

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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August - September 1972

AIRLINE PILOTS REPORTS TOP FANTASTIC WORLDWIDE SIGHTINGS

A UFO that paced an airliner; another that terrorized a family while they were camping; an object that forced a truck off a road and another that paced a truck for about 50 miles, "broke into segments, wandered around the sky, and then fused together again"; and others that caused physiological effects, animal reactions, landed and emitted sounds, are some characteristics of a fantastic international roundup of sighting reports from five states and four foreign countries. There was even a UFO that was reportedly photographed and pieces of a "saucer" that were found in a witness' yard after an explosion allegedly ripped it apart. Witnesses include airline pilots, a glider pilot, Air Force (AF) personnel, a police constable and a newspaper man.

Airline pilots flying over South Africa reported three different sightings of UFOs in early July, according to the July 9, 1972, edition of the *Sunday Express*.

During the first week in July, at approximately 8:45 p.m., Chester Chandler, a South African Airways captain, was piloting his Boeing 727 over the Durban area when he and his crew, including Graham Smith, senior flight officer, and G. Koekemoer, flight engineer, saw a UFO.

"It paced the plane for a while before veering off to the southwest and while this was happening -- at a height of 2,743 meters -- we gave ground control at Durban a running commentary on the object's moves," the pilot stated.

The plane was flying at 250 knots and was preparing its landing descent when the sighting occurred.

"The shape of the UFO was indistinct," Capt. Chandler continued. "It was a bright light which ground control assured us was not emanating from any aircraft they knew of. They also checked with the South African Air Force and with other authorities, but drew a negative reply. Ground control was very excited about the object as it is their responsibility to see that nothing is in our flight path. The crew and I checked the flight of the object against the stars and against lights on the ground, and came to the conclusion that it was not a star or aircraft."

A few days earlier, Capt. Chandler spotted an object during a flight to Capetown. It sped across the sky from north to south, but "didn't come anywhere near the aircraft."

On July 5, another South African Airways Boeing 727 crew saw a brown UFO that flew under the plane during a flight to Capetown. Ground control personnel there reported no aircraft in the area.

During the same time period, "dozens of Johannesburg families" saw an orange, glowing object cross the sky "at tremendous speed."

UFOs also appeared in the skies over England during May and June.

Objects Land in Park

On the evening of June 13, Shirley Devereux and her parents saw a number of objects land in Richmond Park, Surrey, England, stated the *Surrey Comet*, June 17, 1972.

"I was looking out over Richmond Park when I saw the first one -- that was at about 10 p.m....," Miss Devereux explained. "It was a conglomeration of lights. It

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hovered over the park, about 30 feet above the ground, and then moved across the park until it stopped near the priory. Then it just disappeared."

For the next two hours or so a number of other objects with bright orange lights converged on the same spot. Miss Devereux was watching through binoculars and said she discerned "a distinct flying saucer shape."

Two nights earlier, at 11:45 p.m., Police Constable Harris was walking with his father-in-law near Glynogwr Mountain, near Bridgend, England, when they saw a cigar-shaped object about

30 feet long with a blue light at both ends, stated the June 16, 1972, edition of the Bridgend and District *Glamorgan Gazette*. It was about 40 feet above the mountain top and traveled to the south. A nearby farmer was awakened at about the same time "and found his sheep in a distressed state," according to a police official.

Shortly after 10:30 p.m., June 8, numerous Wingate, England, residents saw a bright object "like an electric light bulb" with "a terrific noise" emanating from it, stated the June 9, 1972, edition of the *Northern Daily Mail*.

James Anderson was one of the witnesses.

"[The UFO] seemed to fly along," he stated, "then it stopped for two or three seconds, and then it shot up vertically at great speed. I've never believed in flying saucers... before, but now I don't know. My wife, Rita, who was in the car with me, was terrified."

One observer at Peterlee said the object "was very loud, and my dog went mad." Another motorist was Richard Roberts, who said the UFO "seemed to hover for a few seconds and then it did a vertical climb. It had a hell of a rumble with it..."

