

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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October - November 1973

POSSIBLE UFO FLAP IN PROGRESS

A UFO that apparently attacked a truck driver, temporarily blinding him, and causing his eyeglasses to be internally heated; a scientific investigation team in Missouri that spotted an object while flying in a small plane and detected, via instruments, electro-magnetic (E-M) effects from a UFO; UFOs that left behind physical evidence; objects that swooped down upon vehicles, paced pickup trucks, were photographed, and frightened witnesses; an object that caused E-M effects to a truck; a farmer that shot at a UFO; a UFO that merged with another object and separated several times; a UFO that apparently responded to a signal from a police cruiser and emitted two light beams; and another that emitted a sound were characteristics of sighting reports from at least nine states and three foreign countries since March. Witnesses included police officers, a military policeman, a nuclear engineer who is also an amateur astronomer, newsmen, newspaper publishers, college professors, and a store manager.

UFOR is receiving hundreds of reports from around the nation and press accounts are increasing, possibly paving the way for a major flap, but almost certainly a significant wave. Unfortunately, room does not possibly permit a complete review of the sightings.

One of the more startling reports of the past few years occurred near Greenville, Mo., thus continuing that state's rash of sightings (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 4, No. 3, p. 1, No. 4, p. 3, and No. 5, p. 2).

Eddie D. Webb was driving his tractor-trailer truck around dawn, October 3. His wife, Velma Mae, was asleep beside him in the cab of the vehicle. He saw a brilliant light or aluminum UFO in the air behind him, "coming up real fast."

"Then, I stuck my head out of the window and a large ball of fire struck me in the face," he stated in a UPI story dated October 5, 1973. "My glasses fell off and I couldn't see. But I got the truck stopped."

Webb was blinded for several hours. At last report, he was recovering his vision, but plans to consult an eye specialist.

Sgt. Ed Wright, of the highway patrol, turned the glasses over to Dr. Harley D. Rutledge, chairman of Southeast Missouri State University's physics department and head of a scientific team from the school investigating sightings in the state (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 5, p. 4). Rutledge examined the glasses under a microscope and "it appeared they were heated internally." He added there appears to be "some residue which we hope to put through some chemical tests."

UFOs Blanket Georgia

A rash of UFO sightings have emanated from the southeastern U.S. Most of the reports came from Georgia, with a few from Tennessee and Florida. They ran the gamut from possible planetary illusions to an object that crash-landed, leaving the soil hot.

Shortly after midnight, August 31, the invasion of Georgia by the mysterious objects began. Police reported citizens had seen them in Adel, Albany, Americus, Ashburn, Camilla, Cordele, Daugherty County, Dawson, Doerun, Leary, Leesburg, Macon, Moultrie, Pelham, Vienna, and Whigham. Robins Air Force (AF) Base in Macon, the Naval Air Station in Albany, and Elgin AF Base in Florida were alerted.

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Police were kept busy tracking the UFOs over the statewide police network. The objects changed colors and flashed blue, yellow, and green lights.

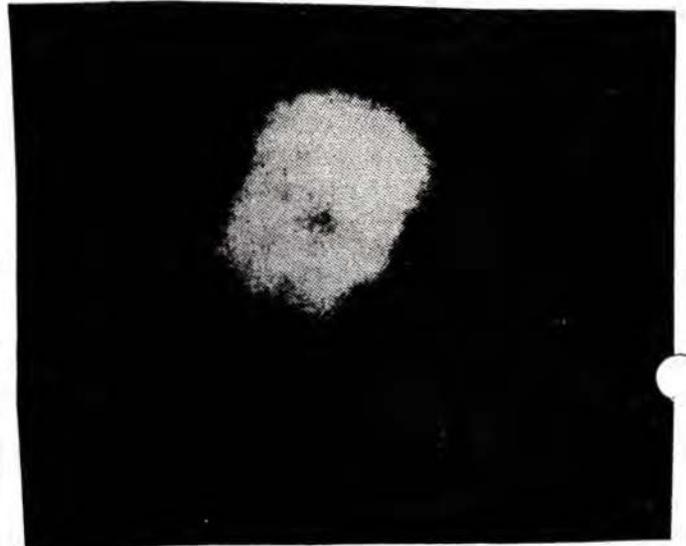
Later that evening, Ray Smith, of WSNT Radio, Sandersville, and others saw the objects.

