

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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OBJECTS WITH STRANGE CHARACTERISTICS REPORTED

Another fairly recent report from the Orland, Calif., area (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. II, No. 1, p. 1) has been verified by a UFOR investigator.

At 7:10 p.m., April 14, 1972, Robert McGarr, a lumberman, and his son, Gary, were feeding stock on a relative's ranch in Orland when they saw a bright white disc "about the size or larger than a silver dollar at arm's length." It was approaching them, zig-zagging up and down while descending.

The "self illuminated" UFO stopped, hovered, then "retreated" to the south. At its closest approach to the witnesses, "a high pitched hum was heard..." Duration of the sighting was approximately 2 1/2 minutes.

"No other witnesses were located by McGarr," the investigator stated in his report, "but it was very obvious at that time of early night that [the object] was seen by other townspeople. The sheriff's office in Willows, Calif., was notified by Mr. McGarr."

Other sighting reports from seven states and four foreign countries since the first of the year include a UFO that may have caused a strange "code transmission"; others that landed; an object that lit up a hillside; another that split apart, then quickly ascended and disappeared; a UFO with "a movable shaft" that "split in two"; objects that caused electro-magnetic (E-M) effects; a strange craft that paced an automobile; a UFO which emitted a loud sound; a "meteorite" that "floated in one place..., then moved about"; a formation of UFOs seen during an eclipse of the moon; and physical evidence found after sightings. Witnesses include control tower operators, U.S. Coast Guardsmen, police officers, a newspaper photographer, a lawyer and a fireman.

April Reports From Pennsylvania

Three UFOs were reportedly seen over east Greensburg, Pa., at 8:15 p.m., April 22, according to the April 24, 1972, edition of the Irwin, Pa., *Standard Observer*, and the Latrobe, Pa., *The New Edition*, May 10, 1972. But this was only the last in a series of sightings during April in Central Westmoreland County.

On the 22nd, numerous witnesses saw the bright objects emit orange sparks. After about 15 minutes, one of the UFOs split apart. Then all three quickly ascended and disappeared.

That same evening, others reported sightings from Derry, Youngwood, Carbon, Blairsville and Youngstown. Several observers said they saw three red objects in the vicinity of the Latrobe Steel plant. Kiski Valley police reported calls from witnesses who saw a round, bright object drop "debris." A metallic substance was found in a field near West Point and is being studied by the Westmoreland County UFO Study Group, based in Greensburg.

Earlier in the month, on April 2, at 9:30 p.m., witnesses said they watched an orange object hover for 10 minutes over Greensburg. It brightened, wobbled, then disappeared "at great speed" toward the northeast.

At about 9:30 p.m., April 16, observers saw an orange "pill capsule"-shaped UFO approximately 20 feet off the ground near the Hempfield High School. It flew over Greensburg and emitted sparks. A similar report came from Pleasant Unity 10 minutes earlier.

(Continued on page 3)

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HYNEK BOOK REVEALING
(A Book Review)

After all the buildup in UFO circles, it naturally is a disappointment that *The UFO Experience; A Scientific Inquiry*, by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, is *not* the greatest UFO book yet written -- but it does come close. It is probably the most important work on the subject, even though no startling revelations are made. Mainly, it is confirmation by the top "insider" of what serious UFO students have known all along:

the AF program was a farce from the beginning; the Condon report is unworthy of serious scientific acceptance; and the scientific community and the public alike have disregarded the subject because of the clouds of misrepresentation, untrue official pronouncements and "kookism."

"There is truly a growing 'Invisible College' of scientifically and technically trained persons who are intrigued by the UFO phenomenon and who, if provided with opportunity, time, and facilities, are most willing to undertake its serious study," the author maintains. "They represent an international group ready to accept the challenge of the UFO."

The book attains its importance mainly by virtue of the fact of who wrote it: Hynek, chairman of Northwestern University's Department of Astronomy and for more than two decades the official scientific consultant on UFOs for the AF, making him the top "insider" in military UFO circles and privy to numerous excellent reports. Unfortunately, Hynek tends to pat himself on the back just a bit too much. He falls just short of telling us that this is *the* UFO Bible and all the rest are unworthy of really serious consideration, but he does condescend to tell us that a few contain good information.

