

# THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

The A. P. R. O. Bulletin is the official copyrighted publication of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (A.P.R.O.), 4145 E. Desert Place, Tucson, Arizona, and is issued every other month to members only. The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization is a non-profit group dedicated to the eventual solution of the mystery of the unidentified objects which have been present in the skies for hundreds of years. Inquiries regarding membership may be made to the above address.

TUCSON, ARIZONA — JULY, 1962

## Saucers Shoot Rockets over Tucson, Arizona

By Coral E. Lorenzen

### Support NICAP?

From time to time we receive letters from members and others urging us to "throw our support to NICAP" or "back NICAP policies" or "help NICAP press for congression hearings," etc. Until now we have remained tacit on this matter but we feel the time has come for a clarification of our stand.

The major difference between NICAP and APRO is that NICAP concentrates on lobbying while APRO is primarily concerned with research. We do not participate in lobbying efforts for two reasons: (1) We would lose our tax-exempt status (2) We feel that we are more effective in other areas; that, in fact, lobbying would lessen this effectiveness.

APRO's efforts, especially the Director's book, are gradually drawing the endorsements of the scientific community. This we feel, is real progress. Such endorsement would arise with more reluctance we feel, had we the reputation of using such for purposes of direct political pressure. A scientist, once aware of the true nature of the problem, becomes a firm supporter. Politicians, on the other hand, are notoriously fickle.

To illustrate a point, we quote from a letter from Dr. Frank Salisbury, Plant Physiologist with the Colorado State University. "Both Monday and Tuesday of this week I gave talks about life on Mars and of course inserted the up-to-date section on UFO's. The first talk was to a group of scientists (about a dozen), and sure enough, at the end of the talk one of them came up with an account of a personal sighting. This person was the organizer of the group and a rather well established chemist of many years standing. I was really quite amazed to hear her tell of two objects that came over the horizon and descended into a valley below her ranch and then headed straight upwards toward the zenith . . . On Tuesday I talked to an institute of humanities and again I put in a healthy pitch for the UFO subject. I even went so far as to say that in a group of that size (50 or

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### Cigars, Discs Over Argentina

A Reuters Dispatch from Buenos Aires, Argentina dated June 18, 1962, reads: "Unidentified Flying Objects — saucer or cigar-shaped—are becoming a common sight for Argentinians. The last of a recent series was reported in Olavarria—a town in the province of Buenos Aires.

Farmer Jose Muro telephoned the local newspaper El Popular reporting the presence of an unusual object which he had spotted with a small telescope.

Reporters, neighbors and photographers went to Muro's home and 20 minutes later the object was still hovering overhead, barely moving. Witnesses claimed that shortly afterward it vanished upwards, only to reappear closer than ever several minutes later. The color of its light appeared to change from red to blue, from blue to green and again to red. Other residents in Olavarria claimed to have seen similar objects.

Buenos Aires press dispatches say a confidential report to the authorities compiled by officers of the naval base of Puerto Belgrano, at the southern tip of the province of Buenos Aires, confirmed the presence of unidentified objects in the skies over Argentina. The officers cross-examined scores of witnesses, particularly those who reported unusual activity of flying objects during the night of May 14 in the neighborhood of the base.

### Still Available

The first edition of the Director's book, "The Great Flying Saucer Hoax" is going fast but copies are still available from headquarters to those who have not obtained their copies, or who may wish to order for friends. Some members, among them John Hopf, our photo-analyst and Jeanne Gregory, recommend that those who can afford it should buy an extra copy for placement in the local library. Copies are still available at the \$3.95 price—10% off for members.

"Some doors opened in the bottom and something came out." An unconventional aerial object hovered for a period of time at Tucson, Arizona and a strange device had lowered to the ground. The boy relating the details was 14-year-old John Westmoreland. He and his brother James and next-door neighbor Ronnie Black had spent the night of June 25, 1962 in the tent in the Westmoreland back yard and during the course of four hours had witnessed a strange but revealing chain of events.

On the evening of the 26th of June I opened the Tucson Daily Citizen newspaper. When I came to the local news section, these words seemed to pop right out of the page: "Saucers, Rockets Inhabit Night Sky."

