

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON
NICAP  AERIAL PHENOMENA

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CONVERGING BALL OF LIGHT MYSTIFIES WITNESSES

The night of February 10, 1975 in Annadale, Staten Island was extremely cold and clear with excellent visibility. Two fifteen year old boys decided to check the ice thickness of the local pond with the hope of ice skating on the following day. The pond is located in a heavily wooded area with individual homes sparsely situated throughout.

It was approximately 7:00 p.m. when the boys entered a clearing near the pond and to their amazement observed a large football shaped orange glow approximately 400 feet away. The youths watched the object for about ten minutes and it seemed to them that the outer edges seemed to converge upon the center. The brilliant orange mass transformed from a football shape into basketball size and suddenly disappeared. The boys stated that they heard no noise, nor felt any sensation of heat or any other physical effects upon themselves. They did report that they were frightened by their experience.

The two youths left the scene, going directly to a friends house where they told him of the bizarre incident.

They returned to the same area early the next morning and found that several trees were sheared off and some were coated with a carbon-like substance. The trees ranged in height from five to twenty feet and had diameters that of baseball bats.

A NICAP investigator went to the scene a few days later with a local newspaper reporter to asses the situation. They confirmed the broken trees, and the charred condition which the boys had described. The two men did not detect any odor in the air or other evidence indicating that a fire had occurred there.

It was apparent that the trees in the area had been felled within a few days, but it was impossible to determine if this had occurred at the time fo the sighting. To the best recollection of the two youths, the condition was not present prior to their sighting.

However, the local reporter had been in contact with two other residents, following the boys' report, who had volunteered information with possible relevancy to the initial report.

However, it was made known to the local reporter from an area resident, that he too experienced an unusual occurrence on the same evening as the two youths did.

As a daily ritual, the said witness walks his German Shepard in the woods every evening after dinner. This shepard is a 90 lb. trained attack dog. On the evening of Feb. 10th the witness stated that the dog stopped abruptly and began to "whine and whimper". The animal's hackles raised and the dog reacted very nervously. The owner tried to encourage the dog to proceed further into the woods which caused the animal to become even more uneasy. The dog reacted so strongly, that it enabled him to slip from his collar. Once free, the shepard ran for home. The witness could not understand what would have caused this well trained, aggressive dog to behave this way. The dog remained nervous and edgy, panted and whinned through the night and part of the following day. The owner stated that he thought the dog must be ill, and planned to take him to a veterinarian when he got home from work the following evening. However by then the dog seemed to be back to normal.

Much speculation as well as special studies have been made with regard to

animal reactions in conjunction with UFOs. Animals do have certain senses that are more highly developed than those of humans. Dogs can hear high pitched levels of noise, which humans and some lower animals cannot.

The dog owner contacted the reporter after reading the newspaper article regarding the boys unusual experience.

NICAP's investigator removed dirt and wood samples from the scene and submitted them to an independent laboratory for extensive chemical and radiation analysis. The laboratories analysis results were as follows:

1. wood was superficially burned
2. black residue is carbon
3. the fire seems to be oil based. The laboratory explained the glowing orange object as having been fuel burning. The lab stated that it was probably a low temperature fire since the bark was the only burned part of the trees.
4. gas chromatography—negative
5. radio activity—negative

If the conclusion of this case were based on the laboratory report, it would almost have to be considered as a hoax due to the fact that the lab's final analysis was that it was oil based fire. However, all three witnesses were thoroughly interviewed and their honesty and credibility are excellent. The german sheppard's unusual reactions obviously remain unexplained, but cannot and should not be discounted.

A later report that was just received by NICAP's investigator, which has not been properly investigated as yet, occurred in N.J. and has very similar characteristics. As further information is received NICAP will publish it in the *UFO Investigator*.

NICAP CASES AMONG BEST OF YEAR

To date, the National Enquirer has awarded \$10,000 to the most scientifically valuable UFO cases submitted. In 1972, \$5,000 was awarded to a Delphos, Kansas family. The family reported that a "toadstool" shaped UFO hovered near their farmhouse and left a mysterious "glowing ring" in the soil. There are many items in the case that remain unexplained even after a long series of chemical, optical, electronic and other physical tests conducted by eleven university and private laboratories. The presence of the luminous object left an altered soil composition which extended more than a foot below the surface. The soil would not accept water nor could anything be grown in it for more than a year. (see UFO INVESTIGATOR, Sept. 1972, p.3 for additional information.)

In 1973, a \$5,000 award went to Major Larry Coyne, a U.S. Army helicopter pilot, and his three crew members. The men encountered a UFO when they were flying near Cleveland Ohio. The object was described by the men as a 60 foot long cigar-shaped, and metallic grey in color. The Army backed Major Coyne's testimony completely. (see UFO INVESTIGATOR, Nov. 1973, p.1 for additional information.)

