

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (62-83894)

DATE: 7/22/54

FROM : SAC, Cincinnati

SUBJECT: TRUMAN BETHURUM;
FLYING DISCS
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(ESPIONAGE)

Remylet 6/8/54 and Bulet 6/22/54.

Attached are five copies of a memorandum containing information set out in my letter of June 8, 1954 with additional information furnished by THOMAS EICKHOFF on July 2, 1954.

On July 2, 1954, although EICKHOFF had been so advised at the time of the original interview with him on June 7, 1954, he was again advised in accordance with instructions in reBulet.

RCD:SAS

REGISTERED MAIL

ENCLOSURES (5)

RECORDED - 79

INDEXED - 79

62-83894-317

AGENCY/ce encl OSI(0-14)
REG-REG'D Colonel RAB(06a)
DATE FORW. 8/3/54
HOW FORW. R/S
BY EHM/led.

EX-12

Handwritten signatures and initials

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TRUMAN BETHURUM

FLYING II SCS

On June 7, 1954, Mr. Thomas Eickhoff, [redacted]
[redacted] Ohio, Operator of [redacted]

[redacted] Ohio, advised that although he belongs to no organization interested in flying saucers or discs, he has been interested in this subject.

He said on June 3, 1954 an ad appeared in "The Cincinnati Enquirer", a newspaper of general circulation in Cincinnati, Ohio, to the effect that on June 11, 1954 a program would be presented at the Taft Auditorium in Cincinnati, Ohio on "the real flying saucer story." Mr. Eickhoff advised that this advertisement disclosed no sponsor for this program and it was only noted on the ad that tickets for the program sold for \$2.00 per person and would be on sale at the Central Ticket Office in Cincinnati.

Mr. Eickhoff continued that because of his interest in the subject of flying saucers, he desired to know the sponsor of the program and found out from the Central Ticket Office that the ad had been placed by Henry Maday, [redacted] Michigan. He said he telephonically contacted Maday on June 3, 1954 and found that Maday was only the agent having rented the Taft Auditorium and that he was acting on behalf of Truman Bethurum and George Hunt Williamson.

He continued that on June 4, 1954 Maday called him back and told him there had been a disagreement between Maday, Bethurum and Williamson over Maday's arrangement for the sale of tickets of the program and the renting of the auditorium. Eickhoff advised that Maday at no time said anything to discredit either Bethurum or Williamson and indicated that their disagreement concerned only Maday's placing the ad in "The Cincinnati Enquirer" prior to having tickets for the program available in Cincinnati.

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Mr. Eickhoff further related that about ten minutes after he had talked to Maday on Friday, June 4, 1954, he received a call from George Hunt Williamson and a Mr. Manspeaker, who confirmed to him that Maday was no longer associated with them, and asked that Eickhoff meet with them at a luncheon at the Terrace Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio on June 7, 1954.

Mr. Eickhoff, in explanation of his interest in this matter, advised that he had read such books as "Flying Saucers From Outer Space," written by Donald E. Kehoe, retired major, U. S. Marine Corps, which book was published by Harper's Publishers, and a book entitled "Flying Saucers Have Landed," by George Adamski, which book is published by Werner-Lowery Company in England, and is distributed by the British Book Center in New York City. He said that he has also heard broadcasts by persons he considers reputable news commentators, such as Walter Winchell, Fulton Lewis, Jr., and Frank Edwards, to the effect that reliable persons have reported observing flying discs or saucers. He said contrary to these reports, the U. S. Air Force has denied the existence of the flying saucer and he felt that persons such as Truman Bethurum and George Hunt Williamson, in presenting a program such as that contemplated, were either truthful or they were frauds. He stated that if they had a true story to tell, then he felt it was of such nature that it should be given as wide a distribution as possible, so that the people might learn the true facts regarding flying discs. He said, however, if their story was not true, then the holding of such a meeting as was contemplated would be a fraud on the general public. He estimated that such a meeting in Cincinnati might draw two thousand people, which, at \$2.00 apiece, would result in a \$4,000.00 take for the promoters.

