

# the apro bulletin

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APRIL, 1977

## INDIANA PHOTO CASE

### Quick UFO Test Looms For New Prophet Uri

By Robert Treash

Uri Geller's new shift from metal-bending and clock-staring to prophesying UFOs over California inaugurates a big new interest in Uri-watching and ufology circles. He predicts that "within the next six months, there will be a spectacular rash of UFO sightings over California. Within hours after the first reports, there will be inexplicable black-outs in the San Francisco Bay area. Hundreds of cars will suddenly stop for no apparent reason."

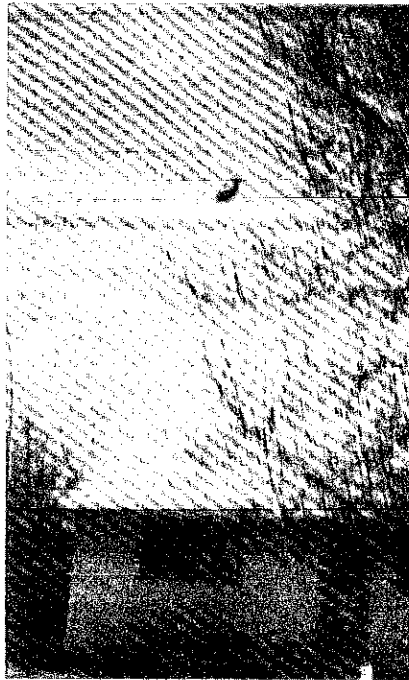
This prediction, made exclusively in the *National Enquirer* for November 9, 1976, marks Uri's first venture into prophecy, the graveyard of many earlier top psychics' reputations. Will Uri's forecast prove genuinely inspired by UFOs, or will those six months come and go without confirmation in our physical reality? His future public standing may well be affected drastically by whether those Bay Area UFOs perform on schedule.

This dramatic test case of Uri's prophetic powers needs careful consideration by ufologists, most of whom have neglected in-depth study of his reputed links with UFOs since childhood. According to his biographer Andrija Puharich, who introduced Uri from his Israeli obscurity to the world's scientists and media, Uri is "just a Western Union messenger boy for the UFOs," who intend to "use him for the next 50 years."

Assuming the UFO entities do actually have such lengthy intentions for Uri's future guidance, how much sense would it make for them to inspire him to this mass car-stopping prediction unless they intend to carry it through? Can they afford to squander the credibility of such an attractive human UFO-agent by not "producing" the events he predicts? In that same interview Uri dashed off 6 other mind-boggling predictions, all of them products of "visions deep in my mind — I lock my powers on them and begin to see events happening like a slow motion film."

In his autobiography *My Story*, Uri repeatedly disdains any personal power. "I always keep in mind that the forces or

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(See Column Three)

### Astronomical UFOs

By David Huestis  
*Astronomical Society  
of Rhode Island*

Look! — in the sky, it's a bird, it's a plane, no! — it's a UFO!!!

Unfortunately it may be neither of these. I've been interested in UFO's for 10 years now, and since that time I've pursued countless reports of alleged UFO sightings. But amateur astronomers, myself being one, have an edge on the average person. We know what's visible in the night sky at any given time. The good reports I've read about are the daylight sightings of clearly defined physical objects. But the ones I'm particularly interested in are the reports of lights in the night sky — which for the most part are inconclusive. Although I do agree that the lights that performed erratic and violent maneuvers were probably not of this earth, I do believe that many of the reports describing stationary lights that twinkled and

(See UFOs — Page Five)

On March 10, 1977, at between 3:30 and 4 p.m., Ricky Brandenburg, 13 had just arrived home from school in Indianapolis, Indiana, when he saw an object coming out of the north at low altitude. He at first thought it was an airplane, but it made no sound and had an odd shape. His mother and a neighbor were in the yard and he called to them, "Look, a UFO." They paid no attention, so he ran into the house and got his Instamatic camera which was loaded with color film in preparation for a projected visit to the Museum of Science and Industry. He ran into the yard and began snapping pictures. The object made a 360° circle above the neighborhood, during which time Ricky snapped nine photos. Of the nine, only three clearly showed the object; they were numbers six, seven and eight.

