

THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE

UFOS: A HISTORY

1953 August-December

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES

By

Loren E. Gross

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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.

Most of the information that make this supplement possible came from Robert Gribble, Murray Bott, George Fawcett, Les Treece-Sinclair, Barry Greenwood, Jan Aldrich, the CUFOS archives and the private papers of the late Dr. James McDonald. By sharing, all of UFOlogy benefits. There are going to be errors in this supplement, and others that follow, but there is much to cover and I am moving, as the Navy says, at "flank speed."

—Loren E. Gross

Summer 1953. Brookville, Pennsylvania. (2:00 a.m.)

Object circles a utility pole.

(Note: Since this case mentions the sighting of a low, slow, small body, I was hesitant to use it. There are not many stories that claim such characteristics, however the Jimmie Milligan, October 25, 1953 incident at Santa Fe, New Mexico, mentions a gray-colored body 10 feet x 3 feet x 5 feet in size. Moreover, the object in question was very low, in fact it was lurking in some shrubbery when first spotted.)

According to a David G. Leach of Brookville, Pennsylvania, sometime in the summer of 1953 he and his wife witnessed the passage of a strange aerial body. It was a clear night. Visibility was excellent and there was barely any wind. Mr. Leach and Mrs. Leach had retired late (2:00 a.m.) but had not yet gone to sleep. Since it was a warm night, a side door of their home was left open to provide some cross-ventilation. The open door allowed a view of Caldwell Street next to their house and a utility pole topped with a streetlight some 40 feet away.

Unable to doze off, Mr. and Mrs. Leach were talking when all of a sudden Mrs. Leach noticed something strange outside. Slowly moving west up Caldwell Street was a "dirigible-shaped" body, gray in color, and about eight feet in length. The "thing" was only about ten feet in the air and was travelling an estimated speed of six to eight miles per hour. As the couple watched, the "thing" approached the utility pole, circled it three times (The object could be seen clearly outlined by the illumination provided by the streetlight), and then continued on its westward journey. In Mr. Leach's opinion the object was not drifting aimlessly. (xx.)

(xx.) NICAP UFO Report Form. David G. Leach, 15 Caldwell Street, Brookville, Pennsylvania. Date of report: 10 August 65. NICAP files. CUFOS archives.

1 August. Sequoia-Kings National Park, California. (night)

Jets hunt discs?

There is no documentation available (at least in this writer's files) to confirm the details quoted below, so for what its worth here is what Donald Keyhoe wrote:

"On the night of August 1, 1953, a squadron of AF fighters circled above Sequoia-Kings National Park in California. For three nights, a large disc-shaped UFO had descended over the park, seen once at close range by Park Superintendent E.T. Scoyen and some of his staff. The aliens' interest in the park puzzled the AF but it ordered the special mission in case the UFO returned.

"Just before midnight, the pilots saw the disc slanting down at reduced speed. When it was well below them they started down, matching the UFO's speed as they leveled out above it. To the pilots, it seemed impossible for the spacecraft to climb without hitting one or two jets and seriously damaging the ship. Rather than take this risk, it appeared likely that the aliens would give in and land at the first safe spot.

"But suddenly, without even slowing down, the UFO stopped in midair. The jets instantly overshot. Before the pilots could even begin to turn back the disc soared steeply above them and was gone.

"News reports said witnesses had seen jets diving toward a UFO, but there was

no documented proof, as in the later Redmond case, and the public soon forgot the story." (xx.)

(xx.) Keyhoe, Donald. *Aliens From Space*. Doubleday & Company, Inc.: Garden City, N.Y., 1973. p.49.

BLUE BOOK HENRY

The appointment of Jennie Gluck as Dr. J. Allen Hynek's assistant made possible an aggressive attempt (BLUE BOOK HENRY) to gather more UFO information. (See pages 3-6) (xx.)

(xx.) Document received from Jan Aldrich.

3 August. Ellsworth-Bismarck case.

Very conflicting stories.

Although this incident is listed as "unidentified," there is enough ambiguity to allow any number of "Menzel" or "Klass" type solutions. This is the kind of "unsolved" case that the Air Force didn't mind dealing with. Dr. Hynek explains the problems. (See pages 7-9) (xx.)

(xx.) (?) CUFOS archives.

6 August. Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. (3:00 a.m.)

"Searchlights shone in the yard outside."

According to the local newspaper:

"The most sensational report so far, as to flying saucers or some similarly mysterious phenomenon of the air, comes to the *Gazette* this week.

"Mrs. Harold E. Kinnecom of Daggett avenue, Vineyard Haven, reported seeing the saucers, or whatever they may have been, at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. Her description of the phenomenon, corroborated in every detail by her 12-year-old son Everett, is as follows:

" 'I can't sleep well in the early morning and I had got up and was sitting by the window. Suddenly light beams like searchlights shone in the yard outside. I looked up and there floating in the sky at about the height that planes fly over the village, were three shapes like moons. Two were lower than the third one, which was quite a distance from the others.

" 'I called my boy to come and see them, and it almost seemed as if the things noticed that I moved because the searchlight was turned off and the shapes altered their positions until they no longer showed a circular outline, but a shape like a half moons [a disk tilted?]. And then they moved away very slowly.'

(Edgartown report continued on page 10 of this supplement)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~security information~~

REPORT TO STORK ON BLUE BOOK HENRY, 1 JAN - 1 AUG 1953

Submitted by Jennie Gluck

PURPOSE OF HENRY:

- 
- I To examine FLYOERPTS submitted by ATIC in an attempt at evaluation from the purely scientific standpoint; especially with respect to any possible interpretation in terms of astronomical phenomena.
 - II The follow-up of specific cases:
 - a) Immediate follow-up that may be indicated, such as telephone calls, direct interrogation of observers, etc. (E.g., the Monroe-Darlington case.)
 - b) Follow-up as indicated from TWX's:
The request, from ATIC or directly from the observers, of additional data having direct bearing on solution of the case.
 - c) 'Pinchbottle' cases:
The long-range follow-up of cases of exceptional interest, with attempt at complete reconstruction of the "scene of the crime."
 - III Contact with amateur astronomers, Filter Centers, and CAA Control Towers, acquainting them with our general program, and requesting their cooperation in reporting to McMillin Observatory any exceptionally bright meteors seen in their area. The ultimate purpose of these observer-contacts is the establishment of reliable stand-by sources who may be called upon for verification of a specific sighting, or to supply additional data, either through personal observation or by second-hand report.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~security information~~

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RESTRICTED

PROGRAM:

- I 35 amateur astronomical societies have been approached individually, with response indicating a general lack of interest and/or disorganization of their group.
- II 19 GOC Filter Centers have been contacted. Results thus far indicate a wide range in willingness to cooperate: White Plains, New York, has contributed 12 reports (even though 6 were without question of Venus). The majority of Filter Centers, while stating a willingness to cooperate, have sent in no reports whatsoever.
- III During July, 48 CAA Control Towers were contacted, informed of the project and requested to cooperate. To date (31 July) 25 have replied, with 23 stating willingness to cooperate, 2 refusing on grounds that their reports are 'classified.'

In order to facilitate transmission of the reports, this office has adopted a plan of providing all amateur groups, Filter Centers, and Control Towers with postal card forms. In this manner we can receive reports on the unclassified forms with a minimum of postage expense and time and effort on the part of both this office and the observer making the report.

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

AMATEUR GROUPS*ALB ☐

AKR

ATL

BUF

CHA

CMH ☐DCA ☐

DEN

DLH

FAT

FTW

ICT

INT

LOR ☐

LRU

MIA

MOL

MKE ☐

MKC

MSY

NHV

OAK

ORF

PDX

PHX ☐

RIC

RNO

SAN

SCH

SLC

SNO

SYR

TUL

YIP

YKM

FILTER CENTERS

BAL

BOR

BIL

BIS

BUF

FAR

GEG ☒

GTF

GRB

GRR

HAR ☒

HLM

HPN ☒

PIT

MSP

RAP

RIC

SBN

SYR ☒☐ FIREBALL☒ VENUS☒ UNKNOWN

* Standard city code set up by Civil Aeronautics Authority

UNCLASSIFIED

-3-

RESTRICTED

BREAKDOWN OF THE 148 FLYOBRPTS
RECEIVED FROM ATIC
15 Jan - 15 Jul

VENUS J	[REDACTED]	18
VENUS P	[REDACTED]	11
FIREBALLS J	[REDACTED]	10
FIREBALLS P	[REDACTED]	6
BALLOONS J	[REDACTED]	6
BALLOONS P	[REDACTED]	12
LIRAGES	[REDACTED]	1
INSUF DATA	[REDACTED]	16
BIRDS	[REDACTED]	2
REFLECTIONS	[REDACTED]	1
OTHER ASTRO.	[REDACTED]	12
METEOROLOG.	[REDACTED]	2
RADAR ANOM.	[REDACTED]	2
UNKNOWN st	[REDACTED]	33
HOAX	[REDACTED]	1
UNCONVEN A/C	[REDACTED]	2

* Follow up requested

J Justified by data

P Probable

RESTRICTED

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

October 19, 1965

Mr. Zan Overall
12114 Maxwellton Road
Studio City, California

Dear Mr. Overall:

At long last I am back in my office and will try to answer your letter of July 3. The Ellsworth-Bismarck UFO case of August 1953 is carried officially by the Air Force as "unidentified". If you have read that the Air Force has evaluated this as "star or stars", then I am not responsible for that evaluation.

I investigated this case personally, spending some three days on it. There is a great deal of confusion about the case arising mainly from the fact that the incident started at Black Hawk, South Dakota in the Ellsworth AFB territory, but then transferred to Bismarck, North Dakota, where the most puzzling of the sightings occurred. This latter sighting is rarely carried in the books, and yet it was much more clear-cut than the Ellsworth AFB portion of it.

My notes on the case fill quite a thick notebook, and to try to review all the subtle points of the case in a letter is out of the question. Let me say mainly that in the Ellsworth region, there were quite a few observers but with very conflicting stories. It has never been established, however, for instance, that the Ellsworth radar locked onto a visual object. I talked to both jet pilots who indicated that they were tracking some unknown object, and they indicated after my interview that they might have been confused by stars. This does not prove that they were, of course, and that further adds to the confusion. If, however, the reports underlying the report are to be taken at even half face value, I would find it hard to believe that stars alone caused the report.

However, the Ellsworth AFB reported to the filter center at Bismarck that a UFO was on its way there and would appear from the southwest. Several stations between Ellsworth and Bismarck reported a UFO, but these reports were never sufficiently followed up. The situation in Bismarck was quite another story. You may remember that there were filter centers where civilian air spotters were out night after night patrolling the skies. The Bismarck group was apparently a very active and able group, and when they received the report, they went out on the roof to look. You might say that this was a fine setup for suggestibility, but as it happened, one of the ladies of the filter center had gone down the street to get some ice cream and spotted an unidentified flying object

Mr. W. Overhill

October 19, 1964

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on her way back, not knowing of the phone call, or at least so she says. Then ensued several hours of some high excitement at the filter center after that. The sergeant in charge was fairly cool-headed and took fixes on the first object and then on several others that showed up. There were some power lines and telephone lines coming into the center and he used these as a grid to plot the course of the object. He further had the presence of mind to outline his stance on the tarred rooftop by outlining the position of his shoes on the roof with a knife. He also marked angles on the door beam and quite some time later showed me the pencil marks he had made while sighting the object.

In the Bismarck area, we have the situation where, if the report is to be believed, more than a half a dozen lights cavorted around the sky for some four hours, covering considerable arcs on the sky. By the wildest stretch of the imagination, I could not imagine that these could have been stars. All of this, of course, providing that we can believe the reports. There were some dozen observers involved in the Bismarck sighting, and I interviewed most of them individually. They were quite frightened that evening, and one of them told me that they had the uncanny feeling of being watched.

One of these days, I should like to write up my notes as a full report on the Ellsworth-Bismarck case since I have far more complete notes on the case than the Air Force at present has. I do not know why the Air Force does not have copies of these, since I am almost certain that after I completed my investigation I sent them copies. However, it may be that they were inadvertently removed from the files during one of the many physical moves that Project Blue Book has made.

The entire Ellsworth-Bismarck case rests on what credence can be placed in the reports. This would take a psychologist to evaluate, and not an astronomer. Is it possible that excited people can look at the stars and think that they move a quarter way across the sky? I personally do not think so, but then I am told by psychologists that the vagaries of the human mind are legion.

There was no radar in the Bismarck area, and as far as the radar in the Ellsworth area is concerned, I would tend to discount both the ground radar and the airborne radar. Radars do misbehave and pick up ground targets, and it is almost virtually impossible to prove the cause of an unknown blip on the radar. I tend to weigh the visual sightings and the human story told by sincere individuals much more than I do a radar return. This may seem unscientific, but since radars do misbehave, it is difficult to know how much weight to assign to them when a controversial UFO case comes up.

The next time I write you, I will look to see what the Air Force records are at present and what final evaluation they put on the case. I might be able to agree with "stars" and "radar ground targets" for the Ellsworth portion of the case, but I could not go along with that for the Bismarck, North Dakota phase of the sighting. I could not go along

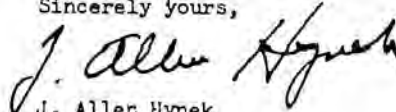
Mr. Zan Overhill

October 18, 1965

with it for the Rapid City portion of it either, if it were not for the fact that that phase had so many conflicting reports.

Your suggestion that the case be reopened has some merit, but lately, however, the Air Force has had its hands full with many reports, some of which are rather puzzling, and I don't know whether they would welcome this suggestion to reopen the case after so many years have passed. I really think it would be unproductive to try to question the witnesses after this length of time, if indeed they could be located. A dozen years is a pretty long time, but I do believe the case should be carried on the record as "unidentified" rather than "star and radar reflection".

Sincerely yours,



J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:ar

P.S. I have checked A. E. files -
the Bismarck case is carried as
unidentified. JAH

"The boy, having come to the window at his mother's call, did not arrive in time to see the searchlight, nor did he see the shapes as they presented a circular form.

" 'They were just like half moons,' he said, 'when I saw them, but I did see them when they moved off, very slowly. It seemed as if they would never fade out.'

"Mrs. Kinnecom revealed no signs of fright nor did she express any feeling save that of astonishment and curiosity, except that, as she said, 'I hesitate to speak of it because it is so strange and perhaps people will think that I have hallucinations.'

"But two persons are not likely to have the same hallucinations at the same time and place, as the boy sagely observed.

"Questioned as to how large the shapes appeared, both mother and son said unhesitatingly that as they hung in the sky they appeared to be as large as the moon usually appears, and luminous in about the same degree.

"The Gay Head Coast Guard patrol saw nothing unusual in the sky, which report, coupled with the mention of the size of the shapes, suggests that they were lower than than was believed and thus the view from a distance was obscured.

"The Peaked Hill radar station reported that nothing had been seen from there nor had any report come in from other places. Although intensely interested in the phenomenon, the station did not consider it strange that no report had been made, for the reason that people the nation over have been subjected to so much ridicule for reporting similar things.

"Otis Field, contacted by the *Gazette*, expressed vital interest through the commanding officer and at once began a radar and flying check to see whether or not any aircraft might have been seen or whether any aircraft might have been accountable for the appearance of the discs.

"A phone call to the *Gazette* from the field yesterday afternoon indicated the inquiry was still on and an officer might be sent here to follow it up." (xx.)

