

Close encounter still up in air for UFO expert

By MICHAEL TENSZEN

The world's top ufologist has never seen a UFO, or had a close encounter of any kind.

But Allen Hynek believes his 35 years of "gazing" about flying saucers has not been in vain.

"If I have convinced scientists that there is a real phenomenon out there that won't go away — even if all the officials are still saying, 'It can't be, therefore it isn't,' then I've done something worthwhile," he said in an interview yesterday.

The 70,000 documented reports of unidentified flying objects that he has recorded at his Centre for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., are an "amazing world-wide human phenomenon," he said, and the subject should be worthy some day of large outpourings of government money for studies on the highest scientific level.

"I suggest even setting up a mini-NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)," said Mr. Hynek, 72, a PhD in astronomy who, in 1948, conducted the first official study of UFOs for the U.S. Government. His study concluded that the majority of "sightings" were such things as balloons, airplanes and clouds, but that about 10 per cent had no scientific basis.

Although Mr. Hynek, professor emeritus of astronomy at Northwestern University, said he still considers ufology "a crazy bizarre field," he believes that the daily sightings by people in 104 countries prove "that we have something that just won't go away."

The professor — who classified encounters with unexplained phenomena into three categories and was technical adviser to the popular UFO movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* — said that in all his years of looking skyward, he has never seen what "I would so



Allen Hynek

dearly love to see. Oh, I've seen a few nocturnal lights, but the subject has been so ridiculed I would never report a UFO even if I did see one — not without a witness."

Mr. Hynek, who was attending an international symposium on UFOs in Toronto on the weekend, said a 10-year research blitz on UFOs is needed. "We can forget about all this lights-in-the-sky stuff, which we can't do anything about anyway, and put two or three scientists on each landing or third encounter case, and do about 12 of these a year."

After all, he figured out which encounters are closer than others.

A first encounter is the actual sighting of a UFO, but with no contact with its inhabitants. A second encounter occurs when the spacecraft leaves physical evidence on earth such as a burned landing area. A third encounter occurs when earthlings actually see, or are even abducted by extraterrestrials.

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August 9, 1983

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
2623 Ridge Ave.
Evanston, Ill. 60201

Dear Allen:

A friend recently sent me the enclosed clipping from The (Toronto) Globe and Mail, for July 5, 1982, at the time of the MUFON conference there.

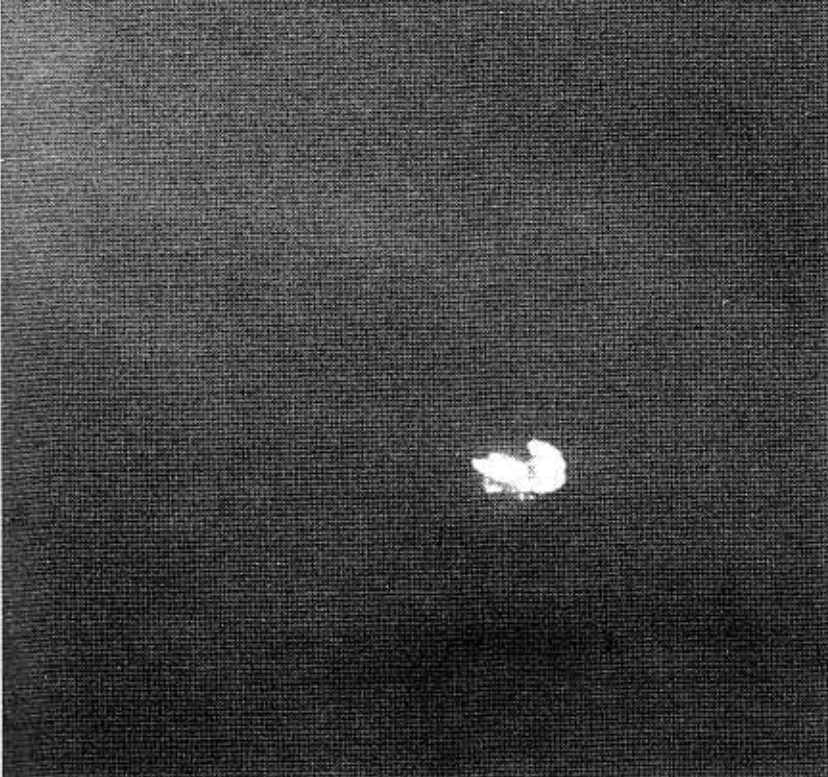
I note with interest the opening paragraph saying that you have never seen a UFO -- a statement I have seen attributed to you in a number of newspaper and magazine articles.

