



This is a combination June/July issue. The reason for this is summer vacation plans in July. The next issue will be in August. I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. I would also like to thank the readers of this newsletter for their support, encouraging comments and continuing correspondence.

#### 1988 NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE

The 25th Annual National UFO Conference will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17, 1988 in the Harbor Room of the Days Inn (4181 West 150th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, 44135; (216) 252-7700 or Toll free 800-325-2525).

#### RADIO-TV LOG

June 24 - Jim Melesciuc was a guest on WRKO, Ted and Janet show in commemoration of the 41st anniversary of the Kenneth Arnold sighting.

June 20 - Channel 5's "Chronicle" aired a UFO segment on the MJ-12 documents and abductions.

#### GEORGE FAWCETT'S RECOMMENDED LIST

If you publish UFO journals, magazines, bulletins, newsletters, you might run a free ad, telling persons that they can obtain the four-page listing of recommended UFO items by mailing a long 39-cent self addressed envelope along with a check of \$2.00 made out to George to help defray the costs of the printings for this service to George Fawcett, 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, NC 28092, USA.

#### UFO BRIGANTIA

UFO Brigantia is the Journal of the Independent UFO Network (IUN) published bi-monthly. It consists of 32 well illustrated A4 pages bound in a stiff card cover. This magazine is a must for all serious researchers of the UFO phenomenon.

UFO Brigantia features articles on all aspects of the UFO phenomenon from cover-up's to earthlights and is not afraid to print articles of a controversial nature and those which challenge accepted UFO beliefs. The magazine also contains archive cases, current and up to date investigations, book and magazine reviews and much more all of it of vital importance to ufology in the 1980's.

The Independent UFO Network (IUN) was formed out of liaison between members of the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group (WYUFORG), and the Yorkshire UFO Network (YUFON) and several independent UFO investigators living in the north of England. The Independent UFO Network holds no particular viewpoint on the nature and origin of the UFO enigma and seeks to disseminate its research and investigations via UFO Brigantia to help give a further overview and perspective on the subject of UFO's.

Anyone interested in subscribing to this newsletter or needs more information on IUN, may write to: IUN, 19 Bellmount Gardens, Bramley, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS13 2nd, England.

#### UFO ARTICLES LOCATED

Christian Life, October 1952, page 46.  
Christian Life, November 1966, page 46.  
Christian Life, July, 1972, page 30.  
Christian Life, August, 1976, page 30.  
Final Frontier, June, 1988, page 45.

The following articles are reprinted in this issue of Orbiter: Newsweek, Dec. 25, 1944; Newsweek, January 15, 1945; Time Magazine, Jan. 15, 1945.

## TO LEARN?

As volunteers in researching and investigating UFOs, our first priority is to vigorously pursue all leads from whatever source and follow through until we get to the bottom of the matter and make the truth known. So why has the current state of affairs down in Pensacola, Florida brought a dark cloud over the UFO community? The simple answer is misinformation and misguidance.

A tremendous amount of time and effort to upgrade the skills of case investigation has been contributed by dedicated objective ufologists. Furthermore investigators are directed to utilize the MUFON Field Investigators Manual and become completely familiar with it.

In the March issue of the MUFON Journal the authors of the Gulf Breeze report invite the readers to learn the methods and techniques in unraveling the mystery. However, to learn the truth we have to be able to study all the facts, not just portions. For instance, why was it not reported that the actual time lapse of photos 1 thru 4 was 15 to 30 minutes and not 3 to 4 minutes? Any highly publicized report such as Gulf Breeze is bound to create additional reports of the same alleged sightings. So why was it only the principal witness who saw and photographed the lampshade-type object? Why was it not reported that the principal witness had been submitting manuscripts to Budd Hopkins literary agent? Only when Hopkins entered the investigation did the principal witness remember missing time. Why? Why was it not reported that the investigators furnished the witness with internal correspondence pertaining to the investigation and gave him updates of the investigation including the research by Dr. Willy Smith and CUFOS investigator Robert Boyd. The object in the stereo photo taken with the controlled sealed special MUFON four lens 35 mm camera is of an entirely different object rather than of the lamp-shade type we see in all the other photos. Why? The serious objective investigator can find helpful guidance to answering the above problems in the MUFON Field Investigator Manual on pages 21 thru 28 and on pages 112 thru 116 (for instance in the Manual on page 21, #7.2.2.2 states if the witness is planning to publicize a sighting the investigator should keep in mind the witness is possibly a publicity seeker. The manual also directs the investigator to determine the nature of what was seen. Any person who continually sees UFOs may be a poor observer, a publicity seeker and hoaxer or mentally unbalanced. Another example from the Manual strongly suggests that if the witness begins talking of "spaceships", this might indicate the extent of the witness' reading on the subject. On page 112 the investigator is urged to check out the consistency between story and photograph i.e. check distances to known landmarks at site, check sky background with weather report, etc.)

Have the Gulf Breeze reports been reported objectively or have they been colored to suit the authors biases? The answer to the above question can be found in the manual on page 2, para 4. So far what has been reported and publicized on the Gulf Breeze case can be equated with tabloid sensationalism. I find this quite ironic since so many for so long have been trying to gain scientific respect for this baffling enigma and so many are making an all out effort to have public libraries subscribe to credible UFO publications. At times like these I feel this subject has reversed itself. It is no wonder those who are taking a scientific and objective view are falling out of this subject.

Cont.

There has been mention of premature verdicts and criticism while an investigation is underway. However, these people should ask themselves why have the investigators gone public with statements authenticating the photographs prior to detailed analysis of all the data. Also they should take note when seeing promoters of the Gulf Breeze events splashing the case into the limelight and media it then becomes "open season" by critics who are justified on commenting on what they perceive to be flaws.

Investigators and researchers should not be intimidated by disagreements and debates. In fact this is healthy for research as there may be oversights that can be brought to light. If IFOs are allowed to be paraded around as UFOs because of the desire of the uninformed and wishful thinkers, we shall make little progress. To distort and conceal the truth by taking swipes at fellow colleagues puts a bitter taste in my mouth. Some are learning that they can no longer place loyalty over competency.

A NOTE ON THE PREDICTIVE VALUE OF THE LATENT ENCOUNTER MODEL  
(The Latent Encounter Model was published in Orbiter, Issue #5, February, 1988)

by Joe Nyman

The LE model consists of a generalized, time ordered sequence. This structure implies predictability, and, although the model was inferred from claim and testimony, once built, it should be able to be used to guide investigator's expectations, thus providing a test of its own validity.

The writer has been able to use the implications of the model, successfully, in three recent investigations as follows:

Case 1. Upon being regressed, the experiencer immediately found herself "on board" in, what the investigator judged to be stage 2 according to the model. When asked to backtrack to a time shortly before, she related images of herself pacing back and forth in the gutter in front of her house, with the feeling of anxiously anticipating "something". She then related feeling that she should walk to a place near her house to mee "someone". The "someone" was an entity, familiar from previous experience.

The image of anxious pacing was something the experiencer had always remembered consciously. It had returned over and over without apparent reason or purpose. In the regression it was connected with images of an encounter. In this case awareness of the model had led from stage 2 to a classic stage 1 complete with conscious marker memory.

