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The famous 1976 Iranian encounter between F-4 jets and a UFO takes on a startling new twist in a report which claims that two planes and the UFO exchanged fire, and that all three were damaged. The article begins on page 3.

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Director's Message

By John F. Schuessler



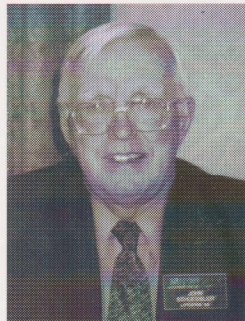
Membership Contest results

Early in January, MUFON announced two new membership contests. One contest was for state directors, assistant state directors, and state section directors.

This contest was aimed at encouraging these state officers to increase the membership in their states by 25% or at least 7 new members.

The second contest was for the general membership, other than the state officers noted in the first contest. The winner would be the person who recruited the most new members, or at least 6.

The results for the contest are as follows: **Jan Harzan**, Assistant State Director for Southern California, won



John Schuessler

the MUFON officers contest with 30 new members and two renewals. Runners-up were Oregon State Director **Thomas Bowden**, Arkansas State Director **Norman Walker**, Oklahoma State Director **Charles Pine**, and Nuclear Physicist **Stanton T. Friedman**.

Instead of personally accepting the prize for winning the contest, **Jan Harzan** has requested that the prize be donated back to his local group, MUFON Orange County, for use in future membership recruiting drives.

Jan said, "Just think how strong all state organizations would be, and how much they could help with MUFON's new initiatives, if they all recruited 30 new MUFON members this year."

Unfortunately, there was very little participation in the General Membership contest; therefore, there was no winner in that contest.

2006 Symposium Proceedings

The proceedings of the 2006
(Continued on page 22)

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MUFON's mission is the scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of humanity through investigation, research, & education.

New report of 1976 Iranian F-4/UFO encounter describes aerial battle

By Chuck Pine
MUFON Oklahoma
State Director

Reading Dr. Bruce Maccabee's article in the May *Journal* regarding the 1976 Iranian incident caused me to dig out an interview I did in about 1994.

Ali [full name on file, but not released to the public] had come into our art gallery in Oklahoma, was talking to my wife, and asked what I did.

She mentioned that besides being a pilot and investigator for the government, I investigated UFOs. Ali said that he needed to talk to me.

He left his telephone number with her, and I contacted him and set up a date and time. Gennie Meyers and I went to talk with him, and he provided us with information and drawings that he had compiled for us.

According to Ali, who was a reportedly pilot for the Iranian Air Force and a courier and devoted supporter of the Shah, on Sept. 19th or 20th, 1976, there were five F-4's on patrol in the area when Air Traffic Control (ATC) spotted the object NE of Doshantapen Air Force Base.

This was the Air Training Command and Air Force Headquarters.

Ali stated that the five F-4s were from Shahrokhi AFB in Hamadan, and were called over to investigate the object. The flight was led by Brig. Gen. Avat Momageghi.

The other four were Capt. Faffari (possibly Jafari, as published in Dr. Maccabee's article in last month's *Journal*), Capt Iraj Karimi, 1st Lt. Saeed Mokfi, and the fourth either Capt. Hambaz or Capt. Emam. Ali wasn't sure which.

[See sketches, drawn by Ali, in the following pages for details of the encounter.]

The flight went after the UFO, but as they approached it, the object rose in a flash from 5,000-6,000 feet alti-

tude to 35,000 to 40,000 feet.

Then, in his words, it flashed southwest at an astonishing speed. He estimated perhaps 10,000 to 15,000 MPH.

The five aircraft went after the UFO, doing an immelman (inside loop with a roll-out on the top).

At the top of the immelman, the general's aircraft malfunctioned, and he and his wingmen broke off the intercept and returned to base.

Capt. Faffari and Capt Hambaz/Emam split formation, and Faffari approached from the right, while Hambaz/Emam moved in from the left.

Faffari was able to arm and fire a Sidewinder missile at the UFO before his other ones jammed. The Sidewinder hit the UFO near the underneath portion (skirt), and chunks of it fell to the ground. The UFO was apparently not severely damaged, however.

Hambaz/Emam, who was coming in from the right, fired his Vulcan cannons after his missiles failed to fire.

His gun was reportedly firing uncontrollably. Ali says "all four Sidewinders go off in succession," but it is not clear from which plane.

The two F-4's crossed paths, Eman/Hambaz' crossing from the left to the right of the object in a tight right banking turn. Faffari crossed from the right to the left.

Both F-4's were going away from the object when, according to Ali, two rays with smoke trails, one from each side of the UFO, came towards the rear of each aircraft.

He said that the Emam/Hambaz aircraft was clearly hit. Both aircraft headed towards the 1st Tactical AFB for emergency landings.

After landing, it was confirmed that both aircraft had been hit, and Faffari's aircraft was severely disabled, but the crew was OK.

Ali stated that Faffari's left wing was reportedly damaged more extensively

About the author

Chuck Pine, State Director of Oklahoma MUFON, has been a member of MUFON since 1983. He served as State Director for Oklahoma MUFON from 1995 to 2000, and returned to his present position as State Director in January of this year.

He is a former airline transport pilot, flight engineer B-727, flight instructor, air traffic controller, aircraft crash investigator with the FAA, and pilot with the FAA.

Pine earned the B.S. in Aviation from Southeastern Oklahoma University in 1970.

than the right wing, and that both leading edge slats (LES) were virtually melted or burned off.

Ali said he had a hard time understanding how an aircraft can be hit from the rear, and the reaction or result take place in the front of the aircraft.

He further stated that, after the incident, waves of F-14's (up to 16 planes) arrived from Khatami AFB (Esfahan).

He stated that the debris which fell from the UFO after being struck by the Sidewinder missile was gathered up, tested to some extent, and sent to a secret base in the United States.

He said there were no screws or fasteners of any sort in the debris. It appeared that it was a tongue and groove system. Ali demonstrated by taking his thumb and index finger, making a U, and sliding his right hand fingers between them.

He said investigators took an equivalent piece of titanium, 1 inch thick, and applied a shear pressure to it, and it failed at a given pressure. However, a 1-inch thick piece of the material gathered from the debris site was put on the press, and at 19 times that pressure it had not failed.

All of the personnel on the base were gathered into the large auditorium at the Training Command where they were briefed on the incident. A Gen. "Lock" (Loch?, Locke?) was in charge.

He told all of the people that they did not see anything, that this did not occur, and that they were not to even talk about it.

Ali said he stood up in the crowd and stated, "General, Sir, do you mean that after what we have witnessed, we cannot discuss it!"

Ali's face was turning red as he was telling this to me. He was also still upset that the United States had allowed "his" Shah to be overthrown.

In addition to Ali's account, several years ago I was told a former Air Force captain who was flying a MAC C-141 in the area, that he had overheard the incident. I am attempting to contact him to see if he has additional information.

I have not been able to locate Ali, although I had his full name, address, and phone number at the time of the interview.

Perhaps other investigators can pursue this case through contacts that they may have.

Evaluation & comments

By Dwight Connelly

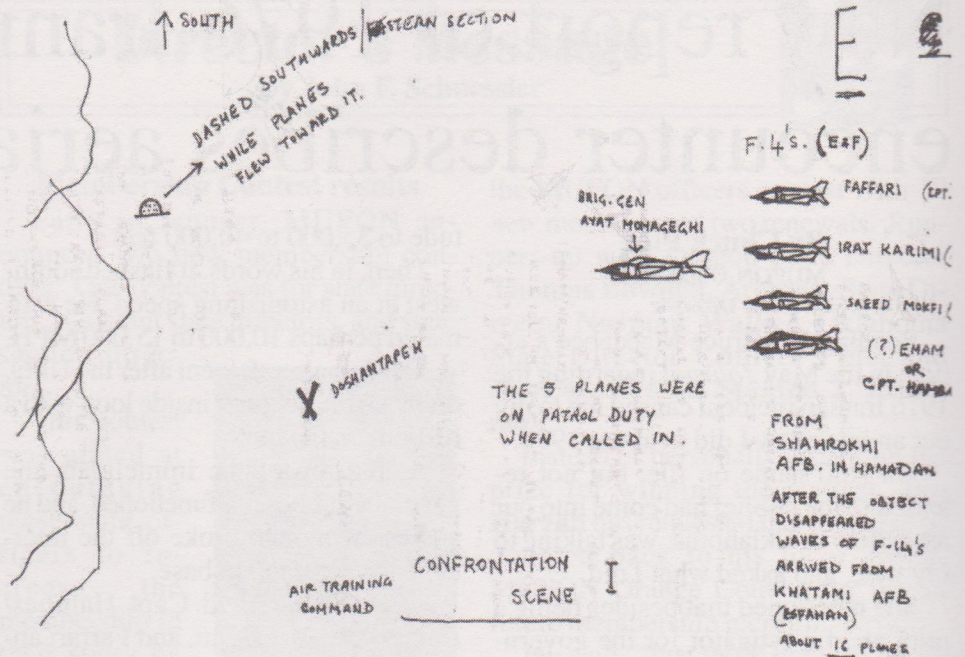
Journal editor

In attempting to check out this report and obtain additional information, the *Journal* has solicited help from Dr. Bruce Maccabee, who did the Iran article in the May and June *Journals*; Ron Regher, who has researched the Iranian case and will speak on it at the upcoming MUFON Symposium; and Stan Friedman, who is an outstanding researcher.

While all have been helpful, none has yet been able to verify the scenario reported by Ali.

While the date of the 1976 incident related by Dr. Maccabee, Regher, Bob Pratt, the Air Force, etc. seems to correspond with the above incident reported by Ali, many of the other details do not match.

This leads to speculation that there may have been two incidents—perhaps in succession, and perhaps on the same date—if Ali's report is accurate.



The scenario described by Ali does seem plausible, but the account raises several questions.

For example, how likely is it that the Sidewinder heat-seeking missile would actually find the UFO as a target?

The AIM-9 missile was, in 1976, before improvements, designed to be fired at the rear of an enemy jet in order to provide the maximum exposure to the jet's engine heat.

Overall, the reported kill ratio for the Sidewinder missile was only 10-15%.

In Ali's account, the missile was fired at the object without determination of whether it was toward the front, side, rear, top, or bottom of the UFO.

Thus the object would have to present a substantial heat source from the bottom in order to be hit in that location, as reported.

The possibility that the object did present such a heat source is suggested by research done by Regher on the Defense Support Program (DSP) satellite, which responds to ultra-violet and infrared heat.

Regher found that the DSP-1 satellite in operation in 1976 had, indeed, picked up an anomaly which could have been the UFO at the right time and place—at least the right time and place for the fully-documented original report of the Iranian incident.

Thus it is feasible that the UFO could

have provided the heat required for the Sidewinder missile to locate and strike the object.

Why the UFO did not disable this particular Sidewinder, or put up some sort of shield, is of course another question.

If the F-4's were in fact damaged, why was this not observed and reported?

In Maccabee's article in the May/June *Journals* it was noted that the Westinghouse engineers were not allowed to inspect the avionics equipment in the two planes involved in the original encounter until days after the incident—days in which the wing damage could have been repaired.

Who was flying the F-4's? Despite the fact that the US Air Force has verified the basic details of the encounter—i.e. the object was seen by numerous competent witnesses, there were electromagnetic effects on aircraft, there was radar lock on the object by at least one of the aircraft, etc—there is still confusion as to which pilots were flying which planes.

Maccabee notes that one of the pilots, Jafari, who was promoted to general and who eventually moved to Canada, hinted in a video that more than two planes might have been involved.

Efforts to locate him have thus far been unsuccessful.

While Jafari is listed as the pilot of plane number two in the original version, the late Bob Pratt, who interviewed some of the principals, indicates the crew (pilot and weapons systems officer) of plane number two was made up of 1st Lt Jalal Damirian and 2nd Lt Hossein Shokry. Plane number one was reportedly piloted by Capt. Yadi Nazeri.

In Ali's version, only one possible match-up of pilots is made: Capt. Faffari may be the same individual as Lt. Jafari in the original version.

Creating more confusion—or mystery—are the several descriptions of the UFOs, both in the original version—with multiple UFOs—and in Ali's version.

There is the testimony in the original account of the main UFO sending out smaller UFOs, one of which apparently landed, but Ali's account does not mention this.

Could the "landed" UFO in the original version have been a piece of the UFO shot off in Ali's version?

According to a U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report, an investigation the following day west of the object's apparent landing area revealed a beeper signal, and "where the

return was the loudest was a small house with a garden. They landed and asked the people within if they had noticed anything strange last night. The people talked about a loud noise and a very bright light like lightning."

Could this have been the missile striking the UFO, and possibly the resulting "debris" fall?

Also of interest was Ali's statement that "a wave" of F-14's came on the scene after the encounter with the UFO.

I wondered if Iran even had F-14's at that time, so I consulted Regehr, who says that Iran did have, by January, 1976, the first group of F-14 Tomcats ordered from the U.S.

By May, 1977, 12 of the 80 F-14's ordered had been delivered.

So the contention by Ali that F-14's—he thought perhaps as many as 16—showed up in a "wave" after the battle between the UFO and the F-4's appears possible.

