

THE U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena

Vol. IV, No. 1

May-June, 1967

GLOBAL UFO INVESTIGATION PLAN STUDIED BY UN

OBJECTS AIM LIGHT BEAMS, DROP "FIREBALLS"

A series of cases in which UFOs bathed witnesses in light beams, shot off sparks and emitted "fireballs" were reported in at least five states and two Canadian provinces over a two-month period.

NICAP's Harrisburg Subcommittee Chairman George Cook reports that three children were frightened when a UFO emitted a light beam within feet of the startled youngsters at approximately 6:30 p.m., April 1. Beatrice Turns, 12, Stephen Runkle, 11, and an unidentified 7-year-old boy were playing ball in a field in Fishing Creek Valley, Pennsylvania. They saw a round, orange object between 35 and 50 feet in diameter approach to within 50 yards before dropping to about 50 feet above the ground.

The UFO was surrounded by a halo of light alternating between yellow and blue. Two antennae were seen on each side.

The object then emitted the ray of light that hit the ground within 10 feet of the children. The light was seen for two minutes. Two dogs in the vicinity were barking wildly during the five-minute observation.

Suddenly, the object just disappeared and the dogs ceased barking. A neighbor said she heard the badly frightened children screaming and saw a "vertical trail or stream. . . going straight up into the air."

Idaho Reports

Residents in the Shelley-Woodville areas of Idaho were witnesses to huge UFOs that emitted "fireballs" on at least three different occasions in April.

Between 9:30 and 10 p.m., April 11, a woman who wishes to remain anonymous was approaching her home near Woodville when she saw a clear, bright light to the left of her automobile. It appeared "about two telephone poles high" and was "bigger than a car." The motionless object looked "plastic" and had "vertical risers evenly spaced around what might be described as a coning tower." A bright curved surface appeared to be hanging from a "brim which extended from rim to rim" of what looked like a "top hat." The amber UFO then moved toward the west, parallel to the road.

The witness followed the slow-moving UFO to her home, where she secured her 13-year-old babysitter as a corroborating witness. Both saw the object pass over the yard, continuing westward. After reaching lava beds not far from the house, it stopped and hovered. The witnesses then saw it emit two "fireballs" with "sparkles" from the bottom. This was repeated a few minutes later. Then the UFO's light "went out."

There was an unconfirmed report that four men also saw the UFO out over the lava beds.

Exactly six days later, at the same hour, Mrs. Zelma Eaton and her 16-year-old daughter saw the same or a similar object while driving near Shelley, several miles from Woodville. They first saw a bright light over a field heading toward their car, about 300 feet away. Approaching at an altitude of 60-80 feet, the amber-colored UFO's description coincided almost exactly with that of the object seen on April 11, including the size.

As the object continued its approach, a light was discerned "coming from a bottom bulge. . ." Thinking that the object would pass over her car, Mrs. Eaton pulled forward as the UFO passed behind the vehicle at an approximate 35 m.p.h.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

The United Nations Outer Space Affairs Group is now considering a plan for worldwide, scientific investigation of UFOs. Global reporting of UFO sightings also would be included, if the plan is adopted by member nations.

Secretary-General U Thant has expressed deep concern over the UFO situation, placing it high on the list of serious world problems. His statement followed a lengthy examination of documented evidence supplied to him by NICAP.

With U Thant's approval, the plan for a global study was outlined to the Outer Space Affairs Group by Dr. James E. McDonald, well-known atmospheric physicist at the University of Arizona. Dr. McDonald has become a leading authority on UFOs after intensive studies and detailed investigations of sighting reports.

Urging immediate UN action, Dr. McDonald said the establishment of a global UFO investigation would greatly assist "in removing the 'ridicule lid' that is now so powerfully suppressing public reporting of many UFO sightings.

"To many serious students of the UFO phenomena," said Dr. McDonald, "it appears conceivable that something in the nature of a global surveillance by UFOs has been underway in recent years. . . (and) may be a matter of urgent importance to all the peoples of the world."

In his discussion before the Outer Space Affairs Group, on June 7, 1967, Dr. McDonald made the following points:

1. There are strong indications of increased close approaches by UFOs, here and abroad.
2. It is not possible to explain all these sightings as natural phenomena or as secret tests of highly advanced aerial or space vehicles built on earth.
3. In spite of official debunking, the verified evidence points to some unknown phenomenon about which all of us must quickly become better informed.
4. The most probable hypothesis is that the UFOs are extraterrestrial probes, capable of causing EM (Electromagnetic) interference and other unusual effects.
5. The importance of the problem to our world, if UFOs are actually extraterrestrial probes, should quickly bring about international scientific cooperation to discover all possible information.

If the UN is able to establish an international UFO-reporting system, along with international scientific evaluations, this would be the most important development to date. As Dr. McDonald states, it would soon end the ridicule, resulting in a tremendous number of worldwide sighting and tracking reports. If they were fully coordinated, as would be expected, such a huge mass of factual evidence analyzed by thousands of scientists would undoubtedly reveal patterns and other valuable leads now unproved, if seen at all.

If this plan is approved and carried out in the near future, it could bring us, far sooner than now expected, significant answers to the main questions about the UFO surveillance.

Note: in the next issue of the Investigator we will present comments by Dr. James E. McDonald, of the University of Arizona, on another newspaper article that has received wide distribution: "These Flying Saucers Nearly Fooled the Air Force," by Lloyd Mallan, published in This Week Magazine for May 7, 1967.

THE **UFO INVESTIGATOR**

Published by
The National Investigations Committee
on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

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ON THE RECORD

In the 10-1/2 years since NICAP began operations, it has become widely recognized as the largest, most factual and thereby most influential UFO research organization in the world. Here are a few of the things NICAP has done, with the help and support of its members, since January, 1957:

1. Built up a huge and growing network of Subcommittee and special investigators in the U.S., plus units in several foreign countries.
2. Organized an adviser-consultant group of scientists, engineers and experts in fields linked with evaluation of UFO reports or scientific study of the general UFO situation.
3. Recorded and evaluated over 11,000 U.S. and foreign reports, a large number from highly-qualified, specially trained observers.
4. Spotlighted false reports, unfounded claims and also attempts by con men to cash in on UFO interest.
5. Published a documented cross-section of UFO reports, including technical evidence, widely quoted by the press. (THE UFO EVIDENCE.)
6. Convinced numerous Senators and Congressmen that the UFO problem requires serious study; obtained promises of support for hearings if the opportunity came to vote.
7. Supplied UFO information to hundreds of Government, industrial and private libraries, schools, research organizations, also to many thousands of citizens, including scientists, engineers, technicians and others involved in the space program, aviation, electronics, etc.
8. Built up a reputation, accepted by most of the press and a large part of the public, for careful scientific investigation of UFO reports and factual publicity.
9. Achieved full cooperation with the University of Colorado scientific UFO project sponsored by the AF Office of Scientific Research, providing massive evidence to prove UFO reality and also to prove the withholding of UFO information from the public.

