



Massachusetts

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #43

June, 1987

Editor/State Director James Melesciuc - 43 Harrison Street, Reading, MA 01867 USA
Hotline - (617)944-0686

June is the Month for UFO Conventions

June 12-14 is the 24th annual National UFO Conference (NUFOC) to be held in Burbank, California.

June 21 - One-day forum sponsored by the New York Center for UFO Research. Scheduled speakers include Antonio Huneus, Peter Gersten, Budd Hopkins, Philip Imbrogno and Bob Bletchman. Further information may be obtained by phoning 212-995-0384.

June 26-28 is the annual MUFON convention to be held in Washington, D.C. and sponsored by the Fund for UFO Research. Details can be obtained from Fred Whiting, Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712.

Mass. MUFON members nominated to represent Mass. MUFON at the symposium in Washington, D.C. are listed below:

Vic and Margie Zeller
Steve Firmani
Mary Pare
Jules Vaillancourt
Barry Greenwood
Joe and Diana Santangelo
Merlyn and Joe Sheehan
Jim and Joanne Melesciuc

Joanne Bruno
Eric Jacobson
Martha Munroe
Charlotte M. Cobb
Joe and Joan Nyman
Diana DeSimone
Leonard Silverman
Rick and Marina Giordano

Center for UFO Studies Now in Chicago

The J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) has moved to a new location in Chicago. The new office, located at 2457 W. Peterson, Chicago, IL 60659, provides more space to house the Center's extensive files of UFO cases and its library of UFO materials.

Founded by astronomer J. Allen Hynek in 1973, CUFOS was the first research facility established by a scientist and dedicated to the investigation, research, and analysis of UFO reports. CUFOS maintains a nationwide network of experienced field investigators who follow up on promising cases.

The new office also houses the case files of the defunct National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), founded in 1957 by USMC Major Donald E. Keyhoe (ret.) The NICAP files contain the original reports of many of the classic UFO cases of the 1950s and 1960s, including the Socorro (N. Mex.) landing of 1964 and the Betty and Barney Hill abduction.

For further information, contact the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 W. Peterson, Chicago, IL 60659; (312) 271-3611.

News from Woodside Planetarium and Observatory

MUFON Director for UFO Investigations Ray Fowler informs Mass. MUFON Bantam Publishing company is going to reprint The Andreasson Affair. Wiley Streiber will be writing an endorsement on the book's cover. Also, Prentice-Hall will be negotiating with Bantam to sell paperback rights for The Andreasson Affair - Phase Two. Ray also informs us that he is still working with "Yankee Magazine" on a story to be published in the winter.

Now You Know

By United Press International
The planet Jupiter, the largest in our solar system, has a diameter of 88,748 miles, 11 times that of Earth.

By United Press International
The sun is a 5 billion-year-old star, which it is estimated will exist for another 5 billion years.



CLASSIFIEDS

Correction: In last month's newsletter the price of an annual subscription rate for The UFO Intelligence Summary was listed as \$6.00 which included postage and handling. This subscription rate does not include postage and handling.

Still searching for the "UFO Controversy in America" authored by Dr. David Jacobs. If you know where a hardcover copy of this book can be obtained, please call (617) 944-0686.

Radio-TV Log

May 6 - 11:30 p.m. "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson. Whitley Streiber was guest.
May 14 - "20/20" carried a half hour UFO segment.
May 14 - "The Larry King Show" carried a debate between Phil Klass and Dale Goudie.
May 25 - "Oprah Winfrey Show" featured guests Budd Hopkins and Phil Klass.
May 25 - "People Are Talking" had Stan Friedman and Gary Kinder as guests.
May 26 - Budd Hopkins was a guest on WHDH radio.
June 3 - Gary Kinder was a guest on "Nightlife" on Channel 56.
June 4&5 - WBZ radio, Paul Harvey "Voice of America" reported he received documents from CUFOS confirming rumors of a crash/retrieval in 1947. The documents also mentioned MJ 12 and photos of the downed object, parts of the object and recovery of alien bodies. He stated that the documents needed further research and he will report on this again at a later date.
June 9 - Whitley Streiber was interviewed on P.M. Magazine.

