

# UFO INVESTIGATOR



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## WITNESS COMES FORWARD

In previous years, UFO witnesses were extremely reluctant to report their observations to anyone for fear of ridicule. For the most part this stigma has been removed and people come forth with their reports. Times have changed, probably due to the authenticity of the UFO research work by renowned groups and scientists dedicated to resolving the problem. However, there are still those individuals who remain reluctant to report sightings. The following belated report is such an example.

Several area residents of Auburn, Kentucky said that they saw an unidentified flying object near their town one night last summer and each witness's testimony is very similar. None of the witnesses reported the incident at the time, but one was prompted to tell the local newspaper about it when he read an article in a paper about another UFO sighting.

The witness, Mr. Sam Cunigan who operates an electronics corporation, was returning from visiting a patient at the Logan County Hospital, and was listening to the car radio when suddenly there was radio silence. About 10-15 seconds later, there appeared a bright red light to his left less than a quarter-mile away and about 300 feet in altitude. Mr. Cunigan is a licensed pilot and a member of the local county airport board. This indicates that he is experienced in judging the speed, distance, altitude and size of flying objects.

Mr. Cunigan stated, "This light appeared to about three feet or better in size and was traveling east at a speed of 80-100 mph losing altitude at about a 10 degree angle." At first he thought of a low-flying helicopter, but realized that

there was no sound or noise of any kind. The light on the craft was too large to be a marker light on a plane or a rotary wing craft. The witness thought of an emergency flare displayed by aircraft, but soon realized that if it were a flare it could cause a fire when it reached the ground. Mr. Cunigan then drove toward Auburn which was the apparent destination of the light. The witness drove to the cemetery, parked his auto, got out but was unable to locate the light source or to hear any unusual noises. He proceeded home and told his oldest daughter of the incident and decided not to mention his experience to anyone else. After discussing the sighting further with his daughter they decided to check for the UFO once more.

Mr. Cunigan got in his pickup truck which has a CB radio and discovered that a three-way conversation was going on regarding the object that he had witnessed. Cunigan made arrangements to meet the other observers at a gas station in town. One of the other witnesses was an Auburn policeman. The officer said that he had first noticed the object's light when it appeared to be on the water tank. Seconds later it seemed to explode, made a left turn and started north with what appeared to be a small cloud of light-orange exhaust around it. The officer estimated the object's size to be five feet or more in diameter. He also verified the fact that he saw smoke, exhaust or a cloud of light. The officer feared that a helicopter might have caught fire and headed in the direction in which it appeared to be descending. About three miles north of Auburn on Route 103, the officer saw the light moving across the ground. It then cut in front of his moving

car causing him to lose control and run onto the shoulder of the road. He stated that the UFO was not solid and had felt "as though he had run into a tornado." The officer turned around and headed back for town. Additional witnesses stated that the object appeared to be various things, such as a large flare falling to the ground, a transformer shorted out, but realized later that it couldn't be because of the traveling directed motion. Three of the witnesses experienced radio silencing.

Mr. Cunigan stated that he would never have mentioned this sighting to anyone until he realized that others had also observed something.

### TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT PACED BY UFO

During a flight from New York's John F. Kennedy Airport to Vienna, Austria a passenger and her daughter observed a "strange" light pattern off the right hand side of the Boeing 707. It was approximately 12:15 am (EDT) on August 17, and most of the other passengers were asleep. The plane was in almost total darkness. This, of course, prevented any reflections on the inside of the plane's windows.

The witnesses stated that to the naked eye, it appeared to be either a rotating bright red light along the rim of something or a row of sequential lights. The lighted object would rise and fall slowly about 15° and at times its angle of inclination would change slightly from

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the horizontal. The two witnesses observed the "strange" light pattern for twenty minutes.

By this time, the plane's eastern travel brought it near sunrise and it was getting gray in the east, yet no shape was discernible from the distance which they were watching, even though the light was still very bright. Suddenly the light either dimmed or the object moved farther away. By 12:50 am (EDT), the witnesses lost sight of it completely. It simply disappeared.

