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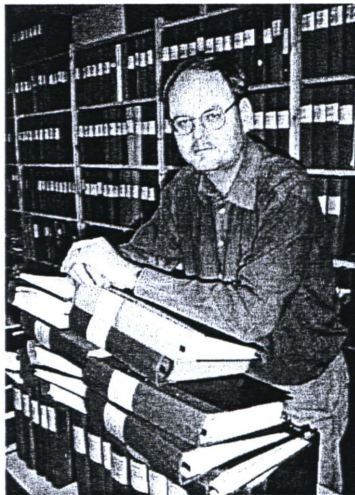
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Fall, 2008

## NEWSLETTER

### **The Earl Neff Clipping Collection** By Clas Svahn

At the end of January, 2004, AFU received a donation of American press clippings from ufologist **Bill Jones** in Ohio. The box contained more than 2,000 unsorted clippings which once belonged to MUFON Ohio member **Richard Lee**, who had gotten most of them from the now deceased ufologist **Earl J. Neff**.



Clas Svahn has now catalogued the entire collection into twenty binders which are available for researchers at Archives for UFO Research. The donation contains many important articles from some of American ufology's most intensive years.

In the middle of the 1960s, numerous articles about UFOs and flying saucers could be found in American magazines, many of them being just as interesting today as when they were written. Then the UFO phenomenon was taken seriously and no

self-respecting magazine could avoid discussing it.

The collection contains lots of fascinating reading, and it's hard not to get stuck for hours with them. Most comes from the Ohio-based magazines *Cleveland Free Press* and *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, but there are also hundreds of other sources from all over the U.S.

The Cleveland magazines were very generous when it came to space (no pun intended), and it was common for UFO articles to be on the front page, for example on November 5, 1966, when the entire top of the page was covered with the headline, "*Flying saucers still a mystery – Called serious business*", followed by an article by tabloid journalist *Frank Edwards* who later, the same year, published a book with a similar title. The lengths of the articles were often extensive. It's easy to tell that both the public and the editors had a serious interest in UFOs.

Not many articles mentioned foreign sightings, perhaps because so many were reported in the U.S. One exception is an article in the *New York Times* dated July 14, 1968, and headlined "*U.F.O.'s add spice to life of Latins*", where the reporter describes how the flying saucer debate – and several sightings – had come to enrich the daily life for people in Argentina and Chile. The

article tells, among other things, of how young girls were afraid to go outside after Buenos Aires based magazine *La Razón* published the story of a married couple who lost consciousness during a car ride, only to wake up in their car outside Mexico City, 8.000 kilometres away. The story is most likely a hoax, and according to the New York Times it was never confirmed despite investigations made by the governments of both countries.

Most other articles from the years 1966 to 1968 deal with American sightings. In the January 1966 edition of *Popular Science Magazine*, Pulitzer price winner MacKinlay Kantor wrote a piece with the headline "*Why I believe in flying saucers*", in which he tells of an event on January 4, 1954, when he witnessed how a bright shining semicircular object, after having hovered completely still in the sky, suddenly took off with a very high speed.

Kantor later wrote a biography of one of America's most famous militaries, General Curtis LeMay (1906–1990), a man who Kantor came to know very well. In the *Popular Science Magazine* article, Kantor reports a discussion he had with General LeMay regarding the UFO phenomenon. LeMay was cautious about what he was saying, but still offers the following: "*Several of the mysteries can be explained as weather balloons, stars, reflexes, and other natural things. I'm not saying that among the cases, where no solution has been found, there are genuine, flying objects. All I can say is that among the unsolved cases, no natural phenomenon has been found that's able to explain them all. I repeat: There are a few cases we've been unable to explain. That we never were able to explain*".

Republican member of Congress James G. Fulton was one of those who suspected that the U.S. Air Force never told the whole truth regarding the UFO dilemma. Fulton was interviewed by UPI, and in *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* March 31, 1966, he stated that "the Air Force acts like a child who

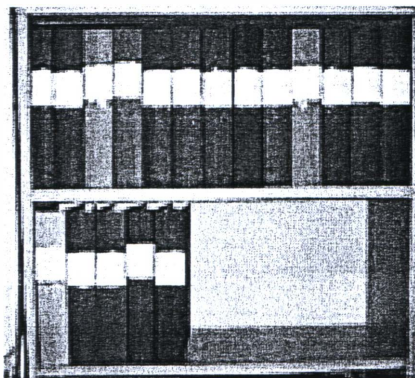
doesn't believe in ghosts and hides under a blanket, while at the same time keeps an eye open just in case."

The UFO reports were treated seriously by the press, but the idea that Earth was visited by beings from other planets was never far away. Among the authors, several knowledgeable names are to be found. One of them was German rocket scientist *Willy Ley* (1906–1969) who also wrote several science-fiction stories. In an article in *Family Weekly* January 21, 1968, he discussed different sightings which he believed to be ball lightning. Not once does Ley ridicule the phenomenon, and he points out that the sightings often were likely to have perfectly natural explanations.

Another author, not quite as critical, was *Otto Binder* (1911–1975), author of the book "*What we really know about flying saucers*". Binder wrote an entire article in nautical magazine "*Rudder magazine*", February, 1968, where he offers advice to sailors what to do in case they have a sighting at sea. "*Many ships have returned to shore with far more insane stories than any of those about sea monsters,*" Binder wrote.

