

THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE

UFOS: A HISTORY

1955 July-September 15th

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.

Notes on sources:

In this supplement the European, Australian, New Zealand, and Asian, items were contributed by Murray Bott of Auckland, New Zealand.

The Robert Gribble and George Fawcett collections supplied many of the American news clippings which are original and reproduce well.

The CUFOS archives provided news clippings and other material which Jan Aldrich photocopied while he was in Chicago. The APRO and NICAP data comes from microfilm which Jan Aldrich also made available (CSI New York files are part of the NICAP collection and is on the same roll of microfilm).

By a stroke of luck Claude Mauge send me an important French article on the Hopkinville case (which he translated) in time to be included in this supplement.

Corrections:

In my supplement previous to this one, covering the period of January-June 1955 (on pages 29-30) Richard Hall is incorrectly named as the interviewer of Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

Also: the translator of Spanish language news clippings, "A.M.D," has been identified as Alexander D. Mebane who worked for CSI New York and not NICAP.

Late Summer or Fall, 1955. White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico. (daytime)

UFO paces rocket?

Here is a story obtained by California investigator Paul Cerny:

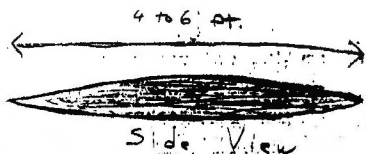
"In late Summer or Fall, 1955, during the day, a large ground-based missile—possibly a Redstone or modified German V-2—was being prepared for launching. Ground crews, including radar and visual trackers, and missile-tracking cameras were ready.

"As the large missile fired and began to rise from the launching pad," Cerny wrote in his report, "a small football-shaped object about as large as the diameter of the missile suddenly appeared out of nowhere and positioned itself a few feet above and ahead of the missile. This object, seen visually by the ground crews and other personnel and recorded on movie film, maneuvered in this approximate position ahead of the missile on its way up into the sky and out of sight. The incident was hushed up and the films were confiscated by the authorities in command of the launch facilities." (xx.)

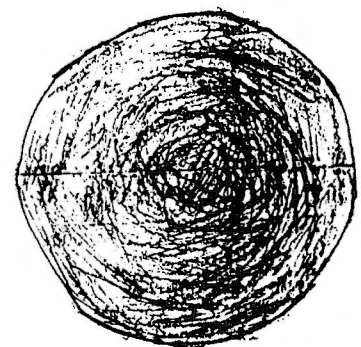
(xx.) *UFO Research Newsletter*. Ed.: Gordon Lore Jr. Vol. III, No.5. August-September 1973. p.1. (no witness name or address given)

No day or month known. 1955. On State Road 42 about midway between Paisley and Crows Bluff, Florida. (night)

Paces car for a moment. (See drawing and brief narrative below) (xx.)



This UFO was seen one evening under full moonlight. Car was traveling from west to east. The object was seen by driver from her side of the road. It appeared to be dark in color and was spinning around. This object made a sound like a top turning around. It traveled parallel to path of the car and about 25 feet off the ground for a few moments and then rapidly sped away. No windows or lights were observed.



Top View



(xx.) Technical Information Questionnaire. UFO Sighting. Witness: Miss Ollie M. Brown. Pierson, Florida. (no number address) 32080. George Fawcett UFO files. Date report filed: Not given.

(Stringfield gives the date as July 2nd and Bloecher July 3rd) Stockton, Georgia. (3:30 a.m.)

The "creatures" claimed to have been seen by Mrs. Margaret Symmonds near Stockton, Georgia. (See drawings) For details of the case see the monograph *UFOs: A History 1955 July-September 15th* pages 2-3. Sketches of "creatures" and the encounter site shown are from Ted Bloecher's report: "The Georgia Creatures," which was completed on October 15, 1974. Photocopy in author's files.

