CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES
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ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER

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Kenneth Arnold, Plus 33 Years

This month is the 33rd anniversary of the beginning of the "modern age" of flying saucers, or UFOs as they are more universally referred to today. June 24, 1947 was that fateful day on which Kenneth Arnold, a civilian pilot, flew over the Cascade Mountains in western Washington and reported seeing nine bright metallic objects in a chain-like formation flying at an estimated speed of 1,600 miles per hour. That was nearly three times as fast as any known aircraft could travel at that time.

In the 33 years which have passed since then, many thousands of other sighting reports by single and multiple witnesses have come to the attention of the U.S. Air Force and to hundreds of individual and organized investigators of these mysterious phenomena. Many explanations have been hypothesized for their appearance here and their origins. However, they all remain pure speculation, frustrating the serious students of the subject and those who have actually reported seeing these strange sights.

A large part of the problem of identification centers around the surprise circumstances of the reported sightings. Witnesses seldom think to attempt a photograph and, if they do, most of the pictures taken turn out to be of low quality. Also, physical traces left by the objects seen are seldom reported promptly for careful investigation with precision equipment.

Therefore, since the statistical probability of your sighting a UFO during your lifetime appears to be better than one in twenty, it would be wise to keep a loaded camera where you can find it on short notice. You may become one of the growing roster of witnesses of a UFO and your good photograph may greatly assist the scientific community which is beginning to take a more serious attitude toward this intriguing mystery. □

1979 Ground Mark Remains Unidentified

Sometime during the night between August 1st and 2nd, 1979 a strange design appeared on the mowed lawn of an eight-acre estate about eight miles north of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, a region of scattered, high-value residential properties in the northeastern corner of the state near Cleveland. Neither the retired industrialist owner of the property nor his wife heard or saw anything which could have caused this unusual mark. It was found in the morning of August 2, 1979 by the young neighbor boy who for several years has had the job of mowing and trimming the very large lawn surrounding the secluded residence, which is further isolated from the county road on which it is located by a 300 ft by 500 ft artificial lake constructed several years earlier by the owner.

The owner at first said nothing to anyone about the mark, but a week later decided to report it to the local police. Chief Mitchell of the Russell Township Police Department, Geauga County, Ohio inspected the marking and decided to report it to the Center for UFO Studies for investigation. The Center notified John P. Timmerman of Lima, Ohio and Timmerman initiated the investigation in a trip to the site on August 22nd.

The mark was visible as a pressing down and yellowing of the grass in the design shown in this photograph. The witnesses said that the grass looked as if it had been in contact with something very hot and heavy, although the hard dry ground did not show any measurable depressing of the soil. Three weeks after the event, Timmerman found the yellow grass partly grown out in places, but quite visible when looking directly down at it. After checking for radioactivity (no trace) and taking samples of the affected soil, flour was sprinkled on the diagram to make it visible from a distance for photography. The dimensions were approximately sixteen feet on the straight edges, a four inch wide mark on the main structures and nearly 120 degrees in the angle of the two straight edges. The eight-inch diameter trees within 2 and 6 feet of the mark overhung the area and showed no signs of having been disturbed by a possible object making the mark.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 3)

UFOCAT Takes A Holiday

In the course of searching for seasonal patterns in UFO reports, UFOCAT was asked to produce tallies of North American reports by day of the year. That is, all reports for, say, January 1 were counted, regardless of the year in which they occurred. After the serious study of this data was completed, we thought it would be fun to look at the effect, if any, of various holidays on the level of UFO reporting activity.

- New Years Day and eve appear only normal for January; if reports come from too much celebrating, those parties last for weeks!
- St. Patrick's Day? Normal.
- April Fool's Day? Normal at best. possibly low. Apparently, "Look, a UFO . . . April fool!" just doesn't get taken seriously.
- We associate the Fourth of July with a lot of outdoor activity, but the higher than normal rate of UFO reports we see may be tied to the wave peak of July 8, 1947, rather than to the large numbers of picnicers outdoors.
- Things that go 'bump' in the night? Halloween does not seem to affect reporting rates.
- Christmas? The lowest day of the year for UFO reports! In fact, the Christmas holiday season seems to depress the reporting rate, even below the January rate when the weather encourages people to spend even less time out of doors.

Say, what about Leap Year? Does February 29 get left out? No, the tally for February 29, when adjusted for occurring only every 4 years, does not look unusual.

