

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Vol. III, No. 9

January - February 1974

GOLDWATER REFUSED ACCESS TO AF UFO FILES

"I think some highly secret government UFO investigations are going on that we don't know about -- and probably never will unless the Air Force [AF] discloses them," stated Sen. Barry Goldwater (R.-Ariz.) in the January 6, 1974, edition of the *National Enquirer*. "But someday soon, someone's going to have strong UFO evidence that can't be explained away."

The 1964 presidential nominee added he was refused permission to scrutinize research files at Wright-Patterson AF Base, Dayton, Ohio, where Project Blue Book, the now defunct AF UFO investigatory body, was headquartered. The lawmaker said he asked Gen. Curtis LeMay, the controversial former Strategic Air Command chief, for permission to see the files. LeMay's reply: "Hell no, and don't ask me again."

The hint here is obviously of a Top or ultra-Secret investigation of UFOs by the U.S. government, particularly since a U.S. Senator, who is also a retired AF Brigadier General, could not gain access.

A fact not generally known by the public: Sen. Goldwater, for years, has maintained a positive attitude toward UFOs, though his interview with the *Enquirer* is probably his most outspoken declaration on the subject to date. And Gen. LeMay has made at least one positive statement -- that all sightings cannot be explained away and the AF has cases it cannot account for -- in his book *Mission With LeMay*, co-authored with the prominent author, MacKinlay Kantor, who is LeMay's personal friend and Pulitzer Prize winning writer of such books as *Andersonville* and *Spirit Lake*. Several years ago, Kantor, who wrote the brief UFO section in the book, told the editor of this newsletter LeMay was even more positive than the statement in his autobiography indicates.

"I believe the earth has been visited many times by creatures from outer space...", Goldwater continued. "I certainly believe in aliens in space. They may not look or talk like us, but I have very strong feelings they have advanced past our mental capabilities."

While the Senator said he has never seen a UFO, he thinks he may have picked up signals from intelligent life in space on his ham radio set.

"These signals had a cadence or sequence which sounded like a code," he explained. "It wasn't like any code I'd ever heard before."

FANTASTIC UFO REPORTS CONTINUE

A UFO that reportedly abducted a man and his truck and whose occupants examined the witness before releasing him; other occupant reports; an object that nearly shook a house apart with its vibrations; another that may have caused the disappearance of a flock of geese; automobiles that were run off roads by objects; near-landings, landings, and take-offs by UFOs; objects that hovered over trucks and cars; others that caused physiological effects and animal reactions and left behind physical evidence; UFOs that created electro-magnetic (E-M) effects, including apparently setting off a freezer alarm; objects that lit up whole areas, houses, and a barge; UFOs that were photographed, emitted sounds and smaller objects, frightened witnesses, and paced cars; objects that were tracked on radar; a UFO that moved off after a police spotlight was thrown on it; a plane that chased a mysterious aerial craft; witnesses who chased flying objects at speeds up to 110 m.p.h.; a UFO that "exploded" as another object approached it; and the lights of a UFO that went out as a plane approached, then came back on as the aircraft

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UFO Research Newsletter, Vol. III, No. 9. Published monthly or bi-monthly by UFO Research Associates (UFOR), P.O. Box 34252, Washington, D.C. 20034

Editor: Gordon I.R. Lore, Jr.
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 Subscription rates (12 issues):
 \$7.00 (U.S., Canada and Mexico);
 \$8.00 (foreign, surface rate);
 \$11.00 (foreign, air mail). Single copies: \$.60 (U.S., Canada and Mexico); \$.80 (foreign).

AIAA SCIENTISTS REPORT UFO SIGHTINGS

A poll of 1,175 members of the San Francisco, Calif., chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) -- the overall organization has its own UFO subcommittee -- revealed 129 scientists who had seen UFOs and 21 separate reports. Prof. Peter A. Sturrock, a Stanford University astrophysicist, who conducted the poll, revealed his findings in a UFO speech in the school's physics lecture hall. He said he polled the AIAA members because "scientists say UFOs are never seen by scientists."

