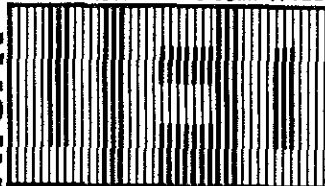


# UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON

NICAP



AERIAL PHENOMENA

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## Cemetery Vandalism Postpones Texas UFO Investigation

Events surrounding the alleged discovery of an "airship" occupant's gravesite in Aurora, Texas (*UFO Investigator*, June 1973) have substantially cooled, following further rebuff by Aurora cemetery officials to investigators seeking permission to open the grave.

William Case, aviation writer for the *Dallas Times-Herald*, reports that new vandalism at the cemetery and the plethora of curiosity seekers that have descended on the old Texas cowtown have made local townsfolk adamant in their refusal to cooperate with more probing at the gravesite.

In a late report to NICAP, Case advises that "sometime between midnight and 6 a.m. on Wednesday, June 14, grave robbers stole the [reported] pilot's...grave-stone. It infuriated the [people of the] area...and has slowed our investigation."

Case further reports: "What stung them even more was that, anticipating something of this sort unless the community provided security, we met in the county seat, Decatur, Texas, on May 24 with the attorney for the Aurora Cemetery Association, the sheriff of Wise County, prosecuting attorney, and one of the district judges. In that meeting, we urged them to get an injunction against unauthorized entrance to the cemetery, defacement, etc. The Cemetery Association attorney did get the sheriff to go down for two hours one afternoon following the meeting. He also promised to seek an injunction, May 25. They move slowly in Wise County and he never moved on the injunction. As a result, they lost the stone and we lost evidence we needed, although we have photos of it from every angle and verified through testimony of senior citizens [that] they 'had seen it there for 65-70 years,' as long as they could remember."

The "airship" story dates back to 1897 when, according to contemporary news accounts, a strange airborne object shaped like a dirigible appeared over Aurora at dawn on April 17. As it moved over the town, it struck a wooden tower and burst

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## Georgia Photos Raise Puzzle

Preliminary analysis of the UFO pictures reportedly taken last December by a retired couple in Georgia (*UFO Investigator*, February 1973) has revealed a series of inconsistencies and unanswered questions.

According to the couple's report, the wife was working in the yard outside their mobile home on the morning of December 12 when she spotted an airborne object approaching from the west. As it got closer, she said she realized it was not a conventional aircraft or helicopter. She ran into the house to alert her husband, who was resting in bed, and got her Polaroid camera (Swinger Model 20). She and her husband returned to the yard and began taking pictures. He brought with him a second Polaroid, a Colorpack II.

At this point, the sequence of events becomes confused. From the husband's account, it appears that he took pictures first while his wife timed the development of each exposure and peeled off the backs of the pictures. They apparently then reversed roles while she shot and he peeled. During this time, according to their story, the UFO was slowly moving over the northern and eastern perimeter of their property at an estimated range of one-quarter to one-half mile (see diagram). The UFO eventually swung near the ground at the edge of a field, hovered momentarily, then accelerated upward and disappeared in the northeast.

The couple reported the alleged experience to the *Savannah Morning News* a week later, after hearing about other sightings in their general area (they live near Metter, Ga., about 60 miles from Savannah). They told the newspaper they took a total of 11 pictures over a period of about 30 minutes.

NICAP obtained eight of the original Polaroid prints for analysis. Efforts to obtain the other three have been unsuccessful. Three of the eight prints are color; five are black-and-white.

The first discrepancy detected in the couple's report concerns the date the pictures were taken. On back of two of the color prints, in what seems to be the same ink used by the husband to fill out his NICAP sighting report form, is the notation "UFO, Candler County, Nov. 22-'72, 11:30-11:38 A.M." The same notation, in the same ink, appears on back of one



One of UFO photographs submitted by couple. of the black-and-white prints. On the two color prints with the notation, but not on the black-and-white one, the notation has been traced over in another color ink. The tracings follow the notations perfectly, except on the date, which has been changed to Dec. 12. This occurs on both color prints. No tracing is evident on the black-and-white, which shows the November date unaltered.

In the news account, and in three separate accounts to NICAP, the couple gave Dec. 12 as the date of the sighting. They also reported that a UFO was sighted by the wife's mother (who lives down the road from the couple) the night before (Dec. 11). The mother verified this in a signed report to NICAP.

