

What They Say

In this issue, I am including a few personal reflections on UFO's by some of my associates. Since this journal is an account of personal experiences in ufology, it is worthwhile to present the views of individuals with whom I share my thoughts.

UFO Research

by Wally Nilsson

UFO's: what are they; who are they; what do they want; where do they come from? Is this phenomenon mechanical or natural in origin? Are they inter-stellar immigrants, time travellers from our future, life forms from another dimension in coexistence with our planet or the indicators of the endtime in which good and evil will have their final battle? These are some of the questions raised by professional UFO researchers today.

Lights in the sky have been seen by the human race since its emergence from the caves of prehistory. Our ancestors, upon encountering these objects, would record their sightings in the form of cave paintings, folklore and religion. Europe, North America and Australia have a wealth of such rock paintings depicting encounters with such objects. History, as a whole, is full of encounters with bright lights from the sky, metallic crafts and alien creatures with human form. The experiences of contactees in the past seem to be very similar in nature to the ones occurring at present. The main difference when one compares present-day encounters to those of the past is the frequency of their occurrences. In the past 30 years, a marked increase in the number of sightings has been noted. Evidence also points out that the variety of phenomena and encounters has also increased dramatically compared to the past.

Today, the professional researcher that looks into these matters for possible answers finds UFO's are getting increased recognition and credibility as a worthy area of study. People as a whole are recognizing that something is indeed happening in our skies. Credible and knowledgeable research teams are making their presence known all over the world. Their efforts to learn more about this regularly-occurring phenomenon and their associated theories of the origin and structure of these objects require serious consideration by individuals with open minds. Much of what they report is not as science fiction as it first sounds.

Presently, these researchers are in the process of establishing contacts with fellow researchers around the world. They are forming a network of communication lines to facilitate the more direct flow of information regarding new sightings and close encounters. This is definitely a step in the right direction for solving this age-old mystery.

This phenomenon may well be deciphered within the near future through the

efforts of these free-thinkers. They have broken away from the conventional ways of thought and are treading on new grounds. Research in the future in this new field of study will become more analytical than theoretical. As new methods of study and new scientific equipment get developed, the age-old puzzle of the lights in the sky will become understood, and dealt with accordingly.

