

UFO'S SWARM OVER NORTHERN MIDWEST STATES

Editorial

Perhaps you already know that C.F.S.I. has been reorganized and renamed in an effort to make it more effective. The change involves this publication, too, and beginning with this issue, it is the hope of the editors that our new format will be more informative and useful than the old.

It is generally agreed that the term "flying saucer", recently rejected by the Air Force, really was a misnomer from the start. Therefore, the broader and more accurate term, "aerial phenomena" is used in the new name of the organization and in this newsletter. We doubt if the old term will be seen in this publication again.

Aerial Phenomena Research Group has re-dedicated itself to the investigation of phenomena seen in the skies, and has set itself a task involving considerable hard work and expense. As we gain new understanding of these phenomena, we plan to present the information here. You'll also read selected scientific articles reprinted from technical publications, whenever they relate to the UFO question. To bridge the abyss between the technical and abstract considerations of aerial phenomena, our investigation will proceed on two general fronts; the scientific and the parapsychological. When significant progress is made on either front, it will be presented here. In addition to this will be important sighting reports, and anything else relevant to the topic.

Scores of individuals are being attracted daily to consideration of aerial phenomena, joining tens of thousands of others who have quietly theorized and puzzled for years over this question. This we believe is a good sign. For whatever greatness Man has attained, has come about because Man dared to ask questions about his environment. Inevitably, the answers have come to light and Man has moved forward with greater understanding, not only of his worldly surroundings, but of himself.

NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, MINNESOTA, REPORT GREATEST UFO SURVEY SINCE 1952---85 REPORTS IN 25 DAYS

By Jim French

An unprecedented concentration of UFO sightings covering a three-state area was reported to APRG Headquarters, starting November 8th, 1956, from South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota. The sightings, made during nearly every hour of the day and night, continued until December 2nd.

APRG investigation has netted 85 separate visual sighting reports from some sixty different localities within the three states. Due to the unusually large number of sightings, it has been possible in some instances to determine that the same phenomenon was seen at widely separated areas. In other cases, the sighting reports indicate a great number of different objects were aloft at one time over different areas.

The flurry of UFO reports began with the sighting of a Dickinson, South Dakota farmer, Laudie Dvorak. His experience is typical of several that were to occur during the next three weeks. Dvorak reported what appeared at first to be a falling star, which suddenly straightened out in its trajectory and streaked at "800 to 1000 miles per hour" across the buttes. The Dvorak testimony establishes the object as a "large black spot in front of a fire, about 25 feet long...no noise at all."

Obviously, space does not permit publishing details of all the 85 reports, but certain disparities and possibly significant similarities in the sightings have caused this staff researcher to reach some inescapable conclusions

By correspondence alone, the integrity of each individual sighting cannot be determined. However, most of the reports were made by residents of extremely small communities, residents who presumably would not care to risk the inevitable scoffing of their neighbors unless they were quite certain of their experiences.

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Midwest Survey

The behavior and appearance of the phenomenon runs the full gamut of most UFO reports. Some viewers saw clear-cut discs; others, fireballs; still other persons reported moving single lights of various colors. The most commonly-seen objects, however, had these things in common: they were apparently solid, with rows of lights, (often called "portholes") ringing their hulls. The objects were seen to hover, one for as long as four hours, rather than to merely streak across the sky. One such hovering object reportedly appeared to land, or at least to remain motionless very close to the ground. But in every case, any attempt at close ground observation was met by an immediate departure of the object.

On November 14th, the Pelican Rapids Press in Minnesota reported the experience of a truck driver, Marlen Hewitt, from Redfield, South Dakota. Of his experience, the Press wrote, "It is hardly reasonable to doubt that the stories of these observers...are products of their imagination..."

In the Press article, a UFO was reported to hover from 10 PM until 2 AM over an unpopulated area near Graceville, Minnesota. During the entire four hours, three game wardens inspected the object through field glasses but were unable to determine its size. Like many other reports, the Graceville phenomenon would emit brilliant red lights from the perimeter of its round hull, and from beneath it, another light fluctuated in intensity from "very dim" to about the brilliance of an electric arc.

