

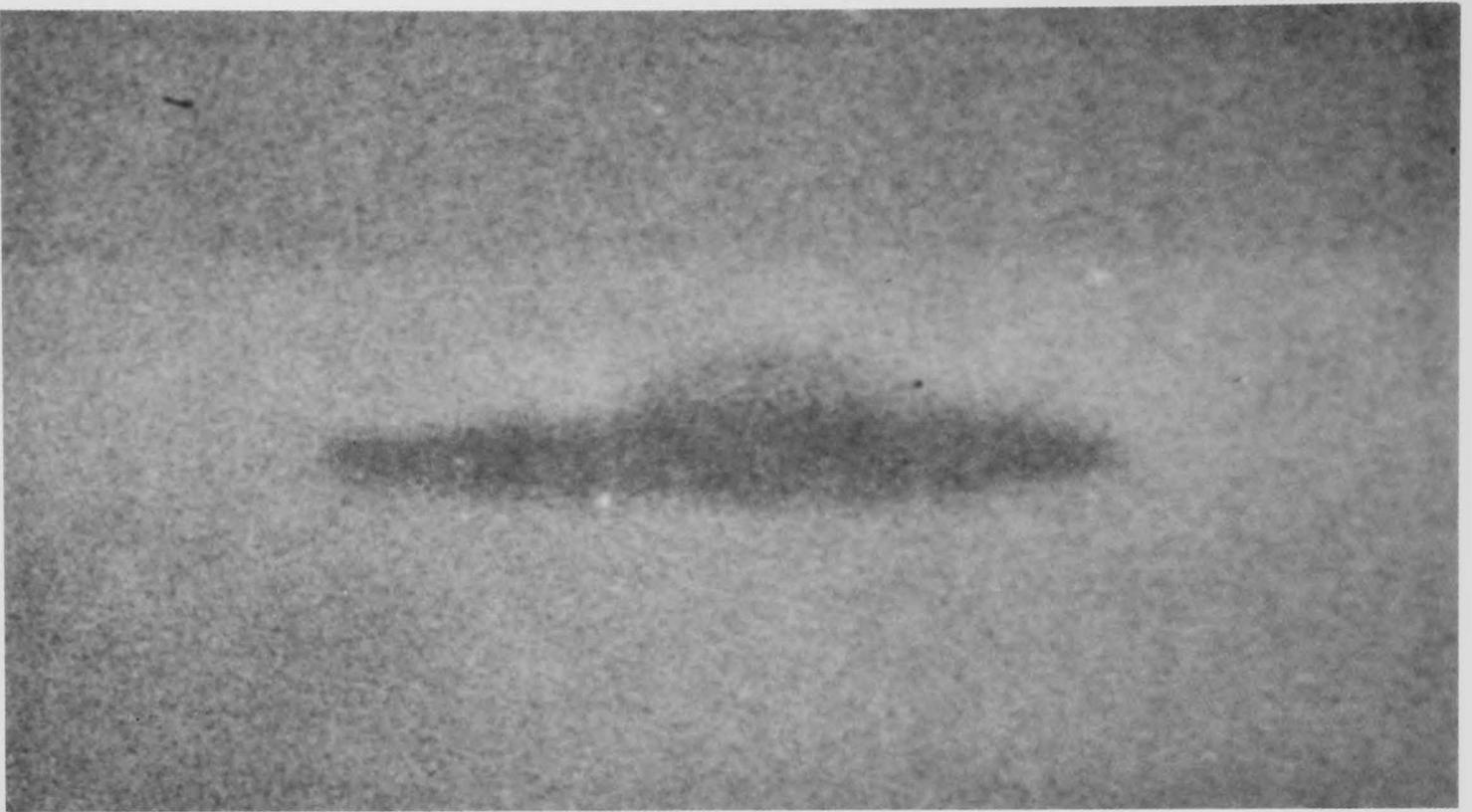
NORTHERN

OHIO

UFO

CASEBOOK

BY RICK R. HILBERG



The "KYW Photograph" (page 6)

Since the advent of the modern day UFO era in 1947, the northern Ohio area has consistently produced high quality UFO reports. In researching for this brief overview of the "local" UFO scene, I found many thoughtful letters to the editors of several large regional newspapers immediately following the Kenneth Arnold report of June 24, 1947. While others throughout the country were taking a generally negative and derisive attitude, Northern Ohioans were asking perceptive questions and wondering if maybe there might be something to these "flying saucers."

As area newspapers and radio stations continued to report on these elusive things in the sky, local discussion groups began forming to enable interested "saucer hunters" to get together and exchange sighting reports and engage in speculation as to what the "saucers" might be. By the mid-1950s, there were active groups in Cleveland, Akron and even an administration sanctioned UFO investigation project at Ohio Northern University in Ada. Many of these groups actively investigated and evaluated UFO reports from local residents, and to their credit kept organized files on these incidents that are still in existence. Several even established telephone "hot lines" where UFO witnesses were urged to report their sightings on a 24 hour basis. Such a hot line run by my colleague Allan J. Manak was responsible for uncovering the most dramatic mass UFO sighting in U.S. history on the evening of October 9, 1965 at Cleveland.

At one time in the 1960s Cleveland boasted of having three active UFO organizations, and was the scene of the first serious national UFO convention in 1964. There were so many active writers and investigators in the Cleveland area that one historian of the UFO scene dubbed it the "UFO capital of the United States."

What follows are a selection of reports that I either personally investigated and reported on, or reports from other investigators I was able to speak with at length in order to verify that a proper objective investigation was made.

I believe these selected UFO reports will give the reader some insight into what has been going on in our area skies for more than 50 years.

Rick R. Hilberg
March 15, 1997

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1938

The following saucer sighting from the late 1930s proves that good reports of UFOs are far from recent in origin. This account is by my late grandmother, Mrs. Marie Friedel:

"On a Sunday evening in August about the year 1938, we decided to take a ride out Lorain Road. Near Elyria, west of Cleveland, we spotted about 30 cars stopping along the road on both sides. My sister and her husband who were in the car with us, discovered two objects coming from the northwestern sky. They appeared to be faint, round, grayish-blue objects. They were not airplanes or anything else anyone had seen before.

"I shall never forget the sight of it, or the feeling that came over me when the strange objects continued overhead and faded out in the distance in eerie silence." 1

1955

One of the finest early UFO sightings in the Cleveland area occurred in November of 1955 to Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Hoffman of the Grace Lutheran Church while they were driving to the airport. Their attention was attracted to a row of bright lights in the sky directly ahead and over the road. Shortly after they could discern that the lights were coming from a huge oval-shaped object, similar in appearance to two saucers, the uppermost inverted upon the lower one. Around the portion of its perimeter visible to them were eight large windows from which shown an intense white light. The strange object appeared to be hovering almost directly over an intersection at an estimated five hundred feet. Its diameter must have been close to one hundred feet.

