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THE DAY AFTER AZTEC: REVELATIONS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

Karl T. Pflock

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In 1998, under curious circumstances, I was made privy to a fascinating document about one of the most controversial cases of the Golden Age of Flying Saucers, the so-called Aztec crash of 1948. Until the late seventies, this case was the yardstick, for better or worse, by which ufology measured claims of crashed, retrieved, and secreted-away saucers from outer space. I had little more than passing interest in the case until 1998, when a source, who insists on complete anonymity, showed me a handwritten testament, set down by the key player in this amazing, often amusing, truth-is-stranger-than-fiction episode. The contents of this "journal" seem to lift the veil of mystery and uncertainty from important aspects of the case, while at the same time drawing it more closely around others.

Needless to say, I find my source's demand for anonymity on this matter extremely frustrating. But by presenting this material, I hope to encourage someone who may know something, *anything*, confirmatory or otherwise, about what my source revealed to come forward and set the record straight. But first, a little--no, a lot of--background.

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To appreciate why the Aztec story was taken seriously and had such an impact, and why what I have learned may be ufologically significant, we must journey back more than 52 years, to mid-1949, a heady time in America. World War II was behind us, the first Soviet atomic bomb test, the Communist takeover of mainland China, and the Korean "police action," all were yet to come. The year had begun with a rather severe economic recession, and we had been fighting the Soviets with the Berlin Airlift for over a year, but while the airlift would continue until September, we had effectively already beaten Stalin in Germany without firing a shot, and by mid-year the economy was picking up nicely.

The 1949 cars were the first truly new postwar models (Cadillacs had modest fins and muscular V-8s), veterans were buying homes in the suburbs and putting television sets in their living rooms, and many more were going to school on the GI Bill. The baby boom had begun. Aluminum was being used to make pots and pans and shiny new airliners, not warplanes.

Even in the spreading shadow of the early Cold War, things in America were rosy and optimistic. Anything seemed possible--for Everyman as never before in history. Even the fight against the Menace

of International Communism carried its own promise of individual success and big money.

Everywhere one looked, it seemed a quick and *big* buck might be made. Real estate. Chinchillas (we had a neighbor who converted his garage into a chinchilla ranch and went broke on the critters). War surplus, everything from army boots to airplanes and ships. Uranium prospecting, tied directly to the Cold War and one of my dad's strike-it-rich hopes. And oil. And "doodlebugs." And, of course, flying saucers.

It was a time ripe for confidence artists and slick operators, and there were many opportunities and angles for them to work, some a bit more exotic than others. Flying saucers, for instance, and the "little men" who manned them, saucers which were reported to touch down now and then, even crash.

During the summer of 1947, at the height of the first great saucer flap, there was a brief flurry of excitement spawned by a press release from Roswell Army Air Field, New Mexico, announcing that the army had recovered a crashed flying disk. Interest quickly evaporated when the army announced the "saucer" was merely the remains of a weather balloon and its radar target. Of course, we now know this was a cover story--of, some wish to believe, the recovery of an alien craft and the bodies of its crew, or, others are certain, of an almost compromised top secret U.S. government project. Since Roswell was rediscovered in the late seventies, it has become *the* crashed-saucer tale, true or not.

In mid-1949, Roswell was long forgotten, but there were other captured saucer stories flying around. For example, as a youngster of five or six, during the summer of 1948 or '49, I heard my first crashed saucer tale, and it is unlikely to have been spawned by Roswell. I cannot be certain if it was an elaboration upon another story that first surfaced in the late summer of 1949--my parents told me the storyteller was well known for his colorful exaggerations--but it is with this other story that the Aztec case, the first crashed saucer tale to really catch on, begins.

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On August 8, 1949, the FBI's Los Angeles office received a phone call. The caller claimed to be an announcer for a Long Beach radio station and to have had a phone call from a man who related he and a partner were prospecting in southern California's Death Valley sometime in the latter half of July, when, quoting now from an FBI memorandum, from which all names were redacted when it was released under the Freedom of Information Act:

"[They saw]...a large circular object crash to the ground a short distance from them. Immediately following the crash, two 'small men,' heavily clothed, ran from the crash and disappeared over a ridge. The

large circular object was inspected by [the two prospectors] and according to them was twenty-four feet in diameter and seven feet thick.

"[The man who called the station] stated that [his partner] had a scientific background, and after examining a portion of the object, declared it to be principally calcium, iridescent and radioactive. The material reportedly had small green wires running throughout."

The FBI's caller went on to say that the man who'd contacted him "had a small portion of the material in his possession." The Bureau didn't follow up but bucked the matter to the Air Force, which dismissed it as a hoax. On August 20, the International News Service wire carried a story that identified the prospectors as one Buck Fitzgerald and a Mase Garney, who pursued the saucer men, but lost them in the sand dunes. When they returned to the crash site, the saucer had disappeared without a trace.

We'll get back to this crashed saucer, but first... About a year before, *Variety* columnist and author Frank Scully was out on the Mojave Desert with his friend Silas Mason Newton, whom Scully had known since 1944 and apparently with good reason believed to be a millionaire oil man. Newton was president and owner of Denver's Newton Oil. He purportedly was a genius at developing and exploiting oil-finding devices (in the industry nicknamed, usually derisively, "doodlebugs"). The self-dubbed rediscoverer of the Rangely, Colorado, oil patch, Newton was a geology graduate of Baylor University and did post-graduate work at Yale. The man was a *bon vivant* and for many years before and during World War II a resident of Denver's fabulous Brown Palace Hotel. He frequented Hollywood's Lakeside Country Club and Knickerbocker Hotel, owned homes in both Denver and Hollywood, and was the 1942 Colorado Amateur Golf Champion. He seemed an all-around remarkable and highly successful man.

Scully not only was Newton's friend, he had worked with him in promoting his Rangely ventures. In 1946, Scully had authored a companion piece to an article Newton published in a petroleum industry trade journal. Scully's article, entitled "Notes on Building a City," predicted tiny Rangely, Colorado (1990 population 2278), would become a booming city of 50,000 within five years as a result of Newton's oil discoveries.

The August 1948 Mojave Desert trip took place in territory under which Newton claimed there were vast pools of "black gold" and in which Newton's company held several oil leases and had drilling rigs at work. On this trek, Newton used one of his doodlebugs to "find" gold, further impressing Scully with his friend's magic touch and his technology, which Newton claimed worked by detecting microwaves he said were radiated by "petroleum in place" as well as by other mineral deposits.

Unbeknownst to Scully, Newton had another close associate, one Leo A. GeBauer, owner of the Western Radio and Engineering Company, a Phoenix radio and television parts business and creator of a doodlebug of his own. GeBauer claimed that by magnetic means *his* device could not only detect both underground oil and water--the machine supposedly detected distortions in the earth's magnetic field caused by such liquid masses--but also could measure the state of a person's health by the same means.

"Doctor" GeBauer also advertised impressive credentials. He claimed to have no fewer than six degrees in physics and electronics from such institutions as Creighton University, the Armour Institute, and the University of Berlin, and let it be known that he had been a leading government scientist during World War II, heading up a super-secret, billion-dollar magnetics research project.

In March 1949, GeBauer was introduced by some small-time oil men to wealthy Denver industrialist and inventor Herman Flader, who had invented an electronic device he believed was beneficial in the treatment of arthritis. Flader, though at first skeptical, was interested in GeBauer's doodlebug. After some spectacularly impressive demonstrations by GeBauer, Flader's skepticism transmuted into boundless enthusiasm. He and GeBauer entered into a fifty-fifty partnership, establishing Colorado Geophysics, Incorporated.

Flader put up most of the money--for example, more than \$28,000 for one-half interest in three of GeBauer's doodlebugs--while, as former crashed-saucer researcher William L. Moore has observed, GeBauer's only duty seems to have been finding ways to spend the money as soon as it came in. The company's customers were mostly trusting friends of Flader.

Not long after GeBauer and Flader first met, George T. Koehler, an advertising salesman for Denver radio station KMYR, introduced to each other two of his mutual friends--Silas Newton and Herman Flader. Newton suffered from arthritis, and Koehler said he thought Flader's machine might help.

Through Flader, Newton "met" GeBauer, and of course, discussion of oil prospecting ensued, leading to dueling doodlebugs. Newton claimed his microwave-radiation detector had been developed for him by a leading physicist at a cost of \$800,000 and was superior to GeBauer's. After taking their devices to the field for a "detect off," with Flader looking on, Newton "acknowledged" GeBauer's device was far superior, and he "hired" the good doctor as a consultant.

Newton and GeBauer told Flader they had put GeBauer's device to work on Newton Oil's leases in the Mojave and discovered the petroleum deposits were even more vast than Newton had imagined. There were

similar results on Newton properties in Wyoming and elsewhere. It did not take much to persuade Flader to invest in developing these fields, not to mention putting more money into the doodlebugs themselves. By October 1949, the team of Newton and GeBauer had cost Herman Flader more than \$231,000--the equivalent of several million today.

In early August 1949, Newton had sent GeBauer to Aztec, New Mexico, in the Four Corners region, where Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico meet. According to GeBauer's wife, who accompanied him, he looked into some oil properties in a deep canyon east of town and demonstrated his doodlebug to some local oil people.

Soon after, Newton and GeBauer met in Phoenix and drove to Los Angeles by way of Death Valley and Mojave. It was while they were in southern California that the FBI got the phone call about the Death Valley prospectors and the disappearing flying saucer and its diminutive and elusive crew. This was not a coincidence.

During the same trip, Newton, Frank Scully and his wife, and Sharon Chillison, whom Scully had introduced to Newton and who the following year would become the third or fourth Mrs. Newton, had dinner together at the swank Sportsman's Lodge in North Hollywood. In his autobiography, Scully wrote, "[Newton] seemed all on edge and finally let us in on a secret. He had talked only the day before to some scientists who had been called in by the defense arm to check on a grounded flying saucer in the area of Aztec, New Mexico." Scully smelled a big story and asked to meet one of these scientists.

A couple of weeks later, in early September 1949, Scully joined Newton, Hollywood cameraman Pevernell Marley (husband of actress Linda Darnell), and GeBauer on another Mojave expedition. GeBauer was introduced as a "geophysicist who was the top man in magnetic research" and one of the scientists called in to examine the saucer that had floated to earth near Aztec.

As they traveled through the desert, GeBauer regaled Scully and Marley with his account of the Aztec saucer. On March 25, 1948, two (or maybe three) Air Force tracking stations detected the craft as it entered our atmosphere and estimated where it would land. A few hours later, an Air Force team arrived at the Durango, Colorado, airport and immediately set out to find the fallen craft.

The saucer, 99.9 feet in diameter, soon was found on a rocky plateau near Aztec, and GeBauer and other scientists were called in. The ship seemed to have just floated to earth and, but for a small hole in one of its view ports, was undamaged.

Not so its crew of 16 little men, "small in stature"--between 36 and 42 inches tall--"but well proportioned," and clad in identical dark blue

uniforms turned out in "the style of 1890." The little men were dead, and their skin "seemed to be charred a very dark chocolate color." GeBauer said he had concluded this resulted from "air rushing through the broken porthole window." GeBauer also said his and the other scientists' "best guess" was that the unfortunate travelers were from Venus rather than the other likely prospect, Mars, in part because of their size. Martians "would probably be three or four times as large as human beings on this planet," and since the people on the grounded disk were so short, that ruled out Mars (!).

The saucer, with measurements that GeBauer said indicated the Venusians' did their math to the base 9 rather than base 10, carried no fuel. GeBauer and his team quickly concluded it traveled by crawling across or maybe cutting magnetic lines of force, chasing itself across the void at possibly faster-than-light speeds. It also was constructed of an unknown metal the color of aluminum, very strong but very, very light--"two or three men could lift one side of [the saucer]."

After some study, the craft was dismantled and taken to "a government testing laboratory and there it remained while parts were being tested." As for the crew, some were dissected and studied by the "medical division of the Air Force." They were found to be perfectly normal humans, but for their small size and absolutely perfect teeth.

It seems there also were other captured saucers--and one that got away, too. This Scully later learned from Newton, who'd been "shocked" when he heard it from GeBauer. The second ship, spanning 72 feet, also carried 16 men, who perished but without the charring effect. The third, only 36 feet in diameter and with tricycle ball landing gear, carried a crew of two, also dead when discovered.

The fourth ship was discovered by GeBauer and other scientists while they were in the field. It seemed abandoned. Suddenly, several little men ran to and boarded the saucer--which then promptly disappeared, poof!

GeBauer said he was appalled to discover Air Force souvenir hunters had stripped the Aztec ship of many important artifacts, so he felt compelled to take a tubeless "magnetic radio," some small gears, and some coin-size disks of metal, all of which he was allowed to keep "for research." Scully was shown and allowed to examine these items.

Scully "persuaded" Newton and GeBauer to let him publish the story. His first mention of it was in his *Variety* column, "Scully's Scrapbook," of October 12, 1949. He followed up in two other columns, one the next month, the other in January 1950.

Of course, such a story demanded a book. Scully set to work, in 72 days cranking out *Behind the Flying Saucers*. Published in September

1950, it was an immediate bestseller, with over 60,000 copies sold in hardcover. The paperback did even better. No fewer than 12 foreign-language editions followed, and a feature condensation in *Pageant* magazine appeared simultaneously with the book's first release.

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But before *Behind the Flying Saucers*, there was George Koehler's story and the lecture of "Scientist X" at Denver University--oh, and a little chat with actor Bruce Cabot of *King Kong* fame.

Taking the latter first, in November 1949, during drinks following a round of golf with Cabot at the Lakeside Country Club in North Hollywood, Silas Newton showed Cabot the magnetic radio allegedly recovered near Aztec. Newton told the actor the device was from a captured flying saucer and further advised that several saucers had crashed in New Mexico, Arizona, and Maine (yes, Maine), and that at home he had pieces of metal from the gears of a saucer, as well as bits of cloth from the clothing of its dead crew.