To the author's credit, he does throw a sharp left jab to the jaws of his colleagues by reminding us of the "laughter of science" and that "science is not always what scientists do."

"The scientific world has surely not been 'eager to find out' about the UFO phenomenon and has expressed no inclination to astonishment," he writes. "The almost universal attitude of scientists has been militantly negative. Indeed, it would seem that the reaction has been grossly out of proportion to the stimulus. The emotionally loaded, highly exaggerated reaction that has generally been exhibited by scientists to any mention of UFOs might be of considerable interest to psychologists."

Hynek defends his own earlier silence by stating that he is a patient man who can bide his time. Rather than being ousted from the AF program as a rebel, he indicates, he remained silent during the first years of the project so that he might remain in close touch with the Blue Book files for later revelation and study. He fails, however, to credit such scientists as the late Dr. James E. McDonald and others, including Major Donald E. Keyhoe, for their earlier, outspoken efforts to have the subject scientifically investigated. The omission of these -- and other -- names (he does mention McDonald, almost in passing), in particular, is glaring.

Work Valuable for AF and Colorado Insights

A number of the UFO reports in the book will not be new to dedicated ufologists, but there are some surprises from the Blue Book files. The work's real value, however, is in its intimate glimpses into the machinations of Blue Book and the University of Colorado UFO Project.

"Although it is stated by the AF that all the 12,000 cases in Blue Book are unclassified and available to the public, they are housed in a classified area, and security clearance is required of anyone who wishes to examine these reports," is one of the author's juicy -- not startling, but confirming -- tidbits. Another: tagging a report as "insufficient data" was "a favorite... with Blue Book when it appeared that it would be too much trouble to acquire additional data." Also: other countries took their cues from the so-called "scientific" investigation the AF was conducting. "When I asked what was being done in those countries about the UFO problem, on many occasions I was told that since the United States, with all its funds and facilities, was handling the problem, what more could other countries do with their limited facilities? They would await the outcome of the U.S. investigation."

The Condon report, Hynek states, was "the kiss of death to any further investigation in the name of the quest for knowledge." The body of the report, however, is positive and gives "the lie to the Condon summary" at the beginning. There is also "unimpeachable evidence that Condon did not understand the nature and scope of the [UFO] problem..."

An unexpected bonus adding further insight into the in-house difficulties among the members of the Colorado Project is found in Appendix 3 -- the letter of resignation from the project secretary, Mary Louise Armstrong, to the project director, Dr. Edward U. Condon, protesting the firings of Drs. David Saunders and Norman Levine and generally blaming the project coordinator, Robert Low, for the negative and biased attitude the project had been taking.

Hynek offers some recommendations for future study and investigations. Among them: (1) an international body of scientists should establish an institute to study the subject; (2) the United Nations might set up an international "clearing house" for the exchange of information; (3) a number of full-time investigators should be trained to track down "every bit of potentially available data" on each worthy report.

In general, the book presents a comprehensive review of the UFO subject. It is easily the best work on the subject in the last several years and should be read by every serious student of UFOs.

[J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience; A Scientific Inquiry* (Chicago: Henry Regnery Company, 1972). Pp. 276. Photographs, appendices, index. \$6.95].

Strange Characteristics (Continued from page 1)

Other reports from the area include an object approximately "20 feet in diameter with a fin tail on top and a flat bottom." The UFO "had three rectangular windows that emitted a bright light."

Policeman Sees "Saucer" in California

Officer Elmer Hobbs, of patrol duty near Derby, Calif., spotted a bright yellow "saucer" at 3:55 a.m., May 9, stated the Arvin, Calif., *Tiller*, May 10, 1972. Officer Hobbs watched for five minutes as the UFO flew to the east. He was later told that it had been observed in Mojave and at Edwards Air Force (AF) Base.

