

N I C A P      R E P O R T E R

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"There are objects coming into our atmosphere at very high speeds. The way they change position in formations and override each other would indicate that their motion is directed." Adm. Delmer Fahrney, U.S.N. Ret.

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Dear Member:

At this writing, NICAP records contain nearly 700 reports of UFOs seen in the United States and Canada during the months of March and April. In addition to these, there are about 200 reports which have not been posted and filed. To make a long story short, we're swamped! Apparently all of these reports scared hell out of someone in Washington, D.C. Last month, Sir Bernard Lovell--British scientist who directs the world's largest radio telescope at Jordell Bank, England--made a tour of the U.S. assuring the members of the American press that it is "utter nonsense" to suggest that the recent rash of UFOs are manned by visitors from outer space. Sir Bernard spent much of his time ridiculing the subject of UFOs, which makes his tour at that time anything but a coincidence. Then, on May 10, the Columbia Broadcasting System televised a one hour program titled "UFO: Friend, Foe or Fantasy." The program was an outright SHAM! Ten scientists and members of the Air Force were interviewed and, testified against the UFOs. Not one private UFO investigator was interviewed to testify for the subject. Astronomers, pilots, scientists, engineers, radar operators and police officers who have seen UFOs were excluded from the program. The statement by the program moderator, Walter Cronkite, that UFOs have not been photographed or tracked on radar was a bare-faced lie. Yes sir, someone in Washington, D.C. was real scared.

During the first two weeks of March, there were spotty reports from around the globe. During the early hours of March 5, four police officers sighted a large UFO with a reddish-orange glow near Albion, Michigan. They said it had a white light, like a spotlight of some sort, shining down on the ground. About 9 p.m. that night, a couple parked in a car near Melbourne, Australia sat terrified as they watched a large flying object descend to within a few feet of the roof of their car. They attempted to flee from the area but, the car was held in one spot by an invisible force, apparently radiated by the UFO. When the object moved about two hundred feet away, the invisible force which imprisoned the couple, disappeared. They said they could hear a humming sound while the object hovered overhead. That same night, a large glowing object was observed for nearly five minutes at Geelong, Australia. Two days later, at 7:30 p.m., a flying object was sighted as it approached Virginia City, Nevada from the west. It was moving at a terrific rate of speed. In a few seconds it rose at a sharp angle toward the northeast and disappeared. Ninety minutes later, an unidentified flying object was observed near Pasadena, California. One observer told police that when a jet airplane approached the object, it glowed brightly and then disappeared.

On the 8th day of March, the quiet trend which had prevailed for more than two months was broken. At 1:55 a.m., several witnesses--one an

employee of the Federal Aviation Agency--watched the flight of a large UFO over Marquette, Michigan. It took about 30 seconds to cross over the city. Thirty five minutes later, police officers in LaSalle, Kendall, Will, Grundy and DeKalb counties in Illinois sighted a large glowing ball moving across the sky. At 2:30 a.m. the next morning, a glowing UFO was seen sitting on the ground near Brisbane, Australia. That night, at 8 p.m., Mrs. Marge Sepper sighted four flying discs over Medina, Ohio. She said they had domes on top, were silver in color and could have been about the size of a dining room table. She described their speed as extremely fast. Thirty minutes later, residents near Westport, Conn. observed a brilliant red flying object that pulsated high in the sky.

On March 11, a large cigar-shaped object dropped out of the heavy clouds over Hartshorne, Oklahoma. More than 100 residents of this community have reported sighting strange objects in the sky since last July. So, the cigar-shaped object didn't cause much excitement. Mysterious red and white lights above the town have become almost a daily occurrence. The lights at times have gone into formations, changed direction and speed and hovered just off the ground in various sections of the town. One witness, Mrs. Bill Morgan, said she has been as close as 60 feet to some of the objects, and described them as egg-shaped and about the size of a large automobile. Mrs. Morgan says she has seen the objects hover at tree-top level for as long as five minutes. They made no sound and at times moved at tremendous speed. She declared on one occasion observers saw four of the objects go into a diamond formation and pass over the town. Some people have all the luck.

