

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

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ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO — JANUARY, 1958

RADIATION SICKNESS AFTER UFO SIGHTING?

USSR CLAIMS ANTI-GRAVITY DISCS

On the evening of 2 January, Radio Moscow announced that anti-gravity discs are under development in Russia. This information was forwarded to headquarters by Jan Herr, of San Diego.

We watched papers and listened to endless news broadcasts, in hopes of hearing further details and comments by western officials, but there were none. The announcement, incidentally, is what has been feared by some researchers, including Major Donald E. Keyhoe. Frankly, we here at Alamogordo have not been concerned with the possible hysteria which might result from such an announcement, because we have been putting our faith in the ability of high officials to keep such news from receiving widespread attention. Although the possibility of moon rockets manufactured by the Russians has received a good deal of publicity by our own press, it is obvious that this particular piece of news was never meant for the public ears.

Despite Russian claims in the past that the saucers were only capitalistic attempts to confuse and frighten other nations, they have changed their tune in the past three months. In October they made their first claim that the saucers belonged to them—and this before the saucer "hysteria" of November. It is now apparent that they have been secretly investigating and gathering data on the discs, and have now learned enough about them to do some experimenting. The word "development" in the news release was the most disconcerting part.

It is generally accepted that the United States has been carrying on research into the possibility of utilizing anti-gravitational propulsion, and we can only hope that they are not in arrears in this research as well as in their attempt to launch a satellite. If the Russian communique had said that it was "experimenting" there might be some hope that the free world isn't too far behind, but the fact that the communique stated that the discs are "under development"—the word "development" is that the Soviet has built a disc and is ready to bring the anti-gravity discs into production and are testing and

GEIGER COUNTER REGISTERS 150 MICROROENTGENS AT SITE OF SAUCER LANDING

Olden Moore, who claims he saw a landed "space ship" near the intersection of Route 86 and Hart Road in Montville Township, Ohio, on 6 November, has had his story backed up by a geiger counter reading which registered 10 times the normal background radioactivity, a day after the sighting. The details:

Moore, a plasterer, was driving home from Painesville at 11:30 p. m., when a disc-shaped, bright object "loomed up in front" of him, then seemed to split apart. One section "disappeared," the other settled down in a field near the road. When Moore saw the object, he shut off his lights and pulled his car off the road.

When the object landed, Moore watched it for about 15 minutes, then got out of his car and approached it. He heard a ticking sound, somewhat like the tick of a water meter. He stopped before he got near the thing, then went back, got in his car and went home to get his wife. In all, he had observed the object for about 20 minutes. When they arrived back at the field, the object was gone.

At 11:30 a. m. the next morning, Moore's wife reported the incident to Sheriff Robusky by telephone. On November 8, he was questioned by Lake County Civil Defense Director Kenneth Locke, Geauga County Sheriff Louis A. Robusky, army authorities, scientists from Case Institute of Technology and newsmen.

And then the biggest mystery began. Olden Moore was gone for a few days, and when he returned, he wouldn't say where he had been. But Mrs. Moore told friends he had gone to Washington, D. C. in connection with the sighting of the UFO. When asked about this, Mr. Moore merely said, "She talks too much. I talked to high officials. I was sworn to secrecy—I won't say where I was."

Moore signed an affidavit containing the details of what he had seen, and the 150 microroentgen reading was taken in the middle of an area 50 feet in diameter in the spot in the field where Moore said he saw the object. At the perimeter of that area the reading dropped to 20 or 30 microroentgens. Fifteen or 20 are normal readings.

Mrs. Letia Kuhn of Madison, ^{Ohio}Indiana, went out to her garage to check the temperature in her Doberman-Pinscher kennels at 1:25 a. m. on the morning of 10 November, 1957. A bright, circular object was hovering about 100 feet above the garage, which was about 150 feet from her home on Highway 84.

Two weeks later, because of persistent blurring of vision and burning sensation in her eyes, Mrs. Kuhn visited her doctor for a checkup. Dr. E. D. Hudgens told her that her appearance suggested the possibility of radiation damage, or damage by ultraviolet light to her eyes, and that she also suffered from shock.

This information was given to Kenneth Locke, Lake County Civil Defense director. Locke suggested that she go to Lake County Memorial Hospital for a test to see if radiation was present. Mrs. Kuhn agreed, and also said she intended to go to an eye specialist.

When asked why she did not notify authorities immediately about what she had seen, she said she had mentioned it to neighbors, but they had laughed at her, so she had kept quiet until it was obvious that she was ill. She then visited Dr. Hudgens and, consequently, Mr. Locke.

The object which Mrs. Kuhn saw above the garage was bell-shaped, gave off no noise, heat or odor. But from the bottom of the object there issued something like an exhaust, also a very bright beam of light. She said the object itself was from 35-40 feet in diameter.

Mrs. Kuhn said the light held her almost transfixed, or in a sort of a trance. After about 20 or 30 minutes, she ran into the house and locked the door. Then she tried to tell herself she hadn't seen the thing. When she looked out the window, it was gone.

Dr. Hudgens gave Mrs. Kuhn shots for hives, and the rash subsided, leading many to believe that the rash had been caused by shock.

The evaluation of this sighting is very interesting. A woman watched an unconventional aerial object at close range, and became ill. She had not been ill before, and her discomfort dated only from the time of the sighting. Although the information was printed in the *Cleveland*

(See Radiation Sickness, page 8)

THE STOKES CASE . . .

By L. J. Lorenzen

By this time, the James Stokes story has been from pillar to post. It has been cut, distorted, spliced, expanded, contracted, extended and withdrawn. It has been almost everything except understood. But the last straw was contained in a wire service release appearing in print on November 17th. Purporting to be a recap of the early November "rash," this literary gem dismissed the Stokes incident as follows:

"Investigation showed that the originator of the report had pulled a hoax, presumably suggested by the Levelland, Texas reports." Unquote.

This is pure, irresponsible fabrication. Jim Stokes, under pressure, did retract some of the points set forth in his original story. This is true. There may be some doubt as to what he actually did see.