An object was reported from the Waterbury, Conn., area in mid-April, according to the April 15, 1972, edition of the *Waterbury American*. At about 7 p.m., April 14, Luan Mane and another witness said they saw a huge object "the size of a 707." It was triangular-shaped, had lights on the top and bottom "and a red blinker in the middle of the triangle." William Smith, however, gave a slightly different account. The UFO, he related, was larger than a 747 and had a white light at each end. The bottom light was blue. It flew very slowly and made no noise.

Mr. and Mrs. Sal Verderame saw apparently the same craft about three hours later. They said it was in view for about two minutes and emitted no sound.

Earlier that same evening, Mrs. Frank Fazzano and her family saw it. She said it looked "like a clam shell" and hovered over some buildings. Mrs. Fazzano said

it was as large as a 707 and had three lights, two white ones "as bright as car headlights" and a red blinking one.

UFO Lights Up Hillside

On the evening of March 28, several witnesses in Joseph, Ore., saw a "very bright light" descend near Ruby Peak. It lit "up the entire hillside and clearly outlined the ridge in the horizon against the night sky," stated the March 30, 1972, edition of the Enterprise, Ore., *Wallowa County Chieftan*.

After a few minutes, the UFO was joined by a second object, which passed around the first. Then both "went behind Ruby Peak where the intensity of their light silhouetted the peak against its brightened background." As the objects disappeared in the northwest, they changed colors from white to red to orange.

Another report from nearby Wallowa stated that a man and his daughter were horseback riding when they saw a "meteorite" descending into Bear Creek Canyon. It "floated in one place for a while, then moved about in the canyon for a while before speeding away."

Six days earlier, on the evening of the 22nd, several observers spotted "a long object with red lights all around it" that moved erratically, "stopping and going" before landing briefly in a field in western Wyandotte County, Kansas, then taking off and disappearing to the northwest.

"They were real serious about it," stated Patrolman Jim King, who investigated the incident that was reported in the March 23, 1972, edition of the Kansas City *Kansas*.

Detectives in the sheriff's department reportedly also investigated the sighting.

Expert Witnesses Spot Object

Carl Van Dam, owner of the Norton Manufacturing Co., left his place of business in Muskegon, Mich., at about 9:15 p.m., March 8. He and a car wash attendant saw a "yellowish white" light that changed colors from white to blue to green before disappearing, stated the Muskegon *Chronicle*, March 9, 1972.

Then the object reappeared, flying very fast with a brighter light than before.

"Suddenly, it stopped," the attendant stated, "about where it was originally and the light dimmed and appeared to grow larger in size."

Muskegon Township Police Officer Fred Taylor was contacted. He and Police Chief Lawrence Clarke, North Muskegon Police Chief Robert L. Kerschner, Sgt. Harold Merkle and Sgt. Orville Smith, of Whitehall, observed it. Clarke watched it through binoculars and said he thought it was oscillating, was "real bright" and changed colors.

"At one point," he added, "I could see it plain as day and it was moving."

U.S. Coast Guardsmen and a *Chronicle* photographer saw it as it moved steadily west. One report stated that the Coast Guard UHF frequency, Channel 16, was filled with a strange "code transmission" so strong that it blocked out the regular voice transmissions. The Coast Guard district commander's office was supposed to have conducted an investigation.

According to the *Chronicle*, control tower personnel on duty at Muskegon County Airport also witnessed the UFO. Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) officials said it was not an airplane, star, planet or weather balloon, the paper added.

The AF was requested to investigate. The reply: "Selfridge AF 3 is not interested."

UFO Paces Automobile

It was about 9:50 p.m., February 17. An unidentified woman and her daughter were driving near Payson, Ill., when they saw a bright light heading toward them from the east, stated the February 20, 1972, edition of the Quincy, Ill., *Herald-Whig*.

According to the Midwest UFO Network, the woman reported the UFO as about five feet in diameter with two legs extending from a dish-shaped body. The legs appeared to have red, green and white lights attached.

The object made a abrupt turn to the south and appeared to pace the car. Then it passed 75 to 100 feet over the vehicle and headed south.

FAA personnel reported no aircraft in the vicinity at the time. The object was also reported to have been traveling faster than a conventional aircraft.

