

the apro bulletin

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VOL. 24, NO. 11

TUCSON, ARIZONA

MAY 1976

UFO SUBMERGED IN N.Y. LAKE

1973 Reports Correlate

In this article we will take a brief look at some reports of objects which had the same design or configuration on the underside, indicating that the same or a similar object was operating in two widely separated states: Colorado and Indiana.

Field investigator Donald Worley of Indiana forwarded many reports from his area during the fall 1973 activity which were not published at the time because of the large volume of material coming into Headquarters. However, later, Field Investigator Lee Trenholm of Boulder, Colorado, forwarded a case which she had obtained in the fall of 1973 and during a filing operation it was noted that all of these cases compared favorably. Considered separately they are not particularly striking but when examined together they represent what may be an interesting new correlation.

Joel Burns, Randi Stevens and three friends observed an object hovering over trees at 7:30 p.m. on October 11, 1973 at Laurel, Indiana. They all said it made a noise which sounded like a swarm of bees, and had the appearance of being two saucers joined together at the rim, with a compartment of sorts on the bottom. The bottom protuberance ended in a flat, round area with white fluorescent lines which divided it evenly in thirds. In each of the three areas was a small circle. The object stayed in one place but was never still; it constantly "jiggled" up and down and sideways. It was in sight approximately three minutes until a truck driver, who had stopped to watch it, got back in his truck and blew the air horn. The object then took off and sped out of sight across the tree tops within 3 seconds.

Earlier that day, at 4:40 p.m., Terry Eversole and his sister observed a similar object hovering over trees near their home in Connerville, Indiana. It was also observed by a neighbor lady. They could discern no sound because the stereo was playing, but they described it as silver with an oval shape, a dome on top that

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Brad Condon shows relative size of object as it enters Trinity Lake.

Strange Phenomenon In Washington

by W. J. Vogel
APRO Field Investigator

The following incident occurred sometime during the night of May 8-9, 1976 at the residence of Mr. Al Barnes who lives in a mobile home on LaRue Road and US 97 south of Toppenish, Washington.

Mr. Barnes's driveway ends along the east side of his mobile home. On the night in question, he had both his vehicles parked at the end of the driveway, side-by-side and about four feet apart. One vehicle, an Audi, gray in color was parked closest to the home and the other, a maroon El Camino was parked on the left side of the Audi. Tethered in front of the vehicles were two German Shepherd dogs. These dogs are very alert and instantly respond whenever a person or animal approaches them or enters the yard. On this specific night, they made no response of any kind and were quiet all night.

Upon going outside on the morning of May 9th, Mr. Barnes noticed some strange markings in the dust on his two vehicles. The markings or "tracks" were across the

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Field Investigator Ronald Simjian has forwarded the following information pertaining to a case he investigated in 1975: The date: August 1.

At about 6:05 p.m. EDT, 14-year-old Brad Condon arrived at a lake just downstream from Trinity Lake, parked his bicycle and crawled under a fence to gain access to the lake. He fished the lake until some time after 7 p.m. during which time he noted a small airplane apparently engaged in stall practice, for the drone of the engine would suddenly diminish and then return to its original intensity repeatedly. (Nearby Westchester County Airport has two flying schools.) After 7 p.m. he left that area and went to Trinity Lake, and, using some stepping stones, walked out into shallow water and continued to fish.

At about 8 p.m., the sun had sunk below some trees on the far side of Trinity Lake, and shortly thereafter, at 8:25 p.m., a movement in the sky caught Condon's attention and looking up he noted an orange-glowing spherical object with the approximate size of a marble held at arm's length. Condon's first thought was that it was a meteor and he noted the time on his wristwatch so he could later check observatories to see if they had recorded it. Then he realized it was not a meteor; it left no trail, and was moving too slowly. It did not appear to be fiery or burning as would be the case if it had been a meteor entering the atmosphere. He fully realized that he was watching something unusual when it changed direction and began circling the lake.

