

THE U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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AF COLONEL, AIR CREW ENCOUNTER GIANT UFO

In a dramatic daylight, air-to-air encounter, a "giant black metallic cylinder suspended in the sky" was seen on March 14 by the pilots and crew of an Air Force KC-135 flying over Southeast Asia. The primary witness on the plane was Col. Robert M. Tirman, an Air Force flight surgeon stationed in Thailand.

Col. Tirman said the "huge" object was in a vertical position at an approximate altitude of 15,000 feet, about two miles from the plane. He was alerted over the plane's interphone when the pilot exclaimed, "What the hell is that?"

"Damned if I know," he heard the co-pilot reply. "It looks like a giant bird."

"They kept up a lively conversation," Col. Tirman stated, "while I left the [refueling] boom and went forward to see for myself. . . . I yelled out, 'For Pete's sake, it's got to be a big bird!'"

The AF colonel said the pilot circled closer to the cylinder, which was hanging suspended in the sky. The crew speculated that the object might be a weather balloon, but soon discarded this idea.

Jets Search in Vain

After several minutes, the UFO disappeared. "We went back and searched," said Col. Tirman, "but to no avail." He reported that jet planes were scrambled, but by the time they converged on the spot the object was no longer in sight.

Col. Tirman lamented that this was his first flight without binoculars and a camera. "So now I've seen a UFO (but) I can't prove it with a photo . . .

"I've drawn a sketch of (the UFO)," the witness wrote his wife . . . "All of us guessed a different size, but it must have been high since we were probably at least two miles away . . ."

Mrs. Tirman, impressed by the report of the incident, showed it to her local newspaper, the Jacksonville (Arkansas) Daily News. An account of the sighting was printed on March 27, including Col. Tirman's drawing. In a subsequent phone interview with NICAP, and also with Dr. James McDonald, Univ. of Arizona, Mrs. Tirman confirmed the newspaper story and *promised to provide further details.*

Other Cylinder Reports on File

The AF flight surgeon's report is similar to another encounter with a cylinder over Southeast Asia. In June, 1967, the Air Force disclosed that on the evening of June 11 numerous military men had observed a silvery cylindrical object over Da Nang. Fighters sent up to investigate were unable to locate the UFO.

Other reports of cylindrical UFOs include two sightings, 10 days apart, of a huge cylinder, accompanied by smaller objects, over Gaillac and Oloron, France, late in October, 1952. Numerous witnesses saw the objects fly slowly overhead. (These were the two famous French cases, described by Aime Michel in his first book, *The Truth About Flying Saucers*, in which the cylinders emitted streams of "angel hair.")

Another and more recent vertical cylinder type of UFO was seen on July 8, 1968, when two groups of ground observers and four airborne witnesses independently reported such an object over Warren, Ohio (see *Investigator*, July-August, 1968, p. 6).

New Moon-Mars Life Theories

Significant new information about the numerous unexplained "flares" seen on the moon is expected from redoubled lunar observations, following the intensive global moonwatch during the Apollo 10 mission.

Approximately 600 of the strange flares have been seen on the moon in the last three centuries. The Apollo 10 Moonwatch system was established in the hope of solving the flares mystery, which received new impetus in April, when a Soviet astronomer—Prof. Nicolai Kozygrev—made the latest report.

After a study of unusual lunar observations, Prof. Kozygrev has agreed with the tidal theory that just as the moon exerts tidal effects on the earth, possibly including earthquakes, the earth—about 81 times more massive than the moon—exerts similar but more powerful effects on the lunar surface. Since the moon's crust is solid, the earth's gravitational effects are seen as eruptions of smoke, volcanic outpourings or gas. (Any such events, including the flares, are labeled "transient lunar phenomena" by astronomers.)

Evidence of the earth's effect on the moon is being carefully evaluated by scientists, including Dr. Jack Green of the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation in California.

"If some of these transients are taking place," Dr. Green states, "they are due to volcanic activity. This would imply that the impact of meteorites is of much less significance in the formation of the moon's features.

"It also means that survival (of men) on the moon would be enhanced, that the possibility of finding caves, water in rocks and other things which would lead to the development of lunar bases would be better."

Over a period of years, a few astronomers and other observers have suggested that the strange flares and occasional unexplained changes in the moon's surface might indicate the presence of intelligent life on the moon, or possibly in caves beneath the surface. This new cave suggestion by a responsible scientist will probably revive the earlier speculations.

Other new scientific suggestions, that actual seas once flowed over the lunar surface, and the announcement that water has been discovered on Mars, have heightened the possibility of life, past and present, on both the moon and the Martian planet.

Water on Mars

During March of this year, two scientists studying Mars light reflections through the 86-inch McDonald Observatory telescope in Texas reported they had found "definite and conclusive" evidence of water in the Martian atmosphere. The possibility that some form of life may exist on Mars, they said, has become less far-fetched.

"It still may not be a great place to live, but there's a chance of life there," stated Dr. Ronald Shorn of Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Dr. Shorn has spent five years studying the red planet and is convinced that there is enough water there "to fill a lake a mile wide, a mile deep and a mile long."

Dr. Shorn was assisted in his observations by Steven Little of the University of Texas.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Membership Rates

Domestic membership and renewal rate for all NICAP members is now \$8 per year (6 bi-monthly issues of the UFO Investigator), \$15 for two years. Membership and renewal rate for Canada and Mexico is \$9 per year, \$17 for two years. Other foreign rates are \$10 per year, \$19 for two years.

NICAP BOARD MEETS

A highly constructive, optimistic outlook for the future was the keynote of a significant and important meeting of the NICAP Board of Governors on May 10.

The session was called to discuss and help resolve many of NICAP's problems, to approve new policy programs, and to offer constructive ideas for building toward the future.

Seven of the nine governors attended, including Col. Joseph Bryan, III, USAFR, Ret.; Mr. J. B. Hartranft, Jr., President, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mr. Dewey Fournet, former AF Intelligence Monitor, UFO Project; Col. Robert B. Emerson, Army Reserve Officer, research physicist and head of Emerson Testing Laboratories; Rev. Albert Baller, Congressional minister and author; and Dr. Bruce A. Rogers, emeritus professor of engineering, Texas A & M.