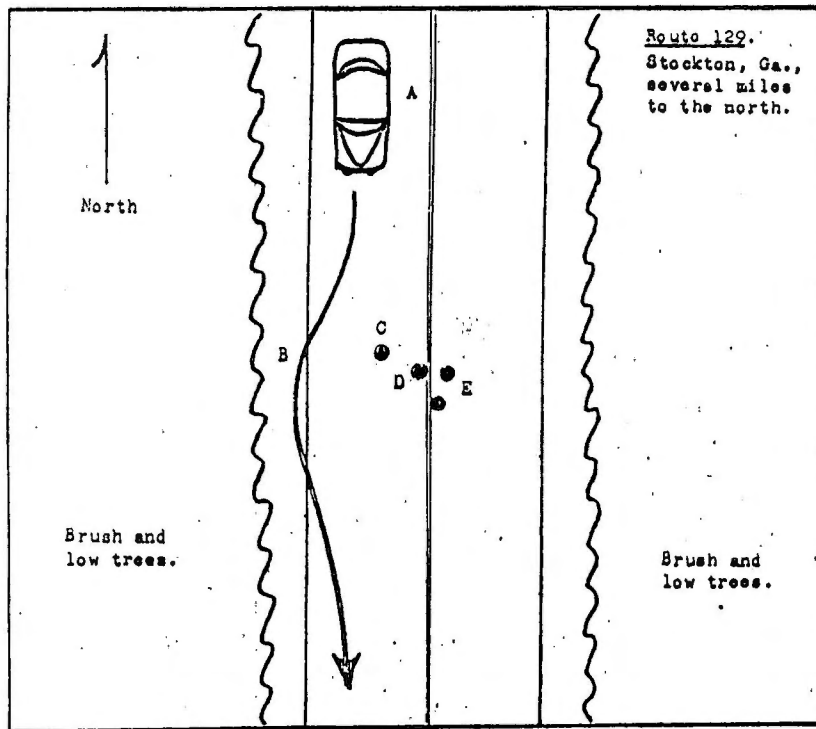
