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The MUFON UFO JOURNAL revisits the 1977 MUFON UFO SYMPOSIUM  
in Scottsdale, Arizona on July 16 and 17, 1977.

# MUFON UFO JOURNAL

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## FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue, I regretfully announce my resignation as editor.

I feel that, at the present time, my efforts in ufology can best be spent in private research.

I wish to thank all my correspondents for their encouragement and advice. In particular, I wish to thank Lucius Farish, Ann Druffel, and Richard Hall

for their help in preparing each month's JOURNAL.

To all of those who submitted material to the JOURNAL, my special thanks. I hope to see many of you on my upcoming travels throughout the nation.

In the meantime, I hope the MUFON UFO JOURNAL will continue to be a publication of objective, scientific ufology. Good Bye!

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# UFOs Over The Waldviertel Highlands

By Ernst Berger  
MUFON Central European Section  
(Edited by Richard Hall)

On January 9, 1975, a cold and clear Thursday with a starry evening sky and a slight southwestern breeze, Mr. Josef Pritz, uncle of Hans Pritz, went outside his house at the Wachtstein road to watch the stars at 8:00 p.m. The thick-set old man (age 65) glanced down the hill into the low northwest where a path around Wachtstein, the famous granite boulders, is flanked by large slender pine trees. He later described to us in broad highland dialect what he saw.

"Well, tellya, I came out and suddenly I saw it...up there (elevation 13/15 degrees) between those trees (see sketch). And it moved to the right, the stuff, and got hands—first three upwards, then two long ones downwards... at a glance. Funny show, I thought, huh." A sketch prepared by the witness, who is fond of drawing, shows the most bizarre shape we have ever come across in our Austrian investigations: A round body with a cornflowerblue rim melting into a yellow center and around it five hand-like projections with blue, celadon (grayish yellow-green—Ed.) and yellow sections, in a peculiar arrangement like a colorful "sky clock."

(Uncle Pritz, an artist, pointed out the colors on a color chart. He said the entire object appeared flat. Reconstructing the scene, Berger obtained measurements of about 50 min for the round object, 2 degrees 10 minutes for the upper "hands," and 3 degrees 40 minutes

for a lower "hand." Something like thin thread filled the gaps between the "hands."—Ed.)

Seconds after the hands appeared, Uncle Pritz continued, "the whole gadget thundered down with its hands, at a twitch, and was gone. Switched off, call it what you want. I noticed a dark shape in the place (the object had left), like the new moon or a dark something behind a curtain." (For 15 minutes thereafter, Pritz watched some star-like objects apparently cavorting up and down and sideways. A pattern of three star-like lights between 7 and 8 o'clock, the largest at the top, and the smaller two forming the base of a triangle, has been seen repeatedly by Josef and Hans Pritz.—Ed.)

On the clear evening of January 13, 1975 at 7:40 p.m., Uncle Pritz stepped out of the front door of his house. "Now, I said, what's that? That star was standing up there. (Josef Pritz always called the objects "stars" regardless of their size—E.B.)

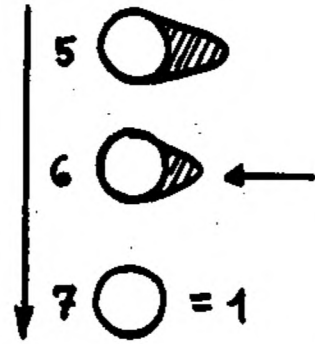
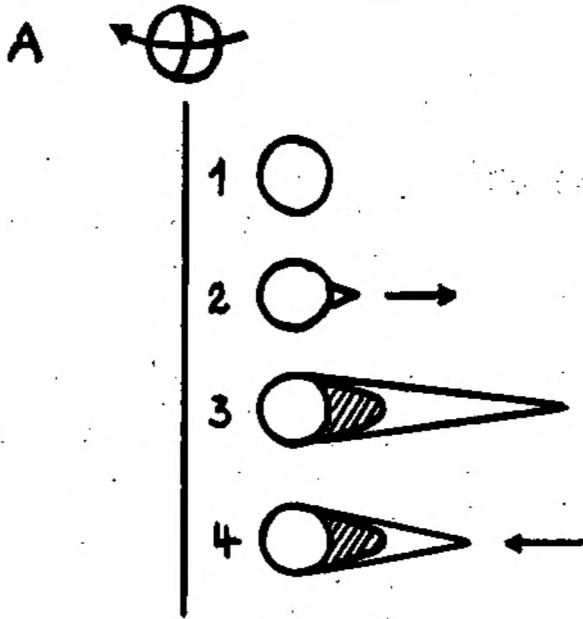
Suddenly it had two clock hands with a blue sparkle, no red edges this time, and I read: nine o'clock." The motionless object had a yellow center and a blue edge again, but the "clock hands" were a uniform bluish color, a long one upwards, a short one to the left forming the "nine o'clock" position. "The hands shone like the star," Uncle Pritz said, "and (downwards) there were two transparent hands, you see, not filled up, only yellowish-

green." Thin rays or "thread" again filled the gaps between the hands. The small "hour hand" changed back and forth from left to right to left, between the 9 and 3 o'clock positions. The hands were visible for about a minute, then vanished.

"Well, seems they needed no hands for the next round. (Uncle Pritz grinned). The star stood still, and you'd see clearly something pushed out, like a two meter cannon barrel, or a big car exhaust pipe. Said to myself: Hey, what's the matter now? ARE they goin' to shoot?" (Pritz was a soldier in World War II for four years). He pointed at brown in our color table, but added that there was no illumination to the shape which came out quickly from the lower right, pointing towards the woods at about 45 degrees. "Would say the barrel was even longer than the star. And they didn't give me a chance to stop wonderin'. A long trail of sparks, a real burst of fire, spurted out of the barrel. I thought Boy, they're shooting! Take cover or you'll be killed! Flung myself right there (in the corner behind the front porch). The sparks flew pretty far."

The scene, as described by Josef Pritz, was a stationary thing of roughly full moon diameter shooting out a sloping stream of parallel-flying, long sparks down into the Wachtstein woods, "like glowing nails, blood red, falling like bundles of sparks from a locomotive...no

SOME STRUCTURED OBJECTS SEEN IN THE TRAUNSTEIN AREA  
(August 1973 through March 1975)



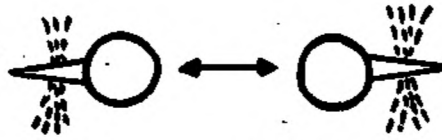
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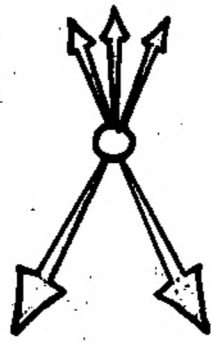
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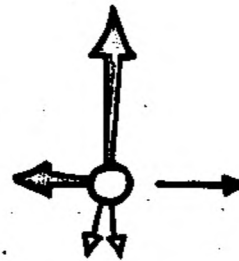
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S Poeggstall Dec 74



"clock 1"



"clock 2"

Jan 75



Dec 74

Traunstein

Gross Weissenbach Mar 75



sound, the thing was silence itself." The sparks seemed to burn out in flight; the "target" was at 320/325 azimuth, behind two old conifers, which were not affected or illuminated. After 10 minutes "all was gone at a glance; even the star," except for a "small star" zig-zagging again at the end of the sighting.

"First I thought the Czechs (the Iron Curtain is only 35 km to the NW--E.B.) were busy with some military operations, but they can't make up a star with their searchlights, and you'd see the cone leading up. There were no clouds and no such beam, I can't understand it." We were struck by the French photograph of an object and four "bars" pointing downwards, allegedly taken by a doctor near Tavernes, France, on the night of March 23, 1974 which reached us after our first talk with Uncle Pritz.