But it is quite certain that he did see something. Bear with me a bit and I'll tell you why I do not believe he perpetrated a hoax.

I have known Jim Stokes for about two years. We are not close friends. We have, however, met socially on several occasions and, due to our mutual interest, indulged in lengthy conversations concerning electronics and related sciences. A time or two we found ourselves part of a group engaged in swapping "sea stories" (we are both veterans of World War II) and I recall one occasion where the conversation reverted to a subject known as UFO. Among other things, Science-fictionist Donald Menzel's theory was discussed. There was little argument here. Those present generally agreed that that facts concerning "temperature inversion" had been grossly misrepresented; that this "hot air" approach was greatly over-rated. This group included Jim Stokes—remember that!

Here are a few pertinent items concerning Jim's background. (1) Jim is a retired Navy career man (CPO) and member of the Naval reserve. (2) Since retirement, he has accepted employment with civil service even though private contractor employment would have been more remunerative. (3) He quit his job at Holloman for a short period of time as a result of a dispute over his rating. The real issue was one of acceptance or rejection—not money. (4) His associates describe him as an energetic, conscientious and productive engineer . . . definitely not the "soldiering" type found all too often in civil and military service. (5) His engineer's rating is a result of education and experience picked up piecemeal over a period of years. Needless to say, the well-deserved position he now holds means much more to him than the financial security it represents.

Now let's review the sequence of relevant events briefly:

2 November: Sputnik "2" was launched. U. S. citizens were faced with an unpleasant fact—a fact that they didn't want to face. U. S. press cast about for a diversion. They found one—glowing eggs at Levelland, Texas. The public snapped it up. Maybe these were interplanetary spaceships, but even that was a more pleasant subject for speculation than Russian technical superiority.

3 November: Military patrols at White Sands Proving Grounds sighted glowing objects near A-bomb bunkers and reported to the officer of the guard. The officer of the guard called the Public Information Office. The P.I.O., not wanting his weekend interrupted, passed the buck back to the officer of the guard. The Lieutenant, probably completely ignorant of the official attitude toward UAO, read the M.P.'s the article of war which concerns false reports, made them put their reports in writing and sign them. The he handed the story to the press—the press was ready, willing and waiting.

4 November: Jim Stokes, on his way to El Paso, Texas, from Alamogordo, New Mexico, sighted a smooth, egg-shaped object which caused his car to stall 10 miles south of Orogrande, New Mexico. Bursting with excitement, he had to tell somebody—felt he should tell everybody—but just to be sure it was all right, he first called Major Everett at Holloman, the Officer in Charge of the branch in which he is employed. Major Everett, untutored in the art of propaganda, perceiving at once that whatever Jim had seen could not have been a part of a military project, said "Sure, go ahead and talk."

So the Stokes story was unleashed on an American public which was by now primed and ready. Here was a qualified observer, an engineer employed in Research and Development. This just about clinched it. Flying saucers are real—they were probably spaceships—and it was just about here that the military propagandists began to wake up . . .

When military public relations programs had been disrupted by an orbiting Sputnik, the resultant void had been filled. It had been filled but now it was overflowing.

For a long time now, we have been hearing about space travel. Space travel is feasible, they say. It will soon be a reality—a reality for humans—especially red, white and blue blooded American boy type humans. No others need apply.

The insinuation that Man of the Earth is the Crown of Creation (and that Man of the Earth of the United States of America is the Peak of the Crown) is a

pleasant one and such propaganda for the most part has a fairly easy time of it. Such placeboes for the preservation of unpunctured egos are swallowed with no trouble and generally without the slightest realization that they are actually opiates.

But some of us (thank God) are immune. Some of us realize the fact that there is no good reason why space travel, per se, must originate on one particular planet, in one particular solar system of one particular galaxy of the infinite cosmos. It is probably true that it had to start somewhere but the odds against the Earth being that somewhere are (no pun intended) astronomical.

But I digress. The Stokes sighting occurred at an unfortunate (for him) time. It was time to put the lid back on. It was too bad but Stokes had to be sacrificed.

5 November. On orders from Washington, Jim Stokes was called in and questioned. Once for the press and then in a private session afterward. The next day he was questioned again. It is assumed but not verified that the results of Tuesday's questions were forwarded to Washington and that the Wednesday session was a cross-questioning recommended by Washington based on Tuesday's answers.

Some of the questions asked were: Has your automobile ever stalled before? Has your radio ever faded before? Are you absolutely sure it was not an atmospheric phenomena you saw?

Questions of this sort have no bearing on the real worth of the incident. They clearly indicate an attempt to discredit. Who among us has never had his automobile stall? So what?

Jim Stokes, not a specially gregarious person, was soon sick and tired of the whole thing. He just wanted to be left alone. He wanted to get back to work. He gave in a little. That was all the Washington crowd needed.

In due credit to the officers at Holloman, it must be stated that they refused to go along with the public debunking campaign where Stokes was concerned. All the discrediting news releases came out of Washington, D. C.

On 5 November 1957, the Public Information Office at Holloman Missile Development Center issued the following statement:

"An electrical engineer at the Air Force Missile Development Center, located near Alamogordo, New Mexico, claimed an Unidentified Flying Object sighting Monday.

"46-year old James W. Stokes, an engineer with the High Altitude Test Branch here and a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer, said he spotted the mysterious object at 1:10 p. m. Monday as he was driving along U. S. Highway 54 about 10 miles south of Orogrande.

(See *The Stokes Case*, page 6)

RECENT SIGHTINGS . . .

It is generally recognized by UFO groups with any appreciable world coverage that the November "flap" extended the length and breadth of the world, concentrating in those countries where extensive missile and/or satellite testing is being conducted.

For this reason, we cannot print, at this time, each and every one of the hundreds of sightings which came into headquarters during the period of 1 November through 1 December. Some sightings are not in sufficient detail or sensational enough in detail to warrant printing at this time when there are many which absolutely must be brought to the readers' attention. Besides the featured front-page article of this issue, we have chosen a representative group of sightings from throughout the world to put down here. It is notable that although there were sightings everywhere, the concentration was in South America, the United States and Australia. Inasmuch as there were some notable sightings elsewhere, the following listed sightings will be categorized. Sightings listed in the November Bulletin will not, however, be repeated.

