

# UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON  
**NICAP** AERIAL PHENOMENA

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

## Subcommittee Investigates 'Occupant' Case

Two NICAP investigators are presently exploring an intriguing case involving alleged EM effects, a landing and the close-up sighting of an "occupant" by a terror-stricken 18-year-old high school student. NICAP's traditional reluctance to publicize such cases has been lifted due to the unusual nature and facts of the case.

The case, investigated for the first time six months ago, occurred in late May 1971 near a small rural Virginia community located east of Fredericksburg. Precise location and the names of the witnesses are being withheld pending completion of the investigation, according to NICAP headquarters.

John Carlson, chairman of the D.C. subcommittee, and Bruce Maccabee, a member of the Subcommittee, have been charged with the investigation of the alleged sighting. "We are by no means finished with the investigation of this case," remarked Carlson. He described the case as one of the most interesting cases he has ever worked on for NICAP.

The case, according to Carlson, actually involved the sighting of a large saucer-shaped UFO on two separate nights; the second sighting, although not involving an "occupant," provided credence to the first because of the large number of witnesses involved and the similarities in description of the object.

Mike (the central witness in the first sighting) and two companions, Bill and Dave, had set-up a campsite adjacent to a pond, approximately 1½ miles from their home. The pond, according to Carlson, is located in a large open field surrounded by pine forests. Crossing above the pond are high-voltage power lines used to serve the surrounding rural area.

The campers had pitched their tent and, according to the report by Carlson and Maccabee, had set about exploring the area. Two of the high school students thought they heard a horn and went off in the direction of a house located on a ridge overlooking the field.

Mike remained behind with his German shepherd and began to walk away from the pond towards the other end of the field.

"I felt like something was following me and I turned around and there wasn't anything there. In a split second I turned

around again and there was this huge object there, just like it was floating . . ."

### "I Saw This Man . . ."

The object, when first spotted by Mike, had been hovering almost directly above the power lines near the pond. It slowly began to move in his direction. Mike, shocked by what he had already seen, laid down in the high grass to avoid detection. The object approached to within 100 feet of where he was hiding and began to descend.

"Legs came out under it and it bounced as it hit the ground," Mike recalls. "I couldn't move — I was stunned — I kept watching it and finally a door came down.

"Finally I saw this man, he had long arms and everything. Finally he started walking, . . . he looked around. He had some type of object in his hand — I don't know what it was — like a little small box that was glowing . . . He looked at me, put his hands up and started coming at me. Finally, I just told my dog to 'sick em' and he went after him."

The alleged creature turned around and in a stiff, bouncing fashion returned to his craft related Mike. The door of the vehicle closed "and about ten minutes later it just lifted off."

According to the investigation, his companions found him a few minutes later lying down in the grass "moaning" and obviously frightened.

Mike recreated the event to his friends and pointed in the direction of where the craft had disappeared over a nearby hill. Both companions later told investigators that they could see a glow and they themselves became frightened. All three quickly returned to their homes, purposely going out of their way to avoid the area in question.

### Two nights later . . .

While the Saturday night experience by Mike went unreported outside of the immediate family, an experience that occurred in the vicinity of his home two nights later received considerable amount of attention including an extensive police investigation.

Tuesday evening, May 18 two of Mike's sisters, Cathy, 18, and Susie, 14,

were returning home from the house of a friend when the second sighting occurred.

The girls, according to NICAP's Subcommittee investigation, were driving up the family's long, winding driveway when they became aware of a humming sound and red lights around them and apparently coming from above the car.

### The Engine Stalled . . .

Almost immediately, the car's engine stalled, the headlights went out and the car radio quit. They tried frantically to start the motor but it would not respond. According to the girls, they could see, from inside the car, a gigantic, disc-shaped object, glowing white with four red lights beneath it, hovering approximately 50 feet above their vehicle.

After about five minutes, the car finally did start and Cathy, the driver, raced up the driveway and the "thing" continued to follow them.

The sound of the car racing up the driveway, throwing rocks and pebbles in its frantic search for safety, attracted the attention of Mike, who was inside the house at the time.

Mike, according to the report, stepped outside the front door of the house and observed his sister's car racing up the driveway with "this gigantic saucer-shaped thing following them."

When they arrived, Cathy jumped out of the car and ran to the house, while her younger sister remained inside the vehicle, too terrified to move. The object had followed the car up to the house and continued to hover above it while Mike and an older brother, who had joined him outside, watched the object. Cathy, meanwhile, called her parents who were visiting nearby relatives.

