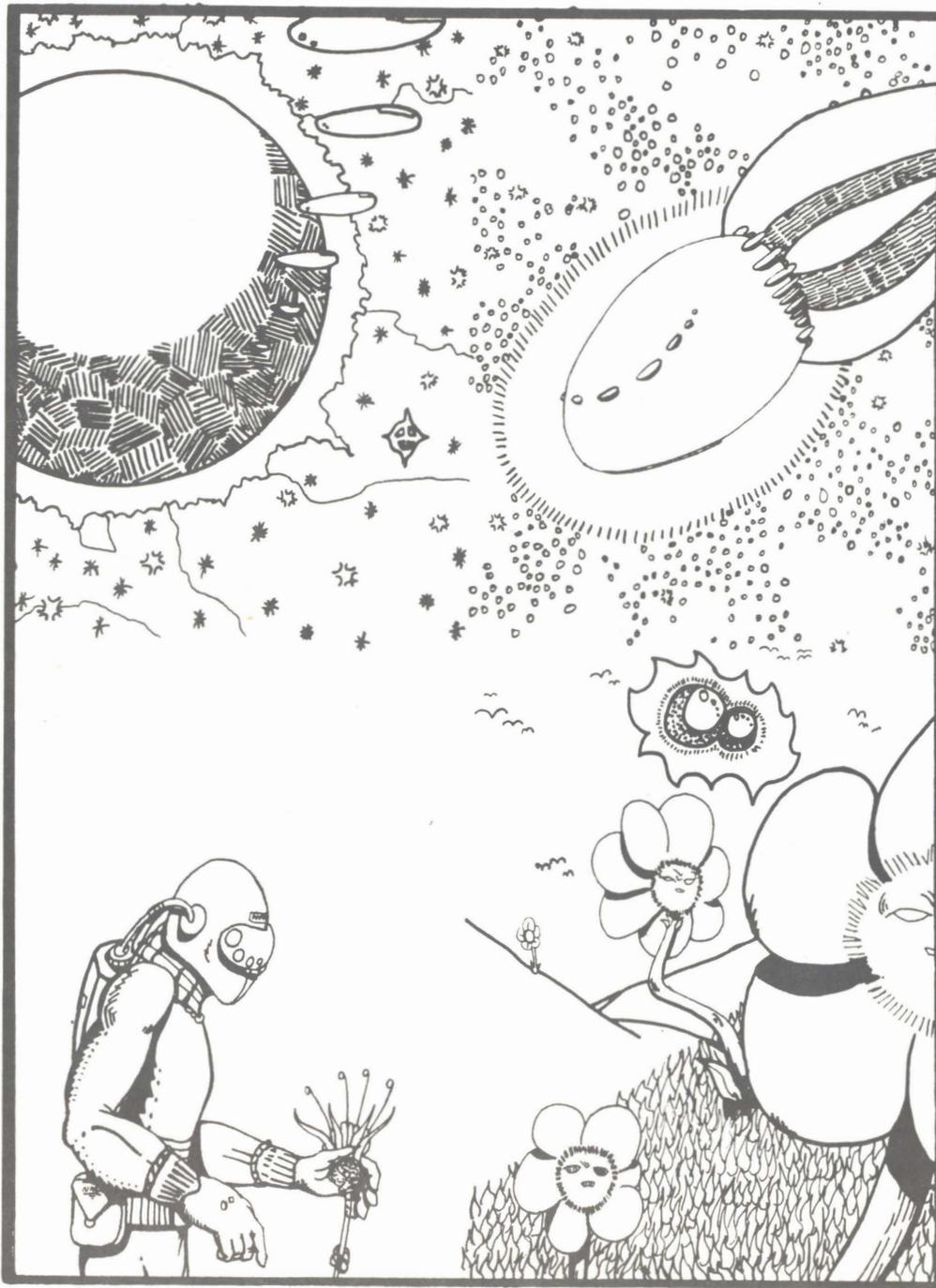


UFO MAGAZINE · NEWS BULLETIN

Issue 12

Fall, 1976



by Robert S. Easley

America's first venture into space (if one doesn't take into consideration the Wright Brothers) took place on May 5, 1961 when Alan Shepard made the first sub-orbital flight from Pad 19 at Cape Canaveral, Florida. John Glenn then followed, after one other sub-orbital flight, with his three orbits around the Earth on February 20, 1962.

