

Minnesota MUFON Journal

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Directors Report

Note: As of Jan. 1st, 2004 Bill McNeff and Dick Moss switched their Minnesota MUFON official roles. Dick became State Dir. and Bill, Assistant State Dir.
- Joel Henry, Ed.

The Kinross Case by Dick Moss

The Kinross Air Field, in Michigan's upper peninsula south of Sault Sainte Marie, was established in 1941 as a refueling stop for aircraft going to Alaska. In 1959 it was renamed Kincheloe Air Force Base. The jet fighter that was lost in the account described below began its UFO chase from the Kinross Air Field.

On the evening of November 23, 1953 a Northrup F-89C Scorpion interceptor piloted by Lt. Felix Moncla with 2nd Lt. Robert Wilson in the back seat, was ordered to investigate a mysterious radar return. The unknown object was flying over restricted air space near the Soo Locks and a decision was made that it should be investigated.

After being airborne, Ground Control Intercept guided them toward the target. When the jet got closer the object changed course out over Lake Superior. After about thirty minutes Moncla and Wilson were heading west and had climbed to 30,000 feet at a speed of 500 mph. They were then directed to descend to 7000 feet and change direction toward east-northeast.

The controller was attempting to determine whether the crew had established visual contact with the object when the two blips unexpectedly intersected and merged together as one. Perhaps either Moncla had speeded up or the object had abruptly slowed down. The single blip remained on the scope for a moment and then headed north and was quickly lost on the radar. Search and rescue planes were immediately ordered to the area. Despite an extensive search, no trace of wreckage was found.

The search was still in progress when a spokesman at Truax Field (Madison, Wisconsin) gave the Associated Press this official release, "The plane was followed by radar until it merged with an object 70 miles off Keweenaw Point in upper Michigan." This statement appeared in an early edition of the Chicago Tribune with the headline, JET, TWO ABOARD, VANISHES OVER LAKE SUPERIOR. In view of Air Force secrecy on UFOs, this was a surprising admission. Then, the AF killed the story and denied that the jet had merged with anything and that the radar operators had misread the scope. They claimed that the UFO had been a Canadian Air Force C-47 on a flight between



Minnesota Mufon Meetings

Sat., Mar. 13th
1:30-5pm
&
Sat., Apr. 10th
1:30-5pm

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Service Center
400 - 10th St. NW
(located 1/4-mile S.W.
of Hwy 694 and 35W.)**

PARK FREE!

**The building is designated as
non-smoking.**

See map on back cover

**(Note: The building has no
special security, so you can
come and go as you please
and smoke outdoors. There
are elevators for those who
may need them.)**

Winnipeg and Sudbury which the F-89 had intercepted and identified. After this, the AF speculated, the pilot had been stricken with vertigo and crashed into the lake.

This incident was never officially labeled as a UFO case and was investigated by air safety experts. Transcripts describing communications between Moncla and the radar controllers have never been released. UFO debunker Dr. Donald Menzel agreed with this version of the event which stated that the pilot probably suffered vertigo and crashed. Further, the radar had picked up a phantom echo caused by atmospheric conditions that caused the echo to merge with the jet's radar returns which then disappeared upon impacting the water.

The USAF Report of Aircraft Accident from the Headquarters Air Force Safety Agency contained, among many other data, the following: On 23 November 1953, F-89c, Serial No. 51-5853A, was scrambled by Naples GCI to intercept and identify an unknown aircraft flying over Lake Superior. The interceptor became airborne from Kinross Air Force Base, Michigan, at 1822 EST. Original radar control of the aircraft was maintained by Naples GCI and, at 1841 EST, control was transferred to Pillow GCI. The aircraft was flying at 30,000 feet at this time. At 1847 EST, at the request of Pillow, the aircraft descended to 7,000 feet to begin the interception. Location of the aircraft was then approximately 150 miles northeast of Kinross AFB and over northern Lake Superior. At 1851 EST the interceptor pilot was requested to turn to a heading of 20 degrees to the cut-off vector. After the turn was completed, the pilot was advised that the unidentified aircraft was at 11 o'clock and 10 miles distant. Radar returns from both aircraft were then seen to merge on Pillows radar scope. The radar return from the other aircraft indicated it was continuing on its original flight path, while the return from the F-89 disappeared from the GCI stations radar scope.

The unknown aircraft being intercepted was said to be a Royal Canadian Air Force Dakota (C-47), Serial No. VC-912, flying from Winnipeg to Sudbury, Canada. At the time of interception, it was crossing northern Lake Superior from west to east at 7,000 feet. In 1961, a NICAP member wrote to the RCAF concerning the Kinross incident to verify the C-47 identification. The reply stated, "Thank you for your letter of April 4 requesting information regarding an 'Unidentified Flying Object' on November 23, 1953. A check of Royal Canadian Air

Force records has revealed no report of an incident involving an RCAF aircraft in the Lake Superior area on the above date. (Flight Lt. C. F. Page, for Chief of the Air Staff, RCAF, to Jon Mikulich, 4-14-61).