Unfortunately, being over water during the observation it prevents a thorough investigation with other airports, police, etc. The witnesses were unable to contact the pilot of their plane for his verification.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU — a tremendous amount of work, support and time are donated by individuals interested in the research of UFOs. These people help in various ways.

This past summer NICAP was most fortunate to have Ruth F. Heisey, a NICAP member, volunteer her knowledge, time and energies by working almost every afternoon at the NICAP National Office. She has been a tremendous help to the staff and the membership through her work. We appreciate her cooperation and help and wish to acknowledge these efforts to the membership.

NICAP often receives letters asking for information on what course of study would be most helpful for a UFO researcher. The answer to such queries is not as simple as one might think. As with all fields of scientific research both a general overview and in depth knowledge of specialties are needed. NICAP investigators and consultants have educational training in many fields. These fields include Astronomy, Physics, Optics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Psychology, Biology, Photography and Electronics to name but a few.

For someone wishing to conduct independent research or to volunteer to

assist in research in the UFO field a broadly based scientific or engineering background is most helpful. Such a curriculum would be ideal for the budding UFOlogist.

NICAP also receives numerous letters from individuals seeking employment in the field. Unfortunately employment opportunities are very limited in the UFO field. All of the UFO organizations have only a very small paid staff, or in many cases no paid staff. There are no industries hiring individuals to conduct UFO research and the government is no longer conducting research.

## UFO VISITS DISNEY WORLD??

While thousands of Americans ventured to Orlando, Florida to enjoy the fantasies of Disney World, the possibility exists that so did some extraterrestrials. . . .

On August 18, 1976 at 8:30 pm, a family of four and their fifteen year-old babysitter were traveling about thirty miles outside of Orlando, Florida. Suddenly they noticed a saucer-shaped craft appear at a very close altitude of approximately 1,000 yards over their auto. The driver stopped his car and opened the windows to see the object more clearly. There was no sound emitting from the craft.

The driver of the car is an amateur pilot and is trained to observe and report accurately. All of the witnesses, excluding the youngest child, stated that the UFO appeared to have a dome-shaped red light on the top and white window-like lights around the saucer-shaped craft. Their CB radio broadcast nothing but static and because of this effect, they were unable to transmit or receive.

The UFO was making movements and turns that would be impossible for conventional craft to perform.

The family observed the phenomenon for about thirty minutes before losing sight of the craft behind the treeline.

They drove directly to the nearest town and reported their experience to a local police station. The officer told the witnesses that there had been several other reports describing a similar craft. The officer appeared to be quite uninterested and passed it off as an advertising plane. Advertising planes can be most deceiving even for the best observer.

However, the amateur pilot was firmly convinced that a small fixed wing aircraft could definitely not perform in the manner that he had witnessed.

## International Advisory

**Tarraleah, Australia**—Two truck drivers claimed that a UFO followed them from 3:00 am until daybreak. The strange occurrence left the two men completely puzzled. There was a white light on top with an orange light below. The Australian UFO Investigation Centre had no immediate explanation, but were going to continue to investigate the case.

**Maydena, Australia**—Two large mysterious lights which flew from east to west were observed by a crowd of 15 people. Five of the witnesses watched in awe for approximately 25 minutes. The lights were described as orange-red and twice the size of stars. The two lights separated during their flight course and one went south-west and the other drifted slowly to the west. Investigations revealed that there were no satellites of aircraft in the area.

**South Africa**—A retired professional meteorologist who spent 38 years forecasting from signs in the sky is in a state of complete confusion regarding an object that he witnessed hovering over Salisbury. The object was brilliant orange and lit up his house and garden like daylight. The witness stated that he didn't believe in UFOs but admits that this case was most unusual. The witness watched the object for about one half minute and couldn't understand why it wasn't moving. Then it gradually drifted away toward the south-east and a couple of bright fragments dropped from it. There was no shape to the light; it simply gave the appearance of something burning.

**South Africa**—A witness claims to have seen an object on several occasions hovering over Drakensberg during the past few months. The description of the object was circular giving off a yellow light and larger than any star the witness has ever seen. The witness rushed in to find her husband and upon their return fifteen minutes later it was still visible. On a different occasion, the object changed from brilliant blue to red and remained

visible for about one half hour before disappearing.