Strange bluish-green lights and beeping noises from the sky were seen and heard near Black River, Wisconsin on March 13. Mr. & Mrs. Victor Emerson and their son and daughter sighted a bluish-green light moving from the sky to the ground and another such light in another direction moving back into the sky about 9:30 p.m. They said the lights were accompanied by a beeping noise which sounded like an exchange of signals. Emerson said one of the objects was about 400 yards from the house, had approached at a constant angle and had a smaller light which oscillated around the larger one. Dogs in the area barked violently. Unusual changes in radio and TV reception were also noted. While all this was taking place, police officers in Ann Arbor, Monroe and Detroit, Michigan, plus, Sylvania, Fremont, Clyde, Delta and Sandusky, Ohio reported sighting unidentified flying objects. At 10:15 that same night, a very brilliant yellowish-green UFO was observed traveling south to north over St. Joseph, Michigan. It was tremendous in size and remained in sight for 10 seconds. Ten minutes later, a large flying object was reported over Ludington, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jensen said that the object was traveling at a high rate of speed, suddenly stopped in mid-air, then disappeared. About the same time, a large glowing object flashed through the sky over Muskegon, Michigan. At 10:45 p.m., a bright green UFO was seen by a resident of Saginaw, Michigan.

The tempo of UFO activity continued. At 2:45 a.m., March 14, truck driver Jim Grise observed a large UFO near Napoleon, Ohio. He said the object had bright red and blue lights and seemed to be passing 200 feet above the cab of his truck. At 3:30 a.m. police officers in Washtenaw County, Michigan observed several UFOs. Deputies on patrol said they spotted a bright object in the sky, then later saw four of the objects which appeared to be flying in formation. The objects were traveling at a very high rate of speed. The deputies said there was a single, red-

green object at first, moving at what were described as fantastic speeds. The object would zoom straight upward, stop, hover momentarily in the air and then speed straight downward. The UFO was joined by a second object about 4:30 a.m. and in 45 minutes two more appeared. The four UFOs flew in tight formation, still exhibiting what deputies called great speed and amazing maneuverability. Finally about 5:30 a.m., the four objects made a wide arc in the sky, turned toward the northwest and sped out of sight. Sheriff's Cpl. Charles L. Broderick and Deputy Fred Patterson said they could see the UFOs from the window at the county jail in Ann Arbor, Michigan. A Spokesman at Selfridge AFB, Michigan said radar men reported being able to see the objects in the sky but were unable to pick them up on radar. At about 9:30 p.m., Judith Alpha of Ypsilanti, Michigan spotted a bright UFO coming out of the sky moving at a terrific speed. Suddenly, the object stopped in mid-air. The UFO seemed to be glowing from the inside and hovered about 20 feet over trees at the back of her home.

By March 15, it was quite evident--according to NICAP files--that a UFO Flap Condition was in progress in the upper midwest section of the United States, with Southern Michigan as the main target. As NICAPs Board of Associate Directors attempted to come up with some answers, good UFO reports continued to be recorded. At 5 a.m., March 15, Police Patrolman John Simmerlink was waiting for a bus in Youngstown, Ohio with three other men when he saw a large UFO coming from the southeast. The surface looked like polished steel, was about 40 feet in diameter and eight feet high, with blue lights coming from port holes along its side. Simmerlink said the object stopped directly overhead, trailing two exhaust flames. He said a third exhaust suddenly flamed and the UFO sped away to the northwest. On March 16, Lindsay Ward was driving home from work when he sighted a UFO hovering about 100 feet above the ground near Harrow, Ontario, Canada. The next day, Mr. Ward, who acts as a minister for the Bible Church of God, said he saw the object again. This time it was sitting in a field several miles west of Harrow. He described the UFO as 35 feet in diameter and 20 feet high. A pulsating white light came from it and Mr. Ward said he thought it was caused by a revolving outer skin containing several portholes. At 7:10 that night, a large football-shaped object was spotted over Honesdale, Penn. It appeared very fast and left in the same manner, shooting up into the sky. At 10:26 p.m., police officers at Westport, Conn. witnessed a series of bright red UFOs pass directly over the police station and remained visible for six to 14 minutes. They were at normal plane flying height, but the witnesses could hear no sound.

Michigan got it again on March 17. At 4 a.m. sheriff's deputies saw three UFOs in the sky over Washenaw County. They said two of the objects flew in formation, while the third remained some distance away. Green and white lights were visible on the objects before they disappeared. A short time later, Sgt. Nuel K. Schneider and Deputy David Fitzpatrick said they saw a UFO in the sky near Milan, Michigan which looked like a child's top. The object hovered in the air and would move rapidly up and down with its lights appearing to dim and then brighten. At the same time, a police officer at Milan, Michigan sighted a bubble-shaped object hovering over the city. That night, three young girls, ages 10, 11 and 13, observed a large, oval-shaped UFO over Grand Rapids, Michigan. The object was surrounded by a reddish-white glow and had evenly-spaced porthole-shaped spots around the rim from which lights flashed alternately. They said the object made a humming sound and was about 500 feet off the

ground. The UFO was in sight for about 30 seconds.

