

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON
AERIAL PHENOMENA
NICAP

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HYNEK BOOK STILL DUE THIS YEAR Candid Look at Blue Book Promised

Dr. J. Allen Hynek's personal account of life behind the scenes at Project Blue Book is still scheduled for publication late this year. Announced last summer (*UFO Investigator*, August 1970), the book was targeted for release this coming winter. In a recent conversation with NICAP, Hynek said this is still the expected release period, with publication possibly coming as early as November or December.

Tentatively entitled *UFOs As a Human Experience*, the book will appear under the stamp of Henry Regnery, publisher of Jacques Vallee's two books on UFOs. Vallee and Hynek are friends and former scientific associates at Northwestern University. The original publisher, Cowles, declined to publish the book when agreement could not be reached on the way in which Hynek would treat his topic.

One of the book's chapters will be titled "Pages from Blue Book, Personal Reminiscences." According to Hynek, it will contain "some surprises" about how the Air Force conducted its program of "thorough scientific investigation" into UFOs. This will include commentary on the now famous secret meeting in 1953 of the CIA's Robertson Panel, which concluded that the subject of UFOs should be "debunked" to reduce public interest and help clear government communications channels of sighting reports.

Hynek was consultant to Project Blue Book for 21 years (1948-1969) and an observer at the Robertson Panel sessions. He presently chairs the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern and directs the University's Dearborn Observatory.

NO TRACE FOUND OF CAPE COD OBJECT Skin Divers Probe Lake in Vain

Massachusetts's Scargo Lake appears to have swallowed whole the strange metallic object that was spotted last January 7 arcing through the sky on an apparent impact trajectory with the lake (*UFO Investigator*, March 1971). Skin divers have now made multiple searches along the lake bottom in an unsuccessful effort to determine if the object crashed through the lake's winter ice crust and came to rest in the water's muddy floor, as eyewitnesses to the object assumed it had when it dropped out of sight near the ground.

Strongest evidence that the object entered the lake was a strange hole discovered in the ice moments after the object was seen. No satisfactory explanation could be offered for the hole, and mathematical calculations showed it was located at the exact point where the object seemed to go down. Divers have deposited a cement

block on the bottom at the site of the hole, now that the ice has gone.

Further attempts to locate the object are planned, possibly with metal detectors or other equipment. If the object is completely buried in mud, it may never be recovered, since visibility at the bottom of the lake, reported to be very limited, would hamper retrieval efforts.

PRESS INTEREST MOUNTING IN UFOs NICAP Pushed To Keep Up with Queries

News media throughout the United States are showing renewed interest in the UFO problem. Queries received at NICAP from newspapers and broadcast stations during the past three months indicate a dramatic increase in the amount of press coverage given to UFOs as compared with coverage given during the winter months.

Early signs of this revival were evident last year when NICAP experienced a sharp upturn in requests for information from media representatives (*UFO Investigator*, September 1970). This interest subsided, however, as the end of the year approached, and did not begin to reappear until early March.

The revival is particularly significant because it comes at a time when there has been no widespread publicity of sightings to precipitate it. Instead, there appears to be growing concern over whether the Condon Report settled the UFO controversy, and whether the government's call for an end to UFO research was justified.

Chief among the news articles that have appeared recently is the front-page article of June 14 in the *Wall Street Journal*. A survey of present opinion on the UFO problem, the article quotes NICAP at length and briefly describes NICAP's current computer study, Project ACCESS.

Other newspapers giving recent coverage to NICAP are the Pottstown (Pa.) *Mercury*, Erie (Pa.) *Times*, Philadelphia *Enquirer*, Houston *Chronicle*, Pasadena *Star-News*, and Hagerstown (Md.) *Daily Mail*.

Early this month, NICAP talked with reporters at *Time* magazine, which is planning an article on UFOs in its Science section late in June, and *Science News* magazine, which is also planning coverage in an upcoming issue.

Contacts with radio and TV stations since March have resulted in a number of interviews and television appearances for NICAP. In the former category are conversations with WSM, Nashville, Tennessee; WWUN, Jackson, Mississippi; WCBM, Baltimore, Maryland; KNCR, Fortuna, California; WOR, New York City; and NBC News, Los Angeles.

Recent TV appearances include the "Panorama" show on WTTG, Washington, D.C.; "Crossfire," WROC, Rochester, N.Y.; "Alternatives," WFAN, Washington, D.C.; and the "Evening News," WHEC, Rochester, N.Y.

