

grasp, by the way, on what specific grounds the South American journalists and reporters are held to be so much more untrustworthy than their colleagues elsewhere, but the present enquiry by a large number of painstaking investigators gives the lie anyway to that silly belief. For it is now clear that, once again, the original newspaper account of a South American UFO

case proves not to have been exaggerated at all, but rather the reverse!

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MAJOR 'FLAP' IN THE UNITED STATES

A preliminary account based on some main reports

Eileen Buckle

CLOSELY following a flurry of sightings in Georgia during the late summer of this year, a widespread flap occurred in the USA reaching a climax by mid-October. Sighting reports were very numerous and some quite remarkable. They included all categories — lights in the sky, near landings (occasionally with EM effects), landings (with at least one report of traces left behind), and contact with occupants.

Some new UFO photographs appeared in the press, together with a comparative rarity — a photograph of what was believed to be a UFO entity.

Even now, the flap may not have fully subsided, and it would be impossible to give a full account of every report received. However, let us take a brief look at some of the highlights to date.

Contact at Pascagoula

Judging by the exceptional number of news-cuttings we received, by far and away the most newsworthy of all the cases was that of the two fishermen who, on Thursday, October 11, said they had been captured on the bank of the Pascagoula River, in Mississippi, by three "space creatures". Although a considerable amount of doubt is generally warranted where persons have claimed to have been taken inside a UFO, this is one instance that cannot be easily dismissed.

The witnesses were local shipyard workers, Calvin Parker, aged 18, and Charles Hickson, aged 45, both well thought of in their community. After reporting their experience at the Sheriff's office at Pascagoula (a town of population 31,000), reportedly "scared to death" and "shaking all over," they were rather reluctant to speak to the press, but granted an interview to the *Mississippi Press* a week later. Here is their story as told by Hickson:

"We were fishing last Thursday night behind the old Shaupeter Shipyard building on the Pascagoula

River. I turned to get some more bait when I heard a zipping sound.

"I turned around and saw a spacecraft with bright, flashing, blue-looking lights. It just hovered without touching the ground. It seemed to open up, but there really wasn't a door there at all. These three creatures came floating out towards us. I was so scared that I couldn't believe it was happening.

"The creatures were pale, ghost-like, about five feet high. They were sort of light flesh-coloured, or more pale-grey, with crab-like claws for hands and rounded feet. The creatures were on us before we knew it. Two of them seemed to lift me off the ground, and I became motionless and glided into the craft. (Parker said he passed out as he was carried into the craft.)

"After I got inside I had no feelings. I was helpless, but I could still move my eyes. It was real bright inside, but no particular colour. There were no light fixtures but it was plenty bright.

"Something big and round that looked like a big eye moved back and forth across my body. The two creatures moved me around so that the eye could check me in various positions. I just kind of floated without touching anything. I didn't see any attachment for the eye. It was just kind of suspended in air.

"The two things left me for a while, maybe half a minute, and I was in there just motionless. All I could do was move my eyes. I never felt any pain. They didn't hurt us at all.

"Later they carried me back outside and I floated down on my feet. I was so weak-kneed I think I fell over. The creatures didn't walk at all. Their legs stayed together and they floated.

"After I have thought more about it, I believe they were more like robots. They acted like they had a specific thing to do, and they did it. They didn't try to communicate with us.

“ I heard one of them make a buzzing sound. It might have been in contact with something somewhere else. I didn't see the opening in the front of the face move. I didn't see anything that looked like eyes. There was something pointing out like a nose and then an opening under this, but no eyes.

“ The craft, which was sort of rounded or oval, was about 8-10 feet wide and about 8 feet high. It came upon us in a split second and it left with a zip. It was gone in half a second. They were on us so quick we couldn't do anything. I doubt if we could have resisted them if we had tried to. I'm sure they are far more advanced than we are.

“ I know now that they didn't intend to hurt us physically. But I feared they were going to take us away. I would like to emphasise that they don't mean us any harm.

“ I honestly believe other people will go through similar experiences. I think these creatures will continue to probe the earth. We haven't seen the last of it...Our lives will never be the same, but I felt we owed it to the people to tell what we saw. I don't believe I could live with it by myself. I believe we have done what is right.”

