

the apro bulletin

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VOL. 25, NO. 3

TUCSON, ARIZONA

SEPTEMBER, 1976

UFO-JETS IN CHASE OVER TEHRAN

The Disappearance Of Oliver Lerch

by Kevin Randle
APRO Field Investigator

Many UFO writers and researchers have seized on the disappearance of Oliver Lerch as evidence that UFO's may not be friendly. By checking four sources, I was able to find three sets of data about the disappearance. Giving up on the UFO writers and their accounts, I finally got part of the story from South Bend, Indiana.

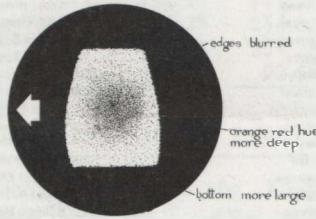
According to John A. Keel in SAGA magazine, Oliver Lerch, 11, disappeared on Christmas Eve, 1889. He lived on the outskirts of South Bend with his family. Sometime during the celebration, his father asked him to go out for water. Not long after that, the people in the house heard Oliver shouting for help, screaming that "They've got me." His footprints ended in the new snow short of the well. Everyone agreed that the shouts came from the sky.

Otto Binder in WHAT WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS, quoted Frank Edwards as the source. The account is basically the same as Keel's, except he claims the disappearance happened on Christmas Day.

Morris K. Jessup, in THE CASE FOR THE UFO claims that Oliver Lerch disappeared on Christmas Eve, 1890. Oliver, 20-year-old son of Tom Lerch was sent out just after 11 P.M. to get water from the well. The sky was clear and there was a bright moon reflecting off new fallen snow. The footprints stop abruptly, short of the well. Everyone heard Oliver shouting "They've got me." Jessup says that he got the story from the September, 1950 issue of FATE.

Brad Steiger, in STRANGERS FROM THE SKIES, said that 11-year-old Oliver Thomas disappeared on Christmas Eve, 1909. Oliver was sent after water by his father Owen Thomas. They lived near Rhayader, Wales. Like the other accounts, Oliver yelled, "They've got me." Steiger went on at length explaining that what is yelled in panic is important

(See Lerch - Page Three)



See story below

Romanian Reports

The autumn of 1974 brought a minor wave of UFO activity over central Romania, according to Moraru Augustin, one of APRO's more active Field Investigators in that country.

Mr. Augustin received reports of twenty-three sightings between late July and early October, of which three are presented here.

The first case involved a 29-year-old auto mechanic, Stefan Constantin, and his friend Frecan Gheorghe, a 31-year-old locksmith, who were driving together toward the town of Valenii de Munte during the early morning hours of July 31st.

They were proceeding in a south-southwesterly direction under a clear, windless, and moonlit sky when they noticed a large and obviously artificial light to their right 45° above the horizon at an estimated one mile altitude and distance.

After stopping and getting out of the car for a clearer view, they saw that the light was in fact a barrel-shaped object with its axis vertically oriented. The object, which was travelling almost parallel to the road, was a brilliant yellow-orange color with a red-orange center.

The two witnesses were unable to hear any sound from the slowly descending object, but did note that its edges appeared blurred.

The object was visible for about two minutes before temporarily disappearing behind some low hills.

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Two phantom jets of the Imperial Iranian Air Force pursued and were chased by a brightly lit UFO over the eastern suburbs of Tehran on Saturday night, September 18th. Flying at 6,000 feet and sporting alternately flashing red, blue and green lights, the object was first spotted by Mehrabad airport Control Tower officials. They immediately informed the Air Force which sent the two phantoms off in pursuit.

The pilots eventually caught up with what they described as a "round body" due south of Tehran, but as the aircraft approached, the UFO increased speed to what they reported as "many times the speed of sound" and then turned in its course to chase the phantoms. One of the pilots said that although the phantoms broke the sound barrier it was impossible to catch up with the object.

The report came through Ettela'at, the evening newspaper, and the reporter who broke the story said that highly informed sources had told him that the pilots tried to open fire on the object when it became obvious that it was changing its course and beginning to pursue them, but inexplicably, their electronically operated firing devices failed to respond. The same sources said that once the object came within a five kilometer radius with the Phantoms, all electronic devices on the aircraft went out of action and they lost radio communications. The object chased the jets only for a short time before taking off at great speed and disappearing over the hills south of Rey.

