

Way, who observed them for an hour, said all were travelling in the direction of Worcester from Ledbury. He called out two neighbours to witness them."

(Credit: Mrs. A. R. Cooper, Worcester.)

### Street sighting

The *Western Daily Press*, Bristol, of September 16, carries the story of Mr. S. Emery of Street, Somerset, who on September 6 saw four glowing objects motionless in the sky above his home for about quarter of an hour

near midnight. When obscured by cloud, the whole of the cloud was 'lit up'. RNAS Yeovilton said none of their aircraft was responsible.

### Flying Headlamps

From the *Farnham Herald* of September 17 we learn of Miss Jeanette Martindale of Tongham, who, on September 9, at about 8.40 p.m. was taking her dog for a walk towards Ash Green. Suddenly the dog stopped, and could not be persuaded to move. When his mistress turned to go back home, she sud-

denly saw bright "headlamps" in the sky to her right. She watched them for 45 seconds or so before they turned, and then saw two revolving red lights. The sky behind was all lit up as the object moved off towards the Moon. It finally became lost in the Moon's glow.

This is the Aldershot district, so Miss Martindale knows what she is talking about when she says the object was not a flare. The object did not fall to the ground and burn out: it hung motionless before turning away.

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# UFO research in the U.S.A.

## Part I — The purpose of the Survey

By Jacques Vallée

RESEARCHERS on unusual aerial phenomena rely on accurate and up-to-date accounts of observations. In a country as large and diversified in population density as the United States, such information can only be obtained through local correspondents. Large newspapers in one part of the country seldom report on observations made elsewhere: only the most sensational cases find their way to the wire services, ensuring distribution over many states. For a number of reasons these newspaper accounts are of poor value. Dates and places are often misprinted, if given at all, and no estimate of the reliability of the story can be made.

Accounts published by civilian UFO groups using the documentation of the local press are much more detailed. A few of these groups even print information that may be considered accurate. Some of their periodicals, following the excellent initiative of the *Australian Flying Saucer Review*, devote several pages to the reprint, without comment or editing, of articles published in the local press and gathered by their members: such periodicals are by far the most lively and significant part of the UFO literature. But a large majority of the civilian clubs and associations devote their activity to discussion of hypotheses and theories, and do not document their data extensively. It is important, therefore, to examine the reliability of the various elements of this network.

A second motivation for this survey was provided by the sociological aspect of UFO rumours which has been noted by many authors, and the possible correlations between the activity of local groups, the number of reports from the area they influence, and the theory or beliefs of their mem-

bers. For all these reasons we felt that a preliminary survey of the groups active in UFO research in the United States was long overdue.

### How the Survey was conducted

In our efforts to obtain the names and addresses of American UFO groups and periodicals we were surprised to discover that no fewer than **two hundred and seventeen** such organisations had been formed in the United States since 1947. This estimate is a conservative one, for it does not include informal discussion groups, clubs formed by high school or college students, and other associations which have never made their existence public.

This gives only a poor indication of the number of groups actually in existence today. As we shall see, a large majority of our questionnaires missed their targets, either because groups had died or because addresses had become obsolete. Of the groups active at the time of the survey and reached by the questionnaire, about thirty gave sufficiently detailed answers for inclusion in this analysis.

Names and addresses were compiled from the following sources:

1. Private correspondence and knowledge of researchers in our own team.
2. File of personalities active in the field of UFO research, and list of UFO periodicals of the United States Air Force, Dayton Ohio.
3. List of "saucer clubs" published by 'Thy Kingdom Will Come'.
4. List of American UFO publications of the G.E.P.A. (Groupe d'Etude des Phénomènes Aériens) Paris, France.
5. International Flying Saucer Directory of James Rigberg, New York.

A Questionnaire, accompanied by a letter stating its purpose, and the fact that answers would be used for partial publication, was sent to ninety-six groups in January. Groups 97 to 217 received the material in March. The survey was closed in August 1965, when a very large amount of material had been accumulated.

Information gathered since August 1965, as well as the names and addresses of groups created or re-activated in 1965 after our questionnaire was issued, are not indicated here. In a very few cases groups have filled our questionnaire but have asked that no publicity be given to their activity because of personal situations, or because these groups pursue special studies that would be affected by the publicity that will result from publication of this survey. Such organisations usually have a very small membership and thus do not affect the overall sociological picture.

