

**McCAHILL TESTS A PAIR OF ENGLISH MINIS**

# **MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED**

**The How-To-Do-Magazine**

SEPT. 1967

**30¢**

**SWAMP GAS, REFLECTION OR  
UFO—WHAT DO YOU THINK  
THIS PHOTO SHOWS?** →

**What the Chief of USAF's  
'Project Blue Book' Thinks  
We'll Find Out About UFOs!**

**7 Mechanical Wonders of the World**

**George Grotz Creates Instant Antiques!**

**How to Save Money On a '68 Car**

**Vietnam: What's Wrong With the M-16 Rifle?**



**MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED**

SEPTEMBER 1967

VOLUME 63, NUMBER 472



**TOM McCAHILL** tests Ford's new electric car. Page 72.



**PLANNING** to buy a saber saw? Read report on page 100.

**COMING NEXT MONTH**

- **ANNUAL NEW CAR ISSUE.**  
Photos and information on all the 1968 cars.
- **YOUR WORST FAULTS.**  
Exclusive MI poll reveals what state troopers don't like about your driving.
- Some fresh advice on how to winterize your home at minimum expense.
- An advance look at the 1968 outboard engines.
- **PLUS:** McCahill tests the startling Europa sportscar and the '68 Chevy, plans for a duck boat, a look at the Apollo moon car, how to get extra 10 hp out of your car.

In Oct. MI / On Sale Sept. 21

**AUTOMOBILES**

This Car Won't Skid .....	30
The Truck That Became a Camper .....	38
AMC Unveils Two '68s .....	97
How to Save Money on Your '68 Car .....	98
Home Toe-In Adjustment Made Easy! .....	110
Service Tips from Detroit .....	112
Car Care: When Your Water Pump Doesn't Work .....	118

**TOM McCAHILL**

Mail for McCahill .....	57
Tests Ford's New Electric Car .....	72
Tests a Pair of English Minis .....	86

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Patents Granted .....	23
The Hot Line .....	24
What Project Blue Book Will Tell Us About UFOs .....	63
The 7 Mechanical Wonders of the World .....	66

**YOUR HEALTH**

The Amazing Iron Doctor .....	76
Aspirin, Bufferin or Anacin? .....	89

**YOUR HOME**

How to Make Instant Antiques .....	103
R/C Garage-Door Opener .....	108
Three Handy Hideaway Home Layouts .....	122
Vertical Sundial .....	128
High Horse .....	130
Ichthyological Wind Chimes .....	135
Ask George .....	148

**ARMS & ARMOR**

What's Wrong with the M-16 Rifle? .....	84
---	----

**BOATING**

What's It Like to Live Aboard a Boat? .....	92
---	----

**TRANSPORTATION**

Commuting at 150 MPH .....	95
----------------------------	----

**NEW PRODUCTS**

MIMI: Peephole Lock .....	114
Hardware Store .....	138

**SPORTS**

Outdoors: Don't Let the Pickerel Fool You .....	75
---	----

**WOODWORKING**

Spice Rack .....	80
Student Desk .....	126

**WORKSHOP PROJECTS**

Backyard Bobcat .....	106
-----------------------	-----

**TOOLS & THEIR USE**

The Versatile Saber Saw .....	100
-------------------------------	-----

**ELECTRONICS**

How Integrated Circuits Are Changing Our Lives .....	131
--	-----

**ASTRONOMY**

Are Low-Priced Telescopes Any Good? .....	136
---	-----

**DEPARTMENTS**

Subscription Coupon .....	10
Dear Editor .....	12
Classified Advertising Section .....	42
It's New! .....	70
Inventions Wanted! .....	83
Freddie Fumbles .....	125
Golden Hammer .....	134



## What Project Blue Book Will Tell Us About UFOs

By Lloyd Mallan



**B**ECAUSE of the mounting speculation about unidentified flying objects, MI has gone to the one person who might legitimately be called an authority on the subject. He is Maj. Hector Quintanilla, Jr. (photo above right), Chief of the Air Force's Project Blue Book, the official body designated by the U.S. Government to field and investigate all reports on UFOs.

