

# September 1970 UFO Sighting in Jessup, PA by Frank Scassellati<sup>1</sup>

Hand-Written Letter Transcribed<sup>2</sup> and Endnoted by Thomas M. Olsen  
Witness' Sketch Redrawn by Jan Chandler Garbero

In September 1970, I was returning home from a football game of my high school team, the Valley View Cougars. I left the game early, about 9 PM, because our team was ahead. I was about the only one who left early. I started walking home, which was about five km from the stadium.

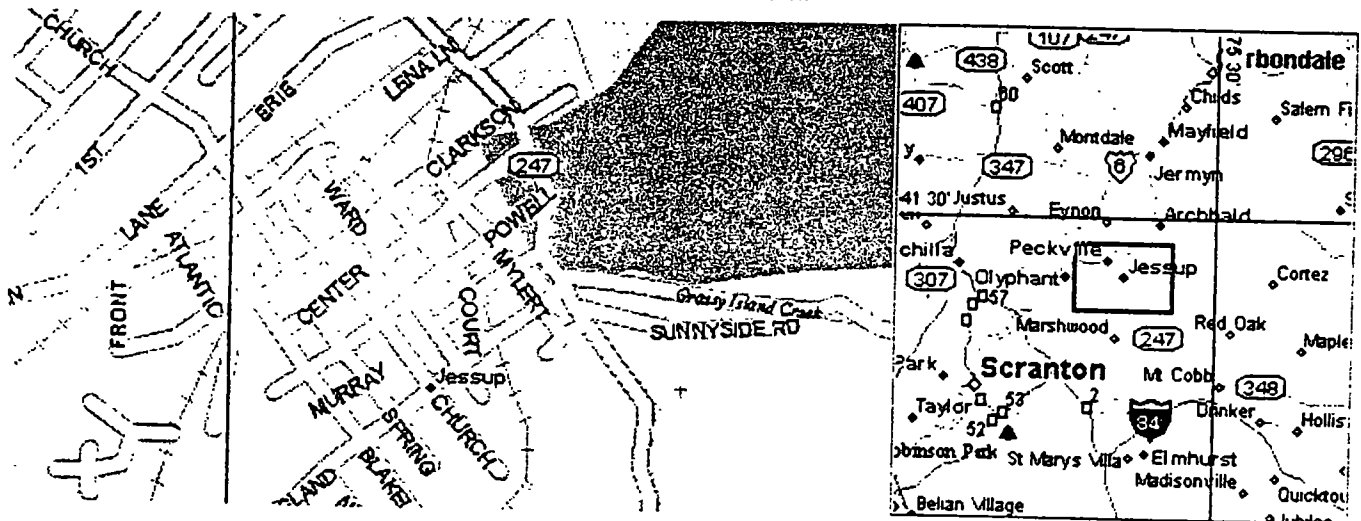
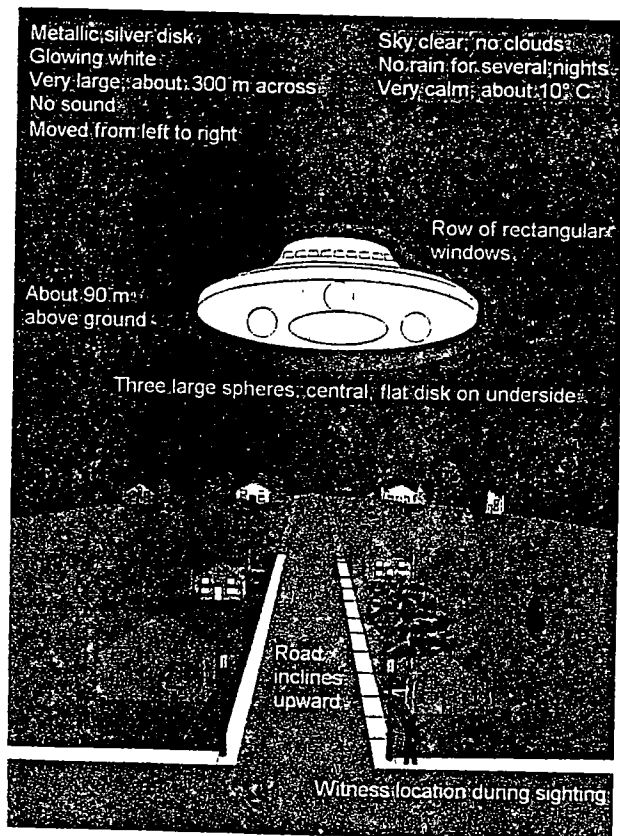