Because the interview with Ali took place a dozen years ago, it is difficult to locate witnesses, although there is no shortage of names to pursue.

As the *Journal* goes to press, we believe we have located a C-141 pilot who

Correction to Maccabee article

Recently acquired information indicates that Lt. Jafari was not the first pilot, as stated in the newspaper article quoted in my paper in the *May/June Journals*. He was the second pilot.

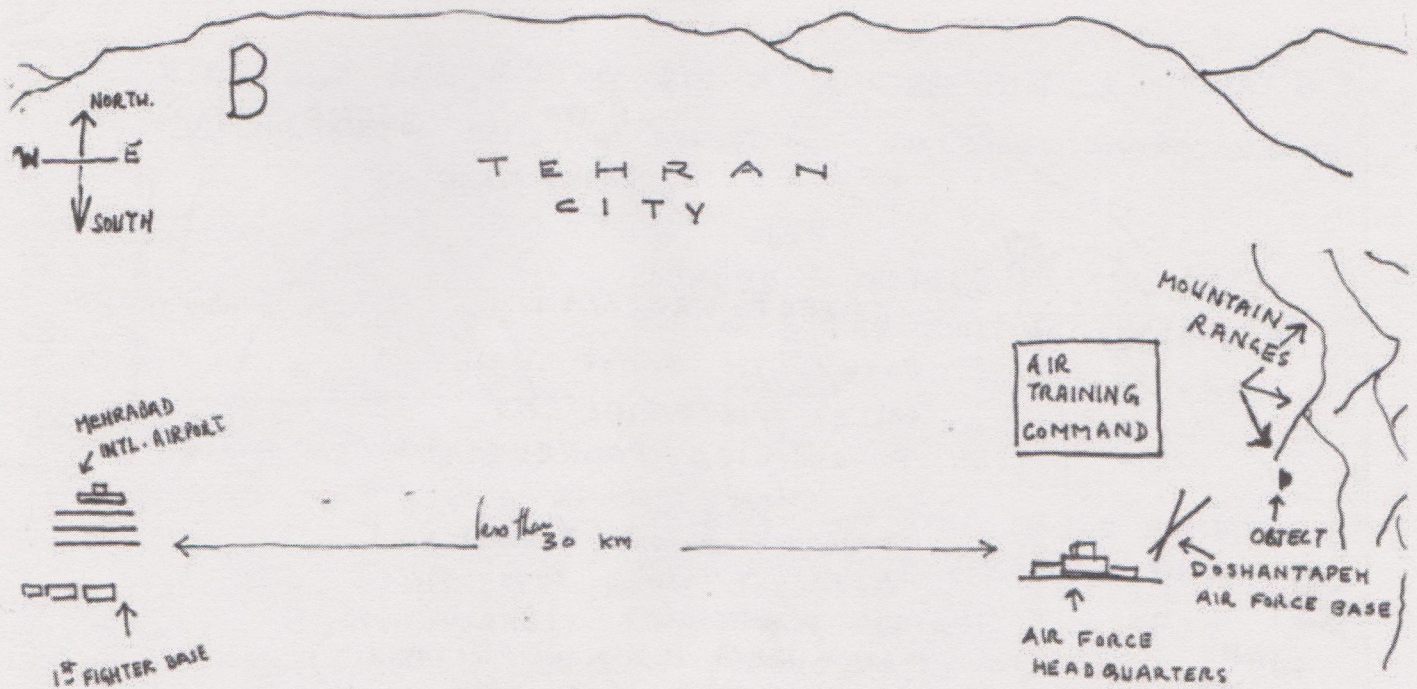
Furthermore, he was not 23 years old, but rather 35 at the time. Jafari was later promoted to general.

—Bruce Maccabee

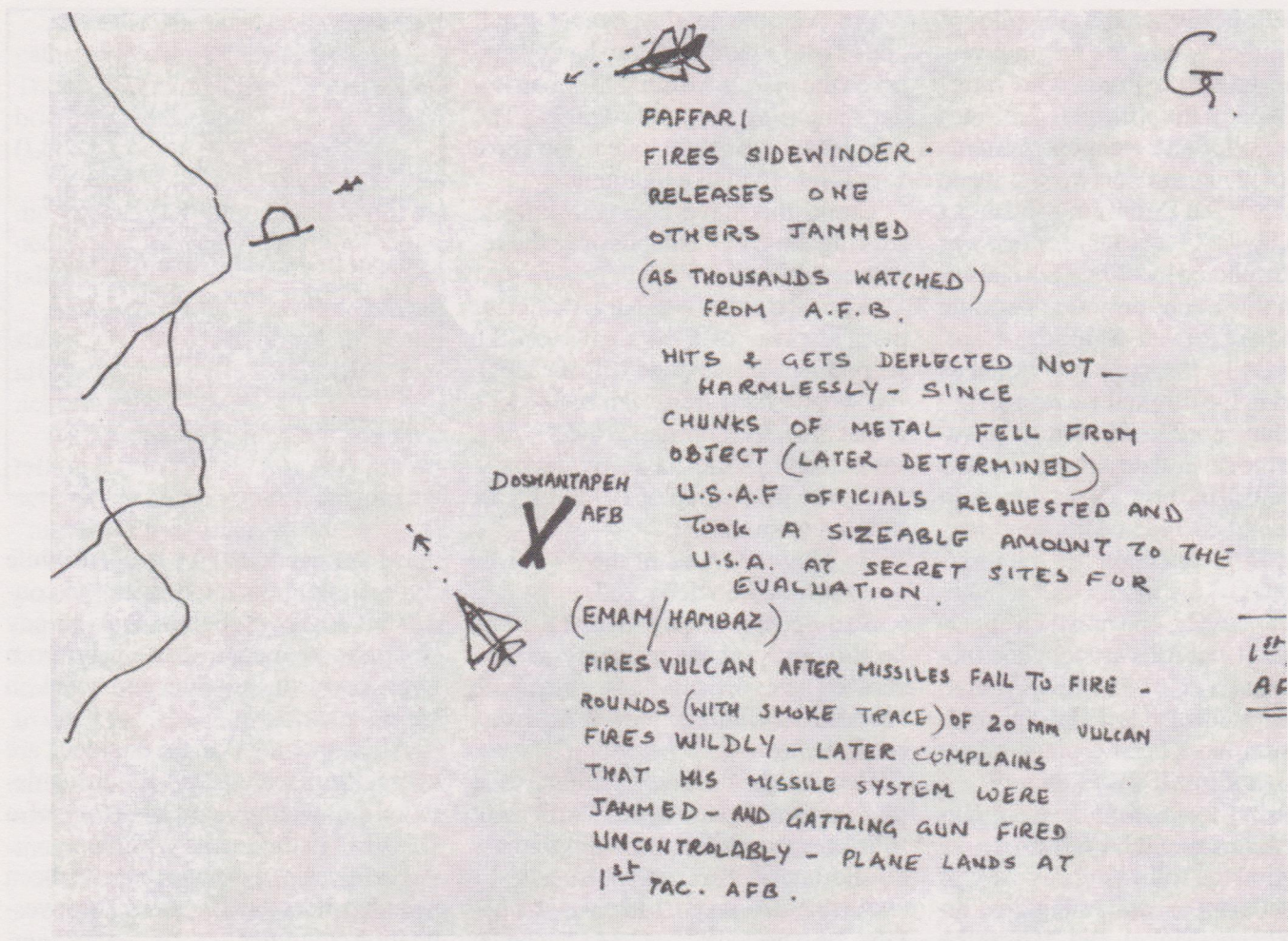
may have overheard the incident while flying in the area, but he wants to consult his log book before making any statements—and he was away from home on business when contacted on his cell phone.

Ali's drawings of the incident are compelling, with details requiring detailed knowledge, and his story of a UFO/F-4 battle seems feasible.

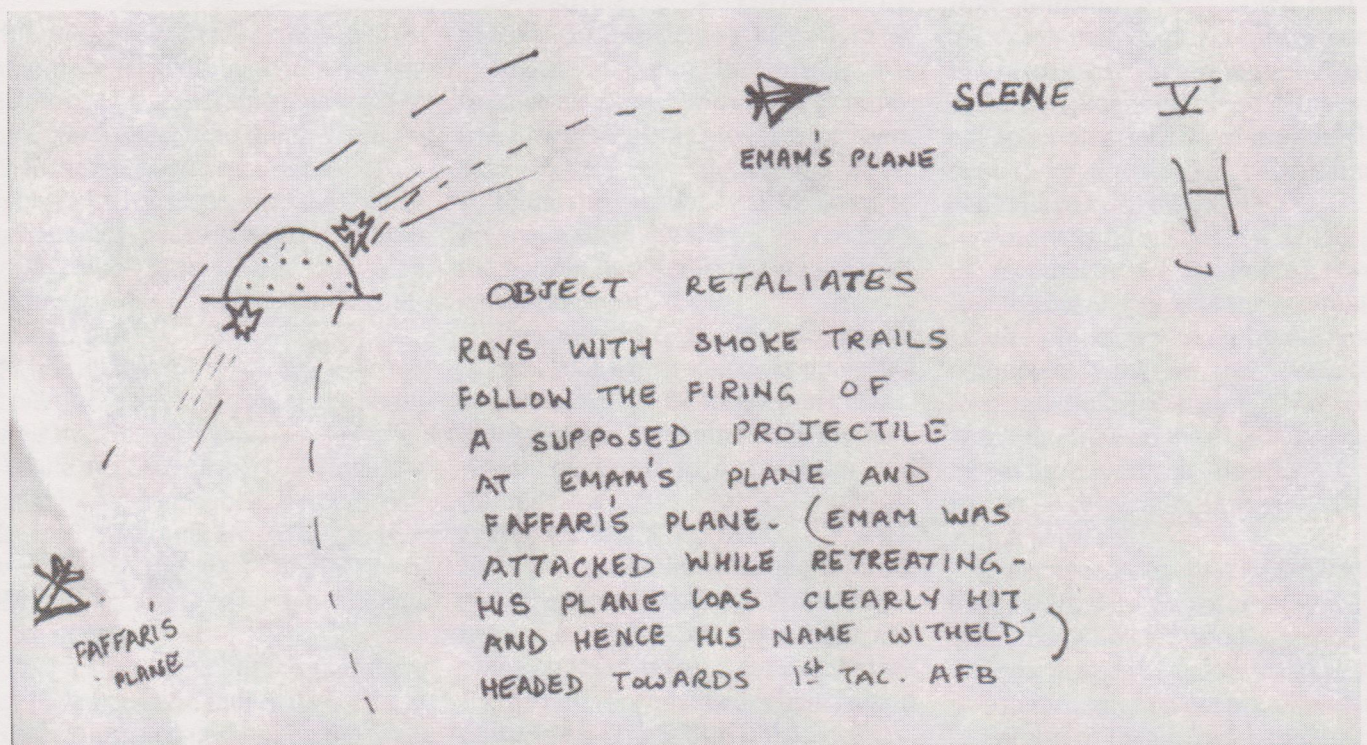
However, at this point there has been no independent verification. The investigation continues.

