CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES
a not-for-profit Illinois corporation
1609 Sherman Avenue, Suite 207, Evanston, Illinois 60201
(312) 491-6666 — 24-Hour Telephone

ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER

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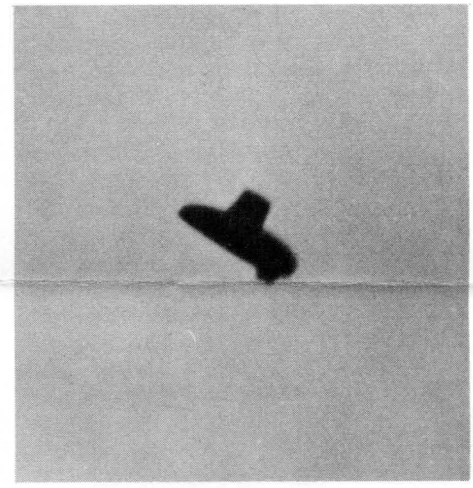

Boy's New Camera Records UFO

The information in this report is provided through the courtesy of Iris Finkelman, writer/reporter, who personally interviewed the witnesses and their families shortly after the event.

At approximately 5:30 PM on the cloudy afternoon of May 5, 1974 David Dorn and his friend Troy Warton, both eleven years old at the time, left David's Lincolnshire, Illinois home to play basketball.

They took with them a camera which David had just received as a gift so that he could practice with it photographing themselves shooting baskets. As they walked down the street, the boys noticed a dark object in the western sky.

After a few seconds of careful scrutiny, David (an amateur astronomer) concluded that what they were watching was neither bird nor plane. The object came closer, dropped to a height just above the tree tops, hovered slightly and then rose up through the clouds and disappeared.

The entire experience lasted about one minute, David estimated, just long enough for him to snap six pictures with his Kodak X-15 camera. The color pictures each reveal a distinct dark object in the clouds and over the trees.

Shortly after receiving the printed pictures, the boys took them to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, then chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University, for evaluation.

Dr. Hynek examined the pictures and asked them for the negatives. Unfortunately, in his 11-year-old exuberance about the prints David had thrown away the envelope in which they arrived, including the small packet of negatives from which more specific information could have been acquired.

Each boy was questioned separately and was asked for an explicit re-creation of the experience. When it was all over, Dr. Hynek ruled out the possibility of a hoax. He termed the photographs convincing evidence of a UFO sighting and said the boys were reliable witnesses.

David Dorn said of what he witnessed on that afternoon in 1974, "There were no lights that I could see, but at one point there was a flash. It might have been a reflection, although there was no sun. And then the object looked blue. I did hear a buzzing, but that might have been coming from somewhere else. I don't know."

He said that the object was moving strangely and then it rose at an angle and "went up through the clouds."

When the object disappeared, both boys broke into a gallop and raced home to spread the news of their discovery.

"Of course, I couldn't really believe it," Mrs. Dorn said at the time, "But when David said he took pictures, I figured he had seen something."

David's mother describes her son as a knowledgeable boy, a good student who is actively interested in several subjects which he studies on his own. In the Dorn home, a telescope stands ready for star observing whenever David has time. Mrs. Dorn claims that David had been interested in the possibility of UFO's, so he was alert enough to use his camera at the time.

David routinely mailed off the film to be developed. The results were almost too good to believe. The photographs revealed a UFO in one of its most classic shapes.

Young Dorn first turned over his photographic evidence to the Lincolnshire Police Department which contacted Dr. Hynek at the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston. The Center contacted the boys.

David's experience reminds us all to keep a loaded camera handy at all times and to be careful to preserve the film negative of any unusual pictures we may take. Do you or a friend have such a picture stored away somewhere in a closet? If so, contact CUFOS for an analysis of the photograph. It may contain important information about UFOs. □

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Dr. Hynek:

Initially, let me extend my appreciation for a copy of your first printing of the ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER dated May 1980.

Enclosed herewith is my check for $100.00 for my initial year's donation toward ASSOCIATE membership.

Additionally, I would like to offer my assistance as a field investigator. In addition to owning/operating a private security firm in excess of ten years, I am a licensed private investigator and ex-Peace Officer. I also have a fairly extensive background in electronics, including both analog and digital circuit and system design.

I will look forward to your response, as well as the forthcoming articles.

Respectfully yours,
H.W.S. (name on file at CUFOS)

Welcome, ASSOCIATE HWS. Your letter has been referred to our Chief Investigator Allan Hendry. Thank you very much for your tax-exempt donation to our work at CUFOS.

Editor

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Center for UFO Studies:

On August 3rd, 1980 at 1:05 AM overlooking (a lake somewhere between Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin), high on a hill, looking North over the entire lake, from the West, two objects caught my attention. They were moving quite rapidly, at a low altitude, to the East, one a short distance behind the other.