"We've seen about 10 or 12 of these things," Smith stated. "They're generally blue in color but change into red and sometimes green. They're... kind of like a kid's top."

In nearby Camilla, City Manager Joe Morris Palmer said the UFOs were also seen there.

During the evening of September 1, Chester A. Tatum, publisher of the *Sowega Free Press* in

Camilla, photographed an object. Another Camilla newspaper publisher, Tom Bursun, and his son saw a UFO at 2:30 a.m. the previous day -- August 31. The son snapped a picture of it. (See photographs below).



UFO photographs taken by son of Camilla, Ga., newspaper publisher Tom Bursun (left) and Camilla publisher Chester A. Tatum (right) on August 31 and September 1, 1973, respectively.

(Courtesy: UPI)

Object Frightens Motorist

On Labor Day evening -- September 3 -- a badly frightened motorist ran into the Albany police headquarters. He said a UFO with "one bright light and four flashing lights" swooped to within 15 feet of the ground, near his car, then swerved off and ascended. Police said the man looked as if he had "really seen something."

Meanwhile, in Nashville, Tenn., Mrs. Nancy Harrison reported seeing two objects that changed colors from red to blue to green and altered their shapes from cigars to triangles. Earlier reports also came from Florida.

Among the Georgia witnesses to the Labor Day weekend sightings were police officers, a military policeman, newsmen, and others. The objects seen were "blinking,

varicolored lights, usually hovering quietly, but occasionally showing great bursts of speed."

Dr. Ralph Buice, an astronomer at the Fernbank Science Center, DeKalb County, Ga., got into the act on September 5. The satellite tracker said the UFOs were probably satellites and space "junk" dropping from orbit. He added two satellites circling the earth were expected to decay.

Buice's pronouncement, however, did not deter the UFOs. On the evening of September 9, residents in and around Griffin, Ga., reported seeing the objects. A Spalding County deputy sheriff, responding to a call of a UFO hovering over a house, saw "two red lights descending slowly to earth." Mrs. Hugh D. Beall said the "upside down cup and saucer-shaped object" had gold, red, and green lights on the bottom.

On the following afternoon -- September 10 -- Ress Clanton, of Griffin, observed a golden, egg-shaped object "fall to earth in a cloud of smoke." It burned a hole in the ground approximately a foot long and four to five inches deep and apparently destroyed itself upon impact.

UFO Heats Soil

Dr. O.E. Anderson, a soil chemist for the Georgia Experiment Station in Griffin, rushed to the site. He examined the hole two and one-half hours after the sighting and said the temperature of the hole was around 200° F. Anderson added a fire that broke out on top of the ground when the object crashed could not have kept the soil's temperature so hot for so long. He said the soil will be chemically analyzed "in hopes there may be something in the analysis that will give us a clue to what heated the organic matter in the soil."

(The information on the Georgia sightings above was gleaned from UPI wire stories dated August 31, September 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 14, and 17, 1973, and an AP wire story dated August 31, 1973).

On September 14, Anderson said he had completed analysis of the soil and concluded the object was probably "something in the nature of a small meteorite or a piece of space hardware."

"Metals commonly found in alloys were higher in concentration at the point of impact than in soils nearby," he said. "The greatest differences were noted for chromium and copper. The chromium concentration was almost 200 and the copper 2,000 times greater..."

Meanwhile, about 2 a.m. that same morning, Roy Lawhorn and his daughter, Donna, saw a gold, lighted UFO in Brooks Community, near Griffin. The farmer said he was awakened by "a sound like locusts and a bright light outside the house."

"I grabbed my rifle," he remarked, "because it looked like it was coming towards the house. I shot at it about three or four times and it just disappeared into the ground."

The object left a charred spot in the dirt road. Lawhorn said he was "scared to death."

Once again, Anderson was called to make an analysis and said the incident, as described by Lawhorn, was "unlike anything in my experience."

