

Drawn by Olden Moore. Originally published in *Saucer News*, June 1963.

Ohio UFO Notebook

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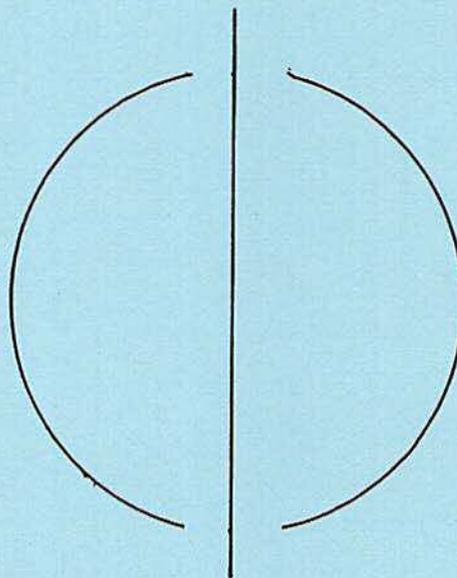
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This issue of the Ohio UFO Notebook is respectfully dedicated to Kenny Young, a colleague, friend and UFO researcher who recently passed away. Kenny truly set the standard for investigating UFOs and other anomalous events. He will be missed.

Insignia on a Triangular Shaped Craft

On page 19, George Pindroh writes about a sighting of a triangular shaped craft that was seen in the Cleveland area on July 23, 2004. This sighting was unique in that it is the only known report of such a craft with an insignia. That insignia, which was blue fluorescent in color, was located on the bottom of the craft. It looked like the following:



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Dress Worn by Betty Hill During Her Abduction - A Chemical Analysis

By Phyllis A. Budinger

What you are about to read concerns the scientific analysis of the dress that Betty Hill wore during her abduction, September 19, 1961. I will not bore you with a plethora of scientific data. I will focus on the results, though there is a brief description of the tests that were employed. I have to tell you that this analysis became rather personal with me. As I became more deeply involved, I began to realize there was a possibility that I was dealing with the very essence of the aliens. I went through a traumatic "Oh my God!" period for three weeks in the summer of 2002. To say that I was totally "spaced out" would be mild.

I did this extensive analysis between November 2001 and October 2003. The data were documented in a 41 page report. This report details precisely how the lab work was done and includes numerous photographs, infrared spectra, and some NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) spectra. I asked two esteemed scientists to review the report. One was a long time colleague and friend, Dr. J. Robert Mooney, who has a molecular spectroscopy background similar to my own. He currently teaches at a southern University. The other was Dr. Colm Kelleher, formerly of the National Institute of Discovery Science (NIDS), who specializes in biochemistry. Neither individual suggested any significant changes.

I have found when analyzing UFO related physical traces, one question may be answered, but only to pose new questions. You will see the analysis of the Betty Hill dress is no exception.



Betty Hill and author with dress worn during the abduction (7-7-2002)

Brief Synopsis of the Abduction Event

This famous case is well documented in many publications and on many internet web sites. The reader is directed to these easily locatable literature references for the details. The reader is especially directed to the classic book on the event, *The Interrupted Journey*¹, and *The UFO Encyclopedia*². A brief scenario follows.

On September 19, 1961, Betty and Barney Hill, along with dachshund "Delsey", were returning home (Portsmouth, New Hampshire) from an extended weekend pleasure trip to Canada. Their itinerary took them to Niagara Falls, then to Montreal, and home. They were traveling south on US Route 3 in central New Hampshire. At approximately 10:15 they noted a "bright star" which appeared to move erratically. They continued to observe it as it apparently paced them and got closer and closer. Barney stopped to retrieve a 0.22 pistol from the trunk. After resuming the drive, both Betty and Barney looked at the object through binoculars, observing a spinning, flattened circular disk with multicolored lights on the rim. About two miles north of North Woodstock, the object descended and hovered about 100 feet in the air. No spinning was noted. A blue-white fluorescent glow shined through its windows. The object appeared to be the size of a four-engine aircraft. Barney stopped the car and got out. He could see several uniformed, human-like figures. Afraid that they were about to be abducted, he jumped in the car and raced down the road. Suddenly an irregular beeping sound was heard. The Hills felt a tingling sensation and became drowsy. The next thing they remembered was a second series of beeps as they were passing through Plymouth. It took several more miles before they became fully awake. The craft was gone. Two hours of missing time were noted. They both felt clammy and dirty, and Barney's lower abdomen was bothering him. Their wristwatches had quit working, and there were unexplained marks on their car. Both Barney and Betty sought therapy, and eventually hypnosis was utilized by Dr. Benjamin Simon, who had no knowledge of, or interest in, UFOs. Yet the hypnosis suggested that both Barney and Betty had been abducted and subjected to physical examinations.

Dress History

To my knowledge many details on the history of the dress worn during the abduction event are not documented, though some are. The dress Betty wore on that fateful night was new. She had worn it only one other day during that weekend, but not the day before the abduction. Therefore, it had never been laundered. The weather on the night of the event was unusually warm for that

¹ John J. Fuller, *The Interrupted Journey: Two Lost Hours "Aboard a Flying Saucer,"* The Dial Press, New York, 1966.

² Jerome Clark, *"The UFO Encyclopedia The Phenomenon from the Beginning"*, Omnigraphics, Inc., Detroit, MI, 2nd Edition, Volume 1: Page 489 – 504.

time of year, and it was not exceptionally humid.³ When the abduction began, Betty recalls that two beings were on each side and escorted her to the craft with their "hands" under her armpits. Betty related she put up a "helluva fight" before she crossed the threshold of the craft. I asked whether she hit with her hands. She said, "No, I kicked like hell"⁴, because her arms were restricted. The dress probably suffered stresses. While on the craft she remembers that half way through the physical examination they decided to remove the dress. They had difficulties with the zipper. Once removed, the dress ended up on the floor of the craft in a heap.

After the event, when Betty and Barney arrived home, she undressed to go to bed. Betty related the following in a letter to me dated October 31, 2001. "When I returned home that morning, I put my dress, folded, in the bottom of my closet, where it remained for several days. When I removed it, it was covered with a pink powder. So I threw it in the trash, but quickly changed my mind. I decided to put it outdoors in the sun. The powder blew away, but leaving the stains." Barney immediately had his suit cleaned after the event, and it never "developed" a pink powder, nor was it discolored. There was no damage to his clothing. Betty did not notice any odor emanating from the dress.⁵ Other damage was also noted to the dress. The lining on the right side of the dress was torn from the waist to the hem, and the top of the zipper was ripped. Because of the damage to the dress, it could never worn again⁶. The dress hung on a hanger in the Betty's closet for 40 years. It had not been enclosed in a protective bag. No disinfectants, moth repellent, or other chemicals were ever sprayed in the closet. Occasionally, the dress would be taken out and shown to visitors.

The September 2001 issue of the "Mutual UFO Network UFO Journal" featured two fascinating articles on the Hills' abduction⁷. These were done in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of event. One was by Dwight Connelly (Betty & Barney Hill Anniversary - Hill Case Revisited), and the other by Kathy Marden (Niece Recalls Hill Episode). Connelly's article included a recent picture of Betty holding the dress she wore during the event, along with the descriptions of the powdery material and damage the dress apparently had suffered. I was unaware that this dress still existed, and judging from the descriptions, it seemed highly possible it contained physical evidence of the abduction. Amazingly, I had never seen any reports of an analysis on it. Immediately I sent e-mails to both Dwight Connelly and Kathy Marden concerning the possibility of acquiring swaths of the dress for analysis. Kathy Marden contacted Betty who agreed to my request. By November 3, 2001 I had received two swaths: one from a discolored

³ Betty Hill, Personal communication, 10-29-2002. There was a hurricane coming from the south but it didn't hit NH. The next day it did bring rain.

⁴ Betty Hill, Personal communication 7/7/2002.

⁵ Betty Hill, Personal communication 10-29-2002. Betty did note "a strong odor" on the craft. She could not identify it, but said it was "not pleasant".

⁶ Betty Hill, Personal Communication, 07-07-2002. Betty relates that the shoes she had on the night of the event were worn again.

⁷ "Mutual UFO Network UFO Journal," Number 401, September 2001 Pages 3 and 7.

area; and the other from an area that retained its original color to serve as a control. The analysis began. Then on July 5-7, 2002, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Betty Hill and Kathy Marden at the International MUFON meeting in Rochester, NY. Betty brought the dress, and I obtained more swaths for analysis.

The dress is a common sheath-like style with (originally) a printed design in various shades of blue. It has simple lines, with short sleeves, a natural waist, a straight skirt, and is lined. The exterior is a knit of cellulose acetate (as identified in this analysis)⁸. The lining is solid blue and also cellulose acetate, but woven. The dress has several swaths cut out of it due to sampling for analysis, as well as souvenirs for some people. Following are six photographs of the dress which show the lining is torn from the waist down. The zipper is also torn. Extensive discoloration is obvious in two areas: along the top half of the dress, especially in the underarms; and on the bottom of the dress. These are the areas where Betty says the pink powder resided. The waist area retains its original blue color. There is no significant discoloring on the lining except for two or three stains. Photographs follow.

Dress Exterior Front



Dress Exterior Back



⁸ This was an especially popular fiber used for clothing during the time period of the event (1960s). However, there is a problem with exposure to some common solvents. For example, exposure to nail polish remover would dissolve the fabric and leave holes. (This analyst ruined many a dress in those days in the lab when working with various solvents.) Later on, more durable polyesters replaced most applications for the cellulose acetates, though it is still used in some clothing with limited use, such as graduation gowns etc.

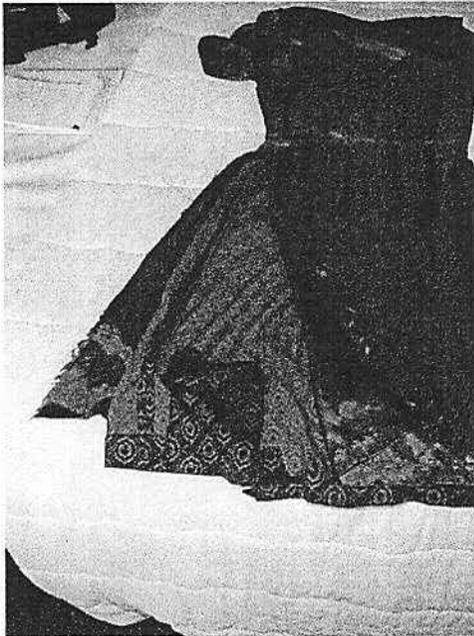
Inside Lining - Dress Front



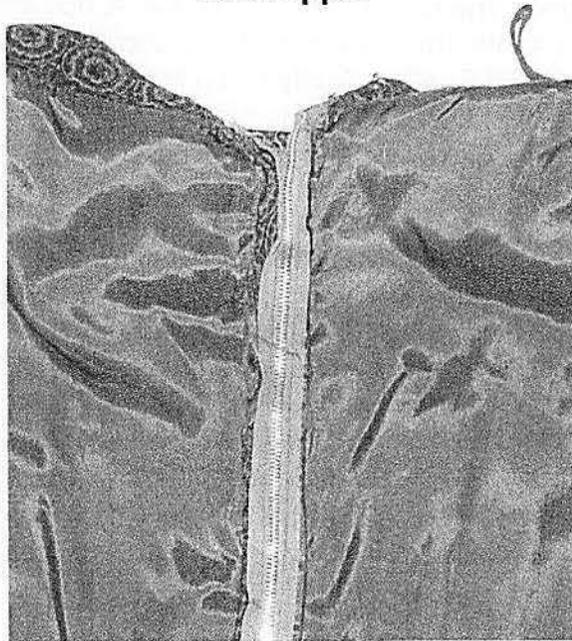
Inside Lining Dress Back



Torn Lining



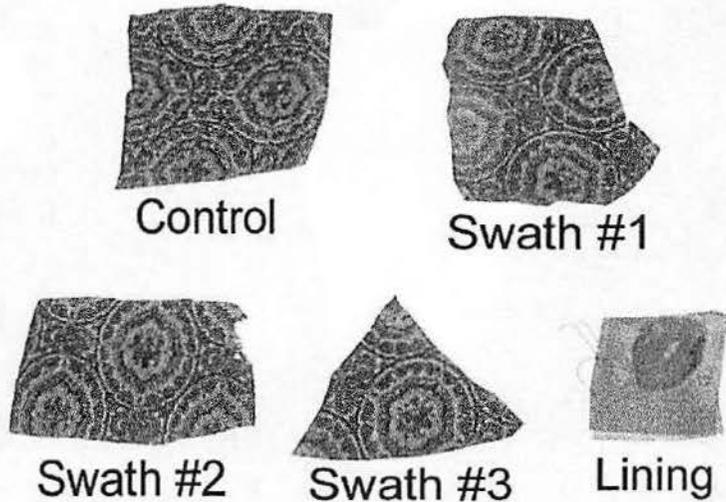
Torn Zipper



Sampling the Dress

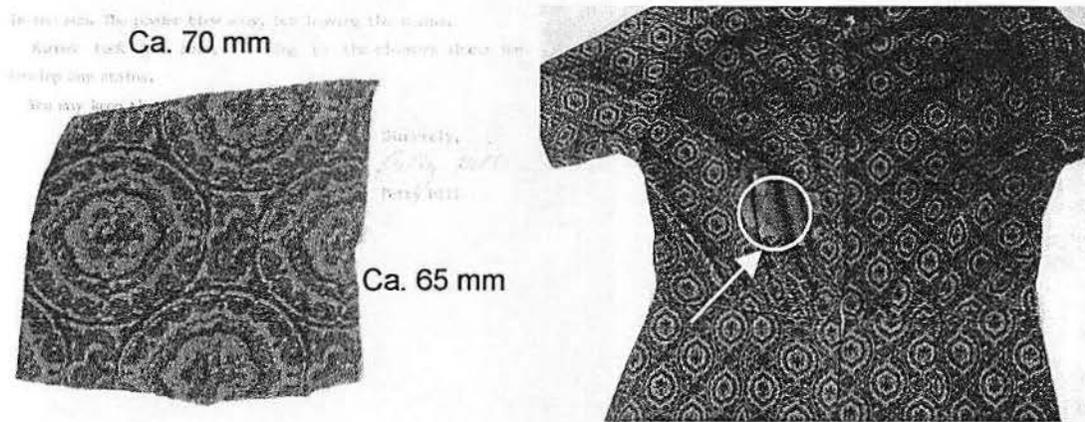
Four swaths from the outside of the dress were examined. These include three swaths from the discolored areas and a control from an area that was not discolored. Also analyzed was a swath of the interior lining, which had a stain.

