

THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE

UFOS: A HISTORY

1947 June 24th – July 6th

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES

By

Loren E. Gross

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“UFOs are the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse.”

--- Dr. Lincoln La Paz

“Supplemental Notes” consist of material under consideration for any revision of the original UFO history volume covering this time period.

Acknowledgments:

No attempt was made to publish everything available for this time period. What I have done is select certain reports and other things of interest to me that would supplement my original work covering this part of the year 1947. About 50 items are from Jan Aldrich's Project 1947 and Barry Greenwood's UFO collection. Nearly all of the 23 Dr. James McDonald items are from the professor's papers on file with the University of Arizona at Tucson Library, Tucson, Arizona, Special Collections Division. A few of McDonald's letters originate from files kept by different UFO researchers and may or may not be found in Tucson. Ted Bloecher's research contributed 4 items, and 11 more came from various sources: Air Force BLUE BOOK files, Robert Gribble's Collection, CUFOs' archives, magazines, UFO books, etc.

—Loren E. Gross

How safe is America? (See clipping)

MAY 2 1947
NAME HILLENKOETTER
INTELLIGENCE HEAD

Directed to Keep Nation Aware of Security Dangers

WASHINGTON, May 1.—President Truman today picked Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, who fought in the Pacific after being wounded at Pearl Harbor, to be Director of Central Intelligence.

As such he will have the job of supervising the collection and use of information designed to keep the nation aware of possible dangers to its security.

Hillenkoetter, a native of St. Louis who will be 50 next month, served for several months during the war as intelligence officer for Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. He has gained a knowledge of foreign capitals by service as naval attache in Paris, Madrid and Lisbon.

He succeeds Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, who becomes deputy commander and chief of staff of the Army Air Forces. Vandenberg told the House Committee on executive expenditures today that a strong intelligence service is needed "if we are to be forewarned against possible acts of aggression and if we are to be armed against disaster in an era of atomic warfare."

Vandenberg appeared in behalf of legislation to establish the central intelligence service by law. It has been functioning under a Presidential executive order.

Quite safe if we can take General Vandenberg's remarks at face value, however just a month later a private pilot claimed a chance observation of a flight of high speed objects (foreign aircraft?) near Mt. Rainier, Washington. Speeding south, the formation of "intruders" had apparently reached the Seattle area undetected and were in range of the number one target on the West Coast, the Hanford atomic works. Moreover, at the rate the objects were traveling, the big population centers of San Francisco and Los Angeles were just a couple of hours away.

Having time to make some calculations before the objects passed out of sight near Mt. Adams, the pilot of the small private plane estimated the speed of the unknowns as about 1,200 mph, twice the current record for aircraft.

When he landed, the pilot, Kenneth Arnold, wanted to alert authorities. A newspaper later printed:

"Arnold said no military or federal authorities had talked to him [This was days later]. He said he tried to contact the FBI in Pendleton [the day of the sighting], but found the office in the post-office 'always locked.' He said he put a note under the door asking the agent to call him, but there was no response.

" 'If I were a military or other authority and something like this was reported,' he said, 'I would try to find out all I could about it.' " (xx.)

(xx.) Boise, Idaho. *Statesman*. 28 June 47. p.8.

Dr. James McDonald later wrote:

"In my opinion, Bloecher's study [*The Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*] is damning evidence against the Air Force's casual handling of the [UFO] problem. To realize that at the very start of this whole episode in the United States we had so many sightings that were never adequately examined. It is very troubling."

(xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: M. Aime Michel. From: Dr. James E. McDonald. 28 December 67.
Photocopy in author's files.

24 June. Kenneth Arnold.

UFO researcher Martin Kottmeyer reminds us the Kenneth Arnold sighting is not generally considered a high strangeness event by most UFOlogists. As everyone knows, it was a "single-witness case with no corroboration." (xx.) We can add to that, Arnold's estimation the objects

(xx.) Kottmeyer, Martin. "Resolving Arnold." Part I. w.w.w. recall.org/newsletter. 10/3/97.

he witnessed were "25 – 30 miles" away when they passed through his field of vision. The distance could be the key to this case. Kottmeyer feels the unknowns may have really been birds, and the birds much closer to Arnold than he realized.

One part of Arnold's testimony that could establish the "25-30" mile range was the claim the unknowns were briefly screened by a "...jagged peak that juts out from Mount Rainier proper." (xx.)

(xx.) Arnold, Kenneth and Ray Palmer. *The Coming of the Saucers*. Privately Published, Boise, Idaho and Amherst, Wisconsin, 1952. p.12.

During a talk to the First International UFO Congress years later Arnold said it this way: "[The objects]...disappeared from sight behind a projection on Mount Rainier in the snowfield." (xx.)

(xx.) Arnold, Kenneth. "How It All Began." *Proceedings of the First International UFO Congress*. Warner Books, Inc.: New York, N.Y., 1980. p.17.

Dr. James McDonald questioned Arnold about this:

"We went over the question of what 'small jagged peak' they went behind. (I'd mailed him a Xerox of a topographic chart of Mt. Rainier and asked him to locate it.) He thinks the rear two or three objects dipped down in the saddle behind Pyramid Peak. He also confirmed that some of the objects (rearward ones) passed between him and Mt. Adams as they moved out of sight. Finally, he says he is fairly sure (but not positive) that the hogback that he used to scale the length of the chain was near Goat Rocks; but said the objects passed on this side of that ridge (i.e., west of Goat Rocks)." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Dr. Richard J. Reed. Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Washington. Seattle, Washington, 98105. From: Dr. James McDonald. Date: 29 November 66. Photocopy in author's files.

The Goat Rocks subject came up again when Dr. McDonald checked Ted Bloecher's draft of *The Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*. McDonald wrote:

"Near end of paragraph you imply the objects [Arnold saw] passed behind 'Goat Rocks' (that is proper identification for them). I discussed that in some detail with Arnold and believe I have it correct that the peak was an outlier on the southwest flank of Mt. Rainier. Goat Rocks lie about half-way between Rainier and Mt. Adams." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Ted R. Bloecher. From: Dr. James McDonald. Date: 7 September 67.
pp.2-3. Copy in author's files.

Further on in the same letter Dr. McDonald has more to say about Goat Rocks:

"After making some remarks about details in Arnold's 1947 sighting, I have gone over my files and reviewed Arnold's own statements. You are right, he did say in one version that he saw the objects swerving among the peaks near the Goat Rocks. But when I talked with him about that he was not so sure of it. As you will see from the map, Goat Rocks don't extend above about 6,000 or 7,000 feet. He states in one version that they were snow-covered, but I believe that's quite doubtful for that time of the year. All of this boils down to my postscript remark that maybe you had better play that one in whatever way you see fit, rather than to take my suggestions on it." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

The Arnold sighting as a "cultural influence."

As Kottmeyer points out, if nothing else the Arnold case at least had a great cultural influence. Take the expression "flying saucer" which is familiar to almost everyone in the English-speaking world. William Bequette told UFO researcher Pierre Lagrange he never used the words exactly that way. (xx.) His dispatches to the AP newswire were intercepted and edited by anonymous rewrite men as a

(xx.) Lagrange, Pierre. "La Preminere Fois." *Science & Vie*. (date of issue not known) p.19.

matter of routine. Some suspect the AP's man in Portland at the time, a Fred E. Hampson, but no one may ever know for sure. Bequette did come close, however, in the very first story on the incident that appeared in the press, the June 25, 1947 story in the Pendleton *East Oregonian* which was not subject to AP review. (See retyped clipping)

In the June 25th story Bequette wrote: "saucer-like aircraft flying." It was inevitable the words would be edited down.

Arnold's reputation.

Dr. McDonald also wrote:

"...a professor in our political science

- East Oregonian -

June 25, 1947

Impossible! Maybe, But Seein' is Believin', Says Flyer

Kenneth Arnold with the fire control at Boise, who was flying in southern Washington yesterday afternoon in search of a missing marine plane, stopped here en route to Boise today with an unusual story which he doesn't expect people to believe but which he declared was true.

He said he sighted nine saucer-like aircraft flying in formation at 3pm yesterday, extremely bright - as if they were nickel-plated- and flying at an immense rate of speed. He estimated they were at an altitude between 9,500 and 10,000 feet and clocked them from Mt Rainer to Mt Adams, arriving at the amazing speed of about 1200 miles an hour.

"It seems impossible," he said, "but there it is - I must believe my eyes."

He landed at Yakima somewhat later and inquired there but learned nothing. Talking about it to a man from Ukiah in Pendleton this morning, whose name he did not get, he was amazed to learn that the man had sighted them the same afternoon from the mountains in Ukiah. He said that in flight they appeared to weave in and out of formation.

department and onetime reporter (who had heard my talk to the Physics Department here [University of Arizona at Tucson]) said he had been the AP man who interviewed Arnold upon his return to Boise a few days after the June 24, 1947 sighting. Said he'd done some checking at the time and found Arnold's reputation good, and said Arnold seemed to him to be a stable and straightforward person." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Dr. Richard J. Reed. Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 98105. From: Dr. James E. McDonald. 29 November 66. Copy in author's files.

Arnold's reputation stood the test of time. A feat not many people can boast about. Looking back, the Pendleton paper printed this in the year 1997:

"To those who remember him such as former *East Oregonian* reporter Bill Bequette and retired Pendleton radio personality Ted Smith, his integrity was never an issue. Arnold, they said, was a professional pilot, serious businessman, a no-nonsense man who had no reason or personality for a hoax." (xx.)

(xx.) Pendleton, Oregon. *East Oregonian*. 24 June 97.

Did Arnold see Birds?

Another point mentioned in the press in 1947 states: "When first sighted, he [Arnold] thought the objects were snow geese. 'But geese don't fly that high—and anyway, what would geese be [doing] going south for this time [June] of the year.' " (xx.) One might also wonder how birds can reflect light so brightly. Arnold said: "...the reflection was so brilliant that it blinded him as (xx.) Pendleton, Oregon. *East Oregonian*. 26 June 47.

if someone had started an arc light in front of his eyes." (xx.) The only thing that would shine

(xx.) Ibid.

like that would be a mirror-like surface or something generating its own light. This brings to mind the report of a Mrs. F. S. Chamberlin who told the press she saw some bright objects the same afternoon. Because she said the objects were "more of a triangle shape" (She did admit the objects were extremely far away and moving very fast, which would make us question her ability to discern the true shape) one might suppose she observed some birds, but note how she describes the intensity of the light:

"Mrs. F.S. Chamberlin, 1563 Washington, related today [28 June] how she saw 'hundreds' of bright objects high in the sky north of Corvallis [Oregon] the same day Kenneth Arnold, pilot, of Boise, Idaho, said he saw nine mysterious 'flying discs' over the Cascade mountains in Washington.

"Mrs. Chamberlin phoooh-phooohed the idea there was anything mysterious about what she saw. She insisted they were probably birds. But she said they were extremely far away and traveling so fast she did not have time to call any-

one to witness the objects. She said she saw them from an open upstairs window.

"She said they were *so bright they made her 'see dots' when she looked away* [Emphasis mine—L. E. Gross]. They were traveling east, she said. There were bunches of them, she asserted, and as fast as one bunch would disappear another bunch would come in sight. It was early afternoon when she says she saw them.

"Mrs. Chamber said the objects were more of a triangle shape than a disc.

"She said she told her sister about them at the time, before anything had appeared in the newspapers." (xx.)

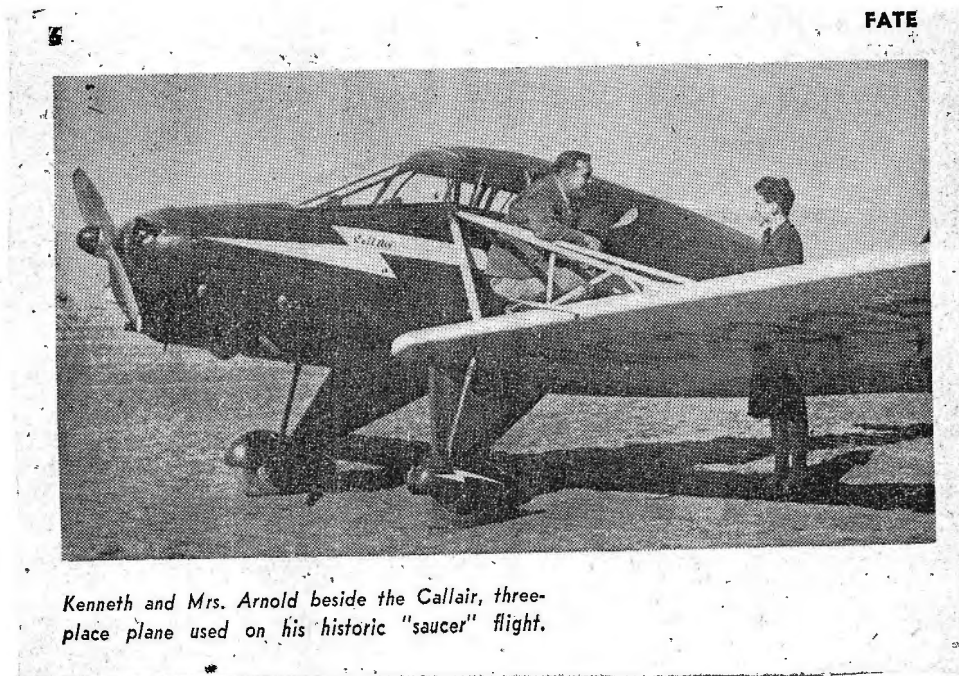
(xx.) Corvallis, Oregon. *Gazette Times*. 28 June 47. p.1.

"Shiny, silver."

Another June 24th witness also mentioned "bright" objects: "...Forest lookout Robert W. Mubach [Diamond Gap, near Salmon, Washington] said he saw some 'shiny, silver objects that didn't look like airplanes last Tuesday [June 24th] while on lookout at Diamond Gap.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Lewiston, Idaho. *Morning Tribune*. 30 June 47.

(For additional detail on this Diamond Gap sighting see my *UFOs: A HISTORY* 1947 p.8)



Kenneth and Mrs. Arnold beside the Callair, three-place plane used on his historic "saucer" flight.

Sagan the "expert."

Astronomer Carl Sagan, asked to write an article about "Unidentified Flying Objects" for *The Encyclopedia Americana*, penned:

"In the United States, popular interest in unidentified flying objects began on June 24, 1947, when a group of rapidly moving, glistening objects was observed from the air in daytime, near Mount Rainier, Washington. The observer, a Seattle

resident, dubbed them 'flying saucers.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Sagan, Carl. "Unidentified Flying Objects." *The Encyclopedia Americana*. Grolier Incorporated: New York, N.Y., 1968. p.17.

The word "glisten" is not the same as "so brilliant that it was blinding," which is how Arnold put it. "Glisten" would make it less difficult to accept a bird explanation. Arnold, by the way, as every UFOlogist worth two cents knows, was from Boise, Idaho, and did not live in Seattle! *The Encyclopedia Americana* is used in schools!

"Not visible to the naked eye."

Authorities did not do much better than Carl Sagan. A newswire dispatch dated June 25th said: "Aero-Medical Laboratory men stated that an object traveling that fast [1,200 mph] would not have been visible to the naked eye." (xx.)

(xx.) Pendleton, Oregon. 25 June 47. (AP)

A more scientific assessment was made by Dr. Peter Sturrock:

"There are many factors that influence the visibility of an object—angular size, angular speed, brightness, contrast, color—but speed itself is not a determining factor. In a clear atmosphere, it is easy to see an object of a given size and speed at twenty miles as it is to see an object half its size and half its speed at ten miles." (xx.)

(xx.) Sturrock, Peter A. *The UFO Enigma*. Warner Books: New York, N.Y. November 1999. p.10.

24 June. Near Pendleton, Oregon. (daytime)

Did Bill Schuening see some "little men?" (See news clipping on page 7)

If Schuening did, he didn't mention it in 1947. Here is his other report about sighting multiple objects at a distance:

"Bill Schuening, foreman of the Lester King ranch about 15 miles north of Pendleton, reported he saw objects similar to those reported near Mt. Rainier Wednesday [sic] by Kenneth Arnold, Boise, Idaho, flying businessman.

"Schuening said he saw 'planes' the same day. The objects were so high, Schuening related, that he was unable to determine their shape but he said they were 'weaving in and out of formation.' He said they were traveling at 'an unusual rate of speed.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Klamath Falls, Oregon. *Herald-News*. 30 June 47.

24 June. Hynek evaluates Kenneth Arnold's sighting. (See page 8)

EAST OREGONIAN, Pendleton, OR - June 24, 1987

Man sticks to his report

Stories of UFOs started in Pendleton 40 years ago

By Hal McCune
of the East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Bill Schuening figured the humming noise was a tractor. But instead, when his pickup rumbled over the rise and he looked across the field some 200 or 300 feet away, he saw a saucer-like object suspended five or six feet off the ground.

"I would have given anything to have had a camera with me," he says.

But his memory of that moment 40 years ago today is as sharp as a photograph.

Schuening, now 70, saw a flying saucer. To him, it's not a question of whether or not he thinks he saw it. He saw it!

"It was definitely there," hovering above the rolling farmland some 25 miles north of Pendleton, he says.

No one had heard the term UFO at the time -- there had been no cause to coin it. Schuening helped usher in the era of unidentified flying objects. But it was an airplane pilot from Boise who drew the headlines.

