

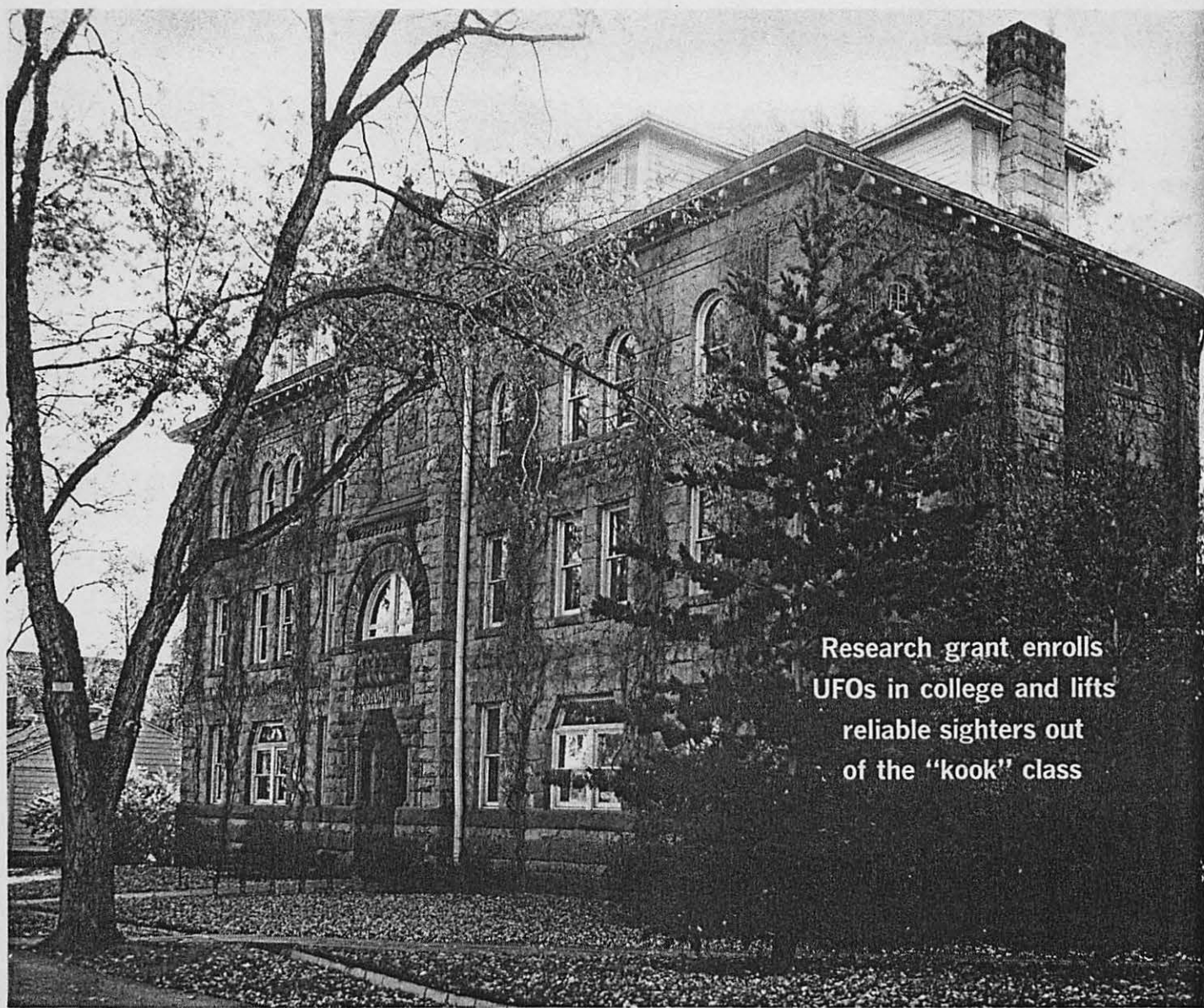
A Cloak Of Respectability: \$313,000

By LUKE FROST

■ In the past, anyone who reported a UFO ran the risk of being tagged a "kook." Today, with the recent launching of the government subsidized research center at the University of Colorado, such a report is considered a major scientific endeavor. But this transition from kook to contributor has not developed quickly or easily.

It has consumed almost 20 years and a total of approximately 11,000 reported sightings of UFOs. In addition, it has taken public interest and a clamor so noisy that it couldn't be ignored in the halls of Congress.

The UFO "problem"—or "question"—first was recognized officially in the late 1940s, almost two decades ago. At that time the U. S. Air Force, bending to public pressure, established what later became Project Blue Book at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.



Research grant enrolls
UFOs in college and lifts
reliable sighters out
of the "kook" class

Ironically, CU's oldest building quarters one of its most advanced scientific projects.

For a branch of the American Armed Forces noted for its flamboyancy, the Air Force devoted precious little attention to the UFO investigation. The Project Blue Book staff at Wright-Patterson, for instance, consisted only of a major, a lieutenant and a secretary—none of whom had any particular interest or training in the UFO field.

Dr. Edward U. Condon, the distinguished scientist picked to head the new UFO investigation from Boulder, said of the Project Blue Book probe:

"For one reason or another, (it) was not in great depth."

Hired early in the Project Blue Book study as scientific consultant and special UFO investigator for the Air Force, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center and chairman of the department of astronomy at Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., became increasingly critical of the Project Blue Book operation.

UFO investigations by the Air Force, he said recently, were inadequate. And the whole project simply wasn't equal to the UFO problem.

Dr. Hynek, however, had something interesting to say about the approximate 11,000 UFO sightings reported to Project Blue Book. Most of the UFO sightings, he said, were understandable—"usual things seen under unusual or surprising circumstances." But about 5 per cent of the UFO sightings were "different."

These were the sightings that were neither understandable nor easily explainable.

It was this "different" 5 per cent—1 of every 20 reported UFO sightings—that tantalized Americans. Complaints poured in, both from respected scientists and from persons who knew nothing about UFOs.

They wanted to know whether these objects scooting across the skies really *were* unexplainable, or whether the Air Force was keeping secrets.

By 1965, the Air Force director of information, Major General E. B. Lebailly, had a bellyful of UFOs. He asked for help.

Apparently for two reasons, he recommended that a private unit, divorced from the Air Force, be set up to investigate UFO sightings. The reasons:

—He wanted to eliminate criticism of the Air Force stemming from growing allegations that the service was hiding information about UFOs.

—He wanted to stop rumors that the Air Force was engaged in super-secret development of strange spaceships designed for air-to-air combat in outer space.

As General Lebailly was pressing for aid, there were other developments in Washington. Most spectacular of these was an open denouncement of the Air Force in the House of Representatives by Gerald Ford, Republican Congressman from Michigan.

Ford was joined in his Air Force denouncement by Democrats and fellow Republicans. The result was a hearing, in April of 1966, of the House of Representatives' Armed Services Committee. The subject of the hearing: UFO investigative procedures used by the Air Force.

Putting everything together, the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board recommended—to the Air Force—that an independent UFO investigation unit be established. The

board said it didn't for a moment believe that UFOs represented visitations from other worlds, or that UFOs constituted a threat to America's security. But an independent investigation would take the UFO monkey off the back of the Air Force, relieving it of responsibility and criticism.

There was one other thing:

The independent probe should be conducted by scientists—not by someone off the street looking for work.

The Air Force swung its radar across the country, seeking a university with sufficient stature to guarantee public confidence. Finally, after contacting several universities, it settled on the University of Colorado.

And the scientist picked to head the investigation was Dr. Condon, the internationally-known theoretical physicist who helped develop the atomic bomb, who later—from 1945 to 1951—was director of the National Bureau of Standards, and who at the time he was selected was a professor of physics and astrophysics at CU and a fellow of the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics.

Disclosure of the new UFO probe and the fact that it would be handled out of CU was made in a copyrighted story in *The Denver Post* of Thursday, October 6, 1966. The official announcement of the contract-signing wasn't made, however, until the following day—Friday, October 7. Announcing the contract in Washington, Air Force Secretary Harold Brown said:

"We are more than pleased to be able to place this grant with respected individuals in a university of such high standing in the scientific community."

The no-strings-attached contract called for a 15-month UFO probe by CU. The cost was set at \$313,000. Under the agreement, CU agreed to investigate and analyze phenomena associated with UFO sightings and to make recommendations on the Air Force's methods of investigating and evaluating UFO reports. There would be no censorship, and the CU findings probably would be reviewed by no less a distinguished body than the National Academy of Science.

Dr. Condon, 64, a friendly, squat one-time newspaperman, was delighted with the project. He couldn't devote all his time to the UFO probe, but he would be the project's "scientific director."

Named full-time "project coordinator" was Robert J. Low, the thin, lantern-jawed assistant dean of the CU Graduate School.

Low and the UFO staff would work out of venerable Woodbury Hall, while Dr. Condon maintained his office in the nearby JILA building.

Secretary Brown pointed out in his contract announcement that CU was located in Boulder, at the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains, along with the famous National Center for Atmospheric Research and the research headquarters of the Environmental Science Services.

"These organizations specialize in research on the properties of man's natural environment, including, in particular, the physical characteristics of the atmosphere and near-space mediums," Brown said.

Those organizations should, the Air Force secretary said, be of tremendous help to the UFO investigators.

continued on next page

UFO skeptics—and there are some—snickered at the entry of an institution of higher learning into the UFO field.

"The next thing you know, they'll be giving degrees at CU in flying saucer chasing," a bartender quipped to a patron after Brown's announcement.

But there also were persons happy about the CU contract.