Before their parents could arrive home, the object slowly began to drift away. The father and one of the relatives were able, however, to get a glimpse of the object through binoculars before it drifted out of sight.

### Additional Information Gathered

Many unanswered questions remain, but additional facts have been gathered to expand on the above narrative. Police and two members of the family visited and photographed the alleged location of  
 (See "Occupant" Case, page 4)

## COSMIC ISOLATIONISM

# Scientists Ponder The Alternatives

*"Across an immense ethereal gulf, minds that are to our minds as ours are to the beast in the jungle — intellects vast, cool and unsympathetic — regarded this Earth with envious eyes and slowly and surely drew their plans against us . . ."*

So began the famous 1938 broadcast by Orson Welles. The mass hysteria resulting from Welles' fictional news broadcast announcing an invasion by "Martians" is frequently cited as a prime example by those who would advance the hypothesis that man should make no effort to contact alien worlds.

The fictional confrontation posed by Welles more than 40 years ago has today become a very real possibility. In the space of a few years, mankind has moved from fiction to fact in the field of space exploration.

And while man's destiny, it seems, is to continue in his exploration of the planets and stars, there are those among us who would flash an amber light of caution as we proceed on this trek into space.

As man searches for signs of extraterrestrial life the possibilities of encountering "intellects vast, cool and unsympathetic" poses a serious question — a question possibly affecting even our survival on the cosmic stage.

### What If Tomorrow . . .

Would severe cultural shock be the result if it was announced tomorrow that contact had been made with another world? No one can offer a definitive answer, yet the history of our own planet offers the hint of an answer, according to the Brookings Institute.

"Anthropological files contain many examples of societies, sure of their place in the universe, which have disintegrated when they had to associate with previously unfamiliar societies espousing different ideas and different life ways; others that survived such an experience usually did so by paying the price of changes in values and attitudes and behavior," notes the

**"Man has not experienced that rude moment when he knows absolutely he is not alone in the universe."**

Institute's report titled, "Proposed Studies on the Implications of Peaceful Space Activities For Human Affairs."

Has modern technology provided man with a maturity to insure a level of immunity against severe cultural shock? That question was raised in 1970 in a series of *UFO Investigator* articles titled "Man and Non-Man" (June 1970):

"For all the speculation on what changes such a discovery might produce, man has not experienced that rude moment when he knows absolutely he is not alone in the universe. It seems likely that at the very least, some degree of cultural shock would occur, and that a crisis in man's self-perspective would indeed follow."

A similar note of caution is raised by Professor Freeman Dyson of Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study. "It is just as unscientific," notes Dyson, "to impute to remote intelligence wisdom and serenity as it is to impute to them irrational and murderous impulses. We must be prepared for either possibility and conduct our searches accordingly."

Dyson's warning is taken one step further by another member of the scientific community, professor Jeremy Bernstein of the Stevens Institute of Technology.

**". . . one could imagine terrible civilizations with a very high degree of technology."**

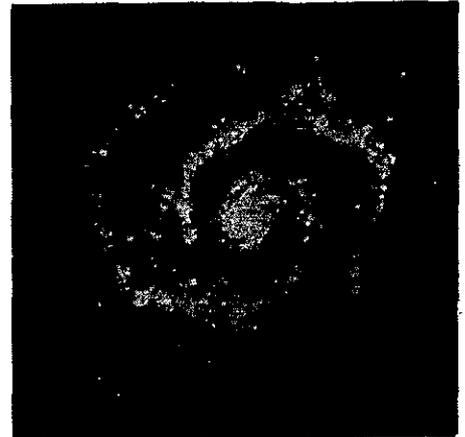
"I think it is generally and rather naively assumed that extraterrestrial life will be benign . . . it is by no means clear that a civilization capable of such advances in technology is going to be a very benign civilization. The more technological our own civilization becomes in many ways the worse it becomes, and one could imagine terrible civilizations with a very high degree of technology."

Writer Arthur C. Clarke posed a similar question in an article for *Playboy* in 1968 titled "When Earthman and Alien Meet":

"The discovery of an active communications network in our region of space (and I would make a small bet that such a thing exists) would at once raise a very difficult problem: Should we announce our presence by joining in the conversation or should we maintain a discreet silence? If anyone thinks this is an easy question to answer, let him put himself in the place of a cultured and sensitive extraterrestrial whose knowledge of human civilization is based largely on the 'Man from U.N.C.L.E.', 'Dragnet' and the 'Late, Late Show.'"

