

20th Century U. F. O. Bureau

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THE STORY THE NEWS MEDIA NEVER GOT ON THE CARBONDALE, PENNSYLVANIA UFO HOAX
by Robert D. Barry, Director, 20th Century UFO Bureau

NOTE: TO THE NEWS MEDIA. Sorry, but due to the length of this report, we had to single space the entire report. But dig in. You'll find it interesting. If further information is needed, contact my Pennsylvania office:

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Thank you. And now...the report. .

(PR-20th CUFOB-1-11474R)

If it exists, which body of water contained the Russian missile- Elk Lake or the pond near Russell Park, both located near and in Carbondale, Pennsylvania? What about the ten pictures taken of the glow from the submerged, illuminated object in the pond? Will they be released by the Carbondale Police Department and if so, when?

The 20th Century UFO Bureau, with national headquarters in Collingswood, New Jersey, Robert D. Barry, Director, has learned from a spokesman of a branch of the military that the Intelligence Section of the United States Air Force in Washington, received a report that "a Soviet missile possibly went down in Elk Lake, near Carbondale". Mr. Barry was further informed that skin divers were to be dispatched to Carbondale "to retrieve it".

The military spokesman, a colonel, further informed the 20th Century UFO Bureau that "We have a treaty with Russia to return the object" if that's what it is. It was further reported by the colonel that "There was some talk that the object might be radioactive. You probably picked that up while you were up there. I suppose they thought it was related to the Russian moon" shot. During the conversation, it was brought out by the colonel that the military had been in touch with Acting Police Chief Francis Dottle of the Carbondale Police Department on the possibility of a downed Russian missile.

With the news conference now in the past, the 20th Century UFO Bureau is at liberty to reveal the story the news media never got on the Carbondale, Pennsylvania UFO hoax. The bureau first came across the Russian missile report as the result of a conversation conducted with one of the members of a military unit who was at the scene in Carbondale on Monday (11-11-74).

During this time, Barry was told that he (the military man) was sent to Carbondale to stand by in the event the object in the pond might be part of a Russian satellite. If so, a military unit would then move in and take over the balance of the operation. Confirmation of the Russian missile possibility was received Wednesday (11-13-74).

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It was Monday (11-11-74) that Barry learned of a Soviet unmanned spaceship that was damaged upon impact on the moon. The report, released by the Soviet Tass news agency, stated that Luna 23 was damaged on impact on the moon and failed to carry out its rocket-testing mission. Russian scientists closed down the damaged space craft Saturday (11-9-74) after it conducted a revised testing program for three days. This would place the Soviet space craft on the moon about Wednesday or Thursday, November 6 or 7, 1974. It was at this point the 20th Century UFO Bureau speculated that possibly the object seen hurtling down from the skies over Carbondale might well have been a part of the Russian space shot. The second possibility is that of a downed space craft of some type.

If a Russian satellite did indeed splash down in the pond near Russell Park, or for that matter in Elk Lake, with four gun shots being fired at it, as was the case by one of the Carbondale policemen, one could well imagine what would have happened if one of the bullets had struck a sensitive spot. Likewise, the same could be true had some unknown type of space craft splashed down. When dealing with an unidentified flying object, the bureau highly recommends NEVER to fire upon it. We know not what the outcome might be.

Another fact unknown to the news media and the general public is the fact there exists two strips of 35 m.m. film of pictures of the glow from the submerged object in the pond. Mr. Barry and his assistant, personally witnessed and examined the two strips of film which contained at least five frames each of the glowing object. Hence, there exists at least ten pictures, in negative form, of the object.

On the film, the image shows a dark, circular shape with some frames from a somewhat smaller glowing object and others showing it as being larger. All frames seemed to show basically a circular shape. The films are in the possession of the Carbondale Police Department (as of 11-12-74). Acting Police Chief Francis Bettle informed Barry that when the prints are made from the negatives, the pictures will show "a yellow glow". Barry requested a frame or two for use in analyzing. He was refused. The pictures were taken about 3:00 a.m. (11-10-74).

The Carbondale UFO incident had its start around 7:00 p.m., Saturday, November 9, 1974, when three teen-agers and several adults sighted an unidentified flying object falling from the heavens. The UFO landed in a silt pond near Russell Park and emitted a bright glow under the water for a period of nine hours.

Patrolman Mark Eltrilla of the Carbondale Police Department, said that "three witnesses reported to us that the UFO... landed in the middle of this pond, then proceeded under water to approximately 25 feet from shore." When the object hit the pond, the patrolman said the witnesses "heard a hissing sound for approximately 30 seconds" ~~#####~~ indicating something hot.

