

the apro bulletin

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VOL. 25, NO. 7

TUCSON, ARIZONA

JANUARY 1977

ANOTHER KENTUCKY ABDUCTION

By Carla Ruekert

Investigators:

Don Elkins and Carla Rueckert

Percipient: Lee Parrish

Date of sighting: 1-27-77, at 1:05 a.m.

Duration: 35 minutes

INTRODUCTION

On January 27, 77, Don and I were contacted by Lawrence Allison, a hypnotist who was worked with us before on UFO-related cases. Mrs. Parrish, Lee's mother, had called Larry because she felt something unusual had happened to her son the previous night. Lee and his friend, Kathy Johnson, met with Larry and Don and I at Larry's house that evening. Lee Parrish is 19, a high school graduate, employed by his family's firm, Parrish Supply, as a truck driver and all-around worker. He is a husky six-footer with a quiet, polite manner. He seemed to us to be of average intelligence, a common-sense type who was genuinely bothered about what had happened to him. His appearance was very neat, his dress casual.

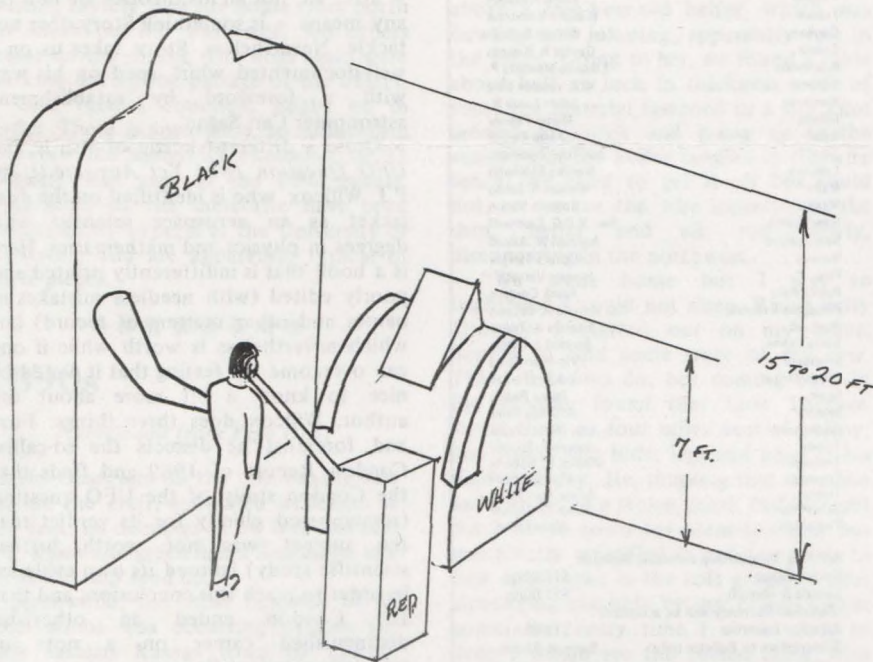
PROSPECT, KENTUCKY

THE ORIGINAL SIGHTING

Lee had been at Kathy's house and left just as a television program they had been watching was going off the air, which pinpointed his departure at just before 1 a.m. He fed the dog on the way out and then got in his Jeepster, a 1970 model with a V6 engine, and headed for home, normally a 7-minute journey. The weather was cold and partly cloudy, with quite a bit of snow on the ground. However, the roads were relatively clear and there was no precipitation. He was driving west on Highway 329, heading toward U.S. 42 and perhaps four miles short of it, when he saw an object.

Lee first saw the object hovering just over the tree line, between 100 and 220 feet off the road and at an altitude of 100 to 150 feet. The object appeared to be about 10 feet tall and 40 feet long. Its shape appeared perfectly rectangular. The craft was the color of the setting sun, but much brighter. Lee felt a compulsion to look at it and was unable to remove his gaze from it, but at the same time it was too bright to look at continually. He became very frightened and wanted to leave the area, but couldn't do it; he doesn't even remember how the car

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The Parrish Case - See Column Three

The 1890s "Flap"

By Jerry Mathes

(Continued from the December, 1976 issue)

Then came sightings in Perry, Okla., and many cities in Texas, while other ships were seen in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and West Virginia.

