

NEWSLETTER

Issue #8

APRIL, 1983

What One Member Can Do

Things seem to be quieting down now as far as sighting reports are concerned. If you are wondering what you can do in the interim until the next flap or flurry of activity, to contribute in a constructive way toward UFOlogy, here are some suggestions:

Consider teaching a summer course on UFO's in your local area for either youngsters or adults. Both Salem State College and North Shore G.A.T.E. (Gifted & Talented Education) are offering summer 3-week courses for academically talented youngsters. The title of the course?-- "SPACE INVADERS?" Instructors at Salem State-- Linda Seal & Marge Christensen; G.A.T.E. instructor-- Marge Christensen.

If teaching isn't your thing, perhaps you might enjoy spending a few fascinating hours browsing through Barry's files assisting us in accumulating the necessary data in the appropriate format for the proposed computer file of our Mass. MUFON resources and Barry's resources.

Barry also has a need for someone (a patient soul) to look through 140,000 pages of Project BlueBook files on microfilm and index the films for him. Do you fit into this category?

If your eyes aren't nimble, but your fingers are, perhaps you'd be willing to do some typing of transcripts from investigations or hypnosis sessions for some investigators who are great investigators, but do not type.

If none of these tasks appeals to you, we may be needing someone with building skills to design a portable exhibit for us to use for a UFO show for shopping malls. If you have artistic skills, we can use those also.

So, if you ever feel un-needed, you need not feel that way for long. Let us know which of these areas you would like to participate in. All of us have different skills to contribute, and we need everyone's contributions.

UFO REPORTS..

As of the time that this newsletter was written, the only new report of a sighting subsequent to the March meeting came to us via the State Police, and regarded a Boston sighting.

Prank Balloon?

The sighting occurred on the evening of March 14, at 9:44-9:47 p.m. over the Warren Towers apartments on Commonwealth Ave. in Boston. There were three witnesses to the sighting of the object which was described as a bright orange glowing light about $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of the full moon. The object appears to have been a balloon, according to Arthur Lawless, who investigated the sighting. Also interestingly, the sighting occurred on the same evening as the television showing of the movie, "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND." Could it have been a prank precipitated by the showing of the motion picture?

Boston University Editorial

The "DAILY FREE PRESS," at Boston University published an editorial entitled: "Low Quality Speakers," on Feb. 18, 1983. The target of the editorial was Stanton Friedman, who spoke at B.U. on UFO's in Feb.. The attack was not actually on Friedman, as on the UFO topic as being unintellectual and nonacademic and not worthy of lecture time on the university campus. Walt Webb, on behalf of our national public information committee, has sent a response to the newspaper. Walt articulately shot several holes in the newspaper's argument, and suggested that: "this much maligned and ridiculed topic will one day impact every living person on this planet in a way that we can only now dimly perceive."

Walt concluded with a reminder that M.I.T. permitted us to hold our 1981 Symposium on the M.I.T. campus.

1983 MUFON UFO SYMPOSIUM

At the Mass. MUFON meeting in May, representatives from Massachusetts to attend the 1983 MUFON International Symposium in Pasadena, California, will be selected. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please notify the State Director, Marge Christensen, before the May meeting (May 11). According to Internal Revenue Service Publication 526:

"If you are a chosen representative attending a convention of a qualified organization, you may deduct unreimbursed expenses for travel and transportation. You may also deduct a reasonable amount for meals and lodging while away from home overnight in connection with the convention."

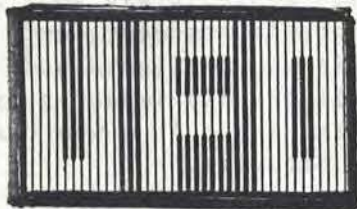
The following persons have indicated an interest in serving as selected representatives for Massachusetts to date:

Marge Christensen
David Christensen
Joseph Santangelo
Diana Santangelo
Linda Seal

UFO Evidence

If you have Robert Emenecker's book, UFO's Past, Present, and Future, look up the passage on the "fictional landing of a UFO at Holliman AFB in New Mexico, which was captured on film. Word has it that Emenecker has just revealed that this "fictional" incident is actually a factual happening, and that he has documentation to back up that statement. More on this at the April meeting.

Please Support



Clipping Service

Correspondence

Len Stringfield reports that he has some new sources (one medical) in regard to new information on crash-retrieval cases.

Dick Hall, MUFON Journal editor, reports that the article entitled: "MASSACHUSETTS ABDUCTION CASE WITH SOUTH DAKOTA CONNECTION" will appear in the March issue of the Journal.

Budd Hopkins comments that he hopes to attend the MUFON Symposium in Pasadena. He continues to receive interesting mail from around the world regarding missing time cases.

David M. Jacobs, author of THE UFO CONTROVERSY IN AMERICA will visit the Cape this summer, and may be considering writing a second book.

