

THE U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena

Vol. III, No. 11

Jan.-Feb., 1967

MAJOR SIGHTING WAVE

An apparent lull in UFO sightings during the Christmas holidays was quickly dispelled as sightings continued at a rapid rate into the new year. Planes and automobiles have been paced, electro-magnetic effects sometimes noted, landings and near-landings still frequent. Increasing numbers of well-qualified witnesses have reported personal sightings recently, including psychologists, airline pilots and engineers.

Canadian Pacific Airlines Flight 421, en route from Lima, Peru, to Mexico City on the night of December 29 was paced by a strange object which the 6-man crew was later unable to explain as anything but a UFO. "I think it was something other than normal," said the pilot, Captain Robert Millbank, a 26-year veteran.

Capt. Millbank was flying the DC-8 northwest along the Peruvian coast at 35,000 feet, with a moon two days past full brightening the clear night sky. At a position south of the Equator two twinkling white lights were observed close together on the horizon, to the left of the nose of the airplane. The lights arced toward the plane, separating as they did so, brightened, and descended. Two thin beams of light shining upward in a V-pattern emanated from the lights themselves.

At the altitude of the DC-8 the lights levelled off, taking position beyond the left wing. By this time, the entire crew was watching the UFO through as many windows as possible to rule out reflections. The UFO's shape was indistinct, but it appeared to be thicker in the center (possibly a disc). At the closer range, a string of yellow lights became visible on the edge of the object, between the two large lights.

For two minutes, the UFO stayed in position off the wing, once emitting a shower of sparks like fireworks. Then it disappeared behind the plane. It had been in view for 7 minutes in all.

Debating whether the thing could have been a bright fireball, another aircraft, or a satellite re-entry, the crew tried hard to dismiss the object as one of these, without success. The duration, performance and appearance could not be explained.

American Airlines Encounter

American Airlines flight No. 162, from San Francisco to Houston, was paced January 16 by a bright object which performed so amazingly that two passengers, both psychologists, were dumbfounded. In a report to NICAP, Teresa G. Trittipoe (Manpower Development Institute) and Dr. Phil Welsh (Computer Applications) described the eerie experience.

Just after take-off from El Paso about 10:00 p.m., Miss Trittipoe noticed a bright light trailing the airliner, moving relative to the stars and therefore not a star or planet itself. The UFO moved up and down erratically, sped ahead, then reversed its course. After calling the object to Dr. Welsh's attention, Miss Trittipoe said, "We exchanged no words at all for about five minutes... we were quite rapt and totally absorbed by what, as we thought, were impossible kinds of events."

Uncertain of what they were observing, the pair hesitated to tell anyone else on board about their sighting. The few passengers left on the El Paso-San Antonio leg of the flight were either sleeping or engrossed in reading. "We were both afraid for ourselves... and fearful of ridicule in merely suggesting that someone else 'look,'" Miss Trittipoe reported.

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COLORADO PROJECT OPERATIONS

The team of scientists at University of Colorado has passed the planning phase of their UFO investigation project, and begun specific projects and investigations. After approval of a grant of over \$300,000 from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, background and planning sessions got underway last November. NICAP and individual scientists briefed the Colorado project at Boulder during November and December. Director of the new UFO project is Dr. Edward U. Condon, Professor in CU's Department of Physics and Astrophysics.



Mr. Robert J. Low, who gave up his position as Assistant Dean of the Graduate School at CU to become Project Coordinator of the UFO study, has since devoted full time to the subject. This has included some on-the-spot investigations of recent UFO sightings. Low, a Cincinnati native, was a member of a scientific team in 1959 which observed and photographed a total eclipse of the sun from the Canary Islands. As a 17-year-old, in the 1940s, Low signed on the schooner "Yankee" and circled the globe. He later received degrees from Harvard and Columbia Universities, majoring in engineering at Harvard.

In the last issue we accidentally omitted the name of one of the project's scientists, Dr. Michael Wertheimer, a psychologist

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The previous issue of the U.F.O Investigator, Vol. II No. 10, was published in late November. There is no issue dated December. Thus we published five issues during 1966, falling one behind. Since NICAP memberships are computed on a basis of receiving six issues for \$5.00, your membership is not affected and you are receiving another issue if the last one for 1966 was supposed to be the final one on your membership-subscription.

We regret that holiday pressures, the rush of mail, widespread publicity and high public interest interfered with our office routine and did not allow us to remain on schedule. (See separate editorials and stories). However, we do not anticipate further difficulties of this type because steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence, including plans for emergency help if needed.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS INCLOSED IN NEXT ISSUE

THE **UFO INVESTIGATOR**

Published by
The National Investigations Committee
on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

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EDITORIAL

How many NICAP members would have dared to predict, two years ago, that the climate of opinion about UFOs would change as rapidly as it has done in 1965 and 1966? The Winter of UFO research does seem to be coming to an end. But the thaw is bringing Spring floods.

Along with the favorable trends of the past two years have come other developments, far less welcome. One of these is the torrent of *opportunism*—books, radio and TV programs, magazine articles, "documentaries"—that are being patched together by hack writers and rushed out to take advantage of the new topicality and "respectability" of UFOs. After a long silence in the press, we are suddenly faced with a deafening uproar.

In varying degrees, much of the material now being offered to the public is composed of factual errors, questionable documentation, wild speculations, and considerable sensationalism. Because editors are always looking for "a new angle," the essentially dramatic nature of the UFO mystery in itself is not enough. Seeking new approaches, authors link UFO reports with monster stories, ESP, or any bizarre tales that come along.

Even more culpable than these opportunists, however, are the writers who should know better—writers who do have some previous familiarity with the subject, yet write as carelessly and irresponsibly as the newcomers. They have had access to accurate information and they should realize the importance of careful documentation. Yet they will perpetuate stories and rumors long discredited, indulge in long passages of speculation, distort or ignore the known facts, and generally ginger things up to appeal to what they consider the public taste.