One of the pilots reported during the chase that he had seen a "bright object" detach from the UFO and fall into the hills below. He described this bright object as a round body with a diameter of about 4.5 meters.

The Gendarmerie (police) post at Aminabad outside of Rey was immediately alerted and an all-night search took place over the hills in the region to try and find the object. Late Sunday night (the 19th) there were conflicting reports as to the success of the search. One source said nothing was found while another said something had been found.

The testimony of tower officials and
(See UFO - Page Three)

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

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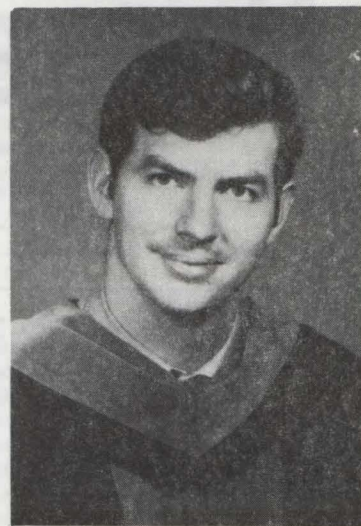
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New Consultant



Dr. Russell L. Blaylock

Dr. Russell L. Blaylock of the Division of Neurosurgery, Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, is the newest medical doctor to join APRO's staff of Scientific Consultants. His pre-medical studies were completed at Northwest Louisiana State University, 1963-1964, and Louisiana State University 1966-1967, where he received his B.S.

Dr. Blaylock attended the Louisiana State University School of Medicine from 1967 to 1971, when he received his M.D. and he interned at the same University from 1971 through 1972. His residency was from 1972 to present at the same institution where he is currently Chief Resident and Teaching Fellow. He is a member of the Undergraduate Medical and Surgical Society and of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons. He will present a paper on Lateral Ventricular Tumors to the Congress of Neurosurgeons at the October 25-29 meeting, and has been extensively published.

We welcome Dr. Blaylock to APRO, and in view of the cases of UFO experiences in which the percipients seem to suffer neurological effects or damage, his expertise may well be very valuable in the field of UFO research.

behaved properly did they respect me." (Page 73).

Contrasted to this is the 1961 Hill incident in which, after the examination, Betty Hill approached the leader in an open friendly manner. She explained to him that few people were aware of the existence of his kind and would not believe her if she told them of her encounter. She requested some manner of proof. Her honest approach solicited an

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Letters

Regarding "The Moody Case" (by L.J. Lorenzen, APRO Bulletin, July 1976.)

In his letter, Sgt. Moody commented that the beings he had encountered were planning to "make themselves known to all mankind", possibly as early as midsummer 1976.

Most serious researchers of the UFO Phenomenon are, I think, agreed that, at present, the situation is not one that would permit an open and direct confrontation with all of human kind. The critical political scene, coupled with the frequent human reaction of unreasonable fear when confronted by that which is of the realm of the unknown, make this so. Thus, it can truly be stated that we face a situation in which "it's not up to

us to accept them, but for them to accept us!"

When Antonio Villa-Boas, in 1957, reportedly encountered an extraterrestrial crew, there took place an event which provides a measure of substantiation for this statement. As reported in the book ENCOUNTERS WITH UFO OCCUPANTS, Sr. Villas-Boas was left alone in the ship while the crew busied themselves about their various concerns. His gaze wandered about the interior of the room in which he found himself and settled upon a device resembling a clock. Instead of openly approaching the leader or another crew member, he simply grabbed at the device. At this point, "... one of the men immediately darted toward me, shoving me angrily to the side, and placed it back on the table... Obviously, though, it was better for me to keep still, as it had been proven that only when I

Jet

(Continued from Page One)

the pilots seemed to be corroborated by citizens in the area who reported having seen a "bright object" flit across the sky and others claimed they had seen a "bright thing" fall from the sky.

The report out of Tehran further said that this was not the first UFO to be reported in the area. In May of 1976 people living at Buyril near Bushehr reported observing a "flying object encircled by blue and purple lights" which landed in a deserted spot. There was no further information pertaining to this claim, however.

Romanian

(Continued from Page One)

Upon losing sight of it, the men drove further down the road, again sighting the 10-foot diameter object as it was moving almost parallel with their car.

Using the speed of their car as a comparison, Constantin and Gheorghe estimated the object's speed at about 50 miles per hour.

During this time Constantin signaled the object with his auto's headlights, but there was no response.

