

Colusa Report Corrections

We regret that there were a number of printing errors in the report on the Colusa, California, close encounter in the February, March and April 1977 *Bulletins*. So we take this opportunity to list the corrections and also to provide some additional clarifications and data. Only the not-so-obvious mistakes and misspellings will be noted.

In the February *Bulletin*: Page 4/column 2/paragraph 2: Listed item number (3) should add that it was two upper-surface hatches that swung open. The word in quotes in the last sentence should read "light" not "lights." Column 3/paragraph 2/line 7: The word "he" should read "we."

Page 5/column 1/paragraph 1: The phrase "right hand UFO's" should be omitted from the second sentence and should be inserted in the third sentence before the word "beams." Column 1/paragraph 2: The left-hand UFO was at an azimuth of 257 ± 3 degrees and an altitude of 1.7 ± 0.5 degrees or a true height of about 140 ± 40 feet. The right-hand UFO was at 1.0 ± 0.2 degrees altitude or a true height of about 120 ± 25 feet. Column 2/paragraph 2 and column 3/paragraph 3: The references to a terrain-following effect simply mean that the UFO's beams seemed to lengthen and shorten according to the height of the ground below.

Page 6/column 3/line 3: The exclamation mark (!) actually should be an ending single quotation mark (').

In the March *Bulletin*: Page 3/column 1/paragraph 3: The word "hanger" should be spelled "hangar," as it was in the original report. The center of the Davis Aviation hangar was about 2,580 feet from the Pechas' vantage spot. Column 2/paragraph 3/line 9: The exclamation mark (!) should be deleted.

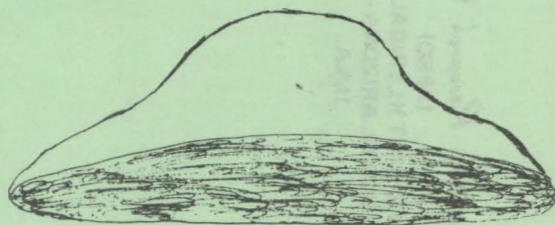
Page 4/UFO Chase-Sequence: From the orchard almost to the Arants' house, Wilson Avenue is heavily lined with trees on both sides. Thus, viewing the UFO while driving at 90-95 miles per hour would have been difficult (but not impossible) except at open gaps like the Hunter Road intersection. Column 3/paragraph 2/line 6: The 70-foot figure should be 75 feet. Column 3/paragraph 3/line 6: The phonetic word "gotta" was spelled correctly in the original report and an ending single quotation mark (') should come after "Les's." In the second-to-last sentence some lines were accidentally omitted. It should read as two sentences: "Leslie and Gayle Arant live at 846 Thirteenth Street, on the north (or inner) side of the curve. Wilson Avenue merges into the north-northeast-running Thirteenth Street at the Arants' home."

Page 5/column 2/lines 4-9: The quoted text should read: "All this (blackout) took place within—from what I can remember, from, say 12:55 'til a few minutes after 1 o'clock. . . . (It couldn't have been more than, like I say, 7 or 8 minutes of duration of the failure." Column 2/paragraph 4: The latitude figures were printed wrong and incompletely. Mrs. Arant and Pecha were located a geodetic latitude $39^{\circ} 12'.62$ ($39^{\circ}.2103$) North and geocentric latitude $39^{\circ} 01'.32$ ($39^{\circ}.0220$) North. Column 3/paragraph 2/line 2: Delete the word "and."

Page 6/column 2/paragraph 2/line 3: Delete the word "to." Line 20: An end-parenthesis was accidentally omitted. The parenthetical text should read "(of course)."

In the April *Bulletin*: Page 3: Delete the "Conclusion" heading. Column 1/paragraph 3/line 8: The declination figure should be $-5\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. Column 2/paragraph 2: The letter inquiries could not be sent due to lack of time and resources. Mrs. Arant's observation of the UFO's motion through an approximate 70-degree arc in about 10 to 15 seconds indicates an angular velocity of about 5 to 7 degrees per second, or a maximum distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles for a subsonic aircraft. Since the three witnesses were outdoors on a quiet night with a 10 miles per hour wind blowing towards them from out of the south-southeast (data published by CUFOS in the *International UFO Reporter*)—which was the direction of the UFO—it seems highly likely that at least one of the three would have heard the noise of an aircraft less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away if the UFO had been an aircraft. But no one heard a noise. It is highly unlikely that such an aircraft could disappear suddenly (on the order of a half second), or that it would carry a light source of such large diameter (185 feet at a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -mile distance). Even with a factor of two error in Mrs. Arant's angular size observation, the aircraft would have to have been less than 300 feet away to bring the white light down to a more reasonable 2-foot size. In that case, the speed would have been less than 40 miles per hour (even assuming a factor of two errors in Mrs. Arant's angular velocity observation) at less than 300 feet. This is less than the lowest possible stall speed for any modern propelled aircraft—only a helicopter could travel so slow. But it is inconceivable to me that a flying helicopter would not be audible at a distance of under 300 feet.

Page 3/column 3/paragraph 2/sentence 1: We have since learned that this investigation represented both MUFON and CUFOS (see also the March *Bulletin* page 3/column 2/paragraph 2). Sentence 3: The full name of the *National Enquirer* reporter as given in the original report was Robert V. Pratt. Page 4/column 2/paragraph 3: Though Paul Cerny of MUFON/CUFOS acknowledged receipt of the APRO-MUFO team's Colusa report prior to publication in the February-March-April *Bulletins*, there has been no answer to these criticisms. Back Page (mailing cover): Small dots (such as the UFOs and the houses) and line widths (such as streets and railroads) are not exactly to scale.