Mrs. Huffman remarked that the craft was a pearly aluminum color. They believed the windows were at least eight feet by ten feet in size. An intensely white light shown steadily downward from each window. The light rays were so bright that they could see the dust particles in them. They sat and watched the UFO for about ten minutes, then started the car and drove south on Lee Road hoping to get under it, but the object began to slip westward over the tree tops. It moved slowly and noiselessly and did not appear to rotate. 2

1957

At 11 P.M. on the night of Nov. 6th, Olden Moore, a Huntsburg plasterer and active church worker witnessed an unidentified object land in a farmer's field.

The landing was made near the intersection of Rt. 86 and Hart Road in Montville Township. "It landed a stone's throw from the highway," Moore said.

Moore had been driving home from Painesville when he first noticed what appeared to be a bright star coming toward him. He observed the light through the windshield of his automobile.

"In a matter of seconds it loomed up as big as a house in front of me," Moore said. "Then it seemed to split apart. One section disappeared; the other settled down in a field near the road."

Moore pulled his car off the road and turned off the ignition.

"I sat there watching the object in the field for about 15 minutes," Moore said. "Then I got out of the car and walked toward it. I could hear a ticking sound like that of an electric clock or water meter."

Rather than walking up to the object, Moore returned to his car and drove home to get his wife. When he arrived back at the field, the UFO was gone.

Twelve hours after Moore's experience, his wife telephoned the report of the incident to Louis Robusky, Geauga county sheriff. She later turned over to Robusky a picture her husband had drawn of the object.

According to Moore the UFO was about 50 feet in diameter, was saucer-shaped, and had an inverted "saucer" on top.

Moore described it as having a dome in the center, shaped like a cone. The surface of the object was brightly glowing. "It reminded me of mirrored sun glasses," he said.

Surrounding the object was a blue-green haze or fog. A light pulsated slowly, alternating between bright and dim.

Because of an unusually bright moon, Moore was able to distinguish the UFO through the haze. He could not detect any windows or openings of any type.

Police, sheriff's deputies and members of northern Ohio's Civil Defense rushed to the scene to investigate Moore's sighting.

The first civilian to arrive was George Popowitch, director of the Akron UFO Research Committee. A KYW TV cameraman, Ralph Mayher, and investigator C.W. Fitch later made a plaster cast of strange prints found in the area where the UFO contacted the earth.

When Moore signed an affidavit covering his reported sighting, he said; "I don't care what people think. I know what I saw and I'm only sorry I did not have a witness with me to back up my story."

Kenneth E. Locke, Lake county Civil Defense director, made this statement: "There were prints in the field one and one-half inches deep and holes like those made by spiked shoes."

Locke said the six prints looked as though they "were coming from nowhere and going nowhere."

Locke and another Civil Defense official brought a Geiger counter to the field. The instrument registered about 150 micro-roentgens in the center of an area 50 feet in diameter.

Near the perimeter of the area, the readings dropped to 20 or 30 microroentgens. A normal reading would be 15 or 20.

A few hours later the meter showed only a reading of 20 to 25 near the center and zero at the perimeter. This proved that something had been there to create the high radioactivity, rather than it being caused by mineral deposits in the field.

Also a fact is that Moore was not the only person to call authorities and report a UFO on Nov. 6th. John Shaffer, 16, and Timothy Sadowski, 15, reported a cigar-shaped object at 7:55 P.M., the same evening of the Moore report.

The youths were on duty at the Grand Valley Observer post at Orwell, a short distance from Montville. They reported the object at high altitude, traveling swiftly toward the northwest.

"The object had light streaming down from what appeared to be two portholes," Shaffer said. "It was shaped like a cigar, but was not tapered at both ends. One end was larger than the other."

Also on the night Moore said he saw the UFO, an Ashtabula man reported seeing a low, bright object while he was driving east on Rt. 166. The object appeared to move away, come closer and then vanish.

On Nov. 7, one day after the other sightings, five other persons reported seeing UFOs in Geauga and Ashtabula counties.

One of the sightings was described by a Thompson Ledges man as a "large , flattened-pumpkin shape, traveling from north to northwest.

When Moore returned home from work on the evening of Nov. 7, he saw many cars outside his home. Reporters were milling around, obviously waiting for him.

Not wanting any publicity, Moore drove around the block and waited until the crowd had left.

Sunday evening, Nov. 10, Sheriff Robusky, accompanied by a deputy and an Air Force officer, called at Moore's home. Robusky said that the Air Force wished to question him on the sighting and asked him "as a good patriot" to go to Youngstown for an interview.

Moore agreed to the request when it was promised he would be returned to his home that evening. They drove to the exact spot where the UFO had landed and boarded an Air force helicopter.

Following this unusual experience, Moore was brought back to his home. One week later, an Air Force car stopped at Moore's home. Two officers asked Moore to pack his grip and go with them to Washington for further questioning. - Earl J. Neff. 3

1963

At 8:05 P.M. on February 8th, Euclid school teacher Thomas Doyle stepped out of his car at his East 238th Street home, and heard what he first took to be a jet aircraft. Looking up, he saw instead a blue-white light, very bright and about the size of a pea held at arm's length.

About 12 diameters behind the bright object Doyle was able to discern the jet aircraft he first heard. The jet was a military bomber, and seemed to be pursuing the self luminous object. Both craft were on a ENE to WSW heading, and the UFO was clearly pulling away from the bomber. As the distance became even greater, the aircraft broke off the chase and made a 180° turn to assume a southern heading. The UFO continued on its original course and was lost in a thick haze on the southern horizon. 4

Back in the 1960s Cleveland was unique in having a weekly radio program devoted to the UFO mystery. KYW radio, a 50,00 watt clear channel station, was host to radio personality Harv Morgan's "Ufology Roundtable" every Thursday evening from 9 to 11 P.M. Local and national UFO experts were able to reach interested persons in 38 states as well as many parts of Canada.

One Thursday evening in September of 1963 while I was appearing with another member of the Cleveland Ufology Project, Harv presented me with a letter and photograph, and asked me for my opinion. Needless to say, the photograph had me flabbergasted! I said that I would try to have the photo enlarged and analyzed, and report back on what I could find out.

The next Thursday I reported the following to Harv and his many listeners: The envelope was postmarked Orrville, Ohio and showed what looked like a classic disc-shaped UFO over a cornfield. Analysis indicated that the photo was taken at about either 8 A.M. or 4 P.M. The object seemed to be metallic and approximately 30 to 40 feet in diameter, and located an estimated 2500 feet from the camera. Obviously, these estimates ruled out the possibility that it could have been a model or some type of toy.

