THE U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena

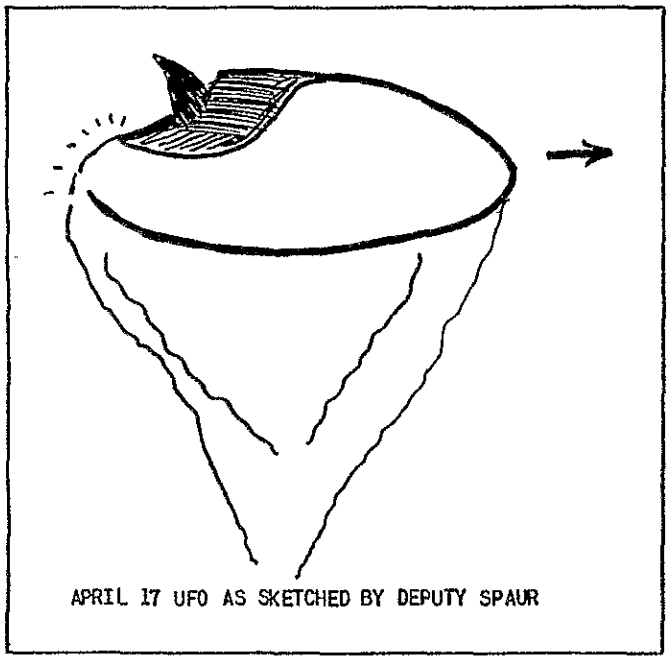
Vol. III, No. 7 March-April, 1966

POLICE CHASE LOW FLYING UFO

A series of incredible close-range UFO sightings during March and April has been reported by pilots, police officers, doctors, lawyers, and many others, continuing the intensified pattern of low-level operations which began last July. Statistical study of 27 sample cases between March 11 and April 18 reveals distinct patterns of appearance and behavior.

One of the clearest and best-witnessed cases began around dawn, April 17, when Portage County, Ohio, sheriffs Dale Spaur and W.L. Neff investigated citizens' reports of a UFO in the area of Ravenna. They quickly noticed a light hovering over a hill and stood watching it. The UFO suddenly moved directly toward them, illuminating the ground brightly, sending them fleeing to their patrol car for cover. As they radioed headquarters, the object — now seen as a distinct disclike object with a curved antenna-like projection on top — began moving away from them down the highway.

On instructions from the dispatcher, Spaur and Neff began following the object. The underside glowed bright blue-white; the top was a dark color. As they sped eastward in pursuit of the UFO at speeds up to 100 m.p.h., it repeatedly pulled out of sight. Then the sheriffs would encounter it again, hovering near the highway as if waiting for them. In the sunlight, the UFO appeared to have a metallic surface.



APRIL 17 UFO AS SKETCHED BY DEPUTY SPAUR

The chase continued for 85 miles, from Ravenna across the Pennsylvania border to the vicinity of Conway, as officers of other police departments along the way joined in. There were reports that jets were scrambled from an Air Force Reserve squadron in Ohio, and that radar had detected the UFO. (Both the Air Force and FAA later denied the radar report.)

William Weitzel, chairman of the Pittsburgh NICAP Subcommittee, drove to Ravenna the following day and interviewed the witnesses. A widely circulated report that a police chief had obtained a clear photograph of the UFO proved to be erroneous. The chief was not involved in the chase, saw only a distant light — possibly Venus — which he attempted to photograph. The print, viewed by Weitzel, shows two small arcs of light which could be accounted for in many ways. Copies have been obtained for further analysis.

On April 23 the Air Force released a statement attributing the sighting to a satellite, and a later confusion with Venus shining brightly in the SE sky. In a statement taped by Mr. Weitzel, Deputy Spaur said "I don't know how much investigation they made, but evidently it wasn't a very lengthy one or it didn't involve me." An AF Major, he said, had telephoned him twice talking with him for a total of about 4 minutes. "If it's ours, tell me it's ours," Spaur said, "and if it isn't, by God, they ought to help us find out what it is." No satellite would fly that low, he added, and he wasn't "quite that bad off" that he would be chasing Venus and "running wildly over the countryside."

The testimony most damaging to the USAF explanation came from East Palestine, Ohio, police officer Wayne Huston, situated near the Pennsylvania border. Huston had picked up the radio transmissions of the Portage County sheriffs and waited at an intersection that they would soon be passing. Shortly afterwards, he clearly saw the UFO pass by quickly followed by the sheriffs' cruiser. The UFO was shaped like a flattened cone, with the point of the cone downward. Officer Huston immediately joined the chase.

Mr. Weitzel also got reports that police had overheard radio transmissions from one of several pilots chasing the UFO, to the effect that the pilot had maneuvered directly above the object and estimated its size as 45 feet across. If this report can be verified, full details including the text of the transmission will be printed in the next issue.

On May 10, three weeks after the sighting, the Air Force first sent an investigator to the scene. Major Hector Quintanilla, chief of Project Blue Book, was ordered to re-investigate the case after strong protests to the Air Force by a Congressman and a judge who formerly was Congressman in the same district.

Calling the USAF satellite-Venus explanation "ridiculous," Common Pleas Court Judge Robert E. Cook wrote to Congressman William Stanton urging him to insist on a full investigation and reevaluation. "The Air Force has suffered a great loss of prestige in this community," Cook told Stanton. "People are not swallowing this explanation about Venus. . .(it) doesn't have form and an antenna. . .hover 100 feet off the ground and cast a bright light. . ."

Congressman Stanton responded with a statement May 5 saying "The Air Force failed in its responsibility in thoroughly investigating this incident. . .Once people entrusted with the public welfare no longer think the people can handle the truth, then the people, in turn, will no longer trust the government."

According to private sources, Stanton personally visited Lt. Col. John Spaulding in the Pentagon, who in turn set the wheels in motion which resulted in the belated visit to the scene to interview witnesses first-hand. Major Quintanilla's investigation, observed by a NICAP representative, again failed to include the significant elements of the officers' reports. After a few hours, Quintanilla stated he was still satisfied with his original explanation, and left.