Auckland, New Zealand, 4 June. Although somewhat outdated by now, the sighting of an egg-shaped white object by Murray Sale is very timely because of its general resemblance to objects seen in the U. S. in large numbers in November. The time was between 12 noon and 1 p. m. The object proceeded in a southerly direction, and appeared to pass over the Kingseat Hospital farm, which is about forty miles from Auckland. Sale said he thought the object was about three hundred yards from him, and had an apparent length of 12 feet. No sound was heard, and it appeared to be flying very slowly.

4 November, 1957. No sound accompanied the huge, red ball of fire which passed over Kodiak, Alaska, trailing a greenish-yellow vapor. City police officer John Boucher said he was driving his car near a school building at 10 p. m., turned to go past the school, when the whole area lighted up as if some one had turned on field lights. He turned around quickly, just in time to see a flaming red ball coming out of the east about 50 feet above the school. It sped out of sight. It is evident, in view of the lack of sound accompanying the object, that it was not meteor, but rather another UAO.

10 November, Tokyo, Japan. American engineer Wilfred S. Hardy, employed as assistant safety engineer at the Tokyo Engineer Supply Center, observed a "mysterious, glowing spaceship," (to quote the "Pacific Stars and Stripes") over Lake Imba-numa on the Boso Pen-

insula about 50 miles from Tokyo. Hardy, 52, his wife and a Japanese boatboy saw the glowing, cigar-shaped object which appeared to be between 200 and 500 feet long, when it suddenly lit up the entire lake. Hardy, an experienced engineer of 30 years, described the thing as being located about 20 degrees off the horizon directly below the North Star, and about 10 to 15 miles away. It was speeding at about 600 to 800 miles per hour into the south, maintaining a level course, and radiating colors like the northern lights, said Hardy. He also stated that it gave off a purplish-red trail. "The body of the object had an artificial white glow," he said, "but spectrum-like reds, greens, yellows and blues surrounded its air-foil as though a special magnetic field was being created for its flight." Hardy went on to say, "What we saw had all the physical aspects of a spaceship. However, I wasn't close enough to see any details such as aials or windows. But I'm convinced. It wasn't any sort of optical illusion or sun reflection. And it wasn't a Sputnik because it was too large and too long." Other reports by persons had seen a "fireball" flooded telephone lines to the Tokyo Astronomical Observatory shortly after the incident. Time of the incident: 5:55 p. m.

Canberra, Australia, 9 November. Four astronomers of the Commonwealth Observatory, Mount Stromlo, observed a bright, pink object in the sky at about 3 a. m. The object was observed for about 8 minutes as it moved across the western horizon, then disappeared. No aircraft in the sky at the time. Astronomers could not identify the object. Sputniks, meteors and the like were ruled out as possible explanations by the astronomers themselves.

13 November, Invercargill, New Zealand. Mr. E. R. Robinson, patrol officer for the Automobile Association and Mr. L. Israelson, cook at the Milford Hostel, reported watching a "strange" white light hovering about 500 feet above the ground in the remote Eglinton Valley. The two men were traveling by van, and at about 11:20 p. m. spotted the object coming toward them up the valley. They stopped their van, switched off their lights, and kept the object in view for from seven to eight minutes. At first it came toward them, then seemed to hover and move sideways, finally receding, and disappearing around a spur of the mountains. The object's light was bright enough to illuminate the tops of the trees on the dark, cloudy night. Both men said that after the object had disappeared around the mountains, they could see the glow from it. No noise accompanied the sighting.

20 November, Christchurch, New Zealand. Mr. H. Sharman observed a doughnut-shaped object which described peculiar maneuvers around a horseshoe-shaped object stationed over Brighton. His attention was first attracted to the horseshoe-shaped object which glowed, with the open ends pointing south. As he watched this object, the doughnut-shaped object approached, and began to describe circles, each time passing through the open arms of the horseshoe-shaped object. During his half-hour observation, the maneuver was repeated several times. No explanation was forthcoming from Mr. Sharman or others.

Fairbanks, Alaska, 1 December, 1957. Several witnesses reported seeing a "light-bulb-shaped object" flashing through the early darkness at 3 p. m. (darkness occurs at 2 p. m.) and plunging to earth on a military reservation. Planes from Ladd AFB spotted the object also. Victor Carrado, one of the eyewitnesses, said the glowing object whistled down from the skies, hit a grove of trees, ricocheted off one of them and fell to the ground. Carrado, a civilian, said he thought the "thing" was going to hit him, and came so close that he ducked. A search was initiated, inasmuch as Sputnik I's rocket was scheduled to fall to earth at approximately that date, but search in the area where the object supposedly fell yielded nothing. Speculation immediately started that the object might have been a meteor, but inasmuch as no fragments or indications of an object striking the ground were found, this explanation cannot be correct.

12 December, 1957, Tokyo, Japan. At 7:30 p. m., 1/Lt. F. R. Dunn of the 45th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron was flying his RF-84-F aircraft to an undesignated station from the Tokyo Central Control Area via air routes RED 27, RED 19, RED 17, RED 15, AMBER 7. As Lt. Dunn was in flight, GCI (Ground Controlled Intercept) notified him that an unidentified object had been and still was flying parallel to his left wing. He was requested by GCI to watch the area to his left and report if he sighted the object. He replied that he saw nothing. GCI stated that they had had the object in radar contact since Dunn departed Tokyo and apparently GCI had received a report or reports from ground observers as GCI asked him to watch for different colored lights if he sighted it. The Lt. never did establish visual contact. Shortly, Air Defense ordered two F-86-Ds into the air to intercept the unknown. The interceptors returned, one on emergency with a bad control mechanism. Our informant indicates that this might be just a coincidence, or perhaps the fighter actually did intercept and engage the object. At any rate, further information was not available.

(See *Recent Sightings*, page 4)

Recent Sightings . . .

