

UFO INVESTIGATOR



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West Coast Sighting Creates Controversy In Local Paper

A UFO sighting in June by two West Coast airmen and the subsequent report of the incident in a local newspaper has drawn charges of "cover up" by one of the paper's readers.

Darrell Totten, of Highland, Calif., in a letter to the San Bernardino *Sun-Telegram*, claimed at least 30 individuals witnessed the UFO on the night in question. His letter, reprinted below, alleges to give many of the details the newspaper failed to report.

Because so many OTHER people saw this strange "thing" late Saturday night and early Sunday June 18, this small mention of it in The Sun puzzles me greatly.

GEORGE AIRMEN SIGHT A BRIGHT ORANGE OBJECT

GEORGE AFB — Two airmen verified each other's report yesterday of seeing a "bright orange object" about 1 a.m. that seemed to be 375 feet in diameter as it sank behind a building southwest of their security-police beat at this base.

The airmen, Gary Corley and Randolph Wogoman, said the UFO (unidentified flying object) sighting apparently went unnoticed by anyone else. They reported it to the air police, and to the Victorville Sheriff's Office and Adelanto Police Department.

No evidence was found of the object having landed, it was reported by the base information office.

Our party of three stopped at the scene of a minor accident around 11:30 p.m., Sunday, to find approximately 30 other people far more interested in watching this strange, circular, "whatever it was" moving quickly about in the sky above us, changing from bluish-white in color, at higher altitude, then to a weird orange-yellow as it came down into the smog-filled lower atmosphere.

One man in this mixed group of spectators told us that he had been told several times, by Air Force personnel, that the "thing" he had seen before was a highly secret "craft" and he should not talk it over with others who have also

seen it. Three U.S. airmen, in uniform, who claimed to be from an air base in Nevada, (on official leave, we supposed) said they would surely know about such craft, even though they might be under orders to remain silent about it, but they were as mystified as the rest of us.

The thing that sickens me about this entire deal is the harm I saw in what it had done to one family on the preceding Saturday night. (The family of four whose pickup camper and trailer had run off of the dirt road where the 30 or more of us were assembled.) I talked with the two almost-hysterical girls, one 9, the other 11, and learned that the "thing" had hovered around their family's rather isolated campsite the night before for more than three hours, hurting their ears with its strange whirring sound each time it ascended from "almost on top of us" as "a big round orange-colored thing" which became, a second later, "just a big bright-blue dot high in the sky."

The still-frightened girls told me their story between the several "dips" this "craft" made over us while several strong men moved boulders and pushed the camper and trailer out of the ditch. Each time the "thing" seemed to move in on us, as though exploring the various automobile lights and flashlights trained on the repair job, the two little girls would cover their ears and throw themselves at their mother's feet, sobbing, while I tried to assure both the mother and the girls that there was bound to be a logical explanation—somewhere. (I will admit that at times, when I also heard a faint whirring sound when "it" came in near us, I too, was shaken. I had always — until then—believed "UFO's" to be in the same classification as the ghosts of haunted houses.) At no time Sunday night or Monday morning however did this "thing" produce any louder noise for us than a vacuum cleaner might.

While talking with the father of the two little girls, I learned that he had told his family's story to a deputy sheriff Sunday afternoon, only to be told that he and the rest of his family were imagining things. The deputy had also given him erroneous directions for getting back to

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Strange Depressions Discovered In Iowa; Lightning Ruled Out

Speculation continues to grow in Iowa regarding the discovery and origin of strange depressions and "silver-like dust" on four widely scattered farms early last month.

The depressions, found on farms in Laurens, Goldfield, Story City and Boon, Iowa, measured approximately one to four feet square and several inches deep. A "silver-like dust" was discovered inside each depression.

In at least one case, the dust was found scattered on nearby soybean plants as well.

