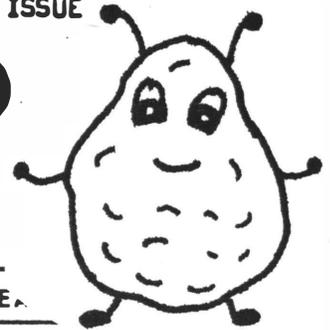


IN HONOR OF HOWARD MENGER AND HIS "MOON POTATO", WE CALL THIS ISSUE

SAUCER SPUD

".....A BOIL ON THE ASS OF UFOLOGY"

- John Keel, writing in the March 25th,
1977 issue of "Saucer Glues"



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER AND UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 163, FORT LEE, N.J. 07024

EDITOR:
James W. Moseley

NON-SCHEDULED NEWSLETTER

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MISC. RAVINGS

BEWARE! If an "X" follows your name on the label of the envelope in which you received this issue of "Saucer Spud", then this will be your last issue unless we hear from you shortly. Yes, the Dreaded "X" strikes again, as we continue our efforts to clean up our mailing list.....With this issue, we are re-joined by our Staff Artist, Betty Moseley, age 14. (See above.)The semi-mysterious Uncle Lou has apparently been Hushed Up semi-mysteriously. He has even asked to be taken off our List. It's a pity, because he's a brilliant researcher and a talented satirist, in our humble opinion.....The annual convention of the National UFO Conference (NUFOC) will be held on August 12th in Cleveland, Ohio this year. Details are in Rick Hilberg's letter, further along in this issue.Also coming up is a MUFON convention in Dayton, Ohio on July 29th, and a Fortean Society meeting near Washington, D.C. on the weekend of August 5th and 6th. We'll give you further info as it comes in.....

On April 10th, talk-show pioneer Long John Nebel died of cancer in the New York hotel room he had occupied alone since separating from Candy Jones, his wife and co-host on radio station WMCA. John's all-night program began on New York's WOR in 1956, moved to WNBC a few years later, and ended on WMCA. His show in the early days was based almost entirely on UFOs and other off-beat subjects; and one might truthfully say that he and contactee Howard Menger achieved fame together - each in his own way. Your "Saucer Spud" editor started going on the show frequently in about 1957, stopped going on in 1970 after the demise of SAUCER NEWS, and started again in early 1976. John was a complex individual, like all of us. He never claimed to believe in UFOs, yet did much to promote the "Cause" simply by the publicity he gave the subject. He will be sorely missed in radio and in the ufological scene.....The WMCA all-night talk program continues, still called "The Long John Nebel - Candy Jones Show". On the night of April 18th, your "Saucer Spud" editor went on with Candy and two old-line science-fiction writers - Lester Del Rey and Fred Pohl. Both are friends of Jim Randi and share his severely skeptical views about the off-beat. Rumor has it that Candy Jones may not be able to hang onto the WMCA all-night show, for various complex reasons; but if not, she is likely to re-surface elsewhere on New York radio. She is a talented hostess, talk-person, or whatever.....

On April 16th, your editor took part in a flying saucer symposium in New Haven, Connecticut, sponsored by a new organization called the UFO Encounter Group. Other speakers included a local "silent contactee" named Perry Collins, a parapsychologist whose name we don't remember, and Timothy Greed Beckley of Global Communications in New York City. The New Haven meeting was handled with dignity and professional skill by the local clubhead, Tony Ranciato, and we look for a bright future for this group of "middle ufologists". Those interested in joining should write to: UFO Encounter Group, P.O. Box 6117, Hamden, Conn. 06517.....Alan Abel informs us of a serious & interesting ex-

periment which is being prepared by a group of California advertising consultants. It's called the world's first interplanetary "think-in". On a day and precise time not yet determined, individuals and groups all over the world will be asked to simultaneously send ESP messages of peace & love, etc., to the Space People. The idea is that ESP will be able to do what no radio waves or lasers have heretofore been able to accomplish; and who knows - maybe there'll be an answer, a la "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". If interested in more details, write to: Gene Buck, Suite 514 San Carlos Hotel, Monterey, Calif. 93940.....

