

# SKYLOOK

NUMBER 17

APRIL 1969

MISSOURI SIGHTINGS

UFO STOPS TRUCK

UFO "BIG AS A HOUSE"

MORE!

ARTICLE BY JOHN KEEL

ASTRONOMY CORNER

ORGANIZATION NEWS

OVERSEAS SIGHTINGS

AND MORE

S K Y L O O K

Editor and Publisher, Norma E. Short, Box 129, Stover, Mo. 65078

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We welcome UFO reports, newspaper clippings and letters from readers. Material will be returned if requested.

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# Missouri Has Flurry of UFO Reports

## UFO Stops Mail Carrier's Truck --Farmers See UFO "As Big As a House"

Missouri had a flurry of unidentified flying object reports during March--and what is more surprising, newspapers such as "The Kansas City Times" and "The St. Louis Globe-Democrat" carried reports. Even radio and television got into the act.

"The Macon Chronicle-Herald" carried a full report of a Macon County man's encounter with a strange, flying object which stopped his radio and truck engine, March 4th. William Overstreet, 51, is a star route mail carrier out of Elmer, a small town in northeast Missouri, and is also the city marshal. The newspaper describes him as a man "not given to exaggeration" and one who had taken little stock in UFO stories until his experience with one.

SKYLOOK's editor wrote to Mr. Overstreet and asked for a personal report of his encounter, and his letter in reply is so well-written, we are giving his story in his own words, as follows:

In regards to your letter about the UFO that I saw March 4, 1969, at 6:40 A.M. on Highway J, 4 miles west of Atlanta, Mo., this is what happened.

I was traveling east approaching East Fork Bottom when I noticed a large red object about one half mile to the right of me, in the field. It was traveling north and I was going east. When it came upon the road in front of me, it turned the same way I was going. Judging from the width of the road, the object was about 100 feet across. The lower edge of the red glow was about 50 feet above the ground. It seemed to stop for a second as it turned the same direction as I was going.

As I came closer to it, a real strong white light came down upon the road in front of me. The light was full width at the top and came to a spot about 8 feet across on the road. The light magnified the chat on the highway to about size of golf balls. This light beam that came to the ground was extremely hot. The heat came through the windshield of my truck so bad that it felt like I was sitting out in the sun on a hot summer day with the car glasses rolled up.

When this beam came to the ground, the object changed colors. The center part changed to a bright blue with a quivering sensation. Around the blue was a wide red band, then a small yellow band on the outside, which glowed like bubble lights and made the yellow band look like it was turning clockwise around the rest of it. The light was extremely bright. I could not see through this glow. I couldn't tell what kind of material this was made of. I could see no windows or doors. There was also no sound.

I started moving up closer. I had my two-way radio on and was trying to talk over it, but seemed that my signal was not getting out. When I got close to the beam of light, my truck motor quit and also my radio. It seemed that the battery in my truck was dead.

(continued on next page)

(Missouri Flurry of UFO Reports--Continued)

The light was so strong I had to pull my sun visor down and shield my eyes with my hands. I released the clutch and let the truck coast. When the beam moved from me a few feet, I heard static on my radio and let the clutch out and the motor started. I moved up slowly this time. When I got within six feet of the beam, the motor started missing. I gave it more gas and it died again as before--radio out also.

When the object moved away from me, the truck started again. I dropped back away from it, then followed it about four miles. It moved about three quarters of a mile down the road with the beam down, then it changed back to its original color which was a bright red. It stayed about the same height above the ground. It went up and down with the contour of the ground and was traveling about 40 miles an hour.

It flashed once more as it crossed a high line. It followed by the side of J Highway until it crossed Highway 63. Then it veered off to the southeast. It looked like it would cross Highway 36 about six or eight miles east of Macon, Mo., then it went out of sight.

I saw it about seven to eight minutes altogether. I had never believed in them too much until I saw this--now I know there is something to these UFO's. I do not know why it was there, I also don't know where it was going. I do not know what it was after I saw it--but I don't care about being that close to another one.

The weather was clear, the sun was up just enough to be in full view.

We are grateful to Mr. Overstreet for this personal report which contains more details than the newspaper accounts. As startling as this encounter must have been, he kept his wits about him and was able to give an excellent description of what happened.

On March 11 "The Macon Chronicle-Herald" had more to add to their first report on March 5: " \* \* \* all was quiet for a few days until last night when sightings (at a great distance) were reported all over Macon County and in several nearby towns."

Numerous reports of star-like UFOs came in to Macon from Atlanta, Gifford, New Boston, Ethel, Elmer and that area. The objects were estimated to be from one-half mile to a mile high and were white or varying in their color.

