

Large UFO Reported Sighted in Augusta

By Dallas M. Kersey
Times-Dispatch News Bureau
FISHERSVILLE, Jan. 12—

The reported sighting of a 80-to-90 foot unidentified flying object near here brought a two-man air force investigating team here Tuesday to the site where the object is believed to have landed. But there was no indications that the object had been there.

The unidentified flying object (UFO) was reportedly seen by Horace Burns a gunsmith who lives at Grottoes, on December 21 while driving to Waynesboro. No one else has reported seeing the object.

After a field inspection with a Geiger counter, air force Sgt. David Moody said only that there is no radioactivity now in the area where Burns said the craft landed. He did not rule out the possibility that there could have been radiation earlier.

Burns' sighting of the UFO was reported to the air force in a letter from a resident of this area of the Shenandoah valley. Sergeant Moody said he could not disclose the name of the person. Reports of sightings have to be filed with the air force before they are investigated, he said.

Open Meadow

Sergeant Moody headed the two-man team from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, who investigated the reported sighting along U. S. Rt. 250 east of here in an open meadow near the entrance to the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Augusta county.

"This is an unusual sighting," said Sergeant Moody, who has had four years experience checking out similar reports. "It's not routine. If it was routine we wouldn't be here." All

reports to the air force on UFO's are checked at Wright-Patterson under what is called Project Blue Book.

During his four years with Project Blue Book, Sergeant Moody said he has never run across an object of the shape described by Burns.

Burns said he was driving toward Waynesboro about 5 p.m. on Monday, December 21, when he saw a large metallic object coming out of the sky north of the highway.

Auto's Engine Stalled

As it crossed Rt. 250 about 200 feet ahead of him, his car's engine cut off "just as if I'd run out of gas." The UFO landed in the field about 100 yards from him. He got out of his car to look at the craft which resembled an upside-down ice cream cone. "It was 125 feet in diameter, at least, and 80 to 90 feet high," said Burns.

He is not sure of what material the object was made although it looked like spun aluminum, he said. Around the perimeter of the base of the machine there was a band of bluish glow about a foot wide. It had no visible windows or doors, he said.

The UFO rested in the meadow about one to one and one-half minutes, Burns said, then it suddenly rose perpendicularly for several hundred feet and took off in a northeasterly direction at a very fast speed. It made only a soft "whooshing sound," he said.

He was then able to restart his car. Burns said he was still so shocked at seeing the object he cannot recall whether any other cars came by while the object was on the ground.

"Zero Report"

Sergeant Moody said that although his office had 16 out of 500 reports last year for which they could not find answers, Project Blue Book has had "zero reports like this. It does not conform with any known aircraft."

Ernest Gehman, professor of German at Eastern Mennonite College at Harrisonburg who sponsors a UFO investigators club at the school, said he was contacted about Burns' sighting several days after the occurrence.

He visited the site on December 30 to take a radiation reading with a Geiger counter. He had heard that in other areas of the country where similar objects have been sighted the ground was found radio active. "It knocked the thing (needle) off the dial," Gehman said indicating a high concentration of radiation. He said his meter registered over 60,000 counts per minute.

Sergeant Moody said it is possible that the radiation, if there was any, could have worn off by now. This rules out the existence of certain types of radiation, he said.

The two servicemen, Burns, Gehman and a student at Eastern Mennonite spent, about one-half hour Tuesday walking over the area where Burns said he saw the aircraft land. The field is covered with snow.

After Burns saw the UFO he told his wife about it but decided not to mention it to anyone because "they'd think I'm crazy." However, six days later by coincidence, The Times-Dispatch carried an article about Gehman's UFO club, Burns heard about it indirectly and told Gehman the entire story.

Sergeant Moody said he has no explanation for the strange happenings. "I wish I did. It would certainly ease Mr. Burns," he said.

Normally all such reports are first investigated by officials from the nearest air force base, but Moody said this was of such a unusual nature that it was decided to check it directly. Once he has completed his investigation here, he will return to Wright-Patterson to report on his findings.

The investigators said that during Project Blue Book's 17-year history, only 7.7 per cent of the reported cases remain unidentified.

AF Says No Evidence Found Of UFO Landing in Augusta

RICHMOND (AP)—The Air Force said Wednesday it has found no evidence of the alleged landing of an unidentified flying object (UFO) in a field near Fishersville.

A spokesman said, however, that their reports on the sightings do not mean that the cases are closed. "Our cases are never closed until the reported objects are sufficiently identified," he said.

A spokesman for Project Blue Book, the Air Force's UFO investigation unit, said in a telephone interview that the Air Force currently is receiving no UFO reports from anywhere except Virginia.

The spokesman said it has received two other

reports of Virginia sightings—one from the Williamsburg area and another from Bedford.

In the Fishersville report, the Air Force said Horace Burns, a gunsmith, said he saw a large object descend in a field beside U.S. 250 Dec. 21.

The Air Force investigators said they could find no other witnesses to the object. They felt that since Burns estimated the object to be 125 feet in diameter and 80 to 90 feet high, it would have been seen by other people.

Also, the investigators said they found no radioactivity in the area of the alleged landing,

and that there were no depressions in the ground or other indications that a vehicle had landed in the field.

The Williamsburg report came last Saturday from two motorists. They said they saw a tall, aluminum colored object about five miles east of Williamsburg.

The Bedford reports, which the Air Force received Wednesday, stemmed from sightings on Monday. A couple reported seeing a cigar-shaped object and a round object in the sky. Five minutes later, and 15 miles away, a man reported seeing a square object in the sky.

V.A.

AF

1964-DEC. 21

1964, December 21

Horace Burns Landing Report, E-M
Augusta County, VIRGINIA

FRI. JAN 15, 1965
VIRGINIA-PILOT

UFO Site Yields No Radiation

FISHERVILLE (AP) — If a huge unidentified flying object really did land in a field beside U.S. 250 in Augusta County, there's no trace of it now.

Horace Burns, a Grottoes gunsmith, reported sighting the object Dec. 21 while driving between Staunton and Waynesboro. "It was 125 feet in diameter, at least, and 80 to 90 feet high," Burns said.

A two-man Air Force team from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, checked the reported landing site with a geiger counter Tuesday and could find no indication of any unusual radiation count.

But Sgt. David Moody, who headed the team, did not rule out the possibility there had been radiation there earlier.

Ernest Gehman, a professor at Eastern Mennonite College, who heads a UFO investigators' club, said he checked the site Dec. 30 with a geiger counter. "It knocked the thing (needle) off the dial," Gehman said, indicating a high concentration of radiation. He said his meter registered over 60,000 counts per minute.

Burns said the object made a "whooshing sound" and was shaped like an upside down ice cream cone. He said when it appeared in the sky his automobile engine quit running. He said he did not see any other automobiles on the highway.

Boy Reports Seeing UFO In Augusta

His Sighting Also Was Dec. 21

By Dallas Kersey

Times-Dispatch News Bureau

STAUNTON, Jan. 14 — The story of a Grottoes man who said he saw a large unidentified flying object (UFO) last month has brought a similar report from a Staunton High School student who said he saw a strange flying object about the same time.

Kenneth Norton Jr., 14, said Thursday that at about 4:50 p.m. on December 21 he saw a large cigar-shaped UFO from his bedroom window similar to the one Horace Burns said he saw from his car about 10 minutes later along U. S. Rt. 250 near Fishersville, eight miles east of here.

Burns' sighting was reported to air force authorities at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, who keep track of such reported sightings. They sent two investigators to the Fishersville site Tuesday to take radiation readings.

No Radiation Reading

No radiation was detected by their Geiger counter.

"I gathered the impression they (the air force men) didn't have anything to tell me," Burns said. "They told me very little."

