

UFOs in the Late 20 th Century



Rick Hilberg

Archives for the Unexplained
Arkivet för det oförklarade
Box 11027
SE-600 11 Norrköping

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A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

This booklet represents our last look at significant UFO happenings of the modern day UFO era in the 20th century. We started our little quest way back in 1997 with our look at UFO related sightings and incidents from the northern Ohio area. And while we published similar material over the years stretching back to 1965, this later day series was an effort first proposed by our friend and mentor, the late Allan Manak somewhere around 1995. It was Al's intent to scour our rather substantial files and present the "best of the best," as it were, in an effort to document the UFO enigma in a series of regularly issued booklets at a reasonable price for the serious students of the phenomenon. In that I hope we have succeeded, although Al's illness and untimely death prevented him from seeing this fascinating and often times exciting journey come to its conclusion.

Has all of this effort brought us any closer to cracking our sixty-plus year old mystery? Probably not, but possibly in the hundreds of pages of data that we have published over the years there may be clues present that will allow a future researcher to come up with the answers that have been so elusive thus far. And will that future researcher represent the physical or the social sciences? That too remains unanswerable to UFO research in the year 2009, although I sometimes feel that it may indeed be the latter. That some final answer will indeed be found and accepted in the future, I have no doubt - I just hope I'm still around to see it after toiling away in the ufological vineyards since 1962.

As has been my custom since the beginning of this series, I have chosen the sightings and events that I personally felt were significant for inclusion. And I have also used the original accounts as they were first published to avoid any unintentional distortion, as so often happens in any retelling of something from the past.

I would also like to thank my wife Carol, for all of her tremendous help with this undertaking. Without her there would have been no series to finally finish.

Rick Hilberg
January 20, 2009

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1985 - NORTH CAROLINA ENCOUNTER

Sylvia Bagby was running across her neighbor's yard to get a better look at a strange, white, star-like object she had seen circling around the sky near Salisbury when she felt an "instinct" to turn around and look up.

"When I looked up, I had never seen anything like it," said the 49-year-old hairdresser. "It was shining through the trees over my neighbor's trailer, bigger than any moon or any sun, and it was like it was revolving. It was so red it looked like hot coals. My first impression was, 'This is it, this thing is going to disintegrate everything.'"

But the round, red object, which Mrs. Bagby said was as big as a house and had a yellow halo, disappeared when neighbor Irene Jones ran out to respond to her screams. Then they watched as the object reappeared in its bright star shape and circled to the east about 10 miles away.

Mrs. Bagby said she felt a tingling sensation during the experience that night of Nov. 10, as if she had been out in the sun too long.

"I looked in the mirror, but I didn't see any red places," she said. "I couldn't sleep for about a week. Every time I close my eyes, I still see it. Every time I walk out the door, I look up.

"Most people, when you try to talk about it, they think you don't know what you are talking about," said Mrs. Bagby, who never really thought much about UFOs before the experience. "I called the sheriff's department - and they just laughed. So I really haven't said that much about it. . . It makes you feel so alone." Source: Salisbury, NC *North Carolina Post* Dec. 22, 1985.

1985 - TRIANGULAR UFOs OVER MADISON, WISCONSIN

Two "normal" people have reported seeing triangular-shaped UFOs hovering over homes near the east side last week.

John, who would like to be described as an emotionally stable state employee, said he was driving home to DeForest shortly after 5 p.m. on November 22nd.

On highway CV, near Chase Lumber, he said he saw three white lights hovering 20 to 30 feet above a farmhouse.

"At first I thought it was an airplane, then I thought it was a helicopter," he said, "and then I realized I didn't know what it was."

John said the craft was roughly triangular, with its bottom sloped into contours. He said it was noiseless and disappeared when he got out of his car to investigate.

"I'm a little reticent to talk about it - I haven't even told my wife," he said. "It sounds so crazy."

Joe Durkin, a Madison Police spokesman, said his department received a similar report from a Madison woman Nov. 19th. Durkin said officers generally don't write up reports after talking to people who claim to have seen UFOs.

"But this woman sounded normal," he said. "We don't see too many reports like this."

The woman said she saw a flying saucer, with a roughly triangular shape, hovering over a home on Milwaukee Street. She told police it had three white lights below it.

Neither the tower at the Dane County Regional Airport nor an Air National Guard spokesman reported any unusual flying objects. Source: Madison, WI *Wisconsin State Journal* Nov. 26, 1985.

1986 - SEVERAL SEE STRANGE NORTH CAROLINA OBJECT

Frances Shaw was driving south on N.C. 226 near her home in Shelby Sunday night, February 9th, when she had a close encounter with a "perfectly round orange thing" hovering in the sky.

As Shaw kept driving, she said the object grew larger and the orange light it was emitting intensified and began blinking.

"It scared me to death," said Shaw, an employee of Fasco controls in Cleveland County. "My only thought was that it was going to land in my front yard."

The unidentified object didn't land. Shaw said it disappeared just as she was pulling up to her house. When the object disappeared, she said it left a trail of smoke.

Shaw said she was afraid that she was the only one who saw the "blinding light" in the southern sky at about 7:15 p.m., but the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department said three people called, all

within 15 minutes of each other, to report a bright light traveling west to east.

"We've got no idea what it was," said a Sheriff's department spokesman who asked no to be identified. The three callers all gave the same description of the object, he said.

The Sheriff's department contacted the FAA in Charlotte, which reported no unusual flight experiments over the area or planes in distress.

Shaw said she didn't think the object she saw was a plane. At first, she said she thought it might have been a blinking light on top of a tower. But as it grew in size and intensity, she could tell that it wasn't. Source: Greensboro, NC *News & Record* February 10, 1986.

1986 - HUGE BANK OF LIGHTS OVER WASHINGTON STATE

Two Bellingham women reported seeing a gigantic bank of bright lights hovering over Bellingham Tuesday night March 25th, but law enforcement and aviation officials did not confirm the sighting today.

Robin Henley, 24, and Katie James, 23, both of 1026 N. Forest St., said they saw three rows of bright, white lights about 50 feet long hovering at 10:55 p.m. between the Georgia-Pacific Corp. mill and Squalicum Harbor Marina.

The object - which Henley said she at first thought was a blimp - remained over the city for about five minutes, then moved "ever so slowly" to the north, until it disappeared over the hills, James said.

Officials from the FAA, Whatcom County Sheriff and Bellingham Police reported no sightings from employees or the public.

Nor was there any unusual activity scheduled at G-P last night that would cause such lights, according to Tom Spink, pulp and chemical operations manager.

Pacific Southwest Airlines officials this morning said the last DC-9 landed at Bellingham International Airport at 10:54 p.m. The last San Juan Airlines flight arrived at 11:05.

But both women maintained they observed the PSA flight approaching from over the bay from the southwest about the same time they saw the lights. They said they also saw a helicopter, which seemed to be almost tailing the object.

The women spotted the lights while heading toward the city on Boulevard. They were so stunned that Henley pulled into one of the Boulevard Park parking spots overlooking the bay, James said.

The object was a "flat cylinder" with the bottom and top lights brighter than those running down the center, according to Henley. The bottom lights beamed down, while the top lights appeared to shine upward, she said. Source: Bellingham, WA *Herald* March 26, 1986.

1987 - WISCONSIN MULTIPLE WITNESS CASE

The UFO phenomenon heated up several hundred degrees over the weekend with daylight sightings on March 7th by several people seeing four cigar-shaped objects slightly northwest of Belleville. At least four and perhaps up to a dozen people reported having seen the unusual sight late Friday afternoon, and the reports are remarkably similar.

The reports marked the first public reports of daylight sightings of UFOs in this area. In addition, with any luck, the sight may have been captured on film by one of the observers.

Harvey Funseth, of Belleville, said he and a friend, Fred Gochenaur, were a couple of miles north of Belleville on Hwy. 69 late Friday afternoon when they spotted something unusual in the western sky. Funseth described the sight as "four objects, one above the other. It looked like a long (Chinese) kite."

The two men then took a road to the west to get closer and made their way to an open field where they stopped to watch. "I tried to take pictures, but the sun was in the way," Funseth said.

The four objects were cigar-shaped, in a vertical position, and unmoving, Funseth reported. "They looked grey at first, but as (one) came closer, it looked like a light blue color."

The four objects were about 1/8th mile away from them at this point, Funseth said, and no more than a "couple thousand feet in the air."

As Funseth and Gochenaur watched, the uppermost craft changed position in the sky. "The top one started drifting away from the rest," he related. That gave him another chance to take

photographs, away from the sun.

"When it flattened out, it looked like the fuselage of a plane."

As the highest of the four moved away to their right, it emitted flames from its end, Funseth continued. "A vapor trail started coming out of the back of it."

At first, it moved slowly, but "after it went by, it picked up speed; in a minute it went out of sight," Funseth said.

"When I looked back, the other ones were still in about the same position, but there was some mist or steam in front of them, and they were starting to get blurry like clouds," Funseth related.

The entire episode, which began between 5 and 5:30 p.m., took about 15 to 20 minutes, Funseth estimated.

The moving craft had flashing lights on its front end, but none of the others displayed lights, he added.

When Funseth and Gochenaur called the Dane County Airport at Truax Field, "they wouldn't confirm that they saw anything on radar," Funseth said. 1

The sighting corresponds closely with that of Lavonne Freidig, a resident of Belleville's northern subdivision. She said at about dusk on the same day, she was looking out her patio door to the west when she saw what she also at first thought was a kite, hanging in the air above a nearby grove of trees.

She called her son to look, but he attributed the sight to geese and left again. Lavonne stayed to watch and then saw the top "part" (they seemed to be connected, she said) move off to her right, toward the north or northeast.

"Then these other things under it...after (the top one) went, there were just puffs of smoke left." The entire sighting only lasted about two or three minutes, she said.

"I thought it was so strange," she recalls, but then had forgotten about it until she heard the others had seen the same thing.

Throughout the sighting, there was no sound she could detect although it was a very quiet time.

In addition, Jim Venden, of Mount Horeb, said his wife observed something similar as they were driving to Belleville for supper. From Hwy. 92, she saw something which looked like a Chinese kite hanging vertically in the sky.

Because his wife, Shirley, did not watch it continuously, she did not see how it happened, but later the column had separated into four segments in the sky, Venden added.

The UFO sightings described above happened not far from those of a New Glarus woman and her three children, who told this newspaper they saw UFOs after dark on Friday, Feb. 6th.

The family was on its way home from Madison on County Highway PB about 7:15 when one of her sons told her he saw something odd in the starry night sky, said the woman, who does not wish her name used here. They pulled to the roadside to have a look. Off to their right was a red light in the sky with lights moving around it, she said.

"I remember it clearly, there was a red one with vehicles darting around it in the sky," she said.

Another one looked like it had white lights in the center and red ones around it. "They weren't stars, and they weren't planes," she said with conviction.

One of the objects, she continued, streaked through the sky unlike any aircraft she had ever seen. "Straight ahead, one moved real fast across the sky. I said, 'Look how fast that one is moving! There's no way that can be a jet.' It moved three times faster than any jet."

One son went immediately to the roof of their house upon arriving home and saw an object that looked like the red one with white lights around it, she added. The boy, who was present during the interview, confirmed her description of what he saw. 2 Sources: 1. Monticello, WI *Messenger* March 11, 1987. 2. Monroe, WI *Times* March 12, 1987.

1987 - STRUCTURED "SOMETHING" SIGHTED IN OKLAHOMA

Ray Martin of Tuskahoma sighted a UFO about 250 yards in front of his home in the Potato Hills on March 27th.

Martin said, "I saw lights, nothing land or take off. Something, definitely. A structure of sorts with

lights all around it, eight to ten large floodlights. Probably 1,000 sq. ft. in diameter. Lit up an area about the size of a football field.

"I first saw it about 8:30 p.m. to about 10:30 p.m. It made no sound whatsoever.

"I called the Sheriff's office and Flagpole Tower, to see if anyone else had seen anything. The next morning a deputy came out and we checked the area, but we didn't find anything.

"At first, we thought it was the neighbor's lights, but that's impossible. There are some far away and we're familiar with those. It had a shape to it."

Clayton Today contacted Flagpole Tower. Rose Martin verified Martin had called and asked them if someone was at the tower possibly watching and may have seen something. He described what he saw to her and told her it had scared him. There were no fires in the area that night.

Other people in the area have seen strange lights at various times, none of which have been explained. Source: Clayton, OK *Oklahoma Today* April 2, 1987.

1987 - BIZARRE ENCOUNTER IN KENTUCKY

None of the four women is completely certain what it was that they saw outside their car near Springfield more than a week ago. But all of them are certain that the bright light that followed the car for several miles toward Lebanon and then merged with another brighter light high in the night sky was not an airplane or a helicopter. And they say they'll never forget it - that they'll be telling their grandchildren about the night they saw a UFO.

Wanda Mathis, Anita Adams, Bertha Porter and Margaret Riley, all of Lebanon, have taken considerable ribbing from their friends and neighbors since they reported to Lebanon Police the strange light that followed them after they left the St. Rose bingo on May 11th. But the women remain adamant that their story is no hoax. They say they're too old to make up such a story. And police officials report that the fear on the women's faces when they reported the incident about 10 p.m. that night did, indeed seem completely genuine.

"They were shaking and carrying on - something really scared them," said police dispatcher Betty Washington. "I don't know what they saw, but they believed they saw something!"

What happened to the four women returning from a church bingo? The strange occurrences began just beyond the red light on KY 55 in Springfield.

"We were just riding along, talking about the full moon and how there'd probably be lots of babies born that night," says 35-year-old Anita Adams, who was driving the car. "And then this little light, about the size of a cup, came out of nowhere and appeared beside my window, And I said, 'Ya'll look. That little light's following us.'"

The car continued up the hill beyond the Springfield crossroads, the women say, and the light stayed right beside Anita Adams' window. It was a soft, glowing light like a lightning bug, they say, and it seemed to mesmerize them as they looked at it.

"My sister was driving the car yet she wasn't driving the car," says 36-year-old Wanda Mathis. "We were all just looking at that light. And so was 'Nita . . . But the car stayed on the road even though she wasn't looking where she was driving."

Adams says she remembers the feeling of hypnotism from the light, too, and the sensation that some other force had control of the vehicle.

"I know one thing . . . We were driving and driving but we weren't getting any closer to Lebanon than we were when we started out," Adams explains.