Citizen band radio people also reported lights from Fulton, Cameron, Laclede, Brookfield, Winigan and Macon. Most of the sightings were of very slowly moving objects but one report described an extremely fast moving object that went southwest from the north part of the county and was sighted over Brookfield and near Cameron before it started coming back this way (Macon) and was last seen over Laclede.

The Federal Aviation Administration station at the Kirksville airport had two reports Tuesday night, March 4. Art Buchanan, who lives at Greentop, Mo., and is a pilot, reported he followed an unusually strong white light as it flew west from Greentop. Harold Forman, of

(continued on next page)

(Missouri Flurry of UFO Reports--Continued)

Novelty, spotted another high over Novelty.

State Highway Patrol Trooper Warren Robinson, stationed in Brookfield, reported that he was stopped by two motorists who said they had spotted a UFO on Route Z southeast of Marceline and Robinson said they were quite excited about it. He went back to the spot where they had seen the flying object, but he didn't see anything.

Ed Hetzer, of the Flight Service Station in Kirksville, reported that he had seen an airborne object Sunday night, March 2.

On Thursday night, March 6, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Anderson saw a UFO "as big as a two-story house" hovering over the trees about one hundred yards from their farm house on Route 1, Road FF, about seven and a half miles southwest of Stover in Morgan County.

The couple were watching television about seven o'clock when Mrs. Anderson glanced out the window and saw the "blood red" object. She shouted to her husband, and both watched it. Mr. Anderson told SKY-LOOK's editor, "If we both hadn't seen it, I wouldn't have believed my own eyes and I sure wouldn't have told anybody about it."

The object, which Mr. Anderson repeatedly referred to as being "blood red" hovered about ten minutes and then "a hatch like a sliding door" opened about two thirds the way up from the bottom, and there was a bright, white light on the inside. He guessed the opening to be about four feet square, but could see nothing inside except the very right light. The window closed after a few seconds, and the object continued to hover another ten minutes, then moved away to the west, traveling in a straight line at no great speed. When it started to move, there was a bright light "at the back" but no trail of any kind and no sound. Mrs. Anderson had opened the window, she said, to see if they could hear anything.

The Andersons telephoned relatives in Stover as they feared the object might return and they wanted their relatives to know about the object "in case anything happened to us" but said they hadn't talked to anyone else about the incident until we talked to them several days later. They were too scared to go to sleep that night, they said, and sat by the window, fearful the object would return. Two hours after it had left the area, two planes appeared and circled the area for sometime, then departed. (It is possible the planes were from the air base near Sedalia.)

Shown a pencil sketch of the "typical" disc-shaped saucer with a dome on top, both the Andersons rejected it, repeating the object they had seen was "round like a ball." And "blood red."

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## Missouri Sightings - More! - More!

(Editor's Note: The mechanics of getting out SKYLOOK--typing material, cutting stencils, mimeographing etc is a one (wo)man job; consequently Ye Ed works on copy as it comes in from our fine staff in order to get pages ready to assemble, fold and address by mailing date. In our eagerness to get this issue out early we wrote the preceding Missouri sightings before all the reports were in. We should have held our horses. And now--on with the news.)

Ted Phillips, Jr., our Ozarks reporter and feature writer, made a trip to Elmer, Mo., and talked to William Overstreet and has some additional details to add to the report Mr. Overstreet sent us. There was ice around the edges of the windshield as the early morning temperature was below freezing when the mail carrier left Elmer and the ice was still there when he sighted the object--but as it moved over his truck, the ice melted. When the light passed by a large tower, about 160 feet high, Mr. Overstreet could make a good guess at the height of the object and judged it to be 60 feet above the ground.

Another interesting note is that Mr. Overstreet's watch has been losing time since the light beam stopped the truck motor and radio.

Mr. Phillips states, "I was most impressed with Mr. Overstreet as an observer. He was most sincere and would discuss only the facts he was sure of."

Other reports were picked up of landing and near-landing cases. Four people were involved in one account Mr. Phillips learned of. A man and his wife saw a large, red, glowing object near a barn. They called the owners and a farmer and his wife left their house to watch the object for several minutes. They described the object as being red with white lights and said it was quite close to the ground. It was about a quarter of a mile distant and "made a noise like a combine." After a few minutes it moved over a ridge and disappeared.

Another close approach was reported by a lady driving on Highway 3 near Elmer. This occurred March 11 and the object is said to have landed on the highway. No marks were found.

Two men reported watching a glowing red object on the ground near a large barn.

Another sighting was reported near Kirksville by a lady who reported seeing an unidentified object about 11:00 p.m. The object was dark and projected a beam of light toward the road.

