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UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

NICAP

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NORTHERN NEW JERSEY RESERVOIR VISITED BY UFOs

The evening of February 15, 1976 started routinely for three New Jersey residents, who at approximately 6:45 p.m. were driving to visit a friend. The visit was soon forgotten when their attention was drawn to a large, trapezoid shaped UFO in the evening sky. The object was clearly visible below the cloud cover. They told NICAP investigator, Mr. Ernest Jahn, that it had "a hazy orange appearance surrounding it, with two very deep, unusually colored redish lights on each end, and seemed to be no higher than 5000 feet."

As the men observed the UFO, a jet aircraft came into view about two miles away from the object and at about the same altitude. As the jet came closer the UFO "Seemed to fade from view and completely vanished." The entire incident lasted for about one minute.

Mr. Jahn's investigations confirmed that weather conditions were those of a cloud cover starting at about 4000 feet with 12 miles visibility under the cloud cover. Morristown Airport reported that three private Falcon fan jets would have been in the area at approximately 6:45 p.m., flying at 2000 to 3000 feet. The cloud cover and observation of the jet have made the men's estimate of altitude and size rather accurate. Inquiries at other control towers and area radar facilities resulted in no additional information on the subject. The pilot of the jet that would have been closest to the object stated he had been in the area at the time, but did not observe the UFO. A report by three Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey police officers the night before (February 14) was stated to be an unusually large and bright fireball (meteorite), but in this case no meteorological phenomena was known to have occurred that evening anywhere close to the sighting. The object was very near the large Jersey City Reservoir. It appeared that this was just another isolated sighting with no natural explanation occurring near large bodies of water. However, it was just the first of several incidents that were to occur in that area.

February 19 . . . UFO Returns?

Numerous witnesses who are residents of the Lake Hiawatha area of New Jersey reported a strange object to the Parsippany Police Dept. NICAP's investigation of the incident centered on the reports of two individuals, Mr. Walter Kahl, Jr. and Miss Coleen Smith, who were able to give the most detailed report. A detailed drawing of the witness's observation is shown (see figure 1).

At 9:15 p.m. a large, rectangularly shaped object was seen hovering in the vicinity of the Jersey City Reservoir. The UFO was estimated to be about 50 feet long "with a small turrett or dome-like top and a bright red diamond shaped light on the bottom." Two very bright white lights were seen at each end of the craft and in its center.

All witnesses reported two separate, similar objects. The first moved by at a rapid rate of speed from the west to the east, and details of its structure were difficult to observe. The second object followed the first, but moved more slowly. It hovered over the reservoir for approximately four minutes before moving out of sight at a high rate of speed. The hovering UFO made a sound described as "a low fluctuating hum."

Mr. Kahl observed the UFO with aid of binoculars, and could not observe any recognizable markings on the craft.

Complete investigation by Mr. Jahn has proved negative in identifying the craft as any known object.

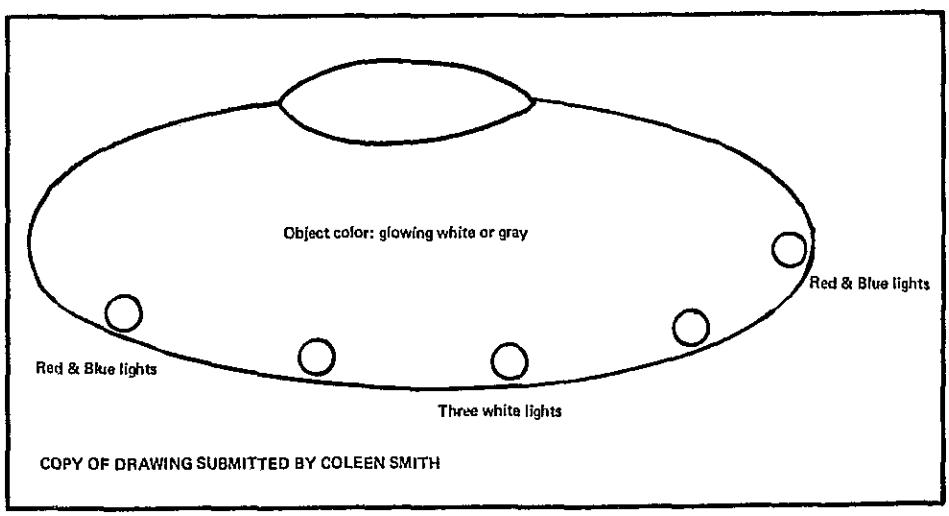

FIGURE 1

February 26 . . . Another Visit?