Kenneth Arnold landed his plane in Pendleton on June 24, 1947, and told East Oregonian reporter Bill Bequette he'd just seen nine shiny, flat objects streaking across the sky at incredible speed. The story was spread nationwide by the wire services and Arnold was marked the rest of his life as the man who started the UFO craze. He died in 1984.

Schuening says he saw a flying saucer the same day as Arnold did. But he didn't tell anyone until after Arnold's story was published in the EO.

"My boss told me about a flying saucer story and I told him I saw it too," Schuening says. Lester King, for whom Schuening was ranch foreman for 17 years, convinced him to go to town and tell others what he'd seen.

"I told my wife about it. She said that I was crazy to say anything about it," Schuening recalls. "Everyone said we were just saying things."

Arnold said he saw nine flying objects traveling in formation across Eastern Washington, weaving over the Cascade Mountains at speeds he clocked at up to 1,200 mph. He spotted the objects about 30 miles west of Mount Rainier and clocked them to Mount Adams.

"It seemed impossible," he told the reporter, but added, "I must believe my eyes."

Schuening's description was similar, although he says the shiny, silver objects were perfectly spherical, while Arnold reported the objects as more crescent shaped.

Another area sighting was



Bill Schuening, 70, has lived and farmed in the Pendleton area all his life. He maintains he saw a flying saucer on some rolling farmland 25 miles south of town exactly 40 years ago today.

by Mrs. Morton Elder, a McKay Creek farm wife, who said she'd seen seven "perfectly round, umbrella-like" objects flying north of her farm.

The EO ran a lengthy front-page story on June 26, 1947, regarding Arnold's unusual observation. A much shorter story ran on Page One four days later that quoted Schuening saying he'd seen "flying discs" the same day as Arnold and mentioning McKay's sighting.

But Schuening was the only

one of the three "witnesses" to claim he saw more than just a flying saucer.

"There were two little guys in green suits with white helmets standing right underneath it. They were no bigger than this," he recalled earlier this month, holding his hand at waist level.

"It didn't scare me at all," Schuening says. He was too amazed to be frightened.

Schuening says he watched the helmeted creatures for a few seconds and then "they were gone. How they got in

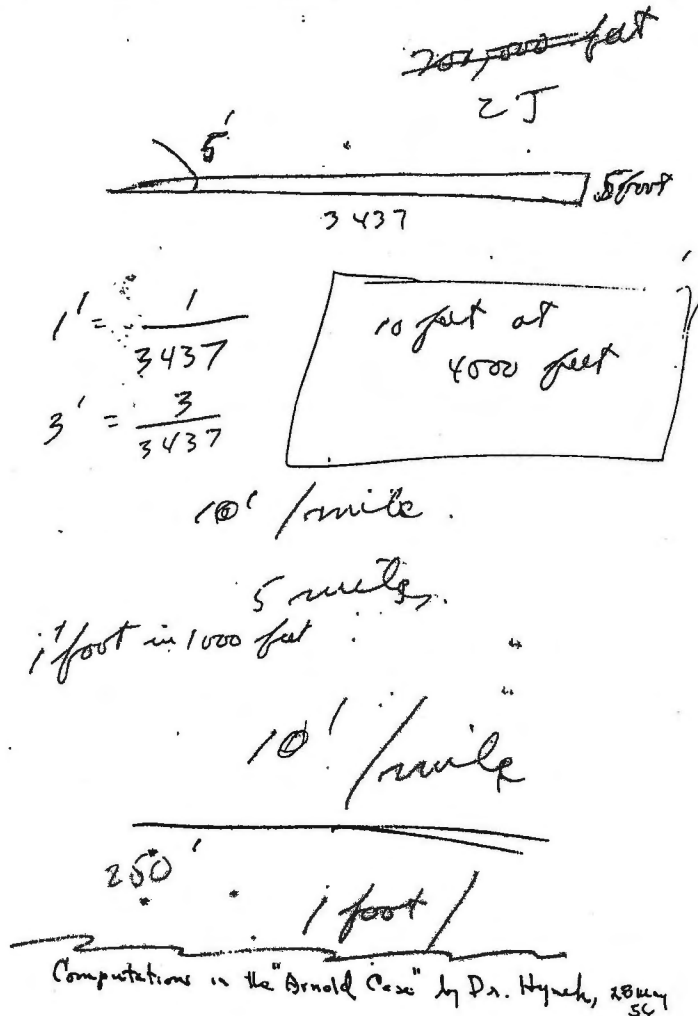
(the craft) I'll never know. Suddenly they were just gone."

Moments later the craft zipped away toward the river, made a big circle, and headed over the mountains. "The last I saw, the sun was shining" on it.

The craft was "silver, all top and bottom," with no seams or doors, Schuening says. He figures he watched it for nearly a minute.

Incident No. 17 — 24 June 1947, afternoon, Mt. Rainier, Washington. One witness viewed nine "saucer-like discs" from the air calculated to be 20 to 25 miles distant, and 45-50 feet in length, (about 20 times as long as wide) which traveled 47 miles in 102 seconds (1700 MPH). Dr. Hynek calculated mathematically (see Appendix B) that assuming the estimate of distance to be accurate, in order to see such detail, the objects would need to have been at least 100 feet thick, therefore, 2000 feet long. If the estimated size is more nearly correct, then to have been seen as described, the objects would have been roughly six miles distant. At this distance they would have traveled only 11 miles in 102 seconds, or approximately 400 MPH. The entire report of this incident is replete with inconsistencies. It is to be noted that the observer has profited from this story by selling it to Fate magazine.

AMC Opinion: The report cannot bear even superficial examination, therefore, must be disregarded. There are strong indications that this report and its attendant publicity is largely responsible for subsequent reports.



24 June. Richland, Washington. (2:30 p.m.)

The city of Richland is adjacent to the Hanford Atomic works. As we have stated, if Arnold had seen Russian planes, the formation of intruders already were within striking distance of the nuclear plant at Hanford. According to a Mr. L.G. Bernier of Hanford, UFOs actually reached the bomb factory that day. Bernier told the press he spotted three discs over Hanford at 2:30 p.m. on June 24th. The three discs were heading toward Mt. Rainier (northwest). The Hanford resident figured the three objects were probably among the nine Arnold spotted 30 minutes later. (xx.)

(xx.) Portland, Oregon. *Oregon Journal*. 4 July 47. p.2.

27 June. "Are 'Flying Discs' Here to Stay?"

The *Seattle Star* had some clever remarks listed under the headline: "Are 'Flying Discs Here to Stay?" The paper printed:

"NEWS ITEM: Army officers and aviation experts are very skeptical about 'flying discs' reportedly seen flying over Western Washington at 1200 miles-an-hour.

"Here are some earlier experts' opinions:

"RADAR --- 'Planes approaching Pearl Harbor? Nonsense!' An American army officer, Dec. 7, 1941.

"AIRPLANES --- 'A fine sport, but useless for the Army,' Col. (later Marshal) Ferdinand Foch, 1910.

"TANKS --- 'Complete failure in the battle of the Somme. Suggest construction orders be canceled,' Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander of British Expeditionary Force, 1916.

"SUBMARINES --- 'A toy. No danger whatever to the British navy,' Napoleon, 1805.

"THE AMERICAN NAVY --- 'Fir-built frigates, manned by thieves and cowards,' British Admiralty, 1798.

"ARTILLERY --- 'Useless unless the noise frightens the enemy,' unknown Venetian general, about 1450." (xx.)

(xx.) Seattle, Washington. *Seattle Star*. 27 June 47.

27 June. Woodland, Washington. (3:00 p.m.)

"One of the better cases" --Ted Bloecher.

According to a Washington newspaper:

"Flying discs which appeared radar-controlled but were thick enough to carry a human being were sighted by Clyde Homan, manager of a tulip farm at 3 p.m. yesterday, in the closest observation of the 'mystery saucers' yet reported, INS dispatches today said.

"Homan, contacted today by *The Sun* at the farm across the Lewis river in

Cowlitz county, said the discs, shaped like 'sheets of aluminum,' flew in over a hill from the north at an altitude not over 1,000 feet, angled suddenly, and disappeared to the southeast within less than a minute's time.

"There were two groups, the lead formation of five discs, followed by [a another group of?] four or five more, Homan said. He estimated their speed at 'from 500 to 600 miles per hour,' or about the speed of a jet plane. Homan said he thought they may have been radar-controlled.

"His attention was drawn to them by the reflection of white light as they tilted from edge to edge 'like a swallow soaring.' He ran to get his foreman, J. Gordon Fuller, [of?] Portland, who observed the mystery craft just as they disappeared.

"From the edge, they appeared as 'sheets of aluminum,' about three feet thick, and possibly 40 feet across. The formation skimmed under clouds, and after turing appeared to gain altitude. No full-on view was obtained sufficient to determine their shape except that they were 'circular or possibly triangular,' Homan said.

"The craft shot noiselessly past, although the sound could have been carried away by a prevailing west wind, Homan said.

"No one else in the Woodland vicinity observed the strange flying shapes, Homan said, explaining that he noted them accidentally and only because of the chance reflection of light as they tipped.

"He estimated that the objects flew at an angle across the Pacific highway at about the point of the second bridge south of Woodland.

"Homan is a flyer and is familiar with airports. He said he has seen jet propelled planes fly and is familiar with the appearance in flight of radar-controlled equipment." (xx.)

(xx.) Vancouver, Washington. *The Sun*. 28 June 47. p.1.

Dr. James McDonald investigates the Woodland case. (See pages 11-12)

28 June. Waterloo, Iowa. (1:30 a.m.)

"Physiological effects?"

Researcher Jan Aldrich suggests this report may be the first case of physiological effects involving UFOs:

"On June 28 in Waterloo, Iowa, Mr. J.E. Johnston, a concession stand operator, went down in his basement to check his plumbing at about 1:30 a.m. The basement entrance was from the outdoors. When he came out of the basement into his yard, he was startled by the appearance of a bright and shiny circular object swooping across his yard not more than eight meters (25 feet) from him. The object was about four meters in diameter, appeared flat, and moved swiftly at low altitude from south to north. It's appearance 'stunned me not from the sight of it but almost as if from some ray that it gave out. I could hardly get into the house. I was numb from head to feet.' His wife, a nurse, was in the kitchen and confirmed his condition. He had a

June 27, 1947, Woodland, Washington

Mr. Clyde (nmi) Homan

About 3:00 p.m., Friday

Interviewed 1/22/68. Homan now lives at 1850 Davis Avenue, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Home telephone: AC 812, 232-3673.

Homan is still in the tulip business and remarked that he is still the largest tulip grower in the country. His company is still identified as Tulips, Incorporated.

Homan has a Ph.D. in Botany, but has not been in academic activities, evidently, for at least 20 years.

I learned that he is now living in Indiana from a Phoenix teacher who attended a talk I gave in November to the Arizona Science Teachers Association. Unfortunately, I lost the notes based on her comments and tried Terre Haute on the faint chance that that was the place she had mentioned. It proved correct. Homan believes that the woman must have been Mrs. Linda Connell, the only teacher he knows in Phoenix. He believes that she was not working for him at the time of the sighting and presumes that she heard about it after she started working for him sometime in 1948.

He confirmed that he had sent details on the sighting to the *Oregon Journal* and felt that, if I had that account, I would have most of the essential information. Nevertheless, I went over a number of the points, and his recollection of the details was generally quite good. He recalls that there were about ten bright and shiny discs, solid-looking in appearance and perhaps metallic. The point that he emphasized repeatedly was the way in which their tilting and tipping was always done in unison, "as if they were all controlled together". He thought there might have been about ten, but was not any longer sure of the precise number. He did not clearly recall his having described them as being separated into two separate groups pursuing the same general course.

He stated on the phone that he thought they came out of the north-east over some hills, crossed Highway 99, and then did a roughly 90-degree turn to the southeast, all banking in unison.

He emphasized that there was no sound and no vapor trail of any sort. He thought that their speed might have been around 600 mph, and estimated that they were in sight for something like a minute at the most.

He felt certain if they had been jets or any other kind of conventional aircraft they would have been distinctly audible, since they came within about a mile of his tulip-farm office, at closest approach. He stated that they were not shaped at all like aircraft but seemed to be flat discs. The discs gave a bright reflection at one point, he stated, where they passed into the sunlight

that was coming through breaks in the overcast. The rest of the time they were not shiny.

He estimated the diameter at perhaps 30 or 40 feet across. He thought they might have been about a thousand feet above terrain.

He was sitting in his office looking out the window when he spotted them initially. He went to the door and got a better look at them as they came out of a general northerly direction, and yelled to his foreman, who was already out-of-doors at work. The foreman's name, he cannot recall. (He also checked with his wife off-telephone, but she couldn't recall it either.) The foreman did not get as good a look at the objects as he did. The foreman at that time lived in Portland and was then about fifty years old, so Homan thought it is possible that he is no longer living. The foreman brought a truck-load of help over to the Washington side to work each day.

He knows of no other witnesses. The tulip farm was somewhat isolated and lay a few miles out of town.

It is his recollection that, at the time he saw these, he had not yet learned of the Arnold sighting. His memory on that point was not entirely clear. (Since the newspaper accounts of the Arnold sighting were not very widely publicized until after July 1, this seems quite conceivable.)

He said that he had never seen anything like them before or since, and emphasized that, "I can't see how anyone could lay these things to vapors or gasses." He said they had sharp outlines and seemed entirely solid.

He stated that he can't see how anyone could explain anything like that, but did not volunteer any hypotheses to account for them.

pain in his chest and difficulty in raising his arm the next day. He said the object's passage had been accompanied by a rocket-like swishing sound." (xx.)

(xx.) Aldrich, Jan. *Project 1947: A Preliminary Report on the 1947 UFO Sighting Wave*. UFO Research Coalition, 1997. pp.68-69. Waterloo, Iowa. *Sunday Courier*. 6 July 47.

28 June. Caldwell, Idaho. (3:30 p.m.)

"Like a garden hose when you snap it."

A woman who asked that her name be withheld because "people would think she was crazy" contacted the local newspaper to tell her story. The paper published this account:

"She was facing east at 3:30 p.m. June 28. Her little boy first noticed the discs. The two were in the yard when he pointed north where nine objects were travelling from east to west. The objects, she said, were rounded at top and flat on the bottom as seen from an angle. Later she called the airport and was told the clouds, over which the objects had passed, were at 8,000 feet. She estimated the objects were about 10 miles away.

"The objects traveled with a jiggling motion, up and down, she added. They were flying nearly abreast with one just a little ahead of the others. The one ahead was nearest her. It gained altitude, she declared, and the others followed in the pattern of a 'garden hose when you snap it.' Just before they went out of sight, she added, they seemed to veer toward the north and the sun hit them. She said that they were so unusual that she strained her eyes in an effort to see all that she could. When the sun hit them, she declared, the second, fifth and sixth reflected the beams as though they were metal.

" 'I have never seen anything travel so fast in my life,' the local woman said. 'Friends told me it was impossible for anything to go up and down and still travel ahead at that speed.'

"She declared that the objects impressed her small son as 'they were too high for birds and too fast for planes.' She reported that she heard no motor and saw no vapor trails. 'There were clouds that day which would possibly conceal any vapor trail.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Caldwell, Idaho. *News-Tribune*. 5 July 47. pp.1,8.

29 June. Clarion, Iowa. (no time)

In-line formation.

Our source states:

"About seven miles out of Clarion, Iowa, observer saw an object shoot across the sky in front of the bus he was driving. It was followed by four more. The height appeared about 1200 feet. Observer stepped out of the bus which was facing east

and noticed some dots in the sky approaching from the opposite direction. They were flying about the same altitude at a speed of about 300 mph. These 13 objects flew in a single file. Roughly, the objects were between a circle and an oval in shape. In appearance they looked like an inverted saucer flying thru the air. The thickest part seemed to be about 12 feet. The diameter could have been anywhere from 175 to 250 feet. They were dirty white in color. The second group disappeared into the north-northwest sky in a matter of a few minutes. They made a noise as they passed overhead similar to an electric motor or dynamo." (xx.)

(xx.) U.S. Air Force BLUE BOOK files. Incident #43..

29 June. Meade Layne's postcard.

The head of the Borderland Science Research Organization, Meade Layne, sent a postcard to all members. (See below) (xx.)

(xx.) From the files of the late Fortean Vincent H. Gaddis. Now in the author's collection.

For your information: Partial quotes from the trance Control "Lingford" re the "flyingsaucers".. (Quote) "There are worlds within worlds, etheric worlds penetrating your plane. These objects do not come from another planet, but from an etheric world; objects doing this seem to materialize, then dematerialize on reentering the etheric.. Purpose is to compel attention - to wake you up. They come with good intent. They have some idea of experimenting with earth life themselves coming to your plane to live. They are not incarnate humans. Their shape and spinning give almost no air resistance, hence their speed.. I do not know how they are propelled. The Kareeta or Corrida was probably also etheric construction. Your ignorance of the etheric worlds is appalling. There will be many strange sky appearances.. They are humans but not of your world and not from any planet which your senses or instruments can detect. "

6-29-47

29 June. Tucson, Arizona. (about 1:30 p.m.)

"I have never seen anything like it before or since."

Information obtained by Dr. James McDonald after interviewing a Mr. Charles O. Weaver and his wife on August 8, 1967:

"At the time, Weaver operated the San Carlos Restaurant in downtown Tucson.

