

the apro bulletin

VOL. 31

TUCSON, ARIZONA

NO. 1

“MAVERICK UFO” CHASE IN COLORADO

Investigated by Alan Longobucco

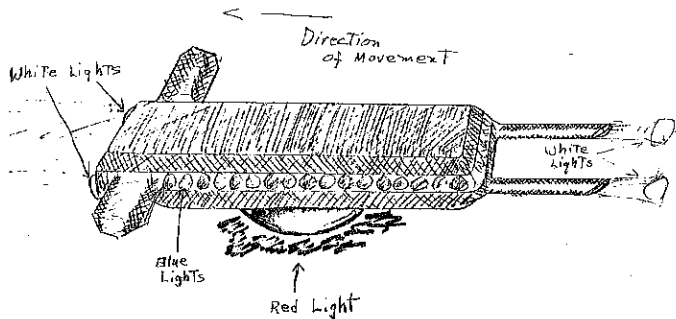
On February 18, 1982, Terry and Marilyn Wejs, a young couple from Poteau, Oklahoma, were on their way back to Oklahoma and traveling through Colorado when they observed a most unusual object in the sky. The events leading up to the sighting are somewhat unusual, also and worthy of note.

The two had stopped at Burnfield and had dinner. Terry was feeling sleepy so they planned to go on to Colorado Springs and stay overnight there. Terry was driving, but after arriving at Colorado Springs he was no longer sleepy, so he decided to continue driving.

Wejs kept on driving through Pueblo, Colorado, turned East on Highway 50 and had passed through a small town and was approaching a river crossing when he suddenly began to experience an unusual thirst. It was so pronounced, he said later, that when they came to the river he entertained the idea of stopping to drink river water. He stopped at the next small town, got a coke, and drove on. They passed through Rocky Ford, and 20 miles beyond, he stopped at another restaurant and purchased two more cokes which he drank almost immediately, and his thirst was still not entirely quenched.

The next town was La Junta, and when about 20 miles east of it, Wejs spotted a beam of light ahead which appeared to be beaming down from a cliff onto a farmhouse on the ground. As he approached the light, he continued to watch it, then realized it was not on a cliff for the area, with which he was totally familiar, was entirely flat. As he passed the light, he saw that it was not a column of light, but rather two columns, appearing like two illuminated “coke cans”, and apparently positioned on an object hovering about 2,000 feet in the air.

Mr. Wejs had thought his wife was asleep, but she had only been resting and later described her husband's comments to himself as he watched it: “what is that thing?” “That's the strangest thing”. . . “I've never seen anything like that in all of my life”. . . “Marilyn, you'd better wake up and look at this.” At that point he turned and shook his wife, telling her she should wake up and see the thing, that it was worth looking at, etc. Mrs. Wejs then informed him she was awake, and they both looked for the object but it was gone and the surroundings were completely dark.



The Wejs object - See Column Two

THE OCCULT THEORY AS RED HERRING

By Robert F. Creegan, Ph. D.

Those interested in borderline science, just beyond the conventional, will have a legitimate interest in many kinds of anomalous phenomena, even the most occult. One who like the present writer would defend such interests and even shares some of them, is nevertheless bound to say that in the field of UFO research and discussions, occultism has become something of a red herring, possibly officially inspired.

Great Britain is famous for its ghosts, but the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall does not investigate haunted houses as it does UFOs. At no time have the FBI, CIA and National Research Council of Canada kept files about ESP and phantoms, but the Freedom of Information Act has been used in courts to uncover for public inspection some of the UFO material held by the American agencies.

