

# INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER T.M.

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## A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS & ANALYSES

*"There is no hope of advance in science without a paradox."—Niels Bohr*

### UFOS AND THE FBI: INVOLVEMENT IN THE EARLY YEARS

### A RADAR-VISUAL IN CHARLOTTE: UFO OR PRANK BALLOON?

### CASE WRAP-UPS: Gatchellville, Fungus Rings, Angel-Hair

### THE REDDING, CALIFORNIA CE II CASE

### FIVE UFOS SELECTED FROM 87 U.S. CASES

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## EDITORIAL



by Dr. J. Allen  
Hynek

On a recent prime time network TV program a prominent MIT physicist was asked whether he believed in UFOs. He replied that of course he didn't—that UFOs were nonsense. Unfortunately no one rose to challenge his statement—yet a simple obvious challenge would have been highly instructive to the presumably large TV audience.

He might have been asked, "When you say you don't believe in UFOs, just what is it you don't believe in? To begin with, don't you believe that UFO reports exist by the thousands and continue to be made to this very day?"

If he were honest (and all MIT physicists are honest!), he must answer that of course UFO reports exist, (although he may not have been aware of the scope of the reports). This is not a matter of belief but of simple fact.

"Well, then, is it that you don't believe that such reports come from all over the world and are not confined to the United States—that the phenomenon of UFO reporting is global?"

He might not have been aware of this, yet a simple print-out from our data bank (UFOCAT) would soon clearly demonstrate the world-wide scope of UFO reporting. This is a fact rather than a belief. Facts make beliefs unnecessary.

"Or is it perhaps that you don't believe that many UFO reports come from highly responsible, often technically trained persons?" Once again, belief is not necessary. The facts are that many UFO reports are made by responsible, competent persons, people whose testimony, because of their standing in the community, would be unquestioned in other circumstances. Verification of this fact would take a little patience and willingness on the part of our physicist, but as is well known, MIT physicists are patient and willing.

(cont. on news page)

*J. Allen Hynek*



## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor:

We are interested in making world-wide contact with German language speaking/reading UFO investigators. Our group is called CENAP (Centrales Erforschungsnetz Abergewohnlicher Phänomene). Please contact: Werner Walter, Eisenacher Weg 16, D-6800, Mannheim-31, West Germany.

## IN CURRENT JOURNALS

IUR wishes to draw attention to the existence of a foreign journal of high merit, UFO PHENOMENA, which is an annual review devoted to the scientific study of UFO phenomena. It is published in conjunction with the CNIFAA group (Comitato Nazionale Indipendente per lo Studio dei Fenomeni Aerei Anomali), based in Bologna, Italy. This journal, much of which is in English, attempts to bridge the gap between the scientific fraternity and the various UFO groups. The articles appear to be uniformly excellent in quality and relevance. For further information, contact: Francesco Izzo, EDITECS, Casa Editrice, Cas. Postale 190, 40100 Bologna, ITALY.

## BOOK REVIEW

**THE WORLD ALMANAC BOOK OF THE STRANGE.** ed. World Almanac, The New American Library, Inc., 1977. 482 pages.

The editors of the World Almanac have created a book which they "hope will serve as a guide to the perplexing conflict" of pro versus con in the curiosities of science and nature. They have succeeded quite admirably. This book treats some twenty-seven different general topics ranging from curiosities of medicine to UFOs and psychic phenomena. However, the book is not simply a listing of unusual conditions and circumstances. Instead, it presents one of the most balanced expositions of the strengths and weaknesses of various controversial fields that the IUR staff has seen to date. It is one thing to find a single reference work that tackles so many diverse unusual concerns. It is a rare treat to find one in which the material has been so thoughtfully researched and presented with such careful balance and lack of bias. No value judgments are made in the book; instead, the

reader is left to judge for himself on the validity of the phenomena.

The specific chapter devoted to UFOs discusses the extraterrestrial hypothesis, a short history of the subject, some classic representative cases in each of the six Hynek types, the Zeta Reticuli controversy, and even the major personalities and organizations in the field. Klass' ten UFOlogical Principles are outlined and even the National Enquirer's "Million Dollar Prize" and the "Men in Black" are touched upon. This chapter is probably one of the best short reviews of the phenomenon that has been published, since it certainly touches all bases!

One of the best portions of the book is the preface wherein the editors state their philosophy which is refreshing in its openmindedness and unrestrictive (but not unqualified) approach. Some of the other topics (cargo cults, ESP, demonic possession, "pyramid power", Atlantis, druids, scientology) make fascinating reading for those who are not deeply familiar with them.

If the other sections are as fairly presented as is the section on UFOlogy, the book is a rare prize indeed. Highly recommended.

## FOREIGN FORUM

*This is a representative sampling of UFO sightings from around the world. While we cannot exert the same degree of control over these cases compared to domestic ones, it is at least of value to see that the same characteristics are reported for this phenomenon abroad as in the U.S.*

**BELGIUM:** Uccle, October 17, 1977. A woman and her children watched a blindingly bright red light source from their first floor porch. It was stationary and in the southwest at an estimated thousand-foot altitude. No sound was heard and the object did not move for approximately an hour, during which the witnesses watched it continuously. Finally, the object began to move towards the west, then the north, and disappeared in the distance. An independent group of witnesses several streets distant also watched the object. A half hour later, the daughter of the original family watched another pair of similar objects in the south about 400-500 feet off the ground. These circled for about half an hour and then disappeared to the south. An hour later, the family watched another very bright light in the southwest maneuvering which then disappeared.

SOURCE: C. de Wespín, Observatoire Royale du Belgique.

**FINLAND:** Kallavesi Lake, August, 1974. This relatively old case is included because of the recent research done on the analysis of the fragment which allegedly fell from the object sighted. While at his summer home and walking on the shores of the lake about 7 PM, a 43-year old man observed a bright light coming towards him from the northeast. The silent UFO stopped at a distance of 10 meters from him and hovered a couple of meters above the water. Multicolored and oval in shape, the UFO was surrounded by a hazy light. The left edge of the object was bent upwards as though it has collided with something. Though the light emanating from it was quite bright, no reflections were seen in the water. The object itself was three or four meters in diameter and a couple of meters high. After hovering for 20 seconds, a small fragment fell from the UFO and dropped into the water, hissing. The UFO began to glow brightly and then zoomed up into the clouds within seconds. Recovering the fragment from the water (which was easy since it differed markedly from the surrounding rocks), the man decided to say

nothing about it to his family and finally came forward to a Finnish UFO group in 1975.

The fragment was x-ray analysed at the Abo Academi University. The results indicate that material of this sort could be found near active volcanoes (which the area of the find was not) in only several areas of the world. The analyser further stated that it was not a "geological entity". An expert on meteoroids at the Turku University stated that it was definitely not a meteoroid. Initially, the fragment was 36 millimeters long, 6 millimeters thick, and weight 16 grams. While not radioactive, it was magnetic. Analysis with a mass spectrometer and a scanning electron microscope has found that the fragment is not a piece of ore, not of volcanic origin, not a meteoroid, and not a piece of any known machine, and that it has been subjected to a very high temperature around 650 degrees Celsius. These results represent only the preliminary results and further analysis is underway.