Later, another NICAP member wrote to the RCAF and received an even more specific denial that any Canadian aircraft was intercepted by a U.S. jet. The spokesman added, "as you stated, the C-47 was traveling on a flight plan taking it over Canadian territory; this alone would seem to make such an intercept unlikely."

There are two interpretations of what happened over Lake Superior that night: (1) Air Force radar tracked a UFO, the F-89 closed in to investigate, collided with or was in some manner destroyed by the UFO (as indicated by the blips merging on radar, the fact that radar contact was lost after the blips merged, and the fact that no trace of the fully-equipped all-weather aircraft has been found.) Or, Air Force radar tracked a temporarily unidentified RCAF plane, the F-89 intercepted it, made the identification and then crashed for unknown reasons.

The latter explanation does not account for what was observed on radar; it assumes that expert radar men cannot read radar scopes. The RCAF has no record of such an incident although a flight plan allegedly was filed. If there was such a flight, it would have been entirely over Canadian territory. Because of international identification networks between Canada and the U.S., its flight plan would have been known to the radar stations and there would have been no need for the intercept mission. The F-89 was originally reported to be chasing an "unidentified object."

The Air Force information sheet on this case states: "It is presumed by the officials at Norton AFB [Flying Safety Division] that the pilot probably suffered from vertigo and crashed into the lake." Judging by weather reports at the time, the pilot would have been on instruments, so that vertigo (dizziness resulting from visual observation) would be an extremely unlikely explanation. Even if the F-89 was not on instruments at the time, there is no explanation as to why radar tracked it 160 miles out over the lake and then lost contact just after the blips appeared to merge.

An interesting twist is contained in a document obtained through FOIA by Robert Todd which

reads, "Still again in November, an F-89 of Detachment #1, Kinross AFB, Michigan, took off on an active Air Defense mission and disappeared. GCI had control of the fighter and was directing it from 25,000 feet down to 7000 ft. The fighter and bogey blips merged on the radar scope and there was no further transmission from the fighter. The bogey was not aware of any aircraft in the area, and CGI saw no blips break off from the target. Both pilot and observer are missing and officially listed as dead.

The last sentence implies that the unidentified radar target that Moncla was pursuing when his fighter disappeared was in radio contact with controllers at some point, and therefore was not a UFO, i.e.: "the bogey was not aware of any aircraft in the area."

The Air Force sent two officers to the families of the lost airmen to relay official messages of sympathy. According to letters from a relative of Moncla the representatives told Moncla's widow that the pilot had flown too low while identifying the supposed Canadian airliner and had crashed into the lake. Due to a headquarters mix-up, a second officer was sent to extend condolences to the family. When Moncla's widow asked if her husband's body might be recovered, the officer said there was no chance because the jet had exploded at a high altitude, destroying the plane and its crew.

Today one can visit Lt. Moncla's memorial headstone at a cemetery in Moreauville, Louisiana, which reads: In Loving Memory of Gene Felix Moncla, Jr. 1st Lt. United States Air Force, Born October 21, 1926. Disappeared November 23, 1953 Intercepting an UFO Over Canadian Border as Pilot of a F-89 Jet Plane.

Jerome Clark's The UFO Book contains a short summary of this incident along with narratives suggesting other losses of airplanes to UFOs.

Clark's 2003 book, Strange Skies, has more to say about the Kinross Case and includes material that emphasizes the difficulties in trying to find a definitive answer.

Information on this event can also be found on various websites and in several other books. Any readers who wish to further research the Kinross Case can type the following into Google and access informative websites. There are many others.

classicufocase67 - disappearance two pilots, 1953, ufo casebook files kinross tragedy directory (First five items in list), kinross ufx.org, nuforc case brief - two air force pilots vanish chasing ufo 50 years ago.

PHYSICAL TRACES ASSOCIATED WITH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

An Interim Report - RESULTS OF PROCESSING DATA 1490 - 2004

by Ted R. Phillips, CENTER FOR PHYSICAL TRACE RESEARCH

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents a statistical analysis of data given in 3,059 reports involving observations of anomalous phenomena or objects on or near the ground resulting in physical residues generated by the observed phenomena or objects. These observations took place in 91 countries between 1490 and 2004.

The analysis permits certain regularities of these phenomena to be brought out. The data indicates there is a certain type of phenomenon which shows stable statistical properties.

This research began in 1968 and after 36 years it is yet premature to consider the nature of these phenomena on the basis of the data presented to date. The developments of methods of obtaining more reliable data and expansion of the initial information used will result in a database of the most important piece of the UFO puzzle - physical evidence.

At this point there seems to be no relation to the more popular crop circles which are much larger and complex than UFO landing sites. The current problem is the inclination on the part of investigators to identify possible landing sites as crop circles - if it's circular, it must be a crop circle.

SUGGESTED FUTURE RESEARCH

To obtain more definite conclusions, more reliable and detailed data must be obtained. These events must be well documented and sampled for laboratory analysis. There needs to be a central repository for landing/physical evidence events.

Currently, the data is scattered among numerous investigators in many countries.

