

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON
AERIAL PHENOMENA
NICAP

NICAP ■ 3535 UNIVERSITY BLVD. WEST, SUITE 23 ■ KENSINGTON, MARYLAND 20795 ■ A NONPROFIT CORPORATION FOUNDED 1956

DALLAS-FORT WORTH FAA OFFICIALS INVESTIGATE UFOs

NICAP has received numerous reports during the past month regarding an object or objects making regular appearances above a hill along the west boundaries of the Dallas Fort Worth Airport.

The prime witness, Mrs. Sandra Hodgson, 36, is a medical technician at Irving Community Hospital. Mrs. Hodgson stated that she has viewed objects numbers of times en route home from work. After several nights of observing lights which seem to travel and hover at just about tree-top level, she reported the UFOs to the FAA control tower at the D FW airport and to George Burlidge at the FAA's Fort Worth regional headquarters. "They advised me to try and get a picture of the object, so I got out my camera and when a UFO appeared east of our apartment building about 200 yards away, I took a shot."

The photograph shows a small jagged twisting yellow light against a pitch black sky. Unfortunately, there are not any reference points in the photograph to determine size or distance. However, it appears to be moving West from left to right in the classic patterns of the UFO flights that have been reported in that same area by other witnesses.

Mrs. Hodgson has been fascinated by the regularity of this strange phenomenon and decided to take a friend, Debbie Carter, to try and follow the light. They got into their car and saw the object hover over a small road approximately a mile east of them and shine a strong white searchlight down into a clearing. "When we got there the light was still hovering in the air over a clearing where a Mexican American family live."

Mrs. Hodgson and Miss Carter said they found Mr. and Mrs. Lucio Perez with

his brother standing in the clearing in absolute amazement as a result of what they were seeing.

The Perez family does not speak English, but when Mrs. Hodgson showed Mr. Perez the photograph of the UFO, he immediately began pointing to the same spot where Mrs. Hodgson claimed that the object had been hovering. Mr. Perez also indicated with gestures that the UFO lights appeared to be coming from the field at the edge of the airport. Again, this was the same location that Mrs. Hodgson stated that the UFO had been taking off from.

Reporters from a local newspaper were contacted and they trudged through high grass and weeds where they came upon a circular area of grass and weeds about 20 feet in diameter twisted down in a clockwise pattern. It was the reporters consensus that "something" had landed there.

All of the witnesses have claimed that the numerous UFO sightings and extremely low level flights westward away from the airport have occurred in the same location as described by Mrs. Hodgson. The UFOs have been seen for the last few months and usually between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. Radar contact has not been made during any of the sightings due to the low altitude of the objects. Radar at the D FW airport would have only picked up returns from ground objects and could not be expected to have made radar contact.

Due to the frequency of the sightings and the inability to identify the objects either by radar or by association with standard flight patterns, Mr. Fred Ford, Director of Operations at the Dallas Fort Worth Airport decided to try a direct

approach in making identification. He instructed the drivers of 20 D FW airport radio equipped cars to station themselves at intervals near the area of the sightings. These men maintained radio contact throughout their watch and this vigilance was rewarded with the observation of a UFO matching the description given by Mrs. Hodgson. There is a possibility that some of the original sightings could be explained as witnesses unfamiliarity with the characteristics of Twin Otter aircraft which are flown by a commuter airline and could possibly have been flying outside of normal approach patterns. However, it is highly unlikely that the trained FAA observers could fail to identify any of the aircraft using the D FW airport. Still another unexplained facet is that the observation made by the FAA observers was away from the flight patterns used at the airport.

ANGEL'S HAIR IS BACK

NICAP recently received a most interesting report from a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland. The witness stated that he didn't report the incident sooner, simply because he did not want to give credit to what he suspected. However, after the witness read the March, 1974, issue of the *UFO Investigator* he was convinced by the "Angel's Hair" article that his suspicions were probably correct that he had actually seen "Angel's Hair." He now regrets not having collected samples of the weblike substance that he had observed in early December of this past year.

The witness's experience with what he believes to have been "Angel's Hair"

—Continued on next page

ALABAMA YOUTH ENCOUNTERS FIERY PHENOMENON

February 12, 1974, is a date that eighteen-year-old Kenny Sherrer will remember for years to come. It was about 11:00 P.M. on that night when Kenny was returning to his home near Hackneyville, Alabama. He was travelling a road he had frequently used. Suddenly he noticed what appeared to be automobile headlights among some trees on the left hand side of the highway. As he passed the entrance to an old deserted house, a fiery object resembling a mass of burning ashes and having a dull glow emerged from the driveway of the abandoned home and began to follow him. At first, it remained slightly above and behind his car, but it soon came down alongside the auto, traveled along the surface of the road, and rose toward the front of his Chevrolet Impala.