The following is a list of the groups which have agreed to make public their answers to our questionnaire. This list gives, for each group, a brief statement of its history as well as the name of the publication it issues and its address. No special numbering system has been used: groups are listed randomly.

### List of Civilian UFO Organisations in the U.S. (August, 1965)

1. **Interplanetary Intelligence of Unidentified Flying Objects (IIUFO)**  
3005 West Eubanks, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.  
William F. Riefer, Director. Hayden C. Hewes, Associate Director.  
Created in August 1958 for the purpose of investigating the UFO mystery. Claims free, world-wide membership of 4,500. Believes UFOs are real, but has no conclusion as to their nature and origin. State office in almost all 50 States under nine district representatives. Fifteen Foreign representatives.  
Publication: INTERPLANETARY INTELLIGENCE REPORT, bimonthly, \$3.00 yr.
2. **American UFO Committee (AMUFO)**  
2875 Sequoyah Drive N.W., Atlanta, Georgia  
Ricky Hilberg, Dale Retting, Allen Greenfield, Executive Directors.  
Formed October 1963 through merger of two older organisations. Affiliated with the UFO group union, the United Ufological Association. Participant to the Congress of Scientific Ufologists. No conclusion regarding nature and origin of UFOs. 500 members.  
Publication: UFO SIGHTER and AMERICAN UFO COMMITTEE REVIEW.
3. **National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP)**  
1536 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington 6, D.C.  
Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, Director. Richard H. Hall, Acting Director.  
History and objectives are stated in the report "UFO Evidence" published by the group in May, 1964. This document summarizes the files and activities of

the organisation. Formed in 1956 by Major Keyhoe, prominent UFO writer; claims membership of 5,500. Works under the "definite hypothesis that UFOs are real, apparently controlled, from an extraterrestrial source". Charges the U.S. Air Force for practicing an "intolerable degree of secrecy". Local investigations are carried out by sub-committees. Membership dues \$5.00 annually.

Publication: the UFO INVESTIGATOR, scheduled bi-monthly.

#### 4. **Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation (APRO)**

3910 E. Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona.

Mr. Leslie J. Lorenzen, Director.

Oldest organisation in the field, created January, 1952. Tries to gather responsible and rational researchers rather than a large number of enthusiastic followers. Present membership of 800 includes many teachers, technicians, scientists and liberal professions. Majority of APRO members feels that the facts indicate an interplanetary source of UFOs, possibly a colony established on Mars by an advanced civilisation. APRO is the best informed American organisation on foreign sightings. Has documented many accounts of 'landings' and given publicity to the theory of 'UFO Hostility'. Foreign correspondents include Aimé Michel (France), Dr. Olavo Fontes (Brazil), Peter Norris (Australia), Eduardo Buelta (Spain).

Publication: THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN, bi-monthly, \$3.50 yr.

#### 5. **National Investigations Commission of Aerial Phenomena (NICAP)**

5108 South Findlay Street, Seattle 18, Washington

Robert J. Gribble, Director.

Initials and situation in Washington (City in one case, State in another) create a confusion between this group and the organisation of Major Keyhoe (No. 3). The two groups are distinct. This is a commission of six members with no open membership, created January, 1955. Concludes that "a high percentage of UFOs are coming from another world."

Publication: NICAP REPORTER, \$1.50 yr.

#### 6. **Flying Saucer News Club of America (FSNCA)**

119 East 96th Street, New York 28, N.Y.

James Rigberg, Editor

The Club, formed March, 1955, believes authorities have obtained evidence of the nature or origin of the UFOs and keep it secret.

Publication: FLYING SAUCER NEWS, 25 c. a copy.

#### 7. **Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America (AFSCA)**

2004 N. Hoover Street, Los Angeles, California 90027

Gabriel Green, Founder-President.

Formed January, 1959, the group has 2,500 members. Believe many UFOs are in reality extraterrestrial spaceships piloted by crews of men and women from advanced races on other planets.

