

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP ■ SUITE 801, 1730 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W. ■ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 ■ A PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION

AIAA PUBLISHES FIRST "UFO ENCOUNTER" UFO Question Still Unsettled, Says Institute

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) has made good on its announced intention to publish selected UFO cases in follow-up to its strongly affirmative "Appraisal of the UFO Problem" (*UFO Investigator*, November 1970). The July issue of the AIAA journal contains the first of these "UFO Encounters," which the Institute says will "give the members of this society an opportunity to form their own opinions with respect to the type of observations which form the core of the UFO controversy."

The first case is the sighting of July 17, 1957, involving six crewmen of an Air Force RB-47 operating over the south-central United States. The case is one of approximately 35 cases listed by the Condon Report as unidentified.

The account presented was written by the late Dr. James McDonald, who had examined the official case file in Air Force archives and interviewed the witnesses at great length. The Condon group never saw the official file because it had been catalogued under the wrong date. McDonald discovered the error and was able to compile an extensive report on the sighting.

The article offers no discussion of the case and attempts no evaluation. "It is left to the reader to draw his own conclusions," states the journal. Note is made that the Air Force explains the sighting as an aircraft.

In its initial statement on UFOs, released last November, the Institute was critical of both the Air Force and the Condon Report, urging the U.S. Government to "consider sound (research) proposals in this field... on an open-minded, unprejudiced basis." To help stimulate serious consideration of the problem, the Institute said it would publish additional information on UFOs, including "typical examples of the so-called 'hard-core' residue' and some potential engineering approaches to a solution of the controversy."

BRAZILIAN PILOT REPORTS PACING All Attempts to Close on Object Fail

A report in the *Brazil Herald* for August 11 describes an encounter between a pilot and a disc-shaped object over mountainous terrain approximately 300 miles northwest of Rio de Janeiro. The encounter took place on the morning of August 9 while the pilot was flying between two cities in the Minas Gerais region of Brazil, south of the federal city Brasilia.

According to the newspaper, "airplane pilot Vicente L. Buono, 24, in a report to the airport authorities in Uberaba, affirmed this week seeing a flying saucer which accompanied his aircraft for about 20 minutes on a flight from Belo Horizonte to Uberaba.

"He said in the report the object was shaped like two round basins, one on top of the other, and emitted a strong orange-colored light.

"Buono piloted the airplane when he sighted the object at

an altitude of 2400 meters (approximately 7800 feet).

"He tried to get in touch with the Air Force base in Brasilia, which proved impossible. He then notified by radio the authorities of Uberaba airport.

"The Air Force officer on duty instructed him to try to get nearer the object, but all attempts failed, as the flying saucer maintained always the same distance of about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the airplane.

"This happened at 9 a.m. on Monday between the towns of Pratinha and Sacramento. Then the flying saucer suddenly increased its speed and disappeared."

REVIVAL OF UFO INTEREST CONTINUES New Queries from Press Augur Well for Future

Popular interest in UFOs continues to show signs of renewal, as news media and other organizations query NICAP for interviews and information on the status of the UFO problem.

Among latest examples of the upswing, which began in March (*UFO Investigator*, June 1971), are articles in *Time* (June 28) and *Science News* (June 26). Both quote NICAP and call attention to continued scientific interest in UFO investigations.

Another publication recently showing interest is *Grit*, which expects to publish an article on UFOs in an upcoming issue.

In the area of broadcast coverage, NICAP officers John Acuff and Stuart Nixon did a two-hour talk show in late June on Philadelphia radio station WCAU. Response was received from all over the mid-Atlantic states. Among listeners who telephoned the show was the sister of the late Barney Hill, who, with his wife Betty, reported what is one of the best known UFO encounters on record.

Other interviews done recently were with television station WBTV in Charlotte, North Carolina, and radio station WCAR in Detroit. The TV interview featured NICAP's investigation of the Kings Mountain, N.C., photographic case, still under study (*UFO Investigator*, August 1970).

The day before their WCAU appearance, Acuff and Nixon joined in a special meeting at the Air Transport Association to discuss UFOs and NICAP's research. The Association is headquartered just a few blocks from the NICAP offices. NICAP was invited to address the meeting as a result of coverage given the Committee in the *Wall Street Journal* of June 14.

Acuff and Nixon will also be on the same bill later this summer when the News Bureau of American University publishes a special report on NICAP in its alumni magazine. Both men are graduates of A.U. (as is one of NICAP's two-girl administrative staff). Acuff graduated in 1960 with a degree in Distributed Science, while Nixon received his diploma in 1964 in Journalism.

