

BY JOE TURNER AND ALLISON BROWN

Last week *The Sentinel* published three pictures of an apparent UFO sighting. Since publication the office has received numerous telephone calls, with one question always surfacing. Is the object in the photographs a real UFO?

In the help of local concerned citizens, *The Sentinel* has been working to help answer this and other questions.

In addition to last week's photographs and letter, several other sightings of a similar object have been reported.

On the morning of November 11 about 8:15 a.m., Jeff Thompson of Gulf Breeze spotted a flying object from the Tiger Point Bay area over the Oriole Beach school area. Thompson, who was taking his son to school, saw the object shoot up from the right at an angle and suddenly stop, remaining idle in the sky for about 30 to 45 seconds. The object had the same window-type formations as the photo in *The Sentinel*, but without the brightly lit bottom (remember this sighting took place in broad daylight). After hovering in the sky, the craft sped away at a high rate of speed.

Thompson also said that he then saw two jets that appeared to be chasing the object.

An unofficial Air Force spokesman said that the Air Force doesn't have any crafts that look like "flying saucers" and if fighter jets were scrambled to give chase or intercept a U.F.O., it would be classified secret or even top secret and that no information would be given to the media.

Another such observance was made by Charles Somerby and his wife, Doris, in a letter accompanying this article.

Also, at approximately the same time, between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., Linda Lube' of Gulf Breeze said she witnessed a type of light moving very slowly across the sky southeast toward Gulf Breeze. She watched the object for about 15 minutes while outside cooking.

"I had a feeling it was from another place," said Lube'. "I didn't have my glasses on so I couldn't see the form, but I could tell I've never seen anything like it."

Lube' expressed her feelings as almost a premonition, and when she saw *The Sentinel* less than a week later, she felt that same unexplainable inner feeling.

At approximately 7:30 that night, near Whisper Bay, Diane Hanson's seven year old daughter also observed a strange phenomena. The young girl became very excited over seeing an object in the sky, with "different colored lights falling down from it." Hanson thought it was probably a plane with engine problems because of her proximity to an airbase. The next day she checked the news and newspapers to find so such accident around her home.

On the same night, approximately 9:30 p.m., a highly visible Pensacola executive who wishes to remain anonymous, viewed an object heading in a northwesterly direction, arching downward in an apparent landing mode. Its bright white light lit the entire wooded area around his home.

Later that night, between 2 and 2:30 a.m., Mrs. Joseph Zamitt was awakened by the growling and scruffling of her normally docile Labrador retriever. She thought the

dog had to go outside to the bathroom but when she opened the door, the dog stepped outside and stood growling, looking up into the sky.

"I looked up and this same object (referring to the newspaper photo) was in the sky, about one mile high, 15 degrees to the northwest," said Zamitt. "And there was a stream of light which came down into our canal."

Zamitt said she was so scared, she grabbed the dog and ran into her house. The next morning she wanted to call the Air Force but chose not to.

Four days later, heading north on the Three-Mile Bridge, about dusk, Cathy and three friends spotted a "hanging object with four bright lights on it" over the Bayou Texar area, close to the water.

"It was really weird," said Cathy; at first we thought it was a plane, but it was just hanging there, and it was too high to be a helicopter."

After a few minutes the object dipped towards the right and disappeared.

These and other reports are currently being investigated by *Sentinel* reporters, who have contacted and are working in conjunction with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON). Representatives of this international scientific non-profit organization, active since 1960, are interested in studying and researching UFO's, utilizing their individual talents and areas of expertise in their investigative efforts.

After a UFO sighting in Florida is reported to MUFON, State Representative Donald M. Ware of Fort Walton Beach initiates an investigation. In these sightings local investigator Charles D. Flannigan and Gary Watson, both of Pensacola, interviewed witnesses. These interviews took place at the location of the sighting whenever possible. Witnesses' testimony are taped and in the witnesses' own words written in longhand. Witnesses are also given the opportunity to draw the object seen. Questionnaires are also used in animal sightings and photographed incidents. The results are then compared to other sightings of similar types and merged with worldwide reports.

George Hobgood, FAA Air Traffic representative at Eglin was asked if Eglin was testing experimental aircraft, which could appear as UFO to citizens?

UFO FOLLOW-UP

New Sightings....



white lights

Picture drawn by Cathy in her sighting Nov. 13 for MUFON representatives

"Eglin designs and tests weapons," said Hobgood, who could not respond to the question whether or not any top secret aircraft was flying that evening.

Hobgood did suggest contacting the Public Affairs Office, but added that upon his inquiry, no reports of anything unusual had been given to the Public Affairs Office, and nothing was spotted on radar at that time.

The Media Relations Section of Public Affairs, Captain Engelhardt, also said the base did not contain any secret aircraft, and the mission at Eglin is research, development, and testing of non-nuclear munitions and training.

Naval Air Station's Art Giberson of The Gosport reported no memoranda about any sighting crossing his desk.

"But that does not imply that what was photographed and observed by local residents was not there," said Earl Pitts of the Pensacola Air Traffic tower station.

According to Pitts, any craft not being serviced by or in communication with the tower is considered a UFO. They are simply not identified.

"It's well within reason," said Pitts, to have stealth capability which would make a craft invisible on radar. There are so many targets that are unidentified, said Pitts, that one more would not raise any questions, "unless it did something extremely unusual."

This year alone Florida has reported numerous UFO sightings. For example one on-going investigation is a sighting in Pensacola on August 6th. Other verifiable sightings have occurred on January 1st and 8th in Lakeland, Florida, January 15th, 16th and 17th near Ocala, Florida, and the 5th of August, south of Gainesville.

Another local sighting was recorded on Feb. 5, 1976. Deputy Sheriff "Sonny" Privette discovered a number of motorists pulled over on the shoulder of Hwy 98 in

Picture taken by local resident that wishes to remain anonymous Nov. 11th and ran in *The Sentinel*