

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP ■ SUITE 801, 1730 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE N.W. ■ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 ■ A PRIVATE, NONPROFIT CORPORATION

Hynek Book Set For May Release

**Autographed Copies
To Be Available At
Discount To Members**

The UFO Experience — A Scientific Inquiry, Dr. J. Allen Hynek's long-awaited book on the UFO question, is scheduled for release to the public in May, according to its publisher, Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, Ill.

NICAP has arranged with Regnery to offer special autographed copies of the book to NICAP members at a substantial discount. Watch the newsletter for details on how to order your copy.

Hailed by its publisher as "A critical appraisal of the UFO problem and its investigation by the foremost authority involved in this research," the book promises to offer a serious new look at the UFO question.

A special news conference by Dr. Hynek has been tentatively scheduled at Northwestern University May 23, the target date for the book's release.

Advance galleys of the book have been sent to NICAP, and two reviews will be published within a few months. The book hits at the Air Force and the UFO study by Dr. Condon, and gives new evidence that UFOs remain a real mystery.

"The case against UFOs has not been put to rest," affirms the author.

(See *HYNEK BOOK*, page 2)



"Getting It All Together"

NICAP Completes Photo Exhibit

"Getting It All Together," a large, seven-panel photo exhibit demonstrating the relentless efforts of NICAP in investigating a specific UFO case, is now available on a rental basis to schools, libraries, colleges and universities, and other interested groups.

Completed just recently, the exhibit has already been shown at the State University of New York at Cortland during its celebration of Science Fiction Week, Feb. 21-25. A second appearance is scheduled for the University of California at Hayward during May.

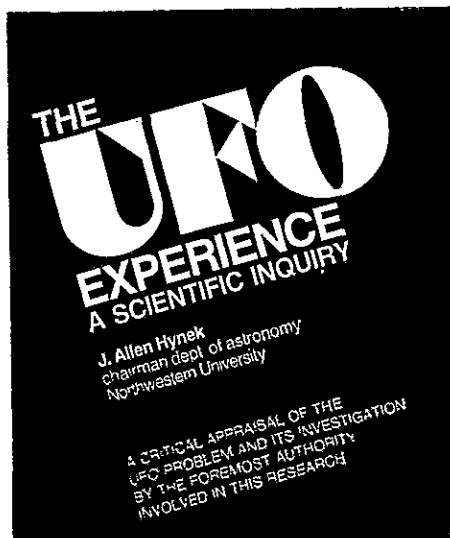
The exhibit consists of seven 30 x 40-inch panels, and comes supplied with special brackets allowing it to be dis-

played in a variety of ways to suit local requirements.

Available by contract at \$5 per day plus shipping, the exhibit details the painstaking investigation of the 1966 Zanesville, Ohio photographs.

The exhibit, termed "fascinating" and "impressive" by those who have already seen it, discusses the important ingredients in the analysis of a UFO photo. "How a picture is judged," "The photographer," "The Analysis," and "Asking the right questions" are just a few of the topics covered by the NICAP exhibit.

To arrange for rental of the exhibit, contact Stuart Nixon, executive director of NICAP, by calling (202) 833-2233.



REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

The Lessons of Scargo Lake

By Stuart Nixon

If the murky waters of Scargo Lake have failed to yield fragments of a UFO, they nonetheless have raised some interesting questions and provided a few insights into UFO research.

NICAP members will recall from the November issue that repeated underwater searching has disclosed no sign of the strange cylindrical object spotted over Cape Cod January 7, 1971, arcing toward the ice-covered lake. Although use of more sophisticated equipment might still uncover the object, the chances of finding it are slim, due to poor visibility at the bottom of the lake and the large area in which the object might be located.

It could be said, of course, that the most obvious explanation is the correct one: the object isn't there because it never existed in the first place. This doesn't seem likely, however, since the two boys who made the report were strangers prior to the incident and, at the time they reported seeing the object, were walking on roads half a mile apart, unaware of each other.