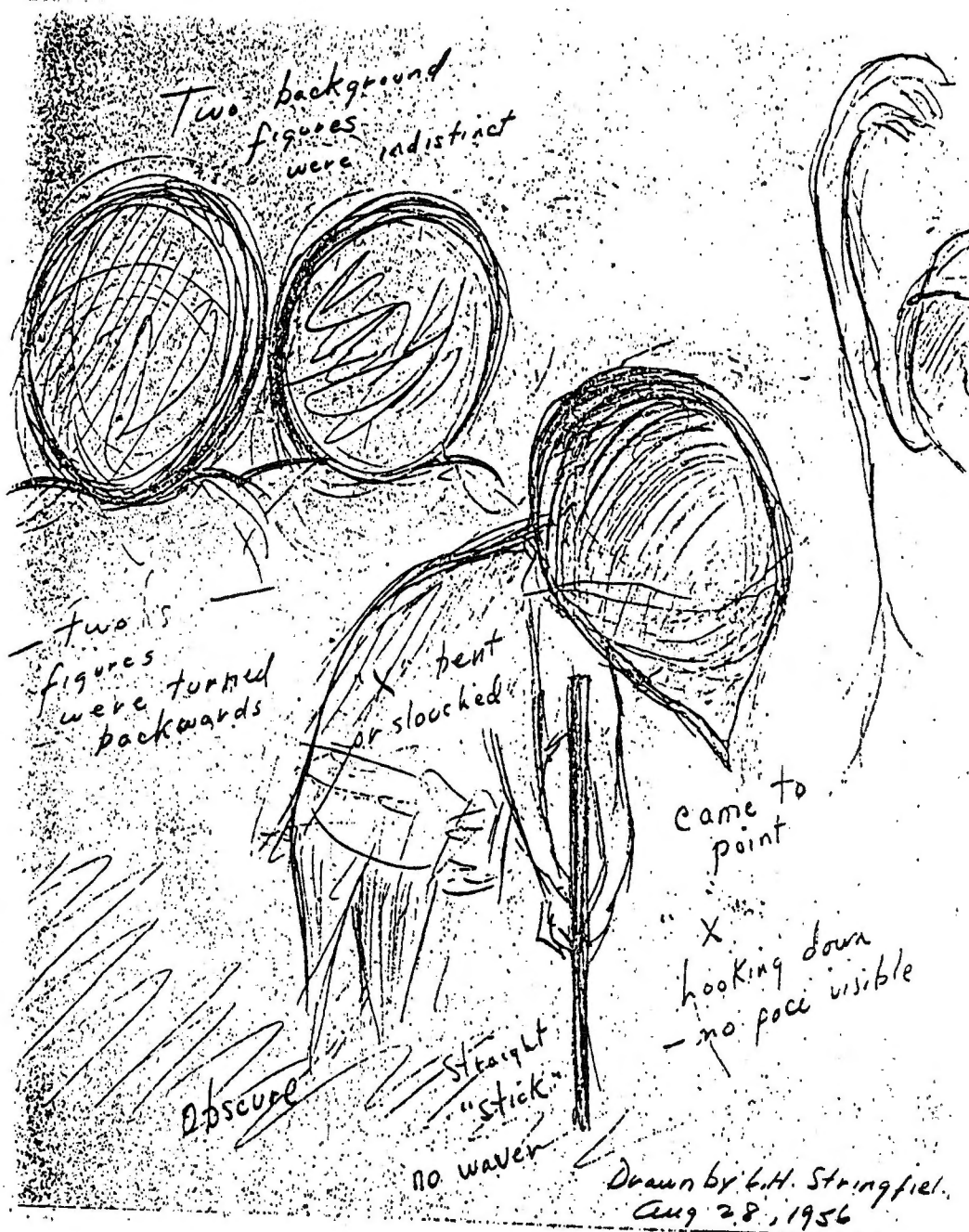


