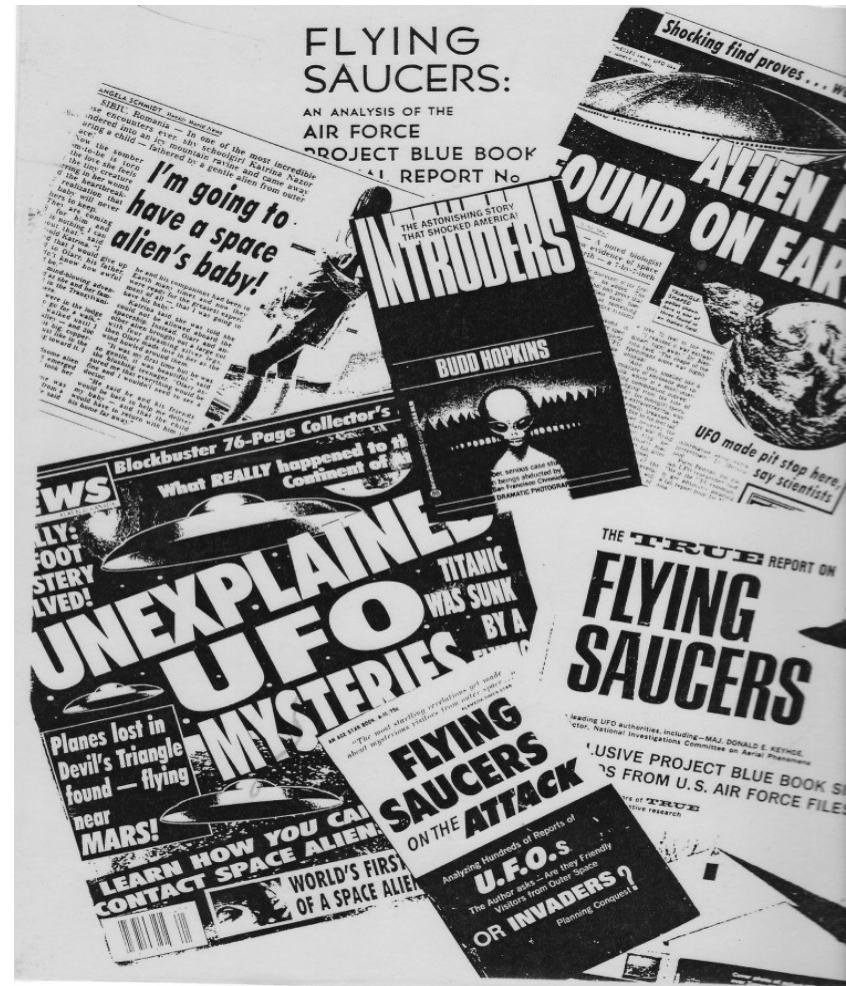


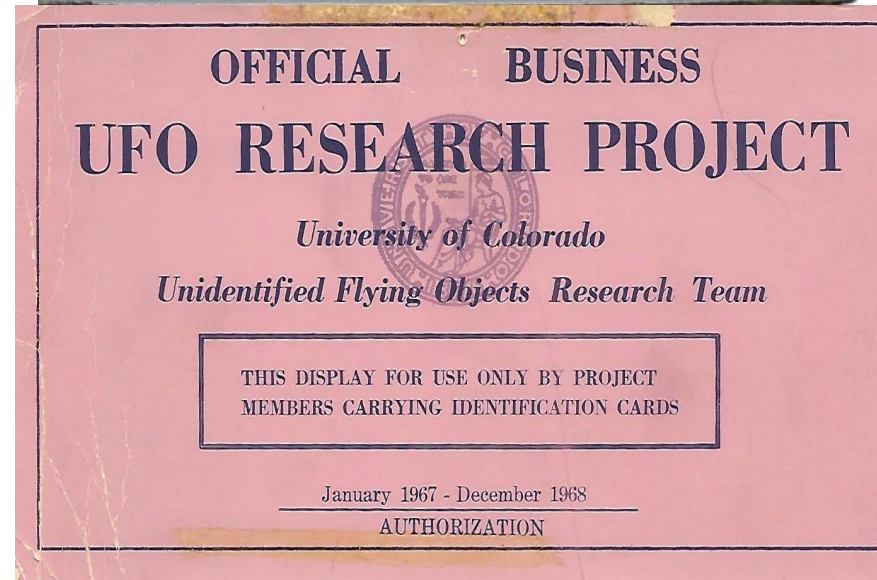
UFOs/Saucers at 75...Golden K 6/16/2022



...from the perspective of

- Research Associate, the Scientific Study of UFOs at the University of Colorado: fulltime Summer 1967, on occasion Sept. 1967-Jan. 1969.