One hypothesis already discussed assumes an object was present and was under guided flight rather than falling out of control. By this view, the object came down over the lake and hovered momentarily, producing the hole in the ice by heat emission or some other form of radiation. This would account for the cleanly cut edge of the hole, which NICAP investigator Walter Webb described as "formed by a rather sudden melting process." A hole created by impact would almost surely have exhibited irregular edges, radial cracking, and a residue of ice fragments—all factors notably absent from the opening in Scargo Lake. The only other way to explain the hole is to ascribe it to underwater springs—a dubious explanation because of the sub-freezing temperatures that prevailed on the morning of the sighting, and, in Webb's words, "the unanimous claim by (local) residents and skaters that there was no hole in the ice on the day before the sighting."

Such a theory also explains the failure of either boy (or anybody else for that matter) to report a crashing sound as the object dropped behind the trees near the edge of the lake. An impact sufficient to produce a hole 100 feet long and 25 feet wide should have been heard by at least the closer of the two boys, who was no more than 800 feet from the lake when the object went down.

Further evidence for the non-impact theory is a statement from one of the boys that the water in the hole appeared agitated as though something had just disturbed it or moved over it. He also

reported steam rising from the hole. Underwater springs could not produce these effects, but an object hovering overhead and giving off shock waves or heat certainly could, just as a helicopter over water creates waves and kicks up spray. A fireball could also cause the reported effects, but this explanation is ruled out by the length of time the object was in view (approximately three minutes by one boy) and the absence of such meteor-like features as discharge of sparks and a luminous train.

Perhaps the most intriguing question at this point is what will happen if the object is actually found. The UFO field has frequently heard rumors of "crashed saucers," but almost without exception these reports have been too sensational or too vague to warrant investigation. In the case of Scargo Lake, the circumstances are more concrete. Not only was an investigation made within hours of the alleged incident, but the site is still accessible and the participants have been fully interrogated on what they reported. Moreover, there is no suggestion of the secrecy or sinister activity that often characterize the typical report of a "captured" UFO.

As a matter of fact, one of the more puzzling aspects of the Scargo Lake incident is the apparent indifference of almost everybody involved—townspeople, police, news reporters, even the Air Force. Except for the skindivers, who continued searching off and on for approximately nine months, there was almost no public reaction at any time, even after two stories appeared in a local newspaper.

Queried on this point, investigator Webb attributed the lack of interest to the failure of any adult to report the object. "Who cares about the stories of two kids?" he said.

Undoubtedly, this was the reasoning of the military, who were notified by police the day the incident happened but did nothing. In a report dated August 22, Webb said he knew of no government agent who had questioned the boys or their parents, or even visited the lake. He indicated there had been some brief discussion of the possibility the Air Force was keeping quiet because it suspected the object was one of its own target drones or possibly a burning wing tank. However, one local source said a contact at nearby Otis Air Base "emphatically denied dropping anything."

Those who lean toward the conspiracy theory on UFOs might ask what assurance we have the military can be believed in a situation like this. Is it possible, for example, that the Air Force searched the lake at night and recovered the object

without the knowledge of local residents? This would explain both the inability of the skindivers to find the object, and the apathy of local Air Force officials.

Webb doubts this scenario, commenting that even the best Navy frogmen would have trouble in the dismal depths of Scargo Lake, especially beneath a crust of ice in the middle of the night. Also, the hole was about 100 feet from the shoreline, making the use of a truck and winch highly impractical under the circumstances.

The simplest explanation is that the Air Force felt the report was too weak to merit official action of any kind, overt or otherwise. If agents had been sent to the area, little could have been accomplished without drawing attention to the report and encouraging speculation on what might be falling from the sky on helpless citizens. If the people living around Scargo Lake were not curious about what may have landed in their own backyard, and there was no direct evidence implicating the Air Force, the only sensible thing for the military to do was decline any involvement in the affair, pending new developments. Which, apparently, is exactly what they did.

Hynek Book

(Continued from page 1)

"Although UFOs 'officially' do not exist, reports of sightings continue to be made.

"The scientific world, through the publication of the Condon Report, and the U.S. Government, through the closing of the Project Blue Book files, have officially put an end to speculation about Unidentified Flying Objects. Yet the evidence used to dismiss the UFO phenomenon by the Condon Committee is scanty in the extreme.

"Fewer than one hundred cases were considered, and even that sample was scarcely selected at random; many of the scientists assembled to pass on the authenticity of UFOs at the University of Colorado took with them negative preconceptions — hardly the open minds of scientists," notes Hynek.

