

THE U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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UFO Scorches Highway

A UFO that took off from a road, leaving the macadam burning and four holes in the tar was seen by Clifton N. Crowder, warehouse manager, in South Hill, Virginia, at approximately 9 p.m., April 21.

A nearby tobacco farmer also told NICAP that he saw a bright light rise straight up and disappear at the same time and at the same spot.

Samples of physical evidence left at the site have been obtained by NICAP investigators Gordon Lore, Donald Berliner and Leon Katchen, who arrived in the area, about 75 miles south of Richmond, less than 24 hours after the sighting.

In a tape-recorded interview, Crowder said he had been working late at his fertilizer warehouse. After closing, he drove the few hundred feet to the tarred road. Then, 500 feet ahead, he saw the object.

"When I got on this hard surface road..." he stated, "I saw this object, which appeared to be approximately 12 feet in diameter. It was circular, out of some form of metal and... it was sitting up on legs about three feet high..."



NICAP HQ Investigators Gordon Lore and Lee Katchen inspect burned portion of road, site of UFO landing.

The witness said the UFO was 16 or 17 feet tall and shaped like a water tank standing on end. No windows or other physical characteristics were observed.

Crowder said he continued driving to within 250 feet of the landed craft, then threw his bright lights on the object. After observing the UFO for about five seconds in the bright glare of his headlights, he saw a sudden burst of white flame come from the bottom of the craft. The object then took off and disappeared "just like a flash." The witness said he saw the road burning for several seconds after the take-off, but the flame did not appear to follow the craft up. Crowder said the UFO disappeared from his view at 200-300 feet altitude.

Norman Martin, a tobacco farmer who lives several hundred yards off Route 747, where the landing occurred, said he saw a bright light rise up from the ground and "light up a whole tree... just as bright as day" at the same time.

"I'd say it lit it just like it was taking off," Martin said. "It mostly started right at the bottom and just went right on up to the top... as this thing went off."

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Mc DONALD PRODS PRESS, SCORES AF INCOMPETENCE

"UFOs are not a nonsense problem," said atmospheric physicist Dr. James E. McDonald, Professor in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Arizona, in a vigorous 20-minute talk on April 22 before a group of newspaper editors attending the 1967 annual meeting of the ASNE (American Society of Newspaper Editors) in Washington, D.C. McDonald urged that public ridicule of the subject and of UFO witnesses should stop, described the extraterrestrial theory as "the least unsatisfactory hypothesis for explaining the UFO evidence now available," and traced the debunking program of the USAF to the CIA-Robertson Panel report of 1953.

The meeting, a well-attended panel discussion, was arranged by ASNE Program Chairman Newbold Noyes, editor of the Washington Evening Star; moderator was John Quincy Mahaffey, editor of the Texarkana Gazette & News. The four panelists spoke without questioning or interruption.

William C. Powell, a veteran pilot (formerly with the Dutch airline KLM) led off by describing his close-up daylight sighting of a domed red-and-white disc in May 1966, while flying a light plane near Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Pennsylvania. His passenger on that flight, also present, confirmed his description.

Major Hector Quintanilla, head of Project Blue Book, then read a statement repeating the customary Air Force claims: that press releases and Blue Book reports have kept the press adequately informed; that the USAF is not withholding information; that there is no evidence in UFO reports of any superior technology; that the staff of Blue Book, though small, makes use of many other government scientific facilities for its investigations.

"Balderdash" was the description by Dr. McDonald, who followed Maj. Quintanilla, of Air Force claims that its investigation of UFOs has been honest and careful. His own intensive investigation, which he has been carrying on for 12 months, has turned up no evidence that the Air Force has ever used its best scientists or facilities for UFO investigation. Instead, he said, the project had such a low priority and the debunking regulations were so clear that ever since 1953 project officers with little or no scientific competence had been explaining away most reports without investigation.

In the CIA-Robertson Panel report of 1953 (See The U.F.O. Investigator, Vol. III, No. 10) the CIA requested a debunking program on UFOs "to stop intelligence channels from becoming clogged." As a result of this program, McDonald said, the significance of serious UFO reports had been obscured and they had never received scientific attention. Eventually the Air Force "fell victim to its own propaganda" and came to view UFOs as merely a public relations problem. Frequent turnover in Blue Book personnel, meanwhile, meant that no one on the project had a continuous view of the problem, which is now one of "enormous dimensions."

The last panel speaker was Dr. Donald H. Menzel, recently retired Director of Harvard College Observatory, who elaborated on his well-known position that UFOs are not a serious problem for scientific investigation. Human beings are often and easily fooled, even airline pilots and scientists. Radar reports can be attributed to various atmospheric effects. But lay observers unfamiliar with optical deceptions contribute most of the reports,

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THE **UFO INVESTIGATOR**

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Colorado Progress Report

Scientists at the University of Colorado, granted \$300,000 last fall by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to study UFOs, have unofficially decided to seek positive evidence proving the existence of UFOs. The decision was based on the requirements of scientific method rather than on a prejudgment of the facts.

The positive approach of the project was made clear to NICAP representatives present in Boulder twice this year. The following are interpretations—gleaned from meetings, discussions and informal conversations—and are not intended to be official pronouncements of the Colorado UFO project.

Most past efforts to explain UFOs (especially those by the Air Force and Dr. Donald H. Menzel) have consisted of attempts to label each sighting, assuming in every case that there had to be a conventional explanation. A certain number of explanations undoubtedly have been accurate, but this method always has resulted in dubious explanations—often unbelievable explanations—for the more detailed and impressive UFO reports. Stated simply, the findings have been utterly inconclusive.

Logically and scientifically, one cannot prove a negative proposition—that UFOs (as something unique) don't exist. Therefore, the only scientifically feasible and valid approach is to hypothesize that they do exist, and to attempt investigations to find out which—of a list of possibilities—they are. The list would include the explanation of UFOs as extraterrestrial devices. To test this hypothesis (and most of the alternative explanations), one would have to set up instruments to record UFOs photographically, detect any electromagnetic emanations from them, obtain measurements of performance and size. A program of instrumentation along these lines was discussed at length with consultants at a meeting in March, though no final plans concerning the exact nature of the instruments were reached.