It has become fashionable in certain quarters to deride so-called nuts and bolts beliefs as lacking in sophistication in comparison to more subtle and (See OCCULT - Page Three)

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Maverick UFO

(Continued from Page One)

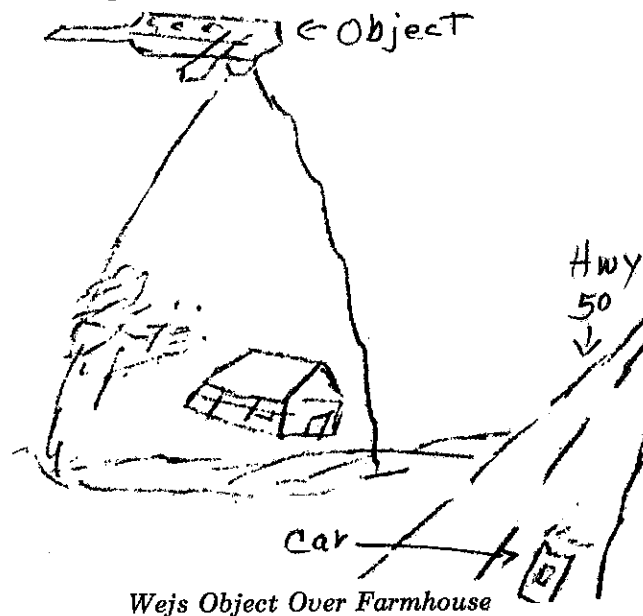
Shortly after Terry got Marilyn's attention, the object (or another object) reappeared again, again to the north (their left) as two columns of light directed at their car, bathing it in light. Then a red light became visible on the bottom, above which was a band of blue lights. The white light which lighted up their auto was steady, but the blue lights and the red lights flashed on and off. When the white lights were first noticed, the object appeared to be at an altitude of about 2000 feet, but when the other lights began flashing, it was after the object had dropped down to a very low altitude above the ground, and estimated by Wejs to be about 15 feet high. They had difficulty describing this aspect of the sighting; Wejs said that when the red and blue lights came on, the whole thing dropped, fast, at what he estimated to be about 120 miles per hour (ground speed).

At this juncture in the observation, a car was approaching them from the east and the object passed over them and to their right, across the road, just as the other car met and passed theirs.

The accompanying sketches are composites based on the observations of both Terry and Marilyn. Mr. Wejs explained that he watched the object when it first reappeared and shone its lights on them, and as it dropped and began to cross the road, getting a good look at the front and side, but then he had to look back at the road. Marilyn watched the object and saw the front, side *and* back. She also noted that the oncoming driver applied his brakes as she saw the flare of his rear brake lights just as the two cars met, and passed.

Mr. Wejs estimated the size of the object as about 60 feet in length, and about the thickness of a car from the floorboard to the top; in other words, rectangular, long, and flat. The lights on the rear and on the front were steady, but the blue and red lights were blinking.

Both of the Wejs noted that as the object went over, they had no sensation of their car moving at all, but that Mrs. Wejs observed that the car they had met appeared to accelerate and speed out of sight after its brakes were applied. Mrs. Wejs said that she had been quite self-contained during the experience but that Mr. Wejs (and he readily admits this) was "frankly terrified". He told APRO's investigator that he had never been so frightened in his life, not even during his Vietnam experiences.



Wejs Object Over Farmhouse

After the object had crossed the road and headed into the southwest, it disappeared from sight, not over the horizon, but dwindling in size. Mrs. Wejs was still mainly curious. Five minutes (approximately) later, however, the object appeared again, this time in the southwest.

Mrs. Wejs had been watching for it, spotted it at about the same elevation as the first time whereupon it began to approach them, swooping down, but this time it came down near the road about 30 feet ahead of them, stopped suddenly, turned the front end slightly away from them so they could not see the "head-

lights". However, the Wejs car did not seem to "gain" on the object. It did a turning maneuver, then crossed the road and went into the northeast.

The complete narration of this sighting is too lengthy and complicated, to present here, but at the second appearance of the object Mrs. Wejs became very frightened. After that, the object approached their car several times, they then headed into the nearest town, whereupon it would "back off".

The entire experience took place over a period of about four hours. The Wejs couple said that at the end they "felt trapped", and finally stayed in one small town until morning.

The first encounter took place at about 1-2 a.m. on the morning of the 18th. It was last seen about 5 a.m. Mr. Wejs came out of the experience with the conviction that UFOs are very real, he is convinced of that. Mrs. Wejs says that she had done a lot of thinking and has come to the conclusion that earth is not the only populated planet in existence, and feels that life is widespread throughout the Universe.