It was later determined by Mr. Simjian that when first noticed, the object was at an elevation of about 40 degrees and an azimuth of about 315 degrees. It travelled on a southerly track on a possibly curved course, maintaining approximately the same angle of elevation and changing azimuth to approximately 270 degrees. It then circled back to close to its original position, probably now at a lower altitude, as Brad thought it seemed a little larger. It presented a sharply defined outline against the sky, there was no haze surrounding the object and it showed no structural details and emitted a uniform glow.

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For example, I tend to put greater stock in a UFO sighting witnessed by the Lorenzens, Dr. Harder or Dr. Hynek than by an untrained observer. Their expertise should be largely unchallengeable by the masses.

This entire subject is an odd one. It can be assumed that a reported sighting by Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter or a Supreme Court justice would be convincing to thousands of people who have never put any stock in UFOs at all. Yet they are not nearly so qualified as the person of average intelligence who has read a dozen of the better UFO books.

My proposal is that we individuals who attempt to keep up-to-date on the subject of UFOs are "eating our own" by repeating the absurdity that knowledge of them is tantamount to a form of mental sickness, all of which is implicit in the kind of thing I have been discussing. Lastly, for over twenty years I have wanted to see a UFO and have never done so. Surely if I were "overwrought" or "addicted" to the subject to the degree of having delusions or misidentifying normal things in the sky I would have imagined a sighting by now. I believe that this is true of a good 95% of people just like me.

The Clovis Affair

At the time of the January Clovis flap I resided at 309 E. 11th Street, in Clovis, NM. My employment was as a Staff Sergeant, Imagery (photographic/IR/radar) Interpretation Technician, Air Intelligence, U.S.A.F. During the course of the flap, Mr. Fite (APRO F.I.) and I discussed the reliability of the observers reporting UFO sightings, as well as the articles and artists' renderings being published in the *Clovis-News Journal*.

On February 23 and 24th, 1976, a few days before moving from Clovis, I had the opportunity to discuss flap conclusions with Mr. Fite. We were in agreement that virtually all the alleged sightings of UFO's near Clovis were nothing more than incorrectly identified natural (or identifiable man-made) subjects. Why were the subjects incorrectly identified? The high (4/5 mile elevation) plains were enjoying unusually transparent skies, permitting the visual observation of second and possibly third magnitude stars within 2° - 3° of the geographic horizon. To the south, such stars could be taken as slow moving or hovering UFO's which disappeared when they set. Also, familiar constellations became unfamiliar with the gain of one magnitude in transparency which caused many more stars to be seen, and old patterns were obscured on a new field of stars.

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The Veracity Of UFO Observers

by Jerry N. Williamson
Field Investigator

In the March, 1976, issue of the Bulletin, an article discusses the Travis Walton case and uses the following remarks: "It had been printed in the press... that she and Travis were 'UFO buffs' prior to his experience." And, cited as question and answer during a Known Lie Test, the answer "No" was given to the question: "Were you deeply involved in the UFO subject before Travis' disappearance." In the same test, "Have you at any time read a book about flying

saucers?" was asked with a similar negative answer, as well as the query, "Have you yourself ever seen a flying saucer?" Lastly, Sheriff Gillespie is described as being "much more of a 'UFO Buff' than the Waltons."

The point that I am endeavoring to make is that here, as in most UFO literature, instant suspicion is aroused when a UFO observer is found to be well-acquainted with the subject, and that this is an absurd criterion. It seems to me that someone who has studied the literature in the field for many years is likely to be a far better judge of the authenticity of a UFO than someone who has had no prior interest. A reader of UFO material, is to some extent, trained to rule out planes, balloons, planets, gases, etc., as well as to observe the UFO with greater attentiveness to detail.