At times the object circled the car clockwise, and it alternately rose and fell as it sped alongside the auto for a distance of five miles. According to the young man, it never rose higher than the power lines alongside the road. Kenny described the object as being about half the size of his car, and emphasized that he was unable to outdistance it even at a speed of 100 m.p.h.

Young Sherrer said he felt no heat coming from the phenomenon, and none of the automobile systems faltered or failed. The fiery mass remained on the driver's side of the car except when it briefly circled. Kenny's father inspected the auto after his son arrived home but could find no signs of heat damage. The youth was so badly frightened by the experience that a numbness developed in the right side of his body and was diagnosed by a doctor as a nervous condition; it disappeared in about three days.

The editor of the Alexander City *Outlook* and a NICAP investigator were among those who interviewed Kenny Sherrer about the incident. Both felt that the young man spoke with conviction and assurance, and friends and neighbors described him as reliable. Throughout all of the questionings by various people, no appreciable variation was found in any of Kenny's answers.

International Advisory

UFO sighting reports continue to flow into the NICAP office from many different provinces of Canada. They seem to be experiencing almost the same type flap that the United States had in the Fall of 1973.

Residents from the Boshkung Lake area in Ontario are asking themselves, "What are they? . . . Where do they come from? . . . Where do they go? . . . These questions are still unanswered.

Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Lunham, whose home is nestled at the base of a thickly treed rocky shield and commands a good view of Boshkung Lake, have confirmed the sightings that the residents have been reporting with a few variations.

Their stories of the sightings had several similarities but their description of the vehicles differed in some respects. However, the most common observation held, not only by the Lunhams but by others in the district, was that the almost nightly visiting flying objects didn't appear to reach great heights. There seemed to be a general agreement that the objects kept at a tree-top level and performed what might best be described as darting motions . . . up and down and sideways.

Mrs. Lunham described the visitations as appearing in numbers at 10 foot intervals for a distance of approximately 750 feet. The witness described the objects as looking like "monstrous planes, black in color and shaped something like a polywog." She stated further that a variety of lighting effects were employed including red, blue, white and orange. However, Mr. Lunham gave a somewhat different description of what he had seen. He said his impression was that the craft were shaped not unlike a kite but he, too, said the lighting effects were varied.

Mrs. Lunham stated that the objects emitted a sound but that it was not sharp or defined. She said it was more of a dull thumping sound. All of the residents that have been witnessing the appearances of the objects agree that the sightings usually occur between the hours of mid-night and the pre-dawn hours. Some of the people have chosen not to talk about the objects. Mrs. Lunham seems to feel that they are afraid of what they are seeing.

A photographer from a local newspaper went out to Lake Boshkung on 5

different occasions to try and photograph the object. On the fifth visit, the photographer did see the UFO at approximately 10:00 p.m. He described the UFO as a dull, red light just above the tree tops. It traveled slowly in a northerly direction; then began to retrace its course before the reporter lost sight of the object. The witness had his camera and tripod set up, but the UFO's glowing light was too dull to photograph. Its movements were much too erratic for the object to be a regular aircraft, the reporter stated.

Other witnesses who have reportedly seen UFOs in different parts of Canada have been Dafe Parnell, a private airplane pilot, and Pete Sawyer, who claimed to have seen a UFO during daylight in the Hall's Lake region.

Angel's Hair-continued

occurred at approximately 6:45 a.m. on that December morning. Shortly after arising for work, he looked out his dining room window and to his amazement saw what looked like a giant spider web covering a wide area over bushes and grass in the yard.

After dressing for work, the witness went outside to wait for his carpool to arrive. Approximately one half hour had passed since his first observation of the "Angel's Hair," and typical of the material, it had already begun to decrease in proportion. The carpool arrived soon thereafter and the driver also had noticed the "Angel's Hair."

Their route to work from suburban Silver Spring to Washington, D. C. takes them through an area known as Rock Creek Park. This parkland also contained a considerable amount of the weblike material covering trees and grass.

The interest associated with the case is the large geographical area in which the material was observed and the fact that the material dissolved, proving that it obviously was not a spiderweb. As stated in the March, 1974, "Angel's Hair" article, there are only 50% of the "Angel's Hair" cases where a UFO has been seen in conjunction with the "Angel's Hair" substance. In this particular case, there was no UFO sighted.

FEEDBACK/Readers write

May 13, 1974

Editor:

You, no doubt, are familiar with the article in the May 1974 issue of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC "The Incredible Universe."

I sincerely believe that all members of NICAP should read this article and especially that part on pages 622 through 624 which I quote:

"To be sure, no one can prove that life exists beyond earth. Moreover, as recently as two or three decades ago it was pure speculation even to suggest the possibility. But that has changed. With our rapidly growing understanding of the universe has dawned the profound belief that we are not alone.