APRG research determined two interesting parallels common to the majority of the sighted objects. In 95% of the cases, the UFO's were seen above railroad towns. The greatest concentration was in the northeastern section of South Dakota. This particular area is dotted with fresh water lakes and storage reservoirs. The significance of these findings is still unsolved, but the fact that some intelligent intention on the part of the objects was in evidence can hardly be denied.

The busiest day in the 25-day concentration was Friday, November 16th. From 9:30 AM until late that night, reports streamed in from towns in Minnesota and South Dakota, many sightings obviously of the same individual object. During the day and evening of the 16th, thirteen reliable witnesses described objects over the towns of St. Paul and Detroit

(continued in column 2)

Lakes, Minnesota; Peever, Oelrich, Wall, Hermosa, Minot, Mobridge, Glenham and Milbank, South Dakota, and over Des Lacs, Bismarck and Englevale, North Dakota.

Other heavy concentrations occurred on Sunday, November 27th, Wednesday the 30th, and Friday, December 2nd. Then, as suddenly as they appeared nearly a month before, the skies were void of objects.

In the opinion of this writer whatever the particular significance of the twenty-five days of UFO's over the Dakotas,...this unusually prolonged activity, during several types of weather conditions, indicates added evidence that our aerial visitors are indeed intelligent beings.

Book Review

By Lis'c Lagozzino

Strangest Of All, by Frank Edwards. The paper cover of this book reads "A storehouse of the incredible. Fantastic but true stories involving vanishing ships and people, noted historical figures, scientific and religious miracles, talking animals, unidentified flying objects, treasure hunts..." I cannot think of a more accurate description of this fascinating book. Impressive throughout the book is the careful, thorough research and beautifully concise and interesting presentation of all the facts pertaining to each subject.

Some of the more intriguing chapters concern the vanishing of a whole Eskimo village, "The strange Death of Napoleon," "Who Shot Abraham Lincoln?", a nightmare in Boston which was a reality in the Indian Ocean and the prophecy of World War II made in the 7th or 8th century.

The one objection to the book is that it is a much too small storehouse.

The Citadel Press, 222 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, New York. \$3.50

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Gary Civil Defense Chief Spots Glittering and Enormous Object

Unidentified flying objects were spotted November 17th over Gary, Indiana as authorities investigated a rash of UFO reports in the upper midwest. Gary Civil Defense Director Z. R. Bardowski was among several in the Steel City who reported seeing the strange objects traveling at astronomical speed. Bardowski said he saw a single object--glittering and enormous--at 5 p.m. over his home.

Altitude of the object was estimated at 10,000 feet by the civil defense chief, who stated, "the object moved out of sight with such incredible speed that it is inconceivable it could have been a weather balloon." Although sunset was at 4:29 p.m., Bardowski said the altitude of the object was high enough to catch and reflect sun rays from the west.

"If these objects--which thousands of responsible citizens in all parts of the country have sighted--are our own crafts, the public ought to be told," he said. "If they really are 'unidentified foreign objects' as the authorities say, the public has a right to know that, too," he added.

"Unnecessary restrictions on aircraft information," he concluded, "could easily lead to some type of mass hysteria. And governmental silence about these objects makes those who report the objects look ridiculous."

Vicksburg Man Sights 'Flying Object' In Sky Above Airliner

A Vicksburg, Mississippi man reported sighting an "oval-shaped metallic object" diving upon a commercial airliner in the skies north of the city on October 25th. Victor O'Connor said a shining silver object swooped down from above a commercial east bound airliner, paralleled its course and then zoomed straight up to disappear.

About 4:30 p.m. O'Connor was sitting in the side yard of his home when he heard the motor of an airplane overhead. "The airliner--which I supposed was a passenger plane--was traveling east toward Jackson," he said. "All at once, a silver-looking object with no wings appeared overhead and for a short distance trailed above the airliner."