Case 2. An experiencer consistently went from stage 2 to stage 4 in her regressions. Awareness of the model prompted the investigator to ask her to concentrate systematically on bodily areas for feelings of change, whereupon uncomfortable stage 3 images were related.

Case 3. An experiencer persistently failed to mention any stage 4 experience, an omission quickly noted by the investigators. Careful stepping through stage 3 brought forth images of being "raped" (the experiencer's word) by a repulsive entity just before the expected and finally articulated stage 4.

Cont.

These results are strongly suggestive of the efficacy of the LE model in being able to predict the pattern of the encounter imagery.

What does this say about the nature of the LE model, then? Is the predictive structure a reflection of an intelligent and consistent pattern of external intent applied to humans? Is it a reflection of the way that supposed archetypes work in some humans? Is it a reflection or artifact resulting from the investigative procedure? Or is it something completely different (apologies to Monty Python)?

In the absence of conclusive answers, work continues.

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**LETTERS TO THE SCIENCE EDITOR**

**Some UFO History**

I WAS VERY disturbed to read your articles on Unidentified Flying Objects [SR, Aug. 6], not only because of the apparent verbal sneering by science editor John Lear at TRADE WINDS columnist John G. Fuller but because of the poor and biased treatment of the subject.

Lear not only failed to unveil anything new on the subject but appears to have stacked the cards in his favor. He used a section from Mr. Fuller's book, *Incident at Exeter*, which is not only unrepresentative of the book, but was printed without Fuller's qualifying statements which preceded the section.

He also used a section from the book by Dr. Carl Sagan and I. S. Shklovskii, *Intelligent Life in the Universe*, which seemed very unrepresentative of the book.

Lear referred to Fuller's information as "second hand." Did Lear go to Exeter? Has he investigated any particular sighting in depth? Or does he merely sit back in his ivory tower and make pronouncements on the hard work of others which he has not bothered to check in detail?

In fact, Lear's apparent lack of much original research is infuriating to anyone familiar with the subject, especially in view of the fact that he draws important conclusions instead of just reporting the subject.

For example, an extremely intriguing picture of a UFO appeared on page 48 of the August 6 issue of SR. Lear referred to this as the "clearest photograph of a UFO" and then said it "looks like a straw hat floating through the air." He also said, in the caption under the picture, that "NICAP says the picture was taken through the windshield of a public motor vehicle at 11:30 a.m. on August 3, 1965, by county highway investigator Rex Heflin, Santa Ana, California."

"NICAP says"! Good grief! Is SR operating on such a tight budget that the science editor can't even make a telephone call to California himself and find out whether there is such a man as Rex Heflin and whether he did take such a photograph? Do they have to depend on the word of NICAP, an organization for which Lear doesn't seem to have much respect?

The science editor has implied, by saying the photograph "looks like a straw hat," that the picture is not genuine. I think Lear, as a responsible reporter working for a magazine with a nationwide circulation, either should have examined the photograph and photographer and declared it a hoax or should have done what the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* chose to do. Without any innuendo of any sort, the *Britannica* ran the same photograph in its 1966 yearbook under the heading of "space craft." *Britannica* editors were good enough not to editorialize in their caption under the photograph. Instead they said simply, "Photo of an unidentified flying object taken Aug. 3, 1965, near Santa Ana, California, by a county highway inspector who estimated diameter of object as thirty feet and its thickness as eight feet. Duration of sighting was fifteen seconds."

I have been studying UFOs for the past two months and I have just published a

series of newspaper articles about them. However, I am neither a scientist, nor a science writer as such, but a reporter, and I draw no conclusions about the nature of the phenomena.

I feel that the shortcomings of the *Saturday Review* articles were best illustrated by the work of Philip J. Klass, writing for *Aviation Week & Space Technology* in the issue published August 22. Mr. Klass, senior avionics editor, concluded that the incident at Exeter, as well as many other modern UFO sightings, could be attributed to a little understood form of ball lightning, believed to be seen over high tension wires.

Klass's work on the topic is very commendable and does offer something new to the study of unidentified flying objects. However, it was Fuller who ventured into a field shunned by responsible writers as well as scientists and presented a case with enough details so that men like Klass could present plausible answers to the subject, instead of sneers and ridicule.

GREG STONE.

Westport, Mass.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is hardly accurate to say that John Fuller, in writing recently about UFOs in the TRADE WINDS column of SR and later in the book, "Incident at Exeter," "ventured into a field shunned by responsible writers as well as scientists." For seven years ago—in September 1959—SR's *Science and Humanity Supplement* carried a full-length article titled "A Theory about Flying Saucers." In that article, Donald Robey, then a physicist on the pre-design staff of Convair-Astronautics, a division of General Dynamics at San Diego, California, presented a scientific argument in support of the idea that many UFOs might be fragments of comets that had fallen into earth's atmosphere while still containing within them blobs of plasma, or electrified gas. Differential burning of the several chemical constituents of the cometoids, Robey suggested, could account for the lighting effects observed by UFO sighters. Furthermore, he pointed out, the plasma blobs would be free-floating entities responsive to electro-

magnetic forces and hence capable of the weird gyrations ascribed to many UFOs.

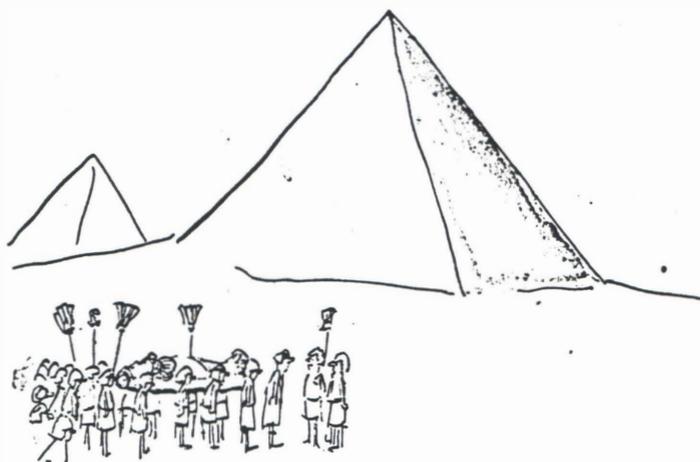
So far as SR's science editor knows, the Robey theory was the first attempt any responsible scientist had made in print to explain the UFO phenomenon in other than conventional terms that nonetheless lay within the accepted parameters of scientific discipline. One year later, in September 1960, SR's RESEARCH FRONTIER page carried a description by Dr. Donald Ritchie, of the Bendix Corporation, of experiments in which first Russian and then American scientists had artificially created free-floating blobs of plasma similar to those observed in the form of ball lightning.

UFO enthusiasts expressed no interest in either the Robey or the Ritchie contributions to SR. Both are scientifically related to the plasma ball theory of UFOs just published by Philip Klass in "Aviation Week & Space Technology." According to Klass [see page 68] UFO buffs generally are cold to his ideas, too. The Klass theory had not been published at the time SR's second report on UFOs went to press.