Young Norton immediately told his mother what he had seen but the family decided not to report it because "We didn't want anybody to think he was nuts," his mother said. Norton's sighting went unreported until Burns' incident was made public.

"My mother let me call this evening (Thursday) because she thought maybe what I saw would verify Mr. Burns' story," young Norton said.

Norton drew a picture of the UFO he had seen before he saw a sketch of what Burns says he saw. Both estimated the diameter of the UFO at 125 feet. However, Burns said the UFO he saw resembled an upside-down spinning top, 80 to 90 feet high.

The UFO Norton claims to have seen was cigar-shaped, he said, but the angle from which he saw it could have distorted the view of the object.

"I know what the boy tells is the truth," said his mother. "We wouldn't let him tell this until now because my husband holds a responsible position," she said.

Norton, a member of the Civil Air Patrol Cadets, said that in the five seconds he saw the UFO he could tell it was metallic and "it didn't have any wings or tail structure. I don't think there's a plane that would go at such a tremendous speed," he said.

Burns' experience resulted in a public meeting attended by about 250 persons Thursday at Eastern Mennonite College at Harrisonburg where he related his experience on the afternoon of December 21.

Ernest Gehman, professor of German at the college and sponsor of a group of the college known as UFO investigators, said that on December 30 he visited the site where Burns said he saw the UFO and took a radiation reading which indicated a high concentration.

This conflicts with the air force team's negative finding.

But Gehman said Thursday night that he had two witnesses to his Geiger counter reading at the reported landing site. He said one of the men, an engineer with an area industry, knows of a few other persons who said they also saw the UFO but are afraid to disclose their findings.

The air force investigators said they will write a report on their findings later.

Sightings in Rockingham

Club to Study UFO Reports

By Dallas Kersey

Times-Dispatch News Bureau

HARRISONBURG, Dec. 26 —A group of students and a professor at Eastern Mennonite College here have organized a club to look into reports of sightings of objects resembling flying saucers in Rockingham county.

Sponsor of the 30-member club is Ernest Gehman professor of German at the college. The group is called the UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) Investigators.

The club's objectives are to investigate known sightings for information of unidentified flying objects in the area and to record these events.

Gehman said the club is tape recording interviews with persons who have reported the sightings and will submit its findings, probably by the end of the school year, to the air force and National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

Skepticism Noted

He said he had to go through "quite a bit of red tape" before the college sanctioned the club because of skepticism over what these objects are that persons report seeing. The activity is still frowned upon by many of his fellow faculty members, he added.

The club has reports of

several sightings in Rockingham county but so far has recorded only four accounts.

The most recent sighting was by the Elmer Carr family of the Bergton area where other objects are said to have been seen. Carr's two sons said that on the night of November 5 they saw three glowing objects in the sky near their home which "looked like they could make 90-degree turns."

The family has been seeing these objects since early spring. The latest sighting was this month. "I'm sure they aren't airplanes," explains Mrs. Carr, "because they hover in one spot for a long time."

"Red Flashing Light"

The most unusual instance, Gehman said, was reported by a Rockingham county deputy sheriff who saw two years ago a "red flashing light" which looked as though it was coming down a moun-

tain. The deputy said it looked like "a piece of burning aircraft."

He got within a half-mile of the circular object which was hovering about 50 feet above the ground, he said. It was about 75 to 100 feet in diameter, and resembled a red light flashing twice as fast as a light on a police car, he said.

When the deputy turned his car ignition off to listen better, "it struck out at a very high rate of speed diagonally." It made a soft humming sound but had no exhaust vapor, he said. "The only thing I've ever seen travel that fast was a tracer bullet."

One man in the Brocks Gap area near Bergton saw an odd object during the day while putting up storm windows on his house. "I've seen mirages, but I'm a very dubious person," said Robert Schuler. It was a "silvery

looking, cigar shaped, very long thing," he said. His wife also saw it. It disappeared straight up into the sky, he added.

Feels a Need

These reports and others have made Gehman feel there is a need to investigate the occurrences further and to compile a report.

The flying saucer phenomena has been reported for many years throughout the world. There are many noted scientists on record who profess to believe that the objects come from another planet.

What impresses Gehman, who is also a minister, is that the people he has talked with "would have no reason to make up a story like this.

Meaning Sought

"It's a naive thing for people not to believe responsible testimony," he says. The question Gehman and his club is pursuing is "what is the meaning of all this to us?"

The sightings thus far have centered around the Bergton-Brocks Gap area of Rockingham county within a 20-mile radius in the vicinity of Little North mountain.

Gehman noted that the objects have been seen from both sides of the mountain "and seem to disappear right into the mountain."



2-B Sunday, Dec. 27, 1964

400 HEAR OF SIGHTING

*Daily News Record
Harrisonburg, Va. 11/15/64*

Unidentified Flying Objects Apparently Are Here To Stay

By W. H. ASHENFELTER
News-Record Staff Writer

Like the fabled city of Atlantis and the unanswered question of the abominable snowman, Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are apparently here to stay.

However, "Unless an awfully lot of intelligent people have gone off the deep end, UFOs do exist" stated a man at Thursday night's meeting at Eastern Mennonite College to hear a report on the area's latest sighting.

Nearly 400 persons turned out for the report by Horace Burns, of Grottoes. Mr. Burns, 54, reported seeing a large UFO Dec. 21.

The sighting, Mr. Burns said,

took place a few miles east of Staunton while he was on his way to Waynesboro. The UFO, he continued, "was 125-feet at the base and 75-feet high."

According to Mr. Burns, who operates a small gunshop in Harrisonburg, the object was so large that he could not see all of it while looking through his car windshield.

As it crossed the road ahead of him, "some sort of force was exerted on the car because of the way it slowed down," he said.

His car stopped dead as the UFO crossed U.S. 250 and came to rest in a meadow about 100 yards from the highway.

It was cone-shaped, and its

circular sloping sides rose in about six large rings that diminished in diameter to a dome at the top, Mr. Burns said.

He said that all around the perimeter at the base of the machine there was a bluish glow in a band about a foot wide.

There were no windows or doors in the machine, Mr. Burns said, and no evidence of seams. The object had settled gently to the ground.

"I stood beside the car for perhaps 1½ minutes before it rose up and took off," Mr. Burns said. "But when it went, it went and it went real fast. It took off at a perfectly square angle," he added.

The professor said that two passing motorists, one of whom he knew personally, saw him work the geiger counter and could substantiate his story.

One of the witnesses said that he knew of three reluctant witnesses who had seen the same UFO.

Mr. Burns, who said, "I am not looking for notoriety or publicity, or anything like that," said that he was "astonished" at the thing.

When asked if he saw any cars pass while the UFO was within sight, he replied, "I don't know if any cars went past—I wasn't looking at cars then."

Mr. Burns said that he was calm and relaxed before sighting the flying object.

When asked what the Air Force investigators found out concerning his report, Mr. Burns said, "Frankly they told me very little. I gathered the impression that they didn't have anything to tell me.

Prof. Gehman said that when going over the area with his geiger counter, he could trace the outline of the UFO. "I know the area was fully as large as Mr. Burns described it," he said.

It flew off in a northeasterly direction, Mr. Burns said. He had reported it coming in to land from a due northern course.

Mr. Burns' story has been partially corroborated by the story of a 14-year-old Staunton boy. The boy, (also unidentified) was reported to have seen an UFO from his bedroom window.

A member of last night's audience said that the boy, who was not present, estimated the flying object to be 125-feet in diameter. However, he said that it was cigar-shaped.

His mother immediately called him a "nut" and told him not to tell anyone else about it, the spokesman said.

It was finally decided to reveal his sighting in order to substantiate Mr. Burns' story.