He and his wife stepped out the back door of the restaurant, looking northeast. Saw a number of objects maneuvering over the Catalina Mountains. Weaver had impression they were a bit south of the mountains and not much more than 2,000 feet above the ridge. Objects were almost too small to see shape, but gave impression of being elliptical or saucer-shaped. Mostly they saw the glint of light from them when they flashed in the sun. Silvery, shiny finish. Recall six or seven objects. Since objects were more or less hovering, Weaver thought of driving to his mother's home where binoculars were available. Took about 5 minutes to get there, 938 East Eighth Street (his home then was 708 East First, but he did not go to his home). Objects still in sight when got binoculars, but found binoculars of little assistance, since had problems finding them due to small field of view. Hence, continued observations with naked eye.

"Shortly after getting the binoculars the objects began climbing out rapidly towards the southeast. Newspapers in error as to direction. Thinks they took only about 2 minutes to get out of sight. Moved faster than aircraft of that period.

"'I have never seen anything like it before or since.' Mentioned that his wife and he have been watching the skies ever since but have never seen any other UFOs. Present age, 57; Weaver was 37 in 1947. Pleasant fellow, articulate, clear and emphatic about the sighting. Quite definite that they were not any conventional objects." (xx.)

(xx.) Dr. James McDonald's interview notes. Charles O. Weaver and wife. Date of interview: 14 August 67. Copy in author's files.

29 June. Nogales, Arizona. (afternoon)

Circling disks.

A press account states:

"Families residing in the Camp Little area today reported seeing mysterious 'flying disks' in the sky Sunday afternoon:...

"Two men, Luis [last name not clear] and Armando Macias, sitting with their families in their front yard, reported the disks flew in from the west and disappeared toward the northeast.

"'There were about six of them, flying fairly low,' Macias said. 'They appeared to be traveling at great speed.'

"Macias said the objects looked about the size and shape of a large dinner plate and flew in circles, first in one direction and then another before fading out of sight. He said he could not tell if they made a sound because of the noise raised by neighborhood youths who first attracted his attention to the disks." (xx.)

(xx.) Nogales, Arizona. *Herald*. 3 July 47.

29 June. Moscow, Idaho. (1:30 p.m.)

"Round and flat."

According to the *Daily Idahoan*:

"Frank Lark, 440 East Eight street, tells of watching the disc as it traveled overhead in a southeasterly direction, shortly before 1:30 p.m. He said his attention was attracted when he noticed neighbors, Lewis Cook and two daughters, gazing upward. Looking up, Lark said he saw a disc-like object, round and flat, moving eastward at an underdetermined altitude.

"He called to neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Heilman, who also saw the 'flying saucer.' They continued to watch it until it finally disappeared over a high cloud bank in the southeast.

"Lark said he listened intently but heard no sound. He added that it was impossible for him to judge the size or speed, but thought it 'must be fairly large.'

" 'When I first saw the disc overhead, it did not seem to be moving especially fast but seemed to pick up speed as it moved toward the horizon.'

"Asked if the disc appeared to be falling, Lark said, 'No. It was oscillating back and forth, from East to West, but it kept its altitude, and went out of sight above the clouds on the horizon.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Moscow, Idaho. *Daily Idahoan*. 30 June 47.

30 June. Linda Corners, California. (7:25 p.m.)

"Broad-shaped phenomenon." "Door slides open."

Mrs. Hormby's story:

"The latest episode in the 'case of the mysterious saucers' took an Orson Wells twist in the twin cities today with the announcement by Mrs. Myrtle Hormby of Linda Corners that she has seen what she described as a 'broad-shaped object' flying at a very high rate of speed over her house.

"Mrs. Hormby reports she saw the strange object last Sunday at 7:25 p.m., but had decided against mentioning the 'phenomenon' until recent publicity about the 'supersonic saucers' convinced her she may have seen something like them herself.

"Mrs. Hormby's 'flying saucer,' she believes, was different, because, according to her version, this one lit up 'with a strange blue-white light as it passed overhead.'

"Mrs. Hormby told an *Appeal-Democrat* reporter today she tried to signal the strange object with her flashlight. As it passed over her house at a high rate of speed, Mrs. Hormby said she heard a weird 'buzzing, whirring' noise. A door appeared to slide open on the craft's underside, and from within came a dazzling 'blueish' light, Mrs. Hormby insists.

"She stated that the craft had no wings or tail assembly.

"Mrs. Hormby said several of her neighbors have reported seeing the strange object, and her son, inside the house at the time, reports hearing the 'whirring.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Maryville, California. *Appeal-Democrat*. 3 July 47.

30 June. Near Hailey, Idaho. (2:30? p.m.)

"Maintained approximately uniform spacing at all times in a rather rigid manner."

This sighting appeared in the Idaho press on July 1, 1947, however as we see by Dr. James McDonald's investigation of the case, there was no many errors in the newspaper report the original published account need not be quoted. (See McDonald's interview on pages 18-19

30 June. "End of the World?"

A La Grande pastor's "end of world" decoration was countered the following day by a Portland minister who expressed a disbelief the millenium is neigh. (See stories on page 21)

31 June. San Angelo, Texas.

Descended and then shot upward.

Numerous reports came in from Texas at this time. Here is one:

"...Mrs. Victor L. Salter of San Angelo and her 13-year-old son added their stories to about a dozen others in Texas. They saw something Sunday.

"She said she thought at first that it was a weather instrument released from Goodfellow Field nearby. She was sunbathing on the back lawn, she said, when she saw the object, revolving very slowly and descending. She said it looked like the size of a wash-tub. Suddenly the disk shot upward at an unbelievable speed, she said." (xx.)

(xx.) Matador, Texas. *Tribune*. 3 July 47.

30 June. General Ramey and Col. Kalberer scoff. "Buck Rogers stuff?"

Army officials express doubts about the supposed Texas manifestations:

"In Fort Worth, Col. Alfred F. Kalberer, Intelligence officer of the Eighth Air Force, said Monday that 'it might be true, but I doubt it.'

"Brig. Gen. Ramey, commanding general of the Eighth, said he thought persons making the reports 'have been seeing heat waves.'

"Nine planes aren't likely to be doing formation flying at 1,200 miles an hour,' Ramey added. He referred to an earlier report that nine disks [Arnold] flying in formation had been seen moving at supersonic speed.

"Kalberer has 19,000 flying hours to his credit. He admitted that a saucer-like disk would be the ideal shape for sonic craft.

" 'It doesn't stand to reason, though, that any unannounced enemy of the United States, anywhere in the world, would be sending such experimental craft over this country on trial flights,' he said. 'That would be tipping us off too easily.'

"He added that he 'liked the Buck Rogers stuff and would like to believe that the United States had a craft of its own which would go that fast.'

"He said the estimated 1,200 miles an hour was probably wrong, and that

June 30, 1947, near Hailey, Idaho

R. Hunter Nelson and Walter W. Nicholson

Present locations: Nicholson is at Route 2, Twin Falls, Idaho.
Tel.- Area code 208 733-6025

Nelson is still with U.S. Forest Service, Box 385,
Hailey, Idaho.
Tel.- Area code 208 788-4284.

This case was reported very inaccurately in the press. I will note some of the major errors. The witnesses were not in "Major Valley"; no such valley exists. They were near Cherry Creek in the Wood River Basin. They were not north but southeast of Galena Summit. There was no sound heard at any time. There were no vapor trails observed by either witness. Mr. Brado was not a witness; the first he heard of the whole thing was when he read about it in the papers. Mr. Nicholson was not Brado's assistant; he was purchasing timber for use in his private business.

Nicholson and Nelson were selecting trees for cutting by Nicholson. Nelson, the ranger, was in the process of estimating the height and board-foot content of a tree when he spotted high in the sky, a bit to the southwest of their position, the formation of objects. No buzz at all.

The time was in the afternoon. Nicholson feels that 2:30 would be closer than 4:30. Clear day, not a cloud in the sky.

Nelson insists the objects were moving towards the northwest. Nicholson recalled them moving to the northeast. I believe Nelson's recollections are more precise in general.

The number of objects was recalled as about seven by Nicholson and six to ten by Nelson. Both agreed the objects were in a V formation, point foremost. Both recalled a momentary change of formation when the right wing began to swing forward but then fell back into its initial alignment. The spacing between adjacent objects was estimated as four to five diameters by Nicholson. He stated that they maintained approximately uniform spacing at all times in a rather rigid manner. No flutter or swerving was reported. Both emphasized the high speed of the objects, "much faster than any aircraft of that day."

Neither could discern any shape of the objects because they were so high and small. They were specks of bright light glinting in the sunlight. Occasionally they would change orientation enough that they seemed to disappear, but this was interpreted by the witnesses as merely a lack of bright reflection. That point might indicate some flutter.

R. Hunter Nelson and Walter W. Nicholson (continued)
Page 2

Shortly after the objects were spotted, both men had to back up a small hill in order to keep the objects in sight as they receded from view. Total duration of observation estimated at about 30 seconds by Nelson.

Both agreed the objects passed more or less over Galena Summit. This would tend to confirm Nelson's impression that the objects were going towards the northwest.

Both witnesses were emphatic in saying these could not have been aircraft.

Both remarked on the ribbing they received from friends and acquaintances, but both emphasized that they knew what they saw. Both emphasized the vividness of their recollections of that incident, and Nicholson said he could take me to within a few feet of the spot from which they made the sighting, even now.

Nelson said "I can still see that formation." He said "I have never seen anything like it before or since."

Nicholson is now farming, but in 1947 he was building potato cellars; hence his need for timber. *

* The above mistake-saturated press account was an exception to the rule. Dr. McDonald made a comment about this in a 1967 letter:

"I did a sample-check of about two dozen of these old cases, and I found that, for the majority of them, the original newspaper accounts were essentially correct. There were errors, of course, yet I was surprised at the number of those old incidents for which I was able to locate the principle witness by telephone, and verify the main details." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: A.A. Tikhonove. Moscow, USSR. From: Dr. James McDonald.
Date: 26 December 67. Dr. James McDonald papers. University of Arizona
at Tucson Library. Tucson, Arizona. Special Collections Division.



Nine Irrigated Idaho Counties

EDITION

IDAHO, TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1947

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"Flying Discs" Reported Soaring Over Galena in Wavering "V" Formation

The "flying discs" have invaded Magic Valley!

About 4:30 p.m. Monday, eight to 10 of the much-publicized "flying discs" flew over Galena summit in a "V" formation. There were two eye witnesses—Hunter Nelson, forest ranger at the Russian John ranger station, and Walter Nicholson, forest ranger at the Twin Falls.

Timber on South Cherry creek about three miles south of Galena summit. Nelson mentioned that he heard a buzz, then looked directly overhead and noticed the "flying discs." He called Nicholson's attention to the soaring, shining objects and the two men watched them for about a minute, before they went out of sight. Nicholson said he heard no noise.

Nicholson said there were about eight or 10 of the discs in a "V" formation. The left wing of the formation contained five of the discs in a perfect line, but the right wing of the formation seemed to waver, he reported. He said it was impossible to tell how many discs were in the right wing.

"No Airplane"

"It wasn't anything like an airplane," he remarked. "At first I thought the reports of the discs were nothing but jet-propelled planes, but it is nothing like that."

Nicholson said the "flying discs" were flying "extremely high" and they moved so fast the two men had to back up the hill to keep seeing them. Nicholson said the discs were flying in a northwest direction when they passed over Galena summit.

The much-publicized "flying discs" were first reported nearly a week ago by Kenneth Arnold, Boise businessman-flier, skimming through the air off formation near Mt. Rainier, Wash. They were clocked at 1,200 miles an hour by the stop watch on the plane's instrument panel.

Usual Number

Ever since the first reports of the "flying saucers" Pacific Northwest residents have seen the objects. Most reports have placed the number at nine shining "discs."

For as many people as have seen the "discs" there have been as many "logical" explanations—ranging from meteorites, then from new Russian bombs, newly-developed navy planes and the end of the world.

MINISTER SAYS DISKS SIGNIFY END OF WORLD

LA GRANDE, Ore., June 30.—(A. P.)—A minister listened to more reports of flying saucers today and opined that the end of the world is at hand.

The Rev. Lester Carlson, pastor of the Gospel Tabernacle Church, declared that the shiny flying disks reported in many Western states were the advance guard of the second coming of Christ.

The millennium, added the minister, will come at any minute.

Leland Jones, La Grande High School student, said he and two Catholic nuns saw nine of the disks late last week. They were weaving in and out of formation, Jones said. "They looked bright and round, and seemed to have fins."

Mrs. Morton Elder, a farm wife living south of Pendleton, said she saw seven of the objects flying speedily toward the northwest at 11 a. m. Sunday. They hummed, she said, like a musical top.

The Rev. William T. Hageman, Jr., head of the Assemblies of God Tabernacle here, said he believes the La Grande pastor either was misquoted or has erred. "Whatever the case," he said, "the Rev. Mr. Carlson did not speak for our denomination even though the La Grande Church is an affiliate.

"Certain things in the Bible indicate the time of the millenium," the Rev. Mr. Hageman said. "But these indications are so shaded that it is nearly impossible to be sure that a prediction based on them is correct. Speaking for myself, I do not believe these indications have appeared yet.

"Unfortunately, whenever anything new is evented, someone always speaks up to say the world is coming to an end. When the atomic bomb was disclosed, a minister in California got his congregation together and, dressed in white robes, they waited atop a mountain for the coming of Christ," the minister recalled.

He said that he personally is not concerned about the disks. "The disks may be an indication of the coming of Christ, but who am I to say or anyone else?" he added.

"I prefer to believe that Mr. Carlson has began preaching along that line lately and the appearance of the disks convinced him even more that the millenium is nearing, but that the statements attributed to him by the press have been exaggerated somewhere. Many things are happening today in the struggles of mankind for peace which have a bearing on the date of the millenium, but it can not yet be predicted." He said.

Meanwhile, United Press today carried an account of a baby saucer - 12 inches in diameter - seen in South Carolina. This one, according to the account, gave off a faint eerie light.

07/01/47 - OREGON JOURNAL

Pastor Fears Confrere Errs in Air Mystery

A Portland minister today took exception to the prediction of the Rev. Lester Carlson, pastor of La Grande Gospel Tabernacle, that the millenium is neigh because of the appearance of the "flying saucers."

the planes might have been jet propelled craft doing about 450." (xx.)

(xx.) Roswell, New Mexico. *Morning Dispatch*. 1 July 47.

1 July. Houston, Texas.

"John Law gets into Flying Disk Craze."

The rash of UFO reports in Texas prompted this warning:

"Old John Law has came along and put a touch of gloom to the nation's enjoyment of its best craze since miniature golf and flagpole sitting swept the country many years ago.

"Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Cash said if the saucers turn out to be part of an atomic experiment and if anyone fines out information on the subject with the intent to harm the U.S., he is subject to the death penalty or life imprisonment.

"If the information is divulged innocently, the penalty may be a \$25,000 fine and 20 years imprisonment. Cash said his warning was based on Public Law 585, the Espionage Act of 1917 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1946." (xx.)

(xx.) Dalhart, Texas. *Texan*. 1 July 47.

Cash's warning evidently didn't stop a hoax days later concerning the finding of a supposed "secret military disk" on a beach close to Trinity Bay. (See my monograph: *UFO's: A HISTORY 1947* pp.18-19.)

1 July. Near Portland, Oregon. (11:45 a.m.)

"Something was definitely there."

Another from the northwest:

"The 'flying saucers' appeared over the Columbia river near Portland and were witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Balliet, who are building a house near N.E. 74th avenue and Prescott street, according to Mrs. Balliet who said she watched the discs for as much as two minutes.

" 'We didn't believe the story when we saw it in the papers, but we definitely saw the flying objects at 11:45 A.M. Tuesday when we stopped work on the house for lunch,' said Mrs. Balliet.

" 'I first saw three of them as we sat down to lunch and called my husband's attention to them. Later there were 10 or 11 of them flying low below the foothills and apparently over the Columbia river or just on the Washington side.

" 'There was no noise and they did not appear to be flying fast. Two of them remained in sight longer than the others. One side seemed to be brighter than the other, for when they tipped from side to side one side would be bright and the other dull. The objects were round.

" 'Something was definitely there and they were moving apparently along the

course of the Columbia river." (xx.)

(xx.) Portland, Oregon. *The Oregonian*. 2 July 47.

1 July. Albuquerque, New Mexico. (night)

"Zig-zag path."

A press account states:

"Max Hood, Chamber of Commerce executive, added his story to the growing list of those who have seen 'flying saucers' over the West.

"Hood told of seeing 'a disc-like bluish object following a zig-zag path in the northwestern sky' only last night. It disappeared in about half a minute, he said." (xx.)

(xx.) Roswell, New Mexico. *Daily Record*. 2 July 47.

1 July. Louisville, Kentucky. (10:10 p.m.)

"Strictly from Unger."

According to our source:

"The observing Mr. E.E. Unger has observed one of those things now. Unger is U.S. meteorologist here. He has been observing professionally for 30 years. His observations always have packed some weight and authority.

"Anyway, Unger says he saw a circular object flying through the air at 10:10 p.m. Tuesday. He says the object was moving southeast at about 100 miles an hour and giving off an orange light. It was close to the earth and might have been a balloon, he said, except for its speed. Unger made his observation as he was leaving a theater in the Highlands." (xx.)

(xx.) Louisville, Kentucky. *Courier-Journal*. 3 July 47.

1 July. Kalberer and Monnig try to shoot down the disk stories.

"We're not being invaded by planes from Mars."

