

# UFO MAGAZINE

Volume 4 Number 7

Fall 1967



A British police Constable examines a "saucer" in a recent hoax which has received extensive international publicity. See page 12.

---FOLLOW-UP ON TEXAS SAUCER INCIDENTS REPORTED LAST ISSUE---  
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UFO EXPEDITION IN OHIO

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UFO Magazine

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## EDITORIAL

Editors:  
Rick R. Hilberg  
Janie L. Ransom

We are happy to report that our Midwestern UFO discussion held  
in Cleveland July 21-22 was a success. Delegates from the North-  
ern Ohio and Michigan area attended, and discussed with us the  
future of saucer investigation in this part of the country as well  
as the possibility of projects aimed at solving the UFO enigma.

A list of delegates includes: the editors; Karl Gawell; Edward  
Biebel; Thomas Nealings, all staff members; Richard T. Lee of Akron;  
Robert S. Easley of Defiance, Ohio; Kevin J. Collins of Detroit; and  
Allan Manak of the UAPA of Cleveland. Many thanks to those who  
helped make this gathering a success.

Another UFO MAGAZINE sponsored meeting took place recently.  
This one was at the Conrad Hilton in Chicago, and discussions  
ranged from the recent increase of "three men" cases to the  
John Reeves incident in Florida. This one was attended by the  
staff plus Robert Easley, Mark Samwick of New York, Kevin Collins  
of Detroit, plus Allen Greenfield (who could not make it) on a  
special "conference" hookup in Atlanta.

These events all point up the fact that UFO MAGAZINE has been  
working constantly recently to improve the lot of ufology.

## UFO MAGAZINE STAFF

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Watch these pages for information regarding a new book on UFOs  
by staff members Rick Hilberg and Robert Easley. The new book  
will be a conservative probe into the many facets of the UFO  
enigma. Publication is expected in early 1968.

## FOLLOW-UP ON TEXAS SAUCER INCIDENTS

By P. G. Navarro

Editors note: We present the following article which is the result of investigation by Mr. Navarro into the saucer incidents in Texas as reported in our last issue. The article is made up of several letters sent to us by the investigator, and contains several older reports which have never before been published in saucer journals.....

Upon reading your Summer 1967 issue of UFO MAGAZINE I became interested enough in the account from the Bryan (Texas) Daily Eagle about the objects reported found by Norman Hargraves and Bob Scott, to spend three hours in the Houston Public Library looking through microfilmed back issues of the local newspapers trying to find more information on the subject.

The odd thing was the fact that I had just looked at an old newspaper before reading your magazine, and had seen an item reading:

Houston History-20 Years Ago, July 7, 1947

"No Solution of Baffling 'Flying Discs' Reported...."

Then, when I began to read your magazine-with the line on the front cover reading: "Did Saucers Crash in Texas Twenty Years Ago?"-I became real interested to know just what had occurred in Texas in 1947...for although I am a native Texan, I was at that time residing in Washington, D.C....and since you presented the report in the hope that some reader in Texas might decide to conduct a further investigation of newspaper files, I therefore went to the library and came back with the following information related to the subject.

The account in the Houston Chronicle dated July 8, 1947 is headlined:

MAN QUESTIONED HERE ON FINDING FLYING DISC

First Reports Are Object is Aluminum Six Inches Thick, 20 in Diameter

The account told about the Pelly businessman, Mr. Norman Hargraves, having found one of the mysterious flying discs on the beach near the home of his father-in-law at Trinity Bay.

He said the disc, about 20 inches in diameter and six inches thick, bore a printed warning not to divulge its location or give out any information as to its makeup...

He later told the Chronicle reporter, Chester Rogers, that it was all just a joke, but the newspaper, after further investigation stated that there were some mysterious facts contained in his first report that lent credence to his tale.

Mr. Hargraves told Rogers that a "Colonel Voyce" from Army Air Forces Depot Spokane, Washington had cautioned him about revealing any of the information, and had instructed him to turn the missile over to the local police.

Pelly police would not say they had the missile...