Calvin Parker also emphasised:

“ Please don't shoot at these things. They don't mean us any harm. I believe if they came back I could face them and try to communicate with them.”

This comment is very strange under the circumstances. And yet, similar sentiments have been stressed before under similar circumstances. Why? Space doesn't allow us to dwell on this question, nor does it allow us to make detailed comparisons between this and other cases with similar characteristics, though the floating Kelly-Hopkinsonville entities with their claw-like hands inevitably spring to mind.

To add weight to the fishermen's story, it should be said that the Sheriff was totally convinced they were telling the truth. Subsequently they were interviewed for several hours by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Astronomy Department at Northwestern University, and Dr. James A. Harder, professor of Hydraulic Engineering at the University of California. They were made to relive their experience under hypnosis, and, according to Harder, their emotions and very strong feelings of terror would have been impossible to fake. Hynek said “There is no question in my mind that these men have had a very terrifying experience.”¹

Entity photographed by Police Officer

The same day as a former methodist minister had allegedly encountered, whilst he was driving to Hartwell, Ga., a UFO which landed on the road in front of him together with silver-suited, white-haired occupants, police chief Greenhaw of Falkville, Alabama, received a telephone call at 10.00 pm from a woman who said a “space-ship” had landed in a field behind her home. The chief grabbed his new polaroid camera and raced off in his patrol car to see the site of the “landing,” a half-mile out of town. For a while, he told the *Christian Science Monitor* (October 24),² he found nothing, but as he turned down a gravel road he was confronted by

a 6-foot being in a silvery suit. Its face and torso was like a “piece of ice” or a “mirror.”

Thinking it was a prank, he got out of his car, about 50 feet away from the creature. The latter said nothing but walked slowly towards him with a swivel-like motion. Still thinking it was a joke, Greenhaw started to take pictures with his camera, and within a short while the entity was only 10 feet away. Then it turned and began running.

The chief began to follow the entity in his car, reaching 15 miles an hour. It was then, he says, that he realised that the entity was not a normal being, because he simply couldn't catch it. The creature completely eluded him at a moment when he straightened his car on the road, having wandered to the wrong side during the chase. So far, we haven't heard that the story and photograph is the result of a hoax.³

More police reports

Police officials have featured frequently in the news reports of this latest flap. For example, on October 16, in Louisiana, about 150 miles North West of Pascagoula, a Sheriff's deputy claimed his car was almost attacked by an orange-reddish flying object. “Our deputies spotted five of them and a



One of police Chief Greenhaw's photographs of a silvery-suited being which he believed to be a space-man

bunch of witnesses saw them too," said Deputy Sheriff Michael Moore, who apparently was scared pretty badly.

From the *Evening Journal* of Wilmington, Delaware, (October 5) we learn that two Pennsylvania state troopers saw a heart-shaped object, with the point in front, shining a large, bright, powerful beam straight down, hovering silently at about 1,200 feet. They had been driving near Media prior to the sighting which lasted 90 seconds. The object travelled a quarter mile whereupon the red lights at the side went out; it then emitted a purring sound and took off.

At Tupelo, Miss., according to a UPI report, on October 3, four National Park Service rangers and a deputy Sheriff saw a "flying saucer the size of a two-bedroom house hover over the area for about 15 minutes, flashing red, green and yellow lights. Highway patrolmen, policemen, a sheriff and other persons also reported seeing strange flying objects over northeastern Mississippi that night.

