NOVEMBER 1975

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

NICAP

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PROFESSOR PHOTOGRAPHS STRANGE OBJECT

NEWARK, DELAWARE

On the evening of October 20, 1975 in the small university town of Newark, Delaware many local residents and college students were left in awe by an object they observed.

One witness, an ex-professional photographer and presently a university professor travelled to the NICAP office the following day to discuss the sighting with NICAP's President John Acuff and one of NICAP's photo analysis consultants, Dr. Bruce Maccabee. He was able to get photographs of the object using a 200mm lens on his Nikkon camera and had them developed by the University's photo lab.

The professor witnessed the sighting along with his wife, three teenage children and two of his neighbors.

The object was first noticed by one of the children who rushed to the professor's home to have them observe the unusual craft. The seven witnesses stood in total disbelief watching the craft for approximately fifteen minutes. During this period of time the professor filmed the object, observed it through a twenty power telescope and binoculars. The photographs clearly showed the rectangular light pattern described by the professor.

The craft was described by the witnesses as being disc shaped with five to six rectangular lights on the side of the object. When first sighted, it was moving slowly in a horizontal position travelling along the B & W railroad tracks in a northernly direction. The craft changed from a horizontal pattern to a vertical position. The professor commented, "it was so distinct and sharply outlined, one would have thought it was something from a science fiction movie."

Mr. Acuff made reference as to how mystifying an advertising plane can appear in the night sky. However, the witness stated that they had observed conventional craft as well as an advertising plane on that same evening. All of the witnesses were certain that this unusual disc was nothing conventional. One of the observers was a confirmed skeptic of UFO activity. However, she was convinced that what they were watching was an authentic UFO because of its vivid structure.

Dr. Maccabee agreed to conduct a photographic analysis on the negatives that the professor had brought with him. Dr. Maccabee looked at the negatives under high magnification and detected the letters E E T. The densitometer recording was made to determine if there was an image surrounding the bright lights but none was found to be present.

Inquiries were made to the Greater Wilmington Airport which revealed that an advertising plane was flying in the specific area of Newark on October 20.

The photographic evidence of a partially written message in the light pattern, coupled with the known presence of an aircraft carrying a lighted advertising message gives conclusive evidence that this UFO has been explained.

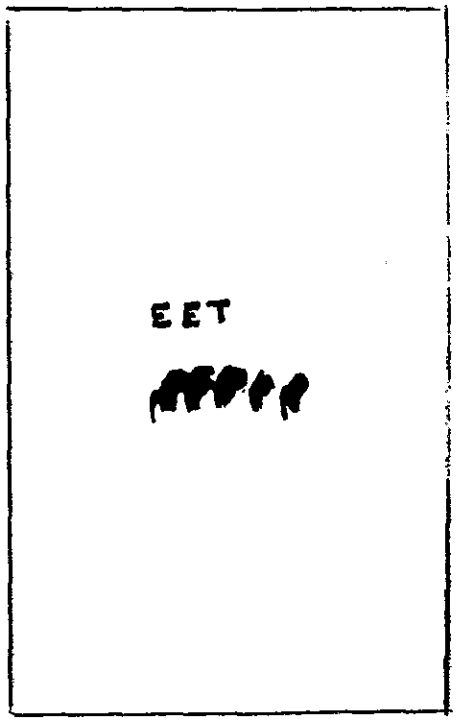
Even the most highly qualified witness often mistakes this type of craft in the night sky for a UFO. (see UFO INVESTIGATOR—July 1974)

NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

Three witnesses while fishing on September 16 at approximately 9:00 p.m. reported sighting very bright lights in the sky over the Norwalk-Stamford area. The lights appeared to be rotating around the clearly structured craft and left the three men totally mystified.

NICAP's investigator questioned all three witnesses, and they felt confident that what they had observed could not be anything conventional. One of the witnesses stated that he was very familiar with blimps, weather balloons, and advertising planes.

Mr. Foy, NICAP's Regional Investigator found that a private airline agency, Pilgrim Airlines was displaying an advertising message over the Norwalk Harbor during the time period of the alleged sighting. It is believed that this is another case of mistaken identification.



This photograph when observed under high magnification revealed the letters E E T. This photograph has been reversed and the letters are shown above the rectangles in which they appeared.

