

1966, April 22: Beverly, MA CEI

one of Hymek's examples from UFO Experiences

. This is the Colorado rendition of it.  
↓

Case 6  
North Eastern  
Spring 1966  
Investigators: Craig, Levine

*Abstract:*

Three adult women went onto the high school athletic field to check the identity of a bright light which had frightened an 11-year-old girl in her home nearby, and reported that one of three lights they saw maneuvering in the sky above the school flew noiselessly toward them, coming directly overhead, 20-30 ft. above one of them. It was described as a flowing, solid, disc-like, automobile-sized object. Two policemen who responded to a telephone message that a UFO was under observation verified that an extraordinary object was flying over the high school. The object has not been identified. Most of the extended observation, however, apparently was an observation of the planet Jupiter.

*Background:*

The account of an incident which occurred some 16 mo. earlier was sufficiently impressive to a field team investigating current sightings in the general region of The Northeast to cause the team to interview some of the individuals involved in the earlier report.

According to the account, an 11-year-old girl heard a bump outside her bedroom window about 9:00 p.m. and looked out the window to see a football-shaped object with flashing red lights moving in the air. Frightened, she ran downstairs. Her father was watching T.V. and said that its reception was showing the effects of interference. Two neighbor women arrived at that time, saw the red light near the high school, and called the girl's mother. The three women agreed to go out toward the school grounds to show the girl, who stayed in the house, that what she saw was nothing but an airplane. However, when they got to the field, about 300 yd. from the school building, they saw three separate lights, generally red, but green or white at times, which were not like airplane lights. The center light was darting about over the school building, and the others were "sort of playing tag" with it. Still thinking they might be planes or helicopters, one of the women beckoned the nearest light with an arm motion, whereupon it came directly toward her.

This case is  
a) Colorado "Unknown"  
b) used by Hymek  
c) used by McDonald  
d) investigated by  
Fowler  
↓  
POWER  
CASE



She said that as it approached nearly overhead, she could see that it was a metal disc, about the size of a large automobile, with glowing lights around its top. She described the object as flat-bottomed and solid, with a round outline and a surface appearance like dull aluminum. The other two women ran. Looking back, they saw their friend directly beneath the object, which was only 20-30 ft. above her head. She had her hands clamped over her head in a self-protective manner, and later reported that she thought the object was going to crush her. The object tilted on edge, and returned to a position about 50 ft. over the high school as the women ran home to call more neighbors. A man and his wife came out and saw the lights that were pointed out to them. One of the lights appeared to be only 15-30 ft. above the roof of the school building. To this couple, the lights appeared oval-shaped, flashing, mostly red, but changing colors. The lights were star-like in appearance, but looked a little larger than stars. The man ran back and telephoned the police. As the group, now consisting of the three women, the girl, the girl's older brother and handicapped father, and the neighbor couple, awaited the arrival of police, the central object receded in the sky and looked like a star. Its two companions had left the scene unnoticed apparently while the observers' attention was focussed on the receding object. As two policemen arrived, the observers were concerned that the police would think the UFO was only a star. However, the star-like light did brighten and resume its motion over the high school. The officers reportedly jumped back into their police cruiser and drove down to the school parking lot, where they saw the object at close range before it sped off, with the police in pursuit. The object had been observed for a total of about 30-45 min. It had made no noise, and the observers felt no heat or wind from the object when it was overhead.

*Investigation:*

One of the police officers was interviewed. He confirmed the claim by the other observers that he and another officer had responded to the call and, after having the object pointed out to them by the group of observers near the school grounds, drove down to the school parking lot to get a closer look at the object. He said it was neither an airplane nor helicopter, but he did not know what it was. The object seemed to the officer to be shaped like a half dollar, with three lights of different colors in indentations at the "tail end," something like back-up lights. It seemed to have a more or less circular motion but was always over the school. After the officers arrived at the parking lot, the object "flew around" the school two or three more times and departed apparently toward the airport. As it got farther away, it looked like just one light. It took off at a "normal speed," staying the same height in the sky. It dimmed and then disappeared quickly.