To identify Truman Bethurum, Mr. Eickhoff had with him two copies of the magazine "Valor," which he stated he got from Bethurum, this magazine being self-identified as the "Golden Times Weekly," published by Soul Craft Chapels, Post Office Box 192, Noblesville, Indiana. The two issues which Mr. Eickhoff had with him were numbers 15 and 16 of volume 6 of the publication, the number 15 being

dated February 6, 1954 and number 16 being dated February 13, 1954. The number 15 issue contained an article concerning Truman Bethurum, in which he is identified as a truck driver from Redondo Beach, California, and it refers to an article dated December 31, 1953, which appeared in the "Daily Breeze," a newspaper at Redondo Beach, California, which allegedly contained a description of an encounter which Truman Bethurum had with a crew of assumed space explorers under the supervision of a ravishing woman commandant in the Nevada desert. The article also reflects that Truman Bethurum allegedly was aboard flying saucers on eleven occasions. At the bottom of the first page of issue number 15 there appeared in what Mr. Eickhoff stated was the handwriting of Truman Bethurum the statement "This is a true story, a factual experience -- Truman Bethurum."

The above mentioned article in "Valor" also reflected that Truman Bethurum is 55 years of age and that his residence address is 519 North Gertruda Avenue, Redondo Beach, California.

Mr. Eickhoff reiterated that he felt Bethurum's story, if true, should be given wide publicity, but that if the story was false, then he should be prosecuted for fraud. He stated that he first took his information to the Air Force in the person of Lieutenant Colonel John O'Mara of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, whom Eickhoff visited personally at O'Mara's home in Fairborn, Ohio, on Sunday, June 6, 1954. Eickhoff indicated that he asked Colonel O'Mara if there were such things as flying saucers and if Bethurum's story could be true, and he said O'Mara denied that there was such a thing as a flying saucer and indicated to him that Donald E. Kehoe, the author of "Flying Saucers in Outer Space" was a fraud and that information is available in Washington that Kehoe is a fraud. He said he was advised, however, by Colonel O'Mara that the Air Force could take no action with respect to Bethurum or Williamson.

Eickhoff continued that it was his intention to aid in the promotion of a meeting for Bethurum in Cincinnati. He advised that the original meeting schedule for June 11

had been cancelled, and that he felt this meeting had such important information for the people as a whole that he was going to make every effort to make the meeting one of national significance. He said he intended to invite to the meeting all nationally prominent news commentators. He intended to try to get radio time to advertise the meeting but he did not wish to participate in this matter in any way if it would violate security regulations in any manner, or if Bethurum and his associates were in any way fraudulent. He stated that he so informed Bethurum, Williamson and Mr. Manspeaker at the luncheon meeting which was held at the Terrace Plaza Hotel on June 7, 1954. They informed him that they were not afraid of an investigation; that Bethurum's story was factual, and that they had no objection to Eickhoff's advising Government authorities regarding it.

Mr. Eickhoff stated that his report to this office was part of his plan to inform all the Federal agencies he thought should know about the activities of Bethurum. He advised that in line with his contemplated plans that on the evening of June 7, 1954 there was to be another meeting at the home of L. H. Stringfield, 7017 Britton Avenue, Cincinnati 27, Ohio, at which meeting there would be Mr. Stringfield, Williamson, Manspeaker, Bethurum, Ralph Zimmermann and Mr. Eickhoff. He said at this meeting they would plan a method of operation and make arrangements for this meeting of national significance. He said he intended to set the date of the meeting far enough in advance so that if any Governmental agency determined that there was fraud involved that agency would have sufficient time to act prior to the holding of the meeting. He advised he intended to keep a detailed record of all actions taken by this group, and that he would voluntarily furnish such information to the F.B.I.

Eickhoff advised that he had not known and had not met either Bethurum, Williamson or Manspeaker prior to the events described above. He said that George Hunt Williamson identified himself as an archeologist and a writer for the magazine "Valor," who resides in Noblesville, Indiana.

He said that Manspeaker, whose first name he did not know, is also connected with "Valor" magazine in some way.

He was asked as to what interest "Valor" magazine has in Bethurum, and whether Bethurum was sponsored by any other organization. He advised that he did not know the interest of "Valor" magazine in Bethurum, and so far as he knew, Bethurum was acting on his own and had no organizational affiliations or sponsorship. He was asked as to what disposition would be made of receipts from a large meeting and he advised that he did not know what disposition would be made of the money. He said he understood that Bethurum had been on tour for some time and that the meeting scheduled for Cincinnati originally on June 11, 1954 was to be the beginning of a new series of meetings.

