

1982

Exeter Revisited

Many of our readers are acquainted with John Fuller's masterful UFO investigation in Exeter, N.H., from his book, *Incident at Exeter*. If not, reference to it should be a must because its resemblance to this very recent UFO event, just a few miles east of the town of Exeter, is striking. Further, the investigation of this New Incident at Exeter has brought to light an event that may have a close bearing on the Old Incident at Exeter (see Box).

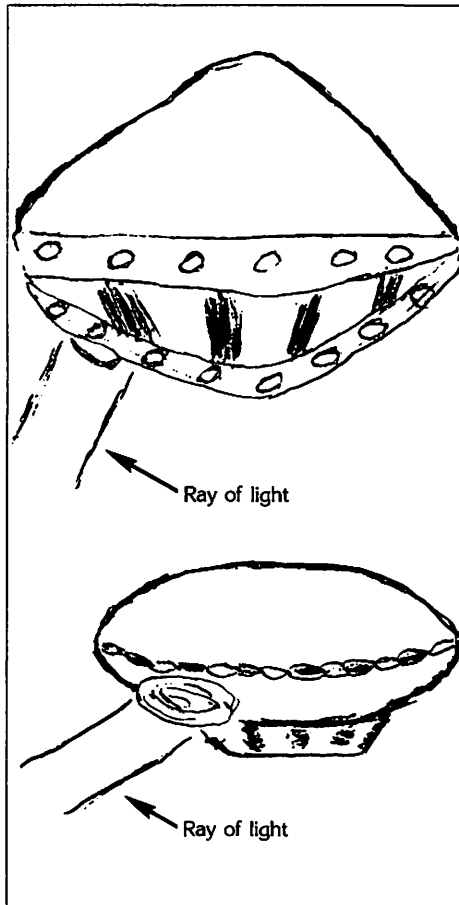
The scene is, once again, a lonely country road. It is shortly after 10 P.M. on a cool, crisp clear moonlit New England evening. Four women, all management personnel of the New England Bell Telephone Co., are coming home from a County Fair in a town some distance north of Exeter. They are riding in the Mercedes owned by one of them (Mary Ann Poland, the driver); they are tired from their day's jaunt and are looking forward to stopping at Studio Two, a roadside tavern, for drinks. They do not need I.D. cards, for their ages average 38, and they are all mature career women holding responsible management positions with the phone company in different nearby towns. And then:

TYPE: CE-1
DATE: Sept. 30, 1982
TIME: 10:15 P.M.
DURATION: 3-5 minutes
WITNESSES: Four
PLACE: Exeter, N.H.

"Jeez, Mary Ann, that's not a plane," I said. "No," she replied, "That's not a plane! There's no way it's a plane."

Rose Messina, the front seat passenger, continued her story during our long interview: "So we all started shout

ing, 'Stop the car!' If you're not going to stop the car, we're going to jump out!". So we opened the door, and Mary Ann braked the car, but we got out before the car came to a stop...the two of us (she and Mary LaMontagne, the passenger on the right rear seat) got out and started chasing it. It stopped. It was standing perfectly still, but there was no noise."



Sketches by Mary LaMontagne (above) and by Rose Messina (below) of what they say they saw on a country road north of Exeter, NH. The sketches of all four women, drawn separately, were extremely similar.

In our interview with Mary Ann, the driver, she told how it all began: "I was driving, heading toward a local bar... clear, crisp night, nothing on the road, and then I saw what appeared to me to be a very low flying airplane. I watched it as I drove, and it was coming toward me and all of a sudden it looked like one big bright light coming toward me. So I still thought it was a plane. I reached over and touched Rose, who was dozing, and said, 'Rose, that plane is flying very low...you're supposed to be the copilot...so wake up!' She didn't say anything for a bit and I said, 'Hey, wait a minute, that's no plane'... and it came toward us, and with that I got the attention of the two in the back. They're looking at it and they say, 'That's no plane, stop the car!' Well, I'm still looking at it and applying the brakes and meanwhile these two nuts, as I call them, started hopping out of the car before it was even stopped. It was right there, on top of the car practically. It wasn't doing anything...it was just like stationary."

Now let (Mary LaMontagne) the passenger in the back seat who had jumped out to chase the strange object, take up the story: "It was so close that if I'd had a rock I could have hit it. I have a pretty good arm! It came and hovered right over the trees, and it was huge. It was very, very quiet. I didn't hear a thing...only thing I heard was the rustling of the leaves."

The fourth passenger, the oldest in the group, who had been sitting in the back next to Mary LaMontagne before she so hastily jumped out along with Rose Messina, confirmed in her interview the essentials of the accounts of the others. She had gotten out of the car momentarily, but could not keep up with the younger two, who

Is Challenged

To The Editors of Discover:

November 15, 1982

"UFOs Revisited" (DISCOVER: December 1982) in the SKEPTICAL EYE column is excessively biased and without good cause.

The Future Problem Solving Program sponsored by Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, demonstrates there is still hope for the educational and scientific institutions of this country. Their selection of the subject "UFOs: What About Them?" should prove to be an excellent problem solving exercise for young people.

