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THE MUFON UFO JOURNAL

NUMBER 167

JANUARY 1982

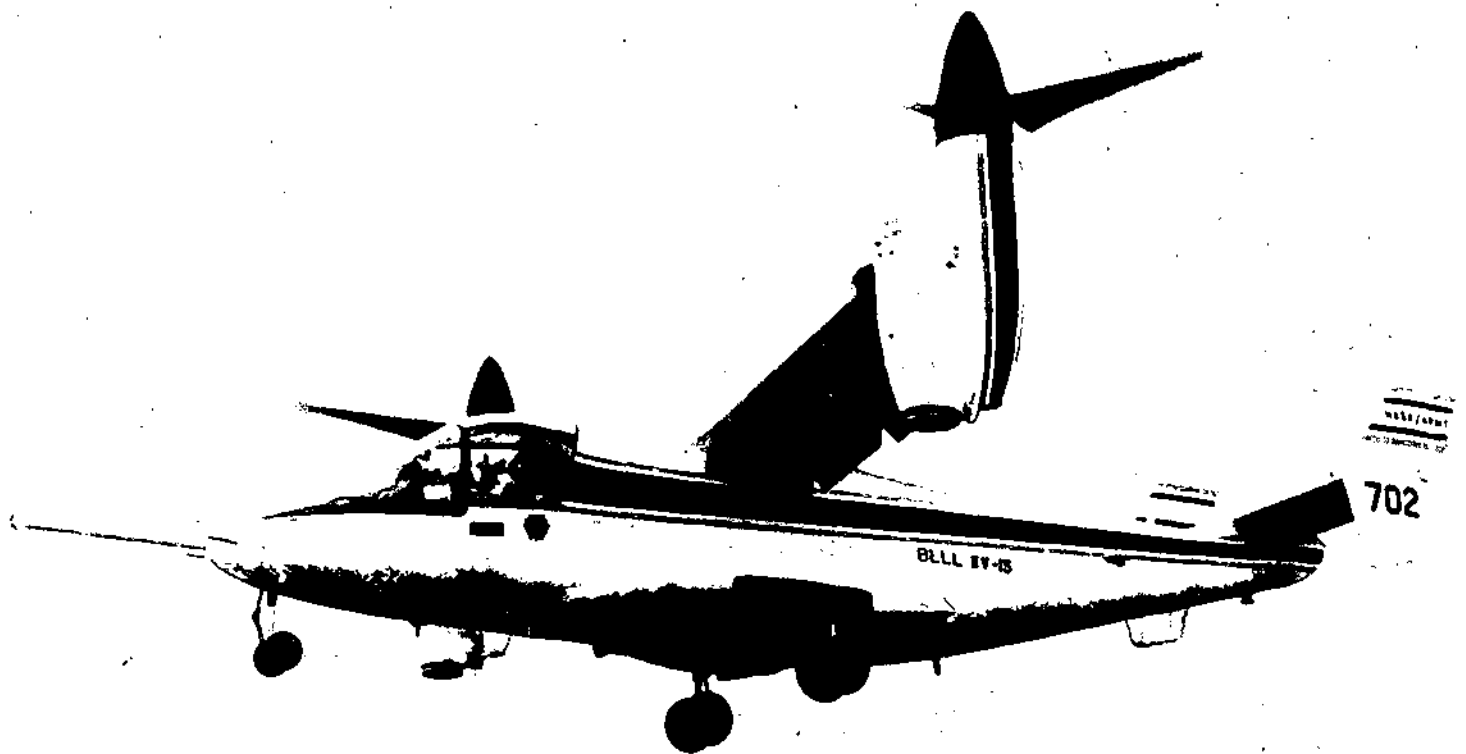
Founded 1967

\$1.50

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF



MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.



NASA/ARMY XV-15 WILL COMBINE HELICOPTER AND AIRCRAFT FEATURES (NASA Photo)

The MUFON
UFO JOURNAL
(USPS 002-970)
103 Oldtowne Rd.
Seguin, Texas 78155

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FROM THE EDITOR

The Texas abduction case featured in this issue surely is one of the most intriguing yet reported, particularly in terms of the details apparently observed by the adult witness and the reported reactions of the child. We hope to be able to report follow-up investigations of this potentially highly significant case. It is a downright spooky story, well worth the most careful and thorough possible study to determine decisively whether a purely psychological (subjective) explanation is possible. If not, the implications are obvious.

We include in the back pages a Brief Subject Index of Journals published in 1981. This will give new subscribers an overview of our coverage of UFO news, and provide a research tool for all readers.

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MOTHER AND CHILD TEXAS ABDUCTION CASE

By Lew Willis
MUFON State Section Director
(© 1981, Lewis J. Willis)

NOTE: Assisting in the investigation were Jennie Willis, MUFON investigator and Jean Fuller, State Section Director, Tyler, Texas. Regressive hypnosis sessions were conducted by Stephen Clark, PhD, MUFON Consultant in Clinical Hypnosis, Garland, Texas, and monitored by G. Neal Hern, MUFON State Director, Texas. Quotes are direct from taped interviews before, during, and after regressive hypnosis. The names used herein are pseudonyms as the subject wishes to remain anonymous.

Megan Elliott graduated with a Bachelor's degree in August 1980, and was visiting her mother in East Texas before her new teaching job started. Megan had spent only two days at her mother's when her daughter, Renee, then 18 months old, developed an ear infection. Renee also had a rash on the upper thigh of one leg which persisted in spite of two doctor's attempts to clear it up. On August 21, 1980, Renee began screaming about 7 p.m., and in spite of everything her mother and grandmother tried, her aggravation worsened around midnight. Renee continued to go to the front door saying "go bye-bye car." Megan finally told her mother she had no choice but to take Renee home regardless of the late hour and a drive of some 70 miles along dark, lonely roads. She called her husband, John, and asked him to leave the outside lights on and the door unlocked, because she was coming home. John said "ok" and promptly went back to sleep.

Megan left her mother's around midnight, not bothering to pack, wearing only her pajamas and bathrobe, and was barefoot. Renee was wearing a disposable diaper and her grandfather's T-shirt and was, likewise, barefoot. Megan was driving her 1978 Honda Civic, and had rolled the windows down as it was

warm that night and the car was not air conditioned. Renee promptly went to sleep, so Megan turned on the radio to keep her company.

Megan had driven about 30 miles and was nearing the three bridges of Lake Fork Creek when her "radio began to do weird things — acting like it was flipping back and forth but not stopping at the channels — as if somebody was messing with my radio." She reached over to cut off the radio and at that moment heard "a very loud electrical noise that hurt my ears, and the lights began to dim on the car." She then felt her car being lifted off the highway, and she immediately reached over to check Renee and lock the doors.

When she looked outside she could see the tops of the tall pine trees below being blown in one direction "as if in a windstorm." She then looked up to see the flat metal bottom of an object only a few feet away "with a double row of bright lights in a circle." She then saw the rim of an opening as the auto entered the object. Rolling up the windows and locking the doors, she found herself in a circular, brightly lit room with no apparent source of light and was amazed that she "could not see any seams anywhere, so I literally panicked! I just sat there, and I could remember not really shaking, but feeling my insides churning and thinking, God! What do I do now? ... Renee has opened her eyes and is pointing and saying 'look, Mom, look!' I looked and lights were everywhere! It didn't seem like they were individual ... a lit room ... very bright ... it's round ... smells funny ... kinda like rain."

"I heard a voice in my head say 'Megan, get Renee and get out of the car.'" She again checked the doors and made sure Renee was alright and

again heard the voice telling her to get out of the car. This time Megan thought Renee may have heard it, as her eyebrows were going up and she was pointing at something and looking at her mother. Suddenly, from across the room, a door slid open with a sound "like a vacuum-packed can being opened ... and a dry ice-type fog ... about 18 inches deep ... began rolling across the floor, and a little creature came out and told me to get out of the car." When Megan again refused she "heard a click ... like a latch, and the door swung open, and fell off the hinges! It hit the floor with a dull thud causing me to jump!" Megan then remembers feeling "very tranquil."

Megan reached over and got Renee and sat her down on the floor. When Megan got out of the car, she noticed the floor was "real cold and clammy ... not really wet or slick, but close to (the feel of) cement ... textured like brick" to her bare feet. She had to walk around the door partially submerged in the low-lying fog. As she was following the "creature," she heard Renee fall, and when she turned, Renee was getting up after tripping over the door.

When the "creature" first entered the room, "Renee giggled as she thought it was funny the way he walked." Megan explained that he walked with a very fluid motion and his arms and legs moved "like bending a copper wire ... he didn't walk like he had ball joints, like we do ... his arms and legs made a gentle curve."

Megan described the "creature" as being a short humanoid with "large head, no ears, no eyebrows, oval eyes without lashes, no hair on the entire body, broad nose with two apertures

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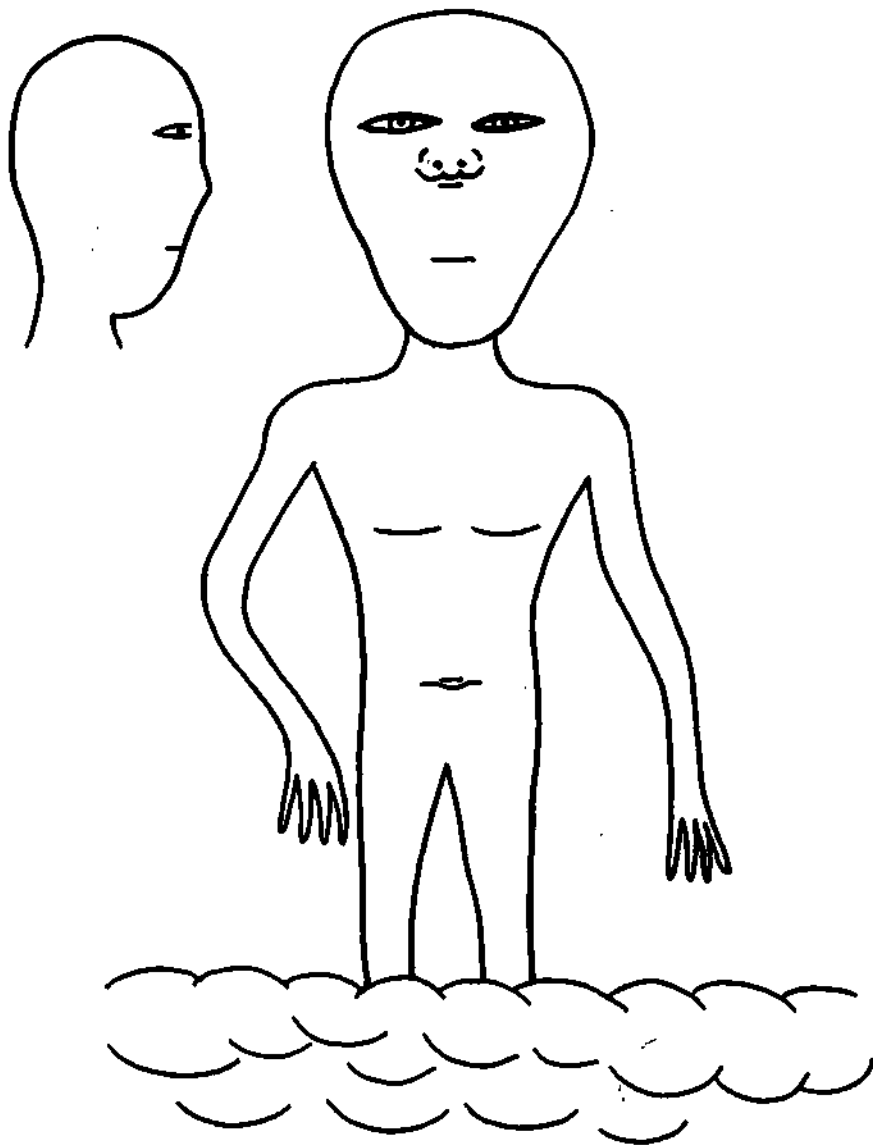
Texas Abduction, Continued