Col. Joseph Bryan was elected Chairman of the Board (see separate story) and Mr. J. B. Hartranft, Vice-Chairman. Dewey J. Fournet, former Air Force major and UFO Project monitor, served as ad hoc Chairman. Major Donald E. Keyhoe, NICAP Director, was elected as a tenth Board member. The remaining Governors were reelected for from one to three year terms. Major Keyhoe was elected President (Director) of NICAP, and Gordon Lore Vice-President (Assistant Director) and Secretary-Treasurer, both officers for three-year terms.

The orders of business included approval and adoption of amended NICAP Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. The new publication program, overwhelmingly accepted by members, was also approved.

The meeting was regarded as one of the most important steps taken by NICAP. A new feeling of cooperation and unity between the Board and the headquarters staff was infused.

Certain NICAP goals were also reviewed. Among the salient points in the By-Laws approved by the Board was the following: "The purpose of (NICAP) is to investigate, study, research and report on aerial, atmospheric and space phenomena . . . , it being (NICAP's) object to secure reliable, scientific information and data on said phenomena, to subject such information and data to systematic and objective examination and evaluation, and to make such information, data, and examination and evaluation results generally available. . ."

The Board also appointed three-man Executive, Finance and Membership committees. The Executive Committee was given full authority to act for the rest of the Board during the interim periods between Board meetings. The Board also directed the Finance Committee to prepare a budget for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 1970.

MOON-MARS (Continued from Page 1)

The new theory of actual lunar seas was evolved by Dr. John Gilvarry of the semi-official Rand Corporation (for research and development.) It was disclosed April 28 to the American Physical Society by Paul M. Muller of JPL. According to Dr. Gilvarry, the moon's "seas" (now dark, dry areas) once may have contained bodies of water. Primitive life, he says, may have lived there, depositing sediment that left the areas dark. But the gravitational pull of the moon was too weak to retain most of the possible life-forming gases that volcanically erupted when the moon was young. Much the same process may have occurred on earth, Dr. Gilvarry states, but the earth's greater gravitational pull would have retained the most important gases.

Among scientists who concur is Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize winner. Dr. Urey does not fully accept the "gases" theory, but agrees that water may once have flowed across the moon.

The moon life theory would be even more substantiated, Muller added, if amounts of iron and carbon were found by our astronauts.

Two other scientists also left open the moon-life possibility in testifying before the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, April 29.

Dr. George E. Mueller, head of NASA's Manned Space Flight Program, said the moon is "less cold and unknowable" due to our increasing knowledge. The Associate Administrator of NASA, Dr. Homer E. Newell, testified that the finding of evidence of past life on the moon, in the near future, is "quite possible."

History of Lunar Phenomena

Detailed explorations of the moon by our astronauts may eventually provide explanations of the unusual lunar observations which have puzzled even noted scientists such as Sir John Herschel, one of England's great astronomers in the 19th century. Herschel reported seeing strange, bright lights during an eclipse. Some, he said, seemed to be moving "above the moon." Later, geometrical patterns were reported by the astronomer Gruithuisen.

In 1869, a sudden eruption of mystery lights, in regular patterns, caused a three-year investigation by the Royal Astronomical Society of Great Britain. Watched by many astronomers, the lights appeared in circular groups, triangular formations and straight lines, their intensity varying as if by intelligent control. Until 1871, careful records were made every night, in the hope of finding some meaning—possibly messages. Then after almost 2000 observations, the groups of strange lights disappeared—still a riddle.

Since then, numerous astronomers have reported lights or flares. On March 30, 1950, Dr. H. P. Wilkins, English lunar authority, picked up a weird glow in the Aristarchus-Herodotus region, using a 15¼ inch reflector telescope. The light was oval-shaped, strangely brilliant, Wilkins reported, and it appeared as if it came from something hovering near the crater floor.

So far, no signs of life or artificial objects have been reported by our astronauts. The flares and other unusual sightings may prove to have ordinary explanations. But it is not impossible that explorers from an advanced civilization may have landed on the moon, perhaps centuries before our astronauts, using a moon cave for a temporary base—as we intend to do.

If there ever were such visits, perhaps evidence may be found some day when detailed exploration of the moon becomes possible.

Long before then, we will probably learn the explanation for the strange flares and other puzzling observations. Judging by the intensified Moonwatch and by scientific evaluations, we may know the answer in the comparatively near future.

It was clear by the enthusiastic cooperation and ideas expounded that each Board member feels that NICAP's role in the UFO field is vital and that all steps necessary should be taken to see that we continue to operate in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

Before adjourning, the Board set its next annual meeting for on or about the second Saturday in May, 1970.

LIGHT BEAMS WITH EM EFFECTS REPORTED

A new development—UFO light beams apparently causing an E-M, (electromagnetic) interference effect—has recently been noted, as important sightings continue to be reported.

One interesting case checked by NICAP occurred during March, in Missouri. At 6:40 a.m., March 4, William R. Overstreet was driving just west of Atlanta, Missouri, when he observed a low-flying, large reddish object heading north.

"When it reached the road in front of me," Overstreet, the city marshal of nearby Elmer, said in his report to NICAP, "it turned the same way I was going. . . The object was about 100 feet across. The lower edge of the red glow was about 50 feet above the ground. It seemed to stop for a second as it turned the same direction as I was going."

As the witness approached the UFO, the object emitted an "extremely hot," powerful white light beam onto "a spot about eight feet across the road."

"The heat came through the windshield of my truck so bad that it felt like I was sitting out in the sun on a hot summer day with the [windows] rolled up," Overstreet stated. "When this beam came to the ground the object changed colors. The center part changed to a bright blue with a quivering sensation. Around the blue was a wide red band. There was a small yellow band outside, which glowed like bubble lights and made the yellow band look like it was turning clockwise around the rest of it."

