

More Sighting Of UFOs Here

My column some weeks ago about the "Unidentified Flying Object" my wife and I saw in 1981 struck a sympathetic chord in a number of readers, who have told me of UFO-spotting experiences of their own.

No one has scoffed at the column, at least not openly. I believe that most of the UFO watchers with whom I have spoken, however, believe as I do in the case of my own experience: that what they saw was, literally, an unidentified flying object, rather than a spacecraft or some evidence of mystical or occult phenomena.

A reader who lives on Rt. 3, Hamlet — off Highway 177 south — took the trouble to write me a few weeks ago and tell me about three UFO-watching experiences. I won't print her name, for fear of embarrassing her. Her account, somewhat edited, reads:

"You are not alone, nor are you crazy, about UFO sighting. Last summer my husband was outside on a warm night; he glanced up and a bright light caught his eye. It was coming toward our house. It had two lights on each end and one in the middle. He kept watching it, and he called me and my daughter to bring the telescope. We looked through the telescope as the object went in front of the moon, but we couldn't make out the bright

lights through the telescope. We watched it slowly go past the moon, very low, and hover over the trees, making no noise whatsoever. We watched it, so amazed that we didn't call anyone until it had finally gone out of sight.

"About two months ago my brother, who was on his way home from Welaka Lake Fish Camp in Anson County, saw a similar object and followed it in his car. When he got underneath it, it sped off.

"On a recent Saturday night my two daughters and I were on our way home from Charlotte. We watched a strange bright light in the sky, all the way from Charlotte to Monroe. It was moving too slow to be a plane.

"I'm glad you saw a UFO in 1981, because we've seen such things since and didn't want to call the police or the newspaper, fearing they'd think we were off our rockers."

There are, I'm sure, explanations for all the UFO sightings I have mentioned in these columns. What makes the objects true "UFO's" is simply that we don't know what the explanations are.

More disturbing are the widespread reports, if they have any foundation in truth, of "abductions" by UFO's. I'll deal with these reports in a forthcoming review of Budd Hopkins's books "Missing Time" and "Intruders," and of Whitley Strieber's first-person account in his book "Communion."

Until then, I'm hoping this column puts an end to local UFO reports for the time being.



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