or nostrils on the upper surface. The mouth was a little slit, thin neck, thin body, thin arms, long fingers, four on each hand. The navel was horizontal, like stretching the opening of a balloon." She noted no physical characteristics that would indicate male or female, "although they had pectorals like muscles." She never saw the feet as there was always a dense fog on the floor when he was present. She couldn't tell if it was wearing tight-fitting clothing, or if she was seeing his entire body which looked "like the color and texture of Silly Putty." When shown a Pantone color chart, Megan said "475-A, but shinier and slicker." She remembers that it "had a covering over the outer portion of the eyes which didn't protrude, but much like an eyelid which never blinked ... he didn't smile, his mouth never moved."

The "creature" led the way, motioning for Megan to follow with Renee close behind. They went through the open door and, under hypnosis, Megan remembers "like a hallway, and on the other side of the hallway, a door, just like the one before ... and just as I get almost to it, it opens, and he goes in, and I go in ... I guess Renee goes in."

Megan finds herself in a round room, "but not a round round ... smoke's on the floor ... that same smog that rolled ... there's tables with funny things over them ... there's two more — whatever's." Megan later explains there were two other "humanoids" in the room, all of which looked identical. "One has his back turned, looking at a panel of lights, lots of lights ... colors ... blue, green, red, yellow, white, purple, black. I don't see the face of the guy with the lights, but there was another one that was at the tables ... and I hear a voice tell me to get on the table and I didn't hesitate, I climbed up on the table."

Megan later explains the table was about 4 feet off the floor, making it hard for her to get up on it. Megan then heard "metal clamps, 4 inches wide ... snap across my ankles, my wrist, my chest, thighs ... feels cold,



Humanoid Captors of Mother and Daughter

stiff, tight. I can't move; I couldn't move if I tried to move." Renee is on an identical table next to hers and Megan wonders how she got on it, as "I didn't place her on it." Renee was clamped in too, and Megan recalls she "didn't scream which she would normally do if you tried to hold her down ... She loves it, she's very excited."

While under hypnosis, Megan recalls "the table — it did something! It's getting me wet! ... coming from the table ... from the head down ... like I'd be floating on a table." When asked by Dr. Clark if Renee was wet too, Megan said "yes, she says she's swimming!"

Megan looks up to see a "large, brightly lit dome area above, with

two probe-like devices coming down from the dome." The table is now wet and cold and she feels numb, but the dome is radiating heat so that she is "cold and wet on one side and hot on the other." She describes the probe as jointed in three sections "like a ball and socket joint" and it came down to almost touch her. "It moves around me, very close to me, but I feel tingles, and I can't tell if it's touching me or not."

Megan remembers the probe making a clicking noise as it moved around and over her body. When asked if the probe ever touched Renee, Megan recalls that the probe "did different things at different

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Texas Abduction, Continued

times," and was at one time seen to enter Renee's nose with a pair of small "bee-bee"-like devices on the end and again seen to enter Renee's naval with a "needle-like" device. When Megan saw this happening she said "don't hurt my baby, she's been sick," and they replied "she's not any more." She recalls seeing a fine "yellow mist being sprayed all over Renee," again from the probe.

Megan said she "kept watching that little guy and the panel of lights, and the guy standing behind her and something in his hand about the size of a clipboard, but with no paper. His attention was directed to the thing above and apparently was controlling it." She felt the third "humanoid" was "looking after the safety of Renee and me because he was constantly walking back and forth, looking at me ... never smiling, no emotional expression on any of them, it never changed." The only difference she could discern between the three "humanoids" was that the one watching over them "seemed to be more caring."

Dr. Clark asked, "while you were there, on the table, what did you have on? Do you have all your clothes on?" Megan immediately came out of the regressive hypnosis. She explained later that both she and Renee had no clothes on, but does not recall when they were removed.

Once again Dr. Clark placed Megan under hypnosis and asked, "Did you have any opinion as to what their purpose was in doing this examination that you described?" Megan replied, "No ... it seemed as (if) I was at ease, kinda tranquil ... (I) didn't feel like asking many questions ... my head hurt ... and I just wanted to sleep. Renee wanted to look — she wanted to look at everything."

Recalling what her feelings were while being examined, Megan said she remembers the table would tilt, with the head raised at times, or lowered with the head down and being flat when covered with the liquid. She had the feeling of motion from time to time; "I was lying flat ... felt



Dr. Stephen Clark and Friend Simulate Hypnotic Session to Demonstrate Relaxing Environment and Tape Recording Technique

an upward surge, like when I took off in a jet to London. Kinda put me — pressure on me ... but when it stopped — thought I lost my stomach, like an elevator." Megan later explained the feeling of very fast "vertical motion" and "much slower descent" while on the table. Her head was still hurting some time later with "sharp pains — stomach — my legs, cheeks, chest — my head." When asked by Dr. Clark, "To what do you attribute those aches and pains?" Megan replied "I don't know — guess something they did while I was asleep — seems as if I can feel a pulling — at my skin or something."

Following the examination, and while still strapped to the table, Megan was placed in a vertical position facing three curved, square-framed, black windows. Looking at the center window, which was higher on the wall than the other two, she could see several clearly defined bright, white stars, which she later illustrated, in what she felt was their relative positions to one another.

Megan also observed a device that resembled a large TV screen extending from the wall in the examination room. She later described this as having a kaleidoscope of "moving color, predominately iodine red, and reminded me of an amoeba." Also, on

the wall behind her, Megan remembers seeing seven characters, which she was able to reproduce while under hypnosis. She later illustrated several more clearly defined interpretations of what they looked like. When asked what they represented, Megan said "that's where they are from ... sounds like Asterisk, but I can't pronounce it ... it's not Asterisk ... I can hear it ... I have tried to form my mouth to go with what I'm hearing and it's not my language."

While under hypnosis, Megan remembers getting off the table. "It's easier getting off than it was on. A lot easier; it's lower." Asked by Dr. Clark, "did you get off by yourself or were you assisted?" Megan replied, "By myself. The clamps disappeared; they sunk into the table, and I could move again." Dr. Clark asked what Renee was doing. Megan replied, "She's crawling on the table ... she reaches for one of those guys, but I got her — got to her first. I got her off the table. She liked them." After getting Renee, Megan followed them out to the hallway, and went into another room which she described as "white, like the first one — has a bed, in a corner — doesn't have any seams — just triangular, with rounded cor-

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Texas Abduction, Continued

ners (describing the room) — light came from everywhere. Smoke was in that room, on the floor . . . cold . . . Renee tried to climb up on the table (bed) and I helped her. I was dizzy, so I sat down."

Megan described the only piece of furniture in the third room as a bed, about 16 inches off the floor "a silver type thing like in the examining room," with no covers and it was attached to the wall on one end, not touching the floor. She found her clothes and Renee's shirt neatly folded and placed on the bed. "Renee would get up and examine the walls and touch them," but Megan said she never tried to examine anything except when the door would open and shut. "I was fascinated since there were no seams. The door went from the ceiling to the floor and would just go into the wall with a quick (air pressure) noise . . . when the door opened or closed, my ears would pop."

Megan felt she was in this room 2 weeks, "since there was no auditory stimulation." A little drawer "like a drive-in bank teller's drawer" would regularly come out of the wall with little pellets on it, and a voice would say "eat." Some of the pellets were square, some rectangular, some circular in shape and in different colors — white, yellow, green — that would melt in your mouth. Renee thought they were candy — "good candy." Megan feels she "ate and slept, ate and slept about ten times" while in this room.

While under hypnosis, and recalling the time she spent in this room, "they came to the door, remaining in the hallway, and said I had been real helpful to them and that they wanted to help me, in some way. I didn't quite understand how I had been helpful, but I do now. They asked if I was allowed to ask any three questions about the universe that I wanted, and (was) guaranteed an answer, what would they be? I told them I didn't know, and I wanted time to think, to see what they were. And they let me sleep. It was cold, and my robe — and I covered up and

"They said . . . life would not be the same . . . things would happen . . . that it began to change the structure of things."

snuggled with my daughter, and we slept . . . woke up, and the drawer came back out.

"They told me to eat so I would survive — the nourishment that our systems require for survival . . . so we ate them . . . the door opened — about 2 hours after we ate . . . I was scared — I wanted John — I didn't know where I was. I asked if I would ever see my family (again). They said yes, that I would, but I had experienced — and life would not be the same . . . They said things would happen — that it began to change the structure of things . . . I wanted to know — things weren't clearly seen . . . Said that I would soon be going to a place; that others like myself were there. I haven't been to that place before — I haven't been there yet. Then I asked my three questions.

"(1) What was out there? He wanted to know if I could be more specific in that question, and I said I wasn't sure — that time I saw the stars out the window — and I wanted to know (what) those stars were and what was out there. And so he asked me if I was referring to just what was outside of where I was at that moment, or everywhere? And I said everywhere — I wanted to know everything. (He) told me that some day he would answer that question when I was ready, but for now that the universe goes more than what I could ever imagine, or that any Earth person or anyone has imagined . . .