After the object completed its sweep of the area it went back into the north and "just disappeared in the clouds." Ricky then went inside and told his parents. His father, Morce Brandenburg, told Field Investigator Fritz Klemm that he at first didn't believe Ricky but when the photos were developed he was convinced Ricky has really seen and photographed a UFO.

Photo number six shows a dark disc-shaped object with what appears to be a transparent dome against a blue sky and scattered clouds. Number seven shows the object further away than number six, but under a powerful magnifying glass, a slightly orangeish tint is visible on the lower part of the object. On number eight, which is considered to be clearest of the three, the area just above the rim of the disc shows an orangish hue.

Weather conditions were the following: Wind out of the SSW at 13 knots, temperature 65 degrees, barometric pressure 29.145 and steady. As noted earlier, there were scattered clouds. Mr. Klemm was not able to accurately check the air traffic because he could not pinpoint the exact time of the sighting.

These photos have been examined by Dr. B. Roy Frieden, APRO's Consultant in Optics, Dr. Daniel Harris, APRO Consultant in astronomy, as well as other members of the headquarters staff and are considered to be genuine.

See our next issue for an excellent photo case from Mexico which contains three of the most clear UFO photos that have ever been taken.

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## Letters

Reference: "Two Reports From Japan" by Vance Dewey, APRO Bulletin, November 1976.

The authenticity of the Kofu, Japan, humanoid sighting is supported by: (1) the fact that there were two witnesses; (2) the fact that neither sought notoriety; and (3) the marginal corroboration provided by Kono's parents who did detect the presence of a "luminous orange light shining in the middle of the vineyard."

Thus, assuming the authenticity of this report, its significance and relationship to the entire UFO Phenomenon must be determined. Originally, two lights had been sighted; one proceeded towards Mt. Atago while the other "continued towards the boys". When they became frightened and hid, it departed the area. Had their presence been detected? If so, it is logical to assume that their reaction was monitored and that, since fear was in control, it was decided that little would be gained by a more involved encounter.

When the boys later came upon what is apparently the same object, "the light took off to a considerable height, then landed again near the center of a grapevine trellis". It would appear that the

presence of the two witnesses was detected a second time. As a result of their earlier reaction, likely coupled with a knowledge of the usual fear-ridden reactions of most humans, it was initially determined that it would be best to depart. But, because the boys were slowly approaching this time, as opposed to the previous encounter in which they had hidden themselves, that course of action was dropped; the ship landed and permitted the witnesses to approach more closely.

Both examined the landed object. Unexpectedly, they then found themselves confronted by a humanoid described as "1.3 meters tall with dark brown skin, pointed ears, no eyes, nose nor mouth and walking with his toes turned outward. There were wavy wrinkles all over his face, and three silver-colored fangs about five cm long pointed down from the usual position for a mouth. The head was remarkably large compared with the body, and was completely bald." The unusual appearance of the entity in a silver-colored suit, coupled with the detection of the presence of a second being inside the craft, caused both boys to become frightened and to flee.

Their flight was momentarily halted when the entity "patted Yamahata twice on the left shoulder". If, as is suggested, this action was designed to further test the reactions of the witnesses, it succeeded admirably for both "turned around and had a closer look at the humanoid's face". The unknown had responded to human fear by the peaceful act of the placing of a hand on the shoulder of the witness and had given rise to curiosity which temporarily took the place of fear.

In addition, the entity then attempted to communicate with the boys. Of far greater significance than any message is the act itself for such an effort demonstrates existence and lack of hostile intent. Considering that the members of the two groups were in such close proximity, these beings had ample opportunity to do as they willed with the boys. Yet, what we find is a decidedly friendly gesture.

After the attempted communication, the boys again took to their heels and entered Kono's house. Shortly thereafter, the light disappeared.

