

THE LAST GREAT FLAP



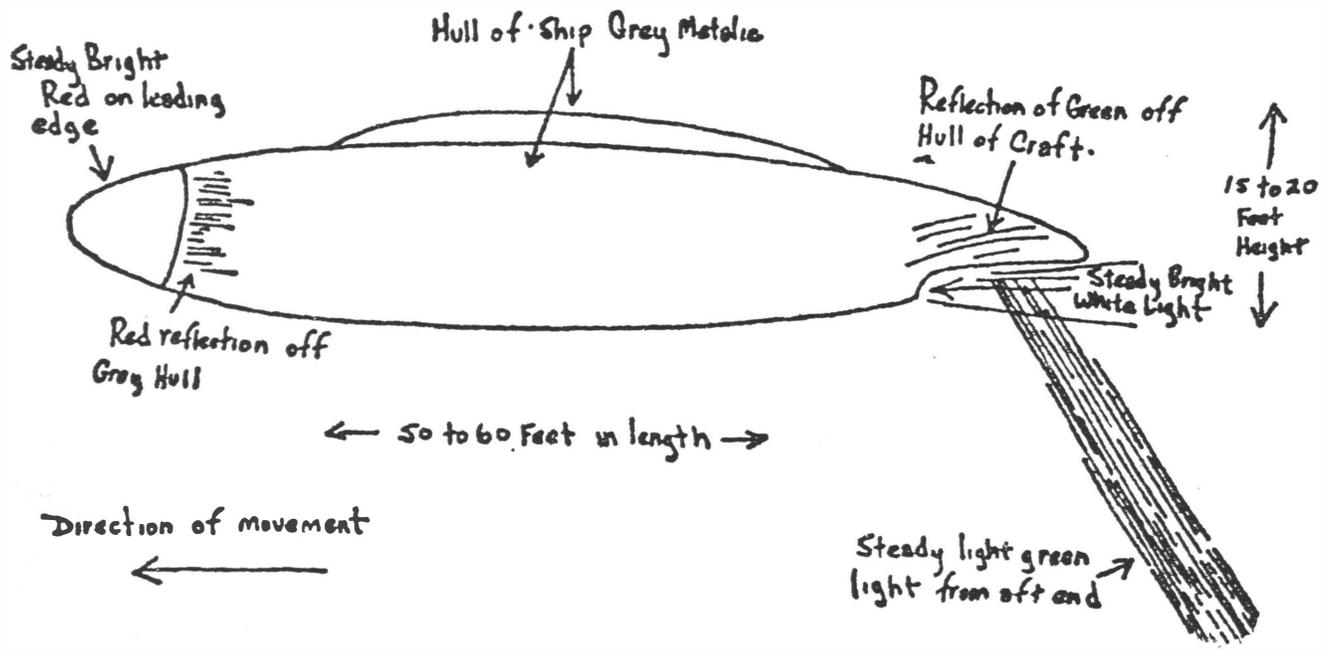
1973 - 1974

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Witness illustration of the "Coyné Case" (see page 11)

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

While there have been many intense, and in many instances somewhat geographically localized UFO *flaps* or *waves* since the early 1970s, the 1973 - 1974 period marked the last instance where a large concentration of reports received intense media coverage. And we are talking about UFO *reports* here, not speculation about Roswell or alleged alien abductions as is the case today with the many "tabloid" treatments the subject has received in recent years. As strange as it seems to someone who has been involved in "things ufological" for more than forty years (I attended my first organized UFO meeting in the last few days of 1958), many UFO researchers today totally ignore UFO sightings. Maybe that is why many consider the '73 -'74 spate of sightings as being the last great UFO flap, because it's quite possible that many of our current crop of UFO "researchers" (versus maybe "investigators"?) *filter out* UFO sightings and concentrate on the "modern" aspects of the UFO enigma.

In any event, for someone who has not lived through an intense period of UFO sighting reports that was fully covered (for a while at least, until the media decides that the subject is becoming a little too "stale" and moves on to the next "big story") by the various segments of the news media, it is hard to imagine the level of excitement and confusion that such a situation causes. I recall a period of more than a week in 1973 when UFO reports were made the lead story by John Chancellor of "NBC Nightly News." Not to be outdone, newspapers all over the country gave front page coverage to the developing flap. By the third week of September 1973 our clipping service began to send us multiple packages *per day* literally stuffed with news clippings. Why, on several nights early in the flap Carol and I went to a nearby park to "skywatch" in the hopes of spotting something. Alas, all we did was disturb the "neckers" in nearby parked cars!

All of the accounts that you read on the pages that follow were written by me from either news reports and/or personal investigation. I also have to thank the many thoughtful people who gave us reports and leads on same. In the days before personal computers, that was what we would now call "networking."

Lastly, besides thanking Carol Hilberg for her never ending support and help, I wish to dedicate this publication to my favorite *raconteur* and friend, James W. Moseley.

Rick Hilberg

September 10, 2001

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9/1/73 THE BEGINNING

Although there were reports from residents of Florida during the last two weeks of August telling of seeing various-colored lights in the sky, a photograph touched things off on the first day of September.

The photograph was taken by Mike Williford in the southern Georgia town of Camilla. It was a night shot taken with a Polaroid camera of an object that he said had a ribbed design and "some sort of center down the middle." The photo itself shows what appears to be an illuminated oval with a rectangular dark area in the center. 1

9/3/73 DRIVER "BUZZED" BY BRIGHT OBJECT

On the night of September 3, a visibly frightened motorist rushed into a police station in Athens, Georgia to report that a "bright - flashing object" had swooped down towards his car. Police said that the unidentified man reported that the object, with "one bright light and four flashing lights," came to within 15 feet of the ground before swerving off into the sky. The officers gave the opinion that the motorist had really seen something. 2

9/8/73 MPs HAVE CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Early on September 8 two Army MPs had a frightening experience while on patrol at the deactivated Hunter Air Force Base outside of Savannah, Georgia. Randy Shade and Burt Burns were on patrol when they first spotted the mysterious intruder. According to Burns, it was first spotted as "a cluster of lights in the sky about two thousand feet up. The lights tracked across the sky flashing red and orange, blue and white."

After disappearing behind some trees in the distance for some minutes, the visitor returned some time around 2:45 a.m. After hovering over one end of the now-deserted military base runway, it began moving toward the car containing the two startled MPs. They then saw that the object was saucer-shaped and apparently metallic. As the saucer neared the car, Shade raced away with the UFO in hot pursuit at speeds up to 100 m.p.h. The 75 foot diameter craft seemed to follow the car only several feet above the roof.

Shade kept up the high speed flight from the UFO for nearly a mile only to finally cut the wheels of the car, and slide onto the grass on the side of the pavement. Said Shade, "The UFO then went back up to tree-top level and skimmed off into the distance." The two MPs reported that the lighted disk made no sound during the encounter. 3

9/9/73 STRANGE MACHINE HOVERS OVER HOUSE

When UFOs were cavorting throughout the South, Griffin, Georgia was visited by a weird aerial contraption. The report was made in the form of a phone call to the Spaulding County Sheriff's office, reporting an object hovering over a house. A deputy dispatched to the scene radioed his office that he saw "two red lights descending slowly to earth," only to then disappear.

Mrs. Hugh D. Beal told local police that an "upside down cup and saucer-shaped object" hovered over her house. She said that the object had gold, red and green lights on the bottom. The woman reported that the object, which she said made a funny noise, was too low for an airplane and was just above tree-top level. The strange nocturnal visitor would change the color of its lights. 4

9/10/73 "GOLDEN BALL" FALLS IN GEORGIA

Georgia was again the scene of an unusual aerial report, when on

September 10 Ress Clanton of Griffin saw a "golden ball" fall from the sky. Clanton said that the object was not in free fall, but seemed to be under control as it descended. The roughly egg-sized thing apparently destroyed itself when it hit the ground leaving a hole a foot long and four to five inches deep. Researchers from a nearby agricultural experiment station took soil samples, and reported that the ground at the impact site was 300 degrees. 5

9/17/73 FIVE OBJECTS SIGHTED AT TREETOP LEVEL

Another low-level report came from Kitsap, Washington on the 17th.