He went on to say he and a scientist he declined to name were using the alien radio as a doodlebug to find oil. He also claimed Metro Goldwyn Mayer was making a hush-hush motion picture that could very well concern the flying saucers, "inasmuch as the whole story would break soon any way."

As it happens, B-movie actor Mikel Conrad was making a film, *The Flying Saucer*, released into almost instantaneous and well deserved obscurity on January 1, 1950. It was shot just down the street from MGM's studios, and Conrad had been promoting it by putting about false rumors that it would include genuine footage of a saucer, in flight and on the ground. The press had picked up on this, and the story had been in the papers not long before Newton and Cabot's conversation at the "nineteenth hole."

Cabot found Newton to be a suspicious character and contacted the FBI, which in turn passed the matter on to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. In addition, Newton's conversation with Cabot had been overheard by a local radio personality, who reported it on his morning broadcast. Air Force OSI began trying to run down the facts behind the story and made several efforts to contact and interview Newton, who always managed to stay one step ahead of OSI's agents.

About the same time, in Denver, Newton began telling his close friend George Koehler crash-landed saucer stories. (Just how close the two were can be gauged by the fact that Koehler was married to Newton's former nurse and the couple lived in a Denver house rented by Newton, which was filled with Newton's golf trophies.) The version of the story told to Koehler was that a saucer had crashed on the Arizona-New

Mexico border near a high-powered radar site, and that the dead crewmen were all about three feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth and wrapped or taped tightly, like test pilots. Oh, and they had perfect teeth.

The tale may also have involved more than one disk, one in near perfect condition, the other very badly damaged. The radiation from the high-powered radar purportedly interfered with the ships' propulsion or control systems and brought them down. Much of the rest of the story, including the basic description of the saucer(s), a magnetic clock or radio, and strange metal and gears, meshed with the tales GeBauer and Newton told Scully and Cabot.

Koehler repeated the yarn to a friend. This friend in turn repeated it to others, and on January 6, 1950, the *Wyandotte Echo*, a Kansas City, Kansas, weekly, carried a much sensationalized version. As presented in the *Echo*, Koehler ("Coulter" in the *Echo* story) had "crashed the gate" at the radar site, seen the mysterious disks, and somehow had gotten possession of the magnetic clock/radio and other artifacts, then got away scot-free. The number of crashed and captured saucers had ballooned to about 50, and were being probed at the "United States Research Bureau" in Los Angeles. (Two people wrote to the bureau in Los Angeles, with no further address. Doing its best to get the mail through, the U.S. Post Office delivered the letters to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Administration Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry in Pasadena!)

Clearly, Newton and, as directed and influenced by Newton, GeBauer and Koehler were telling different versions of their crashed Saucer story to many people all over the West--versions adjusted to suit what Newton considered to be the fancy of those hearing them and taking advantage of anything in the media and rumor mills that would lend any credence to the yarns.

One of those hearing saucer stories from Koehler was a Denver University student who worked part time at KMYR, the radio station where Koehler also was employed. The student was taking a basic science class taught by graduate assistant Francis Broman. In early March 1950, the student suggested to Broman that Koehler speak to the class about saucers. As principal elements of the class were the study of the philosophical implications of science and learning how to evaluate evidence, Broman agreed. However, Koehler declined and arranged instead for Newton to speak.

Over Broman's objections, Newton insisted on anonymity and that his lecture be kept private and off the record. Newton's March 8, 1950, talk was the basic Aztec story--with the mathematical system of 9s, Venus, the little men, etc., all included. As soon as Newton finished, Koehler rushed him out the door before any questions could be put to him.

Despite Newton's insistence that his lecture be kept confidential, someone "leaked" the story to the press, and soon the "Scientist X" speech was the talk of Denver, with a major focus being "Who was he?"--and causing Denver University quite a bit of embarrassment.

In short order, the *Denver Post* identified X as Newton. It took even less time for OSI agents to show up and interview Koehler and others and file reports on the lecture.

Oddly enough, the agents seem not to have interviewed Newton. Or did they? According to Newton, *someone* did. But I am getting ahead of the story.

Six months later Scully's book was released, opening with an account of the Scientist X lecture. Despite being panned by reviewers and scientists alike (the "science" was utter humbug and baffle gab), the book was a great popular success. Scully named Newton and promoted him as a visionary entrepreneur, and GeBauer became "Doctor Gee"--because of his sensitive position and all that. (As time went by and Scully came under some pressure to identify Doctor Gee, he claimed the mysterious gentleman was a composite of eight different scientists.)

Scully was much in demand on the interview and book-promotion circuit, and Newton and GeBauer exploited the book's success to the fullest in promoting their doodlebug and oil-lease schemes. In time, Scully and Newton became actively involved with flying saucer contactees, most notably George Adamski.

Then things came crashing down.

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The September 1952 issue of *True*--the same magazine that had published Donald Keyhoe's "The Flying Saucers Are Real" article a couple of years before--carried investigative reporter J. P. Cahn's exposé of Newton and GeBauer and Scully's apparent naiveté.

After four months of digging and detective work, Cahn showed both Newton and GeBauer to be long-time confidence men who were using the flying saucer technology gimmick--and Scully--to promote their oil-detection and related con games. He revealed they had taken in many investors with their doodlebug scams, among them Herman Flader.

Cahn's efforts led Colorado authorities to have Newton and GeBauer arrested on fraud and related charges in connection with their dealings with Flader. On December 29, 1953, both were convicted.

Koehler left Denver for a job in San Francisco soon after Newton and GeBauer's legal troubles began. (Not that there was any connection,

of course.) For his part, Scully insisted his friends were honorable and honest men, and he stuck to his story until his death in 1964.

Newton and GeBauer ultimately wound up on probation and were ordered to pay restitution to Flader. GeBauer actually attempted to live up to the court's terms. Newton seems to have avoided them altogether. He also dumped GeBauer, who lost his radio and television parts business after being indicted.

GeBauer--obviously Igor to Newton's Frankenstein--had a history that included strongly held and loudly proclaimed pro-Nazi, anti-democracy, anti-British sentiments, which led to an extensive FBI investigation in June 1941, and, after the U.S. entered World War II, to his dismissal from a job as an Army Signal Corps civilian radio operator. His war service as a top government scientist? He was an equipment maintenance man for Air Research Manufacturing in Phoenix.

After his conviction in the Flader fraud case, "Doctor Gee" GeBauer continued to live in Phoenix, getting into legal trouble over questionable real estate deals and clearly continuing, without benefit of his mentor Silas Newton, a not very successful career as a grifter. He removed to Colorado in 1967, dying there in late 1982.

Newton, ever the survivor, rebounded as he had been doing for decades, and like Scully, he continued to insist his crashed-saucer story was true until his death in Los Angeles in December 1972, at the age of 85. He sometimes even appeared before small gatherings of those interested in matters esoteric--as for example a lecture he gave to the Denver chapter of the Universal Foundation on April 20, 1969, entitled "Some Implications of Space Ships and Space Command."

The confidence games, which Newton, had been so deftly working since at least 1928, never stopped. Newton was a master of his trade, as William L. Moore put it, "the sort of character best avoided by anyone with money in his pocket." He always lived like or at the very least did his best to give the appearance of living like a millionaire, and his access to the upper crust of society and the moneyed was facilitated by his genuine golf prowess and his attendance at Yale. He had the knack of spotting likely prospects and sensing what they wanted to hear, tuned precisely to relieve them of their caution and then their money.

In New York in the late 1920s, Newton was a broker of securities and real estate, specializing in oil and gas properties. He was very successful, but kept running into legal troubles over questionable dealings with a number of high-rolling investors. In the 1930s, he was arrested four times and hauled before the New York State Bureau of Securities to answer charges of having bilked investors. In 1935 he was wanted in Kansas and several civil suits against him were active. In

1939, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission investigated him in California concerning "questionable" stock deals.

In all these cases and apparently virtually until the day he died, Newton deftly tap-danced out of his troubles by hustling up new investors in his schemes and taking the money he got from them to pay off those currently after him--in exchange for dropping all charges, of course. As far as I and others have been able to determine, Newton never was convicted or even went to court on any of his crooked dealings--except for the Flader case.

William L. Moore's research revealed that as late as 1970, when Newton was 83, he was under indictment in Los Angeles on two counts of grand theft. The record shows that at the time of his death in December 1972, not fewer than 140 claims were outstanding against his estate, most brought by people who alleged Newton had borrowed from them to exploit oil and mining claims. Many of the aggrieved told tales of salted mines and oil being pumped into the ground at night so it could be pumped out the next day to dazzle the marks. While on paper Newton's estate totaled about \$16,000, the claims filed against it added up to more than \$1,350,000.

So why would such a man bother with flying saucers to promote his scams? Surely this was the sort of thing certain to undermine the confidence of prospective victims. And why, after the legal fiasco of 1952-53 demolished the credibility of his captured saucer tales--and made ufology gun-shy about any such stories until well into the 1980s--did Newton continue to maintain his story was true and hang around the fringes of saucer fandom?

There are those who think he may actually have known about real saucer crashes at Aztec and elsewhere and that he simply exploited the truth for his own more mundane ends--eventually winding up in trouble because he almost blew a secret certain dark forces did not want revealed. Still others think he, GeBauer, and Scully were victims of a disinformation effort designed to discredit any stories of crashed saucers, usually taken to mean: keep the lid on Roswell.

No one has offered any convincing proof to back up these suggestions that Aztec was more than a hoax in aid of a con game. Moreover, several respected researchers, among them Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Ohio State Director William Jones and Rebecca Minshall, have dug deep and found absolutely no evidence of a flying saucer at Aztec in March 1948 or any other time.

Enter my frustratingly anonymous source.

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The April 19, 1998, *Albuquerque Journal* carried a story about plans by a group in Aztec, New Mexico, to emulate Roswell by holding a 50th anniversary celebration of the town's own Saucer crash. The article implied there might be something to the Aztec saucer tale, so I wrote a letter to the editor pointing out that the incident never happened and that the tale had long since been exposed as a hoax.

A few days later, Bill Papich, the Farmington-Aztec/Four Corners area *Journal* stringer who had written the story, telephoned me. It seems my letter inspired the paper's editors to have him do a follow-up piece. Papich interviewed me, and I referred him to others--ufologists Dennis Stacy, Stanton Friedman, and Don Berliner, all of whom concurred in what I said. Others Papich spoke with contended a saucer did crash or land near Aztec in 1948, only to be carted away by the Air Force.

Papich's follow-up story, headlined "Aztec, the UFO and the Skeptics," ran on May 17, 1998. On June 3, I received a phone call. It was my determinedly anonymous source, who had seen the May 17 article and decided to contact me. This person claimed to have a document in Silas Newton's own hand that revealed the truth about Aztec and more.

My first thought was something not very polite. But I asked, "Why me?" I was told my caller had read my 1997 paper on the 1952 Florida scoutmaster case and was impressed. This coupled with what I had to say in the newspaper piece and having seen me on television discussing the Roswell case convinced the source I would handle the material honestly. At this point I wondered if this wasn't a relative of old Silas, buttering me up.

I decided to press the issue and asked for a copy of the document. This evoked a prompt, "Absolutely not!" And then, "But I will be happy to let you see it." *Well, why not?* I thought. So we arranged our first meeting, which took place on July 11, 1998.

It must be understood that my source refused to give me any way to make contact. This person initiated everything. It was a strictly one-way street, and I never knew when I might hear anything. My source refused to tell me how the document had been acquired or what relationship the source had to Silas Newton or any of the other principals of the Aztec case, if any. What mattered, I was told, was what Newton had set down. Take it or leave it.

My source and I met three times, July 11 and September 24, 1998, and, finally, January 13, 1999. We also had a number of telephone conversations during which I tried to persuade the voice on the other end of the line to let me make other knowledgeable researchers privy to the

contents of the document. I also tried to persuade my source to come forward, if not publicly then at least to meet with a select few researchers. But I always was rebuffed, politely but firmly and with no explanation.

At our last meeting, I told my source the situation was impossible, that what I had been shown was useless without independent verification. I said I was going to go public with it and hope something useful would thus be brought out. I said I would discuss only the Newton document and what it contained.

The response was, "I can't stop you. But if you do, you may never see me or Newton's journal again." That was my last contact with the still unidentified source. But this person's use of the word *may* did leave the door open a crack, which is why I'm being so circumspect about anything concerning my mysterious benefactor's identity.

It is difficult to fathom such a penchant for extreme secrecy. Whatever is behind it, and whether or not I ever resolve the questions raised by what I have been shown, I am grateful to my source because I was driven to look deeply into the career of Silas Newton. I discovered a truly remarkable character, one of the great--if that's the right word--unsung con men, and I may well write a biography of the old scoundrel.

But back to Aztec. At our first meeting, my source handed me 27 pages of lined paper, torn from a bound journal or school copy book. The cheap paper was pale cream with green horizontal lines and a red margin rule. One side of each sheet was covered with a scrawling, sprawling, difficult to read script--old fashioned and rather shaky--set down with a fountain pen in blue-black ink. My Source said it was written by Newton sometime during the last two years or so of his life--1970, '71, '72--and invited me to read. Which I did quite eagerly, but with considerable skepticism.

Over the course of two subsequent meetings I was permitted to re-read the material, take notes, and even copy down verbatim whatever I wished. I did not attempt to copy everything, but only what I judged to be the most important material, making notes on the rest.

In November 1998, I obtained from William L. Moore a copy of Newton's holographic will, which I took with me to what turned out to be my last meeting with my source. The will unquestionably is in Newton's hand, and while I'm certainly not a handwriting expert, the comparison left no doubt in my mind that he wrote the journal, too.

So it seems that what I was shown was indeed something penned by sly old Silas Newton, but what can we say of the veracity of its content?

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The Silas Newton who emerged from those pages was a man who certainly was unscrupulous and self-absorbed, who viewed everybody else as sheep to be fleeced. But he also was a man possessed of a mischievous sense of humor, with pride in his chosen vocation and a job well done, however dishonestly. Moreover, he clearly greatly enjoyed his Aztec scam, and I have the impression he considered it one of his masterpieces, perhaps even *the* masterwork of his checkered career.