(xx.) Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. *Vineyard Gazette*. 7 August 53.

7 August. Near Brownwood, Texas. (3:00 a.m.)

Three orange things.

A Mrs. Guy McMurry reported:

"August 7, 1953, we were living on our farm 20 miles southwest of Brownwood, Texas. I had slept very little that night as it was the first anniversary of the death of our little six-year-old daughter.

"My restlessness was disturbing my husband's rest so I moved to the foot of the bed and lay looking out the window, at first in a westerly direction.

"The '50s were also very drouthy [sic] and we farmers were forever searching the sky for rain clouds.

"My eyes wandered from the west toward the north, northeast; and that is when I was surprised and awed by 3 very large orange 'fuzzy' lights in the sky. They were about 100 times as large as the largest star—and, of course, bore no resemblance to a star.

"I wondered what they might be but I did not even think that they might be any-

thing other than perhaps some heavenly 'feature' that I had never witness before, as I usually am asleep at that hour.

"They were lined up in; what appeared to be, a staggered formation. I watched them, fascinated by their size for at least 15 minutes and they were absolutely stationary.

"Suddenly just like a bullet the top one (or left one) 'took off' at a tremendous speed in an easterly direction. I was certainly unprepared for it but I 'flew' out of bed and to the window.

"As the 'orange fuzzy light' sailed over Brownwood; the lights of the town reflected on an object [emphasis in the original]. It was no longer just an orange light but a gold-colored object that looked like this:  The 'top' was not visible so I

do not know how the entire object appeared. But, I could clearly see the bottom and what appeared to be a wide ridge around the middle [Saturn-shaped object?]. It disappeared into the eastern horizon.

"Seconds later the No. 2 (or middle light) sped off in the same direction, and even faster, if possible! I did not watch it as it went over the lights of Brownwood as I was trying to rouse my husband (with no success). No.3 remained stationary as long as I could stay awake. But being so completely exhausted I couldn't stay awake in spite of the excitement.

"There was no noise that I could hear; there was no 'fire' from the rear of the 'lights'—and no 'blinking' lights—except for the moment it sailed over the Brownwood lights; 'it' just appeared to be a fuzzy orange large light, (or 3 lights I should say)." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Major Donald Keyhoe. NICAP. 1536 Connecticut Avenue. Washington D.C. 20036. From: Mrs. Guy Mc Murry, 616 S.E 20th St., Mineral Wells, Texas. 76067. Date of letter: 13 November 67. NICAP files. CUFOS archives.

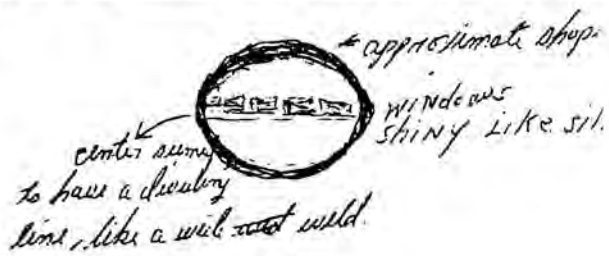
9 August. In a valley about 20 miles from Medford, Oregon. (11:00 a.m.)

A sphere with "windows?"

A Mr. Dale Smith was on vacation with his family. At 11:00 a.m. August 9th he was driving on a highway in southern Oregon en route to the city of Bend. It was a beautiful morning with no wind and no clouds.

As he drove along, Mr. Smith noticed a strange object in the sky about a ½ mile away and at an estimated height of 500 feet. The thing was a bright luminous silver sphere hovering in the air. The edges of the object were sharply outlined, as far as he could tell, since there was some glare reflecting off its surface. Across the middle of the ball-like body there appeared to be a dividing line or weld, and just above that, some "square areas" that might have been "windows." (See the drawing of object by the witness) The sight was so astonishing Mr. Smith slowed to stop in the middle of the highway to stare. The size of the sphere, he estimated, was such that it could have contained a 14 foot by 14 foot room.

After a quick look, Mr. Smith thought it best if he pulled off the road and on the



shoulder. Having done that, Mr. Smith glanced back at the object but by then the thing was gone. Total time the object was under observation was three minutes. (xx.)

(xx.) NICAP UFO Report Form. Dale S. Smith, 1501 S.W. "K" St. (he put down his telephone number but forgot to mention his city of residence). Date of report: 9 January 65.

11 August. The military checks into the August 6th Kinnecom report. (See clipping)

12 August. ? South Dakota. (night)

Pilot frightened?

Donald Keyhoe had good sources of information although the way he wrote played up the "alien angle." What people thought or how they felt was subject to a liberal interpretation. Here is Keyhoe's account of a jet chase over South Dakota (for which I have no documentation - L.E. Gross):

"During a chase over South Dakota...an F-84 pilot was so frightened that he radioed his base and asked to break off pursuit. Similar incidents added to the tension; some pilots believed these actions were warnings, that the aliens might retaliate for the capture attempt at the [Sequoia-Kings National] park." (xx.)

(xx.) Keyhoe, Donald. *Aliens From Space*. Doubleday & Company, Inc.: Garden City, N.Y., 1973. p.49.

12 August. Twin Falls, Idaho. (10:28 p.m., 10:34 p.m., 10:53 p.m.)

"Lubbock Lights" phenomenon.

High School senior David Proctor was outside the evening of August 12th. He had brought along binoculars to count meteors during the periodic shower originating in the constellation Perseus.

At 10:28 p.m. David saw the first of three clusters of star-like lights sweep across the heavens. The lights were a pure white or white with a hint of yellow. There wasn't much time apparently to tell. The lack of time would also explain David's failure to get an exact count of lights in the clusters.

David didn't think the objects could be meteors because they had no tails. It was his impression that: "They must have been some kind of guided missile of some country. The lights from the objects must have been made by the friction of air against it causing it to glow hot." (xx.)

ARMY LOOKS INTO SAUCER REPORT

Sends Detail to Investigate Sky Missile

The almost continuous nine-year investigation of flying saucer reports by the War Department spread to the Vineyard last weekend when a detail from the Defence Unit at Otis Field came to the Island for the purpose of interviewing Mrs. Harold E. Kinnecom of Vineyard Haven and her son, Everett, both of whom reported the phenomenon, and J. C. Allen of the Vineyard Gazette through whom the unit was contacted in an effort to track down any possible explanation.

It was also the purpose of the detail of technicians and experts to discover, if possible, any others who may have observed any strange sight in the sky, or who might supply any clue pointing to natural causes for the spectacle observed.

That the investigating group was thoroughly satisfied as to the veracity of their informants, was assured, the only question being what it was that they saw. Sgt. John DeBruyn, commenting upon the occurrence, said: "There is no question but what those people saw something, of this I am convinced. In many cases, reflections, and other natural causes have been detected, faulty eyesight, and even hallucinations have accounted for some others, but in this case there was something in the sky, exactly what, is another matter."

Should any explanation be forthcoming the details will be supplied to the Gazette for publication providing such divulgence does not conflict with national security regulations.

Vineyard Gazette

Aug 11 1953

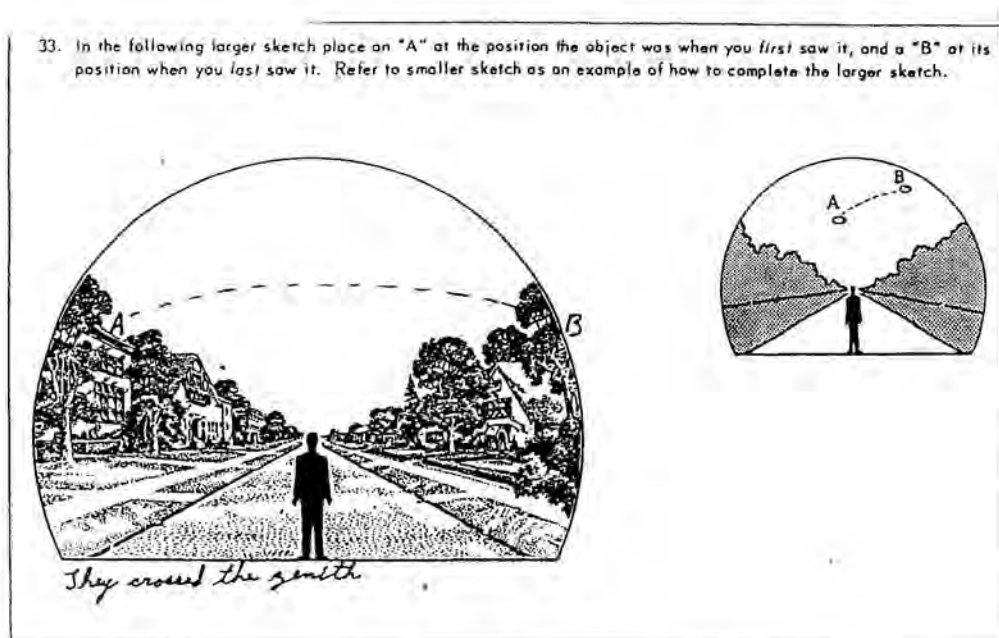
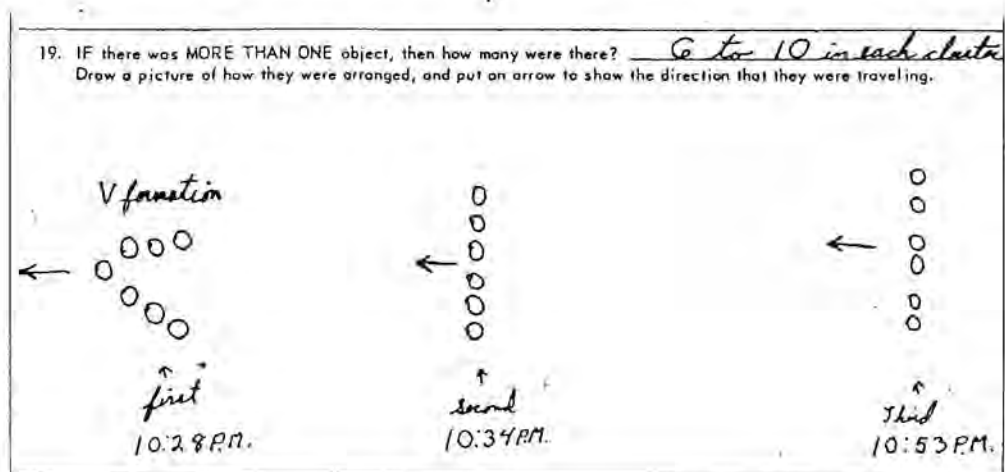
(xx.) *U.S. Air Force Information Sheet.* David E. Protor, 22 Washington Court, Twin Falls, Idaho. Date of report: 28 August 53. Photocopy in author's files.

The first cluster was in a V-formation as it came out of the northeast and then quickly disappeared over the horizon to the west

A second cluster, this time in an in-line formation, came into view at 10:34 p.m. out of the northeast and also zoomed out of sight over the western horizon.

At 10:53 p.m. a third cluster, also in an in-line formation, appeared and followed the path of the first two.

There was no sound during the appearance of the clusters. (See drawings by David below)



Mid August. Derby, Vermont. (daytime)

Silver globes dart at plane.

Richard Clapper, his brother and his mother, were all fishing on Lake Salem in Derby, Vermont, when they observed three UFOs. It was a hot day without a cloud in the sky.

Richard wrote:

"We had been there for quite a while when we heard a large plane. We watched the plane until it got almost directly over us. Suddenly, three, silver globe-shaped things appeared fairly near the plane. They seemed to dart at the middle of the plane, then they would swerve away from the plane. They continued this performance for about two minutes, then suddenly all three of these globes seemed to fly in an upward direction with great speed, and within a matter of seconds they had disappeared. These globes were very maneuverable and they made turns at very sharp angles and they were tremendously fast.

"All three of us that saw these globes had heard a lot of reports about such things but we hadn't thought much of them. We have also heard that some people think that seeing these is just a trick of the imagination but I don't think that all three of us would imagine these things." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Civilian Saucer Investigation Committee (CSI Los Angeles), Box 1971, Main Post Office, Los Angeles, 53, California. From: Richard Clapper, Derby, Vermont. Date of report: 26 January 54. CUFOS archives.

19 August. Strange explosion rips signboard in New Haven. (See news clipping on page 15)

24? August. Islip Terrace, Long Island, New York. (9:45 p.m.)

"Are you crazy, do you want to wake the kids?"

Here is part of a letter written to Donald Keyhoe about a UFO observation that lasted 5-7 minutes:

"There was no lights on my street. The stars were very dim that night and appeared to be high in the heavens. There was no moon that night.

"As I turned off the light in the garage and was pulling down the door, I saw this 'object' about 100 feet away and about no more than 50 to 75 feet high over my neighbor's house. It did not make a sound.

"I was at first scared, then I got a hold of myself, and started to study it, I started to shout for my neighbor so he could see it. He did not come out, but my wife did, and said to me, 'Are you crazy, do you want to wake the kids?' She asked me what was the matter, and I pointed up at this 'object,' which was now across the street. We watched it disappear into the north." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Major Donald Keyhoe USMC (Ret.). From: Alfred Cappelli, 18 Karp Drive, Islip Terrace, Long Island, New York. Date of report: 5 January 68. NICAP

Spooky Explosion

Mystery Blast Shatters Sign; Origin Baffles City Police

The city had a first class mystery on its hands last night after a strange explosion at Middletown Avenue and Front Street tore a gaping hole in a metal sign board and brought reports of a flashing object heading toward East Rock at tree top level.

The loud blast occurred shortly after 9 P. M. Several residents of the neighborhood, attracted to their windows and doors, reported seeing the flash of the explosion. Others said they saw a flashing object tear through tree tops and disappear in the direction of East Rock. Police admit they are baffled by the source of the explosion, other than that it occurred in the vicinity of Front Street. But that it did occur, they are positive. As evidence there is a large hole, about a foot in diameter, in a metal billboard at the corner of Front Street and Middletown Avenue.

The object or projectile, must have passed through the metal with great force, Lt. Raymond R. Coogan said. It made shreds of the sign arch through which it passed, but left no powder marks or any tell-tale fragments that might give them a clue, Coogan said.

Henry L. Thalheimer, chief air observer, said men on watch at the Ground Observation Post reported no unusual flashes or other unfamiliar sightings at the time of the explosion. Two aircraft were logged at 9:02 P. M., he stated, but they were considered routine sightings.

Immediately after the explosion, neighbors called the Fire Department. Four pieces of apparatus responded and checked a gas station adjoining the billboard but could find nothing suspicious. A check of home and other buildings in the area failed to produce any information about the source of the explosion.

Throng Attracted

The noise attracted a large throng to the scene. It was well past 10 o'clock before the crowd dispersed and the traffic continued to flow smoothly on Middletown Avenue.

Most of the neighbors looking to the police for an explanation, shook their heads and retreated to their homes when they were told the explosion and flash were still a mystery.

Strange Explosion Rips Sign



Patrolmen Donald Melvin points to a large hole made in a metal sign board by a mysterious object following an explosion in the vicinity of Middletown Avenue and Front Street last night. Several residents of the neighborhood reported seeing a flashing object soar through the tree tops after the blast.