The object was finally lost from view as it passed just above a grove of trees near Valenii de Munte, illuminating the treetops brightly as it did so.

Although a watchman reported to them that he had seen the object bathe the town's courtyards in reddish light, no other effects were noted during the 1:00 to 1:10 a.m. sighting.

northeast.

The bright orange object was observed by Mr. Olteanu Constantin and a 24-year-old girl as they were walking together toward a bus stop.

The disc was moving steadily in a light and variable wind under scattered clouds.

The witnesses estimated its angular elevation at 45°, its altitude at 2000 feet, and its horizontal distance at also about 2000 feet.

The diameter was approximately 50 feet, or very nearly the size of a two-inch ellipse held at arm's length.

The silent object had a low, brilliant yellow dome and a trailing edge that seemed somewhat more tapered than its leading edge.

The observers noted fourteen to sixteen circular lights or "windows" in a darker band around the object's midline, from each of which streamed yellow light.

The witnesses believed the object, as well as all UFOs, to be of terrestrial origin.

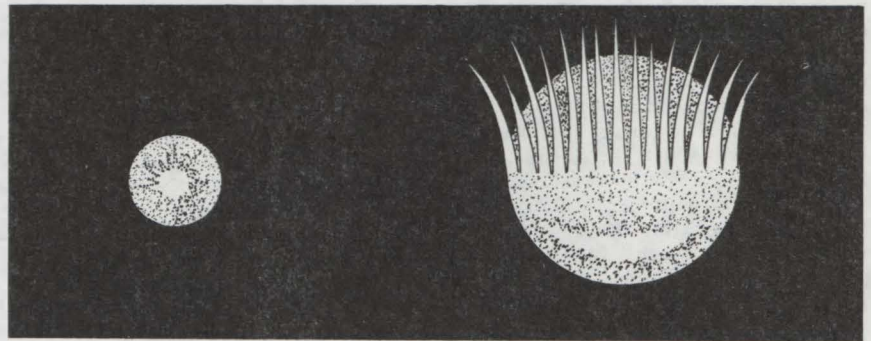
The upper half of the spherical object was extremely bright; the lower half much less so.

Over a dozen pale rose streamers or rays were seen extending downward from around the object's equator, curving outward at their tips below the bottom of the sphere.

After passing overhead, the strange globe halted its flight to remain motionless near a distant oil derrick for some moments, then disappeared abruptly.

No sound nor secondary effects were noted during the minute-and-a-half sighting, which had frightened two of the children sufficiently to keep them indoors the rest of the evening.

Please Send Address Changes



Lerch

(Continued from Page One)

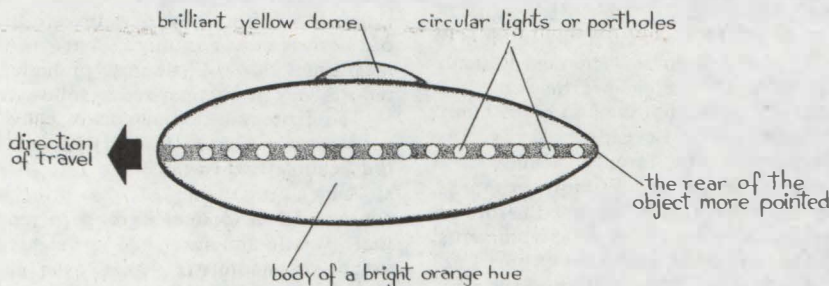
to investigators and since Oliver yelled "They've" it indicates more than one.

According to the information included in the UFO books, Oliver Lerch Larch Thomas, aged either 11 or 20, disappeared from either South Bend, Indiana or Rhayader, Wales on either Christmas Eve 1889, Christmas Day 1889, Christmas Eve 1890 or 1909. He got either 50 feet, 75 feet or 225 feet before "They got him."

The easiest course of action seemed to be to call the South Bend police department. The records department said that there was nothing in their files but they did received several requests a year for information. They suggested that I call the South Bend Tribune. The Assistant Librarian, Elaine Stevens said that she doubted that there was anything in their files but she would check.

Minutes later Elaine was back saying that they did have something from the files. According to a clipping dated sometime after 1950 (obvious since it quotes the FATE article), newsmen in

(See Lerch - Page Four)



The second case occurred during twilight in the evening of August 12th, and lasted from 7:20 to 7:30 p.m.