Why did Newton start a journal, if that is what it was? As a writer, his words read to me like notes made by someone intending to write a book. Here are some of the key elements of Newton's account:

- He claimed to believe flying saucers were spaceships from another planet. He wrote he had seen one in 1947 while drilling on one of his oil properties on Dutton Creek in Wyoming and had been fascinated by the subject from then on. (This sighting was known to and reported by William L. Moore in a presentation he made at the 1985 MUFON symposium. Newton himself mentioned it in his 1969 Universal Foundation lecture.)

Newton's sighting and resulting interest seems to explain why he was drawn to using saucers as part of his oil-fraud schemes. He took the subject seriously and so felt comfortable using it.

- The Aztec saucer tale, including all of the associated crash-landing claims, was a hoax Newton invented to give his doodlebug pitch--in *his* words--"a let the mark in on a big secret feel."

- It was Newton who called the FBI with the Death Valley prospectors story. A few days later, he had GeBauer "call the papers to see if they would bite."

- Everything Newton did was to get the idea that flying saucers had landed and been captured current in the public mind and give it an aura of mystery, excitement, and government coverup--not only of the reality of the saucers but, even more important for his purposes, the wonderful technology they carried.

- Newton did not care if there were contradictions in the various versions he put about. In fact, the contradictions "helped the mystery along, gave it more allure." What mattered was to get the basic notion into peoples' heads. Then when he and GeBauer did their act, it gained more credibility from the prevailing interest in crashed-saucers--"pulled it right out of the air."

- Newton took every opportunity to capitalize on anything that might lend credibility to the grounded-saucer tale--for example, Mikel

Conrad's movie-promotion hoax--so when George Koehler told Newton about the invitation to speak at Denver University, he jumped at it. The academic prestige would help, and "give Frank something more and good to put in the book. I got a real kick out of it too." The confidentiality and his anonymity were just "stunts" to assure media interest when the story was leaked.

- George Koehler was the leaker of the Scientist X story. Koehler, not exactly on speaking terms with the truth himself, seems to have been quite willing to go along with whatever Newton wanted, and Newton prized Koehler's "gift of gab and quickness on the uptake. Knew when not to ask questions too."

- And while we're on Newton's opinions of his cronies, here's what he thought of GeBauer: "Leo thinks he is a hot shot but he is not as smart as he thinks and is a boring character. He was useful to me but I could not trust him to think for himself on anything important. But he would do anything I told him to and do it well. What he knew about electronics and his inventory paid off. He can find a mark okay and even get himself in but he never can figure out how to milk it for all it is worth, not by himself."

- What about Frank Scully? He was "a funny fellow and a good writer. And he was happy to buy anything I told him. Never did figure out if he actually believed any of the saucer guff. He probably did at first but it was too embarrassing to admit I had taken him when he realized it so he just kept pitching...."

"Frank certainly was the best thing to happen in this saucer game. Book was his idea. I only thought I would get something in his column, not a hit book. Sometimes though I wonder if the book was not way too big a play and if it would have been better for the whole thing to have been more low volume."

- Contrary to what has been thought since J. P. Cahn did his investigations, Newton and GeBauer did not meet through Herman Flader. By the time of the Flader scam, they had know each other for at least several months. They were working Flader as a team from the beginning.

- Now we come to what, if true, may be a significant new development in this wild affair. After the *Denver Post* revealed he was Scientist X, Newton received two visitors at his Newton Oil Company office in Denver. These men claimed to be with a highly secret U.S. government entity, which they refused to name. (Were they Air Force OSI agents, who Newton hyped into something more mysterious?) Newton writes, "They grilled me, tried to poke holes in my story. Had no trouble doing it and laughed in my face about the scientific mistakes I made."

"They never said so, but I could tell they were trying to find out if I really knew anything about flying saucers that had landed. Did not take those fellows long to decide I did not. But I sure knew they did."

- Newton's visitors told him they knew he was pulling a scam and then gave him what may have been the surprise of his life. "Those fellows said they wanted me to keep it up, keep telling the flying saucer story and that they and the people they worked for would look out for me and for Leo. I could just go on doing what I always did and not worry about it."

- Newton took this to mean two things. First, "[t]he big brass had something they wanted to hide and my game would help them do it. Those fellows sure wanted me to think it was a real saucer and I did think it was and still do." Second, "[t]hey did not give a damn about my game and would even help me if I got into a jam I could not fix alone."

- Newton interpreted the fact that federal authorities did not prosecute him in connection with the Flader case, instead leaving it to Colorado to handle, as an example of the help his visitors implied he could expect. His mysterious benefactors--if that's what they were--let him believe that, true or not.

- After the visit in 1950, Newton says he heard from the "agents" occasionally by telephone and was given words of encouragement and tips on new angles to pursue in the world of flying saucers. A few days after his conviction on December 29, 1953, another meeting was arranged, again with the same two men.

At this meeting, the men expressed regret at the outcome of the trial, but said "it could have been much harder on me in federal court and harder to get out of and they knew I could beat it one way or another."

The men also again asked Newton to stick to his saucer story and he assured them he would: "I told them I knew there was something to all that flying saucer business and so sure I would keep using it. What I did not say was that I could see plenty of opportunities for games to work with fellows like Adamski and the others. Sure, I would play along."

This was the last time Newton would see his contacts, although he claimed he did continue to hear from them from time to time, always encouraging him to keep up the good work.

There is much more to Newton's story. However, I am keeping it confidential for the time being, to permit me to use undisclosed information to help authenticate anything new that comes my way.

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So is there any more truth to Newton's claims than there was to his Aztec tale? Did the U.S. government or someone associated with it use Newton to discredit the idea of crashed flying saucers so a real captured saucer or saucers could be more easily kept under wraps? Was this actually nothing to do with real saucers but instead some sort of psychological warfare experiment or operation?

Or is the whole thing Silas Mason Newton's last laugh?

I have not arrived at any conclusions yet. There is not nearly enough to go on. I hope someone reading or hearing about this article will help me move from here to hard facts and solid answers. I urge anyone who has *anything* to offer to contact me.

Now, as I pen these words, I hear from the gloom what I could swear is a ghostly but merry chuckle. Silas? Is that you?

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Acknowledgments

I owe a considerable debt to a number of people for their outstanding research and generosity. Very special thanks to one of ufology's grand old men, James W. Moseley, editor of "Saucer Smear," for being at a number of right places at the right time back in 1953 (including interviewing Silas Newton the evening of the day he was convicted), and to J. P. Cahn, the investigative journalist who back in the fifties led the way and exposed a large part of what *really* was behind the Newton-GeBauer-Newton flying saucers. Thanks, too, to UFO researcher-author Nicholas Redfern, for saving me enormous time and expense--not to mention what he saved American taxpayers--by sharing the documents relevant to this case which he obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. Thanks for similar reasons to my friend and colleague Jerome Clark, editor of the *International UFO Reporter* and leading historian of ufology, for giving me access to his complete Aztec file, and to Mark Rodeghier, Center for UFO Studies scientific director, for the loan of two important and now hard to find compilations of FBI and Air Force Office of Special Investigations documents on this strange drama and its lead and bit players.

A heartfelt thank you to the "notorious" William L. Moore for his superb investigation of the Aztec case, for ferreting out and compiling the official documents I borrowed from Jerry Clark and CUFOS, and, especially, for giving me access to the document that allowed me to confirm the authenticity of "Newton's last words."

And finally and by no means least, a tip of the hat and more to Loren Gross, UFO historian, for his remarkable and extremely valuable research series in progress, *UFOs: A History*; Dr. Berthold Schwartz, psychiatrist and paranormal investigator; Bob Durant, veteran ufologist, who labors so quietly (usually) and effectively; retired U.S. Navy Commander Graham Bethune, a key witness in a classic UFO case himself, who was kind enough to discuss his serendipitous and perhaps not so serendipitous personal brushes with Aztec; and, of course, my source.

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1980 - A SAMPLER OF NORTHERN OHIO UFO CASES
by Rick Hilberg

The following incidents were personally investigated by the author, who at the time operated a UFO reporting phone "hotline" from his Berea, Ohio home:

On March 2nd a 59-year-old Cleveland man happened to glance up at the afternoon sky to observe a high-flying aircraft traveling from east to west leaving a well defined contrail. After observing the plane for several seconds he then noted a silvery, fast moving oval object come from out of the northeast and "pass" the plane, and then either disappear or (as the witness thinks more likely) quickly change direction and shoot upward into the sky.

The object was in view for no more than ten seconds, and the witness noted that the time was 3:35 p.m.

On Sunday March 9th at 8:15 p.m. a 47-year-old man on Luary Dr. in Painsville was outside his home when his attention was drawn to a lighted object that was giving off a "static, fluttery sound." The night was cool, and as he looked up the witness made note of the fact that the sky was perfectly clear, with many stars visible.

In the northern sky, at approximately 60° above the horizon, the witness saw a cigar-shaped object with a bulge on the top part, that was rose colored with a slight grayish tint to it. The witness described it as large as a dime held at arm's length. He stood watching it for a few moments, and reported that at the time it seemed to be hovering motionlessly; however, after a time the object began making drifting movements.

The witness ran inside to get his wife and two children to join him in watching the strange lighted object, and when they all got outside it seemed as if another identical object was near the first one, but whatever they noted rapidly disappeared, leaving the original object in the same position as observed initially.

The UFO then went back and forth in the sky from east to west, and during these motions a passenger jet passed near the object, heading east. The witness stated that the object seemed to follow the airliner briefly, and then resumed its drifting movements for about five minutes.

During this part of the sighting the local police was dispatched and a car was sent to the scene. Also during this period of time another neighborhood couple joined in the observation, making a total of seven witnesses.

At this point, the object did very rapid maneuvers from the northeast to the southwest two to three times, appearing to loom closer to the witnesses than at any time previously. The UFO then began to do spirals or circular motions very rapidly, and seemed to move away to the northeast horizon and out over nearby Lake Erie, and was lost to sight when it passed behind some trees.

The duration of the sighting was about 15 minutes or more.

At 12:40 a.m. on April 3rd a woman in her 50s observed a bright, silvery disk-shaped object from a location just north of Brookpark Road near Chevrolet Blvd. in Cleveland.

She was alerted by a very bright light shining through the window of her mobile home, and decided to go outside as to ascertain its cause. Upon arriving outside, she noted that the almost full moon was visible, with few stars visible because of the brightness and the presence of a very light amount of cloud cover.

She walked a short distance away from the other mobile homes and nearby trees to get a clear look at the source of the unnaturally bright light. It was then that she clearly saw the large disk-shaped UFO hovering over the nearby Conrail Belt Line railroad tracks and high tension power lines serving the many medium to large industrial plants in the area.

She estimated the object as being at an approximate elevation of 30°, and thought that it was at an altitude of 180 feet or so above the power lines. She also estimated the object to be 30-40 feet in diameter, and 15-20 feet high at the bulge.

She watched the UFO circle or orbit over the power lines for about ten minutes, when it unexpectedly rose straight up at a high but erratic speed, and was quickly lost to sight.

At about 1:00 p.m. on September 9th, three male employees of an airfreight company located on Brookpark Road near Cleveland Hopkins Airport were out in the parking lot finishing their lunch hour and enjoying the beautiful late summer day.

Suddenly, one of the men saw four roundish, disk-shaped, off-white colored objects in the western sky about 30° above the horizon, moving swiftly towards the east. He shouted to alert his two co-workers and quickly pointed out to them the four objects.

Said the initial witness of his experience: "When I first saw them, they were a perfect square. I watched them proceed (to) almost over the airport, and (they) then moved in such a fashion that I thought if it's planes, I was going to watch a multiple crash.

"I then alerted (the other two men) in the parking lot. (The) objects returned by then to a perfect square. By the time they were overhead (they) appeared to be more of a triangle formation.

"The amazing thing was at one point, one disk shot back of the other three quite far almost instantly, and just as fast closed the distance and became part of the last disk in the formation - just blended right into it, then it was apparent that (those) two disks stayed exactly on course while the other two would bank sharply and very fast - over, under, behind, in front slightly of the two staying on course. One would bank to the right and the other would do the same to (the) left - very much movement by the two outside ones.

"They do exist!"

The witnesses report hearing no sound, and estimate that the

objects were in sight for some 40 seconds before being lost in the distance 40 degrees above the eastern horizon.

At about 8:55 p.m. on the evening of October 3rd, a Lorain man was outside his home putting winter insulating material on his windows when his attention was attracted by a large moving object about 40 degrees above the western horizon. He yelled for the three other adults in the house to come outside and have a look at the clearly visible disk. They all reported that the UFO was at an extremely low altitude, and that the silent object had a pinkish light on the top of its dome-like upper part, while a bank of from eight to ten white lights blinked off and on in a counterclockwise pattern on the bottom of the disk portion of the thing.

Said the witness in his report: " (The) object (was) first seen at a distance in the west. It came at high speed (to) about 1½ blocks away, (and then) came to a stop. It moved in different positions for a few minutes.

"It then moved toward the north, being hidden by trees for a few seconds, and then it came back (and) stopped for a short time and wavered in front of me, then moved south until out of sight, first slow, then very fast.

"I called the police to see if anyone else (had) seen it...it was so close at times I thought it might land, but it did not."

The witnesses report that the object itself was made of a silver metallic substance, and they thought that it was flying at treetop level. It had to be upwards of 25 feet in diameter.

At about 7:30 p.m. on November 19th, a Lakewood couple was returning to their Marlowe Ave. residence after a shopping trip, and were in the process of removing several grocery bags and perparing to put their car in the garage. While walking in the driveway the wife happened to look up into the clear northwestern sky and became aware of a number of round "dull-colored" lights in a flattened V - formation heading toward the southeast.

The witness was quite startled for a few seconds, and then began to shout at her husband, who was some distance away from her at the time, but by the time he reached her position the lights had disappeared behind some nearby houses. However, the witness had the lights in sight for an estimated 30 to 35 seconds, and reported that they made no noise.