Theresa Deno told the Sheriff's office that she spotted five objects southwest of the Silverdale section at around 9:00 p.m. Deputies reported that two UFOs had red and blue lights, and that three had red and silver lights attached. Mrs. Deno said that the strange objects were sighted spinning just above the treetops. 6

9/17/73 POSSIBLE LANDING IN ALABAMA

Carrville, Alabama authorities asked Auburn University chemists to study an area where a UFO may have landed.

Carrville police officer Gary Clayton and his wife reported seeing a large disk-shaped object suspended in the air, about 350 yards above the ground. Clayton described it as being about the size of a car, with a red light on one edge, a green light on the other side, and a white light in the middle of the object.

"It made a slight ringing noise, like bells jingling. I really feel sort of foolish telling anyone about it. But we know what we saw and heard.

"Then the thing just took off without any noticeable sound and disappeared. And so did me and my wife. We lit out down the road for home. I'm willing to bet my paycheck it wasn't a helicopter either. They make plenty of noise and no helicopter can move like this."

Two days later the possible landing site was found when residents found an area of grass that had been mysteriously burned. The burned area is located near a gravel pit just outside the town limits, and is in the vicinity where officer Clayton and his wife saw the mysterious lighted UFO. 7

9/24/73 LAWYEN SPOT UFO IN TENNESSEE

On the evening of September 24 Shelby County Sheriff's Deputy P.L. Pilalas and his partner J.O. Davis spotted a UFO on U.S. 70 just east of Memphis. They reported that the craft was hovering from 500 to 1000 feet altitude, and that it had two bright spotlights that were shining beams downward, and two red lights glowing at the extremities of the craft.

According to the two, the object was making a whirring noise, and disappeared after twice flashing its spotlights. 8

9/26/73 TWO OBJECTS SEEN IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Two UFOs with "strange flashing lights" were sighted in the Charleston S.C. area early on September 26th. According to County police, several sightings came from motorists on St. Andrew's Boulevard.

The two lights were also observed by policemen from the North Charleston and Edisto Beach areas. County police Sgt. D.J. Gleason said he saw two objects, one of which appeared to be over the city itself, the other above Folly Beach, which lies west of the city. He described the objects as oblong in shape with red, white, blue and green flashing lights. According to Gleason, the lights were distinct, bright and close together in a box shape.

Gleason said the UFOs seemed to hover in one place. The objects

also appeared to have some sort of cloudy mist attached to their bottoms. Gleason said he first spotted the UFOs at about 3:30 a.m. and that they remained in sight until after 5:00. 9

9/29 - 30/73 MORE REPORTS OUT OF TENNESSEE

On September 29 Memphis again was the scene for further UFO reports. On that Saturday evening an object, alternately shining brightly and faintly, was visible over the Memphis area for about four hours. "I know it sounds fantastic, but it's true," said Policeman Flanning Glover of suburban Collierville. "If I was by myself I'd say I was nuts, but there were plenty of witnesses." At least four other Shelby County law officers saw the object. Glover said that the moving light appeared orange at times, and then changed back to white.

"I wouldn't say it had more than one light," he said. "The light I saw was kind of orange and then it would get bright and seemed to turn white. Then it would go out and come back on a different color. We put a spotlight on it and it just went out, then it reappeared in a different place."

In Obion County, fronting the Kentucky border, Sheriff Nathan Cunningham said he saw three different UFOs the next night, and heard one as it flew over his house. Cunningham reported that he talked to 20 people who had similar UFO sightings.

In the same area as the Cunningham report, George and Vicki Rogers said a bright red light swooped close enough to the earth to light up an acre and a half of land that same evening, nearly causing a seven-car accident near Reelfoot Lake on Highway 78. "We were just coming home and I just glanced over to my left in a field, and there was a six or seven foot bright red light. It was so bright I couldn't see what caused it," said Rogers. 10

9/30/73 GREEN BALL HOVERS IN OHIO

On September 30 Mrs. Barbara Marquardt was driving on Bagley Road in Olmsted Twp., Ohio 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. 11

10/3/73 STRANGE OBJECT STRIKES TRUCK IN MISSOURI

A physics professor investigating a reported encounter with a UFO by a truck driver near Cape Girardeau, Missouri on the third, said it caused the driver's eyeglasses to be damaged by internal heat from an unknown source. Eddie Doyle Webb was blinded for several hours after the incident. He is recovering his vision, but is seeing an eye specialist in St. Louis.

Webb said he was driving his rig about dawn that morning when he saw a bright light or aluminum object in the air behind him, "coming up real fast." Webb then awakened his wife who was in the cab with him, but she said that she couldn't see anything. "Then, I stuck my head out of the window and a large ball of fire struck me in the face," Webb said. "My glasses fell off and I couldn't see. But I got the truck stopped." One of the lenses of his glasses fell out of the plastic frame which was warped. Sgt. Ed Wright of the Highway Patrol took Webb's glasses to Dr. Harley Rutledge, head of the Southwest Missouri State physics department, for an analysis.

Rutledge, who has been working for some months to identify the

elusive UFOs, said he put the glasses under a microscope and "it appeared they were heated internally. The plastic apparently got hot and the mold came to the surface. The heat warped the plastic, causing the lens to fall out."

Rutledge said he planned more tests on the glasses. He stated that there appears to be "some residue which we hope to put through some chemical tests." 12

10/3/73 HOUSE-SIZED UFO SPOTTED IN MISSISSIPPI

Later on the evening of the third, a National Park Ranger saw a UFO the size of a two-bedroom house over the Tupelo, Mississippi area. The object was in sight about fifteen minutes and was flashing red, green and yellow lights. The Ranger, Thomas E. Westmoreland, said the object he saw had lights different from those used on aircraft.

"I know it sounds strange, and I can assure you I'm sober," he said. "It was approximately 1,000 feet in altitude and roughly the size of a two-bedroom house or a little smaller. It had red, green and yellow flashing lights - not the standard beacon type you have on aircraft. They were circular and they were rotating continuously. Westmoreland in later interviews said he thought the object was some U.S. test device.

At the same time in the city of Cornith not far from the Ranger's encounter, Arlin Mohundro, sales manager for a local radio station, said he saw an object that hovered about 100 feet off the ground behind the radio station. "It's lights are red and green and white," Mohundro said. "When it gets close it has kind of a black color. The lights are flashing and it looks like it might be the size of an automobile, but it's oval in shape." 13

10/5/73 BIG BUILD-UP IN OHIO BEGINS

During the early evening hours of October 5th, the Cleveland area was the scene of many reports of mysterious lights in the sky. People in widely scattered parts of the city reported that the lights changed colors, hovered, and then moved around. But officials of the NASA Lewis Research Lab said that the lights were probably those of some of their helicopters that had been in the air that evening.

Witnesses thought otherwise, however. A man who spotted an object near the Lake Erie shore said, "It had red lights at the bottom, alternating blue and green lights in between, and a bright white light. The first light was joined by one or two others. It wasn't a helicopter. A helicopter wouldn't stay that long in one spot."

Later that same night in Chillicothe, many miles south of Cleveland and the moving colored lights, student Steve Vogel said that a quarter-moon shaped object followed his car for several miles down a lonely county road. It was about 10:30 p.m. when Vogel observed a three to four foot wide object, with a white center. The UFO veered away when another car approached. 14

10/9/73 OHIO AGAIN VISITED BY UFOs

On the evening of October 9, at least 15 sightings of UFOs, all "covered with red, green and blue lights" were reported in southwestern Ohio flying about at near tree top level. The UFOs, sighted in the Dayton-Cincinnati area, were reported to have not been picked up on radar by Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The first sighting was reported shortly after 8 p.m. by a policeman in New Lebanon Twp. "He didn't want to say he saw it, but he said it," according to Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Sullivan.

"The officer said it was oblong and covered with lights. It

appeared stationary in the sky about tree top level for several minutes until he tried to shine his spot light on it," Sullivan said. It then zoomed toward him and then shot straight up in the air after he turned out his light, and disappeared.

