspicion of the U.S. Government. But it seems far more likely that the skeptical Robertson Panel was solely responsible for that politically driven, Cold War viewpoint.

The scientists' extreme negative biases about UFOs that caused them to ignore reports even from technically trained and highly credible witnesses had the incidental effect of supplying a convenient "cover" for perplexed officials who were struggling to deal with a literally "incredible" situation.

Except for the continuing problem of coping with strong public interest while figuring out what to do, the authorities could now study the serious evidence they were obtaining about UFOs quietly and in secret.

Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt devoted a chapter of his 1956 book (Chapter 16, "The Hierarchy Ponders") to the

Robertson Panel, recounting the presentation that he made to the scientists and Maj. Dewey Fournet's study of UFO motions. About Fournet's presentation Ruppelt said:

The study was hot because it wasn't official and the reason it wasn't official was because it was so hot. It concluded that UFOs were interplanetary spaceships.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek In his 1972 book *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*, mentions his experience on the Robertson Panel only briefly (pp. 168-69), observing that "...the panel's attention was directed largely to a defense and security problem rather than to a scientific one. ... [T]hey made the subject of UFOs scientifically unrespectable, and for nearly 20 years not enough attention was paid to the subject to acquire the kind of data needed even to decide the nature of the UFO phenomenon."

Hynek also makes the following curious statement: "The panel was not given access to many of the truly puzzling [unidentified] cases." Since he does not elaborate on this comment, it leaves us to wonder whether he meant that the limited time did not permit a full presentation, or instead that some of the strongest cases were deliberately withheld from the scientific panel for unexplained "political" reasons.

In December 1969, while preparing for the upcoming American Association for the Advancement of Science UFO symposium held in Boston, Mass., Dr. James E. McDonald called Dr. Thornton Page to discuss some issues with him. During the conversation he suggested that Page discuss his participation in

(Continued on next page)

Robertson Panel, Continued

the Robertson Panel at the symposium. Page didn't seem inclined to do that, but he did discuss his views of the panel with McDonald, acknowledging that at the time he had a strong "anti-UFO" bias.

"Page again conceded that they really didn't look at any of the cases very carefully," McDonald said. "...they would take turns carrying home a few [file folders] at night to study and would come back with their remarks next day. He agreed that it was not at all a thorough analysis of the ins and outs of the cases....Page told me that, at the time, it all seemed quite ridiculous to him....everybody on the panel [he said] regarded the UFO problem as mainly nonsense...."

After some further commentary, McDonald concluded:

What one seems to have, then, is a panel of five rather outstanding scientists meeting for about four days and really concerned with settling the question of whether the UFOs could be advanced flying craft of either Russia or the United States. Their findings were negative on both scores. Relatively little serious attention was given to the extraterrestrial hypothesis, and no truly independent checking of original case-materials, as I see the picture that emerges from Page's remarks.

Hence, this added insight into the inner workings of that Panel, plus what I already knew before, reinforces my own suspicions that there was no grand coverup engineered at that time, and that the Robertson Panel addressed itself to the question in such a way that they were most unlikely to develop any real critique of the extraterrestrial hypothesis. To me, that is of historical interest. (Personal communication from J.E. McDonald to R.H. Hall, 12/29/69.)

Historian Dr. David M. Jacobs titles a chapter of his 1975 book "The Robertson Panel and Its Effects on Air Force UFO Policy" (pp. 89-107). His lead sentence is: "Official policy on UFOs switched dramatically in 1953." His historical report provides the best single summary of what transpired during the panel sessions. Jacobs states, "The panel reviewed eight cases in detail, fifteen in general, and saw two movies," spending a total of 12 hours actually studying case reports.

Dr. Michael D. Swords, who has intensively studied the scientific and military history of UFOs, contributed an insightful chapter titled "The Military and the Early Cold War" to a 2000 book edited by David Jacobs. The chapter provides even more detail on the background, proceedings, and aftermath of the Robertson Panel, including the dealings between the CIA and the Air Force.

"The United States was entering an era in which the accurate and rapid identification of unknown air traffic was an extremely vital and yet weak link in its national defense," Swords observes.

The CIA had quickly ruled out the notion that UFOs represented secret aircraft of the Soviet Union, but they were concerned about what the Soviets knew about UFOs and how they might use that knowledge.

The result was that national security concerns overrode interest in scientific data gathering about the UFOs, the focus that the Air Force had anticipated for the panel discussion. Swords also adds insight about the scientists being consulted, their backgrounds and their interlocking interests. For example, he notes that "Robertson was a good friend of Donald Menzel and of R.V.

