

# UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON  
AERIAL PHENOMENA  
**NICAP**

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## 'Shy UFO' Seen in Missouri

A high school basketball coach and five members of his team were among the first to spot what the residents of Piedmont, Mo., now call the "shy UFO."

At least a dozen residents of this community, located approximately 135 miles south of St. Louis, have reportedly seen the UFO. They call it "shy" because it only appears on dark nights and zooms away before anyone can get close to it.

The object has reportedly followed cars along Route 49, illuminating the highway in front of them.

The first sighting occurred Feb. 21 when Coach Reg Bone of Clearwater High School and five members of his team were returning from a basketball tournament in Essex.

According to Bone, he was driving along U.S. 60 near Elsinore when he and his passengers saw a bright shaft of light beaming down out of the sky. As the car pulled off onto Route 49, one of the boys yelled out, "There's the thing we saw back on Highway 60."

Bone stopped the car on the shoulder of the highway and got out to observe the "bright but silent object."

"It looked like it was about 50 feet off the ground and maybe 200 yards away — it was impossible to determine the size or shape because of the darkness. Anyway, we all saw four lights — like maybe coming from portholes — red, green, amber, and white. We figured they were about three or four feet apart, all in a row."

One of Bone's players, Cary Barks, said, "We stood there and watched it for five to ten minutes. Then it went directly up in the air with absolutely no noise and just disappeared over a hill."

Word of the sighting spread quickly in the community, and the next night three adult citizens of the town also reported observing an object with blinking white, green, amber, and red lights. "Red seemed to predominate," said one of the adults. "All of a sudden it started bouncing around, and the lights started blinking again."

As the object began to move away, the trio attempted to follow it down the highway but lost sight of it as it disappeared over a hill.

## 42 UFOs Spotted Over Lake

*"I'm sure there's a simple answer to what you saw; there usually is, you know."*

*U. S. Air Force spokesman*

The above comment was made last month following what may turn out to be one of 1973's major UFO sightings — 42 objects with flashing lights observed by multiple witnesses during a three-hour period on March 1, 1973.

The sightings occurred over Saylor's Lake, Pa., a small lake-side community located in eastern Pennsylvania, near the New Jersey border. At least a dozen witnesses, including a state trooper, observed the objects passing over the lake, with one witness counting 39 objects before the evening ended.

Trooper Jeffery Hontz, sent to the town to investigate, said he observed four of the objects pass over the lake from west to east. "But don't ask me what they were," he said, "it was like a Christmas tree flying in the air."

The objects, he said, were flying at an altitude of 1,500 feet. Most had white lights, said Hontz, but others had red or blue lights.

Mrs. Howard Pfeiffer said she and 11 other residents saw 39 objects — some in groups — pass over the lake at 15-minute intervals between 7:25 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. She said the round objects were about the size of a "child's wading pool" and took about three minutes to pass over the lake.

"They came in slowly from the west," she said, "then picked up a tremendous speed and went like the dickens until they were out of sight."

Air traffic controllers at nearby Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Airport said their field was not equipped with surveillance radar and thus had no way of tracking the strange objects.

Officials at the New York Traffic Control Center, which monitors East Coast flights, said they had no knowledge of the UFOs, but added that if the objects were flying at an altitude of 1,500 feet or less they would have been difficult to detect on their radar units.

Maj. Larry Brown, a public information officer at the Pentagon, reported to local officials that the Air Force was conducting no operations in the Stroudsburg area.

Mrs. Pfeiffer, one of the major witnesses, discounted the theory put forth by some that the objects were planes. "The first one came so close I felt I could reach up and touch it," she said. "There was no noise, no sparks, or anything. I know it wasn't any plane or balloon or helicopter."

"When they first started, they came one right after another, but then there was a time span in between," she said. "I wasn't afraid or anything. But I was really fascinated...I just couldn't take my eyes off them."

Another witness, Mrs. Janice N. Young, said she counted approximately 25 of the objects pass over Saylor's Lake. "I will not accept airplanes...unless they can show me a silent one," she said.

Twelve days later on March 13 residents of Saylor's Lake once again reported spotting 12 disc-shaped objects cross the lake around 7:15 p.m., illuminating the sky "like daylight."

## Aviator Assails Condon Report

One of the nation's pioneers in aviation recently called the Condon Report "one of the most deliberate cover-ups ever perpetrated on the public."