Sullivan said the reported sightings lasted from a split second in time to as much as twelve minutes. "They would be behind the trees and come up and fly away...as if you startled them or something."

On the same night police in Eaton, Indiana said they tracked a strange flying object that flashed red, white and blue lights for several hours. Military radar at nearby Baer Field picked up the UFO, but could not identify it. 15

10/10/73 LOUISIANA TARGETED BY UNKNOWNNS

Sheriff's deputies in Pine, Louisiana were following UFOs with their cruisers on the evening of the 10th. Deputy Michael Moore said that one of the five orange-reddish objects almost "attacked" a police car.

"One of our deputies was scared pretty bad," Moore said. "He turned on his red lights, and they came down at his patrol car. He turned them off and they just vanished like a cloud...Our deputies spotted five of them, and a bunch of witnesses saw them too."

In another sighting reported near Sidell, across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans, Lloyd Mercier said he saw an object while he was driving home that was "approximately 15 or 20 feet in diameter, and it had a streak about a foot wide straight through the middle. I'd say it was approximately 125 to 200 feet in the air, and gradually it disappeared. It looked like it came straight out of the water of Lake Pontchartrain." 16

10/11/73 THE PASCAGOULA CASE

On the evening of the 11th two shipyard workers from Gautier, Mississippi were fishing from an old pier on the Pascagoula River when a "fish-shaped" object, emitting a bluish haze, approached from the sky. Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker have maintained throughout intense questioning that they were taken aboard the craft by three creatures with wrinkled skin, crab-claw hands and pointed ears. The two men said the creatures gave them some sort of examination by an eyelike scanning device.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Dr. James Harder flew in to give the men an interview during hypnosis. Said Hynek afterward, "There is no question in my mind that these men have had a very terrifying experience. Under no circumstances should they be ridiculed. Let's protect these men." 17

10/14/73 UFOs SWARM IN OHIO

Early on October 14th, a 23-year-old man reported seeing a low-flying, slow-moving oval object with two bright white lights and a triangle of green lights beneath it. The report occurred on Mayfield Road in Chesterland, at about 12:15 a.m. The startled motorist said that he and his sister saw it above the road for about a minute, traveling from east to west at a very low altitude. It was said to have been moving from side to side, sounding like a jet engine.

Later the same evening, more than 80 reports were logged from various parts of west central Ohio. One hysterical caller told of an oblong object with blinking lights landing in a field in Highland County. The caller, a woman, screamed that several cows were killed when the object landed. The Sheriff's office dispatched an airplane and several cruisers to the general area from which the call came, but could find nothing.

Along I-75 in a three-county area, UFOs were described as "grayish disks with red and bluish-green lights." Others reported "orange-colored objects" and "blimp-shaped objects." There were several that told of UFOs with "red lights around the rims with a blue flame, or flare, coming out the bottom."

"It continuously glowed," said Lt. Charles Jones of the Madison County Sheriff's office. "It was traveling very slow. Very, very slow. It would go dim and then brighten up. It was actually in the shape of a blimp." 18

10/16/73 OHIO AGAIN "BLITZED" BY STRANGE OBJECTS

On the 16th an Ohio woman claimed that three UFOs forced her car off the road. Said Mrs. Shirley Johnson of Chillicothe, "The kids and I were driving home from my mother's home when three huge lights - two white and one greenish - zoomed down. Two white lights were on either side of my car while the green one was in front."

She said the lights suddenly swooped back up into the sky and left without emitting any sound.

While police officers of the town of Greenfield, Ohio were sighting a UFO at the same time Mrs. Johnson and her children were, one Greenfield officer said he chased one for several miles in his cruiser. Patrolman Mike Conlin said it was an object about 100 feet in diameter, and glowed with a bright white light. "It had a red area on top of it as if it was overheated. There was a dull humming sound that increased in frequency as the object increased its speed." 19

10/16/73 TWO MORE OHIO CASES

On the same evening a Delaware County man, Dean Arnold, said he and four companions followed a glowing red and green object for several miles.

"And all of a sudden it came down out of the sky towards this house and it went real slowly, real bright. Then it reversed and went back up in the air," reported Arnold.

Also on the 16th, an employee of radio station WPAY in Portsmouth said that he saw a strange object from a window in the station. He described it as cigar-shaped with a flat bottom. It was white with blinking red lights. The object reportedly hovered over the city for more than an hour before moving slowly away across the Ohio River. 20

10/17/73 MORE OHIO ACTION

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

Patrolman 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 the 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.

Many persons in the central part of Ohio were made into UFO believers on the 17th, including Mrs. Atlee Schonauer of Millersburg.

"I was sitting at my desk near a window when I looked up and saw a very bright white light which I thought was a star, until it began to move," said Mrs. Schonauer. "It got bigger and bigger, glowing white with some bluish-green in it, until it got about 50 feet from the house. Then it suddenly moved sideways and disappeared behind a hill in back of the house," she reported.

Mrs. Schonauer, who said she was "frightened out of my mind," told newsmen that she would never again make fun of persons who report spotting UFOs. "No more," she said. "I just hope I never see anything like it again."

On the same evening an unidentified woman called a Steubenville newspaper to report that she was temporarily blinded after looking at a large UFO that descended upon her house. 21

10/18/73 UFOs VISIT THE TOLEDO, OHIO AREA

A scattered number of reports came in from the northwestern area of the state. 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 Sheriff'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 short time later. 22

10/18/73 POSSIBLE LANDING IN OHIO

Boys playing football in a Sheffield Lake field sighted a strange object at about 7:15 p.m. Reports made by the young 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, and then seemed to go 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. 23

10/18/73 THE COYNE CASE

After this case was extensively reported on in the news media as well as by those in the ufological press, several Ohio UFO investigators were able to find two ground witnesses to this important case from the Mansfield area:

Possibly the most significant report of the entire flap occurred when an Army helicopter had a strange close-up encounter with a cigar-shaped UFO over Mansfield, Ohio.

"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 2,500 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 1,700 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 back from the nose. There was a center dome. A green light at the rear reflected on the hull. This light swiveled like 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 up into the night sky. 24

11/6/73 UNIDENTIFIED UNDERWATER OBJECT IN MISSISSIPPI

Near the spot where the two shipyard workers had the strange encounter with weird creatures and a strange UFO, Raymond Ryan was in his boat fishing. Suddenly, claims Ryan, an underwater light became visible and began following his boat on the Pascagoula River. Becoming frightened, Ryan repeatedly tried to beat the light away with an oar. However, all this splashing only made the light grow dimmer, as if

submerging to avoid damage.

At first, Ryan decided not to tell anyone about the strange underwater light, lest he find himself being called a liar or publicity hound. But finally Ryan summoned his twin brother, Rayme, and the two of them went back to the brackish waters and poked at the light with oars again.

After no further developments the two decided to report the incident to the Coast Guard.

"At 9:40 p.m. the Coast Guard at Pascagoula dispatched a 16-foot boat to investigate the object," an official related. "The object was located in six feet of water, moving at 4-6 knots." Officers on the boat described it as "an amber beam, 4-6 inches in diameter, attached to a bright metal object." Coast Guard officials said they tried to snare the object, but "it would appear to go out and move away and then reappear."

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12/4/73 MULTIPLE WITNESS CASE IN WASHINGTON

By the fourth of December of 1973, most of the major publicity regarding the elusive disks had pretty much diminished. However, at about 7:00 p.m. that evening in Vancouver, Washington, Mrs. Sylvia Glidden and her two children saw a strange object framed in the front window of their home.

Mrs. Glidden reported to the sheriff's department that it was "a large circular object," and that it had red and green lights all around it. It appeared to be hovering just above the rooftops across an open field directly east of her home, she reported. The UFO remained in the same general area until an aircraft approached. Then the object slowly rose a few feet, stopped and then began slowly moving towards the north. It was in sight for only several minutes longer, until it rose up and disappeared into the evening sky.