Generally, the scientific world was elated about the entrance of university scientists into the UFO world. Between 300 and 400 letters—many of them from members of the nation's academic community, and many of them from persons wanting jobs or to assist the program in some way, poured into Dr. Condon's office. Speaking of these letters, Dr. Condon said:

"The important thing is that a lot of people in both the physical and psychological sciences in other universities are interested. There is no tendency to ridicule the project at that level."

Dr. Hynek, who came to Boulder to confer with the Condon-Low team, said launching of the probe by a university showed that "a very definite scientific respectability" had at last been given the UFO riddle. He couldn't be happier.

Dr. Condon and Low immediately began to assess the manpower needs of their investigation. One thing was certain: Anyone who worked in the probe would have to be *interested* in UFOs, and would have to want to solve the mystery regardless of what the solution might turn out to be.



Dr. Edward U. Condon, scientific director of new project, wants an informed public.

It was pointed out that the CU investigation wasn't replacing Project Blue Book. Instead, the CU probe would supplement the Air Force program. Its scope would be wider and in greater depth, but it wouldn't kill off Project Blue Book.

Air Force UFO files would be available to the CU team. Also—and even though the Air Force was to maintain a strict "hands off" policy in shaping the independent investigation—Air Force personnel could be utilized in the CU probe.

Initially, because of this availability of Air Force personnel, plans called for investigative teams to be stationed at various Air Force bases around the U. S. These teams would be on constant alert, ready to move in immediately on any reported UFO sighting in their area. The information they gathered then would be relayed to Boulder for analysis.

These plans were to undergo drastic change.

After studying Project Blue Book reports, Dr. Condon agreed with the Air Force findings that 95 per cent of the reported UFO sightings could be laid to manifestations of natural phenomena. He felt, though, that these should be explained—in detail and in public.

"What can be learned from the UFO project can make valuable contributions to knowledge of atmospheric effects and of people's behavior when observing them under unusual conditions," he said.

"The fact that 95 per cent of the UFO reports are relatively easily identified as having been caused by well-known natural phenomena clearly indicates an appalling lack of public understanding of such phenomena. This calls for correction by improved teaching about these things.

"In earlier times whole populations were terrified by the occurrence of solar and lunar eclipses. Now that we fully understand them, we enjoy seeing them.

"It is still true that most of us have an unpleasant reaction to natural phenomena that we do not understand, which ranges in individual cases from mild emotional discomfort to that of abject fright and terror. Records of past UFO reports give many examples of this.

"Therefore, we will be doing a great public service if we can, by teaching, improve public understanding to the point where many of the things now seen and reported as UFOs become as fully understood as eclipses and as fully enjoyed by witnesses as eclipses are.

"By so doing we might reduce by 95 per cent the number of such reports needing attention, and thus free the available effort to concentrate on the 1 in 20 reports that are more difficult to explain."

Dr. Condon also pounded at the need for UFO reports from qualified observers, particularly airline pilots who, by the nature of their work, are professionally adept at making air-to-air estimates of speed and other factors important in the investigation of UFOs.

"It's quite clear from conversations I've had," he said, "that an awful lot of people did not report it (a UFO) because they did not want to get put down as a little bit off."

Speaking of pilots, Dr. Condon said that in past years, if they reported a UFO, they were "subjected to real ridicule and scorn" and were "put down as persons of doubtful emotional stability."

He made it plain that he wanted this "kook" image, built up over the years of UFO reporters, to end.

Dr. Condon also rebuffed Air Force critics: "If the Air Force is out to delude us, perhaps they can do it. But I don't think their intention is to set out to deceive us."

As the weeks zipped by, the CU investigative staff was set up from Woodbury Hall. At this writing, there are 13 persons in the UFO unit, including eight investigators. Besides Dr. Condon and Low, these investigators are:

Dr. Stuart W. Cook, chairman of the CU psychology department; Dr. David Saunders, a CU psychology professor; Dr. Michael Wertheimer, also a CU psychology professor; Dr. Franklin Roach, an astrophysicist on leave from the Environmental Science Services; Dr. William Blumen, a visiting assistant professor of astrogeophysics at CU, and Dr. Joseph H. Rush of the High Altitude Observatory of the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

The UFO staff also includes three graduate CU students, two in psychology, one in English, and two secretaries.

In the process of being hired is an editor. Filling this job will bring the staff to a total of 14.

To date, a primary problem of the scientists has been determining what to look for in checking a reported UFO sighting. Much of the information, naturally, will come from the person or persons reporting the UFO. So the interviewing of the UFO viewers is considered of prime importance.

Also, there must be a pattern of sameness established in the interviews so that differences, and similarities, in separate UFO sightings won't be missed.

Heavy emphasis will be placed on psychological studies of the UFO reporter to determine behavioral factors that might produce unwarranted UFO reports.

If one person comes up with several UFO sightings, for instance, he'll undergo a thorough psychological grilling.

It was in generating the UFO interview forms and the lines of questioning to be followed that the CU scientists decided to change the method of UFO investigation.

Instead of working through teams stationed around the U. S., Low said, the scientists will operate "pretty much" from CU—flying via commercial airlines from Denver's Stapleton International Airport to the scenes of UFO sightings.

There, the scientists will make their own on-the-spot investigations.

The reason for this switch, Low said, is that it "took so much time" to set the investigative standards. Training other persons around the country to look for what CU wants would require additional time—and the CU scientists believe now they can do the job faster by doing it themselves.

One problem faced by the investigators is slicing the time gap between the sighting of the UFO and being told about it. Low already has conferred with officials of the *Associated Press* and *The Denver Post* to see if this time



Formerly assistant dean of CU's Graduate School, Robert J. Low is program's coordinator.

gap can be reduced, thus speeding the investigation.

Another problem is telling the public what they are doing, and any results of their investigations. Under consideration now is a monthly press conference. This would keep the public informed and at the same time would relieve Dr. Condon and Low from an almost constant barrage of questions from newspaper, television, radio and magazine reporters.

The CU investigators are receiving 25 to 30 letters a week now involving their UFO work. About half of these are from students from across the country, requesting information for school papers.

"We thought we would be receiving a lot of phone calls from citizens," one aide said, "but we haven't. We're surprised about that."

Letters received run the gamut from serious reports and questions to the occult. In the latter category, one writer told Dr. Condon and his investigators that a saucer from another planet was going to land in the U. S., and pinpointed the time and place.

The letter was answered, and the date of the "landing" marked on the calendar.

So far, the CU investigators have made two flights to check UFO reports. No results have been announced at this writing.

Dr. Condon admits that the mystery of the UFOs may still be unsolved after the CU probe is finished.

"But it'll be unexplained after some very sincere efforts," he says.

Project UFO And The 'Klassma Phenomenon'

By R. ROGER HARKINS
Daily Camera Staff

IS THE EXOTIC science of plasma physics the key with which scientists will eventually unlock the mystery of the unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomenon?

Some, especially Philip J. Klass, senior editor of *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, firmly believe it is. Klass, author of the soon-to-be-published "UFOs—Identified" (Random House), takes the position that many UFO sightings can be explained as plasma phenomena. He speculates that many flying saucers may be nothing more than a form of ball lightning (a rare, erratically-moving occurrence, usually seen as a glowing, spherical blob associated with a thunderstorm) generated by an electric corona that sometimes occurs on high-tension power lines near which (he says) saucers are often sighted.

Others, like Dr. Norman E. Levine, the Colorado University UFO Project's specialist in plasma physics and attendant atmospheric electrical phenomena, aren't so sure.

"Of course there are some sightings that may be explained as plasma phenomena," Dr. Levine says, "but there are also many, many more that cannot be explained that way."

LEVINE, a 29-year-old who came to CU from the University of Arizona especially for the UFO study, explains, "There are many parallels between the study of UFOs and the study of certain atmospheric electrical phenomena; for example, the study of ball lightning and of luminous occurrences associated with tornadoes and earthquakes is based on anecdotal data (unrecorded, eyewitness accounts) as is the information about UFOs. There is much to be learned about all of these areas."

For 3½ years Dr. Levine was involved in field and laboratory investigation of lightning and associated phenomena at the University of Arizona and wrote his doctoral thesis in a related area.

He was hired by the University to deal with another area of the UFO problem—radar. His involvement here is, perhaps, a classic case of being in the right place at the right time. After graduating from Clarkson College, Potsdam, N.Y., with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineer-

ing in 1959, he took a staff position at Arizona while he was earning an M.S. (1963) and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and engineering physics (1967). His UFO interest began with a lecture given by Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at Arizona's Institute for Atmospheric Physics.

MCDONALD, one of the more enthusiastic supporters of the UFOs-are-from-outer-space theory, has been quoted as saying, "I think that UFOs are the No. 1 problem of world science."

Two weeks later, while visiting Dr. McDonald, CU Project Coordinator Robert J. Low contacted Dr. Levine and they discussed the Colorado study, which, by then, was well into its work under terms of a \$600,000, 22-month contract with the Air Force. Two weeks later, when the firm offer came from CU, Dr. Levine accepted.

Plasma phenomena, of which ball lightning is but one example, are, to say the least, difficult to understand. Dr. Levine explains the subject this way:

"Plasma has sometimes been referred to as the fourth state of matter (solid, liquid and gas are the other three). A plasma usually consists of a conglomeration of highly mobile positively and negatively charged particles. It is estimated that 99.9 per cent of the universe is a plasma. Some examples are interstellar matter, solar prominences and flares, the aurora borealis and lightning and ball lightning. One of the questions that I am concerned with is the reality of ball lightning and, if it is real, its characteristics.

"THERE ARE scientists that still are not convinced that ball lightning exists," he said. "It's a difficult phenomenon to investigate, partly because of its transitory nature. In this respect, it is much like the UFO problem.