NICAP'S FUTURE

If our plans and hopes are fully carried out, NICAP and its members will play a large part in speeding up the solution of the UFO problem. Among the steps planned are:

Increasing the investigative network, covering all 50 states, with several units in the larger states; publication of Vol. II, THE UFO EVIDENCE, with new, impressive information bound to have a powerful impact; publication of smaller reports on special phases; building up our ties with newspapers, magazines, and broadcasting stations and networks; adding two evaluation experts to our staff, to keep up with the flood of new UFO reports, and more help to handle the avalanche of mail.

Besides these, we hope to start a number of special projects planned earlier, but delayed by lack of help. It is always an unpleasant task to talk about finances, but even without taking on any of the work listed we will still be falling behind on important jobs. We once thought that increased membership would automatically solve our troubles. But each sizable increase has required more office help to handle the records, the increased mailing-lists, etc. Recently, we had to purchase a punch-card

BULKLEY GRIFFIN DIES

One of NICAP's most valued friends -- New England newspaper columnist Bulkley Griffin -- died May 15 in Washington after a long illness.

The veteran Washington correspondent had championed the NICAP cause for many years, writing numerous articles on the need for a scientific investigation of UFOs to take the place of the unscientific Air Force Project Blue Book. He also performed a great service by contributing UFO Investigator subscriptions to more than a score of newsmen, including some of the best-known names in the field.

As long ago as 1958, Griffin called Air Force statements on UFOs "both inaccurate and misleading" and said the Air Force "appears trying to dull public curiosity by both suppression and distortion of facts."

In 1959, he made his position even clearer. "Future years will record the 'great UFO delusion'. And to many veteran pilots and radar operators and to numerous and varied experts in the realm of the air above us, this will not mean the public delusion in thinking it saw strange objects in the skies, but the public delusion in believing the U.S. Air Force assertions that the objects were actually familiar objects."

Griffin's final major series on UFOs, which ran in many newspapers in January, 1966, continued his attack on Air Force explanations which "seem to run counter to both logic and common sense." Following two visits to Blue Book headquarters, he stated his conclusion: "That the Air Force is misleading the public by its continuing campaign to produce and maintain belief that all sightings can be explained away as misidentifications of familiar objects. . . . The logical assumption, backed by much circumstantial evidence, is that the Air Force is deliberately misleading the public."

Canadian Minister Speaks

The Canadian Government is "keeping an open mind on this question" of UFOs, according to Canada's defense minister Paul Hellyer. Commenting in the Winnipeg Free Press on recent sightings in Canada, Hellyer said "We neither declare that we believe such objects exist nor dismiss any report of UFOs as being without foundation." He acknowledged the possibility that extraterrestrial civilizations might have the technological ability to reach Earth and that some UFO sightings cannot be explained in terms of present knowledge.

New NICAP Subcommittees

Details about two new NICAP Subcommittees, one in Syracuse, New York, and one in Minot, North Dakota, for which we do not have space in this issue, will appear in the next Investigator.

machine to help handle renewals, up to now all checked by hand. Another machine is needed to process new memberships.

To handle all the mail which should have personal answers, even if brief, we would have to add at least two stenographers, plus another staff member to help with constant dictation.

According to estimates, mechanized handling will eliminate the need for extra help with records and renewals. In this case, added new memberships will increase our net income, even though new memberships naturally add to printing and mailing costs of the Investigator.

Several of NICAP's members and advisers have suggested that we increase the membership fee. Organizations with a similar volume of work have two or three times the office staff, charging larger membership fees to cover this. We would rather not increase membership fees (this would take place at the expiration of present memberships) and it may not be necessary if we can only get enough help for a real membership drive. With all the publicity NICAP has been getting, it should not be as hard as formerly to persuade friends or acquaintances to look at your copies of the Investigator or THE UFO EVIDENCE-- and then sign up, if they are convinced we offer enough interesting, factual evidence.

Regardless, we'll keep on doing the best we can. But we could do more--with your help.

Idaho Reports (Continued from page 1)

The UFO was last seen as it just "went out" over Shelley.

At approximately 9:35 p.m., April 28, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Carter were returning home five miles south of Shelley when they saw an orange light heading north. Carter, a private pilot and troubleshooter for the Utah Power and Light Company, stopped his pick-up truck and saw the object a little more than 250 feet away. Its altitude was estimated as about the same as its distance from the observers.

The UFO had a superstructure about one-third as high as the width of the object.

"There were two rods or supports between the body and the superstructure," said Carter in his report. "These were only visible through field glasses."

The Carters then followed the slow-moving object toward the north. When they reached home, their son, Mike, and 20 or 30 school friends at a party ran outside to watch the UFO.

Mr. Carter said he continued observing the object from his home through the field glasses. It accelerated to approximately three times its original speed and gained altitude.

"At this point," Carter stated, "a small fireball fell from the left side and drifted on, and then a second fireball fell away and then the object disappeared."

The duration of the sighting was about 10 minutes. NICAP member C. Reed Ricks investigated the Idaho reports.

Earlier that same night (April 28), a couple in the Downsview section of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, made the first of two observations of a revolving, orange object.

John J. Oosterdag, a space research technician at York University, and his wife saw a "very bright orange" light from the window of their home at 8:15 p.m. Oosterdag quickly grabbed his field glasses and ran to another window for a better view.

"Then I saw a dimly lit object in the form of a heel of a shoe with a very bright orange light in the center and two small jets at the sides," he said in a report to NICAP. "Sparks drifted slowly to the ground while the object revolved slowly around its center."

The "sparks" took about 12 seconds to reach the ground. The UFO then disappeared behind the buildings to the south.

Exactly two hours later the witnesses saw the same or a similar object coming from the north-northwest, the same direction of flight as the first UFO. The object fitted the description of the earlier object, including the jets, but its shape appeared to be more of a disc than a shoe heel.

