

Sky Filled With Wonders: More UFOs

By MONA MOORE
Press Staff Writer

Although reported UFO sightings in Ventnor early Tuesday morning have been dismissed by the Coast Guard, some people in the small towns of Heislerville and Dorothy are wondering whether the strange sights they saw on Monday evening can be so easily explained.

Mrs. Kay Peterson and Mrs. Vi Camp were leaving Mrs. Peterson's house on School House Lane in Heislerville near Port Norris at about 7:30 p.m. when they spotted an object with two bright lights hovering over the woods about 300 yards from the house.

They called to their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Tomlin, who also came outside with their two children to see the object.

"We couldn't hear a sound. It was just sitting in midair just above the trees," Mrs. Camp said. "But about two minutes after they (the Tomlins) came out, it took off. The lights got dim, then bright, then seemed to go off."

Mrs. Camp said she heard

a low whirring noise when it took off. The object, which all the witnesses described as being shaped like a boomerang, passed directly over their heads.

As it passed over, they say, they could see a semi-circle of red lights on the underside. Near what Mrs. Camp referred to as the "headlights" she saw something that the other witnesses did not.

"I saw a figure in a small window. It was all dark, but it appeared like a figure from the waist up, the form of a body."

Mrs. Tomlin recalled that the object was turning very slowly as it moved away, apparently toward the Delaware Bay.

Her description of the object coincided with those of the other witnesses, except she recalled that it had a dome of glass underneath "like a cabin" with lights inside. She felt she could see movement inside, but thought it might have been reflections.

"We see airplanes, helicopters and crop dusting planes all the time, but I never saw an airplane move

so slow and without making a noise, except it sounded like a refrigerator, a low humming," Mrs. Tomlin said.

None of the six people reported the incident at the time.

"I thought about it all night," Mrs. Camp said. "I couldn't hardly sleep. But I thought everybody would think we were crazy. Then when I heard on the news about the police in Ventnor seeing a UFO, I thought it must have been the same thing we saw."

The Ventnor sighting occurred at about 5 a.m. and was witnessed by a policeman and a Press reporter, but the incident was later dismissed by the Coast Guard as lights from fishing boats reflecting off a low cloud.

There are no fishing boats in Dorothy, about 20 miles north of Heislerville near the Cumberland County-Atlantic County line.

That's where Mrs. Charles Morris of Cape May Avenue saw an unusual sight at about 7:45 p.m. Monday night.

The object she saw was

"red, with brilliant lights off it and extending below it. It wasn't a steady beam, but brilliant, flickering lights."

She turned away for a minute and when she looked again, it was gone, she said. She returned to her work, but couldn't concentrate.

"After a few minutes, I turned off the lights and looked out. I couldn't see anything and then to the left of the property I saw a red round light like on an airplane. I thought that's what it was, but it came around to the rear of my property to about the same area where I saw something before and it became a brilliant, reddish-gold glowing thing that gave off reflections of light and brightness.

"I called to my son to look and we watched while it hovered and made a small circle, then disappeared as though it was rotating on its own axis, and the lights just faded away right on the spot."

Asked whether it might have been a helicopter, Mrs. Morris said definitely not. "It was not an aircraft as we know it, or a satellite, or a star," she said. "I never

saw anything like it. I was absolutely captivated by it."

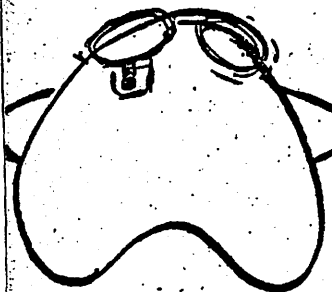
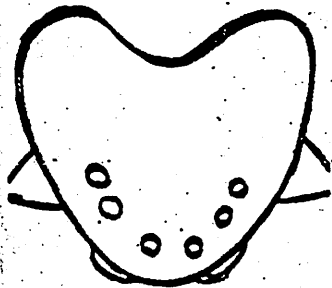
Mrs. Morris said she heard about the Ventnor sightings, but was unaware of the earlier sighting in Heislerville.