UFO Reports

Summer, 1979 - Two witnesses observed an object hovering by their house. This is a possible CEII case with animal reaction. Anonymity was requested in this case. See computer printout.

April 14, 1987 - Possible natural phenomena or space junk reentry. Refer to computer printout.

May 15, 1987 - Paul Harvey, "Voice of America" reported that several people including police officers, observed objects in the Denver-Colorado area. He also reported that NORAD had these objects on their radar system. See newsclipping.

Time Capsule

10 years ago

July 21, 1977: Dr. Frank Press, Presidential science advisor, wrote to Dr. Robert Frosch, NASA administrator, requesting NASA to review the UFO situation.

13 years ago

May, 1964: The official publication date of NICAP's The UFO Evidence, a 200,000 word documentary report. Due to a publication delay, copies were not actually available until late June. Copies were circulated to news media and every member of Congress on July 1. Many comments about the report, as a challenge to the Air Force position, appeared in the national and world press in the following two weeks.

22 years ago

January 19: In the midst of a flurry of Washington, D.C. UFO sightings, a CIA representative contacted Richard Hall, assistant director of NICAP, and questioned him about NICAP's investigative methods. The agent expressed interest in specific cases.

31 years ago

May, 1956: Greene-Rouse documentary film UFO released, with former Air Force personnel Al Chop, Dewey Fournet, and Edward Ruppelt as adviser/consultants. The first serious documentary based on real USAF cases, including interviews with such witnesses as Captain Willis T. Sperry of American Airlines; and showing of the 1950 Great Falls, Montana film and 1952 Tremonton, Utah film, with interviews of the photographers, Nick Mariana and Delbert Newhouse.

40 years ago

September 23: Letter from General Nathan Twining, Air Technical Intelligence (ATIC - later Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center), to Commanding General U.S. Air Force, concluding that UFOs were real disklike objects and recommending a detailed study.

STICK WITH THE FACTS

By James Melesciuc, Mass. MUFON State Director

On May 14, 1987, CNN carried a debate between UFO researcher Dale Goudie and Phil Klass. Topics such as government documents, photos, and physical traces were discussed. Points and counterpoints were made throughout the program. When the subject matter focused on the 1952 Washington radar/visuals, Klass tried to explain it as temperature inversions. He completely ignored the fact that scores of pilots, radar controllers, ground personnel and other individuals filed UFO "Sighting" reports. Ironically, Dale Goudie also overlooked the visual sightings during the debate. One must always keep in mind that when debating Klass you must present him with the facts and put him on the defensive.

Fact - July 19 and 20, 11:40 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. UFOs appeared on two radar-scopes at the Air Traffic Control Center Washington National Airport. Several airline crews reported seeing these same objects. The visual sighting corresponded with the radar targets.

Fact - The Air Defense command scrambled two F-94 jet fighters from the 142nd Fighter Interceptor squadron. Personnel in the Air Traffic Control Center directed the F94s to the target area. As they closed in the objects disappeared. Ground personnel reported seeing objects at this time. There were reports at this time that other airline pilots saw the objects but were reluctant to file reports due to the ridicule factor.

Fact - July 26. Again Air Traffic Control Center tracked unidentified objects. At Langley Air Force Base a jet was scrambled. The pilot spotted a light which disappeared when he attempted approach. The targets reappeared when the jet returned.

Fact - July 26, 3:00 a.m. Jets were scrambled again. One of the interceptors piloted by Lt. William Patterson made visual contact. Patterson described them as tremendous blue and white lights. As he made his approach the objects surrounded his interceptor. As the air traffic controller watched the blips on the radar scope cluster around his craft, he asked them in a nervous voice what he should do. There was a stunned silence; no one answered. After a tense moment the UFOs pulled away and left the area. The incident was confirmed by Al Chop, the Air Force spokesperson on UFOs at the time.