(Continued from page 3)

CANADA

2 November, 1957, Quebec City, Quebec. Duck hunters and physics professor Jacques Hebert reported sighting a spherical or rocket-shaped object falling—apparently into the St. Lawrence River. The object had a long, blue body and red head, they said.

6 November, 1957, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. At 8:02 p. m., a yellowish-white light travelled soundlessly from south to north across the eastern sector of the sky, was sighted by six persons in the Eglinton-Dufferin neighborhood. Mr. S. Beaumont was called out by neighbors to "see something," and just before rushing out of doors, noticed a lot of interference on his TV set—"something that sounded like a car engine going very fast," he said.

7 November, Vancouver, B. C. Vancouver inventor Alex Johnson offered the U. S. government his invention with which he has "moved material by using a fantastically light-weight motor that uses a new source of energy." Johnson claims his circular machine will reach a speed of 9,000 miles a minute and will stay in the air 15 days, with a full crew aboard. Johnson claims the U. S. is interested.

10 November, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Dunlap Observatory officials declined to guess as to the identity of the white light observed over Toronto from 4 p. m. to about 6 p. m. Scores of people, including APRO member Graham Conway, observed the thing. Conway had presence of mind to return to his home and get his 9x35 binoculars, and after observing the object with the aid of the glasses, said it was bright, circular, shining like polished metal, with a dark center. While Conway was calling other interested individuals on the phone, his wife called him and told him smoke was coming out of the object. Conway raced to the door, saw the smoke issuing from the object, and the brilliance from the object itself had dimmed. Mrs. Conway said that as the object poured out the "smoke," something appeared to fall from it in a "long, thin stream." (Angel's hair, possibly?) Within a minute after Conway was called to see the smoke, the object had decreased in size, and gave the impression of moving directly away at high speed. Conway continued to watch the object with glasses, and it seemed to vanish. Then another pinpoint of moving light appeared. Confirmation of Conway's sighting was forthcoming in newspaper articles on the following day, but no explanations were given.

11 November, 1957, Montreal, Quebec. Pilot Fred Philpotts of Dorval spotted a stationary white light in the murky, overcast evening sky at 6:15 p. m. A compe-

tent observer, Philpotts had no conventional explanation for the sighting.

12 December, 1957, Eatonville, Ontario. A football-shaped object was seen visually over Eatonville by many witnesses. Radar contact was obtained, and district radar units reported the object's height at from 35,000 to 40,000 feet. The object was under observation by scores of people, including constables and a TCA pilot in flight. The thing maneuvered over Eatonville for a period of about 20 to 30 minutes. The object was a flaming red in color.

* * *

EUROPE

28 August, 1957, Ancona, Italy. A cylindrical object, giving off a yellow-gold luminescence, was observed spiraling in a southerly direction, by a physician and a navy captain. The object sped out of sight at an estimated altitude of 15,000 feet, and its color changed to a very vivid red with orange flashes.

28 October, 1957, Prague, Czechoslovakia. A falling object was seen over Prague shortly after 3 p. m., and it exploded in the air. This news was broadcast by a communist radio station which hastened to add that the object was not Sputnik I or the last stage rocket of Sputnik II. Listeners were urged to phone the Prague meteorological station if they had seen anything similar.

5 November, Cairo, Egypt. A small object with tiny lenses fell in flames to a schoolyard in Alexandria. Police called in scientists and engineers who were unable to identify the object. Two lenses were located at one end, and a third on the opposite end, and all protected by brass wire. Inside the object was quartz and two 3,000-candlepower lamps. The Russians announced they were convinced it was a part of a Soviet rocket or Sputnik I. Dr. Sherbiny, scientist at Alexandria University, said it might have "fallen from a satellite or a flying saucer." Two days later, an Egyptian army expert was reported by the Middle East News Agency to have identified the object as merely a part of a reflective device used to guide drivers along dark roads at night. That leaves only one problem—how did it catch fire, and why was it in the air?

9 November, 1957, Coatzacoalcos, Mex. Early risers reported a strange luminous object which hovered over the city for a full minute. It was described as a "white blanket" about 150 by 160 feet.

9 November, The Hague, Netherlands. A shipping company official observed through a telescope what he described as a "ball shining like a nickel" at great altitude over that city.

10 November, 1957, Toulouse, France. Astronomer Jacques Chapuis reported observing a canary-yellow object which followed a peculiar but apparently controlled course through the sky. Chapuis, who watched the round object for 5 min-

utes from the Toulouse Observatory, said, "It was neither a meteor nor a star. It was something I had never seen before." He said it made two big curving maneuvers, then disappeared, only to return again, this time going straight up into the sky, out of sight.

1 December, 1957, Hamburg, Germany. A red-hot object about 30 inches in diameter fell from the skies into a field near Hamburg. Witnesses to the falling object from Grossmoor and Klein Moor said it glowed red and the marshy ground where it opened up a deep hole, took on a silvery tint. Speculation that it was a part of a Sputnik was discounted by police, who theorized that it was probably only a common meteorite.

4 December, 1957, Le Havre, France. Approximately 100 shipyard workers reported sighting a high-flying object which gave off a red and green glow. No further details.

11 November, 1957, Luebeck, Germany. An unidentified object exploded in the air over the Baltic seaport. Part of the object—a metal tube with a number of small holes—landed in a suburban garden. No further details.

12 December, 1957, Yorkshire, England. A "baby flying saucer" was found on the Yorkshire moors. Shaped like a heavy spinning top, weighing 35 pounds and standing 18 inches tall, the object had untranslatable hieroglyphics on it. People who saw the object said "the top was made of brass, and the underside of copper. It was reportedly seen as it came down to earth on a foggy night when Mr. F. Taylor and two friends observed it "glowing like a red ball of flame" over the moor. Another man reached the object first, asked 200 pounds for it. He finally sold it for 10 pounds to Anthony Avenal, science-fiction writer. Avenal said he had been trying to decipher the marks on the object for days, and that it might be something of scientific interest or it might be the biggest hoax of the year. "If it is a hoax, somebody has gone to an awful amount of trouble to put it across," Avenal concluded. This object, in the opinion of APRO members in Alamogordo, is very reminiscent of the object which the Irishman almost caught some time ago after it landed on the moors near his home in Ireland. Chances are, also, that the object is no longer in the hands of Avenal—having being "subpoenaed" by the government for some reason or other.