Clovis

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The gentleman who stationed himself in a room of the Clovis Hotel with his telescope was apparently entirely mistaken in his telescopic observations. One great criticism is that he used so much magnification on his telescope to "see" the UFO's that the definition of the final image that his eyes examined was actually greatly reduced from what his instrument may have been capable of showing. How is this possible? It all has to do with diffraction and the properties of telescopes and the human eye. Suffice it to say that for terrestrial use, magnifications of 10X to 30X to the inch of telescope aperture are common. Astronomically, with essentially perfect optics and perfect seeing conditions the usually accepted maximum magnification for maximum definition for most objects is 30X to 45X per inch of aperture. The UFO seeing telescopicist was using a 2.4-inch refractor at more than 400X, or more than 160X per inch of aperture! So, what substantial effect did this have? The telescopicist mistakenly observed the planet Saturn as an elliptical UFO with two prominent dark spots or "windows", as was depicted in the *Clovis-News Journal*. The telescopicist "successfully" made a great leap backward in astronomical knowledge! A return to the years before Christiaan Huygens' discovery of the true nature of Saturn's rings, in the late 17th century!

Were there, in fact then, any substantial observations of UFO's? Yes, a very few. Apparently best prospects are the sightings made by the sheriff of Texico (TX), an oscillating starlike light in the sky that I observed on 23 Jan 76 (approx. 03:02-04 MST), and a dark cylindrical object with lights that an F-111D crew member observed from his home using a rifle scope. (Reports on these latter two sightings will probably not be forthcoming for a few more months, as much of my personal belongings, including papers, remain packed up and in storage. This also is the cause of some names and other specifics being omitted from this initial report.)

At various times during the flap it was reported that radar observers at Cannon AFB, about 8 miles WSW, had observed UFO's. My casual inquiries turned up no one willing to admit having so observed UFO's. At this point it must be remembered that there is a general order stating in effect that Air Force personnel and equipment will not be used in the observation of UFO's. Therefore, one may find one's Air Force career in jeopardy by making unauthorized statements. It follows: "non-confirmation" by Cannon AFB has no meaningful affect on the analysis of

any other observations.

Sincerely yours,
Eugene W. Cross, Jr., Owner
CROSS OPTICS

Submerged

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After circling, the object came to an abrupt stop. The elapsed time from first visual contact until the object stopped was estimated at about ten seconds. After stopping at approximately 315 degrees azimuth, the object began an extremely slow vertical descent. As Brad watched, he became aware that the object was now a bright glowing white. He did not notice the change of color. "It was orange. Then, all of a sudden, I realized that it was white." It was still well above the trees on the far side of the lake.

The air was calm and the surface of the lake was glassy smooth. Bats flitted about, apparently undisturbed by the strange intruder.

Brad continued to watch as the object slowly settled toward the lake's surface. He said it was so slow that it was like watching the minute hand of a clock — you know it's moving but can hardly perceive its progress. When the object was about midway between the tops of the trees and the surface of the lake, a nauseating odor "somewhat like rotten eggs" suddenly hit Brad, and he took one whiff and bent over and vomited. He retched a couple of times, then looked back up to the UFO which was by then just above the surface of the water and Brad began to hear a slight hissing sound. There was no splashdown; the object slowly settled into the water. Complete submersion took about two minutes and ripples radiated out from the object's location. When the object was totally submerged Brad glanced at his watch — it was 8:35.

As it was now a half hour after sunset, darkness was setting in. Brad took his fishing gear and retraced the route he had taken to get to the lake. A burning sensation in his eyes had begun, which he attributed to the brightness of the object. He went on home and his father, seeing his agitation asked him what had happened and Brad related his experience. The two of them went back to the lake by car but found nothing unusual.

Mr. Simjian conducted a very thorough investigation and accompanying his report is an affidavit from Mr. Condon concerning Brad's emotional agitation upon arriving home after the experience. The accompanying photo is of Brad showing, by making a circle with his hands, the approximate size of the object as it touched the water. This

report is one of the few but growing number of reports of UFOs actually entering bodies of water.

1973

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had what appeared to be three green "doors". Underneath it, they said, there were three lines which came together, dividing the bottom into three equal parts. They had only watched the object for a few seconds when it suddenly sped off in horizontal flight and was out of sight in 5 seconds.