If you want to check a pet theory, or maybe just look up your birthday, drop us a line. If there is sufficient interest, we'll print the tallies for the whole year in a future newsletter. □

Fred Merritt

More About Antigravity

Those who flirt with the thought that UFOs may be powered by some form of gravity or antigravity will find interesting reading in an article in the March 8, 1980 issue of SCIENCE NEWS, Vol. 117, Page 148. It reports on a recent suggestion by J. Scherk of the Laboratoire Superieure in Paris in the Vol. 88B, p. 265 issue of PHYSICS LETTERS that such a thing as antigravity may really exist, although "it does not seem as if it will ever power a speeding spacecraft," opines the reporter in SCIENCE NEWS. □

Another Foreign Viewpoint

From Flying Saucer Review . . .
Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 24
Article from "MLADA FRONTA"
a Czech publication (Youth Union)

"Some five or six years ago (this would place it at around 1950), American propaganda evolved the idea of "flying saucers." This sensation was fabricated to make people forget their worries and to divert them from fighting for their rights. The bourgeois press even wrote that the 'flying saucers' were a secret weapon designed to cause public unrest in America which is the only continent where they have ever been seen.

"But as this sensation was rather short-lived, somebody conceived the idea that the 'flying saucers' were in fact space-ships from Mars, and the mendacious bourgeois press is now fabricating eye-witness accounts of the 'flying saucers' and their crews. It was even said that somebody had touched one of these space-ships, received a 'magnetic' shock and had pains in the shoulders for some three months. Other people allegedly saw the men from Mars, but their views differ as to whether they were three or six feet tall. Still others found a 'Dead Martian' and chased two others, who were, actually, monkeys which a barber had shaved and put into a model aircraft which he had then launched for publicity reasons. Another witness even spoke to the Martians by sign language, from which he gathered that they were not from Mars but from Venus and that they had come to this planet because they were apprehensive about the atomic experiments being carried on here. The 'Martian' took a photograph of the witness, developed the film on the spot, and threw the picture to him out of his 'flying saucer.'

"The 'flying saucers' are a typical example of the pseudo-science disseminated by the Western press in order to make people forget the struggle for peace and the ban on the atom and hydrogen bombs." □

New Atlas Of Mars

The U.S. Geological Survey has issued a new hardbound ATLAS OF MARS containing more than 120 maps taken from satellite photography. Copies sell for $7.00 and can be purchased from the Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Ptg. Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Order stock number 033-000-00780-9. □

IUR Date Correction

If you have been a subscriber to IUR, you may have noticed an error in the date and Volume information on the cover of the most recent issue, the one with Dr. Hynek's EDITORIAL on the cover. That issue should have been marked "February 1980, Volume 5, No. 2". For those of you keeping a collection of issues and with unexpired subscriptions to the IUR, that cover editorial will explain the new expanded distribution arrangements with PROBE magazine, available on newsstands throughout the country beginning the last week of May with the issue dated JULY. □

The UFOCAT Codebook

By David Saunders
(Second Edition) 1978

A guide to the interpretation of print-out lists of UFO sightings and other related material in UFOCAT, the computer catalog for over 100,000 entries of about 80,000 UFO sightings and related events. The Codebook describes the method of coding on a 120-column format. $7.00 ppd. Information Services □

(Continued from Page 1, Column 3)

The analysis of the soil sample indicated nothing abnormal in the soil chemistry and the grass had been cut twice between the event and the date Timmerman investigated it, but it was still obvious and visible, as is shown in other color photography of the case on file at CUFOS. Photography and a to-scale sketch sent to Ted Phillips, physical trace cas specialist in Sedalia, Missouri, resulted in no similar trace case being found in his files. A careful check of the background of the witness (a law degree and a CPA retired President of a large industrial corporation), his wife (a quietly retired, well-educated highly-respected church and community volunteer) and the young man who mowed the grass (quiet, polite and all business in his yard work) gave no hint of a fabrication or hoax. No herbicides were discovered. No petroleum products were detected and no buried systems in the area caused the mark.

On May 3rd a second set of soil samples were taken with the assistance of Robert Klinn and these are presently undergoing a second analysis nine months after the event from parts of the soil in which grass still refuses to grow. If any reader of this article has ever seen a similar design elsewhere, please contact the Center with any available information regarding the other case. □

CUFOS Volunteers, Thank You Very Much!