**Sydney, Australia**—A burnt grass ring was found on May 25, 1976 by a farmer who was out searching his property because on the evening before he and his wife had seen an object glowing in the brush near their farmhouse. The farmer stated that the object was luminous and gave a distinct red glow. It made no sound and they were able to watch the glow for about 10 minutes before it disappeared.

The UFO Investigation Centre in Australia have stated that they have explored many burned patches allegedly produced by UFOs, but this has been "our best find for sometime." Geology professionals have taken soil samples for testing.

**Launceston, Tasmania**—During the early evening hours on June 29, 1976 a couple viewed an object through binoculars, and the telescopic sight of a rifle for about twenty minutes. The object was described as a bright silver light with a distinct rotating red light above it.

At first the object appeared to be hovering and then it suddenly shot up into the sky. The UFO made an upward motion twice before descending slowly towards the horizon. The couple concurred that the object looked as though it were going to land. The witnesses were reluctant to report the sighting for fear of ridicule. It was their hope that others had been viewing the object as well. The local newspapers and police did have several phone calls reporting a "strange" light in the sky but the callers did not identify themselves for later questioning.

**Sydney, Australia**—A Sydney resident witnessed a UFO and the sighting has left him with nothing but frustration. Mr. Roy Roberts said after his sighting that he has tried contacting various civil and government agencies to prove that he saw "something." His reply has been that they will check it out, but then he never hears anything. Mr. Roberts said, "What makes me so mad about the whole business is that you see something as I did probably once in a lifetime, so you'd like to know what it was . . . or wasn't."

Mr. Roberts witnessed the UFO at about 8:40 pm on June 4, 1976 while returning to his flat. The witness stated that he saw a brilliant green, egg-shaped object shoot across the sky. It had a small white light up front and below and crossed from west to east about 20

## SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

**June 23, 1976—Berwyn, Illinois.** Unusual blue-white lights were sighted in the sky. The two witnesses said that the lights were positioned like the points of a triangle and were wavering back and forth overhead. There was no sound connected with the sighting. Although the lights appeared to be separate objects, they moved in total unison. Within five minutes the lights moved away in a northwest direction, lost their altitude and disappeared.

**June 25, 1976—Torrington, Wyoming.** A bright orange light was observed for over an hour. Police officers were unable to identify the object. One witness reported that the object seemed to glow from time to time, going from very bright to very dim.

**June 27, 1976—Grants Pass, Oregon.** A witness claimed that she was awakened by barking dogs and howling coyotes. When she looked out of her bedroom window there was a large round white ball of light. The witness claimed it was hovering about 300 feet off the ground. The woman immediately awoke her husband, and he verified the sighting. They said that there was a strange sound above the persistent noise made by the animals.

**March 9, 1976—Bellingham, Washington.** Three college students who were out walking at about 9 pm stated that they saw what they believed to be a UFO. At first the students thought it was a balloon until there was a bright flash and it zoomed off. The object was orange and moved very slowly yet with direction. The UFO traveled from west to east approximately 550 feet off the ground. The object dropped two flares before taking off at an incredible speed.

**April 29, 1976—Elsworth, Wisconsin.** A police officer for Elmwood reported seeing a "strange looking object" and stated that concurrently his police dispatch radio went out. The object rose off the ground and went out of sight at a rapid speed. Once the object had vanished, the radio resumed normal transmission. Other officers were called to the scene but could see nothing unusual except to verify that the reporting officer seemed very upset.

## AIRLINE PILOT REPORTS UFO

A National Airlines pilot and members of a prayer group are among the persons who say they saw a UFO in Lee County skies near Fort Meyer, Florida. The UFO was described by its watchers as a moving orange light that appeared to be following aircraft near the airport about 11 pm.

An air traffic controller working on the evening shift the night of the alleged sighting said the pilot and another caller from Pine Manor told him they saw the orange light moving across the sky. The

controller did not wish to be identified in connection with the UFO report.

