

# UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Vol. V, No. 10

February - March 1978

## PHOTOGRAPHER FILMS UFOs FROM PLANE WINDOW

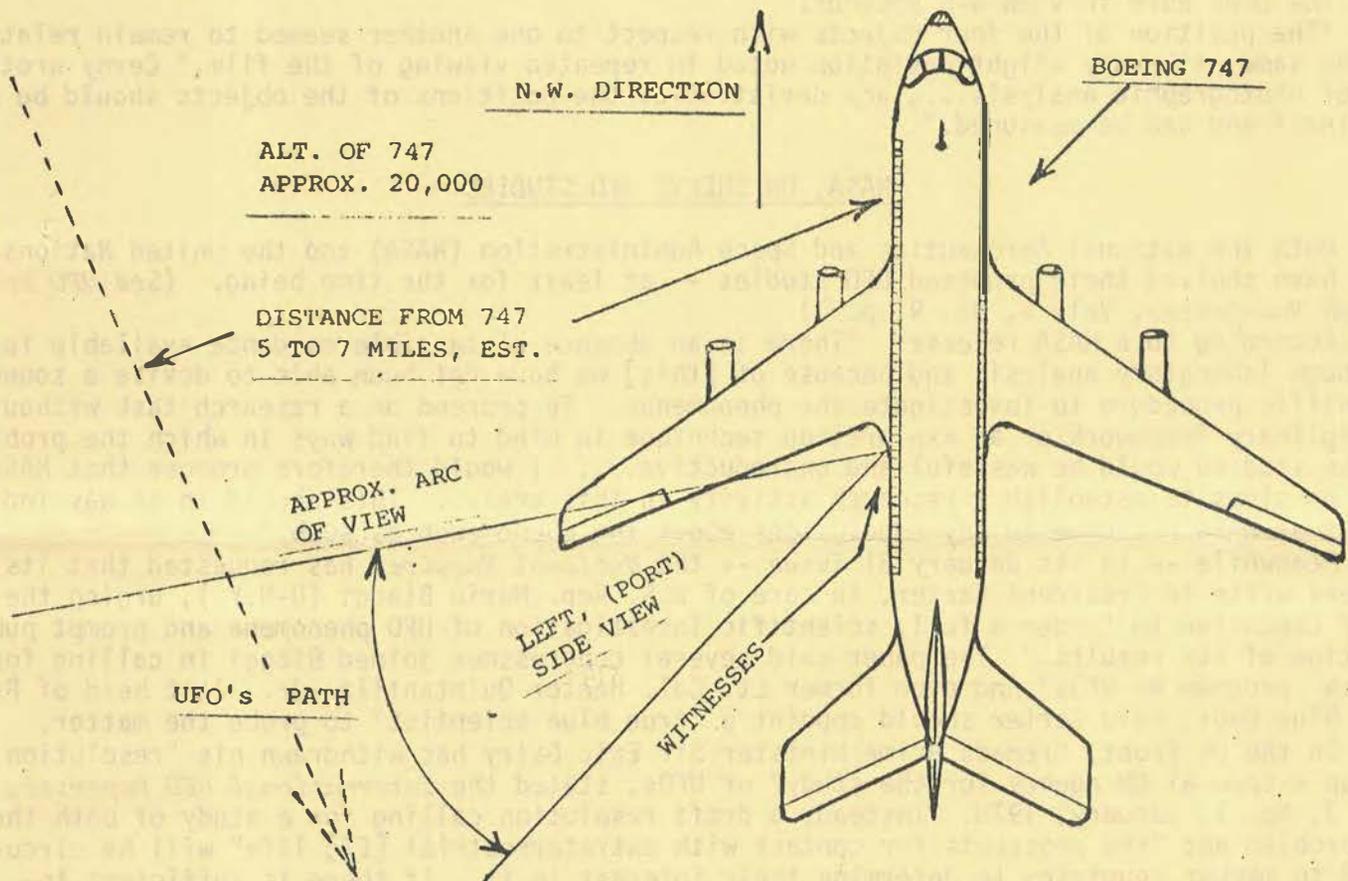
It was April 11, 1977. The giant Boeing 747 jet had just taken off from Los Angeles International Airport for the next leg of its journey -- to San Francisco International. Fred Svihus, a professional photographer, and his wife, Eva, had window seats just behind the left wing of the aircraft.