"Ball lightning seems to come in a variety of sizes and, apparently, can disappear slowly or explosively - its lifetime varying from several seconds to a minute or so. Generally, it is reported in conjunction with thunderstorm activity, but there are cases in which it has been reported in clear air. I question the latter, however.

"Theoretical investigations of ball lightning have been carried out but most have not gone very far in explaining what is going on. In a sense, the study of ball lightning is a bit less difficult than



The New Technology?

Robert J. Low (Left), project coordinator, and Dr. Norman E. Levine, of the University of Colorado team investigating reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), connect a "UFO Detector" that Dr. Levine built from a design published in one of the flying saucer magazines. The device gives an audible signal upon strong changes in the local magnetic field. Dr. Levine pointed out that the con-

trivance works well enough but that "it's not well founded that it can signal a UFO appearance. If the alarm buzzes and we discover a UFO, fine; but, if a UFO were sighted and the alarm didn't buzz, that wouldn't prove anything." To this Low added, "And, regardless of what you may have heard, we don't have one of these perched on top of Woodbury Hall." (Daily Camera Photos by Charles Wendt)

1520

By GK...
Associated Press Wire

LON

BRITAIN'S best known talk show host shrugged and said: "I just can't help it."

Patricia Simmons, 47, is a woman who tells millions of people over the Post Office telephone system.

Dial TIM any time of the day and you will hear Miss Simmons talk and talk and talk—on the radio, of course. She never stops.

"I suppose you could say I'm the top of the pops," she said. "My disc has been going strong since 1963."

THAT WAS when Miss Simmons, armed with a jug of coffee and throat sweets, spent three days recording her album.

She made endless separate announcements like, "At the stroke of 10:31 it will be 10:31 precisely."

"It was quite frustrating. I can't put much emotion or expression into telling the time," Miss Simmons said.

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"They were looking for clarity and warmth, a sort of friendly voice," she said.

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Sunday, October 29, 1967



Cape Ann Investigation

Dr. Norman E. Levine studies a map of the air routes in the northeastern United States. The map concerns UFO observations made in the Cape Ann, Mass., area in August, which were investigated by Dr. Levine and Dr. Roy Craig, a physical chemist.

the UFO study because there is at least some physical basis for similar occurrences," he said.

(One of the problems that the CU scientists have grappled with is that the UFO just doesn't submit itself to scientific study. It cannot be taken into a laboratory for analysis; it cannot be studied in the field because it's almost always gone by the time the investigators arrive and, finally, the reports usually come from untrained observers, although UFOs have been frequently sighted by trained scientists. Not, however, when they were looking for them).

"**AS FAR AS** the relationship between the UFO and ball lightning is concerned, I feel that it is important to ask two questions," Levine noted. "How many UFO reports represent cases of actual ball lightning and how many cases of reported ball lightning actually represent UFOs? The latter question is especially pertinent in cases of reported clear air (sans thunderstorm) ball lightning.

"I would hope that one of the by-products of our investigation might be the shedding of some light on the ball lightning problem," he said.

A visitor to the CU Project offices on the second floor of Woodbury Hall immediately notices the influence of Klass. When discussing ball lightning or its cousins, the scientists refer to these occurrences as "Klassma Phenomena."

Dr. Levine's involvement with radar goes back to 1960 when he was 2nd Lt.

are or aren't there and, perhaps, an indication of general size.

"**OF COURSE**, the cane analogy can be carried too far," he explained. "Radar is subject to a variety of unique problems. The composition of the atmosphere has a distinct effect upon the operation of radar. Temperature fluctuations and moisture content tend to bend radar signals from their normal path. Under certain conditions the radar signal can be bent back toward the ground and the system will detect ground targets such as trees or houses. Other atmospheric conditions can cause an increase or decrease in the viable range. Weather conditions, birds, insects and lightning are sometimes detected by radar. These strange phenomena are sometimes lumped together and called 'radar angels.'"

"An interesting 'angel' example occurred in England. Every morning at sunrise, the operator noted, he would detect what appeared to be expanding, concentric rings coming from a particular point, much like ripples created by dropping a pebble into a pond of water. After much investigation it was found that these 'ring angels' were caused by starlings leaving their roost in waves, separated by several minutes, and going out to forage for food in all directions.

"**EVEN THOUGH** radar is subject to strange effects, it is generally an accurate reporter. The Federal Aviation Agency radar network is the mainstay of the safety and control of commercial aircraft. Our defense system against surprise nuclear attack is dependent upon radar. All major airports use radar systems for guiding aircraft toward and away from the landing strip and depend heavily upon precision radar to guide a plane down during foul weather," Dr. Levine said.

"What about UFOs?" FOCUS asked. "If one is tracked on a radar screen, does that mean it's real?"

"An integral part of every radar system is the operator," Dr. Levine replied. "The experienced operator usually has little trouble determining whether or not his system is tracking a real, solid object or whether it's just a reflection of the ground or water."

...corpman teaching basic electronics at the Fort Monmouth, N.J. Radar School.

"Radar is best thought of as an echo," he said. "An electro-magnetic pulse is transmitted, strikes an object, and returns. We then measure the time that it took to return (electromagnetic waves travel at the speed of light — 186,000 miles per second) and we know how far away the object is. The character of the reflected pulse also yields some information about the reflector.

"ONE IS TEMPTED to view 'seeing' with radar to the way in which a blind man 'sees' with a cane," he pointed out. "The blind man's cane cannot 'see' in all directions at once; he gets information about objects only in the direction his cane is pointed. With radar, one gets information about the environment only in the direction that the signal was sent.

"The blind man knows how far away

gets or other anomalous phenomena.
"In fact, most experienced operators condition themselves to see on their screen only those targets of interest to them — all other targets are just not consciously registered. I once asked a radar operator if he ever saw any UFOs on his screen. He replied that he saw them all the time, especially on Saturday and Sunday. These, he said, were light aircraft and he made no attempt to identify them. The only time he noticed them was when they seemed to be in the way of airport commercial traffic. He indicated that the only time he would report a UFO would be if it behaved in a strange manner.

"Thus one tends to give a large measure of credibility to reports of UFOs that are tracked on radar. When this is the case, a detailed investigation of the sighting is in order.

"That's what we're here for," he concluded.

Britain

EDITOR'S NOTE — Sil may be golden, but not to Patricia Simmons. She's been going nonstop to the British for past four years, but she still enough time to give anyone earful. And can you put em in the word "precisely?"

By GRANVILLE WATT
Associated Press Writer

LON

B RITAIN'S best known talker shrugged and said: "I just help it."

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"The blind man knows how far away

an object is by how far out he has to put his cane before it makes contact," he continued. "This works fine until the object is out of reach. Radar systems measure distance by determining the amount of time it takes for the signal to leave the antenna, rebound from the object and return. If the object is too far away, the returning signal is so weak that nothing is detected."

"It is possible to imagine the difficulty of the blind man attempting to determine the shape of a cut diamond with the end of his cane. In the same manner, a radar system generally yields little information about the shape of small (aircraft-sized) objects; it just records the fact that they are or aren't there and, perhaps, some indication of general size."

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"That's what we're here for," he concluded.

"This is like being chief of a fire department that only answers false alarms," he said. "Just the other day from down in Georgia we had an urgent call about an unidentified flying object (UFO).

"Turns out that two police officers were chasing the planet Venus all over the countryside."

For more than a year now the veteran American physicist who would rank among the top 10 or 20 scientists in the U.S., has been on the hunt for flying saucers.

The U.S. Air Force gave Professor Condon half a million dollars, a staff of 10 research fellows and graduate students in physics and psychology, and asked him for a report in 18 months.

It is no secret that Dr Condon will have great difficulty writing that report, and the result will probably be that he and his men can neither prove nor disprove the existence of flying saucers.

'Puzzling'

The sleuths in Colorado have followed through about 1,500 fresh saucer reports over the past year, but they are no closer to explaining UFOs than when they started.

"When I took the job I thought that if we got to the scene of the sightings quickly enough we might get pictures or spectrographs, but it has not worked out that way," said the 65-year-old physicist.

"We have not seen a damn thing. "It cannot be denied that some cases are very puzzling, that sensible people have actually seen some strange things in the sky.

"But it is my bet that all this will be explained one day when we know more about atmospheric phenomena.

"At this point I try to keep an open mind, but I must say that I do not believe these UFOs bring visitors from outer space."

Dr Condon will not be allowed the final word on UFOs — a few days ago the Russians set up an official saucer investigation team; but his opinion is noteworthy.

The man himself has had a distinguished career in science and he has had the added perspective over the past few years of working at the University of Colorado, nestled among the mountains beyond Denver.

From Venus

The air is clean and crisp and you can see for miles and miles.

Few bright lights and little roaring traffic are here to frighten away the UFOs.

The stillness of the place, the wonderful cloud patterns, the closeness of the stars — all these help make flying saucers seem quite possible.

I visited Dr Condon with news of the recent Queensland sightings, but the physicist seemed too preoccupied with the saucer reports in his own country.

At that time an amateur photographer had sent in a picture taken of a snow-shrouded farm near Climax, Colorado, and up in the otherwise clear sky above the fields there is a large saucer-shaped white disc.

Was it UFO, a double exposure, or a hoax?

Dr Condon had seen several simi-

The flying saucer chasers

DR CONDON . . . "It's crazy . . . I try to keep an open mind."

BEC 7 1967

1,500 UFOs sighted in a year . . . but they haven't bagged one yet

lar pictures, but he assigned someone to check out the picture in detail. Actually, no matter how slim the reports, Dr Condon is happy to follow them up.

He recently received a letter from a civilian employee of the Air Force who said a spaceship from Venus would land at a certain location at the Utah salt flats at a certain time so that the Venusians could talk with earth people.