We would like to thank Mr. Longobucco for a very good job of investigating. We have learned a few things and gained some insights into the UFOs, and hope to expand on them further as supporting evidence comes to hand.

* * * * *

Occult

(Continued from Page One)

virtually ghostly interpretations of UFO reports. Is the role of those who ask us to become more sophisticated actually the reverse, namely to turn public attention to dramatic, but elusive cases, and away from the observations of scientists, military and police personnel and tough minded amateurs which point to physically real vehicles of astounding capacities which in some cases register on radar, leave marks on the ground or are described coherently by numbers of independent, trained observers?

Some of my own colleagues in philosophy of science have, I now think, become unwitting dupes of official cover-up attempts. Of course UFO reports are in many cases improbable on general principles. The deficiency of most of the academic critics is that all they know is general principles which they subject to very fine linguistic analysis. Intelligence, whether military, industrial or just plain academic, however, is information, synoptically understood. General principles help integrate nuts and bolts facts, and sometimes original overviews of the latter force some modification of erstwhile most idolized principles. Those who classify some of the tougher UFO evidence

with doings in the seance room perhaps want easy solutions or rather escapes from puzzlement. I do not for a moment deny that something may be learned from doings in the seance room. The kind of information which is involved in radar-visual UFO reports, however, is of a somewhat different order of tangibility. To refer to an experience of my own, some most difficult to explain, evidently artificial circles I saw on the Australian desert not far from highly secret research facilities were at all events not produced by ghosts. Numerous reports of unidentified aerial objects made by scientists at Los Alamos at the most sensitive period of research there did not issue from the dreams of occultists.

I do not wish in any way to defame those who publicize occult theories of UFO reports. Most such persons are, I think, somewhat loosely speculative, and others, I suspect, have official duties which require an element of secrecy and cover up. Both parties may be justified morally. I do, however, recommend that UFO research should focus principally upon reports and other evidence suggesting ordinary physical causality, including perhaps the possibility that nuts and bolts in the most literal sense are involved. After all, mini-computers are not without delicate nuts and bolts features. At all events, let us not be led to believe that views of UFOs as actual vehicles are in some way less sophisticated than occult theories or theories of wide ranging error. Most of the reports coming from multiple trained observers appear to be most compatible with the physical vehicle theory.

State University of New York at Albany.

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ANOTHER 'TRIANGLE' EXPLANATION

Richard D. McIver, a petroleum geologist, believes that enough bits and pieces of scientific data have finally fallen into place to provide a reasonable explanation for disappearances of vessels in the Bermuda Triangle. The recent recovery of some solid gas/water hydrate during coring operations tends to support McIver's theory.

Oceanographic studies have shown that the ocean bottom in the Triangle is rich in hydrocarbon gas. It was here that scientists first realized that much of the gas was not in gaseous form, but immobilized in a solid, ice-like mixture of water and gas, called hydrate or clathrate, that forms well above the freezing point of water when gas and cool water are brought together under high pressures like the enormous ones at the

floor of the deep ocean.

Having virtually the same properties as ice, hydrate serves as a seal that traps some of the enormous quantities of gas generated in the muds, or even gas leaking upward from deeper rocks. Occasionally, as pointed out in the June issue of the Bulletin of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, a large gas accumulation probably erupts through the seal and rushes to the surface. There would be an area of the ocean surface whipped to a frenzy by the gas. Floating objects would lose their buoyancy in the frothy mixture. A ship encountering such a blowout by chance could sink so quickly that there would be no time to send a distress signal.

The continental shelf off the U.S. Gulf Coast is rich in gas and oil and the sediments are cut by many faults reaching from the sea floor to great depths. Therefore, ships could be swallowed up by gas erupting from anywhere large quantities of gas exist beneath the ocean floor. However, the fact that there is a far greater frequency of mysterious ship disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle suggests that the combination of hydrates and gas trapped beneath it is the more active culprit.

Engines of low-flying aircraft penetrating the gas plume rising above the sea's surface would suddenly be ingesting a fuel mixture too rich to support combustion. They would stall, and the plane would likely never be seen or heard from again- the fate of most such craft downed at sea.

