

MARCH 1974

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON
NICAP AERIAL PHENOMENA

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

UFO "ANGEL'S HAIR" STILL REMAINS A MYSTERY

The following report was received from one of NICAP's investigators, and it is felt that it may be one of the more substantial cases concerning material associated with UFO's in quite sometime. The sighting occurred in October, 1973 but the report had been withheld while waiting for the results of various tests that had been conducted on the gossamer-like substance known as "Angel's Hair." The witness has requested to have her name withheld due to the nature of the experience.

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on the afternoon of October 22, in Sudbury, Massachusetts, the witness' child came into the house shouting, "Mommy! Come see the biggest spider web in the world." Thus began a most unusual experience for this suburban housewife.

The young mother followed her son out into the yard and to her amazement, there were web-like materials hanging from bushes and wires. The witness looked up to see where this strange material was falling from and was startled to see a shiny globe-shaped silvery object move from an Easterly direction to the West and disappear over some trees. Concurrently with her observation of the object, she noticed strands of the web-like material falling from the sky.

The witness' educational background of biology and chemistry probably helped her realize the importance of her following actions. She went into the house and made a funnel from a piece of construction paper and began collecting some samples of the mysterious substance. The witness capped the material in an airtight container and placed it under refrigeration. Her description of the material was that it resembled a spider web but was of a thicker consistency. It was "sticky" to the touch and became entangled when disturbed.



Sample of "Angel's Hair" Magnified 100 Times.

The witness continued to watch the falling "Angel's Hair" for approximately a half hour. It had by this time become sparse and she then decided to call a neighbor to come over to observe the strange occurrence with her. The witness was unable to reach her neighbor until about 4:00 p.m. After explaining the events of the afternoon, her friend accompanied by her husband arrived promptly. They looked up in the sky and could still see a few strands of the wispy material floating into the yard. It was noted that the web-like substance was hanging from the telephone wires and that the ground and car were covered with the material. The neighbors returned home and telephoned the witness to report there were traces of the material in their yard as well. It was estimated later by NICAP's investigator that the material had covered a circumference of approximately 1,500 feet.

Samples of the material have been sent for analysis to several corporate laboratories, a government institute and a hospital laboratory in Massachusetts. The witness took a sample of the substance to

the University of Massachusetts. It was examined and confirmed by the University that the material was not a spider web. It is NICAP's opinion that this material warrants much more extensive research by laboratories better equipped in handling this type of testing. Such steps are being taken at present. The data already received raises more questions than can be answered.

The "Angel's Hair" when placed under a microscope two days after the sighting looked white and semi-translucent. It was also observed that the "Angel's Hair" fiber diminished in diameter with time. The material that the witness had placed under refrigeration was vanishing daily.

The local newspaper ran an article requesting that anyone with any knowledge of this sighting or samples of the material should donate it to the local Massachusetts laboratory which were conducting further tests on the material since the existing supply was diminishing so rapidly. Unfortunately, as of this writing no one has come forth with anymore "Angel's Hair."

(See ANGEL'S HAIR, page 3)

UFO SEEN BY DC-8 CREW

Editor's Note: At the request of the witnesses their names and exact location of the sighting have been omitted from the following case material.

In Feb. 1973, the pilot and co-pilot of an unscheduled charter cargo flight became part of the ever growing list of experienced observers to sight a UFO. At 2:30 A.M. (CST) the flight crew of the DC-8 cargo jet had just started a descent from 21,000 feet. They were cruising at 510 mph. on a bearing of approximately 195 degrees when the co-pilot nudged the captain to point out a craft off to their right. At first both men thought that another commercial aircraft was matching their course and speed at about 5,000 feet away, below the leading edge of their right wing. This thought was quickly abandoned when the object suddenly rose almost straight up and closed on the DC-8 until it was no more than an estimated 300 yards from, and slightly above them. The crew immediately attempted to contact the craft by radio, but were unsuccessful.