"Of course it's crazy, but you have to try everything," he said.

"We got the co-operation of the Utah State Governor and one of our men was taken to this spot on the salt flats by local police.

"Our man sat around all day, but nothing happened.

"I called the Air Force employee and said the rendezvous was a flop and this guy was genuinely puzzled that the Venus people had not shown up."

Once Condon even wrote to a scandal magazine for the address of a girl who was claimed to have had an affair with five men from a flying saucer.

Undaunted, Professor Condon keeps approaching every new report with a fresh mind.

He is familiar with the history of Australian sightings because he was personally briefed by Dr James E. McDonald, meteorology professor at the University of Arizona.

Earlier this year, McDonald interviewed saucer believers all over Australia and he returned to tell a United Nations space committee that it must now take UFOs seriously.

"I believe that very careful consideration must be given to the hypothesis that these unconventional objects constitute some form of extra-terrestrial probe," McDonald told the U.N.

Dr Condon enjoys the McDonald enthusiasm, is amazed at the detail with which he can recall the stories of the Australian UFOs, but otherwise thinks the hypothesis of the man from Arizona is too wild.

"Even the old ignition story has not worked with me," he said with an air of disappointment.

"You know how it goes. A motorist is travelling a lonely road at night and all of a sudden a car's ignition fails and the car stops.

"The motorist looks up and there is a flying saucer. It has happened a dozen times.

'It's crazy'

"We had a woman tell us about her experience with the ignition failure, but she added that her speedo had also played up and not worked properly since.

"Here was a chance for a real check.

"We got her car off the road and into a garage as quickly as possible.

"Of course, there was nothing wrong with the speedo at all."

Some months ago there were nightly reports of flying saucers over a town called Harrisburg, in Pennsylvania, and the local afternoon newspaper had running stories about them.

Condon's men arrived in town and widely publicised a telephone number at which they would be reached day and night immediately anyone saw a saucer.

They did not get one legitimate telephone call and since then Harrisburg saucers have been completely clear.

"You see," said Dr Condon, "the whole business is crazy.

"You'll have to work it out for yourself."

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Elaborate UFO Hoax

MACON, Ga. (AP) — A rash of unidentified flying objects reported last week and over the weekend in middle Georgia may have been the work of pranksters, a Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent said Monday.

Lights were placed inside blue plastic bags and sometimes in colored balloons which were sent aloft, according to Lt. H. B. Sturlin.

Police and Georgia State Patrol units in several communities reported glowing objects in the sky early Sunday. One officer said an object chased him and beamed a bluish light.

'U.F.O.' OVER NASSAU A CAMPAIGN STUNT

Was it a flying saucer? An unidentified flying object?

No, it was a political campaign stunt. But it had some Nassau County residents convinced they were seeing a visit by aliens from outer space.

The strange flying object was sighted around 6:30 P.M. yesterday. It had flashing white lights below and a red light above. And it made a strange noise—like a whirring, one witness said.

"I think I saw a flying saucer," said Mrs. Alice Stegman of 191 Waverly Avenue, East Rockaway. "It was shaped like a picture of a flying saucer that you might see in a newspaper or on television."

Mrs. Stegman was one of dozens of Nassau County residents who called the police and newspapers to describe the sighting. She called despite the conviction of her husband, Harry, that the object was "an advertisement for somebody running for office."

Mr. Stegman was right. The Nassau County police, after investigating, said the strange flying object was merely a plane sent aloft by supporters of Eugene V. Nickerson, who is running for re-election as County Executive. The strange lights were only a flashing—and apparently illegible—campaign message.

Attention, UFOers

OPEN letter to occupants of extraterrestrial flying saucers who read The Denver Post and who maneuver around our planet:

Will one of you please fly low over Boulder in broad daylight so Dr. Condon will not continue to be disenchanted?

ED BURKS,
Golden, Colo., U.S.A.
Planet Earth

Georgia Policeman Describes Pursuit By a Flying Object

NEWNAN, Ga., Oct. 22 (UPI) —The police reported a number of unidentified flying object reports today, including one of a dark blue ball that a police officer said had chased him and then hovered over this small central Georgia town until daybreak.

The sightings were the latest in a series of reports that began early Friday in East Georgia and spread into central portion of the state.

A highway patrolman, Jerry Goldin, said he was the first to spot the objects today, one ice blue and about a mile high and the other a yellow rectangle object with a red side about 100 yards above the trees.

Before the night was over, highway patrolmen and policemen from 11 towns had seen similar objects. Reports came from such scattered middle Georgia locations as Milledgeville, Greenville, Newman, Talbotton, Fayetteville and Taylor County.

A newnan patrolman, Dale Spradlin, said he had chased a ball of light about eight inches in diameter for about eight miles down a road just outside Newnan.

"It was a good distance in front of us, pulling away, so we turned around to come back to town," said Mr. Spradlin, who was on patrol with Gerald Mascon.

The object turned on us and followed," he said. "It was gaining on us and was going about 75 miles per hour."

After the object caught up with him, he said, it pulled into the sky, emitting a meam of bluish light that illuminated the roadway.

UFO Identified

ASTORIA, Ore. (AP) — Police said Wednesday they received a dozen calls saying an unidentified flying object was seen near Swenson, east of Astoria.

Officers found a four-foot-tall Department of Agriculture insect trap, which they said gives off a blue-glow at night.

UFO Studies

IN THE Oct. 15 Perspective John McGuire asks: "Has anyone seen flying saucers in the daylight and why have they not been picked up on radar?"

The book, "The UFO Evidence" published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, 1536 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C., lists hundreds of well-documented sightings in broad daylight, usually with more than one witness. Included are instances when UFOs have been tracked at greater than 7,000 miles an hour by radars.

Albuquerque, N.M. ALAN POPE

SIGHTERS FEAR RIDICULE

UFO Findings To Be Revealed In '68

By CAROL BOZEMAN

The contents of the University's year-old study of Un-identified Flying Objects (UFO's) will probably remain as enigmatic as the UFOs themselves until the study is completed.

While willing to discuss the project in general terms, director Dr. Edward Condon and his staff are reserving publication of their opinions until the study's completion. Condon, a physics professor, said that he remained "an agnostic" on the subject and "will reserve my conclusions until all the evidence is in."

RESULTS OF the investigation, to be completed next summer, will probably be available about Christmas of 1968.

He said that the chief means of investigation had been interviews — "unscientific and frustrating."

Besides interviews, the investigators can attempt to verify a rash of reports in the same

locale by sending investigators to the scene in hopes that they will see the object reported.

In investigating reports, one of the criteria of reliability is the number of witnesses and whether the reports were from independent or group sources, Condon said.

Part of the difficulty in reports may be the source's fear of ridicule or his excitement and consequent loss of self-composure at the time of the sighting, he said.

MORE SIGHTINGS come from sparsely populated areas than from big cities. Condon said this might be attributed to the distractions of the city — such as the plethora of lighted advertising. The flurry of Times Square, for example, makes it less likely that a UFO would be

noticed there than in on a quiet rural farm.

A number of sightings are never formally reported. Condon speculated that flamboyant newspaper coverage of UFOs might stimulate more reports.

Members of the study team have made approximately 40 on-the-spot checks of sightings but have received only verbal descriptions, according to Robert J. Low, deputy director of the study.

Low said that information on more than 3,500 sightings has

been computerized for study.

Condon said that the final report will include the team's recommendations on further study of UFOs. Condon said that he does not intend to be involved in another study after this one is completed in June.

The final report, costing about one-half million, will be submitted for review by the National Academy of Sciences to insure its "credibility," Condon said. The Air Force commissioned Condon last November to direct the study.

Updated Scientific Outlook Called for in UFO Studies

Sunday Denver Post
Oct 15, 1967

ARE flying saucers real? Not being a learned and distinguished scientist, I really couldn't say.

Dr. William Markowitz, professor of physics, Marquette University, recently wrote in Science magazine—that if UFOs were real they would be violating our principles of celestial mechanics, Newton's law of gravity and Einstein's theory of relativity. Therefore, says Dr. M., UFOs cannot exist.

Do you remember that back in the 16th century almost everyone, except Galileo, believed the Earth was the center of the



DR. EDWARD U. CONDON
Waited a week.

universe, and that the sun revolved around our planet. With his little telescope, Galileo had learned the opposite was true. But he had to recant his "heresy" to save his neck.

I suggest Professor Markowitz and similar colleagues are thinking only on the fringe limits of laboratory measurements and laws of physics known to us. To think it not possible there could be scientists on another planet—so advanced as to make Earth science seem primitive—is ostrich thinking.

But, you say, if humanoids occupy UFOs, how can they avoid being crushed to pulp by violent maneuvers at extreme speeds — such as reported right-angle turns at 4,800 miles per hour? Elementary, they simply neutralize Earth's force of gravity momentarily and — as the flyboys say — don't pull any Gs.

Most people don't know there are now at least 20 projects under way in this country — federal, military and private — trying to make the next great breakthrough — the controllable neutralization of gravity.

But, say our scientists, although it might be possible in the future to shield a moving object from the effects of Earth's gravity, what about inertia? All moving objects have inertia — once moving, they

tend to keep moving in the same direction.

My dear fellows — inertia is a kinetic and component characteristic of a moving mass. If you abolish the object's mass, you also abolish its acquired inertia. No mass, no inertia.

A skeptical friend said to me the other day, "What about Dr. Condon up at CU? He is spending one-half million of our devalued tax dollars to find out if flying saucers are real." I said, "That's nice. How's he doing?" My friend said, "He's disenchanting. The UFOs won't co-operate. Somebody phones in a report, but then the UFO won't wait till he gets there with spectrometers, high-resolution cameras, Band-Aids and thermometers." I said, "Now I remember. What about Snippy, the horse?" My friend said, "Snippy gave his life for the cause. But Dr. Condon said he couldn't get there for a week. Horse-lovers are furious."