The press carried this announcement:

"The epidemic of people-seeing-flying-discs continued to spread in Texas yesterday, and caused an Army intelligence chief and an astronomer to announce that 'we're not being invaded by planes from Mars.'

"Col. Alfred F. Kalberer, 8th air force intelligence officer, and Oscar Monnig, Ft. Worth astronomer, reassured Texans that the series of reports were nothing more than 'an interesting study of human psychology.'

"In short, people just thought they were seeing things..."

"Monnig admitted that 'some of these people have seen something, and a few may actually have seen daylight meteors.'

"He said he was visiting an observatory near Los Angeles last week when the first flying disk was reported. He said the astronomer there laughed and predicted an avalanche of such reports.

"Col. Kalberer recalled the Orson Wells man from Mars radio skit, and its results. He also told of sea serpents being seen.

"He said he wished someone 'would put salt on the tail of one of those disks and catch it.'

"Officially, he was emphatic in saying the AAF knows nothing of any such flying disks." (xx.)

(xx.) Matador, Texas. *Tribune*. 3 July 47.

2 July. Phoenix, Arizona. (about 9:00 p.m.)

"They couldn't possibly pause in their flight."

A press report tells us:

"Witnesses from two widely separated parts of Phoenix reported seeing one of the flying saucers at approximately 9 p.m., they told *The Gazette*.

"Frank Nunn, 2003 South 12th Street said he and his wife were sitting in front of their home when they saw an object moving at great speed across the sky in an eastward direction.

"According to Nunn, the object, which he described as looking yellow in the moonlight, was traveling too fast to be an aircraft, and not fast enough to be a falling star. Nunn also noted that the disc-shaped object did not leave a trail of smoke or vapor.

"At approximately the same time Nunn saw the object, it was also observed by Mrs. Earl Tutt and her son, Harold Nice, 14, both of 1729 East Willette Street.

"After her attention had been called to the object by her son, Mrs. Tutt looked upward and saw what she described as 'a bright object, streaking earthward. It didn't waver a bit. When it seemed to be not far above the earth, it stopped suddenly, paused a second, and then took off eastward at incredible speed.

"According to Amos Hoff, instructor in astronomy at Phoenix Junior College, the description of the object's flight rules out the possibility of it being any manifestation of natural phenomena, such as meteorites.

"'If those discs came from outer space,' Hoff said, 'they couldn't possibly pause in their flight as has been described, and then travel in a direction different from the path of their fall. I don't know what they could be.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Phoenix, Arizona. *The Phoenix Gazette*. 3 July 47.

2 July. Lewiston, Idaho. (about 7:00 a.m.)

"Like two hub caps face to face."

The newspaper report on this case turned out to be too brief and too inaccurate. Dr. James McDonald was able to rectify the problems by conducting interviews. (See pages 26-27)

There was one bit in the press account worth noting. Mrs. Bergh was quoted as saying: "Whatever they were and whatever they were doing, they seemed to be having fun." (xx.)

(xx.) Lewiston, Idaho. 2 July 47. (AP)

3? July. The Straits of Madagascar. (about 11:00 p.m.)

A big "ghost rocket?"

A letter from Mrs. A.M. King about the *S.S. Llandoverly Castle* sighting was sent to Dr. James McDonald who sent her two published accounts of the case and asked for her comments. One account McDonald sent was published by Frank Edwards and the other by Coral Lorenzen.

Concerning Edwards' account, Mrs. King has this to say:

"I personally had no conversation with a ship's officer. I can only conclude that somebody else saw what they stated and only part of their observations tally with mine.

"I would say that I saw the whole performance from the very beginning to the end, whereas this party only saw the craft when fairly close and with a light shining. The light was shining right high up in the sky, ten minutes before it came alongside. I did not see the craft 'rise' up swiftly, but it did move silently into the night. I was [on the?] starboard side of the ship. I and only one elderly passenger (who was there part of the time) were on deck.

"Coral Lorenzen account is more accurate.

"I cannot vouch what was written in the ship's log book. I will recount only what I saw personally while I was standing by the rails of the *S.S. Llandoverly Castle* from Mombasa on the 30th June in 1947. A few days later when going through the Straits of Madagascar and the time about 11 p.m. was the time the sighting was made. The deck of the ship was deserted except for one elderly lady passenger and myself. All the deck chairs had been collected by the steward and stacked in piles at one end of the deck. All that remained was the two chairs which we occupied. I pointed out to my companion that the deck steward was waiting for us to vacate the chairs. We left the chairs and went over to the rails of the ship and watched the porpoise in the water.

"I then looked up into the sky. It was a moonless night, with brilliant stars. I saw one falling star. I then saw another very much whiter star, and this attracted my attention as it did not fall like the previous one, it kept falling and I was interested to see when it would finally vanish, but this did not happen. This star travelled at a great speed from a very great distance, it was visible all the time, and I would estimate at least ten minutes before it came alongside of the ship. It came

July 2, 1947, Lewiston, Idaho

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd V. Bergh and others

About 7 a.m. Wednesday

Interviewed 8/15/67. Now living at 216 Fifth Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho.
Tel. - Area code 208 743-1906.

At the time the Berghs were living at 1408 Thirteenth Avenue. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bergh, whom I interviewed separately, emphasized that the correct time was about 7 in the morning. Bergh had not yet left for work where he was always due at 8 a.m. She was hanging clothes, and he was carrying baskets out to a sister.

Mrs. Bergh remarked that she had been, up until that morning, quite skeptical of all the news about flying saucers. She had asked herself why she hadn't seen one, and resolved to keep an eye on the sky. With that thought in mind when she stepped outside into the back yard, she looked up and saw the objects.

Both gave three as the number of objects, not four as stated in the press. The objects did not in any way resemble "airplane propellers," as erroneously reported in the Spokane paper. Neither had seen that Spokane article and could not imagine how such a description ever got into the papers.

Both gave the shape as disc-like or like two hub caps face to face. Mr. Bergh emphasized thicker in the middle.

Both stated that the objects were moving with their planes vertical, in the manner of a wheel. Perhaps this attitude was what gave Mrs. Bergh the impression that the objects were rolling along. Mr. Bergh had no such impression, and thought she was wrong about that.

The three discs moved along, maintaining about uniform distance, at fairly high speed, occasionally dipping down and up as if moving along the surface of a wave.

They had to look to the southwest to see the objects at the start. They were high in altitude and in angular elevation. They moved eastward so that they finally disappeared towards their southeast.

Mrs. Bergh thought of running into the kitchen for dark glasses, which enabled her to see them against the sun when they moved into the southeast sky. For this reason she had a longer look at them than any of the others. Estimated total duration of observation, three minutes.

Mr. and Mrs. Bergh Interview (continued)
Page 2

The objects were silvery and glinted in the sun. There were scattered clouds in the sky, it was a beautiful day with blue sky, Mrs. Bergh emphasized. At no time did the objects go in front of or behind any clouds, she stated.

The other witnesses included the Bergh's daughter (then in junior high) and a friend who was visiting a neighbor (junior high age, I gathered). In addition, two neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Joliff, second-door neighbors, heard their talking and came out to watch. Finally Mrs. Bob Sergeant, the next-door neighbor, came out. Mrs. Bergh said that Mrs. Sergeant saw very little. Mrs. Sergeant and Mr. Joliff are dead. Mrs. Joliff is still alive, but I did not attempt to contact her.

I regarded the Berghs as rather good witnesses. Their recollections were generally quite clear, and they gave the impression of being intelligent people.

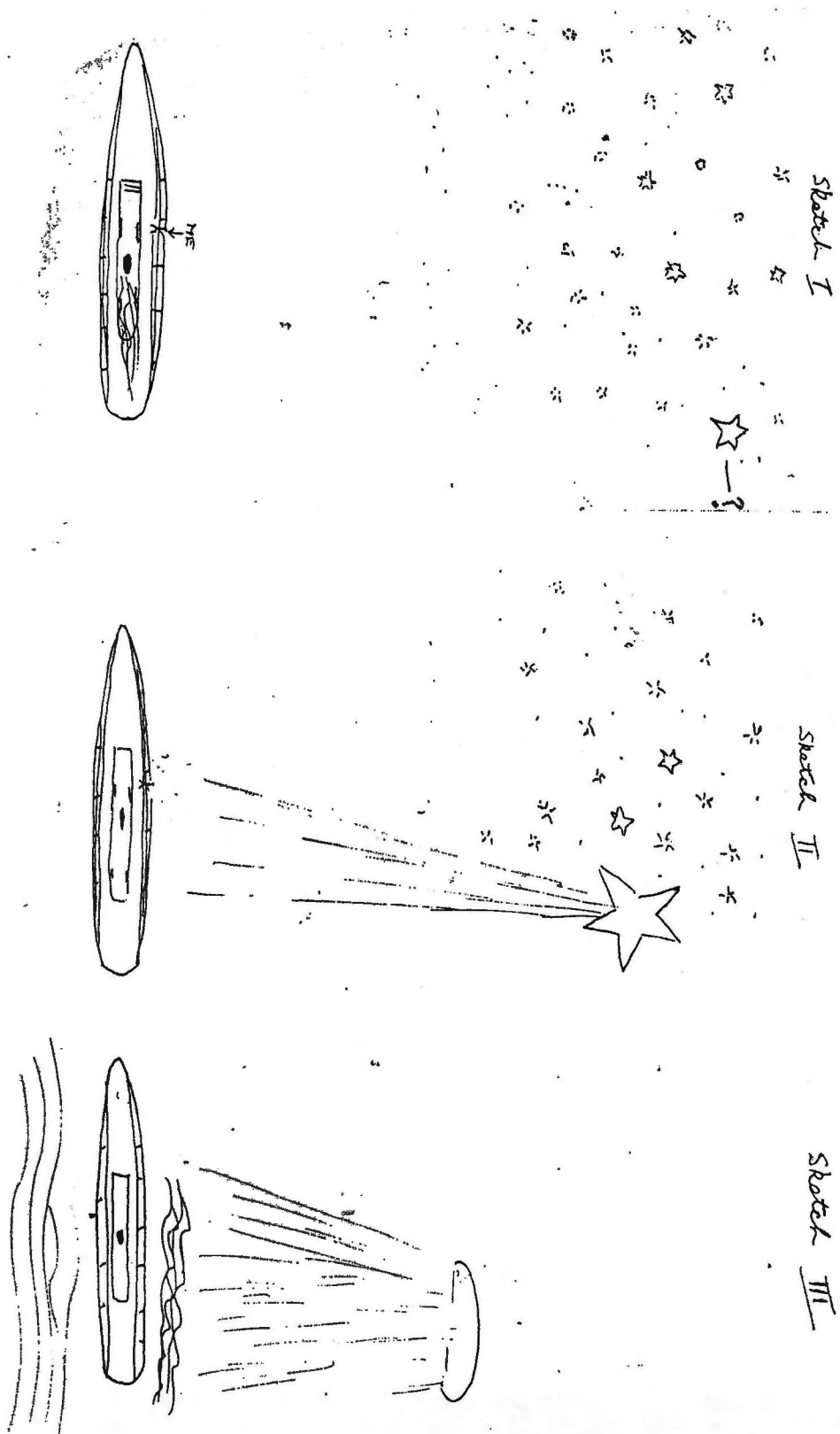
directly at the ship, and I wondered whether it would hit the ship. I wanted to go and tell somebody but thought I had better stay.

"When the craft was approaching the ship and near enough for me to see the shape of the very strong white light, that about a mile up in the air one could see that the light was round in shape, so white that it looked like magnesium light. The shaft of light was very strong and shone down on to the waves. It showed the crest of the waves and the natural colour of the water very clearly.

"At this point I asked my elderly companion if she would walk to the stern of the ship to see if anybody was there and ask them to come quickly. During this interval the craft had now shut off the light and I saw a long shaped cigar-shaped craft. It was a gunmetal in colour, dull polished. It hovered about 20 feet above the water, just clear of [the] waves. I could see this plainly as the lights from the portholes of the ship were shining on the craft. Now alongside and travelling in the same direction as the *S.S. Llandoverly Castle* it did not move any closer, it kept the same distance both from the top of the waves and distance from the ship. The front and rear end of the craft was in darkness, but fortunately I saw a band of steel material (same colour as the body) round the craft, and from this I was able to judge the speed, that it was in fact keeping up the same speed as the ship. I waited and hoped that an opening would be made somewhere in the craft, but nothing was visible, I looked carefully for windows or portholes, but there was absolutely nothing I could see. During this period, my companion returned and she said the Second Officer had seen it, and it was not the first time. There was a party going on at the stern of the ship, I don't know how many people were there. We both stood watching the ship and then it began slowly to gain speed and in a flash it disappeared. The end of the craft was completely open, and ribbons of blue and red lights, these lengths of flames were longer, I think, than the craft itself. At the end of a red streak was a red star, at the end of the blue streak was a blue star. The colour 'red' was more of an orange/red and the blue colour resembled an electric blue colour, perhaps a shade lighter. The ribbon light was straight broad ribbon of light, not broken or moving about like a flame. It looked as if two people were holding wide ribbons taut. There were no fumes, smell or noise of any engines. I only saw this in seconds, it appeared all lights were turned off, and the craft vanished into darkness.

"I was very disturbed to say the least. I could not say at what speed the craft was traveling. Today I know nothing about the speed of rockets or what speed attain in outer space, this is beyond me. The *S.S. Llandoverly Castle*, was one of the Union Castle Line's smaller ships and I would say that the craft was more than twice the length. This is very difficult to judge, as both ends of the craft were in darkness and only the middle section was visible. Indeed I took it that the band around the aircraft was centered, but again this may have not have been centered. The height is also difficult. I was pressed to try and say how high the craft was, and could only imagine the outline vaguely. I did some years later try to look at three Castle ships which were lying together in Nilindini Harbor. I took out a small motor boat, and from the distance about where I had seen the craft from the ship, again this did not help me very much. I was on the sea level and not looking at the same angle." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Dr. James McDonald. From: Mrs. A.M. King. P.O. Box 14303, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya. Date: 9 April 69. Copy in author's files.

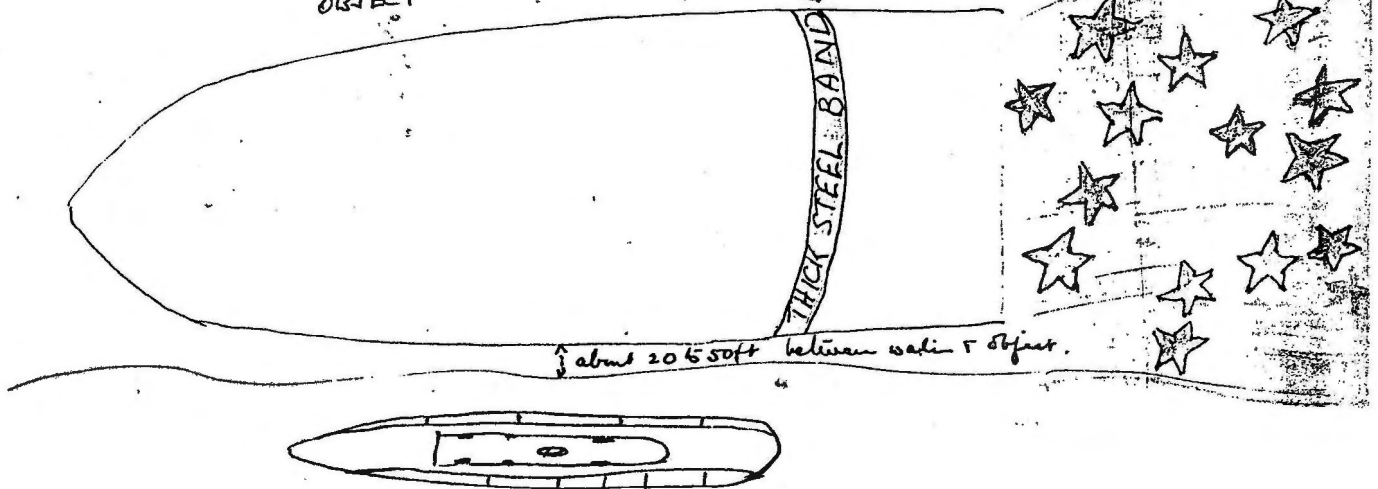


Sketch IV

BLUE FLAMES.
WERE BRIGHT
ELECTRIC BLUE
COLOUR.

RED FLAMES WERE
BRILLIANT RED.

OBJECT DARK GREY IN COLOUR.



3 July. "Invasion from space?"

A short letter to the editor of the Twin Falls *Times-News* declared:

"I don't know what others are thinking, but I believe all those 'flying discs' are men from Mars. They're probably just scouts for a full-scale invasion. Wouldn't be a bit surprised if Orson Wells' madcap radio broadcast of several years ago weren't repeated only this time it would be real.

[Signed] 'Explainer.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Twin Falls, Idaho. *Times-News*. 3 July 47.

3 July. Authorities are confused?

The public was perplexed when contradictory news stories appeared in the press the same day (July 3rd). One news item out of Washington said: "Army Will Drop Air Discs Probe," while another news item from Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, proclaimed: "A.A.F. Center Puts All Agents on Trail of 'Flying Saucers.'" (See clippings on page 32)

3 July. Omaha, Nebraska. (about 3:00 a.m.)

"Oval-shaped things."

Dr. McDonald interviewed a Mrs. Fred C. Nelson. (See page 33)

4 July. Hauser Lake, Idaho. (afternoon 7:00 p.m.?)

"Watched it for 30 minutes."