"It was like a brilliant spinning light, with a center and a sort of flare around it," Roberts said. "It disappeared upwards in a flash, and must have been traveling faster than sound."

Newspaperman Spots UFO

Leon Symons, a journalist who writes for such papers as the *Epping Express and Independent*, had just arrived home in Forest Gate, England, at about 10 p.m., May 17, when he saw a very bright yellow object, according to the *Newham and Eastham (England) Recorder*, May 25, 1972.

"It made slow progress...", the witness remarked, "but its movements were very erratic, as though it were describing a graph, moving up and then down."

The UFO then banked and "accelerated from a leisurely pace to a great speed and climbed out of sight."

Australian observers also had a few spring sightings.

A glider pilot, who wishes to remain anonymous, had just completed an afternoon of flying at the Wagga Gliding Club at Downside, New South Wales, Australia, June 12, when he and some friends saw a blue UFO that was reflecting light off a metal surface, stated the *Wagga Advertiser*, June 13, 1972. A woman at nearby Junee reported seeing an object earlier that day.

Earlier in the month, at nearby Wagga, John Campbell, a farmer, said he saw a "flying saucer" while he was milking cows, stated the June 5, 1972, edition of the *Canberra, Australia, News*. It was approximately 7:10 a.m., June 5. The saucer had a fiery tail and was "silvery." Mrs. Campbell also saw it and said "it veered from left to right several times and [moved] up and down."

At about the same time a family at nearby Coolaman saw apparently the same UFO, stated the June 6, 1972, edition of the *Advertiser*. It reportedly hovered for 15 minutes.

Canadian residents also had their share of spring encounters with UFOs.

Object Paces Truck

Joe Anderson, Andy Dufrene and Bob Ashmead were traveling in their truck five miles south of Paddle Prairie, Alberta, Canada, at 3 a.m., May 26, when they saw a UFO with tail pipes above the trees, according to the June 7, 1972, edition of the *Peace River (Canada) Record-Gazette*. The object paced their truck for about 50 miles, "at one time broke into segments, wandered around in the sky, and then fused together again." It also glided from the left to the right of the road, "then back to left again."

Between 7 and 7:30 p.m., April 24, a Willow Point, British Columbia, Canada, man snapped seven photographs of an object as it hovered over Quadra Island, according to the May 3, 1972, edition of the *Campbell River, B.C., Upper Islander*, and the June 14, 1972, edition of the *B.C. Salmon Arm Observer*. The man said the disc remained stationary for about 15 minutes, "spinning round and round like a top." The object looked "like dirty chrome" and "lights flashed off and on around its rim" in "random sequence."

"After a bit," the observer stated, "it sort of shuddered, then tilted and sped straight up for maybe a thousand feet. It leveled off, then took off in a zig-zag course toward the north at a fantastic speed."

Canadian officials were reportedly examining the photographs.

On the evening of April 18, four witnesses saw a UFO emitting bright red lights hover over the Campbell River Junior Secondary School. The UFO "shot off into the dark," stated the April 19, 1972, edition of *The Upper Islander*.

The U.S. also has had its share of recent, fantastic reports. One of the more startling comes from California.

UFO Terrorizes Family

For several hours, commencing at 11:30 p.m., June 17, AF personnel and a host of other witnesses saw an object that changed color from blue-white to orange-yellow in the vicinity of George AF Base.

One of the witnesses, Darrell Totten, also investigated the bizarre incident and reported it in the July 1, 1972, edition of the *San Bernardino, Calif., Sun*.

According to Totten, a family of four was terrorized by the UFO as they were camping. It hovered over the campsite for more than three hours, buzzing and badly frightening the witnesses. At times, "the two little girls would cover their ears and throw themselves at their mother's feet."

Two airmen, Gary Corley and Randolph Wagon, also saw it at about 1 a.m., June 18, at George AF Base. They estimated it to be a gigantic 375 feet in diameter and said it disappeared below a building.

One witness, according to Totten, said he had been told by AF personnel that the "thing" he had seen was a top-secret vehicle and should not be mentioned to anyone.

