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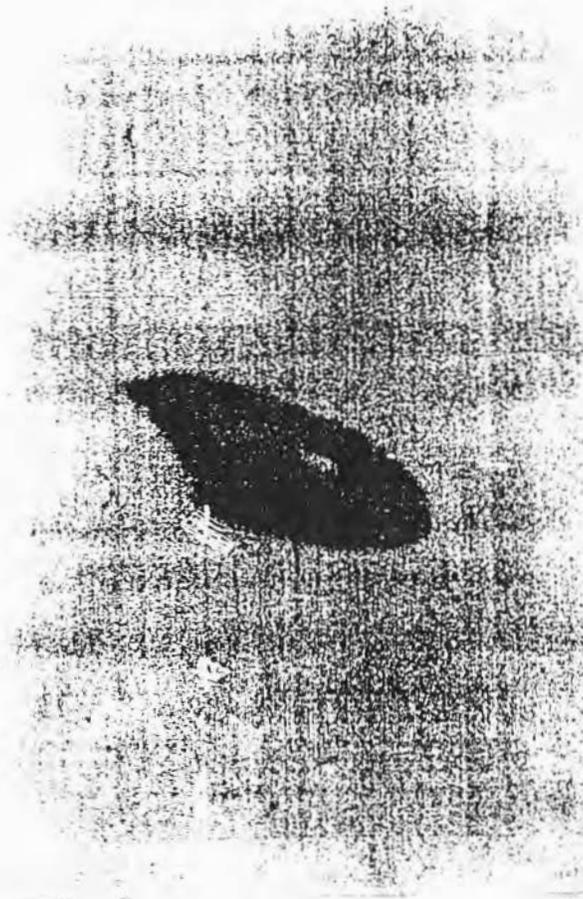
Canadian UFO  
Research Network

P.O. Box 77547, 592 Sheppard Ave. W.  
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**BULLETIN**

\$5.00

*Crescat scientia vita excolatur (where knowledge increases, life is ennobled)*  
Vol. 17, No. 3, May-June, 1996



*This is the earliest daytime photo of an unconventional flying object. It is one of two pictures taken by William A. Rhodes at 4 p.m. on July 6, 1947 in Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. He used a Kodak Brownie 120 box camera. The UFO was between 20 and 30 feet in diameter, moving at 100 mph at 2,000 feet altitude. It was in black and white.*

**IN THIS ISSUE:** -EARLY TEXAS UFO<sub>A</sub>: THE 1947 PROJECT  
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-NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS FROM THREE TORONTO NEWSPAPERS

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FROM THE FINAL ISSUE OF

## HOUSTON SKY



A Bimonthly UFO Newsletter for Houston-Area MUFON Members and Others

No. 10, April/May 1996

## Early Texas UFOs: The 1947 Project

by Jan Aldrich, *CUFORN MEMBER*

*The 1947 Project is a two-and-a-half year research effort into the UFO wave of 1947, which marked the beginning of the modern UFO era. Researcher Jan Aldrich of Connecticut obtained partial funding for his work through a grant from MUFON, the Fund for UFO Research, and the Center for UFO Studies. Since January 1994, he has screened more than 3,800 newspapers from around the world, as well as various archives, libraries, private collections, and first-hand accounts. His goal is to compile the data for a report to be released on the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's 1947 sighting. Though Jan's primary focus is 1947, he is also gathering reports from the years 1900 to 1965. The article that follows is an overview of the information gleaned from Texas sources.* —Editor

**P**roject 1947, a study of the beginning of the modern UFO era, had as its original goal the examination of 1,000 North American and 400 foreign 1947 newspapers not previously screened for UFO reports. Secondary goals have included searching for reports appearing before Kenneth Arnold's June 24, 1947, sighting, which brought on the "flying saucer era," looking for signs of early official and scientific interest, and filling in the gaps in UFO press coverage of the 1940s and 50s.

To date, more than 3,800 newspapers have been screened—including approximately 150 in Texas—and hundreds of previously unknown UFO reports recovered.

