

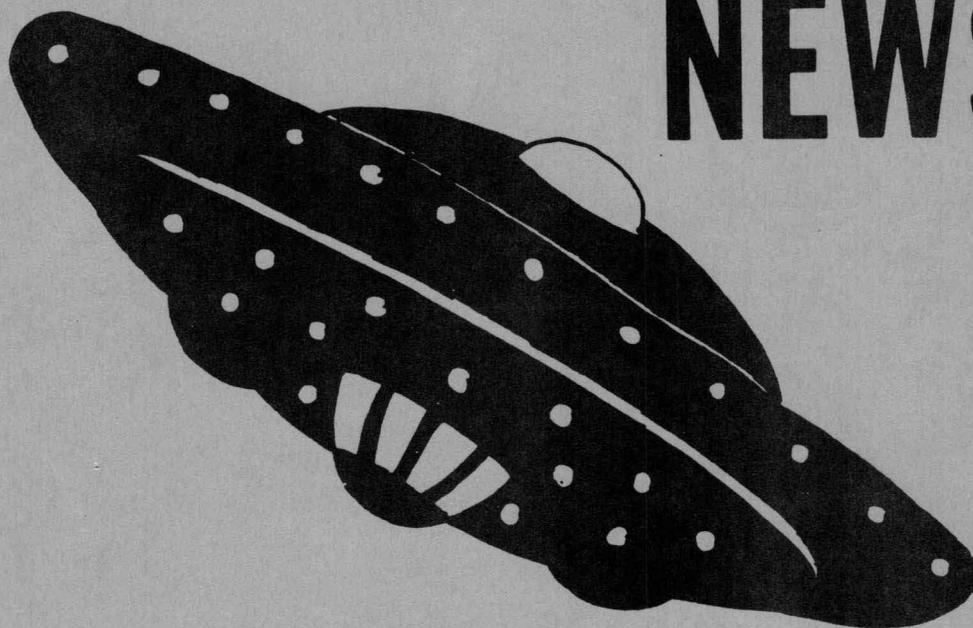
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**UFO**

**NEWS**



**OCTOBER 1984**

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# Hundreds in the East swear UFOs are hovering overhead

By Michael Coakley  
Chicago Tribune

BREWSTER, N.Y. — About 700 people were crowded into the auditorium of a junior high school, and many of them were concerned that they not appear totally crazy.

The purpose of the symposium was to discuss a phenomenon that has fascinated wide stretches of southeastern New York state and western Connecticut for two years.

It seems that thousands of people in the area have reported seeing strange objects in the night sky. Usually described as V-shaped and about the size of a football field, the colossal "Thing" is said to be absolutely noiseless and outlined in brilliant lights of white, green or amber.

There have been so many sightings by so many apparently credible witnesses that the curious of ten now crowd the Taconic State

---

*'At first I didn't want to say anything, because I figured everybody would think I was nuts.'*

—Eugene Bauer  
fiber-optics technician

---

Parkway, a major thoroughfare and prime location for viewing, between 8 and 9 p.m. EDT, the time most of the close encounters are said to have occurred.

Switchboard operators at local police agencies complain of being constantly inundated with calls. A hot line has been set up in Westchester County, N.Y., to field inquiries. And at cocktail parties all over this affluent, picturesque region, people are asking each other whether there

really is something to it, or, perhaps, have they all had one too many gin and tonics?

"At first I didn't want to say anything, because I figured everybody would think I was nuts," admitted Eugene Bauer, a technician for a fiber optics firm.

Bauer says he saw the Thing one night in March 1983 as he and a friend were driving home from a restaurant.

"It floated above our car, no more than 150 feet up, standing still," he said. "I don't know what it was, but I know it didn't come from this Earth."

Bauer was among a dozen supposed witnesses who recounted their stories before an enthralled audience at the Aug. 25 "UFO Conference," the agenda of which stretched a full 12 hours.

Dennis Sant, deputy clerk of Putnam County, N.Y., approached the microphone to tell of having watched "it" hover

over Interstate Highway 84 one moonlit night.

Richard Blasberg, a member of the school board in the white-collar village of Brewster, N.Y., contended that he has seen the Thing twice, once in the company of about 10 of his neighbors in his back yard. "There was a kind of spiritual feeling about it," he explained.

Conclaves of UFO true believers are commonplace. But some things about this session were different.

The meeting had been preceded by a straightforward account of the enigma in the New York Times, providing at least an essence of legitimacy.

And the sizable press corps covering the conference included, besides the predictable contingent from the supermarket tabloids, a number of representatives from news organizations that consider themselves respectable.

The New York state police say they believe the object is really five or six small planes flying in tight formation as part of a hoax.

One officer, a police spokesman said, recently managed to track the lights and discovered that they descended at a rural airstrip near Brewster. The acrobatic pilots were found to be "getting a big kick out of it all."

But plenty of folks say they have seen the flying hoaxers and then swear they also have seen something else entirely different.

Those witnesses who addressed the conference uniformly insisted that what they observed could not

have been a plane, because of its ability to hover motionless and shoot straight up in the sky, and because of its eerie silence.

A featured speaker at the seminar was Dr. J. Allen Hynek, retired chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University and currently the director of a private group that is a clearinghouse for UFO reports.

"This situation is unique; we've never had a group of sightings before where there have been so many witnesses, and such believable witnesses," the still-skeptical Hynek said in an interview.

# Has there been a close encounter of third kind?

GIANT v-shaped space ships the size of football fields have been worrying the people of New York state.

So have unidentified flying objects looking like boomerangs with flashing lights.

No, this has nothing to do with "V", the TV series which proved more exciting than the Olympics — this is for real.

In the last month or two there has been a "hysteria" of sightings in the well-to-do New York counties of Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess — plus more in South-Western Connecticut.

Americans take potential visitors from outer space very seriously because they believe that successive Administrations in Washington have not been entirely frank about past experiences — that there has been a cover-up.

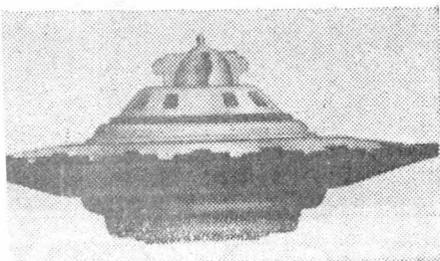
The V-shapes and boomerangs, according to many witnesses, have been hovering in the night skies in air space not used by hundreds of planes coming in and out of New York's airports.

Two UFO experts, serious fellows and not from the nutcase brigade, are taking it all very seriously.

One of them is lawyer Peter Gersten, who sued the CIA in 1978 for access to UFO documents. He won his case and received 900 sheets crammed with facts.

He contends that this dossier proves beyond doubt that the U.S. government really do acknowledge the existence of UFOs.

This spotting season, the earnest Gersten as heard from more than 1,000 people in New York state.



The other expert is Philip Imbrogno, a science teacher, who does his UFO research in Evanston, Illinois.

Both men use a very simple technique. They put adverts in local papers and ask for a response from people who think they have spotted a UFO.

In the case of the New York-Connecticut sightings the replies poured in. When the cranks were eliminated it was shown that the area had had the most frequent viewings ever.

"They saw something," says Gersten: "it's a question of what. There is definitely a hysteria sweeping these two states."

In all other parts of America, rational, level-headed UFO believers continue their battle for the truth.

Officially, the United States Air Force stopped investigating UFOs in 1969, when it came to the "official" conclusion that they didn't exist.

But the point of contention remains: has the Pentagon secretly continued its UFO researches?

Some of the wilder UFO enthusiasts believe that contact has already been made in outer space, with an earthly promise that man will never return to the moon.

Money has been Washington's explanation.

President Reagan — who loves science fiction and is a Flash Gordon fan — is personally intrigued with the possibility of some other form of life out there somewhere.

He has encouraged the space shuttle programmes, wants to see a permanent space station and is fascinated about all aspects of a future space wars scenario among super powers.

By far the most mysterious of American UFO happenings are the flickering lights near the Texas town of Marfa. What makes them so special is that they have been seen for more than 100 years at a place called Mitchel Flat.

The description of them differ, depending one who sees them. Some day they look like twinkling lanterns in the foothills of the Chinati mountains, 30 miles away. But other observers see them as dazzling objects that cast shadows before fading.

These close encounters have made the

west Texas town feel rather special. Some residents are convinced they have been chosen as earthly contacts by friendly aliens. Perhaps the say, a 100 years is but a glance of curiosity to whoever is out there.

In this special little area of UFO attention, one cannot ignore the strange case of Sam Whatley.

Ten years ago he was driving home in the early hours. The sun was just about to come up. He is a sharp-mined computer operator, trained to work things out fast.

What happened next he swears is true.

Rushing towards him were what he thought were car lights. Then a large globe of orange-red light stopped and hovered just a few inches from the open window of his pick-up truck.

It was as if the globe was inspecting him. He felt no fear and remained totally calm. Then the globe bounced away.

The town only has a population of 2,500 people and they have all grown up with the knowledge that things happen there that do not happen elsewhere.

Strange chasing lights have been spotted there since 1883: people have written songs about them, old men chewing tobacco make livings telling tales to tourists and scientists come into town quietly to judge for themselves.

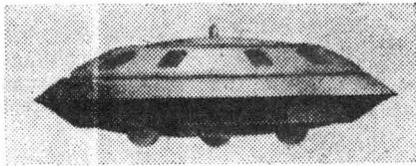
Two eminent geologists, John Kenney and Elwood Wright spent several nights watching and waiting.

As they sat in their car they witnessed horses in a nearby field getting restless and finally bolting. Seconds later two balls of light moved in which appeared as "about half the size of a basketball."

Tantalisingly, they hovered and then disappeared.

After each case voices of reason try to dismiss any suggestions of UFOs. Most popular theories are car lights, ranch lights and even jack rabbits with glow-worms clinging to their backs. Another is light from phosphorescent minerals. Some blame swamp gas which comes from rotting vegetation.

