

EDITORIAL

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS in the field of flying saucers since we held the World's First Flying Saucer Convention last August, 1953. These include two other saucer conventions which have been recently held—both termed "firsts."

The first was the "World's First Interplanetary Spacecraft Convention" held by George W. Van Tassel at Giant Rock, California on Sunday, April 4th, 1954. The convention was generally accepted as "well done"—so to speak. The participants included: Geo. Van Tassel, Frank Scully, Orfeo Angelucci, George H. Williamson, Truman Bethurum and Daniel W. Fry among others.

The next convention was called "First Annual International Flying Saucer Convention"—a title sounding faintly like the one we used last August—presented by a new saucer organization: Saucer Research Foundation of Los Angeles.

This convention was held for three days—Friday, June 4th to Sunday, June 6th—at the Carthay Circle Theatre in Los Angeles. The theatre was large and comfortable; an excellent convention auditorium except for the transportation problem.

Of the many excellent individuals who participated, were: Daniel W. Fry, Orfeo Angelucci, Felix Fraser (psychic phenomena and "The Unseen Universe"), Jeron King Criswell (of "Criswell Predicts" fame), Michael Fox (introducing reels from the science-fiction pictures "Gog," "Riders to the Stars," and "Magnetic Monster" which were shown), and astronomer George H. Lutz (chief exponent of the metallic, not glass, mirrors for reflecting telescopes). Hal Styles was the capable moderator. There was quite a bit of audience participation.

This convention was fairly well organized, but quite repetitious. A greater array of speakers would have added much to the festivities.

In concluding our brief summary of recent flying saucer conventions, let us congratulate those who "did a job well done." We are sure they tried their best. Whether it was worthwhile is not for us to interpret.

(Cont.)



PHOTOGRAPH of speakers platform at Geo. Van Tassel's Giant Rock Spacecraft convention. Truman Bethurum is speaking, while Orfeo Angelucci is standing in background. Note portion of circular cloud at left of picture (although we are not sure it will be visible in this reproduction).

-Photo by Dick Hamlin

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INTERVIEW WITH EARL NEFF C

FROM → JHC

- E.N.: I'm inclined to think it's fantasy. One night I had George Van Tassel on the air with me from his home at Giant Rock. I said George, you claim that you have a photograph of the city on the moon, would you like to tell us more about it? He said, "Yes, I got that photograph." When we asked him to send us a copy of the print he said, "Now I really wouldn't know exactly where it is." Well now, if I was asked if I had a piece of UFO metal, I wouldn't say yes I have a piece of UFO metal, it's in my garage, and I've got so much metal out there I wouldn't know where it is. I think I would prize this very highly. And so when we checked this thing out, I think it was more imagination than anything else. He did have something and he showed it on his Proceedings but when we checked with Mt. Palomar, Palomar was very, very ignorant about it.
- SS&S: The U.S. funding of space exploration has been slowed down considerably. Do you think this will have any effect on our meeting aliens or spacecraft?
- E.N.: Frank Edwards said that within the next five years (just before his death - June 23, 1967) we will have contact with an actual spacecraft and person...and that will be by one of our astronauts. Edwards died the day before the 20th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's sighting. I certainly feel that every time we go out there in space they are highly concerned...and I made public for the first time anywhere in the country that when our experimental shot took place years ago at Cape Kennedy the object leaving the pad was followed by four UFOs, two above it, one below it and one behind it. They followed the capsule in that order for one complete orbit of the Earth...and as suddenly as they arrived they disappeared. This apparently meant that their mission was accomplished...what it was I don't know. But they are concerned with what we are doing, unquestionably so. One of the slides I have, given to me by Leonard Stringfield, shows an actual UFO (a controversial one) just on the outside edge of the smoke-ball of an experimental hydrogen bomb.
- SS&S: You were the first to interview Woody Derenberger on the air. Can you tell us briefly any latest developments in his contacts with Indrid Cold or others of like nature?
- E.N.: Monday night, Oct. 18th, on the Alan Douglas show he will tell all his latest stories. He says he's not crazy, he really had an experience. I had not bought the story, hook, line and sinker. I feel that he has elaborated much too much. He may have had an original experience and I'm not saying he didn't, because I wasn't there. I have interviewed him at length, and have had him on two shows. 50% of his story checks out.
- SS&S: People are still questioning the whereabouts of George Hunt Williamson. Do you know what happened to him?
- E.N.: I really couldn't say. Someone said that he was in Europe, another said in South America and still another said he was in this country (U.S.A.). But I do believe that he is very much alive.
- SS&S: In the book "Interrupted Journey" by John Fuller, when Betty Hill was under hypnosis, she mentioned a map relating to where her captors came from. Didn't you find out something interesting about that?
- E.N.: John Fuller may have known the following but if he did he left it out of his book. I don't believe he did, because I can't imagine an author as fine as he, not putting this in. When Betty was regressed by Dr. Simon, she was telling how she had seen a map which was relative to the trade routes, the places where the people were going most frequently (the extra-terrestrials) and those routes that were seldom used, etc. Now what he didn't say was, what seems of foremost importance to me, that this map was not a map on a wall, it was not on a piece of paper, it was not on a two-dimensional ground, this was a three-dimensional map. Apparently it's like when we take a laser beam. Down in Akron, Ohio, just a number of months ago, there was a very beautiful exhibit there. I didn't see it, but it was described to me. It was all about laser beams...you can really think you're seeing something in three dimensions and you can walk right through the blamed thing. This apparently was exactly the type of map she saw. □

