

# "FLYING DISCS" IN SKY 34 YEARS AGO

*Courier-Mail Foreign Service*

**NEW YORK, July 9.—**The "Flying Saucers" which have been reported rushing across the sky over the United States, Canada, and Europe are at least 34 years old.

Prominent American scientists to-day quoted reports of a "strange succession of objects" seen flying through the sky above Toronto (Canada) in February, 1913.

The scientists think that Professor F. S. Cotten, of Sydney University, hit the "Flying Saucers" right in their illusory centre.

(Professor Cotten said on Monday that they were explained by the effect of the red corpuscles of the blood passing in front of the retina of the eyes of people who stared into the sky.)

In a recent book, "Forgotten Mysteries," R. Dewitt recalls that Professor Chant, of Toronto, investigated reports of objects seen in 1913.

Eye-witnesses then claimed that these moved "with majestic deliberation in fours and threes, abreast of each other, lined up so perfectly that they resembled an aerial fleet manoeuvring after perfect drilling."

Dr. Henry Garrett, of Columbia University, said to-day: "Under strong enough suggestion, you can cause a man to see anything you want him to see."

Dr. Ivan McDougle, of Baltimore, said: "It is one of those psychological epidemics in which people see things which are not there."

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Orson Welles, the illusionist whose broadcast about "an invasion from Mars" created panic in 1938, is frankly envious of the present reports.

"I feel like a 'piker,' " he said.

Reports early to-day of the finding of a "Flying Disc" on a ranch near Roswell (New Mexico) were followed later by an Army announcement that a weather officer had identified the object as a wind target—a kite-like structure of tin-foil—used to measure velocity of high winds.

The Scripps Howard science editor, David Dietz, tends to favour suggestions that the "Flying Saucers" are "a new secret war weapon."

He thinks that those first seen on June 25 might have been the result of experiments with "some sort of electric ray"

### ***Londoners On Look-out***

LONDON, July 9.—Professor Cotten's explanation of the "Flying Saucers" has kept many Londoners in the open peering at the sky.

A Harley Street specialist commented: "As long as the 'Saucers' keep moving, the spectator has nothing to worry about. But if they stop flying, he had better take a taxi to an oculist."

But even before Professor Cotten's experiment, people had seen "Saucers" over Britain.

Reports included those of a man who was lying on a beach during the afternoon. He saw "Something like a moon, only bigger."