At about 8 a.m., the plane was flying at approximately 20,000 feet altitude in the vicinity of Vandenburg Air Force (AF) Base, near Lompoc, Calif. Svihus was filming the jet's flap action and the clouds with his Bolex movie camera at the standard 18 frames per second.

"My God, what's that?" Mrs. Svihus yelled. "Do you see it, Fred?"

"Yes, I'm filming it!" Svihus replied.

Four oval, glowing objects "in echelon formation" sped by at an estimated 5-7 miles distance and slightly lower than the aircraft. They flew in the opposite direction from the jet. (See sketch, below).



Sketch Showing UFOs' Flight Path in Relation to Airliner,  
near Lompoc, Calif., April 11, 1977

(Courtesy: Paul Cerny)

*UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. V, No. 10. Published monthly or bi-monthly by UFO Research Associates (UFOR), 3122 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, Calif. 90068  
 Editor: Gordon I.R. Lore, Jr.  
 Business Manager: Marty D. Lore  
 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).

"Svihus continued to 'pan' the... objects as they went past his window, being careful to steady the camera and holding it as close to the plexiglass window as possible without touching the lens shell to it....," stated Paul C. Cerny, Western Regional Director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), in a report to UFOR. "The objects... continued on out of sight behind the airliner. As [the UFOs] were just about out of sight, he watched as [they] suddenly broke formation and 'scattered...' Reflections... were ruled out due to the closeness of the lens to the window and the fact that the UFOs were very obviously against a clear blue sky with the sun shining on them from the opposite side of the airplane where the observers were seated."

Cerny added that most of the passengers had disembarked at Los Angeles, and none of the few remaining travelers observed the phenomenon. There was some indication, however, the plane's crew may have seen the UFOs.

"The UFOs were exposed on 32 individual frames of the film," Cerny continued. "Near the Los Angeles airport..., Mr. Svihus shot out a few frames of the moon as it was visible in the early morning sky... It was interesting to compare the size of this two-thirds full moon... to the later shots of the 'unknowns,' which appeared to this observer as about one-third to one-quarter the size of the moon in comparison. Analysis of the film will be attempted very soon..."

The UFOs were in view 4-5 seconds.

"The position of the four objects with respect to one another seemed to remain relatively the same with only slight deviation noted in repeated viewing of the film," Cerny wrote. "Under photographic analysis..., any deviation of the positions of the objects should be more prominent and can be measured."

#### NASA, UN SHELVE UFO STUDIES

Both the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United Nations (UN) have shelved their proposed UFO studies -- at least for the time being. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. V, No. 9, p. 1).

According to a NASA release: "There is an absence of tangible evidence available for thorough laboratory analysis and because of [this] we have not been able to devise a sound scientific procedure to investigate the phenomenon. To proceed on a research task without a disciplinary framework or an exploration technique in mind to find ways in which the problem can be studied would be wasteful and unproductive... I would therefore propose that NASA take no steps to establish a research activity in this area... This should in no way indicate that NASA has come to any conclusions about the phenomenon as such."

Meanwhile -- in its January 31 issue -- the *National Enquirer* has requested that its readers write to President Carter, in care of U.S. Rep. Mario Biaggi (D-N.Y.), urging the Chief Executive to "order a full, scientific investigation of UFO phenomena and prompt publication of its results." The paper said several congressmen joined Biaggi in calling for a "crash program on UFOs" and even former Lt. Col. Hector Quintanilla, Jr., last head of Project Blue Book, said Carter should appoint a "true blue scientist" to probe the matter.

On the UN front, Grenada Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy has withdrawn his "resolution to set up a special UN agency for the study" of UFOs, stated the *International UFO Reporter*, Vol. 3, No. 1, January, 1978. Instead, a draft resolution calling for a study of both the UFO problem and "the prospects for contact with extraterrestrial [ET] life" will be circulated to member countries to determine their interest in it. If there is sufficient interest, the matter may be included in the 33rd General Assembly agenda this coming September.

#### UFO LANDS NEAR HOME IN MARYLAND

A small UFO that rested on the ground near her home was observed by Mrs. Norma McAda Towson, Md., at 6:10 a.m., October 6, 1977.