The other panelist on the program that evening was Clevelander Earl Neff. After questioning by both Harv and Mr. Neff, I explained that two different professional photographers, Donald Brill and George Shuba, enlarged the original photograph until it was out of

focus, so certain facts about the image could be determined. I also told them that the photographers in turn had a scientist in the field of optics, as well as an experienced photo analysis technician view five different copies of the photograph of varied enlargement sizes and contrasts.

After the program had concluded, Mr. Neff asked me to drive him home. As we chatted during the drive he asked me if he might have some prints of the photo, and I promised to mail some along the next day.

Two weeks later, at the monthly meeting of the Cleveland Ufology Project, Neff, who was then chairman of the group, stated that he sent his copies of the photo to a UFO group in Akron, and that they believed it to a hoax. Their reasoning was that they claimed the photo was stained, and also that there were unusual scratch marks around the object they they felt were on the original negative.

However, the facts are that the photograph received by KYW was the one I took to the photographers, and therefore the negative that they made was a second generation copy. Neff's friends in Akron made a third generation copy, and that copy was the basis of their negative conclusion. As you can see from the second generation reproduction on the inside cover page, there are no stains or scratches on the image. Very curious!

Unfortunately, the witness to this case never came forward, so his or her identity remains unknown to this very day. - Allan J. Manak. 5

"Oct.24th was a beautiful warm night and I went outside in my backyard. Took my favorite chair with my binoculars around my neck, and sat just looking at the sky. I do this most frequent. I sat facing west. The moon was at half phase and about 25 degrees above the southwestern horizon. There were three small cirrus clouds near the moon. The sky was exceptionally clear. The temperature was 69 degrees. At 9:40 E.D.S.T. about 40 degrees due west a string of objects, blue-white and very dull, (could not have been seen if I wasn't looking right at it), in a formation of a large "J" in the sky about 2 inches at arm's length was noticed. They were heading directly overhead and easterly when I put the binoculars on them. They looked as if they were attached to something. The whole sighting lasted about four to six seconds, (timed later). As the string of lights passed stars it seemed as if there was a body to one object, because the stars would disappear. The binoculars did not reveal anything different than the unaided eye." - Allan J. Manak. 6

1964 On Friday, May 15, a UFO was seen to take off from the side of Rt. 90 near Ashtabula. The Highway Patrol reported that a man from California called from a pay station a short distance from the take off point to report on the object. He said it was as big as a tractor truck. The caller said the object changed color, turning to a bright orange color, hovered about eight feet off the ground and then it took off and soared to about 300 to 400 feet.

At this point the flame color became a blur and the object zoomed into the sky. This all happened about 11:30 P.M.

The motorist said a driver of a semi-trailer rig also saw the UFO and stopped to look. A source that was always reliable told this writer that after the sighting several Air Force cars were seen parked near the reported landing area with their lights on. 7

At about 5:30 A.M. on August 27th, 19-year-old Dan Boras reported sighting a cigar-shaped craft with lighted windows cross the face of the moon slowly, then pick up speed and vanish in the east.

Boras was the night watchman for Neill Greenhouses Inc. on SOM Center Road in Gates Mills.

Said the shaken witness: "When it started to pick up speed after it had gone across the face of the moon, a light glowed all around it and it trailed smoke for about five seconds. I would judge it was 50 to 80 feet long," he said. 8

1965

On July 12th Mrs. William W. Kehres of Chagrin Falls, Ohio and her 11-year-old son, Grant, saw a brilliant and hovering UFO along Shaker Blvd. near Lander Road in Pepper Pike.

"I stopped the car so we could watch," she said. "It was oblong and very shiny - sort of metallic - and appeared to be hovering at about 5,000 feet."

In a moment the object disappeared, she reported. As the car started the object reappeared. It began accelerating at a rapid rate and disappeared in the distance, she said. 9

At 8:50 P.M. on October 9, 1965, Miss Pat Gresiwald of 4210 Cloud Ave, Cleveland, called the Report Center and reported a large disc shaped object with white lights around its center. The object's body was silverish in appearance and had a dome or ball type superstructure on top. This was witnessed by six people. The time was 8:45 P.M.

Five minutes later a call came in from Wade Ave., Cleveland - this one witnessed by 12 people who all saw a very large round object with lights all around it. The object itself was spinning or the lights were. Both of these objects were heading in a northern direction. The Report Center in turn went into effect. The Cleveland Press reported four sightings were called in. The Cleveland Plain Dealer had none. Case Tech reported that they had a change of personnel within the last half hour and did not have any information on any UFO. The Cleveland Hopkins Airport told the Report Center to inform the United States Air Force. The Report Center called the U.S.A.F. Special Investigations Center. There was no answer.

In the meantime another call came in. This time three people saw this very large elongated object with lights that seemed to be sequential in order. At the same time the object was spinning. The object seemed to be as large as a pencil at arm's length. The call was from Vega Ave., near W. 25th St., Cleveland.

Rick Hilberg was contacted to go into action with the C.B. units, to try and find out how many other people saw the same object. Radio stations WHK and WKYC were also told of the sightings.

Twenty minutes later Rick Hilberg called back and said that there is another object that looks triangular with lights around it heading north. Next Elmer Schutt was informed. Then I proceeded to go outside. I no sooner got ten feet from my door when another call came in. This time it was from a party of three men which told of a large, low object with a larger underside than its top. The object had amber lights circling its entire body. The UFO seemed to be spinning and looked to be about 4 inches in diameter at arm's length. The call came from W. 61st St., south of Lorain Ave., Cleveland.

I had just hung the phone up when another call came in. This

time from Schott Ave., Cleveland. Four men called in very excited to tell their story. They saw a large whitish-silver object with lights in a single row around the craft. These lights were going off one after the other. When one light would go off, the other would go on. Like sequential lights. One of the witnesses said the base of the craft seemed to be V-shaped. One said it was mushroom shaped. Both agreed that the top of the object was in a shadow. They first saw the object in the northern sky. It then proceeded to move to the south, then with quick movement went to the west then to the north and disappeared. All three agreed of the vehicle's underside. It was viewed for about 8 to 10 minutes.

At this time the Report Center called Cleveland Hopkins Airport Traffic control and was informed that there was a cloud layer at 2200 feet with another at 4200 feet. Visibility of nine miles. There was a light rain falling throughout most of the evening in parts of the Cleveland area.

Mrs. Carol Moss, while driving home with her husband from Ashland to Euclid, was passing West 14th St. and Clark Ave., in Cleveland, when they both noticed 6 to 8 square lights following one another. They seemed to be floating or they were attached and could have been one object.