Since NICAP membership, renewal, and "The UFO Evidence" Report are each $5.00, please indicate on your checks or in a covering letter the purpose of your payment. We have received several $5.00 checks with no explanation: They could be intended for any of the above, or a donation.

THE **UFO INVESTIGATOR**
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AN OPEN MIND?

The recent discussion of UFOs on the "Open Mind" TV show, referred to in the previous UFO Investigator, contained this very pointed and revealing exchange between Saturday Review/*Look* writer *John* Fuller and astronomer Dr. Donald Menzel, who were debating the Exeter, N.H., case of Sept., 1965:

MENZEL: "It so happens that Mr. Hynek and I are about the only astronomers who have devoted any time to (UFOs) and I think probably we have maybe devoted too much time to it from the astronomical standpoint, because I think it has very little to do with astronomy. It has a lot to do with physiological optics, *meteorological optics,* and probably also psychology, but the . . . you keep talking about this distance of a hundred feet (from the witnesses to the object). This to me does not sound at all well established . . . ."

FULLER: "Less than a hundred feet."

MENZEL: "Or even less than a hundred feet. This is only a conclusion of the observer, and at that distance, looking up, I have seen observers, many well trained observers who are not hysterical to start with, as apparently these two observers were . . ."

FULLER: "I think you should not say that. I don't think you should say that. You are making an absolutely unfounded and unsubstantiated statement. You said these two observers . . . ." (comment by moderator) "Well, in defense of the two policemen and the three other people who saw it that night, I think that is an indefensible statement to make without talking to them."

MENZEL: "Will you please let me finish?"

FULLER: "Yes."

MENZEL: "I would like to finish and say that it is impossible for anyone, you or the most qualified observer, to estimate distances looking straight up beyond a hundred — at the order of a hundred feet. Now, one observer says that it was a hundred feet and the other said 9,000 feet.

FULLER: "Sir, you did not check that, I did. He did not say 9,000 feet."

MENZEL: "Didn't it hover in front of the trees?"

FULLER: "It came up from behind the trees and then came over the trees."

MENZEL: "Was it in front of a background which would establish its distance? If it's in the sky, you can't establish it."

FULLER: "No. It was behind at first, and then it moved and it almost touched the rooftops." (comments by Dr. Hynek and the moderator who asked Dr. Menzel why he referred to the witnesses as hysterical.)

MENZEL: "It was certainly clear from the whole picture that the man was frightened — frightened to death and he became hysterical."

FULLER: "Which man?"

MENZEL: "The original man who saw the . . ."

FULLER: "What was his name?"

MENZEL: "I'm sorry; I don't know his name."

FULLER: "How old was he?"

MENZEL: "I was referring to the question of hallucination of a camera, and then you start giving me an inquisition. Now, will you shut up?"

NEW SCIENTIFIC ADVISER

Another well-qualified professional scientist has agreed to serve on the Panel of Special Advisers. Leon B. Katchen, a physicist specializing in upper atmospheric research, at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, assisted in the investigation of the *Wanaque, N.J. sightings in January,* and has made personal visits to west coast Subcommittees on behalf of NICAP. In his professional work, he has directed firings of upper atmospheric sounding rockets at Wallops Island, Va.; Fort Churchill, Manitoba; and Point Barrow, Alaska. He has been a NICAP member for five years, periodically doing volunteer work at headquarters. Mr. Katchen is working toward a PhD in Space Science at Catholic *University. He holds an* M.S. degree in Physics from George Washington University.

You Can Help Us Get The Evidence

To evaluate the new UFO phase, we need all the verified eviddence we can get. We need the help of members in all 50 States and abroad, in building a larger *reporting network.*

If you hear of a sighting in your area, please try to get personal reports from witnesses as soon as possible. Ask witnesses to sign their reports; you can mark the statements "Names confidential," if they insist. Also please send us news clips and details of UFO sighting broadcasts, in addition to witnesses' personal reports.

If you yourself sight a *UFO, please write or phone us as quickly* as possible. Give us the main points; we will send you a sighting report form for the complete story.

Your careful reporting will help us screen out honest mistakes and proven frauds, and you will be playing an important part in the UFO investigation.

New NICAP Subcommittees (investigation units) have been formed in Buffalo (N.Y. No. 3); Poughkeepsie (N.Y. No. 4); Grove City (Pa. No. 2); and Chattanooga (Tenn. No. 1). Biographies will be included in a later issue.

Washington, D.C. Members

A stenographer-typist is needed to help with the headquarters correspondence. If you have these skills and can donate 4-5 hours a week, please phone NO 7-9434. We also need one file clerk who can volunteer 4 hours a week on a regular schedule.

In laying out the *March-April issue, we attempted* to include all the recent significant sightings and new developments. When we found this impossible, we decided to publish the May-June issue a little early, printing and mailing it with III-7 (March-April) so that between them all the important material could be published in full. We plan to publish Vol. III, No. 9, in July.

CLOSE-RANGE SIGHTINGS INCREASE

Early on the morning of March 31, Jeno Udvardy, a 1956 Hungarian refugee, was driving home from a late work shift near Vicksburg, Michigan. Upon topping a rise in the road, he saw a cluster of lights on the highway ahead. Thinking it was an ambulance at an accident, Udvardy slowed and approached cautiously. Not until he was within about 10 feet did he realize that the lights were on a disc-shaped object hovering a few feet above the road and blocking his passage.

A brilliant white light on the extreme left of the device cast a blinding glare. About in the center was a small blinking red light, to the right a green blinking light. The powerful white light concealed details of the upper surface, but centrally above the object was a purplish blinking light.

Suddenly frightened, Udvardy threw the car in reverse and started to back up. At that moment his car was buffeted violently as if by strong gusts of wind, which lasted only briefly. Then he saw what he first thought was another object hovering a little higher behind his car. But a quick glance ahead showed the first object was no longer there; apparently it had darted overhead and taken a new position. The same pattern of lights was visible on the object behind him.

