

# Same song different verse

## Unknown objects continue to appear

Random sightings again in the central portion of Little River County of unidentified lights in the sky which hover and then become pulsating lights have been reported in the last week.

Again, the reports range from business people, industrial workers, teachers, a law enforcement officer to farmers.

In addition to the sightings, the photos published by the Little River News in late January were sent by amateur astronomer Ken White of Texarkana to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock planetarium for review.

Dr. Paul Engle, director of the planetarium, suggested sending the photo enlargements to NORAD, the abbreviation of the North American Air Defense at Peterson Air Force Base near Colorado Springs, Colo.

Dr. Engle said the photos were reviewed by eight members of the university staff which included three astronomers and several physicists.

"We can't shed much light on explaining the objects but we're interested in any explanation received from NORAD," said Dr. Engle.

He said no star would rise in the west which was the direction the

photos were taken.

Concerning the Z motion photo, Dr. Engle indicated a star moves only 15 degrees per hour. The question about camera movement or bumping the tri-pod during the 30-second time exposure was eliminated after the explanation of the power lines which are visible in the negative which shows no movement in relation to the Z with the power lines. If the camera was bumped, the power lines should have been blurred in the same path.

"It's extremely difficult to tie this down without information from NORAD which they may have but which is classified," Dr. Engle said.

The Little River News contacted NORAD who agreed to review the enlargements along with information concerning the camera and the time exposure. The information was sent to the agency last week. Currently no information has been received from the agency.

About 9:30 p.m. Feb. 12 west of Highway 41 the object described as a bright orange light appeared and was observed making erratic movement of both horizontal and vertical and zig-zag motion. This was observed by an off-duty law enforcement personnel.

Betty Biddix of East Ogden observed a similar light in the southwest toward the Red River on Feb. 13 between 1-2:30 a.m. On Feb. 14 about 9 a.m. she observed similar lights again in the west.

A slightly closer view was observed Feb. 14 about 9 p.m. by Gary Gilbert who had stepped outside his house at 1261 Highway 32 West in Ashdown. He looked up toward the west and saw an object he estimated to be tree top level.

Gilbert described the object as having two red lights on each side, two blue lights in the middle with white lights going around the rim.

"It didn't move and I watched it for about five or six minutes," Gilbert said. His wife and son, Chad, also saw the object. His other son, Don, who lives at Wade's Chapel, called shortly after 9 p.m. and had seen the same object.

Gilbert said he didn't see the object move off. "It was just gone and I certainly don't know what it was."

Then on Feb. 15 between about 8:05 p.m. and 9:16 p.m. seven sightings of the orange lights were reported including a larger type craft similar to the January sightings.

Concerning the questions of test flights possibly by NASA, the Little River News contacted Nancy Lovato, a spokesman for NASA at Edwards Air Force Base in California. She said NASA usually flies high performance fighter jets which have been converted to civilian use. But the aircraft does not fly this far east from California.

Lovato said NASA has larger craft with wings for scientific observation which does not fly this far east nor at night. She said NASA's aircraft are marked according to FAA regulations.

Lovato checked with Ames Research Center in San Jose, Calif., and the center had no flights in this direction.

On Feb. 16 about 8:22 p.m. an orange light was observed by Bob Taaffe and three members of the Little River News staff.

The object came up from ground level in the east-southeast between five and 10 degrees above the horizon. It hovered but didn't go down and then went out.

Another group of people also saw the same light at the same time and were located 3 1/4 miles east and a half-mile north near the Cannon Road and Mud Line Road.

A larger red object was observed about 8:30 p.m. which appeared about 5 to 7 degrees over the horizon in the east and vacillated between 70 to 85 degrees by the Taaffe group. It was observed for about 30 minutes.

A man, who has requested to remain anonymous due to harassment and teasing, said Tuesday night, Feb. 16 was the first time "I saw something and I don't know what it is." In describing the five lighted objects he observed with a group of other people, he said the objects displayed "unreal speed, and made angles and movements aircraft won't make."

The group was observing at the intersection of Cannon and Mud Line Roads facing south when they observed three, small distinct orange lights which did not flash. The man described the lights as constant until air traffic would move close to them at which time the lights would begin blinking, but not like the strobe effect seen on anti-collision systems of airplanes.

After observing the three smaller lights through binoculars, a large orange glowing light appeared in the west and moved east. Through binoculars, the man said the large orange light was surrounded on the outside edge by a "complete perfect circle of smaller lights changing colors and rotating counterclockwise around the larger orange light."

As the lights traveled parallel to their position, the man said he could see a red light on each side of the rear of the object giving him the impression the object was boomerang-shaped with the rotation of lights to the front and the red lights at the rear not flashing.

The last light observed by the man and his group appeared in the southwest in the general direction of DeKalb, Tex. He said it was smaller, like the first three he observed, and came straight up, hovered, then moved southeast. Suddenly he said the light stopped, hovered, moved again, and repeated these actions once more before heading in a straight line south-southeast in the direction of Lake Texarkana.

Of the five lights he observed, the man said all but two would flash to mimic airplanes if traffic moved in the vicinity of the objects.