

THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE

UFOS: A HISTORY

1950 AUGUST – DECEMBER

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES

By

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Fremont CA

“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.

August.

Medford, Oregon. Middle of the summer.

"Hey, Johnny, look at those things up in the sky."

Letter found in CUFOS' files:

"The year was 1950. It was one of those hot, clear, dry days in the middle of summer. The activity at the airport was at a standstill. No airplanes were flying. The usually busy airport seemed to be asleep, as if the airplanes and their pilots were stealing a little siesta in the middle of the day.

"I was sitting on a bench on the shady side of the lone hanger talking with Johnny Applegate, the airport manager. Just what the conversation was about, I no longer remember. Most likely it was either about fishing or flying, two interests we had in common.

"Suddenly the air traffic controller called down from his tower, 'Hey, Johnny, look at those things up in the sky.' And he pointed his arm directly overhead.

"We looked. Sure enough, there were three 'things' up in the sky. They were like shining silver disks in the bright sun. They were very high and seemed quite tiny. They went around and around in a great circle and just about evenly spaced as to the distance between them. Their speed was relatively slow, perhaps a hundred or a hundred-fifty miles an hour. They appeared to be circling almost lazily.

"Our puzzlement grew. What were they? Were we really seeing flying saucers? The only thing we agreed upon was that we were actually seeing 'something.'

"We called attention to the silver disks to other persons about the hanger: two airplane mechanics, the station meteorologist, a couple of crop-duster pilots, the passenger agent at the United Air Lines terminal, and some other people in the passenger waiting room. They, too, agreed that we were actually seeing 'something.'

"After an hour, I quit watching the 'things.' There was no telling how long they might continue to circle. Johnny Applegate went into his office to attend to airport business. I went into the hanger to do some work on our flying club's Aeronca. The other people scattered their various ways.

"After finishing the minor work I had to do on the Aeronca, I rolled it out of the hanger toward the gas pit to refuel the gas tanks for an evening of flying. I looked up into the sky; the 'things' were still up there, still circling.

"Then I went into the airport snack shop for a sandwich and a coke. When I came out, I again looked up. The 'things' were still there, circling, circling, forever circling. They had been there for at least three hours.

"As I watched, the 'things' suddenly broke out of their circling formation. They formed a line of three, in tandem. They picked up speed tremendously and went off in a southeasterly direction toward Nevada. In a matter of less than a minute they disappeared from sight." (xx.)

(xx.) CUFOS files. Letter: From: Dennis Brantner, Box 12. "Loyalkanna" (? Not clear), PA. No date. Received at CUFOS on 17 July 66.

A jab at the establishment. *Weird Science* #13 July-August 1950. (Sold for \$125 in 1998)



August (no exact date) Anderson Creek, California. (2:00 p.m.)

Mystery cigar.

1950, August

130

2919 Florence Street
Berkeley, California

Gentlemen: 50-8

To add to your file, for what it is worth:

Place: Anderson Creek, Big Sur, Monterey County, Calif.

Time : August 1950 2:00 p.m.

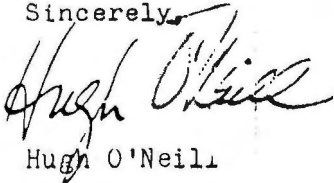
Atmosphere Clear, sun.

Object sighted: Long, cigar to pencil shaped without
wing or tail surfaces. Silent, no
exhaust smoke or vapour trail.

Seen from a cliff above the ocean (elev. 200ft.) the object was not less than two nor more than 5 miles offshore at an elevation estimated at not less than 500 nor more than 1000 feet. Size was larger than anything ever seen in the sky. It was sighted twice, first for approx. 30 sec. and then for 90 sec. First seen was hovering above the ocean, casting a shadow, seemingly not moving. suddenly it moved in level flight and disappeared to the south in less time than it takes to write it. The day was clear, there was a definite horizon. In less than two minutes it reappeared in the same general area, this time slowly circling above the ocean. Two circles completed it hovered briefly and again in level flight disappeared to the south.

If you should like a more detailed account I am,

Sincerely,


Hugh O'Neill

April 8, 1952

1 August. Near Auburn, Maine. (about 8:00 p.m.)

Mystery cigar. (See below and on page 5)

7/12/84

19-N Lake Suzanne
O'Fallon, Illinois 62269
3 July 1984

Dear Dr. Haines:

This is in answer to your letter of the 28th of April asking me to fill out your aerial sighting report. Please excuse my tardiness. My travel schedule is such that this is the first opportunity I have had to catch up on my delinquent correspondence.

^ To begin with, although I had been flying the day of my sighting, I was actually on the ground when the event occurred. In view of this, perhaps a narrative description would be more appropriate. In essence, this is what took place on the first day of August, 1950, near my home town, Auburn, Maine. It was shortly after sunset, I would say about 8 PM. I was standing on a hill facing west over a broad valley. The sun had set but the western sky was still fairly light so that any dark object aloft was sharply outlined. There was another licensed pilot standing about 10 feet to my right, also facing west. Her name then was Marlene Smith but I have no idea where she is today. The fact that we were both familiar with aerial objects and both observed the same thing at the same time under the same light conditions is significant.

As I stood looking west, I became aware of some sort of movement in the sky to my left at about 30 degrees above the horizon. I glanced up to my left to see what had attracted my attention. It was a long, ~~cigar~~ cigar shaped object that was dark at first. It was on a west to east track. At first, I thought it was a blimp because of the general shape but then noted it had no running lights, no gondola, fins or engine pods. There was no sound. As I continued to try to catalogue this object as something conventional, it made a sudden 90 degree turn to the north (my right) and began to glow a dull red color. It was moving very slowly and appeared to be about the length of a king sized cigarette held at arm's length. Its progress through the air was not in a smooth straight line but seemed to undulate up and down as it progressed toward the north. I made a mental note that the wind was blowing straight out of the west at about 15 MPH so it was now moving cross-wind. It continued along that track for several seconds meanwhile changing color from a dull red to a bright yellow then back to a dull orange. At that point, it made another 90 degree turn back toward the west directly in front of us and seemed to tilt down toward the valley floor. ~~Three~~ three or four seconds after it started to lose altitude, from the bottom of this thing came a brilliant flash of intense blueish-white light. The same light intensity of a flash bulb but rather than giving off a puddle of light it seemed to be a beam of light directed downward. In

Mystery cigar continued:

(2)

that split second, it simply vanished. There were no clouds in the sky in that compass quadrant although there were some summer cumulus clouds to the north and east, nothing approaching thunderheads. During all this time, unbeknownst to each other, we were both watching this object, trying to figure out what it was and were so intent on watching it that we didn't say a word until it vanished in that spectacular manner and then, we both said at the same time, "Did you see that?"

I would judge the time element from first seeing it until it vanished was about 30 to 45 seconds, certainly long enough to satisfy both of us that it was not a conventional object for several reasons. First, its shape - a long cigar shaped object with no wings or rotors, gondolas, fins or lights. In addition, it changed colors about three times. It could not have been reflecting city lights since this was over open country which was heavily wooded and several miles from any town. It was (or appeared to be) rather low - too low to be reflecting any last rays of sunshine that probably lingered at very high altitude. When it turned, it seemed to pivot on its own axis rather than the smooth rounded curve ~~characteristic of powered flight~~ characteristic of powered flight. Its path through the air was not a smooth straight line - it bobbed up and down as it moved toward the north, more like a free floating balloon caught on eddies of wind but, again, it was moving cross wind which would tend to rule out a balloon, especially since it made its second turn directly into the wind. And last, but not least, is the spectacular manner in which it literally vanished before our eyes - a split second beam of light directed downward from the bottom of the thing and it was gone.

Since there was nothing around it to give it perspective, I have no idea of its relative size but it is my impression (and I hasten to make this clear) it was and still is my impression that it was huge, perhaps several hundred feet long. This impression has been reinforced several times over the years when I have seen on TV aerial shots of the zeppelin, Hindenburgh. It was also Ms Smith's impression when we discussed the sighting with each other. I had never seen anything like it before and I have never seen anything like it since.

I hope this will be of some value in your research. I would be most happy to answer any other questions you may have concerning this event.

Sincerely,

Clarence O. Darnie

Copy to:
Walt Andrus
103 Oldtowne Rd
Seguin, Texas 78155

August (no exact date) Manhattan Beach, California. (daytime)

"Rolling on its edge."

A press account states:

"Although it was a fine day for a swim Saturday along the Manhattan shoreline, men from Mars, or whoever occupied a flying saucer which whizzed over the pier, didn't stop for a dip.

"Mrs. Rex Hundertmark, 441 7th St., Manhattan, and her 18-year-old nephew, Duane Kennedy, Santa Maria, said they saw the saucer coming from the north, get even with the pier, and turn for the open sea.

"Travelling at a tremendous speed, the flying saucer seemed to be rolling on its edge like a shiny dime, said Kennedy, who noticed it first.

"Kennedy and Mrs. Hundertmark, who were lolling on the sand just south of the pier, said nobody else seemed to notice the 'exceedingly brilliant disk.' They said they couldn't judge at what altitude it flew but it was 'pretty far off.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Newspaper unknown. Probably local. Exact date unknown. Clipping in author's Files.

6 August. Near Galesburg, Illinois. (3:00? p.m.)

Steel ball darts about.

A press account states:

"Quad-city citizens, who haven't been much in the news with tales of flying saucers and other strange air phenomena, broke out with a rash of reports today.

"At least seven of them told of seeing what appeared to be flying saucers and two others said they sighted strange vapor trails over the local area.

"Clayton Johnson, his wife, and Mrs. Kenneth Kemp, all of Moline, saw what appeared to be a brightly polished, stainless steel ball while picnicking at Lake Storey, near Galesburg.

"That occurred about 3(? Clipping not clear here) in the afternoon and up to 7 last evening four others said they sighted similar objects over the quad-city district. Two of them, employed at Rock Island arsenal, declared they kept the objects, two of them at that time, in sight with a high powered set of binoculars. Two others, both air veterans of the last war, sighted the objects from Rock Island and a large group at Loud Thunder forest preserve saw the same objects. Included in this group was Charles W. Day, veteran Davenport newspaperman.

"Johnson, a *Dispatch* employee, said his attention was attracted by the sound of an airplane and when he glanced skyward he also noticed the strange object.

" 'It was like a stainless steel baseball way up in the sky,' he said.

"For fully five minutes, Johnson said, the object hung motionless in the sky, or darted from side to side, from a standing start to an exceptionally high rate of speed. Once it traveled in a circle and then started off in the direction of the quad-cities.

"When the two unidentified arsenal employees reported seeing the phenomena, they said there were two. They estimated the speed at from 700 to 800 miles an hour and related they had difficulty in keeping them in the binocular's field of vision.

"T.J. Miller and Russell Arning, both of Rock Island and both air service veterans, described the objects as something the like of which they had never seen in their service experience. The two men declared they called the attention of others to the object so their stories would not be doubted.

"Daly was at the forest preserve, he said, when his attention was attracted by a score or more of picnickers gazing overhead. He declared he saw the round, glistening object sailing along overhead at a high rate of speed." (xx)

(xx.) Moline, Illinois. *Dispatch*. 7 August 50.

10 (and 11?) August. Tolovana Park, on Coastal Route #101, about 20 miles south of Astoria, Oregon. (Between 9 & 10:00 p.m. --First incident) (Night? --Second Incident)

"The alien clay inspector."

A letter (without corrections) to pioneer UFO researcher John Dubarry reads:

"I have a true story here that a relative told me the other day. This person is an uncle who lives in Oregon. His full name is Clarence Oscar Ordway, Tolovana Park, Oregon. His story - quote.

"On a Thursday evening between 9 & 10 p.m. on Aug. 10th 1950 [he] was walking home from a near neighbor. He was carrying a small flashlight. He lives exactly 50 ft. from 101 Highway. Just on the Highway in front of his house there could he could see a large bulky object. Since Clarence is a man about 68 he couldn't tell whether it was a car wreck or a landslide, so when he got in front of his house he stood there a minute waiting for movement. As he stood watching the object. [It may seem some words were omitted in this text but the blame is the letter writer's.] Then for the first time he noticed that there were lights around the object like portholes. Then he saw that there was a lite as a flashlight being shown about the bank - first the light would be played to the left then to the right. The bank happens to be of clay. And there wasn't any noise or loud movements no motor sound. After quite awhile Clarence decided to put a light on it. As he did so he noticed fast that the object turned around very fast & a strong spot lite was turned on Clarence. He said he was frighten & shocked in reliezing the an object could move so fast. He noticed in that 2 or 3 minutes that the object was round like a large tank seemed to be blunt on either end & it had a dome a small one, where a person could see from. Clarence could see no operator nothing human. After a few movements this machine seemed to glide off towards off the highway, then gain speed then out of sight. There was no noise, no jets, no engine motions. (When he first put the light on the machine it was off the ground, it remained that way even after it turned around to face Clarence's house) The spotlight from the machine shown on the house area around 12 to 14 feet circumference.

"A day or so later [August 11/12?] it returned and went back to the same spot off the road and started with that small spot lite looking around the clay bank & when a car was approaching it would glide off the road & down a hill to a small canyon remain over the brush & trees motionless. When the road was clear of traffic on either side the machine would go back & start playing the lite on the clay bank again. After a while it moved straight up at terrific speed it was off again. (Notice) I forgot to say at first when the light was put on Clarence the strong glare did not blind him as a car lite would. The light seemed to be soft, easy, did not hurt his eyes at that present time or later. Clarence can be reached at the address in Oregon. He is here in Calif. on vacation for a short period." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: John Dubarry, Monte Vista, California. From: George John Lopez, Rt.2 Box 208, Cupertino, California. 11 January 51. CUFOS archives.

11 August. Alaskan Air Command.

"Speculation and information never made public."

No doubt prompted by the war in Korea, the Alaskan Air Command wanted better access to a Top Secret document. (See below)

CONFIDENTIAL

312.11 Declassification

313.6 Records Destruction of

350.05 T/O & AF

11 Aug 1950

FROM: AFOIV-TC

TO: CG, Alaskan Air Command,

1st Ind

SUBJECT: "Downgrading of Air Intelligence Report No. 100-203-79"

1. Subject document, for which your Command requests downgrading action, contains info and speculation on the "flying saucer" situation which have never been released or intimated publicly by the Air Force.

*

*

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(Air Intelligence Report No. 100-203-79 was a Top Secret document which had a "facts and discussion" section that suggested the Russians may have a number of "Model Horten XIII Flying Wing planes based at the Siberian city of Irkutsk.)

11 August. Twin Falls, Idaho. (night)

"Flying cube accompanies saucers."

A news dispatch announced:

"A battery of flying saucers and a flying cube were reported over Twin Falls last night [8/11].

"J. W. Adamson, a Twin Falls carpenter, said he saw the cube, nose tipped slightly downward, at the height expected of a commercial airliner. He said the object was as big as a house and floated through the air about 250 miles an hour.

"The saucers followed more traditional lines, he said. They were smaller and higher and zoomed through the air at faster speeds.

"Adamson avers the celestial entourage was soundless. They were a flat white color, he said, and were not luminous.

"He called his wife and daughter to the yard. His daughter said the saucers looked like moving stars, but his wife couldn't see anything without her glasses."
(xx.)

(xx.) Twin Falls, Idaho. 12 August 50. (UP).

10 August. Enumclaw, Washington. (morning)

"Shot straight up."

News distributor makes news:

"The *News-Tribune* had yet to hear from Gorden Malidore, the paper's distributor at Enumclaw, Washinton. Thirty-six hours ahead of the rest of the northwest, Malidore reported he had seen a silvery object in the sky Thursday morning.

"In a letter to the *News-Tribune*, he said he had watched the object move toward Tacoma (westward), turn to the north for a few seconds, and then 'shoot straight upward like a bullet and then disappear.'

"'No doubt exists in my mind as to what it was,' Malidore wrote. 'It was flat and round in shape, and could not possibly be mistaken for an airplane.'
(xx.)

(xx.) Tacoma, Washington. *News-Tribune*. 12 August 50. p.2.

11 August. Portland, Oregon. (night)

UFOs in "tight formation." (See clipping on next page)

11 August. Portland, Oregon. (night)

UFOs in tight formation. (See clipping below)

Formation of 'Saucers' Sighted Over Oregon

Portland, Ore., Aug. 12 (UP)—Hundreds of Portland residents declared today that they saw strange flaming objects streak noiselessly across the skies last night. #698

A fire captain and three firemen said they watched the objects.

Capt. H. Faber said he and three others observed a trio of objects traveling at high speed straight across the city in a "tight formation." One object pulled ahead of the others as they disappeared into the distance, he said.

Junior and John Eagle, two brothers from La Center, Wash., saw "a silvery glow coming out of the tail" of a single "saucer." They watched it travel "pretty low." The glow stopped, they said, and a silvery saucer was all that remained.

Dick Neese of Portland described the object as "fire hot." "There was no smoke . . . no noise . . . it went at tremendous speed."

The Air Force has denied repeatedly that it has any evidence of the actual existence of any phenomena such as flying saucers.

NEW YORK POST, SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 1950

15 August. Montana UFO film. (Mariana case)

The account of this incident in my monograph, *UFOs A History 1950: August-December*, was based on information taken from the Colorado project (Condon Report). As it turns out, the Condon Report is not the best or most complete source. There was some confusion about the case that was explained to a great extent by Dr. David Saunders in his book *UFOs? Yes!* (Signet Books, New York, N.Y., 1968. pp.81-101.)

The Condon people did not get it right due to the delegation of investigative responsibility. Problems first surfaced when they relied on the results of a re-interrogation of Mariana by an Air Force investigator named Peter Marquez. The opening paragraph of Lt. Marquez's report reads:

"On about 5th or 15th of August, 1950, I [Mariana], as manager of the Electrics, a local baseball team, walked to the grandstand of the local stadium here in Great Falls, Montana. It was approximately 11:30 a.m. and my purpose was to check the direction of the wind in preparation for the afternoon's game." (xx.)

(xx.) Gillmor, Ed. Daniel. *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*. Bantam Books, New York, N.Y., 1968. pp. 408-409.

As Dr. Saunders says: "In this opening paragraph, Marquez has managed to provide three bases for future confusion." (xx.)

(xx.) *UFOs? Yes!* p.100.

Since two dates were mentioned by Marquez, it seemed a simple check of the back issues of the local newspaper would pin down the exact day of the sighting. By chance, Colorado field investigator Dr. Roy Craig was going to visit Great Falls concerning some other UFO cases anyway, so it seemed it would not be too much of an inconvenience if he were to also stop by the library and obtain the required information. Dr. Craig had his own cases to work on but he agreed to help Dr. Saunders in what seemed to be a small matter. What happened shocked Saunders:

"When Roy discovered that the Great Falls team was called the Selectrics [not the Electrics] and was scheduled for night games [not afternoon], not in Great Falls, but in Twin Falls, Idaho, on August 14, 15, and 16, he threw in the towel, and I never succeeded in getting him back on the case." (xx.)

(xx.) *UFOs? Yes!* p.101.

Confirming the August 15th date, as opposed to the August 5th date, was crucial because two F-94 jets had landed at Malstrom AFB on the 15th at 11:33 a.m. The aircraft played an important role in the explanation of the case and/or the establishment of Mariana's credibility.

Dr. Craig's visit to the Great Falls library was not the simple thing one would assume. Keep in mind Dr. Craig was in town because of business of his own and was doing Dr. Saunders a favor more or less. It's not surprising the experience may have tested his patience. In a letter to Ted Bloecher, Dr. Craig wrote:

"My visit to Great Falls was, as Dave Saunders well knew, primarily for the purpose of investigating two other UFO incidents in which personnel at Great Falls were involved. While there, however, I did try to gather whatever information was available to aid in the evaluation of the Mariana film, and spent one afternoon going over old copies of newspapers. Two special situations made this effort necessarily incomplete at the time.

"1.) The *Leader* had long since combined with the *Tribune*, which is now Great Falls' only newspaper. The *Tribune* publishers have kept complete micro-filmed files of its own back issues, but stored all their inheritance of old copies of the *Leader* in the attic, without benefit of sorting or chronological order.

"I searched back copies of the *Tribune*, with the assistance of a file clerk the publishers put at my disposal. We located many items, during the relevant time period, which mentioned Mariana, but there was apparently no mention of his filming UFOs until the law suit came up much later. I later gave the list of items involving Mariana—all related to baseball—to Dave Saunders."

