

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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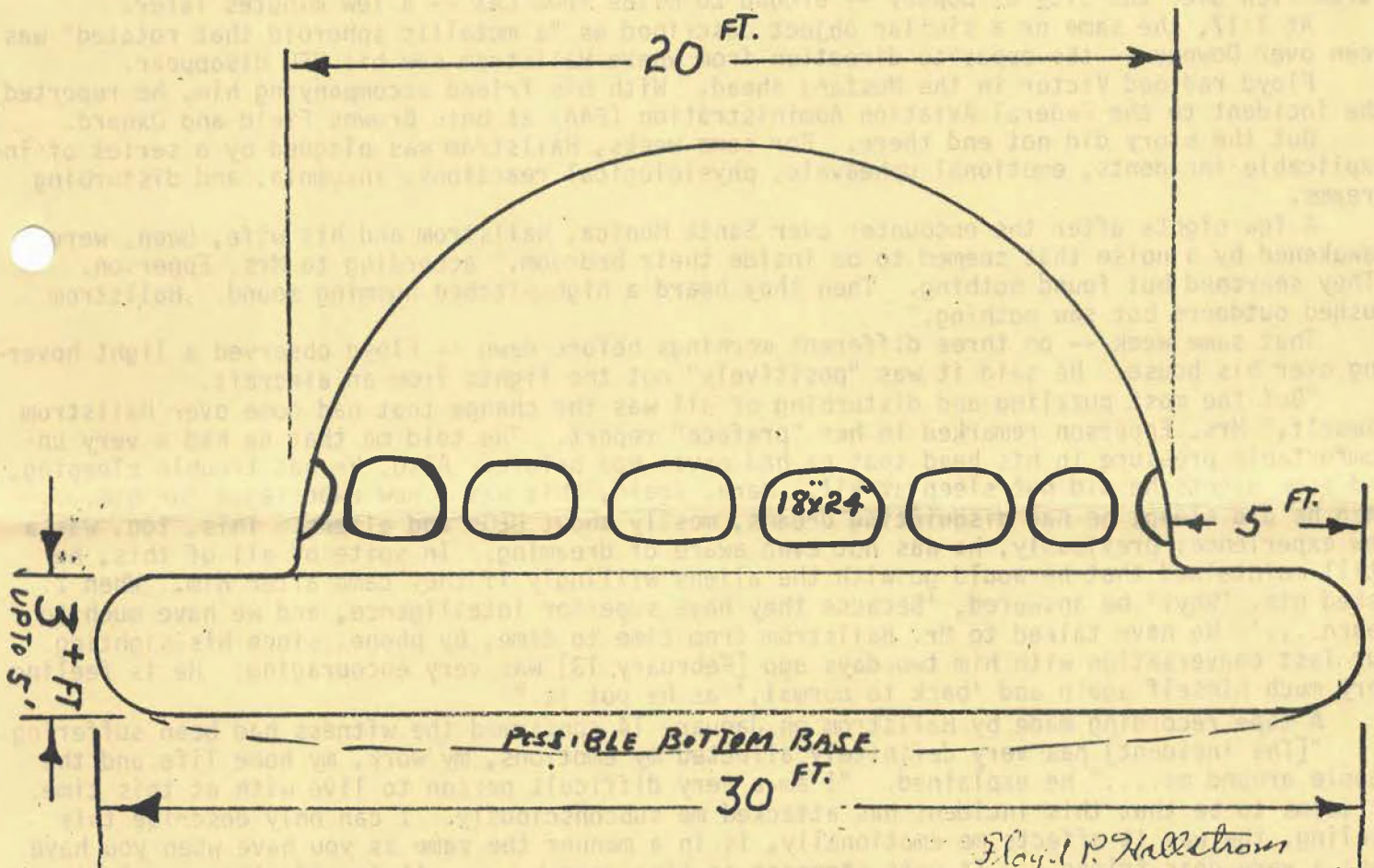
PILOT INCIDENT, ANIMAL REACTION MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF CALIFORNIA REPORTS

At about 12:35 p.m., January 1, 1978, Floyd P. Hallstrom and Jim Victor took off from the airport in Oxnard, Calif., for Browns Field, San Diego. Victor was delivering the Mustang II he had sold to a customer, and Hallstrom, piloting a Cessna 170A, went along to return his friend to home base. Hallstrom was a "commercial pilot with a helicopter rotary wing and single engine land aircraft rating." He has been a pilot since 1941, prior to America's entry into World War II.

