

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

The A.P.R.O. Bulletin is the official copyrighted publication of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization Inc. (A.P.R.O.), 3910 E. Kleindale Rd., Tucson, Arizona 85716, and is issued every other month to members and subscribers. The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization Inc., a non-profit corporation established under the laws of the State of Arizona and a federally recognized scientific and educational tax-exempt organization, is dedicated to the eventual solution of the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects. Inquiries pertaining to membership and subscription may be made to the above address.

TUCSON, ARIZONA — SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1969

RADAR-VISUAL SIGHTING IN N. Z.

Landing Claimed at Mobile

Two students at Mobile College, Mobile, Alabama, reported to authorities in late October that they had observed a landed UFO in a field in the western area of that city on the night of October 28th. The young men at first thought the object was a plane descending as they drove along Raines Drive in the Wildwood section. After it landed they observed that the object was circular in shape, between 35 and 50 feet in diameter and about 15 feet high. The top was lit by a single white pulsating light and two rings of red lights encircled its mid-section. The driver slammed on the brakes and the two sat there for a moment or two, then left in a hurry. At a nearby grocery they phoned police. The call was answered by Patrolman G. Presnall who examined the area. Beaten down underbrush in the field allegedly indicated the presence of something in the field, but the object was gone when Presnall arrived. Queries to the local Coast Guard Aviation Center at Bates Field received the information that there had been no planes in the air after 9:30 p.m. on the night of the 28th, and the object was observed at 10:15 p.m.

VISITORS TO APRO

Some recent out-of-town visitors to APRO Headquarters included: Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois; Dr. Robert S. Ellwood, Assistant Professor of Religion, University of Southern California (Consultant in Religion); Mr. Rayford R. Sanders, Senior Stress Analyst and Scientific Programmer, Ber-tea Corp., Costa Mesa, California (Consultant in Aeronautics); Juan Carlos, Remonda, UPI reporter from Cordoba, Argentina.

APRO ACQUIRES TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

As a result of long-range planning APRO not only now has new offices, but has been awarded tax-exempt status by the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the United States. This means, simply, that the organization is not required to pay income taxes and that it can also accept donations from members and others, and the donor need not pay income tax on the money donated.

Rather than incur extensive legal fees, Mr. Lorenzen some time ago took upon himself the task of drafting the lengthy statements necessary for the application and carried on the subsequent dialogue. In late October notification of the awarding of tax-exempt status was received.

In the past, some members have indicated their desire to contribute monetarily to APRO if the donation could be tax-deductible. Also, occasionally, APRO has found it necessary to curtail certain projects because of lack of funds, thus staying within a reasonable budget and not over-extending ourselves. Those who desire to further the goals and contribute to research may do so by making donations to APRO. An accurate record of the identity of the donor and the amount will be kept at headquarters and a receipt will be issued. We would like to urge the membership (and subscribers if they are so inclined) to consider a reasonable donation in order to alleviate the pressures that accompany this type of work due to inadequate financial resources.

There will also be tax write-off benefits for Special Investigators and other individuals who undertake special projects on behalf of APRO. We will spell these out after Mr. Lorenzen has a chance to go over them with a representative of the Internal Revenue Service.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen are in the

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RADAR-VISUAL SIGHTING IN NEW ZEALAND

The following information was forwarded to APRO by former New Zealand Representative Harold Fulton.

On September 4, 1969 (7:30 p.m. local time) Captain R. Cullum and First Officer N. Faircloth took off from Wellington Airport in a northerly direction and then headed for Blenheim. Upon reaching 3,000 feet, radar at Wellington informed them that a UFO was being tracked and that it was about four miles dead ahead of the aircraft moving slowly. As they came through a cloud, First Officer Faircloth, who was piloting the aircraft, spotted the blue light out of his side window. It was below them and moving slowly and they passed it at a distance of about two miles.

The New Zealand Air Force, which later conducted an extensive investigation into the incident, tracked the object on radar for about 100 miles. The object's speed was computed at about 50 or 60 knots. The Air Force ruled out the common balloon explanation and most other natural explanations. The possibility that the very slow moving object could have been a helicopter was considered but no such aircraft were known to be in the air at that time. Furthermore, helicopters have normal red-flashing lights. The object observed by the two pilots had a definite blue color.

After landing at Blenheim, First Officer Faircloth returned to Wellington in another aircraft, but with another pilot. On the flight back, about 90 minutes later, he radioed Wellington and was informed that they still had a track and the object had moved out in the vicinity of Cape Campbell beacon. Faircloth looked out of the cockpit window and saw a cluster of lights over the sea about 15 miles away. Wellington radar confirmed that this apparent cluster of lights was the same contact it had from the beginning.

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The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) investigates and evaluates UFO reports in the continental United States and Canada through its Field Investigators Network. APRO's official affiliate in Canada is the Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (CAPRO) Winnipeg, Manitoba, Director Brian Cannon.

Newswires, newspapers, radio and

television stations may quote up to 250 words from this publication, provided that the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, Tucson, Arizona, is given as the source. Written permission of the Editor must be obtained for quotes in excess of 250 words.

