

**FBI**  
FLYING  
SAUCER  
REVIEW

TWENTY PENCE

# CASE HISTORIES

SUPPLEMENT 9

FEBRUARY 1972



Witnesses at the landing site

## REPORT FROM DELPHOS

see page 4



# CASE HISTORIES

Supplement No. 9  
February, 1972

Companion journal to the  
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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1972

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Case Histories

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# The Aldridge Case: Pc. Leek's Photographs

J. Allen Hynek and  
Julian Hennessey

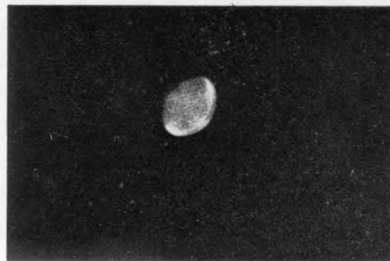
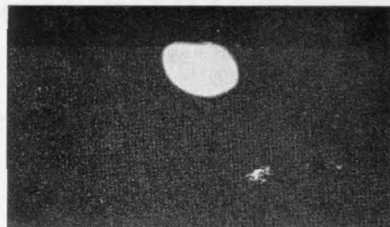
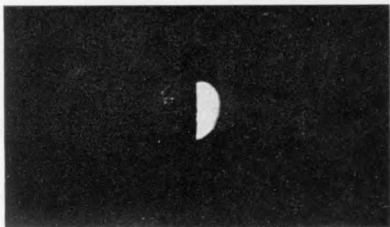
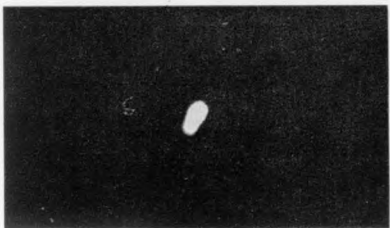
When Dr. Hynek visited England this past September to attend scientific meetings and to present an invited paper on UFOs at the Institute of Theoretical Astronomy at the University of Cambridge, I suggested that it might be a good idea to visit Aldridge and personally look into the UFO case that had been given a deal of publicity on the BBC and in the newspapers. Having always felt that investigating a case *in situ* was far better than armchair theorising, Dr. Hynek fully agreed, and we went to the Midlands as the guests of Mr. Roger Stanway (now Chairman of BUFORA) of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

J. HENNESSEY.

IT was fortunate that we did investigate this case, for it proved to be an excellent demonstration of what can be accomplished by "reconstructing the crime", and we arrived at the solution with a piece of detective work of which we are both rather proud. The fact that this "UFO" proved to be not one but two(!) natural objects does not detract in the least from the true (i.e. really unexplainable) cases, many of which we have both investigated and for which we have been unable to provide any natural answers. The Aldridge case is such a good example of what can happen when honest mistakes are made and when circumstances conspire to "fool" otherwise competent persons, that we feel readers of the FSR should know about it.

On Monday, August 16, 1971, at 2.25 a.m., Mr. Joseph Wilcox and his wife were driving towards Aldridge when they observed a "large and yellowish" coloured object in the sky. On arriving at his home in Walsall Road, Mr. Wilcox telephoned Aldridge Police Station reporting that the object was still visible to him. On stepping out from the Police Station, the constables answering the call immediately observed the bright object and proceeded to Walsall Road where they took pictures with a Minolta Hi-Matic 7 automatic camera set on "infinity". The constables and a sergeant then left in two patrol cars and viewed the object from different parts of the area before returning to the station.

Both authors took bearings from the police station, and "The Pantry" in Walsall Road (where they were quite exact), and all proved to be the same. Consultation with a nautical almanac (kindly provided by Dr. Maddison of Keele University) showed that the altitude



and azimuth of the "object" and of Mars coincided! But, the photographs surely were not of Mars. Furthermore, the constable taking the pictures had indicated that his exposure meter read "9" when he was taking them. Of what then were they a photograph? Now here probably no amount of armchair detective work could have given the answer. An actual on-the-scene reconstruction of the event was necessary.

We borrowed the very same camera that had been used that evening, and returned to the exact spot from which the original shots had been taken. One of us then aimed the camera in precisely the same direction (determined by prismatic compass bearing) it had been aimed on the night in question. Imagine our surprise when we noted in the very upper corner of the viewfinder a bright street light just "getting into the act." And the exposure meter reading was 9.

When we had examined the original dozen negatives, kept at the County Constabulary Headquarters, we were surprised to find that the mysterious object had appeared on only four of them (not in sequence). This is easily explained by the fact that the constable who took the pictures had moved the camera, so that sometimes the street light was in the field of view, but most of the time it was not.

In short, a most honest mistake had been made. The constable, who admittedly knew nothing of photography but had been instructed "to set it at infinity, on automatic, and shoot," was obviously aiming at Mars, which was then the brightest it had been since 1924. We can attest that on August 16 it looked bright indeed and one unfamiliar with astronomy would surely not have taken this bright light as a "planet." Nothing showed up in the centre of the field at any time. This was to be expected. Even at its brightest Mars cannot be photographed by a short exposure with a hand-held camera. So nothing appeared in the centre of the field, but on some shots an out-of-focus image of a nearby street light did!

Thus we feel this little episode was a sobering experience for us as UFO investigators, and holds a moral for all of us. Whenever possible, get to the original spot of the sighting, and preferably at the exact time of day or night as well. It is surprising how often "re-enacting the crime" will offer a solution.

But not always. Both authors have investigated cases at the very location and have come up with no solution. In such cases, the validity of the UFO report is immeasurably strengthened—in short, we have a "true UFO"—it remains unidentified!

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## Mystery Object seen from French Observatory

Translation by Gordon Creighton from a draft forwarded by Aimé Michel. A similar account has appeared recently in *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 115 (December 1971).

THE incident occurred on September 16, 1971, at 8.45 p.m., and the approximate duration of the sighting was 5 minutes.

It all started with a series of some fifteen telephone calls, very close together, to the Haute-Provence Observatory (St. Michel l'Observatoire) by people in Manosque and vicinity, one of the calls being from an engineer at the Atomic Centre at Cadarache. These callers reported a strange bright object in the sky, roughly in the direction of St. Michel, which lies to the north-west from Manosque. These calls were transferred by the operator at the Observatory to the call-box in the great cupola of the 1.93m. telescope. They were taken by the two night assistants at the cupola, M. Gabelou and M. Rambaud, and by two technical workers from the Meudon Observatory who had gone to do a job at St. Michel.

The cupola of the large telescope is surrounded by a circular terrace which goes right round it at the level of the laboratories on the second storey, just below the telescope. From there, one has a view of the surrounding

countryside over a very long distance. The individuals mentioned above go out on to this terrace and immediately see, towards the E-SE (over Valensole), at 20° above the horizon, two bright points of light as luminous as Mars, very close together and appearing to be linked together (making the same movements). Around them is a diffused yellowish oval-shaped halo, within which they move about.\* The shape formed by the two points of light and the halo moves from left to right in a continuous movement that is quite slow, but faster than the movement of the *Echo* satellites. The apparent trajectory lies over the hill that skirts the river Durance between the peak known as Le Rocher de Volx (in the direction of Valensole) and Manosque (further to the right, hidden by the hill in question).

The object is slowly climbing as it moves towards the right, i.e., southwards. There is total silence. One of the witnesses, M. Gabelou, dashes into one of the labs to get the Huet 10 × 50 binoculars kept there for the use of the astronomers working in the cupola, and comes back immediately on to the terrace. The

object, now reduced to a single point of light, has moved towards the south, it passes beneath Mars around which it describes a right-angle, swinging away upwards and then coming back towards the left again. Then it gradually moves away towards the horizon in a north-easterly direction. Seen through the binoculars it appears like a small disc no larger than Mars, and preceded by a short diffuse luminous trail of a yellowish-orange colour something like that of a comet. The brightness decreases with the distance, without the light being extinguished in the way that the brightness of a satellite is extinguished when it enters the Earth's cone of shadow.

M. Boidin, a student from Paris who is doing a course at the Observatory of Haute-Provence, tried next day, but without success, to identify the parties who had made the 'phone calls. He also telephoned the radar station at Marignane, and the latter confirmed that, at the date and time in question, there was an object over the St. Michel region, the origin and nature of which they have been unable to identify. This object was moving more slowly than an aircraft, the round blips formed on the radar screen overlapping partly with each circular sweep and forming "knots".

