

# DO YOU BELIEVE IN FLYING SAUCERS?

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

**WASHINGTON, May 7.**—To-day's world sometimes seems to be made up mostly of people who believe there are "flying saucers" and those who believe there are not.

The argument apparently has been going on a long time. The U.S. Air Force says people have been reporting unidentified flying objects since around 1700—and probably a long time before that.

Charles G. Ross, President Truman's secretary said the White House knows of no flying saucer secret weapon that this or any other country has developed. But this did not put an end to all the recent talk.

**Why does the flying saucer story stay alive ?**

Air Force officers say it is because some people are convinced this country has developed a flying saucer type of aircraft and believe that officials cannot admit it publicly because it is in the secret weapon class.

Other people are convinced there could not be so many reports flying around if there were not real flying saucers.

Kenneth Arnold, Boise, Idaho, businessman, on Tuesday, June 24, 1947, made one of the first eyewitness reports on flying saucers. The ones he said he saw were over Mt. Rainier, Washington.

Arnold told the Associated Press at Boise recently he is convinced the flying saucers are of "extra terrestrial origin." But he said this does not necessarily mean they came from another planet.

"It is obvious to me that there must be some connection between the saucers and the mysterious submarines which are reported at times when the saucer reports are prevalent," he said.

Arnold says he has seen flying saucers three times since he noticed the first ones and says he

noticed the first ones and says he has motion pictures. He has concluded that what sometimes appear to be sun reflections actually may be power plants which pulsate every 20 miles in flight.

Try tossing out that theory to brighten the dinner table conversation. Here is the conversation it evoked at one dinner party:

"It's reasonable to assume some other planet is making observations of the earth."

"But one of the saucers would have crashed by now. We would have the wreckage."

"Not necessarily. They could be so far ahead of us they build aircraft that never crash."

"But they would have landed by this time. If they're making observations they've probably been doing it for years. They would want to talk with us."

"Maybe they have radio. Maybe they have listened in on some of our radio conversations. They may know all about the kind of world we have down here. Maybe they pick up up on television. Maybe they just don't want to have anything to do with us."

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Astronomers say objects seen at great distances frequently resemble balls or discs.

Charles Fort, author of the "Books of Charles Fort," which Air Force officers have studied, made it a point to gather information on remarkable happenings reported in the heavens for centuries. He cites an incident reported to the British science magazine "Nature" by Admiral Erasmus Commanney.

The admiral said he was standing outside a hotel at Llanberis, North Wales, and saw a light which "immediately resolved itself into a clearly defined disc about three times the size of Jupiter." It disappeared, discharging brilliant orange clouds.

He reported this happened on August 28, 1894. His description is not dissimilar to descriptions made this year of flying saucers.

Fort cites dozens of aerial incidents dating as far back as 1704. In that year people connected mysterious heavenly lights in England and Switzerland with earthquakes.

Fort quotes New York newspapers stories on the great airship case in 1897.

The "New York Sun" reported that a mysterious light, travelling about 60 miles an hour and directed towards earth, appeared over Kansas City. A week later dozens of people near Chicago thought they saw lights, red and green, swaying overhead.

A thing that had the shape of a giant cigar, with a bright searchlight, later was reported over Texas. Similar reports came from many points. Back in Illinois it was reported the giant airship returned, landed in a farm field and took off again.

The U.S. Air Force argues that if men from Mars—or another planet—have been flying around here all these years sooner or later they would land and make contact with people on this earth.

Astronomers have told the Air Force they do not believe Martian civilisation would be within a half-century of earth's development. And we have not started using space ships yet.

"It appears that space travel from another point within the solar system is possible but very unlikely," the Air Force sums up.

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The possibility that space ships are coming from another solar system also was considered by astronomers. They said there are around 22 known systems besides ours.

But they said the nearest is so far away it would take a flying saucer pilot 80 years to reach earth, even if he travelled 18,000 miles a second.