

UFO events in Missouri 1857-1971

Ted Phillips

Our contributor has been active in UFO investigation with the Mid-West UFO Network and with APRO, and also as a staff member of Skylook over the past six years. Some of the material in this report was submitted to and published in the APRO Bulletin¹ and in Skylook² magazine.

IN my investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects in the state of Missouri over the past seven years, I have filed a total of 309 cases, to date. Of this total, 251 have been reported since 1966. I have on file 17 cases reported before 1947, all of these taking place during the 1897 wave.

Of the total, 3% stand as unknowns; 27% as possible unknowns; 8% as possible conventional objects; 5% as conventional objects and the remaining 57%, insufficient information.

To my knowledge there have been 20 cases involving landings, 3 of these have left landing marks at the site. Of the landing cases, 16 took place at night, 4 in daylight. Witnesses reported occupants in 4 of the 20 cases.

There have been 6 reports of animal reaction, involving turkeys, cattle and dogs.

Electromagnetic effects have been reported in 6 cases, with witnesses reporting engine failures in automobiles and trucks. In one instance, a wrist watch was reportedly stopped together with the automobile engine.

Unusual objects have been reported flying in formations in 11 cases, these reports indicate objects ranging in numbers from 2 to 8.

Photographs have been taken in 7 instances, 5 at night, 2 in daylight.

The numbers of witnesses involved is as follows: 1 witness—59 cases; 2 witnesses—57; 3 witnesses—17; 4 witnesses—11; 5 or more witnesses—29 cases. In the remaining cases, the number of witnesses was not determined.

Table 1—TOTAL CASES PER MONTH

JANUARY:	31	AUGUST:	13
FEBRUARY:	22	SEPTEMBER:	15
MARCH:	74	OCTOBER:	18
APRIL:	22	NOVEMBER:	22
MAY:	11	DECEMBER:	10
JUNE:	9	UNKNOWN:	41
JULY:	21		

Table 2—TOTAL SIGHTINGS PER YEAR

1857: 1	1948: 1	1958: 2	1966: 21
1859: 1	1951: 1	1960: 4	1967: 76
1875: 1	1952: 8	1961: 2	1968: 19
1881: 1	1953: 3	1962: 1	1969: 101
1886: 1	1955: 4	1963: 2	1970: 28
1896: 1	1956: 3	1964: 1	1971: 3
1897: 11	1957: 5	1965: 6	

The following represent the highest rated cases in the various categories . . .

FORMATIONS—11 cases

November, 1881, St. Joseph, Missouri

At least 7 people observed what appeared to be a formation of fifty lights in the night sky. The lights formed a perfect pyramid near the moon. A light was seen moving at a high rate of speed in the north-east, it stopped, was followed by four more, these stopped in a direct line behind the first. This was followed by a large number of the lights "all of which were wonderfully brilliant, which formed a triangular shape. In this shape they remained for fully half an hour, apparently stationary. At the end of the half hour they began to break ranks, or take their departure, and the move was made as systematically as it was formed, and about as coolly and deliberately as a company of well-disciplined soldiers would disband or obey an order." The lights disappeared into the distance at a high rate of speed. (This report is taken from *The Saints' Herald*, Lamoni, Iowa, Vol. 28, No. 23, December 1, 1881.)

1952, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri

Several witnesses reported a formation of 5 oval, glowing objects over the Lake of the Ozarks. The sighting took place at night and the objects glowed with a bright orange colour. The 5 UFOs hovered near the ground for some 2 minutes, ascended vertically and disappeared.

DAYLIGHT, CLOSE RANGE—12 cases

August 25, 1967, Eldon, Missouri

16.00 hrs. Mr. and Mrs. John W. were driving home from Eldon when Mrs. W. noticed an egg-shaped object in the south. The object was moving quite slowly towards the south-west. Mrs. W. watched the object for over a minute before calling her husband's attention to it. They both watched it as they turned towards it on a gravel road heading south. It seemed to be quite close and very low; they estimated the altitude at 800ft. It was about 40° to 50° above the horizon and they could hear no sound. The object was reflecting sunlight; the sun was above and to the west (right) of it. After about 4 to 5 minutes the object suddenly became circular in shape and disappeared.

¹ *Bulletin of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation*, 3910 East Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712, U.S.A.

² *Skylook*, Box 129, Stover, Missouri, U.S.A.