As they left my view just East of the eastern shore, they must have reversed, being back immediately going West. On reaching the center of the lake, they suddenly went directly North. They were continuing their northerly path when I stopped watching.

My view of them was always the same, whether they traveled East, West or North. They looked like . . . two capital "T"s . . . a horizontal and a vertical bar of white light (with) a brilliant, white, large ball of light where (the) lines joined.

I was indoors and did not hear any sound. I have no idea what I saw, but see them I did!

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. G.A.E. (name on file at CUFOS)

Thank you, Mrs. E., for your report of this unusual shape for UFOs. Perhaps another reader will have seen them and will let us know.

Editor

Dear Mr. Timmerman:

Thank you very much for your kind and informative letter dated April 24, 1980 and for a sample copy of your journal INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER.

May we take this opportunity and ask you to keep our name on your mailing list to receive further issues of the REPORTER for reviewing and abstracting in our REFERATIVNYI ZHURNAL: ASTRONOMY. Clippings of abstracts on articles from your journal will be sent to your attention upon publication.

Looking forward to your reply. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
THE INSTITUTE OF
SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION
THE USSR ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES

P.S. Unfortunately, we do not have a periodical on such subject alone. □

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Photographic Cases

(taken from THE UFO HANDBOOK, by Allan Hendry, page 288-9)

SHOOTING TIPS

1) Three out of four UFO pictures are taken of lights at night. Do not expect simple cameras with daylight films to capture an image of NLs unless they are extremely bright. Shooting with a flash is useless unless the target is visible by reflected light and is nearby. Ask yourself (as a test) whether your current setup could photograph regular aircraft lights well at night.

2) Hold the camera firmly against something to steady it, if you can. Don't settle for only one picture, if it can be helped. The world will call it a fluke in development. If the UFO is stationary, run to another vantage point and shoot from there. Mark the two separate locations you shot from with stones, and the distance to the UFO can later be triangulated (as well as its size).

3) In all shots, try to include foreground and background landscape objects in the composition. The importance of establishing a relationship between the UFO image and the environment is explored in the Tools: Photography chapter.

4) Above all, scream for additional witnesses to see both the UFO and you taking pictures of it. Don't be embarrassed here; it will be more embarrassing later trying to convince others that you photographed the UFO honestly. If you don't know the people, get their names and phone numbers (promise them a print of your pictures!).

LATER PRECAUTIONS

1) Keep the negatives — it may surprise you, but prints are less important than negatives as evidence! Prints are one generation worse than the negative originals.

2) Make a note of the type of camera you employed to take the pictures. If the camera uses interchangeable lenses, note the lens focal length, "F" ratio, and manufacturer.

3) If shutter speed, "F" stop range, and focus are adjustable, note the settings used.

4) Note the type of film used. Also, was it old or new?

5) Did you use a tripod? Flash? Filters?

6) IMPORTANT: Note the directions and angles you pointed the camera toward for each shot taken. Also, measure the distance from the places you stood to some fixed object that will show up in the pictures.

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THE UFO HANDBOOK is published by Doubleday & Company, Inc. and, if you cannot find a copy in your local bookstore, it is available from CUFOS by sending a check or money order for $10.25, including postage and handling, to Center Information Services, 1609 Sherman Avenue, Room 207, Evanston, Illinois 60201. □

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Recent Visitors To The Center

August continued the flow of visitors through our offices in Evanston for purposes of study, purchase of publications, review of the Center libraries and just general curiosity. In a future issue of the NEWSLETTER we intend to take you on a tour of the offices at Evanston with our camera and a diagram. Watch for it. In the meantime, however, you are very much welcome to travel to see us. Call first, if you can. During August our visitors included the following:

ROBERT NOBLE, subscriber to the IUR magazine and a doctoral candidate in advanced physics at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

SUSAN CHITWOOD, CUFOS Field Investigator from Bloomington, Indiana who is attending law school. She brought with her another paralegal friend, Nancy Wright, and they worked as office volunteers while in Evanston.

CECIL S. KEEN, PhD., meteorological consultant at the Department of Geography at the University of Capetown in South Africa. Dr. Keen

See Photo Display In Nebraska

Those of you who are within convenient driving distance of Grand Island, Nebraska will be interested to know that the CUFOS EXHIBIT OF UFO PHOTOGRAPHY will be on display at the Conistoga Mall there for three days in September. It will open on Friday the 12th and will continue through Sunday the 14th.

This will be an excellent opportunity for you to have your friends who live near Grand Island visit the display, pick up printed materials about the Center and possibly turn in a sighting report they have hesitated mentioning to anyone for fear of ridicule. We promise . . . no ridicule and plenty of confidentiality.