SR's science editor cannot discover where he published any sneering—or even critical—comments about John Fuller's reporting. The only disagreement with Fuller expressed in these pages was a difference over two of Fuller's conclusions: 1) that UFOs are vehicles from the planets of other stars, intelligently guided to earth and here refueled from electric power lines; and 2) that the U.S. Air Force is suppressing knowledge of these vehicles.

The burden of proof also rests on those who say that the text of "Incident at Exeter" includes qualifying statements prefatory to the story of Mr. Barney Hill and his wife, Betty, and their experience with a UFO, which was excerpted in SR. The story of the Hills begins near the bottom of page 90 of the book, with no more warning or introduction than the one word, "meanwhile."

SR's science editor does not possess the facilities required to check the hundreds of UFO sightings that have been reported; consequently, he began by accepting all claims of UFO sightings.



"We can't find the entrance!"

—B. Muccio.

THE KNOWLES FAMILY UFO ENCOUNTER

By Paul Norman

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On January 20th, 1988, just before daylight, Faye Knowles and her three sons, Patrick 24, Sean 21 and Wayne 18, were travelling across the Nullarbor Plains on the Erie Highway near Mundrabilla, in the southern Australian desert. Just before daylight, Sean who was driving saw an approaching truck. Coming closer they saw not only the truck heading in their direction but a strange light was over the vehicle flying along at the same speed.

Sean turned around and headed west trying to see what was going on. Within a few seconds the light had reversed course and headed back toward the Knowles car. Sean then immediately made a U-turn and sped back east when the light overtook the car and landed on the roof. The driver then accelerated the car to what he thought was 200 KM(120MPH). He did not realize his Ford was in the air until it dropped back on the road bursting the right rear tire.

While the UFO was on the roof Mrs. Knowles rolled the window down so she could reach up and feel part of the object. At this stage she was screaming and all four thought it was the end. Still in a panic after the car hit the road, the car was driven about five miles before the driver brought it to a stop. During this time the object was still pacing them. The driver was back and forth across the highway trying to get away from the object. At one stage he almost collided with another car which was pulling a trailer because he was on the wrong side of the road. After stopping they jumped out of the car and hid among bushes along side of the highway. They could still see the object circling around. They could see that it was egg-shaped with a yellow light in the center. When the UFO flew away they came out of the bushes changed the tire and drove on to the Mundrabilly roadhouse.

Graham Henley, a Melbourne truck driver, was the first person to talk to the terrified family after their encounter when they stopped at the roadhouse. He noted a considerable amount of dust on top and inside the car. He said that he felt the sooty material on the roof and it was not brake dust. The material was a fine silicon-type dust. It was like powdered glass. Brake dust only gets on the wheels, not on the roof. Mr Henley said he was convinced when the Knowles first told what they had seen 20 minutes earlier because of the terror on their faces. Even the dogs were cowering in the car. Despite their hysteria everything was exactly as they described it when he accompanied them back to the scene. He saw the foot prints where they had hid in the bushes and the marks left by the U-turn to get away from the UFO.

The first police officer to interview the family was Jim Furnell, at the Ceduna station in South Australia. He reported that the family was still upset. He regarded the incident seriously. In addition, he had a report from another motorist who was at the scene of the event. In fact, the encounter was being regarded seriously until the professors of impossibility got into the act.

The first samples to be analysed were done by two employees of the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories(AMDL) in Adelaide. The samples were taken from the car while it was still in Western Australia. The statement from AMDL was that "it was mostly iron oxide consistent with residue from worn brake linings" The large amount of the material was ignored.

When the Knowles arrived in Melbourne, they were interviewed by four members of the Victorian UFO Research Society(VUFORS). They were still upset because of their ordeal. At that time, January 25th, the arm of Mrs. Knowles was beginning to swell. In addition, all members of the family were ill in one way or another. All four were placed under the care of doctors. After interviewing the family we realized this was a serious case indeed. They were not of the disposition to have fabricated the story. Our contact at Channel 7 Adelaide was not satisfied with the attitude of the interviewers in Adelaide nor with the comments of individuals around the country who knew little if anything about the subject. He requested VUFORS to send our own investigators to make tests on the car. Originally he had planned to fly us to Western Australia, where the car was compounded at that time but later decided to have it trucked to Adelaide where our tests were documented by Channel 7 TV video. Some of the tests were shown in their telecast now in my possession, including the wheels jacked off the ground proving they will spin at 200 km if not on the ground which speed a 1984 Ford Telstar will not do on the ground. Since this telecast went to air we understand that adjustments have been made in original comments of both scientists and private investigators.

Meanwhile, even before investigations were started, at least five "explanations" had come from the scientific community in rapid succession. One of the first came from a professor of impossibility PhD, EtC, EtC, EtC. as being consistent with a meteorite, in spite of the fact that the object landed on top of the car before circling around in the area before flying away.

Following this attempt another "solution" was put forward, "The description of the event was consistent with dry lightning", even though other motorists were driving along the highway and viewed the maneuvering object. After that amusing interpretation another spokesman came forward with the "solution". They were fooled by the rising sun", even if motorist travelling in the opposite direction also observed the maneuvering UFO.

Another expert suggested it must have originated at the Woomer Test Range. That statement was followed by another spokesman who said "this was not true because it would not be allowed". It is the opinion of this humble ufologist --- Of course not, unless it was out of control. But even so, how could it strike or lift a motor car, drop it to the ground with only minor damage?

Perhaps the most amusing opinion concerning this and other events is that UFO experiences occur during waking hours or at the stage just before going to sleep. This laughable opinion does not explain night-time encounters let alone daylight events. Veteran Australian ufologists regard this school of thought as "dreamtime ufology" similar to aboriginal Australian legends as occurring back in the dreamtime.

The facts are: Dreams do not leave holes in the ground. Dreams do not lift motor cars off the ground. Nor do dreams lift helicopters hundreds of feet in the air as experienced by Larry Coyne and his crew which occurred in October, 1973.

We cannot rule out, at this stage, that this was an attempted abduction of the Knowles family and the Larry Coyne encounter was also an attempted abduction. Which raises the question. Was the sound which interrupted the radio transmission between pilot Frederick Valentich and Melbourne Flight Service while Valentich was flying over Bass Strait, Australia, October, 1978 a successful abduction? These incidents and other similar ones which go unexplained are continuing to grind the sacred cow of orthodox science into hamburger.

UFO's in the Mind's Eye

RENEWED PUBLIC and media fascination with unidentified flying objects, after years when it looked like the subject was finally on the wane, has more and more people scanning the skies for visitors. Not surprisingly, the result has been a rise in the number of major UFO flaps around the world.

For example, last August 27th a celestial apparition became a thrilling novelty for thousands of skywatchers in central China and Taiwan. It was that region's first burst of excitement over a "UFO visit." But for me their evening encounter with a UFO was genuine déjà-vu — I'd seen it all before, and it was easy to tell what had happened.

The descriptions were almost classic. The glowing object was "like an oval plate," or "like a comet" with a tail "like an umbrella." It was orangish, and spun around as it flew eastward. Witnesses reported spotting it between about 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. local time. News services around the world picked up the story and briefly splashed it across newspapers, radio, and television.