The location was the village of Coddsesti, near Ploiesti of World War II fame.

A disc-shaped object having a cross-section of a narrow ellipse was seen moving through the still-lighted sky at about 12 miles per hour toward the

routes when they sighted a luminous globe moving with the speed of a supersonic aircraft through the clear and windless night sky.

The globe was described as having an angular diameter like that of a tennis ball held at arm's length, and was first observed in the southwest after the passage of a conventional aircraft had caught the witnesses' attention.

Lerch

(Continued from Page Three)

South Bend tried to chase down the story. Since Jessup used the FATE article, it closely followed what was written in the paper. No one was able to trace the case further than 1946 when it was supposedly used on a radio broadcast. In other words, the story springs into existence in 1946.

In 1956, newsmen followed the story with another. A man named Sherman Lerch lived in South Bend and was asked about the story. Lerch said that his family came to South Bend in 1922. No where in the family tradition was there anything about disappearing Oliver. There had been a family falling out but that was after 1890. Sherman was born in 1889 and he could recall nothing about it. Some so-called investigators claimed that "They" had gotten to Sherman and silenced him.

The only conclusion possible is that it never happened. A story springs into existence in 1946. There is nothing suggesting that it is any older than that. It is interesting that there was a mention of newly fallen snow because it provides a convenient medium for the footprints. It is also interesting how the story changed from one author to the next and that none of them bothered calling South Bend for confirmation. It also makes you wonder how much of the UFO phenomenon is fact and how much is fiction.

Letters

(Continued from Page Two)

equal response. She was told to select any item onboard the craft. On a cabinet, she saw a book and asked if she could have that to which he replied in the affirmative. However, several other crew members were against this and she was not permitted to take the book with her. (*The Interrupted Journey*, J.G. Fuller).

Betty Hill acted in a manner designed to cause the extraterrestrials to "accept" her and received the appropriate positive response on their part.

From this, it follows that our alien observers have established for themselves a code which specifically governs interaction among individuals and groups. If cases involving close encounters such as the above are scrutinized in minute detail, I feel that much can be learned regarding this code. The more each individual can learn about it, the better his/her chances of remaining calm should he/she be the percipient of a close encounter. While,

admittedly, any such knowledge is truly of a hypothetical nature at this point, it can nevertheless prove most useful.

Logical deductions made on the assumption of the validity of the material presented in these cases provide a framework within which the investigator can function to a degree. There are a substantial number of instances in which the percipients are people from all walks of life who have rarely, if ever, given any serious thought to the subject of UFOs and ETI. It would be highly desirable if a trained UFO investigator could find himself the focus of such an encounter.

The most effective method of achieving this state of the calm rational approach is through the acquisition of as much of the available material on the subject as possible from which extrapolations would be made. The material ought to be approached simply from the standpoint of its existence which involves no value judgements. A framework, however sketchy, to guide one's behavior is better than nothing at all.

Within this framework, fear will, to varying degrees, come to be mastered. As the leader in the Hill encounter was favorably impressed by the fact that Betty "wasn't afraid at all" upon the conclusion of the examination, so might others of our unknown observers be equally impressed. They would, I believe, more readily "accept" human kind if knowledge were seen to control unreasonable fear eliminating the need for a device to "control" human hostility.

From this, who knows what might result!

Beatrice M. Zimmer

... One portion of my lecture that I have found always excites a great deal of interest is my description of the Betty and Barney Hill abduction and of Marjorie Fish's subsequent work with Betty's star map... The best available coverage of the star map in my opinion is the 32 page full color "The Zeta Reticuli Incident". The original article by the same title was published in *Astronomy* magazine for December 1974 by *Astronomy* editor, Terence Dickinson.

Terry's article drew more response than any other article published before or since by *Astronomy*. Several comments and letters and responses from Carl Sagan, Steven Soter, Dave Saunders, Marjorie Fish, Robert Sheaffer, etc., were published in subsequent issues of *Astronomy* and the December issue's extra 6,000 copies were sold out in short order. The response led *Astronomy* to put out their first (and so far only) reprint "The Zeta Reticuli Incident". It is 32 pages, in full color, includes all the published commentary about the original article. Over 10,000 copies were sold at \$4 each. I have purchased several

thousand copies to make them available at a considerable discount because I personally consider Marjorie's work one of the most extraordinary pieces of ufological and astronomical research ever accomplished. I would like to see more people exposed to this work and believe that a lower price would help.