"The publisher of the *Tribune* took me to the attic to see if we possibly could locate copies of the *Leader* for the August-September 1950 period. Stashed in a crawl-space beneath the eaves of the building were old copies of the *Leader*, which had never been microfilmed. While enough time to search through almost inaccessible stacks of papers, it seemed at the time more practical to wait until the Great Falls Library copies would be available for such as search.

"2.) At the time of my visit, the Great Falls Library was being moved to a

new location. I was informed that its records were not accessible, and would not be accessible until the move was complete.

"All this information was relayed later to Dave Saunders, and we agreed that, given a later opportunity, the *Leader* should be checked at the Library to see if the date discrepancy could be cleared up. My reasons for doubting the August 15 have already been expressed elsewhere, and are based on information available at the time.

"Other obscuring facts regarding the news clippings and the information they contained were encountered. The reporter (Mr. Sullivan) who had an interest in the Mariana film and who was said to have written anything that might have appeared in the Great Falls papers, had died about a year before my visit. His widow had no records of his items for the *Leader*, or at least knew of no such records. No reporter, editor, or publisher currently with the *Tribune* could recall for sure whether or not the original sighting was reported in the newspapers. They were certain that later events, including the law suit [Mariana sued the Air Force over frames missing from his UFO film], were reported in both the morning and evening papers.

"I talked with Tony Dalich, who figured prominently in the news items, was apparently Mariana's closest associate at the time, and now owns a sporting goods store in Great Falls. After I expressed surprise that I found no mention of the original UFO filming in the *Tribune*, Dalich told me he did not believe there was any mention of the UFO filming in either newspaper for several weeks after Mariana took the film. He did not think Mariana told the newspaper reporters about the incident until later. Since it was Mr. Dalich who claimed to first notice that some of the film was not returned by the Air Force (and it was this issue that I was primarily concerned with at the time), since it was reportedly on Mr. Dalich's projector that the film was shown by Mariana, and since Mr. Dalich had an intense interest in the case, I gave more weight to his view in this instance than I perhaps should have.

"I assure you I would have been delighted to find a more definitive segment of Mariana's film for Bill Hartmann to analyze. It also should be clear from the above that checking the old newspapers was not actually beyond my thoughts. The above special circumstances were all known to Dave Saunders, and it was, presumably, for that reason that he later went to Great Falls to check the papers that were not accessible at the time of my visit.

"I did ask the reference librarian at the Great Falls Library to check the *Leader* for the Aug-Sept 1950 period for any items related to Mariana and UFOs, as well as to check the dates of ball games played by Mariana's team. She later reported by phone that there were no UFO items in the paper for that period, and sent a full listing of the baseball schedule to me by mail. Perhaps she classified 'flying saucers' as something different from what I was asking about—in any case, her report supported Mr. Dalich's belief that news items were not part of the original record.

"Apparently, in this case, I did accept, without sufficient doubt, what individuals reported to me. In the UFO business, however, we seem to be stuck with accepting what someone tells us at one point or another in any investigation—else we have no case to work on." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Ted Bloecher. NICAP. 1536 Connecticut Ave, N.W. Washington D.C. 20036. From: Roy Craig. University of Hawaii. Department of General Science

2450 Campus Road, Honolulu, Hawaii. 96822. 24 March 69. McDonald archives.
University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

Dr. David Saunders was real impressed with the Mariana incident. He was determined to clarify every aspect, so when he failed to persuade Dr. Craig to return to Great Falls, he made the trip himself. He found most of the answers he was looking for.

The Selectrics were in a Class D league, a low budget baseball operation. Mariana was a front office manager, and to save on expenses, he never traveled with the team on road trips. When the team was playing in Twin Falls, Idaho, on August 15th, Mariana was, as usual, working in his Great Falls office at Legion Park.

Mariana testified:

"...after a couple of hours in the clubhouse office I went up into the grandstands to call the grounds keeper. As I reached the top of the stairway I glanced northward to the tall Anaconda Copper Company smokestack to check the direction of the wind from the light smoke. Force of habit I suppose because our outfielders use it as an indicator on defensive plays." (xx.)

(xx.) UFOs? Yes! p.84.

Apparently Lt. Marquez assumed Mariana was checking the wind for an afternoon game, when in fact, it was just a matter of habit. Dr. Saunders learned that afternoon games were never scheduled except when there was no other choice.

The August 5th date does not seem to have appeared in any account of the case except Lt. Marquez's. One might assume the Air Force officer did not press hard enough when he wrote down the number "one," and found it hard to read later, so he put down both dates, the 5th and the 15th. Its difficult to believe this confusion over dates was part of any "cover-up conspiracy" since August 5th would doom the aircraft explanation. Furthermore, it seems foolish to try. Dr. Saunders quickly found news stories about the Mariana sighting and filming in the Tuesday afternoon August 15th edition of the *Great Falls Leader* and in the August 16th Wednesday edition of the *Great Falls Tribune*. Why this simple task was not achieved earlier has been explained by Dr. Craig.

Every UFO researcher should study this case because Dr. Saunders wrote it was the one sighting that convinced him: "...there is something to the UFO problem." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid. p.83.

Great Falls Mr
Leader
Aug 15, 1950

Mariana Reports Flying Discs

Could it be that even baseballs now come home to roost?

Nick Mariana, general manager of the Selectrics, was asking himself that question this morning. Two objects—for all the world like the "long gone" ball slugged out of the Twin Falls ball park last night by Lou Briganti and Joe Nally—sailed across the sky at Legion park this morning.

At least so the troubled Brewers' general manager reported today—even while admitting he could have been seeing things. Only he hopes to have photographic proof for skeptics.

It all happened at 11:30 a. m. while Mariana was out taking a look around the reserved seat section at Legion park—and there sailing smoothly above the smelter stack at the ACM plant were two spherical silvery objects at a height he estimated at 5,000 feet. After a quick double take and a minute lost while he brushed the cobwebs from his eyes he called his secretary as a witness.

Very opportunely he remembered his movie camera and shot the movies he hopes will verify what he hopes isn't failing eyesight.

No report is available on possible weather balloons floating in the atmosphere today—but it is feared that the high-flying baseball version may be more acceptable to Great Falls residents than "flying saucers."

15 August. Montana UFO film. The aircraft solution.

Information on the aircraft explanation was obtained from a source other than Mr. Mariana and his secretary. Ruppelt wrote: "The intelligence officer at Great Falls had dug through huge stacks of files and found that only two airplanes, two F-94's, were near the city during the sighting and that they had landed about two minutes afterwards." (xx.)

(xx.) Ruppelt, Edward J. *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. p.287.

Moreover: "...we studied the flight paths of the two F-94's. We knew the landing pattern that was being used on the day of the sighting, and we knew when the two F-94s landed. The two jets just weren't anywhere close to where the two UFOs had been." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

16 August. Pacoima, California. (morning)

"Mom, look at the funny airplane."

(See clipping below)

6 August. Nanaimo, Canada. (9:43 a.m.)

2,790 miles an hour? (See clipping below)

*Los Angeles
Mirror
Aug 16, 1950²*

FLYING DISK IS REPORTED OVER PACOIMA

Brace your feet — those flying disks are back in Los Angeles.

One about the size of an airplane hovered for four minutes over Mrs. Ellen Little's home, 9723 Vesper Ave., Pacoima, this morning, she said.

She was in her yard, she reported to Van Nuys police, minutes over Mrs. Ellen when her 6-year-old son Billy yelled, "Mom, look at the funny airplane."

Mrs. Little looked skyward and saw a craft about 1000 feet in the air moving west. It had no wings and made no noise. She described it as shiny like silver and seemed to be crescent-shaped, "similar to a quarter moon."

"I've never seen anything like it before," Mrs. Little told police.

Flying Saucer Time: 2,790 Miles an Hour

Canadian Estimates Its Diameter at 150 Feet

NANAIMO, B. C., Aug. 16 (CP). —Harry Lowe, assistant manager of Cassidy Airport here, not only saw a flying saucer today, he timed it.

Mr. Lowe said he was making a routine weather observation when the object appeared from the north at 9:43 a. m. at a height of 30,000 feet.

He figured its speed at 2,790 miles an hour, like this: The object was 5,000 feet above cirrus cloud at 25,000 feet. "It appeared at a 45-degree angle from horizontal and traveled through a 90-degree arc in twelve seconds." Therefore, he said, 2,790 miles an hour.

He estimated its diameter at 150 feet.

"It was definitely something I have never seen before," Mr. Lowe said. "It was not a balloon and not an aircraft, not a normal aircraft anyway."

NY Her-Trib. 8-16-50

20 August. Portland, Oregon. (about 1:30 p.m.)

"Silver tube." (See letter below)

Dear Sirs:

On Sunday, August 20th, 1950, I was attracted out my home (then in North Portland) by an unusually loud propellor-whine (?) from a plane coming from the south. I watched the airplane for a few seconds before noticing another object which appeared to be well above and behind it, but rapidly overtaking it. As the plane made its turn east toward the Portland airport and began descending to get in a landing pattern, the other object, still maintaining its high altitude, also turned in a wide sweeping turn which caused its path to be considerably north of that of the plane when the strange object first attained an eastward direction. It continued this right turn until it was somewhat south of the plane (still behind it) then turned back left so as to pass nearly directly over the airplane and speed far ahead of it. Soon after the airplane got too low for me to see, the other object, now lower than before, but still above my horizon, went on out of sight to the east. This was about 1:30 p.m.

The object was definite in outline and shaped like a sharpened pencil, very long, slender, and pointed on its front end. Its color, or the appearance of its substance, is more difficult to describe. Silver or aluminum come fairly close but it seemed to be luminescent or perhaps translucent. My sister, who was visiting us and saw it, said it looked as if it had been cut out of a piece of sky-writing smoke. My wife and our next-door neighbor described it as "silvery". There was no sign of exhaust or vapor-trail, neither was there any sign of wings or other protuberances. When I first caught sight of it, I thought it might be a saucer seen edge-on, but its shape appeared the same to us throughout our observation of perhaps thirty seconds duration, including its changes in direction of flight mentioned above.

Not knowing its size made an estimate of its altitude and speed very much of a guess indeed, but we had it in the same field of binocular vision as the airplane and I would guess that it was possibly at 10,000 feet, going 600 mph, and that it was 200 feet long.

I have read the question of how a conspicuous object can pass over a large metropolitan area and be seen by only two or three people. I waited about forty-five minutes after this incident before calling the local newspaper and was disappointed to learn that no one else had reported it, although it was a calm sunny day and there must have been a great many people out-of-doors. I also called the airport, thinking the object might have been sighted by the occupants of the airplane, but no one there had seen it. The tongue-in-cheek newspaper account quoted the comment of the spokesman for the Air Force Reserve: "It might have been a jet plane, although none were reported in the area at the time." I have seen jet planes since and I had seen them before and I know this object was quite unlike any of them. (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: CSI Los Angeles, Box 1971, Main Post Office, Los Angeles 53, California.
From: Keith D. Cooper, 7014 S. W. Canby St., Portland 19, Oregon. 27 April 51.
CUFOS archives: "1950, August 20 Oregon."

28 August. Geyser, Montana. (8:09 p.m.)

"Silvery mass."

According to the *Great Falls Tribune*:

"Two Great Falls young men reported Tuesday they saw a flying saucer in the Geyser area. Fred Cockrill, 1308 Fourth avenue north, and Milt Merrick, 1505 Fourth avenue north, said they saw the flying saucer Monday night at 8:09, as they were at a ranch south of Geyser [Geyser is 50 miles southeast of Great Falls].

"They said they were lighting a lamp when Cockrill saw a 'silvery mass' come up over the east horizon. Cockrill instantly called Merrick's attention to the object.

"They described it as a large, circular, oblong object with a long tail. It was flying at an extremely high altitude and vanished over the west horizon in about eight seconds." (xx.)

(xx.) Great Falls, Montana. *Great Falls Tribune*. 30 August 50. p.8.

29 August. Holly Hill, Florida. (5:30 p.m.)

"Size of a dish pan."

"Two men reported seeing a flying saucer on the outskirts of Holly Hill at about 5:30 p.m. yesterday afternoon.

"J. E. Salter, Jr., who lives on Powers St., said he and his brother in law, Ben Bernard, observed a disk about the size of a dish pan spinning under a low hanging cloud. According to Salter, it then went into the cloud, a large black one hanging in the West, then came out of the cloud and headed south. Salter said the object was flying low and appeared to be throwing off phosphorus[?]." (xx.)

(xx.) Daytona Beach, Florida. *News-Journal*. 30 August 50.

Fall 1950 (no exact date) Chanute AFB, Illinois. (afternoon)

"What the H--- is that?"

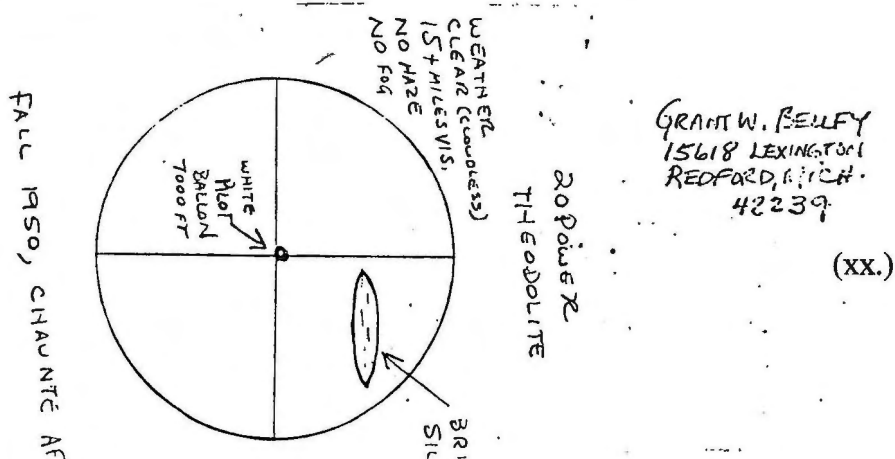
A letter to Dr. Hynek:

"In the Fall of 1950 I was in the Air Force, training to be a weatherman at Chanute Field, Ill. On a bright, clear, cloudless afternoon, about 30 trainees and 2 instructors were gathered around 10 theodolites, learning how to take pilot balloon observations for upper winds.

"I was at one instrument with two other men watching the balloon which had reached a height of 7,000 feet. Suddenly, on the upper left of the scope, a large cigar-shaped, bright silver object appeared. I looked at it for a couple of seconds, when some of the other fellows who were at the other theodolites began yelling 'What the H--- is that?' We all took turns looking at the object, which remained

stationary for approximately 30 seconds. It then disappeared off to the right of the scope as fast as it had appeared. We all swiveled the instruments around to try to pick it up again, but none of us could find it. The two Sgt. Instructors, instructed us then to 'forget it' and get back to our lesson.

"There was much talk around the barracks about it for several days, but after a while interest was lost, and I don't know if anyone ever reported the sighting to any higher Air Force authorities." (See drawing below)



(xx.) Letter: To: Dr. Hynek, Center for UFO Studies. From: Grant W. Belley, 15618 Lexington, Redford, Michigan. 48239. 18 January 78. CUFOS archives.

September

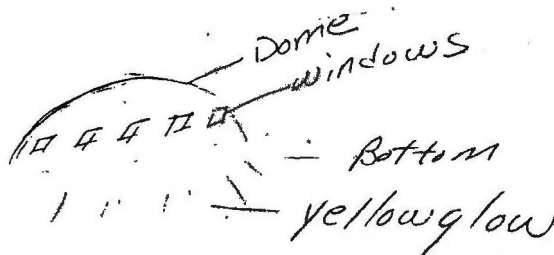
September? 1950. Near Sand Patch, Pennsylvania. (about 9:00 p.m.)

"I shall never forget that sighting."

A letter states:

"When I was about 7 years old I can remember one of my older brothers had gone out to the barn to check on the cows, when he came running back into the house hollering for all of us to come outside, that there was a huge yellow light in the sky.

"I shall never forget that sighting. It was huge, made a whirling sound and seemed to whirl around as it moved. It had a bright yellow light all over the bottom and had a dome with what looked like windows with lights in them. (See drawing below)



"There are 15 in my family including my Mother and Father. I don't recall which ones were away from home at that time but I know the majority of us were there and saw it. My Father called the Somerset County Airport in Somerset, Pa. to report what we had seen. Someone there advised him to contact the military. I don't recall if anyone ever believed it. I know I went to school the next day and Told everyone about it and they all laughed and said I was crazy." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: (name/organization missing). From: Miss Hazel Hersch. 4343 Harrison Street, NW. #4. Washington D.C. 20015. 9 October 67. Copy in author's files.

4 September. Great Falls, Montana. (night)

Amber-colored objects.

A story in the *Great Falls Tribune* states:

"Two Great Falls air force veterans were pondering today just what the strange objects were which they saw over the city Monday night.

"Homer Pike and Vic Kunesh reported they spotted six amber colored objects flying over the city at about 9?[not clear]:40 Monday night. They were flying in a westerly direction and seemed to be passing each other at alternate intervals.

"Both Pike and Kunesh agreed they looked like colored balloons except for their high speed.

" 'They were faster than jet plane I've seen,' Kunesh said.

"The objects were visible about five seconds and were flying at about 5,000 ?[not clear]feet. They apparently made no noise.

" 'They were doing quite a bit of maneuvering and seemed to fly directly over Gore field,' Pike remarked.

"Pike first spotted the objects as he and Kunesh were loading a truck with tools. He called Kunesh's attention to the sight." (xx.)

(xx.) Great Falls, Montana. *Great Falls Tribune*. 5 September 50. p.8.

5 September. Big Rapids, Michigan. (between 10 & 11:00 a.m.)

Big object floats above barn.

A letter to J. Allen Hynek reads:

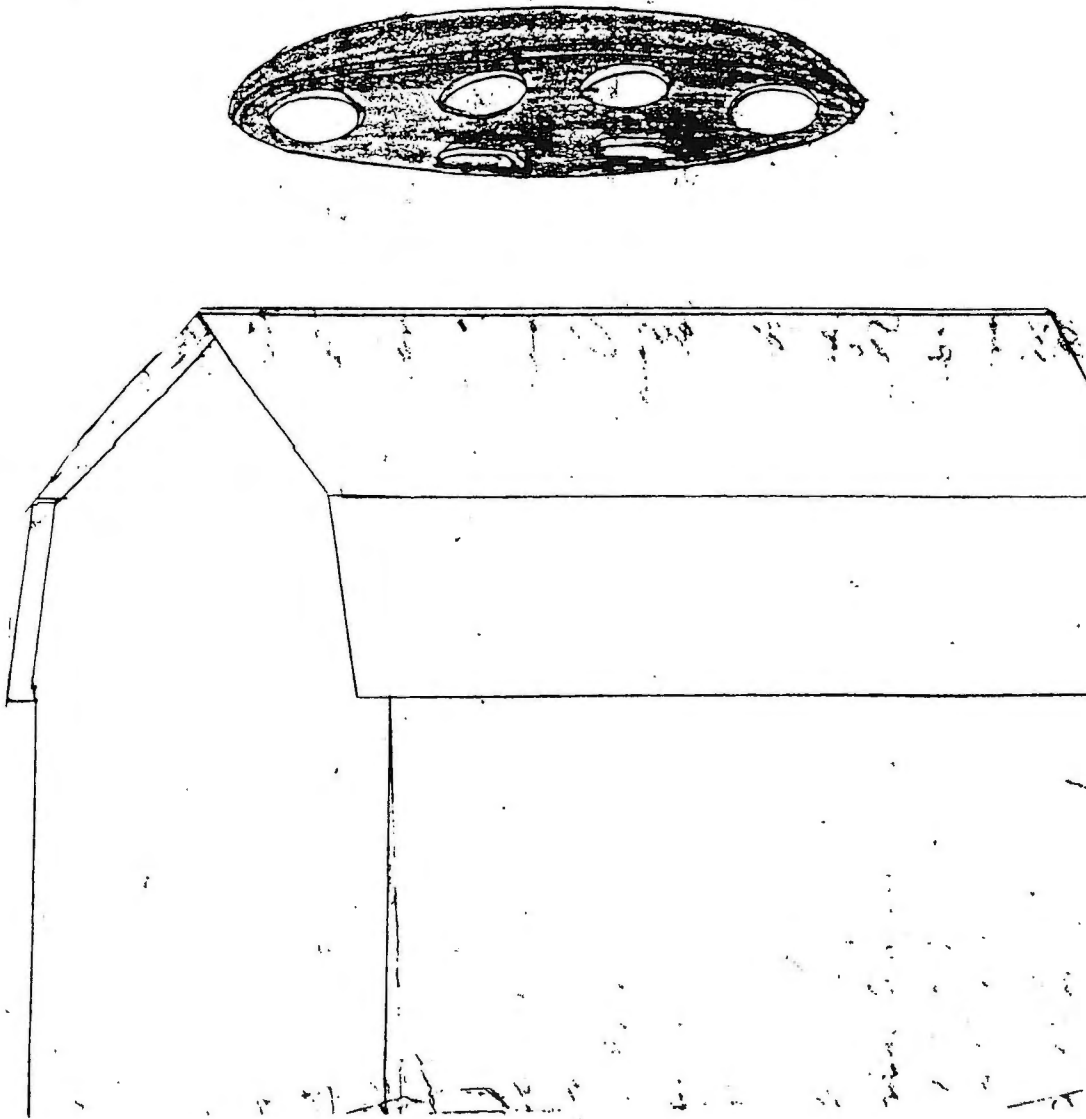
"A neighbor woman and I were picking pickle in our pickle patch September 5, 1950, between 10-11 AM.