Then Udvardy noticed that his motor had stalled. Helplessly, he rolled down his window and looked out. For the first time, he heard a low humming sound like a swarm of bees. Moments later, the UFO rose abruptly and sped off at a steep angle, disappearing in the eastern sky.

The whole incident probably had lasted less than a minute. For many minutes he sat in the car regaining his composure. Then he drove home and reported the experience to the Kalamazoo Sheriff's office. Udvardy was interrogated for NICAP by Dr. Gordon Sayer (industrial chemist), a NICAP member.

Similar patterns of body lights were reported in most of the other 27 cases, with red or red-orange, green and blue-purple the predominating colors. The objects were described as silvery in the daylight sightings. Sound was reported in 10 cases; with 3 exceptions, the witnesses described a humming or buzzing noise.

A disc with domed top, and red and white flashing lights, swooped down in front of a car in Southport, Conn., March 14, taking off quickly as the car almost ran into it. The incident was investigated by John Fuller, Saturday Review columnist, who considers it authentic.

On March 23 in Bangor, Maine, a man reported firing a .22 magnum pistol at a UFO hovering low just off the highway. John T. King noticed some strange lights off the road while driving home and stopped to investigate. He saw an elliptical object with dome-like projection on top apparently resting on the ground. The object had a centered yellow-orange light, a bluish light on the right, and white light on the left. The body "was a yellowish color and I could distinctly see some sort of metalwork in small ribbed form on this thing," King told NICAP. He reached in the car for his pistol, and stood watching. When the object began moving from side to side, then toward him "like a tank," audibly scraping through the underbrush, King accidentally fired. Nothing happened. As the object moved closer, the car lights dimmed and the radio stopped playing.

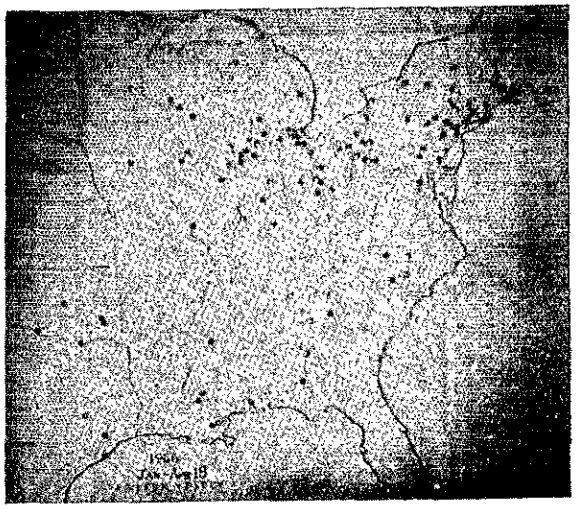
The UFO then hovered just over a large puddle about 50 feet away, rotating lights or windows visible on the underside. King fired again, but there was no visible reaction. A slight humming "electrical sound" came from the object.

When King fired a third round, the object glowed brightly and took off "at a tremendous rate of speed." At this point, King heard a zinging sound like "a recoil from a sping." Admittedly "very shaken up," he immediately reported the incident to Bangor police.

The textured surface of the UFO, and the sound it made on departure, closely resemble the description given by the Mannor's in Dexter, Michigan (see Swamp Gas story). Witnesses in the 27 sample cases described oval or elliptical objects in 14 cases, domes on top in 4 cases. There were 4 reports of discs, 1 with a domed top. Most of the other witnesses described torpedo-shaped or top-like objects. Electro-magnetic (E-M) effects similar to that described by King were reported in 5 other cases.

Another interesting pattern, first noted by John Fuller during his investigations of sightings around Exeter, N.H. last fall, showed up in 7 cases of UFOs hovering near or maneuvering around power lines and radio towers.

Between 9:00 and 11:30 p.m. March 30, witnesses near E. Hampton, L.I., reported objects maneuvering close to the ground. A family reported odd electrical effects — radio and TV interference, sparks jumping around on power lines — interspaced between sightings of lights in the sky, near a radio tower, and a beam of light directed downward onto a utility pole at one point. Domestic animals in the vicinity were agitated during the sightings. About an hour later, a separate witness independently reported that his 1965 truck motor, lights and radio suddenly went dead while he was driving on Route 27 opposite two large radio towers. Shortly afterwards, he saw a UFO rising from behind some sand dunes. The object changed direction several times, and when it passed overhead revealed a torpedo shape with a brilliant white light on the nose. The reports were investigated by the N.Y Subcommittee; detailed accounts on file.



Sightings Concentration in Northeast, U.S.

Portholes or lights spaced around the rims of UFOs were reported in 9 cases. A Franklin, N.J. radio station owner, April 3, watched a huge UFO with three "portholes" in the side hover near his station's tower. Discs with flickering lights around the edges, hovering, then streaking away, were sighted from a Key West, Florida, outdoor theater, March 22. In a case investigated by the New Hampshire Subcommittee, a nurse's aide reported seeing a football shaped UFO in Eliot, Maine, March 29, hovering very close to power lines. Its surface was "like crumpled aluminum foil," and it had 5-6 "portholes" emitting bright white light. In the same location, March 16, a family saw a red ball of light, with adjacent small red light that blinked in unison with a high-pitched "beeping" sound. Dogs in the neighborhood barked and howled while the UFO was present.

An oval UFO reportedly hovered near Freeport, Texas, March 19/20, visible from the Coast Guard Cutter "Legare." While the UFO was present, house lights on shore blinked on and off rapidly. About two hours earlier, the town of Freeport experienced an extensive power failure. The report is under investigation.

Exeter, N.H. police officers again observed an egg-shaped UFO March 20/21, swaying with a pendulum motion as it hovered over power lines. Flashing colored lights pulsated around the center of the object. Through binoculars, the police saw a dome-like area on top. This, and several other recent cases, investigated by the Massachusetts Subcommittee.