Major Quintanilla's headquarters is at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. The base is this country's scientific center for aerospace research and development, which makes it

PHOTO which covers this page is from Project Blue Book's files. It was taken at Sheffield, England, and is unevaluated due to insufficient data.



## UFOs

eminently suited for this far-out project. As Quintanilla himself put it when interviewed for MI:

"Within the base, we have photoanalysts, radar experts, aerodynamic engineers, physicists, astronomers, chemists. You name the scientific discipline that might be needed to evaluate a UFO report—and we have it right here in the Wright-Patterson complex."

Project Blue Book also can call on the services of some 120 officers well-grounded in UFO-investigation methods. There is at least one such officer at every Air Force Base in the U.S. All are ready at a moment's notice to investigate UFO sightings. Their reports must be channeled through Major Quintanilla, whose big, automated files already include 11,000-odd case histories of sightings.

The major is a physicist with an 18-year diversified Air Force career in radar operations, intelligence, and research and development on data-processing systems for intelligence purposes. For four years now he has been immersed in the greatest intangible of our time—the UFO.

A focal point in Major Quintanilla's office is a display case with UFO mementos—pieces of fused glass, weird

The June issue of MI carried an article titled 10,000,000 UFO Witnesses Can't Be Wrong! Written by Otto O. Binder, it gave what might be called the popular view on UFOs. The article presented here represents the other side of the coin—the official viewpoint of the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book. The author, Lloyd Mallan, a well-known science reporter, has written many magazine articles as well as numerous books on the UFO phenomenon, rocketry and space travel.

The photo on the cover of this issue of MI was taken in Norway by Mrs. William F. Barrett of Great Barrington, Mass. The Air Force evaluates Mrs. Barrett's UFO as a lens reflection. What do you think?

formations of clay and stone, scraps of twisted metal, bits of fabric and even some fragments of a pancake—items people have sent to him to support their contention that they had sighted a UFO and, in some instances, visited with its crew.

Quintanilla himself would welcome a visit by an extraterrestrial space crew, for one simple reason: "If we could retrieve an interstellar spacecraft of some sort, then we could save the American taxpayer billions and billions of dollars."

In what way? Look at all the research and developmental sweat it would save American space scientists. By studying its propulsion system, its guidance-and-control system, its communications system, we would be conserving years and years of effort and vast sums of money.

But so far as Quintanilla is concerned, the probability of retrieving such a vehicle is next to nil.

He bases that opinion mostly on the vast distances involved between this planet and all possible planets out there. Not only in our own galaxy but also beyond our galaxy. "I think," says Quintanilla, "that the magnitude of the distance which we, or any other race of beings, would have to travel to visit each other is just too tremendous for even the most illogical type of consideration. I would say that based on what we know right now interstellar space voyages are out of the question."

This is not to say that Quintanilla doesn't believe there are no other forms of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. "The existence of life elsewhere and its capability to travel through stellar and galactic distances are two different considerations," he is careful to point out. "Extraterrestrial life? Yes, I believe that is possible. Interstellar space travel? No."

It now is generally accepted that any travel to this planet by an alien cosmic race would have to be interstellar since our solar system does not show much promise of intelligent life, except here on earth.

In fact, some of the most prominent scientists believe that the nearest point in the universe where intelligent life could exist is four and a third light years



away. That's approximately 26,000,000,-000,000 miles! Think about it for a while.

If scientists say it's virtually impossible for UFOs to be spacecraft from another stellar system, what are they then?

The biggest number of sighting reports can, without too much difficulty, be classified as conventional or natural phenomena, according to Quintanilla. After reviewing the great majority of UFO sightings in Blue Book's files, he is unable to find evidence that the objects as reported by the observers represent any type of extraterrestrial craft.

But Project Blue Book still has not been able to identify the nature of the objects reported in some 600 cases, of which more than 60 were sightings by so-called reliable observers. How does Quintanilla explain this?

"You must remember one thing," says Quintanilla. "All UFO reports contain subjective information, not objective scientific data. At the time an observer reports a UFO sighting to the Air Force, the object is unidentified to him. It mystifies him for one reason or another. This does not mean that the observation reported actually is unidentifiable. The small percentage of UFOs reported to us that we could not identify—less than 5 per cent—remain mysteries for a number of reasons. In many cases there's not enough information to make an evaluation. And the evaluation of the observer depends on his background, his training and knowledge. You and I could look out the same window at the same object and we might see two different things."