The Chinese had seen a spaceship, all right, but not an extraterrestrial one. The Japanese had just launched their latest H-1 booster, and the "UFO" was the spent second stage flying over China at the end of its second orbit. A cloud of excess propellant venting from the slowly tumbling rocket caught the rays of the twilight Sun 100 miles above the already dark land.

North Americans watching for Perseid



meteors had been treated to a similar celestial apparition in August, 1986, following the first H-1 flight (S&T: November, 1986, page 546). When the third launch occurred in early 1988 no sightings were reported, possibly due to a change in the way excess fuel was released.

Such fuel dumps have been occurring for decades. In recent years they have become a routine safety measure, since unused fuel can later cause a booster to explode and litter its orbit with space junk. Because these sky shows pass across every continent, millions of people see them — and become UFO believers! Somehow the explanations for these events never seem to reach those who saw them, nor the many others who heard about them.

Typical reports underscore just how widespread — and misunderstood — this kind of celestial phenomenon is. They also show how useful the sightings can be in evaluating the accuracy of eyewitness accounts of other spectacular lights in the sky.

Satellite launches from the Plesetsk cosmodrome a few hundred miles north of Moscow set off a series of Soviet UFO panics between 1977 and 1981, when some rare twilight blast-offs created apparitions visible from much of the northwest Soviet Union. An avalanche of public anxiety over repeated "UFO attacks" led to many articles in the popular press where officials tried to explain away the sightings as "chemoluminescent industrial smog" (a sort of "swampy gas"). Ironically, the government was unable to provide the true explanations because the existence of the Plesetsk base was a military secret. Finally in mid-1983, under pressure from worldwide articles mocking the impossible coverup, Soviet newspapers admitted the existence of the rocket center.

An accident of geography allows the Soviets to export their UFO panics to South America. Some rockets launched from Plesetsk perform a second burn half an orbit later, over the far southeast Pacific, and then drift across South America spewing excess fuel. When this occurs at twilight, millions of people in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil can see a glowing globe of gas in the sky. Visual descriptions are exaggerated enough, but some witnesses have reported being blinded, chased, or contacted telepathically. Upon seeing a Soviet fuel dump in 1978, one Brazilian fainted and experi-

enced a sexual encounter with aliens — a story confirmed under hypnosis by other UFO enthusiasts!

Beyond the satisfaction of solving UFO cases involving hundreds of thousands of eyewitnesses, what has my research taught me about the UFO phenomenon? Space events like those I've described provide a unique series of controlled experiments in which known visual stimuli are presented to naive test subjects. In this way, the accuracy of more "ordinary" UFO reports can be calibrated.

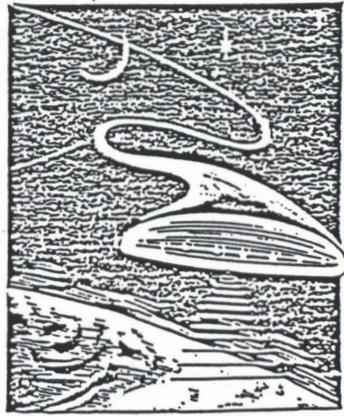
The decades-old UFO phenomenon does not measure up well in this analysis. I've found that witnesses often give grossly inaccurate accounts of time, size, and location in the sky. Coincidences such as "interactions" with aircraft become enshrined as cause-and-effect evidence of extraordinary phenomena.

Sadly, perceptual psychologists and other scientists interested in related fields tend to ignore the reports based on known events; apparently they consider the whole subject contaminated with "UFOria." Meanwhile, the space events continue, and those of us who have properly identified them experience frustration and envy to have personally missed such beautiful and baffling visions.

JAMES E. OBERG

*The author is an engineer with the Space Shuttle program and an authority on Soviet space activities. His latest book is Uncovering Soviet Disasters (Random House, 1988).*

*Focal Point invites contributions from readers who wish to comment on contemporary issues in astronomy and space science.*



Ice Storm

New observations are held to support a controversial theory

Two years ago Louls A. Frank, a respected physicist at the University of Iowa, ignited a fierce scientific dispute. He and his colleagues John B. Sigwarth and John D. Craven maintained that millions of invisible cometlike objects consisting mainly of ice hit the earth's upper atmosphere and vaporize there every year. Frank and his colleagues faced withering criticism. Investigators were therefore astounded when at the end of March a physicist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena announced in a press release that he had obtained telescope images of objects that seemed as numerous as the comets Frank had proposed.

Frank's own evidence consisted of satellite-based observations of ultraviolet light emitted by the earth's atmosphere. The observations indicate that every few seconds, somewhere on the globe, a dark spot hundreds of miles in diameter suddenly appears against the background ultraviolet emission—"like a fly on a TV screen," Frank says—and then dissolves within a minute or two. Frank interpreted the spots as sudden discharges of water vapor from the breakup of one of his supposed objects: the released water vapor would absorb the ultraviolet light being emitted below it. If Frank is right, the unseen objects could have brought in enough water vapor over

the oceans to fill the oceans—and stunningly alter solar-system science.

Impossible, most investigators said. If icy comets were hitting the atmosphere every few seconds at speeds of 10 kilometers per second, as Frank supposed, there should be many more craters on the moon, where there is no atmosphere to stop the comets. Frank replied that his comets were too light and fluffy (a few hundred tons each, about 10 meters in diameter) to make craters. Why, critics asked, were the objects not visible to telescopes or radar? Frank had a ready reply: they were coated with coal black dust that made them too dark to see and did not reflect radar beams.

Then Thomas M. Donahue of the University of Michigan measured the amount of atomic hydrogen in interplanetary space. He found less than one would expect to escape from the objects Frank had proposed. He therefore proposed a different type of object, and he said there were 10 million times fewer of them than those described by Frank. Frank countered that the dust enveloping his comets seals in the hydrogen. Some people thought that Frank's successive refinements of the theory, in the absence of more hard data, were fatal to its credibility. Late last year Clayne Yeates of JPL decided to look for Frank's objects directly, working with the sensitive "Spacewatch" telescope at the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona. The device has a wide field of view and is equipped with an electronic charge-coupled detector rather than film. Yeates panned the telescope against the sky, seeking dark comets in the orbit Frank had proposed for them.

His detector recorded "streaks" that apparently represented objects corresponding closely in brightness, position and quantity to Frank's objects. He and his colleague Tom Gehrels of the University of Arizona are confident they have ruled out known phenomena as explanations. Gehrels notes that, as is the case for Frank's dark spots, more of the streaks than usual are seen at times of meteor showers. Gehrels now thinks the objects might be dry debris from extinct comets, and that such debris could account for Frank's dark spots as well as ice balls could. Further tests were under way in late April.

The observations made by Yeates and Gehrels have attracted widespread interest. Most commentators praise Yeates for making the observations, although some criticize him for having announced the results before they had been subjected to peer re-

view. An unforeseen interpretation might yet mean Yeates and Gehrels have found nothing new, but both say they are convinced. —T.M.L.