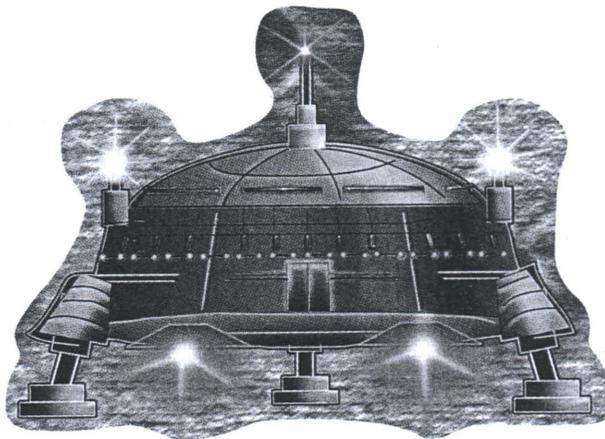
The group of lights had a large apparent size, she said, and estimated that a baseball held at arm's length would cover them completely. She also estimated that the lights were traveling much faster than the jet airliners seen in her neighborhood in the approach pattern of Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

She also stated that at no time did the lights move in relation to one another, and the lack of this "jockeying" maneuver seems to rule out the possibility that she could have been observing migrating birds, as we first suspected.

At 8:45 a.m. on November 26th a man in his early twenties was casually looking out the window of his bedroom at the

Parmatown Towers on Ames Drive in Parma. He reported that he suddenly saw something heading from the southwest sky toward the northeast at a high rate of speed. Within seconds he was able to discern two extremely bright points of light that had a small red-colored object "orbiting" them in a counterclockwise path.

Although he had them in view for only about five seconds before they were lost to view after passing over the apartment building, the witness was quite certain that what he saw was not any sort of aircraft, as the morning was very clear and he would have easily been able to identify it as such had that been the case.



A New Line of Research

Dedicated to the Paranoia of Albert K. Bender

BY

Wendy A. Connors
Faded Discs Archive

I'm not a recognized name in ufological circles, but over the years I've placed a few gems on the table for everyone to share in this enigmatic endeavor. As a ufological historian I don't worry about alien abductions or Men in Black. I'm always too busy worrying about paying my bills or running out of toilet paper on Christmas Eve. You know really important things of everyday life.

After long days of preserving ufological tidbits and other neat crud for future generations of researchers to get their grubby little mitts on long after I'm dust, I sit in my recliner and watch TV, munch popcorn, guzzle coke and then struggle off to bed after winding the cat and throwing the clock out. The last thing on my mind is government conspiracies.

Albert K. Bender, on the other hand, probably looked over his shoulder and hid under his covers at days end, all the while worrying about the Men in Black making another visit, getting abducted by government agents or sexually accosted by Villas Boas' space Vixen from God knows where...and I'm sure its location is probably marked on Betty Hill's infamous Star Map. Go Fish!

You've all read the story of Albert K. Bender's M.I.B.'s and Carlos Allende's (Carl Meredith Allen) paranoid delusions of Morris K. Jessup getting whacked by the mob from the Soprano's turf section of Jupiter and sailors forever entombed inside the hull of the U.S.S. Philadelphia like so much cream cheese. It's the stuff of ufological folklore and lots of fun to read if you're new to the field of Ufology or you've lost interest in body piercing and the like.

I got to thinking about the paranoia that seems to enter into the realm of Ufology by various means when I was dubbing a copy of Dr. Herbert Hopkins recitation of his M.I.B. encounter after working on the David Stephen and Glen Gray abduction case. There have been lots of nasty stories surrounding interference of researcher's work into Ufology over the years. Most of the more astute and level headed researchers in Ufology wink and nod when the question of governmental or alien interference is mentioned.

But I've recently begun to wonder if I should continue to wink and nod as in the past? For you see, dear reader, not even ufological historians are immune from the mysteries beyond. I shall relate a story to you that involves a meeting in the desert of three people, scraps of paper in labeled plastic bags and a variation of the 1950s television quiz show, *What's My Line?* It is a gruesome tale that borders on paranoia, but like Robert Ripley used to say, *Believe It or Not!*

In life there are times when what appears innocent may not be so innocent. What looks like coincidence may not be and what you see with your own eyes may only be what you thought you saw.

This story begins about four years ago. I awoke one beautiful summer morning in the high desert of New Mexico to the sounds of birdies singing, dogs barking, a cat fight, neighbors yelling, an escaped parrot squawking, gun fire from the street gangs of Albuquerque, detonation of mysterious explosive devices over at Kirtland AFB's Sandia National Laboratories and an ambulance with full siren screaming. My stomach was also growling and my bladder was full. But all that aside, it had all the hallmarks of being one of those days.

My first task of the day was to drive to the Post Office and check my mail. Like many researchers I obtained a post box to receive all things ufological. It's funny though. I rarely get anything in my post office box, but my mailbox at home is usually crammed with stuff from other researchers or people wanting me to give them free copies of this and that...like I'm made out of money and my

last name is Gates, or something. Anyway, I pulled from my post office box a plastic bag containing a letter addressed to me that had been opened. A postal label attached to the bag informed me that the letter was received at the facility in that condition. It was no big deal at the time because the letter actually contained one of James Moseley's nefarious journalistic rags, *Saucer Smear* and I use it to swat things that crawl into the house from the desert looking for food or shelter from the hot sun.

It didn't take long for the same kind of thing to happen on a frequent basis for several months. The post office was nice about it. Always informing me that the letter got caught in a sorting machine, it was attacked by a pit bull that finally let go of a mail carrier's leg after she returned to the post office or that it must have gotten run over by UPS drivers running amuck. But it was no longer funny, nor did I consider it a series of coincidences any longer. Somebody was pilfering through my mail.

Then came the long stretches of time it took mail to reach my postal box. A birthday card from Aunt Snootlerod in New Guinea took four days and a letter from Richard Hall took 23 days. Anything that related to ufological matters was either severely delayed or opened by some means for several months.

As the summer continued my housemate was beginning to have trouble with his phone and mine was getting a tad bit goofy too. Together we had three telephone lines. One line was for his phone and two lines for me. I used one line for my personal phone and the other for my Internet use. The clicks, pops, static, dead air and hollow sounds coming from our phone lines became annoying, so I called our local champions of telephonic communications...Quest (yeah, the same bozo's being investigated by the government for fraud, etc.).

Like a flash a Quest repair person arrived on the scene, ladder in hand and a belt loaded with enough equipment to supply the communications for a global military action. Since the telephone pole is conveniently located in my backyard, he was up the pole lickety-split. As I listened to the electrical discharges and made a body count of the birds hitting the ground, he was quickly back on the ground.

Well? What gives? I said coyly.

He stood there scratching his gut at the same time trying to hike his jeans back up to cover the butt crack emanating from his pants. He stood there a long time before he spoke. Finally he said, *Lady, you sure you only have three phones?*

I blinked and said, *Sure. Want to go in the house and check for yourself?*

He followed me into the house. Checked the phone wiring and counted the two phones and the connection to my computer for the Internet.

Well. This is mighty queer, he said. *I don't know what's going on, but Lady, you got a fourth phone line coming into this house.* He gave a pregnant pause that would have done Jack Benny proud before uttering, *Now I know we didn't put that line from the pole to your box on the house 'cause it ain't the wire we use nor are the fittings we use the same. Ma'm. I got's to call my supervisor. This is really peculiar and don't make no sense.*

We babbled about the strange calls and sounds coming from the phones while waiting for his supervisor to arrive. It didn't take all that long for the *Suit* to show up. He introduced himself and even climbed up the ladder to look, then looked at the connection to the box attached to the house. He whipped out a cell phone, walked a discreet distance from us and spoke in hushed tones. Finishing his secretive call he ambled back over to where the repair guy and I stood.

Well, Ma'm. The line isn't an authorized tap. We have no record of a court order by any law enforcement agency for a tap on your lines. At that he turned to the repair guy and told him to remove the entire line and that he would take it with him for the phone company security people to take a look see.

Once the mysterious fourth telephone line was removed our phone problems disappeared. However, this was to be very short-lived. The following day the strange clicks and noises returned. The day after that my housemate counted four lines coming from the telephone pole to the junction box on the house. I made another call to the fine people at Quest.

Upon arrival the same repair guy said, *Damn, lady. What the hell's going on here?* I just looked at him and blinked because I didn't have a clue. I know I didn't climb up the telephone pole to string a wire to the house. It wasn't long before the *Suit* showed up.

He was not a happy camper at seeing the line replaced. Especially since he didn't authorize it, nor did anyone down at the company know anything about it. It isn't often that you see a supervisor from any company climb up a ladder and remove a line by himself while the repair guy stood on the ground and watched. Not only was the line removed again, but the supervisor and the repair guy replaced the junction box and locked it with a special seal.

Well, since that happened my mail comes in better condition. Our phones don't seem to have any problem drawing telemarketers and I've switched my Internet service to DSL.

But, ya know. I keep wondering why the hard drive in my computer keeps rattling away at 3 a.m. every day? Just makes you wonder if old Albert K. Bender might have had a point.

Wendy Connors



UFO Pursuit In Southern Cordoba

****UFOs reappear in Cordoba's southern reaches****

SOURCE: Círculo Ovnológico Riocuartense (COR)

DATE: 09/16/02

RIO CUARTO, Córdoba, Argentina -- Less than 48 hours have elapsed between the events on Saturday, September 7th when Cordoba is once again the site of another event allegedly related to the UFO phenomenon.

On this occasion, a family traveling in a pickup truck between the localities of Achiras and Sampachoy were in the vicinity of the Cerro Aspero when they began noticing a "very intense red light in the sky" which originated from the southwest, as their vehicle headed northward from the south along provincial route 24. The time was approximately 22:30 hours. The head of the family preferred not to disclose his identity, but told the news media that "this is the first time it's happened to us," going on to relate that at no time did his family feel fear, nor was there any nervousness on his part. "If that think wanted to hurt us, it could have clearly done so."

When asked by researchers about the characteristics of the object witnessed, he explained: "It was like an intense red beam...there were other flashes of great brightness behind it and what drew our attention the most is that the front section of the luminous object had something resembling an arch of light, as though it were a circle of energy." The younger members of the group of nocturnal travelers stated, "they were very impressed."

The sighting lasted for several minutes and the head of the family added: "At a given moment, the object gave the impression that it was about to fall on top of us, but it changed course at the last moment and headed toward the hills of Sampacho and Suco," further relating that, "we passed by the Chanaritos region always, looking at it toward the southwest. Then we crossed the "ancias" area and by the time we reached the crossroads of the highway leading toward Laguna de Suco, it was as though the light had become lost in the sky."

For some years now, this region of southern Córdoba province has been the source of anomalous nocturnal manifestations, but anomalous luminous phenomena has intensified greatly as far south as the province of San Luis (to the west). But southern Córdoba has witnessed an intensification of alleged UFO manifestations in an area that includes regions and communities which include Adelia María, Carolina, Punta del Agua, San Basilio, Suco, Sampacho, Chaján, Achiras, Río Cuarto, Cuatro Vientos, Las Albahacas, Villa El Chacay, Alpa Corral, Las Vertientes, Pavín, Huinca Renancó, General Cabrera, Elena, etc., and which not only occupies an area to the southeast and west of Rio Cuarto, but rather, extends northward toward the northern reaches of this last city, as is the case with General Cabrera and Elena.

This incident can be added to the ones already known, although there is still the question of various different versions [of the experience]. It is currently being investigated by *Círculo Ovnológico Riocuartense*, headquartered in the city Río Cuarto, Córdoba. At least three significant cases have been reported: Moine, in Adelia María (CE-2), Chaján (CE-2 or CE-3?), Barrios (CE-2 or CE-3?). The second of these cases is the one in which the witness claims having stood "some 10 to 12 meters" away from an object which he reckons "was 200 meters long."

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Translation (C) 2002. Scott Corrales, IHU. Special thanks to Mario Luis Bracamonte of Círculo Ovnológico Riocuartense (COR).

Musical UFOs?

We ran the first report below in the Summer 2002 edition of our *MUFON UFO Network for Ohio Newsletter*. MUFON State Section Director Donnie Blessing thought these two reports should be run together. We didn't have space to do that in the newsletter, but we can do it here. I am sorry that the witness identities are not available to us for further investigation.

| National UFO Reporting Center | |
|---|--|
| Sighting Report | |
| Occurred : 9/6/2002 05:15 (Entered as : 09/06/02 05:15) | |
| Reported : 9/6/2002 5:57:33 AM 05:57 | |
| Posted : 9/6/2002 | |
| Location : Columbus, OH | |
| Shape : Unknown | |
| In Columbus, Ohio we heard music and saw flashing lights that appeared to be coming from something flying through our neighborhood. | |
| Around 5:15 am on September 6, 2002, we awoke to hear the sound of something flying in the air close to the roof of our house. As the sound got nearer, there was a musical quality to it. We could also see lights flashing all around the interior of our bedroom. The lights appeared to be red, white, and yellow. The sound moved away after about 15 seconds, then after about 30-45 seconds, the sound and lights seemed to come back around. The music seemed more like the tones of a composition and not like someone's radio. We were wondering if anyone else saw or heard this and could provide more information. | |

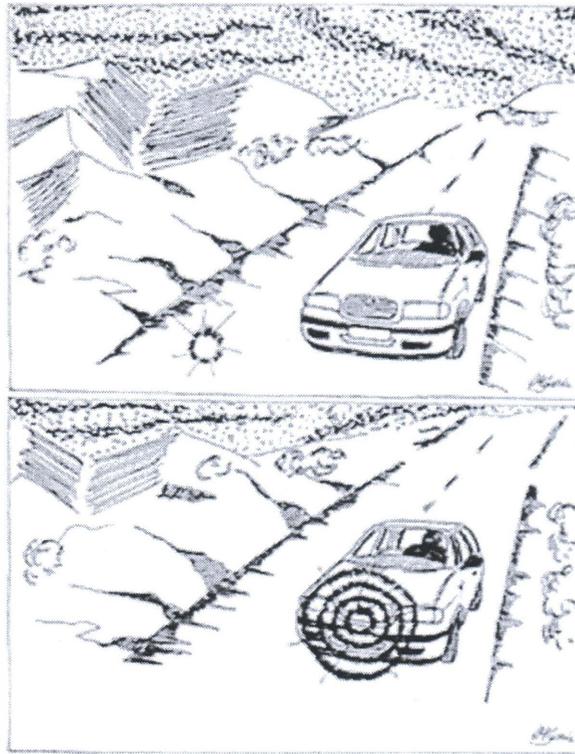
| National UFO Reporting Center | |
|--|--|
| Sighting Report | |
| Occurred : 9/6/2002 02:30 (Entered as : 09/06/02 02:30) | |
| Reported : 9/8/2002 7:11:58 AM 07:11 | |
| Posted : 9/13/2002 | |
| Location : Marble Cliff, OH | |
| Shape : Triangle | |
| Me and my girl was parked by the river in Marble Cliff, Ohio, when we heard like musical notes. It was strange that it was like no song we had heard before. As we cleaned the mist from the window we saw a bright light hovering above the river, then all of a sudden the lights went from white, to red and then to yellow, with a low humming musical sound from the "craft". We sat there in silence watching for maybe 5 or 10 minutes, then the craft just took off as fast as it had came into the night sky. A soon as it had gone we were out of there. | |

SOURCE: José Manuel García Bautista/Rafael Cabello
DATE: July 23, 2002

UFO Sightings Over Seville Continue

The province of Seville in Spain appears to be experiencing a startling amount of UFO activity. In addition to cases involving landings and humanoid encounters in recent months, we must add a new event of which details have already been made known. This sighting occurred in the vicinity of the town of Aznalcollar.

