

Colby: Book quality / esp. Colby & police multi-witnessed  
1972: KANSAS FLAP  
Journal, Portland, Ore., 12 Aug 72) (Cr: D. Boates)  
CEI.

18 Aug 72 - Hays, Kan. (x) - UFO SIGHTINGS MULTIPLY

Dighton (Kansas) police chief M.H. Shelton said he has reached the point where it does not pay to ponder reports of UFOs over west central Kansas this past week. "I'm dumbfounded and think, "What the hell is it?" he said. The latest theory is that a mother ship is hovering high over the earth and dispatching smaller craft to look the earth over.

A chart of the UFO sightings for the past week shows them all within a near-equilateral triangle, with sides about 120 miles long. Hays lies in the center of that triangle and reported the majority of the recent sightings. One corner is Lyons, to the southeast, where two fiery red hovering objects were seen Wednesday night. The northern corner is Phillipsburg, where a similar UFO was spotted before dawn Wednesday.

The southwest corner of the triangle is at Dighton, where the phenomenon has recurred regularly since February. Shelton said the UFOs reappear there every three to four days. Within the triangle are at least six other towns where night time aerial phenomena have been reported in the past two days. Ellis, 15 miles west of Hays, reported five UFOs visible at the same time before dawn Thursday. (Herald-Examiner, Los Angeles, Calif., 18 Aug 72)

19 Aug 72 - Colby, Kan. (Sat/0207)-(I-B-ab-.) - PATROLMEN NO LONGER LAUGH AT UFOs

At 2:07 a.m. someone called the Colby police dispatcher with a report of a strange object in the sky outside the city. The call was referred to the Thomas County sheriff's office. "About five minutes later I had my sighting," Patrolman Paul Carter explained. "I saw an object coming out of the northeast in a southwesterly direction." The officer turned on Main and went south out of Colby on Country Club Drive. As he approached I-70, the object was settling over a pasture east of the drive, north of I-70. "It was big," Carter says, "very bright, changing from red and green blinking colors to bright white, so bright you couldn't look at it. "It lit up the pasture." The officer said the object hung perhaps 10 to 15 feet above the ground. He said he could pinpoint its location, because he saw a section line road about a quarter-mile behind it. The light pattern was roughly oval, 30 to 35 feet wide and 20 to 25 feet high. Through the light pattern he thought he saw a solid shape, perhaps a fuselage, "like a cereal bowl turned upside down." Was Patrolman Carter frightened? "It sure doesn't make you feel like getting out and dancing the minuet," he said. "It's eerie. We all kind of laughed at this stuff in the past. But after 2:07 this morning, I changed my opinion real fast.

When Carter (22) saw the object in the field he called for help and Dennis Brown (also 22), his patrol partner, raced to the scene in his own car. Brown arrived in time to watch the strange object rise out of the field and speed away southeastward. Carter and Brown joined forces in one car and contacted police at Oakley, Kan., 20 miles to the southeast. Oakley officers told them by radio they had spotted the UFO through binoculars and kept it in sight from 3 to 5 minutes before it moved northward and disappeared.

Patrolman Brown's report was almost identical to that given by Carter. "It was weird, but it made a believer out of me," Brown said. "Before, I always thought people who reported these sightings had been tipping the jug and then thought they saw what they reported." Brown said that while he was driving to answer Carter's call for assistance he noticed a "streak of light going west to east on the horizon as I glanced over my shoulder." He was about 6 miles west of Colby when that occurred. "I didn't know what to think about that sighting," Brown recalled, "but I really didn't have time to wonder because I was on my way to help Carter." After arriving at Carter's location, Brown said he noticed the entire area was "lit up like daytime." As he got out of his car, Brown said, "I saw a shot of light go straight up into the air and then veer or level off to travel in a southeasterly direction."

The next telephone report, Carter said, was from John Calkins, a resident of Gem, Kan. about 8 miles east of Colby. On orders of the police dispatcher Carter and Brown drove toward Gem. "We saw a very bright, colored object in the sky over Gem," Carter

reported, "It was about 3 to 4 miles away. When it was moving fast it was bright white, and when it was stationary there were alternating red and green patterns on this. As we pulled on closer the object started going northeast toward Rexford." Already 8 miles from their city, Brown and Carter decided not to follow. But at this point they began to see other, smaller objects higher in the sky, as many as 8 at one time. They were incredibly swift-moving, Carter said, and would appear on one horizon and disappear over the other before the officer could count to five.

After dawn the officers returned to the pasture where the object had hovered, but they found no trace of it--not so much as a crushed blade of grass, Carter said. The officers shot three Polaroid pictures, only one of which captured any image--and that a disappointing one--of the objects, the officer said. He said pictures taken with a standard camera but without a telephoto lens were in process of development. Carter said he was certain that what he saw was no sort of meteor shower, airplane or helicopter. Speaking of his fellow officer, Brown, Carter said, "He too, was an unbeliever until this morning. You'd think we were maniacs except for all the other people who saw this. Between 30 and 40 other citizens of Colby saw parts of it. It's true--that's all I can say about it. I wouldn't be making an ass out of myself if it wasn't."