Professor Ernest G. Gehman, sponsor of Eastern Mennonite College's UFO Club, has been active in seeking answers to Mr. Burns' sighting.

On Dec. 30 he took a geiger counter to the spot where the UFO was reported to have landed. A large amount of radioactive material was encountered, he said.

"The needle shot off the dial," Prof. Gehman reported. "I walked off the field but the needle would not come back to normal. I realized I had picked up some highly radioactive material."

Later in the evening, Prof. Gehman also reported that the two Air Force investigators had detected radioactive material on Mr. Burns' car this past Tuesday.

1964
Dec 21
(Staunton)
Va.

Richmond, Vir., paper - 1-14-65



T-D News Bureau Photo by Dallas Kersey

No UFO There Now

As Horace Burns watches, Sgt. David Moody uses a Geiger counter to determine whether the ground is radioactive where Burns said he saw an unidentified flying object land. The site is a field, near Fishersville in Augusta county, alongside U. S. Rt. 250. Sgt. Moody and another air force man were sent from Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, to examine the site Tuesday. They said there was no evidence that the UFO had been there, although an earlier Geiger counter reading, taken shortly after the reported sighting, registered a high concentration of radiation. Burns said he saw a craft measuring 80 to 90 feet in height land briefly in the field on the afternoon of December 21. (Another Picture on Page 1.)

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UFO Reported Sighted in Augusta

By Dallas M. Kersey

Times-Dispatch News Bureau

FISHERSVILLE, Jan. 12—

The reported sighting of a 80-90 foot unidentified flying object near here brought a two-man air force investigating team here Tuesday to the site where the object is believed to have landed. But there was no indication that the object had been there.

The unidentified flying object (UFO) was reportedly seen by Horace Burns a gunsmith who lives at Grottoes, on December 1 while driving to Waynesboro. No one else has reported seeing the object.

After a field inspection with Geiger counter, air force Sgt. David Moody said only that there is no radioactivity now in the area where Burns said the

craft landed. He did not rule out the possibility that there could have been radiation earlier.

Burns' sighting of the UFO was reported to the air force in a letter from a resident of this area of the Shenandoah valley. Sergeant Moody said he could not disclose the name of the person. Reports of sightings have to be filed with the air force before they are investigated, he said.

"This is an unusual sighting," said Sergeant Moody, of Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, who has had four years experience checking out similar reports. "It's not routine. If it was routine we wouldn't be here." All reports to the air force on UFO's are checked at Wright-Patter-

son under what is called Project Blue Book.

Burns said he was driving toward Waynesboro about 5 p.m. on Monday, December 21, when he saw a large metallic object coming out of the sky north of the highway.

Auto's Engine Stalled

As it crossed Rt. 250 about 200 feet ahead of him, his car's engine cut off "just as if I'd run out of gas." The UFO landed in the field about 100 yards from him. He got out of his car to look at the craft which resembled an upside-down ice cream cone. "It was 125 feet in diameter, at least, and 80 to 90 feet high," said Burns.

The UFO rested in the meadow about one to one and one-half minutes, Burns said, then it suddenly rose perpendicular-ly for several hundred feet and

took off in a northeasterly direction at a very fast speed. It made only a soft "whooshing sound," he said.

Ernest Gehman, professor of German at Eastern Mennonite College at Harrisonburg who sponsors a UFO investigators club at the school, said he was contacted about Burns' sighting several days after the occurrence.

He visited the site on December 30 to take a radiation reading with a Geiger counter. He had heard that in other areas of the country where similar objects have been sighted the ground was found radioactive. "It knocked the thing (needle) off the dial," Gehman said indicating a high concentration of radiation. He said his meter registered over 60,000 counts per minute.

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VA.

Boy Says He Saw UFO in Augusta On December 21

By Dallas Kersey

Times-Dispatch News Bureau

STAUNTON, Jan. 14 — The story of a Grottoes man who said he saw a large unidentified flying object (UFO) last month has brought a similar report from a Staunton High School student who said he saw a strange flying object about the same time.

Kenneth Norton Jr., 14, said Thursday that at about 4:50 p.m. on December 21 he saw a large cigar-shaped UFO from his bedroom window similar to the one Horace Burns said he saw from his car about 10 minutes later along U. S. Rt. 250 near Fishersville, eight miles east of here.

Burns' sighting was reported to air force authorities at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, who keep track of such reported sightings. They sent two investigators to the Fishersville site Tuesday to take radiation readings.

No radiation was detected by their Geiger counter.

"I gathered the impression they (the air force men) didn't have anything to tell me," Burns said. "They told me very little."

Young Norton immediately told his mother what he had seen but the family decided not to report it because "We didn't want anybody to think he was nuts," his mother said. Norton's sighting went unreported until Burns' incident was made public.

"My mother let me call this evening (Thursday) because she thought maybe what I saw would verify Mr. Burns' story," young Norton said.

Norton drew a picture of the UFO he had seen before he saw a sketch of what Burns says he saw. Both estimated the diameter of the UFO at 125 feet. However, Burns said the UFO he saw resembled an upside-down spinning top, 80 to 90 feet high.

The UFO Norton claims to have seen was cigar-shaped, he said, but the angle from which he saw it could have distorted the view of the object.

"I know what the boy tells is the truth," said his mother. "We wouldn't let him tell this until now because my husband holds a responsible position," she said.

Norton, a member of the Civil Air Patrol Cadets, said that in the five seconds he saw the UFO he could tell it was metallic and "it didn't have any wings or tail structure. I don't

think there's a plane that would go at such a tremendous speed," he said.

Burns' experience resulted in a public meeting attended by about 250 persons Thursday at Eastern Mennonite College at Harrisonburg where he related his experience on the afternoon of December 21.

Ernest Gehman, professor of German at the college and sponsor of a group at the college known as UFO Investigators, said that on December 30 he visited the site where Burns said he saw the UFO and took a radiation reading which indicated a high concentration. This conflicts with the air force team's negative finding.

But Gehman said Thursday night that he had two witnesses to his Geiger counter reading at the reported landing site. He said one of the men, an engineer with an area industry, knows of a few other persons who said they also saw the UFO but are afraid to disclose their findings.

The air force investigators said they will write a report on their findings later.

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1964-DEC. 21

Some Believe, Some Doubt UFO Story

By Dallas M. Kersey

Times-Dispatch News Bureau

STAUNTON, Jan. 16—A short, stout middle-aged man was at a hardware store in Staunton four days before Christmas buying supplies for the gunshop he owns in Harrisonburg. At 4:30 p.m. he left the city headed east on U. S. Rt. 250 on the way to his home at Grottoes.

About eight miles out of Staunton one-half hour later, Horace Burns said he noticed a gigantic dark object floating in from the north, cross Rt. 250 about 200 feet ahead of him and land gently in a field "like a bubble" for several seconds before taking off at a tremendous rate of speed.

Burns said the object apparently caused the engine of his car to stop.

Burns was "astonished" at the time. He told his wife about it but the family decided to keep the story a secret "because I thought people would think I'm crazy." But after hearing of other similar sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO's) in the Shenandoah valley he decided to tell his story publicly.

Since the episode was told in The Times-Dispatch Wednesday, Burns has been called "crazy" and "nuts" many times. But he also has believers, many of whom doubted the existence of UFO's in the past.

UFO Club

One of his most ardent believers, for good reason, is Ernest Gehman, professor of German at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg. He is sponsor of a recently formed UFO club at the college which investigates stories similar to Burns.

Nine days after Burns said he saw the 80 to 90-foot object, Gehman took a Geiger counter to the site to check for radiation. He knew that other reported UFO's have given off radiation.

