Sychronicity and the MADAR Project

The "UFO Filter Center" and MADAR in the early years.

In November of 1960 my 7-man NICAP Subcommittee, Indiana Unit No. 1, was authorized by NICAP to investigate UFOs in southern Indiana. In order for us to obtain a geiger counter I had to actually build one, but later on I got my team to join Civil Defense and we were able to get several types of counters, dosimters, and even a commercial radiation scintillator. To do all this Ralph Meeks, the Knox County CD Director, asked me to take the Radiological Defense Officer's Course, so I began training at Vincennes University. I was supposed to finish the course at Battle Creek Michigan but the war was quickly developing in Viet Nam, along with draft time, so all of us joined the US Army National Guard in August of 1963. I was assigned to Commo Section as a 36A10 and was also selected as CBR Specialist (Chemical Biological Radiological). The main piece of equipment that was used then was the Radiac meter, or geiger counter.

All this is to prep the reader for my first really detailed rendition of how I got roped into this business of UFO detection, and who and what was responsible for it. I will later also admit to the criticism I received at the beginning of my venture many years ago. I hope that this short paper will be a source of hope for the future of UFOlogy and the MADAR Project. Please read this without clicking on the active blue links for now so as not to detract from the train of thought.

When the SECRET Air Force Project SIGN Report was declassified on October 11, 1966, page 22 mentioned that "One observer (incident 68) noticed a violent motion of a hand-held compass. If we assume from this that the objects produced a magnetic field, comparable with the Earth's field". What it suggested was a powerful E-M force at a 5-mile range as an omni-

directional disturbance or a directed beam. We have a list of at least 150 such incidents and here a few of the better ones.

In the early days of UFO detection research I used very reliable components. After all, the man who suggested I make a UFO detector was a scientist who had also some "official" experience with flying saucers. If you Google up "Blevins, Lewis G., electronics" you would find a dead ".gov" link that I know worked a year ago. Right now all you get is

Philippine eLib
https://www.elib.gov.ph › results › q=Blevins,+Lewis+G
Electronic apparatus and appliances, vacuum tubes, circuits and devices. by Blevins, Lewis G.; Vincennes: Universal Scientific Co., 1956. Subject: Electronic apparatus and appliances.

So you don't have to take my word that this man, Lewis G. Blevins worked for Universal Scientific Company in Vincennes, Indiana in the mid 50's and early 60's. One of the things they built and sold to schools were Tesla Coils. Blevins was one of the speakers in the spring of 1957 at the Robert Green Auditorium as part of a symposium to help teachers determine what group each one of us 8th-graders was suited for. Seems like it was a two day affair and involved all the schools in Knox County (probably was a national program), and after the presentations we were given an aptitude test which told us if we should be in the "general group" or the "scientific group". I made the latter and when I entered high school later the next year I had to take more books home after class than I wanted to. <GRIN>.

In my junior year (1959-1960) my science project was to build a scale model of the solar system. It was really cool but I didn't win any awards. In my last year I needed a geiger counter for my NICAP interests, so I built one. The very first problem I encountered was in finding a geiger-muller tube. I wasn't having much luck so I asked my science teacher Brother Eugene Bertrand what he thought and he suggested I contact Mr. Blevins, which I did.

Lewis Blevins was a huge man in his late 40's I think. He had cold black hair which he kept short and with a flat-top style. which was popular in those days. When he smiled and his teeth showed he almost looked like "Charley Chan". I never even thought about it back then, but the web link above used the term "Philippine eLib" and this was a university in the Phillipines. He wore glasses that looked like ash trays and his voice was hard for me to describe, but very clear, almost feminine. He smoked a cigar which hung down from his lips like a plumb-bob. He was a friendly guy but his resume photo looked like something out of the FBI files. My dad took me and my younger brother to Blevin's house on north 2nd street one evening and that event was a turning point in my life. And I have to say it affected my brother, Steven, as well. Steve is five years younger than me, and at the time he was 12-13 and took a sudden and dangerous interest in 2,000 volt primaries and a cone-shaped 100,000 volt secondary, known as a Tesla Coil!

Anyway, Blevin's I think suggested a geiger tube from the mail-order catalog, Allied-Radio Shack and that got me started, and by the spring of 1961 I had built my geiger counter and had won first prize at Central Catholic High School Science Fair. I went on to a larger science fair at Evansville, Indiana that spring but I didn't win anything there.