- PhD: Northwestern University, 1970. **“A SURVEY OF PRESS COVERAGE OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, 1947-1966,”** said to be the first PhD dissertation with a focus on UFOs.



And furthermore...

- At NU, a key mentor was Dr. J. Allen Hynek, USAF consultant to Project Blue Book, who provided access to his Air Force files and work space in LARC (Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center).
- Among the few PhDs who enjoyed what some see as the “hoop jumping” of classroom and dissertation work.
- California Air National Guard duty at Edwards AFB 1966-67 also helpful.



Three key players to be acquainted with

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, 1910-1986, Northwestern University; USAF scientific adviser on UFOs, 1952-1969, (Starting compensation \$10 an hour!)

Dr. James McDonald, 1920-1971, professor of astrophysics, University of Arizona

Dr. Edward U. Condon, 1902-1974, nuclear physicist, director of University of Colorado Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects

J. Allen Hynek, 1910-1986

“Ridicule is not part of the scientific method ...people should not be taught that it is.”



James McDonald, 1920-1971

ETI hypothesis is the "least unsatisfactory explanation..." of UFOs—a working model, not a fact.

Ridiculed about 'Little green men' by Congressmen during his 1971 cogent testimony about SSTs causing cancer.



Edward U. Condon, 1902-74

The UFO phenomenon is “an indictment of science education.”

Dr. Condon served as head of the

National Bureau of Standards 1945-1951. In the ‘Red Scare’ of the McCarthy era, HUAC (the House Unamerican Activities Committee) viewed him as a security risk. He was a “follower” of quantum mechanics — said to be “revolutionary” — and had physics colleagues in other countries.





Carl Sagan 1934-1996

Sagan, more than any other astronomer or astrophysicist, characterizes the switch of attention from flying saucers to the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, sometimes called SETI, sometimes CETI (Communication with ETI). He called himself an exo-biologist.

Donald Keyhoe 1897-1988



A founder of NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon), Keyhoe was a major player early in the flying saucer phenomenon. He was born and raised in Ottumwa, Iowa! In January 1950, *TRUE*

Magazine published his “Flying Saucers are Real” article. A book by the same name sold more than a half million copies. NICAP was considered the most credible of UFO organizations, thanks in part to the work of associate director, Richard Hall (1930-2009).

Capt. Edward Ruppelt, 1923-1960

Lt. Col. Hector Quintanilla, 1923-1996



The two most prominent directors of the USAF UFO program, Project Blue Book, were Ruppelt, from its onset to 1953, and Quintanilla, from 1963 to its closure in 1969.

Ruppelt was well known for his 1956 book, *The Report on UFOs*; his tenure is viewed as the high-water mark of the Air Force attention to UFOs.



Quintanilla is recalled for his candor and his disputes with Dr. Hynek and Dr. McDonald.

United at Birth: UFOs, June 1947; USAF, July 1947

The formal Air Force UFO project from January 1948 through 1968 generally was depicted in the press as thorough and scientific, meriting public confidence. The inquiry dealt with a public relations — not a scientific — issue. Project Blue Book dealt with explaining — not really investigating — 12,618 reports of UFOs.



Left: Blue Book HQ
Wright-Patterson,
AFB, Dayton, Ohio
Right: Lt. Col
Quintanilla and
Blue Book staff



...And incompatible ever since



Just following orders: UFO unknowns upgraded

In 1954 the USAF objectives regarding UFOs were air defense and gathering technical data. In 1959 a 3rd objective was added: Reduce the percent of unidentifieds to the minimum. The “possibly,” “probably” categories were routinely upgraded in the passage of time, taken to be non-threatening.

