COLUSA, CA CE II SEPT. 10, 1976

UFO Over Colusa? Bill Pecha's Story

COLUSA SUN HERALD
COLUSA, CA
SEP 13, 1976

"It was a nightmarish experience I'll never forget. I didn't believe in UFOs before, but I do now. You'd have to see it to believe it, but so help me what I saw — and felt — about 1 A.M. Friday outside our house is the truth."

That's what Bill Pecha, Jr., who does machine and bankout wagon work in his shop at 1650 Wilson Avenue, Colusa, told the Sun-Herald in describing what happened after the power went off (the power outage lasted for about nine minutes) while he was watching a Channel 12 television program. His wife and two children were asleep at the time. Said Pecha:

"When the power went off I started outside and saw this huge glowing thing hovering over our house. It looked to me like it was 150 feet across and from 10 to 18 feet in height shooting out beams of bluish light. It looked like a huge inverted cup and saucer with the outer brim spinning clockwise and an inner disc spinning counter clockwise. When I got outside I felt funny, Seemed like all the hair on my body was being pulled up.

"There were three of these things, the big one and two smaller ones on the high power line in back of the "Slim" Davis house. There was no noise, no sounds of any kind — just a huge blue halo of light with the big UFO maneuvering about at amazing speed. I awakened my wife and she and my son and daughter saw the whole thing, too. So did Les and Gayle Arant (they reside at 846 Thirteenth Street) because I awakened them as I drove into town to report the UFO sighting to the sheriff's office. At that time this 'thing' was heading toward the fairgrounds and disappeared in a southeasterly direction, like toward Sacramento.

Pecha said the Arants drove into town, too, as a report was made to the sheriff's office which apparently had received other reports from Colusa area residents who had seen the strange glowing object.

Pecha said he was so frightened that he drove into town as fast as he could in his pickup with the lights out. But, he said, the bluish light from this thing, about 50 feet off the ground, seemingly followed him, then disappeared. He further described the events which transpired thusly:

"Slim Davis and his wife were asleep. There was a bluish light all over their place, and coming down these shafts of light turned to an all-white

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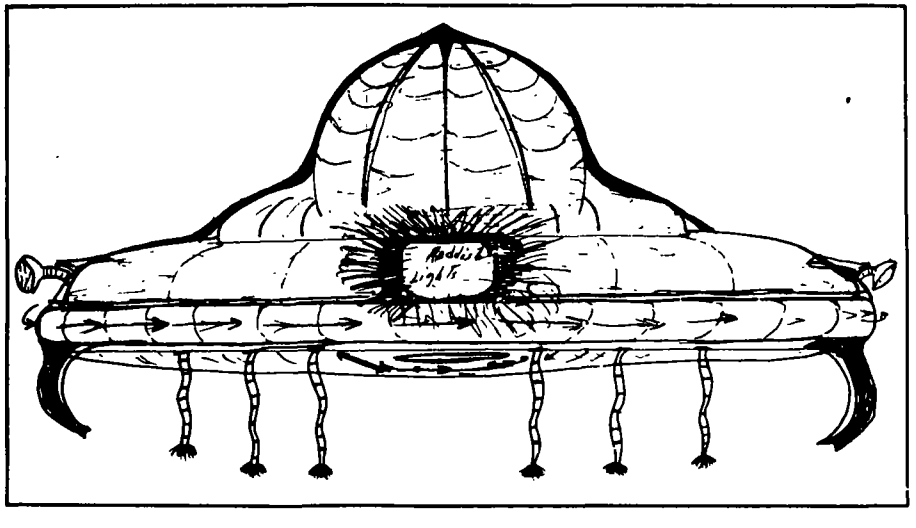

A Flying Saucer

Unidentified Flying Objects have been pictured in the past as rather oval-shape, or saucer-shaped, but Bill Pecha, Jr., in his drawing of the UFO he saw Thursday night has added what appears to be landing gear, as well as spider like trailers. A number of Colusans saw the same object in the sky at the same time the power failed.

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color. This thing darted about, clear out to the foothills and back. On each side it had two things about eight feet long which hung down and curled around underneath it. They looked like wire bristles. The power line poles were glowing and the two smaller UFOs each had lights.

"All of this happened, I guess, in a matter of 15 or 20 minutes. A call was placed to Phenomena Research, the UFO reporting center in Seattle, Washington, and the man in charge asked if this thing I saw had three lights, or windows, and I said it did. My report was that it seemed to have long flexible cables by which it looked like it was being maneuvered."

Pecha, who said he and his family didn't get much sleep after the early Friday morning incident, told his story to a number of Colusans and has received numerous telephone calls. "I guess some believe me and some don't," he said. "But I know what I and others saw. It made a UFO believer out of me, that's for sure."

Pechas said two officers from the sheriff's department came out to talk with him further about what he saw. It is also understood that a man from the UFO reporting center in Seattle is coming here to talk with Pecha about the incident and also to have him make a drawing of the object.

Pacific Gas & Electric Company officials who were contacted about the incident said there may have been some relation between it and the fact that about the time the power outage occurred shortly before 1 A.M. Friday, the PG&E substation at Victorville went out, causing a high voltage power line overload.

The nine-minute power outage affected thousands of Northern California homes.

It was suggested that the power overload caused static electricity being conducted into the ground and this might have accounted for the weird, glowing UFO witnessed and experienced by Pecha and others.

But Pecha doesn't buy this theory. "It was big, it was real, it was terrifying — shafts of light seemingly come at you, hovering over barns and houses, darting away, coming back, moving upward, then shooting back down close to the ground. I wasn't a believer in UFOs before, but I certainly am now. I don't ever want to go through anything like this again."

COLUSA, CA CE II SEPT. 10, 1976

Bill Pecha, Jr., Interviewed

ABC TV News Crew Films Route Of UFO

SUN HERALD
COLUSA, CA
JAN 13, 1977

There is one thing nice about Unidentified Flying Objects. They may be terrifying at the time and they may be the butt of a lot of jokes, but they are certainly an asset to the community — publicity-wise.

It was on Friday, September 10th of last year that Bill Pecha, Jr., had the "nightmarish experience. I'll never forget," his first and only experience with a "flying saucer."

That was the morning when about 1 A.M. the power went off and Pecha, who had been watching Channel 12 television, stepped outside and saw "this huge glowing thing hovering over our house. It looked to me like it was 150 feet across and 10 to 18 feet in height, shooting out beams of bluish light. It looked like an inverted cup and saucer with an outer brim spinning clockwise and an inner disc spinning counter-clockwise."

At the time Pecha reported also "When I got outside I felt funny. Seemed like all the hair on my body was being pulled up."

He said there was the main UFO and two others on each side, no noise, no sounds of any kind — just a huge blue halo of light with the big UFO maneuvering at amazing speed—darting to the foothills and back.

Pecha awakened his wife and daughter, and Les and Gayle Arant as he drove into town to report the sighting to the sheriff's office. They all saw the mysterious object.

His report occasioned widespread publicity for Colusa.

Since then, teams from various organizations interested in unidentified flying objects have interviewed Pecha, his wife, daughter, and everyone else who saw, or thought they saw, the object in the sky.

The process was repeated again yesterday afternoon—this time for television.

An American Broadcasting Company news team interviewed Pecha and his wife, and since there was no accommodating "flying saucer" available, used a helicopter to indicate the place where the UFO hovered in those early morning hours, and the route it had taken in its various darts here and there while under observation.

Ron Miller, a Chicago correspondent for the ABC news report, conducted the interview and a team from Los Angeles ABC news, Dang Van Minh, cameraman, and John C. Dignan, sound, filmed the sequences.

Once again, as he has so many times since September 10th, Pecha related his story, then stood outside and directed the helicopter to the spot where it hovered over the house, and designated the routes the UFO had taken during his brief observance.

They spent several late afternoon hours filming the sequences, but it will be cut to six or seven minutes, or even less, when Harry Reasoner presents it on the evening news program sometime within the next month.

Apparently, the reason for taking the latest UFO sighting has something to do with Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, who is known as "Mr. UFO" because of his investigations of UFO sightings over a large part of the United States.

Perhaps it is just coincidental, but Dr. Hynek is slated to make a talk on Unidentified Flying Objects at California State University on February 3rd.

COLUSA, CA CEII SEPT. 10, 1976

VALLEY HERALD, Yuba City, CA - Sept. 19, 1979

When the night's skies held more than stars

Colusa family recalls UFO sighting

by JUDY STANLEY
of the Herald

Three years ago — on September 10th, 1976 — a Colusa man, his wife, several of his neighbors, and a handful of other witnesses claimed they saw an unidentified flying object over Colusa. The case has since become one of the most well-documented UFO sightings in recent history, but it is a mystery that has yet to be solved — and a sighting that has yet to be proven or disproven by UFO experts — even after three years.

But one thing is certain: Life has never again been the same for Colusan Bill Pecha and his family since the night of the alleged sighting, and Pecha has confessed that — should he ever again chance to see something similar to what he saw that night — he "might never say anything" about it to anyone, due to the uproar and inconvenience it has caused his family and himself.

The Pechas live on a small ranch outside of Colusa, and Bill builds and repairs heavy farm equipment in his shop. Well-respected and regarded as highly reputable by all who know him, Pecha maintains that, prior to the 1976 incident, he had had no experience with UFOs, nor did he even believe in them.

But he does now.

Internationally known as the "Colusa UFO" or "the Pecha Case", the events of that evening were as follows, according to Pecha in a recent interview with the Herald.

"It was September 9th, my wife's birthday, and I had worked very late, building heavy equipment. My wife had gone to bed about eleven o'clock and I had come in about eleven, and I was going to take a shower and relax and watch a little television. There was a western on, "Waterhole No. 3", and I wanted to watch it. I'll never forget it.

"So I sat there and watched it, until about 12:30 a.m. (which made the date of the sighting September 10th), and the T.V started acting up. But the channel I was on did that from time to time, so I thought 'well, the T.V.'s going out,' but then power went off — and just as suddenly came back on.

"Around one o'clock the power went completely off and I looked out in the shop and it was dark and my nightlight was off, so I figured I just blew a fuse. Or maybe the transformer had kicked off in the shop because I'd been welding heavy that day.

"I was just going to tippytoe outside to go flip it back on and come back and watch my movie — and that's when it started happening.

"It was a bright moonlit night, still sultry and kinda hot, and as I walked out, I had this shocking sensation — a little tingling — but I didn't give it too much thought.

"That is, until I walked around the corner of the house, and saw a big dark shadow on the ground. I noticed it, but I didn't notice any clouds that would make a shadow like that.

"When I got around the corner of the house, there was a pretty good-sized round object, hovering over the barn, with parts of it turning around, and it had these long, electrical cable type things dangling down toward the barn.

"I couldn't believe it. I thought, 'well, this is it for us', because it was really a horrible looking mess.

"It was hovering above the barn very quietly, just making a real light clicking sound, and I walked underneath it, just under the edge of it, and that's when I really got a good shock, and I couldn't move.

"I started hollering for my wife, but I couldn't get anything out — of course I could have been scared half to death too — it was very spooky.

"I figure I was there at least six minutes, because the power was off for nine, and I had gone outside as soon as the lights went off.

"There were two other UFO's farther away, and it looked like they were zapping power from the big power lines (the 500,000 volt power lines which run outside Colusa — part of the Central Valley Power Project).