An odd UFO author was science-fiction author *Clifford D. Simak* (1904–1988), who in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* January 6, 1967, described how the two largest UFO organizations at the time, APRO and NICAP, worked. Under the headline "*Many sure flying saucers manned by aliens*" he said that while APRO accepted and investigated sightings where beings had been involved, NICAP shunned those sightings. The cause was strictly tactical. NICAP hoped to, one day, bring the UFO question to the highest political level including a congressional hearing, but since they feared being mixed up with crazies they assumed that focusing strictly on the ships would minimize that risk. Simak's article was part of a series of six which all were published in the Pittsburgh magazine.





Among the material there are several classic articles, such as the *UPI* article about astronomer and Air Force expert Allen Hynek (1910–1986)

and the press conference that took place after numerous sightings had been made in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The article was published in, among other magazines, the *Daily Times-News* (Mt. Pleasant, Michigan) on March 26, 1966, under the headline “*Expert Dismisses flying saucers as swamp gas*”, and resulted in giving the entire work of the Air Force an aura of ridicule since all sightings appeared to be explainable using the swamp gas theory.

Even though Hynek, during the well-attended press conference, was keen to point out that his theory about the swamp gas only was applicable to two of the sightings reported from behind a college in Hillsdale on March 21, his statement still resulted in seriously negative press and also became the one final event that made Hynek quit working for the Air Force and Project Blue Book and instead devote his time to private investigations.

Between June and August, 1966, Hynek wrote the chief of the Air Force and *Science* magazine, and more and more started to look like an individual who took UFOs seriously. On January 12, 1968, *Cleveland Press* published a statement where Hynek accused the Air Force of making a poor job when investigating UFOs.

Several of the articles deal with sightings by pilots. In the *Salt Lake Tribune*, October 3, 1961, pilot *Waldo Harris* (who isn’t just named in the article, his home address is there, too) tells of how he and seven witnesses on the ground saw a disc-shaped object shortly after take-off from Utah

Central Airport. Harris says that the object was grey in colour, about 15 metres wide and only a little more than 1 metre thick. When he flew against it it suddenly took off with a tremendous speed. Harris followed it and saw how it came to a halt over Utah Lake Omni Station. “*It then flew straight up and turned westwards with an amazing speed and disappeared out of sight,*” he tells the magazine. And he was not alone.

On February 25, 1959, the greater part of the front page of the *Detroit Times* was covered by an article headlined “*Mystery sky discs trail airliner here*”, with a picture of pilot *Peter Killian* and stewardesses *Edna LeGate* and *Beverly Pingree* holding one plate each. What the three of them and several others onboard the plane had seen during 45 minutes was how three glowing objects appeared to be following the plane while at the same time not showing up on any radar. There was never any drama though, and the article never mentions how they objects disappeared.

But there were other objects that were more obvious. On July 13, 1964, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* told of how a strange projectile had travelled through, among other things, a thick glass door before it smashed into the cement floor of Mrs. *Howard W. Morgan* in Bay Village. The object could not be defined as a meteor even though that was the initial definition. What it really was apparently never established, but on the picture in the magazine one is able to see Mrs Morgan holding a large, dark object in her hand. Perhaps it was part of a satellite?

Another interesting thing is a student at the *Warner & Swasey* laboratory who is interviewed by the magazine and tells of two other events where real meteorites fell to earth. One of them struck a hole in the roof of a garage in Chicago, and continued through the roof of a car and then came to rest in the exhaust pipe. On the other occasion the meteorite struck a hole in a porch and then fell down into the hand of a woman sitting there.

Several other articles offer similar beauties. For instance, an article in the *Pittsburgh Press* March 5, 1967, with the headline “*Visitors from outer space*”, where author *David Gleason* argues that U.S. Air Force and NORAD are looking for a few individuals who dress in military uniforms and using fake IDs track down witnesses, silence them, and steal their photographs. According to the article, these men had been visible in California, New Jersey, Washington, Texas, Connecticut, and Long Island. Other odd figures that sometimes appear in print are the *Men in Black*, who among other places can be found in a note from *Congress of Scientific Ufologists Convention in Cleveland* (*Cleveland Press* June 22, 1968). One of the delegates apparently came up with the idea that the MIBs were ufologists in disguise from rival organization NICAP.

The most obvious trend in the articles from 1966 to 1967 is how serious the “flying saucer” phenomenon is being treated. Long articles by journalists such as *John Keel* discuss the subject from a range or different aspects. Beginning in 1968, the number of articles and sightings start to decrease, and this was brought to attention by Florida-based magazine *The Gondolier* on August 1 that very year. The magazine concluded that both Aerial Phenomenon Office at the Wright-Patterson base, where Blue Book had its headquarters, and NICAP had started to notice a “strong decrease” in reports coming in. Blue Book alone was apparently losing up to 75 percent.

On March 12, 1967, *Sunday News* began a series of articles where *Ed Wallace* said that five million Americans claimed to have seen a flying saucer. The series contained descriptions of what today have become true classics, such as police officer *Lonnie Zamora*’s sighting of a landed object in the desert outside Socorro, Texas, on April 24, 1964, and the Kelly-Hopkinsville case from August 21, 1955, when the entire *Sutton* family claimed to have been under siege by “little green men” for several hours.

Among the clippings there are several interesting interviews with ufologists (*Keyhoe*, *Hynek*, and others), witnesses, and contactees (such as *Paul Villa* and *Daniel Fry*). Fry, who says the number of witnesses, is not five but eight million, got a large section of the front page in *The Gondolier* on February 6, 1967, after he had paid a visit to the city of Venice. He was, just as with most other who told stories of amazing trips in flying saucers, treated quite well by the reporter interviewing him.

