

Do You Believe In Flying Saucers?

WASHINGTON (A.P.).—Today's world sometimes seems to be made up mostly of people who believe there are "flying saucers" and those who believe there aren't.

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 didn't 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 can't admit it publicly because it's in the secret weapon class.

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Other people are convinced there couldn't be so many reports flying around if there weren't real flying saucers.

Kenneth Arnold Boise, Idaho, businessman, on Tuesday, June 24, 1947, made one of the first eye-witness 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 connexion 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 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.

AT DINNER PARTY

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

"It's reasonable to assume some other planet is making observations of 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 us up on television. Maybe they j-ust don't want to have anything to do with us."

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

Charles Fort, author of the Books of Charles Fort, which air force officers have studied, made it a point to gather in-

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 Ommanney.

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 disk about three times the size of Jupiter," it disappeared, discharging brilliant orange clouds.

He reported this happened August 26, 1894. His description isn't 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.

AIRSHIP CASE

Fort quotes New York newspaper stories on the great airship case of 1897.

The New York "Sun" reported that a mysterious light, travelling about 60 miles an hour and directed toward earth, appeared over Kansas

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 don't believe Martia civilisation would be within a half-century of earth's development. And we haven't 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.

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

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.