Science has a duty to actively explore the mysteries of the world; a responsibility often avoided because of ridicule and peer pressure. SKEPTICAL EYE, in quoting Dr. Edward Condon, seems to favor a strong negative approach to UFOs, because the scientists reporting to Dr. Condon on the University of Colorado Study of Unidentified Flying Objects disagreed with his statements. In fact, the report of that study clearly showed that more than 30 percent of the cases they examined were unidentified and unidentifiable. Unfortunately, the type of bias shown by Dr. Condon is in a good part responsible for the perpetuation of the mystery: not for finding a solution.

I have received the bibliography that you referenced and must object to your categorization of books into pro versus skeptical. Dr. J. Allen Hynek's books are a good example of scientifically based skepticism. His books are pro-science, not pro-UFO. He has been quite critical of the data base; identifying and rejecting 90-95 per cent of the sightings reported. This was done through the application of the scientific method, based on more than twenty years of UFO consulting work for the United States Air Force. That is true skeptical behavior. Many of the other books on the listing are part of the historical archives and must be examined by anyone attempting a study of UFOs. Anything else would be akin to trying to study chemistry without using a chemistry book.

It is difficult to ascertain just how DISCOVER defines skeptical; however, a review of SKEPTICAL EYE for the past several months makes it appear that your definition of skeptical equals disbelieving and attacking of selected concepts and subjects. That is a strange approach for a magazine touting itself as "America's Leading Science Magazine."

A constructive approach might be to carry a series of articles about the scientific investigation of UFOs. Pro and con opinions could be presented, along with the scientific methodology utilized in reaching any and all conclusions. Care should be taken to avoid the weirdo stories and the telling of tall tales. I would like to suggest the following people as authors for the series:

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, (Astronomer); James E. Oberg, (Author); John F. Schuessler, (Futurist); Peter Gersten, (Attorney).

Your consideration of my suggestion would be appreciated."

John F. Schuessler

NOVA
WGBH-TV
125 Western Avenue
Boston MA 02134

15 November 82

Producers of NOVA:

I would very much like to know when the second part of your investigation into Unidentified Flying Objects is scheduled to air on PBS. The local stations know nothing about it. Since the first program was clearly devoted to the "emotional" side of the UFO story, dominated almost wholly by Phil Klass, Jim Oberg, Bill Ireland, etc., I am waiting patiently for your coverage of the "science" aspect. Tiny sparks (look at them) from a shattering rock, doctored spacecraft photos from some obscure foreign tabloid, hoaxes staged to "test" the accuracy of photoanalysis, all miss the target and fail to even dent the body of evidence made up of many hundreds of detailed observations of unexplained events and objects, accurately described (and often physically recorded) by competent and experienced observers from all professions, emanating from all parts of the world. The collection, evaluation, analysis and publication of this data by civilian organizations comprising professionals in all sciences and investigative fields was hardly addressed. A swipe at "amateur investigators" dabbling in matters of physics or astronomy by one of your speakers was hardly effective (I forget if it was the aviation writer, the neurologist, or the college student). Only a poor grasp of the physics involved, coupled with a selective "forgetting" of important facts in each case could allow for some of the explanations put forward in the program. Your oft-repeated tag line of "This theory is controversial" must surely be the understatement of the season! So when will you present the other side of the controversy? Your loyal viewers are waiting; please don't disappoint us (and you did so well with the Bermuda Triangle a few years ago).

Regards, Jerold R. Johnson

□

rushed along a side road (actually it was someone's driveway) to try to chase the object, which seemed to have a decidedly hypnotic effect on them...so much so (as they related later) that they felt no fear whatever and indeed, would have gone aboard if the opportunity had presented itself! To this day they find it hard to explain the compelling influence the object seemed to have on them. This despite the fact that "ordinarily I'm chicken. If it had been an accident or a plane crash I would have wanted to get out of there. But I just didn't feel that way," (Mary's words) and, "Ordinarily, I'm afraid of my own shadow...I'm petrified of dark" (Rose's words).

“...they felt no fear and would have gone aboard if the opportunity had presented itself...”

What then was this UFO like? Piecing together now the composite testimony of all four, we get this picture: (sketches by the two who followed the object in Pied Piper fashion, and who therefore had the best view of it, are shown to the left).

An egg-shaped, very large, seemingly solid and metallic object, wingless, and completely noiseless, with swirling red lights along its equator, and a beam or ray "as wide as a wall"

coming down from its side (as shown on both independent sketches) like "a ray of sunlight when it comes down through clouds." The beam was white in color and did not move about; that is, it did not appear to be a searchlight, but a coherent beam of light which, however, did not appreciably illuminate the surroundings.

All observers were impressed by how close to the ground it flew. "It's going to hit the trees," one said, and another, "The thing was so low that I thought it was going to crash, and yet it made no noise," and, from another, (while she still thought it might be a plane) "Gee, that plane looks like there's something wrong with it."