A central repository should produce interim reports to be available to the general public and serious investigators. This will produce new data and a much more complete database. The entire database should be available in some form as physical trace events will give us the most substantial evidence for - or against - the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects.

DISTRIBUTION OF EVENTS BY YEAR

Pre 1900	24 cases	0.78%
1900 - 1939	22 cases	0.72%
1940 - 1949	28 cases	0.92%
1950 - 1959	303 cases	9.91%
1960 - 1969	534 cases	17.46%
1970 - 1979	1109 cases	36.25%
1980 - 1989	498 cases	16.28%
1990 - 1999	435 cases	14.22%
2000 - 2004	106 cases	3.46%

PEAK YEAR DISTRIBUTION

1954	105 CASES	3.43%
1969	133 CASES	4.35%
1973	159 CASES	5.20%
1974	125 CASES	4.01%
1975	147 CASES	4.81%
1976	114 CASES	3.73%
1977	119 CASES	3.90%
1979	121 CASES	4.00%
1980	103 CASES	3.37%
TOTALS	1126 CASES	36.80%

PEAK TIME DISTRIBUTION (local times)

2300	256 cases
2000	251 cases
2100	245 cases
2200	200 cases
0200	142 cases
2400	137 cases
1900	137 cases
0400	124 cases
1700	119 cases
1800	98 cases

PEAK DISTRIBUTION COUNTRIES

United States	979 cases
France	245 cases
Canada	214 cases
Brazil	199 cases
Italy	184 cases
Australia	168 cases
England	168 cases

New Zealand	153 cases
Argentina	122 cases
Venezuela	93 cases

Total 2525 cases

PEAK DISTRIBUTION STATES

Missouri	43 cases
Iowa	39 cases
Illinois	38 cases
California	35 cases
Indiana	33 cases

Multiple Witness Events: 40.4% (1,236 cases)
Occupants/Beings Reported: 23.9% (731 cases)
More than one being seen: 63.2% (461 cases)
Being described as small: 57.1% (417 cases)

SHAPE DISTRIBUTION OF OBJECTS

Circular	57.2%
Oval	21.2%
Sphere	14.6%
Cylinder/Cigar	6.0%
Various Shapes	1.0%

OBJECT COLOR

Metallic	59.6%
Red	11.0%
White	10.1%
Orange-Red	5.5%
Orange	3.7%
Yellow	3.7%
Blue-White	2.8%
Green	2.8%
Gold	0.8%

SOUND RELATED TO OBJECT

Sound Heard	9.3%
Whistling	31.1%
Humming	22.6%
Hissing	11.3%
Buzzing	11.1%
Beeping	10.0%
"Electronic"	10.0%
Roaring	4.9%

Bush proposal to send man to Mars

BBC NEWS, 2004/01/09

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/science/nature/3381531.stm>

President George W Bush will announce proposals next week to send Americans to Mars, and back to the Moon. Senior US officials say he will also reveal plans for the construction of a permanent lunar space station. Mr. Bush intends to reinvigorate the US space program following setbacks, including the Columbia shuttle disaster, the officials report. The manned mission to Mars - where NASA successfully just landed a probe - is not expected for at least 10 years. Correspondents say Mr. Bush had been expected to propose a bold new space mission as part of his re-election campaign.

Lunar testing ground

The president's father proposed men be sent to Mars when he was in office in 1989 but the project went nowhere due to cost. "He invoked Columbus as they always do," said Bob Park, of the American Physical Society.

MANNED SPACE EXPLORATION

"He said like Columbus 'we dream of shores we've never seen' and went on to propose a return to the Moon and then on to Mars. And that lasted until they got a cost estimate." Sources say the current president will encourage scientists to prepare for the mission in a decade's time, allowing the costs to be spread over a number of years. The last time the US had men on the Moon was more than 30 years ago. As the Moon is just three days away, while Mars is at least six months away, it is thought the former could become a testing ground for space equipment. "We know more about the Moon and if you want to test technology that is going to keep people alive, it's better to do it on the Moon," Chris Welch, a lecturer in space technology, at Kingston University, UK, told the BBC.

"If anything goes wrong you can get back from the Moon in three or four days." As part of the Bush space initiative, there will reportedly be more exchanges of technology between the US space agency (NASA) and the Pentagon.

Sustaining supplies

It is hoped the exploration could lead to new technologies and potential new energy supplies. "I think it is a historic step to set out a plan that will take decades to achieve and will move people on a permanent basis off the surface of this planet - in the process of making this species a multi-planet

species," said John Logsdon, of the Space Policy Institute. "It is certainly a watershed point in history."

Experts say, however, that the costs and commitment required to get people to Mars, or even back to the Moon, should not be understated. "The cost of a manned enclave on the Moon, I think, is going to make the space station look cheap. That's the only good thing about it," Stanford University's Douglas Osheroff told AP.

In any event, "I think we're still 30 years from going to Mars and if there's any reason to do that, I don't know", he added. Wholly new rocket and capsule systems would have to be developed. Although the Moon is relatively close at a distance of 385,000 kilometers, a mission to Mars would require astronauts to live off Earth for several years.