(Continued on next page)

EARLY 1953 UFO SIGHTING CHRONOLOGY: MORE MIRAGES?

Aerial encounters by military air crews with UFOs continued steadily well into 1953, as did other significant reports. Unless otherwise indicated, military cases are from Air Force Intelligence Reports. Note the continued strong patterns of shapes and maneuvers which hardly could have been overlooked by intelligence analysts.

Robertson Panel, Continued

Jones, a British scientist and military intelligence expert, who constantly debunked UFOs in elite circles in Britain." Most were openly skeptical and considered the whole thing a waste of time.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, as the junior scientist at the sessions, says that he was somewhat intimidated though he was the scientist most knowledgeable about UFOs, and he detected an "atmosphere of scientific elitism [and] superciliousness" among the panelists.

Both Dr. Hynek and Ruppelt had anticipated that the scientists would call for better methods of scientific data-gathering. "But," says Swords, "Ruppelt and Hynek were naive. The panel's concern was national security and the cold war. ... The panel's conclusions and recommendations had no mention of science." (pp. 112-13).

References

- Clark, Jerome. *The UFO Book: Encyclopedia of the Extraterrestrial* (Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 1998).
- Jacobs, David M. *The UFO Controversy in America* (Indiana University Press, 1975).
- Ruppelt, Edward J. Report on Unidentified Flying Objects (New York: Doubleday, 1956.)
- Swords, Michael D. "UFOs, the Military, and the Early Cold War Era," in *UFOs and Abductions*, David M. Jacobs ed. (University Press of Kansas, 2000), pp. 82-121.

January 3, Craig, Montana. Three witnesses reported seeing an object like "two soup bowls put together ... [with] several lighted windows" along the side. "The object moved slowly at first, then began a rapid climb." Air Force "unknown" case. (*Project Blue Book Status Report No. 10*, 27 February 1953.)

January 8, Larsen AFB, Washington. More than 60 military and civilian witnesses observed a green, disc-shaped object for 15 minutes as it moved silently toward the southwest "bobbing vertically and going sideways." It was apparently below the clouds and moved against the wind. (*Project Blue Book Status Report No. 10*, 27 February 1953.)

January 9, Northern Japan. The crew of an F-94 interceptor saw and tracked a rotating UFO on radar.

January 9, Santa Ana, California. The crew of a B-29 bomber watched a V-formation of blue-white lights bank near the bomber, then climb away.

January 22, Santa Fe, New Mexico. "A fireball expert said today Russia may be scouting the United States and other parts of the world with strange new

(Continued on next page)

Early 1953 Chronology, Continued

guided missiles. Dr. Lincoln LaPaz said a good many shreds of evidence point to green fireballs sighted throughout the world being a type of missile -- possibly of Soviet make." (Associated Press story in *Santa Fe New Mexican*.)

January 28, Albany, Georgia. An Air Force F-86 pilot saw a clear-cut circular UFO pass beneath his plane, confirmed by radar. (Ruppelt p. 295.)

January 29, Presque Isle, Maine. An F-94 aircrew and other pilots saw a gray oval UFO.

February 6, Rosalia, Washington. Air Force bomber crew reported a circling UFO.

February 7, Korea. A bright orange light changed altitude and accelerated away from a pursuing F-94 jet interceptor as ground radar tracked the UFO. (Keyhoe, p. 257)

February 9, Washington, N.C. A Marine Corps fighter pilot, alerted by a Navy facility in Norfolk, Virginia, searched for a silver, maneuvering object that had been seen from the ground near the Virginia-North Carolina border. The F9F Panther pilot at first saw nothing and was returning to base.

He then saw "what looked like an airplane with red lights which appeared below me... What caused me to look back at the object," said 1st Lt. Ed Balocco, "was the fact that it moved from below me 10,000 feet vertically in a matter of seconds."

He turned to investigate and chased the object at speeds over 500 m.p.h. for 3-4 minutes, but could not close in on

it. The elongated white object was leaving a red glow behind it, and it had two arcing red lights visible on its left side. Finally, it descended and disappeared toward the coast.

February 16, Anchorage, Alaska. Reddish UFO approached, paced, Air Force transport plane, sped away when pursued.

February 17, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Control tower operators observed a red light hovering near the end of a runway. When a jet interceptor was scrambled to investigate, the object sped away.

March 7, Yuma, Arizona. Air Force officers at a gunnery meet observed about 12 disc-shaped objects that dove down and hovered over the base during the meet. (Associated Press story, Mar. 9, 1953.)

April; Laredo AFB, Texas. A jet pilot instructor in flight observed a distinct "solid brown cigar-shaped object" leaving a contrail as it passed over his T-33, turned sharply, circled the base and sped away at an estimated 1,200 m.p.h. (Report to NICAP.)