The witness "was awakened by an unusual humming noise." Going to her bedroom window, she observed "a green, Derby-type, hat-shaped object" resting on the grass next to her asphalt driveway. The UFO was sitting in the small space -- 44 inches wide -- between the driveway and a row of 60-foot high oak trees.

Mrs. McAdam then saw the object appear to move -- "as if on rollers" -- up a slight incline toward Walnut Hill Lane. Then it gradually rose "and passed above 15-foot high silver maple trees" on the north side of the lane. As the small UFO -- about five feet in diameter -- took off, two yellow headlights were seen. As it cleared the trees, "the headlights changed to white, and the green color appeared to twinkle." The UFO was then lost from view.

There were "no discernible tracks or marks" found on the grass or elsewhere in the area. A radiation check turned up negative. Only a normal background reading of .02-.03 millirems per hour was detected.

Mrs. McAdam, her husband and daughter, 14, "had upset stomachs throughout that day," but there was no direct correlation between the physiological effects and the UFO.

We are indebted to John Lutz, head of Odyssey Scientific Research Association (P.O. Box 11282, Baltimore, Md. 21239), who investigated the incident and sent a report to UFOR.

### AIAA SYMPOSIUM ADDS LITTLE TO SUBJECT

A joint symposium -- "Our Extraterrestrial Heritage: From UFOs to Space Colonies" -- held in Los Angeles, Calif., on January 28, added little to our knowledge of the UFO research being done, but offered some interesting opinions by respected scientists. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. V, No. 9, p. 7). Part I -- "Scientific Aspects of UFO Research" -- took up the morning session at the California Museum of Science and Industry and was sponsored by the Los Angeles and Orange County Sections of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

The symposium chairman was Dr. William F. Hassel, who said participants supposedly accepted the hypothesis that UFOs were ET and represented a technology in advance of that here on Earth.

Perhaps the most thought-provoking presentation was delivered by Thomas M. Gates, director, Space Science Center, Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, Calif. Entitled "The Zeta Reticuli Episode," it covered the now-classic Betty and Barney Hill case and the subsequent work by Marjorie Fish, schoolteacher, to interpret the star map shown Betty Hill by the ETs on board their craft. While under hypnosis, Betty reproduced the map. She said the "leader" of the UFO entities told her that heavy lines on the map "were trade routes, the solid lines were places visited occasionally and the broken lines, expeditions." Fish later interpreted -- and computer analysis confirmed -- that the UFO may well have come from the Zeta Reticuli star system, not even known to astronomers until several years *after* the 1961 abduction.

Dr. Richard F. Haines, research scientist, Ames Research Center, NASA, Moffett Field, Calif., lectured on "UFO Drawings by Eye Witnesses and Non Eye Witnesses." Just what Haines' experiments proved remains somewhat unclear, but "more research is needed on the basic perceptual processes of receiving, storing, and retrieving from memory novel stimuli for which there is no other acceptable name than UFO."

The third speaker was Dr. Daniel H. Harris, an astronomer and research director of Project Starlight International (PSI). He said "the fact that we've not yet had a breakthrough in either the recognition or understanding of UFO phenomena may be due to the dominance" of two approaches to UFO investigation during the last three decades: (1) "very few cases" have been examined "in great detail"; and (2) the major UFO organizations "have collected large numbers of case reports in an effort to accumulate enough data to be persuasive and to yield information on the characteristic patterns of UFO phenomena..." PSI, he added, seeks "the truth about UFO phenomena by *direct* observation, monitoring and experiment. Our goal is to obtain hard data documenting a variety of UFO effects, data which we hope will not only answer the question, 'Are UFOs real?' but which will tell us something about the essential nature of UFOs." Harris also stated that PSI "operates the only known UFO laboratory facility in the world."

"Considering the practical limitations involved in the construction and operation of a detection and monitoring system," the astronomer concluded. "we believe that presently the optimum working system includes a complex array of instrumented subsystems at a single remote site plus a vehicle for transporting the various subsystems to areas of heavy UFO activity."