At the same time that Burns and Stevens were observing the object at Laurel, Bill Tremper and 45 other employees of the dishwasher manufacturing company in Connersville, observed an oval object bearing light yellow lights, both on the top and bottom. It came through the sky and stopped over a hill west of the plant. Situated on the hill in question (which is about one block from the plant) is the AVCO ammunition testing area, which is a government-owned restricted area. The object descended and appeared to land behind trees in the test area. Within a half hour the object rose from the spot, stopped momentarily, then flew off into the northeast. One man on the loading dock which was closer to the hill than the location of the rest of the observers, said he heard a humming sound. The object was estimated to be as large as a helicopter and several men said they saw the bottom which appeared to have markings which looked like a trisected round area.

Thus we have three sightings of a UFO on the 11th which describe an object with a round bottom which, either with markings or lights, was divided into three segments. Now let us consider the following case forwarded by Field Investigator Lee Trenholm of Boulder, Colorado:

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Robbins were getting out of the car at their home in Boulder when Mrs. Robbins saw "a mass of lights" at 75° due north and approaching at a steady speed. She realized that the lights were too bright, too many, and too odd a color to be aircraft lights. She called her husband's attention to the object. (Mr. Robbins is an operations inspector for the Federal Aviation Agency with over 25 years' experience as a commercial pilot, domestic and overseas.)

Their descriptions are identical. There were 18 to 24 brilliant lights in the shape of a "Y". The Robbinses state it was the appearance of a pie cut in perfect thirds, although there were no lights around the

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1973

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outside, there being 6 to 8 lights along each of the three "arms". They were at least as bright as a neon light, having a peculiar color — a salmon color was as close as they could describe it. The lights were very distinct, perfectly round and reflected dimly on a dark "plastic or metallic" appearing surface. Mrs. Robbins observed the object rotate a full circle to a slow count of 4 and 12 seconds later, rotate again at the same speed. The top of the object was not visible. It appeared very large, and Mrs. Robbins stated that it was as large as a quarter at arm's length, even though the size would be enormous. Mr. Robbins said that since they had nothing to judge it by, he could not estimate size, height or speed, but that if it were flying at 1,000 to 2,000 feet altitude, the speed would be faster than that of a twin engine aircraft. He was amazed that they could hear no sound at all. The craft maintained a steady speed and course and other than the two rotations, made no unusual maneuvers. The Robbinses got back in their car and followed the object southeast on South Broadway and when it was approximately four miles south of them it blinked out "as though a switch had been turned off." The duration of the sighting was estimated to be 2 to 3 minutes.

Robbins called Stapleton Airport radar tower in Denver but no unusual objects showed on radar. The Longmont FAA had no unusual reports. He contacted the Weather Bureau to see if a weather balloon could have been in the area, but there was no record of one and the object was flying against the wind, which was from the southeast at 5 knots at 1,000 feet. A quarter moon was visible down on the eastern horizon and visibility was excellent.

A Mrs. Judy Ruth of Broomfield, Colorado, was returning from Denver on U.S. 36 with her husband a few minutes before 11:00 p.m. that night when they saw an orange-colored light moving horizontally in a southerly direction at a rapid rate of speed, when it suddenly "switched off". This lady has not been thoroughly interviewed so it cannot be determined if she saw the same thing. However, the Robbins sighting was placed at approximately 10:20 p.m., and only lasted 2 or 3 minutes, so there is a good chance that what Mrs. Ruth saw was a plane coming into the Jefferson County Airport — or leaving it — and switching off landing lights.