Humans versus robots

The recent flurry of spacecraft that went to the Red Planet took six months to get to their destination and they made good use of the closest alignment of Mars and Earth in 60,000 years. Astronauts on Mars would have to have access to all the necessary air, food and water to sustain them on the surface for perhaps many months until the proper orbits allowed their safe return to Earth.

"I imagine they would take a rover with them," said Welch. "They would take several scientists - geologists, astrobiologists. The advantage of human beings is that they are more flexible than robots. Robots can do a lot but having multiple trained human beings there would tell us so much more." Europe has a plan dubbed Aurora which envisages putting people on Mars by about 2030.

© BBC MMIV

Mars - Sky Is Blue, Water and Green Algae by Stan Gordon

We spent millions of dollars sending the Viking Lander I to Mars in 1976. The world waited in great anticipation to see the first color images of Mars. At about 2:00 PM PDT on July 21, 1976, the first color image from the surface of another planet arrived at JPL in wonderful color. Mars showed its beautiful BLUE SKY, brown and reddish soil and rocks with patches of green. We never saw the true images because they were colored orange according

to the men who worked at the Viking Image Formatting and Processing section of JPL.

Mr. Van der Woude says, "Both Ron Wichelman and I were responsible for the color quality control of the Viking Lander photographs, and Dr. Tomas Mutch, the Viking Imaging Team Leader told us he got a call from the NASA Administrator asking that we destroy the Mars blue sky negative created from the digital data." The images were then falsely reddened to make it appear there was no life, no green algae or lichen on the planet. See "Mars the Living Planet" by Barry Digregorio, Dr. Gilbert Levin and Dr. Pat Straat. Page 142.

The book explains how the tests for existence of life on Mars were rigged to deny life. Dr. Gilbert V. Levin who was in charge of the Viking Lander experiments revealed that when the Mars soil was examined by on board instruments in a miniature laboratory there was a startling positive response indicating life. The tests showed the evidence for life everyone had agreed on prior to the mission. Dr. Levin strongly believes they found life on Mars in 1976, but NASA insisted the instrumentation must be faulty. The official NASA answer was to deny the existence of alien life despite strong scientific evidence because of the claimed absence of water. Yet many scientists knew the images also showed evidence of water. Until recently the discovery of water on Mars, which includes waterspouts and geysers was hidden. When I worked at Langley AFB, NASA personnel claimed space structures, and UFOs were regularly air brushed out of space photos. Many images of Mars still appear to be doctored. See BUFO Paranormal Radio at: <http://www.burlingtonnews.net/spiritmars.html>

Color correction info and images from Spirit and Opportunity can be seen at:
http://www.keithlaney.com/spirit_color_images_calibration.htm

For information on strange occurrences reported in Pennsylvania, and the Kecksburg UFO crash, visit my web site at: <http://www.stangordon.com>

A Cosmic Outrage: NASA's Baffling But Deliberate Self Sabotage?

The website below claims that NASA deliberately ran over the strange artifact that showed up in their pictures and shows the photos of the tracks to prove it. See for yourself at:
<http://www.weirdload.com/nasa-shame.html>

Royal Canadian Mounted Police HQ release of 'Space Objects Contingency Plan' aka 'The Master Plan' by Chris Styles, Canadian Director of Investigations (MUFON), 11 Nov 2003

I am pleased to announce the release of an RCMP policy document known as "The Space Objects Contingency Plan" or "The Master Plan. It is a 50 page manual that details the procedures employed by RCMP members when they work with other Canadian and American authorities to recover any space based object that has entered the atmosphere and come to rest within Canadian jurisdiction.

"The Master Plan" includes many interesting details - ie:

the escorting of American authorities to any impact site, upon request, which ranking members decide whether or not to remove any deceased bodies, how close to approach an unknown object from upwind (50 feet), how big a perimeter to establish at any impact site in an inhabited area (500 feet), who is the lead agency once on the scene (DND), scripts for media questions, etc.

The term UFO does not appear anywhere in the document. However, all of the procedures described are consistent with many of the observations described by civilian witnesses RE: RCMP behavior when investigating UFO cases where the force conducted searches for unknown objects on land and in the water. Though the policy existed in various forms as early as the 50s and 60s it was supplemented and formalized in the 70s, largely due to the crash of Cosmos 954 in the Canadian High Arctic and the threat of Skylab.

"The Space Object Contingency Plan" was released to me on October 8, 2003 as the result of a formal Access To Information Request made on May 2, 2003. The unusually lengthy response time was attributed to the fact that the RCMP archivist needed to seek clearance from 10 other government agencies. My request was an assignment from MUFON's "MAX Committee", of which I am a member. That Committee seeks to document missing and exploited UFO cases and policies. Future discoveries from other searches will appear on this list as they become available.

Aliens? The Real Culprits

By Charles Colson, CBN.com

"Only one kind of being favors the dead of night and lonely roads. Only one is real but nonphysical, animate, powerful, deceptive," and "bent on wreaking psychological and physical harm."