Another thing found in the collection is about 100 articles from tabloid magazine *National Enquirer* from Boca Raton, Florida. However, even though the magazine wasn’t exactly known for serious journalism, it still had a few decent UFO articles over the years. However, the entire archive of the magazine was doomed; original pictures, notes, recordings, and clippings were shredded after being put into special plastic bags in the Summer of 2003. All this because of the anthrax virus. On September 19, 2001, little more than a week after 9/11, *Bob Stevens*, the magazine’s photo editor, opened a letter addressed to singer *Jennifer Lopez*. The letter contained anthrax, which killed Stevens within three weeks and quickly spread throughout the building, which was evacuated, leaving everything inside to its doom. Three million pictures, notebooks, tape recordings, and other of historical value is now destroyed and lost forever even though the tabloids owner *American Media Inc.* says that most of the files were already duplicated.

Complete magazines could also be found in the clippings from *Bill Jones*, among others a *National Enquirer* where the entire front page was covered by the news that a flying saucer had touched down in Virginia: “*Saucer lands in Virginia*”. Reporter *William Allen* writes about *Cliff Crowder* from South Hill who on April 21, 1967, at nine in the evening was driving along a dirt road when he saw an enormous object hovering over the road. Soon Crowder saw an object six metres high standing in the middle of the road. A flashing light hit him, and the object

appeared to disappear upwards. A small fire remained on the road, but it went out after about twenty seconds.

Cliff Crowder drove straight to the local police station, and when he returned to the scene with four police officers from South Hill and Mecklenburg County, the ground was still warm and a large dark spot was visible where the fire had been. The site was later investigated by several ufologists, among others *William Powers* who worked as an assistant to *Allen Hynek*. Pieces from the burnt spot were sent to the Wright-Patterson base in Dayton, Ohio, but the test results were inconclusive and it was never known what caused the fire.

That was a short summary of a part of the Earl Neff papers, papers that are now glued on white document paper and sorted into twenty files.

Source: Archives for UFO Research, Clippings Collection — United States,  
<http://www.afu.info/clipsus.tm>

## **20 YEARS AGO – 1988, An Arkansas "mini-flap" By Rick Hilberg**

Residents of Little River County in Arkansas have been reporting sightings of UFOs to area newspapers, radio stations and the local Sheriff's Department since late December of 1987. And while many of the reports sound like nocturnal lights that with a bit of investigation on the scene will ultimately turn into "IFOs," there are, however, some interesting "core" sightings that deserve mention. Here are two such cases:

Three Foreman women reported a frightening encounter with a brightly-lit UFO that chased their car January 19th following an outing to a basketball game.

The incident began at about 10:15 p.m. as Terri Jeanes was driving her Nissan with Margaret

Sharp and Deanna Irvan as passengers following the game.

As they drove south on Highway 41, Sharp told Jeanes to stop the car, as she had spotted what she described as an orange light to the east less than a quarter of a mile away, over what is locally called the Red River Bottoms.

Jeanes pulled the car onto the shoulder of the road. The three watched as the orange light "lunged" three times at treetop level toward the north and then disappeared.

After making several route changes to get to the road where Sharp and her husband live, all three women saw the light again in the distance to the south. It appeared to be hovering over the "Bottoms", they said. At first Jeanes thought they might be seeing a local medical helicopter operating out of Texarkana. However the three discerned that the object they were viewing contained four distinct lights; red, blue, green and amber, colors not associated with aircraft running lights.

Jeanes parked the car in a driveway so they could observe the light. They watched it hover for three to five minutes, during which time they became convinced that what they were watching was not any sort of aircraft. Margaret Sharp's husband was at work that night, and she decided she didn't want to go home to an empty house, so Jeanes turned the car around and headed back to Foreman. It was then that a "huge white light" came on among the other lights. The object's light then turned bright red and began to approach them.

Sharp "nailed" the car and headed toward her uncle's house some two miles away on Highway 32.

The light followed their car at treetop level, running silently to the right of the road parallel with the car. Before arriving at the home of Bob Taaffe, the object passed over the top of the car,



according to Irvan, throwing a shadowy "red cast" of light inside the car as it disappeared.

At Taaffe's house the women ran inside and told what they had seen. At this point Sharp decided she would wait there for someone to come later and take her home.

At approximately 11:00 p.m., Jeanes and Irvan left Sharp at Bob Taaffe's house and got back into the Maxima. As they neared the Highway 41 junction, the object appeared again out of the south. To Irvan, who was now seated on the passenger side in front, the light resembled a large ball of fire. The light again paced the witnesses, this time gliding to the left side of the car. Said Irvan, "It seems to adjust itself to the terrain, up and down. There are no trees and it will get lower very quickly. Very quickly."

Jeanes floored her car. When they got to Highway 41 they turned north toward Foreman. The light also turned north. Irvan said the turn made by the object did not describe the typical arc of a car merging with a perpendicular highway. Instead, the light made a sudden, 90 degree turn.

At this point they were so terrified they hit speeds approaching 120 miles per hour. As they approached Foreman they could see the lights of the local Chevrolet dealership ahead on the left. Jeanes remembered thinking at this time that the light must have come closer to the car or changed somehow because Deanna Irvan suddenly became even more terrified than before.

In front of the dealership stands a brilliantly-lit advertising sign. "It went right in front of their sign," said Irvan. "That's where I could really see it. It was a large metallic machine. The lights seemed to be in the center of the object. It threw a glow out to where I couldn't see the top as well as I could see the bottom. To me it was shaped like a tank. It was flat on the bottom. It had a dull finish. Dark!" Irvan estimated its width at two pickup trucks side by side and its length at three pickups end to end.