Following the success of Project Mercury, Project Gemini came into existence. Whereas Mercury was a one man affair, Gemini was a two man capsule; first being launched on March 23, 1965 with Gus Grissom and John Young. The next Gemini flight saw Ed White become the first American to walk in space.

Success followed success until the tragic fire in the Apollo One capsule that took the lives of Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee. This set back our space program for 21 months, and even had many Americans calling for an end to space exploration.

Finally, on July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldren became the first men to set foot on the Moon. This historic incident occurred 68 years after H. G. Wells wrote his classic novel The First Men In The Moon. Man had finally conquered the vastness of space between the Earth and the Moon.

After continuing lunar landings, Project Skylab was initiated. The eighty-four day duration of Skylab 4 succeeded in showing that man one day could theoretically survive a trip to the planet Mars. Man had indeed learned to live in outer space.

Between the manned space flights NASA was conducting many un-manned flights of capsules and probes, not only to study the Earth but also to learn more about our solar system. These flights included the many Mariner fly-bys of Mars and Venus.

Because of man's journeys into space, it was inevitable that the search for extraterrestrial life would begin. The age old question of life elsewhere began to take on new meaning as we further advanced into space.

The search for life on other worlds even became a new science. Called Exobiology, it is rapidly becoming a very respected area of research by such eminent scientists as Walter Sullivan, Isaac Asimov and Carl Sagan.

UFO MAGAZINE NEWS BULLETIN is published at 3403 West 119th Street Cleveland, Ohio 44111 on a quarterly basis. Subscription is \$ 1.00 for four issues. Robert S. Easley and Rick R. Hilberg, editors; Carol J. Hilberg, managing editor.

COVER: Curt Gulley illustrates Robert Easley's article on Exobiology and UFOs. Those interested in Mr. Gulley's services may write him care of this magazine.

Dr. Sagan, Professor of Astronomy and Space Sciences at Cornell University, has become the most knowledgeable and articulate spokesman for the field of Exobiology. His work includes not only listening for radio signals from distant galaxies but also being the leading scientist charged with researching all the data received by the Viking Probes presently sitting on Mars. These Probes are the first such machines designed to search for life on another planet.

Dr. Sagan has estimated that there may be over 100,000 planets suitable for life as we know it throughout the galaxy. The implications of this life ever meeting up face-to-face with Earthlings is in itself a staggering thought.

Some scientists today feel that our planet has been visited in the past by extraterrestrial astronauts. The works of Erich von Daniken and others detail the possibilities of ancient astronauts helping to shape our beginnings as a civilized culture.

There are many relics and artifacts on our planet that does seem to implicate the existence of ancient astronauts. These include the Lines of Nazca, the Pyramids, and the many stories and fables of "Gods from the Sky."

The idea of extraterrestrial life visiting Earth today is in itself nothing new. All one has to do is look at all the magazines and books that deal with flying saucers and UFOs. Research has even shown us that these mysterious objects have been around since the dawn of time.

With Earth's entry into outer space and our ability to constantly get into wars, this time above all would be the logical advent for visitors from another planet. These beings, realizing that we pose a threat to the security of the universe, may well want to keep a close eye on us.

The increasing evidence for the existence of UFOs does indicate that these aliens - if indeed they do exist - are keeping a wary, watchful eye on our every movement. Perhaps, someday, they will allow us to join their "League of Worlds" and become citizens of their interplanetary union.

The many space missions that signified our entry into space, along with the birth of Exobiology, has increased the UFO sightings in this country. Are they trying to tell us something about ourselves?