This object also disappeared behind buildings to the south. Both sightings lasted between four and five minutes.

Beam Spotlights Witness

Between the first and second Oosterdag observations, a woman driving through the Rexdale section of Toronto said she saw an oval object near a ravine of tall trees. Mrs. Betty Cassar, a real estate agent, phoned NICAP to state that, at 9 p.m., she and the occupants of three other cars saw the shiny UFO with a band of three red and two green lights around the middle. She said it appeared to be about 15 feet tall and was hovering just above tree-top level. It then dropped 10 feet, at which time the witness got scared and drove away.

Just over 48 hours earlier, a witness in another section of Ontario reported in a letter that she and a dog were bathed in a bright light from a UFO.

Mary Ellen Roberts stated that, at 8:30 p.m., April 26, she was returning home from a school lecture in St. Catharines when she saw a "flashing red light in the sky." Thinking that it was a helicopter, she listened intently for a noise, but could discern none.

"At about this point," Miss Roberts said, "I noticed the neighbor's dog sitting very quietly. . . looking up into the sky. We were both very still and the object came lower."

The UFO, flashing a red light, was intensely bright, not enabling the witness to make out a shape. Then the red light stopped flashing and turned green. Soon after this a beam of light was shot down from the object. The animal was completely engulfed in the bright glow and Miss Roberts was at its edge.

"The light was only the duration of. . . a flash," she continued. "The object began to flash green and then turned a whitish-yellow."

Miss Roberts said the UFO then moved off toward the south-east, at times hovering, banking swiftly or drifting along slowly, "always with this changing of lights from flashing red to solid to green to the yellowish, but not in any particular order. . ."

The sighting lasted about 30 minutes.

A few weeks later, on May 7, witnesses in Canada again reported an object emitting a beam of light.

Beginning at 2 a.m., in Edmonton, Alberta, two teen-agers said they saw a UFO with red and green lights that spun at the top and bottom for several hours.

The May 8 edition of the Edmonton Journal stated that Ricky Banyard was on his way home when he first saw it. After arriving home, he called to a friend, Glenn Coates, and both boys watched until Glenn had to leave. Banyard then followed the UFO into the Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

"I hid under some trees for quite a while," he said.

Banyard stated that the UFO "had a white ribbon of light coming down from the bottom of it." Hovering at an estimated 200 feet altitude, the object made a "muffled whistling noise."

"I was about 50 feet away from the thread of light and the ground was white, as though white hot, under it," the witness claims. "The beam came straight down and then spread out in kind of a rectangular shape about six inches above the ground."

As the witness came out from behind the trees, the light disappeared and he heard a noise "like a jet starting up." Then all the lights on the craft went out and the UFO took off with "seven or eight bangs."

Black streaks and rocks that looked like they had been burned were found later in the day along the cemetery's gravel road. There was no evidence, however, that this was caused by the UFO.

"The coating was manganese oxide," reported Dr. L.A. Bayrock of the Alberta Research Council. "It's very common on stones in many areas of Alberta."

Apparently, the cinders were ploughed up by a grader that passed through the cemetery the day before the sighting.

Sparks And Explosion

Several days later, hundreds of miles to the south, a witness reported to NICAP that he saw an object that hovered and shot off sparks.

Richard J. Butler said he was traveling on Route 7 in Alexandria, Virginia, at 10:12 p.m., May 12, when he saw a light that changed color from white to red, back to white and alternately grew bright and dim.

"It moved more or less in a circular path at a low rate of speed," Butler stated. "After moving several hundred yards south it seemed to hang in the air. Then it gave off sparks underneath and toward the earth. This lasted for a few seconds, then quite suddenly -- the light was gone. It seemed to vanish in an instant."

The object was noiseless, he said, and "had no distinct pattern or direction or speed."

Four nights later New York state was the scene of a sighting of a red object emitting two bright lights.

At 9:30 p.m., May 16, Dr. Frederic D. Weinstein and Miss Pamela Carrington were heading north on Route 87 between Albany and Clifton Park. A bright, pulsing red light was observed to the northwest. First thinking that it may have been the running lights of an airplane coming into Albany County Airport, they parked and watched through binoculars. The UFO was moving slowly toward them.

"To the naked eye," Dr. Weinstein, a Director of Admissions at the State University at Albany, said in his report, "the color was a bright flare-red. . . varying in intensity, occasionally turning toward white and orange. In the binocular. . . the object did not seem to pulse but appeared a more flat running light red."

Miss Carrington felt she detected an "oval cloud-like shape behind the light."

"As the object crossed Route 87," Dr. Weinstein continued, "an extraordinary and unnerving thing happened. The object appeared to drop a white light which fell approximately 1500 feet and then seemed to explode in at least five fragments. . . The whole effect was rather like a huge spark dropping from an arc welder's torch on a skyscraper."

The witnesses observed the object for 10 minutes.

Colorado Project Expanding

More money, time and field investigating appear to be in the offing for the University of Colorado's UFO investigation.

A request has been made to the USAF's Office of Scientific Research for an additional five months (to September, 1968) and \$210,000 (for a total of \$523,000) in order to complete the task of checking into the complex UFO picture.

Among the developing projects is a greatly expanded effort to gather data which will provide solid evidence of the existence or non-existence of UFOs. Among the current facets of this program are:

(1) special photographic and electromagnetic deflection instruments designed to provide accurate figures on UFO sizes and performance;

(2) an alert network of experienced UFO investigators who will notify Colorado immediately upon learning of a potentially important sighting;

(3) a file of the most significant cases which can be studied by computer;

(4) several teams of well-trained investigators prepared to go to the scene of any major sighting at short notice; NICAP expects to play a part in the training of these teams;

(5) a special sighting investigation form developed expressly for the Colorado project;

(6) a layman's manual to help the average interested person to do a better job of observing and reporting sightings; and

(7) closer relations with Air Force Base UFO Officers, starting with a special briefing held June 12-13 at Boulder, Colorado, for some 75 of these men.

Two new members have been added to the University's UFO team.

Dr. Gerald M. Rothberg is a professor of physics at the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N. J. He will head a team of field investigators emanating from Boulder, Colorado, beginning in July.

A New Yorker, Sam Rosenberg, will write an historical analysis of the UFO problem as a chapter for Colorado's final report. His analysis will be thorough, making use of historical sightings, ancient scrolls and legends from such institutions of learning as the Library of Congress and the New York City Public Library.