WHY MIGHT A SCIENTIST DECIDE TO INVESTIGATE UFO REPORTS?

The existence of just one unexplained report would mean that the UFO phenomenon is worthy of study.

By:
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White Oak, Maryland

The paper presented herein was received by NICAP in a lengthy, detailed, technical form. Space limitations make it necessary that the original paper be edited for publication in the UFO INVESTIGATOR.

However, if a reader would like to receive the entire essay, please send a check or money order in the amount of $3.50 for duplicating and postage charges.

The conclusion of the paper will be published in the December issue of the UFO INVESTIGATOR.

The scientific community generally is of the (optimistic?) opinion that there are no terrestrial occurrences or manifestations of transient macroscopic (e.g., visible to the naked eye) physical phenomena which cannot be understood in terms of modern scientific knowledge (an echo of the not too distant past). Thus, reports of apparently unexplainable transient phenomena are often ignored as being nonsense or at least "non-science."

This general opinion on the part of the scientific community may arise because of the lack of publication in reputable scientific journals of reports of penomena which "defy" explanation. (Note: Journal reports of unusual phenomena were relatively commonplace before and just after the turn of the century. The fact that relatively recent reports have been made is well documented, but not in scientific journals.) The reluctance of journals to publish reports of unusual phenomena is partly a result of the modern attitude that only certain types of phenomena are "worthy" of study. To be worthy of scientific study, a physical phenomenon must satisfy one or more of the following criteria: (1) it must be sufficiently recurrent to insure many accurate, well-documented reports and considerable anecdotal and/or laboratory data; (2) it can be made to occur under laboratory conditions; and (3) the general scientific community must agree to its existence as a "real" physical phenomenon as apart from a manifestation of the psychology and/or physiology of the person(s) reporting the phenomenon. Specifically with regard to a report of an unusual phenomenon, scientists require, in addition to the above criteria, that the report itself contain no descriptive material which suggest that the phenomenon was inconsistent with the "laws of nature" as they are presently understood. Should a report contain such a description, it is typical to attribute the phenomenon therein described to a manifestation of the psychology and/or physiology of the person(s) making the report. This last criterion is used to remove from consideration reports which obviously would not meet the third criterion above. It is reasonable to use this criterion in the evaluation of reports of unusual phenomena (unless evidence to the contrary should become overwhelming) because there is presently no generally agreed-upon evidence that the laws of physics, at least for the macroscopic world, are either incorrect or incomplete.

In spite of the aforementioned general opinion of the scientific community, there is a growing international "invisible college" of scientists who have concluded that a certain class of unusual transient phenomena, notably that referred to as "unidentified flying objects" (UFOs), is worthy of study.

The answer to the question posed in the title of this paper, is that individual scientists have been impressed by the truly puzzling nature of particular reports of such phenomena. This answer is easy to state, but it may have no practical meaning to a reader who is unfamiliar with well documented UFO reports. For this reason I am presenting a summary and analysis of previously unpublished report which has been subjected to an intensive investigation that has lasted over a year. I am also including discussions of possible explanations of the report to illustrate the sort of forensic analysis that is applied to UFO reports. (Appearing in the Dec. UFO INVESTIGATOR)

The report to be presented is an "ideal UFO report" because (a) there was more than one reliable witness, (b) the object was observed for a rather long period of time, (c) the major observer made observations that were accurate to within the limits of the observational techniques employed, and (d) there was little or no emotion displayed by the witnesses during the interview. The content of the report was sufficiently "strange" that I found myself wondering, as had Northwestern University astronomer J. Allen Hynek during interviews with other UFO witnesses, why these apparently sane, steady, responsible people were telling me about their experience, thereby opening themselves to the possibility of "merciless ridicule" and loss of their social and economic status.

Summary of the Report

During a personal interview in May of 1973 and during several subsequent telephone interviews in 1974, the major observer, who wishes to remain anonymous because of his elective position in county government, revealed that on a Friday evening in April 1970, before the start of daylight savings time, he had observed an apparently motionless object in the sky. He observed the object repeatedly during and after his trip home from work for a period of time starting about 6:00 p.m. and lasting an estimated two hours.