The three women, two children, and the girl's father granted a group interview to project investigators. Their story was generally quite consistent with that recorded a year earlier by NICAP interviewers. The fact was brought out that the school parking lot had been filled with cars during the early part of the UFO sighting, since there was a Friday evening basketball game at the school. None of their occupants, having driven away while the UFO over the school building was under observation, reported seeing an UFO. Some youngsters leaving the school grounds were told about the UFOs by the observers. The observers said the youngsters watched for a while, then left—apparently unimpressed.

Review of all reports indicated that all observers other than the young girl and the group of three women had seen something that looked like a star. Written reports by both policemen stated the object appeared "like a bright star," and the reports of the four said the objects "when standing still, looked like stars." The changing of colors could be due to ordinary scintillation of starlight, and some apparent motion of the object could be accounted for as autokinesis, even if a star were being observed (see Section VI, Chapters 1 and 2).

Handwritten notes in pink ink on the right margin, including a diagram of a star with arrows pointing to it and the word "STAR" written vertically.

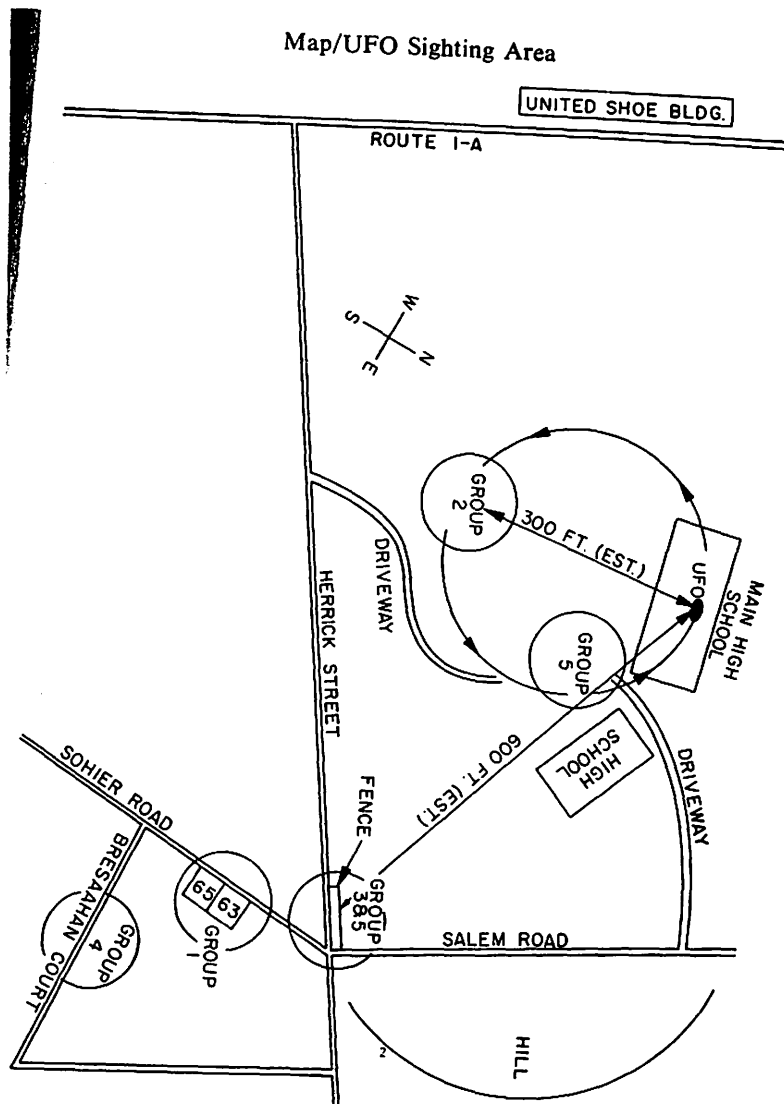


Fig. 2

Descent of the object over the women's heads could not be attributed to autokinesis, or apparent motion of a motionless light. Could all other reported movements be accounted for if one assumed the observers actually were looking at a star or planet? The policeman had been asked how close he was to the object at its closest position when he was in the school parking lot, and he indicated a distance of about 200 yd. As shown in the accompanying sketch (Fig. 2), which was prepared by Raymond E. Fowler, chairman of the NICAP Mass. Subcommittee, the police were about 200 yd. from the high school when the object over the school was first pointed out to them (position marked FENCE on the sketch). They must, therefore, not have reduced the apparent distance to the object when they drove down to the parking lot next to the school building. Mr. Fowler's original report, written a few days after the incident, said of the police. "As they came into the school yard, the object moved off slowly into the SW toward [a factory] and disappeared from view." An observer approaching the school building on the driveway from the road (see sketch), as the police officers did, and looking at a star over the building, would see the same apparent motion of the star as a near object moving to the SW would have.