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O'Connor said the unidentified object suddenly dived toward the commercial plane, and then, after dipping parallel with the airliner altered its flight upward and disappeared. "At first I thought it was an optical illusion," admitted O'Connor. "But, it sure as hell wasn't a weather balloon." The airliner did not change its course or show any signs of distress," O'Connor said.

Marine Pilots Report UFO Encounter In Southern California Skies

Three pilots of a four plane division flying in Marine Air Reserve Squadron 241 at Los Alamitos reported an unidentified flying object over West Orange County, California on October 13th. All three "week-end warrior" pilots saw a circular, silver disc-shaped object on their morning flight.

This is their story. Four F9F-6 Gruman panther jets took off in a routine division flight from NAS Los Alamitos. "At 24,000 feet I saw a shiny, definitely circular object pass above going in the opposite direction of our flight," stated Lt. Lawrence Ball. "I called on the radio to ask if any others saw it," he said. Two others answered that they had seen the UFO. They were Major Herman Bushong, squadron intelligence officer, and Major Lloyd A. Chamblin.

Major Bushong stated "It definitely had no appendages, was circular, like a disc, and gave off a reflection." Major Chamblin also stated he saw the object. "It was only a momentary glimpse. The object passed in opposite direction. It was silver, and definitely circular. All agreed it was disc shaped. They agreed it was not a plane."

Grand Rapids Pilot Sees Two UFO's

A Grand Rapids, Michigan pilot said two strange airborne objects whizzed by his plane near Grand Rapids Airport on September 25th. William H. Marcus was returning to Grand Rapids from South Bend around 4 p.m., when something went by under his right wing, going like the merry blazes. "I got a good view for a second and then saw a second object pass under my left wing. The first object was tan, had a Delta wing shape and appeared to be smaller than my Cessna plane, but considerably larger than any large bird of any sort." They were not weather balloons, Marcus said.

The Brazilian UFO Review

By Olavo Fontes

Part Four

The Guaiba-Tapes Road Incident

Up till now we have had to depend on only two types of evidence: A. That of people on the earth suddenly caught by surprise and seeing up in the sky, strange airships flashing and dancing. B. That from people up in planes, trained to recognize aircraft, on the level with the object they observed and, in a few cases, really close to it. But now the time has come for a new kind of evidence, still odder and more unbelievable than either of the other two thus far sighted: That of UFO's on the ground, trying to play with people in a very unpleasant way. What had been odd and only possible sinister suddenly became grim. The case that follows is so puzzling that it called for a special investigation by Air Force Intelligence. This case is unique. Here is the report of it, of the Guaiba Tapes Road Incident.

On that Saturday, October 30, 1954, Flavio Rebelo, age 39, well educated, a very conservative and responsible civilian government job-holder, was driving his own car on a weekend trip. He works for the state of Rio Grande do Sul Administration in Porto Alegre and has an excellent reputation in that city, where he lives. Early that day he had decided to travel to the city of Tapes, where he owned a summer resort. His relatives were with him. There were his wife Ilse and his two sons, Luiz, age 15, and Paula Antonio, age 10. They started toward Guaiba, a nearby town, where they took the State Highway toward Tapes.

At midnight, they reached the Guara hill, the highest spot of that highway. From there Rebelo, his wife and older son (the other was sleeping) sighted a strong light, like a star, but much larger. It was far ahead and off to the west, but they lost it when they started to go down. Soon they arrived at the plain and the road was now a straight line through a deserted stretch of level country.

They were riding along when they saw two lights approaching from Tapes. Rebelo thought they might be the headlights of another car traveling the other way, returning from Tapes. But soon he noticed that they seemed to go off
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the road, entering into the country beside it. That observation troubled him a little, for he knew that no car could travel off of the road in that area. But he didn't stop the car. Perhaps it could be a tractor starting a night's work, he thought. A few minutes later, he noticed that two more lights had appeared behind the first ones. This time he was surprised, but still not alarmed. There was something strange about those lights, but still they could belong to tractors, now two tractors working together. He kept driving along.