William Dudley Pelley, Noblesville, Indiana reportedly operates the Soul Craft Press at Noblesville and among other pamphlets, published the weekly journal entitled "Valor", which Mr. Pelley describes as a "journal of the applied spirituality." This publication is said to deal mainly with practical mysticism, the spiritual movement called Soulcraft and the relationship between earth man and the individuals arriving on this planet from flying saucers. Mr. Pelley is said to claim that these individuals arriving in flying saucers are of greater intelligence and learning than the earth people and are here to give the earth people intellectual guidance and spiritual endowment and guidance.

On July 2, 1954, Thomas Eickhoff advised that no progress had been made with respect to holding a meeting for Truman Bethurum in Cincinnati, Ohio which would be of national significance. He said that Bethurum had returned to California but that there was a possibility that he would again come to Cincinnati, Ohio in the fall of 1954. At the same time Mr. Eickhoff advised that he had communicated with Donald E. Kehoe, author of the book "Flying Saucers From Outer Space" and had advised him that he had been informed by Lieutenant Colonel John O'Mara, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio that he was a fraud and that information is avail-

able in Washington that Kehoe is a fraud. He said that he, Eickhoff, had been requested by Kehoe to furnish him this information in writing and that he, Eickhoff, had obliged Kehoe in this respect. He said he understood that Kehoe was going to Washington with his attorneys to take up Colonel O'Mara's statements with the Air Force.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 11/2/54

FROM: SAC, Cincinnati (100-new)

0 Flying Saucers

SUBJECT: CIVILIAN RESEARCH,
INTERPLANETARY FLYING OBJECTS
LEONARD H. STRINGFIELD, Director,
7017 Britton Avenue
Cincinnati 27, Ohio
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Remylets to the Bureau dated 6/8/54 and 7/22/54 captioned, TRUMAN BETHURUM, FLYING DISCS, MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING (ESPIONAGE), Bufile 62-83894.

Attached for the Bureau's information is the 10/1/54 "Newsletter" of the Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects, designated Vol. I No. 7, which has the address P. O. Box 1855 (Cincinnati, Ohio), and which identifies LEONARD H. STRINGFIELD, 7017 Britton Avenue, Cincinnati 27, Ohio, as the director of the organization. On the first page of this "Newsletter" STRINGFIELD reports that he had a private talk with Lt. Colonel JOHN O'MARA, Deputy Commander, Intelligence, U. S. Air Force, on 9/21/54 and that in essence Colonel O'MARA had told STRINGFIELD that flying saucers do exist and that past contradictions were unfortunate.

There is also enclosed a newspaper clipping from the Cincinnati Times Star dated 9/28/54, entitled, "Saucers" No Myth, Says Researcher. This article refers to the "Newsletter" enclosed and also reports on the interview of STRINGFIELD with Lt. Colonel JOHN O'MARA, Deputy Commander, Air Force Intelligence, Wright Field.

In addition, there is enclosed a second clipping, this being from the Cincinnati Post of October 11, 1954, entitled, "See 'Em?---Saucers Cover City. This article reflects that several persons in Cincinnati had cited flying saucers and had reported them to LEONARD H. STRINGFIELD.

NOV 8 1954
NOV 11 1954
NOV 12 1954

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Encls. (3)

Registered Mail

Sub Cincinnati
11/2/54
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INDEXED - 5
EX-127
62-83894-319
Mo...

CI. 100-new

(CIVILIAN RESEARCH, INTERPLANETARY FLYING OBJECTS)

FRANK EDWARDS from his office at the [redacted] continued that he believes STRINGFIELD is now afraid to proceed too much for fear the Air Force will in some way stop his operations and that EDWARDS' warning to STRINGFIELD was after the issuing of the October 1, 1954, "Newsletter" which contained the article about STRINGFIELD's interview with Colonel O'MARA. At the same time, [redacted] reported that STRINGFIELD, in talking about the possibility that the Air Force might stop his operations, made a statement to the effect that, "The Air Force can't do anything to me. I'm claiming saucers are interplanetary."