SOURCE: Suomen Ufotukijat ry., Kyläma, Finland.



# U.S. SIGHTINGS

## 5 UFOS SELECTED FROM 87 CASES: Jan. 15-Feb. 14

82 reports were judged to be identifiable or inappropriate.  
No reports are still under investigation.  
Refer to the monthly "Profile" feature for complete evaluations.

**HOW WE LEARN OF UFO'S:** UFO reports are from news departments, civilian organizations and individuals all over the world, but most of our reports stem from the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Central Hotline. This is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone service for the exclusive use of law enforcement agencies, FAA agencies, planetaria and other formal channels. This gives us the chance to follow up *all* cases rapidly for first-hand information with unlimited long-distance capability. Other advantages include screening of the hoaxers. Indeed, police who patrol when others are asleep are encouraged to fill this void.

**HOW WE DEFINE UFO'S:** Any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearance and/or behavior can't be ascribed to conventional objects and effects—not only by the original witnesses, but also by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original observer may lack.

**NL—Nocturnal Light:** distant anomalous lights seen in the night sky

**DD—Daylight Discs:** distant disc-like objects seen during the day

**RV—Radar/Visual:** UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously

**CE I—Close Encounter of the First Kind:** UFOs seen within 500 feet

**CE II—Close Encounter of the Second Kind:**

**CE I's** that leave behind physical traces

**CE III—Close Encounter of the Third Kind:**

**CE I** with humanoid occupants seen

**HOW WE NUMBER CASES:** All UFO sightings will receive a three element number which will serve as a case "name". The first numbers refer to the volume and issue number of the edition that contains the case, and the last number refers to the order it arrived (example: 1-1-7, the seventh case of the first issue).

### UFOs of Limited Merit

*These reports are of intermediate stature. They are UFOs in the sense that we don't know what they are, but for a variety of stated reasons, they are not really worthy of closer scrutiny.*

CASE	TYPE	DATE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	PLACE
3-3-14	NL	1-23-78	7:40 PM	5-10 min.	1	Toledo, OH

A 48-year old carpenter was standing on his front porch looking at the stars when he noticed a stationary object about 30 degrees above the horizon in the eastern sky. This object was lit by the reflection of the city lights and the moon, and was slightly larger than a distant aircraft. It appeared stationary as a distinctly-outlined saucer with dark, outlined

windows, and a small structure on top; the corners of the object appeared to be in shadow. The object remained in the same place long enough for an unidentified man in a passing car to stop; he became frightened, remarked to the witness "I'm getting the hell out of here!" and drove off at high speed. The object then moved off very rapidly to the

south and disappeared "as if some one had turned off a light".

*Mostly a single witness case, since the second man could not be identified. The major puzzlement is the amount of detail alleged for an object of small angular size. No confirmation from Toledo Airport.*

3-3-19	NL	1-26-78	12:31 AM	1-1.2 min.	2	Williamston, NC
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A 29-year old policeman watched an intensely bright round light the size of the full moon at 60 degrees up in the northwest. The light moved rather like a meteor towards the south (with no trail) and then hovered for ten to fifteen seconds in the south before it changed course by 30-40 degrees and then disappeared

after continuing south for a few more seconds. There was a windstorm in progress and the object was definitely seen below the clouds. The officer had time to radio another officer on the other side of town (3 miles away) who also watched the object for the last ten to twenty seconds of its antics. The 2nd officer

deemed the object to be 3 times the diameter of the moon and distinctly outlined; like the 1st officer, he noted that the object suddenly disappeared.

*No confirmation from local or Raleigh airports. Ball lightning?*

3-3-24	NL	1-27-78	12:00 AM	5 min.	1	Key West, FL
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A 25-year old flight instructor (with 1050 flight hours) was flying his Cessna 172 to Opalocka when he observed a formation of six objects with no lights 5 degrees across. Each object was disc-shaped and reflected the moonlight. They flew in a ragged straight line at an approximately equal distance from each other. Both the objects and the witness were flying at 7000 feet, on slightly diverging courses. The objects were flying slightly faster than

the aircraft (115 knots) and possibly were moving in a skipping motion (though the witness himself admits that this may have been auto-kinesis). There was enough ambient moonlight so that the pilot could clearly see the shapes of the discs and note that there were no wings, tails, or other structures, and no navigational lights. He lost sight of them as they went off in the distance.

*The most annoying factor in this sighting is that the witness was in contact with the Miami Approach Control at the time but never mentioned anything about the objects to them! Hence, no radar confirmation was possible at the time and when IUR contacted them, they had no reports of unusual activity. The witness also did not see fit to awaken a friend who was in the plane but sleeping.*

(cont. on news page)



# UFOs AND THE FBI: INVOLVEMENT IN THE EARLY YEARS

Excerpted from the researches of Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee,  
Naval Surface Weapons, White Oak, Maryland

*The past and present involvement of government intelligence agencies such as the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. with UFO investigation has always been a question of considerable interest to UFOlogists and the general public alike. Is there or isn't there a "government cover-up"? Rumors have always been rife but it wasn't until certain dedicated researchers began to exploit the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act that any substantiation of government interest began to surface. The extent of the C.I.A.'s prior UFO interest is likely to become clearer as the Ground Saucer Watch, Inc. lawsuit progresses [see IUR, Vol. 3, No. 1]. The F.B.I.'s official involvement has already been explored by Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a portion of whose researches are summarized here. All material presented here is directly quoted from Dr. Maccabee's privately-circulated papers, unless otherwise noted.*

I have recently received over four hundred of the several thousand pages of documents in the FBI files on "flying discs". I have been informed that these pages represent the "cream of the crop" and that the rest include references to UFOs in other documents, copies of form letters sent out by the FBI, and copies of readily available publications.

The pages I have obtained are divided into three categories as follows: roughly 40% are poor reports and documents which do not add anything (in my opinion) to what is already known about certain UFO reports and known hoaxes; roughly 40% are teletype reports and transcripts concerning reasonably-to-very-good UFO reports, some of which are not listed in the Blue Book file at the National Archives, and some of which have never been published before; the remaining portion are papers which consist of internal memoranda of the FBI. This last proportion contains papers which have definitely not been available before now. They show the internal involvement of the FBI and, even more interestingly, they shed light on the attitude of the Air Force towards UFO investigation.

It should be emphasized at the outset that the bulk of these documents were generated between 1947 and 1955, and that the FBI file on UFOs comes to a screeching halt in 1964 with the Zamora case (Socorro, New Mexico).

