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# DATA-NET CONTROL

## WB6RPL

MICHEL M. JAFFE  
624 Farley Street  
Mountain View, Calif. 94040  
(415) 967-6878

The "DATA-NET" report is the official Newsletter of Data-Net; a group of radio amateurs seriously interested in the UFO problem. Membership is \$4.00 a year. The "Report" is published monthly by the control station, WB6RPL, Michel M. Jaffe. All rights reserved. No portion may be reproduced by anyone without prior written permission. Copyright © 1969.

EDITOR: Jo Clark  
CONTROLLER: WB6RPL  
ASSISTANT CONTROLLER: WA5RDN

DATA-NET REPORT NO. 25

February 1969

DATA-NET gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the following information from another professional UFO investigator, that is to say a person who is paid....well!...to investigate UFO reports. Members should please bear in mind that the "Report" is sent to DATA-NET members and cooperating stations only, and is not available for the general public. The copyright is for our protection only.

Because of the delicate and confidential nature of the following data, our informant has requested that we keep her name anonymous. A point which we always honor. The report follows:

...and as you will see Mike this one will illustrate what I am trying to say: both NICAP and APRO accept it as unexplained. The enclosed clipping will recall the sighting (AP 4-21-67 South Hill, Va. - A blackened circle of road remained as mute testimony Saturday to a report by a South Hill warehouse manager of a UFO that shot straight up with "a tremendous burst of white-looking fire." C.N. Crowder, manager of the Mobile Chemical Company warehouse in this Mecklenburg County community, said he encountered the strange-looking object as he was driving home from the warehouse Friday about 9:00 pm.

"You can imagine how it felt to see a big thing like that sitting in the road in front of you, and all of a sudden a ball of fire flies out and it disappears," Crowder exclaimed. He said it looked like an aluminum-colored storage tank about 12 feet in diameter, sitting on legs three to three and a half feet high. When he switched on his lights to high beam, Crowder said, "a tremendous burst of white-looking fire came out from the bottom of the object and it went straight up in the air like a bullet. I got a perfect look at it," he said.

A section of the road where the object had been sitting caught fire, Crowder said, and he waited until the blaze died down before going to the police station to report the incident. When the police returned with Crowder to the scene, they found a burned spot in the black macadam several feet in diameter. Crowder said he was puzzled by what he saw but assumed "it may be some object the government is experimenting with and that the general public knows nothing about." (End of clipping)

NICAP (Wash., D.C.) sent their three top investigators. One was the then assistant director of NICAP, another was a physicist from NASA. NICAP's average investigators must be very poor indeed if these are the top!

I personally investigated this "sighting." Crowder claimed the object was CYLINDRICAL. Right outside of Crowder's office is a cylindrical tank used to store fertilizer. It is roughly the same dimensions as the 'object' reported.

By casual inquiry, Crowder appears to have a fine reputation. The whole family is prominent. One is a doctor, one a local politician and another runs an insurance agency.

The assumption that because of his reputation Crowder couldn't, or wouldn't, perpetrate a hoax is very naive in UFO investigations. How often do you read of someone running out with the bank loot as an embezzler?

Robert Harris, a part time photographer and reporter for the Richmond newspapers arrived at the scene of the sighting a few minutes after local police and Crowder. It was he who took photographs of Crowder posing by the burned spot.

Shortly after this Crowder went home. Officers then did a very careful search of the area. They found four paper matches which were so completely burned that they crumbled when they (the officers) tried to pick them up. Three of the matches were side by side.

The fact that these paper matches were completely charred indicates that they had not been used by any of the officers to light a cigarette and accidentally dropped on the road. They would have been shattered by the impact and could hardly have landed side by side. (DATA-NET Burned some paper matches using kerosene as fuel. We were unable to pick up the matches in order to drop them, because they turned to powder. We therefore repeated the process using a metal container. We then turned the container upside down about 5 feet off the ground. The charred matches fell and did shatter!)

But if these matches were on the road at the time that the object took off, why didn't the blast blow the matches off the road? How could they have remained side by side?

Crowder said that a very, very brief flash from the object set the road on fire and that the asphalt burned for nearly a minute with flames several feet high. Please note that asphalt will burn only as long as it is exposed to a source of heat and kept at a temperature of several hundred degrees. Once this source is removed the asphalt will cease to burn. Asphalt by itself will not support combustion.

Although this was not known to the police officers, the charred matches were enough to make them suspicious. Because they were convinced of a hoax, the state police officers present did not even bother to call the sergeant who heads the local office to report this incident.

Harris, the photographer, later told.....that when the charred matches were discovered, he decided he had wasted his time and his film and he did not then plan to send the pix to the Richmond papers.

Then a curious thing happened. The publisher of South Hill's own local weekly paper, who also had hurried to the site, talked with Harris and pointed out that it would be extremely embarrassing to the Crowders if the pictures were not published, for they had seen the pictures being taken. After much soul searching Harris decided to send his pictures and the story to the Richmond papers.

The Richmond papers printed the story EXCEPT FOR THE PART ABOUT THE CHARRED MATCHES.

The three NICAP investigators also left out the charred matches in their report.

APRO reported the case to their members. They also left out the matches.

The late Frank Edwards reported the story in his last book. He, also, left out the charred matches.

During my two days in South Hill, I found only one person who attaches no significance to the matches. That is Mr. Crowder himself! He suggests that they (the matches) were probably dropped by the officers themselves after they lit their cigarettes.

