

UFO INVESTIGATOR



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AUSTRALIANS OVERWHELMED BY RECURRING VISITS FROM UFOs

Australia seems to be a favorite place to "hover" for unidentified flying phenomena. They seem to be experiencing similar "flap" to that of the U.S. in the fall of 1973. Radio stations and police from the central part of Australia have been deluged with calls and reports from residents for approximately three months. Some of the reports are as follows: Constable Joe Meynink and Ron Fellington were alerted when a terrified resident of Sydney rushed into the Parkes Police Station shortly after 3:00 A.M. on April 14, 1974. The two constables accompanied the witness and verified the witness's sighting. Constable Fellington described the objects as looking similar to helicopters with winking landing lights. "We distinctly saw two sets of these lights moving in formation. They were making a sound similar to a sewing machine", he stated.

AUTHORITIES ALERTED

Police from Orange, Mathurst, Lithgow, Katoomba and Penrith also reported seeing the "lights". After the initial sighting the RAAF and Civil Aviation Authorities were alerted.

On the same evening at approximately midnight, in nearby Penrith, the UFOs culminated a terrifying night for two men.

They had been to a late show and were on their way home when they saw the "lights".

The men rushed to the Penrith Police Station and reported their observations immediately in a very frantic state. The Penrith officers confirmed with the Parkes Police Station that the sightings reported were of the same description and characteristics.

UFO APPROACHES CAR

Miss Kerry Sheahan, 20, of Northcote reported to police that she was driving and able to view "mysterious" looking

lights for approximately seven miles while on her way home. Several nights after the Sydney sighting, Miss Sheahan told John Westbury, an AAP reporter that the lights "swooped" down toward her car as she was driving toward the city. The reporter claimed that the witness was frightened, but insistant that they observe the lights with her. "We went up to the tenth floor observation deck and I saw one big light and one small light. They were reasonably low, only a matter of a thousand feet. They moved apart and dropped lower then went up together again".

6 WITNESSES VIEW OBJECT

Eighteen year old Peter Henningsen of Mitcham, Australia, was with five other people on the evening of April 16th, when he spotted an object headed toward the car in which they were riding. "The spherical base was spinning slowly. There were 4 bright lights shining from the dome." The craft, metallic in appearance, was visible for 5 minutes.

Later that evening in the same vicinity a college student viewed three beams of light emitting from a silent, hovering object. She stopped her auto, as did another carload of curious witnesses. They all watched the object move very quickly out of sight.

UFOs BAFFLING THE EXPERTS

An RAAF spokesman had received 16 UFO reports from many suburban sections of central Australia within a three day period. The spokesman admitted that the experts conducting investigations could not explain the happenings logically.

As in the case of previous UFO flaps, the police, newsmedia, etc. have had reports that were easily explained. Due to

the publicity some people were reporting almost anything that moved as a UFO. However, many of the reports tied in with the cases already mentioned.

A resident of Belair, said she saw a brightly lit, large object fly overhead faster than any plane she had ever seen.

The object made no sound and had disappeared toward Tungkillo at 7:28 p.m. on April 8, 1974, while flying below cloud level.

POWER LOSSES

IN WAKE OF UFOs

On April 15, 1974, two motorists from Adelaide, Australia reported loss of power from their automobiles after sighting UFOs. These reports were made simultaneously with calls pouring into RAAF officials regarding other sightings in the area.

One of the motorist, Peter Heningsen, described the object as "bigger than a jumbo jet," and claimed, "it was hovering approximately 600 feet above the road." The witness further described the craft to be spinning and sending out three white beams of light. His car suffered a temporary loss of power as the object hovered overhead. The UFO remained stationary for a minute before moving off out of sight in complete silence.

Another motorist while driving that same evening, described an object as being "green and red and spinning with three beams of light."

Mr. E. O'Neill, 54, of North Glenelg, said he saw an object moving in circles at about 35,000 feet at 8:05 p.m. and claimed that all power was drained from his car.

The Royal Australian Air Force has been gathering as much additional information as possible concerning the sightings and will continue to investigate these recent events.