Similarly, if UFOs are to be investigated as a hypothetical reality, the cases of mistaken identity (the planet Venus, an unusually lighted aircraft, etc., reported as a UFO) are only of peripheral interest. It is generally agreed that 70-80% of all things reported as UFOs do turn out to have conventional explanations. But the problem is to analyze the hard-core unexplained cases for patterns and consistencies to determine their nature. Efforts to pin conventional labels on these cases have failed, and they are now testing the idea that something other than the conventional is being reported. The logical step is to cultivate reports from the most highly trained observers in the best positions to see UFOs; thus, if UFOs are real the clearest reports on them will be obtained. The Colorado project has taken definite steps to encourage trained observers, including professional pilots, to report UFO sightings.

Photographs purported to show UFOs, of course, would be of unusual importance. Unfortunately, photographic analysis is complicated by the fact that hundreds of fake pictures—mostly from teen-agers recently—have been circulated widely, sometimes given national publicity. In some cases, NICAP investigators have obtained confessions from hoaxers, but we have

hesitated to publish the information to avoid embarrassment to the families. Most fakes started out as innocent childish pranks, but then got out of hand due to high public interest in the UFO subject. However, there also exists a hard-core of authenticated photographs which the UFO project intends to analyze carefully. The Santa Ana, Calif., Register reported March 9 that Robert J. Low, coordinator of the Colorado project, had visited the newspaper to talk with the photographer who handled the original pictures taken by Rex Heflin, August 3, 1965 (See U.F.O. Investigator, Vol. III, Nos. 5 & 6). He also borrowed the negatives made from the original Polaroid prints for analysis. Extremely thorough investigation of the case by the Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee has satisfied us that the Heflin photographs probably are among the most significant on record.

Although the UFO project has now reached a stage in which individual scientists are undertaking specific projects, as reported in the previous issue, they still are meeting with various theorists and exploring new avenues of investigation. Considering the complexity and controversial nature of the UFO mystery, the project has shown admirable objectivity and thoroughness in working out a methodology while maintaining a flexibility and open-mindedness suitable to the situation.

In approximately six months, project members have had to try to absorb about 20 years of UFO history, including knowledge of official actions and inactions, attitudes of professional scientists, and other ramifications of a long-standing problem which has aroused strong emotions. Privately, members of the project concede that they have much to learn in the way of background information and specific case histories. Their willingness to learn and their vigorous efforts to obtain the best information available are worthy of widespread support from all who desire to see a final resolution to the UFO problem.

It seems unlikely that the project has either enough time or enough funds to obtain any final answers, barring dramatic proof which might be obtained by chance through instrumentation. However, the fact that this is the first organized scientific attempt to gather meaningful data about UFOs is sufficient reason by itself to applaud the effort. As a pilot study, the program is invaluable.

All the foregoing assumes that military and political pressures will not significantly alter the present course of active data-gathering and welcome frankness, impartial analysis, and determination to report fully to the public on all findings. The only event which might force NICAP to withdraw its support would be evidence that outside pressures were causing the project to retreat from objective, scientific investigation. It is our impression that if such pressures came about, many (perhaps a majority) of the scientists involved would be the first to protest loudly and make a public issue of it.

"NICAP" Trademarked

As of March 7, 1967, NICAP's full name and initials are protected by the U.S. Patent Office under the Trademark Act of 1946. The registration number, on the principal register, is 825,459. Organizations and individuals who, for the past several years, have tried to capitalize on NICAP's reputation by incorporating our initials are hereby put on notice that any repetition of this will result in legal action.

A small group in Seattle, Washington, which has used the initials N.I.C.A.P., headed by Mr. Robert J. Gribble, now has been notified that any further use of our name will constitute a clear violation of the Trademark law. His so-called "N.I.C.A.P. Reporter" occasionally has been mistaken for an official NICAP publication, and his use of our initials in general has caused confusion.

In February, NICAP was notified by the Cambridge University UFO group in England that a British group had adopted the name "NICAP-GB." This was done without any authorization by us and we have no connection with them. (We thank the Cambridge organization, a serious-minded group, for calling this to our attention.)

It is said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Perhaps so, but we do not intend to stand idly by while others attempt to make capital on our name and reputation.

SCIENTIFIC DEBATE GROWS

Scientific controversy over UFOs has reached a peak never before attained. Increasingly in 1967, scientists are discussing the problem among themselves, acknowledging the existence of the extraterrestrial theory, and debating the pros and cons in scientific forums. This has brought a long-overdue respectability to the subject, allowing it to be treated as an important scientific problem rather than science fiction fantasy.

Perhaps the most prominent scientist to make a positive pronouncement recently is Professor Paul Santorini, Greece's top scientist and former pupil and life-long friend of the late Albert Einstein. Santorini, who worked on the atomic bomb and the Nike missiles and helped design radar, told the Greek Astronomical Society in Athens February 24 that a "world blanket of secrecy" surrounded UFO reports. Convinced since 1947 that UFOs were real, the professor said that the Greek Army sent a team of engineers along with him to investigate UFOs believed to have been Russian missiles in the skies over Greece in that same year. "We soon established they were not missiles," the scientist remarked. "But before we could do any more, the Army, after conferring with officials from the Pentagon in Washington ordered the investigation stopped."

In an article entitled "The Scientist and the UFO" (BioScience; January 1967), Mars-life expert Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, of Utah State University, states that "since shortly after the beginning of recorded history, but particularly during the past two decades, many people have reported . . . phenomena . . . that . . . far surpass the current human technology." Dr. Salisbury urges that scientific investigation teams stand by to immediately investigate new outbreaks of sightings.

According to a UPI story dated January 21, Dr. D. H. Bragg, associate professor of education of Drake University, wrote in the Iowa State Education Association's official publication that "there is a strong possibility that the flying saucer controversy is about to enter the classroom as a . . . problem of major implications in our world."

In an address to the Academic Honors Convocation, published in the March 1967 issue of "The Griffith Observer" (Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles), Dr. John A. Russell of the University of Southern California described the changes in cosmological theory that have taken place at an ever-increasing tempo since Copernicus challenged Ptolemy's geocentric theory which had reigned unquestioned for 1700 years. Dr. Russell, Associate Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, said all these changes had one thing in common: each diminished man's importance by making him a more insignificant part of a vaster universe.