"Dr. Hynek proves all this," comments the publisher, "but he also goes further. Using the exacting methods of the scientist, he demonstrates that a residue of reports remains after the slightly questionable as well as the obviously mistaken and totally erroneous reports have been culled."

Hynek's book will offer the scientific community and the general public a critical examination of the *official* UFO line. "The UFO thesis has *not* been disproved," according to Hynek.

The questions raised by the UFO cases listed by Hynek have never been answered, and release of the book in May is sure to renew interest in a topic that many had been led to believe was settled.



Investigators Discover "Significant" Sighting By New Hampshire Youth

Six years ago this month, a ten-year-old boy, while walking his dog in a wooded area near his New Hampshire home, made a startling discovery — a strange-looking UFO sitting on the ground in the woods.

The case, uncovered recently by the NICAP Massachusetts Subcommittee, remained unreported until December 1971 due to the extreme reluctance of the family, especially the boy's father, to become involved in a public controversy or be subjected to ridicule.

Following discovery of the case, an exhaustive investigation was conducted with permission of the family on the condition their names would be treated confidentially and specific details would be withheld in published reports.

Although the case involves only one non-adult witness and occurred six years ago, its significance cannot be disregarded; it is one of the relatively few UFO reports involving the sighting of an apparently foreign vehicle of unknown origin and purpose on the ground at extremely close range in broad daylight.

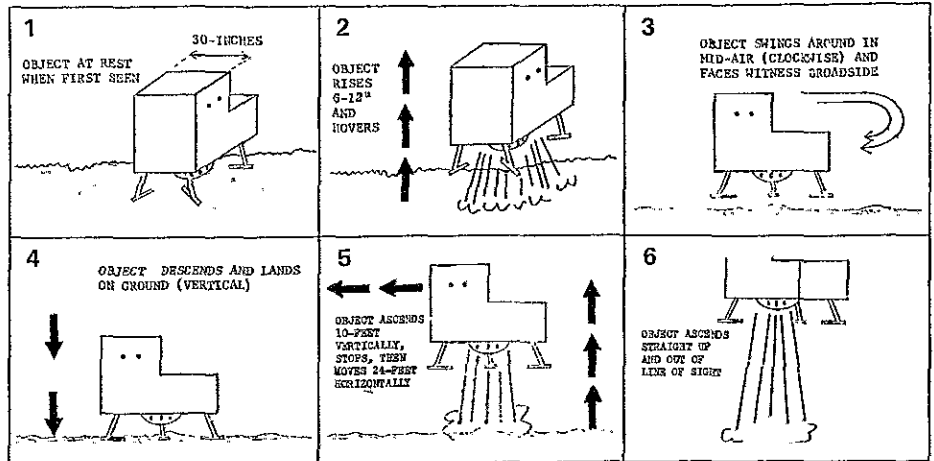
Investigator Raymond E. Fowler, chairman of the Massachusetts Subcommittee, in concluding his lengthy investigation and report of the case, remarked, "It is my opinion, taking all known data into consideration, that this 'landed/flying object' report should be placed in the significant unknown category."

On March 29, 1966, at approximately 4:15 p.m., Benjamin Smith (not the youth's real name) was walking his dog along a route to a nearby pond. Ben walked this path a few times a week, according to the report.

He was within approximately 100 feet of the top of a wooded ridge when something caught his eye — a spherical "glob" of "shredded or flaky" silver material with tassels apparently caught in the branches of a tree.

Moving off the path to get a better look, the youth noticed the "tassels" were affixed to the top of a vertical silver rod which stuck out of the top of what seemed to be a "box". The rod was estimated to be about the thickness of a pencil and about 1½ feet in length.

Ben, moving closer to the object, thought at first it might belong to a local physicist who maintained his own labora-



tory nearby and frequently conducted experiments in a nearby field. Taking his eyes off the object for a second or two, Ben looked back and noticed the "antenna-like shaft" had disappeared.

At this point, he was within 75 feet of the object. He continued to approach it. Meanwhile, his dog had also noticed it and had approached to within a few inches, sniffing at it but not touching it, according to the reports. The dog, after his brief investigation, continued along his way seemingly unaffected by the object.