### The Modern Era Begins: The 1947 Wave

One of the first and biggest studies of UFOs (to include Texas) was Ted Bloecher's "Report of the UFO Wave of 1947," published in 1967.

[Editor's note: See HS, issue 3, for an account of the 1897 "Great Texas Airship Mystery."] Bloecher's study spanned 17 days from June 24 to July 10, 1947, and uncovered more than 850 reports. Of these, 27 were from Texas. His later research indicated that far more newspaper reports remained to be studied.

According to a 1947 Associated Press article, which appeared in numerous papers, including the *Austin Statesman*, 50 UFO reports

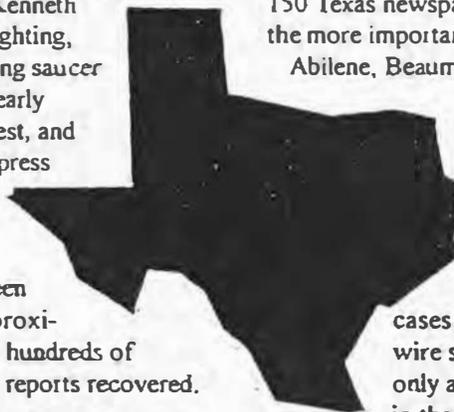
appeared in Texas papers between June 24 and July 7, 1947—the day traditionally attributed to the crash in Roswell, New Mexico, located less than 100 miles from the Texas border. My own research shows that during this period, at least 100 UFO reports appeared in more than 150 Texas newspapers, though not in some of the more important ones, for example, those in Abilene, Beaumont, Brownsville, Commerce, Fort Worth, and Galveston. And the 1947 wave in Texas continued long past July 7, until almost the end of the month.

Some of the best of these cases were carried by the national wire services, but unfortunately, only a few reports were recorded in the small local papers, such as

this south Texas sighting:

*The July 8, 1947, McAllen Valley Evening Monitor reported that Leslie Cameron, a student pilot flying at 4,000 feet, had seen a bright fast-moving object two or three miles southeast of Mission, Texas, on July 7 at 5:30 p.m. At about the same time, Leon Croche, on the ground, also reported a UFO in about the same location.*

A number of other reports appeared from the area over the next few days, such as this one:



*On July 8, also at 5:30 p.m., four occupants of a pleasure boat returning to Port Isabel from Padre Island watched as a silvery, shimmering object flashing in the sunlight slowly moved westward. As it headed over land, it paused briefly and then resumed flight and was lost from sight in the glare of the sun.*

Newspapers from the 1947-era were not available at many of the Texas libraries I visited. Texas has some 957 libraries and newspaper repositories, with 5,400 different newspaper titles covering the last 160 years. (Texas Tech University in Lubbock has a surprisingly large UFO file.) Unfortunately, even with this many titles, some Texas papers published in 1947 no longer exist, and no records were saved.

**The Unknown Wave, Spring 1950**

The 1950 UFO wave could be called "The Unknown Wave." Although mentioned in Gerald Herald's *Is Another World Watching?* and Donald Keyhoe's *Flying Saucers Are Real*, both published in 1950, the extent of the wave and even the exact period are uncertain. In general, it was considered to have occurred in the spring, lasting from March to May, but reports have also been found for as early as January and February. The start of the Korean war in June drove most UFO coverage out of the papers, though some activity was also reported in the summer and fall. The main focus for this wave was in southern and western portions of the United States, including Texas. And as in any flap, there were plenty of UFOs—sightings of Venus, meteors, and of course,

high-altitude balloons thrown in for good measure.

The *Houston Press* (not related to the present-day *Houston Press*) published a number of interesting reports, as did papers in Lubbock, Amarillo, Fort Worth, and Austin, though not in San Antonio. Again, important newspapers in many cities have not yet been checked: El Paso, Laredo, Galveston, Beaumont, and Corpus Christi, to name a few.