Soon, he said, we may be called upon to accept another change on the same frontier, far more drastic and unwelcome. We may have to acknowledge the existence elsewhere in the universe of intelligent beings who are technologically far superior to man. Our reaction to such a discovery, Dr. Russell says, "may be more pronounced."

Dr. Russell's prediction of resistance to the idea of extraterrestrial intelligence has recently been fulfilled by a negative voice in the UFO controversy. Nobel prize winner Sir John Eccles, head of Chicago's American Medical Association Biochemical Research Institute, stated in March that extraterrestrial spaceships are an impossibility because "earth is the only place where intelligent life exists" and this puts "our planet on top of everything in the universe." Even the development of our own life and science he termed "a fantastic improbability."

Another scientific theorist whose assumptions cause him to rule out any possibility that UFOs might be extraterrestrial is Philip Klass of Aviation Week magazine, who remains firmly convinced that UFOs can be explained almost entirely in terms of plasmas (ionized gasses) moving randomly through our near atmosphere. He does not, however, argue that the gasses emanate from swamps.

McDonald Prods Press (Continued from page 1)

he said. To his long list of man-made and natural objects, astronomical bodies and meteorological phenomena which are observed and misinterpreted as UFOs, Dr. Menzel added some new items, such as spots before the eyes, reflections in eyeglasses, and after-images caused by looking at the sun or an electric light bulb. He criticized the USAF questionnaire on UFOs for failing to elicit information about these observational errors, and said he is currently trying to help the Air Force redesign this "amateurish" document. He also said it was time for the Air Force to "wrap up the UFOs"—that is, to stop studying them.

Neither Dr. Menzel nor Maj. Quintanilla made any reference to pilot Powell's sighting, and after the panelists had spoken there was time for only three or four questions before the next ASNE program, none of which brought out either facts or fireworks. Available to the editors, however, was an impressive 28-page paper prepared by Dr. McDonald, in which he amplified many of the points he could mention only briefly in his talk.



Dr. James McDonald Addresses Editors Meeting. While (l to r) Dr. Donald Menzel and Pilot/Witness William Powell Look On.

Strongly urging the mobilization of scientific talent and public action, Dr. McDonald said, "In those Blue Book files have lain hundreds of cases that received no adequate scientific review, that have often been explained away in such a ridiculous manner that even amateur astronomers or untrained citizens have publicly complained over the absurdity of the official explanations...I truly doubt that Air Force personnel at Wright-Patterson AFB and the Pentagon can have any notion of the bitterness they have created among persons who have been made the butt of ridicule by these 'debunking' policies that trace back so clearly to the 1953 decisions."

Dr. McDonald devotes about two pages of his paper to specific criticisms of Dr. Menzel's analyses of UFO cases. "...Menzel rides roughshod over elementary optical considerations governing such things as mirages and light reflections," he states. Also, "...examples of loose reasoning, failure to check the relevant weather data, and casual neglect of key features of the reports could be cited."

The Arizona scientist said that the University of Colorado project, though a good start, has "very limited manpower resources...this problem warrants far more scientific attention than their program is currently able to provide."

Calling for Congressional hearings to probe into the background of the UFO mystery, Dr. McDonald said the study should be taken out of military hands and turned over to a science-oriented agency such as NASA. NICAP, he said, has been doing a far better job than the Air Force, even on a slender budget.

"There is, in my present opinion, no sensible alternative to the utterly shocking hypothesis that the UFOs are extraterrestrial probes from somewhere else," he concluded.

SOVIETS ADMIT UFO INTEREST

A Soviet astronomer has admitted that Russians have been sighting UFOs for the past 20 years, according to AP and UPI wire stories datelined April 19 and 20. Felix Zigel, writing for a youth magazine, stated that UFOs may be extraterrestrial and that they have been tracked on Soviet radar screens. Scientists, he added, have seen flying objects they could not explain.

It was hinted that many Russians think UFOs to be secret American weapons. Many Americans have thought the same of Russia. Zigel, however, isn't convinced.

"No one holds this view now," he said.

Another Russian scientist agreed. UFOs are not "a new secret flying apparatus of some of the military powers on earth," he said.

For many years, the Soviet Union has been silent on whether or not they had been receiving UFO reports. Very infrequently have reports leaked through their web of secrecy.

Zigel thinks that the reports may indicate visits "from an advanced civilization on another planet." The tremendous speeds of some of the objects supports this supposition. UFO reports steadily increase as Mars makes its closest approaches to earth, the space scientist stated.

The Soviets have also admitted that UFOs have been puzzling them as much as they baffle Americans.

Zigel is one of the editors of a book entitled *Inhabited Cosmos*, covering the possibility of extraterrestrial beings and "efforts to communicate with them."

Life On Jupiter Possible

Life may exist on Jupiter, the huge planet world scientists have hitherto thought too cold and hostile to support biological processes. Two National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) scientists have produced organic chemicals described as the "forerunners of life" from simulated Jupiterian conditions.

Dr. Cyril Ponnamperuma and Fritz Woeller, both of NASA's Ames Research Center, bombarded their duplicated Jupiter atmosphere with man-made lightning, "on the grounds that lightning was one of the two forces in nature... that originally extracted life from earth's primitive atmosphere," according to an article by Thomas O'Toole in the Washington Post, April 12. The California scientists presented their findings in a paper read on April 11 at an American Chemical Society meeting in Miami Beach.

In laboratory experiments "bound to stir a scientific storm," nine amino acids, "probably the most common form of energy on earth before the appearance of life," were produced. Lightning was used for this because Jupiter has "a powerful magnetic field" that attracts it "like a huge dynamo."

Various other forms of chemicals were also produced, all of which, the scientists said, existed on earth 4.5 billion years ago and probably played a large part in evolving life from its most primitive, organic form.

Five hundred million miles from the sun, it was reasonable to suppose that Jupiterian conditions were unfavorable to life in any form. Now, however, infrared measurements indicate that the planet's thick clouds may act as an insulator and that Jupiter's surface may be considerably warmer than first thought.