## GENERAL FBI INVOLVEMENT

Perhaps the most important question to be asked is "was the FBI ever officially involved?" Secondary questions concern the duration and nature of the involvement. The answer to the first question is a resounding "YES" and the duration of official involvement was July 30 to October 1 in 1947. However, the FBI remained "unofficially" involved up through 1964. During the period of official involvement, the FBI agents were instructed by Hoover to investigate UFO witnesses. After October, 1947, however, the FBI was supposed to turn all investigations over to the armed forces (specifically, the Army Air Force until 1948, and the Air Force after the spring of 1948). The agents were generally faithful to Hoover's orders after October and stopped carrying out detailed investigations. However, this did not stop them from filing reports on UFO sightings and witnesses, nor did it stop them from checking up on the police and FBI records at the request of other intelligence agencies.

The FBI maintained a loose connection with the Air Force investigations of UFOs. The FBI was also the recipient of unrequested copies of various Air Force, Office of Naval Intelligence and Army intelligence documents and UFO reports. However, the number of documents filed per year on the subject of UFOs dropped precipitously after 1952, and by 1959 had reached zero. The decrease in the number of reports filed probably resulted from a combination of factors, the most important being the intent of the FBI to get out of the UFO business.

## INTERNAL SUBVERSION

The Air Force carried out the detailed case investigations (what little they did) while the FBI faded into the background. From the point of view of the FBI, this was desirable since the FBI was mainly interested in

internal subversion and not in military craft. In fact, it was the possibility of internal subversion which brought the FBI into the picture initially. A letter of 7/10/47 summarizes the first thoughts on this subject: "General Shulgen advised Special Agent \_\_\_\_\_ that the possibility exists that the first reported sightings of the so-called flying discs were fallacious and prompted by individuals seeking personal publicity, or were reported for political reasons. He stated that if this was so, subsequent sightings might be the result of mass hysteria. He pointed out that the thought exists that the first reported sightings might have been caused by individuals of Communist sympathies with the view to causing hysteria and fear of a new Russian secret weapon."

The beginnings of an internal struggle between intelligence agencies also surfaces shortly after the time of the above memorandum. J. Edgar Hoover did authorize the investigations of UFOs by FBI agents providing that "we must insist upon full access to discs recovered. For instance, in the La. (sic) case, the Army grabbed it (Ed. Note: it was a hoaxed disc) and would not let us have it for cursory examination". Hoover's official decision was officially released as: "The Bureau, at the request of Army Air Forces Intelligence, has agreed to co-operate in the investigation of flying discs. The Air Forces have confidentially advised that it is possible to release three or more discs in odd numbers, attached together by a wire, from an airplane in high altitudes and these discs would obtain tremendous speed in their descent and would descend to the Earth in an arc. The Army Air Forces Intelligence has also indicated some concern that the reported sightings might have been made by subversive individuals for the purpose of creating mass hysteria."

"You should investigate each instance which is brought to your attention of a sighting of a flying disc in order to ascertain whether or not it is a bona fide sighting, an imaginary one, or a prank. You should also bear in mind that individuals might report



## CASE WRAP-UPS: THE GALENA & CHESTERTON FUNGUS RINGS

IUR Vol. 2, No. 9 detailed the discoveries of two separate instances of large circular rings of greyish material which had seemingly formed overnight, one on an island near Galena, Illinois and two others near Chesterton, Indiana. In both cases, the discoverers speculated that they might be UFO-related. However, as IUR had samples analyzed, it became clear that, instead of prime examples of CE II's, the rings were

merely outbreaks of "slime mold".

More details of the behavior of this type of slime mold are now known. Slime mold is myxomycete, genus *Diachea*. Biologists say the mold is similar to the protozoa, since one of its life stages resembles an Amoeba. The grey rings that were found are the "fruiting" stage of the mold in which sporangia and spores are formed. Slime mold grows in an almost perfectly circular form for

several interesting reasons: a clump of initial spores begins to grow and depletes the nutrients available in the area, but does not kill the grass there. Spreading out at rates as high as inches a day, the slime mold then makes a ring that becomes larger and larger. The sudden appearance of the grey rings can be explained very easily since the form that the mold takes until it "spores" is that of a transparent gel. Case closed!

### UFOS OF LIMITED MERIT (cont.)

3-3-41	CE III	1-31-78	6:15 PM	uncertain	3?	Montvale, NJ
This interesting case is considered of Limited Merit solely because the investigation on it is still incom-			plete. Three young children (ages 10-12) saw a total of seven humanoids (5 males and 2 females) indi-		rectly associated with a UFO. More information will be given in next month's issue.	

3-3-62	NL	2-5-78	6:00 PM	50 min.	2+	Peoria, IL
Two Bradley University security guards were driving on their rounds when the inside of their car was lit up; an intensely bright object was visible ahead of them about forty-five degrees up in the east. They drove another two blocks to an open area and got out of the car to watch two objects, the larger of which was as large as the full moon and 4 times the size of the smaller. They were both changing colors from green to red to white in no particular order. The smaller one abruptly dis-			appeared "like a bubble bursting". The large object was seen to fly in loops, drop down very quickly behind the houses, return up, and undergo abrupt line-of-sight motions. The two guards discussed this as it was happening with three unidentified girls and a couple standing outside their car. After about forty-five minutes, the two guards returned to their base office and could still see the object in approximately the same place outside their window. Its disappearance was		unwitnessed.	

*There was no confirmation from the weather bureau, the National Guard, or the Peoria Airport. The line-of-sight motions, color changes and autokinetic motions suggest the witnesses were watching a bright star. However, the observation that the object "dropped down" from forty-five degrees up in the east to behind the houses is inconsistent with this idea.*

### EDITORIAL (cont. from pg. 1)

"Well, then, is it that you don't believe that reports of Close Encounters with UFOs both exist and are made by responsible persons in many cases?" In the face of facts, he must admit that indeed such reports exist.

"Well, then, I continue to be puzzled—just what is it that you don't believe in?"

"I don't believe that UFOs are physical craft that come from distant parts of the galaxy."

"Well, why didn't you say so in the

first place? If you base your beliefs on the *present* level of our technology, I can sympathize with your viewpoint and understand your arguments quite well. It is true that the nearest star to the sun is more than a hundred million times farther away than the moon, and I fully agree that getting there is nothing in our technology that would permit "getting here from there", and with such frequency, too! I do recognize the arguments in support of your belief but not one of them destroys the fact that UFO reports exist, that

they come from all over the world, and that many are made by highly responsible people. *This* is the *phenomenon* of UFOs, and this phenomenon does indeed exist, and by its very nature has become an outstanding puzzle and mystery of our times. This is no longer a question of belief, but of fact, and is certainly worthy of scientific investigation.

So, please, if you say you don't believe in UFOs, make it clear just what it is you don't believe in, and why. Why confuse this issue more than it has to be?



## CASE WRAP-UPS

### CLOSE-OUT ON THE GATCHELLVILLE, PA CE II



FIG. 1—Photograph of burned area.

Case 2-4-44 in IUR, Vol. 2, No. 5 referred to the sighting of a large red ball of fire the size of the full moon which drifted over houses near the town of Gatchellville, Pennsylvania on March 8, 1977, around 7:30 PM. Independent witnesses observed the ball drop down behind trees and immediately afterwards, a grass fire was discovered with unusual characteristics. A burned patch 100 feet long by 30 feet wide was found with an unscathed triangle in the center with three holes located at the vertices. UFO investigator John Lutz secured samples of the burned area, the triangle area, and other interesting specimens, as well as control samples.