On January 17, 1975, Hans and Josef Pritz went outside at 8:45 p.m. and saw the triangular formation of three "stars" in the northern sky, the uppermost as bright as Jupiter. The upper object, exactly in the place where the first "Clock" had appeared, was in motion. Hans Pritz, who used his binoculars throughout, provided us with the best technical description of a "classical dogfight" we have in our records so far. "The big (upper) one would go left and right (horizontally), then up and down (vertically), then do a circle (clockwise)," he said. "One time I even saw it approach us in kind of a slalom race motion, wiggling, and draw back quickly...And besides you's see it move along within the next half hour more than a star

would do." (More details of the motions, collectively moving to the right very gradually, and the positions follows--Ed.)

Hans Pritz, his fiance and some friends, left Traunstein headed for Zwettl in Pritz's Renault about 7:45 p.m. March 1, 1975. About 8:00 p.m. they reached B-36 at Grafenschlag. At a bend before entering Gross Weissenbach an object caught Pritz's eye. (It was possible for me to drive the same stretch with Hans before completion of this report). "It looked like it was over or behind the wood to the left, a red spot, but not only a spot, it had a certain shape, like a dirigible...it was red, a fiery red glow of an oblong body." We interrupted with the color table. "Can't find the red color, only carmine would fit it...Do you know how the sun looks at sunset, red?...all the landscape around it was bathed with light."

(Pritz started to slow the car, but his companions urged him to continue, insisting it was only a fire. A later check revealed no fire in the area. To the right of the elliptical object Pritz saw three evenly-spaced spheres about 1 degree apart, gleaming yellow and seemingly segmented into many parts like a jig-saw puzzle, and at least half the size of the full moon. He didn't point these out to his passengers, but drove on and saw the ellipse again from another angle. A triangulation based on the two observation points gave a size of 50 meters by 10-12 meters for the ellipse from a distance of 900 meters; assuming the same distance for the spheres gave them a diameter of 5 meters.--Ed.)

## 1977 MUFON SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

(166 pages)

UFOs: WHAT'S YOUR BALL GAME? by  
Thomas M. Gates, Sunnyvale, Calif. MUFON  
Consultant in Astronomy

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF UFO RADIATION  
BY James M. McCampbell, Belmont, Calif.,  
MUFON Director of Research and Author of  
UFOLOGY.

UFO INVESTIGATIONS by Bill Pitts, Fort  
Smith, Ark. MUFON State Director for  
Arkansas

WHY THE COVER-UP? by Richard Gottlieb,  
Phoenix, Arizona Member of Ground Sencer  
Watch (GSW, Inc.) Research Board

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD OF INVESTIGATING  
UFOs by John L. Warren, Ph.D. Los  
Alamos, New Mexico. MUFON Consultant  
in Physics and State Director for New Mexico

FUTURE PHYSICS AND ANTI-GRAVITY by  
William F. Hassel, Ph.D., Woodland Hills,  
Calif., MUFON Consultant and State Section  
Director

MODERN IMAGE PROCESSING REVISITS  
THE GREAT FALLS, MONTANA AND  
TREMONTON, UTAH MOVIES by William  
H. Spaulding, Phoenix, Ariz., Director of GSW,  
Inc., MUFON State Director for Arizona and  
Photographic Consultant

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM HYPNOSIS  
OF IMAGINARY ABDUCTEES? by Alvin  
H. Lawson, Ph.D., Garden Grove, Calif.  
MUFON State Section Director for Orange  
County

SCIENCE FICTION, SCIENCE, AND UFOs by  
Stanton T. Friedman, Nuclear Physicist, UFO  
Lecturer, and MUFON Consultant in Nuclear  
Physics

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# 1977 MUFON Symposium

## The Eighth Annual MUFON UFO Symposium

Scottsdale, Arizona

July 16 and 17, 1977

by Walt Andrus

"Scientific UFO Research: Position of the UFO Movement on our 30th Anniversary!" This theme commemorated the anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting on June 24, 1947 inaugurating the modern era of flying saucers. The facilities of the beautiful Safari Resort Hotel in Scottsdale, Arizona were ideal for this symposium, since all of the accommodations were confined to one location. The people of GSW, and MUFON of Arizona are to be congratulated for the professional manner in which

they planned and implemented the conference. The roster of speakers and workshop moderators was truly superb.

For those people who were unable to attend, we recommend that you purchase a copy of the 1977 MUFON UFO Symposium Proceedings which contains not only the published papers of the speakers, but two additional papers submitted by James M. McCampbell titled "Further Evidence of UFO Radiation" and the second by Richard Gottlieb asking the question "Why the Cover-Up?" MUFON

is indebted to the fine people who helped to make the 1977 Symposium Proceedings one of our very best. Commendations are due to Mrs. Virginia Castner for typing the published papers, Donald R. Tucker for the unique cover artwork, Bill Slaughter for typesetting titles and to Mrs. Diane Slaughter, our MUFON Office Secretary, for typing.

Since all of the speakers papers are available in the published proceedings, we would like to present at this time only the highlights of each speaker's presentation:



**THOMAS  
GATES**

"UFOs: What's Your Ball Game?" presented by Thomas M. Gates, a planetarium director living in Sunnyvale, CA, actually provided the keynote speech to set the stage for those who followed him. A sub-title to Tom's speech could have been, "So, what's a nice guy like you doing in UFOs?" This was prompted by his evaluation of why people have an interest in UFOs and their specific motivations. Too often, some of the people involved lose sight of our mutual goal to resolve the UFO phenomenon and become engaged in a struggle for status, using ridicule, guilting and a

variety of other tactics to pursue their emotional aims. He discussed some of the studies done by Dr. Harold Puthoff, one of the principal investigators of ESP phenomena at Stanford Research Institute at Menlo Park, CA, and how this information could be utilized in obtaining reliable information and descriptions from witnesses to UFO sightings.



**ALVIN  
LAWSON**

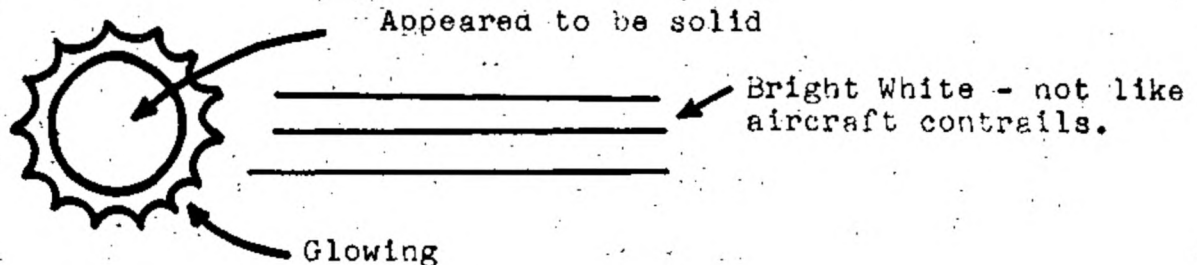
With the apparent increase in reported abduction cases where time lapses have been involved, the paper titled "What Can We Learn from Abduction Cases?" by Alvin H. Lawson, Ph.D. of Garden Grove, CA, was a study to determine the validity and value of hypnotic regression as a means of recovering details by the witness of the UFO experience. Dr. Lawson, best describes the study being conducted by Dr. William C. McCall, a medical doctor with decades of clinical hypnosis experience and himself in his abstract.

A series of imaginary UFO "abductions" were induced hypnotically in a group of selected subjects of varied ages with no significant knowledge of UFOs. Eight situational questions comprising the major components of a "real" abduction were asked of each subject. Responses indicated a wide range of imaginative invention, but an averaged comparison of the imaginary sessions with "real" regressions from the literature indicated almost no substantive differences. Many presumably obscure "patterns" from UFO literature emerged in the imaginary narratives. In addition, there was evidence that ESP-type effects were manifested during some of the hypnosis sessions. The implications of the study for future hypnotic regression of Close Encounter cases, and for abduction cases now deemed of the highest credibility, are unclear at this time.

