



Chasing the Flying Saucers



by
GRAY BARKER
Author of
**THEY KNEW TOO MUCH
ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS**

SAUCER LANDS

I opened the door, looked outside and gasped. Twelve inches of snow covered the street and the long row of parked cars, including my own. In the early daylight I saw more of the white stuff swirling down, amid a howling wind. On January 9th, winter had finally come to West Virginia.

I chided myself for putting off the ground search in a remote section of Wetzel County where a saucer had either crashed or landed and left four women in a state of puzzlement and near shock. The mountainous area probably would be locked in by icy drifts and frozen underbrush until March. I decided to ring up Jim Harris and Carl Wilfong of the UFOCUS group and call off the field investigation we had planned for the middle of the week.

I plugged in the coffee pot, threw some bacon onto the grill, went back into the living room and found the file folder among my homework. Back in the kitchen I turned the bacon and opened the Reader, W.Va. report.

At about 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 13th, Mary Arnett and her sister, Shelba Lowe, were driving home over a remote, one-lane country trail known as Mobley Road.

"Suddenly (Ms. Arnett reported) my eyes seemed to be drawn upward at the sky, where I saw a brilliant object. The oddest part was my emotional reaction: immediately tears started rolling down my cheeks, as if I didn't have control over my own crying. Maybe it could have been the light from the thing, only it didn't seem to be all that brilliant."

She slammed on the brakes and yelled for the others to look. Pam and Teresa Haught, passengers in the rear seat, screamed and pointed through the back window.

The four women watched what I term a "classic" saucer-shaped object glide across the sky. The shape was familiar from thousands of other reports: a silvery disk surmounted by a cupola or dome, from which a projection like an antenna protruded. Extending from the bottom of the disk were three leg-like projections, and two red and blue flashing lights blazed

on its rim. A strange glowing light of no identifiable source bathed the entire UFO in brilliant illumination.

Although the witnesses said they could not estimate its size, the object appeared to them "as big as an airliner" and about the diameter of a quarter coin held at arm's length.

The object tilted downward and descended in a glide toward treetops on a nearby mountain. Believing that it was landing, their fear increased and they decided to flee.

"We had just started the car and driven a few hundred feet when my sister screamed, 'Oh, my God! Look back!' The woods on the mountain were lighted up like a football stadium."

After dropping off their friends and reaching home, they told other family members, who wouldn't believe their experience and refused to accompany them the next day when they wanted to return to the spot and climb the mountain to investigate.

"I suppose the reason we didn't ever investigate was that all of us were just too chicken!" Ms. Arnett explained.



Eyewitness Mary Arnett experienced odd emotional reaction during her UFO sighting.

Editor's note: UFOCUS obtained news of this sighting through Gray Barker, Box 2226, Clarksburg, WV 26301. We have obtained from Mrs. M. A., a principal witness in the encounter, a copy of a letter written to Gray, and a questionnaire which Mrs. A. filled out for us.

At 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 13, 1977, M. A., her sister, S. L., and P. and T. H.—also sisters—were driving down Mobley Road in Wetzel County, West Virginia, at a speed of approximately 30 mph. Suddenly, according to M. A., who was driving, her eyes were drawn to the sky, and she asked the other passengers in the car if they had seen the same thing. They replied yes, and Mrs. A. slowed the car and stopped, with the engine still running.

The object was gliding slowly towards some treetops on a hill about 500 feet away. One end of the UFO was pointed downward as it entered the treetops and disappeared. Feeling rather strange, the four decided to leave.

After having driven 20 feet down the road, Mrs. A.'s sister, S. L., screamed, "Oh my God! Look back." The witnesses looked back, and they saw the treetops lit up like a "football stadium."

When the witnesses reached home, they realized the 25 minute trip from Mobley home took almost an hour! They had lost 30 minutes of time, and had no idea what had happened.

The object which the four sighted was almost classic: a silver metallic domed saucer, with red and blue flashing lights, and three leg-like projections on the bottom of the object. On top was a projection, similar to an antenna.



-Followup Investigation-

When we received a copy of Mrs. A.'s letter, we mailed her a standard questionnaire which she filled out and returned. The following is from that questionnaire.

The prevailing weather conditions were as follows: temperature, 55 to 60 degrees, no clouds or precipitation. It was a very clear night. When asked about the position of the moon, Mrs. A. replied that she did not recall seeing the moon that night.

The witnesses reported no noise or wind during their encounter, but their radio stopped working about 50 minutes before the sighting, and Mrs. A. was trying to tune it in when the UFO appeared.

None of the witnesses reported being ill before their encounter, but Mrs. A. reported feeling nauseous during the sighting, and her sister, S. L., claimed to suffer from constant headaches for 2 days after the sighting. P. H. reported that she broke out in a rash on her back, chest, and abdomen two months after the sighting; the condition lasted for 3 to 4 days before it went away, and her mother told her that she had had all types of chicken pox and measles while a child. All four witnesses report that they have since become interested in subjects such as UFOs and ESP.

Two of the witnesses, P. H., and S. L. also reported having a repeat sighting. One evening in December they were sitting in a Dairy Queen in their hometown. A male friend pulled in the parking lot and started staring in the sky, and P. and S. ran outside along with everyone else, including the women who worked there. They saw a round object in the sky with orange-yellow lights, and blue lights. The blue lights were on top and the orange lights were around it in a circular pattern. Another witness reported following the object for several miles in his car.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As for other weird happenings, all four report receiving mysterious phone calls with nobody on the other end. And P. H. reported waking up in the night to see a man standing by her bed. She stared at him for a few minutes, then rolled over on her side with her back towards him. She remained in this position for about 10 to 15 minutes. When she turned back to see if he was still there, he was gone. She immediately got up, and searched the house before returning to bed.

-Commentary and Analysis-

This may very well turn out to be a good example of a CEII (and indeed, it may turn out to be a contact case, if we ever discover an answer to the missing 30 minutes. Although I see no reason to question the truthfulness of the witnesses, it is possible that some of the more fantastic elements of this case may have been unconsciously inspired by questionable reading material such as OFFICIAL UFO, which Mrs. A. reported reading occasionally.

UFOCUS 1(4), Spring 1978.