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SCIENTISTS

(Continued from Page One)

an official of the big atomic plant in southeastern Washington. He said that "so far as we know they have no connection with our work here."

The War and Navy departments shrugged their collective shoulders, while an Army Air Force information officer, Capt. Tom Brown, said:

"This is definitely not an air forces experiment. We absolutely do not know what these flying discs are. In fact, we wish we did, but we're just as mystified as everyone else.

Scientists at the University of California revealed that the big lenses at the Mt. Hamilton observatory and other Pacific coast observatories have been trying unsuccessfully to find some of the discs.

Prof. C. D. Shane, director of the Lick observatory on Mt. Hamilton, was among the skeptics. He pointed out that no "scientific observers" have been among the persons reporting the discs.

However, many of those reporting the discs have been airline pilots and Army and Navy airforce veterans. The only direct evidence is a picture taken by a Seattle Coast Guardsman. It shows a circle of light against a dark sky.

Dr. Carl G. Rossby, head meteorologist at the University of Chicago, thought that they might be circular clouds lighted by natural, but rare phenomena.

He pointed out that this theory would not explain the tremendous speeds reported for the discs—ranging up to 1,200 miles an hour. Dr. Luis Alvarez, noted University of California nuclear specialist, has a thought in that connection. He said it was impossible to estimate size and speed of such objects accurately, unless their distance from the observer is computed first.

On the more sensational side were the theories of Prof. C. L. Utterbach, head of the University of Washington physics department. He had no explanation for the discs, but said:

"I'd like to add the suggestion, though, they might have come from foreign vessels near shore."

A sample polling of citizens on San Francisco streets showed that two theories were holding the lead among the uninformed:

1. That something on Mars is trying to send a message to earth.

2. That those war-time Japanese balloons still are coming over, after wandering about the Pacific since V-J day.

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