This report appeared in the press but Dr. James McDonald questioned George Aster in 1967 to clear up some facts about the case. The following was obtained from McDonald's rough notes:

"Watched it for half an hour, 5-6 in his party, a soldier and 2-3 others. Sighted it against an object [?]. Moved side to side. See it plainly. Disc shape. Turned sideways, looked round then, and went right straight up and disappeared almost instantly.

"Was a Piper Cub or other A/C heading in that direction. Plane got near and then it shot up and was gone in only 1/20th of second.

"Thinks it was afternoon, but unsure of time. Could have been 7:00. Estimated altitude at most 3-4 miles. Must have been 30 feet across. Shiny like aluminum.

"Moved to right, then to left. Didn't circle. Kind of moved side to side. Moved back and forth by its own diameter. No mistaking the motion.

"Elevation 30 degrees he guessed. Not directly overhead.

A.A.F. Center Puts All Agents On Trail of 'Flying Saucers'

The Army Air Forces Research Center at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, today told the Times "we are putting all our agents to work" on an investigation of the "flying saucers" such as reported seen here.

"As yet we haven't found out a thing and when and if we do we may not be able to make it public," said a Wright Field spokesman.

Concerning the suggestion of a Louisville observer who said he saw one of the "saucers" Tuesday night and believed it might be a radio-guided missile with which the Army is experimenting, the spokesman said:

"We are experimenting with radio-guided missiles but these things seen in the skies definitely are not ours."

The United Press reported from Washington that "all Service intelligence agencies" are also investigating. It said the Army Air Forces checked all their research authorities and contractors but have been unable to learn anything of the lighted disks.

The news agency said the possibility that the disks might be of foreign origin was indirectly put forward by an A.A.F. spokesman who said: "If some foreign power is sending flying disks over the United States it is our responsibility to know about it and take the proper action."

A qualified observer here, E. E. Unger, U. S. Meteorologist, who with Mrs. Unger saw the light, refused to speculate on what it might be.

"I only knew what I saw and I don't know what it was," he said. "My wife first saw it as we were leaving a Highlands picture show. It appeared to be travelling about 100 miles an hour towards the southeast."

"Of course it could have been an airplane, although the glow was too bright for wing or tail lights of a plane and we didn't

hear any noise although it was quiet enough to have heard a plane motor."

Mrs. E. A. Simpson, of 1229 Cypress, also reported seeing what she believes was one of the flying disks.

The Bowman Field control tower, which keeps a 24-hour watch on the skies, said workers there have seen nothing of the disks.

J. L. Laemmle, 710 E. Ormsby, reported he saw the light. Similar reports came from San Francisco, Boise, Idaho; Phoenix, Ariz., and Portland, Ore.

A flight of "flying saucers" was reported in Eastern Canada today. Father Burke-Gaffney, astronomer and dean of engineering at St. Mary's College in Halifax, said the saucers were "outside the realm of astronomy."

Army Will Drop Air Discs Probe

(Continued From Page 1)

fragments undoubtedly would have been found.)

(3) That icing conditions in high clouds produced "large hallstones which might have flattened out and glided a bit, giving the impression of horizontal movement even though they were falling vertically."

Navy officials also reported negative results on an investigation they launched.

They said the only craft in their organization which would fit the description given by the Idaho man is the "V 1-73"—a wingless plane known as the Flying Pancake.

But they said that the navy's lone craft of that type "had never left Bridgeport, Conn."

Bellevue (MT)
Gazette
July 3, 1947

Army Will Drop Air Discs Probe

Washington, July 3.—(AP)—A preliminary inquiry into reports that strange "flying discs" have been whizzing at 1,200 miles an hour over the western United States "has not produced enough fact to warrant further investigation," an army air forces spokesman said today.

The official said, "We don't have a thing that would give any realism" to a report made last week by a flying Boise, Idaho, businessman. He said he saw nine mysterious objects—big as airplanes—racing over Washington state's Cascade range with a peculiar weaving motion "like the tail of a kite." Several other persons in widely scattered localities later said they had glimpsed similar objects.

The air forces spokesman said the army has no new experimental planes or guided missiles which would fit such a description. He said air forces people are inclined to believe either that the observers just imagined they saw something, or that there is some meteorological explanation for the phenomenon.

However, Wright field (Dayton, Ohio) public relations officials said the air materiel command is making an investigation of "saucer shaped" missiles seen recently in the Pacific northwest and Texas.

Describing conversations with "a meteorologist from Langley field" and with "various scientific brains around the pentagon"—all anonymous—the Washington air forces spokesman said these meteorological maybes have been discussed.

(1) That solar reflections on low-hanging clouds produced spectral "flashes" which might have appeared like moving objects.

(A Washington, D.C., scientist, who declined to be identified, told a reporter, however, that he does not think it possible for solar radiation to produce such a phenomenon. "Otherwise," he said, "we'd be hearing of such cloud reflections all the time. The state of Washington has no monopoly on clouds.")

(2) That a small meteor might have broken up, producing crystals of silica that "caught" the rays of the sun. (But the air forces man said that if this happened, meteoric

(Continued on Page 2, Column 5.)

Louisville Ky
Times
July 3, 1947

July 3, 1947, Omaha, Nebraska

Mrs. Fred C. Nelson

About 3 a.m., Thursday

Interviewed 8/14/67. She still lives at 5530 Mayberry Avenue.
Tel.- Area code 402 551-5039.

Mrs. Nelson is now 73, so her age at that time was 53. She still has a vivid recollection of the sighting, and all the details she gave me matched rather closely the contemporary press accounts.

She said that she frequently awakened and would look out to see what the weather was like. That is what happened that night. Her bedroom window faced north. She did not have to rise from bed to see the object because the window was right beside her. The window was open, yet she heard no sound at any time. She stated that had it been an ordinary aircraft she is positive she would have heard engine noise.

She saw two "oval-shaped things" coming out of the north. They made a 90-degree turn without banking and veered off to the east and disappeared, in a total observation time of only a few seconds.

The outlines of the objects were distinct, not hazy. They had the color of the moon, but she stated that they seemed larger than the moon, in angular size. (I would not put much emphasis on that angular estimate because we did not discuss it at great length, and this is of course a notorious source of confusion.)

She mentioned that the apparent projected shape changed after the turn. Before they looked "oval"; after they turned they appeared elliptical, symmetric fore and aft. No wings were visible. She said she saw them so clearly that had there been any wings she would certainly have seen them. They glowed with a pale white light. They were not reflecting and did not flicker or blink. She had a clear view with no trees. After they veered to the east they disappeared from sight without going behind anything. She agreed that they could have "blinked out." She called the Omaha World Herald a day or two later, hoping to get some confirmation on the sighting. No other witnesses ever came forward.

She said that a lot of people were laughing at those who saw flying saucers. She remarked that had she seen them only about a week later she would definitely not have reported them, because by that time ridicule was very noticeable. She blamed the newspapers for that scorn.

Mrs. Nelson was a coherent and articulate person who was quite definite about her sighting, without being contentious about it.

"Were shooting fireworks, shot rocket up and saw it up then. Thinks must have been 40-50 people around at least. You were a nut to report [a UFO?].

"Orville Daerwold reported it.

"Couldn't have been an A/C. Went sideways and shot off too fast for A/C.
(xx.)

(xx.) Dr. James McDonald's papers. University of Arizona at Tucson Library.
Tucson, Arizona. Special Collection Division.

4 July. Near Great Falls, Montana. (daytime?)

Single-file formation.

Another McDonald interview. Here is some information from his rough notes:

"[Curt S. Dennis] Died 2 years ago. Talked to Mrs. Dennis on 16 August 67. Were on Missouri [River], between [towns of] Cascade and Craig, 38 miles [south west] from Great Falls, fishing. She noticed it and called husband's attention to it. First thought were ducks. Too big, silvery and flashing. Tumbling [?] over and over. Bright sunlight.

"Shape -round, discs. So far up, couldn't tell exact form. Husband felt they were not flipping, she felt they were. She put dark glasses on, which helped, because they were so bright. May have been oscillating, she concedes [?]. Definitely not smooth like planes. She felt were flipping.

"Looked huge, even though very high.

"Number 8 or 10 at least. Formation. Not single file she said at first, but I read the [press] account and she said that sounded correct. Were a straight [?] single file.

"Flying northwest over the mountains, and they faced to south to see them. They were near Hardy Bridge (2 miles to south of bridge).

"Husband reported it to Great Falls *Leader* paper July 5, 1947." (xx.)

(xx.) Dr. James McDonald's papers. University of Arizona at Tucson Library. Tucson, Arizona. Special Collection Division..

4 July. Portland, Oregon. (afternoon) (2:00 p.m.?)

There were a number of sightings at Portland on the Fourth of July. Dr. McDonald managed to locate and interview some of the witnesses. (See pages 35-37)

4 July. "Nobody Knows"

Clever poem in the July 4th issue of the Louisville, Kentucky, *Courier Journal*. (See clipping)

Where It Glows Nobody Knows

Are there disks in the skies?
Or is it spots before the eyes
That are getting the attention
of the nation?

Are there saucers flying high;
Or have we eaten too much pie?
Can we call it just a
visual aberration?

Should we begin to be afraid?
Or may we ponder undismayed
On the stories of the flashes
through the night?

Those who see them say they're there;
Those who don't are wondering where.
They can buy the stuff that
brings them into sight.

July 4, 1947, Portland, Oregon

Captain Karl A. Prehn, Earl E. Patterson, Walt A. Lissy, Fred C. Krives
Afternoon, Friday

Interviewed individually between 8/14 and 8/16, 1967.

Capt. Karl A. Prehn. 1822 SE 52nd, Portland.
Tel.- Area code 503 282-3677 or 236-9062 (one
is a house boat).

At that time he was harbor master with the Portland Police Department Harbor Patrol.

He was at his office. He recalled it as being afternoon with bright sun. One of his harbor pilots called to him to come out to see the objects. There were three objects like two hub caps face-to-face, i.e., like two saucers face-to-face. He went for his binoculars but by the time he got back the objects were gone.

The objects were seen to the east and were heading south. They were sailing along at about the "speed of an aircraft." They were close enough to see the shape distinctly, sharp outlines, not hazy. Symmetric about their midsection like hub caps face-to-face. Silvery, metallic.

The other two men who were with him were Pilot Austed and Patrolman Kent Hoff.

He was not interviewed by the Air Force at any time.

Though now retired, he was a very businesslike and articulate person. He was terse and definite in all his descriptions. He sounded like a capable person, intelligent. No embellishments.

Officer Earl E. Patterson. Present address: 14055 NE Eugene Court,
Portland. *Tel.- Area code 503 AL2-7417.

Earl Patterson has retired from the Portland police force because of a heart attack. He was a good witness, helpful, coherent. Patterson was in his patrol car, alone, in the southeast, on Foster Road near 80th, when he spotted a single object. He called in on the radio, but no one else saw it as far as he knows.

There are evidently errors in the press accounts of his sighting, because he emphasized that the object at no time made any "90-degree turn." It moved in a rapid arc across the sky from northeast to southwest. I checked and he was clear in saying that it did not move to the west.

page 2 - Prehn, Patterson, Lissy, Krives

Also, it was aluminum colored - not egg shell white. It reflected light like an aluminum plane.

It seemed extremely high to him, but he said it was hard to tell. No sound. No vapor trails. Outlines sharp - not hazy.

Clear blue sky except for a few puffs of cloud, as he recalls.

"It moved with incredible speed across the sky." The speed was what impressed him most.

He said that "In view of all the nuts who have reported them since, he almost wishes he had not reported that one."

Patterson emphasized to me the difficulty of getting reliable witness-testimony. He illustrated it by an instant where he and two other police officers were all witness to a fight in a barroom between a sailor, a citizen, and a woman. They attempted to make an arrest, yet they found that the three of them had contradictory stories as to what happened. He said that the case was eventually dismissed because, although they all agreed some offense was committed, they were unable to recall clearly just what that offense was.

I regarded Patterson as a good witness. No embellishments, conservative, and rather careful.

Officer Walt A. Lissy. Present address: 1716 N. Portland Blvd.
Tel.- Area code 503 289-8083

Press accounts indicate that Lissy was in a patrol car with Officer Robert Ellis. He said that is incorrect; he was with Officer Andrew Fox. All three of them were in the Portland Police Department Harbor Patrol. The way Ellis got his name incorrectly involved with this is as follows: The day after the event some television people came to make some dummy footage of the incident and Lissy was off duty. Ellis was with Fox in the car at that time so they had Ellis shown as jumping out of the car a la Lissy and that got this reported as if Ellis had seen the objects. He did not see them at all.

Lissy is still with the Police Department, in the 8th Precinct.

He put the time at about 2 p.m. They heard the general broadcast about UFOs and looked in the indicated direction (west of south) and there they were. High in the sky, almost near the zenith.

He thinks there were six or seven of them, as he now recalls. They were zigzagging, with sharp-angled turns. He is a pilot himself and said these turns were much too sharp for any aircraft.

At the time that they sighted them they were near the Oaks Amusement Park, an old private amusement park.

Page 3 - Prehn, Patterson, Lissy, Krives

He said that everybody in the park was watching them, at least he was able to visualize 15 or so people near them who were all watching them. The objects were white, dull white. They were climbing and heading south at the same time, but zigzagged all the time. He said they appeared to be circular discs, definitely not aircraft.

Fred C. Krives. Present address: 118 W. 36th St., Vancouver, Wash.
Tel.- Area code 206 693-4295

Krives was a sheriff's deputy in 1947, with the Clark County Sheriff's Department, Washington.

I called Clarence McKay (now sheriff of Clark County), but was told by him that he was not one of the witnesses. He referred me to Krives.

Krives recalls the time of the sighting as about 2 p.m. It was a clear day. The objects were off to the southwest when spotted at about an angular elevation of 30 to 35 degrees, above the court house. The objects were receding from them towards the southwest. He can't recall who first spotted them.

A number of deputies were there. He recalls somebody named McAllister, a deputy John Sullivan, Joe Kurth, and Bill Giles. He said Giles was later the sheriff at Newport, Washington, but is now retired. He will inquire among some of these people and said he would write me if he can secure any information. He thought there were seven or eight deputies there at the time, all of whom saw them. Another one of the deputies was MacKeag. The sheriff of Clark County at that time was Bob Brady, but he could not recall if Brady saw the objects.

He recalls a total of something like 20 objects, and they came in in groups; the first group, separated from the others, had about 7 objects in it. He thought the speed was not much greater than that of an aircraft. They didn't seem too high up, possibly 1,000 feet, he said.

The tail end of the formation seemed to split off from the main line and formed a separate line and then rose above the other line. This is what he meant as "slewing off or peeling off" in the press accounts, evidently. He said they were round and disc-shaped. No one had binoculars to get a really good look at them.

The press accounts quote him as saying they were too high up to be seen clearly, which contradicts his statement that they were only 1,000 feet up. Unfortunately, I did not cross-question him on that point. He was very emphatic in saying that these could not have been aircraft.

He recalls that a lot of the fellows at the sheriff's office ribbed him and the others. One of them said "One more drink and no telling what you would have seen." A lot of kidding.

Krives sounded like a witness of about average caliber.

4 July. Near Emmett, Idaho.

Capt. E.J. Smith. "The man who rescued Arnold."



In spite of being a pilot and having a good reputation, Kenneth Arnold was still subject to negative remarks. There were suggestions Arnold suffered from snow-blindness, or spots before the eyes, or even hallucinations. In the middle of all this, Arnold said ruefully, "Everyone says I'm nuts." One has to admit Arnold was vulnerable. His flying skills were limited to a 105 mph single-engine aircraft, and his prominence as a businessman which provided his reputation was also small potatoes since he was actually a mere fire extinguisher salesman. Besides all that, the objects Arnold saw passed by at a considerable distance and he was alone at the time.

Things changed when the Capt. E.J. Smith case became known. In contrast to Arnold, Capt. Smith flew big planes. He was a highly regarded pilot for United Airlines. And what gave his sighting special credibility was the fact he was on record as a skeptic just before he saw his "saucers." Not only did he see the "saucers," so did his DC-3 crewmembers, and the objects were seen close enough and clearly enough to be considered UFOs.

It's no wonder Arnold felt a huge surge of relief when he learned of Capt. E.J. Smith's report. Could it be a mistake to focus in on Arnold's story when reviewing the flap of 1947? Should we call the 1947 excitement the "Smith phenomenon?" What exactly did Capt. Smith and his crew observe? (See pages 39-40)

Smith, or "Big Smithy" as Arnold liked to call him, was willing to risk ridicule and had no qualms with having his picture taken with Arnold. (See International News Service photo above. The other pilot in the picture is Smith's co-pilot and fellow UFO witness Ralph Stevens)

*Plotter MS (lower WPFS box) also the
as UNIDENTIFIED*

*cf. Bloddy Press release p 74
cf. Flying. 14. 17.50 - 'UFO article' file*

November 13, 1966

Dear Dick:

This afternoon I phoned Capt. E. J. Smith, of United Air Lines, concerning his July 4, 1947 sighting near Emmett, Idaho.

Smith is now Flight Manager for UAL at J. F. Kennedy Airport, NYC. His phone is AC 212 897-5437, and the address which I got from Ken Arnold a few days ago (may not be current, I failed to check with Smith on the point) is 103-11 68th Drive, Apt. 75, Forest Hills, New York.

At several points in the conversation, Smith emphasized that he has not paid much attention to the UFO problem and hence has not recently gone over his sighting, so his recollection of some details, especially numbers of objects, is a bit vague. He was willing, however, to discuss it to the best of his present recollection.