Mrs. Glidden and her children went shopping after the incident. Upon returning home, all three of them caught what they thought was a glimpse of the UFO in the far distance. While no other neighbors actually admit to having seen the object, Mrs. Glidden's daughter feels that as many as nine persons in the area may have also spotted the low altitude UFO. 26

12/13/73 STRANGE HAPPENINGS IN BRADENTON, FLORIDA

Several pictures were taken of an alleged UFO and it was claimed by the principal witness that the strange object left behind physical evidence.

Add to all this that the witness is a 16-year-old dropout who quit school because he could not learn enough from the teachers - but has considerable knowledge of physics, electronics and photography - and the whole case becomes quite a puzzler.

This is what young Patrick Thrush said he saw: He was driving to the home of a friend at about 8:50 p.m., when he saw what he thought was an airplane going down in the vicinity of Manatee Avenue and the Braden River. Thrush then drove to the river and pulled his car off to the side of the road for a look-see. As his car was bumping down along the embankment, the headlights picked up a hovering object about 20 feet above the water with a tube that led from the strange craft to the river.

Thrush took a camera from his car and snapped two pictures, using a strobe flash for illumination. The tube then began pulling back into the UFO, he related, and the object began a slow descent toward the position where he was standing. It passed about seven feet above his small

Toyota, and he reported that at this time he heard something strike the hood of the car. The object then continued in a wide, slow arc to the east, emitting a blue-green light. Shortly, the UFO turned a red color and disappeared southward, he said.

At about the same time, John Dowdy, 18, was on Morgan-Johnson Road, about two miles east of Thrush's location. Dowdy says that he looked up and observed a "bright orange object, going really fast." The object, he reported, turned southward, appeared to stop and then disappeared.

In Palma Sola Park, George Montgomery glanced out of a west window of his home and saw a strange light in the sky. Above and below the bright light there were two smaller lights. The smaller lights then merged into the single bright light and disappeared. Again, the time was the same given by Thrush for his strange experience near the Braden River.

After the UFO went out of sight, Thrush returned to his car to find a warmish, dry rock. A search of the area around the car revealed two more of the lava-like rocks. Thrush then decided that it was time for him to call the police.

Patrolman Chris Schmidt responded to the call and began the investigation. The official police report makes no firm conclusions, but Schmidt has been quoted as saying that he believes Thrush's report.

The photographs taken by Thrush are not in themselves spectacular. All they show is a small portion of the object's superstructure, and what may be the tube that reportedly ran down into the river.

The rocks remain under investigation. Dr. Larry Doyle of the University of South Florida says they seem to be a cinder produced from a heat source of some kind. 27

2/3-4/74 DENVER AREA POLICE SIGHTINGS

Three Jefferson County sheriff's officers reported sighting UFOs on two occasions, on Sunday the 3rd, and again on Monday the 4th. As has been the case with the recent spate of reports by law enforcement officers, the three reliable witnesses have been unable to explain and identify the mysterious objects.

Deputy Ken Fitzpatrick reported sighting a UFO at about 2 a.m. Sunday while on duty on U.S. 285, about 25 miles southwest of Denver.

"I estimated that it was about 5,000 feet in the air. It had a sequence of six or seven white lights. In between the white lights were red and green lights. It was about the size of three jumbo jets."

Fitzpatrick said that the sky was clear and he doubted the lights were reflected from clouds. He observed the UFO for about two or three minutes "then it just wasn't there. It didn't go up and it didn't come down - it just wasn't there anymore." He said that the sheriff's department received several calls about the mysterious early morning visitor.

Deputy Tom Bobay and patrolman Joe Cope reported sighting a similar object early the next day in the Lakehurst area of Denver.

Bobay was on patrol when he received a call to check with Cope at his home in Lakehurst. When Bobay arrived, Cope pointed out the object, which was a great distance from Cope's home. "Cope gave me a pair of binoculars, and I looked at it," Bobay said. "There were numerous lights - red, bluish greens, amber and pure whites. We watched it for about 35 minutes - we could tell it wasn't an airplane or helicopter. Then it slowly disappeared into the west," Bobay reported.

From the report made by Bobay and Cope, and the similar description

of the UFO they sighted, Fitzpatrick believes that it was the same object that he sighted, back for another visit to the area. 28

2/14/74 TERROR ON A NEVADA DESERT ROAD

"I read an account of a UFO sighting in the *Register* on March 13, 1974. It was similar to a sighting that my brother and I had in the Nevada desert on February 14, 1974. We left Buhl, Idaho with a load of furniture in a 12-foot U-Haul truck," wrote witness Robert Klinn to the Santa Anna, California newspaper.

"Later on in the desert outside of McGill, Nevada we were driving when my brother gestured and told me to look. I looked out of the left side of the truck and observed a round, orange object that appeared to be 10 feet off the desert floor. I couldn't tell how big it was or how far away it was.

"I then looked out the right side of the cab and saw three more smaller objects that were higher up and were blue. One of them was flickering off and on; the other two remained constant.

"My brother said the orange object had been on the right side of the truck and had passed us and crossed over the road in front of us and had come up to the left side of the cab.

"We were moving at about 55 miles-per-hour, and at that moment it felt like we had been hit by a blast of wind or force field. The lights on the truck flickered on and off and the engine started to miss.

"Then he lost control of the truck and couldn't steer it. I told him to stop, and then before we could stop, the transmission selector jumped out of 'drive' into 'neutral', and we coasted to a stop in the middle of the road. Up to that point I wasn't very scared yet.

"As we sat there in the road with the motor running, we observed a huge silver metal ball with a dome on top and sharp wings, standing still over a hill to the left. It was pulsating.

"We then were scared half to death as we observed a huge light on the road in front of us that had a red light on top of it. We thought it was moving toward us. It appeared to be maybe a mile ahead of us. I got out of the truck and shined my flashlight at it, but nothing happened. I then looked under the truck to discover the drive shaft turning.

"Fearing for my life, I got back into the truck, and we both kept watching the light move closer. We felt that we were in a vacuum of some kind and isolated from the rest of the world. This experience lasted about 20 minutes. Then it seemed to disappear and it was over.

"Just then a car or whatever it was zoomed past us so fast we couldn't tell what it was. It was all over. I got out and put reflectors on the road to avoid an accident, and tried to flag down a car. We finally stopped someone and they took us into McGill, which is 10 miles north of Ely.

"We got another U-Haul truck and the station owner drove us back out to where we had stopped. We didn't say anything to him, for we thought he might have laughed. After we unloaded the truck, he had to shove it off the highway, as the back wheels would not move."

Monday, the brother who wrote the letter told the newspaper that when the truck had been hit by the blast of air, he felt that the truck was lifted off the ground. "It was floating slightly off the highway in the air," he said. "None of the wheels were touching the highway." When the transmission selector skipped into "neutral," the truck swayed in the air, he said, and the vehicle came smoothly to a stop without skidding.

Lewis Sandberg, owner of the Walker-Texaco Service, outlet for U-Haul in Ely, informed the paper that the entire rear end of the witnesses' U-Haul truck had to be replaced - the tires, the rear axle, the outside housing, and the gears, "which were all messed up."

"The rear end was beyond repair," Sandberg said. "The back axle was twisted right off."

Sandberg said that after the brothers continued on their journey with the replacement truck, Sandberg and a helper took a tow truck to the disabled vehicle.

"When our tow truck lifted up the back of the truck," Sandberg said, "the wheels just fell right off! Those men stopped that truck just in time." 29

2/19/74 SEVEN UNKNOWN SPOTTED OVER HATTIESBURG, MISS.

Seven UFOs, described as about the size of a small house, were sighted by more than twelve persons in Forrest County that evening. Harold Stanton, an employee of WDAM-TV, said several persons in cars followed five orange and two blue UFOs as they "hop-scotched to three open fields." He said the objects darted toward the ground and then back into the sky. "It also appeared that they were flying in pairs and some sort of formation," he said.

Stanton described the objects as about the size of a small house. He said, however, "a glow of variable intensity was emitted, making it impossible to determine the exact size."

