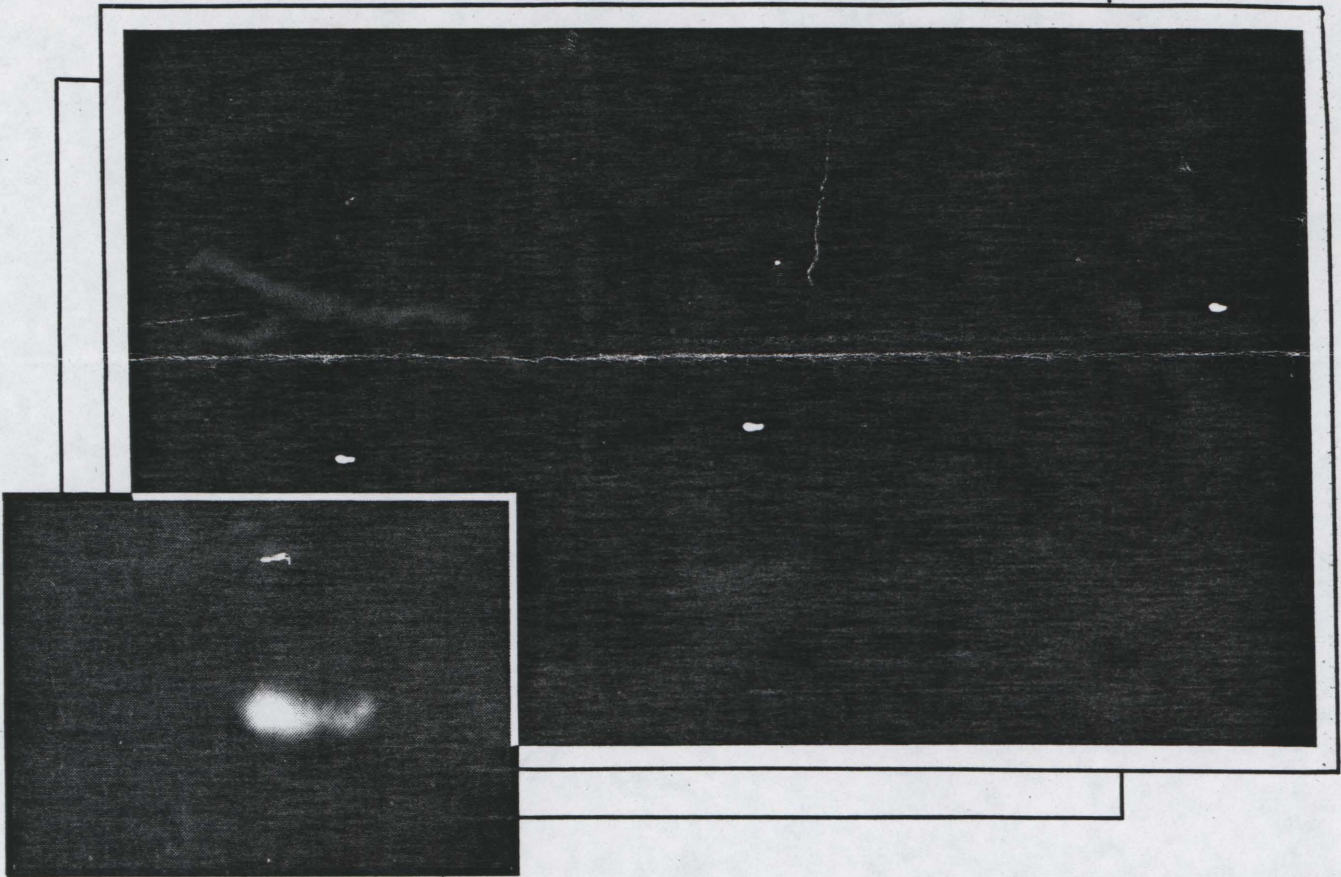


Look! A bird, a plane...



A UFO?