But something happened to me that first day that I met Lewis Blevins. Somehow we got into the subject of "flying saucers". I wish I had taken all this more serious at the time, but it didn't sink in until years later. Blevins had mentioned he had worked for the Air Force on "project saucer" years before. Being with NICAP I knew that the Air Force UFO project was "project SIGN". It wasn't that I didn't believe him. I just thought he had been referring to it by its nickname. But later I found out (like we all did in the mid-50's) that the original SECRET code-

name WAS Project SIGN (February 1949) but was told it was Project "Saucer" (April 27, 1949). I have no idea what Blevins did in project "saucer". But since he was never mentioned as being on the staff, I'm sure he was at least a subcontractor or consultant. Nevertheless, I'd love to know at what point he got into E-M fields, Tesla Coils, etc. before, during, or after his limited involvement with the AF project.

Blevins had given me a copy of his resume. His 1"x1" picture was on the upper left and of course didn't say anything about UFOs but began during the WWII where he was in the Panama Canal Zone. It did mention something about his work with the Army's geiger counter, RADIAC. Interesting that in 1963 I found that I was selected as CBR Specialist in the Guard and we used the RADIAC geiger counter.

I also found out something interesting about Blevins' cohort, Leonard Crow. Crow was a little eccentric and also worked at Universal Scientific with Blevins. I found a citation: Universal Scientific Company, Inc., The Crow Rotating Electric Machine (Vincennes, IN: Universal Scientific Company, 1943). Gets even stranger. I worked at Universal in 1966-1967. My sister had worked there earlier and was also there those years. But Blevins and Crow were not there at that time. Blevins had changed jobs and was now living in Odon, 35 miles NE of Vincennes.

Here's where it really starts getting interesting. I told him why I was building a geiger counter and had mentioned why. He didn't hesitate at all. He said, "you really need to build a UFO detector." Well, I had read about such things, particularly the "Cartwright UFO detector". Preliminary data strongly suggested a connection between magnetic/electromagnetic anomalies and genuine UFO events. The Cartwright unit had been illustrated in some magazines in those days. It wasn't reliable and depended heavily on gold contacts.

But Blevins told me he had some "parts", and would help me build something that "really worked". The photo-electric cell he gave me looked like a vacuum tube out of an old radio, the glass-kind that were about 5" tall. The tube plugged into a bakelite socket and had pins just like a radio tube. There were terminals around the base of this socket so you could run wires to other components. The point is, this was a reliable PEC system used in the industry in those days. He then drew the circuit wiring diagram and then a sketch of a large compass needle that had "vanes" glued on each end. This was surprisingly spontaneous. He had apparently given it thought long before me and my brother stood before him that day. Two partitions were needed with cut-outs the same same size as the vanes so that a light beam travelling through one rectangular opening would be focussed along the compass needle pointing north and would stop at the second vane which covered the opening leading to the photo cell. If the needle deviated from north, light would strike the cell and activate the circuit. Blevin's plan was fantastic. He added an alarm bell to the diagram for the alert. With that my mind went bonkers. As soon as I could get there I went to Ohio Valley Sound Company at 10th and Main and ordered a ratchet relay to replace the relay Blevin's had given me so that the relay would stay down once activated. The relay also had "normally on" contacts so that an electric clock would stop, telling me when the alert had occurred.

During this time I fiddled with some ideas, then built a box (12x10x8) for a "home-made" chart recorder because such things were financially way out of my reach. So when I changed jobs and transferred (1971-1973) from Vincennes, Indiana to Villa Grove, Illinois, then Hillsboro, Illinois, then finally to Mt. Vernon, Indiana, I had made some major changes in the system but didn't have a suitable place to operate it at the time. The pressing concept was miniaturization. Low voltage power and low voltage bulbs, with small photo electric cells. By 1973 I had coined the term, "MADAR" (sounds like radar) for Multiple Anomaly Detection & Automated Recording and it was operating 24/7 during the massive UFO wave that hit the United States that year. It logged an anomaly right at the peak of the wave and within 5 miles of a good UFO sighting.

In 1977 MADAR had a major event involving the "WOW! Signal". When you get a chance read my SCU paper.

But the impetus to miniaturize really came when I was a MUFON State Director in the 1980's. A colleague of mine in Mt. Vernon ran an electronics/TV/radio repair shop. He was determined to get my hefty gear "down to size". He created a small 1/4" plywood rectangular box and a transistorized circuit with a small photocell that ran on low voltage. It worked but there were times for some reason where it would get overheated or the bulb would burn out and would not work.

Somewhere in the MUFON files I'm sure there are some early notes about MADAR. And not very flattering. Walt Andrus was the international director at the time and lived in Quincy, Illinois. Each year he would breeze by after a symposium and while visiting his son, an attorney in southern Illinois, he would stop by my home across the Wabash River at Mt. Vernon, Indiana. In his car trunk were boxes of symposium proceedings, something all of us looked forward to in those days before the internet. On one of those occasions Walt had stopped to pay a visit. While visiting I had taken him into the laundry room where one wall was covered with shelves and equipment. (see photo at top of page) I was very proud of this MADAR system and I just had to demonstrate how it worked. I had a bar magnet nearby and quickly swiped the area creating a magnetic field near the sensor. Nothing happened. I tried it several times and nothing.