May; Washington, D.C. U.S. Air Force Manual (AFM) 200-3 promulgated with depiction of a bomber encountering "flying saucers" (domed discs) as an illustration of "technological surprise."

May 21, Prescott, Arizona. A veteran private pilot watched as eight disc-like objects "swooped around in formation, peeled off, and shot directly up and down in a manner that could not be duplicated by a plane." The objects maneuvered overhead for about an hour. (*Prescott Evening Courier*, May 22, 1953.) □

KEYHOE BOOK A SENSATION, INFLUENCES OFFICIAL POLICY

Flying Saucers from Outer Space was officially published on October 5, 1953. It was, arguably, one of the most important "idea" (philosophical) books ever published, and had a profound impact both on public awareness of and official policy toward UFOs.

The notion that serious evidence existed for visitors from another world and the Air Force had withheld the full story from the public was, literally, sensational. Yet, here was a respected military flying officer and journalist making exactly that claim and backing it up with official documents.

Since the Department of Defense letter on the dust jacket linked Major Keyhoe directly with the Air Force Project Blue Book UFO study, confirming that he had direct access to their case files and the full cooperation of the Air Force, his views appeared to be the official views of the Air Force. Probably they were the views of many high-ranking officers, but the success of the book and its influence on public opinion apparently caught the Air Force unprepared. By early 1954 the Air Force had begun to disown Keyhoe and to subtly try to discredit him.

At a press conference in Washington, D.C., on September 28, 1953, Major Keyhoe, talking about his forthcoming book, stated that the Air Force had been keeping secret from the public movies proving the reality of UFOs (the July 2, 1952 Utah film taken by Delbert Newhouse).

Keyhoe's allegations were carried by International News Service and made headlines across the country next day. The story said, in part:

The great flying saucer riddle explodes into fresh prominence with the publication of this book by a retired Marine officer. He has co-



Sept. 28, 1953, INS story, Washington, D.C.

operated closely with the Air Force's investigators (Project Blue Book) for the last two years

Next day a United Press story with dateline Washington, D.C., September 29, contained a response from the Air Force:

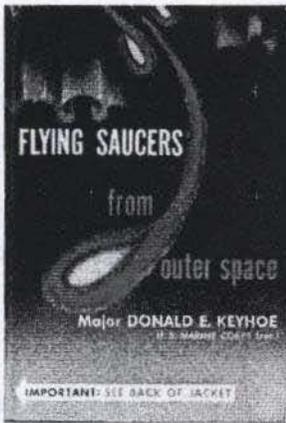
The Air Force still insists that "flying saucers" are weather freaks, despite a retired Marine officer's attempt to prove they are space ships from another planet. A spokesman said today there is no change in the Air Force's official view, although Donald E. Keyhoe...claims the Air Force has secret movies proving they are interplanetary craft.

The Air Force and the Weather Bureau, after exhaustive studies, agreed many months ago that fiery, fast-moving objects reported seen from coast to coast were light effects caused by temperature inversion.

(Editorial note: No evidence has ever been found of any Weather Bureau study of UFOs. In addition, scientists and technical analysts within the Air Force had rejected the temperature inversion theory.)

(Continued on next page)

Keyhoe Book, Continued



Copies available from D.E. Keyhoe Archives. Reading copy without dust jacket, \$12.00; very good copy with dust jacket, \$16.00. Postpaid in U.S. Check, money order, or PayPal to Richard Hall, 4418 39th St., Brentwood, MD 20722.

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When the Air Force Office of Public Information implied publicly that Major Keyhoe had not reported their analysis findings on the July 2, 1952, movie accurately, Keyhoe quickly fired back, challenging defense officials to court-martial him if his statements were untrue. In a telegram to Brig. Gen. Sory Smith, director of information, he said:

Your office publicly implied that I misrepresented the Air Force analysis of the Utah flying saucer pictures in my book...If this is true, then as a retired Marine Corps officer I should be subjected to disciplinary action.

The newspaper coverage fanned the flames of controversy. Some sample articles and book reviews follow:

Keyhoe says flatly that the saucers are of interplanetary origin. He supplies potent arguments to back his belief....Keyhoe does not pretend to know all the answers. But he makes a strong case for the theory that we are under prolonged and detailed observation by someone from outer space. (*Los Angeles Mirror*, Oct. 2, 1953.)