(Continued on page 19)

# UFOS OVER ESSEX COUNTY

By Raymond Fowler



Subject: MUFON UFO Report  
Type Of Report: General  
Date Of Report: 28 January 1976  
Date Of UFO Sighting: 9 Jan. 1976  
Time Of UFO Sighting: 1330hrs EST  
Place Of UFO Sighting: Gloucester, Massachusetts, Essex County, USA  
Local Evaluation: Unknown

Witness Robert Sampson reported his UFO sighting by phoning my home on the evening of 9 January 1976. Robert is volunteer radiological monitor for MUFON MASS and thus was acquainted with me.

At the time of the sighting, Robert Sampson, age 45, of 9 Juniper Road, Gloucester, Mass. a high school teacher, was administering an examination to his science class at the Ralph B. O'Maly Middle School, Cherry Street, Gloucester, Mass.

Joseph Aiello, age 14, 4 Leighton Court, Gloucester, Mass., called Robert's attention to an object he had observed through a window for about 10 seconds. Robert and Joseph viewed it for another 5 seconds. It was white, globe-

shaped and exhibited a yellow glowing band around its circumference. It was first noticed in the NE and moved in an arc to the N like a bullet would fall in trajectory before disappearing over the horizon. It left bright white, rapidly dissipating streaks in its wake which were totally dissimilar to normal aircraft contrails. It was first noticed at an elevation of 60 degrees and moved over the distant horizon. When first sighted by Joseph, its apparent diameter was the apparent size of the full moon. When first sighted by Robert, distance had shrunk its apparent size to that of 1/4 that of the full moon. No one else in the class viewed the object. The object's flight path was continuous with no abrupt maneuvers. The weather was clear, visibility 15 miles with no ceiling.

Balloon spider web reflecting sun has been reported as a UFO in the past but in the Autumn months. Wind direction and speed appear to negate this possibility. No other natural phenomena fits the UFO's description.

Weather balloon was ruled out because sighting was not compatible with normal launch times from Chatham, Ma (75 miles to SSE) and because UFO moved contrary to wind direction and speed. Pinpointing the presence of conventional aircraft in this area would be impossible because many aircraft do not file flight plan, etc. See Evaluation for further comment re. possible aircraft.

Witness well-known to Investigator. He holds a responsible teaching position and is a realtor part-time. He holds a Masters Degree in Biology and was a radar/sonar operator in the U.S. Navy. I consider Robert Sampson a reliable and competent observer. Joseph Aiello is one of Mr. Sampson's best science students.

## Sighting Evaluation

A weather balloon was ruled out because of object description; speed; contrails; NWS launch times and wind direction/speed. The wind was from the WNW at 10 mph. The UFO was moving S-N at 4 degrees per second. (It moved



## *The Pentagon Pantry Is Not Bare! part 2*

As far as Hall's claims that I went to Goddard with foreknowledge the Frankel had done analysis of alleged UFO artifacts for the government, that is true. The fact that I did not react with fear to such knowledge should disprove Hall's intimations of paranoia on my part. Hall's reference to my omitting a sentence from his letter (June 25, 1964) regarding Frankel's prior connection with government UFO analysis is a non sequitur. That played no part in my agreeing to use Goddard and Frankel for the analysis. I did not take that fact as in any way ominous and one wonders why Hall should even think that I should have (at the time)—as he seems to be saying.

Hall's bringing up all that history tends to conceal the fact that he told me, in a 1975 phone conversation that (see p. 151), "I found out later (my italics) that Frankel worked closely with the FBI over the years, and was possibly even under contract with them from time to time." Hall says this is a "grossly misleading distortion...I was simply reminding him of what we both knew at the time (1964)." That statement seems to be evidence in other circumstances). The reason I say this is that the first time I ever learned from Hall of Frankel's FBI involvement was in the 1975 phone conversation with Dick quoted earlier. Hall said he had subsequently (since 1964) learned it from a kinfolk of his involved in work with a federal intelligence gathering operation, the nature and name of which Hall

made it clear should not be divulged. If Hall knew of Frankel's reported FBI involvement back in 1964, then his memory lapsed when he said on the phone in 1975 "I found out later," and was negligent in 1964 in not telling me. (His June 25, 1964, letter only says that Frankel had analyzed reported UFO material for the government. It does not mention the FBI.)

Hall did tell me he could now believe that a coverup might have occurred, because of Frankel's FBI past. I have no reason to distort the facts as Hall suggests. I did not say, as he implies, that Hall was, in 1975, "believing" (Hall's word in his article) in a coverup. I said that he said he "Could" believe, that a coverup might possibly have occurred, considering his new knowledge of Frankel's FBI connection.

Hall says that, "Stanford (p. 151-152) characterizes my published report on the analysis as 'highly distorted' and accuses me of 'intellectual dishonesty' in the way it was reported." Yet he never tells the MUFON JOURNAL reader just where he published that report. In the first place, I had no way of knowing who at NICAP had written the report and my reference was only to NICAP, never mentioning Hall in that context. I did not accuse Hall. Hall says, "I published the results of the one and only analysis report ever given me..." Yet, in his own MUFON JOURNAL article he admits that Dr. Frankel called him and reported the finding of "a zinc-iron alloy." Yet, the

report (now self-acknowledged to have been written by Hall) in NICAP's *The UFO INVESTIGATOR*, September-October, 1964, only said the Socorro sample "...has been identified as silica." IT DID NOT TELL OF THE FIRST AND HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT REPORT.

I recommend the reader do exactly as Hall suggests and compare his treatment of the facts of the Socorro zinc-iron alloy incident as reported in NICAP's *The UFO INVESTIGATOR* to my own. Hall did not do justice to possibly important evidence or to the NICAP membership by not mentioning Frankel's first report by telephone. He also stated that the analysis was done by "a top Wahsington laboratory," but calling Goddard that is not a serious distortion.

Hall is fencing with a straw man in his criticism of my mentioning that police personnel, for whom Zamora described or drew the symbol first-hand, told me what seemingly contradicts the later reports. Objective reporting demanded that I do so. But, Hall overlooks my reason (explained in the book) for telling the whole story. Concerning my handwritten letter of May 3, 1964, to Hall, my intentions were certainly not to suggest that NICAP "coverup" anything. Instead, I was recommending the temporary withholding of information on the actual symbol seen on the side of the Socorro object, so that there might be an otherwise impossible to obtain outside independent valid-

ation via subsequent reports. Then the publication of the actual symbol would be particularly meaningful once the scientific 'control' of temporarily withholding the facts had served its purpose or until it seemed unlikely that corresponding accounts would come in. Some UFO researchers' all too great enthusiasm to rush stories into print merely to say "we got it first" tends to prevent otherwise valuable outside substantiations while fueling the fires of hoax. A little constraint could go far toward providing more substantial convergent evidence in the long run.

Hall makes indefensible accusations reflective upon my personality and basic character, not to mention reputation. I shall now demonstrate, by quoting Hall's article and letters from him to me, that his attack on my former, teenaged beliefs (I am now 39), and upon my work as a psychic, showed disregard for facts of which he had long been aware.

First, Hall says that I present myself in the book as the scientific "brains" (his quote marks) of Project Starlight International (P.S.I.). Here, as elsewhere in his article, Hall uses a propaganda technique never used in careful reporting: he encloses words in quote marks as if they were said by another (me in this case) when they are really his own creations. The book only says that I am the P.S.I. director, not the equipment engineer, nor that I occupy any other of the paid staff positions in P.S.I.

Hall goes on to state, "What I did not know at the time...was that Stanford himself was a full-fledged 'contactee'." He quotes

a foolish article I wrote at the ripe old age of eighteen—when I was a full believer in Adamski and before I uncovered material to expose Adamski—in order to impugn my reputation now, twenty years later.

The facts are that Hall has long known, from the contents of my May 8, 1964; tape recording to him explaining my position on the 1955-1957 UFO events, that I do not in any way uphold the childish, wishful thinking expressed in the article from Gribble's FLYING SAUCER REVEIW, September, 1956, from which he quotes. (A duplicate of that May 8, 1964, tape to Hall has now been deposited with MUFON director Walter H. Andrus, Jr. for documentation.)