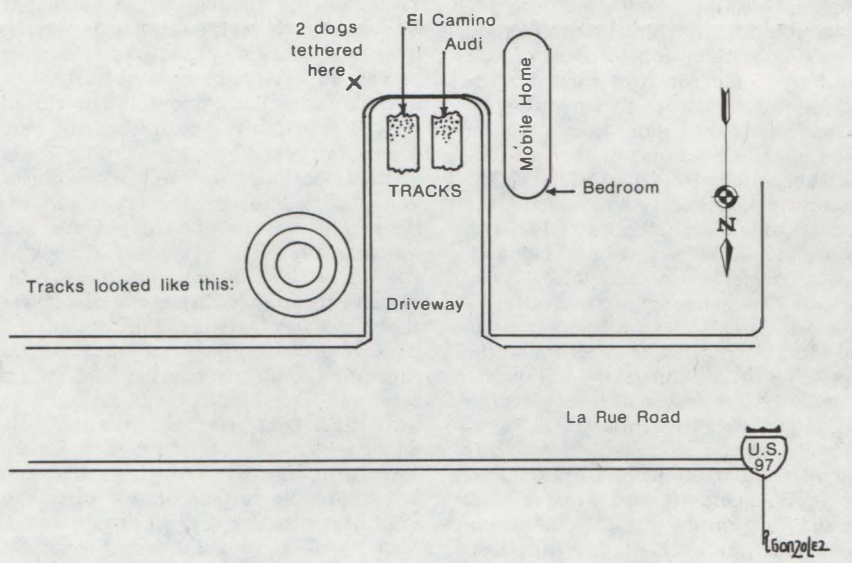
At any rate, here we have several reports from the same month and year, during the heightened UFO activity of fall, 1973, which not only have the same apparent configuration (the disc shape which has been established as more or less

of a prototype of a UFO) but markings which appear to be the same. This is just one more landmark in UFO research.

Strange

(Continued from Page One)

hood and windshield of the Audi and up the side of the right front fender, on the hood and windshield with several on the left roof lip above the driver's door and on top of the left fender of the El Camino. There were no tracks visible in the dust or dirt around the vehicles with the exception of one track visible on a large soft drink bottle on the ground just to the right of the Audi's right front fender. The bottle had been there previously.



Sketch of Barnes yard and strange marks.

The first thought a person got upon looking at the tracks was that someone had walked around on the vehicles with a pair of crutches. This thought occurred because of the design of the tracks. They were perfectly round with decreasing diameter circles within the inner perimeter of the track. However, the tracks were not all of the same size with the smallest being slightly larger than the eraser on a pencil and the largest measuring 3½" in diameter. The tracks did not follow any straight line up and across the vehicles but were pretty well scattered over the fenders, hoods and windshields. No living animal known makes such a track.

One oddity about the tracks was that many of them appeared to have several strands of what appeared to be dog hair clinging to them. It couldn't be determined whether the hair had blown against the tracks from the nearby dogs and stuck, whether the tracks were

magnetically (or something) attractive or if the hair might not be dog hair. Mr. Barnes saved several of the fine strands of hair.

On the evening of May 8th, Mr. Barnes's daughter was awakened at approximately 11:30 pm in her bedroom on the west front of the home by what she described as a thud against the outside wall as if a piece of wood had been thrown against it. Then a few seconds later from the east front side of the trailer, between it and vehicles came the sound of breaking glass as if a large terrarium had been dropped on a sidewalk or something of that nature. However, investigation the next morning revealed no pieces of wood or broken glass. The dogs were quiet during this time.

Color prints and slides were taken of the tracks during the afternoon of May

9th and although wind, etc. had somewhat decreased their sharpness, the tracks should be readily visible in the photos when developed.

Mr. Barnes further reported that on the night of May 9-10, 1976, his dogs were very restless all night and barked and fussed almost continuously. When he went out to check them, they were looking off into the dark and barking. However, he was able to observe nothing unusual.

NOTE: Addressograph plates are filed by zip code. When forwarding address changes, please include old and new zip codes along with both old and new address.

1975 UFO Wave In Arizona

by Raymond Jordan
APRO Field Investigator
(Continued from April Issue)

All during the latter part of the sighting, the red and green lights remained stationary. No actual source was seen for the white beam as would be seen with a searchlight. The beam seemed to operate telescopically, almost as if it were a solid object. The witnesses had no good feeling for the width of the beam but Mrs. Beardsley said it may have been no more than 20 feet wide.