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RECENT UFO SIGHTINGS

by Rick R. Hilberg

UFO "Took Control" of Truck in Kentucky (7/18/76)

A strange aerial object terrorized over seventeen residents near the town of Gravel Switch on what had been a calm and serene Sunday night. "People ain't gonna believe us, but we saw it," said Mrs. Judy Taylor,

one of the witnesses. "It was just round looking like a hornet's nest with red and blue and green lights on it."

Charlie and Doris Gilpin were the first persons to encounter the object. They were driving on Highway 68 in Marion County about 10 P.M. returning from church.

"We were headed down the road," said Mr. Gilpin, "and we looked up above and saw something hovering over the road. And I said, 'I want to see what this is.' So we went on down, and got scared and stopped the truck. And about the time we stopped; this thing started toward us - this object; I don't know what it was. And I tried to back up, and the thing took control of the truck."

"The truck commenced swaying all over the road, and I finally got it turned around. And it seemed like something had ahold of the truck where we couldn't take off. And we went up the road about a quarter of a mile, and it just headed over the truck right up through there. And it seemed like something was holding us up all the time. I looked down and the speedometer said 70 or 80 but yet we wasn't getting nowhere fast. And this morning - Monday morning - I went back to the same place and it took two minutes, where it took 15 or 20 minutes to get there before when this object was over us. It seemed like this object was holding us back all the time, but when we turned into the drive, it turned us loose and it seemed like we was just a flying."

The Gilpins had turned the truck into the first available driveway, one belonging to Judy Taylor's sister.

Doris Gilpin recounts what happened next. "When I got out of the truck and ran toward the house to get up on the porch of the house, the object had gotten up over the top of the house then. And it was so close to the ground that I could hear the humming sound of it and I could feel the breeze, you know, the air coming out of it."

The object remained in that area near Gravel Switch from about 10 P.M. until 1 A.M., witnesses reported.

The object repeatedly zoomed and floated around the sky, once chasing Mrs. Judy Taylor, who came by her sister's home where the Gilpins had taken refuge from the UFO to deliver her nephew from church. When Mrs. Taylor left - she says that she waited until she thought the object was gone - the UFO followed along beside her car for a distance.

Mrs. Taylor's son, Jackie, actually saw some sort of doors open underneath the craft. He says that the doors slid open as if someone or something wanted to peer out.

Mrs. Taylor said that another witness near Danville saw the UFO hover over Boyle County High for some time before the Gravel Switch sightings, and then shoot off toward Marion County.

Some of the witnesses reported the sighting to the Marion County Sheriff's Department. Apparently concerned about possible radiation from the strange object, the sheriff's department instructed them to go see a doctor. A reading of the Gilpin truck was also taken, with no radiation being reported.

Police Spot UFO over Highlands, New Jersey (7/25/76)

Patrolman Fred Dickelman and Sgt. Thomas Sutton were on routine patrol on Shore Drive just shortly after midnight Saturday, when they noticed a group of women standing in the parking lot of the Anchorage apartments looking up at the sky. When they stopped to investigate, several of the women pointed out an object in the sky that was gently moving back and forth, and was lighted by what appeared to be a red light circled by a white one.

The officers watched the strange object for several minutes, after which Dickelman shone the spotlight of the patrol car on it. The officer reported that he picked up a faint reflection with the light, indicating the object was at a rather low altitude.

On closer inspection, Dickelman said it appeared that the object was wedge or arrowhead shaped, and looked about the size of a child's kite. The swaying was towards the right, over Shore Drive, the policeman continued, and could have been caused by the wind which was gusting to 20 miles-per-hour that night.

The officers then got in their patrol car and drove directly beneath the object and Dickelman reported it was light in color, continued moving in what appeared to be a well-regulated pattern, then got higher, moved away and disappeared.

The object was sighted over the apartment building for a period of an hour, officials not knowing just what the strange nocturnal visitor really was.