In response to the question, "What commonplace thing would you put up in the sky, if you could, that would most closely resemble the object in shape?", the answers varied from "an egg," to "an old collander I bought a few months ago" and to "just something oval." To the question, "What convinced you that it couldn't be a plane or a balloon?" the answers were direct and emphatic. As for a plane, "I put my window down, to listen to this thing, because I never saw anything hover like that. If it had been a helicopter we would have heard the chopping sound...it was that low we surely would have heard the whirling of the blades. And no ordinary plane could have gone that slowly without crashing...and there was absolutely no noise."

As for its not being a balloon (which would satisfy the observed motion) we are indebted to Mr. Tom Jenkins, editor of the "Atlantic News and Advertiser" of Hampton N.H. who not only was the one who notified us of this new Exeter incident, but who investigated the possibility of any balloons in the vicinity on that night. His results were totally negative. He found that there hadn't been a balloon around since some time back when one had been used in a car dealer's

advertising. Furthermore, swirling lights and light beams, and intensely bright white lights require a power supply it would be difficult for a balloon to support in flight.

As to size and distance, detailed answers varied, but there was consensus that whatever it was, it was very close, and very big. Estimates of apparent size are among the most difficult things for a UFO investigator to obtain; people do not understand 'subtended angles' and tend to estimate size in terms of an assumed distance. In this case, agreement was general that the object was truly close by, a definite Close Encounter, and so they gave sizes in terms of known objects: "Bigger than a house" and "as large as a cargo plane, but thicker," "a dime at three inches" and "almost the length of a football field" and "I've seen many jumbo jets...and I'll tell you, it was larger than that!" And, even, "an ice skating rink."

As to brightness of the lights: "They were very bright...we could have taken a picture, they were so bright. In fact, Rose is a pretty good photographer and she was very upset that, because she was riding in someone else's car, she didn't have her camera along. [What a missed opportunity!] If it had come directly at us instead of toward the left, I doubt we would have seen any shape...those lights were so bright!"

All agreed that it disappeared by sinking down behind the tree line (later inspection of the terrain revealed that immediately in back of the front line of trees there was a considerable cliff-like drop-off). And agreement was fair on the duration of the sighting; in any case it was not very long, just a few minutes. From the time it was first sighted and discussed among themselves, and the two passengers jumping out of the braking car, the chase by the two along a side road, and its disappearance, probably not more

(continued on page 6)

“a ray of light came down from it like a

than three or four minutes were consumed...perhaps even less. The driver of the car, who did not get out but sought to turn the car around by finding a convenient place in the road ahead, found the object gone when she returned.

What, then, of the total experience, and how does it compare to others? Firstly, it was not greatly different from the original Incident at Exeter (the same oval shape, that time both rising and sinking behind trees, and the moving lights along its equator), but also, it was very similar to many of the cases described in the REPORTER in just the past year. Once again we have an object that defies our ordinary principles of flight. We just do not have craft that can hover, completely noiselessly, at tree-top level!

The ladies tried pursuing the idea that somehow the craft was something of our own and put in a call, later, to Pease Air Force Base, which is not far away from Exeter.

“I called Pease Air Force Base wanting to know if they were doing something special. They wouldn't even talk to me. I said, 'I'm in earnest. This is what we all saw. What are you doing up there?' But I couldn't get anyone to talk to me. Well, anyway I don't think they could have anything that's that noiseless, and, I've never seen anything around here that's that shape even.” (Compare John Fuller's attempt to get similar information at the time of the original Incident at Exeter.)

What were the reactions of the ladies after it was all over? When asked, “Years from now, what will be the one thing that most stands out in your minds?” Nicky LeClair (the second passenger in the rear) replied, “The brightness and size of it.” Mary

LaMontagne, however, said, “The thing that impressed me most was that I ran toward it...the fact that I wasn't afraid...that I wanted to get out of the car and see what it was...that I could have followed the thing on and on if I hadn't been stopped by the trees.”

Rose Messina said, in answer to that question, “The vastness of it... then that ray of light that came down from it like a beam of sunlight when it shows through the clouds” and the driver, Mary Ann Poland, “Well, it was exciting...I'll tell you that! Since I was driving, the thing that will stand out in my memory was that this thing was so low and so close that I thought it was going to crash and, yet, it made no noise.”

What did they do afterwards; did they talk about it with others, and were they ridiculed?

“After all this happened, nobody said much...but we went down to Studio Two and had a drink. We sort of

asked each other, 'Do you believe what we saw?' We just sort of sat there...we were excited but it wasn't an 'excited' kind of excited, do you know what I mean?

“We didn't mention anything to anybody. We just couldn't believe what we had seen and we were apprehensive about talking to anybody. I told some people at work. We finally called Washington, D.C.

“This Thanksgiving we had an Open House, and the article in the Advertiser had just come out, so lots of people asked us about it, and the general reaction was 'O.K. O.K. Yeah, I hear you,' and all that! I finally said, 'Look, it happened. I wouldn't be telling you it happened if it hadn't happened, because there's no sense to that!' ” (a situation that has been faced by many, many other bewildered witnesses to UFO events!).