"Flying discs," as UFOs were called at the time, reportedly landed three times in the Amarillo area, twice leaving physical traces. The following is a typical account: *In Lufkin on April 19, Jack Robertson observed a round flying object eight feet in diameter while driving about nine miles west of town. He stopped his car and got out for a better look. The object, which looked as though it*

*might be aluminum, gave off a dull red glow. The object hovered briefly about 20 feet over his head and then departed with a "whooshing roar" and shower of sparks from "a slot" underneath the object. Mr. Robertson felt a burning sensation, and the next day, his face was reddened like a sunburn. [Editor's note: See HS, issue 1, for a somewhat similar account, that of the 1980 Cash-Landrum incident.]*

—Article in *The Stanton Reporter*, 8/7/52

**Bentley's Post Reward for Flying Saucer**

"Since Flying Saucers have become so dangerous around Martin County lately, Bentley's of Stanton has posted a reward of ten dollars to anyone finding one and bringing it to them.

The reward, posted in Bentley's Furniture Store, reads as follows: 'Bentley's of Stanton will pay the sum of ten dollars (\$10) for an authentic Flying Saucer or Space Ship, delivered dead or alive to Bentley's of Stanton, Texas, to be placed on display in our store. No models accepted.'

**The Mega-Flap, 1952**

The worldwide flap of 1952 has been well researched, and thus, I have not done an extensive search for 1952 press items. The United States Air Force's 1952 clipping file, for example, has nearly 60,000 nonduplicated articles dating just from April to September 1952. This huge set of reports, collected by a

**Sun to Set on *Houston Sky***

*Houston Sky* will cease regular publication after its second year. The last issue will be the 12th—August/September 1996. Paid subscribers will be accommodated to their satisfaction, either by a refund or the substitution of another newsletter. Details will appear in newsletter 11. Any future (sporadic) issues will be publicized through the *MUFON Journal* and Arcturus Books. At this point, about the only thing that could keep the *Sky* from fading would be a win in the Texas Lottery big enough for the editor to quit her regular job.

clipping service for Project Blue Book, was gathered by Edward Ruppelt. The clippings were microfilmed on 30 rolls, each containing around 2,000 articles. Many were national wire service copy that reappeared in hundreds of newspapers. Unfortunately, instead of culling out the duplications, Project Blue Book members microfilmed every clipping. Yet, even with such an enormous collection, many items are missing. Instead of trying to fill in these gaps, at this point, I am more interested in finding people who might have scrapbooks or clipping collections from the period

**The Texnik Invasion, November 1957**  
 During November 1957, a large number of sightings were reported, especially in western Texas and New Mexico (and

in Mexico, as some accounts by San Antonio's *La Prensa* indicate). In some of these cases, large glowing egg-shaped objects were seen to land or hover near the ground—objects variously nicknamed The Thing, The Egg, Whatnick (after Sputnik II, which had just been launched by the Soviet Union), and Texnik. A number of motorists reported engine and/or vehicle light failure when the object was encountered.

This flap was well investigated by civilian UFO groups, which were proliferating by the late 1950s. I have personally examined many case files for this period though there are many more accounts still to be found: the papers in El Paso, Laredo, Galveston, Brownsville, and Eagle Pass have not been thoroughly checked.

*In one report, a Houston Press reporter interviewed by phone several West Texas witnesses, including Fort Worth geologist Leon English, who was driving nine miles north of Dumas at about 9:30 p.m. on November 3. He saw a bright green ball that looked like a neon light and appeared to travel almost straight down. It veered slightly to the east and then went out. English commented that he thought the object was headed in the direction of Levelland, where later, numerous other*

*sightings were reported.*

An even earlier report from the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* tells of children who also saw an egg-shaped object heading west.

For what it's worth, November 1957 in Texas was marked by bad weather, an extremely bright Venus, and numerous early-day hoaxers.

**Implications of the 1947 Project**

My research has shown that most small weekly newspapers carry few if any UFO reports. But because accounts do occasionally appear, for

the early flaps especially, it often is profitable to check these papers. And although NICAP, APRO, and many other organizations had members nationwide during the 1950s, coverage did not become widespread until 1965, when several clipping services began collecting UFO reports. For this reason, news-

paper research for "the early years" promises to uncover new information that could prove useful for filling in the gaps of modern UFO history.

