

# PEOPLE WHO SEE UFOs

*Otto Binder*

**A leading science writer specializing in space and rocket technology, the author's two paperback books on the UFO phenomenon have reached a large audience in the United States ('What We Really Know About Flying Saucers' and 'Flying Saucers Are Watching Us').**

**M**ANY thousands of UFO sightings have been published and otherwise recorded for access to all researchers. I would like to add a small but heretofore unpublished group of sightings which I've received as "fan" mail as a consequence of my syndicated newspaper feature called OUR SPACE AGE.

This cartoon or picture-panel series started in October, 1960, as a daily feature (six per week) and at first dealt only with space-age technology, satellites, rockets, and NASA's launch schedule. In September, 1965, after taking a long second look at UFO reports and books, I decided to leap into the flying saucer controversy and switched almost entirely to UFO themes as time went on. In answer to requests for sightings from my reader audience, the letters began to pour in steadily. OUR SPACE AGE has variously been in some 132 newspapers in 35 states.

I have no accurate count of the total sightings received in the past three years, but I made an analysis in depth of 225 of those reports.

Four specific states are heavily represented—New Jersey (64), Pennsylvania (61), New York (35), and Ohio (16). Other miscellaneous states are included with 30 more unusual and interesting reports—North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Virginia, Washington, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Indiana. One lone report, dating back to 1942 and the war, is from the South Pacific.

The main body of statistics I've compiled deal with the years 1965 (44), 1966 (89) and 1967 (59). However, some 30 more hand-picked reports are included from prior years, from 1922 to 1964.

For what they are worth, the following statistical data\* are drawn from those 225 reports I selected, from which we shall try to extract some interesting conclusions and speculations.

The first table is limited to the years 1965 through 1967 only, in order to have a sufficient number of massed cases to make the figures meaningful.

**Table I—Sighting by Months (3 years)**

January .....	12	July.....	29
February .....	13	August .....	29
March.....	15	September .....	12
April.....	22	October.....	12
May.....	11	November.....	10
June.....	29	December.....	11

June, July and August each by coincidence has exactly the same number of reported sightings. I think this peaking in the summer months is typical of all summaries of sightings, since people are outdoors more and tend to look up in the sky oftener. It probably has no true correlation to the *actual* number of UFOs flying around. December may have as many UFOs in the air as July, but fewer of them are seen.

**Table II—Time of Sightings**

Day time .....	41
Dusk.....	41
Dawn .....	3
Night .....	121
Not stated.....	19

This again corroborates or follows the pattern reported by Dr. Jacques Vallée and others—that many more UFOs fly around (or are seen) at night than in the day-time. Oddly, dusk or twilight (6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., depending on season) furnishes a large number of sightings. This may either mean the UFOs begin their night operations as soon as possible when daylight fades, or that the growing darkness allows more strange lights to be seen. It has not yet been proven, so far as I know, that *more* UFOs cruise by night than by day, only that

\* Not necessarily adding up to or limited to 225 reports in all tables, for lack of data on certain cases, and overlapping data in other cases.

night reveals more. This may only be because a UFO's glow or attached lights are much dimmer in daylight than at night and hence escape notice, especially in the case of distant star-like objects.

**Table III—Types of Witnesses (Adults)**

26 professional people (teachers, engineers, doctors, etc.)
36 housewives
11 businessmen
5 police (former or retired)
4 pilots (private)
28 others

It might be noted here that my reports came from 110 adults and 95 minors, the latter ranging from 10 years old to teen-agers. Some youngsters, of course, send in very vague or undependable reports that I discount. I've only included reports from minors who gave clear-cut details—as a surprising number of them do. In a good many cases, as a matter-of-fact, the children keenly put in more useful data than adults. And children make few *assumptions*, as some adults are prone to do. Kids are good reporters. "The facts, M'am"—they follow that creed.

A second important point is the duration of the sightings. This breaks down almost evenly, in my sampling, to 104 short-duration sightings (a few fleeting seconds) and 102 long-duration experiences (30 seconds to an hour or more). Rest unknown.