Suddenly the little light began to move down toward the ground, Adams says, while it continued in its course beside the car. She watched it dip close to the roadside, then rise and cross the windshield to the other side of the vehicle.

"When it came over to the right side of the car, we saw this big shiny thing in the sky," says Margaret Riley. "It was like it was just hanging there up in the sky on the right of the car. It was no star! There's never been a star that big and bright!"

The four women report that the little light rose in the sky at that point and "joined up" with the bigger light above the car so that "you could see the little light hooked on to the bigger one." Then the two lights together descended in what appeared to be a collision course with the car.

"My sister screamed 'Nita move, it's coming after us!' and I put my foot on the gas and that's the first time I had control of the car again. And I went all over the road, first to the left then back to the right but whatever had us let go then."

The bright light passed them by, but Wanda Mathis looked back through the rear window after it passed and saw "a shadow under it shaped like a mushroom."

So frightened they were shaking and crying, the women agreed they ought to report what they saw to the police.

Three of them went into the station as soon as they got to Lebanon and told the dispatcher about the lights. The fourth, Bertha Porter, waited in the car for her friends to return.

Now that they've had some time to think about it, do they know what it might have been that they saw outside their car on a moonlight Monday night more than a week ago?

"I know one thing," Bertha Porter says with conviction. "It wasn't a helicopter and it wasn't an airplane. There was no sound at all. The windows were open and we didn't hear anything - not a thing! It was no airplane!"

The Lebanon - Springfield Airport was contacted Monday and a check of the records reveal that no aircraft of any kind - helicopter or airplane - landed or took off from the airport between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. on May 11th. Source: Ninie Glasscock, Lebanon, KY *Enterprise* May 20, 1987.

1987 - FLYING "VOLKSWAGEN" IN FLORIDA

Stephanie James was driving home over a winding blacktop road in rural Marion County about 11 p.m. on June 17th when a 10-year-old passenger in her car pointed fearfully to the sky.

It took James, a 24-year-old Citra woman, and two other passengers a few seconds to see what Ricky Monroe was trembling about.

Then they saw it.

Hovering at treetop level was a strange, brightly lighted aircraft.

"We thought it was lightning at first. But then we knew it wasn't. It was going real slow and came on top of the car," said Wanda Lasher, James' 21-year-old sister.

Lasher, James, Ricky and his 13-year-old brother, Jason, watched in awe for several minutes before speeding home to call authorities.

Lasher said the aircraft looked like a "large Volkswagen," with green and red lights forming a half-circle along what appeared to be the back of the object. Two wheels also protruded from the back.

Two lights were on the front of the vehicle, with one large white beam shining down from underneath, lighting up the car.

"It shot something out of the back. It looked like sparks," Lasher said.

Other Citra residents called the Marion County sheriff's Department late Wednesday to report a UFO over their rural community, which is about 20 miles north of Ocala.

Ricky called the sheriff's department at 10:57 p.m., but a deputy wasn't dispatched until 11:43, after two more calls came in.

Deputy Jay Manifold arrived in Citra about 12:03 a.m. to find the aircraft still in the area. He reported seeing "an object hovering over the railroad tracks just above the treetops, going slowly," said sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Ken Ergle.

"(Manifold) couldn't tell the shape, but it was the size of a car with sparks coming from the rear. The vehicle then took off at a high rate of speed and disappeared within two seconds," Ergle said.

Manifold, who could not be reached for comment Thursday, said in a written report that the object made no sound as it streaked northwest.

According to his report, Manifold did not see the object at first. Then he drove toward U.S. 301, and about 300 yards south of the Marion County line he "observed a flying craft," the report says.

Manifold wrote that he "was unable to identify the object, but did notice that it made no noise and did not have the shape of any aircraft" he had ever seen.

In response to the reports from residents, the sheriff's department contacted the U.S. Navy Air Station in Jacksonville, and utility and railroad officials, all of whom said "they had no equipment or aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting," said sheriff's Cpl. Otto Wettstein.

A spokesman for the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville said that training flights do take place both day and night around the Citra area, but he could not say whether there were any Wednesday night.

The aircraft probably was not a weather balloon from the Naval Oceanographic Command Detachment at Jacksonville, said Lt. j. g. Greg Beck.

Dick Lewis, manager of the Ocala Municipal Airport, said he was unaware of any unusual sightings in the area and there are no unusual aircraft headquartered at the airport. Source: Bryanna Latoof, St. Petersburg, FL *Times* June 18, 1987.

1988 - AN ARKANSAS "MINI-FLAP"

Residents of Little River County in Arkansas have been reporting sightings of UFOs to area newspapers, radio stations and the local Sheriff's Department since late December of 1987. And while many of the reports sound like nocturnal lights that with a bit of investigation on the scene will ultimately turn into "IFOs," there are, however, some interesting "core" sightings that deserve mention. Here are two such cases:

Three Foreman women reported a frightening encounter with a brightly-lit UFO that chased their car January 19th following an outing to a basketball game.

The incident began at about 10:15 p.m. as Terri Jeanes was driving her Nissan with Margaret Sharp and Deanna Irvan as passengers following the game.

As they drove south on Highway 41, Sharp told Jeanes to stop the car as she had spotted what she described as an orange light to the east less than a quarter of a mile away, over what is locally called the Red River Bottoms.

Jeanes pulled the car onto the shoulder of the road. The three watched as the orange light "lunged" three times at treetop level toward the north and then disappeared.

After making several route changes to get to the road where Sharp and her husband live, all three women saw the light again in the distance to the south. It appeared to be hovering over the "Bottoms", they said. At first Jeanes thought they might be seeing a local medical helicopter operating out of Texarkana. However the three discerned that the object they were viewing contained four distinct lights; red, blue, green and amber, colors not associated with aircraft running lights.

Jeanes parked the car in a driveway so they could observe the light. They watched it hover for three to five minutes, during which time they became convinced that what they were watching was not any sort of aircraft. Margaret Sharp's husband was at work that night, and she decided she didn't want to go home to an empty house, so Jeanes turned the car around and headed back to Foreman. It was then that a "huge white light" came on among the other lights. The object's light then turned bright red and began to approach them.

Sharp "nailed" the car and headed toward her uncle's house some two miles away on Highway 32.

The light followed their car at treetop level, running silently to the right of the road parallel with the car. Before arriving at the home of Bob Taaffe, the object passed over the top of the car, according to Irvan, throwing a shadowy "red cast" of light inside the car as it disappeared.

At Taaffe's house the women ran inside and told what they had seen. At this point Sharp decided she would wait there for someone to come later and take her home.

At approximately 11:00 p.m., Jeanes and Irvan left Sharp at Bob Taaffe's house and got back into the Maxima. As they neared the Highway 41 junction, the object appeared again out of the south. To Irvan, who was now seated on the passenger side in front, the light resembled a large ball of fire. The light again paced the witnesses, this time gliding to the left side of the car. Said Irvan, "It seems to adjust itself to the terrain, up and down. There are no trees and it will get lower very quickly. Very quickly."

Jeanes floored her car. When they got to Highway 41 they turned north toward Foreman. The light also turned north. Irvan said the turn made by the object did not describe the typical arc of a car merging with a perpendicular highway. Instead, the light made a sudden, 90 degree turn.

At this point they were so terrified they hit speeds approaching 120 miles per hour. As they approached Foreman they could see the lights of the local Chevrolet dealership ahead on the left. Jeanes remembered thinking at this time that the light must have come closer to the car or changed

somehow because Deanna Irvan suddenly became even more terrified than before.

In front of the dealership stands a brilliantly-lit advertising sign. "It went right in front of their sign," said Irvan. "That's where I could really see it. It was a large metallic machine. The lights seemed to be in the center of the object. It threw a glow out to where I couldn't see the top as well as I could see the bottom. To me it was shaped like a tank. It was flat on the bottom. It had a dull finish. Dark!" Irvan estimated its width at two pickup trucks side by side and its length at three pickups end to end.

Irvan watched the object all the way into Foreman. She said the light came to a halt over a rodeo arena next to the highway. It hovered a moment and silently streaked out of sight. Several other witnesses in the area reported variously colored strange lights the same night.

Jeanes also reported strange markings on her 1988 Maxima after the encounter. Each group of markings has four lines side by side. The lines are approximately three inches and are dotted. The black marks look like they were made by rubber, but Jeanes was unable to wash them away.

In another close encounter, a teacher who requested that her name be withheld was driving into Foreman at 11:40 p.m. February 6th on Highway 41 when she saw lights on top of a hill past a roadside park.

"It startled me and my first thought was a car or vehicle with lights on bright, so I blinked my lights at it for them to dim their lights," she said.

"The lights didn't dim and were coming straight toward me, right down the middle of the road." She added that as the light moved toward her she saw "two separate horizontal lights close to the ground." They came from north to south down the highway.

"The best I can describe was like headlights across the hood and then like fog lights on the bottom; there was a distinct separation between them." She said that they didn't blink or pulse, but as they moved down the hill and got closer she saw "heat shimmer around the bottom light."

"By this time I was convinced whatever those lights were - they were going to hit me and I braced, ready to run in the ditch."

She estimated that the lights were approximately 100 feet from her "when this rush came over me that those lights were going to hit me, then...nothing. There was absolutely nothing, no lights, no sound, and I could see the road in my headlights."

She reported her encounter to the sheriff's office after driving well past 85 m.p.h. into Foreman. The sheriff's office reported receiving several calls after the woman's incident, mostly of typical nocturnal lights, which seem to make up the bulk of the cases in this localized flap. Source: Rick Hilberg, *Flying Saucer Digest* Summer 1988.

1988 - UFO PRESAGES STORM IN NORTH CAROLINA

Savannah Welborn and her husband sighted a silent and wingless UFO just before a severe thunderstorm rocked the area near King, North Carolina on May 23rd.

"It was the most fascinating thing," she told newsmen. "I just stood there in awe. It was unbelievable."

It was around 9:00 p.m. when her husband went out to feed their animals where they live in the Meadows Community, she said. It hadn't started raining yet, but the thunder and lightning had begun.

"The only reason he (her husband) was out then was because he was getting hay for the animals. We were running late with the feeding. That's when he spotted it over the mountain."

When he saw the UFO he ran inside and got Mrs. Welborn. Together they watched as the huge object came over Sauratown Mountain, lighting most of it up. They watched it for ten minutes, at one point from as close as 100 feet away.

"It moved slowly towards us," she said. "It got to the big oak and turned. It was barely moving. It was fiery red inside. There were no wings, but it had a rudder, like a boat, with blue and white lights.

The whole thing was about as big as a house," she continued. "The whole front end was yellow lights. I could hear a humming (she likened it to an air conditioner running), but my husband didn't hear it. It was so strange. I had never seen anything like it."

She said that it got so close when it was turning, that had she had her binoculars, she could have seen inside it.

"I've read about these things, but never seen anything like it. It went up and out, towards Walnut Cove, and then disappeared from view."

When asked if possibly they had confused the UFO for some common object such as an aircraft, or possibly some sort of natural phenomena, Mrs. Welborn was emphatic in the negative.

"Absolutely not," she said. "Lightning flashed on both sides of it when it was coming over the mountain. Lightning wouldn't have moved towards us anyway. This came closer and closer. When it turned it could have fallen over." Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* Fall 1988.

1989 - LARGE LIGHTED OBJECT REPORTED IN WISCONSIN

A strange visitor recently appeared in the skies over Hillsboro. One warm night in the latter part of August, Betty and Harley Pliner watched a UFO for over five minutes as it hung motionless in the night air above the city.

"I worked for the Knights of Columbus that night, helping out with the Bingo at the Community Center," recalls Harley. "I drove home about 10:30. I put the car in the garage, and walked up the sidewalk toward the house, when I saw this big thing in the sky."

Harley was startled to observe a large lighted object hovering above some tress across the street from his house on Mill Street.

"It was on the other side of Albrecht's house," he continued. "It was stationary, and it wasn't making a sound. It was round and covered with red and blue lights. I ran in the house and yelled at my wife, and she came out and looked at it."

Betty Pilner described the object as having, "...a million lights all around it, and they were all blinking. I thought it was beautiful. They never quit flashing...they just kept flashing."

"I know it was no plane. They can't hang in the air like that. A helicopter would make noise, but this didn't!"

The couple estimate they watched the strange lighted object for nearly five minutes before it slowly moved away.

"I was going to jump in my car," reveals Harley, "but it moved out of sight. I was going to chase it!"

"When it disappeared over the tree," says Betty, "he thought he saw another light. So he went clear across the road looking for it. I would have been afraid, but I guess when you see a spectacle like that, you're too astonished to be afraid."

Though, Harley continued to look, the UFO had apparently vanished, returning to whence it had come. Later he wondered why he and his wife alone were privy to the unusual phenomenon.

"I'm surprised that nobody else ever saw it," he commented.

Betty won't speculate on whether or not the object she observed originated in outer space.

"I don't think it was from around here, though," she remarked. "It was weird. It was nothing we had ever seen."

The couple's brief glimpse of the unknown proved tantalizing, and they hope that maybe someday they'll get a second chance to view another UFO.

"We've looked every night," reports Betty, "but haven't seen it since." Source: Steven J. Stanek, Hillsboro WI *Sentry Enterprise* October 12, 1989.

1989 - ABDUCTION IN MARINE CITY, MICHIGAN

The following fascinating account comes from one of our regular readers. It's part of a letter that addresses other matters as well, and is on file with the UAPA:

"I'm not even sure if I should be writing to you about this because right now it's hearsay and I don't have permission of this man to give his name or address. In fact, he would like to forget the whole thing. He's afraid that people would think he's crazy. He's very confused right now and a little afraid."

"My sisters and I have always had a great interest in UFOs and we have discussed this man's encounter among ourselves, but I feel some professional input is needed. I don't doubt anyone's word an UFOs, but you have more experience in this field. If you print anything about this encounter,

I am asking you not to print my name. As I said, right now it's hearsay to me, but I don't want to cause this man any more distress than he's under already.

"I know you are a very busy man, but I need some output on this matter. Should I forget it, try to talk to this man and urge him to contact you or do you think it might be a hoax? I'm really confused right now. It's one thing to read about UFOs in another state, but when it happens close to home, that's another matter. I will try to tell you all I know about this man, his wife and the encounter to help you understand what type of man he is, and if his encounter fits any pattern.

