C.I.Q. 8

CENTER INVESTIGATORS QUARTERLY

JULY, 1980

GREETINGS FROM GEORGIA

As the new CUFOS Investigator Coordinator, I hope to be in a position to provide the dozens of CUFOS volunteers around the country with more sightings, information and feedback than ever before. Previous attempts by volunteer Coordinators to service investigators on a part-time basis have bogged down due to the sheer workload. Besides preparing material for the new IUR section in PROBE magazine, I am able to devote full-time to this demanding position. Current Center financial constriction prohibits me from working directly on every current case by phone for IUR any longer; thus, the Center and IUR/PROBE require your help more than ever before.

All sighting and quarterly reports should now be transmitted to the Georgia address indicated below, as discussed in the last issue. Other general correspondence and publication orders should go through the Evanston, Illinois headquarters.

Allan Hendry

- Allan Hendry

CURRENT REPORT ACTIVITY

The 5-month period from January through June of this year saw a marked drop-off first in the quality of UFO reports nationwide, then in the quantity. As of this writing in June, the Police Hotline is averaging only one case per day, the lowest national turnout in the last four years of Center statistics. The silver lining in this cloud is that it gives the Center a chance to catch up on backlogged material - most notably from the hectic months between October '78 and May of '79. With your assistance we can complete the statistical gaps noted in IUR's records up through 1980.

CALL FOR QUARTERLY REPORTS

There is one feature that must be included in your latest activity summary report to me. I need to know if you would like to see your name included in a list of Center investigators to be printed (privately) in the next CIQ. There are as many as four CUFOS investigators within one metropolitan area, and many of you have expressed an interest in knowing who your "neighbors" are. So far, however, only a scant few of you have acknowledged permission to print your name and address.

Published on January, April, July and September of each year for the field investigators of the Center for UFO Studies.

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A WORD ON PROBE/IUR

At the time of this writing, subscribers to the International UFO Reporter are still waiting to receive their first issue of PROBE in the mail (as promised in the editorial of the last conventional IUR)... even though the "July" issue of that magazine containing the first IUR installment has been staring you in the face on the newsstands for a long time. Yours truly has already completed three installments for them. PROBE's publisher puts the blame on poor computer mailing services. If the situation is not resolved to our satisfaction soon, however, we will have to secure alternate means of getting IUR material to subscribers.

SIGHTING REPORT FORMS

With each UFO sighting alert submitted to Center investigators, a new CUFOS/IUR form has been included, which supercedes the older MUFON-type form. Though succinct, the form ensures that all vital information in general cases becomes available. More complex cases will still benefit from the formal sighting outline presented in CIQ #1. Furthermore, sightings associated with radar, physical traces, entities, photographs, animal effect cases, physiological reactions and EM interferences will require additional treatment; these guidelines can be found in the appendix of the UFO HANDBOOK which is available through the Center or at your local bookstore for $8.95.

P.S. Use the angular size comparisons indicated on the form; the technique of objects "held at arm's length" produces exaggerated results by comparison... unless, of course, the angular size of the object is significantly larger than a full moon ($1/2^{o}$), in which case you have no alternative.

CIQ REVIEW

Back issues of the Center Investigators Quarterly are available from the Center's Evanston address at no charge. Features contained within each issue are summarized below:

CIQ #1 -
- How to prepare your quarterly activities report
- ID cards
- Police Hotline stickers
- How to prepare a formal sighting report

CIQ #2 -
- (Obsolete CUFOS sighting form) Corrections to MUFON manual

CIQ #3 -
- Status of CUFOS investigators as of Dec., 1977
- Guidelines on dealing with CE II physical trace sites

CIQ #4 -
- Center Bulletin
- UFO slides available

CIQ #5 -
- Comments on improving sighting reports

CIQ #6 -
- ID cards = 2 year renewals
- MUFON and CUFOS manuals available
- JUS available
- Refresher mailing to over 9000 police departments of "800" toll-free Police Hotline number
- Center publications list available

CIQ #7 -
- New Georgia mailing address for sighting and quarterly reports
- Call for investigators to make Associate donations
- Procedure for tax deductions of investigator expenses

IFOS THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS

The following recent cases are presented to demonstrate two important lessons for the field investigator: the danger of accepting a report at face value because of the strangeness of the description and the role that luck plays in getting to the bottom of some UFO sightings.

• MYSTERY LIGHT
Milwaukee, Wisconsin - April 13, 1980 - 12:35 AM. A 30-year old production manager got a phone call from a friend who lived nearby; she was told to go outside and look for a strange amber/orange light as bright as Jupiter moving around in the western sky. The woman went and confirmed the sighting. The light moved silently up, down and sideways but always stayed in the same vicinity. After watching it for 20-plus minutes, she called someone to the southwest of her but that person couldn't find it in the sky. Finally, two male friends got in a car and drove toward the light source. What was it?

ANSWER: a kite - at 12:35 in the morning! The men in the car overtook the person flying it. They also found out that he attached a light to it so it could be seen in the dark! If the witnesses had not pursued the "UFO" while it was still present, no amount of retrospective investigation would have cracked this one. Yet how would we have reacted to a skeptic speculating that the sighting was caused by a "midnight kite with a light attached to it"?

