CENTER INVESTIGATORS QUARTERLY NO. 5 (MAY, 1979)

It has been a year since an issue of the Center Investigators Quarterly (CIQ) has been sent to you. The Post Office is not to blame and the Center has not ceased to function. Rather it is the result of *too much work at the Center which resulted from a very heavy load of* mail during 1978 which caused many things to be postponed. A Survey was started at the end of 1977 to determine how many non-current cases were received each month and what was the effect of such things as the movie, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, and certain T.V. appearences. We hope soon to report to you on this. For the first three months of 1978 we received: 289 cases in January; 362 in February; and 271 in March. At that pace we fell further behind each month and are now catching up.

We have accumulated a backlog of cases which deserve investigation and will be sending these to you in the next few weeks. Some of these cases will be a year old when you receive them. The date on which they were received at the Center is stamped on the front page. Note the date and if the witnesses question the long time between the mailing of the report and your contact with them, try to explain that we have a large backlog of cases and can only investigate them as time permits. By now all of the persons who sent cases to us have received acknowledgements and thank-you cards from the Center unless there was no return address or we happened to overlook one or two. All of this work is done by volunteers who spend many hours helping the Center.

QUARTERLY REPORTS. We want to thank the many of you who have been sending the regular quarterly reports to the Center in spite of the lack of communication on our part. We are very sorry for this lack on our part but it became a physical impossibility. We tried to acknowledge each quarterly report but had to postpone that in order to process the hundreds of cases which were coming to the Center.

CASES. Most of the cases being sent out to you are potential close encounter cases or are in the category of miscelaneous due to some psychic or other aspect. A few will be nocturnal lights or daylight discs which have some interesting aspects to them. Please try to determine the proper classification of the case based upon your investigation. A preliminary judgement was made by the volunteer who read and tabulated the case at the Center and this judgement is often made on very flimsy evidence from brief and incomplete accounts by the witnesses. As you know close encounters are those sightings which occur within about 500 feet of the witness but you have considerable latitude in making this decision. An estimate of the nearness of the UFO can be made from the amount of detail which the witness is able to recall about the surface features, shape, and movement of the UFO.

If for some reason you can not undertake the investigation of a case which we send to you, please return it to the Center so that we can send it to some other investigator. If the witness lives in an area which is difficult to reach or involves some hazard, please explain this when you return the case to the Center.

COMMENTS ON REPORTS FROM FIELD INVESTIGATORS

1. DATES. Some reports do not show the date of the investigation. It is helpful if the dates of the interviews and also the date of completion of the investigation is shown. The most important date is the date of the sighting and every effort should be made to determine as close as possible the exact date of the sighting. Cases are filed at the Center in Chronological order. The correct dates if known help to find cases which are related to one another and help in some other research which can be done by the computer. Make a habit to date everything.

2. LOCATION. First we need to know the location of the witness at the time of the sighting in terms of the city in which he observed the object or in terms of distance and direction from the nearest city which we are apt to find on a map. File cards are made out to locate cases by geographical reference. More detailed location as to street location or highway are also needed to pinpoint cases which are related to one another. Even though you may have only one case from a given city, we may receive a report later which adds evidence to that report or we may have previously had one in our files.

3. DIRECTION & DISTANCE. Some reports do not accurately show the direction in which the observer first saw the UFO and the direction in which it was last seen. Try to determine this from maps or use a compass. This information is also used in relating cases to one another. Distance is very difficult to determine but we are dealing mostly with cases of close encounters and should not have a high percentage of error.

4. Search for a source of weather information in your area where you can get the weather on a given date in the past years. The weather on the exact date of the sighting has much significance in some cases. Of special interest is the amount and type of cloud cover and especially the height of the cloud layer. The wind and visibility are also ofter a factor.

5. OPINIONS. Based upon your investigation of the case and the witnesses, please include in your report your opinion of the sighting, whether it might easily be explained as a miss-interpretation of some natural phenomenon or if it seems to be a good unknown and what are its special interests.

6. WITNESSES. Please try to evaluate the character and reliability of the witnesses and their previous knowledge and interest in UFOs. If the case turns out to be one of real interest, then it is justified to inquire about them from neighbors and others. Do not waste time on a poor case.

7. NAMES. Believe it or not, a few cases were sent to us without the name of the field investigator included in the report. We like to record who did the investigating.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

For the benefit of our newer field investigators and also to aid others of different backgrounds, we would like to publish some of the techniques which you have found especially helpful in investigating reports. This bulletin can serve as a means of exchanging such experiences. If you have worked out a proceedure which may benefit others, send us the details. Perhaps you have made some mistakes which we can profit from. For example, you may have worked out a series of questions to ascertain the size, distance, and complete details of the UFO. Such questions usually overlap and the more questions that are asked, the more accurate is the information obtained.

If from your initial investigation, it appears that the case involves merely a nocturnal light or a daylight disc and is of little merit, continue to politely complete the investigation but do not spend much time on it and send it to us with the reasons for not delving into it more deeply.

I D CARDS

Most I D Cards will expire in July, 1979. In order to renew your card, it will be necessary to send a new photo of yourself and your old card to the Center. A new card will then be made for you for the next two years. We suggest that you have spare photos made for future use and regret any inconvenience which this may cause. Many new I D Cards will also be issues this summer.

Robert J. Runser

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