

Attack Of The Flying Saucers

Yeah, this sounds like a fake story for sure, but it's funny what your imagination can make you think if you let your mind stray a bit from the path. We sure did think we were seeing something unusual.

I worked at National Hills Theatre from July of 1967 until January of 1970 so this little story dates within that period. I'd date the time of year as fall for the reason of the weather being nice enough for us, theatre employees, to be standing outside, weather neither too hot as in summer nor too cold as winter would be and no bugs as one would find in the early spring. I once wrote this story for Fred when was still in school, likely grade school, but could not find it on the computer, too many computers ago or perhaps even in typewriter days.

The story starts as one of us is standing out in front of the theatre and to the left behind the A & P Grocery, some shops behind that, across a field and down the road this globe of light rises into the evening sky, drifting left and then taking a steady path to the right moving towards Washington Road, then it seemed to drift out of view hidden by buildings or trees.

From memory this was repeated over several days, perhaps only one of us seeing the event the first day and then more as we watched again on following evenings. It's hard to judge size and distance on this sort of event and know for sure just how large and how distant the object was from our view but we were truly convinced that we were seeing something unique from another world.

Oh well, that's what comes when you let your imagination run wild. There was a young man, I'm not sure but I think his name may have been Don who worked with us an usher and also volunteered at the volunteer fire department which happened to be across that field to our left. I'm really not sure now if he just provided the answers or if he was guilty of leading us on into believing we were seeing an event from another world.

The truth was that we were seeing a hot air balloon launched by the guys at the fire department, the way this thing was made I guess its good that the only result was some excited kids and not a neighborhood fire considering my feeling that this was taking place in late fall with fields of dry grass and leaves.

The balloon was constructed of two small light pieces of wood much like you would find in the bottom of an old time window shade or a kite like we used to fly many years ago, guess this stick was about a half of an inch wide and little more than an eighth of an inch thick. These two slats were maybe two feet long and crossed making an "X" shape.

On each slat was a row of birthday cake candles placed maybe an inch apart along each slat. The body of the balloon was one of those thin filmy plastic bags that are used to cover your dry cleaning when it returns from the cleaners, do they still do that?

This bag/balloon was light enough that the heat from the candles provided the hot air for the balloon and the light from the candles was enough to give a the whole thing an eerie yellow glow, and there you have the story of the attack of the flying saucers back there in Augusta Georgia in the late nineteen sixties.

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