Gehman got a "tremendously high reading" of radiation, and his finding has been verified by H. M. Cook of Staunton, a research engineer at Waynesboro's Du Pont plant. Gehman "was having a tizzy because the needle was all the way off the dial," said Cook, who has had considerable experience with Geiger counters in his work.

"It was a hot area," Cook said. "We spent 45 minutes in the field trying to tone this reading down. We checked the radium dials on our watches, even went over a small hill from the field, but this was definitely an accurate reading. The only thing I can say is that it was hot (radioactive)."

To Test Soil

Gehman said he plans to take samples of the soil in the field in the next few days for laboratory tests.

Last Tuesday, 22 days after Burns' sighting, the air force sent two men here from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, at Dayton, Ohio, to investigate a report they had gotten of the UFO in a letter from a valley resident. The air base is headquarters for project Blue Book which investigates sightings of UFO's reported to the air force.

After a 30-minute investigation in the field with air force Geiger counters, the servicemen reached the conclusion that there is no radiation in the field. They could give Burns no explanation for what he saw, but Sgt. David Moody, head of the team, said he would rule out in his final report any possibility of it being an airplane or helicopter because of the nature of Burns' report.

It was nearing dusk on December 21 when Burns said he saw the UFO. Only one visible light shone from it—a foot-wide blue band around the base, he said. The vehicle made no noise except for a slight "whooshing sound" when it left. It had no visible doors or windows, he said.

Not Routine Sighting

Until Sergeant Moody files his report his findings will not be known, but he admitted that "this is an unusual sighting. It's not routine. If it was routine we wouldn't be here."

When the question was raised last week whether Burns was telling a true story or one he had fabricated for publicity, a young boy came to his aid. Kenneth Norton Jr., 14, said he had seen a similar object about the same time on the same day from a bedroom window of his Staunton home. He told his mother about the object on that same day—December 21.

Urged by Professor Gehman to notify him if others had also seen the object, three persons have said they also noticed an unusual object about the

same time. A research engineer and his son who live near Waynesboro airport were outside and also saw a strange effect. Another man who lives in Waynesboro reported seeing a UFO.

Although residents of this area have responded with interest to Burns' account, many are still skeptical and point to the loopholes in his story.

Most Frequent Question

The question most often raised is why weren't other cars stopped by the flying vehicle as Burns says his was; also, Rt. 250 is a heavily traveled road in this area, yet he doesn't recall any other cars passing the scene nor have any reported being there.

Professor Gehman has prepared a report of the entire incident to be filed with the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) at Washington. NICAP receives all reports of UFO's, checks them and catalogues its findings.

Professor Gehman, who also is a minister, thinks there is possible some connection between the UFO's and a passage in the New Testament's book of St. Luke referring to the second coming of Christ:

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; and the sea and the waves roaring . . ."

Gehman also said he feels that possibly the word "worlds" in Hebrews 11 is meant to indicate God created more than one planet with living beings:

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God . . ."

Keyhoe's View

A similar view—that there are other planets with life on them—is shared by Maj. Donald Keyhoe of Luray, a retired marine corps pilot who is now director of NICAP. He is a noted authority and author on UFO's.

Major Keyhoe said "it would be narrow-minded of us, to believe that we are the only living creatures in a galaxie with billions of stars and several million thought to have planets."

It is very possible that another planet, possibly not in our solar system, has life on it developed hundreds, or even millions, of years ahead of us enabling them to travel great distances through space, pointed out the major.

Major Keyhoe's main concern in the entire subject of UFO's is the attitude of the air

force toward the field of these unexplained vehicles.

"The high level policy of the air force is to play this thing (UFO reports) down," Major Keyhoe said. "The policy is to deny everything until they have more answers."

The air force maintains in a publication on Project Blue Book that "to date, no unidentified aerial phenomena has given any indication of threat to the national security; there has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the air force that unidentified sightings represented technological developments or principles beyond the range of our present day scientific knowledge; and finally, there has been nothing in the way of evidence or other data to indicate that these unidentified sightings were extra terrestrial vehicles under intelligent control."

Major Keyhoe counters with: "I think the same as the air force secretly does—these vehicles are from another planet with far superior intelligence to ours."

Regardless of what the future has in store for this planet and UFO's, Keyhoe is concerned that presently an accidental nuclear war could be triggered by Russia or the United States. "The air force secrecy is dangerous because these UFO's could be mistaken for an enemy attack," he said. Many have been picked up on radar screens, he added.

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1964 DEC

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Richmond, Va. - Times Dispatch - 14 Jan 1965 - IT MADE ONLY A SOFT 'WHOOHING' SOUND

A gunsmith who lives at Grottoes says he saw an unidentified flying object (UFO), similar to the object depicted above late one afternoon last month. He said the UFO landed in a field alongside US Rt 250 near Fishersville in Augusta County, stayed for 60-90 seconds, and then suddenly took off. It made only a soft 'whooching sound' said Horace Burns. It appeared to him to have been 80-90 feet high and about 125 feet in diameter. Burns' report was relayed to Ernest German, an Eastern Pennington College professor who sponsors a UFO investigators' club there. German made this drawing from descriptions given him by Burns. The sketch was prepared for reproduction by the Times-Dispatch staff artist. The sighting report was believed so unusual that a two-man investigation team from the air force plodded over the site Tuesday. The airman found no indication that a UFO had been there.

Richmond, Va. - Times Dispatch - 14 Jan 1965 - NO UFO THERE NOW - (Pic shows 2 men with Geiger counter)

As Horace Burns watches, Sgt. David Moody uses a Geiger counter to determine whether the ground is radioactive where Burns said he saw an unidentified flying object land. The site is a field, near Fishersville, in Augusta County, alongside US Rt 250. Sgt. Moody and another Air Force man were sent from Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton Ohio to examine the site Tuesday. They said there was no evidence that the UFO had been there, although an earlier Geiger counter reading, taken shortly after the reported sighting, registered a high concentration of radiation. Burns said he saw a craft measuring 80 to 90 feet in height land briefly in the field on the afternoon of Dec 21.

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VA. 1964

DEC. 21

~~1965 JAN.~~

VA

1964 DEC.

Richmond, Va. - Times-Dispatch - 23 Jan 1965 - NO SIGNIFICANT LEAD TO VIRGINIA/ ONLY
SIGHTS ARE OFFICIALLY REPORTED -

Although there has been a rush of reported UFOs in Virginia, an AF spokesman said yesterday that only 3 sightings have been officially reported to the AF. The spokesman also said that no UFO reports from anywhere except Virginia are being received. The 3 sightings that were officially reported were at Fishersville, Williamsburg and Bedford.

The AF, after an investigation of a Grotzess man's report that he had seen a UFO land in a field near Fishersville in Augusta county, has found no evidence of the alleged landing.

Project Blue Book, with its headquarters in Washington, is the title of the AF's official UFO investigating program. It investigates all reports filed with the AF.

The spokesman said yesterday that the official investigation report of the Fishersville sighting - which came on Dec 21 from Grove Burns, a gunsmith - includes the following observations:

It was felt that an object as large as the one Burns reported (125 feet in diam. and 60 to 90 feet high) would have been seen by other people.

The AF team's report said it could find no other witnesses to the object that Burns reported he saw.

Also the team said it found no radioactivity in the area of the landing that Burns reported, nor could it find any depressions in the ground or any other indications that a vehicle had landed in the field.

The team conducted its investigation on Jan 12 - 22 days after Burns said he saw a large object, resembling an upside-down ice cream cone, descend in a field beside US Route 250, nearsville, guest lecturer, prof. of Norman at Eastern Community College at Harrisonburg, and sponsor of a UFO investigator's club there, visited the site on Dec 30 and said there was a very high radiation count where Burns said the object had landed. One member of the AF team pointed out at the time of the investigation that if there had been radiation at the site, it could have worn off by January 12.

