

# the apro bulletin

VOL. 27, NO. 12

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

June, 1979

## “Hubcap”, “Bullet” in California

### U.S. AREAS PELTED BY “SKY THINGS”

By Iris Maack

RANDOM AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES WERE LITERALLY PELTED FROM THE SKY with rocks and metal in May, June and July.

In Park Rapids, MN, Hubbard Deputy Bob Henne reported that the Harland Lillquist family awoke May 28th to find a rock had shattered a window, bounced off the floor and broken off a piece of their upright piano.

Mrs. Lillquist said they heard a noise after midnight Sunday, and thinking it was the cat, went back to sleep. When they awoke, they telephoned Deputy Henne to investigate.

Deputy Henne's investigation revealed there were 10 other rocks in the yard, some against the wall of the house and others within 10 or 15 feet. They were of various sizes but the one that went through a storm window, screen and inside window, breaking the piano, was about three inches in diameter.

Henne called Dr. Duane Sea, a professor at Bemidji State University to check the rocks for radioactivity. There was nothing unusual, and Sea said he believed they were ordinary Minnesota Field rocks. But Henne said, “the rocks which hit the Lillquist home came at an angle and with a force that indicates they came from a great height. No one could have thrown them that hard. The rocks on the ground had bounced, making indentations an inch and a half to two inches deep . . . It's just unexplainable.”

The June 23rd incident in Rio Vista, California, left Lester Gomez with an “as long as it didn't hit me on the head, I could care less” attitude. His attitude was reflected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration when the report was made.

The mysterious missile, originally about 7 inches in diameter has the visible characteristics of ore and refined metal subjected to high heat. It fell into Gomez' garden between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., leaving a hole two feet deep and dirt scattered about in a 10 foot area.

By the time firemen arrived to check it for radioactivity, Gomez had taken a saw, drill and 16-pound sledge hammer to it, trying to determine

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TWO CALIFORNIA REPORTS DIFFER VASTLY IN DESCRIPTIONS OF UFO', one being the shape of a hubcap and the other a bullet-shaped object.

Over Colton, on May 21st, a local man used binoculars to spy on a tire-sized UFO, a helicopter pilot tried to force it down, and a sheriff's deputy chased it away.

“It looked like a kid's toy, but more sophisticated than that,” said sheriff's Flight Sgt. Ron Hittle, “it most resembled a silver couch cushion with a red stripe around the middle. On top there were colored patches that contained numbers, but it didn't appear to be a weather balloon. I got to within three or four feet of it.”

Hittle first noticed the thing about 11 a.m. when “a small silver object flashed past the door of the helicopter.” He turned the 'copter around and chased it, using the ship's rotor blast to force the UFO down near the sand dunes north of Colton Air Park. Then his observer, Deputy Scott Field, jumped out and tried to catch it unsuccessfully.

Meanwhile, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Navarro, Colton residents, were keeping an eye on things.

“I was working in the garage and could hear the sheriff's helicopter buzzing in the area,” Navarro said, “it stayed around for about five minutes so I walked outside . . . my wife said, ‘hey look, there's a bird under it.’”

Navarro got his binoculars and saw that the object “was about the size of a tire or hubcap in comparison to the helicopter.” He also noticed the red stripe but thought the bottom was black. He said he watched for about 10 minutes until the helicopter went in one direction and the UFO in another.

Pilot Hittle explained, “we didn't want to mess around low over those houses, so we just let the thing go.”

The silver, bullet-shaped UFO with a pair of intensely brilliant beams of light was reported hovering over the Sacramento River north of Colusa early May 26th.

Carlos Genera and his brother Ruben, told the Sun-Herald they saw the object while fishing about five miles upstream from town.

“At about 12:15 a.m., it came out of nowhere and stayed at one point for about two or three minutes, and then came over our heads and headed west toward the foothills,” Carlos said, “It emitted a nice steady hum like a big electric generator.”