Several residents of Bethel, Conn. reported sighting a strange flying object on March 18. One witness said the object was a big red thing, which he described as long, narrow and flattish. This incident occurred shortly before 4:30 p.m. During the evening hours, a large white light centered "on a mast" with a circle of light twirling below, was seen near Kenosha, Wisconsin. The UFO was visible for about five minutes. About the same time, the John Richwine family of Grand Beach, Michigan watched four UFOs hover over their home. Three of them seemed to be in formation while the fourth appeared to be flying a bit lower. Suddenly, another object appeared, coming out of the vicinity over Lake Erie. Its red glow was an intensity never seen before by the Richwine's. At 10:30 p.m., four glowing UFOs were sighted at Monroe, Michigan. The phantom visitors moved soundlessly in the sky for an hour, bobbing up and down and sideways, and all of them glowing red with a white top. Several miles to the west, three UFOs were sighted over Hillsdale, Michigan by 22 students and several adults. William (Bud) VanHorn, Civil Defense Director, said the objects would change from red to bluish-green, would move for a time and then stay in position and rotate.

As the reports continued to pile up, the American people were completely unaware of what was taking place in the midwest states. Not so in southern Michigan. There, the people were very much aware of the happenings of the previous two weeks. The tension was beginning to build up. Eight reports were received for March 19. At 5:20 a.m., Tom Loll of Big Rapids, Michigan sighted a football-shaped UFO with a row of lights across the center, and several lights at the bottom, one flickering on as another went off. The object was surrounded by a bluish-white haze. At the same time, six men saw a flying object over LaPorte, Indiana. They described it as circular in shape with four cylindrical appendages extending from the main body. At one point, the object hovered over a car as it sat in a parking lot and appeared to be about 40 feet above the car. A glowing object moved across the sky at Bloomer, Wisconsin at 7:30 p.m. One of the witnesses reported that his dog was all "shock up" while the object was in sight. At 8 p.m., Doug Hamm, vice president of the Muskegon Piston Ring Co., and his wife saw several UFOs near Portland, Michigan. While driving down a freeway, they noticed a bright red object in the sky. When it was almost directly overhead, it made a 90 degree turn. A short time later, three more UFOs appeared in front of their car. The three objects ascended straight up and out of sight. Howard T. Wright, a retired Air Force colonel sighted two UFOs over the Washington, D.C. area at 9:05 p.m. He said the first object was a fast white light coming from the south. It stopped, started, and zig-zagged a little. The object appeared to be disc-shaped. A few minutes later another object came into view and then both disappeared over the northern horizon. A UFO, described as a silver colored, oval-shaped object with red, green and white lights positioned one at each end and one in the middle, was seen near Hazelton, Iowa at 9:30 p.m. The witness said it made a whirring noise. An hour later, a brilliant green object was seen near Adrian, Michigan. The last sighting for the 19th came just before midnight. A large, reddish-white object was seen traveling from west to east at a high speed at Beebe, Ontario, Canada.

By Sunday, March 20, several UFO reports had been received from the Seattle area. Since March 17, eight reports had been received, all of them low level sightings, most of them in the greater south Seattle area.

While NICAP members were busy investigating UFO reports in their own back yard, they temporarily lost interest in the national picture. This would only last for a few hours, however. The bubble was about to burst. About 8 p.m., March 20, a "really huge" oval-shaped UFO was spotted moving south over Elyria, Ohio. It had a "jaggedy" outline and gave off red, white and yellow light, "like a flare." The object was smaller than a house and gave off no sound. About 30 minutes later UFO was sighted hovering over the Enrico Fermi Atomic Power Plant near Monroe, Michigan. At the same time, flying objects were reported in the sky over Fairplain, Michigan and 4 miles east of Pinckney, Michigan--near Rush Lake. While all this activity was taking place, a major UFO incident was taking place at Dexter, Michigan. At 7:30 p.m., a large glowing object was sighted descending from the sky. It was dropping at about a 45 degree angle. As it hit about tree-top level, the object stopped in mid-air, hovered for a few minutes, then appeared to settle to the ground in a swampy area. By the morning of the 21st, news of this landing had been flashed to the nation. Residents in southeast Michigan were in a turmoil. Before the excitement of the Dexter landing could taper off, another UFO landing hit the headlines around the country. About 10:30 the night of the 21st, a glowing object settled to the ground at Hillsdale, Michigan. Within 24 hours, sightings were being reported from coast-to-coast, in the United States and Canada. UFOs were front page news around the country.

