

the apro bulletin

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Low Lights in Louisiana

By Ted Peters

Possible Canadian Abduction

By Michael Sinclair
APRO FIELD INVESTIGATOR

British Columbia is a relatively low activity area for UFOs as compared to New England, U.S.A., for example. On the 5th of January, 1977, a young man had a very close sighting and upon investigation, I learned of other sightings which occurred in the same general area since 1975. Those will be related in this report and others dating back to 1969 are now under investigation.

Date of Sighting: January 5, 1977

Time: 4:10 A.M.

Location: Highway 16, 20 miles west of Prince George, British Columbia, Canada

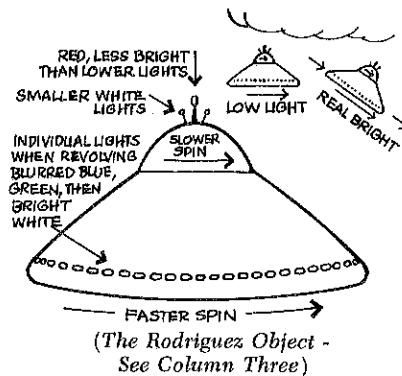
Witnesses: Two

Weather Conditions: Clear night

One of the witnesses is a young man of 17. He is bright, serious and responsible, and since he wishes anonymity, he will be referred to as Bill. Attempts are now being made to locate the other witness. Driving west on Highway 16, Bill noticed a slightly elongated red light through the passenger window, at an elevation of about 15°, one inch at arm's length and hovering above high voltage power lines. At the same time, Bill saw a car coming toward him in the distance. When the vehicles were about 300 yards apart, the light swooped down behind the oncoming car, made an abrupt 90° turn, passed very low and very fast over the oncoming car and headed straight for Bill.

At this time, Bill feels that a red beam of light originating from a dome on the object, was aimed at him. He felt a tingling sensation all over his body. His car engine, radio and headlights ceased functioning and he fainted. The last thing he remembers before passing out was swerving to the left to avoid the object which was then about 30 feet away. Bill was awakened by the other witness. Dazed and weak, he was helped out of his truck and both men discussed the incident. The man said he saw a red light in his rear-view mirror, then an object passed him at high speed at which time he fainted also.

Apparently they were unconscious for about 20 minutes, and when the other
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UFO Stops For "Repairs": Saskatchewan 1933

By John Brent Musgrave

Even as late as the mid 1930's, much of the prairie provinces of Canada was still on the frontier of immigrant settlement. Particularly in the northern areas, homesteaders were just beginning to open up the land to commerce and agriculture and such luxuries as telephones, paved roads, and electricity were things of the future. The town of Nipawin, Saskatchewan, is situated in the northwest corner of the province and in the '30's was on the edge of this settlement. During the summer of 1933 stories drifted into Nipawin that some homesteaders as well as a forest tower ranger had been observing strange lights in the sky and near the ground. Whatever it was, they had been seeing it for the better part of a week. The land to the northwest of Nipawin, near the Tobin Lake area, is made up of rolling hills and low lying marsh. Parts of it had begun to be farmed just a few years earlier, and it was without improvements. Because of the local marsh, most of the townsfolk who heard about the strange lights explained them away as swamp gas - a convenient scape-goat that still gets used today.

Fortunately, not everyone in Nipawin was convinced that the stories were based on nothing more than "hot air"; and shortly after midnight that summer night two men and a woman (names known to the author) jumped into a small pick-up truck and drove to the area where the lights were reported to have been seen.

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The first two months of 1977 have brought heavy UFO activity to the state of Louisiana and eastward. On the night of January 15, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Digangi of Chalmette watched a bright light hovering near a water tower just off Judge Perez Highway. They were driving west and through the windshield viewed what appeared to be three lights chained together. Mrs. Digangi told me that it seemed "very close" and remained steady at an altitude of approximately 500 feet for a ten to fifteen minute period. The following Tuesday, January 18, their teenaged daughter and girlfriend saw the same object near their home on Jackson Blvd.

