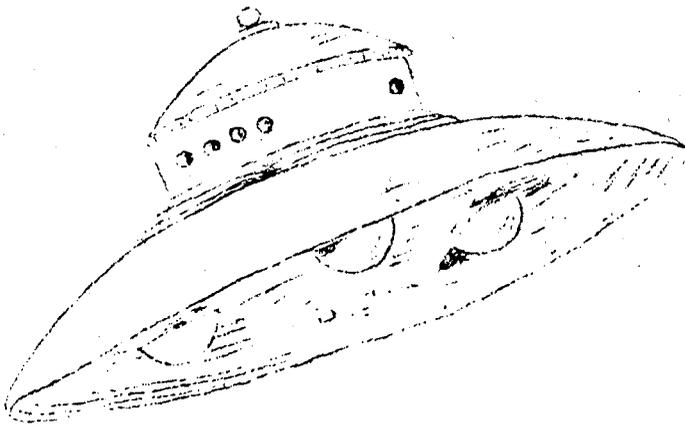


25c

UFOGRAM

*Official U.S. Government designation for
Unidentified Flying Objects



PUBLICATION OF GRAND RAPIDS
FLYING SAUCER CLUB

—Editorial—

The UFOrum is the first publication of the Grand Rapids Flying Saucer Club, sometimes known as the Study Group on Interplanetary Relations. At the lectures of George Adamski, Ric Williamson, Buck Nelson, and Desmond Leslie, we received nearly 750 names of people who expressed an interest in literature on the Flying Saucer or UFO subject.

With the profit from those lectures and the donations of club members we have purchased a good used Mimeograph machine and hope to be able to supply all those interested with as much literature as we can obtain from the various different publications of the U.S. and abroad. We hope to make it an interesting publication and will make a nominal charge of 25¢ per copy to defray expenses and possibly to help build up our treasury so that we will be able to bring any lecturer of note to interested people in Grand Rapids.

"The broad-minded see the kernel of truth in all the warring faiths...the narrow-minded see only the differences."—Confucius.

On December 16, 1954, I was dubiously fortunate to have observed a UFO in the skies over Apple Valley, near Victorville, California.

I feel that I have had enough experience with flying, radar navigation and observing to qualify for reporting the following incident with near accuracy. I am certain that the phenomena was of a tangible nature with dimensions that were real, though unbelievably so.

The object was cigar shaped, of extremely bright silvery material. It remained stationary at an altitude of approximately 25,000 feet, almost directly above the Apple Valley Inn, from about six o'clock PM of the 16th until almost noon of the following day. That night the object

appeared as a reddish-orange glow, but when the sun came up in the morning, the object became silvery. It was easily visible with the naked eye. I observed it in the morning with a pair of 7 x 50 binoculars and was able to make out quite a bit of the detail. This object must have been about two and a half times as long as a B-29. There were two windows or ports at one end near the bottom. It seemed separated through the length with a single row of bolts or small holes.

There were approximately fifty people who observed the same thing that I did; among them were two deputy sheriffs from Victorville, a medical doctor, the manager of the Apple Valley Inn and most of its employees, and at least twenty guests at the Inn.

The authorities were repeatedly called at George Airbase, which is just four miles from Victorville. The only answer that could be obtained at the time was that they had planes (jets) in the area and were investigating. They assured any callers that it was not a weather balloon or similar object but beyond that they would say nothing. The following day they denied the whole incident and denied that any inquiries had even been made by all these people.

In the early morning there were jets all over the place. One vapor trail was visible directly over the object at about 35,000 feet. The jet wasn't visible with the naked eye but could be seen with binoculars. The pilot of that jet couldn't have avoided seeing the object.

One of the guests of the Inn took some pictures of the object which, I later learned, were taken from him by the authorities.

On Friday the 17th, I returned to Los Angeles and gave a full account of the experience to Mr. Paul Coates of the MIRROR-NEWS. He immediately began to check my story and verified everything that I had told him. (EDITOR'S NOTE — All those wishing additional information on this amazing sighting are urged to obtain a copy of Paul Coates

column appearing in the December 21st, 1954 edition of the Los Angeles MIRROR-NEWS.)

The only satisfaction that he was able to get was from two non-commissioned officers who admitted knowing about the reports, but made the bad mistake of telling Mr. Coates of their knowledge. They suddenly were incommunicado at the Air Base.—H.T.G. from 'Saucers'.

We are informed that France has 3 to 5 reported saucer landings every week and that the French Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire (or French F.B.I.) admit that saucers do exist.

The Grand Rapids Press, in a United Press release of November 21, 1955, carried an article which stated that science is on the verge of proving that other worlds exist in space beyond our solar system.

Dr. Helen S. Hogg of the National Science Foundation was quoted as saying that at least two observatories are searching intensively for "gravitational proof" that nearer stars possess planets like our earth or the eight others that rotate around our sun.

The article continues that most modern astronomers are agreed that there must be millions or maybe even billions of life-bearing worlds similar to the earth. Dr. Hogg states that atmospheric turbulence limits what we can see from the earth, but with the development of space stations our science of astronomy will improve to the point where we may be able to even see these other worlds.