McIver feels that natural gas blowouts could also explain the sudden appearances and disappearances of "islands" on ships' radars. The explosive release of vast volumes of gas and the associated violent movement of large blocks of sea-floor sediment could generate shock and sound waves also frequently heard off the East Coast of the U.S. Agitated water also generates negative ions which would induce anomalous magnetic fields that would disrupt normal compass readings. Ships and aircraft traveling through the Bermuda Triangle have frequently reported their compasses going "haywire".

HICKSON PREDICTS COMING OF ALIENS

According to Charles Hickson, beings from another world will "come down in force next year and change the self-destructive course of this planet." "We're going to see something I can't even comprehend. There's going to be a strange power, or energy released on Earth that will work on our minds and turn our minds from different things besides war. At

the end of next year, we won't know this world," he said.

Hickson said he has been chosen as one of 12 people who will serve as liaison between the aliens and the people of Earth. He has been in touch with a few of the dozen, but not all 12 have been chosen, he said. Hickson claims he has been in physical and mental contact with the aliens for nearly 9 years.

On October 11, 1973, Hickson and a young co-worker, Calvin Parker, claimed to have been fishing from a pier when a strange craft descended from the sky. Three beings, Hickson now says he knows were robots controlled by aliens, floated out of the craft and took the men aboard. They said they were observed by a giant eye for 15 to 20 minutes before being escorted from the craft.

Hickson is planning to lecture on the coming of the aliens throughout the country, but says he has stopped work on a book he has been writing about his experiences. "The final chapter hasn't been written. We're heading for total destruction. The only thing that can help us is something from another world," he said.

The "energy" will be released on the world early in 1983 and after nearly a year the beings will arrive, according to Hickson. "By the end of 1983, we'll be softened enough and changed from our bad ways. We'll be in a different world next year," he said. "Wait and see."

BOOK REVIEW

"The Secret of Stonehenge," I.L. Cohen, New Research Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 231, Greenvale, N.Y. 11548

This thought-provoking volume, first copyrighted in 1977, has included in its makeup aerial photographs taken as early as 1906 and as late as 1981. The author first presents the actual facts about the site, its dimensions, makeup and probable dates of construction of the various components, as well as composition of the stones and probable sources.

Mr Cohen then draws upon various earlier authors for the mathematics to show that Stonehenge is actually a giant computer, by means of which the builders were able to determine the exact times of occurrence of the summer and winter solstices, the equinoxes, and predict solar and lunar eclipses many years in advance.

By asking various theoretical questions, Mr. Cohen is able to lead his reader into some pretty puzzling avenues of thought about the whole construction.

For example:

1) How was a stone age people able to determine the one site in all of England where the points of view of sunrise and sunset, moonrise and moonset, winter and summer, could all be marked by stones in a perfect rectangle with short sides north and south, and the corners of the rectangle lying on one perfect circle?

2) Once having determined the site, how did these primitive people move stones weighing as much as 50 tons for distances of 200 miles or more, and once moved how did they set them upright in the center if other stones placed by their ancestors?

3) How and why did these people erect a perfect circle of about one hundred feet in diameter on a sloping plain and with a perfectly flat and level upper surface about forty feet above the ground?

4) Why did someone attempt to destroy this mammoth construction at some later date?

The answer to these and other puzzling questions as proposed by Mr. Cohen are perhaps unacceptable to some readers, but nevertheless tie in well with work done by other researchers and still leave plenty of room for more research and other answers by later entrants to the field.

1) The huge circle of stones would make a perfect landing place for the space-ship described by Ezekiel in the Bible.

2) The astronomical observations would not be necessary for a group of Stone-Age farmers, but would be essential for any space traveller to help determine the precise time of liftoff for a space flight.

3) The capability of cutting, transporting, and erecting these huge stones in such precise fashion was one quite similar to that employed by the builders of the pyramids, and at almost exactly the same time in the world's history.

4) Nuclear power must have been employed, as evidenced by light shadows left on some stones, and by huge circles visible only from the air after some 400 years of continuous cultivation of the fields where the circles were observed.