In one of the interviews with the press, Lt. Patterson said, "I tried to make contact with the bogies below 1000 ft., but the traffic controllers vectored us around. I saw several bright lights. I was at my maximum speed, but even then I had no closing speed. I ceased chasing them because I saw no chance of overtaking them. I was vectored into new objects. Later I chased a single bright light which I estimated about 10 miles away. I lost visual contact with it at about 2 miles." Other aviation personnel who had tracked unidentified targets or sighted them were H. Barnes (senior air traffic controller), E. Nugent, J. Copeland and J. Richy (radar controllers). All had 10 or more unidentified targets at one time on radar. Some of the radar unknowns coincided with visual sightings by Capt. Casey Pierman, a Capital Airlines pilot who saw 7 UFOs maneuvered in all directions, and at times they hovered. Control tower operator H. Cochlin saw yellow-orange lights gyrating low in the northwest were radar indicated it was. Another Capital Airlines pilot, Capt Dermott, watched an unidentified light follow his plane to within 4 miles of National airport; radar also showed this object.



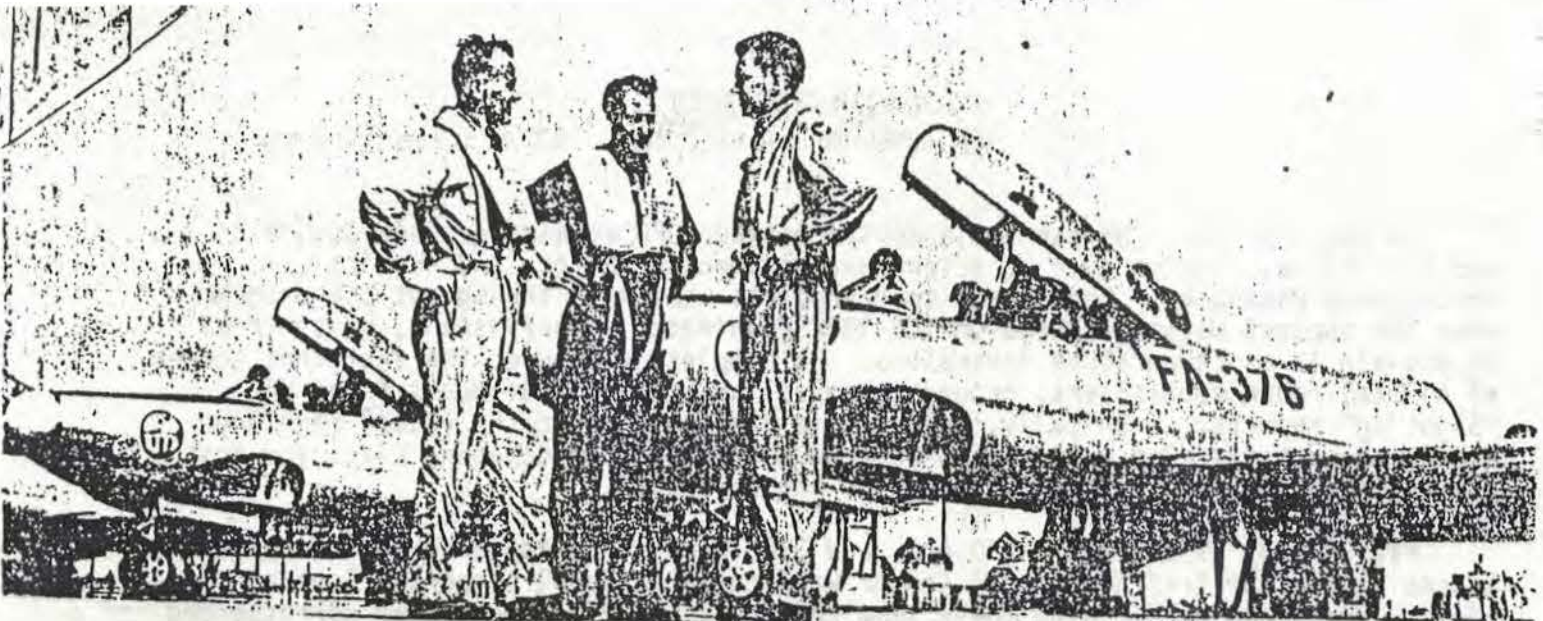
Harry Barnes, chief of radar at Washington's CAA control center, works radar scope.