I scanned the article briefly and reached for the telephone book. Seconds later I was talking to Mrs. Logan Westmoreland, the mother of John and James Westmoreland. She graciously invited Mr. Lorenzen and me to come to her home and interview the boys. Three hours later we were seated in the comfortably furnished living room of the Westmoreland home in southeast Tucson.

The boys were eager to talk about their adventure, partly I suspect, because they were met with doubt at first. As soon as we got the gist of the story we started the slow process of cross-examination.

The three boys had been given permission to spend the night in the tent, so, armed with a deck of playing cards, pad and pencil, they settled down to a game of 500 Rummy by lantern light. Shortly before nine they were bored with cards and not sleepy, so they decided to go outside, watch for meteors and look at the stars and try to catch an errant, cooling breeze. The summer rains were in the offing and the air was warm and humid. The day had been hot; the night air was a welcome change.

At about 9 o'clock John noticed a star at 5 degrees south of due west, 30-40 degrees elevation, which didn't behave

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## The A. P. R. O. BULLETIN

Published by  
THE AERIAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH  
ORGANIZATION  
4145 E. Desert Place  
Tucson, Arizona

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## NICAP . . . .

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60 people), that it was quite likely that one or two would have had a personal sighting. Sure enough, after the end of my hour talk and half hour discussion (most of the discussion about UFOs) two people came up and told me their stories. Unfortunately the accounts are rather cold by now, but I think it is extremely interesting that even with such a limited sample one can find 2 or 3% of an audience that has personal accounts to tell about. If this were really true on a national level, it would mean that literally hundreds of thousands of people in the United States have witnessed UFOs in the past 15 years. In none of the cases which I have passed on to you in recent weeks has the person ever reported his sighting to anyone else other than close friends." Unquote.

The point is that it only took a serious treatment of the UFO subject by an established scientist to bring the others out of "hiding." Professor Maney's experience seems to bear this out. We quote from the Defiance (Ohio) Crescent-News:

"Among reports of other sightings of unidentified aerial objects received by Professor Maney the last few days is one which Prof. Maney regards of special significance. The report was received in the person of a scientist from one of the universities in Ohio, who made a special trip to Defiance for the sole purpose of conferring with Prof Maney concerning his experience. The scientist whose identification is withheld for reasons given by himself below, had told no one previously about his experience. He had just learned through the account of the Defiance sighting in the press of Prof. Maney's serious scientific interest in the study of unidentified aerial phenomena and desired to contribute his personal first-hand observation, which he felt to be of value in the study of these phenomena." The account of this sighting appears in this issue, incidentally.

When scientists speak up, laymen are encouraged to do the same and when enough of this has taken place, congressional investigations will follow automatically if still needed. It is our feeling that the Air Force UFO program is a public relations program. It's an advertising scheme which explains UFOs as conventional objects because that's what it's designed to do. Why dispute them?

You might just as well claim that king-size Coca-Cola doesn't give you that refreshing new feeling.

## Space Visitors—A Review and Comments

By Coral Lorenzen

From time to time in the past 20-odd years, I have exposed myself or have been exposed, to various and sundry writings concerning theories pertaining to the Origin of Things, Life, and Man. In the course of my pursuit of the Unknown, and attempts to find logical explanations for same, I have noted and duly studied data pertaining to unexplainable artifices and artifacts.

Recently, an article entitled, "Space Visitors" was featured in "Australian Flying Saucer Review," published in Melbourne, Australia and edited by APRO's able representative, Peter E. Norris, a Melbourne attorney-at-law. The article is a translation and condensation from the Soviet magazine "Smena," No. 10, 1961, and was authored by Alexander Kazantsev.

Mr. Kazantsev, after duly philosophizing concerning life beyond earth and the possibility of space travelers, proceeds to recite the details of various strange findings. Among them are:

A purported shoe print made on sand-

stone in the Gobi Desert "millions of years ago." Kazantsev says its size and pattern suggest that this is the print of a space traveler's sole who had landed on earth at a time when there were no human beings. We ask this question: What criteria determines that this print did not belong to a member of a race which inhabited this earth and was long since destroyed?

Another case listed by Kazantsev is a polished steel block 2½"x2¾"x2" weighing 785 grams, found by an Austrian physicist in the Alps in a coal stratum of Tertiary period.