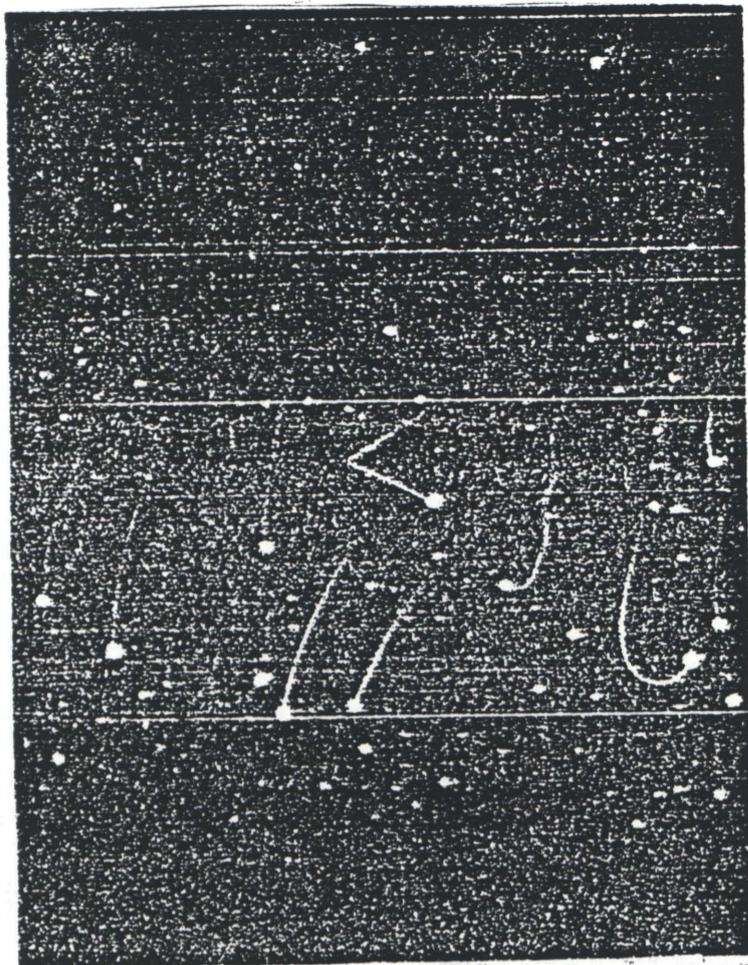
Just a quick note in reference to these two articles. The Sky & Telescope article by

Jim Oberg is very skeptical of the UFO subject. I feel, though, that the last paragraph has something to say.

The Scientific American article is quite fascinating. Here we have scientists studying strange, unknown objects and have ruled out known phenomena as explanations.

Scientific American, June 1988

July 16 — At 8 p.m. an occultation by the Moon of Regulus, the bright star in Leo.



\* On Nov. 13, 1868 Trouvelot observed over three thousand meteors from the northern window of his house between the hours of midnight to 5 a.m. The meteors were quite large, many being superior to Jupiter in brightness and apparent size, while a few even surpassed Venus, and were so brilliant that opaque objects cast a strong shadow during their flight. Quite a number among them exhibited very extraordinary motions and followed very complicated paths, some of which were quite incomprehensible. While some moved either in wavy or zig-zag lines others after moving for a time in a straight line, gradually changed their course, curving up or downward, thus moving in a new direction. Several among them, which were apparently moving in a straight line with great rapidity, suddenly altered their course, starting at an abrupt angle in another direction, with no apparent slackening in their motion. On one occasion Trouvelot noticed that the change of direction in the orbit corresponded with the brightening up of the meteor thus disturbed in its progress. Among these meteors, some traveled very slowly, and a few seemed to advance as if by jerks, but in general they moved very rapidly. One of the meteors appearing to move by jerks left a luminous trail, upon which the various jerks seemed to be left impressed by a succession of bright and faint spaces along the train. Some of the largest meteors appeared to rotate upon an axis as they advanced, and most of these revolving meteors seemed to explode just before they disappeared, sending bright fiery sparks of different colors in all directions, no sound was heard at any time. The largest and most brilliant meteor observed on that night appeared a little before sunrise. It was very bright, and appeared considerably larger than Venus, having quite a distinct disc. This meteor moved very slowly, leaving behind a large phosphorescent trail, which seemed to issue from inside of the nucleus as it advanced. Many of the trails left by the meteors retained their luminosity for several minutes, and sometimes for over a quarter of an hour. Trouvelot found it quite remarkable that almost all the meteors he observed on that night assumed the general form of an irregular open ring or horseshoe, somewhat resembling the letter C. In the majority of cases the meteors appeared white; but many, especially the largest exhibited a variety of brilliant colors, among which the red, blue, green, yellow and purple were the most common. In some instances the trails were of quite a different color from the nucleus. Some of the meteors moved so rapidly that they can hardly be followed in their orbits, while others moved so slowly that the sight can easily follow them, and even remark the peculiarities of their movement, some remaining visible for over half a minute. (Trouvelot published many examples of his art and observing skill in the Annals of the Harvard College observatory.)

\* From The Trouvelot Astronomical Drawings Manual - NY 1882

## Foo-Fighters

Lt. Donald Meiers of Chicago was flying a B-24 on an intruder mission over Germany. He was braced to meet Nazi planes or anti-aircraft. Suddenly an eerie light split the darkness around his plane. Looking up from his instrument panel, the horrified lieutenant saw two red balls of fire cruising alongside his wingtips. Thinking he had run into a secret anti-aircraft weapon, Meiers tensed and waited for a German on the ground to push a button and blow him up. But the balls merely kept pace with him for a while and then disappeared.

That was more than a month ago, one of the first times Allied fighters encountered what they now call "foo-fighters." In addition to the wingtip balls, pilots have reported two other types. One is a group of three similar balls which fly in front of their planes, the other a group of about fifteen which appear some distance away and flicker on and off. Apparently controlled by radio, the foo-fighters keep formation with the planes, even when they dive, climb, or take violent evasive action. "But they don't explode, or attack us," Meiers said last week. "They just seem to follow us like will-o'-the-wisps."

Probably related to the silvery balls seen by daylight pilots (NEWSWEEK, Dec. 25, 1944), the foo-fighters, so far apparently, baffle intelligence officers. Possibly they are the results of a new anti-radar device which the Germans have developed. On the other hand, they may be the exhaust trails of a smaller model of the radio-controlled Messerschmitt-103, a rocket-propelled flying wing.

Day bombers have met the Me103, which has an explosive charge in the nose and is apparently designed to crash into Allied planes. When one pilot closely inspected the foo-fighters tagging him, however, he detected nothing but the spheres.

Newsweek 1/15/45

## The Silver Sphere Puzzle

A massive assault by the United States Army Air Forces based in Britain and Italy last week brought the air war in Europe to a new peak of size and technique. At a season when bad weather ordinarily reduces air activity, the Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces surpassed all previous records and in a single day sent a total of 2,100 heavy bombers and 1,150 fighters against the Reich.