Samples of both the soil and the "silver dust" were forwarded to a facility in Ames, Iowa, called the Bio-Assay Laboratory. Inquiry by NICAP disclosed that the facility is actually a small lab in the home of Dr. Robert Baughman, a criminologist who told newsmen he believed the dust may have been caused by lightning striking the soil. Although Baughman admitted he had made no chemical analysis of the samples, he said the soil gave the appearance of lightning effects.

At least three of the farmers have admitted there was a great deal of lightning and thunder during the period in which the depressions were believed to have been made, but deny that lightning could have caused what they found.

"Lightning would have burned the soybeans," remarked one farmer, "but the soybeans were just wilted and are growing again. They couldn't grow after being struck by lightning."

Also denying the lightning hypothesis is the Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO), which, following its own analysis of the soil and dust, has challenged the findings of the Ames Laboratory.

APRO insists their tests show no fused particles in the samples they received and, they note, fusing is apparent in soil struck by lightning.

A Des Moines citizen and avid UFO researcher told newspaper reporters that the depressions were caused by a "non-conventional aircraft that landed and tried to take off.

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Totten Letter

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Barstow, but this may have been merely a usual error in communicating, plus the excited state of mind of the girls' father at the time he talked with the deputy, who also advised this man to forget his UFO.

Because I believed, at that time, that we would be hearing and reading about this "thing" upon our return to the civilized part of the world, I did not obtain the name and home address of the family of four, who believed themselves to be the target of this "thing." After they left us, in their slightly-crippled camper and trailer, I next talked with a lady from Inglewood, giving her my card and obtaining her husband's card in exchange. (It seems that our party and hers were the only ones who obtained pictures of the "thing," although I do not know yet whether any of us obtained what we hoped and tried for; none of us had Polaroid cameras with us.)

Before our party arrived on the scene, the party from Inglewood told us, the thing had "swooped in" over the dirt road ahead of the pickup and trailer, causing the nine-year-old girl to grab her father and cause him to drive off the road. They had doubted this family's story—until the "thing" returned with another rather loud "swoop" over them. The Inglewood lady (whom I promised to contact Friday, if we do not obtain logical explanations before then) told me that she had obtained a story similar to mine from the two little girls and their mother, while her husband and his brother were trying to get the camper truck and trailer back on the roadway. I also learned, from this intelligent career woman, that the younger of the two girls had been quite ill, physically, since the first appearance of this "thing" over their campsite Saturday, although she had heretofore always been a healthy child.

What is the real story behind all this? More than a dozen of us stood around asking ourselves this question early Monday morning, long after this "thing" finally returned to its hiding place southwest of us. Some claimed to have seen "it" before, but were still reluctant to talk about it. When "it" had apparently retired for the night, one by one, the other cars and campers left, and so did we.

If you people know the whole story on this "weird thing," why do you tease your readers with small, meaningless stories like this? Is your short piece this morning part of some Nixon-dictated strategy to "cover up" some unofficial joy-riding of Air Force pilots? Why must we taxpayers help some inconsiderate
(See TOTTEN LETTER, page 4)

UFO Shot at in South Africa; Police Order News Blackout

Citizens of Fort Beaufort, South Africa, are getting jittery about flying saucers!

At least that is the conclusion evidenced by recent newspaper clippings detailing a variety of strange UFO sightings and incidents which apparently occurred in late June and early July.

Although many of the reports are fragmentary, it appears that on at least one occasion in late June, a farmer from Fort Beaufort and local police opened fire with rifles on a UFO with lights.

Attempts by local newspapers to cover the alleged shooting were subsequently hampered by a police clamp-down on information regarding the incident. According to one news account, "Police . . . instructed Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Smit, owners of Braeside farm at Fort Beaufort . . . not to give any more information about the UFO or allow anyone on the farm."

Despite the clamp-down, one newspaper reported that Mr. Smit claims a UFO he observed sometime after the "shooting" destroyed a large, brick reservoir located on his property. Smit said he observed the UFO on July 8, shortly before two explosions rocked his farm. Investigating, he reportedly found large chunks of masonry scattered about the reservoir site and the structure itself totally destroyed.