These are designated #1, #2, #3, control, and lining. The photographs of the swaths follow.

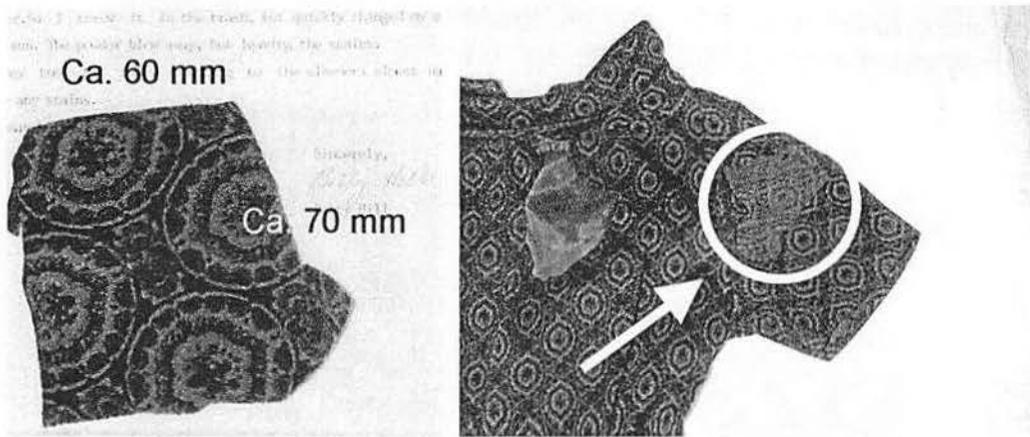


The following documents the size of the swaths, along with photographs showing the locations of the dress from which the samplings were obtained.

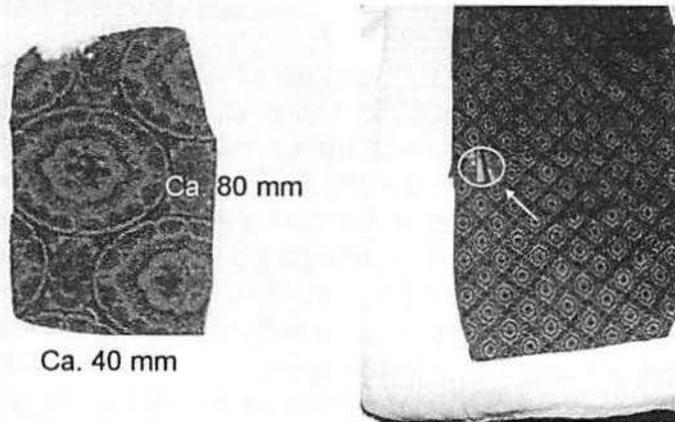
•Control: The control is from the back, mid-section of the dress, about 3 to 4 inches above the waist next to the zipper. It was sampled by Betty Hill and received by Frontier Analysis on November 3, 2001. Note: it is only designated as a control because it was not discolored.



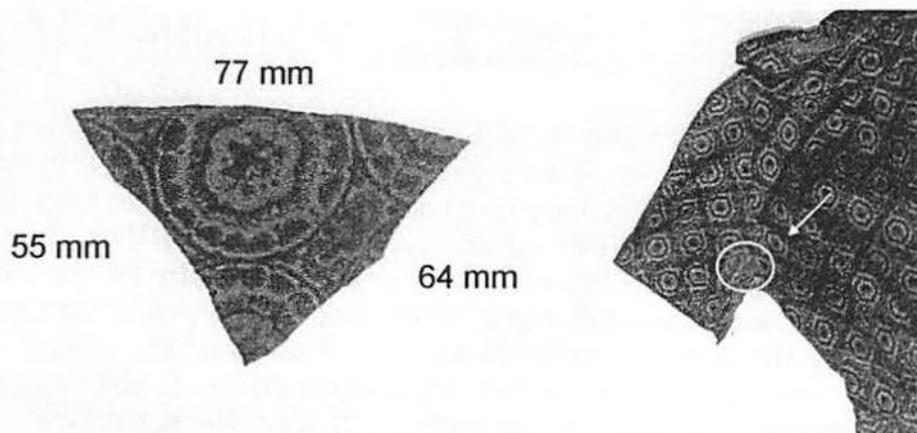
•Swath #1: This swath was sampled from the left sleeve by Betty Hill. It was received by Frontier Analysis on November 3, 2001.



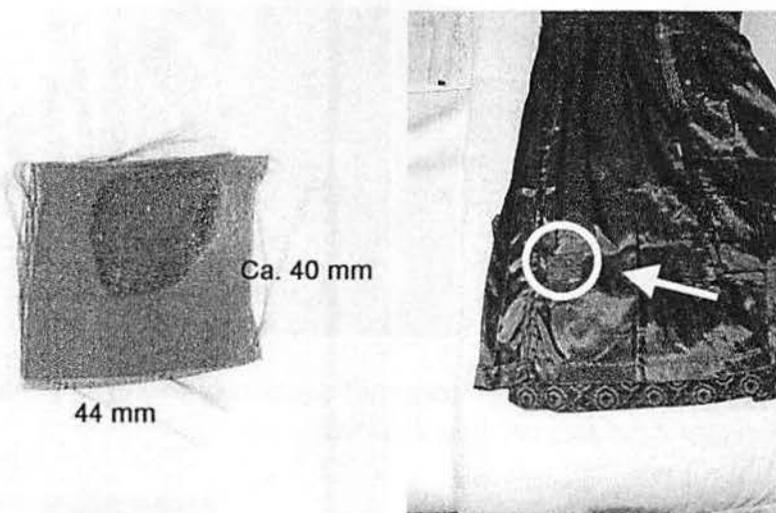
•Swath #2: This swath is from the front mid-section of the dress skirt. It was sampled by Frontier Analysis on July 7, 2002.



•Swath #3: This swath is from the right sleeve underarm. It was sampled by Frontier Analysis on July 7, 2002.



•Lining: A lining swath was obtained from the inside back skirt section by Frontier Analysis on July 7, 2002. It was selected because of the dark stain.



Numerous surface infrared spectra were acquired from every square centimeter of the front and back surfaces of all five swaths. Infrared spectra were also obtained from particulate materials found on the control, Swath #1 and Swath #2. (Limited data were obtained from Swath #2 and no particulates were examined from Swath #3.) Portions of all five samples were solvent extracted using hexane followed by water. Three washings per solvent were done on the samples. These extractions were done quantitatively by weighing the swaths before extraction and weighing the extracted material. Infrared spectra were acquired from the extracts. ^1H NMR spectra were also obtained by Dr. J. Robert Mooney using carbon tetrachloride solvent for the hexane extracts and D_2O (deuterated water) for the water extracts. Additional infrared spectra were obtained from the front surfaces of the extracted swaths.

Many microscope photographs and regular photographs were also obtained from the front and back of the swaths and some isolated particulates.

Conclusions

1.) The dress fabric is identified as a cellulose acetate knit. The discolored pink/magenta areas of the dress have suffered chemical effects on both the dye and the fiber. These areas also appear to contain more particulate material than a control. The fabric is coated with a biologically derived material which is composed of mostly protein (both water soluble lower molecular weight and insoluble higher molecular weight) and a small amount of natural ester-type oil. There is evidence that this material originally contained moisture. (See Conclusion 2.) This material is predominantly present on the discolored swaths. (Very small amounts are present on the control.) More of the substance is on the exterior surface of the dress than on the interior for Swaths #1 and #2. This

evidence shows the substance originates from an external source. The material has completely permeated swath #3. There is indication that the pH is more acidic than the control. Some of this protein and natural oil may have suffered some degradation. Very small amounts of individual particulates consist of materials one would expect to find on a dress which has hung in the closet for four decades, i.e. house dust, pet hair, and assorted natural and synthetic clothing fibers.

2.) Like the outer fabric, the lining is also identified as cellulose acetate. However, it is woven. The lining is not discolored, but has a few stains. The fiber in the stain area has not suffered damage. The stain material appears to have almost permeated the lining, though there is slightly more on the side facing the outer fabric. The stain contains, in part, components found in the exterior fabric. These are mostly water soluble proteins and a trace of natural ester-type oil. This suggests the stain is a result of "bleed through" of some of the material found on the outer fabric. It also indicates moisture had to be originally present in the substance. No higher molecular weight insoluble protein is present. Thus, the outer dress fabric apparently served as a filter for the higher molecular weight material, as well as some of the natural oil. Finally, after the stain was removed by solvent extraction, it returned to its original color. So, the dye was not affected by the components of the stain.

3.) The above results clearly rule out any natural substances originating from Betty such as urine, perspiration and vomit. This material came from an external source ruling out urine and Betty's perspiration. Also, no uric acid was detected further eliminating urine. Vomit was easily eliminated because of the location of the discoloration, which occurs behind the dress and on the underarms etc. I would expect considerable solids deposited on the front of the dress had vomit been involved. Only microscopic debris typical of a dress which has hung uncovered in the closet for a long period of time were detected. Also, there should have been a significant amount of carbohydrates present. These were not detected. Additionally, there was no bad odor.

Speculations

This section contains some speculations. It should be emphasized that these speculations cannot be confirmed without further biological testing. Perhaps others who peruse the data in this report can provide alternative ones. To me these speculations are the most probable. I should add that I could find nothing in the analytical data to dispute Betty and Barney's account of the event.

1.) The information in conclusions 1 and 2 are clues as to what may have happened to the dress. A natural oil and a protein substance are coating primarily the exterior surface of the dress, and Betty reports a most unpleasant unidentifiable odor on the craft. I offer a speculation that this odor could have emanated from the craft occupants and could be a result of natural body

elimination of oils/respiratory agents. These transferred to the dress on contact. The pink areas are most profound around the top of the dress, especially around the sleeve where the occupants had gripped Betty as they escorted her to and from the craft. The pink on the bottom is easily explainable, because contact was made with Betty's "escorts" when she kicked them as she was forcefully taken over the threshold of the craft. The "escort" on the right may have taken the brunt of her attack, because this is where the lining is ripped. Also, it is noted that the right sleeve is totally permeated with the material, which may indicate a tighter grip on her was necessary. It is also possible some material transferred from the top of the dress to the skirt when Betty folded the dress after returning home. The moist, damp biological components found on the dress were probably also on Betty's skin, causing her to feel clammy and dirty. It is worth noting that this speculation may have precedence. There was a previously purported encounter occurring in West Virginia in 1950, i.e. the famous Flatwoods case, whereby an unpleasant odor and stained clothing was reported.⁹ I quote, "...The monster was hovering about a foot off the ground and barely cleared the branch (thus being about 12 feet high), giving off some kind of oily substance which stained clothes of some of the witnesses and whose smell made some of the boys quite ill."

2.) I do not think the deposited substance on the dress directly caused the discoloration. It certainly did not discolor the lining stain area. Betty found the discoloration days later when she took the dress out of the closet. The substance on the dress was originally moist, so the moisture was not allowed to dissipate because the dress was folded. This moist substance, probably slightly acidic, served as a nutrient for a natural biological growth (bacteria, mold or mildew). This grew. Days later the dress finally dried, and a pink powdery residue from the growth remained. It was this biological growth material that probably caused the discoloration and possibly interacted with the dress fiber. The dress interior and drier lining probably were not attacked.

