

## Part F: Reprint of 2 Articles by Dr. Leon Davidson

*Publisher's Note: Early issues of Saucer News (Box 2228, Clarksburg, WV 26301) contained several articles by Dr. Davidson that expressed his unique views on the origin of UFO phenomena. Two of these are published here in photo-offset reproduction of the original magazine pages because we feel that they add to the value of this publication as an historical document. Blank areas of some pages result from the removal of cartoons, advertisements, and other material not part of the author's manuscript.*

*The article "ECM + CIA = UFO" appeared in the February/March, 1959 issue.*

*"An Open Letter To Saucer Researchers" was published in the March/1962 and succeeding issue as two parts. Later it was reprinted in Jim Moseley's Book of Saucer News (Saucerian Books, 1967).*

# An Open Letter To Saucer Researchers

by Dr. Leon Davidson

(1) I would like to deviate from my usual writing style and cast this article in the form of an "open letter" without rigorous documentation.

I have been unable to properly keep up with the correspondence that followed my article "Why I Believe Adamski". Hence this open letter of reply.

(2) Because of the somewhat unpopular position which I have always taken on this subject, I would like to state my qualifications to justify the somewhat pompous position which I may seem to affect. I challenge any other saucer researcher to present a better list of qualifications to pontificate in this field.

(a) I have read the full text of the secret version of the Project Grudge Report of August, 1949.

(b) I have worked for classified government projects -- mostly in the atomic energy field including a stint working for "Uncle Sam" in AEC Headquarters in Washington at a highly respectable level.

(c) I have held high U.S. security clearances for over 15 years.

(d) I have lived in several areas of the Country where and when flying saucer activity was going on including New Mexico during the "green fireball" period and Washington, DC during the 1952 "National Airport radar sighting" period.

(e) I have extensive files of flying saucer magazines, books, newspaper clippings, NACA and other technical reports, and correspondence with military agencies collected personally starting when I first became involved in this field in 1949.

- (f) My professional background can be found in American Men of Science, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Volume I.
- (g) I am a trained engineer with a doctorate in chemical engineering and am a member of the New York Academy of Sciences.
- (h) At Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, I worked with the semi-official project looking for the "green fireballs" in cooperation with the Laboratory security organization.
- (i) I was given a special private showing of the "Tremonton Film" by Major Dewey Fournet in a Pentagon briefing room in November 1952 which the films were being kept secret from the public (and from Major Keyoe).
- (3) If there were need to expand the above list further, I could list my correspondence files (including informative replies) from many scientists and officials (including members of the 1953 CIA panel )and many saucer researchers (including Adamski, Al Bender, Barker, Moseley, Dan Fry, Richard Ogden, Len Stringfield, Ruppelt, John Otto, LaPaz, Menzel, Whipple, Munsil..., Keyhoe, Dick Hall, etc.). I could also point to my appearance on the Long John radio show and my authorization (by Congressional action) to publish the official Air Force Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14.
- (4) Let me now say what I think is the true explanation of the flying saucer situation as it now stands and as it has developed. In a nutshell, it is this:

The Central Intelligence Agency (formed in 1947) took the public image of the "flying saucers" created by secret flights of U... aircraft and artificial meteor research etc. during the 1947-48 period. In 1950, the CIA had set into motion a plan of encouraging public belief in interplanetary travel through a psychological technique of guiding the release of planted information ordering "secret" tests of authentic military developments which gave misleading impressions to observers, etc.

It delegated the Air Force to act as the official "investigator" to stave off public inquiry. It secretly sponsored the formation of saucer study groups and contact c... including NICAP (under T. Townsend Brown with whom, incidentally, I have voluminous correspondence.)

The CIA set up many saucer publishers, sponsored the publicity received by Adamski's books and others; and sponsored the ... of saucer articles in 1952 in *Life*, *Look*, etc. The CIA also conducted hoaxes played upon Adamski and Fry including the former's desert contact, "train disappearance", etc.

The motives of the CIA can best be described by Allen Dulles. He has recently retired from his position as leader of that Agency. He is quoted in Stringfield's book as saying that "by use of the injunction, if necessary he would prevent anyone from testifying in court concerning Adamski's ... because maximum security exists concerning the subject of UFOs."