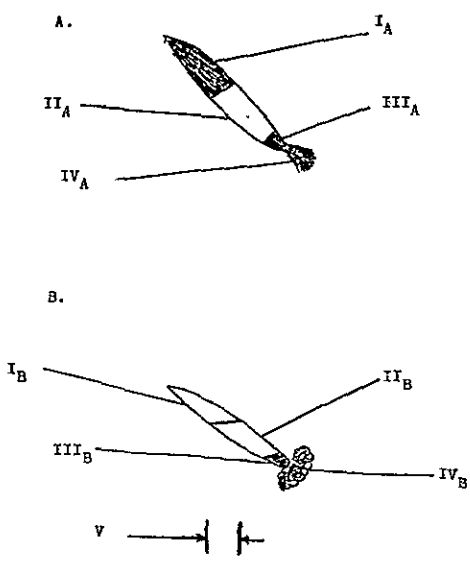
He first saw the object "directly" ahead of him as he drove along a straight stretch of Route 11 just south of Woodstock, Virginia. The evening was "brilliantly clear . . . like you have in the spring of the year without a cloud in the sky." The sun was "way low in the west" and the object appeared "due south of

me as a speck through my windshield—a black spot that didn't belong up in this perfectly clear sky." He continued to watch it at every opportunity during his roughly twenty minute drive. At first he thought it was a plane, but then decided that it was remaining too fixed in position to be a plane. After travelling about 7 miles, he came to another straight stretch in the road where the object appeared to be directly ahead of him. He then stopped and watched it for a couple of minutes while trying to determine where it was with respect to his home, since an apparent increase in angular size suggested that he was getting closer to it. At about 6:20 p.m. he arrived home in Mt. Jackson, Virginia, where he stood in his driveway and sighted the object using one of the local power lines and a local telephone pole for altitude, asimuth, and angular size reference. He watched the object for about four or five minutes to see if it was moving with respect to the fixed reference points, "and it wasn't moving." He then went into the house to get his binoculars (7x50) and his wife and children. For "maybe five minutes" they took turns watching the object through the binoculars before going back into the house. He returned to the same position in his driveway several times "until it got so dark we couldn't see it." He stated that throughout the time of careful observation using the power lines and pole as references, a period of time that may have been as long as one and one-half hours, "it didn't move one iota." The object was gone when he looked for it the next morning.

According to the major observer, the object was seen on a clear Friday evening in the latter part of April but before the start of daylight savings time.

When first seen, the object appeared as just a "black spot" against the clear blue sky. When viewed with the naked eye from the observer's home, the object still appeared dark against the sky, but it was now close enough to appear to have a definite shape. He described the object as follows: "From the main arch of the (upper) curve to what I would say was the front or top part of it, it was dark. But from there to the lower end it was definitely metallic . . . but it didn't reflect like a star (sic); it wasn't flashly or shiny." The bottom part "looked a much lighter shade (sic) than the fore (top) part. At the very bottom end it had a color like the red color of a fire or a brilliant reflection . . . and then a white-like contrail." The contrail was "a definite white fog, just as you expect from a jet . . . it wasn't a perfectly straight contrail as far as it extended, but it appeared to be a billowy contrail right off the bottom of it. But it didn't go any place . . . it appeared to be fixed right at the bottom of this object." The observer reported that he saw nothing else in the sky near the object either with or without the binoculars. There was no audible noise. As the evening went on, the object became indistinguishable from the blackening background of the sky. There appeared to be no source of light associated with the object.

To be concluded in the Dec. Issue of the UFO INVESTIGATOR.



Witness's drawing of the object observed.

CULT OFFERS UFO AS VEHICLE TO ETERNITY

Radio stations and newspapers throughout the United States have given coverage to the statements of a middle-aged couple who offer a trip to eternity with a UFO as their vehicle. The first national interest in the statements of the leaders of the "Human Individual Metamorphosis" cult came when it was reported that about fifteen out of twenty persons disappeared from the Newport, Oregon area after a meeting held by the couple making their "pitch" for followers.

The couple, with their small band of followers, wander around in Volkswagons, a 1964 Pontiac and a camper. Their lack of a UFO to assist in their travels can easily be explained. The couple believes that they will soon be assassinated and resurrected after three and one-half days. Only then will the great moment arrive as a UFO comes down in full view of the public to take them on their first step of eternal life. They say they are here to collect people who are through with all of their reincarnation in this world and are ready to transcend to another planet. A few susceptible people seem to have believed the buy now, you'll never get a deal like this again, pitch. History also tells us that the Brooklyn Bridge has been sold a few times . . .