FROM UFO REPORTING FORM

12. CONCLUSIONS

- Was Balloon
- Probably Balloon
- Possibly Balloon

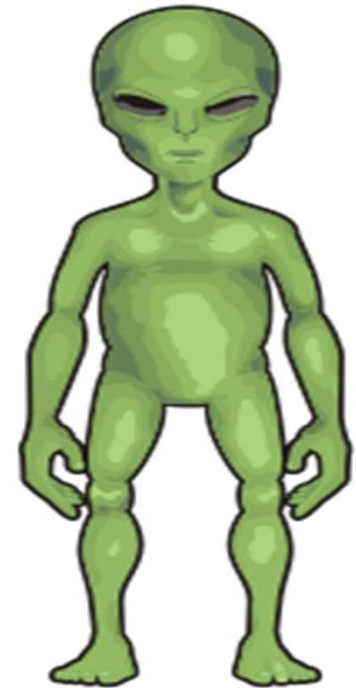
- Was Aircraft
- Probably Aircraft
- Possibly Aircraft

- Was Astronomical
- Probably Astronomical
- Possibly Astronomical

- Other _____
- Insufficient Data for Evaluation
- Unknown

Little Green Men? Yeah! Sure!

Little Green Men, supposedly UFO pilots, likely stem from an AP humor column in August '47. You can't find a USAF report with a LGM (or W). Moreover, that take on saucer pilots was reinforced in news stories by noting their absence: "No little green men were seen." Of course not. There weren't any.



A few significant dates on UFOs/Saucers

June 24, 1947: Pilot Kenneth Arnold sees discs over Cascade Mountains.

July 26, 1947: Under National Security Act, USAF created as a separate branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

July 12-29, 1952: Reports of UFOs over Washington, DC.

January 1953: Robertson Panel of scientists, with CIA involvement, looks at UFOs from scientific and national security perspectives, giving weight to the latter, continuing USAF involvement.

Further on McDonald and Robertson panel

Given the recent attention to UFOs, a McDonald comment from 1966:

“...I regard this four-day [1953] session of the Robertson Panel as a pivotal point in UFO history. For instead of recommending that the problem be taken out of Air Force hands (on grounds of non-hostility of the UFOs) and turned over to some scientific agency, there was a most regrettable ...recommendation made...”

That recommendation was the CIA-sponsored one to debunk “saucers” to reduce public interest in the phenomenon.

AND TWO MORE DATES

March 1966: "Swamp gas" leads to UFO reports in Michigan and subsequent congressional hearings. (Also led to my involvement.)

Oct. 1968: University of Colorado Defense Department project: "...further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation science will be advanced..." So, the USAF finally 'exits' as a convenient news source, which it might have done in 1953, except for CIA plans to lessen public interest in UFOs!

Some readings, including an update

- *Saturday Review of Literature* in the early 1950s and in the issue of Sept. 3, 1966
- *WE ARE NOT ALONE* by Walter Sullivan 1964; Revised 1993
- *INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE*, I.S. Shklovskii and Carl Sagan, 1966 (and anything else by Sagan, Hynek,)
- Thanks to Phil Hutchison, 2019 academic journal update on the Strentz-related research is available upon request.
- The May 10, 2021 issue of *The New Yorker* offers a summary and update on the saucer phenomenon.
- Also of GK interest, *Science Meets the UFO Enigma*, with Paul Joslin as a co-author, 2000

Some conclusions to draw from all of this

- The USAF mission essentially was to explain UFO sightings, not to investigate such reports.
- Hynek and Condon comments on ridicule and science education were right. McDonald was a victim of those shortcomings.
- UFO phenomenon is so poisoned by mis-information that a new inquiry might have to start from Square 1 or rely on findings from research not focused on UFOs.
- Sagan: 'Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.'

Carl Sagan's: funny(?), final take on it all



Sagan visited the University of Colorado project in the summer of 1967. In his whimsical, credible style, he offered a tongue-in cheek take on flying saucers. The gist of it:

Our technological advances meant we could not hide in the universe. So, Sagan mused, maybe saucer-riding scouts visited to see if Earth might be a good fit in intergalactic government. They reported back, “Nope. Too violent. Earth is so hell-bent on self-destruction, it would pose a threat to galactic peace and quiet.” So Earth was and continues to be quarantined, off limits to the civilized societies in the Universe.