Case number three which is also germane: The mountain lake of Titicaca in the Andes has still preserved a well-defined line of a seashore. Remains of sea weeds, shells . . . and ruins of a sea harbour can be seen there.

The Gate of the Sun in Tiahuanaco is covered with unique hieroglyphics which, deciphered by Epstein, turned out to be an astronomical calendar of great precision but which gives the year only 290 days. Kazantsev automatically concludes that the calendar was brought to earth by spacemen.

Also listed is the strange light-colored stones of the Nasca Plateau, in the Andes, which from the air form various animals and other symbols. Kazantsev assumes that these markings are signals or landing guides for space ships.

There are many, many more including the strange but famous iron pillar erected near the ancient tower of Kutb-Minar in Delhi, India "over 1500 years ago." The pole is eight meters high and weighs twelve tons. It can be circled by a pair of hands. It does not rust, indicating that it is made of highly pure iron.

Considering the obvious tentative conclusion of Mr. Kazantsev that these strange artifices and artifacts came from a race of space dwellers, I feel that he has fallen into a common and most tender trap. This trap consists of a compulsion to attempt to apply one theory to all of the erratics, no matter how one must bend the facts—or logic.

In a letter to the editor of the Alamogordo Daily News, Alamogordo, New Mexico, a resident of the Tularosa Basin recounted his discovery of a large, symmetrical metal ring and eye-bolt set into solid rock on the face of a high rock wall near one of the highest peaks of the Sacramento Mountains.

The ring was located about 2 to 3,000 feet above the floor of the Tularosa Basin which is 3500 feet above sea level. Fossils found in the Basin and the general alkaline nature of the soil indicate

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## Saucers Shoot . . . .

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like a star. It was very bright, white in color, and "moved around a little," in the boys' words. Soon it dimmed, moved a little toward the south, lost a few degrees in altitude and then became stationary.

The boys soon lost interest and went back into the tent to another game of Rummy. From time to time they peeked out and took a look at the strange "star" but it "just stayed there." Then at about 11:45 things began to happen.

The bright "star" became much brighter and seemed to move closer. Instead of looking like a star, it assumed a triangular shape as it grew larger. Then it became stationary again. How long this process took the boys did not know, but according to the kitchen clock (they kept peeking in the window to check the time), a surprising thing happened at 12:15. Three green flares or rockets were fired horizontally from the main object.

At this time, John scrambled into the tent and emerged with the score pad and pencil. He decided to keep notes. On the pad he wrote: "At 9 o'clock at night we saw a flying saucer. At 12:15 it shot three green things that traveled faster than any plane." These rockets were too fast to track visually.

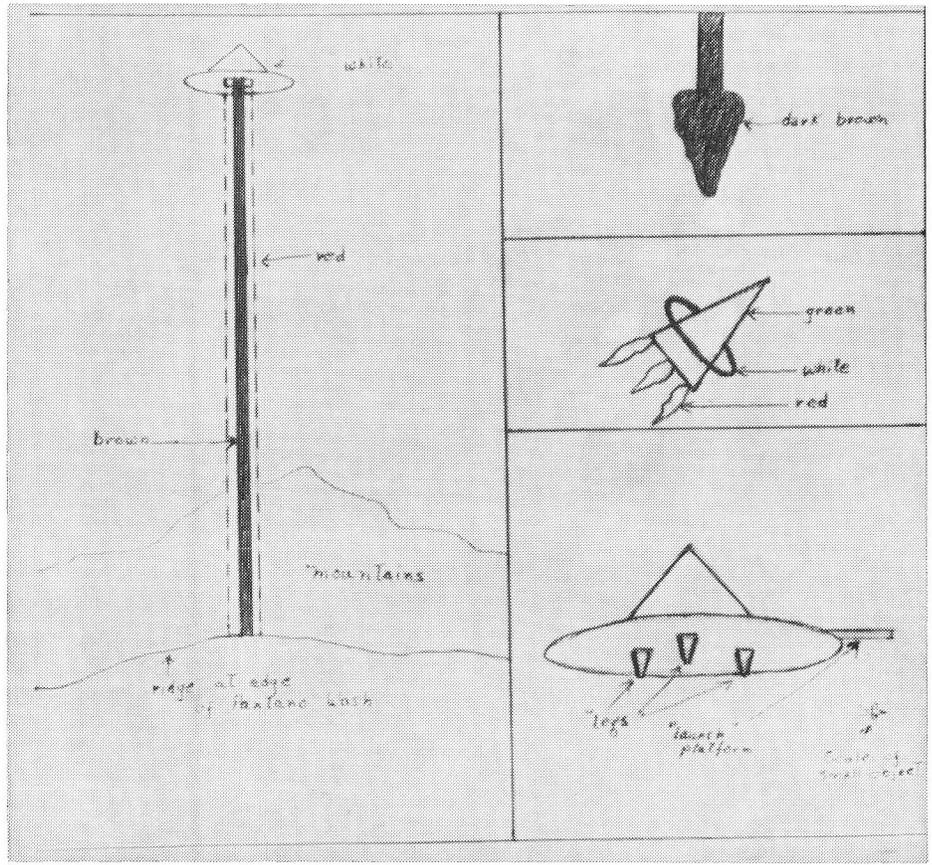
After the first "rocket" was fired, John noticed the second "saucer" which we will hereafter refer to as Number Two. It came in racing from west to east across the northern sky, "turned a flip" and came to rest at about 15 degrees east of north at a slightly greater elevation than No. 1. Shortly No. 2, which appeared closer and larger than No. 1, was approached by the "flare-like object," which came in from underneath and appeared to be absorbed through the bottom of No. 2.