The couple, who claim to be ageless, have been holding meetings in the West during the past couple of years. California authorities report that two women joined the group after an August meeting at a college in a San Francisco suburb. The "missing persons" reported by the news media are believed to have voluntarily followed the group.

What does all of this have to do with UFO research? On a direct basis, absolutely nothing. There are many individuals who use UFOs as part of their "pitch" for personal gain. Books can be found in any bookstore that sensationalize UFO reports simply to profit the author. Individuals make false claims to a paying audience for the sake of building the attendance. None of this is needed. The facts about UFOs are

interesting and sensational without resorting to distortions. On an indirect basis, distorted or false claims have a large effect on UFO research. NICAP's staff has spent many hours of valuable time gathering facts and responding to news media inquiries about this couple. These hours could have been more profitably spent on legitimate research.

BETTY & BARNEY HILL STORY TELEVISED

Universal Productions began researching the Hill case through NICAP in 1972. Auditions were conducted and with the final casting selection completed, Universal was ready to reenact on film one of the most widely publicized UFO occupant cases of all times.

The two hour film was aired nationwide by NBC on October 20, 1975. The film was presented without sensationalizing or serious distortion of the facts. This particular case is "sensational" unto itself . . .

The Betty and Barney Hill case has remained in the "unknown" files at NICAP since completion of an extensive analysis. There are two possible explanations, i.e., either the occurrence was real or it was psychological in origin.

Marjorie Fish worked for many years in an effort to give credence to Betty Hill's star map and did succeed in matching some of the points drawn with an existing pattern formed by the stars. Computer analysis has since been able to match Betty's star map as accurately as did the Fish presentation with two other sets of existing stars.

NICAP is pleased with the way in which the media handled the presentation of this case.

CLIP BOARD MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

The NICAP discounted book offers on UFO CONTROVERSY IN AMERICA and NO EARTHLY EXPLANATION are no longer in effect. NICAP's stock has been totally depleted. Members who have placed their orders prior to this notice will receive their book, but no future orders can be accepted.

Anyone desiring a copy of either book should order directly from the publisher.

UFO CONTROVERSY IN AMERICA, $12.50, (retail price), Indiana University Press, 10th & Morton St., Bloomington, Indiana 47401

NO EARTHLY EXPLANATION, $6.95, (retail price), Phillips Publishing Company, 23 Hampden St., Springfield, Mass. 01103

At this time each year, many members are considering tax planning for their 1975 income. May we suggest that you consider a tax-deductible donation to NICAP as part of your planning. NICAP's tax exempt status allows donors to deduct donations from their personal or corporate taxable income. When filing with IRS, note that your donation to NICAP was made to a 501 (C) 3 tax exempt organization.

Any amount is helpful and will enable NICAP to start research projects which would otherwise remain undone due to lack of funds.

THINK CHRISTMAS: Give a NICAP membership to all those people on your list for whom you can never seem to find the right gift. A NICAP membership is something to be enjoyed for a long time, and the recipients will think of you every time their newsletters arrive.

NICAP depends almost totally on membership dues to fund all research and operational activities. Approximately 86% of the organization's total income is from dues payments. The remainder is from contributions, sale of publications, membership pins, etc.

You could do NICAP and your friends a favor by recommending that they consider membership.

MYSTERY SOLVED

Mr. Kenneth Roger, Chairman of the British Unidentified Flying Object Society, announced publicly that he has explained a twenty-three year old sighting which occurred in Arizona.

A sighting report had been filed many years ago that a "flying saucer" had landed in an Arizona desert.

Mr. Roger has studied the old photographs of the object and has been able to determine that the contraption was simply an old fashioned metal bottle cooler.

The photographs of the object matched fictional ideas of what a "flying saucer" looked like in the pre-space age.

FEEDBACK/Readers write

Dear Sir,

I am a geologist interested in the possible implications of the UFO phenomenon for Earth history and for evolutionary theory.

If any geologists, biologists, and others are interested in the same problsm, please reply to the address listed below.

With many thanks,

Sincerely,

Dr. J.B. Kloosterman
Caixa Postal — 41003
Rio de Janeiro BRASIL

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