**Table IV—Types of UFOs**

Discs (pie-pans, lens-shaped, saucer-like, etc.)	45
Domed discs	9
Globes (ovoid or spheroid)	39
"Glow" or ball-shaped objects	27
UFOs of any type with ports or windows	9
Cigars and cylinders	9
Square, rectangular, box-like	9
Star-like lights only	26
Football or torpedo shape	14
Doughnuts	4

As might be expected, the ubiquitous discs or true "saucers" predominate as in all other reports (including those of the USAF and NICAP). The "glows" of globular shape turn up regularly as indeterminate blobs of lights, bigger than a star and sometimes of huge proportions. What their true shape is, nobody can say for sure. They, too, are common in mass sightings.

What is perhaps surprising, to me anyway, is the total of nine box-like objects, usually called "square" or "rectangular" craft, sometimes "trapezoids" or "pyramid-like". That such angular vehicles should appear, so different from the smooth, graceful, stream-lined UFOs with curved configurations, is a puzzle. They seem out of place, clumsy, almost unacceptable. Yet in those reports, the witness usually stresses very emphatically that it was "square as a box with sharp edges", so there is no mistaking what he saw.

The football-torpedo shape, of course, covers a variety of fat or thin elongated objects, some banded or striped, others with protuberances and bulbous noses or ends.

Star-like objects are quite common usually cavorting wildly in the sky, and performing those gasping right angle turns for which UFOs have gained dubious fame (dubious, because science declares it impossible).

Doughnut-shaped UFOs are another macabre and rare phenomenon that make one shake one's head. One report<sup>1</sup> told of three such craft circling each other aimlessly for minutes before speeding away—at least aimlessly to us.

**Table V—UFO Characteristics**

Low-flying (treetop level or within 500ft.)	38
Erratic manoeuvres, including right-angle turns and U-turns	44
UFOs with blinking lights	19
UFOs with rows of steady lights, sometimes searchlights	20
UFOs seen over or around water	24
Colour changes, often all hues of the rainbow	10*
Spinning parts or entire UFO whirling	7
UFO noises (roars, whines, even clicks)	6
"Mother-ships", usually a large craft with smaller ones, but sometimes equal-sized craft merging	7

"Mother-ships" is in quotes in that, except in one or two cases, they aren't simply large craft which smaller craft enter or depart from. In several cases, two or more similar craft all "merged" into one, sometimes splitting up again later. This merging and splitting phenomenon, reported elsewhere quite often, is very inexplicable. It is one of those mysteries about the UFOs where we cannot even make a wild guess as to *why* they make such mad manoeuvres.

The rather large number of UFOs with blinking lights and those carrying strings of steady lights makes one wonder if these are not "flagships" or some other kind of specialty saucer for a specific purpose—perhaps being loaded with sensors and photographic equipment for a searching survey of earth below.

By the way, none of the blinking-light UFOs is an ordinary airliner with its blinking signals. All such obvious aircraft sightings have been automatically weeded out of OUR SPACE AGE sightings. These in this analysis are true unknowns bedecked with a bewildering array of lights, lamps, searchlights, and swinging beacons. One of them was described by its stunned observer as a "Christmas tree ornament all lit up".<sup>2</sup> Another was called a "merry-go-round" with lights ablaze.<sup>3</sup> Certainly no balloon, aircraft, or other vehicle made on earth ever looks like those bespangled contraptions.

Colour changes are, of course, now a known and typical pattern of UFO behaviour. UFOs seen around water also form a high percentage. One report<sup>4</sup> was of an "octagonal" craft sitting on the water in a lake, in broad daylight. A fisherman cast his lure against its side curiously and heard a metallic clang, after which the craft suddenly rose but *without creating a ripple in the water*—which seems incredible. Another UFO was

\* Twenty-three other colour changes were mentioned, but only of one change, not several.

seen<sup>5</sup> to dive right into the water offshore at high speed, without reappearing again.

**Table VI—Odd UFO Designs**

Potato shape	Skull
Cross with dome	Arch
Bird-like	Doorknob
(and changed shape)	Gourd, orange coloured
Crescent	Double-decker torpedo
Spool	Diamond with lights
Humped scow	Kite-like
Saw-toothed ball	Wedge with wheels
Winged missile	below
Globe with "feelers"	Boomerang
Giant wheel, not spinning	Teardrop
	Drum

Most unusual of all was the report of two disc-shaped UFOs, strung together with "chains", that flew as a unit.<sup>6</sup> Then, there were two "capsules" reported like those our astronauts rode in for the Mercury and Gemini programmes.<sup>7</sup> That these were not orbiting or de-orbiting earth vehicles is plain by the fact that both capsules were seen *rising* under their own power, nowhere near a launch-site. Astronauts, despite their great feats in space, have never yet made *that* manoeuvre.