Ruben described the sound as being “like a big

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**AERIAL PHENOMENA**  
**RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, INC.**

3910 E. Kleindale Road  
Tucson, Arizona 85712  
Phone: 602 — 793-1825 and 602 — 326-0059  
Coral E. Lorenzen, Editor  
Richard Heiden, Assistant Editor  
Lance P. Johnson, Robert Gonzales, Artists

**A.P.R.O. STAFF**

International Director . . . . . L. J. Lorenzen  
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**“HUBCAP”** (Continued from Page One)

vacuum. After it left, we could still hear the hum for about 50 minutes.”

Carlos explained that when the object first appeared, they couldn't make out the shape because of the bright lights on each side shining directly at them. He also added that they could see several lighted portholes underneath at the front end.

Ruben said the object created a considerable stir among animals along the river and nearby farms. “Everything started getting excited all at once. There was a big commotion right away . . . roosters crowing, ducks quacking, and geese honking even though it was just after midnight. Also, the bullfrogs were provoked into croaking loudly, evidently in protest at being disturbed.”

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**“SKY THINGS”**

(Continued from Page One)

what it was. He neglected to weigh the object before he started his examination.

One chunk show the bright color of brass, while another appears to have the color of lead. Others appear to have flakes the color of gold. The police took half a dozen pieces for investigation of their origin.

NASA officials promised to send a scientist to examine the rocks, but failed to do so. “I can't understand why they don't want to know what it is said Police Chief Richard Cook.

The eight inch, rod-shaped piece of metal which fell a few feet in front of Harold Cohen, manager of a used car lot in LaFayette, Indiana on July 6th is “definitely not a piece of Skylab,” NASA responded.

Cohen and three other witnesses refused to examine the metal for a few minutes, “because it was still warm. It scared the life out of me. It landed right in front of me. It definitely fell from the air. We were 50 feet from the street so it couldn't have come from a car.”

The newspaper contacted William Fleetemeyer, director of the Purdue University Airport in LaFayette, “I'm puzzled. I haven't heard of anything falling from airplanes. But anything is possible. A tool could have been left on the wing.”

At about the same time of the Cohen incident, an object described as a ball of rags about the size of a volleyball and covered with fluid “kerplopped out of the air” near J.M. Bloom's furniture company.

“It just had to fall from the sky,” he said, “we looked on our roof and there was no one there. We called next door and they said nobody had been on their roof.”

Another witness said when it hit the ground “it sounded like someone making a bellywhopper in a pool.”

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**G.E.P.A.N. REPORT**

A summary of *Groupe d'Etudes Des Phenomenes Aerospaciaux Non-Identifiees* (G.E.P.A.N.) “Presentation to the Scientific Counsel of GEPAN of Studies Undertaken During the First Semester of 1978”, (Dated June 1978, 5 volumes, circa 500 pages):

This report of the French governmental UFO study group GEPAN documents the studies carried out by the group during the first part of 1978. Three special groups (rapid intervention, physical traces, radar alert) were created as part of the study group's functions, but they were little used during 1978. Instead, the bulk of work was devoted to 11 cases of high credibility and high strangeness. Eleven such cases were studied in

great detail; only one proved to have a conventional explanation. In the other ten, it appeared that the distance between the witnesses and the objects was less than 250 meters. Of the five volumes of the report, three were entirely devoted to analysis of these eleven (11) cases, all except one of which was pre-1978. The earliest was 1966. Two of the cases were humanoid sightings.

The analysis and investigation was carried out by a four-person team in each case; the team included a psychologist, who separately carried out a psychological examination relevant to the evaluation of the testimony of the witnesses. The care with which distances, angles, and psychological factors were evaluated makes the bulk of the Condon Report seem very poor by comparison. In many cases, the investigations were textbook models of how such investigations should be carried out.

In ten of the eleven cases, the conclusion was that the witnesses had witnessed a material phenomenon that could not be explained as a natural phenomenon or a human device. One of the conclusions of the total report is that behind the overall phenomenon there is a "flying machine . . . whose modes of sustenance and propulsion are beyond knowledge".\*

GEPAN was created in 1977, under the direction of Dr. Claude Poher. Poher has now resigned, feeling that he has done everything he could do with the methods at hand. Nonetheless, the organization has not been disbanded but continues its work. During 1977, it was largely concerned with checking Poher's statistics, which it approved.\*\* During 1978, it has expanded its operation into the investigation of actual cases. It is alerted to actual cases by teletype by the Gendarmerie, the French national police force. The above report has reportedly been approved by GEPAN's supervisory scientific counsel.