Craft Emits Light Beams

Deputy Sheriff P.L. Pilalas and his partner, J.O. Davis, were driving east of Memphis, Tenn., on the evening of September 23, when they saw a UFO hovering above them, stated the *Columbus (Ohio) Evening Dispatch*, September 24, 1973. The object was at 500-1,000 feet altitude and was shining two beams of light "straight forward." Two red lights glowed "at the extremities of the craft."

"I flashed my spotlight on the vehicle, which appeared to be traveling with us at about 15 m.p.h.," Pilalas stated. "I was hanging out the window at this point. I

contacted the dispatcher to see if we had any metro helicopters up in the area. His answer was negative; all units were grounded... We let our blue light [on the patrol car] shine twice and then stopped. The vehicle then flashed its white beams twice and then both the white lights and red lights went out. It just disappeared. It made a whirring-type noise for about 30 seconds to a minute, then it was gone."

There were reports of at least three other sightings in the Memphis area during the night of September 23-24.

The following night -- September 24-25 -- a UFO that changed colors and moved erratically was observed in the Fort Wayne, Ind., area, according to a UPI wire story dated September 25, 1973.

More reports came from Pennsylvania during the Spring and Summer (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 3, No. 2, p. 1, No. 3, p. 3, and No. 4, p. 1).

On the evening of April 15, more than a dozen witnesses saw a large disc between 35 and 60 feet in diameter between Penn and Manor, stated the July 27, 1973, edition of the Irwin, Pa., *Standard-Observer*. The UFO spun in place at first. Its light was dim, but it considerably brightened as the object departed.

Almost two months later -- the afternoon of June 13 -- several people saw a blimp-like UFO with fins around 40 feet long hover at about 500 feet altitude near Penns Woods. Then it "almost vertically ascended into the clouds and disappeared." The Pittsburgh air traffic control center said there were no blimps in the area.

Only hours later -- around 12:45 a.m., June 14 -- observers in Sunbury saw a silver-blue, cone-shaped UFO "about 10 times brighter than a star."

"It kept turning like a top and flashed blue about every four seconds," stated Mrs. Jane T. Brown in the June 14, 1973, edition of the *Sunbury Daily Item*. "I called a lot of our friends and neighbors, and they watched it too."

Herb Bright saw it through binoculars.

"You could see one end of the thing was sorta throwing out a bluish flame," he said, "and the other end was white. We watched it 'til about 2:15, when it abruptly turned from heading in the direction of Sunbury and went to the east. It was getting smaller, about the size of a golf ball, but it was still visible and very bright."

Nuclear Engineer Photographs UFO



Photograph of a UFO taken near Jeanette, Pa., July 18, 1973.

(Courtesy: Standard-Observer)

More than a month later -- at approximately 8:50 p.m., July 18 -- a nuclear instrumentation engineer who is also an amateur astronomer took color photographs of a UFO near Jeanette. The engineer also observed it through his telescope. He said it looked like a "bee-bee, with the sun reflecting off the two corners." An analysis of the three photographs is reportedly being made by the Westmoreland County UFO Study Group, headed by Stan Gordon.

Meanwhile, the scientific team from Southeast Missouri State University set up to investigate sightings in the state was making progress. Besides Dr. Rutledge (see page 1), members included Drs. Milton W. Ueleke and Sidney E. Hodges, of the university's physics department, and Dr. James Sage, of the industrial and technical education department. In the field, the scientists, who observed and photographed orange objects traveling as fast as 1,200 m.p.h., used "highly sophisticated electronic equipment, powerful reflector telescopes, and cameras loaded with infra red film, and Geiger counters," according to the June 21, 1973, edition of the *Ironton (Mo.) Mountain Echo*, which published information taken from the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. Trained observers, who communicated via shortwave radio, were stationed at Brushy Creek, eight miles south of Piedmont, location of many of the sightings.

On May 11, Dr. Rutledge was flying near Clearwater Lake with three other investigators in a Cessna 182 when they spotted six or seven bright objects.