Then the first "saucer" spat out another of the small objects. About three minutes later No. 2 was again approached by the tiny object and again the boys watched as it seemingly disappeared into the bottom of No. 2.

No. 1 was still in the same position, appearing to be triangular in shape, and No. 2 appeared much closer and round-shaped with two leg-like or stilt-like protuberances on the underside.

A third flare emerged from No. 1, and was shortly "received" by saucer No. 2. Things were getting interesting. No. 2 then shot out a rocket which quickly disappeared into the night sky. No. 2 began to dim and fade into the night sky and was not seen again. No. 1 retained its same position.

At this time, Saucer No. 3 was spotted



at about 100-110 degrees and about 45 degrees elevation. It appeared the largest and highest of the three, which suggests that it was closer. The detail reported by the boys bears this out.

But the best part of the show was yet to come.

Number three sported a cone-shaped superstructure above an apparently round airfoil. Its color was white and like the others it made absolutely no sound. At 1:16 a jet plane went over—we later decided it was probably in the flight pattern of Davis-Monthan AFB, a Strategic Air Command installation a scant 3 or 4 miles from the Westmoreland home.

The new visitor closed in and three of the stilt-like protuberances "popped out." Then the object gained altitude. An elongated dark "something" slid out from above the circular rim and three of the small rocket-like objects emerged in quick succession. In a few brief minutes they were back. Two doors swung open, down, and back up against the underside of the saucer. As the doors opened, the "legs" receded into the object. The little rockets, now clearly seen, swiftly entered the opening, one by one. The big object elevated slightly, and moved sideways, then became stationary again.

The newspaper had printed only the boys' notes which were not detailed ex-

cept for general movement of the objects. In describing saucer No. 3, John had written: "Something lowered from the bottom. Something came out."

I asked John what he meant by that. He said that something which looked like a rope or cable came out and lowered to the ground. I asked him what color it was, and two voices—his and James', piped up and said "brown." I wondered how they could tell colors at that time of the night and asked them. "From the light," they said.

"What light was that?" I asked. Then then told me that when the doors opened a red light shone down from the inside in a perpendicular narrow beam, that extended to the ground. When the long, ropelike object began to come out, it was clearly visible and appeared to be brown in color.

The boys estimated that the "rope" was extended for from three to five minutes, after which it began to come up into the saucer again. After it had cleared the top of the ridge bordering the wash, they realized that something was on the bottom of it. It was slowly pulled up into the large object, the doors closed and the object moved up and into the east until it was out of sight.

The youngsters stayed up a little longer, watching for more activity in the sky but before long the excitement of

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the night and their lack of sleep overcame their curiosity and they retired into the tent. As soon as they had awakened in the morning they rushed in to tell Mrs. Westmoreland what they had seen.