The radar logging, and the form of the object's trajectory (a loop), rule right out any question of its having been an artificial satellite. A stratosphere sonde balloon is likewise ruled out. Apart from the fact that it has no light of its own (though it could perhaps have been illuminated at a high altitude by the setting Sun?), it would have been seen almost vertically overhead from both Manosque and the Observatory (located 12 kilometres, as the crow flies, from Manosque) and not low over the horizon from both places. The object was in fact flying at a height of several kilometres between St. Michel on the one hand and Valensole and Manosque on the other. This was corroborated by the horizontal plotting by the Marignane radar of the area over the St. Michel region, and by the measurements of the object's absolute speed on the radar screen: this absolute speed fits well with the apparent speed

observed at St. Michel if the object is taken to be at a distance of some few kilometres, but not if it is much further away.

There remains, finally, the hypothesis that it was a helicopter. But the silence was complete, and the presence of the diffuse luminous halo, which was clearly observed by the four witnesses—all of whom are experienced sky-watchers—on a clear night with no mist, also seems to rule this explanation right out.

Although, so far as the technicians who observed the phenomenon from the Haute-Provence Observatory are concerned, they have refrained from making any interpretation themselves, and have been content simply to report what they saw, it seems that this is a case of a UFO sighting. It would be interesting to make an investigation in the Manosque region with a view to securing other eye-witness accounts and establishing more precisely the trajectory of the object, its apparent diameter and its appearance. It is worth noting that, for an eye-witness with good sight, the disc of Mars (20in.) is just recognisable as a disc through binoculars giving an enlargement of 8 or 10, while the disc of Jupiter (40in.) shows up clearly. The luminous "point" observed through the binoculars thus measured a few tenths of seconds of arc at the most. This corresponds to a diameter of the order of 1 metre at a distance of 6 kilometres. But if we bear in mind the apparent size of the halo surrounding the object, or even merely the distance between the two luminous points which at the start of the sighting were visible to the naked eye as definitely separated, then it seems that the object could have been much larger, with a diameter of at least several metres.

#### Note

- \* The distance between the two points of light and the angular dimension of the halo were not stated clearly by the witnesses, but, from the sketches which they made, the halo must have been roughly the apparent size of the full Moon.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE . . .

Rearrangement of publication times of

## FSR CASE HISTORIES

In normal circumstances Supplement 10, the next issue of *FSR Case Histories*, would have followed the March/April 1972 issue of *Flying Saucer Review*. It has been decided, however, to delay publication of Supplement 10 until after the May/June 1972 issue of the Review. It is hoped that this rearrangement will enable us to ease the senior magazine back into its proper publication times, so repairing the ravages of a series of strikes plus other industrial action—not to mention staff mishaps—during an uneasy period of more than twelve months during which we have also had to carry out difficult reorganisations.

Readers, please note that you do not stand to lose anything: the numbered issues for which you have subscribed will continue in sequence, the sole difference being that No. 10, and all subsequent issues, will appear two months later than was originally planned. We assure readers that the reports and articles, already being assembled, will be as varied and interesting as ever.

And remember, we need more support, so . . .

**PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT  
FSR CASE HISTORIES**

# Landing Report from Delphos

Ted Phillips

Our contributor has been active in UFO investigation with the Mid-West UFO Network and with *APRO*, and also as a staff member of *Skylook* over the past six years. Some of the material in this report was submitted to and published in the *APRO Bulletin*<sup>1</sup> and in *Skylook*<sup>2</sup> magazine.

**A**N illuminated object was observed very close to the ground at a farm near Delphos, Kansas, on November 2, 1971, at 19.00 C.S.T.

Delphos is located 11 miles north-east of Minneapolis, in Ottawa County, Kansas. The site of the observation was on the Durel Johnson farm, half a mile north and half a mile east of Delphos. The farm is located on a section of the state which consists of scattered tree lines and fields. There are no hills in the area.

The witnesses were Durel Johnson, aged 52, Erma Johnson, 49, and Ronald Johnson, 16.

Possible confirming witnesses were Elton Smith, School Principal, Delphos, and Lester Ernsberger of Minneapolis.

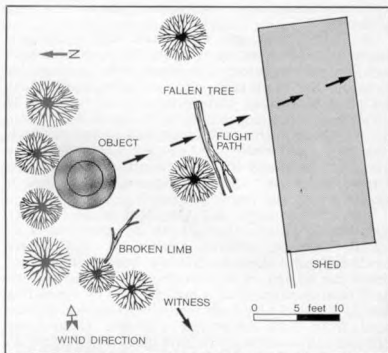
An investigation was conducted at the site on November 3, 1971, by Sheriff Ralph Enlow, Under-sheriff Harlan Enlow, and Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Kenneth Yager. Further investigations at the site were made on December 4, 1971, and January 11, 1972, by the author.

## The observation

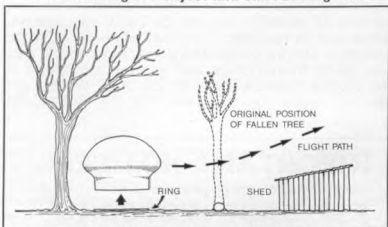
At approximately 7.00 p.m. C.S.T. on November 2, 1971, Ronald Johnson was tending the sheep, accompanied by his dog. Mrs. Johnson called from the back door of the Johnson house asking Ronald to come to supper: he replied that he would be through in a short time. After Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had finished their meal, Mrs. Johnson called the boy again, but this time he didn't reply. Mrs. Johnson stated that she didn't see anything of an unusual nature, such as a glow, and did not hear any sound.

Ronald stated that as he worked in the sheep pen and just after his mother called to him the first time—he heard a rumbling sound and the object was suddenly illuminated. Ronald and the dog did not notice the object prior to the sound. The object was illuminated from top to bottom by multi-coloured light. The illumination did not come from individual lights but rather it was a mass of varied colours over the entire surface. An actual metallic surface could not be seen, but the boy could make out a definite shape. The object appeared to be slightly domed at the top and base, with a slight bulge at the centre. There was a bright glow between the base and the ground. The object was hovering about 2ft. above the ground, and at no time did the witness see it touch the ground.

The witness was about 75ft. from the object and had a fairly clear view of it. Upon seeing the object he stood quite still, and noted that the dog was very quiet. Ronald stated that the colours were blue, red and orange and that the colours did not change at any time. The object had an estimated diameter of 9ft.



Plan showing the object and surrounding area



The object and surrounding area

and appeared to be about 10ft. high. He could not see any surface details because of the glow, which was quite bright, and the trees in the area were illuminated, as was the ground. The boy said that it hurt his eyes when he looked directly at the object, and for several days following the incident his eyes were sore, and he suffered from headaches.

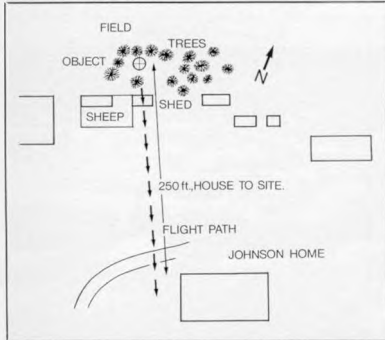
The sheep were obviously disturbed by the presence of the object, or by the sound, as they were bellowing. Mr. Johnson stated that the sheep would jump from the pen each evening for a week after the incident.

<sup>1</sup> *Bulletin of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization*, 3910 East Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712, U.S.A.

<sup>2</sup> *Skylook*, Box 129, Stover, Missouri, U.S.A.

The boy was sure that he would have seen the object before the rumbling sound began had it been illuminated. Ronald likened the sound to that of an old washing machine which vibrates. After several minutes the object brightened at the base. The glow at the base enlarged somewhat and the object began to ascend with considerable speed at an angle, passing over a nearby shed by about 4ft. As it cleared the shed the sound changed to a high-pitched sound, like that of a jet aircraft.

As the sound changed the boy was suddenly unable to see—he claimed to have lost his vision completely. I asked him if he could see spots in his vision, as one would do following a photographic flash; he said he could not. (We may assume—and this would be an assumption only—that it was at this time that Mrs. Johnson called the boy the second time. As the object had ascended and was to the south of the house at a point not visible from the back door, Mrs. Johnson



Plan showing situation of object, relative to the Johnson home.

would not have heard or seen anything unusual.) Ronald stated that, while unable to see, he could hear the sound fading into the distance.

After what seemed to be several minutes, the boy began to regain his sight. He saw the object in the sky and ran to the house. He told his parents that a flying saucer or something had landed and was still visible in the sky. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson both stated that the boy was frightened and excited when he entered the house. They didn't believe the boy at first and he became very aggravated.

Mr. Johnson then went outside and saw a bright light in the southern sky. He called out, and all three observed the light at a point 180° due south. They described the light as being very bright and at least half the apparent diameter of the full moon. I asked if it would have been as bright and large as an automobile light 100ft. away and they said it was larger and brighter. As they observed the light, which was the colour of an arc-welder, it was decreasing in size, moving into the distance. They watched the light for a brief time and then pro-

ceeded to the landing site. They did not see the object again.

As Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and Ronald walked around the shed adjacent to the site, they saw, in the darkness, a glowing circle. The soil surface was glowing a bright grey-white. Portions of nearby trees reportedly glowed also. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson touched the ring surface, but it was not warm. The texture of the soil surface felt strange, like a slick crust, as if the soil was crystallised. Mrs. Johnson noted an immediate numbing at her finger tips. She rubbed her hand against her leg in an attempt to remove the dirt and that portion of her leg also became numb. She likened the numbness to that of a local anaesthetic. Mr. Johnson noted the numbness in his fingers also. For about two weeks this condition prevented Mrs. Johnson from taking pulse readings on patients at the rest home where she works. She stated that she simply could not feel anything with her finger tips. Mr. Johnson said that the numbness left his fingers in a much shorter time. They did not consult a doctor. Mrs. Johnson ran to the house and picked up their polaroid camera, returned to the site, and photographed it.

Upon returning to the house, Mr. Johnson called Mr. Willard Critchfield, Editor of the *Delphos Republican*: according to Mr. Critchfield the time was about 8.00 p.m. No action was taken at that time.

The following day—November 3, 1971—Mr. Johnson and Ronald drove into Delphos and talked with Mrs. Thaddia Smith. I quote from Mrs. Smith's report given to Sheriff Enlow on the afternoon of November 3, 1971:

"While visiting with Mr. Johnson and Ronnie during the noon hour, Wednesday, November 3, I learned some of the details of the previous night. This is the way it was told to me.

"Ronnie, aged 16, accompanied by his dog, was taking care of his flock of sheep at approximately 7.00 p.m. when suddenly he saw a blinding, brilliant light, and heard a loud rumbling sound that turned into a sound similar to a jet engine, and then the light ascended into the heavens in a southerly direction from an area in a shelter belt of trees behind a hog house near the sheep pen.

"He was nearly paralysed with fear, but finally managed to run to the house and called his parents out of the house to look at the light which was still visible high in the heavens to the south of their house.

"The boy and his dog were still afraid. The dog wandered around the yard with his head up in the air as though still looking for the object.

"The family went to the area where the object was seen ascending from [sic]. There they found a large circle on the ground that had a fluorescent glow in the dark. Mrs. Johnson took a picture of the area.

"I, after listening to their experience, a little sceptical, having my curiosity aroused and being a newspaper reporter, decided to go to the Johnson farm home to take a picture of the area where the object had been.

"I was accompanied by my husband, Lester Smith, and son-in-law, Kenneth McCullick, who were also curious.

"Upon arriving at the scene I knew instantly that something had left evidence that it had been there.



Photograph taken November 3, 1971, 19 hours after alleged landing by Sheriff Enlow. Note undisturbed section of left edge

"The circle was still very distinct and plain to see. The soil was dried and crusted. The circle or ring was approximately 8ft. across, the centre of the ring and outside area were still muddy from recent rains. The area of the ring that was dried was about a foot across and was very light in colour.

"The object had crushed a dead tree to the ground either when it landed or took off, and from appearance had broken a limb of a live tree when it landed. The broken limb was most unusual, it would snap and break as though it had been dead for quite some time, yet it was green under the bark, and the upper area still had green leaves clinging to its branches. However the lower area was free of all leaves and some of the bark on the lower areas looked as though it had been blistered and had a whitish cast.

"I took a picture of the area and went back to the newspaper office to write my story. Thinking about the almost unbelievable things I had seen I decided to call the Concordia Weather Bureau to find out if they had seen any unidentifiable objects on radar, and was told their radar had not been turned on and they advised me to notify the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office. I called KSAL in Salina to report the incident. They also advised me to report to the sheriff's office, which I did."

The above report was written by Mrs. Thaddia Smith, reporter with the *Delphos Republican*, and given to Ottawa County Sheriff Enlow.

I now quote from a written report by Undersheriff Harlen Enlow to me on January 11, 1972:

**"Report of Harlen Enlow, Undersheriff**

UFO SIGHTING AT DUREL JOHNSON RESIDENCE 1 N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. OF DELPHOS

"At approx. 1.30 p.m. 11-03-71\* this Officer received a call from Thaddia Smith, a reporter for the *Delphos Republican*, advising that a UFO had been reported at 7.00 p.m. 11-02-71 at the Durel Johnson farm 1 mile north and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of Delphos. Mrs. Smith advised that she had reported the incident to the Weather Bureau



Ring outlined by unmelted snow—facing NW—taken December 4, 1971



Fallen tree, 7in. diameter

at Concordia, Kansas, and to KSAL Radio in Salina, Kansas, and that both had advised her to report it to this office.

"At approx. 2.00 p.m. 11-03-71 Sheriff Ralph Enlow, Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Kenneth Yager, and Undersheriff Harlan Enlow went to the Johnson farm and talked to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their son Ronnie who had observed the UFO the previous night.

"We were advised by Ronnie that at approx. 7.00 p.m. 11-02-71 while out in the sheep pen with the sheep he had heard a loud noise and saw a bright light coming from a shelter belt behind the hog house. As he watched, the light rose into the sky and left in a southerly direction. Ronnie ran into the house and got his parents who came out and saw the object in the sky still headed South.

"Mr. Johnson took us out behind the hog house where we observed a ring shaped somewhat like a doughnut

\* Readers should remember that in the American style the month is given first, followed by the day.—EDITOR.



**Broken limb over W edge of ring**

with a hole in the middle. The ring was completely dry with the hole in the middle and outside of the ring mud. There were limbs broken from a tree and a dead tree broken off, there. There was a slight discoloration on the trees. We were given a picture taken the previous evening by Mrs. Johnson which showed that the ring glowed in the dark. Undersheriff Enlow took a soil sample from the dried ring and photographed it.

"The soil sample taken was almost white in colour and very dry. We used a Civil Defense Radiological Monitor to determine that the soil was not radioactive. The soil sample and photographs are stored in the vault in the Sheriff's Office pending further investigation by the proper authorities.

"On 11-03-71 Mr. Lester Ernsberger of 416 Argyle St. in Minneapolis advised Deputy Sheriff Leonard Simpson that at approx. 7.30 p.m. 11-02-71 he had observed a bright light descending in the sky in the Delphos area.

Signed: Harlan Enlow, Undersheriff."

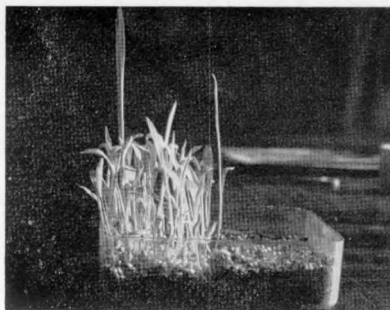
#### **Field investigation: December 4, 1971**

On the evening of December 2, 1971, I received a telephone call from Dr. J. Allen Hynek. During that conversation Dr. Hynek gave me the basic details of the Delphos sighting. I immediately placed a call to Sheriff Enlow and advised him that I would be in the area on Saturday morning, December 4, 1971. Sheriff Enlow offered to contact Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, which he did.

When I arrived at the small Kansas town of Minneapolis I found Sheriff Enlow in his office awaiting my arrival. We discussed the details of the case briefly and I was given a soil sample taken by the Sheriff on November 3, 1971, the day following the alleged landing. Sheriff Enlow and I then went to the Johnson farm which is located 11 miles north of Minneapolis.



**Ronald Johnson and dog**



**Growth in normal soil taken 5ft. from ring—no growth in ring soil**

When we arrived at the farm the temperature was 37° and the snow was melting. At the farm the condition of the lot was that of a bog. Mr. Johnson and Ronnie met us at the car and I was impressed with their sincere interest in the incident which had taken place there 32 days before. I began by talking with young Ronald. I would describe them simply as typical residents of the mid-west, having a rural background. The boy and his father are very pleasant and calm, not really excited by their unusual experience, but quite curious as to what the UFO may have been and what could have produced a ground marking such as the one found at the alleged landing site.

#### **The witnesses**

I discussed the observation with Ronald as long as the limited time would permit, he seemed sincere and not too interested in UFOs or space flight. Ronald stated that he had read a few books on UFOs in the past; that it had been at least a year since he had heard or read anything on the subject; that he had

hoped to see a UFO some day but didn't believe that he would. To my knowledge there have been no UFO sightings in the central Kansas area during the last year. He did not at any time attempt to embellish his story with wild comments or theories, and it seemed he tried very hard to answer each question correctly and to the best of his ability.

Durel Johnson stated that he and Mrs. Johnson had indeed rushed outside to see the brilliant object in the southern sky. Unfortunately, neither Mr. Johnson nor the boy were able to make any really sound estimates of the time periods during the observations. As they are not trained observers there were numerous details which they could not give with any certainty.

