

A strange cigar-shaped object with multicolored lights astounded veteran policemen in northern California and Nevada as it streaked across the night skies at speeds beyond the reach of America's fastest supersonic jet.

More than a dozen police officers from six agencies tracked the eerie UFO as it put on an awesome, three-hour aerobatic act over a 2,000-square mile area from Lincoln and Chico, Calif., to Reno, Nev.

Patrolman William Sykes of Lincoln, Calif., reported the UFO flew faster than the 2,100-mph SR-71 reconnaissance jets — the Free World's fastest planes — which often fly out of nearby Beale Air Force Base, north of Lincoln.

"I've never seen them fly as fast as this thing did," marveled Sykes, 32.

A woman in Chico, Calif., was the first to report spotting the mystery object, at 2:10 a.m. on January 28. Later, Chico Patrolman Joseph Whitcomb called dispatcher Chris Lowen and said he saw it, too.

At 2:30 a.m., the California Highway Patrol reported that a weird object was soaring overhead, toward Truckee. Nevada County (Calif.) Sheriff's Deputies Steve Bobbitt and Sgt. Leroy Brombacker dashed outside and saw it — a cigar-shaped object with red and green lights.

"We watched it for 30 minutes. I was in the Navy on an aircraft carrier and I've seen all kinds of night operations. But I've never seen anything like it before."

Bobbitt, 31, a six-year police veteran and a former door gunner on a helicopter in Vietnam, said he saw two objects — a big one with red and blue lights and a small one, all red, higher up and to the north.

"When the big one moved

## 6 Law Enforcement Agencies Track It as . . .

# UFO Zooms Across Western U.S. at Speeds Faster Than Our Swiftest Supersonic Jet



**MAP SHOWS** locations in Nevada and California where UFO was sighted in an approximately rectangular area (see inset).

off, we looked for the red one — and it was gone, too!" he said. "It appeared to be a companion of some kind."

The next report came from Patrolman Sykes in Lincoln, at 3 a.m. He said he watched the UFO for five minutes, zipping eastward toward Reno.

Shortly afterward, two California Highway patrolmen, Dale Tuel and Norm Chavez, sighted an object with bluish-green lights near Auburn, Calif., 15 miles east of Lincoln. They watched it, astonished, for 20 minutes.

"It would move up and down and then sideways, like one of those bouncing balls in a vase, obviously still amazed.

Undersheriff Vince Swinney of Washoe County, Nev., said there were numerous sightings in the Reno area between 2:24 and 4:53 a.m. Simultaneous sightings far to the west in California indicate the likelihood that more than one UFO was being observed by police and other residents.

"Seven officers from our department viewed an object

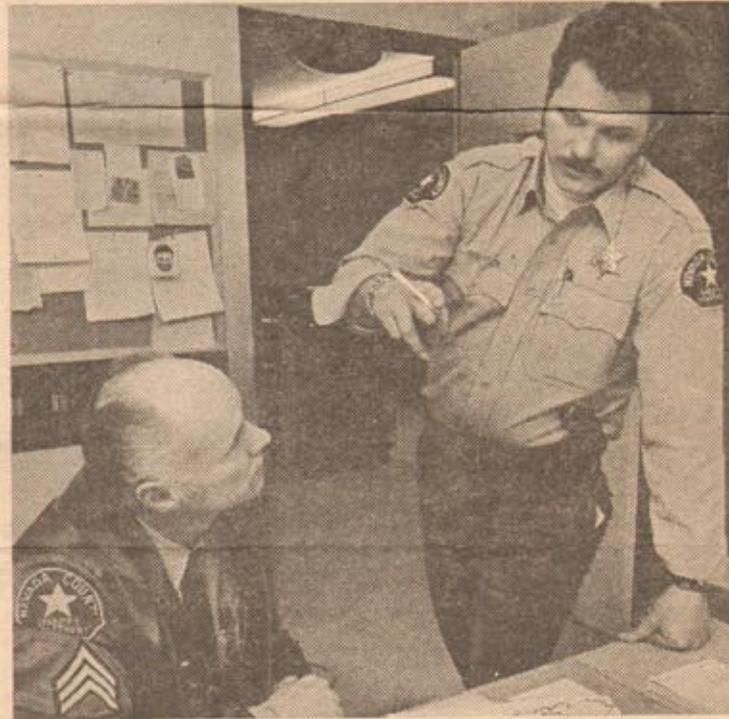
at one time or another," Swinney told The ENQUIRER.

"At one point, one object was seen by officers from two police agencies who were at three different positions. They were able to triangulate the thing — directly over Slide Mountain, southwest of Reno."

Sgt. Robert Hopkins of the Butte County (Calif.) Sheriff's Office, reported that an object "much too brilliant to be a star" hovered over the tree line near his home in Magalia, Calif., 20 miles northeast of Chico, at about 3 a.m.

Hopkins' wife said she watched not one, but three brightly lighted objects in the sky that morning, for three hours. "Then we heard an airplane coming from the direction of Beale Air Force Base — and the three objects shot straight up into the sky and vanished!" Mrs. Hopkins said.

An Air Force official at Beale AFB said: "All we know about the sightings is what we read in the newspapers."



**SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES**, Sgt. Leroy Brombacker (left) and Steve Bobbitt of Nevada County (Calif.) watched UFO.

## \$1,000,000 REWARD

The ENQUIRER is offering ONE MILLION DOLLARS for positive proof that UFOs come from outer space and are not a natural phenomenon.

Final judges on claims for this colossal reward will be two outstanding jurists — former U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Attorney General Tom C. Clark, and former New York Court of Appeals Judge Francis Bergan.

All evidence we receive will be screened by our editors, by Jim Lorenzen, international director of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) and by Jack Acuff, head of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). The claims with the best evidence will be submitted to The ENQUIRER's Blue Ribbon Panel on UFOs, made up of top scientists and educators.

If they agree unanimously that the UFO

in evidence is not a natural phenomenon and came from outer space, they will pass the case to our two distinguished final judges.

If both judges approve the award, this newspaper will give a check for \$1 million to the person or persons who supplied the evidence.

The ENQUIRER also offers awards of up to \$10,000 each year to anyone judged by the Blue Ribbon Panel to have supplied the most scientifically valuable evidence on UFOs, though not the proof required for the \$1 million reward.

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