"When the other two left, and the big one started moving off slowly over the fields, I felt okay and relieved and I came back in, running and screaming to my wife, 'You gotta come out here; you gotta come see it.'

"By the time I got her up, it was already over the Davis' house — they've got a cropdusting airstrip behind us — and I got her to see that part, and the way it was lit up.

"It had moved away to the foothills, about where the Three Sisters ranch is, but then it was back very rapidly and started the whole thing over again near where we were, and that's when I told my wife it was time to get out of here and go to town.

"I don't get scared very easy, but that shook me up pretty bad," said the 42-year-old machinist.

After the Pechas piled everybody in their pickup, Bill headed for town as fast as possible. Turning into a friend's driveway, he jumped out of the truck and pounded on the door.

When the friend came to the door, she too saw the craft and exclaimed, "My God, what is it?" before it turned out of sight. And when Pecha reported the whole incident to the Colusa County Sheriff's Department, they had already been made aware of it through other reports which added further substantiation to Pechas'.

Before the large craft quickly vanished, Pecha also described an upside-down cone of light, that did not illuminate the ground beneath it, slowly descending as the vehicle hovered near the fairgrounds. Soon after that, the craft vanished and has never been seen again, although Pecha has said that other people who have contacted him since the sighting have described a craft similar to the one he saw up in Oregon not long after the Colusa sighting.

It was after this the publicity on the case began. Flatly denying any possibility of his concocting the story for money, Pecha said that he never once contacted any news media and only filed a report of the occurrence at the Sheriff's department after heavy thinking on his part.

Shortly after the incident, a local paper asked if they could print the story, and after much hesitation Pecha gave a cautious "okay, if it's only one."

"But after that," groans Pecha, "things got completely out of hand.

Sensationalized stories appeared in several weekly gossip magazines; people called them up at all hours of the day and night from all over the world; people would quote Pecha as saying things he didn't say or add or sensationalize parts of the story; three writers offered to write Pecha's life story (he refused); and so on and on it still goes.

The Pechas have had two T.V. special reports done about them — one by Channel 3 and one by Channel 7 — and have been interviewed by the likes of Harry Reasoner and Barbara Walters, and are hounded frequently by people from around the world who want permission to use their story.

Even after three years, the Pecha's still hear from people who want to know about the incident "about every month".

How has life in a small town been after something like this?

"It's about fifty-fifty," said Pecha. "Fifty per cent of the people we know are really warm and supportive and believe us, while the other fifty per cent say, "Hey Bill, whatcha been drinking?"

"About every other day I go to town — I always stop for coffee in the morning before I open my shop — and some guy who hasn't seen me for a couple of weeks is sure to say, 'Hey Bill, how are you doing on that UFO you're building?' Well he means it in a kidding way, but they just don't want to believe you."

"But I know what I saw — it's something that you don't forget," he said. "To me, in a lot of ways, it's like it happened yesterday.

"Even now, after three years, whenever I get really tired or worried, I have nightmares about it happening all over again and I wake up in a cold sweat," said Pecha, who does not have a reputation for being easily scared.

Investigation on the parts of national and international research teams is still continuing on the case, and articles and interviews are still appearing in news media.

But for the Pechas, who are trying to live and work as normally as possible, that night three years ago when the sky held more than stars will be a night they will never forget.

Maybe we shouldn't either.

COLUSA (CALIFORNIA) CLOSE ENCOUNTER, 10 SEPTEMBER 1976

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Prepared by Brad Sparks

Investigators: Mr. Thomas R. Bowden (APRO)
Dr. James A. Harder (APRO)
Mr. Dale N. Rettig (APRO-MUFON)
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(*Later expelled from MUFON because of his participation in this investigation.)

Abstract

A single-witness close encounter with a UFO took place three miles southwest of Colusa, California, early on Friday, 10 September 1976. Colusa is a small (population nearly 4,000) farming community on the west bank of the Sacramento River, some 45 miles northwest of the state capital, Sacramento, in the northern section of the state. There were six or seven witnesses (in two or three independent groups) to the far encounter phase of this series of events, so far as is known.

Pre-Sighting Circumstances

On the evening of 9 September 1976, Mr. Billy Vinson Pecha, Jr., age 39, went into town to do some shopping. It was his wife's 34th birthday that day, so he bought her a present. When he returned home, he left his keys in the ignition of his 1975 Chevrolet pick-up truck and camper. Pecha went to work in his shop, about one hundred feet east of his home. Pecha is a self-employed heavy equipment mechanic who repairs farm machinery. He does most of his work in the shop.

Around 11:30 p.m., Pecha went into the house, where his wife, Lenda, and his two children were asleep. He showered quietly and dressed down to his shorts. He did all of this in the dark so the house lights would not wake his family. Pecha settled down to the sofa (on his back), feet towards the television set and his eyes about 15 to 18 feet away. He watched a TV Channel 12 movie, "Waterhole No. 3." About an hour later, the two-foot color picture tube crackled, then faded (browned out), then completely blacked out. His air-conditioner likewise died at the same time. The official time of the black-out on the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) system was 0054 Pacific Daylight Savings Time on 10 September 1976.

Pecha thought the transformer in his shop had tripped the circuit breakers because of his heavy welding work earlier that night. Electrical power comes into his mobile home (now stationary), at 1650 Wilson Avenue, via an underground cable from his shop. Pecha went outside to flip the circuit breakers back on again. His front door faces azimuth 91 degrees (east). Pecha moved to the right (south), away from his neighbors, the W. K. Baileys, as he went out the door, so he wouldn't be seen wearing only shorts. He knew his mother-in-law (Mrs. Leonard G. Morrow), who lived next door to the right (south), was gone at that time. He did not know until later that the Baileys were gone, too.

Close Encounter Phase

Pecha stuck close to the house to avoid getting wet from the lawn sprinkler. All of his body hair stood on end when Pecha came within a few feet of the underground cable. At this point, he was about twenty-five feet from the southeast corner of the nearly rectangular house, near his own bedroom window. Pecha then thought the power cable was shorting out and that he was feeling it because of the wet grass.

As Pecha continued walking southward in the darkness, he noticed that the static electricity-like effect was increasing in intensity, even though he had passed the underground cable and was then moving away from it. "But the further I got past the--I knew or know just about where the line is--it was gettin' worse," Pecha told us on our first visit on 3 October 1976. "I mean it wasn't bad or nothin', it was just gettin' heavier."

Near the southeast corner, Pecha noticed a diffuse grayish-white illumination, he told me (off tape). It was coming from the southwest, where the barn was located. He looked up, expecting to see the moon. Instead, he saw a large object hovering above the space between his house and the barn.

"It wasn't makin' a sound, and I couldn't believe what I was seein', you know. And as I walked a little bit--I took another few steps and then I was horrified. I realized what I was lookin' at."

Pecha, who is about 68 inches tall and about 170 pounds in weight, has normal vision. He was able to point out distant features (such as the Three Sisters peaks) without difficulty. I showed him several materials with which he was unfamiliar. Pecha correctly identified the colors of each one. He told me that while his right ear was normal, he had 50% hearing impairment in his left ear. He has good mechanical working and drawing abilities. Pecha was unable to estimate time durations of the events of his sighting to within better than an order of magnitude.

Pecha was standing about four feet northeast of the southeast cor-

ner of the house when he looked up and saw the UFO. The circular UFO was just above the thirty-foot TV antenna, which is attached to a telephone pole situated sixteen feet south by twenty feet west of the southeast corner. Part of the rim seemed to have been directly over the forty-foot-high gable roof of the barn (which protruded eastward), about 80 feet away (ground distance). Pecha estimated the object was about 50 feet off the ground. He was close enough for his stereoscopic vision to determine a reliable distance, it seems to us. Pecha said he did not see the (97% illuminated) full moon, which was at azimuth 210 degrees (south-south-west), altitude 50 degrees, though he knew it should have been there. Apparently, the UFO was in front of the moon.

Pecha described the object's underside as having a glazed-ceramic texture, a round shape in the center that had a translucent "shaft" of grayish-white "light" coming out of it, six wavy (but motionless) cables with frayed ends hanging vertically, and two pincher-like appendages at opposite (north and south) edges of the UFO's perimeter. The bottom looked like white porcelain, but Pecha said it may have been metal with the light causing it to look porcelain-like. Pecha drew the "shaft" of "light" as a truncated right circular cone making an angle of about 55 degrees at the base. It was projecting from a circular region about 10 feet in diameter, expanding outward to a level about 5 to 6 feet below the bottom of the UFO. Pecha told us the "shaft" ended sharply in mid-air and did not reach the ground. This "light" did not generate enough diffuse lighting to cast shadows, Pecha remembered. (Neither the television he watched or the UFO left after-images on his retinas, so far as Pecha could recall for us on our follow-up visit.) Pecha said the "shaft" seemed to rotate counterclockwise, but he thought that might have been an effect of the lighting. He further noted that the outer rim (above the spots where the pincher-like things were attached) was rotating clockwise.

The wavy cable-like appendages were hanging in a line that would cross the center of the UFO's underside and were oriented approximately south-north. There were six "cables," each of about equal length (6 to 8 feet) and two to three inches thick, Pecha said. There were three "cables" on either side of the center "light," but Pecha was not certain of their exact spacing, other than appearing regularly spaced. The pincher-like appendages were about the same length as the "cables," and they were approximately aligned with the "cables" (south-north). The pincher-like things protruded downwards and curved inwards.

The base of the UFO <u>appeared</u> elliptical to Pecha, but was consistent with a truly circular base seen at an angle, so far as Pecha could tell. Pecha drew an ellipse with a major/minor axes ratio of 1.8 to represent his view of the object as it (later) started to move away (probably from a ground distance of about forty-five feet from the edge of the UFO). The base of the UFO was approximately parallel to the ground, to within about ten degrees, I would estimate (from my on-site interview with Pecha). The UFO maintained this same horizontal orientation throughout the close and far encounters, as far as Pecha could tell.

Pecha walked towards the UFO, stopping at a point about eight feet west by about twenty feet south from the point where he first sighted the object. He told us that he stood directly under the edge of the UFO at this last spot. Pecha and the UFO were then located at geodetic latitude 39° 12'.07 (39°.2012) North, geocentric latitude 39° 00'.77 (39°.0128) North, longitude 122° 02'.20 (122°.0367) West, surface elevation about 47 feet.

If one likens the UFO's base to a clock, with 12 o'clock pointing north (N), 3 o'clock pointing east (E), etc., then I would estimate from my on-site interviews with Pecha that he stood under the edge of the UFO at about the 2 o'clock position, and that the east tip of the gable roof of the barn was at about the 5 o'clock position (with the bulk of the UFO towards the west). Our investigation determined that this distance (chord across the UFO's circular base) was about 60 feet. Hence, the UFO was about 85 feet in diameter (about 90 feet wide including the pincher-like protrusions)--or about 75 to 100 feet wide, allowing for probable error. We reached these conclusions during the initial investigation, but we did not tell Pecha about them until later.