"Of the 21 sightings," Sturrock stated in the November 2, 1973, edition of the Redwood City, Calif., *Tribune*, "some could be classified as mundane objects... One..., in 1947, reported 10 disc-like objects that seemed to tumble and oscillate... One man said he received a telepathic message to go to his kitchen window to observe four UFOs. He went to the window and they were there. He asked telepathically for verification of his sightings, and the four performed aerial maneuvers above Skyline Boulevard and left vapor trails..."

The professor urged a scientific study of UFOs, indicating the strange vehicles are extraterrestrial probes. He also attacked the University of Colorado UFO Project report as "unscientific" and said Dr. Edward U. Condon, project director, had not even considered case data gathered by his own staff. Sturrock added a serious investigation of UFOs is hampered because they are considered a scientific heresy and sightings are not reported in scientific journals.

Fantastic Reports (Continued from page 1)

passed by were the stunning characteristics of UFO sighting reports from at least 13 states during the period August-December 1973.

October continues to be by far the biggest month for good sightings as reports continue to deluge UFOR. Witnesses include pilots, astronomers, police, military personnel, a fire and police commissioner, a fire chief, and firemen.

Sightings in Mississippi continued. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 7, p. 1, and No. 8, p. 7).

The Ollie Berry family, of Hell Creek Bottom, observed an orange-colored UFO around 7:30 p.m., September 30. A daughter, Emma Robinson, said the object changed shapes. It was "first like a star, but longer," she related in the October 4, 1973, edition of the *New Albany* (Miss.) *Gazette*. "Then like a half moon. Then like a kite with a lot of red lights on its tail. Then it got round. Then it divided into three pieces. Then it shaped up like an angel or something [that] looked like it had wings."

"When a plane came over one time while it was there, [the lights] went out," another daughter, Carolyn Berry, stated. "Then, when the plane had passed, the thing's lights came back on. Every time it would move from one place to another, it would get small first."

The frightened witnesses called the sheriff's office. As Deputy Sheriff Carroll Irwin responded and rushed to the scene, he saw the object -- "like a quarter moon but five times as big" -- disappear to the southwest.

An unidentified businessman was driving near Henryville on the evening of October 15 when he came upon an elliptical-shaped, strange craft with 6-8 blue and orange lights resting on "legs" on the road. He said the UFO was "as big as a car or bigger" and "looked like it was made of metal," according to the *Starkville* (Miss.) *Daily News*, October 18, 1973. The witness swerved into a ditch to avoid hitting the object. He stated a pick-up truck driver was also forced to "take to the ditch" to avoid colliding with the UFO.

The witness and others examined the landing site and found burned grass and what appeared to be two round pad-marks in the ditch.

A UFO with three glowing -- and several flashing -- windows and "like a house all lit up" landed and started a fire in a soggy field in a rural area in Hancock County on the evening of October 16, stated the October 17, 1973, edition of the New Orleans, La., *States Item*. Mrs. Frances Ncaise and her family were the witnesses. Newsmen said the observers were badly shaken by the incident.

Earlier that same day -- shortly after dawn -- Mrs. Ruth Thompson, of Osyka, spotted a large, shining, aluminum-covered, oblong-shaped object flying from south to northeast. The witness said her radio stopped playing while the UFO was in the area, but continued to function after the object disappeared.

"It scared me so I'm still shaking," Mrs. Thompson stated in the October 16, 1973, edition of the McComb, Miss., *Enterprise Journal*.

Object Impairs Witness' Vision

Dave Jennings III, Clarksdale High School band director, was driving toward Tutwiler on the evening of October 18 when he observed a bright orange, oval-shaped UFO.

"At first I thought it was a low flying aircraft -- the agricultural type," Jennings stated in the October 19, 1973, edition of the Clarksdale *Press Register*. "It got up to 60 m.p.h. and the object was going very fast, so I speeded up to 90 m.p.h. and finally got up to 110 m.p.h. and realized that the object was still going much faster than I. When it got to Tutwiler, it began to make a loop around the town and that made me really think that it was a plane about to land. I drove to my parents' house and, when I got out of the car, the object stopped in mid-air, dropped down about 100 feet, and then went straight up and stopped in the air and began to swing like a pendulum. Then it stopped again."

