

Cash awards fan flying saucer fever

FROM OUR WASHINGTON
BUREAU





A millionaire says he'll pay big money for a ride in one of these mystery objects.

FLYING saucers are flaring into the news again in the United States following the offer of a £11,000 reward for proof of the existence of the mysterious aerial phenomena.

The reward has been offered in New York by millionaire ball-point pen manufacturer Milton Reynolds. He says he will give the reward to anyone who can prove scientifically the existence of flying saucers.

He defined flying saucers as "interplanetary flying objects guided by living beings from another planet."

Reynolds said he would give an additional £44,600 to anyone who could obtain a ride for him in a flying saucer.

In Baltimore the flying saucer fever has also given rise to a challenge by a local used car dealer Temus Bright who offered £2500 to

Temus Bright who offered £2500 to anyone convincing him that there are such things as "flying saucers."

Bright's challenge has been accepted by scientist-naturalist Ivan Sanderson who says he will present his arguments in a debate.

Both have agreed to a panel of three experts, a lawyer, an aircraft engineer and an astronomer, adjudicating in the debate.

"I haven't got a flying saucer in the barn," Sanderson said in an interview. "So 'proof' must be based on logical conclusions."

He intends to base his arguments on the following facts: Leading scientists have said there is every reason to believe "There are other intelligences in the universe."

Many competent observers, including radar operators, have reported sighting these objects.

All reports indicate these "saucer-like" or "cigar-like" phenomena have been intelligently controlled so, therefore, they are real.

"In view of thousands of sightings, and information gained by radar and photographs, it seems the burden of proof rests upon the disbelieving factions—to show the flying discs do not exist," Sanderson asserts.

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"The thing interesting me most is the higher-flying cigar-shaped construction. It seems possible to me that from this larger construction the smaller flying saucers are launched and robot controlled," Sanderson says. "Perhaps the occupants of the higher objects are so constructed that they would not survive in our atmosphere, unless they descended in diving suits, or some such protective outfit."

With some 300,000,000,000,000

satellites in our sun's galaxy, there is no reason to believe other intelligent creatures do not live elsewhere than on earth, according to Sanderson.

"Whenever we pass near Venus, the sightings increase," he says. Sanderson discounts the possibility that these flying discs are made anywhere on earth by citing top aircraft designers' negative statements on this subject.

An explanation of the spate of flying saucer reports made during last August, has been advanced by several scientific experts in Washington.

In August the earth in its orbit around the sun passed through the

around the sun passed through the wreckage of a disrupted comet,

which may have been responsible for thousands of shooting stars filling the sky—each one a tiny fragment of rock or iron. These would have plunged through the earth's upper atmosphere at enormous velocities and burned rapidly to gas from the friction of the extremely thin air.

The meteor shower was the annual perseid display. - Some years it is most brilliant. During recent years, however, it has been quite disappointing to astronomers, according to Rev. Francis Hayden, Director of the Georgetown University Observatory.

Some of the "flying saucer" reports have been based on meteors, probably moving in "line of sight" with respect to the observer. In such

cases, a shooting star may take on curious appearances, sometimes appearing like a large double star and sometimes quite probably, as a flat disc.

Some flying saucer reports do not fit into this hypothesis, or any other. Just now they are puzzling some of

Just now they are puzzling some of the foremost scientists engaged in upper-air research, such as those at the Carnegie Institution of Washington's high-atmosphere observatory at Derwood, Maryland.

Constantly probing the upper atmosphere as a matter of routine, they have as yet observed nothing unusual but their radar apparatus is not adapted to detecting such objects.

There are many things in the high atmosphere which will give radar echoes, it was explained by one of the Carnegie scientists.

They come from rapidly moving clouds, from the trails of ionised gases which form the "tails" of shooting stars, or even from a sharp, abrupt change in temperature.

The crucial point, the Carnegie scientist explains, is to have reliable evidence as to whether the objects which have been reported actually are being "navigated" in any way. This would be indicated, for example, by any abrupt change of direction. Meteor trails and the like move generally in a straight line. So do wind-driven clouds.

They don't bob up and down or turn corners as some of the flying saucers are reported to do.

A flying saucer would almost certainly be a metallic object. It would return echoes in about the same radar

return echos in about the same radar spectrum as clouds or meteor trails but any image on the radar screen would be much sharper. The echo from a cloud, for example, would be quite diffuse. The difference would be apparent to any radar expert.

The Carnegie scientists are quick to admit they don't know and have no altogether acceptable theory on reported flying saucers. This, after all, is the strangest part of the whole phenomenon—the country's foremost experts can't explain what is reported by supposedly reliable observers. They never see flying saucers themselves, or get any radar indications of metallic objects in the sky.

So the mystery is still to be solved but whether anyone will be able to produce enough tangible evidence to win the rewards being offered, remains to be seen. ●