

Civil Defense Director Watches 'Flying Saucer'

GOLDEN GATE Handicap—Results

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Eerie 1896 Sighting

By JIM HAZELWOOD

The so-called unidentified flying objects (UFOs) seen Sunday in Michigan by at least 60 people, recall a bizarre story which appeared in The Tribune 70 years ago.

The date was Nov. 23, 1896, and it reported that many persons saw an "airship" flying over Oakland.

But this date was 10 years before the Wright brothers made the first successful heavier-than-air flight at Kitty Hawk.

Aerial balloons, however, had been known for decades.

The Oakland "airship" was the talk of the town for days and a number of other sightings were reported, from as far away as Red Bluff.

"Although the original story said the craft resembled a "huge bird," later sightings described it as egg-shaped with lights at both ends.

It should be borne in mind that shapes of aircraft and estimates of airspeed were still sciences of the future when the following story, reproduced in part, was written.

"That a huge airship has been hovering over Oakland for the last few nights has been conclusively proven. A number of persons whose integrity is unquestionable have seen the strange navigator of the air and this number includes many whose skepticism has been pronounced.

"Last evening at about 7:30 o'clock, the passengers on an Alameda car were startled by the sight of a brilliant stream of light high in the heavens off in the direction of Hayward.

"The passengers distinctly saw the outline of an airship and watched its maneuvers high in the sky. The ship resembles a huge bird in its outlines and seemed to rise and fall in its course. A light streamed from the head of the ship, throwing a white stream of light for several hundred yards.

"As the outlines of the airship were plainly discerned, the passengers in the street car became greatly excited.

"The phenomenon had first been noted by a man who had been idly watching the heavens.

As soon as he perceived the light, he attracted the attention of the other passengers and all, intensely interested, watched the peculiar machine as it made its way through the skies.

"It was high in the heavens. It appeared to be of huge size. When first seen, it seemed to be floating over San Leandro. It moved rapidly, going at least 20 miles an hour. It shot across the skies to the northwest, then it turned quickly and disappeared in the direction of Hayward.

"Not only was the airship seen by the passengers, but many other residents of this city distinctly saw the brilliant light and the huge bird-like body floating in mid-air.

"None of the spectators were acquainted with each other and yet their stories are startlingly similar, agreeing as to time, direction of the airship, and description."

"These facts leave little doubt in the minds of many people that a successful airship has been invented and is navigating the heavens."

87 Coeds Observe 'Object'

HILLSDALE, Mich. (UPI)—A county civil defense director and 87 co-eds said today they watched an eerie, hovering flying object settle in a swampy hollow near a college dormitory last night.

William Van Horn, 41, Hillsdale county civil defense director for 10 years, said he watched the unidentified object through binoculars for three hours.

It was the second straight night a large number of witnesses reported seeing weird unidentified flying objects in Southern Michigan. Sunday night a dozen policemen and at least 40 other persons watched a similar object, guarded by four sister ships, land in a swamp about 45 miles northeast of here near Ann Arbor, Mich.

SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANT

The Air Force announced it was calling in Dr. H. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and scientific consultant to the Air Force's UFO study program, to investigate the rash of sightings.

Hynek will work from Selfridge Air Force Base at Mount Clemens, Mich., the Air Force said.

Van Horn said he joined the 87 Hillsdale college co-eds and their housemothers to watch the object. He said it emitted waning orange, red and white lights and appeared to hover just above the swamp some 1,000 to 1,500 yards from the dormitory.

It was still there when he left about 1:30 a.m. today, he said.

"It was definitely some kind of vehicle," Van Horn said. He said it changed from orange to red, perhaps with a rotating light of some kind, and had a white light at one end.

"From all appearances it did not appear to be sitting on the ground as it moved back and forth across the ground," he said.

HAMOPERATORS

Thunderstorms lashed the area as Van Horn and the college girls watched from a second floor dormitory window. Police sent three squad cars but officers reported the object was not visible from the road.

Van Horn said he saw three similar objects in the air Friday night. He said William Vincent, coordinator of a ham radio club, saw some 40 sightings reported several UFO sightings in this area during the past 10 days.

"Van Horn said he could not establish the object's shape.

"Through the glasses it was either round or oblong," he said.