From Britain, 1,000 heavies, escorted by 800 fighters, flew east in five waves stretching over 300 miles. They were manned by 10,300 American airmen; they carried 4,000 tons of explosives and incendiaries. Once over Germany, in cloudy weather that grounded the Luftwaffe and required the Americans to use electronic bombing devices, the Fortress attacked rail yards at Frankfurt and Giessen; the Liberators bombed rail yards at Hanau. From the south, the Fifteenth's heavy bombers hit the Moosbierbaum oil refinery near Vienna.

—But—though—German—defense—was—limited to anti-aircraft fire, the Luftwaffe

was still ready for battle, still ingenious in defense. Dispatches heavily censored by Supreme Headquarters revealed that American pilots have recently encountered a new phenomenon over Germany: silver-colored spheres resembling huge, glittering Christmas-tree ornaments. Sometimes translucent, floating singly or in clusters, the balls are presumably a new form of aerial interference. Recalling the Allied and German use of tinfoil strips dropped by attacking planes to confuse Radar instruments on the ground, Hanson Baldwin, military analyst of The New York Times, made this educated guess on the new German weapon:

"The new 'silver spheres' might represent . . . the reverse of this idea. Such spheres, drifting about in the sky, might interfere with and confuse the radar in the attacking planes, thus making 'blind' bombing impossible, or far more inaccurate than it normally is."

Newsweek 12/25/44

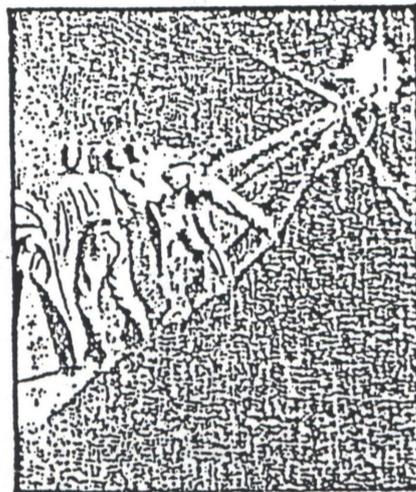
## Foo-Fighter

If it was not a hoax or an optical illusion, it was certainly the most puzzling secret weapon that Allied fighters have yet encountered. Last week U.S. night fighter

pilots based in France told a strange story of balls of fire which for more than a month have been following their planes at night over Germany.\* No one seemed to know what, if anything, the fireballs were supposed to accomplish. Pilots, guessing that it was a new psychological weapon, named it the "foo-fighter."

Their descriptions of the apparition varied, but they agreed that the mysterious flares stuck close to their planes and appeared to follow them at high speed for miles. One pilot said that a foo-fighter, appearing as red balls off his wing tips, stuck with him until he dove at 360 miles an hour; then the balls zoomed up into the sky.

Skeptical scientists, baffled by the whole affair, were inclined to dismiss the fireballs as an illusion, perhaps an afterimage of light which remained in the pilots' eyes after they had been dazzled by flak bursts.



The Bellmann Archive

St. ELMO'S FIRE

—Could that be it?—

But front-line correspondents and arm-chair experts had a Buck Rogers field day. They solemnly guessed: 1) that the balls of fire were radio-controlled (an obvious absurdity, since they could not be synchronized with a plane's movements by remote control); 2) that they were created by "electrical induction of some sort"; 3) that they were attracted to a plane by magnetism.

The correspondents further guessed that foo-fighters were intended: 1) to dazzle pilots; 2) to serve as aiming points for anti-aircraft gunners; 3) to interfere with a plane's radar; 4) to cut a plane's ignition, thus stop its engine in midair.

Some scientists suggested another possibility: that the fireballs were nothing more than St. Elmo's Fire, a reddish, brush-like discharge of atmospheric electricity which has often been seen near the tips of church steeples, ships' masts and yardarms. It often appears at a plane's wing tips.

\* Last month pilots reported that they had seen mysterious floating silvery balls, apparently another "secret weapon," in daylight flights over Germany.

TIME JANUARY 15 1945

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Time 1/15/45

Cr. B. Greenwood

July 19—Venus at its most brilliant. On such a night the Globe telephone operator often gets reports about "flying saucers" or "satellites."



Hundreds of curious people visited the site where the UFO was 'floating'.

An eyewitness in Haifa said that 10 days ago he saw an object surrounded by fire sparks 'near the beach opposite to the neighbourhood of Shar Aliyah.'

The burnt earth near the Haifa beach where an eyewitness said he saw an object floating above his head, has become a place where hundreds of people come to visit examining every bit of earth in order to find additional evidence of the visit of creatures from an outer planet.

Ami Achrayi, 27, from Haifa, was the man who discovered this burnt earth 10 days ago he saw an object surrounded by sparks of fire at the height of 7 metres, near the beach opposite the neighbourhood of Sharalayah. He was so upset that he went to the site, and discovered that the earth was burnt. Inside this area which was reminiscent of a person sitting like a pilot would. About 30 metres from this site there is another piece of burnt earth, with some holes on it, which he thinks belong to a UFO.

Caption: The place where the UFO landed.

Caption: H. Arbel with the scheme of the UFO.

DAVAR 9th October, 1987.

IS IT A UFO OR .....

Hadassah Arbel researches the appearance of UFOs, writing on the Haifa UFO.

This is clearly some sort of flying machine which enveloped itself in rays and burnt the earth.

The wife of the man who discovered the UFO said, "I asked him to speak quietly so the neighbours won't think he's gone mad".

Captions: The knowledge about the UFO which landed (or did not land) in Haifa last week has already captured the imagination, brought specialists and photographers to the place. In the pictures we see the area where the UFO landed as well as the recreation of the burnt earth.

Correspondent - Yossi Leibowitz, Davar correspondent in the Galil.

We see clearly the imprint of a flying machine. The symmetry between the wheels is very clear. It seems that before it landed, it succeeded in enveloping itself in rays, therefore these strong rays burnt the earth and left a strong imprint.

Thus described on the Eve of Succoth by H. Arbel who works in the Haifa Municipality and researches unnatural appearances connected with UFOs, what the man from Kiryat Motzkin had seen. He said he had seen on Monday at 1030 pm, a UFO very similar to a flying machine and it burnt the earth.

The incident, says the eye witness, happened on the beach near the Shakuvin neighbourhood which is on the southern entry to Haifa. He is Ami Achrayi, 27-years-old, and called the Haifa police.

Following this discovery, the second in the last two weeks, the first being when a citizen of Newe Sha'anani in Haifa, saw a lit up object on the eve of Rosh Hashana, which was similar to half a crescent flying about in the skies; it has been decided to convene a tour of journalists on Wednesday at lunch time during the hours that the UFO was seen.

Hadassah Arbel believes that the UFO or flying machine, as she calls it, was in her opinion in distress, spun around several times until it burnt the earth. As she says, you can see the imprint of the pilot, all the instruments inside the cockpit and other parts of the plane including the wheels.