I asked the officers and they deny that possibility. Crowder smokes cigarettes and lights them with paper matches. This is the end of my report. You are free to use it as long as you do not use my name. However, I advise you not to print it!! You will be looking for trouble. Especially since you constantly bug all of us about not being interested in getting into the NICAP-APRO feud. You are in it you know. APRO tried to take your DATA-NET and make it theirs, and NICAP, feeling left out, went to Wayne Greene and talked him into starting one for them. The big joke is what is left of that is under control of your people in the midwest who forward all the sighting reports. NICAP lost out on information. (Some of which they keep confidential from the public, perhaps for fear of panic.) Green lost some of his "hams" because of his insulting remark which went something like

this, "I will start the thing for you, but you must carry the ball because I am too busy for this!"

I have rambled too long. Use your head Mike. Oh, by the way, before I close. Your last report carried a serious error. You stated the third member of the C.U. Committee was fired for narcotics violation. I take it you meant Jim Wadsworth. You had better print a retraction my friend, because Jim was not dropped; and I think that he did a good job.

Remember where you got it, but don't mention it. Your friend, MARY.

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DATA-NET erroneously printed in the last issue that "the third member had been fired for narcotics violation." It is true that James Wadsworth was arrested for narcotics violation; however he was NOT dropped from the project. I herefore apologize for printing incorrect data.

It is my sincere wish that errors do not occur again. However, since I am ONLY human, I may err again after all. In which case, please call it to my attention immediately so that I may correct my mistakes quickly. Thank you, -M.J.

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The following is quoted from page 200 of David R. Saunders book, "UFOs? YES! - WHERE THE CONDON COMMITTEE WENT WRONG:"

"On March 1, tragedy struck. Two Boulder Police Department Detectives arrested Jim Wadsworth for illegal possession of narcotics. As a result, Jim was asked to resign from the project. On April 12, he entered a plea of no contest to a misdemeanor charge of having marijuana." -Editor

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From our Assistant Controller - WA5RON: The following disturbing news comes from my correspondent at Northwestern who had a short, personal conversation with Jacques Vallee two weeks ago:

"He returned to Northwestern for one day to give a talk at the Vogelback computer center, and greet his old comrades, and (Vallee) admitted he's been, "out of it." He's been so busy working on his computer that he hasn't done any reading or research on the subject recently. He seemed inclined to dismiss the entire subject, saying, "I like to work on problems I can solve." When I asked him if he thought that there was such a thing as a UFO phenomenon, separate from ordinary (conventional) objects, he replied, "I would have no way of knowing," with such an air of finality that it was apparent he did not want to discuss the subject further. I believe the UFO field will hear no more from Jacques Vallee!!"

I am sorry to hear that UFO investigation is being handled so poorly (APRO and NICAP). I did find one instance of a thoughtless and untrue remark printed by APRO that NICAP would rightfully take offense at. I guess they're both to blame..." -WA5RON.

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A short course in astrophysics from Wayne Green W2NSD/1, publisher of "73" magazine, Feb.

"Dear OM; First of all...take a good hard look at the construction of our galaxy...you'll note that it is not flat, nor is it spherical. The suns are spread out in large arcs. Assuming that there is any traffic in this area, it would normally travel along the populated parts of the arc...in great circle courses. --73, --Wayne.

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Dallas Morning News, Feb. 20, 1969. CZECH UFO STUDY. Prague (AP) - The newspaper Mlada Fronta reported Czechoslovakia has established an institute to collect reports and data on unidentified flying objects. The report said the institute plans to issue periodic reports on its findings.

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1950, OFFHAND, by Ken Hand. Remember the flying disks of 1948? Don't look now, but they're back in the news again, this time on a more dignified plane.

As we enter the last half of the twentieth century, however, the kidding about these gadgets has subsided sharply. Published accounts of strange objects in the sky have ceased

their bantering tone.

The last bum joke about saucers with or without doffee, cream and sugar have gone into the limbo of last year's wisecracks. The flying disk has been taken out of the hands of radio gag writers.

If you doubt the truth of this trend consider the current copy of a popular men's magazine now on the newsstands. The magazine, whose very title is synonymous with accuracy, suggests that flying saucers are real, not a figment of imagination.

In other words, the public has actually been seeing things, not just seeing things.

After what appears to be painstaking investigation, the magazine is convinced that the flying disks came from another planet whose people are a century or so ahead of us in research.

That there could be people on some distant star who are smarter than us is a hard pill to to swallow in view of the optimism expressed by countless commencement speakers. The article says there are strong indications that flying saucers were seen over this planet as early as 1772, or four years before the Boston Tea Party.

And so, once again the flying saucer rears its ugly circumference. Previously, fear of ridicule had caused prudent people to dummy up on the subject of flying metal disks or strange, cigar-shaped aircraft, lest they be thought drunk, insane, lying or all three.

Comes now the latest chapter in the flying disk mystery. Wes-Izzard, editor of the Amarillo Daily News, related on the last day of 1949 a truly remarkable story told with understandable reluctance by two Denver men who withheld their names from publication.

"We're in business here -- we don't go around talking about this thing, because people would think we're crazy."

The story, cautiously relayed by the Associated Press, is this: The Denver men discovered the wreckage of one of the mysterious metal saucers.