The pilot said that the object changed from orange to white as it moved away and was approximately 2500 feet north-east from the airport. A witness telephoned the controller and said that he had observed an object (of the same description) following an airliner and hovering near the airport. He also stated that the object appeared to change colors from orange to white to red.

The object's movements were quite irregular and unusual. It would move sideways at rapid speeds then move with up and down motions, hover and propel with rocket-like speed and exhaust but made no noise that could be heard.

An airport spokesman said that at this time of year there is a lot of swamp gas and electrical storms which could account for "some awfully weird phenomena."

degrees above the horizon. Mr. Roberts said, "The thing was the size of a conventional aircraft but travelled at an incredible speed without a sound." The object allegedly crossed the sky in five seconds. The witness is determined to continue his efforts in establishing an explanation for the sighting.

# UFO SIGHTING PUZZLES SKEPTICS

Three Policemen Convinced Youth Saw a UFO

In conducting UFO investigations the "credibility" of the witness is of utmost importance. This does not mean to imply that the only "creditable" sightings are made by astronauts, policemen, pilots, etc., but this type individual is trained and experienced to report and observe accurately. However, many, many "credible" sightings are reported every year by individuals of all ages and from different walks of life. Children of reasonable age can be excellent observers because of their uncluttered, absorbing minds. For most adults, today's world is a hectic, rushed way of life. We don't have the time to observe the world around us. Children do. They are generally out of doors more and in many cases are more aware of details. The following report was witnessed initially by three youths, and confirmed by three policemen and one female adult.

On August 4, 1976 in the town of Carmel, New York, at 9:30 pm, a fourteen year old youth was startled when he and two neighborhood friends observed an elliptical shaped object. The sky was very clear and the bright light remained motionless for an hour and forty-five minutes under the light of the moon.

Robert Jankowski ran into the house to get his binoculars and informed his mother as to what was taking place outside. His mother, Mrs. Nancy Jankowski, went to see the object that had her son so nervous and excited. She immediately telephone the Carmel police station. The three responding officers (Stern, Freyler and Buington) agreed that whatever was hovering motionless in the sky could not be identified.

The Poughkeepsie Flight Service Station and the Westchester County Airport which have radar facilities did not have anything unusual displayed on their screens.

NICAP's Regional Investigator, Dennis Piaquadio was contacted and investigated the case. He was careful to interview the youths separately and had them illustrate on paper what they had seen. The sketches were almost identical as were the descriptions from the witnesses.

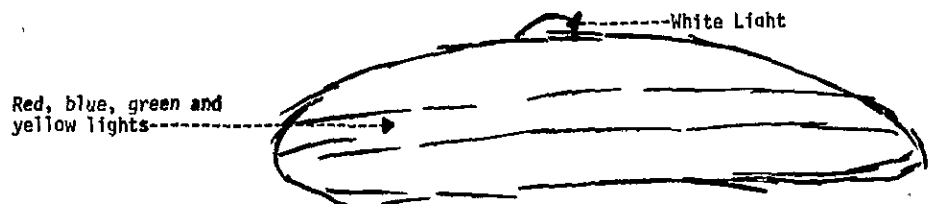
The drawings indicated an elliptical shape with rotating colored lights around the perimeter. Two of the boys stated that the object had a white light on the top and bottom. Mrs. Jankowski was left quite puzzled by the sighting. She stated, "I never believed in them before. I thought it was all hogwash. Now I'm beginning to wonder."

Mr. Piaquadio, after concluding his questioning of the youths and Mrs. Jankowski, proceeded to the Carmel Police Station. Officer Stern was most

cooperative and was convinced that they had all observed a strange phenomenon. The officer had been in the Air Force for four years and felt confident that, with his knowledge of aircraft, they could readily discount the possibility that a conventional aircraft was seen.

In trying to evaluate the case, the investigator could easily discount an advertising plane since the object was motionless. A small craft observed from a long distance cruising at 120 mph would appear to be almost stationary but not for a time period of an hour and forty-five minutes.

Other reports of a similar object have been received from witnesses in Connecticut and New York. NICAP investigations are continuing.



DRAWING BY: ROBERT JANKOWSKI