

In the pre-dawn hours of April 17, 1966, a mysterious event occurred that would change the lives of two Portage County, Ohio, sheriff's deputies forever.

As Deputy Sheriff Dale Spaur and auxiliary Deputy Wilbur Neff pulled over to check an abandoned car, they were struck by the sight of a bright light rising above the trees.

Suddenly the light shot straight up — it was a UFO as large as a house — and it drew nearer, bathing the stunned deputies in a bright, white glare.

The officers were terrified. They ran to their police car for cover and began what would become the longest police chase of a UFO ever — a chase that covered 85 miles in two states, was joined by other troopers and reached speeds up to nearly 100 miles an hour.

The first report was called in to headquarters by Spaur when he ran back to the false security of his squad car.

"It's about 50 feet across," he said, "and I can just make out a dome or something on top, but that's very dark. The bottom is real bright. It's putting out a beam of light that makes a big spot underneath."

"It was overhead a minute ago and it was bright as day here. This is no helicopter or anything like that. It's perfectly still and it just makes a humming noise."

Besides having police expertise in photography and radio operations, Spaur had three years Air Force experience in airborne refueling operations. Conventional aircraft and helicopters were well known to him.

Another patrol car was called to join the chase. The strange object crossed the road in front of its pursuers. It went wherever they went — parallel, but always ahead of them.

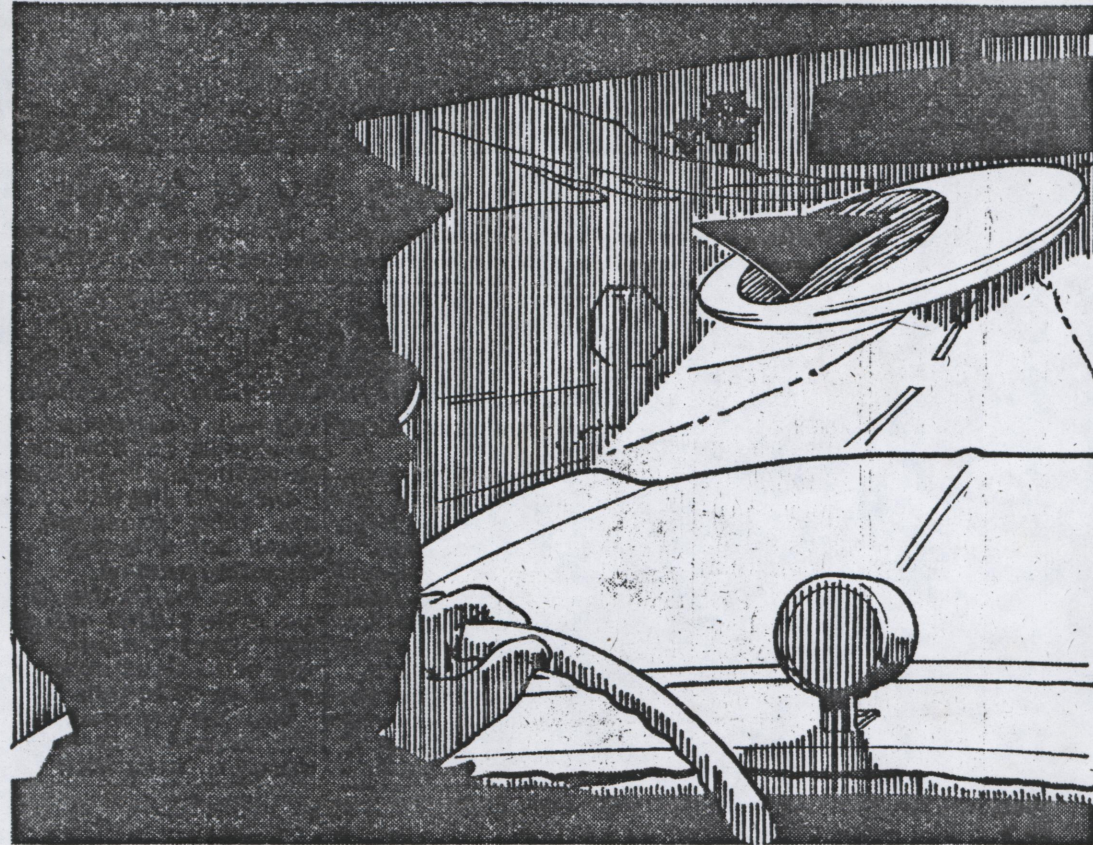
As dawn broke, the deputies saw the top of the object more



Deputy Dale Spaur, above, chased the UFO for 85 miles through two states. An artist's impression of that 100 m.p.h. chase is at right.

clearly in silhouette against the morning sky. A protrusion about 20 feet long was visible at the top rear. The underneath still shone brightly, casting a beam of light downward and backward.

It continued to race them about 90 miles an hour eastward toward Pennsylvania. The deputies were told to stay with it as long as they could — the car with camera equipment dis-



patched earlier had taken the wrong route.

Police radios in two states were now crackling with reports of the bizarre chase. Patrolman Wayne Huston of East Palestine joined the chase and when the three officers approached Beaver, Pa., the object stopped directly in front of them, hovering a few hundred feet above the road.

Spaur was low on gas and screeched to a halt when he saw a parked police car. Huston did likewise. They had just chased a UFO 85 miles.

The three Ohio law officers ran up to Conway, Pa., patrolman Frank Panzanella and asked him if he saw it.

Together the four officers



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watched as the object — shaped like a football that had been cut in half — receded and hovered to the east.

Panzanella called in and found out that the object had been picked up by the radar tower at Greater Pittsburgh Airport.

With its eerie light, its antenna-like extension and its ability to pick up speed in an instant and hover at will, the UFO was a very real and frightening sight to the officers.

But for Spaur and Neff, it was

to have an effect that lasted long after the light had disappeared from the horizon.

Spaur became the center of so much publicity that he was forced to resign from the sheriff's office.

His wife left him and he dropped from sight. His current whereabouts are unknown.

Huston also resigned, left Ohio and moved out west to start a new life.

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UFO

giant saucer