It contained two doll-like creatures about three feet long, human in appearance and clad in fireproof clothing. The tiny men were quite dead, victims, apparently, of exposure to the atmospheric pressures of this planet.

In the wreckage was a small instrument resembling a radio. When turned on it emitted strange signals. Contents of a water container were tested and found to be denser than earth water.

The Denver men took a scrap of metal from the wreckage to a metallurgist. The metal could not be identified and defied analysis.

There it is; we can take it or leave it. Fantastic? Of course it is, but so were the writings of Jules Verne whose predictions of television finally came true. The only thing Verne overlooked was Howdy-Doody and Milton Berle.

So here is a suggestion to add to your list of New Year's resolutions; don't make the flat statement that anything is impossible. People said the same thing about the automobile and the airplane.

Don't say it is scientifically impossible, because scientists have already proved that it is impossible for a bumble-bee to fly. Don't forget to qualify every thing you say and leave the flying saucer question up in the air, so to speak. Otherwise you may be remembered by your grandchildren as the old coot who said interplanetary travel was an opium dream.

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May, 1955. AFTER PROBING WRECKAGE BRITONS CONVINCED FLYING DISKS REAL, by Dorothy Kilgallen, New York Journal-American Correspondent. London, May 31 (INS). - I can report today on a story which is positively spooky, not to mention chilling.

British scientists and airmen, after examining the wreckage of one mysterious flying ship, are convinced that these strange aerial objects are not optical illusions or Soviet inventions but actually are flying saucers which originate on another planet.

The source of my information is a British official of cabinet rank who prefers to remain unidentified.

"We believe, on the basis of our inquiries thus far, that the saucers were staffed by

small men -- probably under four feet tall," my informant told me.

"It's frightening but there is no denying the flying saucers come from another planet."

This official quoted scientists as saying a flying ship of this type could not have possibly been constructed on earth.

The British government, I learned, is withholding an official report on the "flying saucer" examination at this time, possibly because it does not wish to frighten the public.

When my husband (Richard Kollmer, Broadway producer and radio commentator) and I arrived here for a brief vacation I had no premonition that I would be catapulting myself into the controversy over whether flying saucers are real or imaginary.

In the United States, all kinds of explanations have been advanced.

But no responsible official of the U.S. Air Force has as yet intimated the mysterious flying ships had actually vaulted from outer space.

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From KP4CH, January, 1969: NICAP TEAM COMING TO KINGS MOUNTAIN. UFO SITE WILL BE INVESTIGATED. By Ron Aldridge, Gazette Staff Reporter. Kings Mountain - The strange flying object that textile worker Daniel Suttles claims to have seen last August 1 is generating considerable interest in Washington, D. C.

Stuart Nixon, a member of the executive staff of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), said he hopes to have an investigative team visit the location of the sighting later this month.

Nixon said he is currently attempting to have a NICAP unit from Chattanooga, Tenn., visit the site for additional study.

The study would involve interviews with Suttles and taking a variety of mathematical measurements in the area where the "flying saucer" was photographed.

The sighting occurred around dawn. Suttles had just gotten out of bed when he heard a noise ("It sounded like a whisper jet") outside. Opening the back door of his house, Suttles looked up and saw a disc-shaped object flying very low over the remote area near Kings Mountain.

Near the door, he said, was a Polaroid camera that he had used the day before to photograph his nephew, Suttles stepped back inside the house and grabbed the camera. Aiming as best he could, he snapped the shutter as the strange object began to climb rapidly.

The next day, Suttles showed his photograph to Marshall Rauch, his employer. Rauch called the Gazette and a reporter wrote the story.

After the Gazette story was published, Bernard Haughen, a NICAP volunteer who lives near Raleigh visited the Suttles residence to further investigate the event.

Haughen filed a report to the Washington NICAP office and enclosed the Suttles photograph. Since that time, NICAP investigators have been busy analyzing the snapshot to determine whether or not it is authentic.

"This is not a routine case," Nixon said Thursday. "The average case can be dealt with in a matter of weeks."

Nixon said the odds against proving the photograph authentic, from a statistical point of view, are not favorable. He said the photo bears a strong resemblance to others that later proved to be hoaxes, but others, reportedly authentic, bear a slight resemblance.

"There is no photograph that we will endorse without qualification," Nixon cautiously added.

He said it is possible to double-expose Polaroid film and, too, an object tossed in the air and photographed can appear strange.

Thus far, however, Nixon said there is no evidence to support or disclaim the authenticity of the Suttles photo.

Nixon called the Suttles sighting "more complex" than most.

As for when the team might visit Suttles, Nixon did not know for sure.

"I'm pushing very hard on this. I'd like to do something this month," he said.

NICAP is nationwide organization of volunteers. Employing a full-time staff of six, the

committee actively investigates hundreds of UFO sightings each year.

In addition to educators and businessmen, NICAP counts among its membership a number of scientists.

Unlike the U.S. Air Force, which investigates UFO's only when called, NICAP actively seeks out sightings for scientific study.

"We feel there is something serious going on here," Nixon explained. "They (the Air Force) do not."

Nixon is a journalism school graduate and has served as a science writer for a newspaper. He has been with the 13-year-old organization for the past two years.

NICAP is extremely cautious in its studies and, unlike other more widely-publicized UFO study organizations, is very reluctant to lend authenticity to the majority of "flying saucer" sightings.

Nixon said the Suttles sighting, although not established as either authentic or false, is currently being actively investigated.