The witness got his mother and sister to observe the object. Jennings said it emitted rays which impaired his vision.

During the evening of October 17, a startling abduction case reportedly occurred near Loxley, Fla.

Clarence Ray Patterson, an electrician, said a strange flying object hovered over his pick-up truck, then pulled it up into the UFO. On board the alien craft, the witness was supposedly closely examined for about 30 minutes by approximately six "strange-looking creatures." Like the creatures in the Pascagoula, Miss., abduction report (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 7, p. 1), the occupants had claw-like arms. The creatures appeared to be reading his mind during the examination, Patterson said. The witness was then released unharmed near Pensacola.

Arriving in Pensacola, the stunned witness immediately contacted the police.

"Patterson became very emotional and started crying," stated Police Sgt. Lucien Mitchell in the October 18, 1973, edition of the *Pensacola News*. "He told me that I thought he was some kind of nut and that he would refuse to tell this story again to anyone. I might add, when Patterson was relating this incident to me, he was very nervous and he said, from the beginning of the interview, that no one would believe him."

New York state was the site of UFO incidents in October. Unless otherwise indicated, they were investigated by Robert Barrow, of Syracuse, who sent reports to UFOR.

● October 14. Around 3:40 a.m. Skaneateles. Mrs. Lou Frateschi observed a "fiery Chinese dragon" in the sky that "went into a long whip shape" as it flew west.

● October 15. Camillus. Jim Curry and nine others saw two large, brilliant lights that appeared to be part of the same flashing object. Then a "ball" blinking red, green, and orange and with a circle of lights surrounding it approached the first UFO. The second object stopped and hovered over the witnesses. The first UFO flew directly over it -- "as if they had merged" -- and both disappeared in separate directions.

● October 19. 1:35 a.m. Constantia. Norman Hunt watched an object with green and red lights close to the waters of Oneida Lake. He saw it "skirt across" the water and disappear behind some trees. Hunt said he first noticed the UFO when its lights "reflected through his window and on his dresser."

● October 21. About 9:30 p.m. Calverton, Long Island. Lee J. Gugliotto and James Paciello, president and vice president, respectively, of the Astronomical Society of Long Island, reported seeing "a round, fuzzy ball of light" brighter than Venus and 50-60 feet across. The witnesses said the "yellow-red, star-like object" disappeared behind some trees to the north, stated the Garden City, N.Y., *Newsday*, October 25, 1973.

● October 24. Rochester, N.Y. Terry Dickinson, an astronomer and assistant director of the city's Strausburg Planetarium, tracked "a V-shaped formation of lights" through a telescope. Dickinson said "there were smaller lights beside the bright ones." Area airports reported no aircraft in the vicinity at the time of the sighting.

Ohio was again a host to sightings. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 7, p. 6, and No. 8, p. 5).

At about 7:30 p.m., October 18, R.G. Rayl, his wife, son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter, saw a "huge, fluorescent-like light" that was oblong-shaped and approximately 30 feet across near Lebanon, *The (Lebanon) Western Star*, October 24, 1973, reported. Rayl, a private pilot, said his "poodle growled at it."

The UFO "started moving, zig-zagging back and forth." Meanwhile, three or four jets approached the object, which sped to the southwest. Attempting to catch the UFO, the planes were "just like a kid on a bicycle trying to catch up to a train," the main witness remarked.

After visiting some friends for about 30 minutes, the witnesses, returning home, again saw the UFO in about the same place. It moved sideways and "went out."

The following evening -- October 19 -- at 7:30, a group of children and a mother observed blue, red, and green lights in an oval shape moving at random near Waynesville. The oval "faded and disappeared" as a plane approached it.

Sometime after 8:15 p.m., October 21, Mrs. Addy Whitlock was driving near Lebanon when she spotted a large white light that followed her to her sister's house. The object maneuvered and hovered. Then a second red light approached the first object "much faster than an airplane." When it was approximately 10 feet from the white light, it abruptly stopped. Then the red light "exploded in a flash of red" and disappeared.