*Jan Aldrich welcomes your participation in Project 1947. He is looking for newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, letters, first-hand reports, and official documents, as well as references and leads for further information. Contributions of early or rare UFO publications with early UFO reports would be helpful, as would be access to personal collections or the files of active or defunct UFO and Fortean organizations. Another untapped source of information is 1947 radio and TV newscasts and programs on UFOs. Most importantly, a great deal of research is still to be done in local libraries, historical societies, and newspaper archives. If you can assist Project 1947, contact Jan Aldrich at Project 1947, P.O. Box 391, Canterbury, CT 06331, or call him at (860) 546-9135. ♦*

—Photo caption in the *Houston Press*, 3/28/50

**Aggies 'Saucer Girl'**

"Four staff members of *The Battalion*, campus newspaper at Texas A&M, have never seen a flying saucer but they are 'discy' over Ruthmary Anderson, 19-year-old University of Houston coed. They saw her picture in *The Press*, posing at the university's volunteer flying saucer observation post, and promptly named her 'the person with whom we would most like to spend our time spotting saucers.' The Aggies included Clayton Selph, *Battalion* managing editor, of Houston."



## Spotlight on Jan Aldrich

**J**an Aldrich is a man on a mission. With 3,800 newspapers behind him and one year to go, one would think he could begin to relax. But with every new article uncovered, it seems he finds three more leads to pursue.

Project 1947, an ambitious newspaper research project, began in January 1994. A year later, Jan received a one-year support grant the coalition of MUFON, the Fund for UFO Research, and the Center for UFO Studies. His original aim, to study UFO newspaper reports for the 1947 flap, broadened quickly to include the years through 1965. His enormous effort will culminate in a book that he plans to publish by June 1997 for the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's sighting. Later, additional reports will cover the years 1900 to 1946, World War I, World War II and the Foo Fighters, and the 1950 wave.

So far, Jan's research has taken him to 32 states and Canadian provinces and approximately 200 libraries and archives. With the help of Barry Greenwood, Thomas Bullard, and many others, he has reviewed 3,800 newspapers, including 275 Canadian papers. Through libraries at Yale, Harvard, the Library of Congress, and the Center for Research Libraries (in Chicago), he has had access to nearly 200 foreign newspapers, including ones from China, Indonesia, Australia, and other countries.

What has his research turned up? More data than he could hope to digest, the certainty that much more is available than he can ever check out—and the occasional unexpected gold mine. For example, in a 1950 Oakridge, Tennessee, newspaper, Jan found an interview with a man who had witnessed what he claimed was a 1948 saucer crash in Ohio. The man, who spoke out during a 1950 flap in the Oakridge area, was the first to possibly corroborate a rumor that has long existed about the Ohio incident.

Findings like this are rare but important, according to Jan. However, he says, anyone with time and interest can also delve into the plentiful newspaper accounts of those early years. In particular, he suggests that would-be researchers check newspapers and libraries for already-existing UFO clipping files, or go directly to the microfilm records for June/July '47, March/April '50, July/August '52, and November '57.

One important lesson he has learned in the past two years is that the assumptions and glib assertions people often make about what is going on are usually wrong. It is the preponderance of information—and the patterns and relationships revealed—that can lead weight to hypotheses and explanations about UFOs. ♦

—Gayle Neason  
Houston Sky Editor

## CUFORN Bulletin Editor To Marry August 3, 1996

CUFORN announces the forthcoming marriage of Bulletin Editor Lawrence J. Fenwick to Ms. Betty Desson, nee Donohue on Saturday August 3, 1996. The ceremony in Toronto will be a small one. The couple will continue to reside in Toronto. The wedding was originally set for July.

## The Editor Comments

-by Lawrence J. Fenwick

Thanks to subscriber Brian Ezrin of Mississauga, Ontario for his generous contribution to the CUFORN Computer Fund. We still need about \$2,000.

Your Editor has been approached by a Los Angeles, California television production company, Kiviat Productions to do a one-hour UFO special on FOX TV. The show would air in late August or early September.

