



UFORCOP CASE REPORT

November 30, 2011

PRESQUE ISLE LANDING

Project Blue Book case #10798 or also known as "the Presque Isle landing", whichever identification you use one main point stays the same. A pile of unanswered questions which has kept this case shrouded in mystery since 1966! Presque Isle park is located four miles west of Erie, Pennsylvania in Millcreek Township and is comprised of roughly seven miles of beaches which jut to the north into Lake Erie. Presque Isle park boasts impressive annual visitation numbers of 1.4 million in 1937 to 4+ million every year since 2007. Yet it remains a quiet, secluded area. On a hot summers night in 1966 this quiet state park was forever changed. On Sunday, July 31st two couples and two young children left nearby Jamestown, NY for an afternoon picnic on beach six of Presque Isle State Park. No mention is made of what time these people arrived or how long they had been at the park but the incident of that night started a major investigation and a rash of sightings.

Near the dusk closing time of the park Betty Jean Klem (16) of Jamestown, Douglas J. Tibbetts (18) of Greenhurst, Gerald Labelle (26) of Jamestown, and Anita Haisley (22) with her two children; Sandra (2), and Sara (6 mths) all of Jamestown, returned to their vehicle which was at the east end of the parking lot. Sometime during the evening their vehicle had sunk in the sand and was unable to be freed. Other beach goers that were also leaving lended assistance by offering to take Mr. Labelle into town to hire a tow truck. Within a few minutes of Mr. Labelle's leaving park police officers Ralph Clark and Robert Loeb came upon the stranded individuals. After learning of the plan to retrieve a tow truck the officers promised to render assistance if Mr. Labelle had not succeeded by the time they returned. In a later interview Ms. Klem recounted what then happened at approximately 9:30 pm.

"We were sitting in the car waiting for help. We saw a star move. It got brighter. It would move fast, then dim. It came straight down. The car vibrated. I know what we saw, we had taken a walk in that area earlier. There was nothing between those two trees. All of a sudden it was just there."

When asked to describe the craft Ms. Klem likened the shape of it to that of a mushroom with a narrow base rising to an oval structure. She added that it was metallic, sort of silvery and when asked if it made any noise Ms. Klem told investigators that "it sounded like the noise in a telephone receiver, only louder, of course." When Mr. Tibbetts was asked his description of the craft he said the object appeared to be cube-shaped, whitish or metallic in color. He also remarked that when the object landed a series of lights were turned on. Ms. Klem also reported seeing lights on the back of the object and elaborated by saying that the lights came out of the craft as a beam that moved along the ground in a straight line. She went on to say "It (the light) lit up the whole woods along its path. It wasn't like a searchlight. There was this light along the the ground, along its whole path". Moments later the patrol car of officers Clark and Loeb returned to assist the stranded motorist and at that time the lights from the object went out. At that time the officers were advised of what had just happened. Mr Tibbetts offered to show the officers the area believed to be the landing site, with Mr Tibbetts leading the way both officers followed leaving the two women and the children alone with the vehicle. Not long after the search for the landing site began the silence of the night was broken by the sound of the stranded vehicle's horn blasting frantically. Based on the urgency of the notes the searchers rushed back to the

vehicle to find the women in a state of panic. Ms. Haisley was in such a shock that she refused to give an account of what had her so upset. At first Ms. Klem also refused to talk but after being removed from the site she relaxed enough to give an account. In an interview conducted by park police Chief Dan Dasconia Ms. Klem told an incredible story. She stated that shortly after Mr Tibbets lead the officers down the path she noticed a figure emerge from the wood line. At first she thought it was an animal until it got closer, at that point she saw what she described as a dark featureless gorilla shaped humanoid about six feet tall. The creature slowly circled the car and at one point came close enough to begin clawing at the vehicle. At that time Ms. Klem stated that she began screaming and frantically sounding the horn. Only that caused the creature to sluggishly retreat into the woods and Ms. Klem watched the craft quickly lift-off and disappear with incredible speed before Mr. Tibbetts and the officers returned. Chief Dasconio later remarked to the Erie Times News that Ms. Klem appeared to be "a sensible woman" and went on to say "I'm convinced these young people saw something". The officers did verify that they found claw marks on the vehicle that Mr. Tibbetts stated weren't there before. *UFORCOP hasn't been able to find any photographic evidence of the marks or any mention of that evidence ever being collected.* The stranded motorist were not permitted to return to their vehicle until the next morning.

By 7:00 am members of the Pa State Police and an Air Force official with Project Blue Book were already involved. Police officers Paul Wilson and Robert Canfield combed the area and found among other evidence two areas with tripod type impressions in the sand. The first pattern was discovered 350 to 400 yards from where the vehicle was parked. The imprint was in a triangular pattern 10 to 12 feet apart, each contact point was roughly 18 inches long, 7 inches wide, and 9 inches deep. *At the time of this writing UFORCOP has an inquiry in with the engineering department of a local university to estimate the weight of this object based on the compression ratio of sand but have yet to get that information. That information will be added as an update when it becomes available.* Plaster imprints were made of these impressions by Maj. William S. Hall based out of Wright- Patterson Air base. Maj. Hall representing Project Blue Book also gathered evidence of what appeared to be bi-pedal prints of a clawed creature leading from the tripod indentation to the vehicle, sticky non-evaporating droppings found near the tripod, and hair samples removed from a tree near the stuck vehicle. By Tuesday Maj. Hall made an announcement to the media that any disclosure concerning the Presque

Isle case must come directly from the Secretary of the Air Force. That very day five members of the National investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) were brought in from Buffalo, NY to continue the investigation. Air Force investigators interviewed Ms. Klem and ordered her to be interviewed by a psychiatrist who stated that the testimony given by Ms. Klem seemed to be true and not due to illness or delusion.

In the days after the sighting beach six was swarmed by UFO enthusiasts and people claiming to have witnessed sightings of their own. The most prominent report came early Wednesday morning when an Erie newsman with WJET radio claimed to have seen and photographed a fast moving bright star near beach six at 2:30 am. Another WJET newsman also came forward and stated that he had seen the same moving star plus a strange cluster of lights near beach six at 4:00 am. Another report placed a creature resembling a drawing of the figure spotted on beach six in Edinboro, Pa, a few miles south of Erie. On Wednesday, August 17th Brett Butler of Edinboro and six other witnesses claimed to have seen the creature at Edinboro Lake. Mr. Butler claimed to have fired several shots at the creature with weapons he had taken along.

In recent years some individuals have claimed to have been behind a hoax perpetrated on the night of July 31st 1966 involving a kite. Even though that theory has been debunked several times a controversy still seems to linger around it. It's only mentioned so that people are aware that the story does exist, as for UFORCOP we will stick with the fact that of over twelve thousand cases in the Project Blue Book files only about seven hundred are still unidentified. The Presque Isle landing is one of those!