Todd Zechel is now threatening to sue us, claiming that we are defaming him with our remarks in recent newsletters and elsewhere. Zechel has obviously lost the rollicking sense of humor he displayed when he used to publish the "Flying Manure-Spreaders Newsletter" for a handful of friends, and when he wrote satirical letters for our zine under the name of Ted Zilch. We have told Zechel several times that our pages are available for him to present his point of view to our non-subscribers, but he has refused to avail himself of this offer. (In fact, anyone who feels he, she or it has been unfairly treated in our zine is always welcome to write in and set the record straight.) We still think that, on the serious side, Zechel has interesting and possibly important UFO information in his possession, if he would only get it together in the form of a book. We still hope that the complex problems involving Scotia-American Productions (due to release the movie "Skywatch" later this year), Zechel, and your "Saucer Spud" editor can eventually be resolved to everyone's satisfaction; but frankly, we doubt it! Stay tuned for further developments.....Non-subscriber Brandon Blackman is currently visiting his native Trinidad, a truly beautiful little island we once visited also. A clipping we've received from a local Trinidad newspaper includes a picture of Brandon surrounded by admirers, based on the fact that he has appeared in several American movies. Unfortunately, he never had a real speaking part in any of them; but fame comes easily in the islands.....

The magazine "Official UFO" seems to reach new heights of absurdity with every issue. The current one (May 1978) features a story about Elvis Presley's clone, which is said to have escaped from the laboratory where it was created just before Elvis' death. (The editors seem to have forgotten that clones are not created fully-grown. The magazine shows pictures of the clone, which looks exactly like Elvis did as a man!) Also in the same issue of "Official UFO" is a story about a worldwide network of underground alien tunnels; another about an alien prisoner held captive in an asylum, and another about an American city being run by an alien. ("One half million grinning idiots live in the American city that's run by an Outer Space Alien", screams the story's headline.) Alas, "Official UFO" is giving science-fiction a bad name!.....A letter to the editor in the current (June) issue of "UFO Report" gives a welcome ego-boost to our humble zine. One Paul Caruso of Pleasantville, Arizona writes: "At last there is a UFO newsletter that places the UFO mystery where it belongs - in the sewer! This worthy publication, 'Saucer Crud', has at last revealed the grimy dark corners of ufology, a field rife with intrigue and class A-1 morons. Hats off to the publication that's willing to tell it like it is - cruddy!" We wanted to contact Mr. Caruso and place him on our non-subscriber list. Then we found out there is no such town in Arizona, and presumably no Mr. Caruso, either! What a crud he was, indeed, to write to "UFO Report" anonymously. Or perhaps this is merely a "house letter", as the editor of "UFO Report" is on our non-subscriber list. Only he knows for sure.....

On April 24th your editor attended an interesting event in New York City, sponsored by Jim ("The Amazing") Randi and the infamous Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. The session was not open to the public, but was filmed by New York's Channel 5 and witnessed by a handful of other worthy individuals. The idea was that anyone claiming to have psychic powers of any kind could walk off with a \$10,000 reward, provided he or she demonstrated said paranormal powers to Randi's satisfaction, under test conditions. First at bat was a psychic named Sue Wallace, who

LETTERS TO YE OLDE EDITOR

Dr. Thornton Page of NASA writes: "I disagree with Uncle Lou on Page 2 of your latest newsletter. He can find several organized, scientific investigations of UFO reports, without mudslinging 4-lettre words, in a book called 'UFOs: A Scientific Debate', edited by Sagan and Page, published by the Cornell University Press.

"It is true there is many a loose screw among ufologists, but I think we need a few screwless investigators to eliminate the crud. J. Allen Hynek and his CUFOS are doing well. If Uncle Lou can spare the time to read one or two CUFOS reports, it would do him good. (Why do I want that?)....."

Science writer Dan Cohen writes: "Thanks for your mention of 'The World of UFOs' in your latest newsletter. Sorry about understating SAUCER NEWS' peak circulation. I'll correct that error in future printings, if any."

The former Eugene Steinberg writes: "I am greatly concerned over the fact that an issue of your newsletter has appeared without once mentioning my name; thus, this letter.

".....I'm really distressed at the direction the UFO publishing field is moving. Nowadays, unless you can attest to having seen Elvis Presley's clone, or to witnessing the destruction and repair of your toilet bowl by the space people, there's no chance at all to get into print. A literary agent friend of mine says that despite the success of 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind', no new UFO books of note are being accepted by publishers.