"He told her (the witness' wife) that the night before, October 19th, four little men came into their bedroom and carried him out of the house, out the back door and into the garden area. He remembers lying on his stomach, and these little men were doing something to his neck and back. He said they told him that they were 'giving him something.' The next thing he remembers is that they were gone, and he was really mad because he had to walk back to the house through the mud. He said, 'They didn't even have the decency to carry me back.' He said he had no real fear of them, but he is very concerned that people will think he's crazy.

"Two or three days after the encounter his lower back still ached and he said he remembered seeing these little men on a few occasions as a child. They also went to the garden and found the tracks of his bare feet there.

"His wife, although she can't recall any recent contact, also remembers encounters as a child. In fact, she said that to this day if she sees anything in the sky that looks blimp-shaped, she runs in fear.

"So, what do you think? Is this just hearsay or might there be some merit to this story?

"I do remember that on Thursday, October 18th we had quite a storm that night. High winds and rain. Friday night, October 19th was a beautiful starlit night. I remember how clear the sky was that night, it was cold and crisp out." Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* Winter 1990.

1989 - MANY SEE STRANGE LIGHTS IN KANSAS

Unusual lights were reported in the sky over Cherokee County in southeast Kansas on October 18th, the night after similar reports from around Miami, Oklahoma.

A dispatcher with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office said officials began getting reports about 8 p.m., and officers began pursuing them 90 minutes later.

People from the Columbus, Galena and Baxter Springs areas reported seeing the lights.

Galena Police Chief Pat Collins said his office received many calls from area residents curious about the lights, and he saw them.

Collins said he saw at least two red lights, and possibly three, at a distance of seven to eight miles.

"They seemed to be stationary, or hovering, for a period of seven or eight minutes," he said. "Then they disappeared.

"There was also one bright white light that appeared for about 30 seconds, closer to the city."

The hovering lights were a deep red, Collins said, and then disappeared.

The chief said he had no idea what the lights he saw may have been. It was his second spotting of unusual lights, the first coming in 1975.

That time, Collins said, the light he saw was considerably different. He described it as orange, like a campfire.

"It seemed to go north of Columbus, then came back at a high rate of speed, then went south and disappeared," he said. "The type of movement was not like an airplane. This was smooth, and quite quick."

Baxter Springs Police Chief Jerry Nohren said his office received only one call from a person who reported having taken pictures of the lights. Nohren said he was not out and did not see any lights. Source: *Salina, KS Journal* October 20, 1989.

1989 - "ALIEN" FILMED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

A cat out for a late night prowl, a visit from Alf or a Halloween hoax. Gina Jones doesn't know what it was she saw a week ago, but she would prefer it was an encounter of the explainable kind.

"If someone could come along and tell me it's a cat, that's fine with me," Mrs. Jones said Tuesday. "Frankly, I'd prefer if it was a cat because I don't want any aliens running around my house."

Mrs. Jones and her husband saw some strange light in the sky above Greenville on November 7th, and Mrs. Jones videotaped the sight. But when they viewed the tape later, they saw something mysterious beyond the lights - a shadowy figure moving across a window at the rear of their eastside home.

"The bathroom light was on, and you could see plain as day something scurry across the window. It appears to be a little man, a little alien," she said with a laugh.

"I'm not saying that's what it was. I'm saying that's what it looks like. "

Mrs. Jones' tape shows five orange lights in a "W" shape in the sky. A small plane flew beneath the lights, which later changed formation as some began to rotate around one another.

As two of the lights disappeared, Mrs. Jones swung the camera around enough to catch the southwest corner of her house and unknowingly film the unidentified scurrying object before focusing the camera again on the sky to watch the final three lights fade into the darkness.

The short, squat figure was approximately 18 inches to two feet tall, she said, using the size of her window as a gauge. It moved along on two tiny feet, and its two arms were held up to its face "like someone trying to see through a foggy window," she said.

Mrs. Jones said she has repeatedly viewed the tape with family and friends, trying to determine what the figure could be. Her husband also held their month-old kitten up to the bathroom window, but determined that it was too small to be the figure on the film.

"It's easy to say what it isn't: it's not a cat, it's not a squirrel, it's not a bird," she said. "We're just having a hard time trying to say what it is."

FAA area supervisor Elbert Elmore said there were no reports of any unusual activity in Greenville's skies last Tuesday, but he added that doesn't mean nothing happened.

A UFO expert from Seattle will visit Greenville in the near future to view Mrs. Jones' tape and check out her story, she said. "This may turn out to be nothing, but I just want someone to tell me what this is," she said. Meanwhile, her video has become the hottest piece of film since actor Rob Lowe's taped sexual exploits hit the underground circuit in Atlanta last summer.

Mrs. Jones appeared on a WFBC-AM talk show Wednesday morning, where the switch-board lit up with callers and a dozen people told her they also saw strange lights in the sky last week. She has turned down requests for television exposure.

"Everybody laughs at me until they see the tape. Then they're my best friend and they're on my side," she said.

"I'm still curious about what happened last week. I just don't want people to think I'm a lunatic." Source: Matthew Burns, Greenville, SC News November 7, 1989.

1989 - "ALIEN BEING" SPOTTED IN FLORIDA SHOPPING CENTER

At 4:30 a.m. on December 7th, some "thing" walked through the Colonial Palms Shopping Center in Miami.

Whatever it was, it was big and ugly enough to scare the daylights out of the night watchman, who ran from the center and phoned police.

The result was one of the most unusual police reports ever seen, complete with a composite sketch of the "thing" drawn by the guard, whom police identified as 27-year-old Tony Arias.

Arias described the "thing" as being 7 feet 5 inches tall. Weighing 150 pounds, bald with a "big head and cat eyes."

The sketch he drew for police resembles some sort of alien. On the bottom of the drawing, officer Juan Santana wrote: "This sketch was provided by the reporter. We are not joking, this is what he drew."

"I've been on the force for 18 years and this is one of the weirdest reports I've ever read," said Sgt. Joe Wyche of Metro's Kendall Station.

Arias works the midnight shift at the mall, 13601 South Dixie Highway. He has no phone at home and could not be reached for comment.

The phone number listed for his employer, King Security, was disconnected.

According to police, Arias called at 4:30 a.m. and Officer Santana responded. Arias immediately told Santana he had not been drinking, then tried to explain what he had seen.

Santana wrote: "Upon my arrival an extensive search was conducted for the described 'thing' with negative results. Reporter thinks he also saw two other 'things' with the first one."

Wyche said there isn't much police can do about Arias' bizarre sighting.

"My first thought was that it was someone in some kind of scary costume," Wyche said. "But I just don't know. Whatever he saw shook him up enough to call us."

There are no plans to open a special hot line for any additional sightings of the "thing" police said.

Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* Spring 1990.

1990 - STRANGE TRIANGLE SIGHTED IN MICHIGAN

Robert Morris was driving his two children home from a hayride on October 16th when he spotted a bright light just above the tree tops to the south.

Deciding to tease the kids, Morris pointed to the light and said: "Hey, look a UFO!"

His jest may have hit closer to the truth than he first realized.

Morris and his children are among several people who reported seeing an object in the sky north of Holland around dusk Tuesday. So far, that object remains unidentified.

Government authorities scoffed at the idea that the sightings were anything unusual. Most UFO reports can be explained as ordinary phenomena, they said.

But independent organizations expressed an interest in the reports. And one lecturer on UFOs said the descriptions matched "loads of reports" this year from across the U. S. and even Belgium.

The descriptions from rural west-central Ottawa County all were similar - a bright white light hovered silently a short distance above the ground around dusk, then disappeared.

Morris, who scanned the sky with binoculars, said he thought the object was gone when the bright light blinked out. Then he saw it again. It looked like a dark-gray triangle with white lights around the edges.

Before Tuesday, Morris said he "probably would have just laughed" if someone had told him about a UFO sighting. In fact, Morris said he has endured some razzing himself from co-workers. Even his wife was skeptical.

"I thought he was nuts," Mary Morris said. That was until she heard similar stories from acquaintances the next day.

One of those stories came from fellow Olive Township residents Kim and Chuck Huskey.

"I couldn't tell you what it was," Kim Huskey said, "but it was really bizarre."

Huskey said she and her husband spotted the object after their two boys, who had been playing outdoors, ran inside the house and reported seeing an object lift off the ground.

"It was just hanging there above the trees," she said, estimating its location about a mile away, between 124th or 128th Avenues, near Polk or Stanton Streets.

"It was just a huge, big, round light," Huskey said. "I can't say it was a helicopter. I know it wasn't an airplane. It just really made us wonder what it was."

After about five minutes, the light dimmed and disappeared, she said.

Dee Watson said she was returning from the store to her home near Grand Haven in the early evening Tuesday when she noticed a bright light through the trees.

She paid no attention until she arrived home and noticed the light was motionless, Watson said. The light then "arced away," making no noise and leaving no trail, she said.

The Morris family reported their sighting to federal authorities, who said they would contact them if they had any other information.

Capt. Farley Banks, Chief of Public Affairs at Wurtsmith Air Force Base, in Oscoda, confirmed that he received the report from the Morris family. But that was the only report, he said.

"It's difficult to say what they saw," Banks said. "(But) 95% of all UFO sightings are explainable."

The Air Force stopped investigating UFO sightings in 1969 with the closing of "Project Blue Book," which listed nearly 13,000 reported sightings, he said.

A spokesman at Selfridge Air Force Base in Mt. Clemens said the Air Force terminated studies of UFOs because not enough evidence exists to warrant spending public money.

A FAA spokesman in Grand Rapids said the agency had received no reports of UFOs recently. Local police agencies also said they had received no reports.

Ron Ludema, manager at Tulip City Airport, said he hasn't heard anything about UFOs from area pilots. He speculated that landing lights on an airplane were responsible for the sightings.

"It has happened before," he said. "They've seen landing lights, it seems like the plane is standing still when they go into a turn." Source: Darin Estep, Holland, MI *Sentinel* October 20, 1990.

1991 - LIGHTED OBJECTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

It might not be *War of the Worlds*. And it might not be *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.

But for those who have seen UFOs, it certainly might seem like the *Twilight Zone*.

With glaring lights and lightning speed, UFOs swept down on the local area Thursday evening Jan. 10, and early Jan. 11.

At least three separate sightings of unusual objects in the sky were reported to the *Derry News* Hotline.

One sighting occurred at about 3:30 a.m. Friday.

Joni O'Blenes had fallen asleep on her couch earlier that evening. At about 3:30 a.m., the nurse woke from her sleep and happened to look out her window. She noticed a bright white light over one of her neighbor's houses.

"It was bright and hovering at about tree top level. Then it got larger and brighter as it moved over my neighbor's house and moved towards mine. I went out on my deck to get a better look," she said.

In her mind, it was definitely not a plane or helicopter. She has lived with 10 minutes of Manchester Airport for the past seven years and knows the look and sound of just about anything that moves through the air, she said.

A neighbor of hers said it might have been an Apache helicopter on a military training mission, but a controller at the Manchester Airport flight tower said no military exercises have taken place in the area in the recent past.

She said people react a little skeptically when she tells of the experience, but she said it wasn't anything she had seen before.

"It was a flying saucer," she said.

O'Blenes was not alone in her sighting.

Earlier that night, at about 9:30 p.m., 12-year-old Michelle Grenier was laying in her home on Warner Hill Road in East Derry. Her sighting was more dramatic.

"I was just laying there and I just looked out the window at what I thought was a star," she said. "I could see it in the moonlight and it was oval and it didn't look like a plane. It came in slow and then it came in real fast."

She said the object was flat and oval with a white light on top of it. There were two green lights on either edge of the disk as well as red and blue lights.

She said the object came rather close to her house and looked to be slightly bigger than a car.

Still, earlier than that, at about 8:30 p.m., one area resident saw a strange configuration of lights flying at an inordinately slow speed near Londonderry High School.

"That was really strange," said a man who declined to identify himself. "It was a weird configuration of six small lights - three green, two red and one white. At first I thought it was a plane pulling into Manchester Airport, but the configuration of the lights was all wrong.

"I stood there for about three minutes staring at the thing, trying to see through what I thought was an optical illusion with the lights. Then I realized I couldn't and hadn't heard any noise from an engine.

"I'm not saying it was a UFO, but I don't believe it was a plane or helicopter. It was flying too slow, too quiet and too flat to have been a plane, I think," he said. Source: Anthony Padovano, *Derry, NH News* January 30, 1991.

1991 - STRANGE LIGHT IN OREGON

The question remains: What got Cleo Hall out of bed at four in the morning so she was at the right place at the right time to observe the strange light?

Hall and her husband, Dan, live about 3 ¼ miles up North Bank Chetco River Road east of Brookings.

"I'm an insomniac anyway," she says, "but something said to get up, so I got up, even though I'm thinking 'shoot, what am I doing?'"

"I opened the curtain out of the den looking toward the mountains and there's this light that would just knock you out..."

Hall saw the unusual bright light shining through a cluster of trees on March 29th.

It has occurred to her it was some sort of unidentified flying object.

"First I saw a tip, like a fingernail of the moon, but this was in the west, not where the moon was supposed to be at all.

"Here came this thing up there. It was real orangey. Brilliant? Oooh, just a brilliant light."

All of a sudden it just faded out, like it was going somewhere."

Hall is an artist, a past president of the Pelican Bay Arts Association in Brookings.

A retired nurse and office manager from Coos Bay, she has lived in Brookings for 14 years.

She says she sketched really quickly what she saw yesterday morning, just to prove she was really awake. Source: Frann Grossman, Brookings, OR *Curry Coastal Pilot* March 30, 1991.

1991 - UFO AND CROP CIRCLE IN TENNESSEE

Suddenly the eyes of the world are focused on Jefferson County. There has been a sighting of a UFO as well as the appearance of an unexplained "crop circle" in a local field.

These events have generated excitement, interest and curiosity worldwide. Reports of the incident have been broadcast nationally by NBC and have been picked up by radio and television stations around the world.

On May 17, about midnight, Barbara Mills said she let her dog out for his nightly rounds. The animal would not leave the porch and bolted back indoors. She heard a distinct whirring sound as if "a lasso was being twirled over my head," she explained.

When the noise subsided, Mrs. Mills then went to bed where she found her frightened dog being comforted by her husband, Richard. The next morning, her husband let his calves into the field at the back of his home. Later, about lunchtime when checking on the animals, he discovered a circular patch of ground, measuring 28' across, where the waist-high grass had been matted down except for an area 5 ½ feet in diameter in the middle of the larger circle. The grass in the outer circle was matted down in a clockwise direction. There were no other signs of matted grass leading to or from this strange site.

