

THE "FLAP" PHENOMENON IN THE UNITED STATES

An Examination and Analysis

John A. Keel

More than 60 American and foreign periodicals have carried John A. Keel's series of UFO articles, as well as over 150 major newspapers. His book "Operation Trojan Horse" will be published by G. P. Putnam's this year.

Flap—Originally an Air Force term for an ungovernable crisis. In ufology, a "flap" denotes a specific period of time during which a sudden outbreak of UFO sightings occurs. For example: if many sightings occur simultaneously nationwide on a single day, that day becomes a "flap date". A "flap" may also take place in a single area, marked by a beginning, a peak, and a decline in sightings. Such localized "flaps" can last from a few hours to several months.

HISTORICAL research by a very small group of dedicated ufologists is beginning to reveal some surprising patterns in the overall activities of unidentified flying objects. The year 1947 did not mark the start of the "UFO Era", as so many writers and students of the phenomenon have believed. "Flap" cycles have now been traced and documented back to the early years of the 19th century and additional research may eventually demonstrate that UFO "flaps" have occurred consistently on almost a regular time-table throughout all of history.

Not only have the "flying saucers" always been with us, but they seem to have always elected to remain aloof from our organized social groups and they may have operated under many guises, following deliberate patterns of confusion and deception. As Gordon Creighton, Allen Greenfield, and other scholars have suggested, it may be that all mythology, demonology, vampire legends, leprechaun stories, etc., are actually based upon earlier "flaps" and have merely been coloured and distorted by human interpretation of these events. An organized re-examination of all of man's myths and lore may yield important clues to the overall phenomenon.

I have now had an opportunity to investigate and study the numerous "flaps" of the past three years and have spent a great deal of time, effort and money probing into the astounding events taking place in the "flap" areas. The scattered published UFO sightings represent only a fraction of the overall situation, constituting only the small, visible part of an enormous iceberg. As a journalist I feed on facts and I have found that there are many, many solid facts which have been neglected by the general field of ufology, either because those facts were too fantastic to be considered seriously within the limitations of our own environmental framework, or because so many UFO researchers have been preoccupied with the random sighting reports and have made no organized effort to compile and analyse the "Big Picture". We have been laboriously counting the trees in a foggy forest and have made no maps and charted no paths.

Let us concern ourselves here with that "Big Picture" and disregard the many petty controversies and side issues which have diverted the ufological field for so long.

THE REPORT VERSUS SIGHTING RATIO

During my visits to "flap" areas it quickly became clear that only a small percentage of witnesses were actually reporting sightings. These reporting observers (ROs) do not give us a full impression of the scope of the phenomenon. After a lot of study and calculating, I have estimated that a single report may represent at least 250 unreported sightings.¹ I've made it my business to dig out as many of the non-reporting witnesses as possible. A single two-inch newspaper item from a remote area has often proved to be the tip-off that a

major "flap" was under way there. Many newspaper editors regard UFO reports as "human interest" stories and tend to slight them or ignore them altogether. Paradoxically, the longer a "flap" lasts in an area, the less publicity it tends to receive. Both the newspapers and their readers are inclined to become bored and blasé with routine sightings during an extended "flap".

Because the UFO sceptics have been critical of the sanity and sobriety of ROs, amateur UFO investigators have devoted more time and energy to investigating the "reliability" of ROs than to investigating the actual phenomenon being reported. Actually, few people bother to report anything to the police or local newspapers unless they are quite certain that what they have seen was most unusual and unexplainable. Very few witnesses are willing to expose themselves to local ridicule and very, very few would deliberately lie to local authorities. Most witnesses prefer to remain silent about their sightings and fewer than 1 per cent bother to report anything directly to the U.S. Air Force—thanks to the AF's long anti-UFO campaign (and the UFO buffs' well-publicized anti-AF campaign).

The actual scope of the phenomenon is thus being suppressed voluntarily at the source by the witnesses themselves. To worsen matters, many newspapers ignore most of the reports that come their way, concentrating on a random few turned over to them by the local police. And the local police rarely even bother to keep even a superficial record of the reports they receive during "flaps". So a tremendous amount of information is lost altogether.

By the same token, the two leading UFO organizations in the U.S., APRO and NICAP, are limited to issuing thin little newsletters every few months and simply do not have the space to detail the many reports they receive. Most of those reports end up in forgotten files and neither organization makes an effort to compile monthly or quarterly statistical reports breaking down the sighting information they receive. They select only the most "interesting" sightings for publication and frequently devote columns of valuable space to speculative articles, attacks against government policy, and the fostering of the personality conflicts which dominate and divide the field.

To a newsman, a radio commentator, or a scientist, statistical information is far more important than piles of anecdotes about the funny things people are reporting. The Condon Committee at Colorado University found that it literally had to start from scratch because no one had bothered to prepare statistical data in all of these twenty years. The sceptics have never been confronted with solid statistical data and there have been too many flaws in the random speculations in the field to convince any of the hard-nosed types who prefer to reject the entire subject out of hand.

Individual sightings are so numerous that they literally become meaningless. The data within those individual reports must be extracted, sifted and weighed. Such data includes more than a mere description of the object. The geographical locations of the sightings are quite important, as we shall see further on. The physiological and psychological effects on the witnesses are also of prime importance and these effects have been

examined in only a handful of the 100,000 or so cases published since 1947.²

If each published report represents hundreds of unreported incidents, then many millions of people have seen UFOs in the past twenty years.³ The tired explanations of "mass hysteria", "mass hallucinations", etc., simply cannot be applied. The USAF and the sceptics have tried to explain away the massive "flaps" as being solitary weather balloons, flights of birds, and misinterpretations of conventional objects or natural phenomena. There have undoubtedly been many mistakes but if we had accurate statistics for these past twenty years we would probably find that 90 per cent of all sightings cannot be easily explained—or explained at all. The weight of the observational evidence is now on our side. What is needed is a concentrated effort to correlate that evidence and construct some sensible conclusions—conclusions which fit the data. Until now, most ufologists have tried to select only data which seemed to fit their conclusions.

You cannot "research" this subject by merely reading books and newsletters containing the more "interesting" sightings and written for the commercial market. You can't investigate UFOs by visiting "flap" areas a year later and staring at the sky. Such excursions are tourism, not investigation.

The obvious place to begin is with a study of the "flaps" of earlier periods so that we can compare contemporary events with them. Newspaper clippings rarely tell the whole story. Editors and reporters are usually reluctant to describe the wilder aspects of incidents related to them by witnesses. Unfortunately, we are forced to rely upon newspaper reports for our study of the earlier "flaps", and even for our study of the more recent events of the 1940s and '50s. Naturally, some workable method is needed to organize and interpret this kind of data.

THE POLL METHOD

Commercial television in the United States is ruled by the Rating System. Pollsters study the viewing habits of a mere 1,200 representative families and from such polls they claim to understand the viewing habits of millions. Years ago, the pollsters interviewed many thousands of people to obtain their figures, but gradually they discovered they got the same results with a much smaller sampling. By 1960, the TV pollsters were concentrating on 1,900 families in all age and income groups scattered across the country. Today they are down to 1,200. In other words, if 40 per cent of those 1,200 families watch a specific programme on a specific night, it has been proven to the satisfaction of this multi-million dollar industry, that 40 per cent of all the viewers in the country were following suit. This is a bit hard for people not familiar with polling methods to understand—but it actually works. Computers dealing with much larger samples have verified the results.

We can extend the poll method to UFO sightings provided our sampling represents an adequate cross-section of ROs and does not concentrate on a specific group such as policemen or airline pilots. A thousand well-investigated reports can actually represent—and represent accurately—millions of unreported sightings. A survey of 1,000 witnesses can give us the "Big

Picture". In previous articles I have mentioned briefly some of my findings using the poll method. I have discovered a surprising number of people claiming to have been pursued by UFOs were school teachers or former school teachers. However, we need a larger sampling of perhaps 1,000 auto pursuit cases before we can make a blanket statement such as, "70 per cent of all those involved in auto pursuits were school-teachers". All kinds of surprising correlative data can be extracted from in-depth surveys, provided we collect full information on the background, life and interests of each witness. I have found that nearly all of the "silent contactees" I have uncovered have many things in common. This has led me to the controversial conclusion that the UFOs are selecting some witnesses in some unfathomable manner. We can probably learn much more from studying the witnesses than from studying the endless and widely varied descriptions of the objects they reported.

The poll method is an extremely important tool which has never been properly applied to UFO research, (for a further explanation of polling techniques, see Dr. Sprinkle's article in this issue). The sighting forms utilized by the AF and diligently copied by the civilian groups, concentrates on descriptions of the objects and their behaviour and the questions are such that they enable the AF "analysts" to select a natural explanation for the phenomenon being reported. They are "trick" forms and do not extract any of the factors which might be more important and more relevant to an understanding of the "Big Picture".

Our first step, therefore, is to recognize the fact that a good sampling can—and does—represent the whole. We can collect another 100,000 reports without ever learning anything or proving anything unless we can somehow extract the data within those reports. This should be our prime task as UFO researchers—extracting and analysing rather than collecting and speculating.

RECENT FLAPS IN THE UNITED STATES

There are many "unknown flaps" in the United States and because our research methods have been pitifully inadequate we have no way of knowing how many of these "secret flaps" have occurred, or how often. It is even quite possible that the "lull" periods were actually periods of intense activity. The late Dr. Morris K. Jessup did an entire book on the sightings of 1955—a "lull" year.⁴ I have seen and reviewed a huge private collection of clippings and reports from 1958—another "lull" year.

Ivan T. Sanderson lives on a farm near a small town in the western hills of New Jersey. One day in the fall of 1966, he wandered into the local newspaper office and the concerned editor showed him a bulging file of unpublished UFO reports from the local citizenry, asking for his opinion. Mr. Sanderson wrote an article on UFOs for the paper and was immediately buried in local reports from neighbours who had kept silent until then! There had been an authentic "flap" right in his own backyard—including a number of brief "touchdowns".⁵

The sightings around the Wanaque Reservoir in New Jersey received considerable publicity early in 1966, but during my repeated trips to the area I found witnesses

who had been seeing UFOs almost continuously for two years before one of the objects blatantly appeared directly over the reservoir and created a "flap".⁶ That "flap" still continues sporadically but the police and local officials are weary of the crowds and the publicity and keep the new sightings to themselves. They haven't been "censored" or "hushed up". They are merely trying to keep interest in the phenomenon at a minimum to make things easier for themselves. This kind of voluntary "silencing" often takes place in "flap" sectors.