Irvan watched the object all the way into Foreman. She said the light came to a halt over a rodeo arena next to the highway. It hovered a moment and silently streaked out of sight. Several other witnesses in the area reported variously colored strange lights the same night.

Jeanes also reported strange markings on her 1988 Maxima after the encounter. Each group of markings has four lines side by side. The lines are approximately three inches and are dotted. The black marks look like they were made by rubber, but Jeanes was unable to wash them away.

In another close encounter, a teacher who requested that her name be withheld was driving into Foreman at 11:40 p.m. February 6th on Highway 41 when she saw lights on top of a hill past a roadside park.

"It startled me and my first thought was a car or vehicle with lights on bright, so I blinked my lights at it for them to dim their lights," she said.

"The lights didn't dim and were coming straight toward me, right down the middle of the road." She added that as the light moved toward her she saw "two separate horizontal lights close to the ground." They came from north to south down the highway.

"The best I can describe was like headlights across the hood and then like fog lights on the bottom; there was a distinct separation between them". She said that they didn't blink or pulse, but as they moved down the hill and got closer she saw "heat shimmer around the bottom light."

"By this time I was convinced whatever those lights were - they were going to hit me and I braced, ready to run in the ditch."

She estimated that the lights were approximately 100 feet from her "when this rush came over me that those lights were going to hit me, then...nothing. There was absolutely nothing, no lights, no sound, and I could see the road in my headlights."

She reported her encounter to the sheriff's office after driving well past 85 mph into Foreman. The sheriff's office reported receiving several calls after the woman's incident, mostly of typical nocturnal lights, which seem to make up the bulk of the cases in this localized flap.

**“Shoot Them Down!  
The Flying Saucer Air Wars of 1952”  
By Frank Feschino Jr  
(Review By Scott Santa)**

60 plus years and Ufology is still with us. It's periods of stagnation are periodically stirred to life by researchers who, seemingly come out of nowhere, bringing to mind one Richard Dolan whose first book "UFO's and the National Security State" is, hardly arguable, Ufology's seminal work. As of this writing, Dolan has two more books in the works, both highly anticipated.

And so it is, that seemingly out of nowhere Frank Feschino appears on the scene. Frank has taken two mostly forgotten chunks of UFO history and has not only brought them to life once more, opening a whole new vista of reality, but has connected them in an extreme, but plausible scenario.

The "forgotten" chunks are, namely, the Flatwoods Monster case, all but shelved by most if not all of UFOdom, and the little known history of the numerous American military pilots who may have died in aerial battles with UFO's after being scrambled to hunt them down. Not only to hunt them down, but as Lt. Col. Moncel Monts is quoted in the book: "The jet pilots are, and have been under orders to investigate unidentified objects and to shoot them down if they can't talk them down".

There is a vast amount information in this tome, and it is not an easy read. That is meant in a positive vein though. There is a lot to digest here and one must travel slowly through the book in order to assemble the picture that Frank is trying construct in the readers' mind. No easy feat for

those of us who thought we already had that era of Ufology bottled up. Not so, as Frank proceeds to lay his documented cases of pilot disappearance's as a result of actual aerial dogfights with documented sightings of UFO's. Then, as if that isn't enough, he ties the Flatwoods Monster, (most likely a disabled, possibly due to American F-94C Starfire jet's Missile strike), UFO into the picture and convincingly ties the above together into a coherent whole.

Though there are plenty of documented facts in this book, it is also a book of speculation, but it isn't ungrounded speculation. Readers need to unscrew their minds on what they thought they knew, rather than reject this scenario out of hand. Frank has done his homework: Flatwoods Monster, aerial dogfights between American fighter jets and UFO's, government documents, flight logs, disappearing planes and pilots, Government stonewalling, flat-out government lies.

Frank deftly amasses a picture and story that is hard to deny. I commend him for his attention to detail and perseverance in rising to the challenge of re-writing a chapter long thought closed in Ufology. This is definitely another seminal work in the field of Ufology.

**Sighting by a MUFON of Ohio Member  
By Steven Nedelton**

In September of 1996, around 8 in the evening, I was on my way from Michigan to Cincinnati, Ohio, going south on the I-75. Just as I crossed the border line, I happened to look up into the sky. The sky was ink dark and I noticed two lit up objects flying E-W, high up there. They were flying in-line, one behind the other, and relatively close to each other. All of a sudden, the front object lit up then exploded lighting up all of the surrounding sky. The explosion was very large.

I expected to see the burning debris falling down, but there was none I could see. The front object

completely disappeared from the sky, but the rear object continued along its previous path.

I was very much intrigued by the sighting. Upon my arrival to Cincinnati I checked most of the TV news, but found no information related to my sighting. The next day, I called several TV stations and again, no one heard of any similar airplane disaster, military or civilian. During the next couple of days, I continued querying various sources, but without any success.

I suspect that the objects were flying at a very high speed, because they were high in the top left quadrant of my windshield, yet visibly moving eastward.

### **Blanchard, Lytle and Roswell**

**Source: UFO Updates & Kevin Randle**

Before we start, let me say this. I have known Robert Hastings for nearly twenty years and I have always been impressed with his integrity and his intellect. I knew Chester Lytle for a long time. He was a man of impressive credentials who had no reason to embellish his position and suggest UFO knowledge if he had none. In other words, talking about flying saucers wouldn't have done him much good and certainly could have hurt him.

Now both of these men come together in Hastings' "UFOs and Nukes: Extraordinary Encounters at Nuclear Weapons Sites". Hastings had the opportunity to interview Lytle on a number of occasions, and Lytle shared an interesting story about the Roswell UFO crash. I will note that Hastings had shared this information with me prior to the publication of his book, so I have known about it for some time, but he asked that I say nothing until his book was available.