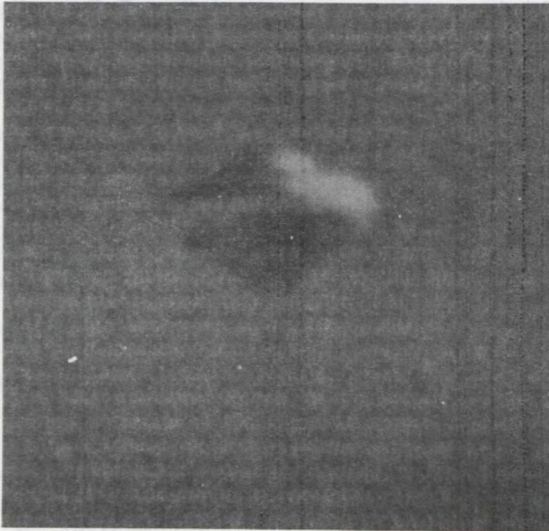
Negative image of UFO observed by Mrs. Arant, based on her drawing of 3 October 1976.

the apro bulletin

VOL. 26, NO. 1

JULY, 1977

THE CHILEAN ABDUCTION



The Mesa Object

Domed Cone UFOs

by Wendelle C. Stevens

While working with the strange domed cone-shaped UFO photographed at Cocoyoc, Mexico in 1973, I checked the APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization) files and found 31 cases of "ice-cream-cone"-shaped UFOs reported in the last 10 years, and a number before that.

Four color photographs were taken of an almost identically shaped object in the skies over Mesa, Arizona, one year earlier, on 11 November 1972, except that the Mesa object did not seem to have the "tentacle-like" appendages. The pear-shaped object was observed over Mesa for about an hour by thousands of witnesses, including an untold number of people in the stands watching the Arizona State University homecoming game that day. The game television crew even raised the TV camera and panned the object over Mesa, between plays, for the viewing audience. The pressbox was full of reporters and hundreds of spectators had still and movie cameras in the crowd at the game, yet we have only the one set of pictures of that object. Years later we received a black and white photograph, in an exchange, which was taken that same day from the east side of Mesa at the same time by an unknown photographer, with no other details reported. But the object certainly looks like the one photographed by the other witness.

The apparent public apathy is partly the result of a hot air balloon contest held at Mesa on the two week-

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"You don't know who we are or where we come from but we will be back soon." These are the strange words uttered by Corporal Armando Valdes, leader of a Chilean military patrol. Just some 15 minutes previously he had been subjected to a mysterious UFO encounter at Pampa Lluscumá near Putre in Chile. The date was April 25, 1977 and the time about 4:00 AM. Putre is 50 air miles ENE of Arica, a larger city in Chile.

Corporal Valdes was in charge of a patrol on routine assignment near Putre in the early morning hours of April 25, 1977. He and his six-man patrol were sitting around a campfire alongside a wall of stones and mud at the secret army post of Pampa Lluscumá. They were talking and singing quite a while to stay awake. Two of the men kept watch several feet away. About four in the morning one of the men, Private Rosales, ran back to Valdes to report that two bright violet lights had landed, one of which was in sight and illuminated the whole area. The light approached closer. Valdes ordered his men to cover up their fire with blankets. The violet light with a red spot at each end withdrew and then returned closer. The patrol was terrified.

There was no sound with the UFO motion. The Chilean high plateau was amazingly silent. Corporal Valdes stated "after praying to God and ordering the light to leave . . . after demanding that it identify itself, I moved a few meters away from my men." The corporal moved toward the object. He disappeared for some 15 minutes. When he reappeared, he was shaking and his voice seemed different. The light had been illuminating the whole area. As Corporal Valdes reappeared he was heard to utter the words at the beginning of this article. He then became unconscious and was attended by his fellow men till he awoke some two hours later. The UFO also disappeared about this time.

While the unconscious Corporal Valdes was assisted by his patrol, his men made another strange observation. They saw that Valdes had a beard growth equivalent to several days without shaving. He had been well shaven before the incident. As Valdes awoke he exclaimed, "I don't remember anything from the moment I left you." He then ordered, "Get ready to leave because it's 4:30 in the morning. It was actually about 7 AM. His calendar watch had stopped at 4:30 but the date was five days advanced - to the 30th instead of the 25th.

These are the bizarre circumstances in the case. Many of the details were related some two hours after the incident to Pedro Araneda, a correspondent and lecturer. The presence of UFOs are not a surprise to Corporal Valdes. He, as well as others in the interior of Chile near Arica, often see luminous UFOs moving about the skies. Valdes states, "The surprising thing was the way it approached us. As soldiers we are trained to deal with any situation. But this phenomenon

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Chilean

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didn't seem to have any logical explanation. I would like to regain my memory of those fifteen minutes. I would even like to submit to hypnosis to draw out information about what happened."

President and Commander in Chief Augusto Pinochet of Chile has prohibited further interviews with the soldiers. Medical, psychiatric and eventually hypnotic tests are planned for member of the patrol to confirm their stories. Meanwhile more sightings have occurred at Arica, Punta Arenas, Santiago, and other locations up and down the 2700 mile length of Chile. NASA and the University of Chile jointly operate a space tracking station north of Santiago, Chile. Officials of the station could offer nothing to elucidate the facts in this case. The time fact in this particular case - increased beard growth and accelerated clock time - are elements which make this case exceptional and worthy of further consideration.