Another form of exploitation is illustrated by the new TV series, "The Invaders." This reanimates the old bogey, peril to earth from hostile aliens. The recorded facts show no convincing evidence whatever of any such hostility. A few cases of an ambiguous nature may indicate danger, but danger and hostility — deliberate, conscious aggression—are two different things. In the present phase of the UFO problem, this series is a bad influence.

There is not much reason to hope that the writers, publishers, and producers who are out to make hay while the sun shines will develop scruples or objectivity. They will continue to feed the public's curiosity by adding to their misinformation, and the net result will be still more confusion in a subject already sufficiently complex and difficult. In addition to exposing false information at every opportunity, NICAP can only repeat its warning about unreliable information, and urge members to exercise caution and discrimination in reading, listening, and looking.

Policy Statement

As a result of the current outpouring of UFO literature, good and bad, hundreds of thousands of Americans are learning about NICAP for the first time. Our membership is growing rapidly (now over 12,000). A good many applicants for membership reveal, through their comments, that they misunderstand our nature and purposes. Quite a few reflect the prevalent confusion about the difference between facts and speculation, or between evidence and wishful thinking.

We feel, therefore, that NICAP's basic attitudes and methods should be restated at this time. Both for prospective new members and for the general reader as well, we re-emphasize the following points:

NICAP is not interested in the occult, in telepathy, in other forms of ESP, in prophecy, or in any other non-aerial mysteries.

NICAP does not promote or advocate any religious, philosophical, or political views, nor do we study these subjects.

NICAP does not concern itself with baseless theories or wild rumors. If you merely want to be entertained by unfounded speculations, NICAP is not the organization for you.

If, on the other hand, you approach the subject in a spirit of scientific inquiry, and want reliable, factual information, we welcome your support. We try to interest and inform our readers by supplying little-known background information, discussions of space activities which are relevant to possible intelligent extra-terrestrial life, and factual reports on UFO sightings which have been investigated as carefully as our resources permit.

The key word is investigation, not an indiscriminate belief that takes at face value every word uttered by anybody about UFOs. There is far too much rumor-mongering, opportunism, and credulity, all of which misleads and misinforms the public at large. Our answer is to continue development of our widespread investigation network, making it increasingly capable of conducting probing studies of possibly significant UFO reports, and placing the information in the hands of qualified professional scientists as well as the membership and general public. A large amount of quiet background work is underway at all times—probing, digging, checking, urging competent people to study the facts.

NICAP supports and advocates a scientific investigation designed to discover, ultimately, the full nature and meaning of UFOs. We favor complete disclosure to the public of all relevant facts, by the authorities whom we have entrusted with our public affairs.

All members of our Subcommittee and Affiliates can help by making the above points clear, and by differentiating NICAP from other groups whose attitudes and purposes may be quite different.

New Subcommittees

Three new NICAP subcommittees have been made official, bringing the total of field investigative units to 26 in the United States. The new groups are in Illinois, New Jersey and Florida.

The new Moline, Ill., Subcommittee is headed by Robert E. Seamands, a research and development engineer and amateur astronomer. Members include Jimmy H. Williams (mechanical engineer), Robert Murdock (mechanical engineer and amateur astronomer), Laurence L. Frauen (mechanical engineer and amateur photographer). Mailing address for the subcommittee is c/o Mr. Seamands, Apt. 306, 3717 43rd St., Moline, Ill. 61265.

The Emerson, N.J., Subcommittee is directed by Frank J. Ciarleglio, 119 Pine Drive, Emerson, N.J. 07630; he is a private pilot and flies his own airplane, has experience in both astronomy and photography and is president of a realty firm. His associates are Philip Rodano (research and development engineer), Emerson Police Chief Michael J. Solimando, Robert Strickman (chemist and president of Allied Testing and Research Co.), S. Guy Stark (U.S. Public Health Service Officer).

The new Miami, Florida, Subcommittee is led by George W. Lugg, a retired engineer, who lives at 3010 N.W. 184th St., Opa Locka, Fla. 33054. Others in the unit are Mrs. Lugg (Ph.D., Industrial Psychology), Richard M. Gregory (telephone equipment tester), Robert A. Lento (private pilot, communications equipment repairman), Frank E. Rojas (formerly in Naval Intelligence).

Sighting Wave (Continued from page 1)

Midway of the flight, the pilot added to the mystery by turning on the landing lights for a few seconds, then making a sharp bank and return to course. The maneuvers were interpreted to mean that the pilot also was aware of the UFO, possibly checking for cockpit reflections. After a few seconds lag, the UFO made a similar jog in its course. (NICAP is contacting the pilot for a statement.)

After the plane landed at San Antonio, the witnesses saw the UFO "shoot up and execute a wide hyperbolic swing into the sky..."

A Portuguese Boeing airliner was similarly paced sometime in December, according to an unconfirmed newspaper report. Shortly before landing at Luanda, Angola (West Africa), the pilot said, two shiny UFOs with "great maneuverability...moving up and down" were observed. "I asked Luanda airport control tower about this," Capt. Henrique Maia told newsmen, "and they said there was no other traffic in the air." Passengers said the UFOs followed the plane for half an hour, appearing as "luminous points in the sky, very close to the plane."

Two Sandia Corporation engineers (Livermore, California) were among many witnesses who reported UFOs that changed color while under observation. Robert H. Schultz and Jerry Hunting were leaving the parking lot at 4:25 p.m. October 21 when they saw a "solid and perfectly spherical" UFO which moved too rapidly to be a balloon.

"It was translucent [blue] when stationary," Schultz said, "and became reflective after it started upward." Other Sandia employees on the lot also observed the UFO as it climbed away and disappeared to the south. Schultz, who stated that he had observed all types of supersonic aircraft and weather balloons, added, "I never witnessed anything like that."

Ray E. Ricketts, a staff member of the Commercial Appeal (Danville, Va.), who investigated the sighting, reported that there had been a widespread power failure the night before covering an area from Clarksville to Richmond to Martinsville. Soon after the blackout, a weekly Gazette-Virginian (South Boston, Va.) photographer reportedly saw and photographed a UFO. At this writing, no further information has been received.