Patrolman Paul Carter said that pictures taken by his partner, Patrolman Dennis Brown, with an Instamatic camera failed to record an image of the object. "I can't explain it," Carter said. "We should have gotten something." Pictures taken with a Polaroid camera did get an image, but an unclear one that "could be anything," Carter said. He said there were further reports of sightings in the Colby area Sunday night, but apparently no one saw a UFO close up." \*Kansas City Star, Kan., 20 Aug & s and btwn 21 & 25 Aug 72) (Cr: J. Schuessler)

19 Aug 72 - Gem, Kan. (Sat/0200)-(I-B-c..) - NEAR LANDING OF GEM UFO

The Gem resident who first reported a UFO sighting early Saturday confirmed by telephone a description of it given by two Colby police officers. John I. Calkins, 23, assistant manager of a Nickerson Farms restaurant in Gem said he was awakened about 2 a.m. by the barking of dogs and saw a saucer-shaped object, blazing with light, descend on a Quonset building about 150 feet from his mobile home in Gem. It was Calkins' telephone call that alerted two police officers in Colby. Moments later they sighted a UFO, followed it south of Colby and then to the Gem area. Calkins said he first saw three lighted objects in the sky over his house, but they rose out of sight and disappeared. "Then I heard funny noises, high-pitched sounds, and swooshing sounds like a vacuum cleaner. I called the Colby police." He said he looked out again and saw objects in the sky changing colors. They lighted the area so he could see his own dog outside, putting its head on the ground apparently trying to cover its ears. "I knew then these were high-shrilling sounds," Calkins said. One object then appeared to settle on the Quonset building, he added. It was 25 to 35 feet in diameter, 15 to 20 feet tall. He said he could see points at each end and the domed top and bottom of the saucer-shaped object. "It was making beeping sounds like Morse code transmission," he said. "The lights on it were so bright I couldn't stand to look at it. When I seen that one I got so scared I got cold. I broke out in goose bumps. I had to turn on the heater in the trailer." Calkins said that when the two Colby officers arrived at his trailer to question him about the UFO, they had already had several sightings themselves. "They were white as sheets," Calkins said. "I never seen a police officer as scared as that in my life." Calkins said he inspected the Quonset building after daylight and could find no sign of the UFO visit. (Kansas City Star, Kan., btwn 21 & 25 Aug 72) (Cr: J. Schuessler)

DATA NET VI (9): September 1972

# APRO Bulletin Coverage!

Although UFO sightings made in July in the state of Kansas are featured elsewhere in this issue of the *Bulletin*, the Colby sighting of August 19th is given separate treatment because of the nature of the detail.

Our principal witness is Officer Paul Carter of the Colby, Kansas Police Department. He reports that there had been UFO activity in that general area (north and northwestern Kansas) for about two weeks prior to his experience.

In the early hours of August 19th (Saturday) Officer Carter and Officer Dennis Brown were on patrol in separate cars. A man called in from Gem township to report a UFO in his vicinity. He was very disturbed about it. Colby Police Department referred him to the Thomas County sheriff's office because Gem is out of their jurisdiction.

Approximately five or ten minutes after the Gem report, (2:07 a.m.) Officer Carter was patrolling east of Colby on Highway 24 when he saw an object sporting alternately flashing red and green lights almost directly ahead of him. It was at approximately 200-300 feet altitude and heading southwest. Carter turned south and headed out of town toward Interstate 70, pacing the object at about 50-60 miles per hour. He stopped at the overpass, whereupon the object, which was ahead of him, swung back over I-70 and came to a stop over a pasture east of Carter's car. Carter was parked so that the car was facing east and he got a good look as the object, red and green lights flashing, blotted out stars and some of the terrain. He could clearly see a terrace in the field in front of the object (between his car and it) but a terrace on the far side of it, as well as telephone poles which he should have been able to see, were not visible.

Just after the object settled to its position 10-15 feet above the ground, it turned to an intense, bright white light which illuminated the field and surrounding area, as well as the interior of his car. He said that he even spotted a couple of jackrabbits in the pasture. However, the light was so bright he had to turn his head away and close his eyes because it blinded him.

During the time that he chased the

(See Kansas - Page Four)

## Kansas

(Continued from Page One)

object Carter had been in touch with Officer Brown who was halfway between Colby and Gem, via the radio. When Carter notified Brown that he was in pursuit of the object, Brown started back to Carter's position to verify Carter's report. Brown was on the street Carter had taken south out of Colby but he was not within viewing range of the object when it sat down. After Carter's last radio message to Brown telling him that the object was stationary, the object made a whirring noise, somewhat like a vacuum cleaner starting up, rose straight up and out of sight within 3 seconds. Brown, approaching from the north, saw the object in its vertical ascent. He was 1½ miles from Carter's location.

Two or three minutes later, what the officers thought might have been the same object, flashing red and green lights, came down out of the sky and headed southeast toward Oakley. Carter radioed Officer Jess Tillman at Oakley and told him he was chasing the object south, that it was about to go over the Mingo exchange and he was about to lose it on the horizon. Then Tillman radioed that he had spotted it and was watching it with binoculars. He later described it and the description matched that of the object observed by Carter and Brown.

