

MINNESOTA MUFON

Newsletter

Issue # 39 January/February 1993

From the State Director

At the December meeting I agreed to accept an appointment as State Director. I am flattered and a bit humbled by the confidence shown in me by Bill McNeff and others. My experience as a Field Investigator is surely inadequate. But as a science teacher, I seem to have a built in disposition to share everything I can find out about UFOs, as do many of you. Your positive reactions to the videos I've shown have been gratifying.

In my opinion, Bill McNeff's temperament and understanding of so many facets of the UFO mystery made him virtually the *perfect* State Director. Happily, he expressed the wish to stay on as Assistant State Director and I have appointed him to that position. His expertise, especially in filing reports with MUFON, will be much used. We hope that Bill can make it from Yankton, SD to the Twin Cities for some of our meetings. It's a long drive.

My enrollment into UFOs 101 began in 1949 when I started keeping a scrapbook of newspaper clippings and buying whatever books were available, mainly those written by Donald Keyhoe. I joined APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization) and NICAP (National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena) in 1967 and missed being a charter member of CUFOS by only four months. While disagreements between CUFOS and MUFON might be expected (as was the case between APRO and NICAP), a companion subscription to the *INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER* is essential to me. After the demise of NICAP in the early '80s, I joined MUFON in 1983.

Minnesota MUFON held its first meeting on March 15, 1987 with five of us in attendance. The latest membership roster shows that about fifty in Minnesota belong to MUFON International, and we send out about 120 bimonthly state newsletters. Our numbers have grown mostly by word-of-mouth and we are mainly concentrated in the southeastern part of the state. *I am hoping that some of you will*

be available this summer to help conduct information meetings in other locations. We did try a meeting in St. Cloud once, but the timing was bad. Let's think in terms of weekends -- other than those of our regular meetings -- and using fewer people. We have found that the cooperation of a newspaper (if we can get it) is extremely valuable. When we planned our meeting in Elk River for the purpose of investigating the UFO situation in and around the town, the Elk River news was very cooperative, and the meeting room was filled with interested people, many of whom shared their experiences.

Similar meetings (in other towns) with an objective to introduce MUFON and build a network of Section Directors and Field Investigators would be in keeping with our mission. I hope you agree that this could be a future priority. Our membership increased tenfold in five years... With serious long-term commitment, we might be able to achieve a statewide membership of several hundred by the end of the decade. We should discuss this soon.

I need to make a few comments about the newsletter. Lynn Bell has done a great job and is to be complimented. We are, however, bordering on *insolvency... I urge you to renew your subscription prior to, or during the January meeting.* We send out a few complimentary subscriptions to other State Directors and research organizations. Some of these send us their own newsletters and we use information from them. The subscription rate remains at \$10 for six issues despite the fact that we talked of raising it to \$12. The \$12 figure would have allowed us to prorate each issue at \$2 for new members joining during the year. We can consider this later for 1994. Lynn and I agree that holding the size of the newsletter to six or eight pages will be necessary to contain costs. If you agree that certain travel expenses and phone calls should be reimbursed, then our organization could use increased funding. The most obvious way to

achieve this is simply for *everyone* to subscribe. And if you are financially able to do so, I cannot recommend membership in MUFON strongly enough. *It is the parent organization in Texas that made all this possible.*

Speakers for the January meeting have not yet been scheduled. If any of you know of potential speakers, please give me a call any evening, at (612) 732-3205. I also have a FAX at this same number. One of the great things about Minnesota MUFON is that many of our meetings almost run themselves! We rarely have enough time to get everything done. If you have any ideas of possible presentations or videos, share that information with me so I can set up an agenda.

Those of you who were present on December 12 will remember the presentations given by Arlene Ziesmer and Marion Senn. I can tell you that they had an encounter of some kind as they approached their home area late the following Sunday night. Weather permitting, they will be at the January 9 meeting and can tell you what happened. All I will say now is that it involved several objects and an odor in their car that caused big problems...

For those who viewed the Bob Dean tape a few months ago, you may remember his statement about astronaut Deke Slayton's comments on UFO sightings by other astronauts. I called him and he is having a copy made for us. I might have it for January but if not, surely for the February meeting. I also have another tape coming of an interview with Bob Dean and his wife.

In case of inclement weather either here in central Minnesota or in the Twin Cities which prevents my attending a meeting, I will attempt to get a substitute to carry on. If you are concerned about whether or not we're having a meeting, give me a call prior to 7:00 am on that Saturday.

Richard Moss
State Director

"Boom Towns", here and abroad!

About a year ago, Richard Lessner, Deputy Editor of the Editorial Pages of *The Arizona Republic*, published an article about the sonic booms registered in Southern California and the remote Kintyre peninsula of western England.

The U.S. Geological Survey's seismic sensors in Southern California have detected these booms across the Los Angeles Basin and the Mojave desert. It was estimated that the targets were traveling at speeds between Mach 3 and Mach 4 -- three to four times the speed of sound -- and were

following tracks headed north and east toward central Nevada.