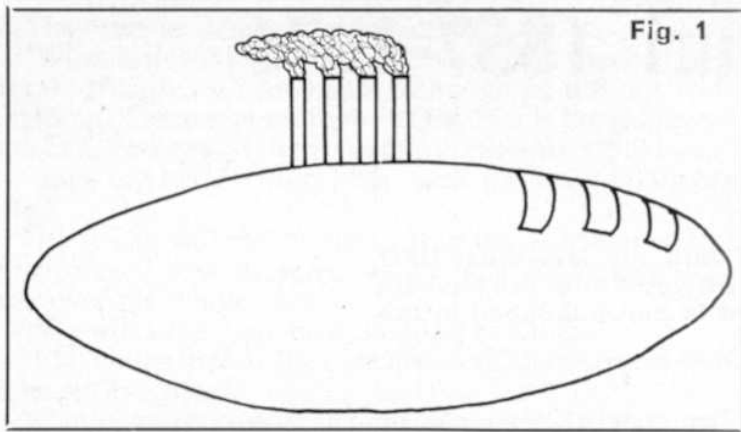


Fig. 1

It was described as egg-shaped, silver in colour, and no seams or markings were visible. At the top, front section there were 3 small "windows." They were about the same colour as the object. On the top section there were 4 "pipes." There was a dark grey smoke or haze coming from the pipes. The haze was not thick and did not trail the object. It was moving much slower than a piston aircraft at the same altitude. It seemed to be solid and metallic. (See sketch No. 1.)

November 24, 1967, Tuscumbia, Missouri

09.30 hrs. Mrs. Clara K. was hanging clothes in her backyard when she saw a bright, silver-coloured object approaching from the west. The object turned and from a side view appeared to be cone-shaped, there were red, white and grey bands around it. The object proceeded to describe a 360° turn, it made three complete circles and disappeared to the west. The object moved with a very smooth and even motion and there was no sound.

LANDING CASES—20 reports

May, 1967, Cassville, Missouri

2330 hrs. The witnesses, an adult female and a 16-year-old girl, were driving on highway 76 when they observed a large greyish-coloured object sitting on the left lane of the highway. As they approached the object it was completely dark, no lights were visible on the object. The object covered the entire left lane (12ft.) and extended some 3ft. over the right lane and about the same distance over the shoulder on the left side, giving it a length of about 18ft. The UFO was egg-shaped and about 10 to 12ft. thick.

The young girl became quite frightened and the driver pulled on to the right shoulder in order to miss the object. As the automobile passed by the object at a

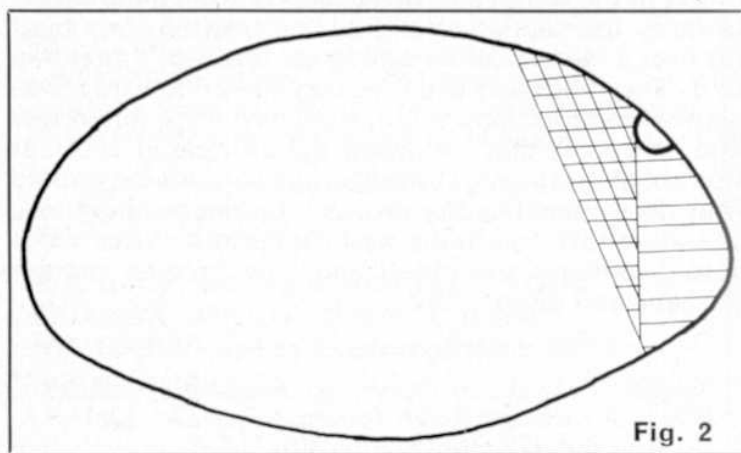


Fig. 2

distance of less than 2ft., the witnesses saw a diffused, circular light. The light was yellow-white and about 2ft. across. The light was soft and seemed to be shining through a sort of grillework. Extending from the light and down to the lower edge there was a grille similar to the front of a trailer truck.

After passing the object the observers looked back to see that the end extending over the highway was now illuminated with a yellow-white light also, and it seemed to be coming from behind a grillework of some sort. The weather was good, no fog or clouds. The witness drove home, a drive of about 25 minutes, and then returned with her husband to the site. No traces were found and the object had disappeared. The witness learned later that several young people had reported a similar object. (See sketch No. 2.)