Truck Stopped by Light Beam

The witness drove closer to the light beam and tried to use his two-way radio, but the "signal was not getting out." Then both the radio and truck motor "quit."

"The light was so strong I had to pull my sun visor down and shield my eyes with my hands," Overstreet continued. "I released the clutch and let the truck coast. When the beam moved from me a few feet, I heard static on my radio and I let the clutch out and the motor started. I moved up slowly this time. When I got within six feet of the beam, the motor started missing again. I gave it more gas and it died again as before. The radio was out again too."

As the UFO pulled slowly away from the vehicle, the motor started again. Overstreet "dropped back" and followed the object for about four miles. The UFO continued on "with the beam down," then changed back to its original red color.

"It flashed once more as it crossed a high line . . .," the witness concluded. "Then it veered off to the southeast . . . Then it went out of sight. I saw it about seven or eight minutes altogether. I had never believed in them too much until I saw this. Now I know there is something to these UFOs."

Between the second and fourth of March, reports were also coming in from the small Missouri towns of Kirksville, Lancaster and Novelty.

This and the E-M-light beam cases cited below follow a report from Newton, Georgia, on November 22, 1968, when a witness' car and radio ceased functioning as a UFO's light beam shone directly onto the vehicle (see UFO Investigator, Vol. IV, No. 9). This, to NICAP's knowledge, was the first time there was a direct-contact association between a UFO light beam and E-M effects.

Ionized Air Theory Offered

Communication and/or observation have been offered as possible answers to some of the light beam cases. There have been numerous reports in which UFOs swept light beams across roads and fields, possibly accounting for the observation theory. E-M effects to citizens band and other radios may theoretically account for the communication hypothesis. Both are interesting speculations. But, perhaps, the most immediate question is: what causes the E-M effects in the first place? One of the NICAP scientists queried about the Overstreet sighting offers an interesting theory.

The E-M effects experienced by Overstreet, the scientist wrote NICAP, "could be attributed to highly ionized air. Such ionized air could be such a good electrical conductor that the effect on a car battery could be the same as though the battery were short circuited by a large diameter copper cable. That is, the electricity would pass through the short circuiting wire rather than through the car radio, headlights or the ignition coil. . . The surface glow which frequently surrounds the entire UFO shell could be explained as an ionization effect."

The scientist added that Overstreet's statement that the UFO "flashed once more as it crossed a high line" may have referred to a high voltage line.

"If the air near a UFO were highly ionized," the scientist added, "an electric current of undetermined magnitude but presumably of considerable amperage could flow between the high voltage line and the UFO if they are at different potentials. Since the UFO would not be grounded, this would be a temporary flow. Whether flowing in one direction to the UFO or as an alternating discharge, an increase in the brilliancy of the glow surrounding the UFO would be noted. Mr. Overstreet mentions a 'flash.'" In conclusion, he said, "ionized atmosphere surrounding certain types of UFOs could explain several of the effects which have been reported as accompanying sightings of UFOs."

Less than a week later a similar case was reported from Missouri.

UFO Emits Light Beam from Bottom

At 10:30 a.m., March 10, a housewife was driving near Lancaster when she saw a bright light beam on the road. Looking up, she saw a "charcoal gray colored disc" with a dome emitting the light from its bottom. Narrow at the top, the beam was almost as wide as the highway.

Then, the witness reported to NICAP, the beam touched the car and the 1964 Convair's "speed dropped from 50 m.p.h. to 8 m.p.h. It did not start to miss; it merely slowed to that speed although I had the foot-feed on the floor." When the car had passed through the light beam, the vehicle again functioned normally. Meanwhile, the witness' dog had jumped to the front seat from the back and appeared "highly agitated and apparently fearful."

NICAP member Robert Smulling investigated the report.

That same evening sightings were also reported from nearby Fulton, Cameron, Laclede, Brookfield, Winigan and Macon, according to local newspaper accounts. Other reports from the same time period came from Atlanta, Gifford, New Boston, Ethel and Elmer.

Also on March 10, another E-M-light beam case was reported from North Dakota.

Police Car Radio Affected

At 10:10 p.m., Lavern Janzen, police chief of Westhope, was driving near his home base when he saw a "World War I helmet type disc" with a dome emitting a greenish-blue light. The UFO had a red light band around its middle and appeared to be rotating. A light beam "as bright as looking into the sun" came from the object's bottom.

"The whole damn car lit up and the area all around," the witness stated in his report to Donald E. Flickinger, Chairman of NICAP's North Dakota Subcommittee. "I couldn't think for a moment and when I realized . . . that a UFO had passed right over my patrol car, I got pretty damn scared. I pulled up the road a few more feet and sat there and watched it hovering about 700 feet from me and it was right over the road. At first I was real scared and I thought of using my service revolver but . . . decided against it because it wouldn't have been much help anyway."

The police chief said he got out of the car and watched as the object hovered for 10 or 15 minutes, then "took off to the south with a high burst of speed and disappeared."

LIGHT BEAMS (Continued from Page 3)

The witness added that "while the UFO was hovering it wobbled back and forth, but when it took off it stopped and leveled out."

Chief Janzen's citizens band radio was "heavy with static" during the encounter.

"On this same night [Janzen] tried to reach me on [the] radio, but I couldn't hear him," Flickinger said in his report. "We checked it out the next evening and it worked just fine."

The witness added that he experienced "a feeling of lightness when the UFO took off," as if he were "going to float away." There was also a permeating smell of burning rubber.

Saucer Seen Over High Tension Wires

An object seen landed in a field and following high tension wires also paced a car, lit it up with two large spotlights, caused an animal reaction, and emitted a "heavy humming sound, like a huge generator" near Hammond, Ontario, Canada, about 30 miles east of Ottawa, according to the Ottawa Citizen.

At 8:30 p.m., April 22, an Ottawa man, his wife and teenage son were driving on a deserted stretch of road during a rainstorm when they saw a 30-foot long saucer with two large spotlights and "many porthole-shaped windows" sitting in a field. Red lights were also reportedly seen inside the craft.