Those lights seen in area nighttime skies this past December are shown here as they were captured on film by a West Milford resident from his township home. Three lights, source unidentified, are seen as they appear to travel evenly-spaced across the frame of the photograph. Four identical images in all were caught in the frame. Blow-up of

one of the lights shows central bright cortex of the image, as photographed by Anthony Miragliotta as he faced south from his home, towards the township high school. Visible for five to ten minutes, the lights of Dec. 9 were reportedly seen on several evenings by a number of area residents, including police officers, in surrounding communities as well. December's sightings were the latest in a long line of strange phenomena seen in the evening skies of North Jersey. (Trends: Courtesy)

today jan. 27, 1980

The Herald-News, Thursday, Jan. 17, 1980 • Serving North Jersey

UFO mystery is solved

WEST MILFORD—The mystery of the unidentified flying objects (UFOs) sighted over the area by at least a dozen residents last Dec. 9 may at last be cleared up, thanks to Ken Hirsch of Westbrook Road.

Four Lindy's Lake and three Bloomingdale residents, and persons from Apshawa, Newfoundland and other areas all reported seeing four or five circular red lights flying equidistant from each other in a diamond-shaped pattern on Sunday, Dec. 9 between 7:30 and 9 p.m. Most observers felt the lights were moving too slowly to be airplanes.

The lights probably were helicopters. According to Hirsch, a member of the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society and the Ringwood Manor Advisory Committee, he and a group of about six or seven other people were leaving Ringwood Manor at about 8:30 on Dec. 9, after the last day of the Manor's annual Victorian Christmas celebration, when they looked up and saw half-a-dozen Army helicopters flying right over the Manor, fairly close to the ground and fully lit. The Lindy's Lake spotters had perceived the red lights to be hovering over the mountains between Ringwood and Mahwah, which would put them right over the Manor.

Because of their flying speed and pattern, and arrangement of lights, helicopters are often mistaken for UFOs. Hirsch recalled a past incident in West Milford wherein a UFO spotted by a local turned out to be a chopper. Having read the accounts of the UFO sightings in the Argus, Hirsch had been trying to contact us with his information since last month, but his busy schedule and the holidays prevented him from coming forward until last week, he said.

A check of the U.S. Army Reserve Training Center in Lodi, Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base revealed that although all military flights are logged, the helicopters observed on the night of the 9th could have been flying to and from any Army base on the east coast.

Mysterious lights seen

By The Associated Press

Brilliant, multicolored lights of unknown origin illuminated the night sky over northern and western Oklahoma, Kansas and southern Nebraska on Wednesday, officials reported.

There was speculation the display was caused by a meteorite

"Reports started coming in from all my counties — Woodward, Harper, everywhere" said Oklahoma Highway Patrol dispatcher Ken Poyer in Guymon, in the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Reports of sightings of the lights came from as far north as North Platte, Neb., and as far south as Lawton in southern Oklahoma.

"OUR UNDERSHERIFF SAW it first," said Alva, Okla., police dispatcher Eva Welch. "He said it like a bright light, then an orange flash, then it turned green and blue."

Two Oklahoma highway patrolmen reported the

lights appeared about 500 to 600 feet above the ground northeast of Liberal, Kan., before they started to fall shortly after 8 p.m.

An air traffic controller at Kansas City International Airport said a pilot reported spotting an "explosion with particles coming off of it" at about 8 p.m. CST in southeastern Kansas, but the sighting could not be confirmed.

Officials at the airport speculated the exploding light, also reported by another incoming aircraft, was probably a large meteorite that landed somewhere northwest of Dodge City.

THE AIRPORT REPORTED no unusual traces on radar.

University of Oklahoma physics and astronomy professor Guido L. Chincarini said major meteorite activity is unusual in January.

"The big showers are in August," Chincarini said. "I find it would be strange to see a very large meteorite here in Oklahoma this time of year."

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PHENOMENON PHOTOGRAPHY

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August
C. ROBERTS