Another call came in reporting a high-pitched sound that seemed to be rising and falling and lasted about ten seconds. This report came from the West 95th St. and Madison Ave. area.

The last four reports all gave the approximate time of 10:15 P.M. ESDT. - Allan J. Manak. 10

1966

On April 1st two Berea policemen said they saw "an orange glow as big as a house" floating above some trees early in the morning. "It must have been one of those unidentified flying objects seen in Michigan," said Patrolman Clarence T. Janowick when informed there was no moon out at the time. Patrolman Janowick and Patrolman John R. Galik Jr. said they saw the object on the morning of the 29th also. It was noted over Baldwin Lake in the south section of Berea at that time, and was visible for about 45 seconds. On the first it was sighted six blocks from the lake over the Ohio Turnpike administration building. 11

Shortly after 5 A.M. on April 17th, Deputies Dale F. Spaur and W.L. Neff, of the Portage County Sheriff's office, were driving along Rt. 14 south of Ravenna. They noticed an abandoned car parked along the south side of the road, and went over to investigate. Deputy Spaur got out of the car and proceeded to approach the vehicle so he could check it out for police records. Suddenly he saw a blinding light come over the highway from the embankment on the south side of the road over a stand of trees.

Deputy Spaur was momentarily blinded by the object after looking directly at it. The saucer flooded the area with a bright white light. After questioning Deputy Spaur 16 hours after the encounter, he told me that the saucer he and Deputy Neff sighted must have been if it hovered closely over the highway. I would estimate the object to have been from 50 to 60 feet in diameter from Spaur's description. Spaur said he and Neff heard a definite hum coming from the machine.

After running back to the car, he and Deputy Neff started to chase the object from approximately 5:07 A.M. to somewhere close to

7:00 A.M., to a point near Freedom, PA. The object definitely was disc-shaped with a dome on top. It had two spotlights that at one time flooded the area surrounding a crane, around the bend from where the saucer was encountered near the abandoned car. The two lights converged from the machine to strike the ground, Spaur said.

Police Chief Gerald Buchert of Mantua, Ohio said he took a picture of an object during the time of the chase. The photo shows a half-disc at a great distance from the camera. The photo was only shown once on Cleveland television, and apparently was confiscated by Wright Patterson. I have a photograph taken directly from the television screen showing the saucer Chief Buchert caught on film. The Air Force later said the object the two deputies chased was Venus! A neat trick, as Venus was not visible in the northeast where the domed saucer was observed during the 100 m.p.h. chase! 12

1967

The following sighting was reported by a resident of North Royalton (name withheld) on January 29th. This is her report: "On January 29th at 5:50 P.M., I was driving east on Route 82 heading for the North Royalton Christian Church when I spotted a disc in the cloudless eastern sky. I observed the object for a good 18 minutes, but then I was forced to park my car because people were waiting to get into the drive. When I stepped out I walked back to the street. By this time it was dark; the object was gone, at least to my sight. But there, in its place, was a blinking object with red and green lights. A much smaller shiny object, silver in color, dropped from the lights for what seemed to be two feet and then disappeared. The lights ascended in a southerly direction. I watched it for another 10 minutes, but had to leave to go home." 13

1969

A Michigan truck driver contends that he saw a UFO on I-75 south of Bowling Green on January 9th. Harold Lamb, a truck driver and part-time deputy sheriff in Tipton, Michigan, reported sighting the UFO between 8:30 and 9:30 P.M. as he drove his truck on I-75 between Carey and Bowling Green.

Mr. Lamb reported that he was headed toward Findlay on Ohio 15 near the Carey exchange when he spotted an object out of his left window that looked and glowed white like a light bulb.

He related that he continued to observe the object and that he switched on the truck's spotlight, placing its beam on the UFO.

Mr. Lamb said the object stayed in the light's beam until he reached Findlay, at which time he stopped to see what the UFO would do. He said it stopped and stayed in the beam's light with the only movement apparently being a slight up and down motion.

He then reported he proceeded on I-75 with the object staying in the spotlight's beam. As he neared Bowling Green the object appeared to be moving away from him and began to take on a reddish-orange appearance. Then he said the object became dimmer until he lost sight of it at Bowling Green. Lamb said the UFO appeared to stay about 1000 feet off the ground, but he could not report any distinguishing details. 14

1970

The late Gray Barker related the following account in one of his many publications from Raymond Latko of Lakewood:

"It was 6:35 A.M., Monday, Aug. 24, 1970. Location: Lindberg

and West Road, Olmsted Falls, Ohio.

"Three of us had just arrived at the bus stop when we saw two strange figures approaching on the road which crossed our bus route.

"The two figures were dressed in glowing orange suits from head to foot; only their faces were uncovered. Their skin was yellowish. The headdresses were conical and they were carrying a disc-like object above their heads. They were about five feet tall.

"They approached within about 50 feet of a small house, then walked side by side away from us to a railroad about 600 feet from our corner. As they stood at the railroad, a car stopped in front of them for about ten seconds, then sped away. The figures then walked a short distance toward us and as we were boarding the bus, one of them extended his arm upward. We could see that it was wearing a cape. I would have approached them, but was unsure of the consequences.

"Later that night I checked the area and found a spot near the road about 100 feet beyond the place they were seen that morning where the high grass was quite disturbed. It was twisted and matted, and there were two fresh paths going to this spot. A few days later I talked with the children who lived in the house which the figures approached. A girl, about nine years of age, said that at about nine o'clock that Monday morning she saw an object like a huge bubble come down from the sky to that very same place I found. she said two figures were waiting there. When the vehicle landed, they entered. It then rose and quickly disappeared." 15

1973 On September 30 Mrs. Barbara Marquardt was driving on Bagley Road in Olmsted Twp., and saw a green ball-like object hovering in the sky at about 3:30 A.M. "It was about three normal houses in height above the ground," she said. "Suddenly it fell to the ground, not straight down, but in a curve." Police said another woman in the area called, and reported that she heard some sort of small explosion near the scene at about the same time. 16

Our office phone literally rang off the hook on the evening of October 17th, with friends telling us that the UFOs were back again for a concentrated visit to the north part of Ohio.

First reports came in at about 7:15 P.M., when an off-duty Akron patrolman, Henry Bertolini, told of an object hovering over his west Akron home. He said it had red and blue flashing lights and was as big as a car.

At about the same time, Akron Police Sgt. A.W. Fields said that patrolmen in Car 10 reported seeing a hovering oblong object that suddenly sped away.

Patrolmen Lee Frasher and Joseph Gause, in Car 57, reported by radio of seeing a cigar-shaped object "with two red glowing lights" moving through the night sky. "I was a helicopter crew chief in the Army," Frasher later told reporters. "It wasn't a chopper."