As the driver stopped his car, the UFO rose, flew across a swamp, and hovered over high tension wires.

"It followed along the wires, rising and falling with them, seeming to draw power from them," the Citizen stated.

Then the object approached the car, emitting a "heavy humming sound," lighting up the inside of the car "like a sunny day" and frightening the family dog.

The Upper Atmosphere Research Department of Canada's National Research Council, charged with investigating the more impressive UFO reports, investigated the incident. Head of the department is Dr. Peter M. Millman, former director of Project Second Storey, a scientific panel convened in the early '50s to attempt to determine the feasibility of further UFO study.

A check by Dr. Bruce McIntosh, NRC team member, with Ontario Hydro and other helicopter agencies revealed that none had craft operating at the time of the sighting. Dr. McIntosh also said the main witness gave "a very objective and sane report" and was known as "a reliable man."

Car-pacings, including E-M effects, were reported from Australia and Michigan.

Australian E-M Effect Case

John Rose was traveling near Norseman, Australia, at 7:30 p.m., February 20, with a fully loaded tank of gas. Then his car began to "gasp," as if it were "running out of gas," according to the Perth News. About 80 feet away, near the road, was a cigar-shaped object about 30 feet long. It was glowing like a fluorescent street light.

The frightened observer accelerated and the car stopped sputtering and sped ahead. The UFO followed, "dipping and lifting over the contours of the tree tops." Rose stopped his car.

"I opened the door but I wasn't going to get right out. . .," the witness said. "The object veered away and streaked off. . . climbing fast. I reckon it took about 10 seconds to disappear."

Rose said the object kicked up such a storm of sand, dust and leaves as it shot away that he "could see footprints on the floor" of the car.

UFO Follows Car

A green and yellow UFO paced Mr. and Mrs. Larry Johnson's car north of Hale, Michigan, on the evening of March 13.

"We got this creepy feeling like we were being watched," Mrs. Johnson told a Bay City Times reporter. "Then I turned and saw it."

The object was just behind the automobile and over the treetops.

"We were both nervous, frightened and awed. . .," the witnesses stated in their report to NICAP.

Johnson stepped on the gas and sped off.

"[The UFO] followed us about five miles, then went directly straight up and out of sight," the Johnsons stated.

When they reached home they saw the object again, but it "suddenly took off and vanished."

"All I can say is that it was the weirdest thing I ever saw," Mr. Johnson told the Times. "You hear about these kind of things, but just don't believe it unless it happens to you."

Pilots Spot UFOs

Both commercial and private pilots reported sightings from Spain, England and Arizona.

A UFO emitting a powerful red light was observed by Captain Jaime Ordoval, co-pilot Augustin Carvajal and Flight Engineer Jose Cuenca, of Iberia Airlines, during a flight from Palma, Majorca, to the Spanish mainland, at 9:15 p.m., February 25.

The object followed the plane from Majorca to Spain, the witnesses said. Then it descended close to the ground, ascended and disappeared to the right.

"I contacted Barcelona Control for them to inform Embargo Military Radar," the pilot told EURONET Project Director, Julian J. A. Hennessey, Chairman of NICAP's European Subcommittee #1. "When we came into contact with Embargo, the object had already disappeared."

A week earlier, on the 18th, the crew of a major airline saw a swept-wing UFO with a bright spot on the front at 2:05 p.m., near London, England. The pilot said the object took eight minutes to complete a 45-degree arc. It was also reported that the flight engineer snapped several photographs.

Flying Formation Seen by Pilots

At 3:42 on the clear, sunny afternoon of March 17, Hermon Slater and Ben Ripley, both pilots, were flying in a Cessna 150 between Phoenix and Lake Havasu City, Arizona, when they saw some 25 objects over the Buckskin Mountains.

"There were about a dozen in a kind of center cluster and the others were grouped around them haphazardly," Slater, pilot of the Cessna, told a Phoenix Gazette reporter.

The witnesses described the UFOs, traveling at about 300 m.p.h., as "white, opaque and with a black stripe leading back on the outer edge from a slight protrusion at the forward section of their oval shape." The objects were also "undulating and dipping. . . in precise unison, as though remote controlled." They appeared about three times the size of an automobile.

"My hands broke out in a cold sweat after what we saw. . .," said Ripley, a pilot since 1947.

Shortly before the objects were spotted, Ripley, the navigator, "suddenly had an urge to loosen his seat belt enough to rise up in his seat, with one hand on the dashboard, and look forward and down to the left," according to Dr. James E. McDonald, who interviewed the witnesses and submitted a copy of his report to NICAP. Both men immediately saw the formation as Ripley pointed down.

"What the hell are those things?" Slater exclaimed.

The pilots watched as the UFOs flew beneath the plane and to the left before disappearing.

Estimated duration of the sighting was 20 seconds.

According to a staff member of a Phoenix bank, a commercial pilot and co-pilot were making their landing approach into Phoenix 15 or 20 minutes after the Slater-Ripley incident when they saw "about a dozen metallic-looking objects flying towards the northwest over the White Tank Mountains (west of Phoenix) . . ."

NICAP is following up on this sighting. (No further details are available as of this writing.)