Colonel R.W. Warren, Commanding Officer at Ellington Field, said he had been instructed by Washington headquarters to investigate the matter. He said he had talked to Mr. Hargraves and that the latter had said he was "just joking and didn't think it would be used in the papers when he told of the disc."

The Houston Press of July 8, 1947 carried the following:

ADMITS DISC HOAX

"Norman Hargraves, former Boy Scout executive, admitted today it was he who perpetrated a flying saucer hoax that even Army authorities took seriously.

"A disc that made a crash landing near his home bore lettering and directions to notify an Army Air Forces officer in Spokane, Washington, Mr. Hargraves told newspapermen.

"Ellington Field officers investigated the report late yesterday and pronounced it false."

Another article in the same newspaper of July 8, 1947 related:

DISC "DISSOLVES" AFTER FALLING IN TEXAS GARDEN

"A Hillsboro newspaper man said today after examining what he believed to be the remnants of a flying disc, that he was unable to identify the material of which it was composed.

"Dan S. Schults yesterday went to the farm of Bob Scott, who lives south of Hillsboro, after hearing a report that Scott had found a strange object in his garden.

"Scott said he did not see the object fall but found pieces of a "spidery and dusty" material last Friday. He said it was about the size of a table saucer and so bright he could not look directly at it.

"He told Schults he picked it up but that it did not burn his hands, adding that it seemed to dissolve slowly.

"Scott told Schults the object was about as thick as four pieces of tinfoil and resembled tinfoil or silver but was transparent when examined at the side."

Other reports of "flying discs", as they were called then, included "sightings" in several parts of the state, as well as reports from all over the country... (and it had not been even two weeks since Kenneth Arnold's sighting).

One, on July 7, 1947 was at Throckmorton, Texas where at least twelve witnesses told of seeing a half-dozen of the mysterious saucers winging their way over the town.

On July 4th, between ten and twenty "flying dinner plates" had hovered high over Houston for one or two minutes, according to Mrs. W. F. Parchman, who said that she and several other members of her family had seen the discs from their car while driving from Sylvan Beach to La Porte... "they looked bigger than saucers" she said. They were "as big as dinner plates", she added.

In the Houston Chronicle of July 9, 1947 was the following:  
BALLS OF FIRE AT PALESTINE CAUSE FEAR OF WORLD'S END

"Flying balls of fire circled a wide area around Palestine Tuesday night, and some Negroes, believing the end of the world was near, began praying. A white man grabbed a rifle and shot at the mysterious objects.

"It was the first time the aerial objects were reported in that area.

"Residents of the Brushy Creek Community, 15 miles northeast of Palestine called Sheriff Stanford about 8:30 Tuesday night saying 12 balls were flying in a straight line over the community then, they reported, the balls formed a circle which began moving west toward Palestine.

"By 9 P.M. hundreds of Palestine spectators reported seeing as many as three balls in the sky at a time, moving in a circle.

"Bud Everitt, druggist, chased them for a better view. He said they finally disappeared about 11 P.M.

"Mrs. Horace Valentine said she saw two perfectly round balls that "nearly scared me to death" when they appeared over her house. She said they seemed to be playing with each other, the way they jumped around. Her husband and Lee Chavers shot up a box of .22 rifle bullets without any effect on the objects.

"Mrs. Valentine said neighboring Negro families thought the world was coming to an end, and began praying as the balls of fire gamboled overhead.

"Mrs. Marian Reed, farm wife, found what she believed was part of a flying disc. It landed in her back yard while she was hanging out the clothes Tuesday afternoon. She admitted she was frightened. She described it as a round piece of tinfoil 8 inches wide, scorched or burned around the edges. Both sides were shiny, but one side was marked with black stenciled lines a quarter-inch apart. She said the tinfoil dropped straight down from the sky. She lifted it with a stick, put it in a tin can and drove five miles to Gunter, 20 miles southwest of Sherman, where scores crowded to see it."

An item appeared in the Houston Chronicle on July 5th which may be of interest. The headline read:

#### GUARD PUZZLES OVER REPORT OF SEA "DISASTER"

"A report that a ship was seen burning and sinking off the north California coast left the Coast Guard mystified Saturday after an intensive search.