She said the object was some distance away and she couldn't really tell much about its shape.

"It didn't appear to have a shape, but if I had to say, if it had any shape at all, it would, have been cylindrical," she said.

Neither the Millville Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration nor the Port Norris State Police had received any reports of UFOs on Monday night; neither could they offer any explanation.

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 UFO Investigator

His Eyes Are Focused On the Skies

By MONA MOORE
Press Staff Writer

VINELAND — Drawings of a UFO reported in Heislerville Monday night may look strange to most people, but not Gary Vendetti.

"They saw an object, which I believe I have seen," said Vendetti, who is the South Jersey investigator for the Nation Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).

He said the drawing which appeared in The Press Wednesday looked just like an object he saw two years ago over Harding Highway near Richland.

"The object I saw was the same general shape, but it had eight lights on the bottom

instead of six as they described," Vendetti said.

Vendetti, who is often called by the police when UFO sightings occur, interviews the people involved and submits a report to NICAP. He says his investigation of the current rash of sightings has been hampered by the weather, since he cannot get out to interview the witnesses.

Sightings in Ventnor at about 5 a.m. Tuesday are "a real puzzle," with a lot of different aspects, which he hasn't yet finished investigating, Vendetti said.

Those sightings have been discredited by the Coast Guard, which claims what the crowd of people on the Ventnor beaches saw were the lights of fishing boats reflecting off

a cloud.

However, no explanation has been offered for two separate sightings Monday night in Dorothy and Heisslerville.

In Heislerville, near Port Norris, a group of neighbors watched a silent, boomerang-shaped object hover over the trees about 300 feet away and then pass directly over their heads.

Fifteen minutes later and 20 miles away, in Dorothy, Beth Morris and her 12-year-old son watched a hovering object which was like "a brilliant, flickering light".

It was a boomerang-shaped object which Vendetti could recall seeing in 1974. It hovered about 150 feet off the ground, he said.

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Vendetti, who is a substitute teacher and an amateur astronomer, first became interested in UFOs about ten years ago and has seen about five of them, he said.

He investigates up to six or seven sightings a year. Vendetti says he doesn't have a theory.

"I just report what people observe. I have to maintain my objectivity."

"They (the sightings) usually come in groups. We call them 'flaps'," he said.

Since Tuesday, there have been no other reported sightings, but the last two nights have been cloudy and Vendetti believes, when the weather clears, the current flap may continue.

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D - 65,985

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DOROTHY, NJ

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JAN. 19, 1976

2 Area Residents Spot 'UFO' in Southwest Sky

A Dorothy woman and her 12-year-old son reported spotting an unidentified flying object twice early last evening as it hovered in a south-westerly direction near her home.

Mrs. Beth Morris, Cape May ave., spotted the UFO at 7:45 p.m. from her "country" backyard overlooking south Millville. "The object caught my eye and was far more brilliant than any star or Satellite in the sky and suddenly disappeared. I just looked at it and forgot about it at the time," she said, "until I heard the radio report."

Early today at 5 a.m., a Ventnor patrolman spotted a UFO along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean while on patrol. A Coast Guard Cutter was dispatched to the area to look for a possible ship in distress, but found none.

Police and local radio stations in the Ventnor area were flooded with calls, according to one account of the story.

The woman again spotted the object at 8:40 as she looked out her porch window. "It hovered in one spot in the western sky. It was red with a brilliant gold and gave off the impression of rays."

She called her 12-year-old son to look at it also. She said at the time

it was hovering at "the height of an airplane or a low flying craft. It didn't make a noise like an airplane.

After five minutes the object started making circles and slowly disappeared as it turned around she said. "It was definitely not the likes of a helicopter."

Her husband later joined her trying to spot the object again until 1 a.m.

Local Federal Aviation officials in Millville reported no UFO sightings. One spokesman said the object was probably "a helicopter with its inside lights on."