Several witnesses at the Waikanae Beach motor camp near Gisborne, New Zealand, saw five or six gray objects "that flashed across the sky in formation" during an eclipse of the moon at approximately 10:20 p.m., January 30, stated the January 31, 1972, edition of *The Gisborne Herald*.

The UFOs, "in an upright line formation," were going from west to east. They then regrouped into an arrowhead formation and disappeared toward the east. Duration of the sighting was about 15 seconds.

Georges Gendron, a lawyer, and his family witnessed a luminous, yellow, oval-shaped UFO over Quebec, Canada, at about 7:45 p.m., January 5, stated the *Quebec Le Soleil*, January 6, 1972. Jean Casault, president of the Societe de Recherches sur les Phenomenes Mysterieux (Mysterious Phenomena Research Society) and Jacques Bureau, a meteorologist at the Quebec airport, reported the incident.

The UFO, Gendron said, had a "movable shaft" on its rear and "two little shafts at its end." It flew slowly from north to south. Then it stopped and hovered over the river for about 30 seconds before splitting in two and vanishing. The UFO was observed for about three minutes.

Reports From England

Traveling somewhere between Bramhall and Alderley Edge, England, on the evening of February 8, John Pevitt saw a "strange light" that hovered immediately in front of his automobile, said the April 13, 1972, edition of the *Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser*.

Earlier reports also came from the same area. At 8:30 a.m., December 6, 1971, a huge, spinning, hovering disc was seen over Lindow. Then, in early January, moving lights at low altitude were seen. Others saw "what looked like a large upright lamp bulb, brilliantly lit at the top and bottom, passing low over houses..."

Sightings were also reported from France on or about March 20, according to the March 21, 1972, edition of the Kingston, Jamaica, *Daily Gleaner*. A Normandy fireman said he observed a brightly lit "saucer" land in a field and a farmer reported experiencing "total electric power failure" as it took off. Other reports came from the central and southwest portions of the country.

RESULTS OF THE SUNYA UFO COURSE

By Dr. Robert F. Creegan

[In previous issues of this newsletter -- Vol. I, No. 11 and Vol. II, No. 1 -- UFOR reported on a UFO course that was taught from January through May, 1972, by Dr. Creegan, a philosophy professor at the State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA). In an exclusive article, the philosopher outlines the results of that course]

The Spring semester 1972 UFO course at SUNY-Albany has met for the last time, but research following from its results is highly obligatory. For one thing, over 70 student journals contained a number of hitherto unstudied cases, and at least four of those are of a substantial character and will get field investigation, as this becomes possible. A large minority of the students are exerting pressure for a repetition of the course next semester -- and every semester -- but the large amount of collateral work related to questions about outside speakers, radio and TV appearances, local research groups, etc., probably makes frequent repetition too difficult under current

budgetary -- and other -- restrictions. A year from now, however, a related course on "debated border problems of science" may be presented at SUNYA.

From an analysis of the journals, it appears that there emerged a near consensus of opinion that a number of early studies, mostly in the 1950s, established a reasonable possibility that an unknown technology is involved in some UFO phenomena. Among those most frequently mentioned are: the kinematic studies, associated with the name of Major Dewey Fournet; the Project Magnet Study, directed by engineer Wilbert Smith for the Canadian Department of Transport; the Special Report 14 of Project Blue Book, based on statistical analysis done by the Batelle Memorial Institute; and [Dr. Jacques] Vallee's studies on European sightings. While the work of [Dr. Donald] Menzel and that of Condon challenged such results, the adequacy of their counter-arguments was effectively challenged in turn by [Dr.] James McDonald, of Arizona, J. Allen Hynek, of Northwestern, and others. So the student opinion at Albany is that the hypothesis of unknown technology must still be taken seriously, and a third of the students think that it is an extraterrestrial technology.