"Not long ago at a symposium on this subject, Professor George Wald, Nobel laureate and professor of biology at Harvard, declared, "I think there is no question that we live in an inhabited universe that has life all over it."

"His view was echoed by Professor Richard Berendzen, an astronomer from Boston University. "The question has become not so much one of IF as of WHERE. And many of these forms of life are probably far more technically advanced than ourselves."

"Intelligent life elsewhere does not have to be like human beings. Scientists say, in fact, that it certainly will not have developed in forms just like us.

"Whatever form it takes, life cannot exist in a fiery star? it needs a planet of appropriate size not too near and not too far away from a sun. We cannot see such planets outside our own solar system because they are too small and do not emit powerful radiations, but we can detect them by the way they disturb the motions of their parent stars. So we believe that a number of the stars closest to earth have small dark companions.

"Suppose that only one in every hundred thousand of the stars in our galaxy has a planet with some kind of life—intelligent or otherwise. That's only one thousandth of one percent of the hundred billion stars that are our galactic neighbors, yet it represents a million 'populated' planets.

"A growing number of scientists would say this is not an unreasonable estimate. Since other galaxies are believed to have on the average, as many stars (and therefore planets) as the Milky Way, and since there are an estimated hundred billion galaxies, the number of extraterrestrial civilizations could be truly astronomical!

"Estimates such as these take an added meaning from the recent discovery, chiefly

SIGHTING ADVISORY

Preliminary information on new reports. Details and evaluations will be published when available.

July, 1973 – Annapolis, Md. While sailing on a clear windless night, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Terzes of Wilmington, Del. reported seeing a brilliant white light hovering over their sailboat. The intensity of the light made the deck and surrounding waters appear almost like daylight. There was no sound connected with the object. As the boat sailed, the UFO followed overhead for approximately 15 minutes. Mrs. Terzes stated that, "it seemed to be watching us, and then it was as though someone turned off a light switch. The light simply went out."

March 28, 1974 – Manchester, N.H. Mr. William Handley witnessed an object that he described as looking like a comet which was purple and orange in front with a white tail. Mr. Handley commented that the tail of the object was approximately 5 times the diameter of the body. The object was brilliant, which is what caused the witness to notice it. Handley, a former science teacher estimated the speed of the object to be approximately 350–400 mph. The UFO passed behind a two story house and completely disappeared.

April 17, 1974 – Riverside, Ca. A witness camping in the desert reported at approximately 11:00 p.m. while lying on his back "star gazing," he noticed a bright glow showing through the cloud cover just over some hills in a northwest direction. The witness immediately focused his binoculars on the glow. He could see 3 lights. There were 2 white ones behind one another and blinking red light centered between and just below the 2 white ones. The white lights appeared as small discs. The lights disappeared in the northeast sky.

April 25, 1974 – District Hghts., Md. At 8:44 p.m. on a clear night, a witness reported seeing a diamond formation of 4 white lights with 2 red middle lights that blinked alternately. The witness viewed the object with binoculars for approximately 16 minutes before the UFO disappeared behind some trees.

through radio astronomy, of a rich variety of molecules in what was once thought to be barren space between the stars. Among these are molecules such as ammonia, hydrogen cyanide, formaldehyde, and water. They contain the basic chemical elements—carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen—that account for 99 percent of the living material we know. Some of these molecules are called 'biological precursors'; when subjected to intense radiation or electrical discharges, they can produce the more complex amino acids that are the building blocks of life.

"And so belief that life exists outside our own tiny corner of the cosmos is growing strongly. And we need not agree entirely with the cynical writer who said of the stars, 'If they be inhabited, what a scope for misery and folly. If they be not inhabited, what a waste of space.'"

I trust that you will see fit to reprint this in the UFO INVESTIGATOR.

Yours very truly,

B. W. Ward



MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

The response to Clip Board, February, 1974, regarding college courses on UFOs has stimulated members from different sections of the United States to inform NICAP of UFO classes that are being offered. The colleges and states are listed below. Anyone interested may contact the colleges direct for further information.

- University of Alabama, Montgomery, Ala.
- University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.
- Victor Valley College, Victorville, Ca.
- Edison Community College, Fort Myers, Fla.
- Moorpark Junior College, Moorpark, Ca.

NICAP BOARD OF GOVERNORS—1974

John L. Acuff, Jr., Chairman and President

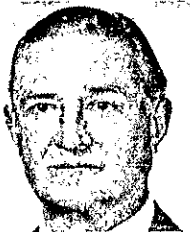


Mr. Acuff was elected Chairman of the Board and President of NICAP in May, 1970. He was the first businessman with a scientific background to serve in these capacities. He is President of his own firm, Acuff Associates, Inc.,

a management services organization formed in June, 1970, Chairman of J Med Enterprises, Inc., a biological products company and serves as Executive Director for three scientific associations in addition to his duties with NICAP. He is a native of the Washington, D.C. area, a graduate of American University with a major in biology and minors in psychology, chemistry and mathematics.