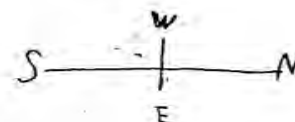
New Haven Journal-Courier
New Haven, Conn. Thurs. Aug. 20, 1953

(See drawing by Mr. Cappelli below)

16

FLAME APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 2' FEET ALL
AROUND THE ENTIRE EDGE, AND WAS
PREDOMINANTLY ORANGE, WITH TINGES
OF BLUE, GREEN, & RED, & WAS
VERY BRIGHT

FLAME
↑
THIS
EDGE WAS
NOTICEABLY
WAYERING
BACK & FORTH



DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
→

THE OBJECT APPEARED TO
BE 6 FT. IN DIAMETER, AND TO
HAVE A SLIGHT ORANGE GLOW
ON ITS CONCAVE UNDER
SURFACE

BOTTOM SLIGHTLY CONCAVE

(Note: In my monograph *UFOs: A History 1953 August-December*, page 11, I left out the word "not" in discussing the New Haven, Connecticut, case. The sentence should read: "The incident was not officially reported"—L. E. Gross)

27 August. Hialeah, Florida. (about 1:30 a.m.)

"Frightening, fantastic experience."

A Miami paper states:

"Reports of a 'frightening, fantastic experience' which befell her husband and a friend as they drove along East Fourth Avenue, about 1:30 a.m., were related Wednesday by a Hialeah housewife.

" 'A huge, round disc throwing out a weird green light and leaving a trail of green in the sky, dropped down vertically toward them, swerved, curved sharply and flashed back straight up before it disappeared,' Mrs. Syzanne Boyer, 562 East 12th Street said.

" 'I have never seen two men more shaken or disturbed than my husband and his friend, a Navy man here on leave, when they returned home,' Mrs. Boyer explained.

" 'They said both of them noticed the disc-like object at the same time as the green light from it flooded the windshield. They had left home to drive down and get a paper, and were on their way back when the disc came straight down at them.

" 'They said they couldn't tell how high above the earth it was, but that it appeared about the size of the sun as we see it normally, and it was traveling at tremendous speed.'

"Mrs. Boyer said the two men were so shocked by the experience they were unable to sleep and remained up all night talking about it." (xx.)

(xx.) Miami, Florida. *Miami Herald*. 27 August 53.

(On page 12-B of my monograph *UFOs: A History 1953 August-December*, there is an official priority message about a UFO encounter. Included here is the follow up message. (See page 19)

? September. Savannah, Georgia. (night?)

Revolved in a tight circle.

The witness was Chief Warrant Officer Williams C. Cumming of the ship the *USCG Hamilton*. (See narrative report on page 20) (xx.)

(xx.) *Technical Information Questionnaire - UFO Sighting*. Personal UFO report form of George D. Fawcett, P.O. Box 298, Deland, Florida 32720.

Capt. Ruppelt and L'il Abner.

Reporter Peter Wyden of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* visited Ruppelt at Wright Field to do a

Quarterly — 6d.

(9d to Non-members)

WINTER 1953/54

FLYING SAUCER

NEWS

THIS ISSUE.....

1,000 COPIES!

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE FLYING SAUCER CLUB OF GT. BRITAIN

THE BRITISH FLYING SAUCER BUREAU and "OURANOS" - ENGLISH SECTION

FLARE UP

MUCH has happened since the Autumn "NEWS" was published.

Since the Great Radar and Balloony Episode, there have been scores of individual sightings, too numerous to evaluate properly at this time. Some of the more outstanding ones are listed within.

The Saucers have been, in the main, of the "Fireball" - or Expensible type. And a large number were probably Menzelforms - but several were much less explainable.

The mystery surrounding the closing-down of IFSB has still not been solved, and the few hints that have come through have only served to deepen it.

Not only Flying Saucers have been causing speculation - and amusement - however. Many other occurrences have come to light in this rather weird period.

The Loch Ness Monster has raised its dubious head again, an expedition has gone in search of the Abominable Snowman, some strange sub-human creatures have appeared in Malaya, someone has made a monkey out of the Pilt-down Man - or else the Pilt-down Man has made monkeys out of a lot of homo saps ... a "Bridge"

has been seen on the Moon, and the Portsmouth Road Poltergeist has at last been 'laid' - and found to be a Hush-hush Ultra-sonics research station working on soundwaves capable of punching holes in sheet metal - let alone car windscreens!

NO SAUCER TALK

The latest, and perhaps most significant item of saucer news however, is that R.A.F. personnel have been warned not to discuss "aerial phenomena" with the public, as - it is stated - this is "restricted information".

It may be that, in these days of guided missiles and secret new aircraft, we Saucerers are perhaps "overlapping" with our investigations, into the regions of Top Secret projects.

This does not mean that the real FS - UFO's or what-have-you are weapons, but that it is just possible that some weapons could be confused with the Saucers!

It could be, in fact, that "Treading on Someone's Toes" was the reason for the American close-down, and general tightening up on Saucer news releases over there.

WE WELCOME

B.F.S.B.

Their Newsletter - page 14-17.

P R I O R I T Y

22 AUGUST 1953

D187

P 211800Z ZNJ

FM COMDR 4 RAD CLBR SQ HAMILTON AFB CALIF
 TO JEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO SPPGS COLO
 JEPHQ/SEC DEF WASHINGTON D C
 ZEN/COMDR 28 ADD HAMILTON AFB CALIF
 INFO ZEN/COMDR WADF HAMILTON AFB CALIF

R E S T R I C T E D/CIRVIS AMPLIFY FLYOBRPT CLN ON SIGHTING BY AF
 4076 AT 20/2105Z. P.D. TB-29 4076 ON TC 096 ATH15,700 FT ALTITUDE.
 AT 2105Z LEFT SCANNER OBSERVED OBJECT APPARENTLY MAKING PASS AT A/C.
 THREE SUBSEQUENT SIGHTINGS OF OBJECT MADE AS OBJECT MAKING APPROX
 RECIPROCAL TRACK TO AIRCRAFT AT FROM TEN TO TWENTY MILE DISTANCE.
 OBJECT ON THESE SIGHTING VIEWED FROM APPROX TEN OCLOCK TO SEVEN
 OCLOCK CMA RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING WHILE STILL WITHIN VISUAL RANGE. OBJECT
 DESCRIBED AS FROM SHAPLESS TO OVAL-SHAPED GRAYISH IN COLOR.
 LIGHT TRAIL NOTED ONLY ON PASS TOWARD AIRCRAFT. THIRD PASS
 WITNESSED BY RIGHT SCANNER FOR APPROX SIX SECONDS. WHETHER CLEAR
 WITH HAZE AND AT LEAST SIXTY MILES VISIBILITY. LAST PASS WHEN SEEN AT
 SEVEN OCLOCK APPEARED TO DIVIDE VERTICALLY AS THOUGH SIGHTING CONSISTED
 OF TWO OBJECTS IN FORMATION. ALL SIGHTINGS VISUAL AND SEEN FOR PERIODS
 FROM TWO TO THREE MINUTES. LOCATION OF AC DURING SIGHTING FROM 3750N
 11937W TO 3747N 11840W. LEFT SCANNER OVER TWO THOUSAND FLYING HOURS
 POSITIVE BLISTER NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGHTING. ALTITUDE OF OBJECTS
 APPROX SAME AS A/C. SPEED COULD NOT BE ESTIMATED. OBJECT DID NOT
 CIRCLE ACFT NOR HAVE FIRE IN REAR AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. ERROR
 PROBABLY DUE TO FACT ORIGINAL CIRVIS RPT WAS RELAYED SEVERAL TIME BY
 VOICE PRIOR TO BEING PLACED IN TELETYPE FORM.

DIST:: 03/32/ ARMY AF ACT

002...05...202...SECDEF...CIA...CG...DIRNSA...50...JCS/SITROOM

ASTSECNAVAIR...CNO/OD

129/RX//WR//

/THIS MSG HAS BEEN RELAYED TO CIA VIA ELECTRICAL MEANS/

SECURITY INFORMATION

b.c

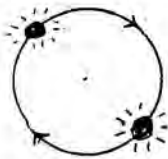
(1257) 02

45201

 01 Aug 53
 6 Jan 53

Narrative Report:

The objects I observed were two green or bluish-green lights moving near the horizon almost due East of my position on the South bank of the Savannah River at Savannah, Georgia. These lights were similar in appearance to the starboard running lights of two aircraft and did not particularly arouse my interest and close attention until I saw that they were drawing very close to each other. Just before it appeared that they would merge, they began to rotate about each other



in a tight circle. Upon appearing to complete six or eight revolutions about a point midway between themselves, one light departed to the South at a high rate of speed and was almost immediately obscured from view behind nearby buildings and trees. The other light moved approximately due West and passed almost directly overhead.

This latter light passed from near the eastern horizon, overhead and out of sight on the Western horizon in approximately three or four seconds. No sound was heard from the objects, even during the overhead passage of the Westbound light. No change in color was observed. No significant change in brilliance was noticed except a fading of the Westbound light as it passed from the zenith and disappeared near the Western horizon.

Without knowing the size or intensity of the lights, no accurate estimate of range is possible and no valid estimate of speed can be made. However, it is interesting to consider that, assuming an apparent horizon at ten miles, horizon to horizon passage of the Westbound light in four seconds would require a velocity of 300 miles per minute or 18,000 miles per hour.

I have arrived at neither an explanation nor any firm conclusions concerning the above observation, and I have made no other UFO observations. I do know that night observation of unknown light sources can be quite deceiving, and I do not believe that a single sighting can be very conclusive unless supported by simultaneous observations from one or more additional positions.

W.B.C.

story about project BLUE BOOK. During the interview:

"...Capt. Ruppelt absentmindedly reached into the center drawer of his desk and pulled out a recent Sunday comic section with a L'il Abner strip devoted to the landing of a flying saucer containing a swarm of extra-terrestrial passengers.

" 'People are always giving me stuff like this,' he said with a heavy sigh." (xx.)

(xx.) Wyden, Peter. "The Great Flying Saucer Invasion." *Everybody's Digest*, September 1953. p.52. (Condensed from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*)

3 September. Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. (night)

Strange orange lights. "In a jerky fashion."

Almost a month after a UFO report was made at Edgartown, a second observation was made:

"...Patricia Hoxie, 15-year-old granddaughter of Mrs. I. Richmond Hoxie, saw a stranger sight in the sky, for which there is as yet no explanation. Patricia is a counselor in training and had just reached the Vineyard after a summer in camp.

"With her own eyes looking like flying saucers, according to her grandmother, she raced in their Tower Hill house in Edgartown to report that she had seen two strange orange lights hanging in the eastern sky—east of Cassiopia. First they were stationary, then as she looked, one started to move in a jerky fashion, then the other came close to it and they seemed to converge until one suddenly went off at a tangent, and then both disappeared." (xx.)

(xx.) Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. *Vineyard Gazette*. 4 September 53.

? October 1953. Near Lima, Peru. (between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m.)

Lights around the edge.

A report in Coral Lorenzen's APRO files states that a young woman by the name of Catalina Ore De Gonzalez sighted a UFO on a cloudy evening sometime in October 1953. An APRO member in Peru investigated. No sound was heard during the observation:

"Witness was with a group of five or six people of about her age; 19-21. They observed a disk suspended in the sky; it would descend and rise again vertically and slowly. It had a dull metal appearance and had a size of about one inch at arm's length. However, real size and altitude could not be determined. The object never came low enough to pass in front of something else.

"A series of very bright lights were observed around the edge of the disk. They were fixed lights and did not pulsate or flicker. The observation lasted one minute and then the object rose higher and higher until it was lost in the clouds.

"Witness believes in 'flying saucers.' Seems honest although her ability to observe and interpret correctly may be limited." (xx.)

(xx.) "Report on the Observation by Catalina Ore De Gonzalez." By (signature not readable) APRO-Peru. Date of report not given. APRO files. Photocopy of report in author's files.

3 October. Albert Chop confirms answers. (See below. The pen marks are by Keyhoe)

October 3, 1953

Dear Mr. Keyhoe:

This will confirm the answers to your questions which I sent to you by wire last evening.

1. When you asked to see motion pictures of "unidentified flying objects" maneuvering over Tremonton, Utah, the Air Force did confirm to you that such motion pictures were in its hands. You were told that this film was then being analyzed by the Air Force and the Navy. You were also told that when this analysis was completed the Air Force planned to show the pictures to the Press, and to release a statement regarding the findings during the analysis. You were told that this analysis ruled out any conventional objects. Later you were informed that the Air Force had cancelled its plans to show this film because it could not be agreed what should be said regarding the film analysis.
2. You asked for but did not receive a briefing from the Air Force Intelligence on the subject of "flying saucers." You did offer to return to temporary active duty in order to get such a briefing. You were told it was not possible for anyone without a security clearance to get such a briefing.
3. In February, 1953, you asked the Air Force to confirm that it had made an analysis of the "flying saucer" sightings. You said you knew such an analysis actually had been completed.
 You were told that the Air Force did have such an analysis but that its contents ~~could not be discussed or divulged~~ because the information was not unclassified.
4. During your 8-month research on this subject you asked for and received all the official statements ever released by the Air Force. You were also given official answers to dozens of questions on "flying saucers" from the ATIC. You were also given the details of approximately 40 sightings reports by ATIC. In every case these sightings were listed as unsolved. Your request for sighting reports stipulated that you were interested only in cases listed as unsolved.

These sighting reports were classified prior to release of the information or data to you.

Albert M. Chop

a new copy of chop
already in ATIC, released in Jan. 1950

MEN'S D.B. GABERDINE
RAINCOATS
 PLEECE LINING WITH ZIP DETACHMENT

GREENS
 (NORWICH) LTD
 Orford Place Branch

Light-up—5.48 p.m.
 Weather—Page 9
 Wireless—Page 5

Eastern Evening News

FINAL

No. 22,053—Three Halfpence

Thursday, October 8, 1953

"LANCASTREUM"
SQUARES
 WOOL BASE

YARDS		
2½	× 3	32/6
3	× 3	39/6
3	× 3½	45/6
3	× 4	52/6

Bonds

'FLYING SAUCERS' OVER NORFOLK?

Watched through telescope

AN OBJECT LIKE A "FLY-
 ING SAUCER" GLOW-
 ING IN THE NIGHT SKY
 OVER NORWICH AND MOV-
 ING AT INCREDIBLE SPEED
 HAS BEEN SEEN THROUGH
 A TELESCOPE AND THE OB-
 SERVATION IS CONFIRMED
 BY SEVERAL RELIABLE WIT-
 NESSES.

Members of the Norwich
 Astronomical Society who have
 been keeping watch throughout
 the hours of darkness in the hope



THIS drawing was copied from one made immediately by Mr. Potter
 after he had put down his telescope

8 October. The *Eastern Evening News*
 headline about the Potter
 story. (xx.)
 (xx.) Murray Bott files,
 Auckland,
 New Zealand.

