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A REPORT ON THE PERKINS, OHIO UFO

Janie L. Ransom

The day was bright and cold with a hint of colder things to come as Rick and I were leaving the campus of Tri-C West College which we both attend. The radio of Rick's '61 Olds was on WJW-850 in Cleveland and the time was noon. The newsman, Dean Griffin, announced that there had been another flying saucer sighted in Ohio-near Sandusky.

Quickly I dug up a pen and a note pad as we waited for the main story on the sighting. What we learned at that time was that a Constable Butler of Perkins Township had seen a bright, blue object about 20 feet in diameter over the NASA Plum Brook installation. By 12:30 we had decided to forgo our bowling plans for the evening, February 10th, and go to Sandusky to talk to Constable Butler.

Further planning decided that we ask Mr. Earl J. Neff to accompany us and that we interview Constable Butler as representatives of NICAP.

Around suppertime we had made our plans. We would fly off to Rick's for supper, fly 20 miles back to my house so that I could change-knee socks just aren't what I wear to interview- and then meet Mr. Neff at Higbee's Westgate at approximately 8:15 p.m. with cameras, tape recorders and NICAP report forms.

Actually, we didn't make it to Westgate until about 8:30 in a cold rain that made us wish we were a little more rain-proof than is humanly possible. Anyway, after purchasing some extra film and flashbulbs, we were on our way to Sandusky.

On the way, Earl Neff munched a candy bar as he and Rick discussed the upcoming interview while I, being the only sane one there, slept.

An hour or so later, we got off the Ohio Turnpike and pulled into Sandusky to begin our search for the Erie County Sheriff's Office located at 206 West Adams Street. Well, half an hour and several inquiries later we found it in a small brick building. We parked the car and went in the side entrance, leaving the equipment temporarily stored in the trunk. (The back entrance was being guarded by a friendly-looking spaniel whom I later learned was Hobo.)

The office we entered was rather small and had several "nooks" formed by corners in odd places. The main feature of the rather small, oddly shaped room was a partition like those in banks behind which one of the Deputy Sheriff's controlled a phone and what was to me a formidable panel of dials and buttons and gauges.

After terminating a call, the Deputy turned to us and examined Rick's and Mr. Neff's NICAP cards. Those and a statement of our intentions was enough to have Constable Butler called in while our paraphenalia was unloaded onto a small, rather shaky table. During the ten or so minutes we waited for the Deputy who professed a small interest in the field of Ufology. He had, he said, read a couple books and magazine articles, followed stories in the paper and caught special programs on radio and tv when he could. He also told us that the official log time of the sighting was from 3:42 a.m. to 3:46 a.m. and that two patrolmen from a nearby town or township had sighted two objects in the same general direction at about the same time.

Then Constable Butler arrived and the work started. A small conference room or office was put at our disposal and we talked to Constable Butler who said he was willing to fill out the

NICAP form,make a tape,let us get pictures and generally be an epitome of cooperation.(Don't we wish all observers of UFOs were!!!)

The details of the sighting are:

Constable Butler was driving on patrol when he noticed the object in front of him around the NASA Plum Brook installation. He said that the object was about 1 1/2 miles from him,blue in color,approximately 20 feet in diameter and seemed to be 40 to 60 feet off the ground directly over some trees. He stopped his car, got out and heard no sound. He had trouble with his radio transmission and had to repeat himself two or three times,and was interrupted by the two patrolmen already mentioned.

The object appeared as a bright disk and then like a lesser light. Constable Butler said it was self-luminous, and was as bright as the sun,also larger than a grapefruit at arm's length. It seemed to descend and be lost behind the trees. There was no moon nor were there any stars. The wind was from the southeast at 10-15 mph.

After the report was filled out and several shots of Constable Butler taken (ill fated shots,however),we adjourned to the main room once again to make the tape and to get some better shots of Constable Butler.

After making the tape,we thanked the Constable and the Deputy for their time and perfect cooperation while they both told us they would continue to pursue the subject-the deputy with accelerated interest and Constable Butler out of newly-found curiosity and interest.

So,we headed home. The tape,report form,and a picture of Constable Butler were sent to NICAP while a photocopy of the report,a copy of the tape and pictures remained here.

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EDITORIAL: A Time of Crisis

Most of our longtime readers know that UFO MAGAZINE has the habit of being a "crusader" for various Ufological causes. So it is maybe unfortunate that many of our readers will simply sigh "ho hum" when they read the following rantings of the editors. We think that what we have to say is important for the survival of the field,so important that recently we have been making enemies out of former friends with our concern for the current status of Ufology.

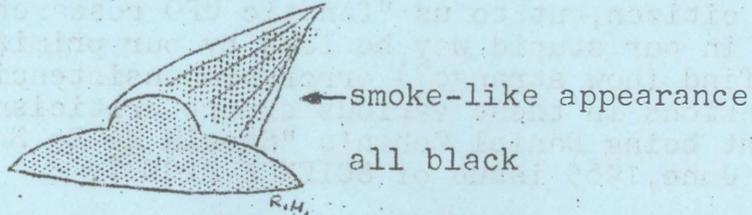
Our fears involve the fact that many Ufologists are becoming more and more mercenary in their "investigations" of the elusive disks. This includes many saucer publishers who have begun to print more and more sensational crap in their rags simply to sell a magazine and make a buck. To hell with the fact that what is being printed is not factual (in any stretching of the imagination) so long as it stirs up a lot of fuss and gains some publicity! The American public is today more interested in the UFOs than ever before in their twenty year history. It is also quite clear to see that the national news media is hungry for saucer information in an attempt to quench the public's thirst for knowledge regarding saucers. To put it simply,we are in the "Golden Age"of Ufology. Why then should we spew out worthless trash when now is our opportunity to impress the world that we are capable of accumulating a virtual mountain of factual data regarding the disks? It is time we seriously begin to think about where we are going,before the time is too late.