While many observers caution mankind and suggest that communication with aliens could indeed be unwise, none makes a more impassioned plea than Professor Z. Kopal of the University of Manchester:

"A thousand, or ten thousand, years of evolutionary difference is just nothing



ing on the cosmic scales; and the chances that we could come across another civilization in the Universe at approximately the same level of development — and with which we could effect some kind of intellectual understanding — are, therefore, vanishingly small.

"And such being the case, what gain . . . could we hope to derive from contacts with hypothetical civilizations which are likely to be removed, not thousands, but millions or hundred millions of years from our level? Certainly the risks entailed in such an encounter would vastly exceed any possible interest — let alone benefit; and could easily prove fatal.

"Therefore, should we ever hear that 'space-phone' ringing in the form of observational evidence which may admit of no other explanation, for God's sake let us not answer; but rather make ourselves as inconspicuous as we can to avoid attracting attention."

In opposition to such dire advice, some scientists point out that man's own technological advances may have already

**"Should we ever hear that 'space-phone' ringing . . . for God's sake let us not answer . . ."**

made the issue of whether to communicate with aliens a moot question. Notwithstanding Kopal's fears, man may have already, at least inadvertently, answered the "space-phone" by emitting television signals and other forms of radiation into the reaches of outer space.

If indeed we have already attracted the attention of others, is it too late to affect the temperament of the first "formal" meeting? "No," says Clarke.

"Though it is impossible to guard against all the eventualities that the (See Alternatives Pondered, page 4)

# CASEBOOK

## Investigator Researches Significant 1951 Case Near Lubbock, Tex.

"I was interviewed by three men from Reese AFB. I was asked not to discuss this matter with anyone, not even my husband; and not to call my daughter."

Despite this request by Air Force officials, Mrs. Stella Tilson, author of the above statement, went to the public in August 1951 with her story — a story that was headlined by the local weekly newspaper as, "Flying Disc Is Seen By Women Near Matador (Texas)."

Unfortunately, investigation of the Matador sighting never truly developed thanks to publicity given the night before to a sighting near Lubbock, Tex., 60 miles west of Matador. The latter was soon to be dubbed the "Lubbock Lights" case and was destined to relegate to near obscurity the sighting near Matador.

Recently, NICAP researcher Ted Bloecher took another look at the case and was fortunate enough to be put in contact with two of the three original witnesses.

According to Bloecher, the case, mentioned in Chapter 8 of Edward J. Ruppelt's *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, is still considered an "unknown" in Air Force files. It is significant because it relates a close-up daylight observation of a large, shiny UFO by two apparently reliable witnesses.

It was approximately 12:45 CST, Aug. 31, 1951, when two women, Mrs. Tilson and Mrs. Eugenia T. Bethard, and Mrs. Bethard's five-year-old daughter were driving north on State Highway 70, approximately one mile north of Matador, when they first observed the object.

The UFO, as described by the two women, was a pear-shaped object about the length of a B-29 fuselage, aluminum or silver in color, which readily reflected the sunlight. A small port or similar aperture was observed near the forward or smaller end of the craft.

The object, when first sighted, was approximately 150 yards ahead of the automobile. They immediately stopped their car and got out to observe it more closely.

The UFO, according to Mrs. Bethard, was large enough so that, "Holding a basketball at arms length I would still have been able to see both ends."

The craft was drifting slowly in an eastward direction at a speed both witnesses (See Casebook, page 4)

## SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

**April 4, 1972 — Greenburgh, N.Y.** Two Greenburgh policemen claimed they watched a UFO float over a local resident's home for almost 30 minutes before disappearing. The object, observed from 9:45 to 10:15 p.m., was described by the patrolmen as about the size of a normal plane, but with a ring of white lights and flashing red ones. The witnesses said the object at times faded and returned with a bright red flashing light.

**March 20, 1972 — Paris, France** According to a Reuters news dispatch, french citizens in three separate areas of the country reported observing "flying saucers" landing or in flight during the night. a fire department officer in Normandy claimed, according to Reuters, that he saw a saucer briefly land in a field while a local farmer said he had a total electric power breakdown in his car when the same object took off. Both men said the object was lighted and made no noise. Reports of saucers in flight were also received from central and southwest France the same evening, according to the wire service story.

**March 17, 1972 — Orland, Calif.** Only 12 days after a local high school student reported observing a UFO, a mother and her four children, aged 10 to 13 years old, reportedly observed a slow, low flying object with red and white lights south and east of Orland. The UFO was traveling slower than a crop-duster, a plane seen frequently in the area, and appeared to almost hover at times. The object, according to the witnesses, was estimated to be approximately 25 feet in diameter and appeared to maneuver at an altitude of 300 to 400 feet for almost 25 minutes before disappearing.