The craft was easily seen in the bright moonlight at the relatively close distance of 300 yards. The witnesses stated that the craft was more round in shape than oblong and described it as looking like "a flounder lying on its side." It was silver and seemed to be constructed of a highly polished metal which reflected the moonlight. The body of the craft contained two very short stubby "fins" which looked as though they could be folded into the body. These "fins" had amber colored, steady lights on the leading edge and another set of amber lights were located above and below the craft's body. A transparent dome was located on the top center of the object. Although no glow could be seen emanating from within the dome (such as from instrument lights), it did look as if 2 or 3 moving figures could be seen from within. The rear portion of the craft had two vertical fins projecting from the top edge. These fins were on either side of what appeared to be an exposed jet engine pod and projected higher than the pod. The pod did not emit either gases or a glow such as a jet engine would exhibit. The pilots judged the object to be approximately 75-85 feet in length and about 40 feet from the tip of one horizontal fin to the other.

The bottom of the craft was flat and smooth with no protrusions, landing gear wells or maintenance hatches. None of the fins appeared to have ailerons or other moving parts.

As soon as the pilots observed that this craft was unlike any conventional aircraft they had ever seen they immediately switched on their radar equipment. The craft appeared as a blip on the edge of their scope. As soon as the radar was operating the object seemed to react by abruptly rising straight up and crossing sideways to a position just above the DC-8 and passed temporarily out of the witnesses' sight. It then appeared to the left of the jet and settled just below the leading edge of their left wing. It stayed in this position only a short time before dropping below and behind the DC-8 where it was again out of sight momentarily before suddenly appearing again and speeding by approximately 300 feet below them at a speed estimated to be twice that of the DC-8. The craft then performed several up and down movements before turning to the right and speeding out of sight in the direction from which it first appeared.

As the craft sped off, the crew continued to observe the radarscope until the object went off the scope at a distance of about fifty miles. The captain stated that, "It went out of the sweep of the antenna in the nose (of the DC-8) so this would indicate that it had turned back as the range of the radar antenna is about 160 degrees coverage to the front. The object made no attempt to come closer and seemed to be looking us over, and, having been satisfied, left."

During the entire sighting duration of approximately 18 minutes the object maintained its distance and did not attempt closer approach. No electrical disturbances of the DC-8's radio or instrumentation was noted.

The co-pilot filed an official report to the USAF and even though the Air Force "no longer investigates UFOs," both men were interrogated and several sets of forms were filled out over a period of time. They were later informed that the government's investigation was completed and that they should discuss the matter no further except with authorized personnel. Fortunately, NICAP has been able to gather data on this radar/visual case and make the following analysis.

The possibility of a hoax is highly unlikely due to the positions held by the observers. A hallucination is improbable since both the pilot and co-pilot saw the same object and the DC-8's radar equipment displayed the object concurrently with the sighting. It is also unlikely that two trained observers could examine an object at fairly close range from a number of angles for 18 minutes in bright moonlight and not identify a conventional aircraft. The maneuverability, as well as configuration, was unconventional further strengthening the case.

UFOs - BLACKOUT OCCUR SIMULTANEOUSLY

Frank DiOrio, Jeff Cunningham, and Paul Buono, who work the midnight shift at an A&P supermarket in Massachusetts, began their duties on October 24 expecting their jobs to proceed routinely. It wasn't until 3:15 A.M. that they realized they were in for an unusual, frightening experience. At that time all electrical power went dead, leaving the store in total darkness and absolute quiet except for a burglar alarm in a nearby store which sounded simultaneously with the blackout. The store's lights came back on after two or three seconds.

The three men raced out of the A&P to check the neighboring store when the alarm "went crazy, wailing in an odd manner." As they looked up the road, they noticed that the street lights flickered and then went out along with most other lights in the neighborhood.

Cunningham and Buono then observed a blue light just south of a business establishment down the street and called it to DiOrio's attention. DiOrio, who had been looking in the opposite direction and had seen two blue lights appear and disappear, turned toward his companions and also observed the UFO. A red light then came into view beside the blue one as all three men gazed dumbfounded at these two illuminating spots in the otherwise dark surroundings. The red light brightened and dimmed and turned to

white. The blue one also turned white and both disappeared abruptly. At the same time, the alarm stopped and the street lights came back on. A police car arrived shortly after the alarm died out, and the men reported their story. The patrolman on duty related that all three men were visibly shaken as a result of their experience. The same evening all night radio stations and talk show hosts received a rash of calls regarding strange lights appearing in the dark sky.