At this point it would be natural to write this report off as one of those "meandering night light" sightings. However, the shape behind the flashing red and green lights was easily discerned—it resembled "an inverted oatmeal bowl", flat on the bottom, with a rim around the bottom. The lights were arranged in this manner: Red lights just above the ring, in a horizontal band. The green lights were located all over the top of the object. Carter did not notice any particular pattern or rhythm to the flashing of the lights—they simply went on and off.

The path of the second object was generally northwest to southeast, and Tillman observed it for 3-5 minutes before it turned white and streaked north and out of sight.

Brown and Carter drove back into Colby, had coffee, talked over their experience and then went back on patrol. They shortly received a call from a man in Gem who said that he had called the Sheriff's office several times but got no response. He said that an object was hanging directly over his trailer house and would someone please come out. He said it was so low that he felt he could touch it if he tried. The Colby area was quiet so Brown got into Carter's car and they headed for Gem which is 3 miles north of Highway 24. Before they left Colby, Brown and Carter had grabbed an instant camera, two pairs of binoculars and

APRO Bulletin

a polaroid camera.

When the car reached the turnoff that led to Gem they saw an object like the first two they had observed, only with patches of white light this time, hovering over the Gem area. When the patrol car turned off the highway and onto the road leading to Gem the object headed in a northeast direction. When the officers reached Gem the object appeared to be in the Rexford area, which is approximately 15 miles ENE of Gem.

The men decided against going to Rexford as it was too far from their home base in Colby so they stayed in Gem and talked to a man who had called the Colby Police Department. Other residents of Gem said they had been awakened by their dogs barking and looked out and saw the object hovering.

Brown and Carter mounted the binoculars on a tripod so they would have a steady base for viewing and continued to watch the object. It still appeared to be over Rexford, had turned white and was moving—up and down, sidewise, in no particular pattern. Sometimes it would move out of the binoculars' field of view. Carter firmly states that the object was not a star—it constantly moved in front of stars.

While the observers were watching the object at Gem they scanned the sky and spotted other objects. Two, almost overhead, were the red-and-green-lights-with occasional white ones and were estimated to be at about 1 to 2 miles altitude. These objects would move together, stay together, maneuver side by side, split apart, and go in different directions. At one time two bright white lights came from the western horizon which the observers first thought might be jets. One went from the western horizon to the eastern horizon in a matter of 5 or 6 seconds. The other came halfway across the sky, stopped, and went back the same way it had come. Then another bright white light came out of the west at great speed, went to the object still hovering at Rexford. The observers couldn't discern if the object stopped there and stayed or went past and beyond, but they got the impression that it joined the Rexford object.

After this display, Brown and Carter headed back to Colby, driving west on Highway 24. As they approached the town they spotted another object with the same red-and-green light display, which came in from the west and appeared to be hovering over Brown's patrol car. The men got out of the car and Brown took two photos of the object with the instamatic. Carter snapped one with the Polaroid camera, whereupon the object streaked straight into the west and out of sight.

Officers Brown and Carter stayed at the eastern city limits for 1½ hours with a crowd of 15-20 people and watched more

of the objects maneuvering in the area. During that time 36 calls were received at police headquarters from area residents reporting on the flying lights. One farmer reported that one of the things was hovering over his barn and that if it descended 2 or 3 feet it would have been sitting on his weather vane.

In concluding this report, it is important to note that Carter was a non-believer in UFOs prior to his experience. He still says he won't speculate on what they are or where they come from but says, "I was a non-believer until 2:07 a.m. on Saturday, the 19th of August, but there comes a time in a person's life when he can change his mind pretty darn fast."

Unfortunately the developed film showed nothing. However, Carter was able to estimate the size of the object as approximately 18-20 feet high and 35 feet in diameter, based on his observation of the hovering object. Also there is a possibility of electro-mechanical interference. When the object was directly overhead, Carter called Colby but received no answer. He then called in again and Colby answered saying that they had heard his call and answered but apparently he didn't hear their call.

## Kansas UFO Reports

At around the middle of July this year the small town of Dighton, Kansas experienced a considerable number of UFO sightings which indicated that an unidentified object was making repeat visits to that area.

Dighton, a small town of approximately 1500 people, is located in Lane County in the western part of the state. The initial press story which was carried by UPI quoted Police Chief M.R. Shelton who described the object as a "round, red-orange and white light—bright as a cluster of lights on a football field." According to the citizenry of Dighton, sightings of the object had been going on "for several months" and it was seen by many of the residents of the area as well as the Chief of Police and several other policemen.

The UFO was seen several times each month starting in February, and usually between 11 p.m. and early morning. Shelton said that the object would usually remain stationary until an investigating officer radioed another car about it. It would then begin to move away, he said — "Every time we transmit it moves."

Shelton was quoted as saying that he had chased the thing in May at speeds up to 100 miles per hour and that it ran parallel to or slightly ahead of his patrol car.