### The traces on the ground

Following the discussion of the sighting we went to the landing site. To reach the site one must cross the farm lot which by then was extremely muddy. The melting snow had left a great deal of standing water along with the mud. As we approached the site we walked around a small shed and through scattered trees. To my amazement there was the ring, with snow melting from the ground in all the surrounding area, still to be seen after 32 days. It was perfectly outlined by the unmelted snow. Although the surrounding soil was extremely moist, we found that if the snow was removed from any portion of the ring the soil directly beneath the snow was dry and light brown in colour, in contrast with the black, moist soil in the ring centre and around the ring.

We removed snow from one section of the ring and introduced water into the exposed ring area: the soil would not permit the water to pass through the surface. This was most remarkable, as there had been several inches of rain and snow between November 2 and December 4.

Mr. Johnson and I next removed a sample from the ring. The sample contained a high concentration of a white substance, and this white material was evident in all of the ring soil that we exposed. The particles were not to be found in the soil in the centre of the ring, or in the surrounding soil. The ring soil was quite dry to a depth of at least twelve inches. The soil outside the ring was also sampled and was simply black and wet to a depth of at least eight inches. I cannot imagine soil exposed to the elements remaining so dry for such a long period of time.

### The site

The site is located some 250ft. to the north of the farmhouse. The ground at the site is devoid of all plant life. A shed is located 23ft. from the centre of the ring, one edge of the shed being at  $140^\circ$  S. at 27ft., the other edge  $200^\circ$  S. at 25ft. The shed is 27ft. long and 4ft. high at the side towards the ring, and 5ft. high on the south side. A wooden fence runs west from the shed to the sheep shed where the witness stood, and the length of the fence is 51ft. The boy stood at a point 10ft. to the south of the fence.

Between the ring and the shed is a dead tree, located  $145^\circ$  S. at a distance of 16ft. from the ring centre. This

tree was dead before the incident, but was standing. The stump is 7in. high and 7in. in diameter and the break indicates that the tree may have been broken as the object made its descent along the assumed entry path. It appears that the tree was pushed towards the ring but fell, possibly due to a weak section on the eastern side of the trunk, at a right angle to the flight path. The fallen tree is 11ft. long and careful examination failed to reveal any marks at any point along its length. This tree could have been pulled over with a tractor and chain, but one would expect to find chain marks. Sheriff Enlow and I discussed this possibility and feel that this was not the case.

Also adjacent to the flight path one finds two 6in. diameter trees:  $125^\circ$  S. at 20ft. and  $180^\circ$  S. at 13ft. The flight path would have been between these two trees, the limbs of which extend towards the flight path, being 11ft. apart at a height of 12.5ft. above the ground. Two trees are located at  $325^\circ$  N. at 5ft. from the ring centre (1ft. from the ring edge) and at  $35^\circ$  N. at 5ft. from ring centre. These trees reportedly glowed and do show a slight discoloration on the ring side. A large broken limb is found still hanging at  $260^\circ$  W. at a distance of 11ft. from ring centre. The limb is broken at a point 8.5ft. above ground. The limb was broken downwards, and the diameter at the break is 3in. When extended to its original position the limb would have been quite near the ring's edge.

Close examination of this limb showed several possible impact marks. One mark in particular is of interest—on a section of the limb which would have been very near the circle—and is about 1in. in length: the bark was peeled back exposing a green surface. This area was definitely not a natural fault in the bark. This limb was alive at the time of the alleged landing, and it would have taken a considerable pressure to have broken it.

Entry into the site would not have been possible to the north or east as those areas contain numerous undisturbed trees. A vertical descent or ascent would be out of the question as the tree branches directly above the ring were not damaged. The broken limb did show what appeared to be heat blisters, while branches were green at the centre, but would snap at the slightest pressure. The flight path would appear to have been as Ronald described it: between two trees, over the fallen tree, over the low shed and to the south. An object with the dimensions described by the witness could have made its way into, and out of, the landing site. A landing by any conventional aircraft is completely out of the question.

After taking the appropriate measurements and photographs, we returned to the house and again briefly discussed the observation.

I then drove back to Delphos and talked with a representative of the Concordia Weather Bureau by telephone. He stated that the meteorologist had visited the site and made a check for radiation, and that the results were negative. The meteorologist could offer no explanation for the ring, and felt that it was indeed unusual.

I was given photographs of the site taken by the *Delphos Republican*, November 3, 1971, and a small branch taken on the same day.

### Field investigation: January 11, 1972

I decided that a second trip to the alleged landing site was necessary to obtain the needed information, and to get the most accurate measurements of the site possible. I felt that the trip would be worthwhile, if only to observe any changes in the ring.

I talked with Sheriff Enlow about the possibility of a hoax, we discussed this at length and both are of the opinion that a hoax would be most unlikely. I obtained a signed statement from Sheriff Enlow regarding the reliability of the witnesses. I quote his statement:

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

"In reference to the UFO sighting at the Durel Johnson residence near Delphos, Kansas, on November 2, 1971. The Johnsons are life-time residents of Ottawa County and the Delphos Community. They are well known and well respected by Officers from this Department. It is the opinion of this Officer that the information given by them would be accurate to the best of their knowledge.

"In reference to the UFO sighting on November 2, 1971, by Mr. Lester Ernsbarger of Minneapolis, Kansas. Mr. Ernsbarger is an Employee of the Minneapolis Street Department and a reserve Police Officer with the Minneapolis Police Department. I feel that his information would be accurate to the best of his knowledge.

"Signed: Ralph Enlow, Sheriff, Ottawa County, Kansas."

After talking with Sheriff Enlow I proceeded to Delphos where I stopped at the office of the *Delphos Republican*. I talked again with the Editor, Willard Critchfield and reporter Thaddia Smith. I obtained a signed statement from Mrs. Smith as she had gone to the site on November 3, 1971, and obtained branch samples and photographs. I quote from her statement:

"After receiving information late in the afternoon of November 3, 1971, that personnel from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Highway Patrol and the Cloud County Weather Bureau had visited the site and taken samples of the soil and trees, I, with my husband returned to the Johnson farm that evening to secure further information they might have for my newspaper article concerning the mysterious UFO.

"The Johnson family, my husband and I, without lights, walked in the darkness to the site.

"As we came into view of the area we could see very distinctly the glowing ring. In the area around and inside the circle there was nothing but darkness giving a person an eerie feeling.

"The Johnson family having lived in the Delphos community their entire life are respected, truthful, conscientious, trustworthy and a well-thought-of typical hard-working Kansas farm family.

"Signed: Thaddia Smith, Reporter, *Delphos Republican*."

I then returned to the Johnson farm to find Mr. Johnson and Ronnie working in the lot. The three of us went through the observation once again the details were basically the same as given before. Mr. Johnson did mention that the dog avoided the ring on the evening following the sighting, and he would return to the area only after a number of people had

visited the site the following day. Mr. Johnson stated that he had lived on the farm for the past 14 years, and that the site has never had any structures on it.

The three of us went to the site and the ground which had been muddy on my previous visit was now dry. The ring was faintly visible as it was a slightly lighter colour than the surrounding soil. We proceeded to "water down" the area with several buckets of water, and as we placed the water on the soil the ring became quite prominent. As the surrounding soil immediately absorbed the water it turned dark black, but the ring soil would not admit the water, and simply turned a lighter colour. The water stood on the ring soil briefly and suddenly ran off the surface into a lower section of ground at the centre, as it did so the surface appeared dry. It was as if the water had been poured on a glass surface.

We must remember that all this was taking place 71 days after the ring appeared. Mr. Johnson and I opened the ring in several areas all were dry and contained the white substance. We were able to expose the soil to a depth of 14in. it was still dry at that point. I opened the soil at the ring edge in order to see the normal soil meeting the ring soil from the surface to a depth of 6in. (I did not go deeper at this point) the ring soil was dry with the white substance, the normal soil joining the ring was black, damp and did not contain the white material.

On the western edge of the ring one finds an area which was not dried; it contains none of the white material. The ring has an irregular diameter of 8ft., the ring width ranges from about 12in. to over 20in. The greatest width is at the eastern side. This is interesting as it would have been down wind from the ring centre it may be possible that the wind acted as a spreading agent.

After spending several hours at the Johnson farm I drove back to Delphos and talked with Mrs. Johnson at a rest home where she works. Mrs. Johnson is a very pleasant, soft-spoken individual, sincere and intelligent. As she related the events of the evening of November 2, 1971, she simply confirmed the information given me by Mr. Johnson and Ronnie. She did state that the object seen in the sky was quite large and bright and that it was moving away from them, growing smaller. She said that as she touched the ring soil minutes after the alleged ascent it felt cool, not at all warm. It felt strange, having a slick, crusty feel. She felt the numbing in her fingers and tried to remove the soil by rubbing her hand against her leg. That portion of the leg became numb also, this condition persisted for more than two weeks.