One night I glanced out the window of my home on Lookout Mountain, west of Denver. Looked south over Double-Header Mountain. Saw two high, glowing objects sweep exactly-parallel and separate paths following the curvature of the Earth. Saw them flash from horizon to horizon in less than a second.

"Meteorites," said a friend. Hardly. Meteorites — "falling stars" — slant down on diagonal paths from outer space. "Comets," said another. Two comets traveling together? No. And no tails. And wrong travel paths. Comets don't follow the Earth's curve. Satellite balloons in orbit? Ever watch Echo? It seems to creep across the heavens. Marsh gas? Do you mind if I let that pass?

Well, then, what did I see?

Not being a learned and distinguished scientist, I really couldn't say.

Golden

ED BURKS

QUESTIONS ON U.F.O.
TODAY we are hearing much about visitors from outer-space, flying saucers, etc.

I am not one to doubt these people who say they have seen them and even talked to some of them. I do feel that there is something to all of this as there have been too many people of good repute that have sincerely said they have seen them. Airline pilots and other folks have said they have seen them.

I have two questions I would like to have answered: 1. Has anyone seen any of these phenomenon crafts during the bright day light?

2. Why do our radar screens not pick up any of the objects? Perhaps they do but the operators do not mention it.

Denver JOHN C. McGUIRE

EXPERT 'GROUNDS' FLYING SAUCERS

Extraterrestrial Control of
Objects Termed Contrary
to the Laws of Physics

EXISTENCE UNDISPUTED

But Methods of Propulsion
Are Deemed Inadequate—
Inquiries Held Unjustified

By RICHARD D. LYONS

Unidentified objects from other worlds fly in the face of the laws of physics, a mathematical astronomer said yesterday.

"The control of reported U.F.O.'s by extraterrestrial beings is contrary to the laws of physics," said Dr. William Markowitz after reviewing the "scientific evidence" marshaled to explain unidentified flying objects as machines guided by intelligent beings from outer space.

Dr. Markowitz, professor of physics at Marquette University, Milwaukee, added that despite 20 years of controversy surrounding the existence of such objects that "the data published do not justify the holding of investigations."

Dr. Markowitz said he agreed "that unidentified objects exist" but contended that it was absurd to believe that they "were under extraterrestrial control."

He calculated that it would take 12,500 years for a spaceship to travel from Alpha Centauri, the nearest star, to the earth even if the vehicle were moving at a speed 12 times that of the fastest Gemini space capsule.

Speed Calculations

Writing in the current issue of Science, the weekly journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. Markowitz said the same trip could be made in about eight years if the vehicle traveled at half the speed of light, (186,000 miles a second) a possibility that is often discussed.

But he said no known propulsion method could be harnessed to accelerate a vehicle to that speed.

Even if antimatter (material with the reverse charge of matter) were used as a source of fuel for an engine driven by photons, a form of energy — a device currently in vogue in science fiction — the blastoff power needed would be "about 30 times the electrical generating capacity of the entire world," Dr. Markowitz said.

"If nuclear energy is used to generate thrust, then searing of the ground from temperatures of 85,000 degrees Centigrade should result and nuclear decay products equivalent in quantity to those produced by the detonation of an atomic bomb should be detected," he said.

Exotic Methods Rejected

Dr. Markowitz rejects other exotic methods of movement, such as propulsion that does not require a reaction and "teleportation" and the instantaneous movement of bodies between stars, saying that "anyone who wishes is free to accept such magic properties, but I cannot."

Although "thousands of alleged landings" of such flying objects have been reported, Dr. Markowitz pointed out that "no extraterrestrial spacecraft or passenger thereof has ever been presented to Congress, to any state legislature or to any recognized scientific society in the United States."

Even if extraterrestrial beings did make it to the earth, he said, there is no logical explanation of why they have failed to make contact with humans.

"We, ourselves, look back on eras when many people believed in the existence of centaurs, mermaids, and fire-breathing dragons," he added. "I am afraid that 21st-century science will contemplate with wonder the fact that, in an age of science such as ours, the United States Air Force was required to sponsor repeated studies of U.F.O.'s."



'BLEEP-BLEEP'

Six-Saucer Invasion Not Quite Authentic

LONDON (AP)—Six 85-pound "flying saucers" found in a line across southern England were made and planted by students at Farnborough Technical College as a hoax.

Chris Southall, 21, who masterminded the project, said he and his chums wanted publicity for their school's rag week, during which they hope to collect \$5,600 for local charities.

"We also thought we would give the police an exercise in dealing with alien spacecraft, because it could happen one day," said Southall.

Southall said he and 13 other students planted the silver-gray objects Sunday night at intervals of about 30 miles from the Thames estuary to the Bristol channel. Made of molded plastic and fiberglass, about 4 by 3 feet, they sent out "bleep-bleep" signals and gave off a foul smell. Some flashed red and green lights.

There was no panic or hysteria among the finders, who calmly informed the police.

Dick Jennings, 48, made the first discovery while spreading fertilizer on his farm near Chippenham. He phoned the police and said: "You are not going to believe this, but I have a flying saucer in one of my fields."

"Go on," said the policeman. "Any little green men dancing round it?"

Jennings eventually convinced the officer and went back to work. The police came and took the saucer away.

One was flown by helicopter to the Royal Air Force station at Manston for examination. Army bomb disposal men blew another open and found inside two Brit-

ish storage batteries and a British transmitter and loudspeaker to send out the signals.

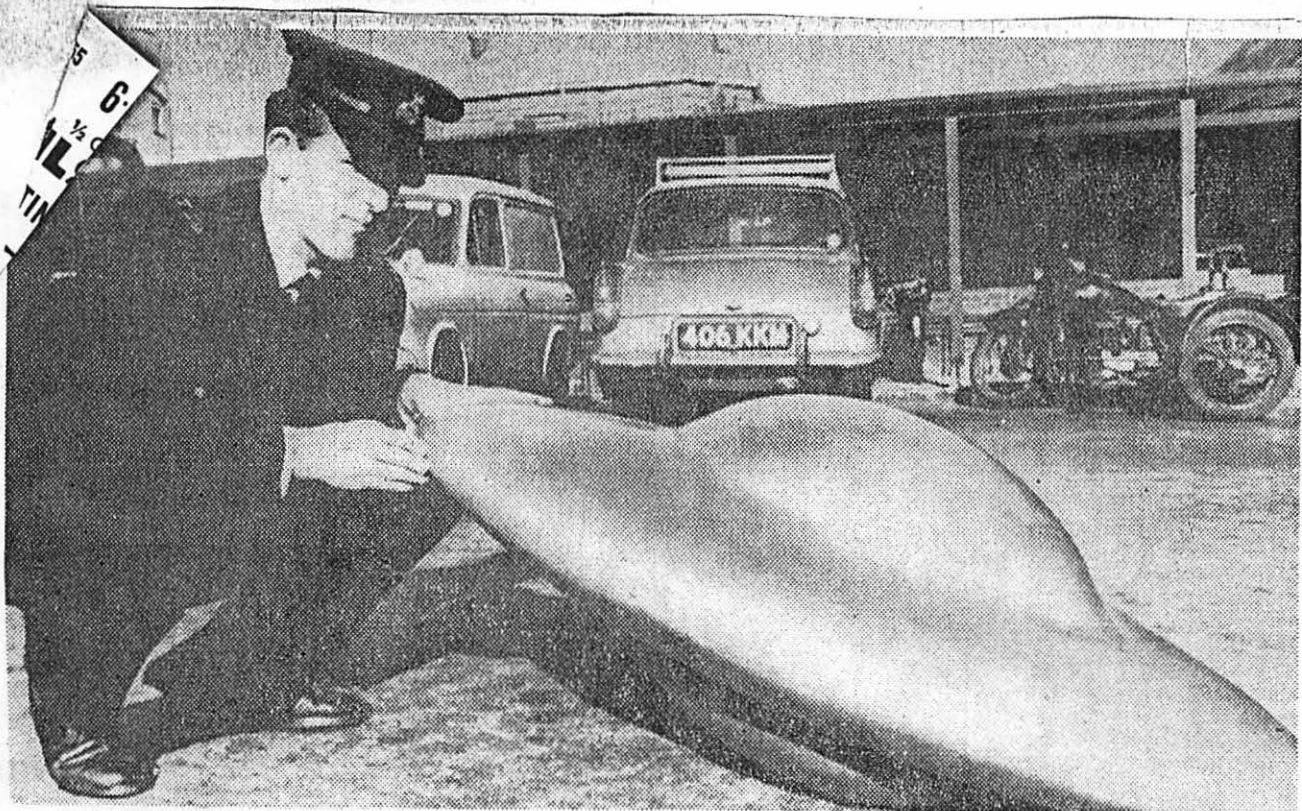
Southall said the smell came from a mixture of flour and water paste.

erent parts of England

'INVADED'

yesterday. This one was picked up in Bromley. (Story on Page A-5.)