EDITORIAL

by:

John L. Acuff, President NICAP

The most common questions asked of NICAP officials and staff after a talk on UFOs are "what are they?" and "where do they come from?" Every researcher working on this phenomena would like to have the same questions answered.

Before attempting to speculate or formulate theories concerning these \$64,000 questions it is desirable to see what data is available, the strength of this data and to evaluate what kind of data constitutes scientific proof.

Data on UFO report has been gathered in a systematic way since the late 1940's. Attempts to gather this data and to analyze each case have always been hampered by two factors, i.e., a lack of proper funding to effectively conduct the gathering and analyzing process, and the nature of the phenomena. The funding of UFO research is a never ending problem which has been discussed many times with no solution being reached. The research done by NICAP is funded primarily by your membership dues. A small portion (approximately 15%) coming from donations and sale of publications. Government funding for Project Blue Book was insufficient for the task and it's effective use is highly debatable.

Why would one of the most puzzling subjects in the history of mankind lack research funding? NICAP can answer this only in the most general of terms. Major funding from government sources usually comes only when it is politically wise or deemed necessary to allocate funds. One factor may have been a major contributor to the absence of proper funding, . . . ultra sensationalistic reporting which gave voice to the so called "lunatic fringe." The wide spread publicity given to reports having a high general interest factor, but very low credibility tended to hide the really strong cases from the general public. The natural result of this is that there was no "grass roots" support for funding and therefore very little funding was approved.

Fortunately NICAP is noticing a change in attitude on the part of the news media, scientists and legislators. We feel that greater awareness of the true merit of UFO research is being gained and would hope that legislators will soon propose and approve the necessary funds.

One of the most difficult tasks in dealing with the UFO phenomena is that we are dealing with a transient phenome-

na that can not be captured and placed in a test tube for experiments and analysis. It may very well be the product of a technology that is far in advance of our capability or understanding. UFOs have been described by thousands of witnesses, but only rarely do they interact with instrumentation such as radar, camera/film, etc. to add "hard" data to the witness testimony. Compounding the problem is the fact that approximately 70 to 80% of all UFO reports are not actual sightings of UFOs but are misinterpretations by the observers, or hoaxes.

In spite of the existing problems NICAP and other organizations in the field of UFO research have been able to gather and analyze data to the extent that we can state that we have evidence that constitutes proof of some theories about UFOs. Before going into this evidence we would pause to explain our definition of the word "proof" . . . a word which has been widely misused by some of the popular writers in the UFO field. A simple definition of "proof" is that facts are known and there is no room for debate or other explanations and that any other qualified, non biased investigator will reach the same conclusion you did when faced with the same data.

What data is available to the UFO researcher? NICAP has approximately 15,000 reports in the research files. Of these approximately 3,000 are classified as UFO sightings with the remainder being misinterpretations or Hoaxes. Some of these 3,000 sightings could be explained if more data were available for analysis, but most of them would remain classified as UFO observations.

What is the strength of the data contained in these 3,000 sighting documents? It is very strong data. The witnesses are highly creditable. Usually their testimony is corroborated by other highly creditable witnesses. The conditions for observation were good and the witnesses were good observers. In some of the cases "hard" data was also obtained to support the visual sighting.

The abundance and strength of available data allows the UFO researcher to state that we have proof that something is being seen in our atmosphere that can not be explained. That "something" seems to be (but not proven to be) craft-like, is usually disk shaped and is solid enough to cause a radar return to be photographed. That "something" seems to move in a controlled fashion and at speeds and with maneuverability that cannot be matched by a product of our technology.

There are many books on the subject of UFOs where the author claims he has "proof" that UFOs are space ships, ball lightning, figments of the imagination, that they are extraterrestrial or he has "proof" that they are based under the sea, etc., etc.,. These authors use the word loosely. "Proof" in the scientific form of the word does not exist for such claims. There is data that can legitimately give rise to many as yet unproven theories and proving or disproving these theories is NICAP's goal and the goal of all other reputable UFO researchers.