During my first trip, and during this visit as well, I attempted to meet Lester Ernsbarger who is a possible confirming witness. I have not been able to contact him as of January 16, 1972.

### Possible confirming witnesses

Elton Smith, Box 326, Delphos, Kansas, telephone 913-523-4357. Elton Smith is employed at the Delphos Attendance Center as Principal-Educator.

Smith stated the following about the observation which took place at about 6.20 p.m. on November 2, 1971:

"I saw *only* a streak of light coming downward, to the North of me (in the approximate Delphos area) as I was walking to the north from the school building to the football field in Bennington, Kansas. I did not see an object, but just thought it was a falling star."

As Smith observed the streak descending in the general direction of the alleged landing site just 40 minutes prior to the observation of the landed object, we might assume—and it would be pure conjecture—that Smith may have indeed seen the object on its landing path. If the streak was a meteor, it would have been quite bright as the sky was not in total darkness. As no object was seen, however, we certainly cannot consider this to be a confirmation of the Delphos UFO.

Lester Ernsbarger, 416 Argyle Street, Minneapolis, Kansas 67467. Ernsbarger, a Minneapolis Street Department employee and reserve police officer observed a bright light in the sky towards Delphos at 7.30 p.m. No other details as of this date.

### Summary

Based on the interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and Ronald, Sheriff Enlow and reporter Thaddia Smith, and after seeing the alleged landing site over a period of 71 days, it presents, I believe, considerable evidence which would seem to confirm the unusual event described by the witnesses. I would suggest that this may be a most significant report.

If one eliminates the observation of the object and the evidence found at the site, the ring remains, and this unusual ground mark is indeed a mystery. Although, according to the Concordia, Kansas, Weather Bureau, there had been several inches of rain and snow at the site, the ring soil remains extremely dry and light brown in colour. The contrast between the ring soil and the surrounding soil is incredible.

It is my belief, based on the information at hand, that we have here an excellent example of the unusual phenomena which has been reported by so many for so long.

### Comparison cases

The following reports from my physical trace file compare favourably with the Delphos, Kansas, case, which is listed as case P.T. > 367

P.T. > 099

Tucuman, Argentina, January 31, 1963. 2 scorched rings were found, each 14in. wide with a diameter of 12ft. and lying some 16in. apart forming as it were a figure "8". Police and scientists made deep cuts and found that not only the grass, but also its roots, had been burnt down to a depth of 4in., "as though dessicated at a temperature in excess of 2,000°, yet without combustion or flames." On the rings a white ash-like powder was found. Later, Juan G. Perea, overseer of the neighbouring "El Trenzel" Ranch, said that he and his wife and children had seen an egg-shaped object pass over the ranch and go down towards the precise area where the marks were found. The object was travelling at a very slow speed.

P.T. > 090

Standoff, Alberta, Canada, May, 1968. A Mrs. Hoefler watched a bright, circular object land about

300 yards away. The witness ran away. The next day, two oval-shaped burned areas were found. Digging in the larger circle, which was 9ft. in diameter and 7½in. in depth, revealed that it had been burned down about 3ft. The centre of the circle was not as badly burned as the outside perimeter. The grass grew in the burned area the next year, but the sheep wouldn't eat it. Also the growth within the oval was much coarser, greener and taller than in the area surrounding. The second circle was 8ft. in diameter.

P.T. > 226

Boggabri, Australia, October 19, 1970. Unusual ground markings were found on the property of Mr. W. Erratt. They occurred in the centre of a paddock, the soil was damp and had the cohesive properties of clay. About 80 pints of rain had fallen just prior to the investigation of the site, making the site rather muddy at the time of observation. However, the initial portions of all the holes were hardened on the inside, as though they had been subjected to great heat. This contrasted markedly with the soft, surrounding soil. Compression rings were found in some cross-sections of the holes. An encrustation was found on the inside of the holes over the length which was hardened and was also found on the surface, this area also appeared dry and hard. The central hole was about 4½in. in diameter, had sharp sides and appeared to be cut as if with an auger. It was inclined at about 20° to the vertical and 16in. deep. It was slightly greater than 4½in. inside diameter at the base. A white encrustation was found in all the holes. The markings consisted of a "crater" 8in. deep and 6ft. in diameter. Inside the crater were the holes, disposed apparently symmetrically about a central hole.

P.T. > 357

Waihoke, New Zealand, January, 1965. Ross Liverton reported finding a ring in a sheep-holding pen on his farm. The circle of bare earth was 8ft. in diameter and 12in. wide. The area was a quagmire of mud. But after a shower of rain the circle reappeared as if the ground below was porous. The rest of the ground was covered with grass but the circle did not produce any growth. The ring became fainter until it disappeared after 4 years.

## IN THE FORTHCOMING MARCH/APRIL 1972 ISSUE OF

# FLYING SAUCER REVIEW . . .

### A Remarkable Case from Mendoza, Argentina

by Antonio Baragiola

### An Enigmatic Figure of the XVIIIth Century

.. by Aimé Michel

### The Angelholm Landing Report

by Sven-Olof Fredrickson

### The Holy Footprint Enigma

by F. W. Holiday

### Itaperuna Again

by Gordon Creighton

### The Piri-Reis Map: fact and fiction

by Dr. P. C. W. Davies

### The Hazards of Television

by Charles Bowen

# The Dzik Report: Los Angeles UFO

*Ann Druffel*

Mrs. Druffel, of the Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee, lives in Pasadena, California.

CLEAR, cloudless blue skies are rare over Los Angeles, California. The smog and haze which mar the atmosphere of this nation's third largest city are present most days of the year.

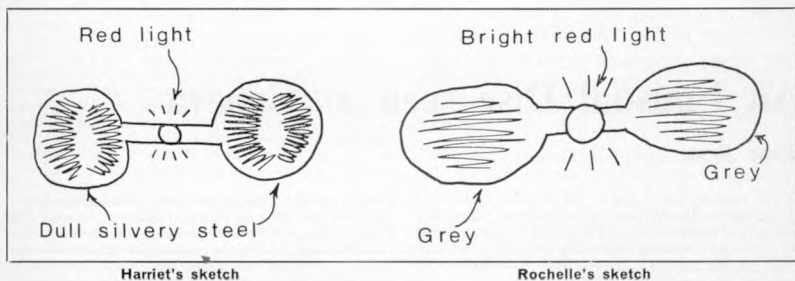
On October 16, 1968, however, north-easterly winds had blown the obscuring smog out over the Pacific Ocean. The sky early that day was generally cloudless, with better-than-average visibility over the city and nearby coastal valleys.

Harriet Dzik, then fourteen years of age, and her sister, Rochelle, then thirteen, were walking to school in a densely settled section of the city. They were looking at and enjoying the beautiful blue sky when, at 7.50 a.m., a large object caught Harriet's eye. She called her sister's attention to it.

The two girls stared at it. It was such an unusual shape and so large that the details were unmistakable. Both

motion. A high, whistling noise came from it, not very loud, but the sound became more audible as the object passed them at its nearest point. As it went off into the north-west, the noise became fainter and finally inaudible. The object disappeared into the distance: the estimated time of sighting, three minutes.

The Los Angeles International Airport is about seven miles from the girls' home and school. Both Harriet and Rochelle were familiar with the different types of planes which take off and land continually. A plane passed by at about the same time as the October 16 object, and Harriet compared its appearance with the unknown object. The metal of the plane seemed different from that of the object, in that it was more silvery and reflected light. She compared the object's size to about a dime at arm's length, or about two times larger than the full moon.



girls, having light prescription glasses, put them on, the better to see what was passing before their eyes.

The shape was definite—two round circles, dull steel in colour. The two circles were connected by a bar of the same colour, approximately as long as the diameter of each circle. On the bar was a large, red light. The entire object was solid-appearing and seemed to be made of metal. The object, circles and bar, was horizontal to their view.

It was first seen in the south, its edges clearly defined. It moved very smoothly, "a little faster than a blimp", slower than an aeroplane. To the girls, its height seemed higher than a blimp and lower than a plane. It followed a straight course, from the south when first seen towards the north-west, travelling in a smooth, gliding

Rochelle saw the two circles as more egg-shaped rather than round, as Harriet saw and later drew them. She described the object as "grey", but seemingly of some kind of metal and reflecting light faintly.

