

1975: Very good CE1 in a flap

Gilroy, CA, sightings reported

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following information regarding alleged sightings comes from four newspapers — The GILROY DISPATCH, THE MERCURY (San Jose), the SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER, and the STOCKTON RECORD—and from a report by the Gilroy Police Department. This preliminary information was provided by Paul Cerny, who is investigating the cases for MUFON and the Center for UFO Studies. As additional significant information becomes available it will be printed in SKYLOOK.

At least seven different cases of possible UFO sightings were reported in the area of Gilroy, San Jose, and Stockton, CA, the week of Aug. 10, 1975.

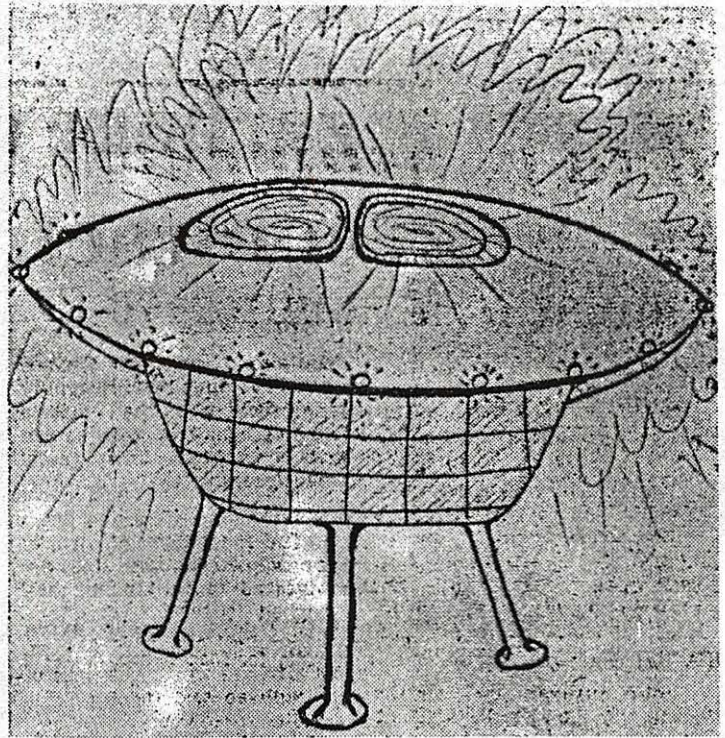
The first and most detailed report came from Gilroy. Mrs. Terri Smith, 19, was taking Imelda Lugo, 12, home shortly after 11 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 10, in a panel truck. They had just turned onto First Street from Kelton when an unusually bright light was seen.

Fascinated and Curious

Mrs. Smith drove toward the bright light because she was "fascinated and curious." At one point the witness stopped the truck to look at the object.

Mrs. Smith described the object as having two headlights, "but they were bigger (than a car's headlights). There was no airplane noise, but just a slight humming sound coming from the lights. There was a blue light surrounding the object."

Mrs. Smith said the object she saw was "round, had four large landing gear-like arms coming out of it, evenly spaced all around. The round center section was larger than a car, but smaller than a small house. Between the four arms were four small antenna-like protrusions from the center circle, and each of these protrusions had a



This is a sketch made by Paul Cerny, MUFON state director for Northern California, from details supplied by witnesses Mrs. Terri Smith, Imelda Lugo, Mrs. Frances Lugo, and Jose Lugo.

beacon mount on it like a beacon on top of a police car, except the lights were green and red and they rotated."

Near El Cerrito Way and Wayland Lane the object made a U-turn and came "quite close" to the truck, according to the witnesses, as if it was coming down on them.

"My curiosity turned to fear right then," said Mrs. Smith. "I turned right on El Toro and it seemed to come for us."

Ran for House

Reaching the Lugo home, the two witnesses ran for the house, leaving the truck doors open, the lights on, and the ignition on. "I was scared," said Mrs. Smith.