Note: There is extensive coverage in the report of the Teheran case, but nothing beyond what is known to American researchers; it was not one of the eleven cases studied, all of which were in France.

\*Alain Esterle, head of the project, says that this sentence does not accurately reflect the sense of the report. What was said was that the case reports describe such a machine. Whether or not such a machine is real was left open.

\*\*Although it did study two nocturnal light cases, both of which ended up labelled "unidentified".

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## A CRITIQUE

June 25, 1979

Dear Jim-Coral Lorenzen:

As a member of an organization that has fought long and diligently for credibility and a scientific base I was dismayed by the contents of Jacques

Vallee's new book "Messengers of Deception". I have enclosed a response in the form of an "open letter."

I would welcome any responses to the reasonings there in by APRO members. Feel free to quote any part or whole. I believe it imperative that a strong rebuttal to Vallee's book be marshalled soon - the book erodes what we are trying to do.

Yours,  
Vincent White

### "MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION"-A REVIEW

I have been a student of UFOs for eleven years. In those years I've seen the subject slowly gain respectability and amass a solid core of widely known and credible researchers. An immense amount of solid data has been accumulated and catalogued. The kind of data that a physicist or an engineer can sink intellectual teeth into. The kind of data that can inspire a psychologist or parapsychologist to seek a wider vision of human definition and functioning. The study of UFOs has come a long way from the time when Giant Rock Conventions were nearly the sole image many had of people who trafficked in "flying saucers." Now a book has come along that I believe genuinely threatens to tarnish and eventually erode that hard won respectability and progress. I believe this book is "Messengers of Deception" by Jacques Vallee. A book, that in this day of media hype may turn out to be very influential. If so, it would be a great setback for ufology. Messr. Vallee just may be one of the hottest new talk show guests around. If this occurs, then what has been restricted to a handful of esoteric UFO researchers may become common intellectual currency i.e. planetary paranoia. Strong words? Perhaps, but no stronger than the words of the book itself. The book's greatest appeal will be for those ignorant of the UFO data. Given the general ignorance of the data by the public and the even worse ignorance on the part of academia the book will either be seen as a new and compelling fabric of truth or more likely as a nearly pathological tissue of nonsense. Most in academia will regard the book as paranoia piled upon pipedreams. The public will begin to incorporate UFOs into Frankenstein, Dracula and monsters from the Id science fiction horror films of the 50's. The book in essence is a disaster for the serious treatment of UFOs by either the public or academia. The only people who may be quite happy about the effects of this book are hidden in the national intelligence community.

The arguments of the book are subtle. The subtlety I believe however is in the sense of vague, obscure and almost formless assumptions being taken behind the scenes of a seemingly rationalistic structure. In what some have said is a traditional Gallic weakness, logic is taken to its ultimate conclusions of ultimate absurdity and reason is left in the lurch. As in paranoid rationality the structure is finely worked out but rests upon

seriously flawed assumptions that however cannot be disproven even though those assumptions be even insane in nature.

What are UFOs according to the book? Vallee says, "machines of mass manipulation." They, UFOs are basically some sort of psychic TV sets that go around interacting with humans for the sole purpose of conditioning behavior and injecting new beliefs that will destroy our present civilization. The Kremlin would love to have them. They are a type of psychic chameleon that can assume many guises, all of which are false and obscure their true nature. Vallee is never quite clear as to what their "real" nature is. Lately they assume the appearance of spacecraft down to the minutest details. It's all part of the monstrous deception that they seem to leave landing gear imprints and even malfunction occasionally in quite a mechanical way.

