

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Vol. I, No. 11

February - March 1972

SIGHTING REPORTS CONTINUE

UFOs that apparently caused physiological effects, left behind physical evidence, frightened witnesses, lit up a canyon, emitted sounds and reportedly tracked on radar were characteristics of sighting reports from five states since last summer. There were even photographs taken of strange lights seen in the Yakima Valley of Washington state. Witnesses included a police officer, a fire control officer, fire-fighters and forest look-outs.

It was about 7 p.m., November 2, 1971. Ronnie Johnson, 16, was tending sheep on his parents' farm near Delphos, Kansas, when he saw a brilliant UFO fly fast over a treeline, according to Newspaper Association reporter Tom Tiede in the January 21, 1971, edition of the *Pittsburgh Press*.

Ronnie heard a rumbling sound, then saw a round object emitting a light that hurt his eyes. Frightened, he ran to his home for help.

The UFO left a burned ring on the ground. A sample of the soil was taken and is in the process of being analyzed.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Masters, of St. Albans, W. Va., said they saw an orange, fish-shaped object that was a "pretty good size" on January 7, 1972. The UFO hovered over the town for several minutes, then disappeared, according to the January 8, 1972, edition of the *Charleston Gazette*.

"Frisbee-like" Objects Reported

At approximately 6:30 p.m., New Year's Day, Paul and Thomas Eldredge and their friend, Douglas MacDonald, reported seeing a cluster of sphere-shaped UFOs heading fast toward the northeast in Barnstable, Mass., stated the January 6, 1972, edition of the *Yarmouth, Mass., Register*.

"I sure can understand the boys' excitement," Selectman George L. Cross remarked.

Cross said he saw a UFO "15 to 20 feet in diameter" at the same spot in August, 1949. It landed in a swamp, he said, and emitted whistling blasts.

"It had small amber lights like a crown at the top of the [object] and it came down into the swamp... with a crackling noise," he remembers. "I called neighbors and we went toward it but we couldn't get to it because of brush and swampland."

Then the UFO took off and headed toward the north.

On December 26, 1971, numerous witnesses in Tampa, Florida, reported that they saw UFOs. The December 27, 1971, edition of the *Tampa Times* stated that, at about 11:30 p.m., police officer George Saclarides responded to a call to "look for a possible UFO." He saw "a light approximately six inches in diameter" moving toward the northwest. It was about 100 feet from the ground, he said, "but was higher and rising when last seen at Dale Mabry and Kennedy Boulevard." The policeman said there was a shadow behind the light, but he could not make it out.

Yakima Valley Residents Sight Objects

Late last summer numerous residents of the Yakima Valley of Washington reported seeing UFOs:

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THE RED PLANET COMING TO LIGHT
 (An Editorial Comment)

The American and Russian probes of the planet Mars are continuing to show surprising developments (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 10, p. 4).

On January 9, Russian scientists reported that their Mars 2 and 3 probes had detected a "hot spot" on the planet and that Mars' upper atmosphere more closely resembled that of Venus than of earth, according to a New York Times Service dispatch in the January 10, 1972, edi-

tion of the *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*. The "hot spot" may indicate an internal heat source.

Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper, reported that Dr. Vasily I. Moroz said the spot had been observed as one of the probes passed by a track from latitude 58 degrees south longitude 330 degrees northeastward to latitude 30 degrees north longitude 190 degrees. An infrared radiometer recorded an area 20 degrees below zero centigrade said to be warmer than other points along the track. Moroz speculated the "hot spot" could be caused by the retention of heat from Martian rocks or from volcanic activity.

Pictures returned from Mariner 9, the American probe, indicate that Mars "is still evolving," stated a UPI wire story dated January 12, 1972. The photographs "are showing us a fantastic range of brand new phenomena that no one suspected existed on the planet," stated Cornell University astronomer Dr. Carl Sagan. Pits, hollows and basins up to 10 miles across were shown, along with cracks in the Martian crust forming part of a fissure system extending about 1,100 miles across the surface. Speculation was that some of the pits were caused by ice thaws or dust storms.