The night of April 16, for example, Benton, Tex., citizens saw a cigar-shaped ship cross between them and the moon.

On April 19 at Sistersville, W. Va. a bit past 9 p.m., a luminous red object shaped like an immense cigar approached from Ohio (to the northwest). When it flashed at least two extremely brilliant searchlights on the little town, the sawmill whistle brought everyone out to

(See 1890s - page Five)

Boys Frightened By UFOs

An article in the McAlester, Oklahoma Democrat for July 15, 1976, tells of the alleged experience of three unidentified 14-year-old boys, one of whom, with his grandmother, came to the newspaper office to report the UFOs they saw on two successive nights, the 12th and 13th of July. The two did not want their names or the names of the boys revealed, however.

The boy related a story which was confirmed by his two companions, of seeing three hovering objects which appeared as two saucers placed together, white in color, with rotating bluish-green lights at the midsection, a red light which "would blind you, it was so bright" on

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THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

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mysterious markings on the Nazca plain, the familiar arguments about the Egyptian pyramids, the stone gods of Easter Island and the Mayan "astronaut" carved on a tomb cover in the ruins at Palenque.

For all of Mr. Story's thoroughness, it may be doubted that his book will change many minds, the von Daniken appeal being what is is. For another thing, the logicians tell us you can't prove a negative, and for still another the area under discussion is so cobwebby with myth and ignorance that one no more can prove von Daniken wrong than von Daniken can prove himself right. And the possibility that for all his shortcomings von Daniken might be on the right track - after all, not all his theories are new by any means - is something Story does not tackle. Nevertheless, Story takes us on a well-documented whirl, sped on his way with a foreword by establishment astronomer Carl Sagan.

Quite a different kettle of fish is *The UFO Question (Not Yet Answered)*, by P.J. Willcox, who is identified on the dust jacket as an aerospace scientist with degrees in physics and mathematics. Here is a book that is indifferently printed and poorly edited (with needless mistakes in names and other matters of record) but which nevertheless is worth while if one can overcome the feeling that it would be nice to know a bit more about the author. Willcox does three things: First and foremost he dissects the so-called Condon Report of 1969 and finds that the Condon study of the UFO question (remembered chiefly for its verdict that the subject was not worth further scientific study) ignored its own evidence in order to reach this conclusion, and that Dr. Condon ended an otherwise distinguished career on a note of tragically unscientific irony.

Secondly, Willcox supports his arguments with broad background accounts which add up to a history of the whole UFO question - probably one of the most comprehensive in existence except for Dr. David Michael Jacobs' recent *The UFO Controversy in America*.

And toward both these phases of his work Willcox approaches from the perspective of an expert actively involved in closely related scientific fields. In this last sense, his books makes a contribution to the literature that is rare indeed. His deep, long-time interest in the UFO field is reflected in his 185-entry bibliography at the end of his book.

Even more essential for any UFO bookshelf is *Encounters With UFO Occupants*, by APRO's Coral and Jim Lorenzen. This is nuts-and-bolts reporting of the most detailed and highest order possible under the circumstances, far more than a mere updating of the first Lorenzen study of *UFO Occupants* published 10 years ago and long out of (See Review - Page Five)

Book Review

THE SPACE-GODS REVEALED, A Close Look at the Theories of Erich von Daniken, by Ronald Story. 139 pp, Harper & Row, New York, \$7.95.

THE UFO QUESTION (Not Yet Answered), by P.J. Willcox. 277 pp, Libra Publishers, Inc., Roslyn Heights, N.Y., \$7.95.