[redacted] continued in his letter that another point which may or may not be of interest is the fact that the [redacted] HERBERT E. CLARK, [redacted] Ohio Cincinnati, is a close friend of STRINGFIELD and is interested in STRINGFIELD's organization. He identified CLARK as about 25 years of age and a graduate of [redacted] University where CLARK claims to have been a member of an inter-racial social college fraternity. [redacted] said he noticed that CLARK often brings up such subjects as the falseness of religion, that atomic and hydrogen bombs may be the cause of bad weather, and that colored people shouldn't be discriminated against. At the same time CLARK is active in the Methodist Church and in the Cincinnati Civil Defense organization.

[redacted] advised that he was furnishing the foregoing information because he thought that possibly the real purpose of the Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects organization might be to gather bits of information about a very secret U. S. Air Force Development Project.

My letter of 6/8/54 in referenced matter concerning TRUMAN BETHURUM on pages 4 and 5 contains information regarding STRINGFIELD's interest in BETHURUM and that the indices of this office at that time contained no information

CI. 100-new
(CIVILIAN RESEARCH, INTERPLANETARY FLYING OBJECTS)

regarding STRINGFIELD. This letter also contains information concerning a contact by THOMAS EICKHOFF with Lt. Colonel JOHN O'MARA, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, on 6/6/54 relative to BETHURUM's story regarding flying saucers.

The foregoing is for the Bureau's information and this office is advising OSI, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base of the substance of the information in this letter and that no further action is being taken. It is noted that [redacted] requested in his letter that his identity be kept confidential.

Ohio The files of this office reflect that [redacted] voluntarily appeared at this office in December, 1951, and furnished a piece of literature which he had found at the University of Cincinnati. At that time he had no information as to subversive activities and no further contact was made with him.

The files of this office contain only one reference to HERBERT E. CLARK. This reflects that he is HERBERT E. CLARK, Jr., and that in August, 1954, as program chairman of the Pleasant Ridge Methodist Church Marrieds class, he requested a speaker for 11/13/54. On 9/13/54 he was advised that SA MARK M. McSHURLEY would speak to the above mentioned class on the topic of General Activities of the FBI.

100-200000-1000000

100-200000-1000000

ENCLOSURE

December 17, 1954

RECORDED-42

INDEXED-42

EX-130

62-83894-354

Miss Marian L. White
Box 40
Thousand Palms, California

Dear Miss White:

Your letter dated December 6, 1954, has been received.

Although I would like to be of service, information in FBI files is confidential and available for official use only. I would like to point out also that this Bureau is strictly a fact-finding agency and does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any individual, publication or organization.

I know you will understand the reason for these rules and will not infer either that we do or that we do not have the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[Handwritten initials]
[Handwritten signature]

NOTE: "Aboard a Flying Saucer" is not identifiable in Bufiles. It is to be noted that correspondent did not furnish its author's name.

Per call to the Library of Congress "Aboard a Flying Saucer" was written by Truman Bethurum. In June, 1954, an inquiry was made by the Cincinnati Office concerning Bethurum and his flying disk lectures since that office had received a complaint similar to current correspondent's. (62-83894-342). No other references were located which might be identical with subject of current inquiry.

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

DCL:rg
(3)

COMM - FBI
DEC 17 1954
MAILED 24

[Handwritten initials]
[Handwritten signature]

DECEMBER 6, 1954

MR. EDGAR HOOVER,
DEPT. OF JUSTICE,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
DEAR MR. HOOVER;

(9)

I HAVE MET AND TALKED WITH THE MAN WHO
WROTE THE BOOK, "ABOARD A FLYING SAUCER". HE SOUNDS
SINCERE BUT I AM ALWAYS SCEPTICAL AND I HAVE BEEN
WONDERING IF HE COULD BE TRYING TO PUT OVER ANY
PROPAGANDA.

I AM [REDACTED] OF THE PALM SPRINGS
[REDACTED], JUST BY WAY OF IDENTIFICATION, AND
A NUMBER OF MY MEMBERS HEARD HIM AND WE WOULD LIKE
TO KNOW IF HE IS ALRIGHT.
ANYTHING YOU TELL ME WILL BE KEPT IN
STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

Marion L. White

BOX 40
1000 PALMS
CALIFORNIA

Flynn Sawers

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RECORDED-42

EX-130

DEC 20 1954

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ack 12-17-54
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[Handwritten signature]