The atom bomb drive of 1957-58 which led to the U.S.-Russian-English ban on clear bomb testing (only recently broken) was the only worthwhile object that of the CIA-sponsored flying saucer movement which is as yet publicly readable. The build-up for this is evident in the earliest saucer contact s...

- (5) A more detailed historical development of the CIA's ... the saucer story follows:

In 1946 based on research done during WWII and ... lead from German rocket and satellite information, the U.S. Navy developed several interesting projects including:

- (a) The "Flying Flapjack" -- scheduled for test flight at Muroc in the summer of 1947 -- the very place and time of Cases 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the official Air Force saucer investigation "Project Grudge". This plane was designed by C.H. Zimmerman of the NACA and Chance-Vought.
- (b) The "Flying Platform" also designed by Zimmerman based on his patents #2,417,896 (applied for on Aug. 10, 1945 and issued March 25, 1947). This was not publicized until 1955 when the Office of Naval Research made the cover of *Look* and/or *Colliers* magazines with it.
- (c) The launching of artificial meteors from **shaped charges** carried aloft by V-2 rockets over New Mexico starting in December 1946. (This led to the "green fireballs".)
- (d) The "Skyhook" balloon project and other high-altitude research.

In 1947, the Air Force was embarrassed by sightings of "saucers" at Air Force bases although Naval air bases were not bothered. The Air Force had YB-35 "flying wings". But they did not fly well and the YB-49 jet version crashed at Muroc in June 1948. (Muroc was renamed "Edwards AFB" in memory of the test pilot Capt. Glen W. Edwards.)

The Navy "XF5U-1 Flying Flapjack" did not have any publicly-reported flights. Yet it was not officially scrapped until March 12, 1948. The Navy had a large restricted area near Arco, Idaho through the end of 1947 (which is now the site of the AEC Reactor Testing Station). The area is near the center of activity of "saucers" during that period and could have been "their" base of operation.

The CIA started operations under Admiral Hillenkoetter on May 1, 1947. The 2 earliest dated cases in the official Air Force "Project Grudge" files are:

- Case 82-- May 1 (or 21), 1947, Oklahoma City. "Round, disk-like, 10 times longer than thick, high speed."
- Case 92-- May 19, 1947. Manitou Springs, Colorado. "Reversal of direction of flight; maneuvers."

In early 1949, just after "unification of the Army, Navy, and Air Force started to take effect, an Air Force general ordered the Air Force to discontinue the investigation of "flying saucers" and to close Project Grudge by the end of 1949. This general's name and the full text of his letter are given in the secret Project Grudge report No. 102-AC 49/15-100, Project XS-304, Release Date August 1949. Classification: Secret. Written by Lt. H.W. Smith and Mr. G.W. Towles of Air Materiel Command Headquarters at Wright Field.

In this letter, the general ordered the name of the project changed at once from Project Sign to Project Grudge. The name "Project Sign" had been given -- under CIA auspices -- to help spread the idea that saucers were interplanetary bearers of messages of wisdom. This general -- who was not in on the secret but saw that the Navy was sending its "secret aircraft" to taunt the Air Force bases -- used the name "Grudge" to connote the fierce inter-service rivalry existing then.

The June 1947 Maury Island (Tacoma, Washington) sighting did not become widely known until after the secret Grudge Report was released in 1949. (Released only to the Military and the AEC. It was not -- and is not yet -- available to the public.) The Maury Island incident was referred to by the Rand Corporation in its chapter of the Grudge Report. The Maury Island affair is fully described in the book by Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer. (And thus Palmer is associated with the earliest stages of the flying saucer story.)

During 1950, Allen Dulles became actively involved with the CIA work on saucers and saw the psychological impact which they had. He started a plan to build them up as a psychological warfare weapon. Ruppelt's book clearly shows the steps that the CIA took.

Project Blue Book was warmed up in 1950-51. Ruppelt was selected by a screening process and groomed for the job of public relations cat's-paw (without his knowledge). A series of "incidents" was planned and carried out involving regular military units which led to cases considered as authentic evidence of saucers.