On Friday night, January 21, two nutria hunters, Irwin Menesses and Robert Melerine, were given a dramatic fright when an intensely bright object which emitted heat closed in on them. While motoring along a bayou near the Yscloskey Shell refinery, the giant light dropped down on them to an altitude of 65 to 75 feet. Melerine's hair stood on end and the boat stopped. Although the outboard engine continued to churn water, the boat remained stationary. The men ceased to move — although they could speak — as if their bodies were being held in suspended animation. When the light suddenly left, the boat lurched forward with such force that the men were thrown down in the boat. The UFO could be seen for another half hour making a sort of inspection tour of the Shell refinery and the Yscloskey water tower.

Two different sightings have been reported for the following night, Saturday, January 22. Two brothers, Mark and Damian Boudreaux, stood on the porch of Mark's house on Milan Street and watched the maneuvers of a reddish-orange light over the western part of the city. It was first seen hovering. Then it moved southward, stopped, reversed direction, and headed north. Damian had worked at the airport and knows how conventional aircraft appear at night. This object, he told me, "was much bigger and brighter and did things airplanes cannot do."

On the same night and to the east of New Orleans, a near landing was witnessed in Chalmette. A car full of six, three adults and three children, turned north off Judge Perez on to Jean Lafitte Parkway. Through the left windows they

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Lights

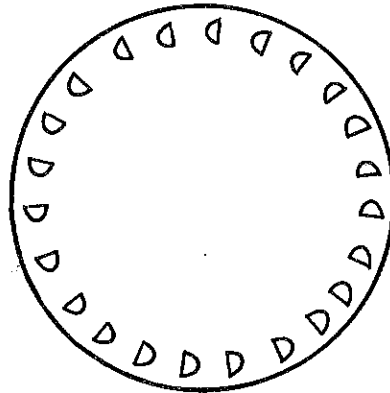
(Continued from Page One)

watched a dome-shaped craft with red and yellow lights and what were thought to be propellers which danced about in the sky. The witnesses parked in the middle of the boulevard to watch the show through the windshield. The machine bounced and dipped behind the trees only 2,000 feet in front. After 10 minutes it angled sharply and dipped down into the forest for the last time. The frightened group drove home in awe, deciding to tell no one. It was not until February 12, that another UFO field investigator, James La Chute, and I were called in. An examination of the area revealed no landing traces.

On Tuesday night, January 25, Mrs. Claire Wetta spotted a mysterious glowing light just north of the I-10 expressway near City Park. It was a cigar-shaped object, longer and narrower than the Good year Blimp and it emitted two distinctly different shades of bright green. She described it to me as "phosphorus looking . . . and long and bubbly . . . and glowing." After 15 seconds, it suddenly blinked out. It did not fly away but simply turned off. It was too high to have slipped behind a tree or building.

On Tuesday, February 8, Mrs. Gayle Rodriguez and her son, Brian, watched a similar UFO show by a rather differently shaped object. Driving east on St. Bernard highway they saw a brightly lit silvery colored craft which flew across the highway in front of them and began a course parallel to the road.

Its movement was in uneven spurts, shooting forward and then stopping. On one stop it tilted toward the car. It was shaped like an upside down saucer with a flat bottom and a dome on top in the middle. Near the bottom edge could be seen a row of individual lights which merged into a single blur when rotating. The lights changed color, alternating between blue, green and bright white. Atop the dome were three lights on the ends of which appeared to be antenna: two small white lights, and one larger red light.



**VIEW OF BOTTOM WITH
LIGHTS SHINING THROUGH HOLES**

(The Rodriguez Object)

The following night, February 9, an unusual object was sighted east of the Louisiana border in Madison County, Mississippi. Deputy Sheriff Ken Creel along with Deputy James Luke responded to a call that a UFO was seen in the area five miles west of the town of Flora. They were driving along Cox Ferry Road toward the house of Fred Grant when suddenly an unidentified aircraft flew to a position directly above the car. It hovered at an altitude of 20 to 50 feet. It shone a bright light and caused radio communication interference.

It was watched from further away by five independent witnesses one of whom was Hubert Roberts of the Flora Police Department. Roberts' police car was standing on a gravel road off the main highway near Bogue Chitto Creek. The officer blinked his headlights as a signal, and the UFO reportedly blinked two of its lights in apparent response. Mr. Roberts told investigator La Chute that it was "sort of round" with portholes and "very bright". When it departed, it shot off with great speed.