Domed

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ends preceding the date of the homecoming game, but all of the balloons were gone a week before the day of the sighting and photographs. The local balloon club stated that there were no balloons like the object photographed. Still, the object was high and bright and far away and most thought it was another of the balloons and forgot it.

I heard of the Mesa, Arizona, UFO sighting and photographs on 12 December 1972, after the photographer had finished shooting up the rest of the roll of Kodacolor film and had gotten the developed prints back. Mr. Elders was surprised to see that the image of the object came out sharp and clear. He was quite certain that because of the distance and the brightness of the object, little would come out of the effort.

On the following weekend, 15 December 1972, I went to Mesa, Arizona, to the home of the photographer to begin an investigation of the case.

The first to see the object was young Shawn Cheves (10 years old) who called his friend Scott Sharp's attention to it, and Scott went into the house for binoculars. Shawn and Scott and Scott's brother Jeff were in the Sharp's back yard playing with a ball when Shawn saw a glint of bright light on a fence as he was picking up the ball, and looking around, he saw a very small, very bright dot in the sky to the south-southeast. They went out in front of the Sharp's house for a better look and were joined by John and Jim Edwards and Anna Medina, also about the same age. They all watched and took turns with the binoculars until Shawn decided to call Mr. Lee Elders out to see it. He went to the door of Elder's house and shouted for Mr. Elders to come out and see the UFO. Lee Elders, who was watching the Arizona State Homecoming Football Game at the time waited for a commercial break and then picked up his camera and went outside in front of his house. The kids were looking East and following their directions he could see a bright shiny dot at an elevation of about 40 degrees and 3 or 4 miles away in the east-southeast sky. He was using his 35mm Asahi

Pentax SLR camera with a 200mm telephoto lens mounted. It was loaded with Kodacolor film. He thought that the object was immobile, or at best moving very slowly. He had difficulty keeping the image framed in the viewing field and had to steady his hand in order to do so. The object looked like a small child's toy top, or a short, fat, ice-cream cone with the large end up. It was about 13:55 when he snapped 3 photos in succession. Then getting bored from watching he went back into the house to continue watching the football game. The children shouted several times that it moved but he continued watching the game until the next break. He then went back outside and shot a 4th picture at about 14:05. By then the object was north of its earlier position, still moving slowly, and he went back in the house again. The children continued watching it for another 30 to 40 minutes until it went out of sight. It was there one minute and the next time they looked, it was gone and they never saw it again.

Mr. Skip Bryant, Ms. Harriet Hineman and 3 other friends sitting in the United Press box on the west side of Tempe Stadium at the Arizona State - Oklahoma State football game, watched a strange pear-shaped bright silver object in the sky to the southeast with binoculars. It appeared to be more of a flat finish brightness than the brilliance of chrome or a mirror. It was perfectly smooth and had no mating lines, no breaks in the finish and no markings of any kind. It was shaped like a fat ice-cream-cone with the large end up. It was seen at about 40 degrees elevation in the clear blue sky and was moving very slowly from south to north, and seemed also to be rising or else approaching. It moved very steadily, with no bobble or wobble, and they didn't notice any rotation. They at first thought it was a balloon, because there had in fact been a hot air balloon contest at Mesa two weeks before which ended exactly 7 days earlier, on 4 November. After they thought about it a while, however, they began to wonder. This "balloon" did not have any suspension lines and no basket. Also, all of the balloons they had been seeing had bright colors and were longer in proportion to diameter, and bobbed and swayed in the breeze. When they returned to the United Press offices they found calls from witnesses as far away as Paradise Valley and Deer Valley, some 10 and 12 miles north of the Stadium.

Mr. Dave Hurlbert, another reporter in the press-box, noticed the object in the sky toward the east and thought it was a hot air balloon. He also looked at it through the binoculars and thought it was a strange balloon indeed. It seemed to be a smooth, rigid structure, and was moving very slowly and steadily. It moved the distance between two light poles across the playing field in about 40 minutes. He thought it must be 5 to 10 miles distant, and perhaps beyond Mesa to the east. He would look up between plays on the football field and note its small change in position. After about an hour of this slow movement, and it had passed one light post and was midway to the next, it was suddenly gone. It was so far away that there was haze between him and the object, but it had completely disappeared. It should have been in about the same position as last seen, but there was nothing there. Frank Cook, another reporter in the pressbox told about the same story.

Mr. Bob Watson and his girl friend, getting out of a car in front of Mr. Watson's home in Chandler, Arizona, 7 miles south of Mesa, noticed a strange silver

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object in the sky to their northeast. It was about 13:45 when they arrived. Mr. Watson, 26, editor of the *Chandler Arizonan*, said that the object appeared to be moving so slowly that he and his girlfriend disagreed as to whether it was moving at all or not. It was small and silver and quite shiny, and appeared round to them. Watson called the Public Information Office at Williams Air Force Base to see if they knew anything about the object, and talked to Ray Agee, who told him that someone had reported to them that a Mr. Marvin Cooley was launching a silver painted balloon from Base Line Road and Mesa Drive. Mr. Cooley is a political activist, and according to the report had hung a large banner around the circumference of the balloon which said "GET THE US OUT OF THE UN". The address is a location in south Mesa.