5) Over and above all, YAHWEH, God of the Israelites, was a living, breathing entity capable of flight into space as well as directing affairs of his chosen people in Biblical times as well as today.

In conclusion, an interested reader will see this work as an attempt to prove that flying saucers are real, were real, and will continue to be a subject of worthy study by anyone seriously engaged in the study of our past as well as our future.

Robert Marsland
January 12, 1983

* * * * *

PLEASE Send Address
Changes!

ASTRONOMICAL DATA

By Lee Emery

The following star and planetary positions are approximate and are only intended to give observers a general idea of the location of some of the more prominent objects in the night sky. Times may vary up to 30 minutes either way, depending on the observer's location in relation to his local time meridian. Also, add 1 hour for the beginning of the month and subtract 1 hour for the end of the month.

February 1983

Prominent Planets: Venus can be seen about 30° above the SW horizon after sunset, then sets in the west about 7 PM.

Mars can be seen in the same general vicinity as Venus and is distinguished by its reddish-orange color.

Jupiter rises in the ESE about 3 AM and moves to a point about 25° above the southern horizon by sunrise.

Saturn rises in the east approximately 10 PM, moves to a position 50° about the SE horizon by 1 AM and continues across the southern sky until it is located 45° above the southwest by 5 AM.

Brightest Stars: 7 PM: Capella is almost directly overhead. The Orion constellation, featuring Rigel and Betelgeuse is located approximately 45° above the southern horizon while Sirius can be seen below Orion about 30° above the SSE. Aldebaran is found above Orion about 60° above the south.

11 PM: Arcturus has risen in the east and is now 20° above the horizon. Capella has moved to a position 50° above the west while Orion is located 30° above the WSW. Sirius is about 30° above the SSW and Aldebaran is 30° above the west.

3 AM: Vega rose in the NE about 1 AM and is now about 25° above the ENE. Capella can be seen low in the NNW while Arcturus is located 65° above the SE. Antares has just risen in the SE while Orion, Sirius and Aldebaran have already set in the west about 1:30 AM.

March 1983

Prominent Planets: Venus can still be seen above the western horizon after sunset until it sets about 7:30 pm. Mars can still be found in the general vicinity of Venus.

Jupiter, located in the constellation Scorpius close to the star Antares, rises in the SE just before 1 AM. At sunrise, it has moved to a point 25° above the south.

Saturn rises in the east about 8:30 PM, moves to a point 45° above the south by 1 AM, and then can be seen low in the west by sunrise.

Brightest Stars: Star positions are similar to those in February except rising and setting times are approximately one hour earlier in the first part of the month and two hours earlier towards the end of the month.

NOTE: There are no major meteor showers in February or March, but watch for a curious glow reaching up from the western horizon about 2 hours after sunset and then again high in the sky around midnight. This is called the Zodiacal Light and is caused by the reflection of the sun's light off particles in the plane of the ecliptic.

CANADIAN REPORTS COLLECT DUST

According to officials at Canada's National Research Council (NRC), there's no denying that sober, reasonable people make unusual sightings, but that's as far as it goes. Reports that file into the Ottawa headquarters of the NRC simply collect dust - no action is taken.

A recent example is the case of Sherry Stewner and Theresa Klym. They were driving on a country road in Winnipeg at 12:20 a.m. on April 21, 1982, when they spotted a diamond-shaped, metallic object in the sky. It had two bright white lights, like headlights, and smaller red lights around the perimeter. The object hovered in front of their truck for 2 minutes, then "disappeared" towards the horizon.

The women reported the incident to the Canadian Forces base at Winnipeg airport. There was no investigation or action undertaken and the report will end up, along with 147 from last year, 200 in 1980 and all others since 1952, at Ottawa's Public Archives.

NRC researcher Dr. Peter Millman was chairman of a secret committee who studied unexplainable sightings in 1952-53. Millman later wrote: "I fail to find any pattern of physical events which suggests that our atmosphere has been visited by an alien and intelligent life culture." However, this view is not shared by all Canadian officials.