Major Keyhoe... has shown that radarscopes have confirmed unknown foreign objects in our skies, that these objects pursue a reconnaissance course, studying Washington, major air bases, our atomic plants and similar sensitive areas....Buttressed by official documentation, [he] utterly and completely demolishes the extremely convenient and idiotic theory set up by Dr. Donald Menzel, a Harvard astronomer, who claimed he could reproduce the phenomena in his laboratory and, therefore, the Flying Saucers were mirages and weather illusions. (Columnist Whitney Bolton, "Looking Sideways," *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, Texas, Oct. 7, 1953.)

[Major Keyhoe] believes that the flying saucers are space craft piloted by unknown beings from outer space. [He] offers evidence derived from both Air Force intelligence reports and personal investigation, that is strongly convincing. So strong are Major Keyhoe's arguments that the burden of proof, according to many responsible observers, is now on the disbelievers. (*Newport News Press*, Virginia, Oct. 25, 1953.)

[Major Keyhoe] here submits considerable evidence that the pooh-poohing in higher military circles is not sincere....[This is] the most comprehensive book yet published on this subject which has come into the news only recently. The possible mechanical nature of the strange aircraft is among the subjects covered fairly extensively...The documentary evidence in the text and in appendices of saucers and the military efforts to solve the mystery is impressive. (*South Bend Tribune*, Indiana, Oct. 27, 1953.)

(Continued on next page)

Keyhoe Book, Continued

[Major Keyhoe] was one of the first to discuss them seriously and has been an invaluable gadfly in keeping the armed services from stamping "top secret" on reports of sightings. He believes that the saucers are real and that they do come from another planet, and indicates strongly that the Air Force thinks so too. (*Springfield Republican*, Mass., Nov. 1, 1953.)

□

A puzzling book on a puzzling subject...[Major Keyhoe] develops the thesis that they are real, interplanetary, operate through electromagnetic forces, are controlled, that the Air Force knows more than it is telling and that the public should be informed. The book sounds like science fiction... (*Library Journal*, Nov. 1, 1953.)

□

				General
1	1	1	1	The Power of Positive Thinking. <i>Peale</i>
4	2	3	2	The Spirit of St. Louis. <i>Lindbergh</i>
3	4	2	3	A House Is Not a Home. <i>Adler</i>
7	5	5	4	Lelia. <i>Marrois</i>
2	3	4	5	Sexual Behavior: Human Female. <i>Kinsey</i>
5	6	7	6	Gone With the Windsors. <i>Brody</i>
6	7	8	7	A Man Called Peter. <i>Marshall</i>
8	8	6	8	Period Piece. <i>Rover</i>
			9	Life Is Worth Living. <i>Sheen</i>
10	10	9	10	Holy Bible: Revised Standard Version.
		12	11	The Age of the Moguls. <i>Holbrook</i>
		14	12	The Life and Work of Freud. Vol. 1. <i>Jones</i>
		11	13	Flying Saucers From Outer Space. <i>Keyhoe</i>
			14	The Greatest Faith Ever Known. <i>Oursler</i>

On Nov. 8, 1953, *Flying Saucers from*

AIR FORCE NAVIGATOR ENDORSES KEYHOE BOOK

An early reader of *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* was an Air Force Strategic Air Command navigator, who wrote to the author in care of the publisher, expressing a strong private endorsement of its contents. The letter was dated October 15, 1953, from Little Rock, Arkansas.

Your views as expressed so ably in your latest book coincide with those of the writer and your trials and tribulations with regards to USAF security, policy and red tape was [sic] followed with keen interest. In this connection, the writer is well aware of the difficulties involved having been recalled to active duty for two years (recently released) with the Strategic Air Command as navigator...

In our group, we were briefed on several missions classified as "Top Secret" and others as "Secret" to be especially watchful for UFO and like examples described by yourself. I personally know of two officers (one a Lt. Colonel) who sighted what was apparently a disk and did not report it because of the reception they knew would follow. Their thinking even went farther to the possible effects on their OER [Officer Evaluation Report] and future promotion possibilities. It is appalling that such conditions exist in the Air Force.

As to sightings that were reported, on one mission flown in 1952 I was a debriefing officer and recall discussions of 5 separate sightings all in one locality (Eglin AFB, Florida) by 5 separate crews arriving at different times. I could not learn of the details but all crews were apparently being kept under close surveillance by this object. There was also some talk of radio jamming and radar interference near this area but this could have

“SPACE MAN” RADIO HOAX

During a promotional tour for his book *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*, Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe (USMC, Ret.) was in New York City on October 7, 1953. That morning he was a guest on the popular NBC breakfast program hosted by Tex McCrary and his wife, Jinx Falkenberg, broadcast from the studios in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

During the live interview a call came in to the studio switchboard shortly after 9:00 a.m. and producer, Bob Klew, passed it on to the co-hosts. The caller then said on the air:

This is a voice from outer space. I warn you earthmen to stop talking about flying saucers, about bombs and preparations for war, for unless you learn to live in peace your planet will be annihilated.