Further reports have come in from Novelty as gathered by APRO investigator Stanley D. Marquette, of Quincy and forwarded to SKYLOOK by Walt Andrus. Mr. Marquette, who is also a member of the Tri-State group, interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Harold Foreman, of Novelty. The Foremans along with their two children and neighbors--Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stockham and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Galbach spotted an object about 45 degrees above the horizon, moving northwest 9:15, March 3. Mr. Foreman

(continued on next page)

(Missouri Sightings - Continued)

operates a gas station in Novelty and who has spent four years in the Air Force, said he had never seen an object of this nature before. He described it as being "about five or six times bigger than the 'western star' at its largest, then growing fainter and finally fading out just above the horizon." The color was bright orange, changing to red-orange every 30 seconds, and the object remained in sight about 10 minutes. Mr. Foreman thought the object might be turning slowly as the brightness varied. At the time of the sighting the sky was clear with the wind from the northwest.

Mr. Foreman was contacted later by TV station KTVO in Lancaster and his report was broadcast at 10:15.

On Tuesday night, March 4th, the Foremans and several others in Novelty believed they saw the same object again at about the same hour and in the same location, but possibly further away as it did not seem as bright as the night before. The sky was clear and the wind from the north.

On Wednesday evening, March 5, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Hartsock and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Moyer reported a bright object. The Hartsocks live on a farm in Knox County, three miles west and south of Novelty. At 10:10 p.m. Mr. Hartsock said, they saw what "looked like a star" starting from near the eastern horizon, then moving overhead in a westerly direction and finally "fading out" low in the western sky about 10:30 p.m. All agreed the object appeared larger when directly overhead and "was so bright it hurt your eyes." Mr. Hartsock said the color "was like an arc-welder" (silvery blue-white) and the shape was a "jagged round or oval." There was no sound. The sky was completely overcast with no stars visible, as the object passed below the clouds. A short time later the sky cleared and the moon and stars were visible.

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Flash Over Dallas, Texas

The Dallas Morning News, Feb. 18, 1969. A meteorite streaked across Dallas area skies shortly before 10 p.m. Monday, causing a flood of phone calls reporting an airplane explosion. The big ball of fire streaked west along a line from Mesquite through Mansfield.

Credit--Lou Farish.

On February 21, 1969, I spent considerable time talking with Greene County Sheriff's Deputies, especially Frank Gilmore.

Deputy Gilmore had a good sighting on Jan. 2nd, 1969. He and another deputy were called to a location near Springfield where a UFO had been sighted. The object was some 300 to 400 feet from them. They were at the top of a hill and almost level with the hovering object. It appeared as a glowing white disc. While the officers were watching, a single engine aircraft flew into the area and circled the object and flew over the UFO. At this point, estimating the wing-span of the aircraft at about 20 feet, Gilmore said that the aircraft passed within 500 feet of the object which he estimated to be at least eight times the width of the aircraft wings (160 feet). The object finally flew away at a high rate of speed to the west. I am attempting to locate the pilot of the aircraft.

On January 14, 1969, an unusual object was seen by the deputies. The object was glowing white and appeared quite large to the police officers. A foreman at the Southwestern Rendering plant, Mr. Charles Carter, of Springfield, saw the object as it passed directly overhead. The object was close enough that Mr. Carter could see what appeared to be windows or ports.

The various deputies told me there have been many sightings and they are still coming in.

Deputy Gilmore also told me of a power failure in Greene County and adjoining counties last November. The power failure lasted for about five hours and UFO reports came in during the entire period. The objects were seen by local residents and police officers. The reason for the power failure has not been determined.

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Lack of space prevents our using a report from Donald Johnson's "Flying Saucer Observer" (February issue). Why not send 20¢ for a sample copy to Donald Johnson, Sand Hill Rd., Portland, Connecticut 06480. SKYLOOK recommends this magazine and its non-scheduled publication date should not keep you from subscribing. 5 issues--75¢, or 10 issues for \$1.50.

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We believe you will find more midwest UFO sightings in SKYLOOK than in any other magazine. Tell your friends.

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The planet Venus is still visible in the western sky after sunset for several hours. The planet has been responsible for many current UFO sightings due to its unusual brightness. It will appear reddish in color as it nears the horizon.

The red planet Mars is brighter than the planet Saturn and will soon be as bright as the planet Jupiter. It is rising shortly after midnight during the first half of April and before midnight during the latter half of the month. It is located in Libra.

Jupiter is visible all during the month, rising about sunset. Saturn is not visible as it is quite near the Sun.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Rocket on Course to Mars

At 7:29 p.m., Feb. 24, 1969, an Atlas-Centaur rocket left Cape Kennedy on its 5-month, 226,000,000 mile flight to the red planet Mars. It is to arrive at its target on July 31. The craft has two cameras to photograph objects as small as 900 feet across.

The second Mars probe is to be launched late in March.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Comparison

One writer put it this way: "If you imagine the sun as a basketball, diameter one foot, then the earth is a BB shot 110 feet distant, and the giants Jupiter and Saturn are marbles 500 and 1000 feet away, respectively." How about that?