Both men have contacted NICAP for assistance.

A move to broaden the scope of the Colorado investigation has been reported by nationally-syndicated newspaper columnist Roscoe Drummond. He states that Project Coordinator Robert Low will be attending the August meeting of the International Astrophysical Union in Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he will meet with Soviet and other scientists interested in the world-wide UFO mystery.

In addition to reporting on the progress of the study headed by Dr. Edward Condon, Drummond commented on its quality. "The Condon team is not doing this job reluctantly; they are doing it with a sense of excitement; they know that just possibly they may be within reach of the biggest discovery of the ages." He concluded, "From everything I have learned, I am convinced that the Condon team is going to do a thorough and scientific job."

Dubious Contactee Claim

The highly publicized case of Woodrow Derrenberger's alleged contact with a spaceman in West Virginia, starting Nov. 2, 1966, and continuing for some weeks, is still under investigation by NICAP. Extensive work has been done by the Pittsburgh Subcommittee, with the help of several consultants, including a psychiatrist and a psychologist.

The case involves Derrenberger's claim of a surprise meeting with "Mr. Kuld of Lanulos" on a highway at night and his subsequent meetings and telepathic conversations with this individual.

While NICAP has been unable to conclusively disprove the claims by Derrenberger, the case is considered highly dubious.

FACTS ON MOON SURFACE

Scientific confidence in the ability of the moon's surface to support men and machines has been intensified by information from Surveyor III, the second U.S. spacecraft to successfully soft-land on the moon and the only lunar payload of any country to date to carry a device for shoveling the surface material. Data from the spacecraft show the ground at the landing site to be composed of fine grain particles that are loosely packed but cohesive enough to maintain moderate solidity. Such consistency compares to that of wet sand on Earth.

Various groups and individuals claiming contact with UFOs and extraterrestrial creatures have long professed detailed knowledge of the moon's geography and geology, but in scientific fact, not even minimal data on the nature of the lunar surface existed until the U.S. and U.S.S.R. soft-landed instrumented probes last year.

Surveyor III set down April 19, 1967, in a crater on the lunar plain called Ocean of Storms. The floor of the crater has proven to be firm and dry, with only partial rock cover. Some debris, such as dust-like materials and stone fragments, is present, but much of the sand-like soil is exposed. The cohesiveness of the soil is greater at subsurface levels, though not to the point of stickiness.

Bearing strength of the ground is between three and eight pounds per square inch (psi), substantially more than that required for America's manned moon craft, the LEM (Lunar Excursion Module), which will exert less than one psi through each of its three landing pads. An astronaut, weighing an estimated 50 pounds on the moon, will also be readily supported, since he too will produce less than one psi across the bottom of each foot.

Prior to soft-landing missions, speculation on the quality of the lunar terrain took divergent courses. Some commentators favored a solid, rocky surface, while others envisioned a soft, dusty landscape. Photographs from such spacecraft as America's Rangers failed to resolve the question, and not until the deployment of Luna IX, the first successful Soviet soft-lander, did clear evidence become available. Luna IX (landed February 3, 1966) came to rest on firm ground without any such effects as would be expected from contact with unstable material.

Surveyor III landed about 390 miles from the location of Surveyor I, the first successful U.S. lunar lander, which reached the moon in early June of last year. Comparison of the two landing sites has revealed similar soil composition.

During the two weeks Surveyor III operated, it took approximately 6300 pictures, dug four trenches in the lunar surface, and performed sundry soil-sampling tasks. Among the pictures were the first color photographs ever taken on the moon. The photos show the soil to be grey.

Surveyor III was launched late in the evening of April 16, 1967, from Cape Kennedy, Florida, by an Atlas-Centaur rocket.

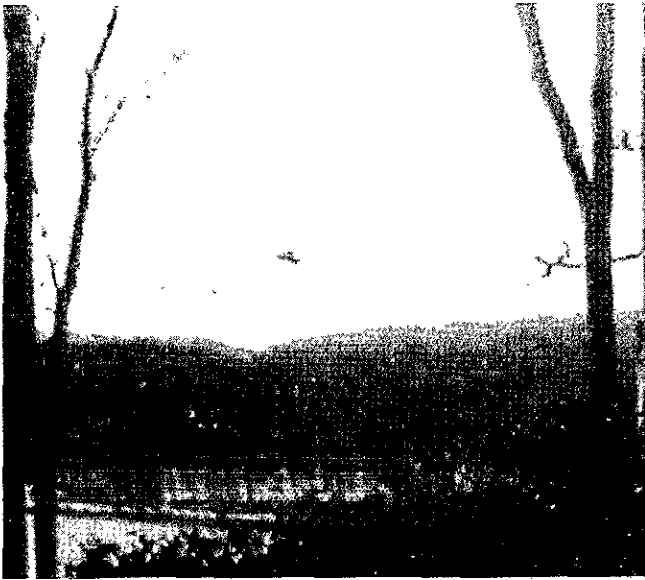
Dr. Herman Oberth

Dr. Hermann Oberth is internationally known as the father of modern rocketry, and almost equally well known as a supporter of the extraterrestrial theory of the origin of UFOs. He has not changed these views, but he has written to NICAP, asking us to announce in the Investigator that because he is overburdened with other duties, he has withdrawn from all official and unofficial responsibilities in connection with UFO research.

Dr. Oberth's letter also explains the appearance of his name as "Chief Director" of the International UFO Observer Corps (IUOC) of the Cosmic Brotherhood Association of Japan. A year or so ago, he says, the CBA notified him that he had been elected an honorary member, to which he agreed in the interests of international friendship. However, he was not asked to become "Chief Director"; this title was given to him without his permission and indeed without his knowledge. When the IUOC letterhead so listing him was brought to his attention, he asked to be replaced in this capacity.

The Cosmic Brotherhood Association is a religiously-oriented group, who are followers of Adamski. They have published in their magazine, "The Flying Saucer News," pictures of lens flares, sky lights caused by camera defects, and other questionable photos under the guise of UFOs.

AF Rejects N.Y. Photos, NICAP Dissents



First Lake Tiorati Picture. Copyrighted 1966 by Vincent Perna.

The Air Force has told the New York NICAP member who photographed a UFO late last year (UFO Investigator, Vol. III/No. 11, page 7) that the pictures do not support his story. To date, however, NICAP's investigation indicates the photos and related report are authentic.