"I think that what makes the light on these things change colors is that they are rotating in a circular motion.

"Van Horn was called by girls at the dormitory. The co-eds reported the object alternately glowing red, white, blue and other colors.

They said it rose up and down, appeared to stop its ascent and sink again just when it was about to move into the glow from a nearby airport beacon light.

Its vertical and horizontal movements were too fast for any airplane, the girls said.

The announcement that Hynek was being called in came from Selfridge, a base near Detroit which dodged newsmen's inquiries Monday about the object seen in a swamp near Ann Arbor.

Binghamton, N. Y., October 24, 1965

THE SUNDAY PRESS

ENCOUNTER WITH A SPACE SHIP

'I Know What I Saw'; Egg-Shaped Craft

By KEITH GEORGE
Newark Valley—Gary T. Wilcox is a young man dogged by rumors.

People say his dairy farm has gone bust because nothing will grow on the land.

Others who meet him on the street express surprise, saying they heard he was in a New York City hospital suffering from radiation burns.

One story has it his land is under guard for government study and that there is a darkened patch in his pasture where nothing will grow.

The handsome, 28-year-old farmer says none of these tales is true.

But the strangest of all, and the basis for the rumors, is his encounter with a space ship and his talk with its crew 17 months ago.

That happened, Mr. Wilcox says.

"I know what I saw for two hours. I was talking with them and even joking with them."

Mr. Wilcox touched the metallic-like, egg-shaped craft and heard its strangely garbed occupants explain in smooth English they were from Mars, he said. When he turned to get them a bag of fertilizer, as they requested, the ship lifted off the ground and was out of sight in seconds.

In the weeks after he reported the incident to the Tioga County Sheriff's Department, several people visited his farm by way of fertilizer, as they requested, the ship lifted off the ground and was out of sight in seconds.

They included men who said they were from government agencies and others who identified themselves as officials of the IBM Space Guidance Center in nearby Owego, the farmer said. Most were just residents who wanted to see the landing spot for themselves.

One man who also claimed



GARY WILCOX

the farmer was in a hayloft, pitching down feed for the nighttime snack of his 60 cows.

"I only have so much time to get this work done, so I can't stop," he said. "This is the kind of work you should be doing," he joked. "Talking care of 60 cows and working at another job, too."

Mr. Wilcox has an afternoon and evening job as janitor at Berkshire School.

"I don't know where all these stories are coming from now. I thought it was all over last year, but now everybody is talking again."

"The best one is about me being in a New York City hospital with radiation burns. People have said they heard it on the radio. I've never been in a hospital in my life."

"Then some woman put in the newspaper that there was no grass growing where that thing landed. There was never much growing there. But there's corn now."

"Nobody ever talked to me about these things. They just keep telling stories."

In answer to a question, Mr. Wilcox said his sighting of the mysterious craft and its crew and the widespread speculation over the report has not hurt his personal life.

"I just don't worry about it. I know what I saw and other people have seen things. I even thought somebody was playing a joke on me, but I was never in a hospital and I saw another one today. I do the same thing. Then people would say I'm crazy."

Mr. Wilcox, who is unmarried and lives in the village, feeds and cares for the stock in the mornings. A man whose family lives in the hamlet of the 300-acre farm does the milking. Mr. Wilcox also owns a farm near Owego where he grows feed crops, he said.

He gave the impression that he would like to believe the whole episode was a joke of some type, yet knows it wasn't. He said he thinks eventually the explanation will be supplied, to him and the rest of the world.

"A man down in Berkshire says he saw something like this recently, too. I'm not the only one."

The two human-like creatures whose features were hidden under uniforms and hoods, may be seen by space travelers, he said.

But he has no better explanation.

On his way home, the reporter stopped at a diner and invited flying saucer conversation from the waitress.

"That's where they say it landed," she said, pointing out the window. "Right over the hill. I don't think he was stretching the truth. He's a reliable man and if he says he saw it, I believe him. They say there's a spot up there where no grass will grow because of the fuel it was using."

Tuesday, May 10, 1966

* GALLUP POLL

Than 5 Million People They Saw Flying Saucers

This awareness score is one of the highest in the 30-year history of the Gallup Poll.