He said preliminary investigation has revealed no additional sightings that could be tied to the Suttles sighting.

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From WA5RON:

The Dallas Morning News, Feb. 1, 1969. SIMULATOR AT TCU. JUDGING DISTANCE IN SPACE TRICKY, by Douglas Domeier, News Staff Writer. Fort Worth - For almost three years young men have slipped into a narrow chair in a dark aluminum chamber here.

They have stared straight ahead until a tiny bright object moved closer to them out of the darkness.

Within seconds they have recognized the object -- the Apollo lunar module (LM) that will carry astronauts to the surface of the moon next summer.

But the men have not been staring into outer space. The chamber is housed in a wooden building at Texas Christian University.

"How far is the LM from you?" a psychology instructor outside the chamber normally inquires.

"Several miles," the man in the booth may answer.

But in reality the LM here is only a tiny model, its distance from the chamber increased or decreased through an intricate combination of lenses, magnification, and movement of the model.

What TCU and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are interested in are the answers that come from the men in the chamber.

How well can a man judge distance in outer space?

"Astronaut John Glenn made two distance judgments on his (Mercury) flight," Dr. Malcolm Arnoult, chairman of TCU's department of psychology, explained.

"One was right and one was 100 per cent off," he added.

Dr. Arnoult and his assistants, working since 1963 under a NASA grant, have found ability in visual perception also ranges widely in the scores of subjects who have participated as Volunteers.

"We have found people cannot make absolute quantity judgments of distance very well," Dr. Arnoult said in an interview this week at TCU.

Now completing research for a final August report to NASA, Dr. Arnoult has found that a person usually needs some training or "distance cue" to help him size up the situation.

When a man first sits in the space vision simulator and first sees the LM model, his judgment of how far it is from him is likely to be wrong.

But after two hours in the booth, he can do much better.

"Tell me to stop moving the LM when it's twice as close to you as it is now," instructor Robert Markley will say.

The student may cut his errors to 15 or 30 per cent of the distance.

A large moving circular disk outside the simulator tells operators how far the LM would

actually be in feet from the chamber if its appearance were real, instead of simulated.

A long metal tube houses the LM model and the precision equipment needed to give volunteers the "special effects" necessary for the research.

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From WA5RON:

Dallas Times Herald, Feb. 19, 1969. PLANET RESEARCH LABS BY YEAR 2001 PREDICTED.

Athens, Ga. (AP) - Research labs from earth may be operating on Mars and the moons of Jupiter by the year 2001, rocket authority Dr. Willy Ley predicts.

Ley spoke to a group of the nation's top experts on automation at a three-day symposium dealing with automation's effect on society.

He said the Soviet Union and the United States will have large, manned space stations orbiting the earth in five years. The next step, he said, would be locating of a research lab on the moon, then situating similar stations on Mars and one of Jupiter's major moons.

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From WB6RPL:

Binghamton, N.Y., 1-9-68. FLASHLIGHT LEADS TO 12 ON RAFT, by Edward Benes. - A beam from a flashlight, spotted by an alert deck officer aboard a Norwegian freighter, led to the rescue yesterday of 12 men who had been drifting in a life raft for 26 hours. The raft had been launched from a sinking research vessel in heavy Atlantic seas.

The crew of the research vessel, the 118-foot Sea Surveyor, out of Groton, Conn., was picked up by the freighter, the Essi Kristine, about 280 miles southeast of New York -- "wet, cold, but otherwise safe and well," the Coast Guard reported.

The freighter, bound for Rotterdam, Holland, rendezvoused with the 210-foot Coast Guard cutter Vigilant late yesterday afternoon to transfer the rescued men.

The plan could not be carried out, however, the Coast Guard said because of the rough seas and the difference in pitch of the cutter and the larger, 825-foot freighter. The Coast Guard said the rescued men would likely continue to Rotterdam on the freighter.

A spokesman for the owner of the ship, the Electric Boat Division of the General Dynamics Corp., said it left its home port Sunday to conduct special exercises in underwater exploration.

The first indication that the Sea Surveyor might be in trouble was noted by the nuclear submarine Greenling. A scheduled rendezvous in the Atlantic, set for Tuesday afternoon did not materialize. A full scale Coast Guard search operation was then put into effect.

At about 2 am yesterday the freighter spotted the light from the life raft, bobbing in waves 8 to 15 feet high, with winds whipping up to 25 knots.

According to company officials and the Coast Guard, the men abandoned their ship at midnight Monday. "We have no idea why the ship sank and neither does the Coast Guard at this point," the company spokesman said.

The ship was under the command of Master Adrian Lane, 49, of Noanko, Conn., an experienced seaman who holds the rank of captain in the Coast Guard reserve, he said.

Asked if a secret mission was involved, Peter Connolly, an official of General Dynamics, said it was a strictly routine trip.

Company officials refused to divulge the value of the ship and its equipment.

-Emphasis mine - WB6RPL

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From K5QFI:

January, 1969. AF DOESN'T EXPECT SPACE SHIP VISITS WITHIN 10,000 YEARS. Washington (UPI) - Man cannot expect to be visited by space ships from other solar systems in the next 10,000 years and probably not even then, according to a scientific study for the Air Force made public today. Parts of the report were disclosed prematurely earlier this week.

The University of Colorado study on "unidentified flying objects" (UFOs) concluded that "no direct evidence whatever of a convincing nature now exists for the claim that any UFOs represent spacecraft visiting earth from another civilization."

