

World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

England

West Essex UFO

From a copy of the *West Essex Gazette* of January 4, 1974, we learn that in that part of the world—

"The latest full account of an unexplained 'craft' comes from a 29-year-old designer, Caroline Ebborn, who shortly before Christmas was 'amazed' to see a mysterious array of lights moving across the night sky while she visited her sister in Abridge.

"Caroline, who used to live in Loughton, says she has a keen eye for shape and colour and has made drawings of the object she saw.

"She told the *Gazette*: 'It went straight over my head, though it is difficult to say how high it was.

"It started off as a red pulsating ball beside the moon. I jokingly said ha, ha—there's a UFO but then this thing started to rise. It became paler and then turned towards me with remarkable speed.'

"The craft, she said, was diamond shaped with bright yellow lights on two opposite points and 'neon-red lines at the back which reminded me of a jet on take-off.' After a while a pale green, fluorescent, light appeared.

"Could it not have been an ordinary aircraft? Said Caroline: 'Funnily enough there was an aircraft in the sky at the same time so I was able to compare. I assure you this looked nothing like an aeroplane.'

"She added: 'I don't know what it was. It just couldn't have been a man-made machine, unless someone has developed a silent aeroplane which flies without wings!'

"Caroline's description of the craft is similar to that offered by two Epping residents who saw an object in the sky over Epping later that evening."

Credit: Dorothy Turner of Buckhurst-Hill, Essex.

BULGARIA

Two sightings from Sofia

A friend in Bulgaria, writes Eileen Buckle, describes two incidents which occurred in her home town. The first involved a young family with a small child who live in a residential part of Sofia named "Mladost," an absolutely new quarter of the city consisting of large blocks of flats almost all of which are turned towards the mountain "Vitoshka" which arches the city to the south.

"One night in June, 1973, between 1.00 and 2.00 a.m. the young woman woke and got up to tend the

child. Before going back to bed, she looked out of the window and saw a large orange sphere much larger than the moon. The sphere moved rapidly and disappeared behind the mountain Vitoshka.

"I wish to add that both husband and wife are matter of fact people, who are not interested in things like UFOs, so no suspicion of self-suggestion could be entertained in this case.

"Again during the summer of 1973, two young people, a man and a girl, were walking one evening before midnight somewhere in the city park named 'The Park of Freedom.' First the young man and then the girl saw a bright point in the sky like a star. The young man, who knows about and is interested in flying saucers, thought it was one. Then they decided to do an experiment. The young man concentrated on the bright spot, forming the thought: 'If you are really a flying saucer, move at once in a right angle to the right.' The bright point did as he asked.

"It turned out that many people saw the UFO that afternoon, but so far I have not ascertained the exact date, but I hope I shall. I am also searching out information on a UFO seen in a provincial town."

U.S.A.

More on the cop who photographed an entity

In a newspaper called *News Extra*, dated December 16, 1973, we find a few more details of the Alabama policeman who in mid-October met a strange creature, and photographed it. Preliminary details, and a copy of one of the pictures, were given by Eileen Buckle in her summary article "Major Flap in the United States" in *FSR* Vol. 19, No.6—

"When a small town police chief reported taking photographs of an eerie creature he feared came from outer space, his young wife divorced him and others heaped abuse on him.

"I have never been subjected to such harassment and ridicule from people," said Chief Jeff Greenhaw of tiny Falkville, Ala. 'Now my wife of more than three years has divorced me.'

"His wife, Pamela, filed for and received a divorce the same day in Decatur, Ala., circuit court. Alabama law allows speedy divorces when they are not contested.

"Greenhaw's troubles began when a woman telephoned him at home and reported seeing what she

described as a spaceship with flashing lights. It had landed in a field west of Falkville, she reported.

"The policeman, recalling many other recent reports of UFOs in the area, grabbed his camera and sped to the scene of the reported sighting.

"Twisting down a gravel road, Greenhaw came face to face with the creature.

"I saw him. He was just standing there in the middle of the road,' the police chief said later.

"I got out of my car and said, 'Howdy, stranger,' Greenhaw recalled. 'But he didn't say a word.'

"The police chief got his camera and as the creature walked toward him, he flashed four photographs. He and the creature stood face to face only 10 feet apart.

"I was scared stiff,' Greenhaw admitted.

"The creature was covered in a metallic material and had a short antenna atop his head. There were no features on his face.

"When Greenhaw switched on the blue flashing lights on his patrol car, the creature turned and ran.

"I jumped into my car and took after him, but I couldn't even catch up with him in a patrol car,' Greenhaw said. 'He was running faster than any human I ever saw.'