If we assume the existence of beings engaged in a program designed to culminate in open contact with the inhabitants of this planet when the time is deemed right, then such an incident as the above takes on a special significance. Analysis of the sequence of events reveals: (1) the deliberate act of permitting the witnesses to approach the craft and crew; (2) the deliberate showing of that crew to the witnesses; (3) the testing of the witnesses to a chance encounter with the unknown; (4) the testing of the witnesses to the physical appearance of an unknown being; (5) the countering of fear by a decidedly peaceful gesture; and (6) the purposeful act of *at all times* permitting the witnesses to determine

their course of action as opposed to those cases in which witnesses have been compelled to approach and board the mysterious craft.

Beatrice Zimmer

## Foss Episode Reoccurs

Another UFO sighting episode has surfaced in the events encountered at Milbank, S.D., on March 1, 1977. Mike Foss who previously experienced close encounters with UFO's on November 27, 1976 and December 11, 1976 (See *APRO Bulletin* Nov. 1976) predicted the return of a UFO. An investigation conducted by W. L. Moore has provided the following information relative to the latest encounter.

Mike Foss, 27 year old radio dispatcher for the Milbank police department, was watching TV at his parent's home at 7 P.M. on the evening of March 1, 1977. A sudden blast shook the house with the intensity of an airplane crash. The TV lost its picture, the pets became frightened, and Mr. Foss ran outside to determine the cause. The sound was described as the roar of a jet engine at close range.

Outside facing the barn and hog house, he noted a large "black football or oval shaped object" passing over the house in a westerly direction. He returned to the house and noted through the window in the northwest a thin lens shaped "pale blue green or turquoise glow" either on the ground or above it. The view to the west in the direction of the barn became obliterated with a haze.

He dressed quickly to go to town to a friend or to his parents at a restaurant. He went to the garage and noted the glow had disappeared from the field to the northwest. Near the garage there was a "horrible, raunchy smell". Foss experienced a burning sensation in his eyes and throat. The odor was strong like the odor of a burning electrical transformer. He decided not to drive as the car had mechanical problems from previous defects.

Foss called a friend who arrived a few minutes later. The two drove into town to get away from the excitement. Foss was definitely "shook up", frightened, and apprehensive about why the objects "keep coming back". Even a day later when he spoke with investigator Moore by phone there was noticeable tension in his voice.

A search of the area on Saturday, March 5, was hampered by a previous two day snowstorm and proved useless. A visit to the farm of Mr. Floyd Daille yielded further details. Mr. Daille confirmed that he had been driven out of his house the previous Monday or Tuesday evening by a "blast" similar to that of a low altitude jet. He noticed nothing unusual, however, he did not

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## The Colusa Case

By Brad Sparks

### Conclusion

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:  $-3^\circ$

Mars  
Right Ascension: 12 hrs. 41 mins.  
Declination:  $-4^\circ$

Jupiter  
Right Ascension: 3 hrs. 57 mins.  
Declination:  $+19^\circ$

Saturn  
Right Ascension: 8 hrs. 58 mins.  
Declination:  $+18^\circ$

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 the 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 newspapers, 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 Pechas' 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. Bob 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 . . ."

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## Colusa

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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."

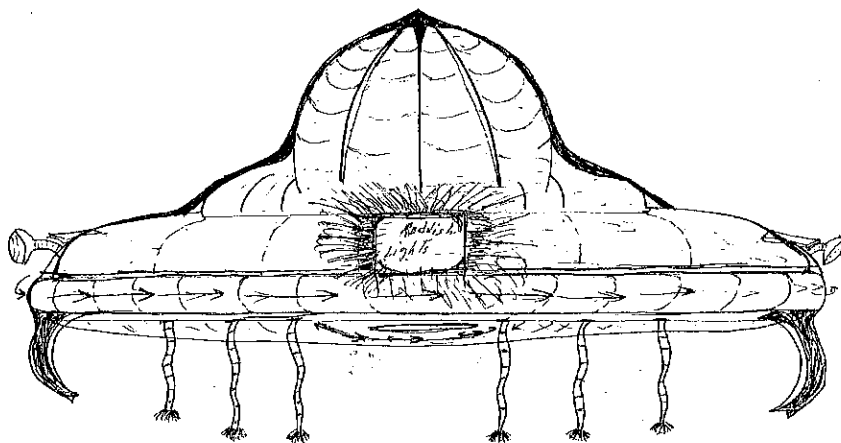
Mr. Wilmer G. Brill, publisher of the *Colusa Sun-Herald*, told Pratt: "He (Pecha) has a good reputation. The best."