* * *

SOUTH AMERICA

5 September, Barcelona, Venezuela. Unidentified object traveled across the skies, dissipating cloud formations in its wake, and leaving a white trail which stayed in the sky for some time. Time: 12 noon.

(See Recent Sightings, page 7)

ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE

The Armstrong Circle Theater production, "UFO—Enigma of the Skies," had Douglas Edwards tenaciously straddling the fence, but of course, this is all that could be reasonably expected under the circumstances. He and the producers are to be commended for even handling the subject at all.

Although generally interesting from a production standpoint, the program material was quite disappointing to anyone familiar with the subject in that it turned out to be a mere rehashing of old propaganda. Notable was the mike fright of most performers — this being especially hard to understand in the case of veteran newscaster Douglas Edwards.

Lt. Col. Spencer Wheedon (spelling doubtful) paid a rubber stamp lip service to the traditional Air Force attitude but of course no one really expected anything else. The "spirited" meeting he mentioned in connection with the Hopkinsville "little man" incident was not turned up in our investigation. However, it was ascertained that the people involved were not "spiritists" if that was what the Colonel meant to imply. For what it is worth, they are known to be Presbyterians.

To his credit, let it be noted that this is the first time the Air Force has taken a firm stand against hoaxers and cultists.

On the other side of the ledger again, Lt. Colonel Wheedon inferred but did not state that there was a sky-hook balloon aloft on the day of Mantell's death. Instead, using a map to distract attention from this fact, he began a tale of how "the balloon" "would have" done this and that. What balloon? As Keyhoe pointed out later, there was no balloon.

The Smithsonian Astronomical Observatory spokesman mentioned by Colonel Wheendon in connection with the Van Winkle case was notably nameless. Small wonder. The fact that no pilot (or plane for that matter) can react fast enough to dodge a meteor was studiously ignored — by everyone concerned.

After a display of dishonest inferences and half-truths such as this, one wonders whether the Air Force is hiding facts or merely covering incompetence.

Donald Keyhoe, though considerably outnumbered and therefore somewhat on the defensive, made quite a gallant showing, nonetheless, in pointing out flaws in Air Force analyses. His error in referring to Professor Clyde Tombaugh as "Doctor" is regrettable. A later check with Mr. Tombaugh by telephone, to get his reactions to the show, brought the comment that all in all, he found the show interesting, but was concerned with the drawing which was not truly representative of his sighting.

It is not known at this time whether Mr. Kehoe was censored at the end of his bit for talking about the congressional investigation, or whether it was something he attempted to say following this mention. But whatever it was, this incident probably did more harm to the Air Force case (at least among interested UFO fans) than anything else on the show. Before the reader jumps to conclusions, we would like to state that the show indicated that it was written and rehearsed. If Major Keyhoe attempted to insert a statement extemporaneously, which was not in the script, Armstrong Circle Theater production people were within their rights in cutting him off; and Mr. Keyhoe should have expected as much. It is difficult to ascertain whether or not this was a deliberate move on the part of Mr. Keyhoe, calculated to insinuate censorship, whether or not it actually existed.

Menzel began with a derogatory reference to incompetent amateurs and proceeded to prove himself an incompetent professional. He stated that pilots and meteorologists could not interpret astronomical phenomena. If UFO are not astronomical phenomena, this point is not relevant. Menzell stated that only professional astronomers could interpret astronomical phenomena, and then admitted that he had once been mystified by the star Sirius.

He inferred that he is a moon expert. Few professionals share this opinion. All in all, he had the hysterical sound of a man fighting for professional prestige in the public eye—something he has almost entirely lost within the profession.

And so the most tragic hoax in UFO history continues—a science-fictionist and his "hot air" theory.

The show wound up with the appearance of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Richard Hornor, announcing that the accusation that the Air Force has been hiding information from the public is "furthest from the truth." He then went on to list a number of conclusions arrived at by a "scientific panel" (the members of which were not named):

1. The saucers do not constitute a threat.
2. They haven't shown that they are capable of hostile acts.
3. They do not indicate a need to change our scientific concepts. (This is interesting—could he have possibly been referring, inadvertently, to the contra-gravitational theory of propulsion?)
4. The subject should be stripped of its aura of mystery.

The honorable Mr. Hornor then went on to say that these conclusions coincided with the Air Force's position—although he did not say that the "panel" and the Air Force had agreed on all points.

We would like to sum up by saying that Mr. Hornor's opening statement that

SWEDISH OFFICER SPOTS UFO

Under various confusing headlines, newspapers prominently played up the sighting of an object sighted in Sweden on the 25th of November. As usual, what little comment was made about the object seen, was somewhat inane. All accounts agreed that the object observed by an army captain at Kottedala near Goteborg, on the west coast, was disc-shaped, and that it took a "spiraling" course "toward the moon." The last few words are what can be considered to be the most misleading and unscientific statement of the lot.

The captain who reported his observation to Swedish defense headquarters, said that he watched the object through field glasses for some twenty minutes. He said that the object appeared to be a somewhat "flattened sphere," elongated, and emitting a flickering glow as from burning exhaust gases from one side of it. Obviously the spiraling trajectory revealed the disc-shaped configuration.

Naturally, a spokesman for the Swedish defense agency suggested that it might have been a moon rocket launched by the Russians. Apparently little thought was given to the configuration described, when this statement was made. But the glaring mistake is the possibility that any object moving out into space would necessarily be "heading for the moon." It is silly to suppose that anyone could predict the destination of such an object. We realize that the twenty minute observation indicates that the object was huge and traveling slowly, and definitely feel the assumption that the thing was headed for the moon was based on the jure conjecture that the object was an earth-made rocket.

the Air Force is not hiding information from the public is a deliberate falsehood, calculated to upset the interplanetary spaceship appletart. It probably succeeded. We would like to state, without qualification, that Mr. Hornor's closing statement that "not a single speck of physical evidence has ever been found" is not a true statement. This will be borne out in the very near future.