CBN.com – Every year, more than a million people report seeing UFOs. Are these people crackpots and attention-seekers? Or is there something real behind their claims?

Hugh Ross, a Christian physicist and astronomer, has studied UFO phenomena for years. His conclusion: The overwhelming majority are explainable, but some are not, and they could be dangerous. In his book, *Lights in the Sky and Little Green Men*, Ross writes that, after all the frauds and natural causes have been exposed, researchers "agree that there must be something real at the bottom of some UFO reports."

For one thing, there's physical evidence. In the vicinity of reported UFOs, researchers have found deep soil compressions — including crushed rock — and altered soil and rock chemistry. Pilots encountering UFOs report disruptions in radar, radio, and compass operations. Animals become greatly agitated in the presence of UFO phenomena. And some humans who have seen UFOs claim to experience temporary blindness, burns, and internal bleeding.

And yet, Ross writes, UFOs must be nonphysical, because they disobey the laws of physics. For instance, they may be detected by radar but not seen, or they're seen but not detected by radar. They make impossibly sharp turns and sudden stops, disappear and reappear. They melt asphalt and burn grass without fire or flame. And then there's the fact that ten times as many UFO sightings occur at 3:00 a.m. than at either 6:00 a.m. or 8:00 p.m. They appear in remote areas far more often than in densely populated ones. Of course, most of these reported phenomena are investigated and proven to be false. But for the remainder that cannot be explained otherwise, Ross has an intriguing theory.

He writes: "Only one kind of being favors the dead of night and lonely roads. Only one is real but nonphysical, animate, powerful, deceptive," and "bent on wreaking psychological and physical

harm." It seems apparent, says Ross, that UFOs, if there are such things, "must be associated with the activities of demons."

Other researchers — including secular scholars — have come to similar conclusions. They attribute UFO phenomena to demons or to an equivalent cause — for example, malevolent beings from another dimension. Physicist Jacques Vallee concludes: "The UFO phenomenon represents evidence for other dimensions that simply cannot be understood apart from their psychic and symbolic reality. What we see here is not an alien invasion," Vallee writes. "It is a spiritual system that acts on humans and uses humans."

Astronomer and agnostic J. Allen Hynek said that UFOs cause physical effects "in the same way that a poltergeist can produce very real physical effects." Another agnostic, UFO specialist John Keel, concludes that victims of what he calls "demonomania" suffer the same medical and emotional symptoms as UFO contactees. The idea that demons are behind UFO phenomena — and that they sometimes harm the humans who see them — can be, if Dr. Ross is correct, frightening and can also raise interesting questions: Who among us might be vulnerable to these kinds of attacks?

In the final installment of this series, we'll test Ross's hypothesis and learn why some people encounter UFOs, and others don't. The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc. © 2004

[The Aliens as Demons (or Demons as Aliens) theory has been around awhile, but no has conclusively shown which may be the case — maybe both? — Ed.]

INVISIBLE CATTLE MUTILATORS?

Argentine Cattle Mutilation Update

by Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo

<v.s.o@prodigy.net> Miami UFO Center, 1/16/04

It looks like the cattle mutilations in Argentina are finally over, or the press are no longer interested in this subject. Taking advantage of this, some Ufologist are investigating with more freedom. We received a report from a UFO group that, for the reasons explained before, wish to remain anonymous. This UFO group is working in co-operation with some authorities, private

corporations, as well with local veterinarians (we keep the names on file). They asked me to distribute these new data, to find out if someone had documented the same fact or statistics, outside Argentina, to compare it.

1) One of their associates, an electrical engineer in charge of high voltage lines maintenance, working with a power line map of Argentina and neighboring Uruguay, found out that almost all cattle mutilations occur in a 20 kilometer radius of the power lines (132 KW). He would like to know if there is a similar study being done in another country to compare it with. 2) They had interviewed three separate eyewitnesses of mutilations, in three separate locations, with the same experiences. One of them is a ranch foreman and the others are farm laborer or "gauchos", similar to "cowboys" in North America. They, like many others, quit their jobs in panic the day after their experiences.

One of them observed, around 19:30 hours, on a clear and calm day, how suddenly a strong wind formed a whirlwind. It did not hit the ground. The animals became nervous. He saw, a year and a half old cow, start trembling in its hind-legs. Later, it fell to the ground with no movement. The whirlwind ended and when he approached the cow it was mutilated. He hide behind a tree some 50 meters when the whirlwind mutilated the cow. The next day he quit his job in panic.

Another witness said the cow was dropped dead and mutilated by the whirlwind. They did not experience temperature changes, cold or hot, before, during or after the whirlwind.

The other witness didn't see his cow when the whirlwind hit it, but heard its moo in the air. Later, it was found dead and mutilated on an adjoining ranch. In this case, he said the sky was also clear and the temperature around the 18 Centigrade.

In one of the cases, a three meters circle marked the ground where the cow was mutilated and found. Inside the circle the grass was dry, a different color than the rest. At this moment, they are trying to locate others farm-laborers who quit their jobs after witnessing mutilations, and local press publicity could jeopardize their investigation since most, if not all, "gauchos" evade it.