Hallstrom flew directly toward Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) while Victor, in the faster plane, hugged the coastline, flying over Pepperdine University in Malibu and Point Mugu. The sky was "crystal clear."

At 1:07, Floyd was over downtown Santa Monica, bordering the coastline. He was flying at about 120 m.p.h. at an altitude of approximately 7,500 feet.

"I could observe traffic and buildings on the ground extremely clear," he remarked.



Witness' Sketch of UFO Over Santa Monica, Calif., January 1, 1978

(Courtesy: Idabel Epperson)

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Hallstrom peered ahead, looking for Victor, when he saw "a spot coming out of the haze." It was probably Jim, he reasoned, but... No. It couldn't be. The thing was coming toward him. Probably a passenger helicopter from LAX. But this, too, he discounted. Then, "all of a sudden, I was able to make out the complete form of a saucer shape or round object" at an estimated 6,000 feet altitude. (See sketch, p. 1). It was to the left of his aircraft at a distance of one-half to three-quarters of a mile.

The pilot saw the UFO very clearly. It was about 30 feet in diameter -- "a complete half sphere on small land base" measuring about three feet thick. The dome was an estimated 20 feet in diameter, and the entire

object around 15 feet high. There were 16-20 oval-shaped windows around the base of the sphere "equally spaced." The windows looked to be about 18" x 24". The surface of the UFO was "like nickel or highly polished steel or chrome."

The object disappeared in a line over the Hollywood Hills. Hallstrom had observed it for approximately one minute.

In a "preface" report on the incident dated February 15, 1978, Mrs. Idabel Epperson, long-time Los Angeles-based UFO investigator, said that, as the object passed under his plane, Floyd "had a sudden overwhelming urge to meet with the pilot of that space ship and wished fervently for the UFO to *come back* and lead him to a landing place where they could meet and talk." Hallstrom flew over the city of Downey -- around 20 miles from LAX -- a few minutes later.

At 1:17, the same or a similar object described as "a metallic spheroid that rotated" was seen over Downey -- the opposite direction from where Hallstrom saw his UFO disappear.

Floyd radioed Victor in the Mustang ahead. With his friend accompanying him, he reported the incident to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at both Browns Field and Oxnard.

But the story did not end there. For some weeks, Hallstrom was plagued by a series of inexplicable incidents, emotional upheavals, physiological reactions, insomnia, and disturbing dreams.

A few nights after the encounter over Santa Monica, Hallstrom and his wife, Gwen, were "awakened by a noise that seemed to be inside their bedroom," according to Mrs. Epperson. "They searched but found nothing. Then they heard a high-pitched humming sound. Hallstrom rushed outdoors but saw nothing."

That same week -- on three different mornings before dawn -- Floyd observed a light hovering over his house. He said it was "positively" not the lights from an aircraft.

"But the most puzzling and disturbing of all was the change that had come over Hallstrom himself," Mrs. Epperson remarked in her "preface" report. "He told me that he had a very uncomfortable pressure in his head that he had never had before. Also, he had trouble sleeping, and some nights he did not sleep at all. Here, again, this was a new experience for him.... When he did sleep, he had disquieting dreams, mostly about UFOs and aliens. This, too, was a new experience; previously, he was not even aware of dreaming. In spite of all of this, he still maintained that he would go with the aliens willingly if they came after him. When I asked him, 'Why?' he answered, 'Because they have superior intelligence, and we have much to learn....' We have talked to Mr. Hallstrom from time to time, by phone, since his sighting. Our last conversation with him two days ago [February 13] was very encouraging. He is feeling very much himself again and 'back to normal,' as he put it."

A tape recording made by Hallstrom on January 14 confirmed the witness had been suffering.

