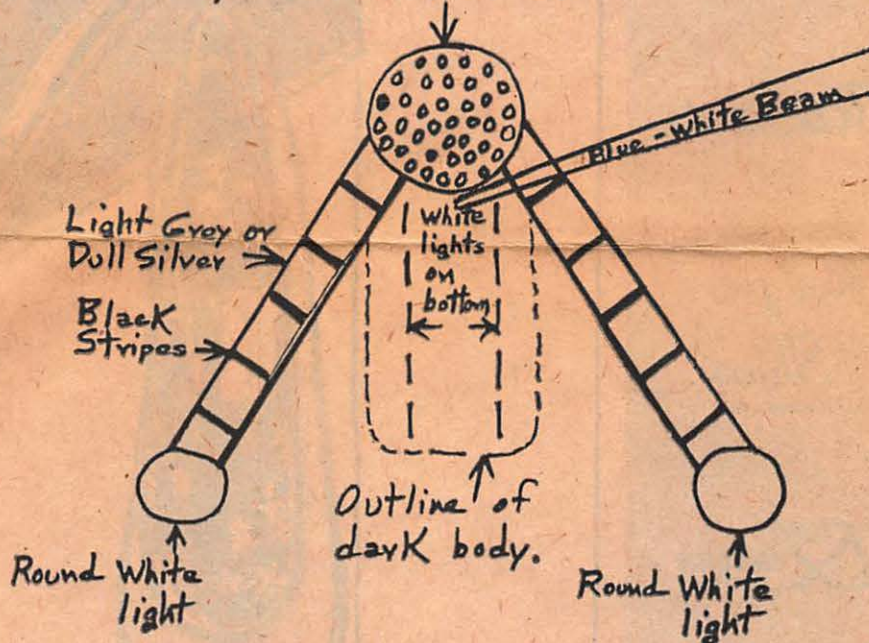


1973: Decatur, IL CEI (possible CE2e) weird shape

Bright Round White Light Composed of Multitude of Very Small Brilliant Lights



Sketches by Leonard Sturm

UFO seen by Mrs. Carolyn Poe at St. Louis Bridge Road

## Watch It . . . You May Be Branded 'Kook'

UFO eyewitnesses have mixed feelings about revealing their observations.

In some circles flying saucery is viewed as the product of a spacy mind.

"Around here I wouldn't live it down," says a Decatur woman who thinks she glimpsed a UFO in Central Illinois Sept. 5. "I work with about 35 fellows. They'd think I'm a kook or something. They just razz you to pieces.

"Years ago I thought I saw one," she continues. "It wasn't like a star or a plane. A big, bright light caught my eye. It was at dusk. . . .

"But you don't talk about these things. You get ridicule."

Other sighters of UFO phenomena have no qualms about discussing their encounters. Such a person is Mrs. Carolyn Poe of St. Louis Bridge Road.

She, her children Rex and Yvonne, and a neighbor and her daughter all saw a UFO

last Oct. 24 over the Poes' five acres.

While scanning the sky for the Little Dipper with a 45 power telescope Mrs. Poe had recently purchased for her son, they made their find.

The object was dominated by a bright, scintillating light, what appeared to be dark legs pointing down and blue vapors bouncing off. It circled the viewers three times during the evening. Then it veered away over the tops of their oak and walnut trees.

"It was really kind of odd that we would see things like this," she says. "It wasn't frightening. Just something different.

"Just as long as it doesn't land, as long as it's up in the sky," she laughs.

Since her report last fall, Mrs. Poe says they have detected the same likeness three or four times between 10 p.m. and midnight, but they haven't had the telescope handy.

"I've got my neighbors watching the sky," says the woman who has read several UFO books. "They seem to believe it."

After the first sighting a Rock Springs Road neighbor confided to Mrs. Poe that it was probably the same night her son making tapes had to quit because he had so much interference he couldn't hear anything. "The direction it (the UFO) headed out, it was going towards her house," Mrs. Poe says.

Poe takes an I'm-from-Missouri-show-me attitude.

Mrs. Poe says he has seen it with the naked eye but is withholding judgment until he sees details.

"Out in this area some people have seen what they call a black panther," Mrs. Poe says. "He says 'When I see it I'll believe it.' When he sees the details of the UFO through the telescope, he'll believe that."

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