Almost all readers of this article know that CUFOS is a not-for-profit corporation. You know that we are completely dependent upon donations to CUFOS by individuals such as yourself. We receive no funds whatsoever from the government or any government agency. Therefore, you realize how important and how much appreciated your donations are to the Center.

What most of you don't know about, perhaps, is the number of volunteers needed to keep the Center operating. Almost everything that is accomplished at the Center is accomplished through volunteer help. For example, the latest issue of the IUR was not mailed by a mailing service or our printers. Instead, it was labeled, bundled and sorted by about eleven volunteers who spent one evening at the Center office in Evanston. Some of these people came from a local church group. Others have been volunteering part-time for quite some time and Mimi Hynek, one of our full-time unpaid volunteers, supervised this particular mailing. The IUR is an excellent publication of which we are justifiably proud and we are just as proud of the hard efforts of our volunteers who get the IUR out to our many subscribers.

The CUFOS BULLETIN is also handled by just such a team effort. The crew for the recent mailing of the BULLETIN included a local member of the CUFOS Board of Directors, another frequent source of emergency man and woman power.

From the filing and initial processing of UFO reports, to keeping our mailing records for the IUR, the BULLETIN and our ASSOCIATES current and for all the other mundane office tasks, volunteers are used to accomplish a very large portion of the work of the Center. Don Woodard, a Northwestern University student, has been with us for many months helping with processing reports and coding cases for UFOCAT. He is just one of many people who have become CUFOS volunteers.

We wanted to tell you about this portion of the Center because it is a very important aspect of our funding, the in-kind sort of assistance without which most not-for-profit organizations could not exist. CUFOS has, at this writing, only two paid staff members, so payroll is not the majority of our budget, as is often the case with service, information and research organizations. Our paid personnel are: Estelle Postol, our office administrator, and Allen Hendry, our Chief Investigator and the Managing Editor of the INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER. Dr. Hynek has never received compensation from the Center for UFO Studies. which he founded and has assisted in financing since its beginning in 1973. Our main source of funds is our funding volunteers who, like yourself, have a deep interest in the UFO subject and wish to make tax-deductible gifts to maintain and expand the activities of the Center. We call our funding volunteers ASSOCIATES.

We can give personal thanks to our in-kind volunteers in Evanston at our office. We offer our thanks to you, who really make CUFOS possible, through this ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER. Each of you, as an ASSOCIATE, is a volunteer in this serious undertaking to investigate the UFO phenomena and we thank you very much. □

Mark Rodeghier

Familiar Description

Type: NL
Date: 4/22/80
Time: 10:00 to 11:10 PM
Duration: Approx. 1 hr.
Witnesses: 2
Place: Springer, New Mexico

Police Officer Manuel Medina and Police Dispatcher Sedilla of Springer, New Mexico were parked on a traffic watch at about 10 PM on April 22, 1980. The sky was clear and the air calm with the moon approaching full in this small rural community. Suddenly, one of them noticed a "bright star" in the west at about 45 degrees which they say was not the planet Venus. The object moved like a balloon, slowly, with a stop-start motion. Officer Medina decided to shine his patrol car spotlight on it and as he did so it seemed to drop to a lower elevation. He turned off the light and the light in the sky rose again. The officers turned their red cruiser light on and the light they were watching responded with a reddish hue, as if returning a signal. The possibility of the power of suggestion comes to mind, but how could it be confirmed? They reported that the light disappeared over the Cimarron Mountains, twenty miles away at 11:10 PM, after approximately one hour of observation. A check for high-altitude weather balloons in the area at the time indicated that there were none. □

Unusual Backyard Visitor

TYPE: CE-I
DATE: 2/21/80
TIME: 11:15 PM
DURATION: 10 minutes plus (see text)
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Stamford, CT

Philip Imbrogno investigated this interesting case for the Center. The witnesses requested that their names be withheld, but Imbrogno is impressed with the witnesses' seeming reliability and truthfulness.

An 11-year old girl getting ready for bed had an "uneasy feeling" that she should look out the window. She was "frightened and fascinated" by the sight of a large white oval of light, low in the WNW sky. Trees on her property were positioned between her and the light form, which she estimated to be 4 times the apparent size of the moon. If the fuzzy-outlined form was an estimated 400 feet away, it would then be about 12-15 feet in size. Her grandmother, a 63-year old store owner, joined the girl and watched it hovering silently with her. The only motion they could see was a back-and-forth "pendulum-like" swinging. The form was brightest in the center, dimmest at its hazy outline and was oriented horizontally above the horizon.