In his presentation -- "Interstellar Contact in an Evolving Universe" -- Dr. Thomas B.H. Kuiper, radio astronomer and member of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) team, stated that "mainstream scientific thought has focused on the search for electromagnetic signals of extraterrestrial origin (rather than, say, UFO investigations) as the mechanism for finding evidence of other civilizations in the galaxy." Kuiper believes "the present evidence for visits by extraterrestrials in historical times seems rather weak," but "the possibility is a reasonable one."

Kuiper also co-authored a symposium paper with Dr. M. Morris, research fellow, Owens Valley Radio Observatory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, entitled "Searching for Extraterrestrial Civilizations." Adrian Vance, West Coast editor, *Popular Photography* magazine, spoke on "A Two-Channel Information Theory for the Investigation of UFO Photographs."

Part II -- "An Evolution of the Universe" -- was a luncheon speech by Dr. Krafft A. Ehrlicke, scientific advisor, Space Global Co., La Jolla, Calif., entitled "The New Cosmos and Homo Extraterrestris."

"The stipulation of cosmic visitors to our planet violates no known natural law," Ehrlicke stated. "Therefore, such a visit is possible.... Reports about alleged visits should be judged by their evidence value, not their number. This value is virtually nil, because of the triviality and/or ambiguity of their information content. They are about as informative as Uncle Willy's 'messages' from 'the other side' during a seance are a contribution to thanatology.... Far fetched, and necessarily *ad hoc* arguments that the UFO people don't want to reveal themselves to us, or keep us under detached observation as a kind of zoo, remind me of the man who argued that the clouds are pushed aside by angels who keep themselves invisible and make it appear as if the clouds are moved by air currents. Therefore, the air currents are proof that angels exist. In science, this kind of circular reasoning went out with Galileo; but it's not alien to mysticism."

#### THE HAPPY CAMP, CALIFORNIA, SIGHTINGS -- PART II

by Paul Cerny,  
Western Regional Director,  
Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)

The second Happy Camp encounter came the same night as the first "creature" sighting and the Ford Bronco was practically suspended with its four wheels spinning, throwing gravel. [See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. V, No. 9, p. 8]. Driving back to town, the witnesses told their story to Helen White, who insisted they take her back to the spot.

Helen, Steve Harris, Stan Gayer, Carl Jackson, and a friend, Rick Pool, returned to the site about an hour later. They proceeded to shine their lights around the area where they had seen the creature. Nothing could be seen. Helen had a Polaroid camera with flash attachment. Thinking there was nothing to see, the five decided to leave.

"If there is anything around here, this should wake them up," commented Steve, shooting off his rifle several times.

Immediately, there was a loud 'wow-wow-wow' sound behind them. The group turned quickly in the direction of the eerie sound to observe three forms about 30-35 feet away. They appeared to be approximately five feet high, vaguely in the form of a human, but dark, non-reflecting, with a glow around the edge or outline. No eyes were seen. These objects were casually moving around but staying in a relatively small area. Despite the bright light, a bare, glowing outline was all that could be seen. It was as if the forms were absorbing the illumination. Occasionally, the whole form would slightly glow. No other details were seen.

Steve began yelling at Helen to take a picture, but she just stood there, apparently unable to react. She could not explain why she did not snap a picture. She seemed frozen with awe and fright. Steve even shook her once, attempting to get her to respond. As a result, the question of mind manipulation came up, but how does one determine this?