—Associated Press

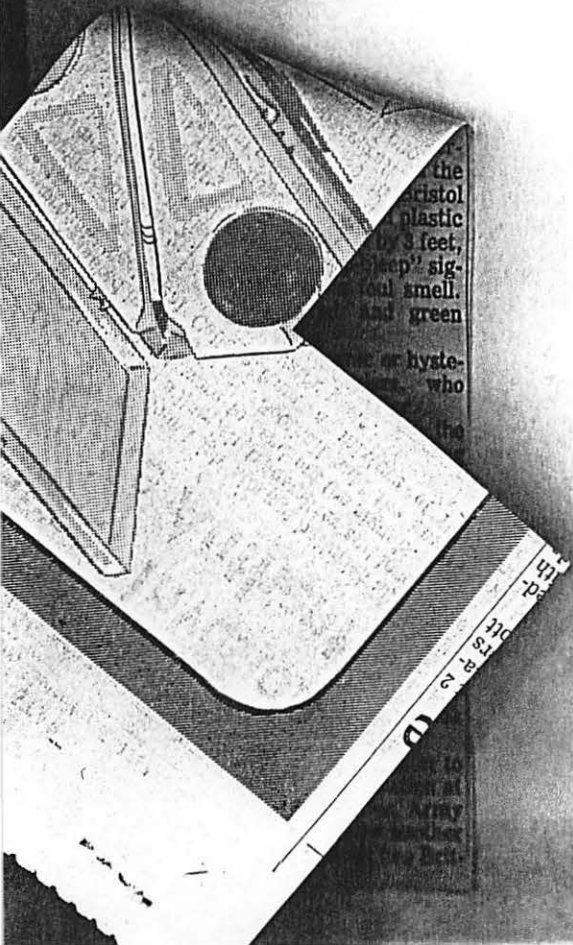


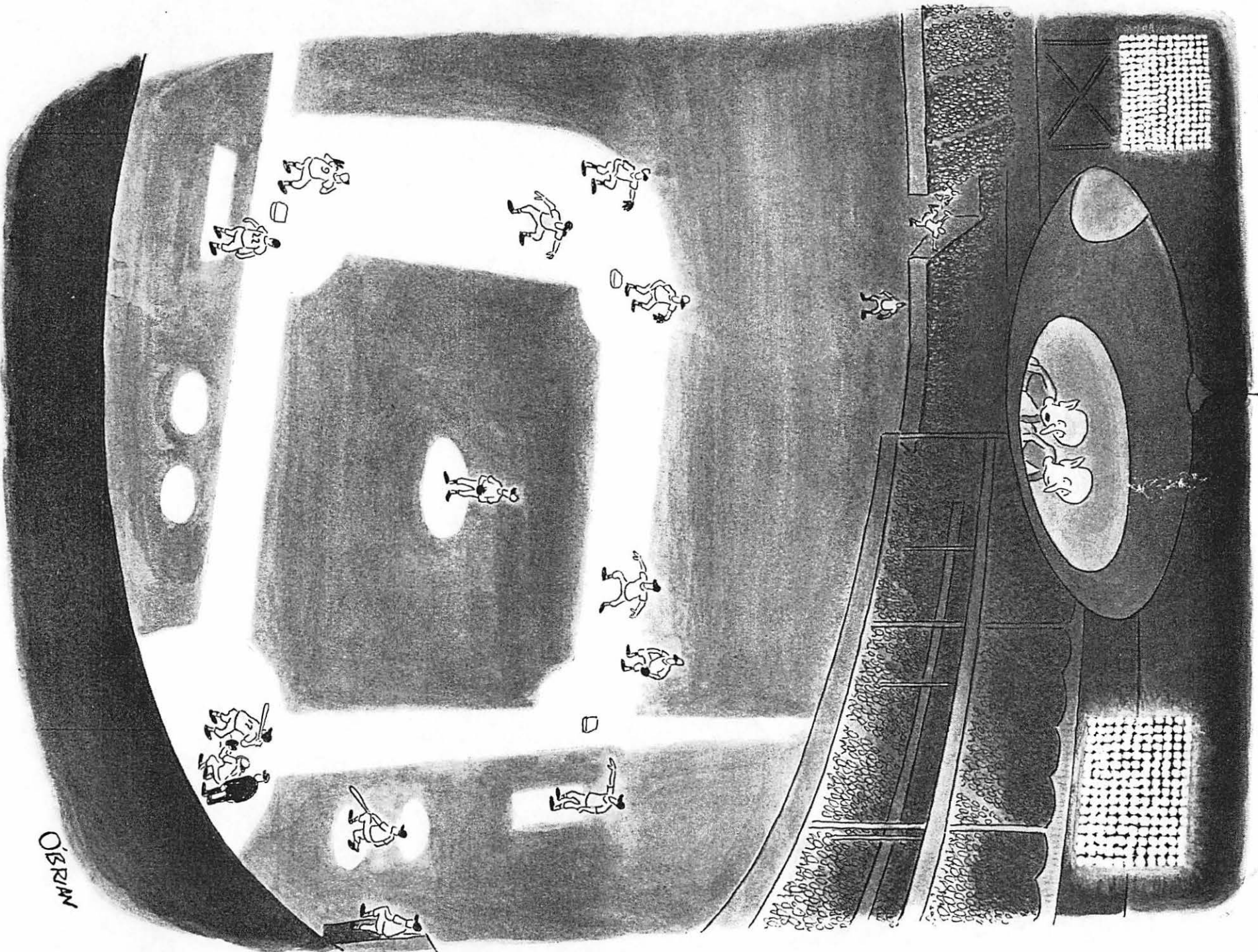
—Associated Press

ENGLAND IS 'INVADED'

A police constable examines one of six "flying saucers" found in different parts of England

yesterday. This one was picked up in Bromley. (Story on Page A-5.)





O'IRIM

SAUCERS TO ATTACK EARTH

ATHENS, Saturday. — Flying saucers might be preparing to invade the earth, a world-famous scientist warned yesterday.

He is Professor Paul Santorini, 73, a former pupil of Albert Einstein and the most respected scientist in Greece.

He said saucers had been visiting the earth, taking back samples of plant and animal life.

He said there was a "world blanket of secrecy" about saucer activity, because authorities were unwilling to admit the existence of a force against which earth had "no possibility of defence."

Professor Santorini helped design radar, the fuses for the atom bomb and the guidance systems of the American Nike missiles.

He is a fellow of the New York Academy of Science, rates a six-inch entry in "Who's Who," has represented his country at 23 international congresses and is the author of 190 scientific papers.

Albert Einstein was not only his physics tutor, but a life-long friend.

Professor Santorini told the Greek Astronautical Society he had believed in flying saucers since 1947.

when the Greek Army supplied him with a team of engineers to investigate what were believed to be Russian missiles flying over Greece.

"We soon established they were not missiles," he said.

"But before we could do any more, the Army, after conferring with officials from the Pentagon in Washington, ordered the investigation stopped."

U.S. scientists flew to Greece for secret talks with him, he said.

CONVINCED

Ever since he had studied reports of flying saucer activity and was convinced they were visiting earth to collect plant and animal specimens.

He said the power black-outs in New York in November, 1965, and in the eastern U.S. and Mexico about the same time, were caused by saucers flying along power lines.

Civil authorities denied the existence of flying saucers because "when earth is invaded there is certain to be a panic."

Churches were "against" saucers because of their effect on the doctrine of creation, he said.

Prof. Santorini, who holds two of Greece's highest honours, the Orders of George I and The Phoenix, developed a radar system between 1936 and 1940.

~~From~~

~~For your info~~

~~for Santorini~~

He is a very good physicist - George Scharnis knows him.

Prof. of Applied Physics
Athens Univ. ~~of~~
Inst. of Technology

Retired now -
two years ago

Its range of 100 miles was superior to that of the British system at the outbreak of World War II.

He developed the first proximity fuse, used to explode the Hiroshima A-bomb at a predetermined height

NAPALM

He also designed the principle of the napalm bomb.

Prof. Santorini said man would never be able to explore beyond our surface

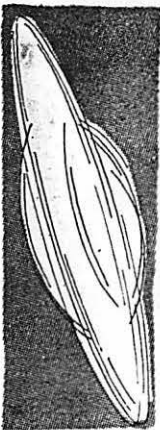
Assuming that Einstein's theory of relativity applied to human beings, a journey to a star and back which would "age" a space ship crew only four years, would involve the passage of "millions of years" on earth.

During such a journey, the crew would go mad, he said.

Over any period longer than a few months, the life support system in the space ship could not be maintained, the biological functions of the astronauts would break down and the loneliness would cause insanity.

4 The Sun, Saturday, Feb. 25, 1967 4/11

SYDNEY N.S.W.
FEB. 25, 1967
SUN

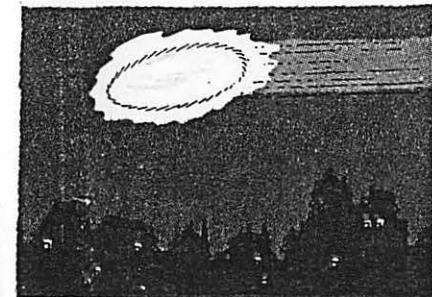


OUR NEW AGE

— by —
ATHELSTAN SPILHAUS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



SOME PRIMITIVE TRIBES THOUGHT OF VOLCANOES AS SUPER VARIETIES OF FEROCIOUS ANIMALS—WE ALL TRY TO EXPLAIN THINGS IN TERMS OF OUR LATEST KNOWLEDGE.