At the time of these Akron sightings, five families in Willoughby reported a bright light over their homes, followed by a loud explosion. One of the witnesses, Wallace Zawacki, said that his 18-year-old daughter, Laura, saw the yellowish light through the front window. Zawacki and some of his neighbors checked the area and found no evidence of an explosion. Officials at nearby Lost Nation

Airport said that there were several takeoffs and landings at the time of the reported incident, but had no reports of engine trouble or explosions.

Also on the same evening, William Grizer was driving home when "this thing came down and landed on top of the car." Grizer was driving south on Massillon Road when the strange incident occurred.

Grizer said that the object was about half the size of the car hood. "I know it doesn't make sense, but that's the way it came out," he said. He described the object as "solid white, with kind of a rainbow effect. It scared me, I hit my brakes and it came up off the car." Upon later examination he found four scratch marks on the hood of his car. 17

Boys playing football in a Sheffield Lake field sighted a strange object at about 7:15 P.M. on October 18th. Reports made by the boys indicate that the UFO may have touched down on the ground.

Said Dave McCormick, 15, "It came over the trees from the west. It went past us, then stopped dead over the Knickerbocker Apartments (across from the field). It swung back, stopped right over us for two or three seconds, then seemed to go down behind the apartments." He said the object had orange and yellow flashing lights.

Another boy, Tom Miller, who lives on a street behind the apartments, said that he was watching television when his dog's barking made him look out the window to the woods behind his home. Miller could only see the lights on the object. "(the lights) were flashing - red, white and blue. Just like a fire truck," he said. 18

A scattered number of reports came in from the northwestern area of the state on October 18th. Williams County Sheriff's deputies said they received several calls around 3:00 A.M. They came from the Montpelier area, telling of a very bright cigar-shaped UFO traveling very slowly southwest of that town. Toledo airport radar noted nothing unusual on their scopes, however.

A Lakeside woman reported to Ottawa County Sherrif's deputies that she saw a bright object over Lake Erie at 8:33 P.M. She said it started sparking and added she heard a loud blast. After the blast the strange object was gone, she stated. Two other residents reported that they also heard the blast. A man witnessed a white light hovering over the Catawba Island ferry dock a while later. 19

Possibly the most significant report of the entire 1973 UFO "flap" occurred when an Army helicopter had a strange close-up encounter with a cigar-shaped UFO over Mansfield the night of Oct. 18th.

"I've made one significant decision since the experience," said Captain Lawrence Coyne, the copter's commander. "I've told my pilots not to take dangerous evasive actions in trying to avoid one of these things. So far UFOs have been harmless as this one was. They have not struck or collided with anybody."

Coyne and his crew were cruising at 2500 feet when they spotted a distant red light off to the right on the eastern horizon. The light started to close in fast. Coyne put the chopper into a shallow power dive to evade the oncoming object.

"But the light was traveling in excess of 600 knots," Captain Coyne remarked. "It came from the horizon to our aircraft in about 10 seconds. We were on a collision course. At 1700 feet, I braced

for the impact with the other craft. It was coming from our right side. I was scared. There had been so little time to respond. The thing was terrifically fast!"

Coyne waited, but there was no impact with the strange visitor.

"We looked up and saw it stopped right over us. It had a big, gray, metallic-looking hull about 60 feet long. It was shaped like an airfoil or a streamlined fat cigar. There was a red light on the front. The leading edge glowed red a short distance from the nose. There was a center dome. A green light at the rear reflected on the hull. This light swiveled light a spotlight. It was shining brightly through the bubble canopy of our helicopter, completely flooding out our instrument lights and turning everything inside green."

Coyne tried to contact nearby radio posts, but with no success. The radio refused to transmit or receive during the incident. "All radios were functioning, but I couldn't get the keying sound and there was no reception. This was while we were diving."

He never did apply control or engine power to halt the dive.

"As we stared in awe at the green light glaring into the cabin, the thing slowly moved off to the west. I looked at the altimeter and could hardly believe it was reading 3,500 feet, climbing to 3,800. I had made no attempt to pull up. All controls were set for a 20 degree dive. Yet we had climbed from 1,700 to 3,500 feet with no G-forces or other noticeable strains. There was no noise or turbulence either."

The nocturnal visitor then continued west toward Lorain, to rapidly climb into the night sky. 20

1975

A Madison Township police officer claimed that he and a group made up of other officers and assorted citizens chased a strange UFO with red and green flashing lights for 20 minutes on Nov. 11th.

Patrolman Zachary G. Space said a township resident, Kenneth Ohtola, had telephoned police at 3:34A.M. to report the UFO. Space then went to the police station on West Main St. to see what other information would come in on the early morning visitor.

Police dispatcher Gerri Bowers was giving him the particulars, he said, when he saw the UFO heading towards Painesville. Space said that he followed the object, and when it made a turn to the east he was joined in the chase by Ohtola and his passenger Mike Davirro.

The UFO continued east and the chase was joined by a Lake County deputy sheriff and Patrolman Lester Nagle of Madison, Space said. The UFO reportedly hovered at high-tension wire level at Chapel Road near the Ashtabula County line. All got out of their cars at that time to have a good look. Space described the scene"

"It came down above the wires for maybe 15 or 20 seconds, then would rise up slowly and out of sight. Then it would reappear again. When it stopped to hover, all I could see was a big, bright light. When it started moving it was red and green."

Space, who was an Air Force mechanic for five years, said, "It did not resemble a plane or a helicopter. It went up and back too quick. As far as speed, it left in a flash."

When the UFO rose, Space said, it had "three dominate white lights with a glow around it. They weren't steady lights."

The object finally headed east toward Ashtabula County making no noise as it departed. 21

1977 Rose Melega of South Euclid was watching television at about 8:00 P.M. on March 22nd when her neighbor, Dorothy Barkan, called. "She said she was talking on the phone and looking out the window at something bright and blinking in the sky," Mrs. Melega said.

"It wasn't a star - it couldn't be. I had to look between branches to see it, so I told Dorothy I was going to put on my coat and go out."

Mrs. Melega watched the strange object for about five minutes before it disappeared in the west.

"It just seemed to be stationary, and it was just huge compared to the stars. I can't say how high it was, but it was much lower than the stars." The object grew to a brilliant brightness, and then dimmed, she reported.

"It was doing that over and over again. Then I came in and told my husband. When I went back out, it had dropped down quite a bit. Then it would go completely dark, then come back again."