ENCOUNTERS WITH UFO OCCUPANTS, by Coral and Jim Lorenzen. 424 pp, Berkley Medallion Books, New York, \$1.95.

reviews by
 James D. White

In reducing space gods to common clay, Ronald Story does a compact and

professional job of rounding up the inevitable arguments against the theories of Erich von Daniken: He holds that the busy Swiss hotelier accepts evidence uncritically; that he jumps to unwarranted conclusions; that he borrows from previous writers without giving them credit, and that in general he ignores the ground rules of science and logic in challenging accepted ideas about the origins of man. Story's book is well-printed - even expensively so - with a dust jacket patently imitative of the appearance of von Daniken's popular series on the exploits of what he claims were ancient astronauts.

Story leaves nothing undone in attacking, one by one, von Daniken's principal points of evidence - such hardy perennials as the Piri Re's map, the

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managed to stay on the road — he wasn't driving it. About 15 seconds into the sighting, the car radio failed.

He continued watching the fire-colored UFO. It hovered until he was directly underneath it. Then, suddenly, it sped away, first at the speed of a jet, then very quickly, to the northwest. It had never made any sound. When Lee arrived home, his mother met him at the door and said "What's wrong with your eyes?" Lee looked in the mirror and saw that the whites were entirely bloodshot. There was considerable pain which continued, though to a lesser degree, that evening. He noticed that the time was 1:45 a.m., which meant that he'd been en route from Kathy's house for 45 minutes on a 7-minute trip. His mother confirms his arrival time home, and his girl friend confirms his departure time from her home.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION THROUGH TIME REGRESSION

Lee was somewhat anxious concerning his being a hypnotic subject, and so Don and Larry spent some time talking to him about hypnotic techniques and what he would be experiencing in mental states. Lee felt much reassured when he found that he would not be unable to control what happened to him, that he could ask to come out of hypnosis at any time, and that the hypnotists would not be tricking him as he had seen done at a party. After this discussion, he agreed to the hypnotic session, for he expressed a great deal of desire to find out what had happened to him during that missing time. Larry spent perhaps 40 minutes relaxing him, achieving the desired hypnotic state, and regressing Lee back to several childhood ages. Then, he brought Lee to the time of the sighting experience, told him to speak up without prompting, and just let him tell the story as it was happening to him. It was quite eerie for this observer to go through this extremely unusual sequence of events with Lee. Here is the story as he told it under hypnosis.

After he left Kathy's house, he saw the rectangular UFO and at first thought it was a fire. But he immediately rejected that hypothesis and became very scared, asking himself over and over, "What IS it?" His eyes hurt from looking at the bright red object, but he couldn't look away. Somehow, it was not moving, but had arrived at a position directly overhead. During this period he cannot remember driving the car, so it is unknown whether the craft had actually moved over the road or whether the car had entered the field, part of the flat land over which the UFO was hovering. He was increasingly frightened and kept repeating, "It's not moving." in a

puzzled, frightened tone.

Then, suddenly, he could not see anything. A split second before that, the craft had changed color to black, then to white. Then he could see nothing and felt "something in his eyes." When he could see again, he was no longer in the jeep but in a circular, all-white room. He had no knowledge of the transition. The room was about 20 feet in diameter, with a ceiling about 20 feet high, although from the outside the ship had not looked nearly that high. The walls of the room were self-luminous.

Before him stood three objects which he instinctively felt or sensed were sentient beings, although they were definitely not human: a "black one," a "red one," and a "white one." The black one was on his left. It stood as high as the ceiling and was roughly the shape of an army silhouette target, jug-shaped, with a relatively small "head." It had a flat bottom and one "arm," a handless, one-jointed appendage. The arm was rough-skinned the rest of the entity rough in patches, smooth in patches. The head was featureless. It moved slowly to Lee and touched him on the left side and back, hurting him quite a bit and terrifying him. Throughout the regression, Lee kept repeating, "No, no, not the black one!" The sensation of the black one touching him was somehow cold and burning at the same time, and he felt as though he were vibrating.

The "red one" was on his right. It was about Lee's size or a little smaller, and rectangular in shape, like a "Coke machine." It had one arm or probe, unjointed and handless. Lee felt that the thing was scared and reluctant to touch him, but it, too, came slowly over and touched him on the shoulder and on the right temple, above the ear and within the hairline. This felt like a needle and stung briefly, but did not terrify Lee and did not hurt long. During this time, Lee felt quite cold. The whole ship seemed to be rocking like "a boat on the water," back and forth.