Around 21:45 hours that evening, L.L.R. was heading back toward Seville after spending a day working in the Sierra de Hueva. The witness was driving along the road belonging to the Aznalcollar-based Boliden-Apirsa mining company (currently closed), when he saw a small light in the distance that appeared to be crossing the road. "As I approached I thought it might be a motorcycle, and that it would stop at the crossing to yield," he told us. The driver, believing that the light belonged to a normal vehicle, did not slow down, but was struck by the bluish-white hue of the light. When he was some 20 meters away from the object, he realized that the "thing" appeared not to be aware of his presence. "I kept getting closer, and when I saw that it had no intentions of braking, I flashed it with my high beams without slowing down. Next thing I knew, that thing was right in front of my car."



Reconstruction of the eyewitness's encounter with the small spherical UFO.

At that very same moment, the driver thought that an impact was inevitable and imagined his vehicle running over the alleged motorcycle. However, none of that occurred. "I collided against it and turned away, expecting an impact, but it didn't occur. There was only an explosion of multicolored lights. I got out of the car to see what happened, but there was nothing on the road! No accident, no casualty, nothing whatsoever! I became hysterical. I scanned the length of the road and even looked under my car, but found no traces of glass or other materials and of course, there were no casualties either." Although the witness found no signs of an impact, the hood of his car showed signs that something had indeed made contact with the vehicle. "I thought that if I'd collided with something, the front of the car must be very damaged," admitted L.L., "but when I looked there was nothing, only some sort of a thick water that vanished upon touching it...nothing more...I thought I was going to pass out, but I was glad not to have run anyone over. I returned to Seville as calmly as I could, but I had trouble starting the car, and the battery refused to work. The following day I took it to the shop and I was told it looked new...and however, given its age, it should be nearly exhausted."

Translation (C) 2002. Scott. Corrales, Institute of Hispanic Ufology. Special thanks to Rafael Garcia V.

UFOs Haunt Missile Crew

by Billy Cox

A Florida Today column, June 27, 2001

When you're a launch-control operator in charge of a single missile fitted with a plutonium warhead packing enough yield (three megatons) to enlarge Hiroshima's incineration by a factor of 150, life in even the loneliest desert can get a little intense. You remember the big things first.

You remember things like October 1962, when activating the go codes - and a nuclear exchange - was literally at your fingertips. As it was again in November 1963, when the president got blown away and the first prime suspect was already locked into a pre-targeted grid pattern. If you were at the Strategic Air Command outpost near Roswell, N.M., you watched fuel explosions destroy three Atlas silos, and you wondered what would happen if it got down to launching live rounds.

You remember other crazy things, like the 24-hour shifts, which actually worked out to about 27 after you added round-trip drive time. You remember the toll baby-sitting ICBMs took on marriages and other relationships, the divorces. But it wasn't until last month, when Jerry Nelson of Cocoa Beach read about the Disclosure Project going on in Washington, D.C., that he remembered something else.

In May, some 20 people claiming encounters with unidentified flying objects while performing military or government duties went public to demand open congressional hearings on this largely classified phenomenon. One Air Force veteran, Robert Salas, reported how UFOs buzzing missile silos at Malmstrom Air Force Base managed to shut down more than a dozen Minuteman nukes in Montana during March 1967.

Actually, more widely publicized UFO snooping into restricted space around nuclear weapons systems occurred in the autumn of 1975. That's when security forces at Loring, (Maine), Wurtsmith (Michigan), and Malmstrom (again) Air Force bases were scrambled - in vain - to apprehend the intruders. But Nelson had never heard of those events. And even though he was stationed at Walker AFB on the outskirts of Roswell in the 1960s, he also says he never heard of the alleged 1947 flying saucer crash near the New Mexico cow town until several years ago.

What Nelson does recall is how, as a member of the 579th Strategic Missile Squadron, his post at an ICBM silo called Site 9 sustained its own peculiar nocturnal security breaches during a period of several months.

"The guards were scared," says Nelson, a retired pharmacist. "These objects would hover over the silo and shine lights down on them without making any noise. So I'd call the base and the base would say, 'We'll take it under advisement,' but I never got a chance to see it, because I couldn't leave my post."

One USAF veteran who got a look at something a little different was missile facilities technician Bob Caplan, now living in Rohnert Park, Calif. He didn't work with Nelson's crew, but late one night on another shift, a guard at Site 9 asked the ranking officer below to dim the security lights to cut the glare because weird lights just beyond the perimeter were giving him the willies. Caplan went topside to check it out.

After emerging into clear, moonless, pitch-black darkness, Caplan says it took him a few moments to spot the silent interloper. "It was definitely on the ground, and it was white and very intense," he recalls. "It's hard to explain. It didn't put a beam of light out, it was more concentrated, but not like a sphere. More like a flat circle like a halogen light that's shining flat on the ground."

When Caplan and a guard swung their flashlights toward the thing and approached, it vanished. Nothing was there. The light reappeared seconds later, some 20 to 30 feet away, only to disappear without a trace. Although Caplan never saw it again, an Office of Special Investigations agent interrogated him several days later. Caplan never saw the report, assuming one was filed.

Gene Lamb of Oklahoma City was a 579th SMS deputy crew commander who didn't see anything, but heard about and read UFO stories. "One of those things supposedly landed north of Roswell," he says. "It was reported by a highway patrolman who said it left a triangulation pattern where its legs touched down. And there was another (UFO) incident after that, a daylight sighting."

Even his crew commander witnessed UFO activity. Lamb says he can't get into it, because his old buddy feels constrained by a security oath.

Lamb, by the way, is the reunion coordinator for the 579th, whose short life span ran from 1961 to 1965. Although the assignment produced some lasting personal bonds, Lamb says not everybody wants to attend get-togethers. "I've had guys tell me, 'I don't want to be discourteous, but what happened out there ruined my life.' One even told me he suffered a nervous breakdown afterward."

Well, at least we won the Cold War.

National UFO Reporting Center

Sighting Report

Occurred : 6/26/2002 13:00 (Entered as : 06/26/02 13:00)

Reported : 6/28/2002 4:08:27 PM 16:08

Posted : 7/1/2002

Location : Mercury, NV

Shape : Other

High power broadband radio transmission observed near Area 51

We were traveling in a two-car convoy on highway 95 east of Mercury, NV on both 6/23/02 and on 6/26/02. We used 14 channel hand-held radios, available at Radio Shack, for comm between vehicles. On both the trip North and on the return trip South we noticed very strong broadband radio interference with both our radios for a period of tens of minutes (while traveling about 75 MPH) in the vicinity of Mercury, NV, which is about 30 miles east of Area 51.

I have tested these radios and they break the preset squelch at a distance of about 2 miles, broadcasting an estimated 500 mW at roughly 440 MHz. The interference we observed broke the squelch many times on the radios as we traveled. IF the distance between us and the transmitting antenna were 30 miles when this happened, the transmitter, apparently located in Area 51 would have been transmitting at least 5 KW in a narrow band of one channel.

I observed that the interference occurred in all 14 bands of our radios, so this would indicated a broadband transmission of at least 70 KW to achieve this phenomenon. The total power from the transmitter could be much higher, depending on the actual bandwidth in use and location of the transmitting antenna.

It is well known that typical military broadband radios transmit only a few watts or less.

The only use I know of for very high power broadband radio transmissions is to transmit over extreme distances. I once calculated that I could transmit a receivable signal over 2 million miles (the distance to Mars at close approach) with only a few hundred milliwatts of output power if I used a broad bandwidth of 10 MHz. I cannot guess what would require the kind of broadband power that I observed near Area 51.

((NUFORC Note: Although we have seen no convincing evidence that Area 51/Groom Lake in Nevada is related to the UFO phenomenon, we include this report, nevertheless, principally because the witness who submitted the report is well know to us, and he is highly qualified in the field of electrical engineering and communication theory. PD))

Seven UFOs Spotted By A Family In Niles, Ohio

On Saturday, August 31, 2002, at 10:50 p.m., J.W. reported, "At a family get-together" in Niles, Ohio (population 20,932) "we sat around a campfire, reminiscing, joking, etc. During a lull in the conversation, I leaned back in my chair to stare at the stars."

All at once, J.W. "observed five 'Stealth-like' objects crossing the sky directly above. The objects were all of similar size. They appeared vee-shaped, large aircraft size, and in a 'single file' formation. They were spread perhaps two lengths behind each other. They had a luminous energy (aura--J.T.) to them, yet emitted no white or colored light of any kind, not any kind of sound."

"After the five had disappeared from view, two more like (similar) objects followed, passing overhead in the same direction, to the north (towards Lake Erie--J.T.)"

J.W. described the UFOs as "blackish-gray, vee-shaped, like a flying wing. Estimated altitude of 20,000 feet (6,000 meters), flying one to two times as fast as a commercial jet seen at the same altitude."

Niles, Ohio is about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northwest of Youngstown. (Email Form Report)

Source: UFO Roundup, Volume 7, Number 41, October 8, 2002,
<http://ufoinfo.com/roundup>

UFO Sighting – 1954

by Donnie Blessing, MUFON State Section Director for Ohio

In the spring or early summer of 1954, John W.[name withheld, on file] was playing outside his home on Carthage Court near Cincinnati Gardens. He noticed his neighbors across the street, consisting of two men and one woman, were looking upward with one pointing a finger skyward. John looked to see what they were looking at. To his amazement he saw what he described as two silver colored cylinders. It was a sunny day and the sun reflected off the objects casting a silver glow. The objects appeared to be at a 25 to 30 degree angle above the horizon.

In 1954 the land surrounding his area was open with some woods. The Swifton Commons shopping center was just beginning to be built and the objects were in the vicinity of that area. These cylinders were moving in a northerly direction and he said that they might have been moving in the direction of the village of Roselawn. The objects seemed to moving at a very slow pace. One object looked to be slightly lower and behind the other. He knew they were not blimps because they were very slender. He quoted an 8 to 1 ratio with them being long but not very wide. He saw what appeared to be two white stripes running horizontal across the sides of the cylinders. They had blunt noses that he described as "bullet shaped." The rear of the objects however were "chopped off" or looking somewhat squared. No sound could be heard from these objects. John states that

he also noticed there were no fins, wings, windows, propellers, cockpit or lights. Nothing about these objects looked like a plane or blimp. He wondered how they could have stayed in the air with no visible means of support. They seemed to just float along.

John says that he watched these objects for 2-3 minutes. By then he had grown tired of watching and went back to playing. The neighbors had also gone back in their house. He said that he had lost contact with the neighbors and it been many years since he last spoke to any of them. I was able to reach two of the people who had lived across the street, one being John's playmate from 1954. His name is Bobby W. [name on file] He said that if his mother or father had seen these objects they had never mentioned it to him. He went on to say that his father was now deceased. His mother is 90 years old and that she would not remember if she had seen something back then. I also contacted a cousin of Bobby W. who had also lived across the street. He told me he had not heard of the story. He said that would ask family members the next time he was with them if any had heard about someone seeing these objects. "He has my number and will call if he hears anything"

Comments:

John sounded sincere and said that he did not believe that extraterrestrial life was visiting this planet. He has no idea what he saw and sounded surprised when I mentioned that silver cylinders are often seen. He replied, "You're kidding?" This report came to us as a result of John attending the National UFO Conference outside Cincinnati on September 28th, 2002. He later filed this report thru a computer at the library saying that maybe someone would like to hear his story.

The year 1954 gave rise to numerous reports of UFO's in the Cincinnati and Ohio area, many describing a silver metallic object. While most reports were of the common saucer type, some described the familiar cigar shape. Examples of these are:

11/4/54 Cincinnati

Four eyewitnesses reported seeing a round silvery object near the Proctor and Gamble plant that reflected sunlight. Later that night a cigar-shaped object was seen cruising in a straight line with a tail of red pulsating light.

10/22/54 Marysville, Ohio

A principal, teacher and 60 students at a school in Marysville saw a bright cigar shaped object hover over their school. The object had no wings or tail. It took off at incredible speed making no sound. An "angel hair" like substance drifted downward across the nearby countryside followed this maneuver. Some of the substance was collected and sent to Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Some was also sent to Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio.

UFOs on the Internet

by Larry Hatch, message dated 10/20/02, via Project 1947 List.

The title of this piece could have been UFOs vs. Pornography on the Internet. How many times have we heard that the number of hits on UFO websites are only exceeded by the number of hits on pornography websites? Well, it is always good to check up on such "wisdom." Apparently UFOs are not all that important to web surfers. Here is a report from Larry Hatch that came over the Project 1947 List on 10/20/02 and a follow up from the head of Project 1947, Jan Aldrich.