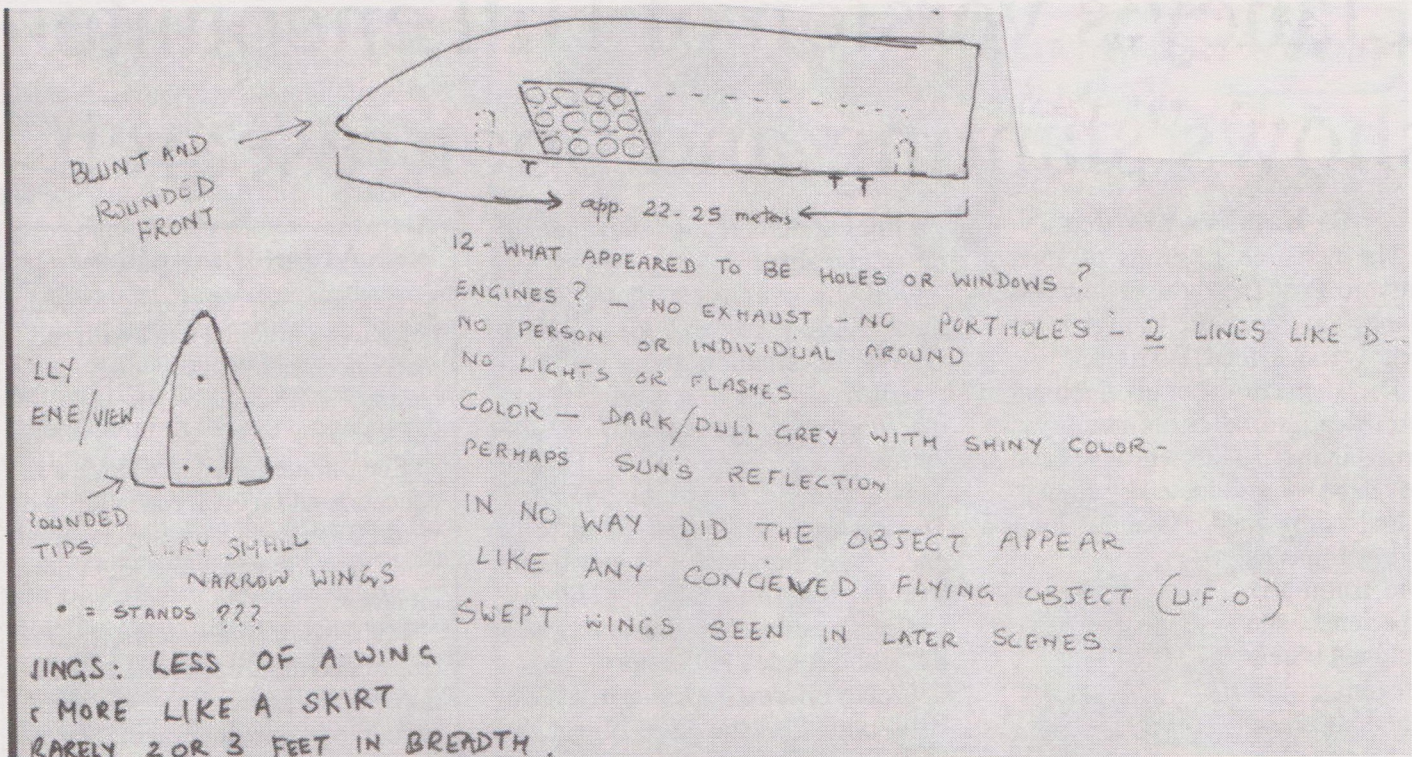


Drawing by Ali

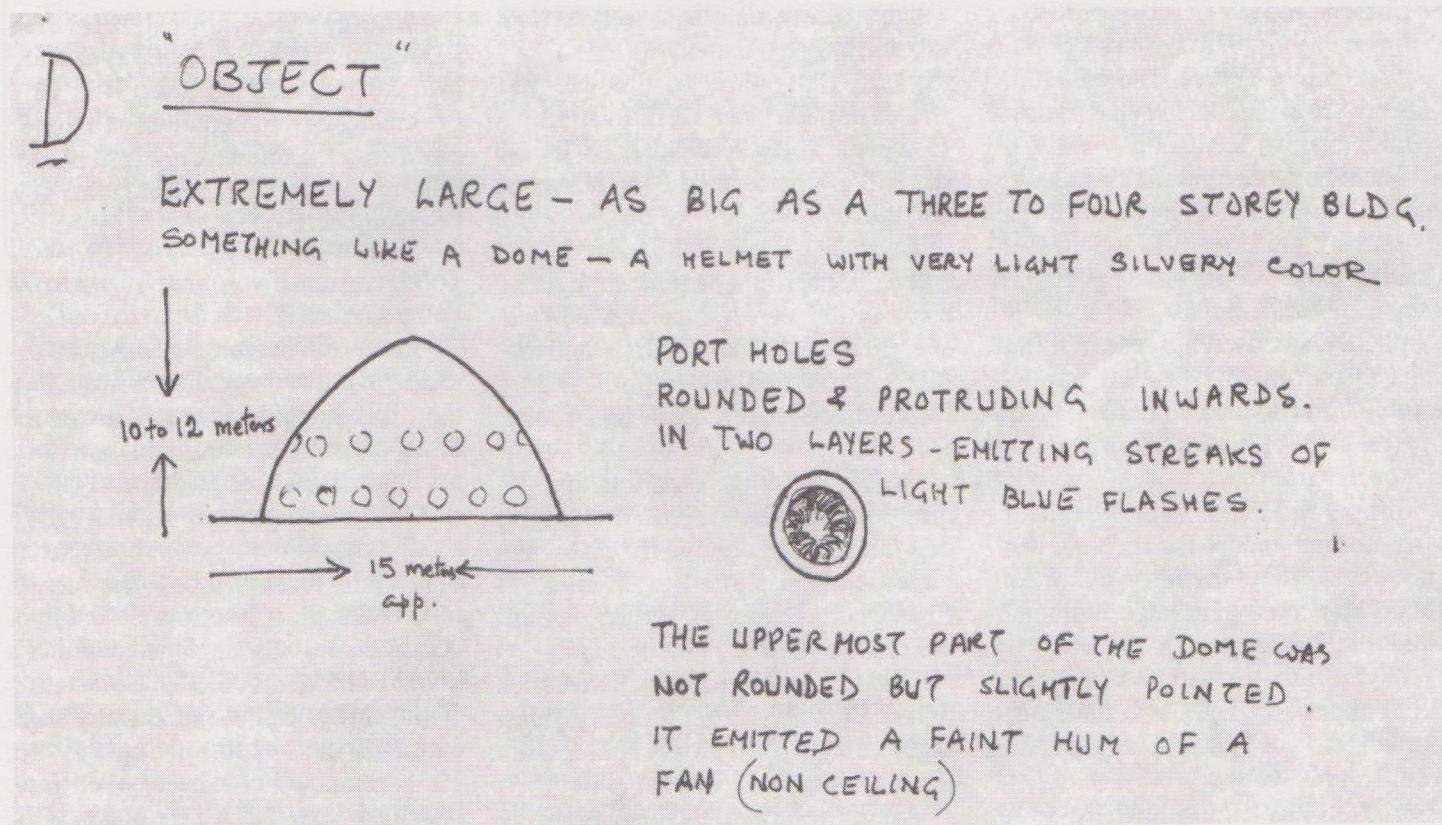


Sketches are by Ali.





Sketches by Ali of the UFO reportedly encountered by the Iranian F-4's in 1976.



Clancy's version of Hill encounter shows slanting and poor research

By Kathleen Marden

The research findings of former Harvard Post-Doctoral Fellow Susan Clancy have generated a high level of controversy in the UFO field.

This stems from her involvement in two research studies on memory distortion in individuals who suspect that they have been abducted by aliens.

Reasoning that UFO abduction is a highly improbable traumatic experience, she designed a new research project intended to identify the processes involved in the formation and recovery of false memories.



Marden

She selected experimental and control groups, administered a battery of tests, and concluded that the experimental group was prone to false memory formation.

Then she probed culturally generated media imagery as the foundation for this memory distortion in her book, *Abducted, How People Come to Believe they were Abducted by Aliens*.

Finally, she used her research findings to extrapolate that all publicly known UFO abductees fit the psychological characteristics of the memory distortion group.

Simply stated, they were all remarkably normal except for their fantasy-proneness, their memory distortion, their sleep state generated hallucinations, and their scientific illiteracy.

If you have researched the major UFO abduction cases that have been publicized, you are probably shaking your head in wonder.

How could Clancy possibly conclude that Betty and Barney Hill, Travis Walton, Betty Andreasson, et.al, were fantasy-prone individuals who blurred

the lines of demarcation between fantasy and reality?

Did she ever meet them? Study them? Did she research the objective, reliable information about them? Or was her research based primarily on disinformation circulated by debunkers?

She claims to have read John Fuller's *The Interrupted Journey*, and references it in her book. However, she seems to know little about the Hill case. Let us examine her presentation of Betty and Barney Hill's story.

Clancy informs the reader that "Betty Hill spotted a 'star-like' object that seemed to be pursuing them. Nervous, they had turned off the main highway onto narrow mountain roads, arriving home two hours later than expected."¹

She fails to mention that the "star-like" object initially behaved like a falling star, only it fell upward.

Next, Betty thought that she was witnessing her first satellite sighting. However, the object descended toward the Hill's vehicle and began to pursue it at close range.

Betty and Barney observed the unconventional flight pattern of the silent, rotating object. It ascended and descended in a stair step pattern, and rapidly approached and withdrew in a flight pattern that resembled a rubber ball attached to a paddle.

Clancy failed to mention that the craft hovered not more than eighty to one hundred feet above the Hills' vehicle before it shifted to an adjacent field where Barney observed humanoid creatures through binoculars.

Nor did she mention the two series of mechanical buzzing sounds that left highly magnetized glossy spots on the trunk of their 1957 Chevy.

As for the turn off the main highway onto narrow mountain roads, ask yourself, "Would you seek a more desolate route, away from motels, telephones, and

About the author

Kathleen Marden, now retired, holds a BA in social work with subject concentration in sociology, psychology, philosophy and the biological sciences.

She pursued graduate studies in education and special education and worked as an educator, special educator, and education services coordinator.

For the past fifteen years, she has researched the areas of alien abduction, social psychology, abnormal psychology, and false memory syndrome.

Additionally, she serves on the MUFON Board of Directors as the Director of Field Investigator Training.

She became interested in the study of UFOs when her aunt and uncle, Betty and Barney Hill, reported a UFO encounter and subsequent abduction in New Hampshire's White Mountains in September, 1961.

police cruisers if you were frightened of being captured?"

Barney did not make a conscious decision to leave the main highway. Further, this scenario was all part of the Hills' conscious, continuous memory, not hypnotically retrieved.

Dr. Clancy informs us that "their story as presented in the book bears only a faint resemblance to the version recorded in the transcripts of their hypnotic sessions—also included in Fuller's book." (*Abducted*, p. 96)

In reality, Betty and Barney's account of the events of Sept. 19-20, 1961, remained consistent over time. It is documented in Air Intelligence Information Report 100-1-61 collected on Sept. 21, 1961.

There was also a ground-visual

record that a strange incident occurred at 2:14 AM local on Sept. 20 at Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, NH. The initial report had an additional box checked: Air-Intercept Radar.

It was officially carried in the Air Force files as “insufficient data,” but that is part of a lengthy cover-up story that would require a separate article.

Coincidentally, the North Concord Air Force Station in Vermont recorded a ground-radar incident on Sept. 19, 1961, at 1722 local. It was reported as a “large aircraft” that traveled at relative low speed and high altitude coupled with an erratic course.

It was carried in the Air Force files as a weather balloon. My investigation of Rawinsonde observations reveals that the weather balloons released from the Portland, ME, weather station measured six feet in diameter and carried a parachute attached to the Rawinsonde instruments.

It rose at approximately 1,000 feet per minute and burst at approximately 100,000 feet. No other inquiry was made by the Vermont station.²

The most interesting aspect of this case is the fact that North Concord Air Force Station was only 17 miles west of Lancaster, NH, the location where Betty first sighted the anomalous craft.

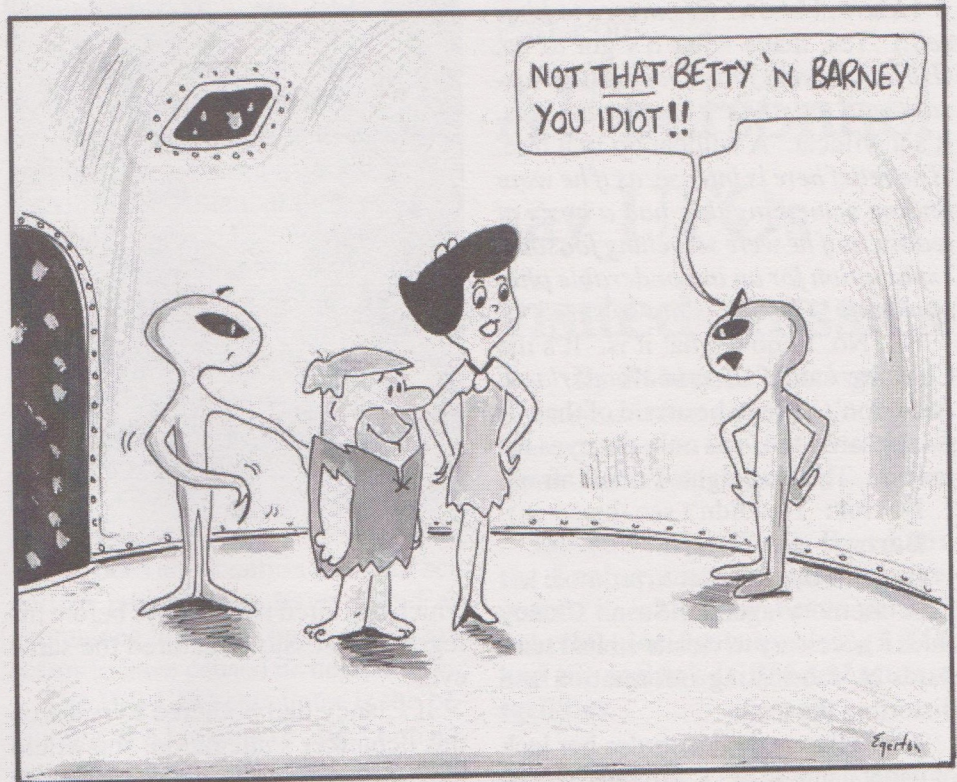
Certainly this is not proof that the Hills’ UFO was also recorded on Air Force radar, but it is an interesting coincidence.

The Hills gave a full detailed account of their UFO encounter to family members and close friends immediately after the incident.

Then, on Sept. 26, 1961, Betty penned a letter to NICAP Director Maj. Donald Keyhoe, describing a close-up observation of the anomalous craft and its occupants.

NICAP’s secretary, Richard Hall, contacted Walter Webb, chairman of the Massachusetts Subcommittee, on Oct. 19, and he interrogated the Hills over a six-hour period shortly thereafter.

He completed a five-page confidential preliminary report that documented the Hills’ conscious, continuous memory of a close encounter with the



UFO, and Barney’s observation of its humanoid occupants.