• UFO CAUSES POWER FAILURE
New York City, New York - May 12, 1980 - 10:20 PM. A Bronx man witnessed a "round" UFO "with rows of flickering white lights on the bottom and a blinking red light on the top end". It flew slightly tilted, parallel to the street with a "silent, low tone".

The UFO approached the witness from the vicinity of a gigantic housing complex; five minutes later, the lights in that complex flickered and blacked out. Power wasn't restored until 2 AM. A UFO causing "EM" interference?

ANSWER: No, an advertising plane. The witness knew that the power company felt the failure was triggered by a sewer explosion near the complex, yet he still asserted that the UFO must have caused it.

• CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN BACKYARD
St. Louis Park, Minnesota - October 9, 1979 - 5:30 PM. This mysterious "ball of light" occurred in the same period and vicinity as many other similar sightings (see the November 1979 IUR), making it easy to accept. This ball of light hovered in the corner of a woman's backyard for one minute, emitting a rhythmic motor sound. Then it disappeared.

ANSWER: The witness shortly discovered it was a Close Encounter with a downed power line behind her property, creating the light and noise.

• ANOTHER EM EFFECT?
Elkton, Maryland vicinity - April, 1980 - 2:25 AM. CUFOS investigator George Reynolds was called in by the State Police on this case. Two educated women watched a green light with a brilliant center, a hazy perimeter and a tail fly across the Susquehanna River and vanish. Their FM radio went out at the same time.

ANSWER: Reynolds had a friend who spotted "the most spectacular green fireball he had ever seen" at the same time of morning, reinforcing the conclusion that their sighting was of a distant meteor burnup. As for the FM radio, Reynolds's experience as an amateur radio operator coupled with his

familiarity with a repeater station near the witnesses led him to realize that the area is very poor for FM reception in general; indeed, the witnesses' car radio resumed once they had driven clear of the hills. Such acausal coincidences appear frequently in other "EM" cases reported to the Center.

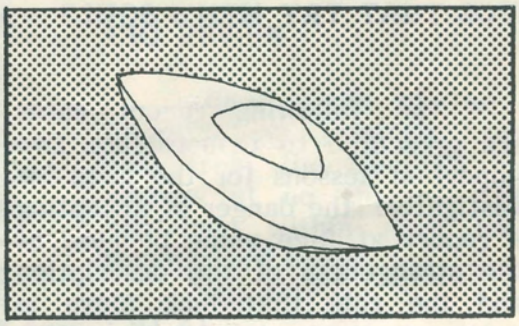
• RAPID NOCTURNAL LIGHTS

Traer, Iowa - several years ago - 10:00 PM. A man wrote the Center recently to tell of his experience with "very large, circular saucers" moving from east to west at very high speeds. Only one was visible at a time in the cloudy sky; each luminous saucer was followed 8 seconds later by another following the same path. As they travelled across the sky, they made "huge, instantaneous changes in altitude".

ANSWER: Did you guess this one? The witness learned that the vicinity of the saucer lights corresponded to the Waterloo, Iowa municipal airport. Their beacon rotates once every 8 seconds and must have played on the different layers of broken clouds that night, creating the effect of "instantaneous" altitude change. If you had guessed that the "saucers" were searchlights, would you have changed your mind upon reading that the witness holds a commercial pilot's license with instrument ratings? Especially if you read this account elsewhere minus the pilot's solution?

• HUGE DAYLIGHT SAUCER WITH EM EFFECT

Edina, Minnesota - September 17, 1979 - 12:10 PM. The witness was a 40-year old woman with a B.A. in mathematics, experience with medical and educational research; "most important", she wrote, is that she has been a birdwatcher for years. Sitting at a stop sign on this clear, sunny day, she was struck by the sight of a "classical flying saucer", as sketched below. The body appeared to be made of a



Witness's Sketch

substance resembling Corelle dinnerware, while the dome looked like Mylar plastic. Besides the favorable daylight conditions and an unobstructed view of the approaching form in the open part of the sky, the angular size was huge: five times the width of a full moon (2-1/2°). As it came closer, a burst of static drowned out her car AM radio which was tuned to a strong station. She watched this UFO for five seconds before it was obscured by an elm tree.

ANSWER: The woman followed the object through the tree until it emerged on the other side... as a Northwest Airlines wide-bodied jet - red tail, company name and all!!! The witness wrote: "I could not have been more astonished had the 'saucer' landed and debouched little green men... In no way did what I first saw resemble an airplane!" She remained puzzled for days over the matter, wondering how she could have been fooled by the plane's orientation and/or reflections to make it look like that... despite its large angular size.

That last example is especially bothersome. Cases like these are a reminder of the need for caution, since judgment of a witness's description is the real source of a UFO's "identity" in this subject. I wonder if the presence of large angular size, daylight viewing conditions and independent witnesses combined would be an adequate safeguard against remarkable misattributions like these?