As NICAP members are probably aware, NICAP works closely with the Enquirer in screening reports as they are submitted.

NICAP's President, John Acuff attended the preliminary Enquirer meeting to submit cases and to evaluate other substantial reports for the 1974 award. The following five cases were submitted to the Enquirer's Blue Ribbon Panel for review on March 8, 1975. The award winning case will be announced by the National Enquirer.

Case 1
JAY, OKLAHOMA (October 30, 1974)—Six police officers and more than 50 other witnesses saw a strange UFO perform dazzling maneuvers in the sky over Jay, Oklahoma. The extraordinary display, lasting 5½ hours, was also observed from the nearby towns of Westville and Grove. The same night a police officer chased a brightly-lit UFO at 90

miles-per-hour as it sped along only 15 feet above the ground and 200 yards away from his patrol car. It vanished after suddenly shooting straight up in the air.

Case 2
WESTERN NEW YORK (October 21, 1974)—A brilliant UFO swept over a deputy sheriff's squad car and filled the car with a "weird, screaming noise." The deputy was driving along a deserted highway on his way back to headquarters in Warsaw, N.Y. when the incident occurred. Even though the microphone in the car was turned off, the ear-piercing sound was transmitted over the deputy's radio to headquarters 12 miles away. The dispatcher on duty confirmed that he heard the mystery noise. The incident coincided with a UFO sighting by several other police officers in nearby Livingston County. One deputy described how the UFO played cat and mouse with him—accelerating and slowing to match his speed as he drove between 20 and 90 miles-per-hour.

Case 3
CENTRAL NEW HAMPSHIRE (August 12, 1974)—Two policemen who observed a hovering, pulsating UFO reported it responded to signals from their squad car's emergency lights. They made a vivid tape recording of their observations and running dialogue by radio with policemen and a dispatcher. The bizarre encounter climaxed a week-long flurry of UFO sightings in the New Hampshire towns of Tilton, Laconia, Franklin and Belmont. The Belknap County sheriff said that he had 50 reports with 27 sightings confirmed by police officers. (NICAP's UFO INVESTIGATOR, Sept. 1974, p.3)

Case 4
SAN ANTONIO TEXAS (October 23, 1974)—Two airline pilots 'sandwiched' a large, pulsating UFO between their aircraft over the San Antonio International Airport, Texas. It happened after witnesses on the ground reported sighting a brilliant red ball of light in the sky. An air traffic controller confirmed both the visual and radar contacts. The pilot of the Braniff 727 jet above the object shouted "Oh my God, look at the speed of that thing." The co-pilot of an Eastern Air Lines 727 passing below the UFO was

baffled by "its incredible vertical speed." (NICAP's UFO INVESTIGATOR, Sept. 1974, p.1)

Case 5
ALBANY, N.Y. (August 20, 1974)—Mysterious lights in the sky between 8 p.m. and midnight caused dozens of phone calls to local newspapers, radio stations, and police. Two New York state troopers Michael Morgan and Warren Johnson were assigned to investigate. Upon arrival they observed a bright red illumination flashing on and off. It was estimated to be approximately 500 feet high. It was soon joined by two similar lights. The sighting lasted one and a half hours before all of the objects vanished. During the entire sighting, the objects were stationary. Concurrently with this sighting airport radar was picking up returns from the same area and military aircraft reported a bright red light crossed their flight path. (NICAP's UFO INVESTIGATOR, Nov. 1974, p.1)



1973—YEAR OF THE HUMANOIDS An Analysis of the Fall, 1973 UFO/ Humanoid Wave

by David Webb

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Abstract—"1973—Year of the Humanoids", by David Webb, is an offset printed publication of over 60 pages, which documents and analyses the fantastic wave of humanoid/UFO occupant reports that occurred in the United States during the fall of 1973. 41 cases are described in detail, with complete references included for all known sources on each case. Key UFO encounter/abduction cases from the history of UFOs are correlated with the 1973 reports. A detailed analysis is made of the wave nature of UFO landing cases in general and humanoid cases in particular, using data of J. Vallee and T. Bloecher. The 1954 French and 1973 U.S. humanoid waves are examined. The guiding philosophy behind this work was to try and develop methods for the study of humanoid reports on a more objective, scientific basis. This document is directed toward readers with some understanding of UFO reports, especially those involving UFO occupants or humanoids. To order your copy mail your check for \$3.00 to: David Webb, 64 Jacqueline Rd.; #10, Waltham, Mass. 02154

UFO's AND THE ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA

NICAP's continued series of cases being used by the entertainment media in this issue covers the famous Socorro, New Mexico case, and is one of the most widely publicized cases contained in NICAP's files.