Ami's wife, Aviva, said that on Monday night, he came home very pale and distraught and "in the beginning was afraid to tell me anything so that I wouldn't think him crazy but afterwards, when he told me, I asked him to speak with his father who understands these things. He started talking to his father in a loud voice on the phone and I asked him to speak quietly so the neighbours wouldn't think he was crazy." Ami said that he never believed in these things but "now that I've seen it with my own eyes, I am sure someone from another planet visited us."

A great crowd from the neighbourhood came together with the journalists and a lot of jokes were flying about, e.g. where are those from Outer Space and some replied they went to Haifa Festival Fete.

The Haifa police have checked with the Airforce whether there were any planes in that area at the time and the answer was negative.

Comment by C. Hind. A friend of my sister's heard on the Israeli radio that Ami is a skilled mechanic.

July 29 - Month's highest tide to night at 11:15, almost 11-and-a-half feet. The bright moon tonight will make it difficult to see the Delta Aquarid meteor shower.

The Public Interest Is The First Concern Of This Newspaper

Vol. 120—Number 232

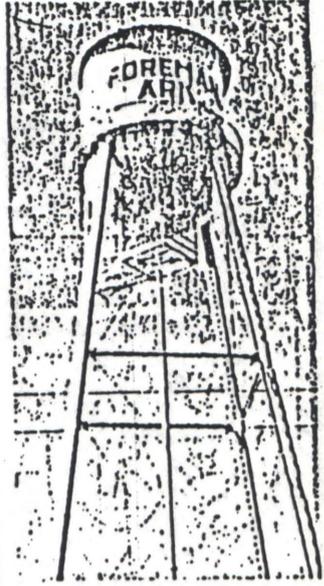
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BRUARY 4, 1988

## Close-up look at UFO sighting

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Residents of the small southwest Arkansas town of Foreman began spotting unexplained lights in the night sky late last December. Since that time, the local sheriff's department has received more than 200 reports of unidentified objects flying over the Foreman/Ashdown area just north of Texarkana. Several residents have reported that the objects do more than simply fly over at night. The Foreman sightings are unusual in the history of unexplained aerial phenomena. Rarely do such episodes continue as long as this one or involve as many people. Unless otherwise noted, all episodes recounted in this five-part series on the Foreman sightings were told firsthand to a Times reporter on location in Foreman by eyewitnesses. At press time the sightings continue. So far, efforts to find military or commercial air explanations have yielded no answers. Today's Part III recounts a close-up sighting and subsequent investigation by members of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network.)

Part 3 of 5-part series.



Tempa and Kaye McIlhannon, left, in front of light, the Foreman water tower. Foreman, Ark., home where UFO was reported.

By BILL J. MACOMBER  
Times Staff Writer

Whatever Kaye McIlhannon saw in her back yard on Tuesday, Jan. 26, baffled her and terrified the two young women who were with her that night. A fourth witness a mile away from Kaye McIlhannon's house that evening also saw something she is unable to explain at approximately the same time.

Kaye McIlhannon is a 47-year-old mother and homemaker. Her husband owns the Foreman Chevrolet dealership on Hwy. 41, one of the most prosperous businesses in town. More than one person described McIlhannon to a Times reporter as someone who would not be afraid of the "devil himself." Others repeatedly testified that if Kaye McIlhannon said she saw something, then that's exactly what she saw.

At 8 p.m. on Jan. 26, McIlhannon was driving home from a nearby Toni, Okla., restaurant where she and two other women had eaten dinner. In the car with her were Tabby Dussell, 19, and Tempa McIlhannon, 21. Tempa McIlhannon is Kaye's daughter-in-law. Also in the car were Kaye McIlhannon's two granddaughters. McIlhannon's husband was out of town that night on business.

As they drove they spotted unusually colored lights in the sky to the north. By now reports of UFO's were becoming common in the small town of Foreman. Kaye McIlhannon didn't pay particular attention to the lights she saw while driving home. Her granddaughters were fussing that night. She just wanted to get them home.

When they arrived at McIlhannon's large home just north of

### Defining some terms

By BILL J. MACOMBER  
Times Staff Writer

When most people hear the acronym "UFO" they automatically assume the speaker is referring to a "flying saucer." For the purposes of this Times series on the Foreman, Ark., UFO sightings, and for the purpose of most serious students of the UFO phenomenon, UFO does not necessarily mean an extra-terrestrial disc.

According to J. Allen Hynek, a consultant to the United States Air Force Project Blue Book which studied UFO's until 1969, the actual definition of UFO is not necessarily suggestive of little green men. Hynek defined UFO as follows: "The reported perception of an object or light seen in the sky or upon the land

the appearance, trajectory, and general dynamic and luminous behavior of which do not suggest a logical, conventional explanation and which is not only mystifying to the original percipients but remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification, if one is possible."

Perhaps an answer more to the point would be, in order, Charles Juffer, who made the trip to Foreman with a Times reporter, and who has studied UFO's for many years, offers another, considerably shorter definition:

"UFO just means it can't be identified, that's all."

Foreman, the women unpacked the children and went inside. After visiting a while, Dussell went outside to warm up her car. She came back inside the house to visit some more as the engine warmed.

Then, according to a taped interview with McIlhannon, "She (Dussell) got up and she went to the door and she screamed and said, 'It's here.' Then she went into hysterics. So my daughter-in-law jumps up and she goes to the door and she goes into hysterics. I got up

and went to the door and said, 'You all just move and let me out.' I went outside."

Some 30 yards from her back door a brilliant light hovered close to the ground. The light reminded McIlhannon of the clear bulbs hung on Christmas trees. "Extra-bright, with a red glow," she said. She estimated the object to be at least the size of an automobile.

A fence 15 yards from McIlhannon's back door separates the driveway from the large field behind

the McIlhannon home. After pushing her younger companions back into the house, McIlhannon walked out to the fence to take a closer look at what she was seeing. She estimated she came within 15 or 20 yards of the object, which she said was pulsating.

"It was bright enough that you could see our red barn and that barn you cannot see without a light on," McIlhannon said. Dussell added the object lit up the field behind the house for a good distance in all directions.

McIlhannon wanted someone else to witness whatever it was she was seeing. She ran back into the house and told her daughter-in-law to telephone her son. The women then stood by the back door and watched the brilliant, pulsating light in the back yard as the headlights of McIlhannon's son's vehicle approached from the distance. Then the giant light was gone.

"It just vanished. It didn't go up. It didn't go down. It just disappeared like you'd turn off a light switch," McIlhannon said.

Through the entire episode no one heard a sound coming from the hovering light.