And there is one more. Two Navy Patrol Gunboats, the USS Tacoma and

the USS Welch, were sailing to New Orleans for Mardi Gras on February 17 when they encountered a strange light about 4:00 A.M. Their position was 85° 50' x 25° 45', 140 miles west of Ft. Meyers, Florida, when the light approached them from the west. I talked to the officers on the bridge of both ships and was told the light appeared white at first. It then grew in intensity and turned amber. Then all of a sudden it blinked out.

A few observations are in order. Although UFO activity seems to have been quite heavy, the individual sightings together do not reveal any pattern. Independent confirmation of some of the cases have come in, but there seems to be no relation between cases other than geographical proximity. Witnesses in no two cases seem to report the same object; each object's description is quite different from the others'. However, all of these are night sightings — some are close encounters type I — and it is more difficult to see shapes in the dark. It would be premature to rule out the possibility that the same craft was seen more than once.

We have here such a large number of sightings in such a short period of time that it appears we have a flap on our hands. Skeptics argue that is, reports of UFO's on TV and in the newspapers cause others to begin to see things in the sky. It is important to note that the media has played no role in this flap. There has been only modest reporting of UFO's in the news. The people who claim to have witnessed mysterious flying objects have been for the most part unaware that others have too. Is there really somebody or something out there that has come to visit us?

UFO's in Holland

Mr. Douwe Bosga, one of APRO's more active Field Investigators in Holland, reports that July of 1976 was a very active month for UFO sightings in his country.

On July 1, 1976, at Kalmthoutse heath near Putte in Belgium, three boys, Aad Hofman, 16 years old, Sjarle de Sitter, 15 years old, and Leo Vid. Tillaant, 18 years old, were on a camping trip and out walking with about twenty other young people. Just before 10:00 P.M. the rest of the group went back to the camping area, but the three boys stayed a while longer since it was a beautiful, clear evening. Soon after the others left, the boys observed what at first appeared to be a very bright star high in the sky. The light grew larger and closer until it was about 200 meters away and above the trees. At that time it appeared to be about the size of a quarter at arm's length. After about
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The Colusa Case

(Continued from the February Issue)

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 the 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 not see the actual lowering of the beam. The UFO's beam also covered the Davis' barn and aircraft hanger (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 hanger 268 degrees (the whole hanger 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 size of 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's 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 drawing and in her descriptions.

"Well, then," Mrs. Pecha recounted, "with this 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 departing 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 here . . . 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 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 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 explained 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 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 are 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 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 into 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 children, Chris and Debbie woke up. Ten-year-old Chris Pecha told us, "I didn't know what it was. I thought

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Colusa

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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 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 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 had 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 comin' 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 toward the east-southeast. They saw the UFO move northward from 260 ± 3 degrees azimuth (the direction toward the Pecha's 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 restoration 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 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 re-enacted the sighting for us, on-site, they showed us how the UFO had come straight at them, i.e., toward 107 ± 2 degrees azimuth, not 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 $89 \frac{1}{2}$ to $269 \frac{1}{2}$ degrees. If extended far enough toward $89 \frac{1}{2}$ 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 70 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 round corner at Les's house." Leslie and Gayle Arant live at 846 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 (See Colusa — Page 5)

Colusa

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seemed like right away she opened the door. And I thought that was kind of funny because there was no time for her to get out of 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 could 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 AM. 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 . . . (It) couldn't have been more than, like I say, 7 or 8 minutes from 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 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 there 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 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 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 $39^{\circ} 01'.30$ ($39^{\circ}.0220$), North, longitude $122^{\circ} 01'.21$ ($122^{\circ}.0202$) 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 $8\frac{1}{2}$ 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 $11\frac{1}{2}$ 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 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 and 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

(See Colusa — Page Six)

Colusa

(Continued from Page Five)

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 $114 \frac{1}{2}$ degrees (east-southeast), the McGowens watched the eastward movement of the UFO. They observed the UFO continuously from its northern-most 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 place (probably) just before its disappearance 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 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 slowly. This was all of a sudden. I mean, it was just there. 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 nor the Arants said they heard a sound that they thought might have come from the UFO at any time 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' safty. 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—to 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 here, you know, wakin' people 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 this way before. The man was—was distraught 'n shaking and this type of thing. And uh—" I asked him, "How long have you know 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 was 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 policeman 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 of two far encounter-UFOs 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, Rittig, 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 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 decided 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**.)