The Project Blue Book spokesman said, in a telephone interview yesterday, that the AF report on the Fishersville case "does not mean that the case is closed. . . Our cases are never closed until the reported objects are sufficiently identified."

The only other cases being investigated in Virginia by the AF are several reports from the Williamsburg area and several reports of a sighting around Bedford.

The Williamsburg reports came last Saturday from 2 motorists, each of whom said he saw a tall, aluminum colored cylindrical object about 75 feet off the ground, five miles E of Williamsburg.

The Bedford reports, which the AF received yesterday, stemmed from sightings on Monday, the spokesman said.

One couple reported seeing a cigar shaped object and a round object; five minutes later and 15 miles away, another reported seeing a square object in the sky.

1964, Dec. 21st.

Virginia

AF Finds No UFO Evidence

RICHMOND (AP) — The Air Force said Wednesday it has found no evidence of the alleged landing of an unidentified flying object in a field near Fishersville.

A spokesman for Project Blue Book, the Air Force's UFO investigation unit, said in a telephone interview that the Air Force is receiving no UFO reports from anywhere except Virginia.

The spokesman said it has received two other reports of Virginia sightings — one from the Williamsburg area and another from Bedford.

In the Fishersville report, the Air Force said Horace Burns, a gunsmith, said he saw a large object descend in a field beside U.S. 250 Dec. 21.

The Air Force investigators said it could find no other witnesses to the object. They felt that since Burns estimated the object to be 125 feet in diameter and 80 to 90 feet high, it would have been seen by other people.

The investigators said they found no radioactivity in the area of the alleged landing, and that there were no depressions in the ground or other indications that a vehicle had landed in the field.

The Williamsburg report came Saturday from two motorists. They said they saw a tall, aluminum-colored object about five miles east of Williamsburg.

The Bedford reports, which the Air Force received Wednesday, stemmed from sightings Monday. A couple reported seeing a cigar-shaped object and a round object in the sky. Five minutes later, and 15 miles away, a man reported seeing a square object in the sky.

The spokesman said their reports on the sightings do not mean the cases are closed. "Our cases are never closed until the reported objects are sufficiently action programs, he said.

No Trace Found 1964

UFO 'Landing Site' Given Geiger Count

FISHERVILLE (AP) — If a huge unidentified flying object really did land in a field beside U.S. 250 in Augusta County, there's no trace of it now.

Horace Burns, a Grottoes gunsmith, reported sighting the object (Dec. 21) while driving between Staunton and Waynesboro. "It was 125 feet in diameter, at least, and 80 to 90 feet high," Burns said.

A two-man Air Force team from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, checked the reported landing site with a geiger counter Tuesday and could find no indication of any unusual radiation count.

But Sgt. David Moody, who headed the team, did not rule out the possibility there had been radiation there earlier.

Ernest Gehman, a professor at Eastern Mennonite College, who heads a UFO investigators' club, said he checked the site Dec. 30 with a geiger. "It knocked the thing (needle) off the dial," Gehman said, indicating a high concentration of radiation. He said his meter registered over 60,000 counts per minute.

Burns said the object made a "whooshing sound" and was shaped like an upside down ice cream cone. He said when it

appeared in the sky his automobile engine quit running. He said he did not see any other automobiles on the highway.

* * *

Burns reported the object appeared to be made of spun aluminum or a similar material. Around the base was a bluish glow about a foot wide. It had no visible windows or doors, he said.

The object was on the ground for about a minute and a half, Burns reported. Then it suddenly rose perpendicularly for several hundred feet and took off in a northeasterly direction at a very fast speed.

over ->

Jan. 15, 1965 - Harrisonburg, Va.

Unidentified Flying Objects Apparently Are Here To Stay

By W. H. ASHENFELTER
News-Record Staff Writer

Like the fabled city of Atlantis and the unanswered question of the abominable snowman, Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are apparently here to stay.

However, "Unless an awfully lot of intelligent people have gone off the deep end, UFOs do exist" stated a man at Thursday night's meeting at Eastern Mennonite College to hear a report on the area's latest sighting.

Nearly 400 persons turned out for the report by Horace Burns, of Grottoes. Mr. Burns, 54, reported seeing a large UFO Dec. 21.

The sighting, Mr. Burns said,

took place a few miles east of Staunton while he was on his way to Waynesboro. The UFO, he continued, "was 125-feet at the base and 75-feet high."

According to Mr. Burns, who operates a small gunshop in Harrisonburg, the object was so large that he could not see all of it while looking through his car windshield.

As it crossed the road ahead of him, "some sort of force was exerted on the car because of the way it slowed down," he said.

His car stopped dead as the UFO crossed U.S. 250 and came to rest in a meadow about 100 yards from the highway.

It was cone-shaped, and its

circular sloping sides rose in about six large rings that diminished in diameter to a dome at the top, Mr. Burns said.

He said that all around the perimeter at the base of the machine there was a bluish glow in a band about a foot wide.

There were no windows or doors in the machine, Mr. Burns said, and no evidence of seams. The object had settled gently to the ground.

"I stood beside the car for perhaps 1½ minutes before it rose up and took off," Mr. Burns said. "But when it went, it went and it went real fast. It took off at a perfectly square angle," he added.

(Continued On Page 2 Col 1)

UFOs Appear Here To Stay

(Continued from Page 1)

It flew off in a northeasterly direction, Mr. Burns said. He had reported it coming in to land from a due northern course.

Mr. Burns' story has been partially corroborated by the story of a 14-year-old Staunton boy. The boy, (also unidentified) was reported to have seen an UFO from his bedroom window.

A member of last night's audience said that the boy, who was not present, estimated the flying object to be 125-feet in diameter. However, he said that it was cigar-shaped.

His mother immediately called him a "nut" and told him not to tell anyone else about it, the spokesman said.

It was finally decided to reveal his sighting in order to substantiate Mr. Burns' story.

Professor Ernest G. Gehman, sponsor of Eastern Mennonite College's UFO Club, has been active in seeking answers to Mr. Burns' sighting.

On Dec. 30 he took a geiger counter to the spot where the UFO was reported to have landed. A large amount of radioactive material was encountered, he said.

"The needle shot off the dial," Prof. Gehman reported. "I walked off the field but the needle would not come back to normal. I realized I had picked up some highly radioactive material."

Later in the evening, Prof. Gehman also reported that the two Air Force investigators had detected radioactive material on Mr. Burns' car this past Tuesday.

The professor said that two passing motorists, one of whom he knew personally, saw him work the geiger counter and could substantiate his story.

One of the witnesses said that he knew of three reluctant witnesses who had seen the same UFO.

Mr. Burns, who said, "I am not looking for notoriety or publicity, or anything like that," said that he was "astonished" at the thing.

When asked if he saw any cars pass while the UFO was within sight, he replied, "I don't know if any cars went past—I wasn't looking at cars then."

Mr. Burns said that he was calm and relaxed before sighting the flying object.

When asked what the Air Force investigators found out concerning his report, Mr. Burns said, "Frankly they told me very little. I gathered the impression that they didn't have anything to tell me.

Prof. Gehman said that when going over the area with his geiger counter, he could trace the outline of the UFO. "I know the area was fully as large as Mr. Burns described it," he said.

next day
SAW ANOTHER UFO
STAUNTON — Kenneth Norton, Jr., a Staunton high school student, reported yesterday that he had seen an unidentified flying object similar to one sighted by Horace Burns at Fishersville. Norton said that he saw the cigar-shaped object from his bedroom window at 4:50 p.m. on Dec. 21, about 10 minutes before Burns saw a UFO near Fishersville, eight miles east of Staunton. Norton told his mother what he had seen, but they decided not to report it because "We didn't want anybody to think he was nuts," his mother said. Young Norton is a member of the Civil Air Cadets.