Figure 1. Map of local area<sup>3</sup>.

From Church Street – the main road through Jessup, Pennsylvania, USA, about five blocks away from my home – I saw to the southeast the most amazing, awe-inspiring thing I have ever experienced. Nothing else can I recall with such clarity. Even after 30 years I can still visualize this as if it were drifting now across the night sky<sup>4</sup>.



Jan Chandler Garbero, from sketch by Frank Scassellati

Figure 2. The UFO.

I watched as the amazing object<sup>5</sup> went out of sight. Then I walked the remaining five blocks. Entering my house, I was quite shaken at what I had seen. But I was not abducted, nor did I experience missing time.

I was 16 years old; I asked my parents if I should call the police. We discussed the matter and feared ridicule.

While waiting the next few nights to decide whether I should call the police or not, something odd occurred: I looked out the window and saw a large, black limousine parked outside. I could see the limousine quite clearly, because there is a streetlamp right across the street.

The black limousine seemed to be a cross between a Cadillac and a Lincoln. But it had no silver trim or any insignia on it to identify it as a Cadillac or a Lincoln.

There were two men sitting in the front and two in the back. Each had on a black suit and hat, similar to those worn in the '40s and '50s. They sat in the car, motionless. I asked my parents again if we should call the police, but the men weren't really doing anything wrong, just sitting in their car. It was about 11 PM. I kept peering out the window for the next four hours; they were still there, motionless.

I went to bed after midnight. When I awoke in the morning they were gone. They repeated this same routine for the next few nights. It wasn't until several years later that I read about the "Men in Black", in a UFO magazine<sup>6</sup>.

# September 1970 UFO Sighting in Jessup, PA by Frank Scassellati

- 2 -

I feel that if I had informed the authorities, then I would have had a more direct contact with those men in the black limousine.

This incident happened during a large "flap" of UFOs in my area of northeastern Pennsylvania, beginning in spring of 1970, when police officers saw UFOs flying over Lake Scranton<sup>7</sup>. Several people saw UFOs from July to August, and thereafter.

The flap ended in November 1974, with the alleged crash of a UFO in Carbondale, PA<sup>8</sup>. I had heard about this on the local news. My father and I were excited about going up there to see what was happening. On arriving, we saw several hundred people around the perimeter of the alleged crash site. The explanation given was that it was a railroad lantern, but I always felt that there was a government cover-up.

My address is 300 Center Street; Jessup, Pennsylvania 18434; USA.

## Additional Maps



Figure 3. Path of Route 247.

In Fig. 3, Scranton, Pennsylvania is at the lower-left. The red lambda encloses Route 247, displayed in gray, and shows the direction of a three-dimensional view looking southeast, in Fig. 4.

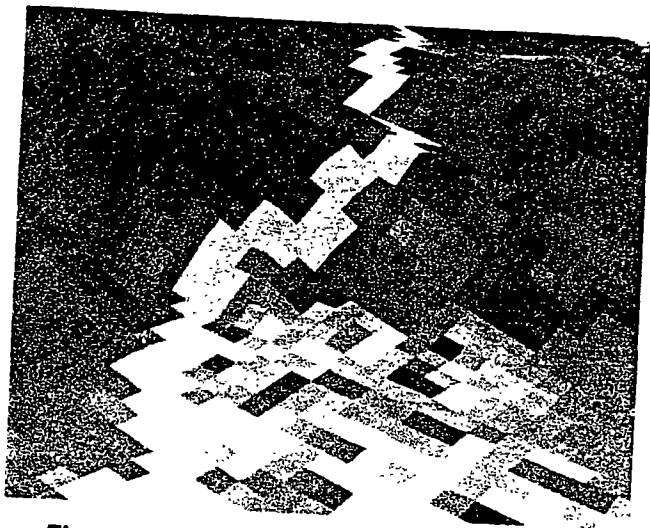


Figure 4. 3D view southeast from Jessup.