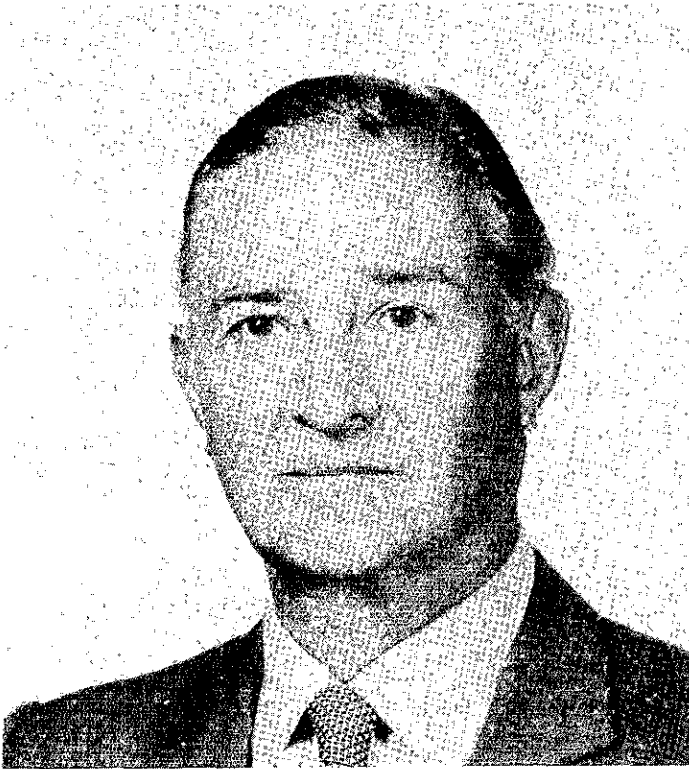
Members are aware that NICAP has on file several hundred UFO reports by commercial, military and private pilots. Many of these sightings include E-M effects, plane-pacings and radar contact. Collec-

(Continued on Page 6)

BRYAN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF BOARD

Joseph Bryan, a retired Air Force Reserve Colonel and former Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, was elected Chairman of the NICAP Board of Governors for a one-year term at a Board meeting on May 10 (see separate story).

During his military career, Col. Bryan was a NATO staff member under Gen. Lauris Norstad and the recipient of the Air Medal with two gold stars.



Joseph Bryan, III

His long and varied literary achievements include a book entitled, *Admiral Halsey's Story*, co-authored with the famed World War II Pacific commander. He was a newspaper reporter after his graduation from Princeton in 1927. Then he became Managing Editors of both "Parade" and "Town and Country" magazines. An Associate Editor of "The Saturday Evening Post," he was also contributor to numerous other national publications, including "Reader's Digest," "Life," and "Holiday."

Because of his intense interest in NICAP and UFOs, Col. Bryan has acquired, over the years, a wide range of information and knowledge which well qualifies him for the top position on the Board.

CONTACTING MEMBERS

Some NICAP members have asked to be supplied a list of other members in their areas for the purpose of attempting to elicit ideas to help NICAP.

It has always been NICAP's policy not to divulge members' names without their permission, and some do not want their names revealed. Naturally, we must respect their confidences.

It is suggested that members desiring to contact others in their respective areas place a small classified ad in one or more local papers asking that NICAP members contact them. Meantime, we shall try to work out a method, with permission of members involved, to make possible member meetings and discussions possible.

Former Congressman Joins Board

Ex-Congressman J. Edward Roush, who chaired the House Space Committee Congressional hearings on UFOs last July, was elected to the NICAP Board of Governors by a unanimous vote of its members in April.

One of Mr. Roush's significant achievements during his Congressional service was his instrumental hand in having an emergency police telephone number instituted in several American cities, including New York, after a similar program in Europe proved successful. He authored an article, "911—A Hot Line for Emergencies," for "Reader's Digest."

The Indiana lawyer was elected to the 86th Congress in 1958 and remained a member until last November. Previously, he was a member of the Indiana Legislature for one year and prosecuting attorney for Huntington County, Indiana, for four years. An Infantry officer during World War II, he also served as an Army Counter Intelligence Corps agent.

Arranged Symposium July 1968

The former Congressman made his greatest contribution to the UFO investigation field by persuading the Chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics (on which he also was a member) to hold an all-day UFO symposium on July 29, 1968. (See UFO Investigator, Vol. IV, No. 7). Six top scientists, including Dr. James E. McDonald, Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Dr. Carl Sagan, presented their views. Mr. Roush acclaimed the event as "one of the most unusual and interesting days I have spent . . . in the Congress. . ." He also praised the hearings as a pioneering effort in linking Congress with a serious study of UFOs.

"As a member of the House Science and Astronautics Committee, I have been interested in (the UFO) subject in terms of unexplained phenomena," Roush said in speeches on the House floor in 1968. "Over the past year I have talked with or corresponded with all the major participants in UFO studies in the United States." In recommending a Congressional investigation into the matter of UFOs, Congressman Roush said a scientific review was needed in order to direct legislators' efforts in the future. "The American people," he said, "have the right to expect this from us. . ."



Edward Roush

Please renew without waiting for renewal notices. The staff member handling this work has been temporarily put on another assignment. We shall greatly appreciate your early renewals.

SIGHTINGS (Continued from Page 4)

tively, these reports offer possibly the most impressive body of evidence on record.

Sightings were also reported from New York, Michigan and Maryland, including landing and animal reaction cases.

Tilting, Revolving Object Reported

Building Superintendent Joseph F. Sanchez was working on the roof of a 15-story building in New York City at 3:45 p.m., March 11, when he saw a "small round object almost directly overhead. . ." The light tan UFO appeared to slowly flicker from a lighter to a darker color as it moved toward the southeast.

About six to eight seconds later, the UFO stopped flickering and slowed down.

"The object seemed to head in the direction between the two clouds on its southeast path," Sanchez told NICAP. "In an instant it stopped its forward motion. . . The object's edge tipped upward to. . . 30 degrees and it began to make a clockwise horizontal loop. . . It was tipped with its lowest edge toward me and seemed to be rotating clockwise."

The UFO had a "convex topped dome. . . about two thirds the width of the oval of the disc." As the object changed from a tan to a dull aluminum color, darker gray dots evenly spaced were detected around its dome. These dots "were rotating clockwise and gave the appearance that the whole object rotated."

"The object continued its tilted horizontal circular loop like a slowly spinning toy top turning in a small circle," Sanchez continued.

The UFO was "nearly completing its loop" when Sanchez called to a fellow worker, Thomas Jordan. The two men watched as the disc continued southeast, passed between two clouds, and disappeared in four or five seconds.