To Be Continued In The Next Issue

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

Repairs

(Continued from Page One)

They were not disappointed as the glow on the horizon gradually grew brighter as they drove on. After driving as close as the rough trail would allow them, they got out and hiked through the woods in the direction of the glow. They were blocked a quarter of a mile or less from reaching the source of the glow by a strip of muskeg that was too boggy to risk going onto in the middle of the night. But it was close enough. From their vantage point they were able to make out that the light came from a large oval shaped object that was domed at the top and slightly rounded on the bottom. It was supported by legs; and from a central doorway or hatch about a dozen figures could be seen going up and down a ladder-like stairway. The occupants appeared to be slightly shorter than the average man, and were all dressed in what appeared to be silver colored suits or uniforms. All appeared to be wearing helmets or ski caps, and all were busy running around "repairing" the craft.

All was a strange sort of quiet, even though the occupants were busy scurrying about. Not a sound could be heard. The three witnesses stared in silent amazement at what was going on; no one even thought to speak out. The bright orange glow that emanated from the craft lit up the surrounding area, and the three of them had no difficulty spying on the activities. The light from the craft was not only bright, but had an "unearthly" quality never seen by any of them before and added to the mystery of the scene. After about a half hour the three of them returned to the truck and started back to town hoping to find a way around the muskeg to get a closer look at the strange machine parked in the middle of a marsh miles away from the nearest farmhouse or forest tower. But when they finally did come across a cut-off trail that might take them closer they realized that they didn't have enough gas to take them in and out. So they had to return home that night.

It was not until a couple of nights later that they were able to make a return trip out. It was a clear night with almost a full moon, and they hoped to get an even better view. But this night the object was gone. No trace of the glowing craft could be seen from the vantage point of two nights previous, and they returned to the truck to await dawn. They then walked back in across the muskeg to see if any evidence of what they had seen was left. And there was. Six large square imprints that must have been the bases of the legs that supported the craft proved that there indeed had been something there that night. Each imprint was the same size - 2 to 2½ feet square, and approximately 8 to 10 feet apart. The imprints were 2 to 3 inches deep, and reminded the three of them of the kind of mark that would be made by boiler plate stomped into the ground. They could also see markings

where the base of the stairway met ground. As if this wasn't remarkable enough, a great burn mark in the center of the area covered a circle approximately 12 feet in diameter. They looked for foot prints but found none though there was some scuffling of the vegetation surrounding the spot where the craft had been.

They came better prepared this time. One of the witnesses had brought along a small brownie box camera and took photographs of the burn marks and of the imprints. Later two of them wrote up an article about the whole affair and submitted it along with copies of the photos to a number of magazines and newspapers in Canada. But no publication was interested, and those publishers that replied wondered what kind of party they had been to those nights. Like many other UFO witnesses the three of them soon learned to keep their experience to themselves. In the course of the 40 plus years since the incident, the original photographs have been lost by the witness who took them, and who had learned the hard way that they were apparently of no interest to anyone else. Perhaps copies of them are still in existence stored in an attic or sandwiched between vacation shots in some photo album. If they are ever uncovered they may prove to be the earliest photographs of a physical trace case where there were witnesses, and which even had occupants as well.

Abduction

(Continued from Page One)

witness came to, he found himself standing next to his car with Bill's truck facing it a couple of feet away. He found Bill sitting in the passenger seat and woke him up.

Neither witness could figure out why the vehicles were in such a position since they were both traveling over 60 mph when they passed out. They looked for skid marks on the pavement and found none. They looked for damage to their vehicles and found none. After a few minutes they headed for their vehicles and went their own way. With much apprehension and shaking badly, Bill made it home and immediately called his mother and told her of his ordeal, after which he went to a friend's place who confirmed Bill's highly agitated state (the interview took place at this friend's place).