Benjamin Adelman of the national capitol astronomers said that it might be possible to see other worlds if we can establish an observatory on the moon. Dr. Donald Menzel of the Harvard observatory believes that life may exist in millions of places in the universe and that it may be human or even superhuman.

Organized projects to prove the existence of nearby planetary systems are now being carried out at Sproul observatory at Swarthmore college and at Northwestern's Dearborn observatory.

"Gravitational proof" is thought by the editors of UFORum, to mean that the observatories will gather evidence that the gravitational fields of nearby stars are being influenced by planet satellites much as astronomers first discovered that there was a ninth planet belonging to the sun long before they were able to spot it in their telescopes. They were sure that the planet Pluto must be there because of the effect that planet had on the gravitational fields of Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune.

LIFE ON MARS, ASTRONOMER DECLARES Plant Life Keeps Down Red Dust

As for Mars, one would think that, with all of the hullabaloo about the 'Mars Project', something would have been determined by now. And perhaps it has. Dr. E.C. Slipher has been studying the mysterious "Red Planet" for 50 years and recently took 20,000 color photographs of Mars from the astronomical observatory at Bloemfontein, South Africa. Last October 23rd, The National Geographic Society quoted the following statements Slipher made regarding his study:

"Mars is alive. It has to be . . . If things did not grow there, changing with the seasons, dust from the red deserts of Mars would have settled long ago over its entire face. The planet would be all one color . . . There seems less than scant possibility that any animal life similar to Earth's could exist under Martian conditions."

MARS NEAR EARTH SOON

When Mars is on the opposite side of the sky from the Sun on September 7, 1956, the Earth also will be at the same time but two months beyond its farthest point in its orbit away from the sun too.

Thus the two planets, on the 7th, will be but 35,000,000 miles apart, or the closest they ever come to each other. To the average observer Mars will appear nearly as bright as Jupiter for about a week on either side of the date. To the astronomers it will be a big day to settle the old "canal" dispute which astronomers made so much of years ago. To astrologers it will be a field day for dire predictions of disease, catastrophe, depression, and goodness knows what all, which they attribute to this dire planet, and no doubt more than one report will be heard of visits from Mars men here that day, in their newest model flying saucers. They may be three days late however, as most notices of this "opposition" will carry it as Sept. 10th.

SEISMOLOGIST SEES MANY '56 QUAKEs

Faenza, Italy—(AP)—Italian Seismologist Raphael Berndandi, director of the geophysical observatory here, says 1956 is going to be a bad year for earthquakes, with September the worst month.

His month-by-month predictions: January—Light quakes in Japan; February—Strong earth shocks in Siberia; March—Strong quakes in the Phillipines; April—Quakes in Greece and Morocco; May—Vast damage from severe quakes over wide areas of the middle east; July—Violent quake in Central America; August—Earth shocks in California and along the Mexican-United States border; September—Widespread and severe quakes in Japan, the middle east and South America; October—Much quake damage in the Andes; December—Strong shocks in the Kamchatka peninsula and the North Japanese island chain.

When nature's many mysterious activities are understood, man is able to conquer the so-called "evil influences" which beset his path in life.

—Rev. George Banning.

"SAUCERS" SPOTTED BY RADAR NEAR WASHINGTON

Washington—(AP)—The airforce investigated reports Tuesday that several "flying saucers" had been spotted by radar virtually in its own backyard on the outskirts of the nation's capital.

Not only were unidentified objects seen on radar—indicating actual substance instead of mere light—but two airline pilots and a newsman saw eerie lights fitting the general description of flying saucers the same night.

—Thorough Investigation—

Officials could not immediately agree on whether this was the first time radar has picked up flying saucers. Some said it was. All agreed it was unusual.

The objects also were different from the average reported saucer in that they traveled at a relatively slow speed, as well as later disclosing the customary burst that far out-speeds normal airplanes.

One thing was certain: A thorough investigation is being made by the air technical intelligence center, Wright-Patterson airforce base, Dayton, Ohio, which has been set up to look into flying saucer reports.

Such reports, officials had said earlier Monday, are coming in faster than at any time since the initial flood of them in 1947. The current average is about 100 sightings a month.

—100 Miles an Hour—

The flying saucers over the capital were reported late Monday about 36 hours after the incident actually occurred.

This is the story as pieced together from airforce reports, persons involved and other sources:

An operator at the air traffic control center at Washington Nationals airport, across the Potomac from the capital, spotted eight unidentified images on one of his radars—the area surveillance scope, with a range of possibly 70 miles.

The images were slow-moving, going probably 100 to 130 miles an hour. And they were flying in the vicinity of nearby Andrews airforce base.

The control center, operated by the civil aeronautics administration, notified the airforce and also asked planes in the air if they could see anything.

That was about midnight. Capt. S.C. (Casey) Pierman of Detroit, piloting Capital airlines flight 807, southbound from National airport, soon reported seeing seven objects between Washington and Martinsburg, W. Va. He said they changed pace, sometimes moving at tremendous speed, at other times hanging almost motionless.