Similar reports have persisted in the midwest states, including Michigan; also in Massachusetts and on Long Island. NICAP Subcommittees, Affiliates and specially authorized members are continuing investigations. Many have already filed invaluable detailed reports.

NICAP NATIONWIDE PUBLICITY

Since the last issue, a flood of national publicity mentioning NICAP's investigation and solid evidence has tripled our mail. (One record day brought over 2100 letters.) Highlights include:

Coverage of the NICAP press conference on March 28 by hundreds of newspapers using AP, UPI, or separate stories; by the CBS-TV network, NBC and Mutual radio networks, and numerous follow-ups by separate broadcasts and press interviews.

The director's appearance on "To Tell The Truth," on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation network, lectures and broadcasts at Pittsburgh and at Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (sponsored by IBM) and taped programs.

Assistant Director Hall's Chicago press conference with all the local papers, broadcasts on NBC-News, the three-hour Jerry Williams program and other Chicago broadcasts; interviews aired on Time-Life stations, and numerous programs broadcast from Washington.

Other talks and broadcasts by Board Member Frank Edwards, staff members Gordon Lore and Don Berliner, and scores of programs around the country by NICAP subcommittee and affiliate members.

Magazines: READER'S DIGEST reprint of the John G. Fuller LOOK article on Exeter. The May 15 issue of THIS WEEK, with serious material furnished by NICAP to offset humorous and wild contactee stories from broadcaster Long John Nebel.

News features: Roscoe Drummond columns (see separate story) and UFO-situation report by Christian Science Monitor.

Future items: A Saturday Evening Post "Speaking Out" editorial by Roscoe Drummond, crediting NICAP's investigation and opposing unnecessary secrecy. A PAGEANT article in July; a SAGA article out in August; books by Frank Edwards, "Flying Saucers—Serious Business," and John Fuller, "Incident at Exeter," and various talks and broadcasts by NICAP officials, including a July 10 lecture by the director for Pacific Science Center, Seattle, Wash., arranged through the Seattle NICAP Subcommittee.

Most of the publicity has been favorable, but the officials carrying out secrecy orders are fighting to regain lost ground. The May 10 CBS so-called "Documentary" is an example—95% pro-AF and general debunking. CBS omitted all the strong NICAP-documented cases it filmed at the press conference, also ignored our offer of other indisputable evidence.

There are no signs that the majority of now-favorable press and broadcasters will revert to a skeptical attitude. But to make sure this does not happen, we need the full support of every NICAP member.

Please help us in any way you can to publicize the UFO evidence and end the suppression of facts.

NICAP URGES PROBE AT PRESS CONFERENCE

March 28, 1966 Press Release:

The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) today urged the Government to establish a nationwide tracking network and make public the recorded UFO speeds, shapes and maneuvers.

NICAP also urged an end to official secrecy, and fully backed the demand for a Congressional investigation by Rep. Gerald Ford (R., Mich.).

According to the Air Force, NICAP stated, over 200 military and airline pilots who have reported UFO encounters, are incompetent or deluded. In the same way, NICAP said at a Washington press conference, hundreds of military and FAA traffic controllers and radarmen, rocket and missile trackers have been ridiculed. In addition, thousands of other competent citizens—lawyers, doctors, corporation heads, editors, reporters, newscasters—have been openly belittled after making UFO sightings public.

The new wave has spread to Colorado, Maryland, Georgia and other states. Near Albany, N.Y., a low-flying UFO was reported to have chased a car.

Near Ann Arbor, Mich., a disc-shaped UFO, estimated at 30 feet in diameter, 6 feet thick, was reported on March 26 by William Kartlick, a Research Associate at the University of Michigan working on a NASA project; Robert Amick, electronics technician, and Emile Grenier, a Ford Motor Co. electrical engineer. Grenier said the UFO emitted a brilliant red light. After several maneuvers, it descended to about 10 feet and flew parallel with a road for several moments.

That the Blinded May See



Over 8,000 UFO sightings are on record at NICAP, including verified reports by hundreds of veteran pilots, astronomers, tower operators and other qualified observers in the U.S. and abroad. These include detailed daytime encounters with disc-shaped objects, maneuvering singly or in formations, at speeds far surpassing any known aircraft or missile operating in our atmosphere. Evaluation by NICAP has shown definite shapes, patterns and maneuvers, indicating that the unknown objects are operating under intelligent control.

Some of these encounters, especially recent close approaches and "touch landings" have been at extremely close range.

"Either all these witnesses are mistaken or deluded," states NICAP, "or else the UFOs reported by competent observers are real, and the facts are being officially denied and concealed."

NICAP emphasizes it is not attacking USAF UFO spokesmen. "We realize they are under strict orders to explain away sightings and deny that UFOs exist, even though some of the attempted explanations seem ridiculous."

"Dangers from official secrecy are increasing," says NICAP. "Several times, airline captains have had to maneuver violently to avoid collisions with UFOs, resulting in passenger injuries. There is a growing risk of accidental war from mistaking UFO formations for a secret enemy attack."

SWAMP GAS ANSWER DISPROVED

The swamp gas explanation announced by the Air Force's chief UFO consultant, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, for the sightings at Dexter and Hillsdale, Michigan, March 20 and 21 contradicts what was observed by many police officers, a Civil Defense Director and other witnesses. This "official explanation" came after the Northwestern University astro-physicist spent a few days in the Dexter-Hillsdale area interviewing a small sample of the witnesses.

In spite of a carefully worded statement by Dr. Hynek applying this to only two of dozens of sightings, the press generally took it to be a blanket explanation. This brought protests and strong rebuttals from many of the witnesses.

According to a Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department report, a car was dispatched March 20 at 8:30 p.m. to investigate a reported UFO, observed in a Dexter swamp area by Frank Mannor and his son Ronald. When Deputies McFadden and Fitzpatrick arrived on the scene, they were advised that a UFO was presently in the swamp area. "Complaintant [Bob Wagner] further related that the object had been observed to rise to an altitude of approximately 500 feet, and then to return to the ground . . . lights were observed on the object . . . turned from blue-green to a brilliant red to a yellow in coloring." The Mannors were in the swamp area searching for the object.