Mrs. Shirley Johnson and her children were driving toward their home near Chillicothe at about 7:45 p.m., October 16, when they saw three UFOs emitting "almost blinding" lights descend upon their automobile.

"They didn't come as low as the car, but they were pretty close," Mrs. Johnson stated in the October 17, 1973, edition of the *Chillicothe Gazette*. "I was so frightened I ran off the road three times. I thought they would come down on us anytime."

Two of the objects disappeared, but the third followed the witnesses home.

At the same time, Greenfield Police Officer Mike Tonklin followed a white, football-sized object with a glowing red light for about five miles.

John F. Clavitt, of Lake Township, heard "a loud buzzing noise above his house" on the evening of October 17, according to the Canton, Ohio, *Repository*, October 18, 1973. Then violent vibrations, which awakened Clavitt's daughter, almost "shook the house apart." Running outside, the witnesses saw a huge, round UFO with white lights.

UFO Dives at Car

It was 8:45 p.m., October 17. Mrs. Clara Morris was walking through her house near Killbuck when she noticed a "big glaring light" beaming through her back bathroom window. Rushing to the window, she saw "a big, greenish-blue light in the sky." The witness called her oldest daughter, Linda, and the rest of her family, all of whom peered at the strange object as it hovered, moved erratically, and changed colors. At times, the UFO "would start to come closer to the house, then it would back away again."

At one point, "a small, red, capsule-shaped" object was emitted from the larger UFO. The second UFO "zoomed across in front of the larger object," then disappeared behind it. The strange craft "zoomed off into the southwest at about 10:45."

At 6:45 the next morning, Linda Morris began her drive to work in Killbuck. She saw a "bright flash" that "reflected off the side of the car." Then she apparently saw the

same object she and her family had observed the evening before. It cleared some trees as it rapidly descended and headed "at a high rate of speed" on a collision course toward her car.

The terrified witness couldn't remember exactly what happened next or how the UFO missed hitting her.

"I was so scared that I just froze to the accelerator and got out of there as fast as I could," she related in *The (Wooster, Ohio) Daily Record*, October 19, 1973.

After she arrived at work, Linda called her mother.

"She was hysterical -- petrified," Mrs. Morris confirmed. "She was crying so hard I couldn't understand anything she was saying."

Deputy Sheriff James Fox was driving near Lima at 1:50 a.m., October 22. He spotted a brightly lit UFO in front of his cruiser at an altitude of 300-500 feet, stated the October 22, 1973, edition of the *Wapakoneta (Ohio) Daily News*. The witness chased the object at speeds up to 100 m.p.h. Then the flying craft ascended and disappeared.

The state of Kentucky was also besieged by reports.

On the evening of October 13, David Powell, of Franklin, saw and photographed a round, triangular-shaped object emitting an orange light, the *Franklin Favorite*, October 22, 1973, reported. (See photo, left).

Mrs. R.E. Buchanan, her daughter, Mrs. David Cunningham, and grandson, Alan David Cunningham, were "followed" by an egg-shaped object 5-6 feet long as they were driving near Madisonville at about 8 p.m., October 16. The UFO was emitting multi-colored lights that illuminated the road.

"It went the same speed we did, and made two turns when we did, always keeping off to the left," Mrs. Buchanan stated in the October 17, 1973, edition of the *Madisonville Messenger*.

The frightened witnesses arrived at the Cunningham home, but the mysterious aerial craft "just hovered there at the top of the trees." Then an airplane approached and the UFO ascended toward the west.

At about 7:15 a.m., October 18, Army Sergeant First Class Ralph E. Green observed a UFO at Ft. Knox.

(Courtesy:
the Favorite)

"I was walking up the road by the motor pool and I caught sight of this extreme burst of light twirling in the air," he related in the *Elizabethtown, Ky., News*, October 25, 1973. "It had a bright red light on top and a bright red light on bottom. And in between were these rotating lights..., green, blue, yellow, and red."

The huge, oval-shaped object approached the witness, then slowed and "hovered over a wooded area in the tank trails by the motor pool."