### Fireball Lights Sky

A blinding blue-white fireball, believed to be a meteor, turned night into day across Mexico and the southwestern United States Feb. 8, 1969, before apparently crashing into the rugged Sierra Madre mountains in Mexico.

"The light was so bright we had to shade our eyes," reported a news man in Chihuahua. In some Mexican towns citizens ran screaming into the streets. The newspaper "El Herald" (Chihuahua) said the fireball crashed to earth and the impact created "a tremendous tremor" that shook the ground for hundreds of miles so hard that some windows were broken.

But Dr. Ronald Schors, an astronomer with the Jet Propulsion Lab at Pasadena, Calif., visiting in Texas, said the fireball might have broken up and never landed. He said the tremors felt might have been caused by a sonic boom created by the fireball streaking through the sky. Dr. Robert Cintron of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory says it was probably a meteor, but could have been a polar-orbiting satellite. (Credit--Clippings, Walt Andrus and Lou Farish)

## The Astronauts and UFO's

Probably the best UFO report from any of the astronauts came from the flight of Gemini 4. On June 4, 1965, Edward White and James McDivitt were passing eastward over Hawaii when McDivitt saw a "weird object." The object had projections from it resembling arms. McDivitt took his movie camera and filmed the object. A few minutes later the astronauts saw two more similar objects over the Caribbean.

Immediately the Air Force released its explanation of the filmed object as being the Pegasus satellite. After our space detection and tracking system showed that Pegasus was 1,200 miles from Gemini 4, the Air Defense Command changed from "was the Pegasus" to "might have been the Pegasus."

One of the movie frames was released and showed a disc-shaped object with a tenuous trail. NASA released a statement saying that the object "shows nothing that looks like a satellite," but never said what they thought the object to be.

The Air Defense Command, which knows the precise position of all satellites, space debris, etc; did a thorough check and found nothing that could account for the sighting. Even the Condon report lists it as unidentified.

During the Gemini 7 flight in December 1965, Frank Bormann and James Lovell saw a UFO. Though calm when he reported it, Bormann later told newsmen that after NASA could not identify it, he was a little shaken up.

Otto Binder mentions two other sightings in "Saga" Dec. 1968. Photos and movies of UFOs were obtained on the Gemini flight of Cooper and Conrad. Gemini 10 in July 1966 had a report that two bright objects were passing their capsule. Astronaut John Young obtained pictures of them. Unfortunately, we do not know of confirmatory information on these two sightings. If any readers knows of more on these reports, please inform us.

Credit--The UFO INFORMER, 307-B Pine St., Carrboro, N. C. 27510

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is getting out a special issue for April-- "The North American Report" and it should be interesting reading. John Keel, among other writers, contributes and Mr. Keel wrote us "This special will contain many details of my studies and reveal many findings hitherto kept 'secret' to prevent jokers and hoaxsters from getting into the act. It will also contain excellent articles by other informed scientists and researchers. It should serve as the first real handbook on the overall phenomenon."

Make check payable to "Flying Saucer Review" at 49a Kings Grove, Peckham, London SE15, England. The price is \$1.50 (airmail \$2.80). Lou Farish informs us the best way to send money to England is by a bank draft on Chase Manhattan Bank--obtainable at all banks for a small fee.

Better send for yours right away.

## Unidentified Blips in Thailand

The report comes from Bangkok that the United States Air Force radar operations in Thailand have been seeing "strange, unidentified blips" on their screens--but suggest they might be Communist air craft dropping weapons to guerrilla fighters. (Source--"Arkansas Gazette", Credit--Lou Farish)

## Czechs Set Up Institute to Study UFO's

Prague--Soviet occupied Czechoslovakia is setting up an institute to investigate reports of unidentified flying objects over its territory, the official news agency CTK says. The institute plans to collaborate with similar organizations in other countries, but hasn't indicated if they will be Communist countries or in the West. (Source--"Kansas City Times" 2/27/69)

## Family Flees Heat From UFO

In September 1968 a family in Melfort (Sask., Canada) heard a high pitched sound over their farmhouse. As the pitch increased, the temperature in the house rose. The heat became so intense the family fled to the cellar. A neighbor reported seeing an object hovering over the farmhouse and another farmer saw three disc-shaped objects in the area. (Credit-Gene Duplantier's, SS&S, 17 Shetland St., Willowdale, Ontario, Canada)

## Five Canadians Watch UFO

Dauphin, Man. Feb. 4, 1969--A report Monday from Ste. Rose du Lac, 30 miles southeast of Dauphin, said an unidentified flying object had been sighted near there Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bishop and son Gordon, Jr. along with Mrs. Maryanne Jacob and Laurent Menec reported seeing an object high in the sky west of Ste. Rose. It appeared circular or oblong in shape. They said they watched it drop behind the tree line and reappear in about 30 minutes. They described it as pink in color, which changed to black with at least one red light. It did not seem to vibrate and did not resemble a plane or helicopter. They watched it for more than 20 minutes. (Source--"Winnipeg Free Press", Credit- Lou Farish)

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## UFO Dive-Bombs Australian Driver

Adelaide, Australia, Dec. 2, 1968.--A motor mechanic said yesterday that he had driven at 95 mph after he had been "dive-bombed" by a UFO.