The Deputies drove to another vantage point, then proceeded into some woods to locate the edge of the swamp and the object, if possible. While in the woods, they observed "a brilliant light . . . upon approaching [it], the light dimmed in brilliance." A few minutes later, they again saw a brilliant light flare up, then disappear. When McFadden and Fitzpatrick returned to the patrol car after a fruitless search, a crowd that had gathered to watch "informed that one of the objects had been hovering directly over the area where our flashlight beams had been seen, and had then departed in a west direction of flight, at high rate of speed."

The Deputies then located the Mannors and interrogated them. At one point, the Mannors said, "the object became illuminated from a brilliant source of light, which flowed horizontal between the two small lights . . . . The light from the object intensified, then went out, and a whistle similar to the sound of a rifle bullet ricochet was heard, and the object passed directly over the Mannors in just an instant."

Frank and Ronald Mannors gave this description to the officers: "Object was observed to be of a brown coloring, appearing to be quilted type outside surface. Object appeared to be flat upon the bottom, and cone shaped toward the top . . . . Two small lights appeared to be at the outer edges of the object . . . bluish-green light, and intensifying to a brilliant red in color. When the vehicle or object illuminated, the lighting was a yellow-white in color . . . . Outer body appeared to be rough in texture."

Police Confirm UFO

"Shortly after the UFO was departed from the scene," the report continues, "Chelsea Police Department reported sighting a similar object over the Village of Chelsea, hovering, and then departing at high rate of speed in a westerly direction."

On March 21, Hillsdale County Civil Defense Director, William Van Horn, was called to the scene when over 80 coeds at Hillsdale College saw lights maneuvering above a nearby arboretum, beyond which was a swamp. He, too, observed the lights. Unlike the Dexter area sightings, there were few clear-cut sightings of objects. Most saw only distant lights. However, two of the girls, Barbara Kohn and Cynthia Poffenberger, who first made a sighting, reported seeing an oval object illuminated by lightning. They said the object wobbled, veered over near the dormitory, then retreated into the swamp area where others saw hovering and moving lights later.

As often happens during waves of UFO sightings, valid reports touch off honest but erroneous reports. This may have been a contributing factor in Dexter and Hillsdale, but many of the observations appear to be of authentic UFOs.

False AVRO Answer Repeated

The Avro disc, an experimental "flying saucer" which was an admitted failure years ago, is once more being publicized by the Department of Defense (DOD) in an apparent attempt to link it with UFO reports. On April 4, one day before the House Armed Services Committee hearings on UFOs, a 1960 photo of the "Avrocar" was re-released by the Pentagon. In spite of an accompanying story about its failure to fly, the impression was left with the casual reader that the Air Force may have developed some secret disc craft that could account for the recent wave of UFO sightings.

Aside from the fact that a secret device would not be tested in air lanes, over populated areas, and over foreign countries, the Avro project was scrapped more than five years ago. For the benefit of new members and to offset any false impressions created by the photograph, here are the facts (first reported in Vol. II, No. 10, December 1963) about a machine now mounted on a pedestal in front of the Army Transportation Corps School at Ft. Monroe, Virginia:

The VZ-9V was built by Avro of Canada, financed by the U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy. Two models were built, neither of which flew aerodynamically. NASA Technical Note D-1432 (a detailed study, including wind-tunnel tests) makes it clear the machine was a failure, seriously underpowered and lacking stability. The Air Force and Navy pulled out of the project, and after efforts to salvage it as a Ground Effect Machine (with flight a few inches above the ground), a negative Army evaluation report ended the project.

SWAMP GAS

Swamp (or marsh) gas consists of combustible methane, carbon dioxide and nitrogen resulting from decaying vegetable matter in marshy areas. It can produce lights known as "will-o-the-wisp." According to M. Minnaert, in his definitive work on visible phenomena, "The Nature of Light and Colour in the Open Air," will-o-the-wisp occurs "more during summer and on rainy, warm autumn nights than during cold seasons. They resemble tiny flames, about 1/2 inch to 5 inches high and not more than two inches broad. Sometimes they are right on the ground, at other times they float about 4 inches above it. That they dance about is apparently not true . . . occasionally they are blown along by the wind a few feet before they become extinguished."

Other scientists have directly challenged the marsh gas explanation. California Institute of Technology scientist, Dr. Albert Hibbs, a recent guest on the Johnny Carson show on NBC-TV, was asked whether he accepted this explanation. The host of the NBC-TV "Exploring" series responded with an emphatic "No." The characteristics of marsh gas, he said, "do not accord with what was reported."

A Michigan chemical engineer of 23 years' experience, John F. Sullivan, told the Royal Oak Tribune [March 26] that methane would not rise high into the air, perform maneuvers, hover and fly away at high speeds; nor would it burn for more than a few minutes. "It would have the same appearance as a torch," he said. "Nobody would mistake it for a fire." Sullivan said he could see only three explanations for Dr. Hynek's statement: (1) he doesn't know much about marsh gas; (2) he is not telling the truth; (3) his credentials are no good.

Several sightings before March 20 in the same area of Michigan described typical UFOs. On March 14 in Dexter, Deputy Sheriffs B. Bushroe and J. Foster sighted disc-shaped objects maneuvering in the sky about 3:50 a.m. By 4:10 a.m., three other police agencies had reported similar sightings. At 4:56 a.m., Selfridge AFB confirmed that UFOs were being tracked over Lake Erie.

The officers described more than one "disc . . . red and green, moving in a north-west direction." At 4:20 a.m., Bushroe and Foster saw four of the UFOs "flying in a line formation." In filing an official report, Bushroe said: "This is the strangest thing that Deputy Foster and myself have ever witnessed . . . . These objects could move at fantastic speeds, and make very sharp turns, dive and climb, and hover, with great maneuverability."