The white one was about six feet tall, Lee's height. It sat in the middle of the room, watching Lee. Its body was solid and blocky and its head square on the sides, quite flat in front. In profile, the head sloped towards the body at a 45-degree angle, with no features. The whole being glowed. It had arms, but did not use them, remaining stationary. Lee knew that it was the "ruler" of the other two.

The red one backed up after it had touched Lee and went together with the white one, either merging with it or going behind it, in which case Lee could not see it, since it was smaller than the white one. The red one had "done its job," and the white one started making a sound which Lee described as that of a person brushing his teeth or using sandpaper — a rhythmic

scraping sound. The black one was backing up slowly at this point, also. Lee, who had been quite cold, found that he was now warm. Then the white one moved to the black one and either merged with it or went behind it, leaving only the 20-foot-tall black one there with Lee. Then the black one simply disappeared, and Lee was alone in the white room. He noticed that, perhaps due to the bouncing and rocking motion of the ship, he felt quite a bit heavier.

Under hypnosis, there was no transition time between his presence in the white room and his awareness of being back in the Jeepster. "There's the pond," he said, and went on to describe getting home, his eyes burning, his fright, and his mother's comments on his eyes. His sleep that night was poor, but not because of dreams; his eyes simply hurt a good deal, and were still hurting him at the session that night whenever he closed them.

Lee never used the word "telepathy" to explain how he knew what he knew about the machine-like beings — for he knew quite a bit: that they were sentient, that the red one was scared, that the white one was the leader, and that it was thinking about him. When asked what he thought their purpose was in taking him on board, he replied that he felt they were checking out his "chemical makeup" and doing a physical checkup. They were curious about "the way that he was Lee." He felt, too, that they would be contacting him again.

The investigators were interested in the mechanism by which Lee was taken from and returned to the Jeepster, and so we asked him very carefully about the method of transport. Lee said that the red ship had "caught" the Jeep as he went underneath it, just like "a mousetrap waiting for a mouse." The Jeep was "not on the ship, not on the ground," suspended by some force. Lee was "transformed" (transported?) into and out of the ship without opening the door of the Jeep. When they put him back in the Jeep, it was still suspended, then he was back on the road and Lee saw the UFO departing. The radio continued not to work for the approximate five seconds it took the ship to disappear from Lee's view. Somehow, during the process, Lee's cigarette, which he was smoking when he first sighted the UFO, vanished completely. Lee felt that "they", whoever they were, had a sort of control over both him and the Jeep from the time he saw the UFO until it left, as he was never able to get away from the craft or move of his own volition while in the ship.

Interestingly enough, the electrical system of the Jeep went bad the day after the sighting and will need quite a bit of repair work.

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There are two power lines which run along Rte. 329, the utility line and telephone lines. The only body of water close by is a small pond. The land is flat farmland, the neighborhood quite rural.

After Lee was awakened from his hypnotic state, having been told he would remember everything very clearly, we asked him again about how the UFO had first come onto his line of vision. To the best of his ability, he can only determine that it materialized out of thin air, as the fields around him are flat, with no hills to hide behind. When he first saw it, it was over a treeline. Dr. Burton Monroe, consultant to APRO in zoology, lives in Anchorage, Ky., a suburban community about four miles from the abduction site. He reported to us that at about 10:30 of that same evening January 26, a neighbor of his had heard her children screaming, run to her window, and seen a large, white disc-shaped object with a dome.

Lee said that he'd always been fairly interested in UFOs and, when he was in high school, had read at least one book, called, he thought, "UFO." He was interested in psychic phenomena, and had previously had some peculiar things happen to him. He told of willing an outdoor light to go on. It was unplugged at the time, but it mysteriously came on anyway.

This incident was attested to by Kathy. Lee said he had seen UFOs several times prior to the January 27 sighting, but he was always with someone, and he felt that they wanted only him, and had known that he was alone that Wednesday night, and so chose that night to take him on board. Lee's mother had also seen several UFOs. Perhaps her most vivid sighting was of a nocturnal light that appeared behind the house making a noise "like a sewing machine going full throttle."