I know this because I am in a position to see and you are not. I am reaching you with difficulty. You cannot see me and you could not bear the sight if you did. It would be too hideous.

The caller said he was in a space ship over Los Angeles, later over Salt Lake City. According to the newswire service stories that made headlines all over the country on October 7 and October 8, “Telephone calls from startled listeners began jamming the hotel switchboard. NBC officials also reported a flood of calls, some of them nearly hysterical.”

The words “panic” and “hysteria” appear in many of the headlines and the incident was compared to the Orson Welles “invasion from Mars” broadcast in some newspapers though there is little or no evidence of any panic. Many of the callers had expressed anger over “that kind of a hoax,” while others simply asked whether the call was real.



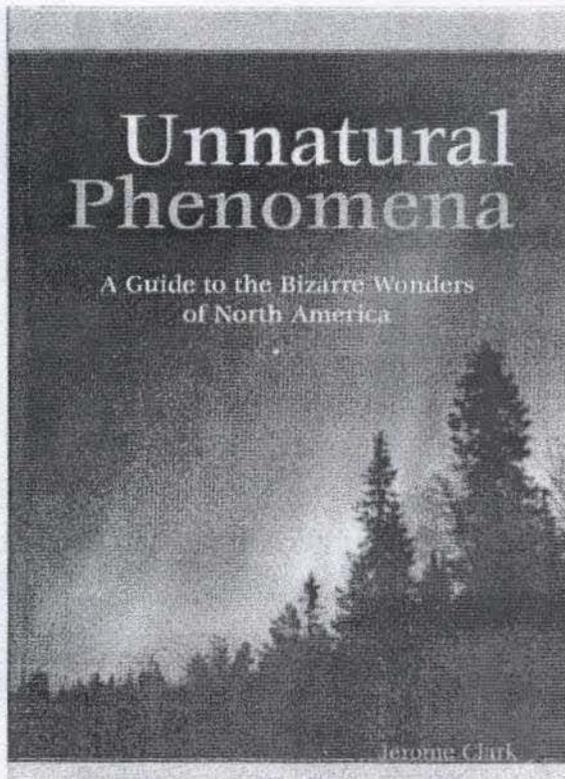
Jinx Falkenberg and Tex McCrary,
popular NBC radio show hosts.

Network and police investigation determined that the call had been placed somewhere between Chicago and New York. An effort was made to entice the caller to phone the McCrarys again so his location could be further traced, but he did not call.

In a somewhat more sinister twist, it turned out that the same caller had phoned the McCrary home about 10 minutes earlier leaving the cryptic message, “The McCrary children will not be harmed.”

Later that night he called the McCrary home again, leaving the same message. Police and other authorities were investigating, but their efforts to identify the caller were not successful.

(Sources: *United Press and International News Service, Oct. 7, 1953.*)



Air Force Navigator, Continued

I for one believe the American people are prepared for the fact that we have been under observation for a number of years and that you are to be commended for your part in bringing this fact to the public's attention.

As a former navigator with 1400 flying hours and with further training as a meteorologist I am satisfied your findings are correct and that only time will tell the final purpose and outcome of these visitations.

Yours very truly,
B.C. Hulsey
1st Lt. USAFR

BOOK REVIEW

Unnatural Phenomena: A Guide to the Bizarre Wonders of North America, by Jerome Clark. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2005. 350 pp., \$85.00.

Jerry Clark is well known to all students of the UFO phenomenon (or phenomena) as the author of UFO encyclopedias and as an editor of the Center for UFO Studies' *International UFO Reporter*. An accomplished and highly regarded historian of the UFO subject, he also is a noted philosopher when it comes to anomalies in general. His astute commentaries on unorthodox and/or unexplained occurrences in nature have graced the pages of just about every significant publication that addresses these topics.

Unnatural Phenomena reports on classic Fortean phenomena such as inexplicable falls of biological and other materials and substances from the sky, sightings of oddball creatures, out-of-place artifacts, and UFO-like events from the 19th and early 20th Century. Clark's main sources are newspapers and scientific journals, and they include a number of proto-UFO reports.

His Introduction alone is worth the price of admission, setting the stage for the reports that follow and commenting about their possible meaning. The book is organized to report the panoply of weird events alphabetically by state. Clark provides a veritable feast of raw data of the anomalous kind, carefully documented and presented in an attractive format. (For online ordering information see www.abc-clio.com)