The two pictures, reproduced here for the first time together, were made December 18, 1966, at Lake Tiorati, N.Y., by Vincent Perna, a 23-year-old construction worker from Yonkers, N.Y., who had been a member of NICAP for about three months.

The sighting occurred between 4:30 and 5 p.m. EST at the northern end of Lake Tiorati, which is part of the Palisades Interstate Park in southeastern New York. With Perna were his brother Louis, 26, of the Bronx, and a friend, Thomas McClain, 38, of Manhattan. The three men were fishing and had packed their gear with the intention of leaving soon. On top of the gear was Vincent's Brownie Fiesta camera.

Suddenly Vincent noticed an object moving over the trees across the lake. Calling to his companions, he grabbed the camera and ran to a spot some 25 or 30 feet away where he had a clear view of the far shore. The object was traveling from left to right in an S-pattern whose plane paralleled the ground. The motion was steady and quiet with no drastic change in the object's altitude or attitude.

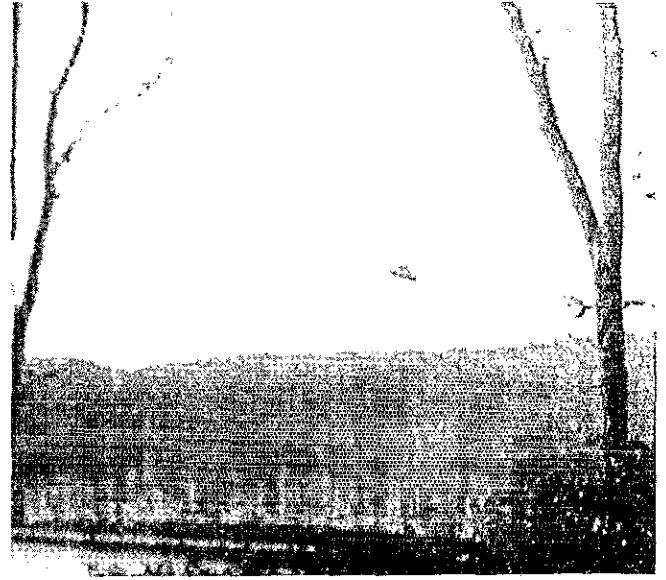
Illuminated by the setting sun, the UFO appeared to be roughly similar to a hat or inverted dish. The bottom was yellow and the top gray. No structural details were evident. Vincent had the impression the rounded top was somewhat offset toward the rear of the object.

Within seconds after the two pictures were taken, the UFO passed behind a fire tower on the hill across the lake and disappeared down behind the trees. It had been in sight less than ten seconds.

After the UFO left, the witnesses ran to the road that circles the lake and went to a nearby park police facility to report the sighting. The police suggested contacting the Air Force at Stewart AFB about 16 miles away. Vincent phoned the base later that afternoon.

In its letter to Perna, the Air Force agrees the UFO is a real object rather than a photographic flaw or trick, but concludes the object is "a maximum of three feet in diameter," not the "50 to 75 feet" estimated by Perna. The letter also says the object is "substantially nearer than the background trees," not over the trees as Perna said. Both Air Force conclusions are apparently based on the "relative clarity" of the object as it appears in the first picture.

NICAP's investigation of the case is continuing, so a full rebuttal to the Air Force verdict is not yet possible. Since the Air Force obtained the less clear of the two negatives, the present



Second Lake Tiorati Picture. Copyrighted 1966 by Vincent Perna.

indication is that the military analysts were misled. There is significant difference in the sharpness of the two photos.

The negative of the first picture, the inferior of the two photos, was examined by the Air Force while NICAP studied the second negative, which is now being held by NICAP pending completion of its investigation. The first negative was received by NICAP on June 9, following its return to Perna by the Air Force, and is now being evaluated. As of this writing, the Air Force has not asked to see the second negative.

In the second picture, the distinctness of the object indicates its location is at least 35 feet from the camera and probably much farther away, as the witnesses reported. Readings from instruments support this indication.

The top of the hill in the background of the second picture is approximately 2000 feet from the camera, while the shoreline is about half that far. If then, as the witnesses said, the object is over the trees on the visible side of the hill, it is between 1000 and 2000 feet away. Assuming that location for the object, its diameter, as determined by the image size in the photo, is 40 to 80 feet, the same approximate range estimated by Perna.

Robertson Report Released

After fourteen years of submergence in security restrictions, the entire Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects--commonly called the Robertson Report after the Panel's chairman--has finally come to the surface. Cleared by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and now being prepared for release, the Report contains the controversial recommendation that the government "debunk" UFO reports to "reduce public interest in 'flying saucers'" (UFO Investigator, Vol. III/No. 10, page 3).

The Robertson Panel, composed of five lay scientists, met in Washington, D.C., in January of 1953 at the request of the CIA, which was worried over growing public interest in UFOs and the increasing involvement of military and intelligence personnel in sighting investigations. After a week of briefings, case reviews, and discussions, the Panel drafted its report and disbanded.

Concluding that UFOs were neither a threat to the United States nor a phenomenon new to science, the Panel recommended an educational program to familiarize the public with things mistakable for UFOs and to minimize fascination with flying saucers. When the program was implemented, the present policy of de-emphasis was adopted whereby the Air Force repeatedly reassures the public that UFOs represent nothing of significance to either the government or the civilian population.

Startling Cases Investigated

A group of startling cases has been reported to NICAP. Reported characteristics include an alleged abduction, witnesses burned, children badly frightened, a man who claimed he fired at and hit a UFO, electro-magnetic (E-M) effects and animal reactions. Some of the reports were received first-hand; others were culled from unconfirmed newspaper accounts. All are under investigation by NICAP. The most incredible one follows:

On the evening of February 5, 1967, a young man in Hilliard, Ohio, said he heard a "strange noise" and a dog barking. Here is what he reported:

Looking up, he saw a UFO 75 feet long and about 45 feet high come in low over a road shoulder. The object, he said, landed on three legs in a field. Soon after the egg-shaped craft touched down, an "elevator-like shaft" opened and "beings" emerged. They were carrying small circular balls which he said they placed on the ground around the sides of the ship. Then the creatures, that looked human, appeared to be waiting. Soon a man came from across the field and a conversation was held. The witness said the participants were using mental telepathy and all walked with a "slight limp." They also had a hypnotic look, he said. [How he knew about the telepathy he did not say. Ed.]