The show would be about the recovered and analyzed alien implants in Canada and the U.S.

Since we have as of this date not heard from Kiviat Productions, we cannot confirm that the show will actually be done. One of three segments was to be videotaped at your Editor's apartment in July.

Interviews would be with myself, Derrel Sims, and Whitley Streiber.

The producer of the show, David Roxik, told me that he had had several close encounters himself. He also said that no skeptics will appear on the show.

He also said that Whitley Steiber had an implant in the back of his left ear. This was to be surgically removed in June, 1996.

Sims said he was going to have several implants which he had gotten from abductees analyzed at the University of Houston in Texas. Several of these are transmitters like the one CUFORN has from the late Betty Dagenais. Sims wants to have the transmitters activated and any communications or signals heard checked by a linguistics and cryptography expert, as well as a sound engineer.

CUFORN also thanks subscriber Don Carmichael for informing Joan Frith of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada about our organization. Frith plans to write a book on UFO sightings and abductions, according to her recent

letter to CUFORN.

### MEMBERSHIP HOLDING STEADY

CUFORN membership and subscription to the Bulletin are holding steady. It would be nice if we could increase the total. Only four years ago, we had close to 100 members, but the total is down from that figure now. If any of our readers or members know of any one who would like to join, please have them write to us at our box number.

### AD CAMPAIGN STARTS

We are engaged in a campaign to get advertisers in the Bulletin. We are going to send out our rate card, an ad form and a promotional sheet about the Bulletin to several dozen potential advertisers.

If you have anything you want to sell, you can do it by placing a classified advertisement in the Bulletin. Classified ad rates are 40 cents per word, with a minimum charge of \$6.00. Payment must be by money order or cheque. Foreign advertisers must pay in Canadian funds.

### TELEVISION-THE ALIEN THEME AGAIN

In North America, in the years 1995, aliens were dealt with in several TV series. The most popular and best written of these was "The X-Files", which was taped entirely in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Naturally, the show was renewed for 1996 and now has been set for 1997. A few of its episodes did have UFOs and aliens as the main theme. The show was entirely fiction.

Other TV shows featuring aliens in 1995-96 were "Third Rock From the Sun", a comedy, "Alien Nation", "The Outer Limits", "Star Trek". and "Lois and Clark".

In 1996-97, new shows include "Dark Skies", about a couple battling aliens. So much for the science fiction. Now for the documentary shows.

The Editor Comments (Continued)

In what television guides call documentary, or sometimes science fact, or speculation, there have been several series of this type in the past two years.

In my opinion, the best of these shows came along in 1995-96. It was called "Paranormal Borderline" and was cancelled for the 1996-97 TV season, unfortunately. It had eight segments in its one hour format, had Jonathan Fraker as the narrator (he was a main character in the Star Trek series), and about half of each show pertained to UFO-alien subject matter. It was always in the forefront of what was happening and was edited so well that not a word of scene was superfluous. A sad loss.

Second to that show was "Unsolved Mysteries", with "Sightings" a poor third. "Unsolved" gradually moved away from the UFO aspect, while "Sightings" used selective editing to project its own editorial bias. In one episode set in Carp, Ontario, "Sightings" placed a series of UFO books in an observer's home so that in back of her, they would appear on camera. One so-called researcher who saw the books immediately assumed that she owned and had read the books and labelled the UFO story a hoax set up by the woman and a man whose nom-de-plume was "The Guardian". The showing of a videotape by the Guardian with some bright coloured lights in the distance on the ground was made more dramatic by "Sightings" when they used a videotape of a military helicopter and inserted it beside the coloured lights. This made it look as though the chopper was investigating the lights. This, in turn, made several investigators contact the Canadian military to see if they had a helicopter there. The full repercussions of this were rather embarrassing to the military and the UFO researchers.

There were sensational TV shows, too. These were "Final Edition", "A Current Affair", "Inside Edition", and "Extra" all known as 'tabloid' TV shows, the TV equivalent of supermarket tabloid newspapers.