NBC To Present a UFO Documentary

Many of NICAP's members may have viewed NBC's excellent documentary productions such as "Murder in America" and "The Energy Crisis." This same type of presentation is now approved for the UFO subject. NICAP was contacted in the initial phases of planning for this prime time special and is furnishing advice and material to the producers.

Filming started in mid June and will concentrate on current activities with some historical material included to establish the continuing nature of the UFO phenomena.

NICAP has worked with innumerable producers and film crews in the past, but although all were good, none had greater professionalism than Craig Leake and his crew during their filming at NICAP's offices on June 25th. If this quality continues throughout production, NBC will have a program that *must* be watched by anyone interested in UFOs.

The program will be aired in the Fall of 1974 with the exact date and time still to be determined. As soon as this determination is made the UFO Investigator will publish the information for our members.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Members who have already renewed their subscription to the UFO Quarterly Review will receive issues I & II within the next month.

Members subscribing (\$5.00/year) after this date will receive the back issues for 1974.

MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS MOVING OVER CITIES EXPLAINED



NICAP receives many reports from witnesses that have observed a sequence of flashing lights for an extended period of time. In some cases witnesses have viewed these mysterious lights for as long as 30 minutes with the aid of binoculars. The object has been reported moving very slowly over cities, seeming to hover and sometimes tilt.

These reports are often explained very readily by checking with the local airports in the areas which are usually able to concur with NICAP's opinion that advertising planes are flying.

An advertising plane flying at night can be most difficult to identify even for the very best observer due to the structure of the craft and the light patterns connected with it.

The photograph is of a Cessna 172 (a high wing monoplane design) with a special arrangement of lights on a mounting which passed underneath the fuselage and extended outward and upward to each wingtip.

When viewing the craft in flight, the line of lights from the front describe an upward curve and can give an observer the illusion of a circular or elliptical lighted object. The basic criteria is the initial classification of an object as a UFO is that its structure or behavior is unusual. In the case of the advertising plane, its structure may seem to be unusual, if

viewed from an angle other than directly overhead, due to the configuration of the advertising lights. However, the behavior is very typical of slow moving private aircraft, and should be given strong consideration in the identification of this type of "UFO".

Perhaps with this publicity and description, future night missions will cause less excitement among residents of cities where advertising planes are flying.

NEW JERSEY MAN SEES HOVERING OBJECT

James Lehmann of Millville, New Jersey, was driving home around 10:00 P.M. one evening late in May when he spotted an object hovering just off the side of a nearby road. According to Lehmann's description, the craft had alternating white and blue lights surrounding the body in a circular pattern with one blue light in the center. "The object started to move slowly across my path and reached within 100 feet of me," reported the witness to NICAP investigator, Gary Vendetti. He further noted that the object hummed and hovered while emitting a white smoke. It was observed for about four minutes before suddenly streaking through the air and disappearing.

Mr. Lehmann immediately contacted police and then investigator Vendetti. Soon after questioning Lehmann, Mr. Vendetti received a phone call from the night announcer at a radio station who explained that he had received at least four calls about a strange, circular craft that was sighted in the Millville area. NICAP is continuing its investigation of this recent sighting and hopes to obtain further information.

RECENT SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN NEW MEXICO

On May 28, 1974 a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was awakened to see a large glowing object moving across the western face of the Sandia Mountains. It was so bright that no discernable structure could be seen. The witness opened his window to listen for noise coming from the object; there was none. As he watched, the object appeared to land on a nearby hill where it remained for over an hour before it shot into the air and vanished. A NICAP member was contacted and is investigating this incident.

A short time later a housewife noticed from her kitchen window an object cruising on a northerly course over the low hills behind their home. She called to her husband to witness the phenomenon and when he arrived from the front of the house, the vehicle had changed course and was flying easterly at about two thousand feet. The couple told a NICAP reporter that they believed the craft was flat, "like viewing a coin on end," and approximately fifty to seventyfive feet in diameter. It was constructed of a grayish material that did not reflect the afternoon sunlight. The object displayed a distinct whirling motion as it rotated about its central axis. This observation lasted about one minute.