"At 3:20 p.m., the sky was blue overhead and the ground was visible," the physicist stated in his report. "As I scanned the sky with 10-by-35 power binoculars, I noticed a small light flash on and off high in the sky to the right. A second later, the light blinked on and off. In the next moment, six or seven lights in a row appeared in between and above the first two lights observed. A second team, composed of John Hardgrove, Missouri Utilities Co., and King Turnbull, a student investigator, was stationed at Brushy Creek and confirmed our report. The light was traveling from south to north. It turned east and extinguished and was noticed traveling north again a few seconds later. No sound or pulsating, colored lights have been detected by any member of our observing team. This seems to preclude satellites or the usual aircraft as the source of the lights."

Analyzer Detects E-M Effects

Dr. Sage said that, on two occasions, he used a Techtronic spectrum analyzer to monitor E-M effects as the lights hovered. A dipole antenna using more than 4,000 feet of wire was strung out near the Mudlick Mountain fire tower in Sam A. Baker State Park, but the oscilloscope detected no unusual patterns, Sage stated. He added that, on the second night, the spectrum analyzer was attached to a stocked high gain beam antenna with measurable success.

As a bright light hovered overhead, Sage ran the frequency modulator up and down the scale. As the light blinked out, the oscilloscope screen showed a spiked pattern of E-M disturbance in the 80 megacycle range. The scientist said it was possible the patterns were caused by other radio equipment, but he appeared to believe the disturbance was created by the UFO.

Dr. Rutledge indicated he may make a report to the scientific community on the investigation sometime in the Fall.

For a period of about a week -- from July 4th to the 11th -- residents in and around Mt. Pleasant, Mich., were observing strange objects. First to apparently report the UFOs was Rudolph Lueder, of nearby Weidman, who said he and his family observed eight objects on the evening of Independence Day. There were other area sightings to follow.

Lueder explained the objects were "about the color of the moon" and sped across the sky in an erratic manner, often making sharp turns.

"One time we observed two objects apparently following each other," he stated in the July 11, 1973, edition of the Mt. Pleasant *Daily Times News*. "Then one overtook the other and passed it... The strangest sight we saw was one night when three appeared. One went southeast, one went northeast, and one went straight east. Then one made a sharp turn and followed the one going northeast."

Objects Follow Truck

At around 12:40 a.m., June 26, Mrs. Phillip Whitehead and her children -- Carolyn, Mike, and Mitchell -- were driving in a pickup truck about three miles west of Peabody, Kansas, when they spotted three UFOs, stated the June 26, 1973, edition of the *Newton Kansan*, and the July 12, 1973, edition of the Cottonwood Falls, Kansas, *Chase County Leader-News*. Each object had two red lights on each side.

The UFOs swooped down close to the highway and began following the pickup. They flew over the vehicle, ascended, and disappeared.

Early on the morning of June 24, J.C. Huckaby was returning to his farm near Buffalo, Okla., when he saw a bright light that "followed him home, speeding up when he did, and turning when he turned, and keeping over his vehicle," stated the June 28, 1973, edition of the Buffalo *Harper County Journal*. The UFO followed the witness' pickup into his driveway, then hovered over a granary. Huckaby awakened his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Junior Huckaby, and brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Huckaby, who also observed the light.

Australia continued to have its share of good sighting reports.

Osborne Davis and Robert McGregor were near Tweed Heads, Queensland, when they saw a UFO over the sea, off Kingscliff Beach.

"It was orange and saucer-shaped and there was a ball of light above it," McGregor related in the April 29, 1973, edition of the Brisbane, Queensland, *Sunday Mail*.

The startled observers watched as the saucer "merged with the ball of light and separated again three times."

R.R. Zadow was driving his truck across his property in Kalyan, South Australia, at approximately 8 p.m., May 2, when he spotted a "very bright glowing object which appeared to be about 18 inches across," stated the May 10, 1973, edition of the *Murray Bridge (South Australia) Standard*. The UFO, at about a 40-foot altitude, headed straight for the vehicle.

As the object flew almost directly overhead, the truck's engine and lights ceased functioning. Zadow unsuccessfully tried to restart the motor. The UFO left the area and the engine and lights came back on.

The witness said the encounter "scared the daylights" out of him.

UFO Emits Object

Six people, including Mrs. C.H. Korn, saw a flashing object flying from west to east at 8:32 p.m., May 8, over Gladstone, Queensland. The UFO traveled slowly at first, then changed course to the south, continuing to flash "at irregular intervals and strength."