John Northrop, 80-year-old founder of Northrop Aircraft Co. and co-founder of the Lockheed Corp., told an audience at Caltech that "The 21st century will die laughing at the Condon Report."

Northrop, a believer in UFOs, told the audience he had never seen one himself, but based his belief on a "hard core sighting" reported to him by Max Stanley, Northrop's chief pilot and a close friend in the early days of the aviation firm.

Stanley, according to Northrop, was on a 1950 flight from Texas to California and was flying at 20,000 feet when he and two companions spotted a metallic translucent object high above them — about 80,000 feet — which appeared at times to fly sideways.

"I have never seen a UFO myself, but Max Stanley's report is good enough for me," commented Northrop.

# Books

## UFOs - A Scientific Debate

Edited by Carl Sagan  
and Thornton Page  
Cornell University Press, 1972  
Reviewed by Dr. Allen S. Mariner

This book is essentially a record of the AAAS symposium held in Boston in December 1969. Like most such collections of papers, it is a "book" in format only, having no unity beyond the fact that all the papers deal more or less directly with some aspect of the "UFO problem" and were presented at this particular symposium. The three contributors most widely known for their work in the UFO field are, predictably, Hynek, McDonald, and Menzel. The papers by these three occupy fully half the book. Hynek's material will be thoroughly familiar to anyone who has read his recent book *The UFO Experience*; for those who have not read this very worthwhile book, the paper included in this symposium will provide a good summary. McDonald, of course, shared with Hynek an abhorrence of the scientifically shoddy methods employed by Project Blue Book and its forebears and a profound dissatisfaction with the Condon Report. He devoted a great deal of time and energy to the study of UFO reports; and in his symposium paper, he presents in meticulous detail four cases which he regards as inexplicable by ordinary scientific means. (Just how detailed these case descriptions are may be indicated by the fact that they occupy 67 pages.) Menzel, in his typically titled essay, "UFO's - The Modern Myth," writes off the whole UFO phenomenon as a product of atmospheric, optical, and psychological anomalies. He too tackles four specific cases; his cases, however, are less compelling than McDonald's and are discussed in far less detail.

In addition to the contributions of these three well-known figures, the book contains twelve short papers by a variety of contributors: several astronomers and physicists, a sociologist, a psychologist, two psychiatrists, and a newspaper editor. Some of these papers are extremely limited in scope, such as one on "Unusual Radar Echoes." I would single out two of these brief papers, however, as dealing with issues of central importance: Frank Drake's "On the Abilities and Limitations of Witnesses of UFOs and Similar Phenomena" and Philip Morrison's "The Nature

of Scientific Evidence: A Summary." These two papers focus on the key problems of evaluation of witnesses' testimony (which is, after all, the bulk of the "UFO experience") and the quality of evidence required to draw scientifically acceptable conclusions. Both of these papers were written by physical scientists - a point worth noting in light of the question as to what skills are most important in investigating and evaluating UFO reports. It has long been my contention that the skills of a detective or a trial lawyer would be more relevant than those of a psychologist or a psychiatrist in answering the question: "Does this witness's report match his actual experience with reasonable accuracy?" Drake's paper clearly shows him in the detective role - obviously the appropriate one under the circumstances, as his exposure of a hoax demonstrates. The experimental psychologist can certainly tell us a great deal about what may happen to witnesses' memories of observed events; he cannot, however, tell us how much distortion or falsification has occurred in any specific instance (unless he happens to have an objective record of the original stimulus). The psychiatrist too, as demonstrated in the paper by Grinspoon and Persky, can provide information about a range of possible mental phenomena but cannot - in the vast majority of instances - provide anything approaching a scientifically definitive explanation of a particular sighting report.

In a sense, the title of this book promises a bit more than the book actually delivers: the "debate" never really gets off the ground. As might be expected, the major antagonists are McDonald and Menzel, and there is much in their presentations to whet the appetite for a more direct confrontation. Frustration arises because there is no opportunity, save for a very brief "Discussion" section at the end of the book, for genuine exchange among the participants. Both of their papers make clear that - assuming one has gotten past the point discussed above and has concluded that the witness really "saw" what he says he saw - the interpretation of phenomena such as are described in UFO reports requires a very high degree of scientific sophistication. How many readers could agree with or refute a statement such as: "Nothing in the literature of meteorological optics discusses any diffraction-producing corona with a dark annular space extending out to three or four diameters of the central luminary, such as is postulated in the Condon Report explanation" (McDonald, p. 101)? Yet this is the level on which some of the most relevant "debate" must take place.