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'UFO' Said Reflection From Boat

By DAVID J. SPATZ
And ZANE BINDER
Press Staff Writers

ATLANTIC CITY — That light on high...was just a reflection from the ocean and sky.

That's the official verdict from the Coast Guard station at Atlantic City on what many believed to have been an unidentified flying object (UFO) cavorting above the beaches of Absecon Island early Tuesday.

But an investigator for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, a private group based in Washington, D.C., said he's treating the incident as a UFO sighting until he receives more data.

The "object" was first sighted around 5:15 a.m. over the Ventnor beaches by Patrolman Frank Ingargiola and Press columnist Sonny Schwartz.

It was described as a crystal white object with no sound emanating from it, but no accurate estimate of its size was available.

The light from the "object" was so intense it was impossible to make out its shape.

The two men agreed that it wasn't cigar- or pencil-shaped and the closest they could come in describing it was to say it was spherical and had a green haze around it.

Ingargiola and Schwartz, together in a patrol car on the Boardwalk, drove slowly toward Atlantic City, they

Coast Guard Calls 'UFO' Boat

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Reflection But 2 'Witnesses'

They claimed the light seemed to slowly parallel their course along the beach.

Upon reaching Albany Avenue and the Boardwalk, the pair said, they decided to

drive down the beach ramp to the sand. The car remained parked on the ramp as the men continued their observation of the bright object, they recounted.

"Frank then put the spotlight of the car on the 'object' and then shut off the light. He did this a couple of times and then the 'object' moved in closer to us...it came up to the line of breakers in the water."

Schwartz went on with his story, "Then when that happened, Frank got scared and said, 'let's get out of here, that thing is coming right at us.'"

The police officer, Schwartz said, put the car in reverse, and backed up the ramp onto the Boardwalk.

Ingargiola then radioed Ventnor police Capt. Charles LaRe and asked

him to have Atlantic City Police cars meet him at Albany Avenue and the Boardwalk.

More cars arrived until there were seven police cars and about 16 officers at the scene, but then the "object" vanished, Schwartz said.

"Frank put the spotlight back on where the object had last been seen," the columnist related, adding that a police sergeant present got out his binoculars

and was also able to observe the "object" which appeared faint in the distance.

It then vanished altogether. The Atlantic City police officers left the area in response to an emergency call and the Ventnor policeman and his rider headed downbeach towards Ventnor on the Boardwalk.

It was then 5:30 a.m. and the sky was empty, Schwartz said. The two men continued to scan the sky and at a point near Raleigh Avenue they saw the bright object again. It continued to grow brighter and seemed to follow the police car, they said.

By the time the duo reached Vassar Square, where they had originally spotted the bright sphere, Schwartz said, "it was the brightest and largest than at any time we observed it. It seemed to come right up to the shoreline."

Then, the men claimed, it vanished at 6 a.m.

It was during the time that it reappeared that people from Brigantine and Margate reported also seeing the bright sphere.

Another "oddy" Schwartz reported was the sighting of a "weird" looking individual. He said that as the police car was traveling towards Ventnor and nearing Vassar Square, where the light was the brightest, both he and Ingargiola, noticed an extremely tall — six feet, five inches or

6-foot-6 — man with immense broad shoulders "lurching" down the Boardwalk in front of the car. The man was next to the railing on the street side of the Boardwalk, and neither the sound of the police car nor the beam of its headlights caused him to look around at the vehicle, Schwartz said.

"All we saw was his back and noticed that he was wearing a a three-quarter length suede coat and a 10-gallon Stetson hat. In that gusting wind he never even bothered to hold on to his hat," Schwartz said.

When they checked the walk again, a minute or two later after the bright object had disappeared, the man had disappeared, they said.

"We looked for him," Frank said he thought he should be checked out because he looked kind of weird," Schwartz said. "We never did find him."

Police contacted the Coast Guard about the sighting. They in turn contacted their district offices at New York.

They received authorization to investigate the light and dispatched a 41-foot cutter to the general area of the sighting.

Reports that a helicopter was also dispatched to investigate the "object" were apparently unfounded.

