

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Vol. VI, No. 11

April - May 1980

UFOs ENTER THE NEW DECADE

A UFO that caused electro-magnetic (E-M) effects; objects that illuminated houses, a truck, and surrounding areas; others that paced a car and a truck; and UFOs that emitted sounds and frightened witnesses were characteristics of sighting reports from at least four states during January, 1980.

Residents of the tidewater state of Virginia saw UFOs.

On the evening of January 10, Dempsey Miller was driving south on Battlefield Blvd. near Chesapeake when he observed a huge saucer about treetop level.

"It came out of nowhere...", he stated in the Norfolk, Va., *Ledger-Star*. "It stopped right over top of me. I stopped the car dead... It was roaring loud. It scared me to death."

The UFO reportedly followed the witness to his grandmother's home, then back to his own home. It finally headed east.

Miller said "a circle of bright, off-white lights on the bottom of the object [was] too blinding to see any detail." Red, blue and green lights formed "a circle around the edge." The object was colored silver or gray.

"It was large enough for a station wagon to go up inside," Miller, whose sister, Cindy, was the U.S. winner in the Miss World beauty contest in 1977, stated. "I thought it was going to pick my car up."

Meanwhile, more than a dozen residents reported seeing either a bright light or hearing "a loud noise" near the Battlefield Blvd. South and the Hillwell Rd. intersection at approximately the same time as Miller's sighting.

It was about 1 a.m., January 23. Dawn Coffee and her parents, John and Mary LaMaitre, were awakened by "booming noises and very bright lights" in their Virginia Beach home.

"I was in my bedroom, and the room just lit up, first white, then blue," Dawn stated in the January 24, 1980, edition of the *Ledger-Star*. "The light was incredibly bright, and there were two or three booming noises. I went to the back door, and it was incredible. There was what seemed to be a big disc of some sort at treetop level. An amber glow was everywhere, and there were blue, red and what seemed like pink lights going around the bottom, sort of in a circular fashion."

Dawn called her parents. They watched as "the lights eventually faded." Also, "there seemed to be two red lights intermingling and crossing each other."

Meanwhile, James Pearce was watching television on Crisfield Rd. when "this big white then blue light completely lit up my bedroom."

"I looked across the street, and there were blue, red and other colored lights, like little balls, up in the air," he remarked. "They were moving all around up there, and the whole sky seemed an orange color. I was scared half to death."

Shortly after 9 p.m., January 13, Brenda Simanski and a friend, Janine Mattson, were "stargazing" by Janine's car near Red Wing, Minn., when they saw a "star going berserk."

There was "a triangle of lights, white in front, blue in the back two corners, with a red light between the blue ones." The object was flat and about the size of a room 15 feet wide and 20 feet long. (See sketches, p. 2).

"It was directly above us when the two lights went on," Brenda said in the January 15, 1980, edition of the Red Wing *Republican Eagle*.

Two "egg-shaped lights" were seen on either side of the white light on the front of the UFO. The object was just over a 50-foot oak tree.

The witnesses scrambled into the car and began screaming.

"Oh, God, it's going to take us!" Brenda yelled.

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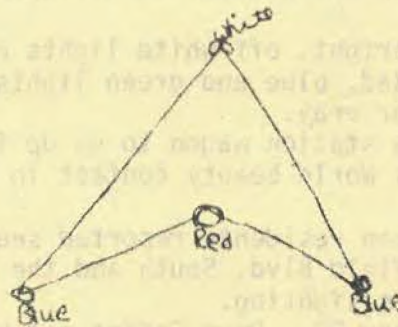
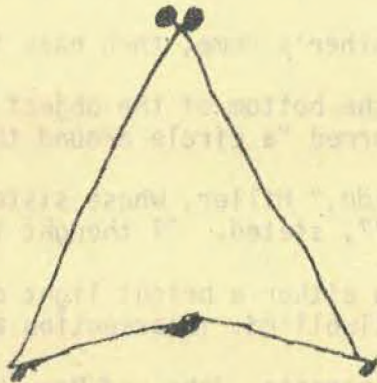
Nearby, an unidentified worker at the Seminary Nursing Home left work at 9:03 and heard the girls screaming. She saw the triangle of blinking lights. So did Kathy Clemens and Mary Huron.