Route 247 -- the heavy, jagged, gray line in Fig. 4 -- lies northeast of Jessup, which is at the bottom of Fig. 4. Mr. Scassellati was looking toward one of the low hills in the bottom third of the view. Figures 3 and 4 are computer-generated from earth satellite data. The vertical scale in Fig. 4 is exaggerated 8x for emphasis.

<sup>1</sup> This report is purposely left uncopyrighted, allowing it to be reprinted freely. Copyright might impugn the truthfulness of the account, suggesting it may have been created for monetary gain. The witness reported this sighting to NICAP, shortly after the event, and was advised: "We shall put your report on file". Several years later he also reported the incident to the U.S. Air Force but received no response.

<sup>2</sup> The transcribed original received 13 June 2000 was written laboriously in longhand. At 46 years old, the witness seeks an explanation, not fame or fortune. He feels that what he saw was "extraterrestrial, or perhaps inter-dimensional".

<sup>3</sup> Maps courtesy of DeLorme, Inc.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Scassellati adds that he was too absorbed in watching to notice much else: "If there were stars, or planets, they were obscured by the glow coming from the object." He does say that no aircraft were visible. At 9:00 PM at mid-month in Jessup, the full moon was 30° above the horizon, in the east-southeast.

<sup>5</sup> An account in 1954, of a disk UFO with three large hemispheres on the underside, by George Adamski, who sought publicity, is generally discredited. Yet this same bottom detail has since been reported by other witnesses. For an fascinating comparison by orthographic projection, of the Adamski (California) and Coniston (England) photographs, see Leonard G. Cramp, *Space, Gravity, and the Flying Saucer*, New York: British Book Centre, 1955.

<sup>6</sup> For an overview of the Men-in-Black phenomenon, see "Folklore of the 'Men in Black': Challenge to the Prevailing Paradigm", by Peter M. Rojcewicz; *MUFON UFO Journal* 263, March 1990, pps 3-12 and 26.

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., *The APRO Bulletin*, March-April 1970, front page.

<sup>8</sup> This is not the Kecksburg, PA incident, which occurred five years earlier and 433 km southwest. The Carbon-dale, PA case is not among the 700 sighting reports on the MUFON CD ROM. I am currently unable to search UFOCAT99 as I damaged my copy of the CUFOS CD ROM when removing its adhesive label. UFOCAT99 traces its ancestry back to the University of Colorado study (1969 Condon report) and contains more cases than the MUFON database.

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# UFO Experts Have Doubts About C

By JERRY PALKO and MIKE TUSKO  
Times Correspondents

While they aren't willing to say so, UFO experts who spent most of Monday in Carbondale attempting to determine what, if anything, fell into a silt pond near Russell Park during the weekend, appeared somewhat reluctant to accept the police theory that the whole episode was a hoax.

At the site and conducting extensive interviews and other research Monday were Douglas Dains, Port Crane, N.Y., an associate of Dr. Allen Hynek, a noted UFO specialist at Northwestern University in Illinois; Matthew J. Graeber, a member of the UFO Research Investigation Center, Philadelphia, and Robert D.

Barry, director of the 20th Century UFO Bureau, Collingswood, N.J.

Before the battery-powered railroad lantern was retrieved by a scuba diver Monday afternoon, Mr. Barry told reporters, "Three witnesses reported to us that the UFO came from an easterly direction over Salem Mountain, landed in the middle of the pond. He didn't say it crashed into it; he said it landed in the middle of the pond and then proceeded under the water to approximately 25 feet from the shore."