Patrolman Eltrilla confirmed the underwater object pulsed by dropping "in intensity, but then it would brighten right back up. It let a glow of approximately 20 feet around it", he said. Another police officer, coupled with three teen-agers at the pond, likewise confirmed the pulsating of the object.

Patrolman Eltrilla attempted to surface the object around 3:30 a.m. Sunday (11-10-74) with the aid of a fisherman's net and a long pole. He pointed out when he "tried to move the light, it seemed the light was bigger or the object was. The light was connected to something bigger than what it appeared to be through visual observation. I couldn't move it. It couldn't be moved with a fish net." When attempting to surface the object, Eltrilla told Barry that he probably "pushed a little mud on top of it, that's why we can't see the light anymore."

The patrolman did "pick up a little bit of rocks and muck from around it" and "radiation tests" were taken on the rocks. Acting Police Chief Dettle told Barry the reading was ".50" which, according to Barry, is a normal radiation reading. However, prior to the scheduled news conference Monday evening (11-11-74), Dettle informed Barry "in a definite and precise manner that during the news conference, he did not want anything mentioned relative to the radiation count taken at the pond", Barry said.

The 20th Century UFO Bureau was contacted Thursday (11-14-74) by a concerned Carbondale man and wife who stated the atmosphere of the Carbondale residents is they "are being called liars" and that "something is radically wrong and the whole town is sick" over the supposed solution to the case...that of a railroad flashlight.

Barry said he was informed that some people now feel that whatever the object was in the pond, was removed during the early hours of Sunday morning (11-10-74). This information is based on what the witnesses allegedly saw. This report cannot be confirmed at this time and the entire information given Barry is being temporarily withheld pending further investigation. The bureau was also told that those sighting the falling object Saturday night, adults and teen-agers alike, are "willing to take lie detector tests" to prove their report.

One informant said she was sick and tired of officials "keeping it from the public" as to what really happened there. She went on to say: "I'm tired of it. It (the object) might not be there now, but it was. Something was taken out of the pond and we are being called liars."

From the information received Thursday (11-14-74), Carbondale residents are thoroughly disgusted with the way newspapers have treated the incident, even using cartoons to poke fun at the town. Bitterness was also given toward some radio stations relative to some of their comments of the incident.

The bureau was also informed that for the last two months there have been a series of incidents involving unidentified flying objects. Carbondale residents appear not to be terrified or near the panic stage. They simply are fed up with the withholding of information for they feel there is more to the pond incident than thus far has been told by officials. Barry said the 20th Century UFO Bureau is continuing its investigation into the matter and hopes to have further information sometime next week. (Week of November 18, 1974)

In addition to the 20th Century UFO Bureau, who arrived at the scene late Sunday night (11-10-74), two other UFO organizations arrived Monday morning. The three groups provided assistance in investigating, assistance and advising. The other two organizations were the UFO Network Association from the state of New York, Douglas Lains, regional director, and the UFO Research Information Center of Philadelphia (Pa.), Matthew L. Graber, Director.

During a meeting with Acting Police Chief Dettle Monday morning, an assistant to Mr. Barry suggested to Dettle that the pond should be drained in their attempt to retrieve the object. All directors agreed and fire trucks were brought in to start the draining process, coupled with a large backhoe which opened a deep channel at the rear of the pond.

During the afternoon hours of Monday (11-11-74), Dr. A. J. Kaufman, Mayor of Carbondale, and three other persons arrived in a car and were permitted to drive to the pond site. At this point, the ropes were let down and more than 1,000 spectators jammed in to the pond site.

Genevieve Mark Stamp of Auburn, New York, with one of his assistants, were preparing to go into the pond. (Still all over the town, they were not yet)

the pond and about ten minutes later surfaced, holding in his hand a railroad flashlight with two bulbs and a 6 volt battery. One official said one of the lights was still dimly lit. Matthew Graeber, of the Philadelphia-based UFO group, stated the flashlight was "not operational" when it was brought to surface.

As the result of the finding of the flashlight, Acting Police Chief Dault proclaimed the entire incident "a hoax", during the Monday evening (11-11-74) news conference.

Prior to the press conference, Mr. Barry met with the directors of the other two UFO organizations and discussed the findings in the case. All three agreed they were not convinced the flashlight theory was the answer and agreed that during the news conference, they would leave the case open to further investigation.

During the news conference, the other two UFO organizations failed to speak out as planned and agreed earlier. During Barry's comments at the conference, he pointed out the description of the removal attempt of the submerged object by the patrolman and his remarks that the object was too heavy to surface it. Since rocks and muck were brought up in the fishnet, it would appear a flashlight could have been retrieved, if indeed that's what it was, Barry said.