The lights kept getting close steadily growing in size. The night was very dark; no star could be seen through the clouds that covered the sky. A strong wind was blowing. They came closer. He kept driving on and watching those yellow-white lights. When they looked to be only a kilometer away, his curiosity increased because their size was getting very big. He slowed down to see better. They were going to cross his path, passing at the right side of the road and at some distance away from it.

Suddenly, when the lights appeared to be about three hundred meters off to the right of the car they began to change their color. They took on a bluish hue; then changed to violet and then orange; and finally to red, a fiery red, like burning charcoal. When they changed from orange to the fiery red color, the travelers were passing just in front of them. This time Rebelo was startled, and stopped the car to watch the strange scene with his wife and his older son. "This change of colors was not abrupt, like a mere substitution of a light by another of different hue"--the three witnesses said in their report. "It developed softly, like some kind of fusion of hues and tints or the slow mixing of different dyes."

"About the time the lights started to change from one color to another, it was the only time I had a glimpse of a shape behind those lights," said Mr. Rebelo. "To be more precise, when they changed from orange to red we noticed some kind of a spherically shaped dome, huge in size. At that moment I thought it looked like a house burning. But the vision disappeared after a few seconds. Only the lights remained, glowing into the darkness, motionless. Now all of them were red, a fiery red, like incandescent charcoal. They were definitely round-shaped and
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sharply outlined, like a porthole of light. They hovered at about two meters above the ground. The oddest thing was that they didn't project a beam of light, like a searchlight; quite the reverse: they were not reflected by the car surface, nor did they illuminate the ground. Fascinated, we watched that uncanny scene, the car stopped beside the road.

Suddenly, the lights, now in line with each other, started to move slowly toward our car. At the same time, they were pulling away from each other as if trying to surround the spot where we stood. I froze where I was, getting the horrible feeling of a trapped animal. They closed in quietly, the glow growing steadily in size; the one ahead apparently was going to block our only way of escape. We saw them getting bigger and bigger, now larger than one meter in diameter. They were unlike anything that I knew of, something inexplicable in terms of past experience. The color was wonderful and the light, although strong, was not dazzling. That moment I confess I lost any power of reasoning I had and I forgot everything--even the feeling I had to run away from that place. I was hypnotized and stood still, watching the slow and purposeful approach of those "things". But, at the very moment they were almost over us, I regained my consciousness because of my wife. She was wild with fear, crying and squeezing my arm and imploring me to get away from there. Then I started the car in a frenzy and drove away from that place as fast as I could. I was so nervous I would hardly be able to start driving on again if the motor should have stopped that moment."

(Continued next month)

UFO Skims Over Delaware River

A Trenton, New Jersey night watchman reported he saw a large wingless object swoop down to hover over the Delaware River on October 2nd. It gave off a bad odor and flew away. Harry J. Sturdevent said he was in the trailer-office of his contracting employer when the glowing object, which he described as about 100 ft long, came into view. He told police the UFO came down and flew away so suddenly he was unable to get a complete description. He said it had no wings, shot fire from the rear and hissed.

Mysterious Object Sighted In Sky Over Montana

A strange object which witnesses said emitted an "orange-ish-yellow" glow was seen in the sky over Bozeman on September 5th. Mrs. John Bouma of Bozeman said she viewed the object through binoculars. She gave this account: "I stepped out of the house and heard a humming sound so I looked up and saw this thing. I went back into the house and got my field glasses and looked at it. It was oblong in shape and emitted an orange glow. It was brownish gray in color." She said the object turned around a few times while she was watching it and dipped up and down. Finally it vanished toward the north. Mrs. Lee Meory, a neighbor, said the object was called to her attention by her daughter. "It turned and sort of dipped and then turned around again.

Giant Disc Seen Over New Jersey

Leonard Kuberski, 14 year-old South River, N.J. boy said he and three others saw a giant disc on September 3rd. The boy and three friends were looking at Mars through his telescope at his home about 9 p.m. when they saw a white light flash twice below Mars. Some minutes later a small white disc appeared in the east and moving at a steady pace passed the quartet. Leonard said the disc appeared "about 12 inches" in diameter. The disc moved to the western horizon where it began to take on a reddish glow, the boy related. It turned very red and disappeared, he said.