A poll taken of technical personnel at Holloman Air Force Base indicates the following: Among "believers" and skeptics alike, there was a general feeling that the Armstrong Theater show was slanted—against the interplanetary theory and in favor of Air Force propaganda. The overwhelming consensus of opinion that Menzel took a smart-alec supercilious attitude indicates that the astrophysicist made little impression with what he said, for his obvious antagonistic attitude overshadowed his weak assumptions.

The Stokes Case . . .

(Continued from page 2)

"Stokes said he first became concerned when his car radio suddenly began to fade. Next, he told Air Force officials, his engine began to slow down and finally quit.

"I noticed about six cars pulled off the road up ahead," Stokes related, "and people pointing to the sky. I stopped my car, got out and began to look around also."

Stokes said the object approached out of the northeast from the tops of the Sacramento Mountains. The egg-shaped phenomenon made a shallow dive to a point about two miles in front of the observers and then sped away toward Orgrande and disappeared.

Moments later, according to Stokes, the object reappeared over the Sacramentos, made a shallow dive to a point about two miles in front of the observers and then faded away to the north.

Stokes said when the object passed he felt a rise in temperature. He said he had a slight sunburn Monday night, but it had disappeared Tuesday morning.

The engineer estimated the object to be about 300 to 500 feet long and traveling at a speed at least twice that of sound.

"He said the 'thing' was visible for approximately 3 minutes and was at an altitude of between 1,500 and 3,000 feet.

"According to Stokes, the object made no sound and there were no vapor trails.

"The object was not spinning," he said.

"Stokes has been at the Air Force Missile Development Center for the past 18 months. He retired from the Navy in 1953 after 24 years of service." UNQUOTE.

In contrast to the later attempt by Washington Air Force spokesmen to label Stokes story a hoax, Holloman official spokesmen told reporters for the Alamo-gordo Daily News on November 5th that "the background and experience of James Stokes, 46, rendered him competent in observance of flying objects," and said that "the Air Force was accepting Stokes' report as bona fide." They also said they had "no reason to disbelieve Stokes' story."

During the holidays, Colonel John McCurdy, Public Information Officer at Holloman Air Force Base, told a friend that he still had no reason to change his mind about Stokes . . .

And what about Stokes?

I ran into him at a restaurant a couple of weeks ago. I asked, "What if you had it to do over again?"

Said Jim, "If I ever see another one, I won't tell a soul. It's just not worth it."

CD LOOKING FOR MAN WITH PHOTOS

Another article pertaining to a sighting in the Geauga, Ohio, area, carried by the Cleveland Plain Dealer on 3 December, deals with the purported picture-taking of a UFO near Montville on 7 November, and a "saucer magazine" which may well, because of its meddling, have been the cause of a man being quite ill from radiation sickness.

A feature article, by-lined by Jerry Snook, Lake County correspondent, dealt with a letter and two snapshots which were forwarded to Civil Defense Director Kenneth Locke, by a man who signed his name "Joe Tillman." The pictures were supposed to have been of the object sighted by Moore on November 7.

The article stated that CD Director Locke said the photographs did not appear to be doctored, but his main concern was for the health of the letter writer. In the letter, Tillman stated that he had a basket of the "radioactive dirt," and that it "still has very active rays." Locke asked that all departments and sheriff's offices in Northern Ohio cooperate in an effort to locate Tillman.

Apparently one of the reasons Tillman is being sought is because he is a corroborating witness to the sighting made by Moore. Tillman was not listed in any Lake County directories, and the letter was postmarked in Painesville. The article about the search for Tillman was probably an attempt to locate him through the readers of the Plain Dealer.

The pictures showed a circular white object against a dark background. A hill in the photograph led Locke to believe that the pictures had not been doctored. Tillman's letter said he was saving 17 of the photographs for a reporter from a "flying saucer magazine" who was supposed to visit him at any time. He claimed he and his wife had snapped photos of the object while it was on the ground and also while it was taking off. He said the pictures which he sent to Locke was taken from a distance of 600 feet, and one picture showed the object in the air. "Other close-up photos, descriptions of it, and what went on while on the ground and while taking off, will be given to the reporter," the letter concluded.

It is obvious to us that some apparently well-meaning but nevertheless overzealous and "newsbeat" minded saucer magazine editor, in his preoccupation with exclusive rights, etc., overlooked the safety of the man in question.

Attempts to further investigate this incident have not been very lucrative, and letters to the principals, including Locke, have not yielded any further information, but perhaps more information will be forthcoming in the near future.

MEMBER HOPF'S "RECRUITING" CAMPAIGN

Since our summer appeal for new members, John T. Hopf, commercial and aerial photographer of Newport, Rhode Island, had been turning over in his mind the problem of just how to approach the possibility of new and more members in his immediate vicinity. The Newport Daily News for 12 November contained his answer: a letter to the editor and a newspaper ad.

We would like very much to reprint both here, but because of finances and therefore limited space in this issue, we have decided to only list the high points of the advertisement which netted some 10 new members in the general Newport area.

In an eye-catching ad carried on the border of the newspaper page, the following legend caught the reader's eye: If you want the REAL FACTS on "Flying Saucers." Below this an explanatory paragraph read: "You are invited to become a member of Aerial Phenomena Research Organization and receive the bi-monthly 'A.P.R.O. Bulletin' which reports the latest uncensored information on Unconventional Aerial Objects. The following are just some of the news stories carried in recent issues: 'Near collisions with airliners, interviews with pilots, sonic booms, reviews of saucer books, articles by leading scientists, details of how our military bases are being watched, and radar and visual sightings from all over the world.'"

The ad continued: "Few of these facts are now being reported by the regular news services!"

"A.P.R.O. numbers many prominent scientists in its membership, is devoted to the serious study of the 'saucer' problem and should not be confused with the many 'Saucer Clubs' which cater to the crackpot element. Send annual membership fee of \$3.50 directly to Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, 1712 Van Court, Alamogordo, New Mexico, or contact John T. Hopf, local A.P.R.O. correspondent, at 10 Red Cross Terrace.

