

UFO INVESTIGATOR



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MULTIPLE NIGHT LIGHTS SIGHTED IN WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS

The sighting of multiple night lights on a number of occasions in December and January is being reported by many people in south-central West Virginia. The most spectacular, but not the only event, was on 5 December 1979 around the town of Ansted, W. Va. There, a "mother ship" dropped three sets of six objects each. For a period of more than three hours the 18 objects swooped, darted, hovered, flashed light, changed color, merged and broke away again. More of these lights were seen repeatedly by the same observers during the next several weeks. Other observers in this same general area saw single and multiple night lights during the same period.

The principle witnesses to the 5 December sighting were Mr. and Mrs. Robert White (he is a private pilot) and their three children. The children range in age from 9 to adult. Since this sighting lasted about four hours no one member of the family saw every minute of the episode. Sometimes for 10 to 15 minutes no member of the family was watching. At other times three of the family or even all five saw the events. The following account, which differs from some stories carried in the press, is based on an extended personal interview by a NICAP Investigator with all members of the White family.

White Globe Over Mountain

At about 5:55 p.m. Eastern Standard Time the children called their mother to come outside. They saw an illuminated white globe about the size of an aspirin held at arm's length. It was 25 degrees above the horizon and above a mountain ridge due north of them. It hovered in that position for ten minutes. Then it moved slowly and steadily across the sky, stopping 30 degrees above the horizon and above another mountain ridge directly to the south. The light hovered in its new position for another 15 minutes. It had taken 3 1/2 to 4 minutes to make the 180 degree change of position.

As the white globe passed high and abreast of them, the white light went out and the observers saw, within the size of the now indistinct globe, a Y shaped arrangement with lights at the end of each arm. The Y itself was the dull green color of pea soup. The illumination at the ends of the three arms looked like "many, many small red lights. They were not especially bright and did not flash." There was a small, steady white light where the three arms came together. The open arms of the Y faced in the direction of travel. As the object moved to the south, the white light in the globe returned and the Y shaped arrangement continued to be dimly visible.

After the white globe had hovered in the south for 15 minutes, six small lights were seen to "fall downward" from the globe. These first six sat below the globe for 1-2 minutes. They did not give off continuous light but flashed "like photo flash bulbs" about 10-15 times a minute. Their position could only be seen when they flashed. They flashed at random, not in synchronization with one another. Three of these lights moved away, one to the west, one to the southeast and the other farther to the east. Then they went straight up very rapidly -- not in a curving climb like a plane and too fast to be a helicopter -- and disappeared.

Five minutes later another set of six lights dropped from the white globe which was still hovering in the same place, over the only tilled field to be seen among the trees on the ridge. The second set of lights were continuously illuminated and also flashed, but only 3-4 times a minute. These lights were sometimes all red, sometimes all white and sometimes partly red and partly white.

In the beginning this second set of lights moved slowly and stayed in the area where they first appeared. But gradually they speeded up, moved to different parts of the sky and performed a number of maneuvers. Many of the maneuvers consisted of rapid, darting motions with the object going up a distance of about one inch seen at arm's length, followed by sideways or downward darting. At other times the objects moved smoothly from place to place or hovered for a while.

A Third Set Of Six

Some 5-7 minutes later a third set of six objects came down from the still hovering white globe. They were much like the second set in that at first they stayed close to the white globe and were colored all red, all white or red and white. They also flashed their light and moved to all parts of the sky.

This circus of changing colors and various movements continued for the next three hours. During this time the 18 objects engaged in all kinds of movement and were seen in all parts of the sky. They did not stay with their original sets of six and could not be distinguished as to their original sets, except that the first six continued their "flash bulb" light bursts. No lights ever flew in military-type formation. There was never any noise from any of them. After the three sets of six lights had appeared, the white globe moved slowly to the south and disappeared.

Lights In Front Of Trees

Shortly after 9:00 p.m. six of the red-white lights were seen to the north below the top of the ridge and in front of the trees. (During the sighting the lights were frequently seen to north, east and south in front of the mountain ridges. These ridges are not farther away than one and one-half miles and in some places are as close as one quarter mile.) These lights stayed in an area about five inches wide seen at arm's length for more than 15 minutes. While in that area they showed the familiar red, white or red and white color and continued to flash. They departed at five minutes intervals in a fast vertical zoom. Each one was all white when it left.