Grand Island is about half way between North Platte and Omaha. □

Center Investigators Quarterly Mailed

All CUFOS Field Investigators should have received their copies of C.I.Q. #8 by now. It is dated July 1980 and includes notes on current report activity, a call for delinquent reports, up-date on the status of the I.U.R. magazine, sighting report forms, a review of back issues of the C.I.Q., examples of reports of deceptive face value and the value of luck in investigation. Back issues are available at no charge to all currently active and registered CUFOS Field Investigators. Requests should be placed with Chief Investigator Allan Hendry. □

(Continued from Page 2, Col 3)

recently spent two months as consultant with the ABC-TV weatherman. Dr. Hynek has subsequently announced Dr. Keen's acceptance of his appointment to the CUFOS Board of Scientific Advisors in addition to becoming a CUFOS Field Investigator in Capetown.

ANDREW ALEXANDER, CUFOS ASSOCIATE from the Chicago area came in for several days of volunteer office assistance.

JOHN WILLIAMS, Planetarium Director in Dallas, visited to inspect the William Daniel Library and to announce that additional materials are about to be shipped to the Center.

RICHARD HAYDEN, CUFOS Field Investigator from Milwaukee to research some cases using the Center files and library. Assistant Investigator Donald Schmidt traveled with him. □

Sighting Activity Increasing?

After a long dry spell, there are indications as of the writing of this edition of the NEWSLETTER that sighting reports may be on the increase. Beginning about the last week of July (preceding the showing of the Columbia CEIII film), clusters of sighting reports have been received from the mid-west, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The quality of the reports does not indicate that there is any relationship between the reappearance of the Spielberg film and the sightings.

The types of reports range from nocturnal lights through close encounters of the third kind. No photography has been reported, but it is hoped that cameras are at the "ready" in the hands of careful observers. It is difficult to overemphasize the importance of good photographic evidence. (See an article about this elsewhere in this edition.)

Included among the cases under study is one which is still occurring and involves an extended long-distance telephone conversation between the investigator and the still-unidentified witness-contactee who reports E-M effects, M-I-B activity, a trip aboard an object and messages from the aliens to Dr. Hynek. The high quality of material received to-date does not immediately suggest a hoax or other simple explanation. ASSOCIATES will be kept informed as this and other cases progress. □

Golden Triangle In Indiana

Report by Allan Hendry

TYPE: Nocturnal Light
DATE: April 26, 1980
TIME: 11 PM
DURATION: 30 seconds
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Holton, Indiana

A 37-year-old disabled man and his female neighbor watching a luminous flashing form low in the northwest sky. Golden-colored and triangular in shape, the form appeared much larger than the full moon. The triangle hovered for awhile, then shot straight up in seconds. It zigzagged before vanishing 45 degrees up on the northwest.

Investigator Don Worley cautions however, that the primary witness is disabled by malignant hypertension and does use a variety of drugs. □

Physicist Appointed To CUFOS Scientific Board

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Scientific Director of CUFOS, has announced that Irwin Wieder, PhD. of Los Altos, California has agreed to accept appointment to the Board of Scientific Advisors of the Center for UFO Studies.

Dr. Weider earned national prominence several years ago while working with Westinghouse Research Laboratories. His invention of a mechanism using optical means to stimulate the emission of light energy in liquids and in solids provided Westinghouse Electric Corporation with a patent affecting about half of the lasers manufactured at that time. He later became affiliated with the Garver Corporation of Mountain View, California.

In 1979 Dr. Wieder became actively involved in UFO case study and investigation with Paul Cerny of of Mountain View, California, and is in contact with Dr. Richard Haines, also a member of the CUFOS Scientific Board. □

Five "Saturns" In California

Report by Allan Hendry

TYPE: Daylight Disc
DATE: April 20, 1980
TIME: 5:30 to 5:45 AM PST
DURATION: 5 seconds
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: San Mateo, California

A 47-year-old marketing manager for a computer firm (name on file at CUFOS) and his 18-year-old son were driving North on I-280 for a fishing trip. Looking 30 degrees up above the north-northwest they spotted five bright silver spheres flying straight and fast toward the southeast. The spheres, strongly reflective of sunlight, were seen against a background of hills and overcast sky. The witnesses estimated the formation was only 300 to 500 feet above the reservoir.

Each had an angular size about the same as a full moon and an estimated real size of 15 to 25 feet. They traveled through 120 degrees of sky (an estimated three miles) in only five seconds. At the end of the sighting, a thin flat ring was noticed around each sphere, creating a Saturn-like structure.

Investigator Tom Gates commented that of all the reports he has investigated in the Bay Area seldom do any match this one in terms of strangeness of report versus quality of the witnesses. □