I should explain, however, that I wrote the 1956 article in a great state of excitement and wide-eyed enthusiasm because of recent UFO sightings, one of them a close-range one which, because of the influence of Adamski's writings, I simplistically assumed to have been telepathically mediated by extraterrestrials. Although the most exciting of the involved sightings before the article was a fine, vivid, clear and close-up one, my error was unquestionably assuming the sighting was a "contact," and in adopting the belief systems of the typical 1950s contact cultists. AS a result of this general state of mentality, I often assumed that 'information' which may merely have been surfacing from my unconscious was coming to me from space beings. Of course, I have long since abandoned such assumptions. But, I would ask Hall, why all the concern about that? These days it is a common thing for 'ab-

ductees' to claim far more spectacular experiences that I ever had, and to report that 'humanoids' telepathically influenced them. But Hall's article does not make it clear just what he is so disturbed about regarding my 1950s UFO experiences. Is it my belief in telepathy, my UFO sightings, my teenage inability to report them objectively, or what?

Hall does not speak factually when he says, "Stanford has never shared with us what allegedly transpired during the contacts, or what surprising things he learned." Can he not now remember what he wrote to me on May 5, 1964? In the letter he named my book LOOK UP! (written and published at my own expense, when I was eighteen and nineteen, to share what transpired during the 'contacts'), and said, "I have not read your book, but have scanned it and am aware of its general contents and approach. It has been my feeling that it represents an earlier stage of your intellectual development, and that you might even repudiate this approach to the subject, now, judging by your comments." (My emphasis.)

In response I sent Hall the aforementioned tape-recorded letter explaining in depth my change in attitude, stating that the UFO sightings reported in LOOK UP! were real, multi-witness ones, but that I no longer felt myself to be a contactee. I told of how I wised up to certain of the major contactees; Adamski included. This change in attitude had made me feel I misinterpreted the sightings as being necessarily mediated by telepathy from UFO operations

and as indicative of any special relationship between myself and UFOs.

In response, Hall wrote me on May 19, 1964, saying, "Thanks for your tape letter explaining your current attitudes toward the UFO subject, contactees, etc. I am glad to know that you are more objective and scientific in your outlook now." Thus, as of May 19, 1964, Hall knew that my subjectivity as a youth had changed to objectivity and rejection of my earlier claims. In his MUFON JOURNAL article Hall asks, "Does he now renounce his former (my emphasis) claims of privileged contacts with space-men? If he does, to what does he attribute them? Self delusion?" Yet his question clearly implies knowledge that I have already denounced my former interpretations in that he uses the word "former." He also knows, of course, that I attribute them to real, even excellent, UFO sightings which incorporated many witnesses (policemen included) and one day-light, color, movie film as evidence, and certainly not to self-delusion. The only delusion was in the subjective interpretation I made of the events as an Adamski-following teenager.

Next, Hall alleges, "In 1975 Stanford (my emphasis) took out an ad in the National Enquirer offering to sell tape cassettes of 'voices' obtained through 'a meditation-induced unconscious state' from people calling themselves 'Brothers'." Hall adds, knowingly, "Adamski and other 'contactees' claimed to be contacted by 'Space Brothers'."

The records of the Association for the Understanding of Man prove that they (my employer), no I (as Hall asserts), took out the ad. I am responsible to a board of directors and am an employee of the organization. If Hall really wanted to know what my employer was selling, he should have ordered and listened to one of the tapes advertised, instead of making unfounded intimations that "Space Brother" supposedly speak through me. (If Hall did order cassettes, he has not revealed it.) On each cassette it is clearly explained that the phenomenon introduced thereon is not claimed to be any manifestation of any personality external to my unconscious mind. Instead, the materials are presented because they have proven helpful and meaningful to many persons who have listened to them.

Publications of the Association for the Understanding of Man and records of our membership conferences clearly prove that I do not insist that voices obtained through me in the unconscious state are anything other than that. We remain objective and take an attitude of open inquiry. I personally do not believe that any of the manifested personalities are UFO occupants. The 'voices' that speak through me simply call themselves "Brothers" (not "Space Brothers")—a term in use long before the contactee cults. So, I hope this settles the matter once and for all: The information coming from my unconscious, whether or not one believes it to be of a 'psychic' nature, is a thing which belongs to

the realm of altered states of consciousness and possible paranormal phenomena, and should in no way be a part of UFO research. I should add, however, that the work of the Association (the parent organization of P.S.I.), and, hence, the p.s.i. laboratory of instrumented UFO research, is financed in part by proceeds from sale of information and discourses obtained from my unconscious state. We do not regard that as anything of which to be ashamed.

Furthermore, any personal belief that I or my associates may have concerning the nature or reality of the 'voices' that call themselves 'Brothers' through my unconscious is not related to our UFO research with technological instruments. Scientists and laymen alike have a right (I hope they still do) to their own philosophical or religious beliefs without that reflecting on their day-to-day work as objective scientists or otherwise. After all, do we condemn Einstein because he was a Jew or because he believed in intuition as a source of many of his breakthroughs in developing his theories—or other thinkers or researchers because of their personal philosophies or religions?

Hall suggests that I "passionately" desire to obtain "objective proof of these subjective experiences, hence his commitment to the Socorro sample being 'metallic'." This is hardly the type of person of whom he spoke in his May 5, 1964 letter to me, saying, "Your taped report arrived, and I found it extremely thorough and intelligently done." I believe Hall

has changed his position concerning me because I have discussed (in the book) his and NICAP's 1964 oversight in not following up on Frankel's report of a zinc-iron alloy.

In previous issues of the MUFON JOURNAL, Dick Hall has spoken very positively and encouragingly of the work of Project Starlight International and of its laboratory of instrumented UFO research. Now, with publication of Socorro 'Saucer' in a Pentagon Pantry, Hall suddenly makes statements that could, if accepted without objective investigation of the facts, impugn the reputation of that ongoing, instrumented research endeavor, because of his attempts to cast doubts upon my objectivity. Knowing Richard Hall to be a person who cares for valid efforts in active UFO research, I hope he will, in time, rectify any bad image he might have given the P.S.I. RESEARCH EFFORT.

In fact, until Hall's recent private actions and the MUFON JOURNAL article, I had considered him a valued friend and champion of objective UFO investigation (his oversights in the summer of 1964 notwithstanding). I never imagined he would take my reporting of precisely what happened that summer so very personally.

In defense of Socorro 'Saucer' in a Pentagon Pantry, I should point out that the material offensive to Hall constitutes only a small portion of the book. Actually, many new Socorro case facts are brought out, and I think it only fair to be allowed to speak, briefly, on behalf of the book and its value. It is traditional, in reviewing a book

as Hall did, to list the publisher and price (Blueapple Books, P.O. Box 5694, Austin, Texas 78763, \$8.95 postpaid). But that courtesy was not afforded in Hall's account.

Now, please consider these facts:

(1) Paul Kies and Larry Kratzer are named (and photos of them shown) as additional visual witnesses to the Socorro landing.

(2) I reveal that there were thirteen total (visual and auditory) witnesses.

(3) There were at least three types of strange physical evidences other than those hitherto revealed: a calcined rock, seeming irradiation of film exposed very soon after the UFO event (a highway patrolman's film was possible radiation damaged and resultantly retained by the Air Force) and, of course, the metallic slivers on the rock.

Of the book's contribution to UFO facts and to the Socorro case, Dr. Hynek said in a letter of July 6, 1976, written specifically for purpose of publication in promoting the book:

"In SOCORRO 'SAUCER' IN A PENTAGON PANTRY, Ray Stanford not only tells the story well but has brought to it a great deal of painstaking and intensive research, presenting a far more comprehensive and coherent treatment of this important case. The Socorro case has always been a thorn in the side of UFO detractors who have tried to dismiss it either as a deliberate attempt by the town fathers of Socorro to promote the tourist trade—or as atmospheric phenomena. Ray Stanford has shown these attempts to be patently untenable. Stanford has

transformed the case from a one-witness matter to a multi-witness case and thus has accomplished what the Air Force failed to do. In the preparation of his book, Ray Stanford has exhibited a rare persistence in tracking down vital details of this remarkable and pivotal UFO sighting."