According to Hastings, he was interviewing Lytle about his involvement with atomic energy and what he might know about UFO sightings near nuclear plants or facilities. Hastings said that with

no prompting from him, Lytle moved on to the Roswell crash and told Hastings that William Blanchard, who had command of the 509th Bomb Group in Roswell at the time of the crash, confirmed the alien nature of the event.

Lytle told Hastings that in February 1953, with Blanchard now a general officer, they were in Alaska while Lytle's wife was in Chicago about to give birth. Lytle was desperate to get home. Blanchard said that they could take an Air Force aircraft to Illinois, land at one of the bases close to Chicago, and Lytle could get home from there.

While on the flight, somehow the subject of UFOs came up, maybe because of a couple of sightings at Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage sometime earlier. Blanchard then told Lytle that an alien craft had crashed near Roswell. According to Hastings, Blanchard told Lytle that four bodies had been recovered.

Surprised by this, Hastings asked Lytle, "Blanchard actually told you that the Roswell object was an alien spacecraft." Lytle said, "Oh, absolutely."

In break with the traditional story, Blanchard said that some of the bodies had gone originally to MUROC Army Air Field (now Edwards Air Force Base), but that they all wound up at Wright Field.

Now, granted, this is second-hand testimony about what Blanchard said, but there is no reason for Lytle to invent it, and it is quite clear that Lytle held many clearances and had been trusted with the secrets of the Manhattan Project. He was a credible man who would not have made up the story.

Of course, it fails on one point and that is that we can't verify it with either Lytle or Blanchard. Both men are dead. The documentation that exists is quite limited and subject to various interpretations. At this point, this is an anecdote that provides a bit of insight into the crash... and it is the first time that Blanchard, through Lytle,



gave us a number of bodies. Blanchard, according to Lytle, said, "Four."

So what do we do? Add this to the list of stories about the UFO crash at Roswell and continue the search. Look for some additional corroboration but note that we had some reliable information that puts Blanchard in the center of this, just where he would have been as the commanding officer at the Roswell Army Air Field in July 1947.

For those interested in more of what Robert Hastings has reported, you can only order "UFOs and Nukes: Extraordinary Encounters at Nuclear Weapons" Sites at

<<http://ufohastings.com/>>ufohastings.com.

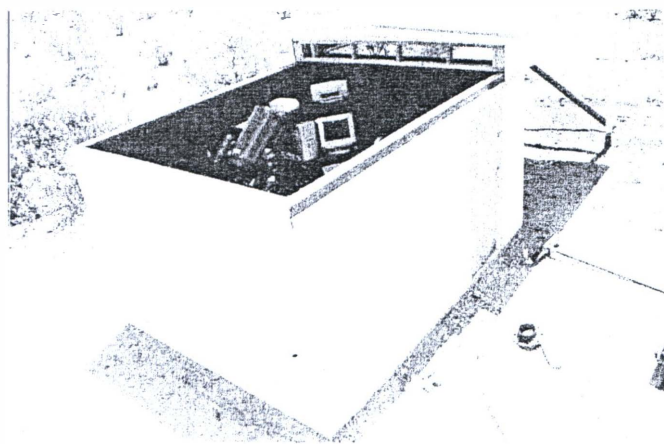
Website of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena <http://www.nicap.org/>. Thanks to Pete Hartinger for finding this interesting "tid bit" of information on Roswell.

## **Tucson, Arizona Sighting**

**By Cassandra Klesch**

It was a cold, dark rainy night. I pointed my telescope to the sky. Just then I heard a gun shot and a scream from a neighbor's mobile home. Just kidding. This article isn't about me.

Don Kocsis is a knowledgeable amateur



astronomer and family friend. He divides his living space between Medina, Ohio and Tucson, Arizona. His desert Tucson home, includes one

heck of a roll away observatory. Don photographs planets, iridium flares, Messier Objects, interesting weather conditions, and from what he sent me long before I became a member of MUFON, possibly UFOs.\* Knowing of my husband's and my interest in ufology, in November 2005, Don shared the story and photo with us by e-mail. I mentioned to Don he may want to report this to MUFON in Arizona. I went about looking for additional information for Don on boomerang shaped UFOs to support his sighting. What makes this sighting interesting is the dramatic black and white photograph, and the back-up information e-mailed to me by Dan Wilson, a UFO researcher.

Don reported told me that on November 18, 2005, a cloudless and windless night and about 60° F, at approximately 8:20 p.m., he was photographing for the second time that evening the Pleiades with a Pentax 35mm with his 12" Meade reflector telescope. A 76mm lens was attached "piggy back." Ten seconds into starting the exposure, Don stated, "I saw this brilliant 'umbrella' of light that was in the area as I was photographing! I was awe struck at first; I never saw anything like it in all my years of amateur astronomy." The sighting only lasted about three seconds. Don said it hovered, was silent, flared, and disappeared. Don says he thought what he saw was a flare carried by a parachute.



I contacted Dan Wilson and he provided me with a *Project Blue Book* report and an interesting newspaper article of a sighting in Ft. Worth, Texas on April 16, 1950. The *Project Blue Book*

report states that half circular objects were spotted over Ft. Worth and references the April 18th edition of the Ft. Worth Star Telegram news article.

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

UNCLASSIFIED

District Office No. 23 - Carswell Air Force Base  
Fort Worth, Texas

19 April 1950

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT


SUBJECT: Half Circular Objects over Fort Worth, Texas, on  
16 April 1950.