John Fuller based his book on these preliminary reports. It is incomprehensible that Susan Clancy could have missed the close correlation between the Hills’ conscious recall and their recall under hypnotic regression.

Clancy writes, “This is how the event is initially described by Barney under hypnosis: (*Abducted*, p. 96.)

“I was sitting out there on that mountain road at night. I could actually see what I described as the Cheshire cat. This glowing one-beam eye staring at me—or rather, not staring at me, but right through me... One alien person looks friendly to me, he’s friendly looking. And he’s looking at me right over his shoulder and he’s smiling.”

A close analysis of this excerpt reveals a deceptive ploy by Clancy. The first part of the above quote is not part of Barney’s hypnosis transcripts. It is a statement that he made during a conscious interview with Dr. Simon weeks after the hypnosis sessions ended.

It appears in Chapter 11 of *The Interrupted Journey*, near the end of the book. The last two sentences were part

of his statement to Walter Webb in October, 1961, and later to Dr. Simon in hypnotic regression.

However, the word “alien” does not appear in Barney’s transcripts. It is an embellishment added by Clancy. Susan Clancy combines the two to trick the reader into believing that these excerpts occurred in sequential order.

In fact, Barney’s observation of the humanoid figures occurred while he was standing in the field just south of Indian Head. His description of the Cheshire cat came later, at the capture site. An accurate account of the event is as follows: (Quoted from Chapter 5 of *The Interrupted Journey* by John G. Fuller)

Doctor: These men are standing in the road?

Barney: Yes. They won’t talk to me. Only the eyes are talking to me. I—I—I—I—don’t understand that. Oh—the eyes don’t have a body. They’re just eyes.

(*He speaks now as if he were moving into another state of consciousness, almost catatonic. As if his eyes were fixed, concentrated completely on another pair of eyes. Then, very suddenly he speaks with tremendous relief.*)

I know, I know. (*He muses to himself.*) Yes, that's what it's got to be. (*He laughs very flatly, very self-assuredly, and quietly.*) I know what it is. It's a wildcat. A wildcat up in a tree. (*The relief here is intense, as if he were finding something that had a basis of reality, as if he were searching for some explanation for an imponderable phenomenon. Then he is not so sure:*)

No. No. I know what it is. It's the Cheshire cat in *Alice in Wonderland*. Ah, I don't have to be afraid of that. It disappeared too, and only the eyes remained. That's all right. I'm not afraid.

Doctor: You didn't see this...

Barney: No, I saw it.

It seems that in order to promote her false memory agenda, Susan Clancy finds it necessary to violate ethical standards by fabricating information and distorting the truth.

Next Clancy demonstrates her lack of understanding of Dr. Simon's hypnosis methodology when she discusses Barney's description of the humanoid beings aboard the craft.

"What does the face make you *think* of?" asks the hypnotist. 'It was round. I *think* of a red-headed Irishman,' says Barney. But later in the session, the alien has an evil face...He looks like a German Nazi."³

Clancy attempts to convince us that Barney is describing one shape-shifting alien, not the two that he described to Walter Webb and Dr. Simon. What she does not understand is the fact that Barney is exploring his emotional reaction to two humanoid beings.

At this somnambulist level of hypnosis, response is concrete and literal. Dr. Simon is asking Barney, "What do you *think* of; not what do you see?" Barney selects two past biographical experiences: one with a prejudiced Irishman and one with a Nazi during World War II.

Then, in real time, he describes the black shiny suit, cap, and scarf, and the strange eyes that he is witnessing through his binoculars on Sept. 19-20, 1961.

Clancy makes another huge error when she reports that Barney "had seen eyes like that. 'The Bellerro Shield,'



which had aired twelve days before his regression session, featured the same eyes."⁴

If Clancy had bothered to research this debunker's allegation, she would have learned that this, too, is pure bunk. The Hills had never seen "The Outer Limits" show.

In a 1996 Internet posting, Betty wrote, "To this day, I have no idea what the 'Outer Limits' programs were about. I never saw them. I never saw 'Twilight Zone.' I never watched that type of program, so I don't know what was shown on them. Neither did Barney. At the time, he never would have had the opportunity, since he worked nights."

To take this a step further, if Clancy had bothered to examine Barney's descriptions of the two groups of aliens, she would have identified marked differences between Barney's humanoids and the "Bellerro Shield" alien.

The "Bellerro Shield" eyes did not wrap around. They were small, dark eyes on what appears to be an average size cranium. An indented bony structure extended outward toward the temples, but it was part of the creature's flesh.

Barney's aliens had large, slanted, rounded eyes, resembling the shape of cat's eyes, with almost no white visible. The "Bellerro Shield" alien had a raised oval bony ridge above its human mouth.

Barney described wide cheeked,

weak-chinned humanoids with no bony ridge. They had enlarged craniums, flat noses, and prominent, flared nostrils. Their toothless mouths were covered with membranes, and they had spindly legs and barrel chests.

"The Bellerro Shield" aliens did not have prominent nostrils. The luminous "Bellerro Shield" aliens had broad shoulders and large arms. The Hill aliens had broad shoulders and thin arms.

There is one feature that they two creatures had in common—they both had bald heads.

The Hill humanoid creatures bore almost no resemblance to the "Bellerro Shield" aliens. Yet, Clancy proclaims that Barney lifted this image off a television program and created a fantasy in Dr. Simon's office.

Satisfied that she has successfully argued the source of Barney's false memory syndrome, Clancy sets her sights on Betty.

First, she attacks Betty's long term belief in flying saucers and her propensity toward being a science fiction fan. In reality, Betty had discussed flying saucers with family members once in 1957 after her sister had observed a large, hovering craft that seemed to be taking on smaller disc-shaped saucers.

At that time, in that one discussion, Betty said that she thought that they might represent extraterrestrial craft. But the notion that Betty was a science fiction fan is pure bunk.

She was not a science fiction enthusiast. Furthermore, her library contained only one work of science fiction, a book written by her former tenant. She professed so little interest in science fiction that she may not have even read it.

Betty did mention "The Twilight Zone" in Chapter 7. Her account is as follows: (Quoted from Chapter 7 of *The Interrupted Journey* by John G. Fuller)

Betty: And then Barney came over and he got in the car, and he said, "They've seen us and they're coming this way." And I laughed and asked him if he had watched *Twilight Zone* recently on TV. And he didn't say any-

thing.

Doctor: Why did you mention Twilight Zone?

Betty: Because the idea was fantastic.

Doctor: Had there been anything like that on Twilight Zone?

Betty: I don't know. I never saw Twilight Zone. But I had heard people talk about the program, and I was under the impression it was a way-out type of thing.

In the next paragraph, Clancy alleges that within a year of her encounter Betty began giving local talks about her UFO sighting and the nightmares that she experienced shortly after the sighting. Again, this information is false.

Betty and Barney spoke to NICAP's Two-State UFO Study Group in Quincy, MA, in confidence, about their encounter and Betty's dreams in November, 1963.

Even John Fuller had this wrong. It was slightly more than a month before their first appointment with renowned hypno-analyst/psychiatrist Dr. Benjamin Simon.

Then Clancy selects two paragraphs of quotes from Betty's hypnotic recall, obviously mentioned to demonstrate the conventional nature of her exam.

What she does not mention is the fact that Betty's eyes were closed during most of the exam, and she was describing her sensory impression of what was transpiring.

For example, she mentions her impression that her nails are being cut, probably by manicuring scissors, and that something is scraping under her fingernail. She also mentions that the examiner unzips her dress.

Here Clancy attributes Betty's self inquiry, "My dress has a zipper down the back?" to Dr. Simon, presumably as an example of his leading, suggestive line of questioning.

The actual transcript reads, "Oh, he asks me to take off my dress, he tells me to take off my dress, and then before I even have a chance hardly to stand up to do it, the examiner—my dress has a zipper down the back? Yes, it has a zipper down the back. And the

examiner unzips it, and so I slip my dress off."⁵

A careful examination of Dr. Simon's interrogation reveals an incredulous psychiatrist who uses suggestion and persuasion to attempt to convince the Hills that they were *not* abducted.

He consistently attempts to puncture their stories, but to no avail. They remain consistent, and their individual experiences mesh point by point.

What Clancy does not mention is the fact that Betty's dress was so badly damaged at the zipper, the lining, the hem, and by biological agents, that it was "reduced to a rag."⁶

Nor does she mention that four scientific laboratories have found an anomalous substance on the fabric that seems to have caused its degradation.

The Hill UFO encounter is the beginning of a long list of abduction accounts that Clancy demolishes through the use of misinformation, unwarranted assumptions, and unfounded allegations.

What is most amazing is that Clancy claims to have read nearly everything that was ever written about abduction accounts. How could she have explored the literature and been so misinformed?

It appears that the answer lies in her willingness to distort and fabricate information to promote a personal agenda of false memory formation in alleged alien abductees.

If this is an example of her scientific inquiry, what conclusions can we draw of her research?

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¹Susan Clancy, *Abducted, How People Come to Believe they were Kidnapped by Aliens*, (Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA, 2005. p. 109.

²<http://www.cufon.org/cufon/afirstdy1.htm>

³Ibid. p. 96.

⁴Ibid. p. 97.

⁵John G. Fuller, *The Interrupted Journey*, (New York: Dial, 1966) Chapter 7.

⁶Statement by analytical chemist Phyllis Budinger.

Part Four

AF personnel say UFOs visited missiles

By Robert L. Hastings

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Editor's Note: This is Part Four, the final segment, of Hastings' research in which Air Force personnel relate incidents involving UFOs and the nation's ICBM and nuclear facilities.

Airman 1st Class Thomas Kaminski—Former Atlas ICBM Launch Facilities Specialist, 579th Strategic Missile Squadron, Walker AFB, NM:

Kaminski states that he had been at one of the Atlas ICBM launch sites northeast of Walker AFB one evening in 1964, possibly 1965, when the missile commander, Captain D——, directed him topside to view unexplained lights which had been reported to the site. Kaminski states he observed two star-like objects at a great distance, moving in unison.

When he reported his observations to the missile commander, Kaminski was told that the base was tracking the objects on radar, and had scrambled two jet fighters to intercept them.

Shortly thereafter, he observed the jets attempting to approach the unidentified lights, which then put on a burst of speed and outran the interceptors. The lights disappeared into a Cumulus cloud, followed by the fighters.

Moments later, the jets emerged from the cloud, but the lights were no longer visible. The fighters changed course and returned to base.

The next morning, upon returning to Walker AFB, Kaminski's missile team was routinely debriefed. He states, "During that briefing, my captain asked,

‘Whatever happened to the two UFOs?’ The response was, ‘What UFOs?’ My captain said, ‘The ones you sent the fighters up after!’ They said, ‘We didn’t send up any fighters.’ We knew that was the end of *that* conversation!”

Kaminski also states that he had once observed another UFO display, not at one of the remote missile sites, but at Walker AFB itself.

“At least half of my barracks saw this,” he said, “It was at night, and there were two or three lights—possibly four or five—that were moving around in the sky. They looked like stars, but from time to time they did 90-degree turns.

“Not all at once, though—they moved independently. They obviously knew that they wouldn’t run into each other. I don’t understand why we didn’t hear any sonic booms. That bothers me. They stayed in the same general area [of the sky]. After about 15 minutes, zoom, they were gone.”

Then he added, “Actually, [sightings of UFOs] were fairly common on base. I think that a lot of guys saw them. It wasn’t something that you discussed.”

1st Lt. Eugene Lamb—Former Atlas ICBM launch officer (Deputy Missile Combat Crew Commander), 579th Strategic Missile Squadron, Walker AFB, NM:

Lamb states that while he had not personally witnessed any of the UFO-related incidents at Walker’s Atlas sites, he had once spoken to a former missile crew commander who had.

This individual admitted, decades later, that he had briefly left the launch capsule to go topside to observe strange aerial lights being frantically reported by the missile site’s guard.

According to Lamb, the officer told him that the lights were unsettling because they had been moving erratically, and faster than jets.

He told Lamb that he was familiar with all types of aircraft, but had never seen anything like the extraordinary display in the sky above the Atlas silo. According to Lamb, the former officer had said, “These were not just lights. This was something else.”

Lamb concluded, “People talked about [the sightings] at Happy Hour, after work, or after we got off-site, but

it was kept pretty quiet as far as official statements went. To my knowledge, we were never briefed about it as a unit.”

Airman 2nd Class Barry L. Krause—Former Atlas ICBM Missile Facilities Specialist, 579th Strategic Missile Squadron, Walker AFB, NM:

I did not personally interview Krause, who died in 1973. However, on Dec. 20, 1964, he wrote to a civilian UFO research organization, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), to report an ongoing series of UFO-related incidents at his squadron’s Atlas ICBM sites.

In the letter, Krause stated that some of the missile security police whom he had queried about the sightings had deflected his questions by saying that the incidents had been classified “top secret.” Krause also stated that, at one point, the UFO incidents had become so numerous, and ominous, that some of the missile guards were balking at reporting for duty.