Landing and Traces at Socorro, N.M.—April 24, 1964

About 5:45 p.m., on April 24, 1964, Socorro (N.M.) Police Officer Lonnie Zamora was pursuing a speeding car south of the city when he heard a series of explosive, roaring noises. Looking off to the desert southwest of his position, he saw what appeared to be a bright, conical flame, fanning out at the base and blue-white in color, slowly descending toward the ground. There was no visible object—just the flame.

Believing that an old abandoned dynamite shack in the area may have exploded, Zamora gave up his chase and turned onto a little-used road that took him toward the area where he had seen the flame disappear behind small hills. At the crest of a rise, the police officer saw what at first appeared to be an overturned car, standing on end, at a distance of from 600 to 800 feet. A closer look disclosed it to be no ordinary vehicle, but an egg-shaped object of shiny-white color standing roughly on end, with what appeared to be two strut-like appendages angling outwards at the base.

Beside this object Zamora saw two small figures, like "small adults or large children," dressed entirely in what appeared to be white coveralls. In his brief glimpse, he could see no facial features. He said the "persons appeared normal in shape," although only about four and a half feet high.

Zamora stopped his car for a better look and the figure farthest from him turned and looked in his direction. At this point, Zamora radioed Sgt. Samuel Chavez to report a possible automobile accident. When he looked up again, the two figures were no longer in sight.

Driving closer, the patrolman momentarily lost sight of the object passing through a small arroyo. At a distance of 100 to 150 feet, he again stopped the car, got out and proceeded on foot. The object was now resting in a horizontal attitude, supported by four girder-like legs. He reported seeing red markings on

SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

February 1, 1975—Frederic, Wis. A witness, who asked that her name not be used, observed lights for almost three and a half hours. The two lights were reported to be larger than automobile parking lights. A third huge red, flashing light was positioned approximately 8-10 feet above the other two stationary lights. The witness stated that the red, pulsating light was "very startling, almost frightening at being so near and awesome."

February 27, 1975—Alexandria, Va. Mrs. Lu Anne Brown filed a report with NICAP regarding an observation she made at 9:00 p.m. on the above date. The witness and her husband were able to view the UFO for approximately two hours. Mrs. Brown stated that it appeared to hover at times and then moved in an up and down motion (yo-yo style). The object disappeared from view with a sudden surge of speed.

the side of the object, about a foot high. Approaching to within 50 feet, the object suddenly began to roar, emitting flame and smoke from the underside. Thinking the object was about to explode, Zamora hurried back to his car, bumping his leg on a fender and dropping his glasses. As he crouched by the car, he saw the object ascend vertically to a height of about 15 feet. Then, as abruptly as it had begun, the noise ceased.

The object began moving off to the southwest in a horizontal trajectory, missing the abandoned dynamite shack by a number of feet. It increased its speed and ascended gradually, disappearing over the mountains in the distance.

About three minutes after the object's departure, Sgt. Chavez arrived on the scene. Together, the two officers approached the landing site and found the greasewood bushes smoldering. There were several scorch marks on the ground, as well as four wedge-shaped impressions in the rocky soil, forming a geometric pattern of four unequal sides, each side varying from nine to fifteen feet in length. The wedge-shaped impressions were rectangular, about a foot long, and up to two inches deep in the center. Dirt was pushed up on the outer side of each impression, as though great pressure had been exerted from the center of the formation. Several additional sets of markings were observed; these were approximately 4½ inches in diameter and about three inches deep.

Following the arrival of Sgt. Chavez, others who had heard the radio calls drove up, including Deputy Sheriff James Luckie, State Policeman Ted Jordan, and

Cattle Inspector Robert White, of Socorro. These men confirmed the traces and scorch marks reported by Zamora and Chavez.

Army Captain Richard T. Holder, of the White Sands Missile Range, was the first military official to learn of the sighting. Accompanied by an FBI man who was in Socorro at the time, Holder drove out to the site, took measurements and photos, and piled rocks about the traces in order to preserve them. He denied that White Sands had anything to do with the reported sighting.

The story of the sighting broke early the next morning. It received nationwide attention, and with its release came hordes of sightseers.

AIR FORCE EXPLANATION

The Air Force assigned its chief scientific consultant to the case, who was Dr. J. Allen Hynek. He arrived on the scene five days later to make an on-the-scene investigation for Project Blue Book.

On June 8, the Air Force released a statement on the results of its investigation: the case remained unexplained.

NICAP's EXPLANATION:

Even though the Socorro, New Mexico case is a single witness report of a UFO, it has more strength than most single witness reports. Officer Zamora was in radio contact with other officers at the time of the sighting and another witness (Sgt. Chavez) arrived at the scene within a very short time and saw evidence of the craft's landing. The Socorro, New Mexico case remains unsolved.