The UFO flew steadily to the north-northwest. Then it suddenly "just disintegrated" and, "in the blink of an eye, it was gone."

Tom Hoyt was driving near Cumberland, Wisc., at about 8:15 p.m., January 19, when he spotted two red lights. As he turned around, his car "headlights became very, very dim and almost went completely off, and the engine began to sputter and chug."

Frightened, Hoyt rushed home and described the object to his parents.

"A huge yellow ball, round like a basketball, but almost as big as a house... really!" he told his father, a newspaper columnist, who related the incident in the January 23, 1980, edition of the *Cumberland Advocate*.



Witnesses' UFO Sketches, Red Wing, Minn., January 13, 1980.

(Courtesy: Republican Eagle)

On the evening of January 6, Otis Taylor was driving just south of Klamath Falls, Ore., when he was followed by "a giant, brightly-illuminated spaceship." The round UFO was 35-40 feet across and emitted a brilliant light.

"I stopped to watch it, but, when I stopped, it stopped," Taylor explained in the *Dorris, Calif., Butte County Star*, January 11, 1980. "When I moved, it moved exactly at my speed. Once, I was really scared -- it rushed up on me from behind... I thought I'd had it. But it nosed up just when I thought it was going to hit me and flew up and over my truck and went off to the side and flew alongside me some more... It lit up everything around me -- my truck and everything. It was as bright as day."

The strange craft followed the witness about 20 miles into Dorris, just over the border into Northern California, according to Paul Cerny, UFO investigator, who sent additional information to UFOR. The object disappeared into the fog around the town.

FORMER AIRMAN CONFIRMS EXISTENCE OF AIR FORCE UFO "TEAMS" DURING THE 1950s

At least three U.S. Air Force (AF) "teams" investigated UFO sighting reports during the 1950s, according to former Airman Second Class John Smith (pseudonym), a member of one of the teams in 1957-1958.

In a report to UFOR by Paul Cerny and Bradley Johnston, of the Mutual UFO Network, Smith said there were three such teams. Two were in Montana -- Billings and Glasgow -- and the third at White Sands Proving Grounds, N.M.

Smith spent a year with a team at Malstrom AF Base, near Great Falls, Mont. From this base, he helped investigate reports from various parts of the state, neighboring Utah, and as far away as Iowa.

The UFO teams consisted of Airman Smith, a lieutenant, and a few staff members. While on assignment, the lieutenant and staffers taped interviews and conducted further investigations while Smith did the "paperwork." This included transcribing tapes, obtaining signed statements, and photographs (if any) from witnesses.

Though Smith said he was present during the interviews, he did not see most of the photographs. He added that witnesses were sometimes reluctant to hand their photographs over to the investigating officer, who then assured them the photos would be copied and returned. Many were never returned, but simply "confiscated." Those photos considered hoaxes were returned.

Among the photos that Smith did see, however, were some containing details such as portholes, antennae, and tripod and four-leg landing gear. One photo showed something "like a plate, upside down, with a round dome on top and four-leg landing gear. It was coming down, and [a] farmhouse roof could be seen."

Smith said the investigating team took samples of physical evidence such as soil and burned spots left by UFOs. The better sighting reports were turned over to a "higher," more qualified team for further investigation.

Smith also said he and others had heard, "from other informants," that there was a UFO office at White Sands, though he was apparently unable to confirm this.

"I had personally inquired about this when I was stationed as a civilian at White Sands Proving Grounds for Sylvania, on an electronics missile-tracking contract in 1958, but was told by three different offices on the base that there was no such office," Cerny, MUFON's Western States Director, remarked. "I definitely sensed that I was being lied to on a need-to-know basis."

(Editor's note: Despite claims to the contrary over the years, aside from the official Project Blue Book, the AF was apparently considerably more involved in UFO investigations than was generally believed. The editor of this newsletter has talked with a number of individuals who claim to have been part of UFO "teams" for the AF. Virtually all were reluctant to talk until all ties from the military were severed. One informant, a respected Maryland businessman, said he had been part of a team that actually chased UFOs during the 1950s in planes specially equipped with sophisticated radar, cameras, and other delicate instrumentation for that purpose. Others have said they were members of "teams" at various AF bases other than Wright-Patterson in Dayton, Ohio, home of the now-defunct Project Blue Book).