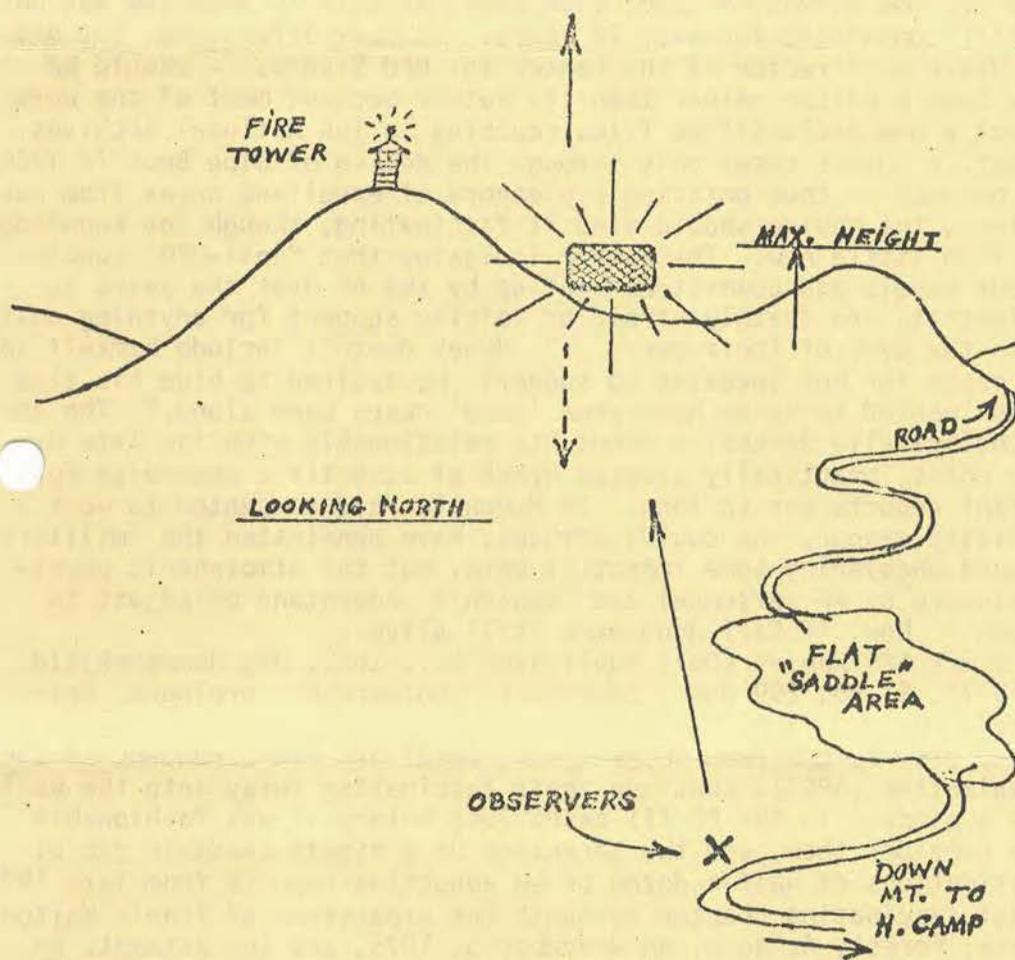
"Do you feel weight on you?" Helen asked. "I feel like something is choking me!"

Suddenly, the others began to feel a choking sensation. Carl and Stan were farther back and did not immediately notice this effect. Steve later remarked that it felt as if his clothes were getting heavy, and it was very difficult to breathe, as if the oxygen were being depleted from the air. There was no odor. Steve later assumed it could have been a direct mass hallucination, but was uncertain.

The forms appeared to remain in an approximate 30-foot area as they moved slowly around, never approaching or retreating. Steve thought they possibly kept their distance because Stan Gayer was standing near the Bronco with a loaded 30-06 rifle. This particular sequence lasted 3-4 minutes. The group then decided to leave. When they got into the car, the breathing problems disappeared, and they headed down the mountain to town.

As their vehicle climbed to the top of the hill where they began the descent down the mountain, the witnesses looked back and saw a glowing, orange-red, disc-shaped object rise up from near where they were and follow them down the curved road to the highway, where it took off. The disc sometimes appeared like a ball of fire and stayed within about 150 feet over them and off to the right above the trees. It appeared about 40 feet in diameter. This all took place on October 26, 1975.

On the night of February 7, 1976, Tom Gates, MUFON astronomy consultant and head of the Foothill College Space Science Center, and myself were on the mountain top along with Helen White. Helen was in her small pickup truck, Tom and I in my small station wagon. Part of the time we sat in Helen's truck, watching and trying to keep warm. Occasionally, we would split off, keeping in touch with Helen by citizens band radio.



Sketch of UFO and Sighting Area Around Happy Camp, Calif., February 8, 1976

(Courtesy: Paul Cerny)

After staying at the mountain top saddle area from 8:00 to 12 midnight, we decided we had "had it" for that night. We decided to return to our warm motel. Before leaving, however, we stopped at one turn-out area about one-quarter mile down the mountain road. I left my car out of sight around the curve, and Tom and I walked back 100 feet where Helen had stopped with her pickup headed away from the lookout tower. She remained in her truck listening to the C.B. radio while Tom and I stood about 30 feet away looking in the direction of the lookout light, as if it was something magnetic to us.