About 9:30 p.m. one of the "flash bulb" lights moved from north to due east, staying below and in front of the ridge line. At the place where the "flash bulb" light stopped and hovered, the ridge was 2,000-2,500 feet away. There are no roads or trails on this ridge. The "flash bulb" light was joined by a red blinking light which superimposed itself in front of the "flash bulb." They remained together, blinking, for about 30 seconds. Then the red light moved off to the side and went out. The "flash bulb" light stayed in the same place and kept on flashing for another 10-12 minutes. This is just one of many times that night when a red light superimposed itself on a white one.

None of the members of the White family saw the return of the original white globe. They merely saw that at about 10:00 p.m. it was back. Nor did they see any "recovery" of the 18 lights by the white globe. But by 10:15 p.m. there were no more lights in the sky. *(To be continued.)*

A CLARIFICATION

In the November 1979 issue of the UFO Investigator we published a comment on the 1950 assertion by a Canadian scientist, Wilburt B. Smith, that "the matter of UFOs is the *most* highly classified subject in the U.S. Government, rating *higher even than the H-bomb.*" (Emphasis added by the Investigator.) Since then a Canadian reader has written us to say that he has read a copy of Smith's 1950 report to the Canadian Government and he verifies that the statement is included in the report. Other readers have written to ask the basis for our doubting the report.

We wish to clarify our comments and to apologize for any confusion they may have caused. Let us make it clear that we have no doubt whatsoever that Smith did write such a report to the Canadian Government and that the report does contain such a statement. What we doubt is that the facts bear out Smith's belief. Quite simply, we doubt that UFOs were the *most* highly classified, or that they were classified *even higher than the H-bomb.*

With the explosion of the Soviet A-bomb in 1949, the American H-bomb was considered to be a matter of national survival and naturally was surrounded by the tightest security. Now, 30 years later, much of the story of the discussions on whether to try to build the American H-bomb and the work of building it has been revealed and written about widely. Information on the matter comes from memoirs written at the time and since published, as well as from declassified Government documents. There is no equivalent body of writing on U.S. concern with UFOs in this period. One exception to this is the 1953 report of the Robertson Committee. (See the December 1979 and January 1980 issues of the Investigator.)

Of course, there is always someone who will say that this lack of information proves something; that because there is so little writing about the U.S. Government's concern with UFOs in this period, it proves that there must be a Government document security classification higher even than Top Secret. It is impossible to disprove such a belief. But with such a wide range of once sensitive information coming into the public domain -- all the way from Britain's breaking Germany's World War II Enigma code to John F. Kennedy's girl friends -- we believe that in the long run nothing stays hidden forever.

NIGHT LIGHTS IN WASHINGTON SUBURB

A 15 year old high school student has filed a lengthy written report on night lights which she saw near her home on two separate occasions. The lights moved, turned and changed color, but made no noise.

On 13 October 1979, Susan Birdwell was sitting up all night listening to the radio in her home in Gaithersburg, Md., a suburb about 20 miles north of downtown Washington. At 2:00 a.m. she became sleepy and got up to look out the window. The sky was clear and the stars were out. To the north, about 30 degrees above the horizon and above a line of trees, she saw blinking lights. During the several minutes she was looking at them they changed color from red to green. The lights moved from the north and gradually disappeared to the west at a speed "slower than a jet airplane."

On 29 October 1979 at about 10:00 p.m. Miss Birdwell and her mother were driving home from a shopping trip when they both noticed blinking lights to the north over the same line of trees. The trees are about one half mile away and extend about 10 degrees above the horizon. The lights circled slowly two times, descended and disappeared behind the trees, reappeared above the trees and finally disappeared behind the trees again. Miss Birdwell had her brother drive her from home to beyond the trees, but they did not see the lights again.

Several NICAP investigators have commented on this sighting. They believe that in the absence of other observers and considering that the observations took place in the heavily traveled Washington metropolitan area, the explanation must be that the lights were from conventional airplanes.

WORLD UFO DIRECTORY

In our September issue, we reported the publication by the UFO Network, in London, of a World UFO Directory of organizations, societies, groups and their various publications. The publishers now advise us that the cost of the Directory is \$5.00, post paid, effective February 1980. The address remains: 2 St. Ivian Court, Colneyhatch Lane, London N-10.

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