Perhaps the most fantastic incident of all was reported from south of Leeds, Alabama.

It was 9 a.m., June 16. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor reportedly saw a saucer explode and land in fragments in their yard, stated the June 22, 1972, edition of the *Birmingham, Ala., News*.

"My wife heard this loud explosion and looked up over the back yard and saw the thing coming down," Taylor related.

The object was about six feet in diameter, apparently metallic "with a hard coating of what appears to be white enamel."

"The underside of the top half is lined with fiberglass and appears to have contained a series of concentric rings tunneling through insulation material," the paper stated. "The saucer also contains a tail fin and an exhaust port."

(Editor's note: We are reporting this case as is, though we are skeptical of its authenticity. If any of our readers have any further information, we would greatly appreciate receiving it).

Policeman and Others See "Recurring" UFO

Since February, the small town of Dighton, Kansas, has apparently been visited by a "round, red-orange and white light, bright as a cluster of lights on a football field," according to a UPI wire story dated July 17, 1972. The chief of police, M.R. Shelton, several of his officers and others stated it usually hovers 300 to 500 feet in the air.

Chief Shelton said the UFO remains stationary until one patrol car radios another about it. Then it begins to move away.

"Every time we transmit, it moves," Shelton said.

Shelton also related that, about two months ago, he chased it at speeds up to 100 m.p.h. It ran parallel to his car "or slightly ahead of it."

On the evening of July 14, at about 11 p.m., Sharlene Yocum, Mrs. Jo Ann Bandonis, and Laura Bandonis saw a UFO with clusters of red and white lights over Corvallis, Ore., stated the July 20, 1972, edition of the Corvallis *Benton County Herald*. The UFO hovered "over our house," then its light got brighter and it "shot straight up until it was out of sight."

"It was going at a real fast rate when it shot up," Miss Yocum related.

At about 11:40 p.m., June 30, Mrs. Edith Ross and Mrs. Ethel L. Moots were at a drive-in theater in Chesapeake, Va., when they saw a "lighted ferris wheel" in the sky, stated the Norfolk, Va., *Ledger-Star*, July 1, 1972. The object hovered, then moved and returned to its original spot. It hovered again, then disappeared "real fast."

Between 5:30 and 6 a.m., June 21, witnesses saw a UFO over the Gulf of Mexico near Turtle Beach, Fla., according to the June 21, 1972, edition of the *Sarasota (Fla.) Journal*. The observers reported an orange, cigar-shaped object moving erratically across the western horizon.