News Commentary

THE NEW POLITICS OF UFO RESEARCH Radical Left Bidding for Dominance While Many on Right Yearn for Another Flap

This concludes last month's survey of changing political attitudes in UFO research. Additional commentary on the present political spectrum in the UFO field is planned for a later issue.

The same might be said for other groups on the right, most of which have become less outspoken and less animated in their belief that UFOs should be taken seriously. There is, for example, a silent majority on the right who believe that UFO research is no longer very interesting because the days of "flaps" and mass publicity seem to have passed. Most of these people would probably not regard themselves as strongly conservative, because they have little sympathy for the debunking policies of the Air Force or the dogmatism of other spokesmen on the far right. Nonetheless, they do opt for the return of an earlier period when UFOs occupied a different priority in the national stream of consciousness. And from time to time, they are prone to doubt their more moderate compatriots who argue that, sightings or no sightings, the UFO problem still exists and still cries out for competent examination.

For this group, the new left themes of mystery and metaphysics hold little appeal. They derive no comfort from the view that UFOs are manifestations of some strange and obscure force from some unknown dimension of reality. It is all too avant-garde, too conjectural to satisfy their more pedestrian tastes for palpable, black-and-white evidence that UFOs are real.

Somewhere between this group and the middle of the spectrum is another camp that also looks back at the "good old days," but with less melancholy and despair. These observers are unhappy with the decrease in sightings and publicity, but they want the research to continue. They believe that tried and true methods of investigation should be maintained, with UFO reports continuing to be collected and evaluated until another wave of sightings occurs. Generally speaking, they distrust attempts to introduce more sophisticated (but still scientific) forms of research, feeling that these lack a foundation in the traditions of UFO study and may be too mechanical and antiseptic to properly cope with the problem. Like their more reactionary cousins, they find little to get excited about in the offerings of the new left.

Less conservative than this group but still very much to the right is the hard core of veteran investigators--mostly trained scientists--who have been active in UFO research. While not endorsing any one explanation for UFOs, these men regard the phenomenon as unconventional in nature, and generally look with interest on the possibility that at least some UFO reports may constitute evidence of extraterrestrial visitation.

Politically, these researchers represent one of the most respectable elements on the spectrum, due to their professional backgrounds and their willingness to use orthodox methods of science to study the problem. Although subject to criticism from the ultra-respectable far right, these researchers have sufficient scientific credentials to maintain at least partial immunity from the kind of attack typically leveled against the "buffs and believers" and those whose interest in UFOs is essentially a form of self-aggrandizement.

For these scientists, the flap periods of yesteryear hold no overriding attraction. Although they look forward

with interest to continued sightings, they are primarily concerned with understanding the data already on hand. Central to this objective is the need for recognition of the problem by the scientific community, and development of sources that can fund an on-going research program. Much of the work of these moderate scientists has been to press for Congressional and scientific interest in such a program, and to contribute toward it by assembling relevant material and making private investigations of sighting reports.

In contrast to the right, the middle of the political spectrum has few notable occupants. In theory, those scientists unable to repress a curiosity that there may be something to the UFO controversy are in this area, sitting on the political fence, although a few may lean a little to the right or left, depending on whether they suspect UFOs of being primarily physical or psychological phenomena. In practice, however, none of these scientists is sufficiently concerned with the problem to be a political activist, preferring instead to monitor events within the UFO field from a professionally safe distance.

On the liberal side of the fence, the population density is substantially less than that on the right. This was not the case in the 1960s, especially among those who took up positions near the center. As already indicated, however, the new period is witnessing a centrifugal movement along the spectrum that is polarizing the politics of UFO research more than was evident during the days when interest was running high and points of view were still being defined.

The worst casualty of this change is the moderate left, where a large percentage of the "believers" used to reside. This camp has always taken UFOs seriously, but has usually been more interested in the sightings per se, and the theories offered to explain them, than in the research and the more mundane aspects of systematic investigation. A good portion of this group shifted to the right when Blue Book closed and sighting publicity decreased. In fact, the already described "silent majority" on the right is essentially displaced moderates from the left.

The few principals still active on the near left are followers of the subject who favor a more liberal approach to the UFO problem but who find the lack of discipline on the far left a deterrent to productivity and an indication that not all left extremists are seekers of truth.

Insofar as their attitudes on UFOs are concerned, most of these moderates remain interested in the extraterrestrial hypothesis, rather than in the more sensational theories of the far-out radicals. They are not closed to alternate explanations, but they regard the ETH as still the most reasonable answer to the bulk of puzzling UFO reports. Variations on the ETH--such as the hollow earth theory and underwater UFO bases--have some proponents among this group, but politically there is little support for such proposals.