CORRECTION

A discrepancy appeared in the "Progress Report" in our July-August 1969 Bulletin. We listed 310 sightings, but the breakdown of the six categories added up to only 300. A check of the records indicates that 300 is the correct total, and the error was not caught in proofreading the Bulletin copy.

APRO PRESS COVERAGE INCREASING

Over the period of the last three years APRO has had the good fortune to receive many good mentions in various newspapers and magazines around the globe. One of the most lengthy of these was a long article in the Danish illustrated magazine, "Familie Journal." The author of the article, Eugen Semitjov, is a writer and photographer who visited APRO and the Lorenzens in the spring of 1967 at which time he took many photographs and much taped material about the organization and its work. Subsequently, articles have appeared in several magazines and newspapers in Scandinavia.

Mrs. Lorenzen's first paperback (a revision of her original hardcover published in 1962) was published in Italy in 1967, and the latest book, "UFOs — The Whole Story" will soon be published in Germany. "The Flying Saucer Occupants," the book which deals with reported landings and sightings of UFO occupants, will also be published in Germany.

Because of the response resulting from the Italian publication and Mr. Semitjov's articles, membership in Italy, Norway, Denmark and Sweden have increased considerably and it is hoped that our presentation in Germany will increase also as a result of the publication of the two books there.

CLIPPINGS

It is very important that headquarters receive clippings as soon as possible after they have appeared in newspapers, so that investigation can be initiated immediately if necessary. Each clipping should be accompanied

by the name and date and location (state, city and country) of the newspaper.

BULLETIN MAILING

The APRO Bulletin is mailed bulk-rate and at each mailing a number of bulletins are apparently lost. This is an unavoidable situation as bulk mail does not receive the attention that first class mail receives. The staff endeavors to get the bulletin in the mail shortly after the end of the second month of the reporting period (for instance, the September-October issue should be out shortly after the end of October). This is not always possible due to various sets of extraordinary circumstances. We have always endeavored to conduct APRO business in such a way that our budget is adequate for the needs of the organization. At times when pressure of work is extraordinarily heavy we are short-handed but rather than put on extra help and thus possibly upset the budget, we are forced to issue a Bulletin late; we are hopeful that the membership will try to understand.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Since APRO introduced the new, plastic-laminated, permanent membership card, only cards with photos have been produced and supplied to the respective members.

Those members who desire a photo on their membership card, but have not yet sent in their two photos (one for card and one for Application Form in our files) should do so before March, 1970. At that time, permanent cards *without photos* will be produced for all those members who have not received cards with photos. We remind Field Investigators and those intending to be Field Investigators that photo-cards are mandatory.

Members may obtain photos of themselves at any regular photo-booth. These may be found in most Woolworth & Co. stores, bus (Greyhound) depots, airports, etc.

SCIENTIFIC UFO RESEARCH AWARD

Entries to compete for the Scientific UFO Research Award, sponsored by APRO's Olavo T. Fontes Memorial Fund, will be accepted until January

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APRO —*(Continued from Page One)*

18th year of UFO research with APRO for which neither has received any remuneration. Mr. Greenwell, the Assistant Director, receives only a token consultant fee from APRO. Besides the exemplary job he is doing in administering the affairs of APRO, he also coordinates our Spanish-language liaison with Spanish-speaking correspondents and representatives. Although Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen participate on a part-time basis, Mr. Greenwell and a secretary devote full time to APRO. Volunteer work on the part of local members, particularly Mrs. Madeline Cooper and Mrs. Beverly Bauer has helped to keep office procedures fairly well up to date. A newly initiated policy is to acknowledge receipt of all reports and clippings and all mail receives an answer, no matter how brief.

The past 18 years have long been a long, up-hill pull for APRO and it is hoped that with the new tax status at least some of the pressure can be lessened.

Award —*(Continued from Page Two)*

31, 1970. Judging will take place in February or March, 1970, by a Board of Judges, outside of APRO, who will select what they consider to be the most comprehensive report submitted. Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Dr. Thornton Page are members of the Board of Judges. A cash prize will be awarded the winner.

APRO will consider receiving reports from members or non-members after January 31, 1970 only if APRO is notified of this intention beforehand. The cash prize is constituted entirely of donations made by APRO members. We still require this support to make the Research Award a success. Donations from \$1 up are requested.

**AAAS TO HOLD
UFO SYMPOSIUM**

A Special Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has arranged to hold a UFO symposium on December 26-27 during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston December 26-31.

The Committee is composed of Dr. Thornton Page, Director of Wesleyan University's Van Vleck Observatory;

Dr. Philip Morrison, MIT Professor of Physics; Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, President of University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (and retiring President of AAAS); Dr. Carl Sagan, Associate Professor of Astronomy at Cornell University.

Although it is expected that no firm conclusions will be reached in this symposium, it will again gather together a number of scientists who are interested in the phenomenon in varying degrees and no doubt some progress will be made in the field of UFO research. Such persons as Dr. Hynek, Dr. McDonald, Dr. Menzel and Dr. Baker are expected to present papers.