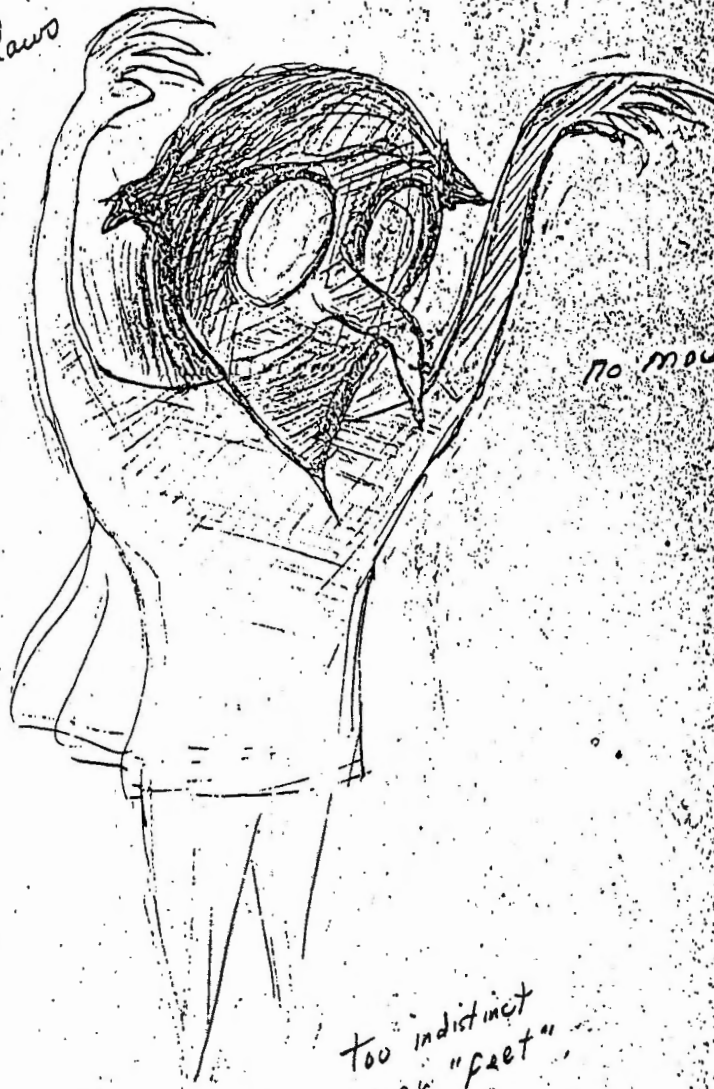
Figure 1: Diagram of Locale

Mrs. Margaret Symmonds, driving south in car (A) on Route 129, several miles south of Stockton, Georgia, saw four creatures (C, D, & E) ahead of her in the middle of the road. As she approached, she slowed down and swerved to the right on the shoulder of the highway (B) to avoid hitting creature standing in her lane (C). Creature in the center (D) was "poking at the road" with a stick-like object. Two creatures in the rear (E) had their backs to the witness.

Just as she swerved to avoid hitting creature (C), he stepped to the side, away from the car. The others did not look up, and the one with the stick (D) held the stick in two hands. Mrs. Symmonds passed to the right of them within three or four feet, but close enough to (C) to reach out and touch him. The entire episode took less than 30 seconds, from the moment she first spotted them until she drove past them and, screaming, woke up her husband, who had been sleeping in back.



like claws



no mouth

too indistinct
near "feet"

Mrs. Symmonds - Stockton

Drawn by L. H. Stringf
Aug 28, 1956

Early July? New Caledonia (South Pacific)

"Huge sausage over sea" and other things.

A press report states:

"Flying saucers take even more outlandish forms when they are seen in the South Pacific. Objects variously described as like throw nets, illuminated balls, and sausages have recently been seen in New Caledonia skies.

"First report came a gypsum mine caretaker who saw an object which was yellow, luminous and shaped like a throwing net for fishing. It remained stationary in the sky for 20 minutes, then made off at terrific speed.

"On the northeastern coast a woman reported a huge sausage-shaped object over the sea. It, too, whisked away after about a half hour." (xx.)

(xx.) Seattle, Washington. *Seattle Daily Times*, 6 July 55.

6 July. Enid, Oklahoma. (about 9:30 p.m.)

Cutting fancy turns and swooping.

A press reports says:

"Four Enid people reported seeing a 'flying saucer' over the area about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday.

"John Pash and his grandmother, Mrs. Annie L. Dixon, 220 West Park, noticed an apparently bright object cutting fancy turns and swooping in one direction and then in another.

"Two fisherman were coming in about the same time from the north and thought what they saw was a hail-cloud and slowed down so they wouldn't drive into it.

"The commander of the weather detachment at Vance Air Force base speculated that it is very possible that the object was nothing more than an unusual cloud formation in a heat area reflecting the rays of the sun." (xx.)

(xx.) Enid, Oklahoma. *Eagle*. 9 July 55.

A similar report was made the same evening 30 minutes earlier at the city of Dewey about 120 miles east of Enid. (See the monograph *UFOs: A History 1955 January-June*, pages 14-15.)

8 July. Near Rovigo, Italy.

Tried to land?

A news clipping in NICAP files tells us:

"A flying disc reportedly tried to land in the Badia Polesine countryside, then rose again, disappearing at high speed in the direction of the Adige River. This was

reported by two youths of Lendinara (9 miles west of Rovigo; south of Adige), Arrigo Munerato and Bruno Baccaglini. According to their story, they were working along the new Badia-Correggioli highway when they noticed, high in the sky, a strange flying machine which was heading decisively for the grassy area a short distance from the road. They immediately mounted their motorcycle and headed for the probable landing. After a short time, the 'disc' suddenly regained altitude and went away." (xx.)