Some people, including Shelton, at first speculated that the object might have been a military craft taking infrared photos of the area to check feedlot runoff, but a check with Forbes Air Force Base revealed that Forbes had had no low-level flights—low level being from ground level to 3,500 feet. The plane which takes infrared photos was described as flying "well in excess of 50,000 feet."

To date the mysterious flying lights have been sighted by hundreds of witnesses at Hays, Russell, Plainville, Stockton, Ellis, Phillipsburg, Great Bend, Lyons, McPherson, Colby (see other story this issue), Gem and Oakville.

# Police Officer Follows UFO In Colby Area

COLBY, Kan. (AP) — A Colby police officer reported following an unidentified flying object around the Colby area early Saturday at speeds up to 60 miles per hour.



Patrolman Paul Carter said the object bore green and red flashing lights and at one point hovered over a pasture near Interstate 70, letting off a brilliant white glow that was too bright to look at.

"I know damn good and well it wasn't a helicopter or airplane," Carter said. He estimated it was more than 30 feet wide and 25 feet high.

The sighting was the most recent, and perhaps the most descriptive, of a recent series of UFO reports in western Kansas that began last month.

*See reverse for good comments by Carter.*

# People Are Saying . . .

THOSE \$3.98 surplus weather balloons, which were mentioned in this space, 7 September '72, as a possible answer to some UFO sightings in Kansas, drew a bit of wrath from an officer in Colby, Kansas, who saw a UFO.

He sent a letter to the Salina Journal, printed in the 12 September issue, in which he asked some questions.

"Sir, have you ever heard of a weather balloon turning so white and bright that you cannot stand to look at it? Have you ever heard of a weather balloon that can go from 10 to 15 feet off the ground, straight up into the air where it disappears from sight in three seconds??

"If these 'Weather Balloons' can do that, I think the Army got stung when they decided to put them up for sale at \$3.98 or under. These balloons must be better than any million dollar machine they have in existence today."

He continued, "until a person actually experiences something like this (sighting) he will probably scoff at any and all reports of such items and try to 'explain away' these objects with a lame excuse as 'weather balloons.'"

"I am not trying to say there are 'beings' in 'Flying Saucers' up there. I am trying to point out that until a person has seen something like this, he cannot possibly explain it. Even after he has seen it, it is still hard to do so.

"I was a complete non-believer in any of the sightings earlier until I had my own experience. If other people want to believe these objects are swamp gas, balloons, kites, etc., that's just fine. But I would certainly like to talk to these people right after their 'first sighting' and see if they are dancing to a different tune."

The letter was signed, Officer Paul D. Carter, No. 104, Colby Police Department.

**Note:**  
Carter's description.

Other comments are good too.

August 20, 1972

N.I.C.A.P.  
Suite 801  
1730 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

AUG 20 1972

Gentlemen:

Neither of the following two items was mentioned on any news broadcast on radio or T.V., an absolute blank on any reports from them.

I switched on my radio at 4:00 A.M. on Saturday, August 19, 1972, and just happened to catch a phone call which was being put through by Ray Briem on Station KABC. (He conducts a nightly talk program from 1 A.M. to 6 A.M. Monday thru Saturday.) References to this matter might have been discussed and in progress for some hours, but I caught it just as the phone call was being connected through to a small police station in HAYS, KANSAS, to a Sgt. Lang ... and this was the man with whom Mr. Briem spoke.

Quote Sgt. Lang: "Tuesday and Wednesday was when we got a rash of UFO reports. Tonight (Fri. 8-18-72) reports from many people. One report of something flying close to the ground. One of an object with parachutes dangling from the bottom of it.

"Two of my officers have reported they've been watching something on the ground for the past 2 hours through their binoculars ... and it jumps to a different location whenever they try to get nearer. Happens every time.

"One of the men in the office (policeman) believes there is a mother ship hovering over the earth, and sending down craft to inspect."

Sgt. Lang described himself as "dumfounded" by it all - and after some minutes the call was concluded.

Also, heard on August 14, Station KFI, last night radio, brief bitter comment by man in charge of talk program, his reference to "In yesterday's Herald, two different sets of people in Oregon saw flying saucer. Was small item buried in paper on Page 14, instead of on Page 1 as it should have been. I can't understand why."

I hope that the above information may be of some value to your office.