NICAP Position Paper

GOALS, AIMS, PROGRAM: The basic NICAP goals are to gather, evaluate and disseminate reliable information about UFOs, and ultimately to bring about a full scientific investigation, making use of instruments and the full resources of the scientific community.

To achieve the goal of scientific investigation, NICAP has:

(a) Established field investigation units and Affiliates across the country;

(b) Obtained the volunteer services of scientists and other qualified specialists to assist in investigations and evaluations in the U.S. and foreign countries;

(c) Made materials available to Congress and the press;

(d) Urged a Congressional inquiry;

(e) Published our findings and evidence in the "UFO Evidence", a documentary report of over 200,000 words.

Interplanetary UFOs — The idea that UFOs may be extraterrestrial in origin is considered a reasonable hypothesis worthy of the most urgent consideration. Furthermore, it is the opinion of many individuals associated with NICAP that this is the most likely explanation of UFOs. However, all theories have been and will continue to be carefully considered.

All UFOs — There is no doubt that many sincere persons are deceived by conventional objects such as large research balloons, fireballs and bright planets. But hundreds of extremely well-qualified observers have reported unknown objects, flying singly or in formations, and maneuvering under intelligent control, which no conventional answers can explain. These "unknowns" (USAF term) show definite patterns of appearance and performance. The observers on record include pilots of all the Armed Services and all major airlines, FAA and military control tower operators and radarmen, missile and rocket trackers, government and civilian scientists and engineers, and similarly competent and reliable witnesses in many foreign countries.

The USAF and Project Blue Book — Our opinion that the U.S. Air Force has practiced excessive secrecy and has withheld significant UFO facts from the public is confirmed by members of the USAF (reserve or retired) on NICAP's Board of Governors and Panel of Technical Advisors. We have also documented the secrecy during our nine years of investigating and evaluating UFO reports. But our criticism is directed at the official secrecy policy, which may be set at a higher level. We realize that Project Blue Book and USAF HQ spokesmen are under orders to explain away UFO sightings and deny UFO reality.

Contactees — We have investigated numerous claims of individuals who say they have taken trips in spaceships with noble beings from other planets. We have not found a single bit of evidence to back up any of these claims, but we have found frequent evidences of fraud. Because of their circus-like performances, they often have received excessive publicity, and their sensational statements tend to cover up serious facts and substantial reports from reputable persons.

With this bulletin, many of you will have received six issues. Please renew now without waiting for a notice.

On March 17, Deputies David Fitzpatrick and Nuel Schneider observed four UFOs above Milan, Michigan. The objects were shaped "like a child's top, oval in shape, with triangular shape of light on bottom. Dark areas were observed. "They alternately hovered and moved at very high speed.

In their report to NICAP, the officers stated that objects 1 and 2 were operating together, circling, looping and flying in formation. A third object hovered at lower altitude. As they drove closer to the UFOs, they noticed a fourth object in the distance. After 2-1/2 hours, the UFOs finally climbed out of sight.

We wish to thank Dan Campbell, reported on the Ypsilanti Press; Lt. Col. Howard Strand, NICAP Adviser in Inkster; and Mrs. A. J. Pajas, engineer, for their investigation work. Sheriff Douglas J. Harvey and other officers of the Washtenaw County Department cooperated fully with NICAP.

NASA Silent on "Bogey"

Attempts by NICAP to learn more about the "bogey" (unidentified object) reported by Gemini 7 astronauts last December have been met with silence.

On the second GT-7 orbit, Astronaut Frank Borman radioed that they were observing a "bogey at 10 o'clock high." According to Howard Gibbon, News Manager at the Manned Spacecraft Center, the Capsule Communicator asked if they meant the Gemini booster or "an actual sighting." The answer confirmed the sighting of an unknown object; the Gemini booster could be seen separately "tumbling against the sun."

For some unexplained reason, none of the newsmen at the Gemini 7 press conference asked about the UFO report—at least not on the record.

Later, Aviation Week and Space Technology Magazine speculated that the "bogey" was the transtage of a USAF/Martin Titan 3C launched in October. But a NICAP analysis, based on orbital data, rules this out. The minimum separation of the Gemini 7 and the transtage was about 255 miles. The size of the transtage is about 10 feet by 15 feet. Seeing it 255 miles away would be like a Washington observer's seeing a panel truck in New York City.

NICAP is continuing to ask NASA for any undisclosed facts. Meantime, a letter from Astronaut McDivitt, about the unknown object he photographed during the Gemini 4 flight, may be of interest. (Letter sent to NICAP member James Dusen, Batavia, N.Y.)

"Dear Jim:

Thanks for your nice letter. I'm sorry I can't tell you exactly what I saw during the flight of Gemini 4. I don't know what it was and so far no one else does either. I thought that it looked like the upper stage of a booster but I really couldn't tell. I'm afraid we will never know what it was.

"Best wishes.

Sincerely,

James A. McDivitt,
Lt. Colonel, USAF,
NASA Astronaut."

OF TIME AND SPACE

The following editorial from the Washington, D.C. Star should have special interest because it discusses the evidence that space ships long ago operated from the earth:

"According to Tass, a Soviet archeologist has discovered a Stone Age drawing of a cosmonaut in Soviet Central Asia... a figure carrying "something resembling an air-tight helmet with antennae" on its head and "some sort of contraption for flight" on its back.

"The Tessalit frescoes near the southern border of Algeria show exactly the same characteristics: big helmets, contraptions for flight, and antennae.

"Who were these figures? What were they doing with space flight or even its accoutrements, before our ancestors had the wheel?

"It is instructive to recall that roughly halfway between the two sites is the Middle East locale of the earliest civilizations... There also are found the ziggurats, great stepped platforms, man-made mountains reared above the plain. Were they really launching pads? It is humiliating to think that, just as our history was beginning, the better kind of human got out of here while he could and took his knowledge with him.