TO: Director of Special Investigations  
Headquarters United States Air Force  
Washington 25, D. C.

1. SYNOPSIS: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas, a veteran Radar Bombardier, was reported by the Fort Worth Star Telegram of 18 April 1950, as having seen flying objects over Fort Worth, Texas. [REDACTED] reported these objects were not moving fast and appeared to be six or seven miles away.

2. DETAILS: The only available details on this matter are set out in the attached clipping from the Fort Worth Star Telegram of 18 April 1950.

3. ACTION: Pursuant to AFCSI Letter 85 no action is being taken on this matter.

  
HERMAN A. PETERSON  
Lt Colonel, USAF  
District Commander

1 Incl  
Clipping from Ft Worth  
Star Telegram 18 Apr 50

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
BY AUTHORITY OF [REDACTED]  
BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF  
Historian  
DATE 5 DEC 1975  
UNCLASSIFIED

24-18523-2  
14 APR 1950  
APR 27 1950



The Ft. Worth Star Telegram's April 18th edition offers the photograph taken by Mr. Maxey and a short report. Ira Maxey, a US Air Force veteran

photographed a fast moving object that appeared to look like a "banana."



FLYING SAUCERS?—Mrs. Maxey of 315 Elm Ave., a veteran war-time bombardier with 6,000 hours in the air during World War II, took these pictures Sunday of flying objects she thought to be of some relation to flying saucers. The half-sister of Maxey, left, was in the air.

### Pictures Offer Proof

## Vet Sees Flying Objects in Sky and Photographs Them

A former major commander of the 315th Bombardment Group, Maxey, reported Monday that he saw flying objects in the sky late Sunday afternoon in the vicinity of Dallas, Texas, and that he had taken pictures of them.

The Maxey of 315 Elm Ave., a veteran of World War II, was in the U. S. Air Force, where he was a major, and he was in the air for more than 6,000 hours.

Maxey, 40, the son of a U. S. Army and Navy aviator, was in the U. S. Air Force, where he was a major, and he was in the air for more than 6,000 hours.

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Note, not only the shape of the objects photographed by Mr. Maxey, but the emanation on the concave side is identical to Don's photograph. The news article states the emanation to be a vapor trail. Additionally, Mr. Maxey's objects did not appear to be moving, and Don also stated his object seemed to hover.

UFOs are purportedly attracted to power plants and airfields. It is noted that the largest nuclear US power plant is 160 miles from Tucson in Wintersberg, AZ. Also near Tucson are two natural gas power plants (Saguaro and Douglas). Tucson has two airbases. These are: Ryan Airfield, which is used by the public, law enforcement and the military; and Davis Monthan Air Force Base. Reflecting on the Fort Worth event, I noted that during the 1940s and 1950s, Convair, a company that manufactured bombers, was located here.

\*Please keep in mind that I was given the sighting information before Don reported it to MUFON, and I was not part of MUFON when I received the information. This case is showing as completed in the MUFON CMS reporting system.

## **Orange Orb Seen in 1938**

**By John Timmerman**

This is an extract of a transcript of a telephone conversation by John Timmerman with the late Joe Ostermyer of Jackson Center, Ohio that took place in early February 1998.

T: What is your call about?

O: Well, it's something that I experienced in 1938. That's awhile ago. I've divulged it to no one because I figured they would think I was crazy. Except my wife.

T: How old were you at the time?

O: About 15. No bad habits. [Joe was born on March 23, 1923.]

T: Where were you at the time?

O: Bellefontaine...I was outside sleeping under a tree in the hot summertime...It was the middle of the night. I was sleeping under the pear tree in the back yard. And I was awakened. It was at an altitude about... this was not a UFO, this was stranger than that, or stranger to me...six foot [he later said "it was probably four feet from me"] out there by my right side, this orange colored sort of pulsating object about the size of a "good sized" grapefruit. I felt it communicated with me. So I sat up and it moved a little. I was behind the house, and this started moving toward the corner of the house. Going west, about my height I suppose.

I sat there and thought I'll follow this and see what happens. I can remember it as vividly as if it were yesterday. I never got close to it. I got halfway or so to the corner of the house and it made [a] 180 [degree] turn...Made a sharp turn headed directly south around the house and it's going up alongside the house. I followed it to the corner of the house...at the time across the road [the road from Zanesfield to Bellefontaine] there was a pasture...To me it said follow me over here, you know, across this pasture. And I said, "Oh. No!" I sat on the front step, and I smoked Bull Durham...in those days as young boys did...I decided to make a cigarette, and before I'd even started that, that thing shot off in a southerly direction and disappeared at an amazing speed. Just "whhhhhh", it was gone.

I sat there for awhile and thought about it. I [then] went into the house, and I didn't even go back to get the comforters or blankets.

T: And it was a dark night?

O: It was a pretty dark night. Wasn't moon light...The exterior...wasn't smooth. [It was irregular]...it reminded you of an Osage orange. Kinda rough and it glowed.

T: But nobody else saw it but you?

O: No, there wasn't anybody else there to see it...I told my wife a few years ago, I guess. She thinks I am crazy anyhow.

T: Were you dreaming?

O: I doubt that. I don't know. I would hardly dream at all. I don't think I was. I never did anything like that before or since...It was there. I'm firmly convinced of it. The damn thing communicated with me by some sort of thought. I believed that then and I still believe it. It told me to follow it. Normally I'd have got up and run like hell, you know. I wasn't afraid of it.