The 1500 page report, compiled under a two-year Air Force contract, hedged by saying that its conclusion, based on present evidence, was not a prediction for the future.

But then it went on to think some cosmic thoughts on the vastness of the universe, the comparatively tiny technological achievements of man and the extreme unlikelihood of interstellar travel as practiced routinely in science fiction.

"Travel of men over interstellar distances in the foreseeable future seems now to be quite out of the question," said study director Dr. Edward U. Condon, physics professor at Colorado and former head of the National Bureau of Standards, in a summary chapter.

The report noted that the vastness of space is such that, based on the speed of light, "the news of Christ's life on earth could not yet have reached as much as a tenth of the distance from the Earth to the center of our galaxy."

"Human beings now know enough to destroy all life on Earth," it said, "and they may lack the intelligence to work out social controls to keep themselves from doing so. If other civilizations have the same limitation, then it might be that they develop to the point where they destroy themselves utterly before they have developed the technology needed to enable them to make long space voyages."

The report estimated that a civilization's life span might be 100,000 years (the geological age of the Earth is 5 billion years) and said it was extremely unlikely that two nearby civilizations in interstellar space would reach a peak of development at the same time.

"We consider that it is safe to assume that no ILE (intelligent life elsewhere) outside of our solar system has any possibility of visiting Earth in the next 10,000 years," the report said.

"It is regarded by scientists today as essentially certain that ILE exists," the report said, "but with essentially no possibility of contact between the communities on planets associated with different stars. We therefore conclude that there is no relation between ILE at other solar systems and UFO phenomenon as observed on Earth."

This, it said, leaves only the question of travel to Earth from other planets in our own solar system. Of these, it said, only Venus and Mars seem capable of supporting life. It said Venus is too hot for advanced life though "some primitive forms may exist." It said astronomers generally now reject the idea of any intelligent life on Mars.

The report declared:

"Our general conclusion is that nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge. Careful consideration of the record as it is available to us leads us to conclude that further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby."

No evidence was reported of U.S. government "secrecy" on UFOs and no evidence that they are a defense hazard.

The report saw no need for a new federal agency to study the subject and no need for the Air Force to continue to maintain a special unit to study UFOs. It suggested that the Air Force only continue "intelligence and surveillance" from its bases. But it said this was a question for defense officials to answer.

A panel of the National Academy of Sciences reviewed the methods used in the Colorado study and upheld its formal findings.

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From WB6RPL:

San Jose Mercury, 1-2-68. A SUICIDE, BUT WHY? ITALIAN CHRONICLES HIS LAST MINUTES. Genoa, Italy (UPI) - Businessman Alberto Moltini left a diary chronicling the final minutes of his life, ended by suicide. The question that remained was why did he do it?

Moltini, 41, was found dead Wednesday at his home. On a table nearby was a sheet of paper.

I swallowed the concoction a little after 1600 hours. I did not note the exact time, so excuse me," read the entry at the top of the sheet.

Police said Moltini died about 20 minutes later, apparently poisoned by a mixture of barbiturates and other chemical compounds.

The notes he left told the story.

"1608: I note the first symptoms. My pulse seems faster. The rate is 142, my writing seems normal."

Two minutes later, Moltini wrote that his tongue seemed to be thickening, "but not much," He said his speech did not appear impaired.

"1612: I feel symptoms of dizziness and a deadening sensation in my leg, I practice sitting on the bed. I practice getting up. My arm movements seem normal, at least so it seems to me."

That was Moltini's last complete entry.

"1615: When I raise..." The rest was an illegible scrawl.

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From K7YXP:

Tombstone Epitaph, 1-16-69. FLYING SAUCERS. TOURISTS REPORT SIGHTING OF HALF DOZEN STRANGE VEHICLES. - Tombstone, which has survived flooded mines, fires and more shoot-outs and lynchings than even Deadwood or Dodge City could boast about in the early days, has gone modern --

The old camp now is making front page and radio reports all over the country and all because of a flock of what may have been "FLYING SAUCERS" making a visit here late Saturday night last.

The story began when an Oregon tourist-duo tore into Gordon's Restaurant, the woman in hysterics and her husband in a state of panic with the report that an orange-glowing something or other began following their car as they passed through the gulch about a mile west of town.

"My husband asked me to look back and see what was following us so closely," the woman sobbed as she told one of the restaurant waitresses about her experience. "I looked back and saw, following us with our small U-Haul trailer, not more than five or six feet away, what looked like a circular, orange-colored car, with its headlights out, but with a light in its dome.

"It rose into the air, then came back to earth. Then I saw five other circular things, in all colors, red, blue, yellow and green, flying around, sometimes high, sometimes low, circling around, changing places, and I was scared!"

Her husband, trying with trembling hands to lift the cup of coffee he'd ordered, took up the story. "I looked around, too, and when I saw what I saw I stepped on the gas and got out of there."

Several local people, including Ted Walter of the high school faculty, and Billy Brant, heard the tale and after the tourists, finally calmed with numerous cups of coffee, left (no one thought to ask their names), Walters and young Brant drove to the sight-area but could see nothing.

It'll never be known what the Oregonians saw, but one thing is for sure -- people all over the country are hearing the story and Tombstone's probably going to have many people coming for a look-see this season.