Comment: Krause’s 1964 letter to NICAP, written while the UFO incidents at Walker AFB were ongoing, is extremely important because it provides an unsolicited, contemporary account of some of the sightings at the missile sites. I would like to thank Richard Hall for sharing Krause’s letter with other researchers.

Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota (1966):

Staff Sgt. Albert Spodnik (USAF Ret.)—Former electro-mechanical technician, 44th Missile Maintenance Squadron, Ellsworth AFB, SD:

Spodnik states that one summer night in 1966 he and a fellow Electro-Mechanical Team technician were dispatched to Launch Facility (silo) Juliet-3 to correct an electrical malfunction.

For some reason, both the commercial power supply to the site and the emergency power systems had simultaneously failed, rendering the Minuteman I missile temporarily inoperable. In Air Force parlance, the ICBM had “gone off alert status.”

After restoring power to the launch facility, Spodnik and his partner began an automated start-up procedure which would return the missile to normal op-



LGM-118A Peacekeeper missile, phased out in 2005.

erational status. When they left the underground silo to take a break, the technicians’ security escort alerted them to a sudden, excited exchange over the crew cab’s two-way radio.

As the three men listened, they learned that an armed Air Force Security Alert Team had been ordered to investigate a triggered security alarm at nearby Launch Facility Juliet-5. Furthermore, the missile there had abruptly dropped off alert status.

As with Juliet-3, the site had lost commercial electrical power, and its diesel-powered generator, designed to charge back-up batteries, had failed to start.

When the Security Alert Team arrived at Juliet-5, they reported that a strange object was sitting on the ground inside the security fence that surrounded the missile silo. As Spodnik and his companions eavesdropped, they heard the Flight Security Controller order the SAT to approach the object.

Obviously upset, the team leader responded that he would not do so. He said that his team was parked outside the gate to the launch facility, but would go no further. He then reported that the mysterious object was round, apparently metallic, and resting on a tripod landing gear.

As this drama was unfolding over the radio, Spodnik and his companions

quickly climbed up on the crew cab's roof and flat bed to get a better view of the adjacent missile silo, which was about four miles away.

Gazing across the flat, open terrain, they noticed an intense glow that seemed to envelop the entire launch facility, much brighter than the security lights located there.

By this time, the Flight Security Controller had notified Juliet Flight's Launch Commander about the situation.

Spodnik could hear only the radio conversation between the Flight Security Controller and the Security Alert Team, but the Launch Commander had apparently ordered the team to approach the unidentified object.

Once again, the team leader refused. In a strained voice, he abruptly asked for permission to fire on the object. In response, the Flight Security Controller yelled, "Negative! Don't shoot until you know what's going on!"

He then informed the agitated security team leader that the Launch Commander had ordered the men to stand by while he called the Missile Command Post at Ellsworth AFB. After a few moments, the team leader was told that a helicopter was being sent to the site.

Spodnik states that about 30 minutes after the Command Post had been notified about the UFO landing, he saw the helicopter in the distance, as it approached the stricken launch facility.

When it was about five minutes away, someone screamed into the radio, "There it goes!" Instantly, Spodnik saw a brilliant white light directly above Juliet-5, ascending vertically at enormous velocity. He said that while he couldn't see the object itself, the light beneath it had the appearance of an "inverted flashlight beam."

After the furor had subsided, Spodnik and his partner finished their work at Juliet-3 and returned to the base.

Upon arriving, they and their security escort were unexpectedly met by the Missile Maintenance Commander, who promptly asked them if they had seen or heard anything unusual while at the launch facility.

The security guard readily admitted

to eavesdropping on the two-way radio, confessing that he was baffled by what had taken place at Juliet-5.

Glancing nervously at each other, Spodnik and the other technician impulsively denied having witnessed anything out of the ordinary. Both men told the commander that they had spent the entire visit to the launch facility underground, restoring the missile to alert status.

When I asked Spodnik why he had not admitted to listening to the radio chatter, he replied that he and his partner had previously heard rumors about missile technicians being relieved of duty for reporting strange occurrences at ICBM sites.

"We heard about people reporting seeing things," he said. "Not necessarily UFOs, just anything oddball that couldn't be explained rationally. Those guys were ordered to report to the [base] hospital, examined, and medically discharged as mentally unfit for military service."

Spodnik admitted that he didn't personally know of anyone who had been treated in this manner, but rumors to that effect had been circulating within his squadron.

Spodnik was undoubtedly referring to a Department of Defense regulation known as "PRP"—Personnel Reliability Program. As mentioned earlier, this directive is designed to govern the behavior of those who work with or around nuclear weapons.

Under its guidelines, potentially severe consequences await those judged by their superiors to be psychologically unstable. Several former Air Force missile personnel whom I have interviewed have said that, because of this regulation, they also had concerns about reporting their own UFO sightings, and often did not.

Spodnik said that the maintenance commander, upon hearing his denial, eyed him suspiciously, then ordered the two technicians to report to his office early the next morning.

Upon arriving there, Spodnik noticed that the commander had with him an individual dressed in civilian clothes. This person was not introduced, said nothing, took no notes, but listened attentively as Spodnik and his partner

answered the commander's questions about the events of the previous evening.

Now very nervous, the pair nevertheless stuck to their story—they had seen and heard nothing. After a several-minute interrogation, the maintenance commander ordered the two men to report to duty.

Spodnik further stated that neither he nor his partner ever saw their security escort again. Ordinarily, standard duty rotation would have ensured that the same individual be assigned to accompany Spodnik on some future maintenance call, but this never occurred.

Spodnik assumed that the escort had been transferred to another base, but never did learn the reason for his sudden departure.

Comment: A second former 44th Missile Maintenance Squadron technician, whom I will not identify, has independently confirmed the essential elements in Spodnik's account, in particular the landing of the UFO inside the missile silo's security fence.

This individual estimates that the incident occurred in late June or early July, 1966, just prior to his separation from the Air Force.

Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota (1992):

UFO sighting by two Minuteman missile maintenance personnel, whom I will not identify, as reported to **Tech. Sgt. Jeff Goodrich** (USAF Ret.)—Former Minuteman missile technician, 44th Field Missile Maintenance Squadron (FMMS), Ellsworth AFB, SD:

Just before midnight on Oct. 27, 1992, two members of the 44th FMMS, Airman 1st Class Michael R——, a vehicle controller, and Airman 1st Class Jason B——, a Minuteman Electro-Mechanical Team technician, were approaching the squadron's operations hangar when they saw a group of bright, white lights moving rapidly in rigid formation.

While no solid object was actually visible, the fact that the lights did not vary in their positions relative to one another led the witnesses to conclude that they were arranged across the surface of a very large but unseen craft.

As R—— and B—— watched, the light formation moved directly toward

the Minuteman missile maintenance hangar, hovered over it momentarily, and then moved away, disappearing behind a bank of low clouds.

Both observers estimated that, at its closest approach, the object was approximately a quarter-mile from them.

Upon arriving at work, the startled eyewitnesses excitedly told those present about the sighting. At that time of night, there wasn't much happening at the hangar, and it was relatively empty except for a handful of people in the vehicles and equipment sections.

The next day, another missile maintenance technician, **Jeff Goodrich**, also learned of the incident. Goodrich had a long-standing interest in UFOs, and was a certified field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network.

Using that organization's standard sighting questionnaire, he had R— and B— independently record the details of their experience less than two days later.

R— wrote, "It was kind of foggy out...When I first saw it, I thought it was an airplane, but it moved too smooth and swiftly without noise. I couldn't believe it. I was totally amazed. It was an awesome sight. It seemed to hover about three-to-five hundred feet over the ground and [then] it just sort of disappeared in the air."

In his report, B— wrote, "I noticed it when I looked out over the hangar where I work. I pointed it out to Mike, who was driving. At first I thought it was an airplane, but it was way too big. There were no flashing lights like on most planes and [its] shape was like no plane I've ever seen. I was freaked out [and] Mike almost ran off the road, trying to get a better look at it...It disappeared behind the clouds above the base."

Each airman made drawings of the UFO itself, as well as its position in the sky, relative to the hangar.

In R—'s picture, the lights appear similar to a string of pearls, delineating the presumed boundary of an unseen kidney bean-shaped object.

B— drew essentially the same picture, but with some of the lights positioned away from object's edge. He also depicted it as having more of a boomerang shape.

R— drew the UFO hovering directly over the missile maintenance hangar, whereas B— depicted the object approaching the facility from the north, and (as indicated by an arrow) moving into the cloud bank.

Elsewhere on the questionnaire, in the section titled, *Object Description*, R— wrote that the UFO's apparent width had been "2-3 times the size of a full moon." B— instead described the lights as each appearing to be "2-3 times the size of a star."

However, in the *Personal Account* section, he wrote that the object itself had been much larger than an airplane, and, in one of his drawings of the entire cluster of lights, he added the caption, "Approx. 300 ft. long."

Neither sighting witness was officially debriefed. It is unknown whether the UFO appeared on radar.

Dr. Harley Rutledge dies at age 80

Dr. Harley Rutledge, 80, UFO researcher and former chairman of the physics department at Southeast Missouri State University, died June 5 at the Missouri Veterans Home. He retired from teaching in 1992.

Rutledge first gained national notoriety through an organization he launched in 1973 called "Project Identification." The project was a response to a flurry of UFO sightings near Piedmont, MO.

Over the next six years, Rutledge and crews of students, scientists, and amateur enthusiasts spent 150 nights scanning the skies in Franklin County with cameras, audio recorders, telescopes, and tools measuring electromagnetic field disturbances.

The efforts were funded in part by the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.

In 1980 he published a book, also called *Project Identification*, which took a scientific approach to cataloguing the UFO activity.

He tracked the velocity, distance, and size of the objects he caught on video, and said he was careful not to let his own hypotheses get in the way of the data.

Researcher, author Karl Pflock dies

Karl Pflock, UFO researcher, author, and former state section director for New Mexico MUFON, died June 5, 2006, at his home in Placitas, NM. As most know, Karl had been battling ALS.

Pflock, a member of the American Aviation Historical Society and an amateur astronomer, returned to full-time writing and independent research in 1992 after 11 years of public service.

This included serving as a deputy assistant secretary of defense, a senior staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives, a strategic planning consultant to the U.S. Department of Energy, and with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from 1966 to 1972.

Pflock began investigating the now legendary Roswell incident in 1992. In 2001 his *Roswell: Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe* was published.

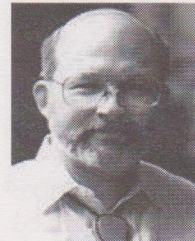
The following year he co-authored with James Moseley *Shockingly Close to the Truth*, and was a columnist for Moseley's *Saucer Smear* publication at the time of his death.

His articles on UFOs have appeared in such journals as *Fortean Times*, *Omni*, the *International UFO Reporter*, *The Anomalist*, *Fate*, the *MUFON UFO Journal*, *Cuadernos de Ufología* (Spain), and the *MUFON 1995 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*.

He appeared frequently on radio and TV programs related to UFOs.

Karl was a popular speaker at UFO and anomalous phenomena gatherings, and was named 1998 Ufologist of the Year by the National UFO Conference.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's he served as a member and chairman of the National Capital Area [investigations] Subcommittee of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).



Karl Pflock

Alien autopsy hoax

In April many of us attended the 18th Annual Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs, AR. This excellent UFO conference is a "must" for serious observers of the UFO scene, and that is why many of us return year after year.

At this conference ten years ago I took part in a panel discussion for the speakers who debated the "Alien Autopsy" footage that had been presented to the world by Ray Santilli in London in 1995.

Having researched Santilli's claims at length I was able to state with confidence that the whole thing was a complete scam, and that almost everything Santilli had told me had later proved to be untrue.

Needless to say, there were many who disputed what I said—and even some who suggested that I was a government agent spreading disinformation! Subsequent to this I was seldom asked to speak at further UFO conferences.

It has recently been revealed that the "Alien Autopsy" footage was indeed faked by Santilli. The creator of the alien dummy, which was fashioned from latex and filled with sheep's brains and chicken entrails, has confessed to his part in the hoax.

This man, John Humphreys, also played the part of the chief autopsy surgeon in the silent footage supposedly filmed in New Mexico in 1947. This is just the scenario which I published ten years ago in an article stating that the footage was fraudulent and suggesting that at least one of Santilli's accomplices (not Humphreys) was also a prominent crop circle hoaxer.

Ray Santilli was estimated to have made about \$3 million from selling this autopsy footage to TV companies in the U.S. and other countries for sums of

anything up to \$150,000. These sales were always made with a disclaimer as to the authenticity of the footage, but the fact that Santilli himself commissioned its making seems to me to be in itself an act of deception, if not fraud.

Even now he is claiming that there were 14 reels of original 16mm film which he says he purchased from an alleged US military cameraman, but that "95% of the film had oxidized" and was spoiled.

This, he says, was why he was forced to have the autopsy footage secretly remade. This is, of course, complete nonsense, and it is just another change to his story like the other lies made whenever he was put in a tight corner.

I'm glad to say that fellow UFO researcher Philip Mantle completely agrees with me in this regard.

My purpose in this e-mail is to draw a line under this sorry story and bury Santilli's infamous hoax for good and all. I don't wish to crow, but I think this should be a lesson to us all that UFO fraud must be relentlessly rooted out and exposed for what it is.