The yelling by the two girls and the resulting commotion brought Imelda's mother,

Frances Lugo, running. "I was in bed," said Mrs. Lugo, "but not asleep, when I heard them yelling 'It's coming, it's coming. It's going to take us.' I ran outside in my nightgown, thinking maybe there were hoodlums after them. They told me not to come out, 'It will get you.' I had never seen such fright in my life."

When Mrs. Lugo went out, the UFO was hovering just above the trees and telephone lines. "It was a gray-colored disc with small lights all around," she said. "Two lights were shining."

Next out of the house was Mr. Lugo, who saw the object head north. According to the police report, Mr. Lugo described the object as "big...it was like what you see in the movies from outer space. I would never have believed it if

I hadn't seen it myself. As it was going away I could see from the panel of all the lights that the top was triangularly shaped." The object was last seen moving north-northeast, bound towards San Jose, traveling at a high rate of speed.

'It was Huge'

Mrs. Lugo described the object as a "gigantic round flying machine" with three or four antenna-type landing legs coming out of it "and all those white and red flashing lights. It really scared me. I'd never seen anything like it in my life. It was gray metal-looking and it was huge."

In investigating the case, Paul Cerny was able to piece together a description and produce a drawing of the object. The object's metal skin is depicted as rough and in square sections similar to metal plates on the underside. The object was estimated to be about 40 feet wide.

Mrs. Smith and Imelda reported that they believed they saw the same object a second time as they were bike riding near Las Animas Park the next evening (Monday, Aug. 11). "It was the same thing, but up way higher," said Mrs. Smith.

Looking back on the experience, Mrs. Smith concluded: "I'd do it over again, but I wish they'd let me know they weren't going to harm me. I'm as curious as the next person. I'd even go with them if they would come back for Thornton (her husband)."

Another Sighting

On Tuesday, Aug. 12, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bluemmer of Gilroy reportedly saw a strange light about 8:15 p.m. as they looked out their living room window towards the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountain range in the general area of Gavilan College.

"I thought at first it might

be a big setting star," said Bluemmer, a printer, "then I reasoned that it was too early in the evening for that. I read about the fuselage of a plane picking up the rays of the dying sun and having it look like a UFO. This wasn't it."

Bluemmer explained that "the thing ballooned out into a very white light skirting the eastern side of the Santa Cruz range. It was about three miles away. It rose and ducked behind a background of trees. The whole sky seemed to light up briefly."

The couple, watching from two different windows, agreed that the light had "an eerie red center." Bluemmer said he opened the window once during the 15 to 20-minute sighting, but heard no noise.

He said that at first he thought the object might be a helicopter with a search light, "but the very red glow shining through the white convinced me it wasn't. It was literally beaming into the valley. It was completely round. Staring into it, with its whiteness, made it difficult to determine size."

According to Bluemmer, the object "transversed the contour of the mountain and finally disappeared into the cleft of a mountain, seeming to settle there." The Bluemmers kept checking the area off and on for an additional three hours, but saw no sign of the object.

A Third Sighting

Another Tuesday report came from Mrs. Lynn Lace, wife of a Gilroy High School teacher who lives near Gavilan College. She said she and her family of seven saw "a big light on the mountain, back of the college which nests in the foothills of the Santa Cruz range." The sighting was between 8:15 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., the same time and location reported by the Bluemmers.

And a Fourth

Also on Tuesday, another couple, who asked that their names not be made public (ID also unknown to SKYLOOK), said they were driving in the vicinity of Glenview School in Gilroy between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. when they observed "off to the west what looked like a big headlight. It had a glowing pale color and formed sort of a halo against the mountains. The light came down about 50 yards."

The man said that "at first we passed it off as nothing," but after going home and getting a telescope they reported that the light seemed to be blinking. They said the light "turned off on top of the hill and disappeared."

The wife noted that "it kind of scared me. It moved quite fast. There was no sound. Although the light was bright at times, it didn't hurt to look directly at it."

Number Five

The next night, a Wednesday, Chick Bambino of Morgan Hill reportedly observed "an orange glow to the west" at 11:45 p.m. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing," he said. "It seemed to be a sphere on an angle. It seemed to hold still for about one minute, then it disappeared. It was like something had put a light out."