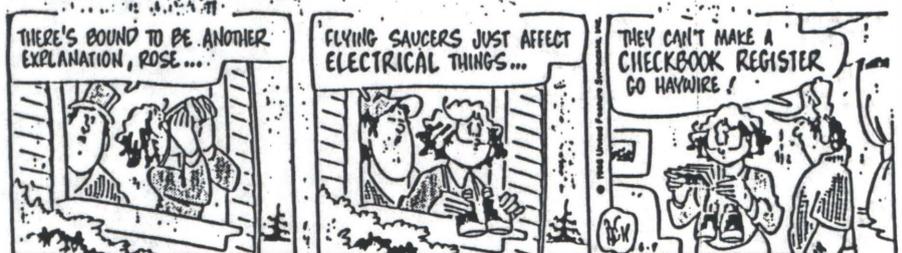
Though McIlhannon could make out no structural features inside the glowing light, she came away with the distinct impression there was an object somehow attached to the light. "I had no idea. Here I had made fun of some other people about stories they had told and here the thing was in my back yard. It takes a lot to get me excited, and when I

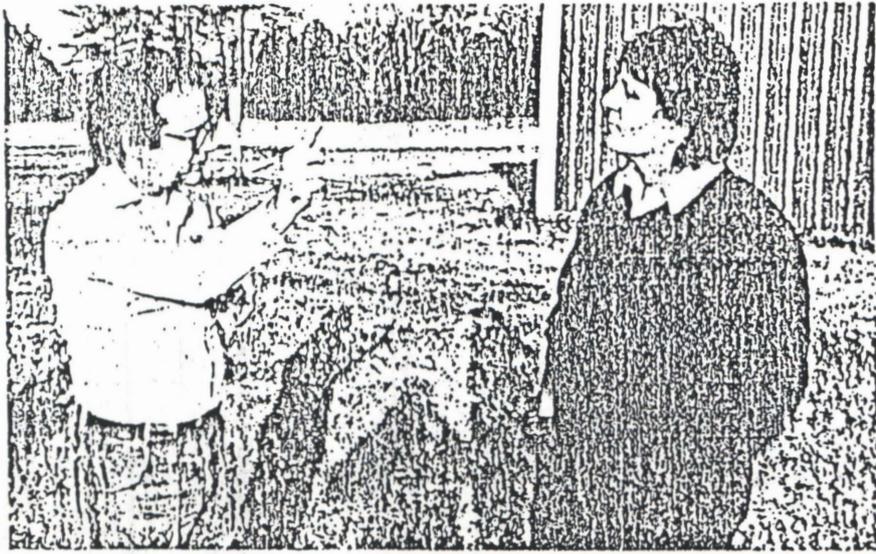
(See UFO on page 3)

### Lost to view

In June, The World Almanac reports, Mercury and Venus are lost to view. Jupiter is the month's brightest morning star, and Saturn is the night's guiding light. Mars remains in Aquarius all month.

### ROSE IS ROSE by Pat Brady





(Times photo by Bill McEwen)

MUFON Investigators Charles Huffer and Paul Ruthorford discussing the incident at the Mellhannon home outside Foreman

## UFO

(Continued from page 1)

first saw it I said, 'My gosh, it is here.' Actually I said worse than that," Mellhannon said.

Using a flashlight, Mellhannon inspected the area near the barn that same night with a flashlight. Rumors flew the following day. Mellhannon's house had burned down, said some. A dead horse had been discovered. Burn marks had been found on the "landing" site. In reality, nothing was found. A Geiger counter operated by Paul Ruthorford and Ed Mazur, two representatives of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) measured radioactivity at the spot the next day. The instrument revealed only normal background radiation.

According to Charles Huffer, also a MUFON member who observed the field behind Mellhannon's house, the history of close-up UFO sightings includes few episodes involving radiation.

The Mellhannon's nearest neighbors in the direction of the sighting are at least a half mile to the north. A phone call to those neighbors determined they burned no unusual lights that night. As for a helicopter, the women were certain what they saw was no such craft. "I know a helicopter," Dossett said.

Independent confirmation?

A mile from Kaye Mellhannon's house lives Kathy Mellhannon, a relative. At 8 p.m. on the evening in question Kathy was sitting behind her house when she spotted something she could not identify. "It was real high. I saw lights going across. I ran into the house to tell my husband and it was gone," Kathy Mellhannon said. She described the lights as orange. They moved in a steady line to the west, roughly in the direction of Kaye Mellhannon's house. Kathy Mellhannon admitted what she saw might have been an airplane. "It just didn't look like a normal airplane to me."

One other sighting in the Foreman area echoes Mellhannon's proximity to the stationary, unidentified light. This previous sighting also occurred on a Tuesday, a week before the Mellhannon episode. The earlier sighting occurred at almost exactly the same night three Foreman women said they were followed by a bright, fast-moving object in the same area.

Eula French, 19, was watching television alone at 11 p.m. on Jan. 19. French lived with her family on the Anderson lateral road in the Red River "bottoms." French first noticed a bright light flooding the living room from the windows overlooking the front yard. She paid no attention, thinking it might be her brother, J.R. French, or her father, Bubba French, returning from work.

The light moved to the back of the house, however, and lit up the window on the other side of the living room. Several dogs chained outside were barking furiously by now. French went to the window and parted the curtains. Outside she saw what she typified as a "light green light" hovering approximately 20 to 30 yards behind the house. Though the dogs were barking, French herself heard no sound.

She tried to wake two other people sleeping in the house at the time. Both told her the dogs were simply hearing things. No one would come to the living room with her. French said the light made her "very frightened." She crawled into bed with all her clothes on while the light still hovered. She did not know when it left.

"I think it was Air Life," French said. She told the Times she knew exactly what Air Life, a local medical

helicopter, looked like. The light she saw wasn't Air Life, she said. She also said she wished that whatever the thing was would go away for good. Since the incident, French's family has spotted a several unidentified flying objects directly to the east of the house. Those sightings will be detailed later in this series. Subsequent sightings have been witnessed by dozens of other people parked in front of the French household.

Kaye Mellhannon has not yet determined what the object she saw might have been. None of the women at the Mellhannon home that night has said the light was a flying saucer. They, like most of their neighbors in Little River County who have seen unidentified lights since Christmas, remained baffled days after the incident. Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, La., to the south has claimed no unusual military activity over the Foreman area.

"It's just weird to think what it really is," Mellhannon said. "It might be something the government's working on. If it is we're not going to know anything about it."

(Tomorrow, a broad range of unidentified sightings in the Foreman area by dozens of eyewitnesses.)

### The Spectrum of UFO Research now available

The proceedings of the 1981 CUFOS Conference have just been published by the Center for UFO Studies under the title, *The Spectrum of UFO Research*. This 232-page monograph contains many papers that have not been published elsewhere. Edited by Mimi Hynek, the book includes papers by J. Allen Hynek and Howard Schechter (on an acoustic analysis of a recorded UFO sound), Bruce Maccabee (a definitive analysis of the McMinnville photos), Budd Hopkins (on investigating abductions), Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Miguel Guasp (on standards in UFO report evaluation), Keith Basterfield (on hypnagogic imagery), John Schuessler (medical injuries in the Cash/Landrum case), J. Gordon Melton (a survey of contactees), Alan Holt (UFO maneuverability and radiation characteristics), Joan Jeffers (the psychic connection), Donald A. Johnson (on the ignition interference effect), Mark Rodeghier (on vehicle interference reports), Alvin H. Lawson (birth trauma imagery), and Roberto Pinotti (on early Italian cases).

*The Spectrum of UFO Research* may be ordered for \$11.00 (plus \$1.80 postage and handling) from CUFOS Publication Sales, 2457 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659.

When a plane breaks the sound barrier, listeners in the area hear thunderclaps. The pilot does not hear them, though.