As of January 1, 1969, AAAS had 122,561 members. It is the largest and most important scientific association in the world. Complete details of the UFO symposium in Boston will be given by APRO in the November-December Bulletin.

**DENVER UFO PANEL
PUBLICATION**

As a "supplement" to the *Proceedings of the 1969 National Amateur Astronomers Convention* publication, a booklet containing a 3 hour panel discussion on UFOs will be made available by NAA in January, 1970. Entitled "Science and the UFO," the 40 page booklet will cover the discussions held on August 22, 1969, by the following scientists: Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Dr. James E. McDonald, Dr. James A. Harder, Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, Dr. David Saunders and Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle. (For details on this event, see July-August Bulletin, page 6.)

Through a special arrangement with NAA, APRO members and subscribers will be able to purchase this booklet at \$2.00 post-paid. (\$2.50 post-paid Canada and Mexico, \$3.00 post-paid foreign). Three of the participating scientists are on APRO's Consulting Staff and we urge all members to purchase this publication at an early date as there will only be a limited quantity available. Make checks payable to APRO.

**THE PRESENT STATE OF
THE UFO FIELD**

This office has received word from several sources that NICAP has recently been returning inquiries about membership and renewals with the

information that their membership is closed indefinitely — presumably they have suspended operations. If true, this is sobering news. Although APRO and NICAP have differences at times in matters of policy and tactics, our overall goals have been compatible. The loss of our ally cannot be taken lightly, partly because it emphasizes what can happen to the rest of us.

It would appear that a growing apathy is the greatest threat to our survival. Although we have a steady inflow of good inquiries and new members our renewal rate has shown an alarming slump in the last year.

On the hopeful side, our field investigators network is working out well. There will be a report on this in our next issue. Some of our consultants are working on proposals which together with our newly awarded tax-exempt status should provide a means of obtaining funding from private foundations.

In short, we are moving into the most constructive phase of our existence from the standpoint of accomplishment while our financial situation is the most critical.

The A.A.A.S symposium may bring renewed interest but we can't depend on it. We suggest that you renew promptly. If you know someone who has dropped his or her membership, urge them to re-instate. Solicit new members among your acquaintances and give gift subscriptions or memberships. Remember, APRO is the only UFO Research group with reliable sources and thorough coverage of UFO happenings throughout the world, and the next year or two could be critical.

FOLLOW-UPS

The cases described below have received mention in the Bulletin before, but comprise a new effort to present as much information as possible on important cases. Whenever further information is available on published cases it will appear under the above headline.

**FURTHER DETAILS ON
PHILIPPINE SIGHTINGS**

Colonel Aderito de Leon, now APRO Representative in the Philippine Republic, has sent full details of his and Colonel Rufino C. Santiago's investigations into the November 1, 1968, sightings near the communications

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Both witnesses, Faircloth and Culum, were unable to offer an explanation for the (approximate) 1 minute observation. Mr. Harold Fulton has obtained a full report from one of the pilots and is awaiting a report from the other pilot. At press-time, we have not heard of an official explanation from the New Zealand Air Force.

Follow-Ups —*(Continued from Page Three)*

satellite station (Philcomsat), some 30 miles east of Manila.

The first observation took place at 4 a.m. (local time). A farmer in an area north of the town of Baras saw an object descend, making a hissing sound like an electric welder. It had a red light in the front. The farmer took a flashlight and left his hut to get a better look at the object, which he estimated to be about 100 yards distant. As he approached, he saw what he described to the investigators as a white vehicle "as big as a Volkswagen beetle car with two occupants." The vehicle had small wheels and six big exhausts at the rear. The size of each exhaust tube was as big as a man's leg (the witness compared the exhaust tubes with his own leg).

The farmer described the object as "milky white" and said he saw a transparent canopy on top, through which he observed two occupants. The occupants wore white overalls with earphones on their heads and they looked like "ordinary caucasians." One was taller than the other.

Upon approaching the object, it emitted a loud "roar" and the farmer ran off in fright. He then observed it move forward on the ground (on its wheels) to a clearing. Then it flew away. The "roar" made by the object was *only* apparent during its horizontal movement on the ground. During its vertical ascent there was "not much noise." The investigators tried to determine if there had been a downward blast as the object rose, but the farmer replied in the negative. The farmer also pointed out that the object's horizontal movement on the ground (accompanied by the "roar") caused dust to fly. This did not occur during its vertical flight.

The second observation occurred two hours later, at 6 a.m. Another farmer, who was walking to Baras from his farm, suddenly "felt" that something had landed behind him. He looked around and observed what he

described as a strange, white car with two people in it. He ran as fast as he could and reported the incident to the mayor of the town. His observation was not long or detailed but he described an object similar to the one observed at 4 a.m.

At 8 a.m. a farmer was plowing his field with his son, who observed a white object hovering over them silently. The farmer then observed it himself and reported the incident to the mayor. The investigators were not able to look into this sighting as the farm in question is located in the middle of a mountain range and is very difficult to reach. The observation was not considered as significant as the others.

