

A NEW APPROACH TO UFO WITNESSES

By John A. Keel

THE CELEBRATED "scientific method" has proven to be totally unworkable in the case of UFO interpretation. After twenty years of application we have produced nothing more than a rather meaningless *census* of unidentified objects. Should we go through the expense of feeding this mass of fragmentary data into a computer we would come up with an equally meaningless mass of statistical data based upon past performance.

We know, for example, that in thousands of reports the objects have shown an ability to change colour, therefore it is totally irrelevant that 400 green objects, 600 yellow objects, 280 red objects, and so on, were sighted in any particular month or year. The green objects could have been red in other phases. Nor is the altitude of the objects important. Since we are dealing with *flying* objects, they could have been at 500ft. (and coloured green) at one observation point, and could have been at 6,000ft. (and coloured orange) at another point five miles away. Their speed is just as variable and just as meaningless to the overall picture. In essence, all sighting data is worthless once it has been reasonably established that an object did exist and was seen.

To continue to collect such data at random is obviously a futile and unproductive task. From 1947-52 the U.S. Air Force made a sincere and expensive effort to computerise such data. The results were published openly in PROJECT BLUE BOOK REPORT No. 14, issued in 1955. In January 1953, the notorious Robertson Panel, sponsored by the C.I.A., reviewed the USAF's studies and brought the real investigation to a halt. The panellists realised immediately the futility of endless surveys and the worthlessness of random sighting data. In their final report (I have a complete copy of this "Top Secret" document) they advised: ". . . the cost in technical manpower effort required to follow up and explain every one of the thousand or more reports received through channels each year could not be justified. It was felt that there will always be sightings, for which complete data is lacking, that can only be explained with disproportionate effort and with a long time delay, if at all. The long delay in explaining a sighting tends to eliminate any intelligence value."

In short, studying and "explaining" individual sightings was not worth the cost and effort involved. The UFO buffs, however, never did realise this basic fact. They continued to run after lights in the sky and amassed thousands upon thousands of sightings by reputable witnesses. They thought they were proving their case (that UFOs are extraterrestrial) when actually they were merely wasting twenty years.

One substantial sighting proves that the UFOs exist: 10,000 substantial sightings don't prove it any further. After arriving at that basic conclusion (that the UFOs are real), the next logical step is to determine precisely what they are doing here.

It is improbable that anyone at this late date will ever come up with tangible physical proof of anything. But if the objects are busying themselves all over the

world they *must* be doing something. The UFO researchers have failed to try to determine what that something is. They have been side-tracked by speculations on the "technology" involved, the source of the objects, and the motives behind "government suppression". We will never really learn about the mechanics of a "flying saucer" until we actually catch one. If the source is extraterrestrial then we don't have much of a chance of pinpointing it. Furthermore, there's nothing we could do about it once we did locate the source.

There is only one thing left that can be rationally investigated: the purposes behind their activities. What are they really doing that requires frequent touch-downs in remote areas? What requires the widespread and quite furtive nocturnal activity? Therein lies the secret to the UFO mystery.

In-depth interviews

Early in my investigations I realised this basic fact and I geared my research to find out what was happening on the ground in "flap" areas. The results were rapid and amazing. I began with in-depth interviews with the witnesses of low-level activities. By in-depth I mean that I dug into their whole life history, found out what they ate for breakfast the morning of the sightings, what happened to them later after their report had been published or sent to the Air Force, and so on. I spent hours with the police in the flap areas determining the nature of unusual occurrences which took place during or shortly before the flap began. I hit "pay dirt" immediately. Unlike all other UFO investigators before me, I dropped the business of collecting detailed descriptions about the objects themselves. Those descriptions proved to be totally irrelevant.

Data obtained in a single area is also worthless. So I travelled through twenty states, correlating the occurrences in one hot spot with the incidents in others. I sifted out the nonsense and the obvious coincidences. I found that **the UFO phenomenon is based upon what is happening to people.** The same thing is going on everywhere at once and is largely unnoticed by the press or by the UFO investigators themselves. Certainly the USAF and other government agencies have not taken the trouble to conduct *this* kind of investigation. Therefore I assume that they are really unaware of what is actually going on.