#### Saucer Alley

Now I come to the most amazing part of my reports, which may have significance if any scientific team is ever organized to rush and see UFOs on the spot.

Two teen-age boys separately and independently reported to me in 1966 and 1967, from Pennsylvania. Byron E. Peters is in Ottsville in the southwestern corner of the state, and Thomas A. G. Klus is only miles away in Scottdale.<sup>8</sup> The two boys apparently do not know each other as neither has ever mentioned the other's name.

Byron Peters has sent me 15 reports and Thomas Klus no fewer than 34. Both are excellent reporters, belonging to local UFO clubs and experienced in what to tell when you see a UFO. Their combined reports from interviews with relatives, neighbours, friends and strangers ranges through several nearby towns and communities, covering an area of perhaps 10 square miles.

*Yet this one small area yields constant UFO reports, day in and day out.* Why are saucers continually "buzzing" this region of quiet mountains and sleepy towns? Yet Pittsburgh, only 26 miles to the northwest, seldom reports a UFO. What is in the valleys and hillside forests that attracts the saucers?

*Do they have a base there?*

But it doesn't matter, if a team of scientists wants the chance to see UFOs for themselves and examine them thoroughly via a variety of scientific instruments. For Thomas Klus, through a period of six months, personally observed *some 56 UFOs*. If you think he's a wild-eyed kid who takes every balloon or jet or bright star for a UFO, listen to this report from him:

"UFO sighted at Scottdale June 6, 1967, at 10.45 p.m. Red ball following a red 'ball' with lights that was a jet. But jet was 5 miles away and the UFO disappeared in

one minute. Also a satellite was going in the other direction than UFO. UFO going only about 50 m.p.h., jet was going pretty fast. No sound (from UFO) and one colour change; the sphere changed to a bluish-green colour when it disappeared. Was 2 times as big as a softball (apparent size) about 300 feet above horizon. No witnesses. No other oddities."

In short, Klus had a unique sighting in which a UFO, jet plane, and earth-satellite were all three visible at the same time, making it a cinch that he was not mistaking the UFO for a "conventional" object, as the USAF dearly loves to put it.

In their reports, both boys often say they casually watched a jet flying over, or spied a weather balloon far off, but then sat up when a genuine UFO appeared. They knew one when they saw one. Byron Peters wrote how bored he was to see a bunch of eight meteors one night, that could not fool him though they looked like a fleet of UFOs—until he suddenly saw the real thing appear some moments later.

The reports of these boys are too lengthy to give here, even in brief excerpts, but I would wager they are as sharp and observant as any scientist could be. They almost always include drawings of the UFOs reported, plus the path they followed in the sky, showing every turn, where they hovered, etc. The 100-odd UFOs they have reported—theirs and others—I'm convinced are *bona fide*.

One hundred UFOs in "Saucer Alley", a small region in Pennsylvania, in two years! Think of it—at least 50 a year, most of them visible from one or more small towns of that region and seen by dozens of people (as the boys stated). If scientists in person sincerely wish to observe and obtain instrumental data about UFOs, there is no reason why they can't pack their gear and head for Scottdale or Ottsville, Pennsylvania. There, two of the most experienced UFO sighters in the world can guide them where and when to look, with a good chance of sighting their quarry within one short week, since hardly a week goes by without one or the other of the boys reporting one seen by themselves or others. (See Note.)

**Table VII—  
General Data Regarding UFOs Reported**

Landings.....16	Merged and/or split.. 5
Hovered at times ....32	Did figure 8s ..... 2
Dived into water..... 1	"Exploded" or
Continuous	"burned"..... 6
high speed.....16	EM effects..... 5
Blacked out or faded. 9	Angel hair ..... 2
Same UFO seen	Exhausts, sometimes
repeatedly..... 7	sparks ..... 9

Also, two separate witnesses<sup>9</sup> reported seeing saucers immediately after the Great Power Black-out of November 9, 1965, one over New York City and the other in upper New York State.