Got any exciting personal stories relating to things UFOlogical? Tell us about them and we'll try to get them into the pages of SS&S. Or do you know someone who had something strange happen to him. Or her? Get them to tell us about it. How about it? G.D.

JAMES W. MOSELEY REPORTS ON
AMERICA'S BEST KNOWN ANNUAL
UFO CONVENTION AT

GIANT ROCK

On October 9th-11th, 1970, the 17th annual Giant Rock Spacecraft Convention was held on the desert near Yucca Valley, California, some one hundred miles east of Los Angeles. The purpose of these annual get-togethers of the UFO faithful is to hear speeches by alleged experts in the field and hopefully to catch a glimpse of the Space Brothers themselves. Even more so than in previous years, the 1970 convention was something of a disappointment to many of those who attended, and perhaps even to whatever Space Brothers may have been watching from a safe distance.

Nothing can surpass the natural beauty of Giant Rock, situated far enough from civilization to attract overnight campers, yet within just a few miles of all modern conveniences. The good-natured proprietor of the Rock is UFO expert George van Tassel, a former test pilot who has lived there in semi-retirement for over twenty years. George leases the property, which includes a small airport, from the U.S. Government. Over the years he has improved the environment at his own expense, with such items as a small restaurant & numerous sanitary facilities.

A couple of miles away, Van Tassel has property of his own, which includes perhaps the most intriguing structure ever built - a dome-like building called the Integraton. Actually, the Integraton is not the building itself but a marvelous machine said to be inside it, the blueprints for which were originally supplied by the Space People themselves back in the early 1950's, according to Van Tassel. A metal sign near the building modestly informs us that it is "a 'Time Machine' for basic research on Rejuvenation, Anti-Gravity, and Time Travel."

The Integraton, like the legendary Fountain of Youth, will make a person feel younger and better upon leaving it, though he will look exactly the same. Back in the "good old days" of ten or fifteen years ago, the annual crowd at the Rock ran into many thousands of people and donations for the Integraton came to many thousands of dollars, mostly from a handful of the hard-core faithful. This year, however, George admitted that although the machine is "approximately 82% completed," work on it has stopped dead for lack of funds. Unfortunately, it is hard to prove how much work has actually been completed. Years ago, when this writer and other members of the public were allowed inside it, the building was absolutely empty. In recent years Van Tassel has refused to allow entry to anyone except trusted research associates.

One is all the more tempted to question the 82% figure when told by Van Tassel that the 1970 Spacecraft Convention attracted about eight thousand people. Less biased observers would have put the crowd at something under one thousand.

Even so, there might have been hope for profit among the inevitable sellers of UFO books and souvenirs, except for one important fact: Gone, for the most part, are the little old ladies and wild-eyed theorists of yesteryear, who came with open pocket books and closed minds, to sit in rapt attention as speaker after speaker reconfirmed their already well-entrenched belief's about the existence of interplanetary saucers.