Analysis of the materials are now complete, thanks to the work of Dr. David Mileich, Director of Research Division, Department of Anesthesiology, Michael Reese Medical Center. Specimens of soil taken from the tripod holes, the burned grass and dirt, and the triangle soil were found to have normal background radioactivity compared with both the control soil sample and another (totally unrelated) control sample. The level of radioactivity was measured both by liquid scintillation and by crystal gamma counting tech-

niques. Of course, it is possible that initial radioactive readings were short-lived. In addition, no petroleum hydrocarbon residues were found. The search for these was carried out by gas chromatography and aqueous extraction. This is particularly interesting because a sample of grass and soil burned with automobile gasoline was also tested and showed strong hydrocarbon traces. However, this does not necessarily mean that the fire wasn't set by some sort of petroleum product since the sample may have been taken far from the point of ignition. However, it seems a bit unlikely that "lawn grass" would support extensive combustion unless some other highly flammable substance was present.

Foil-like strips were found by investigator John Lutz in a tree across the road from the physical trace. It is likely that they are unrelated, but they too, were analyzed. The material is likely Mylar, but was not positively identified, though it is non-radioactive and contains no metals despite its metallic appearance. It is completely consumed when burned. However, the energy released on burning is not spectacular.

So, that is that . . . or is it? Certain

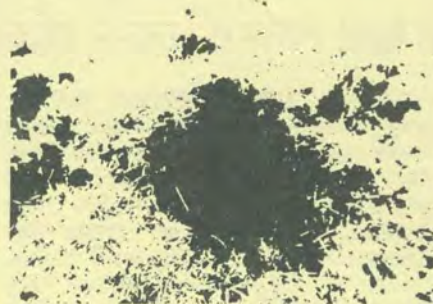


FIG. 2—Smaller burned area 132 feet beyond

characteristics of this sighting suggest the appearance of ball lightning. Previous ball lightning studies have shown that this phenomenon is usually connected with thunderstorms, but it has been observed in clear weather. Also, another similar case has been brought to our attention through the courtesy of Alex B. Geddes, which resembles the Gatchellville case but has been given the tentative explanation of a "thunderball" (or ball lightning). This sighting occurred in November of 1977 on the Isle of Man, wherein a woman observed a large red ball of fire with no tail or trail travelling slowly from east to west. This ball disappeared behind her stables at which point a blue streak was seen and an explosion heard. No rumble of thunder followed the crash. Once again, there were no thunderstorms in the area. The next morning, the witness found that a tree behind the stables was split and the grass surrounding it was burned, as well as two of her ponies were dead. The similarities to the Gatchellville case are intriguing, but at this point, IUR can not give a conclusive judgment. The probability estimates given in the previous write-up are probably still valid.

### ANGEL-HAIR ANALYSIS COMPLETE

IUR, Vol. 2, No. 8 presented the preliminary analysis of a fall of "angel-hair" in October of 1976 near Sonora, California. This particular sample was interesting because it was found to be contaminated with tritium, a short-lived radioactive substance. Final results are in on this material and, as suspected, a prosaic explanation is in order. The angel

hair itself was examined by Dr. Deane Furman, professor of Entomology at the University of California at Berkeley who informs us that the material is simply web strands or filaments produced by balloon spiders. Though the material did not superficially match exactly other samples of spider web, Dr. Furman points out that the phenomenon of

ballooning is not restricted to a single species, hence, the difference is simply caused by the web having been produced by another variety. How the spider web became contaminated with tritium is a small mystery but may be some indication of the extent to which our environment is becoming polluted with radioactive materials.



# THE REDDING, CALIFORNIA CE II CASE

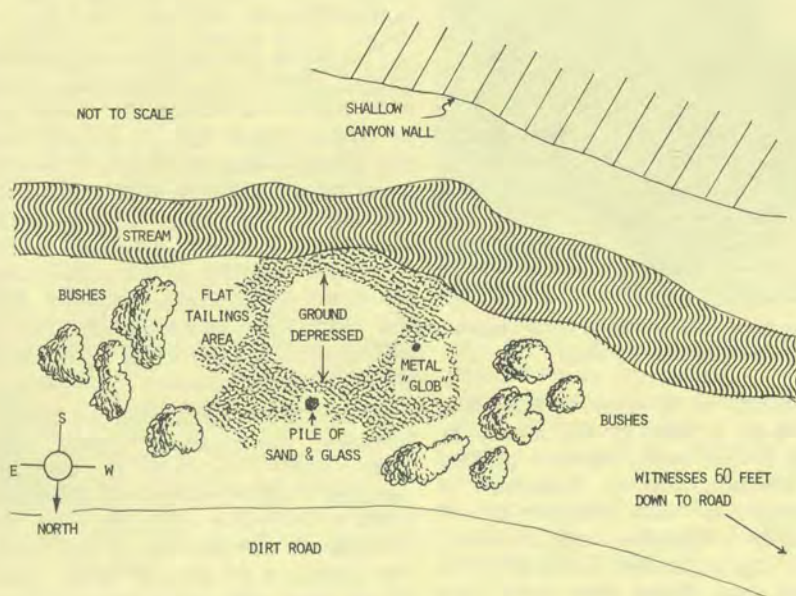


FIG. 1—Map of the area showing the geography of the mine site and the UFO's position during the first sighting

*Editor's Note: While IUR concentrates on the investigation and reporting of current cases, nonetheless we do receive other interesting reports from various sources—reports that are generally fairly old—which for one reason or another were not reported until months or years after the fact. Some of these—as in the present example—have been investigated by competent UFO investigators as carefully as the time lag permits.*

*This interesting pair of sightings occurred separated by seven years of time. Both were Close Encounters of the Second Kind and were carefully investigated by Mr. Paul Cerny, Western States Director of MUFON. Laboratory analyses were performed on the sand and metal samples and through the kindness of Mr. Cerny, we are able to present the preliminary results.—J. A. Hynek*

The story of the two sightings of similar objects seen seven years apart in time and just eighty feet apart in space fulfills the often made remark that a UFO report is "an incredible tale told by credible persons". The first encounter with the object occurred at about 10 AM on October 30, 1969 by Mr. and Mrs. Chapin (an elderly couple who have placer mined the site for nearly fifty years). After the second encounter, seven years later, the Chapins de-

cided to write Mr. Cerny, of whose interest in UFOs they had learned through a radio announcer who often mentioned UFO topics on the air. They were willing to discuss the sightings, only asking confidentiality as to the exact location of the site since they wished no curiosity seekers. The mine, however, is located near Redding, California and is at the bottom of a steeply sloping (45°) wooded canyon.