The Air Force, anxious to quell public anxiety over the sightings, held a press conference which was the most heavily attended one since World War II. The Air Force explained that the radar and visual sightings were due to mirage effects created by double temperature inversions. Weeks later, after scientists made it clear that the Air Force's explanation had been grossly insufficient to cause highly qualified radar observers to be so completely mistaken, the Air Force reclassified the sightings as unknowns.

Continued



By United Press International
The atmosphere of Venus is composed of about 96 percent carbon dioxide.



Members of the 142nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron were scrambled over Washington D.C. in pursuit of elusive objects.

In July, 1952 the U.S. Air Force received approximately 536 reports from all over the country. The Washington radar/visuals marked the high point of the 1952 flap. These reports are the most highly publicized UFO sightings in the Blue Book files.

News clippings Glenwood Springs Colorado sightings.

May 23, 1987

Lights in the sky fuel UFO interest

By CAROLYN DOUGHERTY
Rocky Mountain News Aspen Bureau

ASPEN — Earthlings might not be the only tourists visiting western Colorado this summer, UFO aficionados said yesterday.

Bright, multicolored lights that appeared on the horizon northwest of Glenwood Springs last week prompted about 25 people to gather yesterday in Aspen for a talk by Bruce Maccabee, a research physicist with the Navy and chairman of the Fund for UFO Research.

"We have to rethink our position in the universe," said Maccabee, who has studied UFO sightings for about 20 years.

The colored dots of light spotted between 11 p.m. and midnight high above the Glenwood Springs Mall last Monday and Wednesday have not reappeared, said Lt. Don Williams of the Glenwood Springs Police Department.

"It's been cloudy every single night since then," Williams said. "I know, because I've been standing out there, in the buff sometimes, looking."

A military spokesman said last week it was unlikely the lights were reflections from satellites, and astronomers ruled out the aurora borealis, or northern lights.

"About half the town," including several police officers, saw the dots of light, Williams said.

Williams said he is "neither a believer or a disbeliever" in UFOs.

"I don't think we should be vain enough to think we are the only people in our universe," he said. "But one of those little creatures is going to have to come on down and talk to me and wave its finger at me and levitate to convince me for good."

Maccabee said that's not impossible. Visitors from other parts of the universe have become increasingly daring over the past four decades, even abducting some humans, he said.

"It seems there are some sort of biological experiments going on on the people of this planet, carried out by someone else," Maccabee said.

He said a recent public opinion poll showed two-thirds of Americans believe that UFOs might or probably exist.

Remaining skeptics will be convinced, Maccabee said, when scientists from 12 countries gather at the International Symposium on Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon in Washington, D.C., June 26-28.

They will present evidence that the U.S. government has orchestrated a coverup of UFO sightings, he said.

Snowflake

The Greek word "krylos," or frost, is the correct word for a snowflake. A snowflake is formed when hydrogen and oxygen atoms are held together by electric charges. Size and elaborateness of a snowflake is determined by the temperature at which it is formed.



May 16, 1987

Eerie lights stir UFO hunt in Glenwood

By DEBORAH FRAZIER
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Mysterious lights sparked briefly over Glenwood Springs this week, inspiring speculation about unidentified flying objects, northern lights and satellites.

Dozens of residents, including four police officers, spotted the bright, multicolored lights in the sky northwest of town both Monday and Wednesday night, Lt. Don Williams of the Glenwood Springs Police Department said yesterday.

"We've had a number of people calling in, including several police officers, reporting seeing strange lights about the size and brightness of a star," said Williams.

He said the lights, spotted above Storm King Mountain, varied in color from green to red to blue. They appeared about 11 p.m. and vanished within 30 minutes. "Everybody is going out at that time of night so they can see for themselves."

A police officer who studied the lights through a small telescope said the phenomenon could be solar reflections from stationary satellites, said Williams, but another officer using the same telescope said the lights looked more like headlights than stars.