Then the witness said he stepped on a twig. It snapped and immediately caught the attention of the "beings." The leader ran after the observer, who attempted to run, badly frightened. The creature, however, caught him by the back of the neck, immediately leaving a burned wound that, according to the witness, was later confirmed by unnamed Air Force officers investigating the incident. He said still another of the creatures approached, and both dragged him back to the saucer. As they got almost to the door of the craft, the humanoids looked at each other as if panic-stricken. They dropped the scared witness, gathered up the balls, and took off in the UFO.

Members are aware of NICAP's stand on cases such as this; we are extremely skeptical, due to the fact no report like this has ever been authenticated. Many have been outright hoaxes and others have emanated from dubious sources. The witness in this case talked with NICAP via telephone and refused to give his address or phone number. We will reserve judgement pending solid proof.

Physiological Effects

A UFO that stalled a car, pulled the vehicle toward it and caused the witness' skin to peel was seen at about 7:45 p.m., April 5, near Jonestown, Pennsylvania, according to John H. Demler, a justice of the peace, who was heading toward Lickdale.

"When I got on Route 72 one-half mile from home," Demler stated in his report, "I started north and went about one-half mile when the car missed. It missed the second and third time. . . It then stopped and the lights went out. . ."

It was then that the witness saw a UFO "about 30 feet across" coming toward him about 30 feet above the road. The slow-moving object flew over the vehicle, he said, then stopped and hovered "along side of the car."

"It gave off a smell of sulphur and camphorated oil," Demler continued. "It then started to tilt and go away very slow. . ."

Suddenly, the witness reported, the UFO "put on terrific speed" and the car "seemed to be pulled to it;" the rocking vehicle then "settled down so fast" that he was thrown across the front seat.

"The object when seen above the car looked like it had lights in back of a painted black glass," Demler said. "It gave off a sound as an electric motor running. . . and. . . when it left it was more louder. It also gave off sparks as if you ground on an emery wheel. . ."

After the UFO disappeared, the witness reported that his car functioned perfectly.

The following day, Demler stated, he was extremely nervous and "went with perspiration till about 4 p.m." He also said that portions of skin peeled off his hand and feet.

So far, NICAP has not been able to discover whether the witness consulted a doctor about his physiological effect.

Hundreds of people in and around the small town of New Haven, West Virginia, reportedly saw a UFO on the evening of April 17.

Lewis Summers, a registered pharmacist and owner of his own pharmacy, submitted the report via letter and telephone.

Summers said the huge craft was first seen flying up the Ohio River at about 500 feet altitude around 8:45 p.m.

"When I realized that it was coming across the Ohio River," Summers stated, "I jumped into my car and drove about three-quarters of a mile to get nearer. The object crossed the highway about one-half mile ahead of me and disappeared behind the hills."

Reaction To Light?

As the witness continued to drive, however, the UFO circled around and was heading straight toward him. Two huge beams of light were being projected toward the ground from searchlights on the bottom. The UFO then turned back toward the river and Summers followed until he "was in a position where the craft would pass overhead."

"I stopped the car and flashed the headlights off and on several times," the observer continued. "The spotlights also were turned off and on several times, but I do not know whether they were answering my signals or not."

When the craft passed over his car, Summers said he heard a jet also flying overhead. The UFO moved across the sky at the relatively slow speed of 100 m.p.h.

"One farmer said the craft stopped above a field on his farm and shined its lights down," the witness remarked. "Said lights were reported to be too bright to look at close up."

Three miles north of Summers' position, a small boy who had a pony hitched to a wagon was slightly injured when the animal bucked at seeing the object, wrecking the wagon and breaking the youngster's glasses. The boy's father refused to believe that his son had seen a UFO until he (the father) found the pony on its back "with its feet sticking straight up."

Mrs. Lewis Capehart, who works at the Summers Pharmacy, reported that her two German shepherd dogs "howled and barked" as the strange craft flew overhead and "one broke the chain with which it was tied." Mrs. Capehart submitted a drawing of the object she saw to NICAP. The sketch shows a huge ball of light with two rows of four porthole-like openings each on two cone-shaped protuberances sticking out from the sides of the white ball.

"Two reliable people told me their TV sets reacted with severe interference at this time," Summers added.

Numerous people along the West Virginia-Ohio border reported seeing the object. Hundreds of calls were received the next day by Radio Station WMFO. According to Summers, the station called the Air Force bases and airports in the area. None reported any aircraft in the area at the time.

Meanwhile, across the river, in Middleport, Ohio, Sheriff Robert C. Hartenbach and several others saw the object that emitted "a bright yellow light" and had "feeder-type objects protruding off its main part," thus conforming with Mrs. Capehart's drawing. The sheriff, whose sighting was reported to the Pomeroy, Ohio, Daily Sentinel, said he saw the UFO at the same time that Summers first observed it.

Still another report to NICAP came from Louis Ellis, who also saw the UFO at the same time in Middleport. The witness was working late at his job in the personnel office of the Vanadium Corporation of America when he saw the object moving toward the southeast.

"It suddenly stopped," Ellis said, "possibly two minutes, then reversed its direction without turning and came directly over me at. . . 400 or 500 feet."

The observer said he saw bright lights coming from the windows on the protuberances.

"There was also a row of red lights around the object," he stated, "but at no time did they blink or change color."

The UFO moved slowly over the plant, seeming, at times, "like it might stall." It disappeared at 8:40 p.m.

We are awaiting further developments and first-hand accounts on this sighting.

The Salt Lake Tribune reported that a man fired at and hit a UFO while traveling on Utah's Route 91. Michael Campeadore said he was about 17 miles west of St. George at 1:43 a.m., May 6, when he heard a loud humming noise.

"I hit the brakes of my car," he said, "jumped out and the object -- 40 to 50 feet in diameter -- was hovering over my head about 20 to 30 feet above me."

Returning to his car, he loaded his .25-caliber pistol and emptied a full clip at the object. He said he "heard the bullets ricochet. . ." off the round UFO which had a dome-shaped top.

A case of a man allegedly burned by a UFO on the ground has been checked by a University of Colorado project investigator.

Steve Michalak was on a hobby-type prospecting trip north of Falcon Lake, Manitoba, Canada, at noon, May 20, when he heard some geese begin to cackle. Looking up, he said, he saw two bright red UFOs approaching from the south-southwest.

"One was cruising about 10 feet above the ground and one landed," Michalak told a reporter. "I watched it for about a half-hour before going near it."