According to the clippings received by NICAP, there appears to have been a rash of sightings near Fort Beaufort and Port Elizabeth shortly after this incident.

Many of the sightings reported are apparently the result of an over imaginative public reacting to the stories of the "shooting."

Other sightings, however, appear to have occurred near the farm on previous occasions and have become the subject of much local interest.

SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

July 29, 1972 — Shawano, Wisconsin. Police officers in both Shawano and Waupaca Counties reported observing a bright orange object that followed a zig-zag path across the sky during the early morning hours. One officer told reporters it was the second time he had seen such an object in the last two months. Numerous local residents also reported sighting the UFO.

June 11, 1972 — Toronto, Canada. A man reports he watched a bright object hang in the sky over northwest Toronto for about three minutes. It produced a "steady light" then dimmed, made a sharp turn and disappeared. A local observatory official said he thought the UFO was probably Venus. The witness, however, remained unconvinced, noting that Venus was not likely to hang over the city with a bank of clouds behind it.

June 4, 1972 — Wallingford, Conn. Three couples returning from a late evening dinner report they observed a "pear-shaped" UFO with a "concave disc on the top and a red light on the bottom" for more than 15 minutes over Wallingford. All six individuals agreed that it was not a plane or a balloon. Local officials tended to discount the couples' story.

May 16, 1972 — Atlanta, Ga. A witness claims he was driving in the vicinity of Atlanta when a bright "flare" caught his eye. As he observed it more closely, he said the "flare" appeared as four "bright metallic balls . . . moving as a unit without any fire or vapor trails." According to the witness, the objects appeared to be about one-quarter to one-third the diameter of the moon as they traveled across the evening sky.

April — Enterprise, Oregon. A number of residents of Wallowa Valley have reported a series of strange lights during an unspecified two-week period in April. One report involves a man and his daughter who said they observed what they thought at first was a meteorite falling into Bear Creek Canyon. The "meteorite" suddenly stopped short of hitting the hill and began to float in one place and then slowly move about the canyon before speeding away. Other local residents have also reported "strange" bright lights that appear to hover or float around mountain peaks surrounding the valley.

April 14, 1972 — Orland, Calif. A man and his five-year-old son were feeding stock on a local ranch when their attention was drawn to a "bright round light in the sky to the west." According to the witnesses, the object was "bright white in color, completely round" and appeared to be about the size of a silver dollar held at arm's length. The UFO, observed for approximately 2½ minutes, emitted a "high-pitched hum" as it approached their position. (See the May 1972 *UFO Investigator* for additional sightings in the Orland area.)

newsnotes

KEYHOE BOOK NEARING COMPLETION

Major Donald Keyhoe reports that his fifth book on UFOs is in the final stages of preparation. The Major says he is working on the last two chapters and expects to go to New York in the near future to talk with the publisher about production details. Although no release date has been set for the book, present hopes are to publish it by the end of the year. Thus far, the book is untitled.

WE'RE MOVING

NICAP has decided to join the many other associations who have recently relocated in the suburbs of Washington. As of August 15, 1972, our new address will be: 3535 University Boulevard West, Kensington, Maryland 20795. Our new telephone number, effective the same date, will be: 301-949-1267. Kensington is located a few miles north of Washington, near the Capital Beltway.

Oregon Photo

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as radiation), McIntyre points out that no evidence of alteration can be found anywhere in the picture. Everything in the picture photographed normally, including the trees immediately behind and beneath the object. Moreover, the shadows on the object are consistent with the shadows on the trees, indicating identical lighting conditions.

A final point against the claims made for the picture is the discrepancy between the widths of the three sections of the UFO. The bottom two sections are clearly smaller in width than the top section. This would not be so if the picture showed three images of the same object. Also, the distance between each section is the same, suggesting one object rather than three.