I am pleased to announce that single copies of the Zeta Reticuli Incident reprint are now available for only \$2.50 each postpaid and only \$2 each when 5 or more are sent to the same address. Quantity discounts for purchases over 25 copies are also available. It seems to me that the reprint makes an excellent and informative teaching tool about our galactic neighborhood with a complete listing of all the stars in the neighborhood similar to the sun...

S/Stanton T. Friedman

Hoping you will let your readers know of this special offer, ... Tell people to order from UFORI, POB 502, Union City, CA 94587."

Strange Encounters In Australia

Two impressive new cases of encounters with unidentified objects (none of them flying, by the way) have been reported from Australia. While there is precedent in the literature for all the phenomena involved, the combination of elements in both cases suggests intelligent reaction to the presence of earthlings who disturbed the objects in a secluded area. While outright hostility cannot be inferred, the young human beings who happened upon the objects experienced severe terror and fled in panic.

Both cases were investigated and reported by William C. Chalker, B. Sc., of the UFO Investigation Centre at Lane Cove, N.S.W., near Sydney. Investigation of both cases continues, but in the meantime Mr. Chalker's preliminary reports may be summarized as follows:

The first case actually took place in the wintry month of June, 1972, but did not become known until late July, 1975, at which time one of the principals contacted Mr. Chalker's group to report that his wife and sister had just sighted a string of nocturnal lights over their Sydney home. The lights turned out to be a routine sighting with nothing to distinguish it from many others, but in the course of discussion Messrs. Chalker and David Buching of the UFOIC learned of the 1972 encounter. Although the incident by then was three years old, they found it sufficiently bizarre to conduct in-depth interviews with the informant. They also visited the scene of the

(See Encounters - Page Five)

DISBURSEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975 (July 1975 - June 30, 1976)

General Receipts for Fiscal Year 1975 - July 1975 - June 30, 1976 (Memberships, Subscriptions, and Sale of Back Issues)

	Gross Salary	Mailing	Printing	Office Supplies	Rent	Phone	Research, Investigation & General Expenses		
July	1,157.76	287.18	343.44	58.79	115.50	98.54	425.73	July	2,853.47
August	804.00	37.46	246.93	—	115.50	96.59	531.79	August	3,145.17
September	779.50	473.67	200.00	—	115.50	181.27	563.59	September	1,386.55
October	1,057.00	240.72	536.77	—	115.50	268.13	1,318.13	October	2,582.46
November	435.78	—	—	175.85	115.50	312.34	499.67	November	1,948.47
December	951.50	301.79	381.87	140.53	115.50	406.05	820.37	December	2,201.47
January	799.00	248.32	73.22	—	131.25	167.57	428.21	January	3,547.10
February	906.50	317.87	403.86	136.13	131.25	163.94	722.67	February	1,853.03
March	827.75	292.54	792.38	—	131.25	111.58	1,012.69	March	3,332.49
April	839.00	155.54	389.55	28.85	131.25	254.89	585.87	April	1,672.74
May	855.00	226.22	568.05	40.92	131.25	254.28	584.58	May	2,202.93
June	1,247.50	150.00	18.45	138.34	131.25	93.51	36.10	June	1,402.50
	\$10,660.29	2,731.31	3,954.52	782.25	1,480.50	2,408.69	7,088.40		\$28,155.38

EXPLANATION:

Ending Balance for Fiscal Year 1974

(June 30, 1975) \$1,585.27

Total Disbursements \$29,105.96

The salaries are for Mrs. Lorenzen, and all other, i.e., Mrs. Kudrle, APRO's Office Manager, a part-time typist and filing clerk, and a cleaning lady, are paid on an hourly basis.

Mailing includes bulk mailing of the Bulletin as well as all first-class, air mail and packages.

The printing costs are for the Bulletin, stationery and office forms.

Offices supplies are made up of such items as pens, pencils, paper clips, staples, staplers, rubber bands, etc., as well as postage meter rental, copier supplies and upkeep of both machines, and typewriter repair.

Rent and phone expenses are self-explanatory.

Research and investigation and general expenses include laboratory fees, photographic supplies and photo development as well as travel expenses for consultants on investigations.