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From WA5RON:

The Dallas Morning News, Feb. 9, 1969. BLINDING FIREBALL CRASHES INTO EARTH. Chihuahua, Mexico (UPI) - A blinding blue-white fireball, believed to be a meteor, turned night into day across Mexico and the Southwestern United States early Saturday then pounded to earth like a bomb.

"The light was so brilliant we could see an ant walking on the floor," said Guillermo Asunsolo, a Chihuahua newspaper editor. "It was so bright we had to hide our eyes."

The light from the fireball was sighted for at least 1,000 miles along a line stretching

from Central Arizona deep into the superstition-ridden outlands of Northern Mexico.

"The people, especially the people in the small villages, are very alarmed," Asunsolo said. "They say this is an announcement that the world will soon end."

Asunsolo and other witnesses in the two countries indicated the suspected meteor thundered to earth in the almost impassable terrain of the Sierra Madre Mountains south of Chihuahua and North of Durango, Mexico.

"It was the brightest light since Halley's Comet in 1908," said Asunsolo, editor of the newspaper El Herald. He said he felt the impact when the fireball struck ground and was "quite scared."

"We ran up to the roof and saw a very big round ball moving from south to north," he said before the object crashed. "It was not red, but an intense blue-white."

Reports from such mountain towns as Parral, Santa Brabara de Oro and Valle Allende said the Mexican residents saw the fireball and felt it pound to earth. Asunsolo said the impact created "a tremendous tremor" that shook the ground for hundreds of miles so hard that "some windows broke."

But Dr. Ronald Schors, an astronomer with the Jet Propulsion Lab at Pasadena, Calif., who was visiting the McDonald Observatory at Fort Davis, Texas, said the fireball might have broken up and never landed. He said the tremors felt by residents might have been caused by a sonic boom created by the fireball streaking through the night sky.

"It was extremely bright," Schors said. "We had high clouds in the area but it burned right through. It was much brighter than Halley's Comet."

Schors said it was "several times brighter than a full moon."

A spokesman for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at Cambridge, Mass., said the fireball "most probably" was a meteor but "could possibly" have been a "polar orbiting satellite."

Dr. Charles Olivier of the American Meteorological Society said in Philadelphia the fireball had characteristics of both a meteor and a satellite. He said both a meteor and a burning satellite entering the earth's atmosphere have light brighter than the moon and can be seen over areas of 500 to 1,000 miles.

The Mexico City seismological station said its instruments did not register any tremor during the early morning hours, despite reports of sharp earth shocks from residents.

Reports from Parral, in the northern state of Chihuahua, said residents tumbled from their beds, thinking it was an earthquake.

Asunsolo said the area where the fireball apparently fell is barren, without roads and reachable only by helicopter.

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From WB6RPL:

The Christian Science Monitor, 12-31-68. MYSTERY METAL GAVE NAVY CLUE TO SCORPION SITE, by the Associated Press, Washington. The clue which finally led to the finding of the nuclear submarine Scorpion two miles deep in the Atlantic Ocean was a small piece of metal that may not have been from the vessel at all.

Chester L. Buchanan, the Naval Research Laboratory official who supervised much of the Scorpion search, said in an interview that "the first hint of something" came in late June when a bent metal plate was detected.

Mr. Buchanan said sonar and cameras, suspended far below the oceanographic research ship Mizar, discovered and photographed the 3-to-4-foot piece of metal. The plate was too deep to recover.

Some Navymen doubted the metal plate was part of the sub, and even today nobody will say for sure that it came from the Scorpion.

But the find, which came about a month after the sub and its 99-man crew disappeared, was enough to convince Navy officials to concentrate the search in one area about 400 miles southwest of the Azores.

And there, nearly four months later, the Mizar's sensitive magnetic detectors, sound-ranging equipment, and cameras located portions of the Scorpion only about three or four miles from where the piece of metal was spotted.

The Scorpion was reported overdue May 27, the day it was scheduled to arrive at Norfolk, Va., from an underwater trip from the Mediterranean.

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From WB6RPL:

The Christian Science Monitor, 1-28-69. UFO STUDY RECALLS ANCIENT STORIES, by Neal Stanford, Staff correspondent. Washington - Reports throughout recorded history may be interpreted as reports of "Unidentified flying objects."

So, when a University of Colorado staff directed by Dr. Edward U. Condon completed a 3-volume "Scientific Study of UFOs" recently, it included a chapter on "UFOs in History."

While the chapter is hardly exhaustive, it does review some of the most unusual and interesting such reports of the last 3,500 years. And as the dawn of recorded history began, reports of the strange objects and phenomena in the sky were already imbedded in the oral traditions of early religion, mythology, and folklore.

Ancient "UFO" reports, the Colorado study concludes, can only be accepted on faith, for there is little, if any, objective way of checking them for accuracy. Second it says, the "ufologist" who recounts such an event or phenomenon is often himself a believer in UFOs.

He tends therefore to throw an aura of believability and respectability over his account. He may refer to "UFO reports" in the Bible, in the works of authors -- such as Pliny the Elder of ancient Rome or William Shakespeare -- in Hindureligious texts, in "ancient manuscripts found in monasteries," or in "papyrus manuscripts found among the papers of the Vatican Egyptian Museum."

The UFO booster today, it appears, does not need to prove his account of a sighting is true. Rather the reader or scholar or researcher has to prove it is not true. For example, it was recently declared that the so-called "miracle of Fatima," reported in Portugal in October, 1917, was actually a flying saucer mistakenly identified.