Another close encounter sighting took place less than three hours before the Parrish case, and is described here:

Investigator:

Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Chairman
Department of Biology
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky 40208

Percipients:

Louise Belmont (Mrs. Raul N.)
(age 40)
Neil Belmont (age 10)
William Belmont (age 8)

Date of sighting:

1-26-77, at about 10:30 p.m.

Duration: about 3-5 minutes

By Burton Monroe, Phd
APRO Consultant in Zoology

On Tuesday, February 1st 1977, I received a telephone call from Neil Belmont, 10-year old son of Mrs. Louise Belmont and classmate of my elder son in the Anchorage Elementary School. On Monday, 31 January, a spectacular exploding meteorite over the Louisville metropolitan area had produced fragments that clattered upon and pierced rooftops in the region, and the publicity from this event stimulated the Belmonts to report their sighting to the head of the Planetarium at the University of Louisville; upon hearing the details, he referred the Belmonts to me. Having been previously informed by Investigator Don Elkins of the apparent abduction case in nearby Prospect, Kentucky, during that same night, I decided the Belmont sighting was worthy of followup. On Wednesday afternoon, February 2nd, one week after the sighting, I conducted the interview; most of the details were furnished by Mrs. Belmont.

At approximately 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 26 January 1977, the two boys, Neil and William, ages 10 and 8 respectively, were in bed in their upstairs bedroom while Mrs. Belmont was watching television in an adjoining bedroom. A third (older) son was downstairs watching television and was unaware of the proceedings.

The boys' bedroom was suddenly brightly lit from outside. The two boys ran to the window and observed the object in the air just beyond the nearby trees. It was large ("twice as large as the house," according to Neil), yellow and very bright, difficult to look at. Neil thought he saw reddish light near the top of the object, while the younger boy described reddish and greenish areas along the lateral edges. The object appeared to be flattened on the underside and humped or domed above; it was stationary or moving slightly at the time it was initially seen. Neil remained transfixed at the window, while William ran screaming for his mother to come. He dragged Mrs. Belmont to the window, who also perceived the object. She estimated that the object was just above the treeline (thus approximately 75-100 feet in the air) and about 100 yards from the house, still relatively stationary; an estimated one or possibly two minutes had elapsed between the initial observation by the boys and the appearance of Mrs. Belmont at the window.

She described the color at that time as a "yellowish glow," much like the moon; she likened the size to that of a "large airliner." The object moved slowly away from the house in a southerly direction until it apparently reached a treeline about 300 yards from the house, where it hovered for a short time; it then

"suddenly wasn't there any more." Total elapsed time of the sighting for Mrs. Belmont was estimated to be 2 to 3 minutes; it may have been longer, because she related that she had time to discuss with the boys matters such as her lack of understanding as to what it was, their inability to have any control as to what was going to happen (she told William in response to his concern that "it might come and get him" that it really was up to God as to what then transpired), and other related items.

The investigation revealed one additional aspect of the sighting: Mrs. Belmont recalled that their dogs were barking throughout the event. There were no noticeable electrical effects, however, as lights and television remained normal (confirmed by Kelly, age 12, the older son watching TV downstairs). There have been several other electrical events (one television malfunctioned shortly thereafter, the electric dryer developed a burnt out motor, a 60-amp circuit breaker popped several times without apparent cause, and we experienced peculiar telephone interference during our initial conversation, although not subsequently), but I have been unable to establish any correlation of these with the UFO observation.

The weather the night of the sighting was clear, calm and very cold, with a snow layer on the ground. The moon was one day short of first quarter and could not have been seen out the window in question (it faced southeast). Because of the cold weather, a sheet of transparent plastic had been attached over the window and thus produced a small amount of distortion, perhaps accounting for lack of details other than general shape as well as the slight variations in color noted.

On the surface, the case is not particularly significant, although it is a multiple-witness sighting. However, the occurrence of an apparent abduction (Parrish case at Prospect) two and one-half hours later and but several air miles distant does add significance to the present sighting. In addition, two other factors are most relevant.