Like most of us, I presumed that UFOs are one of the busiest topics on the Internet. There are countless UFO websites, any number of email discussion groups like (or unlike) this one etc. My single website sees 50-100 visits per day, sometimes a lot more.

A service in the UK indicates otherwise however!

Word tracker emails me lists every week. These track the frequencies of Search Engine search words two ways. The first list is the top 500 terms people searched for in the previous week, the second one has all-time rankings since the service began a few years back.

Neither list shows UFO, or any variation of that at all!

Here's the top 20 from last week [the third week of October, 2002]:

| Rank | Hits | Search word(s) | | | |
|------|------|--------------------|----|-----|---------------|
| 1 | 1006 | google | 11 | 593 | dictionary |
| 2 | 983 | jokes | 12 | 562 | hotmail.com |
| 3 | 972 | yahoo | 13 | 548 | maps |
| 4 | 832 | health | 14 | 541 | games |
| 5 | 753 | ebay | 15 | 506 | mapquest |
| 6 | 728 | hotmail | 16 | 486 | weather |
| 7 | 694 | yahoo.com | 17 | 449 | www.yahoo.com |
| 8 | 636 | halloween costumes | 18 | 442 | halloween |
| 9 | 606 | lyrics | 19 | 435 | music |
| 10 | 597 | Pictures | 20 | 433 | song lyrics |

It goes on like that. I see the names of search engines a lot, maps, web services, topical stuff, and odd and unfamiliar things like "kazaa" clipart, newsrooms, quitar tabs (?), and lingerie, but nowhere is the word UFO to be found!

Here's the URL for the service: <http://www.wordtracker.com/reviews/webposition.html>

Frankly I'm surprised.

Response from Jan Aldrich:

I think when I first got my computer that there was some chatter that UFOs were the most popular topic on the Internet after pornography. I think that is just urban legend.

Non-Commercial Spanish Ufology Meets At Teruel

SOURCE: Mundomisterioso.com

DATE: Tuesday, October 22, 2002

On March 31, 1993 at 2:15 a.m., an impressive luminous object, resembling a giant "star of Bethlehem" flew over the town of Montalbán (Teruel province). It wasn't the first time or the last that this occurred, and perhaps due to the considerable UFO case history in that part of the world, the open-mindedness of the locals, including the town's mayor, made it possible for Montalbán to become the capital city of Spanish ufology for 3 days.

A series of lectures and workshops, officially presided by mayor D. Felix Rubio, a provincial deputy and several council members, summoned a great number of field researchers, analysts and witnesses who debated the situation of Spanish ufology far from commercial circles. In attendance were some well-known names like Salvador Freixedo and Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo, Ramón Navía, Raul Núñez, Carlos González-Cutre and Manuel Carballal. But some lesser-known figures were also present--individuals who have kept their work and research far from the mass media, but who presented positively startling work of the highest scientific quality.

It is worth highlighting the vast compilation on "foo-fighters" and luminous spheres of unknown origin made by Jose Manuel Moya, one of the members of a commission entrusted with revising the "Catalogue of Negative UFO Sightings": After reviewing certain incidents ascribed to "ball lightning" and natural phenomena by skeptics, the commission reached the conclusion that these were genuine, small UFOs of unknown provenance.

Local ufologist Jose M. Trallero presented cases involving encounters with humanoids, landings and even some UFO photographs and films gleaned in Upper Aragon. Some of these incidents, having transpired this very same year, are being subjected to serious scrutiny. Persons who have devoted their lives to UFO research after having had close encounters with humanoid entities made some of the contributions to the UFO congress. Such is the case of Catalonian businessman José Ramón Martínez who, after his encounter with an alleged alien, developed various patents and inventions that made him a considerable personal fortune [...].

The case involving Joan Soler is similar. After having had several noteworthy experiences with UFOs and humanoids, and having inherited a strong financial position, he has toured the world collecting information on UFOs. He recently visited Chile, investigating cattle mutilation cases associated with UFOS in the company of Ramón

Navia, visiting British crop circles, or leasing a helicopter to fly over the impression made by the UFO that collided into Mt. Cando (Galicia).

Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo's case is different: on this occasion, the researcher, who has broad experience as a UFO researcher in different parts of the world, has undergone a personal experience with an alleged non-human being, and discussed it in public for the first time.

Rafael Casares, Carlos Gutierrez and Juan Diaz were some of the other participants in this researchers' meeting, sponsored by members of IEBA, who showed a spectacular UFO film recently made in Valencia. It is worth noting that some scholars, such as Jose Ramón Martínez and Ramon Navia, presented their most recent books in this conference. Navia's work deals with his research, both in Spain and abroad, into cattle mutilations related to the UFO phenomenon.

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Translation (C) 2002. Scott Corrales, Institute of Hispanic Ufology. Special thanks to Guillermo Giménez

National UFO Reporting Center

Sighting Report

Occurred: 10/1/1961 03:00 (Entered as : 10/61 3:00)
Reported: 11/12/1998 10:22
Posted: 11/19/1998
Location: Toledo, Ohio, OH
Shape: Sphere

Observed dull silver metallic sphere hovering outside of bedroom window as a child. Had direct communication with sphere.

In October 1961, I awoke from a sound sleep with a feeling the something was in my room. I was 7 years old. My older brother (11 years) was already awake and he pointed towards a light behind the metal Venetian blinds of our first floor bedroom window. I felt compelled to look behind the blind slats. When I did I was face-to-face with a dull silver metallic sphere approximately 18-24 inches in diameter. The sphere was hovering silently and motionless right next to the window glass (single-pane glass with a metal frame). The sphere had a recessed rectangular panel (approx 10 inches across by 3-4 inches high). There were red dots (unknown number and pattern) and there was a very bright white light at the right and left sides of the panel. (Two lights total). The lights were the color and intensity of examination lights in a dentist's office or in an operating room. (At the time I had never seen either type of medical lights before). The sphere hovered motionless and I was in direct communication with the sphere. It was a very strange sense of consciousness that I never experienced before the event. I was paralyzed and was in a one-way communication with the sphere. It was telling me things in my head without audible words. I was unable to understand specifically what was being said, but it was very important that I listen to the messages. I believe there were at least four simultaneous "voices" talking at the same time in English as I stared into the sphere. It was a multi-voice message. My brother was not involved in this contact. The sphere slowly began to rotate silently away from me to my right. As it rotated, the lights went off. The sphere's motion was very smooth and silent. It rose more rapidly and disappeared into the sky. My brother did not look out the window as far as I know. I still look out the window every night before I go to bed and whenever I wake up during the night to check for something. I am now 44 years old. Has anyone else seen a sphere such as this?

Flying Cities Aren't Fantasy

Source: On-Line Pravda, November 16, 2002

<http://english.pravda.ru/main/2002>

At the end of 1997, the Chile Air Force Command announced the creation of a Commission for the study of anomalous atmospheric phenomena; the commission was to be attached to the Civil Aviation Central Board. Director of the Civil Aviation College Colonel Enzo Dinoseira was appointed head of the commission.

Chile's largest daily **La Tercera** revealed a tiny secret: the commission was created on the initiative of the ex-commander of the Chilean Air Force, Ramon Vega, who is currently a senator. The senator himself saw UFOs twice and believes that UFOs actually exist, which is why he isn't going to waste time proving their existence.

In 1988, the crew of a spy plane saw "the lights of a city," and they thought that it was the city of Antofagasta, the largest city in the north of Chile. However, suddenly the "city" took off and flew! The plane's crew was scared to death and immediately made their way back to their base.

Another flying city was seen in April 1996 in southern Chile. Aircraft mechanic Joaquin Himenes from the Los-Cerrillos airport in Santiago saw a huge UFO in October 1996. The mechanic said, "The UFO traveled at a speed of about 50 miles per hour. The object was surrounded with a green phosphoric glow; it approached the landing strip and hovered in the air right before the air traffic controllers' cabin. Then, it dropped down, and a red light was flashing, but it didn't touch the ground. Finally, the object soared upwards and flew away northward. The whole event lasted 15 minutes."

Himenes saw a UFO even before. He was a member of a crew flying from Punta-Arenas to Puerto-Williams on December 14, 1992. He said, "We saw an orange glowing ball about two meters in diameter, and this ball followed us. The pilot contacted air traffic control and asked if they saw anything else besides the plane. The controllers answered that the radar registered some object, but according to the flight schedule, no other planes should have been in the area. The orange ball followed us right up to Puerto-Williams, and then it flew away towards the Atlantic coast."

Gustave Rodrigues, who worked as an air traffic controller for 27 years, was appointed secretary of the newly created commission. Rodrigues said, "I have a taped conversation between a pilot and an air traffic controller near the airport of Arika. The pilot said that when an UFO approached the plane, there were some problems with the communication system. When the tape is played, it seems that the pilot spoke a long phrase, but only the very beginning and end were recorded."

The stories about so-called "flying houses" are the most strange ones among the recently registered UFO cases in Chile. The first occurred on April 16, 1990, when an UFO overturned a house.

Investigator Raul Hayardo says that he interrogated the witnesses and took pictures of the site. "A red semicircular object with white flashing lights flew directly above one of the buildings at a very low height of about ten meters." The Balboas were quietly sleeping in their house. The UFO flew above the left side of the building and lifted it a little. Then, the house fell on its side, and the front door was blocked. The Balboas family had to break off some planks to get out of their house. They saw the strange object go up and hit some transmission objects. A bright flash followed. Finally, the UFO vertically soared up and disappeared into the sky after several seconds.

Mister Balboa said, "The thing resembled a flaming ball. While I was staring at it, our home collapsed." When the site was examined later, people saw that some plants were slightly or completely burnt.

"Angel Hair" On My Lawn

by Rod Brock, October 23, 2002, humble98225@YAHOO.COM

In various spots across my backyard, in the grass, are spots of a very, very fine, cobweb-like material. The largest patch is approximately four inches in diameter, and there are many, many patches.

It is foggy here, now, although the sun is beginning to break through. The dew adheres to this material, revealing its fine, gossamer structure. The mesh is less than a millimeter fine. Touch it with your finger, or the tip of your boot, and it's gone the material is that fragile (well, it's doubtless still there, but is not detectable on the macro level).

As noted, the sun is beginning to break through, and I expect, as in other cases of "angel's hair," that this material will vanish with the rays of the sun.

Other details: this is "spider country." This time of year, spiders abound, building nests everywhere, for we humans to walk through. However, as noted, the material is not like the material of a spider's web, either in its design, or its strength - it is much more fragile than a spider's web. And its location, spread across the grass, is of course atypical for a spider's web.

Beats the heck out of me - I have never observed something like this before in all my years. I suppose that it may be the gossamer web of some kind of migratory spider which settled onto the lawn, but that's just a guess.

As an aside, there's a truckload of fungi out there, of all manner and variety - including a couple of fairy rings. Not that I believe these to be related to this "angel's hair" material in any way.

I'll take some photographs. The film is from my late father's camera, so it's kind of old (not many years, but many months), and I can make no promises. But I have the flu, and I

absolutely do not feel up to going to the store. I doubt if anything earth-shaking is at hand, here, anyway.

Comment from Raymond Fowler: "October is a prime month for migrating balloon spiders."

Cylinder Shaped Object Observed

by Donnie Blessing

MUFON State Section Director for Ohio

In 1966 in late summer Mrs. Jones [Name on file] was traveling north on Route 127 in Hamilton, Ohio. This section of road runs along a river. It was about 9:30 at night. She was returning home from church services when she observed a cylinder type object that appeared to have some type of appendage on each side. At the end of each appendage were two very large basketball size lights that were positioned down and underneath the appendage. These appendages did not look like airplane wings but more like a raised bump that extended out from the main body. The lights were blue and red. The object first appeared above the treetops but while they watched the object it began to come closer to the river near the trees. The object was about 100-200 feet above the river. It appeared to be doing a search over the river area. Mrs. Jones rolled her window down to get a better look. The object made a low humming sound. It was black against the night sky so she was unable to make out any color. It appeared to be about the size of a 4 seat private airplane.

No street lights are in that area. The object was moving south. Mrs. Jones stated that this could not have been a plane since it moved very slowly. It was in sight for about 30 seconds when Mrs. Jones lost sight of it as she drove on. Mrs. Jones has agreed to call me back if she remembers any other details concerning this object.

Report filed 10/25/02.

White Lights Circle Vehicle at Caesar's Creek State Park

by Donnie Blessing

MUFON State Section Director for Ohio

On Oct. 31st 1993 Mr. B. Williams [name on file] and his wife Carol decided to take a weekend trip to go camping. They had decided on going to Deer Creek State Park near Washington Court House, Ohio thinking that the Halloween celebrations would not be going on there. However, upon arrival the place was packed with campers for Halloween so they left and decided to go instead to Caesar's Creek State Park. Snow was expected for the weekend so they thought that camping out would be fun. Arriving on Friday night they had turned off the main highway and had started down the side road that led to the park entrance.

Traveling at about 40 miles an hour Mr. Williams became aware of two bright white lights just above the tree tops off to his right. The two lights looked to be ball shaped and

about 10 feet in diameter. They were headed in a north to northeast direction. One light trailed about 20 feet behind the other light. He noticed they kept pace with his car and trailer. Suddenly the objects began to descend very slowly, coming down towards his car. He said to his wife, "Do you see those lights?" His wife responded in the affirmative. The lights came closer until they were approximately 30 feet from the ground.

Mr. Williams said that he could now see that they had light beams coming from them. The beams were not as dense as the lights/objects and not as bright. He said that these beams looked similar to flash light beams but the odd thing about them was they never came all the way to the ground. They stopped shining about 10 feet below the light. When trying to picture this, it would seem that there was an invisible force field that stopped them from penetrating to the ground. Mr. Williams said that they had the familiar circle at the bottom as if they were shining on something unseen. These lights began to very slowly circle his car and trailer. So slow in fact, he said it took at least 5 minutes for the lights to make a full 360 degrees around his vehicle and trailer.