Unbeknown to UFO researchers in Atlanta, Georgia, a massive "UFO flap" exploded only a few miles away in the fall of 1967. Definite circular metallic objects were seen daily by hundreds of people living in the vicinity of the huge Savannah River Project (it covers as much area as the city of Chicago). This plant manufactures atomic weapons and is sealed off and heavily guarded. The local newspaper editors were aware of the sensitivity of the matter and shied away from mentioning the UFO reports they were receiving.⁷

At approximately that same time (September through December, 1967), another massive "flap" broke out in New York state. The hundreds of sightings were concentrated around Ithaca, N.Y., and the desolate region occupied by a semi-secret radio telescope installation. In addition, an atomic energy plant is being planned for the area and the objects uncannily appeared directly over the proposed site. The local newspapers played the whole thing down until the "flap" subsided somewhat in the spring of 1968.⁸

A few hundred miles south of Ithaca, another "flap" took place simultaneously around Harrisburg, Pa. This was also a big one but the local press barely mentioned it. There were scores of low-level sightings every night for weeks. Some were concentrated around the huge telephone installation there—a key installation for the telephone system in the whole northeast. Other sightings seemed to collect around a top secret government project situated in the hills a few miles north of Harrisburg. Members of the Condon Committee spent a month at Harrisburg but their public comments about the situation were vague and on the negative side.⁹

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the long-time Air Force UFO consultant, visited Ithaca and expressed astonishment and concern over the scope of the incidents there.¹⁰

When I first visited West Virginia in December, 1966, I discovered that many reliable people, police officers, community leaders, etc., had been seeing strange aerial objects for months up and down the Ohio river—but none had reported their sightings to the newspapers or the Air Force. I focused publicity on some of these cases and hundreds of other witnesses immediately came forth.¹¹ The local newspapers began to publish UFO stories and armchair ufologists undoubtedly collected the clippings and noted sagely that "a big flap began in W. Va. in December, 1966". Actually, as at Wanaque, the flap began months earlier and has continued ever since. The publicity has tapered off because the editors and reporters tired of writing essentially the same story over and over again.

I have found many other sections of the country which have seemingly been inundated by UFOs for months—or even years—and the local press has not carried a line about them. In other cases, such as in

Wrens, Ga., the "flaps" were of such proportions that the local newspaper editors voluntarily decided not to publish any reports, suspecting that because the objects were so real and so numerous they *had to be* some "secret government device".

Since 1966, "flaps" have persisted in Michigan, Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma, California, Mexico, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Long Island, N.Y. (just south of Conn.).¹² Columbus, Ohio, has had a repeated series of "flaps" for the past two years. So has Oregon and the state of Washington. We could write many enthralling pages with reports of low-level sightings, appearances of strange "giants" and "little men", landings, and weird incidents. But the sheer bulk of the reports and the general dearth of publicity, even locally, testifies to their validity and also proves how vain it is to try to concentrate on the individual sightings.

"Flying Saucers" seem to be operating consistently in the United States. Where they come from and where they go is open to debate. They do seem to move into an area and stay there for weeks or even months. Press coverage is superficial at best. UFO reports are not related to the publicity the subject receives, as some cynics have suggested. The sightings mount and subside independently of the press coverage. Often the press doesn't even begin to take the "flap" seriously until it has actually subsided.

In collecting thousands of news clips from all over the country, I have noted that sightings break out simultaneously in many sections of the country on a single day. The press coverage of the "flap" follows a day or two later. Thus, the excited farmer in Minnesota who calls his local newspaper has no idea that the very night of his sighting a group of fishermen in Florida and a party of housewives in North Carolina were also watching a similar object. ROs mount only when the newspapers begin reporting the "flap" at its outset and follow it through to the peak of activity.

The general newspaper coverage has been too slight and too disinterested to give us the full data on the overall situation. It stands to reason that if one person has actually seen a strange object flying at low level over his community, others must certainly have seen it too. If a large variety of witnesses see similar objects night after night in an area, as so often happens, it seems probable that the thing is operating somehow from that area. Dr. Jacques Vallée has noted in his studies that the UFO reports seem most intense in isolated, thinly populated areas.¹³ My own investigations have confirmed this. We can take this finding one step farther and assume that in areas where there is no population at all—and therefore no reports—such as our deserts, heavy forests, the desolate regions of northern Canada, etc., the UFO activity might actually be intense beyond belief.

With the possible exception of the Colorado University project, and a very small handful of scattered ufologists, almost no practical research is being conducted into this overwhelming situation. The assorted organizations compete with each other for "scoops" and there is no collaboration or co-ordination between them. The very few members of the scientific establishment who have taken an interest in the subject here are competing with each other for government grants and shamefully indulge in the same kind of personal attacks

and vendettas which preoccupy the amateur groups on another level.

If the UFOs are actively hostile to us, as many ufologists now believe, we are in a sorry state in this country. The controversies and side issues have diverted us and it is questionable if any of the existing organizations or any of the scientists currently involved in the subject will ever be able to get down to the hard task of collecting and interpreting the data.

ANALYSING THE FLAPS

Our first consideration in a "flap" study should be geographical. We can note immediately precise geographical correlations between early "flaps" and contemporary ones. The objects appear to return to the same isolated areas again and again, not for twenty years but for the past century. The laws of coincidence can be discarded altogether for the data is now too extensive and detailed.

For our pilot study we have chosen the "flap" of 1896-97. Dedicated researchers such as Lucius Farish, Jerome Clark and Dr. Jacques Vallée have dug into old newspaper files around the country and come up with hundreds of substantial UFO reports for those years. I am particularly indebted to Mr. Farish who has supplied me with a great mass of material, photostats and texts. I began by breaking this material down by dates, geographical locations, and the times of the sightings. Many of these early reports describe the same identical thing being reported today. Often several people—even hundreds—were involved in the sighting. The objects were frequently said to have "wobbled" and moved erratically. The "falling leaf" motion was often described. In a number of cases, wings and tail fins were allegedly discernible on the objects.

Many of these cases have already been discussed in articles by Farish, Clark and Dr. Vallée, and in Gordon Lore's book, *Mysteries of the Skies*, so we won't linger over them here.¹⁴

The first sighting of 1896 seems to have taken place in San Andreas, California, on Sunday, November 15, 1896. The witnesses said they observed a brilliant flying light "about the size of a saucer". All ufologists are familiar with the famous San Andreas earthquake fault, and we know that there have been hundreds of UFO sightings along that fault in recent years. Apparently it may all have begun back in 1896.

Table 1 is based upon all the available reports and illustrates how this "flap" built up and subsided in a single week.

You will note that the sightings seemed to concentrate most heavily around Sacramento and Oakland. The sightings occurred almost nightly somewhere in the San Francisco area. (There was one "bastard" sighting in Tacoma, Washington, far to the north, on November 24.) On our table we simply summarize the locale data. Some of these notations represent several reported sightings published individually.

The local press played up the sightings and were soon buried in apparently authentic reports. The family of the San Francisco Mayor saw the object, as did many other "reputable citizens". We might note that most of the sightings took place around 7.00 p.m., no matter where the locale. (In "flap" areas in 1966-68, the objects

TABLE I
CALIFORNIA SIGHTINGS—NOVEMBER 1896

DATE		LOCALES REPORTING
Sunday	15	San Andreas
Monday	16	Sacramento, Oakland
Tuesday	17	Oakland
Wednesday	18	Oak Park
Thursday	19	No data
Friday	20	Waterford, Oakland
Saturday	21	No data
Sunday	22	San Francisco, Alameda, Sacramento
Monday	23	Oakland, Berkley, Antioch, Chico
Tuesday	24	Oakland, Red Bluff, Hanford, Vacaville, San Leandro, San Jose
Wednesday	25	Sacramento, Pasadena, Fresno, Los Angeles, Hayward, Petaluma, San Lorenzo, East Oakland
Thursday	26	(<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>) Oakland, Robinson's Ferry, Arno, Monterey, East San Jose, Modesto
Friday	27	Oakland, Alameda
Saturday	28	Salinas
Sunday	29	No data

have also seemed to follow a regular schedule. For example, they appeared nightly around 8.00 p.m. in Point Pleasant, W. Va., during March and April, 1967. Natural phenomena would not, of course, adhere to such a strict timetable.)

Table 2 illustrates the times of the sightings.

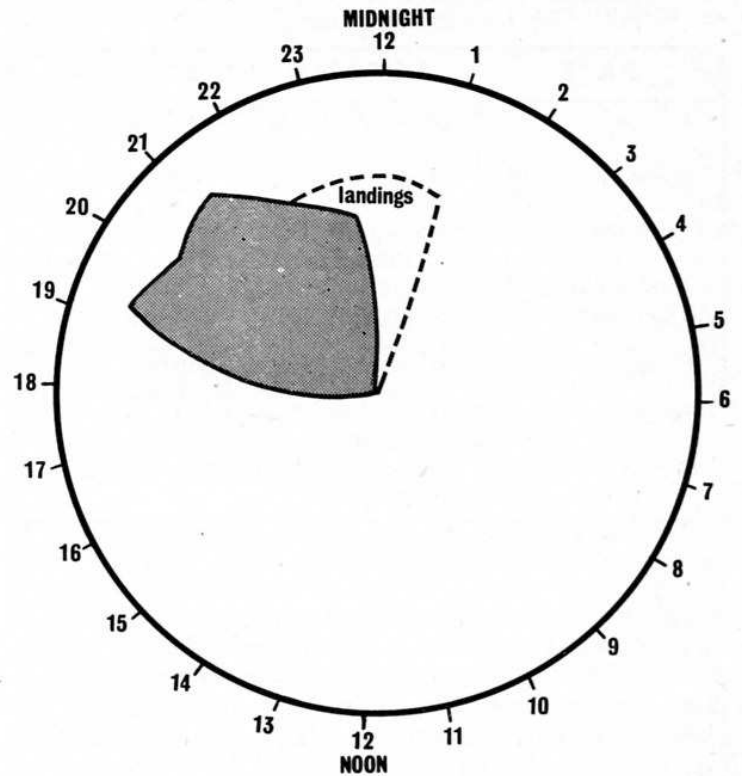
There were additional sightings in California during December, 1896, but the "flap" seems to have built-up and tapered off during that single week in November. The peak was reached on November 25, a Wednesday. The newspapers were filled with speculations about a "secret inventor" who had perfected a wonderful "airship" and they tried to keep the matter alive after the sightings subsided. But the sightings subsided nevertheless. The "secret inventor" flew off as mysteriously as he had come.

There were daylight and dusk sightings of a cigar-shaped object and these were well-publicized, leading everyone to *assume* that anything unusual in the sky was that eerie "airship". Most of the night-time sightings were of brilliant lights, not of a cigar-shaped "airship". The sightings occurred simultaneously in scattered areas, indicating (if not proving) that more than one "airship" was involved. Powerful spotlights were frequently reported, projecting blinding beams towards the ground. There are, of course, many contemporary reports of this same thing. Coloured lights were also observed, but the majority were a dazzling white.

There were also a few landing and contact reports. One man even claimed that he was taken for a fast ride to Hawaii aboard the "airship".

Now for a bit of research. If you have a copy of *Project Blue Book Report 14*, turn to Fig. 31 (p. 47), a map of the United States outlining sightings reported to the USAF between 1947-52. You will note that one of the heaviest concentrations of sightings in the entire

TABLE 2



APPROXIMATE TIMES OF SIGHTINGS — APRIL, 1897

9 p.m.—25%	of all sightings
8 p.m.—20%	
10 p.m.—20%	
12 p.m.—15%	
Remaining 20% were scattered throughout the early evening, early morning, and daylight hours	

country is centred around the San Francisco area—a total of 338, blanketing approximately the same places "invaded" back in November, 1896. The sightings in these areas have been numerous and consistent throughout the 1960s. We might conclude that the UFOs are especially interested in this region and have at least been keeping it under observation since 1896!