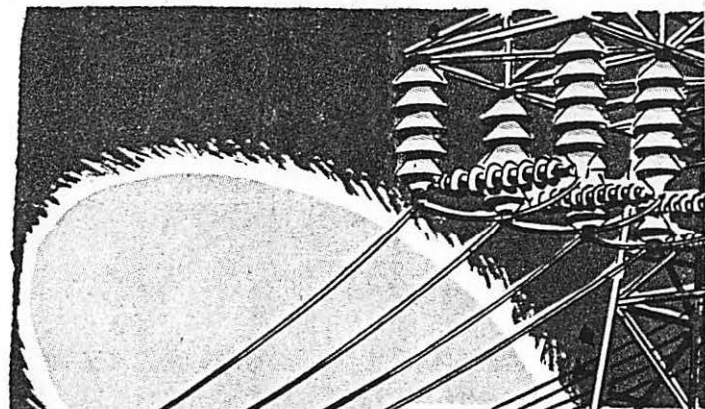


REPORTS OF STRANGE OBJECTS AND LIGHTS IN THE SKY GO BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

UFO'S (*UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS*) HAVE OFTEN BEEN TRACED TO WEATHER BALLOONS, AIRCRAFT, ROCKETS OR MIRAGES, BUT SOME THAT NUMEROUS OBSERVERS CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN REMAIN UNEXPLAINED.



THE POPULAR EXPLANATION OF EXTRA-TERRRESTRIAL VISITORS IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE, BUT...

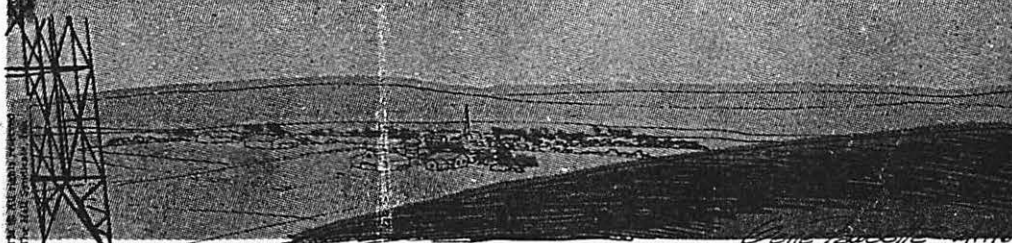


NOW PHILIP KLASS SUGGESTS IN AVIATION WEEK THAT THE MANY REPORTS OF SAUCER-LIKE GLOWS THAT HUM AND HISS ARE NEAR HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES AND MAY BE LUMINOUS ELECTRICAL DISCHARGES—MAN-MADE ST. ELMO'S FIRE! ?? WAIT AND SEE!!

...THE SIGHTINGS ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY ENOUGH FOR THE AIR FORCE TO ASK THE DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST, DR. EDWARD CONDON, TO LOOK INTO THE WHOLE MATTER OBJECTIVELY.



IN THUNDERY WEATHER NATURAL GLOWS AND ROUND FLASHES OF LIGHT MAY BE SEEN AROUND AIRPLANES, SHIPS AND TREETOPS AND IS CALLED ST. ELMO'S FIRE.



Condon Appeals For Help; Says UFO Study Perplexed

By R. ROGER HARKINS
Daily Camera Staff

Dr. Edward U. Condon, scientific director of the Colorado University study of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), issued an appeal for help this morning.

Condon said "it's been extremely difficult to gather information on this subject" and asked anyone with any "hard information to speak now — or forever hold your peace."

The CU physicist pointed out that "we haven't been able to get a clincher, either way" and added that he is "almost inclined to think such studies ought to be discontinued unless someone comes up with a new

idea on how to approach the problem."

Condon stressed that he wasn't hanging an "ended" tag on the project and indicated that "we need good evidence — photographs and the like." He also added that he, personally, remained "an agnostic" on the subject and "will reserve my conclusions until all the evidence is in."

At the same time, Condon denied a report that he had "suggested a nationwide network of trained observers" to study the problem — at a cost of about \$50 million per year, ten times the CU project budget. "I suggested no such thing," he said. "I merely pointed out that it would

take an effort of that size and even if you did that, you'd have a very low chance of getting anything."

The CU study, which began with a contract from the Air Force last November, has since had an extension to study the phenomena that has perplexed Americans since 1947. The scientific investigation, first of its kind in this country, will spend more than half a million dollars before it is completed next summer.

"You'll know our conclusions about Christmas of 1968," Condon noted. The CU report will be submitted to a committee of the National Academy of Sciences

(Continued On Page 2)

Condon Asks Help

(Continued From Page 1)
before it will be made public.

"You know," he said, "this has been an awfully frustrating job for a scientist. When I began I thought I could cast some light on the subject but, so far, we haven't been able to gather the kind of evidence that a scientist usually deals with. We have studied the UFO for nearly a year and under present plans expect to continue the study for another six to eight months. In that time many reports have been tracked down and most have proved to be uninteresting accounts of everyday events. In addition, the work has been hampered by reports from a large number of pranksters, hoaxers and outright frauds.

"For example, two evenings ago a man called on me with an elaborate story about his wife's grandfather having come from a planet in the constellation Andromeda. He said that his wife regularly communicates with beings from outer space. When I asked for facts in support of his story, he left, saying, 'I rather expected you would be sceptical.'"

Approach Is Objective

Condon, himself a former newspaperman, smiled, "You fellows are more used to dealing with that kind of situation than a physicist is."

"We have approached the problem in an unprejudiced way," he continued, "seeking to find whatever there is to find by objective scientific means with no scientific results so far. Some of the difficulties associated with belief in visitors from outer space are well set forth in an article by Prof. William Markowitz in 'Science' for Sept. 15 and should be studied by all who wish to be informed on the subject."

Dr. Markowitz, a Marquette University physicist, pointed out that manned ships from outer space could not possibly carry the fuel necessary for travel to and from the Earth — "if the known laws of physics are valid." He also wrote, "21st Century science will contemplate with wonder the fact that, in an age of science such as ours, the U.S. Air Force was required to sponsor repeated studies of UFOs"

Future May Laugh

Condon said he thought the Markowitz article was "very good" in its dealings with certain aspects of the problem and added, "the 21st Century may

In UFO Study—

well laugh when it looks back on many of our efforts other than the UFO study, too."

Meanwhile, Robert J. Low, project coordinator, said, "This study has been a good deal more like playing lawyer than scientist in the sense that you get stories of an event — you just don't get the kind of facts that a scientist is used to dealing with."

Condon concluded by saying, "We'll keep working and waiting and hoping that something will happen so that we can draw some conclusions one way or the other. It would be a mistake to think that I, or any member of the project, has reached any conclusions as yet."

A "betsy bug" or passalid beetle has been known to pull a load, fastened to it, that weighed 90 times more than it did itself.

SUN-TIMES APR. 17
ROSCOE DRUMMOND 67

U.S. At Last Taking Hard UFO Look

BOULDER, Colo. — The U.S. government is at last really trying to find out if those flying saucers are real.

Unidentified flying objects are being taken seriously in an open-minded investigation to get at the facts. This means that "The Case of the Flying Saucers: Real or Myth?" is going to have its day in the court of objective inquiry.

The best guarantee that it is a hardheaded, no-nonsense investigation which the University of Colorado is carrying out for the Air Force is the man who runs it — the nuclear scientist, Dr. Edward U. Condon, tough-minded head of Colorado's department of physics and astrophysics.

Condon fought off the politicians and the know-nothings when he headed the U.S. Bureau of Standards in Washington in the '40s and he is

The Condon team is not closing its mind to the possibility that the source of UFOs could be outer space. In fact, the most refreshing thing about the whole project is the spirited objectivity of its approach.

THIS SEEMS to me to be a needed and trustworthy attempt to get new and significant information on the UFO mystery. The reason such an authoritative investigation is needed is that there are too many sightings by responsible observers — the minimum is more than 650 in all — for which there is no satisfactory explanation.

This investigation comes none too soon. For too long the public has been battered by the extremists on both sides and the Air Force's back-of-the-wrist dismissal of the evidence has only fed speculation.

Let's cease speculation for a year and wait for the Condon report.

FROM S. J. LARSEN
FILES

Project Investigates Flying Saucers

UFO Probe Seeks Help of Russia

FROM S. J. LARSEN FILES

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dr. Edward U. Condon, director of an Air Force-financed investigation of unidentified flying objects, said Friday that he has appealed to scientists of the Soviet Union to cooperate in a study of flying saucers.

The appeal, in the form of a letter from Condon, was relayed three weeks ago by the prestigious National Academy of Sciences to the Soviet Academy, Condon said in a telephone interview from Denver.

NO ANSWER YET

"We haven't received any answer yet," he said, "but I guess it's too soon to expect one."

"Condon, an internationally known physicist now on the faculty of the University of Denver, is a former chief of the U.S. National Bureau of Standards.

Fifteen months ago Condon was chosen to head an independent investigation by nongovernment scientists to determine whether flying saucers are natural phenomena, or whether they are spaceships, possibly from distant planets. The Air Force put up almost \$500,000 for the study.

Condon said the investigation will not be completed until sometime in June, and his re-

port will not be made public until November or December.

The 65-year-old scientist refused to discuss even preliminary findings. Nor would he speculate on whether the report will resolve controversies surrounding reports of UFOs.

Has the project made him a believer or a nonbeliever in flying saucers?

WHICH WAY?

"I'm now getting to be more one way than the other, but I'm not going to tell you what that way is," Condon replied.

Condon said project scientists had spent considerable time 'answering false alarms,' but he refused to answer when asked whether he or any of his colleagues had seen any evidence of UFOs.

The Air Force's commissioning of Condon's independent probe apparently was prompted by persistent criticism—mostly from non-scientists—of its investigation, begun 20 years ago and still continuing.

The criticism, vigorously denied by the Air Force, has been that its studies are biased against the possibility that UFOs might be manned surveillance craft from outer space. The Air Force has even been ac-

cused of withholding information that critics say might prove that contention.

Discussing his appeal for a cooperative effort on UFO research by American and Russian scientists, Condon said his letter was prompted by news reports from Moscow quoting informed sources as saying the Soviet government had set up a special commission to investigate reports of flying saucers.