Bambino said he went into his house, told his wife and son what he had seen, and the three of them went back outside to observe. "Then it came on again in a slightly different vicinity. Everybody saw it. It was maybe less than a minute before it went off."

Sighting Six

Also on Wednesday, at about 11 p.m., Rudy Cosio reportedly saw "a large white light" as he sat in his car in the Blossom Hill area and looked toward

the Santa Theresa Foothills.

Cosio, 19, an aeronautics student at San Jose State University, said the light appeared to be a mile or two away, sitting on top of the foothills. "At first I thought it was a helicopter," he explained. "Then more and more it looked like a bright white light." Cosio, a pilot, said he viewed the light for three to five minutes before traffic began moving in the area where he was parked and the sky became black where the light had been.

Seven at Airport

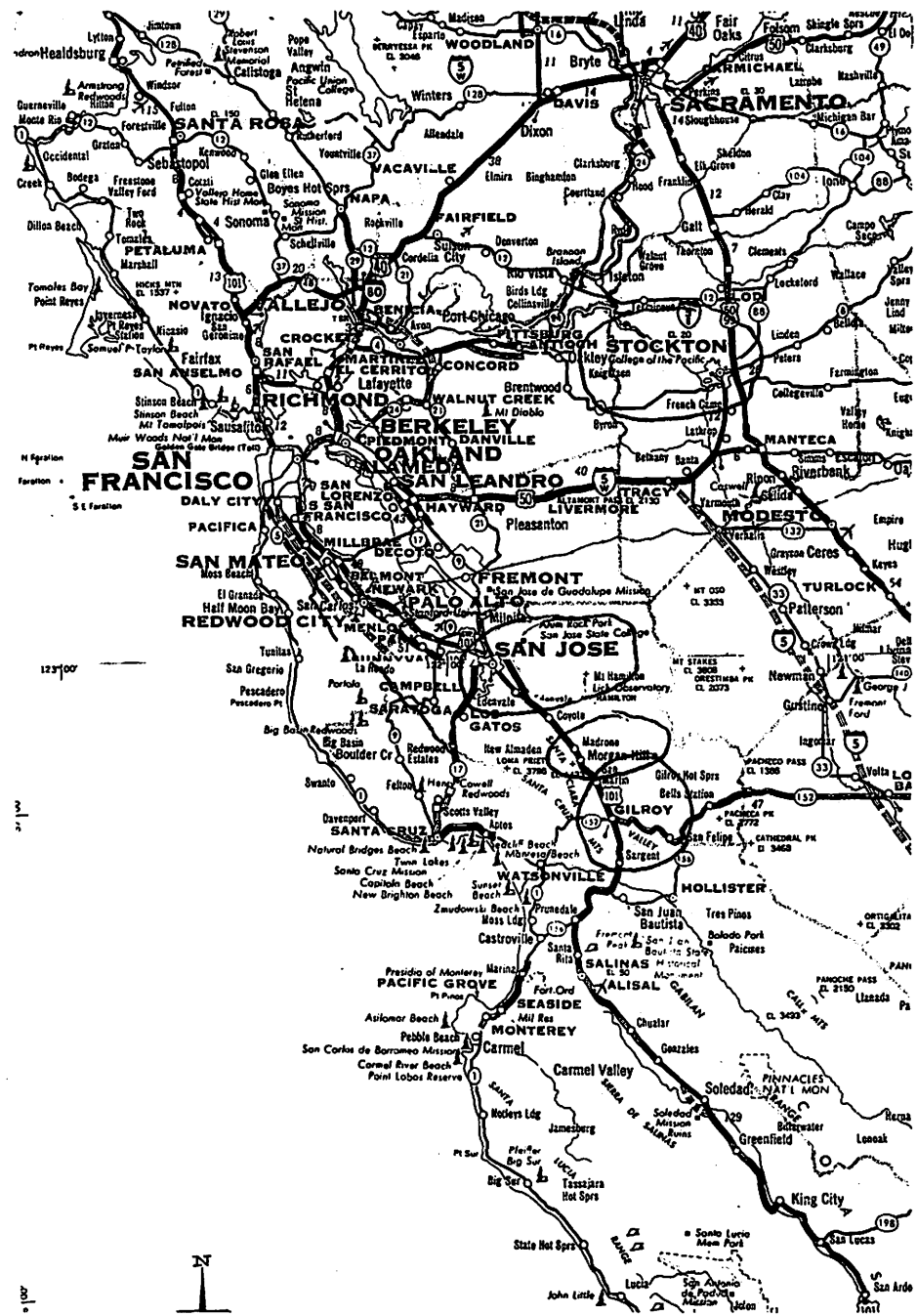
On Thursday, Aug. 14, at about 9:35 p.m., an object variously described as a steady light, a disc, and a "round, orange object" was reported from Metropolitan Airport near Stockton, CA., about 60 miles northeast of San Jose.