The Mills then decided to report the Friday night incident to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department on Saturday night. On Sunday, the Mills' calves became sick, unable to stand or eat.

Larry Thurman, a part-time deputy for Jefferson County, heard of the Mills story and connected it to his encounter on March 15, when he noticed a bright object in the sky. He said the object moved erratically and hovered over the tree line about ¼ mile from his home.

"The unidentified object moved at a speed of about 3,000 miles-an-hour, I would estimate," says Thurman. "I can only say this judging from the 800 - 900 miles-an-hour speed of F-15 fighters which I have watched.

"I first thought it may be the lights of a jumbo jet approaching in my direction, but when I saw the object dip suddenly and shoot straight up again just as fast, I knew the movements were not those of a plane or helicopter or any craft on Earth," the deputy said.

The object circled several times, disappeared into the western sky in a flash and reappeared just as quickly, then disappeared again in three or four seconds, he said. When the object hovered it seemed to emit a radiant glow out about 100 feet, he said. "I felt no vibrations; there was no noise, and I felt no fear, just a great curiosity. I could see it spinning very rapidly when I closed in on it. It was round with two notches cut out of the top and bottom, with a dark strip around the center,"

Thurman remembered. He recorded the entire event on his video recorder.

Incidents such as these will conjure up visions of saucer-like objects skimming overhead with short green men with enlarged bald heads at the controls. But from a logical, scientific view, there are many people who have reported seeing UFOs and feel obliged to gather research data and report their findings.

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rinehardt are two such researchers and members of MUFON, a worldwide association of hundreds of persons who have had personal experiences with unexplained phenomena or who are interested in studying these phenomena.

The Rinehardts said they saw enough of a correlation between the reports of the events in Jefferson County and other events reported by witnesses around the world to make the 10-hour drive from their home in St. Louis, Mo. Thursday. They came to gather samples from the "crop circle" site, to view Thurman's tape and listen carefully to the accounts of the incidents.

The Rinehardts say they are very cautious not to lead the witnesses in any way by providing any information to influence their reports.

The data will be sent to various experts for analysis. "We look for anything unusual," explained Mrs. Rinehardt. "We look for unusual growth in the grass or flowers, the way the roots are in the dirt. We can't draw any conclusion at this point in our study, not even to the point where we would categorize this site as a crop circle, simply because there were no eyewitnesses to see a craft land to make the impression on the ground."

Mrs. Rinehardt said, "My personal opinion is that UFOs do exist." She says she draws upon her own personal experiences to formulate her strong conclusion on this point. Once again, she was reluctant to tell of her personal encounter.

The research on these personal events may take many months. The weather patterns and flight patterns must be researched to eliminate these and other possible "normal" causes, said Rinehardt.

In the meantime, the Thurmans and the Mills anxiously await the answers they seek. Source: Marlene Yurick, Morristown, TN *Citizen Tribune* undated clipping.

1991 - PECONIC, NEW YORK LIGHTED DISK

There was something in the fields on the evening of August 2nd, something big and brightly lit, something that rose and hovered above a house before disappearing in the night sky.

That much all parties agree upon.

But no one has any explanation - terrestrial or extraterrestrial - for the origin of the UFO seen by at least four teenagers, a taxi driver and a businessman from New York just off the North Road near Pindar Vineyards.

"There is no doubt I saw something," said Michael Tyler, who was a passenger in a taxi being driven up a long, narrow driveway to the Ross House at 8:35 p.m. when he sighted the object. "It was nothing incorporeal, nothing spooky. It was there.

"I assumed at first that it was a crop duster, but it was out-of-scale large," Mr. Tyler continued. "And I was struck by how very much a crop duster blowing out mist looks like a hovercraft. But then the first thing that struck my mind was that this crop duster was coming awfully fast in our direction. And the second thing was that it was on a part of the field where there are no vines."

On a nearby farm at the same time, four teenagers - whose parents requested anonymity for the girls - were terrified by the appearance of the enormous object that seemed to them "three or four times as big as a house" as it flew over their home, moved up and down the field and then hovered over them before flying off without a sound.

"When my little sister saw it, she totally went hysterical," the eldest of the girls said Monday. "She couldn't talk."

Because the lights in the mysterious craft were so bright, the girls could only describe its shape when it was directly overhead: "It was round," said the 16-year-old, who reported the sighting to Southold Town Police. "There were lots of lights. It looked like a disk with lights all around it, with red lights in front."

Stressing that she does not believe in aliens, the teenager was unshakeable this week in her belief

that "It was something," she said.

"I hope it comes back," the girl's father said. "I only wish I'd been home to see it. These girls are not the type to make something like this up."

Eight investigators from the Riverhead-based Long Island Unidentified Flying Object Network (LIUFON) visited Pindar fields late Monday night with a Geiger counter in hand. LIUFON president John Ford later said: "We didn't have any idea where the exact spot was because the witnesses have not come forward, but the areas we tested were free of radiation." LIUFON maintains a hotline for UFO sighting reports.

The team plans to return Saturday afternoon to continue its investigation, but Southold taxi driver Bernadette Cox (who saw only very bright lights while driving Mr. Tyler to his home on Friday) reported on Monday that "all three fan belts in her taxi broke at the same time," according to cab owner Charles Manolakos.

Efforts to explain away the incident did not fare well.

Pindar Vineyards manager Wojtek Majewski said: "I cannot put this thing together. We did have a machine - a regular sprayer about 15 or 20 feet high on wheels - pulling off the field at about 8:30, but our driver did not see anything, and that thing appeared about 15 minutes later."

Pindar's sprayer has been in operation for four years "and we never had anything like this," said Mr. Majewski. "Our machine has only four lights anyway, and the guy that came up to me about this said the thing had an enormous amount of lights."

Spokespersons for the Air National Guard in Westhampton, Army Aviation in Islip and Suffolk County Police Special Patrols said Tuesday that no helicopters or other aircraft were in the air over the North Fork Friday night.

Southold Town Police Lieutenant Joseph Conway said Tuesday that a town patrolman visited the field at 9:30 Friday night, but found no evidence of anything unusual and discounted the UFO report. Source: Ruth Jernick, Suffolk, NY *Times* August 8, 1991.

1992 - SEVERAL REPORT UFOs IN OREGON

A woman driving down Highway 197 on the evening of March 23rd, reported being pursued by a UFO.

Wasco County Sheriff's Department Deputies soon found themselves chasing a series of mysterious lights in the Dufur/Tygh Valley area shortly after the report.

The sheriff's office received three reports of UFO sightings in the area, but the source of the lights remains a mystery.

The initial report came from a Milton-Freewater woman just before 9 p.m., who reported something flying above Highway 197. She said it had red and green lights and was following cars and shooting or dropping something. The caller said this was not the first time she had seen a similar thing in that area.

After that report, a deputy drove from The Dalles to Dufur, but saw no strange lights or anything else unusual.

Shortly after the initial call, a man reported that three triangular shape objects in the sky followed him from Tygh Valley to The Dalles. This time, the Sheriff's Department checked with the U.S. Air Force in Seattle, who said they detected nothing on radar screens.

One deputy in The Dalles said he saw some lights in the sky and said they changed color, while the other deputy, in south county, was unable to see anything out of the ordinary.

A third call came to the dispatch center at 10:04 p.m.

Under Sheriff Gary Crow said the sightings reported Monday night were not the first in that area. He said there had been a UFO report from the Miller Ranch about three months ago, but that report came from a juvenile who later admitted he made it up.

Crow said there is no reason to believe the reports were a hoax, and the people making the calls probably did see some lights. But he offered no explanation of what they might have seen. The sheriff's office had asked that the names of the persons who made the UFO reports be kept confidential. Crow said that even the people on duty at the emergency dispatch center went outside

to scan the sky after the third report. One of them saw some colored lights in the sky, the other one, standing nearby, didn't see anything unusual. Source: The Dalles, OR *Chronicle* March 24, 1992.

1992 - POSSIBLE COATESVILLE, PA LANDING ON JUNE 10th

Within the past year, it's survived the recession, a crippling 111-day Steelworkers strike and the abrupt loss of key executive personnel.

But now Lukens Steel Co. faces an even more potentially dangerous threat: alien invasion.

Well, maybe.

The company is investigating reports that one or more employees saw "an unusual object" land at the plant Wednesday, according to Lukens spokesman Evelyn Walker.

According to one source, the "object" was a flying saucer - silver in color with rotating multi-colored lights circulating around its watermelon shape.

While some dismiss the episode as people getting "too much sun," employees at the company are talking about it, and a UFO researcher said that acceptance by the public of the sighting as fact will be larger than many would think.

The UFO is said to have landed about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the middle of the steel yard on a steel plate. The source, who is the husband of a Lukens worker and asked not to be identified, said it touched down briefly and then took off towards the old Coatesville Hospital.

However, a worker who was at the plant at the time of the sighting said he saw no flying saucer. "I saw a balloon in the air," said Gerald Wischuck. "I don't think there was anything to it."

Whether or not the sighting was valid, it had become the talk of the company by Thursday.

"There were rumors flying all over the mill," said the wife of one Lukens worker.

"I heard a couple of people talking about it," said John Semple, an employee at the Lancaster Archery Supply II target range in Thorndale, where mill workers come to relax.

"I heard they saw a silver-type object with lights on it. And several different people are supposed to have seen it," he said. "It's a little far-fetched, but I guess anything can happen."

"Personally, though, I think the people just got too much sun," he said.

Walker, the company's corporate spokeswoman, acknowledged Friday that "apparently one of our security guards did see an unusual object above Lukens' property. Lukens is still investigating the incident."

Walker refused to answer a reporter's questions about how many employees saw the "object," what they saw, or when they saw it.

"The account varies from person to person," Walker said. She said, however, that the company had not yet come up with a "reasonable explanation" for the report.

"It takes a while to determine what it might have been, who saw it, was it an object, and what created the object," she said.

Walker also declined to say whether Lukens' employees were discussing the sighting. "You're the first (person) that has called me about it," she said.

A Coatesville police spokeswoman said Friday that no one had contacted the police about the sighting.

To David Jacobs, an assistant professor of history at Temple University who has studied UFO phenomenon for years, the fact that there was a sighting is not surprising. What is unusual is that it was reported at all.

According to Jacobs, the U.S. Air Force estimated as long ago as 1947 that only one in 10 UFO sightings are reported. Jacobs thinks the numbers might be closer to one in 100.

"The stronger the evidence, the less a person wants to talk about it," he said. "If they see something in their backyard, then mum's the word."

Jacobs believes, however, that sightings of the UFOs are much more accepted in the days of E.T. and Luke Skywalker than they were in the 1940s and 1950s.

"There's still a great deal of skepticism, to be sure," he said. "But there is far less fear than there was in the beginning of the phenomenon."

"There are so many people who have seen these things that the acceptance level is far greater

than you would imagine," Jacobs said.

Jacobs said the one thing that distinguished the reported sighting from others is that it supposedly happened in public.

"They're usually not seen in public areas" like the steel yard, he said. "But broad daylight, in the middle of the day - that's not unusual at all." Source: Michael P. Rellahan, West Chester, PA *Daily Local News* June 12, 1992.

1992 - NOISY DISK SEEN IN NORTH CAROLINA

What is round, orange and as big as a swimming pool?

If you know, tell Diane Messing. Because whatever it is - or was - landed in a hay field across from her home during the weekend.

"Sitting in the field was - I know this sounds crazy - but the first thing I could think of was a flying saucer," said Mrs. Messing, 29, who reported the incident to authorities early on June 27th.

When six sheriff's deputies came to her trailer on Ranch Road, about three miles east of Raeford, Mrs. Messing had one thing to say.

"I said we don't drink, we don't smoke pot or anything like that. We go to church all the time," recalled Mrs. Messing. "It's funny because I don't believe in that stuff."

Now she isn't so sure.

It was 12:30 Saturday morning when she and her mother first heard something that sounded like a freight train. The trailer rattled as the noise passed overhead.

They ran to the front door, fearing the return of an earlier heavy storm. Or maybe a tornado. Instead, the sky was overcast and the area unusually dark because an outdoor yard light had mysteriously gone off.

And then they saw it, some 300 feet away, in a hay field surrounded by woods: something the size of a swimming pool, maybe 15 feet by 15 feet, but in the shape of a circle.

"It looked like a fire burning in the woods, but the more you looked at it, it was like it had orange windows around it," Mrs. Messing said. "It was like it was just sitting there looking at us and we were looking at it. And it was quiet. That's why I called the police. I didn't know what it was going to do next."

She stumbled for the telephone. Her mother groped for her glasses. When they returned - with telephone and glasses - it was gone. The outdoor light had come back to life, and three lights down the road had gone out. The police missed it all.

Early the next day the two women walked to the field and found a circle of grass pressed flat. Nobody took pictures. Instead, the only evidence they have that anything happened is a mangled front yard where one of the deputies had gotten stuck in the mud.

So what was it? Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base don't claim the strange aircraft.

As Gail Bennett, a spokeswoman for Pope, said: "I can't think of anything we do, or any aircraft we would fly, that could even be constructed as that."

At the National Weather Service in Raleigh, meteorologists reported thunderstorms and lightning - but no UFOs.

"It was there, no matter what anybody says. Something was out there," said Mrs. Messing.

Her mother, Jackie Rijfogel, 47, adds: "I've never believed it. I mean I've watched the shows on TV. But when you see something yourself, you wonder is there something out there."

"The sad part is when you watch that stuff on TV there's an ending. But when something happens to you in real life, there's no ending," she said. "It leaves you hanging." Source: Larry Bingham, Fayette, NC *Observer - Times* July 2, 1992.

1992 - SEPTEMBER MINNESOTA "MINI-FLAP"

What started out as a routine trip to the bathroom in the middle of the night turned into a nightmarish ordeal for a western Elk River woman, who swears she saw a UFO hovering near her home last week.

The woman, who asked to remain anonymous, said she saw three huge lights hovering about six feet off the ground in her neighbor's fenced back yard. Within seconds, the lights were gone.

Two of the lights were round - about two feet in diameter - and spaced 10 to 13 feet apart. A third light was located higher than the other two.

The incident happened about 4:45 a.m. on September 17th in a wooded subdivision in Elk River.

After first seeing the lights out the kitchen window, the woman moved to the patio door for a better look. When she looked out, the lights had moved and she saw a large beam of light shining on the street.

"The beam of light was there and then it was gone," said the woman, who works as a nurse. "That's when I thought I must have seen a UFO."