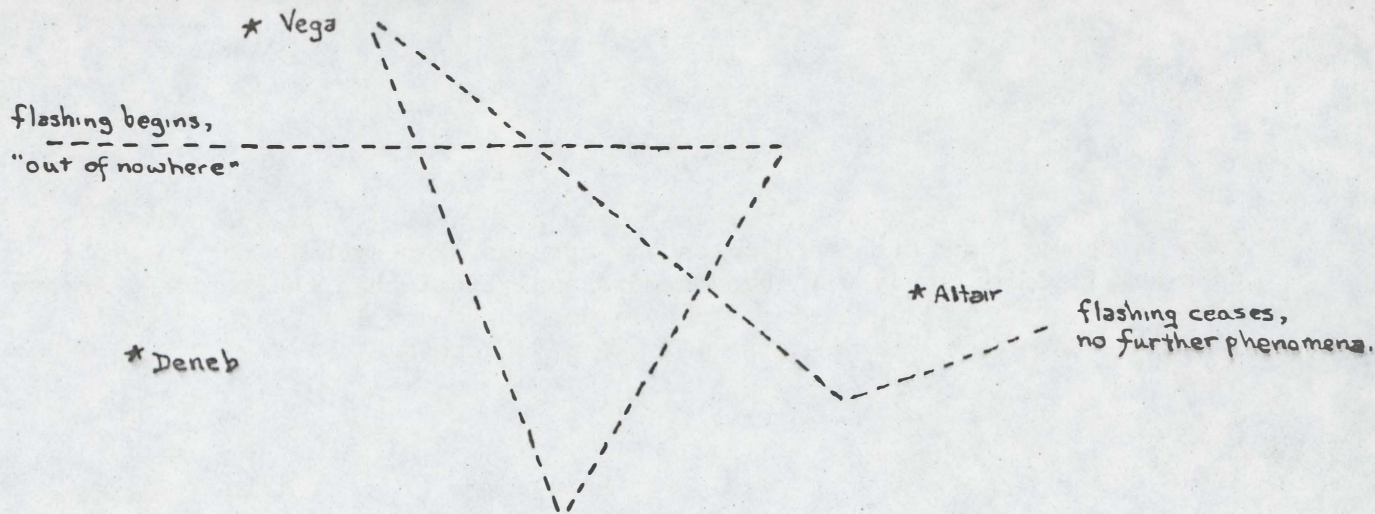
#### A Nocturnal Light UFO

by Vladimir Simosko

Picture this: It is a warm summer night in 1957 (pre-Sputnik) and you are an amateur astronomer of early 'teen age, lounging in a dark field enjoying the night sky, which was one of those breathtakingly clear ones, with a friend. Suddenly, a bright blue-white flashing light appears and moves steadily across the sky. You barely have time to think, "What an unusual meteor!" when it changes direction without warning or curving or varying speed, color, intensity or rate of flashing, so quickly your eyes continued tracking the original course before you can follow its new direction. As you resume watching it, the direction changes again, then again and yet again, always clockwise until the last turn, mostly at less than 90 degrees and always abruptly. Then it simply ceases flashing, the entire observation lasting only several seconds, so that it is all over before you and your friend can even say, "What the hell is that?" in unison.

You both saw it, and you immediately sketch the course. You saw the same thing, and neither of you have the slightest idea what it was. All you can do is remember and wonder. It seemed so high it must have been very fast to traverse so much of the sky, yet the turns were so sharp and abrupt, it boggles the imagination to account for it (see sketch).

Something like this, the dashes representing flashes and the path and location in the sky, was witnessed by myself and a friend as described. We had heard of 'flying saucers' but never considered this as a UFO sighting as we had never heard of "nocturnal lights" and in any case dismissed tales of discs and contactees as science fiction, at that time. It was not until many years later when the Condon report generated interest in studying the literature of UFOlogy by contradicting itself and generating controversy in the field, that I discovered this incident fits the "nocturnal light" category. So much for doubting there's "anything to it" or that mundane explanations could be formulated for all sightings if witnesses were reliable and all the usual glib dismissals! This was a weird and for years inexplicable event which now has a label after all: "Nocturnal Light UFO" may not seem an adequate explanation, and I am not theorising that this event was a manifestation of short spacebrothers from Zeta Reticuli, but it is at least a categorisable phenomenon and widely recognized as such. And, I can no longer deny having seen a UFO, or justify offhand dismissal of others' claims; nevertheless the skepticism of people who have never seen ANYTHING unusual remains inoffensive -- would I have believed it if I hadn't seen it?



Above: The UFO seen by Vladimir Simosko in 1957.

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#### Birth Pain

Hal Lindsey's latest book, "The 1980's: Countdown to Armageddon", is now widely available, and continues his efforts to forewarn mankind of the coming crisis and the Revelations. Although it isn't really new, he points out that Jesus says in Luke 21:11 that, "There will be terrors and great signs from heaven." Lindsey suggests that UFO's are some of the strange conditions that Jesus predicted, and says that they "are real and that there will be a proven "close encounter of the third kind" soon." He goes on to suggest that UFO's are guided by some type of "alien being of great intelligence and power".

According to Lindsey, during the last days, demons will use their powers of deception to the utmost, and probably will stage a spacecraft landing on Earth, claiming to be creatures from another galaxy. Using such lies, the demons will effectively convince scientists of their good faith as benevolent extraterrestrial beings, leading the world "into total error regarding God and His revelation."

Representatives of groups like the 20th Century UFO Bureau, such as Gene Barry, have been preaching religious connotations into UFO phenomena for several years now. I recall reading that Barry had made the news services a few years ago by suggesting that UFO's observed in Israel during some skirmishes were really angels watching over them and confusing the enemy.

I have mixed feelings regarding predictions and claims like these. I believe in God, and in being brought up Catholic, I am aware of the concept of the devil and his role in Roman Catholic teachings. Although I haven't studied it thoroughly, I also know about the basic aspects of the Revelations as presented in the Bible. Very few people are cognizant of the fact that many of the predictions are apparently coming true (this of course, is also predicted). Wars, violence, famines, etc. are occurring and are reported daily. Financial and stock market analysts have given evidence to show that an economic collapse is near. The basic argument against this, however, is that such conditions have existed almost continually on the Earth for many hundreds of years. Is it really getting worse? And why bother to connect UFO's to this at all? Haven't they had enough trouble getting accepted by science?

## DO I BELIEVE IN WHAT?

Guy Westcott, NOAP. UFOROM.