Note: Joe passed away on February 17 or 18, 1998 in a Sidney, Ohio nursing home. He was a Marine Corps veteran of World War II.

## **Shades of Gray**

**A Film by Bob Wilkinson**

**(Reviewed by Scott J. Santa - October 2008)**

This movie, soon to be available, is a retrospective of the life and times of Gray Barker. Victim, joker, clever researcher, and promoter – any of these descriptions can apply to Gray Barker. For that matter, all can apply to Gray Barker. So you think you know who Gray Barker is? I'm telling you that you don't, but you will after watching this new DVD (release date unknown as I write) based on his life. Running time is approximately 60 minutes.

Included in this documentary, are the following people; Jim Moseley, John and Tim Frick, our own "lovable" Rick Hilberg, Jerome Clarke, Jeff Wamsley, Stan Friedman, and few others of whom I was not familiar with, plus interviews with several of Gray's family members.

The film presents a chronological overview of Gray's life and his contributions, of which there are many, to Ufology, and of course to all things weird. I believe the word "fringe" was used quite often and liberally by several of the people who are interviewed. Here are some of the subjects covered in the film that Gray had his fingers into;

- 1) The Flatwoods Monster
- 2) M.I.B.s
- 3) Philadelphia Experiment / Morris Jessup
- 4) Mothman and the Silver Bridge
- 5) The R.E. Straith letter (Gray's zinger on George Adamski)
- 6) Who was "Doctor" Richard Pratt? (That mystery is solved in this film.)

These subjects are not all inclusive for sure. Gray was involved in many paranormal arenas, but these topics were some of the headliners of his day.

The film begins with a very effective shot of the backside of a man, presumably Gray Barker, sitting at a desk typing, (yes; at a manual typewriter) with a small lamp, surrounded by darkness. The narrator speaks Gray's words. This shot is interspersed for dramatic effect several times throughout the film.

As the film progresses we are treated with the recollections of the personalities noted above, each giving their take on Gray. What, why and how he was involved with, for instance, the Flatwoods Monster story, or Rick Hilberg giving testimony about Gray writing the book "The Silver Bridge". The film takes the viewer on a chronological trip through Gray's life starting when he was an eager and ambitious young man in West Virginia to his tragic ending 1984.

Having been involved in Ufology for what seems like a long, long time, I thought I was fairly well informed about Gray Barker, when in fact, I hardly knew anything about him until I watched this film. The movie is very informative. It also brought forth fond memories for me of the Golden Age of Ufology, which for me ended at the close of the 1960's.

Gray wrote several books about his involvements in Ufology such as: "They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers" and "The Silver Bridge", the former considered a classic, the latter delving into the Mothman and the collapse of the Silver Bridge

in Point Pleasant, West Virginia. He was also the editor and creator of "Saucerian News" a self published periodical.

All things considered, I give this film a very big two thumbs up! The interviews with Jim Moseley, Rick Hilberg, Jerome Clarke, Stan Friedman, etc, were short, direct and very informative in nature. Although it was approximately 60 minutes long, the movie went by very fast for me and left me wanting to hear more of this fascinating man and his adventures (or misadventures if you will) during the early and formative years of Ufology. Legend and pioneer apply to the name Gray Barker as the movie so deftly makes clear.

This DVD movie is highly recommended and must-see viewing for everyone from the "been around-the-block" serious researcher to the "just-now-opened the door" novice.

Many thanks to Rick Hilberg for providing me the sneak-peek opportunity to view the film before it's official release, and to Bill Jones for trusting me to write this review.

If you are interested in the film email Bob Wilkinson at [astraydogfilm@yahoo.com](mailto:astraydogfilm@yahoo.com).

**If you are interested:  
The Mothman Enigma  
By Richard D. Seifried**

Back in the early 1980s Charlie Wilhelm's *Ohio UFO Investigators League* held a major conference in a spacious motel in Cincinnati. Attendees were required to register, giving their names and the organization that they represented, if any.

During the last evening of the convention, which was a Saturday, a group of us from the Dayton area returned from eating dinner. The man in charge of registration hurried over to us and reported that two men had refused to sign their names and the organization they represented. I

was asked to sit next to them to see if I could find out anything about who they were.

My chosen seat was one row behind them, and one seat to the right. From that vantage point I could observe much of what they were doing.

One of the men, I assumed to be the leader, must have been in his forties. The other was thirtyish. Both were in very trim physical condition. They wore dark, conservative suits, and were well groomed. However, they appeared to be wearing Air Force dress shoes.

The older one took out a small, three hole loose leaf note book and began taking notes. The books contents were beautiful; maps, charts, comments, all written in varied colored pencils. When he saw me looking he did a remarkable thing. Turning away from me he switched the colored pencil to his left hand and continued writing.

Whenever they whispered they covered their mouths with their hands.

Each of the evening speakers had a different topic, all about UFO related subjects. The two men would laugh and quietly ridicule the subject matter letting the immediate audience know that they thought the topics were stupid.

One of the last speakers was an acquaintance from Ohio, Ron Schaffner. His topic was Mothman, that mythic figure seen in the area where the Silver Bridge fell into the Ohio River at Point Pleasant, West Virginia on December 15, 1967.

Instantly the two men's behavior changed. The younger man spread his suit coat so people couldn't see what they were doing. But, I could.

The older man took out a very tiny camera and screwed a tiny, narrow telescope lens onto the camera.

Each time Ron showed a slide they took a picture of the slide. They also took notes.



That was when I realized that the Mothman was a real mystery. There really had been something seen that fitted that description, and the story most likely was quite real.