She said the whole incident was over in 15 seconds but it left her shaking for hours.

"It's a very awesome thing to witness this. Actually I wish I never would have, because it gave me a very eerie feeling," she said.

"I don't drink. I don't do drugs. I don't smoke. I just have no explanation for it but it's a very, very frightening sight."

She reported the incident to Elk River Police because she said she was concerned for her family. She said it's particularly eerie because her 13-year-old son had reported seeing a UFO three nights earlier. She dismissed it at the time, thinking it couldn't be possible.

He also reported seeing three lights, but saw a beaming red center light as well. The object he observed was in the same location but much higher up in the sky. While he watched, it stopped momentarily before zooming off until it was a speck in the distance.

She said what struck her about the object she saw was it was totally silent. And when she went out the next morning to investigate the area, she found nothing.

"When other people hear this they think you stepped out and lost touch with reality," she said.

"I was fully awake. I believe what I saw but I can't believe what I saw....I have no explanation for this."

It's not the first time Elk River Police have taken reports of UFOs. "We usually get one or so a year," Police Chief Tom Zerwas said.

They reported the object had round windows with light streaming through them that lit up the area. The object hovered along side them for a short time as they drove along, then took off and disappeared.

Zerwas talked to the two men, who were from the Twin Cities, when they stopped in the police station to report the incident.

"They seemed like they were in shock when they came to the police station to report it," he said. 1

1992 - MORE ON MINNESOTA "MINI-FLAP"

As often happens, the above piece in the Elk River paper prompted others to come forward regarding their sightings.

Several more reports of UFOs have surfaced since a woman told police that she spotted a UFO in her Elk River neighborhood earlier this month.

In all, four individuals have reported seeing UFOs in the Elk River area in mid-September. Here's a rundown of what they saw and when:

- Sunday, Sept. 13: a man who lives near Albertville looked out his patio door about 10:30 p.m. and saw a reflection of light on his neighbor's window. When he walked out into his yard to investigate, he spotted an object about 100 yards away and 50 yards above the ground.

He said it was five to six feet across, one to two feet thick and tapered on each end like a saucer.

The object had several diamond-shaped windows or lights in a row around the middle. An unusual yellow-blue light shone from the diamonds.

The top and bottom of the object were stationary, but the center was spinning counterclockwise, he said. While the diamonds were located in the spinning region, they remained in place.

The man said he watched the object for about 20 seconds "and then suddenly the lights went out and it was gone."

He said the object was silent.

- Wednesday, Sept. 16: Terry Townsend of Princeton, who works with the man from Albertville, said he encountered a UFO after midnight as he was driving through northeastern Elk River on his way home from work as an industrial mechanic in the Twin Cities.

He said the dark grey object was the size of a large passenger jet and was ringed with white, red and green lights. The round, white lights could have been portholes, he said.

Shining from the portholes "was a pure white light like you've never seen before." Each white light wasn't one beam like a spotlight, but was made up of about a dozen smaller beams similar to light coming through a prism.

The light only extended about two feet beyond the edge of the object, he said, 400 feet off the road. Townsend said he was startled but not afraid when he came around a bend in the road and saw it.

"You read about it, you see pictures and think that's not possible, it can't be," he said. "It's unlike anything you've ever been through. You don't fully understand it until you experience it."

He said he doesn't feel the objects are anything to fear.

- Friday, Sept. 18: A cab driver traveling through Elk River about 8 p.m. told police he saw an object in the air near Baugh St. and Road 12.

The man said the passenger in his car also saw the object and kept an eye on it as they drove west into Elk River.

He described it as fairly large and close to the ground - too close to be a passenger jet. The object was quite far off in the distance and moving slowly in a northwesterly direction.

The man said they were unable to make out its shape, but a row of at least 10 porthole-type lights were visible. It appeared light was streaming through the portholes, he said.

"It was amazing," he added. "I can't imagine what it was."

Gary Thrash, a member of MUFON said people have reported seeing UFOs of a variety of shapes ranging from diamond, saucer and wing shaped to square, V and cigar shaped. People commonly hear a low humming noise from the object if it is very low or the person is directly under it. Otherwise, he said the objects are generally silent. 2 Sources: 1. Joni Astrup, Elk River, MN *Star News* September 23, 1992. 2. Joni Astrup, Elk River MN *Star News* September 30, 1992.

1992 - TRIANGULAR UFO OVER GLENDALE, CALIF.

Maybe it was an alien trying to find the Galleria. Or a top-secret military aircraft spying on the city below. Whatever it was, one Glendale woman insists she saw it, and it gave her a fright.

"It was dark gray, shaped like a triangle. It was flat, and at each of the three corners it had a flashing red light," said the 50-year-old woman, who asked not to be identified.

The woman and her 13-year-old son said they both witnessed the UFO about 9:30 p.m. on October 26th, in the skies above their north Glendale home. The boy was watching television in a bedroom when, during a commercial break, he glanced out the window and noticed something strange in the heavens.

"He came into my room and said, 'Mom, I saw a UFO.' I thought I'd go outside and see a big airplane, but instead it was this huge object, flying very slowly," the woman said.

The object emitted a low hum and at first appeared to be heading earthward, as if it were about to crash, she said.

"It was flying over the middle of Glendale," the boy added. "It kept on going and then the trees blocked our view and we couldn't see it any more."

Her curiosity piqued, the woman called her neighbors and then the Glendale Police Department to see if anyone else had sighted the flying craft. But no one had, and she was left wondering just what it might have been. Source: Steve Ryfle, Glendale CA *News-Press* October 29, 1992.

1993 - NORTHEAST ALABAMA "MINI-FLAP"

A week of reports of strange lights over DeKalb County has police officials building a file on the county's latest encounter with UFOs.

Sue Johnson was drying her hair about 5 a.m. Jan. 28th when a noise she cannot describe brought her to the kitchen window of her home in Dogtown.

What she saw, practically in her backyard, was some sort of airborne object, covered with glimmering red, green and white lights, and moving slowly below the treetops.

It was just after 8 p.m. on January 30th when Karen Twilley got a call from her mother-in-law across the road in Licksillet, telling her to go outside and look at the strange lights.

When she, her husband and son got outside, they were shocked by a different kind of light show. In one direction they saw three triangle-shaped objects covered in red and white blinking lights, in the other a single large globe-shaped white light.

Then on February 2nd about 9 p.m. Susanne Austin and Ernest G. "Gene" Mooney, both of Geraldine, saw a strange light in the sky from different places but in the same direction.

"It's been going on a week now," Sgt. Ron Ogletree, commander of the Gadson trooper post, said Wednesday. "We are investigating each reported sighting and trying to put together a complete file.

"We are treating all of them seriously because these are serious people. They are not publicity seekers who made all this up to get their name in the papers."

It was in 1988 that huge crowds of people flocked Fyffe after numerous reports of UFO sightings. Streets of the Sand Mountain town took on a carnival atmosphere.

Johnson, 29, said she first thought the object out her window was a helicopter, but she could no longer hear the sound that attracted her. Opening her door, she said, she saw an array of lights about 50 feet straight ahead and could make out its shape.

"It was bigger than an automobile, and it was thicker in the middle than it was on the ends," Johnson said. "I tried to make a drawing of it for the troopers, but I couldn't get on paper what I saw with my eyes."

She said the object moved laterally so slowly that it appeared almost stationary. The lights shimmered "like a bunch of gnats."

"I was really frightened," she said. "I wanted to keep seeing it, but I wanted to get away from it at the same time."

The object disappeared while she was moving from one door to the other. She said she had it in constant sight for about five minutes.

The objects seen at Licksillet lingered longer. Twilley, 29, said they were visible for a total of about 45 minutes, counting the time of the first sightings by her in-laws.

The three triangular objects were high in the sky, and each was larger than an airplane.

"They were in constant motion, but there wasn't any sound," Twilley said. "The red and white lights kept blinking. My in-laws saw the other source of light move in and later just vanish, but I only saw it when it was shining constant.

"I felt shock and excitement, but they were too far away for me to get scared," she said. "The first thing I thought of was those cows that had been mutilated. We have cows around here."

Her reference was to recent reports of cattle found dead in Marshall and DeKalb counties with their teeth and sexual organs removed and the blood drained from their bodies.

Then Tuesday night, Austin, 24, said she watched a strange light in the sky for about 45 minutes beginning about 8:45.

Austin, chief dispatcher at Geraldine Police Dept., lives at the Geraldine city limits to the east. She said she and her husband went outside after hearing chatter about lights in the sky on a scanner.

"What we saw was definitely not a falling star," Austin said.

Austin said that by looking back toward Crossville and Kilpatrick, she watched a light source high in the sky that was "shaped like a spinning top. It did not have defined edges, but had instead a misty blur around it."

Mrs. Austin said she took some pictures, but was not optimistic that the film captured what she saw.

"It was a cheap camera, and the light was pretty high," she said.

Mooney, 59, who lives on the south city limit of Geraldine, was returning home from a restaurant with sandwiches about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday when he saw a bright light in the sky ahead.

"It was still at first, then it took off over the top of the trees and stopped again," Mooney said. "It never did move again, but it stayed there, shining bright."

Mooney said the light appeared in the direction of Albertville. It was about the size of a dinner plate, and it had a reddish glow. It was first at a 45° angle from the ground, but moved down to about 10 feet above the tree line.

Mooney does not discount a connection between the sightings and recent cattle mutilations on the ground.

Ogletree said the aerial sightings and reports of cattle being mutilated are "both interesting and important stories," which were being pursued independently, but said he had no reason to connect them. Source: Darnell Norman, NYT Regional Newspapers February 7, 1993.

1993 - NOCTURNAL SWIM INCLUDES UFO SIGHTING

The Towanda, PA *Review* of July 12th tells of this July 8th incident:

A woman from the Mercur Hill area of Wysox Township tells a strange story. She and her husband both work second shift. At 12:45 a.m. Thursday they were in their swimming pool when they saw what she can only describe as an unidentified flying object.

She explains the object they saw in the sky had three round white lights in front and it moved with a rolling motion from left to right - back and forth - while traveling straight. It sounded like a jet roaring. There were no flashing lights like on an airplane. She wonders if anyone else saw it. "Maybe there are UFOs," she commented, in telling about this sighting.

1992 - AND ANOTHER SWIM CASE

In what is no doubt a very large coincidence, we have another case where someone enjoying a swim on a balmy summer evening is lucky enough to spot a UFO. This one is from The Fridley, MN, *Focus* of August 10th:

A 31-year-old New Brighton man reported seeing a UFO in the sky while he was swimming in his Silver Lane apartment's pool at about 9:30 p.m. on Aug. 1.

The man reported seeing a bright light traveling in a zigzag pattern across the sky, according to a police report. The light allegedly traveled in a half-circle and left in the opposite direction, the man reported.

A New Brighton officer responded to the man's phone call and also reported seeing the lights, the report stated.

New Brighton police are unsure of the source of the lights. The man said he called the FBI and the U.S. Air Force, but was told those agencies no longer take UFO reports, the report stated.

1993 - A TRIP TO SEE THE "MARFA LIGHTS" - by Allan J. Manak

Benita "Bunny" Owens and I arrived at Alpine, Texas at 11:45 p.m. on October 16, 1993. It was difficult to find lodging because the local college, Sul Ross University, was having a homecoming celebration.

The next day, we drove to an area off Route 67 to check out a parking place that would be in the middle of where most of the mysterious Marfa lights are seen. This is on Route 169 just east of Route 67.

On the way back to Alpine I spotted a Border Patrol car, so we pulled along side his vehicle and I got out to tell him that we would be on Route 169 the next night. The reason being is that I didn't want the border patrol to think that we were someone sneaking into the United States from Mexico. He told me that he would inform the other officers that we would be in the area.

It was then that I asked him if he had ever seen the mystery lights. He said "Oh yes, on several occasions." I then asked him where would be the best area for us to see them? He said "right there" as he pointed to the Mitchell Flat area. The very same area that we had just driven through, Route 169. I thanked him, and we parted.

Later in this same day we drove to the official viewing area off of Route 90. The area is located about 12 miles west of Alpine and approximately 9 miles east of Marfa.

We arrived at the site about 8:30 p.m. The site is a semi-paved drive, south off the main road, Route 90. It has picnic tables, trash cans and always other vehicles. This particular night there were six other vehicles parked when we arrived. We were at this site for about four hours. As always, cars kept coming and going. We were not lucky this night, as we didn't see any unusual lights.

The next night October 18th, we drove onto Route 169 into the Mitchell Flat area. We drove about 6 to 7 miles when we stopped and turned the car around so as to face west. About 45 minutes of viewing the beautiful starry sky and the area around the car, we were shocked as we saw this tremendous flash of light, as if someone had turned a huge light on for just a split second. The light repeated itself a few minutes later, and this time we heard rumbling in the distance. Needless to say, we got into the car and drove out that area back to the official viewing area, and sat in and out of the car for another four hours with no luck again.

The next day after seeing and visiting some historical areas, we dined at a local restaurant. As soon as we were seated I spotted two Border Patrol officers just finishing their dinner. I waited until they were just about through with their last cup of coffee when I pounced at them.

Yes, both officers were interested in the mystery lights, both had sightings on a number of occasions, and both told me we were in the proper area to view them. That evening we spent five hours listening to the sounds of Yanni on the tape deck, and seeing nothing unusual.

While visiting the Big Bend area, we had the occasion to visit Judith M. Breeske, Ph. D., author of the book *The Marfa Lights* at her place of business, the Ocotillo Enterprises, and much to our despair, the good doctor was attending a seminar in Arizona.

All in all, the Big Bend area is a very fine place to visit, even if one does not see those pesky mystery lights, and have West Texas lightning scare the hell out of them. Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* Spring 1994.

1993 - LIGHTED OBJECT SPOTTED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Ed Davis looked up in his backyard late on November 9th to see a strange pattern of lights hovering over a tall pine tree.

He sensed something mysterious was in the dark sky. "It looked like a string of light 4 or 5 feet long and some in the middle going straight up," said Davis, a 56-year-old insurance salesman and tax consultant. "It moved off to the left real slow, then straight up, then sliding toward York real slow."

He quickly telephoned his wife at her job in Kings Mountain, NC. She told him, "Get my puppy in."

Davis said whatever the phenomenon was - call it a UFO or whatever - it didn't make noises like an airplane or helicopter.

The York Police Department reported receiving no calls about an object in the sky at that time and officials at the FAA in Charlotte said nothing unusual showed up on radar that scans the area.