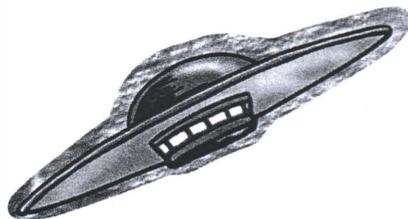
Mr. Williams said that he rolled the window down he was thinking maybe it was some kind of helicopter, but no sound was heard. At one point he told his wife he was going to get out to see what the lights were, but his wife was so scared that she pleaded he stay in the car.

The car was still moving and the lights had kept pace with them while "inspecting" their car and trailer. Mr. Williams says that he slowed down when the lights dropped back. The lights only circled their car once. Mr. Williams said that he slowed his car to 35 miles an hour to see what was going to happen next. To his amazement the lights suddenly shot up and over the treetops at a high rate of speed and disappeared from sight.

I asked Mr. Williams if his car had malfunctioned in any way when the lights were close. He said that nothing had gone wrong with his car.

The next spring he and his wife were camping at Lake Cumberland in Kentucky when he got into a conversation with some campers who had set up camp next to him. The subject of Caesar's Creek came up and the campers next to him said that they had seen lights also in that area in the past over the lake when they had been fishing there.

Report filed 10/21/02.



Same Time Next Year Syndrome

by Dr. Donald A. Johnson

Editors Note: Dr. Johnson's article below was originally a message produced for the members of the Project 1947 List. I thought it presented a new "out-of-the-box" idea that was worthy of passing on to our readers. Dr. Johnson's email address is ufocat@CUFOS.ORG. [Published by permission of the author.]

I have sifted through tens of thousands of UFO reports from many perspectives, and one impression I have gained is that there is something remarkably strange about the similarity of UFOs encounters that occur on the same month and day, in different years!

I haven't yet come up with a good working hypothesis for the cause of this phenomenon, which I have nicknamed the "same time next year" syndrome. But I am reasonably sure I may be onto something important. I would like to invite you to judge whether I am deluding myself!

Here is some of the wild speculation that I have briefly entertained as a possible cause for what I have been seeing in the data:

1) Perhaps with UFOs we are dealing with some kind of time traveling phenomenon that winks out in one year and comes back in future years. It may not actually be "gone" in the spatial sense, or in the temporal sense. This sounds very far-fetched, but I can cite you instances of places (so-called UFO hotspots) that have the same or a similar object show up on the same date over multiple years, and engage in the same type of behavior.

2) Perhaps UFOs are indeed extraterrestrial in origin, and because planetary orientations need to be correct for travel, similar events tend to occur at the same time of the year, maybe within a day or so each year.

3) Or perhaps we are faced with a "many worlds" phenomenon--one in which the UFO occupants come from different versions of parallel Earths, but some constants or spatial invariants are necessary for passage from one world to another. One restraint might require entering and exiting parallel worlds from the "same location" to avoid materializing in an adverse situation or solid rock.

4) Or we might be dealing with a psychological phenomenon where we humans are predisposed to react to the same seasonal or geomagnetic stimuli that cause similar kinds of hallucinations or delusions.

As Mark Twain once quipped, "Science is wonderful. You can get such a wholesale return of conjecture from such a trifling investment of fact!" But I have looked at a LOT of data--probably a good deal more than most of you, my esteemed colleagues--so I am going to be presumptuous and tell you that my hunch is a hunch, but at least it is an educated hunch.

If you are skeptical about my assertion, so much the better! Be my sounding board and check it out for yourselves. To this end I have begun writing a daily report of incidents that occur on the same calendar day of the year. If you would like to get on my free email distribution list, please let me know.

I will endeavor to complete a report for each day of the year. Due to time pressures, some reports may be shorter than others, but I will do my best to send you a report on the same anniversary of each calendar day. What follows is two day's reports as a sample of what's to come:

Encounters with aliens on this day...

November 13th.

On this date in 1833 a series of incidents involving a luminous aerial object and the fall of mysterious jelly-like substances were reported in New York, New Jersey and Ohio. At dawn in West Point, NY, a woman milking her cow saw a luminous object descend "with a sposh" sound. She discovered a flattened, jelly-like transparent mass. By 10:00 in the morning it had sublimed and disappeared. The same kind of jelly-like substance was found on the ground in Newark and Rahway, New Jersey. In Poland, Ohio a luminous object in the northeastern sky, at dawn, hovered for nearly an hour. It was described as very brilliant, and was shaped like a "pruning hook." Earlier, at a short time after 2:00 a.m., a luminous object was also seen in the sky at Niagara Falls, New York. It was shaped like a square table, remained stationary in the sky, and emitted rays of light. (Source: Gordon Lore, Jr., *Mysteries of the Skies: UFOs in Perspective*, pp. 60-61.)

In 1939 a building foreman drove past a deserted farm and heard a high-pitched humming sound. He looked and saw a gray, bell-shaped object hovering over a nearby field. It had dark windows on its side, and a curtain of green light underneath, which retracted upwards as if solid. (Source: Richard Hall, *From Airships to Arnold: A Preliminary Catalogue of UFO reports in the Early 20th Century*, p. 17.)

At both Opheim Army Base and Glasgow AFB in Montana in 1952, an unidentified flying object was picked up on radar between 2:20 and 2:43 a.m. There was visual confirmation of the UFO by military personnel near Opheim. (Source: *Project Blue Book*, case 2220.)

In 1957 a UFO exploded over the State Hospital in Crownsville, Maryland at 9:10 in the morning. Fragments were recovered and sent to the US Air Force for analysis. (Source: *NICAP UFO Investigator*, January 1958, p. 5.) On this same date a UFO was seen high in the sky east of Port Broughton, South Australia. It drifted slowly toward the northwest. (Source: Michael Hervey, *UFOs over the Southern Hemisphere*, p. 160.)

In the year 1960 in La Londe, France, a domed disc-shaped UFO was spotted sitting on railroad tracks. It made no sound, and shafts of orange light periodically shot out from the

object. It rose vertically, folded its landing gear, and shot off straight up. (Source: Jacques Vallee, Passport to Magonia, case 512.)

A man and woman were driving down a road in Cranleigh, England at half an hour past midnight in 1967 when they encountered a heavy fog and were required to stop. A face suddenly appeared in the car window, and an arm reached up to the roof of their car. As they hurriedly drove off they could see the face and arm attached to a dark, conical body, but they saw no legs. They also reported the odor of burnt food at the time of their encounter with the entity. (Source: Flying Saucer Review, January 1968, p. 15.) Later that evening an EM effects UFO close encounter was reported in Arnheim, Holland. (Source: Flying Saucer Review, January 1968, p. 33.)

In 1971 in the desert of Lucerne Valley, California, three men were out on a hunting trip. At 5:15 p.m. they saw a large, yellowish-white light land in the distance, and a smaller light approach their campsite. In the ensuing minutes they heard twigs snap, and were startled by a loud unintelligible cry. They left their campsite in haste. Returning to the site during the daytime with UFO investigator Anne Druffel, they found 3 12"-14" circular imprints arranged in a triangle 12' apart. (Source: NICAP UFO Investigator, October 1972, p. 2.)

In an apparent abduction attempt, in 1973 a UFO hovered over a car and "tall, thin, green occupants" tried to stop something dripping from the UFO. (Source: Austin Evening Statesman, November 14, 1973; David Webb, 1973: Year of the Humanoids, p. 20.) Other reports of nocturnal lights seen flying in the sky that evening came from California, Yugoslavia, and Spain.

In 1974, close encounters occurred in Norwalk, Connecticut, Antigo, Wisconsin, and Rockford, Illinois. A cattle mutilation case occurred south of Olney, Texas on the same day as a humanoid report from Antigo, Wisconsin. (Source: George Eberhart, A Geographical Bibliography of Anomalies, p. 359.)

On this night in 1975 a number of multi-colored nocturnal lights were reported in the mid-western and southern United States. Sparkling white, red, and yellow lights flew in formation erratically in Whitewater, Wisconsin. Red, green, and white lights were sighted in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, moving up-and-down and diagonally. In Fort Atkinson, WI bright white lights that dimmed, disappeared, and then re-appeared were sighted. In Mobile, Alabama, a UFO, changing colors, moved across the horizon. A round silver object was seen moving slowly in the northwest sky in Orlando, Florida. It suddenly disappeared. (Source: CUFOS News Bulletin, February 1976, p. 13.)

In 1976 in Chandlers Ford, England, a couple saw a silver-suited man near a supermarket, seven miles away from another CE-3 report. (Source: FSR, February 1977, p. 6.)

On this evening in Silverton, England, in 1978, a large pulsating light buzzed four men in a car, forcing the driver to stop the car. In Espanola, New Mexico, a mutilated cow was

discovered. The rectum and udder had been removed with surgical incisions. (Sources: UFO Newsclipping Service, January 1979, p. 11; Richard Hall, Zetetic Scholar, Volume 50, p. 48.)

Another radar-visual encounter occurred in Greece in 1981. UFOs returned for the second night to the Hortiati NATO Air Base, were picked up on radar, and witnessed by police in Thessaloniki. NATO jets were scrambled to intercept the unknowns, again without success. (Source: IUR, January 1982, p. 12.)

In 1989 Hungarian Air Force training flights were paced by orange UFOs near Kecskemet, Hungary. The UFOs were not picked up on radar. (Source: FSR: December 1990.)

In 1991, at about 5:30 p.m., a couple driving a car in Douglas, Georgia saw a silver, triangular-shaped UFO with rounded corners. It emitted an arc of white light. A second identical triangle the appeared, and the two UFOs circled a nearby lake. The UFOs moved erratically, sometimes at a slow speed, sometimes very fast. (Source: MUFON Investigation Files Database, case 930404J.)

A farmer at half an hour past midnight in on this day in 1993 was putting goats and chickens away in a barn, when he heard noises from the bushes. He found one of his goats dead with puncture wounds, and with internal organs missing. He then saw a short, hairy biped run into the woods. (Source: Albert S. Rosales, Humanoid Contact Database, case #2661.)

Compiled from cases in the UFOCAT database. Themes that occur more than once: failed abduction attempts, maneuvering nocturnal multi-colored objects, radar-visual reports, cattle/goat mutilations, and the fall of gelatinous or liquid substances.

November 14th

In 1953, two disc-shaped objects bank and fly over New Orleans at 6:10 p.m. (Source: Loren Gross, UFOs: A History, p. 47.) On the same date, a photographer using infrared film with a red filter obtained a photo of a disembodied globe of light (Source: Leonard Stringfield, CRIFO Newsletter, May 1954.)

On this date in 1954, a well-known UFO vehicle ignition interference case occurred in Forli, Italy. Two tractors, one diesel powered and the other powered by a gasoline-combustion engine, were driving down a farm road in the evening when a red beam of light from a dark flying object overhead swept the field, hitting both vehicles. The tractor with the gas-powered engine stalled but the diesel tractor did not. The beam of light was seen for over an hour by a large number of witnesses throughout the countryside. (Source: Aime Michel, Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery, p. 211.)

On the same day in La Spezia, Italy at 7:45 p.m. a bright cigar-shaped object landed in a farmer's field. Three dwarf humanoids wearing metallic "diving suits" emerged from the craft, speaking among themselves in an unintelligible language. When the farmer became convinced that the humanoids were intent on stealing some of his rabbits, he attempted to shoot at them with his shotgun, but the gun suddenly felt heavy, failed to fire, and he was unable to move or speak, and suddenly felt so weak that he dropped the gun. The dwarfs took the rabbits, and the paralysis wore off when the UFO took off. (Source: Jacques Vallee, *Passport to Magonia, A Century of Landings*, case 339.) At about the same time but in the Eastern US time zone, around 2:00 p.m., in Frederick, Maryland, another electro-magnetic interference effect case occurred. (Source: Project Blue Book.)

In 1955, Dr. Leslie Ward of Redlands, California, was flying with a passenger over Desert Hot Springs from Phoenix, Arizona. He saw what he first thought was an airliner and blinked his lights twice as a recognition signal. The fiery globe flipped its lights out twice in answer. (Source: Morris Jessup, *The UFO Annual*, p. 349.)

Two years later, at Tamaroa, in southern Illinois, there was another occurrence of an electro-magnetic interference case. Mrs. John Riead, wife of Tamaroa's justice of the peace, said she heard "a sputtering noise" and observed a bright, moon-shaped object appear over the trees bordering US Highway 1, which had "a sort of a tail or ray extending down from it as it moved along." Five or six loud booms and three brilliant flashes accompanied the UFO. Then the lights in her home went out. Electric power in a four-mile wide area was interrupted for about ten minutes. Service was restored when workmen closed an open circuit breaker, although investigation could find no apparent cause. (Source: Alex Mebane, in Aime Michel's *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, p. 269.) In Oporto, Portugal, at 7:30 p.m., several witnesses watched a big UFO send down a beam of light. (Source: Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, investigation files.)

In 1964, at the Adhara Observatory in San Miguel, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, astronomers watched a nocturnal light move to the east, then back to the west to follow the Echo-II satellite. (Source: *Flying Saucer Review*, September 1966, p. 31.)

In 1967, at 6 a.m., a luminous dome hovered low above the ground, then shot away quickly in the city of Liepaya, Latvia. The light from the UFO was so brilliant that it was painful to look at. (Source: Felix Zigel, unpublished manuscript, p. 110.)

In 1968, three miles outside Zafra, Spain, a man driving his car on the highway at 11:45 p.m. saw a motionless human-shaped being, over 6 feet tall, only 30 meters away. Its arms were longer than normal, it wore a glowing green suit, and a helmet with a black visor hid its face. The car engine died and the driver's watch stopped. (Source: Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, *Catalogue of 200 Type-1 UFO Events in Spain and Portugal*, p. 92.) Earlier in that same day, two hunters saw a silver ball in the sky with a hanging tube about 3-4 feet in diameter. This happened at 4:30 in the afternoon at Pelican Lake, Utah. The sphere had a yellowish-white light on top and bottom, and the tube seemed to be spinning. The UFO sucked up the tube rapidly, then disappeared. (Source: Frank Salisbury, *The Utah UFO Display*, p. A-71.)

