

MAY 1979

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP 5012 Del Ray Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20014 A non-profit corporation since 1956

* * * * *

UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA OF ANOTHER KIND

Puzzles? Yes, lots of them. That is what makes life interesting. What is it? Why is it? UFOs are part of this, but only a part. Yes, one can see them. But no, you cannot touch them at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base because there are not any of them there to touch. So, there are a lot of things that remain unexplained.

Many people who are interested in UFOs tend to take a defensive or apologetic attitude when discussing the subject. There is no reason why they should.

UFOs are certainly not the only phenomena known to man that remain without rational or scientific explanation. Have you ever thought about an old school friend and wondered what had become of him after these thirty years? You decide to get the phone book and try to find his number. But before you get around to doing it, the phone rings and there is your old friend on the line wanting to get back in touch!

Don't ask a scientist to explain this phenomenon, because he can't. He can give it a name: extra sensory perception; mental telepathy; or something else. But that is not an explanation.

Those who have an apologetic or defensive attitude toward their belief in UFOs will be interested in a section of a new book. It is written by Dr. Lewis Thomas, M.D. He is a research biologist and is president of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. His earlier book, *The Lives of a Cell*, won him the National Book Award in 1974.

In his latest book, *The Medusa and the Snail*, one of the essays that make up the book, he takes a look at warts. They come and they go, and Dr. Thomas, the research biologist and physician, doesn't think anybody knows why they do. But they can be made to go away by thinking. Is this hypnosis or magic? If the head of Sloan-Kettering does not know, who does?

He tells the story of a 19th century physician who painted warts with a harmless purple dye and assured his patients that the warts would be gone in a week. And they always were. He tells of an even more impressive event. In controlled laboratory conditions, fourteen patients with warts all over their bodies were hypnotized and told that within several weeks the warts on one side of their bodies would go away. And as the doctors followed up on the cases, indeed,

the warts on one side of the body had gone away, although the warts on the other side of the body were still there.

But somebody always seems to get instructions mixed up. In the case of one patient (who apparently was not paying attention) the warts disappear...but from the wrong side of the body!

Now what was that you were telling me about your neighbor who said that you couldn't possibly have seen anything in the sky the other evening?

MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE

For a number of years there has been a problem with pilot sightings of UFOs. The problem seems to lie with bureaucracy, rather than with the pilots. There seems to be a feeling that a report of the sighting will generate headaches rather than enthusiasm. The impression comes down to us that a pilot would rather keep quiet about his sighting than submit himself to what he suspects will be hours of filling out forms and answering questions.

Of course, not all pilots have this point of view. There have been recorded a number of good reports from flyers, private, military and commercial. They are particularly valuable reports because flyers are usually more experienced in such things as location of the planets, the number of degrees above horizon, angular velocity and so forth than the average layman.

What we need is advice about how we can overcome this apparent unwillingness to volunteer information about UFO sightings. Abraham Lincoln once said: "Everybody is smarter than somebody," and that is certainly true in this case. So, if you please, send in your suggestions and advice.

FINANCES

Yes, we have been having some problems. But things are looking much better. The first step in our rebuilding campaign was the obvious one of cutting down expenses. In big ways and in little ways. Every effort counts. Office expenses under every heading have been drastically reduced. That means that much more of your membership fee goes into research, analysis and investigation and a very great deal less of it goes into overhead.

We hope to have a financial statement from the former managers about income and expenses for the year of 1978 to publish in the next issue of the UFO Investigator.

In the meantime, we are trying to do everything possible to keep costs to the minimum but at the same time to keep up members' interest and provide them with a maximum amount of information on UFO happenings. As a result, for the next several issues of the Investigator we will not be using the window envelope with which most of you are familiar. We can get out the same news and information in the folded format that you have received in recent mailings.

But Please Also Note: to save on printing costs, for the next several months we will not be sending out individual membership renewal notices. Would you therefore please look at the address label on this copy of the Investigator. These are computer generated. The very top line, above your name, has a six digit number at the right. This is the expiration date of your current membership. Without our going to the expense of a separate printing and billing, would you please look at this number and send in dues accordingly.

By the way, because of the large number of unpublished issues over the past year and a half, we are extending the expiration dates of members as renewals come in. If we missed you, drop us a line and we will get it corrected.

SIGHTING REPORTS

There have been a number of interesting ones that have come in since the last issue of the Investigator. None is as exciting as the New Zealand double sighting, but taken together they confirm what we all know, that UFOs are a real and continuing phenomenon.

NOTICE TO LIBRARIANS

Previous issues of the Investigator have not been numbered serially. Because of irregular publication there has been some confusion. After talking with the Cataloging Section of the Library of Congress, it has been decided that this issue, for May 1979, is Volume 10, Number 2. In the future all issues will be numbered in a regular sequence.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

NICAP * 5012 Del Ray Avenue * Washington, D.C. 20014

Please enter my name as a member of NICAP. I understand this entitles me to receipt of a monthly newsletter and other benefits. I have signed the application form.

ANNUAL DUES

U.S. \$10.00
Foreign \$12.00

Dues payment enclosed:

Make checks payable to NICAP

NAME _____

Send U.S. currency only

ADDRESS _____

Zip Code _____

SIGNATURE _____