**March 15, 1972 — Newton, N.C.** A number of police officers and other residents reported observing a UFO which gave off a greenish-blue light and traveled at great speed around 12:30 a.m. The object, according to one officer, came to a "sudden stop" over the business district and began moving in a slow up-and-down motion just like it was suspended in the air. Two officers reportedly parked in a nearby field and observed the object for approximately 30 minutes before it disappeared. Witnesses ruled out the possibility of a balloon because of its erratic and high speed flight. Helicopters were also ruled out due to the lack of sound, according to the witnesses.

**March 8, 1972 — Muskegon, Mich.** A large number of witnesses, including police officers, FAA officials, U.S. Coast Guard personnel and numerous other Muskegon citizens, observed a brightly colored UFO around 9:15 p.m. in the sky above this Michigan township. The object, according to most witnesses, appeared to give off a bright, yellowish-white light and it traveled slowly across the sky. Witnesses stated the object seemed to stop and slowly change colors at various times during the period of observation. The Coast Guard, which indicated many of its own personnel had witnessed the UFO, also indicated that channel 16, a UHF band used by the Coast Guard, was filled with a strong code signal that could not be deciphered. Government officials later said that an investigation would be conducted and that they were under orders not to comment on the case until it was completed. The Air Force was contacted by the Michigan State Police at the time of the sighting but replied, "Selfridge Air Force 3 is not interested."

**March 5, 1972 — New Sharon, Iowa** "I came over a hill and saw a yellowish-gold saucer sitting in the middle of the road down between two hills," reports a high school student of a sighting he made during the evening of March 5. The student claims he stopped about 150 yards from where the saucer was sitting. The object, according to the student, sat there about ten seconds before lifting off. The same witness reported almost an identical sighting two nights later in the same area.

**March 5, 1972 — Orland, Calif.** A 16-year-old motorcyclist claims he was followed by a UFO while traveling down a country road around 8:30 p.m. According to the witness he became conscious of the UFO when he noticed an illumination around his cycle as if he was riding "under the constant light of a street lamp." At the same time, according to the youth, he detected a "high-pitched" whine above the sound of his bike's motor. Looking up, he was startled to see two, large white lights beamed down on him along with three smaller blue lights. It was about 100 feet above his head and appeared to be matching the changing speed of the motorcycle. The experience continued, according to the witness, until he reached the home of a friend and drove into a barn. Two individuals inside the home, when told of the experience, indicated they too had heard the "whine" but had not gone outside to investigate.

## ALTERNATIVES PONDERED

(Continued from page 2)

future may bring," he notes, "if we can learn to live with ourselves, we will at least improve our chances of living with aliens . . . We have the intelligence to change, or at least to control, the atavistic urges programmed into our genes. Though it may seem a paradox and a denial of all past history, gentleness and tolerance may yet prove to have the greatest survival value when we move out into the cosmic stage."

"The hour is very late and no one can guess how many strange eyes and minds are already turned upon the planet earth," Clarke concludes.

### Summary(1) of NICAP Financial Condition January 1, 1971 to December 31, 1971

Assets	
Current Assets	\$15,190.33
Fixed Assets	1,889.65
Less Accumulated depreciation	(1,104.40)
Net Fixed Assets	785.25
Total Assets	\$15,975.58
Liabilities, Deferred Credits & Fund Balance	
Current Liabilities	\$3,288.70
Deferred Credits (2)	14,011.02
Fund Balance:	
Opening Balance 1/1/71	\$(9,351.75)
Less prior period adjustments	1,813.02
Adjusted opening balance	(11,164.77)
Add Net Income for year	9,840.63
Fund Balance 12/31/71	(1,324.14)
Total Liabilities, Deferred Credits & Fund Balance	\$15,975.58

### STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSES

Income	
Membership Dues-New Members	\$4,938.41
Renewals	27,573.51
Sale of back issues of newsletter	385.76
Total Operating Income	\$32,897.68
Expenses	
Total Operating Expenses	\$33,101.22
Net Loss from Operations	\$(203.54)
Other Income	
Contributions	\$7,707.75
Sale of Publications	1,346.52
Sale of Jewelry	449.25
Lectures	153.00
Miscellaneous	536.65
Net Other Income	10,193.17
Loss on disposal or sale of equipment	(149.00)
Net Income	9,840.63

#### NOTES:

(1) Certified audit done by the firm of Menefee, Holtz & Klassett is on file in the NICAP office. The accrual method of accounting is used by NICAP.