Bill remembered many details but had difficulties putting the whole thing together. After many sketches we arrived at this description of the object:

Thirty to forty feet long, elongated, dark and dull green body. Bright deep red and glowing elongated dome, which served as a jet fighter and the only light source on the object. One stubby webbed wing on each side in the middle. The surface was rough such as the back-side of a crocodile. A large circular base, 15-20 feet in diameter, protruded under

the object. Bill noticed about a dozen specks of light in the dome and recalls no sound coming from the object. He had bad dreams during the next three nights and headaches would come and go during the days. His watch which worked perfectly before the sighting now stops frequently. When he left the scene of the sighting, he noticed that the battery was nearly dead and had difficulties starting his pick-up truck, a '77 GMC, 350 V8, which had never given him any trouble since he bought it. The other car is a late model (74 or 75) Pontiac LeMans.

Bill's boss said he's convinced the events took place and that the witness was still quite shaken when he came to work the same morning. When I met Bill, eleven days after the sighting, he seemed to be feeling fine with no after-effects.

The following sighting occurred at Fort St. James in January 1976 (exact date unknown).

It involves Mrs. Inger Larsson as principal witness, Mr. Eugene Larsson and their son Kurt. At around 5:00 AM, Mrs. Larsson was preparing breakfast when her attention was caught by a very bright white-yellow light, at ground level, about a thousand feet away. She walked up to the window for a better look and saw the light rise very slowly at an angle in a southerly direction. The object, at first partly hidden by a small hill, showed itself in its entirety and looked like a sphere with two stubby wings in the middle. The witness doesn't think it was a rim seen on the edge. As the object was rising, it was also spiraling. She called her husband, who, with Kurt, joined her to observe the object's slow departure. Its size was estimated at about 100 feet in diameter. The object slowly disappeared in the distance, low over the southeastern horizon.

Computerization Project

L. J. Lorenzen, APRO's International Director, will announce the establishment of a major computerization project at the forthcoming International UFO Congress in Chicago. The project is the culmination of several years of planning, data gathering, and programming efforts by numerous people. Allen Benz, APRO's Staff Librarian, will be in charge of the project. Field Investigator David B. Trout will handle the programming and other technical aspects. Details will be provided in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

Holland

(Continued from Page Two)

three minutes the light suddenly moved in the direction of the boys and stopped right above them about 500-650 feet altitude. The boys became frightened and started to run. Leo fell and the others stopped to wait for him. When they looked up, they saw 5 white lights in an oval shape with a bright red light in the middle. The moment the red light appeared, the boys became cold and the heath around them was bathed in red. The boys started running again, and again Leo fell. At that moment the object, which had hovered silently for a few seconds, began moving toward a few low hills in a westerly direction. The boys started running again and while running thought they saw a white dome behind one of the small hills. When the object had moved toward the hills, the lights had dimmed and the object itself could not be seen anymore, although it had not gone behind the hills.

The boys ran until they caught up with the group, and reached the camping area together with the others. After telling their story to the rest of the group, the police were called. Since Putte is a rural area, the police had to come from Steenberg, which took three hours.

At about 1:00 A.M. the police arrived and went with the boys to search the heath. Nothing was found except a very bright light above the trees to the north, which turned out to be the star Capella.

Later, the boys were questioned separately by the military police. Each said that when the object had been directly above them, they had heard a soft buzzing sound and could no longer hear the crickets. They couldn't tell if this was because the buzzing had been louder than the crickets or if the crickets had been silent during the time the object hovered.

However, they noted that the red glow and the coldness disappeared when the lights on the object dimmed. While the lights were dimmed, the boys could clearly see a metallic-looking oval object about 36-60 feet long.

The fact that the boys all told the same story under the expert questioning of the military police, plus the fact that they had been very frightened, indicates they were probably telling the truth.

Neither the Dutch nor the Belgian Air Force had any aircraft in the air anywhere near Putte that night.

A second sighting of probably the same object occurred on the same night at approximately the same time. The witness, Mr. V. D. Broek, a federal policeman in Putte, was sitting in his garden with his wife and two of their friends. At about 10:00 P.M. Mrs. V. D. Broek saw a bright light coming from the border. It appeared to be square with at least forty very bright lights on its body. Mr. V. D. Broek ran into the house to get his binoculars. When he returned, all he

could see was what appeared to be a mushroom-shaped object with dimmed lights along its edges.