In 1971 in another close encounter with a farm tractor occurred at 1:30 in the early morning. A flying disc made a sharp 90-degree turn to follow the tractor. It shot down beams of light, then made a 180-degree turn and flew off to the NE. (Source: Gordon Creighton, FSR, May 1972, p. 4.) A brightly lit object stopped in mid-flight in Biloxi, Mississippi near a military base at 5:30 p.m. local time. The UFO hovered about 200 feet above the ocean and about 700 yards away from the two military witnesses. The base Ops received more than 50 phone calls about the UFO. (Source: Ed Walters, UFOs are Real: Here's the Proof, p. 115.)

In 1973 in a rural part of Greensboro, North Carolina, 9 people watched a blue ovoid UFO that made the trees rustle at 6:30 p.m.. They watched it for several minutes and noted that their dogs were upset by its presence. Later that evening, at 8:30 p.m., they saw it again and it was spitting out turquoise, amber, and white colors from a band around its middle. The case is listed as having EM interference effects. (Arlan Andrews, Skylook, February 1974, p. 7.) A UFO abduction is reported to have occurred in Kirkwood, Missouri to Robert Baez, although no details are available. (Source: George Eberhart, A Geo-Bibliography of Anomalies, citing Steve Erdmann, Beyond Reality, January 1976, p. 25.)

In 1976, Joyce Bowles, 42, and Edwin Pratt, 58, were driving near Winchester, England to pick up the woman's son and girlfriend from a farm at 8:50 p.m. when they notice an orange glow in the sky. They turned down a narrow lane and immediately their car began to "shudder and shake as though it were coming to pieces." The car was pulled diagonally off the road. When the car came to rest they saw a glowing, orange, 15-foot-long cigar-shaped object about 5 yards in front of their car, hovering 12-18 inches from the ground. They were both badly frightened and the driver turned off the engine. The UFO appeared to have jets beneath it from which a vapor was issuing. In the top left portion of the craft was a window, through which they could see the heads of three men. A 6' tall man with a slim build, wearing a silvery suit, emerged by passing through the side of the object. He had long blonde hair, a dark beard, and his skin was pale. Just as he approached the woman noticed a "whistling noise." Reaching the car, the man bent over, placed one hand on the roof, and looked inside. His eyes were pink "like an albino rabbit," and were so penetrating that when the woman looked away she could still see spots of light as an after-effect. She also felt that the man transmitted some kind of influence that caused them to remain calm. The being stood at the side of the car for 2 minutes, then moved away to the rear of the vehicle. He did not reappear, and when they again looked forward the UFO had disappeared. (Source: Leslie Harris, FSR, February 1977 (Vol. 22, No. 5), p. 3.)

In 1978 a farmer saw a dark, beige, 3m wide disc on the ground. Humanoids were seen inside the craft. (Source: Maurizio Verga, ITACAT database.) In 1980, two students saw a flat cylindrical UFO hovering over an athletic field. The object had powerful headlights with a pinkish glow, and smaller red and yellow lights. It approached the witnesses and stayed over them for 10 minutes. (Source: Illobrand von Ludiger, Best UFO Cases-- Europe, p. 42.)

In 1990 there were two reports of cylinder-shaped UFOs. A police report was filed that a brilliant, one-meter long cylinder flew east to west over a microwave transmission center at 5:20 p.m. It flew silently and slowly, at a low altitude. (Source: FSR, July 1991.) About two hours later that evening, at 6:30 p.m. local time, a reddish orange blimp was sighted in Montpellier, France, flying at an estimated one-kilometer altitude. The object turned to a yellow color when it accelerated, leaving to the east. (Source: Lumieres dans la Nuit, volume 307.)

Themes: EM interference effects, farm tractors, cylindrical UFOs, balls of light (BOLs), humanoid reports without abduction attempts.

Vermont – Extremely Huge Object Flew Over Lake

Filer's Files, #47 2002, November 20, 2002

GRAND ISLE -- Five people sighted an extremely large object flying low over Lake Champlain on November 2, 2002. My nephew was sitting in the living room and noticed a light on top with green lights below. He watched the object come off the lake and fly very low and circle around the house. He could see the bottom of the object that was rotating with greenish lights. It disappeared going west but ten minutes later it reappeared in the front of the house and just skimmed a huge weeping willow tree at about fifty feet. The craft then flew back over the lake and hovered for a few minutes. It was dome shaped on top. At this point a yellow white beam of light came out of the bottom of the object and beamed down onto the lake. It then moved back toward the house and stopped about 50 feet away. Then it moved a little closer and stopped. He was standing on the railing of the deck on the front of the house and the craft was about even with him in height without making a sound. Then it moved straight up and quickly passed over. My sister started to watch from the window and ran to tell my Mom. My sister saw several lights hovering over the bushes near the house across the street. Then it headed towards the house and flew over. She described it as very large with greenish lights on the bottom. She called her neighbors who live across the street and the woman said her daughter had been watching a strange plane out their window. Another nephew who is six also saw it. This report was originally provided by Peter Davenport, [NUFORC](#)

Bits & Pieces

Quotable Quotes on Point

“Any efforts at organizing ufologists in this age of the Internet and instant communication is like herding cats.”

Scott Corrales
October 23, 2002

Too Often True

Speculation and proclamation before investigation is unfortunately an all-to-common UFO investigative technique.

Has a "Theory" of Ufology ever Been Developed?

In his column in the *Columbus Dispatch* dated December 3, 2002 entitled Ohio Board's Science Standards Singles Out Evolution as Theory about the eminent passage of a law in Ohio concerning the teaching of evolution, Steve Rissing defined scientific theory by stating, "In science, hypotheses are reasonable, often untested explanations for how observable things might come to be. Some hypotheses are untestable and remain just hypotheses. A repeatedly tested and supported hypothesis is considered a theory. In science, a law describes universal physical constraints, such as the Laws of Thermodynamics regarding the amount and nature of matter and energy." This got me to thinking whether or not the study of UFOs has ever gotten far enough to develop a theory about the subject.

Sadly, I think not.

Log-Like Object – 1975

by Donnie Blessing, MUFON State Section Director for Ohio

Witness: Kim [last name on file]; Age: 48; Occupation: registered nurse; Address: Huntington, West Virginia; Date of Interview: 11/24/02, 10:45 A.M.; Location of sighting: Catlettsburg, Ky., Boyd County on the border of Kentucky and West Virginia; Date of sighting: In the fall of 1975; Time: dusk, around 6:30 P.M.; Other witnesses: None

Kim informed me that she was on her way to work in Kenova, West Virginia that is just across the Big Sandy River. It was an autumn evening in 1975. At one point the road narrows as you get closer to the bridge. This is coal-mining country and coal trucks are a common sight. Directly across to the right where the road narrows there was a hillside that had been totally "shaved" of all trees and brush. Kim said that she drove very carefully through this area, keeping a watch out for deer that often crossed the road. The weather conditions for that evening was partly cloudy with calm winds.

Suddenly a red light caught her attention at the top of the bare hillside. As she watched, the light began to take on the shape of a "log" like object. This object began to come down the hillside. I asked if the object appeared to be above the ground or on the ground? Kim said that it appeared to slide or glide down the hillside. She says that she thought at the time it was like it was being pulled but there were no ropes to be seen. Kim said she slowed down to almost a stop as this object crossed the road in front of her. It was as long as the two-lane highway. When describing its size she said that it appeared to be about the width of a queen size mattress. She stated the whole object consisted of a bright red light. The red reflector like color was very bright. She compared the red light to tail lights on a car. It appeared as almost a transparency, as if you could see inside like seeing a bulb inside a taillight when lit. She thought that the light might have come from within the object as opposed to external lights. The object moved slowly and no sound came from the object or the ground beneath as it glided or slid along and across the highway.

I found this of particular interest. If the object had been touching the ground there would have been some type of "skidding" sounds made, especially when crossing the asphalt roadway. The light at no time blinked maintaining a steady glow. The object then proceeded to go over the embankment near the road and into the Big Sandy River to the left. Kim says that she watched the object submerge to just below the surface of the river and hover for a moment. The red color could still be seen clearly.

Kim says she observed the object between 2-3 minutes before she proceeded on down the road. Kim informed me that a few coal trucks had come pass before and shortly after the object crossed the road but the drivers seemed not to paid any attention. Maybe the drivers had not seen it. Kim went on to say that she had never seen anything unusual in that area before or since. I asked if anything unusual had occurred during the duration of the sighting. To this she replied no.

Miniature UFOs and Other Things

Introduction: We came upon these two reports on the *Project 1947* message service and found them to be most compelling. Obviously what is presented here is all that we know of the reported events, so their reliability and completeness is unknown. Because of our interest we have had other reports of miniature UFOs in past issues of the *Ohio UFO Notebook*, so these are part of that genre and belong here.

Back in the mid-1970s Mr. Warren B. Nicholson who was an investigator for the Civil Commission on Aerial Phenomena, a precursor organization to MUFON of Ohio, took a report from a woman who lived out in the countryside near Columbus about "little airplanes" that were flying around her home. These little planes were so small they could be held easily in one hand. Obviously, we thought this person was not fully wired, but when within weeks or a few months of her report a similar report showed up in the *A.P.R.O. Bulletin* [issue number and date forgotten]. I must say that we had a few second thoughts. Reports of small craft are part of the UFO legacy.

From Larry Hatch

I just got the message below thru my website. It has an air of sincerity to it as you will see, and a curious feature that is new to me, which encouraged me to write back for more details. I must add that the return email address of "on.the.edge@xxxx" does not inspire confidence. Regardless, does anybody know of a sighting much like this one? It involves a miniature oil platform working away (hovering?) near a campsite in the Canadian Rockies. That's a new one on me.

The following has been edited for clarity and better English without affecting the story:

"Going threw [sic] the mountains of British Columbia in the summer of 1973 in a VW van with a friend whose Grandfather was an insurance inspector for the railroad, Glen had all these neat places to see and relate to as far as railways are concerned. Well, one night up in the high mountains it was getting dark, so we decided to find somewhere to sleep.

“Great stars and mountain views everywhere. We decided to sleep outside of the van. It was [in the] wee hours of the night when I decided to get up and pee. Standing away from the area where Glen and I had camped, Glen was over about 25 feet away from where I was. I looked around and to my amazement there was a small kind of - almost like an oil platform [those huge kind in the North Sea]. It was miniature, about 2 feet by 2.5 feet by 2 feet high. There I was staring into it with total recall, smoke and lights and all kinds of devices working on it and in it...I just can't understand what it was.”

From Ole Jonny Brænne:

The only report I recall from Norway is a report from Holsenøy near Bergen, dated July 1965. A woman (age 52 at the time) observed a mini-aircraft with a pilot inside. My attempt at a quick translation from the account:

"I was in the cabin, just by the window reading a magazine, when I noticed a yellow sharp light just above the neighbors flag pole. The light was like a strong blinding yellow sun, and the distance from me was about 30 meters. Its height above the ground was about 15 meters. The light came right towards me and the contours emerged. It reminded me of a mini-aircraft, no tail, and without any identification. "The pilot" resembled a slight boy and his head was large relative to his body, and unnaturally large dark eyes. He had a helmet, and his hands rested on some kind of steering wheel. His complexion was bleak, but otherwise the sharp yellow color dominated the whole object. The pilot was under a sort of Plexiglas canopy. He seemed yellow all over.

“The object was outside the window just a few seconds, at 3 meters distance, while the pilot stared at me intensely. While this was going on I felt completely paralyzed. But then I struck my fist against the table and shouted "Oh no!", the pilot jumped and the aircraft started again. I ran out of the cabin to look closer at the object. It was by then already quite high, and was going towards Håvøysund. It accelerated, rose vertically and disappeared from sight.

During this I heard a whistling sound from the object. Afterwards I had a paralyzing feeling in my body and a shimmer before my eyes from looking at the sharp light."

Weather was fine, no wind, 25 C. Object was seen for 1.5 minutes, sometime between 14:00 and 14:30. "Aircraft" had black nose and underside. When object was observed outside the cabin, the underside seemed to be circular. Size of object was 3-4 meters. Out of fear of ridicule she didn't tell anyone about this until 1973 when she told her son about it.

National UFO Reporting Center

Sighting Report

Occurred : 9/19/2002 23:45 (Entered as : 09/19/2002 23:45)

Reported : 9/19/2002 10:09:33 PM 22:09

Posted : 9/28/2002

Location : Louisville, OH

Shape : Unknown

An unknown aircraft was seen trailed at low altitude by a helicopter in Stark County Ohio.

I was lying in bed on the second floor of my home. My bed is right next to the window so I can enjoy the view. I heard a rotary wing aircraft approaching and sat up. Normally just that sound wouldn't cause me to be curious, but the fact that I was trained by the U.S. Army as an air defense early warning scout alerted me to the sound of the aircraft. It was very loud like a large cargo helicopter or a smaller helicopter moving fast to keep up with something. So I looked out and saw the exterior lights moving east-southeast at approximately 200 feet. I started to look for a second helicopter, thinking the sound could be from multiple craft and that's when I saw the large dark shape moving on the same azimuth. I could see no exterior lights and the shape was difficult to determine as [since] I spotted it just before I lost line of sight. I climbed out the window onto the roof but could only see the exterior of the helicopter continuing on an easterly course.

Filer's Files Internet Address – Books and Other UFO Curiosities For Sale

To keep up-to-date on UFO sightings; UFO books, DVDs, videos, CDs, and UFO curiosities for sale; and related information, go to <http://www.filersfiles-ufo.com>. The bi-weekly Filer's File newsletter can be found at <http://www.ufoinfo.com/filer/index.shtml>. On occasion, information from Filer's Files is included in the *Ohio UFO Notebook* with the permission of George Filer.

Address for MUFON of Ohio and the Ohio UFO Notebook

Mutual UFO Network of Ohio, Inc.
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Columbus, Ohio 43214

MUFON of Ohio Web Site: <http://my.ohio.voyager.net/~moraman/mufono/>