"[The incident] has very definitely affected my emotions, my work, my home life and the people around me..." he explained. "I am a very difficult person to live with at this time. It seems to be that this incident has attacked me subconsciously. I can only describe this feeling, the way it affects me emotionally, is in a manner the same as you have when you have lost a very dear friend... It gets stronger as time goes by... It is affecting my sleep... It seems... my mind... always wanders back to this flying saucer incident, and it certainly is very disturbing to me."

Only three days after the sighting -- January 4 -- Hallstrom wrote a letter to Defense Secretary Harold Brown, asking that the American public be informed of the "truth about UFO." Copies of the letter were sent to California congressional and state lawmakers.

Hallstrom has had an impressive 17.5-year career in the U.S. Navy, commencing with the outbreak of World War II. He served as an aircraft mechanic and a combat air crewman "on aircraft of all types." Additionally, he was squadron maintenance chief and "helped to train combat air crewman." He also served with several different Commanders-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet and became "completely trained in all phases of aircraft."

Over the years, Floyd Hallstrom has obtained a reputation as an honest individual and a highly qualified aviator.

"I know Floyd Hallstrom to be a thoroughly honest man and an eminently qualified observer," wrote Philip D. Terry, director of airline sales for a large corporation, on January 16. "I believe him, and he is convinced he saw what he describes."

Dennis Leatart investigated the incident for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization. "Of the 10 or 11 years that I have been researching UFOs," Leatart stated in his report dated January 17, "this is the most outstanding and remarkable [case] of all... I found Mr. Hallstrom to be a very highly intelligent man... who in no uncertain terms knows what he saw was real, physical and something not made on this earth."

Lt. Col. Robert F. Bowker (USAF-Ret.) was the main field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

More than a month after the Hallstrom sighting -- at about 3:30 a.m., February 4 -- Mrs. Claire Semaza, City of Orange, Calif., was awakened by a sound as though a "mob of people were humming." She "felt held down, as if her body wouldn't get off the bed." Fifteen to 20 minutes later, the humming intensified to such an extent that the witness' ears began to hurt.

Mrs. Semaza's two children -- Donna, 14, and Eric, 11 -- and a neighbor, Mrs. Dorothy Pascl, were also awakened by the noise. The sound was so intense that, for a moment, the Semazas thought something was about to land on their roof or crash through the window.

Still dressed in their night clothes, the Semazas entered the front yard of their two-story apartment building. Looking toward the south-southeast, they observed "an oval or cigar-shaped object" just above some trees an estimated two blocks to one-half mile away.

"The sky above [the UFO] glowed in one area with a pinkish color, and a little further away, above it to the left, was a hot, clear red color," stated Willard D. Nelson in his report on the incident. "Below and around the object was a layer of haze or 'smoke,' gray in color... [The object] was slowly rising, leaving the smoke layer behind. It was a dark shape, but it had two bright red lights, one on each end of the oval, with several smaller bluish-white lights strung horizontally between the two reds. The red lights cast shafts of light downward and outwards, looking like shafts of sunlight from a sunset, only red... Rising higher, it flashed a brilliant white light on and off for perhaps three seconds and then... shot off, ascending toward the left, higher and higher to the southeast."

During the sighting, the Semaza female dog, Susie, went "bananas" for about 30 minutes. She "had given birth to her first litter of puppies two days earlier."

"There she was with seven puppies to protect, and she must have felt that extreme danger threatened," wrote Mrs. Idabel Epperson in her account of the incident. "The cozy box that she and the puppies occupied was on the ground floor. She carried a puppy upstairs and tried to hide it in a couple of places -- the last place she tried was under the bed -- but that didn't satisfy her. She took the puppy out from under the bed and hid it behind the drapes. This was the right place, she thought, so she carried the rest of her puppies one by one upstairs and hid them all behind the drapes."

At 5:45, Mrs. Pascl rose to do some shopping at the nearby, all-night Albertson's Market, where she saw the cloud-like, "pinkish-red patches like a patchwork quilt" apparently left by the UFO. The "size of the glowing patchwork area was roughly guessed as 300 feet long by 50 feet high." By about 6:15, the patches had dissipated. Mrs. Pascl did not observe the UFO.