When asked about the discrepancy over the date, the couple explained that they had had numerous sightings prior to the one on Dec. 12 and may have confused the date the pictures were taken. These earlier sightings occurred in October and November, they said. They also reported a much earlier sighting in 1945 and additional sightings in January 1973.

A more fundamental problem was discovered when NICAP attempted to reconstruct the sequence in which the pictures were actually taken, to compare it with the reported sequence. The two Polaroid cameras owned by the couple use eight-exposure film packs. Since two film packs were reportedly used during the sighting (one color, one black-and-white), a total of 16 pictures could have been taken. However, examination of the eight prints in NICAP's possession revealed that three film packs were used (two color, one black-and-white). The first picture the

(See Georgia Photos, Page 2)

# Maryland Resident Reports Sighting Near College

# BLACK HOLES: Could They Be Cosmic Shortcuts?

A 28-year-old Maryland resident, while on a mid-morning inspection tour of a nearby community college, claims he observed a dull-colored, egg-shaped UFO pass within a quarter-mile of the campus on April 20, 1973.

The witness, Vaughn L. Fluharty, of Bethesda, Md., is a licensed flight and parachute instructor and was inspecting the college's athletic field for a future parachute exhibition when the sighting occurred.

According to Fluharty, he was checking out the stadium at Anne Arundel Community College around 10:30 a.m. and was looking at some lightpoles when, "I was suddenly made aware of a dull-looking object traveling at a fast speed across my line of vision. I was immediately impressed with its motion. There was abso-

(See Maryland Resident, Page 4)

Arguments about UFOs often end up as arguments about the vast distances of interstellar space. Could a technological civilization cross these chasms in an acceptably short period of time to visit Earth, or is there, as astronomer Dr. Carl Sagan suggests, a natural "quarantine" imposed on technological communities scattered through space?

Many theories have been offered that purport to get around this problem of long-distance space travel. One idea recently put forward is that "black holes" in space, those distant signs of collapsing stars, may provide a kind of space-time shortcut for interstellar transportation. The idea was discussed last month in the Smithsonian magazine by Analog editor Ben Bova. The following is an excerpt from his article, explaining the concept.

Picture space-time as being represented by a thin, very flexible sheet of rubber. It is curved, perhaps quite intricately convoluted.

Massive bodies such as stars can be thought of as tiny ball bearings resting on this rubber sheet. The bigger and more massive the star, the deeper the dimple it makes in this otherwise smooth sheet. For a star or galaxy that is collapsing into a black hole, the dimple starts to look more like a tunnel — a long, thin tube stretched in the fabric of space-time by the gravitational collapse of the massive body.

### "White Holes" As Well?

If the body does not dwindle to a singularity, then the tube-tunnel might emerge somewhere else in space-time. The star or galaxy might have dug its way out of one place in the universe and reappeared somewhere, and perhaps sometime, else. Several cosmologists have suggested that the enigmatic quasars, which appear to be incredibly distant and more powerful than a hundred ordinary galaxies might be the explosive reemergence of a collapsed galaxy. In this view, a quasar represents a "white hole" at the end of a tunnel through space-time that began with a black hole.

No one has seriously proposed explaining the physics of this phenomenon. Where even relativistic physics breaks down, you can't expect more than a shrug of the shoulders when you ask questions. At the densities and gravitational-field strengths involved, it seems clear to the theoreticians that the entire fabric of space would get badly bent. Dare one use the science-fiction term, "space warp?" Just as space is warped and stressed under the titanic gravitational forces, time itself might be stretched, warped, changed. Certainly we shouldn't expect time to flow at the same rate inside a black hole as it does elsewhere.

### Time Tunnels?

What would such tunnels be like? Would they stay intact, forming a sort of underground railway system crisscrossing the fabric of space-time? What happens to time inside such a tunnel?

Could it be that, if we ever do build star-faring spacecraft, far from avoiding black holes, we will seek them out, looking for a "Northwest Passage" between here and the most distant regions in space — or, perhaps, beyond space?