Are flying saucers a hoax? Philip Easter of Baltimore, Md., told one of our interviewers this story: "It was dark and I had just come out of a building. I looked up and saw this object hovering in the dark sky above me. It was very bright and stayed in about the same position for several minutes. At first I thought it was a planet, but I knew it couldn't be because of the way it moved."

Harold Slope tells of the time last June when he was driving through Topeka, Kansas:

"It was very late — about 1:30 in the morning. I saw this round-shaped object in the sky ahead of me. It was extremely bright and I could notice a greenish hue. By the time I stopped the car and got out, it had disappeared."

A New Jersey housewife was startled during the night recently:

"It was about three in the morning," she relates, "I was suddenly awakened by a very bright light outside. I got up and looked out the window. The whole area seemed to be lit up like a phosphorus fire. I could hear strange sounds, like the ringing of bells. I know it sounds strange, but the next day several people about 20 miles away reported a similar experience and at almost exactly the same time."

Further analysis of these data show that flying saucer sightings are not necessarily a phenomenon of certain population groups. Similar proportions of college educated persons, and those who have not gone beyond grade school claim to have seen them.

Real or Imaginary?

Are flying saucers real or imaginary? We asked this question, with surprising results. Although the Air Force claims that nearly all of the reported "saucer" sightings are easily explained, as meteors, weather balloons, swamp gases, planets, etc., more Americans think they are "real" than believe they are "imaginary." Forty-six per cent (or about half of the U.S. adult population) hold this opinion, while 28 per cent describe them as "a figment of the imagination." The rest cannot make up their minds.

This represents quite a change in public attitudes toward the credibility of "flying saucers" since a Gallup survey conducted almost 20 years ago. At that time—shortly after the flying saucers were first noted—four out of every ten called the saucers either a hoax or the product of some overheated imagination. In 1950, another Gallup survey showed that attitudes had begun to change. More persons that year held the view that the saucers were a reality.

In weighing what evidence there is about the credibility of flying saucers it is important to note that while most of the reported sightings have been explained, according to Air Force reports, there are still many sightings without explanation. Persons with college training are more likely to believe in the reality of flying saucers than are persons with a high school background, or less.

Among those persons who believe flying saucers have an explanation, that is, those who think they are "real," here is how they describe them:

- 1) Experimental projects, Air Force tests
- 2) Actual vehicles from outer space
- 3) Burning gas, "swamp gas"
- 4) Meteors, shooting stars
- 5) Weather balloons
- 6) Supernatural revelations

Those who believe they are from outer space account for 67 per cent.

Life on Other Planets?

Do people who are living in the space age believe there is life, as we know it, on other planets?

Many scientific authorities believe that intelligent life must exist elsewhere in the universe, because the statistical odds are large that there are millions of planets in the universe enough like our own to support life, as we know it.

One person in every three (34 per cent) who participated in this survey said they "believe life does exist on other planets."

Again, persons with the most education are most inclined to believe in the existence of intelligent life on other planets.

THE SHEBOYGAN PRESS, Monday, April 18, 1966

Sheriff Aides Chase A UFO; Were 'Close'

RAVENNA, Ohio (AP)—"We were close, closer than I ever want to be again," said a deputy sheriff who chased an unidentified flying object from Ohio into Pennsylvania.

Hundreds of persons in both states reported seeing the "brilliant and shiny" object early Sunday morning.

Police Chief Gerald Buchert of Mantua, about eight miles north of Ravenna, said he took a picture of the object from his front yard but the Air Force told him not to release it.

2) Actual vehicles from outer space

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The Ventura County (Calif.) Star-Free Press 4-1-66

Two In County Claim They Saw 'Glowing' UFO

At least two Ventura County people saw a glowing object Wednesday night, shooting downward over the Point Mugu area.

Mrs. Marvin Miller of 196 Pacific St., Ventura, said today that she spotted the object at 8:55 p.m. Wednesday as she and her husband were returning from Los Angeles.

She said that she noticed it as they were driving through Thousand Oaks. "It looked like an airplane in a dive at first," Mrs. Miller said, "but then I saw a glowing tail and sparks began to shoot off. This dispelled my idea about an airplane."

At the same time, about 20 miles to the north, a Fillmore man saw what appeared to be a plane. "It was in a dive," said Alvin Caples of 831 Olive St., Fillmore.