Sometime earlier, *Jane's Defence Weekly* reported that the Royal Air Force air traffic controllers tracked a target leaving the NATO-RAF base at Machrihanish, Scotland, at an estimated speed of Mach 3. A witness reported unusually loud jet noises about that same time... And witnesses in California have also reported peculiar pulsing jet noise.

MINNESOTA MUFON Meetings

Saturday, January 9, 1993

The Irish Well

(Downstairs)

1975 University Ave. (at Prior) St. Paul

1:00 p.m. -- 5:30 p.m.

And

Saturday, February 13, 1993

The Irish Well

Upstairs, in the restaurant*

(Closed to the general public.)

1975 University Ave. (at Prior) St. Paul

1:00 p.m. -- 5:30 p.m.

**Note Change*

It's been rumored in aerospace circles since 1988 that the U.S. Air Force was working on a supersecret high-speed aircraft. The term "Aurora" appears to be associated with the "deep black" program, although it is not known if this pertains to a one-plane project or a series of advanced-technology research endeavors.

If the Aurora aircraft exists, it would help explain Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney's puzzling 1989 decision to retire the SR-71s (the Blackbirds), a key intelligence asset. *Jane's* points out that improvements at RAF Machrihanish, the base's rumored association with the F-117 Stealth fighter, and the radar and eyewitness evidence, all suggest that such an aircraft has been deployed. Lessner said that the tiny village (population 219) located on the tip of the Kintyre peninsula would be a perfect, remote location for such "goings on."

Other sightings and sonic booms suggest the Aurora is also operating out of the top secret test facilities at Groom Lake, Nevada. An earlier issue of Minnesota MUFON also reported these same pulsating booms in Georgia and Florida.

Where did the big boomers originate? Odds are, according to Lessner's article, that an aircraft capable of speeds in the Mach 6 to Mach 7 range was built by Lockheed's famous Skunk Works, the legendary advanced technologies lab that also produced in almost total secrecy the SR-71 and F-117, the star of Operation Desert Storm. Of course, Lockheed denies any knowledge of an Aurora aircraft, but financial analysts believe the company has indeed been working on a major black project.

"What is suggestive in all this is the pattern. What seems to be happening with Aurora is a repeat of how knowledge of both the SR-71 and F-117 Stealth fighter came to light -- tantalizing budget hints, nighttime sightings of mysterious lights, unusual sounding aircraft, strange radar tracks, sonic booms -- and official denials."

Our thanks to both Gordon Kellander for providing this article to Bill McNeff, and to Bill for sharing it with us. Incidentally, Bill says this information could explain the deep booms heard in California, but does not explain the *low-pitched sounds* heard in Elk River, Minnesota.



Newly formed Paranormal group to meet

We're happy to announce an overwhelming response to a suggestion made by Wally Moe to hold separate meetings to discuss the paranormal. We are aware that many (most?) UFO witnesses, either before or after UFO sightings or encounters with aliens, report seeing ghosts, having out of body experiences or other such paranormal experiences.

Wally, who is chairing the discussion, will show the correlation between paranormal, UFO and alien experiences. Don't miss this first meeting -- come and learn with us!

Paranormal Study Group

Saturday, January 23, 1993

Saturday, February 27, 1993

The Irish Well

(Downstairs)

1975 University Ave. (at Prior) St. Paul

1:00 p.m. -- 4:00 p.m.

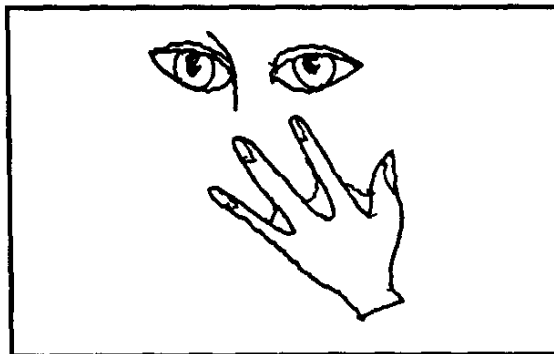
As reported in The UFO Enigma...

The November/December issue of the newsletter produced by the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis included a very interesting personal incident experienced by Forest Crawford, Assistant State Director for MUFON in Illinois.

Several years ago, when Crawford, with his wife and family, were having dinner at a local restaurant, they were seated next to an older gentleman and his wife, a baby of approximately 10 months of age, a lady who was probably the mother, and two young boys, maybe teen aged.

The baby appeared to have a birth defect, having only three fingers and an opposing thumb on its left hand. Mrs. Crawford suggested perhaps it was genetic because the mother also had the same defect of the left hand. Crawford said he could clearly see there were only three bones in the center of the mother's hand, and that the webbing between her fingers came up about twice as far as the webbing in a normal hand. When one of the boys arose from the table, Crawford noticed that he had a "Polynesian-looking" olive complexion, but most unusual *blue* eyes that were rounder than an Asian type one would have expected. The eyes seemed to have an upward tilt, and his head was considerably wider in proportion at the temples. This boy also had a three-fingered left hand. The second boy had such white skin that the veins showed noticeably, and had wispy white hair. Crawford first thought he might be an albino, but the boy's eyes were blue. *Both* of his hands had only three fingers with opposing thumbs.