Following the conference, Dains and Graeber were approached on the earlier agreement with Barry. At this point, a newspaper photographer was preparing to photograph the three directors. Dains informed Barry: "I can't tell you now. I'll tell you in a minute." Following the picture-taking session, Dains said: "that we could never come back there" if the three directors didn't agree on the findings. To this, Barry said: "Come back to where?". Dains reply: "To the pond to investigate further." This, Barry surmised, was told Dains by an official after the threesome agreed on the open case approach. The 20th Century UFO Bureau feels this smacks of suppression of our feelings in the case and a threat to keep UFO investigators away from the pond if we failed to cooperate at the news conference.

Barry feels that the news conference itself was a partial suppression of the facts in the case. For example, nothing was said of the four shots fired at the submerged object by a patrolman. During the conference, one of the reporters asked about shots heard in the pond area during the time of the glow from the object. The media was informed it was probably some kids with firecrackers. Nothing was said of the ten pictures taken of the glow from the underwater object. Nothing was said of the possibility that it was a Russian missile.

The sighting of unidentified flying objects occurred prior to and on the night of the Carbondale incident. Two Mansfield College students sighted UFOs on Friday and Saturday nights (11-8 & 11-9-74). The Friday night incident was a 15 minute sighting of a "spherical-shaped object, no more than a couple hundred yards" from ground level. The object made 90 and 180 degree turns and changed color during times of increased acceleration. A UFO was sighted Monday night (11-11-74) near Route 191 in the Lauma (Pa.) area, near Carbondale. The object was visible for nearly an hour before vanishing. Television intercom was reported during the sighting. This is common in many cases of low-flying or low-hovering objects.

The Carbondale pond case is not the first. A strange object was sighted on the Pascagoula River near Pascagoula, Mississippi during November, 1973. The United States Coast Guard investigated the case and saw a submerged glowing object and referred to it as "an unidentified submerged illuminating object."

The object was located in four to six feet of water and was described as "an amber beam, four to six inches in diameter." Attempts were made to retrieve the object, but all efforts failed. The object traveled several different courses while it was under surveillance for an hour by the Coast Guard. The report was forwarded to Washington. No further information was available. The 20th Century UFO Bureau attempted to secure an analysis of the incident from the Coast Guard in Mississippi, however, no reply was received by the bureau.

In closing, the 20th Century UFO Bureau feels there are too many unanswered questions relative to the Carbondale UFO hoax story. "WHA? was the glowing, bright object that adults and teen-agers saw falling from the heavens. WHA? caused the underwater object to move from the center of the pond to a point of about 20 feet from shoreline? WAS the object that fell from the heavens a part of the Russian missile moon shot or was it something else that at this point, baffles explanation?

Since the Intelligence section of the USAF in Washington said they had a report of a possible Soviet missile falling into Elk Lake, near Carbondale, could it be perhaps the falling object separated into two pieces with the bright, illuminated object falling into the pond near Russell Park and the remaining portion into Elk Lake, or was the AF mistaken in its identification of the body of water where the UFO fell?

Mr. Barry highly objected to the manner in which Acting Police Chief Dottle made reference to "little green men" during the news conference. There are probably untold numbers of worlds scattered throughout the universe of God's creation with intelligent beings that are far superior to Earthmen, and some of these perhaps have mastered the method in spanning the distance from their world to ours, thus putting them possible hundreds of years ahead of us in scientific knowledge.

Unaware to the average person are many UFO cases including landings in isolated areas across the United States over a span of 20 years. Some cases show high radiation readings detected on the ground areas where the crafts landed. Burnt and scorched areas range 20 to 40 feet in circumference where these objects settled. These incidents are known to UFO organizations, the USAF and other government branches. The science-fiction era of yesterday is with us today in the form of non-fiction...or...reality, Barry said.

And finally, to those adults and teen-agers who witnessed the object falling from the sky over Carbondale Saturday night (11-9-74), Barry said: "I thank you for your courage in coming forth and telling it like it was. No. You didn't see a railroad flashlight coming down from the heavens and land in the pond. In the meantime, I trust the American people will get the complete story of the Carbondale UFO incident, in addition to all the documented evidence the government has on the entire UFO phenomena, including motion picture films and still pictures of unidentified flying objects, and possibly of humanoids from such craft".

(END OF RELEASE)

Note to News Media - If further information is desired on the Carbondale case or other UFO cases, contact our PENNSYLVANIA office:
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(Now flip this page over for other incident the bureau has on the "UFO subject. This portion is not for publication at this time.)