What is behind this deceptive psychic camouflage? It is a mysterious worldwide agency or group out to fool the entire human race into believing it is being visited by spacecraft from other worlds. This gigantic ruse is a plot to introduce other hidden changes into our world that will eventually bring down the present world power structure. Just who or what this mysterious group really is, is not clear at all. Of course this is true because they have hidden themselves with such diabolical cleverness and have such powers of deception and concealment. All this somehow seems clinically familiar or at least it might seem so to psychiatrists. What this psychic cryptocracy intends to do is never explicit either. That they intend to do "bad" things and take us over eventually in some way is indicated though. At times the suggestion seems to be that this group is of relatively recent vintage. At other places the suggestion is that the plot is ancient. The quite fantastic continuity of aspects of the UFO data invites some pretty anthropocentric conclusions. What are we to make of date that seems to indicate, according to such things as cave paintings of UFOs near Lascaux, France? Paintings that seem to indicate some UFOs haven't changed in thousands of years. What are we to make of what seem to be spacesuited figures clearly drawn on rocks in the African desert many many thousands of years ago? What are we to make of clearly humanoid reports and technological details from UFO reports hundreds of years ago? Are we to really assume that this deception began thousands of years ago and then knew the correct technological items to put into the camouflage?

The physical continuity of the sightings themselves is hard to interpret in terms of a grand deception. The details taken in their entirety are staggering in their immensity and complexity. If one takes the time to actually dig through the details of the worldwide humanoid cases it is difficult to imagine the consistency of the deception. It would seem easier to imagine interstellar

travel on a vast scale. The deception becomes monstrous in its complexity as Ptolemaic cycles and metacycles became monstrously complex to describe the motions of the heavenly bodies. Vallee's explanation is a type of Ptolemaic needless complexity inviting Occam's ever sharp razor. It is hard to understand the attention to detail that results in a native from some infinitesimal pacific island who knows nothing of spacecraft or UFOs seeing a flying saucer land and several humanoids in strange suites get out and perform various sample gathering tasks. Ten years later an aircraft pilot sees the same type saucer and humanoids with all the same details. The difference being that the native thinks the whole event was the machination of the local devil. Why? Why simulate humanoids on an island named Bora Bora and even go to the trouble of having the humanoids steal the native's rabbits and have them hear the squeals of the little critters as they are taken aboard the "fake" UFO. How is it the holographic hallucination maintains coherence when multiple witnesses report seeing several humanoids scurrying around digging holes in the ground and taking the dirt aboard the craft? Where did the dirt go?

The book is filled with the loaded questions representative of paranoia. "Why is it the picture we can form of their world is closer to medieval concepts of Magonia, the magical land above the clouds, than to descriptions of planetary environments?" Who asserts this? Certainly the cases of: Derenberger, Apdaca, Walton, Higdon and Hill to name only a few, come closer to describing visitors to earth employing advanced technology to ensure their successful entry and departure from the earthling sphere. Another loaded assumption is that conditioning is contradictory with the interstellar angle. Why does this have to be so?

It doesn't demand any extraordinary logic to imagine an interstellar agency concerned with preventing cultural shock to gradually condition us to their presence by a long term program of gradually increasing UFO sightings. But because of the often drastic personal psychological effects of a UFO sighting Vallee concludes that then UFOs must only be a control system. The possibility that the effects of UFOs are merely secondary isn't considered. This is as absurd as saying that the drastic effects that world war two technology had in creating the cargo cults in the South Pacific was the primary purpose behind the American presence there. We were there as part of a control system to change mass belief systems according to Vallee's logic. Hardly our primary purpose there. Vallee states again and again that it is evident that UFOs are aiming to change political and social structures and to divert attention from human problems. Again this is mind reading. The big question is why do UFOs appear so infrequently in our realm? Why not appear in vastly greater numbers and divert vastly greater attention from human problems? Judging from the newspaper headlines of

late, UFOs have been singularly unsuccessful in diverting much attention from pressing problems of SALT or gas lines. Perhaps that is because "they" precisely don't want to divert us from the human problem-solving process.