"When you read the A.P.R.O. Bulletin, you will agree with Frank Edwards of radio and TV who described the Bulletin as 'A breath of sanity in a tempest of nonsense.'" UNQUOTE.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Hopf for his intelligently presented letter and ad, and for the many new representatives it gained for APRO. We are sure that if any members would like to substitute their own names for Mr. Hopf's, and use the pattern he used for his ad, they would be sure to receive results in their own particular areas. Many have complained that they are in comparatively "isolated" areas as far as fellow members are concerned, and this would certainly answer any such problem.

Recent Sightings . . .

(Continued from page 4)

5 September, Valera, Venezuela. The pilot of one of ten planes searching for a lost Avensa airliner, reported that as he flew between the Boconox and Tecupido Rivers, west of Guanare, he spotted a luminous object much like THE WINGS OF AN AIRPLANE. His report was made to the Control Tower at Carvajal Airport at Valera.

San Jose De Gua, 11 September. A group of people attending an outdoor party observed a disc-shaped red craft which crossed the sky at high speed. One of the witnesses to the incident was Dr. Robert Mendez, of the Mene Grande Oil Company. Other persons reported seeing a similar object the night before, on the 10th of September.

22 October, Bachaquero, Venezuela. Farmer Eulogio Castro observed two cylindrical objects as they flew through the sky, making no noise. Castro said his attention was arrested by an airplane, and while watching it, he saw the two objects which had no wings, and with three-pointed tail assembly. The time: 2:30 p. m.

30 October, Barcelona, Venezuela. Numerous persons in this city reported observing a huge, glowing ball-shaped object as it crossed the skies. It stopped its wild rush for a few minutes, hovered, then continued its path. Local residents were unimpressed, for this phenomena is almost a common occurrence. (ho-hum!)

3 November, 1957, Ciudad Trujillo, Venezuela. Two disc-shaped objects hovered for about two minutes above a coffee factory in the province of Barahona. Objects estimated at 300 feet altitude while hovering, after which they flew away to the east at great speed. No sound was heard, and estimations of the size of the objects seen indicates that they were huge—about 5,000 feet in diameter!

26 November, 1957, Los Teques, Venezuela. A glowing, disc-shaped object which traveled above the city and was seen by many, suddenly dimmed, then exploded into glowing fragments and fell to the ground in a mountainous area near the city.

30 November, Caracas, Venezuela. Three ovoid objects observed over this city by numerous people in downtown Caracas. At given intervals, the objects shot out greenish light, after which they went out of sight in a northwest direction.

3 December, 1957, Cumana, Venezuela. A glowing object, which darted in and out of clouds, was observed by many residents—and labelled unconventional.

4 December, 1957, Cumana, Venezuela. A glowing spherical object observed by many as it flew in a south-to-west direction. Observers said it "gyrated" and left a trail of luminous smoke behind it.

ANALYSIS

We have proven, to our satisfaction, that the discs were concentrating on South America prior to the November "flap," and that their area of interest was changed immediately following the launching of Sputnik II on 2 November. The initial discovery of Sputnik II was probably made by a space station located several hundred miles above the surface of the earth.

At any rate, correlation of the November sighting reports shows that the objects switched their attention from the South American continent to the United States, and judging from statements coming out of Russia, the discs divided their time and attention during that period, between the United States and the USSR. We feel it is significant that the three countries in the world which have within their continental limits large-scale missile testing ranges (namely, Australia, Russia and the United States) were visited frequently and observed thoroughly for the period between 2 November and 25 November. After that date, the discs took up residence in their old habitats—the countries of South America. We recognized this possibility when Sputnik II was launched, and in fact, after the launching of Sputnik I, members of the Alamogordo group were told that UAO activity was expected to increase in the continental limits of the United States. Prior to the launching of Sputnik I, sightings in the U. S. were few and far between.

There have been comparatively few sightings reported in the United States since the last issue of the Bulletin was mailed, and those few reports which took place during the November "flap" and were late arriving at headquarters, plus the very few which took place since, are printed elsewhere in the Bulletin. There are hundreds of other sightings which could not be printed, for valuable printing space had to be utilized to bring to the members' attention the most authenticated and detailed accounts.

USSR Claims . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Despite the October announcement, we do not necessarily subscribe to the conclusion that the discs sighted throughout the U. S. in November were Russian. We feel that these reports were of the type which have been made during the past 10 years throughout the world, and that it will be some time before the Russians will be ready to fly their experimental craft over the United States, or any other country for that matter.

Electrostatic Propulsion for Counteracting Inertia

By C. F. Krafft

There have been methods suggested for shielding a spaceship against the undesirable effects of inertia by the use of specific shielding materials, but if such methods are inoperative, then there is still another method by which it may be possible to solve this problem. Such inertial effects could be eliminated by acting directly upon every constituent part of the spaceship, and not merely upon the ship as a whole. This cannot be done by the usual methods of jet or rocket propulsion, or even by ionic propulsion in which the ions are accelerated electrically as heretofore proposed. In all such contrivances the force of propulsion is applied mechanically to the spaceship at the place where the motor is mounted, and must be transmitted through the structure of the ship itself, so that all the detrimental effects of inertia will be experienced.

Unlike other kinds of ionic propulsion, the use of supermatter would not require any special accelerating apparatus because the entire spaceship with everything in it would become electrically charged during normal operation so that every atom of the spaceship would be acted upon individually by an electrostatic field from without. Although it is true that an electrostatic charge can reside only on the outside of a charged body, nevertheless every atom inside the charged body is under the same absolute potential as an atom at the surface, and when acted upon by an electrostatic field will do its share in overcoming the inertia of the body. The immediate effect of an external electrostatic field upon a spaceship will be to force back the surface charge, but a similar effect will also be exerted upon every atom in the spaceship, so that the usual inertia effects of mechanically accelerated movement will not be experienced.

With this copy of your bulletin you have received a promotional flyer for APRO. It is suggested that you hand or mail this to an interested friend. APRO's leadership in UFO research depends on its continued expansion. Your cooperation in this effort will be appreciated.