Pat Westmoreland, about 40, is an understanding mother but a firm one. The thought at first that perhaps the boys had had a touch of imagination and set about using all the "trapping tricks" she knew to trip them up in their story, but to no avail. She began to realize that they had had a real experience. She decided the newspapers should know what had happened the preceding night and called them. Thus the article which had drawn my attention came about. It should be noted here that the newspaper printed the notes, pointing out that it could be imaginary or real—they printed it because it was a sensational story.

The matter of the boys' honesty comes to mind as a matter of course in these investigations. After three long visits with the boys, during which time Mr. Lorenzen walked with them to the wash over which they thought the UAO had hovered, and I had sketched the objects from their instructions, we found no indication that the boys were not telling the truth. Mr. Lorenzen said that he had not caught any signs of strain, rehearsed conversation or trickery during his talks with them while walking to and from the wash. Nor did I ever detect any evidence that the boys were attempting to perpetrate a hoax. Some of the things which impressed me concerning the sighting as well as the honesty of the boys were these:

When attempting to describe the object which was brought up by the rope or cable, John Westmoreland said he got the impression that the object was about as long as his father—in other words, its length equalled approximately the height of his father who is about 6 feet tall. If saucer No. 3 was above Pantano wash as the boys felt it was, we have an idea of its size as well as the size of the rockets or flares and the size of the object which was pulled up into the large object.

The rim of the saucer appeared to have the same angular displacement as a five foot cross-arm on a utility pole at the corner of the Westmoreland lot. If it was over Pantano wash (quarter mile distant) it was approximately 80 feet in diameter. The small objects then would be about 6 feet long, and the object which was taken up into the saucer

would be about the same size as the "rockets," and certainly the same general configuration. (See sketches).

It is interesting and tempting to speculate that one of the rockets, at some time or other, had become disabled, a search initiated, and eventually, a recovery effected. The latter phase of the sighting, in which a device was lowered to the ground and returned to saucer No. 3 with a triangular-shaped object at the end of it, could have been that "recovery." This may further be supported by the fact that after the object was taken into the saucer, the saucer left. The recovery of that object may have been the sole purpose of the presence of the saucers that night.

It is interesting to note that after the case was fully investigated, the local newspapers were not interested in further information or a follow-up story.

On the 29th, a group of local college students sent up some balloons filled with ordinary kitchen gas and lighted by candles encased in fireproof crepe paper. Although this was not accomplished until three days after the Westmoreland sighting, the idea of saucers had been firmly implanted in the public mind. A local professor of atmospheric physics who is interested in UFO, was told of the strange lighted object in the sky, and went to the U. of A. meteorological lab to track the thing. The story of his sighting was in the Arizona Star morning paper for Friday 29 June 1962. Upon reading the details, plus his theory that the thing was an "extended source of light," I wondered if some hoaxers might have been at work. I called the Tucson Citizen asking that they mention APRO and ask for further sightings of the Thursday evening object and suggested that the object seen that night might have been the result of a prank. Later, I talked to the physicist who had been viewing the object and found that he had also decided that the object was a hoax.

Later news stores stated that the college boys involved in the "prank" were "carrying out experiments dealing with wind velocity and other weather conditions." Considering the type of homemade balloon, and the fact that it contained dangerous highly inflammable gas which was tied to a device with an open flame, it is not likely that any such experiment was being carried out. It appears more likely that a childish prank was being played and the "young men" involved did not want to admit their part in it, attempting to write it off as an experiment.

It is lamentable that the newspapers were satisfied with the experiment ex-

planation and stated that these "experiments" may have been the cause of the saucer sightings in Southern Arizona in the past few months. Certainly, the easiest way to dispose of the perplexing UFO problem is to ignore the evidence which prolongs its mysterious nature. A large percentage of the press is inclined to do precisely that.

In the case of this latter sighting, the only two observers of the lighted plastic bags who called me felt the object was a balloon. The local press gave the impression that those who viewed the hoax objects were completely fooled, but that certainly was not the case.

The events of the week of June 24-30 very aptly demonstrated the contention that I have had for years concerning the psychology of the disbeliever. The skeptic is often so intent upon disproving that which he does not care to believe, by attempting to label it a hoax or a misconception of a conventional object, that he sets about to perpetrate a hoax to support his own convictions and allay his subconscious fears.

