

# First Man To See Flying Disks Now Feels Vindicated

PENDLETON, Ore., (P)—Kenneth Arnold, Boise, Idaho, businessman who flies about Western landscapes peering for flying saucers, says people no longer think him a crackpot.

As the man who reported nine disks as big as four-engined planes speeding over Western Washington June 25 and started a nationwide furor, Arnold found himself regarded as an air-struck businessman who had read too many futuristic stories.

Hundreds of letters, telegrams and phone calls overwhelmed him. Friends kidded him and strangers harried him. It got so he hated to go out on the street.

Now he walks with an assured tread and feels that he is vindicated.

"Everybody can't be seeing things," he says. "Even if only one percent of the reports are accurate, there is still something very unusual going on. I might doubt myself, but can't doubt such observers as Capt. E. J. Smith, United Airlines pilot. And there's nothing wrong with my eyes, either."

His eyes red from long hours aloft squinting at the horizon, Arnold says he'll continue his search on daily business trips about the country. He is a flying agent for a fire protection equipment company. He carries a camera and intends to get a picture to "shove down the throat of those stiff-necked doubters."

The ex-University of Minnesota swimmer and footballer says he now believes:

1. The disks are not from any foreign country.  
2. The Army could give the answer if it would—"if they don't have the explanation now they certainly could do something to find out."

3. If the Army has no explanation the disks must be—"and I know this sounds crazy"—from another planet.

Arnold says his family never

doubted him and he is pleased that hundreds write in their belief in him, but he is appalled at some of the frivolous reaction.

"Ladies wearing hats named flying saucers," he snorted. "Why they're just trying to laugh this off."

Then, after a minutes reflection, "But maybe it's a good thing, because it might be more serious than anyone but a few top ones realize."

Fourteen States and the District of Columbia in the United States had no reported cases of smallpox in 1946.



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