

UFO MAGAZINE · NEWS BULLETIN

Issue 19

February, 1979

UFO MAGAZINE NEWS BULLETIN is published at 3403 West 119th Street Cleveland, Ohio 44111 on a bi-monthly basis. Subscription is \$2.00 for six issues. Robert S. Easley and Rick R. Hilberg, editors; Carol J. Hilberg, managing editor. This publication supports the aims of, and is a member of the National UFO Conference.

Update on the New Zealand Movie

by Robert S. Easley

Much has been written in recent weeks regarding the alleged filming of a UFO by David Fogarty and his film crew on 30 December, 1978 while flying in a four engine turboprop plane over Kaikoura, the eastern region of New Zealand. Interest in the film was so high that CBS television ran parts of it on its evening news program several days after being shot.

Bill Startup, veteran pilot of the plane carrying Fogarty and his assistants, described sighting "bright globules of light pulsating and expanding and lighting up the town of Kaikoura." In astonishment, those on board the plane watched as the objects came closer to them, and noticed that one of the UFOs was saucer-shaped with a dome on top, while another was egg-shaped with white lights around it. At one time the pilot and the movie crew reported sighting 25 UFOs surrounding the plane.

Air Traffic Control in Wellington confirmed picking up unknown objects on radar in the vicinity of Startup's plane, as many as ten at a time.

William Spaulding of Ground Saucer Watch obtained a copy of the film, and ran it through their computer enhancement equipment for analyzing the photographic images, which consisted of three steps:

1. Edge Enhancement - With enhancement fine lines representing delicate structures are magnified and made distinct.
2. Color Enhancement Profiling - Used to determine such data as the exact density of the object and its surrounding area, the average reflectivity of the object and foreground structures, the shape of the object and a relationship of its true size to its distance perspective.
3. Image Enhancement, Digitizing - For either a high resolution picture, or a true analytical review of the data points on the film.

Following the computer enhancement analysis, it is the opinion of Ground Saucer Watch that the photograph taken of an alleged UFO over

New Zealand is nothing more than a light reflection; probably coming from Japanese squid fishermen who at the time were using high intensity spotlights in the night time harvest of squid off the New Zealand coast.

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RECENT UFO SIGHTINGS

November 8, 1978 - near Greenfield, Indiana, about 9:00 P.M.

Cathy Wilfong, Cindy Bridges and their mother, Mrs. Joe Wilfong, told authorities that they saw a 100-foot-long UFO hovering near their home.

Long and thin, with a gray-greenish color and two very bright white lights and one red light, the object seemed to be divided into three sections. The witnesses also reported that the UFO had wings, and was described as being like an "inverted saucer." They also reported seeing something protruding from the object in the center section.

The witnesses heard no noise as the object hovered about 60 feet above the ground, and some 200 feet from the house. The UFO was in view approximately 12 minutes before slowly moving away.

The next morning the witnesses noticed a circle 44 feet in diameter in a soybean field near their home. Weeds surrounding the perfect circle were five feet high, but everything inside the circle was crushed down to within six inches of the ground.

Police who investigated the case believe that the object may have been a helicopter, but investigators from The Center for UFO Studies report that other persons in the area spotted similar objects at about the same time. Currently soil samples are being investigated.

January 4, 1979 - Winter Haven, Florida, about 4:00 A.M.

Police officer Ron Perdue reported seeing a bright, round object nearly the size of a house that hovered about 2000 feet above the ground for 2½ to 3 minutes. The object was about 150 feet in diameter and had a steady glow except for a bright red stripe through the center. The object was bright enough to faintly illuminate the ground directly beneath it.

After hovering silently, it rose straight up until it appeared to be about the size of a basketball, then began to move rapidly toward the southeast.

Police officer David May also reported seeing a large bright light in the sky at about the same time. The police department also reported that twelve civilians also called in to report spotting what must have been the same object.

January 4, 1979 - Nashville, Tennessee, about 4:00 A.M.

Police officer Mike Smith reported sighting two circular UFOs

hovering about 5000 feet above the western part of the city. The objects had red, blue, green, yellow and white lights. Upon spotting the objects, Smith called on his police radio for backup units to confirm his sighting. Within minutes of his call, 14 other police officers arrived on the scene to observe the strange UFO.