A thorough perusal of newspaper stories concerning the Westmoreland sighting as well as ensuing reports of unidentified sky objects emphasizes the foolhardiness of accepting en toto the information pertaining to UFO sightings as presented by the news media and points up the need for thorough investigation. Had I accepted the Westmoreland story as presented by the Tucson Citizen, I would have had a short dissertation completely lacking in detail. A few hours spent in investigation yielded some very important facts, and enabled APRO to log one of the most detailed sightings of an unconventional aerial object which has ever been observed.

## Ice Cutter Encounters "Lake Lights"

On March 17, 1962, strange lights off the shore of Erie, Pennsylvania, got the ice cutter Ojibwa out of dock to investigate. Chief Warrant officer Kenneth N. Black (Coast Guard) said the lights were seen by several individuals including the ship's crew. The ship got underway, cutting through heavy ice all the way to the Canadian shore and Black said "The closer we moved toward them, the farther away they seemed to be." Black also said he believed the lights were the result of unusual atmospheric conditions causing lights to be refracted on the lake. It is interesting to note that the obvious explanation — that they were chasing moving lights — was apparently not mentioned or considered by Black.

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that the Basin was once an inland sea—a body of salt water.

The ring and eye-bolt, apparently made of brass or bronze, appeared to have been set by first drilling a hole and inserting the hardware, then pouring in molten sulphur which later hardened.

This finding indicates that fairly advanced people lived on the land called the Sacramento mountains and also suggests the ring was a device for tying or mooring a vessel. Obviously, because of the metal and workmanship, this ring was not a product of the Apache Indians who were a barbaric tribe which predated white men of that area. The known history of the Apaches does not record the presence of a sea or any body of water in that locale. It does not mean, however, that space men came to the Tularosa Basin and moored ships at that mooring place.

The foregoing is only a few of many examples of evidence suggesting past civilizations. This evidence is found throughout the world—some of which was mentioned in Mr. Kazantsev's article.

In the interest of objectivity, students of the unexplained should avoid accepting theories which could be based on possible emotional preference. Facts which have for the most part been ignored by orthodox science and religion are now being seriously considered. These facts include the evidence of past civilizations as well as the evidence of visiting space travelers.

Some of us show a strong inclination to link these two groups of facts, and sometimes even attempt to tie in other completely disassociated fields such as ESP and parapsychology.

In my book, "The Great Flying Saucer Hoax," I mentioned, however briefly, the tendency of the Russian scientist toward feelings of inferiority. This is evident quite often by demonstrations of boasting and further especially in regard to speculation concerning space travel by extraterrestrials. When theorizing about the artificiality of the Martian moons, one Russian scientist (Schklovsky) assumed they were the product of a recently evolved technology rather than a very advanced race with hundreds or thousands of years of space travel experience behind them. The recognition of a race of nearly the same scientific accomplishment as ours would be far more preferable to a person or people with feelings of inferiority than the idea of a race thousands of years ahead.

Mr. Kazantsev, who is probably a member of a political party known for its atheistic convictions, seems to reach out for security of a kind — we might say "technical-type" angels" in his speculations concerning space travelers who have visited earth in past milleniums, teaching new scientific concepts, etc.

Several years ago, I became engaged in a lengthy conversation concerning the origin of man with a world famous astronomer. The scientist, who undertook a study of geology in order to better equip himself for planetary studies, said that Earth was a favorable abode for man at least millions of years before man apparently (according to present-day science) made his appearance here.

If we view Mr. Kazantsev's data with an emotional inclination against the idea of extra-terrestrial visitors because of the apparent evidence, we come up with the conclusion that man has existed on earth before, and due to causes and effects about which we know nothing, was, along with what civilization he had attained, utterly destroyed. And perhaps these cataclysms have happened many times. This theory of devastating cosmic cataclysms is dealt with in detail by E. Velikovsky in his books, *Ages in Chaos*, *Earth in Upheaval*, etc., and seems well substantiated. Such occurrences could account for a carefully wrought steel block being buried in a coal strata—an indication that a very advanced civilization had been utterly destroyed eons ago. It could also account for a 290-day calendar which survived an orbital disturbance which gave us, depending on which cataclysm is involved, the 365-day calendar of the present. The IGY studies of 1956 concluded that the north pole was once located somewhere in the Pacific Ocean.