May I remind you that you not only saw a UFO yourself while flying in an airliner some years ago, but you even took photographs of this UFO which appear as Figures #9 and #10 in your book "The UFO Experience."

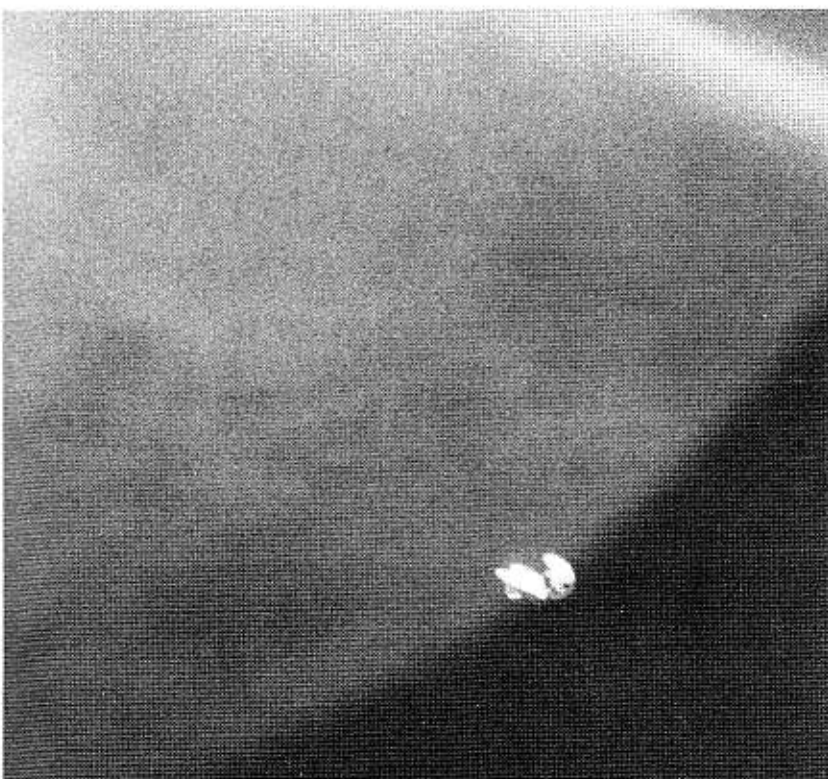
Knowing that age has taken its toll on my own memory cells, I assume that this is the explanation for your own lapse of memory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip J. Klass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



10 & 11. These photos were taken by one of the authors (Hynek) from an airliner at cruising altitude. The object was in sight long enough for the camera to be unpacked from a suitcase stored under the seat and for two exposures to be taken. This time requirement at a speed in the vicinity of mach .8 rules out many explanations.



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The Birds, Again:

Scenes reminiscent of the late Alfred Hitchcock's film, The Birds, are being portrayed in real life. In Pico Rivera, California, one household went outside to watch a swarm of swallows that were circling overhead. The family enjoyed the sight, but the aerial visitors from nearby Capistrano made a mess of things. The birds descended into the house's chimney and broke thru the metal fireplace screen before causing extensive destruction inside the house. Only one house was struck by the swarm, but no reason was given for this selectivity, (Kingston Whig-Standard, May 14, p.44). In Gander, Newfoundland, the problem has been with crows attacking people. Shortly before dawn, windows and patio doors of glass have been shattered by dive-bombing crows. The explanation given by the wildlife officials is that it is mating season, and crows in defending their territories may be trying to tackle human invaders and their own reflections, (Ottawa Journal, May 1, p.10).

Flows:

The flow of ooze in the house at Rio Grande, New Jersey, has been identified as 'kerosene' by environmental officials. Where the kerosene is coming from is not known nor at all clear. One suggestion has been that it may come from two kerosene storage tanks owned by the Atlantic Electric Co., but neither of these tanks are leaking according to a company spokesman. How the tanks could leak into the walls and ceilings of the house was not explained, (Houston Chronicle, TX, May 11, s.1 p.20; CR: M Hall).