The other day, Chris Rutkowski came up to me and thrusting a stencil into my hand, said, "Here, write what you know about UFO's for my newsletter." Although I am not a firm believer that every unexplained object or phenomena that we see in the skies is a spacecraft full of little, bugged-eyed green men, I think that the amount of sightings reported in the world is a definite cause for a full scientific investigation. On three separate occasions, accompanied by witnesses, I have seen objects in the sky for which I can offer no sensible explanation. Every object that you see in the sky is an unidentified flying object, to that particular observer, until it becomes known or identified, it then becomes an IFO (identified flying object). In my files to date, I have approximately 300 sighting reports, some CE1, some CE2 and some CE3. On the whole, the CE1's far outstretch the CE3's, but one case in particular, a CE2 case, still makes me think and ponder on the possibilities of extraterrestrials even today. The case in question happened on Monday, 27th Aug., 1979, in Marshall County, Minnesota. Deputy Sherriff Val Johnson was on duty at 1:40 a.m. CDT, when approximately 10 miles west of Stephen, a non-blinking, solid white light, with definite defined edges swooped down on his patrol car, causing the Deputy to lose consciousness for 39 minutes, welders burns to both his eyes, and an uneasy feeling when he woke up that he had been subjected to some sort of brainwashing that "I just don't want to think about the possibilities." I had the extreme luck to be down in Minnesota on holiday when the encounter occurred. I was able to be one of the first investigators on the scene. I have since interviewed Val Johnson twice and on both occasions, I have found that his story ties in with what was previously told. I am sure that this man is a capable observer and relater of the facts as they happened. My first opinion was that the Deputy's car had, in fact, been struck by ball lightning. Most of the evidence pointed in this direction. Herein follows police vehicle damage report:

Ford L.T.D. metallic brown, left hand front inner headlight broken, no damage to metal surround strip. Slight indentation to left hand side of bumper directly below headlight. Front hood, round indentation with small perforation holes at the bottom of indentation, left hand hood approximately one foot from windscreen trim, and one and a half to two feet from left hand edge of car. Indentation is approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep, being stepped at  $\frac{1}{8}$ " perfectly round and the size of a twenty-five cent piece. Windshield, left hand side, three definite impact points forming a triangle with glass crazing tapering off to the top of the windshield. Roof, left hand red sidelight, glass knocked out. Centre roof dome light, two burn marks, approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long on back of dome light. Roof antenna, spring-loaded metal whip; bent at approximately 45 degrees, five inches from base. Rear trunk antenna, spring loaded metal whip, bent at approx. 90 degree, three inches from the top.

A full transcript of this report can be obtained by sending \$2.00 to P.O. Box 174, St. James Post Office, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3J 3R4. This report includes photographs. Since this report was made out other facts have come to light regarding this encounter. I now believe that what Deputy Val Johnson saw, was not ball lightning, but a controlled craft with a definite intelligent intent. As Carl Sagan says "There are billions & billions of stars out there!" Can I be so conceited as to believe that there is no other civilization out there more advanced than we are?

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Recent Items of Interest

Margaret Sachs' "The UFO Encyclopedia" (Perigee Books, 1980) is now out, and the first instinctive response I had was to compare it to Ronald Story's "Encyclopedia of UFO's". As a matter of fact, when I saw Story's volume, I had thought that he and Sachs had pooled their resources, as I had heard word that Sachs was coming out with a definitive work, and had no preview of Story's efforts. I'll say at the start that Sach's version is the lower quality of the two. Although it is a useful guide to the field, it is definitely not set up in a manner which coincides with standard encyclopedic format, and is in fact frustrating at times. Noted UFO cases, for example, are not listed in an easily identifiable manner. The case of Betty and Barney Hill is listed under, of all things, NEW HAMPSHIRE, and even then does not give a proper biography for the witnesses. The Father Gill case is likewise found under its location in New Guinea. Very often, an unusual name for a common entry candidate is listed, as is the case for some of the entries for misidentifiable clouds. The Sachs Encyclopedia is very concerned with terms and phrases, and lists entries for UFO BUFF, etc.

Even though the reader is warned that cases are listed by location, it still is an inconvenience to have to look them up in that manner. The famous case of WALTER, TRAVIS (sic) is listed under its location in the forest in Arizona.

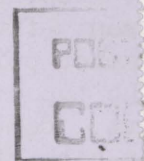
A major problem is the inclusion of reviews of UFO-related science fiction movies. While one of the problems with Story's work was his omission of SF; I hoped Sachs would redeem herself with the reviews. But the reviews are terrible, suggesting that the reviewer never even went to see the movies in question. 2001: A Space Odyssey definitely seems not to be about aliens on Jupiter who provide an astronaut with food and clothing until his old age. And surely The Day the Earth Stood Still had something more than an alien who made the Earth stand still.

The Encyclopedia had the usual problems with listing addresses and telephone numbers, either listing incorrect ones or ones that are totally outdated. If anyone finds my name (yes, it's in there) not only is the address listed four years old, but the street number is left out.

Perhaps someone will come out with a third Encyclopedia...

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