1964

DEC. 21

VA.

Va. Man Describes 'Saucer'

FISHERVILLE (AP) — If a huge unidentified flying object really did land in a field beside U. S. 250 in Augusta County, there's no trace of it now.

Horace Burns, a Grottoes gunsmith, reported sighting the object Dec. 21 while driving between Staunton and Waynesboro. "It was 125 feet in diameter, at least, and 80 to 90 feet high," Burns said.

A two-man Air Force team from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, checked the reported landing site with a Geiger counter and could find no indication of any unusual radiation count.

But Sgt. David Moody, who headed the team, did not rule out the possibility there had been radiation there earlier.

Ernest Gehman, a professor at Eastern Mennonite College, who heads a UFO investigators' club, said he checked the site Dec. 30 with a Geiger counter. "It knocked the thing (needle) off the dial," Gehman said, indicating a high concentration of radiation. He said his meter registered over 60,000 counts per minute.

Burns said the object made a "whooshing sound" and was shaped like an upside down ice cream cone. He said when it appeared in the sky his automobile engine quit running. He said he did not

see any other automobiles on the highway.

Burns reported the object appeared to be made of spun aluminum or a similar material. Around the base was a bluish glow about a foot wide. It had no visible windows or doors, he said.

The object was on the ground for about a minute and a half, Burns reported. Then it suddenly rose perpendicularly for several hundred feet and took off in a northeasterly direction at a very fast speed.

2

THE ALEXANDRIA (Va.) GAZETTE

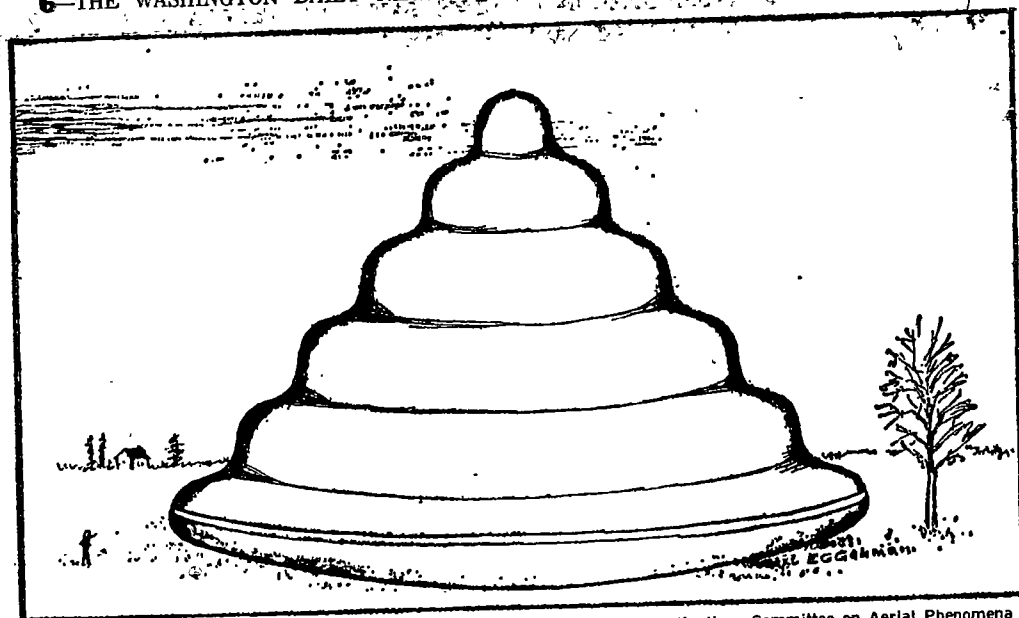
FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1963

1964

DEC. 21

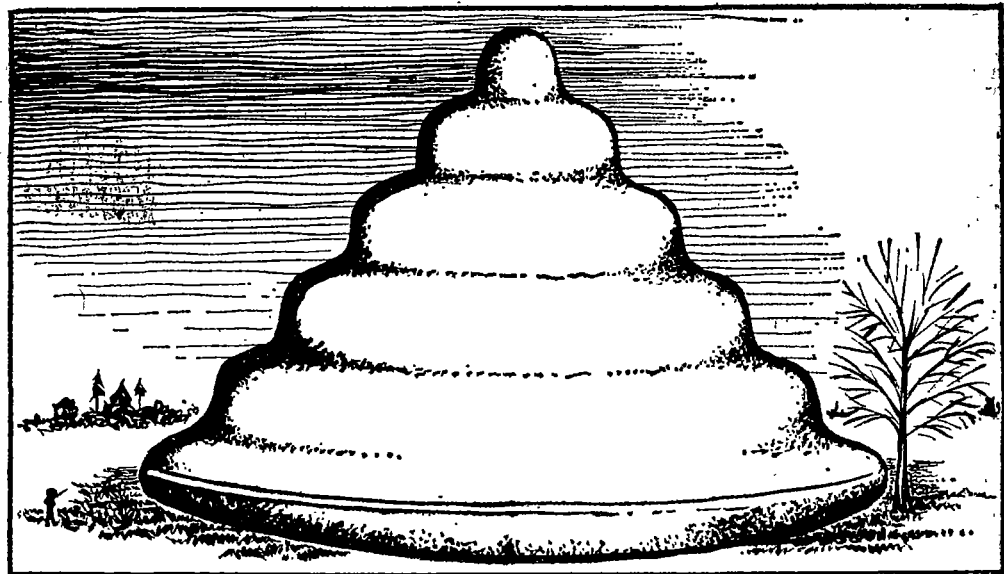
VA.

6—THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1965



—Photo by National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena

UFO IN VIRGINIA — Horace Burns, a Grottoes, Va., gunsmith was driving on U. S. 250 near Staunton last Dec. 21 when he saw this object land in a nearby field. As it zoomed in from the sky, Mr. Burns said his car engine stalled — a common report by motorists involved in UFO sightings. Mr. Burns said the UFO was 125 feet in diameter and about 80 feet high. It was on the ground for about 90 seconds, he reported, then abruptly darted straight up and took off at great speed. Prof. Ernest Gehman, head of the German Department, Eastern Mennonite College, Harrisonburg, Va., checked the site Dec. 30 with a geiger counter and reported his meter registered over 60,000 counts a minute and the radiation "knocked the needle off the dial." Two weeks later Air Force investigators visited the site but found no unusual radiation. Prof. Gehman made the above sketch after interviewing Mr. Burns.



It Made Only a Soft 'Whooshing Sound'

A gunsmith who lives at Grottoes says he saw an unidentified flying object (UFO), similar to the object depicted above, late one afternoon last month. He said the UFO landed in a field alongside U. S. Rt. 250 near Fishersville in Augusta county, stayed for 60 to 90 seconds and then suddenly took off. It made only a soft 'whooshing sound,' said Horace Burns. It appeared to him to have been 80 to 90 feet high and about 125 feet in diameter. Burns' report was

relayed to Ernest Gehman, an Eastern Mennonite College professor who sponsors a UFO investigators' club there. Gehman made this drawing from descriptions given him by Burns. The sketch was prepared for reproduction by The Times-Dispatch staff artist. The sighting report was believed so unusual that a two-man investigation team from the air force plodded over the site Tuesday. The airmen found no indication that a UFO had been there.