Lt. Cdr. Arthur Bray, a Canadian Navy air pilot for 27 years, said he's studied the phenomena for 35 years and is "thoroughly convinced we are under observation by some highly advanced race." As for the question, "Why don't the aliens make contact with us?" Bray replies, "I believe we are simply being observed - as a

man might observe ants - and they have no interest in making public contact."

'GHOST LIGHTS' OF TEXAS

For 100 years, people have watched balls of light bounce across Mitchell Flat, southeast of Marfa, in West Texas. Julia Plumbley says her father, Robert Ellison, reported the first sightings in 1883. Since then, generations of Marfans have grown up with, been courted by and circulated stories about the Ghost Lights.

Mrs. Plumbley says of the lights: "They're not spectacular. They're not glamorous. You have to look close to see them. They are small, rather ethereal. Maybe there'll be one at first. Then there'll be two, never more than three."

Fritz Kahl, manager of the Marfa Municipal Airport, has seen the lights lots of times, but never from the air. "They are dull, not focused, a soft yellow to a soft red, to other off-colors. There is some vertical movement, but more horizontal. I never felt hostility from them. As far as I'm concerned, they're kind of friendly," he said.

In the late 1970's, Kahl helped a Sul Ross State University physics professor conduct an informal but unsuccessful hunt for the lights. To date, no one has made a serious scientific investigation, but Kahl would like to see one conducted. "The lights have never been triangulated. I suppose with modern equipment you could get a readout on them," he said.

Many theories, from swamp fire, to radiation from mineral deposits, to St. Elmo's fire, to UFOs have been proposed in an effort to explain the lights. However, all of the theories have some "ifs" and "buts" that leave the lights as another interesting, puzzling phenomenon.

CORRECTION

The Volume 30, Issue #11 of the *Bulletin* carried an article on Page 3 concerning the alleged abduction of a rock group musician by a UFO. We failed to credit the source, which was the July 16, 1982 issue of the St. Catherines (Ontario, Canada) Standard. Larry Fenwick, one of the three directors of CUFORN (Canadian UFO Network) has informed us that Joe Muskat is not

the director of CUFORN as stated in the newspaper article, but only one of three. Further, the subject of the article is a 27-year-old man who has undergone regressive hypnosis which indicates that he and others may have been abducted 11 years ago when he was 16 years old. The case is still under investigation and has not been resolved.

MOST CANADIAN SIGHTINGS AT NIGHT

Almost all of the 76 UFO sightings reported to the National Research Council in 1982 were made at night or in the early morning hours. Among the reports were the following:

At 1 a.m. September 14, four men reported 6 to 8 bright lights, amber, blue and white. The lights were stationary at times then moved suddenly.

On August 16, at 4:05 a.m., a Suffield, Alta. man and a Transport Canada worker independently reported a bright green light flying at high speed. They both said the light stopped moving, flicked on and off several times and dropped silently to the ground.

At 3:20 a.m. on June 20, more than 30 people from two towns in Ontario reported seeing a platform of yellow lights "the size of a football field" with a rounded top. The sighting lasted 15 minutes and several people took photographs.

On February 3, at 8:10 p.m., three Armed Forces officers at Gander, Nfld. filed an official report of red and green flashing lights traveling across the horizon at an estimated 2,000 mph. Two weeks earlier, more than 3 dozen sightings were made in the Gander area of an object with red, green and yellow lights. It alternately hovered and darted in a complex flight path.

PRESS REPORTS

By Joe and Doris Graziano

TEXAS, July 5, 1982 - Harlingen - Willard Hargrove, Jr. was fishing with 8 other people at about 1:30 a.m. when a huge flying object moved across the valley. The group watched the object until it disappeared from sight toward the south.

"We didn't see it when it first entered the atmosphere," said Hargrove. He described the object

as looking like a rocket, moving at tremendous speed and making no sound. It had a light in front with 2 flame-like propulsion trails behind.

"It was so large, it looked close, but your senses told you it was farther away," said Hargrove. The group watched the object for less than 20 seconds.