TRAIN CREW OBSERVES MANEUVERING OBJECTS

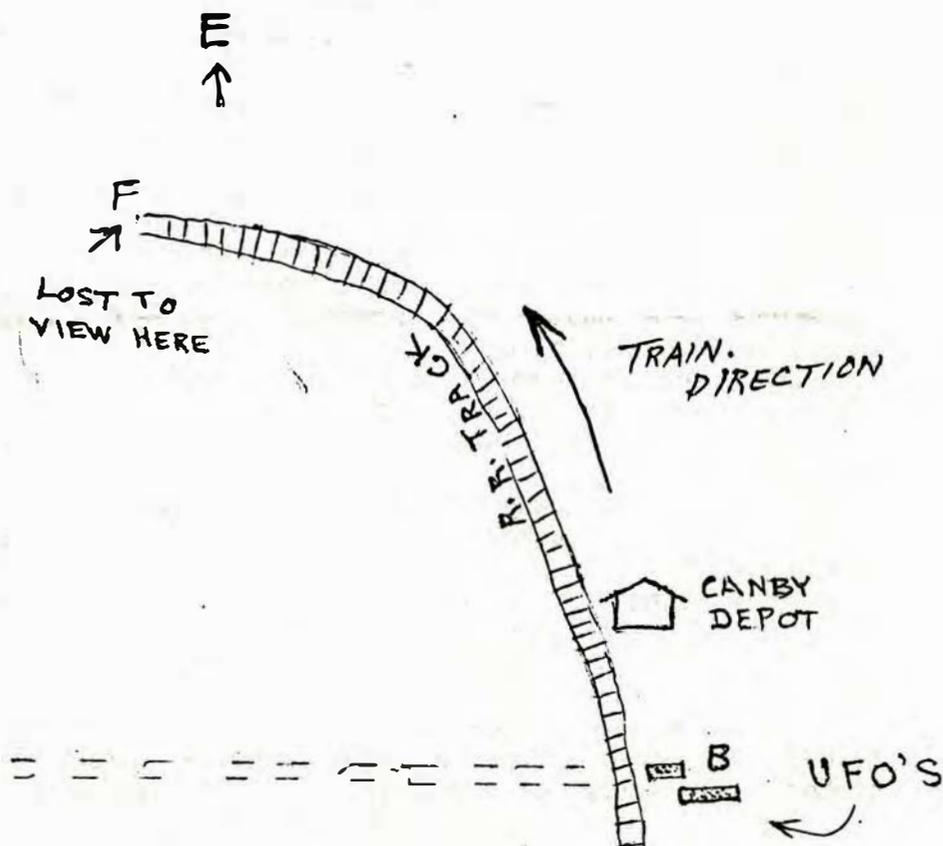
Two UFOs that "made a side-wise leap in space," then "'jumped' back to their original position" were seen by the crew of a Southern Pacific freight train near Canby, Calif., at about 4:45 a.m., in May, 1954.

Melvin Carmichael, fireman, Glenn Head, brakeman, S.P. Oliver, engineer, another brakeman and a crew member were descending a long grade when they observed two large stationary lights in the sky. (See sketch of objects' direction at right).

"By God, they're flying saucers," Oliver remarked.

In a letter to a UFO investigator, Carmichael said the objects "appeared to be shaped like fat cigars, only slightly tapered at the ends, which were rounded."

"They appeared to be about two miles ahead of us," Carmichael wrote, "about 1,200 feet above the ground. The larger of the two lights appeared to be about the same



length as the diameter of the full moon. Other light was approximately half that size. Lights were white with a row of seven orange colored 'windows' across the bottom, with another row of three or four above them."

Then the larger UFO "made a sidewise leap in space, to a point about 20 miles to the left of their original location." The second object followed "a split second" later. Five or six seconds later, they "'jumped' back to their original location."

The train approached the UFOs and passed underneath them. Then they were cut from view by a large hill east of Canby.

"...The lights maintained the same relative position to each other," the fireman stated. "When I first saw them the smaller light was roughly 200 feet above the larger and slightly to the left. After they had made their sidewise move and returned to the same place, their relative positions were the same."

ENQUIRER UFO PANEL ACTIVITIES FORGE AHEAD

By Dr. Robert F. Creegan

[Dr. Creegan is a philosophy professor at the State University of New York at Albany and a member of the National Enquirer's distinguished UFO scientific panel (see UFO Research Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 12, p. 7, and Vol. II, No. 1, p. 6, No. 2, p. 5, No. 3, p. 8, and No. 4, p. 8). In this exclusive article, Dr. Creegan brings us up to date on the panel's activities. The paper is offering \$50,000 to anyone who can prove that UFOs are extraterrestrial and/or \$5,000 to the individual submitting the best evidence. Claimants have until January 1, 1973, to submit their reports to UFO Reward, The National Enquirer, 600 South East Coast Ave., Lantana, Fla. 33462]

As a result of heavy correspondence and a transcontinental telephone conference on July 26, 1972, the joint activities of the *Enquirer* scientific panel and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) are swinging into high gear. Journalists are seeking additional information about half a dozen well documented sightings which were selected for such study by the panel. Scientists in San Diego and Seattle have provided instrument packages for field studies which should have commenced by mid-August in the Pacific northwest. These will involve attempts at triangulation of positions, studies of light diffraction and possible polarization, attempts to detect ultra-sound, and use of magnetic variometers. Additional instrumentation will be mobilized if preliminary efforts seem to justify it. James Lorenzen, head of APRO, and Dr. J. Allen Hynek, panel member, have been responsible for coordinating the initial efforts.