One of the most improbable flows, or bleedings, recently noted took place last September in Rhodesia, or the newly named Zimbabwe. In the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Salisbury, an official inquiry was mounted to find out how fresh blood might have come to be found under the coffin of John Bradburne, a lay preacher of the Franciscan order. Bradburne worked for 10 years without pay in a leper colony, but on September 3rd, he was abducted and killed by terrorists. Seventy priests attended a 'mass of resurrection' on September 10th, and towards the end of the service, Archbishop Chakaipa noticed a small pool of fresh blood beneath the coffin. He wiped the blood up with a chalice cloth from a 5 centimeter diameter pool. It was fresh. No blood was found on the coffin, on the cloth covering Bradburne, nor on Bradburne himself, who had been kept in refrigeration for five days prior to the service. If it was not from Bradburne, where did it come from, (Japan Times, Tokyo, September 18, 1979, p.3)?

UFOs:

Anyone who has spent time looking for UFO reports finds a two-fold problem in relying on public participation. On one hand, one risks indulging the fantasies of someone seeking an audience to their fictitious encounters; and, on the other hand, a fair number of reports of good quality are never told for fear that the witness might risk public censure and ridicule. One could restrict oneself to reports from multiple-witness accounts, but even when crowds see something which ought to be reported there is a tendency to let someone else do the reporting. It may be a satisfying way to woo an audience by sympathizing with the large numbers of reluctant witnesses, but it does not inspire much confidence in potential UFO witnesses. Recently, J. Allen Hynek told an audience in Fremont, Ohio, "I probably wouldn't report it (a UFO) unless I had witnesses. People would probably think I'd been involved in this so long it finally got to me." Perhaps he got a laugh from the novices in Fremont, but at least one Canadian UFO researcher wonders if it hasn't gotten to him already. Has Dr. Hynek already forgotten that at one time he too reported seeing a UFO all by himself not more than a dozen years ago? On the 7th of August, 1968, at 1 P.M., Dr. Hynek claimed to have seen a ball of light being chased by a jet aircraft in the skies of Blind River, Ontario, Canada, for a period of 2 minutes. He seemed to be curious to know what it was the jet might have been chasing when he wrote a memorandum; but, as the incident took place in Canada, and not in the United States, the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book simply filed the report away without any further investigation. It now comprises the single page of Blue Book's case number 12464. (For Hynek's recent quote, see: Kingston Whig-Standard, April 21, p.14; Cornerbrook Western Star, Cape Breton Post, Peterboro Examiner, Kirkland Lake Northern Daily News, Simcoe Reformer, and Sarnia Observer, all April 21; Fredericton Gleaner and Winnipeg Free Press, both April 22; as but a small sample of newspapers carrying this false confession.)

Recent UFO Reports:

March 19th - Sherwood Park, AB - A cigar-shaped object with orange, blue and white lights was seen moving slowly over the road two witnesses were travelling. The object disappeared over the horizon and would appear to have been an aircraft had the witnesses seen any wings, but they said it hadn't any, (Canada's Eye Watch on Flying Saucers, v.2 n.4 p.4; 14332 - 122 Street, Edmonton, AB T5X 3R6).
March 16th - Lloydminster, SK - A blue "U"-shaped light with a yellow halo was seen hovering in the sky and seemed to follow the witnessing couple's car before lost from sight, (N80/77).

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NCIO

6 Aug 68

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

8 Aug 68

Subj: UFO Sighting, 7 Aug 68, Canada, by Dr Hynek

Dr J Allen Hynek called the Aerial Phenomena Office on 7 Aug 68 at 1300 hours, EDT, to inform ^{US} him that he saw a funny thing. Saw a jet chasing something at 11pm ^{EDT} due North, a very bright ball of light, brighter than Venus. 10 deg behind the unknown object was a jet.

"We don't think we could here any sound from the bright object but we did here noise from the jet." Could see the wing tip lights from the jet but only one big light from the object. Plane probably from Kincheloe, so Dr Hynek thought. Dr Hynek said he saw the object for presumably two minutes, but it may have been three. Dr Hynek said he was going to call Kincheloe and ask for information and would appreciate our office doing so. Dr Hynek will call ^{us} tomorrow morning.