John F. Schuessler, an aerospace engineer well-known to MUFON members, made this comment on Socorro 'Saucer' in a Pentagon Pantry, and has given permission to be quoted:

"It is a bombshell, obviously well researched and should make a significant impact on the world of ufology."

I hope that no reader misinterprets what I have tried to do here in setting the facts straight concerning Socorro 'Saucer' in a Pentagon Pantry and myself. I should point out that, despite Richard Hall's highly personal reaction to parts of the book involving himself, he is an individual in whom I have much confidence and I regard him as one of the most discerning contributors to ufology in general. MUFON should be proud to have him as their international coordinator and I hope that none of the facts reported in the book detract (in the mind of anyone) from Dick's high level of competence. I truly regret any personal offense to him. It was simply necessary for me to report things as I saw them happen during the Socorro investigation. Now Dick has told his side of it also. I hope readers will actually study the book and make up their own minds which of us is more factual on the important issues involved.

# Bigfoot Sightings Continue

By Stan Gordon

Dozens of reports of hairy Bigfoot-like creatures were made by eyewitnesses during 1976, and this trend continues through 1977. These creature accounts have originated from Oregon, Washington, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Texas, California as well as other areas. Even though no direct connection can be made, in almost every area where the creatures had been reported, UFO's were also being sighted. My own conclusion as I have stated before, is that we are dealing with several different types of Bigfoot creatures. The five toed footprints seems to be related to the typical Bigfoot of the Pacific Northwest, whereas the three toed variety seems to be closely related to the UFO phenomena. There have been instances where both three and five toed tracks have shown up in the same geographical area. It's impossible to judge just how many verifiable creature sightings have been made since 1976. The following is an example of some of these reports.

**Whitehall, New York, Mid-August, 1976:**

Several witnesses including police officers reported seeing a creature between seven and eight feet tall, very hairy and with pink or red eyes. In one instance the creature came within twenty five feet of a Whitehall police car, before being scared off when a state trooper flashed a light in the creature's eyes. The light caused the creature to cover it's eyes and run away screaming.

14



This cast one of several prints found in September of 1973 near Penn. Hills, Pa. The print is not the typical Bigfoot track yet was found in an area where creature sightings had occurred. The print is apelike similar to what an orangutan would have except zoologists who have seen it state that the fingers are too short for any known ape. Zoo's and circuses had been checked and no animals were found missing.

**Goldsboro, North Carolina-September, 1976:**

A seven foot tall apelike creature with black hair and emitting a deathly scream was haunting the Cape Fear River area. Investigations at the scene of some of the sightings uncovered footprints eighteen inches long and with three toes.

**Wenatchee, Washington-January 23, 1977:**

Two men on the Brender Ranch at Blewett Pass heard a disturbance coming from the chicken pen. The men observed a creature between seven and eight feet tall standing between the pig pen and chicken house. The creature had a strong

odor like "someone who hadn't taken a bath for a year". Several chickens were found dead at the scene.

**Uniontown, Pa-May 15, 1977:**

A large apelike creature was observed crossing a road. It moved in a slumped over position with it's head tilted down. The creature appeared to be shaggy and had reddish brown colored hair. It was estimated as being over six feet tall.

**Jeanette, Pa-June 29, 1977:**

Police investigated reports of strange screams coming from wooded area. The next day resi-

dents found a trail of three toes footprints sixteen inches long and ten inches wide.

#### Outside the United States

Bigfoot creatures are reported internationally. The following are some recent examples.

##### Canberra, Australia-August 1976:

Dozens of skiers claimed to have seen the Australian version of Bigfoot loping up the side of Mount Kosciuszko. The "Yowie" is described as being about eight feet in height, covered entirely in dark hair and walks in a stooped position on two legs.

##### Mission, British Columbia-May 15, 1977:

A Pacific Stage Lines driver and four passengers reported to Royal Canadian Mounted Police that they saw a seven foot tall hairy creature cross the highway in front of them. The driver pursued the creature down a dry creek bed and was able to approach within twelve feet of the animal. Fourteen inch footprints were photographed by the RCMP and they estimated the weight of the creature as being approximately 300 pounds.

Anyone having information on Bigfoot reports, especially cases where UFO's might be directly related can write to me at 6 Oakhill Avenue, Greensburg, Pa 15601.

### CORRECTIONS TO 1975 EDITION OF MUFON FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S MANUAL

Since over 1200 copies of the MUFON's Field Investigator's Manual are presently being used as the primary guide by UFO investigators world wide, it is imperative that it be accurate. Raymond E. Fowler, the Editor, is recommending that each copy be revised in the following manner to eliminate a few typographical errors or oversights in proof reading. Most investigators have probably placed their manual in a three ring binder of their choice for greater preservation to handling damage. To

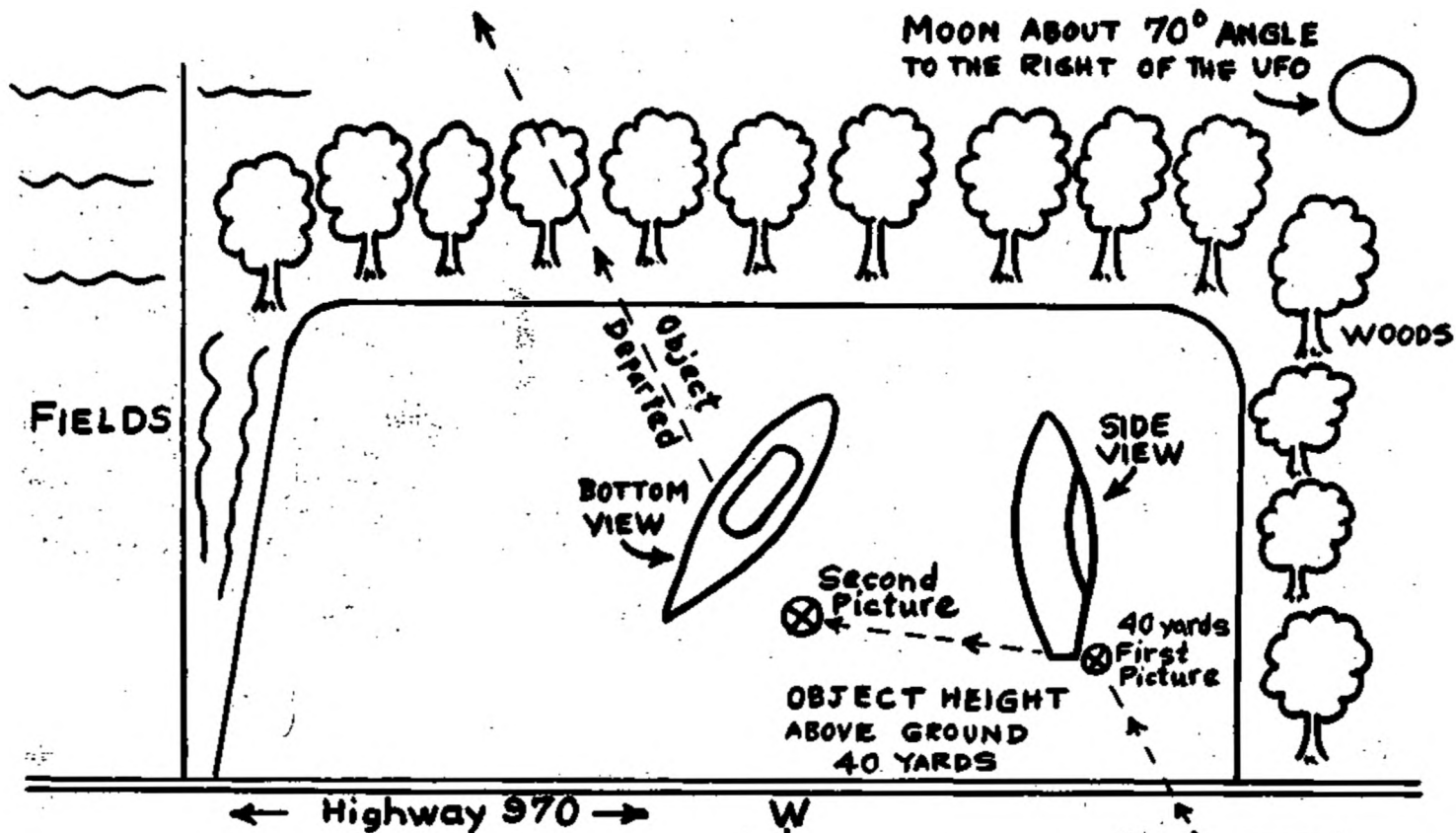
keep your manual current, future major revisions or additions will be announced in the JOURNAL. Incidentally, this is the first.