Four members of a Morris Plains, New Jersey family saw an unusual object in the sky at approximately 7:10 p.m. The object was at a greater distance and at a higher altitude than those UFOs previously reported. However the estimates of size, shape and description of light coloration bears a strong resemblance to those given in earlier reports.

The witnesses observed the object hovering for 5 to 7 minutes before it sped off at a high rate of speed. While it was hovering the lights appeared to be rotating around the craft. No sound was heard during the observation. They were able to compare the craft with a number of conventional aircraft, and it was completely unlike any of these.

No conventional explanation can be found for this object, or for any of the objects appearing in the sky nearby the Jersey City Reservoir.

Correlations

In all cases the description of the craft, its actions and light colorations were almost identical. Each of the sightings were near a large reservoir, and the objects were seen at fairly low altitudes. During the time period of these observations made by independent witnesses, other reports were being received of similar incidents occurring over Long Island, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Each of these other reports were of objects seen in close proximity to large bodies of fresh or salt water.

These sightings occurred in the same area in which a very credible previous sighting occurred. This July 4, 1975 sighting involved eye witness reports by police, civilians and a private pilot. Communications from two police departments were also disrupted. For complete details see the September 1975 issue of the "UFO INVESTIGATOR".

CREATURE CONTACT IN THE NEWS

John L. Acuff

NICAP receives at least one report each month from an individual who claims to have been in contact with an occupant of a UFO. Usually these reports can only be evaluated by making an analysis of the contactee. During NICAP's 20 years of investigating such cases very few, if any, seem to hold any promise of being factual. They are almost always reported by one or two people. If more than one, the people are usually related or close friends. These people usually have something to gain by their report (e.g. publicity, fame, attention, monitary rewards), and nothing to lose (e.g. their job, their reputation, etc). Some of the individuals have a history of mental illness, some have abnormal personalities. Some (at first glance) seem to be very credible. Each report must be investigated without bias, and the same criteria is used for evaluating all UFO reports and "creature" reports. In highly simplified terms this criterian is: Do the facts contained in the report constitute proof of a real occurrence. NICAP files are full of reports of unknown craft in our sky where the facts do prove a real occurrence. The same cannot be said for reports of creature contact. If we are being visited by extraterrestrial craft, logic would lead us to believe we will some day establish contact. Unfortunately as of this writing, proof of such contact has not occurred.

"Proof" is a very strong word. It basically means that no doubt exists. That anyone qualified to analyze your data will come up with the same conclusion you reached. We have proof that something is being seen (and recorded) in our atmosphere that cannot be explained in conventional terms. Neither NICAP nor any individual or organization has proof as to what that "something" is. The theory that the "something" is extraterrestrial in origin is worthwhile and may some day be proven (and become a fact), but as of now it is still a theory. There is little, if any doubt that we do not exist alone in this vast universe as the only intelligent species. The problem with establishing proof that we are being visited lies within our need to evaluate within the limits of our scientific knowledge. We do not know how to travel the vast distances involved, and therefore have trouble understanding how others could do so. It is comforting to realize that 100 years ago we could not fly aircraft. We could not leave the gravity of earth. 20 years ago physics specialists knew of approximately 40 less properties of the atom than we do now. Who among us can say we have reached the limits of our knowledge of the universe.

It is not impossible to conceive of visitation from a culture born on a distant planet revolving around a distant star. However, the stories appearing in other organization's newsletters and the national press about extraterrestrial creature contact are based on evidence that leave a lot to be questioned.