Already we have two fragmentary "facts": the objects have been repeatedly (or consistently) active in the same area for 72 years, and they were, for a reason, following a timetable—a definite plan of activity as far back as 1896. They moved swiftly into the area and were most active in the middle of the week.

Things quietened down for several months. Then, in March, 1897, strange lights and aerial objects reappeared in the United States, this time in the midwest and northern states, particularly around Michigan. Then they seemed to spread out from the midwest. This pattern still prevails. Several recent "flaps" seem to have begun in the midwest and fanned out.

I have laid out all the available reports from April, 1897, according to dates, times and geographical factors, and here again the "flap" patterns are apparent and consistent.

TABLE 3
"AIRSHIP" SIGHTINGS IN THE U.S.A.—
APRIL, 1897

DATE	LOCALES (BY STATES)
Sunday 11	Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Arkansas
Monday 12	Illinois*, Michigan, Arkansas, Wisconsin
Tuesday 13	Michigan*, North Dakota*, Indiana, Texas
Wednesday 14	Michigan*, Illinois, Texas*
Thursday 15	Michigan*, Iowa, Illinois, Texas, South Dakota, D.C.
Friday 16	Michigan*, Iowa, Kansas, Arkansas, South Dakota, Texas
Saturday 17	Michigan*, Texas***, Iowa, Missouri
Sunday 18	Michigan, Texas*, Kansas, Arkansas

* Numerous sightings in several areas

Table 3 summarizes the states affected by the peak of UFO activity in April, 1897—the third week of that month. This “flap” began with spectacular sightings over Kansas City, Kan. (April 1), and Chicago, Ill. (April 9), in which hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of people watched a large cigar-shaped object slowly and deliberately pass overhead. As with the California “flap” of '96, later witnesses assumed that the strange lights they viewed were actually attached to this same “airship”. It is my contention that the deliberate day-time appearances of the “airship” were a diversion to give night-time witnesses a frame of reference for identifying the illuminated objects, many of which were *not* cigar-shaped. The illuminated objects are the *real* phenomenon. The “airship” was merely a cover.

Since the April, 1897, reports cover many states and widely separated areas, even though the sightings occurred simultaneously, we once again have evidence that many objects were being deployed. There was an outstanding number of reported landings that April, some involving police officers, a judge and an ex-senator. In nearly every case these witnesses described the UFO occupants as being dark complexioned, with dark eyes and slight stature. Dark-eyed, dark-haired females were mentioned in several of these accounts. The occupants spoke English with one notable exception. A judge in Arkansas claimed that he encountered “pilots” who looked like “Japs” and who could not make themselves understood.

A number of artifacts were dropped from these “airships”, perhaps deliberately to offer further “proof” of the mundane origin of the objects. A Canadian newspaper was tossed overboard in Michigan, as were peeled potatoes and even a shoe. Several notes, one on finely-engraved stationery, were also planted in the wake of the “airship” to further substantiate the notion that a “secret inventor” was responsible for the furore.

My own personal experiences with several ingenious and carefully-planned “hoaxes” leads me to conclude that similar “hoaxes” were executed in 1897 to reduce the impact of the arrival and activities of the objects. A mystery man walked into the office of a prominent San

Francisco attorney shortly before the 1896 “flap” began. He claimed to have invented a marvellous “airship” and wanted the attorney to patent it. When the “airship” sightings hit the paper, the attorney, in good faith, told the press that he had met the inventor and knew all about it. The inventor disappeared, of course, and the attorney was left holding the bag. There are extensive newspaper reports on this incident and Gordon Lore devoted a chapter to it in his book.

I suspect that the “mystery man” was an advance man for “them” and that his sudden appearance prior to the “flap” was part of the carefully-conceived plan. The plan was further augmented by the mass sightings of an “airship” which resembled the dirigible-type craft then being experimented with in Europe. The Ufonauts established an excellent front for their operations with this tactic. It worked admirably well and, since most people believed a “secret inventor” was behind it all, the objects were not nearly as mysterious and disturbing as they might have been.

Because such manoeuvres are very common in UFO cases, I strongly recommend that every serious ufologist obtain and study a good text on psychological warfare. I was trained in psy-war during my tenure in the army and I have been astonished to find that the Ufonauts seem to be following “the book”. It’s time we recognized that something far more complex than a mere aerial survey is taking place in this situation.

The geographical factors of the 1897 “flap” are somewhat surprising. Michigan had 30.5 per cent of all the known sightings. Texas was next with over 20 per cent. In the Ohio Northern University study of 1952, they remarked that Texas seemed to be a leader in UFO incidents in that year. Most of the 1897 Texas sightings (which included several landings and contacts) took place in the northern part of the state. **The very same areas still produce the bulk of the Texas sightings.** Just over the border, in Oklahoma, there is an equal amount of consistent activity dating back to the last century.

The peak of the 1897 flap took place on April 17, 1897, a Saturday. You will recall that the Michigan “flap” of March, 1966, took place around Ann Arbor, Michigan. There were sightings in Ann Arbor on April 17, 1897. In fact, a UFO “belt” seems to stretch between Ann Arbor in the east and Benton Harbor in the western part of the state. This is the area producing the most reports in 1897, and this same area *still* produces the majority of our Michigan reports.

On April 17, 1897, while Michigan was in an “airship” furore from one end of the state to the other, all hell was breaking loose in northern Texas, many hundreds of miles to the south. Several landings and contacts were reported there that night. The sightings and landings continued in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas until the end of the month. They tapered off slowly in early May.

In several landing cases from the period, the grounded objects were described as being surrounded by a strange glow and the occupants allegedly warned the witnesses not to get too close. Though some of the published descriptions are frustratingly vague, it is probable that these objects really did not resemble the celebrated “airship” but were discoid. If my theory of deception and diversion proves true, then the slight,

dark-skinned "pilots" were probably decoys, fronting for the "Jap" types who may really be at the bottom of all this.

The full data on the events of '97 will eventually be published. It offers a great many clues to the overall "mystery" and seems to preclude many of the popular speculations in the field. The majority of the sightings were, as I have stated, merely manoeuvring lights, just as the majority of the modern reports deal with such lights. We have done ourselves an injustice by concentrating on the reports of "hard" objects (seemingly mechanical objects) which represent a minority of all reports. These "hard" objects may be no more meaningful than the "airship" which purposefully drifted over Chicago. It is erroneous to assume that all "soft" objects (lights, and transparent or translucent objects which change size, shape, and colour while remaining in view) are merely visible portions of "flying saucers". The "soft" objects are the real phenomenon.

POLTERGEISTS AND UFOs

Fortunately, occult manifestations have attracted a higher calibre of investigator than UFOs, and the studies of ghosts, hauntings, and poltergeists in the last century are quite thorough and responsible. Leading scientists, journalists and clergymen have investigated and documented many of these manifestations and they

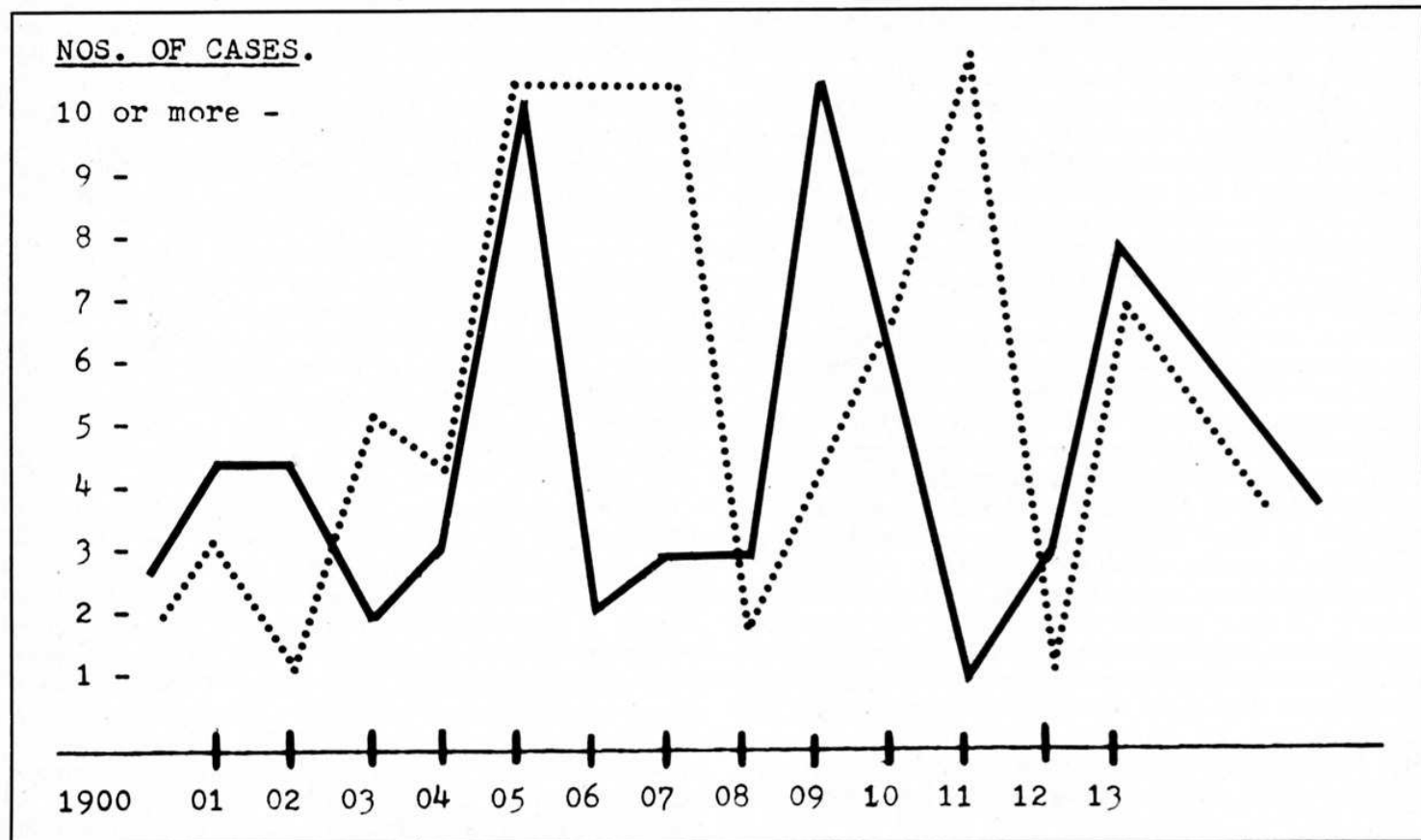
have left excellent records. I have examined much of the material and found that poltergeist "flaps" tend to either immediately precede or follow UFO "flaps", or the two kinds of phenomena occur simultaneously. I have already noted in other articles that I have found a sudden outbreak of poltergeist activity in UFO "flap" areas.

