

UFOs: aliens or moonlight?

Sightings frequently unexplained

(Second in a series)
By LORRAINE MULLICA

The very latest sighting was called into Teterboro Airport last month; Tower Chief Bill Lutzi got the call. "It was from the Oradell area," he said. "A woman said she saw a UFO. I got readings for six or seven helicopters on the Hudson River, but she said it wasn't that. We don't keep records on this sort of thing, though. We ask people to call the National UFO Reporting Center."

Most sightings in this area seem to fit into what are known as Category One or Category Two sightings. A Category One sighting is one in which a UFO is seen; in Category Two, the UFO is seen and leaves evidence of its presence behind.

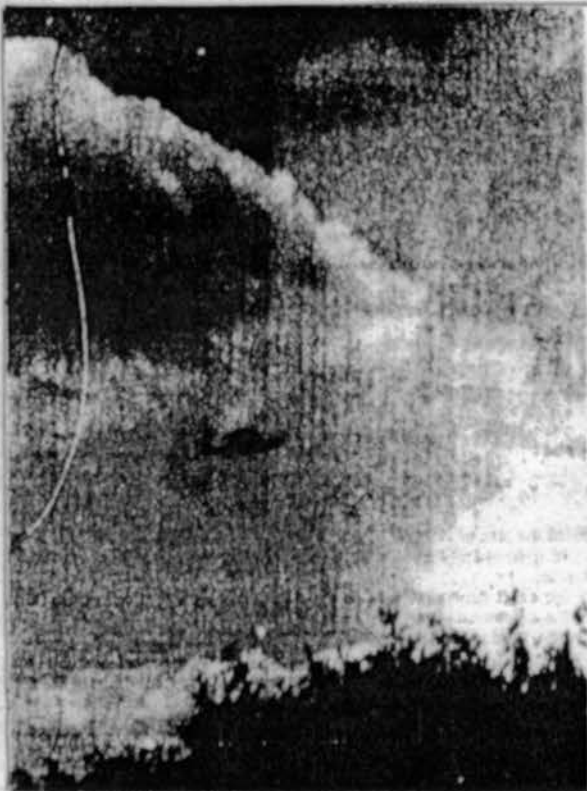
An example of a Category Two sighting took place on the Wanauque Reservoir in Pompton Lakes in January 1966. As eyewitnesses reported in the TODAY newspapers at that time, a ray of light emanating from the ship created a warm spot on the surface of the frozen reservoir.

A Category Three sighting is one in which a person makes contact with a being from a UFO. The being is usually described as a four-foot tall bony creature with gray skin and slit eyes.

In Category Four sightings, which are rare, individuals claim to have been taken aboard the ship.

Since the Air Force finished Project Blue Book in 1969, it no longer collects data on such phenomenon.

According to Debbie Henderson, an Air Force public-affairs assistant in Washington D.C., where all UFO inquiries are directed these days, 12,618 sightings were reported to the Department of Defense from 1948 through 1969. Of that number, she said, 701



This object, seen flying through the sky over what is now Flach Park in Ramsey in August 1957, was photographed by a 16-year-old boy. Pictured



above is the progressive movement of the object as it flitted across the sky. (Photo courtesy of John Hay)

remain inexplicable.

Experts approximate that 80 to 95 percent of all UFOs are explainable. The Air Force states that people tend to mistake the following phenomena for UFO ships: balloons, planes, satellites, lightning, reflections, natural phenomena, planets, stars and the moon.

There are those, however, who concern themselves with the remaining five to 20 percent of the sightings that remain inexplicable.

Ed and Glory Mirabello, Rochelle Park residents who both

lecture on metaphysics, with Ed specializing in UFOs, theorize that the small unexplainable percentage could comprise interdimensional travelers who exist at a rate of vibration faster or slower than that of humans, beings from other planets in our solar system or out of our solar system who are here to help humankind.

If beings are to find out more about our planet, it would seem that flying in would be the way to do it. Sending messages from planet to planet is no small endeavor. Carl Sagan of Cornell University has suggested that if one

of the 200 billion stars in the Milky Way Galaxy sent us a message we receive tomorrow, it would have been sent in 1492.

Jean Munzer, director of the Metaphysical Center of New Jersey, said it is possible that those who inhabit UFOs are elder brothers in the universe concerned with our interfering with the cosmic balance of the solar system. The New York Post has reported the same thinking on the part of others active in the field, calling UFO inhabitants members of a "cosmic peace corps."

"With all the atomic testing we are doing here, it is possible they are concerned with the effect it will have on the solar system and the galaxy."

Munzer, who teaches a 12-course metaphysics program with Glory Mirabello and several others, said she reminds her students that UFOs are nothing new. She added that there are many Biblical references to these space ships and cited Ezekiel 1: 4-38 and 10:1-28 as examples. She also referred to Greek mythology.

"Yesterday, primitives attributed things they didn't understand to the gods," she said. "Today we look with scientific eyes. And while we may attribute such things to spiritual forces, we wouldn't necessarily call them actions of the gods."

Munzer said she remains skeptical of many UFO sightings. "If people believe in UFO manifestations," she said, "they tend to see them at every corner." This is not to say, however, that she discounts them.

"I know people who will not talk to the press about what they see," she said, "but they talk to me. I can see they're sincere because most of the time they're frightened and can't believe what they saw."

"They're ordinary people and they don't want others to think they're crazy," she added.

Readers who may have seen UFOs or who just want to know more about the subject can further explore the matter by taking classes offered by the metaphysical center this fall at adult schools in Paramus, Midland Park/Waldwick, Wayne and Pompton Lakes.

More information is available by calling Eileen Facas at 835-7335 between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. and between 7 and 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday or Harriet Wagniere at 835-6107 anytime. Or, contact the adult schools for a brochure.

In the meantime, keep your eye on the sky.

The words of an eyewitness

Howard Ball, editor of Suburban Trends newspaper in Butler, was one of the many who reported seeing a UFO on the Wanauque Reservoir January 1966. Here is his account of what he saw:

"I'll tell you what I told everybody. I saw something. I don't know what it was.

"I was in my car at the corner of Colfax Road and Hamburg Turnpike in Wayne. I knew exactly where I was. I looked out of the windshield of my car and I saw a bright light in the sky moving in an unusual manner.

"I remember that someone on

the radio said it was 6:19 (p.m.) so I knew exactly what time it was.

"I was working on the desk at The Paterson News at that time so I played reporter and I called every airport in the New York and New Jersey area to find out if they had any aircraft operational in that area at 6:19 p.m. I even called Stewart Air Force base, which used to be up in Newburgh, but that's not there anymore.

"Everyone told me they had no vehicles operational in the area of the Wanauque Reservoir at that time.

"The guy at Stewart Air Force

base asked me to explain what I saw. I told him, 'If I were to explain it to you in earthly terms, it could be a helicopter with a big strobe light on it.'

"That night at midnight I was pulling copy off the AP wire and I saw there that Stewart Air Force base had determined the object was a helicopter with a strobe light on it, according to a report from a New Jersey newspaper editor.

"I'll never forget that, never forget it."