

Night-time UFO Sighting Continue In This Area

by Michael Burke

The casual question, "What's up?" lately has taken on new meaning.

Some of the things that people around here have reportedly been spotting in the sky at night lately have been positively out of this world. Or so it would seem.

Reports of extraordinary looking spacecrafts continued to be made during the past week, partially in response to last week's news of the UFO sighting by several law enforcement officers near Belleville.

The most unusual recent sighting reported came from Larry Jelle, a New Glarus man, and apparently occurred the same night that Belleville policeman Glen Kazmar saw odd-looking lights southeast of Belleville. And, although it may have been just a blimp, that explanation is hard to

Jelle, who works a night job in Madison, says he saw something cigar- or blimp-shaped at 1:30 a.m. on Jan. 16 - the same night Kazmar watched a strange, flashing object hovering in the night sky. The craft, Jelle says, slowly cruised over New Glarus at a very low altitude, going northwest.

"It was like a Goodyear blimp it was really low and going slow," about helicopter speed, Jelle says. It first appeared directly in front of him as he approached the New Glarus village limits from the north on Highway 69.

"I didn't think much of it," Jelle continues, "but then I heard (about the Kazmar sighting) the next day on the radio."

"It was like a big cigar. It was about as long as a DC-10 or longer, but it had no wings." Its only lights, Jelle says, were one red on both the front and rear of the craft.

Was Jelle's sighting really a blimp? The Dane County Airport cannot say, because they "don't keep track" of blimps coming through the area.

However, the possibility of Jelle's having sighted a blimp can be almost totally ruled out. Dick Sailer, manager of airship relations for Goodyear, which owns a good share of the blimps in the U.S., says, "There's no chance whatsoever that craft was a Goodyear blimp."

Furthermore, Sailer says, "I can't imagine anyone operating a blimp in your area in January in good conscience they're extremely susceptible to snow and ice," and blimps

tend to go south or stay in hangers during winter. "I've pretty well got a track on most of the other ships," he adds.

Majorie Kriz, acting public affairs officer with the Federal Aviation Administration's Des Plaines regional office, had more to say about blimps. A Goodyear blimp pilot once told him, Kriz says, that blimps do not fly at night, except for advertising purposes. If they have somewhere to go, he says, blimps fly there during daytime hours.

Furthermore, Kriz explains, "They're supposed to be flying at least 1,000 feet over any populated area." Jelle's object seems to have violated this rule.

And finally, Kriz says a blimp's pattern of lights would include one red on one side and one green on the other.

The other sighting of an unusual spacecraft occurred just last Friday at about 6 a.m. in the Jordan Center area, between Argyle and Monroe. A 26-year-old woman on her way to work in Monroe reported having seen something which sounds very much like what Kazmar described.

The woman, who does not want her name used here, says that about two miles before Jordan Center on Hwy. 81 she "saw some lights" almost straight ahead of her in the still-dark sky. There were "three lights, all flashing," in a horizontal pattern, white next to blue next to red.

"At first it was in the same spot it wasn't a plane," she recalls. "Then it went straight up and then veered to the right a little bit." She says she was able to observe the object through her car's sun roof as she passed underneath it.

Then, when she reached the top of a long hill at Jordan Center, she looked back and saw the craft one last time.

The woman declined to judge the height of the object but said "it seemed pretty high." It was her first and only UFO sighting, she adds.

Finally, Kazmar, who has received "numerous" calls since the publicity about his sighting began, says at least

one person claims to have seen something similar to what he saw. The caller, a farmer somewhere near Mount Vernon, told Kazmar he saw "an object with numerous lights, but not red and white," around the same time Kazmar saw his. The farmer told him it was a large object, Kazmar says.

To be continued?