Two possibly related incidents happened next. Within seconds after the departure of the UFO, five large bats started flying into the closed windows and trees around the Beardsley's house. It seemed as if the bats had lost their ability to navigate and avoid obstacles. These bats had a wingspan of at least a foot. (Most of the bats seen around there have a wingspan of about 6-8 inches.) This incident continued for about 5 minutes. Shortly after this, Mrs. Beardsley again tried to telephone her husband and discovered that the line was dead. It remained dead for about half an hour.

The following reports all occurred at about the same time (as close as the witnesses could remember) — somewhere between 9:00-10:00 p.m. on May 6. It is very likely that all the witnesses were observing the same phenomena. One of the interesting things about this case is the widely scattered locations of the observers — thus enabling fairly good triangulation on the location and course of the phenomena.

Bill Norman is a deputy sheriff of Coconino County working out of the Sedona substation. Shortly after 9:00 p.m. Tuesday evening, May 6, Norman was responding to a call from the west side of Sedona. While driving west on highway 89a just out of the main part of Sedona, he noticed a large, bright glow low in the sky approximately west of him. He did not see the source of the light and initially thought that it was from the ballpark lights. On arriving at the top of a hill, he could now see a large (about the size of a paper plate held at arm's length) egg-shaped or oval glow. The light was diffused and no sharp outline could be seen. The object was west of him and travelling north to south. It was approximately 30° in elevation. Since Norman was driving to a call, he could not spend much time observing the object. He said he probably did not see it for more than two minutes. While driving, he observed at least two cars parked at the side of the road, very possibly observing the object. No sound was heard

and no other unusual phenomena were noticed.

On the evening of May 6, at about 9:10 p.m. Fletcher Brannock was driving his teenage daughter Jenny home from a dance lesson at the Sedona School. Just as they were starting up the grade west of Sedona, they both spotted a very bright white light west of them, moving rapidly from north to south. The light got very bright and developed a halo. As the light moved to the south it got smaller and finally disappeared leaving an iridescent glow just above the horizon to their south. This glow persisted for about 10 minutes. No sound was heard.

On the same evening, John Spencer and Jeff Audilette were in a car at the lake at the village of Oak Creek, 6 miles south of Sedona. Sometime between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m., they both saw a big bright cloud over the mountain north-northwest of them. A bright nebulous light then appeared to go through the cloud and move rapidly from north to south, passing west of them.

The cloud, which they described as inverted U-shaped, faded, got bright again and faded out completely in about 15 minutes. A stationary white spot also appeared in front of the cloud and faded with it.

On the evening of Tuesday, May 6, "Stretch" Maiden, Dorothy Kostishak and Dorothy's daughter Dede were driving north on highway 179 from the village of Oak Creek toward Sedona. At about 9:20 p.m., while on the way, they spotted a bright light to their left. They pulled off the highway onto the Back O'Beyond Road to watch. Maiden and Dede got out for a better look. Mrs. Kostishak was frightened and remain in the car. Maiden described the phenomena as like the beam of a huge searchlight with the top at an elevation of about 15° and the bottom possibly reaching the ground. He sketched the beam as a truncated cone-apex up. This beam was stationary and very bright. After a few minutes, the beam started fading in a fog. A round-topped bright cloud then started to develop. It was like the top part of a mushroom shaped cloud. (Mr. Maiden had witnessed the H-bomb testing at Eniwetok in 1952 and initially thought he was witnessing a far-off nuclear explosion.) This cloud slowly expanded and as it got larger, less of the outline of the beam could be seen. As the cloud expanded, it got larger, less of the outline of the beam could be seen. As the cloud expanded, it got fuzzier. According to Maiden, the phenomenon could not be covered by both hands at arm's length — it was quite large. No sound could be heard. The sighting took place due west of the observers at the intersection of Back O'Beyond Road and highway 179. It appeared to be just beyond a nearby ridge.

