

UFO Over Midland Park? Residents, Police Disagree

MIDLAND PARK — About 100 borough residents are now convinced of the existence of unidentified flying objects because they contend they saw one Sunday night.

Lt. Russell J. Litchult, of the Waldwick Police Department, also saw the large red ball, but he believes it was only a flare.

However, borough residents, who were joined in their sighting by residents of Ridgewood and Waldwick, might wonder if they saw a renegade UFO which had lost its friends, a group of six or eight objects sighted in the Washington D. C. area at the same time.

It was reported Monday that flying saucer reports flooded police switchboards in the Maryland-Virginia suburbs of Washington Sunday night, and police themselves joined in the sightings.

The UFO reportedly sighted in the sky above this area was described as a large red ball with a brilliant color such as is on a magnesium road flare. Several times a brilliant white light was emitted

from the side. The object disappeared within 10 to 15 minutes.

Lt. Litchult bases his deduction that it was a flare on the observations that the object wasn't high enough to be a real UFO and that it disappeared in the length of time it would take a flare to burn out. Litchult said the object wasn't stationary but rose into the sky. He said such a flare would look like a ball, maybe even a balloon.

Borough police received about 40 calls around 9:30 p.m. which placed the UFO in the eastern part of the sky. Ptl. Richard Mower watched the object but could not identify it as anything earthly.

Both Waldwick and Ridgewood police reported only one call each. The Ridgewood observer said the object was over Midland Park while the one in Waldwick thought it was in the sky over their borough.

Area residents who saw the UFO will probably agree with a Washington area policeman who said, "Don't try and tell me it was swamp gas I saw last night."

Red Flying Object Goes Poof In Sky

By MIKE ROMEO
(Staff Writer)

A number of residents really saw red last night, and it wasn't politics, an obnoxious neighbor, or visiting in-laws. It was an unidentified flying object they claimed.

For almost 20 minutes The Thing hovered in the sky over Westwood, Washington Township, Oradell, and Haworth. All who saw it were unanimous as to the color—it was red. From there, the description varied. One observer said it looked like a large golf ball. Another, possibly a skeet-shooter, likened it to a clay pigeon, while still another said it looked like a tennis ball.

Several other descriptions ran the gamut of adjectives—large, small, round, square, and some one thought it resembled a baby blimp.

Almost every one agreed that it first appeared about 10 P. M. and suddenly disappeared in a flash of white light as it moved in the direction of Hackensack. Its dramatic demise was accompanied by an explosion, said some; a popping sound said others; and no sound at all according to those who didn't hear it.

Residents who called The Record to report the phenomena included an optometrist, a doctor, a couple of policemen, many just plain laymen, and some teen-agers.

Haworth Patrolman Louis Herouart who was patrolling on Lake Shore Drive, reported that he watched the red object for 8 minutes. It was twice the size of an airplane's running lights and could have been from 1 to 3 miles from where he stood, he said. He then turned his spotlight on the object and a few seconds later, it disappeared in a white flash.

Herouart recalled that several nights ago, a couple reported that something had hovered over their car near the Oradell Reservoir and vanished after first throwing a beam of white light on their vehicle.

On August 12, shortly after 11 P. M., several Maywood and New Milford residents called The Record to report that they were watching a U. F. O. slowly crossing the night sky within eyeshot of where they were sitting. Its actions were similar to last night's object except for the color—it was a bright green.

Spot Diagnosis Tried On U. F. O.

Computers at McGuire Air Force Base are trying to determine what it was that residents of West Bergen and Passaic areas have seen these last two nights.

At the Base's Unidentified Flying Object reporting center officials have been taking descriptions from callers who report having seen red and white objects in the skies.

Officials at the base said that the normal procedure is to forward the information available to the Space Tracking System at Morristown for a check on satellites and space debris which might be visible in the (Continued on A-12, Column 2)

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THE RECORD, WEDNESDAY

Airbase Experts Trying To Identify New U. F. O.

(Continued from Page A-1) named area. This information is then collated and sent on to higher officials in the Air Force and in Washington, D. C.

Dozens of calls lit the switchboards of the Base, The Record, and the police of towns in the area where a bright red object hovered noiselessly before disappearing. Over Paterson a white object described by one observer as nine times larger than a star appeared.

REPORTS CONFLICT

Conflicting reports on the shape of the object have been given to officials who are as puzzled as residents.

One man who saw the red flaring object over Midland Park, and Ridgewood Sunday reported it again between 3 and 5 A. M. today. G. E. Townsend who watched the object through

binoculars said he was sitting on his front porch at 63 Oak Hill Road, Midland Park when he saw the object moving slowly from the east over his house toward the Waldwick area where it hovered.

"It was too slow to be a helicopter. There were lots of planes in the area but this object — more like a big pinkish ball — was not making a noise."

Townsend added that it looked as if there was a small parachute slightly above it — resembling a balloon.

FLARE POSSIBLE

Richard Keating, 17, of 734 Belmont Road, Ridgewood, was among those who watched the object through binoculars and thinks it was a flare "I could see the smoke and sparks coming out," he said.

The youth could not see if there was a balloon or other de-

vice holding the flare aloft because it was too dark.

Other observers said that at one point it was silhouetted against a full moon and appeared to be rectangular in shape and vertical in the face of the Moon.

Waldwick patrolman Jay Stafford also reported seeing the object. He described it as a bright red, round ball that seemed motionless in the sky for 5 to 10 minutes and then disappeared.