Current Update

In my report I recommended future analysis should be done, and I quote. "An individual with a background in the biological sciences should be consulted to possibly build on the information contained in this report. Perhaps more specific information relating to the protein type and evidence of the type of biological attack (bacteria, mold, mildew) could be further explored. But most importantly, I think some judgment should be made on whether DNA analysis should be performed. If the speculations hold any weight, that the material is a biological residue from the "escorts", it may be worth an attempt. However, judging from the dress history, I do not know if any intact DNA would remain from the "escorts" after this amount of time, especially with the indication that it may have suffered biological attack. If any intact DNA is present, I would expect at least two types

⁹ Stanton T. Friedman, *MUFON UFO Journal*, "Flatwoods Monster UFO Event" January 2003, pg. 21.

representing each "escort", i.e. a different type on each sleeve. This testing is expensive and would require funding."

A DNA analysis was completed in December 2004. The report is currently being written. I have been told the results. However, I prefer not to say anything until I see the final report. So stay tuned, there is more to come.

Acknowledgments

I acknowledge, posthumously, Betty Hill for her gracious donation of the dress swaths for this analysis and her keen, descriptive input into the details of the event, as well as the dress history. I am also indebted to Kathleen Marden for communicating my desire to analyze the dress to her aunt, Betty Hill, and I'm sure a little bit of convincing was required. Thanks go to Dr. Colm Kelleher (NIDS) for his critiquing of the data and constructive comments. I am also appreciative of the NMR spectra provided by Dr. J. Robert Mooney, as well as his comments on the data presented. And finally, I must acknowledge and thank my husband, Bruce Budinger, for his thoughts, help, and indulgence, and putting up with me throughout the analysis and in putting this report together.

Dedication

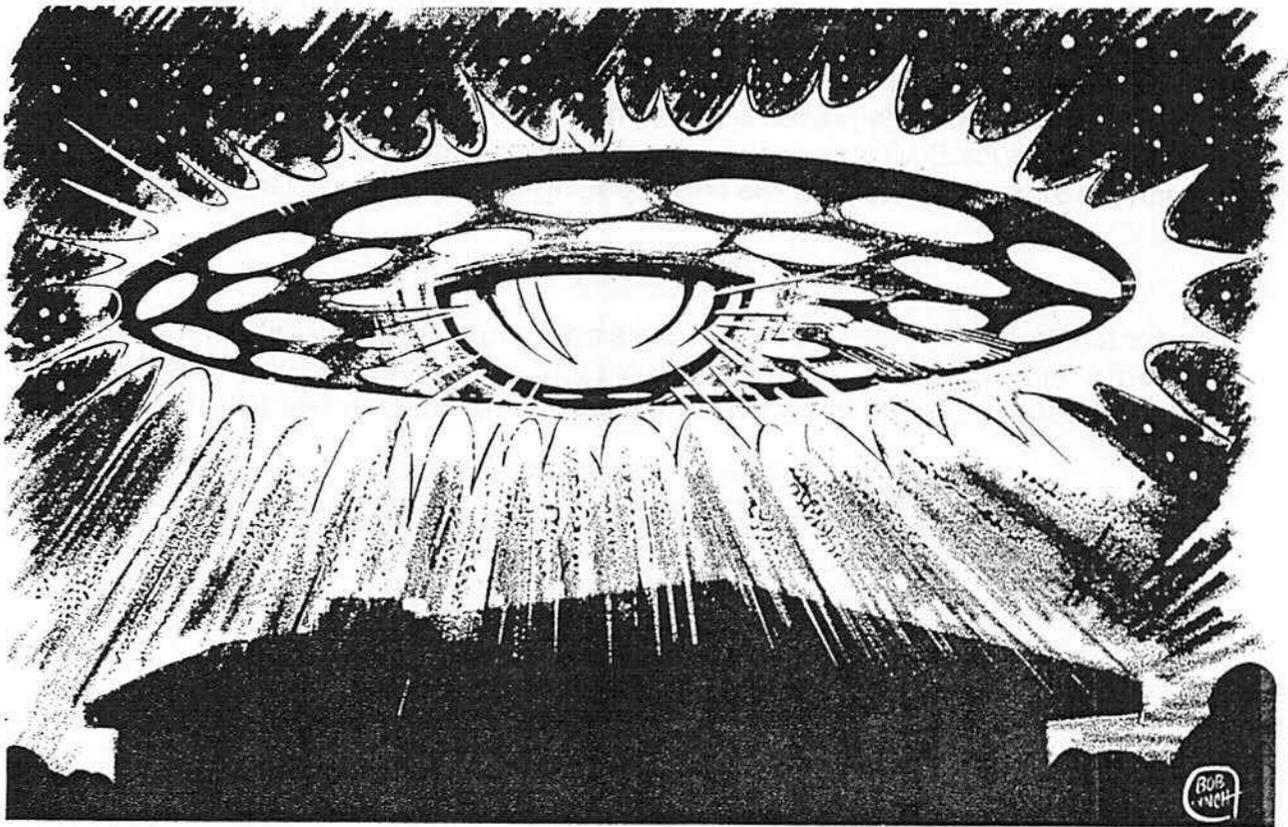
I dedicate this work to Betty Hill. She was a delightful, feisty, tiny lady with a wonderful sense of humor. I admired her gigantic resolve and moxie to stand up against her critics. I hope this analysis will provide her some redemption in kind.



1919 - 2004

Cleveland Flying Saucer – Date Unknown

This article comes from the collection of the late Earl Neff. We have been unable to establish the date of the article and sighting, but publish it here for your interest. We understand that the Cleveland newspaper is no longer in business. Maybe one of our readers will know more about this.



The UFO looked like this

This sketch of an Unidentified Flying Object, drawn by C-T artist Bob Lynch, is based on a description given by an Avon Lake woman who reported seeing it Wednesday night. The saucer-shaped object, estimated to be 20 to 30 feet wide, had a rotating orangish-red dome in the center and smaller greenish white lights around it. Mrs. Jacqueline Booth, of 173 Berkshire Rd., who reported the UFO, said she has received calls from Sheffield

Lake, Avon and Avon Lake residents who said they saw something similar that night and the night before. Most UFO sightings have been reported near the change of seasons, according to reports during the past several years. Descriptions of some UFO's given by people in various parts of the country were similar to Mrs. Booth's description.

The Olden Moore Encounter of 1957

by Rick Hilberg

In the early spring of 2004, I was given documents from the Earl Neff files pertaining to the classic Olden Moore Ohio close encounter from November of 1957 by William E. Jones for an historical overview in this publication. However, more than just citing details from this event that occurred during the great UFO wave from the late fall of 1957, it all too clearly shows how difficult at times historical research can be. As is usually the case when using more than one written or published source, many details regarding basic information on said incident can vary from document to document. Also, the fact that the documents from the Neff files were written some years after 1957 clearly shows that these errors will crop up in any retelling over time.

I found conflicting references as to the time of the incident, what Moore was doing at the time and even his employment status. That is why I decided to supplement the material from the Neff files with documents from my personal collection written by Earl himself, as well as from local researcher C. Wesley Fitch. I was well acquainted with both of these gentlemen when they were alive, and often talked with both of them about the Moore case as well as many others from those times now so long past. All of my sources can be found at the end of this article. I have also decided to use the exact wording as much as possible from the above mentioned sources so as not to unduly "color" the story with my own interpretation of the basic facts regarding Moore's experiences.

On the evening of November 6, 1957 Olden Moore, a Huntsburg, Ohio plasterer by trade also employed as a bank night watchman, was returning home from a visit with his parents in Painesville. (Story II, Neff) At between 11 p.m. and 11:30 he was passing through the town of Montville, when he noticed what he at first took to be a bright meteor moving rapidly across the sky from right to left directly in front of him. (Fitch, Neff) At that time he was on Ohio Rt. 86 at the intersection of Hart Road. (Neff)

Said Moore: "The object stopped when it got to the center of my side of the windshield, and then it split into two pieces. One part of it went upward. The part that remained then seemed brighter than ever. As I kept watching this 'star', it kept getting brighter and bigger. I decided to pull my car off the road onto a side road, and I got out to take a look. The thing seemed to be headed straight at the car. As it approached, its color changed from a bright white to a green haze, and then to a blue-green color, as it stopped about 200 feet in the air above a nearby field. I didn't hear any sound from it at all until it started to settle slowly to the ground. Then I noticed a whirring sound, something like the electric meter on the side of

my house, only a little deeper in tone. I stood by the car watching the thing for some fifteen minutes before I decided to walk toward it. The object was about 500 feet away from me."

Moore had walked about half the distance between the road and the landed UFO when he stopped and decided that he would go back to his car and return to the spot with witnesses, as no one would believe him otherwise. He could find no one else on the highway at the time, however. He went home to get his wife, and returned to the spot with her; but by that time the object was gone.

Moore said that the UFO was about 50 feet in diameter, disk-shaped, and about 15 feet thick, with a cone on the top, making its over-all height between 20 and 30 feet. It was surrounded by a blue-green haze, like a fog, and the color pulsated slowly, alternating between bright and dim. The moon was unusually bright that night, and it was the moonlight that made it possible for him to distinguish the object itself from the haze. The UFO had a surface like mirrored sunglasses, but no windows or portholes of any kind.

County officials were notified of the sighting the following day, and Lake County Civil Defense Director Kenneth Locke rushed to the scene. Said he, as quoted in a local newspaper at the time: "There were prints in the field one and a half inches deep and holes in the ground like those made by spiked shoes." Locke said that there were six prints in all, "coming from nowhere and going nowhere." He and Lt. Reineck, assistant to the head of the Ohio 5th Area Civil Defense, returned to headquarters to get a geiger counter. "When we came back," said Mr. Locke, "we got a reading of approximately 150 roentgens in the center of the area, tapering off to about 20 or 30 roentgens at the perimeter." Waiting a few hours, Locke and Reineck took another reading in the same area. This time the meter showed only 20 to 30 roentgens in the center and no reading at all at the perimeter. Locke concluded: "Something must have been here, since this indicated that the reaction on the geiger counter was not caused by minerals in the ground." (Fitch)

When Moore returned home from work on the evening of November 7th, he saw many cars parked outside his home. Reporters were milling around, obviously waiting for him.

Not wanting any publicity, Moore said that he drove around the block and waited until the crowd had left.

On Sunday evening, November 10th, Sheriff L. A. Robusky, accompanied by a deputy and an Air Force officer, called at the Moore home.

Robusky said that the Air Force wished to question Moore on the sighting and asked Moore "as a good patriot" to go to Youngstown for an interview.

Moore agreed to the request when it was promised that he would be returned to his home that evening. They drove to the exact spot where the UFO had landed and boarded an Air Force helicopter. The officials were true to their word, as after being questioned about the encounter in Youngstown, Moore was indeed returned to his home later that same evening. (Neff)

On the following Sunday, November 17th, at about 6 p.m., an Air Force car with two officers in it came to Moore's home. This time he was informed by one of the officers that they wanted him to go to Washington for two or three days of questioning, and he was asked to pack a suitcase. They said they would return for him in an hour, and promptly at 7 p.m. they did return. The car drove to a waiting plane in which the pilot was already at the controls. The plane touched down at Wright-Patterson Field in Dayton, and dropped off one of the officers. It picked up another Air Force officer at the same time, and took off for Washington, arriving there at an unidentified (to Moore) airport later that night. An official car then drove him to the downtown building where he was housed throughout his stay there. Two or three days later Moore was flown back home via Youngstown.

While in Washington Moore said that one of the military officers stayed with him every minute he was in Washington - even sleeping in the same room with him at night. They never let him out of their sight. They dined with him in a private restaurant in the same building where he was housed. He was well treated and afforded every courtesy, and he had no complaint on that score.

The military officers, after questioning him about his sighting at considerable length on several occasions, showed him some slides projected on a screen. These slides were of various UFO still photographs. They even ran off a UFO movie film, which had apparently been taken from inside a military plane. Moore said he was told that about 30% of the UFOs on which they had information, were of the type with a pointed dome, such as the one he had seen.

After being shown these slides and motion pictures, Moore was asked to sign papers (with witnesses' signatures attached to them) to the effect that he would not reveal the fact that he had been shown this evidence of the existence of UFOs. Moore said that he asked where these objects are from. He was told by the military officials that they are not ours or Russia's, and that they must therefore be from another planet, coming into our atmosphere from outer space. He was also told that the public has not been informed about this because the military themselves do not yet have all the answers. (Fitch)

Also, the facts are that Moore was not the only person to call authorities and report a UFO on November 6th. John Shaffer, 16, and Timothy Sadowski, 15, reported a cigar-shaped object at

7:55 p.m., the same evening of the Olden Moore report.

The youths were on duty at the Grand Valey Observer post at Orwell, a short distance from Montville. They reported the object at high altitude, traveling swiftly toward the northwest.

"The object had light streaming down from what appeared to be two portholes," Shaffer said. "It was shaped like a cigar, but was not tapered at both ends. One end was larger than the other."

Also on the night Moore said he saw the UFO, an Ashtabula man reported seeing a low, bright object while he was driving east on Rt. 166. The object appeared to move away, come closer and then vanish.