He added, "We have three witnesses that saw it in flight and two witnesses who saw it in the pond moving to where it finally stopped."

When a reporter questioned Mr. Barry on the credibility of the wit-

nesses, he replied, "because they're teenagers doesn't mean they're not credible witnesses."

Asked if he suspected a hoax at that point (it was shortly before noon), he said, "At this point I don't." He also said that prior to coming to Carbondale he was in the York area and talked to three people, one who had a sighting of a UFO Thursday night and two that had a sighting Friday night. "Then there's this one Saturday night. Now if it's all tied in, I don't know," Mr. Barry said.

Mr. Graeber interjected that a UFO "flap" was going on at present and that there have been recent sightings in the Lake Como area. A "flap" is the term used by UFO buffs to describe a rash of UFO sightings in a specific time period.

One thing that sparked the curiosity of the UFO men was this account given by an eyewitness:

"I'd say 15 minutes elapsed between splashdown and the time I got there (to the pond). I stayed here until 3:30 in the morning. The glow seemed to get dim, then less intense, then brighter. I'd say it took around five minutes to complete a cycle. It pulsed very slowly. You could just about see it when it was at its lowest point."

This witness was older than the youngsters who first told police about the object.

After the railroad lantern was discovered and the UFO men joined Mayor A. J. Kaufman and police at a press conference at City Hall, Mr. Dains told re-



Times Photo by Refica

Committee aides finalize plans for the Wine and Cheese Social sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, Dunmore, to be held Nov. 30 at the church hall. Seated, from left: Mrs. Andrew Russin, society president; the Rev. Leonard Hollick, pastor, and Mrs. Ted Zayac, chairman. Standing, same order: Mrs. George Zayac, publicity chairman; Mrs. Edward Swartz, cochairman; Mrs. Joseph Russin, tickets, and Mrs. Eugene Sagan, donations.

## Willard Watkins Owens-Illi

Willard Watkins, 1059 Euclid Ave., died Monday at home after an illness.

A son of the late Benjamin and Nellie James Watkins, he was born in Scranton and was a mechanic for the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad prior to his retirement in 1966. An Army overseas veteran of World War II, he was a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the Victor Aliferi Society.

Surviving are two brothers, Thomas and Donald, Scranton; three sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Schroeder, Mrs. Mildred Green and Mrs. Dorothy Griffiths, Scranton and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. from the Fred W. Cox Funeral Home, 109 S. Main Ave. Priest James Mulhern, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, will officiate. Interment, Washburn Street Cemetery. Viewing, 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

The regional labor situation deteriorated further Monday when Owens Illinois Inc., Newspaper Jenkins Twp., announced that it will lay off 143 employees from its television picture tube operations.

But the job picture has been slightly improved by the fact that local anthracite miners will not be involved in the national strike of the United Mine Workers and reduce the number of employees.

## State Ass

The state Justice Department has taken on the task in federal court here of representing all defendants in a lawsuit filed there by the families of two Minooka Section schoolboys who were kidnapped and slain last Nov. 1.

Thus, the state has put itself in the position of defending not only state officials

## County Chief To Industrial

The county commissioners today appointed Peter Kaldes, 1502 N. Washington Ave., to a seat on the Lackawanna County Industrial Development Authority.

Mr. Kaldes, former owner and operator of the Castle Restaurant, succeeds John Neumann, Dalton, former sales official of United Gisonite Co. Mr. Neuman resigned recently and has moved from this area. Mr. Kaldes will serve in his seat through Dec. 31, 1978.

The county industrial development authority is a funding vehicle for a number of industrial development projects here.