"The letter said, in essence, that we are doing a job for the American Air Force, and we have an interest in any similar research you may be doing—and we'll be glad to exchange information with you. So, the letter says, 'how shall we get together?'"

In a question-and-answer session, Condon discussed the operations of his project:

Q. How big is your staff?

A. We have about a dozen people, including astronomers, physicists and psychologists here at headquarters. We also have some outside consultants from time to time, and some of our research is let out on contract.

Q. How do you operate?

A. We get everything the Air Force has in the form of report-

ed sightings. We also get reports from interested private organizations like the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. We also get reports by telephone or mail from individuals who report sightings.

But we just sample from among all these possibly hundreds of reports and try to investigate in some detail the ones that look intriguing to us.

NUISANCE REPORTS

An awful lot of reports are what you might call nuisance reports—things that people would not report at all if they knew more about astronomy or meteorology. And many of the reported sightings are vaguely described, with no real details. Thus, up to 90 per cent of our time has gone into tracking down false alarms.

Q. How many field trips have your investigators made?

A. We've made about 40 or 50 and some have turned out to be foolish trips, and a lot have ended indecisively.

Q. What has been the most bizarre report you've investigated so far?

A. That dead horse out in Alamosa, Colo.

Condon referred to "Snippy," an Appaloosa found dead on a prairie near Alamosa last October. The horse's owner, Mrs. Berle Lewis, said it looked to her as though "Snippy" had been killed by men from outer space. If so, the killers used conventional weapons. A veterinarian found two bullet holes in the carcass.)

Q. What did your investigators conclude after examining the horse?

A. It stank.

Russ Asked to Join

UFO Probe

S. J. LARSEN FILES

WASHINGTON (AP)—Soviet scientists have been asked to cooperate in an air force-financed probe of flying saucers.

Dr. Edward U. Condon, director of the U. S. study, told the Associated Press he sought Soviet cooperation in a letter relayed by the National Academy of Sciences to the Soviet Academy.

Condon, a physicist now on the University of Colorado faculty, formerly headed the U. S. Bureau of Standards. He was named director of the study—paid for by the air force but conducted by nongovernment scientists—15 months ago.

The probe is designed to find out whether unidentified flying objects, reports on which have been widely publicized over a period of years, are natural phenomena or possibly aircraft from distant planets.

Condon said he hasn't had an answer from the Russians about his request for a joint study, "but I guess it's too soon to expect one."

the committee, headed by Ray H. Black, R-Love, also agreed on definitions used in the bill and on language requiring the "custodian" of records to explain why he can't supply the record.

The proposed bill says the record keeper must tell the record-seeker where the documents are and when they'll be available.

In other words, the committee seemed to agree there should be no excuse for a public official refusing to show a document once it has been declared a public record.

It's likely, however, that the differences will develop among members when the committee takes up what is a "public record" next Wednesday.

Even exemptions to the non-inspection provisions have been included in the proposed bill drafted by the Legislative Council staff.

Also included, however, is a provision that the record keeper may allow at his discretion inspection of any of the 11 exempted types of records so long as it won't violate any other existing law.

EXEMPTIONS LISTED

The 11 proposed exemptions are:

—Records held by any sheriff, district attorney, police officer, investigator or investigating agency as evidence in a criminal prosecution or investigation, until such evidence has been used in open court.

—Medical, psychological, polygraph and social data on individual patients, clients, students and employees.

—Evaluation data in individual personnel files, including letters of reference and supervisor's evaluations.

—Test questions, scoring keys and other examination materials prior to administration in licensing examination, exam-

Black told the committee a fee could prevent repeated disruptions of an agency's regular

legislation on its agenda in the 1968 session of the Colorado General Assembly.

DEFINITE ANSWER UNLIKELY

UFO Decision Still in the Air

University of Colorado scientists evaluating sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) don't expect to arrive at a definite "yes or no" answer to the problem.

Robert J. Low, deputy director of the 15-month study financed by the Air Force, said Wednesday the "nature" of the UFO problem prohibits a definite decision.

"We're attempting to deal with the problem in a scientific way, but we don't have any scientific data to work with," Low said. "We cannot find actual recorded data as a basis for the evaluations."

PHOTOS EXAMINED

Low said some photographs of UFOs have been examined since the study began Nov. 1, but "they didn't tell us very much." Members of the CU investigative team have made approximately 40 on-the-spot checks of sightings but have received only verbal descriptions of the phenomena. No solid evidence has been made available, Low said.

He said that information on more than 3,500 sightings has been computerized for study. No conclusions will be made until the final report is submitted for review by the National

Academy of Sciences June 30. The report then will go to the Air Force, which is paying \$593,000 for the project.

1,000 PER YEAR

Meanwhile, UFO sightings throughout the United States are continuing at the normal rate of approximately 1,000 per year.

Lt. William Marley of the Air Force's Project Blue Book office at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, said Wednesday the office had received 799 reports since CU began its study Nov. 1. Sixteen of the incidents still are unidentified, Marley said, adding that no final evaluation has been made on 97 cases, pending receipt of additional information.



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A fund-raising dance for scholarships for the Hispanic Education Leadership Program (HELP) will be at 9

P.3. DENVER POST SEPT. 27 1967

Color

"This is like being chief of a fire department that only answers false alarms," he said. "Just the other day from down in Georgia we had an urgent call about an unidentified flying object (UFO).

"Turns out that two police officers were chasing the planet Venus all over the countryside."

For more than a year now the veteran American physicist who would rank among the top 10 or 20 scientists in the U.S., has been on the hunt for flying saucers.

The U.S. Air Force gave Professor Condon half a million dollars, a staff of 10 research fellows and graduate students in physics and psychology, and asked him for a report in 18 months.

It is no secret that Dr Condon will have great difficulty writing that report, and the result will probably be that he and his men can neither prove nor disprove the existence of flying saucers.

'Puzzling'

The sleuths in Colorado have followed through about 1,500 fresh saucer reports over the past year, but they are no closer to explaining UFOs than when they started.

"When I took the job I thought that if we got to the scene of the sightings quickly enough we might get pictures or spectrographs, but it has not worked out that way," said the 63-year-old physicist.

"We have not seen a damn thing. It cannot be denied that some cases are very puzzling, that sensible people have actually seen some strange things in the sky.

"But it is my bet that all this will be explained one day when we know more about atmospheric phenomena.

"At this point I try to keep an open mind, but I must say that I do not believe these UFOs bring visitors from outer space."

Dr Condon will not be allowed the final word on UFOs — a few days ago the Russians set up an official saucer investigation team; but his opinion is noteworthy.

The man himself has had a distinguished career in science and he has had the added perspective over the past few years of working at the University of Colorado, nestled among the mountains beyond Denver.

From Venus

The air is clean and crisp and you can see for miles and miles.

Few bright lights and little roaring traffic go here to frighten away the UFOs.

The stillness of the place, the wonderful cloud patterns, the closeness of the stars — all these help make flying saucers seem quite possible.

I visited Dr Condon with news of the recent Queensland sightings, but the physicist seemed too preoccupied with the saucer reports in his own country.

At that time an amateur photographer had sent in a picture taken of a snow-shrouded farm near Climax, Colorado, and up in the otherwise clear sky above the fields there is a large saucer-shaped white disc.

Was it UFO, a double exposure,

The flying saucer chasers

1,500 UFOs sighted in a year . . . but they haven't bagged one yet

DR CONDON . . . "It's crazy . . . I try to keep an open mind."

*Sept 2001
Suss - Herald
11/26/67*

lar pictures, but he assigned someone to check out the picture in detail. Actually, no matter how slim the reports, Dr Condon is happy to follow them up.

He recently received a letter from a civilian employee of the Air Force who said a spaceship from Venus would land at a certain location at the Utah salt flats at a certain time so that the Venusians could talk with earth people.

"Of course it's crazy, but you have to try everything," he said.

"We got the co-operation of the Utah State Governor and one of our men was taken to this spot on the salt flats by local police.

"Our man sat around all day, but nothing happened.

"I called the Air Force employee and said the rendezvous was a flop and this guy was genuinely puzzled that the Venus people had not shown up."

Once Condon even wrote to a scandal magazine for the address of a girl who was claimed to have had an affair with five men from a flying saucer.

Undaunted, Professor Condon keeps approaching every new report with a fresh mind.

He is familiar with the history of Australian sightings because he was personally briefed by Dr James E. McDonald, meteorology professor at the University of Arizona.

Earlier this year, McDonald interviewed saucer believers all over Australia and he returned to tell a United Nations space committee that it must now take UFOs seriously.

"I believe that very careful consideration must be given to the hypothesis that these unconventional objects constitute some form of

Dr Condon enjoys the McDonald enthusiasm, is amazed at the detail with which he can recall the stories of the Australian UFOs, but otherwise thinks the hypothesis of the man from Arizona is too wild.

"Even the old ignition story has not worked with me," he said with an air of disappointment.

"You know how it goes. A motorist is travelling a lonely road at night and all of a sudden a car's ignition fails and the car stops.

"The motorist looks up and there is a flying saucer. It has happened a dozen times."

'It's crazy'

"We had a woman tell us about her experience with the ignition failure, but she added that her speedo had also played up and not worked properly since.

"Here was a chance for a real check.

"We got her car off the road and into a garage as quickly as possible.

"Of course, there was nothing wrong with the speedo at all."

Some months ago there were nightly reports of flying saucers over a town called Harrisburg, in Pennsylvania, and the local afternoon newspaper had running stories about them.

Condon's men arrived in town and widely publicised a telephone number at which they would be reached day and night immediately anyone saw a saucer.

They did not get one legitimate telephone call and since then Harrisburg skies have been completely clear.

"You see," said Dr Condon, "the whole business is crazy."

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