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

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 unfortunate. If the MUFON investigators have an explanation for this, I would certainly appreciate



Drawing by B. V. Pecha for the purpose of showing detail—not for showing correct width-height ratio. 12 September 1976.

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:

hearing it. And, if it is a good, reasonable explanation, I will retract this criticism and make the appropriate apologies.

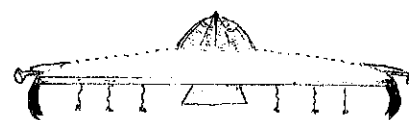
In my opinion, we have nearly reached the limit in obtaining scientifically useful data from the Colusa witnesses by conventional means. A few more reliable details may have been turned up by investigations subsequent to ours. An analysis of the other reports on this case will be done if and when they 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,  $f = 1/298.25 = 3.35289 \times 10^{-3}$ .

Read brackets for parentheses inside all quotations herein.

### References

- 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



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.

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.

M. A. Uriarte telecons with E. V. McGowen and Mrs. S., 3 October 1976. 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. V. McGowen and F. A. Morris (9 October 1976).

B. C. Sparks telecon with: Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Company, Colusa office, 29 October and (Mr. Barnes) 2 November 1976.

PG&E Company, Marysville office and substation, 29 October and (Mr. Dale Strunk) 2 November 1976.

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.

See map of Colusa sighting locale inside back of the Bulletin mailing cover.

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## Notice

Several changes are being made in order to give our members more information for their fees. To conserve *Bulletin* space, the names of our Consulting Staff will be published only twice each year. However, new consultants will be announced as they join.

Also, APRO has purchased an offset press and will soon be printing the *Bulletin* at reduced cost, enabling us to produce an 8 page issue monthly.

## Indiana

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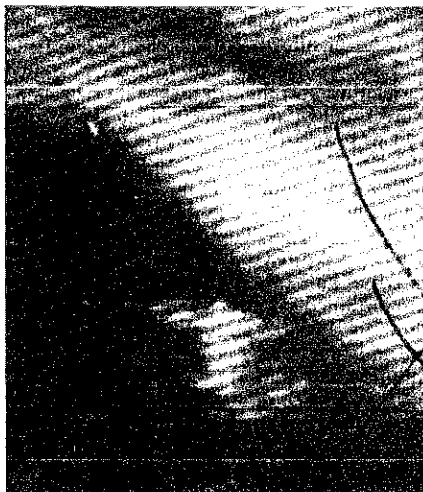


Photo Number Seven  
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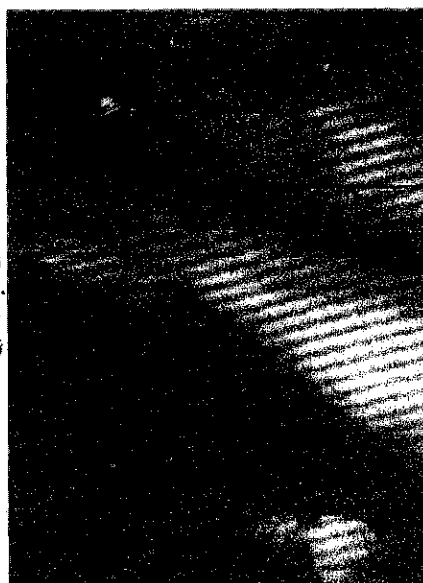


Photo Number Eight  
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## Geller

(Continued from Page One)

energy are not really mine; they are just on loan from the cosmic forces . . ." (p. 46). Further he states, "I don't even like to use the term 'UFO' because to many people it's never been credible . . . But even though I don't know what they are, I know they exist . . . I feel that so much of everything goes back to that Arabian garden in Tel Aviv so many years ago," when he was three years old. At that time he was overwhelmed (p. 96) suddenly by a "very loud, high-pitched noise in my ears," and a "silvery mass of light" descended from the sky directly overhead,

knocking him out. Puharich reads this incident, recaptured more fully under his hypnosis in the 1970's, as Uri's initial UFO contact.