Geiger Counter . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Although publicly Mr. Locke said that he couldn't say whether the sighting was authentic or not, he privately told an APRO representative that "a foreign object landed in that field."

It is obvious that Mr. Moore saw something unusual, and there is certainly no commonplace explanation for the high radioactive count in the area mentioned. This is one sighting, which, in conjunction with Mrs. Kuhn's report, and the Tillman report, would be difficult for officials to explain away in conventional terms. This is no doubt the reason that the newspapers carried no follow-up, and the incident was kept off the press wires.

It is not difficult to conjecture just how officials managed to shut up Mr. Moore. They probably told him he had seen some U. S. experimental craft, and that to talk would be a dead giveaway of current highly secret military weapons. We feel this is more feasible than a confession to Mr. Moore that he had seen a spaceship, for military confidence in the civilian population is sadly lacking. It also would not be difficult for an uninitiated person to believe such a tale.

We are indebted to member George Popowitch for his coverage of this, the Kuhn and Tillman incidents. Unfortunately, further inquiries were of no avail, and his initial investigations were the only lucrative ones.

Radiation Sickness . . .

(Continued from page 1)

land Plain Dealer for 27 November, there has been no further information in print since, and the initial account of the incident did not go out on the press wires. This is regrettable, of course, and it is important to notice that results of radiation tests were never published.

Two other incidents which took place in the near vicinity also indicate the presence of radiation after a UAO visitation, and were not given publicity since they were initially carried in the Plain Dealer. See other articles, this issue.

This sighting lends weight to a couple of long held theories about the UAO. 1. The UAO occupants are not concerned with any possible harm they might bring to people as a result of their close contact with them. 2. The United States government and specifically the Air Force silence group in the Pentagon, is going to have to be held responsible for many more such incidents if people aren't warned that these objects are dangerous when approached.

AN EDITORIAL

Early in the morning of 15 December, Mr. Lorenzen and I boarded a plane at El Paso, Texas, and at 12:30 p. m. arrived at Idlewild, New York. We were there for two purposes: Mr. Lorenzen was on business and for his company, and I tagged along in order to contact people relative to the publication of my book, and to meet and visit with local APRO members and CSI New York officers.

Mr. Lorenzen and I were fortunate in meeting and conversing at length about UFO with Miss Isabel Davis, Alex Mebane and Ted Bloecher of CSI. Needless to say, we enjoyed our stay and were very impressed with the thorough and capable job of research being done by these three principal officers of CSI. Miss Davis has done a comprehensive investigation, and, consequently, a report on the "little men" of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and I am sure that when the completed work is finally published, it will be a tremendous contribution to the UFO mystery and its eventual solution.

We are now more convinced than ever that it is necessary for UFO research group representatives to establish actual contact, for this is more conducive to actual cooperation. Unfortunately, our time was limited, for Mr. Lorenzen was obliged to spend a certain number of hours each day at a place of business. However, on the 19th, we went to Steinway Hall, in downtown New York and met local CSI members and a few APRO members. Our visit, being so close to Christmas, was scheduled for a very inopportune time, but it could not be helped. Nevertheless, it was enjoyable visiting the people who did attend. We are particularly grateful to Mr. Bernard Plotnick who journeyed all the way from Stamford, Connecticut to attend the meeting.

The recent "flap" was discussed in general, and the Stokes case in particular. Jules B. St. Germain, CSI representative and author of several articles dealing with the "crackpot" element, stopped by the meeting for a short visit, and it was a great pleasure talking with him even for that small period of time.

We were pleased to make the acquaintance of Stephen Santesson, editorial director of Fantastic Universe science-fiction magazine, and on the evening of the 18th, we proceeded to the studios of WOR Radio where we spent 5½ hours (from 12 midnight on the 19th to 5:30 a. m. on the 20th) discussing the subject UFO with Long John Nebel on his "Nightbeat" radio show. Appearing on the program with us was Major Wayne Aho of Washington, D. C. who heads a new group of contact devotees. Of course, the morning was punctuated with wrangling over various points of the UFO mystery, and except for just a few major points, there was little common meeting ground for

NOTICE

Member C. W. Fitch of 6526 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland 3, Ohio, would like to acquire the November, 1956 issue of the A.P.R.O. Bulletin, which is out of print. He would appreciate hearing from anyone who is willing to sell his copy.

We are constantly implored by various members and other researchers, to let our back file of out of print A.P.R.O. Bulletins (specifically 1952, 1953, 1954 and 1955) be circulated for copying. The reason for this, of course, is that few present researchers have comprehensive files of reports for those periods, and would like the compilations which appeared in the Bulletins.

We would like post-card (no letters, please) information from those members who would be willing to buy a pamphlet which contains the information of the 1952-1955 Bulletins, so that we can judge whether it would be worth while having a second printing done. We are not concerned with extra money—but the effort expended would be considerable, and we would like to be sure that sufficient orders would be forthcoming to justify the work entailed. Also, we would not want to use organizational funds to print several hundred copies of the pamphlet, only to have a large number left in stock, paid for, but unused. This is a part of the financial problems involving information distribution of an organization such as A.P.R.O.

Mr. Lorenzen, Mr. Aho and I.

Aho, incidentally, is the former Army Major who has been pestering various congressional committees, etc., urgently requesting them to look into the UFO situation, probably censorship, and particularly endorsing the contact claims of the major contactees—Adamski, Menger, etc.

By the time we boarded our plane at La Guardia airport early on Sunday morning, 22 December, Jim and I had arrived at some definite conclusions. First and foremost, CSI is doing a top-notch job of research, the contactees are losing their stranglehold on UFO devotees as new evidence is ferreted by conservative researchers, and New York is one big city!! Although we enjoyed every moment of our visit, we felt somewhat relieved and nostalgic as we sighted the mountains and barren stretches of desert while approaching El Paso from the air. Mr. and Mrs. Al Brown, local members, were kind enough to meet our plane and bring us the remaining 83 miles to Alamogordo.

All in all, the trip was pleasant, eventful and interesting. We are looking forward to other excursions of the same type in the near future when APRO allows the Lorenzen pocketbook to accommodate such extra expenses.