

JAN 20 1978

Dr Hynek,

I recently renewed a previous interest in UFO's because of a conversation I had recently with a Pennsylvania State forest ranger on Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail on December 31 1977.

As the ranger was checking our camp area (registering my and my two companions names) I asked him if he had heard of UFO activity in the Laurel Highlands area. He proceeded to tell us of a sighting made by him which I outline below.

Time: Fall 1972. Between 11pm and 1am.

Location: approximately 39degrees59'08" North, 79degrees21'14" East.

Consult U.S. Geological Survey map, Kingwood, Pa.

Photorevised 1973, AMS 5163 IV NE-Series V831

The above coordinates correspond to the area two miles north along the utility road which intersects route 653 approximately 52mm from the western edge of the map.

Duration of sighting: 40-45 minutes.

Number of observers: 1

Location of object: approximately 1/4 mile overhead.

motion of object: none

object description: blimp size and shape, silvery metal surface with huge doors which appeared to be open on underside of craft.

object illumination: very bright white light, no traces of individual wavelengths of lights. Not point sources of illumination. The ranger stated that the light was so bright it "all ran together".

object noise: the ranger was unclear on this point. A deep rumbling was mentioned but not clarified.'

Observer reaction: More awe than fear.' Also a very strong feeling that if he had been in an open field or area the object would have descended to pick him up.'

Circumstances: The ranger was driving along the utility road previously mentioned. Approximately 2 miles north of route 653 , his car began to vibrate and he noticed a bright light in the air. (He did not specify the sequence of these two events.) He then shut the car and it's lights off.' The only electrical circuit complete in the vehicle was the continuity light on his forest service radio which stayed lit for the duration of the sighting. He did not attempt to use the radio. For the next 40-45 minutes, the ranger stated he remained in his vehicle and watched the object except for an attempt to leave the vehicle but when his foot touched the ground , his leg began vibrating wildly which caused him to terminate the attempt. At the end of the 40-45 minutes, he started his vehicle and drove away to complete his duties.' The object and it's characteristics remained unchanged from the intial sighting to his departure.'

The ranger was a man of 40-55 years of age who stated he worked mostly at night checking on campers and camp areas. It appears that from this experience he should have been able to distinguish between this object and astronomical objects. He did not mention whether the moon was visible at the time however. Nor did he compare the angular size of the object to the angular size of the moon.

I received the distinct impression that the circumstances of the event were not being created at the time of my conversation with the ranger. When I questioned him on a few points he seemed to be recalling from memory rather than imagination. Also my personal opinion of the man was that he was honest.

I write this letter for two reasons, Dr. Hynek. One is to give you this information although I realize it is so sketchy to be worthless for any purpose except statistical studies. My second reason concerns my desire for information. I realize you are a busy man so I ask with hesitancy if you would send me any information you might have concerning UFO sightings in Fall of 1972 in the Laurel Highlands area of Pennsylvania. This area is bordered by the towns of Ohiopyle, Confluence, Rockwood, Jones Mills, and Normalville. If you are short of time then please disregard my request, however, if you do write I would appreciate hearing from you.

Thank you,



Chuck Membree

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