Motion attributed to the object (except for the descent overhead) was typically circular, or "up, down, and around." The object was thus not seen to move far from its original position. In response to the question "How did the object disappear from view?" the woman who had reported being directly beneath the object wrote, "Just vanished in a circular direction in plain view." One of the police officers wrote, "The object seemed to stay at the same height and just move away very smoothly."

As shown in the sketch, in all views except the reported close encounter, the principal object was seen in the same WNW direction. This fact, plus the fact that it stayed in this general direction and disappeared as if going straight away from the observer, in addition to its having the appearance of a very bright star, leads to the conclusion that the observed light was a planet. The nautical almanac shows the planet Jupiter, with a magnitude of  $-1.6$  (eleven times as bright as a first magnitude star), to have been  $20^{\circ}$ - $30^{\circ}$  above the horizon,  $23^{\circ}$  N of W, during the time of this UFO observation. This position exactly matches the location at which the principal object was reported to have been seen.

*Conclusions:*

No explanation is attempted to account for the close UFO encounter reported by three women and a young girl. All other aspects of this multiple-witness report indicate the observers were looking at the planet Jupiter, with ordinary scintillation effects (the night was said to have been crystal clear) accounting for observed color change, and apparent object motion accounted for by autokinesis and motion of the observer.

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From Fowler's UFOs  
Interplanetary  
Visitors.

## *The Beverly Affair*

### PRELUDE

This part of the Beverly Affair has never been told. The evening of the twenty-second found me busily preparing final reports on a number of UFO sightings. The phone rang. It was the Beverly police. They informed me that phone calls were being received concerning a fiery green object. I ran out to the car and set off for the area where the object had been seen. The car radio was playing, and as I neared my destination a news bulletin interrupted the program. The announcer stated that the object which had just startled New Englanders was a huge meteor—a fireball! Disgusted, I started to look for a place to turn the car around when my eye caught a red light moving in the sky. I stopped the car and got out to observe it. Puzzled, I wondered why I could not see any red and green identification lights as it slowly approached my position. Thinking that the glowing red mass must be a strangely lighted helicopter, I strained to hear the usually noisy sound of its engine. It passed almost directly over me, moving very slowly, but all I heard was a faint indistinct sound. Excited, I got back in the car and was able to actually get ahead of the object once again by maneuvering down some back roads. I got out of the car again and walked into a large field along Route 22 in Wenham just as the red glowing blob again passed overhead. I flashed my flashlight at it half in fun but without effect. Just as it was moving over the distant tree line, it suddenly swung in an arc as if it were attached to the end of an unseen body and descended behind the trees. I stood there for a few minutes thinking about the matter and decided that it must have been a helicopter. It was about 7:00 P.M. as I headed back home to work on the ever-increasing pile of UFO reports. Little did I know that in just a few hours Beverly would be visited by something more substantial than a red light. Had I realized then what was about to occur, I would have paid more attention to what I had observed. Now, I'll always wonder if it really was a helicopter and what I might have seen if I had stayed out observing the sky on that fateful night.

On Saturday morning I received the news. Mrs. Claire Modugno phoned to tell me that many persons had seen three UFOs over the Beverly High School last night. I started to dismiss the sighting as the fireball but stopped when she interrupted to tell me that their sighting had taken place much later. I was about to suggest Jupiter as an alternative, when I realized she was trying to describe a close-encounter UFO sighting to me. When she further told me that the Beverly police had been involved, I was very skeptical because I felt sure that they would have reported such a thing to me. I told her this and mentioned that they had phoned me earlier about the fireball. She agreed that this was strange and related to me that she had phoned the police just prior to calling me to ask about the sighting but that no one at the station would admit any involvement at all. She sounded serious, so I decided to drop everything and check this one out personally.