Mrs. Semaza and her children experienced "excitement and some fear" during the sighting. UFON is indebted to Mrs. Epperson for information on the two reports above.

OCCUPANTS, PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS REPORTED IN 1977 WORLDWIDE SIGHTINGS

Occupants; UFOs that caused physiological and electro-magnetic (E-M) effects; a jet plane that chased a UFO; an object that dove upon a plant building; UFOs that were photographed; mysterious craft that hovered over volcanic craters; objects that lit up a room, the interior of a car, and the ground; another that paced a car; UFOs that landed, caused animal reactions, left behind physical evidence, emitted sounds and other objects, and frightened witnesses; an object

that chased a witness at speeds up to 120 m.p.h.; and another that split in two, then rejoined, were characteristics of sighting reports from at least 12 states and eight foreign countries during the Summer and Autumn of 1977.

By 3:10 a.m., June 24, Mrs. Jane I. Sherman, Newfane, N.Y., noticed her three dogs "had been barking on and off for about a half hour" and were running back and forth between the woods and the house. Then she observed "a light rise over our woods and seem to hover there."

The witness rushed next door and alerted her daughter, Wendy Nayman, and a friend, Bar M. Moore.

"As we continued to watch, the object moved in a darting motion sideways, then straight up," Mrs. Sherman stated in a report to UFOR dated September 21, 1977. "It hovered motionless again. At times it seemed to become brighter... It moved in closer to us. We became a bit nervous and went inside the house and watched it from there. When it moved in closer, it appeared to have a reddish color about the bottom half of it. Also, it seemed to be revolving in this same area. After we were in the house a few moments, it backed off to about where it had been [before]. It just hung there... as if it were observing us, and we felt as if something were telepathically reading our thoughts."

The witness estimated the UFO to be "about the size of a large passenger airliner."

The Niagara County Sheriff's Department was contacted, and "they sent a man out." About 15 minutes later, "as the sheriff's car was coming in sight, the object brightened and took off in an easterly direction straight away from us... in a couple of seconds." After the lawman left the area, "the object reappeared for about 10 or 15 minutes, then took off again."

According to Mrs. Sherman, the UFO performed as follows: it rose above the wooded area behind the witness' home, hovered, rose up and to the side, hovered again, "darted straight up, stopped, moved in our direction, backed off, stayed stationary," and "zoomed straight away out of sight in seconds." Every move of the mysterious object was "at an incredible rate" of speed.

Mrs. Sherman was a strong UFO skeptic before her sighting, but now she is not so sure.

"I do not go around looking for UFOs or whatever they might be," she explained. "But... we are all three certain that this was not anything that we are familiar with."

Animal Reactions Reported

Greg Hughes was rounding up his cows for milking at approximately 5:15 a.m., October 10, in Fairview, Ky.

"I rode my horse into the woods and saw an orange object about eight to 10 feet above the ground....," Hughes remarked in the October 20, 1977, edition of the Flemingsburg, Ky., *Fleming County Gazette*. "It came toward me and got brighter and larger, and made noises like sirens wailing. It was shaped like a hot dog and [was] about eight feet long. My horse nayed and the cows bawled.... The cows were so spooked that they nearly beat the horse and me back to the barn."

W.M. Hutchins observed an 80-foot wide UFO traveling slowly at a low altitude over Pennock Point, near Jupiter, Fla., at 2:45 a.m., August 30, stated the *Jupiter Courier*, September 1, 1977. It was heading north.

The craft "had a halo around it" and "a round superstructure below the disk, with brilliantly lit windows." The windows emitted flashes, "and there was a flashing red light at the bottom." Hutchins reported his room was brightly illuminated by the light from the UFO.

Observers in Missouri saw the flying objects.

While driving a few miles west of Kirksville at approximately 4:30 a.m., September 27, David Burden noticed a UFO following his car. It looked like "two cup-shaped objects, one on top of the other, with red lights." The frightened driver attempted to elude the UFO at speeds up to 120 m.p.h. The mysterious object "sped off" as he neared the Kirksville city limits.