## TABLOID QUALITY POOR

Most tabloid TV shows had a few segments each, one of which focussed on UFOs or aliens. Most of these were poorly done, with an anti-ufology slant.

Our theme was occasionally on television interview shows such as "Montel Williams", "Sally Jesse Raphael", "The Shirley Show", "Geraldo", etc. These were fairly good at times, only because the guests on the shows had some knowledge of the UFO topic. The hosts hardly ever did exhibit even a tiny bit of knowledge of the subject.

In 1996-97, a new documentary show, hosted by Canadian comedian Dan Aykroyd, and called "PSI Factor", will be on every week. It will have both a psychic and an alien focus.

## RUSHING INTO PRINT

Kevin Randle (Capt.) U.S.A.F. Intelligence (Retired) has written a few excellent books concerning UFOs. Once in a while and this happens to other authors once in a while), a book is published by a company whose only concern is making money. To heck with quality, they say, we'll just forget about taking our time to edit it for spelling errors. Let's get it out there. Well, it's happened to Randle.

His new book is "Roswell UFO Crash Update, Exposing the Military Cover-up of the Century". Timothy Green Beckley does not know how to edit. His publishing house, if we could call it that, has turned out Randle's book. Beckley's Global Communications has to shoulder the blame for the errors in the book. I counted 66 errors in its 190 pages. Pathetic. The book's contents, however, are excellent.

## Excesses Spoil Walton's Abduction Saga

Book Review of Fire in The Sky,  
The Walton Experience, By Travis  
Walton

Review by Lawrence J. Fenwick

This is a new book about an old genuine abduction case. One wonders why Walton would choose to rehash his original experience of 1975. The answer lies partly with the fact that the movie that came out in 1993 was not an accurate one in terms of the scenes inside the UFO.

The other obvious reason for this book is that Walton saw it as an opportunity to silence several debunkers who were completely off-base in their statements about him and his abduction.

It seems to me that Walton feels guilty for his initial failure to blast Paramount Pictures for their inaccuracy.

So guilt and anger have built up in the author. He does manage to slam his debunkers superbly. However, there is no excuse for his excess verbiage in defending himself against the likes of Philip J. Klass, whom he characterizes as a crusading godless man. It has been obvious to all ufologists that Klass is an unscientific, rude and ignorant individual. Yet Walton's book wastes 75 pages on PJK, as Walton abbreviates his name. He could have distilled his anti-Klass Appendix down to 50 pages or less.

To be fair, the author shows he is of genius intellect in his writing. It is stylistically excellent. His attention to detail is really remarkable. I have seldom read such a marvelous combination of insight into an author's personality as in this book. He covers all aspects of his case, and still is able to hold the reader's interest throughout the 370 pages.

Walton tries to expunge his prior failure to criticize the inaccurate

portrayal of the scene inside the UFO. He does it in the 75-page Chapter 14, entitled "The Making of Fire". Here is what he says about the changes in the scene, and I quote:

"Major studios don't set out to make films for the purpose of providing scholarly expositions."

"Their goal is to entertain. The director was responsible for more departures from reality than anyone else. The bottom line is that in order to pack two years into a hundred minutes and keep it intelligible, it's necessary to simplify. A good part of the changes from reality were made purely from that motive."

"One of my chief aims of the film was to impart my emotional experience, " rather than to stress what the aliens looked like. He says the gooey substance in the interior scene portrayed his "being loath to touch, or be touched by, the aliens. " The cocoon he finds himself in represents his "intense feelings of suffocation or claustrophobia" in the on-board part of the abduction.

He says that if the film had shown the human-appearing humanoids he met in one room of the UFO, where they said nothing to him, it would have "complicated things with something begging so loudly for explanation, and introduced an unresolvable mystery that would have distracted from the other aspects being explored," he writes.

All in all, the book is well worth reading for the public, but not so much for ufologists. It has many photographs and drawings and a great cover drawing. Marlowe & Company, New York, are publishers.

## UFO - Alien Theme Back in Films

by Lawrence J. Fenwick

Several motion pictures set for release in 1996 have either an alien or UFO theme. It has been years since there have been so many in release within the same year.