Pecha told us that on the day of the sighting, he had paced-off the dimensions of the UFO and figured that it was about 150 feet in size. After our first visit, Pecha, on his own initiative, measured the length of his pace (32 inches, he said). Then, using his memory of where the UFO had been situated, Pecha remeasured the dimensions of the UFO as carefully as he could. On our follow-up trip, Pecha told us he came up with a better figure of about 90 feet for his UFO. Then we told him about our 75-100-foot estimate, for the first time. Thus, Pecha brought his own calculations into agreement with ours before he even knew we had found a discrepancy (i.e., Pecha's initial 150 feet versus our 75-100 feet). "I guess I wanted it to be big," Pecha remarked in explaining his early estimate.

After about a half-minute to five minutes, the UFO slowly started backing off to the west, Pecha said. At about 75 to 150 feet out, three changes occurred at the same time: (1) the cable-like things were pulled up and they disappeared; (2) the pincher-like things swiveled upward and inward about half-way; and (3) two hatches on the south and north rims swung open (the open flaps pointing to the outer edge of the upper surface) and a "spotlight" lamp came out of each opening. The "spotlights" were held out by cable-like fixtures, Pecha said. The spotlights came on as soon as they popped out. They emitted collimated shafts of "light" that hit the ground at about a 45-degree (outward) angle.

Pecha walked westward to get a better view of the UFO as it departed. He stopped next to the telephone pole-TV antenna. At this spot, he was about fifteen feet west by about two feet south of his previous position. While the UFO moved out to about a distance of 400 to 800 feet towards about azimuth 263½ degrees (west), Pecha started to see more and more of the upper side of the object.

The top of the UFO was shaped like a pointed-helmet on top of an

inverted dish. The helmet-like part had three or four (as far as Pecha could see) vertical meridian-like ribbings about eight to twelve inches high, Pecha reported. The surface of the helmet-like section looked like coarsely molded metal: Like "a casting with the slag not cleaned off," Pecha told us. But the inverted dish part, near the rim, had a fine aluminum-metal finish, Pecha said. He told us that the upper part of the UFO was visible from the light of the moon shining through broken clouds. Pecha said he could not see where the helmet-like part joined the plate-like upper side of the UFO because of the aspect angle--he still had the underside of the object in view at that point.

At about this time, Pecha said he thought about how high the UFO was from the base to the pinnacle. He did not think about the width until much later (after the sighting, in fact) for some reason. He told us on our first visit that it had looked about 15 to 20 feet high (excluding protuberances). (He gave a 10 to 18-foot figure to the Colusa Sun-Herald two days after the sighting.) Dr. James Harder and I pointed out that the UFO in his detailed drawing (width to height ratio of $2\frac{1}{2}$) prepared for the local newspaper on 12 September 1976 was too fat if it was 150 feet wide and only 15-20 feet high. Pecha answered that he had done that drawing for detail, not for width-height ratios. I redrew the object for width-height ratio under Pecha's supervision.

I did not find time to measure this new width-height ratio until after the initial visit. The resulting ratio was 5--which was still too fat for Pecha's erroneous 150-foot width figure. But it was consistent with the 75-100-foot width we had determined during the visit (information we withheld from Pecha until the follow-up trip). Our independent figure for the UFO width plus the corrected width-height ratio suggest that Pecha's height figure (estimated during the sighting) was the accurate one, not the 150-foot width estimated after the sighting. Some additional evidence for the logic and consistency of Pecha's story can be found in Pecha's independent redetermination of the UFO's width. When Pecha arrived at the 90-foot value, he was unaware of my measurement of the corrected width-height ratio because I took the drawing with me and measured it on the way home. It might be argued that Pecha remembered the proper ratio and then measured it. But, for some reason, he still did subsequent drawings for detail with the same incorrect $2\frac{1}{2}$ ratio.

Far Encounter Phase

Pecha ran into the house in an excited state. He looked out the west-facing dining room window. He saw the UFO still backing off towards John W. "Slim" Davis' house and airport. Pecha ran down the hallway to get his wife up to see the UFO. He banged against the left wall, his wife, Lenda, recalled.

"Get out of bed. You gotta see this!" Pecha screamed at his wife (as she recollected). Mrs. Pecha got up, and went down the hall. Pecha

moved into the west-facing bedroom where his son Chris, age 10, was sleeping. Mrs. Pecha went into the dining room.

From his son's bedroom window, Pecha saw two more UFOs. The objects were over the high-tension electrical power lines about a mile away to the west. Each object was between and above two towers. The arrangement was: tower-1, UFO, tower-2, open cables (this was where Pecha's close encounter UFO would soon pass over), tower-3, UFO, tower-4.

Each of these far encounter UFOs emitted two light-like beams that hit the tops of the power transmission towers each object was between. The beams were blue and all four towers were lit up in blue light. The beams were emitted outwards at 30 to 45 degrees below the horizontal. The towers held up six power lines. One or both of the highest two of these lines glowed bright red from the insulators on towers-1 and 2 out to an estimated fifty to one hundred feet on both sides of the towers, Pecha reported. (These were the same towers lit up in blue light by the UFO on the left.) The beams on towers-1 and 2 had "darker" (by this Pecha said he meant brighter, or more intense) blue "jerky" light-streams inside them, Pecha said. He said the "jerkiness" was unlike lightning or a zig-zag and it did not seem to have a phase velocity or motion. He could not determine if the beams from the UFO on the right had these "jerky" light-streams or if the power lines near towers-3 and 4 glowed red. The towers and the UFO on the right were more distant than the ones on the left. The left-hand towers were about 4,450 and 5,150 feet away (towers-1 and 2, respectively)--the lines between these towers pointed about 53 degrees off Pecha's line of sight (so he had a good view of them). The right-hand towers were about 6,200 and 7,320 feet away (towers-3 and 4, respectively). But, the lines on these latter towers are pointed only 4½ degrees off Pecha's line of sight--hence they would have been difficult to see. (The lines from towers-1 and 2 run southeast to northwest, but turn almost due west at tower-2.)

Pecha's verbal descriptions and his drawing of the scene fix the locations of the far encounter UFOs at about the mid-points of their respective transmission towers. The UFO on the left was about 4,800 feet away at azimuth 257 ±3 degrees and altitude of roughly 1.7 degrees (true height about 140 feet). The UFO on the right was about 6,800 feet away at azimuth 264 degrees and altitude of roughly 1.0 degree (true height about 120 feet). The angular size of the UFO on the right can be found from Pecha's drawing because the closeness of the towers provides a good reference frame. I measured the angular separation of the centers of towers-3 and 4 as about twelve milliradians and their respective heights as about sixteen and twelve milliradians. The UFO on the right appears to have been about 4 to 5 milliradians in width. Pecha told me this object was roughly the size of the full moon--which was about 8.6 milliradians in diameter at that time. The 4-5 milliradian figure would make the actual size of the UFO on the right about 27 to 34 feet.

The close encounter UFO, Pecha said, passed between the far encounter UFOs on a straight-line path to the hills in the distance. He said the far encounter UFOs were about equal in size and "a little bit

less than half the size" of his close encounter UFO. This is consistent with the 75-100-foot width for the close encounter UFO and the 27-34-foot width for the right-hand far encounter UFO. Pecha was not sure if the larger UFO passed directly between towers-2 and 3, or if it passed somewhat above the towers. A straight-line path from Pecha's house toward azimuth 263 degrees would allow only about 70 feet clearance between the tops of towers-2 and 3. In any event, the larger UFO crossed over the power lines at a height of no less than 100 to 150 feet. Since the UFO had been about fifty feet off the ground near Pecha, this altitude increase along the approximate 5,670-foot distance represents a linear flight path angle of about 0.5 to 1.0 degree above the horizontal.

Pecha said the close encounter UFO picked up speed and reached the mountains in the distance very quickly--on the order of one to ten seconds. He said he could tell approximately where the object was located because he could see where the blue "spotlight" beams lit up the ground and man-made structures--the beams followed the terrain. Pecha thought the UFO was over Three Sisters peaks (three 1900-foot peaks in the south-north Cortina Ridge) when he left his son's room to join his wife in the dining room. The UFO was probably over another set of three 2000-foot mountain peaks at azimuth 263 degrees which are some four miles north of Three Sisters along the Cortina Ridge. Three Sisters are at azimuth 250 to 251 degrees. Under the circumstances, Pecha probably confused these sets of triple peaks.

On a linear trajectory towards 263 degrees azimuth, the UFO would have to clear a minimum altitude of about 1850 feet to pass above or between these three unnamed 2000-foot peaks. At a distance of about 87,200 feet (16.5 miles) from Pecha, this represents a linear flight path angle of no less than about 1.06 degrees above the horizontal. (This takes into account the earth's curvature, i.e., a 182-foot drop from the horizontal at a distance of 16.5 miles.) This is almost the same as the previously determined lower limit for the flight path angle. I suggest that this means the UFO followed nearly a three-dimensional straight-line path from Pecha's location out to a distance of 16.5 miles.

Mrs. Pecha reached the dining room window at about the time a UFO approached from the same direction in which the close encounter UFO had departed--263 degrees azimuth. There probably were a few seconds then when the UFOs went unobserved by both Bill and Lenda Pecha. Hence, it would be dangerous to assume that the departing UFO and the approaching UFO were one and the same--an assumption Bill Pecha made. "It was dark 'cause there was no power," Mrs. Pecha told us. "And he (Bill) wasn't behind me, so I hollered at him. And he had gone into my son's room, which is the next room (across) from where he came and woke me up. And he was looking out the window to see if he could still see it (the UFO)."

Mrs. Pecha pulled the white shade up and looked outside. She was not sure Bill was with her at that time or a little later. "I saw this big light, which reminded me of an airplane light--like an airplane getting ready to land." She described it as a light-yellow round light with an angular size less than that of the full moon and less than that of an

aircraft landing light (roughly two milliradians). If the UFO was at least twenty-five feet in size, then distances of greater than 0.6 mile and 2 miles are indicated, respectively.

"Then, all of a sudden," Mrs. Pecha continued, "there was light coming from underneath it (the UFO) and it was shining (on) the ground underneath it." This vertically-oriented, nearly-tubular cone of "light" was frost white in color, Mrs. Pecha indicated to us. The cone of "light" followed the form of the mountains in the distance, so Mrs. Pecha was able to determine the approximate true location of the UFO. "And then once or twice I saw like an orange glow coming from the ground," where the UFO's beam struck. "So, then, my first reaction is 'Maybe it's a meteor coming out of the sky,' which I've never seen--and I don't know what they look like.... And I thought, 'Maybe this is a meteor coming out of the sky and its particles droppin' off and lightin' the ground up or somethin'.' Well, then, I knew that couldn't be right because this was a constant light--it wasn't just (an) off and on thing."

When Bill Pecha entered the dining room, he screamed at his wife (according to her account), "You don't know what I saw! We have to get out of here! It's gonna get us!" Mrs. Pecha made no move to leave the house as her husband told her to do. For a while, she entertained the notion that her husband had "flipped" because of (hypothetically) over-work or exhaustion.

"So, I looked out the window again," Lenda Pecha continued. "And it (the UFO) was starting to come towards us--or I could see it getting bigger." Bill Pecha screamed at his wife again, then looked out the window. By this time, the UFO's beam had apparently retracted from view because: (a) Neither Bill or Lenda Pecha continuously watched the UFO from their dining room window; and (b) Mr. Pecha said he didn't see the beam lowered until later and Mrs. Pecha always saw the UFO with the beam extended to near ground-level after the first lowering of the beam over the Cortina Ridge. Mrs. Pecha said she had trouble seeing the UFO itself because a tree several feet from the window obscured her view. She demonstrated to us how she observed the object: She had to stoop over, crane her head up the shade and look upwards. Neither of the Pechas could give meaningful angular altitudes for the UFO during this phase of the sighting. Neither of them could estimate time durations for this phase because of their agitation and excitement.