When I interviewed Ray Agee, he told me that he had driven by the place where the balloon was being inflated and had seen the sign in big black letters on silver. The balloon was a semi-rigid design with a basket and burner suspended underneath. It was about 30 feet in diameter, about half the size of the man-carrying balloons that the balloonists were using. It was being launched on the last day of the balloon contest, on SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER.

I went to Marvin Cooley's home in Mesa to check with him. He was out of town but Mrs. Cooley told me that he did launch a silver balloon, but the last time was on 4 November, and that he was helped by a Mr. Don Johnson and his two sons.

I then went to the Don Johnson home in Mesa where I talked to Mrs. Johnson and one of the boys who had helped launch the Cooley balloon. Mr. Johnson was away at the time also. The boy confirmed what Ray Agee had said, and remembered Agee stopping by as they were inflating the Cooley balloon. They released it about noon. They had also launched it a week earlier, the last Saturday in October, and it had flown north and came down in the Deer Valley area. The last time they had launched it was on Saturday the 4th of November. On that day the balloon, which was supposed to be controllable, did not respond and rose rapidly and headed east so fast that they could not keep up with it in the chase cars, and it went all the way to Globe, Arizona, 70 miles east of Mesa, and may have gone further, but a lightplane pilot, seeing it in the air, made close passes by it, trying to see what it was, and the slip-stream from the lightplane tore a hole in the side and it lost its hot air and came down. The balloon was recovered and packed in a trailer and sent back to its owner and builder, Mr. Lester Bannick of Denver, Colorado, before the 11th of November when Mr. Elders photographed the object in the Mesa skies.

I contacted the Balloon Club of Mesa and found that they knew about the Cooley balloon, and all the other balloons in the area, and that they knew of no other silver colored balloons in their area. They also stated that they had no balloons flying on Saturday the 11th of November, and no one had requested a flight clearance for a balloon on that day. The blanket flight authorization for balloon flying, that had been obtained from air traffic control, had expired the week before, after Cooley flew his craft.

Whether we have a case of UFO mimicry here is difficult to say. It is almost certain that no balloons

were flying in the vicinity of Mesa on the 11th of November, the day of the homecoming football game. The day of the game is established without doubt. The last balloons to fly in that area were on 4 November, when Marvin Cooley launched his. Yet many witnesses watched the strange silver colored object in the Mesa skies on the 11th. Nobody saw it leave at the time it disappeared. It was estimated to be about 70 feet in height and diameter. Nothing of that size came down anywhere near Mesa. Nobody saw it arrive and nobody saw it leave, yet thousands of people saw it. The television cameraman at the game even panned it for the TV audience watching the game. The mystery remains unsolved.

But even before this, on 8 May 1966, in the early afternoon, Mr. James Pfeiffer, a respected American aviation industry executive, on business in Brazil, was sitting in a lagoon-side restaurant in Ipamari, overlooking the Ipamari River, when he suddenly noticed a strange object moving slowly in the sky above.

"It was spheroid-shaped, roughly 70 feet in diameter and very smooth in construction," he said. It hovered about 1,500 feet above the river-side restaurant where he sat, then sped away at about 200 miles per hour and abruptly changed direction. "It didn't skid or bank, but made a flat 90 degree right turn. It emitted a high and then a low-pitched whining sound — noisy enough to bring the restaurant employees out to watch." It descended into the woods across the water.

Mr. Pfeiffer was able to take two photographs of the object before it disappeared. One picture was published in *Life Magazine* for 28 October 1966, page 40.

The remarkable similarity of these four craft photographed is unique. If we could turn up the youngsters on the bridge at Cocoyoc, who witnessed the landing and were seen to run toward the craft on the ground, perhaps we could end some of our conjecturing; then again maybe it would just raise a whole lot of new questions.

Another Flap?

If past history is any indication, we can probably expect an increase in UFO activity this fall, possibly commencing in October or November. The staff suggests that members get their scissors ready to clip the news to forward to Headquarters and Field Investigators get their gear ready in the event a flap does occur.

Movie Review

Those APRO members who are interested in some spectacular special effects might be interested in seeing *STAR WARS*, a movie made on a relatively low budget. However, one should be prepared for a lot of third-rate acting (except by Alec Guinness) and a comic-book plot. The contrast between the energy and effort that went into the technical effects and the effort that went into the human dimension may well remind readers of the equally vast gap between society's ability to exploit technical science for its own ends and its ability to define those ends in a constructive way.

Reviewed by J. A. Harder, July 1977

New Information on the Mantell Case

(CONTINUED FROM THE JUNE ISSUE)

CONCLUSION

Well, it starts from an absolute stationary position and makes a circle of the entire base. Now, the north/south runway is 1 mile long and there's at least 3/4-mile from the end of the runway to the limits of the base at the north. And there's about a quarter of a mile or so, maybe, to the south. So this makes this object make a circle of better than 6 miles, since it's 2 miles in diameter, it has to be more than 6 miles.

It does that, and we timed it [I did]. It accelerated to a speed of in excess of a thousand miles an hour. It comes back and stops instantly. It don't slow down . . . and coast to a stop. It stopped like it run into a wall.

How many times did it circle the base?

Just once. Just one big circle. When it comes back it's still right over my head. It has drifted to the Southwest.

So you're at the south end of the runway?

Yeah! I'm on the east side of the runway about — I'll say — 2 maybe 300 ft. This object has drifted. When it came back, it stopped . . . It wasn't really drifting. It just had moved southwest. Now that's against the wind, since the wind was from the Southwest. When it got down nearly to the edge of the base, just a little past the end of the runway, it descended to the ground vertically. It just came clear to the ground and stayed at the ground 10, maybe 15 seconds. [It] rose vertically back up to just under the overcast.