Encounters

(Continued from Page Four)

encounter, which took place about 40 miles west of Sydney near the Warragamba Dam on the Nepean River. The scene, called Bent's Basin, has a secluded picnic area among trees, shows much evidence of flooding, is reachable only by a dirt road, and has a reputation for strange characters and occurrences, including ghostly manifestations and the

rumored presence of the Yowie or Tjagara. These are aboriginal terms for Australia's contribution to the Abominable Snowman or Bigfoot legend, and the "Great Hairy Man" long alluded to by the aboriginals has been reported seen and tracked in modern times in many different areas of the continent.

Requesting anonymity, the informant told the UFOIC investigators that on June 4, 1972, he and five young companions in a 1960 Hillman sedan decided to "investigate" the mysteries of Bent's Basin, and after bumping into the area over the access trail found a parking space late in the afternoon just short of a small hill. They parked headed down a slope, and from that angle could not see the top of the hill from the car without leaning down and looking upward over the dashboard.

The four boys and two girls spent more than half an hour consuming a picnic lunch in the car, and when they tried to leave to drive further into the basin the car refused to start. The driver got out in the chilly June dusk to check the engine.

"... He saw this object on top of the hill, and he came back to the car all sort of white..." the informant related. Some of the young men got out, and others leaned down in the car and saw it over the dashboard. "We didn't believe it at first, but it was a red glowing object on top of the hill about 100 yards away..."

One of the girls refused to look, and hunched herself down under the dashboard, where she remained. All five who looked at the object quickly developed acute headaches, but the girl under the dashboard did not.

What they saw was a discoid shape about 20 feet wide and four or five feet high, with the top and bottom halves

pulsating alternately pink and bright red. They all heard a strong humming sound which seemed to throb synchronously with the alternating colors in the upper and lower halves of the object, which was resting on three pointed legs (possible four, with a near leg obscuring a fourth on the far side).

The informant said his headache seemed to pulsate too, but that he was not sure it was synchronized with the hum and the alternating colors. In the meantime one of the young women fainted, and one of the young men came close to it, he reported.

He did not estimate how long it took, but said the driver finally got the car's engine started, backed the car out and mistakenly turned down the track farther into the basin instead of taking the road out. The frightened party had scarcely got rolling when they heard a distinct thumping on the top of the car.

They endured the thumping several times, but when the car's engine burst into flames, that did it. "We all dived out of the car, and the car sort of ran into the trees and was stopped by the trees," the informant related.

After jumping from the car, picking themselves up and regrouping, the panicky sextet realized they would have to walk out of the area and find a lift of some kind back to the city. Two of the men accordingly set off back up the trail, but came rushing back quickly.

"One of my mates... had seen a shadow - it appeared to be the figure of a man," which he had sighted after first noticing a new sound, "a soft, whirling, windy noise," distinct from the hum heard earlier. At this point he and his companion said they caught sight of a figure approaching from the direction of the hill where the discoid object had been

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Encounters

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seen. By this time the gathering dusk was bolstered by moonlight and they were able to make out a figure between eight and ten feet tall. They said it looked "glossy but not shiny," had a "rounded, helmeted head," broad shoulders and "arms that came to pointed hands." The body "tapered in" at the thigh level, and the legs were not visible, perhaps obscured by brush. They described its motion as not that of walking, but rather as if on rollers, like a robot. By this time the informant was watching it too, and as the six terrified young people hid themselves in the grass to await their fate, to their astonishment the giant figure disappeared. One youth said it seemed to go out as if a light had been switched off; another said it seemed to disappear from the ground up, as if a curtain were being rolled up from below. They estimated they watched it for about 30 seconds.

By now thoroughly terrified, the six hid in the grass for half an hour before they dared to walk out of the basin, past the place where they had sighted the discoid object, which now was missing entirely from the hilltop. They found a lift with a motorist who told them he had been in the same area and had heard strange noises at about the same time.

Later that night they returned to the area with the father of the driver to recover the abandoned sedan. The fire was out by this time, but the car was not worth salvaging. When Chalker tried to locate it in 1975 he was unable to find it, possibly due to extensive flooding and mud deposits which had been laid down in the interim.

In his investigation report, Chalker decided that the engine failure and subsequent fire may well have been due to mechanical and wiring factors in a car of that age (1960). This does not reduce in his mind the importance of the fact that the girl who crouched under the dashboard and refused to look at the discoid object was the only one of the party to escape a severe headache.

