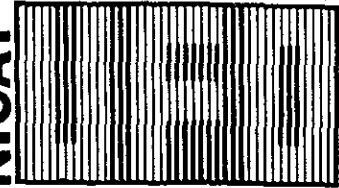


UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE OF

NICAP



AERIAL PHENOMENA

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LOS ANGELES POLICE WITNESS UNUSUAL LIGHTS

Between the hours of approximately 7:00 PM and 4:45 AM on the night of March 21 and the morning of March 22, a series of bright lights were observed over southern California. Several witnesses reported sighting these lights and at least seven of the witnesses were members of the Los Angeles County Police Force.

The first two witnesses to report the unidentified lights are helicopter patrolmen for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The two men, Raymond Davis, the pilot, and Theodore Roach, the observer, were flying 600 feet over La Mirada in the Whittier Hills section of California, when they observed two strange, bright, flying lights. According to newspaper articles published all over the United States, the patrolmen attempted to follow the lights at the helicopter's maximum speed of 80 mph. However, according to NICAP's interview with Captain Montgomery of the Los Angeles Aero Bureau, the two men merely observed the lights for a few seconds before the objects sped out of sight. Davis and Roach reported seeing the objects at approximately 7:00 Monday night.

No further sightings were reported until 3:30 AM (approximately eight hours after the Davis and Roach report). During the early morning hour between 3:30 and 4:30, two highway patrol officers, seven security guards, one helicopter deputy and two sheriff's deputies witnessed extremely unusual movement of lights across the Los Angeles sky.

Both the highway patrol officers, Robert Scholl and L. Orchard and the seven security guards at March Air Force Base witnessed bright, moving objects that were followed by trails. These sightings occurred at 3:30 AM. The officers observed a single bright light with a vapor trail that hovered over the Box Springs Canyon area in Riverside County. South of the officer's location and fifty miles east of Los Angeles Air Base, the security guards reported seeing two brightly lit objects travelling at high speeds. The objects were visible for about fifteen seconds as they moved in a northerly direction. Like the patrolmen, the guards observed what appeared to be a vapor trail after the lights.

The highway patrol officers are the only witnesses to describe the lights as "hovering." This fact is noteworthy because it rules out the theory that the lights were meteors, since meteors do not hover or pause in flight.

The meteoric explanation was offered by the Griffith Park Observatory in Los Angeles, and it is a feasible rationale for several reasons. First, none of the lights changed the direction of their path across the night sky. Meteors and meteorites maintain a straight trajectory. Secondly, several of the observations included the description of a vapor trail, a common phenomena of meteorites as they enter our atmosphere and begin to burn due to intense heat caused by friction. The burning objects can leave a trail of fire and smoke. Also, the objects were all reported as being extremely

bright lights, and meteorites, depending on their nearness to Earth, are self luminous because they are actually on fire. Lastly, except for the Scholl-Orchard sighting, all of the objects seen were travelling at high rates of speed and none of the objects changed their rate of speed as they swept across the sky.

The difficulty in determining exactly what these lights were lies in the fact that the characteristics of a UFO in flight can be just like the characteristics of a meteor in flight. In hundreds of documented cases, UFOs have been described by credible witnesses as travelling in straight courses, as leaving blurs or trails of light behind them, as being incredibly bright, or having variably colored lights, and as moving at phenomenally high speeds. Obviously, with the facts about UFOs and meteors, and the evidence as presented by the witnesses, it is nearly impossible to identify the lights as one or the other.

The final two reports were submitted by Deputy John McSorley at the sheriff's helicopter station in Long Beach and by two Los Angeles sheriff's deputies, Lonnie Hicks and Robert Carr. Deputy McSorley's report presents another complication in evaluating the evidence and Lonnie Hicks offers the most detailed observation of all the Los Angeles reports.

John McSorley, who was twelve miles south of Los Angeles during the rash of 3:30 AM sightings, also witnessed two

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UFOs FOLLOW FRIGHTENED DRIVERS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND IOWA

PENNSYLVANIA INCIDENT

On Saturday night, March 19 between 8:05 and 8:45, Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Phillip Dale was cresting a ridge on Route 410 in the Big Run area and looking toward the northwest. Sitting low on the horizon in the valley in front of him was a volley ball sized light. In an interview with NICAP, Dale described the object as being, "like a glow." The light seemed unusually low to Dale; in fact, it seemed as if it were actually below the horizon. It also seemed unusually close to the earth. It appeared to be closer and brighter than any of the other stars, and all the stars were bright on that clear night. For the next six miles Trooper Dale continued to watch the stationary ball of light. As he watched, the light appeared to change color. It first was a light cream or amber color, but during the five to ten minutes that he watched it, the color became a deeper red and increased its intensity. After the color changed, the light appeared to move toward the northwest.

When Dale first noticed the light, he was on the top of a hill. He was immediately interested in what he was observing especially after he saw the light change color. He decided that after driving down the hill and across the valley, he would proceed up the next ridge which would be a higher elevation than the first one, and get out of his car to observe the light. But in the approximately ten minutes it took him to reach the next ridge, the light disappeared.