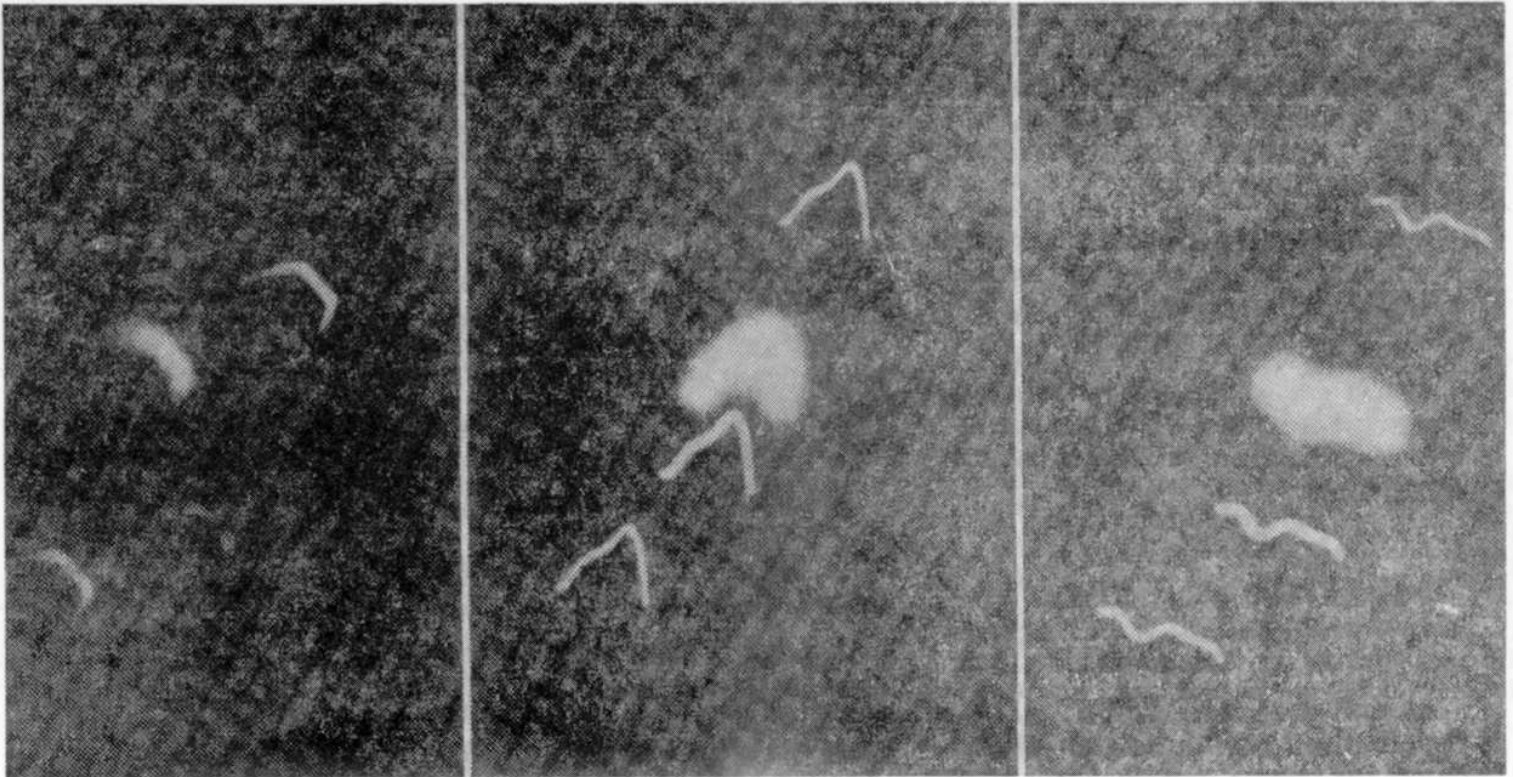
Unpleasant encounter

One rather unpleasant report was that of a truck-

driver, Eddie Doyle Webb, aged 45, of Greenville, Mo., who was blinded for several hours by a UFO. On October 3, about dawn, while he was driving, he saw a bright light or silvery object in the sky behind him, rapidly approaching. He awakened his wife, who was asleep in the cab, but she didn't see anything. Webb said:

"Then I stuck my head out of the window and a large ball of fire struck me in the face. My glasses fell off and I couldn't see. But I got the truck stopped."

