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Transcript of an interview with Ernie Epp at M.O.T. Epp is a radar technician. He has an interest in UFO cases and follows up on some of the newspaper clipping that he sees. Office is 985- 4991 home 667-6478 (10/27/76)

Epp: This happened in 74' or 73'. This was a Transair out of Churchill, between Yellowknife and Churchill, and it was on T.V. The pilot was interviewed on T.V. I tried to get a follow-up on that but I wasn't able to get anything.

Q: Did you get any sort of material on it?

A. Absolutely nothing. I didn't try to go to the T.V. station to get a transcript of the interview. However, I did check with Transair, and of course they didn't, or wouldn't acknowledge anything about it.

Q. It was going from where to where?

A. From yellowknife to Churchill or the other way. I think it was from Yellowknife to Churchill.

This is an interview that was conducted with Bill Kendrick, now with the CBC in Winnipeg, 774-2541. He was present in Carman when the famous OKY-TV film was made. This interview took place at the CBC, on March 7, 1977.

Question: Bob Diemert had stated that the night before the filming by Kerr, that the object was in the same place, and that you had driven towards it, and thus scared it up.

Answer: That wasn't me. That was a fellow who was with OKY at the time, by the name of John Barry. He's now with CHCH-TV in Hamilton... That film, you say the 12th, I can remember days type thing, but the dates are fussy. Have you checked with KY. Have they still got the film.

Question: I talked with Kerr, and he said that I couldn't have a print, because it was an original, but then I heard that he sent it to Hynek in Chicago, and Hynek made two prints of this thing. The planetarium has been trying to contact Hynek because he said that this was the best "nocturnal film ~~in the~~ he had ever seen. I sent a registered letter, and the planetarium sent three or four letters to him but nobody has gotten a response.

Answer: Well we sent a film clip of the film. A tape clip that shows the thing as it runs at normal speed which is only about three and one-half seconds. When I put together the article I slowed the film down frame by frame, and I put it on video tape so that it stretched out to about 20 seconds, and we sent that out to the guy that came up here and held that seminar in Steinback.

Question: From 20th Century.

Answer: Ya. Now we sent the tape to him, and he would probably still have it, and he has shown it to... originally to Hynek, and it was also shown to some NASA people as well. So whatever happened to the film, I don't know. Allan might still have it. I wouldn't be surprised if Allan Kerr has got it salted away, but when I left Oky I cut all ties with him. I don't know what happened to that film.

Question: I talked to him last year, and he said that he wasn't going to give it up. Then when Hynek came here to lecture I heard that he had taken the film back. I tried to get through to 20th century as well and I couldn't get anything out of them. They did a story about a big telephone blackout that Diemert confirms, and I got nothing on that either. How many times were you out there?

Answer: We were out there four nights. We went out two nights prior to the filming, the night of the filming and the following night. So I was out there a total of four nights. Monday, Tuesday, Weds., and Thursday. I think that we shot the film on the Weds.

The Monday night that we went out we didn't see anything

The thuesday we went out, and that's the right that we saw the thing down at the end of the roadway. The people that had seen the thing before said " That's it." The fellow that was with us, by the name of John Barry. He was another reporter from C.Y., and he was out on his own. He got in his car and went flying down the road towards it, and we saw the thing and kept our eyes on it, and then it just disappeared, and then we never saw it again that night - at least not our people. I understand that someone did see it again that night in a different location but still around Carman.

Question: Mr Giesbrecht.

Answer: So the next night we went out, we set up the camera on the tripod as we had done before, and we trailed it down the road where we had seen this object. About the same time, and I can't remember whether it was after midnight or just when it was, but it was just about the same time as the night before. This object appeared again. So instead of someone high-tailing it down the road, there was two groups. I was with Bob and Elaine, and there was my wife and I, and I think there was one other person but I can't remember. We went to the south of it, and another car that had the fellow from the Carman newspaper in it...

Question: Bennett?

Answer: Howard Bennett. He and someone else went to the north of it. So we could come around it. So we travelled down the gravel roads, and it must have been four or five miles down I think. We saw it off to our right or off to the north, and we put the binoculars on it, and you could see it quite clearly. It seemed to be more or less just sitting there. It was sort of a pulsating, sort of reddish color. We sat and watched this, and all of a sudden it tracked off towards Winnipeg - towards the North-East. We lost sight of it, and then we went back up to where we had originally started from, where Allan had the camera set up and he was going nuts. He said, ' I saw it, I got the camera on it, and I got the thing rolling, but whether I got anything I don't know. '

When we got the thing from processing, Howard came back and he said that he had seen it, and he'd seen it take off. I couldn't tell from where we were whether it was on an incline or what it was., but he said, ' He said that it was on an incline ( Or it's edge) and that he saw it take off. It just went.