She described it as disc-shaped with an antenna on top. "I can't believe it was a star, and it couldn't be a planet. You don't see planets move," Mrs. Melega said. 22

1978 A strange object with red and white flashing lights was reported hovering above the Perry Monument on South Bass Island in Lake Erie, near Fremont on January 3rd. A Coastguardsman from the Marblehead Coast Guard Station viewed the object with his naked eyes and through binoculars. The FAA's Oberlin air traffic control tower reported that there were no aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting. 23

One June 28th at 11:00 P.M. fourteen residents on Franklin Church Road in Richland County saw a bright yellow light hovering for about 30 minutes. The light then dropped below the skyline for a few seconds, and then it raised back up and dimmed, as if taking off. Officials at the Mansfield airport could not explain the UFO.

Richland County was also being plagued by reports of a seven to nine foot tall creature seen in the hilly wooded area around Mohican State Park. Called "Bighead", the creature was reported to have red bulging eyes and a head as wide as a tractor tire. 24

On July 18th at 9:40 P.M. Mr. and Mrs. Milton Guth and their son and daughter all saw a huge oval lighted object from their home in Lyndhurst.

Mrs. Guth was passing by a window inside the house when she was surprised to see "very bright white and red lights with a blue flicker outside, not far from our house. I immediately ran outside to see the strange object, which was moving from north to south.

"We stared in amazement while it seemed to have paused, hovering over a neighbor's house two doors away! It seemed to be higher than that tree top (a tree in her back yard). I was amazed to see so many flashing bright lights, and the bottom lights were red and square in shape. It paused over the house and spun rapidly out of sight. We viewed it approximately 30 seconds in the back yard and 30 seconds in the front yard," Mrs. Guth said. 25

A young woman (name on file with UAPA) was startled to see a huge boomerang shaped object while driving between Clague and

Columbia Roads on Detroit Ave. in Westlake on August 23rd between 6 and 6:30 A.M.

Glancing at the object, she thought at first that it was an aircraft of some sort, but then noticed that the object wasn't moving. She described four white lights spaced evenly on the underside of the "boomerang" that to her seemed brighter than street lights. She also described what appeared to be some sort of opening or "door" on the underside of the UFO.

The witness then became scared and drove away. After gaining her composure she went back to the scene to have a better look, but by that time the strange object had vanished. 26

1979

On July 4th at about 10:30 P.M. for persons, while watching a neighborhood fireworks display on Bancroft Road in Cleveland, observed a star-like object moving at an apparent rate faster than a normal aircraft.

The object was first noticed in the southwest portion of the sky, at an elevation of from 70 to 90 degrees. The UFO was moving swiftly toward the northeast, where it was lost from view after about one minute.

One of the witnesses, who observed the object through a pair of binoculars, stated that the object was delta-shaped and metallic gold in color with a red "beacon" light in the center.

The witnesses further stated that through the binoculars the light was so bright that they had to put down the instrument, as their eyes began hurting. 27

At 9:00 P.M. on July 24th four persons in the South Euclid area reported seeing a large round object, flat on the bottom with some sort of dome on top, traveling west to south.

The witnesses described the object as being dull silver in color on the bottom, and seemingly spinning or wobbling as it slowly moved over their area.

The UFO was in sight from five to ten minutes, and seemed to be slowly gaining altitude until it finally disappeared. 28

A police officer from the Cleveland suburb of University Heights was driving eastbound on Euclid Avenue in a business section of Willoughby after getting off duty for the day. At 1:05 A.M. on October 30, there was very little traffic on the street, allowing the witness to expect a quiet and uneventful drive to his destination.

Suddenly, the placid drive was interrupted by the sight of a large unlighted hemispherical object directly above and in front of the witness' car. The object seemed to be illuminated by the reflected light from the car and the street lights on the roadway, and looked to be a dull gray in color. The witness was sure that the UFO was definitely solid, and not any sort of atmospheric phenomenon or reflection.

Since the object was also traveling toward the east, the witness increased his speed to attempt to keep pace with it. He estimated that it was flying at a speed of 60 miles per hour, and that it was keeping a stable altitude.

After keeping pace for somewhat less than one minute, the witness was fast approaching a freeway intersection that had some amount of traffic, so he was forced to slow his car to a safer speed

It was at this time that he lost sight of the object due to his slower speed and the fact that the intersection was brightly illuminated, and seemed to "blot out" the object. All in all the witness said that he was quite shaken by his experience, and had never seen anything like it before. 29

A family of three was driving home after a visit with relatives in a southwestern Cleveland suburb at about 12:50 A.M. on Dec. 9th, and were northbound on I-71 just inside the city limits. The wife was sitting in the passenger seat looking up at the many stars visible, and also making note of several airplanes that were flying in the vicinity of Cleveland Hopkins Airport, several miles south.

One light in particular caught her attention, as it appeared to be flying much slower than any normal aircraft she had ever seen, and also because it was flying in a north to south direction, which does not correspond to any Cleveland airport glide path.

At this time she alerted her husband and daughter to the unusual object, and the husband drove the car off the freeway onto the Bellaire Road exit, and slowed his speed to have a better look.

At this point the object was almost directly overhead and appeared to them all to be a long cigar-shaped thing with very short stubby wings. They all agreed that there were no running lights that normal aircraft carry, but they did see a band of "window lights" on the object's side. The witnesses were sure that they saw no sign of any tail assembly on what they took to be the back of the object, but did make note of a "dark band" on the body of the object where the tail would have been on a conventional aircraft. Since the object was at a very low altitude, it was illuminated by the many ground lights from the freeway and city streets in the area, so all three are certain of their descriptions of the object. No sound was heard at any time.

After watching for several minutes, the wife became uneasy and asked the husband to leave the area and drive directly home.

At 9:34 P.M. on the evening of December 10th, a 24-year-old man was exiting the Ohio Turnpike at the #10 Strongsville exit, when he became aware of a series of five horizontal yellow-orange lights off to the west about 20 degrees off the horizon.

Since the configuration as well as the color did not match that of a normal aircraft, he quickly drove to the parking lot of the Howard Johnson's restaurant at the intersection of Pearl and Whitney Roads in Strongsville for a better look. In order to make sure that the object was indeed stationary in the sky he parked his car in such a way that a telephone pole was in his line of sight just below the object.

Observing it in this manner he was able to ascertain that it was completely stationary in the sky and that the lights were pulsating in a regular pattern from right to left. In the pattern of pulsation each light was illuminated for just under one second.

At this point the witness checked his digital watch and noted the time as being 9:37. He then turned on his CB radio and attempted to alert anyone on channel 19 to the object, thereby having additional witnesses to back up his story. However, no one came back to him, so he decided to drive the short distance to his home to get his family as witnesses. Since his home is east of that position at the restaurant parking lot, the object was not visible on his drive home. Upon arriving, the object was nowhere in view to the west. 30

1980

On March 2nd a 58-year-old Cleveland man happened to glance up at the afternoon sky to observe a high-flying aircraft traveling from east to west leaving a well defined contrail. After observing the plane for several seconds, he then noted a silvery, fast moving oval object come from out the northeast and "pass" the plane, and then either disappear or (as the witness thinks more likely) quickly change direction and shoot upward into the sky.