The object surprised and excited both young witnesses, because of its sharply defined shape and its closeness. Curious, they began to call public service institutions to try to find out what it was. They contacted the local newspapers, the police—six places in all, including the Air Force. Each time they were either not believed, or were met with disinterest. Finally, they called the Griffith Observatory in nearby Hollywood. There they were referred to NICAP's Los Angeles Subcommittee's UFO-reporting system, SKYNET, the same day as the sighting had occurred.

Both girls were interviewed by telephone. They gave the NICAP investigator the impression that they were reliable, poised, and mature for their ages. Each girl was interviewed separately. Both described the sighting in basically the same way, but choosing different terms to describe various aspects of the object's appearance. They returned completed sighting forms, and both included sketches of the object, drawn in coloured pencils (see reproductions of sketches accompanying this article).

Since the prevailing winds were north-easterly, the object was travelling counter to their direction. Therefore, it could not have been a balloon.

The Goodyear blimp, used for advertising and short passenger flights, is a familiar sight in Los Angeles skies. Since the object was much larger than any plane would have seemed, it was natural for the young witnesses to choose the "blimp" as a comparison in speaking of size, height, and speed.

A source close to the Los Angeles Police Department, on behalf of the NICAP Subcommittee, checked with the police in hopes of finding other reports from other witnesses on the Dzik object. No log reports were found, however, which would correlate with the sighting.

It was not until Michael M. Jaffe's article "Personal Observation While Motor Cycling in California", appeared in *Flying Saucer Review's Case Histories* (No. 5, June 1971), that any sighting has been published locally which seems to correlate the Dzik object. The shape of both the February 28, 1971, and the October 16, 1968,

objects seems identical. Mr. Jaffe saw the leading sphere as red, while the one following was blue or green. However, the Jaffe object was evidently being pursued by a small plane and was diving at approximately a 45° angle to the horizon when first seen. It was evidently travelling much faster than the Dzik object, and perhaps this added speed had something to do with the colours displayed. There has been some evidence published in UFO literature indicating colour changes at different rates of speed. Mr. Jaffe estimated the speed of his object at about 150 km.p.h., while the cruising speed of the Goodyear blimp, to which the object was compared, is 30-35 miles per hour.

The edges of the Jaffe object were "hazy", as was the linkage, whereas the Dzik object was clearly defined. This difference, too, might possibly be explained by the brilliant colours displayed, plus the added factor of speed.

The two sighting locations, Jaffe at Hayward, California, and Dzik at Los Angeles, California, are approximately 355 air miles apart, or 400 miles by highway. Although separated in distance and by a time differential of 28 months, the two sightings are striking in their similarities.

Three years later, the Dzik sisters are still intrigued by their sighting. They have given permission to publish an account in *Flying Saucer Review*. They remember with gratitude the fact that NICAP was willing, in contrast to other public service agencies, to take a full report and investigate the incident.

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## An Unusual Disc seen at Geneva

*Tova Bratt*

THE sighting was made at Saint-Jean, Geneva, on September 21, 1970, at 9.15 p.m. (local time). The witness will be referred to as Mr. J.A. as he requests that his name and address should not be published [We have them on file—EDITOR]. He has been an employee of Swissair, Geneva Airport, since the 1950s.

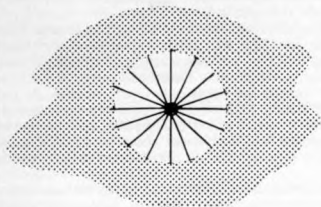
A circular object was seen towards the East, in the direction of the Old Town, with the Voirons in the background, at a height corresponding to that of the ridge of the Voirons. The diameter of the object was estimated as three times the apparent size of St. Peter's Cathedral seen from St. Jean. The central disc was of a cold, non-dazzling, pomegranate-red colour, the luminosity being uniform over the entire surface. A corona of the same hue surrounded the disc, and was twice its diameter.

The disc was divided by streaks radiating in completely regular fashion from the centre, and extending slightly beyond the circumference. No trace of movement was detected in the surface of the object which remained absolutely stable, without any perturbation.

The object was first seen over St. Peter's Cathedral,

moving vertically downwards and stabilising slowly to a complete stop (it is to be noted that the observer only saw the object in its final phase of stabilisation, when the last stage of the descending movement was just perceptible). After remaining stationary for 20 to 30 seconds the image suddenly disappeared completely, without any transition or any change in the aspect described previously.

During the sighting, Mr. J.A. leaned against a fence trying to persuade himself that what he saw was not a dream or an illusion. When it had vanished he scanned the part of the sky where the object had been seen. As his eyes became accustomed to the luminosity of the sky above the Old Town (the glare being due to dust in suspension in the air reflecting the light from street lamps and other nocturnal lights) he saw, a few seconds later, in the same direction that the object had been seen, a "trail" made visible by the particular coloration of the sky over the town, distinguished as a very light red coloration in not more than two places. The ascending trail was similar to that left by a jet plane, and there were several breaks in the trajectory of this



Luminous zone irradiated  
by central spot. ( cold light,  
like central disc).



Body of elongated shape  
darker than sky

Trail left behind ( diameter nearly  
constant ), several levels ( lighter  
in colour than the sky ).

line which moved away along an axis parallel to the line of vision of the observer. At the extremity of the trail a spot was seen, darker than the sky, of more or less elongated shape, moving away from the witness relatively slowly.

The estimated duration of the movement of this object was 5 to 6 seconds. The observer is categorical on one point: it was not a civil or military aircraft (no normal aircraft signal lights, or starboard or port lights, were seen) because at that distance, keeping in mind the cloud ceiling, aircraft lights would certainly be visible; also the object was not in the controlled zone or channel used by aircraft in landings or take-offs, or "stacking" positions of Geneva Airport. No perceptible noise was heard.

The witness, then thinking that all was over, moved [his eyes, we presume—EDITOR] perpendicularly to the axis of vision of the observed trail. An intense coloration of a portion of the sky then attracted his attention again, and he saw this time, in a totally different direction from the previous two sightings (this time towards the Swiss border of the lake, or the Jura), the same phenomenon as at the beginning of his observations, moving at slow speed in a N.N.E. direction, lasting 4 to 5 seconds at most, then disappearing once and for all!

\* \* \*

#### Meteorological conditions at the time of the sighting:

Light cloud covering; no rainfall, mist or fog. Definition in aeronautical terms: CAVOK. Temperature +13°C., Dew point +11°C.

#### Complementary meteorological information relative to the sighting:

7.50 p.m. (G.M.T.). Wind 350°—2 knots; CAVOK; (visibility > 10 km., clouds not below 5,000ft.). Tem-

perature +15°C.; Dew point +11°C. Pressure: QNH 1022 mb.; QFE 972.6 mb.

8.20 p.m. (G.M.T.). Wind 280°—2 knots; CAVOK. Temperature: identical to that at 7.50 p.m.

9.50 p.m. (G.M.T.). Temperature +13°C.; Dew point +11°C.

11.50 p.m. (G.M.T.). Temperature +12°C.; Dew point +11°C.

(The above meteorological information was received from the meteorological station of Geneva Airport.)

\* \* \*

I have personally spoken to the witness about his sighting, and I think his description of what he saw is to be trusted. He knows very little about UFOs.

## SOMETHING TO LOOK FOWARD TO . . .

Items already selected for the May/June 1972 issue of *Flying Saucer Review* include:

**UFOs and History: a programme of possible research**

by Aimé Michel

**UFOs with Multiple Beams of Light**

by Gordon Creighton

**Unidentified Submarine Object off Papua**

by The Revd. Norman E. G. Cruttwell

**Are Psychic People more likely to see UFOs?**

Charles Jones reports a remarkable UFO and Occupant

by Janet Bord

# A Family and UFOs

Leslie Harris

Our contributor is Secretary of a small investigatory and research group operating in the Bournemouth area.\*

As a follow-up to my previous article [see FSR Case Histories No. 7, October 1971—EDITOR] concerning the photograph taken by Mr. Brian George, I have now prepared reports of several UFO experiences, all involving the families of Druce and George, and which, I feel, indicate a "singling-out" of these inter-related families.

## Canford Heath

About two years ago (I could not determine a more precise date) Brian George was out shooting rabbits one night on Canford Heath, Poole, Dorset. Suddenly he saw two lights descending towards him. One was red, the other green, and so close together as to appear to be touching. It is conceivable that they were carried by some object, but the lights only were visible.

Mr. George's first impression was that he was watching an aircraft, but as the lights (which were not flashing) continued to descend at a 45° angle, getting closer all the time, and as no sound at all could be heard, Mr. George became uneasy. When the lights eventually disappeared behind a clump of trees about 500-600 yards away, and therefore seemed to have landed, Mr. George became extremely scared, and hastily left the place, without attempting to investigate further.

Mr. George made another sighting about a year later, this time in broad daylight (1.30 p.m.) whilst accompanied by his wife, Sallie.