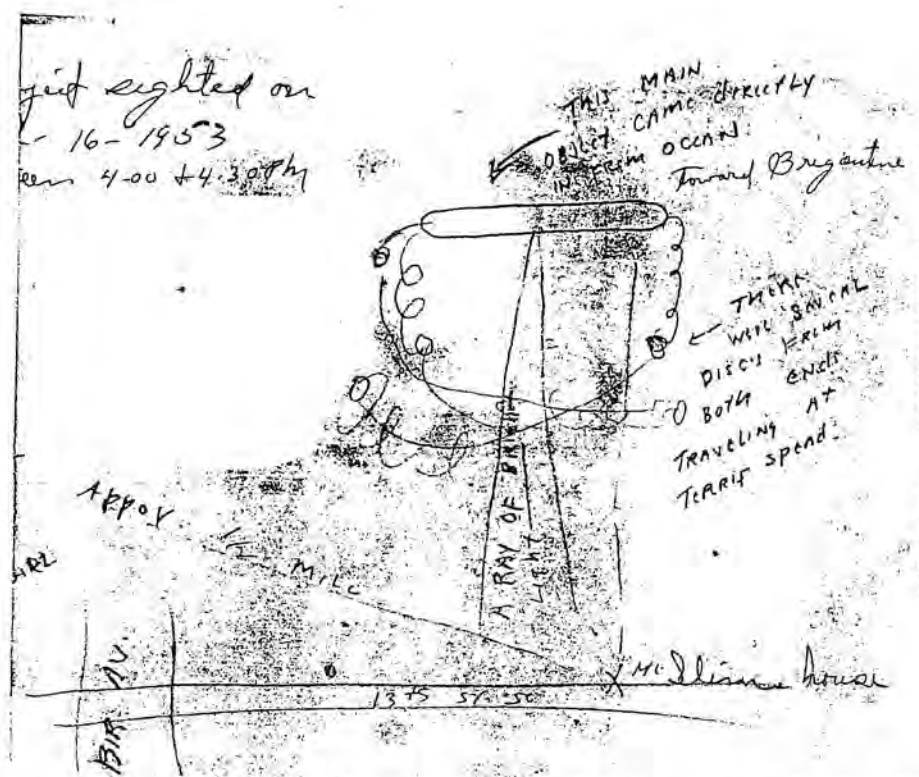
16 October. Brigantine, New Jersey. (between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m.)

"Mother ship?"

A report of "small discs being released from a much larger vessel" was made to Capt. William Nash by a Mr. Emerson F. Morris.

It seems that sometime between 4:00 and 4:30 the afternoon of October 16th a delivery driver for Colonial Liquor Store in Brigantine, New Jersey, observed some strange objects in the air. (Slim) Emerson F. Morris watched as a large object approached from the sea toward the land. There were some low clouds that day that Morris estimated were at the 1,500 to 2,000 foot level. The mystery object was solid white or silver, completely round, and made no sound. The impression was that the thing moved faster than any airplane.

The UFO dropped 5 or 6 round saucer-like objects that spun away into space. (See drawing of object below.) (xx.)



(xx.) Capt. William Nash files.

18 October. The "Holpuch objects."

"Is one of them orbiting us?"

Donald Keyhoe was puzzled in October 1953 when a Navy officer in the Pentagon asked him that question. Keyhoe hadn't known of any such rumor. (See my monograph *UFOs: A History 1953 August-December*, p.30.

Officially, Dr. Clyde Tombaugh admitted on March 3, 1954, that three tracking stations were searching for orbiting bodies but shared very few details. Newsman Lou Corbin sought some off-the-record information from one of his "inside" sources, a Capt. Howard T. Orville. Capt. Orville wouldn't admit to a "cover-up" but did remark in a cryptic way, "We didn't hear any more about it, did we?" (See my monograph *UFOs: A History 1954 January-May*, pp.85-86.)

Aviation Week reported on August 23, 1954, that the sky search revealed one "moonlet" at 400 miles and another at 600. Officially it was briefly stated that the "moonlets" were "natural" bodies and not Russian satellites. (See my monograph *UFOs: A History 1954 June-August*, p.88.) As Capt. Orville seems to have implied, the less said about something, the more important it might be.

Perhaps we can shed more light on this subject by checking the claims of a Richard Holpuch published in the June 1956 issue of the magazine *Science and Mechanics*. The discovery of the "Holpuch objects" and the Army's moonlet search may not have been unconnected. (See article from *Science and Mechanics* on pages 26-31)

18 October. Headline about the Fletcher/Lemon UFO encounter in the London, England, *Sunday Dispatch*. (See page 32) Murray Bott files, Auckland, New Zealand.

22 October. Bridlington, England. (3:30 p.m.)

"Looked like parachutes."

A brief account states: "Three silvery, elliptical objects which 'looked like parachutes,' seen hovering over the sea. Two moved North and the remaining one hovered for three minutes before following, at speed. 7 witnesses." (xx.)

(xx.) *Flying Saucer News*. The Official Journal of the Flying Saucer Club of Great Britain. Winter 1953/54. p.4. The information was credited to the *Yorks Observer*.

23 October. Albany, New York. (between 9 and 9:30 a.m.)

Women see "shiny oval."

According to a news clipping:

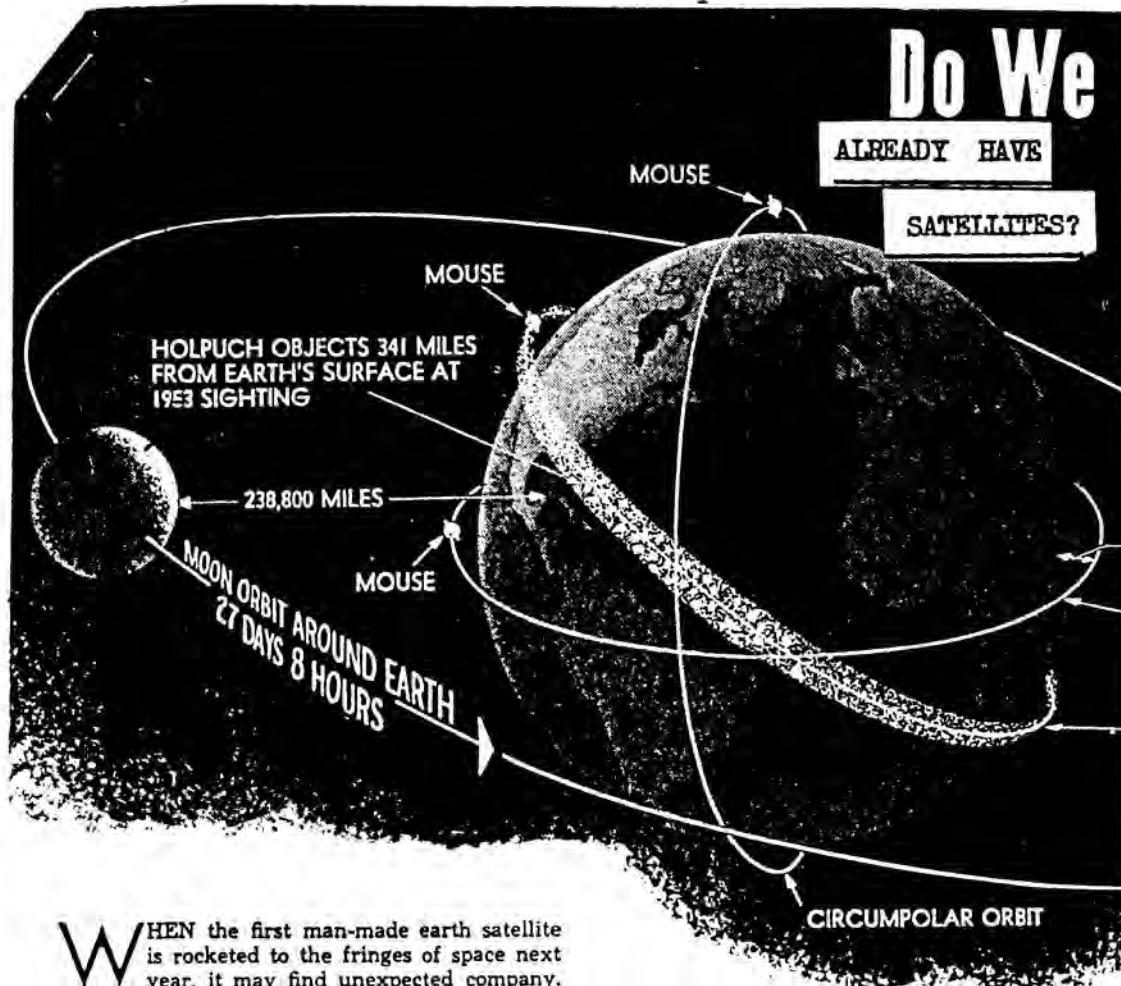
"Maybe it wasn't a flying saucer, but two women saw something strange in the sky over Albany yesterday.

"Both women, who asked their names be withheld, described it as a 'shiny oval.' One said it looked like an 'elongated ball,' and the other said it was 'not flat exactly, but flatter than a ball.'

"The object, of which neither the Albany Filter Center—the clearing house for air spotters, nor the operators of Control Tower at the Albany Airport have any knowledge, was seen between 9 and 9:30 a.m., traveling south.

"The women, one a Western Ave., resident and the other from Delmar, said the

(Continued on page 33)



WHEN the first man-made earth satellite is rocketed to the fringes of space next year, it may find unexpected company. It may actually join more than a hundred recently discovered, natural satellites already racing about the globe in a clearly defined orbit. That orbit closely approximates one of three proposed for the famous man-made Mouse satellite.

This, at least, is the conclusion that might be drawn from the discoveries made by two young amateur astronomers from Illinois, who appear to have found and charted a well-formed satellite ring that may be hundreds of years old.

At this writing, ten or more of the Mouse (Minimum Orbital Up-Manned Satellite of Earth) are expected to be launched by the U. S. under Project Vanguard late in 1957, to be tested in three different orbits. One orbit will circle the globe directly above the equator; one at right angles to the equator, passing across both the North and South poles, and one at perhaps a 40-45° angle to the equator.

This latter orbit, popular because it will give scientists around the globe the greatest opportunity to keep the Mouse within study range,

closely follows the orbit of the recently discovered Holpuch satellite ring. In fact, the study of this existing ring might give the government priceless information about how the Mouse can be expected to act.

Richard Holpuch and his wife, Mary, made the original discovery Oct. 18, 1953.

A junior engineer in charge of maintenance of electronic equipment with a Skokie, Ill., engineering firm, Mr. Holpuch had only recently finished building his own telescope. A 5½-inch reflecting instrument rated at f13 and with an eyepiece yielding 100X magnification, it used a group of discarded potato chip cans welded together and reenforced for its major tube and a discarded clothing company suit rack and plumbing fittings for its supporting framework.

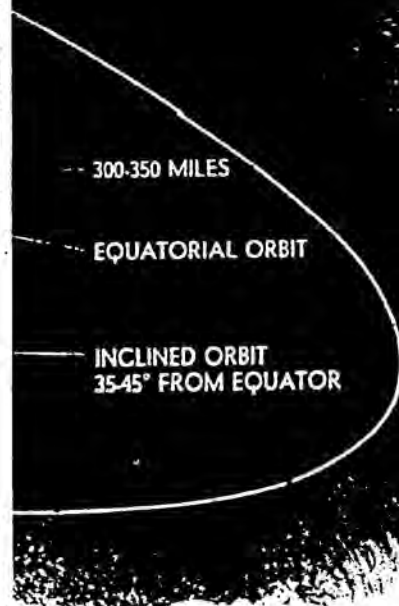
But many painstaking hours had gone into grinding and polishing its lens, and the finished product was an adequate precision instrument.

P. 104 June 56
SCIENCE AND MECHANICS

Already Have Satellites?

By RAY WHITMAN

About the author: Ray Whitman is managing editor of the *Evenston (Ill.) Review*, one of the nation's largest and most honored weekly newspapers. It was in this newspaper that the story of the Holpuch rings was first told. Author Whitman is also an award-winning photographer and a licensed aviator, and has been a university lecturer and radio producer.



Of course, the Holpuchs couldn't wait to get it into operation.

Thus it was that the Holpuchs were out in the driveway of their Wauconda, Ill., home in the very early evening on Oct. 18, 1953, looking at the only slightly gibbous (nearly full) moon. This is a thing few professional astronomers would do, because, in the time soon after sunset, the sky is not fully dark and hence not suitable for most astronomical work. Also, a full moon is so bright (with minimum surface shadows), that you can't see much.

But thus, too, was the stage set for the satellite discovery. For only in the immediate post-sunset and pre-dawn minutes would a dark object close to the earth be caught in the sun's rays and appear as a glowing object against a semi-dark sky. Later, in full darkness, a nearby satellite would be in the shadow of the earth and hence nearly invisible. In full daylight, it

could be seen readily only if its surface were one capable of casting a strong reflection—such as the highly reflective surfaces of stainless steel, aluminum, or plastic contemplated for the Mouse satellites.

While Dick and Mary Holpuch were taking turns looking at the moon's advancing edge, a series of glowing objects began to appear, approaching, then crossing in front of the moon.

They came sporadically, by ones and twos, flashing past the field of the telescope in less than a second. They glowed dull red, followed each other in a direct path and traveled all at the same speed. With the telescope focused as closely as possible, they appeared to have the random, rough conformation of lumps of coal. In half an hour, more than 30 were observed.

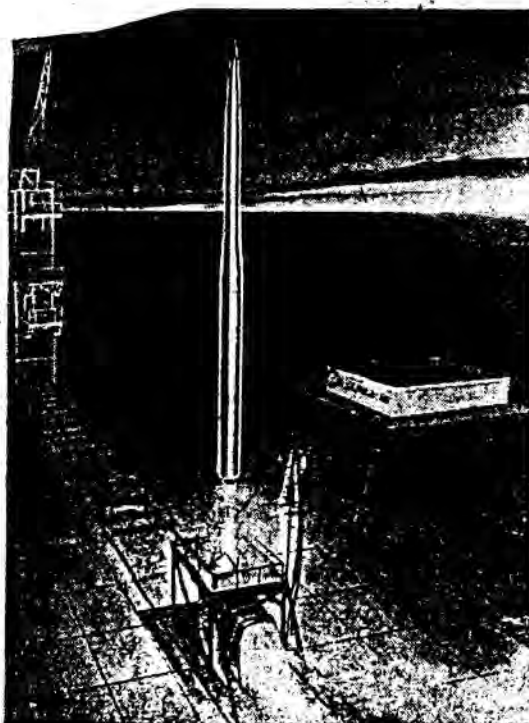
As amateurs relatively unfamiliar with astronomy, the Holpuchs knew they were seeing something unusual; they did not know this might be a sight never before scientifically recorded.

Hence, no stopwatch timed the transits; no precise recording was made of the time of day; no careful reading was taken on the telescope azimuth and elevation.

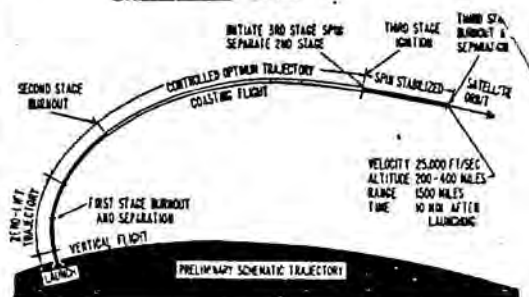
At the office next morning, Mr. Holpuch confided his observations to fellow employe John P. Bagby of Skokie, Ill., a design engineer and fellow amateur astronomer. From his somewhat wider background in the field, Mr. Bagby thought, then, he was on firm ground.

"There are no satellites of the earth other than the moon," he said. "All the textbooks say so. You are probably looking at migrating birds or insects, or perhaps you have dust in your draw-tube at the focal point. Why don't you look again tonight, and call me if you see anything."

(Remember that these observations were made five months before the request by the federal government that amateur astronomers and others aid in the search for possible earth satellites which might be studied as an aid to Project Vanguard.)