He and a youth with him had been "scared stiff" and had reported the sighting to a policeman who later watched the UFO with them. The mechanic is Mr. J. A. Wyatt, 21, of Port Victoria, on Yorke Peninsula about 100 miles from Adelaide. The youth with him is Christopher Bolton, 15.

They were returning home Tuesday from Maitland, where Wyatt works. Leaving there about 9:40 p.m. they noticed a bright white light high over the town, and it traveled parallel to them as they drove southwest to Port Victoria.

Mr. Wyatt said: "We watched it for about nine miles when it suddenly made a half-circle turn in front of us. It came down at a very slight angle toward us at a very fast rate. It got larger and larger and changed color from bright white to orange-red.

"Although it is hard to judge height at night, I would say it was about a quarter of a mile above us. I reckon it was about 200 to 300 yards away and still traveling parallel to us. As we rounded a bend three miles from Port Victoria, it continued straight on and appeared to be rising."

Mr. Wyatt said that when he got home he watched it through his father's binoculars, but could not distinguish details. It disappeared, then reappeared, so he called Constable D. Guerin, who watched it with them. The constable reported when he saw the light, it would have been about four miles away.

Mr. Wyatt said the object was circular in shape, but was not making any noise. The sky was clear.

The above was taken from the "Melbourne Sun" and on Dec. 13 the same newspaper carried another report, as follows: A mysterious top-shaped object which has "buzzed" two motorists near the fishing town of Grey, about 20 miles from Millicent, has been seen as far away as Mount Gambier. The object, accompanied by a dazzling white light, terrified Mrs. J. Harvey, of Grey, about a month ago when she was returning home. It kept pace with her for five miles, traveling in front of her car.

On Sunday night, Bill Chambers, 18, of Grey, was also driving home from Millicent when he saw the object. He said it stopped about 100 feet above the road and some distance in front of his car.

"When I reached it, the thing hovered above the vehicle and no matter what speed I maintained, it kept following me. When I was about a mile from home, it sped off into the distance almost faster than the eye could follow."

Credit: Lou Farish.

## A Voice From Outer Space?

An attorney, who lives in a state in the east and who does not want his name used for the usual reasons, was watching TV one evening when suddenly the screen went blank. Mr. "A" got up to see if he could tune his program back in when a voice came from the TV saying the speaker was from outer space and would return the next evening at the same time.

The attorney went into the kitchen where his wife at once noticed his white face and insisted on knowing the reason for his obvious perturbed state. When he finally told her, she wanted to call a doctor as she thought he was out of his mind. He persuaded her to wait until the next evening when she could witness the same thing he had heard.

The two were waiting at the TV set at the specified time the next evening and again the screen went blank and the strange voice was heard. The couple refused to divulge the message they received.

Mrs. Rosetta Holmes, of Carlyle, Ill., wrote SKYLOOK she was inclined to think this report was "pretty far out" altho the informant seemed to be sincere. However, after discussing the story with other UFO investigators, she learned of similar happenings, and decided to send us the report.

Mrs. Holmes wrote, "I had wondered if possibly some Ham radio operator might have cut in on the man's TV. But, obviously, in that case other television in the area would have been affected also."

## Illinois Boys See UFO

Charles and Robert Grapperhaus, of Breeze, Ill., were driving home from a basketball game about 11:30 the night of Dec. 29, 1967, when they, with other high school students, watched a bright, white light hovering over the area. The boys stopped and left the car to watch the object but could not make out any details. They did detect a strange humming sound.

When asked if they were frightened, one of the boys admitted that he was and that he ran back to the car. The heat from the hovering object was so intense it was felt inside the car. In about ten minutes the object moved away.

Mrs. Rosetta Holmes, who interviewed the Grapperhaus boys, is convinced their story is true. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Grapperhaus, also believe their sons were not playing a prank.

The FSIC BULLETIN (March 1969) gives a more detailed account of this sighting. Their address is P. O. Drawer G, Akron, Ohio.

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Spoofoqram: Space Ship Captain to Home Planet: "No truth to rumor- earthlings are in orbit around Moon. Moving object observed is undoubtedly some of our own space junk."

MORE UFO READING . . . .

