

Dear Reader:

Since the following story has appeared in the press, I can see no reason for not passing it on to you. This news story appeared in the Bridgeport, Conn., SUNDAY HERALD, on Sunday, Nov. 22, 1953. Many of you may have already got wind of the closing of the International Flying Saucer Bureau; some of you may have been members. Like many others, I have been very curious about the circumstances connected with the dissolving of the I.F.S.B. and have endeavored to find out as much as I can. Although I consider myself a personal friend of Albert Bender, discussed in the news story, I have not been able to obtain any more information than is contained in the story. I hope, however, that when Bender can release more information, I can publish a complete account of the strange goings-on in THE SAUCERIAN. Here's the news story:

(Headline): Mystery Visitors Halt Research, SAUCERERS HERE ORDERED TO QUIT -- By Lem M'Collum --

The International Flying Saucer Bureau, a world-wide fact-seeking organization with headquarters at 78¹/₂ Broad St., Bridgeport, has been ordered, apparently by the government, to cease its activities.

Albert K. Bender, head of the organization, admitted to The Herald yesterday that the proposed issue of "Science Review" (They mean "Space Review"--Barker) scheduled to deal with conclusions on just what flying saucers are, and where they come from, will not be printed.

Bender said he announced this regretfully to his 600 members in the October (last) issue. He wrote that a "higher authority" which he is not privileged to name, had instructed the IFSB to discontinue all references to flying saucers.

NO MORE SAUCERS

Accordingly, he announced, the next issue of "Science Review" (see note above--Barker) will find it transformed into not more than a semi-scientific news-letter dealing with known scientific facts. It will carry nothing more about saucers.

Quizzed as to exactly why the saucer data will be published no more, Bender said "three men wearing dark suits" came to his home, flashed credentials showing them to be representatives of the "higher authority," and asked him many questions about the IFSB.

He says they took away with them five copies of each issue of "Science Review," (see note above--Barker) a quarterly publication.

Before they left, he said, they told him "not roughly, but sternly and emphatically" to stop publishing flying saucer information.

Members of the IFSB live in many parts of the world, including New Zealand, Australia and England. Most of the members, however, live in the U.S. and are in the science fiction fan category.

"Science Review" (see note above--Barker) is not an accredited scientific publication, nor has it been offered as such, he said.

Chief timekeeper at Acme Shear, Bridgeport, Bender came here from West Pittstown, Pa., about 10 years ago. He is a member of the U.S. Rocket Society and the Connecticut Science Fiction League. He dabbles in the supernatural as well as science.

After the visit of the three men in dark suits, Bender is frank to admit, "I was scared to death and actually couldn't eat for a couple of days."

STILL IS CAUTIOUS

He's still a little bit cautious about discussing what happened, and believes his home telephone may be tapped. sighting

Bender, who has been receiving flying saucer information from throughout the U.S. for more than a year, says he thinks he knows what flying saucers are.

(OVER)

What are they? He says he's now afraid to reveal it to anyone, especially for publication.

He regards it as a distinct possibility that the IFSB was coming a little too close to the right answer to the saucer riddle in recent months, and that the "higher authority," to which he said he submitted the report of the saucer conclusions of the IFSB, became displeased.

When Bender formed the IFSB by contacting members through already established science and science-fiction clubs, he said the club's main aim was "to make friends with the flying saucer people and thereby prevent the disaster that would come out of a war with these advanced people." (In March, 1953, Bender asked IFSB members to attempt to contact the saucer people telepathically--Barker)

The secondary aim, he said, was to bring flying-saucer-minded people together, and to gather information about the aerial disks. This was in April of last year.

In December of the same year, Bender predicted publicly that there will be a flying saucer landing reported late this year (Likely a misquote-- as I understand it, Bender gave a story to a Bridgeport paper in which he related how Max Miller, of Flying Saucers International, had made that prediction. The paper accredited the statement to him--Barker).

EDITOR'S NOTE (TheHerald Editor, not G.B.)--On the ABC-TV show, "You Asked for It," of several weeks ago, Criswell, the widely syndicated West Coast columnist who makes his living by trying to peer into the future, predicted flatly that an announcement on just what flying saucers are would be made by the government on Dec. 10, 1953.

Bender said he based his prediction upon the one made by the prophet-monk Nostradamus who wrote, "A third world war will come to the world. A great ship from another world of high intellect shall land and intervene. These other wordians will help the Earth people."

Bender reported at that time that one of the honorary members of the IFSB was Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, World War I ace and airlines president.

At one time, Bender wrote to world-famed physicist Prof. Albert Einstein at Princeton, asking Einstein's opinion on the saucers.

Einstein disappointed by replying: "Having no experience and only superficial knowledge in the field, I regret not to be able to comply with your request."

Vice-president and treasurer of the IFSB is Max Krengel, Stratford Rd., Stratford (Conn.). Allen C. Rievman, 2634 Main St., (Bridgeport, Conn.) is secretary.

Another Bridgeport member is Barbara Knorr, of Yellow Mill Village, who reported she had seen a flying saucer over the Park City in July of 1952.

From London this week, a wire service reported that British and American Intelligence experts are now exchanging "top secret" information about flying saucers.

It was reported that a regular interchange of flying saucer information has begun between Britain and America. Also, it was said, several alleged saucer incidents in Britain have been withheld from the public for security reasons, with the files being labeled "top secret." (END OF NEWS STORY)

Well, there you have it. Most interesting angle from this viewpoint is the alleged closing down of the organization by the Government. Maybe some reader who knows the law could tell us if this is legal. We doubt very much if it is. If this story is entirely true, we believe there should be some hell raised by citizens of what supposedly is a free country.

I don't know if there will be an occasion for another special bulletin soon, but you'll be assured of getting them if you'll forward a stamped, self addressed envelope to us.

TO NON-SAUCERIAN-READERS: It seems things are happening fast on the saucer front. To assure yourself up-to-date and straight-as-possible information, send us your buck and a half for subscription TODAY.