Dale had originally been dispatched from the Punxsutawney station to investigate a report about a brightly lit object that had hovered over a woman's car, terrifying her as well as her friend and young son, the other two occupants of the car. The hovering incident had occurred about 7:00 PM the same evening.

According to Dale, the frightened woman, her son and her friend, left her mother's house, which is in the Big Run area. She was driving toward Route 410 and paralleling Red Dog Township Road. A bright light on a nearby hill caught their attention, but they thought that it was a new drilling rig, something frequently seen in the area. However, the tan colored light started moving toward the right rear of the car. Now Mrs. Bowser, the witness, and her friend were alarmed. She continued to drive, though, and as she did, the light moved over the top of the car until it was ahead of them. The object maintained the same speed as the car's for about 30-45 minutes, hovering just over the front of the car the entire time. Once it assumed its position in front, it shot two bright off-white beams of light just like two headlights directly onto the car.

When these lights came on, the women could not help but watch the object even though they were terrified. They described it as being a flat disk encircled by windows. From these windows, blue green lights emanated. The object finally drifted away from the car when the women reached the junction with Route 410. No electromagnetic effects were reported.

As Trooper Dale, who already knew all the details of the Bowser incident, first noticed the bright light resting on the horizon before him, he radioed back to the police barracks to give them his position and a description of what he was watching. He found out that two policemen, who were twenty miles north of him could also see the low glowing ball. He was only about ten miles from the barracks, but to his surprise, the barracks reported back that they were unaware of the light Dale was watching; they had been watching a different, but just as unusual, light.

After the strange light that the trooper first sighted had disappeared, he began to watch the second light. This one was much higher in the sky and it appeared to rotate counter clockwise. He also observed that it had pulsating red and blue-green lights. For the next thirty minutes, Dale followed and watched this object until it, too, travelled out of sight.

Trooper Dale, after consulting with an astronomer, feels that the first light he observed was the star, Taurus. The second light, he feels certain, was a UFO. It gave off no smoke, left no trail, and had no sound. There is no airport nearby, and he has never witnessed anything like this before.

IOWA INCIDENT

When the chief of Police of Hawarden County, Iowa received a report of an apparent UFO sighting, he immediately directed the incident to Mr. Bolster, our NICAP investigator in Iowa. Mr. Bolster presented us with the following report.

Douglas Wilkens, an eighteen year-old high school student, was driving home from a church youth meeting on a clear, windless night, when he noticed a very bright white light to the northwest. He was travelling north. It was 9:30 PM March 6, 1977. For the 10 to 15 minutes that it took Wilkens to drive home, it appeared to him that this object, or light, travelled with him. As he made several curves, drove faster or slowed down, the light seemed to do exactly the same.

Wilkens quickly discounted his original notion that the light was an aircraft or weather balloon. He became frightened when he realized that the ob-

ject was mimicking his movements and he drove as fast as he could to get home. When he reached his farm house, he ran inside and had his mother, father and sister view the object. The light remained in sight for another 10 to 15 minutes, long enough for the entire family to view the light through the telescopic site of a rifle.

The object was described as being self luminous and as bright as a bright star. It was grapefruit sized and round and appeared to have four protrusions, one at the top, one at the bottom, and one on each side. It did not seem to be rotating and the intensity of the light remained constant. Wilkens estimated the distance of the light to be about one and one half miles and the altitude to be about one half mile. At no time did the light emit any sound. After approximately fifteen minutes, the light seemed to either speed off into the distance or to simply fade out.

Rings Around Uranus???

Since the time Uranus was discovered in 1781, only a few facts about the distant planet have been gathered. Even the most powerful telescopes have revealed only a featureless, blue green disk that is orbited by five moons. Now, however, some new discoveries have been made about the planet. According to two astronomers, James Elliot of Carvell University and Robert Millis of Arizona's Lowell Observatory, Uranus has either a band of tiny satellites or a system of rings that are similar to Saturn's around it.

Two sightings, which were recorded in separate observations, occurred when Uranus passed in front of a bright star that served to illuminate the outline of the planet. Before Uranus actually covered the star, the star's light dimmed and brightened four times. This, concluded the astronomers, could only have been caused by objects orbiting closer to Uranus than the five known moons.

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mysterious bright lights. This report, coupled with similar sightings by officers in Ventura, which is sixty miles northwest of Los Angeles as well as from officers in Huntington Beach, which is twelve miles southwest of Los Angeles introduces the problem of trying to establish the exact number of lights that crossed the southern California skies.

Davis and Roach were the first to report the double light phenomena on the evening of the 21st, but whether the security guards, whose report came eight hours later and whose sighting was from a position fifty miles from where Davis and Roach saw the lights, observed the same two lights is unknown. The guards at the air base saw two lights with a blue trail travelling north at a high speed. Also at 3:30 AM, Scholl and Orchard observed a single light with a vapor trail hovering in an area north of the air base. The Sorley observation which was reported at about 3:40 AM, describes two lights travelling east. The last report which also occurred at 3:30 AM and which will be discussed next, indicates that two lights were travelling from west to east. Due to the contradictory descriptions and the fact that all the witnesses but one watched the speeding lights cross the sky and travel out of sight, it appears that several lights travelling in straight paths passed over Los Angeles.