Artist's conception of Vanguard three-stage rocket vehicle being designed and built by Martin Company of Baltimore for the Navy. Drawing at right above depicts flight path of vehicle to its orbit some 300 miles above the earth.



from almanac references.

Velocity, altitude and apparent size of the objects? Here was another problem, or rather a whole set of problems. To solve them, Bagby set up a simulated telescope into which the Holpuchs could look and past which objects of varying size and velocity could be passed artificially, until a combination could be found which approximated what they had seen.

It was determined that the objects were moving past the scope at an angular rate of about $1\frac{1}{4}$ second for each $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ of field—or, roughly, 17,000 miles per hour.

Could they be meteors? Here we need to clarify our terms. Most meteors enter the earth's atmosphere at speeds of anywhere from 40,000 to 150,000 miles per hour. They become incandescent, due to the tremendous friction generated by their speed and the atmospheric resistance, and either burn up, break through the outer fringes of the atmosphere into outer space again, or fall to earth.

An earth satellite, on the other hand, would be a body held, like our moon, by gravitational force so that it follows a regular orbit of travel around the earth. (If such satellites exist, they conceivably could travel in orbit at such speeds as the 17,000 or so miles per hour estimated for the Holpuch objects.) If a meteor did start traveling a regular orbit around the earth (which many scientists think is impossible) it would automatically become a satellite.

But much more research was needed to reach any conclusion about the objects sighted. So Bagby began exhausting the resources of several libraries on the subjects of astronomy in general, celestial mechanics and the pertinent mathematics applicable to his problems. From his research, three equations were evolved, equating the radius of the orbit from earth's center, the radius of the earth, the altitude of the orbit, the time required to cross a given number of angular degrees, the angle of arc required by the construction at the earth's center, the time required for the satellite to encircle the earth and the distance from the observer to the point in the orbit at which the satellite had been observed.

Some of these factors, of course, are a matter of general knowledge to within a close approximation—such as the necessary velocity required to maintain a satellite in an orbit of a given

That night from Wauconda—latitude $42^\circ 15' 40''$ —longitude $88^\circ 09' 00''$ —the objects were again observed, not only by the Holpuchs, but by several interested neighbors, one of them an amateur astronomer. Again their appearance was the same; again about 30 were seen in a half hour.

From Skokie—latitude $42^\circ 02' 15''$ —longitude $87^\circ 44' 25''$ —20-odd miles away, where Mr. Bagby trained his own telescope on the skies, nothing was visible. The orbit then, if there were one, was to be less than 20 miles wide.

The next step in proving out these observations was a series of tests designed to verify the Holpuch observations, and to eliminate some of the possibilities of error.

Could the objects observed have been greatly magnified dust viewed at close range and out of focus? Repeated efforts were made to introduce dust into the focal plane of the telescope while focused on the moon. Nothing could be done mechanically to produce anything even remotely resembling the original observations, and the dust particles which did become visible in the eyepiece, of course, did not glow—reflect the sun's rays—as had the original objects sighted.

How about azimuth and elevation? Remember, they were looking at the moon, the approximate time of day was known and the position of the moon at any given time can be computed

LETIN

The widely witnessed flaming object seen descending over Mexico, Arizona and Southern California the early morning of Feb. 12 could have been one of the first of the Holpuch objects to fall out of orbit.

According to early reports, the object, reported visible over an area some 600 miles in diameter for a period of more than 30 seconds, was traveling from southeast to northwest on a compass heading of approximately 305° . The Holpuch orbit had in fact been predicted to pass over that area within minutes of the actual time of appearance of the fireball and at a compass heading of about 290° .

This minor difference between prediction and observable fact could be accounted for by: 1) Lateral friction against the descending object as it entered the denser areas of the earth's atmosphere; 2) the possibility of error on the part of the untrained observers who witnessed the fireball; 3) the possibility of error in early computations of the Holpuch orbit, or 4) a combination of these factors.

Whether or not it was one of the Holpuch satellites, the fireball would seem to have been an object falling from a circular orbit around the earth rather than a meteor from outer space. A meteor, descending at an angle to the earth at regular speed could scarcely have remained visible after reaching the temperature of incandescence (about 4000° F.) in the atmosphere for so long a time as 30 seconds, while an object in orbit spiraling much more slowly toward the surface might easily do so (see drawing).

According to the Los Angeles Times, Dr. Frederick Leonard, professor of astronomy of the University of California at Los Angeles, is undertaking a study of all available reports on the fireball in an effort to determine its path as accurately as possible in the



hope of finding some fragments or signs of them if any struck the earth.

Whatever the conclusion, if the Holpuch computations are accurate, a good many more such appearances may be on the way, perhaps before this article reaches publication; and the likelihood is that they may be even more spectacular.

radius. (It is faster as the radius is shortened, as anyone can readily observe by swinging a ball around his head on a string.) Specifically, in the case of earth satellites, it takes two hours for an object to encircle the earth in stable orbit at an altitude of 1,095 miles (the orbit proposed for the famous von Braun space platform), $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours at about 620 miles, etc.).

By a substitution process of trial and error, then, making use of known quantities and observational estimates, it was predicated that the Holpuch objects were at an altitude of 341 miles above earth's surface, were in an orbit inclined from 35° to 40° from the equator and were of varying sizes from 60 to 100 feet in diameter. It is believed 140 or more of them are in the ring.

Next problem? Find them again.

Remember that the chance elements involved in the original sightings were such as to make the odds against another chance sighting run into astronomical figures. Required in the first place were conditions in which the orbit of the Holpuch objects coincided with that of the moon at a point in time shortly after sunset in such a manner that they would line up as viewed from a particular point on earth—a point at which an astronomer just happened to have his telescope aimed in the right direction at the right time—and on a clear night!

And, although the Holpuch observations had yielded some little information about the objects themselves, no conclusions were yet possible about the orbit itself beyond its apparent angle from the equator.

Numerous factors influence the movement of any celestial body, and most especially so a body in close orbit about the earth. First, the fact that the earth is not a sphere but an oblate (flattened) spheroid, 13 miles farther around at the equator than in other directions, would influence the movement of an object above it. Second, the gravitational effects of the sun, moon and other planets would exert a continuously variable pull upon the object in a variety of directions, perhaps so great as to cause considerable distortion. The astronomer Forest Ray Moulton concluded in his *Introduction to Celestial Mechanics* that only three possible orbits about the earth could be stable, and the Holpuch objects do not approximate any of the three (although they do closely approximate one of the orbits suggested for the Project Vanguard "Mouse"). Third, were the objects at 340 miles altitude already sufficiently close to the earth to be starting to be slowed down by the earth's atmosphere (as they have been concluded to be), they would then be slowly spiraling toward the earth in descending circles, with all of the other factors exerting an again continuously variable influence. Fourth, the orbit of an object about the earth would be subject to a certain retrogression (apparent backward movement), the product of whatever lack of timing existed between the rotation of the earth and the rotational velocity of the orbit. Again, if the orbit were descending, this, too, would be a variable factor. Finally, it was not known from the early observations whether the orbit was in fact



Photo courtesy Evanston Review
John Bagby, who performed much of the research related to the sightings of the Holpuch objects, shown beside his home-built telescope.

truly circular or whether it was (and to what degree) elliptical (egg-shaped, as many orbits, such as those of the comets, are).

It has later been concluded that while the orbit may have been elliptical at its outset some time ago, the influence of the upper atmosphere would militate toward its falling into a circular pattern.

Again, little of a positive nature is known with any certainty about the relative density of the outer atmosphere. Estimates vary from the view of some that density is negligible beyond the F₂ layer of the ionosphere (180 miles out) to the view of some students of the aurora who maintain that significant density is encountered as high as 600 to 800 miles.

With all of these matters taken together, the problem of finding the Holpuch objects again became a largely trial-and-error matter, with the observers armed only with a description of what they were looking for and some knowledge of when and how it might be seen.

Find them again they did, however.

Feb. 8, 1954, from his backyard at Skokie, Bagby made the third and fourth positive sightings, constituting between them a cross verification. At 6:50 PM Central Standard Time he observed the passing of five objects matching the Holpuch description traveling at a position angle of 275° with his telescope adjusted to an azimuth of 6° and an elevation of 49°. Wishing to verify his finding from another position in the orbit, he made quick adjustments along the line of the position angle and again, at 7:05 PM, witnessed the passing of four more similar objects at an azimuth setting of 28° and an elevation of 37°. Observations were made with a home-built 6-in. f8 reflector yielding 50X magnification, and transit times were in the order to

be anticipated.

With the data and new calculations derived from these observations, the Holpuch-Bagby team called for help.

A paper, "The Possibility of, and Search Techniques for, Other Satellites of the Earth," was hurriedly prepared and read before the July, 1954, meeting of the Astronomical League of America, a national organization of both amateur and professional astronomers. Along with it was presented a second paper, "The Application and Building of Maksutov-Type Telescopes," describing the type and potential production for the amateur of the instrument considered best suited for the type of observation required. The papers have been reprinted in the "Planetary Observers Bulletin, Vol. 7, No. 11."

Partially as a result, further observations poured in. Most of these were discounted by the team, working, as is their custom, only with the most carefully verified of data. But further positive sightings have been recorded as of Sept. 1, 5 and 6, 1955, and Dec. 18, 1955, the last of which is considered to provide an important "anchor" in the chain of evidence compiled.

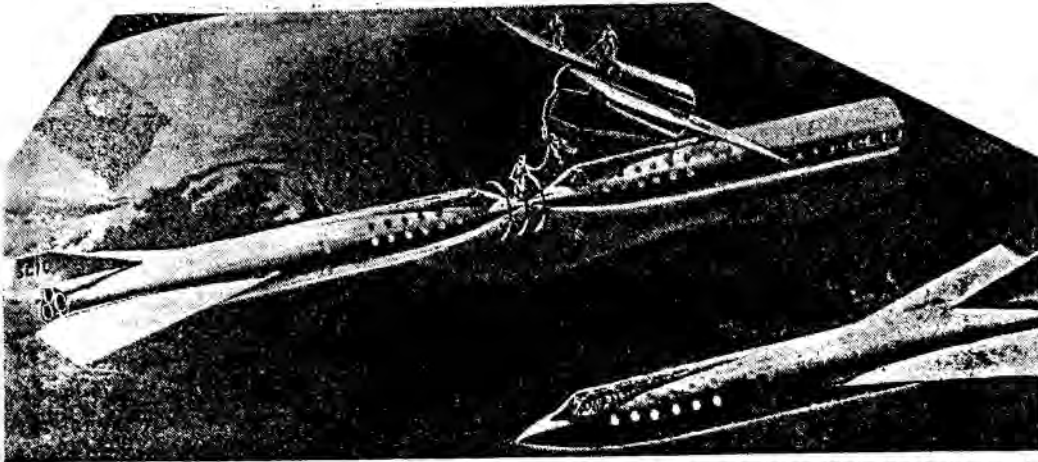
The December, '55, sighting was by David Meisel of Fairmont, W. Va., who first learned of the work through an early article in the *Evanston (Ill.) Review*, sent to him by a friend. Upon correspondence with the Holpuch-Bagby team, he had been advised where and when to look for the next after-sunset transit. He was carefully not told what to look for nor the angle of transit nor other pertinent data. His subsequent answers to a questionnaire, prepared by an independent team of semanticists, showed that this observer was not in possession of sufficient knowledge before the observation and report to have falsified his report and presented data in full accord with the predictions.

The way to these final conclusions was paved with confusion, contradictory evidence and no few sources of humor.

Most professional astronomers contacted by the team seemed ready to discard the entire matter with the judgment, "You are looking at birds or insects." Many today, even after publication of the total evidence, will do the same.

In the search for further sightings of the Holpuch objects, in the early phase of the investigation, repeated sightings were made of objects in dark (not glowing) transit. One group of these was definitely determined to be birds in migration—the edges flapped when focused on closely. But in the process it was determined that some birds migrate at a height hitherto unknown—in the order of three miles and more of altitude. (Ornithologists, take note.)

At another point, a group of transiting objects was observed with sufficient clarity that two great midwestern observatories were persuaded to focus a 24-inch and a 40-inch telescope on the objects, while the Holpuch-Bagby team worked with their relatively small equipment set up as a range-finder with a 46-foot base. The conclu-



Goodyear Aircraft aerophysicist Darrel Romick suggests using ferry rockets as building blocks for first manned satellite. Initial rockets would be butt-joined with portion of each craft being brought forward to secure the two ships. A dozen or so of these rockets would form basic cylinder suitable for living and conducting functions of space station in the satellite orbit.

sion, to the great embarrassment of all concerned, was that insects were in migration at an altitude of 600 to 800 feet and above. The co-operating observatories must, of course, remain unnamed; but their results might readily go down in another field of science: Insects, by all presently known standards, do not migrate at night. (Entomologists, take note.)

But the Holpuch objects do glow—indicating their altitude beyond the range of birds or insects; and they do not flap; and they do follow a precise course, which has now, through the number of credited sightings, been charted with what is thought to be considerable accuracy. And all other sightings, interesting though they may be in other fields, have been thrown out in the final determinations.

At this writing, Mr. Bagby is expected to present his final report on the research project, complete with technical data, for the consideration of astronomers, at the convention of the Astronomical League of America, in Miami, July 2.

He is expected to tell them that the Holpuch objects may have been formed of a body of material either the result of the breaking up of a small, unrecorded moon, or from the "capturing" by the gravitational field of the earth of a swarm of meteors which was proceeding in the same direction as was the earth when they approached one another. Thus, with a lessened difference in speed, the earth was able to swing them into orbit. (It is ordinarily thought that a meteor passing the earth would be traveling at too high a velocity to be caught in the earth's gravitational field.)

He is also expected to report that from fragmentary references it is possible that the Holpuch ring was in the 1880's some 1,500 to 1,800 miles out from the earth, was sighted then from points in Mexico, but was discarded because the astronomers were sure "it couldn't happen."

In addition, he is expected to explain how veri-

fied observations have tracked the ring from an originally sighted altitude of 340 to 380 miles down to the point at which at the time of writing in early March, 1956, they are at a likely altitude of little more than 50 miles.

He will relate how the objects, the smaller ones first, followed by the larger and more spectacular ones, will drop into the denser portions of the earth's atmosphere, become incandescent and thus visible and will form perhaps the most spectacular "meteor" display in the earth's history, with perhaps much of the display scheduled to happen before his actual delivery of the paper. (See Bulletin on page 107.)

He feels that there is only a 5% probability that any of the fragments will reach the earth, although the possibility of their doing so is greater than with meteors from outer space, some of which have done so with cataclysmic results.

Mr. Holpuch and Mr. Bagby are men of retiring mein, not seekers of fame. This report, in fact, is being published over their protestations, since they feel that their findings should be subjected to the scrutiny of the recognized experts in the field before they be made public. Its resume is published here because the editors of this publication feel that the public is entitled to the consideration of all of the information available as Project Vanguard, launching the first man-made satellite into outer space, becomes a fact.

And their findings, it has been learned, have aroused the interest, if not the agreement, not only of other amateurs, but of some very prominent astronomers and other professional experts associated with the satellite program.

Other astronomers and mathematicians, who have not as yet at the time of writing studied the Holpuch-Bagby findings, are characteristically using the dogmatic approach of the textbooks—"There ain't no such animal."

The tests of time and scientific scrutiny will determine who is right.