It had been working fine, but not this particular day. When it HAD worked, the red light on the front of the Mode Control Panel would come on solid, matching the steady siren, while the green flashing light mimiking the pulsing (and buzzing) from the compass moving back and forth cycled until it was back on north and the siren had to be switched off. The digital clock was a flash-card type and had to be recycled after the alert, and police and aircraft scanner messages were running 24/7 and suddenly recorded on a dual-cassette audio recorder. Last but not least, the V-700 geiger counter also running 24/7 put the gamma ray clicks on another recorder until the tape ran out. Which would have impressed Tesla, himself, had the damned sensor worked. But it didn't. For a short period in MADAR history the issue would arise where the circuit would heat up and the PE system would not work. Needless to say, Walt was nice but suggested UFO research would be best served in the conventional way.

Which is precisely what Dr. James E. McDonald, another one of my heros, had said earlier in the project. And he had never seen a demonstration. I had to make some serious changes.

Not long after that the local Radio Shack store was selling some of its old security equipment. I don't remember what I paid, but I pondered several weeks about it and finally took the plunge and bought their old photo-electric cell system used to count how many times a customer entered and left, and of course told them when some came in. I made a 1/4" plywood box about 24" long by about 8x8, mounted these components inside on each end. The light beam was about 1" diameter focussed and sent HORIZONTALLY to a small mirror mounted on a rotatable dowel rod, then VERICALLY down through a small 1/4" hole right at the north position on a scout compass, then through the bottom to another stationary mirror which diverted the lightbeam horizontally again to the PE cell. Sounds complicated but the mirror on the dowel rod made the beam path adjustable. The main components were of a professional system and. And of course the detection pulse travelled by wire to the Mode Control Panel with all the other gadgets.

MADAR-1 was successful for 22 years, from 1970-1992 with over two dozen incidents, and I tried to retire but became involved in lunar research. It quickly turned into the very successful

Lunascan Project. Strangely enough 22 more years would pass before getting back into UFO detection.

Due to newer technology and the leftovers from The Lunascan Project, equipment was available for some new ideas in UFO detection. Miniaturization had improved with the utilization of small CCTV cameras and video recorders. and MADAR-II was launched in 2014 and ran until 2015. A $350 geiger counter tied into Mineral Lab's Radiation Network put the readings on a map with thousands of other counters located all over the world. But there were no compelling incidents. But it gave me some ideas.....

https://www.nicap.org/match/images/DSCI0852.JPG
mode control panel

All of this was about to change, which brings us to MADAR-III. In April of 2016 I was thinking about two things: 1) Getting MADARs small and cheap enough and located all over the world, and 2) having something like the Radiation Network with their readings on a map of the U.S., only ours would be compass-movements instead of counts per minute. What happened next was better than I had ever dreamed.

With the help of Rich Vitello, one of the founding members of the MADAR Project in the l;ate 1990's, he and his motley crew of ham operators, including the late Paul Browning, Bob Nichols, Rick Schnicker and a few others took my whitepaper and went to work in February of 2017. Later, Eric Calkins and Eric Bendle were onboard and a crash program ensued for only a year and a half and produced MADAR-III. Talk about miniature! This device was about the size of a bar of soap and was totally electronic. It had a computer chips with a magnetometer, an onboard electronic compass, and one for barometric pressure. The tech support had created a MADAR Map and a spreadsheet with tons of data, all time-stamped in UTC.

My colleague, Kevin Day, keeps referring to "sychronicity" and I never thought about coincidences all the time I was chugging away at the MADAR Project, But the idea and the necessity to build a UFO detector and create a world-wide system and my place in time seems uncanny. And two of my heros had discouraged me almost from the very beginning. Then after twenty-two years with a single mechanical/electrical system there was a breakthrough. By 2018 we were operational.

MADAR Operations Center

The project has been very successful not only with "code blues" alerts but instances where good sightings occurred and magnetometer spikes were found on nearby MADAR sites.

The MADAR Network continues to grow in the United States, and on into Australia, Canada, Czechia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Philippines, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The MADAR Project currently has 168 sites running with 47 in various stages. Presently, 58, or 30% are now DAS-equipped, which means the site teams can be alerted by an alarm system, go out and gather more data with selected equipment. Very soon anyone with a GMC-500 geiger counter will be able to plug this device into their MADAR and have readings logged right on their spreadsheets! And more surprises are in the works. The project has 280 members.

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