"She called my attention to this object in the sky a little to the west of us. I mentioned we should tell someone else of this. She vetoed that idea, mentioned she did not care to be considered crazy -promptly forgot the incident.

"I figure it was a new U.S. Army invention and expected to be reading about it in the news as I had not heard of UFOs as yet. This crude drawing enclosed may give you an idea of what this object looked like, it seemed to me to be some kind of

observation vehicle.

"Object estimated about 400 feet above barn, barn [itself] about 50 feet long. Object size close as can estimated in relation to size of barn [See drawing]. Dull aluminum color. No sign of human life, no sound or sign of exhaust. Stayed in the area about 10 minutes. 'Floated' off in a southwesterly direction." (xx.)



(xx.) Mrs. Bruce Everitt. Route #4. Box 309. Big Rapids, Michigan. 4930(4?).
CUFOS archives. Copy in author's files.

6 September. Waukegan, Illinois. (5:40 to 5:50 p.m.)

Dr. John Robinson of a Naval Medical Research unit observes sausage-shaped "balloon" faster than any aircraft. (See letter below and on page 20)

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 1.3, NND 841508
By WIG Lewis PARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT 4,
Building. 2909
Great Lakes, Illinois

10 July 1952

U. S. Air Force
Air Technical Intelligence Command,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Having recently read an article in "Look" magazine concerning your interest in so-called flying saucers, I have decided to tell you about a peculiar observation made some time ago.

On September 6, 1950 I was at Edison Court, Waukegan, Illinois about 5:40 to 5:50 PM. The day was perfectly clear, no clouds in the sky at that time, and a slight south wind was blowing. I saw an object in the sky over the northern part of Waukegan which I have not been able to identify. It was sausage-shaped, measuring perhaps 80 feet in diameter or greatest length, and perhaps 15 to 20 feet in center thickness. When first seen, it was possibly 5,000 to 7,000 feet north at about 75° angle. It was nearly stationary but had a constant revolution of perhaps 15 to 20 revolutions per minute, with a motion of rotation end over end about a central axis. The object was very clearly visible and I could have made a good picture had a camera been available. It was entirely silent. The outer or convex part was of a silvery color with a peculiar light appearance different from sun reflection and suggestive of luminescence; the concave or under side was of a light gray color.

My first thought was that it must be a peculiar large balloon-like object, but I wondered at its large size, constant speed of rotation, and strangely bright appearance. It hovered in nearly one location for about 2 to 3 minutes and then abruptly travelled westward in the direction of the Waukegan airport, which lies NW of Waukegan a few miles. It travelled very rapidly toward this airport, with a speed I would judge to be that of jet planes occasionally seen here.

As it travelled, it continued to be perfectly silent and also maintained its continual, slow rotation about its central axis. No flashes of light from an exhaust were visible. When it reached a position perhaps 2-3 miles south of the Waukegan airport, it again slowed down and became nearly motionless. At this time a friend of mine arrived and I pointed this object out to him, which was equally puzzling to him.

After remaining rather localized for a few minutes, it again began a fast, westerly movement and in a few seconds rapidly passed beyond sight. When last seen, it has a remarkably fast speed which might have been several hundred miles per hour faster than any aircraft I have seen.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 1.3, NND 891508
 By W.G. Lewis PARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

In summary, the object observed was entirely noiseless, had a luminescent-silvery appearance, maintained a constant and slow rotation end-on-end, and was capable of remaining nearly motionless and also very fast speed.

On the day observed (6 Sept 1950) the University of Chicago had sent a balloon very high into the air, but it had landed near Lake Forest, Ill. between 3 and 4 PM. This object was clearly observed for some time and in no way resembled any balloon or aircraft known to me. Also, it was sighted several hours after the U. of Chicago balloon had landed.

I reported this observation to the Medical Officer in Charge, CDR John R. Seal MC USN, of Naval Medical Research Unit 4. I am employed at that unit as Histopathologist in observation interesting but did not believe it was a matter requiring a report elsewhere.

Perhaps this observation is of no interest or use to you, but in case it is, I shall be glad to give you whatever further details I may remember.

Very truly yours,

JOHN J. ROBINSON, M. D.

(XX.)

(xx.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341
 Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF
 Decimal File 000.9 1950
 Pages -620 to 718.

Removing any doubt as to the Air Force's renewed interest in "unconventional aircraft," an order was issued on September 8th to all Commands detailing information to be forwarded to the Air Material Command. Even physical evidence was mentioned which would be forwarded by expeditious means to the AMC. (See below and on page 22)

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, - NND 841508
By W.G. Lewis NARS, Date Jan 29, 1985

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

AFOIC-CC-1

8 September 1950

SUBJECT: Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft

TO: Commanding Generals, Major Air Commands, ZI and Overseas
All United States Air Attaches

"1. The United States Air Force has a continuing requirement for the reporting and technical analysis of observations of unconventional aircraft which might indicate an advance in technological progress of a foreign power. An unconventional aircraft, within the meaning of this directive, is defined as any aircraft or air-borne object which by performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features, does not conform to any presently known aircraft type.

2. It is desired that information on unconventional aircraft be reported in the following manner:

a. A separate report of each incident will be forwarded. No information other than that bearing on the unconventional aircraft will be included in this report.

b. Priority of transmission accorded the report will be that appropriate in the judgment of the forwarding agency, according to its apparent authenticity and importance as intelligence.

c. Reports will be forwarded to Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Attention: MCIS.

d. Reports forwarded by electrical transmission will include, as far as possible:

(1) A brief description of the object(s); its shape, size, color, number, formation if more than one, aerodynamic features, trail or exhaust, propulsion system, speed, sound, maneuvers, manner of disappearance, and other pertinent or unusual features.

(2) Time sighted in 24-hour clock / zonal time, and length of time observed.

CONFIDENTIAL

320.2 2 m
350.05 2 m
452.1 2 m

THIS COPY - DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841508
 By W.G. Lewis MARS, Date Jan 29, 1985 72

- (3) Manner of observation; visual or electronic, from air (give speed, altitude, and type of aircraft), or surfaces. Any type of optical or electronic equipment used should be described.
- (4) Location of observer during sighting, giving exact latitude and longitude as closely as feasible, and/or reference to a known landmark. Location of object(s) with respect to observer, giving distance, direction, and altitude.
- (5) Identifying information on observer(s) and witnesses, estimate of reliability and experience, and any factors bearing on estimated reliability of the sighting.
- (6) Weather and wind conditions (teletype sequences) at time and place of sightings.
- (7) Any activity or condition, meteorological or otherwise, which might account for the sighting.
- (8) Existence of any physical evidence; fragments, photographs and the like, of the sighting.
- (9) Interception or identification action taken. (Such action should be taken whenever feasible, complying with existing air defense directives.)

e. Reports forwarded by electrical transmission will be followed up within ten (10) days by a written report on AF Form 112. This report will contain the same information specified in subparagraph 2d above in greater detail, and where feasible will include sketches and signed attested narrative statements of observers.

f. Written reports of sightings, where no previous electrically transmitted report has been submitted, will follow the same form as the written follow-up report described in subparagraph 2e above.

g. Any physical evidence of the sighting will be forwarded by most expeditious means to Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Attn: MCIS, under cover of a letter identifying the shipment with the report of sighting. Mention of the method and time of shipping of this evidence will be included in written report of the sighting.

3. It is desired that no publicity be given this reporting or analysis activity.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

Info copies to:

Dir/Int, G-2, Army
 Dir/Naval Int.
 Commandant (INT) US Coast Guard
 Sp Asst for Research & Intel, State
 Director FBI
 Director of CIA

C. P. Cabell
 C. P. CABELL
 Major General, USAF
 Director of Intelligence

CONFIDENTIAL

Dispatched thru OIC-DD. Dr. E. Cowen (XX.)

(XX.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341
 Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF
 Decimal File 000.9 1950
 Pages -620 to 718.

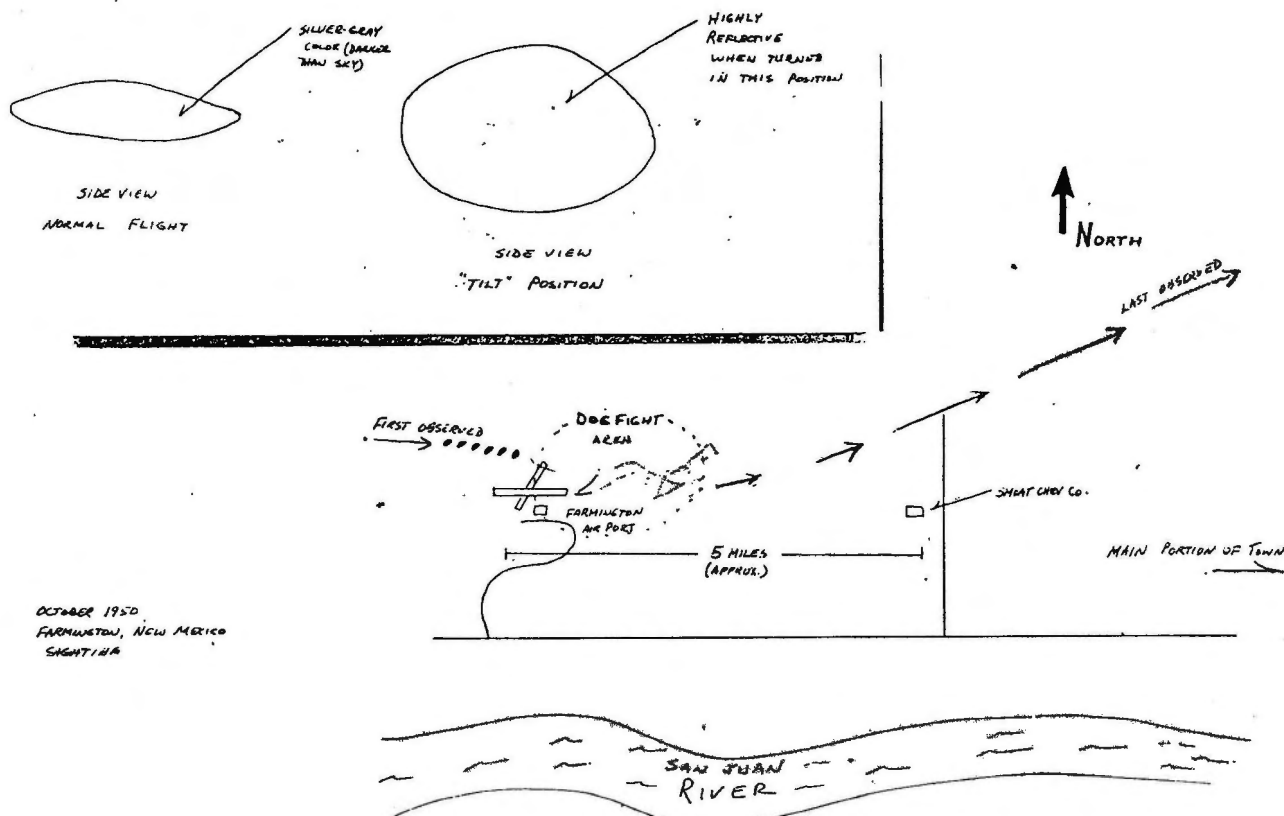
"Early Fall September/October." Farmington, New Mexico. (Morning-11:00 a.m.)

UFO "dog fight."

The prime witness in this case was Hulon G. Pace, Service Manager of Smoak Chevrolet in Farmington, New Mexico. Other witnesses were Marlow Webb, Perry Moore, and Abie Huntsman. This information is taken from a report form issued by Coral Lorenzen's Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO). The report form states in two places the incident occurred sometime in the months of "September or October," 1950, however it is suspected the account really is an observation during the famous March 17, 1950, Farmington UFO incident. The APRO report says of this Pace observation: "This sighting made headlines in the *Farmington Daily News* and the *Los Angeles Times*." No such news clips have turned up in any UFO collection examined. Files of news clippings that are now available are very extensive.

The APRO report states that Mr. Pace was quite religious and had not made a study of UFOs. It was a bright, clear day, when Mr. Pace and other witnesses noticed six objects "dog-fighting" in the sky (at 60 degrees) four miles away over the local airport. The objects were in sight for 25 minutes. No smoke or flames were seen. There was no change in the UFOs' shape or color during the sighting. Witnesses claimed the six objects appeared darker when viewed from the side. No sound was heard. Witnesses said there were no planes in the area at the time and the UFOs maneuvered "at twice the speed of jets" (a subjective opinion of course). (xx.)

(xx.) APRO UFO Report form. Investigator R.B. Kirgan, Jr. 7504 Leah Ne, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 87110. No date given when form filled out. APRO files on microfilm. Reel in author's collection.



8 September. Dallas, Texas. (near sundown)

"Duel" between B-36 & disk? (See clipping below)

DALLAS MORNING NEWS 9/8/50

SKY WATCHERS REPORT DUEL BETWEEN B-36, FLYING DISK*

Sky gazers reported seeing a B-36 bomber and a flying saucer making passes at each other high over Dallas near sundown Thursday and said the metal disc got the best of the duel.

A half-dozen telephone calls to The Dallas News gave a detailed description of how a big bomber flew over with a round metal object chasing near its tail. The B-36 pilot apparently saw he was being trailed. He began to circle, and got the disk in front of him, said watchers.

Then, said the observers, some of whom were using high-powered binoculars, the disk took off toward Houston and in a few seconds had left the B-36 far behind.

Both Carswell Air Base and Convair in Fort Worth admitted B-36 planes were aloft Thursday, but all denied a chase with a flying saucer. One observation officer suggested it could have been a jet fighter.

8 September. *Point* newsweekly.

"More 27 inch Men!"

Its hard to tell if there is any truth behind the "little men" rumors. For the record, the complete text from *Point* will be reproduced here for those researching this subject



It's Getting Cold

And besides, little girls like the one caught at La Jolla children's cove by POINT photographer Charles Aqua Viva (opposite page) will soon be plunging into their schoolbooks instead. No wonder the water's cooler—only two more weeks of summer!

POINT

Vol. 1, No. 10
Sept. 8, 1950

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On The Town...

▲ Founder of a New York firm that supplies name lists to mail order businesses, Monica Bourick breezed into town this week, disclosed these trade secrets about men & women: name lists of persons who buy sex information books are 80% men, buyers of eat-and-reduce books are 100% women.

▲ If you want to tell it to the marines you may have to wait a half-on-hour. The phone lines are that jammed in the evenings to and from Oceanside.

▲ After upping the Sunday price to 15 cents, the Morning Union also did an unpublicized stroke of business on its daily editions. It hiked the price to downtown newsboys by 50 cents per 100. A newsie used to make a \$2.50 profit on 100 copies. Now he pays \$3 for his 100.

POINT—San Diego's own newsweekly published every Friday by Point Publications, Inc., 333 Plaza, San Diego 1, Calif. Phone AM 5506. Loret Van Dierlin, editor; So Fleichman, associate editor; Bill Noonan, art editor; Leonard Mangum, advertising manager; Jack Stephenson, circulation manager; Jerry Martine, research; Eddy Orcutt, Tom Gwynne, Peg White, contributing editors.

2nd Exclusive!

MORE ON ETHERIA

Puffing a pancatella in his bare Adams Avenue office, thin & scholarly Meade Layne found himself the center of controversy this week.

Question: Was the first known photograph of a flying disc-man, which he released to POINT (Aug. 25), an honest lens job, or was it a retoucher's hoax?

Layne, who is director of the Borderland Sciences Research Associates, faced the challenge by letter and even long-distance phone call. News of the 27-inch "aluminum man" (reprinted on the opposite page to meet the demand that sold out POINT's earlier issue 36 hours after publication) spread across the nation when Frank Edwards, Mutual's Washington newscaster, described him to millions of listeners.



"I'm convinced . . ."

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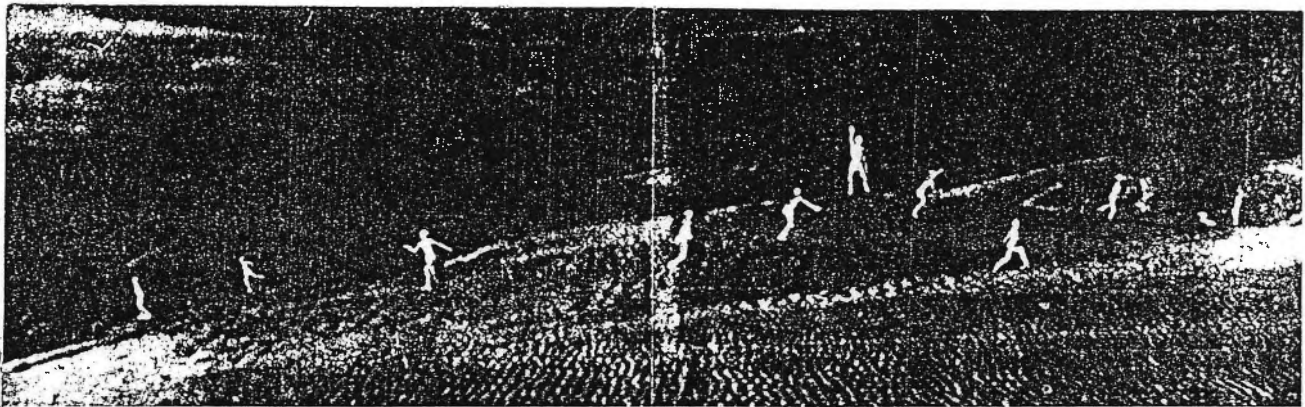
The result: requests from all over the US poured into POINT's offices, and Layne was being pressured for more information on the land of flying saucers—Etheria.

Layne, this week, came up with something better: more pictures.

Cautions Layne, whose office has received in excess of 2000 reports of mysterious sky objects from the far-flung membership of his organization: "There seems reason for accepting these pictures as genuine. I am personally convinced that disc-shaped craft, with their operators, have made a number of landings, and that these photographs are not to be too hastily dis-



Here, by demand of POINT's harassed newsstand dealers, is a reprint of the now famous photo purporting to show a 27-inch man who survived the crash of a flying disc near Mexico City. The "interplanetary" visitor, said to have died within a few hours, posthumously boosted POINT's circulation to an eight-weeks' peak for the Aug. 25 issue.



This was the sight described (and purportedly recorded) by geologist David Shantz in Death Valley

credited."

Layne's information on the photograph reproduced above was sketchy. To supplement it, POINT put in a phone call to the photographer, David K. Shantz, an amateur geologist of San Francisco. This is his story:

"I was camping near the sand dunes of Death Valley, last April 17, when a blistering hot wind came up suddenly. I awoke and looked at my watch. It was three minutes after 10. Then I saw a bluish light streak across the sky, slow down and poise overhead.

"I recognized it immediately

as a flying saucer, which landed silently at the edge of the sand dunes. I grabbed my camera and ran. Reaching the crest of a dune a few minutes later, I came upon several tiny men frolicking about—less than 30 feet away. They appeared luminous and ghostlike. As I focused my camera, one of the creatures spotted me and held up his hand as though warning me to stop. I triggered the shutter anyway, and caught him in that pose. When the flash bulb went off, all appeared stunned for a moment. Then the leader shouted orders in a language I

couldn't understand (it was very guttural, though high-pitched), and the whole crew raced back to their ship. I didn't see or hear it take off; but when I went over, it was gone.

"Later, I got a flashlight and examined the area. There were no footprints to be seen. I thought it was all my imagination until I developed the film. I sent the negative to Washington and haven't heard a word about it since. Fortunately, I kept a print."