"But, then again, maybe the purveyors of UFO fiction have the right slant after all. Perhaps, in another reality, Elvis' clone is running rampant across the countryside, followed by ravaging spacemen who think nothing of destroying and resurrecting whole cities in an instant! If everyone were instilled with the proper suspension of disbelief, we'd finally understand the mystic meaning of it all.

"May the Force be with you!"

Richard Heiden writes:

".....Our initial correspondence concerned your exposes (in SAUCER NEWS) of George Adamski, and my continuing battle with the so-called UFO Education Center in Appleton, Wisconsin, which was founded by Charlotte Blob to promote his claims. You commented something to the effect that his followers aren't doing any harm, so why not let them alone? My attitude was two-fold: First, crackpots like that continue to give UFOs a bad name, as Charles Bowen and Aime Michel, among others, have said. This would be the case whether Adamski was honest or not.....but since he was not, it is especially unfortunate.....Second, their preaching about the so-called 'benevolent Space Brothers' may cause harm to come to potential close encounter witnesses who hear that and believe it. Admittedly, incidents of UFO hostility are relatively rare, but it is irresponsible to allege the contrary.

"With that as background, let me tell you what Blob and her outfit have really been up to, as was recently revealed. They've been making a religion out of Adamski's 'Cosmic Philosophy' and 'Science of Life'.....By means of hypnosis and programing, they win as disciples people (mostly teen-agers or young adults) who first come to them because they are allegedly a serious UFO group.....Several have gone so far as to leave home to move to Appleton, or even to the international headquarters in Valley Center, California. The center has extracted literally thousands of dollars from its disciples. So far, three followers have been deprogramed by Ted Patrick, who is well known for deprograming Moonies. The concerned parents of two more have contacted me for help and/or to give me encouragement in my battle with them (letters to the editor, mostly.) One letter is enclosed. The other parent, who gave me her name but asked me to keep it confidential, told me a couple of weeks ago that her son, who had been at the Appleton office for awhile, has now gone to Valley Center. Maybe they're phasing out the Appleton office. The three big leaders of the group have not been around here since at least last summer, and probably won't return because of all the bad publicity the group has been getting.....

"I see in your zine that Dr. Leon Davidson still thinks the CIA is behind the UFO phenomenon. Now he has tried to show, by means of artistic gymnastics, that the Socorro

insignia was really 'CIA'. By such devious procedures, you can start out with anything and end up with whatever you want. Elsewhere, Dr. Davidson has written that the CIA was responsible for the New Mexican 'green fireballs' of the late 1940's, the Washington radar cases of 1952, and even the contactee claims. (It was quite some time ago that I read about this, so I hope I have the details straight.) I wonder if Dr. Davidson has taken advantage of the Freedom of Information Act to see what connection (if any) the CIA really had with these things, or if he thinks that might take the fun out of his paranoid charges. To tell you the truth, I have long felt that Dr. Davidson has been deliberately putting us on. After all, how could an apparently intelligent man.... attribute to a modern U.S. agency a world-wide phenomenon that has been around for hundreds of years? The CIA does certainly have some records on UFOs (some of which have been obtained by CUFOS, GSW and others), which could prove enlightening. If Dr. Davidson wants to perform another service to ufology (as he did in making available Project Blue Book Special Report #14), he should obtain and publish the CIA's UFO records. If they do not substantiate his claims (which I think will be the case), he should stop making them....."

We have replied to this letter to the effect that, whereas we don't agree at all with the UFO Education Center, we certainly don't approve of "deprogramming". In our opinion, everyone should have the right to believe and do what he likes, as long as he is not directly doing harm to others. - Editor.

Rick Hilberg of the National UFO Conference writes: "Since you are about due with another issue of your zine, I thought it about time to write and give you the details on the NUFOC con that have just recently been worked out. We will also shortly come out with a full-page blurb for general mailing and possible publication in other zines. As soon as these are run off, I'll be sure to send you several million for mailing to your non-subscribers.

"The 'closed sessions' will be held at the Strongsville Community Library.....at 13213 Pearl Road here in Strongsville (Ohio). These sessions will run from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on August 12th. After a lunch break, there will be an open public meeting with lectures or whatever from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. We are currently looking for persons who would like to participate in the public program (lectures, slides, or whatever they feel important.)

"Delegate housing is at the Holiday Inn of Strongsville, located at 15471 Royalton Road (at the intersection of Rt. 82 and I-90). We suggest that reservations be made early by calling 216-238-8800, or toll-free 800-323-9050. The Holiday Inn is just one mile from the Community Library, and transportation will be provided for those delegates requesting it.