Then Allan Kerr said that he had seen it come tracking across the sky, and that's when he followed it, and oddly enough, when he filmed it, he panned with it, and then stopped the camera, and allowed it to move across the frame, so that he could get some kind of reference. I was great for a moment on his part, or smart, to stop the camera, and let the thing move, so that later

someone could tell how fast the thing was moving. When the film was processed, it's strange that the portion that he was panning with never turned out. For some reason it didn't pick it up, but when he stopped the camera so that it could move across, then it picked it up. There were two little sections of film that we had. We had one section that showed this object down in this corner (right), then all of a sudden it moved up here in the frame. Now when it was slowed down frame by frame, the object was here (right corner) and then for one frame the entire horizon lit up and you could make out the trees, and the rollingness of the land, and then it moved up into the upper left hand corner of the frame. Now all that took place in three frames. In the actual movement it took place in one frame, or 1/24th of a second. So, then ~~was~~ the film when it was tracking across the frame, you could see it pulsing, when you slowed it down, and you could see in each frame that it was moving across, and it was leaving an echo, or an entrail. When we showed that to the people at the Planetarium, and we showed it to some people at the Armed Forces Base sent over, some Air Force people, pilots trained in night flying, and night observation. They took a look at it, and all that they could say was that "As far as we were concerned it was definitely a UFO." they couldn't explain what it was. They... we ruled out every other possibility. The swamp gas, and the helicopters, because we checked all the helicopter bases, and we got nothing. I wasn't an airplane. Our problem was that because all you had was this thing going across a totally black screen and there weren't even any stars to fix it by. They couldn't give us any idea about speed or location, or distance from us, or anything like that. That's the film that we got and there wasn't much of it, but what there was, was awful darned exciting.

(Then we went out the next night. It's funny that at CKY it's a funny place, and very few people want to do anything unless they're going to get pay for it. Allan and I were going out on our own, no pay, we just wanted to go out because we were intrigued by this. So that night we got the film and the next night we had to beat them off with sticks, the people that wanted to come out. We had three cameramen, Allan and two others, all came out with cameras, and we set ourselves up in a triangle pattern, so that if we sighted this thing and get a fix on it with all three cameras, we could then pinpoint it's location. Unfortunately we never saw it again. We stopped after that. I was getting to the point where I was spending eight hours at work, and then spending eight hours out there. Physically, I just couldn't take it anymore.

Question: You were saying that the planetarium was there when these Air Force People were there?

Answer: I'm trying to think who was there. I think it was Roger Walashins from the planetarium came over, and I can't remember whether Frank Shinn

ever saw it or not. I know that Frank Shirn went out. he may have been one of the ones. I'm sure that Roger Wal-  
assis was one, and then there was these two or three Air  
Force people. They couldn't explain what it was.

Question: You were the only one to see this flash?

Answer: Well nobody actually saw it with their naked eye. Allen said that when he was shooting... This flash is what he figured was what Howard say when it took off, but Howard said that he didn't see anything when it took off. We didn't see it from where we were. We didn't see any kind of flash,, and Allen said later after seeing it on the film, " You know, I kind of thought that I saw something at the time, but nobody else standing around me saw it, or said anything, so I thought that maybe it was my eyes playing tricks. So actually that flash was only picked up on film.

Question: The story that I got from the Enquirer and from Diemert was that you were the only one to see the flash? That must be wrong. According to Diemert you had said " You see that."

Answer: Now that you mention it. When we saw the thing down at the end of the road, I... Ya. Now that you... That phrase brings that back to me. I do remember seeing something, but again like Al, I said to myself that I hadn't seen that. Then when I saw that on the film, I remember and it re-enforced that. It happened so quickly. I was only one frame in the film.

Question: Were you shooting at 16 or 24 frames?

Answer: 24. Another interesting thing. We always congered up new and interesting things that someone was playing tricks on us. All the film was shoot on the same roll of film, and it was shot in the order of sequence - the light at the end of the road- the flash and the jumping up in the air, cause that's when we decided to move out and around. Then that tracking bit across the sky.

YET when we got the film back from the lab, the whole sequence was reversed for some reason.

Question: Is that right?

Answer. Ya. And yet the film hadn't broken in the lab, and had them edite it back together wrong. When it came back to us, the tracking across the sky was first and the other portion was or second. That could create all sorts of neat little things. It was backwards.

The thing itself didn't go backwards, but the sequence in which it occured was reversed on the film. Like I say there was only two things that we got on film. The here-

flash - here, and then the moving across the sky. But when we got it back the black spot was still in the middle but the tracking across the sky and the other were reversed. And we still don't know why when he panned across the sky why he didn't get anything, unless he was moving too fast. Someone said that he could see it through the viewfinder. It was in full view. There was nothing special done to the film. We didn't know whether we were going to get it or. I think it was 100% luck because that was Allan's first filming. He was running the processing lab, and he was bugging them to let him use a camera to get some experience, and they kept dangling a carrot in front of his nose, and I had gone out two nights before and the cameraman who had gone out with me had said "None of this." So when the cameraman filed for all this overtime, the news-director just about hit the roof. So he said that no cameraman could go out. If the cameraman will go out with his own time, then he can go, but nobody would go. So Al went, and that was his first real assignment as a cameraman. He's rightfully proud of that, and I imagine that if he does have it, then he may have given it to Hynek, but I suspect that when he left OKY that he took the film with him.

I know that a video-tape was sent. I put together a 20 minute feature on it, and I remember we showed the film at its normal speed and slowed down on both sequences. I personally sent it to the guy at 20th century. I got a letter back from him acknowledging that he had received it, because he had sent us a bunch of his slides and so I know that he got it, and I've received a couple of letters from him since, stating that he had show it to a group of people at NASA. He's got a copy of it.