On the morning of the first sighting, the canyon area was quite chilly and the Chapins were surprised to find a rattlesnake on the road just in front of the mine site (rattlesnakes are very torpid in chilly weather). As they got out to get to the mine (and to kill the snake), they were even more surprised to find the area stiflingly hot in the immediate area whereas farther back down the road it had been seasonally chilly. After the snake was killed, Mrs. Chapin took a photograph of it with a box camera, which she still had in her hand when the UFO sighting was made. At this point they both became aware of a disturbance in the bush some sixty feet away in a flattened area of mine tailings. It was then that the egg-shaped object (curved on top but flat on the bottom) noiselessly rose a few feet vertically off the ground and then took off down the canyon, swaying but not striking small trees as it went and leaving no trail. Soon, it zoomed upward at a sharp angle and was out

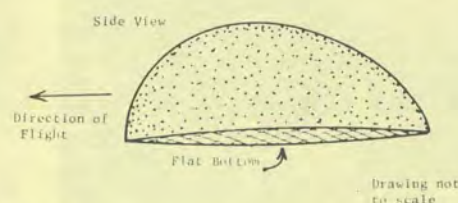


FIG. 2—The appearance of the UFO during the second sighting.

of sight in seconds. The event was so startling that Mrs. Chapin did not think to take a photograph though the camera was still in her hand!

Examination of the spot from which the object had ascended revealed a shallow oval depressed spot less than two inches deep and about ten feet across in the mixture of dirt and rock tailings scattered out in the flat area. Despite the ambient heat which dissipated rapidly after the object left, the ground was cold to the touch. A conical pile of unusual looking sand was discovered (two days later a metallic "glob" was found lying nearby) and it and the metal were taken home to be preserved by the Chapins for eight years before a laboratory analysis was performed. Prompt investigation of the site by technically qualified persons might indeed have revealed far more information that we now have.

It was at this same site, but only eighty feet to the west, that the second and more traumatic event occurred on December 29, 1976. It was much colder than previously but when they left the car at the mine site, they noted the same rise in temperature as they had before, but not as pronounced. They wondered if possibly another UFO was about and indeed this was soon shown to be the case. As Mr. Chapin walked cautiously down to the creek, Mrs. Chapin stayed at the car, where she heard her husband shout, "Jane, bring the gun!". They then observed a craft similar to the one of seven years before but more pock-marked with a surface resembling that of an orange. Almost immediately, the craft rose rapidly into the air, "zapped" both the Chapins, knocking them to the ground. Mr. Chapin hit his head against the canyon wall and his wife fell to the road; both felt that they had remained unconscious for about fifteen minutes. The fall plugged Mrs. Chapin's gun with mud and she confessed quite unasham-





FIG. 3—Mr. Chapin standing near the creek where he observed the UFO for the second time.

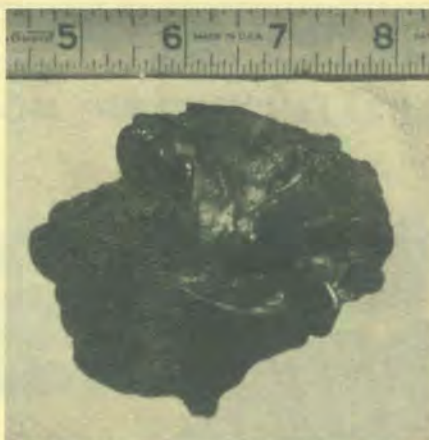


FIG. 4—Close-up of the metal "glob" found two days after the first sighting.

edly that she woke cold and wet, drenched in her own urine.

This time there was no evidence of landing marks but it was estimated that the object had been some 175 to 200 feet away from Mr. Chapin. Both attribute deterioration in their own health to the encounter.

What about the material found after the first sighting? Laboratory analysis by competent specialists revealed a number of interesting items. Recall that the unusual sand had

been found in a neat conical pile some 8-10 inches at the base, as though it had been carefully poured from some container. Scattered in the "sand pile" were irregular bits of pale green glass-like material, about one millimeter across. X-ray analysis showed that these bits were very pure silicon (96.5%) with trace amounts of potassium, chlorine, titanium, iron and neodymium. The specialist who analyzed this material stated that it was his considered

opinion that the material could have been formed "in a vacuum or in space" (due to its high purity), though an origin resulting from a lightning strike was not ruled out.

The metal glob which the Chapins found two days later was also analyzed in the laboratory. About the size of a man's fist, it was almost completely black on the outside and mostly copper on the interior (76.6%) combined with tin (18.4%), some silver, chromium, thorium, and traces of iron and silicon. Both the materials making up the sand and this metal glob were considered to be foreign to the geological make-up of the mine site.

What are we to conclude? Unfortunately, the case is nearly nine years old. The lack of control samples from the mine site does not allow a complete rejection that the material is not natural to the area. The opinions of several other geologists must also needs be consulted on the make-up of the unusual sand. Nonetheless, the case is certainly interesting and IUR will keep its readers informed on further investigative results.

## UPDATE ON WORLD-WIDE UFO ORGANIZATIONS

In the article "UFO Organizations around the World" (see January, 1978 issue), IUR stressed that the listing of world organizations was a "first time" effort and that many groups had undoubtedly been overlooked. We are most pleased to have received so many responses already from conscientious investigators who have been writing us to add the names of groups which were not included in the article as well as to inform us of the demise of other groups which are listed. All additions and corrections to date are as follows:

### ADDITIONS

#### UNITED STATES

**New England UFO Study Group**  
Marlborough, Massachusetts

**SKYNET**  
Los Angeles, California

**Tar Heel UFO Study Group**  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**Texas Scientific Research Center for UFO Studies, Inc.**  
McGregory, Texas

#### CANADA

**Canadian UFO Report**  
Duncan, British Columbia

**Manitoba Centre for UFO Studies**  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

**UFO Canada**  
Chomedey Laval, Quebec

#### JAPAN

**Japan Uchu UFO Kenkyukai**  
Kyushu

**JSPS**  
Tokyo

**JUFORA**  
Kobe

**Modern Space Flight Association**  
Osaka

#### NEW ZEALAND

**Earth Colonisation Research Association**  
Paraparaumu Beach

#### AUSTRALIA

**UFO Investigation Centre**  
Darwin, Northern Territory

**UFO Research (FNQ)**  
Cairns, Queensland

**UFO Research (SA)**  
Adelaide, South Australia

**UFO Research (WA)**  
Rivervale, West Australia

**Unidentified Phenomena Investigations Bureau**  
Bunbury, West Australia

### DELETIONS

The following groups no longer exist:

- # 19—Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organization
- #112—UFO Research Network
- #105—Civilian Saucer Investigation

### CORRECTIONS

- # 16—"UFO Research Commission" should read "UFO Reporting Center"
- #104—"CAB International" should read "CBA International"
- #109—"Queensland UFO Research Bureau" should read "UFO Research (QLD)"
- #111—"UFO Information Centre" should read "UFO Research (NSW)"
- #111—"Lane Cove, Victoria" should read "Lane Cove, New South Wales"

We continue to invite further input on UFO groups world-wide.



seeing flying discs for various reasons. It is conceivable that an individual might be desirous of seeking personal publicity, causing hysteria, or playing a prank."

"Any information you develop in connection with these discs should be promptly brought to the attention of the Army through your usual liaison channels."