One tape recording automatically produced by the UFO entities supposedly told Puharich in 1973, "We want these things done, we can do them through you . . . We have to look upon this as a long term contract between you and us . . . you must put in some real effort. We shall cooperate, but you will have to exert yourself." No one can deny that Uri Geller has been putting in a prodigious amount of effort. He has appeared before masses of people on TV and stages in the U.S., England, Germany, Japan, etc.; been tested by scientists in labs at Stanford Research Institute, King's and Berbeck Colleges in London and elsewhere; stopped an aerial cable car and an escalator in Munich; stopped the liner *Renaissance* dead in the water for an hour en route to Italy by bending its main fuel line; surviving run-ins with military authorities in Oslo, Menlo Park and London when "his" strange powers inadvertently fouled their own electronic systems. These achievements are not inconsiderable; there has never been anything like them!

Uri asks, ". . . why I was being pushed from inside my mind to communicate with as many people as I could, whether on TV or in a lecture hall, or through an album, a motion picture, or a book. I guess my inner feeling, my inner voice, will tell me when to stop. In the meantime, I am compelled to let people know more, to educate them somehow."

It should be recalled that the rise of Uri Geller to his sensational fame on the Israeli stage began in March 1970. Ufologists will remember that period as one when UFOs were in temporary eclipse in the public eye because of the Condon Committee's cover-up report. It is conceivable that Uri's grooming in psychokinetic powers represents another, newer approach to revelation to the public of other-worldly powers, shortly to be linked up with UFOs themselves.

Uri's "compulsion" to educate may be understood as a life-long "programming," as many incidents later attest. One day he randomly snapped a newly-bought Polaroid camera picture of the New York City skyline. A minute later the print "showed a well-defined UFO in the sky." On another occasion while flying over Germany, his camera reportedly levitated into his hand; he then took some shots at random out the window, resulting in a shot of 3 UFOs invisible to the eye before.

In Israel, Puharich and Uri, responding to the latter's hunch, met a landed UFO. In a trance-like state Uri went aboard, only to return shortly with a cartridge from Puharich's fountain pen which had been locked in a box on Puharich's hotel dresser. Such an illustration of dematerialization, rematerialization, and teleportation in direct association with a UFO, underscores the heavy

overlapping investment being made by the unknown intelligences in their control both of UFOs and Uri's "powers".

Given this record, would it not be prudent for Bay Area ufologists to be pondering, at the very least, what moves they should make in case Uri's mass car-stopping prophecy comes to pass? A useful, educational check could be undertaken in advance to see how prepared members of UFO investigating organizations would be to confront such a short-of-landing test. A tightening up of capability to observe, monitor, and record events, as well as comment on them in an enlightened fashion to the public and authorities, would seem to be minimal public service against any possible panic.

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## UFOs

(Continued from Page One)

changed a variety of colors were, and still are, nothing more extraordinary than misidentified astronomical phenomena.

But how can mistakes like this be made? The answer is unfortunately simple and pitifully true. The problem is that most people have their heads to the ground and don't bother to look up at the sky. A person not knowledgeable in the field of astronomy, even those "reliable" and "prominent in the community" witnesses will often jump to the wrong conclusions based on what they THINK they see. How? On one occasion they just happen to look toward the heavens after not having done so for quite some time. Thus, being unfamiliar with what's in the night sky, the observer can easily make such errors in identification. The human mind simply fills in the embellishments.

