

UFO POTPOURRI

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'Like a Big Old Cigar' UFO Is Reported In La Porte Area

Four men reported seeing an unidentified flying object that looked "like a big old cigar" as it drifted over the La-Porte area Sunday morning.

"It was so darn big, it looked like it could have been 10 feet in diameter and 150 feet long," said Roy Pentecost, 57, of 5718 Grace Lane, Houston. He said the object flew upright, or perpendicular to the ground.

"IT LOOKED like a big old cigar up there with tapered fins at the bottom," Pentecost said.

"It seemed like it was drifting along, kind of easy like," at about 15,000 feet, he said. He estimated the object's speed at 100 MPH.

The men sighted the object shortly before 9 AM as they were at the Anchor Boat Works at Morgan's Point Pentecost said they had watched the object for about 20 minutes, with all of them viewing it through 50-power binoculars.

"While it was going over, we all just stood there with our mouths open," said Pentecost, a fishing boat skipper.

THE OTHER MEN who sighted the object were Louis Fontenot, 49, port captain at the Anchor Boat Works, John Boyd of La Porte, a ship fitter at the boat yard, and Al Cooling of La Porte, who was first to spot the object.

Pentecost said he notified Ellington Air Force base of the unidentified object. After he telephoned in the report, Pentecost said, a jet fighter came into view and appeared to be following the object's path.

The UFO was about 20 miles south of the men when it was first seen, he said. It moved in a northerly direction until it disappeared from sight, Pentecost said.

Silent and Flying Low

Strange Blob of Light Startles 5 Observers

A blob of light, more or less segmented, was seen to pass over the Houston area from east to west at a rather low altitude between 6:15 and 6:20 AM Saturday.

Five observers who saw it from widely separated locations reported it made no sound, was not an airplane, and could be described only as an unidentified flying object (UFO).

Dr E. L. Slataper, 3702 Turnberry Circle, was driving east on Turnberry Circle and looking toward the Shamrock Hilton when he saw "a big blob of light" moving west, north of the Shamrock.

RIGHT BEHIND the blob of light, he said, were what looked at first like cabin windows of an airplane. But as it moved westward, to the north of him, Dr Slataper said he saw that the "intermittent gray areas" could not be cabin windows; and the flying object was silent.

When Dr Slataper arrived at the Twelve Oaks Hospital, he found that a nurse, Mrs Lil Mather, had seen the object from Hillcroft and Beechnut.

A safety inspector for Shell Oil, H. M. Hancock of 1216

Dunstan, was driving north on Strawberry Road in Pasadena when he saw it pass along the sky in front of him.

"**THAT THING** rattled me good and I'm hard to rattle," he said.

He thought at first it was the cabin lights of a jetliner. But it was too low, too silent. Neither was it a meteorite, he decided.

Mrs B. M. Miller went into the backyard of her home at 3807 Walker and saw "such a bright light coming toward me, up about as high as a plane would fly if it were flying low."

She described it as long, like a cigar, and having lighted streaks trailing off at the sides and behind it. It came from the east and went over the downtown area.

Milton Russell of 1121 Tra-week went out to get his paper and saw "three of the craziest objects I ever saw in my life."

He said two objects were close together, one slightly in front of the other, with the third some 40 or 50 feet behind them. He described them as "balls of greenish light" traveling from east to west at low altitude.

Planetarium Director's Opinion:

UFOs May Be Meteor Fireballs

A bright object seen by scores of Houstonians early Saturday was probably a meteor fireball.

That's the opinion of Armand Yramategui, director of the Burke Baker Planetarium of the Houston Museum of Natural Science in Hermann Park.

THE OBJECT was seen in the northern sky moving east to west at 6:16 AM Saturday.

The object, or objects, was seen as far north as southeast Oklahoma, the Associated Press reported.

"I'm beginning to think more and more that it was a meteor fireball," Yramategui said Monday night. He explained that a fireball is any meteor that is brighter than the brightest star (Sirius) or

the planet Venus.

YRAMATEGUI said a fireball just a few feet in diameter could be seen for hundreds of miles because the "area of glow is many times the actual diameter of the body itself."

He said the average meteor is usually less than three or four feet in diameter.