Green yelled at PFC Eddie R. Halstead, who said the UFO was circular with multi-colored lights flashing around the center "like a Christmas tree."

"[The object] slowly started to veer off to the right, made a real sharp right turn, and disappeared," Sgt. Green said. "It went so fast it went plumb out of sight."

A "very colorful" UFO was spotted in the sky near Shelbyville on the evening of October 20, the *Shelbyville Sentinel-News*, October 22, 1973, said. It was photographed by Lee Roy Massey. (See photo, left).

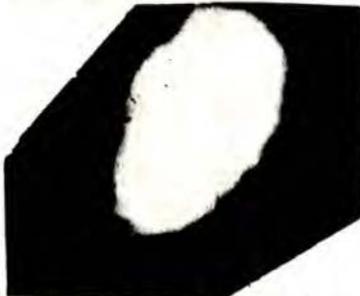
Sightings also occurred in Tennessee.

On the evening of October 16, Mrs. Fred Singleton, of Lebanon, was driving when she saw an egg-shaped object with "lights resembling welding torch flames" that caused her car to stop and her tape player to cease functioning. She was unable to restart the automobile until after the object left the area, stated the October 17, 1973, edition of the *Nashville, Tenn., Banner*.

During that same evening, Frank Hobson, of Mt. Juliet, observed a circular UFO "with flashing lights and a sound kind of



UFO photo by David Powell, Franklin, Ky., October 13, 1973



UFO photo by Lee Roy Massey, near Shelbyville, Ky., October 20, 1973

(Courtesy: Sentinel News)

"like a vacuum cleaner" fly over his house. His wife was talking on the telephone, but "she couldn't even hear" because of the interference apparently caused by the object.

At 7 p.m., October 17, police dispatchers in Alton Park received a call from a woman who claimed a cigar-shaped UFO landed in a wooded area near the Charles A. Bell Elementary School. Fire and Police Commissioner Gene Roberts and Police Sgt. Lester Shell rushed to the scene where they saw the object rise from the woods, stated the Chattanooga, Tenn., *News-Free Press*, October 18, 1973. Sgt. Shell pursued the UFO until it disappeared.

At the same time, Capt. Oscar Eaves and a crew of five firemen saw an object hover over a church in nearby St. Elmo. The UFO was luminous and oblong-shaped. It flew over a ridge, heading northeast.

UFOs also zeroed in on North Carolina. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 8, p. 7).

An unidentified couple were leaving their house in Copeland at approximately 8 p.m., October 19, when they observed "an elongated blue object with rounded edges hovering about 100 feet up" almost directly over the house, according to the Winston-Salem, N.C., *Journal*, October 28, 1973. Then they saw a three-foot tall creature that appeared to be dressed in a gold metallic suit standing about 50 feet away in a field.

The wife screamed as the man approached the creature. The husband returned to the car and the couple fled the area.

Lloyd Smith, Wayne County jailer, was driving near Grantham on the evening of October 20 when he spotted an object approximately the size of "a 12-foot room" and "shaped like the crown of a mushroom" that changed colors and appeared to grow larger as it descended toward the ground. A "glow of lights... appeared to be emanating from the bottom of the object."

The UFO flew over a field and headed straight for Smith's car.

"I thought it was going to force me off the road at first," he related in the Goldsboro, N.C., *News-Argus*, October 26, 1973. "But then it descended to the side of the road and hovered about 50-75 feet from the ground. It blinded me and I had to stop my car. I got out of the car and drew my pistol and pointed it over the top of the car. I don't really know why I did that, except that it was a reflex action, I guess."

Smith said the object hovered 50-60 feet from his automobile. Then it "took off upward at a tremendous rate of speed and just seemed to disappear."

Police Radar Tracks Object

Police Officer Steve Montgomery set up his mobile radar unit just outside Burlington hoping to clock some speeders on the evening of October 24. At about 11:45, however, the speeder he caught was a UFO. The dial on his radar unit began acting "funny."

"The needle was jumping and the machine went haywire," the policeman stated in the Burlington *Times-News*, October 27, 1973.