Even geophysicist John Derr, a respected



## The crashed ship from outer space

RAY FOWLER, director of investigations for the 'Mutual UFO Network' of Illinois believes that the U.S. Government put down the shutters on UFOs because they know too much. And he gladly recalls an incident, gleaned from a top security official about a crashed flying saucer.

The date is May, 1953: "This security official worked for the Air Force in Nevada and his speciality was to assess damage to crashed aircraft.

"After a plane ride to Phoenix he was loaded on a bus with blacked-out windows with a handful of scientists. They were told they were part of a team investigating the crash of a super-secret aircraft.

"The bus ride lasted hours and they arrived at an area brilliantly lit by searchlights. There, partially buried in the ground was what looked like two 30-foot cereal bowls inverted and one with a rim round the edge.

"Wires connected to the lights led through a hatch in the machine. Nearby, in a small tent, he thought he saw small silver-clad outfits."

All Fowler's efforts under the Freedom of Information Act to find out what really happened have failed. The courts, he claims, have been less than helpful on the orders of the Justice Department.

# \$20 million law suit over UFO damage

THE US Government is being embarrassed by three people who have filed a 20 million dollar law suit against them for health damages after a UFO incident.

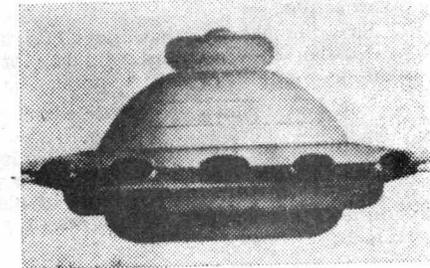
Betty Cash (54), Vicki Landrum (60) and her 10 year old grandson Colby say UFO radiation caused them burns, hair and fingernail loss, mystery bumps on their bodies, nausea, vomiting and cataracts.

They say that the Government must have known about the UFO because it was surrounded by 23 military helicopters.

This is what happened on December 29, 1980, as they drove along a remote road 20 miles from Dayton, Texas.

Out of nowhere a fiery diamond-shaped object came out of the sky and blocked the road. It made "beeping" noises and the hot flames coming out of its base turned the inside of the car into a turkish bath.

The two women got out of the car but were forced back by the heat and for 20 minutes the three remained terrified and clutching each other for comfort.



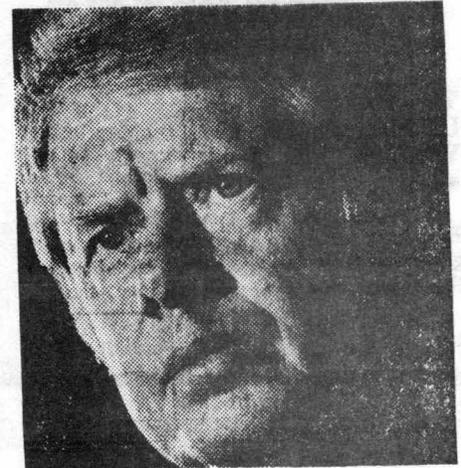
Then the UFO flew away and still shaking and speechless, Betty, Vicki and Colby drove off — but three miles later they looked back.

To their astonishment they saw the helicopters — some with large double rotors — circling and escorting the UFO.

A few days later the medical problem began and doctors told them they had been exposed to some sort of radiation.



▶ Astronaut Gordon Cooper . . . he spotted UFOs in 1951.



● President Carter . . . he promised to reveal all.

## CLOSE ENCOUNTER CON'T

member of the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver, has got in on the act.

"Easy," he said, "They are earthquake lights" — little globes of brightness in the past reported on land prone to tremors.

That theory didn't hold up because it was soon discovered in records that Marfa had never had an earthquake or tremor.

One chap has no doubt at all about what has been happening there. He is Gabriel Green, president of the Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America from Yucca Valley in California.

He has the answers to sightings from Texas to Canada and from Boston to San Francisco.

The lights, according to this sage of space, are "ionization around spacecraft piloted by extraterrestrials. They zig-zag around to get our attention and expand our awareness."

And Mr. Green also quietly explains that the space visitors would set up base under mountains.

UFO fever just won't go away in America and that is why the 'V' series touched the heart of millions of viewers who love the subject all over the world.

We all hope that the space voyagers coming to see us will be sort of friendly, intelligent cabbage patch people rather than lazerbeam-wielding nasties.

Now a 13-part follow-up series of 'V' is about to be made in Hollywood and one of the characters will be British actress June Chadwick.

In all of the thousands of sightings, one of the most amusing tales concerns the lady who went to great pains to persuade her doubting family and friends that she had seen a space machine.

"I know it was one," she insisted. "because it had UFO painted on the side."

One strong believer in UFO's is former astronaut Gordon Cooper, who says: "I am somewhat qualified to discuss about them since I have been into the fringes of the vast areas in which they travel.

"Also, I did have occasion in 1951 to have two days of observation of many

## ENCOUNTER ?

flights of them, of different sizes, flying fighter formation generally from east to west over Europe.

"They were at a higher altitude than we could reach with our jet fighters at that time."

The CIA has kept secret files on UFOs since the 1950s — a golden decade for sightings. That's when their office of scientific intelligence launched a big investigation.

First thought was that the UFOs might be Russian spy machines as many of the sightings were near sensitive military bases.

The CIA opinion was that 'sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and travelling at high speed in the vicinity of major U.S. defence installations are of such nature that they are not attributable to natural phenomena of known types of aerial vehicles.'

In 1966, the U.S. Air Force commissioned an 18-month scientific study under the direction of Edward Condon, Professor of Physics at the University of Colorado.

The reason was to quieten the clamour for information.

Ninety-one cases were examined in a half-hearted way and the only strong statement was that UFO's 'educationally-harmed' schoolchildren who were allowed in science lessons to read books and magazines on the subject.

When Jimmy Carter became President with a campaign promise to tell all about UFOs, the White House suggested that NASA should study UFOs.

Their reply was that the task was impossible on a scientific basis without physical evidence.

So the great playing down of UFOs in official circles continues and the only advice to millions of Americans who constantly keep an eye on the sky comes in a directive from the Air Force.

"If you see a UFO," they say primly, "And you feel the situation warrants it, call your local police."

THE OXFORD TIMES AUG. 24 1984 ENGLAND

# Wantage 'UFO' mystery deepens

3128  
They mystery is deepening over possible UFO activity in the night skies above Wantage, with another unexplained sighting of a strange airborne object.

Mrs June Bourton and her husband Ronald were hosting a barbecue in the garden of their Stockham Way home when the object appeared.

Mrs Bourton said: "About 10.30 pm, we saw this big ball and I thought I saw a little

outline around the top. It was going very fast, there was no sound and it was as bright as the sun.

"We thought it might be a balloon, but surely it wouldn't be a balloon up at night.

"I hope someone finds out what it was. We all discussed it for a while afterwards."

The Bourton family home is not far from where former Wantage mayor Mr Peter Rolls saw an unusually bright light from the doorway of his house in Naldertown.

Mr Rolls took pictures but the results have been inconclusive.

Mrs Bourton's son, Robert, one of the guests at the Saturday night barbecue, is now waiting to see what turns up on photographs he took of the object a week later.

The UFO was visible for about five minutes, having appeared above nearby Wantage convent.

ORPINGTON & KENTISH TIMES AUG 23 1984

# Was green light a UFO?

3128  
MRS Letita Murly did not believe in UFOs till she too spotted the strange green light that has been puzzling observers as it hovers over Petts Wood.

The encounter happened on August 14 — again a Tuesday — at 1 a.m.

Exactly a week before, the UFO

appeared to Mr Nigel Crist as he walked his dog towards Petts Wood railway station.

"I was woken up by a flashing light through my window. I thought it may have been a burglar and got up and went to the door to investigate but no-one was there," said Mrs Murly. "I went into the road and saw the strange blue-green light flashing in the

sky over Petts Wood railway station."

She watched the light for 10 minutes. "It started to hum, then made a whirring sound, then suddenly disappeared. It wasn't work on the railway, it was so high in the sky," said Mrs Murly.

"Before I saw the light I thought UFOs were a lot of piffle. Now I'm not so sure."

The UFO was spotted not far from the 73-year-old pensioner's home in Crescent Drive, Petts Wood.

Orpington Police Station and the Ministry of Defence said they had no reports of UFOs that night and no night exercises were carried out.

If you have seen the green UFO or have any theories write and let us know.

OXFORD MAIL  
AUG. 23 1984

# Mystery of bright UFO deepens

THE mystery is deepening over possible UFO activity in the night skies above Wantage with yet another unexplained sighting of a strange airborne craft.

Mrs June Bourton and her husband Ronald were hosting a barbecue in their garden at Stockham Way when the object appeared.

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"We thought it might be a balloon, but surely it

wouldn't be a balloon up at night.

The Bourton's home is not far from Naldertown where former Wantage mayor Mr Peter Rolls saw an unusually bright light from the doorway of his house a week before.

Mr Rolls took pictures but the results have been inconclusive.

Mrs Burton's son, Robert, who was at the Saturday night barbecue, is now waiting to see what turns up on photographs he took of the object.

The UFO was visible for about five minutes, having appeared above nearby Wantage convent.