"Forest Ranger Earl Holle reported from Sonoma County shortly after 4 P.M. Thursday that with his glasses in a lookout station, he saw a ship burn and sink about 10 miles off the coast. He said it appeared to be a tanker.

"Coast Guard search by two patrol vessels and two planes uncovered no wreckage or other signs to indicate a marine disaster.

"No fishing boats were reported missing. The Coast Guard expresses belief that had a larger vessel been in difficulty it would have dispatched calls for help by radio."

The above report reminds me of recent reports of UFO sightings in the vicinity of El Campo, Texas by police and residents of the area who described what they saw as looking like "a car on fire."

The newspaper files which I was looking through showed that UFO sightings had been reported far before 1947. Mysterious lights and other happenings were seen during the 1890's and in particular during 1897.

In the March 29, 1897 issue of the Houston Daily Post is a report of a meteor seen over Brenham, Texas on March 27th. But was it really a meteor? This is how the news report reads:

"Here is the ending of that daylight meteor reported from Brenham in today's Post: At 1:25 P.M. the meteor was seen to burn out when about 15 degrees above the horizon, leaving a thick white-looking substance, not smoke, for it was not dissipated, but resembling a white veil six or eight feet long, which remained stationary 15 or 20 minutes, when it contracted into a ball and slowly descended in the direction the meteor was going, till hidden by intervening tree tops. What was that substance? Asbestos?"

Then there's the report of a mysterious "airship" that was seen by the Reverend J.W. Smith on the night of April 17, 1897 flying over the town of Childress, Texas. It was described as a curious aerial monster. The Reverend at first thought that it was a shooting star, but after "watching it a moment or two, saw that it was not... it soon disappeared, traveling in a westerly direction. The Rev. Smith thinks that it must have been 2000 feet high and traveling very fast."

Another report describes a sighting in Longview, Texas on April 20, 1897 a bright light, "seemingly about the size of Venus" which moved swiftly to the northwest, disappearing beneath the horizon. "In a few minutes it reappeared... the light emitted a series of intermittent flashes of a steel color."

It was during this period that reports were circulating of a mysterious airship which was being seen throughout the Western and Southwestern states. The Houston Daily Post had the following caustic remarks to make regarding those reports: "If anybody is

really cavorting around in the West in an airship he should at once make the fact known, for the sake of many heretofore excellent reputations for truth and sobriety."

From the Houston Daily Post of April 18, 1897: "At last the lights of the mysterious airship have been seen in Texas. It would be a mistake to suppose that Texas has no reputable citizens after dark."

Of course, the scientists of that time, just as the scientists of today, came up with their ideas on the subject that would explain... or should I say "explain-away" the sightings in the most convenient way. The Post of April 20th carried this item on the subject: "Some scientists have demolished both the airship and the jim-jam theories for the strange bright object which has been seen so frequently throughout the West. They say it is a particular bright star whose light appears to change color as it sinks toward the horizon in the northwest. Thus science comes to the assistance of both veracity and good character"

Another item from the Post of April 23rd: "It rather intensifies the airship mystery that the strange visitor is being seen as frequently over prohibition states as over the other kind."

Another item datelined Bartlett, Texas April 24, 1897 states: "Last Tuesday night one of the merchants noticed traveling in a southwest direction a very large ball, resembling a large ball of fire, dropping three smaller balls. This aroused all the darkies. They are now holding a protracted meeting, looking to the end of the world by fire."

And of course there were the "strange lights" (or UFOs of today) which have a very natural and mundane explanation. The Houston Daily Post of April 24, 1897 went to great lengths to debunk one of the reported sightings: "Last night the night operator was awakened by a tramp going north. As the operator came to the door the tramp said 'the airship has stopped about a mile down the road from here.'

"Of course the operator was very anxious to see the ship and walked for some distance, when he noticed the lights all around with a large boiler and smoke in the center of the lights.

"It turned out that a man, who was building a large cottin gin about five miles from town, had received by rail, a large boiler which he had unloaded onto a wagon and had started out. When about a mile from the town darkness had compelled him to stop, and had put swinging lamps all around the boiler. It was this that had been mistaken for the airship by the tramp."