"Suddenly, a small light dropped from the main one, then shot off towards the north-northeast," Mrs. Korn stated in the *Gladstone Observer*, May 9, 1973.

The large light then "made an abrupt turn and zig-zagged rapidly towards the east" and disappeared.

It was 8:08 p.m., May 18, when Ron McLennan, of Laurieton, New South Wales, first noticed a "blood-red, winking light" travel from west to east very slowly at first. It was "almost stationary" as it passed over the Anglican Church, then, at an "incredibly rapid" speed, shot off "like a streak of fire" and disappeared, stated the *Port Macquarie (New South Wales) News*, May 24, 1973.

McLennan saw it again at the same spot at 8:30. This time it was going from east to west, "adopting a slight zig-zag course" and "winking approximately every second, or slightly less." While viewing it through his binoculars, the witness noticed its color "appeared to vary from blood red to vermilion, thence to orange." The UFO disappeared behind some trees.

Mysterious Craft Frightens Witnesses

A UFO "completely unnerved" three young members of a family shortly after 7 p.m., May 23, in Mount Gambier, South Australia.

Wayne, Wendy, and Robyn Sherlock were sitting in Wayne's car near their home when they observed a large, round object with red, green, and blue lights. The spinning UFO appeared to be undulating. It hovered for a few seconds, then sped toward the automobile. It went up and over the car, descended, "and then glowed and vanished."

The driver, Wayne, floored the accelerator and the father, M.C. Sherlock, watched as the car rushed back to the house.

"Wayne's hair was literally standing on end when he returned," Sherlock remarked in the May 24, 1973, edition of the Mount Gambier *Border Watch*.

An object that apparently left behind physical evidence was seen near Junee, New South Wales, at about 9 p.m., June 3, according to the June 6, 1973, edition of the *Junee Southern Cross*.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bayliss were driving west when they saw "a row of shimmering yellowy orange colored lights" near a motor racing track. Driving to the track, they

parked. Bayliss "flicked his car lights several times, but nothing happened." The lights were finally obscured by a slope on a hill.

The following day, Mrs. Bayliss and a friend, Mrs. Lucy Shoemark, decided to investigate. They returned to the motor track and, in the paddock, found "a circular indentation in the ground" approximately 15 feet in diameter. Close by were six plod marks about four inches in diameter and spaced at a regular distance apart. "In the center was a heavier indentation and a tramping down of grass which appeared to have been slightly scorched."

New Zealand was also privy to reports.

Objects Hover Over Building

Two sightings in May were reported by Harold H. Fulton, New Zealand director of the Mutual UFO Network (formerly Midwest UFO Network). Both incidents occurred in Palmerston North, Wellington Province, the May 15, 1973, edition of the Palmerston North *Manatutu Evening Standard*, stated.

Just before 8 p.m., on the 10th, an adult and a child observed two pulsing lights with "a dark, cylindrical form" behind them that hovered over a building. One light disappeared, but the other ascended behind a cloud.

The second sighting occurred at about 4:45 p.m., on the 12th. It also hovered at first, then "sped away, climbing steeply without a sound."

Almost 62 hours later -- at 6:43 a.m., May 15 -- in Picton, Marlborough Province, Martin Wilkie, a store manager, saw a UFO over the Marlborough Sounds.

"I saw the object, realized that it was not the moon, and dashed inside to get my binoculars and camera," he stated in the *Marlborough Express*, May 15, 1973. "It had an intense white center which was about 10 times stronger than a bright star. Around the center was a field of radiating bright light, exactly like that produced by a magnet and iron filings. It was a fantastic sight. The whole thing would have been a good deal bigger than a full moon."

Wilkie was unable to focus his camera on the craft, which moved quickly to the east and out of sight.

UFO Moves Erratically

Five days later, two men traveling from Blenheim to Christchurch spotted a UFO near Kaikoura, Marlborough Province. Graham Gill and Gary Burden saw it at about 6 a.m., May 20.

"It was hovering with a flashing green light in its center and, each time it moved, it rose up with a circle of flashing lights," Gill said in the May 22, 1973, edition of the *Marlborough Express*. "It hovered for about 60 seconds -- it had revolving white lights -- and then moved further west. It went up, then down, and then appeared to come towards us."