Mrs. Pecha works as a computer operator for a Colusa accountant and she has normal vision. We verified her visual acuity with a hand-made eye chart in good lighting at a distance of 15 feet. She correctly identified all of the dozens of colors in a plastic, color-filter pack (white paper backing) that I had borrowed from Dr. Richard Haines.

Sometime, probably durirg the approach of the Pechas' UFO, witnesses nearly two miles away, in southeastern Colusa, caught sight of what must have been the same object. Mrs. Elaine McGowen is an L.V.N. (licensed vocational nurse) who works for the Colusa County Ambulance Service. She is also a reserve radio dispatcher for the Colusa County

Sheriff's Office. Her son, Fred Morris, is a senior in high school who turned 17 years of age on 9 September 1976.

"I had gone to bed, oh, around 12:15," Mrs. McGowen recounted. "Soon after I got in bed, the electricity went off--the fan went off in my room. And I got up, went into the living room, and turned the hurricane lamp on. And (then I) walked outside to see if anybody else's lights were out--(or) if it was a fuse in the house...."

Fred was watching the same TV movie that Bill Pecha had been watching when the power went out. The rest of the family was asleep at the time. Fred's digital clock read 12:30 a.m. (according to a note he wrote later that night) when the blackout began at 12:54, indicating the clock was 24 minutes behind. Both Mrs. McGowen and her son thought their observations of the UFO took place during the last half of the blackout. And they both thought the seven-minute blackout had lasted half an hour--an error that seems to have resulted from the uncalibrated digital clock. Hence, their off-hand time estimates were greatly inflated to accomodate the erroneous half-hour duration of the power outage.

The McGowens walked south-southwest out to their mailbox at the end of the sidewalk leading to the street. Mrs. McGowen saw a light above the silver-dollar tree down the street. She saw it for perhaps a second, but she didn't pay any attention to it because she thought it was an aircraft light. Fred does not remember if he saw the light at that point. Mrs. McGowen walked northwest across her yard to reach First Street "to see if there were any lights up town further." Fred ran ahead of his mother. Their home at 58 Sioc Street is situated at the northeast corner of Sioc and First Streets.

"There was no light I could see anywhere in town," Mrs. McGowen said. "And I walked back over to where I was originally standing, right by my mailbox. And (I) looked up and the light was still there." In Mrs. McGowen's re-enactment of the event, we timed her walk to and from First Street at about three-quarters of a minute. The light was "a lot smaller" than the full moon in angular size and was as bright as 10 automobile headlights (but the size of one) a block away, Mrs. McGowen reported. (The headlight comparison works out to an angular size of about one to two milliradians.) The UFO was brilliant white in color. It was still positioned above the silver-dollar tree, at azimuth 260 ±3 degrees and angular altitude of 3 to 5 degrees. Note that the Pechas' house was about 9,140 feet (1.73 miles) away at azimuth 262 degrees from where the McGowens stood, and that the Pechas were watching the UFO come straight towards them from about azimuth 262 to 263 degrees (more on this latter figure below). The McGowens did not see the beam that the Pechas' described as emanating from the bottom of the UFO at certain times.

Mrs. McGowen variously estimated that she watched the light hover apparently motionless for anywhere from three to twelve minutes. As I noted above, this is probably a greatly inflated estimate--the true

figure remains speculative. Fred suddenly realized that the light was a UFO and he started jumping up and down in the street in front of his mother. The McGowens were located (near the mailbox) at geodetic latitude 39° 12'.29 (39°.2048) North, geocentric latitude 39° 00'.99 (39°.0165) North, longitude 122° 00'.28 (122°.0047) West, surface elevation about 54 feet.

"So I went in to get (my) big brother, Mark," Fred told us. "So I said, 'Come on outside! Mark, there's a UFO outside! Come on outside and watch it.' But he said he was too tired and (he) was going right back to sleep." Fred ran back out to watch the UFO. He probably lost sight of the UFO for between a quarter and a half minute.

"Then I made a mad dash (back into the house) to get my camera," Fred said. "But I had no film in it. So I went outside and ... watched it (the UFO)." This interlude also probably occupied between a quarter and a half minute. So the total time from Mrs. McGowen's first observation to this point was probably no less than about 1¼ minutes, including about three-quarters of a minute near the beginning when the UFO went unobserved (during the walk across the yard).

Mrs. McGowen and her son, Fred Morris, both have normal vision, as we verified with the eye chart and the color-filter pack. Fred said a doctor told him he was "blind to brown colors." But he was quite able to identify brown colors when we tested him.

Meanwhile, Bill Pecha watched the UFO's continuing advance from his dining room window. "As he (the UFO) come over Slim Davis's house ... this light (from the center of the bottom) was lowered. Now this is where I was getting pretty well terrified, because I--I don't see light that goes down and stops so far, and then they can lower it a little (more). As they (the UFO) got over the (Davis') house this light like dropped on, and it was just as bright as a flash-cube light type. It was really a bright, brilliant ... white light...."

Pecha had become more frightened than ever when the beam from the UFO lowered onto the Davis' property: "He (Bill) is screamin' at me again," Mrs. Pecha said. "So I look up (through the window) and by this time this is when I see all the lights (from the UFO) on the Davis's house." She did <u>not</u> see the actual lowering of the beam. The UFO's beam also covered the Davis' barn and aircraft hangar (Davis Aviation) on Nutter Road, she said. The Davis' house was about 2,500 feet away at azimuth 261 degrees, the barn was about 2,540 feet away at azimuth 264 degrees, and the center of the hangar was about 2,580 feet away at azimuth 268 degrees (the whole hangar covered about 266 to 269 degrees azimuth from the Pechas' vantage point). Mrs. Pecha said she thought the UFO's angular size might have been twice the full moon, i.e., 17 milliradians--"I'm not really too sure. I just remember the first time I saw it, it was small. Then when it got over Slim's house, it was big." She also said it was one-third the size of Davis' house (which I measured at twelve milliradians wide by three high), i.e., 4 milliradians. The discrepancy is probably due to the late hour of the sighting, the emotional

states of the Pechas, the difficult view of the UFO itself, and her difficulty in accurately remembering what she observed and applying the concept of angular size to the observation (difficulties Bill Pecha seemed to share). The object was nothing more than a round light in her drawings and in her descriptions.

"Well, then," Mrs. Pecha recounted, "with his screamin' and what I saw out there, I knew I better move. I didn't--to me I still did not have any idea what I was lookin' at. I--I really didn't know what it was.... I was lookin' at this light and it was scarin' me. But I could not imagine how come it was scaring Bill so much more." Mrs. Pecha last saw the UFO when it was over the Davis' buildings. Her drawing of the scene places the UFO at about 262 degrees azimuth, suggesting a small swerve southward from the original 263-degree azimuth. Mrs. Pecha never saw the other two UFOs over the power lines in the distance and she did not see the power lines at all that night. Nor did she see the "spotlights" her husband said were emitted by the UFO that approached. (Bill Pecha's observation of similar "spotlights" on both the approaching UFO and the departed close encounter-UFO reinforced his assumption that both objects were the same.) Her explanation for why Bill saw these phenomena and she did not was that she was more concerned about her husband's agitation than about the strange light outside.

"Bill's screamin' at me to get the kids out (of the house)," Mrs. Pecha continued. "And I was standin' like I said tryin' to figure out why he was so upset. And the minute I saw that (the Davis' place) light up, that really scared me. And I figured between the state he was in and what I saw of that light over there, I'd better get movin' like he told me to. I went down the hall and grabbed my daughter (Debbie) out of bed, wrapped a blanket around her.... I just went right directly out the front door into the pick-up.... I guess when I went down the hallway, Bill must've followed me...."

Bill Pecha recounted: "When I seen what it was doing at Slim's house ... I figured (pause). I didn't know what I figured. I just figured that something drastic's happened to their house, 'cause it (the Davis' house) was just glowing." The two UFOs over the power lines suddenly shot into the sky in opposite directions (the right-hand UFO to the north and the left-hand one to the south) at about 45 degrees (apparent) inclination above the horizon. (This latter information was developed by subsequent investigations carried out by MUFON and the National Enquirer. Pecha did not tell us about the departure of these two UFOs.)

Then, as Pecha lingered near the window (a few seconds after his wife left to get Debbie), he saw a reddish-amber light in the middle of the UFO brighten greatly. He had seen the light before, but he is not sure precisely when he had seen it. "And when it did this I--I was really petrified. I told my wife we better leave, you know." Pecha told me he thought the reddish-amber light was something aimed at him, or somehow intended for him. The "spotlights" on each side of the UFO had been "workin' on the ground" all along, so Pecha thought the reddish-amber light might turn into something like another "spotlight," he ex-

plained to me. He last saw the UFO when it was about half way between the Davis' property and his house (roughly a thousand feet). The McGowens, evidently, were still watching the UFO at a distance of about ten thousand feet. They saw the UFO at a spot about three to five degrees above their horizon. Thus, the true height of the UFO must have been about 500 to 900 feet.

The Pecha children were asleep in separate rooms down the hall. Mrs. Pecha carried her 5-year-old daughter, Debbie, to the Chevrolet pick-up truck & camper in the driveway. Mr. Pecha retrieved Chris, while half pulling the mattress off Chris' bed, strewing his blankets across the floor, and knocking over some chairs, the Pechas later found. Sometime before he left the house, Bill managed to put on an old pair of jeans (which he doesn't remember doing), but otherwise he was bare-chested and barefoot. Just as he reached the already open front door, the TV and the air conditioner came back on, indicating that the power had returned. According to Mr. Dale Strunk, Electrical Superintendent of the Marysville office of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the seven-day recording voltmeter charts showed that the power outage affecting Colusa lasted about 7 minutes. Hence, the blackout ended at about 0101 Pacific Daylight Savings Time on 10 September 1976.

"He got to the front door and he screamed, 'The power's on. The TV's on. They're gonna see us!'" said Mrs. Pecha, who was already sitting on the front seat of the camper. "So he ran back in and turned the TV set off." He still had Chris under one arm.

Inside the house, Pecha noticed: "The back of our house up here, the (dining room) window--the windows was gettin' lighter, and I knew it (the UFO) was comin' closer, and I was gettin' scared."

Mrs. Pecha continued: "He closed the front door. In fact, he slammed it--I remember that.... On his way out to the pick-up he was askin' me if the key was in it. I didn't even answer him. He got in here and he started it up." Pecha had left the key in the ignition earlier that day.

Pecha backed the west-facing truck into reverse. He curved to the right, making a "Y" shaped turn in the gravel driveway, so that he could reach Wilson Avenue about 170 feet to the east. If the UFO was 500 to 900 feet up at a ground distance of about a thousand feet, then it was roughly 27 to 42 degrees above the horizon. The steering wheel would have prevented Pecha from seeing anything this high if it was straight in front of him--only if the UFO had been off to his left could he have seen it. His back-up maneuver put the UFO off to his right side and behind him. Pecha had a vague impression that the UFO was coming toward him, but that may have been only a lingering impression from seeing the lighting in the dining room window as he left the house. Mrs. Pecha was worried more about her husband than about the strange light--she never saw the UFO again after she left the house.