All witnesses heard a low buzzing sound and all agreed that it was not an airplane although Flight 373, a Boeing 727, flying from Brussels to Goteborg, Sweden, was right above Putte at the time of the sighting. The witnesses said the object was much lower than the 18,000 feet of the Boeing 727.

A third sighting took place in Denekamp, Netherlands on July 22, 1976 at about 10:04 P.M. An astronomer, Mr. G., a teacher, Mr. K., one or two traffic controllers at Twente Air Force Base and five other persons observed a very bright light in the southern sky moving from east to west. At first, Mr. K. thought it was a satellite, but almost immediately dismissed this idea since there are no satellites that travel east to west above Holland. The witnesses observed the light for about three minutes. Seen through binoculars, it appeared to be one steady bright light and two flashing lights. The lights finally disappeared at the horizon. The next day a relative of the astronomer told him he had seen the same phenomenon from his house in the nearby village of De Lutte.

Using elevation measurements from the two areas, they estimated the light to have been at an altitude of about 8,400 feet.

At Twente Air Force Base, almost next door to the observatory, the personnel there confirmed the sighting and admitted that they were quite stunned. The light had been observed through binoculars from the control tower and the only difference with the observation in Denekamp was that, seen from the tower, it looked like one steady light with three flashing lights rather than two. The controllers contacted Nieuw Millingen, Holland's most important radar base. They were told that nothing had been seen on the radar screen.

For quite a few years phenomena of this type have been observed in the Denekamp area. They have been seen by people from the observatory and the personnel of Twente Air Force Base. Officially, the Dutch Ministry of Defense maintains that no UFOs have ever been seen above the Netherlands. Because Air Force officers did observe the phenomenon seen on July 22, 1976, the Ministry of Defense has been asked for an official comment concerning this sighting, but there has been no comment as of this report.

A fourth sighting from this general area occurred on July 3, 1976, in Cadzand, Netherlands. At 3:15 P.M. four witnesses, a couple from Oostburg and two unknown Belgian tourists, saw a silvery-gray object in the sky at an estimated altitude of 2,500 feet. It had been hovering in the same spot for about five minutes, when it suddenly came down at terrific speed. It stopped about ten feet from the ground and hovered there for about three minutes. It was estimated to

be 25 feet long and 6 feet high with rounded edges and a kind of black band on top. The upper side appeared to be corrugated. At this time the object was about 70 meters from the witnesses. After about three minutes in this position, the object suddenly took off straight into the sky with terrific speed and disappeared.

According to the police, the people from Oostburg are reliable and "they would never have reported a story like this to the police if they had not seen it."

*When sending
address changes,
please send old
address and zip code
as well as the new*

Movie Review

"Mysteries From Beyond Earth."

By Jim Pass

As a devoted member of APRO, I feel it is my obligation to report about the movie "Mysteries From Beyond Earth" for the benefit of the Bulletin readers. I have read many books about UFO's since the day I saw one twelve years ago. I am therefore familiar with many of the UFO origin theories. From the advertising that I saw before viewing the film, I thought it would be a straightforward attempt to prove one theory in a scientific manner.

It is with regret that I must report my disappointment in the format and content of this film. Many theories were mentioned about where UFO's come from. It seemed to dwell on the Atlantis theory the longest and that portion of the movie was rather well done while it lasted. But the proof and speculation was weak because it skipped around among other possibilities like black hole travel, the hollow earth theory, the extraterrestrial theory, and other less acceptable explanations.

Another interesting part of the film was the interview with Charles Hickson who, along with Calvin Parker, saw a UFO and was taken aboard in Pascagoula, Mississippi in 1973. The interview, however, was broken up throughout the middle of the movie.

The thing that upset me most about the content of this film is the fact that it talked extensively about unrelated subjects such as witches, ghosts, and auras; among others. For my taste, not enough time was relegated to the UFO mystery.

In conclusion, I am afraid that this film is not all that it could be. On the other hand, it would be worth seeing to a person who was not extensively knowledgeable about the various UFO theories. It touches briefly on most of the major areas of present UFO research.