"One minute it was there and the next it was gone," Stafford said. He said it was difficult to determine how large the object was or how high. He was also skeptical of any extra terrestrial origin.

"No one got out and said 'Hello,'" he said.

Bergen Retains

IT'S FRIENDLY, A. F. SAYS OF LIGHT IN SKY

Flying Saucer Sighters Told Red Flicker Is From Echo 1

That large round ball of flickering red light seen hovering over Bergen and Passaic Counties last week and again last night is probably Echo 1.

An official at the Unidentified Flying Object Reporting Center at McGuire Air Force Base said today that descriptions of the U. F. O. fit that of the satellite.

He described the satellite as being 200 feet in diameter and often appearing reddish in color depending on how light strikes it and on the path it travels. Echo 1 was launched in August 1960, and was expected to have a life of 7 years.

The satellite has a tendency to hover over an area, move erratically with air currents, and suddenly disappear, he said.

Dozens of people spotted an object of this description late last night over Bergen and Passaic Counties.

The first report came into the Paterson police, locating the object over the Haledon Reservoir. Four policemen went to the scene and saw a red flickering object hover for about 15 minutes before disappearing.

According to the official, the satellite stays in an area for about a week or 10 days. The last sighting of Echo 1 in the New Jersey area was about 10 months ago.

Of the 1,000 man-made satellites circling the Earth, only about four or five are visible to the naked eye, he said. Of these, Echo 1 is the most prominent.

The object was also reported last night over North Haledon, Hawthorne, Wayne, Ringwood, Waldwick, Paramus, and Franklin Lakes.

UFO's--They Really Do Exist?

By VIRGINIA JOWETT

For the past two weeks this area has been deluged with reports of unidentified flying objects, more commonly known as UFOs. There is a growing group of people who believe that such objects are really flying saucers or explorations from outer space. One young man who not only believes this but is attempting to prove his theory is twenty-three-year-old John Valley of 15 W. Maple St., Allendale.

Intrigued by the recent sightings in this area, Valley said he hopes to help prove "that these are not hostile." He feels these saucers "are from another planet that perhaps we don't even know exists" and that they are attempting the same type of space explorations as the U. S. and Russia.

A large red ball glowing like a magnesium road flare and emitting rays of white light hovered

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UFO

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over Midland Park and Waldwick for 10 to 15 minutes on Sunday night, July 31. A similar object was sighted above the Allendale ball park at 9:55 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1. On Wednesday, Aug. 3, Hackensack residents reported seeing a bright, white object flying in an erratic manner near the Bergen County government building about 10 p.m.

Many Towns Report

Wyckoff police reported 27 phone calls from residents of the Sicomac section starting 10:30 p.m. last Sunday when residents joined with people in Little Falls, West Paterson, North Haledon, Hawthorne, Wayne, Ringwood, Paramus and Wyckoff in the sighting of a bright red ball. Wyckoff Ptl. Terry Corbin, who looked at the object through binoculars, said it was the size of a star. It reportedly erupted after 10-15 minutes emitting white lights.

These area reports are in addition to the recent sightings of colored lights around Washington, D. C. and a claw-shaped footprint found in a sandy area near Erie, Pa.

While everyone agrees that such objects have been visible, and therefore must exist, conjecture is widespread as to their identification.

Waldwick Lt. Russell J. Litchult believes that he saw a large flare. Other members of his department mentioned the possibility of a balloon.

Both officials from the Hayden Planetarium in Manhattan and the Unidentified Flying Object Reporting Center at McGuire Air Force Base said the descriptions of these UFOs fit that of the satellite Echo I which was passing overhead at the time.

According to a McGuire official, the satellite has a tendency to

hover over an area, move erratically with air currents, and suddenly disappear.

'Sky Trace' Organized

Valley is starting his own organization, "Operation Sky Trace," which will investigate UFO sightings. He is operating authorization of the Saucer and Unexplained Celestial Events Research Society (S.A.U.C.E.R.S.) which publishes a nationwide magazine, "Saucer News." Valley has submitted pictures of several sightings to the magazine.

Operation Sky Trace will watch the skies of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania with members taking pictures and interviewing people in the area of saucer sightings.

Valley hopes that all saucer enthusiasts and people who just want answers to unexplained events will contact him and help him establish 24-hour sky watches over this area. He also plans to hold open talks with saucer experts as guest lecturers and eventually to print a small magazine, "Sky Trace."

Having followed UFO reports since 1954, Valley said he became interested in flying saucers during the Wanaque Reservoir sightings early this year. He also mentioned Allan Burke and Joe Pyne as people who have influenced his thinking on this.

His response to the two sightings in the Allendale area, which he attempted to record on photographs, was that the objects represented something very advanced and very powerful.

Interest Grows

Saucer enthusiasts are increasing every day. There are stories of people who have been taken to Venus; farmers who have talked to saucer crews and reports of men of all sizes and colors, who, having landed in saucers, are exploring the land. A book on saucers, "Flying Saucers, Serious Business,"

by Frank Edwards, has been on the New York Times best seller list for several weeks.

Valley summed up both the spoken and unspoken feeling of millions of people who are disturbed by these numerous UFO reports.

He said, "These sightings have been going on for 20 years. As advanced as we are, I think we should know more than we do at this time. But I also realize that everything is not told, pictures are not printed and things are kept quiet for security reasons."