He cannot explain the thumping noises the six occupants heard on the top of the car as something they merely imagined, and he doubts that the appearance of the huge man-like figure to three of the party was merely an apparition suggested by the sight of the sitting discoid. Although the two phenomena are closely related in time, he points out that there is no direct evidence relating either the discoid or the manlike figure to each other. He reports that his informant had had no prior interest in UFOs and related phenomena, although he had read about them in newspapers, but had not had access to any of the specialized literature on the subject. Further investigation and

interviews are planned.

Chalker's second encounter case also concerns young people — three boys and a girl — who were spearfishing at Norah's Head about 50 miles north of Sydney on June 8, 1975. While making camp late that night, Jeff Norris and John Sullings invaded a gully densely grown with scrub to get firewood and material for a windbreak, at which time they began to hear strange rustling noises in the brush they could not account for. They passed the wood up to Don Shuttleworth, who stood on the brink of the gully but did not go down into it.

As they built their windbreak and got the fire going, the rustling noises continued, and they shone a spotlight from their car into the gully, with their spearguns at the ready, but the beam would not depress far enough. Then they shone a torch farther down, and at this point Sullings called Norris' attention to something that had emerged from the bushes at the side of the gully.

"And I looked and saw a small illuminous [sic] object about the size of two fists clenched together. This object was glowing and had dark spots on the right hand side of it as we were looking toward it," Norris told the investigator later.

"We watched this thing for approximately two or three minutes and we started getting scared. Then it moved back into the bush . . . we could still see it properly. John was really scared and so was Don. We asked Don to get up and have a look at this object. It was round and it looked like a cat's head. It was very bright . . . we could only see the head, but it was like a head . . . glowing brightly, and it had some dark spots on it . . .

"Then these small objects, about the size of an apple, and oval shape, and were very, very bright, came from this object . . . and came up to us. As it came up closer, all three of us could see these objects. There were two at the start . . . and as they came closer you could see that they were glowing the colours of the rainbow — purple, green, blue, yellow and a tinge of orange around . . . and in the middle was an illumious [sic] worm like a dragon which was centred in the middle and a small tail of bright colours . . . It looked as if it was propelled by some . . . by this glowing of the bright colours of the rainbow.

"We watched for about 15 minutes," said Norris. He said they tried turning their torch off, but the objects remained bright and glowing. "... But these objects were coming . . . they only came when the torch was out."

As all three young men could see the objects, they asked John Sullings' girlfriend, Deborah, to stand up and take a look.

"She could not see any objects at all," Norris reported in amazement. "We do not know why this happened, but this is

what she said."

"We saw these objects for say 15 to 25 minutes, and then these objects started coming behind us. We were trying to duck these objects as they passed us but they only came for John and I [both of whom had actually entered the gully]. They came toward Donald, but they veered away from him as they came closer . . . they came for us [Norris and Sullings] and did not stop."

"I tried to spear one with my gun, but it dodged."

"When these objects were behind us, we started getting very frightened." Norris then told Chalker how his only thought was to get out and away. "Debbie was the only one with a clear head, because she had not seen what we had seen. She had not ever seen us as scared as we were that night." He said they packed up, drove to a police station where they reported the incident at about 1 a.m. on the morning of June 9, and slept in their car at Wyong.

In Shuttleworth's account, it was brought out that prior to seeing the glowing objects the young men had heard a roaring noise above the surf that resembled the sound of jet plane engines, and that this noise had continued at the time the glowing objects were under observation. Shuttleworth also added that when they reached the police station afterward the constable on duty was less than overjoyed at being roused at 1 a.m. and told them to report to the day duty officer at 8 a.m. "We came back and told him [the day officer] the story, and had the feeling that he didn't believe us either," said Shuttleworth. But he recalled that the day officer did tell them about UFOIC and dialed Chalker's number for the still-shaken youths. Chalker relates that Shuttleworth was audibly weeping when he made his first report over the telephone, seven or eight hours after the sighting.

Sullings' account agrees with that of Shuttleworth in the detail about the glowing objects which had come toward them, in that they seemed to be "propelled." "... They had hooks, sort of things to propel them . . .," he said.

Chalker, who returned with the boys to the scene that same morning, suggests possible significance in the fact that the "attacking balls" sought out only the two youths who actually had gone into the gully, and that the girl, who stayed by the fire throughout, could hear some of the noises the boys heard but could see nothing.

Mr. Chalker's transcripts of taped interviews with all four disclose no other apparent major discrepancies or contradictions.

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