Trees obscured the object from view.

"I don't mind admitting it, but it scared me," Gill remarked.

Between 11 p.m. and midnight, March 5, three separate sightings were reported in the vicinity of Vermilion, Alberta, Canada, the *Vermilion Standard*, March 14, 1973, stated.

Leonard Kenzie said the UFO looked like "an oil rig with about six staggered and alternating yellowish-orange lights on it." He followed it for quite a distance and it seemed to be just above ground level. It apparently emitted a low humming sound.

Albert Smith and his daughter, Doreen, also followed it. Smith said it moved just above the ground in a south-southwesterly direction.

Ralph Dicke also saw it and heard the hum.

NOTICE: Since a UFO flap could be in progress -- UFOR has numerous reports it was unable to use in this issue -- the next edition of *UFO Research Newsletter* will be ready for mailing on or about November 15, 1973.

WHITE SANDS REVISITED

Reports of other sightings over White Sands Proving Grounds, N.M., in the late 1940s have been unearthed (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 5, p. 1) from newspaper files in Spokane, Wash., by Paul C. Cerny, California UFO investigator.

According to the August 31, 1949, edition of *The Spokesman-Review*, two newsmen reported on their investigation of sightings over White Sands.

"I talked with three men -- two senior officers and an enlisted technician -- who report seeing strange objects in the sky, one as recently as [August 26, 1949] during preparation for a high-altitude missile flight..." stated Marvin Miles, then aviation writer for *The Los Angeles Times*, in his report. "One officer believes sincerely that the objects seen are spaceships and declared that a ballistic formula applied to one observation through a photo-theodolite showed the 'ship' was 35 to 40 miles high -- an egg-shaped craft of fantastic size and traveling at incredible speeds of three to four miles a second."

Clete Roberts, then news commentator for Radio Station KFWB in Los Angeles, also submitted a report.

"I was told by a highly regarded senior officer that, on several occasions, flying discs had been observed, had been carefully tracked, and, on one occasion, had been photographed," he wrote. "Unfortunately, the photographs were ruined when the film was spoiled. One officer at White Sands told me that astronomical experts using a powerful elevation telescope established on a mountain peak had carefully followed the flight of two flying discs which were following the trail of a V-2 rocket that smashed into the area 100 miles or more above the earth... The officer who gave me this information is a responsible individual charged with an important assignment in the government's up-air research, a man who would not talk lightly."

But the White Sands commander at the time, Brig. Gen. Philip G. Blackmore, obviously following the official AF line, would have none of it.

"So far as I know, these reports are simply untrue," he said. "Nothing of the kind has ever been reported to me and I am sure it would have if it were true."

Gen. Blackmore did admit there was an astronomical instrument on Mule Peak, near the proving grounds, and added some UFO reports may have originated from there.

SIGHTING CAPSULES

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

- May 28, 1973. About 8 p.m. Near Ben Lomond, Calif. Bob Stein and six others observed objects "very similar to box kites, with red markings on them" ascend and descend, the May 29, 1973, edition of the Watsonville, Calif., *Register-Pajaronian*, said. (Possible explanation: weather balloons).

- June 2, 1973. Around 2:15 a.m. Near Divernon, Ill. Ed Fernandes and some friends reported seeing bright lights which lit up the landscape, stated the June 3, 1973, edition of the Jacksonville, Ill., *Courier*.

- June 5, 1973. Evening. Near Johnstown and Milliken, Colo. Residents watched four objects with a red glow that "brightened and dimmed for a second or more and did so for 30 to 40 seconds"; then the objects "broke formation and faded into the haze," according to the June 7, 1973, edition of the Greeley (Colo.) *Daily Tribune*.

- June 7, 1973. Evening. Greeley, Colo. Marc Foreman said he saw three red objects traveling from east to west, stated the *Greeley Daily Tribune*, June 8, 1973.

- June 9, 1973. Around 9:15 p.m. McComb, Miss. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Horn, Melvin Dye, Mrs. George Kratzschmor, Benton Strickland, and others watched an object "similar to a plane on fire, the June 11 and 15, 1973, editions of the McComb *Enterprise Journal*, said. (Possible explanation: meteorite).