He and his Copilot Stevens saw two separate groups of objects, neither of which could have been aircraft, in his opinion. In the first group, he recalled that there were "only a few." Stevens spotted them, mistook them for aircraft, and flashed the landing lights as a warning signal. Smith asked him why he'd flashed, and then Stevens drew Smith's attention to the group of objects. He couldn't today recall much more about those first objects, and thought they rather quickly passed out of range.

Then they saw a second group "when just SE of Ontario, Ore. This time he and Stevens spotted them simultaneously. Smith called Stewardess Morrow up to the cabin, and she confirmed the sighting. Smith said there were people who suggested cloud formations accounted for their sighting, but he said it was clear that day - "not a cloud in the sky." Smith would not hazard a guess as to the range of the objects, since he did not know their size.

They radioed the Ontario CAA tower operator and asked him to go out and see if he could spot the objects. He went out, but looked only to the east, where he saw nothing. He failed to look into the twilight sky. The radio exchange was heard

Page Two
November 13, 1966

by many stations, and when Smith's plane got to Pendleton, Ore., reporters were on the ramp to get their story.

I asked him if he ever saw anything like these objects before or since, and he said he had not. The second group (his present recollection was 7 objects*, but he stressed he was very unsure) were flat on the bottom, but their upper surfaces were less distinct. They might have been rounded or might have had superstructure, he thought.

Since Arnold had given me Smith's address, I asked him how he felt about the Arnold sighting, etc. Smith said he first met Arnold about 2 days after the 7/4/47 sighting. Arnold flew up to Seattle to speak with him. Smith felt Arnold sought vindication and support against ridicule he was getting. Smith said he had no particular doubts re Arnold's reliability.

Smith closed by saying he knew of cases, in the last five years, where both the NYC and the Cleveland FAA ARTC radars had unidentifieds on their scopes and asked commercial flights to try to make an identification. Smith had no UFO theories and emphasized he did not wish to be tied in with any "suppositions."

Regards,

James E. McDonald

JEM/msr

*These numbers are not the ones originally reported, you'll recognize.

4 July. Capt. Smith sighting. The Navy interrogation.

The questioning of both Capt. Smith and co-pilot Ralph Stevens by the Navy produced probably the best account available, mostly because Stevens was not that interested in talking to the press but he freely cooperated with the military:

“Captain D. J. Smith was interviewed at 1500, 9 July 1947, concerning some ‘flying disks,’ and stated substantially as follows:

“ ‘We left Boise, Idaho, at 2004 Pacific Standard Time. At approximately 2015, the co-pilot, Ralph Stevens, called my attention to the first object [seen? Not clear]. We were then in the vicinity of Emmet, Idaho, our altitude was approximately 6500, and we were climbing to our proposed cruising altitude of [not clear] from there to Pendleton, Oregon. The heading of the plane at that time was 300 degrees Magnetic North, and the object (one) was sighted at approximately 290 degrees, or ten degrees to our left. Then an additional four objects appeared to the left of the main, or first, object. These four objects appeared slightly smaller than the first object sighted, but all of the objects appeared on the same plane. I estimated the altitude of the objects to be about 8500. They were within our sight for approximately [not clear] minutes, then they disappeared.

“ ‘Shortly after the first group disappeared, probably one or two minutes later, the second group appeared about 310 degrees, or to the right of the plane. Their altitude was the same as the first group. Three of the objects appeared to be on the same plane, and one object appeared slightly higher and to the right of the others. The second group stayed within our sight twelve to fifteen minutes, then disappeared. We had leveled off by the time the second group disappeared.

“ ‘The objects were flat on the base, the top slightly rough in contour. The dimensions appeared the same as a DC-3 approximately five miles from us. In other words, it could have been ninety miles away if it would be possible for an object as large as that would have to be flying, but since we didn’t know what we were looking at or how large it was, we decided that if it were the size of a DC-3 wing span (90 feet), it was about five miles distant. Actually, we have no idea just how large it was since we could not determine its distance from us. When we first sighted the objects, we decided they were either going away from us or coming towards us. After a short while, however, we knew they couldn’t be coming towards us, because we never approached them. I don’t believe they could have been going a great rate of speed and still stayed in sight for as long as they did. I would judge they might have been travelling about 300 miles per hour.

“ ‘My personal opinion regarding the objects are – that their speed varied, was not constant. When first sighted, they were going slow and stayed within sight for quite some time. However, when we lost sight of them, they seemed to disappear practically immediately. I think they either put on a tremendous burst of speed and disappeared from sight, or else they dissipated. Also, it appeared that only one object, the large one, was controlled, and it in turn controlled the other objects, and I think they were ground controlled.

“ ‘In both instances, the co-pilot sighted the objects first and called my attention to them. The weather was clear and unlimited, with not a cloud in the sky. We

checked the wind, and it was 230—10, or out of the Southwest at ten miles per hour. The air speed of the ship was about 185 MPH. The sun was below the horizon and the objects were silhouetted against the sky, hence we could distinguish no color or reflection.'

"Ralph Stevens, co-pilot of the plane, was interviewed at 2130, 9 July 1947. Stevens corroborated the remarks made by Smith concerning the flight of the plane, etc. There were two discrepancies in their statements as to the size of the smaller objects and the altitude at which they were flying. Smith stated that there was a big difference in the size of the large objects and the smaller ones. Stevens also stated that the objects were at the same altitude as their plane and seemed to be climbing with them. In addition to confirming Smith's statements concerning the flight, etc., Stevens stated substantially as follows:

" 'I was flying the plane when I spotted the first object at 2012 on the 4th of July, eight minutes after departure from Boise, Idaho. I thought it was an oncoming aircraft similar to ours (DC-3) about five miles away, so turned on our landing lights, which is the usual signal to another plane to let it know you're in the vicinity. I mentioned this fact to Smith, and he watched the object also. While we were both watching, four more objects appeared at the same altitude as the first. They seemed to be at the same altitude as our plane, about 6,000 feet. They were heading about 290 degrees magnetic North, so I turned to follow them. We watched them for four or five minutes, then they all merged as one and disappeared. I don't know whether they merged in line of flight or not, nor do I know whether they went beyond our vision or whether they dissipated.

" 'Two minutes later, the large object reappeared with three smaller ones on its left and one smaller one a great distance to the right. We had the second group in sight for about twelve minutes. The last time seen, they were still in that formation and disappeared into the sunset. Also, when we last saw them, they seemed to have continued climbing after we leveled off and were about nine or ten thousand feet.

" 'At the time we saw the objects, the sun was below the horizon, but there was quite a bright red glow above the horizon from the sunset. I couldn't really say what distance they were from us, not knowing what they were or how large they were. However, while we were watching them we radioed ahead to Ontario, Oregon, about thirty miles distant, to the weather station there, and told them what we were seeing and asked them to go outside and see if they could see them. They radioed back and said they could see nothing, so the objects could have been beyond Ontario, since we had told them that they were between our plane and Ontario. It should also be [said? Not clear] that the personnel at Ontario would be looking at a dark sky and not be likely to be able to see them anyway.

" 'I can't say whether are man-made disks or not, whether they are radio controlled or not, or anything about them. They did not maneuver much at all, except when the first group merged. All I can say is that they were going our direction and were climbing. I don't think they were clouds, as there hadn't been a cloud in the sky, and it would have been quite a phenomenon as it was like nothing I had ever seen before. There was a big difference in the size of the objects. The smaller

ones were hard to distinguish as to shape, they were not shiny, nor did the "flip." I couldn't swear on a [bible? Not clear] they were not clouds, but I think it impossible. Had they been clouds, they wouldn't have appeared and disappeared so suddenly, and we [could? Not clear] have approached them.

"As we were taxiing out to take off from Boise, the tower called us and asked us if we had seen any disks lately. As a consequence, we were and had been talking about the flying disks when we sighted them. I don't believe, however, that it was a figment of the imagination, as Smith and I were seeing the same things, even the object far off to the right in the second group. We also called the stewardess, who had not been in on the conversation, and without mentioning "disks" asked her what she saw. She stated that she saw the same things we did, which seemed to prove to us that it was not our imagination."

"In addition to the above, Stevens stated, off the record, that he was rather disappointed in Smith and all the publicity he was getting. He thought that Smith was probably 'grand-standing' some, and that as far as he, Stevens, was concerned, he was not going to be interviewed by any reporters, or go on the radio, etc. He stated that he was glad to talk to a Navy representative about it, or to any other government official, and help in any way he could, but he certainly didn't want to be bothered with a lot interviews with newspapers and radio stations. Stevens seemed to this writer to be a very level headed, sensible man, and not in favor of a lot of publicity, whereas Smith, although a sensible man and all, seemed to be more in favor of all the publicity he was getting." (xx.)

(xx.) (See below)

C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS
THIRTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
U. S. NAVAL STATION
SEATTLE 99, WASHINGTON

DIO/LSHD
AIR MAIL

10 July 1947

From: District Intelligence Officer, THIRTEENTH Naval District.
To: Chief of Naval Intelligence.
Subj: Captain E. J. Smith and Ralph Stevens - Interview of, regarding "flying saucers".
Ref: (a) CNI TKI to DIO-LSHD of 9 July 1947.
Encl: (A) Interview report of subjects.

1. In accordance with reference (a), Captain E. J. Smith and Co-Pilot Ralph Stevens of United Air Lines were interviewed on 9 July in regard to subject, and the results of the interview are submitted herewith as enclosure (A).

Roswell?

Where was Dr. Donald Menzel during the period July 2-7, 1947?

On July 2nd Menzel flew into White Sands, New Mexico, from Denver on a special research airplane provided by American Airlines. Dr. Menzel was accompanied by Walter Orr Roberts, president of the Rocky Mountain Committee on Nuclear Energy. Robert's absence was noticed by the *Denver Post* (He was better known in Denver than Menzel). The *Post* printed this on July 6th:

"One puzzling aspect of the nationally watched enigma of the heavens was a meeting in New Mexico of the Los Alamos officials and Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, superintendent of the high altitude observatory of Harvard and Colorado universities at Climax, Colorado. A telephone call to Los Alamos and White Sands, N.M. failed to locate Roberts or the officials with him. Roberts is a regular contributor to the *Denver Post*. (xx.)

(xx.) Fenwick, Robert W. "They're Not Meteors, Experts Say of Discs." *The Denver Post*. 6 July 47.

Upon his return to Denver on July 7th, Dr. Roberts explained his trip to the *Post*. The trip, he declared, was for the viewing of a V-2 launch on July 2th in keeping with some "special testing work" in which he was engaged. The launch, he said, had "suddenly been cancelled." (xx.)

(xx.) Leadville, Colorado. *Herald-Democrat*. 8 July 47. p.1.

Comments on the trip to White Sands:

The only V-2 launch on July 2th (to this writer's knowledge -L.E. Gross) was one that blew up on the launch pad causing a number of injuries. The word "cancellation" seems a bit evasive. In any case, what was Roberts and Menzel doing at White Sands until July 7th if there was no V-2 launch results to collect and study? Why did a telephone call fail to locate Roberts or the officials with him? The *Post* also said Roberts was to attend a "meeting" with "Los Alamos officials." Why not "White Sands officials?" Did the meeting really have anything to do with the V-2 launch?

Is there a Roswell connection?

If there was a Roswell connection, it would make sense if Menzel and Roberts flew into White Sands instead of Walker Field at Roswell. According to most advocates of the crash saucer theory, July 2th may have been about the time the crash first became known to authorities with the actual recovery operations beginning days later. White Sands no doubt had the people, plans, and equipment to recover wayward missiles, and, apparently, even "UFOs" were something they were interested in. As we shall see, on June 27, 1947, White Sands sent out field investigators when unexplained "falling objects" were reported in Southern New Mexico, so it reasonable to

assume the missile test center was the headquarters early on for any Roswell crash search. It should be noted that Glenn Dennis of Roswell fame claims he didn't recognize any of the Army personnel at the hospital. What's more, as Dennis describes them, the Army people were tough S.O.Bs. It goes without saying that would be just the type doing security work at places like White Sands.

Just for the sake of argument let's say "something" crashed in southern New Mexico and Menzel and Roberts were notified July 2nd. Allowing some time to locate the crash site would put the crash event at least a few days before July 2th. Most likely the detection of such an event would be some widely viewed atmospheric phenomenon. Interesting enough, there were some striking visual reports the morning of June 27th and there was enough of them to encourage official field investigations.

Meteor or what?

From a few scant details from several newspaper accounts, it seems something appeared in the sky over southern New Mexico Friday morning June 27, 1947. Sighting times given by witnesses were approximately the same: 10:00 a.m.

An El Paso resident, Mrs. W.B. Cummings, was driving about five miles southeast of San Antonio, New Mexico, at about 9:50 when she spotted a "falling silver object." A news account states:

" 'It was just as bright and shining as it could be,' she said. 'If it had been any closer it would have blinded us. It was unbelievable.' "

"Mrs. Cummings said the object was so bright she was unable to tell what shape it was.

" 'It looked like a piece of metal off an airplane,' she said.

"She reported that it fell from the east from a position at about 'one o'clock' in the sky.

" 'It left a short white trail,' she said. 'I just supposed they were firing something at White Sands Proving Grounds.'" (xx.) (The most recent firing of a missile had been a Wac Corporal on June 12th)

(xx.) El Paso, Texas. *El Paso Times*. 29 June 47. p.1.

San Antonio, New Mexico, is approximately ten miles south of Socorro on Interstate 25. State Route 380 runs east from San Antonio to Carrizozo and eventually Roswell.

A Hollis O. Cummins, his mother and a neighbor, Irv Hill, of Capitan, New Mexico, (45 miles north, northeast, of Alamogordo) viewed something at 10:00 a.m. on June 27th. Something "shiny" streaked through the sky and seemed to have "landed left of Wilson Hill." (The town of Capitan is on State Route 380 some 20 miles east of the larger and better known town of Carrizozo) (xx.)

(xx.) Albuquerque, New Mexico. *Journal*. 2 July 47.

Dr. R.L. Hopkins was driving south on State Route 666 on his way to Gallup when at about

10:00 a.m. he saw something to the south "falling to the earth" which appeared to be "pieces of aluminum" that "seemed to land." The doctor's location was about 25 miles south of the town of Shiprock. Whatever he saw, it must have been high up in the atmosphere if it had any connection to reports 100 miles south. (xx.)

(xx.) Bloecher, Ted. *Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*. Privately published, 1967. p. I-6.

Other sightings made at this time were released to the press by Lt. Col. Harold R. Turner, White Sands Commander. According to Col. Turner, a W.C. Dodds, who was a "track" inspector at the missile center, also saw whatever it was that lit up the skies Friday morning. Traveling near Hope, New Mexico, some 70 miles east of Alamogordo, Dodds observed a "flame" high in the atmosphere. No direction was mentioned but apparently Col. Turner connected that sighting with another by Captain E.B. Detchmندی of the White Sands Ordnance Department who spotted a "flame" in the heavens as he was driving over St. Augustin Pass near Las Cruces.

Furthermore, Col. Turner revealed to the press sightings were made near Engle and Tularosa, New Mexico, also close to White Sands. (xx.)

(xx.) White Sands, New Mexico. 28 June 47. (AP)

These last two sightings prompted an investigation, although it was apparent the Friday morning phenomenon was probably a meteor even though some descriptions suggested something "metallic."

A press report stated: "Col. Turner, who sent an investigating plane to Tularosa, reported several witnesses described the object as having been sighted at about 8,000 feet. It apparently disintegrated at about 6,000 feet." (xx.) Of special interest, however, was the observation

(xx.) Silver City, New Mexico. *Silver City Daily Press*. 28 June 47.

at Engle. Here is how UFO researcher Ted Bloecher reports it:

"The Engle sighting was an air-to-air observation made by 'Captain Dvyan, an Alamogordo Air Base pilot,' who was flying in a private plane near the area of Engle at 3,000 feet when he 'looked down and saw a ball of fire, with a fiery blue tail behind it.' The object was about 2,000 feet below him, and he said he was certain that 'it was a meteorite.' The pilot reported that as he watched, the object 'disintegrated in the air.' Engle is a small town ten miles east of Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences), New Mexico." (xx.)

(xx.) Bloecher, Ted. *The Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*. p.III-9.

Col. Turner had told the press the mysterious discs being reported might possibly be explained because: "...jet planes' circular exhaust glow brightly when heated and might easily appear to be discs at a distance." (xx.) Faced with the Engle report he had to come up with something new.

(xx.) Silver City, New Mexico. *Silver City Daily Press*. 28 June 47

Apparently Col. Turner was a bit uncomfortable with the meteor suggestion since the object was reported below Dvyan's plane. Turner nonetheless didn't abandon the hypothesis. He said to the press that meteors: "...appear much larger and apparently are coming closer to earth than usual." (xx.) That didn't keep Turner from sending an investigator to the Engle area.

(xx.) Bloecher, Ted. *The Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*. p.I-6.

The June 27th reports don't prove there was a crash at Roswell, but they do suggest White Sands was alert to the possibility of such an event and was willing to send people into the field to investigate. What information we have, is what Lt. Col. Turner volunteered to the press. One would think such things were sensitive issues and perhaps there were some classified activity not revealed. Some people have even wondered if a story out of Carlsbad, New Mexico, June 27th was in reality a cover story for a White Sands UFO investigative team:

"Reservations have been made for 13 enlisted men and two officers from White Sands Proving Grounds to spend the week end here.