We had gotten in contact with an airplane, by that time, that was coming from Wright Field. He said he couldn't see anything. He was too far out yet.

Well, this is an assumption, but I think the object itself detected this airplane approaching Lockbourne because, just before the airplane arrived at Lockbourne, it went back up into the overcast and disappeared.

You never saw it again?

No!

It didn't change color. Other than the fact . . . if it did get dimmer it was wisps of clouds that was going between me and it. It didn't see the thing get dimmer and brighter as some people have described them.

I eliminate first . . . you couldn't have seen the full moon had it been out. It can't be the moon or the planet Venus, or some of the other astronomical objects that they're talking about . . . It can't be a balloon because a balloon would not drift against the wind. It can't be a light because, if it had been a light when it made the circle of the base, it would have elongated as it got out away from me. It didn't change shape other than the fact I attribute to an optical illusion. It went so fast it looked like — you know your eye retains an image for an instant . . . it went fast enough that your eye retained a little of that image behind it.

There was no exhaust.

My estimate as to the size of it I base on the fact that I know how high it was. I know how far it was away from me — 1200 feet. If I hadn't had the weather report in front of me and it had been a clear night, I couldn't have told you how big it was. But, since I know it was 1200 ft., plus a very little, since it was at a

30-degree angle, it wouldn't be much more than 1200. Then I can tell you reasonably close to how big it was. It was bigger than a one-car garage and it wasn't as big as my two-car garage.

The object when it came down to the ground was even closer than 1200 ft. I would estimate it maybe a little less than half that because if you take a 30-degree angle from here to the ceiling is 8 ft. If you drop a string from that 30-degree angle, it's going to hit out here, not quite half 8 ft. So it was a good bit closer to me when it came to the ground than when I first sighted it.

But I went out and looked to see if the grass was burned, mashed, or if there were prints where it landed, and there wasn't.

Nobody that I know of — maybe the Army did, or the Air Force — [took] radioactive measurements, but not while I was there . . .

They flew us to Wright Field three different times for interviews when this Project Blue Book was on. [Actually, Blue Book wasn't begun until later. This he had forgotten.] They wouldn't tell us anything. . .

Do you know the names of the people who were with you that night?

I know the name of one of them. It was Frank Isley.

What was his position?

He was the airways operator.

What's airways operator?

Airways is the official position that gives the weather and takes the position reports of aircraft. . .

Was he civilian or military?

Civilian. We were all civilian.

How many witnesses were there, then?

There would be four, total. The Captain, which was a meteorologist. And Frank Isley, which was in airways that night . . . the fella that was in the tower. In fact, I've forgotten the names of nearly all of them . . . that's been almost 30 years ago.

[Who did you talk to at Wright AFB?]

I don't remember whether it was Ruppelt or not, now. In fact, we talked to at least five different individuals, all officers . . . You'd talk with one awhile and go out. Then you would sit there . . . and another would come in and talk with you.

It's rather simple as far as I'm concerned. I saw it. It came down through the overcast. It made those, if you want to call them erratic maneuvers in the air. Didn't seem to be erratic from the standpoint of intelligence. It looked to me like the thing was intelligently controlled.

. . . It wasn't a haphazard performance it put on. . .

How long did it take to go around the base?

I forget the seconds that it took, but the thing you do . . . you count [like you learn to count as a pilot to time a turn]. . . We calculated at the time that it wasn't less . . . than 1000 mph.

What time did this happen?

It was about 10 after 7:00 in the evening. 5 to 10 after when it first appeared. And it was visible for a little better than 20 minutes.

So during this time, we made all the calls we could and we was trying to get this Captain to get an aircraft off of the ground right there at the base. There was plenty of pilots he could have called . . . but he didn't.

Was it light at that time or was it dark?

It was dark.

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Completely dark?

Yeah! After 7:00 in the winter time it's dark.

You say it was exactly the day of the Mantell case.

So you know what day that was?

I think it was something like the 27th of February in '48, I believe . . .

What day of the week?

I don't even remember that . . .

You're sure it was the night of the day Mantell had his accident?

Yeah!

How could you pin that down?

Because we heard of Mantell's death. All of it was on our communications.

That night?

That day, after it happened.

So you heard it . . . on the same day.

Yeah!

So you had that on your mind, I take it?

I didn't have it in mind at the time I seen this. I mean, I wasn't thinking about it.

I figured after the event that it was possibly the same object that he was chasing . . .

If you held something out at the end of your arm, did you try that to see how big it was? The size of a nickle, a quarter . . .

No, I didn't.

You say you went back to Wright-Patterson three times?

Yeah! If I remember right, they flew us over there three different times. They interviewed us together and separately.

Did they say what it was?

[No.]

Do you know who you talked to over there . . . ?

They was with this Project Blue Book.

You're sure of that?

Yeah! But, who was in charge over there, I don't know. And who the interviewers was, I don't know because . . . I'm sure they introduced themselves at the time . . . [but I don't remember]. Now, the Captain didn't go with us over there. It was only the three civilians. Me, Frank Isley, and the tower operator. He could have been interviewed separately and we didn't know it.

Could you describe the object a little more?

Perfectly round. Just as round as a basketball. Perfect sphere.

It was a sphere and not a disc seen . . .