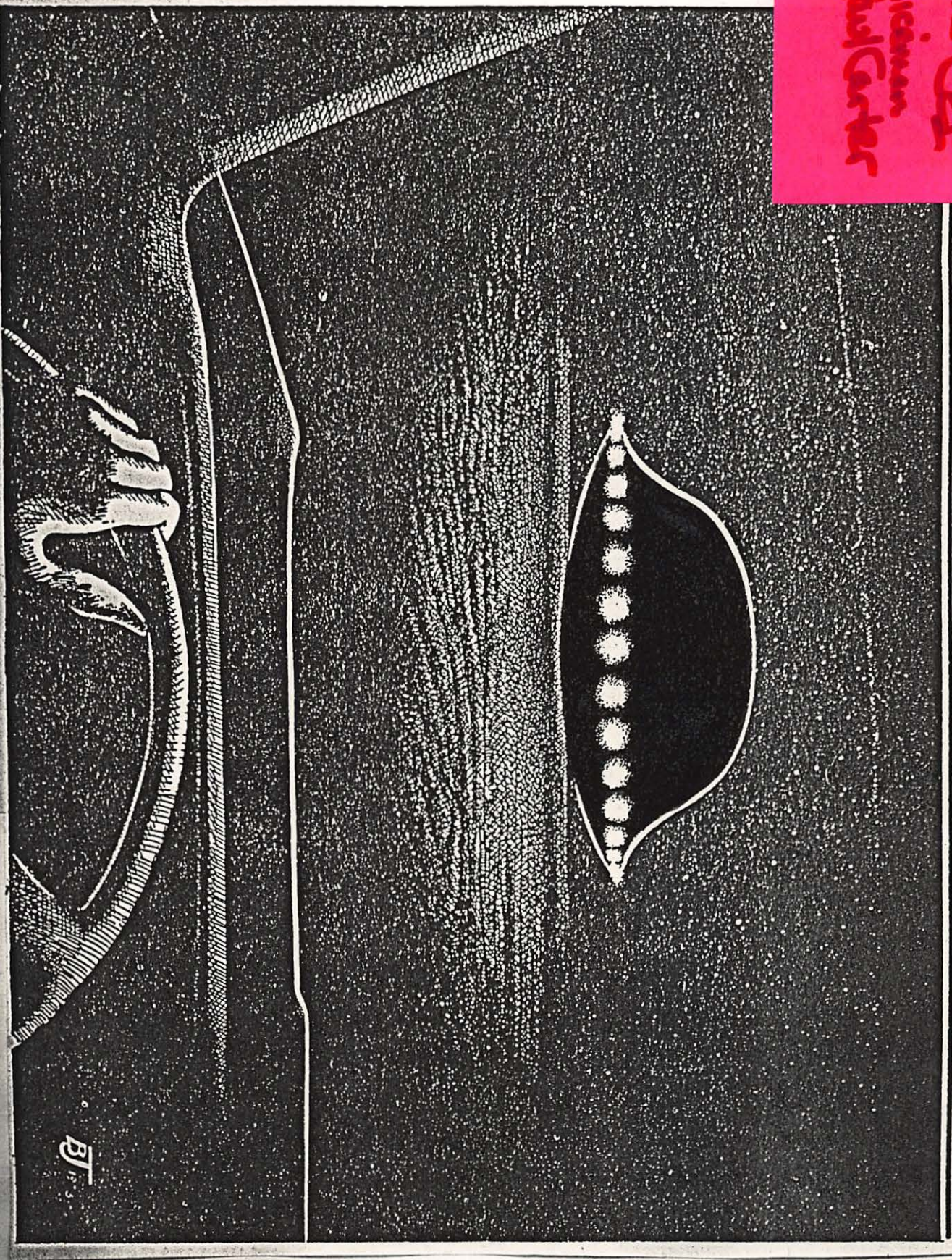
Very truly yours,

*Harriett M. Lauren*  
(Miss) Harriett M. Lauren

1330½ So. Cochran Ave.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90019

NICAP # 03288

Kansas (CAG?)  
1972 OCT  
Pelicanus  
Paul Carter



The Paul Carter Sighting

BT



## Follow-Ups

(Continued from Page Three)

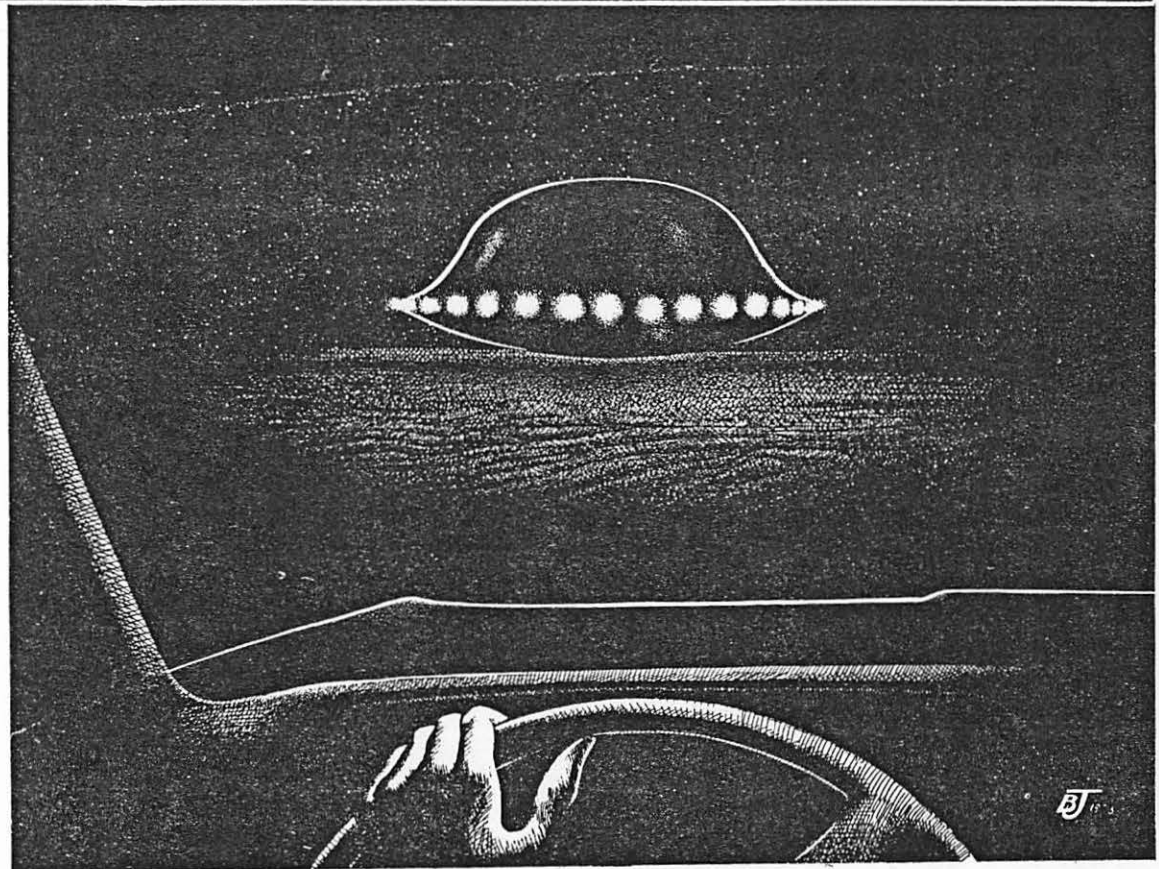
abnormal power drain from the high tension lines.