He said when he approached the object, which gave off multi-colored reflections, a door opened, revealing a brilliant violet color. The UFO was whistling, "like it was sucking in air. . ."

The 35-foot long object was about eight feet high, with a protuberance on top about three feet in height. It looked like "stainless steel" and its joints were "perfect," with no welding, rivets or bolts.

Cautiously approaching, the witness said he heard "definitely human" voices coming from inside the craft, but he couldn't understand what was being said because of the noise. The UFO then emitted heat from holes in its side, spun counterclockwise and took off, knocking Michalak to one side.

"It was when the craft took off that father received burns at his chest," Michalak's son, Mark, said. "The burns. . . resemble a pattern, geometrically burned like a checker board; one square has a number of dots in it, while the next one is bare."

When the witness reported at the hospital for treatment, he told the attending doctor that he had received the burns from an airplane's exhaust because he was "afraid that he would be laughed at." The doctor confirmed treating him for burns.

Michalak said he had lost 12 pounds in the two days following the sighting and was not feeling well.

"I still vomit," he remarked, "and I can still feel a sort of foul smell coming from inside me."

Michalak's wife confirmed the statement.

The witness says he thinks that what he saw could have been "a new innovation being tested from the U.S."

NICAP has asked Michalak for a first-hand report. The Colorado project investigator confirmed the witness' burns and said he seemed reliable.

A sighting that took place near Richmond, Virginia, reportedly frightened 7-year-old John Norton so badly he had to be taken to a hospital in an ambulance.

At 11:30 a.m., June 1, the youngster was chopping wood when he saw a UFO with red and green lights land in a clearing near his home, according to newspaper accounts. Both the boy and his aunt, Rebecca Norton, ran into the house "white as a sheet."

John said he became afraid when the object "winked" at him, made a buzzing noise and "took off like lightning." His mother, Mrs. Pedro Norton of Pump Road, said he was so badly upset that she had to call the Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad to take him to the hospital. He was described by attendants at the hospital as "convulsing" when brought in.

The UFO, "about the size of a Volkswagen," was hubcap-shaped, "kinda white and golden at the bottom."

John's father said that the boy has "never told us anything like this before."

Again, we caution readers that full investigations on these cases have not been completed. They should not be accepted, or rejected, on the basis of the present evidence. Any further information that comes in will be reported in future issues of the Investigator.

Physical Evidence Analyzed

Analysis of physical evidence from the South Hill, Va., landing case of April 20 has so far produced nothing unusual. A portion of the burned section was analyzed and compared with an unburned section; both had the same composition. A second analysis was of some dirt taken from one of the four indentations which surrounded the burned area, and it, too, was entirely conventional in make-up. Further tests are scheduled to be made and will be reported as soon as they have been completed.

GUIDE TO SKY SIGHTS

During June, July, and August the night sky will show several astronomical objects and phenomena which may be misinterpreted as UFOs. The following general information may help to prevent mistakes of this kind.

PLANETS. Venus is by far the brightest object (after the moon) seen at night this summer—very much brighter than either Jupiter or Mars. Even before sunset it is a very bright white light in the west, becoming even more brilliant as the sky darkens. It will be at its brightest on July 24. It will then grow gradually less bright, but will still be conspicuous at the end of August.

Jupiter, also white, is the second brightest planet. When Venus has set (which happens approximately two hours after sunset), Jupiter is brighter than any star. It is close to the western horizon early in June. At the end of the month it sets about 9:30 p.m., and during the rest of the summer it becomes increasingly inconspicuous in the evening twilight.

Mars, the red planet, will be west of the meridian during the first half of the night. It sets shortly after midnight on June 15, and thereafter will be progressively lower in the western sky each night at the same time, setting about 9:30 p.m. at the end of August. Although Mars is less bright than Jupiter and much less bright than Venus, it has occasionally been reported as a UFO.

METEOR SHOWERS, SPORADIC METEORS, AND BOLIDES. Meteors, or "shooting stars", may occur in groups or singly. A meteor shower is seen when the earth's orbital path takes it through a swarm of meteoritic material. There are a number of these showers, each occurring annually on the same dates. All the meteors of the same shower seem to come from the same point in space, travelling radially outward from it, and the shower takes its name from the constellation or star where this "radiant point" seems to lie. Two showers occur during the summer. The Aquarids can be seen from July 25 to 30, the maximum display occurring on the 28th. They have long paths, and the average number seen per hour is 12. The Perseids are seen on August 10, 11 (the peak), and 12. They are yellow and travel outward from the radiant in swift streaks.

Sporadic meteors are single objects not connected with any shower. They must be expected at any time in any part of the sky.

Whether occurring in groups or singly, the number of meteors observed per hour doubles after midnight.

Bolides or "fireballs" are the ones most often thought to be UFOs. Like sporadic meteors, they occur at random and cannot be predicted. They are very large and bright, sometimes seeming to have several colors; they sometimes make a roaring sound, and in perspective may make their trajectory appear horizontal when it is not.

The fainter meteors, lasting only an instant, have a momentary trail; as they become brighter, they may leave a train that remains visible for several seconds; and the very brilliant fireballs may leave a smoke trail that lasts for half an hour and is often twisted by smoke currents.

BRIGHT STARS. These are much less apt to be mistaken for a UFO than are planets or meteors. When a very bright star is near the horizon, however, refraction and atmospheric turbulence may make it "twinkle" and seem to change color. When the observer looks fixedly at a small point of light, motions of the eye may be mistaken for motions of the objects.

Stars in the western sky this summer: Arcturus (yellow); Spica (white). Stars on the southern horizon: Antares and Fomalhaut (both red). Overhead passes a great triangle of stars: Vega (blue-white), Deneb (white), and Altair (yellow). Rising in the east on mornings late in August: Sirius (white, the brightest star seen in the northern hemisphere); Betelgeuse (orange) and Rigel (blue-white); Aldebaran (red), Procyon (yellow-white), and Pollux (orange). Recall, however, that color impressions are very subjective.

In general, suspect that you are looking at a star or planet and not a UFO: (1) if the object is seen rising slowly in the northeast, east, or southeast, or descending slowly toward the northwest, western, or southwest horizon; (2) if it is visible for a long time without moving far or fast; (3) if it is seen night after night in about the same position at the same time; or (4) if it is near the horizon and appears to change color.