NICAP reporters noted that the day of the sighting was warm and clear; visibility was unlimited. A check was made with the county police about further reports, but none were made.

CONNECTICUT RESIDENT REVEALS FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE WITH U.F.O.

On the clear, moonlit night of Jan. 7, 1974 at 10:00 P.M., a New Haven resident was leaving a shopping area when she was attracted to a bright light in the sky which she first believed to be a comet. About to divert her gaze and continue her trip home, the young lady was stunned as an orange dot appeared at the top of the object, flashed, and disappeared. The phenomenon then seemed to silently explode, break into pieces, and turn into a saucer-shaped craft. The vehicle was partially transparent, partially silver, and three-fourths of its area was covered by lights which flashed on and off, one at a time in clockwise motion.

The UFO appeared to be travelling in the direction of the witness, who became frightened at this point. She began driving her car in the direction of the only open store when the auto stalled and would not start again. The young lady ran toward the store where she remained until the object finally passed from sight. She claimed to be so frightened and so engrossed with what she saw, that she failed to point out the phenomenon to the clerk.

One most unusual point that the witness reported to the NICAP investigator was that the generator, temperature, and oil lights were on in the car, yet she held the keys in her hand. After finally returning home in a very disturbed state, the lady called local police who investigated but found nothing.

UFOLOGY New Insights

From Science and Common Sense

by: James M. McCampbell

Mr. James McCampbell has achieved a real breakthrough in understanding and explaining about unidentified flying objects in his new book *UFOlogy*. The author has a strong argument to justify large investments to research UFOs. Specific recommendations, including laboratory experiments are suggested. For more information contact: Jaymac Co., 12 Bryce Court, Belmont, Ca. 94002

SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

Arroyo Grande, California—May 15—On a clear day several cars stopped along a busy street in this California city to observe a large object hovering some two hundred feet above the ground near an electronics firm. The dull gray craft was described as banana-shaped and remained suspended for some three to four minutes before moving silently out of that area.

Cape May, New Jersey—April 5—a witness who has done extensive work with aircraft since World War II contacted NICAP about an object he "had never seen anything like" before. Describing it as looking like the nose of a B-26 bomber, the witness followed the craft until it was lost in the trees.

Morrison, Colo.—Feb. 5, 1974—A Jefferson County deputy was dispatched to a spot near Morrison, Colorado, early on Sunday morning to investigate a citizen's call about an unidentified flying object. He came within three miles of the reported site when he saw a large phenomenon in the sky with a series of approximately seven strobe lights hovering near a mountain top. The officer attempted to move closer to the object when it disappeared.

Two days later in the early morning hours a second policeman and a reservist spotted a hovering object in the same vicinity. It appeared to be surrounded by flashing lights—red, green, white, and amber, which circled the craft. The two men watched the vehicle for about thirty-five minutes when "the object appeared to drop as if making a landing."

SPECIAL OFFER

THE UTAH UFO DISPLAY, by Dr. Frank Salisbury is now available from NICAP.

Dr. Salisbury was one of the first scientists to become interested in doing research in the UFO field. While still a graduate student he published an article in "Science" about the possibility of life on Mars. The correspondence generated from this article led to his initial interest in UFOs. He is presently associated with the Atomic Energy Commission, serves on NICAP's Board, the National Enquirer UFO Panel and various committees.

In **THE UTAH UFO DISPLAY** he first records and evaluates the testimony of some 70 residents of the Uintah Basin, Utah who claim they made UFO sightings between 1960 and the present. He then sets UFOs in scientific, psychological and historical perspective, instancing some intriguing supposed cases that date back as far as the Bible. The Uintah Basin sightings have not previously been reported.

NICAP is pleased to offer Dr. Salisbury's book to members on a first come first served basis. You will receive:

A discounted price of \$6.95 (retail \$7.95)
An autographed first edition copy

A limited supply is available so please send your check or money order for \$6.95 to NICAP today. Be sure to include your return mailing address.