In their place has arrived a new breed of campers, many of whom this writer found to be only vaguely aware that any UFO convention was taking place. This new and younger breed of desert enthusiasts ranges from hard-drinking motorcycle riders to pot-smoking hippies, many of whom screamed obscenities far into the night from the safety of nearby hills. George Van Tassel, though basically a conservative middle-aged individual has learned to bend with the changing times. Said he: "I'm not going to get all hopped up about whether they (the hippies) are hopped up or not." Quite wisely, he professes to believe in the freedom of the individual, though he deplores the way that some of today's young people harm themselves through drugs and other means.

As in previous years, almost all the speakers at the 1970 convention were "contactees," i.e., people who claim to have had personal contact of some sort with the presumed occupants of flying saucers.

There was, for example, a long discourse by Daniel Fry, founder and director of a

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nation-wide group called "Understanding." Back in the early 1950's, Fry wrote a classic UFO book about a cross-continental trip he took aboard a flying saucer. Although he has had no further such experiences since then, he continues to be in demand on the lecture podium, especially at Giant Rock.

Inevitably, there was a long-winded speech by Dr. Frank E. Stranges, a Protestant minister whose most famous book, "Stranger at the Pentagon," tells of a spaceman who infiltrated the very core of our military-industrial complex. Frank heads a church which is absolutely genuine by all legal standards, though he has had occasional problems with the state of California regarding the selling of ministerial degrees. His UFO documentary motion picture, cryptically called "Phenomena 7.7," was shown Saturday evening, at the height of the convention. We were told that Stranges had brought this 5-year-old movie up to date by adding new stock footage about the recent landings on the Moon.

The showing of Dr. Stranges' film had certain comic aspects which were not lost on this writer. The sound was for some reason terribly low, causing fifty or so of the faithful to huddle together right in front of the screen. The rest of the audience was divided between those who were annoyed because they could not hear, and those whose psychedelic "trip" was such that they were fully satisfied to see the picture without sound. From the latter could be heard shouts of "Right on!" as well as various good-natured obscenities which floated across the night from various points in the hills far beyond the screen.

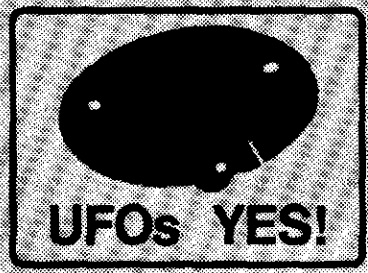
Perhaps the most colorful speaker at the convention was Vern Cameron, a long-time California resident who has invented various psychic devices, including something called the Aura Meter - a machine well known to hardcore UFO buffs. This year Vern showed up with a device which measures one's psychic wing-span. After being measured carefully with the contraption, this writer was informed he had a wing-span of 27 feet - "far above average," according to the inventor.

Present but not lecturing this year was Gabriel Green, president of Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America (AFSCA), Gabe possibly reached the peak of his career in 1960, when he ran for president of the United States under the slogan, "Abe in 1860; Gabe in 1960." Although he attracted several thousand votes in his native California, history tells us that he lost nationally to John F. Kennedy.

Other speakers included Mel Noel, a controversial figure even within the loosely-knit UFO field, who claims to know the location of a base in the jungles of Brazil where flying saucers are being built by a group of Earth scientists with the help of scientists from other planets. This knowledge has caused Mel many problems and persecutions, real or imagined, which are quite interesting but too long for discussion here.

There was, indeed, at least one real scientist at the convention - a physicist from Pennsylvania named Stanton Friedman, a "non-contactee" whose talk was so sensible that it seemed lost on this particular audience. Friedman seems to have gotten the feel of Ufology, as he too had a booth at which he personally sold UFO books except for the short time he was on the open-air lecture podium.

However, book sales were so bad this year that one nationally-known researcher grossed only \$28.00 at his booth during the entire convention. This left little room for profit, as the booth had been rented from the Rock's genial host for the sum of \$25.00.

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Not everyone with something to say gets a chance to do so, even at Giant Rock. Your writer got into a private conversation with Trevor James, a well-known UFO contactee we met this year for the first time. Trevor remarked that the entities he is in contact with are "so negative," and he has never been invited to speak about them. Just as we were becoming convinced that Trevor was far more sensible than could be imagined from his writings, he started to snap a series of five or six pictures in quick succession, of what appeared to be an ordinary blank sky.