

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP, 5012 Del Ray Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20014, (301) 654-8091

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THE SECOND NEW ZEALAND SIGHTING

It wasn't. It was a hoax, perhaps well intentioned, but a hoax.

Investigation with the cooperative New Zealand photographer who submitted the pictures now shows that what the camera recorded was street lights at the end of the block where he lived, at an angle, through a plate glass window, with the lens of the camera "grossly distorted." These are the handwritten words of the New Zealand photographer.

There are things here for all of us to remember. NICAP believes that there are flying objects that are unidentifiable, that is, UFOs. But we also believe that the strictest rules must be applied to the evaluation of reported sightings. That way the truly unexplainable phenomena will stand out and draw the scientific attention they deserve.

After checking, it turns out that the photographer of the second New Zealand event, now called the Mt. Eden event, got annoyed at what he considered to be the falsehood of a photographer who was credited with pictures of a UFO sighting at Clarence River, N.Z. on 2 January 1979. I became suspicious when the TV interviewer questioned the other photographer. He was asked why the objects seemed to be out of focus. He replied that he was using a long lens and that no sooner did he think he had it in focus than the object would move and go out of focus.

The Mt. Eden photographer says that he knows that if his own 300mm. lens is set on infinity anything from 200 feet to 2,000 miles will be in focus. I was hoping somehow to prove that the Clarence River pictures were a hoax by duplicating them.

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, who carried out the investigation of this case comments that the Mt. Eden photographs do not resemble those taken at Clarence River. But Dr. J. F. de Bock of the New Zealand UFO Studies Centre reports that he has been able to get almost similar photos -- four or five white lines running through a blue circular background -- by photographing drops of water through a microscope.

Also, Dr. Maccabee acknowledges that the Mt. Eden hoax photographs do bear a close resemblance to the David Crockett films which were taken from a plane in late December 1978. Research into observed phenomena is a continuous process, we all know. So Dr. Maccabee has put a number of questions to the Mt. Eden photographer. He thinks this information might help clear up some questions about the Crockett movie films that are not entirely understood. Dr. Maccabee wants the Mt. Eden photographer to redo the scene with windows open, windows closed, pictures sharply in focus and to various degrees out of focus, varying angles through the window, and so forth. We laymen call this work basic research. We need a lot of it. But it is hard.

WHAT IS REALITY?

One of the problems of trying to get our thoughts about UFOs into focus is that it is hard to get a familiar handle on them. Many of the things we know about our world we know because we can see them, or touch, taste, smell or hear them. We spend much of our lives getting our impressions of the world from these senses.

Of course, there are other ways of knowing about things. In fact there are a whole lot of "real" things that are with us each day that one cannot see, feel, hear, smell or taste. The joy of love is an example. The depth of guilt. Hope, anxiety, inspiration, depression.

People who are specialists in the "hard" sciences (and who are no strangers to psychiatrists or pills) want hard proof about UFOs. If UFOs are real we should be able to know them and understand them through our five senses.

But life is not that simple. Consider Satcom III. All its parts are very touchable and seeable. They have a certain exact weight. They can be measured and tested in all the familiar ways. They are built on a sure technology, we know, because Satcom I and II are already in orbit doing their job. We know this because we see the results on TV when pictures are relayed from around the world.

But Satcom III was launched into space and now the newspapers are full of the fact that nobody knows where it is. It does not respond to ground commands. Radar does not see it. The computers cannot figure out where it is. In short, it has disappeared.

We do not suggest that there is something sinister about this, or that a UFO has eaten it up. What we do say is that in a world where so many un-touchable, unseeable things are known to be real, in a world where touchable and seeable things disappear, it is wise to keep an open mind about UFOs.

A NEW UFO ORGANIZATION

A new UFO organization, quite unlike any other we know about, was established in Washington on August 1, 1979. What makes it unusual is that it will not be a membership organization, it will not publish a newsletter or other periodicals aimed at the general public, it does not represent a threat to any other UFO organization now in existence. Its purpose is to raise money for other organizations and persons to spend on serious UFO research in the hope of shedding some light on the long term mystery of Unidentified Flying Objects.