The object was in view for no more than ten seconds, and the witness noted that the time was 3:35 P.M.

On Sunday March 9th at 8:15 P.M. a 47-year-old man on Luary Dr. in Painesville was outside his home when his attention was drawn to a lighted object that was giving off a "static, fluttery sound." othe night was cool, and as he looked up the witness made note of the fact that the sky was perfectly clear, with many stars visible.

In the northern sky, at approximately 60 above the horizon, the witness saw a cigar-shaped object with a bulge on the top part, that was rose colored with a slight grayish tint to it. The witness described it as large as a dime held at arm's length. He stood watching it for a few moments, and reported that at the time it seemed to be hovering motionlessly; however, after a time the object began making drifting movements.

The witness ran inside to get his wife and two children to join him in watching the strange lighted object, and when they all got outside it seemed as if another identical object was near the first one, but whatever they noted rapidly disappeared, leaving the original object in the same position as observed initially.

The UFO then went back and forth in the sky from east to west, and during these motions a passenger jet passed near the object, heading east. The witness stated that the object seemed to follow the airliner briefly, and then resumed its drifting movements for about five minutes.

During this part of the sighting the local police was dispatched, and a car was sent to the scene. Also during this period of time another neighborhood couple joined in the observation, making a total of seven witnesses.

At this point, the object did very rapid maneuvers form the northeast to the southwest two to three times, appearing to loom closer to the witnesses than at any time previously. The UFO then began to do spirals or circular motions very rapidly, and seemed to move away to the northeast horizon and out over nearby Lake Erie, and was lost to sight when it passed behind some trees.

The duration of the sighting was about 15 minutes or more. 31

At 12:40 A.M. on April 3rd a woman in her 50s observed a bright, silvery disc-shaped object from a location just north of Brookpark Road near Chevrolet Blvd. in Cleveland.

She was alerted by a very bright light shining through the window of her mobile home, and decided to go outside as to ascertain its cause. Upon arriving outside, she noted that the almost full moon was visible, with few stars visible because of the brightness and the presence of a very light amount of cloud cover.

She walked a short distance away from the other mobile homes and nearby trees to get a clear look at the source of the unnaturally bright light. It was then that she clearly saw the large disc-shaped UFO hovering over the nearby Conrail Belt Line railroad tracks and high tension power lines serving the many medium to large industrial

plants in the area.

She estimated the object as being at an approximate elevation of 30 degrees, and thought that it was at an altitude of 180 feet or so above the power lines. She also estimated the object to be 30 - 40 feet in diameter, and 15 - 20 feet high at the bulge.

She watched the UFO circle or orbit over the power lines for approximately ten minutes, when it unexpectedly rose straight up at a high but erratic speed, and was quickly lost to sight. 32

At approximately 1:00 P.M. on September 9th, three male employees of an airfreight company located on Brookpark Road near Cleveland Hopkins Airport were out in the parking lot finishing their lunch hour and enjoying the beautiful late summer day.

Suddenly, one of the men saw four roundish, disc-shaped, off-white colored objects in the western sky about 30 degrees above the horizon, moving swiftly towards the east. He shouted to alert his two co-workers and quickly pointed out to them the four objects.

Said the initial witness of his experience: "When I first saw them, they were a perfect square. I watched them proceed (to) almost over the airport, and (they) then moved in such a fashion that I thought if it's planes, I was going to watch a multiple crash.

"I then alerted (other to men) in the parking lot. (The) objects returned by then to a perfect square. By the time they were overhead (they) appeared to be more of a triangle formation.

"The amazing thing was at one point, one disc shot back of the other three quite far almost instantly, and just as fast closed the distance and became part of the last disc in the formation - just blended right into it, then it was apparent that (those) two discs stayed exactly on course while the other two would bank sharply and very fast - over, under, behind, in front slightly of the two staying on course. One would bank to the right and the other would do the same to (the) left - very much movement by the two outside ones.

"They do exist!"

The witnesses report hearing no sound, and estimate that the objects were in sight for some 40 seconds before being lost in the distance 40 degrees above the eastern horizon. 33

At about 8:55 P.M. on the evening of October 3rd, a Lorain man was outside his home putting winter insulating material on his windows when his attention was attracted by a large moving object about 40 degrees above the western horizon. He yelled for the three other adults in the house to come outside and have a look at the clearly visible disc. They all reported that the UFO was at an extremely low altitude, and that the silent object had a pinkish light on the top of its dome-like upper part, while a bank of from eight to ten white lights blinked off and on in a counterclockwise pattern on the bottom of the disc portion of the thing.

Said the witness in his report: "(The) object (was) first seen at a distance in the west. It came at high speed (to) about 1½ blocks away, (and then) came to a stop. It moved in different positions for a few minutes.

"It then moved toward the north, being hidden by trees for a few seconds, and then came back (and) stopped for a short time and wavered in front of me, then moved south until out of sight, first slow, then very fast.

"I called the police to see if anyone else (had) seen it...it was so

close at times I thought it might land, but it did not."

The witnesses report that the object itself was made of a silver metallic substance, and they thought that it was flying at treetop level. It had to up upwards of 25 feet in diameter. 34

At about 7:30 P.M. on November 19th, a Lakewood couple was returning to their Marlowe Ave. residence after a shopping trip, and were in the process of removing several grocery bags and preparing to put their car in the garage. While walking in the driveway the wife happened to look up into the clear northwestern sky and became aware of a number of round "dull-colored" lights in a flattened V - formation heading toward the southeast.

The witness was quite startled for a few seconds, and then began to shout at her husband, who was some distance away from her at the time, but by the time he reached her position the lights had disappeared behind some nearby houses. However, the witness had the lights in sight for an estimated 30 to 35 seconds, and reported that the lights didn't appear to be attached to anything and that they made no noise.

The group of lights had a large apparent size, she said, and estimated that a baseball held at arm's length would cover them completely. She also estimated that the lights were traveling much faster than the jet airliners seen in her neighborhood in the approach pattern of Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

She also stated that at no time did the lights move in relation to one another, and the lack of this "jockeying" maneuver seems to rule out the possibility that she could have been observing migrating birds, as we first suspected.

At 8:45 A.M. on November 26th a man in his early twenties was casually looking out the window of his bedroom at the Parmatown Towers on Ames Drive in Parma. He reported that he suddenly saw something heading from the southwest sky toward the northeast at a high rate of speed. Within seconds he was able to discern two extremely bright points of light that had a small red-colored object "orbiting" them in a counterclockwise path.