"(2) I asked how come, even if they are real, so if they are here with us now, why don't they make themselves known to us? (He) said that wasn't about the universe, but he would answer anyway. He said that humans have a tendency for annihilation and we're a very fearful population — and if they interfered in any way, that the Earth would be destroyed. So we had to live our lives, in our own way, and if they made themselves known, it would be a very fearful planet and probably

destroy ourselves — but one day they would in order to help. It's almost as if they seemed afraid — they can't interfere with us 'cause they would be destroyed as well.

"(3) Third question I asked was 'why me?' (Chuckles) I had to laugh, I think, to keep from going insane. I asked them, why did they go around picking up mothers and their children if they can't even tell Earth why you're here? And he says 'that's why we are here,' and I just freaked out. He said to be calm, and I was very calm and could carry on a conversation. He said that he chose samples from the population that already exhibited intelligence and capabilities of understanding properties and theories beyond the present-day time."

While still under hypnosis, Dr. Clark asked if Megan could recall asking any other questions, to which Megan replied "Where they were from? He said they (were) from the same place I was, and I said but how could that be, that we are so different. And he says, we are not different on the inside, 'cause we can think and we can reason, and that the Creator made us, and I said 'okay.' I failed to ask if the Creator was God, but I assumed it was. Dr. Clark asked, "then did they ever indicate that they were from any place elsewhere? The answer you gave me a moment ago was, 'they're from where we are.' What did that mean? Do you think from our . . ." Megan replied, "From the beginning . . . from the beginning. I began (mumbles) that they didn't live on Earth. They had a planet that they go to — they said they'd show us. They said that I had already seen what I should have seen, but didn't recognize it. I don't remember seeing it. It was almost like I could visualize a place, but that may have been more imagination than anything."

The only other communication Megan could recall while under hypnosis was about the door and the strange way it seemed to disappear into the wall when open and show no indication of where it was when closed. "I wanted to know how it disappeared, and I assumed — and

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Texas Abduction, Continued

they said the type of metal that they could use allowed it to bond together, and then, at will, disappear!

When asked if she periodically felt any motion while in the third room, Megan said "yeah, but I was used to it — it didn't bother me ... never sideways! Never went sideways!"

When it became time to leave, Megan recalls "a hallway — six doors — I'm at one of them — only reason I thought that they were doors, I could see a bright light, or glow, around it. I was asked to go through the door. When I did, I found my car. The door was on (the car). It wasn't the same room that I came in first — it was a little bit smaller, but still round. I got in. Renee was on my lap, and I put her in the other seat and laid it down, and strapped her in. She was asleep — think I'm asleep! I was just sitting there. I hear a clank — a big one — and I hear a humming, electrical sound. It hurts my ears again, and I was lowered to the ground. It's on a road I know very well ... I'm closer to home.

"When the humming sound stopped, my engine was on and I couldn't move. It was like I was frozen there in my chair — I couldn't move — and — that only lasted a minute, if that long. Saw a horse — in the pasture ... I'm very sleepy — really sleepy. It's as if I wasn't even driving my car, but I was going up the hill — now I know where that hill is!"

Megan finds herself only about 5 miles from home having been transported some 30 miles by highway, 25 by air. She remembers it being very dark (the three-quarter moon having set around 3:10 a.m.) and stumbles into the house carrying Renee. She feels "real dizzy — almost like I've fainted in a room. I'm mad, I'm upset, I hurt, my head hurts, and I want to go to bed. I open up the bedroom door, and John's asleep, and I'm furious. I yell at him 'cause I stumped my toe and hurt my leg ... Go to the bathroom — had to use it — for a long time — I was dizzy there too — and then I got in bed."

Megan remembers nothing of the last miles of the trip home, coming in-

to the house, putting the baby to bed, "gripping John out," and going to bed herself, when she wakes him about 5:00 a.m. to tell him about her "dream."

Epilogue

Megan and John recall their astonishment as Renee's bad rash and earache cleared up the next day. "It just disappeared as a whole, like it faded ... just went away — she's never had it since either!"

John, Megan's mother, and all her close friends noticed a marked personality change in Megan following the incident, which lasted about 2 months. She remembers being very pensive and distant and not her normal self at all, "as if I had no control over my own personality." She lost about 14 pounds going from periods of not eating at all, to eating everything and still losing weight.

About 3 weeks after the event, as Megan was driving to her teaching job early one morning, she noticed a "white silver sphere doing weird things in the sky." She watched it for a time until she lost sight of it. "Suddenly my radio started messing up again ... and this misty, white, dirty fog just shot down," engulfing her car and a nearby pickup truck. "And I went into hysterics! I started screaming that I wasn't going — they were not going to take me, or anything!"

It lasted about 2 miles as she and the truck slowed to a crawl along the highway which seemed almost deserted this morning. "I had to pull over and sit there. And when I pulled over, I looked back and it was gone! I decided to get rid of that car! It got to the point where I didn't even want to be in that car anymore, because I figured they had my car spotted now — they know my car — and I was getting rid of it!"

A few days later Megan decided to trade the car and took it to a local dealer. As the mechanic was checking it for trade-in value, he opened the driver's door and noticed something around the area of the hinges. He turned to Megan and asked "why did I ever take my car door off?" She replied, "Sir, I've never taken it off,"

NEW STAFF WRITER

We welcome Greg Long of Richland, Washington, to the *Journal* staff. He is 35, married, and has two children (actually the second one is due in late January). Born in Florida, he moved west with his family and grew up in San Diego, California.



Greg Long

Greg comes with outstanding qualifications, including a B.A. in English from the University of San Diego and an M.A. in English from Colorado State University. He is employed as a technical editor/writer by a major Northwest firm. He has also published several short stories, and — as is evident from his contributions to the *Journal* — is a polished writer.

In accepting the staff position, he made the following statement:

"I subscribe to no single theory of the origin and purpose of UFOs. If I have any 'beliefs,' these beliefs are in clear, level-headed judgement, scientific investigation and analysis, and scrupulous objectivity. For UFOlogy to advance itself, its supporters need a strong sense of purpose and adherence to professional standards. As a staff writer, I would be as critical of my own words and explication of the facts as I would the words and facts of a UFO witness."

and he said "somebody has!"

The investigation continues.

SOUTH TEXAS VEHICLE EFFECTS CASES

By James M. Hill
(MUFON State Section Director)

(Note: This story is adapted from Mr. Hill's investigation reports to MUFON which are slightly edited for narrative purposes. Both cases occurred in South Texas just west of Corpus Christi.)

Mr. Robert Gomez, a vacuum truck driver for a firm in Alice, Texas, was headed west on FR 665 toward Alice on June 12, 1981. He had just finished a job, leaving approximately 165 gallons of water in the tank on the back of his truck and zero pressure in the tank. The sky was cloudy and it had rained earlier. He turned the radio on.

About 2:10 p.m. he noticed a bright object that he first thought was an airplane, until it increased in brilliance and stopped in midair. The object was disc-shaped and brilliant white, with a dark ring around the outer perimeter and a dark inner ring around its center. It also had a slight "cap" on top.

Gomez then noticed that the truck started to slow down, so he pressed the accelerator trying to pick up speed. The exhaust stacks were blowing smoke but the truck seemed to be about a foot off the road. His AM radio had stopped playing but his CB was working, so he called his dispatcher to report the incident. Afterwards, the UFO went back into the

clouds and disappeared.

When he arrived back at his shop he noticed that the AM radio was playing again. When he got out of the truck, the maintenance man told him that it looked like the back of the truck was smoking at the valve. Mr. Gomez noticed that there was now 55 pounds of pressure indicated on the gauge, so he opened up the valve to drain the remaining water, but there was no water. All that came out was steam.

The sighting is still under investigation.

When the case was reported on TV news and in the local newspaper, another witness was contacted who had had a sighting early in November 1979. Mrs. Betty Soriano, a middle school teacher, and another teacher were enroute to the Hill's Farm on FR 665. At about 6:10 p.m., approximately 5 miles east of Alice, Texas, they saw a bright object ahead of them that seemed as if it had lifted off the ground. The UFO then approached them at a rapid speed, faster than anything they had ever seen.

The closer it came, the brighter it got, and Mrs. Soriano and the other teacher became frightened. The UFO was now over the highway and it seemed as if it was going to crash into

them. The air seemed to have a glow to it as the object neared, and the thing was a bright reddish-orange color. It just missed the top of the car by an estimated 2 feet, and as it passed overhead they heard a loud boom as if the car had backfired, and the engine failed. Just before this, Mrs. Soriano felt as if she were going to lose control of the car. The object then disappeared.

The car was a 1976 Ford Torino with a V-8 engine and standard ignition. The switch was still in "on" position after the sighting, and Mrs. Soriano had to switch it off and back on to restart the car. Since the event, she has had a lot of trouble with the car over-heating.

The two teachers felt as if they were in a trance-like state for a short period of time during and after the sighting. Mrs. Soriano tried to turn on the radio to learn if there were other reports of the object, but she turned on the windshield wipers instead. She was blinded during the incident and shook nervously during and after the event for about 4 hours. She also felt paralyzed for about 3 minutes during the sighting. Later she had bad dreams. Mrs. Soriano also believes that the encounter is a contributing factor to her premature gray hair.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA UFO FLURRY

By Richard Hall

For about the past year, members of N. California-MUFON have been investigating a series of UFO sightings in San Jose, Calif. Dr. Richard F. Haines has filed a 13-page report on the events. Other principal investigators were Irwin Wieder, Dick Henry, and Andrew Grotowsky. The report summary and some of the case highlights follow.

"Summary. A total of 37 eye witnesses ranging in age from 10 to 56 years reported seeing one or more intense lights in the sky over the greater

San Jose, California, area during the period of January 9 through March 7, 1981. Most of these sightings took place between 10:00 p.m. and midnight and involved a red, round, diffusely edged luminous area of lights which would hover, quickly accelerate, change directions abruptly, and disappear in various ways. There was no radar return from this phenomenon on the single known occasion when such a return could have been obtained nor were any other electromagnetic effects reported. All at-

tempts to explain these sightings have, so far, failed to produce acceptable explanations."

On February 9 a private pilot with a passenger was making touch-and-go landings at San Jose Municipal Airport at 10:40 p.m. During climb-out from the runway while at about 500 feet, both men saw ahead and above them a round, bright, red light which they first thought was another aircraft. As they climbed and banked to

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"California Report"

By Ann Druffel

Multiple Sightings of Triangular UFOs

By William Hassel, Ph.D.