The poltergeist phenomenon seems to consist of invisible entities or fields of force which are capable of moving heavy objects, starting fires, and committing other kinds of senseless mischief. Mysterious fires often go hand-in-hand with UFO sightings. Doors in houses of witnesses in UFO areas open and close by themselves. Strange noises are heard. We must open our minds to the chilling possibility that the *real* UFOs and the *real* Ufonauts may be invisible to our limited visual apparatus (the human eye can discern only a very small portion of the electromagnetic spectrum). At least one "contactee" has told us that the objects are usually invisible in daylight but tend to glow at night and give themselves away. This may explain why the sighting ratio increases sharply at sunset and is most intense during the hours of darkness. (See Figs. 40 and 41 in *Project Blue Book Report 14* for graphs illustrating this "sunset" factor.)

It may be awesome—even insane—to contemplate the possibility that the objects can render themselves invisible. It could mean that our skies, even over our

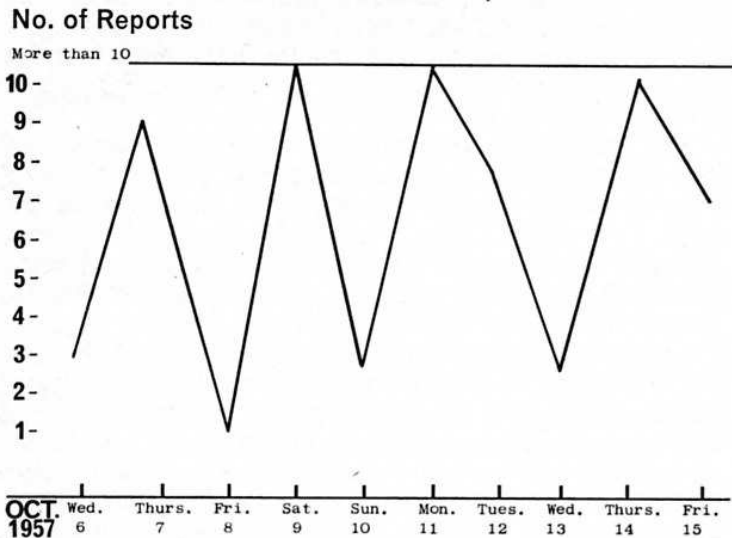
TABLE 4
KNOWN UFO REPORTS COMPARED WITH POLTERGEIST REPORTS
FOR THE SAME PERIOD—1900 to 1913

(Dotted lines represent poltergeist reports. Solid lines represent known UFO reports)



Poltergeist reports based upon work of Dr. Nandor Fodor
UFO reports based upon work of Dr. Jacques Vallée and Dr. Mead Layne

TABLE 5
LANDING AND CONTACT REPORTS IN
FRANCE—OCTOBER, 1954



cities, could be crowded during the daylight hours and we would never be the wiser. It could also explain how the objects could "hide" from us in "flap" areas.

Our evidence thus far is fragmentary and superficial, but here is a chart (Table 4) from another study I have made showing how poltergeist phenomena parallels UFO activity. (This study will be published in full at a later date.)

THE "FLAPS" OF THE 1950s

Dr. Jacques Vallée collected and analysed the many landing and contact reports which took place in France in 1954, and his study has given us additional "flap" data which supports the patterns already revealed in the above. Although the French "flap" began in September, it did not reach its peak until the second week in October. The high point was reached on Monday, October 11, 1954. The next table illustrates the fluctuations of the sighting and landing reports during that hectic and bizarre week. Here you will note that the peaks were reached every other day. The sightings continued at a high level the following week, peaking again on Wednesday, October 20, and then tapering off, although there was another slight peak on Wednesday, October 27.

Dr. Vallée noted that the French landings took place in sparsely-populated sectors, and that most of them occurred in the early morning hours. The landings and contacts of April, 1897, also followed this pattern, the majority of them taking place around midnight or thereafter in remote ranch areas.

Since most people in rural areas are early risers, the majority of the population is in bed by 10.00 p.m. As we have already demonstrated, UFO reports seem to rise sharply between 10.00 p.m. and midnight. Perhaps it is most intense during the wee hours of the morning when there are very few witnesses about. This would mean that the scattered reports during those hours actually represent much greater activity than we have suspected.

THE "FLAP" OF NOVEMBER 1957

Perhaps the most significant "flap" of modern times

was the world-wide epidemic of "flying saucers" which struck during the first week in November, 1957. It marked the first large-scale demonstration of the "EM effect", included a number of very interesting "contacts", and it is most regrettable that no ufologist or organization bothered to go through the trouble of collecting all of the reports and presenting the data in meaningful form. Instead, the more interesting cases were handled individually and no effort was made to show the correlative factors or produce a sound statistical analysis of the situation.

I believe that the two most significant years in ufology were 1848 (that's right . . . 1848) and 1957.

NICAP's *UFO Evidence* did offer a badly-organized summary of the 1957 "flap", while APRO concentrated on the sightings which occurred in Texas and New Mexico. The Levelland sightings were intriguing but they represent only a small portion of the "Big Picture". That particular section of New Mexico has been UFO-ridden for years. (See Fig. 31, *Project Blue Book Report 14.*)

Let us review, very briefly, what happened in 1957.¹⁵

Sightings began to build up in October, 1957; then on Friday, November 1, there was the reported appearance of two metallic discs over Johannesburg, South Africa, and other scattered reports from Coleman, Texas; Campbellsville, Ky. (about 200 miles from Hopkinsville, Ky., site of the famous "little man" incident of 1955); and the Sandia mountains in New Mexico. Hardly anything to get excited about.

The next night, however, was a night to remember. It was Saturday, November 2. Texas erupted in a series of spectacular events around Brehm, Petit, Amarillo, and a sleepy little oil town named Levelland. Great luminous objects buzzed highways, causing automobiles to stall, radios to go dead, and TV sets to jitter.

Canada joined the flap on Sunday, November 3, as did the city of Ciudad Trujillo, Venezuela, and Barahona in the Dominican Republic. A boy in Scotia, Nebraska, reported turning "numb" as a circular object mounted with some kind of antenna hummed low above him. At 7.30 p.m. that day CBS-TV newsman Russell B. Day shot 40ft. of movie film of a colour-changing object that was manoeuvring over Deming, New Mexico. Later in the evening, a jeep filled with soldiers on guard patrol at the atomic testing site in White Sands, New Mexico, reported seeing a luminous disc low over the concrete bunkers. Five hours later, the object returned for a repeat performance in front of another jeep filled with soldiers.

The flap continued to spread. Johannesburg, South Africa, had another major sighting on Monday, November 4, with hundreds of people reportedly viewing the objects dancing around their skies. In Kodiak, Alaska, a police patrol car watched a fiery-red object swoop low over a school, and while it was in view their police radio emitted a steady "dit-da-dit" that drowned out all regular broadcasts. Earlier that same morning, in distant Brazil, an unidentified flying object buzzed an airliner outside Ararangua and all the radio equipment on board burned out in a flash. A few hours later, a gigantic glowing form flew over the Itaipu Fort outside São Vicente, Brazil, and hovered so close that two sentries were severely burned. Panic reigned in the fort

as all electrical power quit and when the soldiers stumbled outside they found their weapons became too hot to handle. Two of the men became hospital cases and remained infirm for nearly a year.

In Elmwood, Illinois, that night, three policemen watched a peculiar red-orange object hover above the Elmwood cemetery for several minutes. They said it seemed to change shape, "fold into itself and disappear in the sky".

The two nights that followed marked the peak of the "flap". Tuesday, November 5, they were seeing things in Dunnotar, Transvaal, South Africa, and in Canada from Ontario to Manitoba. Texas had a series of sightings in Wichita Falls, Hedley, Houston, San Antonio and Beaumont. That afternoon a TWA pilot reported seeing something he could not identify near Kearney, Nebraska. Shortly afterwards, a salesman named Reinholdt Schmidt barged into the Sheriff's office in Kearney and told a wild story of having been invited aboard a strange object occupied by men and women who spoke German. Off the Gulf of Mexico, the Coast Guard cutter *Sebago* picked up a UFO on its radar. There were other sightings in New York City, Philadelphia, Pa., Indiana, Tennessee, Missouri, Colorado, California, Georgia, Massachusetts, Ohio, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Illinois. Galesburg, Ill., which had sightings on April 10, 1897, was revisited.

On Wednesday night, November 6, the major landings took place. A farmer in Everittstown, N.J., claimed that a "little man" from an object asked for his dog (note that the Russian dog, Laika, was sent into orbit on November 3, 1957). A boy in Dante, Tennessee, told reporters that a strange object had landed in a field near his farmhouse that morning and that the occupants seemed to be talking German. (The Schmidt case of the day before had not yet received any publicity in Dante.) Near Playa Del Rey, California, a group of cars stalled and the drivers were approached by two men with "yellowish-green" complexions. They came from an egg-shaped object on a nearby beach, and spoke English. Scores of other sightings poured in from Canada, New York state, and other regular flap areas.

Early on the morning of November 7, a truck driver near House, Miss., came upon a large egg-shaped object blocking the road. Two men and a woman, all about 4ft. tall, approached him and tried to talk to him in a rapid-fire language which he could not understand.

Friday, November 8, there were sightings in Orgueil, France, Au Sable Forks, N.Y., and Lafayette, La., but the "flap" was spent. Reports became scattered and declined through to the middle of November. NICAP recorded a total of 110 sightings between November 1 and 15. *Project Blue Book* later revealed that it had received 414 sightings for November, but they listed only four as "unknown".

Someone should have collected all the reports of that hectic week and written a book. Instead, incidents such as the Levelland sightings and the Brazilian fort case were isolated and over-publicized by the UFO press. The contacts were largely ignored by all except APRO. Reinholdt Schmidt was later jailed and roundly discredited. The most important ufological event of the 20th century was thus slighted, even by the UFO buffs themselves, and the valuable information that could

have been gained was lost in scattered files.

Could the sceptics have explained the sheer weight of these sightings? Many were in the form of police reports and physical things happened to the people and the vehicles involved. Here was conclusive evidence that the UFOs were real.

A reasonable "flap" study at that time would have demolished the controversy and the ufologists could have settled down to the neglected job of finding out what these things actually were and what they were really up to.

Earlier in 1957, there had been a series of controversial contacts in South America, England, and New Jersey (Howard Menger). All these "contactees" were told, in one way or another, of an impending "demonstration". That "demonstration" did occur. But we had been too diverted and misdirected, and too preoccupied with battling the USAF, to pay real heed. Besides, almost no one took the "contactees" seriously in those days.

And look at the remarkable coincidences: the major Levelland sightings took place on a Saturday. The whole "flap" peaked on Wednesday. The major "contacts" all occurred within hours of each other and hundreds of miles apart. The boy in Dante, Tenn., literally confirmed Schmidt's story of German-speaking UFO-nauts. The boy also noted that the occupants seemed interested in his dog. The New Jersey case later that same day confirmed that strange interest in matters canine. The latter witness described his "little man" as having a "putty-like complexion". The next morning the truck-driver in far-off Mississippi allegedly met Ufonauts with "pasty" complexions.