Meanwhile, Harold Masursky, of the U.S. Geological Survey, stated that odds are "enormously improved" that life may have developed on the red planet through information transmitted to earth by Mariner 9, according to a UPI wire story dated February 2, 1972. He said that TV pictures and other data showed that glaciers and rivers may have formed Mars' present landscape and water is essential to the evolution of life. Mariner 9, he added, has drastically altered the information provided by the Mariner 7 "fly-by" in 1969, which indicated that the planet was geologically and biologically "dead." Instead, it is a planet that has undergone geological and geochemical evolution. Also, it was established, there is water in the Martian atmosphere, though it is a small amount compared to that of earth.

Scientist Doubts Travel Beyond Mars

On a slightly different note, Dr. Hubertus Strughold, regarded as "the father of space medicine," says that man may not be traveling further than the planet Mars, stated the January 20, 1972, edition of the *Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch*. He attributes this to the probability of encountering hostile environments, particularly extremes of temperatures, beyond the red planet.

Mercury, he said, is closest to the sun and is much too hot on the sunward side and too cold on the other. Venus, he added, is "like the inside of a volcano." Other planets are too cold, he stated. Additional dangers include the possibility of collision with asteroids and meteoric material.

It is clear that Mars is the favorite planet of Dr. Strughold, author of several papers and a book on the celestial body. He says that life there is "more in the realm of probability than possibility." It would be in a low form, however. He speculated that the "hot spots" may contain such life. The planet may also harbor dried oceans, now frozen and covered with dust, he added.

The German scientist, now living in the U.S., believes that man will reach Mars by the mid-1980s. The trip would take about seven months now, but, in another 15 years, could be reduced to about a month. But there will be dangers, he warned: possible radiation from solar flares and sheer boredom.

Dr. Strughold recently received a top honor from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) -- the annual Louis W. Hill Space Transportation Award for outstanding contributions to aviation and space medicine.

We have no bones to pick with Dr. Strughold's contentions concerning Mars and the probable fact that man will eventually get there. But, as to his statement that man will probably go no further, we can only say: where have we heard that before? All down through history. In 1803, it was a fact that stones could not fall from the sky. That same year it was irrefutably proven that they could. In 1903 it was a scientific fact that man would never fly in a heavier than air machine. That same year it was irrefutably proven that he could. In 1957, astronomers and space scientists, including England's Astronomer Royal, were saying that space flight was impossible. That same year Sputnik was launched. Why go on? It's the same old story. Dr. Strughold may be in for quite a shock if he could return to life a hundred years from now.

Reports Continue (Continued from page 1)



From left to right: 35 mm color slides of objects photographed by Bill Vogel on August 27, September 3 and October 8, 1971, in the Yakima Valley of Washington. (Courtesy of the Toppenish, Wash., Review)

● August 27, 1971. About 1:30 a.m. Near Satus Pass. Bill Vogel, a fire control officer, said he observed a "large, bright, teardrop shaped object." The witness, checking for fires, said the UFO was nearly fluorescent and had a tail at its pointed end emitting red, blue and green colors. Vogel photographed the object,

which was moving slowly from north to south at an approximate altitude of 8,500 feet. According to reports, scientists at Grizzle Observatory studied the photographs and determined that the object was not of stellar origin. The National Weather Service said it was not a balloon and could offer no other explanation.

● August 28, 1971. Evening. Satus Pass. Fire fighters on a ridge saw a UFO emitting a white light descend behind a ridge into a canyon, brightly lighting it as it entered. A check revealed no helicopters in the area at the time.

● September 3, 1971. 1:30 a.m. Near White Swan. Vogel again saw an object with several horn-like protrusions moving from north to south toward Toppenish Ridge. Again he photographed it.