The witness was hazy on the shape of the object due to the short duration of the sighting but estimates its length to be around 80 feet (twice the length of a nearby house). No marks were in evidence on the ground when the area was later examined. The "faceted" covering was clearly some kind of helmet but in the short time he saw the figures he wasn't able to determine if any facial features existed behind the facets.

There are only two changes to be made in the original report. The figures were a soft cream color and not grey, and the figure which stepped out toward the road did not raise its hand. As previously reported the object was solid and silvery and gave off no light.

The July-August 1972 issue of the *Bulletin* carried an article dealing with the sighting of a landed UFO in Kansas in the early hours of August 19th. Staff Artist Brian James of Canada entered into correspondence with officer Paul Carter in order to make an artistic rendering of the object while it was on the ground. The Carter drawing is presented on this page.

Also, the November-December 1972 issue of the *Bulletin* headlined the August 20, 1972 incident at Nogales, Arizona and presented a drawing off Marco Flores' sighting of a saturn-shaped object. Due to a mail mix-up Mr. James' rendering of Mrs. Sutherlin's sighting was not available; therefore we are presenting it on this page also.



The Paul Carter Sighting

July 30, 1973, Durban, South Africa.

A bowl-shaped indentation was found in the middle of ripe sugar cane fields at La Lucia. A Durban University student took his dog for a run through the cane fields, and suddenly the dog darted through the cane, the young man followed and they found themselves in a clearing which measured approximately 13 feet in diameter. There the cane had been smashed down, with a tuft of "unsquashed" cane in the center. The surrounding two-meter-high (6½ feet) cane had been pushed outwards and

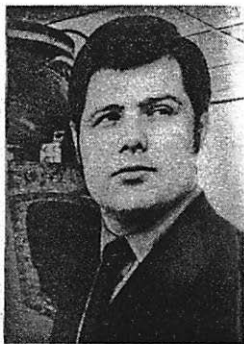
Hansen told reporters. The next night Mrs. Hansen was walking home from a neighbor's house at 11 p.m. when they all saw the figure standing in a vacant field at the bottom of Mrs. Hansen's garden. Mrs. Norman Duval, one of the ladies in the group, later described the figure they had seen and the description tallied with that of Mrs. Hansen. They later combed the brush in the field but could find nothing

(See Report - Page Five)

During a spectacular flap last July and August numerous witnesses scattered over the central part of Kansas reported odd flying fireballs or flashing red and green lights.

By Hayden C. Hewes

# ufos



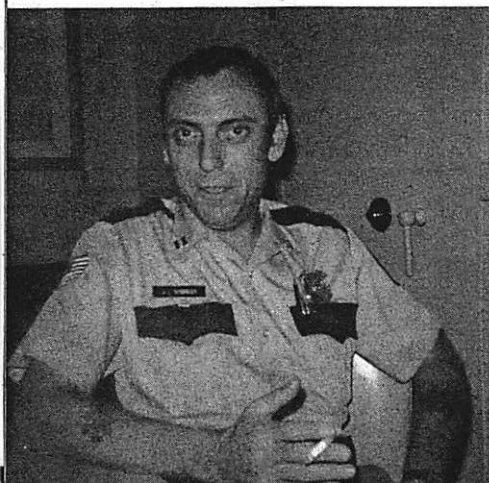
## over Kansas

**S**OMETIME AFTER midnight on August 19, 1972, John Caulkins, assistant manager of Nickerson Farms Cafe near Colby, Kans., was awakened by barking dogs at his home in Gem, nine miles east of Colby. A few moments later he called the Colby

police to report that he had observed "a thing or a couple of things hovering over the horizon" flashing red and green lights. The UFO report was relayed to the Thomas County sheriff's office and dismissed.

