

I SEE BY THE PAPERS . . .

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The earth may be passing through a region unusually rich with meteoric debris, he explained, *or the fireballs are connected with some sort of military tests.*

"There has never been a rate of meteorite fall in history that has been one-fifth as high as the present fall," said Dr. LaPaz. "If that rate should continue, I would suspect the phenomenon is not natural."

One trouble, says Dr. LaPaz, is that the fireballs reported by observers in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Utah and Nevada don't behave like ordinary meteorites.

First of all, they travel in straight lines when meteorites should follow a curved course.

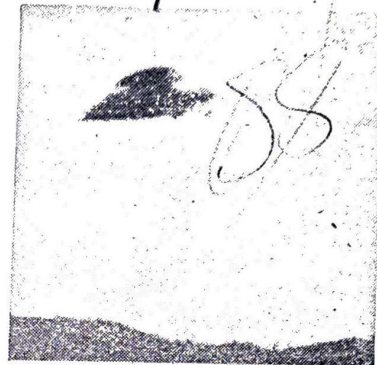
Second, they are silent, though meteorites of such size should make a definite noise.

Third, they have a greenish color which has not been reported outside the southwestern area.

One object swept 125 miles across Arizona on November 2 and vanished in a blinding flash — but without a noise. Walter Hass, a meteorologist, estimated that the fireball was about 10 times as bright as the brightest full moon.

But the strangest, according to Dr. LaPaz, consisted of two objects flying parallel which apparently crashed near Cloverdale, New Mexico. They sent up a double mushroom of smoke — but again there was no noise.

"This case is without parallel in



Is this a flying saucer? Guy B. Marquand, Jr., who photographed it near Riverside, Calif., claims that it is.

the whole of recorded history," said Dr. LaPaz. "I've never heard of anything like it." He continued: "I'm almost inclined to ask those fellows out in Nevada (at the atom bomb test center) what they have been up to."



All the objects seen in the two month period are not as easily explained away. On one recent Monday night, three mysterious fireballs were sighted in the skies near Taos, N. M. The first hung motionless over U. S. Hill on the Santa Fe Highway at dusk and burned a bright yellow for nearly two minutes before disappearing. Some local observers believed a faint trail of white smoke was visible shortly after the light had disappeared.

A few minutes later a second fireball was seen over the mountains

called it the "flying doughnut." There is little to stop us developing a flying saucer -- except the money and the need. If Herr Linke's description is accurate it may be that the machine is designed as a military hover plane. It would appear from his comment on its 'glow' that it houses a jet plane designed to provide vertical take-off. The cylinder would obviously have to retract into the body to prevent resistance. Metallic suits are possible, too -- they could be a form of protective clothing for use in high altitudes. There is nothing impossible about the story, although to believe in the saucers, I would have to be shown one myself."

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