Two Men Sight UFO over Lithia, Florida (6/30/76)

Mike Lafferty told sheriff's deputies that he and a neighbor, William Parrott, were driving on Carlton Lake Road at about 9:20 P.M. when his truck's headlights suddenly reflected on a black, floating object.

Lafferty described the object as being 18 feet long, six to eight feet wide and seven feet high. It was oblong, with square corners that "looked like a van, but larger." Parrott said that he just caught a glimpse of the strange object before it disappeared into the night.

Lafferty said that he and Parrott spent about an hour looking for traces of the UFO before reporting it to the authorities.

The report was the second UFO sighting reported in the county that week. Warren Coons of Plant City reported sighting a fiery object flying over his house at a high rate of speed on the 29th. Coons reported that the object flew out of sight while his wife had turned on a light in the house to look for a camera.

A spokesman for the sheriff's department said that no explanation could be given for either sighting, and that they were both under investigation.

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Notes From The Saucer's Cup

by Robert S. Easley

Recent magazine articles that may be of interest to you, the readers, include "The Mutilation Mystery" by Ed Sanders in the September issue of OUI. Mr. Sanders takes a very detailed look at the cattle mutilation problem of the past three years. The idea of American cities in outer space is explored by Dr. Gerald K. O'Neill of Princeton University in the August PENTHOUSE Interview. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, meanwhile, is interviewed in the 16 August issue of PEOPLE.

Dr. Hynek's answer to the question "How important is it that we solve the mystery of UFOs?" was as follows: "When the solution to the UFO puzzle comes, I think it will prove not to be just a step in the march of science. It will be a mighty and unexpected quantum jump."

The October issue of OUI will carry a Jerome Clark article on the Brownsville, Texas, bird. While some scientists feel the bird may be a lost prehistoric animal, Jerry Clark's observations will undoubtedly prove to be most interesting.

This writer recently became a Contributing Editor of "Space Twilight - UFOlogist Corner": STAR DANCE, the official newsletter of the Westminister UFO Phenomena Research Center. Subscriptions for this interesting and often times controversial publication is \$ 3.00 per year from Editor Larry H. Stephens, Rt. 9 Box 12-A, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110.

Two Cornell University Professors are still skeptical of the Loch Ness Monster after viewing all the photographic and sonar evidence obtained by the 1975 edition of the Academy of Applied Sciences search for "Nessie."

Veterinary Anatomy Professor Howard Evans stated that "There very likely are animals in the Loch. The creatures in the photographs bear a marked similarity to giant sturgeons," while Geology Professor John Wells stated "I see nothing organic in that at all. It looks like an old log."

Meanwhile, scientists have recently discovered several large, prehistoric manmade stoneworks submerged in the Loch. They include a stone wall, several ancient mounds and possibly an ancient fortified island. These findings indicate that the water level of the Loch has risen some 30 feet over the centuries.

The latest on "Nessie" has not been impressive due to various problems with the research equipment. Thus far, large swimming objects have been picked up on sonar, but all were outside of the camera range. Also, a possible carcass has been detected on sonar at a depth of 350 feet. Further investigation will be conducted.

The search for life on Mars continues with the landing of Viking 2, which set down on the Martian surface the first week of September. The landing area, according to Dr. Harold Masursky, appears to have a "new kind of feature we have not seen there before."

Viking 1's life search, meanwhile, shows tantalizing signs for life but no scientist has yet made any definite statements one way or the other. Needless to say, it's an agonizing wait.

The most refined map in existence of Mars, including the polar regions, is now available to the public for one dollar from the U. S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado 80225. The map measures about 3½ feet square.

A team of Biologists at the Brookhaven National Laboratory have announced the successful fusing together of living human cells with those of a plant, and they think the resulting crossbreed may grow.

Hybrid tobacco cells were crossed with human cells that have cultured in a test tube for a quarter of a century. However, due to the fact that the human cytoplasm was not found in the new cells, the hybrid will act more like a plant than an animal.