If it was a disc, it always kept either the bottom or top side to us, and was sitting on edge. Now, I couldn't say for sure that it wasn't, but it would had to of have been sitting on edge with its flat side facing me at all times. It certainly wouldn't do that with its maneuvering around and its complete circle of the whole base and coming down to the ground.

Did you see anything on the object, markings, like doors, windows?

Not a thing. Nothing that protruded such as an antenna. No knobs that you could interpret as landing gear and nothing that I could see that looked like a port hole or a window of any kind. It looked like a completely smooth surface that was heated to a . . . red orange.

How bright was it?

Fairly bright.

[Did it illuminate the ground when it came down?]

I don't know whether it did or not because I was at the same level as it and it being down at that distance, I didn't see any illumination on the ground. Had I been higher . . . maybe I could have seen some illumination on the ground . . .

Was there any snow on the ground at this time?

No!

Do you know what the temperature was?

No, I don't remember, but it was not a cold night. It was probably cold enough to see your breath out. [The overcast was 1200 ft. and it was solid.]

Do you know how thick it was?

No! [They didn't give the air traffic control people that information at that time.]

Did the object . . . pass behind any other object?

No! It landed between me and a fence. There was a fence at the edge of the base. I couldn't see the fence [between me and the object. So it must have been between me and the fence.]

Could you describe the motion it made before it went around the base or after it came back?

The motion itself was like it wanted to mozey around. [Drift a little in different directions, like it wanted to stay in that general area.]

No pattern that you could discern?

No pattern at all . . . this was a slow movement backwards and forwards.

From the time you first saw it, did it immediately begin these movements?

It stopped there dead . . . between 1 and 2 minutes. Then it started maneuvering around . . . they were curved lines . . . It stayed in an area less than a city block square . . . [Then it went around the base.]

How long did it make the maneuvers [before going around the base,] timewise?

If it was in sight for 20 minutes, it was visible stationary at the start for say 2 minutes, it made these maneuvers around for awhile. Stopped stationary again for a couple more minutes. So, it took it some time for it to come to the ground. Time to go back up. It was stationary after it went back up. So you would have to just guess. I didn't time it.

So, it went around the base, came right back to its original . . .

Right back to its original position, which was right practically over my head, and at 90 degrees from vertical.

How long did it stay there?

When it came back?

Yeah!

Well, I'd guess 3 or 4 minutes before it came down to the ground. It stopped and stayed stationary and may have moved 20 to 50 feet at that time because it didn't necessarily look like it was screwed into position. When it did come down, it just started descending vertically . . . just perfectly straight like an elevator. I would definitely say 15 seconds would cover the length of time it was on the ground. And maybe 10 would . . . then rose vertically the same way.

When it went up into the overcast, the overcast — bottom side of it — was evidently thin in places because I saw it as it was going up into the overcast for say 3 lengths . . . I could see it that long. See it

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Mantell

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disappear gradually into the overcast even though it went up at a rate [pause] it went into the overcast. When it went into the overcast, I could see overcast between me and it.

Did it reflect light on the overcast?

No! That was a little bit peculiar because had it been shining a light out from itself, as bright as it looked to me, it looked like that it would be illuminating something around it. All I could do was see it through the overcast . . .

It went up and stopped below the overcast and stayed there maybe 2 or 3 minutes and then went up into the overcast. And all this time I'm on the radio, telephone in one hand and microphone in the other . . . trying all frequencies . . . trying to contact an aircraft. That the only one we contact, coming from Wright Field. He said he couldn't see anything because he was too far out.

How long after the object disappeared did the aircraft arrive?

Not long . . . he must have been at West Jefferson when the object went back up into the overcast.

What kind of aircraft was it?

I think it was probably a C-47 . . .

Do you remember the questions . . . that were asked you at Wright Pat? What kind of things they were looking for?

No! The only thing I remember was that it was a deliberate attempt, I think on their part, to try and confuse us because [they would ask questions based on answers given earlier, but changed in some manner. They seemed to be trying to see if our answers would change.]

They asked if it had an exhaust to it . . . I told them . . . it appeared — the retention of your eye of the light — it appeared like it lengthened, but I am sure that the thing didn't change shape . . . it didn't have an exhaust tail . . .

Do you remember anything else they asked you or what information they were looking for?

I don't recall any specific questions other than that one about it having a tail [exhaust] and if I could identify any features on it. And they asked me the size and I told 'em . . . my estimate of the size was based on how far away I knew it was . . .

Did you turn in a written report on this?

We signed a typewritten report that they made over there. We didn't write it ourselves.

Was it classified at any time?

It was classified . . . we was warned not to talk about it.

For how long a period?

At that time, it impressed me never to talk about it . . .

What was the level of security?

I don't know . . . there was nothing in the paper . . . I was under Civil Service then . . . [We didn't even tell the other employees.]

Were you asked to go out there, or ordered?

Yeah! They ordered us to go out.

You know why they took you out there so many times?

Be hard to tell . . . just like anything the Army does. It has to be done in triplicate.

We didn't go 3 days straight . . . The same fellas seemed to be in charge all the time.

Were they all in uniform?

Yeah! They was all in uniform.

They come up with a discrepancy that they hassled me about . . . They pretended that they couldn't understand the conditions I explained a certain thing to 'em . . . I was in a different position than the other feller which would make my view different. [He saw the trajectory of the rising object curve as it entered the overcast, but the others saw it go straight up.] It entered at a heading of northwest. It didn't go vertically into the overcast . . . They tried to make one or the other of us out a liar. I tried to explain to 'em, he is looking at it from a different perspective than what I am. We're 90 degrees apart and what appeared to him to be a straight line . . . I definitely detected the curvature as it went into the overcast . . . This tower operator was looking at it from a different angle which appeared to him to be a straight line.