If you have any correlating information to share, let me know and I will translate it for them.

Field Investigator Update: Feb./Mar. 2004 By Craig R. Lang MN MUFON FI Coordinator

During late winter, activity in the field investigator group continues to progress at a moderate level, with some very interesting events. In Field Investigator Update, this month, we will look at one new sighting, as well as some new developments in an older, ongoing case.

This month, Dean and Margaret DeHarpPorte have filed an excellent investigation report with Minnesota and MUFON HQ, regarding a fascinating sighting, which occurred in fall of 2003, in Sherburn, Minnesota. The witness is technically trained, and Dean and Margaret describe him as extremely bright, and very credible. The witness was driving along a rural road, early in the morning, in the rain when he observed a pair of bright white lights. When he turned on his high beam headlights, the lights of the UFO turned color, now appearing as two red lights. As his car approached the location, he observed that the lights were about 20 to 30 feet in the air, and appeared to be over the nearby farm fields.

One of the red lights flew off, while the other stopped. The object associated with the remaining one then turned on three brilliant banks of white and red lights. It moved over a farmhouse about 300 feet to his north and stopped. The object itself became visible as a pale shade of lime, with a distinct saucer shape, and a dark outline. It shone multiple beams of lime green light that lit up the area of the farm house. The witness continued on toward his destination, while the object continued "still blazing bright lime green". As the witness was driving away to the south, he observed orange lights, apparently from the second object, which he says "lit up the sky".

This report is just a synopsis of the actual, detailed report. There is considerably more to this story, which Dean and Margaret have filed with MUFON.

More "1978/79 Wave" Sightings

In addition to the above, new report, there have been some interesting new developments in the case of the apparent sighting wave of 1978/79. I recently received an e-mail, which described a sighting which occurred in the time frame of early to mid fall of 1979 [Note: as with most of these sightings of 25 years ago, the dates and times are fuzzy, at best]. The witness describes how he and

his cousin, both children at that time, were playing in a field behind their house in the northern Minneapolis suburbs, when a light appeared directly above them.

In his e-mail, the witness writes:

...from that moment on, whether because of shock or whatever, we (or I, I can defiantly [sic] say) lost consciousness. I say that because I know something happened but cannot define it and when I started being able to remember again, is when standing in the same place watching this light shrink in size...

As the two kids watched, the light receded into the sky, shooting away rapidly. The witness goes on to write that on the same night, his brother saw a large disk-shaped object:

...we think the same time period or even night as me. My brother saw one downtown Minneapolis which he said was the size of a football field. It was a disc and was silent...

A quick reading of this report immediately reveals language that is all too familiar to close encounter researchers, the suggestion of missing time. In such accounts, we often hear phrases such as: "...and then I found myself...", "...the next thing I remember...", "...and then I lost consciousness...", and "...I have never figured out what happened..." Phrases such as these tend to be signposts of the missing time experience. In this case, the phrase "...and when I started being able to remember again..." in the above report suggests that the two kids in the field behind the house experienced much more than the sighting of a simple light in the sky.

What are the implications of this report, on the continually-evolving picture of our apparent 1979 wave? If it can be validated, then to me, the implications are many. The setting of this event, in the context of the 1978/79 wave suggests to me that there may be far more to this wave than a coincidental series of simple UFO sightings (events of the first kind). A few years ago, in this investigation, I had believed that the 1978/79 wave was simply a case of "them" being seen by (possibly a substantial number of) "us". However, given this and other additional encounter reports, I begin to wonder if there wasn't something more involved taking place.

Several sightings occurred during this time period [described in past editions of Field Investigator Update] in which the UFO seemed somehow to be "showing off", for reasons which I/we don't even begin to understand. And in the literature, there seems to be a precedent for such behavior on the part of the UFO phenomenon. Budd Hopkins, in his book "Witnessed" describes just such an event. This case, extensively researched and documented, describes how an apparent abduction-in-progress was apparently allowed (or even intended?) by "them", to be seen by numerous witnesses. Now, in our apparent 1979 wave, we find suggestions that, just as in Budd's book, one or more missing time events has apparently come to light.

Could it be that there were similar dynamics in Minnesota nearly twenty years before the famous events of "Witnessed"? While at best the evidence is sketchy, an intriguing scenario is suggested. Unfortunately, what I refer to as the "1979 wave" occurred 25 years ago, and trail is now stone cold. Yet intriguing and tantalizing hints continue to surface to suggest that there might just be more to the story – tiny flickers and glimmers on a shiny sea of mystery.

We Need Investigators

For those wishing to become field investigators, classes are conducted as sufficient interest is indicated. We try to hold classes approximately three times per year, and hope to hold the next one this spring. We plan to hold a beginning class, as well as a refresher class for those who want to beef up their skills at UFO fieldwork. If you are interested, and feel that you have the necessary time, energy, and objectivity to be a UFO investigator, please contact the author. If you have not already done so, you also will need to join MUFON as a field investigator trainee and purchase the MUFON field investigators manual.