ABDUCTION, RADAR, E-M, PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS HIGHLIGHT 1979 REPORTS

A UFO that apparently abducted a car; an object that was tracked on radar; another that paced a car; UFOs that illuminated a bullring and other areas; objects that caused animal reactions, physiological and E-M effects, landed, emitted sounds, and frightened witnesses; and a plane that chased UFOs were characteristics of sighting reports from at least eight states and four foreign countries during the period, July-December, 1979. Witnesses included control tower operators, a pilot, and a doctor.

At about 7:45 p.m., November 7, Larry Powers, a music education student at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, and his wife, Martha, were driving near Roanoke, Va., when they saw an approaching light, stated the Roanoke Times, November 8, 1979.

The object looked to be approximately three miles away. Then the lights on the UFO became so brilliant that Powers was compelled to put his sunglasses on.

Powers saw "a configuration of four lights -- two below that appeared to touch each other, and two above a little farther apart." He noted "a red-and-green light on top, and red lights on each side."

The UFO was as "big as a Winnebago" and "shaped like a beetle, oval with a humped-up top." It emitted a sound "like a new refrigerator." The object was apparently reflecting the lights of a housing project off its bottom. It had a dark, dull finish.

The mysterious craft hovered over the housing project.

"For about 30 seconds, it had its lights fixed on us," Powers stated.

According to Powers, the UFO "had metallic projections and indentations all over its surface." It was an estimated 200 feet off the ground about 300 feet away.

The object disappeared behind a building. Officials at Woodrum Field said there had been no unidentified radar trackings that evening.

John Farley was watching television in his Huntingdon, Tenn., home at about 8 p.m., November 3, when something began "interfering" with the set. Going outside, John saw sets of lights. One of the objects "seemed to light up the hillside."

"They rose slowly, then fast, then stopped," the witness remarked in the November 8, 1979, edition of the Huntingdon *Carroll County News*. "They didn't have any special shape, just lights."

About an hour later, John's brother, Tony, his wife and young son saw two sets of multi-colored lights.

"The lights seemed to be stacked on top of each other," Tony explained. "There were three of them and when they were stationary, they went from red on the bottom to green in the middle to white at the top. Then, just before they would move, they would start changing colors from red to green to white faster. And when they moved, they changed colors faster."

At around 12:45 a.m., November 25, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sweet were driving near Fairland, Ind., when they spotted a UFO 10-12 feet tall and approximately 25 feet long that "descended out of the sky and approached their vehicle," according to the November 26, 1979, edition of the *Shelbyville, Ind., News*.

The object paced the witnesses' car 25-50 feet above the ground "with a side-to-side swaying motion." When the car slowed down or accelerated, the UFO did the same. The craft "pulsated with a brilliant white light. Two dim yellow lights marked the 'front' of the object."

The egg-shaped UFO followed the Sweets along Brandywine Road for about six miles to their home. It hovered "outside their home for a few minutes and then shot off eastward."

Two girls (who desire anonymity) saw a UFO just west of Fairfield, Nebr., at approximately 10:25 p.m., December 3. The witnesses were driving on Highway 74 at the time.

Frightened Witnesses

The gray, metallic-looking object was 20-30 feet in diameter with red, white and green lights. (See sketch, p. 5). It was only about 400 yards away.

The UFO "was round and thin." One of the girls "saw grating on the underneath portion." It appeared "to have been constructed in section-like pieces." The object hovered 40-50 feet off the ground.

When the object left the area, "it tilted to one side and went in a westward direction."

The police officer who investigated the incident said the witnesses "were frightened by what they had seen and were still in [a] distraught state of mind when he interviewed them."

(Sources: Sutton, Nebr., *News*, December 6, 1979; and Hastings, Nebr., *Tribune*, December 14, 1979).