There is still another part of this story that must be told. It has often



The four who encountered the UFO on Exeter Road in Hampton on September 30, 1982. From left: Nicky LeClair, Mary Ann Poland, Rose Messina, and Mary LaMontagne.

beam of sunlight”

happened that a Close Encounter has had lasting and profound psychological, and even physical effects on witnesses. In this case it was Mary LaMontagne, the one who had been the most anxious to run after the object, who felt the least fear, and who most felt the hypnotic attraction of the

object, who seems to have been the one most affected.

Mary had been an ardent cigarette smoker for 14 years, smoking about 2½ packs a day. She relates, “One night, about three days after the sighting, I woke up in the middle of the night,...I just bolted out of bed, and

AF Coverup on Exeter 1

A most interesting sideline has surfaced as a result of the investigation of this new Incident at Exeter. Those of you who have read John Fuller's book about the original Incident at Exeter will remember his futile attempts to pry some information from Pease Air Force Base about the presence of jet fighters in connection with the UFO sighting. The Air Base stated that there had been no such activity and that no UFO had been chased by the jets.

Now it has been found, through the efforts of Tom Jenkins, the reporter who is also the editor of the Atlantic News and Advertiser, and who made the initial investigation of the present Incident at Exeter, that Pease Air Force Base did indeed scramble jet fighters to chase a UFO, probably on the very night of the original Exeter Incident. In conversation with Robert Mark, now Chief of Police in Hampton, Conn., where the Advertiser is published, Jenkins found (and this was confirmed by Larry Fawcett who, as a police officer himself was granted an interview with Police Chief Mark, and who obtained Mr. Mark's permission to tell the story) that at the time of the original Incident, Mark had been security guard at Pease Air Force Base and had personally witnessed the UFO fly-over and its subsequent chase by fighters scrambled immediately after its passage.

A brilliantly illuminated ‘craft’ overflew the Air Base and as it flew along low overhead, the lights at the Base along its route were extinguished in succession “as if someone had shot them out,” only to return after the UFO had passed on. The two companion guards of Mark at the Security Gate were profoundly affected, according to Mark. One fainted, and the other fell to crying.

Security Guard Mark, however, rushed to the communications tower and listened to the conversation of the jet pilots. He recalls their saying that they couldn't catch up with the intruder and that it disappeared in the distance as a red glow.

Unfortunately, Mr. Mark cannot be sure of the exact date, except that it was close to the time of the original incident and may well have been on that date. In any event. Mr. Mark's testimony confirms our suspicions that the Air Force does not always tell us the truth when it comes to UFOs!

had maybe a minute with the shakes, but since then I had no desire to smoke at all. I had no ‘withdrawal symptoms.’ I just stopped smoking, and I haven't had a cigarette since (three months).”

“Did you feel that you had had some sort of religious experience?” she was asked. “No, nothing like that,” she replied, “but just a private feeling of being peaceful and serene. I don't feel stress at all anymore. There's much stress at the phone company and I never could relax. Now, I'm not in a rush anymore. I see people around me being extremely nervous, but I don't feel that way anymore. I've changed my life considerably,” she concluded.

There is little point if, month after month, we merely record one case after another without making any attempt to look for relationships between UFO events. It is important, we feel, to examine the after-effects on people, both physical and psychological. Investigation of UFO cases should not end with the mere recording of the bare facts of the observation, but there should be a follow-up, even extending down the years, if facilities permit.

There have been cases of healing, of profound changes in character, of changes in philosophy of life of UFO witnesses. Could it be that these may be as important, or even more so, than the bare facts of the sighting itself? What, indeed, is the message of the UFO? Is there one?

There just doesn't seem to be a plausible, simple, physical explanation of this new Incident at Exeter, but even if one should be found, how could it explain these deep and lasting psychological and physical effects in the lives of the witnesses? Sighting the Good-year Blimp or an advertising plane has not been known to produce profound changes in life-style!

What is going on in and around Exeter? □

BOOK REVIEW

“Mysteries of Turkey”: UFO Activity R

According to Haluk Egemen Sarikaya, Director of the Science Research Center in Istanbul, and author of the book “Mysteries of Turkey” (so far published only in the Turkish version; the English version is still in manuscript), Turkey experienced a short but intense UFO flap which began abruptly on Dec. 15, 1981 and ended just as quickly on Jan. 20, 1982. This flap, as well as more than 80 UFO cases of all types which have occurred in Turkey over the past 90 years, are covered in his book, excerpts from which Mr. Sarikaya has kindly made available to the REPORTER. In addition, he has summarized several post-flap Turkish UFO reports made in the Spring of 1982.