(xx.) Rome, Italy. *Gazzetta del Popolo*. 9 July 55. NICAP files. No translator named.

14 July. Key West, Florida. Captain Hutchings expresses an opinion.

Object not a meteor? (See clipping below)

Captain Curtis M. Hutchings, commanding officer of VX-1 at the Boca Chica Naval Air Station, said today that he does not believe the silvery object seen dashing across South Florida and Northern Caribbean skies 10 nights ago was a meteorite.

Hutchings was a first-hand observer to the astronomical phenomenon, during which time he made mental notes and observations.

The Navy captain said that the object could have been nearly stationary in space with the earth passing by it, considering the orbital velocity of the earth, degrees of travel arc, and time interval noted while the object was visible.

Hutchings assumed the object was in the neighborhood of 40 miles high based on the fact that it was seen in other places. He said the object appeared to travel about 100 degrees of arc in six seconds. From this information he computed its speed at approximately 57,000 knots (63,126 miles per hour).

"It is interesting to note," Hutchings said, "the orbital velocity of the earth is about 64,800 statute miles per hour. Hence the object may have been velocity-stopped with respect to the sun, that is, an Earth fly-by."

"Also, the velocity of the body with respect to the Earth is probably in excess of the Earth's escape velocity," he added.

Based on his other observations and by noting that the size of the object was approximately one third

the size of the moon, the Navy captain computed the diameter of the object to be about 800 feet.

Hutchings said the object had a solid appearance with almost a white light.

"It was very discernable but not bright," he said. "It had more of a silvery glow."

The course of the object was estimated to be 270 degrees true or due West, according to the Navy captain.

Hutchings said he was just returning home with his wife Louise and their three children in the family car when they saw the object. He said he determined its course by comparing it to the direction of the road on which they were driving.

Hutchings is well known in Navy Anti-Submarine circles for his advancements of theory and practice in the field of hunting and killing submarines.

During World War II, he commanded a squadron of aircraft that made the first and only kills of completely submerged enemy submarines. All other kills of submarines by aircraft were made by catching the submarines on the surface and destroying them.

Captain Hutchings will be transferred at the end of this month to the Navy War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