EASTBOURNE & DISTRICT ADVERTISER  
AUG 16 1984

3128

# UFO? No, I don't think so

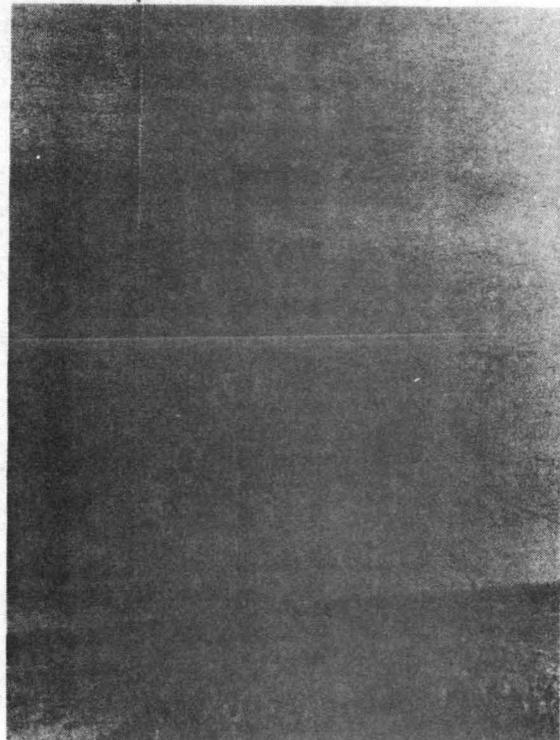
THE area's leading authority on UFO sightings has poured scorn on the idea that the 'mysterious' marks which appeared in a cornfield near Seaford (pictured right) was the result of a visit from alien beings.

Phillip Taylor, of Polegate, regional investigation co-ordinator for the British UFO Research Association, said the marks were an elaborate hoax and the perpetrators must be highly delighted with the amount of publicity their prank had received including a full page in the Daily Mail.

Similar marks to those at Rathfinny Farm just outside Seaford had appeared in Wiltshire for the past four years.

It was more than a coincidence, he thought, that both the Wiltshire and Seaford sites were called Cradle Hill.

It had been proved that such marks could be made by two or three people in less than an hour using chains to flatten the corn.



EVENING HERALD, DUBLIN. AUG. 21 1984

# UFO study: 'drop crackpot tag'

AN EXPERT on unidentified flying objects is moving his research headquarters to Phoenix, Arizona, where he hopes to shift the study of UFOs "from the crackpot era to respectable science."

Astronomer J. Allen Hynek, who spent 20 years working with the U.S. Air Force on UFO research and heads the Centre for UFO Studies, plans to spend two million pounds a year studying the best reported sightings of the mysterious objects.

With the backing of a sponsor he declined to identify, the former Northwestern University Astronomy Department chairman and director of

the Lunar Surveillance Project — part of the Apollo programme — said he will move the centre's research operations from Chicago to Arizona.

Hynek, 74, said he chose Arizona in the U.S. southwest because it is a centre for astronomical research, has a burgeoning high-technology industry and "people in general have a more open attitude. They seem to be much more willing to explore possibilities."

"I think the time is ripe for massive research into the UFO phenomenon," said Hynek, whose book "The UFO Experience" was the basis for the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

"The job has to be taken from the crackpot era to respectable science," he said in an interview. "That's going to be my contribution. I don't expect to solve the problem."

"I don't know that the solution will come within the next century, but a start must be made in making the subject respectable," he said.

Hynek, who also is a former associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, said that part of the problem in explaining UFOs is that to arrive in Arizona from the nearest star is beyond the capabilities of earth's current technology.

SHROPSHIRE  
STAR  
WELLINGTON  
AUG 24 84

# UFO expert out to kill the crackpot image

An expert on unidentified flying objects is hoping to shift the study of UFOs "from the crackpot era to respectable science."

OXFORD MAIL  
AUG 17 1984

## Mystery UFO: More reports

A UFO mystery grew in Oxfordshire this week with another report of a strange sighting of a fireball in the sky.

Security officer Leonard Bowers had just returned to his home in Hamfield, Wantage, after a walk with his wife, Margaret, when he saw what he thought was a searchlight in the sky.

"I saw this big searchlight coming from due east, it was very bright and it came quite close. I thought at first it was a balloon," he said.

### Sure

"Then it turned sharp north towards the Oxford, Abingdon direction at great speed, then the searchlight went out and it burst into flames and all the burning debris appeared to come to the ground.

Mr Bowers, who watched the spectacle with his wife and two passers-by for about five minutes, was sure the debris burnt up before it reached the ground.

Mr Bowers spotted the lights in the sky at about the same time — 9.45 pm on Sunday — as factory manager Mr Roger Johns, of Dean Butler Close, Wantage.

Astronomer J. Allen Hynek, who spent 20 years working with the air force on UFO research and heads the Centre for UFO Studies, plans to spend over £1 million a year studying the best reported sightings of the mysterious objects.

With the backing of a sponsor he declined to identify, the former director of the Lunar Surveillance Project — part of the Apollo programme — said he will move the centre's research operations from the Chicago suburb of Evanston, Illinois, to Phoenix, Arizona.

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"I don't know that the solution will come within the next century, but a start must be made in making the subject respectable," he said.

Professor Hynek, who also is a former associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, said part of the problem in explaining UFOs was that to arrive here from the nearest star was beyond the capabilities of earth's technology.

He said the problem was similar to the position a man would be in 200 years ago if a helicopter had hovered over his head, landed and two men got out and began talking to other helicopters overhead by radio.

"No one today would question the technology of helicopters and walkie-talkies," he said. But how could a man 200 years ago "have comprehended them?"

He suggested that UFO sightings were part of a conditioning process by some beings "smart enough to realise they didn't want to scare us."

DUBLIN EVENING PRESS  
AUG 31 1984

## Co. Louth farmer spies UFO

P. CAULFIELD — M.28 31/8

A vanishing UFO has baffled gardai in Dundalk.

Farmer Damien Duffy, of Stephenstown, Knockbridge, Co. Louth, telephoned them at 2 a.m. today to report a "large round object with flashing yellow lights" hovering over his house.

But when a patrol car was rushed to his farm from Dundalk the flying saucer had disappeared.

Mr. Duffy claimed the UFO hovered over his home before heading towards an old castle and some woods nearby. He said he had been woken by the sound of his dogs barking, but when he dashed inside for a torch, the "saucer" had disappeared.

A Garda spokesman in Dundalk said it was the first time they had received a report of a UFO sighting. Asked if they were treating it seriously, he said: "Well, the man is adamant that it happened."

# Plaintiffs in UFO case awaiting day in court

By **BILLY COX**  
TODAY Staff Writer

Three people who have filed suit against the United States for radiation burns they claim they sustained from an unidentified flying object nearly four years ago

continue to hold out hope for their day in court. But a defense attorney for the U.S. District Court in Houston says it may take years before the case actually goes to trial.

"I don't think it's going to be resolved anytime soon," said assistant U.S. attorney Frank Conforti. "The discovery process can be a very time-consuming thing. It's not unusual for discovery to go on for years."

"In other words," plaintiff Vickie Landrum recently said from her home in Dayton, Tex., "they're waiting until we die."

The account of the bizarre sequence of events leading up to one of history's most unusual lawsuits — the Cash-Landrum Incident — appeared in TODAY, Dec. 4-6, 1983.

The alleged encounter occurred on the evening of Dec. 29, 1980, when Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her grandson Colby were driving a rural highway some 30 miles east of Houston. They say they were startled by a large, glowing, diamond-shaped object belching flames and hovering over the road. When it ascended, the trio reported seeing it being either pursued or escorted by what they later labeled as Chinook helicopters. They said they counted 23.



LANDRUM



CASH



COLBY

Cash, the driver, sustained hair loss, nausea, diarrhea, lesions and mild anorexia, and eventually was admitted into a Houston hospital. The Landrums sustained varying degrees of the same symptoms. Cash relocated to convalesce with relatives in Birmingham, Ala., in 1981, where her condition remains unchanged. In 1983, she had a mastectomy.

In January this year, Cash-Landrum attorney Peter Gersten of Tarreytown, N.Y., filed a \$20 million suit in federal district court. The motion charged that the alleged presence of helicopters — reported by several witnesses, including a Dayton police officer — pointed to federal complicity.

The government has denied any responsibilities. In an April 5 reply, the defense maintained that the plaintiffs, "by reason of their action and/or nonaction, were contributorily negligent, and by reason of such contributory negligence the injuries alleged were sustained."

Gersten followed up with the first in what will likely be a lengthy series of pre-trial discovery requests. Among other things, he has

asked for a list of all military helicopter pilots on duty that night or those with authorized access to fly CH-47s. His strategy includes examining their medical records to comb for patterns of radiation sickness.

To date, Conforti's liaison inside the Defense Department has yet to produce any results. "I'm a little disappointed," Conforti said. "I was hoping I'd have the information on the helicopter personnel by now. It's taking longer than I thought."

Meanwhile, Betty Cash, 55, and Vickie Landrum, 60, continue to break out in sores whenever they venture into sunlight.

The last time Cash went on a daytime excursion — to the lake with her sister and brother-in-law in July — the headaches, welts and vomiting laid her in the bed for two weeks. Said she, "I keep thinking, 'Maybe it'll leave me. Maybe I'll get over it.'"

Landrum's concerns for her 10-year-old grandson's psychic traumas remain desperate.

"My dream is carrying Colby to the best doctor I can find and giving him the best treatment he can get. But it's gotten to the point now where they owe me," she said through tears on the phone.

"They owe me."

## OH-D26 DAYTON-DAILY NEWS SEPT. 1-1984 Flying objects ARE identified

Thousands of residents in Westchester, Dutchess and Putnam Counties in New York, and residents in western Connecticut have reported seeing UFO's this summer.

Funny thing about these Unidentified Flying Objects. People see some lights in the shape of a circle, or a V, about the size of a football field, they hear no noise and they know immediately that they've seen a UFO. Just how unidentifiable can these things be?

After all that's been said, written and televised about these UFO's one would think people would quit calling them unidentified flying objects. Regardless of where the sightings are made or when they occur (20 years ago or last night) the reports indicate objects that so closely resemble one another as to be undeniably identical. And people always identify them right off as UFO's.

Instead of calling them UFO's, they should probably be called Those Flying Things, or TFT's for short. Or better yet, since they are familiar but are of unknown origin, people



Photo of UFO in Zanesville, 1967

should refer to them by their proper name "whatchamacallits." These things have been around long enough to deserve some recognition and precision of language.