Richard Greenwell, assistant director of APRO, is among those whom the panel wishes to send to Central America, where it is alleged that strange "aviones" from space are involved in concealed mining operations. Action on that front should commence by September 1.

The panel has asked Robert Creegan to question some people in Canada, and while in Ottawa to examine recent entries in the UFO files of the Upper Atmosphere Division of the National Research Council.

A sighting in Southern California involving still and motion pictures is known to the panel and to APRO headquarters, but elements of confidentiality make study difficult, pending work by local groups who obtained the original data. Consultations are being held, and cross-examination of the testimony may become possible soon.

FAWCETT REVEALS STARTLING ARRAY OF N.C. REPORTS

George D. Fawcett (607 North Main St., Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030) has revealed a startling array of UFO sighting reports from his state of North Carolina since 1944. Characteristics include physiological and electro-magnetic (E-M) effects; physical evidence; occupants; animal reactions; photographs; objects that landed, frightened

witnesses, emitted sounds and light beams, apparently left behind high levels of radiation, and paced planes, automobiles, trucks and boats. There was even a report of a UFO that hit a chimney of a home, then landed in the yard and another that apparently caused a dog to disappear.

- July, 1944. Charlotte. Joanne Broome, Susie Carter, Lola Helms, Marion Carter. Witnesses saw five objects with domes. They were about 20 feet in diameter each, silver-colored and had blue-green haloes. The UFOs hovered, then shot "straight up in the sky."

- April or May, 1948. 3 a.m. Greensboro. Jerry A. Manuel, an employment counselor, reported seeing three domed saucers at 80 to 100 feet altitude. They had "vents on their undersides, which were rotating counter-clockwise above power lines..." They were estimated at 25-30 feet in diameter and emitted a humming sound.

- December 29, 1949. Near Hamlet. Pilots, weather bureau observers and others saw a UFO 20-30 feet in diameter. Four aircraft reportedly chased it.

- September, 1951. Dusk. Red Springs. Sam Coley, his son and daughter sighted a UFO "like two saucers put together with a cabin-like bulge in its center." It was approximately six feet off the ground. The observers said they saw a humanoid-like occupant through one of the object's windows. The UFO gave off a "purring sound" and took off "like a bolt of lightning."

UFO With Occupant Lands

- April 27, 1952. Lumberton. Businessman James Allen claimed that a saucer about 10 feet wide and six feet high "hit his house chimney and then landed in his yard." An occupant about three feet tall emerged from the object, then returned to it and the UFO took off with "an intense whistling sound."

- October 13, 1952. 4:30 p.m. Mt. Airy. Wallace Shelton, a football coach, and members of his team observed a huge white object emitting a sound descend, stop, and hover for 15 minutes.

- March 2, 1953. Troy. D.D. Lemons and his two children saw a black object "the shape of a large wash pot" fly over a bridge. The witnesses were "so terrified that their bodies shook and trembled with fear."

- Summer, 1954. 8:30 p.m. Mt. Airy. H.A. Hair, Robert Ashby, J.S. McMillan and Donald C. Rector. Witnesses said they saw a large, cigar-shaped UFO "bigger than an automobile" that was reddish-orange and made a "swooshing noise."

- January 19, 1962. 11:15 a.m. Mt. Airy. Harry Epperson, Bill Bowman, George Calloway, Alice Lockhart and "dozens" of other observers witnessed a "very large," white, extremely bright, round object land. They reported seeing "what looked like a man at the bottom of the mystery object."

"Largest UFO Sighted"

- February 7, 1964. Albemarle. A large, silver UFO "twice the size of a B-52 bomber," described by Fawcett as the largest seen in the state over the past 25 years, was observed in the northwest.