As the map shows, the flap was confined for the most part to the very central regions of Turkey although some reports came from the near coastal regions. As usual, the flap was dismissed by the skeptical fraternity as

space junk entering the atmosphere on Dec. 15, after which people expected to see UFOs and accordingly “did” through wishful thinking. Unfortunately, we have no way of conducting a first-hand investigation of our own, which we can do, and always do, with continental United States cases. However, Mr. Sarikaya and some of his colleagues from the Science Research Center “formed a fully equipped study team and investigated and studied the phenomena on location, visiting Aksaray [the focus of the UFO activity] twice, on January 5/7 and again on Jan. 24/26. About 30 observers... people from various walks of life, State officials and military officers among them...were interviewed, field investigations were made at alleged landing sites, sketches relating to the sightings were made, and a Polaroid photo of a UFO taken by an observer was secured.” [This photo and another are in the files of the Science Research Center and we will make a formal request for copies].

They were completely satisfied that a genuine and not a media-inspired flap had occurred. On January 14 the mayor of Aksaray went on Turkish television, after having conducted interviews with local residents, all of whom confirmed the sightings, to say: “Since December 15, 1981, unidentified objects have been traveling across the skies of our town. These unidentified objects sometimes descend to 1000-800 meters and they have been observed by interested townfolk. The objects remain stationary for awhile, occasionally emitting blue, red, yellow and white beams, and later disappear in the form of a point of light. It is not possible for me to comment on the nature of these objects. I believe that it will only be proper for the scientists to bring this matter to light.”

Some scientist now chose Venus as the culprit, even though Venus had set around 6 P.M. and most of the sightings were made considerably later in the evening. However, it may have been the object photographed by a TV cameraman (if he was on the job very shortly after sunset in late December), and which was shown on TV on Jan. 14. Just before the program began, however, a UFO sighting was reported from the village of Taptik in Havsa about which the primary school teacher of the village said, “The flying object, which passed directly overhead at an altitude of 100 meters, resembled a tortoise. Its speed was about 50 km/hr and it glowed with red and yellow lights. When it reached the ridges 10 km away, it suddenly took on a round form and disappeared.”

The next day, Jan. 15, 1982 [note: Venus was now too close to the sun after sunset to be visible] “as if to

Author Haluk Egemen Sarikaya, director of the Science Research Center in Istanbul reports a short but intense UFO flap in Turkey from December 15, 1981, through January 20, 1982. Sarakaya formed a fully equipped team to investigate and study the phenomena on location.

Tom Jenkins

EXETER

Rte 101 2 miles from Exeter..had just passed through.

Mary LaMontagne...Noiseless... "big as a house"...bigger than a house..

Chief of Police in Hampton..major situation..front gate..huge thing overhead...3 men on duty..one fainted..other fell to floor and started crying..street lights went out..got on hot lone..sent up fighters to interce it...AF denied fighers or anything...chief of police..top reputation.. was then a scrutiny guard at front gate...

Lady in PTA..has seen same thing in Madbury..15 miles away..

Send Tom Jenkins a copy of the relevant REPORTER

Mary LaMONTagne: What made you think the thing was not an airplane?

Clear..back seat..^uLook at that plane...looks like it's coming down.. it"s going to hit the trees...^u"but it wasn't going fast enough"..

sort of gliding..wasn't even a half mile up the road..maybe only an eighth o of a mile..it was so big..that's when I got out of the car..car still slowing down...ran over to the left of the car..no traffic..ran down a nearby driveway.."It was so close that if I'd had a rock I could have hit it" Came and hovered right over the trees..if I'd had a rock I could ha hit it" Right above the trees...and it stopped, and it was huge."

Close as the house across the street, except it was above.

^uVery, very quiet..I didn't hear a thing..only thing I heard was the rustling of the leaves in the trees.^u

dark panels underneath...lights were along the statinary lights..didn't blink or rotate..just were on. Ray of light went right into the woods..^{Ray}light went behind the trees...land falls off there..like a cliff..descending trees line..

Did not illuminate upper parts of trees. A drop off...light prob sank behid first set of trees. Much larger than full moon..

^uAs long as a large cargo plane...but thicker.."hundreds of moons could have gone across its diameter"..."To me it was larger than a house..

Mary

I really feel that I could have i hit it.. I have a pretty good arm"

Dime from eye experiment...dime at 3 inches!!!

Hand experiment: thumb to index finger..

Or an Oldsmobile Cutlass at very close range....a sizeable object!

"I'm pretty good at sports...almost the length of a football field..

Her first impression. And very quiet!

Going straight down..not away..straight down into the woods..or they turned the lights out. Couldn't see anything beynd the trees that were close to me.

Farmhouse driveway. Object to left of highway..not above them but above the top of the trees. I " I didn't have to ~~isakxstkaightkxmpx~~ put my head straight up min the air, but I had to bend my neck up to look over those trees to see it. I couldn't see the whole bottonm of it..

I could see the bottom of it that was toward me"

Feelings: Stopped for 10 seconds...then came down..3-4 sec to come down..

Re=enactment: Timing: 40 seconds all told.

"I must have asked her at least 4 times to stop the car..I don't know why but I ^{just felt} wanted to go there. Ordinarily I'm ~~A~~ chicken...if it had been an accident or a plane crash I would have wanted to get out of there."

But I just didn't feel that way."