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Hit by Glowing Ball

UFO, Auto Have First Meeting on Overpass

BY ARTHUR BYRD
Chronicle Reporter

An Unidentified Flying Object and a car collided on an overpass near Baytown Tuesday night.

It was Earth's first recorded collision between the two. It is a miracle it hasn't happened before, since so many of both are cluttering the air and the roads these days.

Three in Auto

Miss Donella Banning, 20, of Dayton, a Baytown hairdresser, and her mother, Mrs. Doyle Harvard, 49, were driving Debbie Carrico, 10, daughter of Miss Banning's employer, home about 8 p.m.

As they crossed over the Wade Rd. overpass on Interstate 10, little Debbie screamed:

"Look, there's a glowing ball heading for us."

The two women caught a fleeting glimpse of something.

Air Forces says it has an open mind on UFO sightings and isn't trying to squelch reported sightings. Page 12.

Then smack! Something hit the roof of their car, shook it and, they thought, blew up.

There were no other cars near.

Miss Banning drove off the overpass and stopped.

On the roof of her car were two dents in the red painted metal. The paint had been scraped off. The dents were about five inches in diameter and about 15 inches apart.

No UFO Around

The marks were there for all to see. But the UFO had vanished.

Whatever it was, the two women say they saw something resembling a dark ball hurtling

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UFO, Auto Collide At Baytown

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toward them. Neither mentioned any fire or sparks.

"It all happened so fast," the hairdresser told Deputy Sheriff R. A. Kinsey, "I don't know what to think. I know there were no other cars in front or behind me."

Kinsey was dispatched at 8:02 p.m. to investigate.

The deputy looked around and under the overpass but found no trace of a UFO.

No Green Men

"Didn't see any little green men around here, did you?" he asked the 20-odd goggle-eyed people who rushed out of their houses at the sound of what seemed to be an explosion.

None had.

"I'm sure," Kinsey assured, "there is a natural explanation for this."

Debbie is just as sure it was a ball of fire trailing red and yellow sparks. She is a third-grader, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Carrico of 110 Oakland St., Baytown, who operate a beauty parlor next door to their home.

"I just don't know what it was," stammered Miss Banning.

Dents Still There

Anyway, the dents are in her car top.

And Houston police got a call from an unidentified woman at 8 p.m. saying there was a UFO in the sky.

And Kinsey noted that his call to investigate the UFO-car wreck was at 8:02 p.m.

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Object Lands Near Pecos, Farmer Says

Pecos (UPI)—Police got a call early today from a farmer who told of seeing an unidentified object land near a roadside park off U.S. 285, a mile north of Pecos.

The man, who declined to identify himself "because my neighbors will think I am crazy," said the object was 85 to 100 feet wide and 25 feet high.

He said it had lights at the top and bottom and they shone for five minutes, then it rose.

They Saw an Object

Boulder, Colo. (UPI)—Boulder County Sheriff deputies, police officers and numerous residents said they watched a mysterious red glowing object for an hour and a half early today northwest of the city.

Houston Chronicle 10/7/66

Police Report Light Moving Across Sky

Deputy sheriffs in three separate sections of Houston and officers of the Spring Valley police department reported seeing a slow moving light high over Southeast Houston early today.

Lt. Danny Brock, one who saw the strange light, said the object moved slowly back and forth and the coloring of the light changed from red to white to green. He estimated it was at an altitude between 3000 and 5000 feet.

Armand Yramategui, director of the Burke Baker Planetarium, searched the southeastern sky over Houston with powerful glasses but said he was unable after daybreak to find the object reported by the officers. He said they might have been seeing the planet Venus, which was in that position in the sky.

Yramategui said that Venus, viewed through binoculars, reflects changing light colors, usually red to white to blue. He said the heavens were unusually clear this morning.

Airport officials said no unidentified objects had appeared on radar there.

Deputies George Wilson, Joe Yates, Guy Miller, Roy Skinner and Marvin Zindler reported seeing the object. Brock said he first saw the object at 5 a.m.

It disappeared with daylight, Brock said

Rash of UFO's In South Texas

Corpus Christi, (AP) — A reported rash of sighting of unidentified bright objects west of Beeville, west of Alice and southwest of Corpus Christi flooded police switchboards with calls from people who wanted to know what they were.

The Naval Air Stations here also reported numerous calls.

Houston Chronicle

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