CANADA, July (?), 1982 - Laval, Quebec - Stephane Lebeau, aged 16, Michel and Francois Cousineau, 13, and Denise Labre, 25, saw a mysterious flying object moving slowly and noiselessly above a cornfield at about 2 a.m. The object, about the size of a large helicopter, hovered 100-200 feet in the air and projected a large beam of white light. The sides of the object had many reflectors of different colors, with the red ones blinking on and off in sequence giving the impression that the object itself was rotating. Two or three minutes later, the object disappeared behind a nearby block of houses. All four said the object made a muffled noise before disappearing.

Stephane and Michel, who were camping out, had hardly returned to their tent when they heard strange noises "like electronic beep-beeps." They shone their flashlights on the cornfield and caught a glimpse of a head which immediately disappeared. They called to Francois, who arrived with a more powerful flashlight. The three then heard many footsteps in the field and saw another face. A sudden burst of wind enveloped them in a cloud of dust and they all felt pain in their stomachs.

They panicked and fled to the house. However, Stephane turned the flashlight on the field one last time and saw an "extraterrestrial" about 50 feet away. "He was 5 or 6 feet tall. He had orange eyes, bigger than ours. His head was huge and brown-colored. I was so frightened that I fled," said Stephane.

Denise Labre confirms that the youths were white with fear when they reached the house and took a long time to calm down. They decided to stay in the house and were unable to sleep for several hours.

WALES, July 11, 1982 - Cardiff - Mrs. Tegwyn Jones and her husband, Harry, spotted a strange object at about 9:15 p.m. "I thought the moon was rather full and a very bright yellow, then I realized the object was completely round like a ball and moving towards me, coming lower and larger all the time," said Mrs. Jones.

The object appeared to be the size of a small car and changed to an orange color with a black line around its center. The witnesses followed the object in the car until it disappeared over the Plynlion range in the direction of Machynlleth.

Mrs. Jones said she saw a man apparently taking photographs of the object. Police have appealed to him to come forward to assist in their investigations.

AUSTRALIA, July 11, 1982 - Mt. Barker - Four professional kangaroo hunters saw an odd glow rise above a group of trees about 1 km from their camp around 5:20 a.m. One of the hunters, Ray Drage, said the object glowed yellow and red and hovered in the air for about 10 minutes before slowly moving off in a northerly direction.

Drage trained the telescopic sight of his rifle and said it looked like a cigar with a yellow glow coming from the front and a red glow from the rear as it moved away. The men observed the object for about an hour.

AUSTRALIA, July 14, 1982 - Melbourne - Constable Shane Flynn and Senior Constable Peter Grey were driving towards Little River at about 4:05 a.m. when they spotted unusual lights in the sky to the south. The lights were said to start with a red glow and culminated in large white streaks with green tinges and a white cross.

The men stopped their car and studied the lights, which they said seemed to cover a 30 km stretch of sky in the direction of Portarlington. They watched the lights for 20 minutes until they began to fade at about 4:30 a.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA, July 14 (?), 1982 - Easley - An unidentified person spotted a flying object shaped like a water tank with blue-green lights while driving on Hwy 183 at about 4:30 a.m. The object was in a field approximately 200-300 feet off the highway. The person drove past the object, turned around and drove back so that the car's headlights shone on the object. The object then flew away.

NEW JERSEY, July 15, 1982 - Linden - At least 7 people saw 2 helicopter-like objects whiz over Roselle St. and then disappear into thin air. Police Capt. Peter Bartus was on the streets checking on his patrols at about 10 p.m. when he spotted the objects.

"I looked up in the sky and saw a plane going towards Kennedy (Airport). Then I heard this whirring like helicopters coming and these objects just stopped in mid air. When I thought the old imagination was playing tricks on me, I actually saw them side-by-side and then they suddenly disappeared into outer space. They just shot up at 40 degree angles and went straight up," said Bartus.

ENGLAND, July 18, 1982 - Darwen - George Hill, his wife Maud and their children, Andrew and George, were sitting in their car talking on the CB radio when a series of bright lights came over the top of the hill. They were moving in a straight line and going up and down. Then they just disappeared.

