

FLYING SAUCERS ***-are they myths?***

Reviewed by
Jack Evans

DONALD H. MENZEL, Harvard University professor, has done one of the greatest and most urgently needed debunking jobs of the decade in his book "Flying Saucers."

In 300 pages he not only dissipates ALL the flying saucer tales, exposes the weird stories about the little green men from Venus; but he destroys scores of other myths, some of them hoary with age.

He even corrects the prophet Ezekiel (600 B.C.) on a matter of two visions of angels "burning like coals of fire."

Professor Menzel has chased flying saucer stories all over the world and down

all over the world and down the long corridors of history.

He checked hundreds of reports of strange apparitions in the skies, signs in the heavens, and strange flying objects.



HE went after the saucers as well equipped as any man could be — he is a professor of astrophysics—and has probably spent much more time observing unusual happenings in the skies than any of the amateur observers who burst into the public eye and ear with unscientific, ultra-sensational reports.

He analysed the sightings, applied his own scientific knowledge, and — Boom! Another flying saucer, angel, or fire-breathing, flying dragon exploded into misty nothingness.

His amazement at the public's complete readiness to swallow the most impossible fictions, and then to defend them as fact, shows very frequently. But he does not accuse all saucer observers of suffering from hallucinations.

There have been too many

There have been too many reports, and too many corresponding points between

reports of different observers.

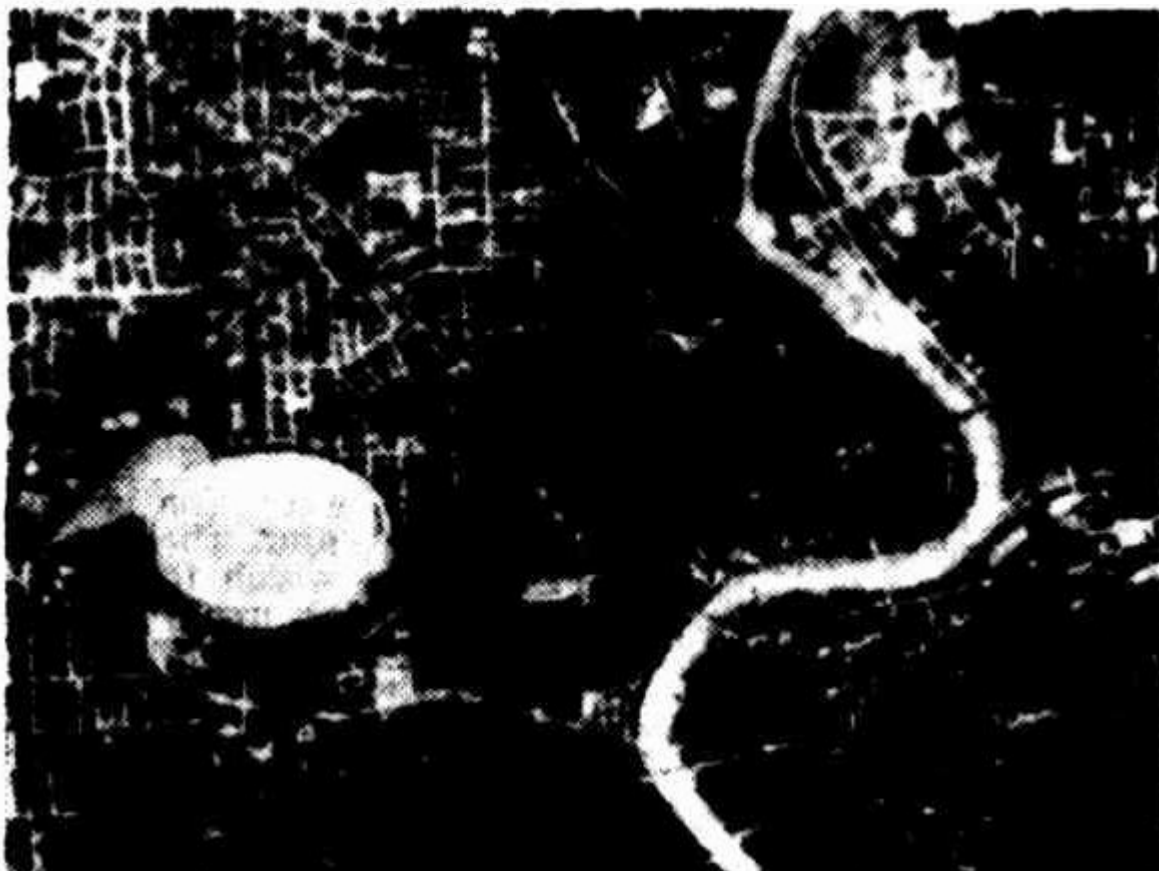
Professor Menzel says there must be something there to cause the reports. But it might be anything from a mock sun or a weather balloon to a piece of paper, or even light flickering in reflections from minute blood capillaries of the eyes.

He says:

- **"Flying saucers do exist,**
- **"Have been seen,**
- **"Are not what people thought they were."**

Flying saucers are perfectly natural phenomena.

So, for instance, are





Is this a flying saucer? No — a fake.

Ezekiel's angels. The professor says, "The agreement between Ezekiel's vision and a modern description of a deluxe model exhibition of mock suns with attendant glories is, to my mind, completely convincing."

For people who don't know what "mock suns," "sundogs," or "glories" are, there are ample illustrations. Most readers will find them completely convincing, too.

Discussing the story—it got world-wide publicity—about the little green men from Venus who manned three of the saucers, Professor Menzel is at his best.

He must have spent months painstakingly collecting the information needed to expose this hoax.

He kills off the little green men just as effectively as he

shoots down the flying saucers.

He traced the "green men" story back to a fantastic lecture given by a visitor to a class at Denver University, U.S.A., in May, 1950.

He found the lecturer, an oil prospector named Newton. He thinks that Newton was startled at the tremen-

was startled at the tremendous interest in his tall tale, and at the vast gullibility of the public.

If Newton had remembered the panic Orson Welles caused with his "Invasion from Mars," broadcast one Sunday in 1938, he wouldn't have been surprised.

Professor Menzel criticises the United States military authorities, particularly the Air Force. Their needless secrecy has caused much unnecessary fear among the public.

The American public—and to some extent the Australian public, too — is afraid of saucers. It would have needed only an extra touch to trigger a nation-wide panic in U.S.A. at the height of the saucer scare.

This is not the first time the world has been attacked by flying saucers. There was a scare in 1897. They called it a phantom airship then.

Airship hysteria spread over the whole U.S.A. In some places it caused religious revivals, because many people believed that the end of the world was at hand.

of the world was at hand. And, as in 1947, irreverent hoaxers and jokers jumped on the waggon—or airship.

Then there was the great saucer of 1882—a body calculated to be about 70 miles long, 10 miles wide, and with a speed of about 10 miles a second. Professor Menzel has the answer to that one, too. And to the unknown lights of Japan, which have for centuries misled ships' masters off the Japanese coast.



SOME of the most interesting chapters of the book are those in which Professor Menzel discusses heavenly appearances such as "sub-suns, sundogs, solar halos, swords and crosses in the sky," and simple little questions like "How far away is the rainbow?"

In place of the flying saucers he puts a whole range of intensely interesting and observable phenomena.

He suggests common-sense tests for checking and recording the appearance of any unusual heavenly happenings.

For anyone still unconvinced, there are 10 pages of mathematics at the end of the book. Those pages alone are enough to send flying saucer sightings down to zero.

FLYING SAUCERS,

by Donald H. Menzel

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