At about 7:15 p.m., October 7, John Hickam -- "a former Air Force electronics expert" -- and others "watched a bright white object being chased by a military fighter plane" north of Jackson, according to the November 9, 1977, edition of the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*. The UFO moved toward the north at an estimated 5,000 feet altitude.

As a commercial airliner flew over the area, "the object dimmed considerably." Then -- almost immediately -- what sounded like a McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom jet "went into after-burn and cracked the sound barrier while pursuing the light." Both disappeared over Illinois, but the jet "returned and made a figure-eight search of the area and flew east."

It was shortly after dusk on July 27. Emily Kearns was driving Mr. and Mrs. Al Becker to their home in Frankfort, Ind. A third passenger in the car was Jim Waters.

The witnesses were near Moran when they first saw "a huge round circle of light which changed colors from bright white to green and then to red." It paced the automobile at an altitude of about 500 feet. As the car pulled to a stop in front of the Becker home, the UFO headed north. Waters reportedly heard "a humming sound from the object."

Miss Kearns continued toward her destination, stated the Delphi, Ind., *Comet*, August 24, 1977. The Beckers watched as the UFO returned, approached the observers, "and then again veer off to the east changing to a bright light."

Two unidentified workers were standing outside General Motors' Lordstown, Ohio, truck plant at around 1 a.m., September 2, when they observed "a very large... saucer with a dome," stated the Salem, Ohio, *Farm and Dairy*, November 3, 1977. The UFO dove toward the plant, but leveled off at about 200 feet above the building.

The dome of the object "glowed green," and its brightness "bothered" the witnesses' eyes. The bottom was "flat and a dull gray, as was the bottom rim below the dome." Then the UFO ascended, "extinguished the green light and shot off leaving behind a shower of red sparks" from the bottom.

On the afternoon of November 4, Daniel J. Lynch, Jr., Gordon Ostrander, and Mark Field were "playing with walkie-talkies" in Monroe, Wisc., when birds in the area suddenly became excited and flew away. Then the boys observed "this thing that was about the size of a car" at an altitude of 200-300 feet. It was "sort of yellow-orange" and caused "static on the walkie-talkies," Lynch stated in a report to UFOR dated January 30, 1978.

Mark grabbed a Polaroid land camera with a telescopic lens and snapped two pictures. The second photograph -- too ambiguous to reproduce -- shows what looks like six narrow objects apparently connected by an erratic white line. A seventh, somewhat boomerang-shaped object is higher and to the left of the other UFOs.

The UFOs "simply moved in a straight line across the sky" until they disappeared.

Mrs. Janet Magnuson and her cousin, Barb Mendenhall, were driving approximately five miles east of Arthur, Nebr., at about 11:05 p.m., August 17, when they observed a round, "brilliant dark red" UFO over a hill. Mrs. Magnuson hit the brakes, and the car stalled. The object rose slowly over the hill.

The huge UFO was about "as long as a football field." It carried oval-shaped windows or portholes about six feet high that emitted a dark, deep, brilliant red color. Mrs. Magnuson said looking inside the windows "was like looking into a brightly-lit room, but with no distinguishable features inside." The object appeared shaped like a football.

The object slowly rose at an angle, "then leveled and hovered, slowly rocking back and forth over the road" in front of the automobile. It filled most of the car windshield. Several seconds later, the UFO moved away, then "shot off toward the northeast" and disappeared at a tremendous speed.

"Barb was just petrified," Mrs. Magnuson stated in the August 24, 1977, edition of the North Platte, Nebr., *Telegraph*. "She kept saying, 'They're going to get us, I know... They're going to get us because they know that we've seen them, because they can see us.'"

The witnesses sped home and later felt "they may have seen something which they can't remember."

"I'd almost like to go under hypnosis because I have a feeling that there's something there I don't remember," Mrs. Magnuson -- who said she didn't sleep well after the experience and twice dreamed about it -- explained.

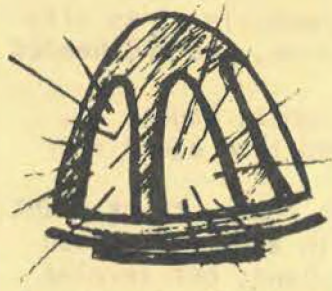
Shortly after midnight on October 22, Joyce Shaw noticed her dog barking in Waverly, Kans. She felt "someone was watching her so she went to her bedroom."