Montgomery saw a large, pulsing red light that hovered over the road, then disappeared. At 4 a.m. the next morning, he reportedly saw the object again.

Neighboring South Carolina also had reports.

It was around 9:30 p.m., October 4, when Greenville Police Officers C.D. Wilson, Ken Davis, D.L. Wright, F.C. Ward, Jim Holloway, Ben Turner; and Billy Jordan saw "a triangular-shaped object... like an inverted V of lights." The object carried "a green light in the middle, a red light on top, and a reddish blur on the end" and was heading east-southwest. The object was reportedly tracked on radar around Paris Mountain, the Greenville *News*, October 5, 1973, said.

Something was causing the dogs to violently bark in Hartsville at 6:10 a.m., October 6. Mr. and Mrs. Cole Barnhill peered outside as a "real red glow" lit up their home. They observed a red, round object "like the full moon, but much brighter," the October 18, 1973, edition of the Hartsville *Darlington County Tribune*, reported. Then it "just disappeared -- blinked out -- just like turning off a light."

Around 6:15, Heywood Byrd, driving to work, saw it to the right of the Carolina Power & Light Co. plant at Lake Robinson.

Once again, the UFOs visited Missouri. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 4, No. 3, p. 1, No. 4, p. 3, No. 5, p. 2, and No. 6, p. 1).

On the evening of August 25, witnesses near Palmyra observed a UFO with flashing lights over the Mississippi River. It beamed a powerful searchlight on a barge moving upriver. Observers said it "gave off such a brilliant light that it lit up the entire river bottoms." The UFO "circled the bottoms several times and even approached the spectators," stated the *Palmyra Spectator*, October 10, 1973.

Four nights later -- August 29 -- Palmyra police and other residents again saw the same or a similar object emitting a humming sound. Police threw a spotlight on it "and it quickly moved out of their light." One family said their clocks ran an hour and 20 minutes slow after it circled their home.

It was approximately 10:45 p.m., September 21. Mrs. Mary Talbot, of St. Joseph, saw a UFO "approaching at about tree-top level."

"It passed over the garage and house and then settled toward the lawn, hovering about six feet from the street line about garage-roof high..." Mrs. Talbot related in the October 9, 1973, edition of the *St. Joseph Gazette*. "For a minute or two it was perfectly still. Then, very slowly, it started to rotate and a sort of ribbed shield came in sight, extending about 10 inches from the side of the circular object, up and slanting inward toward the translucent dome... The base was round, about the size of an average round dinner table... It was rounded at the bottom and had a higher domed top with sufficient height that it appeared a man could sit in it comfortably. It appeared to be of plastic material and the lights which flickered red and blue in an upward swirl seemed to glow from the inside outward... It was so unreal, I guess I was stunned... After five or six minutes..., it lifted slowly and moved very slowly back the way it had come... When it was quite a distance away, it turned into a yellow color, like a star... Very shortly, another object similar but smaller joined it and the two seemed to dart back and forth from north to south at a very rapid speed for a time. Then both shot upward out of sight at tremendous speed."

Police Officer Z.T. Jackson was responding to a UFO call at about 9 p.m., October 1, near Sikeston when he observed "a large, bright, red ball" 50-100 feet in diameter rapidly take off from a field, the October 2, 1973, edition of the *Sikeston Standard*, said.

Louisiana was not neglected in the plethora of reports in October. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 7, p. 2, and No. 8, p. 6).

Lt. Robert Lonardo, of the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's staff, and Police Officer James Fisher saw an oval-shaped object with brilliant multi-colored lights in an area near the Rigolets on the evening of October 10. The UFO -- at 300-500 feet altitude -- moved "almost at the speed of light," according to *The (New Orleans, La.) Times-Picayune*, October 17, 1973. Lonardo took pictures of the object with a Super 8 mm movie camera and the film was shown in the WDSU-TV studio.

One week later -- October 17 -- about a dozen witnesses observed strange lights near Powhatan.

"There was this huge light flashing on and off near the woods in our back yard," said Gilda Parker in the Monroe, La., *News Star*, October 19, 1973. "It was turning all kinds of different colors. I'm scared. I don't know what it was."