## UFO over Poole Hospital

They were driving towards Poole along Longfleet Road, when they saw, above Poole Hospital, in the southern sky, a long, bright, white light, which Mr. George described as "rocket-shaped". It was climbing steeply, and disappeared into the sun's glare, only to reappear a few moments later. Mr. George, however, was obliged to concentrate on his driving, and the object was not seen again.

Mr. Druce's mother and sister watched a hovering saucer on the night of Saturday, July 31, 1971. Mr. Druce's sister, Jenny, first saw the UFO from the lounge window just after 11.00 p.m. She drew her mother's attention to it, and they both went outside for a better look.

## Spinning-top UFO

The object was brilliant white, and approximately the shape of an old-fashioned child's spinning top. It was very large, and at an elevation of about 75°. During the considerable time that it was under observation, it moved to the right, and appeared to lose altitude.

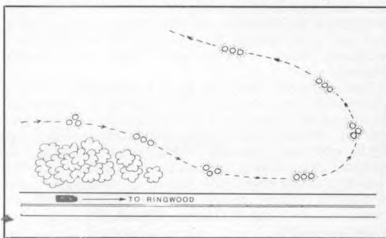
After this, the object remained stationary, apart from a slight vertical oscillation.

Then, another smaller UFO seemed to emerge from the larger one. This was about a quarter of the size of the larger object, and was a string of about five red-orange lights, which may have been carried by a solid object, although the lights only could be seen. At this point the street lights went out, enabling the witnesses to see the UFOs more clearly. The string of lights moved quite slowly away, and it was about 10 or 15 minutes before they were out of sight. No sound was heard at any time.

The large white UFO remained in the sky, and eventually the witnesses tired of watching it, and went to bed. They are convinced that no conventional explanation could account for their sighting. Neither woman had any previous interest in UFOs, and knew nothing of the photograph taken by Mr. George. In spite of this, their description of the object bears great similarity to the UFO in the photograph.

## New Forest incident

On August 2, 1971, Mr. Druce and his brother-in-law, Roy George (brother of Brian), were driving in their removal van along the A.31 towards Ringwood at about 9.50 p.m., when they noticed, to their left, three brilliant white lights approaching. These lights were



Sighting of August 2, 1971

about the size of an old penny at arm's length, and flew in very close formation. For most of the sighting they were arranged in a straight line, but occasionally the formation changed slightly. The witnesses' impression was that the lights were fixed to a circular object, although the intense glare prevented any structure being seen.

As the lights (UFO) swooped close to the removal van, Roy George, who was at the wheel, instinctively slowed down, intending to stop. The UFO also slowed down, whereupon Mr. Druce, in some alarm, yelled to his brother-in-law to speed up again. As the van gathered speed, the UFO followed suit.

Mr. Druce estimates the closest approach of the UFO to be something around 100 yards, and as it slowly moved away ahead of them it reached a distance of about 600-700 yards. Its altitude was about 150-200 yards.

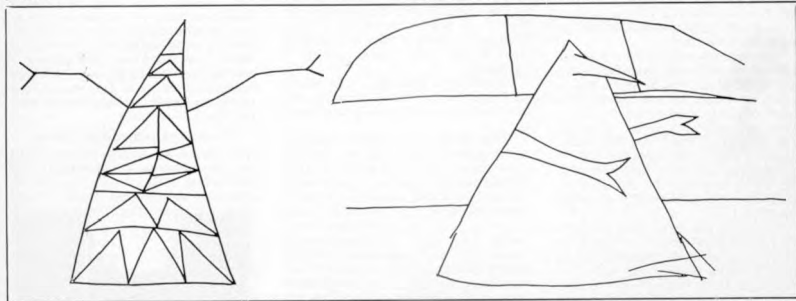
\* The "Bournemouth Cosmic Research Group" of 120 River Way, Christchurch, Hampshire BH23 2QT.

Having moved away from the van, the UFO swung around to the left, and departed in the direction from which it had come, being quickly lost to sight. No sound was heard at any time. The removal van contained electronic components, but it is not suggested that this is a significant fact.

#### "Creature" in the past

An interesting incident occurred about seven years ago, which involved Mr. Druce's two stepsons, who, at the time, were no more than seven years old, Roderick now being 13, and Terence 14.

Terence awoke one night and sat up in bed, whereupon he saw, at the foot of the bed, a triangular "thing" with arms which moved in a slight "waving" motion. The triangular "body" was composed of closely-fitting triangles, in many colours, was taller than it was wide, and the arms, which were black, ended in "crab pincers".



Terence's drawing of the "Thing" in his bedroom

Roderick's drawing of the "Thing" standing by the car

Terrified, Terence screamed, waking his brother, Roderick, who slept with him. Roderick also saw the thing for a moment before it disappeared. Mrs. Druce verifies that Terence was screaming, and extremely frightened.

The following afternoon, the two brothers were returning home across a piece of land used for parking cars, when they saw the thing again. It was "standing" next to a parked car, and reached to about half-way up the car windows. This time it was completely black, and Roderick, who had a side view, described a "beak" which jutted out near the apex of the triangle. The two boys began to run, and the thing turned, following their movements, as if watching them.

I realise that this story sounds far-fetched, and could be put down to the fertile imagination of young children, but it takes on greater significance when viewed in the light of the more recent UFO experiences of the whole family. At the time neither the children nor their elders had any knowledge of, or interest in, UFOs. The boy's undoubted fear, his brother's confirmation of the presence and appearance of the thing, and their clear recollection of the event after about seven years, all suggest that they described a real, and

terrifying, experience. The drawings were made by the boys at my request.

#### Aerial "swish"

Now, to return to more recent events reported by members of the family.

At 3.00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 1971, 10-years-old Suzanne Druce was awakened by a "whirring, swishing" sound. She went to the window, and wiped off the condensation, but could see nothing. Running into her parents' room, she woke them, and they also heard the sound. Mr. Druce described it as like the regular swish of a skipping rope, and it seemed to pass overhead, receding into the distance. He also looked out, but saw nothing.

Shortly after hearing details of this incident from Mr. Druce, I was reading *FSR Case Histories*, Supplement 6, and came across the description of the sound produced by the UFO seen by "the doctor", in the article

entitled "Horse ill after UFO incident". I was struck by the similarity between this, and the sound described by Mr. Druce, who does not know of *Case Histories*, and whose daughter herself told me of the experience.

#### Motorway mysteries

The following Tuesday (October 19) Mr. Druce, accompanied by his brothers-in-law, Roy and Brian George, was travelling in their removal van along the M3, between 10.00 and 10.30 p.m. As they drove along the final stretch of the motorway between the Reading intersection and Winchester they began to notice numerous red lights in the sky.

Some of these lights were round, others oblong. Some were moving, others stationary (or appeared to be). Some were very close to the ground, and they all seemed to be going in different directions. At no time were there more than 50 lights in the sky at once, but altogether the men counted at least 200.

Stopping to look at this phenomenon, the men were immediately told to move on by policemen who had pulled up behind them (remember, they were on a motorway). During their brief period outside the van,

*Continued on page 16*

# Readers' Reports

## UFO landing in Lincolnshire

Dear Sir,—Here is a report received from Mr. John E. Ben who now lives in Nottingham. It tells of an event that occurred late on a summer's evening in 1959:

"Four Royal Air Force personnel were returning by car to their V-Bomber Base (exact location not yet known, but it is somewhere in Lincolnshire), when the UFO sighting occurred. *En route* to the base, the four men had seen a light in the distance which was barely above ground level, but had proceeded with their journey. Some distance further along their route they rounded a bend in the road and were confronted with the sight of a UFO which 'was as big as a Vulcan Bomber' hovering above the ground some twenty yards from the road.

"The witnesses described a beam of light which emanated from the underside of the object and in which 'movements were seen, but not clearly.' This beam of light, when struck by beams from the car's headlights, vanished. The manner in which the light beam vanished was indeed most peculiar, as it seemed to be drawn gradually up into the UFO, and was not extinguished instantaneously as would be normally expected.

"On their return to base the four men enquired of the duty officer as to whether any of the aircraft had had to make a forced landing, but were told that none of the aircraft on the base had been airborne for some 48 hours. On hearing this the four men decided not to report the incident fearing that they would be either disbelieved or ridiculed."

## A FAMILY AND UFOs

(Continued from page 15)

the men heard no sound from the lights, and Mr. Druce is certain that they were *not* watching helicopters.

Later on they stopped again on the Winchester bypass. Brian George went into a field, but immediately raced back to the van in some alarm. He was unable to speak for a moment, and Mr. Druce found his pulse to be racing. When asked what was the matter, he replied: "Come and see for yourself."