"The group will stay at Beauty Crest Courts tomorrow and Sunday to go through the Caverns, chamber of commerce officials said. Plans to view other points of interest are also on the agenda." (xx.)

(xx.) Carlsbad, New Mexico. *Daily Current-Argus*. 27 June 47.

The Wilmot report.

Without a doubt the best candidate for a "Roswell object" was the July 2nd observation made by Mr. and Mrs. Wilmot. Here is a detailed account as published in the *Roswell Daily Record*:

"Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilmot apparently were the only persons in Roswell who have seen what they thought was a flying disk.

"They were sitting on their porch at 105 South Penn. Last Wednesday night at about ten minutes before ten o'clock when a large glowing object zoomed out of the sky from the southeast, going in a northwesterly direction at a high rate of speed.

"Wilmot called Mrs. Wilmot's attention to it and both ran down into the yard to watch. It was in sight less than a minute, perhaps 40 or 50 seconds, Wilmot estimated.

"Wilmot said that it appeared to him to be about 1,500 feet high and going fast. He estimated between 400 and 500 miles per hour.

"In appearance it looked oval in shape like two inverted saucers faced mouth to mouth, or like two old type washbowls placed together in the same fashion. The entire body glowed as though light were showing through from inside, though not like it would be if a light were merely underneath.

"From where he stood Wilmot said that the object looked to be about 5 feet in size, and making allowance for the distance it was from town he figured that it must have been 15 or 20 feet in diameter, though this was just a guess.

"Wilmot said that he heard no sound but that Mrs. Wilmot said she heard a swishing sound for a very short time.

"The object came into view from the southeast and disappeared over the tree-tops in the general vicinity of six-mile hill.

"Wilmot who is one of the most respected and reliable citizens in town, kept the story to himself hoping that someone else would come out and tell about having seen one, but finally today decided that he would go ahead and tell about seeing it. The announcement that the RAAF was in possession of one came only a few minutes after he had decided to release the details of what he had seen." (xx.)

(xx.) Roswell, New Mexico. *Roswell Daily Record*. 8 July 47. p.1.

If there was a cover-up, why do it?

Brigadier General Arthur E. Exon:

"I don't want anything to happen here that is not good. When I say good, I mean that would weaken the security of the country and the public attitude toward their government. If the government covered up at that time the nature of things... we had sputnik and people were shaky enough, that, releasing the information would cause a clamor for information that the government couldn't provide because they didn't know. And we're still investigating...they're investigating to this day." (xx.)

(xx.) Randle, Kevin. *Roswell UFO Crash Update*. Global Communications: New Brunswick, N.J., 1995. p.147.

Brigadier General Thomas DuBose:

"You have to understand what was happening in this country at the time, things that had never happened before in the history of man. We had seen the firebombing of great cities, atomic bombs, destruction on an unprecedented scale.

"Knowing General McMullen [Clements McMullen, Chief of Staff Strategic Air Command] (the cover up) was an effort to get it off the front pages, to keep people from thinking about it. I couldn't blame him for that." (xx.)

(xx.) Melbourne, Florida. *Florida Today*. 24 November 91.

Dr. Walter Orr Roberts.

Dr. Roberts may, may not, have anything to do the "Roswell incident, but he did have something interesting to say after he returned from White Sands. Here is what he said on July 8th according to a news article:

"The flying disks, real or not, are an 'ominous token' in relation to the future of civilization, Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, director of the Colorado University-Harvard High Altitude Observatory at Climax, said in Denver last night.

"Dr. Roberts delivered the first of a series of six lectures on "Science and Civilization in the Atomic Age,' last night in Room 110, Trinity Bldg. 1820 Broadway.

The series is sponsored by the Colorado University Denver Extension Center.

"I have just returned from Alamogordo, N.M., where I went to witness the firing of a V-2 rocket," Dr. Roberts said. "Waiting on the hot desert there, I got to thinking about the disks."

"What interested me is the extraordinary response to the first stories about the disks. People are far more excited than the facts turn out to be."

"The public reaction is one of the symptoms of the present age of science. People now have learned the disconcerting things science can do, and they're worried about them. No wonder they're getting so excited about the disks. They don't know what they are, but they believe they are another manifestation of the fantastic things science can do."

"Dr. Roberts said he hadn't seen any disks and believed most reports are inaccurate and the result of hysteria. If the disks are real, they possibly are some new type of experiment, probably originating in the United States, as descriptions do not correspond to that of meteors, he said." (xx.)

(xx.) Denver, Colorado. *Rocky Mountain News*. 9 July 47. p.6.

Frank Edwards' Roswell story.

It's generally accepted that the Roswell excitement was quickly forgotten and then only brought back to public attention in the 1970s, yet there is a curious reference to the incident during a April 28, 1956 meeting of the CSI New York group. Frank Edwards said something during a question and answer session after his lecture when he was asked: "Is there any evidence that any of these objects have crashed?" Edwards replied:

"I'm not too sure that some of them haven't. Way back in 1947, at Roswell, New Mexico, a farmer reported that he saw something strike a mountainside and crash. According to what I was told, they threw troops in a circle all around that place, and would let nobody in for five days. Finally they came up with a picture of a man holding a little crumpled kite with aluminum foil on it—a radar target—and they said this was it—believe it or not. There have been many other rumors since then of saucers having crashed. I don't know whether there's any truth in them." (xx.)

(xx.) Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York bulletin. "Public Meeting of April 28, 1956." Pythian Temple, 135 West 70th Street, New York City. Issue #13. pp.9-10.

We would like to know more. Who told Edwards this story? Was there more details? One thing of interest is that the assertion that the military blocked access to crash site. Such a claim has been called a fabrication that originated in the 1970s. The Edwards story puts that opinion in doubt.

4 July. Great Falls, Montana. (afternoon)

"Tumbling disks?" (See report by Dr. McDonald on page 50)

July 4, 1947, Great Falls, Montana.

Mrs. Curt S. Dennis

Afternoon, Friday

Interviewed 8/14/67. Now lives at 202 Eighth St., North,
Great Falls, Montana.
Tel.- Area code 406 453-0135

Curt Dennis, a western artist and sculptor, died two years ago. I located Mrs. Dennis, however.

She confirmed that they were fishing that day on the Missouri River, between Cascade and Craig. They were near Hardy bridge. Her husband was fishing and she was doing something else when she spotted them first. She called her husband's attention to them. At first they thought they were ducks, but then realized that the objects were too big, silvery, and flashing. They were tumbling over and over in the bright sunlight. Their shape was that of round discs, but they were so far up that their precise form was not reliably discernible. Her husband felt that they were not flipping but she felt that they were. She put on dark glasses which helped, because they were so bright. They may only have been oscillating, she suggested. They were definitely not moving smoothly like aircraft. To her, they looked huge.

She thought there were eight or ten, at least. Her first recollection was that they were in some kind of V formation, but on pressing her on this she agreed that the newspaper account was, in fact, correct, namely, single file. She said they were strung along in a line, after she had thought this over.

They were flying towards the northwest over the mountains. And the two of them had to face south to see them initially.

She dug out an old newspaper clipping from the Great Falls "Leader" for July 5, 1947, and read it to me. It agreed with other press accounts in general. It remarked on the brilliant flashing of the northwestward moving silvery objects strung out in single file. About 12, like a string of plates. No sound.

There were no other Great Falls sightings that confirmed theirs, and the "Leader" article stated that neither the Weather Bureau nor the Airport had any suggestions as to how to account for it. The Weather Bureau people eliminated the possibility that it was a Weather Balloon because of the motions and shape and height.

Mrs. Dennis said that it all came back to her vividly as she talked about it on the telephone.

4 July. Hauser Lake, Idaho. (Late afternoon or early evening)

"Shifted side-to-side." (See report by Dr. McDonald on page 52)

5 July. Janesville, Wisconsin. (11:35 p.m.)

Remarkable maneuvers, color changes, and gaseous tails.

According to our source:

"Mr. and Mrs. Howard Roth live at 1501 Linden Avenue; Mr. and Mrs. Al Sievert at 123 East Ringold Street. The Sieverts were just leaving the Roth's home at 11:35 p.m. when they noticed the object. It was about the size of the moon and they watched its maneuvers for nearly 20 minutes. They saw it flat-surface toward them, and on edge, at all times. Object was seen first traveling on a west-north-westerly direction at about a 40 degree elevation, at an estimated five miles distance, and moving fast. It was yellow-golden in color. The object then began to perform a 'counter-clockwise motion, sometimes in circles, sometimes in oval patterns, and sometimes having a rectangular motion,' Roth said. At one point it turned on edge and changed color to that of polished silver, or a mirror with a brilliant light on it. At this point, three gaseous tails appeared, which appeared to 'respond to the motions of the saucer.' Shortly after this it disappeared and was seen no more. At times, the object had been obscured completely by a broken cloud cover. At certain points, the disc stopped its circular motion and stood motionless, and then commenced circling again." (xx.)

(xx.) "Case Summaries with Additional Data - 4." Case #373. Ted Bloecher notes. Copy in author's files. Also: Janesville, Wisconsin. *Daily Gazette*. 7 July 47.

5 July. Boise, Idaho. (afternoon)

"Violent maneuvers." (See report by Dr. McDonald on page 53)

5 July. Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Object lands? Cows frightened. (See report by Dr. McDonald on pages 54-55)

6 July. "National Jitters."

Public reaction to the flying saucer excitement was discussed in the press. A Colorado newspaper said:

"Many local explanations are being offered for the flying discs. Some are inclined to back up an atomic scientist concerning his theory on transmutation of atomic energy, apparently believing that atoms can do anything.

"Some who have not been observers call the sightings the product of over-active imagination, but these theories have not fully explained why whole groups

July 4, 1947, Hauser Lake, Idaho

George H. Aster

Late afternoon or early evening, Friday

Interviewed 8/14/67. Now lives at 3607 E. First, Spokane
Tel.- Area code 509 534-4698

Aster was with friends, celebrating the Fourth of July near Hauser Lake. They were shooting sky rockets up and watching them, which is how they happened to sight the object. The object was disc-shaped, and they saw it plainly. The sun was still up, and they saw it very clearly at an altitude estimated at 3 to 4 miles. He thought it must have been at least 30 feet across. It was shiny like aluminum. It was at an angular elevation of about 30 degrees above the horizon.

It was initially hovering, but moving laterally from side to side by a distance estimated as about its own diameter. There was no mistaking this motion, Aster said. It did not circle.

There was a small aircraft heading in its direction. When the plane got somewhere near the object the latter shot up and was gone in a fraction of a second. Aster gave me the figure of one-twentieth of a second, and seemed to deliberate over that a good bit before he arrived at that figure. Presumably it was very fast.

I asked him for the names of other witnesses. He remembered Orville Daerwold, who is now dead. His wife is still living and has remarried. Her name is now Peggy Thompson. Aster suggested that I try to contact Mrs. Pearl Wright, Peggy's aunt, who lives in the 155th block on E. Sprague in Spokane. Wright, he said, would know where to find Peggy Thompson. I asked him if he recalled that the Hunvlades were present. He confirmed this. He said they ran a grocery store but subsequently moved to Montana, and he did not know where they now were.

He recalled that there were about 40 or 50 other people nearby who were also watching the object. He remarked that in those days people thought you were nuts if you said you saw them. He was emphatic that this could not have been an aircraft because of its peculiar lateral oscillations.

Aster sounded like only an average witness and was not extremely articulate. Nevertheless, one gained the impression of listening to a person describing, as best he could, something that actually happened.

July 5, 1947, Boise, Idaho

Henry P. Vanderhoef, Jr., and others

Afternoon, Saturday

Interviewed 8/14/67. Present address: Box 1123, Boise, Idaho
Tel.- Area code 208 343-1300

He was with his wife and his father and some other neighbors in the back yard taking it easy. He saw them first, three objects. It was the violent maneuvers that these objects made which struck him as so peculiar. He remarked that the G-2 forces must have been tremendous. He had spent eight years in the Air Force and was emphatic in saying these could not have been any kind of manned aircraft because of the right-angle turns and the sudden altitude changes.

The day was perfectly clear, and he estimated the altitude at perhaps 20 to 30 thousand feet. The objects were overhead at times and sometimes off at a distance. He thought they watched them for perhaps 45 minutes. There were always three objects. Sometimes they would be in formation, sometimes they would maneuver alone. They fluttered at times.

Shape: round and probably discs because of the way the sunlight flashed on them as they fluttered.

The press accounts were evidently quite incorrect in identifying this as a cloud-related UFO case. I questioned him carefully on this point because of my interest in cloud UFOs. He said they did not come from or enter any clouds. Rather they emitted brief pulses of something like vapor trails whenever they moved erratically. These did not stream steadily from the objects but only came out as puffs following sharp maneuvers.

Vanderhoef phoned the Statesman to see if they could get a press photographer to take a picture of the object since it had been there so long, but by the time they got around to it it was too late. I asked him if Dave Johnson was the one who interviewed him. He knew Dave because they had worked together in forming the Idaho Air National Guard. Dave was not the reporter who interviewed him.

Vanderhoef was in the Air Force from 1939 to 1946, enlisted 4 years and an officer 4 years. He was an engineering officer in the Eighth Air Force and has flown. After the war he helped form the Air National Guard in Idaho. During WW II he was bombed out of a hotel by V-2s in London and knows that type of missile, consequently. He was entirely satisfied that these were not any conventional objects.

Kenneth Arnold is a good friend of his. He has known Ken since 1946 and regards him as a reliable person. He feels that Arnold was telling the truth about the 1947 Rainier sighting.

July 5, 1947, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Mr. Henry Seay

About sunset, Saturday

Interviewed 8/14/67. Now living at 1004 Pembroke Road, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Failed to get phone number from operator.

Seay was driving cattle along his road near sunset on Saturday, July 5, when the incident began. The object came overhead, and something like dust fell on him. He said he felt it, though it was not hot. He had his sleeves rolled up at the time. The object appeared to be about ten to twelve feet across and "the whole thing glowed". The cattle started acting up and running, and then Seay looked up and saw the object. The cows, who were in front of him, all ran off to the other side of the pasture, and it took ten minutes or so to get them back together later. No chickens or other animals in the barnyard at the time. He was driving the cows up for evening milking.

The object came across the pasture and landed in front of him, on the south side of his barn, as he recalls. It only came to the ground momentarily, perhaps a few seconds, at a distance about two hundred yards away from him. The object was originally moving toward the Northeast. He stated that he saw it close to the ground with the barn behind the object.

I asked him if he saw any marks on the barnyard ground. He said not. The shape of the object was "round and flattened". (Seay was not a particularly articulate witness, sounded very elderly, and was basically reluctant to be interviewed.) No noise was heard at any time. The weather was fair, no thunderstorms, calm.

After the object momentarily came near the ground (or perhaps on the ground for a second or so), it shot off at a speed that Seay recalled being something like 50 mph. At first it went straight up, and then shot off horizontally at an altitude that he recalled as perhaps 30 or 40 feet above the ground. It went over an oat field and emitted a "lot of sparks" as it went. The sparks were yellow. The oats were not damaged, he said; but the sparks did come down to the ground.

He said the light emitted by the object was not blinding, but he could not see the shape very well. His vocabulary did not seem to permit him any more accurate description than this. I asked him if any others in the area saw the object. He said that there were others two or three miles away who saw it and described it in terms like his own. He talked with some of them but did not know their names, except for one man who came over to cut his oats a few days later, who had seen it. The man is now dead, but Seay was not willing to give out his name to me, nevertheless.

Seay was a rather reluctant witness and could not hear too well over the telephone. Toward the end of the interview, he became rather balky and said that he really wasn't able to help me about this sort of thing. The reluctance seemed to stem from age and the bother of coping with the telephone. The incident sounded completely real, as he told it, despite his descriptive ability being limited. I tried to get him to estimate the vertical thickness of the object, but he balked on the question and said he just couldn't see it very well.

I did not ask him any questions about the sighting on the day before, so learned nothing of it. I did not have that part of the total sighting well enough in mind when I got on the telephone with him. He definitely referred to only a single object for his Saturday night observation.

of people have been witnesses.

"A few people are blaming the Russians mainly because they generally blame the Russians; and state quite plainly that the country is being photographed for attack. A few state our own military may be experimenting." (xx.)

(xx.) Grand Junction, Colorado. *Daily Sentinel*. 6 July 47.

A Dr. John Lynn, of Valhalla, N.Y., a expert on human behavior, was quoted as saying he: ... blamed the current 'wave of saucer hysteria' on recent predictions that an atomic war would break out, laying waste the United States." (xx.)

(xx.) Ellis, Paul F. "Flying Saucer Reports Amuse U.S. Scientists." United Press Science Writer. Salt Lake City, Utah. *Telegram*. 5 July 47.

Colorado's *Daily Sentinel*, quoted earlier, after mentioning that people felt the Russians were behind everything, including the kitchen door, added: "One explanation gaining wider support is that the men from Mars have beat us to the punch and have come to visit. They point to our plans to rocket to the moon and elsewhere in space when we can." (xx.)

(xx.) Grand Junction, Colorado. *Daily Sentinel*. 6 July 47.

Frank Edwards.

A name that would eventually become very familiar to students of the UFO mystery made its appearance in the press on July 6th. He also addressed the ET question:

"An Indianapolis radio commentator, Frank Edwards, remembered the radio program in 1938 in which many persons thought the United States was being invaded by Mars, so he called the originator of that program—Orson Welles.