Electrical Interference

Several reports during the same period described interference with electrical circuits and odd reactions by animals while UFOs were in view.

In Alton, Va., November 4, Mrs. W.J. Long was watching television at 10:30 p.m. when her set experienced severe interference, then blacked out completely. Shortly afterwards, she glanced out the window and saw a huge red light that appeared to be rotating behind a glassy surface of some kind. The light itself, she said, was "every bit as large as this room." Above it was a gigantic object rimmed with a white halo of light. The entire phenomenon was hovering close to the ground, then rose to a height of about 100 feet, quickly descending again to its original position. This happened three times, before the UFO moved slowly across the road and under some utility lines, then glided away across a field.

A complex of E-M effects on an automobile, January 20 in Methuen, Mass., has been investigated by the Massachusetts NICAP Sub-committee which filed an extensive report. Two groups of witnesses in separate automobiles independently observed the UFO.

In one car, Kimberly Lodge, Ellen Kenney and Janice Shafer were driving to a basketball game about 6:45 p.m., when they saw a string of bright red glowing lights heading NE in a straight line. The lights stopped and hovered to the side of the road. As the car pulled alongside, the UFO seemed to rotate "revealing a new light configuration and color. Four distinct lights formed a perfect trapezoid. Two red lights formed the top and two white lights formed the base." Directly above the lights was a reflective, metallic-appearing surface.

The driver stopped the car within 300 feet of the UFO, leaving the lights on and the motor idling. The radio was playing. "Then abruptly the engine, lights and radio failed completely except for the generator light (on the dashboard) which just barely lit up and was pulsating off and on."

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Colorado Project (Continued from page 1)

specializing in perception. Since then, two more physical scientists associated with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) have been added to the UFO project. They are Dr. William Blumen, a meteorologist, and Dr. Joseph Rush, a physicist.

Some of the specific assignments now being undertaken are development of a sighting case file which will be accessible to sorting by computer; planning for one or more well-trained teams of field investigators; development of a special sighting report (interrogation) form; preparing a manual or booklet, including background information on astronomy, for public guidance in observing and reporting UFOs; giving serious consideration to an effort to deploy instruments for detection of UFOs and for gathering quantitative data.

A major effort is being made to open up new sources of information among professional pilots and others who would be likely to see UFOs; also to re-open information sources which, for reasons of pressure or dissatisfaction with the Air Force project, have stopped reporting sightings.

For one scientific experiment, engineers of one of the largest automobile companies in the country will attempt to determine exactly what could cause failure of the electrical systems of automobiles. NICAP has furnished a sample of UFO reports involving electro-magnetic effects on automobiles to the project for the background information of the engineers.

One common misunderstanding about the Colorado UFO project, especially among those who fear it may be only a "whitewash," is caused by the apparent dominance of psychologists. Even before the two NCAR physical scientists were added, the psychologists had been scheduled to devote proportionately less of their time on UFOs than the physical scientists. Some of the former, working on a relatively narrow area of research (such as interrogation and screening techniques), will be spending only 10-20% of their time on project work, while some of the physical scientists will devote 50% or more of their time. At this stage, NICAP believes the project is well-balanced in terms of the personnel and, in general, approaching the unique problem of UFOs with admirable objectivity and thoroughness.

Dr. Condon's Attitude

At a recent talk in New York state, Dr. Condon was quoted as saying "the government ought to get out of the UFO business," along with some other negative remarks which made it sound as if he were pre-judging the subject. NICAP immediately asked the project for a clarification and, in a letter to the NICAP Director, Dr. Condon stated that the newspaper had misquoted some of his remarks, taken others out of context. One particular quote, Dr. Condon said, "makes it sound like I really have my mind made up but am only pretending otherwise and this is certainly not the case."

Although we retain some reservations about the impression of Dr. Condon's attitudes conveyed through some press accounts, we find no reason to go along with the skeptics who interpret the project merely as the latest gambit in an Air Force propaganda campaign. Having met most of the scientists involved, we are generally satisfied with their fair-mindedness and their thorough plans. They were unwilling to undertake the assignment at the outset until guaranteed total independence from the Air Force, and freedom to investigate at will and to say what they please.

It probably is fair to say that the scientists on the project range from open-minded skeptics to moderately convinced "believers," which is as it should be. All appear quite willing to give UFOs their "day in court."

NICAP will remain in close touch with the UFO project, and will continue to cooperate fully as long as we are convinced the investigation is thorough and impartial. As a voluntary service, we are screening reports from our files and sending copies of many significant cases to Colorado. NICAP, with the cooperation of the Colorado project, is now developing a network to obtain reports from police agencies across the country. (Police officer members may write to Assistant Director Richard Hall for further information).

Sighting Wave (Continued from page 3)

The driver, Miss Lodge, twice tried to start the car, but couldn't. The engine "moaned" but wouldn't start, even after she switched off the radio and headlights. At this point, the UFO began moving, slowly at first, but finally speeding away to the southwest. The car then started easily, the lights and radio functioning normally.

NICAP also interviewed the passengers of the second car, which had been located about 3 miles to the west of the first. At 7:00 p.m., its three passengers had spotted a large square pattern of colored lights hovering, or moving very slowly, at low altitude.

Reactions to Aircraft

On January 16, 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Frank of Saline, Michigan, saw UFOs between 1 and 2 a.m. Small lights were grouped around a large object which itself had flashing red and green lights. As a commercial airplane approached, all the lights went out and remained out for 30 to 45 seconds. After the plane passed the lights flashed back on.

At 7:30 p.m. the same day began an hour-long observation of a yellowish UFO "shaped like a meat platter," with a long yellowish-white tail that moved and wavered, according to the witness who saw it while driving in St. Michaels, Maryland. Mary Swaine, a reporter for the Star-Democrat in Easton, Maryland, described the sighting later to NICAP by phone. The object performed erratic maneuvers — dipping, diving, and changing directions. When a plane going north passed above it, however, the object stood still, then went south in a rapid dipping and diving pattern. At this point there were a number of conventional planes in the area; the UFO flashed past them, the witness said, "as cars would go past people on a fast-lane highway."