First, during the investigation it was learned that Mrs. Belmont had experienced a prior close encounter. The date could not be recalled (some 15-20 years previously), but the sighting took place on Highway 711 in Virginia near the Powhatan-Chesterfield county line in western Virginia. Mrs. Belmont and her husband were driving through a wooded section when suddenly the woods lit up. They noted a large, cigar-shaped object moving over the woods, emitting an "unbelievable light." The object was greenish on the outer edges and yellow centrally. The object was in motion, although not rapidly moving, and was oriented horizontally; no secondary

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objects were noted. This sighting was reported at that time and subsequently investigated, although Mrs. Belmont could recall neither the investigator's name nor the agency represented.

Second, I received another call from the Belmonts late on the evening of the investigation (Wednesday, 2 February). At approximately 8:30 p.m., while the entire family was watching TV in the downstairs living room, the house lights dimmed. Neil rushed to the door and observed the same or a similar object passing rapidly past the house from north to south on the west side. No others observed the object. The dogs again were barking during the passage of the object.

One further comment might be in order. There is apparently no connection between the meteorite explosion of 31 January and any of the UFO events. Fragments of the meteorite have been examined by experts at the University of Louisville and are apparently typical of such pieces.

1890s

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watch. Observers on the hills nearby saw fins on the craft, estimated its length at 180 feet, its diameter at 50 feet and said red, white and green lights flashed on and off as the ship sped up.

Meanwhile, the most fantastic of all observations was occurring outside the little eastern Kansas town of LeRoy. LeRoy is 220 miles south of Villisca, Ia., and 240 miles southeast of Clay Center, Neb.

A prominent farmer, Alexander Hamilton, in a sworn statement co-signed by 10 prominent citizens, said:

"Last Monday night about 10:30 we were awakened by a noise among the cattle. I arose, thinking that perhaps mybulldog was performing his pranks, but upon going to the door saw to my utter astonishment that an airship was slowly descending upon my cow lot, about forty rods (660 feet) from the house.

"Calling my tenant, Gid Heslip, and my son Wall, we seized some axes and ran to the corral. Meanwhile the ship had been gently descending until it was not more than thirty feet above the ground, and we came within fifty yards of it.

"It consisted of a great cigar-shaped portion, possibly three hundred feet long, with a carriage underneath. The carriage was made of glass or some other transparent substance alternating with a narrow strip of some material. It was

brightly lighted within and everything was plainly visible - it was occupied by six of the strangest beings I ever saw. They were jabbering together but we could not understand a word they said.

"Every part of the vessel which was not transparent was of a dark reddish color. We stood mute with wonder and fright. Then some noise attracted their attention and they turned a light directly upon us. Immediately on catching sight of us they turned on some unknown power, and a great turbine wheel, about thirty feet in diameter, which was revolving slowly below the craft, began to buzz and the vessel rose lightly as a bird. When about three hundred feet above us it seemed to pause and to hover directly above a two-year-old heifer, which was bawling and jumping, apparently fast in the fence. Going to her, we found a cable about half an inch in thickness made of some red material fastened in a slip knot around her neck and going up to the vessel from the heifer tangled in the wire fence. We tried to get it off but could not, so we cut the wire loose to see the ship, heifer and all, rise slowly, disappearing in the northwest.

"We went home but I was so frightened I could not sleep. Rising early Tuesday I started out on my horse, hoping to find some trace of my cow. This I failed to do, but coming back in the evening found that Link Thomas, about three or four miles west of LeRoy, had found the hide, legs and head in his field that day. He, thinking that someone had butchered a stolen beast, had brought the hide to town for identification, but was greatly mystified in not being able to find any tracks in the soft ground. After identifying the hide by my brand, I went home. But every time I would drop to sleep I would see the cursed thing, with its big lights and hideous people. I don't know whether they are devils or angels, or what; but we all saw them, and my whole family saw the ship, and I don't want any more to do with them." Dated April 2, 1987.