Saturday, January 23, 1965

Billy's Bi-Line

By Billy Williams, Age 14

UFO's, Exams, Snow



I imagine the talk of the town these days is the UFO (Un-identified Flying Object). Many reports were turned in about them. Our study hall teacher, Mr. Fitzgerald, says that he doesn't rule out visitors from other planets, because, although we can't live on Venus due to the atmosphere, doesn't mean that other beings couldn't. I don't think the reports were false, because not that many people would have reported the same thing. Everyone says they saw it in the same general direction. They also say it landed in Fishersville. It is said to have a round bottom and cone-like nose — in other words like an upside down ice cream cone. The very tip of it would most likely be where the pilot sat. The back, or round part, would hold the fuel.

The major question is where did it come from? Was it from Venus, Mars, Pluto, or where? We may never learn the answer until one of our ships is a UFO on another planet.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.
Additional Information: Richard Hall
NO 7-9434

NEWS RELEASE; October 29, 1964

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW SUPPORT FOR UFO HEARINGS

A group of Senators and Congressmen have stated they will support an investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), it was announced today.

The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), a private Washington agency which analyzes "flying saucer" reports, quotes several prominent Members of Congress in the current issue of its newsletter "The U.F.O. Investigator," just released. The statements came in response to a documentary report detailing results of the Committee's seven year investigation, submitted to the legislators this summer.

Senator Paul H. Douglas (D.-Ill.) said, "...I am encouraged to see the concentrated efforts of NICAP to have all of the facts about UFOs brought out to the public. I will certainly offer my contribution of time and effort to get to the bottom of these reports."

Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D.-N.J.): "The UFO Evidence Report is indeed an impressive document and should be given the most careful consideration."

Congressman Fred B. Rooney (D.-Pa.): "I find that a number of my colleagues in the House are also increasingly disturbed by efforts to close off a reasoned inquiry on this subject."

A NICAP spokesman said the support is non-partisan, and has no connection with the elections. Senator Everett Dirksen (R.-Ill.), Minority Lead-

Burns tape (Gelman)

-2-

How dark? Around 5:00pm. Twilight conditions. ~~Dark~~ Dark object, nothing shiny except band of lite - silhouetted.

Field adjacent to Meyers Nursery
Little pond over in field, in corner near line fence.

Burns 54 yrs old. Automatic transmission in car.
12 volt system 1958 Mercury station wagon

"Frankly I didn't know who to report it to."

What did bottom look like? Same as rest. Car lites on? I don't think I had my lites on.

Not sure exact no. of connections 5 or 6 approx. "This is a very good likeness of the thing." (Gelman sketch)

Obj. directly over road ahead of car when motor cranked.

Gelman on tape: Tues morning



JOHN E. MOSS, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
PORTER HARDY, JR., VA.
JOHN S. MONAGAN, CONN.
JOHN A. BLATNIK, MINN.
TORBERT H. MAC DONALD, MASS.
CORNELIUS E. GALLAGHER, N.J.

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DONALD RUMSFELD, ILL.

CAPITOL 5-3741

EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM B371-B
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

RECEIVED JUL 1 1965

July 2, 1965

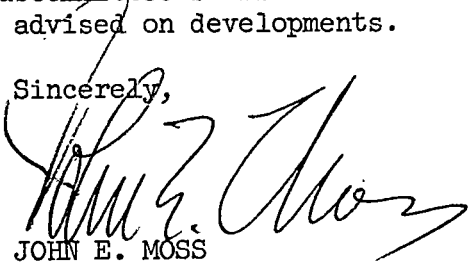
Mr. Richard Hall, Acting Director
National Investigations Committee
on Aerial Phenomena
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hall:

This acknowledges your letter of recent date regarding the difficulty you are having in obtaining the Air Force document on an unidentified flying object.

I have requested the Subcommittee staff to look into the situation, and will keep you advised on developments.

Sincerely,


JOHN E. MOSS
Chairman

JEM:mb

2 Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sat., Jan. 30, 1965

Official Air Force Report

No Sign of Augusta UFO Found

Times-Dispatch News Bureau STAUNTON, Jan. 29 — The official air force report of an investigation of an unidentified flying object (UFO) sighted in Augusta county December 21 concludes that available information reveal any evidence of an alleged landing.

Burns' report that he saw a large object resembling an upside down ice cream cone in a meadow across from the entrance to the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center was subsequently investigated by the air force's UFO report center at Wright-Patterson.

"There was a total lack of any indication that a vehicle had landed in the field," wrote Sgt. David N. Moody, who headed the investigation and prepared the final report.

"It is believed that a vehicle of this size would be observed by additional witnesses," he wrote, "but there were no additional witnesses." The sighting, consulted on Dr. Gehman's findings along U. S. Rt. 250 near Fishersville about 5 p.m. On the question of evidence of radioactivity at the site, the 21 Dec. '64 report was at odds with a finding reported by Dr. Ernest Gehman of Eastern Mennonite College, Harrisonburg. He has said he took a radiation reading with a Geiger counter nine days after the sighting and found a high concentration.

The air force team said it found none 22 days after the sighting. And Moody's report said Maj. James Sproul, an air force radiation specialist, was consulted on Dr. Gehman's findings with a strength indicated . . . "Major Sproul stated that radioactive isotopes deposited on the 21 Dec. '64 and yielding returns with a strength indicated . . . would yield a positive return on 12 Jan.," stated the report.

Sergeant Moody concluded also that Burns' reliability as a witness "is not questioned." The air force report also ruled out the possibilities that the sighting could have been a prank or a hoax.

There was no attempt to offer any further explanation.



Space Man, Elongated Style

Donald Cash of Augusta county poses in the getup he wore earlier this week to spoof reports of UFO's, he said, by masquerading as a space man. Meanwhile, three youths passed by, he said, and decided he was one, touching off an armed manhunt.

1964, December 21



Horace Burns and Sgt. David Moody ...
... Find No Traces of Radiation Tuesday

Augusta Saucer Called 'Typical' of UFOs

By BEN BEAGLE
Times Staff Writer

An Augusta County man who said he saw a 90-foot flying saucer in a field near Fishersville was reporting "a pretty typical UFO sighting," a spokesman for a national investigative organization said Thursday.

Richard Hall, acting director of the National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomenon, said in Washington that his agency holds to the theory that flying saucers "are extra-terrestrial objects which appear to operate intelligently."

In the Augusta County case the sighter, Horace Burns of Grottoes, said his car engine stopped when the saucer crossed in front of him on U.S. 250 on Dec. 21.

Hall said "this electro-magnetic effect has been reported several times" in cases of UFO sightings. Hall said that the electro-magnetic effect—which would cut off an engine's ignition—was first reported in 1957 sightings.

Hall said UFO reports are becoming more numerous. He said there was one reportedly seen over Washington by six persons Monday. On Dec. 29, he said, the Patuxent Naval Air Station tracked an object by radar. It was making 4 800 miles an hour.

Hall said that Burns' description of the object he saw as being 90-feet tall, 125 feet in diameter, with six rings around it and a dome on top was a common report.

Prof. Ernest Gehman of Eastern Mennonite College at Harrisonburg—a member of the investigative agency—has filed a report, Hall said.

Gehman reported that he took a radiation counter to the site nine days after the sighting and detected strong radiation. An Air Force investigative team, on the scene Tuesday, found no evidence of radiation.

But Hall said the site has to be gone over quickly. The radiation disappears "unless they detect it right away," he said.

The "dome shape" type is often reported to the agency, Hall said, and that such sightings are common.

The Air Force and other services, he said, "don't say anymore than they have to" and that sightings "get hot" when reports get into the newspapers.

The electro-magnetic field effect, Hall said, was first noticed when a number of sightings were reported in New Mexico in 1957.

'Saucer' Reported Seen by Others in Augusta. Page 15.

1-15-65 Roanoke Times, Va.