Not long afterwards Colby Police Sgt. Paul Carter began his early morning patrol and about 2:07 A.M. saw an object with bright red and green flashing lights come from the northeast and pass toward the southwest over Colby. He set out in pursuit. Sergeant Carter later told International UFO Bureau investigators that he followed the UFO for

Capt. John Banninger of Dighton, Kans., spotted UFOs over the town on at least six different nights during March and July.



**FATE** March 1973

about two miles before it stopped. While he was in pursuit he radioed his fellow officer Dennis Brown who was returning from cruising in the Gem area. Carter said that the object was about "seven or eight city blocks" ahead of him as he chased it southward down Country Club Drive and that he attempted to photograph the UFO with his Polaroid camera.

The UFO paralleled the county road south and then abruptly stopped and hovered over a plowed field. Sergeant Carter pulled his patrol car off the sandy road near the Interstate 70 overpass two miles south of Colby and saw a huge disc-shaped object 30 or 35 feet long hovering about 100 yards away.

"I watched this object for 15 to 20 seconds," explains Carter. "All the time it was flashing red and green. It resembled a cereal bowl turned upside down and it was about 35 feet wide and about 18 to 20 feet tall."

Suddenly the object began to glow with a white light so bright that Carter no longer could look at it. The UFO so illuminated the field that Sergeant Carter could see several jackrabbits sitting nearby. As the UFO shone brighter and brighter "a little white stuff" appeared to drip from it but Carter did not see this material touch the ground.



Colby, Kans., Police Sgt. Paul Carter (left) and Officer Dennis Brown inspect field over which UFO hovered on night of August 19, 1972.

After approximately eight minutes, at about 2:15 A.M., without warning the UFO "made a whooshing sound and went straight up into the sky, with the intense white light going out as it lifted off." The "whooshing sound" could not be heard after the initial blast-off. Within three seconds the UFO was too high to be visible.

Officer Dennis Brown was approaching Carter's position from the northeast. His view was blocked by a slight hill but he

could see a glow of light coming from behind the hill. He had almost reached Carter's position when the UFO made its rapid ascent. But after about 20 seconds the UFO rapidly descended into sight again. Both Brown and Carter now could see the craft flashing red and green lights and Officer Brown attempted to photograph the UFO with his Instamatic camera,

Then the multi-colored flashing object headed southeast from Colby toward the Mingo interchange on Interstate 70 about 10 miles away. At 2:21 A.M. Officers Carter and Brown contacted the police at Oakley, Kans., 20 miles from Colby, and asked them to be on the lookout for a UFO heading their way. Less than a minute later Oakley police authorities spotted the UFO three miles outside of town.

Officer Earl Wood, Jr., said, "There appeared to be six lights on the object, the three to the rear being white and the three to the front being either amber or red and green." Wood added that the colored lights "continuously flashed from dim to bright. There was no trouble identifying that it was a circular object." Wood also saw something fall from the UFO but said it disintegrated before it hit the ground.

After hovering in plain view for five minutes, at 2:27 A.M. the

UFO moved north and out of sight of the Oakley policemen.

During this time police in Colby received several reports from citizens who could see a UFO. John Caulkins, the first man to spot the UFO, now reported "two or three objects" were moving about near Gem, Kans., "making weird noises." Colby Officers Carter and Brown drove towards Gem to check out the reports.

Upon arriving at Gem Carter and Brown found the UFO had indeed returned and was again flashing multicolored lights. While watching the UFO from outside their patrol cars the officers tried an experiment. "We extended an arm," explained Carter, "locking it and bracing it against the car roof and sighting the UFO over an extended thumb." By watching the UFO in relation to this fixed point both men reported that the craft appeared to sway in the air while it hovered.

Soon the UFO again moved away from Gem towards Rexford about nine miles to the northeast, where again it stopped and hovered. Officers Carter and Brown followed it but already were beyond their legal jurisdiction and decided not to pursue the UFO farther. However, they continued able to see the UFO in the distance and observed it for "several hours." While watching it they also saw

between four and eight smaller objects zipping through the night sky.

"The smaller lights moved from the west to the east and back again," remarked Brown, "sometimes moving from one horizon to the other in less than five seconds."

At 5:00 A.M. these smaller UFOs began flying in formation, forming patterns of circles or squares, then scattering and regrouping.

Shortly after this Sergeant Carter talked to an unidentified Missouri couple who had been traveling down Interstate 70 when the sky ahead of them "suddenly lit up" and an intense white light swept down the highway, nearly blinding them, before passing overhead at a high rate of speed. At first the couple thought a commercial airliner was attempting an emergency landing on the highway. But a later check of fields in the vicinity of their sighting showed no sign of a landing.