See my article in the March/April 1960 *Flying Saucer Review* of England. See also page 127 of Ruppelt's book (hard-cover first edition) regarding the Sept. 10, 1951 Ft. Monmouth radar sighting. By this time, there was no need to fly "real aircraft" any more. The "Flying Flapjack" and the Skyhook balloons had done their job -- the public had been inoculated. Since that time, there has been no need to postulate the existence of "secret new aircraft" to explain the eyewitness reports.

The CIA scheduled a big upsurge of publicity for saucers in the Spring and Summer of 1952. The public kick-off was the "Have We Visitors From Space?" article in *Life* (April 1952). This article had been under preparation for a year with help from the Government according to Ruppelt. The "green lights" or artificial meteors used earlier in New Mexico were developed into a new technique (the "Blue Flash"). This was first tried over Seattle, Washington in May 1952. (See front-page of *N.Y. Times* for May 12, 1952.) It was then used for the outstanding "blue meteor" of Sept. 12, 1952 over Washington, DC and simultaneously over 4 adjacent states including Maryland and West Virginia.

This incident occurred simultaneously with the Flatwoods, WV "monster" sighting and -- in fact -- the "meteor" was seen to land near the spot where the "monster" was discovered. This incident -- described by Gray Barker in his book *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers* -- was investigated by Barker personally and publicized by him and marks his early connection with the CIA-sponsored program of hoodwinking the public.

By Fall of 1952, the CIA had laid out its plans for the "landing" and "contact" stories. The warm-up for this had been the fabricated and planted stories about "little green men" such as the famous lecture at the University of Denver in March 1950 described in Scully's book *Behind the Flying Saucers* (page 5). This was a psychological test and showed that about 50% college-level people would believe a well-presented story. The Desverges (Florida scoutmaster) landing story in 1952 and the Mayor Links landing story from Germany in the summer of 1952 were part of the same pattern. These were all planted by the CIA. No actual human contacts were yet reported.

The Tremonton films made in the summer of 1952 served to convince me that the saucers were real. And I suspect that they were shown privately to others besides myself whom the CIA wanted to convince of the reality of saucers. These films are a clever job of faking.

The major sightings of the 1952 "flap" are well known to all saucer researchers. The Nash-Fortenberry sighting over Norfolk, Virginia and the Coast Guard photos over Salem, Massachusetts received much publicity. But the newspaper clippings of that period show hundreds of cases. The

editorial pages and editorial cartoons (even the book reviews) of the major newspaper bristled with the subject of flying saucers.

In January 1953, the CIA convened a panel of 5 top-notch scientists to "study the situation". The results was "pre-conditioned" by the CIA according to Ruppelt's book and to detailed letters from Ruppelt in my files. The upshot of this panel's report was to land credence to the validity and "respectability" of saucers in official Government circles (outside the CIA) although the report was kept secret from the public.

During this period, Major Keyhoe was carefully fed reports (by his "friends" in the Government) to bolster his case that the saucers are interplanetary. His books were best sellers.

Likewise, George Adamski -- who had been duped into cooperation and participation in later 1949 (to take pictures of saucers "near the Moon") -- was hoaxed into going to a desert "contact" with a "spaceman" on Nov. 20, 1952. He as then given strong backing the CIA (he calls them "Space Brothers") in writing and publishing his book Flying Saucers Have Landed. During the next year, he was given the "space flight" hoax as described in my article "Flying Saucer Review" (England), Jan/Feb 1960 issue.

Jim Moseley introduced himself to me in 1954 an we became good friends. He was typical of the young, single, unattached men of mysterious antecedents who became active as saucer publishers during this period. The saucer magazines and clubs spread the stories of the contactees and publicized their books. Surprisingly enough, even Moseley -- who purported to espouse the "Earth Theory" -- gave most publicity to the contactee side of the picture.