February 14, 1967, South Central Missouri

07.00 hrs. The witness, a farmer, was walking towards a large barn located some 100ft. east of his house when he noticed one of his cows looking out into a field east of the barn. He then saw an object on the ground about 335ft. from him. It was resting on a rise in the field. He walked to the north-east corner of the barn and could see the object and several small "objects" moving below it. They were moving quite rapidly and seemed to have arms or levers which were also moving rapidly. The "objects" were about the same colour as the object and had what appeared to be wide set eyes or a visor. He could not see any legs.

The witness started towards the object and as he reached a fence he picked up two large rocks. The object was a disc, rounded at the top, flattened at the base. It was some 12 to 15ft. in diameter and about 6ft. thick. It was sitting on a shaft some 2½ft. high and 18in. in diameter. The UFO was grey-green in colour, the shaft being the same colour. The surface of the object was described as being more like silk than metal. There were no seams or rivets visible. Around the lower rim there were several oblong holes, each being 6 to 8in. long and spaced about 1ft. apart. There was an extremely bright light in the holes; the light was changing colours constantly. There was no sound at any time.

As the witness approached the object, the small creatures or "objects" started entering the shaft on the side away from the witness. At the closest point, the witness was about 80ft. away. The witness moved to within 30ft. and threw one of the rocks at the UFO, the rock hit something 15ft. from it and fell to the ground. He tossed the second rock at the top and it skipped off of the invisible field with no sound. The gentleman then walked up to the point where the first rock had hit and could get no closer. He stated that there was "just a pressure" which stopped him.

"Thus he was within 15ft. of the object; the ground was well illuminated as the sun was just rising. The UFO started to rock back and forth. It did this six times before it took off. "When it took off it just rocked back and moved real fast to that ridge (to the north-east). It made no sound and disappeared in seconds." As the object ascended, the shaft was pulled up into the base. There were no ground markings although the ground was muddy at the site. Compare

Fig. 3



Fig. 4

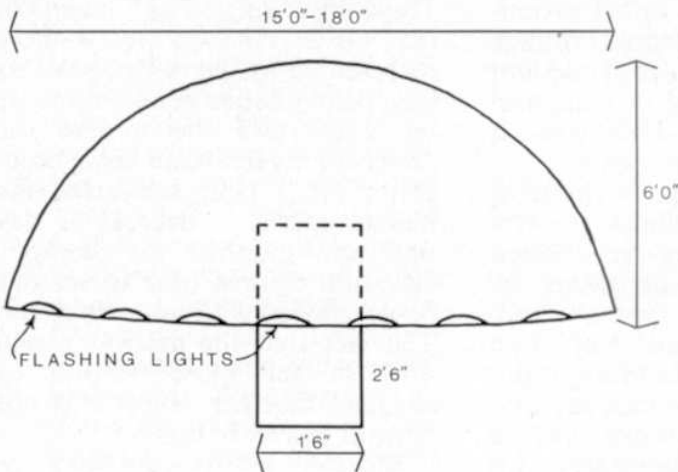
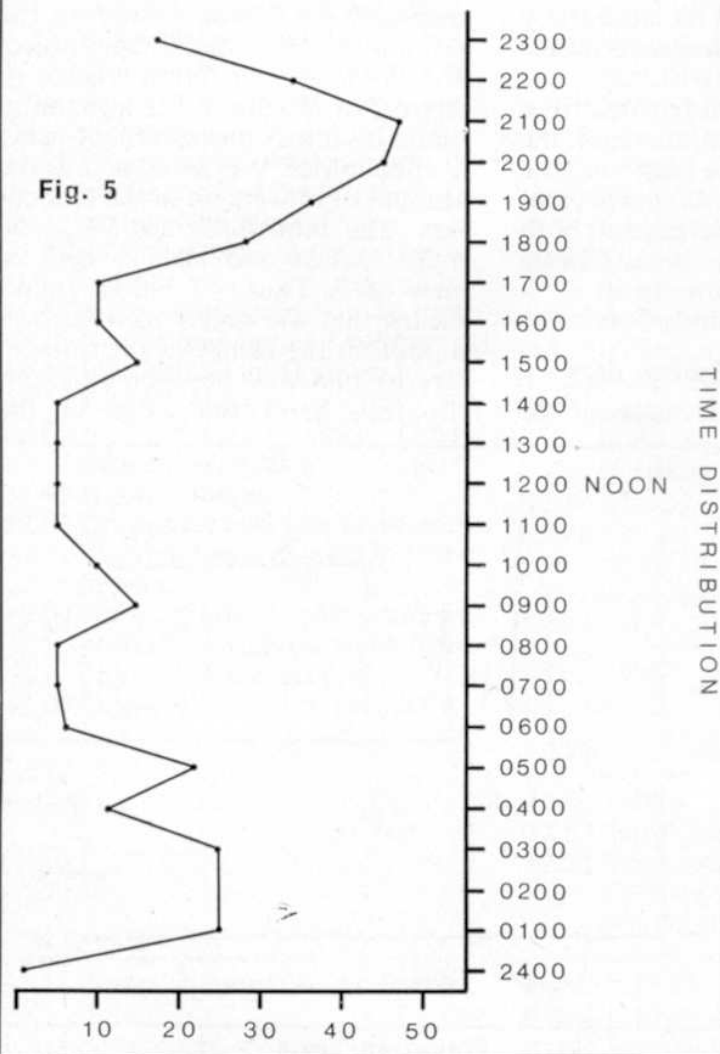