"The police chief took his eyes off the creature for an instant when his car went into a skid and when he looked back again, the thing had vanished.

"I didn't believe in men from outer space, but I do now,' the youthful police chief said.

"His wife laughed at him.

"She wouldn't be laughing if she saw what I saw,' Greenhaw said."

U.S.A.

Alabama landing report

In the same edition of the paper *News Extra* of December 16, 1973, we read that—

"Police chief Greenhaw was not the only Alabama resident to see strange, unexplained sights at the time.

"A Walker County woman, Mrs. Norman Blanton, and her family watched a UFO land in a field near her home. It cut off its lights, lifted up moments later with the lights on and disappeared.

"The Blanton family said the object changed colours as it descended. It turned from white to green to blood red.

"Family members jumped into a

car and drove to the spot, but as they drew near, they said, the object lifted and took off at a high rate of speed.

"Police in the nearby town of Parrish, said they had numerous reports of a UFO at about the same time the Blanton family said it saw the strange object land."

Credit: Dr. James Hershey

U.S.A.

Police chase UFO

The following account appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* of November 14, 1973—

"Two Los Angeles police officers — nervous, but deadly serious — faced a battery of newsmen Tuesday and told of their two-minute sighting of an unidentified flying object the night before.

"Each of the officers, C.C. Smith, 29, and Joe Wynkoop, 28, said they had had little sleep since the sighting and admitted they were still somewhat shaken by their experience, which began at 9.45 p.m. Monday in Boyle Heights.

"Prior to the press conference, Lt. Joe Sandoval, acting commander of the uniformed patrol unit at Hollenbeck Division, said he had questioned his two veteran traffic officers and that he was convinced 'they saw what they saw.'

"The following is the account of the two officers:

"After two persons telephoned Hollenbeck Division and reported seeing a 'strange object' in the sky over East Los Angeles, Smith and Wynkoop were dispatched to investigate.

"The officers, with Wynkoop driving, were eastbound on Whittier Blvd.,

just east of Euclid Ave., when they both saw a bright object in the sky northeast of Whittier.

"Smith described it (his partner concurred) as 'oblong shaped and very bright and bluish-white, like a mercury vapor lamp.'

"As the officers continued east on Whittier Blvd., the object descended at a 45-degree angle, dropping near to the ground. Smith said the object 'came down between my line of vision and the Jonsons Market sign' on the north-west corner of Whittier Blvd., and Lorena St.

"The officers said they were about six blocks east of the market at the time. Both agree that, from their vantage point, the object 'almost obscured the entire market sign.'

"Both officers said it was impossible to estimate the size of the object accurately but, at a distance of about six blocks, it seemed 'about the size of a half-dollar if you held the coin at arm's length,' Wynkoop said.

"At one point, the object was lost from sight for 'one or two seconds. Smith said, adding that this occurred at the point the object appeared to near the ground.

"The officers turned south on Lorena St. and saw the object reappear and rise abruptly (again, at about a 45-degree angle), Smith said, 'to an altitude of about 1,000 or 1,500 feet.'

"The object then sped off, heading south-southwest 'at a tremendously high rate of speed,' Smith said.

"The elapsed time of the incident, both officers agreed, was about two minutes.

"As the object was speeding away, Smith attempted to take a flash picture of it with a Kodak Instamatic camera through the windshield of the police car. However, the print from the neg-

ative was flooded with reflected light from the windshield.

"There are two other lights in the upper portion of the photograph which Smith said appeared to be what he was aiming at. He can not say with certainty, however, whether one of the lights is the object and he has no explanation as to why there are two lights instead of one.

"The officers said the night was 'very clear' at the time of the sighting and Smith said he did not believe either of the two lights in the photograph were building or street lights.

"An LAPD spokesman said Tuesday that, after the report by the two officers was made public, 'about a dozen persons' called the department with similar sightings of an object at a time roughly coinciding with the sighting time reported by the officers.

"Smith has been with the LAPD four years and Wynkoop has been on the force five."

Credit: Philipp J. Human

Republic of South Africa

Object follows car

An incident at Grahamstown, Cape Province, was reported in the *Pretoria News* of July 9, 1973 —

"Two Cathcart youths, Gary Bergington and Peter Kemp (17), had a frightening experience at the weekend when they say they were followed in their runabout truck for about six kilometers by an unidentified flying object.

"Although they speeded up to over 120km/hour the UFO kept up with them, and at one stage came so close that they thought it was about to land on the back of the truck. It made no sound.

"Gary was taking Peter home 14

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