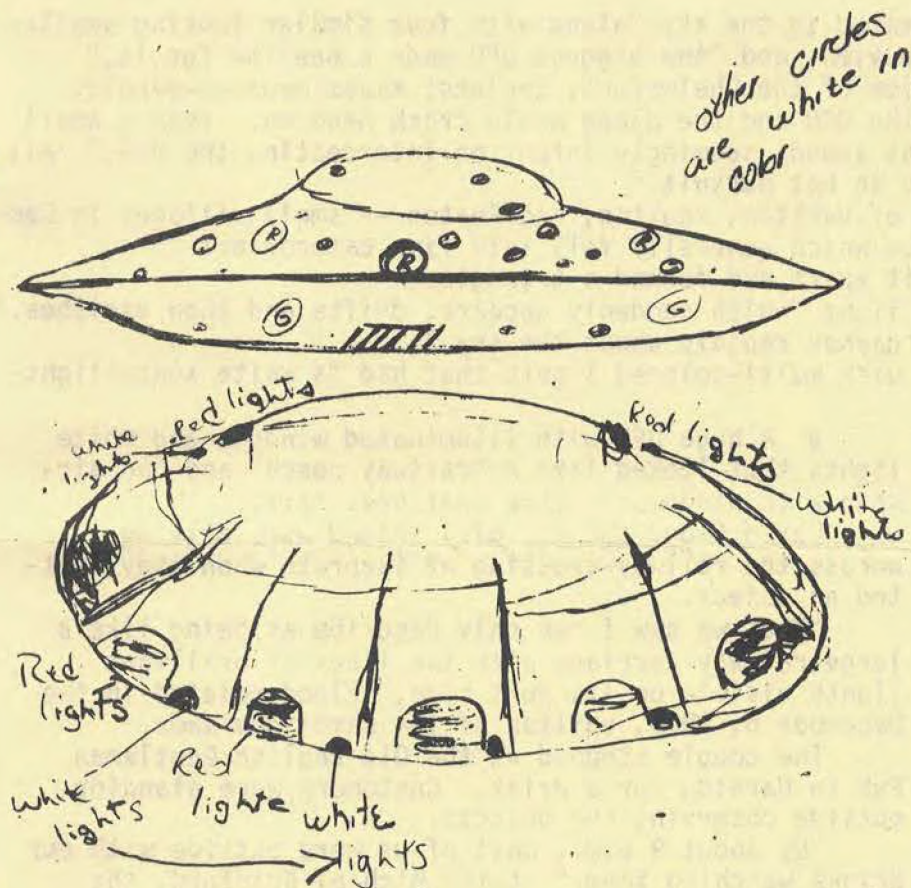
It was about 9 p.m., October 30. Charles Peacock heard both his dogs barking and a "swirling and swishing noise" outside his home near Atlanta, Texas.

On his front porch, the barber saw a UFO at about 1,000 feet altitude in the northwest. The domed object had 10-12 pulsating lights.

"I yelled at the dogs to quiet down, and then one light on either side of the object began fading out," the witness explained in the *Atlanta Citizens Journal*, November 4, 1979. "And it started to move slowly, but from the way the noise sounded -- like a high pitched rumbling and high revving engine -- it seemed like it would have power to go just about as fast as it wanted."

After 10-15 minutes, "the object moved off."

"I was sorta held fast by those lights, and I felt I didn't want to move or do anything to disclose my position," Peacock continued. "There was a quiet feeling in the air like when a thunder cloud is rolling in. I know the dogs were scared, and it shook me up, particularly after I went back inside."



Witnesses' UFO Sketch, near Fairfield, Nebr.,
December 3, 1979.

(Courtesy: Tribune)

Witnesses in Fallon, Nev., observed an oblong-shaped UFO hovering 5,000-6,000 feet over Sand Mountain at about 9:50 p.m., November 30, stated the Fallon *Lahontan Valley News*, December 5, 1979.

Control tower operators at the Fallon Naval Air Station said they saw the object and tracked it on radar. At one point, the UFO moved off the screen, then returned. Navy personnel said the object moved west toward Fallon and was not a star, a station aircraft or helicopter.

Les and Priscilla Knapels and their children, Cathy and Sabrina, were driving near Banks, Idaho, on the evening of December 13, when they observed an object with "two diamond shaped lights, side by side, in the center." The lights "were flashing much like a police car's but faster."

"We saw it about 10-12 minutes," Priscilla related

in the McCall, Idaho, *Star-News*, December 20, 1979. "It was going east. We stopped the car and, about five seconds later, it made a fast shoot across the sky and was gone."