Although he had them in view only about five seconds before they were lost to view after passing over the apartment building, the witness was quite certain that what he saw was not any sort of aircraft, as the morning was very clear and he would have easily been able to identify it as such had that been the case. 35

1982

At 7:50 A.M. on November 17th John Forte, Maintenance Supervisor for the Canton Locals Schools was on his way to the school bus garage when he spotted an unusual object near the southern horizon that was headed towards him.

"I thought at first it was a balloon and wondered why it would be up there that early," Forte told a reporter from the East Canton Press - News.

After parking his truck in the lot at the bus garage, he was joined by Leo Borland, the chief bus mechanic, and at this time both witnesses were able to discern that the object was oval-shaped rather than round like a balloon, and that it was on a course that would take it straight above them. They were also shortly joined by three more employees who also noticed the unusual aerial sight.

The witnesses all agreed on the basic facts of the UFO sighting

such as that it kept the almost due south to north course the five minutes or so that it was in sight to them, and that it was a silver or aluminum color, and that it had red and white lights around its middle at the outer edge that showed that the object was revolving. They also stated that it seemed to be traveling about the same speed as a small private plane would appear to them.

However, it was reported that the pastor of a local church said a "space pet" balloon that he received after a demonstration the night before by a local florist at a garden club party "escaped" from him at about 8:00 A.M. and was last seen heading north toward the Cleveland area. So maybe here we have an explanation for what the witnesses at the bus garage saw, but their description of lights on a revolving oval object leave quite a few doubts as to the errant "space pet" answer. 36

1994

In late August and early September, Lorain and Erie county residents were spotting all kinds of unusual things in the night sky. From reading numerous press reports and having talked with persons who were close to the scene, I have to say that it's hard to put a handle on these cases, as they have elements of being seemingly genuine UFOs as well as possible astronomical objects and/or aircraft.

The first series of reports began late on the 29th of August. The following account is from staffer Christine Reichert of the Lorain Journal in the paper's August 31st edition:

A Berlin Heights teen-ager said she was frightened when she saw an unidentified flying object with blinking lights hovering around her home for almost three hours before it finally disappeared early yesterday morning.

The girl said she also heard a loud wind-like noise, but didn't see any wind rustling the trees.

An Erie County sheriff's deputy was called to the home, and he, too, saw the mysterious lights.

This was the latest in a long string of UFO sightings in Erie County in recent years, most centered near Perkins Township. The majority of the reports come in the summer.

"It scared me," said Carmen Utter, 15, the daughter of Kerry and Bob Utter, of Berlin Heights.

Carmen said she first saw the UFO just before heading to bed about 10:30 P.M. Monday. She continued to see the object off and on until early yesterday morning.

"It was pretty big, bigger than an airplane; about the same size as a blimp," she said.

"I was looking out my window. I just thought it was a star moving. I went and saw lights going around - they were green, red and white. I was sitting watching for a while," Carmen said.

"I tried to get my mom and dad to look at it, but they wouldn't," she said. However, as the UFO continued to blink and hover and move, her family joined her and then reported the sighting to the Erie County Sheriff's Department.

Carmen said she took out her binoculars and watched the UFO for some time.

"I saw lights going around sparking on and off, and a long white thing - it was going around in circles," she said, adding it appeared to operate similar to a lighthouse beacon.

"It was there until 12:30 A.M. (yesterday). It was sitting in the sky, it wasn't moving or anything," Carmen said. "It seemed

right across the road, above the trees."

At one time, she said the red and green lights stopped blinking and suddenly bright white lights formed a cross.

At one point, Carmen said she and her father went outside and watched the object hover overhead.

"It was just sitting there. It wasn't moving. It was just sitting in the sky, like it was anxious for me to go to bed," Carmen said. "My dad was looking at it. When he was looking at it, all the lights went off and then it flew over our house really fast. The lights flickered back on when it was going over."

In addition to the Utter family seeing the object, the sheriff's deputy responding to the call saw the brightly lighted object. Deputy Jeff Hippley said it appeared to be stationary over the eastern end of Oxford Township, about two miles in the air, according to his report.

The deputy continued to periodically check on the object, which appeared to move due west "at a very, very slow rate, before losing sight of it at 1:07 A.M. yesterday," according to the report.

Hippley said he doubts the object was from outer space.

"The only thing I could see was lights in the sky. It reminded me of a blimp," he said.

Now here's where a possible aircraft comes into the picture, although it may not do too much to explain sightings on the 29th and 30th. The following "blimp" sighting from September 1st is by Ben Gleisser of the Lorain Journal in the September 3rd edition:

On Monday night, a Berlin Heights teen-ager and an Erie County sheriff's deputy saw a bright object hovering in the sky. On Wednesday night and early Thursday morning, a posse of Amherst and Vermillion UFO hunters followed an object heading east across the sky.

While flying saucer aficionados were chasing E.T.s, three Lorain County sheriff's deputies were busy calling area police departments Thursday around 1 A.M., and telling dispatchers to disregard UFO reports because a blimp was passing overhead.

"Our three deputies confirmed that the object was a blimp moving in a west-to-east-southeast direction toward Akron," said sheriff's Capt. Joe Bell. "They looked up in the night sky and saw a shape they identified as being a blimp. Blimps have a definite shape."

That opinion was shared by South Amherst resident Pearl Phillips, who watched a bright, glowing object crawl over her house.

"It was no UFO," said Ms. Phillips. "Its shape was like the Goodyear blimp, and lit up on the side were the words 'Channel 94' or 'Channel 96,' but I remember the word 'channel.' You could see the cross on the bottom like that girl in Berlin Heights described it. But that was the gondola, and you could hear the motor. When it passed over, my friend and I laughed. Right away we knew it wasn't a UFO."

Even if the object is proved to be a blimp, that still doesn't wrap up the mystery. Because no one seems to know whose blimp was in the sky, where it came from, or where it was headed.

Don Dochert, a spokesman with the FAA, said blimps don't have to register flight patterns with the agency. 37

On the evening of September 24th, Mr. and Mrs. "R" of Berea were enjoying the pleasant late summer weather on their back yard patio. At 6:10 P.M. they both caught sight of a round, silvery-blue

ball heading due east almost directly overhead. The silent something was moving at what could only be judged as a fairly high rate of speed, as its size and altitude were unknown. After being in sight for approximately 12 seconds it simply disappeared in the clear, cloudless early evening sky.

The witnesses at first thought that the object may have been a toy balloon, but no debris was seen to fall when it "disappeared", and the wind was blowing from the northwest to southeast at an estimated 8 m.p.h. at the time, eliminating the balloon theory. 38

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