While the objects are fascinating, they are merely vehicles. And vehicles, as we all know, are used to transport personnel and material from one point to another. The incredible scope of the activity of these vehicles rules out simple explanations such as an aerial survey. These things are operating in great numbers, far greater than those indicated in the haphazard reports, and at low-level.

Astounding questions

Wherever I travelled, police officers and high local officials invariably took me aside, one by one, and asked

me the same three astounding questions, urging me never to mention that they asked. I heard these questions again and again. The Governor of a State asked me these questions and two days later a dirt farmer on a remote back road came up with the same identical queries:

- (1) Can the UFO occupants walk through walls?
- (2) Can they make themselves invisible?
- (3) Are there any documented cases of them having kidnapped people?

These are, you must admit, very far out questions. The mere fact that people everywhere are asking them indicates that something very frightening is going on. These aspects are only whispered about by the ufologists themselves. They received little or no publicity until the publication of Ivan Sanderson's book, *Uninvited Visitors*, in the late fall of 1967.

If that gives you pause, consider the fact that "poltergeist" phenomena breaks out in flap areas concurrent with the flap and continues long after the flap subsides. This in areas that never had any poltergeist cases before the flap began.

We must reconsider our whole approach to the UFO phenomenon. "Science" has proven to be inadequate. It appears that we have misinterpreted many "Occult" happenings for centuries. There may be a basic force at work which unites the UFOs with the occult . . . a deep inter-relationship. The UFO buffs scoff at the "occultists" and vice versa. There has been no attempt at coordinating the various fields of belief. The time has come for us to review all the occult literature and find the links . . . if they exist.

Overlap with parapsychology

Today ESP is widely accepted. It has long been a part of occultism and now it is a tangible part of the UFO mystery. Now we must carefully consider the possibility that trance mediums are not communicating with "the Dead" but are, in fact, serving as mediaries for the same playful entities that throw heavy pieces of furniture around. Parapsychologists claim that poltergeists always operate in the presence of children, usually a boy or girl at the age of puberty. So contemplate this: in the

majority of the cases I have investigated in which low-level objects have closely pursued automobiles there was either a child in the car, or the driver or one of the occupants was a *school teacher*. Then look at the growing number of close sightings around schools all over the world, including many touchdowns in school yards.

We have spent twenty years searching for a simple (extraterrestrial "survey") type of conclusion. The truth is undoubtedly infinitely more complex. It may lie completely outside of the recognised and much-touted sciences. The only way to find out is to perform in-depth studies of *everything* happening in the flap areas, and to make correlations of the incidents uncovered in many such areas. This requires standard police and journalistic procedure, not haphazard "scientific" collating of lights-in-the-sky reports. People throughout the U.S. are now caught up in a science-fiction nightmare. We must come to realise that we are dealing with a phenomenon which has all of the implications of science-fiction. We can no longer dismiss the weird and the seemingly irrelevant.

Somebody . . . or something . . . is walking through a lot of walls these days. And the Ufologists are so busy peering through telescopes that they have removed themselves from the true situation, whatever it may be.

Let's stop trying to "prove" the existence, origin, or mechanics of the objects. We've played around for twenty years . . . and gotten almost nowhere. Now let's make a concerted effort to find out what is going on. Put aside your personal beliefs and prejudices. Throw away your worthless "sighting forms" with their endless questions about size, speed and altitude of unidentified vehicles. Find out what the witness had for breakfast, and what kind of phone calls he's been getting, and prod his memory (but *never* ask a "leading" question) about his childhood. You may be astonished at what he comes up with. And after you've talked to enough people and visited enough flap areas, your astonishment will turn to abject horror. You'll throw all your books on astronomy and exobiology into the garbage can and you'll find yourself reconsidering the entire UFO "problem".

PIGEON SHOOT ON THE COL D'ASPIN

Due to an unfortunate error the credit for the article of the above name, which appeared in our last issue, was given to M. Jean C. Dufour who sent it to us in the first instance. We have now learned that the author is Mons. F. Lagarde, of the French review *Lumières dans la Nuit* (see p.ii of cover). We extend our apologies to M. Lagarde for this misunderstanding.

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