NICAP also has on record numerous landing reports from various parts of the world. Some of the cases include physical evidence, such as the Socorro, New Mexico, case of April 24, 1964, and the South Hill, Virginia, sighting nearly three years later.

Landing Report

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Kidder and their son, Brian, saw a dome-shaped UFO sitting in an alfalfa field about half a mile from their home near Marshall, Michigan, at approximately 11 a.m., March 23. They said the sun was glinting off the apparently metallic object.

The witnesses described the object as between 50 and 60 feet in diameter and 15 to 20 feet from the dome to the base.

"It was a solid object which had the appearance of stainless steel or aluminum," Kidder stated.

After watching the UFO for 20 minutes, the family reentered the house to get coats. When they returned the object had disappeared.

The Rev. Gerald F. Boyer investigated the sighting.

NICAP PUBLICATIONS

NICAP's publications have become, more and more, vitally important because they report factual evidence and developments evaded by, or omitted from, the Condon Report.

UFOs: A New Look includes chapters entitled the UFO Revolution; Extraterrestrials—Suggested Motives and Origins; Vehicle Pacings and Encounters; Close-Range Sightings—Structural Details; Scientific Support and Congressional Hearings; Landings and Physical Traces; Are There UFO Occupants?; and The Colorado Project.

The UFO Evidence covers sightings from all over the world by military and airline pilots, radar and control-tower operators, scientists, and many other competent and reliable citizens. Besides first-hand fascinating details, the publication contains special sections on patterns, problems and dangers, and a UFO chronology. It has been acclaimed by aviation editors, members of Congress, pilots, press media, and the general public.

Order forms are enclosed. If you already have these publications, please recommend them to friends interested in the UFO situation.

Members Endorse New Program

We are very grateful for your immediate response to our emergency letter, not only for the quick financial assistance but also for the many letters enthusiastically endorsing our new program.

It is the first time we have ever received so many frank and helpful suggestions. Here are some sample comments on the new program:

"Yes, I approve the program. I think you've been out in the wild blue yonder instead of concentrating on reporting UFOs and their effects."—RWB.

"Definitely yes. I was not planning to renew but now will reconsider. I want honest, reliable information on UFOs, ideas as to their significance."—FBE.

"It is important that NICAP continue. As an aero-mechanical engineer, I am interested both in the possibility that the earth is being contacted by beings from extraterrestrial points of origin and from the standpoint of the technological devices and scientific principles involved. The politics, secrecy, are secondary matters."—HPS.

"Your new program will be a big improvement. I am glad you consulted those drop-outs."—KLK.

"Your confidential letter strikes the right note. We're all interested in the whence and why of UFOs."—RK.

"I am still 'open-minded' about UFOs. I would like more detailed sighting accounts, more descriptions of witnesses, their age, occupation, and other factors indicating reliability."—EES.

"Yes. . . I am glad you are making the change. I was about to write you."—AB.

Although most members do not want any more discussions of the Condon Report, at least 10% did not fully agree.

"Yes, I approve the new program—though I am very much interested in the fight against the Condon Report."—GWH.

"Don't ignore the Condon Report."—SG.

COMING — SPECIAL FEATURES

From the flood of requests for feature articles, in your answers to our emergency letter, we have selected several angles to discuss in future issues: The articles will be based on questions most frequently asked, such as:

Are there any new hints of motives behind the UFO surveillance? What is the most likely explanation for extremely close-range approaches to cars or to people in sparsely-settled areas? What is back of the increase in UFO light beams which have spotlighted cars, persons on the ground, and animals? Are there any recent developments indicating possible hostility?

The first special feature for the *Investigator* is nearing completion and will appear in the next issue. We shall try to answer the above and other interesting questions, using the best evidence as a basis for careful speculation. This does not mean any change in NICAP's factual investigation of UFO sightings. But in the thousands of UFO reports on record, there is now enough foundation for interesting discussion.

Please let us know the aspects of the UFO question that interest you most.

With respect to our financial condition, about 75% of our obligations were covered by the response of our members, chiefly in the form of donations from hundreds of members. We are indeed grateful for this help. (All contributions will be acknowledged as fast as time permits.) We believe that the new program of special articles and special publications will bring us the further support we need. Votes on the special publications preferred are still coming in, with three subjects running close together: strange physical effects, blackouts and UFOs, and the scientists' report on occupants. The first "special" to be published will deal with strange physical effects, and we plan to present an outline of it in the next issue of the *Investigator*.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

NICAP headquarters is in need of volunteer office helpers. If you live in the Washington, D. C., area and can contribute some time weekly, please telephone us. Work must be done in the office, but evening and week-end hours can be arranged. Call 667-9434 and ask for Miss Davis.