(Note: Guest columnist this month is Dr. William Hassel, MUFON Southern California State Director.)

A series of UFO sightings was reported by three independent groups of witnesses in September and October 1981 in the Conejo Valley of Southern California. There is sufficient similarity among the sightings to suspect that all may be related.

The first sighting, Case 1, occurred in Simi Valley at 8:45 p.m. on September 18, 1981. Ten-year-old Mike Tackett was outside his house when he first noticed a bright light low in the sky, which he initially interpreted as a plane in trouble. He called to his brothers, parents and uncle, who then became witnesses to the sighting. As the light approached, they could

discern a triangular-shaped object having five bright white lights at the front and additional lights along the side. The object was considered to be too large and flying too slowly to be a plane. Two or three small and apparently more distant lights were following the direction of flight of the object.

The boy's uncle, Robert Tackett, and his father, Carlos Tackett, examined the object with 7/50 binoculars, having a 7.1 degree field of view, as it passed at an elevation angle of about 60 degrees. The center portion, which was without lights, had the appearance of brushed aluminum with a grid pattern. The object was too large to be totally included within the field of view of the binoculars when at its closest point.

The object produced a faint noise, like a low-pitched hum of constant amplitude, as it passed over. To Carlos Tackett it sounded like a diesel engine. A blinking reddish-orange light could also be seen at the rear of the object. After passing the observers, the object was seen to bank toward them and turn from a southeast direction to a northeast direction, dropping somewhat in altitude. A large triangular protrusion could be seen centered on the upper surface during the turn. The object then disappeared behind a hill.

These observations were made on a clear night with no wind or moon. The witnesses were certain they were not watching a helicopter. The object was in sight for an estimated 4 or 5

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N. Calif., Continued

the right, the light also moved to the right to a position off the right wing. Now at about 1,000 feet, the pilot banked right again into the downwind leg, the light still visible above.

On February 19 at 10:10 p.m., two tower controllers at the airport saw a bright red light hovering over San Jose at an estimated altitude of 3,000 feet. It was stationary for 30-40 seconds, "... then all of a sudden it started flashing pulses real fast ... then it, sort of, went up, like this (indicating a low arc up and to the left and then down toward the ground)." The light then moved away to the southeast. Several people phoned the control tower to report seeing an unidentified red light.

On the night of February 20/21 close to midnight, a man and his mother near a San Jose shopping

center saw a vivid red, sharply edged object pulsing erratically. The object flew a full 360° around the area on an irregular path at various altitudes, disappearing and reappearing. After about 30 minutes it flew off to the south and disappeared. At its maximum, the object appeared to be ½ to ⅓ the size of a full moon. Its color changed from red to gray to bluish at times. A witness sketch showed a boomerang-shaped object with the curved edge downward. Its pointed ends were bright red and the lower portion "dark to almost black." The luminosity appeared to increase while zig zagging. The man called his mother out of the house, and she witnessed part of the sighting.

On February 28 at 1:40 a.m. while driving through a northern suburb of San Jose, an airline pilot and his wife observed "... a very bright flashing red light in the sky" in the vicinity of

the airport. They stopped to study it more closely and it appeared to be stationary. Then it moved almost directly toward them and when nearly overhead, "... it appeared to make a quick turn to the west, then a 180° turn right back to the east, then back again to its original track." After about 1 ½ minutes it stopped and "... a second much smaller light separated from the first and fell or travelled straight down," disappearing behind buildings on the skyline. The large red light then moved northwesterly and disappeared. An off-duty control tower operator was an independent witness to this sighting.

Dr. Haines' report includes weather and sunrise-sunset data for the period in question indicating fairly stable weather from the high-40's to low-70's. Skies were generally clear, with several days of broken clouds and a few days of light rain. □

Calif. Report, Continued

minutes. Considering its path, the investigator (Hassel) estimates a maximum speed of 40 mph. One witness's altitude estimate of 250 feet would imply a length of about 40 feet, though other witnesses thought it was much longer than that.

The second observation, Case 2, was made around 9:15 p.m. by John Sharwath and Randy Bandurant as they were traveling north on the Moorpark freeway. When 5 miles from the end of the freeway, they noticed three bright lights on the horizon to the north, described as like floodlights at a party in the hills. When approaching the end of the freeway, they were close enough to resolve a single light into five bright white lights, three in an upper row and two in a lower row. When they were nearly under the lights, each set was seen to be associated with a triangular body which was illuminated in many colors, but mainly white with yellow and red areas.

Because of the hills beside the freeway, the objects could be observed at close range for only a few seconds. The third object was high enough that it could have been an aircraft, but the lowest appeared quite large with an apparent length of 25 feet for an estimated altitude of 50 feet. The witnesses then continued to the end of the freeway, turned around and started back, but by this time the objects were disappearing behind the hills in the area. The witnesses then turned back toward Moorpark and continued on to Randy's house.

Cherie Thompson and Joyce Bandurant, Randy's mother, were traveling up the same freeway about 5 minutes behind John Sharwath. They saw in the northwest what they interpreted to be the lights of a jet aircraft about to crash, considering its very low altitude at hilltop level and its slow speed. Then they noticed two additional moving light sources. All were dropping in altitude. As they drew closer, the lower two appeared to be triangular-shaped objects formed by three bright fluorescent-white lights, with red, blue, and

yellow colored areas within the triangle. When the lower object passed over the car in the vicinity of Olsen road, Cherie Thompson estimated its altitude at 50 to 100 feet. They stopped along the freeway, but by then the objects were disappearing behind the hills. This sighting occurred at about 9:25 p.m. and is designated as Case 3.

The witnesses reported that the objects made no noticeable sound, and that their lights were much whiter than aircraft landing lights. The size of the lower object was estimated to be 25 feet, based upon a 100 foot altitude.

When they arrived at the Bandurant house where John Sharwath was waiting, John was reluctant to mention his experience until Joyce mentioned what she had seen. They then contacted the police, and subsequently, the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Washington.

For the following two nights Joyce watched the sky at the same time and place and thought she saw the same lights again each night. On the fourth night, which was September 21, Cherie Thompson, Joyce Bondurant, and Joyce's son Gary Bondurant drove to Olsen Road at the Moorpark freeway and waited. At about the same time as the earlier sighting, a single triangular object suddenly appeared having the same configuration as before, but it was higher, being only one quarter the apparent size of the previously seen object. This sighting is designated as Case 4.

When the object was directly overhead, a very bright light in the center of the triangle turned on, startling them. After passing over, the central light went out and the object disappeared behind the hills. As the two women were returning home, they felt disturbed and their eyes began to water. The itchy, burning eye sensations continued for several days in both subjects. The boy, Gary, did not experience the same eye discomfort.

The last reported appearance of the objects, Case 5, occurred on Tuesday, October 6, 1981 in Thousand Oaks near the Moorpark freeway. This was witnessed by Carol Helms and her family. Initially two orange lights

were seen above the hills to the northeast of their home at 9:05 p.m. One began moving toward them with the second trailing by a distance reported to be a mile or so. As the lights approached, a body having roughly a triangular shape with rounded corners could be discerned.

When the first object was approximately over the house, flame-colored particles began to be ejected and the orange light pulsed at about one cycle per second. During this period the second object was hovering at a distance. Then the first object disappeared and the second object resumed its path. When it was approximately over the house, a third object appeared and moved forward. Before this third object reached the vicinity of the house, it began to exhibit the same behavior as did No. 1 — it ejected flame-like particles and then disappeared.

In the meantime Mrs. Helms and her son Curt, age 17, had been examining the objects overhead with binoculars and could see that the orange light was composed of four or five individual light sources equally spaced in a circle. The color was identified on a color wheel as a combination of scarlet and yellow. The entire object at closest approach occupied one-quarter to one-half the field of view of the 7 x 35 Empire binoculars, resulting in an estimated angular size of the object of 2 to 3 degrees. An attempt was made by Carol Helms to photograph the objects with a new Canon AV-1 camera equipped with a 85mm lens and Kodachrome 64 film. Subsequent processing revealed no images for the three photos attempted, implying that the camera shutter had not opened in the low light level.

As the remaining No. 2 object was being watched through binoculars, it turned to present a side view. In this position it was cigar-shaped and had a dull grey or white color with six to ten black dots distributed along its length. Four seconds later the object disappeared but left behind what appeared to be a smoke ring three times the diameter of the object. The center of the ring was very clear with visible

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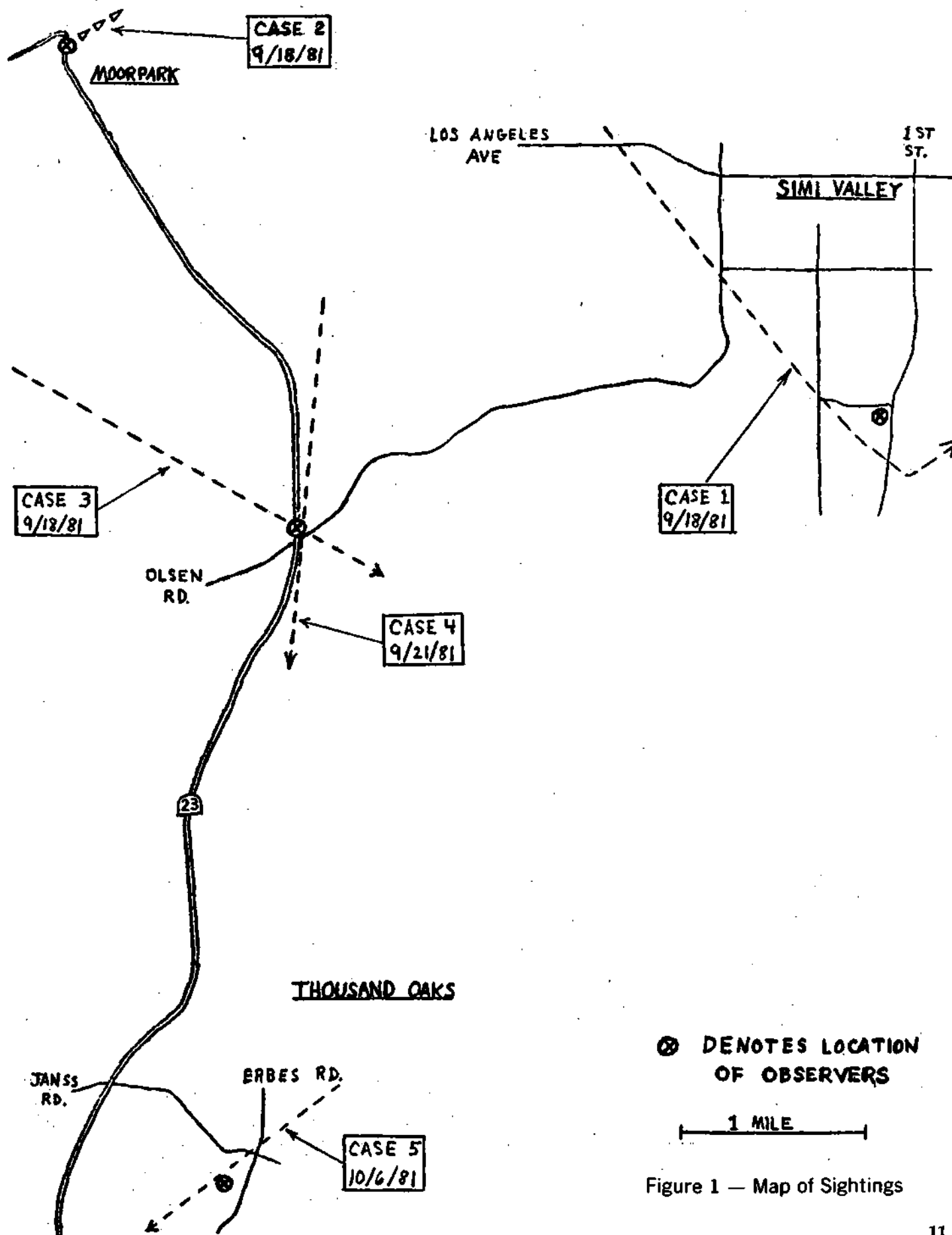


