

1976: W. Middlesex
PA
MAY 26 1977
letter sent per last page

419 Glen-Moore Blvd.
New Castle, Pa. 16105
April 7, 1977

CEI

J. Allen Hynek, Director
Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Sir:

Please don't groan too loudly at this receipt of yet another letter requesting explanation of an UFO sighting. My belated interest in UFOs was kindled just last year, not from any personal experience with one but by a sighting experienced by my daughter and son-in-law. The curiosity of the actual witnesses was so little aroused that they failed to mention it to me till some weeks later. They were disbelievers previous to their sighting and remain so, assuring me that the craft they saw was-- and I quote--"something new that the government is fooling around with". To me, this conclusion appears without evidence but I would like to be convinced.

At the time, my reading on the subject was limited to the few newspaper accounts printed locally. My daughter and her husband probably didn't even bother reading those since they were (and still are) totally disinterested in UFOs. So it was that these witnesses at the time of sighting had no preconcieved ideas as to what an UFO might look like or how it might act. I wanted my daughter and her husband to report the incident but she and Tom would not agree to do so. I was at a loss where I should report it until a month or so ago when I noted a letter in our local paper requesting that UFO reports be submitted to the U.F.O. Research Center in Irwin, Pennsylvania. I immediately wrote to the furnished address and report forms were forwarded to my daughter and her husband. My daughter filled hers out under pressure from me but my son-in-law flatly refused to cooperate.

The questions I would like to have answered are: (1) Could the craft sighted have been some type of prober or singly manned piece of air force equipment being currently used or tested? (2) Do the details of the sighting rule out natural phenomena? (3) Is there enough told of the objects movements to state whether its movements conform to the laws of aerodynamics?

Before giving you the details, I will give you some information on my daughter who was the only one filing a report in this instance, although there were two witnesses. My daughter is 25 years of age, a college graduate with a minor in science, including some astronomy. She has taught elementary grades and was employed as a 4th grade teacher at the time of sighting. She was graduated in the top 5% of both her high school and college classes. She has the kind of intelligence that absorbs knowledge readily but lacks, much to my disappointment, the curiosity and imagination to produce or contribute what her intelligence might otherwise permit. It does, however, make her a most reliable witness. She is a practical, down to earth, no-nonsense type of a person. Probably a much more reliable witness than I would be since I am more excitable.

RETURN MAY - MID SEPT 1976

NL

WEST MIDDLESEX, PA

Along with the attached details of the sighting, I am sending you a map (poorly drawn) of the sighting area and a carbon copy of an interview with my daughter which was occasioned by her husband forbidding her to directly answer specific questions sent to her by the man in Irwin. This interview was subsequent to her filing of the report so it does not contain all details.

Since the time of this interview with my daughter, I have been avidly reading everything available on the subject of UFOs, including your book, The UFO Experience, A Scientific Inquiry, from which I obtained your name and address.

Recognizing that you are probably much too busy to answer all the questions of those writing you, I am hoping that someone affiliated with you and knowledgeable in the subject may be able to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Ella Mae Forrest