Did that satisfy them?

I don't think so . . .

When you looked at this object and it was 30 degrees from vertical, which direction were you looking?

I was looking just a little bit south of west. It wasn't directly west of me, but very nearly west, because I was directly west of the runway which runs north and south . . . When it made the circle it came out close over top of me and made this complete circle of the base and it came back to its original position, which was just practically over the runway . . . It was so near being over the runway, it could have been on the other side, but there's no way for me to tell . . . [He was between 200 and 300 ft. off the runway, just far enough to be safe.]

Which side of the runway did it land on?

At the end . . . At the end there was a long grassy strip and the fence. [It landed in the grassy area.]

Do you remember the contents of the report circulated about Mantel that day?

The report was that he ran out of oxygen. He exceeded the safe altitude and didn't have oxygen aboard and he was at [15,000 ft.] . . .

Part of his transmission was — now this I won't say for sure — he either said it's gigantic and it's metallic or it's monstrous and metallic. But I think he said it's gigantic and metallic.

Was this in the reports you read there that day?

I didn't read 'em, I heard part of 'em.

They were coming over the radio?

Yeah! Coming over the telephone and radio. There was an hour or so of discussion after it was over and when they found the wreckage, they determined 2 or 3 days after this that he had become unconscious and the airplane disintegrated in the air because it dived.

A P-51 don't disintegrate that easy, I don't think, in the air . . .

Was this normal radio transmission you were picking up of the search?

They was relaying it, evidently, from the tower in Kentucky, from the people in contact with him, through our tower at Columbus. How this was accomplished, I don't know. We had direct lines, at the time, everywhere. I could punch a button and call Cincinnati, direct line telephone.

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Mantell

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Was this normal procedure for them to pipe this sort of information over the . . .

No, we didn't do that very often, but . . . it was possible to do it. I think it was such an unusual situation was the reason they did it. We had written reports of the conversation that we got to read.

I don't remember now the exact working of this here conclusion of the board of inquiry when they have an airplane loss . . . but I know the conclusion was that at 15,000 ft. he ran out of oxygen.

The last words he said "I'm closing in on the object. It's gigantic and it's metallic." Now, that's the last words he transmitted that we heard.

Did you actually hear his transmission?

Yeah!

It [the object] was low when he first observed it. And it started climbing and he started climbing.

Were you there when this started?

Yeah! This was sometimes in the afternoon, I think . . . I was on duty. It must have been in the afternoon.

There was confusion. Couple trying to talk at the same time. Probably excitement in their voices. After it was over, there was still some discussion going on. This direct line to Cincinnati, I talked to 'em down there and they was talking to Kentucky.

None of this am I clear on. None of that stuck in my mind [like my own sighting.]

How long after . . . did you see the object?

It was that night. I just about forgotten all about it [the Mantell incident]. In fact, that wasn't even on my mind. When I was laying there I was just listening to the radio and looking out the window . . . I kept the AM radio on all the time [but turned down so as not to drown out the official radio.]

He [Mantell] had crashed before the conversations terminated, because there were other aircraft flying. He was ordered not — I didn't hear this [but learned through channels later or] — to ease in with it. To breakoff at 10,000 ft.

He said he was at 15,000 ft. and closing. It's gigantic. It's metallic. It was the last words he said.

You heard that?

Yeah! I don't know whether it was "gigantic" or "monstrous". I'm 99 percent sure it was "gigantic" — the word he used.

Were you aware at that time [of the Skyhawk balloon launchings, some of which were reportedly used for aerial photographic reconnaissance of Russia?]

*Had he been an idiot, he might not have been able to tell a balloon. But a combat pilot with as many hours as he had . . . [it doesn't happen].**

Do you know what the shape of the object was that Mantell reported?

It was supposed to be the same as the one I saw. A perfect sphere. It was — he didn't say it that I heard it — [I learned it later.] They have tapes, I think, of his entire conversation.

*He was aware that high altitude balloons were launched in those days, but not their purpose. He thinks some were launched from Clinton Air Force Base, Ohio.

Letters

Despite the claims of many ufologists that they are able to discern particular patterns or modes of operation from their studies of UFO behavior, an overview of the evidence tells me that we should proceed cautiously. The following items appear justified by critical and open-minded appraisal of sightings.

UFO's are beyond the realm of scientific explanation, as we presently use the term. When objects can appear either as material or immaterial entities, all simplistic notions of such as interstellar vehicles become absurd. Likewise, any arguments based on the ETH as an implicit assumption are not valid and yield no dividends nor bring us nearer a solution.

As an alternative approach, I propose that we refuse to be fooled by the obvious or the apparent; that we accept UFO encounters at face value; that we study them in context of mankind upon planet Earth in the latter third of the twentieth century — how they affect man and his attitudes; that we continue to treat the phenomena as unique until such time as the tools are acquired through man's own efforts or by means of outside forces — until the mind behind the method decides to make more definitive revelations, the use of which should aid us poor investigators and stupefied wonderers, or until science stumbles across an answer. I intuitively doubt the latter will be the case.

Meanwhile, let us continue to watch and wonder. Perhaps we are being taught something whose importance we cannot yet guess. I hesitate to use the word; yet teaching implies preparation.