On the basis of these findings, NICAP feels the picture does not corroborate the photographer's report of an extraordinary flying device. Since, by his own admission, the man did not tell his wife he had observed anything when he returned to the car after snapping the picture, and since he did not report the sighting until several months after he had seen the developed print, it would appear that he chose to represent the object as a UFO only after examining the photograph and reflecting on its unusual appearance. This is different than deliberately seeking to contrive a UFO picture, which seems unlikely in this case.



If we could make a personal phone call to each NICAP member, there are four things we would say:

- (1) Renew promptly as soon as you receive your first notice.
- (2) If you receive a notice after renewing, ignore it.
- (3) Tell us when you change addresses.
- (4) Do not send cash.

All of these things help us save time and money, which means more of both to devote to UFO research.

P.S. We would also say: Thank you for your support.

Totten Letter

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idiots frighten two innocent young girls out of their right minds?

DARRELL TOTTEN
Highland

Totten, despite his charges of "cover up" and his criticism of the press in their reporting of the event, has refused to cooperate with NICAP and other research groups in an investigation of the case.

He has refused to release the names of other witnesses, claiming they are under "strict orders not to speak about it." Asked to name the source of the orders, Totten mentioned a UFO group located on the West Coast. When the group was contacted, however, they denied issuing or implying any such orders, and in fact expressed confusion over Totten's statements.

Iowa Mystery

(Continued from page 1)

"But no one should be alarmed by this," he added, "It's been going on for years. But this time there is evidence that a craft landed and we have evidence (the silver-like dust) that is going to tell us just what it was. It's a one-in-a-million find."

NICAP has received no samples for analysis nor conducted a formal investigation of the reported finds. However, due to the small size of the depressions and the failure of any of the farmers to report a UFO sighting, there is presently no basis on which to conclude that unknown airborne objects produced the reported effects.

Pending additional information on the chemical content of the soil samples, NICAP will defer making an evaluation of the reports until all possible explanations have been considered.

FEEDBACK / Readers write

Dear Editor,

In the May 1972 *UFO Investigator* is an article titled "Subcommittee Investigates 'Occupant' Case." I noticed two or three very significant aspects of this sighting. First let me state that I believe the boy to have seen this occupant. Unfortunately, he was rather vague in his description: "He had long arms and everything." Just what this means exactly, I don't know. Was the man tall, short, encased in a space suit? The item does not elaborate.

But what appeared very interesting is his statement, "the alleged creature turned around, and in a stiff, bouncing fashion returned to his craft." Our own astronauts on the moon moved in a very similar fashion. Could it be that this entity came from another planet with a much higher gravity than we have on Earth?

Another interesting statement was this: "put his hands up and started coming at me." On page 2, same issue, I read about "the intellects vast, cool and unsympathetic." I have suspected this for a long time.

Very few of these humanoid appear to act other than in this manner. They are unreasoning (according to our standards). We are just subjects, not persons who would make a single, friendly gesture to a similar creature.

They just don't want our friendship. It just isn't instilled in their makeup. You can't change what vast periods of time have created. Do we know that they are created of flesh and blood such as ours? I doubt it.

Maybe other readers have similar views. Our astronauts collected stones from the moon to make many determinations. Some (reported occupants) are doing the same thing here. Many observations (of occupants) have emphasized their collecting rocks, plants, etc.

Sincerely,
H.F. Jonsberg
Newton Center, Mass.

Dear Editor,

"The Lessons of Scargo Lake" (March 72 issue) was most interesting, but I am puzzled as to why it completely ignored the contending theory that UFOs are as much at home in water as in air. One might suppose all "splashdowns" are just "headed for the barn" (the Continental Shelf, per Sanderson of SITU). Personally, I am as ready to suppose a UFO can become a UBO (Unidentified Burrowing Object) any time it likes, but the transition is easier via water. No; I don't think anyone will ever find anything at Scargo.

Sincerely,
Walt Simms
Hollywood, Fla.