Brookhaven scientists have stated that the hybrids will not grow hands or feet, or take over the world.

The following UFO publications are highly recommended for their factual and interesting comments concerning UFOs and UFOlogy in general: (1) UFOLOGY, P. O. Box 3073, Munster, Indiana 46321; \$ 4.00 per year published quarterly (2) OHIO SKY WATCHER, 5852 E. River Road Fairfield, Ohio 45014; \$ 4.00 per year published quarterly (3) UNKNOWN WORLDS, Route 2 Box 159, Vina, Alabama 35993; \$ 3.00 per year published bi-monthly.

Leonard Nimoy, late of "Star Trek", will be narrating half-hour specials for national television syndication titled "In Search of....." The programs will deal with the mysteries that have puzzled man since ancient times.

Congratulations are in order to Rick Hilberg on being given the Robert J. Loftin Memorial Award as UFOlogist of the Year by his peers and colleagues of the National UFO Conference. Rick certainly deserves this award for his dedication and perseverance in the UFO field. Rick has done a great deal for the field in the past sixteen years, and this award is just a small way of saying "thanks" to one of the leading UFOlogists in the country!

Around And About The Saucer World

by Rick R. Hilberg

It seems like every time I sit down to write these brief personal tidbits about the saucer scene I am passing along information about either past or future UFO conventions. Well, this time is no exception either, so dear readers here we go again....

Defiance, Ohio was once again the scene for an enjoyable public UFO lecture program, as "Myths, Monsters and Mysterious Saucers" was held the night of September 18th at the Defiance College auditorium. Bob Easley was host for this second such public program to be held in the space of little over one year. An enthusiastic crowd heard a two hour program featuring such lively topics as UFOs, monsters, "Star Trek" and ancient astronauts.

Not only was the lecture program fun but the hospitality we were shown in Defiance was most delightful. I recall that Mr. Fred Barnes of Barnes' Uptown restaurant put on a succulent seafood buffet for the Hilbergs, Manaks, and of course our humble partner Bob. As we've always noted, Middle UFOlogy isn't always stuffy lectures and scientific discussion, but a chance to enjoy good food and drink while rapping on matters saucerish.

Such another opportunity to talk saucers was on August 27th and 28th when the Thirteenth National UFO Conference was held in Cleveland. Over twenty delegates turned out for this one, the purpose being to seriously discuss matters ufological and exchange information in an informal atmosphere. Such well-known people as Jim Moseley, Gray Barker, Tim Beckley, Gene Steinberg, Al Manak, Ed and Beth Biebel, Bob Easley, Al Manak, Cliff Stenberg, Charles Wilhelm (not to mention a large delegation from his organization, OUFOL) attended this gathering of Middle UFOlogy. The special part of the convention for me was a chance to see my old friend, and incidentally one of the founders of the organization, Dale Rettig who flew in from San Francisco to attend. After a hiatus of some ten years Dale is getting back into UFO research in a big way.

Those people who have never attended one of these events could hardly understand the sheer joy it is to stay up all night in a room crowded with UFOlogists, and swap information and theories. In this vein I most seriously disagree with my old friend Allen Greenfield (UFOLOGY NOTE-BOOK, 1399 deBeers Drive Tampa, Florida 33612) who recently characterized those who attend this convention as somehow apart from the "reality of the present." I don't consider myself out of touch with the highly subjective UFOlogy movement, for the simple fact that it is a subjective and wide open field. Those who attended the con all saw the ultimate nexus of all that that is UFOlogy in a different and introspective way, but that is what makes everything so beautiful, UFOlogy can be so many things to so many different and intuitive people. End of sermon...

We are looking forward to next year when Dale Rettig will host the fourteenth such gathering in San Francisco. We'll keep you posted.

Before we close we want to inform you readers that the Page Research Library has a nifty catalog of rare goodies for sale. Write them at 2020 West 85th Street Cleveland, Ohio 44102 and see for yourself.