In addition, perhaps you the reader, might have had a sighting of your own, or might have one in the future. Or perhaps you know someone who has. If you have any further updates on the events in this column, or know of information on other sightings or encounters, please contact Minnesota MUFON. (We can be reached through our website: www.mnmufon.org, or contact Craig Lang (phone: 763-560-1532, www.craiglang.com, e-mail: crlang@craiglang.com). Also, please stay tuned to this column in each newsletter as we discuss more local and regional sighting cases.

PALM BEACH POST INTERVIEWS EX-ASTRONAUT DR. EDGAR MITCHELL / MITCHELL WEIGHS IN ON VARIOUS CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS

By Eliot Kleinberg, Palm Beach Post, 2/8/04
<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews>

[The excerpt below from the original article is the UFO specific part - Ed.]

ED MITCHELL ON:

WHETHER ALIENS HAVE VISITED EARTH:
Has no first-hand experience but is convinced.
Hostile? "Not that I'm aware."

People who claim they were abducted by aliens? "Something has happened to them. The jury's still out about what happened." CAN'T dismiss one theory that aliens are collecting terrestrial DNA for research.

A GOVERNMENT COVER-UP OF UFOS:

"That's putting it mildly. We've BEEN LIED TO AND COVERED UP. It was a military rationale 50 years ago. Now it's a bureaucratic morass. I doubt if higher-ups even know what the right answers are."

WHY a cover up at the beginning?

"It would RATTLE OUR FOUNDATIONS."

AREA 51, the secret military base in Nevada where scientists study crashed alien spacecraft and their crews: Was briefed, even recently, by "old timers" who were there, "but I can't say by whom."

The ROSWELL INCIDENT, in which aliens, some alive, were recovered after a July 1947 crash:
"IT WAS VALID. I'VE BEEN BRIEFED."

ERICH VON DÄNIKEN, whose many books theorize early Biblical passages and folk stories actually described visits by aliens:
"It's pretty far out. There MAY BE A KERNEL OF TRUTH."

Was mankind genetically engineered by other civilizations or originally immigrants from another planet?
"I have not seen validation for that."

WHETHER SPACE FLIGHT WILL EVER BE AS WORKADAY AS IN STAR TREK:

"It's inevitable. Yes. By the end of this century. Out of our solar system. PROVIDED WE DON'T DESTROY OURSELVES."

MORE ON EDGAR DEAN MITCHELL:

Lunar module commander, Apollo 14, Jan. 31-Feb. 9, 1971. Feb. 5: became sixth of 12 men to walk on moon.

Close encounter on Highway 7- Family of 3 witnesses UFO By KEVIN ENGSTROM, STAFF REPORTER, Wed, Feb. 11, 2004
<http://www.canoe.ca/NewsStand/WinnipegSun/News/2004/02/11/343270.html>

John Stewart doesn't believe in aliens but he would like an explanation for the saucer-like object he saw in the sky last summer. The Stony Mountain resident, along with his wife and 11-year-old son, reported seeing the unidentified flying object on Aug. 23 while driving into Winnipeg.

"It was the freakiest thing I've ever seen in my life," said Stewart, who works for a local recording company. "It was absolutely amazing to see and the more I think about it, the more I wish I could see it again."

Stewart's sighting was one of 25 reported in the province last year, according to the 2003 Canadian UFO Survey. The survey was released yesterday by an independent research group led by Winnipegger Chris Rutkowski.

Stewart said the saucer caught his eye while driving past a farmer's field on Highway 7 about 6:45 p.m. that day. He initially assumed it was a small airplane or helicopter, hovering 30 to 40 metres above the ground, but he realized it was much more than that after the object flew over the highway median and turned sideways as it passed cars at speeds of up to 140 km/h.

"Me and my wife looked at each other and said 'What the hell is that?' " Stewart recalled yesterday. "It wasn't aerodynamic at all, so it shouldn't have been able to have been flying, let alone flying while going that fast."

The object was pewter in color and had a diameter of about three meters, he said, with black and symmetrical, ball-like windows along the side. After it flew over Stewart's truck, the family lost sight of

the UFO only 90 seconds after first spotting it.

"I have no idea what it was," he said. "If I believed in aliens I'd have thought it was a probe of some sort but I don't know about that."

DRAWINGS SIMILAR

At Rutkowski's urging, all three family members drew a picture of what they saw. All three drawings were strikingly similar, said Stewart. He said he wouldn't have come forward if he had spotted the object while alone, saying there is a stigma attached to people who report such sightings. Even his friends were skeptical when he told them about it. "Nobody believed me until my wife said she saw it, too," he said. "So they now believe we saw something."

Stewart's sighting was one of 115 in Canada last year that have no apparent explanation, said Rutkowski.

There were 673 sightings reported across the country last year, an increase of 39% from 2002. Most UFO sightings can be attributed to natural phenomena or human activity.