The MUFON Field Investigator's Manual is an essential tool for every UFO investigator or researcher. If you do not already have your personal copy, one may be secured from MUFON. The price is \$2.00 for current MUFON paid-up members, \$3.00 to investigators for the Center for UFO Studies, and \$4.00 to all others.

Page #	Description	Change To Be Made
45	The Form 2	Captions under Latitude and Longitude should read: Degrees—Minutes—Seconds (Not Hours—Minutes—Tenths as now denoted)
84	Chart/April	The Azimuth for Deneb - NE (Not NW)
85	Chart August	The Azimuth for Spica - W (Not E)
128	Last Paragraph	Should read - The equation on page 128 can be solved...(etc.)

# Witness Runs Underneath Object

By: T. SCOTT CRAIN, JR., MUFON State Section Director



On the night of March 28, 1976, at approximately 12:30 a.m., the witness was awakened by a loud, humming noise. Mr. Woods raced to the porch of his mobile home to see a huge teardrop-shaped object gliding along at treetop level in front of his house. Woods described the object as being between 150 to 200 feet long and about 60 feet wide. Blimplike in appearance the machine had a dull metallic finish, no seams, windows or doors, and carried a green glowing panel on the underside approximately 20 feet wide and 50 feet long.

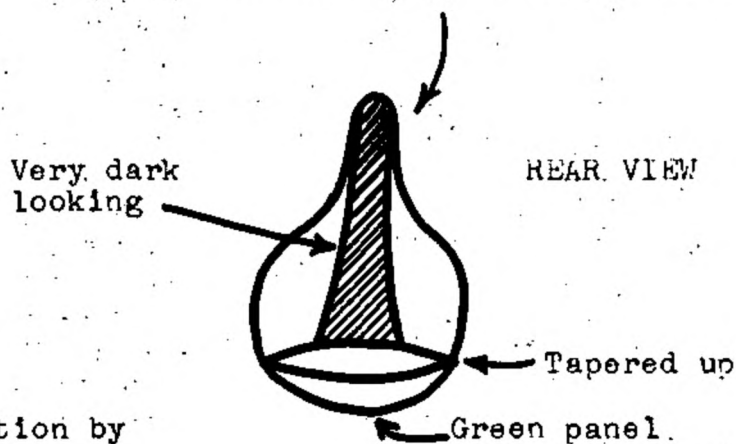
Woods described the panel as being "like a long, green light, or a big piece of fluorescent silk cloth." The startled witness ran back into the house, grabbed his camera and west into the field where the object was hovering about 70 feet in the air. "I got so close I could have clobbered it with a baseball," Woods said. Woods took two color pictures with a kodak instamatic camera before the object sped

rapidly away in a southwesterly direction. The object vanished in seconds.

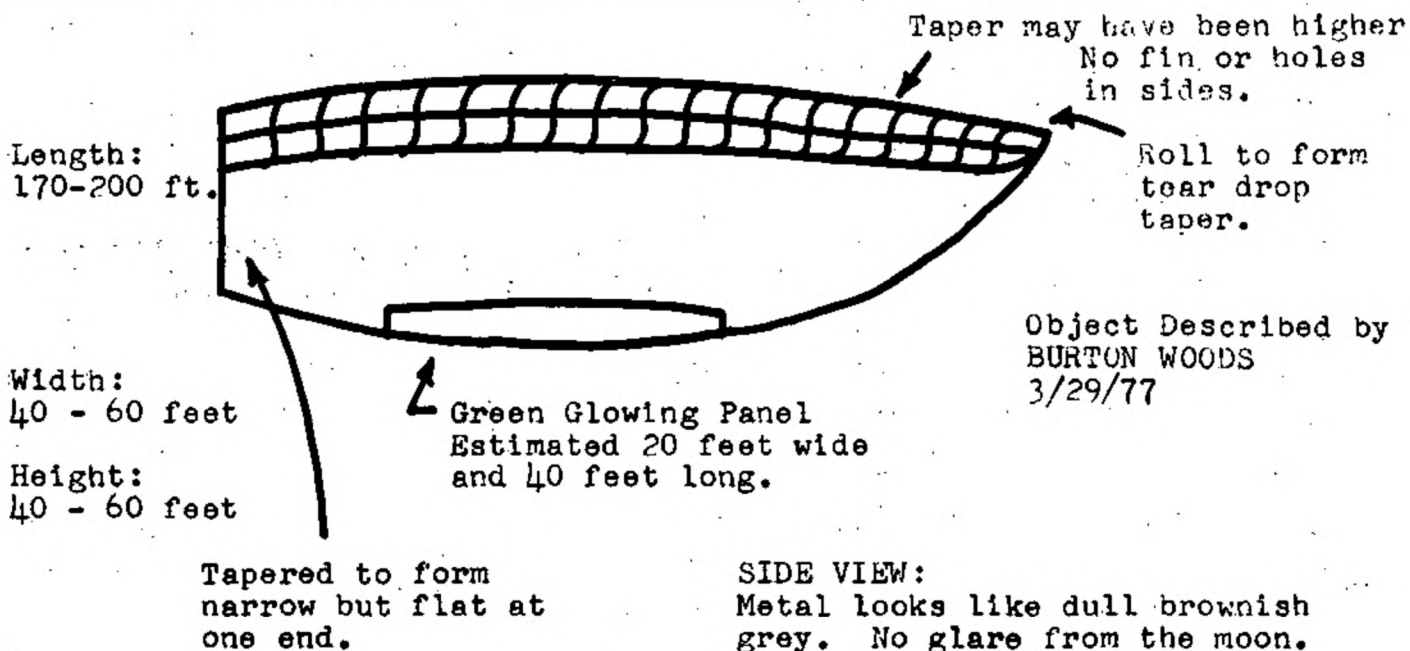
The witness described the humming sound like that of a "twirling rope," that seemed to be emitted from the top of the craft. Woods also noticed the tops of the trees were shaking or vibrating but there was no noticeable downward force. As Woods approached the craft, the object rolled slightly, keeping

BURTON WOODS SIGHTING MARCH 23, 1977, 12:30 A.M.

Looked like a Canoe upside down



Description by  
Burton Woods  
3/29/77



the glowing green panel in his direction at all times. "I almost got directly under it before it took off," Woods reported. The encounter lasted 5 minutes.

Woods turned his undeveloped film over to the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research on March 31. Project Dir. Joan Jeffers says shes convinced he really did see an alien craft. Upon developing the film, Robert Cowell, Co-Director of the Center, said the Woods photos failed to turn out, a major disappointment to UFO centers across the country. However, he added, the blank negatives in no way discredits Wood's story of what he saw.

Woods was close enough to know what he was seeing. His detailed description illuminates what he was seeing was not a common manmade aeroform. After a lengthy telephone interview and a personal visit with Woods, it appeared to me he was genuinely shaken up by the encounter. Woods said he was having severe headaches, a burning sensation in the eyes and general fatigue after the incident. The sytoms were apparent for several days.

The reliability of the witness is not in serious question. Woods, 45, is employed by Piper Aircraft Corp., and is also a Dupty Clearfield County Waterways patrolman. Woods had nothing to gain by making up such a wild story.

The failure of his pictures to show any image is not surprising since they were taken at night with no flash. One thing I did find curious is that Mr. Woods did not awaken 3 other memers of the household when he sighted the object. He said there wasn't time. Single-witness reports always come into question when it comes to UFO reports.