Thus, by the end of July, 1957, the FBI had a working arrangement with the Army Air Force to investigate UFO reports. As set up, the arrangement seemed quite amicable, and presumably it could have continued for many years. Admittedly, the initial fear of subversion faded with time, but still, the FBI could have continued investigations into the fifties if they were really worried about the possibility that the UFO reports somehow resulted from Russian attempts at sabotage. Yet, the FBI ended its official investigatory role only about two months after it began.

#### THE "SCANDAL"

The internal agency struggles were brought to a head when Assistant Director D. M. Ladd sent the following memorandum to Hoover, which described an internal Army memorandum which was "intercepted" by FBI agents: "This letter states in substance that it was the original intent of the . . . Headquarters, Army Air Forces that whereas the ADC would *interview* responsible observers", the FBI would investigate incidents on the ground. Ladd recommended that Hoover discontinue all UFO activity and that the FBI hereafter refer all such reports to the Air Forces.

Hoover accepted this recommendation and wrote the following letter to Major General George C. McDonald, Assistant Chief Air Staff-2 at the Pentagon: "The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been requested by your office to assist in the" investigation of reported sightings of flying discs.

My attention has been called to instructions disseminated by the Air Force relative to this matter. I have been advised that these instructions indicate that the Air Forces would interview responsible observers while the FBI would investigate incidents of discs found on the ground, thereby relieving the Air Force of running down incidents which in many cases turned out to be 'ash can covers, toilet seats, and whatnot'.

"In view of the apparent understanding by the Air Forces of the position of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this matter, I cannot

permit the personnel and time of this organization to be dissipated in this manner.

"I am advising the Field Divisions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to discontinue all investigative activity regarding the reported sightings of flying discs, and am instructing them to refer all complaints received to the appropriate Air Force representative in their area."

Thus, as of October 1, 1947, the FBI ceased its official involvement, mostly in pique at having been relegated to an inferior position in the investigations. The order by Hoover to cease UFO investigation was apparently very effective for a year or so. By the middle of 1948, as far as the FBI was concerned, UFOs were "gone", though not forgotten. There is no indication in the files that I have that anyone in the FBI felt that the FBI should re-enter the UFO arena, so presumably the FBI was perfectly content to let the Air Force handle the "flying discs".

#### THE FBI AND THE AIR FORCE

It is of interest to compare this "dry" period for the FBI (October 1947 to January, 1949) with events that were occurring within the Air Force. Although the influx of reports diminished greatly during the latter part of 1947, the interest on the part of the Air Force did not wane. Lt. Gen. Twining was apparently convinced that something real was being seen, and recommended a special group to study the phenomenon. Thus, Project Sign was "born" on Dec. 30, 1947 at what is now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The Sign investigators tried very diligently to discover whether or not the discs were of Soviet origin but they failed at every turn. Finally, after the Chiles-Whitted sighting of July 24, 1948 (pilot, copilot, passenger, and perhaps ground observers saw a glowing object with "windows" speed toward and past them), the Sign investigators apparently acquiesced and wrote an "estimate of the situation". The "estimate" was that UFOs were interplanetary vehicles. This statement was passed through channels all the way up to General Vandenburg, the Chief of Staff who returned it for lack of proof. Subsequently, the extra-terrestrial hypothesis lost ground in favor of the "anything else but . . ." approach and from then on the Sign (and later Grudge and Blue Book) investigators favored the misidentification-hoax-hallucination hypothesis although the secret weapon hypothesis was not thrown out.

Project Sign came to an end on December 16, 1948, when its name was changed to Project Grudge. There exists a document which may be of great importance in understanding why the Air Force continued its investigation, why the first two special UFO investigatory projects (Sign and Grudge) received a high security rating, and why UFO-related information was classified even into the fifties.

The document refers to sightings of flying saucers over the Oak Ridge Tennessee site of the Atomic Energy Commission installation. The document began with a report of a sighting and photographs taken by a Mr. Presley in July of 1947. The photographs mentioned were subsequently shown by analysis at Wright-Patterson AFB to have "images" which were, in fact, flaws in the negatives, but the UFO report contained within the document is not important. What is important is the information passed on by the Resident Engineer, Air Materiel Command, United States Army: "Mr. E. predicated his remarks concerning 'flying saucers' or 'mystery missiles' by stating that he knew nothing of an official nature concerning them, other than the fact that they were believed by air force intelligence officials to be man-made missiles, rather than some natural phenomenon.

*"He continued that the information furnished by him should be treated with the utmost confidence, in that he was not speaking officially, but as a matter of personal cooperation. (underlined in original text) He stated that the matter was being given absolutely no dissemination by the air force or other military personnel, and that they had not deemed it advisable to advise him of all information pertaining to the missile. He continued, however, that in his conversation with representatives at Wright Field and in reading reports returned to this country by foreign agents, he had gathered together certain information which might be of assistance in determining whether or not these so-called missiles were authentic, usable and of danger to the United States. First, he pointed out that knowledge of such a possible aircraft is not by any means new, it having been known as early as four years ago (1944-45) that some type of flying disc was being experimented with by the Russians. In addition thereto, he stated that more recent reports have been received from representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency in southern Europe and southern Asia to the*



effect that the Russians were experimenting with some type of radical aircraft or guided missile which could be dispatched for great distances out over the sea made to return in flight, and return to the base from which it was launched. This fact was extremely worthy of notice as experiments in this country have so far developed to the point where we are only concerned about delivering a missile to the required point of impact, and no consideration has been given to imparting to that missile the ability to return . . .

"Mr. E. then continued with his own ideas as to what might be the nature of these discs, which ideas he had formulated through the review of those known facts and theoretical conjectures of himself and other scientists concerning the nature of flying discs and methods of propulsion for such type of aerial mechanism . . . Mr. E. stated that insofar as is known to U.S. scientists at this time, there is no chemical fuel which would make possible the tremendous range of flight such as is ascribed to the reported 'flying saucers'. There is only one possible fuel which could be utilized which is in accord with the present theory, and that is the utilization of atomic energy. (Author's note: at this point in the manuscript someone has written in the margin "ATOMIC ENERGY MIS-SILE"). As further evidence of this possible means of propulsion, Mr. E. called attention to the vapor trail and gaseous corona described as a ball of fire, which he states might give some evidence to the fact that a radioactive field is present . . . (the original material gives the impression to the reader that Mr. E., who worked in a research group that was trying to develop atomic powered planes, had spent a considerable amount of time studying the available information on exhaust trails from 'flying saucers'. Clearly, Mr. E. and those who supported his work, did not ascribe the belief that UFO reports were all hoaxes, delusions, and misidentifications.)

"He also stated that a peculiar fact concerning missiles exists from reports he has received which is worthy of notice, and that is that from all appearances, they have usually approached the United States from a northerly direction (!) and have been reported as returning in a northerly direction. None have ever been known to crash, collide, or disintegrate over American soil, but it would appear that they come to the United States, cruise around, and go back over the North Pole. He states that

insofar as is known to him, there has never been any piece of one recovered from any source whatever in order that analytical study of its nature could be made. Insofar as was known to him, the only actual material which would be of any value in determining its nature are telephoto photographs which are now in the possession of engineers at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. . . .