Why could not the stone arrangements of the Nasca Plateau be remnants of the ancient Indian cultures which worshipped the sun? Some, of these arrangements, at least, could be exhortations to the god of the Sun and it would be a simple matter to transfer the concept of the various animal-shapes, etc., from small to large proportions encompassing acres and miles.

There is a budding theory prevalent among some researchers which postulates the escape from destruction by space travel of advanced earthmen a millenia ago. These same theorists feel the space beings visiting earth today are descendants of those same migrating races, and related to man. Why is it so important to associate these beings with man?

Is it because the idea of a race evol-

ing elsewhere makes God a less personal entity and man a more puny, insignificant cog in a machine which is so huge as to be impossible to comprehend? Do some of us prefer to juggle and warp the facts to suit our own emotional needs? Sadly enough, this seems to be the case, for all of us cannot be entirely correct. Perhaps the answer to the origin of the erratics lies in a combination of these speculations. But — UFO researchers are concerned with the unconventional flying machines which obviously do not have an earthly origin.

If one can prove something has happened once, it is reasonable to assume that it could happen again. Such is the case with the UFOs. If we could prove that space ships have traversed space and landed on earth in the distant past, we could reasonably speculate that it could happen at this time.

However, there is no proof of space travelers in ancient times — merely speculation based on arbitrary association of erratics.

Conversely, we do have massive evidence supporting fact of space travelers today! Let us proceed from there. To wean the orthodox masses from their dearly held convictions of the exclusiveness of man is a task of tremendous proportions—this is not a time to meddle with John Q.'s ideas of history which are deeply rooted in his religious inclinations. Easy does it.

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## Back Issues

The office has many back issues of the Bulletin for sale at 50c each. In some instances, however, the stock is so large that it is taking up needed space. We urge members (especially fairly new ones) to order back issues. Three or more issues will be sold for the price of 3 for \$1.00, 4 for \$1.50, postpaid.

Also in stock is a small supply of Special Report No. 1, the Barra da Tijuca Saucer, illustrated with photos and diagrams. This is the first and only complete account of the famous four detailed photos taken near Dio de Janeiro, Brazil in May 1952 by photographer Ed Keffel. The report is by Dr. Olavo T. Fontes of Brazil.

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## UFO Over Argentina

Miguel Thome, news photographer of "La Nueva Provincia" took four exposures of a UFO over Bahia Blanca, Argentina in May, obtaining one picture out of four attempts. The photo shows only an illuminated ovoid object against a black sky. When further details are available they will be presented in this Bulletin in the future.

## Fireball Lights Pacific Northwest

On the evening of 28 May, a giant fireball was observed by thousands over the Pacific Northwest. At 10:45 p. m., the large, multi-colored ball of fire trailing smoke and flame raced across the sky in a southeast direction, as observed by Canadians. Most observers in the U. S. as well as Canada observed the spectacular object for a period of at least 15 seconds.

One observer near Royal Oak, British Columbia, Canada, spotted it while driving, had time to stop the car to look. Research scientist Frank Hughes of North Gurrey, B. C., says he's seen 200 meteors, that this was the biggest. "It was on a 20 degree angle from the earth, 10 degrees in width and traversed about 30 degrees in 5 seconds. It was glowing with a white brightness like a magnesium flare—the different portions of it glowed with varying intensity," Mr. Hughes said.

Upon reading the initial descriptions of the fireball in news clippings, we were struck by the extraordinary length of time the object was observed. Mr. Arthur H. Randell of Victoria, B. C., was one of the eye-witnesses, and furnished this first-hand report:

"We had been into the city and were driving home at about 10:45 p. m. We were within a quarter mile of home, on the coast road, at Cordova Bay, where our home is situated. The Patricia Bay Airport is eight miles north of us, near Sidney and we are on the route used by TCA (Trans-Canadian Airlines) and other commercial airplanes to Seattle and other USA points, and are quite used to all types of planes and helicopters passing overhead.

"The night was dark with some stars, but few clouds, the sky being quite clear. When we first saw this object or rather lights, we thought it must be a Seattle plane. However, we immediately saw it was not, as the lights were of a different intensity and color. They were of a luminous quality, white with also some blue, almost like lighted cabin windows. It was travelling southeast towards Seattle, and was over the sea, the Haro Straights. It was not travelling very fast, but about usual plane speed, or a little faster. We could not discern the shape due to the lights and luminous glow from it. It was definitely not like any meteor we have ever seen, did not travel like one, and resembled an object intelligently controlled and going somewhere. It did not appear to be up at any great height, about usual plane height. After about 2 or 3 minutes it disappeared into the southeast in the

general direction of Seattle. As it was seen in Alberta, Vancouver, here and Idaho, it must have been on some course, made several turns, and was not falling to earth in a straight line like a meteor."