On March 25, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a Northwestern University astrophysicist, announced that the phenomena which was observed at Dexter and Hillsdale, Michigan was nothing more than marsh gas. The next day, Dr. Hynek's statement was struck down by John E. Sullivan, who has been a chemical engineer for 23 years. He said the reported sightings could not "possibly have been caused by swamp gas." Sullivan, who is employed by a large, nation-wide chemical corporation, said that marsh gas, which is essentially methane, could not act in the manner Hynek attributed to it. "From what I read, I can see three possibilities for Dr. Hynek's report: (1) He doesn't know much about marsh gas in the first place, which seems strange in the light of his being a PhD, (2) he is not telling the truth, or (3) his credentials are no good!" Of course, the news medias saw to it that Mr. Sullivan's statement did not get national coverage as did Dr. Hynek's. This writer would like to throw in one additional comment. The people working in the various news medias are intelligent and well educated. Yet, the majority of them accepted, without question, Hynek's statement that the objects seen at Dexter and Hillsdale were, in fact, marsh gas. Also, before I put the Dexter-Hillsdale landings into history, I thought you would be interested in the following information: There is a Radio-Astronomy Observatory--with a dish-shaped radio telescope, 85 feet in diameter-- located on a mountain near Dexter, Michigan, near the Dexter landing site; And, NICAP has received from a very reliable source in Ohio, information that three additional UFO landings have taken place near Ann Arbor, Michigan. All three of the landings were observed by police officials and unnamed scientists. They were described as having "fluted or corrugated surface."

NICAP files are cramed with good sightings for March, 1966. I'm going to pass over those in this issue and move onto more recent UFO activity. On the night of April 1, Warren Heckman was flying a Frontier Air Lines Plane to Salt Lake City when he saw lights below him that appeared to be mysterious. He detoured his airliner and closed within three miles of the lights, and at first believed that they were on a tower, However, he later said it appeared the objects were moving away

away from him. The same night, a bright red UFO appeared over Fort Collins, Colorado about midnight. Several persons, including August Auer--a Colorado State University research meteorologist--watched the UFO for several minutes. He guessed the object was about 15,000 feet high. A special report from Mr. Auer is on file at NICAP. Two Portage County, Ohio sheriff's deputies chased a brightly-lit, highly polished metal flying object 86 miles from Randolph, Ohio to just across the Pennsylvania line on April 17. A Mantua, Ohio policeman took a picture of the UFO and other police in the area also saw the object and said it was spotted by "hundreds" of area residents. Sheriff's Deputy Dale Spaur, driver of the cruiser involved in the chase, said the lines of the object were very distinct. "Somebody had control over it," he said. "It wasn't just floating around. It could maneuver." Spaur said it looked like the head of a silver flashlight, with the beam pointed downward. He said it was 35 to 45 feet across the bottom and between 18 and 24 feet high. There was a steady humming sound, he said. Something extended downward from the base--about 15 feet long and two feet wide and looked like an antenna. It was Mantua, Ohio Police Chief Gerald Buchert and an unidentified woman who first spotted the object. About 5 a.m., the woman called Portage Sheriff's Department to report the UFO. About the same time Buchert saw the object and took the picture about 20 miles away. On the advise of the Air Force, Buchert refused to release the picture to the press.

Spaur and Deputy W.L. Neff were on their regular 5 a.m. patrol when the chase started. They were checking an abandoned car when they spotted a light coming over a wooded area to the south. They said the object came right at them and they ran for the cruiser. "It was so bright you couldn't even look up at it. It was like looking at a welder," Spaur said. Spaur said the UFO hovered over the cruiser for about two minutes. He described a light coming from it as "intense--lighting everything around." Spaur said the object hovered only 200 feet above the cruiser. About then, said Spaur, the object went straight up--to about 500 feet and later to 1,500 feet. The men began following the object and said they clocked it at speeds ranging from 80 to 103 miles per hour. At one point, said Spaur, they made a wrong turn at some bridges. When they got back on the right road the UFO was there--leading them. "It dropped to an altitude of 500 feet and stopped and waited for us when we got tangled up. When we got on the road again, it started moving again," Spaur said. The chase ended at Conway, Pennsylvania because the cruiser was low on gasoline. Spaur said the UFO went straight up in the air and disappeared when they stopped the cruiser. "This one was not swamp gas," Spaur said. Several days later, Major Hector Quintanella of the Air Force announced that Deputy Spaur probably chased a satellite and then when it disappeared focused his eyes on Venus. In answer, Spaur said: "I didn't know satellites traveled over Portage County at speeds as slow, at times, as 50 to 70 miles per hour. If I chased Venus across two states it must be some sort of record. No one in the Air Force talked to me for more than three minutes about the UFO I saw and chased. I never believed in UFOs before, but I believe now."