TIP FOR FIELD INVESTIGATORS

The following self-explanatory letter was received from APRO Consultant Dr. R. F. Haines:

April 30, 1977

Dear Jim,

As you may know, I have been actively involved with the collection and analysis of UFO eye witness reports for some time from the standpoint of the perceptual and psychological responses evoked by these strange and sometimes subjectively threatening stimuli. Of central concern to me has been the development of techniques to help make eye witness reports as reliable and faithfully representative of the original sensory event as possible. My reason for writing you now is out of a great concern for a coming event that may possibly "contaminate" our efforts to obtain as unbiased sighting data as possible.

By now you are probably aware of the planned public release of a movie entitled "Close Encounters of the Third Type" (CE-III) sometime around Christmas of 1977. Our mutual concern for obtaining as objective data as possible should, then, motivate us all to work together to be prepared for the possible influence of this movie upon the American public and their (later) reporting of CE-III (perhaps similar types of experiences as well). Our actions now will lead to greater understanding of the influence of this mass media presentation upon our data. Outlined below are some suggestions on how we should deal with this potentially biasing media event. I hope that once you have thought out the various consequences of not taking any particular action now you will see the merit in these suggestions.

Action 1. You (and your UFO organization) should take action to contact the manager(s) of all those local theaters who plan to show this movie in your area. Try to obtain an agreement that you will be given the approximate attendance figures and starting and final showing dates for each theater and each showing of this movie. These data may then be correlated (later as necessary) with the frequency of CE-III type reports in your area.

Action 2. You and your members should see this movie to become as familiar with its details as possible. Such intimate familiarity will make your subsequent eye witness interviews more sensitively aware of similarities and differences between a reported CE-III encounter and the movie. Perhaps you may want to obtain a copy of the script from its producer for your files.

Action 3. You should plan to issue an alert to your membership as soon as possible (at least by mid-October, 1977) pointing out this coming event and how it could affect their investigations. In this regard, I would urge you to ask them to ask, "What can you think of that is anything like the close encounter you have just had?" Under no circumstances should the investigator mention the name of this movie or its contents until the interview is almost over. Always let the eye witness raise the issue. Only at the end of the interview should the question be asked, "have you ever seen the movie 'Close Encounters of the Third Type'?" The reasons for these procedures should be self evident.

I hope that my few suggestions will be of help to you and will also benefit all of us who strive to obtain truly useful data on UFOs.



Richard F. Haines, Ph.D.
Research Scientist & Consultant

The following reiterates a suggestion made sometime ago by Dr. Richard Haines. We publish it as a tip to Field Investigators.

PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING A STANDARD COLOR REFERENCE SYSTEM VIA USE
OF THE FEDERAL STANDARD COLOR CATALOG

One problem I have encountered during investigations is communication of color. The color must be communicated by the witness to the investigator, and by the investigator to the central headquarters.

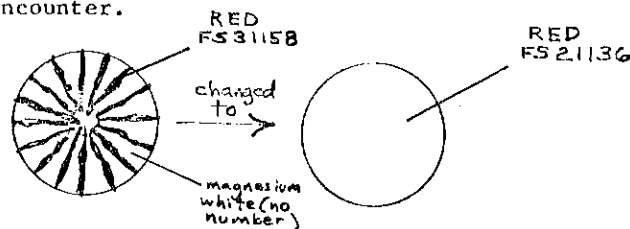
I have used an artist color wheel and a paint company paint catalog. The color wheel has too few colors. The paint catalog has too many. Also, central headquarters must have the same brand color wheel or paint catalog.

A better system is by using the Federal Standard No. 595a Color Catalog. This is a 31 page catalog with about 650 1/2 inch by 1 inch color chips. The colors are broken down into BROWNS, REDS, ORANGES, YELLOWS, GREENS, BLUES, GREYS, AND MISCELLANEOUS. Each color chip has a number. The number allows for quick location of colors.

If the witness says he saw a red nocturnal light, have him look through the REDS. There are twenty four reds. Notate Red and then the federal standard number. Then, anyone having a FS 595a catalog can see basically what color the witness saw.

The catalog is furnished in loose-leaf form to permit the insertion of new material. It can be obtained for \$2.75 from GSA Specifications, Washington Navy Yard Building 197, Washington, D.C. 20407. Delivery - 3 weeks.

For example the diagram below illustrates its use as applied to my 13 Jan. '77 encounter.



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PROBABLE UFO SIGHTINGS