A UFO over the United Nations in New York City was reported seen on November 22, 1966. Witnesses included at least eight employees of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, who watched from their offices on the 17th floor of 750 Third Avenue, at 4:20 p.m. on a bright, sunny day. The UFO was a rectangular "cushion-shaped" object whose "bright, reflective skin" first caught the eye of Donald R. McVay, assistant general manager of ANPA; his background includes training at the FBI Academy. The object came southward over the East River, then hovered over the UN building; it "fluttered and bobbed like a ship on agitated water." The object then rose slowly, and moved South and West. Among the other witnesses was the manager of the Association's Publications Department, William H. Leick (who had been with OSS during World War II).

In Philadelphia on January 5, 1967, two UFOs were observed for a period of about 45 minutes in the early evening (5:40 p.m.) by a group of four people. As described by Dorlores Little, a bank employee, first a disk-shaped object, surrounded by alternate red and green lights, was seen circling over the area. It emitted a buzzing sound. Each time it reached the west point of the circle, it stopped and changed to a vertical position, then flipped back and resumed circling. When in the stopped position only the red lights were visible and they seemed to brighten. Finally it shot away south. Immediately, from the point where it had disappeared, a square object sped into view headed north; it seemed to be at a low altitude but made no sound. On each corner was a dim blue-green light. This UFO sped overhead and vanished in about 7 seconds. Soon afterward, the witnesses said, the sky was full of aircraft, apparently scouring the area.

On January 15 at about 5:45 p.m. Mrs. Helen Godard of Granville, Massachusetts, in an automobile with her two nieces, saw a domed object with bright white lights shining from "portholes" at its base. According to the newspaper account, not yet confirmed, the object passed over the car at varying speeds. Red, flame-like jets showed at one end, and the white lights lit up the ground and sky. Suddenly all lights on the object went out. Mrs. Godard turned the car around and went back to the place where they had first seen the object. There it was seen again, this time with "portholes" showing red lights. Then it gained speed and disappeared over a mountain to the east. After arriving at the home of a friend, the witnesses saw the UFO for the third time. They estimated its diameter at about 50 feet; and on this third view it was reported as emitting "a sound like a giant bumblebee."

EM Sub Tested

A group of engineering students at the University of California at Santa Barbara has designed and built a small unmanned submarine that propels itself by creating an electromagnetic field that acts against the water. Electromagnetic propulsion is often suggested as the technique used by those UFOs that seem to produce electromagnetic interference with such terrestrial devices as engines, radios, and lights.

The prototype submarine has a four-foot-long aluminum coil that is fed by five six-volt batteries. A switch at the end of one of the craft's stabilizers turns the coil off and on. The sub travels three feet below the surface to keep the switch above water where an accompanying swimmer can operate it. The coil runs silently.

Nicknamed EMS-1, the sub is ten feet long, 18 inches in diameter, and 900 pounds in weight. The students built it in three months for about \$1500 and tested it in Santa Barbara harbor at about two miles per hour.

Near landings and close approaches seem to be increasingly frequent. Six were reported for January 17, and four of these were from locations in Omaha, Nebraska, where NICAP member Ernest C. Wright investigated and submitted formal report forms from eight witnesses. The first sightings were at 7:20 p.m., when Jerry Swan saw a well-lit object moving slowly in the sky. At about the same time other witnesses in a car in another part of the city, saw lights in the northeastern sky, which moved east, then banked south and emitted a beam like a spotlight from the front. A blimp-shaped outline was observed around the lights. The object seemed to be about 50 feet long and 15 to 20 feet thick at the center. Eight square "portholes," in two groups of four separated by a red light, emitted yellow light; a red blinking light was on the left, a green blinking light near the rear. The object flew slowly and looked as if it were going to land, but instead it went up, banked like a plane, and disappeared behind trees on a hill.

On January 17, at Seymour, Indiana, Francis Bedel, Jr., was reported by local newspapers to have driven his car off the road while intently watching a multicolored object in the sky; at the same time Mr. and Mrs. Phil Patton, also of Seymour, reported that a multicolored, oscillating UFO about 30 feet in diameter came within 100 feet of their car.

Earlier in the day on January 17 (9:05 a.m.), in Dunbar, West Virginia, Tad Jones, owner of an appliance store, was driving a truck when he saw a "dull aluminum sphere" 20 or 25 feet in diameter, hovering about four feet over the road some 500 feet ahead of him. He had gotten to within 10 feet of the object when it ascended swiftly. Jones said the object had two antennae protruding from the top, and two legs underneath, with a propeller between them which revolved slowly when the object hovered, but faster as it ascended. There was a window at the top and a flange around the middle.

January 18 was another day with many sightings. At Cape Girardeau in southwest Missouri (this area, with nearby southeast Kansas, has had frequent reports lately), a UFO with blue, red, and white lights was seen by at least three policemen at 3:12 a.m. (newspaper accounts). The officers also reported a second object; both made wide sweeps to left and to right; stopped and sped ahead alternately. For one of the policemen this UFO sighting was the third in a week.

The New Hampshire NICAP Subcommittee is investigating several reports, January 18, of an elongated UFO with two brilliant white lights mounted on protrusions from the leading edge. A flashing red light was visible on top. Witnesses said markings like windows could be seen along the side of the UFO. The object, observed about 5:15 p.m., maneuvered over a 20 mile area, at least, alternately hovering, and moving vertically and horizontally.

On January 30, at Lander, Wyoming, a former Air Force gunner (Joe C. Kenney), now a private pilot and manager of a title company, saw a long and slender cigar-shaped UFO at 7:05 a.m. The object had an intense blue-white light running fore and aft. It first appeared just above the horizon to the northwest, moving out of sight behind the local horizon to northeast in about 15 seconds.

HYNEK SPEAKS OUT

Air Force UFO consultant Dr. J. Allen Hynek told 1,000 persons at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center that UFOs are a "scientific problem" and should be taken seriously by the scientific community.