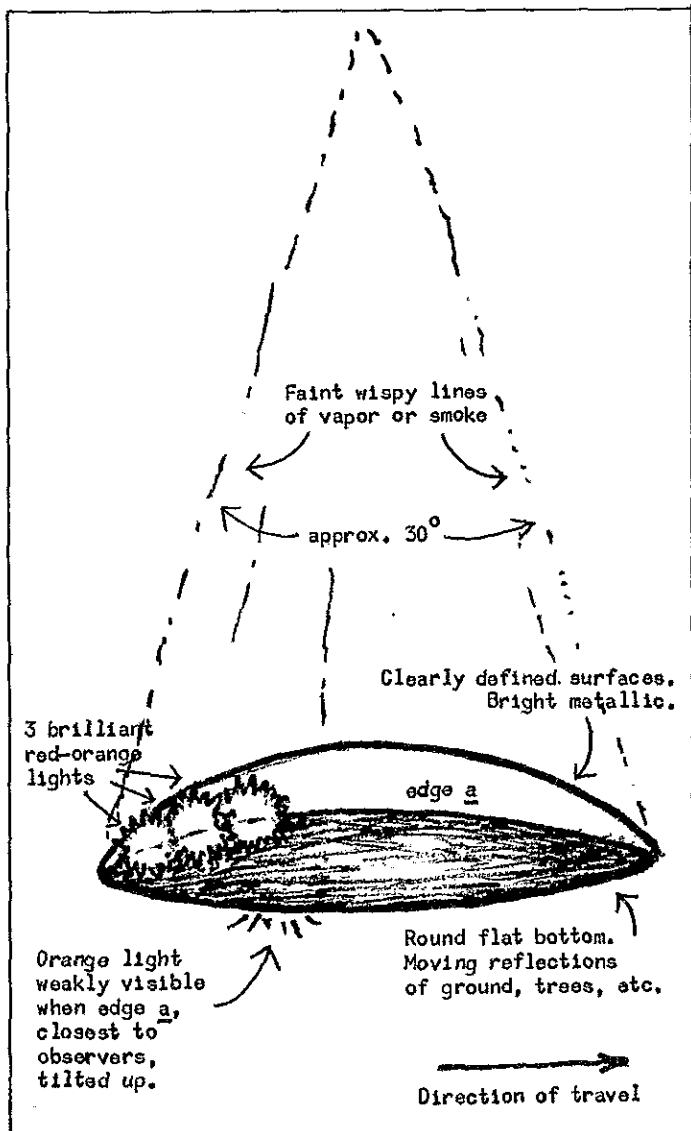
EXPLODING DISC

On July 3, 1967, a metallic flying disc was seen to explode near Leawood, Kansas. This is the first publication of this detailed report.

We consider this sighting especially important because of the experience and background of the chief witness, Mr. Thomas H. Nicholl. Mr. Nicholl is an aeronautical engineer; he has been a pilot for 28 years. He was a Navy ordnance officer in World War II, and at one time he was on an engineering assignment at the Bureau of Standards. His report has been checked by NICAP and has been discussed with him in detail by Dr. James E. McDonald, well known for his extensive scientific investigation of UFOs.

On the night of the sighting a quiet family gathering was being held on the Nicholl's patio. Included were their daughter Chris and Mr. and Mrs. John Dowd. Later the group was joined by a neighbor and her two children.

About 9:15 Mr. Dowd noticed a bright orange-red light in the north northeast. He called to the others and the group watched the object approach, travelling steadily southward. By this time they could see that it was on, or part of an object unlike anything they had ever seen before. The details were observed by Mr. Nicholl through his 4" telescope, and by everyone in the group through binoculars.



The object resembled a shallow inverted bowl with a flat underside. "The edges were sharp and clear," Nicholl reported, "bright metallic in color, similar to stainless steel." The UFO wobbled in flight; the motion

was unlike that of any known aircraft, with "a slight pitch and roll combined, much like a small boat moving slowly on gentle ground swells at sea." Reflections of green trees could be seen on the flat bottom surface.

The red-orange light first observed now seemed to be coming from three brilliant light sources on the edge nearest the witnesses, and as the disc wobbled through the air the witnesses could occasionally see another, fainter light on the opposite side. All the lights were on the trailing or rearward edge of the disc.

From the upper, dome-like part of the "bowl" rose faint, wispy lines of vapor. These did not trail the object as smoke or vapor would follow a conventional aircraft, but came to a point above it. (See sketch.)

Nicholl estimated the diameter of the disc at about 50 feet, its altitude between 2000 and 3000 feet, and its speed as approximately 100 mph.

UFO Rains Fragments

About five minutes after the initial observation and one-half to three-quarters of a mile south of the witnesses, the disc exploded. A "nearly pure white" cloud of smoke or vapor formed, then cleared quickly. Fragments fell to the earth—numerous light-weight particles and two rather heavy pieces. When the vapor had cleared, no trace of the disc remained in the sky.

Nicholl first called WDAF-TV in Kansas City (no mention was made on the air, that evening or later) and then the Sheriff's Office of Johnson County, Kansas, which took his name and address and a few details. He next called Richards Gebaur Air Force Base in Grandview, Missouri, a few miles southeast of Leawood. After some delay, an operator took down his answers to the questions on the Air Force UFO report form.

Mr. Nicholl's next action was to search, by car, the area over which the disc seemed to have exploded—between Leawood and the Air Force Base—interviewing anyone he encountered.

"I figured that whether the craft was ours or whether it was alien, the Air Force in either case would be all over the area like a tent," the witness reported to NICAP. "I criss-crossed all the area by car—no military personnel—and few civilians. It was dark by now. No one had seen or heard anything."

Air Force and Condon Ignore Report

Returning home, Nicholl found that Police Officer Gene E Micholson had interviewed Mrs. Nicholl, Chris, and Mr. Dowd. Later, Richards Gebaur Air Force Base telephoned with the brief standard AF comment: "There were no planes in the area at that time and there were no blips on radar."

Several weeks later, after Mr. Nicholl had made several other efforts to elicit a response from the Air Force, the Base sent Lt. Col. Paul J. Mercier to interview him. Colonel Mercier made a careful inquiry, but disclosed that the preliminary report on the sighting carried the statement that the UFO observed was "probably a comet."

The only new comet reported in *Sky and Telescope* for the summer months of 1967 was seen in the Southern Hemisphere only. A NICAP check with the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory ruled out any space device re-entry explanation, and their meteor reporting network records also excluded any possible meteor or fireball answer.

Two weeks after their visit, Nicholl telephoned Colonel Mercier to ask if he had heard anything. He said, "No—and you won't either."

As previously mentioned, Mr. Nicholl's background includes work at the National Bureau of Standards while Dr. E. U. Condon was director there, and Mr. Nicholl therefore decided to call him at Colorado, assuming that Condon would be interested in the possibility of obtaining "hard evidence." Condon said he was supposed to get copies of all reports made by the Air Force, and as soon as he saw Nicholl's report he would let him know. Nicholl wrote Condon reminding him of the incident and asking "Did you get a copy of my report?", but never heard from him.

