

***It Was Only A Storm In A Saucer***

**U.S.A. NOW LAUGHS**

**AT DISCS**

**“Flights  
Of Fancy”**

*From L. J. MILLER, New York Editor of the Daily Telegraph.*

**NEW YORK, Tuesday. — The United States, which yesterday was more than half serious about the “flying saucer” mystery, today took time off to laugh.**

**Many of the latest reports are obviously more flights of fancy than flights of saucers.**

**Some citizens reported seeing the saucers in technicolor.**

**‘Here, There, And Everywhere’**

Today's headlines:

**New York Herald-Tribune: “Discs  
here there everywhere—seen from**

here, there, everywhere—seen from Maine to California.”

**New York Times:** “Discs soar over New York, now seen aloft in all colors.”

The flying saucer mystery opened 13 days ago when unidentified objects, described as “flying saucers,” were reported speeding over the American sky.

**The story developed swiftly during the weekend, and by last night people in 40 States and Canada had reported seeing “flying saucers.”**

Yesterday Army fighter planes were scouting the skies in an effort to intercept the “flying saucers.”

Last night agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were inquiring into a statement published in the Hearst Press that Russia has “atomic-powered” planes resembling the reported “flying saucers.”

Some serious investigation of the “flying saucer” story is still being made, but newspapers and news agencies today turned frankly sceptical.

## **“Spare Halos”**

Scientists also went that way.

**Dr. Ernest Hooten, anthropologist of Harvard University, announced that the discs were spare or misplaced haloes waiting for all the people killed in the July Fourth weekend.**

A Chicago manufacturer offered a

A Chicago manufacturer offered a £300 reward for the capture of the first disc.

A Tennessee watchmaker reported that he had invented the first flying disc in 1943 and had offered it to the War Department.

All sorts of experts have ventured explanations of the "flying saucer" phenomenon.

The only real facts were that not one "flying saucer" had been found and that most of 140,000,000 Americans were craning and cricking their necks.

A priest who yesterday reported that he had heard a whirring noise and then picked up a round, hot disc in his backyard, was told later that it was a circular saw which had flown off its axle.

Medical authorities in San Francisco and Frankfurt (Germany) offered the

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explanation that the reports of the "flying saucers" arose from an optical illusion known as *Muscae Volitantes*.

They said it was experienced when one looked fixedly at a bright, uniform surface.

The illusionary theory received a different twist from Dr. Henry Garratt, Professor of Psychology at Columbia University, who explained:

"Under a strong enough suggestion, you can see anything you want to."

The mass hysteria that followed the

**The mass hysteria that followed the Orson Welles broadcast in October, 1938, was recalled.**

On that occasion Welles dramatised H. G. Wells' book, "War of the Worlds," and purported to describe an attack on the earth by men from outer space.

Orson Welles hadn't forgotten it, either. He said in California yesterday: "I feel like a piker after hearing reports of flying discs."

 **Observers Tell Queer Tales, Page 2.**

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