"The alternative is no better: That all those ages ago, superior creatures from another part of the galaxy discovered our planet, explored it at widely scattered points, and reported back that the place wasn't worth a colony."

We are still being charged 50 cents by the bank for each Canadian $5.00 check, for a Report order or membership. For a combined order, at $9.00, we are charged approximately 90 cents extra. Because of the rate of exchange, and the mounting cost of bank charges, we will not be able to continue absorbing this extra cost. Please add the charge to your checks; so that we will not have to hold up checks and notify Canadian members of the extra amount due.

NEW SECRECY EVIDENCE

New proof that UFO information is withheld by various Government agencies, following AF instructions, has been obtained by Larry W. Bryant, one of NICAP's members actively campaigning against the censorship. Items included are:

1. An Army refusal to release a Ft. Monroe report on UFOs. Col. Rex R. Sage, Office of Legislative Liaison, at the Pentagon, explained the refusal to Sen. Harry F. Byrd, to whom Bryant had appealed: "The originator [Ft. Monroe HQ] is responsible for determining whether or not the information must be protected in the public interest. . . .the information should be given to only those who have a need-to-know due to their duties. Therefore, until the requestor [Mr. Bryant] has established an acceptable basis for a need-to-know, it is believed the desired information should be withheld."

2. A statement by Chief of Police L. H. Nicholson, Hampton, Va. (Hampton includes Langley AFB in its city limits.) "We have a confidential military procedure which we follow in reporting such objects (UFOs) to the Military Authorities, and we are not at liberty to digulge this information otherwise."

3. A statement by Brig. Gen. Rollin L. Tilton, USA, Ret., Hampton Coordinator of Civil Defense, that Civil Defense is required to report UFO information to the AF, by AF Reg. 200-2. (AFR 200-2 prohibits the release of information on unexplained UFOs by other than AF Headquarters.)

Similar persistent campaigns by individual members, in line with NICAP policies, have brought added confirmation that: A. The AF public statements implying that UFO sightings are unimportant, that the investigation is practically finished, are contrary to facts. B. Official suppression of UFO information has increased, despite denials of censorship.

We hope eventually to list all members who have performed special services for NICAP. We are very grateful for this valuable assistance.

SCIENTISTS ON SPACE LIFE

Dr. Wernher von Braun, NASA George C. Marshall Space Flight Center: "There is good reason to assume, on purely scientific grounds and on evidence adduced by observation, that life of some kind exists elsewhere in the universe . . . I cannot believe that the Power which created life and order confined all sensible organisms to this comparatively tiny planet."

Dr. S. von Hoerner, Astronomisches Rechen-Institut, Heidelburg: "It would be megalomania to think that we are the one intelligent civilization in the universe."

Prof. C. F. Powell, Dean of Faculty of Science, University of Bristol, N.Z.; Nobel Prize winner: "We may very reasonably suspect that there are beings within our galaxy of planets with physical conditions similar to ours, who have achieved a far higher form of technical development, and with whom I hope we will attempt to make contact."

Prof. Lloyd Motz, Columbia University astronomer: "That life exists beyond the solar system is now taken for granted by most scientists, even though we have no direct evidence."

Dr. Jan Gadomski, Polish astronomer: "Highly developed civilizations on the planets of our galaxy should be the rule rather than the exception."

METALAW. The leading student of "Metalaw"—the system for dealing with intelligent beings we will inevitably meet as we explore space—has urged that mankind be cautious about applying its own standards to space beings. Andrew G. Haley, a Washington lawyer and long-time student of theoretical relations with spacemen, discusses the problems of applying moral standards universally in a recent book: "Space Law and Government," (Appleton-Century-Crofts, N.Y., $15.00). Mr. Haley argues that if we attempt to impose our rules on space beings—whether they are intellectually inferior or superior to us—we would be contaminating them. Instead, he says, we will need tolerance of many different ways of life on an interplanetary scale.

DR. KAEBURN ADDRESSES AEROSPACE EXPERTS

Dr. Leslie K. Kaebrun, eminent biophysicist and NICAP Board member, gave a talk on "Space and UFO's" to the North American Aviation Management Club, Los Angeles, on April 20, 1966.



Left to right: Richard Vincent, NAA engineer and President of the Los Angeles NICAP Affiliate; Dr. Kaeburn; Hal Ellethorpe, Club president.

Southern California Affiliate Chartered

NICAP's newest Affiliate was chartered on March 31 as the Southern California NICAP Affiliate (known as NICAP-LA), under the direction of Richard Vincent, and Coordinated with the Los Angeles Subcommittee.

Mr. Vincent is a graduate of Purdue University, a Marine Corp veteran, and has 6 years experience in the research and development of underwater sound and electro-acoustic devices, 10 years in aerospace and radar projects. (See photo, this issue).

During the formation stages, Mr. Vincent and others worked very closely with LA Subcommittee Chairman Dr. Leslie Kaeburn, Mrs. Idabel Epperson and other members.

After operating briefly with a temporary set of officers, the new Affiliate will hold its first formal election in June. Candidates were selected by a nominating committee headed by W. S. Cook, a 19-year veteran of the aerospace industry, with work on electronics, computers and photography.

Monthly meetings have been held at various auditoriums in the Los Angeles area, drawing sizeable audiences. Membership of the affiliate is about 75 and rising steadily. Area residents interested in participating should contact NICAP-LA at Box 54501, Los Angeles, Calif. 90054.

FRANK EDWARDS' BOOKS

A new book on UFOs by Frank Edwards, well-known TV and radio newscaster and lecturer, also a NICAP Board Member, was recently completed. The publication date and title will be announced in the near future. In response to queries, we are listing other books by Mr. Edwards which contain UFO reports or other UFO information:

Strange World, Strange People, Stranger Than Science and Strangest of All.

Mr. Edwards began publicizing the UFO situation almost 20 years ago. He has played a leading role in giving the public the facts, broadcasting more UFO reports than any other commentator.