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## Georgia Photos

(Continued from page 1)

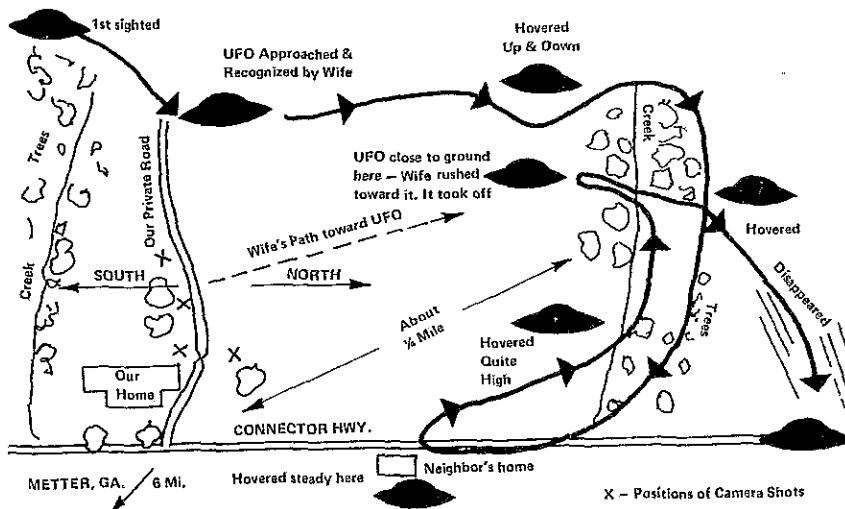
couple said they took (a color print) is actually the second exposure on a different film pack from which the other two color prints were taken. In physical sequence, there were a total of 12 exposures between the alleged first picture (No. 2, pack 1) and the alleged second and third pictures (No. 7 and No. 8, pack 2). This was determined from the manufacturer's sequence numbers on the prints.

On the basis of this evidence, it appears that a substantial number of pictures is missing, despite the couple's claim they only took 11. This is confirmed by examination of the five black-and-white

prints submitted to NICAP, which bear the sequence numbers 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8, all from the same film pack.

Asked to account for the missing pictures, the couple told NICAP Regional Investigator Julius Benton they actually took a total of 37 pictures but reported a lower figure "to test" NICAP. They offered no explanation for why they reported the same low figure to the newspaper. The couple refused to let NICAP see the alleged extra pictures.

Other problems have developed in analysis of the pictures, which are too numerous to describe here. Until NICAP can resolve the question of how many pictures were actually taken, and on what day, a final evaluation of the report will be deferred.



Map submitted by couple, redrawn by artist, depicts local topography and alleged path of UFO.

## Police Report 'Mysterious' UFO over Arkansas

An Arkansas State Trooper and a McNeil City, Ark. marshal are two of many witnesses who have recently reported sighting a "mysterious, star-like object" flying over the town at dusk.

"I first noticed it four or five months ago," stated Marshall Larry Taylor. "I was on patrol with State Trooper Jerry Eldridge and we were operating our radar. It had been overcast during the day and I looked out to the north and saw what I thought was a star...When I looked again it was moving but I couldn't see any other stars out."

The object got closer, according to Taylor, and he noticed a light beam shining from it. He said they watched the object for a short time, but were forced to leave to halt a speeding automobile.

Other local residents have also reported similar sightings. One witness told police he had seen a bright light in the sky north of McNeil near a deer camp. The object, according to the witness, was soaring slowly over a field, shining a beam of light on the ground below.

Several local residents have reported hearing and observing jet fighters circling the area at low level at the same time the UFO was being observed. No explanation as to the purpose of the low-level flights has been made, according to local officials.

Some observers have attempted to explain the UFO sightings as either Skylab or another man-made satellite. Others have disagreed, however, noting the frequent reports of a beam of light coming from the UFO would be inconsistent with a satellite. In addition, many witnesses reported sighting the UFO above McNeil prior to the launch of Skylab.

## Milton, Pa. Residents Observe 'Giant Ball'

Police from Milton, Pa., reportedly were swamped with calls March 15, 1973, regarding a "giant ball" which moved quickly across the evening sky from east to west.

According to one witness, the UFO looked like a lighted helicopter dome. At one point, he said, he observed the object make a 90-degree turn to avoid a crash with what appeared to be an airplane.

As the evening progressed, several other Milton residents reported similar sightings, according to police.

A spokesman at a local Air Force base, when asked about possible sighting reports, said no records were kept of such reports and local Air Force personnel were not on the alert for such sightings.

## SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

June 28, 1973 — New York City, N. Y. At least 11 people claimed they observed "weird" lights dancing behind two clouds at about 9:10 p.m. The witnesses, observing the sight from the roof of an apartment at 74th Street, said they observed what appeared to be two lights, shining from behind two clouds, flashing on and off — as if responding to each other. Within each dark cloud was a small red light, which was constantly traveling in a circular motion. The spectacle, according to one witness, continued for more than an hour.

June 6, 1973 — Chevy Chase, Md. A 12-year-old girl, unable to sleep due to the humid weather, claims she observed a bright white fireball, two to four feet in diameter, land in a neighbor's tree at approximately 4 a.m. The light in the tree, although initially extinguished, began to flash on and off and move about the tree for a period of 15 minutes, according to the girl. "Then without warning, it shot out of the tree and I didn't see it again."

April 29, 1973 — Shamokin, Pa. More than a dozen residents of the Ferndale subdivision told state police they observed a UFO with "flashing lights" land on Burnside Mountain. One of the witnesses, a 13-year-old boy, said he watched the object through binoculars and could see a "big bubble on it and I saw silver along with the lights." A number of adults reporting the sighting said the object hovered above the mountain for several moments before apparently landing. The UFO watchers said they saw the object take off around 11 p.m. and head west.

April 24, 1973 — Spring Mills, Pa. Local police reported that three adults, apparently sober and not under the influence of any drugs, told them they observed an oval-shaped, fluorescent-white UFO travel from the north, stop and hover motionless over one of the witnesses' homes and then speed off in a northerly direction and disappear. The object gave off a very bright white light which then changed to blue and green, said one witness.

April 23, 1973 — Collinsville, Ill. A 15-year-old youth reported to local police he spotted a UFO in the southern sky about 9 p.m. The witness claims he and several friends were sitting outside at the time when they first observed the object pass silently overhead. A few minutes later the object returned, traveling in the opposite direction. The object, while moving, cast a flashing red light, but when it stopped a big white light appeared, according to the witness.

April 23, 1973 — Pevely, Mo. A number of citizens called local police to report UFOs between 8:30 and 10 p.m. In all, five were seen, each with a bright white light and flashing red and green lights, according to police. Some of the witnesses said they observed the objects through binoculars and "could see them very plainly." At least 15 Pevely citizens told local officials they had seen the UFOs.

April 19, 1973 — Flat River, Mo. A newspaper reporter and a friend claim they observed a bright object moving south around 8:30 p.m. According to one witness, the object was "somewhat oval-shaped" and appeared to be about "three times the size of a satellite."

April 13, 1973 — Charleston, Mo. An egg-shaped object that appeared to be traveling just above the tree-tops was reported by a local housewife. The woman said she was prepared to watch a movie on television around 8 p.m. when a bright flash of light drew her to the kitchen window. She said the object appeared red on top and solid white on the bottom. The UFO was in view for approximately three minutes, said the witness. A local radio station reported several similar reports of UFOs that night.

March 27, 1973 — Pierpont, Ohio A large, circular-shaped UFO was allegedly observed by a local woman around 7:30 p.m., according to the local sheriff's office. The witness told police the object flashed a "myriad of colors" and was traveling erratically from northeast to southeast. The object was observed through binoculars by the witness, said the sheriff's office.

March 23, 1973 — Willingboro, N. J. Several residents of Willingboro reported sighting a "very bright" object flying toward the RCA radar station in Moorestown. One witness said he and his wife spotted a slow-moving, brightly-lit object traveling west to east about 11:25 p.m. Other witnesses said the object was streamlined, low-flying and slow-moving with four "very bright lights."

## Cemetery

(Continued from page 1)

into flames, scattering debris over a wide area. The dismembered body of a small man was reportedly found in the wreckage and was buried the following day.

According to Case, some of the metal fragments recently uncovered at the supposed crash site have been analyzed as tin by the American Smelting Co. of Corpus Christi, Texas. The company said the fragments it tested appear to have been the result of an explosion, but they could not prove this. The date of the fragments has not been determined.

Case and some of the scientists working with him had hoped analysis of the metal would provide the basis for a court order permitting exhumation of the body. If tests of the metal are inconclusive, as it appears they will be, another basis will have to be found before a court order can be sought. Case is presently looking for old records and other evidence that may shed more light on the reported crash.