(2) NICAP's fiscal year is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Membership dues are received throughout the calendar year. Therefore dues are apportioned between the current year and the following fiscal year. This figure is the amount deferred to 1972 to cover NICAP's obligations to members for 1972.

## newsnotes

### MEMBER LETTER STIRS INTEREST

A letter to the editor of the San Francisco *Progress* by NICAP member Miriam de Ford has brought letters and postcards from all over Bay Area asking for information on NICAP. Appearing in the April 12 edition, the letter called attention to the continued reporting of UFOs around the world, and gave NICAP's address. NICAP is grateful to Miss de Ford for her enthusiastic support.

### MAJOR KEYHOE VISITS MIKE DOUGLAS

NICAP Governor Major Donald E. Keyhoe recently taped a lively discussion of UFOs for television's "Mike Douglas Show." Scheduled to be shown at different times throughout the U.S., the show features Secretary of Transportation John Volpe, Rosemarie, and other celebrities. Rosemarie has a personal interest in UFOs and asked Douglas to book Major Keyhoe for a guest spot on the program. The

Major's appearance marks the first invitation he has accepted in over two years to appear on national TV. He is currently finishing his fifth book on UFOs, which is expected to be published later this year.

### UFO EXHIBIT MAKES HIT

Thanks to the hard work of NICAP's chief Massachusetts investigator Raymond Fowler, a highly successful exhibit on UFOs was staged last month in the Boston area, attracting "standing-room-only" attendance. Entitled "UFOs Through the Ages," the exhibit was held in Wenham, Mass., at the Wenham Historical Association and Museum. Fowler, Chairman of NICAP's Massachusetts Subcommittee, gave a lecture on opening day to help publicize the exhibit, and was on hand to answer viewer questions. The exhibit covered all basic aspects of the UFO subject, including "Definition of a UFO," "Are They Still Flying Around?," "Common Configurations," and "The NICAP Organization." Anyone in the Boston vicinity who would like to show the exhibit at a school, library, museum, or similar facility may contact Mr. Fowler at Box 19, Wenham, Mass. 01984.

## Casebook

(Continued from page 3)

ses judged to be less than the speed required to take off in a Cub aircraft. The witnesses estimated the object's altitude during the course of the eastward drift at approximately 120 feet. Seconds later, according to the witnesses, the object began to ascend rapidly and move out of sight into the wind in a circular ascent.

"The only movement when first sighted was a lazy floating and slowly rising motion toward the East," recalls Mrs. Bethard. "I watched it from this position for a few moments (three to five minutes) when suddenly, as if it had seen me watching and while directly over the highway, the rear section took on a brilliance comparable to the sun and within seconds it rose vertically with a little forward (easterly) movement and disappeared in the atmosphere . . ."

### 'OCCUPANT' CASE

(Continued from page 1)

the first sighting. They discovered seven holes, evenly distributed in a circular pattern, at the location described by Mike.

The radio in the car was damaged. Unfortunately, the repair was casual in nature and the specifics regarding damaged transistors and capacitors were never noted.

A television receiver located inside the house was also temporarily affected, according to reports by the family.

"At the time of this sighting I had been associated with military aircraft, through my husband in the field of military aviation, for about ten years. To the best of my knowledge at that time or even now there is no aircraft (of unclassified nature) in the United States inventory that remotely compares to what I saw that day," remarks Mrs. Bethard.

Following the disappearance of the object, the women turned their car around and returned to town and reported the incident to the *Matador Tribune*.

The story that carried the report by Mrs. Tilson and Mrs. Bethard ended with a recapping of the "strange objects" seen the night before by dozens of witnesses in nearby Lubbock. It was one of these witnesses, Carl Hart, Jr., a photographer, who took the now famous photographs of a formation of lights.

Remarking on the Lubbock sighting, both Mrs. Tilson and Mrs. Bethard declared that it would have been easy to photograph the UFO they had witnessed had a camera been handy.

The family at no time sought publicity for either of the two cases, and in fact avoided any mention of it outside the immediate family — a factor rarely found in cases involving alleged "occupants."

The location of high-voltage power lines in the vicinity of the first sighting and the location of a government research facility nearby, the Naval Weapons Laboratory at Dahlgren, are factors requiring further study by authorities.

Further investigation of this case is being planned and a final report is expected shortly, according to Carlson.