"There was no wind then, but my curtains were really blowing," she explained in the Ottawa, Kans., *Herald*, October 24, 1977.

Ms. Shaw observed what "appeared to be a flashlight going back and forth near her neighbor's house. A bright light flashed into her bedroom window, one so bright it hurt her eyes." Then she spotted a disc at tree-top level over a house. It was dark orange "and appeared lighted from the bottom." The UFO disappeared in the west.

The witness indicated she was badly frightened by the incident.

Lonnie Gordon, an artist, was driving between Lavinia and Ryegate, Mont., early on the morning of September 13 when he observed an object "shaped like the dome-light on a police car" approaching, said the Great Falls, Mont., *Tribune*, September 15, 1977. (See sketch, p. 6). The witness stopped his car, killed the engine, and watched for about five minutes.



UFO Sketch, Near Lavinia, Mont., September 13, 1977

(Courtesy: Tribune)

The UFO slowed, sped up, ascended, hovered, and moved "from side to side, all without making a sound." Then it quickly disappeared among the stars. A second object "flying parallel to the first one simply disappeared."

Residents of California were also witnesses.

An unidentified woman and her three children were driving near Heraldsburg at around 9 p.m., August 30, when they observed "three round things in the sky."

"They landed, flashed and zoomed," the woman reported in the Santa Rosa, Calif., *Press Democrat*, August 31, 1977. "One hovered above our car about the height of the telephone wires. It had windows."

The round UFO was approximately "50 feet long, and grey with a silver bottom."

"It lit up the inside of the car," the witness continued. "We couldn't look at it after that because it hurt our eyes."

After the object disappeared, the woman drove to the home of a

friend, who also "saw it leaving."

At 3:57 a.m., September 7, Kathleen Canterino had just returned home from her job as a waitress in Grossmont when she spotted a UFO.

"I jumped up immediately and started watching," she related in the *San Diego (Calif.) Union*, September 9, 1977. "I saw two things that looked like stars at first. But they were pulsating. I looked around for more. There was another one over the hospital. It was completely white and had an outline like a saucer... The other ones seemed to be protecting it. My parakeets were going crazy. They were screeching at the top of their lungs. Dogs were barking everywhere."

Kathleen said the UFO over the hospital "was pulsating with its lights flicking on and off. Lights seemed to be dimming all around the hospital -- street lights and parking lot lights. It was almost as if it was draining energy from those lights."

Ms. Canterino alerted two neighbors, including Marna Azar. They said the closest UFO was approximately a quarter of a mile away, around 70 feet above the ground, 25 feet in diameter, and had red, green and blue flashing lights.

"It had this cloud around it, and was making a humming noise," Kathleen remarked.

About 50 minutes after the initial observation, the UFO "began emitting a series of low beeps, shot straight up and disappeared... The other two objects disappeared in the same manner and at the same time."

At approximately the same time that the first object was spotted, a security guard at Grossmont Center said he observed "a red light in the sky and heard a humming noise."

Witnesses in the Pahoia area of Hilo, Hawaii, observed a UFO during the night of August 19-20.

While driving home, Mr. and Mrs. John Brus and their two sons saw a cigar-shaped object "with white lights that turned a light green color." The craft "darted up and down and then quickly disappeared."

At 10:30, Dakota Williams spotted it. He saw the UFO again at 11:00 and for a third time at 3 a.m., when he was awakened by a humming sound. The UFO hovered "about 50 feet over the trees in his backyard." It "moved in an erratic manner, darting up and down and then took off."

"Zip, it was gone," Williams stated in the *Hilo Hawaii Tribune-Herald*, August 21, 1977. "That thing really moved. It was like a bullet."

The witness added he was too frightened to investigate.

Robert Kovac, 10, walked onto his front porch in Cambridge, Canada, at around 7:30 p.m., July 2, "when he saw some flashing red lights in the sky." He rushed back inside for his pocket camera, the *Cambridge Times*, August 17, 1977, reported. The witness said the object had a dome with "a flashing red light," and there were "flashing red and white lights on the side." It was "flat on the bottom with two vertical apertures at both ends."