The phenomenon was observed for about 15 minutes — then the witnesses left. The cloud was fading when they left and disappeared very gradually. Both women were very nervous. There were no other clouds in sight that evening. No other unusual effects were noticed.

It is quite likely that all 6 people were witnessing the same phenomenon. Norman and the Brannocks were observing from moving vehicles and therefore could provide only an approximate bearing. However, Maiden, Spencer and Audilette provided fairly good bearings on the cloud and the path of the UFO.

The two following sightings may very possibly be related. Both witnesses live only a couple of blocks apart and saw the objects in the same direction. There was about an hour difference in time between the sightings and the objects seen in each case were travelling in opposite directions.

At about 9:00 p.m. on Friday evening, May 23, Mrs. Evelyn Thompson noticed that her 3 year old cat was "going wild" inside her mobile home. Mrs. Thompson, thinking that a coyote was in the back yard, looked out the back window toward the north. What she saw instead was what appeared to be an "upside-down bottle" outlined with blue lights. The object was below Gray Back Mountain, to the north, and travelling from west to east. It was travelling fairly fast and was in view only several seconds before her view was blocked by trees in her back yard. The object appeared as large as a fifty-cent piece at arm's length.

On Friday evening, May 23, at about 8:00 p.m., Mrs. Marguerite Hooper and her son-in-law, Bill Bell, were sitting on Mrs. Hooper's back porch which faces north. Suddenly both of them noticed an illuminated object moving swiftly from the east to west. The object was below Gray Back Mountain north of them. Mrs. Hooper described the object as a horizontal silver tube with a coral light in the center. After several seconds, the front end emitted a silvery puff — "like a Roman candle or like Easter lily petals unfolding". This puff lasted about a second and a second or two later, the same thing happened again.

The object then disappeared. It is very possible that it went behind a small butte in front of Gray Black Mountain. The whole sighting lasted only about 6 seconds. No sound was heard and no other unusual effects were noticed.

Things were fairly quiet again until November 5 when one of the most significant stories in UFO history broke. This was the abduction of Travis Walton. The details have been well presented in the Nov. 75 APRO Bulletin and the July 1976 issue of "Official UFO" magazine. There have been many other abduction

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tales but none so well documented. In the Walton case, there were 6 other witnesses to the initial contact; 5 of the 6 passed (one was rated "inconclusive") a polygraph test administered officially by the state of Arizona. Walton himself later passed a polygraph test administered by a professional, private organization at the request of APRO. One can only wonder what the coming months will bring. Will they top 1975?

UFO Research In Russia

by James D. White

The first reasonably comprehensive report on unidentified flying objects in the Soviet Union has been made available to APRO with the sole condition that the source remain anonymous. The source is known to APRO, however, and we believe the report summarized below accurately reflects the material made available in Russia.

In general, it bears out the widespread assumption that for the past three decades or so UFOs have paid no more attention to the so-called Iron Curtain than they have to any other national barrier. The most interesting disclosures concern Russian investigative approaches and attitudes. The report is based on a series of interviews held within the past year with the Soviet Union's top scientists and thinkers who are interested in UFOs. From their comment it is apparent that there are striking parallels between the history and status of UFO investigation in the Soviet Union and in the United States.

First, the vast majority of the scientific and official establishment in both countries refuses to face the problem — at least in public. At the same time there are small but determined minorities in both countries that refuse NOT to face it, people who are convinced by logic, experience or both that something too important to ignore is going on. In both countries there is widespread popular interest and even a certain demand for more information. In both countries there is a corresponding official tendency to control the amount and quality of information that is made available.

In both countries, the year 1968 was a fateful one for UFO investigations. In the United States this was the year of the Condon Committee Report, which began as an officially-sponsored effort to investigate and settle the UFO problem once and for all. At roughly the same time in Russia a high-level UFO study

committee was formed under Dr. Felix Y. Zigel, first professor of astronomy and cosmonautics at the Moscow Aviation Institute, author of 28 books and more than 250 articles on space and its problems, and instructor of most if not all of the Russian cosmonauts who have been lofted into space.