Then there's a contactee story—the man who actually met and talked with the strange visitors from the airship (today it's a flying saucer). The Houston Daily Post of April 26, 1897 has the following story datelined Josseland, Texas April 24th: "Mr. Frank Nichols, a prominent farmer living about two miles east of here, and a man of unquestioned veracity, was awakened night before last near the hour of 12 by a whirring noise, similar to that made by machinery.

"Upon looking out he was startled upon beholding brilliant lights streaming from a ponderous vessel of strange proportions, which rested upon the ground in his cornfield.

"Mr. Nichols started out to investigate. Before reaching the strange midnight visitor he was accosted by two men with buckets, who asked permission to draw water from his well.

"Thinking he might be entertaining heavenly visitants instead of earthly mortals, permission was readily granted.

"Mr. Nichols was kindly invited to accompany them to the ship. He conversed freely with the crew, composed of 6 or 8 individuals about the ship. The machinery was so complicated that in his short interview he could gain no knowledge of its workings. However, one of the crew told him the problem of aerial navigation had been solved. The ship or car is built from a newly-discovered material that has the property of self-sustenance in the air—and the motive power is highly condensed electricity."

In the Houston Daily Post of April 25, 1897 was the report that the mysterious airship had broken down and was at the town of Kountze, Texas for repairs. It had been first seen by Captain H.A. Hooks and A.W. Hodges, "who are both responsible men."

In descending, the airship had punctured the "air department" and had to stay over several days for repairs. The ship was described as being 50 feet in length and about 20 feet wide, and shaped like a cigar.

Another item upon the subject of the mysterious airship was in the Post of May 2, 1897 which stated: "The airship appears to be a purely Western invention this time, and the East is taking no interest whatever in it. Possibly gentlemen who are out late in the East are simply too full to look up.", which is exactly the same esteem in which present scoffers are held by those who argue for the existence of UFOs.

It stands to reason though, that the scientists in 1897 could not explain the "lights" as easily as they can today, for today they can be explained-away as artificial satellites.

What better way for aliens from outer space to travel freely about the earth through our skies today without fear of interception or too close a scrutiny of their actions than for them to know that reports by witnesses will invariably be taken to be sightings of orbiting satellites. So they go undisturbed about their business, whatever that may be here on earth.

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"Structuralism" and the Interplanetary Theory ????

Read about it in the next issue of UFO MAGAZINE in December

A REPORT ON A RECENT TRIP TO INVESTIGATE AN AREA HIGH IN SAUCER

ACTIVITY

By Edward Biebel  
Associate Editor

On the night of July 21, 1967 at the Midwestern UFO Conference in Cleveland, Robert S. Easley of Defiance, Ohio related an account of a story told to Neal Deerling and himself by John A. Keel at the 1967 Congress in New York. Present when Bob retold the story were Allan Manak, Tom Nealings and myself.

John Keel, Bob related, had said that there was a UFO landing site in the Wayne National Forest. The UFOs, according to Keel, were landing there-not for a few minutes-but for several hours. Anyone investigating was supposed to stash his compass and any weapons upon sighting the object. A person was not to wear rubber soled shoes. According to either Keel or Bob Easley the area is supposedly full of snakes.

It was decided by Tom Nealings and myself that because we had already planned a camping trip with another friend for the weekend of August 4-6 we would go to Wayne National Forest and check out Keel's tale. Subsequently we found that Keel had flown over Wayne, but for some reason he did not want to go there on foot.

Bob also informed us that Neal Deerling and himself had planned to go to Wayne in early July, but for some reason that had never come off. Keel had been apprehensive about Deerling and Easley visiting the Forest.

During the conference all delegates were told of the plans, these included: UFO MAGAZINE Editors, Rick R. Hilberg and Janie L. Ransom; UFO MAGAZINE Associate Editor, Karl Gawell; Richard T. Lee of Akron; Allan J. Manak of UAPA; plus Kevin J. Collins of Detroit.

On Thursday July 27, after receiving information on Wayne National Forest from the U. S. Forest Service, Karl Gawell and I went to buy Geological Survey maps of the Wayne area. Karl and I picked the three areas in the Wayne Forest that we thought were the most likely to have had sightings or landings. One area had a large ridge and valley, another was near an Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) plant, and the last one appeared to be the most uninhabited.