*Two Experienced British Airline Pilots Tell
The Detailed, Expert Story Of How They Saw*

THE FLYING SAUCER OVER THE CHANNEL

TWO experienced British European Airways pilots have reported to London Airport that on a recent flight to Paris they watched FOR 30 MINUTES a mysterious object in the sky that might have been a "flying saucer."

Captain Peter Fletcher, of Putney, has been a pilot for 18 years, first with the R.A.F. and, since its beginning, with B.E.A.; First Officer R. L. Lemon, of Iwer, Bucks, became a pilot in the R.A.F. 14 years ago. Both are therefore trained observers as well as skilled pilots.

EACH DESCRIBED THE INCIDENT TECHNICALLY AND DISPASSIONATELY. NEITHER HAS THE LEAST DOUBT THAT HE SAW AN "UNUSUAL AIRCRAFT" OF SOME DESCRIPTION.

They agree, although they cannot prove it, that they were not deceived by a trick of light.

Here is their story, factual and unvarnished. It is told by Captain Fletcher:

OUR Elizabethan flight left London Airport at nine o'clock on the morning of October 9. There was a certain amount of low cloud and fog, but when we climbed we found ourselves in an absolutely clear atmosphere.

The sky was intensely blue. There was not a cloud. The sun shone brilliantly. It was one of those rare days

to 150 feet. I judged this other aircraft was flying at approximately 20,000 feet and was about the same distance from me as the Constellation or probably a further 20 miles away.

After watching the two aircraft—and I had no reason up to now to think that the other object was not an aircraft—it became apparent that there was a subtle difference between the two.

I must get a little technical here. Both my aircraft and the Constellation were on precisely the same course and therefore its bearing from me remained exactly the same, but as it was

They Watched It, Measured It, Discussed It Technically For Over Half An Hour



Captain Peter Fletcher and First Officer Lemon

shallow saucers with their rims together. We noticed that:

1. Its relative position to ourselves remained completely unchanged for the whole of the 30 minutes that we had it under observation. It appeared to be still.

2. The intensity of reflected light from the top surface remained absolutely steady until the last ten minutes of observation when

30 minutes a course exactly the same without showing some variation in apparent position relative to our own aircraft, for they would be flying twice as fast.

Remember also that we could see variation in the apparent position in the Constellation.

The most striking thing to both of us was the absence of fluctuation in the intensity of the reflected light.

I admit that at one time I toyed with the idea that it might be a balloon. But it would obviously have had to be an enormous balloon and later observation confirmed the elliptical shape. In this it had the properties of an aircraft wing, being roughly one-tenth as deep as it was long.

It was impossible to estimate the size of the object because we did not know how far away it was from us. The day was so clear that it could have been an extremely large craft up to 100 miles away.

How Big?

GIVEN the size of an object one can estimate its distance away. Given the distance one can estimate size. We knew neither.

It certainly looked as big as the Constellation and was farther away from us. How far we could not judge but we estimated that it was somewhere over Northern France.

Neither of us has any doubt

about one thing: We were not deceived by a trick of light.

WE HAVE NO DOUBT SOEVER THAT THE OBJECT WAS SOLID, HAVING AN APPROXIMATELY THIN AIRCRAFT WING THAT IT WAS CONSTRUCTED OF A METAL SIMILAR TO THAT USED FOR AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION ONLY. MORE HIGHLY POLISHED.

In 18 years of flying I have never seen anything like it. It had been visible for seconds or even for a few minutes I would have dismissed it as an illusion or a trick of light.

But we had our "saucer" observation for a full hour. We had time to discuss it, to estimate its size. A radio officer saw it and brought along the steward to confirm what we saw.

Certainly we saw some material in the sky. Whether it was a "flying saucer" cannot say.

But we will not dismiss it as a trick of imagination—not 30 minutes of wondering would be.

If it wasn't another conventional aircraft, and I have my reasons why we do not think it was, then what was it? Maybe your guess is as good as mine... but we saw

object seemed to be following a four-engine airplane, and was flying 'very high.'

"They said it was much smaller than the plane and had 'no projections'—such as wings or tail assembly.

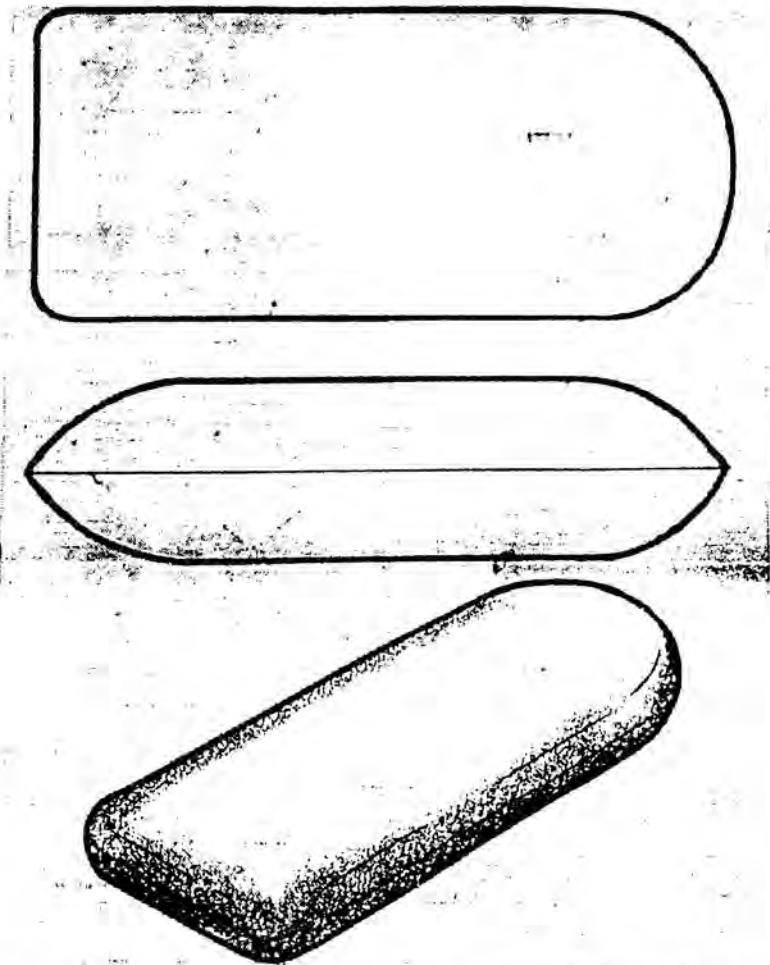
"The plane did not make any effort to avoid the object, the women said, although the 'oval' did fly alongside, in front and behind the plane during the time they saw it."
(xx.)

(xx.) Albany, New York. *Times-Union*. 24 October 53. p.2.

25 October. Santa Fe, New Mexico. Jimmie Milligan and "The Thing."

(See drawing by the 16-year-old)

(See my monograph
UFOs: A History 1953
August-December.



*Flying 'Thing' Baffles SF Youth;
It Soared Away When He Came Near* (xx.)

(xx.) Santa Fe, New Mexico. *The New Mexican*. 3 November 53.

Fall 1953. Eastern panhandle of West Virginia. (afternoon)

Scientists see "flying saucer."

In a letter to the editor of *Science* in 1966, a biologist wrote:

"Hynek's letter (21 Oct.) makes me feel better. As a fishery biologist, I have almost felt ashamed that I, too, among other scientists, have seen a 'flying saucer.' In the fall of 1953 in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, it was there on the horizon, about a mile away—looked 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 meters) in diameter—glistening in the crystal-clear sunny afternoon. It moved vertically from an on-the-horizon position, then to the left, to the right, and finally descended to the horizon. Then with phenomenal speed it took off to the right on a high sweeping curve out of sight. In my car with me were two other fishery biologists, who saw what I saw and we all agreed it was the 'flying saucer' often described in the press that year, and probably what a doctor in that part of West Virginia had been reporting. I suggested we report it, but one of my assistants felt it might be classified as 'fishy' since it was from three fishery biologists! One of the viewers was a former P-38 pilot.

"The result of a scientist's reluctance to report such sightings is that these incidents remain merely conversational comment at parties. Now I feel relieved that Hynek has given the scientific observer freedom to talk about those crazy flying machines.

E.A. Seaman

*American Fisheries Society,
15th and New York Avenue, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20005.*" (xx.)

(xx.) *Science*. Letters to the editor. Vol. 154. December 2, 1966.

October 1953. Sao Paulo, Brazil. (4:00 p.m.)

A sort of halo or smoke.

A brief note from South America says:

"Sao Paulo, Capital, Oct., '53—At 4 p.m. of a day forgotten by the druggist Afonso Leiva, he saw a UFO over Sao Paulo, disk-shaped and black [in] color, with apparently a full moon diameter. The F.S. [UFO] crossed the sun two times, and afterwards disappeared vertically in [at an?] incredible velocity doing spiral movements. Afonso Leiva saw yet [sic] some sort of halo or smoke to get [sic] loose from the disk." (xx.)

(xx.) *UFO-Critical Bulletin*. ed. J. Escobar Faria. Sao Paulo, Brazil. No.1—January 1957. p.2.

November, 1953. Tapu, New Zealand. (1:15 a.m.)

Object with a "turret."

A Miss M.E. Barrer wrote Harold H. Fulton of the CSI New Zealand about her UFO experience. This is an interesting case and Miss Barrer should be considered a qualified observer unless she suffered from some mental problem. Harold Fulton recorded this account:

"It happened in November 1953 on a hot moonlit night at Tapu, 15 miles from Thames where she had rented a cottage. She could not sleep and went out on to the veranda at 1:15 a.m. There was a high hill at the back of the cottage. It was very high, about 2,000 feet. Suddenly she noticed an object coming with a rotating motion till it was above the gully at the back of the house but still a good height above the hill. There it hung and then let itself down as if on an elastic [string?], rotating all the time and coming down in jerks till it was only two hundred feet above the gully at the back of the house. She and a Maori girl staying with her watched it for an hour, when it moved off pulling itself up as if on an elastic and rotating, whirling in the opposite direction used in descending and going up with the same jerky movement as when coming down.

"It was near enough for her to see a lot of detail. At the bottom its shape was round. There was an egg-shaped turret on the center, with portholes, and at the top a small turret out of which a steady light showed. Miss Barrer was intensely interested in the apparent purposeful actions of those aboard the saucer. Colored lights showed from the portholes [They were Red, green, and yellow]...

"Only one color at a time. Red would show first only as faint pin point and would increase to a powerful beam [Emphasis in the original] which shone out of all the portholes. Then the same procedure would occur with the other two colors. Each color switched off completely before the next one showed up.

"The color of the saucer was GREY [Emphasis in the original] and it made no sound. It seemed a solid object.

"When Miss Barrer first saw it she went to get an alarm clock and a torch [flashlight]. Standing on the verandah, as an experiment, she shone her torch, which was a powerful one, at the saucer. Immediately they [the "saucer men"] their lights off. Miss Barrer wondered if they didn't like having the torch pointed at them. She switched off the torch and the house lights and after a while the saucer lit up again.

"With regard to the speed of the saucer, when first seen it was traveling fast, perhaps faster than a meteor jet [There was a British jet named "the meteor."].

"She could observe more detail than if it had been an airplane because it remained stationary for so long and there was bright moonlight to see by, as well as the lights of the craft.

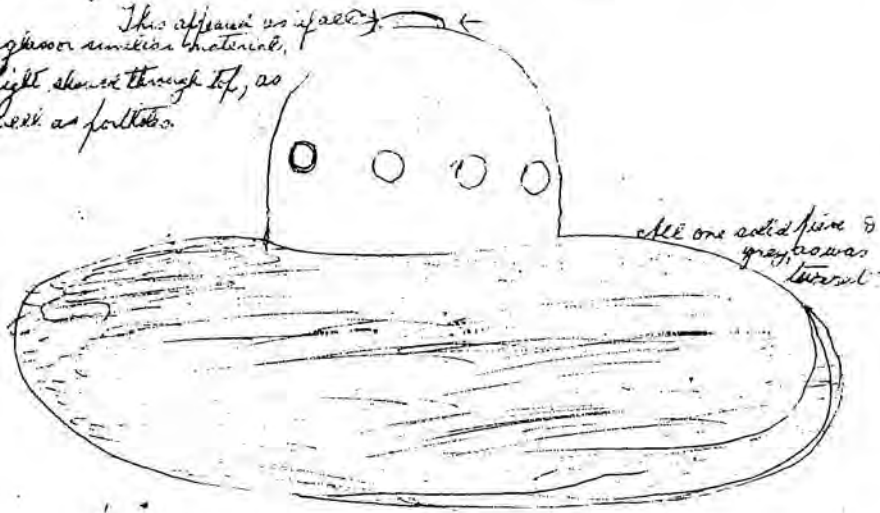
"Some people get quite scared if they see a saucer at close quarters. But not Miss Barrer. She thinks they are friendly and was quite happy about it. She thinks that we ought to be grateful that they are visiting us. She wondered what they were doing up there behind her house and thought they might be photographing or something in that line.

"Miss Barrer is an experienced air pilot. She flew for years with the Airaripa and Ruahine Air Clubs, and also in England. During the war [she] was a V.A.D. and was in the Air Force at Rongotai in Salvage." (xx.) (See drawings on page 36)

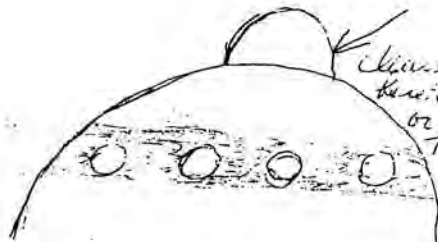
- (xx.) Investigative report by Harold Fulton after Miss Barrer wrote a letter to him on July 18, 1954. Murray Bott files, Auckland, New Zealand.

Portholes should be all the same size, but in my drawing, the bottom one is round, I'm afraid mine isn't, I didn't notice anything else about it except the small top above the tunnel. I reckon the crew were in the tunnel.

This appears as if all glass or similar material, light shows through top, as much as portholes.



All one solid piece of grey, brown or black.



When white light showed there was no red, green or yellow at any time. This remained steady.

Solid object, no moving parts, no light, no sound.

I had no idea they might have been photographing or its equivalent, to judge by the performance.

Miss Barrer's drawings.

(She may have been under the influence of the Potter report of early October)

(xx.) Investigative report by Harold Fulton after Miss Barrer wrote a letter to him on July 18, 1954. Murray Bott files, Auckland, New Zealand.

12 November. Meiners Oaks, California. (around 5:00 p.m.)

"Well, was it?"

A sighting published in the local paper:

"Were flying saucers over Ojai Valley last Thursday, November 12, around 5 p.m.?"

"That's the question two Meiners Oaks women are asking as they reported seeing two bright objects hovering over the Ventura riverbed around five o'clock. Mrs. Leroy Byers of 166 South Arnaz Street, and Mrs. Eina Chamera, both saw the objects very clearly, they report.

"The objects were described by Mrs. Byers as being two silver disks without tails or wings and being very bright. They came out of a small white cloud, the only one in the sky at that time, and after hovering a few minutes suddenly disappeared leaving only a red glow, they reported.

"The objects did not make any noise or vibration [sic] and slowly moved together, Mrs. Byers said.

"A check with the sky watchers [GOC?] in Oak View found nothing had been reported at that time on their log." (xx.)