The Pecha kids, Chris and Debbie, woke up. Ten-year-old Chris

Pecha told us, "I didn't know what it was. I thought it was my sister because she'd been sick." Mrs. Pecha told us Debbie had been sick with tonsillitis that day and that she had had a 105°F. fever. She said Chris must have thought they were taking Debbie to the hospital.

When Pecha backed up, he noticed how bright his camper's back-up lights were. He became alarmed at the possibility the UFO might see the lights as he curved to the right until he faced east. Thus the back-up lights faced west--the direction of the UFO. Mrs. Pecha said he screamed, "They're gonna see the light! My God they're gonna get us!"

Pecha turned north on Wilson Avenue and started accelerating to the camper's top speed (he "floorboarded it"). But without headlights. Lenda Pecha yelled at her husband to turn on the headlights, but he screamed back that he didn't want to (because the UFO might see him, he told us). Fortunately, there was just enough moonlight for Pecha to see where he was driving. (There are no street lights on Wilson Avenue outside Colusa city limits.) She continued to plead with him to turn on the lights, but to no avail. But she agreed that she, too, had been able to see where they were going because of the moonlight. The Pechas saw no other vehicles on the road then or later.

UFO Chase-Sequence

Pecha saw the UFO again for sure when he reached the intersection of Wilson Avenue and Hunter Road, about 1,750 feet (0.33 mile) from the entrance to his driveway. Hunter Road runs west-only from this intersection. By this time, Pecha had reached the camper's top speed of 90 to 95 miles per hour, having taken probably about twenty seconds to do so, and he was then braking to negotiate a curve in the road. Pecha drew a map of this chase sequence for us. At the Hunter Road junction, he saw the UFO to his left (in the west). He thought it was several hundred feet away, over an orchard, at about 45 degrees above the horizon. (The orchard stretches out 1,200 feet west from that point.) But he also said it was travelling at about 50 feet off the ground--this must be in error if the UFO was several hundred feet away at a 45-degree altitude. Nor would the McGowens have been able to see the UFO at such a low altitude--but they apparently did.

Pecha drove another 1,380 feet (0.26 mile) or so at 90-95 miles per hour, apparently losing sight of the UFO in the interim. This brought him to a sharp, right-angle turn in Wilson Avenue. He braked and just barely made the turn. (Pecha has several trophies from his ten years of driving cars in destruction derbies.) Just after the turn, as he headed east: "I caught it out of the corner of my left eye. It was approachin' us (from the side) at pretty fast (rate). But it wasn't catchin' up (in the forward direction)--it was just stayin' there." Some 10 to 15 seconds had passed since he saw the object near Hunter Road, and the UFO had reached its most northerly point.

Mrs. Pecha related the story of the high-speed sharp turn: "Okay, so we get down to the corner and he puts the brake on. Of course, the brake light(s) come on. He starts screamin', 'My God, they're gonna see us! They're coming after us!' Well, I never did turn around (and) look because I didn't--I still didn't know what was makin' my husband so hysterical." Since Bill Pecha saw the UFO off to his left just after this turn, his wife could not have seen the UFO very easily from where she was seated.

The McGowens were less than two miles from Pecha's truck, towards the east-southeast. They saw the UFO move northward from 260 ±3 degrees azimuth (the direction towards the Pechas' house) to 287 ±2 degrees--the latter azimuth sighting straight down Sioc Street to a point north of the right-angle turn in Wilson Avenue. The UFO maintained a constant angular altitude of 4 ±1 degrees. This corresponds to a real height of 500 to 800 feet, if the UFO was near Pecha's location about nine thousand feet away. The McGowens had moved into the street to continue seeing the UFO.

"When we first saw it (the UFO)," Mrs. McGowen recalled, "it was bright white. And then when it started to move was--is when I noticed the orange cast to it." Pecha reported that a reddish-amber light in the middle of the UFO brightened just before he evacuated his family from their home. Mrs. McGowen said the city lights came on just as the UFO stopped its northward movement. This would be about three-quarters of a minute after Pecha's TV and air conditioner came on. We have not been able to determine just how simultaneous the restoral of electrical power had been in different parts of the Colusa area. The blackout affected the entire Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company system in northern California (but not all areas were blacked-out). Though the power went out nearly simultaneously, it returned at varying times in different locations on the PG&E grid--generally between two and nine minutes after it went out. The duration in the Colusa area was approximately seven minutes--but some variation is possible. Another explanation for this discrepancy might be that Mrs. McGowen's realization that the power was back had been some time after it had actually returned.

The McGowens said the UFO seemed to come straight towards them when it stopped its northward progression. The McGowens, in their verbal account, said that the UFO went "east" at this point. But, when they reenacted the sighting for us, on-site, they showed us how the UFO had come straight at them, i.e., toward 107 ±2 degrees azimuth, <u>not</u> 90 degrees (exactly east). That being the case, the UFO probably would have had to cross over Wilson Avenue from its north side to its south side.

The McGowens' view of the UFO along azimuth 287 ±2 degrees would intersect Wilson Avenue some 1,800 to 3,300 feet east of its right-angle turn. Indeed, Pecha said the UFO passed over his truck (from Pecha's left/north side to his right/south side) sometime before he drove over the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. These tracks cross Wilson Avenue about 3,450 feet east of the right-angle turn. Just before he went over the tracks, Pecha said he saw the UFO again, off to his right/south side--that is how he knew the UFO had crossed over Wilson Avenue. (The northern

section of Wilson Avenue runs from azimuth 89½ to 269½ degrees. If extended far enough toward 89½ degrees, it would pass the McGowens' location at a closest distance of about 1,940 feet and about 8,760 feet east of its right-angle turn.)

Mrs. McGowen indicated the UFO was still smaller than the full moon (which was 8.6 milliradians). From nine thousand feet away, a 1,500 to 3,000-foot decrease in distance would increase the angular size of a 75-foot object from 8 milliradians to 10-12 milliradians. But, say, a 30-foot object would increase in angular size from 3 to 4-5 milliradians--all smaller than the full moon. This suggests that this UFO was a different (and smaller) object than Pecha's 75-100-foot close encounter-UFO.

Mrs. Pecha picks up the story from here: "He didn't even slow down for the railroad tracks. I remember we sailed over them.... So, as we got to the tracks, I remember him sayin', 'I gotta get to Les's. I gotta go to Les's.' And I remember thinkin'--I don't know. I'm still so confused (at this point) 'cause I don't know what's the matter with him.... In fact, I don't even think he even put the brakes on when we went around the corner--there's a kind of a round corner at Les's house." Leslie and Gayle Arant live at 846 Thirteenth Street, on the north (or inner) side of the curve. Wilson Avenue merges into the north-northeast-running Thirteenth Street at the Arants' home. From the right-angle turn on Wilson Avenue to the Arants' house, Pecha would have covered about 4,400 feet (0.83 mile) in about three-quarters of a minute.

"So we come around this way," Lenda Pecha continued, "and just right directly into their (the Arants') gravel and that's where he stopped." The truck was parked in front of the Arants' house, pointing north-northeast (i.e., illegally, on the left side of the street). "And he jumped out of the pick-up and left the door open. The next thing I realized was that (Bill was) beatin' on their door with both his fists, screamin' at them...." (Mrs. Pecha told us earlier, "And here we've known Les and Gayle for years. And I thought, 'My God, they're gonna think my husband is just completely flipped.'")

"We're still in the truck...," Mrs. Pecha continued, "And then, Gayle--it seemed like right away she opened the door. And I thought that was kind o' funny because there was no time for her to get out o' bed.... So, I remember Gayle sayin' something to the effect of, 'My God what's that?!'... And, of course the whole time, like I said, I never did look back. So I don't know what even was over there. I wish I would have (looked for the UFO) now. But I didn't." Indeed, because of the north-pointing orientation of the truck, Mrs. Pecha could not have seen the UFO towards the south from inside the truck.

Pecha said that as he drove towards the outskirts of Colusa, he realized that he was close to his long-time friends, the Arants. He decided to stop there because it was the first "safe" place he knew he could reach. The UFO seemed to drop behind him on his right side, so he could not see it. "As we got close to town, it (the UFO) went behind us, and I knew by that time it was gonna get us--I don't know what made me

think of things like this, I don't. But normally, I'm pretty level-headed." Pecha said he ran to the Arants' door "hysterical," and Gayle Arant answered the door right away: "She just said, 'Oh, my God, what's that?!' And I says, 'Well, that's what I'm trying to tell you, it was at the house.'"

Leslie Arant, age 36 (at the time of the sighting), is a price clerk in a wholesale plumbing supply company. He had no trouble identifying any of the colors in our color-filter pack. But his vision is poorer than average--we'd estimate about 20/30 visual acuity from our test with the eye chart. We do not know if Arant is hyperopic or myopic (more likely the latter). Gayle Arant, age 34 (at the time of the sighting), is a senior library assistant in the Colusa County Library. She had no trouble identifying colors and her vision tested as normal. The Pechas and the Arants have known each other for just over 20 years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Arant were awakened when the air conditioner stopped because of the power outage. Mrs. Arant reported to us: "I had gotten up (at) first because ... it was really hot that night. And our air conditioner was on and it shut off. And I thought, 'Gee, that's strange.' And then when I got up, there wasn't any lights on. And I thought, 'That's really strange.' And I really didn't think too much of it because once in a while we have this (blackout), you know, for some reason. So I came out in the kitchen. The dog was still whining. So I thought, 'Well, I'll feed him.' ... I had my flashlight--I was goin' around with my flashlight. And while I was in (the kitchen) here, the electricity came on." She said the blackout lasted "8 minutes--maybe not quite that long." Her husband agreed that the outage lasted 7-8 minutes --which they had determined from re-setting the digital electric clock in the bedroom. Mrs. Arant said she thought her husband told her that night that the electric clock stopped at 12:58 a.m. But, Les Arant said, "All this (blackout) took place within--from what I can remember, from, say, 12:55 'til a few minutes after 1 o'clock.... (I)t couldn't have been more than, like I say, 7 or 8 minutes of duration of the failure." (The actual time was 12:54 and the duration was about 7 minutes.)

Mrs. Arant heard a truck (Pecha's) and saw it through the south-facing kitchen window, but she didn't see anything else unusual. She saw no other traffic on the road then, or later, during her UFO sighting. She heard the truck pull up in front of her house and then she concluded that it was Bill Pecha. She noticed the time on the battery-driven clock in the living room (which is not affected by power outages) as she ran to the door. It was a few minutes after 0100, she told us.

"He (Pecha) had opened up the screen (door)," Mrs. Arant recalled, "and he was pounding on my door. At the time I got to the door he was pounding on it. I opened it." She said "he was yelling at me to look up in the sky. And when I looked up, over in the west was this large object with a white--very brilliant white--light underneath. And, you could see the outline of the top of it. It was dark in the middle, but you could see the outline. And it reminded you of a saucer--a cup and saucer--and it (the cup) was turned upside down.... It went from the west to the

east.... Bill and I were by ourselves on the porch. His wife and kids were in the pick-up. And we kept yelling for my husband.... When he finally got up, it was right at the end of it (the sighting)."