In arguing against the spacecraft hypothesis all the oldest and hoariest cliches of Sagan and company are trotted out. That space visitors would rarely visit us and so on. We are moments away from a flimsy biplane traveling a few feet and an instant away from a flimsy firespouting lunar expedition and on that basis assumptions are made about civilizations that may be virtually stellar in their duration. The only honest scientific approach is empirical. To argue that something is not, after the fact is self confusing amphigory. They are here as often as they are here. We can't reject the numbers on the basis that they are unreasonable according to our present state of massive ignorance. For all we know the galactic tourist bureau considers earth a real hot spot and runs twenty tourist trips a day through here. Too many landings? On what basis? According to the book either UFOs select witnesses or appearances are staged. No other choices given.

UFOs that may fade in full view of witnesses (perhaps in his terms victims) are obviously psychic confabulations and that's that. Why isn't it considered that UFOs may be physical craft that can manipulate light around themselves rendering themselves largely invisible or be using a controlled teleportation process-spacetime field changes? That shouldn't be too hard to understand after seeing such movies as "Star Wars". If the UFO fading is just an image of holographic projection, then why is it that this same UFO that just "took off" the ground by retracting what seemed to be landing gear and left seeming physical imprints and caused a seeming roar of wind that shook the trees, do all these other things? This of course is just the perfection of the deception and nothing would convince Vallee that he had seen a "real" spacecraft. Just better and better deception. One wonders how a real spacecraft would be detected in this framework of reasoning.

Vallee sets up endless straw men and proceeds to scare us away from thinking why they are there. He says humanoids wouldn't be able to breathe our air. Well some of them definitely don't seem to be able to as a matter of fact. As a matter of fact they seem to be wearing spacesuits or various types of breathing devices. That's just for appearance sake of course! We can't seem to win both ways on this! Technically out of 1,000 nearer star systems some of them will certainly be close enough to our G type sun and have planetary atmospheres such that very advanced civilizations will be able to bridge the gap by either bioengineering or technologically. Also UFOs could be literally from all over the galaxy, either directly or through widespread colonization and migration.

He complains that the star map that Betty Hill saw wasn't to the proper scale. Many of our maps

are not to scale for very many cartographic reasons. Who is to say that the only parameter of size for stars on a chart is stellar absolute brightness? There are many possible parameters including population or even trading volume. Distance between Zeta one and two isn't to scale. That fact is hardly unreasonable if it is their home star system. If this mysterious occult group on earth was going to fake a star chart then why did they make all these mistakes? Perhaps because the star chart was not designed for terrestrial senses and sensibilities but was what it seemed-an alien star chart. The Stellarium that Travis Walton saw was certainly a fake from Vallee's point of view also regardless of its technical perfection only in this case he might say its very perfection argued against its being a "real" star chart. We can't seem to win.

One of Vallee's main arguments against the extraterrestrial hypothesis is that the observed behavior of humanoids isn't what he thinks interstellar visitors would be doing. Again gross assumptive liberties are taken. Perhaps he has forgotten what several of our own astronauts did on the moon. They came a quarter million miles after oceans of money had been spent to get them there and then they played golf! They frolicked like children on the surface while collecting samples! Who is to say star travelers must be sober men? A lunar Vallee would reject the Apollo astronauts' behavior as not appropriate. An analysis of the humanoid cases indicates of course a multitude of possible reasons for coming here. We shouldn't second guess Galactic citizens until we know more. We must begin examining the data on an empirical basis. The data and not the other way around. We must begin to employ agencies to estimate foreign military and technological activity.

The humanoid data is very diverse suggesting multiple star systems as a visitation source. If it is possible to star-travel at all then it is obvious the entire galaxy could be colonized in an eyeblink as stellar events go. We seem to be seeing the edge of a vast and extremely complex galactic society. Why would this mysterious occult group fake this? That question is never satisfactorily answered. Why bother? This occult group is in Vallee's terms in control of things, we cannot interfere with it, and it is immune from human current understanding. Why can't this group let themselves be seen as interdimensional, time travelers or even flying carpets? Why space? It seems a pointless hoax. Perhaps it is pointless until we begin to examine this mysterious Mr. Major who seems to have had a major influence on the direction of Vallee's thinking. An investigation into who this "Major" is might yield many answers to these questions.