Layne's position on all reports that reach him is (1) don't judge a priori until all the evidence is

in, and (2) because a report is in his files is no guarantee of authenticity.

"Flying sky craft are nothing new," he explains. "There are ample references in the Bible, such as the flaming wheel of Ezekiel. Space ships have been spotted in every possible shape. Why, I recently had a report of a squadron of 'flying bananas' over Fort Worth. They were photographed, too."

Another unusual reference in Layne's archives is that of a flying pig spotted in Virginia more than 50 years ago.

There is a major error, Layne

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maintains, in the eye-witness accounts of space ships that suddenly dart away at so terrific a speed that they vanish within seconds.

"They are not withdrawing at all, but dematerializing. As the space ship shrinks to nothingness, it gives the illusion of speeding away."

The important thing, declares Layne, is to understand that flying discs do not come from Russia "or any other country." The logical answer, he warns, sounds most illogical of all—to the layman. Flying discs & 27-inch men come from Etheria.

Quite hardened to the sneers of cynics and indifference of the press to his Etherian explanation, Layne never allows himself to grow discouraged in his mission of public enlightenment.

Etheria, as Layne describes it, is invisible and untouchable. It exists beyond the ranges of human sight, hearing and feel.

"The earth has its own Etheria," he continues, "which surrounds and penetrates it like a wind. Each heavenly body has its own private Etheria. According to our information, Earth Etherians are

great godlike creatures 8 to 10 feet tall. Their life span is between 200 and 300 years, and they reproduce themselves much as human beings."

Etherians manufacture a flying machine, he adds, by "thinking it into being." The result is an apparatus harder than steel.

"Etherians are constantly experimenting with new shapes and sizes and types of power," he explains with an offhand gesture. "That's why there are so many conflicting eye-witness reports."

At the same time, Etherians like to "think" themselves down to about 27-inches in physical size for disc flight. "The small size facilitates maneuverability of the craft."

So powerful and advanced are Etherian thought processes, he adds, they can enlarge their bodies by pure thought to the size of a mountain.

"You think this sounds crazy," Layne says, probing you with faded blue eyes. "But listen, this is a deadly serious business. Etherians are friendly, but at the same time very dangerous. They are greatly concerned over the threat of another war, with its

atomic and hydrogen weapons. The release of nuclear energies would damage their world as well as ours, and they won't stand for that."

They are already taking a hand to head off this war, he discloses. The earthquake that shook the world three weeks ago and leveled peaks of the

Himalayas was Etherian doings. The tremor was not only a general warning to the world, he says, but also executed to destroy mountain passages to keep the Russians from crossing into other lands.

"This is the eleventh hour," he adds forlornly. "But people won't listen."

Fox Gets the Point

Friendly, scrappy Robert R. Berkun, owner of the Ken Theater in Kensington, knew all along that San Diego wasn't big enough to support two art cinemas. This week Fox West Coast had to agree with him.

Fox's Egyptian, after summertime competition, admitted defeat, abandoned foreign arts films.

Soon after the Egyptian switched from cowboys to cul-

ture, POINT (July 7) published the story of Berkun's three-year struggle to sharpen San Diego palates for imports. Then Fox stepped up to cash in.

"As a result of that story," said Berkun, "patrons began coming to the Ken out of loyalty alone. Still, my business fell off tremendously, and it looked for awhile that I would have to retire from the field."

Instead, Fox found itself Berkun up the wrong tree.

Man Against Man

The names were familiar—Tyrone Power, Martha Scott, Richard Widmark, Faye Emerson, Walter Hampden. The theme, too, was familiar—man against man. Both stars and theme were wrapped up in a new radio series to start September 13 entitled, "The New

Frontier of Human Freedom." Aired over KGB under local sponsorship of the Civic Unity Council of the Community Welfare Council (chairman, Armistead Carter), the series will bow in with Edna Stone as the lead in a story of discrimination in higher education. Broadcast time: 9:30 p.m.

September 8th was also the day Frank Scully's book *Behind the Flying Saucers* made its debut. Both Keyhoe and Scully were highly critical of the Pentagon but it was Scully's background that alarmed the powers-that-be. The FBI file on Scully listed extensive affiliations with far-left political groups. With the war going badly in Korea, being to the left politically was not popular.

Since early in the year, Hq USAF had called attention to the "potentialities for psychological warfare applications" involving the UFO subject, that a foreign power might cause panic and/or reduce public confidence in the military establishment.

An instantaneous best seller!

"An amazing story from any angle. Scully's book scores!" —Los Angeles Times

"Startling and thought-provoking." —Buffalo News

"Really spine-tickling." —Boston Herald

"Fascinating and provocative." —Syracuse Herald-American

BEHIND THE FLYING SAUCERS

By Frank Scully

"A very convincing story. Rush out and buy a copy." —Los Angeles News. \$2.75

Fourth Big Printing!

12 September. Shreveport, Louisiana. (5:45-6:00 (?) a.m.)

Mystery "globe." (See clipping below)

Wednesday, September 13, 1950

Egg-Shaped and Whizzing Eastward

40 Persons Here See 'Object' in Sky

About 40 Shreveporters employed at the Libby-Owens-Ford glass plant on Jewella road stared skyward shortly before sunrise yesterday at what some of them described as a brilliantly illuminated egg-shaped object whizzing eastward.

Apparently the group on the grounds of the plant were the only persons to sight the strange object as no other reports were made to The Times or to the public agencies.

Houston Hedges of 3060 Midway street, a plant employee, photographed the mysterious thing after gazing at it for several minutes.

Hedges, who was leaving the plant at the time, had his camera in his car, parked nearby.

A worker who asked that his name be withheld said the object was sighted about 5:45 a.m. and was sighted for about 10 or 15 minutes.

He described it as a long oval shaped object traveling slightly south of east.

"I would have thought it a figment of my imagination except that at least 40 others saw it, too," he stated. "At first glimpse, it seemed to be illuminated and putting off a fiery red light."

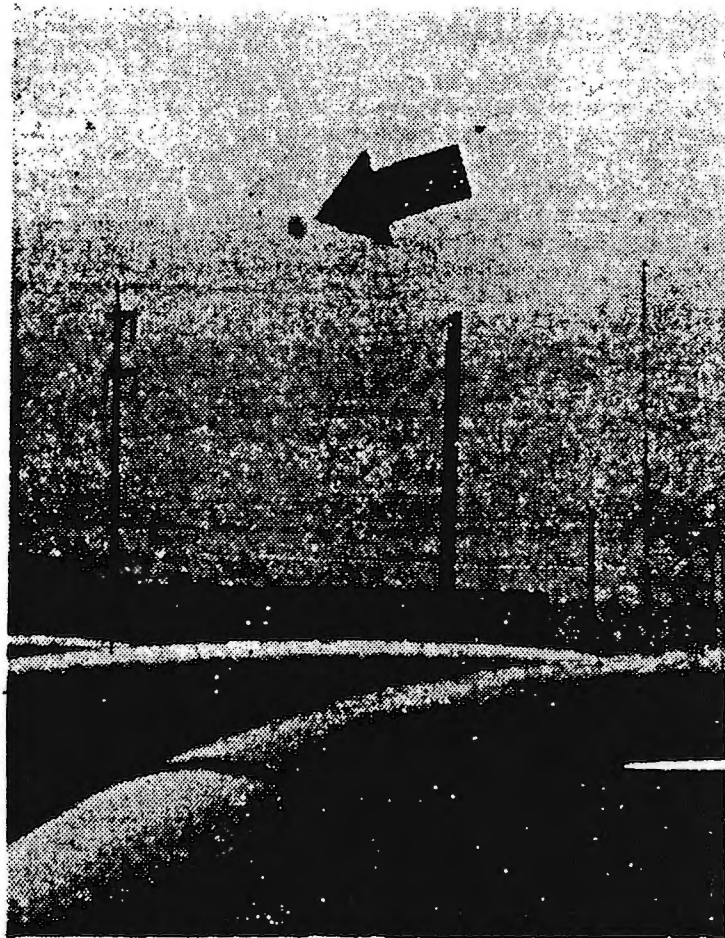
The worker said others on the scene described the object as shaped like a tear drop or a carrot rounded slightly at the rear end.

"It was like looking at a lighted bulb," he stated. "You couldn't see the exact shape of what it was but you could see its outline."

Describing atmospheric conditions at the time of the object's appearance, the worker said a bank of fog or clouds lay in the east. He said the sky overhead was clear and that the first rays of the sun were not yet discernible.

Sunrise over Shreveport yesterday was reported by the weather bureau to be at 5:58 a.m.

F. R. Clarke, of 3017 Penick street, also a plant employee, said the thing sighted was "definitely an object of some sort, not just an illusion."



A CAMERA'S EYE VIEW of the object reported sighted from the Libby-Owens-Ford glass plant yesterday morning shows a tiny dark globe (arrow) apparently far off in the distance. This photograph was taken by Houston Hedges, a plant employee.

He said he saw it quite clearly and that it appeared to be located at a high altitude and moving slowly.

The spectacle occurred during a change of shifts at the glass plant and was reported witnessed by men reporting for the morning shift and workers leaving the night

Rest of clipping Missing.

12(?) September. Los Alamos, New Mexico. (noon?)

AEC highly concerned. AEC report form. (See teletype message below)

(I,m not sure, but it is suggested this report is the one referred to on page 22 of my monograph covering this period: *UFOs: A History. August-December 1950.*

(SAUCER) —
DENVER—A CONSTRUCTION WORKER AT LOS ALAMOS, N.M., HAS REPORTED THAT A STRANGE "BLINKING OBJECT" SOARED OVER A HIGHLY RESTRICTED AREA OF THE BIG ATOMIC ENERGY CENTER.

LEE ROBINSON OF THE ARMEX CONSTRUCTION COMPANY SENT THE DENVER POST A COPY OF A MIMEOGRAPHED FORM WHICH HE USED TO REPORT THE OBJECT TO THE AEC.

THE FORMS ARE PREPARED BY THE AEC FOR "REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS AT LOS ALAMOS."

THE ORIGINAL THREE-PAGE REPORT, ROBINSON SAID, WAS SUBMITTED TO THE ATOMIC ENERGY SECURITY SERVICE SEPT. 12., THE DAY ROBINSON AND

EIGHT OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE ARMEX COMPANY SAY THEY SAW THE OBJECT. ROBINSON SAID HE AND THE OTHERS WERE EATING LUNCH WHEN THE UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT PASSED OVER. HE SAID IT "WAS NOT A BALLOON OR A CONVENTIONAL TYPE OF AIRCRAFT."

ROBINSON SAID THE OBJECT APPEARED TO BE AT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT 20,00 FEET. IT ALTERNATELY FLASHED BRIGHT AND BLACK AT INTERVALS OF TWO SECONDS, HE SAID, AND WAS VISIBLE FOR THREE MINUTES AND 40 SECONDS.

THE SPECIALLY MIMEOGRAPHED FORMS INDICATED THE AEC IS HIGHLY CONCERNED WITH UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS OVER THE PROJECT. THE FORMS CONTAIN SPACES FOR INFORMANTS TO REPORT ON LUMINOSITY OF OBJECT, APPARENT MEANS OF SUPPORT AND PROPULSION AND "ODOR" OF THE OBJECT.

1077-E1003A

"Object" Reported Over Atom Project

DENVER, Oct. 7 (AP).—A construction worker at Los Alamos, N. M., has reported that a strange "blinking object" soared over a highly restricted area of the big atomic energy center.

Lee Robinson of the Armex Construction Co. sent the Denver Post a copy of a mimeographed form which he used to report the object to the Atomic Energy Commission. Robinson said it "was not a balloon or a conventional type of aircraft."

17 September. Fedding Hills, Massachusetts. (3:30 p.m.)

"Flat with a turret on top."

According to a press account, Mr. I.O. Allen of Shoemaker Lane observed two "flying saucers" for about 20 seconds:

"The twin saucers moving in perfect formation came from the northeast, and Allen, seated in his car listening to the Yankee-St. Louis game, said they came within about two or three miles of him and stayed about a half-mile up. Then they receded, without appearing to stop in midair.

"They looked like one of the pictures in *The Republican*, he said, adding, 'You know, sort of like the top of an aluminum silo.'

"It was a clear day and the sun was over his shoulder. Mr. Allen wears glasses, is 54, and signs up veterans for home study courses in the American Technical Society.

" 'They didn't seem to whirl and they seemed to be flat on the bottom with a turret on top,' he said.

"They were going along in such perfect formation that my thought was they were connected by something I couldn't see,' he said." (xx.)

(xx.) Springfield, Maine. *Union*. 18 September 50.

18 September. Ludlow, Maine. (3:30 p.m.)

Allen's sighting corroborated? "Funniest looking thing."

The Springfield *Union* suggested a Mrs. Whitaker saw the same thing as Mr. Allen:

"Mrs. Whitaker also saw two objects in the sky about 3:30 Sunday afternoon—looked like beehives she said.

"Mrs. Whitaker was riding from Belchertown to Springfield with her husband. They were just outside Ludlow, when Mrs. Whitaker turned to her husband, and said, 'There's the funniest looking thing up there in the sky.'

"It wasn't 'too high up,' Mrs. Whitaker said, and she thought it wasn't moving. It was on her right as they drove south, and appeared to be off in the general direction of Feeding Hills.

"Her account agrees with Mr. Allen's. He described the flying objects as looking like the top of aluminum silos, although the ones he saw were moving." (xx.)

(xx.) Springfield, Maine. *Union*. 19 September 50.

20 September. Representative Jenison

"We cannot afford hysteria in our present hour of defense peril."

Behind the Flying Saucers

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF

HON. EDWARD H. JENISON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 1950

Mr. JENISON. Mr. Speaker, in these dangerous days when mass hysteria is created all too easily, there is an unfortunate amount of information—or misinformation—about so-called flying saucers. It has been difficult to obtain a forthright statement on the matter from those who should know, the Air Force, the Navy's air arm, or Governmental aeronautical experts.

In this vacuum of authoritative assertion, we now find a questioning public rushing to buy a book on the subject. *Pathfinder* magazine, in the science column of its current issue, reports it thus:

FLYING SAUCER RIDE

"No more flying saucers, I'm sorry," was the rueful, day-long chorus at Brentano's midtown bookshop in Washington, D. C., last Friday. "We had ordered only 50," explained one clerk, "and they were gone shortly after the store opened."

The same thing happened at a number of bookstores across the continent. It was an astonishing demonstration of word-of-mouth advertising. There had been almost no advance publicity for *Behind the Flying Saucers*, by Frank Scully (Henry Holt; New York). It also showed that many people were willing to believe (A) that space ships from another planet might have landed on earth and (B) that the United States Government might have kept such an epoch-making event secret.

This was Scully's story, and book reviewers were stuck with it. They could hardly help remembering that Scully was best known as humorist-author of another book called *Fun in Bed*, although he also contributes to *Variety* and once ran for lieutenant governor in California.

However, publisher's representatives vigorously denied that any monkey business was afoot. And in the book, Scully's tone was that of a man belligerently bent on being taken seriously. His story was that a group

of magnetic research scientists, apparently working for the Government on a \$1,000,000.-000 secret budget, had investigated three flying disks forced down at different points across the Nation. These were unmistakably space ships, each manned by a crew of 36-inch-tall, non-terrestrial human beings, all killed in the landings. The Air Force, which was in on the discovery, promptly spirited away the dead little men and their ships, the largest of which was 99⁰⁰/₁₀₀ feet in diameter, for further investigation.

The ships, according to Scully, seemed to be magnetically propelled. They were made of an alloy which resembled aluminum except that no tests could melt or break it. Each contained a "radio," the size of a pack of cigarettes, which beeped hourly in the key of C, but did nothing else. The little men, dressed identically in cloth of incredible toughness, wore wafer-thin watches.

All this was told Scully by a "magnetic scientist" he calls Dr. Gee, on whose trail he was set by a Denver radio man named Koehler. Dr. Gee couldn't explain why the Air Force should have declared the disk discoveries secret, except that he considered the question of magnetic propulsion very hot.

So does Scully, whom Dr. Gee apparently convinced that a magnetic ship could travel through the earth's atmosphere at 186,000 miles a second. Dr. Gee thought the visiting minikins came from Venus, which would be a mere 21 minutes away. He also gave Scully some inside dope on the use of a "Tenescope," a detector device (for spotting space ships anywhere in the earth's air envelope) which is so new the National Bureau of Standards hasn't even heard of it.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me the public is entitled to know the truth of this matter in the language of the layman. We cannot afford hysteria in our present hour of defense peril. The public should not have to feed on doubt or conjecture. It seems to me it is time for our authorized aviation experts to speak up. Let us concede them and explain them or expose them and bury them.

(xx.)

(xx.) *Appendix to the Congressional Record*. Vol.96, Part 17. p.A6711.

20 September. Colorado and Wyoming. (10:30 – 10:45 p.m.)

Rocks from space or something else?

Blazing objects traced a path across the star-spangled sky over Colorado and Wyoming the evening of the 21st. The initial impression from newspaper headlines was that the phenomena was caused by an usually bright meteor display. The switchboard of the *Denver Post* was flooded with calls from excited Denverites. Reports came in from a wide region which indicated a high altitude passage common to meteor observations. Speed and altitude estimates could not be expected to be very accurate, yet the guesses that were made were oddly restrained, even by witnesses who were familiar with the sky. Mr. Jerry Knopf, a Fort Collins pilot, said he observed: "...two large objects followed by small ones trailing about 200 to 300 feet behind ...[going] at about 500 miles per hour." (xx.)

(xx.) Denver, Colorado. *Denver Post*. 21 September 50. p.11.

Continental Air Line Capt. Fred Gray, at the controls of a passenger plane on the runway at Colorado Springs airport preparing for take off, said the objects appeared to be: "...flying 700 to 800 miles an hour at 2,000 feet, or 3,000 miles an hour at 20,000 feet." (xx.) Harold Smethills,

(xx.) Ibid.

Commander of Denver's Civil Air Patrol for eight years, estimated there were four objects at 1,500 to 2,000 feet. Air traffic control tower officials at the city of Pueblo's airfield referred to the objects as "rocket ships" moving at a speed of "1,000 miles per hour." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

The Colorado high strangeness reports:

A really strange report can be found in BLUE BOOK records concerning a sighting made by a motorist driving between Kit Carson and Cheyenne Wells near the eastern border of Colorado. (See map) (The sighting is mentioned on page 23 of my monograph: *UFOs: A History 1950 August-December*) What this witness (unnamed in BLUE BOOK files) said seems crazy. He claimed he sighted two round-shaped masses, of a molted metal appearance, hovering beneath the cloud cover. The objects hovered for a minute and then three smaller ones came "out from," or "behind," the two large ones. The three small ones then "aligned themselves with the two big ones." The group then picked up speed and sped out of sight in a vertical climb. The day of the sighting was given as September 20th so apparently the incident is related to the "meteor fall" widely reported in the press. BLUE BOOK said the witness was a "reliable source."

We might be quick to discount this report from BLUE BOOK but other people apparently saw the same objects. A Stanley Riley told the press he saw something strange at 10:45 p.m. on September 20th while driving near the city of Hugo, Colorado, which is on the main highway northwest of Kit Carson and Cheyenne Wells. (See map) He said: "...he saw nine balls of fire come out of the sky in the northwest. Two of them went into the southeast and disappeared, and the others went straight up." (xx.) Yet another sighting was by some impressive witnesses. (See below)

(xx.) Denver, Colorado. *Denver Post*. 21 September 50.

Tom Swearingen, *Denver Post* Staff Writer, wrote:

"I saw them at 10:45 p.m. Wednesday about a mile south of Sedalia, State Senator Dan Thornton of Denver, and James Gooding, and Ed Sommers of Denver were riding back from Colorado Springs with me.

"The objects flashed out of the darkness north of Sedalia. I slammed on my brakes and pulled off to the side of the road. Thornton and I jumped out of the car at the same time to see two large pear-shaped objects flying southeast followed by seven smaller objects, identical in shape but only about one-fourth as big as the two leading objects.

"All were surrounded by flames which were leaping and curling out around the sides of all nine of the objects, which were giving off sparks.

"As we watched, the seven smaller objects—in perfect formation[!]—zoomed upward into vertical flight and were out of sight before we could comment. The two larger objects, flying closely side by side at the same altitude, disappeared into the southeast. The whole show was over in about five seconds.

"That was no meteor,' Thornton said. 'I don't know what they were, but I'd say they were going about 2,000 miles an hour.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Mysterious Flying Fireballs Thrill Colorado!