The March issue of SAGA has an article "Savage Little Men From Outer Space" by John A. Keel and has what is said to be the first color photo of a Humanoid taken July 11, 1967, in North Carolina. In a letter to SKYLOOK, Mr. Keel wrote: "The 'little man' photo in the current SAGA was a bitter disappointment to me. The editor had to have it retouched. The figure didn't even show up on the first plate."

Two articles deal with UFO's in the March issue of FATE. One is "UFO in California" by Coral Lorenzen and is APRO's investigation of the Redlands sighting of February 1968. The other is John Keel's "Our Skies are Filled with Junk." Both are interesting.

Another reminder that the "Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects" may be obtained for \$3.00 by writing to the Clearing House for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va., 22151. The catalog number is PB 179541.

The House Committee on Science and Astronautics has exhausted its printing of the House document of the July 1968 symposium, and there are no more free copies. This book gives more hard fact information on the UFO phenomena than any three or four best sellers we might name offhand.

If you didn't get to your local news stand in time to pick up a copy of "UFOs? Yes" by David R. Saunders and Roger Harkins, you may write to The New American Library, Inc., P. O. Box 2310, Grand Central Station, New York, N. Y. 10017. The price is 95¢ plus 10¢ for mailing costs plus your local sales tax. As you doubtless know, this book is Saunders' account of the events which led to the firing of both Saunders and Norman Levine from the Colorado Project, but is more than that in also giving an evaluation of all aspects of the UFO problem.

John Keel writes: "Soon I will be issuing a sober, no-nonsense news letter titled "Anomaly." It will be distributed only to those who actively participate in field research. No subscriptions. Those who might wish to participate can obtain a copy by sending me a stamped, self-addressed business envelope." His address is Box 351, Murray Hill Station, New York, N. Y. 10016.

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## THE READER WRITES

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JOHN KEEL, author, New York, N. Y. writes: "Thank you for the latest SKYLOOK. I found it especially interesting since I circulated a calculation last fall based upon my studies of previous 'flaps' in which I predicted there would be a 'flap' in January 1969 and that it would probably start in the midwest \* \* \* If you have not seen my articles on meteors in the March issue of MALE magazine, I hope that you can find a copy. The map drawn up by the staff artist is erroneous. The eastern edge of the "great circle" swoops into Michigan and the Lake Erie region and bends northwards into Ontario.

"I have reviewed all of the 'fireball' studies of the 1950's, and conducted several new studies of my own. There is an excellent chance that astronomers have been mis-identifying this phenomena for years. The 'fireballs' follow specific routes, often change course even moving at right angles to their original path, and a definite time schedule is followed year after year. These factors automatically rule out natural explanations. \* \* \*

"There are many, many M.I.B. incidents which have received no publicity and are completely unknown to the UFO buffery. There was a nationwide rash of this in January. Some of us who are directly involved in field investigations have decided to underplay these events for the time being \* \* \* most of us have now had direct personal experience with these characters. They are not from the government or C.I.A."

BRENT RAYNES, of Perkins Lane, Hallowell, Maine, writes: "Throughout the world 'Men in Black' reports have become too numerous to just brush aside into the 'poppycock' category. Too many reliable UFO witnesses and serious ufologists claim to have been threatened and silenced by these elusive silencers who trample the countryside and destroy important UFO evidence. In my opinion, serious UFO buffs should organize a new UFO organization, a special department of an organization or even maybe a publication that is solely dedicated to hunting and tracking down these mysterious agents. Then, and only then, may we ever uncover the true identity of the "men in black" and unveil their devious scheme--whatever that may be. It is very likely that most of these so-called 'Men in Black' are crackpots and pranksters, but I sincerely believe that some of them are probably secret government agents on a Top Secret Mission."

From PAUL BRACZYK, of Webster, Mass., "Being an amateur astronomer myself, I particularly enjoy The Astronomy Corner and support its apparent goal of acquainting the reader with commonly misinterpreted celestial objects." And ROD B. DYKE, editor of "The UFORC Journal" says, "I personally enjoy The Astronomy Corner by Ted Phillips. I like to know where to find the various planets."

GARY R. LESLEY writes from the Washington branch office of "Saucer Scoop", "It appears that you have produced an excellent, reliable and factual reference source of current UFO information and opinion. I will wholeheartedly add SKYLOOK to my list of recommended UFO periodicals. In my opinion, your straightforward approach does a fine job of separating fact from fantasy."

This is YOUR page--we invite you to use it.

News from Illinois Section APRO and Tri-State UFO Study Groups

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Tri-State UFO Study Group Sees Photos

The Tri-State Study Group held its monthly meeting Feb. 19, 1969 at the First United Presbyterian Church in Quincy, Ill. with members present from Hannibal and Palmyra (Mo.) and Quincy, Barry, Hamilton and Villa Park, Ill.