### THEY REQUESTED A REPORT ON AN UFO FROM THE CAPTAIN OF A BOAT IN CHILE

Santiago, Chile (ANSA)—in Valparaiso it was learned that the Director of the National Merchant Marine ordered the captain of the Cabo de Hornos to report in detail regarding the sighting of a presumed Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) on Wednesday afternoon when the ship travelled from the north to the south of the country. According to the inital reports, the object was cigar-shaped and gave off a red light; it stopped for over 5 minutes over the ship at an altitude between 2,000 and 2,500 meters, to later disappear. This first cablegram was sent to the Air Force to determine if at the time indicated their craft had been performing maneuvers in the area. The Director of the Litoral indicated that the report of the captain of the Cabo de Hornos will be sent to international organizations interested in studying the origin of this phenomenon.

### Postage Stamp Exchange By Richard Hall

I would like to acknowledge additional contributions of cancelled foreign stamps in June by Mrs. Barbara C. Mathey, Los Angeles, California; Fred Merritt, Lombard, Illinois; and Ted Bloecher, New York, NY. These are used to exchange for current U.S. postage,; and in that way help to underwrite the expense of corresponding on a large scale with MUFON representatives and supporters in other countries. The net result is not only a regular flow of UFO information from overseas, but also the good will and unity of purpose inherent in maintaining regular communication with overseas colleagues. To support this worldwide information network, please send your contribution of cancelled foreign stamps, in any quantity, to me at 4418 39th Street, Brentwood, MD 20722.

MUFON AMATEUR RADIO NETS (weekly)				
DAY	FREQUENCY	NET	TIME C. S.T.	NET CONTROLS
SAT	40 meters	7237 KHZ.	0700	N1JS
SAT	75 meters	3975 KHZ.	0800	WA9ARG
SUN	20 meters	14,284 KHZ.	1300	N1JS & W0NC

(Continued from page 7)



**BILL  
PITTS**

Bill Pitts, MUFON State Director for Arkansas, shared with the participants at the symposium some of the basic guidelines and techniques to be used during and after a UFO sighting report investigation in his speech titled "UFO Investigations." He utilized actual cases to demonstrate effective and meaningful reporting by investigators. He enumerated several methods of achieving good public relations in a community so that the public is thoroughly aware of the investigators presence and interest. Bill gained national attention when he organized the Fort Smith UFO Conference in 1975, serving as Chairman-Director designed around the theme "United for Objectivity."



**WILLIAM  
HASSEL**

William F. Hassel, Ph.D., MUFON Consultant in Propulsion Methods and State Section Director for Los Angeles County challenged the scientists present with his presentation "Future Physics and Anti-Gravity!" The abstract to his paper best describes the content. "Some evidence for existence of a phenomenon which might be classified as anti-gravity is explored. First historic experiments are discussed which indicate that there are anomalies in gravitation-related experimental data which do not fit the widely accepted Einstein's theory of gravitation. Several recent diverse experiments which demonstrate small magnitude forces which may be gravitational in nature are then discussed in detail, along with the postulated explanations of

the observed phenomenon. Certain similarities among the theories proposed to explain the experimental phenomena lead to the tentative conclusion that each of the phenomena may result from the same physical mechanism. The evidence seems to indicate that gravitational, or anti-gravitational effects could be associated with the gyrational motion of charged particles.



**JOHN  
WARREN**

The theme "Scientific UFO Research: Position of the UFO Movement on Our 30th Anniversary" was very prevalent in the lecture presented by John L. Warren, Ph.D., MUFON Consultant in Physics and State

Director for New Mexico. His speech is summed up very nicely in his "abstract" as applied to UFOs.

The so-called scientific method is an aid to the natural thought process people use to solve problems. That process consists of three parts: 1. recognition of the problem, 2. subconscious construction of possible solutions, and 3. acceptance or rejection of these solutions by the reasoning faculty. A problem is a set of facts which is apparently not consistent with our previous knowledge. The solution consists in either explaining the facts or recognizing that they are the basis for developing new knowledge. Although, scientific investigation is an art, there are five major steps involved: 1. critical review of the relevant material, 2. collection of field data supplemented by laboratory examination of specimens where possible, 3. careful definitions of the problem and breakdown of the problem into specific questions, 4. construction of hypotheses which give specific answers to the questions, and 5. devising and carrying out experiments to test the answers. Along with these steps goes a set of rules useful for avoiding errors. One of these rules is: Only consider hypotheses that can be tested by experiments. The investigation of UFO's by the Condon Committee was indeed scientific, but the committee was unable to devise any tests of Extraterrestrial Hypothesis (ETH) which could be experimentally proven. The problem was too hard for the limited time and resources. Based on close

encounter cases where occupants are seen by reliable witnesses, we should take the ETH as proven and try to reproduce the phenomena associated with flying saucers in our laboratories. Theories of physics and engineering must be mathematically extended to include explanations of the observed non-inertial behavior and apparent dematerialization. More complete data from the field are needed to air our thinking.

The Specialization Workshops, conducted by experienced personnel, were designed to not only be educational, but they gave the participants an opportunity to exchange pertinent information and personal experiences. The topics presented and the workshop moderators were 1. "Field Investigation Techniques" by Bill Pitts, 2. "Instrumentation for UFO Detection" - Melvin Podell, Solano Beach, CA., MUFON State Section Director for San Diego County. 3. "How to Obtain Good Public Relations" - Paul C. Cerny, Mountain View, CA., MUFON Western Regional Director and Thomas M. Gates. 4. "Possible UFO Propulsion Methods" by William F. Hassel, Ph.D., Woodland Hills, CA. 5. "Computer Photographic Enhancement" by William H. Spaulding and Richard Gottlieb.

Following the workshop sessions, William C. McCall, M.D. demonstrated the hypnotic regression techniques used in his experiments with Dr. Lawson on an "imaginary" abduction case with a female volunteer from the audience. He also used hypnosis to help a young man in the audience to recall the exact

date of a personal UFO sighting. With the exact date now known, the young radio newsman will search the Oakland and San Francisco newspapers for the names of other possible witnesses. Dr. McCall's demonstration added immensely to the paper presented by Dr. Lawson. It was a real treat to watch a professional utilize his abilities in behalf of UFO research.

Bill Pitts, presently the First International Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, entertained the evening dinner guests with a series of humorous "slight of hand" demonstrations using props and accessories that he could carry in his brief case. Obviously, he was unable to use live birds or rabbits for this occasion.



**STANTON T.  
FRIEDMAN**

Stanton T. Friedman, nuclear physicist and professional UFO lecturer was the featured speaker Saturday evening. Making his fourth speaking appearance at a MUFON UFO Symposium, Stan again prepared a new paper for the event titled "Science Fiction, Science, and UFOs." Stan actually gave a lecture that was a combination of his college and university slide/lecture presentation titled "Flying Saucers Are Real" and his new paper for the symposium, quoting from the later in a humorous manner. He encouraged the audience to purchase a copy of the MUFON Symposium Proceedings for the details. His short abstract and introduction is hereby quoted for JOURNAL readers to provide a clue to the contents of his paper.

Abstract: "Written comments concerning UFOs by science fiction writers Isaac Asimov, Ben Bova, and Arthur C. Clarke and by scientific journals SCIENCE and SCIENCE NEWS and by astronomers J. Allen Hynek and Donald H. Menzel are critically reviewed. It appears that much of what has been written as supposedly scientific about UFOs is not scientific and creates inappropriate notions in the mind of the reader."

Introduction: "A major difficulty for anyone trying to separate fact from fiction on the subject of UFOs is to know whose writings to trust. Unfortunately, several science fiction writers and several scientists have been guilty of presenting fiction as though it were fact or scientific. The purpose of this paper is to review the written statements of some well known science fiction

writers and scientists and to point out the fictional character of the material presented in the guise of fact."

The Mutual UFO Network, Inc. held its annual corporate meeting for MUFON members on Sunday morning. Decisions made and actions to be taken will be reported in the "Directors Message" column of THE MUFON UFO JOURNAL.