KEY WEST, FLA., CITIZEN
Circ. D. 3,806

JUL 25 1955

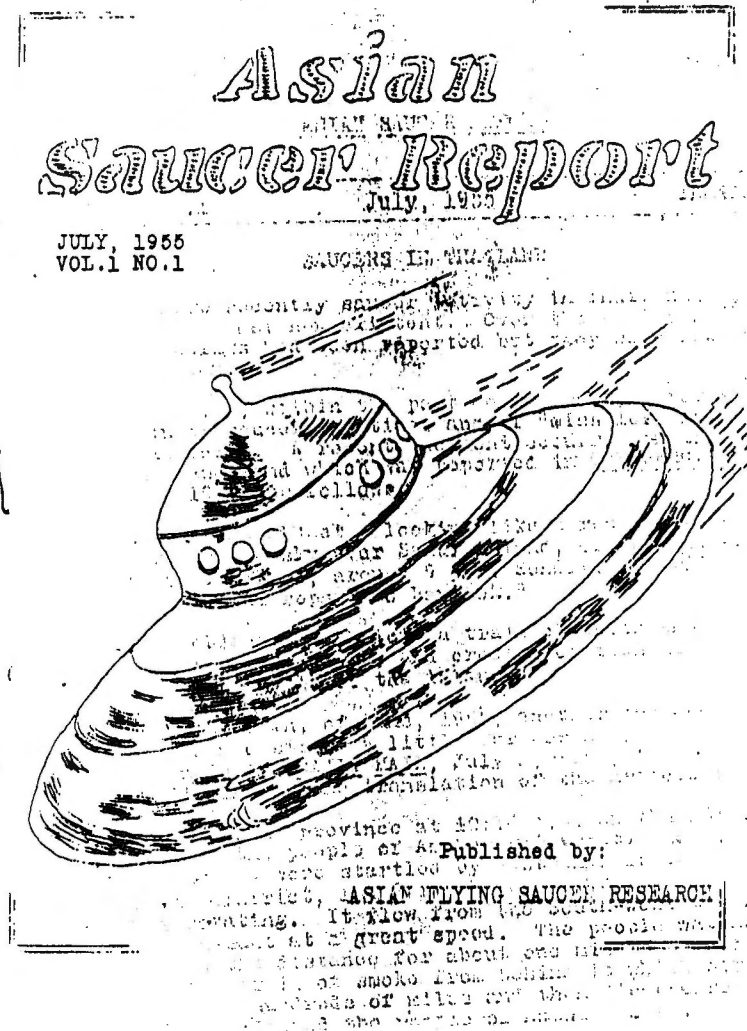


MIAMI, FLA., HERALD
Circ. D. 233,191 S. 274,125

JUL 28 1955

"Asian Saucer Report."

J.N. Crockett of Bangkok, Thailand, launched a new "saucerzine" in July 1955. He gives the impression he was an American from the way he used the English language (The publication was 100% English). Other than that, not much is known about the man. There was little "saucer data" to had from his region, although one should note Mr. Crockett seems to have commanded few resources to enable him to do the job. (See cover)



The UFO report from the Royal Thai Air Force at Korat Air Force Base in May 1954 was the best sighting to come out of Thailand. Since that time, the few "UFO reports" that made the papers might just have been sightings of meteors. Crockett wrote in issue number two of the *Asian Saucer Report*:

"Once again we are able to report that Thailand has been visited by Unidentified Flying Objects. All reports to date reveal that 'saucers' appear to be interested in the southern part of Thailand, a rich tin mining area. Whether any importance can be attached to this when we compare such appearances with similar sightings from other world sources, or whether UFOs were merely 'saucering' about, is perhaps a little too soon to determine. Whatever might be the case it is known that UFOs have been frequenting the skies above Thailand's tin-ore areas within the past two months. Two reported incidents from that part of the country are as follows.

"On the 18th of July, 1955, the *Bangkok Post* carried a report of a strange sky object which passed over a town called Noakorn Sritamarad, South Thailand. It reads:

" 'A strange object, like a white rocket with a smoke trail and a noise louder than an airplane, was seen over Nakorn Sritamarad the night of July 8th for three minutes [a bit long for a meteor], according to a delayed semi-official report.'

"No further information was available on this case so it could not be determined more clearly just what the object might have been." (xx.)

(xx.) *Asian Saucer Report*. Vol. I, No.2. August 1955. p.3. (Murray Bott files, Auckland, New Zealand)

22 July. Ra-Nong Province, Thailand. (10:00 a.m.)

Torpedo or wide-brimmed hat?

The second "saucer report" collected by Crockett took place on the 22nd:

"On the 22nd of July, 1955, while some mine workers, about 50 in number who were working in the Haad Sompae Canal, heard a strange noise in the sky. The sky was quite bright and clear with a few clouds. They looked up into the sky and saw an unusual object which appeared to be round and long in shape; and travelling above the clouds from the West to the East at a very great speed. The speed was like a shooting star as seen at night. The object was seen at 10:00 a.m. The noise sounded like a spluttering coughing motor (In Sompae district there are a great number of tin mines in an area surrounded by mountain ranges thereby forming a bowl-like valley, and it was thought that, perhaps, the noise was an echo from the ranges).

"Some said its shape was similar to a wide-brimmed hat with a small crown like a coffee cup. Others said it was like a torpedo with a bottle stopper, as big as a fist, midway along the top of the torpedo-like object. All the people said that it travelled

at a very high speed, and that they had to turn around quickly to follow its flight across their line of vision. All agreed upon the sound, and that it had two faint lines of smoke trailing from the rear and which was seen for a moment before fading out." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.4.