If the spacecraft hardware that Mr. Leonard Stringfield has so strongly provided evidence for recently exists in a subterranean vault at Wright Patterson Airfield then those spacecraft are like a ticking timebomb in the face of the purveyors of planetary paranoia.

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# DO YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR?

By Leo J. Corby

During the rash of UFO sightings between 1948 and into the 1950's there were literally thousands of questions inundating the Pentagon.

In fact, there were so many UFO reports from reliable sources that the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI) finally commanded our U.S. Air Force to perform their own investigations into this phenomenon. This undertaking by the USAF was given the Code Name - PROJECT BLUE BOOK.

Among my other duties during my tenure in the US Intelligence Department, I investigated and reported UFO sightings for PROJECT BLUE BOOK from 1958 until its termination, some 10 years later. From all the interviews I performed, there are 85 cases worth documenting.

First-Every case was reported by more than one individual.

Second-These cases were all reported by sources assumed to be very reliable.

Third-All cases have one or more items in common - namely:

- a. The occupant of the UFO was described in each case as: (percent of cases)
 

(1) Small monster	5%
(2) Large monster	2%
(3) Small humanoid (under 3½ ft)	51%
(4) Large Humanoid (over 3½ft)	35%
(5) Robot-like	7%
  
- b. The type of clothing was mentioned as follows: (percent of cases)
 

(1) Diving suits	45%
(2) Diving helmets	12%
(3) Normal clothes	14%
(4) Unusual clothes (aluminum, glowing, etc)	29%
  
- c. The hands and eyes were described as follows: (percent of cases)
 

(1) Large eyes	49%
(2) Narrow eyes	31%
(3) Glowing eyes	20%
(4) Claws	3%
  
- d. The type of vehicle was described as follows: (percent of cases)
 

(1) Bright object	5%
(2) Small cigar shape	6%
(3) Large cigar shape	3%
(4) Small disc	38%
(5) Large disc	18%
(6) Small egg (or globe)	24%
(7) Large egg (or globe)	10%

From the descriptions of the UFO and its inhabitant(s) in the above cases, we might assume that the average UFOnaught tends to be somewhat smaller in size than a normal earth human. He is humanoid in form with large, and sometimes glowing eyes. He wears a diving suit and operates a disc-shaped vehicle.

But! Is this a truthful picture of the UFOnaught, and is this what we can expect? In order to discuss this subject further we must consider the following factors:

1. That here is other intelligent life in the universe and -
2. The rest of the Universe follows the same natural laws as are present on Earth.

If we accept those two factors then we can assume that:

a. Our visitor will be some type of air breather, although not necessarily an oxygen breather. Although I would grant that it is possible for intelligent life to develop underwater, it would be impossible to smelt metal in order to build space-ships.

b. He/she will conform to human standards of weight and height. If our visitor were over eight feet tall the square-cube law would take effect. That is, as height is doubled the mass is cubed which increases the factor by eight. This would make a very large, clumsy individual. Further, if the being is under sixty pounds, he would be unable to house the two-pound-plus brain needed for the intellect a space traveler must have.

Since the brain will be the most important organ to these intelligent beings, we can expect them to have some type of skull - probably of bone. Without this protection the organism would never have survived long enough to have become intelligent.

c. We can expect our visitor to have two eyes which would give a 3-D effect. A third eye would add nothing to the overall effect.

d. The same would be true for ears as for eyes.

e. The eyes and ears would be located as close as possible to the brain in order to overcome the relatively slow speed of nerve impulses and reaction times.

f. No doubt our visitor will be a biped and walk on two legs. This method of walking in an upright position would be necessary to allow the forelimbs to develop into organs similar to our own.

g. Hands will probably have opposing thumbs to allow for the ability of grasping objects and the operation of tools and controls.

Taking all of the foregoing into consideration, we can now assume:

(1) Our visitor will be humanoid in form within the standards of the normal Earthman, although he may not necessarily be of a mammalian type.

(2) We can also take a good guess at the type of planet our visitor derives from. Two air systems, theoretically, can support life:

- 1) Carbon - oxygen - hydrogen
- 2) Chlorine - fluorine - methane

The second system is highly explosive and it is less likely life could evolve under it. Therefore, we are left with the C-H-O system - the basic system of life on Earth.

