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Search Under Way for UFO in

By BILL HALPIN
Times Staff Writer

Attempts to locate an unidentified object reported to have plumed from the sky Saturday night into a silt pond in Carbondale for under way late this morning as pumping operations were started by firemen from Carbondale, Mayfield and Archbald.

The object reportedly dropped into the pond near Russell Park and emitted a bright glow for nine hours.

Carbondale police Saturday night contacted Dr. Allan Hynek, a noted researcher on UFOs at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. Today

Dr. Hynek sent associates Matt Gruch, Philadelphia, and Douglas Dama, Port Crane, N.Y. into the area to help solve the mystery of the sunken object.

Employees of Talerio Construction Co. transported a huge back hoe to the site from Crystal Lake. The hoe was put into operation this morning, digging into an earthen embankment at one end of the pond in the hope that the water would drain from the pond.

Spectators were limited to news-persons, according to acting police chief Francis Dottle. A low-flying helicopter soared over the area about

11:30 a.m. as aerial photographer filmed the scene. Mayor A. J. Kaufman has scheduled a news conference for 6 p.m. in Carbondale.

The acting chief closed off the area Saturday night, Sunday and this morning. On Sunday hundreds of curious spectators were attracted to the scene after hearing reports of the incident which first came to attention of police about 7 p.m. Saturday.

Three teen-agers, Bill Lloyd, 15, and his brother, John, 15, of 6 Russell St., and a companion who resides across the street, Robert Gillette, 15, said they were walking about three blocks away from the

silt pond when they heard a "whirring" sound in the sky above them.

The Lloyds said they looked up and saw a red ball crossing over Salem Mountain from the east and it was emitting sparks until it hovered over the silt pond and then plunged about 500 feet to the water.

The Gillette boy said the object turned the color of a bright star before it fell.

The youngsters called Carbondale police, who by this time had already received a phone call from an unidentified person telling of the object in the skies.

Police reportedly did not

respond to the first two calls and only went to the scene about 9 p.m. after several other calls were received at headquarters about the object.

Patrolmen John Barbaro and Joseph Jacobina went to the pond to investigate and Patrolman Barbaro said "I saw a glowing object about 20 feet out in the water."

Acting chief Dottle was contacted about the matter and within a few hours 12 Carbondale regular and special patrolmen, police from Greenfield and Fell Twp., and Forest City were on the scene.

Still considering the matter a hoax and thinking that the

Curious Throngs View Upvalley UFO(?) Site

Carbondale Pond



The unidentified, glowing object which fell into a silt pond in Carbondale attracts crowd of curious onlookers and a wide range of speculation. At top left, a police officer called to the scene to control the crowd, looks over the area and makes his evaluation of the incident. Meanwhile, a group of boys, top center, settles into an old coal chute for a good view while crowd gathers in the background. Motorcycle riders, top right, are silhouetted against the foreboding sky that was part of the weird setting for the supposedly extra-global event. At near right, a young witness to the landing describes the object with hand motions, while an investigator, at far right, uses his hands to direct the investigation operations.

light may be from a flashlight beneath the waters, Patrolman Jacobina took out his service pistol and fired. Patrolman Jacobina said he failed to hit the object.

The Gillette boy said "the object moved when it was shot at."

With the hour past midnight police grew more concerned as the object continued to radiate light that covered a circle about 15 feet in diameter.

A call was put in for a boat, and firemen from a Carbondale hose company responded and brought along a net.

The scene took on the look of a science-fiction thriller as the net was hooked around the object about 2:45 a.m.

As the net was being raised slowly, the light grew brighter but then the net suddenly grew limp as the object

plunged to the murky depths of the silt pond.

Police said the light then went out and they surmised that silt had covered the glowing object. They then watched from the shoreline for the remainder of the day, night, and again this morning, waiting for someone to make a decision on what avenue of approach to take to retrieve the object.

Spectators expressed the opinion the four-acre pond, on the land of John Baumann, could be pumped out in several hours.

Two volunteer scuba divers requested permission to go into the waters Sunday afternoon to look for the object but that idea was rejected by the acting chief.

The volunteers were identified as Dr. Laurence Berry, a teacher of psychology and geology, and assistant profes-

sor George Kelly, a meteorology teacher, both of Temple University in Philadelphia.

UFO sightings in the upper valley are not as uncommon as some may think.

A rash of UFO sightings were reported in the Owego Township area of Fell Twp. last fall. During the same period there were reports of sightings in Wayne County.

Two Wayne deputy sheriffs told acting police Chief Dottle Sunday afternoon they "knew what it the object is." They declined to elaborate but noted that they had similar sightings in Wayne County.

Dr. Berry of Temple University said the only thing that could glow underwater for such a length of time would be magnesium which would not be affected by water.

Police Guarding Area

By JERRY PALKO
Times Correspondent

What was it that fell into a small silt pond in Carbondale Saturday night?

No one seems to know for certain, but there were plenty of opinions among the thousands who congregated at the site Sunday until police cordoned off the area just before 3 p.m.

An eyewitness who was in a boat as police were trying to recover the mysterious glowing object said, "It was glowing, that part of it we could see. We couldn't tell how big it was or what it was. The part that was glowing lit up a pretty big area, but looked like it was only about the size of a quarter. It was luminous under the water and when we got near it, it lit up (an area) three feet in diameter."

Another said, "There was a

little light down there."

A bystander who was at the scene Saturday night said he felt it was "a meteorite. I was up here at one o'clock (1 a.m. Sunday) and saw meteorites in the sky. That's what it probably is. But everyone was seeing all kinds of things in the sky up here last night."

A teacher from Temple University who visited the site Sunday afternoon theorized that it might be a meteorite partially composed of phosphorus. He said phosphorus burns under water and that might have accounted for the glow.

Still others considered the whole thing a hoax. "Somebody could have put something together and threw it in the water. Maybe a flashlight tied to something," one spectator told the Times.

On the humorous end of things, there were plenty at the site who speculated area residents soon would be seeing little green men running around.

Probably the biggest problem caused by the object was the crowd it drew. A resident of the area said, "There's been thousands of people coming here all morning."

The crowd caused massive headaches for police. Cars literally blocked roads leading to the Russell Park area. Small children played on the steep banks of the hazardous pond and climbed on roofs of abandoned buildings nearby. Finally, at 2:45 p.m. Sunday acting Police Chief Francis Dottle ordered the area cleared of spectators and the entire site would be cordoned off and guarded by police and Civil Air Patrol.