What conditions contribute to these possible misidentifications? The summer 1976 skies were devoid of exceptionally bright stars and planets. However, the approaching winter skies presented UFO field investigators with "noise". Venus, exceedingly brilliant in the early evening sky, and Jupiter, visible throughout the entire night were prime candidates for spurious UFO reports. They have been reported to me as UFOs during October and November mainly because of their brightness.

In addition, bright stars are also reported as UFOs because of their brilliance combined with their "twinkling" due to atmospheric turbulence. The star's elevation off the horizon can also play a key role in the star's appearance. A combination of the above conditions can cause the star in question to appear to sway back and forth (similar to the falling leaf motion, except exceedingly small — but noticeable), to spectrally change visual colors, and also to twinkle like a pulsating or rotating light source. The key stars to keep tabs on in the winter sky is Sirius, shining at magnitude — 1.6 in the constellation of Canis Major. Sirius is the brightest star

(See UFOs — Page Six)

## Foss

(Continued from Page Two)

have a view of the Foss house because of a barn obstructing the view. Mr. Daille did remark that other people in the area had noticed the blast but had not seen anything.

Mr. Foss and family are very respected in their area. The explanation of repeat sightings and why they "keep coming back" as stated by Mr. Foss is not readily evident. It should be noted that the Foss barn contains an all-steel silo. This unique barn possibly might be somehow connected with the incident. A radio transmitter and huge electrical generating plant less than 10 miles distant lie in a straight line pointing east. Although the importance of these facts may not be readily apparent, they should be noted for the record.

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*New Address? P P  
Please Notify Us!!!*

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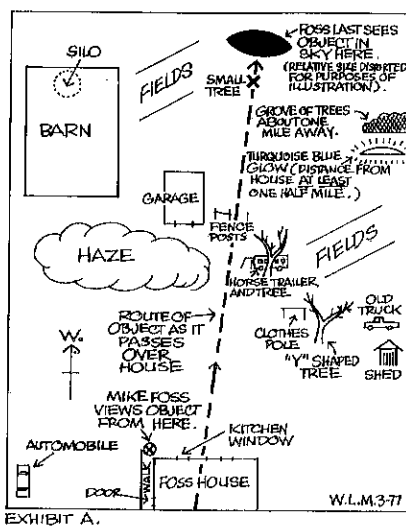
## UFOs

(Continued from Page Five)

seen in the celestial sphere.

Incidentally, I debunked a local sighting of "a multicolored saucer that hovered in the southeast portion of the sky . . . at about 2:45 in the morning" on October 12, 1976. Policemen misidentified Sirius in this case. No doubt about it. They later confirmed my explanation by looking for and seeing Sirius in the same positions on subsequent nights. Also, on the same night (October 12) a UFO supposedly crashed in an adjacent town, but the details describing the object in flight aided in identifying it as an exceptionally bright meteor. Case closed!

However, the damage had already been done by the reports being printed in the local paper. Both reports were combined in an article designed to create sensationalism. Needless to say, it was all built up on the erroneous identification of natural astronomical phenomena. So to all APRO readers, especially the field investigators, don't forget to compare the sighting data with all available astronomical data when analyzing an alleged UFO sighting. *Sky and Telescope* magazine is a good source of references for star and planet ephemeris, including the brightness/magnitude of the more prominent ones. The "noise" in the "signal to noise ratio" must be reduced as much as possible. The public should not be deluded into thinking every alleged UFO sighting seen in print has no logical or natural explanation. The public believes everything they read now, so let's not allow an elite organization like APRO to contribute to this common delusion.



were standing near him, one at the foot, the other at the head of the bed. He struggled to get up but felt paralyzed and could only wonder at what was going on in front of him. Strangely, he felt content and fearless as the two figures spoke to each other and then to him. The two men were small, 4 or 5 feet tall at the most, and were smartly dressed in a 2-piece suit of soft, dark-colored cloth-like material with a belt around the middle. Each had a face helmet or glass bubble pushed back behind his head. The man at the head of the bed appeared older and had a receding hair line. Both were "beautifully proportioned". Neither walked but floated through the air. Both figures spoke with the man for what seemed a minute, and intimated to him that they would come back and see him again. All at once, one of the visitors said to the other, "I think he's waking up on us, we'd better go." The two figures then just disappeared in front of the astonished man. As this happened a hissing like air coming out of a pipe could be heard.