Further publicity for NICAP is developing from a letter published in the July issue of *Pilot* magazine, official publication of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. The letter was written by NICAP at the suggestion of the magazine, and urges pilots to report their sightings. NICAP will report on response to the letter in a later issue.

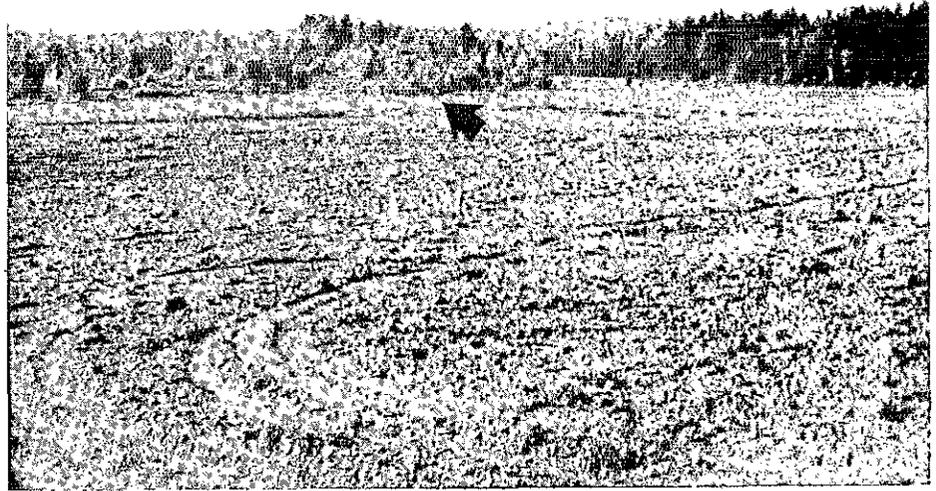
MORE DATA UNTURNED ON NEW ENGLAND CASES

Explanations Still Elude Investigators

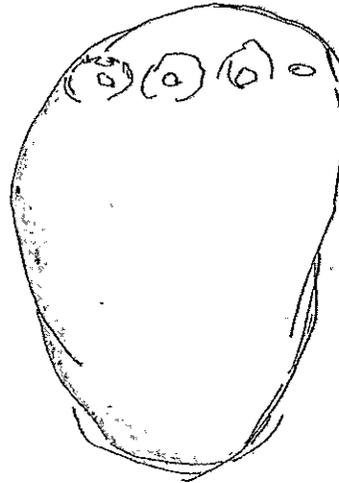
Further probing by NICAP's Massachusetts Subcommittee has yielded additional information on several of the sightings recently reported in New England. Subcommittee chairman Raymond Fowler reports his investigators have taken on-site photographs, reinterviewed witnesses, and uncovered other data in connection with reports investigated by his unit during the past three or four months.

In the case of May 31 at Newmarket, New Hampshire (*UFO Investigator*, June 1971), data obtained by the Boston-based group has revealed differences in descriptions given by the two witnesses of what they saw. The younger of the observers, a man in his early 30s soon to begin training as a priest, described the UFO as oval in shape, like a sphere that had been slightly squashed. He said he noticed no structural features but thought the bottom was darker in color than the upper surface. The other witness, his brother, got a different impression of the object's configuration and now states he caught a fleeting glimpse of "indentations" near the top of the object (see sketch at right). He said he had not mentioned these marks previously because he did not get a good enough look at them to be sure of what they were.

Both men agree the object lifted straight up from the ground while they watched it and moved steadily into the wind until lost from sight. This perplexed them, because they had assumed they were watching some kind of balloon that had lost air and become grounded. The Subcommittee also reported puzzlement over the sighting after trying unsuccessfully to establish that a stray balloon might have been in the area at the time.



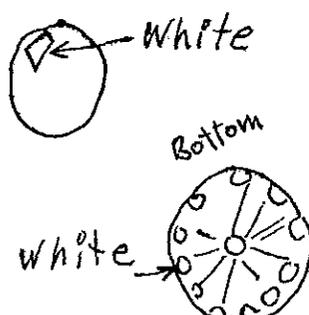
New Hampshire field where UFO was reported last May is almost entirely surrounded by trees. Witnesses had just pulled up in truck at spot where this picture was taken when they saw object on opposite side of clearing just off ground (arrow).