During the 30 seconds the UFO hovered, Robert took his first photograph. Then the UFO "moved a short distance" and again hovered. The witness snapped his second picture.

Then Robert and a friend, Borislav Milicevic, 11, saw it disappear at "supersonic speed."

Three UFOs were observed over the craters of two volcanoes in Costa Rica on September 7.

At 7:15 p.m., civil guards at Irazu observed two objects hover over the crater there. About 10 minutes, they descended to about 100 meters above the ground, then ascended straight up. After about 10 minutes, the UFOs disappeared to the north.

Meanwhile, guards at Poas Volcano saw an object that "hovered over the area for a few minutes and then disappeared."

Santiago Laco Ozano was milking cows near the town of 19 de Abril, Rocha, Uruguay, early on the morning of August 5, when he heard "a strange noise" and saw the area around him become brightly illuminated, according to the August 6, 1977, edition of the Buenos Aires, Argentina, *Cronica*. Looking up, he observed a small UFO "that gave off a powerful light beam."

After hearing an "explosion," the witness fainted. When he awoke, he discovered his hair had been burned. Ozano was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was treated and subjected to a psychiatric examination, which he passed.

At about 10:25 p.m., September 2, Chris Shuell, of Dogsthorpe, Peterborough, England, observed "three large cigar-shaped objects" that "gave off a dim, glimmering, orange-brown color" heading toward the southeast.

"At first they were flying side by side but then the middle one shot forward to form a triangle," Shuell remarked in the September 5, 1977, edition of the Peterborough *Evening Telegraph*. "The speed they moved at was absolutely phenomenal. I estimate they were traveling at 2,000 m.p.h. and were 200 to 600 feet long."

Two unidentified witnesses were preparing to sleep in the Fontainebleau Forest of France at about 11:45 p.m., August 17, when they observed a brilliant disc at approximately 250 meters altitude, stated the September 7, 1977, edition of the Paris, France, *Nostra*. The object's diameter was estimated at 100 meters.

Then the UFO emitted a smaller object which apparently sped away. At about the same time, the witnesses detected "a strange feeling of heat." A few seconds later, the large object disappeared.

The following day, the men uncharacteristically slept until 1 p.m.

Italian residents were among the international observers.

At 8:45 p.m., August 2, witnesses observed a UFO "like two plates put together" over Lake Maggiore, stated *La Stampa*, August 4, 1977. The object, heading west, "split in two parts, which joined again at once." It "disappeared into very high clouds."

Occupant Seen by Group of Seven

Rocco Carullo and Michels Giovannelli were walking near Sturno early on the evening of August 30, when they saw a UFO "surrounded by blinding light," according to *La Stampa*, September 3, 1977. There was a UFO sitting in a field.

Shortly afterward, a humanoid figure more than two meters tall "appeared just before them." The entity appeared to be wearing tight, silver overalls and a "helmet with two orange, intermittent lights."

The badly frightened students ran into town and returned with five others: Amalio Capobianco, a teacher; Antonio Pascucci, student; Michele Peipoli, photographer; Mario Sisto, singer; and Arturo D'Ambrosio. They saw the creature "walking slowly and wary." The students stated they "pointed the light of our torch towards the 'Martian,' and from the helmet came a great blinding light, and we fled again."

Sturno Mayor Alberto Forgione visited the site and discovered three holes forming a triangle. Two sides were 4.1 meters long, and the third was 4.5 meters long.

A UFO "emitting a glaring light" hovered over the 300-ton Portugese fishing vessel, *Par-delhas*, for eight minutes off the Nambia, South Africa, coast on November 15, according to an unidentified Perth, Australia, newspaper clipping dated November 24, 1977, and the *St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Democrat*, November 26, 1977.

During the time the object hovered over the refrigerated ship, it illuminated the vessel and caused the trawler's alarm system to be activated. It "then departed at high speed."