The evening was devoted to discussing the Gordon Koencke story. Gordon, 19, lives in the Davenport, Ia. area and has personally seen and photographed several UFO's. He submitted to the study group a number of illustrated diagrams, drawn by him and describing the UFO's that he witnessed. All of his sightings have been of a saucer like object with a dome on top.

Miss Sandra J. Eben, a psychologist with the Quincy Public School system, was present and gave a very interesting report on analyzing stories reported by people who see UFO's.

Mr. Bob Achzehner (Co-Chairman of Illinois Section APRO) happened to be in Quincy on business from Villa Park and was a welcome visitor. He gave an account of a UFO sighted by a 19-year old Indiana boy and showed some very good pictures of the UFO. The pictures have been submitted to APRO (Tucson, Ariz.) for evaluation.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Petzoldt, of Quincy, Program Chairmen, are presenting some very good programs.

By Corbyn Jacobs, Reporter

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John F. Schuessler to Address Group

John F. Schuessler, who heads the Tri-State UFO Study Group and is a state (Mo.) representative of APRO, will speak at 8 P. M. the night of April 24th at the Community Room of Lockwood and Gore in the Webster Groves Trust Co., Webster Groves, Mo.

Mr. Schuessler's subject will be "UFOs--Still Up in the Air" and his lecture is sponsored by the Baha'i Community in Webster Groves. This group is sponsoring a series of timely lectures of interest. "Why Our Cities Burn" is the topic that will precede Mr. Schuessler's address--and John says, "I consider the UFO problem equally hot."

Don't forget the date--April 24--and plan to attend.

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Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) is a non-profit scientific organization, dedicated to the eventual solution of the mystery of unidentified flying objects. The APRO Bulletin is one of the best in the field and is published bi-monthly. Address--APRO, 3910 E. Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona.



News from Illinois Section APRO and Tri-State UFO Study Groups

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Ted Phillips, Jr., of Sedalia, Mo., to Address Tri-State Group

Ted Phillips, Jr., SKYLOOK's Ozarks reporter and feature writer, will speak at the April 16th meeting of the Tri-State UFO Study Group. The meeting will be held at First United Presbyterian Church in Quincy, Ill., and will open at 7:30 p. m.

Mr. Phillips will relate his personal investigations of a number of outstanding UFO sightings in Missouri and will display photographs and sketches on slides to illustrate his lecture. One case still under investigation involves excellent photographs and considerable physical evidence. It has never been carried by the press or other news media but will appear in the May issue of SKYLOOK.

The tape recorded interview with William Overstreet, of Elmer, will be played and a general discussion will be led by Mr. Phillips, Walt Andrus and Bob Smulling.

Editor's Note: We'd like to add our personal recommendation that you make every effort to hear Mr. Phillips' lecture. A tireless investigator in the ufology field, he has more than 2,000 sightings in his personal files. His serious approach to the UFO phenomena deals with facts. If anything, Ted leans to the understatement. You'll never find him coloring a story to build it up a little. He is a living exponent of this magazine's policy--to separate fact from fantasy.

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Thumb Nail Sketch

There are many active workers in the Illinois and Tri-State UFO Study Groups and we'd like to give you a little personal background on some of them from time to time.

Bob Smulling, of Hamilton, Ill., is a member of both NICAP and APRO and one of the charter members of the Tri-State group. Serving as Vice Chairman last year, he is Chairman this year and is a very energetic investigator. He is a photographer by profession and has his own studio in Hamilton. He met his wife Nori while serving in the U. S. army in Japan. They have three children--ages ten, nine and seven.

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SAUCER SCOOP is edited by Joan Whritenour and covers the UFO field, presenting both sides on any controversial subject. Subscription is \$4.00 per year--12 issues. 6464 34th Ave., North, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33710.

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The new mailing address for E.P.I.C (or SKYWATCH) is Box 124, Schonarie, New York. 12157. This bi-monthly magazine is well worth the subscription price of \$3.00 per year. Sample copy - 35¢. Editor Jennifer Stevens writes with wit and knowledge.

For the past several months a Stockholm, Sweden, researcher named Ake Franzen has been digging into the nearly forgotten Scandinavian "flap" of 1932-34. He has now collected over 80 newspaper reports from that period which include many pro statements by top military men and cabinet ministers. Much of this material will soon be published in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Immediately after the Condon Report was issued, I wrote to Mr. Franzen and suggested that he contact Dr. Tage O. Eriksson of the Research Institute for National Defense in Stockholm (named on page 554 of the Condon Report) and ask for official records and reports of the 1932-34 incidents.

On Feb. 24, 1969, Mr. Franzen sent me the details of his inquiry and I will summarize them here. Instead of writing to the Research Institute, he phoned Dr. Eriksson directly and was invited to the latter's office for a personal interview.