March 8, 1965

Major Maston M. Jacks
Project Bluebook Information Officer
Department of the Air Force
Pentagon,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Major Jacks:

During our investigations of the Staunton and Waynesboro, Va., area UFO sightings in December and January we learned that the Air Force has printed an information sheet on a specific case. I refer to the December 21, 1964 report by Horace Burns, Grottoes, Va., of a UFO landing between Staunton and Waynesboro. Will you please send us a copy of this information sheet?

We would also like to have copies of any similar information sheets on other specific UFO cases which occurred since November 1964.

Since the March 2, 1965 landing report at Brooksville, Fla., has been highly publicized and physical samples obtained by the Air Force, we assume there will be an information sheet on it when the analyses have been conducted. Please send us a copy of it when it is available.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Hall

Richard Hall
Acting Director

RH:h

MAY 10 1965

Dear Mr. Hall:

This is in reply to your letter of April 19, 1965.

The Air Force did not issue an information sheet on the sighting made by Horace Burns of Staunton, Virginia. The information we furnished you in our letter of April 7 is the same information that we have used in answer to all other inquiries from the public relative to this particular sighting.

Sincerely,

JOHN P. SPINDLING
Colonel, USAF
Military Information Division
Office of Information

Mr. Richard Hall
NICAP
1536 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington 6, DC

Richmond Times-Dispatch

MORNING · SUNDAY · EST. 1850

RICHMOND 11, VIRGINIA
Shenandoah Valley News Bureau
P.O. Box 846
Staunton, Virginia 24401

July 23, 1965

Mr. Richard Hall, Assistant Director
National Investigations Committee on Aerial
Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Hall:

Here is the Air Force report you requested. Just another reminder - this is only on loan as I shall be needing it soon to work with Dr. Gehman on another article, and the Times-Dispatch must not be connected with the report.

Thank you!



Dallas M. Kersey,
Bureau Chief

July 26, 1965

Mr. Jack Matteson
Government Information
and Foreign Operations
Subcommittee, Rm. B371-B
Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Matteson:

Enclosed is a copy of the Air Force report discussed in our phone conversation today, including a copy of the note from Mr. Kersey identifying the document.

As Mr. Kersey mentions in his note, he does not want the report connected with his paper. Unfortunately, Mr. Hall had written to Congressman Moss before Mr. Kersey expressed a wish to remain aloof in the matter.

I mentioned briefly that the document displayed no letterhead as was the case with past reports of this nature. If necessary, we can provide copies of other reports similar to this one, all lacking any letterhead identification.

If further information is needed, please give me a call at NO-7-9434 or NO-7-9435.

Sincerely yours,

Harold H. Deneault, Jr.
Assistant Editor

HD:h
Encl:1

Gigantic UFO lands near Staunton, Va.

Probably the most remarkable reported sighting of an unidentified flying object ever to take place in the Shenandoah Valley occurred at 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 21, 1964. Mr. Horace Burns, living at Greystone, Va., and conducting a small ^R giftshop business on North Main Street in Harrisonburg, was driving his car a few miles east of Staunton on Route 250 toward Waynesboro, when he saw a large metallic object coming out of the sky north of the highway. As it crossed Route 250 about two hundred feet ahead of him, his motor stopped dead and his car seemed to come to an unnaturally quick stop.

The UFO landed gracefully in a meadow at a spot about 100 yards from the highway. Mr. Burns stood beside his car and stared in amazement at the awesome spectacle. What he saw resembled in shape an upside-down ^{toy} top, but the size of it was astounding. "It was 125 feet in diameter, at least, and 80 to 90 feet high!" he declares. And besides being generally cone-shaped, its circular sloping sides rose in about 6 large, concentric convolutions ^{that} ^{ed} diminishing in diameter to a dome at the top.

Although in the gathering twilight Grafton Burns could not be sure of the exact nature of the material of which it was made, it appeared to be metallic and resembled ~~dark~~ aluminum. He noted that all around the perimeter at the base of the monstrous machine there was a bluish glow in a band about a foot wide. He could see no windows, doors, ~~or~~ ^{or even seams} portholes anywhere on the object. Nor did there seem to be any sort of landing gear; the vehicle had gently settled flat on its bottom on the ground.

The visitor from outer space rested on the floor of the meadow for a minute or a minute and a half and then with a ~~✓~~ "whoosh," (the sound doubt caused by the air rushing under it), it suddenly rose straight

up for several hundred feet and then took off in a northeasterly direc-
 tion at a speed much greater than when it crossed the highway ^{from the north} the first
 time, which Mr. Burns estimates to have been about 15 miles per hour.

After it was gone, Mr. Burns got into his car again, and, when he
 pressed the starter button, the motor started off immediately. As he
 drove away he was evidently very much excited and engrossed in his
 thoughts on the apparition (as who wouldn't be?), for he cannot recall
 seeing any other vehicles coming or going, for possibly a mile. But
 no doubt other cars must have been halted by the UFO's tremendous mag-
 netic ^{ie} field, and other drivers must have witnessed the sight; we hope
 any such will make the fact known.

Mr. Burns went home and told Mrs. Burns the story of what he had
 seen, but declared he would not tell anyone else. "They'd think I'm
 crazy," he said. But six days later, when ^{R.} Jim Shipp of NSVA announced
 on the 6 p.m. newscast about the existence of the UFO Investigators as
 an extra-curricular club at Eastern Mennonite College, Mrs. Burns con-
 vinced her husband that he should report his story. He told it ~~the~~ on
~~Monday~~ ~~next day~~ to Mr. Shipp, who informed the Investigators, who taped the
 story on Tuesday ^{as Mr. Burns told it.} On Wednesday a preliminary testing with a Geiger
 counter revealed radio-activity of over 60,000 counts per minute in the
 area where the UFO had rested briefly nine days before. Plans are
 underway for testing the soil this week with the help of a specialist
 and instruments which will determine which of the three ~~of~~ types of
 nuclear rays (alpha, beta, gamma) were emitted by the UFO's reactors.

Copies of this report sent to:
 The National Investigations Committee
 on Aerial Phenomena, Washington, D.C.
 NSVA Radio Station, Harrisonburg, Va.

Daily News-Record, Harrisonburg, Va.
Staunton Leader, Staunton, Virginia.
Waynesboro News-Virginian, Waynesboro, Virginia
Richmond Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Virginia

Ernest G. Lehman
 Professor Ernest G. Lehman
 Sponsor of UFO Investigators
 Eastern Mennonite College
 Harrisonburg, Virginia

Man to Tell Of Viewing Flying Saucer

Rossmore World News, Thursday, January 14, 1965

STAUNTON—A Grottoes man will describe tonight how he watched a "flying saucer" land at Fishersville last month.

Horace Burns will tell the story at Mennonite College in Harrisonburg of how the object passed in front of him as he was driving from Staunton to Waynesboro on U.S. 250 last Dec. 21.

Burns said the object looked like an "old-fashioned beehive," with six concentric rings. He described the object as being about 125 feet in diameter and 80 to 90 feet high, with a dome on top.

It was metallic, resembling spun aluminum, Burns said, and had no obvious doors or windows.

★ ★

According to Burns, the unidentified flying object (UFO) passed about 200 yards in front of him and his car engine stopped running as if it had run out of gasoline.

Burns said the object then shot straight up for several hundred feet and then went at a fast pace to the northeast, making a soft whooshing sound.

Prof. Ernest G. Gehman, of Eastern Mennonite College, who recently organized a group to study such UFO sightings, made a Geiger counter reading at the alleged landing site Dec. 30.

"It knocked the needle off the dial," Gehmen said. The reading was more than 600,000 counts, indicating a very high concentration of radiation.

The report brought a team of Air Force investigators from Wright-Patterson Base in Dayton, Ohio to study the case.