Metro Nashville Airport officials have stated that there were no planes or weather balloons in the area at the time of the sighting.

Sgt. Doug Johnson, police department helicopter pilot, said that he has never seen any aircraft like the UFOs. He reported that the objects hovered over the city for 45 minutes and then disappeared over the western horizon.

January 6, 1979 - Mamaroneck, New York, 6:49 P.M.

Edgemont High School wrestling coach Vincent Wynds and two of his players, Cliff Mellman and Doug Bumgarten, reported sighting a UFO hovering briefly over the Hommock High School before speeding off towards New York City. Coach Wynds stated that there were two airplanes in the area at the time, and that it appeared that the aircraft were pursuing the UFO.

The mysterious object was described as being a transparent triangular configuration with brilliant red, green and yellow lights at the three corners.

During the time of observation the witnesses reported that the UFO became transparent for a few moments, only to reappear as a pentagon-shaped object marked with numerous yellow and orange lights.

January 15, 1979 - Charlotte, North Carolina, about 4:30 A.M.

Four sheriff's deputies saw a mysterious light which led to a 10-mile chase down U.S. Route 321 to the Catawba County Line, where the light appeared to lift suddenly and disappear.

Two Caldwell County deputies, Ron Simmons and Phil Hubbard, saw a big white light in the sky. It was three to four times higher than a tall tree, and seemed to hang in the sky some four miles from their position. The light appeared to dim, and then get brighter, as well as to flicker red and green at times.

They called on their radio to Hudson police officer Dewey Haynes, and told him of the UFO.

THE UFO EXAMINER

The reality of the UFO phenomenon can no longer be doubted!!! Read about the following in the pages of the EXAMINER:



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He observed the object, and said that it appeared to be heading toward the south.

The three officers decided to chase the object, at which time they were joined by officer Dennis Benfield. After the ten mile chase the UFO lowered itself to tree-top level, hovered for a minute, and then shot straight up into the sky and disappeared.

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Around And About The Saucer World
by Rick R. Hilberg

A month or so ago, Bob Easley dropped by my house to show me some of the printed material that he had just received from an outfit called Samisdad Publishers in Toronto. Among the price lists for various crackpot Nazi-oriented books and tapes was a flyer promoting an expedition Samisdad was planning to the hollow earth this coming year. And while I've heard of several such enterprising ventures proposed throughout the years, I must admit that this one was really the granddaddy of them all! For the paltry sum of just \$9999.00 (and filling out a coupon telling of your "ethnic origin"- heaven forbid that non-Aryans might want to partake of this exciting offer) you too could be on hand when Hitler's secret flying saucer bases are discovered at the South Pole!

Needless to say, Bob and I really had a chuckle at this one, although we both had to agree that in recent years the field of Ufology had seen a number of such crackpot organizations spring up and try to sell all sorts of counterproductive and sometimes dangerous crap. However, most people who have an interest in the subject wisely stay away from outfits such as Samisdad and their racist propaganda.

It might have been easy at that point to forget about the whole thing and go on to more serious business matters, but something struck us as odd. On the envelope Bob received there appeared to be another mailing label under Bob's, so out of curiosity we carefully peeled his label off to see the lucky soul that had been spared having to file Samisdad's "literature" in the old dumper. We were both shocked to find that under Bob's label was a NICAP mailing label!

Now, maybe ten years ago when NICAP was a viable force in the UFO movement - it appears to be no more than a pitiful shell of its former self now - this may have been a discovery of some importance. The fact that a major UFO organization would sell its mailing list to such a lunatic group for a few quick bucks, would probably cause many of its members to reconsider when it was time to renew their membership. However, as we stated, NICAP is currently at its lowest ebb, and probably won't last to see the next decade. But still, it really has to speak for the current keepers of the once great NICAP torch, because it is indeed a very serious breach of judgement to sell the names of members to a bunch of hate mongers.

Needless to say, we've kept the envelope and have it on file as proof, and would like to hear what the current NICAP staff has to say about the matter. Ufology is confusing enough without a dangerous brand of hate being stirred into it.