# Rash of UFO sightings draws crowd to upstate conference

By James H. Robinson  
SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE

**BREWSTER** — A massive number of reported sightings of unidentified flying objects north of New York City drew more than 1,000 people to this quiet town last Saturday.

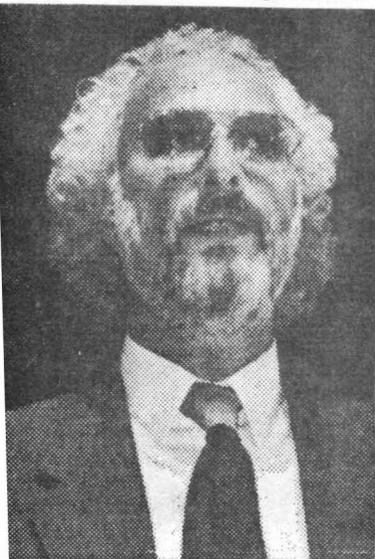
"We have, indeed, a mystery here, and we don't know what we'll find," Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the foremost authority on the phenomena of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) told the hastily convened Public UFO Conference.

Brewster was chosen for the conference partly because earlier this summer an apparent UFO hovered over local school and a pond, according to local witnesses.

More importantly, though,

Brewster lies at the hub of hundreds of recent unexplainable sightings in the skies of four New York counties and Fairfield County, Conn. The latest, verified sighting reported by more than one person was that of the evening of July 24, when a large object said to be surrounded by flashing lights hovered over Danbury, Conn., for 40 minutes.

The conference, organized by attorney Peter Gersten and astronomer Philip Imbrogno, was, in part, an attempt to prove the U.S. Government guilty of misleading the public concerning the existence of UFOs, and, "to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that strange, unusual objects do exist," as Gersten said in his opening remarks.



Antonio Huneus

eter Gersten: "... evidence acceptable in a court of law, proving beyond a reasonable doubt that strange, unusual objects do exist."

He invited the audience to act as the jury.

The event was covered heavily by the media, fulfilling another purpose of the conference — to give actual sightings the media coverage Gersten feels they deserve.

Highlights of the conference included: numerous eyewitnesses — several of whom gave their testimonies; photos and videotapes of objects seen recently over the area; and the testimony of three expert witnesses — Hynek, Lawrence Fawcett, author of *Clear Intent* (about past government coverups of UFO reports) and Imbrogno, chief investigator for the local chapter of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), based in Evanston, Ill.

Throughout the day, more than 1,000 people filtered through the packed auditorium of the Henry H. Welles Middle School in Brewster to hear testimonies that they hoped would clear up the mystery that began unfolding 2 years ago.

***The UFOs were tracked continuously from one area to another, just as an airplane can be tracked continuously along its route.***

The *New York Times* added to the tension and expectation by publishing an article that attributed the sightings to a hoax by five or six stunt pilots flying in tight formation in light planes at night.

"There are two approaches being used here today," Hynek explained to the audience, "one legalistic and the other scientific. Both approaches will view the same evidence, but each will treat it differently. In the first approach, you'll hear evidence and then vote on it. In the scientific approach we'll just review the facts and see what we come up with. We have, indeed, a mystery here and we don't know what we'll find," he said.

"I encourage witnesses to speak out for two reasons: to find and stop hoaxes and to fulfill the scientific responsibility concerning the investigation of UFOs. When I hear a report I knock it down if I can," he said, "because I want to eliminate hoaxes — they don't do anybody any good."

Hynek, who became involved with UFOs as a consultant for the Air Force, explained that he began as a skeptic and thought that the sightings "were sheer nonsense." But when he could not solve about 20 percent of the Air Force sightings grouped into "Project Blue Book," he came to accept the phenomena as real.

"There were too many incredible tales coming from credible people," he said.

"It's not a question of belief... there is a UFO phenomenon. There have been 80,000 reports from 140 countries. There are definite patterns that turn up in the reports," he said.

Pointing out that "what lies behind the phenomena is what the

research is about," he went on to say that "the main question is not where they come from or their means of propulsion, but did the sighting happen the way the witness says it did?"

"Because of the similarities in events and circumstances we know the phenomena is not an illusion — people actually saw what they say happened."

Quoting Neils Bohr, Hynek said "Paradoxes lead to breakthroughs. Science is faced with new empirical evidence — evidence which doesn't fit the current scientific picture; it's the things that don't fit which lead to new understandings. Now we're trying to do something about it."

"The media is starting to pay serious attention to the phenomena," he said, although serious damage has been done to ufology by the "supermarket press" (the *National Enquirer* and such).

"Many people think of little green men when they hear the term 'UFO' and as a result serious scientists dismiss UFOs. 'U' still stands for 'Unidentified,'" he said. "If we knew they were flying saucers, they would be Identified Flying Objects."

# Mass UFO sightings reported upstate

RASH OF UFO CON'T

Hynek developed the classification system of UFO sightings made famous in the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. There are three types of close sightings: Close Encounters of the first kind (CE1), within 500 feet; CE2, where the UFO left physical evidence of some sort — impressions, radiation, or some artifact; and CE3, in which there is direct contact with beings from a UFO.

Hynek classified as nocturnal lights and CE1s the hundreds of recent sightings in Rockland, Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties in New York, and nearby areas of Connecticut, particularly Danbury.

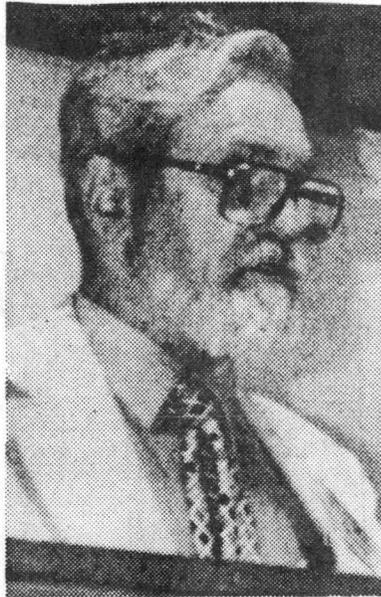
"The local sightings are special for several reasons," he said. "Most UFOs are like the Cheshire Cat of Alice in Wonderland: When they disappear, they're gone. But in these sightings, the UFOs were tracked continuously from one area to another, just as an airplane can be tracked continuously along its route. There are far more witnesses than usual. Past sightings," he said, "took place in isolated areas and had only a few witnesses. But these are taking place in upper class urban areas — maybe they decided they were talking to the wrong people," he joked.

"The witnesses are of a higher caliber than usual," he said, and

***"People piled into the streets, and stopped their cars in the middle of the street to watch the UFO."***

because these sightings are adulterated by pranksters, we have to ask, 'Did the UFO do anything that planes can't do?' Planes flying in formation doesn't wash. They can't hover silently, nor move too slowly or they'll stall out. Also the sightings were made before the pranksters got involved, and the UFO was seen when the planes were elsewhere," he said.

Philip Imbrogno, who has investigated UFOs for the past 10 years noted that since 1982 the number of sightings in the area have



Dr. J. Allen Hynek: He heard too many "incredible tales from credible people" to disbelieve them all.

increased, though they were not reported in the media.

On March 24, 1983, the five-

***"It's not a question of belief . . . there IS a UFO phenomenon!"***

county area was the focal point of one of the largest flaps in UFO history. "People piled into the streets, and stopped their cars in the middle of the street in order to watch the UFO," said Imbrogno, who explained that he had begun his investigation of the phenomena believing the people had seen a group of stunt pilots flying in tight formation — a hoax that had been pulled off before.

"But," he said, "the reports kept coming in, and people were seeing it hovering over reservoirs, trees and houses 200 yards away, with no sound. They also were stopping along the Taconic Parkway, watching as it flew over the roadway."

## Case called a 'classic'

Calling the case a "classic" because of the number of reliable witnesses, Imbrogno said the more he investigated it, the more complex it became.

"One witness in Newtown, Conn., saw it hovering over her property and she flashed her porch lights. The object responded by flashing its multicolored lights. The witness' great dane reacted violently to the UFO and was very reluctant to go outside for several days after the sighting," Imbrogno said.

"When the stunt pilots began their hoax, the witnesses who had seen the UFO could easily tell the difference," he said. "They reported that the lights wobbled, a slight engine noise could be heard, and outlines of wing structures were visible. We have tracked down some of the planes," announced Imbrogno, to the delight of at least one angry resident who demanded to know more about the pilots and was given one of their names.

The July 12, 1984, sightings, like those 15 months earlier, pulled people out of their homes and cars. Together, the sightings generated the most reports of any such incidents recorded in UFO history. "Well over 1,000 people saw the UFO on each of the two nights," Imbrogno said.

On the two nights that people in Fairfield County, Connecticut, and Putnam, Westchester, Rockland and Dutchess counties in New York, saw the same boomerang-shaped UFO flying over their towns. While the majority of the sightings centered around Danbury, Conn. and Yorktown, N.Y., large numbers of UFOs were reported along the Taconic Parkway from Millwood to Yorktown.

Imbrogno estimated that on June 11 and July 12, 6,000 to 7,000 people may have seen UFOs in a single 1,400-square mile area.

"In the entire history of UFO sightings since 1947, I've never seen a series of sightings of this magnitude," Imbrogno said.

Fawcett, chief investigator and assistant director of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), quoted from 4000 pages of U.S. government documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act to illustrate his charge that the government was covering up the existence of UFOs. Fawcett recounted nine experiences involving definite UFO activity, which indicated a possible threat to national security.

They ranged from the disintegration of a Cuban jet fighter by a "bright metallic sphere" in 1967, to a 1979 report from Kuwait about a UFO hovering over sophisticated oil pumping equipment doing "strange things to the automatic pumping device."