When the conference ended about five or six of us Dayton area people were laughing and walking down a corridor to the parking lot. We suddenly realized that no more than fifty feet ahead of us were the two men.

They turned around, saw us and hurried around the corner. We sped up, came to the corner and there, leading toward the parking lot, was a very long hallway. The men were gone. The aisle had no room entrances and no service doors were open. A couple of us ran to the door that led to the parking lot. No one was in the parking area. The men had just vanished.

\*Note, Bill Jones wrote Ron to see what he had to say about this incident. Here is Ron's reply:

"Yep, that would have been me. The topic was "Strange Creatures of the Ohio Valley." I covered some of those things in that presentation I did for Donnie Blessing a few years ago in Northern Kentucky at one of her conferences.

"The year was 1979 and it was part of Jim Moseley's National UFO Conference. I remember that the conference was a huge bust attendance wise. OUFOIL did get some decent press out of it, but the group took a big hit financially. I did cover Mothman a bit more because I made several trips to Point Pleasant over the years.

"I do remember that a couple of alleged Air Force guys that showed up, but I just can't remember if that was the two guys that Dick mentioned in the article. As we get older the years sort of blend together. I also remember some chatter about some other strange individuals that were there. Dennis Pilichis also reported some strange people at his book and magazine display.

"I guess this begs the question - why would individuals from the Air Force show up at a UFO

conference dressed that way? I can understand a reluctance to dress in uniform thinking they might freak out Ufologists, but, why dress in suits - why not just causal wear?

"There were also some strange individuals who attended the MUFON convention in Dayton the previous year. Len Stringfield even received a death threat, and we had to rush him out of the convention. Earl Jones had some material stolen from him, and my car was also broken into.

"Although, I've become more skeptical over the years, I have seen things in the past that still leave me baffled.

"I wish I could help up more, but that was a long time ago. It took Dick's article to jog my memory."

### **Daylight Disc Seen Over Gladstone, Missouri, May 14, 1992**

From: Francis Ridge <nicap@insightbb.com>

Despite several incidents of that nature over the years, daylight UFO sightings over metropolitan areas are still a comparative rarity. Calvin Traynor added one more to the list with his observation of a disk-shaped object on the afternoon of May 14, 1992. The UFO flew over the suburban community of Gladstone, Missouri, only a few miles from downtown Kansas City.

Calvin was on his lunch break and estimates the sighting occurred at approximately ten minutes past noon, although he did not look at his watch at the time. He was just getting out of his car at a fast food restaurant when he noticed two teenaged boys on the lot staring up into the sky. His curiosity aroused, he took a look for himself. What he saw was probably the last thing he expected. He gave a colorful account over the telephone.

"I know you UFO people sort of frown on

that name these days," Calvin began, "but the best way I know to tell you what I saw is it was a flying saucer. That's exactly what it looked like, a big shiny saucer flying upside down across the sky. It wasn't any higher than a Piper Cub going over and I could see it just as plain. 'Bout the same size and speed, too, only if it would have been one I could have given you the numbers so you could find out who it belonged to. It didn't do anything fancy, it just flew over and kept on going till it was out of sight."

Calvin was asked to elaborate a bit on his description of the object. "Well, the top part was kind of rounded up, but not very high. The bottom was just plain flat. The whole thing was like a chrome piece on a real clean car, nice and shiny. But there was a round spot right in the middle of the bottom that looked different. The whole bottom wasn't as shiny as the top, 'cause, well, it was the bottom. You know, the sun wasn't shining on it like it was on the top, and that was what was making it so shiny. But this spot — it looked kind of like a dimple, you know, like it was in even more shadow."

The witness reported hearing no sound coming from the UFO, but noted that it could possibly have been masked by the din of traffic. As he put it, "I've heard people say that these things kind of buzz or hum, and it could've been doing something like that and me not hear it for the cars going by. But if it would've been as loud as a plane, I know I would have heard it."

A hoax in this case seems extremely unlikely. Calvin did not report his observation to anyone until a friend insisted he do so, and then he told his story in a simple, straightforward manner. Nor would it be easy to dismiss an object described so well and obviously seen so clearly as a misidentified aircraft or balloon. The most plausible explanation remains that he saw an

unidentified flying object — or a flying saucer, if that is more to his liking.

Thanks to MUFON of Ohio's Pete Hartinger for forwarding this to us. Francis Ridge's NICAP website is <http://www.nicap.org>.

This is the sighting of a classic "flying saucer", making this rare report of interest.

## **Sighting of Three Triangles Bowling Green Ohio**

By the National UFO Reporting Center  
<http://www.nicap.org>

At about 7:50 PM on October 29, 2008, my friend and I were looking at an unusually bright star, concluding that it was probably a planet. I thought it must have been an airplane, but when I looked a bit higher, I saw two more. What was very strange is that none of the blinking lights were moving. Then the highest one started to rise upwards, and we realized that it was coming towards us. We watched, and the weirdest part is that it was completely silent.

It kept moving towards us until it was finally above us and then past us. We looked up and noticed that it was shaped like a triangle with a light blinking on each end, one light red. I thought they might be government planes since Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin was in Bowling Green today. The one traveling above us kept going, silently. We looked back to the other two- one was gone, the other (the lowest one, the first I saw) was still in the same spot.

We kept watching the moving one and then the third reappeared (or a fourth appeared, I can't be sure) coming from a completely new direction. They were less than an inch away (from where I stood, it looked this way), slowed down a bit, and then kept traveling on.

We watched for 4-5 minutes. I went back outside about 3 minutes after I stopped watching the first object that I saw was gone, the one that moved over us was very far into the distance, and the third was also gone.