—Like Falling Stars—

He described the objects as "like falling stars without tails," but added, "In my years of flying I've seen a lot of falling or shooting stars but these were much faster. They couldn't have been aircraft. They were moving too fast for that. They were about the same size as the brighter stars, and were much higher than our 6,000-foot altitude."

Another airliner, Capital-National airlines flight 610, also reported seeing a light following it from Herndon, Va., to within four miles of Washington.

—Newsman Reports, Too—

Saul Pett, an Associated Press newsman, said he saw a "flying saucer" that same night near his home at River Edge, N.J., outside of New York. He said the weather was clear and calm, and what he saw wasn't an optical illusion—it was orange-colored, round, moved swiftly and soundlessly and he did not think it could have been a plane, balloon or meteor.

The airforce did not send up interceptor planes when notified of the Washington objects. Officers explained this was because its own radar had not picked up the images, and because the round-the-clock observer operation had not sent out any warnings.

MANY INCIDENTS have been brought to public attention within the last few weeks. The flying what-nots are always luminous by day or night. They are described as saucers, mushrooms, cigars, barrels, bananas, spheres, and chamber pots. The pilots vary in size as well as wardrobe, ranging in size from dwarfs to giants. In all cases, the visitors have been pictured as mannerly but timid. In several cases the use of harmless weapons has been reported—in several others the intruders have shown an interest in collecting vegetable and mineral specimens near at hand.

The scientists have come up with plenty of explanations. A report from Russia that the past summer has been unusually hot on Mars has led to the journalistic deduction that the Martians are coming over for a breath of fresh air. The summer in Western Europe has been anything but hot. In Africa, the vice-president of the Astronomic Association of Nairobi suggests that Mars is conducting a geographic survey of the Earth, concentrated presently on Europe and Africa. Professor Herman Oberth, the German scientist who designed the V-2, has a theory that the unearthly visitors are really intelligent plants called "Uranides," millions of years more advanced than human beings. The politicians are also getting into the act: In France Jean Nocher, Gaullist deputy from the Loire District, has formally demanded an investigation by the Secretary for Air.

All of which, probably, proves very little. Except that people in Europe today have more serious things to worry about than rearming the Germans.

—Saucers

ALL SAUCER SIGHTINGS or EXPERIENCES are WELCOME
UFOrum is designed to be just that, an open forum
for everyone who is interested in the discussion
and dissemination of saucer information. Any-
thing that anyone wishes to contribute is welcome.

COMMUNICATION with UFOs.

It is, we believe, the usual desire of most people interested in the UFO to attempt to establish contact with them in some manner or other. If they are manned by an intelligent or super-intelligent race from outer-space and are really here for bonifide reasons, why shouldn't they want to contact us.

First, let us eliminate the possibility that they do not want to communicate with us or do not have the means to communicate with us, because it is a possibility that must be considered.

Perhaps it is a matter similar to the recent case of the five missionaries who went far into the Columbian jungle to try to establish contact with the natives. For comparison, let the missionaries represent space men and the ignorant natives the human race. This is only conjecture, but supposing they did come here and could not bridge the mental gap between they and we stupid humans. Or perhaps they made an initial contact as the missionaries did but after a few of them were needlessly slaughtered, they became "gun-shy." Humans fear things they cannot understand and when one fears something, one is apt to strike out at it. If after first being discouraged by our hostile actions, the space-men still deemed us worth-while helping and did not leave us to our atomic fate, the next step would seem to be to set up some sort of communication with earth, where they could still remain outside the range of our spears (deer-rifles and fighter planes) but reduce our fears and in the end help us.

The next question seems to be what method of communication should be used.

Many have tried ESP or telepathy, automatic writing, clairvoyance, ouija boards, etc. This is an unlimited field and one that gives promise of great things in the future when we understand more about the 'radio set' we carry around on our

shoulders, but there has been much confusion caused by the unreliable or fraudulent communications. Often the people involved are not purposely perpetrating a hoax but due to a lack of understanding the result is the same.

Many mediums who never heard of a space-man ten years ago, but succeeded in contacting our late lamented Aunt Suzy (God rest her soul), have surprisingly high batting averages when they attempt to contact outer-space.

If we attempt to communicate by a means which is acceptable to the scientists and objective sceptics, (and after all these are the people we are trying to educate) we must turn to radio communication.

It has been decided by some of the members of the local flying saucer club to attempt to communicate with the UFO by means of light beams. It is apparently illegal, according to the Federal Communications Commission, to communicate from the U.S. to any unlicensed radio operator, but there seems to be no regulation involving the use of light beams, specifically infra-red purposes of communication.

The difference between Infra-Red, Radar, and Radio is simply one of frequency. They are each a part of the electro-magnetic spectrum.

"Ric" Williamson of Prescott, Arizona, who lectured here last year, and John Otto of Chicago, are two pioneers of light-beam communication.

You may be interested in reading:-

The Lomokome Papers by Herman Wouk

In the February 17, '56 issue of Collier's.

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