Mrs. Webb said her husband screamed: "Oh, my God! I'm burned. I can't see!" One of the lenses of his glasses fell out of the plastic frame which was warped. Mrs. Webb, who serves as a relief driver at times, drove him to hospital. Sgt. Ed. Wright, of the highway patrol, took Webb's glasses to Dr. Harley Rutledge, head of the Southwest Missouri State University Physics Department for analysis. Rutledge said he put the glasses under a microscope and it appeared they were heated internally. The heat warped the plastic, causing the lens to fall out (from the *Evening Journal*, Wilmington, Delaware of October 5).



This sequence of pictures was taken by a Columbus, Ohio, newspaper photographer, Ken Chamberlain on October 17. He was convinced that the pulsating lights in the sky over South-western Franklin County were not those of an aircraft.

Collision course with UFO

To wind up, here is an A.P. report from Cleveland, Ohio, taken from the *Enquirer* of October 22:

"Army Capt. Lawrence J. Coyne has given the Federal Aviation Administration information about the sighting of an unidentified flying object, which he says nearly collided with his helicopter near Mansfield last week. Three reservists of the 316th Medivac unit based at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, said the helicopter was flying at 2,500 feet when the crew chief, Sgt./5 Robert J. Yanacsek, 23, reported a red light about five miles to the east.

"He said the crew at first thought it was a radio beacon but Yanacsek yelled 'the light is moving. It's coming at us. It's on a collision course.

"Coyne, a veteran of 19 years of military flying, grabbed the controls from his copilot, Lt. Arriggo D. Jezzi, 26, of Sandusky.

"It looked like a fighter plane coming straight for us,' Coyne said. 'I took immediate evasive action. I cut the power and dropped into a shallow dive. We dropped to 2,000 feet, and it was headed right for us. We braced for impact.' Coyne said when the helicopter reached 1,500 feet, the approaching craft appeared to stop momentarily about 500 feet overhead and banked to one side.

"We never saw anything like it before,' he said. 'It was unreal...a cigar-shaped craft with a glowing, steady red light on its leading edge. A hull was at the very top of it, and a green light emitted from the rear of the craft filled our cabin with a green glow. It was eerie!'

"Coyne said the strange craft hovered over the helicopter only a few seconds. He said he glanced at the altimeter and noticed that the helicopter had risen to 3,800 feet. None of the crew members felt the gravitational pull normally felt when a helicopter rises, Coyne added. 'We felt a bounce, and then the other craft took off to the north-east,' Coyne said. Seconds later, the craft disappeared.

"The pilot said efforts were made to radio Mansfield Airport immediately, but the helicopter received no response. He said the unusual communications blackout lasted about 10 minutes, until radio contact was established with the Akron-Canton Airport.

"Coyne said he could offer no rational explanation for the incident. Crew member S-Sgt. John M. Healey, who is a detective in the Cleveland police intelligence unit, also was mystified. Based on the quick appearance and disappearance of the craft, the crew members estimated its speed at more than 600 mph. Coyne said a conventional aircraft flying that close to the helicopter would create a great deal of noise, but no noise was heard.

"Copilot Jezzi confirmed Coyne's description of the mysterious craft. He said the entire sequence of events lasted 'maybe five or six seconds.'

"It was strange,' he said, 'We're all grown men. We'd never seen anything like it.' He said the red and green lights were not in a normal configuration for aircraft, and he noted that the craft was flying about 500 knots — about twice the legal limit in the controlled air space at that level. 'There was no

downward motion,' he said. 'It stayed on our level and it was really moving fast.' He said Coyne contacted flight officials in Cleveland after the helicopter landed. He said they also could offer no explanation for the craft."

In a recent letter to the Editor, John Keel predicted that the present flap (which he believes actually began as early as late 1971, although it didn't become news until the 1973 summer) will taper off after a peak in October 1973. However, he calculates that the flap will be renewed next March and prove to be the biggest of all time. It will not be long before we discover whether he is right or not.

* * * *

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the many kind readers who sent the information and cuttings which made the foregoing article possible.

Notes

- 1 We hope to obtain an "in depth" report of the above case for a future issue.
- 2 The date of the occurrence was not given in the *Monitor*.
- 3 On October 16, three pranksters walked along US Highway 35, dressed in aluminium foil and makeshift antennae on their heads. This was near Xenia, Ohio.



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