## THE INVESTIGATION

I phoned the police and was told that there was no such report on the blotter except an earlier report on the fireball. I asked who was on duty during the sighting period and obtained the names of two pairs of officers who were on patrol at that time. I phoned and eliminated the first pair, which narrowed it down to Officers Bossie and Mahon. When I called them, they hedged my questions at first but finally admitted that they had seen something and agreed to be interviewed.

On the following day, Sunday, April 24, 1966, I interviewed all the civilian witnesses and had each fill out and sign standard questionnaires. I then proceeded to Beverly Police Headquarters. At the station, I was again given the runaround. However, after pointing out that other police departments had cooperated with me and that both Officers Bossie and Mahon had agreed to be interviewed, the officer in charge ordered the desk sergeant to summon the witnesses to the station by radio. Upon their arrival, they were told to tell me exactly what they had witnessed. We were ushered to a private room, and I interrogated them for about an hour. They filled out and signed UFO report forms and signed brief statements regarding the sighting.

## THE SIGHTING ACCOUNT

The UFO sighting started about nine o'clock in the evening when Nancy Modugno, age eleven, noticed a blinking light shining through her bedroom window. She looked out the window and saw a football-shaped object about the size of an automobile. It was flashing blue, green, red, and soft white lights as it passed along Sohier Road, seemingly only forty feet away! A soft "whizzing" sound came from the strange craft as it passed behind nearby trees heading toward a large open field behind the Beverly High School. The lights could still be seen through the trees, and it appeared as if the object was landing in the field.

Nancy was terrified and ran downstairs to tell her father about what she had seen. Angelo Modugno was watching television at the time and was experiencing difficulty in reception as Nancy came tearing down the stairs. His wife, Claire Modugno, was in the adjoining apartment visiting neighbors Barbara Smith and Brenda Maria. Barbara and Brenda left Claire and walked into the Modugno home to use the telephone to order some pizza. When they entered, they found Nancy in an hysterical condition and her father Angelo attempting to calm her down. They tried to comfort Nancy by telling her that what she saw was probably just an airplane. They looked out the window towards the field and saw some flashing lights. Then they told Nancy that they would walk down to the field and prove that it was an airplane in order to reassure her.

Barbara and Brenda went next door and got Claire. The three of them then walked down Sohier Road to Herrick Street and then down a slight hill onto the high school field. Puzzled, they sighted three brilliantly lighted objects flying in circular patterns. They would circle and hover and then proceed to circle again. One object was directly over the high school. The others were in the distance, seemingly over Route 128 and the Bomae Research buildings. The witnesses told me that the strange vehicles looked as if they were "playing tag"!

Brenda, half in fun, began waving her arms and motioned as if she wanted them to come closer. At this point, while the closest object was completing a circle over the school, it started to move directly towards them! Barbara and Claire took one look at the strange wingless craft bearing down on them and turned and began running back up the rise onto Herrick Street. Brenda,

momentarily unaware that her companions were no longer standing behind her, was shouting that it was going to pass right over them. In the meantime, Barbara and Claire stopped running and looked back to see if Brenda was coming. They gasped at the frightening sight they saw. The object was hovering only twenty feet over Brenda, who was screaming and covering her head with her hands. She told me that she felt that the object was going to squash her! Barbara and Claire shouted at Brenda to run, and she broke into a run as the object moved back toward the high school in a semicircular pattern. As the trio ran home along Herrick Street, they could see it again maneuvering over the school.

Three very excited women burst into the Modugno home and phoned neighbors to come out and see the UFOs. Mrs. Theresa Scanzani could not leave her yard but could see one of the objects from her vantage point. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lessor came right over and joined Barbara, Brenda, and the whole Modugno family. They all ran down to the corner of Herrick Street and Salem Road to a fence overlooking the field. Two objects, exhibiting the same changing colors, could be seen hovering at a high altitude in the distance. They appeared a little larger than stars and were very brilliant. One object was hovering directly over the high school about six hundred feet from them. It appeared to be only thirty feet above the roof! It was oval shaped and was flashing a very bright red light along with dimmer green and white lights. This was enough for Bob Lessor. He tore back up the street and phoned the police.