In the United States, the Condon Committee ended with a whimper, concluding only that while some UFO sightings could not be explained, the subject was not worth further scientific study. In the Soviet Union, the Zigel Committee functioned for just three months. Then various official Soviet media declared that UFOs simply did not exist, period. The Zigel Committee was disbanded.

But in neither country did UFOs heed the official word and go out of existence. In this country they continued to appear and to be reported. In Russia, Zigel got enough sighting reports from scientific colleagues to write a book in 1968 listing some 200 carefully selected and documented examples. By 1975 he had written a second volume based on dozens of well-supported cases which his scientific colleagues continued sending to him privately. Neither of these books has been published, but it is evident from the material made available to APRO that they have been available to his colleagues in manuscript form and that the subject of UFOs is far from buried in the Soviet Union. There appears to be a limit to the government's determination to suppress the subject. For while clearly little information reaches the Russian public via official channels, the study of UFO phenomena continues, if necessarily quiet and restricted. Zigel recently was given permission to present a scientific paper on UFOs to his colleagues, and this apparently encouraged him to talk to APRO's source in what is said to be his first interview with a foreigner.

We do not know what UFOs are, says Zigel, but the most probable hypothesis for them is that they are probes of extraterrestrial origin. He bases this opinion on 20 years of study and notes wryly that he first became seriously interested in the subject when he read Dr. Donald H. Menzel's book and its "helpless and ineffective arguments" against the existence of UFOs. Unlike some of his colleagues, Zigel believes the probes now are unmanned, although they may have been manned at one time when life on earth was very primitive. But not since then, he suggests, because the intelligence behind the probes may believe contact could harm human life on earth.

Zigel expresses considerable interest in "angel hair" and similar discharges from UFOs, and reports that samples which have been analyzed show it to have an atomic weight of less than 12, which is in the range of carbon but not identifiable

as any natural or artificial material known on earth. This was determined by a separate group of scientists headed by the noted Russian physicist, L. V. Kirichenko, Zigel says.

He also exhibits much interest in the ability of UFOs to appear and disappear and disappear instantly or change shape and form as if by magic. He suggests, as do other Soviet authorities, that this may be due to the possibility that they are functioning within a fourth or fifth dimension in which curved space may make it possible for an object to traverse almost instantly great distances which would take light years under normal dimensional limits.

The sample of sighting reports provided by Zigel makes it clear that UFOs have been sighted all over the Soviet Union within roughly the same time frame as elsewhere, although one report dates from as far back as 1942. In general these sightings appear much like those reported outside Russia, with a few possible exceptions. Zigel reports no UFO landings, nor any personal contacts, nor does he mention occupants. Another difference is that all the sightings he lists are based on observations of highly qualified people — engineers, pilots, even scientists, and always investigated and supported by confirmatory analyses by other recognized scientists.

Zigel is firm in his instructions to his colleagues on how to investigate a sighting, insisting that where possible a psychologist be taken to the scene to interview citizens who have seen a UFO. He says local police and militia are likely to be too sympathetic with the citizen to be objective.

Zigel's rigorous criteria are only natural under the circumstances, points out Prof. Aleksander Kazantsev, the Soviet science fiction writer who is among Russia's most prominent thinkers on the UFO problem. He emphasizes that only one case not fully supported by proper investigative methods could jeopardize Zigel's entire position, adding that the relatively few cases Zigel presents imply that he has had many times that number brought to his attention.

(To be concluded in the
June Issue)

SHRINKING BULLETIN? We have had several letters observing that the *Bulletin* is shrinking in size. In fact, since we started publishing monthly in July 1975, from 9 pages bi-monthly to 6 pages monthly, we have actually increased the size. Physically, however, we have had to trim the margins and reduce the type size to conform with postal weight restrictions.