Colorado and Wyoming were invaded by mysterious flying fireballs last night.

The blazing objects, traveling at terrific speed, were sighted all the way from Laramie, Wyo., to Pueblo as they traced a southeasterly path across a star-spangled sky.

First Colorado reports came from Fort Collins, where Mrs.

M. C. Simpson said she saw "one big object and several smaller ones" behind it.

That was at about 10:45 p. m. Seven minutes later, an Arvada man spotted the objects over his home. They moved in a southeasterly direction over Denver and disappeared at the horizon.

From then on, The Rocky

Mountain News switchboard was swamped with callers asking what the fireballs were and offering descriptions of the mysterious objects.

Before reaching Denver, the ethereal visitors were generally reported to be one or two big balls of fire with about three smaller ones trailing behind.

From Denver on, however, no

mention was made of the trailers. Only the two bigger objects were reported sighted.

Most Denver witnesses described the objects as tear-shaped and spewing red and yellow or orange-colored flames. Some said they looked like flaming baseballs.

Only two men, Ted Berg of 2 Corona st. and an unidentified

commercial pilot reported hearing anything resembling an engine noise. Mr. Berg said the fireballs gave off a "cracking, hissing sound" and the pilot reported a low humming noise.

At Lowry Air Force Base, the public information office reported the two objects were

(Continued on Page 34)



Rocky Mountain News

A Scripps-Howard Newspaper

Colorado's First Newspaper—Founded in 1858

91ST YEAR: NO. 264

Entered as second class matter, September 21, 1950. Published every morning by Denver Publishing Co. DENVER, COLO., THURSDAY, SEPT. 21, 1950

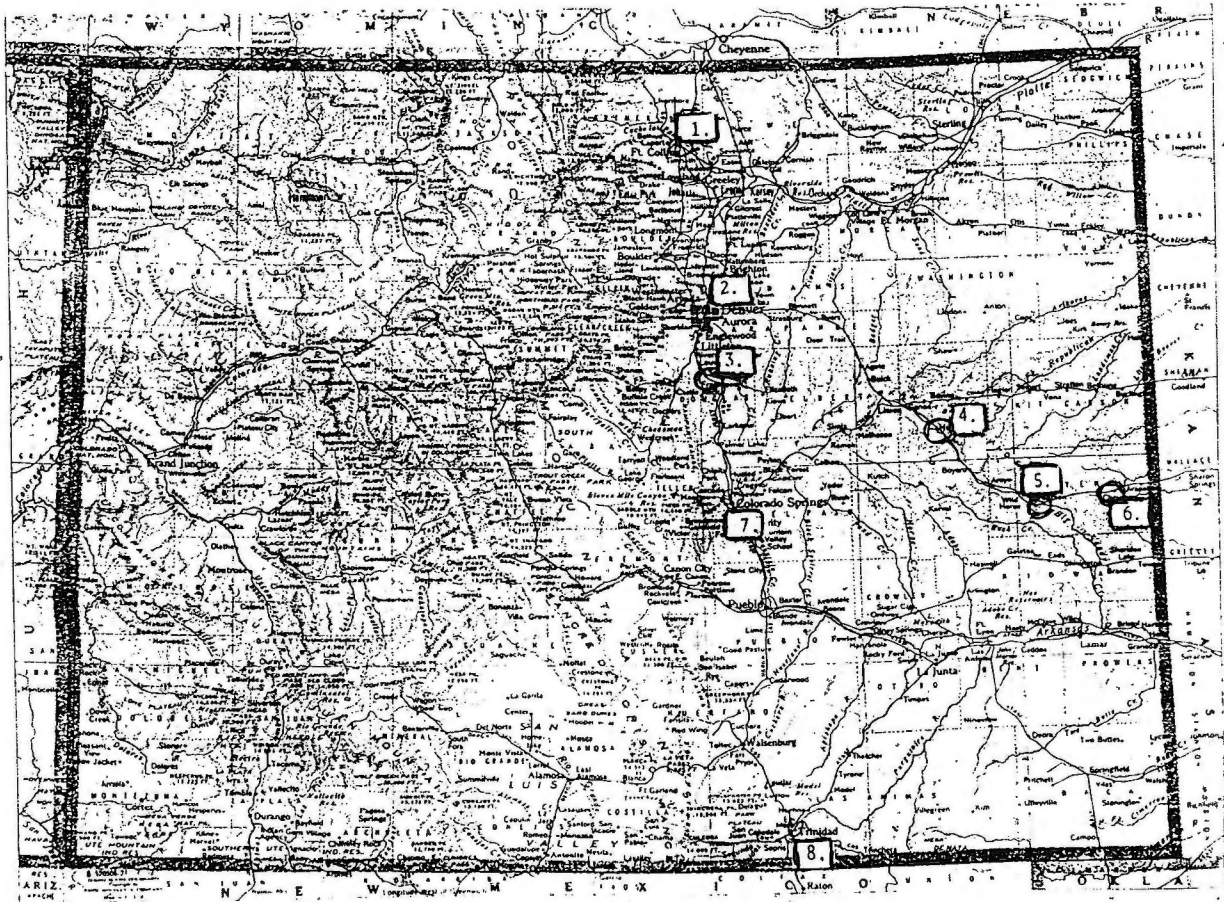
SUNRISE
EDITION

★★★★★

WEATHER—

Fair

PRICE 5 CENTS



1. Ft. Collins
2. Denver
3. Sedalia
4. Hugo
5. Kit Carson
6. Cheyenne Wells
7. Colorado Springs
8. Trinidad

COLORADO

Scientists Deny Fireballs Could Be Meteorites

By WAYNE PHILLIPS.
Denver Post Staff Writer.

Whatever those fireballs that coursed over three states the other night were, they were not meteorites.

Colorado astronomers were pretty well agreed on that Friday, providing the reports of numerous observers were conceded to have at least a semblance of accuracy. **SCORES SEE FIRE BALLS.**

"I'm thoroughly convinced that this couldn't be a meteor," Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, superintendent of the University of Colorado high altitude observatory, stated flatly.

"I feel that it is not a meteorite," Dr. Albert W. Recht, director of the Chamberlin observatory at the University of Denver, echoed—with less certainty.

In the midst of the controversy, these definite facts could be established:

1—The "fire balls" were real. Scores of people saw them, and some of them were competent, trained observers.

2—They were seen over a curving, southeastward course extending from Boise, Ida., through Laramie, Wyo., to Trinidad, Colo.

3—They were observed over a span of fifteen minutes from 10:30 to 10:45 p. m., Wednesday.

4—They were visible at scattered points up to 400 miles off this apparent course.

From those facts some others could be computed:

NOT A METEOR PATH.

1—The altitude of the fire balls was apparently between twenty and sixty miles.

2—Their speed was between 3,400 miles an hour and about 9,000 miles an hour.

Both Dr. Roberts and Dr. Recht agreed that a meteor would not follow the apparent curved path of the fire balls.

They also agreed that a metal object traveling as slow as 3,400 miles an hour would not become luminescent.

"After all," Dr. Roberts said, "we know that V-2 rockets when they are coming down go over 3,000 miles an hour, and they don't begin to become luminescent."

The top speed of about 9,000 miles an hour was based on the observation of two of Dr. Recht's assistants at the university observatory, Meral Carson and Arthur Williams, both of Pioneer Village.

TIMED BY STOPWATCH.

They reported watching the fireballs—which they definitely labeled as meteors—for about thirty to forty-five seconds, and timing them with a stopwatch.

Such a speed, Dr. Roberts said, would be just below the minimum ever reported for a luminescent meteorite.

THE DENVER POST:
2 Friday, Sept. 22, 1950



Denver Post Map by ALBERT E. DICKERSON

Here is the apparent course taken by the mysterious fireballs which coursed over parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado Wednesday night. The map is based on the scattered reports of witnesses. The fireballs were seen from each of the points lettered on the map—from Boise on the northwest to Trinidad on the southeast. Triangulation from the points give the fireballs an altitude between twenty and sixty miles and speeds somewhere between 3,000 and 9,000 miles an hour, it was said.

22 September. Montrose, Colorado. (daytime)

"Bats?" Any connection with the "fireballs" on the 20th?

The United Press reported:

"Montrose citizens were wondering Saturday about several round, shiny objects resembling 'bats' which moved directly under the sun over the town Friday.

"The bright objects were witnessed by approximately fifty persons, who said they observed them for an hour and a half.

"State Highway Patrolman Marty Sheridan said the objects looked like 'bats,' and had 'short but distinctive vapor trails.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Denver, Colorado. *Denver Post*. 23 September 50.

25 September. "Destroy all copies."

No doubt concerned with the conflict in Korea, the Air Force's Alaskan Air Command made an inquiry about Air Intelligence Report No. 100-203-79 dated 10 December 48. The conclusions of this report were:

"Since the Air Force is responsible for control of the air in the defense of the U.S., it is imperative that all other agencies cooperate in confirming or denying the possibility that these objects have a domestic origin. Otherwise, if it is firmly indicated that there is no domestic explanation, the objects are a threat and warrant more active efforts of identification and interception.

"It must be accepted that some type of flying objects have been observed, although their identification and origin are not discernable. In the interest of national defense it would be unwise to overlook the possibility that some of these objects may be of foreign origin." (xx.)

(xx.) Air Intelligence Report No. 100-203-79. *Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.* Air Intelligence Division Study No. 203. 10 December 48. p.2. Top Secret. Copy in author's files.

In fact, the document suggested that if the objects were indeed foreign or foreign-sponsored devices it might be assumed their purpose could be:

- "a. To negate U.S. confidence in the atom bomb as the most advanced and decisive weapon in warfare.
- b. To perform photographic reconnaissance missions.
- c. To test U.S. air defense.
- d. To conduct familiarization flights over U.S. territory." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

To those who suspected the UFO problem was of legitimate concern, such speculation would seem reasonable and prudent, but the Alaskan Air Command was notified on August 11th that such speculation has: "...never been released or intimated publicly by the Air Force." On the 25th of September Hq USAF went a step further, ordering that all copies of the AIR 100-203-79 be destroyed. (See below) Fortunately some copies survived the order to destroy them..

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841508
By WG Lewis NARS, Date Jan 29, 1985. 13

000.9 Flying Discs

CONFIDENTIAL

319.1 Air Intelligence Division Study

25 Sept 1950

FROM: Dept of the Air Force Hqs U.S. Air Force

TO: See below

Ltr

SUBJECT: Destruction of Air Intelligence Report Number 100-203-79

1. It is requested that action be taken to destroy all copies of Top Secret Air Intelligence Report Number 100-203-79, subject, "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.," dtd 10 Dec 1948.

(xx.)

FILED UNDER: 313.6 Records, Destruction of 17 Oct 50

CONFIDENTIAL

(xx.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341
Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF
Decimal File 000.9 1950
Pages -620 to 718.

30 September. Seoul, Korea. (12:57 p.m.)

First saucer reported over Korea? (See clipping below)

LITMORE, SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 1, 1950

Saucers Do Get Around

High-Speed Disk Heads West Over Seoul, Marines Report

Newspaper for schools tells pupils flying saucers are real and belong to Air Force. Page 3

By RICHARD K. TUCKER
(Sunpapers War Correspondent)

With the United States Marines in Seoul, Sept. 30—It was sure to happen sooner or later. The first flying saucer was reported over this battle-torn South Korean capital shortly before 1 P.M. today.

The disk was reported by a cold-war Marine division M.P. officer and at least a half dozen of his men.

It was considered official enough to be put on the record of the 5th Marine Regiment's intelligence officer, who said he was planning to forward information to division officers.

The officer who said he saw the saucer flying high from the east to the west over Seoul at 12:57 P.M. was Lieut. E. J. Ambrosia, of Monterey, Cal.

Faster Than Any Plane.

"It looked to be about as high as bombers I've seen cruising around here," he said. "From that distance it looked about 4 feet in diameter. It seemed to be a sil-

Flying Saucers Do Get Around

By RICHARD K. TUCKER
(Continued from Page 1)

and his men when the alleged saucer was seen was near an old Japanese prison on the northwest edge of Seoul. They said it was visible for about two or three minutes in bright sunlight.

They reported it to Major William Esterline, S-2 officer of the 5th Marine Regiment. Major Esterline smiled over it, but then decided he better pass the information on to the division, how far beyond that it got is not known.

Lieutenant More Serious

But Lieutenant Ambrosia was a bit more serious about the whole thing.

"You know," he said, "I've heard a lot about those things. I never thought I'd be one of the people who saw one. I have really believed they existed for some time. Too many people like airline pilots have seen 'em—people who know what they're talking about."

"Where was it going," someone asked.

"Well," he said, "it was going west from here so it sure wasn't in coming from Russia."

October.

October(exact day not known) Section 4, T33S, R1W Crowfoot-Camel Hump area of the Big Butte Creek drainage area. Jackson County, Oregon. (evening)

Dogs' ears hurt.

Witnesses: Everett Cushman and Carl Robbins. According to our source:

"One evening these two men (in their early thirties) were driving up a logging road in the above mentioned area when they saw a light in a swale about ¼ mile from them. They turned off their car lights and walked slowly a short distance to-

wards the light to investigate it. It seemed to have an outline of something solid but the bright light made distinction difficult. Two hounds with the men acted very scared—hackles raised and growing—and they kept shaking their heads as if their ears hurt.

“Immediately then, the objects rose straight up 150-200 feet to the top of the ridge and as it did so its color changed to a light ‘arc welders’ blue, but turned to the fiery red color again upon stopping. From this point it started moving in a northeasterly direction, keeping its fire red color and proceeding in a forwards, backwards motion; similar to a lantern light held by a person while walking. When it was about ½ mile away it stopped; then changing its color to the same ‘blue’ again, it made a great circle towards the east (at the circle’s furthestmost point it looked like a star), and came back to the starting point of the circle where it stopped and resumed its fiery red color again. Stopping but a moment, the UFO changed to bluish color again and headed towards the left of Mt. McLaughlin to the east where it disappeared from view. This last was done at great speed. Prior movements were slower.

“When the object returned after making the great circle, the men felt uneasy, thinking that perhaps they were objects of observation and they were about ready to leave in a hurry. The two frightened hounds had already done so and they weren’t found until two days later.

“no sound was heard from the object during the entire performance and observation period. Its estimated diameter was 25-30 feet and it lighted up a considerable area around it.” (xx.)

(xx.) Typed report in author’s files. Identity of investigator not given. Archive of origin unknown.

October(exact day not known) Farm in the province of Sinaloa, Mexico. (about 9:00 p.m.)

Our source states:

“In October 1950 around 9:00 p.m. Felipe Barraza, his father, two brothers cousins and four field hands saw what they first thought was an aircraft flaming to Earth. This in the province of Sinaloa, Mexico. The flaming object appeared to have hit in a nearby corn field. Because they feared the whole field would go up in smoke and possibly to aid any survivors they all rushed to the area.

“To their astonishment they found a round object about 25 feet in diameter. and eight to nine feet high. In the upper part they could see at least four windows which glowed so bright it hurt the eyes. They came within 30 feet of it. They thought then that the object was an American experimental plane. Afraid that this object would harm the young corn they tried to make it leave. One of the men had a 22 rifle and threatened to shoot but didn’t because he was afraid it might shoot back. After a half hour the object left, shooting straight up it was gone in an instant.

“Felipe has assured me [Michel Jaffe?] personally that to this day corn does

not grow on that spot." (xx.)

(xx.) *Data-Net Control*. Ed.: Michel Jaffe. Mt. View, California. Report No.9.
September 5, 1967. p.5.

5 October. Colorado Springs, Colorado. (10:04 a.m.)

UFOs visit the Garden of the Gods. (See below)

Colorado Springs (Colo.) Gazette-Telegraph, Thursday, October 5, 1950 - p. 1:

SCORE OF 'FLYING SAUCERS' SEEN OVER GARDEN OF GODS

A score of "flying saucers" were sighted this morning (10/5) at a few minutes after 10:00 o'clock circling over the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs before streaking off at a "high rate of speed" to the northwest at an altitude of 11 or 12,000 feet by W. A. Campbell of the Colorado's Jewelry Store, 123 S. Tejon street.

R. I. Garman, operator of a barbershop next door, first noticed the objects hovering over the Garden and called Campbell's attention to the sight. Seizing a pair of 8-power prism binoculars. . . Campbell estimated that there were 15 to 20 saucers, oval in shape, "milling like birds over the Garden of the Gods."

"It was hard to get an exact count because they were milling around so," he said.

Campbell, who served as an observer in the field artillery in World War I claimed that the objects flew in a "scattered formation" approximately 5 to 6 thousand feet above the Garden of the Gods for approximately two minutes and then in less than 10 seconds streaked away over the Rampart Range road to "absolutely disappear."

He said he sighted the craft -- too large for birds and not airplanes or jets -- at exactly 10:04 a.m.

"They were oval in shape like an oyster shell and had a hump in the middle," he said.

Campbell said he had "never seen anything like them before," but "after seeing something like that," he believed they could be some sort of remote-controlled or short-wave controlled type of aircraft--not piloted by any so-called human.

The sun was very bright, he said, and the objects were plainly discernable. They were "light grey or a dull white" color, similar to aluminum. At the oblique angle from which he was sighting the saucers, he said, it would be difficult to tell if they gained or lost altitude in flying away to the northwest.

"They flew at an extremely high rate of speed," he said. "They were milling like birds and then suddenly whisked away."

He said they were "definitely aircraft." He observed no smoke or vapor trail but said they had some means of "direct control." At the time he saw them flying in a circle, they were going counterclockwise.

Campbell said he has had a good many hours in an airplane in private life and was a spotter during the war. He served for 2½ years under President Harry Truman, who was then Captain Truman in the First World War, in the 12th Field Artillery, Battery D of the 35th Division.

The objects were observed by Garman and several other persons this morning from the sidewalk on south Tejon street.

TB/LOC

6 October. Land-Air sky photographic project reviewed.

"Are we authorized to shoot?"

A Holloman AFB, New Mexico, document states:

"On 6 October 1950 Mr. Elterman of Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories (on TDY at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico) visited Holloman Air Force Base. He stated that he had replaced Dr. Mirarchi as Project Scientists. A conference was held with Lt. Colonel Boone, Holloman Air Force Base; Lt. Albert, Holloman Air Force Base; and Mr. Elterman in which the entire program was reviewed. Later Lt. Albert and Mr. Elterman visited Mr. Proctor and Mr. Stege of Land-Air, Inc. for a discussion of contract extension. Mr. Elterman agreed to gather answers from Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories to the following questions:

- "(1.) Will Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories approve an extension of existing contract to Land-Air and will this extension include spectrum grating equipment?
- (2.) Inasmuch as the security classification of this project is different on different documents, will this be cleared up?
- (3.) Does Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories desire that a copy of Land-Air, Inc. reports be sent directly to them?
- (4.) Will Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories initiate correspondence to see if it feasible for F-86 aircraft, paragraph 2q [The 93rd Fighter Squadron at Kirtland.], to shoot at phenomena with live ammunition?" (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Commanding General, Air Material Command, Attn:MCI, WPAFB, Dayton, Ohio. From: HQ 2754th Experimental Wing, Holloman AFB, New Mexico.

9 October. Mariana and the Montana movie film.

An odd news item appeared in the press on October 11th concerning the handling of the now famous Montana UFO film. Mariana made some strange statements about the actions of Air Force Intelligence. (See clipping right)

Mariana's claims may make some sense if we take into account instructions regarding photos given Col. Watson of ATIC on October 9th (See memo next page) which asks that data of value be sent to HQ USAF and not be released.

Could it be possible that the Air Force did cut off the first part of Mariana's film and not return it?

AF Washes Out Flying Disk Film

By the Associated Press.

DAYTON, Ohio, Oct. 11.—Air Force officers said today they couldn't make out any flying saucers in a film taken by a Great Falls, Mont., baseball manager.

Officers said the film will be returned to Nick Mariana, the manager, if he wants it. Mr. Mariana took pictures last Aug. 15 of two objects he said buzzed over the Great Falls ball park. Later, he said, an Air Force intelligence officer confiscated the film and told him not to give out any more details about it.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841508
 By W.G. Lewis MARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

CONFIDENTIAL

AFOIV-TC
 Col Harris, aws/52400
 12 Oct 50

85

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

PROBLEM

1. To advise Col Watson, AMC, concerning proper procedure for handling unidentified aerial object reports.

FACTS AND DISCUSSION

2. On 9 Oct 50, Gen Moore instructed Col Harris, AFOIV-TC, to telephone Col Watson, AMC, and advise him that photographs of an unidentified aerial object were to be evaluated by Intelligence Dept, AMC, and not to be forwarded to D/I for evaluation.