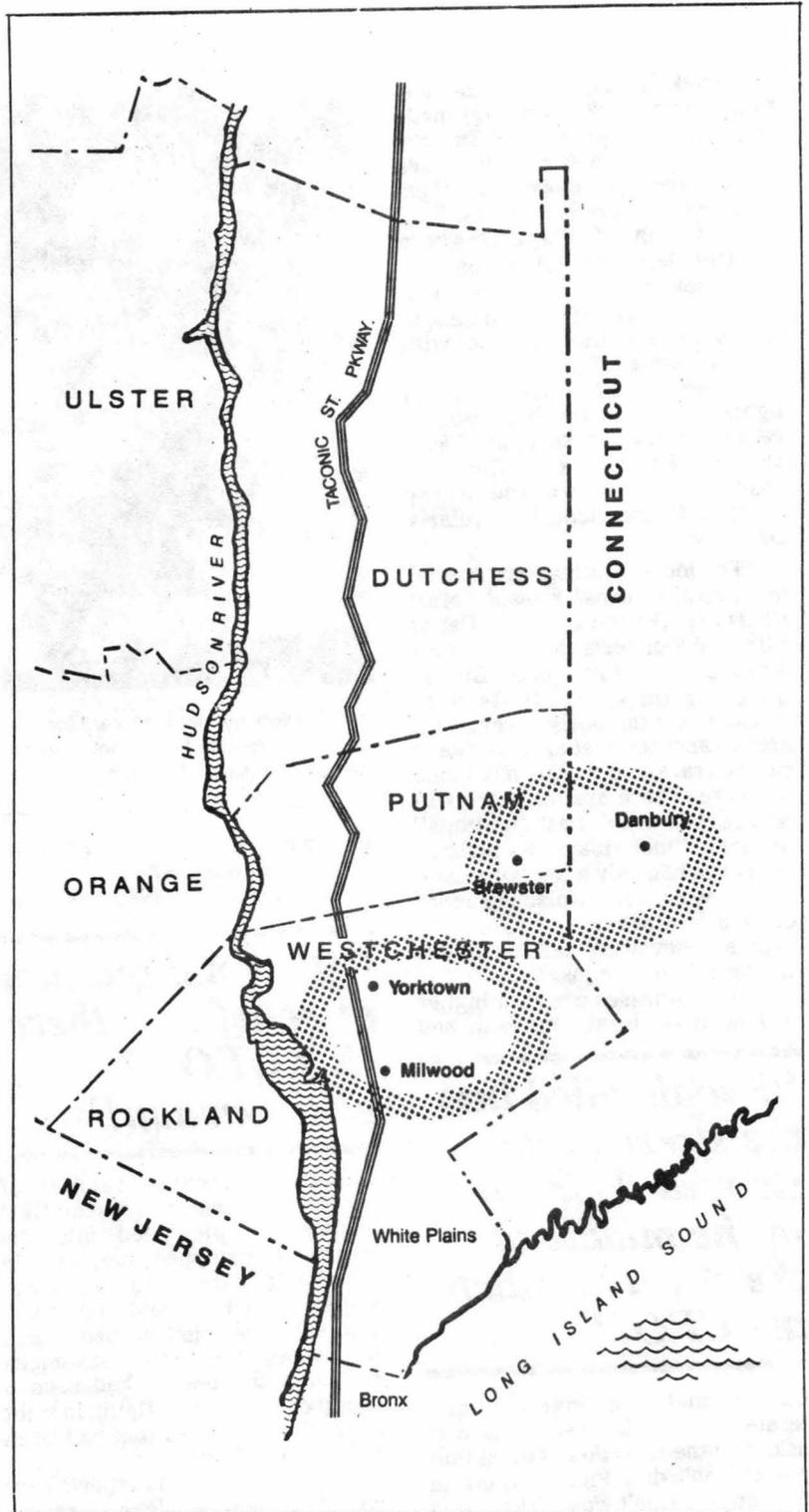
Fawcett also noted a high number of sightings over sensitive military installations in the U.S. He showed the "jury" a 21-page affidavit concerning government interest in UFOs. The entire document was censored with thick black lines drawn through each sentence on each page.

"Damn it," said Fawcett, "if there is no coverup, why all the secrecy? The time of the coverup is over," he said amid loud applause. "The UFOs are real. They display high technology and a high order of intelligence." Fawcett then called for citizen participation in government-sponsored UFO research. "We have a right to know," he said as he stepped down.

Imbrogno returned to the podium to introduce the eyewitnesses. Although an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people saw the UFOs, only about 600 have reported their sighting, he said. In the audience were about 75 people who had seen "something they couldn't explain" in the night sky.

Imbrogno told the *New York Tribune* that at the close of the conference, a total of 1,200 people told him they had seen something that could have been a UFO. "It's very rare that that many people come forward as the result of a meeting like this," he said.

The seven eyewitnesses who testified were from various walks of life. They described basically the same object: It was large, ranging in size from 100 feet to 200 yards; shaped like a boomerang or a V; and had several multicolored lights on it. They all saw it in the open, unobscured by clouds or trees, hovering near the ground without a sound.



Two of the eyewitnesses, Putnam County employees Dennis Sant and Monique O'Driscoll experienced the UFO responding to their thoughts. When it began to leave, they would wish it to stay longer, and it would turn around and come toward them. The speakers said they were not frightened; instead, they "felt good" in its presence and tried to follow it when it finally started to leave, much to the consternation of

Monique's daughter, who earlier yelled out, "Mommy, get back in the car, they're going to take you!"

Sant's children ran into the house when they saw the UFO hovering over their backyard, though Sant and his father later watched as it approached within 100 yards after it had moved some distance away.

Sant and a neighbor, Richard Blasberg, never talked with each other about the sightings until the day of the conference. Blasberg and Sant both had "kind of a spiritual feeling about the UFO."

## There have been 80,000 reports from 140 countries.

Other witnesses included Michael Faye, a New Hampshire airline pilot; and Vietnam Veteran Bill Sockui, who saw his first UFO over the Gulf of Tonkin. He believes the upstate boomerang is "under intelligent control." June Pope, a nurse, said, "It's not of this earth, that's for sure."

Eugene Bower, who described himself as a "working-class stiff who don't know nothin' about nothin'," concluded his testimony by predicting the next sighting. "From what I can gather from the papers, the sightings take place between the first quarter and the full moon. The next sightings should be between Sept. 2 and 9, so

get out there with your binoculars and see for yourselves," he challenged.

The final part of the conference was a question-and-answer period involving the witnesses, speakers and several other ufologists, including Pete Mazzola of the Scientific Bureau of Investigation (SBI), Dick Ruhl of the Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO), and John Fuller, author of *Incident at Exeter* and *The Interrupted Journey*, the story of Betty and Barney Hill, two of the first people to testify under hypnosis that they had been "abducted" by beings from a UFO.

Dick said stunt pilots "are responsible for about 90 percent of the sightings that were reported. I've spoken with some of them. I've seen them fly and land, and I've congratulated them on their fantastic flying. I've also appealed to them to stop being children and stop the flights because of the danger — God forbid they should have an accident over a populated area. They've become a public nuisance," he said.

When pressed, Ruhl revealed the name of one of the pilots, Ivan Hirsh, who is on public record at the Westchester Airport as being the owner of one of the planes.

The conference ended with Gersten asking the jury for its verdict — "Is the government guilty of a coverup concerning UFOs? You've heard the witnesses and seen the pictures and videotapes," he said. "Take several days to deliberate and then cast your vote by calling the UFO Hotline, (914)739-6830, and let us know what you think."

NY OSSINING CITIZEN REGISTER

AUG 28 1984

### 1201 Sky lights: 'Are we really alone?'

After World War II, we joined the Ground Observation Corps, a chain of posts set up by the Air Defense Command from Canada down through this area to watch for planes (friendly or unfriendly). It was amazing, after we had logged some hours, up in the glass house, atop the Cardinal McClusky Home, how acutely we could judge the type of plane, its distance, etc. just by hearing its engine or watching its path through the night sky. One night, we spotted a strange flying object, a ring of bright lights, traveling very slowly toward the southwest. Our post, One Alpha, reported it and so did all the others down the line, as far as it could be seen. We never heard if it had been identified or not, but we logged it as a UFO. I had forgotten all about it, until a

few weeks ago. I was looking out of my window, watching the planes, their landing lights blinking as they circled the airport which is not too far from us. There it was again, the strange circle of lights, almost hovering in the area of the airport. I watched it for the better part of a half hour, when it suddenly took off, straight up and was gone in a matter of seconds. I pride myself, since being with the GOC, that I can be dispassionate about things in the sky, but I've got to tell you, I have begun to wonder if we are being conceited in believing that we are the only intelligent life in this great universe. As the man said in his book, "Are we really alone?" I wonder.

ELEANOR DODGE  
White Plains

<sup>1381</sup>  
 'Tis the Season for UFOs

One of the rites of summer up in New York's Westchester County is flying saucer sighting.

And true to the season, last week residents were reporting strange lights in the skies, not only in the Westchester area, but in Dutchess and Putnam counties and western Connecticut as well.

A sighting by Irene Lunn of Mahopac is typical of reports received by law enforcement agencies. She was coming home from a supermarket around 9 p.m. with her 5-year-old daughter when, "I saw it over a pond on a nearby farm. It wasn't an airplane, it wasn't a helicopter, it wasn't a hang glider. At one point, all the lights went green, then red, then they went back to a pattern of green and red and white. That was scary."

Many people are demanding an investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration. But the agency dismisses them with a chuckle.

"Why would we care about a UFO?" asked Louis Achitoff, representing the FAA regional office. "If

the pilot is up there with a clearance and at the right altitude, we don't care what planet he comes from."

State police believe that planet is good old mother Earth. The UFO, says a patrolman, is actually a group of light planes. "The undersides are painted black so they can't be seen from the ground. The planes are rigged with bright lights that turn from one color to another. It's the lights that give shape to the UFO. There's nothing illegal about that and the pilots are getting a big kick out of it."