It would be most gratifying if such specific issues could be dealt with, case by case and point by point, by various qualified experts who could render their interpretations intelligible - in direct conversational exchange - to the "average educated layman" (i.e., non-physical-scientist).

Perhaps, in the long run, the most important point exemplified by this book is that despite the Condon Report, the AAAS saw fit to hold this symposium and Cornell University saw fit to publish the proceedings. The question remains alive.

## Truck Driver Says Object Follows Him

A truck driver working out of Charlotte, N. C., claims he has been followed on numerous occasions by a "flying saucer" on runs between Charlotte and Harrisburg, Pa.

The case, reported recently in the *Charlotte News*, began about three months ago when the truck driver, Gerald Summey, was coming around Charlottesville, Va., on Bypass 29.

According to Summey, he glanced out the left window of his semi-trailer and saw what he first thought was the moon. "Then I realized there was a full moon to my right... The thing kept following me out into the mountains. It would get behind me, then rise above the trees. There was no noise, just a glow of lights."

According to Summey, the object was "oval-shaped" and glowed like fluorescent lights. It was about the size of a helicopter, but there were no blades and it definitely wasn't one."

He got out of his truck at Lynchburg, Va. and watched the object. He has been watching the object ever since. At least a dozen fellow drivers have said they, too, have seen it while driving with Summey.

Trigued by the story, the *News* assigned Summey a camera for a two-week period and asked him to photograph the object. While Summey did in fact take a number of photographs, they were inconclusive, according to the newspaper, and the paper decided to assign two staff members to follow Summey on his 500-mile trek towards Harrisburg.

The unusual assignment was undertaken Jan. 17, 1973, by a reporter and a photographer who followed Summey's rig on its 1000-mile journey to Pennsylvania and back.

Doubtful at first, the newspaper staffers

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*Dr. Mariner is a practicing psychiatrist and director of a mental health clinic. He has served as NICAP's Regional Investigator in the Finger Lakes area of New York for approximately five years.*

## Glowing Object Seen by Couple



A husband and wife, both of whom are artists, have forwarded to NICAP a brief sketch of a UFO they claim to have observed on Feb. 19, 1973, while driving along Route 2, 20 miles southeast of Boston.

According to the couple, the sighting occurred at approximately 8:30 p.m. when the couple's attention was drawn to a small glowing pink object on the horizon.

As the couple's car approached the UFO, it became more distinct. The object appeared to be a "large, glowing, salmon-pink rectangle hovering well above the tree tops...There was a grey band intersecting this rectangle [see sketch], the corners were rounded, and the edges were hazy...there was no noise. There were no lights on it or around it."

The couple later saw the object disappear "in seconds" in a south-southeast direction.

## Eight Witnesses Spot Oval Object

NICAP's Los Angeles area Subcommittee is currently investigating the reports of at least eight witnesses near Santa Ana, Calif., who reportedly observed a large oval-shaped object with a dome on-top hovering over the town on Jan. 2, 1973.

According to investigator Ann Druffel, witnesses stated the object, at times, appeared to hover at heights as low as two hundred feet from the ground. Lights reported as red, green, blue, amber and yellow were observed by the witnesses.

One witness, according to Druffel, said an object resembling a large, amber-colored meteor sped through the evening sky from the northeast, then suddenly dropped straight down and hovered above telephone wires near the spot where she was watching from. She estimated its height while hovering at 200 to 400 feet.

The witness described the object as a metallic silvery gray in color, elliptical in shape like two "saucers fastened rim to rim." A wide band of brilliant amber light encircled the middle, said the witness, and the entire thing "spun like a child's

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## One Witness Spots Occupants

# Police Report Rash of UFOs

Police in Cherokee County, S. C., received so many UFO sighting reports during January and February of this year that they just stopped sending cars out to investigate!

The sightings, according to police, have been in the hundreds, and have ranged from hazy, distant sightings to close-up, detailed descriptions. The objects being spotted by county residents have been described as "cylindrical, cigar-shaped," "triangular," and "round like a saucer with a cabin on top."