Fig. 5



this object with the one seen in Brazil (see photograph, page 13, January/February 1969 issue of *Flying Saucer Review* illustrating the article entitled "Humanoids Encountered at Baleia—Part 2." See also sketches 3 and 4 with this article). This account was published in the *APRO Bulletin*, September/October 1969 issue.

ANIMAL REACTION—6 cases

March 6, 1969, Lancaster, Missouri

11.00 hrs. The witness, an adult female, was driving home with her St. Bernard dog sleeping in the back seat. Suddenly the dog started barking and jumped into the front seat. The hair stood up on its back and it suddenly acted as if it had been struck. It seemed to be frightened and began to whimper and tried to get under the front seat and dash. At this point the witness saw a beam of light shining on the road just ahead. She looked up through the windshield and saw a silver disc-shaped object hovering above the road. It appeared to be metal with a raised or domed section at the top; she could see no other details on the object.

The light beam, which was blue-white in colour, was coming from a small opening in the base of the UFO. The beam was extremely bright, and the road beyond was distorted as though by heat waves. The automobile was travelling at about 50-55 miles per hour and as it passed through the beam it slowed to about 10 miles per hour; the accelerator was pushed to the floor. After passing through the beam, the car picked up speed and ran smoothly again. The witness stated that she could feel no heat and did not hear any sound. The witness stated that her eyes were irritated for about three days following the incident.

MULTIPLE WITNESS CASES—114 reports

January 2, 1969, Springfield, Missouri

20.30 hrs. Two Greene County Sheriff's Deputies were called to a location near Springfield where a strange object had been seen. When they arrived they observed a disc-shaped object some 400ft. from them. They were at the top of a hill and almost level with the object. It appeared as a glowing white disc with a reddish band around the centre. As they watched, a single-engined aircraft flew into the area. The aircraft turned and circled the UFO and flew *OVER* it. As it did so, the aircraft banked as if to get a good look at it. While the aircraft was near the object the officers could estimate its relative size. They estimated the object to be about 160ft. in diameter. The light plane finally left the area and shortly afterward the UFO moved away at high speed to the west. The officers could not identify the aircraft and the pilot was not located.

These are but a few of the really hard cases which have been reported in the state. I do hope they will provide at least a brief picture of what has been, and is being seen, in Missouri.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

UFO Observed over Tynemouth

B. M. W. von Metz

OBSERVATION of the object was made by myself and Mr. Geoffrey O'Brady-Jones on August 15-16, 1971. Mr. O'Brady-Jones is an engineer who lives up the street from me in Percy Gardens, Tynemouth, Northumberland. He came along the street while I was watching the object, and that was our very first meeting. His subsequent statement, which I quote here, sums up the circumstances of the sighting and the manner the object was observed:

"At 11.20 p.m., on the evening of August 15, I was walking eastwards along Percy Street, Tynemouth. Percy Street forms a T-junction with the top of Percy Gardens, and my flat at the top of Percy Gardens directly faces east with a view over King Edward's Bay. Tynemouth Castle lies at about 250 yards to the south-east.

"My thoughts that evening were certainly not centred on unusual things happening in the sky. In fact, certain personal things were occupying my mind. It was then that a gentleman approached me, whom I now know to be Mr. von Metz. Without preamble, he said he had noticed this strange light in the sky to the south as he was walking back through Tynemouth village to his flat in Percy Gardens. Further to this, and much to his astonishment,

the thing had moved rapidly eastwards until it was directly over the north-west tower of Tynemouth Castle. He asked me if I would observe this object with him. I was immediately intrigued. I looked to where he indicated, and sure enough there was the rather prominent object with a definite orange glow. To the naked eye it did not appear like anything I had seen before. At that time, 11.20 p.m., it was directly above the castle.