Mr. Druce accompanied him back to the field, and saw, about 40 yards away, a brilliant white object, shaped like a small letter "m", with a black area in each of the "arches". This object was about 10ft. high, 7-8ft. wide, and about 2ft. off the ground. It was moving slowly to the right, over a rising incline, without making any sound.

Unnerved, both men dashed back to the van, and drove off hastily.

Subsequent questioning revealed that Brian had originally seen only one "arch", but two were present

The above facts are all that are known at the present regarding this landing report, but it is the intention of John Ben and myself to interview the witnesses as soon as possible and obtain fuller details.

Terence Collins,  
F.S.R., 21 Cecil Court, London WC2.

## Afternoon UFO at Corsham

Dear Sir,—On the afternoon of Wednesday, January 19, 1972, at 2.30 p.m. I witnessed a most unusual phenomenon at Corsham, near Chippenham: it was seen also by my daughter, Janet, aged 4 years.

At that time I sat down at the dining-room table, facing the window, to read to Janet who had her back against the window. I stopped suddenly in mid-sentence as I saw a huge red flashing light in the sky. "Janet, look!" I exclaimed.

"What is it, Mummy?" she asked, as I opened the french window. We went out into the rain and peered up at it.

What I first saw appeared like a white puff of cloud with a vivid red glow coming out of one end of it. I rubbed my eyes, put my glasses back on, and on closer observation saw a silver object, shaped like a cigar, with a row of porthole-like windows as it caught the light. It moved slowly across the sky, appearing to halt briefly at times, but it kept on a completely straight course from East to West in the direction of Bath. The red light winked on and off at regular intervals every few seconds, from the front of the object, not the rear. Much more intense than the light from a

plane, it was as though it were the blast from a furnace, yet propelling it forwards.

The whole thing was completely silent and must have been of enormous size, as I should say it was about 5-6 times the size of an average aeroplane at the same height. I am afraid, however, that I am not very good at judging heights.

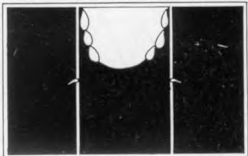
I saw all this with the naked eye, and find it strange that none of my neighbours saw it. I am still making enquiries among them and meanwhile I hope this testimony will be of value for your records.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. Dorothy M. Greenhalgh,  
Ludmead Road, Corsham, Wiltshire.  
February 8, 1972.

[Mrs. Greenhalgh's report was sent to Mr. Neville Armstrong of Neville Spearman Ltd., and we are grateful to him for forwarding it to us. In her covering letter she writes: "Hoping (my report) will reach the right quarter; I have not reported it officially." Which, I suggest, is as well, for had it been reported officially we would never have heard of it.—EDITOR.]

## Fireman's Hertfordshire sighting

Dear Sir,—At approximately 04.00 hrs. one morning at the beginning of September 1971, I awoke for no apparent reason and found myself



when Mr. Druce accompanied him to the field.

## Tailpieces

A UFO was seen at 6.20 p.m. on October 24 by Mr. Druce's two sisters, mother and brother and also by all the people from the house next door. This was of a red oblong shape, and was in view for many minutes.

Mr. Druce's sister telephoned him during the sighting, but, although looking in the direction indicated, he could see nothing. I have not had the opportunity to interview the witnesses of this sighting, so can give no further details.

During the course of my investigations it has also come to light that several members of the family may possess varying degrees of E.S.P. In particular Brian George, Mrs. Druce, and Mr. Druce's mother, who at times has recognised certain places, although never having seen them before.

This concentration of UFO-type and associated experiences on his family is becoming tiresome to Mr. Druce. He says he is "fed up with it all."

looking directly ahead out of my bedroom window where there was an "object" (see sketch) which seemed very close indeed. I felt in fact that I could reach out of the window and touch it. At the same time I felt no sense of fear.

I was positive that I was looking at the underside of what I now consider to have been a spacecraft. It was a brilliant white, with a number of circular "blobs" around the main body of the craft; its shape did have some similarity to a jelly mould. I continued to watch it for at least five minutes, in which time it moved slowly away in a south-westerly direction. No sound whatsoever was heard.

Yours truly,

P. W. Newark, Rickmansworth, Herts.  
October 24, 1971.

[The writer of this report, Paul Newark, is a young fireman now living in Rickmansworth. He is known to me personally. He spent some years in the Royal Navy and in my opinion one could not find a more competent and trustworthy witness.—Gordon Creighton.]

#### East Anglian Globe

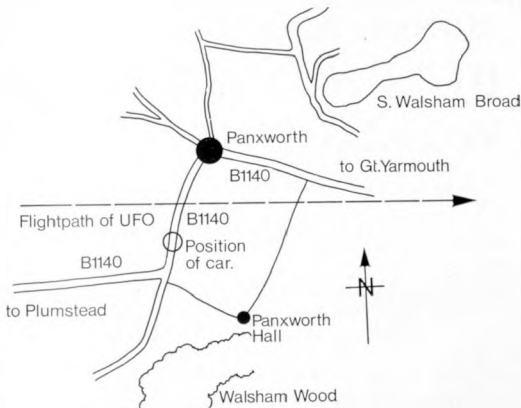
Dear Sir,—The following UFO sighting report may be of interest to you. It is written as a result of a conversation I had today with one of my colleagues at my place of work, Mr. S. C. Hannant, a housing surveyor with St. Faith's and Aylsham R.D.C., Norwich, Norfolk.

Mr. Hannant and his wife were travelling by car in a northerly direction at 11.45 p.m., Saturday, October 2, 1971, on the B1140 road towards the village of Panxworth, near South Walsham, which is in the Norfolk broadland country. Suddenly they saw a high-speed UFO cross their line of vision on an easterly trajectory.

Mr. Hannant describes the UFO as a glowing bluish-green globe, about the apparent diameter of the moon. It streaked across the part of the sky visible ahead through the car's windscreen, from West to East, in an estimated time of 12 seconds. He thought the altitude to be about 1,500-2,000ft., and compared it with a shell fired from a large gun in the distance, of which he had had experience during the 2nd World War. The object left no trail, and appeared to be on a course from Norwich to Yarmouth.

The ignition system of the car he was driving remained unaffected. The UFO was lost sight of when, in the extreme east, it disappeared into a mist cloud. The weather at the time was a mainly clear sky, with odd patches of mist about. The terrain in this location is fairly flat, with an average land height of about 50ft. above sea level.

I obtained a separate description of



the object from Mrs. Hannant. She described it as like a pale-green bubble with a yellow light in the middle. In other respects, her account tallies exactly with her husband's. You have their full permission to print this report if you wish.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice G. Jackson,  
New North Road, Attleborough,  
Norfolk.

October 4, 1971.

#### A 1969 Exeter incident

The following letter to *The Observer* has been forwarded to us by the Science Correspondent of that newspaper and we are grateful to him for his help.

Dear Sir,—I have just been watching the programme on BBC2 on UFOs, and it has recalled an experience of April 1969. I made careful notes as soon as possible, and sent my report to the Science Correspondent of the London daily paper I was reading at the time. I had a reply saying my letter was being posted to the BUFORA. I hoped for a reply from that Association, but had none. I would have asked them, but did not know their address, and the matter slipped my memory and interest until tonight. I wonder if you can help me. It is of course no use asking an official body such as a Ministry; I should probably get no reply at all.

As regards UFOs, I have a completely open mind; but I like to know a little of what is going on in the world, which is one reason I have recently started taking *The Observer*.

This is a copy of my notes:

"On April 3, 1969, I was waiting in

the Exeter Coach Station to pick up a traveller; alone and sober. The sky was clear and starlit. At about 8.37 p.m. I happened to look at the sky, and saw what at first looked like a shooting star, coming from roughly east. My impression was of a star brighter than Venus, much brighter, with a long tail. It passed overhead at the apparent speed of a fairly low jet plane, but there was no sound, either then or later. I was standing well away from traffic or other noises. After passing the zenith it gradually faded, as though it had burnt out, or passed from the atmosphere.

"I was so impressed that I made a most careful mental note, and put it to paper as soon as I reached home, at about 10.15 p.m., while it was still fresh in the memory. I have often seen shooting stars, but never so bright, and never with a tail. I have seen high flying jets in the setting sun, with the world around me in darkness, but all that has been visible has been the vapour trail, and a jet at such a height does not seem to move so fast.

"After the event I asked friends, but none had seen it of those I asked. Nor did I see any reports in the Press.

"Have I seen a Sputnik burning out, a meteorite burning out—if so it must have been a monster—or was it some sort of UFO?"

I should be grateful if you can get me any information, or tell me where I might try.

Yours faithfully,  
A. E. Thomsen,  
17 Lonsdale Road, Exeter, EX1 3DW.  
February 2, 1972.

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