Lynn Fairchild, a telephone operator, and a university professor corroborated Stanton's account. The professor wishes not to be identified at this time, however. 30

2/19/74 "TRUCK-SIZED" UFO REPORTED IN MINNESOTA

A UFO "bigger than a wrecker truck" and spewing flames buzzed northwest Rochester, Minn. before disappearing, of all places, near the old city dumping area. Among those persons reporting the strange object was a Rochester policeman and a service station operator.

Patrolman James Preiss, driving a squad car, and James Kuhlman, who runs a Clark service station and who was driving his tow truck, pursued the UFO along Elton Hills streets until losing sight of it as it neared the old city dump.

"I was really terrified when I first saw it," Kuhlman said. He said that it was about 11:25 p.m. when he was driving past the Hillcrest Shopping Center when he saw the object in the sky, "flying at about 100 feet, towards me." Kuhlman said that he then pulled his truck into the shopping center and parked. "It scared the hell out of me," he said.

Kuhlman described the UFO as bigger than a wrecker truck with a "kind of white dome shell on top." He said it seemed to be powered by what looked like several small afterburners flaming toward the ground from the bottom of the object.

"It cruised slowly right over my head in a northeasterly direction," said Kuhlman, who gave chase in his truck. He was joined in the pursuit by patrolman Preiss, who spotted it as he drove north on U.S. 52. He turned east at the 19th Street NW exit to follow the object into Elton Hills.

"Whatever it was, it was seen to have flames coming from it," Preiss reported.

Kuhlman, who has a citizens' band radio in his truck, said he heard chatter on his radio from Elton Hills residents who were talking about the strange object. Kuhlman stated that he and Preiss stopped to compare

notes about the UFO to make sure they had seen the same thing. A second police car was sent to help search for the UFO, but it had vanished.

The control tower at Rochester Municipal Airport said nothing strange was seen in the sky at the time, and that no radar contact was made. 31

3/17/74 FLYING "WASHTUB" CASE

Four persons had a very good look at a "washtub-shaped" UFO while driving late in the evening of March 17 in the vicinity of Boxley, Arkansas. Again, as we have found over the years in the case of low-level reports, the witnesses don't want their names mentioned in connection to this fantastic experience.

The woman who was driving the car told Fayetteville police that she, her girlfriend and her two children, first became aware of the UFO when one of the children described a bright light in the night sky. The driver reported that she looked up through the windshield to spot a bright light about the size and shape of a washtub, with a beam of light coming from it in a whirlwind motion.

She was not able to give more of a description as the object was traveling at a "fantastic" speed - its speed also kept her from estimating the size and distance from the car. 32

3/24/74 "MUSHROOM-SHAPED" SOMETHING FROM NEW JERSEY

A brown, mushroom-shaped UFO was spotted by Miss Carol Grimes of Ocean Grove, New Jersey on the evening of March 24. Miss Grimes reported that she was walking home when she heard a strange, screeching sound above her.

"I heard this grinding sound, something like a motor, but unlike anything I had ever heard before. Then I looked up and I saw it," she said. Miss Grimes added the object was about the size of a helicopter and about 50 feet from the ground.

"There were no lights but I could see it because the sky was light."

When Miss Grimes spotted a couple walking some distance away from her, she said that she looked away from the object with thoughts of hailing them. However, after looking back she said that the object was disappearing into the night toward Asbury Park. 33

4/7/74 THREE SPOT UFO IN WASHINGTON

Three Lacey, Washington teenage girls reported sighting a UFO on the evening of April 7. The girls said the cone-shaped object hovered above their location, emitting a high-pitched whine. The UFO, they said, had two lights in the front section, four lights and one blinking red light on the bottom.

Ladell Lund and Donna and Doreitta Widner said that the UFO hovered over their car and then took off toward the Nisqually Valley. They reported that the strange object was about the size of a small airplane, and had a decided point at the front. 34

4/15/74 MICHIGAN UFO HOVERS OVER TREETOPS

A UFO that hovered over the treetops for nearly an hour at Niles, MI on the evening of April 15, had police wondering what the strange visitor was. The object was flashing red, green, blue and white lights.

The multi-colored UFO was first reported to Niles police by Janice Washington of Briarcrest Street, who called in her report at 11:24 p.m. Her account kicked off what was to become a frantic attempt by several police officers to pursue and identify the object.

Officers described it as a bright white light with smaller flashing colored lights, moving slowly westward toward Buchanan from the west side

of Niles. The UFO maintained a 60-degree altitude, police reported, but made no sound.

Before the strange craft disappeared over Buchanan, officers from the state police post at Niles, and Niles and Howard Townships joined in the pursuit. Police followed the object as far as the Orchard Hills Country Club, along the Niles-Buchanan Road.

Niles city police officers said that they received several calls during the evening about the object. A call by police to the St. Joseph County Airport added no clues as to the identification of the object. 35
6/10/74 DIAMOND-SHAPED OBJECT VISITS MICHIGAN

An Allegan, Michigan resident and his son who were returning from a motor trip to Grand Haven reported seeing a UFO over Michigan 40 and 85 near the town of Hamilton.

James Cyrus and his 15-year-old son, Morgan, first spotted the strange object standing still in the sky as they were southbound on the highway two or three miles north of Mailton. Cyrus stated that the object's stationary position was what first called their attention to it, as they speculated whether the UFO might have been an airplane, helicopter, or a television broadcast tower.

As they drove on they got closer and closer to the object as they approached Hamilton, until they were nearly directly below it at the northwest edge of that city. Cyrus described the object as silent and roughly diamond-shaped with several red, blue and white blinking lights on it.

His curiosity aroused, Cyrus said he turned his car around and headed back north toward the object, when it slowly crossed the road several times, then sped off toward the north.

He attempted to follow it, but the object went out of sight beyond the crest of a hill, not to be seen again. Mr. Cyrus is a four year Air Force veteran familiar with many types of aircraft. 36
6/20/74 YET ANOTHER DIAMOND "SOMETHING"

Jim Jensen of Addison, Illinois reported sighting a strange object over his home at 9:30 p.m. The diamond-shaped object was seen in the west over Addison Trail High School, and had red lights on the higher and lower points.

He further stated that when the lights went on he could see that the entire object was gray in color. The lights were seen to flash on and off while the object appeared to fly westward at a high rate of speed.

After first catching sight of the UFO, Mr. Jensen promptly called the local police to report the sighting. Police officers filing the report stated that they viewed a red light while at Army Trail and Heritage Roads, the object traveling to the east then immediately west. They also reported that the object finally went out of sight in a southerly direction.

At about the same time several detectives reported sighting a single red light in the sky moving at a fast rate. 37
6/30/74 UFO BRAVES STORM IN PENNSYLVANIA

At least eight persons viewed a UFO during a heavy thunderstorm on the evening of the 30th. "It was a big white light up there, and it was jumping around the sky all during the storm," reported Rebecca Edward, one of the witnesses who lives near the town of Mifflintown.

"This is the third time we've seen these things. Last time was about two - three months ago in a clear sky. That time it was round and silver and looked like it had windows in it, but last night we could see

it between the trees, and it was just sort of a round light," she related.

She said the eight persons in the house saw the mysterious object during the storm. "My father saw it come up from the Mifflintown area," she added. 38

7/12/74 CIGAR-SHAPED OBJECT SIGHTED OVER BANNING, CALIFORNIA

Nonie Atherly was returning home after dropping her husband off at work when she was startled to sight a strange object in the sky. It was 6:10 a.m. and she was driving along Wilson Street when the huge cigar-shaped object first became visible.

Mrs. Atherly described the object as being "several football fields" in length, and that it had a dome. She also added that the object would occasionally move from side to side in flight, and that it was slightly tilted toward her.

After observing the strange machine for several minutes, Mrs. Atherly reported that the object shot away at a tremendous speed trailing flames behind it. 39

7/16/74 UFO WITH ROCKET-LIKE EFFECTS VISITS SANTA CRUZ, CALIF.

A UFO with rocket-like effects that moved with "incredible speed" was sighted by three young persons about 11:15 p.m. near West Cliff Dr.