● October 8, 1971. Evening. Toppenish Ridge. Again fire fighters saw an object which "was rapidly changing color from white to green to red to blue and back again to white." It was boomerang-shaped and also photographed.

Corroborating Reports Add to Mystery

On another evening last summer, about dusk, witnesses saw a cigar-shaped object with a bright light at each end that was about the length of three railroad boxcars approaching from the lower end of the valley. It slowly descended to within several hundred feet of the ground and was reportedly tracked on radar.

Another lookout saw a round, brilliant white UFO near her cabin last summer. It emitted a sound like water draining down a bathtub. Still another saw two small

brightly-lighted objects "absorbed" by a larger white object, which moved off slowly and disappeared behind some hills.

During the summer of 1970, a lookout saw a bright light between the ridgetops and the ground. The witness said it passed between her and the cabin at waist height. It circled the cabin, then headed toward a bright orange light apparently hovering in the sky. She said it was "a flowing, fluorescent orange, about the size of a basketball..." (It was undetermined if this was the same witness who saw an object near her cabin a year later).

"Many are reluctant to talk about what they have seen for fear people will question their mental well-being," Vogel stated in the December 22, 1971, edition of the *Toppenish, Wash., Review*, "but all of our lookouts have been with us for 10 to 20 years and are not given to 'seeing things.'"

According to Vogel, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, head of Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern University, and former chief scientific consultant on UFOs for the Air Force (AF), examined the photographs and said he wanted to interview the witnesses when he visited Washington this April.

AF MAY HAVE SECRET UFO PROJECT

The U.S. AF and one or more of the other branches of the military and/or intelligence agencies may have secret UFO projects in existence, according to Lou Corbin, news director of WFBR-Radio, Baltimore, Md. Corbin, long-time UFO enthusiast, friend of Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe (USMC-Ret. and former director of NICAP), and often the recipient of classified UFO information, told UFOR the projects are called Project Old New Moon and Blue Paper.

Blue Paper, Corbin believes, is the AF program and is "exclusively UFO, but I can't prove it." There may be numerous agencies involved in Old New Moon, however. The respected newsman said he received information from a "very reliable source" who indicated the projects are in existence and Corbin is "sold on the fact that they do exist." The WFBR news director first received word of the projects from an anthropologist in London and is sure they have been in existence since "at least" last fall. He further indicated that the programs "must be really covered."

In late 1969, the AF announced the closing of its Project Blue Book, the official organ "investigating" UFO reports for more than two decades. We will report any further details on the projects allegedly now in existence -- if such details become available.

MORE FACTS ON BRITISH TV PHOTO CASE

Additional facts concerning the UFO photographed by a British TV crew have been unveiled in the February 13, 1972, edition of *The National Enquirer* (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 8, p. 1). Fred Pye, who saw the film on television, wrote the newspaper story.

"I've always said I would never believe in UFOs until I actually saw one on film," Pye commented. "Well, I've seen one. Along with 8 million other viewers in Britain watching an Associated Television News program, I saw an incredible piece of film -- now being studied by the British Ministry of Defence -- that showed a flying object moving at unbelievable speed... The UFO was white... Suddenly it changed direction and headed west... The UFO made an abrupt 90-degree right-hand turn without slowing down. After the turn it streaked across the sky, leaving a white vapor trail... No earthly machine could have moved that fast."

The object was caught on film by a six-man camera crew while they were working on a documentary near Enstone, Oxfordshire, England, on October 26, 1971. Noel Smart was the principal cameraman.

"It was a round object that glowed and it appeared to be spinning," Smart stated. "It was speeding toward us... It was quite large... By the time I got the camera working, the UFO was moving at fantastic speed."

Another member of the crew who saw the object was Christine Fewlass.

"I've been on this camera crew for four years," she remarked. "We've filmed everything from airplanes to rockets and it was nothing like either."

A spokesman for the TV company said other witnesses in southern England had reported seeing an object that same day.

"We have received the film and we are examining it," a Ministry of Defence spokesman said. "We know of nothing in the sky at that time or place and we are not prepared to comment on what the object was."

A PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR TEACHES UNIVERSITY UFO COURSE

A philosophy professor who believes that UFOs could be "controlled by beings from outer space" is currently teaching a course entitled "Philosophical Problems Arising From UFO Reports" at the State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA). In a letter to UFOR, Dr. Robert F. Creegan stated the course will run from January 19 until mid-May. Seventy-five students are already enrolled "and late enrollees are still being added."



Dr. Robert F. Creegan,
SUNYA professor of
philosophy
(Courtesy: Dr. Creegan)

"Three major problems will provide the focus," Dr. Creegan stated. "A. Theory of Knowledge as related to problems of the analysis of reports and testimony. B. Possible types of reality represented by the UFO. Data on the ET [extraterrestrial] hypothesis and its history. Possible relation to parapsychology. The speculative problem of possible parallel realities. The possible nature of alien intelligence as related to man, animals and computers. C. The social and political problem. Possible censorship of scientific information. The legal and political history of the UFO concern as it relates to the U.S. government, other governments, and the academic world."

The SUNYA professor added that he has "rather solid backing from most colleagues and administrators" at the university, "at least to the extent that they think there is a problem to be examined critically and independently..."

Former head of the philosophy department at SUNYA, Dr. Creegan obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Duke University with a "philosophy major and strong psychology minor." He has taught in both fields at various colleges and universities throughout the nation and is listed in *Who's Who in America*, 1970-71.

Consultations with Dr. McDonald

Dr. Creegan said he has had "a long standing interest in the UFO problem." While a visiting professor at the University of Arizona during the summer of 1970, he had "extensive conversations" with the late Dr. James E. McDonald. A consultant to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), he has visited with numerous other scientists, government officials and UFO scholars in this country and abroad. He has also studied the UFO files of the National Research Council of Canada and says the Canadian Department of Transport "has been interested in the UFO problem."

The philosopher/psychologist has had two sightings. The first -- and most significant -- occurred in 1939.

"It was right after I had received my Ph.D.," he stated in the December 3, 1971, edition of the Albany, N.Y., *Knickerbocker News*. "I was at the home of a friend in Goosetown Bay, Maine. I spotted an object moving at a tremendous rate of speed on the

ocean. My friend and I exchanged field glasses. I still saw it and he saw it also. I can explain it, but I remember it distinctly because this all happened before the UFO fuss of the forties."

While of the opinion that UFOs are possibly ET probes, he says that "they would be fascinating even if they were only hallucinations simply because they have persisted."

Last November, Dr. Creegan was one of the attendees at the UFO symposium held at the University of Arizona (UA), under the auspices of APRO and the UA student chapter of the AIAA. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 10, p. 5). He spoke on "The UFO and Theory of Knowledge" and elaborated on the electro-magnetic (E-M) effects apparently caused by some UFOs.

World-Wide E-M Effects Described

"Not only have automobiles been stalled by UFOs in many parts of the world, but also motorcycles and motor scooters have been stalled in France, as well as farm tractors in Italy," he said. "In Alaska, a pattern of red and white lights swept in from the sea over Juneau and as they passed overhead some ships had electrical failures, while a fish cannery on shore also experienced an electrical blackout.

"Two trusted and highly skilled scientists -- Wilbert Smith, in charge of 'Project Magnet,' the UFO study of Canada's Department of Transport, and Dr. James McDonald, atmospheric physicist at the University of Arizona -- both came to the same conclusion: the best theory to fit UFOs is that they are controlled by beings from outer space. My own belief about UFOs is the same as theirs."

The February 6, 1972, edition of *The National Enquirer* carried a story on the symposium and a reporter from the paper interviewed Dr. Creegan.

"I'm convinced there is intelligent life in outer space," the philosopher remarked. "UFOs are not just illusions. Some reports show them to be controlled objects."