This explanation doesn't satisfy true believers. They are convinced the visitors are from outer space rather than a seasonal hallucination or a calculated hoax.

There is one sure test for authenticity, however, and we recommend it. If the UFO actually lands and the Abominable Showman emerges, riding on the back of the Loch Ness monster, you've achieved the ultimate end-of-summer event.

Otherwise, forget it! //

NY-D56 POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

AUG. 31 1984

<sup>1381</sup>  
 Lawyer offers \$1,000 for 'UFO' pilots' names

By William LaRue  
 Journal staff

WHITE PLAINS — A Westchester County lawyer is offering a \$1,000 reward for the names of local formation pilots, who he claims are "recklessly and maliciously" stirring up false UFO reports.

Lawyer Peter Gersten, who organized a UFO conference Saturday in Brewster, said at least seven aircraft were spotted Monday in various formations over the Mid-Hudson Valley.

He said some of the fliers turned their navigation lights on and off, emitted a sulfur-smelling gas and shot off beams of light.

Gersten believes the pilots were attempting to impede his and others' serious investigation into a rash of local reports of a mysterious V-shaped unidentified flying object.

Gersten said he hoped the \$1,000 reward — and a public identification of the pilots — will end their nighttime antics.

"It is time these pilots become accountable to the public," he said.

Local police have long blamed UFO reports on single-engine planes flying in V-shaped and circular formations out of Stormville Airport in East Fishkill.

The Federal Aviation Administration is aware of the pilots but says it cannot stop them because they are apparently doing nothing illegal.

Gersten is not convinced that pilots are solely responsible for UFO reports.

Last weekend, he said, there was at least three daytime, local sightings of a disc-shaped object. He said a photograph was taken of the UFO over Croton Reservoir.

"We hope to obtain these photographs shortly," he said.

Gersten has set up a UFO Hotline for daily recorded messages on sightings and information on the \$1,000 reward. The number is 914-739-6830.

# Several claim to see

ND-D5 GRAND FORKS  
HERALD  
AUG 28 1984

# UFO near TRF

By Mike Brue  
Herald Staff Writer

What's green and white and occasionally red and hovers in the sky?

Don't expect an answer from Leslie Arlt, a Red Lake County deputy sheriff, even though he said he saw such an object east of Red Lake Falls, Minn., between 3:30 and 5 a.m. Monday.

"I'm not sure what it was. I'm sure it was something mechanical up there," Arlt said in a telephone interview Monday afternoon. "But whether it was something we had up there or something somebody else had up there, I don't know."

In nearby Pennington County, several people claimed to see a similar airborne object several miles east of Thief River Falls early Monday morning, Sheriff Charles Richards said.

The object was green in color and "zipped back and forth in the sky," according to witnesses' reports.

They mentioned the sightings to Deborah Hams, night clerk at a 7-Eleven convenience store in Thief River Falls. Hams later informed law enforcement officers when they made a routine stop at the store

shortly after 3 a.m.

Officers sent to the site found nothing, Richards said.

"I know these people who came in believed they saw something," Hams said in a telephone interview. "You could tell. They weren't drunk or anything like that." She did not know the witnesses' names.

The Grand Forks Air Force Base confirmed seeing a "blip" briefly on an air traffic control radar screen early Monday. But Air Force officials called it "impossible to confirm or deny an alleged UFO sighting" near Thief River Falls, according to a press release from Lt. Bonnie Saunders, deputy chief of public affairs for the base.

"The air traffic controller on duty, Sgt. Tom Buzzard, indicated the radar was detecting ground clutter and temperature inversion, and no other air traffic control targets were present in the area," Saunders said.

The area where the sightings occurred is beyond the base's designated radar space, Saunders said, so the radar "is unreliable" in that area.

Lyle Wicken of the Grand Forks Flight Service Station at the airport said radar there detected no unidentified "blips." Also, the station's new

weather radar does detect ground clutter but not aircraft, Wicken said.

Arlt, an eight-year deputy sheriff, was on duty Monday morning when he heard from a Pennington County sheriff's dispatcher about the Thief River Falls area sightings.

The deputy began to look around, and soon he spotted the unusual lights in the clear sky while driving on Red Lake County Road 1, east of Red Lake Falls.

"Actually it wasn't much," Arlt said. "It was green and white light to begin with, what I'd seen. I took it for granted it was a plane. I kept watching and watching, and it never seemed to get any further away from me, like it was staying in one spot."

The lights "seemed to be on some type of beacon or something" and moving, Arlt said. Occasionally, a red light would flash.

Arlt said he tried driving east, toward the lights, to get closer. But the lights seemed to remain the same distance away, he said. He couldn't tell how far away the lights were because no form or shape accompanied the lights, which "were really high in the sky."

The deputy used a spotting scope, a small telescope-like device used of-

ten to check target practice results, trying to get a closer look at the lights.

"I watched it for about an hour or more," Arlt said. "Finally, it did start getting smaller and smaller and smaller, and then it disappeared."

Arlt said he never felt concerned for his safety, and he did not request assistance.

"At first, I was too interested in trying to find out what it was," Arlt said. "After I watched it for so long, it kind of got monotonous. But then when it disappeared, I said, 'Oh boy.' I don't know."

Hams said Monday that two young couples entered the 7-Eleven store together between 1 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. to report their sighting.

"One of the guys said, 'You're going to think I'm crazy, but I've got to tell somebody.' He said, 'I think we saw a UFO,'" Hams said.

After describing what they had seen and where, Hams said, the couples left with two other people to return to the site where they spotted the object.

One man returned sometime around 2:30 a.m. to say that the group had spotted the object again, Hams said. //

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

IN OUR SEPT. 1984 ISSUE ON PAGE 23 THERE IS A PICTURE OF A UFO REPORTEDLY TAKEN BY A MR. GABRIEL KOZORA IN NEW CASTLE, PA. THE PHOTO WAS ACTUALLY TAKEN 17 YEARS EARLIER BY PAUL TRENT IN McMinnville, Oregon on May 11, 1950. THANKS TO MR. CHARLES J. BEDNARIK FOR BRINGING THIS TO OUR ATTENTION. MR. BEDNARIK CAN BE CONTACTED BY WRITING TO HIM AT 4701 PINE STREET, APT. G-7 PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19143

1381

By DOROTHY STÖRCK



## UFO sightings captivate N.Y.

We sit at dusk in a garden in the soft Chelsea section of New York City, Mary, Barry and I, and contemplate UFOs.

There are none shimmering overhead, mind you, no tiny green men peering down — although sometimes in New York City it is difficult to tell.

It is the *thought* of UFOs that beguiles us, the very idea. Close encounters with *neighbors* is what New Yorkers fear most. They take comfort in the concept of beings who dip and hover and then dart away. That is a very New York thing to do.

"I think we ought to go to Brewster right now and see the UFOs," says Mary, who is new to New York and therefore unaware of the dangers of traveling to the suburbs. "It's only an hour away."

"You go," says Barry, who knows better. "I'll wait here and watch the sky."

You should know that in the three counties just north of New York City this summer there have been UFO sightings reported by thousands of people.

Saturday on television they showed movies made by a man in Brewster, N.Y., which is along the Hudson River. The movies showed a UFO. It was a blur of lights in a close V formation, flashing red, white and green.

### Hovering

The Brewster man who took the pictures said that the thing was absolutely noiseless and that it hovered. Hovering is a must with UFOs.

The police up there are calling it a hoax. They say half a dozen jokers are flying private planes with colored lights and with the undersides of the wings painted black.

A spokesman for the eastern region of the Federal Aviation Administration shrugged off questions from reporters.

"If the pilot's up there with a clearance and at the right altitude," the FAA man said, "I don't care what planet he comes from."

In northern Westchester County during the weekend, people camped out to catch a glimpse of the alien craft. A meeting has been called for Saturday and UFO experts from across the country will be there.

All in all, it's a nice way to finish out August.

I keep thinking how pleased Hector Quintanella would be.

### Project Blue Book

I met Quintanella 23 years ago, when he was first assigned as an Air Force major to run something the Pentagon called Project Blue Book.

Nobody knew exactly where that name came from, but it meant that the Air Force was keeping track of the strange blips in space that other people called flying saucers.

Quintanella, a genial Texan, had a background in physics and a belief that there are more things in this world than you or I can conceive of.

His fellow officers thought Project Blue Book was loony, even though there were these great telescopes set in the deserts staring into space for strange signals.

Hector Quintanella just ignored the others. I used to see him sitting patiently in the anterooms of Pentagon generals, holding his blue folder of UFO sightings and waiting to get a word in between the talk of massive weapons systems with the potential to turn the world to dust.

### No such thing

In 1969, the Air Force ended Project Blue Book. It announced curtly that there were no such things as flying saucers.

I called Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio then to talk to Maj. Quintanella to see how he was taking the news.

"Good morning, Aerial Phenomenon," a tiny voice said on the other end of the line. Then it paused. "Oh, excuse me," it said. "We're closed down."

Quintanella said he was "packing up all the files. . . . There have been so many sightings. All those people. They were so sincere, and they really thought they saw something."

Had he believed, I asked?

"I believed in the beginning. When I was a kid I was always looking up at the quadrants in the sky. I believed then. But now they've convinced me there probably isn't anything there."

He sounded so tired. All those mystic saucers that turned out to be swamp gas. All those excited farmers in fields where the little ship had gone down, just behind the haystack.

When I tried to recontact Quintanella, I was told the Pentagon doesn't know where he is. He retired right after the end of Project Blue Book.

I told Mary and Barry about him. I said that even if we didn't go to Brewster, I was glad for Hector Quintanella that they were putting a flying saucer on TV for all New York City to see.

I have a feeling that despite all the doubters, Hector Quintanella has never stopped looking at the sky.