Joe Kinter, 22, a former Navy jet mechanic and his girlfriend, Brandy Bumgarner, 18, were near Almar Street when suddenly Miss Bumgarner pointed to a light out over the bay. "It looked like a rocket, it went almost straight up, then stopped. Then the rocket-like fire went out, but a white light on top illuminated its shape.

"Then suddenly it moved at an incredible speed," she related. As the object passed over the coast both said that they could see the bottom of the craft. It looked squarish, with rounded corners, they both said.

A college student who wished not to be named was nearby, and was called over by Kinter and Bumgarner. The student described the UFO as luminous, apparently because of the light on top. He said that it was his impression that the top of the object was spinning rapidly.

Miss Bumgarner further related that there were four red lights on the bottom of the craft. All witnesses said that the sound it made was strange, "sort of like a recorder tape being rewind."

When the UFO headed inland, another light was spotted nearby that seemed to be drawn into the craft. "It was like it was intercepted by something. We could see the light move toward it and disappear inside the UFO we saw," Kinter said. 40

7/21/74 WILLAMSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA UFO "CHASE"

George M. Frasher of the *Clarion News* reported that a man who wished not to be named spotted and chased a UFO along I-80. The object, reportedly seen by himself and four other members of his family, was described as gray or silver, quite smooth and shaped like a cylinder. The object itself was brightly illuminated and had two or three blinking red lights, and five white lights located along each side. The witnesses also agreed that it was open at one end of the cylinder.

According to the witnesses, the UFO was not a helicopter or blimp. It had no propellers, no wings and was definitely guided in flight. The man reported that the object sounded like several motorcycles, and that it caused interference on his television set when it was first sighted about 9:30 p.m.

After watching the UFO for several minutes the man reported that he got into his car and chased it along I-80. The object's ground speed was

estimated at 40 to 50 miles-per-hour and the altitude at 1,000 feet.

The witness said that he nearly caught up with it near the town of Corsica, but that it circled around him and headed back to the west. He said that he finally lost sight of the object after it went behind a hill near the strip mines near Williamsburg. 41

7/22/74 UFO OVER LEXINGTON, MISSOURI

"It was about four times as big as a star and real bright. It looked like a spotlight by the Little Dipper," so related Mrs. Judy Schoonover, describing a strange object in the sky which she watched for some three hours.

"It was weird. My husband saw it first when he was coming home from work about 12:15 in the morning. He woke me up and I saw it about 12:50. It was farther away than an airplane and was round with something like a church steeple on top. A blue light flashed from the top and bottom, and now and then (a) red light flashed. It would get real dim and then disappear and get bright again," Mrs. Schoonover told newsmen.

When she and her husband looked at the strange object through binoculars, she related that they saw "white vapors like clouds coming out of it." She said that the vapors appeared every time the lighted object began to dim.

"I watched it until 3:00 and then it went out and didn't come back for awhile, I went to bed," she stated. She said that seven people from her home and her neighbor's home watched the early morning visitor. 42

8/11/74 POLICE REPORT UFOs IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Tilton Patrolmen Mark E. Paine and Michael E. Alden notified their headquarters at 3:23 a.m. of a saucer-like object with red, blue, white and yellow lights flying above the tree-line near the Sanbornton exit, off I-93. Within half-an-hour they were joined by two Belmont officers, a Gilford officer and a deputy from the Belknap County Sheriff's Dept.

Paine, 22, who has been with the Tilton force for seven months, said that the first UFO came to within 100 yards of the cruiser before it turned up on its side and backed off. It was an elliptical shape with a dome on top and was about 30 by 50 feet in diameter, Paine said.

Two other flying objects were seen several miles away, apparently flying in a triangle formation with the closest saucer, Paine said. A fourth object, which was independent of the triangle, at one point came straight up from the trees and then flew right over their heads, Paine added.

Two Franklin officers, notified of the reports, observed three objects with multi-colored lights from the Franklin police parking lot at about 4:00 a.m. The two officers then moved to a nearby shopping center lot for an unobstructed view. Between 4:00 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. they were joined by seven other persons who had come to pick up their Sunday newspaper deliveries. 43

9/29/74 YOUTH SIGHTS GLOWING UFO OVER PLANT CITY, FLA.

Frank Smith, 11, said he saw a large, flat, glowing object "with a hump" that made a swooshing noise near his house about 9:00 p.m.

Young Smith said he watched the "space ship" - red in color and glowing in the dark as it rotated above his house - from his bedroom window for about three minutes before it went behind some nearby trees and disappeared.

He also said that his dogs were barking and that trees in the area of the UFO were shaking. Frank's mother reported that the event had him quite frightened as he slept very poorly that night. 44

9/24/74 MEANWHILE OVER IN LAKELAND...

Just a few miles to the east of where young Frank Smith saw his UFO that shook the trees in his backyard, two UFOs, "disk-shaped, with red and green flashing lights" were reported hovering over Lake of the Hills by Mrs. Edward D. Tanner and her husband.

She said that she and her husband were sitting on their front porch "watching what we thought was a star." When the lights kept flashing and the object "kept getting out of orbit," Mrs. Tanner said she and her husband became most curious.

Mrs. Tanner went into the house to secure the binoculars so as to get a better view of the strange light. Both she and her husband viewed the object through the optical instrument and she said that the UFO was disk-shaped and had red and green elongated lights. "It couldn't have been a star, because it didn't stay in any particular orbit," she added.

She said the first object suddenly disappeared and that another, similar object appeared far to the south.

Mrs. Tanner reported the sighting to city police who said they also had the objects in sight. The Tanners watched the unknowns from about 8:30 until 10:00 p.m. 45

10/7/74 WEIRD SIGHTS OVER BEND, OREGON

Hap Taylor Jr., a local contractor, and his two sons were traveling south on Arnold Market Road east of Bend at around 8:00 p.m. when, as he told local news media, a beacon of light suddenly shined down on the ground.

The startled Taylor stopped the car and observed the stationary beacon apparently coming from an object he estimated was 10,000 to 20,000 feet in the air. "It was one hell of a powerful light," Taylor said. "I'd never seen anything that bright."

The object was "absolutely dead still until it took off," Taylor reported. "It took off to the south. There wasn't any explosion. It just shot off. I'd say it was over Lava Butte in about 1½ seconds."

Taylor said that the object left a thick vapor trail that "almost looked like smoke."

Taylor wasn't the only person to see the mysterious object. Mrs. Sue Golden of Vicksburg Avenue was taking her family to the store when she noticed it from her viewpoint on Awbrey Heights.

She said that the object was "bright and triangle shaped." It was in the southwest and "looked like it was headed north," she said. "It was quite a spectacle. Very bright and beautiful."

State police officers in Bend and Gilchrist reported "several" calls coming in from persons who had also sighted the bright unknown object. It was also reported that persons in Eugene and at Mahlon Sweet Field spotted the UFO at about 7:40 p.m. 46

10/10/74 DISK SPOTTED IN OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

Two 9-year-old girls playing on the bank of the Ohio River near the Mid-South Mobile Home Park got a good look at a UFO on the north side of the river.

The girls said that the object was about the size of a small auto, and was shaped like a saucer with a handleless cup on top of it. They said that the strange object was "tannish-white" with purple and yellow flashing lights. It hovered near the bank, disappeared and then reappeared a short distance away several times, they said.

The girls said they called the Daviess County Sheriff's Office and the Owensboro-Daviess County Airport control tower, but because they were

obviously not adults could get no cooperation.

Finally a reporter from the local newspaper was called out to view the strange object, but by that time it was in the far distance. "I couldn't tell what it was, but it didn't look like an airplane," he reported. 47

10/16/74 "HUGE" OBJECT OVER COLORADO

Frank and Dee Day spotted a strange object from the back yard of their rural home, located some five miles south of Johnstown.

Because it was 8:00 p.m. and therefore quite dark, no exact shape was distinguishable. However, Mrs. Day said that the object had three pulsating red lights in the shape of an elongated triangle. It hovered for about ten minutes at what was estimated 150 feet off the ground, but didn't disturb any of the animals in the pastures, she said, noting also that the dogs didn't bark.