"We then proceeded northwards, past my flat and down to von Metz's flat and there we decided that it would be interesting to observe the object in a more scientific and analytical way. Von Metz then went in and brought out his binoculars and telescope; also paper and pen. We went into an ornamental garden opposite his flat and took up a stationary position there to commence observation.

"The enclosed narrative describes our mutual observations and the results of these can be seen from the graphs and sketches. We have carefully checked every detail, and both agree that our account is as accurate as we could possibly make it.

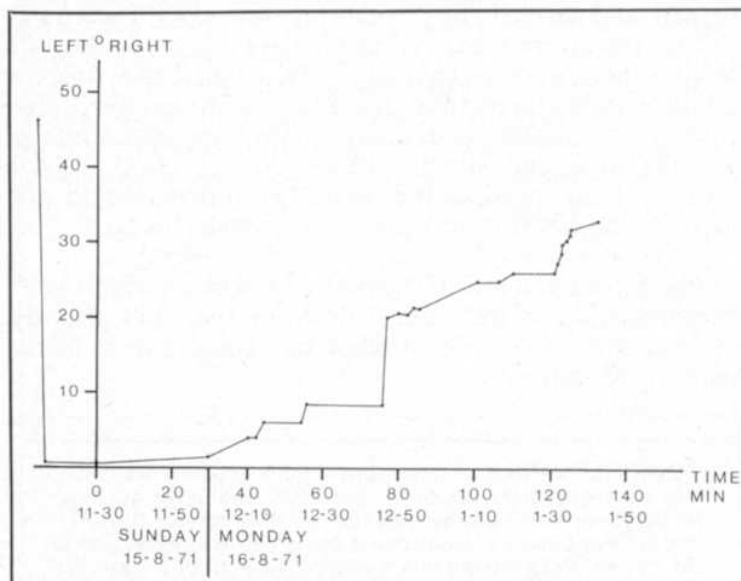
—G. R. O'Brady-Jones."

Background to the sighting data

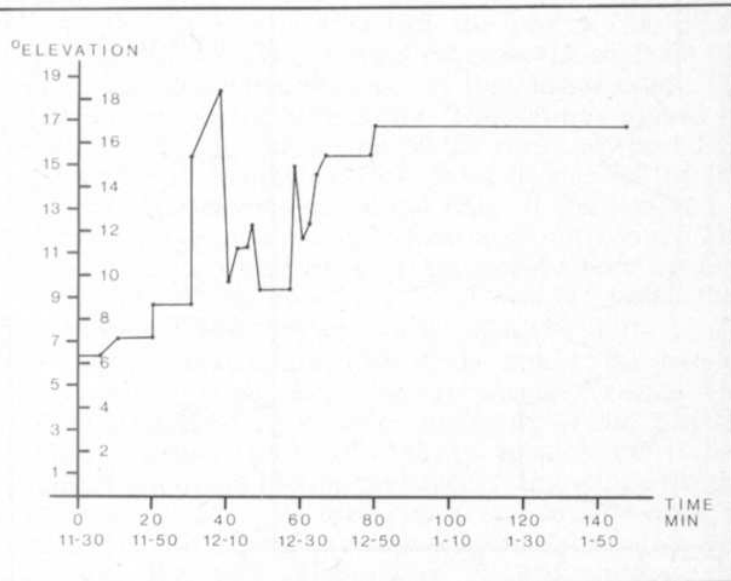
To measure the elevation of the

object, a line was drawn from the top of the west tower of Tynemouth Castle and taken across the sky; the object was then measured by the number of fingers up from that line with my arms at full stretch and hands turned in at 90° to the arms. Thus, "four fingers up" means that the UFO climbed to a height represented by the thickness of four fingers, my hands being in line with my eyes, and the middle three fingers of my left hand being used to count up. I later converted these measurements to degrees of elevation and graphed the change in elevation against time to see if the object moved with uniform motion. The fact that the motion was not uniform for most of the time suggests that the object was not a natural heavenly body.

Motion across the sky was measured by noting points on the ground directly under the object and I later converted these to degrees of motion in the horizontal plane by direct measurement using a theodolite. We also noted the amount of movement in the binoculars. The binoculars are 10 × 50 night glasses and have a field of view of 5. Thus, "¼ binoc. right" means that the object moved from a point in the centre of the binoculars to mid-way between this and the right-hand side edge of the



Lateral Movement/Time



Elevation/Time