Police officers Bossie and Mahon had been parked less than a mile away when the phone message was relayed to them via radio. They arrived on the scene shortly and jokingly enquired of the witnesses gathered at the fence, "Where's the airplane?" The group excitedly pointed the object out to them as it circled the school. Both officers were visibly shaken. They got out of the cruiser and watched for a few moments and then jumped back in and sped down Salem Road into the school parking lot. They stopped and started to get out of the cruiser as the object began moving away from them. They took up chase but lost sight of it. Meanwhile, police headquarters had notified the Air Force. Not too long after the sighting, both civilians and police saw and heard two airplanes and a helicopter circling the general area. They may have been sent to investigate. It is significant to note that the witnesses immediately recognized these craft as being conventional. Their running lights were nothing like the lights they had observed on the UFOs. In fact, one of the things that amazed all of the observers was that, except for the initial sighting made by Nancy, the objects had been completely silent. Brenda said that even when the UFO was directly over her head, she hadn't heard a thing—not even a stirring of the air!

## SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

The following descriptive statements by some of the witnesses are typical of many other observers who have attempted to describe close encounters with UFOs. One immediately senses the utter *strangeness* of the witnesses' experience as they painstakingly grasp for the proper words to describe the *indescribable!*

*Nancy Modugno:* The object had four lights: red, blue-green, and a lamp color. It looked like a football but was the size of a car. On the top, it had no windows. The front was pointed. I was terrified.<sup>18</sup>

*Barbara Smith:* While watching one that was completing a circle, it started to come toward us. I started to run. Then a friend called, "Look up, it is directly over us," so I looked up and stood still in surprise. I saw a large round object at rooftop level. It was just like looking at the bottom of a plate. It was solid. I saw no flashing lights as I did when they were farther away, but I did see a halo-like light that went across the front. The color of the object was a grayish white. I heard no sound at all but I felt this thing was going to come down on top of me. It was like a giant mushroom. I was fascinated, stunned, unable to think and automatically found myself running away from it.<sup>19</sup>

*Brenda Maria:* This object appeared larger and larger as it came closer. The lights appeared to be all around and turning. The colors were very bright. When overhead, all I could see above my head was a blurry atmosphere and brightly lit-up lights flashing slowly around. I was very, very excited—not scared—very curious. I would not have run at all except for the fact that the object got too close and I thought it might crash on my head.<sup>20</sup>

*Claire Modugno:* It came right toward me. It looked brilliant. It was grayish, seemed very smooth, and seemed to take on the red and also the green from the very brilliant lights. I was terribly scared.<sup>21</sup>

*Officer Bossie:* I saw an oval red object just ahead of me. The lights were bright and were blinking all the time. I heard no noise and the object seemed to stay at the same height and just move away very smoothly.<sup>22</sup>

*Officer Mahon:* On arrival, I observed what seemed to me to be like a large plate hovering over the school. It had three lights—red, green and white—but no noise was heard to indicate it to be a plane. This object hovered over the school.<sup>23</sup>

## FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

While the *Beverly Affair* was underway, it would appear that perhaps one of the two similarly colored objects seen in the distance had buzzed the campus of Gordon College in my own hometown of Wenham!<sup>24</sup>

Vivian Russell and Patricia Wells had just left the Gordon College Student Union. Suddenly, Vivian called Patricia's attention to a bright yellow-orange light, larger and brighter than a star, which was approaching the campus from the south. As it got closer, it took on a rough circular or squashed rectangular shape, which was divided by a dark center line. Patricia dashed back into a coffee shop and alerted Diane Hopkins, while Vivian remained observing the slowly approaching object. They watched it come within an estimated six hundred feet of them at an altitude of about a one hundred feet, when it abruptly stopped. Then, almost instantaneously, it suddenly executed a smooth ninety-degree turn and darted at terrific speed into the west over the tree line!



As it turned, its shape changed to an upright sliver of light and then to a larger, glowing, flattened oval. Almost immediately afterward, a small aircraft flew over the campus. The witnesses compared it with the strange object. The airplane's noise and configuration was easily identifiable, whereas the weird, silent, glowing object was unlike anything they had ever seen before.