At 1400 hours got through to Lt Col Quintanilla who was TDY in Wash, D C. We will not contact Kincheloe to obtain the data. Additional information to obtain from Dr Hynek is: Arc of sky covered. Did it pass directly overhead? Did Dr Hynek get any photographs? He always carries a camera. What was Dr Hynek's estimation of the weather? Was it clear? cloud, etc?

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7 Aug 68

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tified himself as an Air Force officer asked for, and received, the pictures which have never been returned.

The *Santa Ana Register* had made four sets of copy negatives from the original Polaroid prints, but when I called them to obtain prints for this story, editor Bob Kirkpatrick reported that they had none and he had no idea what happened to them, with the exception of one. When asked about that one set he reported, "Those are the ones that went to Dr. Condon." Dr. Edward U. Condon, former head of the Bureau of Standards and a distinguished physicist in his own right, was the head of the "Condon Committee which was commissioned by the U.S. Air Force to make an independent study of UFOs in 1966.

Unfortunately for the government the Condon cover was blown when the memo written by the Managing Coordinator, Robert Low, was accidentally made public. It read:

"The trick would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear to be a totally objective study but, to the scientific community, would present the image of a group of nonbelievers trying their best to be objective but having zero expectation of finding a saucer . . . I'm inclined to feel at this early stage that, if we set up the right thing and take pains to get the proper people involved and have success in presenting the image we want to present to the scientific community, we could carry off the job to our benefit."

The Condon disaster is a matter of public record and yet it contains one of the finest examples of photo analysis ever to appear in print in the analysis of the McMinnville, Ore. photograph. This picture was originally seen by the public in the June 26, 1950 issue of *Life* Magazine. The object was determined to be 30 feet in diameter and approximately seven feet thick which is the same size as the object recorded in the Heflin pictures and in the three existing pictures of the vanishing vehicle, as best we can determine. Dr. Condon has since died and it is reported that before he passed on he destroyed all the evidence and files that had been collected by the Condon Committee! This, of course, included the remaining copy negatives of the Heflin photographs and the original McMinnville negative.

When I first read Dr. J. Allen Hynek's book *The UFO Experience*, I noticed that the caption for the two pictures opposite page 53 included the sentence, "These are two photographs for which I can absolutely vouch." In one of our more recent meetings I asked Dr. Hynek what he meant by that curious combination of words and he glibly

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The famous Rex Heflin saucer photograph

replied, "I took the pictures!" I immediately asked if I could obtain prints, copy negatives, or perhaps the originals themselves. Without so much as a change of expression Dr. Hynek said, "I cannot seem to find them anymore . . ."

How can it be that one scientist destroys the largest collection of UFO data ever assembled, at a cost of over half a million dollars to the American people, and another, prominent as an expert in this field for more than 20 years, loses an important piece of evidence? Several authors have documented the government conspiracy to repress information and interest in this area. Are the destruction and loss of evidence simply a part of that conspiracy? Perhaps by design, or possibly by default, because something very basic is at work against the UFO movement. Physical science, the area in which I have my own degree, has imposed its own kind of "Dark Age" on thought just as the church did for a thousand years in an earlier time. The language of the church was Latin and the language of physical science is mathematics; the masses understand

neither. We who dare physical science with the reality of UFOs are the heretics of the 20th Century. By dealing in UFO evidence we are challenging some of the most influential minds of this period and apparently awakening dark forces in some of them. The finest quality that a human being can have is integrity. You don't have to pick the right parents to have it and you don't have to go to school half your life to earn a degree in it. It is only necessary for a person to look at things for what they are and not for what they will do for him. Unfortunately in UFO research it is not possible to thrust anyone totally.

If you should take, or come across, a UFO picture the first thing to do is make a set of copy negatives on black and white film, then drop the original into a bank vault. Safety deposit boxes can be rented for a few dollars a year anywhere in this country, are utterly safe, will hold hundreds of negatives or slides, and can be opened only by a court order as long as you pay the rent. I would appreciate a copy of the picture and as complete a story of the equipment and circumstances under which the picture was made as can be as-

FILED
BY ADRIAN VANCE
UFO REPORT
AUGUST 1976
A. DREWSONAL BUREAU