The fourth and last observation on that date occurred at 11 a.m. at the same place as the first sighting. Another farmer was riding his bicycle up an incline. He was coming from the town. Upon reaching the top of the grade, he saw a "strange car" downhill from him. Although he felt undecided whether to continue or not, he let the cycle carry him downhill towards the object and he passed right by it. He said he saw two men. One man was outside the "car" looking around. The other man was inside. The man outside was "very tall" and looked like a caucasian. Both were wearing white coveralls with a head cover that had two black objects (earphones?) on the sides.

The farmer continued cycling and stopped after 20 yards. He looked back at the object and saw that the man standing outside was watching him. The farmer was considering returning to speak with him but then the man climbed into the vehicle, described also as about the size of a Volkswagen "beetle," and there was a loud "roar" as the object moved up the hill from where the farmer had come. It took off vertically and silently.

As a result of these reports made to the mayor of Baras (a town through which runs the power lines to Manila from a hydroelectric plant in the south) Colonel de Leon, then Director of the nearby Philcomsat station, and his administrative officer, Colonel Santiago, conducted an investigation into the observations. The above is a condensation of their findings.

As already pointed out by Colonel de Leon, the object and occupants observed are not too different from those described by State Patrolman Lonnie Zamora in the April 24, 1964 landing case outside Socorro, N. M. In both incidents (New Mexico and

Philippines) the objects were white, relatively small and were thought at first to be automobiles. The occupants (two in both cases) were dressed in white suits and avoided communicating with the witnesses by flying away. One of the Philippine "occupants" was described as tall while Zamora described his "occupants" as small — like children. The possibility that a Filipino would consider an *average* height in the U. S. as "tall" should also be considered.

The Zamora object did not have wheels and created a loud roar as it rose vertically. The Filipino object, rose vertically. The Philippine object, on the other hand, moved along the ground making a roar and rose vertically *without* any roar. This Philippine object seems quite different from the "conventional" UFOs observed through the years; these observations could consequently be quite important. APRO will obtain evaluations of these observations from some of its Consultants, particularly in the field of aeronautics.

UFO RETURNS TO COLOMBIAN FARMHOUSE

John Simhon, APRO Representative in Colombia, has investigated further sightings of UFOs in the Anolaima area (see July-August Bulletin).

A "red ball" was seen twice on the night of August 15, 1969, at the farmhouse near Anolaima. The object was estimated to be at 3,000 feet altitude and it flew silently from west to east. Witnesses included four members of the Bermudez family and three other persons, including Army Lt. German Castillo. Times of observation were 8:30 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. (local time).

On August 16, at 9:15 p.m., a UFO, believed to be the same one seen on July 4, was observed by numerous members of the Bermudez family, including elderly Mrs. Lucrecia Bermudez, who had a "nervous crisis" upon recognizing the object. (Mrs. Bermudez is the sister of the late Mr. Arcesio Bermudez, who claimed to have approached the July 4 object to a distance of 20 feet.) The object had a yellow brightness about it. No structural details were visible. It came towards the farmhouse at "low altitude" and, as in the July 4 observation, approached the ground in a nearby wood. Once again, the witnesses were not certain if the object

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was actually on the ground; they could only see it shining through the trees. None attempted to approach the object.

Several days before, Representative Simhon had investigated a sighting at Anolaima involving town councilman Hector Rivera. He and six other witnesses saw a bright yellow object travelling from west to east at an altitude of about 250 feet and at a distance of about 300 feet from their position. The observation only lasted a few seconds and the witnesses described the object as a "machine," shaped like a barrel. This sighting took place at 8:30 p.m. on August 2.

After the August 16 observation at the farmhouse, Representative Simhon and other APRO members spent 6 hours a night at the farmhouse on August 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, in an attempt to obtain photographic evidence. No aerial phenomena were observed. On August 24, another hypnotic session was conducted at the farmhouse itself by Dr. Luis E. Martinez. Also present was Dr. Cesar Esmeril, one of doctors who attended Arcesio Bermudez before his death.

The children Mauricio, Andres, Marina and Enrique were hypnotized and they once again recounted the observation of July 4, which was taped by Representative Simhon. (Dr. Martinez had already hypnotized the children, in connection with the July 4 sighting, at his office, and as on that occasion he had difficulty hypnotizing Enrique, who was withdrawn from the session.)

As a result of this hypnotic session, it was possible to establish exactly where the various witnesses were during the observation. Andres and Mauricio, it was determined, were located about 130 feet from the landing or near-landing spot. Arcesio Bermudez, on the other hand, got no closer than 45 feet from the object (not 20 feet as reported earlier). Apparently, Bermudez was under constant observation by Andres and Mauricio as he approached the object, although they could not see the object itself through the trees. When the object flew off, which was observed by both Bermudez and witnesses at the farmhouse, it flew over Andres and Mauricio at an altitude of 150 feet.