MARCH - APRIL SIGHTING CROSS SECTION

Hundreds of sightings throughout the U.S. exhibited the familiar patterns of formation flight, hovering and acceleration, electromagnetic effects, landings and near-landings and animal reactions that have been observed in previous sightings for many years.

Mixed in with scores of impressive sightings were at least three known hoaxes, two of which were exposed by NICAP investigators. While these got more publicity than they deserved, they did not overwhelm the genuine sightings, as has happened in the past.

Numerous false reports resulted from observations of the planet Venus — unusually bright during part of the flap period — and of fireballs and other conventional but unusual-looking phenomena.

Among the more unusual patterns which came forth during this flap were the frequently reported high-pitch or "zinging" sound, and the rough surface seen on craft, described as "quilted", "waffled" and "like coral."

The actual flap began in the middle of March, even though an increase in reports was noted before then, and a high level of activity can be traced back to mid-1965. Intensive publicity in all parts of the national press — newspapers, magazines, radio, television — followed closely on the heels of the Dexter, Mich., near-landing case of March 20 and the similar incident at Hillsdale, Mich., 40 miles away, the next night. Both of these cases were witnessed by large numbers of persons, including many with better-than-average credentials.

Other sightings poured in from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and from other parts of the country. The press, already primed by the August, 1965, sightings wave and by John Fuller's article in Look magazine, wasted no time digging into the story. Life carried several pages of pictures, Time and Newsweek had major stories, both the major wire services carried several stories per day for several days, and radio and TV stations kept up a constant stream of UFO reports.

Many of the reports were of strangely maneuvering lights in the night skies, but others were among the most detailed in *NICAP's files. There were close-range observations of structured* craft, radar/visual sightings, reports from airline pilots and from equally reliable witnesses. Among the potentially most significant cases of the flap are the following unevaluated reports:

TYPICAL REPORTS

March 22, Key West, Fla. — several lighted discs observed as they sped overhead, stopped briefly, then sped out of sight.

March 23, Trinidad, Colo. — two shiny oval craft with flat bottoms, domed tops observed flying just above the ridge of a mountain in single file.

March 23, Joppa, Ill. — cluster of white lights in an oblong shape with a bright light in the middle, surrounded by smaller lights, seen by a dozen persons.

March 24, Holland, Mich. — round glowing red and white object flew across highway, 150-200 feet up, in front of car.

March 24, New Orleans, La. — lighted oval object sped across sky, various strange lights maneuvered around; seen by retired AF Col./pilot and another General Electric employee.

March 24, Cook, Minn. — trapper saw oval craft 60-70 feet long, 15 feet in diameter with many lighted slots along side, drop to ground. Large depression found in snow next day.

March 24, Bangor, Me. — large disc-like craft on or near ground approached stopped car, causing electrical system to fail and driver to shoot at craft out of fear for his safety. Object flew away, scorched area found later.

March 25, Toledo, Ohio — large, near round, lighted object hovered at tree-top level, seen by police.

March 25, Upper Sandusky, Ohio — top-shaped craft hovered over woods, seen by farmer and wife.

March 26/26, Bad Axe, Mich. — maneuvering bright blue light seen by three policemen.

March 28, Niles, Mich. — Object with varicolored lights paced truck, blinked lights in response to truckers blinking lights, then flew away.

March 28, Columbus and Atlanta, Ga. — oblong object seen by control tower operators at civil and military fields, confirmed by radar.

March 28/29, Wilmington, Del. — red, white and green flashing lights seen hovering, gyrating by radio station announcer, others.

March 30, Pecos, Tex. — oblong craft — estimated 85-100 feet long, 25 feet high — reportedly landed near highway, took off five minutes later.

March 30, Long Island, N.Y. — many reports of oblong glowing objects hovering, maneuvering, flying out to sea; EM effects on cars, TV, radios.

April 3, Franklin, N.J. — 50-70 foot saucer-shaped object with portholes seen hovering above radio transmitter tower by station owner and wife.

April 3, Los Angeles, Calif. — oblong object with several pairs of lights seen near International Airport by veteran helicopter pilot, others.

April 6, Iowa City, Iowa — State, county and city police observed glowing red light, apparently descending about 11:15 p.m. Cedar Rapids airport reported a UFO on radar at same time.

April 10, Golden, Colo. — County Sheriffs and city police, plus hundreds of citizens, saw a red glowing ball over the mountains east of the city at night. "It was definitely something unusual and it wasn't an airplane or helicopter," Sheriff Dave Courtney said.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Membership renewal rate is $5.00. The only exception to this is when you order a copy of the UFO Evidence together with a renewal payment (or new membership payment), in which case the combined rate is $9.00.

In answer to many queries, NICAP does not have photographs of UFOs for sale. NICAP Affiliates are planning booklets of carefully checked pictures. When available, we will print a notice.

Copies of The UFO Evidence (200,000 word documentary report submitted to Congress in 1964) are still available at $5.00 each, postpaid at book rate postage (allow few weeks for processing and mail time). For first class mailing, enclose an additional $1.00 for 20 oz. postage.

If you have not sent us your zip code, please do so on a post card or in your next letter. We occasionally make third class mailings; effective January 1, 1967, postal regulations require that zip code be included.

Because of the thousands of letters we have been receiving in recent months, there are backlogs of orders for membership, The UFO Evidence, and back issues of the U.F.O. Investigator. Please bear with us. We are processing these as rapidly as possible. If you query us about a particular order, please be sure to indicate the order date and method of payment. Thank you.

MAIL SWAMPS OFFICE

As press time nears, we are receiving 1000-1500 letters daily. Press, radio and TV interviews are continuing. Temporary office help has been added, but the workload will prevent prompt replies to all except the most urgent mail for some time to come. If you have an important query, please take the following steps: (1) indicate clearly that you are a member; (2) enclose a reply post card or self-addressed return envelope; (3) when making a payment, indicate clearly whether it is for a renewal, "UFO Evidence" order, or donation. All clippings and items of information are greatly appreciated. We regret we cannot thank you individually.