By the end of February, according to police, UFO watching had become so popular that on one night more than 50 cars had parked along the side of a road in the county in hopes of catching a glimpse of the object.

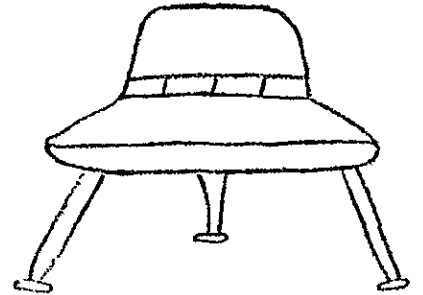
One witness, who spotted a UFO in early January, described it as being "a flat disc with rotating lights around the bottom."

Another witness, a 16-year-old youth, claimed he came upon a saucer sitting in the middle of the highway, 13 miles outside of Gaffney, the county seat. The saucer, according to the youth, had landed on three legs and had a dome with "red, yellow, white, blue and green lights rotating around the dome." The boy said the

object was about 15 feet in diameter and somewhat higher.

The youth also claimed he saw 12 men standing around the object. They were wearing white coveralls "with buttons, buckles and belts all over the clothing." He described them as being of "average height and all of them with black hair."

According to the youth, they were shaped like "Earthlings, but appeared to wiggle...like seeing something through a gaseous haze."



**THIS IS IT** — This is a rough drawing, made by the witness, of the object a Cherokee County youth said he saw sitting in the middle of the road on Highway 18 south of Gaffney after dark. The domed, saucer-shaped object was supported by three legs or struts and was surrounded by about a dozen men, he said.

## SIGHTING ADVISORY

Preliminary information on new reports. Details and evaluations will be published when available.

**March 3, 1973 — Kampala, Uganda** Uganda President Idi Amin was reportedly among dozens of witnesses who observed a UFO splash down in Lake Victoria. The object, according to reports, descended about midday into the lake, and then lifted off again like a "gentle rocket" seven minutes later. No explanation was offered for the unusual sighting, although some officials called it "a sign of good luck to Uganda."

**Feb. 19, 1973 — Westerly, Rhode Island** Two state highway workers, while checking highway conditions at 1:15 a.m., said they were driving towards Westerly when they observed what appeared to be a flying object with big bright white lights all around it. According to the witnesses, the vehicle went down close to the ground and either landed or disappeared. Several similar sightings have been reported in recent weeks in the same vicinity, according to police.

**Feb. 6, 1973 — Holbrook, Mass.** A 41-year-old resident of Abington, Mass., reports he observed four "clear bright lights of high wattage" flying in formation near Holbrook. The objects, according to the witness, appeared at times to hover no higher than a television transmission tower. When the lights did move, they appeared to move as if attached to each other or to some central point between them. The lights were observed for approximately 15 minutes before disappearing in the distance, according to the witness.

**Jan. 14, 1973 — Chillicothe, Ohio** A 27-year-old resident of a local trailer court told local officials he was on his way home around 12:30 a.m. when he spotted a football-shaped object hovering about 100 feet above the trailer court. The witness described the object as being 75-100 feet long and about 50 feet in diameter with red, yellow and green lights which glowed on and off. The object was observed for approximately 10 seconds before it traveled straight up and disappeared.



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FOR  
MEMBERS

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Some members have suggested that we offer a NICAP decal or sticker. If you think this is a good idea and would be interested in purchasing one, please let us know by POSTCARD. If we get a sufficiently good response, we'll make the offer. Don't send money — just a postcard if you like the idea.

### OUT OF PRINT BOOKS: WHERE TO FIND THEM

Out-of-print books on UFOs may be obtained at a variety of outlets, including second-hand bookstores, mail-order book dealers, and special sales in department stores and retail chains. Two outlets that have recently been recommended to NICAP are: Books on File, Guttenberg, N. J. 07093 (phone 201-869-8786), and ISIS Center, Silver Spring, Md. 20907 (phone 301-585-2886). NICAP does not sell out-of-print books.

## Oval Object

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top." A dome on top of the UFO was also observed.

After hovering for about seven seconds, the object sped toward the southwest at "a terrific rate of speed." As it started to move away, said the witness, a hum like an electric generator could be heard.

According to Druffel, some witnesses also reported three distinct bands of color encircling the object and two antennae angling out from the dome. Some of these same witnesses also reportedly observed a rectangular door on the bottom.