"My wife being up at that time," Les Arant recounted, "(she) answered the door and Bill Pecha was on the porch. And (I heard) his very excited voice. And I was still in bed."

Gayle Arant looked to her right and saw the UFO over the south part of her house, at azimuth 225 ±10 degrees (southwest, not west). The angular altitude could not have been less than about 15 degrees because of the house--it was probably 20 ±5 degrees. She told us the UFO's angular size was roughly that of the full moon. But, under Dr. Harder's questioning, she compared the angular size to that of a portion of a building that Harder measured out to be about 14 milliradians (almost twice the full moon). Mrs. Arant and Pecha were then located at geodetic latitude 39° 12'.62 (39°.2103) North, geocentric latitude 39° 01'.32 (39°.0220) North, longitude 122° 01'.21 (122°.0202) West, surface elevation about 53 feet, eye level on the porch about 59 feet (above mean sea level).

Mrs. Arant's drawing shows a flattened bell-like shape (dark outline seen in moonlight) with a flat bottom (luminous in brilliant white) seen as an ellipse. She insisted that the width-height ratio and all other proportions were very nearly correct. If the bottom of the UFO was circular, then her drawing represents the UFO inclined about 8½ degrees above Mrs. Arant's line of sight (minor/major axis ratio of 0.148). And, if the UFO's angular altitude was about twenty degrees, then the UFO seems to have been flying with its base tilted roughly 11½ degrees from a plane parallel with the ground. (The axis of these intersecting planes would seem to have been perpendicular to Mrs. Arant's line of sight and parallel to the ground.) Continuing under the assumption of a circular base, the width-height ratio would be 3.6. (Without an assumption as to the UFO's shape, the ratio would be 2.8.) Since the width-height ratio for Pecha's close encounter-UFO was 5, this discrepancy further supports the premise that the close encounter-UFO was not the same object that returned along the 262-263-degree azimuth and chased the Pechas to the Arants' home. Unless, of course, the UFO changed its size and shape on a large scale during these observations. Recall that Mrs. McGowen's angular size description coupled with the UFO's triangulated location at a known (and decreasing) distance suggested that the UFO that chased the Pechas was on the order of thirty feet in size, i.e., it suggested that it was not Pecha's 75-100-foot close encounter-UFO. This (assumed) actual size and Mrs. Arant's angular size estimate (about 14 milliradians) indicate a distance of roughly 2,000 feet from the Arants' house.

UFO Departure

Les Arant recollected: "My wife said, 'Les, you have to come out

here and see this.' Or something to that effect. So, getting out of bed, I grabbed the first thing I could put on. And I went out to the door. Bill was standing outside on the porch. And his first comment was, 'Les, you have to see this....' (or) 'I want you to see this. So that I won't be the only one....' So, at that time, I was looking through the storm door, which is a clear pane, glass door. And, Bill was pointing to the south. And there was a brilliant, ball of light.... I couldn't exactly tell, it being pitch dark, how high it was.... It was gaining altitude very fast. But it--to me it didn't go straight up. Instead, it looked like it was going in a southern direction at about a 45-degree angle (pointed away from me), and I watched it until it disappeared."

Arant said he saw none of the structural details of the UFO that his wife saw--it was just a round light. His uncorrected vision problem seems to be the explanation for this discrepancy.

Mrs. Arant said she saw the UFO move from her right to left, maintaining about constant angular altitude of 20 ±5 degrees. Then, it suddenly shot straight up and disappeared in roughly half a second, she said. She could not point to the spot where she last saw the UFO--hence no angular altitude for this departure point can be estimated. She first thought the UFO disappeared when it reached a line-of-sight over Colusa High School (about 175 degrees azimuth). But, later, while standing at the exact spot where she stood on the night of the sighting, Mrs. Arant showed me she last saw the UFO over in the direction of some buildings in the northern section of the Colusa County Fairgrounds, i.e., azimuth 150 ±5 degrees. Her re-enactment of the observation took about 10 to 15 seconds, not half a minute as she had estimated.

Les Arant thought he watched the UFO for no more than about the last quarter minute. But, he did not see the eastward motion that Pecha and Mrs. Arant saw. He only saw the departure of the UFO--thus, the total duration of his observation was probably only a few seconds. Arant's on-site description places the UFO at about 185-195 degrees azimuth, going from the horizon to about 10 degrees altitude, where it disappeared. We consider Gayle Arant's data more reliable than her husband's because of the shorter duration of his observation, the condition of his eyesight, and the (probable) fact that he watched the UFO through a glass window (his wife thought differently about this last point).

Bill Pecha said the UFO disappeared in the southeast, towards Sacramento (about 145 degrees azimuth). This is consistent with Mrs. Arant's revised last position of 150 ±5 degrees azimuth. The time at this disappearance was probably about 0103 Pacific Daylight Savings Time.

Some 4,820 feet away to azimuth 114½ degrees (east-southeast), the McGowens watched the eastward movement of the UFO. They had observed the UFO continuously from its northernmost point (while Pecha tried to escape in his truck several hundred feet to its south), through its motion straight towards them (nearly passing right over Pecha's truck), through its eastward displacement to some point (probably) just before its disap-

pearance as seen by the Arants and Pecha.

There were some problems with the re-enactment of this phase of the McGowens' sighting. They were inconsistent as to which portions of the telephone poles (down the street) the UFO passed behind. They were unsure about whether the UFO had disappeared by going dark like a light switched off or by passing behind the large tree across the street from them. They did settle on a spot at 195 ±5 degrees azimuth and 18 ±5 degrees altitude as where they last saw the UFO. The duration of the movement from 287 ±2 to 195 ±5 degrees azimuth seems to have been roughly 5 to 10 seconds. But, the disappearance as seen by the McGowens was not necessarily coincident with the disappearance as seen by the Arants and Pecha.

While the UFO moved across the sky, a pick-up truck came by the McGowens, going east on Sioc Street. As the truck passed by, the McGowens heard a whining or humming sound, which they think came from the UFO. "Like a high, turbine-engine sound," Mrs. McGowen said. "But there was like a whirling ... like a very high-powered machine running at a very fast rate of speed." Mark Uriarte asked if the sound was like a jet engine starting up. "No, ... you never heard it start up like a jet will start up slowly. This was all of a sudden. I mean, it was just <u>there</u>. And it was a very, very high-pitched, shrill kind of noise." She said she could hear the whine over the noise of the truck. Her son described the sound as a low "humming." Neither the Pechas or the Arants said they heard a sound that they thought might have come from the UFO at any during this entire incident.

Post-Sighting Circumstances

Mrs. McGowen's son, Fred Morris, ran out in the street and then over to First Street to make sure the UFO was gone. Then he ran to the Colusa County Sheriff's Office, two blocks away, to report the UFO sighting. A mile away, Mrs. Pecha got her kids out of the truck and into the Arants' house. Inside, Bill Pecha became concerned about the Davis' safety. He thought the beam of light (or whatever) that the UFO had lowered onto the Davis' house might have harmed them somehow. So he called the Davises on the Arants' telephone.

"As soon as it (the UFO) was gone," Pecha told us, "I told 'em (the Arants) I'd like to call Slim (Davis) and his wife--make sure they was okay. So I--I call, and the phone rang for quite a bit and I figured they were--something really happened, you know, but it didn't. She--she (Mrs. Davis) answered the phone (at last) and she said they'd been asleep. For the first time in a long time they'd retired early.... I said, 'What I'm about to tell you I don't want you to get scared,' or 'This is not a crank call.... I'm very serious. I was worried about you.... There was weird things out there at your house tonight, and I wanted to make sure that you were okay.' She says, 'Sure, we're ... both

okay. We wish we were awake so we could see it (the UFO).' And (of course) I told her who I was, because I didn't want to scare her, you know, wakin' people up out of bed at night tellin' 'em weird things. And so then, I wasn't quite satisfied yet, I called the Sheriff's department, and they said yes, it's been reported (by the McGowens)...."

Les Arant described Bill Pecha's state of mind this way: "Bill, being (in) the state of mind he was, I was concerned with him. I've never seen him exactly that way before. The man was--was distraught 'n shaking and this type of thing. And uh---." I asked him, "How long have you known him?" "Oh, 20 years," Arant replied.

Colusa City Police Department officers Bill Wheeler, age 27, and Peter C. Grevie went to the Arants' house in response to Pecha's call. (Colusa police officers had gone over to the Sheriff's Office when the power went out, thinking a jailbreak imminent.) Wheeler said that Pecha was so agitated that he touched Pecha's arm to get his attention. When he did so, Wheeler said he felt a strong electric shock. As Thomas Bowden pointed out during our initial investigation, the charge was probably collected by Wheeler who discharged it to Pecha (who was barefoot). Pecha does not recall the incident. Wheeler told us he didn't smell any alcohol in Pecha's breath. He told us he believed Pecha's story.

After the policemen left and after Pecha told his story several times, Mrs. Pecha said she finally understood what had happened to her husband. The Pechas decided to go home around three to five a.m. Mrs. Pecha drove the family home. She said her husband was still upset and she thought it would be best that she drive. Later that day, Pecha drove out to the electrical power lines that one | far encounter-UFO | had caused to glow red. But, he did not find the scorch marks or any other damage as he had expected to find.

Other Witnesses

We have talked to other potential witnesses to the Colusa UFOs. Mr. and Mrs. John W. "Slim" Davis told us they observed nothing unusual that night because they had been asleep in a room with no windows to the outside. Mrs. Davis told us that her pear tree had bloomed again about a week after the UFO sightings. She said the fruit had already been picked, but the tree was blooming again. All five of us (Bowden, Harder, Rettig, Uriarte and I) saw the blossoms on the upper south part of the small tree near the north fence of the Davis' yard on 3 October 1976. There is an extremely tall (over a hundred feet) tree in the middle of the Davis' yard, but we saw no sign of damage or unusual effect on it, or on any other bush or tree in the Davis' yard (or any place else connected with this case, for that matter).

Another individual said she saw the Pecha UFO, a Mrs. S. She de-

cided to remain anonymous when the National Enquirer entered the case. (There were two inquiries into the case prior to our in-depth investigations; the Colusa Police Department on 10 September 1976 and the Colusa Sun-Herald on 12 September 1976. There were two investigations, so far as we know, after ours, including one by the National Enquirer.)

Mrs. S. told Mark Uriarte she had gone outside after the start of the blackout on 10 September 1976. She said she saw a pulsating orange-red light hovering in the west that suddenly darted away and then came back. But she did not know how the UFO had disappeared. "I came in before it (the UFO) disappeared...," (emphasis added) she told Uriarte on 3 October 1976. "The object was not leaving when I came in." Yet, Mrs. S. told the National Enquirer in mid-November 1976: "I watched it (the UFO) go off toward the mountains and come back and then it disappeared in the south." (Emphasis added.)