"It was huge...large in size," she said. "They (the lights) moved in unison, not separately."

The Days and two of their four children were witness to the sighting. They called the Colorado State Patrol, who referred the matter to the Johnstown Police. By the time the local police arrived on the scene, however, the strange lights were long gone from sight. 48

10/20/74 POSSIBLE EM EFFECTS IN ELKHART, INDIANA

"It was a ball, orange and green, spinning about 15 or 25 feet away," said an upset 13-year-old girl shortly after a strange UFO experience she had while driving with her mother.

She and her mother saw something in the sky over northern Elkhart at around 9:45 p.m. on their way home from church. They were traveling east on Elkhart County Road 4 when something appeared. "It was several different colors, but mostly green; my daughter said it looked like a rusty ball," the woman said. "It was there and gone at the window on the passenger side, disappearing and reappearing at least four times," she said.

The woman reported that her car was all over the road trying to elude the strange object. At one point as the light hovered, the woman reported that the car engine died forcing her to pull off the road. At this point the object left.

After questioning by law enforcement officers, she stated that she was familiar with that particular stretch of the road and that the strange object did not behave like an airplane or other such object. "It was a terrifying experience and I wouldn't want to go through it again," she added. 49

11/1/74 "AWESOME" UFO OVER BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

Mrs. Madeline McKoane was driving her son and his friend home from a hockey meeting at Langendorf Park, when they spotted a strange object in the sky as they approached Baker's Lake. It was early evening and the bright object in the distance startled them.

"We saw these glaring lights," Mrs. McKoane explained. "It was a large spinning object less than 1,000 feet off the ground. It was going straight across from Eastern Avenue over Baker's Lake and just hovered there.

"It was such an awesome sight that it's difficult to explain," she continued. "It just hovered there for about four minutes and then started going up. It looked like a great big white cigar or a frisbee as it went up."

Mrs. McKoane claims that about five teenage boys in a car in front

of hers got out of their car to have a look at the strange object. "I should have gone to talk to them, but I was so shook-up I just didn't think of it at the time." 50

11/8/74 STRANGE OBJECT SPOTTED OVER HOLLOMAN AFB

Two Holloman Security Policemen reported to the New Mexico State Police that they saw something that looked like a "big ball of fire with red and green lights on top" that was flying in the vicinity of the base. The incident apparently began when someone called the State Police office, at 11:15 p.m., to report the same object making what appeared to be a landing approach approximately one mile southeast of the base.

Several minutes later, the report from the security patrol was received, noting that the object moved up, down and horizontally as it approached the base before finally disappearing in the vicinity of a night club on Highway 70 west.

The report from the security men ended with the comment that "the whole thing must sound crazy" but that they had never seen anything like it before. 51

ADDENDUM

BEYOND THE FLAP

While the 1973 - 1974 flap stands on its own as an important historical event, the 1970s produced many other significant UFO reports. There were so many, in fact, that I felt compelled to include some of the better cases in this overview even though they occurred after the big flap itself was over.

The following cases are only a small sample of the hundreds that were reported from that time, and are my personal favorites.

8/10-11/75 MINI FLAP IN KANSAS

A large number of glowing, moving objects were sighted late Sunday August 10th, and early the 11th by observers in Sedan, Caney, Fredonia, Independence and in other widely scattered locations in Kansas.

One observer, June Stephens, the police dispatcher in Caney, said that she was mystified by the reports, and couldn't think of anyone that she had talked to who could explain them to her satisfaction.

"They're like nothing you've ever seen. You'd have to see them to believe them," Mrs. Stephens said.

Officials of the FAA and the U.S. Weather Service did not officially report spotting any of the strange objects on their radars or other instruments.

The dispatcher for the Kansas Highway Patrol at Chanute had received a number of radio reports from area police departments, including a sighting from the town of Burlington. The dispatcher said that the FAA Flight Center in Chanute had been notified and the officer there said he would relay the information to FAA offices in Kansas City and Tulsa.

Mrs. Stephens said she was alerted to "brightly flashing" objects in the air moving toward Caney by the Sedan police department at 11:20 p.m. Sunday.

She said that she and Clarence Rose, the night officer, scanned the skies and saw three objects "heading toward Oklahoma City...flying at

about 2,000 feet.

"One was brighter than the other and they were all flashing...they were changing colors, red, white and green," Mrs. Stephens said. "Sometimes one would move and the others stand still, sometimes they would rotate in circles or bounce up and down and then zip away faster than a jet plane.

"I've seen falling stars before but they didn't look like that. They were brighter than the stars."

Shortly after seeing the moving lights, Mrs. Stephens said she was deluged with telephone calls from Caney residents who had seen similar objects, and from persons who had heard of the strange aerial activity on citizens and police-band radios.

Police dispatchers in Fredonia, Cherryvale and Independence were busy radioing reports of similar sightings of colored, luminous objects moving randomly around and in a variety of directions. The dispatcher at Fredonia radioed that three "green, red and golden" objects which sometimes moved in circles were sighted near that city.

In Independence, the police dispatcher complained of "foreign noises and foreign languages" on his radio "on all frequencies...like a tape recorder played too fast, but not completely like that." UFOs were reportedly in the area when the strange radio interference was heard.

According to the early-morning dispatcher at the Coffeyville police department, officers had seen nothing all morning, even though reports from nearby Caney indicated that two objects were seen moving toward Coffeyville at 5:30 a.m.

While a variety of "explanations" were given to the reports, those who witnessed the strange moving lights remained completely baffled. 52 11/11/75 OHIO UFO "CHASED" BY POLICE

A Madison, Ohio 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 some twenty minutes, and thereby causing local news media to give UFO coverage not seen since the 1973-1974 flap.

Patrolman Zachary G. Space said a township resident, Kenneth Ohtola, had telephoned police at 3:34 a.m. to report the UFO. Space then went to the police station on West Main Street 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 toward the city of 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, who had a 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 and slowly 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 dominant 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. 53

1/23/76 UFOs "INVADE" CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO

For several nights leading up to Friday January 23rd, many persons phoned in reports of lighted cigar-shaped UFOs to the local Clovis police. However, on the evening of the 23rd so many persons called the authorities that it prompted police dispatcher Diana Kenemore to comment that it seemed to her that everyone in town had called in.

"I know it's got to be something," Miss Kenemore said, "because that many people can't be wrong. They all saw them at the same time. Plus, our officers saw them. Every citizen that called up was real willing to give his name, address and telephone number."

Authorities said that more than 30 of the silent, mysterious objects with pulsating lights were spotted between nightfall and midnight Friday.

"Everybody in town has called in," Miss Kenemore said. "The phone hasn't stopped ringing since 5:30 and every line was a UFO." She related that several callers reported 20 of the objects hovering over the Sandia elementary school in the northern part of town.

Town Marshal Willie Ronquillo of Texico, a community on the Texas border, said he followed up one of the reports and spotted a silent, lighted object hovering about 300 yards over the community of 1,000. He said it had green, yellow and blue lights and made no sound.

When it started moving northward, Ronquillo said, he notified state police and chased it in his car.

Several state police officers later reported seeing what was believed to be the same object, and they said it was last seen moving at a high rate of speed toward Tucmari.

Miss Kenemore said that three frightened young boys reported seeing several of the flying objects land in a pasture near their home in the south part of Clovis.

Newspaper reporter Scott Price said he took several photographs of one of the objects early Friday with a 35 millimeter camera hooked up to a telescope.

One of the photographs was printed in the Friday edition of the *Clovis News - Journal*.

"It shows an elongated cigar-shaped object, white against a very, very pitch black sky," Price said. "The cigar is thicker in the center than toward the periphery. Two black circular areas that appear vivid through the telescope don't show up in the photo due to the focusing problem." 54

2/25/76 "HUMANIDS" SIGHTED IN ILLINOIS

A report that two mysterious beings described as "humanoids" were sighted northwest of Nashville, Illinois is being checked by the Center For UFO Studies. Authorities said that a middle-aged woman was driving down a county road when the two unidentified beings flashed a blue light at her, causing her to speed away in fright.