Ella Mae Forrest
419 Clen-Moore Boulevard
New Castle, Pa. 16105

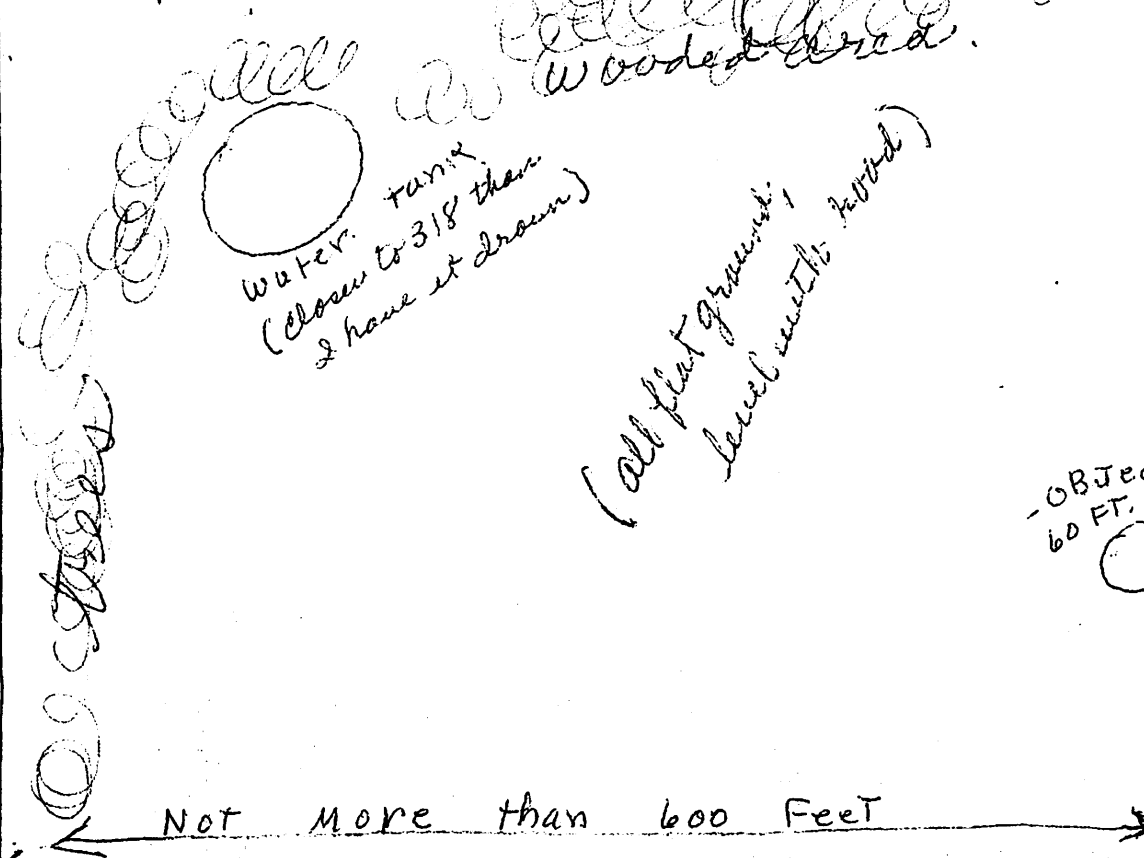
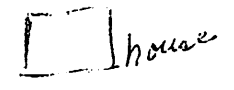
P.S. - I am enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope in hopes that someone will find time to answer my 3 questions.

DETAILS OF UFO SIGHTING

1. Specific date unknown. Definitely occurred between end of May and mid-September, 1976.
2. Place of sighting: Route 318, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, 1 mile east of West Middlesex, Pennsylvania. Just above Route 80 access/exit.
3. Time: night. Probably around 10 p.m.
4. Sighting area: Open field surrounded on east and south by trees, on the north by Route 318 and on the west by power sub-station and high tension wires running from it. Water tank near the eastern border of field. Route 318 at this location has street lights and lights from the various Route 80 exits, approximately 1 mile or less away, illuminate the northernⁿ sky. Thus, this is never at night what you would call a "pitch black" area. The field described is not a large field. From the corner (see map) to the power sub-station, I would judge the distance to be roughly 600 feet.
5. Object noticed simultaneously by 2 witnesses who were just leaving a house across road. The house they were leaving is situated diagonally from the power station. Witnesses had just gotten into their car and pulled out onto the road when they observed this object after they had gone not more than 200 or 250 feet. Both say that the bright light emanating from the bottom of the object first called their attention to it.
6. Driver of the car immediately stopped, engine running. No interference with motor. Windows were down, night was clear.
7. No noise heard. No planes noted but neither were they searched for.
8. Description of object: Silver metal dome, flat bottom, 4 legs straight down. Very sharply outlined. Light emanating from bottom was illuminating the earth and high tension wires.
9. Size: witness not sure but says it definitely would have fit on top of the water tank. (Note: water tank is squat, very round type rather than the tall, thinner ones you sometimes see.)
10. Distance from witnesses: 60 foot in air. (judged from height of water tank.) 200 (or less) feet from car of witnesses.
11. When first sighted, witnesses say it was simply hovering there.
12. Reactions of witnesses: Initially, surprise. Then Tom immediately opened the door of the car to get out and investigate the object. Sharon recalls not wanting him to go but can ascribe no reason why she didn't want him to go.
13. Upon Tom opening the car door and while still in the process of ^{wa} leaving the car, the white light went off, reddaad blue lights appeared and the object took off. In Sharon's words: "It went straight up at an incredible rate of speed."
14. Length of observation after the red/blue lights appeared was 2-3 seconds then it disappeared.
15. Total sighting time: 1-1-1/2 min.
16. Witnesses explanation: "something the government is fooling around with."
17. Perhaps pertinent: Air force base of some kind is located within 18 miles of sighting area. It is a small air field. (I think this is why the kids can so easily persuade themselves that what they saw is something the government or air force is testing.)

1000 ft Mitchell Rd. = Suburban area. Homes.