On Nov. 7, one day after the other sightings, five other persons reported seeing UFOs in Geauga and Ashtabula counties.

One of the sightings was described by a Thompson Ledges man as a "large flattened-pumpkin shape, traveling from north to northwest." (Neff, "Olden Moore")

That pretty much sums up the Olden Moore case. However, over the years many have questioned Moore's claims of being taken to Washington to be grilled by Air Force personnel and more importantly, shown slides and movies of actual "UFOs." However, both Fitch and Neff swore to me that they believed Moore's claims. They both said that the only reason that Moore revealed this part of the story was because his wife told neighbors of his trip to Washington, and that they leaked the information to a local newspaper and television station.

There is no doubt that Moore had a close encounter during the height of the large 1957 UFO wave. Was he really taken to Washington, however? I'm afraid that is one question that no one is now alive to answer...

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"The study of the UFO phenomena is NOT a substitute for religious belief; if you need emotional or spiritual fulfillment you will not find it here."

John Hayes and Rob Brock

STARSTRIKES: CALLING CARDS FROM THE COSMOS?

by Scott Corrales
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The story has been told in every language and in every single possible context from simple history to science-fiction: how in the summer of 1908 a strange object -- sometimes meteorite, sometimes a "cometary" fragment, sometimes an alien spaceship -- crashed into, or vaporized over, a remote area in the Siberian wilderness known as Tunguska. Haunting photos of the event's aftereffects are burned into our consciousness and have even graced the covers of rock and roll albums: thousands of trees pointing away from the disaster like so many carefully laid out matchsticks. Stories of the still-unexplained Siberian devastation are equally gripping, and when the first Soviet expeditions made their way to the area decades later, they were startled to find that the local Tungus tribe's people had attributed the event to a surprise visit by the fire-god Adgy.

However, any small comfort offered by both time and distance vanishes when we examine the more immediate crashes on our own continent.

South America: A Cosmic Dart Board

On August 13, 1930 a strange explosion very similar to the one at Tunguska took place at Rio Curaca on a jungle riverbank on the border between Peru and Brazil. Word of the event was brought back to civilization by Catholic missionaries doing the Lord's work in Amazonia and printed in the Vatican's own *L'Osservatore Romano*. According to the eyewitnesses, their attention was drawn to the phenomenon by a high-pitched whistling sound in the early morning hours. The sun acquired a blood-red cast that frightened the natives and made the missionaries wonder if the time of reckoning might be at hand. The article in *L'Osservatore Romano* makes reference to the highly unusual fact that a rain of fine ash "left a white layer on the jungle leaves" prior to the impact.

Five years later, a second devastating explosion would occur in South America's northern reaches, specifically at Rupununi in British Guyana. According to an article featured in *The Sky* magazine in September 1939, the Guyanan incident occurred under cover of darkness in the month of December 1935. Researcher Serge Korff had visited the remote area only a few months after the event and noted that the area affected by the cosmic one-shot could have been much wider than the one in Tunguska decades earlier: he managed to interview a local miner who had gone to bed early on that fateful evening and was brusquely wakened by the explosion and the sound of his crockery being thrown about in the kitchen. The miner claimed to have visited the impact area and guessed that it roughly measured one hundred twenty square kilometers. Giant rainforest trees had fallen down pointing away from the impact "as if they'd been pushed."

It was not until 1937 that William Holden, a researcher with the American Museum of Natural History, was able to visit the area and climb to the top of a local mountain range: he reported being able to see a devastated area measuring several miles in diameter whose trees had been sheared off some 20 feet from their bases. Holden also supported the belief that some sort of cosmic impact had been responsible for the event. Subsequent researchers found that the area had been covered over by the exuberant rainforest in a matter of years.

Researchers agreed that common factors in the Brazilian and Guyanan cases were the ear-splitting sound produced by the object and the fact that both events occurred during annual meteor showers -- the Perseids and Geminids -- in their respective years and are identifiable with the penetration of Earth's atmosphere by a small meteor. But even so, there was the niggling suspicion, as with the Tunguska event, that something more than stray cosmic junk may have been involved.

A Second Round of Events

The South American landmass appears to have avoided further insults until only recently, when the vast, thinly populated expanses of Brazil were wounded from above once more.

On October 9, 1999 an enormous sonic boom rent the air above the Amazonian logging camp/village of Sao Félix do Xingu on a clear afternoon, spreading terror among the lumberjacks and the Kaiapós natives who occupy the area. A scintillating object roared over the city, leaving a wake of black smoke qualified by the onlookers as "similar to that of a rocket." The smoke trail extended for some 18 miles into the nearby mountains as the object disappeared from view.

The inevitable detonation followed seconds later. Witness Gildemar de Souza noted that "it was a colossal explosion, like a bomb, that made the ground shake." Had anyone in the logging camp been of an occultist bent, they might have reasonably assumed that Nostradamus' Great King of Terror had arrived a few months late.

Local radio station "Rede BAND" took it upon itself to organize a search party to find out what had really fallen into the mountains. Members of the radio station's team were almost completely convinced that a meteor of some sort had fallen in the vicinity and discouraged any talk about an alien vehicle. This choice, however laudable, did nothing to discourage speculation among the locals that a stricken spaceship had plowed into their region. Believers in the alien hypothesis bolstered their belief with the fact that no distress calls had been received concerning any downed Brazilian aircraft.

Rede BAND's expedition used a small aircraft to get as close to the site of events as possible, and then employed a small boat to reach the Xingu's headwaters. Friendly Kaiapó tribesmen led them to the spot in the jungle where the crash occurred and the tropical vegetation still smoldered a full two weeks after the impact: giant hardwoods had been uprooted and burned and the jungle floor had been furrowed. No traces of machinery or meteoritic rock were in evidence; stranger still was an odd area where the trees pointed away from impact's probable epicenter. All of this puzzled Rómulo Angélica, the Rede BAND expedition's geologist, who was at a loss to explain how despite the fact that the area looked like a meteor-stricken landscape should look, the lack of a "culprit" was very distressing to the scientists – as was a peculiar odor which did not resemble any smell that the expedition members were able to immediately identify.

Although they did not say so, perhaps some of the expedition members were recalling the still-unexplained Divinolandia impact six years earlier.

In the spring of 1994, farmer Trajano Martins and his wife, residents of the municipality of Divinolandia deep in the state of Sao Paulo, were startled to hear a sound similar to that of a low-flying helicopter followed by the sound of an explosion. Running out of his house to see what had occurred, he was startled to see a large boulder on a nearby hill completely enveloped in a cloud of white smoke.

Fortunately for the Martins, a surveyor had been shooting the landscape a few miles away and was able to witness an object "reflecting the sun's light" fall out of the sky directly toward the location indicated by the farmer. This corroboration prompted the University of Sao Paulo to send out a team to investigate the event and recover the meteorite. However, their efforts were in vain: not even the smallest fragment of rock was found. The research team's verdict was that if a meteor had been involved, it must have buried itself into the ground.

But this explanation did not suffice for members of the *Grupo Ufologico de Guarujá*, who contacted Professor Francisco Donizetti and asked him to look further into the matter. Glad to oblige, the scholar visited Divinolandia and was impressed by the way in which the large boulder had been shattered by whatever external force had been brought to bear against it. He corroborated the lack of any meteoritic fragments and ventured the suggestion that the event may have been a "shock wave of an unknown nature", remarking that a similarly strange event had taken place in the late '70s at Aguas da Prata, where a strange celestial object had fallen on a coffee plantation, setting it on fire and creating a hole well over fifty feet (16 m) deep.

Argentina's Aeroliths or Saucers?

Many people in South America, particularly those given to reading books on the spiritism of Allan Kardec and esoterica in general, had been keenly aware of the arrival of the year 1999 and the dreadful cataclysmic portents for the "seventh month" of said year forecast by Michel de Nostradamus in the 16th century concerning a "king of terror" that would appear in the sky. When nothing happened, trepidation

increased rather than abated, since the cosmic intruder was probably delayed for reasons not even Nostradamus could have explained on a good night. The terrifying omen would appear like the thief in the night described by the Apostle Paul.

On Tuesday, January 25, 2000, the noontime routine of the Argentinean village of Sachayoj in the Andean foothills was disrupted by Nostradamus' late arrival: an object described as a glowing ball of flame roared across the daylight skies, rending the air with dull, deafening roar and frightening the locals into prayer. What happened shortly afterward was a repetition of the Brazilian incidents -- a loud explosion was heard throughout the Santiago del Estero region as energy was released from the impact point. The ground shook, although not as powerfully as it might in this earthquake-prone part of the Americas. It was all over in a matter of minutes, and the townspeople's gratitude at being spared turned into normal human inquisitiveness: had it really been a bolide, or was it a crashed UFO similar to the one which had allegedly fallen in 1995 near the Argentinean town of Metán, some 200 miles to the north? UFOs had already been reported earlier in January over the military facilities at Puerto Belgrano, so anything was possible at this juncture. It took a few days for teams of specialists from all over Argentina to gather their instruments and report to Santiago del Estero, the largest city closest to Sachayoj. The military and their scientific advisors proceeded to comb the area for signs of the alien object -- whether natural or artificial -- but were soon hampered by the local geography of thick forests covering yawning canyons and gullies -- uninhabited and mostly unexplored, but filled with a variety of subtropical animals on both banks of the Salado River. Finding the object would involve the daunting prospect of doing it all on foot, aided by the seasoned backwoodsmen who inhabited the region.

Town commissioner Olga Bertolotti told journalists that a farm worker at an *estancia* (ranch) known as Fabril Chaquena had witnessed the object's descent. Bertolotti informed the *Intervoz de Córdoba* newspaper that "with the arrival of the year 2000 and apocalyptic beliefs, townspeople are concerned about the strange object that fell from the sky and are following the events closely." The Commissioner also added that her greatest concern was the awareness that the object had fallen from space and was therefore an unknown quantity. It is not entirely unreasonable to surmise the Bertolotti was aware of her region's propensity toward abnormal activity: not only had something odd fallen near Metán a few years ago, but the area was also one of the country's ufological hot spots. The spectacular Trancas Case (in which a farmhouse was besieged by six UFOs which deployed "heat rays" against it) had taken place not too far away, and the city of Salta and its extensive history of unusual celestial events was a nearby regional capital.

Reporters also took an interest in some of the eyewitness accounts brought to their attention, such as the testimony of school janitor Ramon Agustín, who explained that the event had filled him with "considerable panic and fear" given the sheer size and rapid descent of the mystery object, whose loud, thundering noise caused domestic animals to run amok. "I looked at it and felt paralyzed; I didn't know what to do. After the event, I ran away and stayed with my family," he told the press.

A full week since the mystery object burned a path across the skies of northern Argentina, the authorities determined that the villages of Tintina, Otumpa, Sachayoj and the marshes of the Gran Chaco were the likeliest to hold the answer to the mystery. Journalists had discovered that the area's inhabitants -- normally taciturn farmers -- had become quite talkative about this intrusion into the sedate lifestyle. The owner of one business establishment was even able to pinpoint the location of the alleged crash site based upon the descriptions given by his clientele. Another local told reporters of fellow residents who had hired themselves out as guides to the growing number of technicians and officials engaged in searching for the object in the vegetation-covered canyon lands of the area.

As the search expanded to cover other possible crash locations the office of the *comisario* (sheriff) in the town of Quimilí rejected suggestions that an aircraft may have been involved, adding that the eyewitnesses' reports seemed to agree with the collision having occurred at a place known as Campo del Cielo -- Heaven's Field -- where a massive meteorite shower appears to have occurred millennia ago (an area similar to Mexico's Zone of Silence, which would appear to exert a certain attraction over inbound celestial objects)

Much in the same way as with the Xingú crash of 1999, the private expeditions seemed to have a higher profile and better luck than the official ones. A radio station (Radio Mocovi) and a television station (Charata Cable) hired a small plane to fly their respective crews over the possible impact site. According to radio broadcaster Juan Carlos Barros, "[the area covered] is a forested area and no anomaly could be observed which might have been caused by the possible fall of an object. It is an area of great size, and if that's where it fell, it would take a great deal of effort to reach the area and search it."

The Santiago del Estero meteorite/bolide/UFO story faded from the paper after a few weeks after experts and local guides alike threw in the metaphorical towel. As in the Divinolandia case in Brazil, the object had behaved like the Cheshire Cat -- but this time not even its smile remained.

The Mexican Bolides

Paulina González was a highly intelligent young woman from the town of Villa Cardel, Veracruz -- not far from Jalapa, the state capital. She had entered into the service of the author's family in Mexico City and quickly became an inseparable member of the family, playing the roles of housekeeper and companion with equal ease. Her qualities as a storyteller were unparalleled, particularly concerning the smallest details of farm life in rural Mexico.

Perhaps one of her most memorable accounts was the story of the day "the world almost came to an end" had it not been -- she was convinced -- through the intercession of the Virgin of Guadalupe and a supporting cast of lesser-known saints.

It was noon in Villa Cardel and she was returning home from school for the midday meal when she noticed people screaming and pointing to the heavens as a "white ball of fire" bore down on the town. Shouts of "The world is ending", rang from people's throats, but the bolide never struck the earth. It continued on its path out to sea.