POLICE FROM THREE STATES SPOT UFO

The month of November produced a lengthy series of reported sightings from coast to coast and from foreign countries. During the week of November 11, several police officers had told of their experiences with unidentified flying objects. In Illinois two Northern Illinois University security police saw an oval shaped, amber object in the western sky at about 4:00 A.M. They watched it move back and forth for fifteen minutes before reporting it to other law enforcement agencies. The same UFO was then spotted by county sheriff units who tried to follow the object when it stopped and hovered, but shrank rapidly, and sped off. The early morning UFO then appeared over a small town in a neighboring county. It was seen by still another policeman, Robert Bunnel, who saw it drop from high in the sky to "about 3 feet from where [he] was standing." The spacecraft then moved to the north and disappeared. A sighting of the same description was reported by Iowa police the previous evening.

Two days later an Oklahoma state policeman and two companions told of viewing two objects, the first of which appeared to be following patrolman John Roberts' car. After watching it for several minutes, Roberts reported that the object landed five hundred feet behind his auto. He turned to approach it, but it vanished "just like somebody had switched off a light." Another phenomenon then appeared in the sky and remained in view for forty-five minutes, giving off a pulsating red light. According to Roberts it zig-zagged around the sky and remained with him as long as he did not try to drive toward it.

In Washington, D.C., three park police sighted at 5 A.M. what they described as an object moving at a high rate of speed

SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

January 11, 1974 — Redding, Calif. Three workmen in transit to their job sites, reported seeing a brilliant light in the sky at approximately 7:30 a.m. The object came down in a vertical position and then disappeared behind some trees. The men claimed that it was a steady light and became even more brilliant as it descended.

December 14, 1973 — Bayshore Gardens, Fla. A witness claimed to have observed four UFO's. She first noticed a brilliant light and described it as *being enormous* in size. The object seemed to have a red center and suddenly just seemed to fade out. After which, the witness reported seeing three saucer-like objects about the size of oranges flying in a perfect "V" formation. It was their perfect formation and control that was so mystifying to the witness.

December 14, 1973 — Ashville, North Carolina. Park police reportedly witnessed a UFO at approximately 10:20 p.m. The officers stated that the object appeared to hover over the southeast portion of the county. The object was described as giving off red, blue and green flashes. Airport personnel also observed the object, but were unable to identify it. The sighting lasted approximately three hours before the object disappeared.

which then disappeared into a row of trees on Constitution Avenue. They radioed the dispatcher because they were aware that two military police from

Arlington, Virginia, had reported seeing a UFO earlier. The officers searched the area where the object was lost from view but found nothing.

"ANGEL'S HAIR"-Continued

After checking with local launching areas it was revealed that there were no weather or research balloons in the Massachusetts area. Industrial plants were also checked and found that there are no fiberglass or asbestos manufacturers in the New England area. It is therefore doubtful that any wastes could be caught in an updraft and blown to the area by prevailing winds.

As intriguing and mystifying as this case is alone, a second sighting reported 19 days later only 2,000 feet from the original point of reference gives stronger corroboration of UFO activity in the area.

A science teacher and seven students from Ephraion Curtis Junior High School witnessed a low flying object. It was described as being a dull silver metallic color. The object appeared above a tree-line which was approximately 100 yards away from the classroom window which had been the point of observation.

All eight of the witnesses were only able to view the object for a matter of seconds before it disappeared behind the

trees. There were no tracings of "Angel's Hair" connected with this sighting.

"Angel's Hair" has been reportedly connected with UFO's for many years. Although "Angel's Hair" alone is not significant evidence of UFO's there are some surprising cases on record very similar to the "Sudbury Case."

One of the first reported "Angel's Hair" cases dates back to September 21, 1741. Strands of the substance were found in Bradley, England and were 5-6 inches in length. They continued to fall for hours in great quantity. However, there was not a UFO reported in conjunction with this particular case. Approximately one half of the "Angel's Hair" cases on record have had UFO sightings connected with the reports. One of the earliest occurred in Oloron, France on October 17, 1952 when witnesses observed this substance falling from a globe-like object. The research that has been done on "Angel's Hair" is inconclusive and causes us to suspend final judgement on this and other similar cases.

SCIENTIST URGES 'HARD DATA' ON UFOs

Dr. Robert Baker, Jr., an engineer specializing in astronautics, fluid mechanics, and electromagnetic theory, has spent sixteen years analyzing films and photographs of unidentified flying objects in his spare time. He surmises that he has examined some eighty films and countless numbers of pictures of aerial phenomena.