(3) Our visitor will rely on food, oxygen, and water, for survival, although maybe not in the same concentrations or amounts as Earthlings.

(4) Our visitor's planet will have land and sea. Land is necessary for the UFO-naut to live on, and sea as a source of water to drink. Green plant life of some type is also required to produce oxygen.

Taking everything into consideration, the startling conclusion is that actually, our visitor from space may look just like your next-door neighbor.

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## UFOs EXIST, SCIENTISTS SAY

A newly published poll of engineers and scientists shows that of those expressing an opinion, 69% say UFOs exist and 59% say the origin of UFOs is "Outer Space." The results were obtained by Industrial Research and Development Magazine of Barrington, Illinois, a controlled circulation publication received by about 100,000 professionals involved in research and development. IR/D conducts a poll on a different subject each month and obtains responses on reader reply cards. The February 1979, Poll on UFOs was similar to one conducted in early 1971. It included some new questions about the age and education of the respondents as well as how many books had been read about UFOs. The surprisingly pro-UFO results were published in the July 1979, issue.

The percentage of respondents who claimed to have definitely observed a UFO remained at 8% with another 10% indicating that perhaps they had seen one. The poll clearly revealed a strong age effect when it comes to acceptance of UFO existence. Only 48% of those over age 55 said they are real with 82% of those under 26 agreeing. The same positive correlation between youth and acceptance had been found in three earlier Gallup Polls of the general public as well as in a 1975 poll of the membership of the American Astronomical Society. Each of the Gallup Polls had also shown that the greater the education the more likely to accept UFO reality. The close correlation between the 1978 Gallup Poll and the 1979 IR/D poll can be seen from the fact that in the Gallup 68% of those expressing an opinion said UFOs are real and 9% said they had seen one.

I am not surprised by the wide acceptance of UFOs by the scientific community. At my lectures

at colleges and for professional groups I have found a very wide acceptance of UFO reality.

I have spoken to more than 90 former military personnel who have quietly told me of excellent UFO sightings that had occurred while they were in the service but which were typically not reported to the old Project Blue Book. Blue Book, a very small office at Wright Paterson Air Force Base, Ohio, was the only publicly acknowledged Air Force Group concerned with UFOs. My informants said that the reports usually went to the Aerospace Defense Command or the supersecret National Security Agency and that the security lid was clamped down immediately.

A newly discovered memo written by an Air Force General in 1969, two months before the closure of Project Blue Book, casually stated "Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects which could affect National Security are not part of the Blue Book System . . . and would continue to be handled through the standard Air Force procedures designed for this purpose". The Aerospace Defense Command has very little contact with the media. Blue Book had none of ADC's airspace monitoring capabilities with radar and airborne instrumentation. Apparently Project Blue Book was an unwitting cover operation for a much more sophisticated effort elsewhere.

Stanton T. Friedman

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## PRESS REPORTS

*By Iris Harrelson Maack*

THE SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES Has been heavily inundated with sightings since the first of the year.

In South Carolina, Oconee County Deputy Sheriff Jimmy Roach and businessman Ben Chastain shared the same sighting, with a dozen other individuals on March 6. However, it appears that Chastain had the closest view of the 'mystery'.

Chastain said he was working in his yard about 7:30 p.m., when he looked toward the North and saw a bright light coming over the trees near a field by his home. At first he thought an airplane was coming, but then realized the light was too bright to be a plane. Chastain is a certified pilot.

The round-shaped object, which Chastain estimates at about 12 feet in diameter, was moving very slowly and making no discernible sound. The object skimmed the tops of the trees and disappeared out of sight. Although Chastain was worried, he said he could not return to the house because his dogs "started raising a fit." Then he looked up and saw the object return, coming in from a more easterly direction. At this point, the object was less than fifty yards away and Chastain said the light was so bright it lit up the entire area.

"Usually it is pitch black out there, but the light was so bright I could see the limbs on the bottom of the trees. It scared the tar out of me, I don't mind telling you."