The first one is "The Arrival" starring Charlie Sheen. This is a murder mystery-NASA conspiracy story. Sheen is the main hero, playing an astronomer who resembles the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek in his younger days. It's well-acted and directed with an interesting plot line.

Others coming out include "Men in Black," starring Tommy Lee Jones, "Phenomenon" with John Travolta, and "Independence Day". In the latter, aliens destroy several U.S. cities, including New York and Washington. The aliens lose the battle in the long run when an American pilot uses a captured UFO to destroy alien UFOs.

### Answer To March/April Issue

**Trivia Question:** The name of the song sung by Helen Ward and recorded by the Benny Goodman Orchestra in 1936 and which had lyrics mentioning "I'd sit beside a saucer" was "Peter Piper".

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about the*

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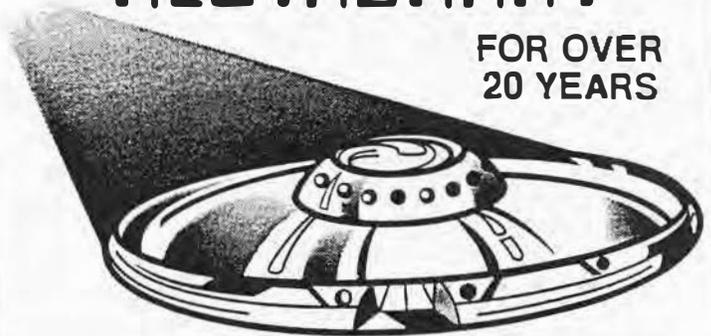
You may write us anytime to share your views and feelings on UFOs and Ufology, and especially to send in any UFO close encounter reports!

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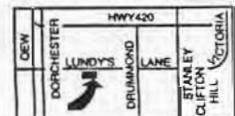
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# Meteor puts on lightshow for Metro

By IAN ROBERTSON  
and JONATHAN KINGSTONE  
Toronto Sun

The southern Ontario sky was lit with fiery color early today as a meteorite scorched its way into Earth's atmosphere before disappearing over Lake Ontario.

"The sky went totally white ... like a ball of fire," Brantford truck driver Albert Olivera told *The Toronto Sun*.

Olivera was driving towards London on Hwy. 403 around 12:38 a.m. when he saw the "totally white" flare in the sky.

People reported sighting the meteor "from as far east as Kingston, north to North Bay and west to Brantford," Durham Regional Police Staff-Sgt. Bob Peacock said from Oshawa.

Pearson Airport control tower "observed a meteorite" travel east until it disappeared "to the south, over the lake."

Officers were dispatched to the edge of Lake Ontario in Oshawa after a caller reported seeing "a ball of fire" vanish south of the city.

The colors of the meteorite ranged from blue in the front to orange on the tail.

The meteor appears to have crossed Lake Ontario and there were sightings reported in New York state.

"It was like a ball of bluish flame, like metal burning," said *Sun* photog Juan Fanzio.

Below-----From The Globe and Mail, Toronto, Ontario, Canada Feb. 3, 1996

## Close encounter of the weird kind baffles British aviation authority

Year-long inquiry finds no explanation of UFO that buzzed airliner

BY DAVID WALLEN  
Special to The Globe and Mail

LONDON — After a year-long formal inquiry, British aviation experts admit they are baffled by a close encounter between a passenger jet and an unidentified flying object on an approach to Manchester Airport.

The Civil Aviation Authority said yesterday it can find no logical explanation for the UFO, which apparently buzzed the British Airways Boeing 737 with 60 people on board last January

at the 4,000-foot level of its descent on a flight from Milan.

Captain Roger Willis, 35, said a wedge-shaped UFO, emblazoned with small white lights, came so close to his jet that co-pilot Mark Stuart ducked.

The object also was spotted from the ground, yet never appeared on radar screens. It made no attempt to deviate and passed very quickly down the right side of the aircraft. It made no sound and created no wind turbulence.

The incident happened at 6:48 p.m.

on Jan. 6, 1995, with the aircraft just above the clouds and visibility at least 16 kilometres.

