

Look! Up in the sky ...

A high-flying theory with a twist

By JIM HOLLY

With all the sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) these days, I figured there must be something to it.

Not all could be explained away as just airplanes carrying neon-flashing signs or as swamp mist rising. There have been too many sightings.

Let's take a sample 100 sightings. Maybe 20 can be explained away as airplanes far off moving toward the viewer with their landing lights on. The viewer sees a bright light "hovering" in the night sky and immediately thinks it's a UFO.

Twenty can be explained away as shooting stars or comets. Twenty can be explained away as swamp gas creating optical illusions, and 20 more explained away as weather balloons.

This leaves 20 sightings unexplained. Not even Carl Sagan, noted astronomer and UFO skeptic, can effectively explain them away.

Of these, let us look at one. Mine. WALKING THROUGH an outer section of town a couple of summers ago, I gazed up at the stars. A shooting star appeared and slowly made its way across the sky. It was beautiful.

Suddenly it made a right angle turn and increased speed. Then it made another sharp turn and in an instant zipped across the length of the heavens and disappeared.

Could it have been an asteroid, Mr. Sagan? An asteroid colliding with two other asteroids and picking up all that angular momentum without shattering? I doubt it.

Could it have been an alien space craft filled with the extras from "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"? No.

It took me two years to figure out what I had seen. Just a couple of weeks ago, infested with the holiday spirit, it came to me in a moment of revelation.

It was Santa Claus!

OF COURSE! It all fit. I mean, who else could it have been?

Who else would need so much speed and maneuverability to zip around the sky like that? Santa is the only one who needs it, having to visit almost every house in the world in a single night.

So many stealthful of toys must have required several trips from his shop at the North Pole, not just one. That's no small task.

And how many unexplainable sightings are cigar-shaped with a

red light at one end? A lot. That can only be Santa's sleigh and reindeer, with Rudolf leading the way.

Yes, it nearly all fit.

But there was one problem. Many UFO sightings occur in the summer, as mine did.

THERE IS a logical answer. Santa doesn't come down from the North Pole only at Christmas time. He must be coming down intermittently during the year.

He'd have to, when you think about it. How do think he can find out who's naughty and who's nice if he doesn't pop in now and then? He compiles his list throughout the year.

Near Christmas time he tallies his data, checks it twice and knows without a doubt who's naughty and who's nice.

Santa's a pretty smart old fella, and a lot more mobile than we ever suspected.

Yes, Virginia, it's confirmed. There is a Santa Claus. And he'll be delivering presents Christmas Eve.

Wow, he visits every house in the world on Christmas Eve! It's a staggering thought. I wonder if his reindeer are turbocharged or if Santa's using — dare I think — ion power?



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