One of three air traffic controllers reporting the object, Joe Savage, said the round, orange object "did not appear to be an aircraft, or for that matter a rocket." (The sighting was made 10 minutes after a rocket had been fired from Vanderberg Air Force Base, but a spokesman from the base said, "You shouldn't have seen it, and it sure doesn't go along the ground.")

Savage said he radioed a helicopter to look at it. Savage said the pilot (ID not known by SKYLOOK) confirmed the sighting.

According to Savage, the object traveled from east to west, then shot upward and leveled off again, appearing to hover. Then it went west in level flight, slowed down almost to a stop, and haze or smoke came out around it. After a few seconds, it shot straight up.

Savage said the roof of the airport tower obscured his view at that point, but that two persons on the catwalk reported that it disappeared after it



shot upward.

Another air traffic controller, Dan Long, said the object appeared to be a disc. He said the object was flying at about 2,000 feet.

Collaboration Near Airport

Gary Duran of South Stockton, who lives near the airport,

said he also saw the object, which he said was a steady light similar to an airplane, except that it did not flash. Duran said he did not notice any variation in flight pattern, except for the object's sudden rise. He said it suddenly emitted a big puff of green smoke or mist and then disappeared. "It was really freaky," he concluded.

GILROY DISPATCH AUG. 11, 1975

Gilroyans see UFO at close range

Four Gilroy residents are absolutely convinced they saw an Unidentified Flying Object at close range Sunday night shortly after 11.

Terri Smith, 19, was driving home Imelda Lugo, 12, who had been visiting, when all of a sudden a round disc with lights around it came into view.

Driving down First Street toward the Jose Lugo home at 520 El Torro Way, Mrs. Smith told police that the object was initially quite a distance up.

"Hey Terri, it looks like a spacecraft," Imelda said causing Mrs. Smith to slow the vehicle to better see the UFO. Near El Cerrito Way and Wayland Lane, the two said the object came "quite close" to their panel truck.

"They said it came close like it was coming down on them," Frances Lugo, Imelda's mother,

said this morning. "I was in bed but not asleep when I heard them screaming.

"It's coming, it's coming. It's going to take us, they yelled," Mrs. Lugo related. "They were shaking. (I had never seen such fright in my life.

"I ran outside in my nightgown thinking maybe there were hoodlums after them. They told me not to go out; it'll get you."

The UFO was hovering at about free top and telephone height in the vicinity of Carmel Street and El Toro Way when Mrs. Lugo ran outside.

"It was a gray-colored disc with small lights all round. Two huge, recessed headlights were shining," she said.

Next out of the house was Jose Lugo, who was in time to see the

reported UFO heading north at a slow speed.

"Then, all of a sudden, it went out of our sight into the clouds," Mrs. Lugo said. "It was so real; I was fascinated by its flight and didn't have time to be scared."

Quick to caution that she had not been drinking or anything like that, Mrs. Lugo said she was positive what she saw was a UFO or some type of craft that possibly the government was testing for space flight.

She described the object as having three and possibly four legs, each with a red and blue light on the bottom of them.