Figure 1 — Map of Sightings

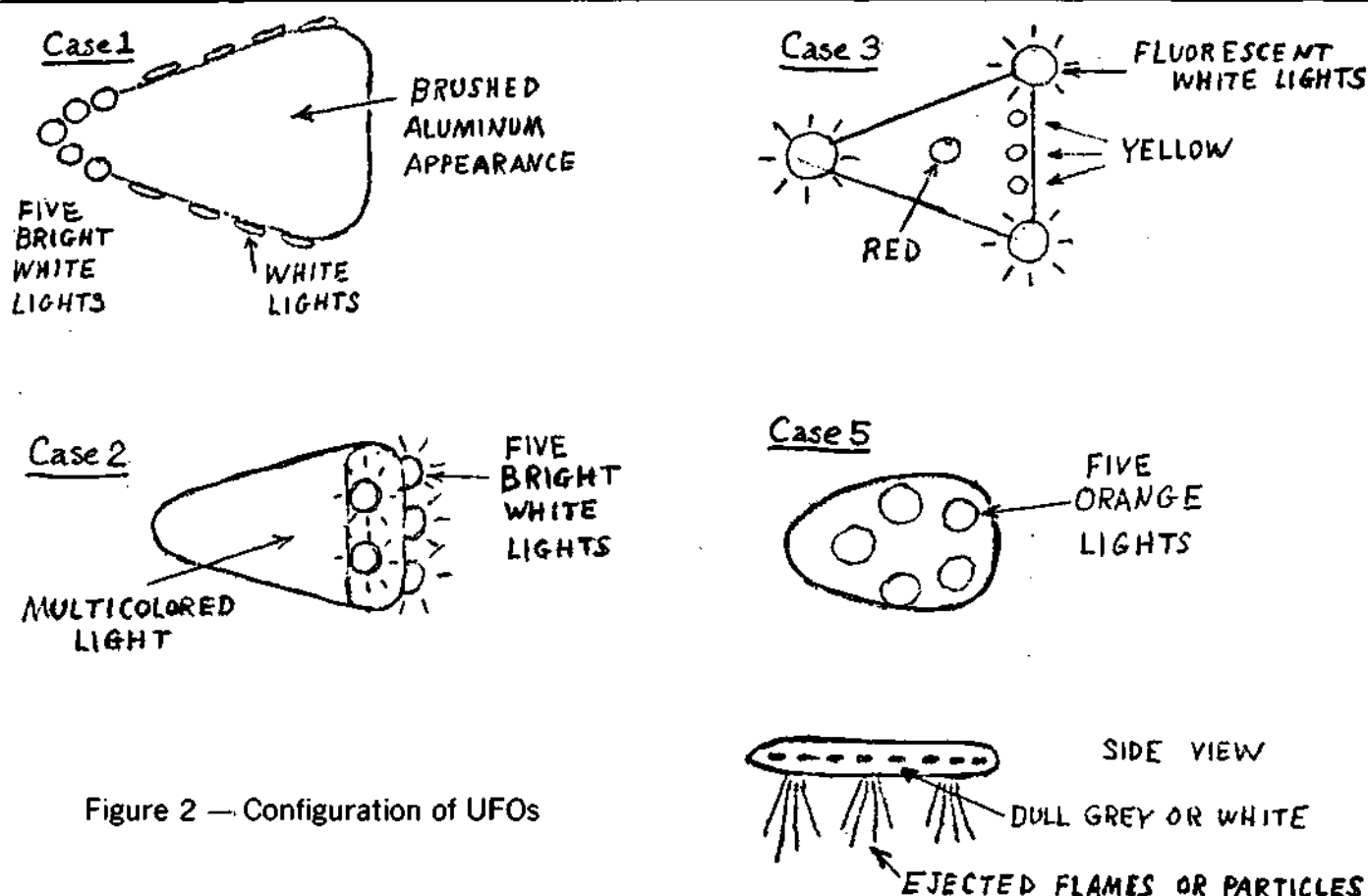


Figure 2 — Configuration of UFOs

Calif. Report, Continued

stars. This series of events lasted for 7 minutes. The periods of particle ejection ranged from one-quarter to one minute. Six persons were witnesses. The incident was first referred to the investigator through SKYNET channels.

At 11:30 the same evening Mrs. Helms' son, Mitch, saw another object of the same type in the northeast. It moved very slowly, again ejecting particles while fading in and out before disappearing.

This October 6 sighting occurred in a clear starlit sky with a quarter moon in the west. The estimated speed of the objects averaged 15 mph or greater. The approximate triangular shape hints at a possible correlation to the sightings in September.

The locations of the five sightings are shown on the map in Figure 1, along with the line of flight of the objects. Sketches of the object configurations in Figure 2 show some degree of similarity among them, notably in their near triangular shapes

and the presence of three to five large distinct lights.

The investigator notes that there is a moderate amount of higher altitude aircraft traffic in the evenings in the area of the sightings. The various observers were accustomed to the air traffic and discounted interpreting their sightings as conventional aircraft or helicopters, or even as candle balloons for Case 5. Cases 3 and 4 would be the most likely candidates as misidentified aircraft, were it not for the associated sightings, and for the reported closeness of the Case 3 sighting.

Contact with an advertising plane operator in the Simi Valley area led to discounting advertising planes as a possible explanation for the sightings. The investigator's own observation of overflying aircraft in the area have revealed three and five light triangular configurations on large aircraft. Case 4, which was a second sighting for two witnesses, may have been such an aircraft. The remaining cases are not so readily explainable. □

SCIENTIST WITNESS DIES

Dr. Seymour L. Hess, 61, a professor of meteorology at Florida State University, died on January 15, according to a UPI report in the *Washington Post* on January 17.

Dr. Hess was the first leader of the NASA Project Viking meteorology team, a specialist on the atmosphere of the planet Mars, and the recipient of awards from the American Meteorological Society and NASA for his scientific achievements related to Martian research.

What the obituary did not say was that Dr. Hess was, perhaps, one of the most scientifically qualified UFO witnesses. His report of a dome-shaped UFO sighted from the grounds of the Lowell Observatory on May 20, 1950, appears on page 3 of *The UFO Evidence*, published by NICAP in 1964. The object was nothing that he could identify with anything known to science, and it is to his credit that he gave a simple, candid account of it without apology.

WAS THE UMMO AFFAIR A HOAX?

By Vincent White

The UMMO affair has long since been written off as an exceptionally complicated and well-contrived hoax by most UFOlogists. Yet attention to some details of this "hoax" turns up the most interesting coincidences with some recent events that many observers seem to have missed.

Recently the highly valued trade magazine weekly *Electronics* featured a short article on a possible breakthrough of major significance, namely, a room-temperature superconductor. The October 9, 1980 and September 22, 1981 issues cover this development.

An Air Force metallurgical researcher named Frederick W. Vahldiek has exhibited titanium boride crystals that are superconducting at room temperature. This discovery could rank with Tesla's discovery of the polyphase AC motor or even Faraday's electric motor.

The crystals could revolutionize electronics and computers. It would make possible ultra-high-speed computers and memories.

Now the coincidences. In part Five of "The Mysterious UMMO Affair" by Antonio Ribera in the *Flying Saucer Review*, Volume 231, no. 3, 4 1975, we find the following statement on page 44:

"Computers based on titanium crystals (titanium like boron, crystallizes on the cubic pattern) . . . These crystals store information at the atomic level and in the three axes of space. By means of them the whole of our terrestrial civilization has been recorded and codified and dispatched to UMMO."

Is it coincidence that this "discovery" of Mr. Vahldiek's was made at Wright Patterson Air Force Base by an Air Force researcher when the fine investigative work of Leonard Stringfield has pinpointed Wright Patterson as the locale for the repository of

retrieved and studied alien artifacts by military custodians? Is there some connection between the material research lab at Wright Patterson and what may have been discovered about crashed UFOs?

Perhaps a second look is required into the UMMO affair. Perhaps we can find some more convenient "coincidences" in the "evidence" said to indicate the UMMO affair is a hoax. Stranger things have happened.

SUMMARY

The UMMO affair began publicly with reports in Spanish newspapers on Feb. 8, 1966 of an orange flying saucer that landed briefly on the outskirts of Madrid in a suburb named Aluche. One June 1, 1967 a witness (a photographer) took photos near San Jose de Valdera but left no negatives of them. At about the same time, artifacts consisting of small sealed metal tubes were found near where a UFO was supposed to have landed at Santa Monica.

The UMMO affair actually began earlier. Since 1965 twenty-some highly educated individuals have received hundreds of documents from sources that claim to be from the planet UMMO. Each of these documents is stamped with a peculiar symbol resembling an H with the arms curved and a vertical slash in the middle.

The documents purport to truly describe philosophy, theology, space-time theories, physics, biology, and law. Some of the material resembles some very advanced speculation in contemporary philosophy and logic.