"We need—desperately need—hard data . . . We are data poor and hypothesis rich," says Baker, a senior scientist at Computer Science Corporation in Los Angeles, California. He has isolated many items which, when filmed, people often mistake for flying saucers: soaring insects, birds, airplane sun reflections, vapor trails, and optical atmospheric mirages, to name a few. Baker states that he prefers analyzing films rather than still photographs, which are too easy to "doctor."

According to Dr. Baker, anyone who sights a UFO and has the opportunity to film it should follow seven basic rules:

- (1) Try to include some background scenery so scientists can have some perspective.
- (2) If the camera has a zoom lens, have it either all the way in or out. Much of the analysis depends on knowing the focal length of the camera's lens, something which would be hard to determine if the photographer zooms in and out.
- (3) Film in spurts. Don't film one long sequence as you might then run out of film at a critical state.
- (4) Mark the spot on the ground from where you filmed to help scientists determine size, distance, and other data about the UFO.
- (5) After filming the UFO also film a clock with a sweep second hand. This helps determine the camera's frame rate.
- (6) Write down what you saw before talking about it with anyone.
- (7) Have the film developed in a standard manner. Don't send it to the Air Force or some other agency for developing—it might become permanently lost.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY

Turin, Italy—A UFO was tracked by the Caselle Airport radar screen and chased by two professional pilots who were unable to match the speed obtained by the object. The pilot, Ricardo Marano, was returning from a flight in a small plane when the control tower radioed him that a UFO was hovering high over the runway. The tower requested that the pilot try to get a closer look.

As Marano approached the airport he caught a glimpse of the object. He described it as being an "enormous luminous globe giving out a tremendous light which went from violet to blue and even red . . . I'll admit I was frightened—but when it moved away as if it spotted me, I followed it." The pilot stated the object was traveling approximately 300 mph. Marano followed it for a short time and then remembered he was low on fuel. He decided to make one last attempt to obtain a better look at the craft. The flyer hit the throttle and lunged toward it. In that split second the object took off at a rate of speed the pilot had never before observed and disappeared from sight.

The Caselle Airport's base chief confirmed Ricardo Marano's chase of the UFO with an official statement. Luiso Patrini was on duty at the ground traffic control on that night of November 30th, and he too confirmed that his radar showed an object's presence with a plane chasing it.

Before the object disappeared Patrini had watched the UFO for at least 10 minutes from the ground. It seemed to pulsate and change color, stated Patrini.

During the time that Caselle Airport was in contact with the mysterious object reports by the hundreds were being received by Turin newspapers. Callers were describing the object's strange pattern of movement which was described as hanging as though suspended by a string, and then moving through abrupt 90 degree turns.

Six days prior to the sighting by the Turin residents, a Turin University student photographed an object he described as resembling a burning ball. The student states that he was able to shoot a couple

of pictures and after developing them he stated, "I was absolutely stunned." One of the prints showed a distinct cigar shaped outline and the other showed a ball of light disappearing behind a hill.

Melbourne, Australia—Numerous witnesses, including police, report observing objects which were unidentifiable. At least six separate objects were observed for about one minute as they headed in a northwest to southeast direction in the night skies of Australia. The objects were described as having comet-like colored tails and were not meteorite-like in appearance.

The objects stayed in formation and "appeared to be very organized" in their flight during the period of observation.

Lameroo—Two witnesses, while driving in their car, observed a bright cigar shaped object that first appeared as a light on the northeast horizon. They first noticed the object at about 9:30 p.m. and were able to observe it for about five minutes. During this time it maintained a trajectory of about 15 degrees above the horizon. At about the same time of this sighting three other families reported seeing about 12 bright saucer shaped lights flying in formation.



MEMOS
FOR
MEMBERS

The following publications are still available (while the supply lasts) to NICAP members upon receipt of prepaid orders.

THE UFO EVIDENCE—183 pages covering 746 reports on UFOs. 5,000 reports were considered before the selection of these cases. The book covers the history of the UFO mystery, problems in solving these cases and the need for scientific research. There is a chronological listing of cases, patterns observed and many other sections of reference material and illustrations. Copyright 1964—Price \$5.00

STRANGE EFFECTS FROM UFO's—80 pages covering physiological effects on witnesses, occupant descriptions, animal reaction to UFOs, and physical evidence. Illustrated. Copyright 1969—Price \$3.00