The cutter searched the area from Ventnor to a point off Convention Hall and didn't locate the "object."

They did, however, find a

fleet of three fishing trawlers working about four miles off Convention Hall.

The trawlers, they said, were using powerful spotlights and the beam from those lights apparently bounded off the low cloud cover.

This reflection, they said, could have caused the optical effect due to atmospheric conditions which were right for the phenomena at that time.

Local NICAP investigator Gary Vendetti of Vineland was working on the sighting throughout the day Tuesday but no conclusions have been reached.

"I've been attempting to contact everyone who saw the object to learn more about it," Vendetti said.

"The last South Jersey sighting was in Mays Landing about a year ago when lights appeared to hover over a house (near Route 40) for about three nights in a row," he said.

"We never did come to any conclusions about what it was," he noted.

Prior to that, a UFO was reported to have landed in a

thicket near Port Norris, but nothing except some crushed bushes and the indentation of a foot pod of a heavy object was found, he said.

And in July of 1970, a UFO was sighted darting across the landing pattern at the

Cape May County Airport at Erma.

Meanwhile, the National Aviation Facilities Experimental Center at Pomona reported no radar contact was made with any solid object and no aircraft were reported in the area at the time.

VENTNOR, NJ

NL

JAN. 20, 1976

Cop reports 'lights' of UFO trailed him

A patrolman from Ventnor, Atlantic County, yesterday swore he spotted a UFO amid the morning surf and that the "greenish light" kept following him.

"I thought it was going to swallow me up," said Frank Ingargiola.

Although the Coast Guard and a nearby aviation facility picked up nothing of an extraterrestrial sort on their radar screens, Ingargiola said he saw the rays at 5 a.m. near the Ventnor boardwalk.

The patrolman drove toward adjacent Atlantic City

with Sonny Schwartz, a friend and newspaper columnist. The two men said the beams followed them, disappeared and reappeared repeatedly until the image of a man was discernible for several moments.

Ingargiola said he pointed his spotlight on the object and it "retreated toward the ocean, but when I took my light off it, it came back and I thought it was going to swallow me up."

The Coast Guard said it dispatched a cutter to the area to look for a ship in distress but found none.

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STAR-LEDGER
Newark, N.J.

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VENTNOR, NJ

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JAN. 20, 1976

Cold Water Thrown On UFO Report

Absecon Island was abuzz with speculation this week about a mysterious bright glow in the early morning sky that at least one Ventnor police officer thought was an unidentified flying object. However, reports from the U.S. Coast Guard in Atlantic City threw cold water on the strange phenomenon.

After residents of Ventnor, Margate and Atlantic City telephoned local radio stations and police to report the UFO sighting, a Coast Guard cutter scouted the ocean and found three fishing trawlers with powerful spotlights four miles off Atlantic City. The teams apparently were bouncing off a low cloud cover to appear luminous along the shore.

Ventnor Police Officer, Frank

Ingargiola, who first spotted the bright glow off the Jackson Ave. beach as he was cruising the boardwalk last Tuesday morning at 5:15, said the light withdrew when he directed his car's spotlight on it.

At one point, while watching the mysterious object, Officer Ingargiola said the "bright light with a haze around it" appeared to be coming towards his vehicle and he radioed the local dispatcher to send Atlantic City police to the scene. The patrolman said that when he pointed his spotlight on the object it — quote — "retreated toward the ocean, but when I took my light off it, it came back and I thought it was going to swallow me up."

Sonny. Schwartz, an Atlantic

City Press columnist who happened to be riding with Ingargiola, said he did not believe the trawlers caused the light. As Schwartz put it — "it was like a dread, but you knew you were awake."

A local professor of astrophysics at Stockton State College, Harold Taylor, said that what the officer may have seen was the planet Venus. "The early morning sightings, my best guess, may have been Venus coming up. Venus can be sighted about five o'clock in the morning. As it rises it would be straight off Atlantic City, Margate, Ventnor beach, straight out to sea. It would be very low and if there were clouds or something it would appear to go in and out of the cloud cover."

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