Historical Book Coming

A new book entitled *Mysteries of the Skies — UFOs in Perspective* is due for publication by Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J., in September. Authored by NICAP staff member Gordon I. R. Lore, Jr. and former staff member Harold H. Deneault, Jr., the work concentrates on UFO sightings for the past several hundred years before 1947. Among this material will be accounts extracted from old newspapers, scientific, meteorological and astronomical journals, ship's logs, original diaries, and first-hand accounts, with some original material dating from the 18th Century. The authors have obtained their sources directly or indirectly from NICAP contacts. The book will retail for \$5.95.

Field Network Expands

NICAP's investigation network has been supplemented in recent months by the addition of three new Subcommittees. A fourth unit, formerly active in the area of Vincennes, Indiana, also is being re-activated.

A large group of technically trained people, including six PhD scientists, has formed a unit to investigate reports in and around Houston, Texas. Chairman is Mrs. Krystyna Ansevin (PhD in Biology). The unit has cameras, tape recorders, and a large amount of scientific experience and knowledge at its disposal. Included are several biological scientists, physicists, and engineers. Mrs. Ansevin's address is 2127 MacArthur Street. (This is the first Subcommittee in the state, Texas Unit#1).

A third western Pennsylvania Subcommittee has been formed by a group of professors and educators at Indiana State College, Pa. The unit will cover sightings east of Pittsburgh. Chairman is Robert Murray, Director of Instructional Resources Center at the University. Mr. Murray has a doctorate in Education. He is a former Air Force flight engineer, and was a photo lab technician in the Marshall Islands during the Bikini atomic bomb test. He was a high school teacher and college professor for six years. Other members at present are Dr. Carl Bordas, professor of chemistry; and Harold B. Cunningham, chief filter plant operator for a water company. Mr. Cunningham is a Sergeant Major in the Marine Corps Reserve, a 22-year veteran including infantry and military police duty during World War II and Korea. He has been a Military Police Chief, and Chief Investigator, and served 10 years as a policeman on the Indiana, Pa., force.

The first North Dakota Subcommittee was formed in March by a group of senior law enforcement officers and attorneys, headquartered in Minot. Because of their positions, the members have requested to remain anonymous. They have been active in recent weeks, including investigations of unpublicized sightings.

Mention of a new Cape Kennedy, Fla., Subcommittee, formed late in 1966, was accidentally omitted from the last issue. A large group of aerospace and electronics engineers have been investigating sightings along the northeast Florida coast on behalf of NICAP. Co-Chairmen are Clark McClelland (4106 Trinidad Ave., Indian River City), Aerospace Engineer; and Wylie Robinson (315 Johnson Ave., Apt. B-14, Cape Canaveral), Telemetry Systems Engineer.

All except one of the new units have had reasonably good sightings to investigate since organizing. Other Subcommittees unusually active or working on exceptional publicized reports during the first quarter of 1967 include Bay Area, Calif; Miami, Fla; Chicago, Ill; Boston, Mass; Emerson, N.J.; Buffalo, N.Y.; Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, Pa. Other units have also contributed outstanding individual reports or background investigations. Since there are now 30 active units, we regret that we cannot mention each investigator by name. We are extremely grateful for the unselfish and highly important work being accomplished by the few hundred NICAP Subcommittee investigators, often expending considerable personal time and money.

Chlorophyll Found In Space

Chlorophyll from outer space, discovered by a California physicist, indicates that "a form of life similar to that on earth" may exist on other planets, according to an AP wire story. Fred M. Johnson, chief scientist with Electro-Optical Systems, Inc., said that the system of identification he used "was similar to fingerprinting... a comparative process where certain optical characteristics of the dust in space were found to match closely the optical characteristics of chlorophyll in the laboratory."

Speaking before a group of scientists at an astronomy and biodynamics meeting at the University of California on January 20, Dr. Johnson said that chlorophyll floating through space could have reached other planets and undergone "photosynthesis as on earth," producing "at least simple plant forms." He has been working on his project for more than a dozen years. He said that the life forms produced by this chlorophyll "could be familiar to man." Basic to the life process, the chlorophyll was discovered by means of the spectograph and laser research.

"Purring" UFO Hovers Low

A multi-colored UFO as big as a two-and-a-half ton truck and which emitted a "purring sound" was seen by a number of witnesses at dusk in the Mt. Sunapee, N.H. area on January 16. The observers included a retired missionary, a guard at the state prison, a professional stage entertainer, a hospital secretary, a housewife and a high school student. NICAP's New Hampshire Subcommittee Chairman John M. Meloney and his wife, Virginia, investigated the case and sent a detailed report to NICAP.

At 5 p.m., Robert B. Fuller, whose professional stage name is Bobby Brandon, was enroute to his home in Contoocook from Georges Mills when he saw a bright white light in the twilight sky over Mt. Sunapee. Upon arriving at Bradford, eight miles from where he first noticed the light, he saw that the light appeared to be pacing his car. At Warner, nine miles from Bradford, he observed that the object had swung around to the south and was difficult to see. While driving through the Lower Village section of town, Fuller saw the UFO turn directly toward him and approach on a slow, steady course. At this time, he could discern a long, cigar-shaped object with "amber colored windows." On the right side of the UFO was a blinking red light with two unusually bright white lights near the front. These lights, the witness said, were "on the ends of protrusions sticking out from the sides," and shone straight ahead.

Fuller decided he should get a corroborating witness when the UFO grew so large that only a grapefruit held at arm's length would cover it. Stopping in front of a house, he rushed to the front door and knocked. Mrs. James C. Manry, an elderly widow whose missionary work has taken her to the Far East and other parts of the world, responded.

"Look at the light! Look at the light!" Mrs. Manry quoted Fuller as saying. She said that two large, bright lights "with a dark nebulous area between them" swooped down "directly over the roof of her carriage house and over the hill behind it." The lights, which appeared to be beaming earthward, were round, brightly yellow in the center and white around the edges. Fuller said he heard "a soft purring sound." Mrs. Manry remarked that "a dinner plate at least eight inches across held at arm's length" would be needed to cover the entire object. The UFO then disappeared to the north.

Mrs. Manry is the mother of Robert Manry, who made a daring and historic crossing of the Atlantic in a 13-foot sailing sloop, the "Tinkerbell," in the Summer of 1965.