And a recent book, "The Flying Saucer Reader," presents excerpts from two books (without questioning their veracity) describing fluent communications with extraterrestrial beings, in one case with the aid of a Ouija board, in the other by mental telepathy.

UFO buffs have mined the Bible, finding it full of UFOs. Thus they have claimed that the story in Exodus of "the pillar of fire" was really a spaceship sent to guide the Israelites. And the Star of Bethlehem, while "possibly not a UFO," they admit, "behaves like one" -- starting and stopping at will. UFO buffs have even suggested that Bible references to "fiery chariots," "angels with wings," and "cherubims" are really references to UFOs.

One of the first recorded references conforming somewhat to contemporary UFO reports was in 213 B.C., in Hadria, where "an altar was seen in the sky, with the form of a man in white clothing beside it." A dozen or so such sightings are recorded from 220 to 90 B.C.

In 100 B.C. Pliny, in his "Natural History," reported "strange shields" in the sky. In the sixth century the Comte de Gabalis told of spacecraft taking men away from the earth to show them how people lived in space. In 1270 Gervase of Tilbury wrote of an aerial craft being seen over the city, its anchor catching in a church steeple, and an occupant climbing down a ladder to set it free.

Then there is the 1561 report in Nuremburg that many people saw colored balls and circular disks in the sky which then fell to the ground and were consumed by fire.

Books on UFOs report hundreds of sightings of strange lights. An 1820 account by Francis Arago tells of a sighting over Embrun, France, of "strange objects moving in straight lines, equally spaced, and moving with military precision." The poet and amateur scientist Charles Fort, at the turn of this century, gathered reports of strange phenomena in the papers and scientific journals covering 40 years.

He cites the following: A letter from Cotton Mather to the London Royal Society refers

to "Ye star below ye body of ye moon, and within the horns of it."

At Capiago, Chile, an "aerial construction" emitting light and giving off engine noise was reported. It was described by some as a "giant bird with shining eyes, covered with large scales clashing to give off a metallic noise."

An observation in March, 1870 was reported from aboard "The Lady of the Lake," in the Atlantic Ocean, of a disk surrounded by a halo, with a long tail extending from the center, flying against the wind. The ship's captain made a drawing of it.

In 1879, in the Persian Gulf, two giant luminous wheels about 130 feet in diameter were reportedly seen spinning slowly, and slowly descending. The sighting was described as lasting 35 minutes.

An unfortunate aspect of all these ancient reports is that the authors are uniformly uncritical of the authenticity of what they recount. They report their accounts as fact.

A Colorado researcher also made a spot check into a more spectacular UFO account, this one of extraterrestrial colonists who once reportedly waged nuclear war on this planet and then left. This account is often cited as fact, being traced back to ancient India and the "Book of Dzyan." The Colorado study calls this account "completely spurious." It asserts that the "Book of Dzyan" is not an ancient legend but actually the 19th-century "Dzyan Stanzas," which appear in occultist Madame Blavatsky's "The Secret Doctrine."

This chapter in the Colorado UFO study points out that since ancient man knew little about his universe it is not surprising that many things to him were as mysterious as today's so-called UFOs. In the absence of scientific ability to explain what they saw, says the report, "Men conjured up other explanations: the poetic, the dramatic, the supernatural, the mythological, as well as the nonsensical, or comic." "Any explanation," it observes, "was better than none at all, because man, a part of nature, abhors a (mental) vacuum."

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From J. J. Clark:

San Jose Mercury, 2-13-69. METEORITE HUNT HITS ROADBLOCK, Parral, Mexico (UPI) - The search for the huge meteorite that plunged to earth last weekend in northern Mexico has run into a roadblock.

Scientists from the United States and the Soviet Union who have converged on the village of Parral to hunt for fragments of the meteorite have encountered a streak of stubbornness by residents of the area that might make it close to impossible to analyze the kind of rock astronauts hope to bring back from the moon later this year.

The meteorite, which illuminated the skies over a wide area with a blinding blue-light and rocked the Sierra Madre Mountains with its explosion Saturday, has been hidden by area farmers.

"They won't tell anyone where it is," said Quiermo Asunsolo, editor of El Heraldo in Chihuahua, Mexico. "You see, they're seeding corn and beans now, and they don't want people digging around in their crops."

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From J.J. Clark:

San Jose Mercury-News, 2-2-69. UFO REPORT AND REBUTTAL ARE BOTH FAST-PUBLISHED. - The University of Colorado's 18-month, Air Force-sponsored study of unidentified flying objects appears to be facing the same fate as most other recent government reports. It is immediately being clawed apart by critics who disagree with the findings.

Results of UFO investigation, conducted by Dr. Edward U. Condon and his committee, were released to the press Jan. 8. It was given the "instant publishing" treatment in paperback and is now available in its entirety to the public (Bantam, \$1.95).

At the same time an "instant rebuttal" is out in soft cover - "UFOs? Yes!" (subtitle: "Where the Condon Committee Went Wrong") written by Dr. David R. Saunders, an ex-member of the project, and reporter R. Roger Harkins (Signet, 95c.).

At issue is the committee's dismissal of assumptions that spacecraft from other worlds

are visiting earth or that much can be gained from further full scale scientific research on UFOs, unless some startling new evidence is presented.

As Dr. Condon points out, "This conclusion is controversial. It will not be accepted without much dispute by the UFO amateurs, by the authors of popular UFO books and magazine articles, or even by a small number of academic scientists whose public statements indicate that they feel this is a subject of great scientific promise."