Williams discounted speculations about the aurora borealis, the curtain of multicolored lights that is rarely visible in Colorado, because the lights were dots, not a sheet.

"We're not really speculating about what it is," said Williams, a UFO buff. "There's nothing I'd like more than to see a UFO, but I don't have a real strong feeling about this."

Officials at the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder said they'd heard reports, but had no explanation.

"We don't have the mission or means of investigating that sort of thing," said Del Kindschi, a public affairs officer at NORAD. He said an Air Force study on UFOs ended in 1969, and there is no ongoing research.

Joe Allen, chief of the solar, terrestrial physics division at NOAA, said the descriptions didn't match characteristics of the aurora borealis or solar reflections.

"I don't know of anything that could explain points of light hanging above the horizon in western Colorado," he said.

SUNDAY 31 MAY 1987

OBSERVER

And now... if you've read enough about the election, here's news from another world

Close encounters of an alien kind

BODIES of four 'aliens' from a crashed UFO (unidentified flying object) were recovered and examined by a special American Government team 40 years ago, according to a top-secret 'document' obtained by a British researcher.

A bitter debate is now likely to develop among UFO experts over the existence of a mysterious committee, code-named Majestic-12, which is supposed to have examined the aliens.

The highly classified briefing paper claims that the then head of the CIA, Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, reported that 'although these creatures are human-like in appearance, the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development have apparently been quite different from those observed or postulated in *homo sapiens*'.

The document, which has been shown to *The Observer* by Timothy Good, Britain's leading UFO researcher, purports to be a briefing paper for President-elect Eisenhower on Operation Majestic-12, also known as MJ-12.

In his book 'Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up', to be published by Sidgwick & Jackson on 9 July, Mr Good claims that MJ-12 was a committee of senior US officials which investigated and then covered

up news of flying saucer crashes.

Other UFO experts believe the story could be a hoax involving the planting of a fake supporting White House memo in the files of Air Force Intelligence and then getting the National Archives officially to declassify a forged document.

The Eisenhower briefing paper, dated 18 November, 1952, claims the MJ-12 committee had been set up by his predecessor, President Truman, on 24 September, 1947, as a 'top secret research and development/intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the President of the United States'.

The document reports that on 24 June 1947, 'disc-shaped aircraft' were sighted in the United States.

'Little was learned about the objects until a local rancher reported that one had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico, about 75 miles north-west of Roswell Army Air Base (now Walker Field).

'On 7 July 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site.'

by MARTIN BAILEY

According to the briefing paper: 'All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week of time which had elapsed before their discovery.'

'A covert analytical effort resulted in a preliminary consensus (19 September 1947) that the disc was most likely a short-range reconnaissance craft...'

The Majestic-12 Group remains of the unanimous opinion that imposition of the strictest security precautions should continue without interruption into the new Administration.'

Inquiries by *The Observer* at the National Archives, the archives of former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, and the National Security Council archives, have been unable to authenticate the briefing paper. They all say that extensive searches have failed to locate copies of the document.

There is, however, new evidence from the files of US Intelligence that a secret group called MJ-12 did exist. This is a White House memorandum to General Twining informing him about an 'MJ-12' briefing for President Eisenhower. It was declassified on 12 January 1987.

The White House memorandum was described by the National

Archives last week as 'a very strange document.'

Archivist Joanna Williamson said: 'It was found in the files of the US Air Force's Director of Intelligence and is certainly genuine, but we have found no minutes of the MJ-12 meeting, which was scheduled for just two days later. It is very surprising that there are no other papers on MJ-12, and we have no idea what it was.'

If the White House memorandum is genuine, this proves the existence of an MJ-12 group whose responsibility could have covered UFOs. This would then strengthen Mr Good's view that there was a cover-up of the discovery of dead aliens. However, US UFO writer Mr Bary Greenwood has raised an intriguing question suggesting that there could have been a very sophisticated fraud.

'There are some things that look wrong with the White House memo. For example, it is unsigned. It is just possible that it was manufactured by someone wanting to prove the existence of MJ-12 and then inserted into Air Force Intelligence records which had recently been opened up to the public.'