One of the most startling reports<sup>10</sup> was of a saucer-shaped UFO that was "apparently shot to bits by a B-52 bomber that chased it." No pieces were found, the Air Force clammed up, and the observer could add nothing further to this sensational account.

Humanoids were encountered, at a distance, in five cases, and were vaguely "sensed" or "glimpsed" within UFOs in five more cases.

One of my prize reports, for its dramatic impact and weirdness, was from a Mrs. N. L. Collins,<sup>11</sup> from which I would like to quote certain excerpts:

"I believe you will show respect and concern for a sighting which I saw in 1958 on the New York State Thruway near Depew, or in the vicinity of Niagara Falls, New York.

"In January of that year I was travelling west at about 1.30 a.m. in a bad snowstorm, going to see my son who was in the army. I was trying to find an exit . . . and suddenly saw what appeared to be an airplane wreck on the centre parkway (strip).

"A large shape was visible and a slim rod at least fifty feet high was illuminated and getting shorter as though it were sinking into the ground. . . .

"My car stopped completely. I became panicky . . . as I had no lights . . . then I suddenly saw two shapes rising around that slim pole, which was still growing shorter.

"They were suspended (the shapes) but moving about it. *They seemed to be like animals with four legs and a tail, but two front feelers under the head, like arms (my italics).*

"Then, before I could even gasp, the things disappeared and the shape (huge object) rose and I then realized it was a saucer. It spun and zoomed about 10 feet off the ground and up into the air and I couldn't even see where it went.

"My lights suddenly came on . . . the car started . . . I got out to look at that spot . . . a large hole was melted in the snow. . . ."

She concludes by telling that her son kidded her so much about the story that she never told anyone else—until she wrote me, asking if I could please "explain" this mind-numbing mystery to her. Which of course I

could not, only assuring her that she was not going crazy and was now among the great company of "pariahs" who had seen UFOs and thereby were prey to the ridicule of thoughtless others.

But note the outlandish creatures reported, a sort of cross between an animal and insect, certainly one of the most bizarre saucer occupants yet reported. Which only adds another brick to the already enormous structure of inexplicable phenomena connected with UFOs.

#### NOTE

In corroboration of the many reports received from this area, the following statement was made on July 29, 1968, by Representative James G. Fulton of Pennsylvania. Speaking at the House of Representatives Committee on Science and Astronautics during a Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, he said:

"Mr. Chairman, sightings of UFOs in western Pennsylvania have now increased to the point where interested citizens have established a UFO Research Institute (amateur group) with a 24-hour answering service, to investigate reports and sightings."

#### WITNESSES OF SPECIFIC SIGHTINGS

- 1 Thomas O'Dell (plus David Wessely and Franklin Watkins), Roney Lane, Unit 1, Syracuse, N.Y.
- 2 Mrs. Arthur Harding, Bldg. No. 2, Apt. 8-D, Alabama Avenue, Paterson, N.J. 07513.
- 3 Thomas A. G. Klus, 509 Mt. Pleasant Road, Scottdale, Pa. 15683.
- 4 Donna Rogers (reporting for unnamed friend), Box 1563, Anderson, S.C. 29621.
- 5 Roger Holland, General P.O., Glen Rock, N.J. 07003.
- 6 William R. Viskesky, Jr., 1523 Pennsylvania Avenue, Lorain, Ohio 44052.
- 7 William Donnelly, General P.O., Wayne, N.J., and Don Pearson, 1108 Ella Street, Anderson, S.C. 29621.
- 8 Thomas A. G. Klus, 509 Mt. Pleasant Road, Scottdale, Pa. 15683, and Byron E. Peters, 183-D Oak Grove Road, Ottsville, Pa. 18942.
- 9 Jerry Marca, 107 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, W. Paterson, N.J. 07425, and Joel D. Jennings, So. Hardy Road, Union Springs, N.Y. 13160.
- 10 Thomas Grogan, 608 Cardinal Place, Danville, Va. 24540.
- 11 Mrs. N. L. Collins, 205 Westcott Street, Syracuse, N.Y.

