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Salem, IN

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Richmond, Indiana
November 9, 1966

My experience with a UFO occurred 10 years ago, on September 15, 1956.

On this day I was scheduled to address the Woman's Press Club of Indiana as its after-luncheon speaker in the French Lick-Sheraton Hotel at French Lick, Indiana. (I am a Doubleday author and frequently serve as a speaker for church, civic, and women's groups, conventions and service clubs.)

Because of the distance from Richmond to French Lick, my husband and I left early in the morning. It was a very unpleasant morning, extremely dark, with pounding rain and beating winds. At daylight we were in southern Indiana, and it was there that we saw the UFO.

At the time, we were approaching Salem, Indiana. I do not know the exact time, but it was between 6 and 7 a.m. closer, I think, to 6 a.m. The rain was now only a misty drizzle, but the morning was wet and gray.

We came up an incline to a sort of hilltop (I do not know the exact location) which looked out over a flat area of fields and fences as I recall. My husband was driving, intent upon the wet road. I looked out to the left and saw, hovering over the flat area, a flying saucer!

At first I was too surprised and startled to speak at all.

. Instant Vanishment.

I stared, unable to believe my eyes, thinking I must be mistakenbut no, there it was! So I stammered to my husband, "Look out there quick! Do you see....what I think I see?"

He took one look and brought the car to a stop. We sat there on the hilltop (or rise) and stared. I said, amazed, "Why it's a Flying Saucer! It is....isn't it?" My husband, who is very conservative, answered, "Well, it certainly appears to be something like that!"

My first impression was that it looked something like a gunmetal yo-yo. It appeared to be made of two sections of dark gunmetal with an aperture between them. From this aperture, as if from windows, port-holes, or similar openings, came wisps of white smoke or vapor which seemed carried slightly to one side by the wind. The UFO was hovering, as I have described, but constantly undulating as it hovered. (Please see amateurish drawing, attached.)

At this moment, we became aware of another car coming up behind us and my husband, hoping for another witness, leaped out and tried to flag it down. The driver, a man, gave him a scared look and sped on. Two or three other cars came from behind us (perhaps people going to work) and my husband tried to stop them, with the same result. We both shouted and pointed toward the UFO, but the passengers sped on without looking at it. We were disappointed, but not surprised. Nobody wants to be stopped on a lonely road in the rain at the dawn's early light by a couple of excited and gesticulating strangers! (The road was lonely only at this hour, however. It is a well-traveled highway.)

At least 5 minutes passed while we watched the UFO, perhaps

10 minutes. Then, all of a sudden, it turned on one edge, like a plate on a wall, and VANISHED!

I say "vanished" because never, in all my life, have I seen anything move so fast. My husband and I have mentioned this many times, and agree that the speed with which this object disappeared into the distance was indescribable, inconceivable, if not actually impossible!

It reminded me a little, but only a little, of the movie cartoon which shows one person chasing another up a road. Suddenly ...whsst!....both are out of sight. But even this, which seems funny to audiences because it is such an exaggeration, would seem slow by comparison with our UFO.

As it vanished, it held the position I have mentioned, turned on one edge like a plate on a wall, or on a sideboard. We could no longer see the aperture, or the smoke (?) wisps.

More than once we have tried to estimate the size of the UFO and its distance from us. This is hard to do, since events moved so rapidly, and we can only agree that it was "quite close" to us and that it was "very, VERY large." I have read many journalistic jibes about "little green men flying around in little saucer-machines" but had no such impression of this "saucer machine."

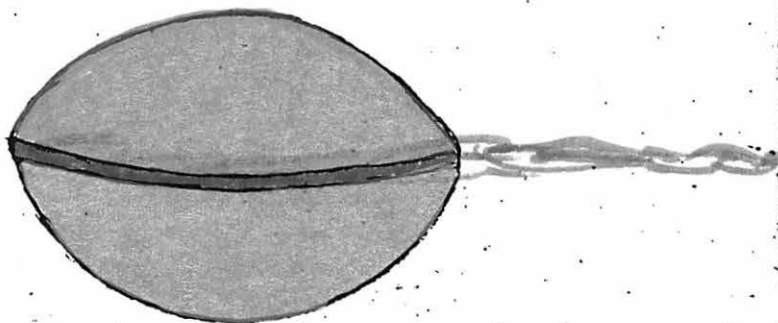
Most accounts say the witnesses were "terrified"...."transfixed with horror"....."speechless with fear"....and so on. (More journalistic Esperanto, perhaps.) It does seem natural to feel frightened by such an "abnormal" sight, but my husband and I felt no fear whatever, nor any apprehension whatever. We didn't see any

"little green men" or expect to see any, though of course we assumed that the craft was being piloted "by somebody." I think we both felt that it was probably some sort of military craft being tested by the United States Air Force, and publicly unannounced as yet.

About its size....we agree that it was "about the size of the court house" which, in Richmond, is a mighty big court house!

When we reached French Lick I related this experience to Hortense Myers, Indianapolis INS editor, and assistant chairman of the Press Women's convention. She told me they had been asked not to publish such reports, and advised me to say nothing about it. (To tell you the truth, I don't think she believed me.)

It has been more than 10 years since then, of course, and we have read many reports about UFO experiences during this time, but have had no more such experiences ourselves. Nor have we read any accounts which described the "gunmetal color" we saw, or the wisps of smoke (?) or vapor (?) emitted from the center opening. And because there is a very serious interest in investigating UFO accounts at this time, I decided to send you mine.



Craft a dark gunmetal, very large in size.

Center aperture a darker color, as if recessed, almost black.

Wisps of something like vapor or smoke emitted from center aperture as if through portholes, windows, or similar openings. Trailing to one side in the wind.

Place: Near Salem, Indiana, September 15, 1956, soon after daylight.