Meanwhile, further investigation by APRO-COLOMBIA has not been able to determine if the cause of death of Arcesio Bermudez (see July-August Bulletin) was due to radiation effects.

An autopsy is not possible as Bermudez was not embalmed before burial. Dr. Luis Borda, who signed Bermudez's death certificate, now regrets that he did not conduct further tests while the patient was still alive or soon after death. Bermudez's medical record, according to Dr. Borda, shows that he was a healthy man and had not suffered from gastro-enteritis (the supposed cause of death) previously.

The Colombian Institute of Nuclear Affairs examined Bermudez's clothes and watch for APRO-COLOMBIA but found no evidence of radiation. As already pointed out by Dr. Benjamin Sawyer, APRO Consultant in Medicine, Bermudez may have suffered from a lethal dose of some kind of radiation, but there is absolutely no proof that this occurred.

One interesting fact which Representative Simhon determined, was that none of the witnesses discussed the observation between July 4 and the death of Bermudez. Persons close to the family tried to explain this as amnesia, but the witnesses themselves say that they simply did not want to talk about the incident and were trying to forget it. When Bermudez died, their attitude changed.

OUTSTANDING 1967 REPORT

One of APRO's recently acquired field investigators has submitted a report of a very unusual UFO incident which took place at 7 a.m. on the 14th of February 1967 in Miller County, Missouri. Because of the bizarre nature of the report, the witness does not care to have his identity nor the exact location revealed, but we present the salient facts nevertheless, in direct quotes from the report:

"It was 7:00 a.m. and the sky was clear and bright, no stars were visible. Mr. X was walking towards a large barn located some 100 feet east of his house when he noticed one of his cows looking out into the field located east of the barn. He then saw the object on the ground some 335 feet from him. At this point he was looking through scattered trees and thought that the object was a parachute. He walked to the northeast corner of the barn and could see the object and several small "objects" moving below it. They were moving quite rapidly, and they seemed to have arms or levers which were also moving rapidly. The 'objects' were about the same color as the object and had what appeared

to be wide set eyes, (and) he could not see any legs. Mr. X had a bucket of feed which he placed inside the barn gate. He started toward the object and as he reached a fence some 70 feet from the barn he stopped and picked up two rocks: 'as I came through the first gate I picked up two rocks, pretty good size, one of them was, I got up to about 30 feet of it and it was sitting there kind of rocking slightly and I thought, boy here goes, I'm going to knock a hole in that thing and see what the hell it is,' Mr. X told the investigator. 'I cut down on it and the rock stopped along about 15 feet from it and just hit the ground. The next rock I thought I would throw on top of it and it just hit something and bounced,' he said. As Mr. X neared the object the small 'objects' started moving around behind the shaft and into it. The last was going into the shaft when X was still about 80 feet from the UFO. His description of the object: 'It just looked like a big shell, grayish-green looking outfit, and underneath there were oblong holes where the lights were coming out. They were so bright you couldn't see when you got up there.' Concerning his progress toward the object Mr. X told the investigator: "I thought I was going right up to it, I got up to about here (about 15 feet from the object) and there it was, I just walked up against a wall, I couldn't see it at all, there was just a pressure."

As he stood there some 15 feet from the object, it started to rock slightly off the vertical, it did this six times before it took off. 'When it took off it just rocked back and moved real fast to the left of that ridge.' It made no sound, he said, 'and disappeared in seconds.' There was no odor either, X said, and 'The shaft was pulled up into it as it took off.'

Further details: The incident took place just before the sun broke above a large ridge in the east and the ground was well lighted. The sky was clear and the moon and stars were not visible. The morning was cool with a slight wind out of the east, the ground was muddy and the object rested on a slight rise near the north-western edge of the field.

The object was a disc, rounded at the top, flattened at the base. It was some 12 to 15 feet in diameter, about six feet thick. It sat on a shaft of some two and a half feet in height and about 18 inches in diameter. It

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was gray-green in color, the shaft the same. The surface of the object was described as resembling silk more than metal with no seams or rivets in evidence. Around the lower rim were located several oblong holes about six to eight inches long and spaced about one foot apart. Extremely bright light emanated from the holes and the light changed colors — 'they were all the colors of the Rainbow,' X said. There was no sound heard at any time. The whole incident lasted approximately five minutes, and no ground markings were found after the object had left.

The small objects which moved about in the vicinity of the UFO were between 10 and 12 in number and about two feet tall. The drawing made by Mr. X of the small "objects" or "humanoids" resembles generally a peanut with a proboscis-like protrusion near the top, an "eye" and what may have been a visor, and the "arms," if such they were, were quite slim. No feet were observed.