### Investigator Applications Still Being Accepted

Following our announcement in the May issue, many well qualified NICAP members have submitted applications for NICAP Regional Investigator and Investigator assistant. We are pleased with both the number of responses and the high degree of skills and talent possessed by those responding. Many Investigators have already received region assignments and others are in the process of being reviewed. Some of the members who have applied do not meet the qualifications outlined in the May issue for Investigator. Both those being reviewed and those not meeting qualifications will be notified in the near future.

If you are 25 or older and have scientific or other training that you feel is relevant to UFO research, you may apply to serve as a NICAP Regional Investigator or assistant. Application forms are available from NICAP on request. If you do not meet the qualifications for Regional Investigator described in the May issue, please do not apply. Assistants are individuals who want to help in NICAP's investigative program on a more limited basis than an Investigator. The need for assistants varies from area to area, depending on the distribution of Investigators and other factors. Those individuals not meeting the requirements for Regional Investigator may apply as an assistant.

## NICAP Policy

For the benefit of new members who may not be familiar with official NICAP policy on specific issues, the following policy statements are offered on some of the basic questions associated with the UFO subject.

### What are UFOs?

Although many UFO reports have been shown to have a conventional explanation, NICAP believes large numbers remain unexplained and warrant serious study by the scientific community. These unexplained reports may reflect various unrelated events, or they may represent a single kind of phenomenon. To help understand their true nature, it is necessary, in NICAP's judgment, to continue an active research program using accepted scientific methodology.

### Are UFOs Extraterrestrial Craft?

Taken at face value, many UFO reports suggest that intelligently controlled craft of nonterrestrial origin are operating in Earth's atmosphere. Although no evidence has been investigated by NICAP that proves this interpretation, much evidence would point to this as a plausible theory and NICAP believes it deserves serious consideration by the scientific community.

### Why Should UFOs Be Investigated?

NICAP believes that science has an obligation to investigate any data that might help man better understand this puzzling and important phenomenon. In addition to finding an answer to the nature of UFOs, there are many areas of physical and personal behavior that may be illuminated by research in the UFO field, including the areas of atmospheric physics, space science, and psychology. While it is difficult to predict what knowledge will be gained in these fields, it is evident, in NICAP's view, that the UFO problem should be explored with an open mind and active curiosity.

### Has Secrecy Been Associated with the Government's UFO Studies?

NICAP feels there is clear proof the U. S. Government has withheld information on UFOs from the American public and practiced other forms of deception, and has apparently attempted to discredit the UFO subject. Whether these actions stem from a desire to conceal the "truth" about UFOs, as some observers have claimed, or whether they derive from other motives, cannot be answered on the basis of available information.

### Was the Condon Report a "Whitewash"?

It is often assumed that the Condon

Report represents a consensus of the scientists who served with Dr. Condon on the Colorado Project. Actually, the Report is made up of various points of view, not all of which agree. NICAP regards the Report as a document that contains valuable scientific data but does not offer a unified, well-documented conclusion. The opinions expressed in the first section of the Report recommending against further UFO study are the opinions of Dr. Condon and are not supported, in NICAP's judgment (and the judgment of some of the scientists participating in the study) by case material presented elsewhere in the Report.



MEMOS  
FOR  
MEMBERS

### DECAL DOESN'T MAKE IT

Member reaction to a proposed NICAP decal, mentioned in the April newsletter, has only been lukewarm. In view of this response, we have decided not to offer the decal. We appreciate the interest of those members who wrote to tell us their opinion of the idea.

### NICAP NEWS TEAM SCORES HIGH

NICAP members who have been watching local newspapers for articles on UFOs have posted an impressive record during recent months with the number of news clippings they have sent in. Articles from a wide variety of papers have been received, including papers that rarely publish UFO material.

### Maryland Resident

(Continued from page 2)

lutely no sound audible to me, and yet I was awed at its fantastic speed without sound reaching me after it even disappeared from my view."

The object, according to the witness, appeared to follow Ritchie Highway north until it reached the vicinity of Baltimore's Friendship International Airport, when it "seemingly leaped from side-to-side (zig-zag) at a phenomenal pace and unbelievably at right angles, then my eyes simply couldn't follow it. This awed me."

Fluharty claims the object was not very large, less than 25 feet in diameter, and was only about one-eighth or one-quarter of a mile away when it passed by his location. He estimated the object's altitude at between 1500 and 2500 feet above ground level and was about the size of a pea held at arm's length.