"Blockage" of "Scientific Information" Established

In regard to the question concerning the blockage of the normal flow of scientific information, the practically unanimous opinion at Albany is that this is a real and urgent problem. Besides AF regulations -- and those stated in the Joint Army-Navy-Air Publication 146-E -- there exist blacklists in some private corporations in the aviation, space, and electronics industries. Student research at Albany established this as an unquestioned fact as far as some specific firms are concerned and it is suspected elsewhere. Some student journals suggested that this type of blockage does not reduce the numbers of reports as much as the quality. The most accurate and critical observers are precisely those most affected by regulations and sanctions against reporting sightings, and against engaging in theoretical discussions of sightings and related problems.

The instructor of the UFO course at SUNYA was more than pleased by the way in which some students made efforts to read materials far beyond the assignments, and some proved themselves capable of doing serious independent research. There has been a study of local sightings, and a survey of local opinion has commenced on a modest scale. Every effort was made to define this as a "low profile" course, but it has proved to be a memorable one, nonetheless, at least as far as those more active participants are concerned. Administrative and professional opinion remains positive, and the wider community is aware of the associated projects.

1966 SIGHTING INVOLVES PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN

A disc "lit up like a church steeple at night" passed over a car three times and once approached within 15 feet of the vehicle on the evening of July 22, 1966, near Fremont, Ind., according to the Ft. Wayne, Ind., *New Sentinel*, May 6, 1972.

A prominent Ft. Wayne businessman, David M. Roth, of Roth, Wehrly, Heiny, Inc., a real estate firm, had picked up his son, John, at the Pennsylvania Railroad Station and left for Clear Lake. They were on Road 120 east of Fremont when they saw the object.

It was a whitish-gray color, convex on both the top and bottom. A dome with "portholes" emitting a yellow light was also on top.

The bright UFO flew over the Roth car three times and seemed to be cruising at an altitude of slightly more than tree-top level. Roth slowed the automobile and saw the object hovering slightly to the front. Then he stopped the vehicle to get the movie camera in the trunk.

Still in the car, John observed the UFO approach within 15 feet. Another automobile approached and the object "dimmed as if by a rheostat." It rose 15 more feet and was now directly over the car. Then it started swinging "in a 100 yard arc back and

forth across the road..." after which "it took off at a terrific speed from 30 feet to 15,000 feet or more in seconds."

Both Roths indicated that they had not seen a terrestrial object.

SCIENCE IN DEFAULT: 22 YEARS OF INADEQUATE UFO INVESTIGATIONS

By Dr. James E. McDonald

[Part 11 and final of a series. Before his death in June, 1971, Dr. McDonald was senior physicist, The Institute of Atmospheric Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. Following are excerpts from a prepared statement of a talk given December 27, 1969, at a general symposium on UFOs at the 134th meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Boston, Mass.]

No scientifically adequate investigation of the UFO problem has been carried out during the entire 22 years that have now passed since the first extensive wave of sightings of unidentified aerial objects in the summer of 1947. Despite continued public interest, and despite frequent expressions of public concern, only quite superficial examinations of the steadily growing body of unexplained UFO reports from credible witnesses have been conducted in this country or abroad. The latter point is highly relevant, since all evidence now points to the fact that UFO sightings exhibit similar characteristics throughout the world...

The grave difficulty with essentially all past UFO studies has been that they were either devoid of any substantial scientific content, or else have lost their way amidst the relatively large noise-content that tends to obscure the real signal in the UFO reports. The presence of a percentually large number of reports of misidentified natural or technological phenomena... is not surprising, given all the circumstances surrounding the UFO problem. Yet such understandable and usually easily recognizable instances of misidentification have all too often been seized upon as a sufficient explanation for *all* UFO reports, while the residue of far more significant reports (now numbering of order 1,000) are ignored. I believe science is in default for having failed to mount any truly adequate studies of this problem... that has aroused such strong and widespread public concern during the past two decades. Unfortunately, the present climate of thinking, above all since release of the latest of a long series of inadequate studies, namely, that conducted under the direction of Dr. E.U. Condon at the University of Colorado, will make it very difficult to secure any new and more thorough investigations, yet my own examination of the problem forces me to call for just such new studies...