The well-known astronomer spoke January 6 as part of the Greenbelt, Md., center's 1967 Scientific Colloquium. While stating that UFOs "exist only as reports," he admitted that he had to "revise my thinking" on the subject and regard from five to 10 percent of all reports as "unknowns" and worthy of intensive investigation. During the early years of official interest, his impression was that the reports would soon die out, but continued reports have convinced him that a phenomenon thus far defying a natural explanation does exist.

The Director of Northwestern University's Dearborn Observatory urged that scientists promptly change from a "passive" to an "active" role in carefully scrutinizing UFO reports. While a certain number of crackpots are active in the field, he said, there is a clear enough "signal" (in the "signal-to-noise ratio") of reports from reliable witnesses to warrant a scientific look. He strongly shied away from any extraterrestrial hypothesis, however.

Hynek, whose now-famous "marsh-gas" explanation for the Dexter-Hillsdale, Michigan, sightings of March, 1966, caused unprecedented press and public repercussions, gave a low rating to sightings involving only one witness, "no matter how good they are." He was much more inclined to accept as valid, he said, group sightings, particularly involving individuals with some scientific background and training.

The 19-year veteran of investigating UFO reports for the Air Force indicated that we should not be looked upon by future generations as scientifically backward in refusing to take a closer look at a phenomenon that is centuries old. As a parallel, he pointed out that, as recently as the beginning of the 19th Century, scientists refused to accept the existence of meteorites. "I would rather believe that two Yankee professors are liars than to believe that stones fall from the skies," he quoted Thomas Jefferson as saying.

The lecture crowd overflowed the auditorium and watched via closed circuit TV in two additional rooms. Total attendance was estimated at over one-quarter of the total working force of 3,800 employees at the space center.

Hynek confirmed reports that NORAD and SAC radars have tracked UFOs, and cited as an example the SAC radar acquisition of an object following an erratic flight path at 4,000 mph. He also confirmed UFO sightings by the IGY optical tracking network. In all such sighting cases, he said, no serious follow-up was made, even in those cases where planes were scrambled to investigate. Because of this official indifference, radar operators have hesitated to report strange blips to their superiors, "and even if they did (report them)," said Hynek, "their superiors paid scant attention."

Fieldcrest Not Endorsed

Numerous complaints have been received by NICAP about the re-publication of Maj. Keyhoe's Flying Saucer Conspiracy by Fieldcrest Publishing Co.

Maj. Keyhoe made every effort to prevent its publication, but was unsuccessful. Both he and NICAP disclaim any responsibility for, or connection with the book as published by Fieldcrest, which falsely implies that the 11-year old work is new and contains up-to-date information.

A large number of persons have reported to us that they have still not received their copies of the book, several months after mailing their checks, which have been promptly cashed.

It is NICAP's recommendation that persons having trouble with Fieldcrest contact the Better Business Bureau of the City of New York, and Mayor John Lindsay, and/or postal inspectors (U.S. Post Office).

For this and other reasons, NICAP disapproves of Fieldcrest's publishing efforts, and does not recommend any books on its list.

Prank Balloons Cause Danger

Pranksters who put aloft homemade "UFOs" are hindering serious study of aerial phenomena and are endangering the neighborhoods the objects fly over. Further, they are making needless trouble for the FAA, the Air Force, police and fire officials, and are giving skeptics and debunkers of UFOs more material for dissent.

Teenagers and students seem to be the usual culprits. Generally their motive is simply to play a joke, not realizing the serious nature of the UFO problem.

Take for example the case last March that was inspired by the nationally publicized Michigan sightings on the 20th and 21st of that month. Residents of Pasadena, California, saw colored lights in the night skies of the 23rd and 28th. Hundreds of telephone calls were made to police switchboards, newspaper offices, and radio stations.

The UFOs turned out to be small, plastic, flare-carrying balloons sent up by students at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. The students described their prank as an "experiment in gullibility" and said it "succeeded beyond our wildest hopes."

Other examples are the air-filled laundry bag with a fire pot beneath it that was launched last March near Atlanta, and the similar devices (laundry bags with candles) that were put up last December near San Francisco. In both cases, the objects eventually landed, creating a fire threat to the woods and homes they impacted. In the latter case, the three boys responsible were cited for violation of the local penal code.

FAA regulations prescribe a fine of up to \$1,000 for violation of federal rules for operation of balloons (moored and unmoored), kites, and rockets. The rule governing free balloons requires, among other things, prelaunch notice, detailed information on the proposed flight, and periodic position reports while the balloon is airborne. The rule also stipulates that "no person may operate an unmanned free balloon...in such a manner that impact of the balloon, or part thereof including its payload, with the surface creates a hazard to persons or property..."

The FAA has proposed changing its regulations to require that free balloons have radar-reflective components to facilitate tracking from the ground and self-destruct devices to assure that if the balloons malfunction, they do not go astray and become a hazard.

The implication is clear. Pranks can only hinder and harm the effort of serious people to solve the UFO riddle, and worse yet they are dangerous.

Hints on Photos

One genuine photograph of a UFO may be worth dozens of good verbal reports. The problem is to take a good photo and then to convince the world that it is real.

Here are a few tips that may help you do both.

Use the best camera possible. While a picture taken with an inexpensive box camera is far better than no picture, the better the camera, the better the picture. NICAP has too many pictures of tiny spots in the sky; what we need is detailed, close-up pictures. This requires either overwhelming luck, or a telephoto lens which will bring a distant object close.

A lot depends on the type of film. For daylight, use either color film or fine-grain black-and-white (such as Kodak Panatomic X). For nighttime pictures, use either high-speed color film or fast black-and-white film (such as Ansco Super Hypan or Kodak Tri-X).

Get others to view the UFO as you take the pictures, so they can back up your report.

Try to get something in addition to the UFO, such as scenery, other witnesses, buildings, etc. This way, NICAP's photo-analysts will have a better chance to determine the validity of the picture.

Immediately record all pertinent data, including camera settings (shutter speed, lens opening, etc.), weather conditions, time, etc.