For about five minutes, we saw nothing. Then, suddenly, we both noticed an orange glow behind the dip in the ridge down to the right of the tower. (See sketch, left). The glow almost reminded one of a forest fire behind a hill, but there was no smoke. A few seconds later -- with increased glow and intensity -- a large, rectangular-shaped object rose

slowly up from behind the ridge. After a couple of seconds, it slowly descended out of sight, the glow remaining. It rose a second time, repeating the first performance.

After the UFO disappeared the second time, we waited for it to show again, but, after 20 minutes, decided it was gone for the night. Helen did not see the spectacle as she was busy tuning her radio.

The object was the most brilliant, deep, vivid orange color I have ever seen. It was almost indescribable, incomparable to anything known I had ever observed. The orange was so deep it was almost red. It was more or less sharply outlined against the dark, star-lit sky in its rectangular shape with rounded corners. What impressed me most was its brilliance. The rays of orange were emanating and streaking out in every direction from the object as bright light would shimmer off crystal. Tom was using his binoculars. He got the impression of a slight yellow area in the center. Our estimated distance from the object was three-quarters of a mile.

The next morning we returned to the saddle site. By taking in the area the object had occupied in the dip of the ridge against the skyline, and counting off the tree stumps of the logged-off section beneath the dip, we estimated the object was 35-40 feet across.

In a forthcoming issue, we will cover the abduction case and other unusual sightings at Happy Camp. Special thanks to Eleanor Sanini and Mary Flores for clerical assistance.

#### HYNEK, LORENZEN BOOKS TOP LATEST LITERARY CROP

One would naturally expect *The Hynek UFO Report* to offer us many knowledgeable insights into the inner machinations of the now defunct Project Blue Book, especially from the man who was the AF's chief UFO scientific consultant for over 20 years. It does offer some, but not many. Actually, Dr. J. Allen Hynek -- director of the Center for UFO Studies -- should be more appropriately labeled the book's editor rather than its author because most of the work is taken directly from Blue Book's now declassified files reposing in the National Archives. One drawback of the work is that it covers cases only through the demise of Blue Book in 1969 -- though this is admittedly its purpose -- thus omitting a plethora of excellent cases from nearly the last decade. Nevertheless, the novice should find it fascinating, though the knowledgeable researcher will probably find little new. The author indicates that "anti-UFO" conclusions resulted from the "various panels and committees" set up by the AF over the years to study the subject because "scientists are deathly afraid of voicing support for anything that might make them look foolish in the eyes of their peers..." Hynek doesn't include himself in this category, however. His reason for not speaking up sooner? He desired to bide his time and play the AF game because he "wanted to be on hand when 'good' cases came along." The author also continues to be psychologically defensive about his relationship with the late Dr. James E. McDonald, who, at one point, practically accused Hynek of scientific cowardice for having "sat on" so many important reports for so long. If McDonald "had consented to work with me in a much less antagonistic manner," he could, perhaps, have penetrated the "military circles" and made progress toward uncovering some important data, but the atmospheric physicist was regarded as a real nuisance by AF personnel and "couldn't understand or adjust to the political-military situation." Now, if Carl Jung were still alive...

[Dr. J. Allen Hynek, *The Hynek UFO Report* (Dell Publishing Co., Inc., Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017, 1977), \$1.95, 299 pgs., paperback, photographs, prologue, epilogue, appendices, bibliography].

In *Abducted! Confrontations with Beings from Outer Space*, Coral and Jim Lorenzen, of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), continue their fascinating foray into the world of the UFO abductee. APRO was a pioneer in the CE-III cases long before it was fashionable among researchers to seriously consider them, and the Lorenzens do a highly credible job of relating APRO's in-depth investigations of half-a-dozen or so abduction reports from late 1974 to early 1976. Perhaps the most fascinating chapter recounts the experience of Travis Walton in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Arizona, on November 5, 1975, and the attempts by top UFO debunker Philip Klass and William Spaulding, of Ground Saucer Watch, to label it a hoax. The authors blame officialdom's attitude for "the traumas" suffered by abductees and cite the attack by neighbors on Walton, "who had been one of them all his life until he had an experience they could not accept." Also included is a commendable treatise by Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, APRO consultant, exploring "the ethical and practical issues of using hypnotic time regression procedures in the investigation of UFO experiences." One curious tidbit: in a discussion with the authors, Dr. J. Allen Hynek objected to the ET hypothesis, saying voyages of spaceships from another solar system "would be a quantum jump compared to that of a space module from the earth to the moon." The Lorenzens responded that the astronauts' flight to the moon was "a quantum jump" from the Wright brothers' historical adventure at Kitty Hawk on