The girl's grandmother pulled down the shade and encouraged the girl to go back to bed, assuring her it was only the moon. A half-hour later, the girl looked out the window and saw the same thing. This time, the girl's grandmother was less successful at concealing her fear. Both witnesses slept uneasily that night. The girl dreamt about being "abducted" aboard a spaceship.

Throughout the experience, the family dog, Queenie, a young German shepard, was barking incessantly and continued to bark for twenty minutes beyond the last sighting. Its scratching at the door was what led the girl to look outside the second time. The family cat was also running about the house uneasily.

Could this have been a sighting of the moon, or even Venus? Investigator Imbrogno checked their positions for that night and ruled them out. The family lives on 3 acres of property and the area is sparsely residential. A check of the property for radioactivity and magnetic anomalies proved negative. □

Allan Hendry

CORRESPONDENCE

March 13, 1980

Dr. Hynek,

For quite some time now, I have been meaning to write you but due to "busy"-ness or just plain laziness I've not been able to sit myself down and get to it until now.

I would like to relate several experiences I've had during my life-time that I feel may qualify as genuine U.F.O. sightings. It is not my purpose to demand that some qualified individual (like yourself) believe what I will relate to you. I know what I saw and that's enough for me but in the interest of attempting to shed some light on this mysterious subject of U.F.O.'s I hope you can use the following information in your study of this phenomenom.

My first sighting of U.F.O's was when I was a youngster. (I am now 28 yrs. old.) My mother, father, sister, and myself were on our back porch waiting to view one of the first Russian Sputniks. It was a clear night. When we saw the Sputnik it was being followed by 5 "saucer" shaped objects approximately the same size as the Sputnik, but of course a different shape. They trailed the satellite in line formation for several minutes. Then they separated into groups of 2 and 3 and sped away in two different directions both away from our view, and when they left the speed was incredible and they were gone from sight almost instantly.

The second sighting I had was in junior high-school. It was approximately 1964-66. Some friends and I were running around my yard. It was still daylight, around suppertime. I happened to glance up at the sky and I saw a bright, metallic green object with what looked like a whitish vapor trail. It was barely above tree-top level and actually was hidden from my view as it moved and my vision was obstructed by a nearby tree. I ran several yards to regain the sight of the object and it was moving in a direction opposite me until it disappeared because it was so low that nearby houses and trees obstructed further observation. It was noiseless. I also feel that you may want to know that this sighting was near water as I lived a block away from a small lake. (I've heard that there may be something about bodies of water that may attract U.F.O.'s).

. . .

My latest U.F.O. experience was the most vivid and I am convinced of it's authenticity. My present wife and I were driving from my mother's house to my wife's (then my fiance') house about 7 miles away. It was about 3:00 A.M. When we were about 5 miles away from her house, we noticed a bright white light in the sky in the direction that we were heading. The closer we got to her home, the object was still in view. When we were about one block away from her house, the object flew directly over our car, just clearing the 3-story homes in the neighborhood. I stopped the car, rolled down the window and looked up. It was noiseless. It was blacked out except for about a dozen or so different colored blinking lights on it's underside. Judging from the area covered by the lights the object may have been as large as a house. The incredible thing about this sighting was that as the object passed overhead, it felt as though we were dreaming the whole thing. I've never been hypnotized before but I feel that this must be what it feels like and I believe that the U.F.O. was directly responsible for this feeling, either as a diversion or whatever. It doesn't seem like we could have been abducted. It was in a highly populated residential area but the mesmerizing effect leaves me unsure of what might have happened. Once the object was out of view, the mesmerizing effect wore off seconds later. It was a fascinating experience. This happened around 1976.

So there you have it. I hope this report will be of some help to you. I will be glad to answer any specific questions, if any, that you may have.

Name on file at CUFOS. □

Physical Traces Of UFO Sightings

(a computer printout of 5633 entries)
159 pages (Second Edition 1980)

This publication is an index in code of all known UFO sightings for which physical traces were reported, listed from the 288 sources of publications and research files which describe them verbally. Access to a UFOCAT Codebook is essential for interpreting this material and access to the sources would be necessary for further investigation. Date, time, location, number and names of witnesses and type of trace and of UFO are listed on this printout, however, along with other details. Price: $11.00 ppd. (For comparison, the First Edition included 3200 entries on 75 pages.) □

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