Were all of these people insane? Had Schmidt somehow got together with the Tennessee farmboy and the Mississippi truck driver beforehand and coached them? Were they all in cahoots? Not very likely.

When you review the locales of the major "flaps" of that week in November, it is surprising how many of the isolated, thinly-populated sections of the country which were involved in the April, 1897, sightings were *also* inundated in November, 1957. The laws of coincidence are stretched to breaking point.

The majority of the November, 1957, sightings took place between 8.00 and 10.00 p.m. In several instances, the objects returned night after night that week at approximately the same time each night.

There were "Men In Black" cases in 1957, too. And on that Wednesday night of November 6 a painter named Olden Moore allegedly saw a UFO land near Montville, Ohio. The field was found to be radioactive the next day and odd footprints were discovered there. Had Olden Moore also had a contact? He was whisked to Washington, D.C., a few days later by the Air Force, grilled for three days and sworn to secrecy, according to his story.

We're forced to wonder how many other landings and contacts might have taken place that night. How much data is now lost to us forever?

THE "FLAPS" OF 1966

When I first plunged into this subject full-time early in 1966 (just before the Michigan "flap" took place), I was frankly appalled at the absence of concrete research in the field and the complete lack of "hard facts". I

TABLE 6

UFO SURVEY—1966 DAYS OF THE WEEK

Based upon 730 sample sightings, reports, and major incidents. The 100-plus reports for Tuesday, August 16, were deleted for the purposes of the calculations below. That incident was exceptional (see detailed explanation and analysis elsewhere in this report)

NUMBER OF REPORTS		PERCENTAGE
Wednesday	127	20%
Thursday	108	17%
Friday	95	15%
Saturday	94	15%
Monday	85	13%
Sunday	75	11%
Tuesday	46	07%
(Minus August 16)		

(Percentage figures have been rounded and add up to only 98%)

Comments: If phenomena were uniform and obeyed the laws of chance, the average at year's end should be 90 reports per day. This, however, was not the case. Sightings build up on Wednesday and taper off through Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, reaching low points on Sundays and Tuesdays



enlisted, at great expense, several newspaper clipping services and tediously began to collect and compile every available UFO sighting. By the end of 1966, I found, somewhat to my horror, that I had over 10,000 clippings and reports from all over the world for that single year. Lacking a computer, I had to develop a complicated system for cataloguing this mess and extracting the data. At that time I had not studied the 1897 or 1957 reports and I suppose I had been partially brainwashed by the pro-UFO books I read that year. I was ready to believe in the extraterrestrial thesis even though I had uncovered all kinds of amazing things on my trips into "flap" areas and was beginning to realize that the ET concept simply did not fit much of the data.

Painstakingly, I sorted out apparent hoaxes (they were remarkably few in number), and the vague reports of lights seen high in the sky. Using the "poll method", I settled upon 730 excellent sightings as being representative of the whole and I studied them very carefully. I catalogued the known sightings of every day of the year in 1966, broke them down by states and times, traced them on maps, and tried to build up the "Big Picture".

Some interesting, though seemingly meaningless, factors slowly evolved from this study. For example, nearly all the "contact" stories I uncovered that year took place on a Wednesday. The highest proportion of

all the sightings were on Wednesdays. So I charted the sightings by weekdays.

As my study progressed, I noticed other curious things. When a "flap" occurred in a specific state, it seemed to go from border to border but did not overlap into the adjoining states. It was almost as if the UFOs were using our political maps and were operating in one state at a time. This finding automatically ruled out natural explanations, such as meteors.

There were many "flap" dates in 1966, but let's just consider one. While Michigan was winning all the publicity in March of that year, Wednesday, March 30, produced major sightings in South Carolina (there was a "flap" there), Ohio, Iowa, California, New Jersey (the Wanakee reservoir again), and Long Island (an electromagnetic effect case).

"Flaps" took place each month that year. And they seemed to move systematically from state to state. My trips taught me that clippings were a very inadequate barometer, so I made friends with policemen, sheriffs and newspaper editors wherever I went. They fed me new reports continuously, and most of these reports went unpublished. I was buried in data. Sightings would break out simultaneously in a dozen states on a single date. I reached a point where I could frequently predict the geographical location of the next "flap" in advance.

Then, when I started analysing the historical "flaps", and digging into hitherto undiscovered sources of information, I returned to my 1966 study and found that the "flaps" were consistent and had occurred repeatedly in the same areas, not only in the 1940s and 1950s, but in the 19th century as well. My misgivings about the extraterrestrial thesis grew into a certainty that it was erroneous. The phenomenon had to be terrestrial based. How, why, and by whom, remained unanswered questions, but we have to take this thing a step at a time, which is what I've been trying to do.

Later I applied what I had learned to some of the major flaps of 1967 and 1968, and the patterns were clearly repeated. The UFO buffs have been looking for evidence of another kind. They want "hardware" and landings on the White House lawn. All the while they have been overlooking a mountain of very real evidence. The same kind of evidence used to prove the quantum theory. The same kind of evidence used to send killers to the electric chair. Correlative facts. Facts which can be tested and verified in new cases and which are confirmed globally.

THE UFOs NOBODY TALKS ABOUT: SOME UNEXPECTED CORRELATIONS

On the night of Monday, April 25, 1966, a very slow-moving "meteor", greenish and trailing a long tail, gracefully arced over Canada and floated southwards over the Atlantic seaboard from New York to the Carolinas. It was so brilliant that it actually lit up the ground over which it passed, and moved so slowly that many excellent photographs of it were taken by amateur and professional photographers along its path. It looked like a "meteor" but it certainly didn't act like one. If you were out-of-doors anywhere along the eastern seaboard between the hours of 8.00 and 9.00 p.m. that night you may have seen this thing yourself. It was visible throughout most of New York state, including

New York city, and moved southwards along the 75° latitude, longitude 30° to 45°.16

Thousands of miles away, in the far-off Soviet state of Tashkent—latitude 75°, longitude 30° to 45° (exactly on the opposite side of the earth from the north-eastern United States)—a Soviet scientist named Galina Lazarenko was awakened at 5.23 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 1966, by a brilliant flash of light.

"The courtyard and my room were brightly lighted up," she said later. "It was so bright that I could clearly see all the objects in my room."

Simultaneously, an engineer named Alexei Melnichuk was walking down a Tashkent street when he heard a loud rumble followed by a brilliant flash of light.

"I seemed to be bathed in a white light that extended as far as I could see," he recalled. "I was forced to shield my face with my hands. After a few seconds, I took my hands away from my face and the light was gone."

A few seconds later the great Tashkent earth fault shuddered and buckled and a tremendous earthquake struck, killing 10 and leaving 200,000 people homeless. As the dazed and terrified residents staggered into the rubble-strewn streets, they saw strange "glowing spheres, floating through the air like lighted balloons".17

There is a nine-hour time difference between our Atlantic seaboard and Tashkent. We were watching that "meteor" cruising majestically overhead at *exactly the same time* that a brilliant and inexplicable flash of light was announcing the impending disaster in Tashkent. These correlations are precise. There is no room for error. Our "meteor" and the Tashkent earthquake occurred simultaneously, at exactly opposite sides of the earth!

What kind of a coincidence is this? A "meteor" appears on one side of the earth, and a disastrous earthquake strikes exactly opposite. Science does not have the answer. In fact, most scientists making a study of earthquakes admit that they don't even know all the questions.

An hour before the Tashkent 'quake, a school-teacher living near the fault said that her dog began to howl, and that when the 'quake began, the dog ran anxiously to the door *before* each shock struck. Scientists have long been puzzled by the apparent ability of animals—particularly dogs and horses—to sense impending disasters.

Another "meteor", followed by earth tremors, zipped in over the Gulf of Mexico early on the morning of Wednesday, March 27, 1968. It was first sighted by the crew of the tanker *Alfa Mex II* who described "two or three objects in the centre of a bright ball of fire". The crew of the Mexican warship *Guanajuato* also reported seeing a flaming object, and the men on both ships said that the waters of the Gulf were churned into fountains of spray after the object passed. This could indicate that whatever it was, it was exerting a direct gravitational pull.

At 2.10 a.m. that morning, residents in Veracruz, Mexico, about 25 miles from the ships' positions, were awakened by a deafening rumbling noise.

"Before I had a chance to realize what was happening," Senora Angelita de Villalobos Arana, 40, told investigators, "it was as bright as day—and the terrible noise

kept on . . . I felt cool, then cold. The light got brighter."

Within minutes, the streets of Veracruz were filled with hysterical people. They thought the end of the world had arrived as the sky filled with unearthly light and the ground trembled. The strange "meteor" loomed over the scene, seemed to dip towards the ground then rose again and shot off.18

Mr. Ernesto Dominguez, head of the Mexican Department of Meteorology at Veracruz, conducted a careful investigation and collected all the reports.

"This probably was not a meteorite," Dominguez stated in his official report. "We cannot say for sure just what it was. We do know that it did not fall to earth or collide with the earth.

"Its trajectory was curved. Imagine a jet or a spaceship suddenly going out of control and plunging down directly toward earth. Then—as if control was regained suddenly—the object or objects suddenly veered away from the earth, only moments before collision point, and went out over the Gulf of Mexico. But I think it did not fall into the sea. It could have gone upward.

"A meteorite would hardly do such a thing."19

These peculiar "meteors" and green fireballs have been turning up in increasing numbers for the past fifteen years. They usually look like the astronomer's concept of "meteors", with a long tail dangling behind, but their manoeuvres alone rule out the simple natural explanation. They are far more numerous than the intriguing "flying saucer" type reports of metallic circular objects. In fact, the reports of mysterious lights and unlikely meteors outnumber the "saucer" reports by almost ten to one. Furthermore, they pop up year after year in the same isolated, thinly-populated areas. Natural meteors could hardly be so selective. And meteors don't change direction or angle of descent.

Some of our funny "meteors" also cause electrical black-outs.

Towards sunset on the evening of Friday, April 18, 1962, a giant reddish object appeared over the northern part of New York state, apparently moving down from Canada in a southwesterly direction. Air Force radar locked on to the object and carefully followed it across a dozen states as it sped westward. Then, at 7.30 p.m., a brilliant flash followed by deep rumbles and earth tremors occurred in southwestern Nevada. Shortly afterwards an unidentified circular machine landed near a power station outside Eureka, Nevada, and the lights went out for thirty minutes.

Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Rolph of the North American Air Defence Command Centre at Colorado Springs, Colorado, faced a throng of excited newsmen that night. He admitted that NORAD's radar had tracked the object all the way across the U.S. and added: "A meteor can't be tracked on radar—but this thing was!"20

What are these "things" and why don't we know more about them? The real problem lies in the scientific attitude. Because the objects resemble meteors in appearance, astronomers have automatically dismissed them as such and have never made a concerted effort to study these piles of reports filled with obvious contradictions. If the thing passes over at a high altitude, glows, and hauls a tail then it *must be* a meteor according to the reasoning of astronomers.