Send the unprocessed roll of film to NICAP by the fastest possible method, and include a full written report of the sighting.

NICAP Director Addresses Scientists

For the past five months, NICAP Director, Major Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret.), has traveled widely, talking to special groups about late UFO developments. As interest in the UFO subject mounts within the scientific community and technological industries (as well as among the general public), Major Keyhoe has been in great demand as a speaker. He has been able to accept only a small percentage of the talk offers, concentrating on large scientific and technical society meetings.

Since October, Major Keyhoe's itinerary has taken him to eight stops in the East, Midwest and South.

October: Society of Automotive Engineers convention at Greenbrier, V. Va.; Tulsa Town Hall, Oklahoma; American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics chapter, St. Louis, Mo.

November: Indiana Institute of Technology meeting at Fort Wayne; and Collins Radio Corporation at Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Collins is a major electronics supplier to the government).

December: No engagements.

January: Otterbein College lecture, Westerville, Ohio; General Motors Corporation, Detroit, Michigan; and American Society for Metals chapter, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Venus Life Debated

In Venus a hotbed of trapped radiation, enclosed in clouds and devoid of life? A photograph made by America's first Lunar Orbiter satellite has revived the possibility that it is not; that instead it is hospitable to some organisms. So reports William Hines of the Washington Star.

On August 23, 1966, Lunar Orbiter I photographed the Earth as part of a shot of the Moon's surface, and the image of the Earth turned out to closely resemble images of Venus as photographed through telescopes. Thus the question: If Earth appears cloud-shrouded yet harbors life, might not Venus do likewise?

The question will go begging until a spacecraft can fly by the planet and return pictures of better definition than is possible with Earth-based cameras. Because Venus is between the Sun and Earth at its closest point to Earth, its adjacent side is dark and thereby discouraging to observers.

The case against Venusian life seemed closed five years ago when the U.S.'s Mariner II spacecraft bypassed Venus on December 14, 1962, and reported surface temperatures of up to 1350 Fahrenheit degrees. Scientists theorized that the heat was trapped around the planet by thick, continuous clouds.

Now, however, with Venus appearing like Earth, the possibility exists that the clouds are broken and the heat is less intense. Being closer to the Sun, Venus is not expected to be as cool as Earth, but it might be cool enough to support life.

Two years ago the possibility of Venusian life came briefly to the fore when Dr. John Strong, director of the Johns Hopkins Astrophysics Laboratory in Baltimore, reported evidence of water in the Venusian clouds and evidence of a cool surface (see UFO Investigator for April-May 1965). Water, of course, means oxygen, and oxygen is basic to life as we know it.

NASA will pass Venus this summer with Mariner V, but no photography is planned. The next opportunity for a photographic mission is in the summer of 1972, but NASA's proposed plan for then has yet to receive Congressional approval.

UFO Evidence Available

Copies of the UFO Evidence still are available at \$5.00 each. (With a new membership or a renewal payment of \$5.00 or more, the price is \$4.00 each). This 200,000 word documentary report has influenced hundreds of people to take a new look at the UFO subject. Copies have been obtained by most major scientific and research agencies in the country.

Board Member Hartranft

Well-known in the field of aviation is NICAP Board Member Mr. J.B. Hartranft, Jr., President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. AOPA, with well over 100,000 members, is a union of private pilots and aircraft owners. (ALPA—Airline Pilots Association—is a counterpart organization for professional airline pilots.)

Mr. Hartranft learned to fly at Roosevelt Field, Long Island, while still in high school and currently holds commercial, multi-engine and instrument ratings. In the years between,



while attending the University of Pennsylvania, he founded the University Flying Club and the National Intercollegiate Flying Club. While acting as General Manager of AOPA, he founded the U.S. Air Guard, the forerunner of the Civil Air Patrol.

In addition to his service on the NICAP Board of Governors, Mr. Hartranft is now a member of a number of technical and advisory aviation committees and boards, including the Executive Committee of the "Radio Technical" Commission of Aeronautics.

As one of the original Board Members, Mr. Hartranft has supported NICAP loyally through many difficult years, always available for help and advice. Last March, when NICAP held a press conference at the National Press Club in response to the high news media interest, Mr. Hartranft keyed the meeting and introduced the NICAP Director. He has joined with other NICAP Board Members in public statements urging Congressional attention to UFOs, and calling for more intensive scientific investigation.

The Library of Congress has begun a long-range program to compile a detailed bibliography of all published UFO material, in conjunction with the UFO investigation by the University of Colorado.

Funds for the bibliography work are being furnished by the Air Force's Office of Scientific Research, which is also funding the Colorado project.

NICAP's extensive library of UFO publications, which includes hundreds of obscure U.S. and foreign journals, pamphlets and leaflets, will be one of the main sources of information, according to Arthur Renstrom, bibliographer in charge of compiling this much-needed document, which will be available to the public.

UFO Publicity High

Two more U.S. newspapers in December joined the growing ranks of publications endorsing the need for scientific study of UFOs.

The Wichita Beacon asked editorially, "Can science save the flying saucers?", and answered, "the time has come" to find out. "The politicians don't know (the answer)... The Air Force doesn't know. And the scientists themselves are tight-lipped. But there is general agreement that the time has come to once and for all attach a fact or fancy label to flying saucer reports."

The Tacoma News Tribune notes that scientists, most of whom "have long shrugged off the subject of UFOs," are becoming less inclined to say flatly that UFOs are figments of imagination, worthy of study only by psychologists and psychiatrists. There is increasing awareness that the scientific method requires that no possibility can be dismissed until all available evidence has been carefully weighed.

Other signs of high public interest in getting to the bottom of the UFO mystery are the many publications, broadcasts and films now appearing or scheduled for the near future.

In recent weeks, two magazine format special publications on UFOs have appeared on newsstands, one by LOOK, the other by Dell Publications. Over thirty authors and would-be authors have contacted NICAP for help with book projects. A few already have been published (see separate review comments), and several more are scheduled for this year.

New York Times Sunday magazine, Esquire and Playboy all have UFO articles scheduled within the next few months.