WHITE HOUSE DENIES UFO "RED ALERT"

Ann Grier, of President Nixon's press information staff, denies that the President was involved in a telephone Red Alert between the underground North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) Center at Cheyenne Mountain, Colo., and other military installations concerning UFOs approaching Houston, Texas, and Los Angeles, Calif. The Defense Department denies that NORAD was involved. Bill Eckhardt, private citizen, Oklahoma City, indicates that both were involved, but admits that he at first thought it was a hoax, then was later puzzled.

It all started at about 8:45 p.m., January 12, 1972, in Eckhardt's home and ended about an hour later. Mrs. Sherry Eckhardt was talking with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Parker, when she apparently became involved in a "telephone snarl-up." She called to her husband to listen, who reported hearing conversations between a NORAD official and officials from AF bases in Texas, New Mexico, Florida, California and Colorado calling for a "Red Alert" because of two UFOs flying over the Gulf of Mexico toward Houston and another over the Pacific, heading for Los Angeles. The NORAD voice said that some telephone lines were down in Kansas and that "two planes or UFOs" were also down in the desert near Alamogordo, N.M. It added that teams were being sent to investigate.

"This is not a test. We are under Red Alert," Eckhardt reported the voice as saying.

Eckhardt added that, when he first heard the voices, he hung up, thinking it a practical joke. Then Mrs. Parker called back and the voices were still on the line.

President Nixon Allegedly Contacted

At about 9:40 p.m., a voice from Houston, Texas, said, "We have the President on the phone. Go ahead, Mr. President." According to Eckhardt, a voice that sounded like

that of President Nixon said something like, "This is probably the most unusual phone call I'll ever make." Then the conversation became garbled and soon ended.

Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City, said the possibility of NORAD telephone lines becoming crossed with civilian lines was unlikely and added it could release no information concerning NORAD communications. The White House stated that President Nixon was working on his State of the Union speech at the time. The Defense Department denied any knowledge of the incident and NASA said it was conducting no tests at the time. Telephone company officials stated they knew nothing, but admitted that someone with communications training could cut into a telephone line and conduct such conversations.

The truth of such an incident -- if it actually occurred -- may never become known. UFOR, however, is attempting to contact Eckhardt and will publish further information, if any is made available.

The January 13 and 14, 1972, editions of *The (Oklahoma City) Daily Oklahoman* reported the incident.

A strange footnote: "Tinker command post recorded the conversation between Eckhardt and *The Daily Oklahoman*, and 30 minutes after the conversation had ended, the phone line on which it was made was still out of order at the newspaper office," the paper stated.

DOES CONGRESS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE THE UFO PROBLEM?

By Dr. James E. McDonald

[Part 8 of a series. Before his death in June, 1971, Dr. McDonald was senior physicist, The Institute of Atmospheric Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. Following are excerpts from a prepared statement of a talk given June 8, 1968, to the Burro Club, Washington, D.C.]

My answer to the question posed in the title of my remarks to you today is an emphatic "Yes."

During the past two years, in the course of interviews with several hundred witnesses in important UFO sightings (mainly in this country, but also a substantial number from outside the U.S.), I have tried to weigh as carefully as possible a number of hypotheses to account for these remarkable sightings whose frequency and whose broadly similar characteristics imply some phenomenon of great scientific interest. One must consider the possibility that UFOs are secret test vehicles, that they are misidentified natural phenomena (either familiar or still-to-be-explained), that they are hoaxes or hallucinations, or even that they are devices of ET origin, products of some technology far superior to our own operating on the basis of principles still not even dimly perceived in our present-day science.

The latter hypothesis, improbable as it seems on many grounds, is the hypothesis towards which I have been driven by my own study of the UFO problem... I stress the point that the kind of hard, physical evidence, or the kind of instrumental observation that one likes to depend on in scientific research is woefully lacking in the UFO area. But this very lack itself is due to scientific scoffing at the UFO problem... The scientists who reject the UFO problem because there aren't any hard observational data obtained with elaborate scientific care, through use of objective instrumental techniques, must weigh the obvious fact that the principle reason that we have no such data after 20 years is the very fact that the scientific community does not yet take the UFO problem seriously...!