Dodson Postmaster B.L. Martin and his wife were among the observers.

"All I saw was a huge light off in the woods which was lighting up the whole area around it," Mrs. Martin stated. "I've never seen anything like it. It just flashed on and off."

Archie, Herbert, and Anita Dalme, Junior Brossett, Lavada Turner, and Johnny Sharply also saw it.

"Junior and I thought we heard some wolves disturbing the cows," Archie explained. "We went out to investigate when, all of a sudden, there was this bright, large light directly above us."

On the evening of December 5, an unidentified housewife and her son, of La Selva Beach, Calif., were awakened when the temperature alarm on their freezer went off, stated the San Jose, Calif., *Mercury*, December 7, 1973. Looking outside, they saw a UFO that

"went across the sky and then came again." Sheriff's deputies investigated, saw the object, and heard the alarm. They called the duty officer at the sheriff's office and let him listen to the alarm over the phone.

Bill Hines and a friend said they were chased by a bright white creature 3-4 feet tall that ran sideways early on the evening of October 18 near Chatham, Va., according to the October 19, 1973, edition of the *Danville (Va.) Bee*. The "thing" had "a shimmering body," no eyes, but a large head. As the witnesses ran back to the truck, they saw "a green, hazy cloud" ascend into the sky.

Police officers in nearby Salem said they saw "a red ball of fire in the sky" at about the same time.

An unidentified woman reported seeing "a long, silver object shaped like a pencil" over Millville, N.J., on the morning of October 24, the *Millville Daily*, October 25, 1973, stated. As the object approached a flock of geese at a slow speed, the woman said, the geese disappeared.

ENQUIRER PANEL ACTIVE

by Robert F. Creegan

[In this exclusive article, Dr. Creegan, philosophy professor at the State University of New York at Albany and member of the National Enquirer's Blue Ribbon scientific UFO panel, brings us up to date on the activities of the panel (see UFO Research Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 12, p. 7; Vol. II, No. 1, p. 6, No. 2, p. 5, No. 3, p. 8, No. 4, p. 8, No. 5, p. 5, No. 6, p. 6, No. 7, p. 7, No. 8, p. 6, No. 9, p. 7, No. 10, p. 1; and Vol. III, No. 2, p. 5)]

Almost everyone concerned with the UFO problem has found value in the publicity given certain cases by the *National Enquirer*. Its so-called UFO Probe, however, centered in a panel of academic scientists and educators, has met with some criticism on procedural grounds and has been revised accordingly. Certain persons and groups have been utilized in the preliminary screening of submitted documents. For example, it is now an open secret the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) has provided this service for some time. Recently, however, a more fundamental change has taken place.

Both the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and APRO will select about eight or 10 very challenging reports for consideration by the UFO panel. In addition, the *Enquirer* staff will select some. A meeting involving officials of the three parties is scheduled for sometime in January. The scientifically most interesting cases will then be selected for study by the panel. Documentation will be sent to panel members for individual study, and sometime in the early Spring, the whole panel will meet for discussion of the evidence and, if possible, decisions concerning awards.

The same standards will be involved as previously -- that is, an award of \$50,000 will be given only for rather conclusive evidence of the extra-terrestrial origin of a UFO. Awards of lesser sums may be given for the most challenging cases. Among the cases that may be considered are some from the southeastern U.S. and the Gulf Coast, the Pacific Northwest, eastern Canada, and a report from Sweden involving physical evidence. Two star map cases are also deemed to be contenders. At least one of the southeastern cases includes some photographic evidence that has survived some preliminary screening.

Panel members have done some of the field work on a few of these cases, and other work has been done by NICAP and APRO. It is expected that some contending cases, other than those currently widely recognized, will be identified as a result of meetings and studies in the next two or three months. To date, at least, the precarious cooperation between journalism and science continues and some procedural progress has been made, though the question concerning substantive results is as wide open as ever.

Though the current UFO flap appears to have ended, UFOR has a substantial backlog of good reports. Therefore, the next issue of *UFO Research Newsletter* will be ready for mailing or about February 15.