65 years earlier. From this, it almost appears as if Hynek is doing what many UFO detractors have done for years -- equating conditions in the universe with conditions here on earth, the old "if-we-can't-do-it-neither-can-they" syndrome. The Lorenzens are not polished writers, but they are polished UFO investigators and have the expertise, experience -- and the cases -- to prove it.

[Coral and Jim Lorenzen, *Abducted! Confrontations with Beings from Outer Space* (Berkley Million Books, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016, 1977), 288 pgs., paperback, \$1.75, Foreword, appendices, references].

For the past 23 years, *Flying Saucer Review* has been perhaps the most prestigious international UFO journal that, like APRO, began reporting CE-III cases long before most researchers and organizations would give them a second look. Now Charles Bowen, the magazine's editor, has brought together a number of these -- and other -- cases from the pages of the magazine in *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review*, a highly readable collection of bizarre events. Little will be new to long-time subscribers to the magazine, but, to those with only a cursory knowledge of the publication, the book will be a tantalizing glimpse into the unknown. The cases cover practically the whole UFO spectrum -- occupant/abduction/contactee encounters, electro-magnetic (E-M) and physiological effects, animal reactions, physical evidence, teleportation, the psychic connection, etc. Chapters include articles by Dr. Berthold Eric Schwarz, a New Jersey psychiatrist who has unearthed some of the more startling CE-III cases; Aime Michel; Gordon Creighton, and others.

[Charles Bowen, editor, *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review* (A Signet Book, The New American Library, Inc., 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019, 1977), 220 pgs., paperback, \$1.75, introduction, appendix].

One of the things that would benefit this subject is a good, in-depth book on UFO photographs. As West Coast editor of *Popular Photography* magazine, Adrian Vance would seem a likely candidate to fill this void. If this was his intention in *UFOs, the Eye and the Camera*, except for the title of the work, one would never know it. He appears to spend almost as much time attacking (deservedly) the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICA) and (less deservedly) APRO as he devotes to the few photograph cases he has investigated. The great bulk of the book, however, is essentially a cut-and-paste job devoted to a retelling of cases recounted innumerable times before. There are also some irksome inaccuracies denoting sloppy research. The author, for instance, states his interest in UFOs was rekindled in the Spring of 1965, when he bought a copy of John Fuller's *Incident at Exeter* -- a pretty good trick since the "incident" didn't even occur until late that same summer. One of the things that would benefit this subject...

[Adrian Vance, *UFOs, the Eye and the Camera* (Barlenmir House, 413 City Island Ave., New York, N.Y. 10064, 1977), 150 pgs., \$8.95, photographs, Preface, Introduction, appendix, bibliography, index].

Few writers can put together a "potboiler" faster or -- judging by the brisk sales of his books -- more effectively than Brad Steiger, the Barbara Cartland of UFOs and psychic phenomena. In *Alien Meetings*, he does it again -- and mixes serious UFO cases with his usual *potpourri* of fairies, leprechauns, poltergeists, and soothsayers. As we can expect from Steiger, his documentation is practically non-existent, and he tends to give as much credence to a notorious sensationalist like Gray Barker as to a serious investigator like Ted Bloecher. He doesn't exclude the Men-in-Black either, saying that, from 1966 to 1970, "hundreds of UFO investigators, contactees, and chance percipients of UFOs" claimed to have been visited by these entities, "who made it painfully clear that they would violently enforce their orders to discontinue flying-saucer research or to surrender all photographs or artifacts." And then there was the case of the man in Brazil who, in 1946, was struck by a light beam from the sky and died six hours later after his flesh, nose and ears fell off...

[Brad Steiger, *Alien Meetings* (Ace Books, 1120 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036, 1978), 213 pgs., \$1.95, paperback, introduction, bibliography and notes].