The Instamatic film taken by Officer Brown was rushed to Hays, Kans., for processing but came out blank. Sergeant Carter told investigators, "I got one half-decent picture . . . but any skeptic could tear it apart in about 10 seconds." The print, Carter explains, shows something resembling a car headlight but there is

nothing to indicate the scale. The photo has even been blown up to poster size but "all you get is a bigger object," he says.

Sergeant Carter summarized his reactions to his sightings by saying, "I was a firm nonbeliever until seven minutes after 2:00 but I found I could change my mind pretty fast."

\* \* \*

**T**HE UFO sighting by Carter and Brown was far from the first in central Kansas. A similar craft was spotted in the Dighton, Kans., area in late 1971. At first the sightings attracted little interest, explains Dighton Police Chief M. R. Shelton. The police assumed the craft was a military plane taking infrared photos "to check feedlot runoff." When sightings persisted into 1972, however, police began keeping records of UFO appearances. Daniel Garcia of the International UFO Bureau kept in touch with Dighton officials by phone and letter and finally visited Dighton on August 12 and 13, 1972, to interview witnesses.

Chief Shelton told Garcia that the unidentified craft "appears round and is red-orange in color. It hovers about 50 feet off the ground and appears about 10 miles west of Dighton," he said. The UFO seemed intelligently controlled and changed its position whenever police officers

tried to investigate. "The thing will remain stationary until an investigating officer radios another unit about it," explains Shelton. "Then it begins to move away. Every time we transmit it moves."

Capt. John Banninger confirmed Shelton's statements. Banninger first saw an unusual light northwest of Dighton on March 22 at about 10:20 P.M. Ten minutes later he reported this by radio and the UFO moved rapidly to the west, going out of sight in less than four minutes. The same thing happened when he spotted the light two days later on March 24 at about 10:15 P.M. As soon as he radioed in a report the UFO took off westward. His next sighting was on July 5, 1972; this time the light disappeared into the clouds before he could report it.

Two nights later on July 7 Banninger again spotted the UFO southwest of Dighton at 4:45 A.M. It sped west as soon as he reported it. The UFO reappeared at the identical time two days later. This time, however, after Banninger called in the report at 5:08 A.M. the police dispatcher radioed the police in Scott City, 24 miles to the west. Scott City Officer Reginald Ford saw the UFO coming from the east but then it abruptly halted, retreated eastward again and then disap-

peared to the south. Officer Banninger described the light as the "blue-white cast of an iodine quartz light varying to a peach-colored glow."

Dighton was in the path of a "bright flashing multicolored craft" which flew across central Kansas on August 15. UFO reports that night began at 10:30 P.M. in Hays, Kans., when unidentified citizens began phoning Police Dispatcher Jim Girvan to report a "red glow, making no sound and remaining almost motionless" over the northeast part of the city. An unidentified member of Police Unit 183 watched the UFO and later reported, "It's just like someone turned the switch off and it just disappeared."

The next UFO report came from Russel, Kans., 25 miles east of Hays. At 12:03 A.M. Russel police watched an unidentified light head west towards Hays. At 12:34 Lt. Ralph Augustine and Officer Dave Wasinger of the Hays police spotted the UFO northeast of the Hays airport, lost sight of it momentarily and later saw it again near the KAYS radio tower.

At 2:33 A.M. police in Ellis, Kans., 15 miles west of Hays, saw the UFO circling the town at "about 5,000 feet high." At 3:11 Ellis Police Unit 28 saw four UFOs. The single UFO apparent-

ly continued westward and at 3:35 A.M. was seen over Dighton by Officer Banninger and Rodney Lance who was with him this time. Both men watched the craft as it headed west over Dighton and disappeared, all within about two minutes.

Banninger reports, "From the front it appeared red and green. As the UFO passed directly overhead the green lights were lost. On the underside were two red lights towards the front and two white lights towards the rear. Based on the configuration of the lights the object seemed to be triangle-shaped and about 1500 feet in the air."

At 3:43 A.M. residents of La Cross, Kans., saw the UFO pass westward from Hays toward Liblethal. At 4:01 it was reported at Yocemento. Over the next three days UFOs were seen at Ellsworth, Plainville, Stockton, McCracken, Lyons, Ellinwood and Great Bend, Kans.

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**C**OULD THESE many reports be due to suggestion or some sort of mass hysteria? Girvan tended to dismiss this explanation, pointing out that the first public announcement of the UFO sightings came over Colby radio

station KAYS at 6:00 A.M. on Wednesday, July 16, hours after multiple sightings were reported the previous night. Girvan also pointed out that multiple witnesses to some of the sightings all reported the same thing.

Although the Kansas sightings in July were the most striking, International UFO Bureau collected reports during July and August over a 10-state area of the midcontinent.

We can only speculate as to the motivation for all this UFO activity. The purpose appears to have been peaceful reconnaissance of some sort and it is interesting that many sightings were near water reservoirs.

UFO researcher Kenneth Larson suggests there might be a connection between the concentration of sightings in central Kansas and America's geographic center. But he does not elucidate this concept.

Perhaps someday we will understand the purpose of the UFO visits but for the moment we can only agree with the observations of Colby Police Officer Carter who said, "You'd think we were maniacs except for all the people who saw this. It's true; that's all I can say about it."