But the non-conforming "meteors" are nothing new. They appeared repeatedly throughout places like Nebraska, Michigan, Canada and New Mexico during the 19th century. One, Professor C. A. Chant of the University of Toronto, made a study of the strange "train" of meteors that flashed across Canada on the night of Thursday, February 9, 1913. Unlike natural meteors, the fiery-red objects travelled slowly across the sky in a straight horizontal line. They glided majestically out of the northwest and sailed away to the south-east.

"Other bodies were seen coming from the northwest," the Professor wrote, "emerging from precisely the same place as the first one. Onward they moved at the same deliberate pace. In twos or threes or fours, with tails streaming behind them they came. . . . They traversed the same path and were headed for the same point in the south-eastern sky. . . ."21

Very odd meteors, indeed!

More recently, on Sunday, September 15, 1968, a brilliant luminous object buzzed the New England states, moving slowly enough so that thousands of people were able to get a good look at it. As usual, the astronomers quickly dismissed it as "a meteor".22 However, that same week a new "flap" of UFO sightings erupted in several states, from Nebraska to Virginia. It is a curious coincidence that our "meteors" manage to turn up during the same periods when thousands of witnesses are also getting close-up views of other strange lights, cigar-shaped objects, and those troublesome "flying saucers".

Not only do our "meteors" refuse to obey the laws and regulations set down for them by our learned astronomers, but they also have an unnerving habit of travelling in formations with a military-like precision.

The late Morris K. Jessup, a professional astrophysicist, was especially interested in the fireball-comet-meteor reports and did study them extensively. In his book, *The UFO Annual* (1956), he described many of the "meteor" reports of 1955 and had this to say (p. 96-97):

"We are having an influx of fireballs, and these have had an unusual amount of attention because of their number, brilliance, and the kelly-green colour of some of them. There does, indeed, seem to be something queer about them. . . . For the record, it might be stated that the green fireball flurry did not originate in the U.S.A., but apparently in Sweden (1946). This was a few years ago and essentially before the greatest intensity of interest in UFO or saucers. They were then thought to be Russian rockets or missiles; and to this day we cannot prove that they were not Russian. In the U.S.A. the green fireballs made their debut in New Mexico and were thought to be associated with atomic energy experiments. Now, however, they have spread over much of North America and, frankly, we don't know what they are nor why, nor from where."

As we have noted, the majority of all UFO sightings are of spherical or shapeless blobs of very intense light (so intense that many witnesses complain of "eyeburn" afterwards . . . the searing of the cornea, similar to the sunburned eyes you can suffer at a beach). The soft diffused light of "swamp gas" is quite different from these objects, as is normal starlight. In addition, the objects have a talent for going through all the colours of the spectrum in front of the startled witness. Most

often they are described as turning green, then fiery red just before descending or ascending. When travelling in a straight line overhead they are usually a brilliant orange or a glaring white. Since the advent of man-made satellites, many people actually mistake UFOs for satellites instead of the other way around as the sceptics would have us believe. At present there are only two man-made satellites which are visible to the naked eye . . . and both are so small and so dim that you must know where and when they're going to appear in order to be able to see them. Those big, brilliant white "stars" moving across the sky during the summer months are *not* satellites.

The author has collected and studied hundreds of these neglected reports and some startling patterns have come to light. In the majority of all these cases going back to the 19th century, the objects (if they *are* "objects") have consistently appeared from the north and followed apparently controlled courses southwards. A surprising number seem to enter the U.S. from the section of Canada lying north of Michigan.

Our UFOs and "meteors" do follow precise patterns which can now be predicted to some degree. The state of Nebraska has a long history of UFO sightings. During the heavy but little-publicized "flap" of July-August, 1966, some definite patterns emerged. On Tuesday, July 5, 1966, at 10.00 p.m., a group of four witnesses viewed "a large octagon-shaped object with coloured lights. . . . The lights dimmed and brightened and the object swooped twice over a field and then went back into the air." This took place three miles northwest of Norfolk, Nebraska.23

On July 9 and 10 there were sightings in North and South Dakota, the states north of Nebraska. On July 11 there were several sightings in Iowa, the state bordering Nebraska on the east. The South Dakota sightings took place in the southwest corner of the state, close to the Nebraskan border. If we had been able to collect this data fast enough, we could have successfully predicted that "a flap" was due in Nebraska and statistically the odds were that it would take place on a Wednesday night at 10.00 p.m. (the majority of all UFO sightings occur around 10.00 p.m.).

Shortly after 10.00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 1966 (10.05 according to a newsman witness and another person), a blazing object hurtled across the skies, heading southward over York, Nebraska.24 Perhaps their watches were wrong, or perhaps they got a preliminary glimpse of the thing that would be seen by many thousands five minutes later at 10.10 p.m. At that time scores of people in Muny Park, Cozad, Nebraska, saw "a very bright object with multi-coloured smaller bright 'stars' trailing it."25 They all agreed that it appeared in the northwest and headed southeast. If it had remained on this course, it would have angled straight across Kansas and all the Kansan reports would have described a northwest to southeast course. However, a flood of reports from Kansas, including sightings by policemen, attorneys and many others, said that the "meteor" travelled northwest to northeast. This meant that it had to be skirting the Nebraska-Kansas border.

There was a particularly heavy concentration of reports from central Nebraska from small communities

such as Scotia, Ord, Burwell, Comstock, Arcadia and North Loup. All these were consistent, describing the object as passing from southwest to southeast. Another cluster of sightings was reported from the Omaha area on the eastern tip of the state. These all stated that the object was travelling from southwest to southeast.

A larger picture can be drawn from this. The "meteor" came from the northwest, from Wyoming perhaps, executed a slight turn south of Cozad, and moved along the Nebraska-Kansas border towards Missouri-Iowa. Then it turned again and headed northwards towards Illinois.

The sheriff of Warren County, Illinois, was sitting in front of the police station in Monmouth, Ill., that night when he observed a fiery-orange ball arcing across the sky towards the northeast. A few minutes later he received an excited 'phone call from a Galesburg, Ill., woman who said she and her three children had been driving along the U.S. 34 bypass when they saw a green light seemingly skirting the treetops. A white-coloured fire seemed to burst from it, she said, and it appeared to dive towards the ground in the northeast. Thinking that a small plane might have crashed, she stopped at the nearest farmhouse and called the Sheriff. He rushed to Monmouth Park, the area of the sighting, but found nothing. Eight other persons called radio stations and newspapers in the area to report similar sightings. All agreed that the object was green with a red ring around it and trailed a short red tail. One other person, besides the Sheriff, reported seeing an orange object. Everyone reported that it first appeared in the southwest and travelled northeast.²⁶

What lies to the northeast of Illinois? Michigan, of course.

A few minutes after 11.00 p.m. Michigan time (10.00 p.m. Nebraska time), Jack Westbrook and Charles Frye of Willis, Michigan, were walking across Rawsonville Road when Mr. Frye exclaimed: "Look at that!"

Both men saw what appeared to be a silver disc with one red and one white light on it. They estimated that it was no more than 1,000ft. high. The object moved forward swiftly, stopped, seemed to reverse itself, circled around, moved up and down, and finally shot out of sight. They said they watched it for about seven minutes and heard no sound. "This is not a swampy area," the Ypsilanti *Press* noted when it recounted the sighting on July 15, "and the only possibility of reflection would be from the micro-wave relay which has three red lights but the object went over the top of it when it left."²⁷

Were the Monmouth, Illinois and Willis, Michigan, sightings of completely different objects totally independent of the Nebraskan "meteor"? This is a possibility, of course. But it is equally possible, and probably very likely, that a UFO—or a group of UFOs—passed from Wyoming, crossed Nebraska and then turned northwards into Illinois and Michigan.

Mr. Charles Tougas of the Meteorite Recovery Project at Lincoln, Nebraska, was the man the press turned to for an answer. He said that special cameras had recorded the event and he estimated that the "meteor" had appeared somewhere near McCook, Nebraska, and had plummeted to earth somewhere outside of Phillipsburg, Kansas. A search for it was

launched at Phillipsburg but the object was never found.²⁸ If the object had enjoyed such a very brief life span, and had travelled such a very short distance in the western part of the state, it is very unlikely that it would have been so clearly seen in the Omaha sector hundreds of miles eastward and that all the witnesses would have described it as moving to the southeast. And it certainly would not have turned up in Illinois—still farther to the northeast.

The "meteor" explanation simply does not work in this case. There are too many "ifs", and too many unnatural coincidences.

All the descriptions were uniform. A newsman in Brewster, Nebraska, described it as being "the size of a basketball; the white fore-end changed colours, going from blue to green, trailing a long tail". A young witness on a ranch near Scotia, Nebr., described it as "round like a basketball, with a brilliant band of orange light encircling it." He said it crossed the southern skies and was visible for about half a minute. Witnesses in York, Nebr., said it was green, while one report from near Pleasanton, Nebr., described it as being "a bright, whitish-yellow light". Brilliant white lights were mentioned in a scattering of reports, but the overall consensus was that it was green or "blue-green with a red band around it". Kansas viewers thought it was green.

Only two groups of witnesses reported hearing any sound. Both were located in the central Nebraskan cluster. People driving near Arcadia said they saw "a flashing red light" and heard "more than one explosion."²⁹ Mr. George Bremer of Ord reported the same thing. (Viewers of that 1913 "meteor chain" in Canada said that the objects produced a heavy rumbling sound, indicating that they were low enough in the atmosphere to displace air as they passed.)

One week prior to the Nebraska "flap", a "green object with a long white tail" appeared over Muskegon, Michigan, travelling a horizontal path from east to west. It was seen by police officers and other reliable witnesses. The date was Wednesday, July 6, 1966. The time 11.00 p.m. (making it 10.00 p.m. Central Daylight Time in Nebraska).³⁰ At 10.00 p.m., Monday, July 11, a round blue object was observed over Lake Erie by witnesses in Ashtabula, Ohio, facing in the direction of Michigan. Some noted that it seemed to have a long tail. One person described it as "a round ball of bright blue light with an outer rim of pale gold". It appeared to descend westward.³¹

When we drew a great circle on a map of the U.S., looping through Nebraska and curving up through Monmouth-Galesburg, Ill., to Michigan, we found that the other end of the curve cut across the northeastern part of Wyoming. A quick review of our clippings and general report data revealed that *that very section of Wyoming* had a UFO "flap" a few days before the Nebraskan "meteor" arrived. Extensive UFO activity was also reported farther to the northwest around the Glacier National Park in Montana that month. Brilliant, fast-moving lights appeared there nightly on precise schedules, passing from the northwest to the southeast. This course would have carried them to the Wyoming "flap" area and, if extended along a perfect curve, would have continued into Nebraska to the McCook-Cozad sector.

So the plot thickens! Our Nebraska "flap" of July 13 was merely part of an overall "flap" involving several states, and all the sightings fitted neatly into a perfect circle beginning in northwestern Montana, looping through the central states, and curving upwards through Illinois and Michigan and back into Canada. If we continue the same circle into Canada, we find that the uppermost part of it would rest in the densely-forested and thinly-populated regions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Both of these provinces have had long UFO "flaps" in 1967-68. The majority of the seemingly random sightings can be fitted into this "Great Circle Route". Ontario, particularly London, Ont., in the east would be a part of it. The continuous flap areas of Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania would lie just south-east of the circle. But it doesn't all stop with this one circle. Other circles are evident, some interlocking, others apparently independent of the main "routes". If you refer to your maps or a globe, you will see that the latitudes of 80° to 60° extend from northern Canada southwards encompassing all New England and the continuous flap areas of New York State, Pennsylvania, etc., into that section of the Atlantic known as "the Bermuda Triangle." As the same latitudes continue into South America, they cover the flap areas of Venezuela, Peru, Chile, and—most important—the Salta-to-Bahia Blanca sector of Argentina.