The witness added that all the family members "complained of a pain in their shoulders and that her and Les' arms felt numb."

An unidentified ranch employee driving a pickup and two family members in another pickup were driving below the Laveaga Peak areas of the Diablo Range in San Benito County, Calif., just after sundown, December 7, when they spotted a huge, oval, "bright like a flame" object hovering over the ridge.

The UFO was "larger than a railroad car and lighted 'all about,'" according to the Hollister, Calif., *Free Lance*, December 14, 1979.

After about two minutes, the object "disappeared behind the hills."

The witness drove on. Then her pickup stalled, and she saw the UFO again. It circled, hovered, "then was gone."

After the object left the area, the woman's pickup "started up and she drove away."

English citizens also spotted mysterious objects.

Mrs. Magdalene Oates, her son, Jonathan, and daughter, Sarah, were at home in Degembris on the evening of November 6, when they observed a UFO that lit up the woods and the horizon. It slowly pulsated bright, dim, then bright.

"It was egg-shaped and bright red with lights at the bottom -- we could see it lighting up the rain," Mrs. Oates stated in the November 8, 1979, edition of the *West Briton*. "And there was still the orange glow. It was slowly gliding in diagonally towards a field about 300 yards from the house."

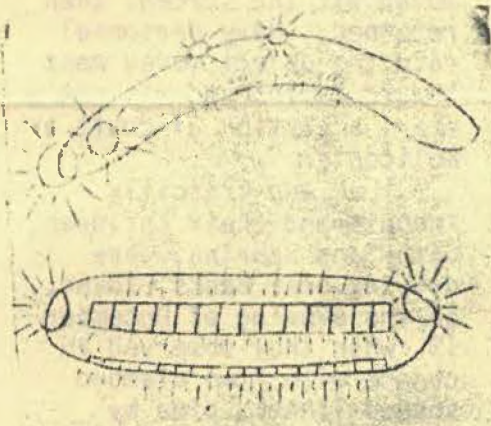
Carol Davison and her friend, Gail Shepherd, watched an airplane being "buzzed" by UFOs at approximately 8:45 p.m., November 29, in Springfield.

A "luminous white object" hovered in the sky "along with four similar looking smaller ones." Then an airplane came into view, and "the biggest UFO made a beeline for it," stated the December 4, 1979, edition of the Chelmsford, England, *Essex Newsmen-Herald*.

It appeared, at first, that the UFO and the plane would crash head-on. Then a smaller plane "came hurtling in at great speed, seemingly intent on intercepting the UFO." All the UFOs flew off, "with the plane in hot pursuit."

That same evening, residents of Harston, Hauxton, and Foxton -- small villages in Cambridgeshire -- reported seeing UFOs which generally fell into five categories:

- Three red lights that split apart and formed a triangle.
- A brilliant, round, white light "which suddenly appears, drifts and then vanishes."
- A pulsing red light that "dashes rapidly about the sky."
- A boomerang-shaped object with multi-colored lights that had "a white searchlight-type beam."



UFO Sketches, Cambridgeshire, England, November 29, 1979.

(Courtesy: News)

Meanwhile, on the London Road at Harston, Ken Mansfield and his family observed "an orange glow towards Cambridge followed by a red flash which dulled to show a second orange light, above and to the left of the first, both of which faded away into the distance."

Jeremy Hooper and his family also saw the lights in Hauxton. There was a "boomerang shape" that cruised slowly above the rooftops.

Other witnesses also reported seeing the alien objects. One was a housewife who was forced to shield her eyes from the glare of a "coach-type" UFO that passed close to her home.

Dr. David Dewhirst, staff astronomer for the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge, said there had been a number of sighting reports that Fall.

"I have taken them as serious reports of what people have seen, but cannot throw any light on what they might be," he said. "It is extremely difficult if you have not seen these things yourself."

Late on the evening of December 4, Henri Lucas, a bricklayer, was returning home in Chateaubriant, Atlantic Loire, France, when he observed an orange "ball" about three meters in diameter land in a field.

Then the UFO moved toward the road and covered an automobile that was ahead of Lucas. The "smoking" ball returned to the landing spot and, with the car, "disappeared from the highway."

Early the next morning, Lucas and his three sons returned to the site, but were forced to flee by the UFO.