On April 11, Ian Livingstone drove along the Bourke's Flat "death strip" with a tense and silent Ron Sullivan at the wheel--but they saw no signs of flying objects or mystery lights. The mile long stretch of straight road between Dunolly and St. Arnaud is the place where, on April 4, Mr. Sullivan saw a mystery column of light in a paddock and his car headlights turned sharply right, and where on the night of April 7, a 19-year-old boy died when his car crashed into a tree. On the 30-mile

drive from Maryborough, Australia Sullivan talked casually of how he had always believed people who saw flying objects were "seeing things." But I have definitely changed my mind now," he said. Maryborough is buzzing with talk. There's talk about Ron Sullivan, whose car lights suddenly shone to the right without cause...there's talk about the coincidence of Gary Taylor's fatal accident at the same spot three days later...and there's speculation whether the mystery of the veering car lights could also explain the accident. A small dusty depression in a ploughed paddock is the only clue left in Maryborough's "column of lights" mystery. About 3 feet in diameter, and from 2 to 5 inches deep, the disc-shaped depression is inside a paddock 50 yards from the Dunolly to St. Arnaud road. Directly opposite it is the spot on the road where Mr. Sullivan saw a mystery object and Gary Taylor met his death. The tree is on the left side of the road; the dusty depression on the right; but Mr. Sullivan has a nagging fear that what scared him on April 4, may have killed Gary on April 7. The drive to Wycheproof was normal for Mr. Sullivan. "I know the road well," he said. "I wasn't expecting anything out of the ordinary. As I was driving through Bourke's Flat, the headlights suddenly pulled hard to the right. Instead of lighting the road, they lit up the fence as though they were being attracted by a magnet. I braked as hard as I could, and glanced over to the right. In the middle of the paddock was a column of colored light about 25 feet high and shaped like an ice cream cone. It would have been about 3 feet wide at the bottom and 10 feet wide at the top."

As he watched, the column rose from the ground without a sound, but at tremendous speed. As the column rose, the car's headlights returned to normal and focused on the road. Mr. Sullivan checked the lights when he arrived at Wycheproof. They were operating perfectly. Then, about 10 p.m. on April 7, Gary Taylor's car swerved sharply left at the spot and crashed head-on into a tree. A motorist travelling about half a mile behind told police later he could see no reason for Taylor to have swerved. "My first reaction when the car lights pulled to the right and lit up the fence was to pull the steering wheel to the left--I thought I must have been leaving the road. What if the same column of light had been there on April 7 when the boy was driving past?", Sullivan said.

Florida's governor, Haydon Burns, sighted a UFO while flying to Tallahassee, Florida on April 25. The governor quickly ordered his airplane pilots to give chase, but the object's lights winked out and it disappeared--upward bound--almost at once after Burns' Convair bore down on it. Burns' assistant, a Florida highway patrol captain and four newspapermen were flying with the governor. Don Meikejohn, of the St. Petersburg Times placed the sighting at 8:52 p.m. "I looked out the window and saw two round lights. It would be impossible to judge the size or distance. But the lights stayed in the same relative positions. Governor Burns ordered the pilots to 'turn into it.' The plane turned to the right and as it did, the light pulled ahead quickly and began to rise steeply. It disappeared, as one of the pilots said 'like someone turned off the juice.'" Bill Mansfield of the Miami Herald said the lights "generally followed the flight of the governor's plane although there was some changes of position and some definite changes of brightness." Mansfield said the 12 persons aboard the plane watched the lights for three to five minutes. Burns said it was the second time he has seen a UFO. His first sighting (from the ground) was about two years ago at Fort Pierce and 5,000 other people saw the same thing, Burns said.

The decision to phase-out the NICAP Reporter has been cancelled. The Reporter will continue to be published on a monthly schedule. Letters, telegrams, local and long distance phone calls protesting the phase-out and offering help in the form of labor and money forced me to put off my previous decision. In the future, however, the Reporter will be self supporting. To help accomplish this, the annual membership fee will be increased to \$3.50. This will take effect immediately. Second, we must have new printing equipment and an automatic addressing machine. This equipment must be purchased in the very near future if publication is to continue. Funds for this equipment will be raised through donations --from you, the member. Third, a publication committee has been formed to assist in binding and mailing the Reporter. We would like to hear from members in the Seattle area who would be willing to donate about three hours of their time once a month with this committee. The success or failure of this effort depends on you. Give us the equipment and we'll do the job.....The regular NICAP monthly meeting will be held on the 7th floor of the Fischer Building--1519 3rd Ave., Friday, June 3, 8pm. Admission: 50¢. These meetings are open to the public. /S/ Bob Gribble.

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