The UMMITES claim their star of origin is UMMO in the orbit of Wolf 424 which is 14.6 light years away. They landed for the first time March 28, 1950 near La Javie in the low Alps of France. The family that resided there is now living in some wealth on the French Riviera.

This fact has led many to believe that if the UMMO affair is a hoax, it is a very expensive and elaborate hoax involving many countries, many individuals, and a great deal of money. For example in the case of the sealed metal tubes, a mysterious letter from a "Henri Dagousset" offered 18,000 pesetas for each tube sent to a Madrid P.O. box number.

In 1977 a bulletin put out by CUFOS carried out an analysis by Dr. Claude Poher of the San Jose de Valderas photographs and of the documents which, he stated later, were part of a monstrous hoax. This was a complete reversal of his earlier opinions according to FSR.

The important thing to remember is that the UMMO documents were in circulation long before the faked photos, if we are to believe Msr. Poher on that.

REFERENCES

- Flying Saucer Review*, v. 12, 1966. (First reference to UMMO affair in FSR.)
Flying Saucer Review, v. 20, no. 4-5, 1974; v. 21, no. 1-4, 1975. (Extensive coverage).
Flying Saucer Review, v. 26, no. 2, 1980. (Last update on hoax angle in FSR.)

STAMP PROGRAM

Contributions of cancelled foreign stamps are converted into dollars applied to improved international exchange of UFO information. A collector compensates MUFON for stamps received. We acknowledge recent stamp contributions from:

Jerome Clark, Lake Bluff, Ill.; Ann Druffel, Pasadena, Calif.; Lawrence J. Fenwick, Willowdale, Ont., Canada; Marion Marden, Cambridge, Mass.; and Diane Tessman, St. Petersburg, Fla. Send all stamps to Richard Hall, 4418 39th St., Brentwood, MD 20722.

OVERHEATING OF CAR BATTERIES

By James M. McCampbell
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Disruption of automobile engines at short distances from UFOs is fairly common. At the CUFOs conference in Chicago on September 25-27, 1981, Donald A. Johnson presented a thorough, statistical analysis of 78 such events in which engine interference occurred 15 times whereas engines completely failed 63 times.¹ Witnesses have also reported that after such experiences their batteries were steaming or had popped their caps off.

It would be a great chore to review the literature to isolate those cases but, fortunately, that is not necessary. The Central European Section of MUFON, which has long specialized in studying UFOs from a phenomenological point of view, has carefully catalogued such data. A computer printout of 1,080 cases of electrical interference of every type was kindly furnished by Adolph Schneider. It contained 9 instances of battery problems.² To the author's knowledge, a technical analysis of this aspect of UFOlogy has not been attempted.

Careful examination of relevant details in previous investigations has provided some insight into the physical mechanisms of the interactions between UFOs and their total environment. A similar approach to the battery problem may also be fruitful. A Sears Die Hard, 12-volt battery is approximately 9.5" long, 7.75" wide, and 8" high. It is usually mounted such that the bottom, one side, and one end are adjacent to metallic panels of the car and the supporting bracket. The heart of the unit consists of an assemblage of parallel, thin metal plates about 1/32" thick, separated by about 1/8", which space is filled with sulfuric acid.

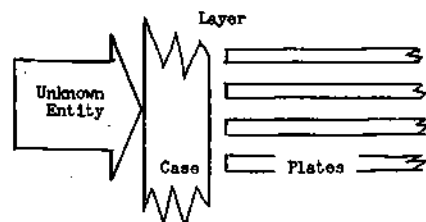
The entire assembly fits snugly inside a hard rubber case. Only about 1/16" separates the outer surfaces of the plate assembly from the inner sur-

faces of the battery case; that space is also filled with acid. This is a detail of possible significance because it suggests that the appearance of overheating may be due to boiling of the fluid in this thin layer surrounding the plates rather than that of the total mass of fluid in the battery. The amount of energy required to heat this small amount of fluid and to convert some of it into steam can be easily calculated but some assumptions must be made. Suppose that in a typical event, the fluid temperature in the outer layer under the exposed surfaces is increased from 80°F to the boiling point of 212°F during an exposure to a UFO of, say, 5 minutes. Further, the 5% of the fluid is vaporized, an amount sufficient to produce noticeable steaming or to blow off tightly-fitted, unvented caps.

Relegating the calculations to a footnote for those who are technically inclined, one finds that a uniform flux of energy, totally absorbed in the thin fluid layer, would have to be about 0.053 cal/cm²sec (calories per square centimeter per second).³ How does that rate of energy input compare with something in everyday experience? Well, unobstructed sunshine delivers 0.032 cal/cm²sec, which is not greatly different.⁴

In other words, the amount of energy absorbed by the battery under the assumed conditions would be rather small. Exposing a battery to sunlight for 5 minutes clearly would not produce any boiling of the acid because absorption of infrared radiation (heat) on the surface would simply increase the surface temperature a few degrees and the heat would be largely lost by diffusion into the total mass of the battery.

What, one may ask, could possibly heat only the outer layer of fluid? Here again some details may help. In cross-section, the outer region of the



Cross-section of battery

battery would look something like the accompanying diagram. Some unknown entity would have to approach the battery from the outside, penetrate the case, be absorbed in the outer layer of fluid, but not penetrate into the region of the plates. A possible candidate for the unknown cause is electromagnetic radiation in the wavelength range from a fraction of a millimeter up to about 0.5cm, a portion of the microwave region of the spectrum lying between far infrared and radar. The hard rubber case, being a non-conductor, is completely transparent to such radiation. The radiation would be readily captured in the outer layer of fluid due to some well-known absorption resonances of the water molecule at these wavelengths.⁵ The spacing between the plates is so small that the longer wavelengths would be reflected back into the outer layer preventing penetration into the region of the plates. Shorter wavelengths probably would not even penetrate the layer at all because their resonant absorption is so strong. Microwaves could reach the battery only from directions that were not shielded by metal.

This analysis certainly does not establish microwave radiation as the cause of battery heating in the presence of UFOs. It does, however, bring forth some details of geometry and physics that are compatible with that idea. The specific suspicion of wavelengths in a particular range in

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CE-1 NEAR ASTORIA, OREGON

By Greg Long
(© 1981 by Greg Long)

Between 1:30 and 2:00 a.m., May 12, 1981, a 23-year-old truck driver and his 21-year-old girl friend left Seattle, Washington, for a 170-mile trip to Astoria, Oregon, to pick up a load of king crab for a Seattle seafood company. The young woman, a cashier and sales clerk at the Boeing Company, had decided to take a day's vacation and rode in the sleeper of the empty Mac Cabover. Visibility was fair, driving conditions good.

The driver drove south on Interstate 5, passed through Kelso and Longview, Washington, and crossed the Lewis and Clark Bridge over the Columbia River. Some patches of fog lay along the low straights of Highway 30 on the way to Astoria. The windows of the truck were rolled up against a 45° temperature, and the heater was running.

At approximately 5:00 a.m. somewhere near Clatskanie, Oregon, and

going down a hill, the young man felt something peculiar. The truck was going slower than it should.

As an experienced driver on this route (he had driven it at least 20 times over several years averaging two or three trips a week during season), he knew that with an empty truck, going downhill in ninth gear, and exceeding the speed limit, he should have been traveling at least 70 mph. He checked his tachometer; it read 1600 rather than 2100; and to his surprise, his speedometer registered between 45 and 55. He commented on this to his companion, who told him that he was imagining things. Naturally concerned over this event, the young man was relieved when shortly thereafter the truck returned to its normal speed. However, the driver soon noticed something strange in his left mirror after he had reached the bottom of a hill and hit a

straightaway. What looked like two little orange "flames" were apparently "stuck" in the mirror, filling about 1 inch of horizontal space.

Glancing at the road in front of him and at the mirror approximately every 2 to 5 seconds, as was his habit, the driver attempted to find an explanation since the most puzzling aspect of the lights was their unyielding, fixed position in the mirror even as he went up and down hills, around tight curves, and through increasingly tortuous terrain.

Moments later the driver noted a white light positioned at the "apex" of the other two, as if forming the top point of a triangle, the orange lights at its base. The driver attempted to find an explanation for these lights; perhaps they were the cab lights of a truck. Yet the most nagging characteristic of the lights was their persistent,

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Batteries, Continued

this context is also consistent with the implications from several other UFO phenomena.⁵

Comments and alternative suggestions are requested by the author.

NOTES

1. Johnson, Donald A., "Size, Distance, and Duration Parameters of the Ignition Interference Effect," Center for UFO Studies Conference, September 25-27, 1981. It was clearly established that UFOs need not be directly in front of a vehicle to produce engine interference. This finding is in conflict with, and casts serious doubt upon, some inferences to the contrary presented in McCampbell, James M., *MUFON Symposium Proceedings*, p. 25, Scottsdale, Arizona, July 16-17, 1977.
2. Individual references and highlights are given here to assist others in studying this problem. But it is not easy to lay hands on this material, especially that published in Europe. The author would appreciate receiving further details on these (or other) cases.

1. *UFO Report*, Issue No. 707 Event in November 1945. Interference with lighting systems, telephone networks, batteries.
2. Fiquet/Ruchow *Omni L'Espresso*, p. 76. November 10, 1954 at Quarouble. France.
3. *Official UFO (USA) No. 777* December 6, 1967, Indiana. Radio (not car), battery,

heating, paralysis.

4. *UFO-Nachrichten*, No. 80, West Germany. Groednerpass, Italy. Battery, watch.
5. Basterfield, "A Source Catalogue of Australian UFO Reports," CUFOS 1978. Book 1, p. 40. Kalyan, Australia, May 2, 1973. Car Battery.
6. *UFO Report*, Issue 751, January 1968. Temple, Texas. Battery, watch.
7. *Lumieres Dans La Nuit*, Issue 761 Hergies, France, September 7, 1974. Lighting systems, batteries, prickling sensation.
8. *International UFO Reporter*, CUFOS, June 1978. Tapapouri, New Zealand. December 6, 1977. Auto electrical, lights, battery lost water.
9. *MUFON UFO Journal*, May 1978. Indianapolis, Indiana, March 29, 1978. Electrical system, motor, battery, and watch.

Also see Trench, Brinsley Le Poer, *The Sky People*, Award Books, p. 68, 1970. An egg-shaped object passed over the highway not more than two miles ahead of the car. The witness felt "a kind of heat wave ..." and later found that the battery was steaming.