Sighting Field South



Wooded Area

(all flat ground, level with road)

OBJECT - 60 FT. in air

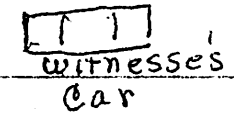
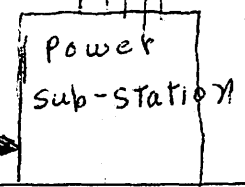
High Tension wires with poles supporting them.

road

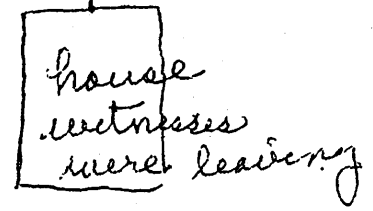
Not more than 600 Feet

street lights along this section.

Route 318



(field)



(field)

North

This Area hit by Interstate 80's access/exit lights

419 Glen-Moore Blvd.
New Castle, Pa. 16105
March 14, 1977

Robert Cowell
UPO Research Center
287 Colony Drive
Irwin, Pa. 15642

Dear Sir:

You undoubtedly will be disappointed in hearing from me instead of either Sharon or Tom. However, I had lunch with Sharon yesterday and she brought with her your letter of March 10th. She had not shown Tom the letter and said it was useless to do so since he has completely rationalized the incident and is certain what they saw was simply a government craft of a nature unknown to himself, but easily explainable. (???)

Sharon, of course, is torn between her desire to please me by cooperating with you and her desire to conform to Tom's wishes by ignoring the whole bit.

To assure that you received some satisfaction from your letter I suggested that I ask the questions from the letter and respond to you. That way, she can honestly say she hasn't contacted you. We used a lot of the restaurant napkins for me to take notes on and I assure you, as an ex court reporter, that the answers given are accurate and as she responded. The questions and answers I have written separately on the paper which is attached hereto.

You will find that most people in this area (Lawrence, Mercer Counties) feel as Tom does. This is because there is an army air force base in Youngstown, Ohio (Rte 193 North toward Kingsville) and they have all types of craft in the skies around here. For a few years they were even flying dirigibles all over the place. Youngstown is only 18 miles from New Castle and less than that from West Middlesex. In fact the air force base is at the same end of Youngstown as West Middlesex.

Also, one of the fellows Tom works with came in with a picture several years ago which he told was a picture of an UFO he had sighted. This man lives in the Edinburg area (where Mr. Neely also told me these had been sighted. Tom said the man was teased and tormented unmercifully by the other men. (Tom, being a tease, probably did his share and doesn't want the same to happen to him.) I asked him what the picture looked like and he told me "like someone holding up a banana". (Which I am sure is overdrawn.)

Anyway---I hope the attached is of some help to you!

Sincerely,

Ella Mae Forrest

WITNESS: Sharon L. Douth
INTERROGATOR: Ella Mae Forrest

Date of Interview:
March 14, 1977

- Q. Mr. Cowell wants to know your exact feelings at the time of your sighting an unusual aircraft sometime last year.
- A. Well, naturally we were surprised at first....and uneasy.
- Q. Well, he specifically wants to know if you felt fear.
- A. It wasn't really there long enough to get all upset about it. I don't think Tom was afraid. His first instinct was to go over and investigate it.
- Q. What about yourself?
- A. I didn't want him to go. I guess that was a fear of some kind.
- Q. But Tom didn't get out of the car, did he?
- A. It wasn't there long enough. He just started to get out of the car---or just opened the door when it took off. It was just there about a minute or so.
- Q. Mr. Cowell also would like you to make a drawing for him---
- A. Mom, you know I can't draw and make anything look like its supposed to.
- Q. Well, maybe together we can get something down on paper that looks like what you saw. You say it was round like a ball?
- A. Yes, except it was flat on the bottom.
- Q. But definitely not elliptical?
- A. No, not really.
- Q. And these "legs" which you saw--could you judge their length?
- A. No, all I can say is that they were in proportion to the thing itself.
- Q. And you are sure of the number of "legs"?
- A. I am sure there was more than one. My impression now is that there were four.
- Q. Did these "legs" come straight down from the object or were they --well, like jointed legs?
- A. You mean like a spider's or daddy long legs?

Q. Yes, that's what I mean. Here, let me show you what I mean.
(I draw "legs" like this on a napkin: ()

A. Oh, no, they were much straighter than that.

Q. You mean they came straight out of the object?

A. I don't think so but they didn't do that either.

Q. Can you show me on paper what they were like?

A. Well, they came out but just a little.

Q. Well, let me see if I can draw what you're describing.
(I draw two and she says no, I draw a third and she says yes.)

Q. Then this third drawing I've done is very similar to what you are trying to describe?

A. Yes. Much more like it.

Q. I have your permission to forward this drawing to Mr. Cowell as a drawing similar to the object you saw?

A. Oh, for crying out loud, Mom, we're not in court. You've spent too much time there.

Q. Mr. Cowell didn't ask but I am very curious about the white light which attracted you and Tom to the object. Can you pinpoint its source?