Was object aware of you...."Yes, during the 10 seconds when it stopped. I "felt kinda special..I would have gone along..I was excited but I was calm..wasn't nervous at all. " Driver still in the car..went ahead to turn car around. Light came on in the farmhouse..we were trespassing.. thought it was a public road. Deerfield, N.H. fair...

"After all this happened nobody said much..but we went down to Studio ^{Four} and had a drink.. "Do you believe what we saw. We didn't mention anything to anybody. "I just knew I had seen something I had never seen before" ^v We sort of just sat there...We ^{was} ~~got~~ excited but it wasn't

Mary

but it wasn't an "excited excited,,do you know what I mean?"

Mary LaM will read Fuller's book and let me know about similarities.

What effects? "Let me tell you..I work for phone Co. I quit smoking..

I enjoyed smoking..I knew that there were things that had to be done".

One night..about 3 days after..I just bolted out of bed.and maybe a minute with the shakes but since then I had no desire

She's a manager for the New England Phone Co. Much stress..

now I don't feel stress at all. Never could relax..now I am not in a rush anymore. I see people around me being extremely nervous, but I don't feel tht way anymore.

Nicky works in Lawrence Mass. (Mary Ann Poland)

Ten years from now::: what one thing: 'You know what I feel most of all...

is special. Religious experience? No, not like that..just a private feeling. Peaceful and serene.. "A feeling of 'we need people to get people prepared..' The good will survice, and the bad will not.

An implied message. " I've changed my life considerably." Reorganized.

Now Rose Messina: was cooking.. In passenger seat: Has a Mercedes

(but Mary L. said she had a Cutlass!..

Driving in a Mercedes

I heard her say Mary Ann has the Mercedes..Mary L has the Cutlass@!

I was falling asleep and I heard her say,

I heard her say, "Look at that plane..that a plane? Touched my arm..

Rose is that a plane? So I sat up and looked..slightly to the left.

Feez Mary Ann, that's not a plane! She said, No, that's not a plane. So I said..Stop the car!". But she kept driving and said, but what is it?

lights were spinning..There's no way its a plane. So we all started shouting stop the car.. "If you're not going to stop the car, we're going to jump out!

So mwe opened the door..she stopped...Mary and I started chasing it..

it stopped. Standing perfectly still but there was no noise"

It was humongus big" How long did it stay actually still? I would say maybe 8-10 seconds. No tilting. It was stationary. Then it appeared to go down.

2 1/2
prob. a
day

Mary

Rose

EXETER.....4

10 years from now: Vivid in memory? The thing that impressed me the most was that I ran toward it.

The fact that I wasn't afraid..that I wanted to get out of the car and see what it was. If I could have followed that thing into the woods..if I hadn't been stopped by trees..I would have gone..

Ordinarily I'm afraid...I'm petrified of the dark"

Afraid of my own shadow...but it was so massive..something I've never seen before..I was just so curious...

No sounds at all. We talked about this afterward..."something so huge but no noise...no whistling, no humming..

She only stopped because we opened the doors. I was going to get out either way! Old Exeter Rd.

What impressed you most about the object? "The vastness of it..then this ray of light..size of a wall...oval...like a beam of sunlight when it shows through clouds... ray was sharply outlined...white color..

Apparent size..finger exercise...will call her later,.

Mary Ann Poland.. "Well, it was exciting..I'll tell you that!"

Ten years from now: Since I was driving, the thing that will stand out in my memory...the thing was so low..and so close that I thought it was going to crash..and yet it made no noise...and so big..."

How big? Hand out...fingers spread..thumb etc."Thumb to middle finger.."

"As I view it...I've seen many jumbo jets...747's..and I'll tell you, it was larger than that! At what distance? It had to be pretty close..it had come over the tree tops..and from the road to the tree tops is not that far...????

No noise. Swirling red lights on the side. Of the two drawings in the paper, which would look most like yours? Mine was strictly oval with this line of flashing lights along the side..(equator) No attachment at bottom.

How bright were the lights?

"They were very bright.. could have taken a picture of them. As a matter of fact Rose is an am photog..upset because she didn't have her camera along...

I was driving..heading toward a local bar..clear, crisp night..nothing on the road, and I saw what appeared to me to be a very low flying airplane. and I watched it as I'm driving, and it was coming toward me and all of a sudden (did it have one light) looked like one light coming toward me, so I thought nit was a plane...Rose was dozing..reached over and touched her and said, "Rose, that plane is flying very low..you're supposed to be the copilot..so wake up!"

She didn't say anything for a minute and I said, "Hey wait a minute, that's no plane. and it came toward us, and with that...now I got the attention of the two in the back, they're looking at it, and they say, "That's no plane, stop the car. Well, I'm still looking at it and applying the brakes and in the meanwhile these two nuts, as I call them, started hopping out of the car before I even stopped it, ..It was right there, on top of the car practically. It wasn't doing anything..it was just like stationary.

To me it was stationary. ..and I looked at all my instruments I figured they were going to go nuts or something..nothing happened. They started running. Now this thing seemed to go again, I started to go up the road a bit to turn around.. by the time we got back it was gone.

