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Historical Profile Series: Gale Brownlee, Dauntless Aviatrix
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Article from the Kingston Daily Freeman, April 23, 1966

See UFO's In Area Last Night Observers Tell Of Sky Vehicle
By WALTER S. CLARK JR., Freeman Staff Writer

It was quite a night in the skies over this area Friday. A new moon was shining brightly and it appears many residents of Ulster County and other areas spent some time staring upward and scanning the beauty of the skies.

The star-gazers were rewarded with something other than the twinkling stars, and today some area residents told of what they saw, and each had a – “It looked like” – comment as they described the UFO's they watched.

Varied Shapes, Colors

- “It looked like a huge flare-light object.”
- “It looked like a Roman candle ball with sparks.”
- “It looked like a meteor.”
- “It was shaped like a fish.”

Those were some descriptive comments made by observers as they talked with a reporter about the UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects).

The Associated Press reports a flying object was reported seen across New York State last night from Clinton County in the north to near Buffalo, but an astronomer in Albany says the bright spectacle probably was a meteorite.

Headquarters of NIGHTCAP National Investigating Committee of Aerial Phenomenon received numerous reports of the flying objects. Those who called in most instances said they saw bluish-green flames coming from the spectacle.

Times and descriptions varied.

Five persons telephoned a Watertown radio station to report they had seen four flying objects, with flashing lights, traveling in pairs and moving vertically and horizontally at 4 a. m. today. One woman said she had seen an airplane circling the objects.

“It was fantastic,” said Mrs. Vincent Ciccone, Barclay Street, Saugerties, who was with her husband between 7 and 7:30 p. m. Friday when they saw a UFO high in the sky over Leggs Mill Road. “My husband and I were on our way to visit our son in Lake Katrine,” Mrs. Ciccone said. “We stopped for the light at the bridge on Leggs Mill Road and as I looked in the air I saw this object.

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Looked Like a Fish

"It was a bright aqua colored object. I looked like on(sic) oblong or the shape of a fish, but it didn't appear to be too large. As the object sped across the skies it threw out sparks. After we crossed the bridge I looked around and the object had disappeared," Mrs. Ciccone said.

"It was a huge flare-like object," said Mrs. Gale Brownlee aviation enthusiast of Woodstock as she told a Freeman reporter of a UFO she saw at about 7:10 p. m. yesterday as she was returning to Kingston from John F. Kennedy International Airport.

"I was returning by aircraft accompanied by 12-year-old Bruce Kellerhouse of the Whittier Development," Mrs. Brownlee said. "We were at an altitude of about 1,500 feet and flying over the Tappan Zee Bridge when we looked out and saw the object. It was high above us and it appeared as a bright green and yellow flare, traveling in a north northwest direction. A green and yellow flame appeared to be shooting from the UFO and it was traveling at a high speed, like a satellite.

"At one time Bruce said it looked as though the object was breaking apart," Mrs. Brownlee said. After landing at the Kingston Airport, Mrs. Brownlee said she heard other people had seen objects and she notified Flight Service authorities.

"It looked like a Roman candle ball with sparks coming out of the end," said John R. Shults, Jr. of Kingston as he related his story of seeing one of those UFO's. He said he and members of his family were riding about a(sic) miles this side of the Halcyon Park section after 7 p. m., when they saw the object.

"It had a bright green flame, traveling between 100 and 120 miles an hour. It was up about 300 feet," Shults said. "We watched it for about five seconds then it disappeared over the hill."

Resembled an Arc

Robert Davidson of Shokan said, "It was just after 7 o'clock last night, when I was driving along the highway back of Britt's store near the traffic circle at the Thruway ramp, when I saw this bluish green object sloping downward like an arc. While I watched it, the object seemed to burn up. We could see the flame. The thing looked like a meteor.

"It looked like – a ball of fire." That comment came from Joseph Fabiano of Route 32, Glasco. "I was driving home with my wife and children at about 7:15 o'clock last night, when we saw this object traveling about 500 to 600 feet above the ground," Fabiano said. "We watched it for about a minute as it moved along a horizontal course over Montgomery Ward's and the IBM plant. It looked like a ball of fire and disappeared over the mountains."

Terms It Meteorite

Curtis L. Hemenway, director of the Dudley Observatory in Albany, said the bright spectacles probably were meteorites. He gave that opinion on the basis of description given to him by area residents.

State and local police said they were buried under telephone calls shortly after 7 p. m. from people who reported seeing UFO's.

Some descriptions ranged from "pieces of light that flew on a slant," to "looked like a saucer – headed west.

Hemenway said it was "reasonable" that the same meteorite could be spotted at the same time in different areas of the state.

Nevertheless, it was quite a show and it has many in this area talking, wandering and guessing.

"It looked like a rocket," said John E. Marquardt, Glenford, legislative assistant to Assemblyman Kenneth L. Wilson. "I was driving out Route 28 from Kingston at about 7:15 p. m. when I looked to my right and saw this thing coming up behind me," Marquardt said. "It was traveling from the east toward the west. It was about 200 feet above the ground and had a bluish-green flame coming from the rear. I didn't actually see the object itself. I watched it for about 35 to 40 seconds. It was moving quite rapidly as it disappeared over Route 375 near the Ohayo Mountain where the flame cut out."