Paulina retold the story a number of times, but it would not be until many years later that I would come upon a similar account highlighting the state of Veracruz's proclivity toward these phenomena in John Keel's Operation Trojan Horse: residents of the city of Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico were awakened by the a loud rumbling sound in the early morning hours of March 27, 1968. One witness to this terrifying event remarked that the source of light and its attendant noise made her feel cool at first and then cold, as night was turned into a frightening semblance of a daytime that was still many hours away. The light intensified and the ground shook as if in resonance. Again, before the world ended on that occasion, the "bolide" appeared to rise again and vanish. Keel notes that corroboration for the event was made by the crew of a Mexican warship and an oil tanker some twenty-five miles away from Veracruz. These distant onlookers were able to describe it as "two or three objects in the center of a bright ball of fire."

But we would be mistaken to limit these bizarre near-misses (if they in fact are) to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. Little over a year after the still-unexplained incident over Veracruz, a colossal bolide appeared in the early morning skies over the northern Mexican desert. February 8, 1969 could have been a date every bit as memorable as Tunguska -- written in letters of fire -- as residents of Ceballos, Durango woke up to the blinding light of a fiery sphere that headed straight for their town, illuminating every feature of the rocky desert and causing understandable feelings of dread. The rumbling sound of the object filled the streets of Ceballos as the townspeople came out to see what could well be their last day on earth.

But unlike the Veracruz objects, this bolide stayed on course and was not deviated by any unnatural force. It hit the ground near the village of Pueblito de Allende--scant miles from Ceballos--and its shock wave fanned out almost immediately, causing a deafening clap of sound.

The Allende Meteorite is a matter of public record, but what is less known is that the Zone of Silence, this arbitrary patch of desert at the location where the states of Durango, Coahuila and Chihuahua meet, is constantly peppered by smaller stones mysteriously attracted to the region from outer space. These skyfalls have added to the Zone's reputation as an enchanted region. Similar "meteorite attractors" exist in other locations, such as the aforementioned "Campo del Cielo" in Argentina.

Conclusion

Living, as we do, in an age obsessed with the possible obliteration of our civilization due to meteorite impacts, interest in the subject is high and has spawned a number of motion pictures and book projects. But we needn't go as far as northern Asia to find some amazing stories. On the 10th of August 1972, North America almost had its very own Tunguska as a massive meteor, having an estimated weight of two million pounds, burned its way into Earth's atmosphere leaving a wake of sonic booms over the state of Utah. Closing in at nine miles a second, the space rock seemed ready to slam against our planet until it rebounded against the denser air of the lower atmosphere and gently returned back into space. Astronomers estimated that the object's trajectory

was leading it toward ground zero in southern Canada, slamming into the province of Alberta with a force equivalent to a 400-kiloton nuclear bomb.

One gets the impression that, like a cat, Earth seems to be running out of lives.

DANCING IN THE DARK: UFO-RELATED BLACKOUTS

by Scott Corrales

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Summer can be the cruelest season when the mercury soars past the hundred degree mark and the nights are almost just as hot. Without an electric fan or air conditioner, sleep can be reduced to an incessant tossing and turning. The Spanish town of Bollullos (Huelva) was certainly a perfect example of this unrelenting heat in the month of July 1975, when what little relief offered by mechanical cooling devices was interrupted by a sudden, unexpected blackout.

The power outage had occurred at eleven o'clock in the evening, prompting locals to look out their windows for a possible explanation. Three local youths had gone to the movie theater in search of some relief from the heat, only to find their enjoyment interrupted by the blackout. With nothing left to do, the dejected trio returned home, only to have a startling encounter with the unexplained.

Francisco Esquivel, Diego Sanchez and Diego Salas suddenly became aware of a strange yellow ball of light at the edge of the road – the only source of light amid the surrounding darkness. It appeared to be hovering above the power lines.

Cautiously, the driver slowed down to allow his vehicle to coast gently past the unknown object. In a newspaper interview with Spanish journalist J.J. Benítez, Francisco, the driver, said that the object's fuselage shone with a metallic sheen, surrounded by an aura of bright white light. He added that he felt the strange presence was "trying to drive them away" by hurling flashes of light in their direction.

This did nothing to allay his curiosity: Francisco got out of his car to take a closer look. Just as he did so, the high voltage lines began producing a shower of sparks. Fear gripped the driver and his friends, and they sped away from the area even as their car's engine began to sputter and die. Running into town in a panic, they told anyone who listened what they had seen: a UFO had been responsible for the power outage.

The Great Northeastern Blackout

One of the earliest factual cases of UFO interference with the flow of electricity to our residential areas occurred in November 1953, a football-sized UFO stormed down from the heavens over New Haven, Connecticut. The mini-UFO proceeded to smash through a billboard close to a residential area and head skyward after the impact. Lights all over the neighborhood dimmed as the event took place. Tamaroa, Illinois, also had its lights cut by a giant hovering UFO in 1957. Porto Alegre, Brazil, was plunged into darkness on August 30, 1954, and the city of Rome had lost power on August 3, 1958. In 1962, an UFO touched ground at Eureka, Utah, not far from Stead Air Force Base and left a nearby power substation inoperative for 40 minutes until the object took off.

Was it inconceivable for UFOs, with their apparent interest or thirst for electricity, to affect even larger population centers? On November 9, 1965, twenty-nine million residents of the northeastern United States, and millions more in Canada, were plunged into darkness as electricity was affected by a mysterious source. At five thirty p.m. on that fateful day, thousands of terrified New Yorkers were trapped in subway tunnels and within elevators in the heart of skyscrapers. No one was spared the event, not even military bases.

The blackout spread like an ink stain from the Niagara Falls area to the cities of Buffalo, Rochester, Utica and the smaller communities along the Great Lakes in a matter of minutes. Shortly after, it grew to encompass the states of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont. In a country still in the throes of the Cold War, and with the Cuban Missile Crisis a fresh memory, it was first feared that the blackout heralded nuclear Armageddon. An airline pilot allegedly exclaimed that the vision of utter blackness on the ground below him made him think it was "the end of the world."

Radio stations, operating on backup power, were able to keep the frightened population calm, although news items in the broadcasts made reference to "trouble up north" without providing any specifics. A private plane instructor north of Syracuse, New York reported seeing a colossal fireball hovering above the quarter-million volt lines of the Niagara Mohawk Station in Clay, New York. Precisely at that time, operators in the New York City area registered a massive onrush of power to the north, perhaps drawn by the "fireball". The blackout occurred minutes later.

Thousands of witnesses in the darkened cities and countryside would later claim to have seen strange lights crossing the skies with impunity on that fateful evening. Others reported seeing "fireballs" hovering over power transmission cables, changing in color from blue to orange to green.

The official explanation given at the time was a relay break in the massive Sir Adam Beck Plant No.2, located a few miles to the north of Niagara Falls. According to experts, the break allegedly overloaded the U.S. lines and the load detectors failed to perform according to design -- a fact which was never satisfactorily explained.

The entire Northeastern U.S., plunged into darkness, commanded global attention. Not so the equally mysterious blackouts that followed: New Mexico, Texas and Mexico itself suffered unexplained power losses in later weeks: On December 3rd, Ciudad Juárez in Mexico and the major cities of the American Southwest were left in shadow as Socorro, NM (a UFO Mecca), Holloman AFB, White Sands Missile Range and other sensitive installations were rendered inoperative. Blame was placed on a pair of defective units somewhere in New Mexico--however, local witnesses claimed to have seen a glowing object over the power station.

In 1979, author Yurko Bondarchuk accused Canadian Prime Minister, Lester Pearson, of covering up the UFO aspect of the Great 1965 Blackout. Bondarchuk cites the explanation offered by Dr. James McDonald that the explanation given about a broken relay as the cause of the power outage was a cover. The prime minister, suggests the author, must have believed that disclosing the real source of the blackout was unwise."UFOs," writes Bondarchuk, "create sudden power surges in transmission lines as the craft flies overhead...in theory, these power surges could produce blackouts of massive proportions." (National Post, 2003)

A Precursor to the 1965 Blackout?

The age of the great UFO-induced blackouts continued throughout those troubled years. A harbinger, perhaps, of what would happen later on across the northeastern U.S., were the three separate power failures of September 23, 1965 in the Mexican city of Cuernavaca -- fifty miles away from Mexico City.

The Ultima Hora newspaper indicated that the blackout had been caused by a large luminous flying saucer which crossed the heavens over the city -- an inverted soup-bowl device which was seen not only by thousands of citizens but by city mayor Emilio Riva Palacios, who was attending the opening of a film festival with members of his cabinet. The lights went out during the showing, and upon going outside, the city fathers were treated to the sight of the massive object's glow, which reportedly filled the entirety of Cuernavaca valley.

But the force behind all these aerial phenomena appeared to be take a shine to Mexico City itself, with its juxtaposition of massive colonial structures, modern skyscrapers and ancient ruins: it chose the 16th of September, the one hundred fifty-fifth anniversary of Mexico's independence from Spain, to manifest half a dozen luminous objects over the city's skies, casting downtown Mexico City into unbreakable gridlock as drivers left their vehicles to take a better look at the phenomenon. Newspapers reported that aviation authorities had received in excess of five thousand telephone calls from people asking if they had also seen "flying saucers". On September 25, a citizenry weary of craning their necks skyward endured another leisurely display of the unknown as a vast luminous body passed overhead, remaining motionless for a while before shooting out of sight at a terrific speed. Only days later, two smaller objects would buzz the gilded dome of Mexico's Palacio de Bellas Artes, a turn of the century structure that dominates La Alameda park. The early evening sighting was witnessed by a few dozen people waiting at a bus stop; they described the objects as "enormous luminous bodies with intermittent sparkling lights."

By this point in time, some of the world's major newspapers had picked up on Mexico's saucer situation. Paris's *Le Figaro* reprinted an editorial from Italy's *Corriere della Sera* on the subject: "Mexico City International Airport has officially recorded, of late, some three thousand cases of mysterious apparitions described in detail. At nightfall, people gather on the terraces and balconies of their homes to search the skies...a clamor of voices can occasionally be heard, saying: "There goes one! Can you see it?" Invariably, what

follows is this: traffic is paralyzed on neighboring streets, since drivers also want to partake of the spectacle. The roadways grind to a halt, leading to monstrous traffic jams. After a while, witnesses to the event are willing to swear that the presence of *platillos voladores* causes engines to stall and plunges homes into darkness. Throughout Mexico, the number of blackouts has been inexplicably high."

Candles and Flashlights

Respected Argentinean author Roberto Banchs mentions the July 4, 1968 blackout that darkened the entire sector of Tigre (province of Buenos Aires). During this incident, a number of witnesses reported seeing a UFO. A woman named Isabel Gómez stated that the object "seemed to emit light. It was the only lighted object at the time." A few months later, the city of Chascomús was plunged into darkness. Mrs. Blanca Davis witnessed a UFO measuring some 7 or 8 meters in diameter hanging motionless in the air, directly above the town square. "When we looked toward the west," she reported, "we saw two [more] discs and another one which gave the impression of being ready to land. Suddenly the UFOs headed toward the lagoon area, from which twenty more objects appeared, flying from north to south at fantastic speeds." Banchs reports that electricity was restored the moment the objects disappeared.

The 1968 wave of UFO sightings, which extended from the Dominican Republic to the island of Puerto Rico, also caused a series of blackouts. On August 11 that year, police officers in the town of Yauco on the island's southern coast were startled to see "a brilliant moon-shaped object which lit up the area completely. The following day, a similar object was seen in the neighboring Dominican Republic by residents of Puerto Plata and Sosúa. According to researcher Sebastián Robiou, the minute that the locals saw the phenomenon approach, they would hurry up to find "candles and flashlights, since electricity always failed whenever the objects flew over their homes."

UFOs and blackouts plagued Argentina again in January 2001, when the *La Voz del Interior* newspaper ran a story about the harrowing experience suffered by a local motorist named Julio Salguero. At 3:30 a.m. on New Year's Day, Salguero was on his way home in the town of Corralito, cutting across the community of Rio Tercero to save some time.

"We were calmly driving along," said the driver, "when suddenly my wife screamed: "Be careful!" and we saw a light heading straight for us. I hit the brakes. What I could see was a round, very powerful light, like a welding light, over a meter in diameter. It seemed to be heading straight for the car, but it suddenly stopped and backed off. It remained at the height of the power cables that are now at the side of the road, moving up and down," he explained. "The light lit everything up for a few minutes, without any exaggerations, as if it were broad daylight, due to its intensity. It then rose some 30 meters into the air and suddenly vanished. Neither I nor my family can state which way it went, because we'd be lying. What we saw is that it vanished suddenly, like a light being switched off."

Salguero and his family were startled to hear that the strange object they had seen over the high-voltage lines had deprived the town of Corralito of electricity on a night without storms or high winds, and even more so when they discovered that nearby Rio Tercero had lost power at exactly the same time they had their experience. "As far as I know, no reason for the power outage has been found," he said.