Otherwise there is no chance of ufology gaining respectability and being accepted as a serious scientific study, which is what it deserves to be.

—George Wingfield

Response to Strieber letter

Dear John,

With the unexpected appearance in print of my letter concerning Budd Hopkins' article about Whitley Strieber "Communion Alien" I need to clarify my mention of Glennys Mackay in connection with Ann Strieber's reported disclaimer of the reality of Whitley's experiences.

Glennys was NOT present when the comment was made by Ann, and had only passed the substance of the comment on to me.

She was unaware that I had written to Budd and yourself until after the fact, and is in no way responsible for what I wrote.

I am sorry that Ann has chosen to portray my letter as an attack on her marriage. It was not; I sincerely wish her and Whitley a long and happy life together. It was, however, a challenge to the veracity of Whitley's claims.

The clarification about Glennys does not in any way change the thrust of my letter, which continues to be that I believe that all the evidence indicates Whitley Strieber's "experiences" have no basis in reality, but are only the product of his imagination.

The story recounted by Budd demonstrates this rather clearly.

—Warren Aston

Strange circle hoaxers

It has come to my attention that a group called the Circle Makers is claiming to have hoaxed many crop circles, but their web site shows many strange things.

For example, the supposed hoaxers have displayed some very good photos of UFOs taken during their times spent in the crop fields. They also say a bright flash of light appears from no apparent source sometimes.

But the strangest of all is the small text that appears in blue under the logo "Circle Makers." I would never have noticed it unless I printed out the page in which the blue background was dropped to reveal the words "Semper Occultus," Latin for "Always Secret."

This just happens to be the motto for British Secret Intelligence.

The site is at www.circlemakers.org. For the photos of UFOs taken by the hoaxers go to the "Perpetrators" section and then to subsection "Weird Shit Happens."

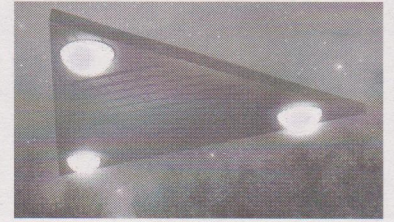
—Charlie S.



FILER'S FILES

By George Filer

Director, MUFON Eastern Region



Note: These reports are presented in order to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these cases have not been officially investigated, unless noted.

Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun

VISOCICA HILL —This is the first European pyramid to be discovered, and is located in the heart of Bosnia, in the town of Visoko.

The pyramid has four perfectly shaped slopes pointing toward the cardinal points, a flat top, and an entrance complex.



George Filer

Archaeologists in late April unearthed the first solid evidence that an ancient pyramid lies hidden beneath a massive hill.

Digging revealed large stone blocks on one side of the pyramid that were geometrically cut stone slabs which could form part of the structure's sloping surface.

"These are the first uncovered walls of the pyramid," said Semir Osmanagic, a Bosnian archaeologist who studied the pyramids of Latin America.

Leading geologists from Egypt have confirmed that the pyramidal structure discovered near the town of Visocica is a pyramid. It has been named the Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun because of its similarities to the Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan, Mexico.

"There are also three smaller pyramids on the site," says Osmanagic. "We found a paved entrance plateau, and discovered underground tunnels."

Tunnels have revealed writing similar to arrows and the letter E.

Moon race for fusion fuel

Scientists like Apollo 17 astronaut Harrison Schmitt claim helium-3 can produce fusion. While it is rare on Earth, Schmitt has said there is enough on the Moon to power the Earth for hundreds of years.

Russia says it too wants a permanent base on the Moon by 2020. One of its main reasons: mining for helium-3.

China has a manned Moon mission in the works for the next decade, as well. Gagnon says the U.S. may seek to protect financial interests on the moon, or simply cut the moon off from anyone but the U.S.

Under the guise of missile defense, weapons-equipped satellites will be deployed to secure the Earth-to-Moon corridor, he says. The 1967 International Space Treaty outlawed weapons of mass destruction in space, says Gagnon, but not weapons of selective destruction.

The advent of a well-guarded Moon base that's mining for the ultimate energy source may sound laughable to some, Gagnon concedes. "[But] then why is Halliburton building a drill for Mars?" he asks. NASA, Royal Dutch Shell, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory are also working on this project.

In 1989, the U.S. Congress commissioned a study entitled "Military Space Forces: The Next 50 Years." The study suggested that U.S. bases on the Moon and armed space stations on either side of the Moon will "lie in wait at that location to hijack rival shipments on return," wrote the author of the study, John Collins.

"There's going to be a scramble for the Moon by the Chinese, the Russians, and the Americans," says Gagnon.

"This is real. There's going to be a conflict over it." Perhaps the roots of any future conflict over lunar resources are just starting to take hold.

The Aerospace Daily and Defense Report wrote last spring that the Missile Defense Agency will begin awarding "space-based interceptor" concept design contracts to industry teams in 2008.

Triangle in California

CARMICHAEL—The witness reports, "My daughter and I were driving northbound on Manzanita Avenue at about 9:50 PM on May 12, 2006.

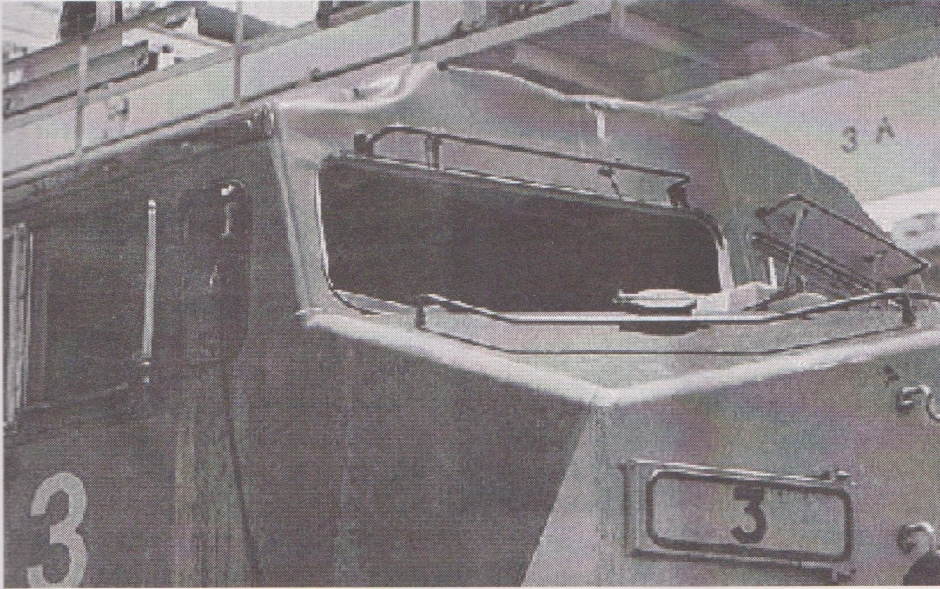
"We were approaching an intersection to come to a stop when we saw very chaotic flashing deep red and brilliant white strobe lights in front of us. They were in the north sky.

"There were other cars around us. We were able to see a shape like a straight line. It was horizontal and moving from slanted left to right. It was very large, the size of the full Moon or bigger. It suddenly pulled away further north, faster than we could track it.

"Our light turned green, but all the cars were hesitant to go, including myself. I finally resumed driving north, keeping my eye on the object, which was still strobing.

"The object came to a sudden stop while we were still traveling north for four minutes. The object was actually very close to a light tower off in the distance, and it just sat there hovering. The lights went off and the object was a dark triangle.

"Then, very quickly, white lights appeared on top of the craft in a cone shape. Then it seemed to shift, but we couldn't tell if it was clockwise or counterclockwise. The cone-shaped light appeared on the bottom of the craft, and



Train damaged by UFO?

the lights were a deep red. It began circling the tower in a clockwise direction several times. We were getting ready to stop. I looked up towards the object and it was gone.

Kentucky train hits UFO?

PAINTSVILLE—The witness reports, “At exactly 2:47 am on Jan. 14, 2002, while working a coal train en route from Russell, KY, to Shelbiana, KY, our trailing unit and first two cars were severely damaged as we struck an unknown floating or hovering object. (see photo above).”

“I wrote to some railroad safety engineers, who responded. In the 2001-2002 period, here is CSX #3 with broken windows and damage to the cab roof that looks to me like it came from above.

“I had asked what happened, but no one knew the history, and it was not listed on the loco log. Take it for what it’s worth, but it fits the story and period.

“No signs of pilot or nose damage as would be present if this had been a grade crossing accident. Still looking for my color slides, but at least I did find this BW shot.

“Again, this is inside CSX’s Huntington Locomotive Shops in Huntington, WV, normally off limits to visitors. I’ll send more when I dig them out.”

—Robby.

Kentucky Cigar Craft

SOUTH SHORE—“On April 28, 2006, at 6 PM,” says the witness, “I was at our family reunion when my brother started to scream. We looked up at the sunny sky and saw a cigar-shaped craft coming in from the northwest towards Portsmouth, OH.

“It slowed down as it passed us. It was eerie, as it seemed to be observing us. My aunt was so shocked to see such a craft that she passed out. We then noticed two jets chasing the craft as it headed towards Grayson, KY.

“This was a really strange experience for me. The sighting was in the *Daily Times*, and we reported it to the South Shore Police Department, but they never got back with us.” Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC.

Indiana triangle

FRANKLIN—The witness reports, “Coming home from work on rural roads on May 3, 2006, at 10:35 PM, I saw a triangle shape with three lights, one on each point and one in middle, hovering over Union Elementary School in Union Township.

“I stopped the car and got out to observe. It was about 1500 feet in altitude, very clearly triangle-shaped, and made absolutely no sound.

“The shape itself appeared to be deep black, darker than the night sky, almost seemed to absorb any light, and

the lights did not appear to illuminate anything under it.

“This is in restricted military airspace for Camp Atterbury, which is located 20 miles south. I observed carefully until the craft slowly moved off to the northwest.

“My mother also had a sighting of the same type of object over our house three miles southeast of this location on 11/8/04. She states, ‘There was no sound, and the triangle craft was very low to the ground, hovering.’”

Missouri Lights & angel hair in 1931

POLO—“I was just reading about a diary of a woman’s sightings of 1931,” says the reporter, “and my memory was jogged. My father-in-law, God rest his soul, had stated to me that when he was 15 or 16 years old in 1931, he was 35 miles north of Kansas City.

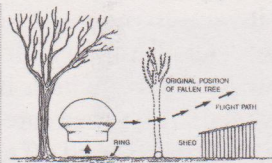
“One night he saw two lights in a row moving up and down in a wood grove about a mile from his house. This was very strange, since there was no electricity in the area in 1931. Others had seen the lights, but no one was going to investigate.

“The lights were colored, not clear. A few day later my father-in-law went to the area in the daytime and found ‘cob webs’ or material like cotton candy texture hanging from the trees. If you touched it, this material would disintegrate instantaneously. He also had stated ‘there was a tingle left on your hand.’”

New York sphere

CARTHAGE—“On May 1, 2006, about 9:20 PM,” says the witness, “we were driving along Route 3 when in the trees to our right we saw a sphere-shaped object with red and blue flashing lights. The object appeared to be in the trees very low to the ground.

“We then turned the car around to go back and see what it was. It was moving away quickly, and the lights turned off. It seemed as if it was disappearing before our eyes. We kept driving back and forth trying to spot it, but there was no sight of it.” Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC.



Physical Traces

By Ted Phillips

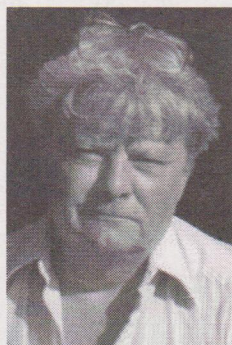
Marley Woods—more cases

In my columns in May and June I discussed some of the strange sightings related to an area of Missouri which I call Marley Woods.

As I investigated, more and more reports came in over a period of time as area residents came to know and trust me. In addition, I had my own first sighting.

On March 11, 1999, cabin owner NC & JD (witnesses 8 & 22) arrived at the farm around 6:20 PM.

“At 6:35, in total daylight, we saw the first of eight large lights,” says NC. G T, his wife, and daughter (witnesses 23, 24, 25) also saw the display.



Ted Phillips

The cabin owner took some video of these lights. Witness 23 told the cabin owner that 20 years ago his family had seen many very odd “lights” on the farm joining the cabin property on the east.

C (witness 136), son of 23, told me his entire family saw many white lights. They were very bright and appeared near the ground and at treetop level.

On numerous occasions, they would drive very fast on ATV's or in their pickup across their fields toward the lights. In all cases, the lights would vanish when they would get close.

He said the lights might appear for many nights in succession, then not be seen for several weeks or months—but they always continued to re-appear.

My first sighting

On March 12, 1999, at the cabin, I had my first sighting of the displays. The cabin owner and I were standing by the windmill discussing past events when R yelled, “There they are!” I

turned to the north and saw three “displays” of the strangest color I have ever seen.

The displays were in a horizontal line, evenly spaced, totally silent. There were no wings, no tails, no visible means of propulsion at all. Hanging there in the still brightly-illuminated sky, anything they may have been attached to would have been quite visible. There was nothing.