Some Investigative Conclusions

We have found no evidence that UFOs in the Colusa area caused the blackout or that the cause was located anywhere in northern California. First of all, the electric power lines over which Pecha saw two UFOs belong to the Central Valley Project, a federal power project near Shasta Lake, about a hundred miles north of Colusa. Secondly, the Colusa area gets its electric power from the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company system, not the Central Valley Project. Thirdly, the City of Los Angeles' Department of Water and Power (DWP) said it was their system that caused the problems on all the other systems that are inter-tied in the Western Systems Coordinating Council (including PG&E). Officials of the Los Angeles DWP, and PG&E officials in Colusa, Marysville, and San Francisco, all state that the disturbance was caused by problems at the DWP substation at Victorville, about sixty miles northeast of Los Angeles and almost four hundred miles from Colusa. Pat Messigian of the DWP said that the Victorville substation suffered insulator contamination on high-voltage circuits during a light rain. Most areas in the western United States only experienced a drop in voltage. But some areas on the PG&E grid were completely blacked out for about two to nine minutes, and some areas on the DWP grid were out for three to seventeen minutes.

The persistent observation of lights (UFOs) around azimuth 263 degrees led me to determine the location of bright celestial objects. Azimuth 263 degrees and altitude 1.1 degrees from Colusa on 10 September 1976 (0800 to 0803 Universal Time) reduces to right ascension 17 hours: 30 minutes and declination $-5\frac{1}{2}$ degrees on the celestial sphere. The bright planets were then at:

Venus	Right Ascension:	12 hrs.	39 mins.	Declination:	-3^{o}
Mars		12	41		-4
Jupiter		3	57		+19
Saturn		8	58		+18

Hence, none of the planets could have been responsible for the lights. The brightest star within 15 degrees right ascension or declination was Rasalhague (Alpha Ophiuchi), a magnitude +2.1 star at 17 hours:34 minutes right ascension and +13 degrees declination. This reduces to azimuth 277 degrees and altitude 12 degrees at the time and location of these sightings. I think it is highly unlikely that this star was seen as a UFO during this Colusa incident.

Aircraft and helicopters are man-made phenomena that need to be ruled out as explanations for the far encounter UFO sightings around Colusa. We have not checked with airports and helicopter services by phone because it is highly unlikely that the appropriate records would be available more than a few days after the event. Letters of inquiry will be sent out in a few weeks. Finally, it is rather unlikely (but not impossible) that any aircraft or helicopter would carry a large diameter light source (Mrs. Arant's observation).

A hoax would require before-the-fact collusion among the six principal witnesses or after-the-fact collusion among these witnesses and the Colusa police officers who investigated the case. It is conceivable that such conspirators would throw together a lot of interesting details, with the initially apparent discrepancies being the result of error, poor planning, and faulty memories. But, I find it hard to believe that such conspirators would deliberately take the risk of casting doubts about any one of their members' sanity, i.e., Mrs. Pecha's report that she had thought her husband had "flipped." Moreover, all of the witnesses had had weeks to hammer out the apparent differences in their stories before we interviewed them. But they didn't.

If we assume (as is most likely) that genuine observations of "something" are involved here, the same opportunity to iron out differences has existed. But, as of the time of our investigation, none of the witnesses had taken advantage of this opportunity. Mrs. Pecha insisted that she did not see the "spotlights" or the two UFOs over the power lines that Mr. Pecha reported. Mr. Arant insisted that he did not see the eastward motion or the "cup and saucer" shape that Mrs. Arant reported. Mrs. McGowen's son, Fred Morris, insisted that he did not hear the "high-pitched, shrill" sound his mother reported, but that he heard a low "humming" noise. In fact, Mr. and Mrs. Pecha, and Mr. and Mrs. Arant, said they heard nothing at all. In other words, not only does this case seem to involve a genuine event, but it seems the witnesses cited here have honestly reported a genuine event (as opposed to dishonestly reporting a genuine event).

To give another example: The local newspaper, the Pechas, and the Arants, all quoted 7 to 10-minute figures for the duration of the 7-minute power outage. However, the McGowens insisted that they had had to adjust their clocks by 30 minutes after the blackout. Hence, they reported the blackout as having lasted 30 minutes. As I discovered later, their clocks had been 24 minutes behind, so 24 + 7 = 31 minutes, thus accounting for the apparent discrepancy. The McGowens could have just as easily rationalized their minority opinion with the majority, leaving us

with a discrepant 12:30 a.m. time to explain. But they didn't. This example attests to the McGowens' basic truthfulness. Other examples could be given to certify the Pecha's' and the Arants' basic honesty.

There was an independent MUFON investigation of the Colusa case by Robert Neville, Lois Williams, and Paul Cerny, on 9-10 October 1976. Three of us (Bowden, Rettig, and I) were pleased to witness a presentation of the results of this investigation on 6 November 1976, but we do not have a copy of the report to MUFON. Robert V. Pratt, a staff reporter for the National Enquirer, conducted an investigation of the case on 11-16 November 1976. We have examined copies of the Colusa UFO story draft (which will not be published by Enquirer) and Pratt's edited interview transcripts.

Pratt has gathered further (personal) testimony to Bill Pecha's integrity. Colusa City Police Chief Raegene Cation told Pratt, "I've had him (Pecha) work on police cars.... He seems to be reliable. I've never known him to stretch the truth or make up anything. I've known him for several years...."

Pratt asked, "To your knowledge, he's pretty reliable and honest?"

Chief Cation answered, "Yes, yes."

"And (he's) not the kind who would make up wild stories?" Pratt inquired.

"No, he wouldn't make anything up, no. He's not that type." Chief Cation replied.

Lt. Frank W. Hubbell of the Colusa County Sheriff's Office told Pratt: "He's well known in the community. He's beyond reproach."

Pratt asked Lt. Hubbell, "So, he's not the type to make up something frivolous?"

"I wouldn't think so," Lt. Hubbell replied. "I mean, he honestly believes he saw something. Maybe he did.... As far as I'm concerned, he's a good citizen of the community. I don't think he's inclined--he saw something. No question in my mind about that...."

Pratt asked Colusa City Police officer Bill Wheeler (who investigated the case minutes after it ended), "Can you vouch for his (Pecha's) honesty? Is he likely to make up stories?"

"I've never known of Mr. Pecha to make up stories or to even tell any tales (or) to stretch the truth," Officer Wheeler responded. "He's not that type of person."

Mr. Wilmer G. Brill, publisher of the Colusa Sun-Herald, told Pratt: "He (Pecha) has a good reputation. The best."

On the other hand, between our interviews with Pecha on 3, 9 and 10 October 1976 and Pratt's interview on 16 November 1976, certain discrepancies crept into Pecha's story. For example, Pecha described the close encounter-UFO's "spotlights" to us on 3 October 1976:

> "... and out comes these two little things ... and they had a spotlight on the end of 'em.... And the light was perfect round--a tube of light, like a shaft of light, and they did touch the ground." (Emphasis added.)

At one point in the Pratt interview, Pecha described the "spotlights" just as he had described them to us. But, later in the interview, Pecha told Pratt:

> "... these lights came out ... and when they hit the ground, it was just the same size, just like it hit a spot, but never a beam or a shaft or tube of light." (Emphasis added.)

One explanation for this inconsistency might be that Pecha's memory is fading and that details are getting mixed up. Another explanation might be that an external influence was brought to bear on Pecha, causing him to become confused, between the time we talked to him and the time Pratt talked to him. Indeed, there was a separate MUFON investigation and interview with Pecha between our investigation and Pratt's. There is some evidence that the MUFON investigators were an external, confusing influence:

Pecha told us on 3 October 1976 that the two UFOs over the power lines were "a little bit less than half the size" of his close encounter-UFO. Six weeks later, Pecha told Pratt that a MUFON investigator had insisted differently:

> "One fellow told me they must be the same size, just farther back." (Emphasis added.)

It is one thing for a UFO investigator to argue his own interpretations in a published paper or in a discussion with his colleagues. It is quite another matter for an investigator to try to impose his own simplistic notions on the witness. Such behavior is reprehensible. If the MUFON investigators have an explanation for this, I would certainly appreciate hearing it. And, if it is a good, reasonable explanation, I will retract this criticism and make the appropriate apologies.

In my opinion, we have nearly reached the limit in obtaining scientifically useful data from the Colusa witnesses by conventional means. A few more reliable details may have been turned up by investigations subsequent to ours. An analysis of the other reports on this case will be done if and when they all become available.

NOTE: All reductions of geodetic latitude to geocentric coordinates are based on the NORAD flattening constant, $f = 1/298.324 = 3.35206 \times 10^{-3}$. This differs from the constant adopted by the IAU, $f = 1/298.25 = 3.35289$

x 10^{-3}.

Read brackets for parentheses inside all quotations herein.

Brad C. Sparks

Brad C. Sparks

Info cys: P. Cerny
T. Gates
R. F. Haines

1 February 1977

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B. V. Pecha telecon with C. E. Lorenzen, 1 October 1976.
C. E. Lorenzen telecon with B. C. Sparks, 1 October 1976.
B. V. Pecha telecon with J. A. Harder, 1 October 1976.
T. R. Bowden, J. A. Harder, D. N. Rettig, B. C. Sparks, and M. A. Uriarte interviews (3 October 1976) with: B. V., L. and C. Pecha; L. and G. Arant; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davis; B. Wheeler; W. G. Brill.
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B. C. Sparks and M. A. Uriarte interviews with:
B. V. and L. Pecha (9, 10 October 1976);
L. and G. Arant (9 October 1976);
E. McGowen and F. Morris (9 October 1976).
B. C. Sparks telecons with:
Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company, Colusa office, 29 October and (Mr. Barnes) 2 November 1976;
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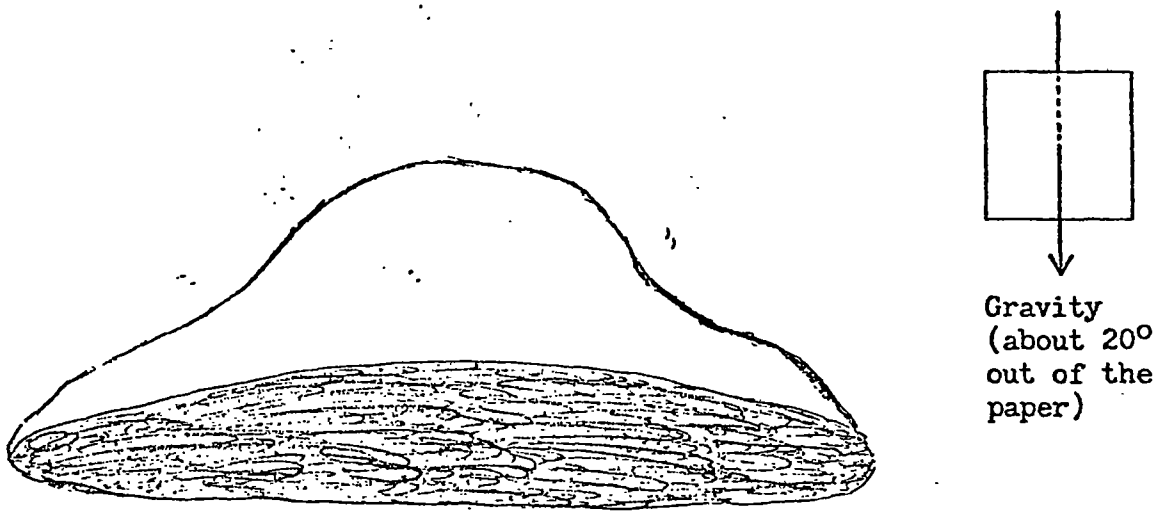
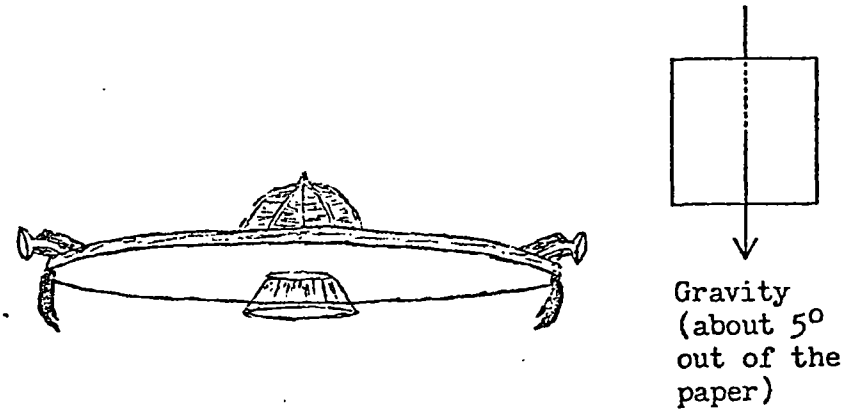
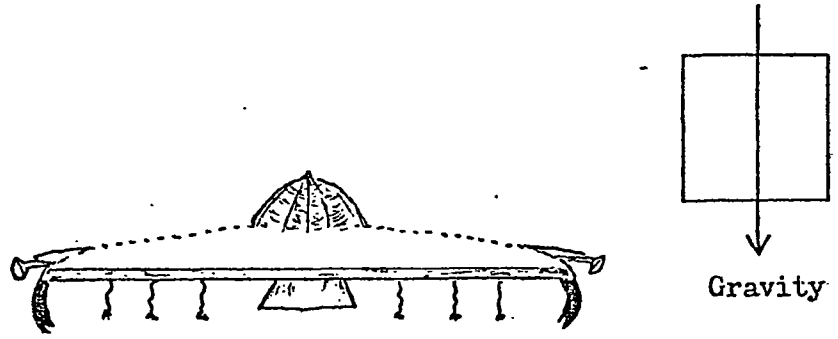
PG&E Company, San Francisco division, (Mr. Paul Gerard or Girard (refused to give exact spelling)) 29 October and (Mr. Don Baxter) 2 November 1976.
Ms. Pat Messigian, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, 29 October and 2 November 1976.