Davis said he spotted the lights hanging over a 60-foot pine tree behind his house on Giles Road when he went out to his office in a small utility building about midnight.

The lights were about 139 feet away, 15 feet above the tree. He thought it was a reflection from street lights in his eyeglasses until he removed them and saw the lights were real enough.

He called to his stepson, Raymond Owens, 28, inside the house, who came outside to find out what was going on.

"He said, 'God, Ed, what's there?' I said if it can't be identified, it's a UFO. I don't know what it was, but I told Raymond it had to be a UFO."

In the excitement, Davis said he forgot to get the family video camera and also ignored his wife's request to take their pet chow dog, Kimo, into the house.

Besides, he said, there was nothing to film. He could see no form or shape against the sky, just the blazing white lights in the cross-like pattern and an eerie silence. It moved away slowly, stopping occasionally, before disappearing like a plane flying to the horizon.

"I never thought anything about being afraid. I just wanted to find out what it was and thought some others might see it too."

Davis is not sure UFOs exist. "I think there has got to be something out there, but I've never thought much about it." Source: Doug Mauldin, Rock Hill, SC *Evening Standard* November 11, 1993.

1993 - MYSTERY OBJECT OVER WILLOW CREEK, CALIF.

If you saw a UFO, with bright lights on it, on a dark night, as you were driving along Highway 299, would you report it - or even say anything about it? Maybe...and maybe not.

You might wonder how people would react to the story...and question whether you would be treated like some others who have reported UFOs in the past.

That may have been how Harold Hough, retired PG&E manager of Willow Creek felt about it one night last week when he had such an experience with what can presently only be termed as a UFO - an unidentified object.

It was Tuesday night, Dec. 29, 8:30 p.m., when Harold and his wife, Lorraine and a grandson were eastbound on Highway 299, and as they were rounding the 40-mile-an-hour curve of Berry Summit, they saw a string of bright lights up near the summit.

"At first, the thought occurred to me that the lights were on a house, like one decorated, but I didn't know there was a house in that area," Harold said this week, after *The Kourier* received a tip about the story and phoned him for details.

As Hough neared the summit, he said the object appeared to be standing still, then moving in a southwest to westerly direction, slowly at first, then appearing to pick up speed.

Hough stopped his vehicle and got out just about the time the object went over them. In the meantime, another vehicle had stopped near them and the occupants were also watching the object, but they drove on as soon as the flying object had flown away. Hough wishes he knew who they were - at least to compare notes with what they saw.

The leading lights were bright, white lights, but as the object flew by, some more lights were visible - a square pattern of colored lights on the bottom of the craft - red, green and several other colors.

Hough said he could not see the size or shape of the vehicle, as its lights were predominant.

"It was so dark, you couldn't see anything but lights," he said.

He estimated the craft was about 500 feet above them, but that was only a rough estimate, he said.

"It was moving too slow to have been a plane - maybe it was a helicopter," Hough suggested, obviously searching for a plausible explanation.

Hough said he thought at first it might have been some kind of search and rescue operation, but authorities were unaware of anything like that going on in the area. Source: *Klam-Itty Kourier* Willow Creek, CA January 5, 1994.

1994 - HUGE LIGHTS HOVER IN ILLINOIS

Women sometimes have a hard time believing the stories their boyfriends tell.

Consider, for example, Jenny Polk of Inverness, whose boyfriend Brian called her on the evening of June 9th to say he saw strange, huge red lights in the sky over Dundee Road. She badgered and berated him about it for a couple of minutes, but then took his word for it, walked over to the window and looked out.

And then she saw it: huge red lights, hovering in place under the tree line, and making noise.

The lights dimmed slightly, and then sped off. The mysterious lights reappeared around midnight, when Jenny's mother was also a witness.

It was reported to the Barrington police last Thursday that these strange lights had been sighted in the skies over Barrington around midnight, at Dundee Road between Ela and Barrington Roads.

Three huge, bright red lights that moved vertically and very quickly. They disappeared and reappeared around midnight, according to the report.

"It was just very strange," said Polk. "We didn't say, oh, this is a UFO. It could have been anything. But it wasn't an everyday occurrence."

Since the Polks live in an O'Hare flight path, they are familiar with the airplane lights, and they are certain that's not what they saw.

Jenny stressed that the family does not believe in flying saucers, but what they saw was definitely alien, so to speak. Source: *Barrington, IL Courier-Review* June 16, 1994.

1994 - OCTOBER ALASKA CASES

On a clear Alaska night it seems like every star in the sky is visible. Cloudless nights gave Bristol Bay stargazers a chance to view the heavens, look for northern lights or behold the Big Dipper. But on Friday the 14th, Saturday the 15th, and Sunday the 16th between 8 p.m. and midnight, several residents of Manokotak, Dillingham and Aleknagik saw something that really caught their eye.

Molly Pauk, a secretary at Manokotak School, was watching television in her living room Sunday night when bright lights shining through her picture window grabbed her attention. At first Pauk paid no attention. She thought it was an airplane circling the area.

"I saw red and green lights like a regular airplane," Pauk said, "but when I went over to look out the window I noticed that the object didn't make a sound. It circled around three or four times pretty close to my house and flashed the lights right on me."

Pretty soon word spread. Anecia Lomack heard the same story from about seven people in Manokotak, including her two sons. Lomack said she might not have believed the story but the people who told her were all upstanding citizens. VHF channel 68 was all abuzz with the news after Lomack joined local chatter.

Lomack's main concern with the weekend's sightings was the safety of Manokotak children. She broadcast the story to warn people to watch their kids so they don't get kidnapped, taken away or just disappear.

As for herself Lomack said, "I'm too busy to be kidnapped. I'm still working on Earth."

Aaron Lomack, 17, also saw the UFO. He claims while he was out driving around, a triangular-shaped object with white, blue and red lights circled silently overhead.

Aaron said he could see the Manokotak airport lights go on and drove toward the runways to see if a plane was landing. Then the airports lights shut off. But the object was still there, moving slowly, without a sound.

"I don't know what it was," Aaron said. "Probably a UFO."

Anecia Lomack said her other son, Eric, 12, also saw the silent object last weekend while driving back from a lake in Manokotak with a friend. Lomack explained that each time the object was seen, the lights went on and off at the airport.

"Eric was coming back from the lake at around midnight when he saw the colored lights overhead," Lomack said. "Next thing he saw was the lights at the airport go on, then quickly go off. He said he saw this happen twice. A lot of people who saw the UFO also saw the airport lights."

Shirley Yeager, a clerk at Dillingham's Alaska Commercial Co. store, was at the Snake Lake lookout near Aleknagik on Sunday night with a friend when she saw what appeared to be brightly colored stars in "sort of a triangular pattern."

"We were sitting there while looking out and saw what looked like colored stars. The light looked, pink, blue and green and they were blinking on and off. It looked like a group of stars moving," she said.

"Yes, I thought it was a UFO," she said. "I never saw stars move like that before. They were just moving, there was no sound."

According to Yeager, UFOs come to Alaska because there are too many people in the Lower 48. She explained that UFOs can get their job done easier in Alaska because of the smaller population and more open spaces.

The FAA in Dillingham and Air Force in Anchorage had no comment. Source: Bethel, AK *Tundra Drums* October 20, 1994.

1994 - NORTHERN MICHIGAN UFO ACTIVITY

Northern Michigan residents and police are abuzz with talk of UFO sightings in the tiny community of Kingsley that have once again focused national attention on the state.

The sighting of a UFO hovering in the eastern skies above the Kingsley countryside attracted a surge of telephone calls from UFO buffs and radio talk shows and even warranted mention on a national radio program, Grand Traverse County authorities said.

"It was a zoo up here for two days," said Sgt. Don Laskey of the Michigan State Police.

The object was first sighted by Kingsley resident Tracey Cejda at about 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday December 21st.

"I saw a streak of light fall down to a height of just over the tree tops near my storage barn," Cejda said. "The object remained at tree top level and appeared to be about two or three times the size of my barn."

Cejda said her dog cowered at the sight of the object, which "appeared to be round and yet not round."

"The whole inside of the object appeared honeycombed. It had what seemed to be mini-lightning bolts in the middle of it that would go off sporadically," she said. "The object was a bluish gray color. We noticed later that it had a red oscillating light on the top of it. It's hard to describe the feelings that were running through me."

Cejda's neighbor, Michael Stelter captured the object on videotape and Officer Glen Guldner of the Michigan State Police arrived in time to witness it himself.

Guldner filed a police report saying he used binoculars to view "a cylindrical mass, possibly gray in color...on the underside of the object a large amount of individual lights were seen that appeared to be connected by a softer light running between them."

He reported that the object rotated back and forth several times and tipped vertically before returning to its original position. He said a shapeless bright light appeared to the east of the object.

Both Cejda and Guldner said the object disappeared when military jets flew past, then reappeared when the aircraft were out of sight.

Local astronomers and meteorologists theorized that the object could have been a planet, possibly Venus or Jupiter, enhanced by atmospheric conditions.

But Dick Cookman, an astronomy instructor at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, said it would be unusual for an image as large as the one videotaped to not show planetary detail.

Numerous UFO sightings in Ottawa County in March attracted the attention of extraterrestrial buffs and prompted a segment on CBS's "48 Hours."

Radio personality Paul Harvey made note of the sightings on his show that day, Laskey said. Source: Mark Jager, Grand Rapids, MI Press December 25, 1994.

1995 - MYSTERY LIGHTS VISIT DEL NORTE, COLORADO

The lights on Greenie Mountain, up Rock Creek Canyon southwest of Monte Vista, are back.

Rio Grande County Undersheriff Brian Norton said his office received calls on the evening of March 22nd from two people regarding strange lights around the mountain, so he and several others went to check out the situation.

Norton identified the others as another sheriff's deputy, a detention officer, a search and rescue member, a volunteer fireman from Del Norte Fire Department and two Monte Vista police officers.

What they saw from about 11:45 p.m. Wednesday until about 1 a.m. Thursday were three different lights glowing red, blue and white, although not in sequence.

The lights were hovering, stationary and at treetop level, before moving off and vanishing, Norton said.

The three lights separated and were located at three different points of the area, at the southeast corner of Greenie Mountain, near the mountain midway from Rock Creek, and at Bishop Rock, Norton said.

The lights "stood still. They made no noise. We were close enough that if there had been noise, we would have heard it," Norton said.

The undersheriff said at one point the lights were "as bright as a lightning bolt, but would only last as long as a flash on a camera.

"They put out a beam of light lighting up the ground," but it was too dark to see whether there was any shape behind them.

"I won't speculate what they were. I enjoy people calling and reporting them, but I don't know what to do. We have no equipment to track them," Norton said.

There were no reports of downed aircraft and the lights, which Norton described as "like a yard

light sitting out there" were not consistent with what is seen on aircraft.

Norton said he thought about calling NORAD as he did when strange blue lights were spotted in the same area in January 1994 but decided there was no point because NORAD "wouldn't tell us anything and they'd deny it's on radar." Source: Erin Smith, Pueblo, CO *Chieftain* March 25, 1995.

1995 - LIGHTED UFO SIGHTED IN OREGON

23-year-old Bryan Baguet told his mother not to tell anyone what they had witnessed in the wilderness sky over his parents' home between 8:30 and 9:30 on Monday night, March 27, 1995.

Bryan lives at Coral Creek Ranch, three miles down the Imnaha River from where his parents live near the confluence of Horse Creek and Imnaha River on the Dug Bar Road.

"No one will believe us," Bryan told his mother.

But when Rick Swart and Barbara Kriley of the *Wallowa County Chieftain* caught up with Diane Baguet on the road to Dug Bar the next day, she'd had second thoughts after discussing the happenings with her husband, Russ, and employer, area rancher Don Hubbard.

"I'm getting old," Mrs. Baguet, 50, told the *Chieftain* journalists, "and I don't care if anybody believes me. I know what I saw."

What Bryan and Diane Baguet believe they saw was a hovering alien space craft. At first what they saw looked like a meteor. Then the streaking light stopped over the middle of the river above their place, where it hovered for nearly an hour.

According to the *Chieftain* account, Mrs. Baguet described the image as a round circle of white light with a column of light rising straight up from the center and two other columns of light extending out of the bottom in a triangular pattern. In addition, she said, the white ball was emitting bars of white towards the ground and around the walls of the canyon, and red, blue and white light from what appeared to be some sort of beacon.

Bryan Baguet said that from a distance the image looked like a saucer but through his binoculars it looked "more round above the lights." His mother described the magnified appearance of the image "like a brain. . . With veins running over the top of it."

"With the reflection from the lights we couldn't see the bottom but could see a round dome, just like an outline, above the lights," Bryan said.

Both Baguets said the image moved from point to point at lightning speed, including right angles, and there was no motor noise associated with the lights.

According to separate accounts from both witnesses, the image darted over a knob on the west side of the Imnaha River referred to by locals as "Crazyman's Point," where it seemed to hover for another five minutes before all signs of light disappeared.

By 11 p.m. the image was gone and Bryan decided to leave for home. Mrs. Baguet said she worried that what they just witnessed might have been an alien spacecraft and that it might follow Bryan's headlights.

As Bryan was leaving, his mother told him, "If they come back and chase you, shut off your lights and crawl under your pickup."

Diane Baguet later described the incident: "It's an eerie feeling, because it's like something you have no control over . . . You know what you see but your mind doesn't want to accept it." At one point she considered going back into the house and turning off the kerosene lamps but decided that if the object was an alien spacecraft its occupants were already aware of the family's presence. She estimated the object was about the size of a helicopter.

The *Chieftain* checked with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, who that week had been using a helicopter crew to spot salmon redds on the Imnaha River.

Vic Coggins, ODFW area biologist, said his crew and chopper had been out on Monday morning but had not flown after dark that day. Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* Fall 1995.

1995 - CIGAR-SHAPED UFO IN SILVERTON, OREGON

It started at the south end of town, hovering silently about 500 feet above the ground, its lights flickering. For nearly 10 minutes the cigar-shaped object darted about, heading north; it turned

northeast and disappeared.

Then the phones started ringing.

"The whole town has been calling," said 21-year-old Sarah Doran, who was working for the local police April 3rd when the strange object - a UFO - was sighted about 10 p.m. above this small farming town of 6,500 people. "Calls started coming in about an hour after the sighting."

As of Wednesday night, about 15 calls had been logged. And more reports were coming in as word of the sighting spread.