'The hoaxer could then have ordered a copy from the National Archives which would carry the official declassification stamp. MJ-12 may well have existed but more research is needed to authenticate the documents,' he said.

WARNING! This is a TOP SECRET - EYES ONLY document containing compartmentalized information essential to the national security of the United States. EYES ONLY ACCESS to the material herein is strictly limited to those possessing Majestic-12 clearance

ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery. A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. (See Attachment "C".) The wreckage

Extract from the Majestic-12 'document.'

London, England

Now you know!

By United Press International
Enough heat from the sun reaches the surface of the Earth in one year to melt a layer of ice 466 feet thick over the entire globe. If the Earth were made of ice, the sun would melt it in 14,981 years.



Now you know!

By United Press International
The longest recorded period for which any volunteer has been able to withstand total deprivation of stimulation to the senses of sight, hearing and touch is 92 hours, recorded in 1962 at Lancaster Moor Hospital, England.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, June 26, 7:00 p.m.: Reception, International Relations Building.
(Registration desk on-site for those not registered in advance.)

Saturday, June 27:

7:30 a.m. - on, Registration, Ward Circle Building.

8:30 a.m. Opening remarks, Bruce S. Maccabee, Ph.D., Host Chairman
and Walter H. Andrus, Jr., International Director

9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon:

From Arnold to Hynek: The End of an Era by David M. Jacobs, Ph.D.

The Italian Scene, 1947-1987: A Roundup by Dr. Roberto Pinotti

Scientific Approach and Results of Studies Into Unidentified
Aerospace Phenomena in France by J-J. Velasco

Correlation Between the UFO Phenomenon and Its Associated Entities
by Captain Daniel A. Perisse (Argentina)

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.: Lunch Break.

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

UFO Research in Britain by Hilary Evans

UFOs and India: Ancient and Contemporary by Kanishk Nathan

A Historical Survey of UFO Cases in Chile by J. Antonio Huneeus

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.:

Contributed papers presented in two parallel sessions.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.: Banquet (not included in \$30 per person cost of
registration; seating limited, make reservations at \$20 per person).

Banquet Speaker: William L. "Bill" Moore, author of The Roswell
Incident and noted UFO crash/retrieval investigator.

8:30 p.m. to -- (probably when American University closes and locks
up the Ward Circle Building for the night):

Panel Discussion on Abduction Cases featuring Budd Hopkins (author
of Missing Time and Intruders), Whitley Strieber (author of
Communion), Eddie Bullard (abduction case catalogue and analysis
sponsored by the Fund for UFO Research) and others to be announced.

Sunday, June 28:

8:30 a.m.: Displays, films, book sales, etc. open.

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Contributed papers in parallel sessions.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon:

History and Cultural Interpretations of UFOs in Southern Africa,
1947 - 1987 by Cynthia Hind

The UFO Mystery in Australia by Bill Chalker

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon: Mutual UFO Network, Inc. Board of Directors
Meeting. (Private).

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.: Lunch Break

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.:

Forty Years of Ufology in Sweden by Bertil Kuhlemann

Ufology in Uruguay and Brazil by Willy Smith, Ph.D.

The History of UFOs in Canada by Stanton T. Friedman

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.: Panel Discussion on UFOs, the U.S. Air Force, and
other governments responses to the UFO question. Participants will
include U.S. and foreign national representatives most knowledgeable
about the actions and reactions of their respective governments to
UFO reports. Panelists will include Barry J. Greenwood (co-author
of Clear Intent); Bill Moore, Stanton Friedman, Jenny Zeidman, Bill
Chalker, and others.

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.: Final Contributed papers.

A total of 24 contributed papers have been submitted for the three
scheduled parallel sessions. Some of these contributed papers will
be presented by: Dr. James W. Deardorff, Tom Benson, Dr. Virgilio
Sanchez-Ocejo, Vincent Di Pietro, Donald R. Schmitt, Thomas E.
Bullard, Barry J. Greenwood, Dr. Daniel H. Harris, Dr. Bertil
Kuhlemann, Stanton T. Friedman, and many others.