"I'm still kind of disbelieving what I saw but it was true," Mrs. Lugo said this morning.

Police reported that when interviewing the Lugos and Mrs. Smith they could hardly talk because they were so shook up over the incident.

AUG. 10, 1975

Drawing by Paul Cerny is a representation of the unidentified flying object the Joe Lugo family of Gilroy claims to have seen Sunday night

Expert: UFO was no phony

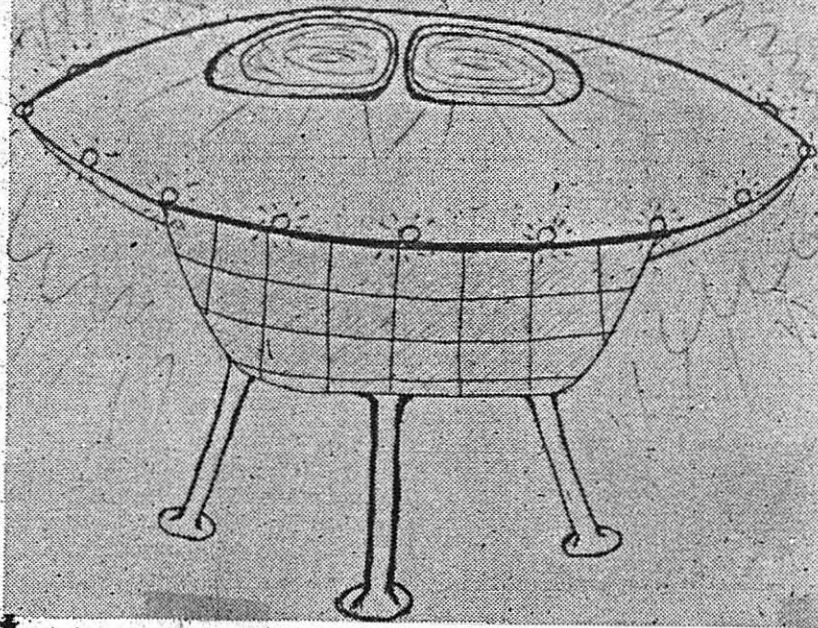
By Don West
Examiner News Staff

GILROY — That was no hallucination hovering over the Joe Lugo home Sunday night, an investigator of unidentified flying objects is convinced.

Paul Cerny, an engineer who investigates such phenomena for Northwestern University's Center for UFO's, reached the conclusion after several hours of intensive interrogation of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lugo, their 12-year-old daughter, Ismeida, and niece, Terri Smith, 19.

"They saw something that shook up everyone and they were able to describe it in considerable detail," said Cerny.

Their description fit the pattern of some other sightings in northern California in that it was oval shaped and about 40-feet wide. The humming noise and blue haze around the saucer had also been reported elsewhere.



The three protrusions underneath the craft were most unusual and could have been landing gear, as they were unique, because of its rough finish and square sections similar to metal plates on the underside.

Cerny found the family still emotionally caught the Lugos and Mrs. Smith believed, or could have been antennae, said Cerny.

The craft's greyish metal skin was also consid-

up in the sighting, but was able to gather sufficient material to draw a picture that matched what they had seen.

Mrs. Lugo, who ventured out of the house yesterday for the first time since the incident, found people pointing her out as a celebrity, but no one was laughing at her.

Although she had been skeptical on the subject before Sunday night, she now plans to study and read everything available on flying saucers.

Her husband has received some good-natured kidding at the auto parts store where he works in San Jose, but no one has questioned that the family saw something out of the ordinary.

The Lugos were not alone in sighting unexplained flying objects. Robert Bluemmer, 42, of Gilroy, and his wife saw one about 8:15 Tuesday night.

They were watching television when something made them glance out the window toward the western horizon. The object they saw was, they estimated, about three miles distant, near the Santa Cruz mountains.

Bluemmer described it as having a red and bluish light at the center. He insisted it could not have been an airplane because of its "flitting" behavior.

Source: SAN JOSE, 'Alt.' Mercury

August 15, 1975