Lack of Scientific Response Lamented

All over the United States, reliable persons have, for over 20 years, been sighting objects that are not mere swamp gas, mirages, ball lightning, or twinkling stars, or aircraft strobelights, but *machine-like devices exhibiting performance characteristics far exceeding the present state of man's technology*. This is the UFO problem, a problem that is, in my opinion, not going to receive the top-priority scientific attention that it so clearly warrants, until a very thorough review of the entire past

two decades of mishandling of official investigative responsibilities is carried out. I had hoped 20 months ago that Dr. Condon would push through such an investigation, but that hope passed away some months back when it became apparent that the University of Colorado effort was not being pushed with a vigorous and open-minded attitude. In the past six months, I have sought to arouse the concern of other segments of the scientific community, but I have met with little response. Everyone "knows" UFOs are nonsense. I believe that we have here one of those situations where *only a Congressional inquiry can cut through to the heart of the problem...*

The objective of such a Congressional inquiry could include the following: (1) A review of the history of the official investigations conducted by the AF...; (2) A review of the nature and findings of those consultative studies done for the AF... and of those auxiliary studies done by certain other governmental agencies...; (3) Hearing of testimony from principal persons associated with the more important... programs and solicitations of critique thereof by disinterested parties; (4) Review of the important Robertson Panel Report of January, 1953, and of the CIA's role therein, as well as the scientific consequences of recommendations emerging from that... Panel; (5) Assessment of the scientific adequacy of the post-1953 Bluebook program, and careful evaluation of the basis of the annually reiterated Bluebook assertion that "there has been no evidence... that sightings categorized as Unidentified present technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge"; (6) Review of the background to, and prosecution of the University of Colorado's AF-sponsored study...; (7) Examination of the position taken by some of the leading non-Governmental groups who have attempted, within severely limited resources, to assemble UFO information and to alert the scientific community and the public to aspects of the UFO problem putatively ignored by USAF; (8) Hearing of direct testimony from... many... categories of witnesses in selected UFO cases...; (9) Review, in at least summary fashion, the general nature of UFO evidence from other parts of the world; (10) Deliberate on the question of where within or outside of the federal establishment a truly adequate, scientifically-oriented UFO investigatory program must be set up to cope with the unprecedented nature of this fascinating problem and to work vigorously toward early clarification of the real nature of the Unidentified Flying Objects.

NOTES

• Due to an incapacitating injury to UFOR's editor, which may involve an operation, we *may* have to forego publication of next month's issue. At present, however, the situation is tenuous.

• If you wish to report any sightings or contact UFOR via telephone, please call one of the following numbers during the evenings, weekends or holidays: 301-469-9245 or 301-365-1067.

• Vol. I, No. 12, of *UFO Research Newsletter* will include: (1) a report on UFOs over Argentina in 1971; (2) excerpts from a prepared statement of a speech by Dr. James E. McDonald; and (3) the manufacturing of "UFOs" in Kansas story.

• We ask that subscribers and readers send us *any* UFO reports, old or new.

• Enclosed is an information sheet with a coupon for subscribing to *UFO Research Newsletter*. We ask that you pass it along to anyone who may be interested. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL WITNESS IN MARYLAND SIGHTING CASE

An additional witness to the UFO sighting in Easton, Md., on December 13, 1971 (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 10, p. 6), has come forth with his report.

Ronald Fisher, a student at Queen Anne's County High School, was walking near Centreville about two hours previous to the original sighting (which occurred at 9 p.m.) when he saw a "bright orange ball that glowed red," stated the Centreville *Record-Observer*, December 15, 1971. The object, he said, "grew smaller and smaller" as he headed toward it. It disappeared behind some trees, reappeared and then completely disappeared.

"It didn't make any noise," Ronald said, "and it was just unusual to me."