Note: A schedule of contributed papers will be available at the symposium
along with the program agenda.

#24 27-APR-1987 14:52:32
From: WILVAX::L... "LCD DTN
To: WMOIS::S_FIRMANI,WILVAX::
Subj: Past sighting info

M

Steve,

I got better information this weeken concerning the year. It happened during the summer of 1979 (our daughter was born in December of that year and we remembered that my wife was pregnant at the time). The persons who actually saw the UFO were my wife's sister (Kathleen A. , age 18 at the time) and my wife (Caryl A. , age 20 at the time). I was 21 at the time . My wife and I were living at her parents house.

In brief summary, my wife and her sister were up late watching tv (around 12:30 a.m.). My wife was tired and went off to bed. Kathy said that Caryl

Press RETURN for more...

MAIL>

#24 27-APR-1987 14:52:32 M
had just gone to bed when the living room started to light up with different flashing colors. The dog started to growl at the picture window. Kathy got up off the couch to see what the flashing colors were. She noticed that the tv no longer had sound to it. When she looked out the window, she immediately saw the UFO in a hovering state in front of the window (at this time approx. 30 ft above the ground). She immediately called my wife in the living room. My wife looked out the picture window and saw the UFO then backed away from the window. My wife said that when she looked out the window, it was slowly going up. After it went up, the lights and the tv were ok but the dog was still growling out the window.

When I came in from my second job, I immediatly noticed how quiet it was. I mean there were NO crickets chirping. And I distinctly listened for the crickets after a couple of cars went by on the road. I said to myself, "Wow, what a nice quiet night". When I got to the front door, my wife and my sister asked "Who's there!". I said "Me! Jim! Why?"(I was surprised to find my wife still awake). My wife said "Get in here quick and lock the door!" I got in and asked why they were holding the fireplace poker and shaking. They said "Did you see it!". I said "See what?". "The UFO! Did you see the UFO!".

Press RETURN for more...

MAIL>

#24

27-APR-1987 14:52:32

M

I said "No". They said "It happened three or four minutes just before you came in!".

About 15 minutes after I came in, her parents came back from the drive-in theater. When they came in, I remember going back out to see if the crickets were still quiet. When I got out, the crickets were chirping away like they always do.

That's it. To this day, family members snicker at the incident. But my wife and her sister are not the type to make up stories to be laughed at.

Steve, I trust you will keep this confidential. It would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Press RETURN for more...

MAIL>

#24

27-APR-1987 14:52:32

MA

Jim

MAIL>

LOCATION AND LAST NAMES ARE WITHHELD
FROM THIS REPORT

parX14-APR-B703

Unexplained Light Streaks Across Southwestern Skies

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A bright light streaked across skies in the Southwest, prompting scores of calls to government agencies, but officials were at a loss to explain the phenomenon.

The object, which authorities said could be a meteorite, was seen from Arizona to California and south of the Mexican border, according to reports that started coming in shortly before 9 p.m. Monday.

"It was described as something on fire, like a ball of fire in the sky," said Martha Pfrommer, a dispatcher with the California Department of Forestry in Riverside. "Apparently everybody was reporting it as a plane crash."

Beth Kilgore, a spokesman for the North American Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., said the light did not result from any man-made object such as a satellite or missile.

"We have checked and double-checked and we have no debris that has entered at that point that would cause this," said Kilgore.

San Diego County sheriff's dispatcher Stephanie Simpson said

More -->

Press HELP for options.

Associated Press Tue 14-APR-1987 03:29

Sky Lights (cont'd)

deputies had been sent out to look for wreckage, but had found nothing and believed the light was from a meteorite.

As many as 50 calls had come in to various agencies in inland California, Pfrommer said.

Calls to the Forestry Department came in from Hesperia, in the Mojave Desert northeast of Los Angeles, to near the Mexican border about 80 miles to the south, she said.

NORAD received calls from Tucson, Ariz., from south of the Mexican border and from San Diego and San Bernardino in California, Kilgore said.

Based on the timing of the reports, the object streaked roughly north to south.

Press HELP for options.