Meanwhile, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Black, were driving toward Warner at 5:15 when they saw a "battleship grey" UFO with a "skate-like" form and two lights in the sky. The sharply outlined object, which appeared to be floating slowly, was estimated to be about the size of a two-and-a-half ton truck. Mr. Black guessed that it was between 700 and 1,000 feet away.

Fifteen minutes later, in Warner's Lower Village, Mrs. Frederick Degerick and her daughter, Carolyn, saw an object that looked like "a box kite without paper." Two bright headlights were on the front of the UFO, which was moving so slowly that it was almost hovering over a field. The object was soundless until it started to move away rapidly. Then there was a "purring sound." As it crossed Route 103, the headlights were momentarily extinguished. Mrs. Degerick said that "it would take a round pillow 14 inches in diameter held at arm's length" to cover the UFO.

Robert Fuller drove by and corroborated the sighting by the Degericks.

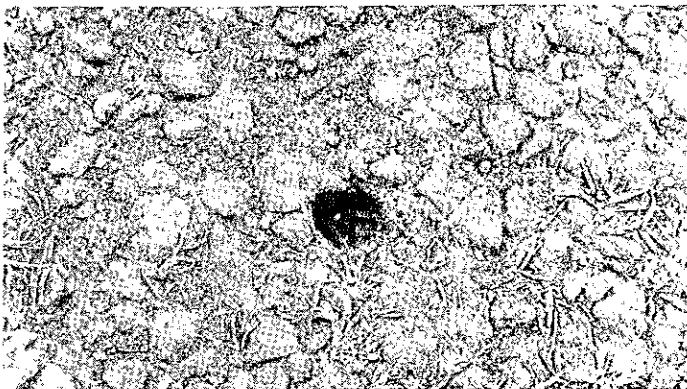
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The farmer said he did not see the shape of the object. He also said he could not see the flame on the road from his farmhouse, situated across a tall wheat field from the landing site.

The UFO left a fairly wide burned out area on the inch and a half thick tarred road. Four holes up to three-quarters of an inch deep and one-half an inch wide surrounded the blackened spot. The spacing of the holes was almost exact, there being, at the most, a five and one-half inch discrepancy. The distance between the southwestern and northeastern holes measured 16 feet, eight inches, indicating that the diameter of the object may have been somewhat wider than the 12 feet estimated by

Crowder. The spot where the road was seen burning measured about three feet in width. Core samples of the burned and unburned sections of the road, and three of the holes intact, were extracted from the macadam by the Virginia Highway Department for analysis by NICAP through chemical laboratories.

At approximately the same time as the Crowder sighting, several members of the Fort Lee Fire Department saw two blinking and revolving red lights for 5-6 minutes. James Hajacos said he and the others saw the lights coming straight at them at 9:15 p.m., stop, turn 90 degrees, hover, then disappear toward the northeast fairly slowly. The witness estimated the altitude of the objects to be under 600 feet. Fort Lee is about 50 miles northeast of South Hill.



One of four holes in macadam road surrounding burned area.

A check at the South Hill Police Department revealed that there were sightings in the area on the evening of April 22.

Between 8:30 and 9 p.m., Police Chief Bill Williams, of La Crosse, Virginia, and several other police officers, saw strange lights that moved "like lightning." The chief said that three lights rose up quickly from the ground, followed by two more, all five forming a diamond formation. One of the lights then left the formation and moved very fast toward the northeast, away from South Hill. Williams followed it in his patrol car for about two miles at speeds up to 70-75 miles per hour. The UFO dipped up and down, occasionally disappearing behind trees and rising up again. Then it turned abruptly and headed back toward the town. Finally it stopped and remained stationary. Chief Williams said he has "never seen anything like that." The light was still hovering when Williams left the scene.

About five South Hill residents with citizens-band (CB) radio-equipped cars saw strange lights at 9:30 p.m. A running commentary of the sightings was radioed back and forth among the witnesses. Roy Edmonds, Thomas G. Cliburne, William Brooks and Melvin W. Cage and one unidentified man said they saw a red ball that changed to an orange-yellow color. The object lowered to tree-top level, then disappeared behind the trees. When it reappeared, it had apparently divided into two objects, one far apart from the other. They then "came back together" and disappeared again below tree-top level. When they rose again, there were three objects about one-half the size of the full moon. Edmonds said he stopped his car and attempted to call the police from his home, but the phone was dead. When he looked again, he saw a cluster of lights moving up and down.

About an hour earlier, South Hill police dispatcher Norman Ball and four others saw a "pinkish ball of fire" about the size of a grapefruit at tree-top level. The object, stationary at first, moved for an estimated two miles at a fairly slow speed, then disappeared behind a hill.

There were reports of other sightings that night, but some of these were probably illusions caused by bright stars and planets. Even the NICAP investigators were temporarily fooled by a satellite passing between a cluster of three stars low on the horizon.

Both Clifton Crowder and Norman Thomas were of the opinion that what they saw was a secret weapon or helicopter. Neither of them heard any sound, however. Crowder later stated that he thought someone had staged an elaborate hoax, but admitted that both the secret weapon and hoax theories were "just supposition on my part."

UFO Over NASA Station

A UFO that caused electro-magnetic (E-M) effects was seen hovering over the Plum Brook Station of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at Sandusky, Ohio, on at least two different occasions in January and February.

The first sighting took place at approximately 6:45 p.m., January 30. Mr. and Mrs. Reinhardt N. Ausmus were traveling north on Route 99 when they spotted an unusually bright light in the sky. Stopping their car, they watched the silently hovering UFO for several minutes before the light was suddenly extinguished.

Ausmus is a member of the Early Birds, an organization of World War I flyers.

The second encounter occurred at 3:42 a.m., February 10 and was checked out by NICAP member Earl Neff. Constable Gary Butler, of the Erie County Sheriff's Department, was on routine patrol duty in the Plum Brook Station area when he saw "a bluish, bright colored disc . . . in a southwesterly direction. . ."

"I observed the object in a stationary position approximately a mile and a half, maybe two miles away," Constable Butler said in a tape-recorded interview.

The object then "began to decline towards the ground" and "disappeared behind a group of trees." The witness radioed the sighting into his station, but experienced some radio interference.

"I had to repeat my transmission two or three times because the deputy at the station could not understand," Butler stated. "Also, there were two officers. . . who saw a . . . bright, light object in the sky which they observed for several minutes."