While the investigation is far from complete, the possibility that the object in question was the Goodyear blimp is strong, according to Druffel. The blimp was operating that evening but precise information regarding its flight path and the time it was in the air have not yet been determined.

### EXHIBIT IS ON THE MOVE

NICAP members in the area between Elmira, N. Y. and Williamsport, Pa., will be interested to know that NICAP's photographic exhibit, "Getting It All Together," is scheduled to appear at Mansfield State College in Mansfield, Pa., April 23-27. The exhibit is being sponsored by the college's G. B. Strait Planetarium. Also on tap is a lecture by NICAP Executive Director Stuart Nixon on Thursday evening, April 26, at the college. Anyone interested in attending may contact the planetarium for further details.

## Q/A

**Q.** What security measures are being taken to guard the Air Force UFO files at Maxwell AFB?

P.W./Ashland, Virginia

**A.** The files of erstwhile Project Blue Book, housed in the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, are maintained in an area described by the Pentagon as "sensitive." For this reason, access to the files requires a low level security clearance, which usually is not difficult to obtain. The clearance entitles the user to examine only that material he specifically requests, not to search the files. None of the Blue Book material is classified, according to Air Force sources.

**Q.** Has NICAP investigated reports of "men in black"?

K. T./Stratford, New Jersey

**A.** NICAP has never uncovered any evidence to support allegations that so-called "men in black" have tried to muzzle UFO witnesses or intimidate UFO researchers. Reports of this nature can usually be traced to sensational magazines or paperback books, which use the label to popularize the claim that some unknown group is seeking to hide the truth about UFOs by silencing witnesses and investigators. No such individual has approached a NICAP representative or communicated with NICAP headquarters (except for obvious pranksters). A report was received in the summer of 1972 from a 27-year-old man who claimed he was one of the "men in black" described in a book by John Keel called *Strange Creatures from Time and Space*. The man said the book misrepresented who he was and why he had contacted the witness in a particular UFO case. When NICAP asked the man to put his claims in writing, he declined. The book had implied the man was a visitor from outer space.

**Q.** Will the NICAP publication *UFOs: A New Look* be printed again?

W.C./Lawton, Oklahoma

**A.** Two NICAP publications—*UFOs: A New Look* and *Projects Grudge and Blue Book*—are out of print and will not be republished. A list of books available from NICAP will be sent to NICAP members later this year.

### A NOTE ABOUT NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

In February we sent all NICAP members a new membership card. A message with the card, which is designed for new members as well as renewals, confused certain members who had recently renewed or had been members for a long time. In issuing the cards, we wanted every member to have one, even if you had recently received an old one with a valid expiration date. We apologize for any confusion this caused. From now on, when you renew your membership, you will receive a new card within one or two months. You may ignore the message to new members, since we are using the same card for all members, new and renewing.

## Truck Driver

(Continued from page 2)

later became convinced when they observed and photographed a "sparkly oval" object which appeared almost like a "ferris-wheel spinning, its lights a blur of rosy red, greenish white."

The object was spotted by the truck driver and the newspaper team near Thurmont, Md. According to the photographer, the UFO was not a plane, a weather balloon or a stationary light. "Of that we were certain," he said.

The photograph taken by the *News* photographer appears inconclusive, depicting only a bright white oval light. Nonetheless, both staffers, whose story later appeared in the *Charlotte News*, claim they are now believers in UFOs.

Asked to comment on his employee, Bob Richardson, personnel manager for Summey's company, said Summey has no history of any problems. "I have no qualms about his personal habits or his character." Summey's records also show no accidents during his tenure with the company. According to Richardson, Summey neither drinks, smokes nor "pops pills" to stay awake.

**Q.** Has NICAP conducted any research to discover the mechanisms by which UFOs operate?

J.S./Bakersfield, Ca.

**A.** Although this could be an interesting project, NICAP believes there are insufficient data on which to base a meaningful study of UFO propulsion. Part of the problem is that most UFOs exhibit no evidence of propulsion, such as smoke, flame, or sound. This forces the researcher to speculate on more unconventional kinds of locomotion, some of which are only theoretical. Other deterrents to a propulsion study are the costs involved and the need to budget revenue for such other priorities as current investigations. Further information on this question may be found in the "Q/A" column of the May 1971 issue.