Deputy John Gronewald of the Washington County Sheriff's Office said the sighting took place "about three miles west of Nashville and five miles north of Rte. 460 on the Covington Road."

He said the woman "wasn't really for sure what she had seen," but was quite scared.

Mario DeSario, and investigator for the Center, was assigned after the sheriff's office called to report the incident.

DeSario said the woman described "two very tall humanoids with large feet and no necks. They shined a blue light at her. This follows a pattern we've been noticing lately. The fact that they did not have any necks is especially significant."

Even though the woman did not report sighting a UFO in conjunction with the case, at last word it was still under investigation. 55
4/1/76 "BOUNCING" OBJECT SPOTTED IN NORTH CAROLINA

What was described in the newspapers as a "UBO" (an unidentified *bouncing* object) was sighted on a highway between Nashville and Red Oak, NC at night by Mrs. Lou Fisher and Mrs. Annie Mae Ross.

Mrs. Fisher reported that she and Mrs. Ross were traveling between Nashville and Red Oak when a strange object the approximate shape of an automobile bounced across the road in front of her car. According to Mrs. Fisher, she and Mrs. Ross could see the shape of some wheels, but could not actually see the wheels. They also reported that it had large red lights on the rear, and may have had some sort of light on the front.

Mrs. Fisher reported that the object was grayish in color, and had a long, silver-colored rod down the side, which protruded past the rear end of the object for about 12 inches.

The two women further reported that the soundless object just bounced across the highway, went into a field and disappeared. 56
7/18/76 UFO "TOOK CONTROL" OF TRUCK IN KENTUCKY

A strange aerial object terrorized over 17 residents near the town of Gravel Switch on what had been a calm and serene Sunday night. "People ain't gonna believe us, but we saw it," said Mrs. Judy Taylor, one of the witnesses. "It was just round looking like a hornet's nest with red and blue and green lights on it."

Charlie and Doris Gilpin were the first persons to encounter the objects. They were driving on Highway 68 in Marion County about 10 p.m. returning from church.

"We were headed down the road," said Mr. Gilpin, "and we looked up above and saw something hovering over the road. And I said, 'I want to see what this is.' So we went on down,' and got scared and stopped the truck. And about the time we stopped; this thing started toward us - this object; I don't know what it was. And I tried to back up, and the thing took control of the truck.

"The truck commenced swaying all over the road, and I finally got it turned around. And it seemed like something had ahold of the truck where we couldn't take off. And we went up the road about a quarter of a mile, and it just headed over the truck right up through there. And it seemed like something was holding us up all the time. I looked down and the speedometer said 70 or 80 but yet we wasn't getting nowhere fast. And this morning - Monday morning - I went back to the same place and it took two minutes, where it took 15 or 20 minutes to get there before when this object was over us. It seemed like this object was holding us back all the time, but when we turned into the drive, it turned us loose and it seemed like we was just a-flying."

The Gilpins had turned the truck into the first available driveway, one belonging to Judy Taylor's sister.

Doris Gilpin recounts what happened next. "When I got out of the truck and ran toward the house to get up on the porch of the house, the object had gotten up over the top of the house then. And it was so close to the ground that I could hear the humming sound of it and I could feel the breeze, you know, the air coming out of it."

The object remained in that area near Gravel Switch from about 10 p.m. until 1 a.m., witnesses reported.

The object repeatedly zoomed and floated around the sky, once chasing Mrs. Judy Taylor, who came by her sister's home where the Gilpins had taken refuge from the UFO to deliver her nephew from church. When Mrs. Taylor left - she says that she waited until she thought the object was gone - the UFO followed along beside her car for a distance.

Mrs. Taylor's son, Jackie, actually saw some sort of doors open underneath the craft. He says that the doors slid open as if someone or something wanted to peer out.

Mrs. Taylor said that another witness near Danville saw the UFO hover over Boyle County High for some time before the Gravel Switch sightings, and then shoot off toward Marion County.

Some of the witnesses reported the sightings to the Marion County Sheriff's Department. Apparently concerned about possible radiation from the strange object, the sheriff's department instructed them to go see a doctor. A reading of the Gilpin truck was also taken, with no radiation being reported. 57

10/26/76 FLYING "FOOTBALL" SPOTTED OVER BREA, CALIFORNIA

Gary White was standing in his back yard at about 7:40 p.m. when he sighted an object described as "football-sized."

White called the Brea police dispatcher Mrs. Jean Barnaby, and told her that the object was flying at "a tremendous rate of speed." He said that it had a solid bank of lights on one side and made a "humming noise."

"I had gone out of the house to have a cigarette and saw it hovering above the house, about as high in the air as a small airplane," White said. "It was about 7:40 p.m. I wasn't wearing my glasses - I'm nearsighted - so I went back into the house to get them. My children came out and saw the object too. It was about the shape of a fat cigar with a bank of white lights, and a bright red light on top of it.

"When I came back out, it looked as if it had moved over to the area above the police department," White said. 58

12/30/76 DOMED SAUCER SIGHTED IN IDAHO

A saucer-shaped object with a bright dome was sighted by a St. Maries woman and her four children while driving between Worley and Rockford. The sighting occurred at 6:15 p.m., and it was already dark outside, the woman reported.

She thought at first that the object was a light on a radio tower, while her children speculated that they might be sighting a distant airplane.

They pulled off the highway and watched from their car as the object came toward them. "It had a big dome light on top of a saucer-shaped object with two blinking lights on the rim of the saucer," she said. The object was very bright. The light on top was white and the saucer seemed to give off a pale green light, she recalled.

She was not sure of the actual size of the object, not knowing her distance from it in the darkness. However, when they first pulled over, the object seemed to be quite some distance from them, then "it came up quickly without making any noise," she said.

Seeing the strange object fly up to them frightened the group. The woman drove back onto the highway, heading toward Worley. The children said the object started heading toward Spokane. After a while she again stopped the car to have a look back. "It seemed to be heading along the

mountains in the same direction we were traveling and then went out of sight."

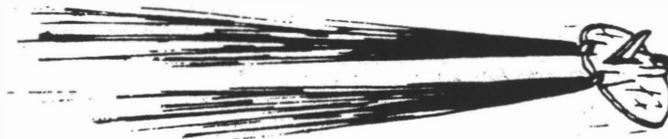
When they reached Worley, they could no longer see the bright lighted object although they saw about eight blinking lights similar to those on the rim of the saucer-shaped object. 59

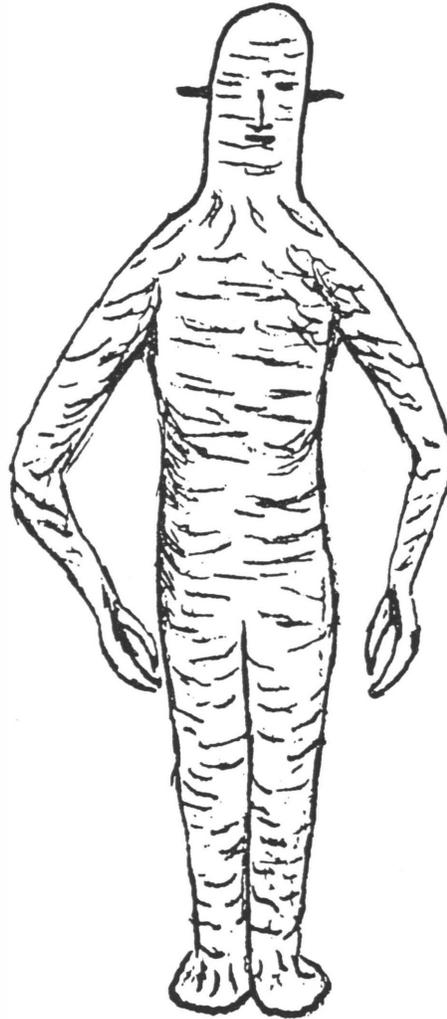
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Witness illustration of one of the beings from the
"Pascagoula Case" (see page 8)