(Sources: the Buenos Aires, Argentina, *Cronica*, December 7, 1979, and *La Razon*, December 8, 1979).

- A huge UFO with illuminated windows and white lights that looked like a "railway coach" and "an airship with windows." (See sketches, left).

David Flood and his girl friend were driving across the railway crossing at Shepreth when they spotted an object.

"What we saw I can only describe as being like a large railway carriage with two lines of brilliant lights visible on its port side," Flood related in the December 6, 1979, edition of the *Cambridge News*.

The couple stopped at the Old English Gentleman Pub in Harston for a drink. Customers were standing outside observing the objects.

"By about 9 p.m., most of us were outside with our drinks watching them," stated Michael Bradford, the pub's landlord. "Then something with the shape of an airship, dead silent, with a white light at each end and a yellowy glow from what appeared to be a row of windows came across from the back of the pub towards Cambridge."

At around 2 a.m., November 28, thousands of residents of Madrid, Spain, reportedly observed two UFOs that repeatedly flew over the capital city, according to the November 28, 1979, edition of *La Razon*.

One witness said he saw windows or portholes. Others stated one of the UFOs "was circular with another less luminous circle inside."

A doctor saw "the largest bull-fighting square in the world" lit up by a "metallic" flash from a UFO that shot straight up and disappeared at "incredible speed." The flash had "orange, red and violet hues" and lasted about 10 minutes.

There were also reports that "some radio communications experienced unusual cut-offs, among them those from the civil protection and the Red Cross."

On July 14, radar control tower personnel at Capo Mele, Italy, spotted a huge, sphere-shaped, metallic, orange object, stated *Corriere Della Sera*, July 18, 1979.

The pilot of an Aeritalia aircraft saw the luminous UFO while flying at an altitude of 8,500 feet over Chivasso. It was also seen from Robbio and Alessandria. The UFO did not show up on the radar screens.

SIGHTING CAPSULES

The following sighting reports have also come to UFOR's attention:

- December 1, 1979. Jaen, Andalucia, Spain. Residents observed nine UFOs flying in formation toward the northwest. They "emitted intermittent red, blue and violet flashes." (Buenos Aires, Argentina, *La Nacion*, December 2, 1979).

- December 3, 1979. About 3:30 p.m. Llandudno, Wales. Richard Vaughan observed an oval-shaped object, "white on top and black underneath," fly over Conwy Mountain, stop, move, stop, then disappear "in a glow." (*North Wales Weekly News*, December 6, 1979).

- December 4, 1979. Around 5:05 p.m. Stroud, England. Witnesses saw "white flashing lights, wide apart, traveling across the skyline." [*Gloucester (England) Citizen*, December 5, 1979].

- December 5, 1979. Approximately 5:30 p.m. Cambridge, England. Keith Edkens reported seeing "a pair of bright flashing white lights moving slowly across the sky." The white lights were accompanied by a "steady red one." The objects split in two and "moved around independently." (*Cambridge News*, December 12, 1979).

- December 5, 1979. Dusk. Corpus Christi, Texas. Stella Beener, Jim Smith, and James Cade saw "a really bright light" that "moved pretty fast." (*Corpus Christi Caller*, December 6, 1979).

- December 5, 1979. Evening. Kirkcaldy and Whitfield, Dundee, Scotland. Four office girls were driving when they saw "four flashing orange lights above them." One of the lights "darted behind" the women. Meanwhile, James Harper spotted "a big red light, a flashing red light and flashing white lights around the edge." The UFO stopped and hovered "before moving off again." (*Dundee Courier and Advertiser*, December 6, 1979).

- December 5, 1979. 9:55 p.m. Near Potsdam, N.Y. While driving, Judy Douglass, Lynn Fadden, and Valerie Frasher spotted a silver-metallic UFO. A "series of red and white blinking lights on the bottom of the object formed a 'U.'" The UFO banked, flew east, descended, then "took off like a really fast jet" toward the south. [*Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times*, December 11, 1979].

- December 8, 1979. Early morning. Glasgow, Scotland. Susan Devenney saw a UFO that emitted "a buzzing sound and a beam of light" that hit the pavement. Also, "the head and shoulders of a man started to appear from the pavement. He was glowing like a light bulb." (*Glasgow Sunday Mail*, December 9, 1979).

