

1972: Pimba & Alice Springs, Australia

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27 Aug 1972 - Alice Springs, N.T., Aust. (Sun/Nite)-(3&4-A-c) - SIGHTING PROMPTS NEW
UFO SOCIETY

A harrowing experience south of Alice Springs for an Alawa Primary School teacher has prompted the formation of a Darwin UFO investigation society. All "cranks, religious fanatics and publicity seekers" have been specifically excluded.

The schoolteacher, Mrs. Helen Benger, said she was on her way to Adelaide with her cousin, Mrs. Dorothy Simpson, her five year old daughter Marissa, Tilsa-Jane, 19 months, and Mrs. Simpson's son Pedro, 5 months.

"We were about 70 miles south of Alice Springs when I stopped the car because I was getting cold," she began her story. "It was a clear night with a full moon and I was looking out onto the desert and thinking how terrific it was. Then I saw a brilliant yellow light about 7 or 10 miles away on the hills, with a green light flashing on top to the right." She watched the light for about 15 or 20 minutes. It would fade out, and then return to its normal brilliance.

"It was also moving irregularly in the sky; to the right and the left, and then up and down. Suddenly I realized it might be a UFO, though I had never seen one before. I didn't believe in them."

Mrs. Benger woke her cousin up and they watched the light together. They signalled the object with the headlights of the car. It then came over the car, and stopped about half a mile away to the right, hovering over some low hills.

"We were staring at it all the time, looking at it in wonder," Mrs. Benger said.

"We were not scared, it was just a big light. We were really excited, we realized it was only about 400 yards away, and we could have walked there in about 10 minutes. We were hoping the craft would land." Then the light disappeared, and the group drove on.

She drew rough sketches of the object for the News and described it as "mushroom shaped and glowing with a bright light."

A short time later the light re-appeared on the right, swung across to the left and followed the car. "It would go zooming ahead and stop in the sky," Mrs. Benger said. "When it was stationary the mushroom shape would be upright, but when it moved it turned sideways and travelled head first."

"We wondered how, if anything or anyone was inside it, how they could be upright one minute and sideways the next."

Mrs. Benger said the group could not understand why they were not frightened. "It was like we were mesmerised," she said. The UFO traveled down the road, though high in the sky, and disappeared. "We were wishing it would come back and it re-appeared about 10 minutes later and followed us again. It was a strange feeling, we didn't want it to leave us; it felt like something was with us," she said.

Soon the left wheel of the car began to deflate. They stopped the car and found a wooden stake in the tire. As they inspected the tire, the UFO came in to a paddock about half a mile away. "It was about four times as high as a light pole up in the air," she said.

They realized later that when the UFO appeared close to the car the headlights went very dim and stayed in that condition until the object had moved away.

They passed a bus, a semi-trailer and a small car parked along the road. They were unable to wake one driver and became worried about how people would react to having someone bang on their car in the middle of the desert and ask them to look at something in the sky.

As the sun came up Mrs. Benger noticed it was a dull, metallic silver color with a more involved structure than she had first thought.

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On the next night, the object reappeared about 40 miles north of Pimba and only a few miles from the Woomera rocket range. "It was down very low in the scrub, and we couldn't believe that it had come back."

Mrs. Benger signalled the object with a torch and it signalled back. "Then I got scared," she said. "Its light faded out slowly and then came back on again, nothing I know of does that," she said. The object appeared ahead of the car, and then would reappear behind it.

Ten miles past Pimba Mrs. Benger noticed it on the right hand side of the car."

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"It lifted off the ground, and lit up a perfect circle of green, iridescent light, a very distinct circle," she said.

As the car travelled past a road on the left side of the Adelaide road, Mrs. Benger looked up the road and saw "something about 100 yards away. It's still in my mind. The road was about 35 feet wide and the object covered it all except for about one foot each side. It was as high as a house and made from two substances; dull silver and dull black. It was basically the same as we saw in the sky, but not lit up." She said the object appeared to be standing on a number of legs.

"I started to cry, and I was shaking," she said. "I wanted to go back, but I was terrified."

Then she saw it again in the sky. "I didn't want to look at it. I made up my mind not to look at it again. I put my head down on the seat," she said.

Back in Darwin Mrs. Benger said she had undergone eight nights of constant interrogation over the sighting by government officials, scientists, lecturers and others. Now she wants to make sure any further sightings in the Territory can be examined more closely. (News, Darwin, N.T., Aust., 21 Sep 72)

Keith Basterfield later investigated
this case personally for UFOIC, SoAus
but I don't have access to his rpt.
However, he later commented on the
case as if he viewed it matter of factly.