SIGHTINGS IN '03

Findings of 2003 Canadian UFO survey:

- Sightings up 39% from 2002 to 673
- There were 25 sightings in Manitoba last year, down from 36 in 2002
- Thirteen of those sightings were in Winnipeg
- About 17% of all sightings were unexplained
- Typical sighting lasted 10 minutes
- Most sightings have two witnesses
- Ufology Research of Manitoba

[Ed. Note: Winnipeg, Canada is just north of the Minnesota/Canada border. I wonder if sightings in northern Minnesota may be related.]

Websites of interest:

Canadian UFO Survey for 2003:

<http://www.geocities.com/area51/rampart/2653/2003survey.html>

Wisconsin MUFON News

For personal reasons, Nick Roesler has stepped down as State Dir. for Wisconsin MUFON. He will remain on MUFON's Membership Committee and as MUFON's Staff Photographer (both Int'l positions). John Schuessler has yet to name a replacement or interim SD.

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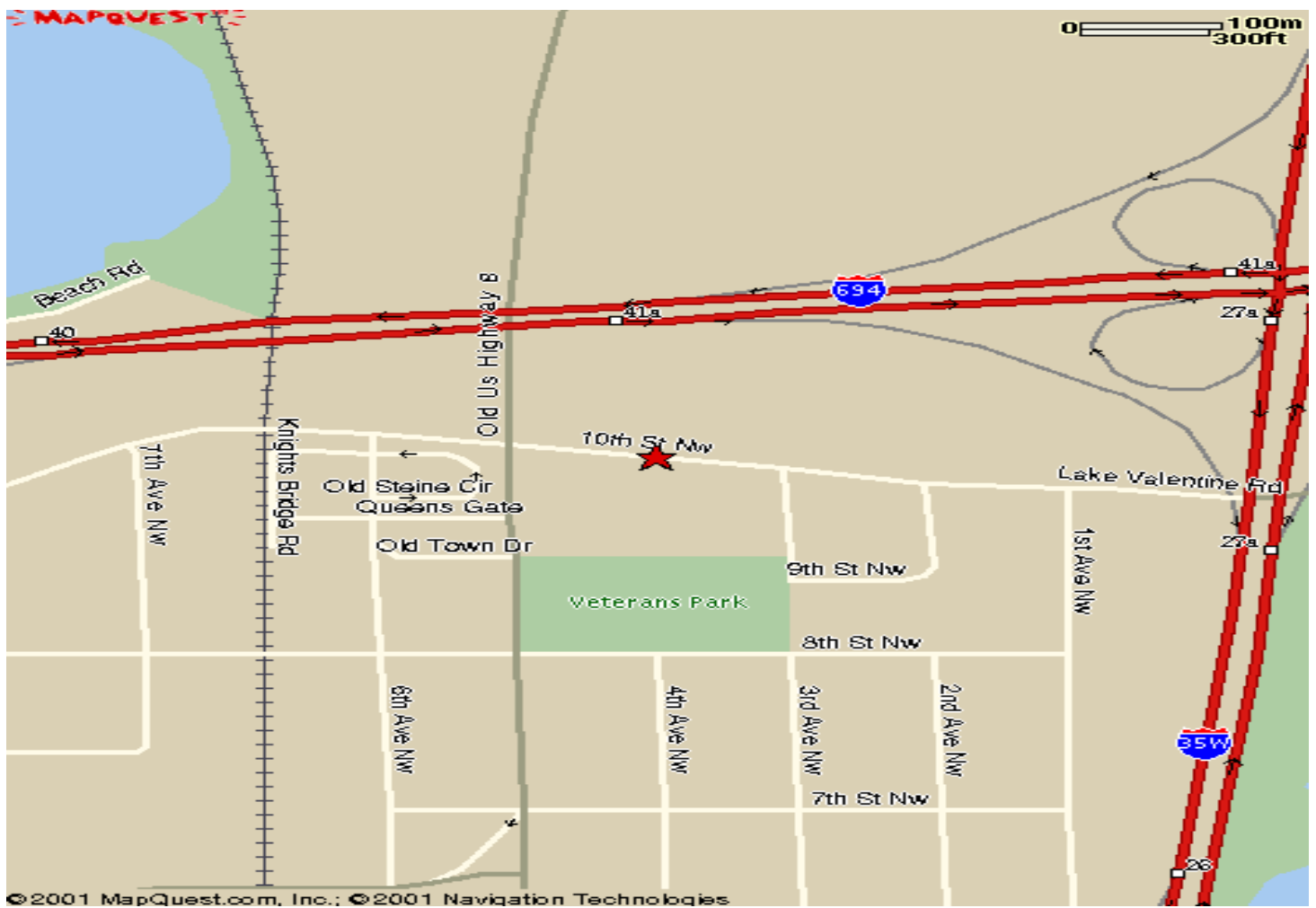
National MUFON Hotline

To report UFO news, sightings, etc. call 1-800-836-2166

Go to: www.mnmufon.org/mmj.htm for back issues of the Minnesota MUFON Journal.

Your news or editorial contributions to this journal are welcomed and appreciated. Please direct your articles or inquiries to the Editor.

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