"Mr. E. concluded that this matter, while still purely a matter of guesswork, is nevertheless a source of great concern to the military establishment of this country. Great efforts have been expended by the service to determine just what the nature of these missiles might be and, upon so determining, decided whether or not an adequate defense can be established. He also stated that it has given impetus to the research being done by the air force in their own program of nuclear energy for the propulsion of aircraft to develop guided missiles. He also advised that insofar as was known to him, there was absolutely no connection between these missiles and the fact that they were observed close to Oak Ridge, Tennessee."

The opinion expressed by Mr. E. in the previously presented interview probably represented general AF opinion as of 1949. Project Sign, at the time, was going through an extraterrestrial "phase". Whether or not this possibility was ever imparted to the FBI cannot be determined from the papers received. As pointed out, the "cupboard is bare" during 1948. However, the possibility of extraterrestrial intelligence having something to do with UFOs was mentioned several years later.

In late 1948 and early 1949, "green fireballs" were observed over several military installations in the western U.S. No one denied the existence of the green fireballs, a fact which is in contrast to the repeated denials that actual disc-like objects were the cause of flying saucer reports. Dr. Lincoln LaPaz (a famous meteoricist and the sighter of a "green fireball" himself) argued to the Air Force that the green fireballs were *not* natural meteors\* and that their characteristics were what might be expected of Russian missiles. Thus during 1949 and into 1950, the Air Force had

\*This was *not* because of their "green color" which is not uncommon in meteors, but because they occurred so frequently in a confined period of time, and were all uniform in appearance—that is, *intensely* bright and "emerald" green.

an acceptably real phenomenon on their hands which might have been related to military developments of the Russians. It is important to note that grouped with the fireball reports were also reports of a "dislike variation". Thus, one might expect that the Air Force would continue to suspect the Russians. However, in response to a query from Hoover on the "state of the art" of flying saucers in March, 1950, the Air Force had decided that after two years of investigation, over three-quarters of the incidents regarding flying saucers proved to be misidentifications of conventional items. Therefore, in early 1950, the FBI was to believe that there was nothing to flying saucer reports.

On the other hand, in May, 1950, the FBI received a copy of an AF briefing in which the extraterrestrial hypothesis was not specifically thrown out but merely stated to be unprovable. In August, 1950, the Office of Special Investigations informed the FBI that the appearance of "green fireballs, discs, and meteors" caused them great concern. On October 9, 1950 (after the official involvement with UFOs by the Air Force was temporarily stopped), the FBI was informed by the OSI that their "investigation of these phenomena fails to indicate that the sightings involved space ships or missiles from any other planet or country".

In 1952 (the great "flap" year), the Air Force informed the FBI that "it is not entirely impossible that the objects sighted may possibly be ships from another planet such as Mars". On October 27, 1952, a document was filed which indicates that the film taken by Delbert Newhouse had a tremendous impact on the Air Intelligence. After ruling out mundane explanations "completely", ATIC was "at a complete loss to explain this most creditable (sic) sighting". In the same document is the statement "Col. \_\_\_\_\_ advised that Air Intelligence still feels that the so-called flying discs are either optical illusions of atmospheric phenomena. He pointed out, however, that some military officials are seriously considering the possibility of interplanetary ships."

It appears from the information in the FBI file that the Air Force attitude changed considerably during the first five or six years of the phenomenon. However, from other sources, it is known that after the Robertson Panel recommendations of January 1953, the official Air Force attitude towards UFO reports crystallized around the "nothing to it"



attitude. As far as the FBI is concerned, there is no document in the portion of the files obtained which expresses an opinion on the reality or nature of the "flying discs", other than the statements which conclude that none of the disc reports were related to subversion.

**IUR COMMENTS:** The information gathered by Dr. Maccabee is extremely interesting from a historical

point of view. For the first time we are given a look at the "behind the scenes" actions and opinions of the government agencies and the Air Force who apparently did not privately think that there was nothing to UFOs. However, insofar as speculations concerning the "covering-up" of important evidence are concerned, it would seem that the documents do not support such a

theory for the FBI, at the very least. Instead, their primary concerns were with internal subversion, "secret weapons", and inter-agency politics. However, don't count out such concerns yet; there are early indications that the CIA's role in UFO investigations were not quite so "placid" and as the GSW lawsuit progresses, we may be treated to more provocative material.

## A RADAR-VISUAL IN CHARLOTTE: UFO OR PRANK BALLOON?

IUR has learned of a provocative case in Charlotte, North Carolina which occurred on the evening of December 27, 1977 which involved two police observers in a helicopter along with the simultaneous observation of the entire encounter by airport radar. The case is a complex one and IUR is indebted to UFO investigators Wayne LaPorte and George Fawcett for their assistance in interviewing the witnesses.

### THE STORY

On the evening of December 27, 1977 at 10:54 PM, officers Ron Arey and Howard Dellinger were flying evening police patrol in a Bell Jetranger police helicopter Snoopy II. The helicopter was traveling northwest towards a specified location to inspect a vehicle. The officers observed two lights (similar to "landing lights") approaching from the northwest. At 10:56 PM, the lights passed to the above right of Snoopy II at an estimated 200 feet. The helicopter at this time was at an altitude of 1100 feet above the ground at this time. The pilot, Ron Arey, then contacted Charlotte Faa Air Traffic Controller Ray Bader to see what he was picking up in the area of the Coliseum (which they were flying near). Bader was aware of four targets: one was a Cessna 172 eastbound, one was the helicopter, and there were two unknowns. Not sure which of the targets on the radar screen was the helicopter, Bader asked the helicopter to turn on its landing lights momentarily so that he identify their position visually; they did and he did. Bader could not visually sight the two unknowns did note that their motions were similar to aircraft and that their radar returns were about 60% of the strength of the return from Snoopy.

Meanwhile, the police turned their attention from the two lights to answer an official call. This call was

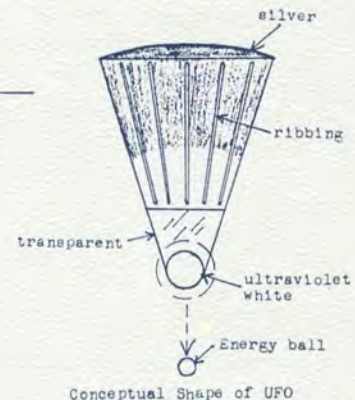


Snoopy II

soon cancelled and they turned their attention to finding the lights by flying SE back to the stadium. Arey then spotted the two lights approaching him (or he overtook them) at the same altitude (1800 feet). Then he was passed by them on the left. One of the lights quickly rose up at a 45° angle to an estimated 4000 feet in three seconds while the other continued to approach them. The pilot attempted to make a very sharp, pivoting turn as the object passed so as to get a better view of it. However, as he turned the copter, the object began to circle them at an estimated distance of 200 feet. Losing sight of it, they attempted a right turn but were again *out-turned* by the object.