The commissioners also approved the reappointment of Norman Miller, Newton Road, Clark's Summit RD 2, to a new term on the board of Lackawanna County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The commissioners approved contracts totaling \$185,247 to purchase equipment for a respiratory dis-

## Area Funeral Notices

Brown, Mrs. Catherine, 516 Ripple St., Thursday from the M. J. McCrea Funeral Home, 1900 Pittston Ave., with Mass at 9:30 a.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church. Interment, Cathedral Cemetery. Viewing, 2, to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Coffman, Mrs. Edna Susan, Gouldsboro, Wednesday at 2 p.m. from the home of her sister, Mrs. Mildred Snyder, Gouldsboro. The Rev. Robert J. Newpher, Grace Lutheran Church, Gouldsboro, will officiate. Interment, Lehigh Cemetery, Gouldsboro. Viewing today and Wednesday until time of service. Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Lutheran Church. Arrangements, Snowdon Funeral Home, Inc., 401 Church St., Moscow.

Santarsiero, Robert, Elkton, Md., a native of Dunmore, Wednesday from the August J. Haas Funeral Home, 202-04 Pittston Ave., with Mass at 9:30 a.m. in St. Francis of Assisi Church. Interment, St. Mary's Assumption Cemetery, South Scranton. Viewing, 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Military rites will be conducted by McHugh-Bushweller Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dunmore.

Sickler, Carl S., Tunkhannock RD 5, automobile accident victim, Wednesday at 1 p.m. from the Sheldon Funeral Home, 73 W. Tioga St., Tunkhannock. The Rev. A. Lewis Payne, Bowman's Creek/Free Methodist Church, will officiate. Interment, South Eaton Cemetery. Viewing, tonight, 7 to 9.

Joyce, William J., 1503 Schlotter St., today from the Durham Funeral Home, 125 N. Main Ave., with Mass in St. Patrick's Church, celebrated by the Rev. Francis J. Kulik. Pallbearers: William and Robert Hopkins, Stanley Bonezek, Matthew and George Spellane and Frank Harrison. Interment, Abington Hills Cemetery.

Fetzer, Mrs. Pearl, Milton RD 1, formerly of Scranton, today from the Arthur E. Strauch Funeral Home, 602 Birch St. The Rev. Dr. James A. Gaiser, Elm Park United Methodist Church, officiated. Pallbearers: John Evans, John Stahl, Eugene Fetzer and Warren Fetzer. Interment, Abington Hills Cemetery.

Tugend, Mrs. Mary E., formerly of



FRANK KIBAUSKAS

## Dies at Home

Frank Kibauskas, 1212 Foster St., died Monday at home after an illness.

Born in Scranton, a son of the late Frank and Marcella Semeska-Kibauskas, he was an Army veteran of World War II. Mr. Kibauskas was a member of St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church and Local 130, Laborers International Union of North America.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Anna Gronsky, and Mrs.

# About Carbondale Hoax

They're not of the UFO men was this account given by an eyewitness.

"I'd say 15 minutes elapsed between splashdown and the time I got there (to the pond). I stayed here until 3:30 in the morning. The glow seemed to get dim, then less intense, then brighter. I'd say it took around five minutes to complete a cycle. It pulsed very slowly. You could just about see it when it was at its lowest point."

This witness was older than the youngsters who first told police about the object.

After the railroad lantern was discovered and the UFO men joined Mayor A. J. Kaufman and police at a press conference at City Hall, Mr. Dains told re-

porters. "The people involved probably saw a falling star and then somebody probably got hold of this idea and then probably perpetrated this hoax. But you've got to remember that if they did see a falling star, it was unidentified to them."

Mr. Barry, however, wasn't at all prepared to write off the incident as a hoax. He told reporters: "Concerning the attempt to recover this object in the pond, in interviewing the officers, they used a fish net that was tied to a ten-foot wooden pole. And, in attempting to get this net over the object, I was informed that whatever this thing was at the bottom, they felt that there was something bigger underneath than that (object) they had the net over. And it was at this

point that the light went out, whatever it was. But he said that he (one of the police officers) could not move it. Whatever it was, you could not move it. This is not the only case of an underwater thing. There was one down in Mississippi in November of last year that was investigated by the Coast Guard. It was about four or five feet under water. So this isn't the first case of some type of an object being under water that had some type of a glow."

On a final note, although police intend to review the case in search of perpetrators of the hoax, if it was that, as late as last night one of the youths who told authorities he saw something come over the mountain and land in the pond was still sticking to his story.