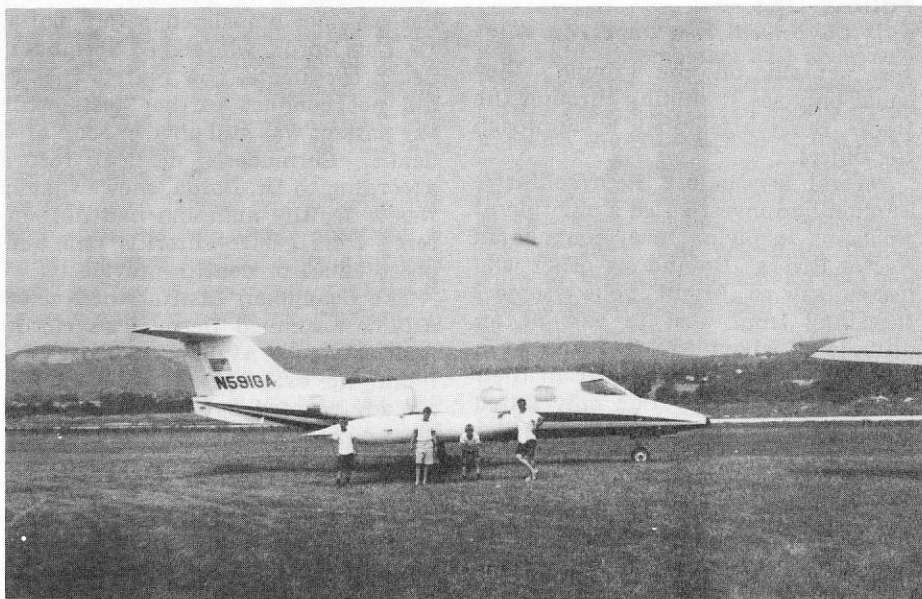
The investigator of this incident is one of the most cautious and competent men in APRO's Field Investigator network and we feel that the complete report is an accurate presentation of what he obtained from the witness.

Series of Sightings in Iowa

Despite the apparent lull in sighting reports in mid-summer, Clayton County, Iowa reported in with considerable activity in August and September this year. Among the many reports was an incident which took place on September 11 when two children from a local farm family at Elkader observed an object which hovered above a power pole, and appeared to follow the wires for a period of time. It was described as "shiny silver" in color which changed to a dull red before it disappeared. It made no noise. These sightings are currently under investigation and it is hoped that complete details will be available for publication in the near future. In most instances, however, the families involved do not care to have their names or exact locations revealed.

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OBJECT PHOTOGRAPHED IN ARKANSAS

The accompanying photograph was taken by Miss Vivian Kocher on July 16, 1969 (10:00 a.m.) at Flippin Airport, Flippin, Arkansas. Mr. Lawrence Willett, manager of the airport and brother-in-law to the photographer, informed APRO of the incident and Miss Kocher, who lives in California, was contacted. She kindly provided the original color negative and this is now being analyzed.

None of the persons present during the photographing observed the disk-shaped object over the Lear Jet. Miss Kocher says: "Unfortunately, . . . I was not looking at the sky, so cannot confirm what type of object might have been there. I can only say that the marking which appears on the film was not repeated in any of the other pictures on the roll, nor have I ever seen anything similar to it in any other picture I have ever taken."

Miss Kocher used a Rollei 35 camera with Kodacolor film. Approximate setting was 125 at f.8.

BUZZING OBJECTS IN AUSTRALIA

Preliminary information reaching APRO indicates that a multiple-witness sighting of three objects took place on the 11th of October near Baralba, Central Queensland, Australia. According to baker Adrian Reimer, he first sighted two of the objects hovering about 12 feet above the ground. Startled, he awoke two friends, Mr. and Mrs. John Major and the three went inside and watched as

the two objects climbed into the sky where they appeared to join another, larger object at an estimated 20,000 feet altitude. The larger object was shaped like a turtle, reflected more light than the moon and had craters on it. The other two smaller objects were duller but flashed red and yellow lights.

Mr. Reimer was returning home from Biloela by car when he sighted the two objects hovering above the ground "as if looking for a place to land." These two objects made a definite buzzing sound which Reimer compared to the noise made by mosquitoes. The witnesses watched the spectacle until dawn when all three objects disappeared from sight. Police launched an investigation and if further news is forthcoming it will be included in a future issue of the Bulletin under "FOLLOW-UPS."

POSSIBLE E-M EFFECTS IN VERMONT SIGHTING

On the night of July 17, 1969, at 10:30 p.m. Mr. X and Miss Y (names withheld on request) were parked in a lot adjacent to a flood control dam in an eastern Vermont town. Through the right side of the windshield a bright light, described as "brighter than several flash bulbs," was observed and appeared to be located approximately 300 yards from the car and a dead tree which was located at the end of the field was silhouetted against the light. The light appeared to be triangular shaped. Mr. X got the impression that the light was the bright glare from a metallic surface with what appeared to be a railing at

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Vermont —

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the top. The "railing," he said, seemed to be made up of narrow areas of bright light with dark areas between each light. The whole apparition was estimated to be about 20 x 20 feet.