- August 18, 1965. Approximately 5 a.m. Near Thomasville. Gilbert Breedlove said he saw a metallic, cigar-shaped object with purple lights and a four-foot square on its bottom that "constantly illuminated an area about 15 feet in diameter." The UFO was at about 100 feet altitude and emitted "sounds similar to a sewing machine." It was approximately 75-100 feet long, 8-10 feet wide and 10 feet high. There was a large window on its port side. After hovering, it "suddenly headed north at a fantastic speed and was out of sight in less than 10 seconds," stated the August 19, 1965, edition of the Winston-Salem, N.C., *Twin City Sentinel*.

- August 19, 1965. 3 a.m. Near Mt. Airy. Mrs. T.E. Schumaker was awakened by a noise "like a steady buzzing" that caused the house to vibrate. She saw a cigar-shaped UFO with a revolving yellow light rise above a tree, turn sharply left, then

hover near some other trees, "throwing the leaves to the ground in a semi-circle beside the home." A "12-foot circle surrounded by a six-inch ring" was found on the ground. There was an "above normal" radiation count; a large hole was discovered in the roof of the house; and "leaves on nearby trees also appeared disheveled." Preceding the object's takeoff, Mrs. Schumaker experienced an "immobilizing power." She could neither "move or speak." She also had "headaches" the next day.

- September 21, 1965. About 12:45 a.m. Austin. Mrs. Mabel Absher was frightened by an "awful racket, and the bedroom was completely lit up." She saw an object "in two parts, both of them round," according to the September 25, 1965, edition of the *Winston-Salem Journal*. It was hovering at a low altitude and emitted a "zooming noise."

Campers See Object Land

- June 18, 1966. Evening. Mount Mitchell. Four campers watched a UFO "with three flashing red lights" land approximately 600 feet away. The bell-shaped object departed at dawn. AF investigators found "broken trees and other ground traces."

- July 27, 1966. Winston-Salem, Greensboro, High Point, Asheville and Ransour. Art Richardson, chief photographer for the *High Point Enterprise*, police officers and others observed a bright, mysterious flying object with "two antennae-like protrusions" maneuver overhead. Richardson snapped three photographs of it.

- March 3, 1967. 8:30 p.m. Mt. Airy. Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Andrews, Pat Andrews, Bob Andrews, Mrs. Garnett Steele and others. Objects with rotating bottoms and "square windows" were seen. They were about 60 feet wide and 20 feet high. Andrews took two photographs "before they moved away in a straight line formation."

- April 8, 1967. Nanner Elk. Rod Kittrell, Eldie McGowan, Ken Davis and Mary Cassey saw a UFO emitting "a greenish fluorescent glow on the ground." Their car motor and radio ceased functioning. The witnesses were "panic stricken" as the object moved toward the automobile, then "veered away suddenly and disappeared in a valley." The next morning "three circular imprints about six inches in diameter" were found on the ground.

- December 24, 1967. 6 p.m. Mt. Airy. Teresa Ann and Linda Lee Dobson reported seeing an oval-shaped UFO with a dome and red and yellow lights hover just above the ground. The girls were badly frightened as the object took off and disappeared to the southwest. It was described as "larger than a car."

Craft Creates Multiple Effects

- July or August, 1968. 2:30 a.m. Mt. Airy. Mrs. "X" saw a UFO with a dome and "windows" that frightened her dog and emitted a sound "like a swarm of bees." She saw a humanoid "like a small child" through one of the windows. The witness suffered insomnia, headaches and eye trouble after the sighting. Also, three electric clocks ran an hour slower than her battery-operated timepiece.

- August 1, 1968. Kings Mountain. A UFO "shaped like a domed disc" was seen and photographed by Daniel Shuttles. The object sounded "like a jet roar" and flew from west to east.

- Spring, 1970. Yadkin River. A birdwatcher took a photograph of a saucer "with a turret on top." It was about 30 feet in the air and rising in the sky.

- February 8, 1972. Charlotte. An unidentified man reported seeing a UFO shoot a "searchlight-like beam" onto a dog. The animal "mysteriously disappeared."