Paul Quam, APRO member at Spokane, also observed the spectacle and adds further mystery to this so-called sighting of a large "meteor."

"A very large mass of material traveled in a southwest direction, coming from the north-northwest at a very high speed and not too high an altitude; at least in Spokane it wasn't close enough to be above us. It traveled parallel to the horizon. Most so-called shooting stars usually fall or streak from above to the earth. This display was quite different. It was very large, its color was beautiful, but the distance it travelled and the perfectly straight line it held was something to wonder about. Even when it began to fade away, (the "head" of it) it just traveled straight on. Almost like a jet plane shooting along.

"It is difficult to determine the altitude and speed of something like this but reports show it was seen over the larger part of the Pacific northwest. I would say it was visible to us for about 12 to 15 seconds, perhaps longer, but there were trees in the way at the north entrance and it was possible it could have been in the atmosphere longer than when we first saw it."

## Flashing Lights Seen In Colorado

APRO member Martha T. Nichols of Wheat Ridge, Colorado, has forwarded the following information concerning a sighting made by herself, her husband Charles R. Nichols, and their sons, Philip and Ross:

First sighted by Philip Nichols, the object was seen in the East-southeast about 25 degrees above the horizon at 1 a. m. MST on 26 June 1962 from the 7000 block of W. 48th Ave. Philip called his brother Ross, who arrived in time to see the object, after arriving at an overhead position, turn in a tight curve and fly toward the south. When it turned it did not tilt or bank, and proceeded to disappear at about 30 degrees from the horizon.

To the naked eye the object appeared to be a white light about the size and brightness of Jupiter. Through 8 power binoculars it appeared the size of a penny held at arm's length. Through the binoculars three white lights, spaced like the points of an equilateral triangle could be seen. In the center of the triangular formation of lights was a smaller, flashing red light. The bottom of the

triangle was faintly illuminated. It flew with one light leading, point first.

Duration of the sighting was about 8 minutes, there was no sound and observers said it was impossible to judge the size of the object or its speed.

Both Philip and Ross observed the object through the binoculars while it was close enough for them to study it. They both decided that it could not be any plane that flies, as there were no wingtip lights and no sound, and the object did not bank at the turn. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols, their parents, can attest to the white light visible to the naked eye, and to a flashing red light but by the time they saw the object, it was too far away to be seen clearly.

Ross Nichols was employed (outdoors) at Stapleton Airfield at Denver for six months. Both Ross and Philip Nichols worked as helicopter mechanics on the flight line at Fort Ord, California, during basic training. Both have watched planes, both military and civilian through binoculars for years. Most of the planes in this area come and go from the west in full view of their home. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols are members of the Denver Astronomical Society and are familiar with astronomical phenomena.

It might be added that the Martin Missile plant at Littleton, Colorado, is south of Wheat Ridge, as are Colorado Springs and NORAD.

It is also interesting to note that approximately 8 minutes after the object mentioned above left that area, a round object with three legs showed up at Tucson, Arizona. See front page story.

## What Were The Green Fireballs?

The great, glowing green fireballs of 1948, 1949 and 1950 still remain pretty much of a mystery to UFO investigators and theorists. APRO member Steve Erdmann of St. Louis, Missouri, forwarded pages 93-98 and 240 of Popular Science for July 1953 which contains an article entitled: "Man-Made Meteors to Spy on Space" by Edward Hutchings Jr. and Olin J. Eggen.

Erdmann says: "Just as we planned to shoot man-made meteors to the moon and analyze the flash of impact (spectrographically) in order to learn its chemical constituents, could it be possible that outer-space beings have the same ideas and have been bombarding our planet and spectroscopically charting our chemical constituents? (Example: the green fireballs of 1948, 1949 and 1950)."

Mr. Erdmann's reasoning is fresh and clean and may well be a beginning of the solution of the green fireball mystery.