NICAP is presently working on two cases of contact with extraterrestrial creatures; the Travis Walton case and the Hixon-Parker case (1974). There are very strong doubts about both of these cases. As documented information becomes available, NICAP will publish such information. In the meantime we can only state that hypnosis and polygraph examinations can only be accepted based on the qualifications of those doing the examinations, and the mental state of the witness(es). It is well known that lie detector (polygraph) examinations, hypnosis, "truth serum" (sodium pentothal) are only tools to use in evaluations of truthfulness. Under each evaluation the subject may be abnormal and truly believe something happened when in actuality it did not. The subject may be able to lie without guilt. The examiner may be inexperienced and unqualified. In brief, hypnosis, polygraph exams and 'truth serums' must be analyzed for what they are, and that is a tool for evaluation and not a "magic" solution to find the truth.

The Hixon-Parker case occurred in 1973. During the months after their claim

of being taken on board a UFO, numerous other individuals made claims about creature contact. Most of these later claims are now admitted hoaxes. There is strong doubt about the Hixon case. The supportative information of polygraph exam and hypnosis has since been shown to have been obtained by individuals who are not expert in the respective fields. The case now rests on whether the stories can be believed or not.

The Travis Walton case is still under investigation. The polygraph exam originally given to his friends who claimed to see a UFO was designed to determine whether the friends were involved in foul play in the disappearance of Walton. Exams should be given concentrating on the UFO abduction story. APRO has been conducting additional polygraph exams with the witnesses involved. When complete results are available NICAP will publish an analysis of the case. The UFO INVESTIGATOR of January 1976 published preliminary information on this case, and to date no strong evidence has been forthcoming which would strengthen the case.

Shortly after the nationwide publicity obtained by Walton, NICAP received more than the normal amount of calls concerning creature contact. None seem to offer promise, but a few are still being investigated.

SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

February 26, 1976—Long Island, New York. Mrs. Audrey Manny observed a large dome shaped object at about 6:15 p.m. hovering to the south of her home. After about three minutes it started moving toward her at a rapid rate of speed. As it passed overhead, Mrs. Manny saw patterned lights underneath the craft. There were four white lights in front and four red lights in the rear, each arranged in a diamond shaped pattern. There seemed to be 6 to 9 windows on the side of the object. A brilliant white light was coming from these windows. The altitude was estimated to be between 1000 and 1500 feet. The craft was described as being very large. The object traveled north before "Shooting straight up and disappearing."

February 4, 1976—Navarre Beach, Florida. A Florida highway patrol officer reported a possible UFO to security officers at Elgin Air Force Base. A spokesman for the base said he was unable to rule out the possibility that what the officer had seen was the planet Venus. The trooper stated that he was on Santa Rosa Island at about 4 a.m. when he first spotted the object and it remained visible until dawn. The object was described as a large white light, which to the naked eye, appeared to have a red light on one side and a green light on the other. The light was five to six times larger than the largest star visible that night.

CB RADIO OPERATORS ENCOUNTER UFO ACTIVITY

A triangular northwestern area of Maryland encompassing the towns of Brunswick, Point of Rocks and Jefferson experienced UFO activity which seems to have some unusual characteristics connected with the sighting.

On Tuesday, March 16, 1976, the NICAP office received a telephone call from a dedicated member stating that he had heard a radio broadcast discussing UFO activity on the previous evening. Within a couple of hours, NICAP's Regional Investigator, Dr. Wallace Garthright, had a competent team at work researching every existing lead and possibility. Mr. Robert Rothenbuhler another NICAP Investigator, met with Dr. Garthright to discuss their plans before pursuing the case. Because of the multiple witnesses involved and the publicity which had already occurred, both men

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DOMED UFO SEEN OVER KEY WEST

Key West, Florida was visisted by a UFO on Januayr 27, 1976. Mrs. Rosemary Heitmeyer was still awake at about 4:25 a.m. that Tuesday morning and looked out of her hall window while she was preparing to go to bed. She stated during an interview that, "When I saw what I saw, I couldn't believe it . . . there they were, bobbing, moving very slowly. They looked like tops to me, domed tops. Underneath were square windows all around, glaring with an orangy-red color, like fire."