There are some striking similarities between public reception to the Condon report and the Warren Commission's report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

First, both reports are very lengthy (the UFO report runs nearly 1,000 pages) and both contain a great deal of technical material which the average reader will not want to wade through. The criticisms of the Condon report, as with the Warren report, will be presented in a considerably more readable manner and therefore will receive greater attention.

This is not to imply the Condon report should be written off by the layman. Many of its chapters contain fascinating stuff -- particularly the case histories of saucer sightings, the opinion pools on UFO credibility, and the analyses of perception problems, both psychological and physiological.

The report tells of incredible natural phenomena, such as fireballs of lightning, which have been mistaken for UFOs, There is a spellbinding study of UFO photographs.

The poll results are most interesting. Of those who said when interviewed that they believed they had seen a flying saucer, 87 per cent also said that they had made no official report of it. The most popular reasons they gave for not telling anyone other than family or friends were that "probably the thing seen would be something normal that just looks funny for one reason or another" and that they were "afraid of ridicule; people would think I was a nut or crazy."

The book by Saunders and Harkins questioning the Condon Committee's approach was written before the UFO report was released. (However, Dr. Saunders had seen the report in its early form.)

Some of their criticisms are those which have been applied to previous government commissioned studies, particularly the Warren Report, that a body of prestigious people is appointed to conduct the research but that many of these committeemen are so involved with other work that they must delegate their authority or contribute a "part-time" effort; that they have thought to sufficient time and funds to pursue all avenues of approach and that at best there is only a superficial examination of the facts.

The most damaging piece of evidence which the authors present is a memo written by Robert J. Low, project coordinator, which, they feel, demonstrates his insincerity at the onset of the project. Dr. Saunders describes his own findings with the study team and the events leading to his dismissal. He accuses the project administrators of concentrating on "kook and nut" accounts and ignoring more credible evidence.

Walter J. Sullivan, New York Times writer, who provided the introduction for the Bantam edition of the UFO report, comments: "The reader can exercise his own judgment by comparing this report with efforts to dispute it. For example, a book has been published by a former member of the University of Colorado project who was dismissed. He and his co-author argue that the project may have been organized -- without the knowledge of most of its staff -- as a cover to divert attention from the real nature of UFOs."

On the other hand, author John Fuller, whose introduction precedes the Saunders-Harkins book, says: "Anyone who wants to learn the complete facts should read this eminently readable book, which dramatizes for an outsider a flagrant example of the misuse of the taxpayer's money and what has to be considered a dereliction of scientific duty.

The report itself notes...."We do not know whether seeing is believing or believing is seeing.

It is safe to predict the saucer buffs will side with Saunders, scoffers will concur with Condon, and a majority of the public will remain confused.

From Jo Clark:

San Jose Mercury, 3-5-69. MYSTERY BLASTS AT SEA. Monterey - The Coast Guard has been unable to solve the mystery of a number of rockets and two "bluish-white" explosions off Yankee Point seven miles south of Monterey Monday night.

Chief Petty Officer James Figueira said "several reliable witnesses" reported eight or nine rockets over the water and, an explosion, lights along the shoreline, and then another explosion at sea."

The officer in charge for the station said his men spent all night searching but to no avail.

"We had an aircraft search the area Tuesday morning but we haven't found anything," he said.

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EDITORIAL

-by Jo Clark

I too have become "disenchanted" with organized UFO research groups, as far as a scientific search for the "truth" is concerned.

The AF, NICAP, APRO, CU; all seem to concentrate on publicising case histories that support their own theories. All edit what they receive, and publish what they see fit.

APRO and NICAP seem more concerned with their public image, necessitating a fancy printed bulletin, rather than compiling a report chronicling all the reports they receive for the edification of all.

The AF and CU seemed determined to prove that we are all nuts, that we have arbitrarily taken sides as either "believers" or "non-believers" -- regardless of the facts.

Frankly, I think the search for the truth, whether it be by the Air Force, NICAP, APRO, Colorado University, or Russia, is really a race to see who will "scoop" who when the big story breaks.

NICAP spends its time crying "cover-up" to the AF. APRO says "cool it -- its probably the CIA anyway." It is my opinion that no one knows more about who controls saucers, or where they originate, than we do. Everyone is just playing a little game of button, button, who's got the button.

The only way we are going to get answers, is to forget about pointing the finger, and begin organizing a program aimed at establishing contact with the saucers themselves.

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This is it for now. The DATA-NET staff: Jo Clark, WA5RON and WB6RPL thank you for your continued enthusiasm, hard work and financial support. Please continue. It looks like it's up to us now.

Remember, WB6RPL: Back on the air every Wednesday at 2000 Calif. on 7.265 Mc.

KP4CH: Daily on 21.442 Mc.

EL2CT: Daily on 81.220 Mc.

The DATA-NET reward for an authentic photograph of a flying saucer is \$25.00. Please enclose as much pertinent information as possible. Camera details; include drawings, witnesses, etc.

.....send money, stamps, food, clothing and words of consolation.

Books in the DATA-NET library are available to members free of charge on a loan basis.

Any one interested in obtaining the lunar photos from our surveyors and/or the Martian photos by our Mariner please contact me.

I will try to work harder,

73 & 88,

Michel M. Jaffe  
Control Stations  
DATA-NET