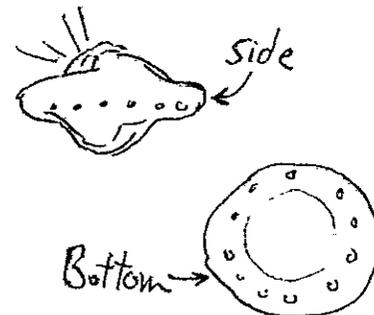
Older of two witnesses made this sketch of strange object he and brother saw on afternoon of May 31 near Newmarket, New Hampshire. His view of object may have been distorted since he observed it at an angle through truck windshield while brother (riding as a passenger in truck) had unobstructed view through open side window.

Differences of opinion have also emerged in eyewitness accounts to the May 29 sighting near Oxford, Massachusetts (*UFO Investigator*, July 1971). The prime witness, Warren McCarthy, told Subcommittee personnel the object he saw was oval in shape, with lights on the bottom and what appeared to be "stripes" running from the lights to the center of the underside. This description is partially confirmed by McCarthy's son, Michael, whose sketch of the UFO (see below) shows a series of what seem to be "stripes" on the bottom of the object, although no mention is made of these features in Michael's report.

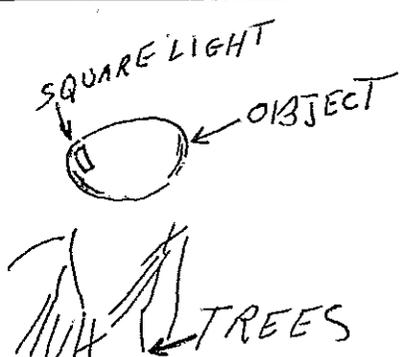
Michael's brother Mark saw no stripes and offers a different version of the object from that of the other witnesses. His sketch (also reproduced below) shows an object with contoured surfaces and a protruding bottom. He includes the lights seen by his father and brother but depicts them as visible from the side as well as the bottom. Earlier testimony indicated the lights were not observed until the object flipped up on edge, revealing its underside for the first time.



White
Bottom
white



Side
Bottom



SQUARE LIGHT
OBJECT
TREES

Michael McCarthy, 16, remembers object like this. He and other witnesses were scattered along beach, fishing, when object appeared.

Mark McCarthy, 15, recalls object somewhat differently than his brother. His sketch shows object with light that resembles cockpit window.

Raymond Beaudry, 16, friend of McCarthy brothers, concurs with Michael on object's general shape. "It looked like a disc," he reported.

CASE INVESTIGATIONS/EVALUATIONS

During the past three months, NICAP has received a small number of sighting reports, two of which involve photographs. Most of the reports are being routinely followed up, but a few have been investigated in detail. In general, the quantity of new sightings has not risen appreciably since the end of winter, although an improvement has been noted in the quality of some reports. Whether this improvement portends increased future activity is not clear, but it represents a significant departure from previous trends. The two photographic cases recently investigated are as follows:

California

On April 14, 1971, NICAP received the following telegram from a man in Palm Springs, California:

"I have developed a negative and printed a photograph of what appears to be a UFO. Local airport tower director states possibility of fake remote. My opinion same, as careful examination of negative omits possibility of double exposure, etc. Angles, distance all correspond. Upon extreme enlargement, heat shimmers plainly visible under disk-shaped object. Peculiar cloud formation of vapor trail also visible. Object is not blurred. Your opinion of photographic/photometric analysis would be of great help in determining authenticity. If interested, please advise. I will send photo and info."

NICAP replied immediately, stating that the photograph would be examined in Washington if information obtained from the photographer indicated detailed analysis was required. Pending that determination, NICAP suggested that the sender of the telegram contact NICAP's Los Angeles Subcommittee and cooperate with them in a preliminary investigation of the picture.

Three weeks later, on May 7, the Subcommittee received a telephone call from the writer of the wire. He stated that the photograph had been taken on October 11, 1970, by a man in the Air Force who did not want his name known. He said the picture was made in a desert area near Palm Springs at approximately 3:20 in the afternoon. No other witnesses were present, and the picture was the last exposure on the roll.

The caller agreed to send prints of the picture to the Subcommittee. These were received a few days later. Initial examination by the Subcommittee's photographic adviser revealed that the "UFO" was remarkably similar to the spacecraft in the "Invaders" television series. Further study showed that the object in the picture and a commercially sold model of the Invaders device had the following aspect ratios:

	Model	UFO
Length to height:	2.84	2.86
Length to dome width:	1.95	2.00
Dome width to dome height:	4.50	4.00

In view of this information, the developer of the photograph was asked to submit a contact sheet showing all pictures on the roll of film in question. He replied by sending the original negative of the UFO picture, but no sheet, explaining that the other exposures had been "discarded." "Had I known of their importance to analysis," he said, "I certainly would have saved them."