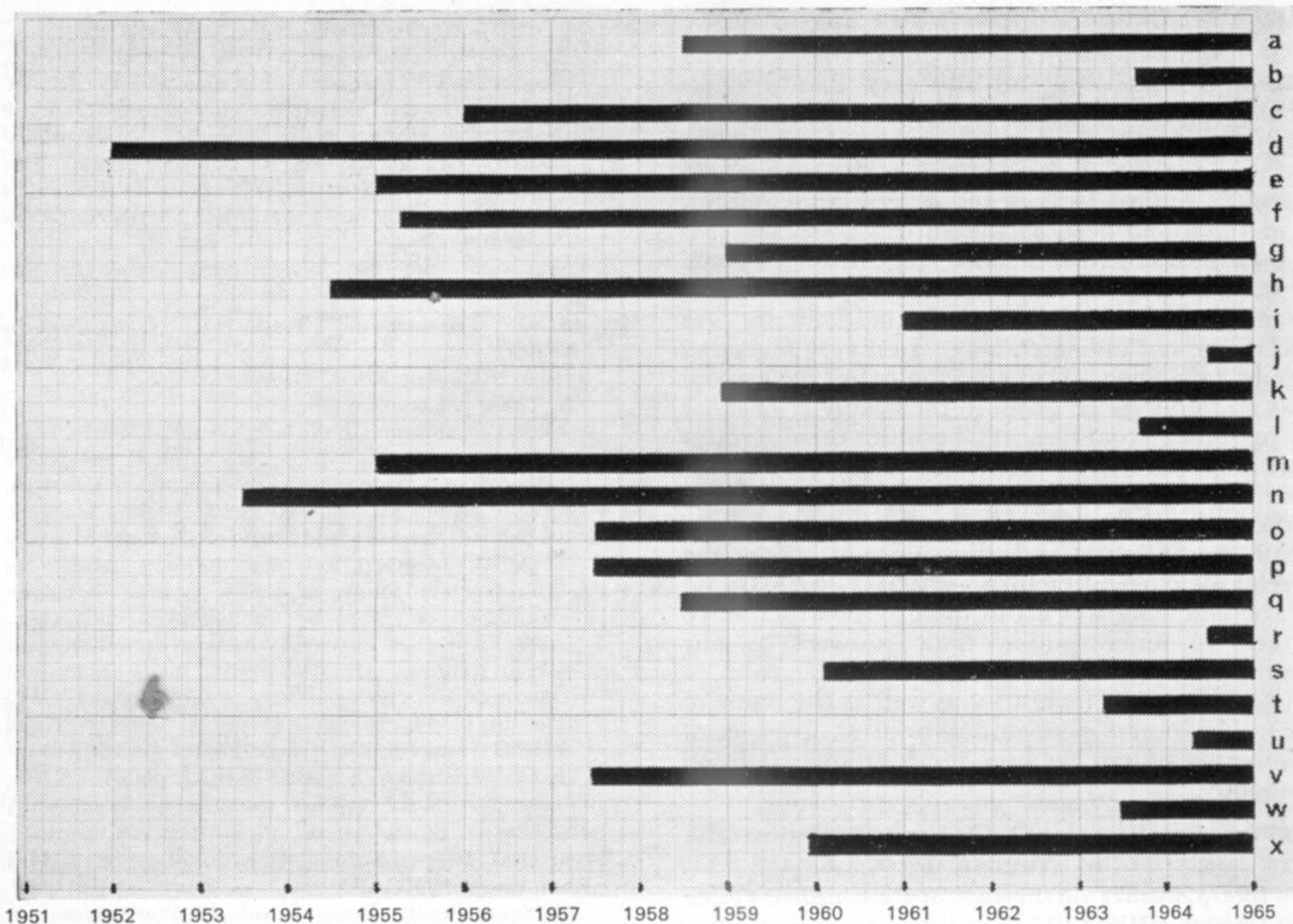
Publication: UFO INTERNATIONAL, bi-monthly, \$3.00 yr.

#### 8. **Saucer and Unexplained Celestial Events Research Society (SAUCERS)**

P.O. Box 163, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024.

James W. Moseley, Editor.

4,000 members in group created July, 1954, believe



Dates of creation for 24 groups active on January 1, 1965.

KEY:

- |                    |                            |                              |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. IIUFO           | i. Aetherius Soc.          | q. Tucson Science Club       |
| b. AMUFO           | j. CAPIC                   | r. HUFOB                     |
| c. NICAP (Keyhoe)  | k. APIC                    | s. School of Thought         |
| d. APRO            | l. CFSIB                   | t. UFO Mag.                  |
| e. NICAP (Gribble) | m. Planetary Space Center  | u. PICAP                     |
| f. FSNCA           | n. Christian Zion Advocate | v. Morse Fellowship          |
| g. AFSCA           | o. Long Beach IR Gp.       | w. CPB                       |
| h. SAUCERS         | p. Solar Cross             | x. New England UFO Study Gp. |

UFOs are probably extraterrestrial "through there is no proof as yet of their origin."