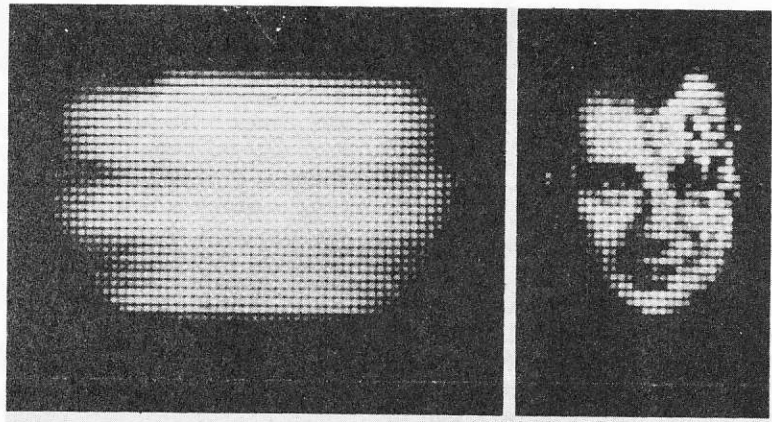
Suddenly, without the occupants of the car seeing the object move, it appeared in a position in front of their car which made it visible at the extreme upper part of the windshield. Mr. X became frightened, started the car and drove about a hundred feet toward the road leading out of the area. But Miss Y wanted to stop again and "see what it was." Mr. X stopped the car, but could not see the object. A sensation which he could not describe seized him, and he felt as though he was being drawn out of the car. He said it was not a shock, and nothing like he had ever felt before. However, it started with his head and spread throughout his body. He became unconscious momentarily and when he recovered he felt as if he was being lifted out of the seat. His first reaction was to throw his body forward, grasping the steering wheel with both arms just below the steering wheel. Almost instantly, he said, the sensation left him and he and Miss Y drove out of the area and returned to their homes.

Miss Y's testimony indicates that she was conscious all of the time and felt no unusual sensations. She did notice Mr. X "flinch" or shudder and fall forward, placing his arms around the steering post. However, she did not notice any lifting of Mr. X's body.

After X arrived home he called the police who referred him to the Vermont State Police who in turn referred him to Mr. Walter P. Hicken, APRO's Field Investigator in New Hampshire to whom we are very grateful for the investigation and ensuing report.

GROUND MARKS IN NEW ZEALAND

A series of strange circular marks in a stand of manuka near Ngatea, New Zealand caused a flurry of comment and controversy during September and October. The first circle was found on the farm of Mr. B. G. O'Neil and measured 60 feet in diameter. Stranger still were three gouges in the ground which were arranged in a triangular formation, about nine feet apart. Each of the indentations was accompanied by two smaller ones four or five feet from the largest holes.



SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Blurred photo (left) resulted when subject moved his head while film was exposed at slow shutter speed. After computer processed the blur and directed its readout to a cathode-ray tube, improved image of subject's face (right) appeared.

The condition of the manuka was what puzzled O'Neil and others who examined the area. When broken, the branches of the manuka showed the inside to be completely dehydrated and giving the appearance of carbon but with no outside indications of burning. However, the entire plants were completely dried out and appeared to be bleached. Manuka outside the circle showed no similar effects. Horticulturist J. Stewart-Menzies, who examined the area, stated to the press that geiger-counter examinations of the area by Mr. H. Cooke allegedly presented evidence of a radiation increase over that of the surrounding vegetation. Cooke presented Stewart-Menzies with samples of the plants after his initial examination of the area after which the latter told the press that "no earthly source of energy could have produced this sort of effect" and further theorized that the phenomenon was produced by high frequency shortwave radiation.

Various reports of unidentified flying objects which had been sighted either landing or hovering in the same area as the affected vegetation, led some to speculate that an outer space object had hovered there, affecting the plants. This theory was further bolstered by the presence of an additional area of withered manuka on the edge of the circle which suggested that something had not only hovered there, but had left the area in that direction, affecting the additional area of manuka before it gained sufficient altitude so that it did not affect other plants in its path. A month prior to the discovery of the withered vege-

UFO PHOTOS CAN BE ENHANCED

The electronic restoration or enhancement of images in blurred or out of focus photographs will help in future analyses of UFO photographs. These new techniques, involving electronic computers, are being carried out by the Scripps Institution for Oceanography, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology (in connection with the Mariner Mars pictures) and the Optical Sciences Center of the University of Arizona, at Tucson.

Persons who possess blurred or out of focus photos of UFOs, even old ones, may submit them to APRO for preliminary examination. If considered worthy of further investigation, they will be submitted to Dr. Roy Frieden, APRO Consultant in Optics, for possible enhancement or restoration.

APRO is only interested in blurred photographs involving reliable witnesses. These enhancement techniques are very expensive and time-consuming; therefore, only those photos where there is no suspicion of hoax can be utilized. A perfect example would be an incident in which several reliable witnesses observed a UFO clearly but the photo obtained is blurred.

tation, a young man in Paeroa reported seeing an object which he described as a pulsating light which traveled in a direct line toward the area where the circle was later found.