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SAUCER OVER NORTH ROYALTON, OHIO

James Sherman

The following sighting was reported by a resident of North Royalton, Ohio (name withheld) on January 29, 1967. This is her report: "On January 29th at 5:50 p.m., I was driving east on Route 82 heading for the North Royalton Christian Church when I spotted a disk in the cloudless eastern sky. I observed the object for a good 18 minutes, but then I was forced to park my car because people were waiting to get into the drive. When I stepped out I walked back to the street. By this time it was dark; the object was gone, at least to my sight. But there, in its place, was a blinking object with red and green lights. A much smaller shiny object, silver in color, dropped from the lights for what seemed to be two feet and then disappeared. The lights ascended in a southerly direction. I then watched it for another 10 minutes, but had to leave to go home." The object looked like this:



On February 10, 1967 two Michigan State Patrol officers saw a similar black object with a puff of smoke. The two officers thought the object was on fire.

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In response to our Summer, 1966 issue when we asked, "Who flies the flying saucers?":

The topic which I am about to attempt to discuss is extremely difficult. A topic concerning the pilots of flying saucers is difficult because there isn't enough factual evidence available, and because the topic requires much serious contemplation.

Before one begins to explain who or what flies flying saucers, it is first necessary to realize that we are being, and will continue to be visited by someone or something from another world which is probably much like our own. If we are not at least willing to accept the fact that flying saucers do exist, it will be even harder to conceive that the powerful crafts are being controlled by highly intelligent beings.

Previously I referred to the beings who may pilot flying saucers as "someone or something". The beings in question should be considered to be just as human as we are. Why shouldn't these beings be much like us? Just because they come from space, there is absolutely no reason at all for assuming that these beings do not live on an ideal planet like ours. There are probably millions and billions of ideal planets in the universe that are capable of sustaining human life as we know it. However, it is only natural to assume that beings from outer space would be something other than a human being. True, for all we know there may be some creatures which are probably mutations caused by radiation, or even different races which had to adjust to the conditions of an "unusual" planet when they were lost, placed in exile, etc.

Other than possibly being human-like, the pilots of flying saucers evidently have an indeterminable degree of intelligence. The beings have shown that this statement is true because they are at least a hundred years or more ahead of us in their "space program". Although we don't know for what purpose, we should also realize that the beings have shown intelligence by attempting to study us, our animals, the resources of our planet, and by appearing to be very rational.

At the present time probably no one actually knows who or what does fly the flying saucers. One thing is for sure: someone does pilot flying saucers, and we will learn who when we have proven ourselves worthy and capable of accepting them. When the time comes, let's hope we will not regret it.

Ray Couch, Box 604 Wise, Virginia

THE UFOLOGICAL GAMES

-or-

HOW TO BE PREJUDICE BUT NOT "PREJUDICE" AT THE SAME TIME

By Steve Erdmann

Part One

Within the past few months it would seem that various scientifically oriented personages have picked up where Menzel has left off in his UFO debunking tome. There is something quite psychological about these writers, and that is that in all the years that various people have written about the mechanisms that motivate "prejudice", these "experts" are "too expert" to see that bad, old prejudice--the regular primitive kind us lowly average laymen fall into--is still existent in everything they do. A case is Menzel and his Tome (he should like the capital letter), which seems perfectly all right to the indifferent citizen, but to us "fanatic UFO researchers", we can't help but in our stupid way be lead by our primitive "common sense" to find (how strange?) errors, inconsistencies and outright fabrications in these various expert criticisms. The next case in point being Daniel Cohen's "Should We Be Serious About UFOs" in the June, 1965 issue of SCIENCE DIGEST.

First, I would say that if UFOs are to be taken seriously, this must be done on its own merit, and not based on various psychological statements of self-impressed experts from highly esteemed positions. Secondly, I would further say that outright exaggeration any lying does no good to the reputation of the supposed expert. The average citizen would not know one way or the other; but, then, it always takes someone like us &\$#"@½ to find fault-but that is the lowly place our God has planned for citizen UFO researchers.

Cohen takes an Air Force statement about the Keyhoe report of objects sighted by the April, 1964 Gemini test launch as a pure act of faith. No statistics were handed out, no technical data about the "debris"...yet later on Cohen is matter-of-fact enough to state that "(this) volume of data cannot be substituted for reliability." The Air Force said a lot in the form of a statement, but did not prove their rebuff. To the contrary, the November-December, 1965 UFO INVESTIGATOR carried quotes from a letter from Leo X. Abernethy, Chief, Mission Support, Apollo Flight Operations, Office of Manned Space Flight. To quote: "There is no indication of the presence of any material which was not originally part of the launched vehicle." No strict information as to how this location came about. Regardless, in the same column Keyhoe quotes the following from Alfred P. Alibrano, Public Affairs Officer for Manned Space Flight, NASA: "The second stage of the booster and the spacecraft did not separate.... (this flight) was a test for the structural integrity and compatibility of the spacecraft....both the booster and the spacecraft re-entered the atmosphere as a single unit."

This just isn't up to the regular standards of "bungling" Ufologists Mr. Cohen. Perhaps scientific men with college degrees aren't the only ones who can be accurate!

But the (as we show forthright) men with college degrees aren't above human pettyness and outright fallibility. Cohen suggests that the many science fiction stories and movies during the 40's and 50's were the reason for the successive saucer activity. On page 27 of his Henry Regency Co. book, Jacques Vallee exhibits the collaboration that a dead period of saucer activity was the richest in "science fiction"-the very opposite of what Cohen says!

Part Two in our next issue.

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