During the month of April 1966, I received a total of twenty-two reports that were evaluated as being in the "unknown" category! Six of these reports involved UFOs hovering over or around *school buildings*. The similarity of the sightings at Beverly and Wenham is striking. Both featured a large grassy quadrangle, a school, and adjoining reservoirs of water. March and April 1966, both locally and elsewhere throughout the world, truly were *the incredible months!*

#### NOTES

1. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-2.
2. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-3.
3. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-10A.
4. *Ibid.*
5. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-2A.
6. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-2B.
7. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-2C.
8. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-3A.
9. NICAP, *Strange Effects from UFOs*, pp. 53, 54.
10. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-4.
11. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-24.
12. *Ibid.*
13. *Ibid.*
14. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-21.
15. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-17.
16. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-23.
17. Personal Files, UFO Report No. 66-26 A/B.
18. *Ibid.*
19. *Ibid.*
20. *Ibid.*
21. *Ibid.*
22. *Ibid.*
23. *Ibid.*
24. *Ibid.*

Case write-up from:

UFOs: GREATEST SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM OF OUR TIMES?  
James E. McDonald

(Prepared for presentation before the 1967  
annual meeting of the American Society of  
Newspaper Editors, Washington, D. C., April 22,  
1967.)

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1966: CE1 (mild  
CE2e)  
(responsive)  
Beverly  
MA

Case 5. Beverly, Mass., April 22, 1966

Just one year ago today, an exceedingly interesting sighting occurred at about 2100-2130, well within a populous urban area, near the intersection of Salem Road and Sohler Road, Beverly, Mass. One of NICAP's most thorough investigators, Raymond E. Fowler of Wenham, Mass., checked this case carefully, and it was from his detailed report to NICAP headquarters that I obtained the supporting information to back up my own interview with one of the key witnesses, Mrs. Claire Modugno. As in all cases worth citing, the full detail is so great that it is impossible to do justice to it in a brief summary such as this.

The incident began when Nancy Modugno, age 11, was frightened by a hovering red light outside her bedroom window. Just as she called to her father, he happened to note that the TV picture he was viewing became scrambled. To quiet the girl's near-hysteria at whatever she had seen, Mrs. Claire Modugno and her two neighbor-women went outside to establish that it was only an airplane light. However, they found instead that about 200 yards from the adjoining intersection, viewed directly across the athletic field of Beverly High School, three brightly lit oval-shaped objects, estimated to be perhaps 20 feet in diameter, were circling in an oddly pulsatory motion directly above the high school building. Mrs. Modugno estimated they were only about 20 feet above the roof, when I queried her on this point. One of the women, Miss Brenda Maria, age 22, whimsically waved her hands as if to beckon them toward the group; one object immediately left the circle and moved towards them, hovering only about 20 feet above one of them. Fowler's full report conveys some of the fright these women evidently felt, and Mrs. Modugno emphatically confirmed this to me. The women ran back to the Modugno home and phoned the Beverly police, who sent a patrol car with two policemen (Officers Bossie and Mahan). Then the two policemen and several neighborhood adults all observed the three unidentified objects, whose movements and location had changed somewhat. The officers got on their radio and called for Air Force jets, but the UFOs moved away before any jets could get there. No Air Force check has ever been made of this case, to Mrs. Modugno's knowledge. This is an example of a case that was not even reported in local newspapers, yet is clearly an incident of great interest. I call attention to the fact that this case contains actions that might be loosely described as "contact" if one interprets the seemingly immediate response of one of the objects to Miss Maria's waving as anything more than adventitious. Other such instances, involving seeming "response" can be cited, though they are too few in number to justify any strong generalizations.



# New England UFO Research Organization : Historical Cases

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**Beverly, MA**  
**April 22, 1966**

**famous CE1.**

A completely baffling case involving nine witnesses took place on April 22, 1966, in Beverly, Mass. This dramatic close encounter is regarded as being among the most persuasive arguments for the extraterrestrial hypothesis, and it is almost certainly the most solidly unidentifiable report from Massachusetts in recent decades.

The events of that evening began to unfold shortly after 9:00 p.m.. Nancy Modugno, age 11, was laying in bed when she noticed a bright light blinking through her window. She looked out and saw, only forty feet away, an amazing object about the size of an automobile, brightly lit with flashing blue, green, red and white lights. The football-shaped craft made a whizzing, ricocheting sound as it moved over the neighborhood at a very low altitude, just clearing the tops of the houses. As she watched, the thing descended and could be seen behind trees, apparently landing in a large field behind Beverly High School.