FAA CONFIRMS RADAR CASE

Official confirmation by the FAA of a UFO radar tracking has been received from Federal Aviation Agency's (FAA) Experimental Center at Atlantic City, New Jersey. The tracking, confirmed visually, occurred on the evening of February 24.

"I can confirm the reported radar tracking of a UFO at this Center. . . to the extent that our air traffic facility did have an unidentified target on its radar at the time and in the vicinity a motorist reported a UFO," said Public Affairs Officer, E. L. Shoop, Jr., of the Center's National Aviation Facilities, in a letter to NICAP.

The motorist is Robert King, a mechanic for Southern Jersey Airways, who spotted the glowing orange UFO around 10 p.m. while driving along the Garden State Parkway, about 15 miles south of Atlantic City. Traveling at an estimated speed of 100 m.p.h. and altitude of about 1500 feet, the object moved quickly toward the ground and disappeared. It later reappeared and headed south toward Cape May.

King then called the FAA and, according to Mr. Shoop, "he was informed by the controllers on duty that they did have an unidentified target at the time and place in question. . .", but "they could not confirm any erratic maneuvering."

The witness also said, in a newspaper report, that a check with Cape May and Atlantic County airports revealed no planes had either landed or taken off during the time of the sighting.

Object Startles Couple

A dark, "clam-shaped" UFO that caused a dog to become highly agitated, emitted a "motor type" sound, and gave off a "ping type electrical charge" was observed at midnight, March 3, at Red Hill, New Hampshire. The witnesses, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fellows, were traveling toward Sandwich when they saw a very bright, white, stationary light.

"The air had an electrical sparking in it," said Mrs. Fellows in a report submitted by NICAP member Evelyn H. Spencer, "and our dog began to be very disturbed, his hair stood up like a bush. The light began to move up and down like a 'yo-yo,' dropping behind tree level and up again as it traveled with us toward Sandwich, changing to a bluish-green color."

The witnesses saw the object disappear behind the trees and heard it emit a "motor-type" sound. It had a "brilliant light on top." It then followed their car for 20 minutes, until they got to Sandwich. Mrs. Fellows said the object was not more than

100 feet above the vehicle and that, at times, it got so close that she could practically reach out and touch it. The UFO appeared to be taller than the car.

Upon reaching Route 113, the witnesses saw the object stop between two lighted church spires, then move off toward the northeast. As it did so, it gave off a "ping type electrical charge." In her report, Mrs. Spencer said that this mysterious charge "could be felt and heard inside the car by both occupants."

V-Shaped Craft Hovers Over Car

A huge, V-shaped UFO that hovered just over a highway and a car was seen by two groups of witnesses on the evening of February 17 near Methuen, Massachusetts. NICAP's Massachusetts Subcommittee Chairman Raymond Fowler and member George Kaiser submitted a detailed report of the case.

While traveling along Route 93 near Methuen at 6:55 p.m., a sales representative for the Flying Tiger (Air Freight) Lines saw a UFO of "dazzling brilliance" hovering just over the road. Slowing his car, he noticed a bright green frame extending from a rectangular display of very bright lights. He also saw a flashing red light that was apparently hidden until a close approach to the UFO was made. The witness said that the object was so big that it would have covered the entire northbound lane of the highway.

The Flying Tiger representative, who is familiar with many types of aircraft and sounds, said that he could hear no noise, despite his close proximity to the object, and that the UFO was at least as big as the large "Huey" helicopters now in use in Viet Nam.

At this point, the witness reported that he became "a little afraid of the thing." He drove under the object and continued looking through his rear view mirror. The observer also said that he saw the occupants of several cars watching the UFO.

About 45 minutes later, at 7:45, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Duval, of Lawrence, were traveling south on Route 93 when they saw "a loose cluster of 8-9 red, green, and white lights at a low altitude and very slow speed." A bright white light was at the bottom of the cluster. The UFO passed over the road in a southwest to northeast direction.

Mr. Duval is a Sylvania electrical engineer at the Applied Research Laboratory in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Chairman Fowler reported that the East Coast Advertising Company's "Sky-Lite" advertising plane, which frequently operates in that area, was not in flight on the night of the sighting.

Fisherman's Photos "Authentic"

Three photographs of a UFO taken by a man on a fishing expedition in Louisiana have been declared "authentic" by analysts who examined the pictures for CBS. Dewey J. Fournet, Jr., NICAP Board member and former Air Force major who was official monitor of the UFO program, investigated the sighting.

Using a Polaroid camera, the observer, who asked that his name not be mentioned because he "wants to avoid publicity entirely," took the first photograph at 4:30 p.m., January 12. He had just finished unloading his fishing gear after arrival at the camp between Innis and Batchelor, Louisiana. Intending to spend the weekend, he was so "shook up" after filming the sighting that he drove back to his home in Baton Rouge. He returned the next morning—and so did the UFO. The second and third shots were taken at 9:30 a.m., January 13.

The solid, light grey object was a "configuration of shallow disc with domes on each side, one slightly smaller than the other." The witness said that he had no time for more than one photograph during the first observation because it took the UFO only seconds to complete a turn and disappear quickly toward the east. The next morning, he noticed a large number of dead fish along the river and heard what sounded like a multitude of crows in some trees. It was about this time that he saw the object again. The UFO came straight toward him, then completed a turn, rose straight up and disappeared after he had taken two more pictures.

Mr. Fournet's NICAP report stated that a local TV station had "submitted the photos to CBS for analysis. . ." and the network "reported that two different agencies had examined them and declared them to be 'authentic'. . ."

CASE BOOK

(Note: Case Book is a special feature which will report older UFO cases showing important patterns, correlations or other special features, for the record. Often we obtain full details of substantial cases months or years after they occur. They are no longer current "news," but they are important as evidence. When space permits, significant cases will be printed in future issues regardless of when they occurred).

Pilot Flies Near Saucer

A saucer-shaped UFO with a dome on top, "as clear as seeing a Cadillac drifting by," was observed in bright daylight May 21, 1966, by an experienced pilot and his passenger.