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# UFOs; DELUSION OR DILEMMA?

*Berthold Eric Schwarz, M.D.*

**Dr. Schwarz is Consultant to the Brain Wave Laboratory of the Essex County Overbrook Hospital. His article *UFOs; Delusion or Dilemma?* from which this contribution is taken, first appeared in *MEDICAL TIMES*, October 1968, 96, No. 10.**

**I**N twelve years of private psychiatric practice, the author, who has never personally seen a UFO, has not found them or related phenomena to be part of any dereistic thinking for patients seen in consultation or psychotherapy. He has also confirmed this clinical impression by discussions with several colleagues in psychiatry. In four instances, however, patients revealed observations of possible UFOs at a great distance. In none of these cases was the patient's psychopathology related to the alleged UFOs, which were also witnessed by other people. On informal inquiry to the executives of two of the largest commercial airlines, the writer obtained confirmation of reports by pilots who had observed UFOs. Their accounts were entirely similar to NICAP's and other published reports.<sup>1, 4, 5</sup>

It is the purpose of this report to give four accounts of people who had alleged first-hand experiences with UFOs and to relate them to their psychopathology and health. For each of the accounts the key participants were examined psychiatrically. In several instances other members of their families, friends, fellow employees, and attending physicians were also seen and questioned. Tape recordings were made of the descriptions and supplementary data were collected via telephone interviewing and correspondence. Hospital records were studied as described.

## Case 1. Wanaque

The author, who had read newspaper accounts of UFO sightings in the Wanaque, New Jersey, area, drove there to investigate by interviewing the

town physician, local police officer, two reservoir officers, and a town service station proprietor. They all suggested that he see Sergeant Benjamin Thompson of the Wanaque Reservoir Police Force.

Shortly afterward Sergeant Thompson was seen in his home and carefully studied in psychiatric examination. He was open, friendly, straightforward, and cooperative. Sergeant Thompson, a high school graduate, had been on the reservoir police force six years, and for twenty years previously he had been a security guard at an E. I. Dupont plant. Before that he had been in the U.S. Infantry, and in World War II had fought on the islands of Guam and Iwo Jima. The sergeant felt that he had been trained to observe things carefully—"Things and people. That's what we work with." He was familiar with various types of aircraft. He denied use of hard liquor or unprescribed drugs and had no history for emotional or psychosomatic illness. Nor was there any history for sociopathic behaviour, brain syndrome, cultural-religious, dissociative, conversion, or other psychopathological reactions that could account for his UFO experience. The Sergeant's reputation for trustworthiness was confirmed on detailed questioning of some of his colleagues, a town police officer, a physician, and a garage proprietor.

Sergeant Thompson observed UFOs on four occasions. While on patrol car duty on the night of October 11, 1966, about 9.15 p.m., he received a radio message from a fellow police officer in a nearby community, reporting observation of a UFO. The sergeant drove to the area the UFO

was approaching. In his own words: "It was diagonally 250 feet from me, out over the reservoir, as big as an automobile, or bigger. It was about 250 feet up in the air. When I got out of the police car, this thing was so bright that it blinded me so bad I couldn't find the car. It was all white, like looking into a bulb and trying to see the socket, which you can't do. I signed out of service [to the Ringwood Police] for twenty minutes because I couldn't see . . . neither the fingers of my hands nor the lights on the jeep. I stood by the fence until it [vision] came back gradually. It made no sounds but left a heavy mist, as it went away; you could say it was a mist-like sort of fog. It really shook me up. When I got back into the car, switched on the red dome light and flasher, and then got out of the car and started walking toward it, it took off. It never made a sound. I would say I observed it about three minutes. I was totally blinded after the light. It took [away] my voice [no shouting] and I was hoarse for two weeks after that. I described the object as a basket-ball with a hole cut in it and a football set in it, so that maybe a quarter of the football was sticking out (see Fig. 1). When it flew over the water, it could make a square turn. It could shoot straight up in the air—nothing like an airplane."

On a subsequent interview, nine months later, all the salient details were reviewed with Sergeant Thompson. His account was exactly as noted earlier, and his experience was confirmed upon interviewing three fellow officers. Sergeant Thompson recalled that although he did not see a physician at the approximate time of his experience, he