There follows the affidavit signed by 10 prominent citizens of the county as to Hamilton's veracity and that Hamilton had been a member of the House of Representatives.

What better eye-witness could any court ask? Farmers also are good judges of size and distance because of constant observation of fields, animals and wildlife.

The case is somewhat like the celebrated Snippy the horse's death in Colorado a few years back, and also a series of incidents near the author's hometown of Hartington, Neb., a few years ago. Farmers found dead cattle with strange mutilations, and also observed strange lights in the sky at night.

The mutilations were never solved. People thought weird cultists from Sioux City or Omaha killed the cattle, and the

lights were on helicopters, which have been used here for cattle rustling. But thinking back now, I'm not so sure.

The year 1897 continued active for sightings, every night in May bringing reports from somewhere. Near Aurora, Tex., one airship supposedly crashed. Recent investigations of fragments of metals found near the site brought forth nothing strange about the metal.

What and who were in our skies in 1897 is uncertain; what is certain is that it was the first "UFO flap" in American history.

Boys

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top and a bright beam of light which seemed to search the woods.

The boys, who live in Savanna, said they were on a camping and fishing trip when the air seemed to grow warmer; then they saw the objects over the trees. There was no sound except for a "weird whooshing sound" when the objects rose up from the trees. Two of the objects flew up and out of sight and the third disappeared in the treetops.

On the night of the 13th the boys returned with a camera and attempted to take photos when they observed two red lights "coming down the side of the mountains" in the trees. The boys thought at first that the lights were coon hunters with lanterns until the lights seemed to float up above the trees. Then they hurriedly left the area.

Ken Milam, who wrote of the boys' claims for the paper, said that except for the saucer shape and sound, the objects sounded to him "suspiciously" like army helicopters. However, telephone calls to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, and Fort Hood, Texas, and the local National Guard failed to confirm any helicopter flights in the Savanna area on either night.

Review

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print.

Bulletin readers will find many familiar cases, but where these appear they carry new significance because of the methodical way the Lorenzens have related them to other, previously unreported cases, and have fitted them into developing patterns in the behavior and apparent motivation of UFO occupants as these have manifested themselves in the past nearly three decades.

Encounters skims the meaningful (See Review - Page Six)

Review

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cream from the thousands of cases in APRO files, classifying those selected according to types and effects produced, and analyzing them in a rigorous search for the new and significant.

Another decade of study has strengthened the Lorenzen proposal that UFOs probably are of extraterrestrial origin, their occupants humanoid, and that their mere arrival almost certainly connotes various stages of advanced development. The Lorenzens do not press this point of view; indeed they play it down and concentrate on the factual record and cautious reasoning as to what it may mean. They have done a job no one else has done, and no collection of UFO books is complete without this hardheaded study.

Its unique service is to compile and organize the still fragmentary but nevertheless formidable array of the known facts about UFO occupants. It does not deal with, but leads to, the next question: what are the intentions of UFO occupants?

Always centrally implicit in the UFO enigma, this question is sharpened by the recent pattern of occupant boldness, with a growing number of cases involving the kidnaping of earthlings and then releasing them with little or no memory of what happened until helped with hypnosis. One such case hints broadly of a decision to intervene in human affairs.

Intervention, of course, can be believed only when and if it happens, but it may mean something that the question of its coming arises coincidentally with a drastic shortening — dictated by nuclear proliferation — of the time left for the races of mankind to assure each other of survival on a habitable planet. In other words, it might be of supreme importance some day to understand as much as possible about UFO occupants. What we have to go on thus far is in the Lorenzen book.

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UFOs and Collective Behavior

by Richard C. Crispi
APRO Field Investigator

The data obtained from the UFO phenomena over the last thirty years has warranted study by social scientists because it appears that certain forms of collective behavior have caused some reports to be generated and that UFO reports themselves may in fact be responsible for some type of mass reaction in society.

Many hypotheses have evolved since 1947 saying what UFOs are or are not. Whatever one's interpretation of the

phenomenon may be, we must all agree that UFOs cannot be explained as being one thing. For example they are not all extraterrestrial craft, for certainly we have genuine misinterpretations of natural objects on record.