Corollary to this problem are cases in which the battery is fully discharged, that is, found to be dead but serviceable after a recharge. See Lorenzen, Jim and Coral, *UFOs Over the Americas*, Signet, p. 180, 1968; and Vallee, Jacques, *Passport to Magonia*, Cases No. 299 and 399, Regnery, 1969.

3. Volume of fluid = $1/16(9.5 \times 8 + 7.75 \times 8 \times 9.5 \times 7.75) \text{ in}^3 (2.54 \text{ cm/in})^3 = 216.7 \text{ cm}^3$ Or 216.7 gm for density of 1.0. Change in temperature = $100 - 5(80 - 32)/9 = 73.3^\circ\text{C}$. Energy for temperature increase = $216.7 \text{ gm}(1 \text{ gm/cm}^3)(73.3) = 15,884 \text{ cal}$. Energy to evaporate 5% requires (0.05) $(216.7 \text{ gm})(539.5 \text{ cal/gm}) = 5,845 \text{ cal}$. Total Energy = 21,729 cal. Average energy flux = total energy / (area x time) = $21,729 \text{ cal} / (9.5 \times 8 + 7.75 \times 8 + 9.5 \times 7.75 \text{ in}^2) (2.54 \text{ cm/in})^2 \text{ 5 min } (60 \text{ sec/min}) = 0.0530 \text{ cal/cm}^2\text{sec}$.
4. *Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*, CRC Press, 1978-79 gives the solar irradiation constant as $1.94 \text{ cal/cm}^2\text{min} \times 1 \text{ min}/60 \text{ sec} = 0.0323 \text{ cal/cm}^2\text{sec}$.
5. A description of the resonances along with various references will be found in McCampbell, James M., "Horses Under the Hood," a paper in *Thesis Antithesis*, Proceedings of a conference sponsored by the Los Angeles Chapters of World Futures Society and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Los Angeles, September 27, 1975.
6. McCampbell, James M., *UFOlogy*, Celestial Arts, 1973. Has been dropped from the publisher's catalog and remaining copies were sold to Crown Publishers, Inc, One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016 that specializes in close-out titles. Their catalog number is 354314. Retail price in \$1.98.

Oregon, Continued

stationary position similar to that of the reflection of an object on the inside surface of a windshield. As the witness said later in frustration, "They were always there; they never moved."

The highway became increasingly windy and hilly. The driver's girl friend noticed the young man's concern with the mirror and asked him what he was looking at and to keep his eyes on the road. He called her attention to the lights, but because of her position in the sleeper and the obstruction of his head, she was unable to see the top white light. She did, however, perceive the two orange lights, and as the driver now noticed, saw them reflected in both mirrors.

The lights then drew closer, filling about 3 inches of the left mirror, and the driver saw that they were flashing. Again, he sought an explanation — hazard sign posts? He pointed out the lights again to his companion, who suggested that they were tower-cable lights. Later, the driver recalled that the duration of the flashing lights was similar, as he put it, to the "telephone pole effect" — a flash for each telephone pole that passes outside a driver's window, which suggests a maximum duration of two or three seconds.

At this point, the uneasy driver rolled down his window and looked back down the road, but saw nothing. In a like manner, nothing was reflected in his mirrors. Once he returned his eyes to the road in front of him, the lights, however, reappeared — only in his left mirror. Several times he looked behind him, his head outside the window, and failed to see the source of the lights. Perhaps, he thought, the lights were above him.

The highway wound into a stand of trees and once the driver turned the corner and entered this overgrown area, the lights were no longer visible in his mirror. The driver thought, "No biggie," relieved that the lights were gone, and began to discuss them with his girl friend. Then, several miles later the lights reappeared, an

estimated truck length behind him.

The driver then, deciding to confront the lights, pulled over on the righthand side of the highway on the top of a hill, shut the engine off, and opened the door. Standing on the cab step, he saw an object southeast and approximately in line with the back of the truck hovering across a ravine above 30- to 40-foot-high trees on the other side of the highway. He later estimated the distance of the object at 500 feet. The object was composed of three triangle-shaped, fluorescent-type orange lights similar in color to traffic lights and arranged triangle-fashion, two at the bottom, one at the top. The lights were flashing clockwise and sequentially and seemed to flash at the witness.

Then, a white light slowly came on beneath the bottom two orange lights, and shone upwards, illuminating what appeared to be turbulent mist or fog. The witness later compared the illumination effect of the white light to the glow of a headlight from an unseen vehicle mounting a distant hill, or to a headlight slowly coming on. The mist or fog was, in the driver's words, "like smoke coming out of a chimney."

Just as the driver began to step down from the cab to observe more closely, a "totally blinding, super high-beam halogen light," or "spotlight," shone from the object and flashed in the witness' face. The driver's girl friend, who had joined him by this time, was also blinded by the spotlight.

The object then moved toward the witnesses, the light beam fixed on them. The driver later estimated that the object moved 100 to 200 feet, at which time he leaped into the cab, knocking his girl friend over, started the engine and left the site.

Shortly afterwards, the witnesses noticed that both mirrors had "frosted" or "fogged" over. The driver wiped off the left mirror and drove into Astoria. The fog on the right mirror had not dissipated.

In Astoria the driver parked near the fish company and walked inside between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. to load up. At this time, a man who the driver had never met told the driver

that the witness' truck smelled as if 100 gallons of antifreeze had been "dumped" over it. The witness checked and detected nothing; nor did he see any marks, as if from burning, on the truck. Neither witness had experienced adverse or detectable effects from the light beam.

By 9:30 a.m. the truck was loaded with crab, and the witnesses were ready to return to Seattle.

The driver later estimated that he drove, at the most, about 15 miles, averaging 50 mph, from the point at which he first saw the lights until he stopped and confronted the object. Both witnesses estimated at least 1 minute of sighting time on the side of the highway. Total sighting time was approximately 20 minutes.

Analysis

This case came to me several weeks after the driver reported the incident the day of its occurrence to Robert Gribble of Phenomena Research of Seattle, who later passed it on to me. Because of the delay and difficulties in contacting the witnesses, more complete details were lost. In addition, as with many witnesses, the driver, young, impatient and tired of talking about the incident to relatives and friends, was ready to forget the whole thing. Thus, this analysis is based upon Bob Gribble's notes, an hour's telephone conversation with the driver and two telephone conversations with and a completed questionnaire from the girl friend. However, despite these drawbacks, the case is a strong one, and is especially intriguing because of the proximity of the event to St. Helens, Washington, the site of a spectacular CE-I multiple-witness sighting on March 17, 1981,² and to Ridgefield, Washington, where a 26-year-old mother witnessed an apparent CE-I on May 1, 1981.³

Was the Astoria object a helicopter? To determine this, I telephoned every known source of aircraft in the vicinity to find records of helicopter flights. The only two

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possibilities could have been the Army National Guard at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, southwest of Astoria, or the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station at Tongue Point. However, the Coast Guard operations officer told me that, although the coast Guard has helicopters that periodically patrol the Columbia River for oil pollution, they do not fly at 5 a.m., nor are they noiseless, as this object was, according to the driver, nor did he have a record

of a helicopter in the air at 5 a.m. An official at Camp Rilea said that no helicopters are based at the camp although helicopters occasionally fly in during season. However, no helicopter activity was going on at Camp Rilea during May.

The female witness said that the lights seemed either to move or turn as they flashed in sequence; at least, they looked different each time they flashed or were, in effect, "turned" triangles. She could not tell if they

were extended or attached to a gray, cone-shaped object evident to her when the spotlight came on. The driver testified that he saw no outline of an object associated with the triangular lights. Since the driver provided a drawing of the UFO, it is difficult to draw conclusions about the odd positioning or "actions" of the lights. However, both witnesses felt strongly that they were being ob-

(continued on next page)

Oregon, Continued

served. The driver said: "When I was sitting there looking at it, it felt like ... it was something there and it was watching me ... like it was scoping me out." When the spotlight came on, he felt that it was "aiming for me." His girl friend said that the object was "definitely checking us out."

As in many UFO accounts, size and distance of an object can be difficult for witnesses. In this instance, the female witness's estimate of three quarters of a mile distance versus 500 feet for the driver poses an obvious problem especially since her estimate of the object's size ranged from "30 times the size of a star" to a "house." Could the details she offered of the object, especially of the triangular lights and clockwise motion of the mist, be evident at three quarters of a mile? I believe that the female witness is simply poor at such estimates.

The driver estimated the size of the UFO at 10 quarters held at arm's length, and that it filled one fourth of his vision. Certainly the object was large.

The female witness had difficulty dealing with degrees-above-horizon, but since she agreed with the driver that the object was above treeline, the discrepancy between her and the driver's estimates seems insignificant. In general, the female witness was at least nearly average in her ability to estimate distance, altitude and apparent size, but she was certain she was not looking at a conventional aircraft and did attempt to explain the object away — as a military device. Given that she has no real interest in UFOs and had never seen one before (although she regrets not staying to watch the object further), the female witness seems basically honest and genuinely puzzled by the experience.

The driver had never witnessed a UFO before, is not preoccupied with UFOs, doesn't read UFO "literature," and according to his mother, is level headed. He was legitimately frightened by the experience and felt that "I just thought I had to tell *somebody*, you know, in case somebody else saw something ..." He admitted that "perception is difficult at night," but despite minor inconsistencies in his testimony (and these made weeks after his initial report), his recall of the experience was unchanged over a month after the event.

NOTES

1. Names on file with MUFON.
2. "International UFO Reporter," *Frontiers of Science*, pp. 11-13, May-June, 1981.
3. Report sent to MUFON.



Director's Message, Continued

A meeting of all interested people will be held in the near future in Corpus Christi to organize teams in not only Nueces County, but also in the adjoining counties of San Patricio, Aransas, Bee, Refugio, and Live Oak. Each of the people will be advised by letter when and where the meeting will take place. James Hill is our State Section Director for Kleberg and Jim Wells Counties, which also adjoin Nueces County. Mr. Hill has conducted several UFO investigations near Alice, Texas, which may be published in a future issue.

We have many MUFON members who have joined as either Contributing Subscribers, Field Investigator Trainees, Field Investigators, Astronomers or Amateur Radio Operators, that after reading the Journal and personally meeting the people who compose the MUFON leadership, are now ready to volunteer their efforts in a leadership role. Our goal is to have a State Section Director for every county in the United States so that all local UFO sightings may be referred to this person by the police agencies, news

media, and general public. Sighting reports received by the National UFO Reporting Center on their UFO telephone "hotline" 1-206-722-3000, operated by Robert J. Gribble, MUFON State Director for Washington, and the UFO hotline to CUFOS in Chicago, will also be referred to the State Section Directors for investigation. We invite interested people to contact either their State Director or your International Director signifying your desire to participate in a more active role.