Callers described the object as a cigar-shaped flickering light with what appeared to be a balloon floating on top. The noiseless object moved around quickly 500 to 600 feet above the ground for nearly 10 minutes.

Asked whether anything like this has occurred before, Doran quickly said, "Not on my shift."

Police have made a cursory investigation and have no explanation for the object.

"I called flight services; there were no planes in the area," Doran said. "I called the weather service and came up with nothing. It's not being looked into because who would investigate it?"

Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* Summer 1995.

1995 - THE 32ND NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE - by Rick Hilberg

It was cold and very rainy as we pulled into Atlanta - and to make matters worse, it was Friday the 13th of October. But never mind, as our spirits were high in the anticipation of seeing old friends again, and hopefully hearing fascinating lectures by "UFO people" we had never met.

After unpacking, we called up convention chairman Jim Moseley to let him know that our dinner plans with him were still on for seven. Over cocktails and a fine dinner at our hotel, Jim filled us in on the final lineup of speakers for the official start of the con the next day. From what he told us, Carol I knew that it was to be a fun ufological weekend.

The next morning Carol dropped me off at the Castlegate across the street from our Holiday Inn, as it was still raining buckets outside.

Once we got to the ballroom site of the convention we were happy to see Jim, as he had to convince the people at the ticket table that I was a real person and founding member of the NUFOC, as they seemed to have lost track of my convention pass. Once successful, Carol left me to my ufological paradise and went on to find activities to amuse our grandson who could not spend the day swimming on account of the downpour.

I was not disappointed in the lineup of speakers, which was diverse by ufological standards.

The keynote speaker was one Leah Haley, an author and claimed abductee. Ms. Haley's claims range from repeated abductions by the nasty grey aliens to kidnapping and drugging by government agents, and a claim that she was on board a UFO that was either shot down or crashed near Gulf Breeze, plus all kinds of other exciting stuff. My first thought was that as a young woman she's sure had a lifetime of mysterious experiences. However, she is a very good speaker and seemed very sincere.

Right after Ms. Haley was George Fawcett, a UFO investigator I've known for more than 30 years and had never met, even though we had both participated in many radio talk programs by phone lines during the years. George is a very hard working UFO investigator, and his narrated slide presentation on his 50 years in UFO research was worth the price of admission alone.

As I said, the convention had a diverse line-up of speakers on a variety of topics which included: crop circles, the psychology of UFO experiences, alien engineering of human society and well, so much more. We particularly enjoyed Cope Schellhorn's new and revised presentation on UFOs and earth changes, as it was one of our favorites from UAPA's 1994 convention here in Cleveland. I also have to give credit to Dr. Frank Stranges, who so ably handled the difficult job as master of ceremonies.

One of the highlights of the whole weekend was to once again meet and spend Saturday afternoon at the con with Don Cook, an early supporter of the NUFOC and someone we hadn't seen in almost 25 years. Don brought a whole briefcase full of old photographs and publications from those days so long past.

Even though the nasty weather may have kept the crowd down from expected levels, those who attended certainly had an interesting weekend of saucery. Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* Fall 1995.

1996 - UFOs OVER NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

A mystery of paranormal proportions has the Northwest Territories town of Fort Resolution in a kind of trance.

Every evening since Jan. 4th, townsfolk have stepped outside and looked up, hoping to catch another glimpse of a trio of pulsating, multicolored lights dancing across the cold night sky.

They have rarely been disappointed.

"We're seeing exactly the same object every single night . . . between about 5 o'clock and 8 o'clock. Then it completely disappears," Mayor Euan Hunter says.

"It's quite calming actually, especially when all the colors come out from underneath it."

The UFO so intrigued a colonel in the Canadian Armed Forces that he and two staff members hopped into a Twin Otter plane and flew out for a look-see.

"A few of our Canadian Rangers (Dene and Inuit who serve in a reserve force) had seen it. And the mayor." And the RCMP.

But you wouldn't know it, staff member Gray says - by the time Col. Pierre Leblanc got to Fort Resolution the skies had clouded over and he had to leave without seeing anything.

"This is the biggest story since I got up here last summer. UFO sightings or paranormal phenomena are not something that Canada's military deals in very often," says Gray.

Leblanc will file a report with the Defence Operation Centre in Ottawa, which deals with about 30 or 40 reports a year.

But though the military's official role may be concluded, the Fort Resolution UFO is still the talk of the base.

Hunter says the object has red, green and blue lights with a constant white light in the centre. It moves straight west, and then down, before vanishing.

It's not a star, not a planet, not the northern lights, he says: "I just cannot explain it.

"The first few days (of sightings) I was pretty skeptical, until I saw it . . . It blew my socks off."

Source: Gene Duplantier, *Delve Report* January 1996.

1996 - GLOWING OBJECT OVER RENO, NEVADA

A glowing flying object was seen over the downtown Reno area, several residents told police on February 13th.

Some said the object was black and glowed as if it had a halo around it or was flying inside of a bubble. At least four people stood for about an hour gazing into the sky near the Gold Dust Casino.

Control tower workers at Reno/Tahoe International Airport said radar showed no unexplained objects during the period of the reports, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., police said.

Charles Gilliam of Reno said he saw the object looking south from Second and Keystone. It appeared to be about 1,500 feet above the horizon before it moved upward and traveled west.

"It hovered in the same spot for about a half-hour and then it juttled up and down across the sky," he said.

First Interstate Bank released balloons in the area just before the first person called in the strange object to police. But Jason Ruiz, of Reno, said what he saw was not balloons.

"It was black and it looked like it had a force field around it," he said. "We didn't see any planes for a half-hour and it wasn't a helicopter." Source: Reno, NV *Gazette Journal* February 16, 1996.

1996 - "V-SHAPED" OBJECT OVER ALBANY, OREGON

John and Marjorie Friedrichsen know it's a crazy story. But on the other hand, they say, they still don't know what the bright lights they saw on February 13th actually were.

The couple were out walking their dog at about 10:30 that night near their home at 432 Calapooia St. when they first noticed the lights in the eastern sky, above Lebanon.

"I saw this V-shaped contraption, perfectly still, motionless," Marjorie said. "It was mostly white

and blue, with a little red and green towards the ends."

The Friedrichsens counted at least 17 of the strange lights. One especially bright one was more northeast than the others.

"The major portion made a large circle," John said.

"Every one of them was an identical shape, like a wide-open V," Marjorie said.

The two called the police and the *Democrat-Herald* to see if any other sightings had been reported. None had, but when John contacted a retired Air Force friend, he said he's seen strange lights as well.

In the morning, when Marjorie went outside at 5 a.m. to get the paper, the lights were still there. Fog obscured them shortly afterward, however.

John says he knows many such sightings are dismissed as weather balloons. "But to have so many up in the middle of the night?" he asked.

A former pilot, John said he knows what other aircraft look like in the sky at night and this didn't match any of them. "The closest thing it could have been was a chopper, but choppers don't sit still in the same place for six hours," he said.

A similar sighting was reported February 16th when two people told Linn County sheriff's deputies they saw what they thought was an airplane crash near Highway 99E and Highway 34 in Tangent.

The "crash" was reported about 1 a.m. No plane was found in the area. Air control tower staff at the Salem airport said they had seen what looked like a meteor about the same time. Several Lebanon police officers reported seeing the same thing. Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* Summer 1996.

1996 - "BALL OF RAINBOW" IN WASHINGTON STATE

Several people saw something unusual hovering in the skies over the Spokane Valley between 8 and 9 p.m. March 28th. One family captured it on videotape.

Tessa Whipkey, 13, said she had the closest encounter of them all.

Tessa and her 11-year-old brother, John, climbed onto the roof of the family's garage near 12th and McDonald in the Valley for a closer look. Their grandmother had called moments earlier to say she saw a ball of light in the sky.

"It looked like a ball of rainbow, just spinning out everywhere," Tessa said. John ran inside for a camera.

The Evergreen Junior High student swears the object raced toward her, stopping 30 feet above her. She ran screaming into the house.

Sound like a crazy kid story? Maybe. But when Tessa tells it, her blue eyes turn red and watery, she shakes and chokes on the words.

The phone call that provoked Tessa's nighttime adventure was one in a string that started with a Valley couple living on Liberty Avenue near Park Road.

Julie and Randy Stone were just getting into bed at about 8 p.m. when they noticed what looked like a giant white star outside.

It had a ring of rainbow-colored lights at the bottom. With binoculars, Julie Stone said she could see that the glowing globe was spinning.

Stone said what she saw wasn't Comet Hyakutake.

"I know what (the comet) looks like. That wasn't the comet," she said.

Stone then called neighbor Lea Rosales, who is Tessa's grandmother.

"I'm not an alien chaser or anything, but I saw something," Rosales said. "If the moon were a basketball, it would have been a baseball."

Rosales thought maybe it was a weather balloon or plane, because she lives near Felts Field.

Norman Macdonald, who works at the private field's front desk, said he hadn't heard about anything strange that night.

Macdonald and Douglas Klaue, a Felts Field pilot, said weather balloons don't have colored lights. The men think it may have been a hovering helicopter.

"Other than that, I can only say it was a high-cost secret government project," Macdonald said, chuckling. He said he would keep an eye out for green or scaly pilots.

One retired Air Force lieutenant colonel wasn't kidding around, though. Jerry Rolwes is the assistant Washington state director of MUFON, a national organization that investigates sightings.

He said he would like to see the videotape, made Thursday night by Karen Hazlett, who lives on Bowdish Road near Sprague.

Hazlett swears the object got bigger in the sky, as if it was coming toward her, and then retreated.

The tape shows a round, shimmery silver object twinkling in the night, with Hazlett's 11-year-old daughter, Tara, yelling, "Mom, it's spinning!"

And 13-year-old Tessa?

"I know it was real," she said, her voice losing its waver and catching conviction. "And it scared me." Source: Ward Sanderson, Spokane, WA *Spokesman-Review* March 30, 1996.

1996 - GROUP INVESTIGATING ILLINOIS SIGHTINGS

A St. Louis volunteer group is conducting an investigation into reported sightings of UFOs in the Damiansville and Hillsboro areas on July 16 - 17.

David Marler of Actaeon Investigations confirmed Wednesday that the two sightings are under investigation and said they are the first two reports of UFO sightings in Illinois in about eight months.

On July 17, a Damiansville woman reported seeing a triangular-shaped object flying just above the tree line south of the intersection of Damiansville Road and Interstate 64. By topographical map, that distance is estimated at 2 to 2½ miles.

She told Marler the object was flat on the bottom and had facets on the top and that it was very shiny, like polished steel.

Marler, a resident of Fairmont City, said he asked the woman, who has been guaranteed anonymity, to estimate the size of the object by holding various items between her thumb and forefinger at arms length. Three times the woman said the object was as big as a baseball.

"That huge!" Marler said in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

The woman told Marler she saw the object as she was approaching the interstate about 9:30 a.m. She said it stayed in the same position for four or five minutes and then vanished. She said she saw no trail of smoke or vapor and heard no noise.

Marler said the woman has worked at Scott Air Force Base and the object resembled no military aircraft she has ever seen.

He said she also referred the sighting to the St. Louis Science Center and that he met the woman through a friend in Mascoutah who assured him the woman was very credible and a former UFO skeptic.

Officials at Scott Air Force Base are checking flight logs to see if any military aircraft were in the vicinity at the time of the sighting. Marler said he had not yet received the Air Force's report.

No UFO reports were logged by the Clinton or Washington county sheriff's departments or Okawville police, Marler said.

He noted that between 9 and 10 p.m. the previous night, a couple in the Hillsboro area reported seeing two balls of light in the night sky. The lights were traveling at high rates of speed and making right-angle turns. At one point, the lights merged, then separated, and for a time they appeared to be chasing each other in a circular fashion.

Marler said the Hillsboro couple watched these lights for about 30 minutes. They heard no noise and finally the lights disappeared. One moved west at a high rate of speed and the other moved to the south. The light that moved south appeared to be gaining altitude, he said.

Actaeon Investigations consist of about a dozen volunteers and was formed about two years ago, breaking from other UFO discussion groups.

"We make no claims as to what is happening," he said. "But people are seeing things and they ought to be investigated."

He said the Damiansville sighting is a good sighting in the sense that the woman's description is detailed. "I wish we had another witness to corroborate her statement," he said.

Marler said only about 10% of sightings are reported because of "the ridicule factor" such reporting causes.

Marler usually works with two other investigators checking UFO reports in Missouri and Illinois. In only one case has he found physical evidence associated with a sighting.

In May of 1995 a rough circular area of wheat gently bent at an angle, but not broken, was found in a pattern matching the physical shape of a UFO reported in the same area. Source: Mark Hodapp, Centralia, IL *Sentinel* August 8, 1996.

1996 - SEVERAL SIGHT OBJECTS IN MIDWEST

Was it a plane, a helicopter? Or could it have been an unidentified flying object?

A Paddock Lake, Wisconsin woman and her son, and an Antioch, Ill. woman, are asking themselves those very questions following their close encounters of the unknown kind recently.

Marcy Effinger and her son, Matthew, 9, were driving home around 6:40 p.m. September 29th when they noticed something unusual over a field on 248th Avenue near 65th Street in Paddock Lake.

"I thought maybe it was a helicopter, but it was bigger than a blimp and like an oval shape," said Marcy Effinger, a 19-year Paddock Lake resident. "There was a big one and a little one. It wasn't moving like a plane. It was just like one huge light. It was just hovering."

After Effinger went home to get her camera, she returned minutes later and saw only one of the objects about a mile off over the field. She watched as it moved farther back over the trees, then decided to follow it as it flitted toward Lake Geneva along Highway K.

"We were going west on Highway K and I saw two airplanes fly by and it was bigger than the airplane," she said. "Here I was in my robe chasing this thing and I figured if the police stopped me, 'what would I say?'"

After she lost sight of the object, Effinger went home and called a friend and former Paddock Lake resident. Debbie Mumm of Antioch, Ill. recalled that she, too, had seen something unusual around the time Effinger said the second object had disappeared.

"About 7:15 p.m. we were going east on North Avenue and had just passed this big accident," said Mumm. "I had thought it was a helicopter, but it was flashing way too fast. It was quite a ways away, but I saw these really, really white lights. The lights were way too high for a plane. It would blink two times, move, then blink two times and move higher. Then it shot to the right and went straight up.

"I told my son, 'it must be the Flight for Life (helicopter),' but it was a weird-shaped light," she recalled. "I didn't push it and didn't want to say anything as my son has a very vivid imagination. I wanted a good night's sleep."