Publication: SAUCER NEWS, \$2.00 for 6 issues.

9. **The Aetherius Society**

674 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, California 90005.

Founder-President: George King.

Created in November, 1960, the Society keeps its membership confidential. "The orientation of the Aetherius Society is a spiritual one, since it is definitely known that the Mission of the Flying Saucers and their crews to Earth is a spiritual mission".

Publication: the AETHERIUS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER.

10. **Cleveland Aerial Phenomena Investigations Club (CAPIC)**

3132 West 142nd Street, Cleveland Ohio 44111.

Created in June, 1964, the group has nineteen members, believes UFOs are interplanetary space-ships and authorities may have obtained evidence. No publication.

11. **Aerial Phenomena Investigations Committee (APIC)**

P.O. Box 87, Rugby Station, Brooklyn, New York, 11203.

Eugene R. Steinberg, Director. Kenneth J. Alpert, Associate Director.

Created as a local group in February, 1959, is now international in scope with 2,000 members. The group feels that an extraterrestrial origin of UFOs is more likely to be correct than any other solution offered thus far.

Publication: The UFO Reporter, quarterly. Stopped publication in 1965, when purchased by Saucer News (8, above).

12. **Civilian Flying Saucer Investigations Bureau (CFSIB)**

6101 Sturgeon Creek Parkway, Midland, Michigan.

The general attitude of the group, formed October, 1963, is that UFOs are interplanetary space vehicles under intelligent control, probably from a planet outside the solar system.

Publication: CFSIB NEWSLETTER.



13. **The Planetary Space Center** (formerly Interplanetary Foundation)  
24720 Carlisle Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48124.  
Laura Mundo (Marxer), Connie Grish, Carmella Falzone.  
Created December, 1954. No membership or dues. Reaches about 1,000, hard core list of 300. The UFOs are spaceships of more advanced, friendly human beings.  
Publication: INTERPLANETARY NEWS.
14. **The Christian Zion Advocate**  
P.O. Box 48, Neah Bay, Washington  
Active under various names since 1953, the group has arrived at the definite conclusion that UFOs are "The Lord's Angels which He has sent before Him" (Matt. 24: 31-32) and that authorities have not obtained evidence of their origin.  
Publication: HUMANITARIAN.
15. **Long Beach Interplanetary Research Group**  
1227 E. 2nd Street, Long Beach, California 90802.  
A. Rowe, Secretary.  
Created about 1957, has no conclusion on the UFO problem but thinks authorities have considerable evidence.  
Publication: UNDERSTANDING.
16. **Solar Cross Foundation**  
5132 Lincoln Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90042.  
Robert Short, Director. James Jordan, Editor.  
Created in July 1957, the group had 876 members in 1964. It believes that the facts are "beyond our concepts at this time".  
Publication: INTER-GALAXY NEWS.
17. **Tucson Science Club**  
5350 E. Ft. Lowell, Tucson, Arizona 85716.  
Informal discussion group. Regular meetings since 1958. The group has few members and only one conclusion: "there is no simple, single answer".  
Publication: discontinued.
18. **Houston UFO Bureau (HUFOB)**  
3302 Askew, Houston Texas 77017.  
Gary Kirpatrick, President.  
Created August, 1964, with twenty members, the group "has obtained confidential evidence" and withholds other comments.  
Publication: THE UFO MYSTERY, irregular.
19. **School of Thought**  
P.O. Box 458, Independence, California 93526.  
Hope Troxell, Founder and Director.  
Created February, 1960. The group has 250 members and concludes that a higher race has populated the universe and uses other dimensions that we are not able "to see or to understand".  
Publication: brochures and courses.
20. **UFO Magazine Publications**  
3403 West 119th Street, Cleveland Ohio 44111.  
Ricky Hilberg, Editor.  
Created April, 1963. Average number of members in 1964: 323. No definite conclusion arrived at. R. Hilberg is one of the executive directors of AMUFO—*vide supra* (2).  
Publication: UFO MAGAZINE (combined with SAUCER ALBUM) published twice yearly, \$1.00.
21. **Philadelphia Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (PICAP)**  
6100 Belden Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149.  
Group created May, 1964, with twenty members; feels authorities have obtained information, keep it secret for fear of scaring the American public.  
No publication.
22. **Morse Fellowship**  
P.O. Box 72, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 88310.  
Louise Morse.  
Incorporated in 1957, has several hundred members and has sent thousands of its publications (sample lessons on "soul growth") to all states and twelve foreign countries. States that UFOs come from planets of higher frequencies of light.  
Publications: THROUGH THE PORTALS, plus 250 separate lessons.
23. **Controversial Phenomena Bulletin**  
48 Great Brook Valley Ave., Worcester, Massachusetts 01605.  
Armand A. Laprade, Editor. Joseph L. Ferriere, co-editor.  
Created summer 1963, has 300 members; the group does not offer definite conclusions, but feels that descriptions of UFO "operators" should be taken very seriously. The Bulletin is one of the most informative publications in the field.  
Publication: the CONTROVERSIAL PHENOMENA BULLETIN, bi-monthly, \$2.00 yr.
24. **New England UFO Study Group**  
20 Buckingham Road, Norwood, Massachusetts 02062.  
George D. Fawcett, private UFO Researcher.  
Created by G. Fawcett in November 1959, group has taken present name in 1964. The majority of the 175 members believe that flying saucers are in reality intelligently controlled machines from outer space, conducting a scientific study of our planet for purposes as yet unknown. Accepts "operators" as authentic.  
Publication: meeting reports.
25. **Dr. Rudolf Steiner Research Foundation, Inc.**  
533 Lincoln So., Salem, Oregon.  
M. Gordon Allen, Director.  
This is a Research Foundation, not a UFO organization. States that the UFO problem is that of dealing with alien intelligence who can project material devices into our material world from some other plane of existence.  
No periodical publication.

