

UFO DRAMA GRIPS 2 STATES

FOR 12 HOURS

By BOB BORINO

A DRAMATIC UFO chase through two states has produced one of the most detailed descriptions of an alien spacecraft ever seen in broad daylight, say investigators.

Larry Garrett, of Easley, South Carolina, who sketched the UFO, wasn't the only person with a close-up look.

In fact, it came within 80 feet of one couple who suffered radiation burns as it hovered over their backyard.

"There was a decided jump on the Geiger counter when we checked them out," says New York police detective Peter Mazzola, who is also a UFO researcher.

The couple, Jerry and Mary Faye McAlister, also suffered eye irritations, and days after their sighting were still complaining of severe headaches and a ringing in the ears.

Even the McAlisters' pet dog was affected. He still won't come near his master.

"Throughout the observation of the object, the dog barked constantly," says Mazzola, co-founder of the Scientific Bureau of Investigation.

"But when the object left, the dog would not return to the McAlister bedroom where it usually slept."

The strange craft that injured the McAlisters was tracked for nearly 12 hours across a 120-mile path through northeast Georgia and South Carolina.

"This is one of the best documented UFO sightings we've come across," says Mazzola, who investigated with partner Jim Fillow, a retired New Jersey policeman.

"There were 29 witnesses, including four deputy sheriffs."

The saga began about 10 p.m. September 10, and the final sighting wasn't made until after 9 the next morning.

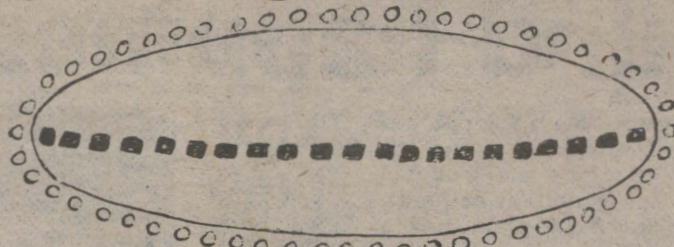
● **ROYSTON, Georgia** — Late the night of September 10, Maude Hutchinson and Mae Langford watched for 15 minutes from Hutchinson's front porch as a strange object flew overhead.

"We were looking out onto the road when we saw it coming from the south," says Hutchinson, 76.

"I knew it wasn't an airplane because we see too many of them in this area. I've never seen anything like it or heard tell of anything like it."

Langford said the object was "just a big round thing, bigger than a car light."

"The light was so bright



LARRY GARRETT sketched the UFO during a close-up look.

Couple burned by huge object that hovered 80 feet away

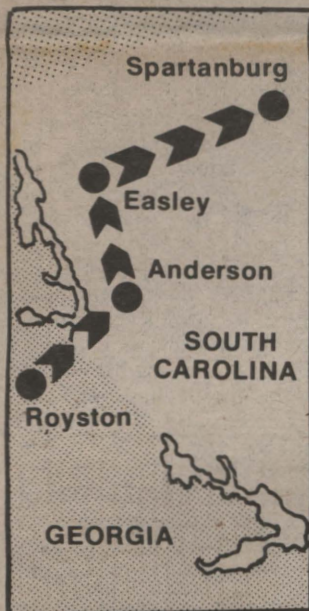


INVESTIGATOR Jim Fillow examines Mary Faye McAlister's eye injury caused by UFO sighting.



JERRY McALISTER points to where the mysterious spacecraft buzzed him and his wife and inflicted radiation burns.

Investigators say it's the best documented sighting yet recorded



MAP shows path of UFO as it swept over two states.

you couldn't see nothing but the light. I've never seen a light like that before. I don't know what it was."

● **ANDERSON, South Carolina** — The McAlisters, their five children, four law officers and nearly a dozen neighbors gazed at the towering object for more than two hours.

"The lights were incredibly bright," Jerry McAlister, 40, told GLOBE. "They're what woke me."

"I don't know how long it had been there, but it was

4:20 in the morning when I got up. There was a funny buzzing sound, something like a helicopter, but when I looked out the window it didn't look like any helicopter I'd ever seen.

"It was about two stories high, 70 feet in diameter, and there were lights all around the sides and a row of windows that circled it.

"The windows were lit up, too, but we couldn't see anyone through them.

"The thing left at about 6:35. The dawn was breaking then, but it was no match for the lights from the craft."

Lt. Joseph Simmons of the Anderson County Sheriff's Department was one of the four officers sent to investigate.

"It sure was the weirdest thing I'd ever seen," Simmons told GLOBE.

As the UFO left, McAlister watched it through a telescope. "It was really a beautiful sight," he says. "I never believed in flying saucers before, but I sure do now."

"All the while we were

watching it, no one seemed scared. I can't explain it, but I had the feeling that everything was all right — that it didn't mean us any harm.

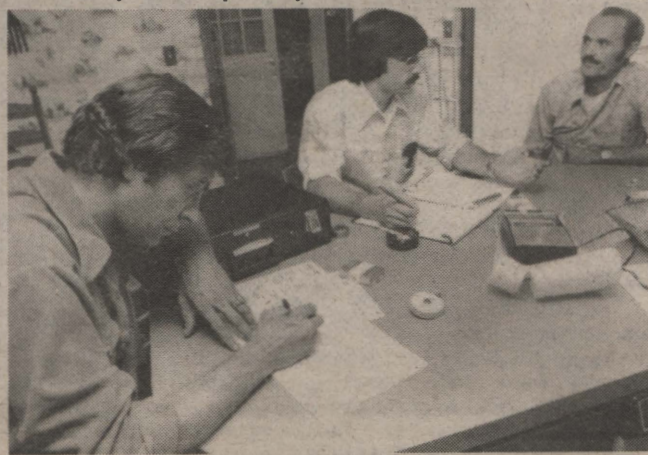
"In fact I'm hoping it comes back again."

● **EASLEY, South Carolina** — Larry Joe Garrett spotted the UFO in the morning sky at 8:03. The object was so clear he was able to draw a picture of it.

"At first I thought it was the Goodyear blimp," says

Garrett, 40, who was working on his car in front of his home when he spied the strange craft.

"It was real close, maybe 200 yards away and may have been as high off the ground. It took me only a few seconds to realize it wasn't a blimp. It was big, real big. Its size reminded me of a large battleship. It was circular and tilted at an angle so that most of the time I saw just the bottom.



INVESTIGATORS Peter Mazzola (left) and Jim Fillow (center) question Jerry McAlister after UFO incident.

"But it moved enough that I was able to get a view of the top and the sides. It was a metallic, purplish gray, with a sort of glow coming from it. The top was dome-shaped."

Garrett says the buzzing sound was "like a bunch of bees." He adds: "I wasn't afraid, just awe-struck."

The object hovered near the Garrett home for five minutes and then took off towards the northeast.

Garrett later reported he was suffering from the same eye irritation as the McAlisters.

● **SPARTANBURG, South Carolina** — The final sighting of the object was made shortly after 9 a.m. September 11. The descriptions given by witnesses matched those of Garrett and the McAlisters.

"We were able to pick up about 12 people along the route who said they saw the UFO after Garrett's sighting, the last ones near Spartanburg," Mazzola says.

The investigator believes the spacecraft may have been lost to spotters because the sun was already quite high in the sky by that time.