Failing to receive the needed data, the NICAP adviser declined to examine the photograph further and recommended that the Subcommittee "contact NICAP management about disposal of the project." This was done, and the sender of the telegram was advised of the decision to close the investigation. He answered in a letter to the Los Angeles group, saying in part, "Why my friend would falsify a photograph, which I must assume he has done, I cannot imagine. I am very unhappy about this, for I have been made to look like a fool. I would like to apologize to NICAP, to (the

Subcommittee), and to (your adviser) for the inconvenience. I can well imagine that serious study of the UFO problem is made more difficult by incidents such as this."

West Virginia

On June 10, 1971, a small newspaper in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, published a brief news item about a man who allegedly photographed a "big golden balloon-like object" hovering over his back yard. The article said the man had gone out of his house on May 3, 1971, to take pictures of the yard when he spotted the strange object. The article reported he heard a "voice" talking to him during the sighting, which said he could take only one picture of the object before it rose up and departed.

NICAP telephoned the man on June 21 and confirmed the details in the paper. Arrangements were made to meet with him that same week in Baltimore, Maryland, where he was going to visit relatives. He promised to bring the original photograph (a Polaroid print) with him.

The meeting was held as planned on June 25, and the man was interviewed at length about his report. While the interview was being conducted, two of NICAP's photographic consultants examined the picture, which showed a large circular "balloon," yellowish in color and almost entirely transparent. Agreement was reached that the "UFO" was not a physical object but the diffuse image of a light source double-exposed on the scene of the back yard. Whether the double exposure was accidental or deliberate could not be determined, but the question was considered irrelevant since the photographer insisted he had observed and photographed an unconventional aerial device.

When confronted with these findings and told the picture did not support his report, the man reacted with instant indignation. "I saw the object," he said, "so let's forget the whole thing."

**SIGHTING
ADVISORY**

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

July 28, 1971--Sackville, New Brunswick. Two men photographing the stars observed a triangular object with colored lights moving rapidly at high altitude. Turning their telescope on it, the men said it suddenly reversed direction and changed both the pattern and color of its lights. "There is no craft that can possibly change direction that fast," they reported.

July 27, 1971--Atlanta, Georgia. A lighted, "cross-shaped" object, observed over a wide area in the early morning hours, was reported by dozens of citizens to local authorities. A policeman who spotted the object ran to his car to get his camera but was unable to return in time to snap a picture. He said the UFO had multiple lights on it and seemed to be motionless in the sky.

July 22, 1971--Long Branch, New Jersey. A "golden," cigar-shaped object was reported by police officers in the predawn sky. Also seen by other witnesses during the course of several hours, the object appeared to be in a stationary position over the ocean, although some observers described it as performing "radical motions." Local military authorities could offer no explanation for the sightings, and reportedly a spokesman for a nearby radar facility saw the object himself.

July 12, 1971--Hamilton, Massachusetts. Shortly before midnight, a housewife closing the window in her bedroom saw a "bright blue ball" slowly arcing through the sky toward the horizon. Growing larger as it descended, the ball moved noiselessly and soon disappeared behind a group of trees. The woman called a local airport and an Air Force tracking station, but no one had any information on what she saw.

FEEDBACK / Readers write

Dear Editor:

In the March 1971 issue. I read the column in which Dr. Nicholas Der states that extraterrestrial intelligence could not reach this planet because of distance. That statement to me is very foolish for the following reason.

The planet in control of flying saucers would not explore other galaxies before their own. They would do it like we do, exploring our closest neighbor or satellite first. After we explore the moon, we will gradually push our way outward, setting up bases on each planet. Then, if a spacecraft gets into trouble, it will not have to wait until its S.O.S. transmission reaches Earth, because it will be able to contact the nearest base.

The same will be true when our spacecraft leave the solar system. More and more will follow, and in between each system there will be permanent space stations, making it easy to get help and supplies in a relatively short amount of time. I think that explains the problem Dr. Der presents.

Yours truly,
James Moretti
Yonkers, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

I think it's a crime to waste space on Dr. Der's warmed up old platitudes on space travel. When I was young they told us, just as seriously, that aircraft would never be able to exceed the speed of sound. Having lived through that one, I'd like to predict that before too long, we will also probably break the light barrier.