- December 8, 1979. About 7 p.m. Near Iron Station, N.C. Steve Ford and his family spotted "a starship-shaped craft" that emitted a "low, droning noise." (Gastonia, N.C., *Gazette*, December 9, 1979).

- December 9, 1979. Evening. Palm Bay, Fla. Retired AF Col. W.A. Murdoch, his wife, and a number of others saw a huge, oval-shaped object about twice the size of the Goodyear blimp traveling slowly at about 900 feet altitude. (Melbourne, Fla., *Times*, December 12, 1979).

- December 9, 1979. Around 11 p.m. Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Mrs. Jean Brittain and Robert Doak observed "a gorgeous, big green ball with a long streak of light behind it" flash across the sky, stated the Port Elizabeth *Evening Post*, December 10, 1979. (Possible explanation: bolide meteor).
- December 10, 1979. Hunterston, Ayrshire, Scotland. Les McCracken and others spotted "a shining, bright flying object which moved slowly over the marine constructors' yard." (Glasgow, Scotland, *Herald*, December 11, 1979).
- December 11, 1979. Around 5 p.m. Southbourne, England. T. McEvoy and a neighbor observed an object with a red center and what looked like an exhaust opening on the side. The UFO hovered "and finally sank down out of sight." [*Bournemouth (England) Evening Echo*, December 13, 1979].
- December 11, 1979. Approximately 6:05 p.m. Angles and Avignon, France. Residents saw three luminous, reddish-orange UFOs in a triangular formation. One object sped south while the others headed east. (*Agence France Presse*).
- December 14, 1979. Afternoon. Kings Bromley, England. Clive Bottrill said he spotted "a round shimmering ball with greeny blue light" that "had an orange tail behind it and only lasted a few seconds," according to the December 21, 1979, edition of the *Lichfield (England) Mercury*. (Possible explanation: bolide meteor).
- December 14, 1979. About 7:30 p.m. Springfield, Ore. Terry Sowards and Mike Harmon saw "a glowing, yellowish light in the sky, heading west." It moved slowly, stopped, then started again. (*Springfield News*, December 15, 1979).
- December 14, 1979. Evening. Alexandria, La. Joe Trussell reported seeing what "looked like a big ball of fire [with] fire falling from it," the *Alexandria Town Talk*, December 15, 1979, stated. (Possible explanation: bolide meteor).
- December 16, 1979. Approximately 3:05 a.m. Folkestone, England. Mr. and Mrs. John Preston observed "strange" objects that "seemed to come together and then gradually they became hazy and vanished as if they had gone into thick cloud." (*Folkestone Herald*, December 21, 1979).
- December 16, 1979. 3:20 p.m. Grain Valley, Mo. An unidentified couple spotted an oval-shaped UFO with "a mirror-like finish" and a "dome-like structure over the top" fly over Route AA. (Blue Springs, Mo., *Examiner*, December 17, 1979).
- December 17, 1979. Daytime. West Wickham, England. Greg Lamb and six others observed "several bright dots, high in the sky, shining like spotlights" that "moved up and down silently." (Kent, England, *Bromley Times*, December 27, 1979).
- December 19, 1979. Evening. Near Archer, Fla. Wilson Robinson saw a UFO that dove at his vehicle, hovered, then "took off toward the south at a high rate of speed." (Gainesville, Fla., *Sun*, December 21, 1979).
- December 21, 1979. About 9 p.m. Benzie, Kalkaska, Osceola, and Wexford Counties, Mich. Law enforcement officials and others spotted a UFO with white and green lights that hovered in the sky. (Cadillac, Mich., *News*, December 28, 1979).
- December 29, 1979. Around 4:45 p.m. Hitchin, Hertfordshire, England. Mrs. Rudy Males spotted a UFO "the size of a tangerine" that "shone with... a brilliant white light" that slowly flew toward Luton. (*Hitchin Gazette*, January 3, 1980).

Due to other commitments on the part of the UFOR editor, the next edition of *UFO Research Newsletter* will not be ready for mailing until about August 15, 1980.

Please send us your change of address.

We would greatly appreciate any UFO newspaper clippings, sighting reports, or other information you may care to send.