In reply to an inquiry from NICAP about this case, the Air Force said that Project Blue Book has no record of the sighting in its files. Because the object was "identified as a comet" at Base Level, probably no official

(Continued on Page 8)

HYNEK SPEAKS OUT

The AF chief UFO consultant has publicly refused to accept the Condon Report as the "last word" on UFOs. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, astronomy professor and AF UFO consultant for 20 years, writing in the April, 1969, issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, likens the Condon Report to an "uninspired pot-boiler" and calls it a "strange sort of scientific paper (that) does not fulfill the promise of its title" (i.e. of its claim of being scientific).

"The book," says Hynek, "leaves the same strange, inexplicable residue of unknowns which has plagued the U.S. Air Force investigation for 20 years. In fact, the percentage of 'unknowns' in the Condon report appears to be even higher than in the Air Force investigation. . . ."

Furthermore, Hynek says, there are "provocative statements buried deep within the report. They do not support its overall conclusion that UFO studies do not offer a fruitful field in which to look for major scientific discoveries. . . . The cases these statements refer to are glaringly there—an outright challenge to human curiosity, the foundation stone of scientific progress."

Hynek points to the surfeit of trivial and irrelevant material in the Report, and questions the rationale for including it. "Why clutter up a study," he asks, "with reports which a cursory examination by people experienced with the subject could almost certainly have dismissed as Venus, a balloon, or a twinkling star? It may be of interest to a sociologist that a large percentage of our population cannot identify a bright planet or a bright meteor, but it is of little value to include such trivial cases when others left untouched are truly puzzling. . . ."

Hynek suggests that this extensive "padding" with unimportant material reflects on the Condon group's methods of investigation. "Far greater care should have been taken in screening cases to be studied," he says. "Even a preliminary evaluation of these (trivial) incidents should have indicated that it was a waste of time to investigate them." On the basis of his own experience, Hynek says, "I would have deleted nearly two-thirds of the cases included in the report as potentially profitless for the avowed purposes of the project as stated by Dr. Condon himself. . . ."

The Hynek review goes on to ask whether anything meaningful could really be expected from a group of scientists who knew next to nothing about what they were supposed to investigate and pronounce upon with final authority. "While it was perhaps laudable to ask an untried, and therefore, presumably, unbiased group to take a fresh look at the UFO problem, this procedure was akin to asking a group of culinary novices to take a fresh look at cooking and then open a restaurant. Without seasoned advice, there would be many burned pots, many burned fingers, many dissatisfied customers."

In considering the question of how scientific the Condon Report is, Hynek finds little to be encouraged about. He says that "scientifically trained readers will find these papers as troublesome and dull to read as they probably were to write." Worse yet, "physical scientists who know Edward U. Condon through his work in molecular physics and quantum mechanics will find the hand of the master strangely missing (in the report). Not only is his talent for organizing and deftly attacking a problem unapparent but, for example, he is not listed as having personally looked into any of the 95 cases to which various members of the rather fluid committee addressed themselves."

In short, says Hynek, "it is difficult to understand why the National Academy of Sciences has fully endorsed Dr. Condon's opinion that no further work on the UFO phenomenon should be done. . . . I feel (that Dr. Condon) grossly underestimated the scope and nature of the problem he was undertaking."

EXPLODING DISC (Continued from Page 7)

report ever reached Blue Book. The case does appear, in the Colorado Project computer print-out, where it is listed as a telephoned sighting with *one witness*; this indicates that the project record came only from whatever notes Condon made during his telephone talk with Nicholl.

Mr. Nicholl concludes his report as follows: "Since this experience with the authorities my contacts have been with numerous other individuals who have had similar experiences both in sightings and their contacts with the Air Force and other authorities."

Legality of CU Report Questioned

Publication of the government-sponsored Condon report has been called a "legally dubious and potentially dangerous precedent" in a May 4 "Book World" article by M. B. Schnapper, an editor for a large publishing company.

"Although the Copyright Act expressly prohibits copyright restrictions on the contents of government documents," Schnapper stated, "federal agencies and officials are increasingly circumventing the law through the simple device of authorizing its contractors to do that which the government has no power to do." He cited the Condon report as a prime example.

The article, "Twisting Our Copyright Law," stated that the Air Force at first arranged for the "normal way" of publishing the document by the Government Printing Office, but Dr. Edward U. Condon and the Air Force "didn't cotton to the idea." Condon, Mr. Schnapper said, was worried that the government wouldn't be able to make the report public fast enough to avoid potential embarrassment by a possible run-in with President Richard M. Nixon, who challenged Condon's security clearance in the 1950s.

McDONALD TO ADDRESS D.C. AREA MEMBERS

Dr. James E. McDonald, Senior Physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, University of Arizona, will address NICAP members and friends in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday evening, June 10, 1969.

The meeting will be held at the Presidential Arms, 1320 G Street, N.W., at 8:00 p.m.

Members in the D.C. area will be notified by mail shortly. Any others who are interested in attending may get details of the meeting by calling the NICAP office.

NICAP members have long been familiar with Dr. McDonald's vigorous interest in the UFO problem. With more than three years of intensive investigation of hundreds of UFO reports, his opinions of the seriousness of the UFO problem have been instrumental in eliciting recent interest within many areas of the scientific community.

NICAP is honored to be able to present this distinguished scientist. We hope that all local members and friends will plan to attend.

NICAP CAPITAL AREA SUBCOMMITTEE

Under the Chairmanship of Karl T. Pflock, NICAP's Capital Area Subcommittee (investigative unit) now has more than 15 members who are serving in both investigative and advisory capacity.

Professional backgrounds of the members include physics, engineering, astronomy, psychology, biology, sociology, and anthropology.

The local unit is currently investigating several recent incidents in the D.C. area, including one report of unusual animal reactions, as well as an occupant report in the Richmond, Virginia, area.

Additional, first-hand information on some of the older, more interesting UFO reports is also being secured by local unit members.

NICAP DIRECTOR ON TV

On Saturday, May 3, Major Keyhoe was a guest on the Deena Clark TV program, over NBC Channel 4 in Washington, D.C., in an interesting discussion of UFOs that drew many requests for information about NICAP from the TV audience.