Man developed his notions of a space-time continuum according to his early experiences—by pacing off distances and recording the apparent movements of heavenly bodies—and eventually congealed these ideas by producing more and more sophisticated means of measuring them. Granted, these concepts have been useful in handling life on this planet. But when the light barrier has been broken, man may discover that time and space were only his notions—that space is no more realistic than his clock that stops.

Man continually strives to go beyond time and space by seeking ideas of eternity and infinity, while not being able to understand what these concepts mean. He uses the symbol for infinity in his mathematics—again not understanding the leap he must make if the idea is true. Yet inside man, his intellect and his subconscious mind keep rejecting his bondage in space and time. He remembers the past and projects the future but insists the only thing that exists is the present. In his dreams at night, he consistently ignores his conscious concepts of time and space, as if he knew that someday he would transcend them. When he does, he will once again

rewrite the physics books

Any physicists want to have "equal time" with Dr. Der?

Sincerely,
Natalie Briggs
Seattle, Wash.

A NOTE ABOUT DONATIONS

A few members have asked whether non-monetary donations to NICAP are tax deductible. The answer is yes, provided that the gift is tangible property whose value can be accurately determined. This can be real estate, securities, equipment, books, personal documents, or other physical assets. If you would like to make a donation of this kind and take a tax deduction for it, please submit a statement indicating the value of the gift and your basis for assigning that value. We will be happy to provide you a receipt and help make any necessary arrangements for transfer of the donated property. Services to, or on behalf of, NICAP are not deductible.

Q/A

Q. Does NICAP have any information on the rumor that U.S. astronauts encountered unknown objects on the moon?

J.B./Millersburg, Ohio

A. Having talked at length with Dr. Richard S. Young of NASA about this very possibility (see the March, April, and May issues of the newsletter), NICAP is extremely doubtful that anything so dramatic could happen without the news-media or the scientific community finding out about it. If the moon were the exclusive territory of any one nation or team of explorers, censorship of the events that occur there would be relatively easy. But in actual practice, there is no way for one space agency to control what another agency might discover or the information the other agency might choose to release. The moon has been photographed by both U.S. and Soviet cameras, and is under constant observation by astronomers all over the world, both amateur and professional. In due course, scientists from Russia and many other countries will follow in the footsteps of American moon men, in an intense program of lunar exploration. If there is anything of a sensational nature presently being kept secret by the U.S. Government about what it found on the moon, it will not likely remain a secret very long.

Q. Can you supply me the longitude-latitude coordinates of all sightings in the United States from 1947 to date, plus the distance in miles from the location of each sighting to the nearest population center?

J. B./Miami, Fla.

A. This kind of statistical information is not presently available from NICAP. Once our

computer project, ACCESS, has been designed and put into operation, we hope to offer a wide variety of quantitative data on sightings, including the kind of geographical statistics you request.

Q. What is NICAP's opinion of the Condon Report?

J.C./Glen Ellyn, Ill.

A. The Condon Report might best be described as a study in schizophrenia. On the one hand, it offers the conclusion that science will not likely benefit from further study of UFOs. On the other, it presents a substantial body of case material that suggests just the opposite. Noting this curious discrepancy, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) argues that the Report belies its own findings. "A phenomenon with such a high ratio of unexplained cases (about 30 percent, according to the Report) should arouse sufficient scientific curiosity to continue its study," says the Institute. The Report has also been criticized, despite its large proportion of unexplained cases, for including an inordinate number of trivial reports. Astronomer Dr. J. Allen Hynek charges that "far greater care should have been taken in screening cases to be studied. I would have deleted nearly two-thirds of the cases included in the report. Even a preliminary evaluation of (many of) these incidents should have indicated that it was a waste of time to investigate them." The AIAA also makes this charge, adding that older sightings should have been investigated at least as much as new ones were. "There is little doubt," comments the Institute, "that the short-time, one-shot approach of an ad hoc team is neither promising nor economical. This is especially true if the study team decides—as the (Condon) group did—to concentrate on current, rather than past observations. As the UFO statistics show, this results in the devotion of precious time to investigating the noise rather than the signal." For further commentary on the inadequacies of the Condon Report, see the February-March 1969 issue of the *UFO Investigator*, and the paperback book *UFOs? Yes!* by David Saunders and Roger Harkins.

Q. Does NICAP support the theory that intelligent beings visited Earth in ancient times?

R.W./Selma, Ala.

A. NICAP has not attempted to explore this theory in detail, feeling instead that its resources are best directed toward investigation of contemporary UFO reports. The possibility, however, of ancient visitations cannot be ruled out, and there is no reason why scientists should not consider it, along with other speculative proposals about events in early historical times.