Argentina has not been the only South American nation bedeviled by blackout-causing UFOs: in the Summer, 1998 issue of the *Samizdat* newsletter, Brazilian researcher Oriel Farias told the world about the incredible and still little-known UFO wave that covered northeastern Brazil and which centered on the town of Guarabira. According to Farias, the outstanding characteristic of the '98 flap was the sheer variety of objects reported, ranging from standard disk-shaped craft to massive objects projecting powerful beams of light. "Lengths of 30 meters have been reported, the size of a 20-storey building," he writes.

The Guarabira "invasion" began on March 3, 1998 and was spearheaded by 26 UFOs flying over the city at 6:45 p.m., when the lights went out in Guarabira, and lasting until 3:45 a.m., when power returned to the city. This blackout remains unexplained to this day.

Lights Out in Puerto Rico

UFO and paranormal activity ran almost non-stop throughout the 1990s after a decade of inactivity. Earlier saucer flaps had created their fair share of electromagnetic interference with automobiles and aircraft, and even some widespread power outages

In September 1977, residents of the Colobó sector of Loiza, P.R., were treated to the sight of a UFO flying low over the local beach at around 8:30 p.m. The object, according to Sebastian Robiou, made an occasional buzzing sound and then "shut off and disappeared." When interviewed, the same residents noted that the lights browned-out in the sector while the UFO was in evidence.

Fifteen years later, residents of the Mayagüez Terrace development ran out of their homes in response to the shouts of students from the nearby university, who were reacting to the sight of a spherical UFO crossing the skies in the general direction of Cerro Las Mesas. The orange-hued sphere materialized after having apparently been the cause of a blackout which affected a considerable part of the city for a few minutes.

Puerto Rico can also boast the distinction of being the only place in the world where a blackout was deliberately caused by the authorities to *disprove* the presence of the UFO phenomenon in the island's UFO-ridden southwestern corner. Since 1987, reports had pointed to UFO activity in the vicinity of a shallow lagoon known as Laguna Cartagena: all manner of solid craft and intriguing "lights in the sky" had been seen in the area, and in some cases, emerging from and vanishing into the water, leading many to believe that an "alien base" must exist underground in the Lajas Valley.

On October 2, 1991, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) left hundreds of homes without electricity for thirty minutes. Ramón Montalvo, an engineer at the PREPA plant in San Germán, claimed that the unusual lights vanished from the darkened sky "the minute the power was cut off." Lt. Rafael Rodríguez of the Lajas police argued that the blackout proved the lights believed to be UFOs were merely the reflections on the lagoon's surface.

The authorities went to the extreme of placing a series of large reflectors on the crest of nearby Mt. Candelaria. The experiment failed miserably -- no such reflection was seen, despite official claims. Any individual armed with a map would have noticed that the lights on Candelaria, twenty miles away, could not possibly account for the situation being experienced on an almost daily basis by the residents of the Lajas Valley.

In mid-March 1992, residents of the Puerto Rican city of Trujillo Alto were roused from their sleep by an unearthly noise and a spectacular display of blue light. The light changed to other colors of the spectrum in rapid succession as two powerful searchlights scanned the darkened surface from above. Hundreds, if not thousands, of residents were able to see a massive UFO hovering directly over a local power substation. The airborne goliath began drawing electricity from the substation in a stunning visual display that filled onlookers with awe.

Equally awed were the technicians from the local power utility, who reported early the next day to repair the burned out substation: according to estimates, the UFO had caused well over a \$250,000 in damages that could not be readily explained, such as the molten transformer terminals and the inoperative automatic breakers which should have prevented such a tremendous loss of current.

They Said It Couldn't Happen Again

Computer screens suddenly went black as the hum of 21st century civilization suddenly stopped to be replaced by an unaccustomed silence. The time was 4:11 p.m. on August 14, 2003. In a matter of minutes, battery-powered radios would report that a widespread blackout had plunged New York City into darkness for the third time in forty years, and at precisely the worst time of day, as tens of thousands of office workers were getting ready to return home on one of the hottest days of an otherwise unremarkable summer. The problem affected not only the Big Apple, but a wide swath of territory stretching westward: Toronto, Lansing, Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester...the litany of affected cities included major urban concentrations and minor villages. Politicians rushed to occupy their places before the cameras to assure the population that the blackout of 2003 was not an act of terrorism and that power would be restored soon.

The blame game started almost immediately, with New Yorkers blaming Canadians, and placing the blame on a "lightning bolt" which had allegedly struck a power station. The blame then shifted to an alleged fire at a nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, and so forth. The Great Northeast Blackout of 2003 had affected fifty million people and as of this writing, no official explanation has been put forward.

Is it perhaps naive to ascribe this blackout to the UFO phenomenon, especially as no reliable reports have come in? According to the National UFO Reporting Center, New York state alone reported 703 sightings since the beginning of 2003 (with heavy activity in June and July) so something unusual could conceivably have happened. Forty-eight hours after the blackout, it was suggested that a strange "power inversion" along the

Lake Erie Loop had caused the blackout, but no explanation had been put forth as to the external force capable of causing the phenomenon. The fact remained that "a huge field of electricity dropped out and drained north," in the words of an Associated Press teletype. Could this have been one of the UFO-induced "massive surges in power" that Yurko Bondarchuk mentioned in his book?

As far as the cause is concerned, it seems as though we will remain in the dark for a long, long time.

**Erick Bellido Interviews Hector Acevedo:
"I Was Abducted by a UFO"
by Scott Coralles**

A humble tradesman of the 9th Region (Chile is politically divided into Regions, which are equivalent to provinces or states) described his close encounter of the 3rd kind, an event that thrust him into frenzied panic after his car was intercepted by an unknown vehicle that enveloped his sedan in a powerful light.

SANTIAGO (Chile) February 5. On a winter's day in 1997, Hector Acevedo was driving his white Daihatsu Charade distributing milk products throughout the Ninth Region. Every day he covered a different route, supplying his product to small and medium-sized rural businesses. In mid-July of that year, his company assigned him to cover a pre-sales route between the towns of Los Sauces and Purén, half an hour distant from each other by car. At 20:00 hours by the clock, Acevedo had finished his duties for the day and had gone to retrieve some household appliances he had dropped off for repair. So it was that while he put the appliances into his trunk, the owner of the repair shop told him that some strange lights had been flying overhead at lightning speed. Acevedo paid little heed: it was a clear night and there was no sign of bad weather.

Several minutes later, when he was about to reach Los Sauces, the lonely driver was confronted by a phenomenon that would scar him for the rest of his life.

What was it you saw on that occasion?

I was driving along when a circular object appeared before me just as I was taking a curve. It was flying at low altitude and I estimate that it measured between 15-20 meters in diameter.

How did you react?

Just imagine running into a giant thing almost on top of you and hanging in mid-air. The truth is that I was very tense and broke into a cold sweat.

So what happened at that time?

Well, this thing hovered over my car and surrounded it in a beam of light that subsequently drained off, in other words, it lost power.

How fast were you driving?

I was driving at more or less 80 kilometres, but when the object appeared, the car's RPMs dropped to 20 kmh.

You must've braked suddenly!

No sir, I never braked. The car appeared to steer itself, because I couldn't even handle the steering wheel.

Those minutes must've been complicated

They were endless. No one has been able to give me a satisfactory explanation for this experience. I wouldn't wish it on anyone.

Did the phenomenon progress or did it remain stationary?

During the nearly 10 minutes it lasted, the mass had a reddish hue and another shade—a violet one—would appear in the center [of the mass]. But the strange thing was that it didn't cast any light outward. On the other hand, the light that enveloped my car changed its intensity from pale white to intense white. It was so strong I couldn't even distinguish my shoes or the brake and accelerator pedals.

How did this close encounter end?

The truth is that I don't know. I have no memories whatsoever after what I told you. What's odd is that I finally reached Los Sauces after 23:00 hours and I never knew how I did it. I just don't recall.

How do you interpret your experience?

I don't know. I think I was abducted by a UFO.

Why did you decide to tell your story?

So if this should ever happen to someone else, he or she won't be accused of being a nut, because after having experienced something like this, one becomes sensitized, especially toward strange phenomena. At first I sought support in my friends, because I was even afraid to tell my wife of the experience.

Do you think it's important to make these cases known?

It's just that we're not ready for this, and that's the fact.

And when you reached home, what did your wife say?

She was scared when she saw me. My face was a pale leaden color, and my body ached so much it was like someone who'd been hit by a train and survived. I was lucky to live to tell the tale.

Translation (c) 2004. Scott Corrales, Institute of Hispanic Ufology. Special thanks to Mario Luis Bracamonte (SIO).

Letters and Notes to MUFON of Ohio

Dear Bill:

Thank you very much for [the] latest "Enquirer" issue [*Ohio UFO Notebook* Number 27]. It's a collector's item.

Gene Duplantier
Toronto, Canada

Dear Wm.

I got a charge out of going through your "Makeup Issue" [*Ohio UFO Notebook*, Number 27, the "Enquirer" issue], as I had not remembered most of these startling cases. It sort of renews the Faith, which is easy to lose.

J.M., Ret. [James Moseley]

Greetings:

A short recording has come into my possession regarding an incident in the late 1960s or very early 1970s. It is an interview with an Army Corporal (I have his name) who relates the following (very reluctantly due to security concerns):

The incident occurred in Binn, Korea at the missile launching facility of the Delta Battery of the 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery.

During readiness for missile testing with the missiles unlocked, armed and ready to fire, an object approximately 100 feet in diameter and disc-shaped, was observed on radar and visually by the members of Delta Battery. The object came to approximately 700 feet of the missile launchers, stopped and remained motionless over the water, causing the crews to become alarmed. The Battery Captain ordered the firing of one of the missiles at the object.

At the same time the missile was leaving the launcher, a beam of light came from the disc, destroying the missile and melting the launcher. Confusion ensued and the entire company observed the incident. All members were told to keep silent about the incident.

Wendy Connors
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Hi Gents:

In re the [Gray] Barker anecdote in the new "*Ohio UFO Notebook*" [Number 26], I thought it sounded familiar, with one small (?) difference.

Sure enough, Barker related it in *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers* (pp. 37-38). The one/twin difference? The TWO BIG "HITS" were Joan Crawford's rather than Jane Russell's. Another Barker mystery to bedevil those of us so inclined--until we start pondering those hits x 2. Don't know about youse [sic] guys, but I'm partial to Jane's.

Ah, sex and saucers... -- Cheers,

Karl Pflock
Albuquerque, New Mexico

From: RB47x@aol.com [mailto:RB47x@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2004 10:58 PM
To: Jones, William E (Columbus)
Subject: Re: Article on LeMay

Hi Bill,

Well I have some info and analysis, reading between the lines for hidden and not-so-hidden messages. Unfortunately UFOlogy does not want to study the historical context in any meaningful manner so these isolated comments never get placed in the broader context which might enrich the whole picture. The only "context" UFOlogy will allow is that of a cover-up of ET crashed spaceships and dead alien bodies or some kind of cover-up of ET reality. Not one step short of ET reality will be allowed by UFOlogy. As a result I cannot get any of my research on this subject published, and the material is now book length, probably two to three books long. I simply do not have the time or energy to fight to get something published piece by piece as well as time and energy and expense to do the research too. It is apparent that if anyone really wanted to hear what I had to say then I would not have so much difficulty. I refuse to "publish" on the Internet and get subjected to "flame wars."

1. LeMay's 1965 era remarks show he had a firm grasp of the UFO situation from the AF policy viewpoint and in the maximum pro-UFO direction allowed by that policy. Considering the passage of time, almost two decades, LeMay was acutely aware of the 1947 initiation date, indicating more than just peripheral familiarity.

2. Considering that LeMay's field was strategic air doctrine it is curious that LeMay devotes so much attention to the public relations and denial-of-cover-up aspects. Methinks he doth protest too much. His denial to his biographer Kantor circa 1964-5 that there was ever an AF effort or directive to "control public attitude toward UFOs" even "in 1947" rings hollow, like it was deliberate disinformation on a touchy subject he felt motivated to speak out about, hence the unusual amount of attention he gives the subject. I have an entire book documenting and reconstructing AF and CIA efforts to control and manipulate public attitude towards UFO's, and the Cold War (NOT ET-cover-up) policy reasons behind it. I have also found indicators of a possible ET-type cover-up, strongly Roswell-linked, which are separate from the Cold War policy development. But the latter is not sufficient for UFOlogy, and way too much for *debunkerdom*.

3. LeMay's acute conscious awareness of his personal chronology in 1947 and 1948 in relation to UFO's suggests he had something to hide concerning that time frame. He denies there was any UFO cover-up then, yet now the AF admits there was some kind of UFO cover-up in 1947, of Project MOGUL supposedly causing the Roswell incident. MOGUL was a LeMay project, it was under AAF/AF R&D.