"The movie star was not available at his Hollywood, Cal., home, but a voice identifying itself as that of Welles' secretary reported:

"I can assure you Mr. Welles knows nothing about the flying saucers." (xx.)

(xx.) Muncie, Indiana. *Muncie Star*. 6 July 47.

Another "ET" statement, which the local newspaper called "as good as any," was this remark by Mr. Leo Bernier of Richland, Washington, back on July 3rd: "I believe it [the UFO] may be a visitor from another planet, more developed than ours. In my opinion we're just beginning to see things this world never dreamed of." (xx.)

(xx.) Richland, Washington. *Villager*. 3 July 47. p.1.

6 July. Tucson, Arizona. (Daytime)

"Came down towards the ground and swooped back up." (See page 57)

July 6, 1947, Tucson, Arizona

Walter Laos

Interviewed 8/16/67. Present address: 723 East First Street, Tucson
Tel.- 623-3795.

Runs Walter Laos Produce Company.

I got him at the Produce Company, and queried him on his various sightings. He recalled a fair amount of detail, but was a little vague about some points.

In the July 6 case, he was evidently sitting in his back yard when he spotted the small dots or specks off to the northeast over the Catalina Mountains. He called his family out but they were gone by the time anybody came into the yard. They were visible for only about 10 to 15 seconds, as he recalled.

They seemed to be near a cloud, just an ordinary cloud as he described it. They came down towards the ground and then swooped back up and disappeared aloft.

He said they seemed to be round and dark but must have been shiny because they occasionally glinted. He recalled something like four to six objects, and emphasized the high speed at which they moved.

The contemporary press accounts in the Tucson papers indicated that he had seen them three previous times (every Sunday for the previous three weeks). I asked him about that and he rather vaguely recalled those other sightings. As we talked he became more definite, which I believe was authentic. He said that in the other three times they were off to the south and southeast. He recalled one case where he saw the objects far away, low on the southern horizon, "towards Nogales." In those earlier cases they were just dots, but he said they moved much faster than airplanes.

He mentioned that a friend brought a downed radiosonde apparatus to him, suggesting that maybe that was what he saw. He was willing to concede that maybe that was what it was, which I took to be a lack of contentious insistence about the observations. As a matter of fact, what he described could not at all match a radiosonde.

Laos seemed like only a moderately good witness. Yet there was nothing in his account to indicate that his July 6 sighting was not quite real.

6 July. Greendale, Virginia. (Late afternoon)

"A happy little group." (See page 59)

6 July. Professor J. Allen Hynek.

"Probably not from space."

An interesting name appeared in the press on the 6th:

"The mysterious flying discs reported seen throughout the United States aren't likely to be objects from outer space.

"This was the opinion last night of Prof. J. A. Hynek. Prof. Hynek is assistant director of Perkins Observatory at Delaware, Ohio, and director of McMillin Observatory at Ohio State University.

"If the discs are real, and many reports during the past two weeks indicate they well may be, they would have been seen in all parts of the world IF they were from outer space, Prof. Hynek believes.

"Reports of the discs have come from the United States only, and most of these from the Pacific Northwest.

" 'I couldn't possibly comment officially on the flying discs,' said Prof. Hynek. 'I have never seen one, much less watched its trajectory (path of flight). However,' he added, 'I am very much interested in the reports.'

"How would one go about watching for the discs?

"Prof. Hynek pointed out that large telescopes are generally fixed to examine a given area of sky. Thus, they would be impractical. Again, reports indicate the discs have been seen at about 10,000 feet above the earth. Large telescopes are geared for outer space.

"The naked eye or binoculars are best suited for disc hunting, Prof. Hynek believes.

"If a person sees a flying disc, how can he best observe it so as to provide scientific men with valuable information?

" 'The witness should carefully observe the path the object takes,' answered Prof. Hynek. 'He should note positions on the horizon—from whence the object first was seen and where it last was observed. He should attempt to establish its height and speed, also.'

"Again, Prof. Hynek pointed out that he cannot speak officially on the validity of the flying disc reports until he has definite evidence that they are real, and not products of imaginative minds." (xx.)

(xx.) Columbus, Ohio. *The Columbus Citizen*. 6 July 47.

Dr. Hynek liked to characterize himself as a "innocent bystander that got shot" when he tried to explain his selection as a scientific advisor to the Air Force's UFO investigation team years later, but his early interest and careful remarks (illustrated above), combined with his background in secret work for the military, probably made his selection more than mere chance.

July 6, 1947, Greendale, Virginia

Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Broadwell, Jr., and daughter

Late afternoon, Sunday.

Interviewed 8/16/67. Present address: 6513 Glyndon Lane, Richmond
 Zip 23225
 Tel. - area code 703 272-0192

The Broadwells were driving from Richmond to Greendale and were just past the railroad tracks at Greendale when their daughter, Ann, then 7 years old, spotted the objects and pointed them out to her mother. (That seems to disagree with the press accounts, which indicated that Mrs. Broadwell spotted them first.) Broadwell pulled the car off to the side and stopped to watch the objects. He said that he thought they were only about a block or so away, and that there were perhaps about a dozen of the objects in all. He was unwilling to make a firm estimate of the height but put it at something like 5 or 6 hundred feet. They heard no sound, saw no lights, no exhaust. It was deathly quiet. The objects were shaped like saucers and were lazily moving along in what he described as an undulatory motion. He said they would twist up and down and flip but everything slowly. All went through about the same peculiar maneuvers. They were silvery or aluminum and reflected the sun occasionally. They were more or less in a line and the spacing between them was almost but not quite uniform, as he recalls.

He estimates the diameter of the objects as about 25 feet. No markings of any sort on them. They were moving along most of the time on edge in the attitude of a wheel.

He estimated their speed to be about that of a small aircraft. They moved out of sight towards the northeast, towards Washington, as he put it. They disappeared by getting smaller and smaller. He said they were not in any hurry - "a happy little group."

He said he has often wished he hadn't seen them because people "think you are nuts." He added, however, that since all three of them saw them clearly, it could not have been a hallucination. He did not report it to the Air Force nor did anybody from the Air Force ever interview him. He called the Richmond-Leader. He knows of no other witnesses. His age is now 52 so he was 32 then. He is a commercial artist. He has done a bit of flying so knows a little bit about aircraft. I did not talk to Mrs. Broadwell, but Mr. Broadwell frequently asked questions, off-phone, to get her opinions during our telephone conversation. Sounds like a fairly good case.

6 July. Tucson, Arizona. (about 10:00 a.m.)

"I never saw such a bright light." (See page 61)

6 July. Near Reno, Nevada. (about 10:00 a.m.)

Jets or UFOs?

Our source states:

"In Nevada, a survey team working 10 miles north of Reno trained their transits on three flying objects about 10 a.m. yesterday and computed their speed to be 20,000 feet and the shining objects to be 20 feet in diameter.

"City Editor John Brackett of the *Nevada State Journal* also reported seeing a metallic, saucer-shaped object moving across the sky at high speed at about the same time.

"The Civil Aeronautics Administration reported two Army P-80 jet planes were over the Reno area at the time." (xx.)

(xx.) This newspaper clipping is from the Robert Gribble collection. The only source data provided reads: "San Francisco, Ca paper 7-7-47."

6 July. Salt Lake City, Utah. (Daytime?)

"Hovered, whirling horizontal pattern, straight line, V-formation."

An Associated Press dispatch states:

"Add to the features of flying discs the fact that they perform maneuvers in unison, just like aircraft piloted by carefully drilled pilots.

"Oliver G. Ellis, former Utah state treasurer made that report today after he, his son Richard, and a neighbor boy, Kyle Sessions, observed a group of the discs high in the sky west of here yesterday.

"He said the discs were luminous and 'behaved like radio controlled objects,' hovering in a group, then quickly forming a whirling horizontal pattern. The formation also shifted to a straight line and a V-formation, he said.

"Once two discs broke loose from the rest 'as if they had been snapped from the end of a giant whip' and careened southward toward the earth at a tremendous speed on a long slant, he added." (xx.)

(xx.) Ogden, Utah. *Standard-Examiner*. 7 July 47.

Woman has "close encounter."

The Kansas City *Star* called it a "Close Encounter," but it was not one latter day UFO researchers would recognize as of the spectacular kind:

July 6, 1947, Tucson, Arizona

Wallace B. Magness and others

About 10 a.m. Sunday

Interviewed 8/14/67. Present address: 225 W. Andes, Tucson
Tel.- 297-0732

At the time of the sighting Magness lived at 1132 E. Blacklidge (note number). He was at that time in charge of the cost accounting office in the Air Materiel Command at Davis Monthan Air Field.

His recollections disagreed in a few particulars with contemporary press accounts. I am not able to decide which should be trusted.

He states that he was working out in his yard that Sunday morning when he happened to look eastward and saw a very bright round light. "I never saw such a bright light." He recalled it as being brighter than the sun, and he recalled its angular diameter as larger than the sun, but I think that should be regarded as a bit uncertain because he was somewhat vague.

He called a neighbor, Mr. Weirsun (spelling ?), who is now dead. He also called Miss Fay Edwards, who was then a roomer in their house but who is now married. Weirsun's grandson was also there, but he was a small boy. The object sat there for a few minutes and suddenly shot off to the northeast through Reddington Pass.

I do not have the newspaper account before me, but believe that in the Arizona Star it stated that the other two persons did not clearly see the object. He indicated to me that they did see it. If it was as big as the sun they certainly ought to have.

He went into some detail about the joking he received out at the Air Base. Someone in the shop rigged up a flying saucer and mounted it on a board and sent it to his office. "Then they had a base photographer come and take a picture of him with some officer formally presenting the flying saucer to him. He said he had some postcards made of the photo and thinks he still has one left, which he will send to me. From his own point of view, he said it was no joke. It was a real object.

I regard this as an authentic sighting, but am inclined to regard Magness as not very good at describing what he saw. It was not any lack of articulateness; I just think he was exaggerating the size of the object. But that may be wrong, and he certainly stressed several times that it was the brightest thing he has ever seen in his entire life.

"Something in the way of a fledgling disk was reported by Miss Barbara Mehner, 2309 South Glenwood avenue, Intercity district, who said she was playing baseball yesterday in a field near U.S. highway No. 24.

" 'I was facing west when something flew in from the side,' she said. "It was dark-grayish, about five inches across and flying about two feet from the ground. It flew around me several times, then flew off south a short distance, came back and circled me three or four times more. Then it disappeared." (xx.)

(xx.) Kansas City, Missouri. *Star*. 7 July 47.

6 July. Reporter David Johnson gets a "disc assignment".

Dave Johnson, Aviation Editor for the Boise, Idaho, *Statesman*, wrote:

"Flew instruments Sunday afternoon for a couple of hours with the Idaho national guard. A lieutenant colonel sat up in front and watched for discs while I struggled with the gauges and radio beam.

"We got back into Gowen field's pattern, and the control tower called to report some people in Ontario, Oregon, had told the CAA they saw some saucers wheeling through the sky.

"Now, there's one thing about those saucers, I've never seen one, so on the way home I dropped into *The Statesman* office with an idea. That was to take the Early Bird No.3, our airplane, and go up Sunday night and prowl around the airways, just looking.

"I broached that to the city editor, and blew the foam off of it, a you-know-what look spread over his face, just like somebody had tossed a brick into a mud puddle.

"He talked for a few minutes and I listened. The upshot of it was that I walked out of the office with expense dough in my pocket and a date with Kenneth Arnold, the Boise man who two weeks ago saw the discs come roaring around Mt. Rainier in Washington.

"I have one of those things called a general assignment. I'm going disc hunting with Arnold in the *Statesman* plane.

"The city editor had said:

" 'Dave, I was just about to give you a call and discuss this damn saucer business with you. The thing started here in Boise with Arnold and it is getting out of hand. The wire services are moving more copy on it than any other single story in years except the war, and no one knows any more about it now than when they were doubting this fellow Arnold who first reported seeing whatever it is that is being looked at, real or imaginary.

" 'As I said before, this business started in Boise and it is up to us if we can do it to help get it brought down to earth. I hope you can lasso one of the damn things and bring it in for display but on the other hand, it might be a good idea to be ready to duck if you see something skipping along.'

"I might interject here that the boss doesn't fly.

" 'Crank up your airplane,' he said, 'and go up around the Hanford atom

plant area in Washington and stay there until you either find something or give it up. See if this fellow Arnold wants to go along (he jumped at the chance) and take the best camera equipment you can find and stay as long as you want to.'

"Such an assignment stay as long as you want to—is not to be accepted lightly.

" 'Fly around that sea,' said the city editor, 'because my hunch is that if these things can come from any place they are coming from some project like Hanford. The Army has denied this possibility but the Army has been making denials a major business for years. In one case an Army man said in Sacramento there's nothing to get excited about, "if there were anything to the saucers the Army would have notified us."'

" 'If you see anything that answers the description—or the hundreds of descriptions—grab a picture and high-tail for Boise.'

" 'Oh, yes,' he added. 'Good luck to you.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Boise, Idaho. *The Statesman*. 7 July 47.

Louisville (Ky) Courier-Journal July 6, 1947



Last minute additions:

4 July. Portland, Oregon. (about 3:00 p.m.)

Another Portland sighting:

"Weather clear and sunny and the object which appeared suddenly out of the sky was several miles from where I saw it. I was in Portland and facing northeast. I would judge the object was toward the Washington State boundary of the Columbia River and no sound was heard at that distance, perhaps 15 to 20 miles. It was about 3 p.m. and [the object was] circular in shape, rather flat, being higher in the center on top. As to color, there was no specific color that I saw and it practically stood still in the air for 30 or more seconds and while I was watching it, in a flash it was out of sight with no indication it was going to move on. It was the strangest thing I have ever seen and nobody can tell me I did not see that object.

"My two high school daughters were with me and watched the whole procedure. In fact, my oldest daughter spotted it first and called for me to hurry and the youngest girl too, and she asked me if I knew what it was." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: James E. McDonald. The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. 85721. From: Mrs. W. H. Woodworth, 6754 S.E. 75th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. 97206. Date: 14 June 67. Photocopy in author's files.

5 July. Six miles northeast of Logansport, Indiana. (morning)

"It came down out of the clouds."

According to the local newspaper:

"Robert Miller, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, route 5, city, today claimed the distinction of being the only person in Case county who has seen one of the mysterious 'flying discs' which have been reported sighted in various parts of the United States.

"The youth said he and his parents heard a noise Saturday morning a half hour before he sighted the 'flying disc.' Mrs. Miller, who was working in the kitchen, thought it was thundering. However, Robert said the sound more nearly resembled the roar of a jet-propelled plane.

"He failed to see anything in the sky at that time, but when he heard the roar again a half hour later as he was harrowing in the field, six northeast of Logansport, he looked up again.

" 'The round, flat object appeared to be whirling as it came almost straight down out of the clouds,' he said. 'It came about 100 feet below the clouds and then curved upward again. At first I thought it was a plane, but as soon as I got a good look at it I knew it wasn't,' Robert stated.

"The youth estimated the altitude of the object at 15,000 feet. He said the only time it appeared to be whirling was when it was descending. It was heading in an eastward direction and was gray in color, blending with the clouds, he reported.

"Robert had attended the air show at Kokomo a week ago and said that the roar of the 'flying disc' was similar to that made by the P-84 Shooting Star when it flew over the Kokomo municipal airport. He said it must have been about the same size as a two-motored plane." (xx.)

(xx.) Logansport, Indiana. *Tribune*. 7 July 47.

6 July. Butte, Montana. (about 9:00 p.m.)

"Like a bird fluttering its wings."

According to the local newspaper:

"A woman reported Monday morning that she and two friends were visiting Columbia Gardens, when 'we saw an object approaching from the northwest at what appeared to be a very high speed, then it seemed to stop in midair and hang there for a full minute. Then it veered sharply to the north and appeared to fly at varying heights like a bird fluttering its wings—then it disappeared.' She reported that this object was sighted about 9 o'clock Sunday night." (xx.)

(xx.) Butte, Montana. *Montana Standard*. 8 July 47.

6 July. Ontario, Oregon. (about 2:00 p.m.)

"Tight spiral climb."

Report to the Civil Aeronautics Authority:

"Sunday brought reports from at least two Ontario sources to the CAA station. Richard Kneidi, Ontario agent of the Empire Air Lines, reported seeing the flying objects through the trees outside the United Presbyterian church at about 12:15 p.m. Sunday after the service. He called to his wife, who was still in the church, but they disappeared before she could look, Kneidi said.

"William M. Black Jr., Veteran administration contact representative, also reported seeing the flying objects to the CAA station. He said they were also observed by his wife; by Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Reid; Bernt Pedersen and Lillie Pedersen, brother and sister of Mrs. Reid; and by Mrs. Alma Pedersen, mother of Mrs. Reid. The group observed the 'saucers' at about 2 p.m. Sunday while standing on the north side of the veterans' housing project.

"Black said there were either seven or eight of the flying discs, four in one formation and either three or four in the other. Circular in shape, they appeared to be climbing in a tight spiral. Observed at an altitude estimated by Black to be 2500 feet, they appeared to be over a point midway between Payette and Weiser.

"The 'tight spiral climb' described by Black was unlike the spiral climb of a conventional aircraft, he said. Rather it appeared to be a series of maneuvers in which the discs rocked up on one edge, then on the other, giving the impression of fluttering upward." (xx.)

(xx.) Ontario, Oregon. *Eastern Oregon Observer*. 8 July 47.

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