In order to process the increased number of UFO sighting reports received as a result of Bob Gribble's hotline, Ed Bowles joined MUFON as a Staff Investigator. State Directors, State Section Directors, or Field Investigators who receive one of these reports, attached to a MUFON explanatory form letter, can assist MUFON immensely if they will observe the following suggestions:

(1) Set up an appointment with the witness for an interview at the earliest date convenient to both the witness and the investigator by either telephone or letter. (2) Plan and conduct the interview so that the maximum information may be obtained on the

first session, especially if the investigator is required to drive a considerable distance. (3) Complete the appropriate sighting report forms and submit promptly. (4) Write a narrative report of the case if it is considered significant for possible publication in the *MUFON UFO Journal*. (5) If the investigator is unable to conduct the interview or secure a written report from the witness for any reason, please promptly return the sighting report literature so that it may be reassigned to another investigator. (6) In most cases, the sighting report will be mailed to the State Section or State Director for assignment to the appropriate field investigator. In this manner, the MUFON officer for the area will be able to track each report and help the investigator whenever needed. (7) In a few cases, we have mailed the sighting report form directly to the Field Investigator when the witness lived in the same town as the investigator. (8) If the Computer Input (Form 2) has been completed, it will be mailed to CUFOS in Evanston, Illinois, upon receipt of the report forms in Seguin, Texas. □



Lucius Farish

In Others' Words

Repeated sightings of a huge boomerang-shaped object over the towns of Clifton and Morenci, Arizona, are the subject of an article by Bob Pratt in the December 1 issue of *National Enquirer*. The December 8 issue reports on the sighting of a huge spherical UFO and smaller craft over Moscow and other areas of Russia on May 15, 1981. This issue also has an article comparing the reported appearances of UFOs in all parts of the world. In the December 15 issue, an Arizona housewife claims to have been abducted by UFO occupants and to have been transported to three different alien worlds, including a colony composed of people brought from Earth and other planets.

The December 1 issue of *The Star* tells of the National Security Agency's apparent role in keeping UFO information secret.

The Winter issue of *UFO Report* is definitely above-average, featuring articles by John Schuessler, Dennis Stacy, William Moore, Jim Miles, Hugh Cochrane and others.

A good many readers of this column probably contributed articles to *Official UFO* and/or *Ancient Astronauts* some 5-7 years ago, when both publications were generally factual and worth reading. Many of the articles published in those magazines are now being reprinted (without author credits) in various publications from S.J. Publications (2470 Lemoine Avenue, Ft. Lee, NJ 07024). S.J. is the latest brainchild of Myron and Irving Fass, perhaps best remembered as the persons who had UFOs "destroy" the town of Chester, Illinois, a few years back. Since Fass' previous publishing venture, Countrywide Publications, bought only First North American Rights to the articles they purchased, it would seem that reprint fees are due the authors of said articles. If you are such an author and if you object

to these tactics, you might want to direct your comments to S.J. Publications or the Ft. Lee office of the Better Business Bureau, or perhaps even the New Jersey Attorney General's office. I am told there is a total of seven magazines on the general theme of UFOs now being published by S.J., including such titles as *UFO Confidential*, *Official UFO*, *Unidentified Flying Objects*, *Cosmic Astronauts*, etc.

The year of 1981 saw the release of two of the most important UFO books to be published in several years. The first, Dr. Harley D. Rutledge's *Project Identification*, was reviewed in a previous column. The second book, which no one interested in UFOs should miss, is Budd Hopkins' *Missing Time*. It is, as the subtitle says, "A Documented Study of UFO Abductions." And it is *not* — to Hopkins' credit — a rehash of the Hill, Hickson-Parker, Walton *et al* cases which we've all read before. With the help of long-time researcher Ted Bloecher and psychotherapist Dr. Aphrodite Clamar, Hopkins presents 19 cases of reported abductions by UFO beings. Of these, 7 were chosen for hypnotic regressions and the details of those sessions are given in this book.

It is fascinating to see the similarities in the reports by people who have never met each other and cannot have collaborated in any way. Various "patterns" are examined and these should be of great interest to UFO researchers who are pursuing their own investigations of possible abductees. Of particular value is the "Virginia Horton" case, as it illustrates the extent to which the witness/abductee can be mentally manipulated by the UFO intelligences. This is perhaps the most fascinating and significant case in the book, although none of them are dull.

The questions Hopkins poses are

the ones which all of us must consider. If UFO abductions are as widespread as the evidence seems to indicate, the implications are both amazing and disturbing. I hope Hopkins will give us a sequel to the present book, detailing those other cases which are now pending. Until that comes to pass, *Missing Time* will give you a great deal to think about. It is available for \$12.95 from Richard Marek Publishers, Inc., 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

The British writing team of Janet and Colin Bord always manages to come up with excellent books, no matter what their subject may be. One of their most recent, *Are We Being Watched?*, is a UFO book for younger readers, with a difference — the sightings in the book were all made by children. Although much of this material will be familiar to UFOlogists, it is still very helpful to have this category of reports in one volume. In addition to the common sightings of UFOs in the sky, the Bords include UFO landing and occupant reports, E-M cases, etc., along with information on the reporting of sightings and various UFO groups/publications. The book is currently available only in the British hardcover edition and may be ordered from the publisher, Angus & Robertson (UK) Ltd., 10 Earlham Street, London WC2H 9LP, England. The price is approximately \$12.00

In the December 1981 issue of the Journal under "Director's Message," the formation of a new committee to study medical injuries associated with alleged UFO close encounters was announced by Richard C. Niemtzw, M.D. Interested medical doctors and psychologists may contact Dr. Niemtzw at 166 Cannon Drive, Travis AFB, CA 94535. (This is a revision from the original address published.)

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE by Walt Andrus

As we enter a new year in UFOlogy, the November 1981 issue of the Journal, featuring an article and photograph of Kenneth Arnold by Greg Long, is a significant reminder that June 24, 1982 will mark the 35th anniversary of Mr. Arnold's sighting that triggered the modern era of "flying saucers." In spite of the government's attempts, during the intervening years, to obliterate the UFO phenomenon, UFO sighting reports continue to be received daily by MUFON from throughout the United States. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document disclosures are concrete evidence that a majority of the intelligence agencies associated with the U.S. Government have been involved in UFO investigations on a worldwide scope, starting during the 1947-48 period and continuing to the present date.

The national wire services have contributed to the apparent lack of UFO sightings, since they report only those that they feel will make headlines in the newspapers, radio, and television stations that purchase their services. The few verbal debunkers have received unwarranted exposure by the press, which could be detrimental to solving the UFO phenomenon if their propaganda is accepted by the scientific community and the general public.

The absence of a significant UFO "flap" has caused many UFO researchers to become apathetic and a few to lose interest entirely. This is a serious mistake, since now is the time for all UFOlogists to be preparing and training field investigators for the next major UFO "flap." None of the major UFO organizations were prepared with competent investigators to adequately handle the massive number of sighting reports received during the 1965 and 1973 waves. Through expansion of our State Section Director's investigative teams at the county level, we can not only become equipped to meet the challenge of the next "flap," but continue

to sharpen our investigative techniques in handling the current daily reports. We should adopt the motto of the Boy Scouts of America — "Be Prepared."

Forrest Lundberg, State Director for Iowa, has taken effective steps to strengthen his organization by promoting Donald R. Curtis from State Section Director to Assistant State Director. Nancy K. Cree, 3939 Cambridge, Des Moines, IA 50313, has been appointed State Section Director for Polk and Warren counties to fill the vacancy created by the elevation of Mr. Curtis to his new post. James E. Kamoie, 1522-18th St., Altoona, PA 16601, telephone (814) 946-5086, has volunteered to serve as State Section Director for Blair and Cambria Counties in Pennsylvania. Mr. Kamoie is in the process of organizing a UFO investigative team in the Altoona area, which would be affiliated with MUFON.

Rev. G. Neal Hern, State Director for Texas, has designated Jerry R. Whalen, 3001 Bomar, Ft. Worth, TX 76103, telephone (817) 534-8723, as the new State Section Director for Tarrant, Johnson, and Parker Counties. Jerry will help to complement the outstanding work presently being done by Lewis J. Willis, State Section Director for Dallas, Rockwall, Collin, Kaufman, and Ellis Counties. The Megan Elliott and daughter abduction case, by Lewis J. Willis, published in this issue of the Journal, is an example of the team-work that Neal Hern has generated in the Dallas and east Texas area. Mrs. Jennie Willis has been a valuable aide to her husband in many respects. Mrs. Jean Fuller, State Section Director for Smith County, was instrumental in securing the initial lead on this case and pertinent backup evidence. Dr. Stephen Clark conducted the hypnotic sessions. Dr. Clark is presently preparing a new section for the third edition of our Field Investigator's Manual on the uses of hypnosis as a tool in recovering information in abduction cases

where a time lapse is involved.

On October 31st, Walt Andrus was the speaker for the monthly meeting of MUFON Metroplex in Garland, Texas. He presented a slide lecture titled "A New Look at the Entity Evidence."

The success of MUFON as an organization can be directly attributed to the leadership of State and State Section Directors who have developed investigative research teams in their communities. Texas, as an example, has strong teams in Houston/Clear Lake City, Dallas/Ft. Worth, San Antonio, and Austin. In an effort to organize a team in South Texas, your director set up schedules with the news media in Corpus Christi, Texas, for television appearances and newspaper interviews. On November 26th Fred Jordan arranged an appearance on the five o'clock news segment on KRIS-TV Channel 6. Ernest Pena provided exceptional coverage on KIII-TV Channel 3 on the 6 p.m., 10 p.m., and midnight news on November 27th. Walt Andrus was also the guest of Kathryn Childers on "Morning Magazine," Channel 3.

In the Saturday, November 28th edition of the Corpus Christi Caller Times, Dawn Turnham, Staff Writer, featured an article on the front page of the "Local Scene" titled "UFO network looks for volunteers." This four-column spread obtained greater reader exposure than a large ad could have achieved in the same newspaper. We are indebted to all of the news media personnel who so graciously gave of their professional time, because each felt that the purpose of your director's visit was current news for their viewers and readers. The deluge of mail inquiries to our invitation exceeded all of our expectations, dispelling any doubt that competent and qualified citizens are ready to volunteer their expertise to resolving the UFO phenomenon.

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