As the two figures disappeared, the man no longer was frozen to the bed. He burst up, landed on the floor, got up and rushed out to the back of the house which faces south. He saw nothing out of the ordinary, and returned to find his wife awake. She too had been awakened by the two figures, and she too felt paralyzed as she could do nothing but look on at the cosmic visitors.

Unknown to both of them, a neighbor directly to the east was awake at the same time and looked out his window and observed a bluish brilliant globe in front of their house. The globe appeared to be at least 25 feet in diameter, and slowly lifted off the ground and gradually accelerated to the north. Like the visitors, it just suddenly disappeared before it was even a quarter of a mile away.

The second case also involves a night visitor standing watch over people as they sleep. In reading over it I couldn't help wondering if the episode wouldn't have been perceived differently if it happened today; and yet be generated by the same source. Perhaps even the fact that in both episodes the clothing worn by the visitors was noted in detail is significant. This second case took place well before UFOs were on people's minds - or at least before things called UFOs were on their minds. As well documented, there are many records of airships across North America in 1896 and 1897. Not quite a decade earlier two young prospectors in California went through an experience reported in the Calgary (Alberta) *Tribune* of April 8, 1887 as follows:

(To Be Continued In The Next Issue)

## COSMIC VOYEURS - 19th AND 20th CENTURY STYLE

By John Brent Musgrave

The UFO experience is neither new nor unique. Whether this experience is due to extraterrestrials, ultraterrestrials, the human psyche or what have you, it's been part of the human condition for some time. I've recently come across two episodes, some from the 19th century, and one which occurred not long ago, which appear at first glance to be variations on the same basic theme and which may give some clue to understanding one class of UFO sightings. Perhaps, as some believe, all occupants associated with UFOs are coming here from some equivalent of Zeta Reticulae. But it seems to me that what I refer to as the cosmic voyeurs are cases which seem least like physical visitors from nearby star systems, and most like ultraterrestrials, or at least involve an interplay of the human psyche. Typically, in this kind of experience a person awakes from sleep to soon discover a figure or form standing nearby either in the house or at the window. Quite frequently at about the same time a light or UFO is seen in the vicinity, whether by the person being "observed" (or who is having something displayed), or by an independent witness.

Such an episode took place in a small farming community in central Alberta during the morning of August 8th, 1961, and was collected by Bull Holt, Investigations Chairman for the Edmonton UFO Society. The principle witness was awakened from his sleep about 3:30 a.m. It was already approaching dawn, and he could clearly make out the two men who

## THE BULLETIN BOARD

With the previous issue of the *Bulletin* we initiated a new packaging format characterized by this new mailing cover which will serve an additional function as a "bulletin board" for announcements of current interest, field investigation tips, advertising, etc. It is a throw-away containing material of short term interest, or, as in the case of FI tips, material that will presumably be detached and made part of a FI notebook. It also provides a means of carrying advertising without sacrificing regular *Bulletin* space.

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APRO recently acquired its own offset printing press. As a sort of tongue-in-cheek project to emphasize the world-wide nature of the UFO problem we have printed some bumper stickers which simply say "FLYING SAUCERS ARE REAL" in six different languages in various combinations of three languages per sticker. They are printed in black lettering on a fluorescent orange backing and are now offered for sale at 60¢ per sticker or 2 for \$1.00 postage paid in the following combinations (order by number):

