

Editor,

Did anyone else see what I saw on the night of October 17, 1996, at my farm between Battle Creek and Union City, Michigan?

The phenomena occurred this way. A beautiful lightning display was taking place around my farm during this evening in mid October. I have always enjoyed such sights so I turned out the lights after 9 P.M. and sat in the living room to watch Mother Nature do her thing. For about fifteen minutes of an awesome display of rain, thunder, and lightning took place. Suddenly, I was stunned to see a red ray of light come out of the clouds toward the ground. It hit the ground in the corn field across the road and in an instant a huge explosion and fire lighted the sky. The landscape was illuminated by frequent lightning which allowed me to estimate that the ground impact location was about a quarter of a mile west of my farm on the Union City road.

At first I thought that an airplane had crashed as I rushed to the window to get a better view. Within seconds the huge light was gone and several lights appeared in the field at the collision site. They were coming across the corn field toward my house! Maybe an airplane was about to crash in the corn field, but no crash occurred. Then I thought that it was my neighbor John on his combine in the field. But what would John be doing out in his field in such weather? The lights continued to move diagonally across the field towards John's livestock barn. Then they turned directly at me and my home.

I was alone and really scared by this time. The house was partially illuminated by the lightning. I rushed to the kitchen to see if "it" would continue its path maybe over my house. "It" did not go over but instead continued the easterly course on my lane, under the trees and wires, to the barnyard. It was moving slowly as it lighted the area with a big light on the front and a row of lights on the south side facing me. Now I could judge its size as it was only about thirty feet from me. It appeared to be twelve feet long and about eight feet wide, but even more frightening it was absolutely noiseless. The course passed the flag pole on my yard light which was about eight feet off the ground. "It" continued its eastward path over my corn and disappeared displaying no lights on the rear.

All of this occurred in what I would judge was to be about five minutes. It left me stunned, speechless, and frightened as no other experience had in my life. I have seen lightning fire balls in such storms, but this is without explanation!! Did anyone see this?

G. Hummel
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Richard L. Weaver
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February 13, 1997

COURT

Michael Swords, PhD.
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Dear Professor Swords,

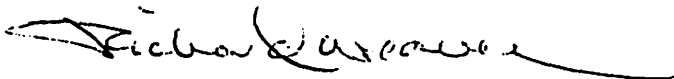
Recently I had the opportunity to view a T.V. program on U.F.O.'s. When I saw your name I felt that you may have interest in a local observation by a very good friend. I will enclose the sighting the way Mr. Hummel related it to me. I wrote it up for him and encouraged him to contact the editor of the local paper. My hope was that someone else may have witnessed the sighting and were, also, afraid to speak out. To date it is my understanding that the article has not appeared in the paper.

I feel that if you know Mr. Hummel as we do you will understand that he is a good witness. He does not drink, is not a publicity seeker, and is fearless in the face of adversity. This sighting frightened him so much that he did not have the courage to tape the details for over two months. His address is: Gilbert Hummel, Rt.1, Burlington, MI 49029, phone 517 741 7230.

Box 130

It is my hope that you may be able to help our friend.

Thank you very much,



cc: G. Hummel