

## Unexplained Satellites

Reports made over the past few years indicate that there may be satellite objects circling the earth which can not be explained as man-made. These reports have been made mostly by astronomers, not by laymen unfamiliar with the sky.

Reports of this sort actually began long before the launching of Sputnik I. In 1954 the Pentagon was reportedly alarmed over the discovery of two satellites orbiting the earth. Dr. Lincoln LaPaz of the University of New Mexico later allegedly identified the objects as natural: "two meteors" which had taken orbits around the earth — one about 400 and one about 600 miles up. This published statement was later denied by LaPaz, and the facts were seriously questioned by others, so that the two objects were never satisfactorily explained.

During 1955-56 Dr. Clyde W. Tombaugh of New Mexico A & M College was conducting a search for natural satellites at the request of the Army. It was subsequently announced that nothing had been found.

In 1956 and 1957, however, similar inexplicable sightings were made by both professional and amateur astronomers, before and after the launching of Sputnik I.

Frank C. Clark, an amateur astronomer in New Mexico, saw an orbiting object September 8, 1956, during observations of the planet Mars. His account was printed in "The Strolling Astronomer" in October 1956.

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