A REVIEW OF PHILIP J. KLASS'S, UFOs EXPLAINED

By:

Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee

The following review by Dr. Bruce Maccabee is the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect that of NICAP. If any reader wishes to submit any comments regarding this review, we will be pleased to publish them if space permits.

UFOs Explained, by Philip J. Klass
Review by Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee

Philip Klass's new book, *UFOs Explained* should be read by every serious UFO investigator. He has done a service for the "UFO community" by presenting a collection of arguments that represent the point of view of the sincere skeptic. He presents a selection of UFO cases (some of which have been labelled "classic,") some new and important information about them, and arguments about their inconsistencies, incorrect facts, and overall credibilities. He draws general conclusions from his analysis and formulates these conclusions as "UFOlogical Principles." These principles are concerned with problems related to the observation of transient events, and with the separation of subjective from objective perceptions of an event by the witness(es). They are also concerned with the interactive effects between what a witness personally believes or has learned from various media and what he reports. Klass correctly points out that (principle #2) one of the major problems facing the investigator is the separation of accurate from inaccurate details of observation and that (principle #10) many UFO cases have remained unexplained simply because investigators have not been sufficiently diligent. However, he left out what I consider to be the most important UFOlogical principle which is ("principle #0") that in the UFO business the only investigations one has a chance of being sure of are one's own. By this I mean that when you read someone else's analysis of a UFO report you can never be sure that all the details are presented. The problem is that details which are unimportant for one investigator may "make or break" the case for another.

Klass's style of writing, and argumentation is reasonably straightforward and easy to read. Unfortunately, he has made some of his arguments unnecessarily complicated by including what I consider to be superfluous arguments and by making use of hindsight to second guess the witnesses. That is, in several cases he has tried to construct inconsistencies in a UFO report by arguing that if the witness were being truthful in his report, he would have done or said some particular thing or things and/or acted in some particular manner.

A few comments about Klass's statements and analysis are in order. First of all, the title of the book is somewhat optimistic. It should read "Some UFOs Explained." Second, it must be realized that Klass has not tried to prove that UFOs don't exist, but rather *which UFO reports cannot be considered to be evidence for the existence of UFOs*. He has been quite successful with many UFO cases and is at his best in the explanations of the RB-47 case (a military plane outfitted for radar diagnosis was "followed" by a UFO for several hours in 1957), and the Lakenheath case (radar-visual observations over England in 1956). He also presents a plausible explanation for the Coyne case (a helicopter was "lifted" by a UFO in 1973) and offers sufficient new information and analysis to reduce the credibilities of the Delphos case (a landing in 1971), the Pascagoula case (abduction in 1973), the Betty and Barney Hill Case (abduction 1961). Note: Klass does not mention the interesting "coincidence" between the positions of stars in our local universe as discovered by Marjorie Fish and the map drawn by Betty Hill (see UFO Investigator, May 1973), the Trent case (still pictures taken in 1950), the Marianas case (movies taken in 1950), the South Hill case (landing in 1967) and several other less well known cases. Whether his explanations of these cases (misidentification and hoax) will stand the test of time and further investigation remains to be seen.

Certain points raised in the book warrant detailed comment. In Chapter 4

Klass points out that Skyhook balloons have caused UFO reports and perhaps the death of a pilot (the Mantell case—1948.) However, he neglected to mention reports made by the General Mtn. meteorological observers who launched many of the original balloons (see *The UFO Experience*—J.A. Hynek, p.61; *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*—E.J. Ruppelt, p.97; *The UFO Evidence*—NICAP, p.2). In Chapter 6 he notes a correlation between the number of VFON (Volunteer Flight Officer Network) UFO reports and the appearance of UFO reports in the mass media. He then implies that changes in the number of VFON reports, which are carefully screened to remove satellites, meteors, fireballs, etc., result from changes in the number of mass media reports. His conclusion actually amounts to a hypothesis that is amenable to a test: determine whether or not there is a time lag between fluctuations in the reporting rate in the mass media and in the reporting rate to the VFON. Unfortunately he did not carry out the test. In Chapter 18 Klass asserts that *most* UFO radar "sightings" occur during the warm humid summer months. He makes this statement without supporting evidence, so I checked the 10 cases in *The UFO Experience* and the 81 cases listed in *The UFO Evidence*. Out of these 90 different cases (one case appeared in both listings) only 42 occurred during the four month period from May 15 to September 15. (Of these, 17 cases were during the summer of 1952 at the time of the famous Washington, D.C. flap.) Admittedly this is a large proportion to fall within a four month period (a uniform temporal distribution would result in about 30 of the above cases occurring during any four month period), but it is not *most* of the radar cases.

Despite these criticisms I believe that this book is a worthy addition to the UFO literature. I only hope that it will be read by those who most need it—the "true believers" who uncritically accept most if not all UFO reports as evidence of the existence of extraterrestrial visitors, time travelers, parapsychological projection, or whatever.