At 3:15 p.m. (EST), William Powell, a chief pilot for Sears Roebuck on the east coast was flying north-northwest at 4500 feet, three miles from the Willow Grove Naval Air Station near Philadelphia. Ahead of him were four Navy jets split into groups of two. While watching the jets, Powell noticed a solid, bright configuration at his 11 o'clock position, apparently at his altitude. The weather was excellent and the UFO stood out clearly.

Moving from left to right, the object approached one group of jets from the rear, then made a sharp turn and came directly toward Powell's plane at moderate speed. Passing within 300 feet, it was seen to be a reddish inverted saucer with a glistening white dome on top. Powell, who said he could detect no rotation or signs of exhaust, estimated the UFO's diameter at 20 feet. He heard no sound. The UFO suddenly disappeared after passing the plane.

Powell reported the incident to the Philadelphia NICAP Subcommittee.

GI's Observe Formation

On March 25, 1945, elements of the 6th Armored Division of the U.S. 44th Armored Infantry Battalion, moving north on the German Autobahn toward Darmstadt (just south of Frankfurt), witnessed a formation flight of UFOs. Not reaching Darmstadt that day, they were dug in south of the city on a wooded knoll east of and overlooking the Autobahn. The night was overcast but not foggy.

Late that evening, John Norris and several of his fellow soldiers noticed a group of six or seven bright yellow-orange circular objects approaching the Autobahn from the west at about 150 feet altitude. The men woke up their buddies, and the collection of about 30 troops watched the objects lose altitude and pass among the trees as close as 60 feet from the camp.

The objects seemed to follow the path but moved erratically on their own—forward, backward, upward, downward—"as if individually controlled." The light from the objects, although not glaring, was bright enough to cast shadows of the trees and illuminate the men who had climbed out of their foxholes.

The witnesses at first thought the UFOs were a strange kind of flare, but the light was not as strong or intense as a flare's light, and the objects moved on their own without the aid of wind. Each object was an estimated three or four feet in diameter and was traveling at about ten miles an hour or less without sound.

The objects moved further into the trees but were still fully visible at times. Finally, after five or six minutes of maneuvering in sight of the soldiers, the discs went out of view in the dense forest.

All the men were frightened by the UFOs and had either crouched in their foxholes or moved into the shadows of the trees. Norris said he had "the sensation of being peered at." The following morning, he checked the dimensions of the camp site and estimated the distance between the objects and the soldiers. All the men agreed on what they saw.

Mr. Norris reported the incident to the Chicago NICAP Affiliate.

"UFO EVIDENCE"

STILL AVAILABLE

ADVISOR HALSTEAD DIES

NICAP Special Adviser Frank A. Halstead, former curator of Darling Observatory, died on April 10. With his passing, NICAP and ufology have lost a dedicated champion whose long fight to bring UFOs to the attention of other scientists goes back two years before NICAP was formed.

As early as August, 1954, the Duluth astronomer made statements that pegged him as courageous in defending a subject that, during the time, most scientists considered unworthy of any serious consideration.

"In my mind there is no question that flying saucers are real. . .," he said in a newspaper interview. "They are from a solar system from another sun off in space."

He also indicated that at least part of the problem most people have in objectively looking at the phenomenon is due to a too tightly regimented way of thinking.

"People here on earth are inclined to judge conditions in the universe by conditions on earth," he stated. "This is entirely wrong."

In a voluminous correspondence with both NICAP Director Major Donald E. Keyhoe and Assistant Director Richard Hall, he stated that he knew of several prominent astronomers who have made sightings and who believed that UFOs come "from some far off solar system." Halstead himself made two UFO sightings in the mid-1950s. Many planets, he said, "must be inhabited by beings more advanced in intelligence than people on our earth."

In a 1959 article entitled "An Astronomer Looks at UFOs," NICAP Board member Frank Edwards quotes Halstead as saying: "I believe now and have long believed that the existence of intelligent creatures on other worlds is almost a certainty. . . If we are willing to accept our own thesis that similar conditions. . . produce similar results—then we must accept that a very great number of the suns in our own galaxy are surrounded by planets which are identical or very similar to those in our own little solar system. . . I feel that we have had visitors from space—just as I feel that in the universe we are not alone. Through the years I have discussed this prospect with many of my fellow astronomers and almost without exception their convictions were identical to my own. . . I can't imagine how the public can be misled by the ridiculous 'explanations' offered to them from official sources as to the real nature of these objects [UFOs] reported by credible and competent witnesses. . . The official policy of ridiculing credible witnesses is a deplorable thing. . . The time is long overdue for accepting the presence of these things, whatever they are, and dealing with them and the public on a basis of realism. . ."

Both NICAP and other serious groups and individuals interested in the study of UFOs will greatly feel the loss of this scientist, who risked ridicule for years in honestly speaking out on a subject he felt to be of extreme importance.

Driver Shocked, Paralyzed

A UFO that hovered over a cemetery, immobilized one of the witnesses, and caused the lights, radio and engine of his car to cease functioning was seen at Leominster, Massachusetts, at 1:05 a.m., March 8.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace were out observing the snow-covered landscape after a storm when they saw a large white light hovering and swaying gently over St. Leo's Cemetery.

"I . . . got excited . . ." Mr. Wallace said in his report to NICAP's Massachusetts Subcommittee. "I came to a halt, got out of my car . . . Upon getting out, I pointed at the object. My car stalled; lights went out and radio stopped playing. I was unable to move; my wife was in panic . . ."

The witness said he stood frozen to the spot for more than half a minute before the UFO moved away, gradually gaining speed and emitting a humming sound.

Wallace also said he felt an electric shock and his "reactions were slow and sluggish" for some time after the encounter. It wasn't until 15 or 20 minutes following the sighting that he was "able to move right, with good coordination." His car, however, functioned perfectly after the UFO left the scene.

UFO Responds To Light

UFOs with antennae that responded to light signals and traveled at high speeds were seen by numerous witnesses in the Shamokin, Pa. area over the last few months. Pennsylvania Unit 4 Subcommittee Chairman George B. Cook and members James W. Galasso, Jr., L. David Harris reporter for the Harrisburg Evening News, and John H. Castner, commercial artist, investigated the sightings and submitted a detailed report to NICAP.

The Subcommittee reported that James A. Krebs, of Shamokin, and his family saw a bright light at 400 or 500 feet altitude at 6 p.m., January 18. Mr. Krebs observed the UFO through binoculars.