By now Ben was about 24 feet from the object. He stepped off the path and slightly behind two trees to get a better look. To him, the strange contraption resembled a large "box-like" object standing on tripod legs.

Suddenly, without warning, there was a terrific blast of air from beneath the object. Simultaneously, there was a short "high" and then "low" pitched sound as the object lifted off the ground between 6-12 inches, stopped in mid-air and concurrently swung around in a clockwise motion and settled to the ground again.

The maneuver, lasting about four seconds, startled Ben. As he later recounted to investigators, he didn't know whether to run or what he would do. Then, strange "electric-like" sounds came from within the box and he froze to the spot.

He now found himself staring at the object's longer side (see chart) and listening to its intermittent humming. According to his recollection, the object looked like a shortened "L" lying on its back. There were two round, black holes about one inch in diameter and about six inches apart on the upper left portion of the vehicle. The holes or "eyes" faced almost directly at Ben's location.

On the underside of the object was a round section that looked like a flattened dome. It was about two feet in diameter and had three two-inch openings spaced around the circumference facing Ben.

The box was brownish in color and blended well with the trees. It looked more non-metallic than metallic, according to Ben's written statement. The

dome-like section beneath the object appeared darker and more metallic.

The tripod legs were square shafts about one-inch in diameter and one foot in length. Each leg angled out slightly and had a pad attached to its end. The pads, according to the report, looked like a one-foot length of 2" x 2". They appeared to be constructed of a very dull, aluminum-like material.

Wondering what to do next, Ben continued to hear intermittent "humming" coming from the object. The sound stopped and started 3-4 times in a random fashion during the next 55 seconds. The longest duration for the humming was about 15 seconds, according to Fowler's report.

Suddenly, a huge blast of air rushed out from the underside of the object, sending pine needles flying and pine cones rolling. Concurrent with the blast of air was the same sound Ben had heard when the object first ascended. The loudness and pitch increased and the vehicle rose in a perfectly vertical fashion to an altitude of 10 feet. It stopped for a split second, according to Ben, then moved horizontally in a southeasterly direction for approximately 24 feet (the sound remained constant at this point). The object again stopped for a split second, turned clockwise about 60-90 degrees and almost instantaneously shot straight up "as fast as a solid fuel ground-to-air rocket" through a break in the branches above and disappeared.

The sound continued for 6-7 seconds after the object was out of sight. Ben immediately turned and ran home shouting for his mother as he went. Unknown to Ben at the time, his mother and 11-year-old sister had both heard "a strange whining sound" from the direction of the woods at about the time Ben had reported the ascension of the object.

The investigation by Fowler and others was extensive, and this Casebook report is only a summary of the narrative portion. Additional information on this case, as well as its relationship, if any, to other sightings reported in New Hampshire in 1966, will be published in a later issue of the newsletter.

newsnotes

NICAP BOARD MEETS

NICAP's Board of Governors held its annual meeting for 1972 on February 25, at which it voted to take a more active role in the Committee's affairs by meeting quarterly instead of yearly. Among matters discussed at the meeting were whether the *newsletter* should continue to carry articles on space and science; whether NICAP's Subcommittee and Affiliate system should be expanded; and whether NICAP should consider new management techniques as part of its continuing corporate improvement program. The decision on all three counts was positive.

NICAP'S NIXON TAKES TO ROAD

While another Nixon from Washington makes news for his trips abroad, NICAP Executive Director Stuart Nixon has been busy with travels of his own, including a week's stay in New England and a projected visit to the West Coast.

The barnstorming began in January when Nixon traveled to Philadelphia to meet with a class of architecture students at Drexel University to discuss how the UFO problem reflects on human behavior. Part of a course entitled "Mankind and Nature," the talk covered such questions as: *Is science ready for UFOs?* and *What do UFOs tell us about ourselves?*

Nixon's next stop was Providence, Rhode Island, where he appeared on WJAR-TV's "Talkback" program on January 14, with host Jack Comely. Following that, he met with NICAP's Providence Subcommittee for a session on organizational and operational problems.