**WILLIAM  
SPAULDING**

The Sunday afternoon feature of the symposium was a combination of UFO slides and movie film, titled "Modern Image Processing Revisits the Great Falls, Montana and Tremonton, Utah Movies"

(Ufology and the Ubiquitous Computer) by William H. Spaulding, Director of GSW, Inc. and MUFON State Director for Arizona. Computer analysis of these two well known movies confirms previous studies that they are authentic. Bill Spaulding's very detailed paper in the 1977 MUFON Symposium Proceedings may be capsulized by quoting from his abstract.

Abstract: Modern technology utilizes all types of pictures as sources of information for interpretation and analysis. They may be portions of the earth's surface viewed from an orbiting satellite, the internal composition of a complex organic structure seen with the aid of x-rays, or chromosomes viewed through a microscope. The proliferation of these bases of pictorial data has created the need for a vision-based automation that can rapidly, accurately, and cost effectively extract the useful data contained in images. These requirements are being met through the new technology of Image Processing.

Image Processing combines computer applications with modern image scanning techniques to perform various forms of picture enhancement, distortion correction, pattern recognition, distance factoring and object measurements.

This technology was mated to the images in the renown and controversial U & M movies. Since this bit of UFO pictorial data was photographed in a daylight mode, great quantities of information can be obtained in a computerized frame by frame examination. This paper covers the complete analysis and conclusions of these images.

# Director's Message by Walt Andrus

It is a distinct pleasure to announce the appointment of Julius L. Benton, Jr. Ph.D. to the dual role of State Director for South Carolina and Consultant in Astronomy. Mrs. Margaret Pine, a State Section Director in Mauldin, SC has been the acting State Director for the past two years. Dr. Benton is a planetary astronomer and Director of the Thornwell Museum, P.O. Box 60, Clinton, SC 29325. He also serves as an investigator for the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS).

Dr. Glenn Underhill, State Director for Nebraska, has reassigned Gordon E. Gruber as State Section Director for Custer County. Gordon resides at 1216 North 13th St., Broken Bow, NB and is the former State Section Director for Cedar and Dixon Counties in Nebraska.

Ken Potter has advised MUFON that the National Enquirer will sponsor a "National Skywatch" starting at dusk on Saturday, September 10 until dawn on September 11th. They have arranged for a toll free telephone number, with reporters manning the telephones to receive UFO sightings from throughout the United States and Canada. Due to the short notice and delays in distributing the JOURNAL, this event will have occurred before you read this item. The National Enquirer also failed to give their readers adequate prior notice to make this ambitious venture the success that they anticipated. MUFON has suggested that this become an annual event as a continuing experiment.

Dr. J.B. Kloosterman has sent MUFON the first two issues of a

new magazine titled CASTASTROPHIST GEOLOGY. This is a journal of academic level concerned with subjects not directly related with Ufology, however both issues had UFO articles. The magazine may be ordered by writing to CATASTROPHIST GEOLOGY, C.P. 41.003/Santa Teresa, Rio de Janeiro-RJ-20,000 BRASIL.

Advance notice has been released by Andreas Faber Kaiser, Director of Mundo Desconocido in Spain, announcing a worldwide exercise titled OPERATION "UFO WATCH". This operation is planned during January, February, March and April of 1978 when the planet Mars is in opposition to our Earth. Jesus Beorlegui Diaz, Director of Operation "UFO Watch," states that the aim of this international operations is to either confirm or deny the soundness of the "Martian Hypothesis." Past records indicate that UFO sighting reports increase substantially or coincide with the periods when Mars and the planet Earth are in opposition. This is not a program to deny or support the "Martian Hypothesis", but to make a statistical worldwide sampling to determine the current validity of this hypothesis.

Some of us had the pleasure of meeting Andreas Faber Kaiser at the First International UFO Congress in Acapulco, Mexico. This program is another step in attempting to further the aims of the Congress to secure international cooperation in UFO research. UFO sighting reports during the specified months should not only be sent to MUFON for our statistical

tabulation, but may also be mailed to Jesus Beorlegui Diaz, MUNDO DESCONOCIDO, Balmes, 391-393, 2.º - 2.ª Barcelona (6) SPAIN.

It is with sincere regret that MUFON accepts the resignation of Dennis W. Hauck, who has been the Editor of THE MUFON UFO JOURNAL for the past year. Dennis will continue to serve as State Director for Indiana unless his new job responsibilities in publishing require that he relocate to another area of the country. We are taking this opportunity of not only utilizing our JOURNAL Staff to edit specific monthly issues, but this is taking place simultaneously, so that we may get back in a current status mode. Dennis Hauck and your Director completed the August issue. Richard H. Hall, Associate Editor, has completed the September issue, while your Director is assembling the October issue. Until we have selected a new Editor for the JOURNAL, all columns, articles, and submitted papers should be mailed to Walt Andrus at 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155. Material for the November issue is now being assimilated. All of us at MUFON extend our best wishes to Dennis in his new professional endeavors and to his continued research in Ufology.

**MUFON**

103 OLDTOWNE RD.  
SEGUIN, TX 78155

# RECAPPING AND COMMENTING

By Richard Hall (MUFON International Coordinator)

[Comments in this month's column are based, in part, on articles appearing in the April 1977 MUFON UFO Journal, No. 113.]

The various attitudes and theories expressed, explicitly or implicitly, in this issue stimulated a number of thoughts on the state-of-the-art of ufology. The influence of those pushing the notion that "psychical" or "extra-dimensional" events may have something to do with UFOs is visible in Len Stringfield's commentary, Ron Westrum's article, and--indirectly--in Ann Druffel's thesis about possible "mimicking UFOs."

Once again I feel compelled to cite the Latin saying *ignotum per ignotius*, which roughly translates into "explaining the unknown in terms of the even more unknown." One might as well say that UFOs emanate from the *chronosynclastic infundibulum*; it would have about as much meaning. Not that I am unable to exercise some imagination and suppose that there is some realm out there about which we have little or no knowledge, residents of which may be impinging on our world. It may be so. The point of unending fascination to me is why certain "UFO researchers" so readily discard known realms in favor of unknown realms as an explanatory device. ("Explanatory," that is).

One of the most notorious and influential discards is John Keel. His data are cited as if they were established facts by Ron Westrum, who proceeds to advise ufologists on the need to be healers when UFO witnesses become overwhelmed by their enhanced psychic abilities. I met Ron again at the International Fortean Organization (INFO) "Fortfest" symposium where he gave a good, intelligent paper on the sociology of anomaly reporting. He is clearly a sincere, honest person delving into important areas of UFO research, bringing to bear the insights of sociology. I wish more sociologists and psychologists were involved in UFO research; they are badly needed. Especially those knowledgeable about the history of science and interested in anomalistic data, as Ron is.

This being said, I have to once again strongly disagree with Ron, both about his data and his theories. He is treading on extremely dangerous ground by apparently encouraging laymen to take up therapy on an amateur basis. If UFO witnesses really are experiencing psychological disorders of the nature described, they obviously need professional help.

All of this fits the pattern which is becoming increasingly clear to me of well-meaning ufologists, typically amateurs in the areas under consideration, rushing into the vacuum created by professional non-involvement

in UFO studies. Bearing the cross of the world, ufologists naively attempt to be physicist, psychologist, priest, and healer. They attempt to take on their shoulders problems that would tax the abilities of the world's greatest scientists.

A more modest and realistic appraisal of the situation would cause us to realize that we are often way over our heads in trying to sort out and make sense of UFO data. I remain unconvinced that the "data" we need to explain is that described by John Keel, Jacques Vallee, and Jerome Clark. But if it is, then more than ever do we need the participation of the best minds in the world if we hope to get a handle on the situation. Otherwise we leave ourselves at the mercy of a handful of self-appointed priests who profess to have a direct pipeline to truth, arrived at individually and without any concerted scientific effort. And to that I say, "bunk!"

By Richard Hall  
[MUFON International  
Coordinator]