LeMay was Deputy Chief of Air Staff for R&D before he went to command USAFE in October 1947 then to command SAC in October 1948. Thus the famed Twining letter of Sept 23, 1947, was within LeMay's command and no doubt reached LeMay, where it was obviously approved not rejected (Twining and AMC were NOT I repeat NOT I repeat NOT under the gawddamned AF INTELLIGENCE as UFOlogist morons constantly try to insist, they were under AF MATERIEL and RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT -- just simple basic facts of AF bureaucratic command structure completely escape UFOlogy resulting in utter loss of grasping the meaning of events in history; AF Intelligence did not capture AMC Intelligence until May 1951 at which point the latter became the new ATIC).

LeMay's successor as head of AF R&D, Gen. Craigie, subsequently approved Twining's recommendations and set up Project SIGN -- out of the already existing and ongoing AMC Intelligence Dept project to analyze flying disc reports, set up on June 30, 1947. LeMay's support no doubt was instrumental in enabling Project SIGN to be created. Had LeMay been outraged or furious or treated the UFO subject as nonsense it is highly unlikely SIGN would ever have come into being.

4. LeMay's strenuous denials of an AF cover-up of UFO's in 1947 when he himself was personally in charge of the major R&D investigation of the subject suggest that he was displaying consciousness of guilt, perhaps was covering up a personal embarrassment in relation to his own UFO involvement as head of R&D in 1947.

5. LeMay's detailed concerns went beyond merely denying that the AF was "hushing" things up. He went way beyond that to actually describe, even if in denying it, what is in effect a covert psychological warfare program involving "top" level AF efforts to actively "control the public attitude toward UFOs," control the press -- which so heavily influences public opinion -- and discredit UFO sightings with false labels of "hallucination, inexperience, or mass hysteria" (all PSYCHOLOGICAL labels not ordinary IFO misidentifications). He talked of supposedly nonexistent AF "directives" to control public opinion and the press, and used the word "directives" over and over again, at least 3 times in the interview excerpts Kantor published.

LeMay seemed to be unusually aware of the essential elements of a psychological warfare program and he directly related them to the UFO situation when, if the AF was totally innocent, no one would have known to do so or think such a thing. Why bring up these essentials of a psych war program in the first place? Too much specificity here by LeMay seems rather to reflect conscious awareness of the existence of just such a program. Of course, the full development of the unwittingly competing and independent AF and CIA psych war programs targeting the American public to discredit the UFO subject since 1949 would have to be discussed here to get the full flavor of the situation.

The irony of this is better illustrated by imagining what if a top military general in WWII had issued a press statement denying the existence of a top-secret project to construct an atomic bomb and denying that any such thing was being covered up, denying there were any policy "directives" concerning hushing the press up or to control public discussion of the atomic bomb. The denial would have been so specific it would have given away the secret it was supposed to protect -- namely the existence of the Manhattan project. The codename does not have to be given away just the fact that anyone at high policy levels even was thinking in terms of a top-secret project and what it entailed. It would have given away the fact someone had been thinking a lot about the subject.

6. LeMay's UFO project in the Summer of 1952 at SAC would fit in with the fact that almost every government agency at that time was keenly interested in the UFO subject following the sensational LIFE article of April 7, 1952 "Have We Visitors from Outer Space?" and the Summer UFO Flap. One can easily imagine LeMay assigning a George Gamow and others to look into the UFO subject and advise him.

7. The report that in the late 80's era LeMay told a Long Beach friend of Bill Hamilton that he (LeMay) had been "pissed at the CIA because he wasn't told the planets of origin (as if he expected that as part of a briefing)" also makes sense in terms of the 1952 project and my discoveries concerning LaPaz and Roswell in 1947, if LeMay had been informed about the latter in 1947.

I wrote an article for IUR two years ago, but am inexplicably unable to get it published, describing how the CIC/OSI agent testimonies grudgingly unearthed by the skeptical Karl Pflöck support the existence of a Roswell Anomaly. As hard as Karl tried to debunk the agents, the basic testimony remains unscathed and strongly mutually and independently corroborative of each other, that there was in fact a round burned area with melted glass indicating an unusual aerial explosion, which had in fact been investigated by renowned meteor expert and TOP SECRET-cleared Dr. Lincoln LaPaz in August (not Sept) 1947 for trajectory analysis. I discovered that the most likely trajectory, which LaPaz would easily have found, pointed to the INTERPLANETARY ECLIPTIC PLANE and also to the MOON, at roughly 21 hrs Right Ascension. In other words, "PLANETS OF ORIGIN" or perhaps lunar origin.

Strange that I cannot get this all published. This part about LaPaz and Roswell is only article-length, not book length, though long and might require multiple parts.

The CIA went through a pro-ETH phase in late 1952 and it is likely LeMay found out about that and wanted to be briefed on what he assumed would have been LaPaz-type trajectory studies pointing to the likely or possible "PLANETS OF ORIGIN." The irony of ironies is that CIA was deliberately manipulated by LeMay's fanatic partisans to reach the ETH conclusion about UFO's so the Agency could be humiliated at the Robertson Panel and shown to be morons (I have an entire book documenting this deception scheme). Whether LeMay was aware of this AF Intelligence-led plot or not, is unclear from independent evidence, but from this late 80's anecdote it would seem that he did not.

8. The "Blue Room" b.s. was apparently a neat backhanded way of spreading the false rumor of AF possession of alien technology and bodies without actually saying so. This fits the pattern of AF psych war operations that I have documented at book length. The whole "Hangar 18" hoax is part and parcel with this.

Regards, Brad

Flemingsburg, Kentucky Sighting From 1959 Kenny Young and Donnie Blessing

The following 1959 news article was found in the library archives of the Flemingsburg* Gazette newspaper. It was recovered on Thursday, September 25, 2003 during an investigation of a current crop circle alleged in the region. This 1959 incident was mentioned by local resident Linda Martin, and also a childhood memory of researcher Donnie Blessing, before being identified in the newspaper offices.

This news article is of interest due to the reported dispatch of Army personnel. I do not think this incident is recorded in Project Blue Book, perhaps it should be. If not, its "lack of reference" in P.B.B. is cause for consideration.

Source: The Flemingsburg Gazette, Thursday, September 17, 1959, page 1.

"Mysterious Flying Object Seen At Wallingford"

"I thought I was dreaming but when I saw this burnt grass, I knew I'd really seen something," exclaimed Walter Ogden, popular rural mail carrier and landowner near Wallingford, describing his reaction to the unidentified flying object he sighted Monday, Sept. 7.

It was around two thirty in the morning when Mr. Ogden, who suffers from asthma, was unable to sleep. He arose and went outdoors to sit on top of the cistern for awhile.

Suddenly, about 200 yards from his house he observed a balloon-like object which was suspended in the air about 50 feet from the ground. Before Mr. Ogden's amazed stare, the object suddenly ascended and, at the same time, a blast of fire struck the earth underneath it.

However, it made no noise nor did it leave a vapor trail. It zoomed upward to an estimated 500 feet, then took off in an easterly direction.

The next day, Mr. Ogden reported the strange sight to his postmaster and friends, but, to quote him, "no one took me seriously."

On Sunday, Sept. 13 he repeated his story at a family reunion. Those present made a decision - to form a search party and see if they could find any evidence of this object on the Ogden farm.

Near the place Mr. Ogden described, some of the men came across an area of burnt grass, measuring 15 feet in diameter.

Authorities were duly notified and, on Monday, Army officials went to Mr. Ogden's farm and took soil samples. Concerning these samples, they told Mr. Ogden and Sheriff R. S. Stokely, "There's definitely a smell of fuel about them."

Sheriff Stokely and his deputies then fenced the area and guarded it from the hundreds of sightseers who swarmed to the spot. Investigations were still continuing at the Gazette's press time.

But one thing's certain - no one's laughing at Mr. Ogden's story now.

* Flemingsburg is in Kentucky, south of Maysville and north of Morehead.

Are There Alien Messages In Our DNA Strands?

Sydney, Australia - Forget waiting for ET to call - the most likely place to find an alien message is in our DNA, according to an expert in Australia. Professor Paul Davies, from the Australian Centre for Astrobiology at Macquarie University, believes a cosmic greeting card could have been left in every human cell. The coded message would only be discovered once the human race had the technology to read and understand it. Writing in *New Scientist magazine*, Davies said the idea should be considered seriously. For more than 40 years astronomers have been sweeping the skies with radio telescopes hoping to catch a signal from an alien civilization. So far the search has been in vain. But Davies believes it is wrong to assume that extraterrestrials who may be hundreds of millions of years ahead of us technologically will have chosen to communicate by radio.

Leaving artifacts for humans to find once they are sufficiently evolved - like the obelisk in the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey* - might be a more attractive strategy, he explained. But ensuring the survival of such an artifact over possibly millions of years would be difficult. A better solution would be to incorporate information into the human genome, allowing it to be copied and maintained over immense periods of time. One way to do this might be to deliver alien viruses which could infect cells with message-laden DNA, said Davies.

Scientists have recently discovered large sequences of "junk" DNA that contain no genes and [this junk] appears to be very stable. "If ET has put a message into terrestrial organisms, this is surely where to look," said Davies. A computer could be used to find obvious attention-grabbing patterns within these stretches of DNA, he said. If a sequence of junk units of DNA were displayed as an array of pixels on a screen and produced a simple image "the presumption of tampering would be inescapable". The DNA code was easily big enough to contain a decent-sized novel or a potted history of the rise and fall of an alien civilization. Davies added: "Trying to second-guess alien communication strategies is fraught with uncertainty, so we

should try everything we can afford. The truth may be out there somewhere - or it could be a lot closer to home."

Source: Filers Files, #34, August 11, 2004, George A. Filer, Director of the Eastern Region, MUFON.

Veteran Teacher Remembered When UFO Visited

From: The Evansville Courier
by Len Wells, Courier & Press correspondent August 22, 2004

Collected by Kenny Young

Norman Massie died last Tuesday at the hospital in Carmi, Illinois. He was 91.

The Mount Erie native had taught school in Wayne County for 37 years and once served as principal of the Geff Grade School.

Many Wayne County residents remembered him simply as "Coach Massie." For years, he taught basketball skills to grade schoolers at Center Street School in Fairfield.

Even more residents around Southern Illinois remember Norman as a sales representative for World Book Encyclopedia, a job he held for more than 20 years until computers and the Internet came along, reducing an entire set of books to a few mouse clicks or a couple of CDs.

While the folks in Southern Illinois will remember Coach Massie for his many years in education, perhaps the world will remember him for what he witnessed 81 years ago - when he was just 10 years old.

It was a warm day in June 1923 when Norman led a team of horses into a pasture near his Mount Erie home, looked up and saw what he was convinced until his last days was a spaceship.

In a 1998 interview with Norman, he told me, "I opened the gate to let the horses into the pasture. I let them through, and as I was closing the gate, I looked back down the field and there was an object with lights all around it," Massie said. "I kept walking closer to the object until I got about 50 feet away. I stood there and watched the five men who were on board."

I've heard Norman tell this story many times, and it was always the same - never embellished from one time to the next. "The machine was metallic and stood on three legs. The top was a dome with holes in it. The best way I could describe the top was it looked like melted glass," Massie said.

"I got close enough that I could hear them talk. One guy sat in a chair and the others called him the commander.

Four others made trips back and forth in the ship. I didn't know what was going on until the end. Then, one of the crew members told the commander that the repairs had been made."

Massie said the whole experience lasted about five minutes. In a matter of minutes, he said, it came to a hovering position; the tripod legs telescoped up into the belly of the thing, went straight up about 200 feet and whizzed off to the west like a bullet.

Norman's mom and dad tried to convince him that he really hadn't seen anything - that he had made the whole thing up. Then, in 1990, he got up the nerve and told his son who served as a colonel in the Air Force about the incident. "He told me there was nothing wrong with me. He said the Air Force files are full of pictures of UFOs. He accepted my story as the truth."

Norman Massie was never afraid that people might think he was a crazy old man for what he had seen. "In my own mind and my own heart, it existed and I saw it with my own two eyes."

Norman is gone now. He leaves his wife, four children, seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and a remarkable story from his childhood.

His story has traveled around the globe, and is still shared by those who remain convinced we've received visitors from other planets.

Glowing Objects Hover Over City in Amazing UFO Display

by E. E. Elliott
Dispatch Staff

Columbus Dispatch, January 24, 1968, page 1A and 6A

Franklin County sheriff's deputies, newsmen, and residents viewed an amazing UFO demonstration over Columbus about 8 p. m. Tuesday. But mysteriously, Lockbourne AFB authorities concerned with UFOs reported they saw nothing on radar and received no telephone calls about so-called "flying saucers."

Sheriff's deputy Thomas Barker and Deputy Edward Durbin of the Prairie Township police department gave this account:

About 8 p. m. the two were dispatched to the vicinity of Big Run and Gantz Roads. To look for "lights hovering in the sky" after the sheriff's office received five telephone calls from southeast area families. On arriving, the deputies saw two such lights.

"They appeared round," Barker said, "it was like looking into a spotlight up close...about the brightest thing I ever saw in the sky. They appeared to hover about as high as most commercial airplanes fly around here - about 1500 to 3000 feet. One hovered a little higher than the other and they stayed in that position for about 30 seconds," Barker said. "Then as we watched, they changed positions with each other, and hovered that way for two or three minutes."

