

# The APRO NEWSLETTER

V. 2 n. 1 April 1968

Distributed to Staff Members, Advisors, and Consultants of APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, 3910 East Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona, 85716.)

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Lack of time and energy has resulted in fewer issues of the Newsletter than originally intended. "The best laid plans..." Thus, the editors have not brought to the attention of APRO representatives and consultants the very information which we asked you to submit.

So, in an effort to "start the ball" rolling again, copies of reports of an investigation are offered for your consideration. Perhaps you can establish a similar investigation in your area. Or, perhaps you can offer suggestions for improving the procedures which were used in this investigation.

The purpose of the investigation was to attempt the observation of UFO phenomena in the San Luis Valley. (According to Mrs. Pearl Nicholas, a reporter for the Alamosa Valley Courier, there have been UFO sightings on eight nights during February 1 and March 21, 1968.) The investigation was not successful from the viewpoint of UFO observation, but the experience provided the investigation team with valuable experience.

Members of the group, mainly from Denver and Boulder, Colorado, included these persons:

Larry Childs, aviation instrument specialist and interested in psychic aspects of UFO reports.

Andy Gassman, science teacher and astronomer.

Cliff Flaharty, specialist in radio communication.

Les Huntley, geologist.

Gordon Snow, photographer.

Leo Sprinkle, counseling psychologist.

Charlie Trenholm, specialist in IBM equipment.

Ken Steinmetz, astronomer and coordinator.

The group left Denver on Saturday morning, April 6th and arrived in Alamosa that afternoon; equipment was set up in three locations for night observations, including the cabin of Mr. & Mrs. Berle Lewis, owners of "Snippy," the deceased gelding; observations were ended on Sunday morning, and the group returned to Denver on Sunday afternoon, April 7th.

Comments, questions, and suggestions are welcome.

R.L.S.



NATIONAL



AMATEUR



ASTRONOMERS

PLEASE REPLY TO:

DENVER - COLORADO

inc.

April 9, 1968

Fred Coellen  
 Andy Gassmann  
 Larry Childs  
 Cliff Flaherty  
 Gordon Snow  
 Berle & Nellie Lewis  
 Herb Roth

Les Huntley  
 Charlie & Lee Trenholm  
 R. Lee Sprinkle  
 Ken & Phyllis Steinmetz  
 Pearl Mallon Nicholas  
 Bill Van Nattan

SUBJECT: Preliminary summary of April 6-7, 1968 Alamosa investigation trip.

Within the limits of our resources and manpower, this trip was as productive as could be hoped for considering the weather conditions and the reluctance of the "unknowns" to stand up and be counted.

My personal evaluation of the expedition would be as follows:  
 More personnel would be very desirable as we wound up being spread very thin. With only eight on the team we were of necessity limited to three men to a car and two at the cabin. One car cannot comfortably accommodate all needed personnel and equipment. I think two cars at a location with one car containing the radio and recording equipment with two men, one on the radio and one as observer and recorder. The other car holding the team members who would be involved with photography, electronic equipment, telescopes, and so on. The two cars would be parked closely together for communication.

We did not have sufficient time to survey the area in daylight and precisely locate the cars with respect to radio reception, visual coverage, and so on. This is a must if another trip is made.

There is no way to evaluate our equipment as we had no opportunity to use much except the radios. This feature worked well, considering the moving around of the cars and the intermittent blizzards we were subjected to. There should be no problem in the future in this regard based on the experience gained on this attempt. And, more sophisticated magnetic and radiation devices will undoubtedly be available shortly. I am sure all of us who participated have many ideas on how we can better all aspects on any future safari.

It is too early for any of us to know for sure, but I feel reasonably certain that Leo Sprinkle and Larry Childs gained much valuable information in the realm of the psychic experiences of our friends in Alamosa. And, I know that the Alamosa people were aware for probably the first time that a sincere interest was shown in their experiences. It could not be otherwise than a mutually beneficial experience.

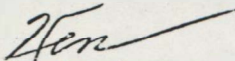
The graciousness of Nellie and Berle Lewis in making available the facilities of their cabin and in providing food, utensils, power and all possible assistance, was genuinely appreciated by all. Mrs. Pearl Mallon Nicholas provided a meeting place and made all arrangements for having interested parties on hand. Her great help in this busy, tightly scheduled endeavor is very much appreciated. All the folks in Alamosa did everything possible to make our investigation as comfortable and productive as possible and we are most fortunate in having their help and cooperation.

All who participated have their own evaluation of this trip. This one is only mine, and it is a quick one as I am still trying to get caught up on the loss of sleep. As soon as we can, perhaps we can get together and round-table our experience so as to strengthen our next attempt in all possible ways.

My thanks to all who worked so hard and contributed so much. I feel it was a good try and feel we are on the right track.

One note of interest. On the west side of LaVeta pass, on the return to Denver, about 7-8 miles from the summit, headed west, the compass on the dash spun like a propeller for a distance of several miles. The CB radio was in operation at the time, but as the compass activity continued for several minutes after radio use, perhaps this is noteworthy of checking. Apparently, the radio had nothing to do with it.