We went down the road to studio 2 and had a b drink..we sat there for awhile not saying much, and then said, Do you believe it? We were astounded..didn't sleep much that night. Reactions? Amazing...

Wow Amazement. We just couldn't believe whatwe had seen!" And each of us were apprehensive about talking to anybody. I told some people at work..but try to find someone to report it tom Called Wash. D.C.

Poland

Finally leaked out through one of the mothers.

It didn't come exactly head on..so we could see the shape of it as it went by..

If it had come onto us head on I doubt we would have seen any shape..those lights were bright!

Big ray of light...a steady ray of light..not moving around.

What single thing argues against a plane? I put my window down..to get ~~xxxxxxx~~...to listen to this thing..because I never saw anything hover like that..if it had been a helicopter we would have heard the chopping...it was that low that we would have heard the whirling of the blades. I expected that thing to crash..it was that low!

How did it disappear..went off to the left.

Reactions? Affect you? Not really, but it has affected Mary..but I seem to have mor energy..

If it had landed, I wsn't one to go aboard...not like the others..

"And she acted kinda special..."

Do you talk about it..." When we're together. This Thanksgiving, we had thepaper, and we ntalked about it. "

Did you get any ridicule?

Open house..people asked..."OK.K, O.K. Yeah I hear you, and all that!"

"I said, look, it happened. I wouldn't be telling you it happened if it hadn't happened, because there's no sense to that. It was amazing.. that's what it is".

I never believed in UFOs...

Duration? No more than 5 minutes..perhaps not thatl long.

Anything to add..."It was a very exciting evening" I doubt I'll ever see one again.

I called Pease Air Force Base wanting to know if they were doing something special. They wouldn't even talk to me.."

"I'm in earnest. This is what we all saw. What are doing up nthere?"

Couldn't get anyone to talk to me.

u They couldn't have anything ~~that~~ that noiseless..I've never seen anything around here ~~that~~ that shape even...

Magic way: very old collander I purchased several months ago...

Was it solid? Oh yeah,..it was a solid thing all right. When it came over those trees I could tel it was a solid object all right. Couldn't tell what kind of metal..

I couldn't get over the swirling red lights..they were just whizzing around. How fast..Swirling awfully fast..

No windows or portholes? WOULD APPRECIATE A SKETCH..WILL SEND.

Talked with Mother now of Mary LaMontagne.

"I believe these girls..they're not teen agers, not the type of girls who get hystericaloversomething...

All part of management in the tel co..and all work in different places.

Sightings in that area seem to favor apple orchards..."It was like it was dragging her in." Stopped smoking..no withdrawal or nothing.

Now Rose again: As to size, it reminded her of an ice-skating rink.

I thought it was going to hit those trees. It wasn't very high.

Fairly big. Thumb and fingers...up to index finger..

Magic way: An egg. !

Duration? $\frac{1}{2}$ min. total...3 minutes.

Nicky:...next morning: What to nyou is the significance of the whole experience? Plane at first..

"Gee, thatplane looks like there's something wrong with it!" Mary and Rose were the ones who jumped out of the car.

What are chances it was a balloon?

Ten years: The brightness and size of it. Nicky says Mary LaM was on left side of car.

Coming from Epping..had passed through Exeter.

Object always to the left.

EXETER.. 8

Seating.. Poland driving..Messina in pass seat.

Peter Jeremiah..Madbury, N.H. MUFON...case...abt 10 miles..
said much like Exeter sighting.

Police chief Robert Mark in Hampton.

Was chief security guard..

Front gate power out..lights out..fainted.. talked about getting out
of the service. 2 jets were scrambled...heard over intercom.

Unidentified woman (Nov. 17 th...next door to the house where the
4 women . for 10 minutes sighting not reported to police.

Checked into balloon situation...none in use.

A New Incident at Exeter
(and a startling development about the
revelation
Original Incident)

Magie By
Collander

Two Years
Bristles + size of it
" what I saw looked +
it was so big, and so close, + no noise

Reaction - Amaze

John Halberstam?

The Hampton encounter

by Tom Jenkins

HAMPTON - It is approximately 10:15 p.m. on the night of Thursday, September 30, 1982. Four local women are driving west on Exeter Road. A short distance past Hampton Machine Company, the driver of the car, Mary Ann Poland, 44, of Allison Drive in Seabrook, notices what she takes to be an airplane coming in low over the trees. "That airplane is flying very low," she remarks casually to her fellow companions.

The other three women do not at first pay too much attention to Poland's remark until, that is, Poland shouts, "That's not an airplane! Look at it!"

The four women then stare in amazement at the strange craft gliding in the sky above them at treetop level. The huge craft (later described as "big as a house") could be clearly seen in the night sky, moving slowly away from them toward a house on the southerly side of the road. Its oval shape is easily discernable, as the entire craft is ringed with flashing red and white lights. "Stop the car!" Mary LaMontagne, 29, of P Street, Hampton Beach, yells from her limited vantage point in the back seat.