British Radar/Visual Case

A huge, cone-shaped UFO that slowly revolved, hovered for more than an hour, and shot away as an airplane approached was seen by members of Her Majesty's Coast Guard and others at Brixham, Devon, England, at 11:25 a.m., April 28.

Coast Guardsman Brian F. Jenkins stated in his report to NICAP member J.A. Hennessey that the object was seen stationary at approximately 15,000 feet. It slowly drifted to the northwest during the next 80 minutes. It was slowly revolving, revealing a door-like structure on its side as it did so. There was a "curtain-like structure" at its bottom that changed shape during the flight.

"At 12:40," Jenkins stated, "an aircraft with a thick vapor trail approached the object from the northeast, flew above it and passed it, then turned and dived and approached the object from below, slowing down. . . until the vapor trail faded, and the aircraft was lost from sight. A few minutes later the object was lost in a cloud."

The UFO disappeared at an estimated 22,000 feet altitude.

According to the May 21st edition of the London Sunday Express, an undetermined number of people along the Devon coast saw the UFO. Within minutes, the Royal Air Force submitted an account to the Ministry of Defense, who at first denied they had received any report, but then said that they "did receive a report, but somehow it was not logged."

The object was also reported tracked on radar, according to a senior RAF controller at Plymouth.

At the same time as the sighting, an air vice marshal was visiting the Brixham Coast Guard station.

"We raised the subject [of the sighting] with his staff who remarked that they had never seen anything like it before," Jenkins remarked after they had seen his detailed drawing of the object.

"FLYING SAUCER" CONVENTION

Under the pretentious title, "Congress of Scientific Ufologists," a saucer convention was held from June 22 through June 25, 1967, at the Hotel Commodore in New York City. The affair was arranged by James Moseley, editor of Saucer News, who has organized numerous attacks on NICAP over the years.

The tentative schedule showing the featured guests for the various sessions reveals a wide spectrum of personalities. Besides avowed opponents of NICAP, it includes at least three contactees.

We might point out here that the term "scientific ufologist" means nothing. There are no academic or professional requirements whatever for obtaining that title. Anyone who wishes to confer it upon himself is free to do so. Examination of the list of featured guests reveals, in fact, only one man with a real background in a recognized field of science (Ivan Sanderson). If the promoters of the convention had been able to schedule any other speakers of significant stature in the technical, professional, or scientific fields, they would no doubt have included them in the advance guest list.

As advertised by the convention promoters, Dr. Edward U. Condon of the Colorado University project was present. This fact, we hardly need to point out, does not indicate any endorsement by Dr. Condon or the Colorado Project of the ideas, purposes, or policies expressed at the meetings, nor acceptance of any claims or statements made there (although convention publicity may highlight his attendance and imply such endorsement or acceptance). Since the Colorado Project was not familiar with the groups and individuals who attended the "congress," it was felt to be essential, for a comprehensive view of their activities in the UFO field, to observe them at first hand.

This issue of the Investigator goes to press just before the convention opens; any necessary comments will appear in the next issue. Meanwhile, NICAP members who see publicity about the convention are asked to remember that NICAP is not participating because we do not consider that this "scientific congress" represents either the scientific or the conservative approach to UFO research or UFO publicity. We know that several NICAP members will be present, however, in order to challenge and rebut charges or false statements made about NICAP — when and if they are given an opportunity to do so.

Fieldcrest Customers Warned

NICAP has received many complaints from people who have sent money to Fieldcrest Publishing Company, for Major Keyhoe's book, The Flying Saucer Conspiracy, and have never received it, although their checks or money orders had been promptly cashed. Some of these people had been waiting months for delivery of the book.

As we have explained in previous issues of the Investigator, Conspiracy was published in 1956 by Henry Holt & Co. The book advertised by Fieldcrest is not a new book, as their advertisements imply. The original publisher then merged with another firm, becoming Holt, Rinehart & Winston, and the latter firm sold the book to Fieldcrest over Major Keyhoe's strong protests. Neither Major Keyhoe nor NICAP is responsible for Fieldcrest's re-publication of the book, and neither has any control over the way it is being advertised and sold.

Letters of complaint about this situation are being submitted to the United States Post Office. If you have paid for this book and have not received it, we urge you to write to: Chief Postal Inspector, Washington, D.C., stating the details of the transaction: when you sent your order to Fieldcrest, how you paid for it, whether your check or money order has been cashed, whether you have complained to Fieldcrest, and what answer, if any, you have received from them.

Probably only action by the Federal government can end this flagrant defiance of the rights of the mail-order book purchaser.

1947 Sighting Wave Report

Marking the 20th anniversary of the year in which the contemporary period of UFO activity began, a NICAP member is now preparing a comprehensive report on one of the most significant waves of UFO sightings during that period--the wave of June and July of 1947.

In later years it became apparent that UFOs were not merely a passing curiosity; reports continued and people began to collect them. But during that first rash of sightings few--if any--records were kept, and apart from the reports contained in the Air Force's files the only other source of recorded material is found in back issues of newspapers buried in libraries throughout the country.

Ted Bloecher, a NICAP member of long standing, has in the past five years consulted newspaper files in every city he has visited while on tour with "My Fair Lady," "Oliver" and "Half a Sixpence." In addition, he has supplemented this research by consulting papers at the Library of Congress, in Washington, D.C., from areas he did not visit while touring. Well over a hundred papers, representing most of the major cities in the United States, refer to more than 700 specific sightings for the period of June and July, most of which, following their appearance in the local dailies, have never been referred to in any books or magazines on the subject. Reports of sightings were found for all but two of the fifty states--Mississippi and Rhode Island-- and from many points in Canada. These news reports contain enough data to demonstrate that unknown, high-speed and maneuvering devices were being reported in unprecedented numbers for a period of several weeks that summer--often by persons of known competence and character, such as police officers, pilots, physicians, meteorologists and, in several cases, astronomers. The wave built up gradually in June, and reports crested on the four days between July 4 and 7; on July 7 alone there were more than 150 sightings.

In spite of having uncovered so many reports, Mr. Bloecher is sure that he has only scratched the surface. He estimates that if a similar search could be made in all the local daily and weekly papers throughout the country, the total number of sightings would be more than doubled.

FRANK EDWARDS DIES

Frank Edwards, long-time NICAP board member and news-caster, died June 23 at his home in Indianapolis, Ind., following an apparent heart attack. A detailed story on his contributions to NICAP and the UFO picture will appear in the next issue of The UFO Investigator.