The dried-out manuka was found quite by accident by Mr. O'Neil when
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Marks —

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he and a contractor discussed having the growth topped. He said that he had not been in the area for approximately nine months. Earlier in the year a young man who was driving at night on a lonely country road in the Ngatea area reported that he was scared almost out of his wits by an intense white, oval-shaped light which followed his car closely for several miles. The object eventually disappeared out of sight over a range of hills. Several months later two hunters who were returning home at night in the same area were frightened when a huge, shining object approached their truck. As the object neared them the lighting system on the truck failed and the engine stalled. The object hovered nearby for several minutes, then sped out of sight. As soon as it was gone their truck functioned normally again.

In October it was reported that two similar circles were found at Kaharoa near Rotorua. One of the circles measured more than 50 feet, the other, which was less distinct, measured approximately 30 feet in diameter. They were found by Mr. C. T. Johnson of Te Waeranga road. However, the circles in the Johnson case were described as brown instead of "bleached" and were located on the side of a steep hill. The part of the circles located on the upper slope of the hill were more "burnt" than the portion on the lower side, and were located in a grassy area. A bit of earth with some of the affected grass clinging to it was sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Wellington to be analyzed.

On the 11th of October the press reported that there was no mystery surrounding the strange circles for the Minister of Science, Mr. Talboys, had stated in an October 10th release that the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research believed that the manuka had been killed by a fungus known as saprophytic fungus, which was living in the dead tissue. *The Daily Telegraph*, which carried the story, pointed out that the Minister's statement made no mention of the strange marks found within the circle on the O'Neil ranch. It probably should have been pointed out by someone that it might have been possible for fungus spores to have been present even in the "burned-out" vegetation from the O'Neil farm. Talboys said

that plant pathologists who had examined the site where the circle was found had "found that the symptoms were consistent with death from fungus attack." He further said that "the dark colour of the interior of the dead stems is due to a normal saprophytic fungus which is living on dead tissue." He also said that no unusual radioactivity above normal background readings were found during tests with very sensitive instruments.

UFO researchers who had begun an investigation as soon as they learned of the phenomenon say that the DSIR arrived on the scene too late to find any real answers. And considering what was available in the press, it does not seem that the DSIR has answered all the questions needing to be answered. It would have been very interesting to have learned of specific plant pathological tests performed, rather than what they "believed."

CRASHED UFO INVESTIGATION CLOSED

The March-April, 1968, Bulletin carried a report of an object which crashed in Colombia the preceding month. A considerable amount of material was recovered and sent to Bogota by the police, where it was reported to have been inspected and analyzed by scientists and turned over to the United States Air Force.

APRO was able to obtain a piece of the material from the Colombian Institute of Nuclear Affairs when the Assistant Director visited Colombia in November, 1968. Verification was also obtained that the material had been handed over to the Air Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota. The Air Attaché stated that the material had been identified as being part of the Apollo V mission and its return had been requested "by NASA in Washington." The material was composed of 84% titanium, 13.4% aluminum and 2.6% vanadium.

On March 13, 1969, the Director of APRO wrote to the Office of Information of the Secretary of the Air Force requesting information and verification that the object was part of the Apollo V mission. On April 2, 1969, Major (now Lt. Colonel) James Aikman replied to APRO stating that "... the incident in Colombia was never reported to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Furthermore, no pieces of the object have ever reached Project Blue Book."

As a consequence, APRO wrote to the National Aeronautics and Space

Administration (NASA) on June 16, requesting verification that the object was part of the Apollo V mission. A reply was finally received, dated September 12, 1969, not from NASA but once again from Lt. Colonel Aikman in the Pentagon. The letter simply stated that "... the material found in Colombia(sic) was part of the Apollo Mission and was returned to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration."

Meanwhile, APRO had consulted with engineers and officials in the aerospace industry who participated in the early Apollo missions and everything indicated that the material was, in fact, from such a mission. Although we have not been able to prove that the Colombian object was part of the Apollo V mission conclusively, there is good indication of this and consequently the investigation has been terminated. We inform members of this to keep the record straight.

AIR FORCE STUDIES CONDON REPORT

In view of Dr. Edward U. Condon's recommendation that the U.S. Government cease to invest further funds in UFO research, including Air Force investigative procedures, APRO's Director wrote the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Information (SAFOI) in Washington, D.C., inquiring if the Air Force officially endorses Dr. Condon's *Conclusions and Recommendations*, as published in the *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*.

If the Air Force were to endorse Dr. Condon's recommendations, it would mean the termination of the Aerial Phenomena Branch (Project Blue Book) of the Foreign Technology Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, near Dayton, Ohio. If the Air Force were to disagree, this would cast new light on the report produced by Dr. Condon and his team. However, Mr. Lorenzen received the following inconclusive reply, dated April 2, 1969, from the Office of the Secretary, Department of the Air Force:

"... we are presently reviewing this report and the comments on it by the National Academy of Sciences. Any action that may be taken as a result of the Colorado study will be made public at a later date." (Signed) James H. Aikman, Community Relations Division, Office of Information.

APRO hopes that the Department of the Air Force will make known publicly its position in relation to this half-million dollar UFO study before long and this development is awaited with interest.