Dan Fry's experience was not actually published until 1954 although dated back in 1950. The sequences of the "contact story" buildup seems to have been planned by the CIA as follows:

- (1) "Little Green Men" stories 1949-1950. No witnesses. (To "soften up" the public and start discussion of "space visitors".)
- (2) Contact by voice radio. Dan Fry, 1950. Also radio contact by Laimon Streeter with Williamson's and McCoy's group in 1952.
- (3) Contact with a human being "from space". Adamski, desert, 1952.
- (4) Contact with English-speaking human "from space" and flights into "space". Adamski, 1953, at Camp Irwin, California.
- (5) Visits to "other planets". Angelucci, Nelson. (1952, 1954)
- (6) Publicity for "midgets" contacting the general public, not restricting contacts to the "chosen few" contactees. 1955.
- (7) Publicity for full-size "human space people" cocontacting Earth people. (Howard Menger, the Planetary Center, the California contact clubs, etc. (1956-1957)
- (8) anti-Atom bomb propaganda disseminated by saucer clubs all over the World. (1957) This led to the cessation of bomb tests in 1958.
- (9) Current status of contactee cults: Most of the "saucer club" activity these days is oriented to the belief that "space people" are here on Earth. That they are identical to human beings.

And that either the human race originally came from other planets or the other planets were originally colonized from Earth etc. You pay your money and take your choice. But the fraction of "saucer research" activity that is connected with technical subjects (such as propulsion etc.) is very small or almost nil these days and the whole subject of "saucers" now really means "space people". (1958-1962)

... Although in 1952-57 after seeing the Tremonton films in a private showing at the Pentagon (which I now realize was arranged by the CIA acting through Col. W.A. Adams of Air Force Intelligence) I firmly believed that flying saucers were real objects, **I no longer believe this.**

I had thought that these were "secret U.S. aircraft or missiles" and perhaps that is what the CIA was hoping the intelligence agents of other countries would believe. But all during that period, my friends who worked in other Government agencies kept telling me that we had no such devices. I nevertheless believed that we did and that it was the best kept Secret of all time.

Firm in that belief, I went through with the publication of thousands of copies of the Air Force Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14 in order to make the "inanity" of the Air Force's denials of saucer reality clear to all intelligent researchers. In the act of publishing the Bluebook Report, I was unknowingly acting as one of the chief agents of the CIA helping to spread the belief that saucers were American secret devices (as explained in my editorial remarks in the Bluebook publication).

The dawn came slowly during 1957 as I looked in the John Otto - Mildred Maier - Major Walker - CIA case concerning the "code signals" recorded during a "saucer communication experiment". When Jules St. Germaine (a Long John show affiliate) had these decoded into a teletype cipher message and when Major Voya Skakich of the U.S. Air Force came to interrogate me about my interest in these, I began to see the light.

My articles in various issues of Moseley's *Saucer News* during 1957 and 1958 showed the transition in my thoughts. And the idea of psychological warfare being played by the CIA (against whom?) seemed more-and-more to be the real explanation of the whole saucer riddle.

It even became apparent that many saucer magazines were not being written to circulate to their (purported) ordinary "saucer fan" readership but were really being written and circulated mainly to convey the "saucer activity news" to those on the inside of the research (some of whom could be expected to be enemy agents who were supposed to be believing and extracting the "American secret device" hokum from the stories).

The man I feel sorriest for in all of this is Major Keyhoe. He has been ill-used by the CIA and is still being fed stories to relay to the public. In Flying Saucers - Top Secret pages 18-20, he thinks that he is telling a story of an actual interplanetary saucer sighting when it is obvious that the case he describes is a "dress rehearsal" of a psychological warfare gimmick which "simulates" a flying saucer (to "scare" crews of enemy planes???).

The way in which (on pages 19 and 20) the crewmen were interviewed and made to write reports on what they thought they saw and also shown photographs to match they had seen sounds just like what the CIA would do in a "field test" of a new psychological warfare gimmick. It is quite similar to the test made in 1950 on college people as described on pages 5 and 6 of Scully's saucer book.

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While discussing German saucer development, Vesco described German research designed to overcome the drag limitations imposed upon aircraft by boundary layer effects. Boundary layer effects refer to the flow of air across the wing of an aircraft in flight. This is a blow-up of the picture attached to J. Andreas Epp's "Still Alive" letter from Prag, March, 1944. Note air intake ring and crest for steering on the roof of the cabin. They opened up as many of these as they could find, and they were numerous. Ramsauer was the head of the German Physical Society and a leading researcher for the electrical firm Allgemeine Elektrizitätsgesellschaft. Ramsauer urged the German research establishment to rid itself of ethnic physics and get down to the business of using science to win a war (35).