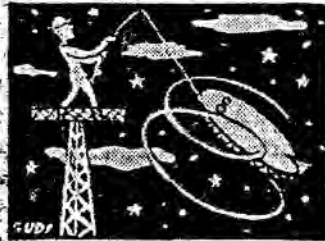
(xx.) Ojai, California. *The Ojai*. 19 November 53.

12 November. Smith's detector. (See clipping)

13 November. Saucer project denied. (See clipping)

Flying Saucers Project Denied
QUEBEC, Nov. 13 (Canadian Press)—Dr. O. M. Solandt, chairman of the Canadian Defense Research Board, denied today that the board was associated with an Ottawa research program on flying saucers.

Saucer Detector 1954
 Canada's Transport Department is fishing for flying saucers.
 W. B. Smith, engineer in charge of the Broadcast and Measurement Section of the Department, says a laboratory for saucer-sighting station is under construction at Shirley's Bay, 10 miles northwest of Ottawa, and should be in operation in a few days.



The station is designed to detect gamma rays, magnetic fluctuations, radio noises, and gravity or mass changes in the atmosphere.

Smith says if there are any interplanetary flying saucers, "they must work on some technology which has something in common with our own basic physics. If that is so, our equipment will be able to detect them."

SUNDAY HERALD

FINAL **No Fear..No Favor**  **The People's Paper** ★★★★★

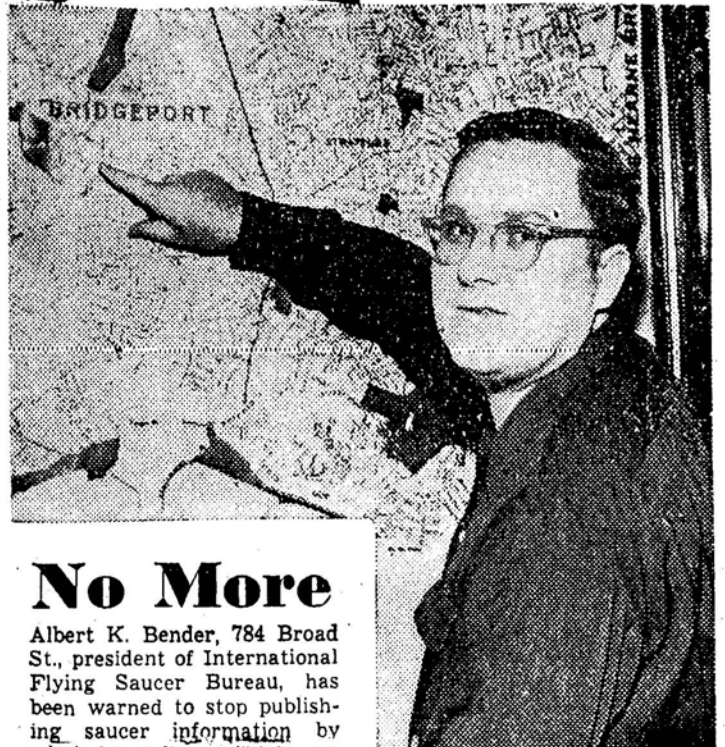
VOL. LXVII, NO. 47 Entered as Second Class Matter Post Office, Bridgeport, Conn. BRIDGEPORT 9, CONN., NOV. 22, 1953 299 Lafayette St. Telephone 4-1161 15 CENTS

MYSTERY VISITORS HALT RESEARCH

Saucerers Here Ordered to Quit

By LEM MCCOLLUM

The International Flying Saucer Bureau, a world-wide fact-seeking organization with headquarters at 784 Broad



No More

Albert K. Bender, 784 Broad St., president of International Flying Saucer Bureau, has been warned to stop publishing saucer information by what he calls a "high authority."

Al Bender makes news.

(See clipping)

In the monograph *UFOs: A History 1953 August-December*, p.40, it says, "[Jim] Moseley had been IFSB's director of investigations for some months..." Karl Pflock corrects this error, "Actually, it was Gray Barker who had been such. Jim had just started in 'saucering' when he visited Al Bender in November 1953." (xx.)

(xx.) Personal communication.

Moseley's Odyssey.

A young Jim Moseley, allowed freedom of action by a large inheritance, and bitten by the UFO bug, set out in 1953 to interview as many UFO "personalities" and UFO witnesses he could find so he could write a book.

One of his first contacts was a Mr. Brewster, an assistant to the president of Republic Aviation, a Long Island aircraft manufacturer. For Brewster, saucer investigating was an official activity on behalf of the company. Apparently it was a business decision to try and learn something about the "mysterious super-planes" cavorting in the nation's skies.

From what Brewster had learned, the Air Force did not know what UFOs could be, or what kind of engine provided the power for such a craft if indeed they were machines. Getting useful data from military was difficult, Brewster told Moseley. Furthermore, Brewster said, UFO reports contained conflicting information. (xx.)

(xx.) Moseley, James W. And Karl T. Pflock. *Shockingly Close to the Truth*. Prometheus Books: Amherst, New York, 2002, p.43.

Evidently the same "Mr. Brewster" is mentioned in an Air Force OSI document dated October 3, 1951. The gentleman "received authority" to question an Air Force pilot who had encountered a UFO over Sandy Hook, New Jersey. (See the monograph *UFOs: A History 1951*, pp.67-68) (Note: Brewster's papers could be an interesting read if they are still in storage somewhere)

Moseley and Farmington.

Late in the year (December?) Moseley left the West Coast and traveled east through New Mexico. He stopped at the city of Farmington en-route to Colorado. The small New Mexican community, tucked away in the northwest corner of the State, had been host to an aerial armada of UFOs on St. Patrick's Day in 1950.

Moseley, one of the few investigators to visit the place and obtain testimony first hand, found that the observations made by the citizens did not compare well with the Skyhook balloon theory.

Farmington florist John Burrell, although admitting the objects "fluttered or oscillated," did not subscribe to the "wind-blown fragments" idea. The objects he saw moved horizontally and kept a "regularly spaced formation." Besides that, Burrell claimed another sighting that occurred hours after the first reports. He saw a single object spiral downward and then shoot straight up until it could no longer be seen. The maneuver only took a few seconds.

Moseley also met John Eaton, the WWII veteran quoted in news accounts. Eaton affirmed what he said three years before. The objects looked like silver dinner plates.

A real-estate agent by the name of Robert Foutz agreed there had been more than a half-dozen round objects zig-zagging around in the sky before noon.

Moreover, Marlo Webb and Robert Rhein, employed at Farmington Perry Smoak's Chevrolet Dealership, witnessed bright dots high up moving about erratically. Rhein said the objects were solid, white-colored, and round in shape. (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid. pp.87-90.

25 November. Rose Lodge, Oregon. (2:10-2:21 a.m.)

How fast did it move?

According to a letter on file with CUFOS:

"I don't know what woke me at 2:10 a.m. on November 25 November 1953, for although I listened carefully I could hear nothing. After five years as a trained observer for the Air Corps, I was as tuned in to the sound of a plane as a new mother to a baby, but there was nothing to indicate that a plane was in the Rose Lodge, Oregon, area.

"Afraid I might have missed a plane, I put on a robe and slippers, grabbed up a report pad and flashlight and went out in the backyard.

"At first I didn't see anything, then I spotted a green glow near the top of a small mountain north of us. I watched it slowly turn a cherry red. Then suddenly it was no longer in that spot, but was several air miles to the east and again sitting still. It gradually lost the red, neon-like glow and again turned green, but then continued to change color until it looked almost like gray mist.

"According to my notes I had begun waiting at 2:13. At 2:19 the UFO again changed to red and without being aware that it had moved, it was hovering straight above me. I continued to stand and stare for another two minutes—than it was gone! I had the impression that it moved vertically but there was no motor sound, or the whish of displaced air one would expect.

"For a total of eight minutes I had witnessed a glowing object that moved faster than anything I have ever see, and vanished without a sound.

"I sent a written report of the UFO to the Ground Observer Filter Center in Portland, Oregon and received the following letter from the C.O., Maj. George Manussier. (Copy of letter enclosed)

"I later learned that a teenaged neighbor, Paul Cory, had seen the UFO at the same time I had and although he was several miles away from my location it appeared to be directly above him, too, so it must have been quite large. A State policeman, whose name I have forgotten, was on patrol out of Salem. He spotted the UFO while it was still showing against the mountain and was so startled he ran off the highway." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: No name. From: Mrs. E.G. McNutt, Star Route, Grand Rounde, Oregon. Date of letter: Not given. CUFOS archives. The letter from Major Manussier that accompanied the narrative report appears authentic. The Major's letter is dated 27 November 53. What makes this report of special interest is the suggestion the UFO could move so fast across the sky it seemed to "disappear" and "reappear," a startling idea in 1953.

27 November. Municipality of Surrey, Canada. (10:00 to 10:05 p.m.)

Strange lights in Canadian skies. (See official report on pages 41-42)

28 November. The Air Force's special cameras. (See clipping on page 43)

2 December. ?Near ?Flagstaff, Arizona. (about 6:00 p.m.)

A news report reprinted in *Fate* magazine asserts:

"Two former Air Force men, Calvin B. Decker and Dave Bunch, wrote a story for the Southwest *Timberline*, monthly newspaper of Southwest Lumber Mills, Inc., which

Att'n Command Intelligence Officer

1 Seven (7) unidentified objects of unknown size, described as brilliant silver discs, were observed by two civilians in the Municipality Of Surrey, B.C. (Approximately 25 miles south of Vancouver.) These objects remained stationery except for vertical motion. Objects faded from view with no sound having been heard and no trail of exhaust having been noticed.

3 Observation was by the naked eye by the observers standing on the side of the road in Surrey.

4 These objects appeared in a south easterly direction from where the observers were standing at a 30 degree angle from them. They remained in this position for approximately five minutes and then faded from sight. During the time in view, one of these discs seemed to descend and became brighter as it came nearer the ground. The observers would roughly estimate that these objects were three or four miles from the observation point. Height estimated 1200 feet.

5 Observers were [REDACTED] Research Assistant with the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board of British Columbia and Mrs. [REDACTED], formerly a Graduate Assistant in Geography and Geology at the University of British Columbia. Both observers are in complete agreement in all the main points although they were together during the observations.

6 Weather at 2130 PST was 3500 feet scattered strato-cumulus, two tenths, and alto-cumulus eight tenths. Surface wind was 10 knots from the east north east. Winds aloft were unobtainable.

7 No activity or condition which might account for the sighting is known to this office.

8 The observers were not able to obtain any pictures, etc., of this activity.

9 No interception ~~and~~ or identification action was taken at this station as this report was not received until 4 Dec 53.

10 To our knowledge there were no aircraft in the immediate vicinity during this period of time.

11 It is certain that the objects were not aircraft and a check made with the Meteorological Office shows that no weather balloons were released during this period.

(Signed) H.B. Taylor F/O
for Commanding Officer
RCAF Station, Sea Island

Encl:

Statement of [REDACTED]

COPY

COPY

COPY

NOT 28-1953

Air Force Has Special Cameras Ready in Case 'Saucer' Appears

'Diffraction Grain' Equipment Separates Light Into Component Parts, Might Solve Mystery.

1953

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (INS)—The Air Force said today it has special cameras ready to try to solve the "flying saucer" mystery—if some accommodating saucers now will fly into the range of the cameras.

At the same time, the Air Force admitted it still is baffled by 10 per cent of the 250 reports it got in 1953—although its score is better than the 20 per cent unexplained among the 1700 sightings in what the Air Force termed "the bumper year of 1952."

In a new report, the Air Force pointed to the ready photographic equipment as offering a possible solution for the unexplained saucers. But no photographs from the cameras, installed at certain air base control towers and radar sites, are yet available.

The equipment, the Air Force said, consists of a "diffraction grain camera" which separates light into its component parts. The principle involved, it was stated, is the same as that used by astronomers in determining the composition of stars.

The Air Force repeated also its earlier position and declared that the 25 unexplained flying saucers reported in 1953 are not secret weapons, missiles or aircraft developed by the United States. It added that "no authentic physical evidence has been received establishing the existence of space ships from other planets."

A spokesman brushed off the theory that the saucers appear

more frequently over areas where atomic work or tests are conducted. He said "saucers are reported over atomic areas and they are reported elsewhere. We don't find any difference in areas."

The Air Force renewed also its denial that it is suppressing any reports other than some which it said might divulge capabilities of military aircraft, radar and electronic devices.

It said that it does not possess photographs proving the existence of saucers and commented that because still photographs "can be so easily faked, they are practically worthless as evidence."

A possible explanation for some of the mysterious lights, the Air Force said, is upside-down atmosphere. That, it explained, consists of air layers in which the warmer air is on top instead of below.

Those "temperature inversion" reflections can give a return on a radarscope that is as sharp as that received from aircraft.

Ionized clouds have probably caused some unidentifiable returns on radar, the Air Force said. The most common sightings, the report said, are sunlight reflections from polished surfaces of aircraft, or from weather balloons. Unusually bright meteors also cause flurries of reports, and at times the planet Venus, low on the horizon, appears to change color and move erratically.

described a UFO they had seen while working for the company.

"They were taking a load of trash to the dump when they sighted the object. Decker said: 'I noticed what I first thought was an airplane flying low between us and town. I commented that it surely had a lot more lights on, then examined it closely. It wasn't lighted like an ordinary airplane which has lights only on wing tips, etc. This thing radiated light from every part of it.'

"The two described the object as seeming to be 'perfectly round or disk-shaped. But as we were seeing it from the side view it was hard to tell exactly. It appeared to be spinning and traveling at 300 miles an hour or more.

" 'The strangest thing about it is that it didn't make a sound—not the slightest. We could have heard a Piper Cub from where we were. It came from the north and we watched it for perhaps 30 seconds until it flipped behind the hill to the south of us.

" 'It was suggested that it was a jet plane with the sun reflecting on it to give it the illuminated appearance. It was nearly 6 p.m. and the sun had been down half an hour. Had it been a jet we'd have heard it. What is it?' (xx.)

(xx.) San Francisco, California. *Examiner*. 3? December 53.

Early December. Tucker's Town, Bermuda. (1:20 a.m.)

Does Big 3 talk interest Martians?

A UP dispatch states:

"Backstairs at the White House (advance section):

"The Martians—if that's where the flying saucers come from—are quite interested in what President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and French Premier Joseph Laniel will be doing here this weekend.

"A foreman for a commercial aircraft service company [J.E. Cooper] here reported at 1:20 in the morning early this week [Sunday] that a flying saucer was circling the island.

"This man described it as a 'silvery yellow' object. U.S. Air Force officers were not at all alarmed and the advanced party from Washington took no extra precautions.

"The Martians could not get in the Mid-Ocean club—site of the Big Three meeting—even if they landed a fleet of saucers here for the simple reason they have no proper passes and probably would arrive without dinner jackets." (xx.)

(xx.) Tucker's Town, Bermuda. Dec. 4 (UP)

A seer of sorts.

Another news story had this to say:

"Bronson Harley, Bermuda deep-sea diver and a seer of sorts, predicted some time ago that flying saucers would appear over Bermuda during the conference.

"It was Hartley's fanciful theory that atom bomb explosions were disturbing the

outer hemisphere. Curious interplanetary beings would come in their saucers to find out what the Big Three planned to do about peace and the infernal disturbances, Hartley reasoned." (xx.)

(xx.) Miami, Florida. *The Miami Herald*. 6 December 53.

6 December. Tauranga, New Zealand. (about 8:00 p.m.)

Appearance of a great chandelier.