MUFON's Connecticut Asst. State Director, Larry Fawcett, spent some time in Los Angeles in the end of March, filming some television shows. Larry reports that the planned ABC News report on the Kirtland documents has been postponed. No date given for the new program.

MUFON's International Director, Walt Andrus, mentioned that the UPI correspondents who were scheduled to interview him pulled a no-show. So far, the UPI press release issued by our national public education committee, has not made the wires

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

If you have any audio tape cassettes with recording of UFO programs, Barry Greenwood would appreciate your making a list of these and submitting it to him. Should your tapes include any programs which Barry does not have on tape, he would appreciate your permitting him to make copies of them so that our files will be complete. The programs which Barry is particularly interested in are the older ones from the '50's, especially. Please take a moment to check your tapes (if you have any) and make a list of their contents for Barry. Thank you.

Also, anyone having file folders to donate to our MUFON files is asked to pass them on to Barry, who is currently in need of about 500 file folders. He has already accumulated a massive collection of files.

Mystery Sightings on Vermont 36

By SUSAN GREEN

Free Press Staff Writer

It was just one year ago that Aubre Brogden may have had an awfully close encounter with something she still cannot explain.

The Bakersfield woman was driving home along Vermont 36 from St. Albans at about 9 o'clock on a clear mid-February night, under a full moon as she recalls. "I was about a mile and a half out of Bakersfield when I saw a large, white light moving slowly, quite low in the sky," she said. "At first, I thought it was a plane about to land, so I flashed my car headlights to warn it off the road. And then it started coming towards me."

Brogden's sighting, only one of a series of unidentified flying object reports throughout Vermont last winter, was the most dramatic of several such Bakersfield observations.

As the object got closer, Brogden was able to discern it was triangular in shape. Before losing sight of the light, she convinced herself it had to be a hang-glider or hot-air balloon.

Turning into her driveway, Brogden was more than a little taken aback by the sight of the glowing triangle in her own backyard. "It was just hovering there, about 25 feet away from me," she said, pointing to a spot between two tall trees.

"I got out of the car, picked up my two bags of groceries and started toward the house," she said. "Then, I stopped for a moment to look at the thing

and began to feel very frightened. It was obviously watching me." She called out for her upstairs neighbor but no one responded.

Feeling fairly panicked, Brogden then began running for the house, and in the process dropped her grocery bags. "I looked down at the bags, then up at the sky. The thing was then moving right over my head, making absolutely no sound. Now I could see that it wasn't just one light, it had many lights all across the bottom. And it was much bigger than I'd thought: maybe as big as a football field," she said. The object moved away noiselessly.

Brogden ran inside the house, locked the door and woke her neighbor, who agreed to spend the night downstairs. Neither woman would go outside for the groceries.

The next morning, the object was nowhere to be found and the groceries had frozen onto the snow.

It was about a month later that Jan Marcotte was one of a dozen or so people who spotted something out of the ordinary at the same location as Brogden's initial sighting of the triangle.

"We were all part of the same PTA group — plain old Bakersfield moms — enroute to Fairfield for a meeting," Marcotte said. "I saw four blinking red lights at different elevations. We stopped our car, but the others kept going. We got out to look but couldn't hear any sound. Then suddenly, the lights just disappeared: Zap!"

Two other occupants of the car, including Marcotte's husband Ron, dismissed this sighting as a possible jet. However, when the PTA reassembled, everyone was buzzing with speculation and wonder about the strange lights all had witnessed, Marcotte said.

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Marcotte acknowledged her lack of skepticism about these UFOs may stem from the fact that, during another winter nine years ago, she saw something — again on Vermont 36 — that she feels was unmistakably not of this earth. It was a large, not quite circular light, low on the horizon.

Initially, she suspected it was merely the moon, but after a few minutes, realized it was the wrong shape. "At first, I was frightened," she said. "But after a while, I became real comfortable with that light. I felt I had a friend in the sky. I felt as if someone was trying to tell me something. It was awesome." It suddenly disappeared, she added.

Inexplicable lights were seen by Joe Cofelice, a Bakersfield man who operates a barbershop in St. Albans. His account begins at 7:50 p.m. on November 10, 1981, as he was driving west out of Bakersfield on Town Road 20 — which is parallel to Vermont 36 — with his 16-year-old son, Jimmy.

"We saw two lights on the left that seemed to be pacing us," he said. "They looked like large stars but they were coming closer, then suddenly shot up straight in the air." Cofelice assumed these objects to be helicopters at first. When he turned around a bend, the lights were about 200 yards away, 200 feet above ground, and blinking on and off in turn.

"They lit up the whole road, like daylight," said Cofelice, explaining that he then stopped the car and began walking towards the UFOs. When the objects moved off, they crossed in front of the full moon and Cofelice was able to delineate their shapes. "They had square wings on each side and round backs," he said. "In front, there was a half-circle of seven lights."