In the broad view, then, the new climate of UFO research has produced a spectrum of opinion less balanced and less dynamic than that of an earlier period. Most of the noise of the moment is emanating from the far left, but this is by no means a sure indication that the most politically significant activity is occurring in that quarter. A more likely area to focus on is the moderate right, where scientific respectability is still in evidence, and common sense can still be found wedded to an open mind. It may even be that the course of UFO research in the 1970s, and perhaps its ultimate destiny, will prove to be a function of what happens near the center of the spectrum, among those investigators who neither oversimplify the problem nor overcomplicate the answer.

TWO MEN REPORT DAYLIGHT SIGHTING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Two New England farmers--one a candidate for the Roman Catholic priesthood--reportedly witnessed an unidentified object that lifted silently off the ground in clear daylight and moved upward in apparent controlled flight. The sighting occurred near Newmarket, New Hampshire, on the afternoon of May 31, 1971, just ten miles from the site of the famous UFO sighting in 1965 at Exeter, New Hampshire.

The UFO was a clearly configured object, gray-white in color, shaped like a partially squashed sphere. The witnesses judged its size as that of a small car. No structural features could be observed, but the upper surface of the object seemed unusually bright in comparison to its underside. This was especially true when the object ascended.

The object was seen shortly after 1 p.m. EDT in a rural area just outside town. When first spotted, it was rising slowly off the ground on a straight vertical course. Although a stiff breeze was blowing, its motion seemed unaffected, and it continued steadily upward until it approached a cloud bank. It then "arced over" to a horizontal trajectory and moved out of sight.

At no time during the sighting did the object emit any noticeable sound or exhibit any signs of propulsion. When the witnesses first saw it, they thought it might be a balloon, since

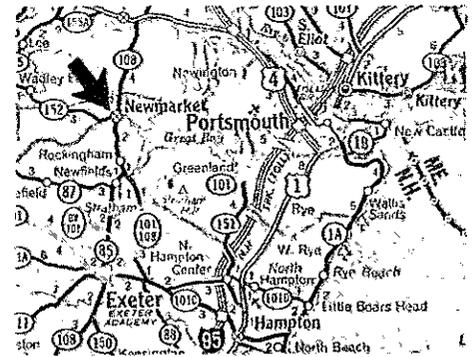
that was the only conventional thing they could imagine under the circumstances. They changed their minds, however, as they watched the object make its vertical climb and move counter to the wind.

The field where the sighting took place is bounded by trees and railroad tracks. Access to it is by dirt road. The two men had just arrived at the field in their truck when they spotted the object. It was at the opposite side of the clearing, some 1500 feet away.

The weather at the time of the sighting was cool and cloudy. An overcast prevailed at 4000 feet, with scattered clouds in evidence at lower altitudes. As the UFO neared the cloud ceiling, it became harder to see because of its cloud-like color. It remained in sight, however, and seemed to pick up speed as it moved off in level flight.

As soon as the object had departed, the men drove their truck across the field and got out to examine the ground where they assumed the object had been sitting. No marks or other physical traces were evident. More puzzled than ever as to what they had seen, the men returned home and reported the observation to the local airbase, which took the information and said the men would be contacted later. They were not.

NICAP found out about the sighting the following day and made a detailed investigation during the first two weeks of June. The two witnesses, both in their 30s, gave straightforward accounts of what had happened and took investigators back to the site. One of