Mrs. Heitmeyer ran screaming for her husband Charles to wake up, and he joined her outside of the house. The three UFOs were still moving in a slow, bobbing motion, but soon started moving rapidly away. The couple said that "One went straight ahead, one veered one way and one veered another . . . when they took off fast."

The wife viewed the UFOs for about three minutes before they disappeared into the clouds in the northeast. The husband was able to observe the objects for about one minute.

Mr. Heitmeyer, a retired Navy chief petty officer and former employee of the Cape Kennedy Missile Test Center, described the maneuver as what the Navy calls a "Split formation." He confirmed his wifes' observations and described the UFOs as "upside down soup bowls." He estimated that they were about one half mile away, and when they stopped hovering, bobbing and moved out, they did so at speeds far greater than could be obtained by conventional aircraft.

None of the control towers in the area reported unusual objects that night, but the Heitmeyers had a unqiue experience.

CLIP BOARD MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

A paper by Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a NICAP consultant, presenting initial results of a detailed study of the McMinville photographs is to be presented at the American Physical Society Meeting on April 28, 1976. The paper will be given in the Executive Room of the Shoreham American Hotel, Washington, D.C. The starting time will be approximately 12:00 noon.

An abstract of the paper appears in the Bulletin of the American Physical Society, Volume 21, page 623 (April, 1976).

UFO ENCOUNTER

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wanted to be organized with their investigation process.

The sighting began at 9:20 PM on March 15 and lasted until 1:30 AM, March 16. The first observer happened to have a citizens band radio and began communications with other people regarding the mysterious light that was displaying unusual movements in the clear night sky. The citizens band contact initiated responses from at least six to twelve different individuals. The witnesses were positioned within a five to six mile radius from one another. All the individuals involved with the citizens band equipment remained in contact with one another throughout the sighting. The approximated twelve witnesses' (all have not filled out sighting forms to date) descriptions were basically the same. However, some reported observing minor differentiating characteristics regarding the light in question. The UFO was basically described as, "Large, yellowish and indistinct." The object behaved irratically throughout the sighting. The distance of the object was reported as being approximately 1,000 feet off the ground during most of the sighting.

One witness stated that the object was directly overhead for a matter of moments and the altitude could not have been anymore than 500 feet. The sound which seemed to be emitting from the object was described by one of the witnesses like the sound made by a vibrating sheet of metal.

A most unusual aspect during the communications between the observers who had the citizens band radio equipment was that of a "Strange interference." As the object appeared to move in the direction of the CB equipment, interference was picked up by all on the channel. The interference sound was like, "A hose running under water . . . it made a loud gurgling sound." The interference was deep toned and at times so loud that all communications were completely blocked out. The CB interference was definitely not the usual static sound occurring with this type of communication equipment.

During the sighting, it was noted by all witnesses that the object behaved erratically. At times it appeared to hover, move off at incredible speeds and many times during the two hours and forty minutes that the individuals communicated, they experienced the above mentioned CB interference. The UFO was not in view for the entire two and three-quarter hours. It seemed to appear for a three to five minute period and then as if someone "Flipped a switch," the light would disappear for approximately ten minute intervals.

Dr. Garthright and Mr. Rothenbuhler are pursuing every possible aspect in their research efforts. Geigor counter devices were used to survey the area for any abnormal levels of radioactivity. This search so far has proved negative.

Several trips to the area have been made by the investigation team and witnesses have been interviewed. Inquiries have been conducted by the investigators to the military security personnel at Fort Detrick, post officers at Fort Meade and the police highway patrol units. A spokesman from the highway patrol has confirmed that the police did not have any craft flying in the area on the night in question.

NICAP's investigation team has not discounted the possiblity that more than one object had been sighted on the eventful night. Some of the objects sighted could have been conventional, but there are still reports that can not be explained as of this writing. The investigation process is continuing in an effort to explain this event that has kept the area' residents in awe. Please watch for additional information pertaining to this case in the UFO INVESTIGATOR.

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