

"Flying Saucer" Riddle Still Unsolved

NEW YORK, July 5.—Americans are baffled by reports of "flying saucers," which, according to observers, are round metallic discs racing high across the sky, singly or in groups.

First reports of them were received on June 25, and aroused scepticism, but credence in the saucers has grown as a result of similar reports by hundreds of persons in 28 States.

Descriptions of the phenomena agree on shape, but differ on size from 10 to 12 inches to "larger than any known aircraft."

Explanations include the following:

1. Signals from Mars.
2. Saucer hysteria by people emotionally upset by fear of atomic war.
3. New experimental navy planes known as "Flying Pancakes."
4. Weather kites released by

meteorological bureaux.

5. Something to do with atomic experiments.
6. Reflections from motor car spotlights.
7. Meteors.

The Navy denies that "Pancake" planes have been flown in the areas where the saucers were observed and military and scientific

observed and military and scientific authorities generally reject the other explanations. Hayden planetarium official today expressed the opinion that the first reports of the "Saucers" were authentic, but most of the subsequent reports were due to hypnosis.

He added that the "saucers" could be ice crystals, formed by nature high in the sky.

The Professor of astronomy at Columbia University said the answer would be found in some phenomena seen during the two World Wars, when speeding aircraft churned up the atmosphere, causing distortions of light rays. Birds could also create that effect, which was largely electrical. The Army tonight announced that it had a fighter plane standing by at Munroe airbase, California, to give chase if one of the "saucers" appears.

Six Oregon National Guard fighter planes, equipped with gun and telescope cameras, are also being kept ready to take off after any "flying saucers."