Neither woman notified the police.

Sharon Taylor of the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department, said they hadn't received calls of anything suspicious that night.

No pilots reported any strange sightings either, said an air traffic controller at the Kenosha Airport.

Paddock Lake resident Susan Washack admitted, however, that she had previously seen something strange in the same field on 248th Avenue.

"It just looked like a white light that was suspended in the sky," she said. "It wasn't low enough to be of a tractor. I've seen it maybe two, three times since, but it's been at a distance. I'm not sure what it was."

No alcohol was involved in any of these incidents. Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* Winter 1997.

1997 - "MINI-FLAP" IN NEW HAMPSHIRE?

On a clear night in January, a full moon and a sky dotted with stars accompanied Beverly Higgins on her drive home from work.

All of a sudden there was something else.

"It was ten to seven," she recalled. "I was just on Route 3 coming home to Littleton just before the Columbia trailer park when I saw this thing across my windshield, just above my steering wheel."

As she watched it move across the sky from the Vermont side of the Connecticut River, she thought it was an airplane. Or maybe a helicopter.

But she knew it was neither.

"It was oval - I counted six windows and there was a green light in front of it," she said. "It hovered

slowly, but there was no noise."

Within a couple of minutes, it took off over the mountains and Higgins continued home.

"There was nothing about it that frightened me," she said.

Higgins is not alone in her sighting of an unidentified flying object. Since the beginning of the year, nearly a dozen UFO sightings have been reported to Sandra Black of Stewartstown, a local investigator for MUFON.

"It's called a flap when a lot of sightings are reported in a short span of time," she said.

Since becoming an investigator for MUFON in 1993, Black has checked into about 17 reports a year. She started getting busy this year on Jan. 15th.

"The best one was reported on Jan. 23 on Route 26 in daylight," she said. "Two people were coming home from work at the Balsams when they saw a large saucer-shaped object standing vertical on end."

The previous day in North Stratford, a witness reported seeing an object the size of a house. "There were pink and blue lights glowing around it," she said, adding that the lights condensed into one, moved to the northeast and disappeared.

In Stratford last month, a woman and members of her family saw a saucer-shaped object in the Stratford Hollow part of town. A few days later, the woman spotted the object again.

Sightings have been reported in Clarksville, Berlin, Jefferson, Stratford and Columbia.

"It's not all that unusual," Black said. "But to have so many people report it to the newspapers - that is unusual."

Several stories about UFO sightings have appeared in local newspapers.

"There is less and less ridicule about it these days," she said. "Most people are in wonder about what they saw and want to know what it is and they want to see it again."

Higgins agreed.

"I've had no one make fun of me," she said. "In fact, people have told me that they have seen what I have seen." Source: Lorna Colguhoun, Manchester, NH *Union-Leader* March 7, 1997.

1997 - DISK SIGHTED IN NORTH CAROLINA

An odd sight appeared in the sky over Blowing Rock on March 16th that caused at least one resident there to wonder if a UFO was passing by.

Elizabeth Free called the *Watauga Democrat* to ask if anyone else had reported seeing the luminous silver disk that flew through the sky at about 11 a.m. and headed toward Lenoir.

When asked about what she had observed, Free said that the UFO appeared to be "just cruising" toward Lenoir, and added that she hadn't been the only one to witness it.

A friend of hers and her husband who were driving from Lenoir to Blowing Rock also watched the UFO passing back and forth in the sky in view of U.S. 321.

The friend, a manager of a retail business in Lenoir, told Free that she and her husband watched the object throughout the entire drive up the mountain.

Oddly enough, the object wasn't alone in the sky. Three jets that Free said appeared to be military aircraft flew with the object, one behind and two below as if they were escorting it. The silver, disk-shaped craft, which was a little larger than the jets, flew at the same speed as the planes.

The description of the UFOs flight pattern differs greatly from most sighting reports that tell of a sudden, dramatic appearance, usually late at night or in the early morning and usually only seen by one person, followed by a rocket-like burst of speed that causes the object to "shoot away."

"We wondered if we were all playing on the same sheet of music or if we were hallucinating," said Free, a real estate broker and investor who has lived in Blowing Rock for 20 years.

She was sitting in the living room of her home on Rocky Knob Road, looking out her sliding glass doors over the Pisgah National Forest when she looked up and saw the object.

"I usually don't pay attention to what I see, but I do when other people see the same thing," she said, adding that three other people, including two customers of the store her friend manages, also watched the silver disk as it passed over Lenoir.

"I can't imagine that a commercial or private plane would follow something like that; the military

could have been testing something or it could have been a UFO. People see different things. The husband of my friend isn't a particularly open-minded person; he considers himself a logical, practical person, and he called her to tell her to look at it. The fact that he saw it kind of blows the theory that only 'intuitive' people see them" Free said.

A deputy at the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office said that no reports of a UFO had been made, and suggested that what Free and her friends had seen might have been the Hale-Bopp comet.

Free, who had been reluctant at first to describe the UFO and then to "go on record," disagreed. "No, that wasn't the comet. It looked like it was glowing but it was a metallic disk," she said with certainty.

Jerry Burns, editor of the *Blowing Rocket* newspaper, said he received one other call from a resident who had seen the UFO. He told the man it was probably the comet.

Free was relieved to hear that she hadn't been the only one to see the UFO, but remained pragmatic about her experience. Source: Boone, NC *Watauga Democrat* March 21, 1997.

1998 - LARGE "CRAFT" STARTLES MANY IN ROSAMOND, CALIF.

Authorities say nothing was there, but about a dozen people who called the *Valley Press* claimed something was April 24th.

That something was described as a large craft lingering above the Albertson's grocery store at about 9:15 p.m. It made no noise, but its lights caused motorists to park and gawk, and some to call the newspaper.

On Friday, Kern County deputies at the Rosamond sheriff's station, about a mile from the grocery store, said they had no reports of such sightings.

Air Force Plant 42 spokeswoman Lorraine Sadler said she, too, had no information on the event.

"And we have some military people that live in Rosamond, too," Sadler said.

Edwards Air Force Base public information officer Gary Hatch said base operations reported no flights scheduled in that area at that time of night.

The base's command post also had taken no reports of any craft, either known or unknown, in the area, Hatch said.

Calls about the object began flowing to the *Valley Press* shortly after 9 p.m., copy chief Jana Treece said.

"After the first couple of calls, we all said, 'Yeah, OK, sure,'" Treece said. "But between about 9:15 and 11 (p.m.), we received a dozen calls from people who were either on their way to the Albertson's to do some shopping or who were eating at the (nearby) Taco Bell.

"For the most part, everyone gave the same description," Treece said.

That description was of a large object, not quite octagonal in shape, between 100 yards and 200 yards in length, with orange and yellow lights around its bottom surface.

"One of (the callers) said cars were pulling off to the side of the road to check the object out," Treece said.

Suggestions that the object was a helicopter blurred by windy, hazy weather conditions were discounted by those calling, she said.

"Everyone said it was not a helicopter because there was no noise associated with it," Treece said.

Of those who called, "I couldn't get anybody to leave a name," she said.

While she and her co-workers occasionally field similar types of calls, "we don't get so many all on the same night and all calling about the same thing," she said.

Hatch surmised the object could have been a helicopter with a lighted billboard attached to the bottom, akin to the ones that occasionally buzz the games of the Lancaster JetHawks baseball team.

If the object really was 200 yards in length, "it would have been bigger than the Albertson's store," he said.

Although the JetHawks were on the field Thursday evening, the field they were playing on was in Visalia.

Mitch Barker, public affairs specialist for the FAA, also reported no information on the object.

"We checked with our air-traffic control facilities, and there was nothing logged during that shift, so I don't know what to tell you," Barker said.

However, it's possible that something in the sky over Rosamond might have been missed.

"A lot of people think we have surveillance of the skies taking place at all times, but that's not true," Barker said. "Our people are looking at where the airplanes are actually flying and concentrating on keeping them apart." Source: Bob Wilson, *Antelope Valley Press*, Palmdale, CA April 25, 1998.

1998 - SEVERAL SEE UFOs NEAR MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS

Exactly what's going on in the sky near Valley Airport adjacent to the White River is yet to be determined, but three mens' alleged sighting of a UFO Tuesday afternoon November 10th, is being compiled with at least one other strange sighting in that area the day before.

Frank Caruso first reported seeing a "gold-like" object in the northern sky shortly after 5 p.m., Tuesday while he and two friends were watching buzzards roost in the trees. Caruso, whose claim was corroborated by friends Jim Fishwick and Jim Bradley, said the object appeared to have a "gold vapor trail" behind it that "dissipated quickly." He said the UFO was in the sky for about 2 - 3 minutes.

Another man who lives near Valley Airport, who wishes to remain anonymous, told *The Bulletin* Wednesday that he saw two "powerful lights" in the same general area at the top of a mountain Monday night.

"I know it wasn't a car or truck," the man said. "It was too bright, and besides there's no way a vehicle can get to the top of that mountain - the forest is too dense, and there are no roads."

The man said he "doesn't believe in aliens" and has never seen a UFO, but he was sure of the lights, which he said stayed in one place for about 25 minutes.

Early the next morning at around 3 a.m., the man's dogs woke him, "raising hell."

"They never bark," he said. "Unless there's somebody at the door. I didn't see anybody, so I told them to shut up, and I went back to bed."

The strange sightings have sparked the interest of a local chemist who is an investigator for MUFON, a worldwide organization based in Texas.

Christine Lippert, a full-time chemist for Baxter Healthcare, said she is interested in the sightings because her organization documents such events and offers information from other sightings and strange occurrences.

"These are the first sightings that I've heard in the area since I became involved with the network," Lippert said. "But there were numerous UFO sightings in Searcy County in the early 1990s." In fact, she said there were so many sightings during a two-week period in Searcy County, that the sheriff became concerned. Baxter County lawmen say they have not received any reports of UFO sightings, and officials here have not expressed interest to pursue any of the claims.

Besides the numerous alleged sightings in Searcy County, Lippert said there have been a number of other sightings in Boone County - in and around Harrison - more recently. Source: Bruce Roberts, *Baxter Bulletin*, Mountain Home, AR November 12, 1998.

1999 - METALLIC CIGAR IN OHIO

A witness in Troy, Ohio reported seeing a cigar-shaped object that looked metallic or silver hovering or floating in the sky. The witness writes: "It was 1:45 in the afternoon (on May 27th) and I was driving to the store when I pulled up to a stop sign at Washington Road and SR41, west of the city of Troy, Ohio. I noticed that northbound Washington Road was blocked by a road-closed sign (stating that the road was closed $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a mile ahead), the orange kind that are used when construction is taking place. As I waited for eastbound SR41 traffic to clear in order to make my right turn, I looked past the road closed sign and to the north toward the point where dump trucks and a (presumably) construction crew was gathered. In the sky above them was an object that I at first thought was a blimp. It was metallic or silver in color, looked to be the correct length of a blimp at that distance, but was not tall enough in my estimation to actually be a blimp. This was in the middle of the afternoon and the sky was perfectly clear. The object seemed to be floating or hovering over

the construction site, at maybe twice the level of the nearby treetops. I just sat there for about one minute, trying to justify and identify what I was looking at. I dismissed the blimp idea, and then wondered if this was some sort of weather balloon or something. I might point out that the location of this object was in a rural setting not far from a small city. I thought that the folks at the road construction site HAD to see this thing! I briefly considered driving around the road closed sign, to the construction site as to get a better look, but I convinced myself that I should go ahead and run the errand that I had set out to do and that if when I came back by it was still there then I'd try to investigate. When I came back by the same area approximately 30 - 35 minutes later, I could no longer see the object. A couple of hours later the road closed sign was gone and I drove down northbound Washington Road to the point of construction. It looked like they had been working on grading the roadside ditches and there was nothing that looked out of the ordinary. I'm afraid to make inquiries about this locally, since I've observed that people that admit that they see UFOs are treated like nutcases. I'd really like to know if there was a blimp in the area or if that was some sort of weather balloon. I'd also like to know if the construction crew noticed it overhead. It seemed pretty unnatural to me and kind of gives me the creeps." Source: National UFO Reporting Center via Brad Bado.

1999 - I HAVE A UFO SIGHTING - By Rick Hilberg

Not too many people in the UFO field know it, but I am an active railroad historian and railfan. Consequently I spend quite a bit of my spare time down at the tracks watching and photographing trains. I'm usually there in company with my train-loving grandson, Jeremie.

Thursday, June 17th was one such example. We were down at the Norfolk Southern and CSX tracks on Depot Street in Berea, Ohio, just about a mile or so from our home. It was a beautiful day, 65°F with scattered clouds, light and variable winds and a gorgeous "Carolina Blue" sky.

We were parked facing northwest not far from the now-abandoned Berea Tower (my uncle retired from there after many years of service as the first trick operator), a real hot spot for train watching action.

At approximately 9:35 a.m. during a lull in the action, I happened to glance up and observed what I first thought was an aircraft about 50° up in the northern sky, traveling generally east to west. Our location was less than a mile due south of the outer boundaries of Cleveland Hopkins Airport, so aircraft at all altitudes are the norm for this location.

After first thinking that it was a passing aircraft at a moderate altitude of perhaps 25 to 30 thousand feet, I was struck by the fact that I couldn't make out control surfaces of any kind on it. The almost perfect viewing conditions that day made this fact seem very odd. I can *always* make out some sort of control surfaces on normal aircraft.

The more I thought about this, the more excited I became. After about a minute of observing, I got a small pair of opera glasses that I keep in my car's glove box along with a small 110 camera that I keep for recording "grab shots" of trains when I don't have my 35mm camera with me (I wish I had it that day!).

Anyway, through the opera glasses I observed an intense white lenticular-shaped object, like a disk seen on edge. With the glasses I also observed a medium reddish color, a sort of glowing effect, although steady, at the rear of the object.

At this point I grabbed the 110 camera and exited the car to get a shot. However, by this time the object was beginning to be lost to sight, possibly having made a course change toward the WNW. I managed to take two photos, but since the object only appeared to be 5mm long at arms length, the small format of the 110 camera makes me doubt if a useful image will show up on the negative. If it does I'll update you in our next issue. (The images never registered on the film.)

The "whatzit" was lost to sight at approximately 9:38 a.m. It was completely silent at all times, and passed behind several puffy cumulus clouds I estimated at being 5,000 - plus feet in altitude. If only I had the better camera with me! Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* Summer 1999.