# Watkins Owens-Illinois To Lay Off 143

The regional labor situation deteriorated further Monday when Owens Illinois Inc., Jenkins Twp., announced that it will lay off 143 employees from its television picture tube operations.

But the job picture has been slightly improved by the fact that local anthracite miners will not be involved in the national strike of the United Mine Workers, and that the publisher of Wilkes-

Barre's only daily newspaper will meet with the striking Newspaper Guild later this week.

Leonard Pierzchala, plant manager for the local Owens Illinois operations, said slumping television sales have necessitated the layoff at his plant, effective Monday.

The furloughs, he said, will reduce the plant's total employment from 775 to 632. The

company's pharmaceutical glass production here will not be affected, he said.

Officials of United Mine Workers District 25 said Monday that the national coal strike which began today at 12:01 a.m. will not affect hard coal production here.

The anthracite contract, they said, will not expire until March 31, 1975.

State Mediator Anthony Adriaie has, meanwhile, ar-

ranged a meeting between the Wilkes-Barre Publishing Co. and Local 120 of the Newspaper Guild Thursday at 10 a.m. in Genetti's Hotel, Wilkes-Barre.

The meeting will be the second attempt to reach a new contract agreement and settle the strike which began 10 days ago. The strike has left the Wilkes-Barre area without its only daily newspaper.

# State Assumes Defense Role

The state Justice Department has taken on the task in federal court here of representing all defendants in a lawsuit filed there by the families of two Minooka Section schoolboys who were kidnapped and slain last Nov. 1.

Thus, the state has put itself in the position of defending not only state officials

and workers named in the suit, but also Scranton officials and even the person blamed for the crime, William Wright, an ex-patient at Farview State Hospital.

The suit was begun Oct. 29 in federal court by Atty. John E. V. Pleski on behalf of Dorothy and Edmund Keen, 3006 Colliery Ave., and Gail

and Paul J. Freach, 3029 Colliery Ave., parents of the murder victims, Paul J. Freach, 13, and Edmund J. Keen, 12.

The Justice Department entered its appearance in federal court on behalf of the defendants in the names of Beverly A. Nelson and Nor-

man J. Watkins, both deputy attorneys general.

The suit, asking for damages totaling \$16 million, blames state and city officials for the situation under which Wright was living in Scranton, working out of Scranton City Hall on a rodent control program and was given the blanket of official status by the use of a police badge and a city-owned van.

The long list of defendants include those connected with Farview who took part in the decision to free Wright, officials of the state Board of Probation and Parole, who were involved in supervising Wright's conduct, Delaware County officials who are faulted for not prosecuting Wright for past crimes, officials of the Bureau of Employment Security who helped to place Wright in a state-sponsored job here, officials of the rodent control program where he was employed and city officials who gave Wright the police badge.

While the defendants include many persons not associated with the state, the decision of the Justice Department means that the taxpayers supported governmental agency will defend all persons named as defendants, including six unknown persons identified only as John, Richard, Joseph, Mary, Ann and Jane Doe.

# County Chiefs Name Kaldes To Industrial Authority Seat

The county commissioners today appointed Peter Kaldes, 1502 N. Washington Ave., to a seat on the Lackawanna County Industrial Development Authority.

Mr. Kaldes, former owner and operator of the Castle Restaurant, succeeds John Neumann, Dalton, former sales official of United Gilsonite Co. Mr. Neuman resigned recently and has moved from this area. Mr. Kaldes will serve in his seat through Dec. 31, 1978.

The county industrial development authority is a funding vehicle for a number of industrial development projects here.

The commissioners also approved the reappointment of Norman Miller, Newton Road, Clark's Summit RD. 2, to a new term on the board of Lackawanna County Soil and Water Conservation District.

ease clinic the county is installing at Scranton State General Hospital.

The county, which still expects to spend about \$20,000 more for other equipment for the clinic, embarked on the project at the time it decided to close its own respiratory disease hospital on West Mountain.