3. The telephone call to Intelligence Dept, AMC was consummated with Lt Col Dunn, inasmuch as Col Watson was away for the day.

4. Col Watson had ^{Previously} requested that authority be granted to release all details concerning incidents brought to his attention for analysis. It is Gen Moore's opinion that it is unnecessary to release full details resulting from analysis of incidents, and, in all cases cognizant to the press, the following may be released:

"We have investigated and evaluated _____ incident and have found nothing of value and nothing which would change our previous estimates on this subject."

5. Intelligence Dept, AMC was further advised that, should results of such incidents contain information of any technical intelligence value, they should not be released but should be sent to D/I, Hq USAF. ←

6. A ltr has been prepared by AFOIV-TC to Hq AMC confirming the policy outlined in the telephone conversation.

7. Subject matter will not be submitted for inclusion in the Daily Staff Digest.

ACTION RECOMMENDED

8. Approval, signature, and forwarding.

COORDINATION

Col D. D. Brannon, AFOIC, ext. 73605 *DDB*

Col F. G. Allen, AFOIP, ext. 74053 *FGA*

Col R. M. Batterson, AFOPR, ext. 74008 *RMB*

CONFIDENTIAL

George Adamski

Seminal events.

Apparently George Adamski was caught up in the all excitement over Keyhoe and Scully. Still, it took him some time to get up to speed with his wild claims. On August 16, 1950, a year after he had authored fictional sci-fi book *Pioneers of Space, Adamski*, he penned a letter to a friend in San Francisco, Miss Emma Martinelli. In the letter Adamski claimed his 1949 novel had been inspired by an "out-of-the body" trip to the Moon, Mars, and Venus. Exactly 12 months later, on August 16, 1951, Adamski wrote another missive to Miss Martinelli, this time claiming to have traveled throughout the "whole universe" in a spiritual manner. On January 16, 1952, Adamski again confirmed to Miss Martinelli his contact with space people, but maintained they were non-physical. (xx.)

(xx.) *Focus*. The monthly newsletter of the Fair-Witness Project, Inc. Vol.3, No.3. March 1988. Burbank, California. pp.1-3.

Southern California offered many sources of inspiration for Adamski's tall tales. (See next page)

12 October. Atomic Energy Commission goes public.

A measure of AEC's anxiety about UFOs was the plea made to the general public to report any strange aerial activity noticed near places like Oak Ridge.

The Air Force may not have wanted its interest in the subject played up, but the others felt differently about disk reports. (See clipping right) Hq Third Army, working with the AEC, forwarded reports of both visual observations and a large number of radar targets in the Oak Ridge area on the October 12th and 13th.

"Extremely concerned." "Spies in the mountains."

Air Force Intelligence learned from the Third Army this story:

"It appears that several individuals at Oak Ridge were extremely concerned about The possible tie-in between earlier incidents, especially one regarding a report received from a former Oak Ridge trooper to the effect that he had aided two men and a woman having difficulty with a truck in the mountains in the Oak Ridge area on 30 March 50. It was stated that this truck was on a seldom used road and was carrying a partially covered

OAK RIDGE (TN)

12 Oct 1950 Page 8

Allen Says—

AEC Wants Info On Flying Saucers Seen Near A-Plants

BY ROBERT B. ALLEN

Flying saucers — If you see a flying saucer, or know of anyone who has, the Atomic Energy Commission wants to be informed about it. Especially, if the incident occurred near one of the commission's plants.

The AEC Security Service has prepared a questionnaire that is being sent to all who report one of the mysterious discs. The form contains 26 questions, the most curious of which is, "Did the object have an odor, and if so, what was it like?" Other questions are "luminosity of object, apparent means of support, and or propulsion."

This is the first time the AEC has publicly evinced interest in flying discs.

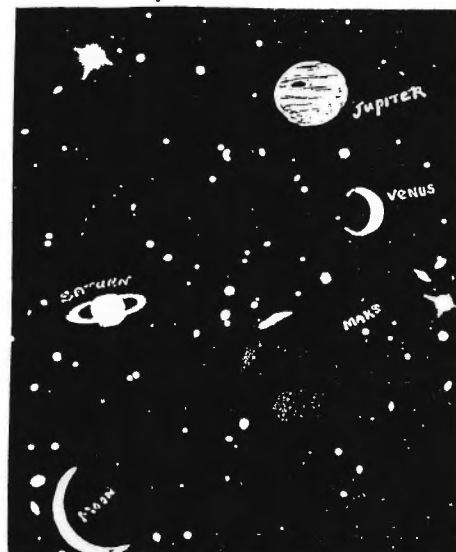
Eugene H. Drake's Los Angeles-based "Fellowship of Golden Illumination." Possible precursor/inspiration to some of George Adamski's ideas. Publications shown below were published in 1950.



VISITORS FROM SPACE

The Fellowship of Golden Illumination

EUGENE H. DRAKE, Director
1014 So. LAKE STREET, LOS ANGELES 6, CALIF.



LIFE ON THE PLANETS *A Visit to Venus*

The Fellowship of Golden Illumination

EUGENE H. DRAKE, Director
1014 So. LAKE STREET, LOS ANGELES 6, CALIF.



We want to express our gratitude
and thank all who have contribut-
ed to the inspirational informat-
ion incorporated in this booklet.

VENUS - The Planet of Affection
Anael, Star Angel
Sunat Kumara, Logos
Aramia,
Estralon,
Endros.

MARS - The Planet of Action
Samael, Star Angel
Bu-----

SATURN - The Planet of Concentration
Cassiel, Star Angel
Urza,

JUPITER - The Planet of Abundance
Zachariel, Star Angel
Berasa,

Alonzo P. Mathewson, Astronomer

(Formerly Court Astronomer to King
George, 3rd--now instructor of
etheric realms).

Copyright, 1950

.....
All rights reserved.

Dedicated to Aquarian Age Servers.
Printed in Los Angeles, California

Esthaloni

silver colored cylindrical object. The occupants reportedly spoke with a foreign accent." (xx.)

(xx.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341.
Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9. 1950.
Memorandum for Record. 5 January 51. Copy in author's files.

Public morale.

Both Keyhoe and Scully were critical of the military's handling of the UFO problem and they made their displeasure clear to the readers of their books. Keyhoe, an ex-Marine and true blue patriot, escaped some suspicions that clouded the view some authorities had of Scully. Physically handicapped from an injury that occurred in his youth, Scully never served in the military. Scully also hung around the literary crowd and became associated with liberal causes. The FBI file on Scully suggested a "possible purpose" to the man's writings: "In the book *Behind The Flying Saucers* Scully attacks the security policies of the Department of Defense. The possible purpose of the book is thought to be to undermine public morale." (xx.)

(xx.) FBI Office Memorandum. To: A.H. Belmont. From: C.E. Hennrick. Subject: Frank Scully - Security Matter - C. 20 October 50. p.1. Copy in author's files.

Public morale was an important issue. No one knew what might happen in the Far East.

19 October. Altoona, Pennsylvania. (shortly before noon)

"Six complete turns over an orchard." (See clipping below)

Flying Saucer Over Altoona? Or What Was It?

Two nearby Altoona women shortly before noon today saw their first "flying saucer," according to a telephoned report to the Altoona Mirror office immediately after the sightings which occurred in the Sugar run area, south of the city, about three squares northwest of the Sixth avenue highway.

Inquiries immediately made at City hall and state police headquarters asking if any reports of the strange aircraft came from any other source, turned up no further evidence at present.

The two women who sighted the craft say that it was flying at a terrific speed, was oval shaped and made about six complete turns over an orchard within a 30 foot radius and then immediately shot upwards at a high climbing angle and headed in the direction of Altoona.

The craft was described as bright silver in color and when seen from the side resembled an egg-shaped

(Continued on page 29, column 2)

Altoona, Pa.
Altoona Mirror
19 October 50

FLYING SAUCER OVER ALTOONA?

(Continued from page 1)

object of considerable size, having no wings, fins, tail or other device that could be seen. There were no windows, no openings of any type, the object resembling a huge silver disk which tapered to the edges and was of considerable depth in cross-section, top to bottom. It was absolutely noiseless. Attempts to ascertain the probable size of the object met with little success because the two women apparently were somewhat excited over the strange aerial phenomenon. They said that the craft "banked" sharply in making the circles at about 500 feet above the ground, but after making the series of turns the object followed a rather steep angle of ascent.

The object, while almost over-

head the two women observers made absolutely no noise, nor was there any smoke or vapor trail. Both women are accustomed to see relatively low flying local aircraft like the "Piper Cub" and one of the women, whose son was a B-24 bomber pilot in the late war and who has had more than common knowledge in matters aerial, declared that the strange object was not to be compared to any conventional type of airplane.

There is, of course, considerable popular skepticism regarding the flying saucers and according to a national magazine, which has been publishing a series of authenticated articles on this strange subject, the United States air force and also the Pentagon have issued what the magazine calls some very contradictory reports in answer to inquiries made by the publication in looking into this phase of aerial wonders.

Because of popular opinion, both of the women who saw the first flying saucer reported in this immediate vicinity, asked that their identity not be revealed, feeling, of course, that they would be accused of "seeing things."

19 October. General Carroll assures the FBI.

On October 16th the FBI contacted Major General Joseph F. Carroll, USAF, to ask for assurances the Air Force was not causing UFO reports by conducting secret tests of a "flying saucer" or a "flying disk" aircraft. The General wrote back on October 19th and denied that was possible. To help ease the Bureau's concerns, General Carroll promised pertinent information on UFO sightings would be brought to the attention of the FBI. The General also assured the Bureau the: "...Air Force program for investigating reports concerning flying saucers, etc., has been re-instituted at Wright Field." (xx.)

(xx.) FBI Office Memorandum. To: Mr. Ladd. From: A.H. Belmont. Subject: Flying Saucers. 19 October 50. Copy in author's files.

November

1 November.

"Share your UFO information."

The Air Force's chief Public Information Officer, Colonel C.H. Welch, wrote his friend, "Dinty," (Brigadier General E. Moore) at HQ Washington, to urge a new working policy on UFO information. Col. Welch urged "Dinty" to limit censorship since he believed restricting information was a policy that had caused the spread of misinformation and hysterical thinking. (See letter on pages 46-49)

For PIO people like Col. Welch, the UFO business was just a big headache. They couldn't see what the problem was, but then they were only aware of what the Project GRUDGE explanation machine produced, with cases all cleaned up and loose ends snipped off. GRUDGE advisor Dr. J. Allen Hynek, on the input end of the information machine, came to know the truth of the matter: incomplete investigations, solutions offered that were highly questionable, how convinced witnesses were about the high strangeness of their experience, the excellent cases that never made it into the official data stream, and some profoundly puzzling testimony by credible observers. Sharing the data would be risky.

General Moore's reply.

Drafting a reply to Col. Welch was not an easy task. One will note in the memo discussing the "preparation" of a reply (See page 50) the last sentence under point (4.) was crossed out. This sentence mentioned a greater release of information. Moreover, actual drafts of the reply had notations indicating two paragraphs were to be omitted, paragraphs which also dealt with the suggested release of information. (See pages 51-52) The final approved draft (See page 52) makes no promises the public was going to learn more, as recommended by Col. Welch. (Note the listed dates of rewrites in the upper right corner on front page of each document)

One suggestion by Col. Welch apparently was adopted. That suggestion was to take "positive action" against "fiction writers." (The briefing of Bob Considine by Col. Watson on November 12th may have been a "positive action.")

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841200
 By W.G. Lewis PARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

HEADQUARTERS
 AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
 DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY ADDRESS BOTH
 COMMUNICATION AND EN-
 VELOPE TO COMMANDING
 GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL
 COMMAND, ATTENTION FOLLOWING OFFICE SYMBOL:

MCF:CHW:ech

1 November 1950

Brigadier General E. Moore
 Assistant for Production
 Directorate of Intelligence
 Headquarters USAF
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dinty: ,

At my request, Harold Watson gave me a copy of your recent letter to him (subject restricted), releasing results of analysis and evaluation of unidentified aerial objects report.

This project of yours, formerly carried under the title of "flying saucers" and now under a title without name, has probably given us more concern than any one other subject that has come to our attention. In the earlier period while this project was under investigation, it seemed highly desirable to carry it in a classified status until it could be determined just what the nature of these phenomena were.

Today, however, so much publicity has been given this project that it appears we must begin to consider it in the light of normal item of public interest and process it as such. I know that this is contrary to your policy at present; however, I would like to give you my reasons for this.

We have long used a working policy which appears to have much merit; i.e., if a story is inevitable, let us tell the story so that it might be factually correct rather than have some newspaper man try to take it out from behind what they call the "Iron Curtain of Security" and come up with a story that is part fact-part fiction. The fact part of the story is usually minor and of least importance; the fiction part, however, is that which gives us the greatest concern and the greatest headaches.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 881508
 By W.G. Lewis WARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

Page 2

We have found that when anyone in civil life discovers one of these phenomena, or at least think they have, they promptly desire to get the greatest amount of personalized attention. This they accomplish by getting in touch with the nearest press. The press pursues it with the zeal and relentlessness that only they can conceive. Consequently there is nothing about these phenomena that can be kept classified for any length of time.

Your department carries these investigations in a classified status, especially until you have had an opportunity to get at least the basic facts of the reported phenomena. All the time you are doing this, however, the press in some part of the country is pursuing their story. The result is that they often feed to the public a lot of misinformation with just enough fact to make it embarrassing to us when we can not discuss it. The topic of flying saucers has hit the "jackpot" of public interest as far as curiosity is concerned. It has been a long time since anything has so intrigued the public as this so-called phenomena has. The press has been very ready to pick this up and make the most of it. So have free lance writers like Don Keyhoe and Skully. I believe those two people have been responsible for more misinformation and more hysterical thinking than any two people writing for public consumption.

I have been told ^{by} ~~from~~ rather reliable sources that Keyhoe's story "Flying Saucers are Real" was responsible for an additional 400,000 magazine sales (True Magazine) during the month that his story appeared. If this is true, and there is no reason to doubt it, normal magazine readership would bring this story to the attention of more than one million people; and with the publicity it received it could have easily reached two to three times that number.

Skully was also ready to reap the harvest when he put out his "pot-boiler" book "Behind The Flying Saucer", which is now high on the list of best sellers in non-fiction books. The Pageant Magazine picked up his story, and another one or two million people came in contact with flying saucers. Altogether, approximately three or four million people have been grossly misinformed and misled by these fantastic statements. Some of Skully's statements can only be attributed to a fiction writer with a highly vivid imagination.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841508
 By W.G. Lewis MARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

Page 3

Neither Skully nor Keyhoe have ever contacted this headquarters. As far as I can determine, they never made any effort to prove the correctness of the statements they have made. If they had, we could have made available to them information which would have killed their story; i.e., Keyhoe's story and Skully's book. Naturally being smart, if rather unreliable writers, they chose not to do this but to reap the benefits of their fiction writing.

Dinty, I think the amount of adverse publicity which they have caused our Air Force has reached the point where we must begin to take some positive action--not to defend, but to explain to the public how irresponsible and unreliable such stories are.

I have read quite a number of the reports that have been investigated by your people and have seen their findings. I have been able to find little--if anything--that could not be openly discussed with the public without highly beneficial affects to the Air Force. In my opinion, security classifications should only be used when the material under classification would be of far greater danger to the public welfare in the hands of the enemy than it would be beneficial by free knowledge of our public.

Certainly flying saucer stories do not come in this category. It would take only a half-dozen stories covering some of the hoaxes that have been perpetrated upon the Air Force and some of the highly improbable stories that have been reported to us to kill, for once and for all, the advantages that Skully and Keyhoe have achieved.

The statement Dinty which you suggested in your letter to Watson which you thought might cover the situation would not be acceptable to the press. In a recent incident which happened at Great Falls, Montana the press were far better informed than we were here in PIO, and made the most of it throughout the country to the point that again a large number of the American public were wondering what we were hiding.

Dinty, let's be realistic about this situation and bring it out into the open where it now belongs. As long as we could keep it controlled and under cover during investigation periods I think the classification was justified. Today this is not the case however.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841508
By W. G. Lewis MARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

Page 4

We here in Public Relations at AMC have probably lived closer to it public relations wise than any other agency in the Air Force, including Headquarters USAF. My recommendations are being made only after careful consideration of the very unfavorable and unfortunate impact that the stories have made upon the large segment of the American public. From the standpoint of goodwill and understanding by the American public, the Air Force can no longer afford to support a "cloak of secrecy" about this activity. Please let me know your reaction about the above.

Sincerely,



C. H. WELCH

Colonel, USAF

Chief

Public Information Office

(xx.)

(xx.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341.
Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9 1950.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841508
 BY WLG Lewis MARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

AFOIN-V/TC
 Lt. Col. Willis/ro 71095
 wtn 7 Nov 50
 rwtn 14 Nov 50
 rwtn 20 Dec 50

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

PROBLEM

1. To prepare reply to ltr from Col. C. H. Welch, dtd 1 Nov 50.

FACTS AND DISCUSSION

2. An informal ltr from Col. Welch, Chief, Public Information Office, Air Materiel Command, was received by Brig. Gen. E. Moore.

3. This ltr related the problems of the Public Information Office in dealing with the flying saucer incidents, because of classification restrictions. At the same time, newspaper and independent writers have elaborated on these incidents without any coordination with the Air Force; consequently, much misinformation has been circulated, and the Air Force has been put in a poor light due to its inability to discuss the subject.

4. Brig. Gen. Moore discussed the problem of answering the letter with Major Boggs of AFOIN-V/TC. Preparation of a suitable reply was made by Lt. Col. M.D. Willis, AFOIN-V/TC. ~~The reply expressed a policy of releasing more information on each case as it occurred.~~

5. At the present time, Lt. Col. Willis is preparing a Memorandum for Record which will consider points raised by the letter and present developments concerning unidentified flying objects. It will include any recommendations by the Director of Public Relations.

6. Subject matter will not be submitted for inclusion in the Daily Staff Digest.

ACTION

7. Approval, signature, and forwarding.

COORDINATION

Capt Black, AFOIN-V, Ext. 55909
~~Col Allen, AFOIN-P, Ext. 74053~~
 Brig. Gen. Moore, AFOIN-A, Ext. 52542

(XX.)

(XX.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341.
 Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9 1950.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841508
 By W G Lewis NARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

AFOIN-V/TC
 Lt.Col. Willis/ro 71096
 wtn 7 Nov 50
 rwtn 20 Dec 50

AFOIN-V/TC

Colonel C. H. Welch
 Chief, Public Information Office
 Air Materiel Command
 Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
 Dayton, Ohio

Dear Clare:

Your letter of 1 November was very interesting and informative to me. The points that your letter raised on policy were read with particular care, since they spotlighted the need for further thought about the numerous flying saucer stories being presented to the public by various fiction writers.

omit
 From my knowledge of flying object incidents, it appears that there have been almost no cases where investigations have disclosed any classified information. Where the trouble lies seems to be that the public did not learn of the true results of these investigations, and having only heard of the so-called facts of the flying saucers, jumped at erroneous conclusions about the possibilities of such machines and the attitude of the Air Force toward them.

Positive action ~~does seem~~ desirable, since the United States can ill-afford the numerous false alarms which seemed humorous during the early stages, yet have grown to serious proportions, when aided by the efforts of fiction writers.

omit
 A straight forward and prompt report of each incident and the explanation of it to the public at the time of each case, regardless of whether the public has read about it, would pull the rug out from under the writers who build up in the public's mind an erroneous impression of an "Iron Curtain of Security" around fearful and unexplained events.

A further study of the problem is now being made by my staff. The points covered in your letter are receiving full consideration. If this examination of the current situation indicates that policy changes are desirable, a ^{new} policy will be established.

Sincerely,

(xx.)

(xx.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341.
 Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9 1950.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841508
 By W.G. Lewis NARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

AFOIN-V/TC
 Lt. Col. Willis/ro 71096
 Wtn 7 Nov 50
 Rwn 20 Dec 50
 Rwn 21 Dec 50

AFOIN-V/TC

Colonel C. H. Welch
 Chief, Public Information Office
 Air Materiel Command
 Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
 Dayton, Ohio

4 JAN 1951

Dear Clare:

Your letter of 1 November was very interesting and informative to me. The points that your letter raised on policy were read with particular care, since they spotlighted the need for further thought about the numerous flying saucer stories being presented to the public by various fiction writers.