# 1281 Group charges

MIDDLETOWN TIMES  
HERALD-RECORD  
AUG 30 1984

## 'UFO' cover-up

By BILLY HOUSE  
Staff Writer

GOSHEN — The band of pilots whose antics fooled dozens of mid-Hudson residents into believing they were seeing unidentified flying objects (UFOs) on Monday night may be part of a government-backed scheme to cast doubt on legitimate area sightings, a group of Hudson Valley UFO researchers charged yesterday.

"Why else would the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) continue to sit on its hands," asked Peter A. Gersten, a Tarrytown attorney who heads the group. "With all the havoc these guys have been creating, you mean to tell me the FAA doesn't even care who they are? Why won't they stop them?"

Gersten and his group yesterday offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identities of the pilots or their organization.

Persons with information should telephone the UFO hotline at 914-739-6830. All calls will be kept confidential, Gersten said.

"We believe this is a part of a military or government cover-up to discredit legitimate UFO sightings in the area," Gersten said. "But we have reports that the real UFO is still out there."

Gersten described that "true object" as huge — larger than the size of a football field — and triangular in shape with lights. He said it "floats in the air" and gives off a "low whirring sound."

He says the same object has repeatedly been sighted throughout the Hudson Valley region, with the last batch of reports coming on Monday night — and that's the reason the group of five to seven pilots took to the skies again, Gersten says.

Robert Gribble, a member of the independent National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., said yesterday that the center has documented past "diversion" attempts throughout the country by the government to discredit what appears to be legitimate sightings.

"There have been numerous instances of apparent serious sightings, and then all of a sudden a bunch of weather balloons or military helicopters are sent up by someone

in that same area," Gribble said.

"Then, some government official always goes on record in the press as saying the original UFO sightings were mistakes — that they were actually balloons and helicopters," Gribble said. He said the tactic is used to prevent panic and disguise the government's knowledge of genuine UFO activity.

But Gribble said the center received several reports of sightings Monday night from the Hudson Valley "that simply can't be explained away as a group of small planes."

In Ulster County, Sharon Anderson, 33, of Route 32 in Modena, was one of the area residents who claims to have spotted the "true object" Monday. "There is no way what I saw was planes," she said, going on to describe it as an "A-frame"-shaped object that made a low humming sound.

State Police in Ulster and Orange counties, as well as in Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties, say they received more than 60 reports of UFO sightings between 9:30 p.m. and midnight Monday.

But federal air traffic controllers based at the FAA's flight service station in Wappingers Falls said Tuesday that they believed all the sightings apparently stemmed from the same "five or six" jokers that they say have been trying to play a "hoax" on the region for nearly a year.

The controllers say what people really are seeing are five or six small planes — probably Cessnas — flying in tight formation with special lights rigged underneath. They said they know the pilots have been flying out of the Stormville Airport in Dutchess County, but that they haven't been stopped because the group is not violating any laws.

Yesterday, the controllers responded to Gersten's charges of a government scheme to discredit legitimate UFO sightings by calling them "ridiculous." One controller, who did not want to be identified, said he has personally talked with a couple of the pilots.

"They're just a bunch of pilots who are having a good time," the controller said.

# Strange encounter

# A weather eye kept on UFOs

WHEN a Potton family were returning home from holiday they had the shock of their lives as the sky suddenly turned a dark gold colour.

Two large, bright orange and gold spheres appeared over the horizon, two more appeared beneath these and two more at the sides.

"It was absolutely fantastic, we had never seen anything like it before," said an excited Mrs Ruth Waistell.

The family made their unusual sightings not far from Stonehenge and now the Ministry of Defence is investigating their claims.

Martin, aged 11, the Waistells youngest son, is still in a state of shock and refuses to go out alone after seeing what appeared to be a moving star. This happened soon after the sky changed

colour as the Waistells were travelling home on the A303 towards London. Martin saw the object change colour from white to red, then green. Further down the road, before a sign to Quarley, Mrs Waistell saw a dome-shaped object in a field.

The time was after 11 pm and, unfortunately, no other eye-witnesses were in the vicinity to see the strange goings-on.

"Whether the dome shaped object was some sort of craft I don't know," said Mrs Waistell.

## Flashing

The Waistells claim there was a bright yellowy-gold light coming from each of the "windows" of an object the size of a house. They drove back to the field on the opposite side of the road to investigate — but the field was empty.

Further along the A303, Martin again saw the "star" moving across the sky. It was still flashing and changing colour and increasing in

size when it split into two with each "star" turning bright yellow. The mysterious sightings joined together turning red, then white and then disappeared.

Shortly afterwards, Mrs Waistell's husband spotted more strange lights in the sky.

Martin looked through his father's field glasses and saw a strange shaped object with lights apparently coming from "windows".

Mrs Waistell added: "The star again split into two, again turned red and they appeared to be chasing each other across the sky at an unbelievable speed."

By this time it was well after midnight and the family were well down the M3. They insist their sightings were genuine and would like to hear from anyone locally who might be able to explain the extraordinary UFOs.

WORCESTER weatherman Paul Damari is planning a link-up with the UFO investigation group Skyscan to help explain mystery sightings.



Worcester Independent Weather Centre is to develop a section to deal specifically with "optical phenomena".

Paul Damari (pictured), who helped set up the centre more than three years ago, says the section will work closely with Skyscan in dealing with UFO sightings.

"We get a lot of calls about sightings and a section of the centre dealing with these will link with Skyscan so that we can pool information," he said.

A UFO sighting reported in Malvern this week was likely to have been a fireball — one of many recorded by the weather centre at this time of the year.

The weather centre's records, detailing astronomical and meteorological statistics for the county, date back as far as the 12th century.

"We will be keeping an eye on the sky at night and hopefully draw on our records to explain sightings," he added.

# Town Dazed as UFOs Suck Up Tons of Water From Swimming Pools

**Terrifying UFOs blitzed a town and stole thousands of gallons of water from residents' swimming pools, reveal stunned eyewitnesses including a police officer.**

"I personally saw a huge illuminated oval object cruising over housetops, and, as strange as it seems, I saw it pull water up out of a swimming pool," declared police Sgt. Carlos Palacios of Olavarria, Argentina.

"There was no noise, and I even verified it by checking the pool. It was empty. I couldn't believe my eyes. But as incredible as it sounds, it was not science fiction!"

The astonishing event repeated itself over several nights in early January, and caused a sensation in the town, about 200 miles from Buenos Aires.

The occurrences bore a striking similarity to the recent smash TV miniseries "V: The Final Battle," in which space aliens pumped water from earth into their hovering spaceships.

"I saw a huge, long oval object literally parked about 100 feet above the yard," said electrician Carlos Borelli, who was awakened at 3 a.m. by bright lights outside.

"The object was twice the size of a blimp and had a ring of colored lights around it which flashed on and off — red, yellow, orange and green.

"All of a sudden, a beam of bright white light shot down from the object, and the water from the pool rushed up through the light so fast it appeared it was being sucked up a drinking straw.

"Suddenly, the object shot off at an incredible speed — in less than three seconds it was gone. The whole event took 10 or 11 seconds. I've never seen anything like it.

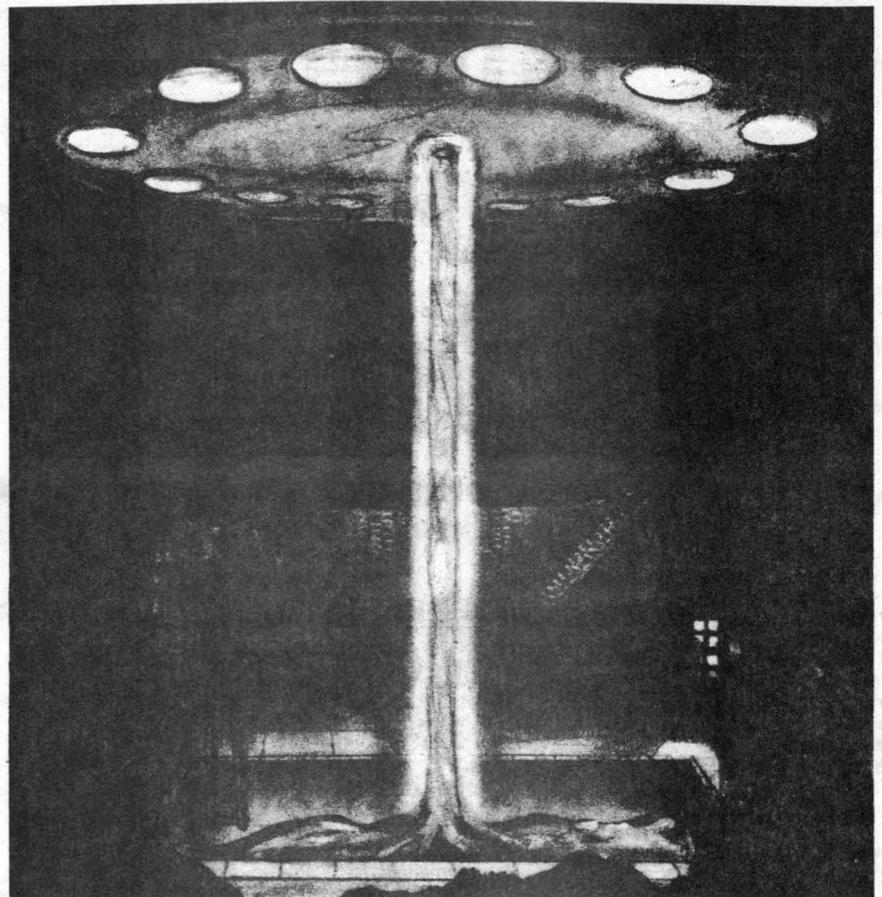
"I thought I might have been dreaming — but going out to the pool, I saw it was empty!"

Jose Veiga, manager of a local bank, added that the pool at his bank's employee club was also struck.