NICAP has been approached by radio and film producers for assistance in preparing regular features or documentaries. Television news departments and discussion programs have constantly sought our help (WNEU in New York, for instance, is working on a long documentary; the Assistant Director of NICAP discussed UFOs for three hours on WOOK-TV in Washington, D.C. during February; Staff Assistant Gordon Lore, in February, participated in a TV panel discussion on CFTO-TV in Toronto, Canada).

Staff members have been deluged with talk offers, to the point that constant travel across the country has interfered with office work, and we have been forced to cut down on this aspect of public relations work. Research groups, large private corporations, and college science departments are increasingly requesting to use our sighting files for UFO research projects of their own.

Although the renewed public sentiment for study and analysis of UFOs is greatly encouraging, it coincides with a rapid growth of NICAP membership, an influx of sightings and other mail, drastically increasing our filing and records-keeping workload.

Photographs Under Study

Two widely publicized photographs taken near Detroit in December, purporting to show a UFO at low altitude over a lake, have not been authenticated by NICAP. In conversations with the mother of the boy who took the pictures, and with the family lawyer, NICAP was promised a set of the Polaroid prints for analysis. However, the pictures have never been submitted and we are now informed that a major magazine is attempting to purchase them.

A second set of Polaroid photographs taken in Ohio by a barber during November, showing a domed disc over his house, were obtained for analysis by Kevin Dee of the Pittsburgh NICAP Subcommittee. Preliminary study has revealed one major discrepancy which needs to be cleared up, plus a number of unanswered questions. A team of NICAP investigators will follow up and attempt to authenticate or disprove the pictures.

A few other photo cases are now being processed, including a promising set of two Kodak Brownie shots showing a domed UFO in the distance over a lake. These were taken December 18 by a NICAP member in Yonkers, N.Y. Analysis so far makes them appear authentic. If it is completed in time, we hope to print these in the next issue.

For the benefit of new members, we do not print unevaluated or ambiguous photographs no matter how interesting they appear.

Prof. Maney Dies

NICAP governor and former physics professor Charles A. Maney died November 8, 1966, at Alma, Michigan, from an apparent stroke and heart attack on October 16. He had been on NICAP's board for almost exactly 10 years, having accepted his governorship on November 5, 1956, less than a month after NICAP was incorporated. During that decade, he gave much serious study and support to the subject of UFOs and was one of the first scientists to speak out in its defense.

The 75-year-old professor joined in 1961 with NICAP assistant director Richard Hall to write the privately published book The Challenge of Unidentified Flying Objects and last summer wrote a book of his own that may be published this year.

Maney died at the Gratiot County Community Hospital. At the time of his stroke, he was living with his wife at Defiance, Ohio, the location of Defiance College where he taught physics between 1946 and 1964. He is buried in Ridge Lawn Cemetery at Breckenridge, Michigan.

Maney drew up an Atoms for Peace plan that he submitted to Congress in 1950 and that was outlined in President Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace speech to the UN General Assembly December 8, 1953. The plan is now on file in the National Archives.

The professor shared credit for discovery in 1915 of internal motions in the nebula of Orion and conducted in the early 1950s some important friction experiments.

His loss is deeply felt by the NICAP officers and staff.

Planetariums Begin Shows

Planetariums in at least three states have planned UFO programs for the near future.

The Noble Planetarium, Ft. Worth, Texas, has already presented a highly successful program that ran for several weeks last year. According to Don J. Starkey, Noble's Curator, the program is to be repeated in July. The planetarium's publication, "The Texas Sky," for May, 1966, featured an article by Starkey entitled "UFOs Past and Present." The author stated that the "basic problem" surrounding UFOs "is the lack of attention to something which, if true, could be of very great significance to the entire human race." Starkey also urged a complete program of observation.

"If another civilization is observing us," Starkey concluded, "perhaps we should take the trouble to find out why. If UFOs are a delusion that is being experienced throughout the world, its scope should be enough to provoke a thorough scientific investigation. There is no doubt that whatever UFOs are, we should know more about them."

A program entitled "U.F.O. — Fact or Fiction?" was scheduled for presentation in mid-January at the Robert T. Longway Planetarium, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Prepared by Mrs. Eileen Starr, Astronomy Curator for the William Penn Memorial Museum, Harrisburg, with detailed assistance from NICAP, the illustrated lecture combines authentic reports, past and present, with allusions to natural phenomena and a brief evaluation of present scientific thinking. Mrs. Starr concluded that our main function concerning UFOs should be "to observe, to report and prepare ourselves if and when new breakthroughs in knowledge arrive."

W. Russell Blake, the Director of Chesapeake Planetarium, Chesapeake, Virginia, asked for NICAP's assistance in preparing a program for February. Entitled "Unidentified Flying Objects versus Identified Objects," the lecture included an illustrated presentation of UFO reports as opposed to sightings of natural phenomena.

RAVENNA REPORT CANCELLED

NICAP's plans to publish the Ravenna report—the April 17, 1966, investigation of sightings by Ohio sheriffs and policemen—had to be cancelled because insufficient advance orders were received. All payments have been returned. We hope to prepare other booklets for publication and sale in the future.

BOOK REVIEWS

Intelligent Life in the Universe (Holden-Day, San Francisco), by I. S. Shklovskii and Carl Sagan, is basically an expanded and updated version of Shklovskii's Universe, Life, Mind, which appeared in Moscow in 1963. The two men, having never met, collaborated by mail, with Sagan doing the final editing. Their subject is treated with the layman in mind; Science magazine describes the book as "lively" and "lighthearted."

Intelligence in the Universe (Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J.), by Roger McGowan and Frederick Ordway, is less lively and lighthearted but equally worth reading. Covering much of the same ground Sagan and Shklovskii cover, it takes a documented and reasoned look at the rationale for intelligence beyond Earth. In the words of one book reviewer, "It comes out of a world of military intelligence, of big film studios, of Air Force translations, of astronautics, of position papers, library searches, programs, and planning."