Two nights later, Cofelice returned to the site, along with his fiancée — now his wife — Laurie, armed with binoculars and a camera. "Lo and behold, at exactly 7:50 again, the lights came at us from the west, he said. "Through the binoculars, they looked like two red-orange balls of fire."

As these apparitions reached a spot about 500 yards away, Laurie took a photograph, from inside the car, which Cofelice later sent to the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill. for scrutiny. (John Timmerman, an associate in the organization's Ohio office, said that the picture, which shows merely a round light against a dark background, does not seem to be the moon "or an out-of-focus anything else. I'm inclined to think they saw something unusual, but we cannot identify what.")

In mid-March 1982, a Fairfield woman, who asked not to be identified, was driving along Vermont 36 towards St. Albans at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. She spotted what looked to her like "two black swastikas, as big as two large dogs, flying along without any noise."

When added to a list of almost two dozen reported sightings, particularly in Richford and Windsor, the Franklin County incidents give the winter of 1982 an eerie flavor. Police and firefighters were among the many citizens talking about strange activities in the skies.

But what about this year? Is a return engagement likely? Since the beginning of the month, there have been only scattered reports from

Island Pond and Derby. Back in Bakersfield, however, these sightings are given a contemporary as well as historical context, through the stories told by Doris and Lemond Bovat.

Farmers on the same land for half a century, the Bovats, with a breath-taking view of the surrounding mountains, live just barely over the East Fairfield line. It is beautiful, rugged, remote country that local residents call Lost Nation.

Lemond claims to have twice seen extraordinary objects. Twenty-five years ago, it was something that looked like a full moon, moving so low to the ground and so fast towards him, that he jumped into a ditch for fear of being hit. Twenty years ago, it was a more oblong UFO, with multi-colored lights. He thinks they must have been "meteors that fall from the moon."

Doris Bovat, who says she has been seeing large, low-flying lights for years — most recently in early February — pinpoints her most unique sighting as an afternoon encounter a decade ago.

"I was looking out the doorway," she recalled. "And I saw this rounded, pale orange disc about four or five hundred feet up in the air, moving pretty fast, north to south. I ran out of the house to watch it. It looked like a pretty good-sized washtub. To me, it was a miracle."

Doris said she watched as this object appeared to crash in the woods of a mountaintop.

None of these sightings surprise her, though, because the hills were always alive with the sound of UFO tales. As she was growing up, Doris remembers hearing people in the area talk about small, round, red lights that were often seen flying around in the bushes.

One summer night in 1975, Robert Nickson and a friend were stargazing from inside his Lost Nation cabin, with the door open and a candle the only source of illumination. A basketball-sized object suddenly appeared, hovering about eight feet off the ground, he said. It was a round, red light that came within 15 feet of the couple.

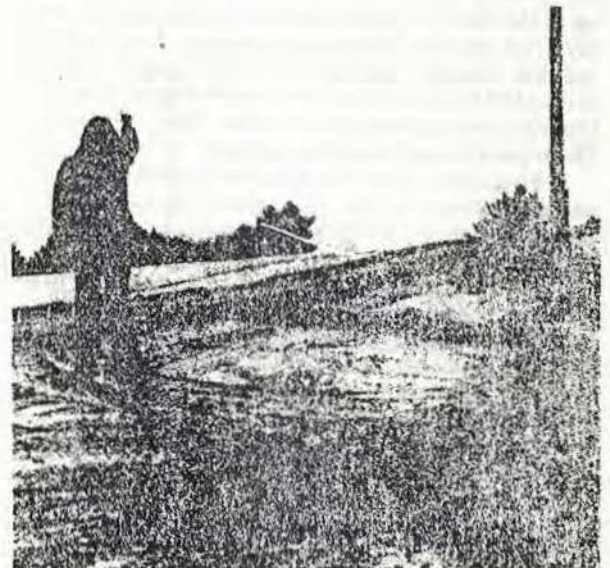
"It made a sort of ticking noise every few seconds," said Nickson, who teaches at Syracuse University.

When he invited the object to come in, it took off. "The whole thing lasted about one minute," Nickson said. "I don't know if it was a UFO or some sort of ball lightning. I suppose it can be ascribed to a number of possible other phenomena. All I can say with certainty is that it was an unusual orb with a glowing emanation."



'I was about a mile and a half out of Bakersfield when I saw a large, white light moving slowly, quite low in the sky. At first, I thought it was a plane about to land, so I flashed my car headlights to warn it off the road. And then it started coming towards me.'

— Aubre Brogden



Laurie Cofelice points to the spot where the lights reappeared. "At exactly 7:50 again, the lights came at us from the west. Through the binoculars, they looked like two red-orange balls of fire," Joe Cofelice says.