Terrified, the astonished girl ran down the stairs and tried to tell her father about what she had seen. He tried to calm her down and went about adjusting the television set, which had mysteriously just lost its picture. Nancy's mother, Claire, was visiting two friends, Barbara Smith and Brenda Maria, in an adjoining apartment at the time. Nancy's father ordered her back to bed, but she became hysterical and refused to leave. At this point, Barbara and Brenda walked in to order a pizza. Seeing Nancy in a fit, the two women attempted to ease her fears and calm her down. They could see the flashing lights in the field, and told Nancy that they would walk over there to prove that it was just a plane.

Barbara and Brenda picked up Claire Modugno and walked down a hill to the field. The three women looked up and saw something they could not have anticipated. There were three objects maneuvering in the sky, halting and circling as if they were playing tag. They were oval-shaped, with bright flashing lights. Two were distant, but one was much closer, apparently right over the school.

The women crossed the field to get a better look. They could see flashing lights on the edge of the craft changing colors from red to green and blue. Brenda waved her arms at the object and it immediately stopped circling and moved across the field towards the women. They were horrified. In her statement, Barbara said that, "It started to come towards us... I started to run. Brenda called, 'Look up! It is directly over us!' I looked up and saw a round object...like the bottom of a plate. It was solid, grayish white... I felt this thing was going to come down on top of me. It was like a giant mushroom." Out of sheer terror, Barbara and Claire turned and ran up the hill. Brenda was all alone in the field, with the thing only 20 feet above her head. She stated, "The object appeared larger and larger as it came closer. The

Thursday  
February 18, 110

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North Adams, MA

32 °F / 0 °C

Overcast

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CURRENT MOON



Waxing Crescent

20% of Full

Thu 18 Feb. 2010

[moon phases](#)

Solar X-rays:

NORMAL

Geomagnetic  
Field:

QUIET

From [n3kl.org](http://n3kl.org)





lights appeared to be all around and turning. The colors were very bright. When overhead, all I could see was a blurry atmosphere and brightly lit-up lights flashing slowly around... I thought it might crash on my head!" The others called to her, then she too turned and fled. One of the witnesses was so petrified by the encounter that she literally wet her pants.

While the women ran back to the apartments, the object smoothly moved over the school building. They got on the telephone to alert their neighbors to the spectacle unfolding outside. One woman was already in her yard, watching the flying saucers. And one man, upon looking outside and seeing the discs, called the police.

The police arrived to find a small crowd of people standing outside watching the closest object moving up and down above the school. Jokingly, Officers Bossie and Mahan asked the group, "Where's the airplane?" When the witnesses pointed to the thing, then at high altitude and looking like a star, the officers laughed. Then, suddenly, the disc turned bright red and dropped to a position directly over the school building. At this point, the officers became visibly shaken. Mahan stated, "I observed what seem to be a large plate hovering over the school. It had three lights - red, green, and blue - but no noise... This object hovered... The lights were flashing..." Bossie said, "It hovered and then began gliding. Some of the people got on the ground and were real scared!" They jumped back into the cruiser and drove toward the object, down into the schoolyard. They could see clearly that it was not an airplane or helicopter and that it was shaped like a half dollar, with three lights, red, green & blue, in indentations at the rear of the disc - similar to back-up lights.

Just as the policemen got out of the cruiser, the disc made a couple of passes over the school and began to move slowly away. It picked up speed and was last seen as it disappeared behind buildings. By this time, the two other UFOs had also disappeared, though nobody had seen them leave.

Raymond E. Fowler investigated this case thoroughly for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). He also sent a copy of his report to the Condon Committee, a group studying UFOs for the U.S. Air Force. The people on that committee who were objectively trying to find the truth about UFOs used the Beverly Case as evidence for the reality of the phenomenon. Other members tried to explain the sighting as a misinterpretation of stars or the planet Jupiter. However, a detailed follow-up analysis by Fowler based on witness interviews showed that the line of sight from the witnesses to Jupiter's position and the line of sight to the approximate location of the object differed by about 50 degrees. When the Condon Committee released its final report, the Beverly Sighting was the only case which made specific reference to an alien vehicle. It said, "While the current cases investigated did not yield impressive residual evidence, even in the narrative content, to support a hypothesis that an alien vehicle was physically present, narratives of past events, such as the 1966 incident at Beverly, Mass., would fit no other explanation if the testimony of the witnesses is taken at full face value."