- February 25, 1972. 7 p.m. Mt. Airy. Danny Lee Forest saw a round object with a small dome "that appeared to be around 25 feet long and 12 feet high" and carried red and white lights. It emitted a "faint smell of gunpowder." Forest said he felt a "wave of heat" from the UFO and he started shaking. The object disappeared to the north.

We ask that subscribers and readers please send us any UFO reports, new or old. Thank you.

NOTES

- Enclosed is an information sheet with a coupon for subscribing to *UFO Research Newsletter*. We ask that you pass it along to anyone who may be interested. Thank you.
- If you are moving, please remember to send us your change of address.
- Many interested persons are unable to find Dr. J. Allen Hynek's book, *The UFO Experience*, in their local bookstores. Copies may be ordered from UFORI, P.O. Box 941, Lawndale, Calif. 90260, at \$7.25 each.
- There is an excellent newspaper clipping service available at only \$4.00 per month. Contact Rod Dyke, Director, UFO Research Committee, 3521 S.W. 104th, Seattle, Wash. 98146.

SIGHTING CAPSULES

The following sighting reports have also come to UFOR's attention:

- March 14, 1972. Evening. Seaside, Ore. Laslo Horecny witnessed a strange display of blue and yellow streaks that "looked like the Fourth of July" and had a "strange sound" associated with it, according to the *Seaside Signal*, March 16, 1972.
- March 24-25, 1972. 8 p.m. and 11:15 p.m., respectively. Lake Pedder, Tasmania, Australia. Jim Lardy, a high school teacher, and 30 of his students saw an object rise over a peak, hover and disappear, stated the March 28, 1972, edition of the Hobart, Tasmania, *Mercury*. During its second appearance, "it changed colors -- red, green, and yellow," hovered, then moved behind the peak.
- March 27, 1972. About 8 p.m. Belleville, Ontario, Canada. Observers spotted two large, bright lights near Zwick's Island, stated the March 30, 1972, edition of *The (Belleville) Intelligencer*. An hour later, the witnesses saw the lights again, then for a third time, when they gradually faded and disappeared. (Possible explanation: planetary illusions).
- March 29, 1972. Approximately 10:10 p.m. Roseburg, Ore. Witnesses saw a bright white object emitting rays of light hovering over Mt. Nebo for 35 minutes, according to the *Roseburg News-Review*, March 30, 1972.
- On or about April 1, 1972. Waltham Forest, England. Sidney Gaskin said he observed a "ball of fire" that burned itself out, leaving "only a piece of wire," according to the *Leyton and Waltham Forest Guardian*, April 14, 1972. (Probable explanation: hoax balloon).
- April 3, 1972. About 12:30 a.m. Queenstown, New Zealand. Mrs. Donna Scheib and "about eight other people" saw "nine balls of lights cross the skies," according to the April 12, 1972, edition of the Invercargill, N.Z., *Southland Times*. Two or three bright lights led the formation, but several others appeared to fade from sight during the flight. Two metal balls found on a nearby Ashburton farm were believed to be from the Russian satellite, Cosmos 482. Dunedin residents also reported seeing the objects and some said they heard "booms," stated the April 7, 1972, edition of the Dunedin *Otago Daily Times*. Later that day, at 8:30 p.m., a Napier woman reported seeing an object that burned itself out, the Napier *Daily Telegraph*, April 7, 1972, stated. (Possible explanations: reentry of Cosmos 482 or the breakup of a meteor).
- April 14, 1972. Evening. Pasadena, Calif. The Covina, Calif., *Tribune*, April 15, 1972, reported that residents saw an object with flashing lights that "went out once for about five minutes, then came back on." (Possible explanation: planetary illusion).
- April 14, 1972. Evening. Near Otorobanga, New Zealand. Witnesses saw "a fiery object," the April 15, 1972, edition of the Auckland, N.Z., *8 O'Clock*, reported. (Possible explanation: meteor).
- April 15-16, 1972. 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. Bear Lake/Brethren, Mich. Twelve residents saw a bright white object "with prongs and a red light in the center," the Manistee, Mich., *News Advocate*, April 17, 1972, said. (Possible explanation: planetary illusion).