Positive action is desirable, since the United States can ill-afford the numerous false alarms which seeme numerous during the early stages, yet have grown to serious proportions, when aided by the efforts of fiction writers.

A further study of the problem is now being made by my staff. The points covered in your letter are receiving full consideration. If this examination of the current situation indicates that policy changes are desirable, a new policy will be established.

Sincerely,

Col. W. W. Wilcox

E. MOORE
 Brig. Gen., USAF
 Assistant for Production
 Directorate of Intelligence

X 350.05 Intelligence Collection Plan

(xx.)

(xx.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341.
 Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9 1950.

7 November. Lakehurst, New Jersey. (about 7:15-7:30 p.m.)

Encounter with strange phenomena.

Official report to HQ U.S. Air Force:

"While on a routine night radar navigation flight from NAS Atlantic City on the night of 7 November 1950, the following incident took place. I was flying an AD-4Q, returning from seaward, and homing in on NAB, Lakehurst. As we approached Lakehurst at approximately 3,500 feet, I became aware of a single steady white light to my starboard about five miles, which I judged to be another's aircraft's fuselage light. This light was slightly above me, at about 4,000 feet and moving in a southeasterly direction at approximately my airspeed or slightly greater. Because of the steady light, I believed this was another military aircraft operating from Lakehurst or Atlantic City and instructed my crewman to switch out radar to 'intercept' so we could test out this part of our gear before returning to base. The time was about 1915, as we were due to land at 1930. Then I pulled up in a slight climbing turn in order to get on this object's tail. The visibility was extremely excellent with no overcast, and with all the stars and planets showing brightly. It was no effort to discern the motion of this object because of the background of stars. After rolling out on this object's course, it turned a little more northerly and seemed to settle down and I presumed I was directly behind it, still somewhat lower. In long? [word not clear] time it takes to tell, this light, without making any kind of reversal turn, bore down on me in a slight dive, passing directly over my canopy, at an incredible speed, about 100 to 200 feet above. Puzzled at this, my first reaction was that we had originally met head on, and that this was some aircraft without running lights and that it had been a close miss for both of us. Informing my crewman of what took place, he disregarded his radar operation and proceeded to witness the following events. I then pulled into a tight 'flipper' reversal turn in order to see this light again. As before, it was still slightly higher than I, and this time I was positive we were on his tail. Pushing to normal rated power and climbing, I attempted to hold the light in front of me, this object made another head on pass, veering slightly port and below so that my crewman could see it too. Still nothing but a single white light, close to 10 to 12 inches in diameter, it moved with fantastic speed. Since we were close aboard Navy Lakehurst about five miles North, I tried contacting their tower twice on 14?? [radio frequency number not clear] with no response. Still engaging in this cat and mouse tag game with this light, and recalling that our own squadron had some jets and other AD's airborne, I switched to our squadron frequency, and requested assistance from any 'confine' aircraft in the vicinity. The Commanding Officer and his wingman in two F9Fs answered, and set course for Lakehurst. In the meanwhile, after five to six passes, this object and I got into a port orbit. I frequently checked my instruments for altitude and engine limitations, and flew in a 60 degree climbing port bank, indicating 130-135 kts. This light continued to turn about me in wider climbing turns, making about two orbits to my one. At 11,500 feet I abandoned the chase and simply orbited in order to keep the object in sight. When the Commanding Officer reported over McGuire AFB at 14,000 feet I turned my lights from 'Dim' to 'Bright,' reporting we were still in a port orbit, but I estimated the object's height at about 18,000 feet still climbing in a wide orbit and growing dimmer. By the time they arrived over me, the object still appeared

[sic] [visible?], though faint, at about 25,000 feet. All this took place in a period of 25 to 30 minutes, and at the Commanding Officer's suggestion we returned to base. The Commanding Officer never did sight the light, but his wingman did.

"Having had experience with jets against conventional [sic] [aircraft?] in 'Dog Fights,' I have a good idea of their speed, but this object in the encounter described previously was making at least twice that speed, or approximately 800 kts. While it was passing I tried hard to distinguish a shape or form of wing or airfoil, but could see nothing but this white light. Pulling up even more after it passed, I tried to see if I could hit its wash or slipstream, but there was none. Only this single steady white light that could move with phenomenal speed and maneuverability."

Robert F. Haven
LTJG USNR (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Headquarters U.S. Air Force. AFO1V-FC (Attn: Lt. Col Willis Pentagon Building. Washington 25, D.C. From: LTJG Robert F. Haven, USNR. Air Development Squadron- Three. C/o Fleet Post Office, New York, New York. 29 November 50. Keyhoe mentions this case very briefly in his book *Flying Saucers From Outer Space*. p.46. Also, one should compare this case with the October 1, 1948, George Gorman 'Dog Fight' with a white mystery light.

10 November. Pacific Ocean off the California coast. (no time)

Destroyer tracks "object." (See clipping right)

11 November. Caruar(?n), Argentina. (daytime?)

Circling round object.

A press report states:

"Add this to the bulging dossier of flying saucer reports. Inhabitants of Caruar(?n), a town in Northern Argentina, claimed to have seen a 'large round object of transparent green' circling over their community."

(xx.)

(xx.) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 11 November 50. (Reuters)

14 November. 30 miles north of Key West, Florida. (10:00 p.m.)

"Unidentified aircraft operating with no lights in warning area"

The reference to "warning area" may be violation of territorial waters or some other restricted air space. Its possible this report has a conventional explanation but it was sent to Fleet Air HQ.

Destroyer Tracking Mysterious "Object"

SAN DIEGO, CAL., Nov. 10. (50)—The U. S. destroyer, Blue, searched the Pacific Ocean off Southern California with radar today, trying to track down a mysterious "unidentified object."

A navy report said the Blue picked the "object" up on its radar screen and was maintaining the contact. The Blue, based at San Diego, had the object in its radar screen and was trying to close with it to identify it.

Announcement of the search was made at Washington after San Diego authorities forwarded a report to the Navy Department there.

Fleet Air was notified of two incidents of contact with an unidentified "aircraft" operating with no lights in the warning area assigned to FAWTULANT, NAS, Key West, Florida. In both cases Military Flight Service knew of no aircraft scheduled or flight plan for operations in the area.

First incident:

"Tuesday, 14 November 1950, approximately 2000 at 15,000 feet 30 miles north of NAS, Key West. Aircraft picked up tracked intermittently by ground radar. Ground speed 480 miles per hour, heading 180, made turn to right and faded from scope. F6F-5N picked up aircraft on radar one and one half miles range. Unable to close for visual contact. Weather clear visibility excellent clear night. At approximately 2015 unidentified aircraft sighted by pilot of F6F-5N near NAS, Key West, traveling at high speed."

Second incident:

"Wednesday, 15 November 1950, at 2100 at 15,000 feet aircraft picked up by ground radar within 3 miles of two F6F-5Ns on GCI flight, bearing 270 degrees distance 42 miles from NAS, Key West. One experienced VF(N) pilot made a visual contact on aircraft with long silver fuselage, no lights. The unidentified aircraft followed the F6F-5ns being controlled by GCI [ground radar]. Return on radar twice the size of radar return of F6F. Aircraft speed estimated as more than twice as fast as F6F cruising at 160 knots." (xx.)

(xx.) Naval Speed Letter. To: Commander Fleet Air Jacksonville. U.S. Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida. From: S.J. Lawrence, Commanding Officer. Fleet All Weather Training Unit, Atlantic. U.S. Naval Air Station, Boca Chica Field, Key West, Florida. 21 November 50. Copy in author's files.

15 November. Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Radar targets explained?

To put the Atomic Energy Commission at ease, HQ U.S.A.F explained the strange radar echoes at Oak Ridge. Those who have a background in radar are better able to judge the merit of the military's argument. Phenomena observed visually was mentioned briefly and brushed aside for reasons that are not very convincing (See point No.6 on page 57)

A map copied from Air Force files is shown on the last page of my UFO History volume covering the period August-December 1950. It shows 4 tracks directly over the Oak Ridge Restricted Zone. Although nothing was seen visually, some of the echoes were very strong.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841508
 By W.G. Lewis NARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

~~SECRET~~

Hq Third Army ltr to CG AMC, dtd 10-24-50, subj: "Unconventional Acft"

1st Ind

MCIAXA-1a/JJR/eps

Headquarters AMC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio NOV 15 1950

THRU: Director of Intelligence, ATTN: TCB, Headquarters, USAF,
 Washington 25, D.C.

TO: Assistant for Atomic Energy, ATTN: AFOAT-1, Headquarters, USAF,
 Washington 25, D.C.

1. In view of the nature of the work being carried out at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, plus the fact that reports on individual sightings were accompanied by radar observations, it was decided that the investigation of this particular case warrants your attention.

2. The type of radar set used in detecting the unknown radar echoes described in Inclosure 1 is not given. However, based on two remarks contained therein, it is believed to have been an AN/CPS-1 radar operating at a frequency of approximately 3,000 mcs. The frequency of operation, e.g., HF, VHF, UHF, SHF, has considerable bearing on possible explanations of spurious radar echoes.

3. Meteorological information is an almost absolute necessity in explaining spurious radar echoes. This data is lacking in Inclosure 1. The shape or signal characteristics of spurious echoes are also of considerable assistance in analyzing the situation. For instance, the signal returning from an aircraft would occupy, in range, a space on the scope equal to the pulse length in seconds multiplied by the speed of electrical impulses through air. Thus, a pulse of one microsecond length multiplied by 186,000 (the speed of electromagnetic waves through air) would paint a target on the scope which would occupy 0.186 miles range. Spurious signals due to weather conditions always occupy more range than that from a single target and have a more rapid beating and/or changing of signal strength than that obtained from adjacent aircraft targets.

4. The echoes briefly described in Inclosure 1 are considered to be very similar to those obtained on the scope of the SCR-584 at Wright-Patterson AF Base on 8 March 1950. Fighter aircraft were vectored towards the spurious echoes at Wright-Patterson AF Base, but no targets were seen by the fighter pilots. However, the pilots reported the formation of ice-laden clouds at 10,000 feet altitude. The ice conditions of these clouds were considered to be responsible for the spurious echoes and the changing ice conditions of the clouds to have caused the signal strength to fluctuate and to appear to be moving at various speeds.

5. The spurious radar echoes described in Inclosure 1 are believed to have been caused by atmospheric conditions. Atmospheric conditions

~~SECRET~~

50S-111807

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 841508
 By W.G. Lewis NARS, Date Jan 29, 1985.

Hq Third Army ltr to CG AMC, dtd 10-24-60, subj: "Unconventional Acft"

causing spurious microwave radar echoes usually consist of rain, heavily water-laden clouds, and ice-laden clouds. Abnormal temperature changes with altitude are usually associated with these atmospheric conditions and may be responsible to some extent for the spurious echoes.

6. While it is impossible to definitely explain the phenomena observed visually by people in the area, many of the details reported follow the pattern of reports on other incidents on which conclusions were drawn to the effect that people saw weather balloons, peculiar clouds or smoke formations, aircraft through an overcast, etc. Evidence to the effect that such sightings were made by numerous people usually breaks down since, in most cases, a would be object is first reported by one individual and the number of subsequent reports is usually determined by the publicity surrounding the incident.

7. In the event any photographs are available on recent sightings at Oak Ridge, Air Materiel Command is desirous of securing copies for evaluation.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

2 Incls
 n/c

/s/ FRANK L. DUNN, COL., USAF
 FOR: HAROLD E. WATSON
 Colonel, USAF
 Chief, Intelligence Department
 (xx.)

(xx.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341.
 Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9 1950.

16 November. Col. Watson snows Bob Considine.

Violently anti-saucer, Col. Harold Watson of ATIC not above using writers to help debunk UFOs. He bragged he snowed Bob Considine completely.

FLYING SAUCERS—1

Nov. 16, 1950

Paper Unknown

Air Force Insists Imagination, Reflections Have Tricked Public

By BOB CONSIDINE

International News Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Nov. 16.—"I've seen a lot of flying saucers," calmly remarked Col. Harold E. Watson, the Air Force's foremost authority on the controversial subject.

"Plenty of them," the intelligence chief of Wright Air Force Base's Air Materiel Command went on, with the weariness of a man who has told a story too often. "And I've chased after them in the Air Force's fastest propeller-driven plane, the F-51. Caught them, too."

"And every single saucer turned out to be the sun shining off the wing or body of a distant DC-4, or a jet, or a weather balloon, or it was a reflection off a water tank or something else that is readily explainable."

"I don't know what it takes to convince the public, but there are no such things as flying saucers. They don't exist. They just don't exist!"

"Seasonal Hallucination"

We asked how he accounted for the increasing number of persons who report their alleged observation of objects of nonastronomical origin.

"We are going through a seasonal hallucination," Col. Watson explained. "We've kept a careful check on these periods of mass illusion. They reach peaks shortly after some unusual stir in the saucer field. The two articles that appeared in True Magazine caused jumps on the graph. Henry J. Taylor's broadcast caused another."

"The most recent jump was the report of Frank Scully's book, 'Behind the Flying Saucers,' which made me ill after 15 pages. The

articles you plan to write will cause still another outbreak of saucer stories—even though you reverse the field and tell people the absolute truth: That it's a lot of nonsense."

Blames Fatigue for Fliers' Stories

Col. Watson declared with emphasis that at the end of nearly every flying-saucer report that can be tracked down stands a crackpot, a religious fanatic, a publicity hound or a malicious practical joker.

Pranksters have made "saucers" and then burned them while others have made photographs of trash-can lids twirling into the air or of odd home-made devices.

We asked him to explain the accounts of mysterious objects by responsible airline pilots.

"Fatigue, I'd say," he replied, "and the power of suggestion. And the optical tricks that windshields can play on an airman—especially at night, I'm not questioning the integrity of these men, or of the occasional hostess or passenger who has 'corroborated' their testimony. But the most careful inquiry into their stories has produced not a shred of real supporting evidence."

Has No "Saucers" or Parts

"I don't know how to make it plainer than this: The Air Force has in its possession no flying saucers, or parts of flying saucers. It has no bodies of 'little men,' nor any samples of the so-called clothes these imaginary creatures wore. It has investigated hundreds of rumors without finding an iota of responsible supporting testimony or a shred of evidence."

"This planet is not being spied upon by space-creatures, nor has

any potential earth enemy sent observation ships against us. No branch of the armed forces has an aircraft or missile resembling the structure or alleged performance of a flying saucer."

One of the feeble straws usually reached for by the true believer is the strange death of Capt. Thomas F. Mantell Jr. The true believers refuse to accept the Air Force's assay of the tragedy, which took place near Ft. Knox, Jan. 7, 1948.

Verified the Report

Capt. Mantell and two other pilots were flying F-51s to Louisville early that afternoon when State Police notified Ft. Knox that a round object, estimated to be 250 feet in diameter, was headed over the vast gold reserve.

Several observers at the nearby Godman Air Force Base verified the report. The base commander, on learning that three F-51s were in the vicinity, at good altitude, asked them to take a look.

During the next half hour Mantell sent several messages back to the control tower. Whatever it was, he reported, it was climbing at what he estimated as 360 MPH. It looked metallic, he said, and was "tremendous."

The three F-51s climbed to 18,000 feet where, in broken clouds, Mantell was lost sight of by the other two, who dropped back to Godman.

Mantell Crash Still a Mystery

The last word from Mantell, whose craft was not equipped with oxygen tanks, to the tower was that the "thing" was still climbing as fast as his F-51 and that if he could not close in on it by the time he reached 20,000 feet he'd give up.

Mantell's body and the wreckage of his plane were found a short time later near Ft. Knox—the wreckage strewn over an area a half mile.

To this day, no one knows exactly why Mantell crashed.

Col. Watson told me that the only plausible explanation about the crash itself was that Mantell's plane went into a spin or power dive with an unconscious or dead pilot at the controls.

21 November. Hanford, Washington. (Shortly before 5:00 p.m./4:10-4:30? p.m.)

This case is of interest because of a possible connection with the nuclear activities at AEC's Hanford Works. The story is a bit confused, so the best source is the local press coverage by the November 22th issue of the *Columbia Basin News*, the newspaper which covered the tri-city area of Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick. The UFO story was splashed across the top of page one: "STRANGE OBJECT SIGHTED IN AREA SKIES."

A faded photocopy of the article (with some gaps) informs us:

"An unidentified object in the western sky last night shortly before 5 o'clock was sighted by residents of the tri-city area, who described the phenomena as anything from a 'flying saucer' to the vapor trail of a jet plane.

"The stories told by persons seeing the peculiar object seemed to agree on two points. 1. It appeared as a 'stick of light' which alternately hovered and traveled across the western sky. 2. It was observed for several minutes.

"Some observers maintained it had a distinct saucer shape, others asserted it resembled an elongated shaft of light of great intensity. The object moved to the southwest and described an arc. It appeared to be traveling rapidly, at a great height; then would suddenly stop and hover motionless in the air.

"Atomic Energy Commission security officials and army officers at Richland said that the mystery object did not appear over the Hanford Works project yesterday afternoon.

"An AEC official last night declared that he had received no word on the presence of such an object in the area.

" 'Anything of this nature would have been reported to me immediately by the security patrol divisions,' he asserted.

"N.D. Sturgis, AEC security assistant at Hanford Works, declared, 'I received no notification official or otherwise, regarding any unidentified...[not clear] over Richland. I went on duty at 4:45 p.m. and would be notified immediately if anything unusual was noted either over Richland or the Hanford Works by area security patrolmen or AEC airmen, during the afternoon.

"The AEC maintains a constant air and ground watch in the Hanford Works reservation for intruders. Unidentified planes or objects over the area are investigated by the AEC's own light plane squadron. In some cases jet fighters are summoned from nearby Moses Lake air base to pursue high speed planes which have violated security regulations.

"Col. Seth L. Weld, Jr., commanding officer of the army anti-aircraft troops stationed at North Richland, said last night that nothing of an irregular nature was reported over the restricted areas during the afternoon.

" 'Any irregular occurrence...[not clear] the project would have...[not clear] immediately been noted by the ...[not clear] of AEC and...[not clear] stationed at Hanford Works, Colonel Weld said.

"Other top officials...[not clear] Hanford Works security division were unavailable last night...[not clear] comment on the object. It was pointed out, however, that several jet fighters have been cavorting over the tri-city area for the past two days.

"The Richland community patrol, however, reported that four housewives

called between 4:10 and 4:30 and said that they saw what appeared to be 'a red ball of fire with flames streaming behind it' skirting the area southwest of the city. One of the women declared that the object was not moving when she first noticed it. It was estimated that the ball was traveling approximately 40,000 feet above the earth.

"A Pasco housewife, Lillian Cude, and her husband, B.B. Cude of 1420 N. Fourth, described their view of the object as follows: 'A neighbor's boy, Steven Kennedy first pointed it out. It appeared as a bright light hanging vertical to the earth, then gradually tilted to a horizontal position and moved toward Richland.

"It seemed to describe an arc like a half-moon, stop, then start again in a southwesterly direction, gradually descending. The light it made was very bright. It looked as if it were very high in the sky.

"Joan Richardson, 1031 W. Margaret, said the object was first sighted by a group of people at Parkside homes in Pasco. She described it as being 'a vertical shaft of intense light which moved and stopped. It seemed to tilt in the air. Others in the group who observed the object were Helen Crow, Mrs. C.D. Crow, Joan Crow, Mrs. Blackledge, and Bruce Cornell, who observed it from his auto coming in from Cheney to Pasco.

"Mrs. Warren Peney, 116 N. Idaho, said she observed the lighted object about 4:2...[not clear] and watched it stand motionless in the air, then move southwestward and back again to the [sic] due west [winds aloft for this date needs checking]. 'It resembled a suspended fluorescent light,' she declared.

"Chuck Lamberson, Benton county deputy sheriff said he first observed the object as he was crossing the twin-city bridge, and said it looked to him to be a jet airplane. None of the other witnesses reported seeing the object clearly enough to determined whether or not it was a plane. Nearly all said it was too big, and hung motionless too long to be a plane.

"A Kennewick Military Policeman said the object was the vapor trail from a jet plane doing 'routine patrol' above Richland. He declared he could hear a jet.

"Richland people who saw the object said they could...[not clear] had been seen in the area...[not clear] ...ing the past few days.

"Airline officials said...[not clear] planes were scheduled...[not clear] flying in the area at the time the object was sighted.