Air traffic controllers had the following conversation with Flight 5061:

B737: "We just had something go down the right-hand side, just above us, very fast."

Manchester ATC: "Well there's nothing seen on radar. Was it an aircraft?"

B737: "Well it had lights, it went down the starboard side very quick."

Please see *British* A14

## British aviation body calls UFO 'a mystery'

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Both the captain and co-pilot were convinced the object was not a balloon, model aircraft, kite or even a stealth aircraft. Captain Willis said he had seen a stealth before and thought he would have recognized it.

Suggestions that the object might have been a reflection from a cloud or even a secret U.S. spy craft also have been discounted.

The CAA's Joint Airmiss Working Group said in its report, published yesterday, that it cannot explain the incident, confirming there was nothing else on the radar screens apart from the jet in that position at that time. It concluded that it was "not possible to suggest either the cause or the risk" of the incident. "The reported object remains untraced."

The report praised the crew for telling their story in the face of possible derision from colleagues.

"It's all a bit of a mystery," a Civil Aviation Authority spokesman said. "There was a similar case about three years ago involving Alitalia and it was not possible to explain that one, either."

On the ground, Mark Lloyd was near the airport and says he saw the object, too.

"There was like a glint in the sky and, as I looked, I could see this triangular-shaped object hovering quite high up and it had depth to it," he said. "It was rounded off at the back end and appeared to have something like back burners." He described a black line down the side and a triangular-shaped window.

When Mr. Lloyd told his girlfriend what he had seen, she said he was "talking a load of codswallop."

Later, he telephoned the airport and was put through to the control tower.

Mr. Lloyd said yesterday he was relieved that the official report backed his version with the words of the air crew.

While the incident has baffled aviation experts, it has delighted UFO enthusiasts. The word of pilots, they said, might give some credibility to their favourite subject.

"Now that the CAA have actually come out with a statement saying it was unidentified, we shall go straight back to them and try and get them to say more," said Eric Morrison, one of Britain's leading exponents of UFOs and extraterrestrials.

One of the best authenticated UFO sightings was made by the crew of one of the Apollo space missions, when an object tracked the spacecraft for some minutes before moving off at high speed. The astronauts told Houston they were being tailed, adding: "We'll assume it's friendly."

# UFO sightings have Territories

## town in a trance

BY GWEN DAMBROFSKY  
CANADIAN PRESS

A mystery of paranormal proportions has the Northwest Territories town of Fort Resolution in a kind of trance.

Every evening since Jan. 4, townsfolk have stepped outside and looked up, hoping to catch another glimpse of a trio of pulsating, multicolored lights dancing across the cold night sky.

They have rarely been disappointed.

"We're seeing exactly the same object every single night ... between about 5 o'clock and 8 o'clock. Then it

completely disappears," Mayor Edward Hunter says.

"It's quite calming actually, especially when all the colors come out from underneath it."

The unidentified flying object so intrigued a colonel in the Canadian Armed Forces that he and two staff members hopped into a Twin Otter plane and flew out for a look-see.

"The witnesses were pretty credible, actually," says Capt. Susan Gray, public affairs officer for the military in Yellowknife.

"A few of our Canadian Rangers

(Dene and Inuit who serve in a reserve force) had seen it. And the mayor. And the RCMP.

But wouldn't you know it, Gray says by the time Col. Pierre Leblanc got to Fort Resolution the skies had clouded over and he had to leave without seeing anything.

"This is the biggest story since I got up here last summer. UFO sightings or paranormal phenomena are not something that Canada's military deals in very often," says Gray.

Leblanc will file a report with the Defence Operation Centre in Ottawa,

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which deals with about 30 or 40 UFO reports a year.

But though the military's official role may be concluded, the Fort Resolution UFO is still the talk of the base.

Hunter says the object has red, green and blue lights with a constant white light in the centre. It moves straight west, and then down, before vanishing.

It's not a star, not a planet, not the northern lights, he says: "I just cannot explain it."

"The first few days (of sightings) I was pretty skeptical, until I saw it ... It blew my socks off."