The Reference For Outstanding UFO Sighting Reports, by UFO Information Retrieval Center, Inc. (P.O. Box 57, Riderwood, Maryland, 21139; \$5.95). A valuable addition to the UFO literature, especially for serious researchers, is this selection of UFO cases by Thomas M. Olsen. Using rigid selection criteria, Mr. Olsen has compiled a reference work of 160 detailed UFO sighting reports including frequent illustrations. He has culled out the details of description from original sources, deleting commentaries so the reader can quickly peruse the important facts as reported by the witnesses. A rating of reliability is given for each case, and helpful bibliographies are provided. An interesting feature in each case is the explanation for it by the Air Force, as obtained from the official files of Project Blue Book.

Flying Saucers: Hoax or Reality, by L. Jerome Stanton (Bleumont paperback 850-761, 50 cents). The cover blurb adds, for good measure, "A New Solution to the Puzzling Problem of the UFO," which the book is not. The author seems to have been impelled to write it by the promising nature of the Colorado Project, but he himself offers no "solution," new or otherwise. A serious error occurs in his evaluation of the NORAD network findings (Chapter 8), since the network is programmed in the first place to observe objects coming from this planet, not objects coming from space. In general, however, this unpretentious paperback (127 pages) offers a capsule presentation of various aspects of the UFO problem that is well organized, non-sensational, and reasonably accurate. That makes it a rarity among the current crop of books.

Flying Saucers; The Startling Evidence of the Invasion From Outer Space, by Coral E. Lorenzen (Signet Books, 75¢). This revised and updated version of the APRO editor's 1962 book "The Great Flying Saucer Hoax," unfortunately includes a heavy dose of sensationalism. While we find much to agree with in Mrs. Lorenzen's general conclusions, and some of her interpretations of the attitudes of responsible government officials, many of the stories presented are extravagant and are not substantiated by convincing evidence.

At a time when hack writers and opportunists are contributing scare stories and wild tales to the literature, we think Mrs. Lorenzen does a disservice to serious investigation by publishing, as if they were established fact, some outlandish tales. She justifies this on the grounds of (alleged) "unbiased reporting," but the effect is to confuse solid facts with questionable ones. The average reader has no way of evaluating the relative merit of the reports, which imposes a special responsibility on the reporter to document and qualify statements carefully. Although it is difficult at times to draw a sharp line between the believable and the unbelievable, this book should label its considerable borderline material more clearly.

Exaggerated emphasis is placed on the alleged physical threat to human society by UFOs, a claim for which NICAP has found no convincing evidence in 10 years of investigation. APRO's case for UFOs is based primarily on solid facts, but its elaborate theorizing depends heavily on the reliability of some very questionable information. For an organization that prides itself on scientific research, the standards of judgment displayed are below par.

Fry Membership Revoked

Members and supporters of NICAP are herewith notified that all connections between our organization and Daniel W. Fry have been ended. Mr. Fry is the author of The White Sands Incident, Steps to the Stars, and other works. He is also the head of the organization called "Understanding, Inc.," which has a number of branches throughout this country, and editor of its magazine Understanding. He lectures frequently, here and abroad.

Mr. Fry joined NICAP early in its history, but he was never a "founding member," as he has repeatedly claimed in promoting his books and lectures. His original membership was received three weeks after the deadline for founding memberships, and he has therefore never been more than an associate member, like thousands of others.

Soon after Major Keyhoe became Director of NICAP, we took cognizance of the existence of the "contactees" by inviting eight of them, including Mr. Fry, to answer a group of questions regarding their alleged experiences, and to appear before an investigative panel to discuss their claims. On August 26, 1957, Mr. Fry declined in writing, on the grounds that the panel would be prejudiced. He added, referring to The White Sands Incident, that "if there were any value in that report, it would stand upon its own feet *without need for substantiation*" (italics ours). Inasmuch as NICAP was not concerned with the "value" of the book but with its truthfulness, this bland disclaimer of any responsibility for proving it missed the point completely.

(For those not familiar with the book, we may add that it purports to describe Fry's meeting with "A-Lan," whom Fry never saw in person because A-Lan at that time still had four years to go in the process of acclimatizing himself to Earth's gravity, air, and germs. Fry's conversation with his unseen friend took place by ESP and by "direct modulation of the auditory nerve"; but at A-Lan's invitation Fry made a record-breaking trip in the saucer: round trip White Sands to New York and return, 32 minutes.)

NICAP's reason for revoking Mr. Fry's membership is simple. We do not attempt to control the private opinions of any member. We do object vigorously, and with reason, when a member holding views diametrically opposed to ours expresses these views publicly and repeatedly, in writing and in lectures, while using his NICAP membership to publicize and promote his expression of these views.

When Fry bills himself as "Dr.," claiming a PhD from St. Andrews College in London, he is telling a half-truth. The other half is that—to put it mildly—the standards for obtaining a "doctorate" at this alleged college are miles below par. NICAP checked their advertising brochure, which made this plain. A check was also made with the National Cathedral, which had no record of St. Andrews in its listings of legitimate church-affiliated colleges.

Fry is undoubtedly the most troublesome, because the most sophisticated, of the contact claimants. We feel that his removal from membership will be advantageous to NICAP, since he will no longer be able to present his notions as a "representative" — however nominal — of NICAP.

OBSERVERS' GUIDE

The Astronomy Committee of the NICAP-Los Angeles Affiliate is compiling a catalogue of all known celestial and aerial objects which have been or could be the cause of erroneous UFO reports. Such a document would be of great value to scientist and layman alike. Some of the objects or phenomena to be covered, with photographic illustrations when possible, are stars, planets, meteors, satellites, St. Elmo's fire, balloons.

Since many unusual phenomena are difficult to photograph, do not occur in the southern California area or for other reasons photographs are lacking, the Affiliate invites photographs from members all over the country. Include the following data: Phenomenon, date of photograph, location, exposure, film, camera, development (if unusual), your name and address. All contributions and queries should be addressed to the Committee Chairman, Judith Anne Hatcher, 736 Dale Avenue, Glendale, California.