

1978

JULY 20

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Mini-UFO:
3 witnesses

They got right story, wrong Venice

Venice (Fla.) Sun Coast
Gondolier, Feb. 10, 1979

There is Venice, Italy, and there is Venice, California, and there is Venice, Florida. And, definitely, the Sun Coast Condolier is in the latter Venice, not in California as Saga Magazine would have us located.

But aside from the "typo" that put us on the wrong coast, we were gratified to see that a Venice couple's report of a UFO

sighting was mentioned in Saga Magazine's 1979 UFO Annual.

In the column "UFO Update" by Jerome Clark, the sighting of Joe and Fran Nigro is mentioned among others as one of only five or six 1978 "rather spectacular, and at this time not entirely investigated, sightings."

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UNDER THE subhead proclaiming "Close Encounter of the First Kind," Clark wrote:

"On the evening of July 25th a Venice, Calif., woman saw a bizarre UFO which hovered only six inches from her nose! Her husband and a neighbor confirmed the sighting.

"Fran Nigro said she had been looking out a window of the house when she saw a light moving toward her. As it got

closer, she saw that the light was emanating from a decidedly peculiar object. 'I thought it was a bat at first,' she told the Sun Coast Gondolier (July 27th), 'but it had no eyes, mouth or nose. It just had this two-inch square light in its face.'

"The object's batlike 'wings' were not flapping and the thing made no sound.

"Weirdly enough, her husband Joe was at that moment watching a similar phenomenon through

another window, this one in the front of the house. Nigro summoned a neighbor, Jim Minor, to verify what he was seeing. Minor observed the object as it departed down the road.

"In the meantime, Mrs. Nigro's UFO buzzed around the garage and several trees in the front yard before 'zooming right out of sight.'"

The Nigros live on Havana road, on the east part of town, off Venice Farms Road.

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SUN COAST GONDOLIER, Venice, FL - July 27, 1978

7/25

UFO sighted by local trio

Is Venice being invaded by beings from another planet? It is entirely possible, as three residents of the area will testify.

Joe Nigro, his wife Fran, and their neighbor Jim Minor all claim to have seen not only one, but two unidentified flying objects (UFO) Tuesday night near the Nigro home on Havana Road.

"I thought it was a bat at first," explained Mrs. Nigro, "but it has no eyes, mouth, or nose. It just had this two inch square light in its face."

She told the Gondolier the object came within six inches of her nose as she watched from a window. At first, all she could see was the light coming at her. Then, the light turned and it appeared to be contained in an object resembling a bat, but the wings were stationary and did not flap or make any sound.

AT THE SAME time Mrs. Nigro was watching the object from one end of the house, husband Joe was watching another object of similar design from a window in the front of the house.

Nigro called his neighbor Jim Minor to come over and verify the sightings. Minor obliged and was able to spot one of the objects flying down the road.

The UFO reportedly buzzed around the garage and some of the trees in the front yard before "zooming right out of sight."

Reflecting on the sightings, Mrs. Nigro said, "You kind of wonder what it could be." She denied being scared, stating that the object was not big enough to hurt any one.

The Tuesday night sightings were not the first time the Nigro's have seen UFOs near their home. A little more than a year ago they saw an object hovering above their home. However, this object in no way resembled the two seen Tuesday.

"We were reluctant to call anyone then," explained Nigro, who said he felt no one would believe him. That object had both blue and green lights on it, but was not a plane or helicopter, as he did phone the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport to see if anything was showing up on radar. The airport reported showing nothing on their screens.

WHILE AWARE that some people may be skeptical of the sightings, the Nigros and Minor are sure of what they saw. However, they phoned the sheriff's department to see if any other sightings had been reported, and none had.

The speed at which the UFO traveled dispels any notion of it being man-made or controlled. It could change direction quickly and accelerate rapidly, according to the Nigros.

These sightings are the most recent, but certainly not the first reported in the Venice area. Although they are not firm enough evidence to flatly state we are being invaded, they surely give one food for thought.