"Our club was visited by a flying



**MIND-BOGGLING** event was witnessed by Father Romeo Musaragno, seen here with an army soldier who also saw the UFOs.



## *Police Officer Saw Water Rushing Up Through Light Like a Drinking Straw*

saucer which emptied our swimming pool," Veiga said. "More than 10,000 gallons disappeared."

Many other area residents — including Roman Catholic priest Romeo Musaragno and two Argentine Army soldiers — reported seeing brightly-lit UFOs.

"More than 20 witnesses of high

caliber saw the incredible lights in the sky," said assistant police chief Juan Carlos Longobardi.

"That and the mysterious extraction of water from swimming pools point to what we recognize as fact: Olavarria has been visited by UFOs."

— GARY RICHMOND

# Pals see UFO 'like a car in the sky'

LIKE a car riding through the sky, it cruised slowly above Woburn Sands.

The five teenagers stopped and looked skyward, eyes agog, mouths agape in wonder at its collection of white, green and red lights.

The UFO, which appeared to be circular in shape, moved with a distant roar over the woods for a minute before vanishing below the treeline.

The sighting, at 9.30 pm the Sunday before last, left 18-year-old Dominic Wolfenden shaken and mystified. He and four pals were on their way to the Royal Oak in Aspley Heath and had taken a short cut through the woods from Aspley Guise.

## Report by ANDY GIBBS

"We were walking through the woods and all of a sudden we noticed it, like a car coming through the sky about 300 feet in the air," said Dominic, of Theydon Avenue, Woburn Sands.

"It was like a whole array of lights over our heads. We stood next to each other looking straight up with mouths open—we had not got a clue what it was."

The mystery dome-shaped craft had two white lights like car headlamps on the front and one at the rear. Its underside glittered with red and green lights, added Dominic.

"I'm not sure how big it was, but it flew over for not more than a minute. It's hard to explain what it sounded like, not a mechanical noise and not a humming—it was like a very distant plane very high up, but not so roaring."

Dominic contacted the British UFO Research Association, who put him in touch with Milton Keynes officer Ken Phillips.

Ken has confirmed that the RAF, Luton Airport, the hot-air balloon base at Old Warden and airship headquarters at Cardington know nothing about what the teenagers saw.

Now he is appealing for other eye-witnesses to come forward.

"There have been better sightings, but I can't fix this one to anything," Ken told the Gazette. "It was a straightforward observation, but I have not found an explanation for it." Witnesses can contact Ken on MK 678870.

## Dot's close encounter

LOWESTOFT JOURNAL & MERCURY  
SUFFOLK  
SEP 14 1984

FOUR years of research by an Oulton Broad woman and two colleagues will be marked at the end of this month with publication of their dramatic account of a UFO encounter in the heart of Suffolk.

Mrs. Dot Street, of 15, Blackberry Way, has been closely involved

with investigations into claims of UFO sightings in Norfolk and Suffolk for the past five years.

She has worked in collaboration with two other investigators, Brenda Butler, of Leiston, and Jenny Randles, from Warrington, in writing about the events sur-

rounding an episode in Rendlesham Forest towards the end of 1980.

"Are UFOs physical craft flown by beings of superior intelligence? Do the governments of the world know this fact, absolutely and certainly?" asks the advance material for their book.

Their new publication, "Sky Crash" — being published in hardback by Neville Spearman Ltd. at £7.50 — is billed as the "world's first

officially confirmed close encounter."

Mrs. Street has just returned from a visit to Gibraltar, where she was interviewed on radio about the background to the story.

And she told the Journal this week that interest has been such that arrangements were being made for her to be interviewed for Japanese television.

"I am having so many inquiries about it," she said.

Mrs. Street said she had spoken to the

principal witness referred to in the book — "and as far as I am concerned he is authentic."

She and her co-authors will be attending a launch for the book in London on October 6th.

And she is clearly convinced that *something* happened in Rendlesham.

"We cannot say it was a UFO because we weren't there — but we have to go by what witnesses say," she adds.

# UFO boom

3128

# in skies

# over Oxon

**Wheatley sighting  
the first of many**

**FLYING saucer experts are reporting an incredible series of sightings in the skies over Oxfordshire.**

They say the mysterious UFOs, which built up their activities through August, could be heading for a new peak next month. The sightings range from as far apart as Wheatley, Oxford, Faringdon, Wantage, Finstock and Chipping Norton.

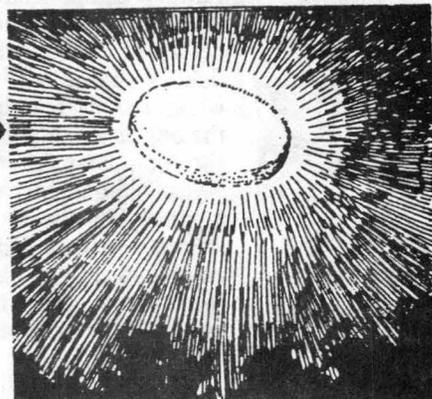
Others have been seen further afield, and amazed witnesses have included couples, managers and a fireman.

"It has been quite a build up," said Derek Mansell of the UFO Data Research Centre in Wheatley — who himself saw a strange object in the sky at the end of July.

Since then members of the public have reported 14 other sightings in the Oxfordshire area.

Many of them were referred to the centre when they reported strange lights in the sky to the police. Mr Mansell is compiling a catalogue of sightings, and detailed ones will be investigated.

He used binoculars to watch a silver metallic disc flying east from Wheatley.



★ An artist's impression of the Wheatley sighting.

**EXCLUSIVE**

By DAVID BOYLE

"After a while it tilted on its side, but carried on in the same direction and at the same speed, which was about the speed of an airliner," he said.

But that was just the beginning. Nearly two weeks later, in the early

minutes of July 26, there were more than eight separate reports of coloured lights in the sky, some from as far as Swindon, Reading and Worcester.

Reports varied from red and blue, to red and green or green and blue, but all agreed the lights were stationary except for a wobble, before moving slowly off to the South.

- Later sightings include:
- A spherical object over Wheatley one morning;
  - A large red light, like a small full moon, over Oxford, moving slowly to the north-east;
  - Flashes in the sky over Headington, reported by a very frightened woman;
  - Exploding searchlights in the sky over Wantage;
  - A round object with revolving sides moving over Finstock.

The strangest sighting came at the end of last month, when an elongated shape was seen over Chipping Norton, with a yellow light at either end and a long red light in the middle.

It disappeared, then was suddenly there again in the same place a few minutes later, Mr Mansell said.

The Unidentified Flying Saucer Data Research Centre can be contacted on Wheatley 2071.

1581

# The UFOs are back

*New sightings relieve late summer's tedium*

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, Aug. 29, The Press news desk received several phone calls reporting a large, round flying object with spinning yellow lights. The thing was seen in the Elberon section of Long Branch, Ocean Township and Asbury Park. Some of the callers said the loud, whirring sound made by the object awoke them from their sleep.

A man who was driving on Ocean Avenue, Long Branch, called it "big and bright and strange sounding." Another motorist said, "It was really scary. It went straight up in the air and disappeared." An Asbury Park woman said, "It was probably the most unusual thing I ever saw. It was just hanging in the air. I thought I was going crazy."

Robert Warth, who heads the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained, based in Little Silver, was not surprised by the most recent spate of sightings. A

chemist for a major aerospace corporation, he said his group has received hundreds of reports of unidentified flying objects. A high percentage of of these reports came from the Jersey Shore. Many of the sightings are of objects near or over the ocean, leading Warth to speculate that the visitors, whoever they may be, are using our water to refuel their spaceship.

If that is so, perhaps a touch of pollution off our coast fouled up the craft's engines and caused the noise that aroused Shore residents from their slumber. By contrast, the UFOs sighted all summer in southern New York State and western Connecticut were of the classic, silent variety.

In recent weeks thousands of people

in New York's Westchester, Dutchess and Putnam counties have reported seeing strange objects in the sky, usually described as about the size of a football field, V-shaped or circular, and outlined in white, red or green lights. In every case, the object was noiseless (one woman said she could hear the crickets as she and her 5-year-old daughter watched it hover over a pond). She also reported seeing an L-shaped structure suspended beneath the craft. Typically, as described by witnesses, the object would remain stationary for a time and then rise straight up at great speed.

The UFO sightings in the Westchester-Connecticut area were made by businessmen, teachers, housewives, lawyers, accountants and police officers. A public hearing in the New Castle (N.Y.) Town Hall was interrupted when a UFO appeared outside. Photographs showing lights against a nighttime sky were common throughout the region.

The state police in New York have an explanation for the mystery. They say it's a group of five or six small planes flying in formation as a hoax to excite the local residents. Except for the roar that six planes would make at tree-top levels, that's as good as any of the other explanations offered over the years to explain UFO sightings: stars, planets, satellites, optical illusions, atmospheric anomalies, and even marsh gas.

Of course, everyone knows that UFOs are not inhabited by extraterrestrial creatures keeping an eye on us. A formal U.S. government investigation into the phenomena some years ago concluded that people were just seeing things, and the Air Force no longer pays any attention to the reports.

But that doesn't stop a lot of respectable people from seeing *something* up there. Clearly, the thousands of reports of unidentified flying objects must have some basis in fact, and the only real question is what actually have the witnesses seen. Even the federal investigation conceded that not all sightings could be ascribed to natural phenomena.

And so the believers in an extraterrestrial source for UFOs will keep their convictions, while the skeptics will dismiss the whole thing as lunacy. It might be kept in mind, though, that in only the last quarter-century we ourselves have become explorers of space. Is it beyond the realm of possibility that other civilizations, with a head start of a million years or so on our technology, could have acquired the ability to traverse the galaxies?

Besides, UFOs serve a useful purpose. The latest appearances helped to relieve late-summer tedium, and they briefly diverted our attention from all the real worries we have on our own planet. And the sightings should serve to enliven the cocktail party circuit, in Westchester and elsewhere, for the next couple of months.