"You might also plug our new local group, the Northern Ohio UFO Group. Meetings will be held at the Strongsville Community Library the first Monday of each month (beginning in June) from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. We will have a regular format of lectures, sighting reports, movies, etc. at each meeting. You should invite your readers in this area to attend....."

The inevitable Captain Jim Oberg writes: "In the January 1978 Playboy UFO Panel, Jacques Vallee claimed that astronauts Carpenter, Young, and Cernan claimed to have seen UFOs. I'm trying to get him to document that, but he has not been able to - because the documentation does not exist. Poor Jacques! He's being pestered by a picky researcher about whether or not his claims are true! Of course, they are 'truer than true', and if they did not exactly happen, saying they did is useful, if not accurate in a narrow-minded sense. Hang in there, Jacques!

"Have you noticed that the more somebody loses his or her sense of humor, the funnier he/she becomes? This seems to have happened to Dr. James ('Microwave Zapper') McCampbell, MUFART's research director. He took issue with my critique of 'Ufology'..... by asserting that he was so smart that I couldn't understand him. But in three boastful letters he didn't address a single one of my criticisms - and in that, proved he was smart! Hang in there, Zapper.

"Have you noticed that the best UFO cases are getting longer ago and further away?

Shades of 'Star Wars' - signs of science fiction!"

Bob Sheaffer writes: ".....Another skeptical UFO book has been published, this one in The Netherlands. It's by Hans van Kampen, titled 'UFOs Boven de Lage Landen'For those of you who have been clamoring for a good debunking book in Dutch, I would probably recommend this one, if I could read it. But since there is a long tradition in Ufology of reviewing books that one has not read (Allen Hynek reviewed 'UFOs Explained' for 'Fate' before he had read it!), I will continue this tradition and unhesitatingly recommend the Van Kampen book."

Steve Miller writes: "Once again I take the time to pause and, typewriter clenched in hand, write a letter to you.....Unfortunately, the reason I haven't been writing any letters is the fact that I've simply run out of funny things to say. Even now I don't have anything funny to say.....Not only have I nothing funny to say, but I have nothing to say at all.....It's more a matter of staying on your mailing list....."

Since Steve has nothing to say, we have no comment on his letter! - Editor.

Charles Wilhelm of OUFOL writes: ".....I always enjoy your issues. Keep up the good humor. Our publication is finished, finally, and we'll be sending your copy in a couple of days....."

Bob Schiller raves: ".....Portland, Oregon is trying to contact UFOs via a TV station. London, England, is trying to signal UFOs, and the Atlanta Braves want a UFO to show up at opening night. Two Filipinos had themselves nailed to the Cross, and a jailed mayor (murder and arson) in Richfield Springs, N.Y., has been re-elected by a vote of 245 to 52. In Minneapolis, Minn. the police department is selling 23 Smith & Wesson 9 mm machine guns. I am waiting to hear from a Hollow Earth group in Canada who are now supposed to be exploring a Hollow Earth type city in Arizona.....So I guess that Spring has Sprung!.....The UFOs must be bombarding Earth with Goofy Rays!....."

Budget includes funds for control of aliens, heroin

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter's new budget calls for increased funds aimed at

VOLUME XVII, NO. 805

Moonies To Solicit Funds In Jupiter

JUPITER-- Re

(Continued from Page 2)

attempted to guess which of ten cigarettes had been magnetized with a magnet she brought with her. The first time she did guess correctly, but since the odds were only 10 to 1, this was not considered significant. On later attempts the lady struck out, much to our disappointment. Next up was a young man named Ed Hennessy, who did a dreadful job of guessing the appearance of an object he had not seen. The third and last contestant was one Don Lepore, who was to try to levitate a table. Unfortunately we had to leave before the last act, and we've been unable to reach Randi as yet, to determine how it turned out. One can reasonably assume, however, that the Forces of Darkness triumphed and that no one except Randi walked off with the \$10,000 that day.....

Last but certainly not least, Lama Robert Dickhoff has promised to show us a spot in a New York City park where a UFO allegedly landed long ago, leaving behind strange symbols burned in the rocks, as well as other evidence. We hope to visit the spot soon with the good Lama, after which we'll have a report for our breathless non-subscribers.....