The things were oblong to the vertical, without motion. Suddenly there were two more to the east, same shape, same color, but these were even closer.

I was standing there with my video camera running and pointed at the ground. I didn't think to raise it until the first three disappeared.

I finally raised the camera, easily seeing the remaining two through the viewer. I managed to get a shaky two seconds of video before they “squeezed” out.

I fully expected something to exit these portals or whatever they were. That was my impression—apertures of some kind.

As they disappeared they did not “go out.” They closed down as would a camera shutter, reducing in size until gone. I could see now what R was trying to describe as “squeezing.”

It is difficult to describe these things hanging silently in a brightly lighted sky. The two close objects were perhaps 8 feet wide and 12 feet high, no more than 800 to 1,000 feet away, and I had a good, long look.

These five were also seen by three other witnesses who drove up just as they appeared. After the event I went to the computer and tried to recreate how they appeared. The colors I could not duplicate.

On April 1, 1999, at the cabin, things get a little stranger and even more interesting. I had placed a video camera

on a tripod in a watertight shield between the cabin and the windmill. Each evening R would load in a new tape, and the timer would activate the camera at sunset.

I had captured nothing to this point, but at least the camera wasn't pointing at the ground. On this night, however, it had the chance to get some images as an object moved into the area.

The witnesses reported that when the object got to the front of the cabin near the bell, it made a tight left turn and appeared to continue on a left curve as it went out of sight in front of the cabin.

It appeared to be traveling right behind F's car, which was just leaving.

There was absolutely no sound or wind created by the object. It passed directly in front of my video camera, which was operating, dropping a little in altitude as it went over and in front of the camera.

Sky conditions were good, warm temperatures, no wind, very high thin clouds. The observation took place 85 minutes after sunset and 15 minutes before total darkness. The nearly full Moon was just above the horizon beyond the location of the object.

Equipment ruined

Following the event R, J, and E checked the video camera, which had been imaging for nearly an hour. They found that the entire unit—camera & VCR—were shut down, and that the tape ejected from the unit.

Seventeen tapes were stored three feet away from the camera in the wagon shed, and they were all ruined. The VCR and camera would not function at all.

Bob Nicholson, a video expert, examined the camera and VCR, and stated that the electronics looked as if they had been subjected to extreme heat and were indeed ruined.

The small object had passed over the

camera unit at a height of 30 feet or less. On April 30, 1999, at the cabin at 9 PM, one of the lights was seen. It grew larger, and at its largest size it squeezed out.

On May 3, 1999, at 8:45 PM, one of the amber lights appeared due east, high above the horizon over the old barn, then squeezed out.

On May 9, 1999, at 8:15 PM, at the cabin, the owner and wife saw a faint amber light at the north tree line which slowly ascended higher and higher, became much brighter and larger.

It was seen for five minutes, and the owner's video camera would not work. The light was also seen by Witness 137 and by Witnesses 8 & 9 from their home.

Cattle gate damaged

On May 8, 1999, the cabin owner reported:

"Today at 4 PM I drove down to check on my cattle and found both double steel gates that contained the cattle in the bottom field laying flat on the ground. Evidently during the prior night something "spooked" the herd.

"The gates were pushed down from outside the field the cattle were in, and the cattle were at the opposite end of the field when I arrived, and had not tried to get out over the gates."

When I arrived at the gate site, R had laid the gates upright and against the posts so I could see the original condition he found them in. The gates are located in a bottom area 990 feet north-east of the cabin.

The gate area is not visible from the cabin due to a line of trees between the two. The gates, a double set of 12-foot-long units, were still chained together with heavy logging chain at the center.

The chain was intact, and locked with a heavy duty lock. The gates had been pushed from the outside of the field into the field.

The small gravel lane that links the cabin with this field can only be accessed by driving past the cabin, the caretaker, and a herd of dogs—and then only after getting through the front gate which is always chained and locked. Getting a vehicle in there is impossible, at least by ground.

There were no impact marks or dents on the tubular steel frames. The gates were still attached at the hinges, which pivot on four ½ inch diameter steel pins which are screwed into 8-inch oak posts. The posts were still standing, and were not damaged.

The ½ inch steel pins were turned from their normal vertical position to the horizontal, and the gate sleeves over the pins were twisted like paper.

Of great interest is the fact that the ½ inch pins were turned some 90 degrees tighter. It requires considerable leverage to rotate them in the release direction, but they were actually tightened in the oak posts, and the posts were not damaged.

It would be very difficult to apply pressure to the open, tubular frames of the gates without visible damage to the gate structure. How or why this could be done—and to what end—is a puzzle. The cattle had been frightened, but not harmed; none were missing.

On May 12, 1999, at 9:20 PM, as the owner and his wife were getting ready to leave the cabin they saw a bright illumination near the front gate.

It appeared to be a very bright beam of light, and the trees and entire area around the gate could be easily seen. They drove toward the gate, and as they neared the area the light switched off instantly.

Strange acrobatics

On May 18, 1999, at the cabin, seven local people visiting at the farm watched 13 of the large orange lights over a period of 15 minutes. Two objects were then seen to the north, traveling west.

It was still daylight, and video was taken. I have looked at this video frame by frame, and enhanced images indicate no wings, but rather circular shapes.

The two objects are flying above each other. The lower object is moving a bit faster than the upper, and passes it.

The lower object, without pause, reverses direction, gains speed rapidly, and in a climbing path passes under and then quickly behind the upper object and goes out of frame in an easterly di-

rection, still climbing. The upper object continues toward the west. There was no sound.

On May 20, 1999, at the cabin, I had two video cameras set up and R had his. There was a display of many of the large orange lights over several minutes. During the entire display none of the three cameras would function.

These lights were also witnessed by four people at their home a mile from the cabin.

On May 24, 1999, at 9:20 PM, at the cabin, three observers saw one bright amber lights to the north. After about three minutes, it squeezed out. It was rising from the horizon during the observation.

I will continue these sightings from this area next month, including a strange case of animal mutilation.

CALENDAR

July 14-16—The 37th Annual MUFON International UFO Symposium, Marriott Denver Tech Center Hotel, Denver, CO. "Unconventional Flying Objects: The Best Evidence."

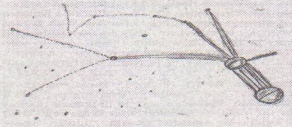
Speakers include Brian Boldman, Carl Feindt, Linda Moulton Howe, Jesse Marcel Jr., David Marler, Ted Phillips, Ron Regehr, Steve Reichmuth, Kenneth Storch, Marshall Vian Summers, Ruben Uriarte, and Ryan Wood.

July 27-30—ExtraOrdinary/Technology Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, 520-463-1994, www.teslatech.info.

Sept. 16-17—Mothman Festival, Point Pleasant, WV, 740-286-4772, www.mothmanlives.com.

Oct. 28—Mysteries of Space & Sky III, near Annapolis, MD, featuring Don Berliner, Rob/Sue Swiatek, Anna Jamerson, Dr. Charles Emmons, and conference organizer Dr. S. Peter Resta (spr100@aol.com) 410-360-1168 X 8.

Nov. 17-20—Crop Circles & Keys to Higher Consciousness, Tempe, AZ, featuring J.J. Hurtak, Russell Targ, William Henry, Jim Marrs, Linda Moulton Howe, Francine Blake, Nancy Talbott, Flordemayo, Philip Gardiner, Bert Janssen, Heather Clewett, & Chet & Kallista Snow. www.chetsnow.com, 928-204-1955.



PERCEPTIONS

By Stanton T. Friedman

Plasmas and UFOs

As Yogi Berra once said, "It's déjà vu all over again."

There was a lot of discussion the first two weeks of May about the soon to be widely released United Kingdom Ministry of Defense UFO Volume: "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) in the UK Air Defense Region."

The work in the report had actually been done between 1996 and 2000, and some had been classified SECRET because of some still censored information about radar.

A freedom of information request to the UK Ministry of Defense by four UK researchers seeking a copy had finally hit paydirt. For a week before the formal release on the internet, news articles appeared.

All stressed that the classified study consisting of more than 450 pages would be posted on the internet on May 15. Supposedly the study had found that UAPs (They didn't like the term UFOs) did not present a threat to the security of Great Britain. Most, it was said, could be explained as various blobs of plasma.

Frankly, I was incredulous. One blurb noted that there was supposedly a claim being made that this was only the second government-sponsored report in English about UFOs.

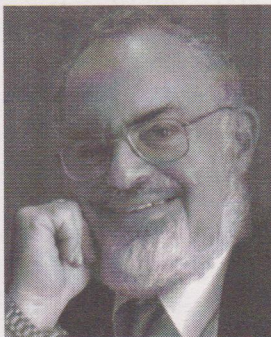
The University of Colorado "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects," done under the direction of physicist Edward U. Condon and usually referred to as the Condon report, was the other one.

The latter volume was finished at the end of 1968. Careful review indicates that 30% of the 117 cases studied in detail could not be identified.

Were the authors really unaware of Project Blue Book Special Report 14 with its more than 240 charts, tables, graphs, and maps discussing 3,201 sightings?

It was completed in 1955, and 21.5% of the cases could not be explained, separate from the 9.5% which had "insufficient Information."

Did they really not know about Project Grudge/Blue Book Reports 1-12? Or the Congressional Hearings (246 pages) of July 29, 1968, with testimony from 12 scientists including Carl



Stan Friedman

Sagan, J. Alan Hynek, James Harder, James E. McDonald, myself, et al?

These were all government-sponsored reports in English.

UFOs as plasmas is hardly a new notion. UFO debunker Philip Klass had published two articles in *Aviation Week and Space Technology* in 1966 suggesting a plasma explanation for most UFO sightings. He elaborated in detail in his first debunking book, *UFOs Identified*, published in 1968.

McDonald's work

Dr. James E. McDonald, who was a professor of physics in the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Arizona, had already been digging into UFOs for a couple of years.

He discussed Klass' strange totally unscientific hypotheses in great detail in 19 pages of his outstanding 40-page paper "UFOs: an International Scientific Problem" presented in Montreal on March 12, 1968, at the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute Astronautics Symposium.

There are 38 references in this paper. Jim used quantitative science techniques to show that none of Klass' many plasma and plasmoid explana-

tions could stand up to careful scrutiny.

Klass had even explained away the Betty and Barney Hill sighting of September, 1961, as a plasma phenomenon!. As might be expected, he came up with at least one other explanation later.

Jim dealt carefully with all aspects of Klass' theories, such as pollution being related to the plasma phenomenon, about meteor-produced plasma blobs, etc.

The simple fact of the matter, which was particularly impressive to me, having worked on plasmas related to the nuclear fusion propulsion system we were examining at Aerojet General Nucleonics in the early 1960s, was that Klass was shown to be wrong in every instance. Plasmas as the source of many UFO reports simply don't cut it.

Plasmoids as sources for UFOs was also a topic pursued diligently in an appendix of the Condon Report, "Atmospheric Electricity and Plasma Interpretations of UFOs" by Martin Altschuler.

It covered 32 pages and included 108 references. The report did not conclude that many sightings could be explained by plasma phenomenon.

In my Congressional Hearings paper, I, too, had discussed plasmas and UFOs, noting that indeed some plasmas might have been involved if they were located in the boundary layer around a flying saucer moving in the atmosphere.

Benefits of created plasma

Many papers had been published showing the great benefit that might be obtained if one created such a plasma and interacted with electric and/or magnetic fields produced on board the craft.

Experiments indicated that one might control lift, drag, heating, radar profile, and sonic boom production.

Plasmas were of great military concern because rocket nose cones enter-

ing back into the atmosphere would be going so fast that they would ionize the air, creating a plasma. Obviously it would be important to know how this would influence the drag and heating on the nose cone.

Targeting nose cones accurately requires that one know the drag and also the heating. I had a technical report literature search done in 1969 while at McDonnell Douglas on the topic "Magnetoaerodynamics."

It included 900 items, 90% of which were classified. There has obviously been a great deal of technical research done on plasmas and the atmosphere.

Many will recall that when the Apollo spacecraft returned from the Moon there was a communications blackout because of the plasma region produced adjacent to the spacecraft as it entered the atmosphere.

None of this was covered in the UK report. Instead they talked about meteors producing "buoyant plasma" that would move around and be mistaken for flying saucers!

Ball lightning not a match

Ball lightning was noted, though any comparison of size, color, and duration between the many reports of ball lightning and UFOs, as noted in BBSR 14, shows that the two groups don't match.

Klass had not made the comparison, although he liked BL as an explanation for many reports.

Of special importance is the fact that ball lightning is normally less than 2' in diameter and rarely lasts more than a few seconds.... And is essentially never noted where there haven't been storms.

Meteors do ionize the air, which is, generally speaking, why we see the ionized air rather than the usually small piece of rock or metal that is actually zooming along.

The MOD report also focuses on the work of Michael Persinger at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. He early on claimed that there was a connection between earthquake lights produced by friction in rocks at about the time of quakes and UFO sightings.

His correlation was, to say the least,

very loose. If there was an earthquake (even if only a magnitude 2 or 3) within 300 miles and a few months of a sighting, to him that meant correlation!