At one time Project Blue Book tried to construct a model of a UFO as had been reported to the Air Force by well-intentioned citizens. Based on their descriptions, Blue Book scientists came up with 13 different theoretical models. These all were derived from what at first had appeared to be the same type of UFO. "This is another, more graphic illustration of the subjective nature of UFO reports," says Major Quintanilla. "No two observers had seen the same thing in the same way."

Question—Are you saying that people who report that they have seen UFOs

are misleading themselves?

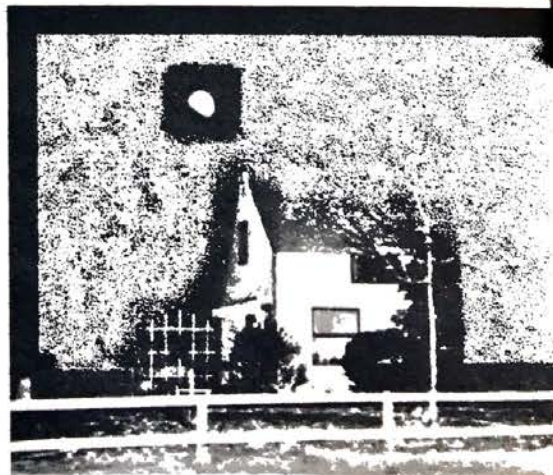
Quintanilla—I don't question the integrity of the UFO observer. In most cases he tries his best to make a good observation and interpretation of the object seen. But the outward circumstances of the observation and his inward emotional reactions to it can be misleading. He *really* believes that he's seen something mysterious, when it could have been something quite common seen under uncommon conditions or in an uncommon situation. If we had better data from the observer, we might be able to find the visual stimulus that caused the sighted object to appear unusual. And this is true of those unsolved cases.

Yet they are unsolved. There may even be others like them in the future.

What then can we expect to learn about UFOs eventually—in terms of hard facts?

A group of scientists at the University of Colorado is making an authoritative assessment of UFO reports that have been submitted to them direct and from the Air Force files. Hopefully, at the end of the 18-month study, instigated at the request of the Air Force, they will be able to determine scientifically what the UFO phenomena represent.

So until the university scientists, directed by Dr. Edward U. Condon, complete their [Continued on page 146]



PROJECT Blue Book's evaluation of UFO captured on film by Zil Wiskott at Levittown, N. Y., in Dec. 1958: lens reflection.

# ***Project Blue Book***

---

[Continued from page 65]

study and make their recommendations sometime next summer, the UFO question remains open—at least so far as the public and scientific community are concerned.

If UFOs are so intangible, so much a result of human fancy, one might wonder whether the continuation of Project Blue Book is not just wasting tax money.

Q—How can Project Blue Book be justified?

Quintanilla—Our basic responsibility—at least until the University of Colorado investigation arrives at a final determination about the nature of UFOs—is to examine and analyze the UFO reports submitted to us so that we can decide whether or not these phenomena are a threat to the security of the United States. One of the primary responsibilities of the Air Force is to make sure that no hostile vehicle enters our airspace.

Q—How come Project Blue Book has never tried to set up a UFO-detection system? Mass-spectrometers, spectroscopes, spectographs and geiger counters are some of the instruments that would give you an incontestable reading on what UFOs are made of. Obviously many people have seen *something* which they didn't understand.

A—For us to be there on the spot of a UFO sighting with spectrometers and geiger counters, we would have to be able to predict the event. Otherwise, such an endeavor would require a tremendous task force on standby throughout the country. This would cost a huge amount of money.