At least some of the "flying saucers" and "meteors" are coming down to us from Northern Canada's isolated, unpopulated and nearly inaccessible areas. They move along geometric courses, going from point to point along a great circle, and by collecting all available sightings we can sometimes even predict where they are going to turn up next.

Aimé Michel's "straight-line theory" works for short distances (usually about 200 miles) along these routes, but it is necessary to extend the route on a curve for longer distances.

It is probable that the objects originate—that is, they begin their flights—somewhere between Victoria Island and Baffin Island in the Far North. We might mention in passing that the Eskimo tribes of the Far North have ancient legends which claim that they were originally *flown* to these inhospitable regions from some point far to the south. Contrary to the theories of the evolutionists, the Eskimos have dark skins and Oriental features. Strange that they have failed to turn pale or chalky white in a land where the sun is absent altogether for six months out of the year, and where the bitter cold forces them to overdress and thus remain sheltered from the sun's rays during the sunlit months.

THE OVERVIEW

Aside from the charts and graphs compiled by Captain Ruppelt's Air Force teams in the early 1950s and Dr. Vallée's basic work, we have no practical indices to overall UFO activity. No research of any real worth has been done to date in the United States. The compilation of the endless sightings has no value unless all this material is adequately indexed and catalogued. We have even failed to make logical studies of big "flaps" such as the November, 1957, sequence. Individual sightings are meaningless and often even misleading. When a report comes in from an obscure town in Utah, say, I

want to know if any other reports had come from that same town in 1952, '57, or even 1897. I want to see if that town fits into the overview.

We must recognize that the phenomenon is continuous, not sporadic, and that the objects return to the same areas year after year, century after century. Who has studied the history of Socorro, New Mexico? No one. Chances are excellent that other incidents have occurred in the Socorro sector (within 200 miles), not only in 1964, but in 1952, 1947, and possibly even in 1897.

This kind of systematic research is tedious, unglamorous, and often frustrating, *but it must be done*. It cannot be done by one man or 100. *Everyone* interested in ufology must contribute. Every ufologist should become an expert on the history of his own particular locale. Every ufologist must dip into the yellowing pages of the old newspapers in his area, and into the Indian legends and ghost tales. Every ufologist must carefully compile every sighting ever recorded in his area, no matter how irrelevant or unsubstantial it might seem. As I have now demonstrated, an apparent "meteor" sighting—the kind of thing usually ignored by most UFO buffs—*can* provide a vital link in a chain of events which can reveal important patterns.

This data must then be distributed freely to other ufologists in other areas so that it can be studied and compared. Gradually these key patterns will become clearer and we will build up a substantial body of statistical evidence which will enable us to clearly define the source and nature of the phenomenon.

It is scandalous that so little actual research has been done in the past twenty years. If you review the publications of 1948 and 1952, as I have done, you will immediately see that we have been standing still . . . we have been devoted to the "cause", not to the subject. Even worse, the very valid—and very advanced—work of men like Morris Jessup and Meade Layne has literally become lost and forgotten because we have buried ourselves in the controversies and nonsensical issues we have created.

Last year a foreign TV producer came to me after he had travelled across the U.S. interviewing UFO witnesses and UFO buffs. He was quite disheartened. "You know," he groaned. "This has been going on for twenty years . . . and I haven't been able to find a single expert—real expert—on UFOs in this country."

Nobody knows what is going on because nobody has made a logical, objective, systematic effort to find out.

THE QUALITY AND VALIDITY OF "FLAP" DATA

On March 3-4, 1968, a major UFO "flap" exploded in 25 states. Automobiles were pursued by luminous objects in several areas. In West Virginia, the objects remained in view for several hours. The sightings began about 8.00 p.m. and continued until 4.00 a.m. the next morning. Many of the "flap" areas under scrutiny in my studies were affected. The reports trickled in for weeks afterwards. The Air Force, however, explained this one away as being the disintegration of a Soviet rocket and many UFO buffs accepted this without question. When a rocket breaks up and re-enters the atmosphere, the small fragments burn out within seconds and are rarely

visible over a large area—if they are visible at all.

Obviously, what is needed is a central organization capable of collecting and correlating such “flap” data quickly and accurately. These incidents are “news” for only a few days, sometimes for only a few hours, so speed is essential if the “truth” is going to be released to the public. Weeks after the March 4 “flap”, the New York *Times* anti-UFO science editor, Walter Sullivan, wrote a piece explaining it and backed his story by quoting NICAP’s erroneous statement that UFO reports were on the decline in 1968.³³

If a comprehensive study of that “flap” had been prepared it might have swayed even Mr. Sullivan. Unfortunately, the “flaps” are so frequent and numerous that I have not been able to devote my limited time and resources to this kind of study exclusively. As a reporter, I know that any news feature on a “flap” must be issued as soon as possible and it is a waste of time to try to get editors to publish such things weeks or months later.

Although there have been numerous attempts at “flap” studies over the years, it was not until John Fuller’s close and thorough study of the Exeter, New Hampshire, cases in 1965, that the ice was broken.³⁴ The validity of a “flap” study was proven by Mr. Fuller’s book which accompanied more towards demolishing scepticism in the phenomenon than anything written previously. Dr. Vallée’s examination of earlier “flaps” has also been extremely important and has given us much valuable information.

The more we review the events of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century, the more correlative data we will have to lead us closer to that elusive “truth”. It stands to reason that the random reports published in those earlier years represented many thousands of sightings. There was no UFO “subject” in those days, and the occasional published reports were treated as “human interest” items, not as part of an idiotic controversy. In poring over the back issues of the New York *Times* and other newspapers across the country, I have found that there were substantial “flaps” in the 1920s and 1930s—particularly in the years 1922, 1930, 1934, and 1937. Patient research is required to collect and correlate all of this “lost” data. Hundreds of researchers should be engaged in this type of historical study, but very few are making the attempt.

This is not a problem for scientists *per se*. It rightly

TABLE 7
COLOUR OF UNKNOWN OBJECTS—1947-1259
As reported to the U.S. Air Force and published in Project Blue Book Report No. 14

COLOUR	NUMBER OF UNKNOWNNS
1. White	112
2. Metallic	76
3. Not stated	62
4. Orange	49
5. Red	33
6. Yellow	31
7. Green	14
8. Blue	26
9. Other	31
	—
	434
	—

TABLE 8
SHAPE OF UNKNOWN OBJECTS—1947-1952
As reported to the U.S. Air Force and published in Project Blue Book Report No. 14

SHAPE	NUMBER OF UNKNOWNNS
1. Elliptical	195
2. Rocket or aircraft	33
3. Meteor or comet-like	4
4. Flame	10
5. Teardrop, lenticular or conical	22
6. Other	54
7. Not stated	116
	—
	434 Total
	—

belongs in the hands of scholars and historians who are trained to evaluate the validity of such documentation and who can apply the standard methods of scholarship to its correlation and presentation. The thousands of bits and pieces must be unearthed and assembled in a methodical manner, in the same way that archaeologists spend months—even years—collecting bits of pottery from the sand and reassembling them.

Unidentified flying objects have been active for centuries, clearly concentrated in the same areas year after year. (I have found that old American Indian legends describe essentially the same things that are happening today in former Indian territories such as Oklahoma.) The “flaps” are not random. The objects follow a rigid timetable which, with proper research, can be interpreted and understood. Ancient records substantiate the notion that the objects have always been a part of our earthly environment. Ufologists must begin with a thorough study of human history, not with a study of the endless descriptions of objects which are rarely identical to each other in appearance.

Captain Ruppelt’s *Blue Book* team computerized the 434 “unknowns” of the 1947-52 era and tried to develop a “model saucer”. They found that the descriptions were so varied that they had to settle upon 12 basic types. However, they did evolve some general categories which, you will note, verify the independent studies of Ohio Northern University and Otto Binder.

In 1966, an American tabloid, the *National Enquirer*, subscribed to clipping services and attempted to break the sightings down superficially by shape and locale. Their results are detailed in Table 9.

Despite its sensational reputation of earlier years, the *National Enquirer* has been doing an accurate and responsible job of reporting on the UFO phenomenon in the United States.

Since the objects are plainly so numerous and so varied in size and shape, I do not feel that we will ever learn anything concrete by merely studying the descriptions. In a sense, it is like trying to classify all the fish in the ocean by counting and describing the sea-life turned up in a single net. As I have already noted, the “soft” objects actually far out-number the “hard” ones and we may have made a serious mistake in concentrating our efforts on the “hard” sightings.

TABLE 9

An independent survey by the editors of the
National Enquirer—1966

SHAPES OF OBJECTS	
Elliptical	— 129
Oval-shaped	— 33
Cigar-shaped	— 27
Lights only	— 287
Other	— 28
	—
	504 Total
	—

This study was conducted for a four-month period in the Autumn of 1966. An average of 31 published sightings per week was received.

Batwings, boomerangs and crescents were seen in New Jersey, New Mexico and Georgia. Tennessee reported a flying doughnut. Triangles were seen in Indiana, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Pearshaped appeared in Missouri and Georgia.

New Jersey led the nation in the reports received for this study. Ohio and Indiana reported the most "saucer-shaped" objects (12 each).

National Enquirer—February 19, 1967.

We must also take into account the apparent deceptions, diversions and "hoaxes" which seem to be carefully engineered by some unknown group to lead us astray and keep us in confusion. Ufologists must study psychological warfare and police investigative methods so that they will be prepared to cope with such deceptions and recognize them for what they are.

There is a tremendous amount of evidence which proves that "they" don't want us to know too much about their nature or origin. Perhaps they have always been communicating with us indirectly in ways which are hard for us to understand and impossible for our science to comprehend. There appears to be a direct linkage between so-called occult phenomena and the techniques being employed by the ufonauts to communicate with contactees.

In many recent cases, the ufonauts have demonstrated that they know the full details of the lives of specific individuals. They have demonstrated that they are at least aware of our political boundaries, and that they can operate on timetables which correspond to our own time cycle. In innumerable instances all over the world, witnesses have claimed that many of the elusive "pilots" look very much like us, can breathe our air, and speak our languages. Over the years, hundreds of scraps of metal and other substances have been dropped from UFOs—and nearly all of it consists of earthly materials, notably aluminium, magnesium and silicon.³⁵

In an unpublished portion of the enigmatic annotated Varo edition of Dr. Jessup's *Case For The UFO*, one of the anonymous marginalia writers commented on Jessup's repetition of a rumour that a "flying saucer" had crashed in the Soviet Union and was being examined by Russian scientists.³⁶ The note writer laughed at the notion, stating that if it were really true, then Russia would have cornered the world's diamond market. What does *this* mean? We can go back to a letter published in the Sacramento (Calif.) *Bee* on November

24, 1896. A writer who signed himself "W.A.", expressed some contactee-like opinions on the "airship" and stated: "The airships are constructed of the lightest and strongest fabrics and the machinery is of the most perfect electrical work.