A. Well, definitely from the bottom.

Q. From the bottom of the aircraft?

A. Either the bottom or the legs. I can't be sure.

Q. Well, it wasn't like seeing say a string of light bulbs?

A. Heavens, no. It was just a very bright light.

Q. Would you say glaring?

A. I suppose you could say that. It was very bright.

Q. Now, Mr. Cowell would like you to try to pinpoint the date of sighting if you can.

A. Well, I am positive it was while we were still living in Hubbard because that's where we were headed when we saw it.

Q. When did you move from Hubbard to West Middlesex?

A. Our lease at Shadow Run was up October 1st and we moved just a day or two before it was up---I guess it must have been either September 29, 30 or 31. *(note: there is no 31 in Sept.)*

Q. So you are positive that this sighting was prior to September 29, 1976?

A. Of that much I am positive.

Q. Can you make any guess as to how much before?

A. Not positively but in thinking about it now it seems to me that I was still teaching 4th grade.

Q. You taught 4th grade all during the 1975-1976 school year?

A. You know I taught there through the end of school in June, 1976.

Q. Well, I know but Mr. Cowell doesn't. Could it have been
you sighted this in 1975--in the fall?

A. No, it was last year.

Q. Could it have been in the winter?

A. It was very nice weather. Not cold or anything. I think it was near the end of school which would be the end of May or early part of June.

Q. But you aren't positive?

A. No, the only thing I'm positive about was that it was before we moved to West Middlesex (Sept. 29, 1976) and that it wasn't in the winter.

Q. That's the best you can do?

A. Yes.

Q. I can't help but wonder why you waited so long to tell me. (I believe she told me about this in September.)

A. Well, I do have other things to think about.

Q. How do you feel about the sighting now?

A. Well, before you started making a big deal out of this, I accepted Tom's explanation that it was something the government was fussing around with.

- Q. About the red and blue lights. When did these become visible?
- A. After the white light disappeared and the thing started to go up.
- Q. On what part of the object did they appear to be located?
- A. You couldn't really tell exactly. It was dark and you couldn't see.
- Q. Were the legs still there when it ascended?
- A. You couldn't see if they were or not after the white light went out.
- Q. So you don't know if the red and blue lights were on the legs or on the object itself?
- A. No.
- Q. Tell me again how the strange air craft disappeared.
- A. Straight up, very fast.
- Q. Where did it go?
- A. I don't know. We saw it just a few seconds when it seemed to disappear. At least we couldn't see the lights.
- Q. How long were the red and blue lights visible?
- A. Just a few seconds. We saw them when the white light went out and the thing started to go up very fast and then everything was gone.
- Q. How close to the power sub station was this object?
- A. Very close.
- Q. Beside it?
- A. No, back a little over the power lines. You know where that first telephone pole is---just about there.
- Q. How far back from the road where you were?
- A. Oh, I don't know exactly. I'd say about the depth of our lot and it's 200 feet.

Q. And how far up in the air?

A. I think about 60 feet.

Q. How did you arrive at that figure?

A. It was about the same height as the water tank and the water tank is twice as high as our new house which Tom says is 30 feet.

(Note: this water tank she talks about is not the tall thinner type but a squat one and I think she may be right about its height but I'm no expert judge either.)

Q. And what about size?

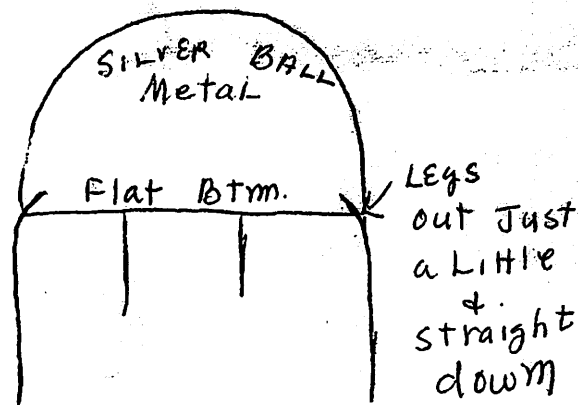
A. It could have fit on top of the tank but I don't know the tank's circumference so don't ask.

Q. What do you think the object was doing in that particular field on Route 318?

A. What a question. All it seemed to be doing was hovering there.

END OF INTERVIEW

Below is drawing of what Sharon is trying to describe:



Summer 1976: W. Middlesex, PA
CEI: 2 witnesses.



... My rendition of witness'
drawing (NDS).

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