-- Book Reviews by Gordon I.R. Lore

### CLOSE ENCOUNTERS -- AGAIN AND AGAIN

by Gordon I.R. Lore, Jr.

The debate -- particularly among ufologists -- over the pros and cons of Steven Spielberg's blockbuster, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, is likely to rage for years. (See *UFO Research*

*Newsletter*, Vol. V, No. 9, p. 4). Good. That will probably assure its place in motion picture history.

But it is much more than a motion picture: it is a phenomenon, perhaps the ultimate sensory and emotional experience outside the bounds of present-day reality.

In an era when news is not news unless it is negative, when feelings (if they are allowed to surface at all) are more likely to be channeled through a river of anger and resentment, this incredibly upbeat film appears as a near-ultimate paean to Man's better (oftimes hidden) side, his joy, his celestial dream. No film -- or any other work of art -- could expect to accomplish more.

Why, then, are many serious UFO researchers "turned off" by the film? Perhaps because many of us have taken the serious too seriously, leaving too little room for open-minded speculation and not freeing ourselves for the incredible, mind-boggling emotional experience that *could* result from a personal CE-III incident.

So, the film is not a documentary or even a semi-documentary (that was never its purpose). OK, it does take liberties with UFO facts. There *are* inconsistencies in it as well as seemingly disjointed sub-plots. Maybe the first mass contact *won't* come in the sensory-shattering, near-spiritual way it did in the Spielberg opus.

Then, again, maybe it will. Let's not close our minds to the possibility. UFOs are -- or should be -- a scientific endeavor. But science without emotion and a sense of awe and beauty is a pretty stale, even potentially dangerous, thing. Despite Man's negative conditioning over the centuries, I do not believe he can stand for the first time before a descending ET craft awaiting the ultimate contact and not feel a profound sense of awe and excitement. The fact that *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* was produced at all is evidence that he can.

I have seen the film three times now, and I will probably see it three more times, and three more... Being a long-time, serious film buff, I find it very difficult to place this extraordinary work of art in any particular classification or, even, in any particular order on a best films list. It stands by itself and yanks from Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* "the ultimate trip" accolade.

Such an experience is difficult to verbally define. Even that master of sci-fi words, Ray Bradbury, was initially at a loss. Emerging from his first viewing of the film, he could only throw up his hands and mutter, "What can I say? What can I say?" Which, of course, says it.

#### ENQUIRER AWARDS IRANIANS \$5,000 FOR BEST UFO EVIDENCE

The *National Enquirer* has awarded six Iranians \$5,000 for best UFO evidence reported in the paper in 1977. The witnesses were given engraved plaques. As military or government personnel, they could not accept the cash award, which went to the Red Lion and Sun -- "an Iranian charity similar to the Red Cross," stated the weekly tabloid in its January 31, 1978, issue.

On September 18, 1976, a UFO was spotted over Tehran, Iran, and two Imperial Iranian AF F-4 Phantom jets gave chase at speeds up to almost 1,400 m.p.h. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. V, No. 4, p. 6). Lt. Gen. Abdulah Azarbarzin, deputy commander of operations for the AF, said, according to the paper, "virtually all communications, navigation and weapons control systems" aboard the planes "were jammed by the UFO."

Meanwhile, the *Enquirer* is still offering its \$1 million award for "positive proof that UFOs come from outer space and are not a natural phenomenon." Two jurists -- "former New York Court of Appeals Judge Francis Bergan and Emilio Nunez, retired Associate Justice in the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court" -- are slated to make the final decision on the big prize, following a screening process and unanimous consent by the *Enquirer's* UFO Blue Ribbon Panel. The panel unanimously approved the Iranian award.

#### NEW MEXICO WITNESSES SEE DISCS

A group of witnesses in Clovis, N.M., observed about 39 "white discs of light" moving in formation on the evening of September 10. Mrs. Al Chapiro and about half a dozen others first saw a formation of six of the "extremely bright lights" heading southwest at about 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Chapiro and other members of the group -- including Mr. and Mrs. Merle Love, E.C. Heying, Mr. Chapiro and their two daughters -- "agreed that the discs sometimes zigzagged and flew in erratic patterns." In a report to UFOR, Heying, a retired carpenter, said the UFOs were silver, and "they 'dipped' several times."