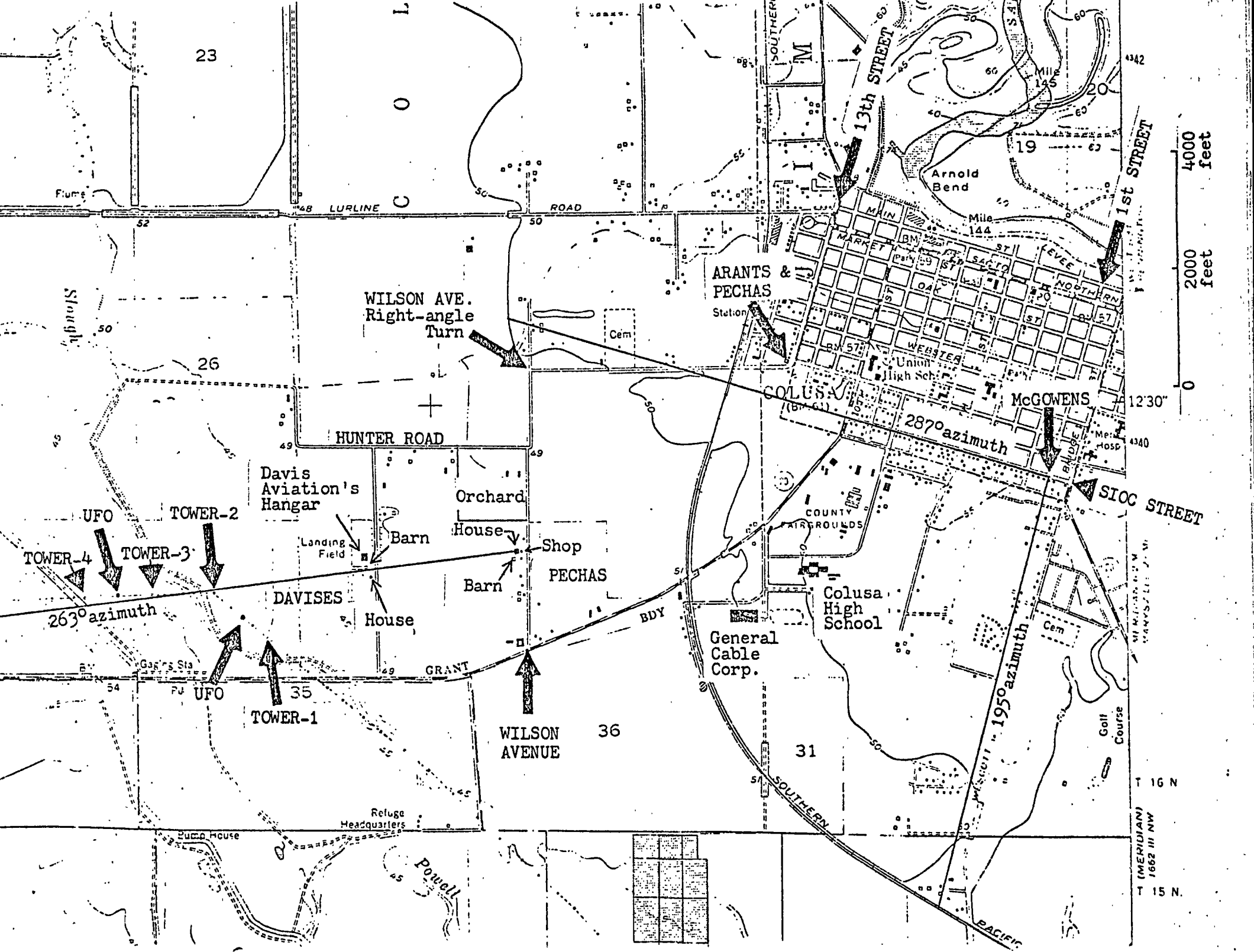
Negative image of UFO observed by Mrs. Arant, based on her drawing of 3 October 1976.



Pecha's approximate actual view of the close encounter-UFO as it departed. Width-height ratio corrected to 5:1. Distance about 500 feet. (Sky was black and cone of white "light" illuminated underside.)



Simulated side-view of Pecha's close encounter-UFO. Dotted lines are portions of the outline Pecha never saw close enough to represent accurately. Details are combined (the "cables" actually retracted and disappeared when the "spotlights" came out). Width-height ratio corrected to 5:1. Based on drawing by B. C. Sparks done under Pecha's supervision, 3 October 1976.


WILSON AVE.
Right-angle
Turn
HUNTER ROAD
Davis
Aviation's
Hangar
Landing
Field
Barn
Orchard
House
Shop
PECHAS
Barn
House
DAVISES
UFO
TOWER-2
TOWER-4
TOWER-3
263° azimuth
UFO
TOWER-1
35
36
WILSON
AVENUE
GRANT
BDY
ARANTS &
PECHAS
Station
COLUSA
(BM 61)
McGOWENS
287° azimuth
SIOC STREET
13th STREET
1st STREET
Arnold
Bend
Mile
144
Mile
145
Union
High Sch
COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS
Colusa
High
School
General
Cable
Corp.
195° azimuth
Golf
Course
SOUTHERN
PACIFIC
Refuge
Headquarters
Powell
Slough
LURLINE
ROAD
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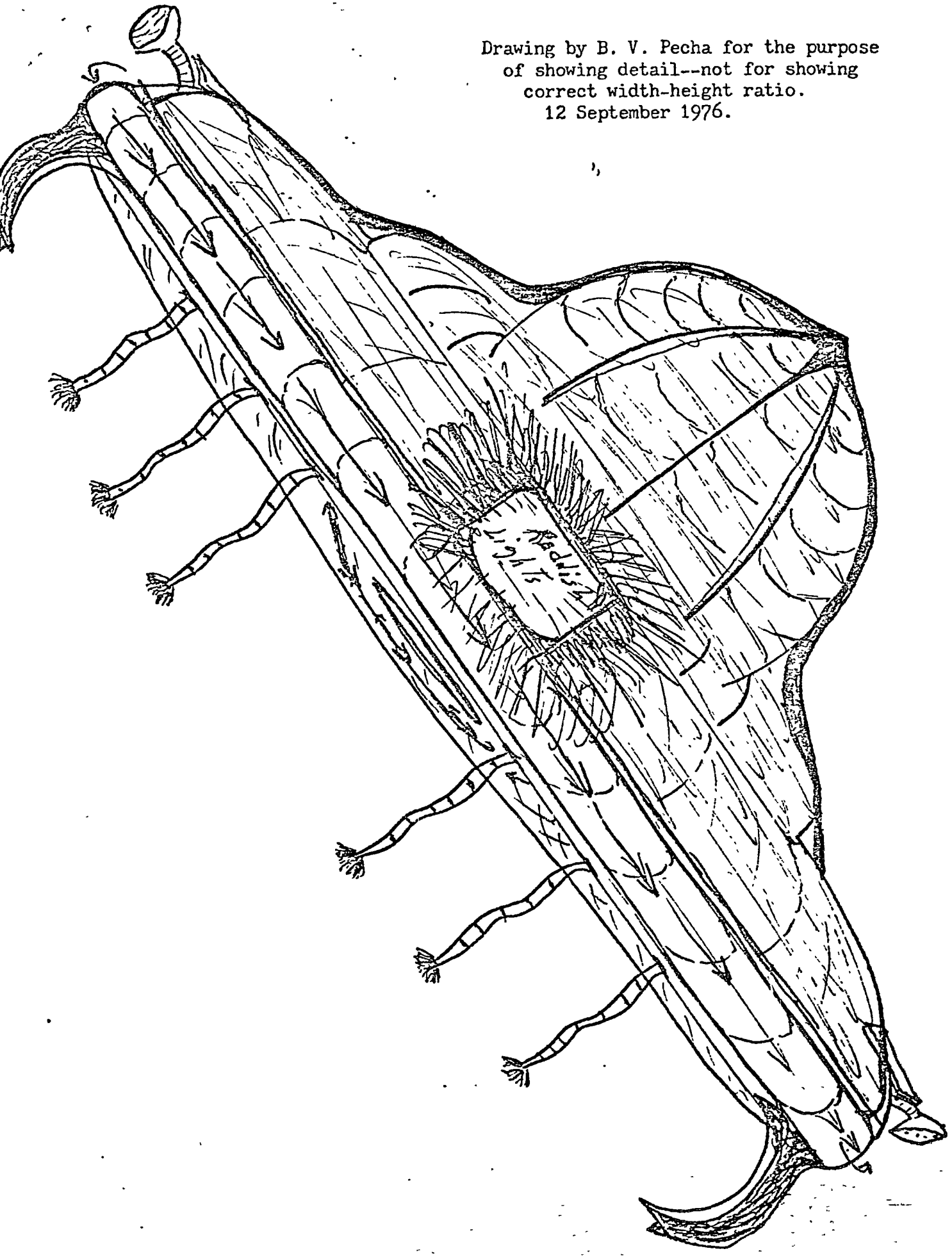
Drawing by B. V. Pecha for the purpose of showing detail--not for showing correct width-height ratio.
12 September 1976.