An agreement under which the Pennsylvania Bureau of Employment Security will do counseling, testing and job placement work for the county under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act was approved.

The federal program to create local jobs is being operated here for the county by the Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency. Fred Lettieri, executive director of that agency, said that the BES actually has been providing such services for the CETA program.

The county program, covering CETA hirings in the county and in all municipalities in the county outside of Scranton, has given jobs to about 200 persons to date, Mr. Lettieri said. He explained that the job placement aspect of the BES work does not involve original hiring but the placement of CETA workers in permanent positions after they have become experienced.

Bids were opened for the carpeting of a new courtroom and judicial chambers now being created in the courthouse. The bids are: Capitol Floor Shop, \$2,000; Stoddard Acoustical Products Inc., \$2,840; and Modern Floor Shops, \$4,200. No action was taken on a contract.

A contract was awarded to International Salt Co. to supply rock salt for the county roads this winter at \$15.70 a ton. Bradco Co., Towanda,

man J. Watkins, both deputy attorneys general.

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## at Home

Kibauskas, 1212 lied Monday at an illness.

Anton, a son of Kibauskas, and Marcella Kibauskas, he was a veteran of World War I.

formerly of...

formerly of...

TAX COMPROMISE TO TRIPP FARM LAND COMPANY; NICHOLAS DANO SR.; GEORGE METAY; JOHN DANO; their heirs, executors, administrators

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W



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

MR FRANK SCASSELLATI  
300 CENTER STREET  
JESSUP, PA 18434

July 27, 2001

Request No.: 0945788- 000  
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Dear Requester:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request noted above.

A search of the automated indices to our central records system files at FBI Headquarters revealed no record responsive to your FOIA request.

Although no main file records responsive to your FOIPA request were located in our automated indices, we are required to inform you that you are entitled to file an administrative appeal if you so desire. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Co-Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U. S. Department of Justice, Suite 570, Flag Building, Washington, D. C. 20530, within 60 days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA request number assigned to your request so that it may easily be identified.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Kelso Jr." is positioned below the typed name.

John M. Kelso Jr.  
Section Chief,  
Freedom of Information-  
Privacy Acts Section  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

① August 20, 2001

Dear members, Volunteers,  
and Staff of The J. Allen Hynek Center  
for U.F.O. Studies

Thank you for all you are doing in  
U.F.O. Research.

Enclosed you will find a report  
on my U.F.O. Sighting in September,  
1970. This sighting has had a  
profound effect on my life and  
I am still searching for answers.

Enclosed you will also find the  
newspaper reports on an alleged  
crash of a U.F.O. in Carbondale,  
Pennsylvania on November 9, 1974.  
I know this alleged crash has  
been deemed a hoax by many  
U.F.O. researchers, but please  
read the newspaper reports and  
do some further research into the  
alleged crash done by Mr. Thomas  
Olser, of the U.F.O. Information  
Retrieval Center, who did some  
(Please turn over)

further research into this incident after I sent him the newspaper reports.

I was at the alleged crash site on November 10, 1974, and there seemed to be a lot more going on than the recovery of a railroad lantern, what was said to have been found that day.

There was a large flock of V.F.O.'s in Northeastern Pa. in the early 1970's, and I just thought that it might have been possible that one may have crashed.

Please let me know of your professional evaluation of what happened in Carbondale, Pa. Please also let me know of your professional evaluation of my V.F.O. sighting, if anyone else, in your files, may have seen this object, on September 25, 1970 in the Pennsylvania or New York area. Several people who stayed at



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the football game that evening saw this object, but their view was somewhat obscured by the bright lights on the football field.

I am still seeking answers to these events, please help me if you possibly can, to find the answers.

I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your reply.

I am also sending you several documents I've received under the Freedom of Information Act.

~~Thank you~~ I would like to be a member of C.U.F.O.S.

Thank you for all you are doing to find the answers in the G.F.O. enigma.

Sincerely,  
Frank Scussellato

300 CENTER STREET  
JESSUP, PENNSYLVANIA 18434