Sincerely,

  
Ken Steinmetz

S/sdm



**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

DIVISION OF COUNSELING AND TESTING

BOX 1708, UNIVERSITY STATION

**LARAMIE, WYOMING 82070**

April 19, 1968

TO: Larry Childs  
Andy Gassman  
Cliff Flaharty  
Les Huntley

Herb Roth  
Gordon Snow  
Ken and Phyllis Steinmetz  
Charlie and Lee Trenholm

FROM: Leo Sprinkle

RE: April 6-7, 1968, Alamosa trip.

Summary of Conference

On Saturday afternoon, April 6, 1968, a group of persons interested in the psychic aspects of UFO reports met in an Alamosa church room. The conference lasted from 4:00 p.m. to approximately 6:00 p.m., with nine persons participating. Larry Childs, Ken Steinmetz, and Leo Sprinkle represented the investigating group. The group of Alamosa citizens included Mrs. Pearl Mallon Nicholas, reporter for the Alamosa Valley Courier, and other persons who cited various experiences of UFO observation. (Specific names can be obtained from Mrs. Nicholas or from Ken Steinmetz.)

After initial introductions and agreements about the confidential use of the recording by Larry Childs, one gentleman described his interesting story. Briefly, he cited an incident which occurred while he was traveling between Monte Vista and Alamosa; he saw an object by the side of the road which showed warning lights, like an airplane or helicopter; but when his car approached the object, he saw it as a "flying saucer." Then, he received the impression of a "thought," as if someone were saying, "Go ahead, It's alright. We won't bother you." Then, for twenty minutes, he conducted a "mental conversation" with someone, apparently an occupant of the "flying saucer." The conversation dealt with several topics, and views, including these: "They" are friendly; "they" wish to trade with earth people; "they" avoid much contact with us because of our tendency toward violence; "they" look different, and knowing of our racial troubles, "they" prefer to avoid contact until these difficulties could be worked out; "they" discussed some problems of photography (a hobby of the UFO observer); "they" indicated willingness to assist man in developing space travel.

On another occasion, the gentleman asserted, he had conducted a "mental conversation" with UFO occupants. During this occasion the topics included: photography and the problems of radiation in space travel; the death of Snippy, of which "they" knew nothing; the question of whether the investigating group might see something on April 6th which resulted in the answer: "Not sure."

The gentleman who submitted the information is articulate, intelligent, educated, and well-respected as a professional person. He recognizes the psychological and sociological implications of his report, as well as the impact which these events have caused in his own personal life.

Next, a woman expressed her optimism that the investigating group "may see something tonight." She described several UFO sightings in the area and the feeling that she "knew" (from radio "beeps" which led to automatic handwriting) when UFO phenomena might appear.

Another woman described her reaction to her husband's stories of "mental communication." Her disbelief changed to acceptance as she learned more about his reactions to the experiences.

The latter part of the conference dealt with the experiences of another woman who described a lengthy and strange interview with a man who expressed interest in UFO phenomena. Also, she indicated that her family have observed many unusual aerial phenomena near their home.

At the end of the conference, arrangements were made to meet at the cabin of Mr. & Mrs. Berle Lewis for an evening meal and further discussions. Along with the activities of manning a telescope and radio, Larry Childs and Leo Sprinkle had the opportunity to talk further with these good people about their interesting experiences. The evening activities included a demonstration of hypnotic processes with Mrs. Nellie Lewis and Leo Sprinkle. Mrs. Lewis showed her abilities--and personal courage--by regressing to an earlier memory which she had forgotten but which seemed significant to her self attitudes.

The discussions of the evening were most interesting and the information provided by these persons is similar to information provided by other UFO observers: many unusual events seem to occur in connection with UFO sightings and in connection with messages from UFO occupants.

Nellie Lewis described some of the events which have been experienced by several persons in the San Luis Valley: "beeping" noises in radio reception, which have been used by persons to obtain messages through automatic handwriting; these messages supposedly deal with future events as well as present experiences, with various social and political topics as well as UFO phenomena.

#### Evaluation of Conferences

It was a pleasure for me to meet and talk with these people. They are friendly, unassuming, cooperative, and honest in their dealings with others. (I "know" these people, since they are the kind of people with whom I grew up as a boy in Southeastern Colorado.) I like them and I respect them.

In my opinion, the information we received is reliable information. Several persons submitted identical details in their descriptions of UFO sightings and the related activities.

The main question, of course, is this: is the information valid? Perhaps there is no good way to validate the information--until the UFO occupants grant us an opportunity to arrange a pow-wow!

Recommendations

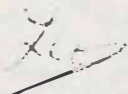
I believe that any future safari might include these steps for assessing the psychological and psychic aspects of UFO reports:

1. Further recordings of experiences by interested persons.
2. Psychological assessment of subconscious information by pendulum techniques and hypnotic techniques with interested persons.
3. Attempted demonstration of automatic handwriting or other related phenomena.
4. Last, but not least, contact (directly or indirectly) with congenial and cooperative UFO occupants!

I recognize the many difficulties in realizing these possible steps, and I also recognize the great likelihood that any observations obtained by these steps would not necessarily be reflected in the general acceptance of such observations by other people. However, I believe that history is the best judge of facts.

Now that I have recovered some of my "lost" sleep and enthusiasm, I am ready to hit the trail again. I look forward to working again with you and our Alamosa friends.

Respectfully submitted,



R. Leo Sprinkle