Chastain said the object's light on the flat, red-colored bottom flashed on and off as though looking for something. The object also moved "upwards and downwards" with ease to transverse the uneven terrain near the Chastain home.

After the object had circled the second time, Chastain said it moved away and disappeared, to land at a nearby electrical substation. He immediately ran to his neighbor's home and they drove to the area but nothing was there.

Deputy Sheriff Jimmy Roach, his wife and a neighbor reported sighting the object, but from a greater distance. Roach said the object had a very bright light and was moving too slowly to be an airplane.

Another observer, Bill Osborne, believed the object was much larger than described by Chastain, "about eighty feet long and twenty-five feet wide, and when it got within a hundred yards of the house we began to hear a sound. It was unlike anything I've ever heard."

Two local doctors reported seeing a similar object but refused to make public their sighting because "people might think we're crazy."

IN MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA, at the North Carolina School for the Deaf, students and teachers had occasion to experience two sightings, "strange lights were seen in the vicinity of the school, and once the lights even 'buzzed' one of the dormitories."

The excitement began at about 7:30 p.m., when a dorm teacher and two students were emptying trash. They noticed some unusual lights coming north over the South Mountains and approaching the school, dipping through the large valley of state property between Broughton Hospital and NCSD.

The lights came closer. Witnesses, who wish to remain anonymous, recalled that two 'blue-white' light sources were located on the front of the UFO, lights of blinding intensity. The dorm teacher ran inside to get another witness, and the UFO passed so close to the back of the dorm that the teacher felt it "might slam into the building." At the last second, the lights rose sharply and climbed over the three-story building. As it passed, witnesses noted that three more lights were located on the rear of the object.

And it made a noise. "I was on the third floor, and I heard a real strange noise," one NCSD dorm director said. "At first, I didn't pay much attention, but then I heard all this screaming and hollering going on." The teacher described the noise as a "woo, woo, woo. It was high pitched and not real steady, like it was vibrating." He added that some of the deaf children had felt vibrations caused by the noise.

After climbing over the building, the lights disappeared "over the treetops." Ten to fifteen kids and two adults witnessed the first sighting. Later, after most of the school had bedded down, a

group of five adults spotted more lights in the Valley near Broughton Hospital and NCSD at about 9:30 p.m. Lights could be seen growing bright then dim. The lights would move horizontally, then vertically, and with good speed. Then, as suddenly as they had appeared, the lights reportedly sped south over the horizon and disappeared behind South Mountains.

IN AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, police officer Guthrie Knorr says he now believes in the "possibility of other life forms" after he and a fellow officer spotted five brightly colored disc-shaped objects streaking through the skies around 2:00 a.m., March 27.

"They weren't shooting stars. They were in an old V-formation with two on one side and three on the other. One of them was bigger than the others."

Knorr and Officer John Knapp spotted the "Rapidly moving yellow-orange objects" east of the city moving along the horizon "real fast" in a northwest direction. They made no sound.

The officers said they were amazed at the speed of the objects.

Shortly after the sighting, a citizen told police he spotted five streaking objects near the city.

Another police officer in a different section of Florida shares Officer Knorr's observation, "I believe in UFOs. I am now convinced we are observed by outside beings," said Sheriff's Department Deputy Mike Young, of Key West.

On April 17, Young and Auxiliary Deputy Bill Thomas were patrolling on U.S. 1 near the Boca Chica Bridge. Thomas spotted the object first and concluded that it was not flying but hovering. Young disagreed, "It's just a light craft," explaining that because the car was traveling 50 to 55 mph the aircraft just looked as if it were standing still - an optical illusion. "I thought it was a plane from the Naval Air Station."

When the "plane" shifted to a spot directly above the car at approximately 600 feet, Young said he could see strobe lights in a perfect triangular shape.

The craft continued to keep pace with the car, compelling Thomas to explain, "Mike, the damn thing is still hovering."

Young stopped the car and rolled down the window and said the lack of sound was a shock, "It was dead quiet. No nothing."

As the object started to pass them, Young said he turned his vehicle around and in the 15 seconds it took to do so, the UFO was 30 miles away and appeared as nothing but a distant light in the sky.

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