Richard M. Rendler

Research

I would like to contact other people doing research on UFOs during the early period from 1850 to 1950 inclusive. I am especially interested in any chronological listing that might be available.

Contact: James P. Barrett

130 Ballard Drive

W. Hartford, CT 06119 USA

Note:

The June 1977 issue of the APRO *Bulletin* carried an article by Jan Eric Herr directing criticisms toward certain aspects of Ground Saucer Watch's (GSW) computer aided photo analysis. We have received a rather complete response from Williams H. Spaulding, Director of GSW but due to space availability (his response is rather lengthy) we will postpone its publication until next month's *Bulletin*.

*New Address? ? ?
Please Notify Us! ! !*

"Hidden" UFO experiences

A number of recent experiments have suggested that there may be an unexpectedly large number of UFO abductions that are hidden from the conscious memory of witnesses, but which can often be recovered through hypnosis. For several reasons, APRO does not encourage the exploration of UFO-related unconscious memories by persons inexperienced in the hypnotic regression of such witnesses. However, there are other methods, which do not make use of hypnosis, for getting information from the unconscious mind. One of the most effective is the "pendulum technique" described below. It can be used as a "self test" by persons who could have a hidden experience in their memory, or as an investigative technique by APRO FIELD INVESTIGATORS. A positive response should not be considered as anything conclusive, but might indicate that a further investigation is called for. Such further investigation will be coordinated by Dr. James A. Harder, APRO Director of Research, and performed by specially trained field investigators. Hypnotic regression by "clinical hypnotists", "professional hypnotists", "medical hypnotists" and others should be discouraged by APRO field investigator representatives, and all such cases referred to headquarters or to Dr. Harder or Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle.

THE PENDULUM TECHNIQUE

Among the many pathways in the brain there seems to be one that connects the unconscious memory to an interpretive center that then can be connected to the voluntary muscles. In this way, one can gain access to parts of the unconscious mind without having the material pass through the conscious center, thus bypassing possible censoring mechanisms. The pendulum itself is a small weight of about an ounce or slightly less, suspended by a light chain or thread, that is held in the hand of the subject as he rests his elbow on the table. The chain should be of such a length, about 11 or 12 inches, that it suspends the bob or weight just above the table top. It is best to use a ball, or some other symmetric shape, so that the inevitable rotation of the bob is not confusing to the swinging motions to be observed. Such pendulums can be bought, but are easily made at home.

The subject is then asked to voluntarily swing the bob in a to-and-fro motion while concentrating on the response "yes"; he then swings it in a side-to-side motion while concentrating on the response "no". Sometimes a circular swing, either clockwise or counterclockwise, can be arranged to mean "I don't know" or "I don't want to say". After these trials, the subject is told not to try to affect the bob, but to let it hang freely and swing naturally. Then he is asked several questions concerning his age, address, etc. for which answers are known; the pendulum should swing lightly in the correct direction, confirming the action as guided by the unconscious mind. A swing of one half inch should be adequate, though larger swings are not uncommon. In about 90% of subjects, a reliable response pattern can be developed. During any subsequent questioning, it is well to check occasionally for the yes and no responses. If they reverse, reinforce the new calibration, and continue, checking occasionally.

After these preliminaries, the subject may be asked

questions that may be contained only in his unconscious mind. The recovery of information can be as powerful as in hypnosis, but answers are only to questions that can be answered by yes, no, don't know, don't want to say. Also there is a greater problem of posing questions so they are as neutral as possible. It is also best to begin by asking questions of a general sort, and to build specific questions on the answers to them. If the subject thinks that he may be unwittingly influencing the pendulum by watching it (which is usually a help), instruct him to try to look slightly upwards while his eyes are closed. This enhances the alpha condition in the brain and may give better answers.

The following set of questions can be used with a subject who may have had a hidden UFO related experience. Record all answers.

1. Does your unconscious mind have a memory of something that was very important to you, but which you cannot remember consciously now?

IF YES: 1(a) Is there a memory there that will be available to you in the near future?

IF NO, try again. If consistently YES to 1, and NO to 1(a), stop.

IF YES to question 1(a): Was this as a child less than ten years old? Etc. until an approximate age is bracketed.

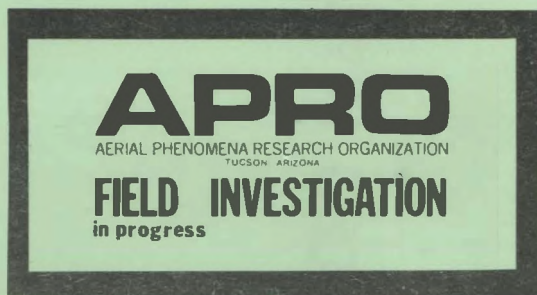
2. Does your unconscious mind know if there were any other such experiences? IF YES, try to find other ages; if NO, go to question 3.

3. Does your unconscious mind remember this in connection with some strange looking people, or person?

4. Does your unconscious mind remember something connected with what it thinks is a UFO experience?

Try several times on each question, recording all significant swings, in the order in which they occur.

If the answers to questions 3 or 4 are consistently YES, you may try to obtain additional details. Record all questions and answers, and please send to Dr. James A. Harder, 2800 Hilgard St., Berkeley, CA, 94709. You will receive by return mail a questionnaire that has been tailored to the responses already given.



Plasticised cards impressed with the APRO seal (seal does not show on replica) available to APRO Field Investigators - \$2.00 per pair.