Eriksson told him that those early newspaper reports were the product of mass hysteria and overworked imaginations. His own theory for those sightings were that they were hot-air balloons (most of the reports described winged aircraft, not balloon-shaped objects).

Mr. Franzen brought up the official statements of Major Porat and General Virgin (who was the head of the Swedish Air Force in 1934). Dr. Eriksson implied that those statements had been distorted by the press. He added that he had met two members of the Condon group while visiting the U. S. last year and he felt "they were very reliable people."

Four days after Dr. Franzen's interview, the Swedish press published a photograph taken by a man in Dalarna. The picture, a color shot, showed two copper-colored saucers shaped like "enormous bus wheels" hovering above a church near Lake Siljan. A few days later the newspaper "Dala-Demokraten" presented Dr. Eriksson's analysis of the case. He said the objects were hot air balloons.

According to the Condon Report, Eriksson was visited by Mr. Low in the summer of 1967.

Editor's Note: We think Mr. Keel chose just the right title for his article.

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Coming Next Month--"Physical Evidence" by John Keel. In May SKYLOOK!

## John Schuessler Reports on UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis

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The March meeting of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis held its March meeting the 16th in O'Fallon, Mo., with about twenty present.

It was noted that a wealth of UFO information has been published since the Condon Report, and the book by Saunders--"UFO's--Yes" is among the best. The background presented by Saunders on Condon, Low and others, their apparent attitudes and context of their early lectures and letters leads one to a better understanding of the nature of the negative report by the Condon Committee. It appears they should have written a treatise on crackpot cases and not bothered with all the others. Many of the cases presented by the Condon report would lead one to believe a positive rather than negative conclusion would be reached. Somehow, it was avoided. This is unfortunate for it reduces the Condon report to the status of "just another book on IFO's, accompanied by the excuse that all the UFO's couldn't be explained.

On the other hand, I believe that the many individuals that made up the committee should be congratulated in their attempt to become "UFO experts" in a few months. This phenomena has been around for quite awhile but real experts are few and far between.

It is a shame and a great loss to the nation that experts like Hynek, MacDonald, the Lorenzens etc were not attached directly to the Condon project. Maybe the project should have been headed by some of these people.

The UFO Study Group will skip the formal meeting in April and will attend the lecture entitled "UFO's--Still Up in the Air" to be given by John Schuessler on April 24th. A regular business meeting will be held in May and in June the group will meet jointly with a group from southern Illinois.

An interesting side event occurred concurrently with the meeting. Joe Hooper, an O'Fallon resident, decided to take advantage of the sunny Spring day to attempt to locate evidence that may have resulted from the August 1968 UFO incident just outside O'Fallon. He came across a set of holes or imprints in the ground that were in the area of the sighting. The Study Group visited the site following the close of the formal meeting. Measurements and photographs were made and will be sent to APRO for correlation to other possible like incidents. This evidence was possibly the result of a natural event and not connected with the UFO sightings. At this late date, we will probably never know. It does show that an investigator should never limit his investigation. One can never look too much or too far.

Editor's Note: Mr. Schuessler, in a note accompanying the above, remarked that some of his opinions were showing--and we could cut them as we wished. We didn't cut a word out. Our opinion of the Condon report is the same as John's--but John says it better.

News from Illinois Section APRO and Tri-State UFO Study Groups

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March Meeting of Tri-State UFO Study Group --By Corbyn Jacobs

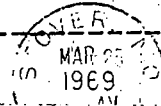
The Tri-State UFO Study Group held their monthly meeting at the First Presbyterian Church in Quincy, Ill., March 19, 1969.

Chairman Robert Smulling, of Hamilton, Ill., presided with members present from Quincy, Hamilton, Plainville, Barry and Coatsburg, all of Illinois, and Hannibal, Lewistown, Palmyra and Lancaster, Mo.

Stan Merkett, of Lancaster, gave a very interesting report of interviews he had conducted with residents of the Novelty, Mo., area in regard to UFO sightings. One observation was made in the Lancaster-Glenwood area and it was noted that a beam of light came down from the object to the highway. As a car approached, the beam faded away. In this case the light beam was large at the UFO and tapered down to a few feet at the road.

Mr. Walt Andrus, Jr., APRO representative for Illinois, presented a very interesting tape made by Mr. Ted Phillips, of Sedalia. Mr. Phillips interviewed Mr. Will Overstreet of Elmer, Mo., in regard to a UFO he saw while driving to work as a rural mail carrier, March 4. (Editor's note: other details given here are the same as reported elsewhere in SKYLOOK) \* \* \* Mr. Phillips stated that this one of the best sightings and interviews that he had conducted.

The April meeting will be held at Quincy, April 16, at the First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Ted Phillips, of Sedalia, will be the guest speaker.



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