A New Zealand paper reported:

"An object in the sky 'which might have been a flying saucer' was seen by Mrs. H. Spencer, of Fraser Street, Tauranga, at about 8 o'clock last evening. The object, said Mrs. Spencer, appeared to be hovering in the sky at no great distance, a little to the north. It was round, bright and silvery and have the appearance of a great chandelier. Suddenly it shot upward with a terrific hiss, turned and streaked across the sky to the south-east.

"After the object had disappeared a trail of pink and white 'cloud' hung in the sky for about five minutes." (xx.)

(xx.) Tauranga?, New Zealand. *The Bay of Plenty Times*. 7 December 53.

Murray Bott files, Auckland, New Zealand.

8? December. Conneaut, Ohio. (no time)

Brown pie plate.

A Cleveland paper printed:

"A 'flying saucer' or something that looked like one is responsible for intensification of a drive in Conneaut for enough volunteers to operate the Ground Observation Corps post 24 hours a day.

"The object, described as brown, and shaped like a pie plate, was seen heading east along the Lake Erie shoreline at about 2,000 feet. It circled several times and then sped east and disappeared, according to James Marshall of Conneaut, one of the first to observe it.

"The GOC post was not open at the time but a formal report on it was filed with the Canton Filter Center based on witnesses stories." (xx.)

(xx.) Cleveland, Ohio. *News*. 8 December 53.

Early December. Brooklyn, New York. (night)

Gets the "run-a-round."

Dorothy Kilgallen's column.

ny Journal-American 4/28/54

The Voice of Broadway:

Flying Discs and Things

Flatbush Observer Gets Run-Around

By DOROTHY KILGALLEN

Let's Play Postoffice

A READER WHO HAS NOTED THIS DEPARTMENT'S interest in unidentified flying objects (I'm the girl who has believed in flying saucers for sometime, even though I've never seen one) reports he has ogled a disc with his own baby blues—and where else but in the skies over Brooklyn?

Robert A. Gahn is his name, he lives at 1331 E. 37th st., in the Boro of the Bums, and he writes, "All joking aside, Miss Kilgallen, it was my rare privilege to observe UFO's on a cold Saturday night in early December. One of them sailed around (above a broken layer of thin clouds) over this section of Flatbush for the best part of half an hour. My wife and her mother also witnessed this strange phenomenon."

"I thought it my duty to report it to some interested source."

"First I phoned the local precinct, which referred me to Civilian Defense (a Main phone number) which did not choose to answer. Then the local boys connected me with Police Headquarters at Bergen st., which in turn connected me with the Army at Fort Tilden. A Master Sergeant politely informed me there were meteors visible at that season

of the year. He wasn't visibly interested."

"Now I ask you—what goes on?"

"Recently I obtained a copy of Major Kenoe's book, 'Flying Saucers from Outer Space' which I highly recommend as interesting reading. It tends to explain the snafu that exists on this subject. Thank you for your interest."

And all I can say to this is thank you, Mr. Gahn, and I don't know what goes on. I can't understand the Army's refusal to admit that there is something in the sky besides pie, ever, when it has been seen and sworn to not only by a gentleman from Brooklyn but that most reliable and eagle-eyed of parties, his mother-in-law!

13 December. Flying Saucer "Fact Sheets." (See clipping below)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1953 WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL AND SENTINEL

Pupils Seek Flying Saucer 'Fact Sheets'

By Eleanor Nance
Journal and Sentinel Bureau

WASHINGTON. — The Air Force reported last week that interest in "flying saucers" is high among eighth and ninth grade students, many of whom are requesting copies of the Air Force "fact sheet" on "unusual aerial phenomena."

The "fact sheet" was issued last month, and a spokesman said that about half of the correspondence on Project Saucer has come from high school students who "are evidently using it for themes and debates."

The spokesman recalled that for a while "a lot of people" were concerned because they thought the Air Force was withholding information about the "saucers."

"We got so much mail from people asking us not to shoot at them because they might be friendly," the spokesman continued. "They seemed to think our fighters had orders to attack these saucers—which was certainly not the case."

Another misconception is that the U. S. is working with foreign governments and withholding any information gleaned in the collective study of saucers. The Air Force emphatically denies that this country has any project on saucers operating with that of any other country.

Since the fall of 1947, however, the Air Force has been on record as officially noting the "flying saucers" when reports from the public indicated that the matter might involve the air defense of the United States. The Air Materiel Command, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, was directed to set up a project to collect and evaluate all available facts concerning the "flying saucer" sightings.

Air Materiel in turn obtained the services of civilian and military astronomers, psychologists, aeronautical engineers and physicists to aid in study and research. Last year was the "bumper" year for saucers with 1,700 reports received by the Air Force. During the first half of 1953 only 250 reports were received, and perhaps significantly, half came from military sources.

The Air Force reported in its fact sheets that some of the investigations of sightings disclosed that what had been seen was a jet aircraft or a weather balloon or some natural phenomena. Only

10 per cent of the sightings this year are labeled "unexplainable," and a spokesman said this was the case "because we did not get enough basic data on the original report to make a thorough and complete investigation."

On December 10 the Air Force press office was prepared to hear an official Air Force report which

— Missing part of article —

Meanwhile, he added, Flying Saucer Clubs have sprung up around the country and in Europe. There is one organization known formally as the British Interplanetary Society. There are publications called "Space Reviews" and there are potential bird men who call themselves "Saucerteers."

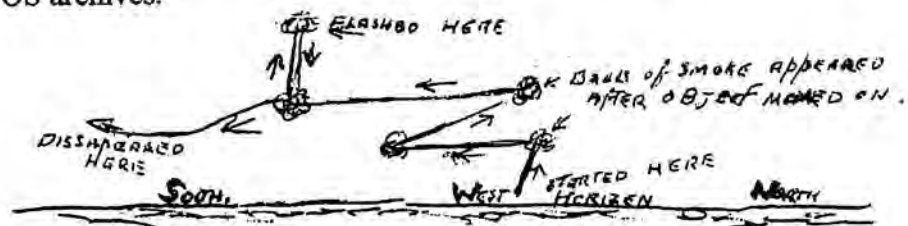
Then of course, aside from these adult interests in the space world, there are the radio and television and comic book rocket men and space men, now so popular in the juvenile world that Santa Claus will be delivering an unprecedented load of interplanetary garb to thousands of American homes.

15 December. Northwest of Toronto, Canada. (between 4-5:00 p.m.)

Complicated course.

Mr. Reginald Harris claimed he was motoring down Highway 401 northwest of Toronto on the 15th of December when he saw his "flying saucer." The sun had set but there was still some daylight. He first saw the object above the western horizon moving upward. From there the Star-like body followed a complicated course, leaving behind "balls of smoke" each time it stopped momentarily to change direction. (See drawing by Mr. Harris below) (xx.)

(xx.) NICAP UFO Report Form. Mr. Reginald Harris, 68 Golfdown Dr., Rexdale Ontario, Canada. CUFOS archives.



21 December. 10 miles north of Waiouru, New Zealand. (1:15-1:30 p.m.)

Strange cloud formation. (See below).

Civilian Saucer Investigation

(NEW ZEALAND)

President
H. H. FULTON

Secretary
R. J. CAVARIS

Address of Informant
44 Seaview Avenue
Northcote, Auckland.

Report By Mr S.L. Pegre and his
Sister of Strange cloud formation
witnessed and photographed 21 Dec. 1954
10 miles north of Waiouru, as submitted
to Tangiwhai Inquiry.

P.O. BOX 1914
AUCKLAND,
NEW ZEALAND.

Strange Cloud Formation

The object photographed by my sister and myself on Dec., 21st 1953 and described below was first noticed at 1.15 p.m. approx when our car was 10 miles north of Waiouru. The object was jokingly spoken of as a flying saucer and appeared to be about due east of Ruapehu and over the general direction of the road. At about 1.30 pm. (we were travelling at 35 mph.) it became evident that the object was stationary and that we might pass under it. I stopped the car and photographed it. When we were opposite Ruapehu summit, we saw that the northeastern slopes of the mountain were fog-bound. The object was still a few miles north. As we proceeded we noticed that the "fog" was in movement rising in peaks that fell again. A few miles further on it became certain that we would pass through the edge of the "fog".

We opened the door of the car and was surprised that it was pumice dust. There was a fair breeze easterly and we shut the door quickly to avoid the grit. Despite the wind the object appeared stationary and a mile or two to the north. We passed out of the fog and directly under the object- the atmosphere felt damp- and perfectly still though we saw the tops of trees in the distance bending with the wind. At Mission Bay, Taupo, we looked back. The object was still hovering perhaps a little further east of where we had passed under it. We photographed it again at 2.45 pm.

We think it possible that the pumice dust from an area of many square miles was being attracted to the object. The fine, almost invisible particles continuing their journey and becoming part of it and the heavier and less attractable dust falling to the earth. It is conceivable that the 'Object' may have drifted over the mountainous district to the east then back again, contacting snow-clad Ruapehu, sucked up some of the crater-lake water condensed and spilled it water and pumice silt.

The Meteorological Department predicted thunderstorms in this area on the day in question and we see no reason to suppose may not produce similar objects which would be of danger to aircraft as well as a cause of washouts.

Shape of Object in Sky

The object in the sky was shaped like a gigantic rose bowl resting on a saucer. A spiral of lighter cloud ran from the lower western edge. The bowl appeared to be about half a mile in diameter. First noticed shortly after leaving Waiouru.

(xx.)

(xx.) Murray Bott files. Auckland, New Zealand.

2nd or 3rd week of December. Tome, New Mexico. (about 2:00 a.m.)

Animal reaction.

In a letter to Donald Keyhoe it says:

"I regret that I have somehow lost the clipping which first aroused our interest, so I cannot give you the exact date. However, I'm sure it could be obtained by writing the *Albuquerque Journal*. It occurred during the second or third week of December, 1953.

"The *Journal* ran a small article—about two column inches—mentioning this sighting by one Julian Torres, who lived on a farm in Tome, a small town about thirty miles southwest of Albuquerque, and who worked at the Sandia base.

"We contacted Senor Torres and arranged to drive to Tome and talk with him on the following Sunday. After this meeting, my husband and I were both convinced that this was no bid for publicity, and that Senor Torres was certainly no sensationalist. We were sure that he was honestly reporting just what he had seen, although he was greatly awed and puzzled by it.

"Julian Torres and his wife were simple, God-fearing Spanish folk, only concerned with doing their best at day-to-day living, and caring for their own. Here is their story:

"He was awakened at about 2 a.m. by the frantic barking and whining of his dog which was tied outside the back door. His first thought was that someone might be trying to steal his cow or his new-born calf, so he jumped from bed, grabbed a gun and ran to the back door, without turning on any lights. The dog was cowering there, bathed in an eerie orange-red light which was emanating from either a glowing object or a great light. It appeared to him to be about fourteen feet in diameter and was hovering just above the ground at a distance of about two blocks from the house, in an alfalfa field. He was quite certain about the distance, because his irrigation ditch, three blocks from the house, was banked high on either side, and the red glow was hitting this bank fully. (This was his reasoning when asked if the light might not have been larger but farther away. In that event, the ditch bank would have been in shadow.)

"Greatly startled, he called his wife, who had awakened at the at the same time as he, and had run to the baby's crib and taken it in her arms. She took one look from the window, ran back to the bedroom and hid her eyes, so she could give us no further details.

"Senor Torres watched with fascination of terror for another three or four minutes, he estimated, then noticed a greater intensity of the glow, followed by its ascent into the southern skies at about a forty-five degree angle, and at a terrific rate of speed. It was out of sight very soon. At the time the orange-red glow increased, he said, the whole field and countryside was brightly illuminated.

"Mr. Torres, quite understandably, was shaken. By the time he had consoled his wife, reassured the dog, checked his precious cow and calf and gone over his property in the daylight, he was late for work at the base. He mentioned to his superior what had occurred to cause his late arrival, and his boss, in turn, had called the *Albuquerque Journal* and given them the sketchy story they ran." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Donald Keyhoe, 214 Kent Road, Alexandria, Virginia. From: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Livingston, 11821 South Artesian, Chicago, 43 Illinois. Date letter written: 15 February 56. NICAP files. CUFOS achives.

23 December. The status of BLUE BOOK.

Airman Max Futch explains the situation to Edward Ruppelt in a letter. (See this page and page 51)

23 December 1953

Dear Ed,

I am sorry that I didn't get the wire off to you any sooner. Didn't you tell that you were familiar with the Luke AFB, Ariz. sighting? The Luke film is classified and I can't get a print for you. Frankly, I can't see why the film and most of the information contained in the report is classified. In case that you forgot some of the details of the sighting I will hit some of the high spots. The F-84 pilot exposed thirty (30) feet of gun camera film from 30,000 feet. He stated that the condensation pattern appeared to be much higher than his aircraft and that an object causing this pattern was never observed. Mr Chapman stated in his report that the condensation pattern was a vapor trail. As per his recommendation, we sent the incident folder and the film over to the Aircraft Lab which reported that the vapor trail was possibly caused by two jet aircraft. We checked and rechecked all surrounding AF bases and got a negative answer on aircraft being in the area at that time. Consequently we evaluated it as a vapor trail being caused by an unknown object. I believe that there is a possibility that jet aircraft caused the observation but that the intelligence officers and Flight Service commanders found it easier to say no than to really check thoroughly and give us a good report.

Did you get enough information on the Marianna case? Have you gotten in contact with him? If you need more information on this incident I will be glad to help you out.

I will attempt to give you the latest dope on what has happened to this project since you left. General Garland went out to ADC and talked to General Burgess, one of General Chidlaw's assistants, on the possibility of ADC taking over the investigations and routine work of the project. Consequently Burgess agreed to Garland's idea and the wheels started turning at ADC. Burgess decided to let Col White's 4602d AISS take this responsibility since there are nineteen (19) flights of the 4602d scattered over the U.S. Captain Cybulski was given the job as the chief of UFOB investigations so he spent approximately two weeks here helping rewrite AFR 200-2. I guess the project will be decentralized as soon as the new AFR is distributed which will probably be two months hence. Captain Hardin will be project monitor and will handle the cases that can't be identified by Cybulski's crew.

31 March 1953

Dr. Hynek will continue to be advisor to the project on astronomical problems. The name of the project will continue to be the same but the Aerial Phenomena Section will be liquidated and PBB will be part of the Science & Components Section. Yes, Judy will continue to help Captain Hardin chase "flying saucers". Frankly, I think this is the best thing that ever happened to the project. Under this system more on-the-spot investigations can be made.

Ed, nothing exciting has happened here since you left. No good sightings have been reported to us lately. I am ~~never~~ going to make another statement about when the gratings and the IBM Analysis will be finished. Vern promised that the entire works would be presented to us not later than 21 December 1953. Vern, Dr. Hynek, and Miss Gluck were here the 21st and nothing was presented to us. Maybe they will be finished by 15 August 1954 (one year from the original date set for completion of the IBM Analysis). I have asked Captain Hardin to send you and me each a copy if at all possible.

I am happy about my getting Discharged because I am sick and tired of this unpredictable AIR FORCE. I am doing nothing now except running from one office to another. I have been to three parties in the past four nights and have more planned. As soon as I get home I am going to find out about whether or not I can get into school this next semester. If I don't get to start to school I have to go to the Maudie Gras first then try to come out to California.

When this letter gets to you Christmas will be over so I am wishing you a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

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