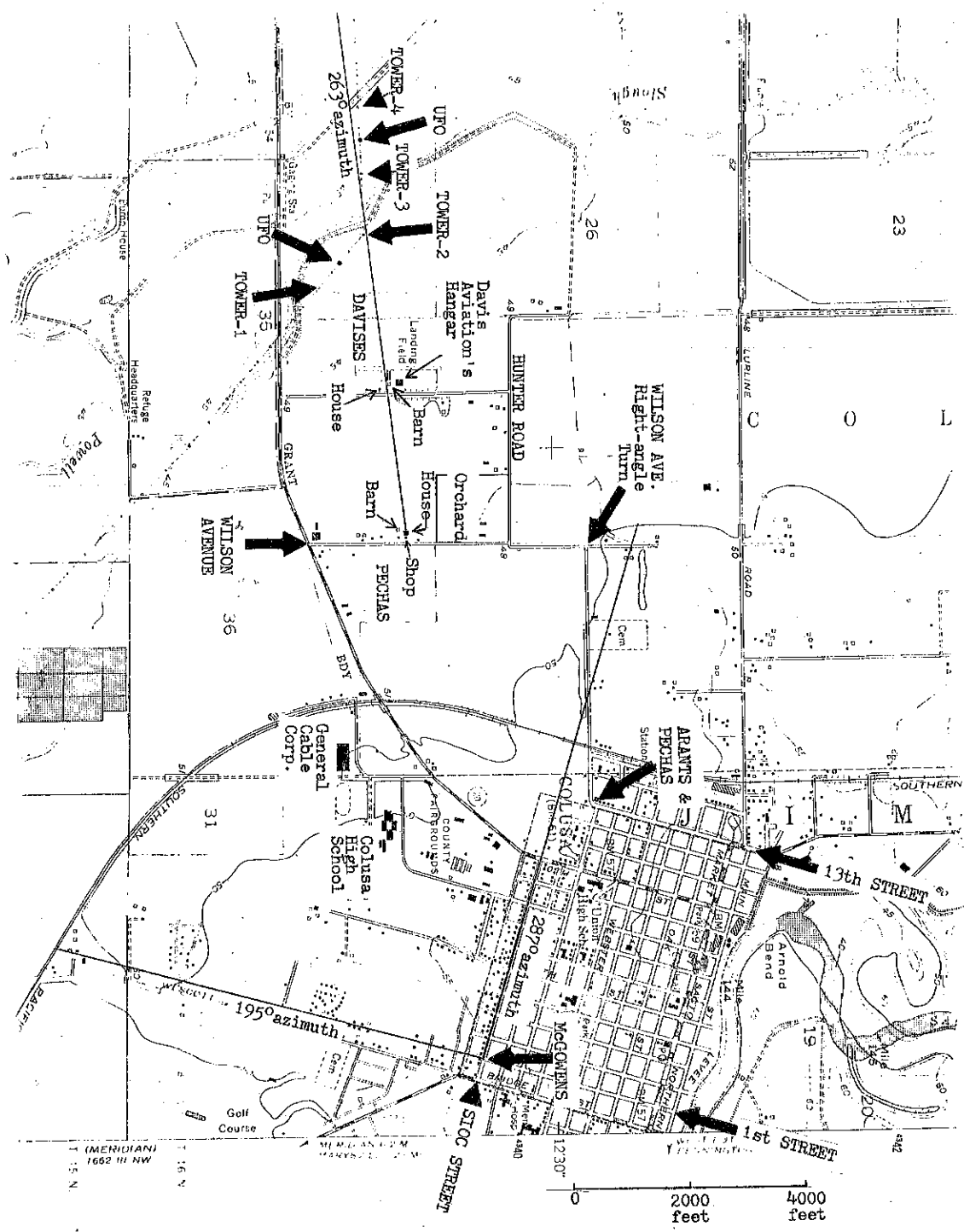
1. spanish, italian, english
2. french, russian, english
3. portuguese, german, english
4. spanish, russian, english

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Dr. R. LEO SPRINKLE was asked to contribute a chapter to a new book entitled "ABDUCTED!" planned for release about November 1977 (C. & J. Lorenzen, Berkley, New York). He responded with a paper entitled "Hypnotic Time Regression Procedures in the Investigation of UFO Experiences" that is so timely and appropriate that we asked his permission to release it as a special publication. It was distributed to the speakers panel at the Acapulco UFO Convention where it received much favorable comment. We think that every FI would find this very illuminating and helpful. 42 pages, \$1.25 postage paid.

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