"The object was about two miles northeast along the mountain top traveling very slow," Krebs said. "I could see two bright pinkish white lights spaced about eight feet from each other shining downward at about a 45° angle. The object . . . appeared to be completely round, showing no wings. . ."

The witness said that, as the UFO approached closer to his home, he could see a "light colored antenna protruding upward on a slant on the rear. . ." A bright red light was observed at the tip of the antenna. At a distance of about four blocks from the house, the object turned to the west, then "took off straight up. . . at a tremendous rate of speed."

"At about 20 to 30 thousand feet," Krebs concluded, "the object stopped where a bright light was shining in the sky. Both the object and the bright light took off together side by side at a fantastic speed heading. . . westward."

Twenty-four hours later, a UFO was seen again over Shamokin at approximately the same altitude. Mr. and Mrs. Belford Ensinger, their two daughters, Bonnie and Tina, and a friend, Debbie Clark, saw two objects heading west. One of the UFOs "veered off toward their home then back on course with the other object. . ." The witnesses reported seeing red and green blinking lights across the front of one of the UFOs, which had "a halo of bright light around the rim." Two antennae were seen on top.

About 45 minutes later, Rev. Elwood L. Heiser, pastor of the Ash Grove and Clarks Valley Evangelical United Brethren Churches, and also his son saw the same or a similar UFO one mile down the Shamokin Valley from the Ensinger residence. When Rev. Heiser tried to chase the object in his car the UFO flew directly over the vehicle. The witness said two antennae were visible from the top, but near the rear of the UFO.

Around March 9, Forrest Kerstetter, a bank treasurer in Shamokin, and his wife saw an "enormous row of lights which eventually took on a round shape" approach their car from the west. As the witnesses got closer, they saw that the object was hovering just over a mountain treeline.

"We drove the car up the mountain. . . and stopped," Mr. Kerstetter said in an interview with David Harris. "We watched it a full 10 minutes. Its row of lights were flashing like a theater marquee and then they flashed from side to side and at random—all a brilliant white color with an orange glow. Underneath the huge lights, there was another light moving crazily.

"I got out of the car with a spotlight and flashed some signals to it—three shorts and a long. Immediately the row of lights went out and the huge lower light flashed back the same signal to me. . . five or six times. Then all the other lights turned out, and about 200 feet away there was a red pulsating light. When traffic came up the road, it went off and we saw nothing after that."

Fry Not Founder Member

Mr. Daniel Fry, whose associate membership in NICAP was recently revoked, is now circulating two documents attempting to prove that he was a "founding member." (Fry claims that he flew aboard a "flying saucer," and has since headed a metaphysical study group with goals and purposes entirely different from NICAP. His claims of a special relationship with NICAP were the prime reason for revocation of membership).

The two documents are: a copy of his application for founding membership, and a letter from Mrs. Rose Hackett Campbell, former NICAP office secretary, in which she told Fry he was a "founding member."

The application form submitted by Fry shows clearly that the deadline date for receiving founder memberships was well past

when he filled out the form. Sending him a "founder membership" was therefore unwarranted and unauthorized. Secondly, when Major Keyhoe assumed direction of NICAP a few months later he asked Mrs. Campbell to give him a complete list of all founding members. Mr. Fry's name was never mentioned, and Major Keyhoe was entirely unaware of the action by Mrs. Campbell.

Mr. Fry is therefore not entitled to refer to himself as a "founding member" of NICAP on any basis whatsoever.

Influential Groups Discuss UFOs

A four day Design Engineering Show concurrent with a conference of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) is being held at the New York Coliseum May 15-18. (Last year over 5400 engineers and executives attended the conference). A two hour session (No. 10) on UFOs will be held beginning at 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 15. George W. Earley, President of the Connecticut NICAP Affiliate, will deliver a talk on "An Historical Perspective." The second part of the session will concern, "Evaluating Extreme Movements of UFOs and Postulating an Explanation of Effect of Forces on Their Maneuverability."

Slated for September 4 in Washington, D.C. is an American Psychological Association (APA) Symposium on "Problems and Methods of Gathering Data on UFOs." Sponsored by the Industrial Psychologists section, the meeting will focus on an analysis of the current state of UFO investigation. Panelists include Richard Hall, NICAP Assistant Director; Gustave J. Rath, Northwestern University engineering professor; Jacques Vallee, Northwestern Dearborn Observatory; R. Leo Sprinkle, University of Wyoming psychologist; and Harold Greenwald, National Psychological Association of Psychoanalysis.

Air Force Issues Warning

In the USAF Information Program Bulletin, Vol. XIV, No. 4 (February 15, 1967), Air Force Information Officers are instructed to call the attention of all UFO Investigation Officers to the following item:

"Information, not verifiable, has reached headquarters USAF that persons claiming to represent the Air Force or other Defense establishments have contacted citizens who have sighted unidentified flying objects. In one reported case, an individual in civilian clothes, who represented himself as a member of NORAD, demanded and received photos belonging to a private citizen. In another, a person in an Air Force uniform approached local police and other citizens who had sighted a UFO, assembled them in a schoolroom and told them that they did not see what they thought they saw and that they should not talk to anyone about the sighting. UFO investigating officers who hear of such reports should immediately notify their local OSI [Office of Special Investigations] offices."

The first incident referred to was the August 1965 case of photographs taken by Highway Investigator Rex Heflin. The second occurred during the 1966 sightings near the Wanaque, N.J., reservoir.

NICAP members should be suspicious of visitors claiming to represent any government agency, and should do three things in the event of such a visit. First, ask to see the man's credentials, and read them carefully; do not be satisfied to have a card flashed in front of you. Second, copy down the information on the credentials in full. Third, verify the credentials by telephoning the visitor's headquarters. If he refuses to let you carry out these checks, you should refuse to give him any information or documents.

MEMBERSHIP CARD ENCLOSED

Members receiving this issue by addressograph mailing will find their membership cards enclosed. For some, it will be a duplicate because of the mass mailing. If you have two, please keep the card showing your subscription period and destroy the other. We have begun sending cards individually to members when they first join, and at the time they renew rather than once a year to the entire membership. Transition to the new system is not complete, so one last mass mailing was necessary to assure that all members received cards.