At least a dozen witnesses spotted "a bright silver object" over a golf course in Meekatharra, West Australia, at about 2:15 p.m., October 16, according to unidentified newspaper reports. Among the witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. Vic Trace, Mrs. Thelma Kingswood, and Geoffrey Miller, 12.

"There was a sort of mist or vapour in the air," Trace remarked. "Then I saw this big silver round thing, about the size of a double dinner plate. Suddenly a red object, much smaller, came out of the side of the silver object, hovered and shot off like blazes."

The silver UFO, with a dome on top, quickly rose and disappeared.

"We were all terrified," Trace continued. "All my children saw it and the neighbour's children -- 12 in all. I didn't believe in UFOs... But now I do."

Less than a week later -- at about 9 p.m., October 22 -- witnesses in the Meekatharra area again observed UFOs. According to Bob Freestone, licensee of a hotel in nearby Mt. Magnet, two of his employees approached him "white and scared" and said "these things had been chasing them."

"We decided to go out," Freestone related in the Perth, West Australia, *Sunday Independent*, October 23, 1977. "There were eight people there. We saw saucers. They were there for sure."

According to Freestone, "three 'round, pulsating green and red' objects landed in paddocks" about three kilometers from town.

"There seemed to be a mist around them," he stated.

Then the UFOs "took off and moved around the area, landing several times before they left."

"There appeared to be objects on the ground around them," Freestone continued. "You could distinguish them with the naked eye, but as soon as you put a spotlight on them they disappeared. They would be something like human size. They weren't animals."

Early the following morning, four Westrail workers observed two silver objects over a train in the Meekatharra rail yards. Cliff Hughes, assistant station master, was with a train crew from Mt. Magnet.

"What we could see was a small ball, silver in color, hovering overhead," Hughes related. "A second joined it. It was flashing from silver to red as if it was spinning. One headed off and the other followed. I believe in them now. When I first heard about them I reckoned everyone was crazy, but I'm having to change my mind about them now."

WALTON ON WALTON -- A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT (Book Review)

No reliable book has been written -- to this reviewer's knowledge -- by the witness himself about a single UFO incident with nary a mention of other UFO cases. Abductee Travis Walton has changed all that with *The Walton Experience* -- a significant, rather riveting achievement. Even more remarkable, indications are that Walton -- now only in his mid-20s -- had no writing experience before authoring this slim but impressive volume.

His incredible experience with six other woodcutters in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest of Arizona on November 5, 1975, and his subsequent five days aboard a UFO, has become a classic contact/abduction case, but, as Walton himself says, "Not one, not a single one, of the written accounts of my experience was entirely correct." Hence, this book.

With the expertise of a journalistic professional, Walton takes us through the sighting encounter that reduced "six hardened woodsmen" to "mindless terror"; the suspicions of police that Travis' co-workers were "covering up for a bloody chainsaw murder"; the unprofessional antics of William Spaulding, Ground Saucer Watch, and a certain bogus "Dr." Lester Steward, as well as the unfounded assertions of Philip Klass (unnamed in the book); and his remembrances aboard the UFO with its occupants.

The abductee has high praise for APRO's handling of his case. He even admits a brief fling with drugs and a run-in with the law for "writing bad checks," but all that is behind him. Walton is, after all -- unlike his abductors -- human. It's about time that a witness in such a case not have to prove the impossible -- that he is "perfect" -- before his claim is accepted as possible evidence of extraterrestrial contact, particularly when all the other evidence, including hypnosis and polygraph tests, substantiates his bizarre encounter.

[Travis Walton, *The Walton Experience* (Berkley Medallion Books, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016, 1978), 181 pgs., \$1.95, paperback, Introduction by L.J. Lorenzen, Illustrations by Michael Rogers, photographs, sketches].

George Van Tassel, one of the leaders of the so-called "contactee" cult during the 1950s, died of an apparent heart attack at his home in the California desert in February. His Giant Rock Airport became the focal point for annual "contactee" conventions during the 1950s and 1960s. For years, he had been working on something called an "integratron" -- a machine for restoring youth. Neither his claim to have been in contact with alien beings nor his "integratron" have been scientifically documented.

The next edition of *UFO Research Newsletter* will be ready for mailing around May 15, 1978.