Whatever they may be is a question that remains to be solved. The fact is that people are seeing something that is unknown to them and to many experts that study the skies. This ambiguity has had an affect on society, thus making the UFO phenomenon a problem for the social scientist as well as the physical scientist. It has stirred up society to such an extent that people have formed groups dedicated to finding the answer. Others have been prompted to write books and articles that concern the possibilities of extraterrestrial intervention or other phenomena. Still others have used the UFO to gain instant fame and a fast buck by creating a hoax.

This ambiguity sets the stage for various types of collective behavior to emerge; such as rumor, hysteria, contagion of belief and the possibility of panic. It has been stated by Hynek that UFOs could be other things besides physical craft, and that they may require nonphysical modes of explanation. That is, they may be products of individual or group mental action that conform to known or unknown psychological laws. (Hynek, 1972; pg. 4)

This "group mental action" or collective behavior may be responsible for some reports, but surely not all of them. Collective behavior is the field of sociology that studies what happens when people are faced with a problematic situation.

Society is a system of groups that are interconnected. Members of these groups tend to hold common beliefs about the world around them. If their beliefs are all directed toward one thing we have a "mass" rather than a crowd. Rumors are usually generated at this point. For example: during a UFO wave, the subject is highly publicized in the print and broadcast media. Out of print, UFO literature is reprinted by publishers. Everyone is interested in the new flurry of reports and their attention is directed toward the sky. Rumors of UFO sightings or landings are generated at this time, adding to the enthusiasm. The more the rumors spread, the more strength they gain. The rumors may be abandoned quickly, or may last until the end of the flap and eventually die out.

If, however, a UFO wave presented a crisis situation, that is, it was proven that the visitors presented a serious threat to society, two things could happen. First, the high level of rumor activity cannot go on indefinitely; if the threat continues for some time, there will be a collective disbelief of the danger. Second, the rumors can evolve into hysterical beliefs; society may become anomic (anomie-a

break down of norms. A feeling of disassociation). The nature of the problem may become obscure. Some may feel that there is no way to escape the danger presented by the crisis brought on by the UFOs. The result of this is panic. This is more or less what happened in 1938 when people tuned in on the Orson Welles broadcast of the "War of the Worlds."

Those of us who are familiar with the UFO phenomenon may have noticed society's change in attitude toward the phenomenon. For example; a 1966 Gallup poll reported that five million people in the United States claimed sighting a UFO and about fifty million believed UFOs to be real and not products of the imagination. A Gallup poll in 1974 said that fifteen million people in the United States had claimed sighting a UFO and fifty-four percent of the people are in the United States believed that UFOs are real and not products of the imagination.

We can conclude from this that in the period from 1966 to 1974 many people developed a belief in the UFO phenomenon. The degree of commitment to their beliefs will play a large part in the generation of rumors, mass hysteria and panic should we reach a crisis situation with UFOs.

Jacques and Janine Vallee, in "Challenge to Science" stated that there is a definite lack of psychological investigation concerning UFOs. They believe that investigations from the beginning have been slanted toward a physical explanation and all other possibilities (e.g. psychological, sociological) have been ignored.

Empirical social scientific investigation has never been conducted. What has been observed however, is the fact that rumors concerning UFOs are the same throughout the world including Iron Curtain countries. The pattern of rumors in Eastern European countries was explained by Hobana and Weverbergh in "UFOs from Behind the Iron Curtain." One can see the amazing similarity of the rumors presented by Hobana and Weverbergh and the rumors generated in western countries.

In conclusion we find that UFOs have been responsible for the generating of rumors. The interesting thing is that many of these rumors are identical and have been generated at the same time in varied areas of the globe thus ruling out contagion of belief.

The study of these rumors, and the study of how to prepare people for confrontation, whether friendly or hostile, with extraterrestrial beings should be an area of major concern to any social scientist. Unfortunately studies cost money and there is never enough money. So the question remains. How will society react if and when aliens land on this planet and the facts are presented to the people?