About 10 minutes later they saw a huge reddish-orange disc, hovering over the Hercules plant. The four observers were speechless. The disc appeared to be as large as the plant itself, according to the boy. "It had a definite line all the way around--it was very clear." But large and clear as the disc appeared, they were unable to detect any windows or the like. They watched petrified for about 10 seconds. Then the huge disc in a blaze of light veered swiftly to the south and was suddenly out of sight. The light was so great, Leonard said, that others in the area must have seen it, too.

Notice

All members will be credited with one extra copy of the Reporter to make up for the December, 1956 issue which was not published.

The Editors Have Their Say

Appleton, Minnesota Press, 11/22/56....A fellow in a barber shop asked me the other day, "Have you seen any FS lately?" "None," I replied. "Why do you ask?"

"Well, I read where editors at Ortonville and Marshall both said they saw one near Ortonville last week, and I thought it sort of ran with editors," was his reply.

I figure I have the answer to this situation--not the FS--but why the editors in question say they saw one.

...working late hours, didn't have his eyes quite open that morning...probably having nightmares

As for the trucker who started the Ortonville report, if he is anything like I am with night driving, he probably sees all kinds of things while lulled half asleep by the monotony of the highway at night.

* * * *

Red Wing, Minnesota, Republican-Eagle, 12/3/56....FS are being seen with more or less regularity around this part of the country of late. Oddly enough, the reports of the activities of these strangers in the skies don't come from widespread areas. And yet it is doubtful if as many believe, they are flown by human beings from some faroff planet, that the visitors wouldn't want to see something of the larger cities instead of just the wide open spaces

Your Old Scrivener isn't going out on a limb to say these FS aren't authentic. Many years back we remarked that the fellow who predicted we would have pictures transmitted by electricity without the aid of wires was strictly nutz and look what happened! If we should make a crack that FS are purely of the imagination we'd expect to see whole dinner sets, including the large, king-size plates and two-handled cups doing solar gymanastics in no time at all.

Personally we aren't as much perturbed by the reports of FS as we are that there is a chance someone will hurl an atomic or H-bomb in our direction without warning. But the girl behind the lunchcounter said the other evening that she wasn't afraid of the bombs. "That's something we know exists," sez she. "These here FS, with windows and perhaps peopled by ginks from a strange planet--well, they give me the creeps."

Conova, South Dakota, Herald, 12/5/56....In recent weeks people in various parts of the state have reported seeing strange objects in the sky which have been referred to as FS. Our military people claim they don't know anything about them but we are inclined to think that someone is doing some experimenting and the military probably knows all about it. There is likely nothing to be gained by letting the public in on the secret just now and whatever it is it is probably something that is strengthening our defense and we are sure that the objects are not from some other country or some other planet as some people mistakenly believe. We'll just have to wait and sooner or later we'll probably learn all about the FS.

* * * *

Salem, South Dakota, Special, 12/6/56....During the past few weeks there has been a deluge of reports about people sighting FS in the midwest states. Several years ago there was a rash of these reports, and one night such an object was observed in Salem by a number of people. Naturally enough, the curiosity of people is aroused and speculation concerning the objects is rife. The special is not unduly excited about the phenomena. We do not for a moment question the veracity of people who have seen them. However, we do not believe that there is any cause for alarm because of their appearance. In this electronic age it is not at all suprising that the lighted objects should appear in the skies. They could be reflections from sources far distant from the locality in which they are seen.

They could be experiments that our own nation is making through the Army or the Air Force. Certainly, if something of this nature is going on, the military would be the last to divulge the truth. Magazines and newspapers for several years have featured such articles about proposed space satellites and similiar innovations. Perhaps they are in the testing stage. What we refuse to believe is that they are invaders from outer space. The FS have been seen off and on for a number of years now, and if they had harmful intentions upon earth we would have felt them before this. And, besides, there is nothing known to science to indicate that such a source is likely.

Have you mailed your membership questioner?