Poland begins to apply the brakes, but before she can come to a full stop, LaMontagne and Rose Messina, 25, also of P Street, hop out of the car, seemingly oblivious to the dangers of jumping from a moving vehicle. Poland and Nicky LeClair, 53, of Park Avenue in Hampton, watch in disbelief as their two friends vanish into the darkness up a nearby driveway.

LaMontagne and Messina, feeling totally without fear or apprehension, dash the length of the driveway as the strange craft slowly glides away from them. They reach the edge of a patch of woods and then stare in awe as the inexplicable object of their attentions comes to a stop almost directly above them. Both women stand completely still, enthralled with the massive craft, its flashing lights, and a larger ray of light which beams down "like a path to the sky" (as later described by LaMontagne).

For a few brief seconds, LaMontagne and Messina watch the object, which hovers soundlessly so close above them, the only noise being the soft rustle of leaves in the wind. Then the craft begins to move again, sliding silently away from them to the protective cover of the woods. In an instant it is gone, and the two awe-struck women suddenly realize that a porch light has been snapped on at the nearby house. They turn and run back to their anxious companions in the car.

Later, after discussing what they had seen, they came to the only obvious conclusion: they had experienced an extremely close encounter with an Unidentified Flying Object.

The above story, reconstructed from information supplied by the four women during a recent interview, does not end there. LaMontagne, who is an employee of New England Telephone (as are the three others), has been especially affected by the encounter, and claims she has received telepathic messages from the craft and/or its occupants. "They want me to be healthy," she told this newspaper, explaining that she has recently quit smoking after indulging in 2 1/2 packs a day for the past 14 years. LaMontagne claims she has had no desire to smoke, and her three friends are all equally amazed at her uncanny ability to quit cold turkey, adding credence to the possibility of outside influence.

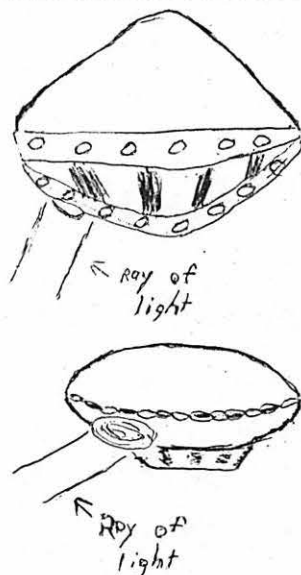
When asked why she felt she needed to be healthy, LaMontagne explained, "I felt because they stopped, they wanted me to do something. I sensed that it was okay and that they are not here to hurt us... I just know there is more but I don't know when."

All four women informed this newspaper that what they saw was definitely a UFO. "I saw a huge oval object which was very bright. The fact that it made no noise astounded me," Messina said. The other three women also described the object in very similar terms. Neither LaMontagne or Messina, however, could explain why they felt compelled to chase the object and risk their safety by jumping from a moving vehicle.

Poland, Messina, LaMontagne, and LeClair stand behind their amazing story, despite the fact that they have all been subject to ridicule since revealing their encounter. All feel that what they saw was not of this earth. "It was definitely a ship from somewhere else," LaMontagne said.



The four who encountered the UFO on Exeter Road in Hampton on September 30, 1982. From left: Nicky LeClair, Mary Ann Poland, Rose Messina, and Mary LaMontagne. (Tom Jenkins Photo)



Two sketches of the UFO as seen on Exeter Road. The top sketch was drawn by Mary LaMontagne; the bottom sketch by Rose Messina. The Atlantic News had asked each of the four women to draw what they saw without looking at each other's work during the sketching session. All four were extremely similar.

Atlantic News editor speaks at HAJH

by Steve Haberman

HAMPTON - Atlantic News and Advertiser Editor Tom Jenkins was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of students and faculty at Hampton Academy Junior High School.

The occasion was a gathering of those students and teachers interested in the formation and production of a school news magazine.

According to teacher Mr. Nick Hardy, about 30 "very bright and highly motivated children" will take part in the program which will also utilize the skills of approximately 10 teachers and a UNH intern assigned to the school.

According to Mr. Hardy, this is the first year this is being attempted and the project will be town funded. All work will be done by the students with the teachers ac-

ing in a supportive role only. The ideas and articles will all be done by the students.

Debbie Gowan, the UNH intern involved, was very excited about the project. She felt that the students involved were very bright and that this would be a good opportunity for them.

Mr. Jenkins discussed the roles of the various people involved in the production of the paper and the different skills needed by each of them. He also discussed newspaper layout techniques and the need for accuracy and honesty in reporting the news.

After the presentation the students and faculty asked questions. Mr. Jenkins offered the services of the paper's staff with any problems the students may encounter.

Related Photos Inside

Madbury, N.H. - close to Exeter is miles. Couple of miles ago

Thinking of Vinyl Siding?

Call **SHORT'S**
Home Improvement
772-6355

(See Ad on Page 5)

Firewood & Coal

Firewood
Truck or
Trunk Load
Any Quantity

Special
Coal 100 lb. Bags
\$8.00 per bag

Kindling \$2.75 per bag

Buy Now & Save!!!!



Railroad Ties Inc.

Rte. 1
Hampton Falls,
N.H. 926-7011