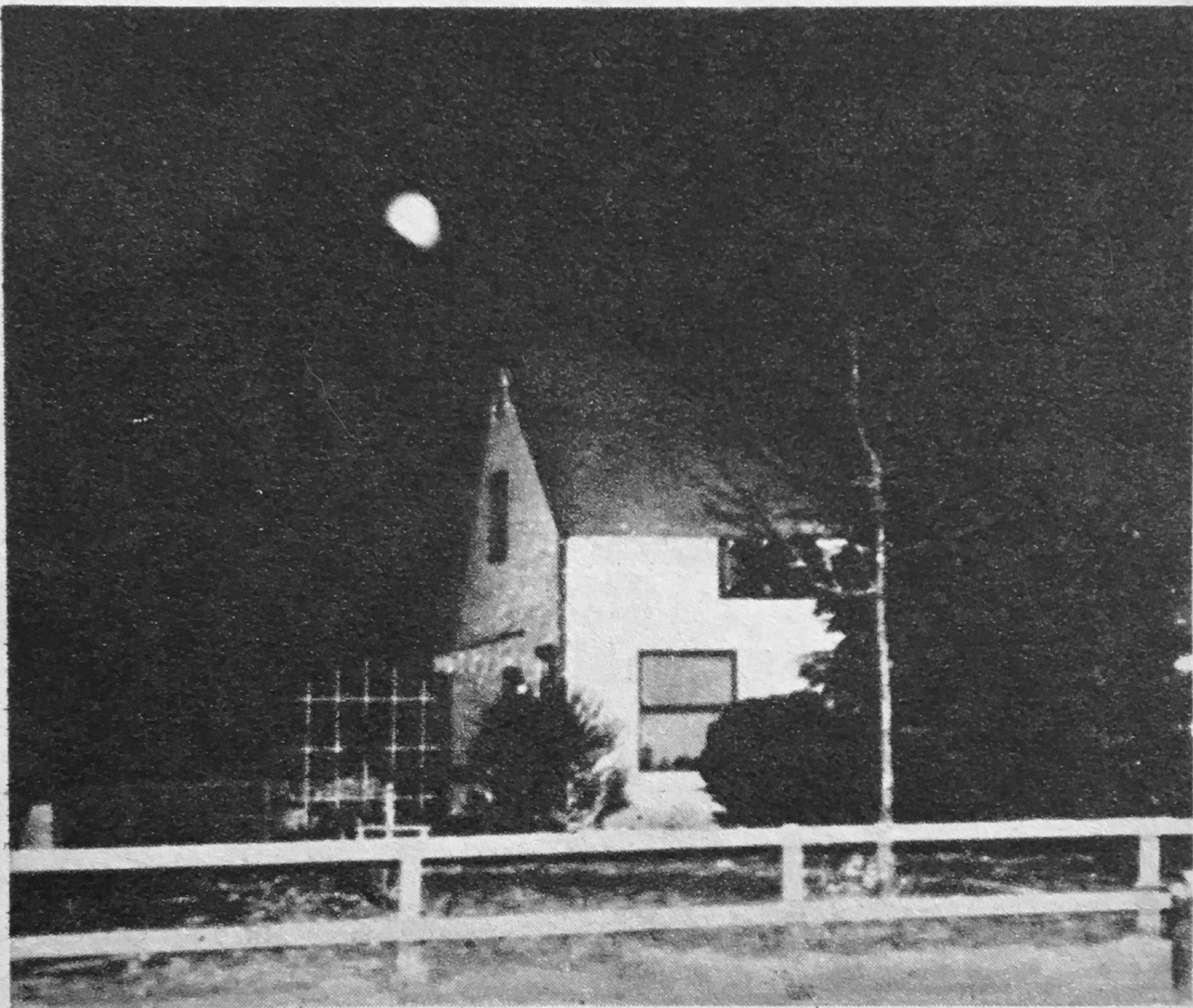
Q—But wouldn't catching a UFO be worth it?

A—I'll turn your question right around and ask, "Would you as a taxpayer be willing to pay for this?"

And on this note, we pass the buck to the reader. Would you be willing to pay the additional high taxes necessary to learn once and for all what UFOs really are?

If your answer is yes, we must add that Major Quintanilla feels that eventually it will be established incontrovertibly that UFOs are what the Air Force always has claimed them to be: natural phenomena or conventional objects observed in unusual conditions or circumstances. •





**PROJECT Blue Book's evaluation of UFO captured on film by Zil Wiskott at Levittown, N. Y., in Dec. 1958: lens reflection.**