Subsequent stops included Boston and a meeting with the Massachusetts NICAP Subcommittee, and Rindge, New Hampshire, to discuss with officials of Franklin Pierce College

ANNOUNCEMENT

NICAP will soon offer a special group plan for:

LIFE, HEALTH, AND DISABILITY INSURANCE

through Midland Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Columbus, Ohio. Watch future mailings for further details. The plan will be offered to NICAP members only at special group rates.

COMING SOON!

SPECIAL FEATURES ON TWO OF THE MOST FAMOUS UFO CASES OF ALL TIMES:

THE BETTY & BARNEY HILL CASE THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL SIGHTINGS

the possibility of reviving a former Subcommittee that had been active at the school during the late 1960s.

In February, Nixon's itinerary took him to Cortland, New York, to speak to State University College near Syracuse. The lecture was held as part of the school's "Science Week," which included a showing of Stanley Kubrick's "2001" and a demonstration of ESP and hypnotism. Also included was a NASA exhibit on the Apollo program and NICAP's exhibit on UFO photography.

On tap this month is a return engagement at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland, where Nixon traveled last November to participate in a class on "Mysticism and Astronomy" (*UFO Investigator*, December 1971). The session this time will be an adult education course in science, taught by a geologist from the Atomic Energy Commission.

Nixon's schedule for April includes a trip to New York City to meet with the NICAP Affiliate there, and another excursion into New England to visit NICAP representatives in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

In May, the NICAP staff head will journey to the Far West for an appearance in Hayward, California, at California State College. The NICAP exhibit is scheduled for showing there at the same time, as part of a special program on the UFO problem. Following his lecture, which is set for May 12, Nixon will confer in San Francisco with members of the Bay Area Subcommittee, then travel to Los Angeles for meetings with NICAP investigators in southern California.

NICAP TV PROGRAM DIES ABORNING

What promised to be an important new venture in the UFO field has been dealt a lethal blow by the vagaries of big-time television. NICAP's first attempt to produce a nationally distributed TV program on UFOs (*UFO Investigator*, September 1971) has been postponed indefinitely, following a breakoff in contract negotiations between the Committee and production representatives in New York. The break came after two of the scientists slated to appear on the program were unable to be in New York on the date the show was set to be taped. Informed of this, the production company hastily scheduled another program for that date and declined to risk additional expenditures for a new taping session.

FEEDBACK / Readers write

Dear Editor:

In the interest of scientific caution, I wish to add a further comment to my recent article in the *UFO Investigator* on the exploration of Mars.

Results are coming in fast from Mariner 9, and the report in *Science* by Cain and Rascol (Vo. 175, pp 313-17, 1972) gives evidence that the triple point of water, and hence liquid water, on the surface of Mars is only conceivable at the lowest altitudes where the total pressure exceeds about 6½ millibar and the temperature warms up to about zero centigrade. These conditions now appear to be rather special on Mars; and therefore the wide-spread dark areas and bands, and the annular lake reported by some earthbased astronomers of an earlier generation, must have been caused by some other factor than the presence of liquid water in the soil. It is still possible to speculate, however, that vegetation may be found in moistened regions deep in rift valleys, and that these areas have been seen from the Earth as dark lines or dark green bands. A landing device will be capable of testing this hypothesis.

Yours very truly,
Wells A. Webb



MEMOS
FOR
MEMBERS

THE YEAR OF THE UFO

Now that we've begun publishing our special UFO calendar for NICAP members, we want to remind you that the calendar comes in six parts, one every other month. At the end of 12 months, you will have a complete set, covering hundreds of sightings and important events in the UFO field. So remember: don't throw your calendars away. They are a permanent record for you to use and enjoy year after year.

A WORD OF THANKS ON THE EXHIBIT

NICAP's chief photographic consultant W. F. McIntyre deserves much of the credit for the fine appearance of NICAP's new exhibit on UFO photography. His assistance with its preparation is much appreciated, and we hope all of our members will have the opportunity to view the exhibit while it is available. Thanks also to consultant Donald Moore, who lent a much needed helping hand.

THE MYSTERY OF THE ENVELOPE

Did you get a reply envelope with your last newsletter but no explanation what it was for? Don't worry; it was a mistake. Our mailer was supposed to send an envelope only to members who got a renewal notice, but instead he sent one to everybody. We apologize for the error.