

# UFO reports prompt N.Y. to set up hotline

The New York Times

NEW CASTLE, N.Y. — The public hearing was plodding along routinely at Town Hall one night last month.

"All of a sudden, a cop burst in yelling: 'The UFO's here! The UFO's here!'" said Peter A. Brandenberg, 43, a real-estate developer. "We went flying down the stairs to see this thing, just staring at it."

On a night before that, William A. Pollard was driving along Interstate 84 near Brewster.

"My neighbors said they had seen something," said Pollard, 29, the manager of an automobile service center. "I said, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah.' I never believed in that stuff. But off in a field I saw this gigantic triangle with lights, about 30 feet off the ground — hovering. Then it turned off its lights and shot straight up — straight up. That's when I said, 'Whoa! Wait a minute here.'"

In northern Westchester County, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, and in western Connecticut, thousands of residents this summer have reported strange objects in the sky — each usually in a V-shape or a circle, about the size of a football field, noiseless and outlined in lights of white, red or green.

**AT NIGHT**, the curious sometimes crowd the Taconic Parkway, a prime site for viewing. A hot line has been set up to field inquiries. And in shopping centers and at parties, the talk is of a secret weapon or of close encounters.

"If it's not a UFO," said Irene Lunn of Mahopac, "I want to know exactly what it is and what it's doing around here. And I want it stopped."

Mrs. Lunn was among those who reported the most recent sighting, last Monday night. She was coming home from the supermarket at 9 p.m. with her daughter, Erica, 5, when, she said, "I saw it over a pond on a nearby farm, high enough to just clear the trees, traveling south.

"It wasn't an airplane, it wasn't a helicopter, it wasn't a hang glider," Mrs. Lunn went on. "There was no sound at all, you could hear the crickets."

She described an object "about three-quarters the size of my house, with an L-shaped structure suspended underneath it."

State and local police are flooded with calls every time the objects are seen. Many of the sightings have been reported by police officers on patrol.

The state police say the "object" is really five or six small planes flying in tight formation as part of a hoax.

Some residents are not so sure. Others say that if that really is the case, authorities ought to put an end to it.