"Aluminium and glass (silicon), hardened by the same chemical process that forms our diamonds, contribute the chief material of their most perfect airships.

"When in use, these vessels, at a distance, have the appearance of a ball of fire, being operated wholly by the electric current generated on such vessels."

CONCLUSION

We have not yet been able to simplify all the complex and contradictory factors inherent in the "flap" data. We can only point the way to additional research. There are many bewildering psychological aspects which must be examined by qualified psychologists and psychiatrists. Again and again, I have encountered amnesia victims and people who have suffered dramatic changes of I.Q. and personality after a UFO experience. The numbers of people now claiming telepathic "contact" are unbelievable, and many of these cases correlate favourably with each other. Contactees in widely-separated areas have detailed identical conversations with the Ufonauts. The same questions are asked of these people, and none of these questions have been published, so the chances of deliberate hoaxing on the part of the alleged witnesses are slight. Also, people who claim to have been taken aboard the objects have described certain unpublished things seen inside the craft. (Mrs. Betty Hill described being examined by a machine which probed her with wires in the same manner that Carroll Watts in Texas claimed to have been probed by a multi-wired machine in 1967.)³⁷

Whatever is happening now has apparently been going on for many years unnoticed. And we are still not sufficiently organized to truly investigate and understand this phenomenon. We have been counting the fish which have fallen into our net. The subject has been exposed to so much ridicule that it has attracted largely teen-agers and individuals who are not equipped to cope with such a diversified and complicated situation. The "extraterrestrial" concept has gripped our imaginations and led us to rule out many of the salient facts. We cannot apply human logic to this situation. "They" are reaching down to us. We must learn to reach up to "them".

To understand UFOs, you must understand Man. I am a life-long agnostic, but I recommend that you begin by reading the Bible *from cover to cover*. It will amaze you. Ezekiel wasn't the only biblical "contactee". Consider the others, such as Zechariah who reported the following conversation with an "angel" (*Zechariah, 5: 1-3*):

"Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and beheld a flying roll.

"And he (the angel) said unto me, What seest thou?
"And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits.

"Then he said unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth. . . ."

- ¹ See "The Statistical Problem," by John A. Keel; Palmer's *Flying Saucers*, Summer, 1968.
- ² APRO has made an effort to collect this kind of data in a few important cases. See Dr. Schwarz's article on these factors in this issue.
- ³ The author has been conducting a nationwide poll of UFO buffs, witnesses and sceptics. Although the poll is incomplete and the results have not been fully tabulated, approximately 15 per cent of all those polled (a very broad cross-section) claim to have seen an unidentified flying object in recent years. If you extend this finding, it would mean that 30,000,000 Americans have now seen UFOs.
- ⁴ *The UFO Annual*, edited by M. K. Jessup. Published by The Citadel Press, New York, 1956.
- ⁵ "Them Thar Flying Saucers," by Ivan T. Sanderson; Blairstown, N.J. Press, November 17, 1966.
- ⁶ The sightings around Wanaque, N.J., have been heavily publicized and mentioned in many magazines and paperback books. See *The Official Guide to UFOs* published by *Science and Mechanics*, 1968, for a summary by Lloyd Mallan.
- ⁷ Personal communication by mail and phone with witnesses. Lloyd Mallan visited Georgia in 1968 and spoke to many of these witnesses but he has not yet published his findings.
- ⁸ *Empire*, the Sunday supplement of the Syracuse, N.Y. *Herald-American*, devoted an entire issue to this "flap" on March 3, 1968. This issue included many photos of witnesses, saucer 'nest's', etc.
- ⁹ Personal investigation. See the *National Enquirer*, February 25, 1968: "2,000 UFO Sightings Reported". Summary of Harrisburg incidents with maps, photos of witnesses, etc.
- ¹⁰ During a visit to the Ithaca area in the spring of 1968, Dr. Hynek told an audience that he was flabbergasted by the extent of the UFO activity there and had never encountered anything like it before.
- ¹¹ See *Saga* magazine, October and November, 1968, for articles by John Keel summarizing some of this activity. Also FSR, July/August., 1968.
- ¹² For detailed summaries of UFO activities on Long Island in 1966 see *The UFO Report* by Irving A. Greenfield, Lancer Books, 1967; and *UFO Top Secret*, by Mort Young, Simon & Shuster, 1967.
- ¹³ See *Challenge to Science—the UFO Enigma*, by Jacques and Janine Vallée, Henry Regnery Co., Chicago, for details. Also Dr. Vallée's article in *THE HUMANOIDS*, published by FSR.
- ¹⁴ *Mysteries of the Skies: UFOs in Perspective*, by Gordon Lore and Harold Deneault, Jr., Prentice-Hall, 1968. Also see bibliography of 1897 articles, FSR, September/October, 1968, p. 16.
- ¹⁵ The material used for this examination of the 1957 flap was collected from many sources, including the APRO bulletins of the period,

- Palmer's *Flying Saucers*, NICAP's *UFO Evidence* and numerous private collections of clippings.
- ¹⁶ Widely reported by all wire services on April 26, 1966. Photos were published in *Life*, *Newsweek*, etc., the following week.
- ¹⁷ *National Enquirer*, August 25, 1968.
- ¹⁸ *National Enquirer*, August 11, 1968.
- ¹⁹ *Boletín Climático*, April, 1968.
- ²⁰ *Strange World*, by Frank Edwards; *UFO Explodes over Nevada*, pp. 38-41.
- ²¹ *ibid.* "Express train in the Sky," pp. 188-193. Extracted from Charles Fort. Original source, *Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada*.
- ²² UPI report, September 16, 1968. Widely published.
- ²³ *Daily News*, Norfolk, Nebraska, July 6, 1966. Four witnesses named in the account.
- ²⁴ York, Nebraska, *News-Times*, July 14, 1966. Two witnesses named.
- ²⁵ Cozad, Nebraska, *Local*, July 18, 1966.
- ²⁶ Galesburg, Illinois, *Register-Mail*, July 14, 1966. Full column story. Witnesses named.
- ²⁷ Ypsilanti, Michigan, *Press*, July 15, 1966.
- ²⁸ Omaha, Nebraska, *Evening World-Herald*, July 15, 1966; Kingman, Kansas, *Leader Courier*, July 22, 1966; numerous other clips from Kansas and Nebraska.
- ²⁹ Omaha, Nebraska, *Evening World-Herald*, July 14, 1966, full column story naming many witnesses.
- ³⁰ Muskegon, Michigan, *Chronicle*, July 7, 1966; two witnesses named.
- ³¹ Ashtabula, Ohio, *Star-Beacon*, July 13, 1966; witnesses named.
- ³² The Olden Moore case was cut into several parts and scattered throughout NICAP's *UFO Evidence* without proper indexing so that the reader could assemble the components. A heavily detailed review of this case appears in *Jim Moseley's Book of Saucer News*, published by Saucerian Publications, Clarksburg, West Virginia, 1967; *UFO Spotter Taken to Washington*, by C. V. Fitch, pp. 25-28.
- ³³ *New York Times*, July 2, 1968.
- ³⁴ *Incident at Exeter*, by John Fuller, Putnam's, 1966.
- ³⁵ See "Our Skies Are Full of Junk," by John Keel, *Fate*, January, 1969. Also *Uninvited Visitors*, by Ivan T. Sanderson, Cowles, 1967, Chapter XI, charts on pp. 192-193.
- ³⁶ The author has had access to this controversial document and has read the entire Varo edition three times. For a summary of this interesting book and comments on a few of the notations see *New UFO Break-through*, by Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour, Award Books, 1968.
- ³⁷ The author has listened to all twelve hours of the taped hypnotic sessions recorded by Dr. Simon during his study of the Hill case. Many small but significant details revealed in these sessions were not mentioned in the published summary of the Hill case, *Interrupted Journey*.

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UFO STORIES OF THE NORTH WESTERN INDIANS

Richard Hack

The author has published a number of articles in *Flying Saucers (Palmer)*, *Exploring the Unknown* and other magazines.

THE UFO story began many centuries ago, perhaps even pre-dating the coming of man. We have accounts in the Bible, from the Egyptians, and in the pictorial writing of the Stone Age. And in the United States, we have the legends of the American Indian, from North to South, East to West.

I came across the following tales in a book published by the University of Oklahoma Press and written by the Professor Emeritus of English at Washington State University, Ella E. Clark. Entitled "Indian Legends of the Northern Rockies", it records the creation myths and ancient legends of the Indian tribes that lived in what are now the states of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Washington. Because of the number of legends that could be related to the UFO field, I have decided to concentrate mainly on those involving the "Little People"—creatures very similar to our modern-day "UFO-nauts". I would further point out that the author herself makes no attempt or suggestion at a connection, and that the concepts advanced in this article are my own.

The legends are from the storytellers of the following tribes: Group 1: the Nez Percés, the Flatheads, the Kalispels, and the

Coeur d'Alenes; Group 2: the Arapaho, the Gros Ventres, the Blackfeet, the Crow, the Assiniboine, and the Sioux; and Group 3: the Shoshoni, the Bannocks, and the Kutenais.

Group 1 were Plateau Indians, dwelling in the country of eastern Washington, Oregon, Montana, and much of Idaho; their staple food was the salmon; they lived in communal houses in winter, in simple lean-tos during summer.

Group 2 were the Plains Indians living from the Rockies eastward to the Mississippi and as far south as Texas. The buffalo was their staple diet and was also used for just about everything else, including clothing. The Indians of these tribes travelled by foot until the introduction of the horse during the first half of the 18th century, and since they were rovers, this meant that they were in fact a hardy people.

Group 3 were also Plains Indians. In addition, they were Plateau Indians, as they were representative of neither exclusively.

For our purposes, it must be noted that the tribes listed above are invariably described as composed of extremely intelligent and extremely honest individuals, with the possible exception of the warlike Blackfeet. Further, it should be noted that the Indian has a peculiarly

retentive memory, and of course, respect for their ancestors led to the careful preservation of the stories quoted.

Nearly every tribe in the Rockies had some legends about the "Little People". Most detailed and typical are those of the Nez Percés, who called these strange dwarfs "The Stick Indians", because they lived in deep forests. The legends usually went as follows.

The Stick Indians were about 3ft. in height, and formed very much like humans. They wore deer skins, and lived in the deep forests, although they roamed far and wide. Often at night they made strange sounds. They were reputed to be able to turn invisible by rubbing themselves with a certain type of grass. They could hoot exactly like owls or howl exactly like coyotes. They were possessed of incredible strength: an old white man told an Indian once that he had seen a dwarf walking off with a calf under each arm.

They had a habit of invading Indian homes and demanding food, with dire consequences for those who refused. On p. 50 of this reference book by Miss Clark, a story is related how one evening a hunting party was camped for the night, during which a storm blew up. The narrator's uncle ordered the