There are about a million earthquakes per year, and many thousands of sightings, so correlations are easy if one gives enough leeway in the timing and location. Christopher Rutkowski of the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg has published detailed rebuttals of Persinger's theories.

Obviously, many UFOs observed from aircraft many thousands of feet above the Earth are not produced by earthquakes.

Many people are not aware that plasmas are very important in all our lives. The sun and all stars are not masses of burning gas, but are plasmas: "electrically conducting fluids."

Fluorescent light bulbs have plasmas inside. Much radio wave propagation is produced by reflection from an ionized layer of the atmosphere. Scientists studying nuclear fusion work with plasmas all the time.

They vary greatly in their characteristics. Marconi's early transmission (1901) of radio waves across the ocean, rather than being limited to the line of sight between transmitter and receiving antenna, was made possible by a layer of plasma about 60 miles above the Earth, the ionosphere.

Some of the comments made in the advance publicity based on the summary were truly ludicrous, such as UAP do exist and are "usually described as coloured lights and sometimes shapes," which leaves out most sightings that are investigated and turn out to be unidentifiable!

Or "reports occur because they comprise unfamiliar and unexpected lights, shapes and patterns, in the context in which the observer sees them."

This doesn't really cover most pilot sightings of nearby craft, obviously metallic, and intelligently controlled, nor the few thousand physical trace cases collected by Ted Phillips wherein craft are seen on or near the ground before taking off.

Or "Rare weather, atmospheric conditions or other 'barely understood'

natural events could also be causes." And I could win the big lottery.

Or "No evidence exists to suggest that the phenomena seen are hostile or under any type of control, other than that of natural physical forces." Would somebody cleared only to Secret be aware of any hostility?

Secret versus Top Secret

Of particular significance is the simple fact that the study had only been classified SECRET. Those who have looked at the almost completely (about 95%) redacted 156 National Security Agency UFO documents "released" in 1997 know that they were classified TOP SECRET UMBRA.

The 4 CIA UFO documents found by the NSA, which it took me 5 years to obtain from the CIA under FOIA, all were classified TOP SECRET CODE Word and were very heavily censored.

Wilbert Smith's 1950 TOP SECRET report indicated that UFOs were the most classified subject in the USA. The FBI said the military considered the problem TOP SECRET.

As noted in my MUFON 2005 paper "Government UFO Lies," it is clear that orders had been given to shoot down UFOs if they didn't land when told to do so.

Gen. Bolender stated, "Reports of UFOs which could affect National Security were not part of the Blue Book System." The point is that no such material could be covered in a Plain Vanilla Secret document.

It is unfortunate that the author of the report has remained anonymous. It is thus impossible to know whether he was just ignorant and an unwitting pawn, or intentionally trying to deceive.

Supposedly the title given the document, the "Condign" Report, is just a random selection of letters! My dictionary says Condign means "well deserved, suitable...usually applied to punishment."

Anybody who buys this balderdash or the Condon report as the final word on UFOs or UAP deserves to be punished for being naïve.

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Director's Message

(Continued from page 2)

MUFON International UFO Symposium, *Unconventional Flying Objects: The Best Evidence*, are available in print or on CD-ROM for \$33 in the U.S. and Canada and \$42 for all other countries outside the U.S.

Position announcements

James King, of Albia, IA, has accepted the position of State Director for Iowa, replacing long-time State Director **Beverly Trout**. The new Assistant State Director for Iowa is **Patricia King**. Both James and Patricia are MUFON Lifetime Members.

Co-State Directors for Utah **Ron Regehr** and **Elaine Douglass** have appointed **Patrick Jones** of West Jordan, UT, to the position of Assistant State Director for Investigations.

Richard Moss, State Director for Minnesota, has appointed **Dennis Myers** of Redwood Falls, MN, to the position of State Section Director for the counties of Redwood, Renville, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Lyon, Brown, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Watonwan, Rock, Nobles, Jackson, and Martin.

These counties are located in the southwest corner of the state.

David Marler, State Director for Illinois, has appointed State Section Director **Vic Connor** from Normal, IL, to the position of Illinois Director of Investigations.

William E. Jones, State Director for Ohio, has appointed **Cassandra Klesch** of Valley City, OH, to the position of State Section Director for Richland County.

Judith Cameron of Fullerton, CA, has accepted the position of Consultant in Parapsychology.

Samuel Lamerson of Boynton Beach, FL, has accepted the position of Consultant in Ancient Greek Language.

Christopher Baffa of Redondo Beach, CA, has accepted the position

of Research Specialist in Film and Photo Analysis.

Paul McManigal of Newport Beach, CA, has accepted the position of Research Specialist in Anti-gravity.

Barbara Lamb of Claremont, CA, has accepted the position of Research Specialist in Abductions and in Crop Circle Research.

New Field Investigators

Kathleen Marden, Director of Field Investigator Training, has announced that **Danielle Baker** of Muncie, IN; **Donald Braffitt** of Blackburg, VA; **Lorna Hunter** of Long Prairie, MN; **Dan Lavilette** of Burlington, VT; **Michael Thompson** of Port Charles, FL; and **Timothy Whiteagle** of Eau Claire, WI; have passed the MUFON Field Investigator's Exam and are now MUFON Field Investigators.

All Field Investigator Trainees are urged to self-study the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual* and take the exam.

The manual is available from MUFON Headquarters for \$25 plus \$3.50 p&h in the U.S. Total price for delivery outside the U.S. is \$49.50. It may also be purchased on the Internet at www.mufon.com using PayPal.

New media by MUFON members

David Sereda's best-selling DVD titled *Dan Aykroyd: Unplugged on UFOs* has been re-released with new footage added.

Dan Aykroyd, whose personal experiences led him to a deeper study of this controversial phenomenon, explains why the subject is so important.

Compelling UFO footage, along with rare testimonials by astronaut **Gordon Cooper**, former Canadian Defense Minister **Paul Hellyer**, **John Schuessler**, and the late **Ronald Reagan**, give further credence to one of the greatest mysteries of our time.

Aykroyd and **Sereda** discuss recent findings, international UFO technology,

government cover-ups, and potential military intervention. Most interesting is **Aykroyd's** outspoken personal views on UFOs, extraterrestrials, quantum physics, and the age old question...Are we alone?

The DVD is available from theufostore.com for \$19.95.

TV documentary productions

Television documentary producers **John Greenewald, Jr.** and **Duane Tudahl**, of Weller-Grossman Productions in California, came to MUFON Headquarters in Denver in June to film interviews with **John Schuessler** and **Kenneth Storch** for use in two new UFO documentaries to air on the History Channel in the fall of 2006.

One of their previous productions titled "UFO Hunters" was extremely popular, and resulted in hundreds of inquiries to MUFON from people all over the United States.

The new productions will encompass UFO physical evidence presented by **Ted Phillips** and others, as well as crash-retrievals.

Free E-News publication

One of MUFON's goals is public education and the free flow of UFO information.

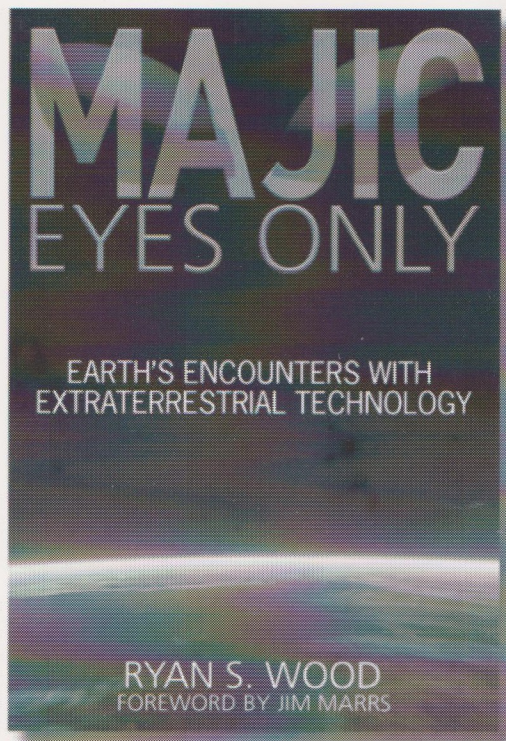
This is accomplished through the publication of the *MUFON UFO Journal*, holding an annual International UFO Symposium, hosting local UFO meetings, publishing special reports and proceedings of the symposiums, and the MUFON website at www.mufon.com.

In addition, MUFON issues a free monthly E-News magazine containing the latest information on UFOs, science, and space.

To obtain the MUFON E-News, all you need to do is go to the MUFON website and click on "Join Our Mailing List" on the upper right tool bar.

We usually issue at least one E-Newsletter and one special report each month.

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For advertising, contact John Schuessler at schuessler@mho.net, 303-948-6224



The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

Moon Phases:

First Quarter Aug. 2

Full Moon Aug. 9

Last Quarter Aug. 16

New Moon Aug. 23

First Quarter Aug. 31

Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

Mars (magnitude 1.8): Moving from Leo to Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will be difficult to observe until December. For more favored southern hemisphere observers, Mars will be visible very low in the W at evening twilight and will set less than 2 hours after the Sun in the W.

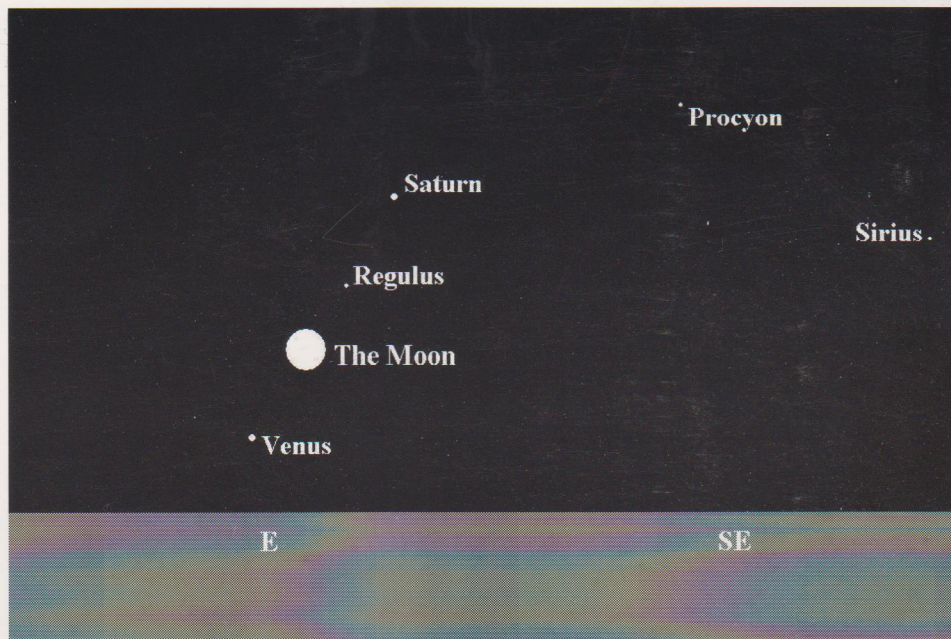
Jupiter (magnitude -2.1 to -2.0): In Libra. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will be visible very low in the W-SW at the end of evening twilight and will set in the W-SW near 10 PM. For favored southern observers, Jupiter will stand about 60 degrees high in the W-NW at the end of evening twilight, and will set in the W-SW near 11:30 PM.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

Mercury (magnitude 1.3 to -1.3): Moving from Gemini through Cancer into Leo. For northern and southern hemisphere observers Mercury will brighten as it slowly emerges in morning twilight in the E-NE during the second half of the month, but shortly thereafter will become lost in the glare of the Sun.

Venus (magnitude -3.8): Moving from Gemini through Cancer into Leo. For northern hemisphere observers Venus will rise less than 2 hours before the Sun, and will be visible only during morning twilight very low in the E-NE. For southern hemisphere observers Venus will be observed with difficulty very low in the E-NE during morning twilight.

Saturn (magnitude 0.3 to 0.4): Moving from Cancer to Leo. For northern hemisphere observers Saturn will slowly emerge during the second half of the month. By month's end Saturn



Planetary grouping: Aug. 21, 2006, before sunrise.

will be very low in the E-NE during morning twilight. For less favored southern hemisphere observers Saturn will be very difficult to observe.

Perseids meteor showers:

Date: Aug 10-15 (peaking on Aug. 13). **Rate:** 66/hour

August is a great time to look at the sky after midnight, and the year's best meteor shower, called the Perseids, always occurs during this month.

The Perseid Meteor shower occurs when the Earth passes through the orbit of comet Swift-Tuttle, a comet discovered back in 1862, and returns to the inner solar system ever 128 years—its last visit was in 1992.

Rates might exceed 100/hour (but in 1994 some observers counted several hundred to a thousand or more during its one-hour peak).

There is a wide variety of meteors, the fainter ones being white or yellow, and brighter ones green, orange or red. About 1/3 leave trails. Occasional fireballs will be seen, often ending in bursts. This is a very good photographic shower.

The best time to view is after midnight in the early hours of the morning of the 12th. Look to the northeast about 66 degrees above the horizon

Unfortunately the last quarter Moon will be a factor as it will be in close proximity to the constellation Perseus.