When they were close to the object, the two policemen were able to get a good look at it; the object appeared as a globular white light which reflected upwards into a silver parachute-like object with ribs connecting the light to it.

This object then ejected a piece of itself (looking like a big spark) which fell away as the object moved eastward. The helicopter attempted to pursue but was outdistanced. Snoopy II then headed back towards the initial area in which the objects had been sighted. The policemen headed toward another light but controller Bader informed them that it was only an incoming Eastern Airlines jet approaching the airport from the NE. At 11:02 PM, Bader informed the helicopter crew that another unknown object (the second one?) was over the Coliseum and in



Conceptual Shape of UFO

another minute, they had a visual sighting. However, the light vanished both visually and from the radar scope at 11:03 PM. Meanwhile, the first object (?) continued its motion to the SE at 200 m.p.h. and the radar image was seen to fade out about five miles to the northwest of Monroe airport at about 11:00 PM. (about 15 miles away from Douglas Municipal Airport).

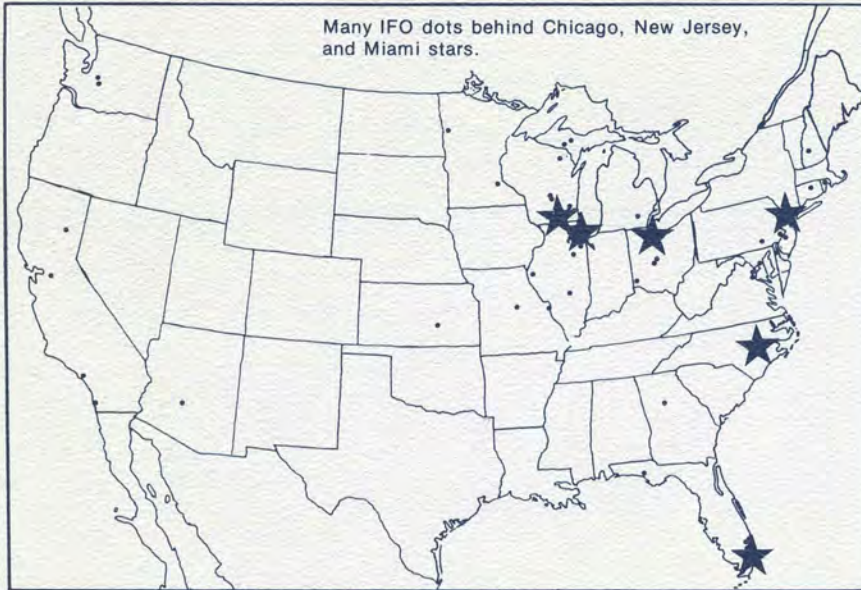
### THE PROBLEMS

Thus far the sighting sounds very provocative but there are certain problems that arise when it is examined closely. The description of the object that is seen fairly close up is virtually identical to that of a prank ("laundry bag") balloon. These balloons are usually made of plastic transparent or translucent laundry bags which are partially illuminated on the interior by birthday candles (not the similarity to the light at the bottom illuminating a ribbed "parachute-like" shape). Even more interesting is the fact that the object was seen to drop something burning "like a spark". This, too, is a commonly-reported characteristic of prank balloons as they drop bits of burning wax and other material. So the descriptions match quite closely. All of this is significant because of the testimony of a person located

(cont. on last page)



## PROFILE: JANUARY, 1978



● —IFO    ★ —UFO

UFOs include 2-2-39, 3-2-50, 3-3-14, 3-3-19, 3-3-24, and 3-3-41. Verifications and complete details on these cases are on file and available on

request from our readers.

The number of cases is beginning to increase as the new year begins, as was the case in 1977 as well. The percentage of UFOs, however, has remained near the mean value for 1977.

IFOs	
Aircraft .....	20
Meteors .....	16
Stars and Planets .....	13
Ad planes .....	2
Balloons .....	2
Helicopter .....	2
Ground lights .....	1
Mirage .....	1
Moon .....	1
Moon dog .....	1
Prank balloon .....	1
Searchlight .....	1

### EXCLUSIONS

Non-UFO .....	1
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### UFOs

NL .....	5
CE III .....	1

Total Number of Reports .....	63
Average per Day .....	2.0
Peak activity (5 cases) .....	2/26, 2/27, 2/30

Total Number of UFOs .....	6
Total Number of IFOs .....	56
UFOs: 9.7%      IFOs: 90.3%	

(cont. from prev. page)

by the investigators. He and two others were launching a total of ten such prank balloons in the vicinity of the Eastway shopping center from 10 PM to 1 AM. After launching eight of them, they closely followed the flight of the last two which were being blown by the wind in the direction of the Coliseum. They stated that at about 1 PM they observed the Snoopy II helicopter "suddenly appear" (as its landing lights were turned on), shine a spotlight on one of the balloons and then try to circle it. One of the balloons was whipped around and the candles blown out and the other was blown upwards by the rotor-wash. There was no question that what these witnesses were observing was a helicopter since they could clearly hear it, and recognized the pattern of navigational lights.

Several other weak points show up under close scrutiny. FAA controller Bader freely admits that he was not paying complete attention to the radar returns of the unknowns since he was concerned with the incoming Eastern jetliner and its approach. Also, he can not substantiate the "close" maneuvers of

Snoopy versus the one unknown because of limitations of the radar system (which would paint the two as only "one" target when they were that close) and also states that he is uncertain as to whether he even ever observed Snoopy II and the UFO close together at all. He feels that they were, but is not 100% certain in his mind due to concentration on the incoming Eastern flight.

Also, in a personal interview with IUR, controller Bader made no mention whatsoever of any high speeds in connection with the "UFO's" evasion of the helicopter in pursuit. He stated instead that "there were no unusual speeds involved", even when the object continued off in the direction of Monroe. However, there is also no confirmation that the object seen to disappear northwest of Monroe was the same object seen going in that direction since the two policemen has not followed it visually and controller Bader had not monitored it continuously.

Weather conditions that night were not propitious for anomalous propagation; it had been cool for several days and there were no weather returns showing on the screen, though there may have been

some breakthrough of ground targets. Winds at that time were from the WNW at 3 mph, which would propel balloons to the ESE, in keeping with those motions actually observed.

On the positive, "pro-UFO" side, the prank balloon launchers did not include any metal whatsoever in their balloons. Thus it would be surprising to find a combination of birthday candles, soda straws, and a laundry bag that could return a radar image with 60% of the strength of a helicopter. Bader stated that the targets definitely were "hard". Also, if high speeds did definitely occur (and this is only an *estimate* since the radar system can't determine it directly), then the prank balloons could not travel at 200 m.p.h.

### THE CONCLUSION

What's the answer? So many times in UFOlogy there can be no hard answer, as to whether a case occurred as described or did not, or whether a seemingly mystifying experience actually has a prosaic explanation. This case, ambiguous as it certainly is, will never serve as a pillar of evidence for Radar-Visuals!