The new organization is called the Fund for UFO Research, Inc. It is chartered as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the District of Columbia. It is chaired by Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a laser physicist and internationally known UFO researcher. Serving with him on the Fund's Executive Committee are zoologist Craig Phillips, Director of the National Aquarium; astronomer Dr. John Carlson of the University of Maryland; Dr. David Schwartzman, Chairman of the Geology Department of Howard University; and Lt. Thomas Deuley, U.S. Navy.

The National Board, which is now being formed, will be composed of persons from a wide variety of scientific and technical disciplines. They will review serious proposals and recommend financial support for those showing the greatest promise of advancing scientific knowledge and public understanding of UFOs. When sufficient funds are available, awards may be made to individuals in recognition of work already accomplished.

The Fund will also consider supporting on-the-spot field investigations of UFO sightings where there is good reason to believe that significant physical evidence can be obtained for scientific analysis by rapid action.

The Fund can be reached by writing Box 277, Mt. Rainier, Md. 20822, or by phoning (703) 548-0405 during business hours or (301) 779-8683 on evenings or weekends. Naturally, contributions to the Fund are tax deductible.

STATIC

A reader has written to ask about the nature of the static that has been reported from the tower of Washington National Airport. He has incomplete information but wonders whether the interference was a beep or a flutter. We have checked out this request with the tower at Washington National, with the Federal Aviation Agency and with the Federal Communications Commission. Their answers all match. Yes there has been interference on the tower frequencies at Washington National but this is also the case at a number of other airports all over the U.S. The problem is not UFOs but something much easier to understand, though difficult to stop. The Federal Aviation Administration thinks the answer lies in two things: frequency drift and harmonics.

Most radio circuits today are put on frequency, by putting an electric current into a very precisely cut piece of crystal. This causes the crystal to vibrate at a certain number of pulses per second. In theory this works fine but sometimes does not. When it does not, the frequency "drifts" over and gets into the way of another frequency. You see this every night when your TV picture gets out of focus.

The other problem, harmonics, is as old as the violin string or the human voice. When the violin, piano, bell, whistle or any other instrument makes a note, it is not just one note. The primary note has all kinds of cousins, uncles and grandchildren vibrating along with it. So does a radio wave and the members of its family get in the way of other radio waves.

MEMBERSHIP-RENEWAL APPLICATION

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Please enter my name () or renew my standing () as a member of NICAP. I understand that I will receive the monthly newsletter, have access to the NICAP files, receive information on sightings, and other benefits.

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Name _____	Annual Dues
Street _____	Effective 1 September 1979
City & State _____ Zip _____	U.S. \$15.00
	Foreign \$20.00
	Foreign Air Mail \$27.50

CIA "FILES" ON UFOS

This is a continuation of the report on UFOs, CIA and the Freedom of Information Act, which we began in the September issue.

There is an easy explanation for this confusion and disorder: CIA simply does not have a file on UFOs. It has parts and bits of about a half dozen files. Among them are papers that seem to have been kept in the office of the Director of Central Intelligence. Another batch seems to have been kept in the office of the Deputy Director for Scientific Intelligence. Other sets of papers come from the office of the General Counsel and the Legislative Counsel. A lot of the unclassified correspondence comes from the office of the Executive Secretary of the Agency. The Agency has been candid about going public with its "files" on UFOs. But in doing so it has let the cat out of the bag: it does not seem to have any kind of orderly filing system.

Some of the Xeroxed pages in the stack are unreadable. This is for two reasons. Sometimes (but not very often) large portions of the text have been inked out so that what remains is not understandable. The other reason is technical. In the middle 1950s, when most of these papers are dated, the Thermofax was a widely used office copying machine. This system is vulnerable to heat and the passage of time. So, two decades later when the Agency came to make Xerox copies of the Thermofax copies they simply would not reproduce.

FIVE COPIES OF THE SAME DOCUMENT

Another problem is the loading of the files with duplicates. And in fact triplicates, quadruplets and even quintuplets can be found. (Remember, CIA cannot exercise any discretion in the paper it serves up. It must produce all the files.) What happens is that someone writes a draft memo. The next person in the approving hierarchy moves paragraph 7 up to become paragraph 3. At the next level someone makes handwritten comments in the margin. Finally the paper is typed in final form. This is the way many memos are created. But in this case all the various drafts were mindlessly put in the "files" for whatever good that is supposed to do.

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