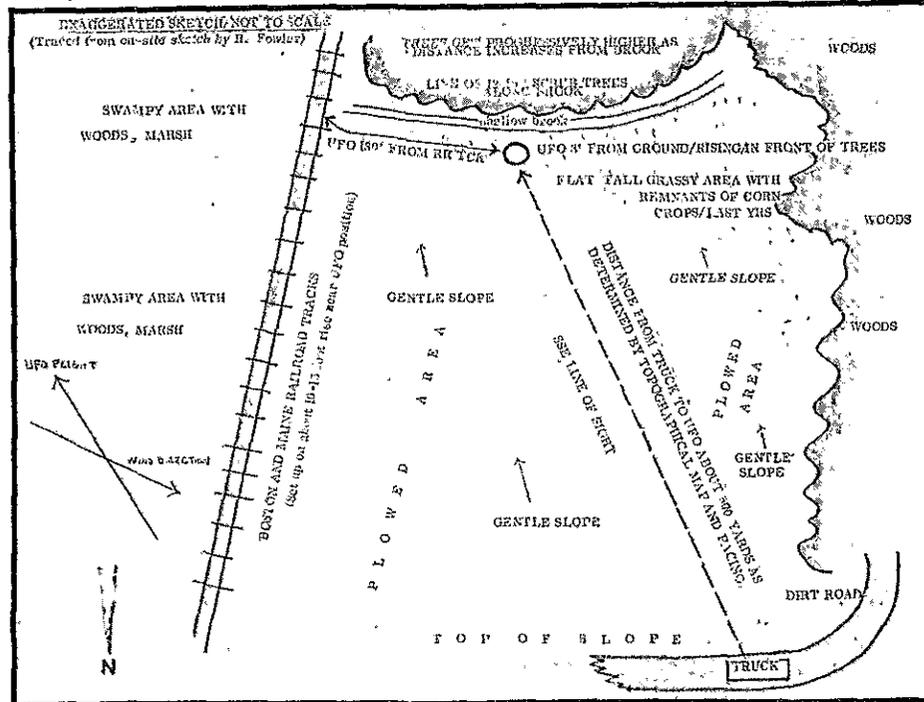
Sighting occurred at Newmarket, in same general area where famous Exeter sightings took place six years earlier.

the witnesses--the driver of the truck--owns a farm in Newmarket and rents the field where the sighting occurred. The other witness, his brother, is spending the summer on the farm and will enter a religious school in the Fall to study for the priesthood.

The investigation was conducted by NICAP's Boston Area Subcommittee, which gave primary attention to the possibility the UFO was a balloon. Checks with the airbase where the sighting was reported (located approximately seven miles from the site) showed no balloon launches or aircraft flights scheduled from that facility on May 31 (an official holiday). Negative results were also obtained from the Atlantic Weather Service, which launches balloons off the coast of Maine and New Hampshire. Logan Airport in Boston did acknowledge release of a balloon at 1 p.m. on May 31 (ten minutes before the sighting occurred), but distance, wind direction, and type of balloon rule out the Logan balloon as an explanation for the case.

The Subcommittee made additional checks with the FAA Radar Operations Center in southeastern New Hampshire, and police departments in the Newmarket area. No sightings had been reported to any of these agencies. Queries to residents of the locale where the UFO was seen also failed to turn up other witnesses.

A number of interesting similarities are suggested between this case and that of April 18 near Pittsburgh, reported in last month's newsletter. Both sightings involve two witnesses in a vehicle. Both occurred on a farm, with open field between the observers and the object. Both UFOs were very close to the ground when sighted, but never seen to land. In each case, trees were behind the object, providing a specific indication of the distance from the observer to the UFO. Both objects were silent and had no apparent effect on the soil or terrain. And neither case was reported to the newsmedia.



Investigator's sketch shows position of witnesses' truck when they first spotted UFO on opposite side of field. Line of sight to object was unobstructed.



MEMOS
FOR
MEMBERS

BACK ISSUE ORDERS POURING IN

As a result of our announcement in the December issue, we have received a large number of orders for back issues of the newsletter. Not expecting such a flood, we have been hard pressed to fill the orders promptly. Our biggest headache is those issues we do not have in stock and therefore must duplicate each time they are ordered. This takes extra time and requires special processing. To those of you who recently ordered back issues, we appreciate your interest and hope you will excuse us if we take a week or two more than normal to ship your order. If you have not ordered back issues but would like to do so, we are listing below those issues we have in stock and those we must duplicate, plus the prices.

Issues in Stock

Vol. I, Nos. 5,6
Vol. II, Nos. 1,7
Vol. III, Nos. 2,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12
Vol. IV, all numbers
Vol. V, 1 (only one published)
1970, May-December
1971, all issues to date

Issues Not In Stock

Vol. I, Nos. 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12
Vol. II, Nos. 2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12
Vol. III, Nos. 1,3,4

Prices

Issues in stock: Members, \$.35 per issue
Nonmembers, \$.50

Issues not in stock: Members, \$.80
Nonmembers, \$1.00

(Note: For Vol. I, Nos. 1-3, member price is \$3.20 per issue; nonmember, \$3.50. Each of these issues has 32 pages.)

YOU GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH

Some members have wondered if they were cheated out of information when we switched from an 8-page bimonthly newsletter to a 4-page monthly. The answer is no. Twelve 4-page issues are the same as six 8-page issues. In going to a monthly, we felt we could keep our members better informed while still providing them as much information as they were getting under the old system. Our publishing schedule is still not as regular as we would like, but between May 1970 and May 1971, NICAP members received 12 newsletters. This is over twice the number received in any previous 12-month period.