The rest of the story... About a month after this incident, a co-worker of Crawford's happened to be home during the day and watched the Sally Jessy Raphael TV show. Featured were several children who looked like the wispy-haired boy in the restaurant. The mother was on the show along with a doctor who was discussing a strange congenital birth defect with only *six* reported cases in the United States at that time. The children were about 30 percent shorter than normal for their age, had white skin and hair, larger craniums, and one or both hands having only three fingers and an opposing thumb. Most children with congenital birth defects (according to the doctor) show a *decreased* IQ, but these children had an IQ measuring 30 to 40 percent higher than normal.



With thanks to Marge Myers, The UFO Enigma



Come in, Pleiades -- or *Somebody!*

The October 12 issue of NEWSWEEK featured an article, "ET, Phone Us," written by Sharon Begley. This is a humble, condensed offering from that fascinating article!

This past Columbus Day will be remembered as the day NASA flipped the switch and twirled the dial hoping to tune in on an alien broadcast. At 3 p.m. in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, the biggest radio telescope on Earth -- a 1000-foot-across aluminum bowl suspended over a chasm in the Puerto Rican jungle -- was activated. At the same moment, across the continent in the Mojave Desert, the Goldstone Tracking Station radio telescope was also turned on. Together, the dishes will search and listen for signs of advanced civilizations elsewhere in the Milky Way galaxy. Frank Drake of the University of California, Santa Cruz, fully expects to "witness [the detection of signals from an extraterrestrial] before the year 2000."

NASA will bypass FM and short-wave, but when dialed to microwave, they'll be able to pick up ... a cosmic silence! If the aliens are smart enough to launch signals into space, certainly they will choose a frequency to avoid the cosmic din produced by stars and other natural noisemakers.

As the telescopes pan across the entire heavens scanning 16 billion (once it's fully operational) radio channels in the quiet frequencies, "every second the computers will perform 100 billion operations to sort through the frequencies." They'll identify "any channel with an excess energy and throw out those from earthly sources," says SETI project manager Michael Klein of Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA.

Another search focuses on the nearest 1000 sunlike stars, within 80 lightyears of Earth. Fewer channels (2 billion) are scanned over fewer frequencies, but with much greater sensitivity.

It would sound (if amplified and run through a signal converter) like the pure tone of a tuning fork against a background hiss. And what might be an ET reach-out-and-touch-someone signal? One that is pulsing on and off, perhaps. "Pulses can be seen at levels 10 times weaker than continuous signals," says NASA's Ken Cullers, the country's only blind physics Ph.D. and the scientist who figured out how to detect intelligible whispers. "If I were an ET I'd definitely consider pulses," he went on. A fan-beam (like a lighthouse's) sweeping across the galaxy, would create some excitement also.

There is a growing belief that we are not alone in the universe. "The galaxy may be teaming with life and technology," says Harvard astronomer Paul Horowitz. And our galaxy is only one of 100 billion. If no one answers our calls, does that mean we *are* alone after all? Maybe. But we're betting the ET's are preparing that first conference call!

MESSAGES FROM ET?

Scientists have heard many inexplicable signals, coming from several constellations. But none has ever repeated:

Sagittarius (The Archer) Aug. 15, 1977
Ohio State's radio telescope recorded a signal so intriguing a researcher scribbled "Wow!" on the data sheet. It was never heard again.

Sagittarius (The Archer) Oct. 10, 1986
One of about 40 intriguing signals recorded by META (Megachannel ExtraTerrestrial Assay), based at a radio telescope in Harvard, Mass.

Virgo (The Virgin) Aug. 14, 1989
Another signal caught by META, which is tuned to hear only "magic frequencies" -- those ET might be expected to broadcast on.

Pisces (The Fish) Aug. 16, 1989
This signal, also recorded by META, was on a magic frequency. By the time the astronomer arrived to check it, it had vanished.

Cassiopeia (Cassiopeia) Nov. 15, 1989
This META signal looks man- or alien-made rather than from a star. It has not yet been traced to an earthly source.

Ophiuchus (Serpent Bearer) May 09, 1990
Recorded by the Parkes radio telescope in Australia and the signal Frank Drake finds is the most like what an ET might send.

SOURCE: FRANK DRAKE, PAUL HOROWITZ & CARL SAGAN, D.G. BLAIR

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MINNESOTA MUFON meets the second Saturday of each month, unless notified otherwise. Subscription rate for this Newsletter is \$10 per year. Correspondence and articles for inclusion in the Newsletter may be directed to Lynn Bell, 1834 No. Asbury St., Falcon Hts, MN, 55113.

Happy NewYear, MUFON friends!
May the Force be with us all!

MINNESOTA MUFON NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

MINNESOTA MUFON is an organization separate from, but related to, the international MUFON organization. There is no membership of MINNESOTA MUFON as such, but interested individuals may subscribe to the MINNESOTA MUFON Newsletter. To join MUFON (the international organization), costs \$25.00 per year and requires a separate form, available from MINNESOTA MUFON or:

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