Within another minute or so, the deputies reported, the upper of the two glowing, yellowish vehicles "zipped down" to meet the other, and the two remained parallel and motionless. The deputies remained in contact with the sheriff's office by radio, and by this time the sheriff's radio dispatcher had telephoned the Lockbourne AFB UFO office to inform military specialists.

As the deputies continued to watch, one of the vehicles left the other "so quickly that it was like trying to watch a bullet in flight," Barker said, and disappeared from view while the other waited motionless. After several minutes the object which left had returned and the two moved to a point above the four antennas of the old approach lights for the Lockbourne runway, west of I-71 and slightly north of Rt. 665.

There both objects descended until "they both appeared to hover almost on top of the antennas," and remained above the light towers for several minutes. "Then they moved away from the towers," Barker said, "and one of them began moving southeast, horizontally and at a slight upward incline. It was completely out of sight in less than five seconds."

Several area residents and the Franklin Township and Grove City police departments corroborated the deputies' stories, the sheriff's office said Wednesday. This reporter and Dispatch photographer Thom Rockey arrived in the area about 15 minutes after the initial report and soon sighted one of the objects hovering about three miles east of Grove City. It appeared flattened, vaguely circular in shape and shone all over with a glowing, yellowish-white light. The objects seemed to be about the size of an airliner, except for its shape. It made no noise. The object would hover for as much as a minute at a time, then would move several miles away as fast as the eye could follow, and hover motionless again.

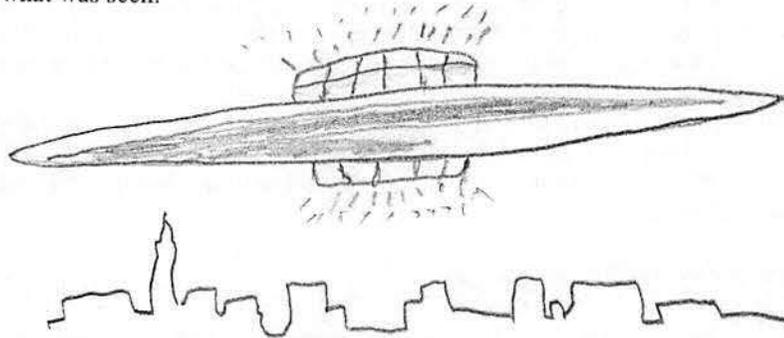
The reporter and photographer tried to follow the object in its erratic path to get close enough to photograph it, but were hampered by its ability to move "as the crow flies." After the Dispatch team had

followed the object around southern Franklin County by freeway for nearly half an hour, a second appeared and hovered near the first in a one o'clock position.

About 8:45 p. m. two identical vehicles appeared over the North Side of Columbus, glowing brightly and hovering in close formation for several minutes. By this time a number of airplanes appeared presumably in search of the objects, but apparently did not succeed in approaching the disc-like objects. Shortly before 9 p. m. all objects disappeared: the hovering pair near northern Columbus appeared to simply extinguish themselves like candle flames. The pair of objects south of Columbus disappeared to the east slowly at first, then vanished almost instantaneously in a burst of speed.

Both Lockbourne base officials and Port Columbus tower spokesman denied reports of UFO sightings or radar identifications of any such vehicles. Lockbourne base officials Wednesday said the call from the sheriff's office was the only report they had of the incident. They said officials of Project Blue Book (which checks UFO reports) at Wright-Patterson Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, were notified immediately and a report was sent to them Wednesday. The Lockbourne spokesman said if aircraft were ordered to investigate the sighting, they would have been sent from Dayton on Wright-Patterson orders.

Artist's conception of what was seen:



Circleville, Ohio Sighting, July 12, 2004

by Pete Hartinger and Jon Fry

Roundtown UFO Society & MUFON State Section Directors

On Monday, July 12, 2004 at around 10:14 p. m., 41 year old Mr. Tracey Webb called me [Pete] to report an unusual UFO sighting that he had just experienced. Since his home is only two miles from mine in Circleville I immediately drove over. When I arrived Tracey was still excited. He told me that his sighting had occurred around 10 p. m.

He took me to the area in his back yard where he was when the sighting occurred. The area was dark and the only light was from his grill where he was cooking a late dinner as the event unfolded. He said that he was cooking late because he had recently returned from a late little league game.

The sky was clear. His written report follows:

"I was grilling in my back yard at around 10 p.m. EST and was on the phone [a cordless model] with my mother. I saw a [beam of] light before me [that] was focused on myself and the grill. I turned to yell at my son because I thought he had a flashlight on me, but there was no one there. Out of the corner of my eye about 330 to 500 feet above me was an oval shaped craft with a blue-white colored light fixed on myself. I thought it was a UFO. I told my mother what I was looking at. I thought I was in a dream, but then I started to explain to my mother what it was doing and the light went out and it [the craft] moved at an upward angle and was out of sight in a second or two."

The object was first seen to the northeast at a steep angle and it left to the southeast.

The telephone was not affected by the presence of the craft or the light; no effect was noted. When I talked to Tracey's mother and asked her if she had heard any unusual sound in the background while on the phone, she replied that she had not. She said that she had laughed at her son at first but then realized that he was serious. According to Tracey, when he yelled excitedly to his mother on the telephone about what he was seeing, this is when the object took off.

I checked with the Circleville Police Department and the local Pickaway County Sheriff's Office. Neither had received any reports of UFO sightings for that evening.

The George Pindroh Investigations

by George Pindroh
MUFON of Ohio State Section Director and the Cleveland Ufology Project

Gary S. Brown and his girl friend were attending a concert in downtown Cleveland on July 14, 2000. At approximately 5 pm they had stopped at a red light at East 14th and Huron. They heard a helicopter and looked up at about a 90 degree angle to see a helicopter displaying an advertising banner. Above the helicopter high in the sky was a cluster of five or six shiny light gray disk-shaped UFOs. They were in a circular cluster. Then one broke away from the cluster and started to circle in orbit. Several moments later another broke out of the cluster and went west several hundred yards east and then started to circle in orbit.

The craft seemingly were putting on an "intelligent" display, apparently knowing that they were being watched by Gary and his girl friend, and possibly many others. Some clouds seemed to block their view. And looking again, the objects had disappeared. "We would not have seen this if we had not been looking at the helicopter," Gary said.

I find Gary to be a very credible witness.

North Ridgeville, Ohio, November 22, 2003, between approximately 9:00 pm and 9:40 pm.

Investigators: George Pindroh, "Captain Chuck" Eppolito and Rick Dell'Aquila.

On the subject date, Cindy told the investigators that she heard a whirring noise to the front of her house where a fish pond is located. She ran out into the driveway to see what the noise was. She looked up to find herself standing directly under a rather large cylindrical cigar-shaped craft about 75 feet long and about 20 feet in diameter. She saw no markings, wings or windows on the craft. It was dark dull gray in color and had one large green light at the bottom of the craft, which seemed to be shining down on her fish pond. She also noticed two white lights at the ends of the craft. She noticed that the lights in her house and barn were going off and on.

The horses in her barn were going "bananas" in panic, circling in their stalls. She turned the lights off in the barn to help the situation there and then ran back into the house to watch from a second story window. The craft eventually moved off "incredibly slowly" in the direction of a neighbor's house. "I could have walked away faster than it was moving... When it went over the neighbor's backyard, it turned east and moved off over my woods and eventually out of sight."

She thought that the event took about 10 minutes, but later realized that it was closer to 40 based upon the time that it took for some bread to rise that she was starting to bake for Thanksgiving dinner.

She called the police to come out and investigate the event as it was occurring, but as far as she knows, they never arrived in her neighborhood. The investigators talked to the local police who revealed that lights in the sky had been reported being seen from several communities in the area. The Goodyear blimp was reportedly in the area at that time, returning to Ohio from the Ohio State/Michigan football game, but one would think that it would not have hovered over Cindy's pond for 40 minutes and that she would have recognized it for what it was.

Cindy is a nurse who works on medical flights and is well aware of what helicopters look like. Interestingly, Cindy told the investigators that she has been visited by the so-called gray aliens on many occasions, and her daughter claims to have been awakened by "people" with long skinny fingers. Dreams of abduction type events are not uncommon for Cindy. There may be more to this case than appears in the sighting report.

The investigators feel that Cindy is a very reputable witness.

Cleveland, Ohio, July 23, 2004, 11:07 pm.

The Wilson family lives close to the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. They spend many summer days and evenings out in their backyard watching the many and various aircraft that come in for landings. In fact, watching aircraft land has become a favorite family pastime of theirs.

On this date, they heard a noise different from what they were used to. A high-pitched cricket sounding craft was "cris-crossing" the normal flight path. It was a three-sided black triangular craft with multicolored lights that flashed sequentially like "chaser lights" on a theater. On the bottom side was a blue fluorescent insignia. (See the Table of Contents page.) The wingspan was as big as a regular airplane's wingspan.

Observing the triangle this night was Mrs. Wilson and her 11 year-old son Brandon. The two were not scared, but amazed. They watched the triangle for about 5 minutes. Whether connected or not, we don't know. But Brandon stated that the next airplane to land after the triangle was out of sight came in with all of its wing and landing lights on the right side out.

Several weeks later, on August 10, 2004, the Wilson's sighted another black triangle at approximately 9:25 pm. It was similar to the other triangle, but the insignia was not viewable from their location.

George contacted Colm Kelleher of the National Institute of Discovery Science (now closed) soon after he investigated the Wilson family's claims. NIDS has conducted an extensive investigation of the sightings of triangular UFOs worldwide. George's report is the only such report on record of an insignia on a triangular shaped craft. This sighting is unique for this reason.

Northern Ohio, September 26, 2004.

During this time period, northern Ohio experienced a "UFO flap" of sorts. Reports of strange things being seen in the skies were enhanced by a local talk show host named Mike Trivisonno on his afternoon radio program in WTAM 1100 KHZ, a powerful 50,000 watt radio station heard in 38 states and Canada. People calling in were saying that the army was blocking roads near Fostoria, Ohio; convoys of Army vehicles were being seen throughout northern Ohio; multicolored objects were being seen in the skies; checkerboard contrails were reported over Cleveland; and jet planes were heard being scrambled in the early morning hours from a military airbase in Michigan.

The report of a crashed flying saucer outside of Fostoria, Ohio was taken from a caller in Michigan. Excitement and rumors were running rampant, most apparently caused by reports on the radio station. The Fostoria Police Department reported no roads closed nor the receipt of a legitimate report about a crashed flying saucer, other than what was being said on the radio.

During all of this, the radio station published UFO pictures on its website that were taken by the North Olmstead Police Department. When George contacted the police department, they did confirm a sighting report on September 16. Later, when George visited the department they showed him pictures that were taken by one of its officers. The person George talked to revealed that the department had contacted the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. Airport personnel reported that they had been watching something similar, described as multicolored, for several hours. This was later confirmed when George visited the airport. Airport personnel thought that whatever was being seen was over the Metroparks area, a large park halfway between the airport and North Olmstead.

Strange things were clearly being reported over northern Ohio in late September 2004, and one of the aerial events was photographed. These photos may soon be submitted to MUFON for analysis.

In early October, 2004 at 8:30 pm, Abe Kantorowski, age 28, a carpet installer, and his sister-in-law, a nursing assistant, were traveling in Bedford, Ohio. To their surprise they saw a rectangular-shaped UFO above a house at treetop level. The UFO was luminescent and "orangeish" in color. The object made no sound and traveled west to east, then turned north with a sharp turn, before it sped away quickly.

Several photographs of this UFO were taken and the negatives were promised to this investigator. However, they were never provided. Abe appeared to be sincere and credible. The sister-in-law was "spooked out" by the sighting.

Bits and Pieces

Flying Saucers Are Myth to Von Braun

From wire service reports per *The Plain Dealer*, Monday, November 13, 1972.

Werner von Braun says he does not believe in flying saucers. "Such things do not exist. I gather the whole business is a hallucination," von Braun 60, told newsmen Saturday in Rio de Janeiro. The former head of the U.S. space flight center, now a vice president of Fairchild Industries, is in Brazil to help his company sell communications satellite equipment to the government.

"I have never seen a flying saucer or little green men, so I can speak from practical experience," he said citing a recent U.S. Air Force study that showed that only 3% of reported flying saucer sightings to be unexplainable. "That batting average is not bad at all, compared to other branches of science. But all science has a duty to keep its mind open to investigate such things," he added.

Comment by the *Ohio UFO Notebook* editor: We have reprinted this article to document what Mr. Werner von Braun once said about the subject of flying saucers. Some have alleged that he was part of the further alleged government conspiracy to keep the public from knowing the truth about the subject of flying saucers. While a public pronouncement of this nature does not establish the truth of the allegation about von Braun either way, I do think this statement is worthy of documentation. You will note that he suggested that science "keep its mind open to investigate such things." Unfortunately his suggestion has not been followed very well.