#### Additional Information—Defunct Groups

Among organizations which returned our questionnaire, but indicated that they had ceased their activity, were:

##### 1. Grand Rapids Flying Saucer Club

Created in 1951, this group has published a periodical called "UFORUM" and organized lectures with attendances as high as 750. The returned questionnaire indicated how the group died:

"The group was split between the scientifically-minded investigators and the so-called esoteric lunatic fringe. As far as I know the scientists still do not have an acceptable answer, while the esoterists "knew" the answer right from the beginning (The Brothers sent to watch over us)".

## 2. North Jersey UFO Group

Created in 1954, the group published 13 issues of the UFO Newsletter. (Lee R. Munsick, Editor). It was generally felt that UFOs were intelligently controlled vehicles, not from this planet, that government secrecy was due to bureaucratic automatic censorship, and that contactee claims should be rejected.

## 3. Ufology Bulletin

of Ventura, California. 24 issues of the Bulletin were published in two years. It was, to a degree, an outgrowth of the Ventura UFO Study Group. It died when it fell in the hands of the believers in 'contactee' stories.

## 4. Civil Commission on Aerial Phenomena (CCAP)

The group ceased to operate about 1960.

## 5. Decatur UFO Group

Founded in 1957, it has stopped to function as a group. Former members continue to discuss the subject informally. They feel authorities of several countries, including the U.S., have obtained evidence of the nature and origin of the UFO Phenomenon and have definitely made every possible attempt to keep this information secret. But they are not in complete disagreement with the policy of secrecy, and "recognise that any information and educational programme would have to be presented to the people in a slow and gradual manner to avoid all sorts of fear and panic that might otherwise occur."

The above list by no means constitutes an exhaustive description of the activity in the U.S. today: much redundancy and duplication is present, on one hand; and on the other, many organisations, including some important ones, have probably been forgotten. This is therefore a sampling of the groups active in UFO research rather than a complete picture. It should be realised also that many local clubs are composed of members of various larger national groups. Sudden interest in one particular sighting (such as Socorro, 1964) provokes the formation of associations which die almost as soon as created. However, the work of careful selection that we have done from a vast amount of original data authorises a presentation of this sample as seriously indicative of present trends in civilian UFO organisations in the States.

*[Mr. Vallee's analysis of the returned questionnaires, which makes very interesting and informative reading, will be presented in the next issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW—EDITOR.]*