Scientists Ignore Problem

The overall public and scientific response to the UFO phenomena is itself a matter of substantial scientific interest, above all in its social-psychological aspects. Prior to my own investigations, I would never have imagined the widespread reluctance to report an unusual and seemingly inexplicable event, yet that reluctance, and the attendant reluctance of scientists to exhibit serious interest in the phenomena in question, are quite general. One regrettable result is the fact that the most credible of UFO witnesses are often those most reluctant to come forward with a report of the event they have witnessed. A second regrettable result is that only a very small number of scientists have taken the time and trouble to search out the really puzzling reports that tend to be diluted out by the much larger number of trivial and non-significant UFO reports. The net result is that there still exists no general scientific recognition of the scope and nature of the UFO problem...

The Condon Report, released in January, 1969, after about two years of AF-sponsored study is, in my opinion, quite inadequate. The sheer bulk of the Report, and the inclusion of much that can only be viewed as "scientific padding," cannot conceal

from anyone who studies it closely the salient point that it represents an examination of only a tiny fraction of the most puzzling UFO reports of the past two decades, and that its level of scientific argumentation is wholly unsatisfactory. Furthermore, of the roughly 90 cases that it specifically confronts, over 30 are conceded to be *unexplained*. With so large a fraction of unexplained cases (out of a sample that is by no means limited only to the truly puzzling cases, but includes an objectionably large number of obviously trivial cases), it is far from clear how Dr. Condon felt justified in concluding that the study indicated "that further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby..." I suggest that there are enough significant unexplainable UFO reports just within the Condon Report itself to document the need for a greatly increased level of scientific study of UFOs.

That a panel of the National Academy of Sciences could endorse this study is to me disturbing. I find no evidence that the Academy panel did any independent checking of its own; and none of that 11-man panel had any significant prior investigative experience in this area, to my knowledge. I believe that this sort of Academy endorsement must be criticized; it hurts science in the long run, and I fear that this particular instance will ultimately prove an embarrassment to the National Academy of Sciences.

The Condon Report and its Academy endorsement have exerted a highly negative influence on clarification of the long-standing UFO problem; so much, in fact, that it seems almost pointless to now call for new and more extensive UFO investigations. Yet the latter are precisely what are needed to bring out into full light of scientific inquiry a phenomenon that could well constitute one of the greatest scientific problems of our times.

ENQUIRER PANEL INVESTIGATES DELPHOS CASE

The startling Delphos, Kansas, report of November 2, 1971 (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 11, p. 1, and Vol. II, No. 2, p. 6) -- fast becoming a classic of its kind -- is being investigated by the *National Enquirer's* scientific UFO reward panel (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 12, p. 7, and Vol. II, No. 1, p. 6, and No. 2, p. 5).

Young Ronnie Johnson saw the toadstool-shaped UFO that rumbled "like a jet plane" and apparently temporarily paralyzed both the observer and his dog, according to the May 28, 1972, edition of the *Enquirer*. The object appeared to be one or two feet above the ground and "the ground right below it and all the trees around it were glowing." After the UFO took off, there was a glowing circle on the soil.

"It was fantastic," said Durel Johnson, Ronnie's father, who entered a claim for the *Enquirer's* \$50,000 reward for proof that UFOs are from outer space. "When I saw the ring glowing, I could not believe it. It had rained the day before and the ground all around was black and muddy. But the actual ring was dry as a bone. The soil looked blistered and burnt and when I poured water over it, it just ran off."

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, one of the panel members, said four different laboratories are conducting analyses from samples of the soil and "glowing" trees in the vicinity. A preliminary report revealed that the soil from the circle would not absorb water normally, but beaded and ran off.

"It suggests to me that some type of heat radiation has baked this soil," Hynek commented.

The Northwestern astronomer added that the ring samples contain five to 10 times the calcium of soil from just outside the circle. There was also a "white fibrous material found in the ring soil sample" that has not yet been identified.

Anyone interested in submitting a claim for the \$50,000 or the supplementary \$5,000 reward for the best submitted evidence may do so by writing UFO Reward, The *National Enquirer*, 600 South East Coast Ave., Lantana, Fla. 33462.