Col. Joseph Bryan, III (USAF, Ret.)

Colonel Bryan has had dual careers as a military officer and writer. He initially served in the Army and Navy, then received a commission in the Air Force. While in the latter, he served as special assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, and spent considerable time in Europe on the staff of NATO. His writing career includes stints with many well known publications, plus extensive free-lance work and the authoring of five books.



Dewey J. Fournet

Mr. Fournet has played a key role in the UFO story. As an Air Force Major assigned to Air Technical Intelligence in the Pentagon, he worked as liaison with Project Blue Book for Air Force Headquarters during one of the most dramatic years in UFO history, 1952. By training, he is an aeronautical engineer, having studied and taught engineering at Louisiana State University, and worked for Lockheed Aircraft. He was born in Louisiana and is presently employed there as an executive with the Ethyl Corporation.



Sen. Barry Goldwater



Senator Barry Goldwater was born in Phoenix, Arizona. The Senator was the Republican presidential candidate in 1964. When Senator Goldwater was running for president, he was completing his second term as a U.S.

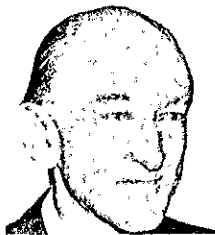
Senator from Arizona. During World War II, the Senator served as an Army Air Corps pilot overseas. After the war, he helped organize the Arizona Air National Guard. He remained active in the Air Force Reserve, and became a Major General in 1962. He was working outside of politics after the 1964 presidential election until 1968, when Arizonians again elected him to the Senate.

Joseph B. Hartranft, Jr.

Mr. Hartranft is President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the major American organization for general aviation. He is also involved with other aviation groups, including the National Intercollegiate Flying Club (which he founded) and the Bates Foundation for Aeronautical Education. Born in Buffalo, New York, he is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and private pilot of 40 years' experience. During World War II, he served in the Air Force, and was instrumental in the founding of the Civil Air Patrol. He presently lives in Bethesda, Maryland, where AOPA is headquartered.



Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe (USMC, Ret.)



Major Keyhoe is renowned for his work in the UFO field. Author of the 1950 *True* magazine article that helped make UFOs a major public issue, he has written four best-selling books on flying saucers. He served as NICAP Director from 1957 to 1969, helping to make it a highly respected organization. His military career dates back to 1920, when he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, and includes duty as a Marine Corps pilot. He later worked as chief of aeronautical information for the Commerce Department.

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Charles P. Miller, Vice-President

Mr. Miller, NICAP's Vice President, is a Texas-born journalist. At the end of World War II, he came to Washington to help the State Department organize the United States Information Service (now USIA). He then joined the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), and later was named Vice President for editorial affairs, a post he held until retirement in 1971. He is a graduate of Simmons College (now Hardin-Simmons University), a resident of Washington, D.C., and currently a consultant to AOPA.



Brig. Gen. Robert C. Richardson, III (USAF, Ret.)

General Richardson is one of the few West Point graduates to serve on the NICAP Board. On leaving the Academy in 1939, he attended flight school in Texas and Oklahoma, then took command of a Fighter Group in what was then the Army Air Corps. After World War II, he served in various planning and R & D assignments for NATO, Air Force Systems Command, and Defense Atomic Support Agency. He retired from active service in 1967 and is currently a businessman and security policy consultant.



Dr. Bruce A. Rogers



A native Iowan now living in Arizona, Dr. Rogers is an engineer, physicist, and metallurgist. His last position, before retirement in 1960, was professor of mechanical engineering at Texas A & M University. Prior to that, he taught chemistry at Iowa State College, where he did his undergraduate work. He received his doctorate from Harvard.

Hon. J. Edward Roush

Congressman Roush achieved a permanent place in the UFO field when he chaired the Congressional "Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects," held July 29, 1968, before the House Science and Astronautics Committee. The Symposium served to put on record some of the best opinion currently available on the UFO subject. Mr. Roush is a Democrat from Indiana, a native of Oklahoma, and a graduate of Huntington College and Indiana University. He is a lawyer by profession.



Frank B. Salisbury

Frank B. Salisbury is professor of Plant Physiology and Professor of Botany at Utah State University. He is now on leave from the University and is serving as Plant Physiologist at AEC in Germantown, Maryland.



Dr. Salisbury received his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology. While a graduate student, he published an article for "Science" about the possibility of life on Mars. The correspondence generated from the article led to his interest in UFOs.

Dr. Salisbury has lectured on UFOs at universities and other institutions in many states, Canada and in Europe.