On June 13, 1971, Dr. James E. McDonald took his own life at Tucson, Arizona. His death followed a three-month period of severe mental depression and an unsuccessful attempt at suicide on April 9 that left him blind in both eyes. The cause of his depression is not known, but it is believed to relate to personal problems, not to his professional or public life. Dr. McDonald was a physicist at the University of Arizona, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and a leading advocate of continued scientific investigation of UFOs. His studies of the UFO problem had earned him international recognition as an authority on the subject, and his writings had made a major contribution to serious UFO literature. Although his stand on the UFO question and on such other controversial issues as the SST had brought him criticism from politicians, scientific colleagues, and the press, he was acknowledged even by his critics to be a highly competent scientist and a man of remarkable energy and determination. At the time of his death, he was recovering at a Tucson hospital from the initial suicide attempt. His body was discovered in a desert area outside the city, with a .38 revolver beside it.

UFO PAPERS STILL AVAILABLE

Members may be interested to know that the following two papers on UFOs are still available: 1) "UFOs: An Historical Perspective," presented at the 1967 ASME Design Engineering Conference. Order from and make checks payable to: George Earley, 9 Hiram Lane, Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002. Price: \$1.00 postpaid. 2) "Scienza and the UFO," presented at the 1969 NAA Convention. Order from and make checks payable to: Kenneth Steinmetz, 1680 West Hoya Place, Denver, Colorado 80223. Price: \$2.00 postpaid (\$3.00 foreign).

A WORD ABOUT MEMBER CARDS

The membership card you receive with your annual renewal form shows a date that is one year in advance of your current expiration date. This means that when you renew, you automatically have an up-to-date card. Remember, though, that you have to renew to make the card valid. Don't confuse the date on the card and the date you actually expire (shown on the renewal form).

THOBEN PAINTINGS TO GRACE NICAP

A series of original paintings done for NICAP by Connecticut artist and NICAP member Ted Thoben will be put on permanent display at our new offices later this year. The paintings depict some of the UFO sightings that have been reported to NICAP over the years. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Thoben for his contribution, and we will show his work with great pride.

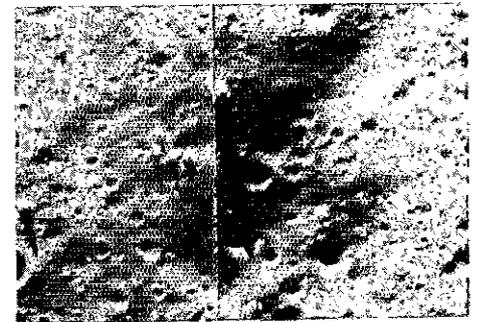
Q/A

Q. Is The Reference for Outstanding UFO Sighting Reports, published by the UFO Information Retrieval Center, still available?
B.J./Lynn, Mass.

A. This book is presently out of print. If it becomes available again, we will advise our members.

Q. Are copies of the "lunar tower" pictures referred to in your April issue available from NICAP?
T.F./Hope, Ariz.

A. NICAP does not have copies of these pictures available for general distribution. They were taken in November 1966 by NASA's Lunar Orbiter spacecraft (not Ranger, as stated by NICAP's interviewer) and are available only from NASA. The principal photograph showing the "towers" is picture No. 66-H-758, reproduced below. Scientists now believe that the lunar features casting the strange shadows are not as tall as originally assumed and therefore cannot properly be described as "towers." They are probably more like cubes or pyramids in shape. The shadows appear elongated because the terrain on which they fall slopes downward, away from the protuberances, distorting the shadows' true shapes.



Q. How do I obtain the book Incident at Exeter?
J.T./Indianapolis, Ind.

A. This book was published in both hard and soft cover by G. P. Putnam's and may still be available at a newsstand or bookstore. If you cannot find it, try ordering it. It is distributed in paperback as Berkley Medallion Book No. S1354.

Q. How many books has Major Donald Keyhoe written on UFOs, and how can I buy them?
M.K./Ljubljana, Yugoslavia

A. Major Keyhoe has written four UFO books. In order of publication, they are: *The Flying Saucers Are Real*, *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*, *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, and *Flying Saucers, Top Secret*. Only one of these, the second, is still in print. It may be obtained in hard or soft cover from Universal-Tandem Publishing Co., 14 Gloucester Road, London SW7, England.