We decided we should stay at the Tar Hollow State Park and forest which was closer to the area we wanted to search than the Wayne National Forest camping area near Ironton, Ohio, called Lake Vesuvius. The safety of the Tar Hollow State Park, where UFOs were hopefully not seen landing was also a consideration.

At 7 A.M. of Friday, August 4th we left Cleveland by Interstate U.S. 71 for Columbus, Ohio. We made good time and by 9:30 we were on U.S. 23 to Circleville, Ohio. At Circleville we took Ohio 56 to Adelphi, Ohio and then Ohio 327 to the Tar Hollow State Forest. By the time we picked our camp site and set up, it was after 1 P.M.

Tar Hollow State Forest is 207 miles south-southeast of Cleveland. The area contains camping, picnic areas, a lake for fishing and swimming plus lots of area for hiking and enjoying the forest. The nearest town of major size is Chillicothe, Ohio.

The Wayne National Forest covers 109,000 acres of southeastern Ohio. The majority of the Wayne area is for forest experiments and a great deal of the land seems to be privately owned.

After setting up camp we went to the first of the quadrangular areas to be searched. This area, given as Allensville on the map, stretches east from Eagle Mills to north of Allenville. It consists of small farms with cultivated areas and forested areas on private property. Unless the space people have taken over the area, they weren't landing on private property.

The three of us searched this area carefully by car and on foot. According to Karl Gawell this was the most likely area for landings. We walked over 13 miles and I have the blisters to prove it. Our results were negative.

We also went to the forest fire lookout tower in the Tar Hollow Forest, and although it was unoccupied and we could not get into the observation level, we did get an excellent view of the forest. I think this little investigation made us sleep better that night.

On Saturday the 5th, we searched the area adjacent to the AEC plant. This area was similar to the other we had searched the day before. Although it was more heavily populated than we had thought, I think that if there was UFO activity, this area would be the most likely. In the hills surrounding the AEC plant (which would be a likely thing for a UFO to observe) there were many high tension power lines. Some lines ran into the plant, others ran on parallel ridges. The power lines made Tom Nealings and myself think of Exeter, N.H. and the sightings around the power lines in that locale.

After searching the area we looked for a forest fire lookout tower that was in the vicinity. Although we weren't able to find it, I have since written to the tower to find out if someone there might have had any sightings.

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Two youngsters in Salem, Oregon claim they took this photo of a UFO on March 16th of this year.

Around And About The Saucer World

by Rick Hilberg

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The hoaxters are at it again friends! On September 4, 1967 the world was "treated" to another in the seemingly endless saucer hoax incidents. This one sprang up in England, where police and alarmed citizens ran across six fibreglass "saucers" each four feet in diameter that went "bleep-bleep."

Defense research experts were called in to solve the mystery of the disks which were found in areas from the North Sea to the Bristol Channel. While this "saucer alert" was on police officers kept newsmen from the scene, probably expecting huge creatures walking on stilts in the classic H. G. Wells tradition to walk out any moment and proceed to rape and plunder the countryside. The Air Ministry sent a helicopter in to airlift one back to a base for X-ray treatment.

When nervous officials finally cracked one open they found two car batteries, a radio transmitter of earthly origin, and a loud speaker soaked with a foul-smelling substance.

Two aeronautics students named Christopher Southall and Roger Palmer, both 22, took "credit" for the fiasco. They said they built the smelly bleepers to see what would happen if the real thing from Mars came along. Hats off to these two young representatives of today's youth!

Somebody up there must be laughing! This seems likely since a flight of four "somethings" were seen in the skies of southern England after the episode flashing red and green lights!

On another fiasco scene... We had planned to publish a photo taken at the recent Congress of Gray Barker and yours truly on the cover of this issue. However, the "official convention photographer" who took the snap has failed to send them, now three months after the convention. Neither has he answered any of our letters inquiring as to the progress in the darkroom. So, dear readers, please imagine a photo of Gray and I, and maybe our plans won't be completely wrecked.

May we ask you to please renew your subscriptions promptly. We have many interesting features planned for future issues!

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