The final sighting was reported by two Los Angeles sheriff's deputies, Lonnie Hicks and Robert Carr. NICAP questioned deputy Lonnie Hicks in depth and received a detailed account of his experience that morning.

At 3:20 AM, Tuesday morning on March 22, Deputy Hicks and his partner, Robert Carr were patrolling a neighborhood in Firestone, California. They were looking at the homes when their attention was drawn upward. Through the car window, the deputies witnessed two extremely bright lights moving from west to east. The lights travelled in perfect tandem, one above and a little in front of the other. In the twenty seconds it took for the lights to cross the sky, the two observers noted that the lights were three to four times brighter than the brightest stars. Deputy Hicks referred to the lights as being extremely bright, calling them "ultra bright." The lights were sharply outlined shapes, a bright white

with a light orange hue on the outer edge.

In many newspaper articles about the lights, Hicks and Carr are quoted as saying, "the lights followed one another through the sky." But, in this interview, Deputy Hicks said that the objects appeared to be travelling independently. "They were on the same plane, travelling at exactly the same speed and on exactly the same angle; one was not tagging along behind the other."

When the sighting took place, there was no wind and the night sky was very dark. The objects looked like brilliant thumbtacks crossing the sky. Deputy Hicks at first thought the objects were meteors, but he saw no vapor trail. He knows they were much too fast to have been satellites and he immediately checked with the Los Angeles Airport to see if they could offer an explanation. Hicks added that the lights were travelling in one of the landing patterns used by the airport. But the airport said there had been no aircraft landing or taking off at that time. Both Deputy Hicks and Deputy Carr remain puzzled by their sighting.



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FEEDBACK / Readers write

Dear Director,

I am writing as a UFO investigator of many years and the opinions here represent the views of many Canadian Researchers. Your organization in the past few years has become a great discredit to the entire field of UFO investigation. It has become obvious that after Mr. Keyhoe left NICAP you have succumbed to government pressure and suspicions are high that you are in fact contributing to and assisting the 'cover-up'. Evidence exists that you have in the past, and still are, suppressing all UFO-related data that does not fit into your frame of reference. The latest of your blunders, a la-Project Bluebook, consists of the debunking of the Greenhaw occupant case. Any investigator who has taken any time at all to study ALL the facts carefully in this case could *never* satisfiably consider this a hoax. Of course NICAP has never accepted ANY

occupant case and the emotionally-rooted biases of your staff have played a big part in your campaign. Your organization over the years has become nothing more than a political 'front' and I'm sure, in due time, you will be exposed as to your true motivations.

Is it any wonder that in 30 years of investigations by both government and civilians we still have very few answers to this enigma? I contend that part of this problem stems from the fact that organizations like yours have succumbed to 'manipulations' and don't really give a damn if the public knows the truth or not. You can print stories of 'nocturnal lights' and pilot sightings for the next 20 years, but make sure that the public doesn't get too much on close encounters, abduction cases, and contact reports. These categories seem to hold too many keys to the TRUTH, so I

suppose it is in your best interests to make them as controversial as possible in order to demean their credibility. I am confident that this 'campaign' of partial truths intermingled with your many cries of 'hoax', is designed only to set research back to the days of Project Grudge and Project Second Story in Canada. In this way you can effectively continue to operate under the facade of a bona-fide research group and at the same time make sure that the public learns nothing new. The carefully construed Walton controversy, may I add, has served only to cast doubt on your organization's real objectives.

If I sound presumptuous, let me assure you that many researchers share my feelings. I dare you to print this and wait for the response!

Sincerely,
Harry Tokarz

RESPONSE

Dear Mr. Tokarz:

Thank you for your comments concerning NICAP and the Greenhaw case.

You should be informed that since 1970 there has been no government pressure on NICAP. Since 1970 there has been no NICAP relationship of any kind with any government agency. I cannot personally speak for the years prior

to 1970, since I was not involved during that time. However, to the best of my knowledge, the situation was the same then.

As published, the Greenhaw case is a hoax. Our investigator worked three years on the case and did an excellent job. This hoax has been admitted by one of the participants.

You make a point throughout your letter that the public should know the truth. I agree. Is your definition of truth to print only positive statements about any case?

Sincerely yours,
John L. Acuff
President

SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

Mt. Rainer, Maryland—February 14, 1977—When Low V. Tai walked out of a grocery store at 7:00 PM, he noticed a pair of bright white lights slowly moving toward the earth. The lights were vertical to one another and a short distance apart. The top light remained consistently bright, but the bottom light seemed to go on and off erratically. In between the two lights was a narrow strip that got brighter and then faded, sometimes disappearing completely. Mr. Tai, who has a background in astronomy and physics as well as service in Air Force, observed the lights for about three minutes after which the object went behind an apartment building.