"The *News* and radio stations in the area received...[not clear] calls while the object was in sight. The object...[not clear] into focus again and the question... [not clear] 'flying saucers' and...[not clear] which have come out...[not clear] Northwest during the...[not clear] years on celestial activity...[not clear] peculiar objects which...not clear] unlike conventional aircraft.

"What was it?" (xx.)

(xx.) Clipping from the George Fawcett UFO collection. Roswell UFO Museum, Roswell, NewMexico.

Wilbert Brockhouse Smith. (1910-1962)

In view of the sensational nature of the revelations attributed to Canada's Wilbert Smith, it seemed worthwhile to search various sources to learn more, if possible.

We can assume Smith knew more than he would admit publicly. He said as much in an essay he wrote before he died in December 1962 of abdominal cancer. In his essay, "Why I believe In the Reality of Spacecraft," he states he could not: "...be specific as I would like to be with respect to material given to me in confidence or which came to me through 'classified channels.'" (xx.)

(xx.) *Topside*. Published by the Ottawa Flying Saucer Club. #12 Winter/Spring 1963. p.7.

"UFO Hardware?"

Smith founded the Ottawa Flying Saucer Club, which issued the publication *Topside*. One wonders if Smith ever confided in the club members. Were there items of interest in the publication *Topside* after Smith's death? It's true the Ottawa organization entertained some odd notions about "spiritual vibrations" and "space brothers," eventually changing the name of the group to "New Science Club," so it's difficult to assess the credibility of what was printed in *Topside*. In any case, for record, the following was published in the Spring/Summer 1967 issue of *Topside* eleven years before Stanton Friedman first talked to Jesse Marcel:

"Over the past 20 years and particularly in the early days before world government adopted their concerted "Hush-Hush" policy concerning the UFO mystery, a number of reports leaked out of crashed flying saucers, the hardware and contents of which were confiscated by government authorities or others in the countries concerned. In particular, there was a report of such a crashed UFO in New Mexico which, it is understood, was featured by Major Keyhoe in one of the early NICAP publications. There was talk that the U.S. Army undertook the removal of all evidence of this crashed spacecraft, including the bodies of its occupants which were shipped to Washington where they were put into deep freeze. Our founder, the late Wilbert B. Smith, who was, at the time, in the early stages of his investigations into the UFO case, became interested in this report and during one of his many trips to Washington, he made attempts, through his contacts there, to seek permission to view these frozen bodies of extraterrestrials. WBS claimed that he was told, in no uncertain terms, by some CIA official 'to keep his nose out of the matter' -and this proved the clinching evidence to WBS that there must be something in the UFO case! As a result of later investigations, WBS claimed that the U.S. Government had 'hangars of UFO hardware.' When the USAF publicly denied that they had any UFO hardware, WBS expressed the opinion that they were speaking the truth. The USAF, as such, was not in possession of the hardware; they (and others) merely acted as a collection agency for it and then passed it on to some other U.S. Government agency, possibly the CIA. In fairly recent years, an article appeared in the German press claiming that several Top Secret rooms in the Pentagon were devoted to the storage of UFO hardware and even quoted the room numbers!" (xx.)

(xx.) *Topside*. Published by the Ottawa New Sciences Club. Aylmer, Quebec, Canada. Numbers 24&25. Spring/Summer, 1967. p.10.

December

8 December. "Immediate High Alert."

The "Immediate High Alert" FBI message is dated December 8th and did not originate in "late" December. No information has surfaced as yet why the words "flying saucers" were used in the message instead of "UFO," or a similar expression that could be applied to conventional aircraft.

Even though the message expressed a lack of an awareness of any local cause for concern, developments in Korea could well have been the motivating factor. General MacArthur's offensive across the 38th parallel in pursuit of the defeated North Korean army had been smashed by a massive counterblow by the Chinese. The intervention by major units of the CCF (Chinese army) surprised MacArthur who had had ordered the reckless dispersion of U.S. ground troops. In Washington the loss of confidence in MacArthur was complete.

Predictions that China would keep out of the conflict, which MacArthur and others had asserted with few reservations, had proved to be wishful thinking. Would the Russians also take an active part?

The U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and President Truman met to discuss the grave crisis. The conferees called on MacArthur to consolidate his forces into an enclave on the coast. Moreover, the conferees all agreed: "...that in view of the probability of war with the Soviet Union, American forces worldwide should be placed on full alert. Accordingly, the JCS [Joint Chiefs of Staff] drafted and sent all theater commanders a somber 'war warning.' " (xx.)

(xx.) Blair, Clay. *The Forgotten War*. Random House Inc.: New York, N.Y., 1987. p.329?
(note on page number unclear).

"War panic."

Fears about a possible World War III were widespread. The Joint Chiefs of Staff considered a global conflict with the Communist Block almost a certainty. The public shared that belief for the most part. As an example, it should be noted that New York City suffered a "panic attack" on November 5th:

"Hundreds ran to air raid shelters in New York's Bronx last night thinking an atom raid was about to start. They had heard loudspeakers shouting: 'Enemy planes are approaching New York. They are 40 miles away. Be prepared for atomic attack. Run for shelter.'

"It was a hoax. Stanley Gordon, aged 23, broadcast the warning on his home-made public address system. He was sentenced to 30 days for 'causing fear by broadcasting with a amplifier.'" (xx.)

(xx.) London, England. *Daily Herald*. 6 November 50.

On December 5th aboard the presidential yacht *Williamsburg*, Truman spent much of the day in a meeting speaking about his deep concern and extreme preoccupation with the military reverses in Korea, the sudden burst of Chinese military fervor, and the need to avoid giving any provocation to the Russians. The next morning Truman first meeting of the day was to be devoted to economic matters. Truman wrote in his memoirs:

"Shortly before we went into that morning meeting, Under Secretary Lovett called from the Pentagon, reporting that radar screens of some air defense installations in the Far North were reporting large formations of unidentified planes approaching. Fighter planes were sent up to reconnoiter and alerts were flashed to air centers in New England and beyond. But about an hour later --while I was meeting with [Clement] Attlee --Lovett notified me that the report had been in error. Some unusual disturbances in the Arctic atmosphere had thrown the radar off." (xx.)

(xx.) Truman, Harry S. *Years of Trial and Hope 1946-1952*. Doubleday & Company: Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1956. Vol. 2. p.405

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, in his book *UFO FBI Connection*, explored this story and discovered different versions of the alert! (xx.) The account most at odds with other versions was one

(xx.) Maccabee, Dr. Bruce. *UFO FBI Connection. The Secret History of the Government's Cover-Up*. Llewellyn Publications: St. Paul, Minnesota, 2000. pp.183-197.

published by the International News Service:

"A warning of an impending air attack resulted in a false alarm in this capital city today. No air raid alarms were sounded, but functionaries charged with the Civil Air Defense of Washington were alerted that an unidentified aircraft had been detected off the coast of the State of Maine at mid-day. Later, a spokesman for the Air Force stated that interceptor aircraft had been dispatched, and that the object in question had been identified shortly thereafter as a North American C-47 aircraft which was approaching the continent from Goose Bay, Labrador. The warning was said to have been useful in verifying the efficiency of the Washington Civil Defense System. Civil Defense officials declined to comment on the incident." (xx.)

(xx.) Washington D.C., 6 December 1950 (INS)

Speculation: the discrepancies in INS account all have the same slant. The effect was to reduce public anxiety. The excitement was not about "large formations," but about a single aircraft. The radar targets did not remain "unknown," instead a "successful interception was made by the Air Force." The radar pickup was not in Alaska where a Russian air invasion was expected to be first detected, but "off the coast of Maine." Is it possible disinformation was fed to the news media? Considering how everybody had the "jitters," perhaps that is not such a far-out possibility.

Consider also the official military version of events as issued over the signature of Air Force Colonel Charles Winkle, Assistant Executive in the Directorate for Plans, in a memo for the Secretary of Defense George Marshall:

"SUBJECT: Air Alert -- 1030 Hours.

6 December 1950

- “1. The ConAC Air Defense Controller notified the Headquarters USAF Command Post that at 1030 hours a number of unidentified aircraft were approaching the northeast area of the United States and that there was no reason to believe the aircraft were friendly.
2. This information was further amplified at 1040 hours as follows. By radar contact it was determined that approximately 40 aircraft were in flight, at 32,000 feet, on course of 200 degrees in the vicinity of Limestone, Maine.
3. The emergency alert procedure went into effect immediately.
4. The Office of the President was notified. Brigadier General Landry returned the call and stated that the President had been notified and and that:
 - a. All information in this matter was to be released by the Department of the Air Force.
 - b. Office of the President would release no information.
 - c. The substance of a and b above was to be passed to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.
5. At 1104 hours the ConAC Air Defense Controller state that the original track had faded out and it appeared that the flight as originally identified is a friendly flight.
6. ConAC took immediate action to dispatch interceptors on the initial contact.” (xx.)

(xx.) Maccabee, Dr. Bruce. *UFO FBI Connection. The Secret History of the Government's Cover-up.* pp.194-195.

Note that this official report does not identify the “40 targets” and (as I read it –L.Gross) just assumes the radar returns were friendly. Furthermore, it puts emphasis on restricting inquiries about the incident to the Department of the Air Force. Why?

12 December. On a highway in northwest Georgia. (about 8:45 p.m.)

We all were cold sober. “What is that thing?”

Quote from a letter to Ed Sullivan, president of CSI, Los Angeles:

“We were in the northwestern area of Georgia on our way to Key West, Florida. The time was approximately 8:45 p.m. This may be within 5 or 10 minutes of being right. Our auto clock will vary. There were a few clouds in the sky, however not enough to obscure the visibility of the stars. To the south there was a rather heavy cloud bank moving from southwest to northeast.

"My sister looked out the car window and exclaimed, 'What is that thing?' My brother who was driving slowed the car down to a slow crawl. There were five of us who saw the object. We were all cold sober.

"The object emitted the same kind of glow one sees on the numbers of a luminous dial alarm clock only it had a slight red orange cast. It seemed to get its source of light from within. There were no external visible lighting pieces of equipment. It left no vapor trail or trail of light like that which is seen with a meteor. The object had no apparent means of steering nor did it have wings. It was oval in shape, and, from seeing it from underneath, I could not determine whether the 'thing' was disk-shaped or spherical. To us it looked like a globular mass. It was moving rapidly into the bank of clouds I have told you about. My brother was in the service and is very familiar with jet aircraft. This object was not such a craft, nor was it a guided missile or conventional aircraft. I have had sufficient college astronomy (Indiana University at Bloomington, Indiana) to know that what I saw was not a meteor, at least not any known type. What we saw, none of us have ever been sure. ...Oh yes, the object was moving somewhat slower than a meteor and its motion at times was unsteady." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Mr. Ed Sullivan, President, Civilian Saucer Investigators, P.O. Box #1971, Main Post Office, Los Angeles 53, California. From: Thad W. Culmer II, Post Office Box #99, Robinson, Illinois. 26 April 52. Copy in author's files.

12 December. Near Lewisburg, West Virginia. (5:50 a.m.)

"Objects bounced around." (See clipping below)

Flying Disks Seen Near Lewisburg

Editor, The News Leader:

Traveling from Richmond, west on Route 60 through Lewisburg, W. Va., just 14 miles from Virginia State line, we were traveling two miles northwest of Lewisburg, when we observed, in the sky, some objects which we could not identify. They were about six or seven times that of a star in diameter and circumference, the size varying when they came toward us and going away into the depth of the sky.

There was one pair of two which were the first ones seen. It looked as though these objects were being bounced around as a person would bounce a rubber ball or a ping pong ball.

These were distinct objects of distinct form which could not possibly have been reflection on clouds because at times you could see something which looked like sparks or small red coals when they would fall from them.

We watched for about five minutes the bouncing movements going from left to right and back to left again; then it appeared as though these two objects began to chase each other in a circular motion making the appearance of a shining disk.

Next they came out of the circle and lodged directly over one another being clear and distinct with silver appearance or that of being shining aluminum, and at times turning a red-orange color only momentarily.

These two, as they were going away from us toward the southwest, became smaller as they went.

Looking over the sky to see if we could see them anywhere else, we saw another red-orange colored one, at times becoming a bright silver color, but this one looked as though it was swinging without anything to swing on, being in northwest by direction. In the southwest the first two came back getting larger as they came closer to us, making the left to right movements again.

We watched these objects about 20 minutes showing others as they came by us in their car.

As we were starting to drive on I saw one of these objects chase the other a short space. Driving on we did not see them anymore.

There were four witnesses to this: Mrs. Louise Carnohan, 602 North 22 St., Richmond; W. L. Allen and Mrs. W. L. Allen, Cedon, Va., and D. J. Harvey, 2409 Coles St., Richmond.

The time was 5:50 Tuesday morning, December 12, about two miles northwest of Lewisburg. It was not snowing at this time and the stars could be seen.

Richmond, Virginia.
News Leader
20 December 50

14 December. Near Gooding, Idaho
(shortly before noon)

Sphere's wild gyrations. (See right)

*Salt Lake City, Ut.
Tribune
Dec 16, 1950*

13 December. Near Lander, Wyoming.
(about 6:45 a.m.)

Disc "disappears." (See clipping below)

Wyoming State Journal
LANDER, WYOMING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1950
Published each Tuesday and Thursday for Fremont County

Flying Disc Hits Earth—Disappears

Flying saucers that come in low, hit the earth, and then disintegrate, leaving no trace?

Something like that might have happened out at the foot of Table Mountain, only three miles from Lander, Wednesday morning.

Francis Lovelady is a sheepherder employed by Fred Crofts, local rancher who lives back of the hospital. He was tending his sheep about 6:45 o'clock Wednesday morning when he saw the object, coming out of the gray dawn, south to north.

"It was real low," Lovelady told his employer later. "Suddenly, only about 100 yards from me, it appeared to hit the earth. I even saw dust rise. I hurried to the spot but there was - nothing."

Lovelady said it was a shiny, round object, such as the flying saucers that have been seen in various parts of the country. So impressed was Mr. Crofts that his employee was "not just seeing things," that he went out to the spot with him and spent several hours searching the countryside, but there was no trace of the object or its remains.

Flying Sphere Reported by 3 Idaho Men

GOODING, Ida. (AP)—This should be the clincher.

Three Hagerman Valley men saw it, clocked it and swear it was real. It wasn't a flying saucer. It was a sphere 6 ft. around with a metal fin on the top part.

It zigged and zagged, went up and down, stood still and zoomed in sudden bursts of speed estimated at 10 miles a minute. That's 600 mph.

It wasn't hashful either, said one of the three men. He added that it even may have appreciated the audience. On two occasions it was within 100 yds. of the trio.

Returning Home

It happened when Jim Abbott, Maurice Smith and Bud Caulkins were returning to their homes in and near Hagerman from Gooding shortly before noon Thursday.

They first spotted the object about 100 ft. in the air when they were a mile west of the Wood river bridge on the Gooding-Hagerman highway. It was about 400 yds. away, on the south side of the highway.

Abbott related the story Friday. He said they stopped their car and watched the ball settle slowly into the sagebrush. It was dark grey in color — like dark lava sand.

After settling, it turned toward the south. It climbed fast to about 1000 ft., then leveled off, turned east and went about four miles. Then it returned to the ground.

Learning to Fly

Abbott is a World War II infantry veteran. In his spare time from his Hagerman ranch, he has been learning to fly. He has procured his private pilot license and is working for a commercial permit. Only recently he passed a written examination in meteorology.

Those facts are important because the details of his studies are still fresh in his mind. He noted no wind, a cloud cover at about 1000 ft., and no up or down drafts Thursday.

That proves, in his mind the object the trio saw was propelled by its own power—not by the elements.

The three watched the object go through other gyrations before it suddenly zipped out of sight to the southwest at a fast pace.

Abbott says he never has been a "flying saucer skeptic."

This experience just confirms his previous belief, he said Friday.

16 December. Los Alamos, New Mexico. (11:25-11:35 p.m.)

"Greenish fireball" circles over Los Alamos. (See below)

Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal, Monday, Dec. 18, 1950 - p. 1:

FRONTIER AIRLINES PILOTS WATCH FLIGHT OF 'FIREBALL'

Another brilliant "fireball" streaked through New Mexico skies late Saturday night (12/16).

It was seen by Captain A. Harvey, pilot of a Frontier Airlines plane approaching Albuquerque from Gallup, and co-pilot Merrick C. Marshall.

The two flyers reported to Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, head of the Meteoritics Institute at the University of New Mexico, that the light first appeared in the northeast, approximately over Las Vegas. They watched the light for ten minutes, they said, as it moved in the direction of Los Alamos. During that time the "greenish" fireball seemed to circle Los Alamos and then head directly toward Albuquerque.

In turning, the light changed from green to a very bright white and passed over and to the rear of their plane -- then near Albuquerque -- at an estimated speed of over "700 miles an hour."

The time when the light was first sighted was at exactly 11:25 p.m. It remained in view until 11:35.

Both pilots are experienced airmen and said it could not possibly have been another plane.

Dr. LaPaz is anxious to have reports from other observers. Things that would be of most value to him are: (duration, observers' positions; color and direction object was going when last seen; and close observation of any noise or explosion).

Dr. LaPaz can be reached at the U of NM, telephone 8861, or at his home, telephone 54693.

T8/LOC 2/16/72

The Air Force tries to explain the November 7th Lakehurst, New Jersey, case.

"A definite conclusion cannot be reached." (See below)

AFCIN-V,
Lt. Col. Willis/ro 71095
wtn 28 Dec 50

AFCIN-V/TC

DEC 29 1950

SUBJECT: (Confidential) Unidentified Airborne Light

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: Chief, Intelligence Department

1. The inclosed report is forwarded to your department for analysis and comment. It is probable that a definite conclusion cannot be reached from the facts presented in the report.

2. The nature of the observation suggests a possibility of the object being a lighted balloon. However, this explanation was explored when LTJG Haven was interviewed by Lt. Colonel Willis, Technical Capabilities Branch. LTJG Haven stated that jet fighters had made interceptions on his aircraft on many occasions. He stated that the light had a speed range much greater than a jet fighter. It appeared to circle his aircraft at a terrific rate of speed, even when climbing. The rate of climb was estimated to be over 2000 feet per minute. Therefore, it would not be possible to class this incident as a lighted weather balloon, if the description is considered accurate.

3. It is requested that this report be reviewed and evaluation forwarded to this Headquarters.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

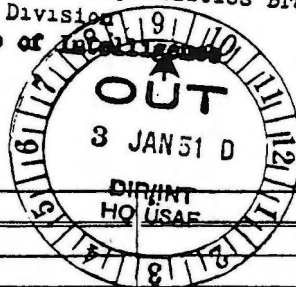
✓ 3202 HMC

1 Incl:

Ltr fr LTJG Haven to Hq USAF,
dtd 29 Nov 50, "Encounter with
strange phenomena while night
flying" am Ltr fr CO, Air Develop-
ment Sq Three to Hq USAF, dtd 30 Nov
50, same subject.

Don't send. 20/10/1950

LESTER S. HARRIS
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Technical Capabilities Branch
Evaluation Division
Directorate of Intelligence



OFFICE SYMBOL	1. AFCIN-V	2.	3.	4.
GRADE AND SURNAMES OF COORDINATING OFFICERS	<i>Col Davis</i>			

CONFIDENTIAL

*1.1.11
Flying Discs*

Pushing the panic button.

What the "false alarm" of December 6th did demonstrate was the vulnerability of the Air Defense Command to radar blips that remained unexplained for an extended period, so long they could be interpreted as a Russian attack force. The problem was real in 1950, and continued to be so for many years. On April 7, 1958 the Strategic Air Command finally admitted publicly it had scrambled its bombers on various occasions in response to radar detection of phantom intruders. The phantom returns were realistic and were tracked by picket ships, patrol planes, and shore stations. In one case a group of radar targets approached the West Coast in "precise formation," triggering a nuclear retaliatory strike that had be recalled by special code signals. (xx.)

(xx.) *Confidential NICAP Bulletin*. 9 July 58. Also: 7 April 58 (UP).

The 1958 SAC news release mentioned the Pacific approaches but the Eastern seaboard also had its problems. On June 7, 1957 there was an ADC continental air alert when over 100 radar targets were detected over the Atlantic speeding toward the U.S. McGuire AFB in New Jersey announced it had scrambled three squadrons of jets to intercept what it called, "...an unusual number of temporarily unidentified aircraft." Queries about the results of the air action were made of course but McGuire referred questions to ADC Headquarters. ADC refused to comment. (xx.)

(xx.) Keyhoe, Donald. *Flying Saucers: Top Secret*. G.P. Putnam's Sons: New York, N.Y., p.73.

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