

# UFOs in Belleville?

HERALD-TELEGRAPH, Chippewa Falls, WI - June 8, 1987

BELLEVILLE, Wis. (UPI) — The strange sightings over Belleville since Jan. 15 were not airplanes, stars or strange weather. In fact, they have been officially classified as Unidentified Flying Objects by an expert on UFOs.

Donald Schmitt, co-director of the Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill., and a colleague Friday night gave a lecture about the sightings that began Jan. 15. He said 24 area citizens had witnessed several types of strange craft.

"It's a process of elimination," Schmitt said of his investigation into about six incidents near Belleville on the Green and Dane County line. "We have officially classified these as UFOs. An unknown, Belleville remains an active file."

Schmitt called the possibility that UFOs are visitors from space "the biggest story short of the second coming of Christ."

Schmitt said the first Belleville sighting Jan. 15, was by policeman Glen Kazmar, who watched a triangular pattern of red, white and blue lights from 8:30 p.m. to about 4:00 a.m. The object, Schmitt said, showed up on radar in Aurora, Ill.

Since that time, other residents have seen flying and floating objects.

Surveyor Harvey Funseth of Belleville testified briefly to the audience of about 300 that he had seen the UFOs March 6. The audience responded with enthusiastic applause.

In an interview Funseth recalled wondering, "My God, what is that?" while returning from work at 5:30 p.m. three miles north of Belleville. He said he saw four objects several miles away and after hovering for eight to 10 minutes, they moved silently over his head at several hundred miles an hour and disappeared.

It was his first and only experience with mysterious airborne objects.

"It doesn't keep me up at night," Funseth said, but neighbors tease him about his report.

Carter Pawlus, an engineer from Sheboygan who has been interested in UFOs for three decades, thinks the continuing reports have some substance, but would not speculate on the exact explanation.