About 20 minutes later, 4 bright objects, "a bit like orange stars," came out of the clouds. The lights then moved off in different directions. "It was about then that we realized that there was an object hovering

above the car," said Mr. Hill. The object was described as about the size of the car with a bright light at the front and rounded at the rear.

Hill then drove to the nearest phone box and called the police. When they arrived, the lights could still be seen in the distance, but were difficult to make out. The entire incident lasted about 2 hours.

East Lancashire has a long history of UFO sightings, particularly on the moors above Darwen. Last year an Accrington man watched green lights on the moors for over half an hour, and the year before one sighting brought scores of calls to the police.

AUSTRALIA, July 20, 1982 - Wonthaggi - Twenty-five football players were distracted for 45 minutes by a bright object in the sky. Gwynne Pugh saw it first as a bright star 30° above the northern horizon. The object glowed brightly and accelerated to the NW and back to the north many times. It moved much faster than an aircraft and, at times, glowed as brilliantly as a welding torch.

AUSTRALIA, Date Unknown - Cornwall - Gerhard Bruckhorst thought he saw a reflection in the car window while driving near Bodmin Moor, but when he wound down the window the object was still there. All of a sudden, as he reached the bottom of a hill, the object, which had been almost still, accelerated rapidly away from him.

"At first it looked long and thin, like a cigar, but just before it took off it tilted a bit and you could see that it was round. It had sort of portholes in the upper section and it didn't spin - just took off very fast," said Bruckhorst.

He chased the object at high speed for a few miles and it seemed to slow down. The object appeared to land in a field, so Bruckhorst stopped his car and went on foot to investigate. "But after a few minutes it came up again and I pointed my camera to take a picture," he said. The object accelerated away rapidly and smoothly and disappeared over the treetops.

When Bruckhorst went to the spot where the object had been, he discovered three circular patches of scorched grass about 20 feet apart. The presence of these patches was later verified by a local newspaper and it is thought that scientists are investigating the area. One of the pictures in the film taken by Bruckhorst shows a blurred object, apparently moving through the sky over tree-lined fields.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An Open (i.e. intended for publication) letter to APRO, CUFOS, MUFON and James Moseley

I have noted a tendency, in a number of UFO reports published recently, to validate the existence of a UFO largely on the grounds that a distant aerial object was "soundless." "It was a calm, windless night," says the witness, "and I could hear no engine sounds." Q.E.D. — the object must have been a UFO.

I don't agree.

Absence of wind at ground level does not mean absence of winds aloft. . .ask any small boy trying to fly a kite. Meteorologists are aware of this, as are pilots. I well remember a day in Texas during basic training when I stood on the ground, where no wind blew, and watched winds aloft pushing a Piper Cub backwards. The Cub was nearly overhead, about 5000 feet up, and those 60+mph winds not only pushed it backwards but blew away the engine sounds.

To assume, therefore, that an object seen at some unknown distance is of extra-terrestrial origin *simply because* it is both 'soundless' and of unfamiliar configuration (if indeed any configuration was accurately seen at all) is, at best, wishful thinking. At worst, it is a deliberate effort on the part of the witness (or perhaps the investigator) to reject the familiar in favor of the unfamiliar.

There is, it seems to me, a disquieting tendency in some ufological circles these days not only towards uncritical acceptance of many claims/reports, but of accusing those who would question such claims of being cronies of CSICOP or dupes of the CIA.

If this trend continues, the end result could be the equating of 'scientific ufology' with 'scientific creationism.'

Sincerely,
(signed) George W. Earley

CC: Jerome Clark

(Editor's Note: In paragraph 1, a witness's statement that an object is soundless does not mean it is a UFO any more than a conclusion that an object is a UFO pre-concludes its extra-terrestrial origin (paragraph 4). More often than not, the witness is merely making a statement of fact rather than "rejecting" anything and both witness and investigator know it. Unless a report specifically states that a pronunciation of "UFO" resulted from the description of soundlessness, Mr. Earley's criticism is baseless. The question of whether or not an object made any sound is an essential part of any UFO interview and is as important a part of the data as the date and time of the day.)

COMING UP IN THE BULLETIN:

"What is a Skeptic?"

More on the Cash-Landrum Case

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