23 July. Glenelg, New Zealand. (about 9:40 p.m.)

Curved underneath and flat on the top. (See clipping)

BRIGHT OBJECT IN SKY OFF GLENELG

A large, luminous object which appeared high in the western sky puzzled police and watchers at Glenelg on Saturday night.

Constable W. C. Bird said he first saw the object about 9.40 p.m., when it resembled the side elevation of a glowing saucer, with knobs at each end.

Holding a ruler at arm's length, the object was about 7 in. long, he added. Then it disappeared.

While Constable Bird was speaking to another man, the object reappeared further south.

"As we watched, it became larger and larger, as though it were approaching," said Constable Bird.

"Beginning at the centre, it gradually faded out towards each end, leaving a white glow at the extremities that gradually changed to yellow.

"The whole mass was surrounded by a faint aura of light which remained a short time after the object disappeared."

Constable Bird said the object was noiseless.

Mr. P. W. Rooney, of Cairn street, Ferryden Park, said he was on the foreshore when he first saw the object.

"For a minute, it looked like a ship on fire, but it was too high up," he added.

"It became very much larger, was curved under-



The object as seen in its three stages by Constable Bird and Mr. Rooney:—
1. As first seen. 2. As it looked after apparently approaching closer. 3. As seen when the centre had disappeared leaving two glowing ends. (Drawings made from sketches supplied by Constable Bird).

neath and flat across the top.

"It was luminous, and glowed as though there were radiation from it."

Two aircraft flew across the gulf shortly before the object appeared.

All the watchers agreed they had not seen anything similar before

Adelaide, New Zealand.
Advertiser. 25 July 55.

22 July. Leicester, England. (11:00 p.m.)

Spherical balls of light?

A British source states:

"A formation of bright spherical balls of light flew over Leicester on July 22. The time was 11:00 p.m. They travelled in a north-easterly direction.

"As they flew over, the objects changed formation although maintaining close stations. Witnesses said their height and speed were difficult to assess, 'but they were moving along pretty smartly.' They made no sound as they sped away into the darkness." (xx.)

(xx.) "World Roundup." *Flying Saucer Review*. September-October 1955, Vol. I, No.4. p.29.

27 JUL 1955
"ADVERTISER"

Adelaide, S.A.

"Brilliant Object" Seen In Sky

"A very brilliant object moving in the sky," was Mrs. I. S. Stewart's description of an object seen early yesterday morning from her home at Torrens Park.

"It was similar to the one described by Constable W. C. Bird on Monday night," she said.

"I have to get up early to feed the baby, and when I looked out of the window at 5.45 a.m. there was a flat object with a light on either side floating in the air.

"We're used to seeing planes go over, and it definitely wasn't a plane," said Mrs. Stewart.

"There was a green light flashing in the sky over the sea at the same time as the object was visible, and the green light disappeared when the other did.

"I know that this could be an ordinary light, but the white one was different."

Mrs. Stewart said that when the white object disappeared by floating upwards, it left a glow in the sky which lasted for about 15 minutes.

The object itself was seen for about two minutes.

"My husband saw it, too," she said.

26 July. Adelaide, Australia. (5:45 a.m.)

"Flat object floating in the air." (See clipping)

27 July. Lasham airfield, Hampshire, England.
(1:13 p.m.)

Boomerang-shaped object. UFO hovers over Britain's National Gliding Champion. (See clipping)

WOMAN SEES A 'FLYING SAUCER'

Air Ministry questions

THE Air Ministry are investigating a report of a boomerang-shaped object being seen hovering above Lasham Aerodrome, Hants., yesterday when the British National Gliding Championship meeting continued.

Dark, and thought to be about 3,000 feet above the ground, it was first spotted at 1.13 p.m. by Mrs. Yvonne Bonham, secretary of the British Gliding Association, of Belsize-square, Hampstead, and Mrs. Alex Orde, her predecessor in that office.

Another official was told and he telephoned to the Air Ministry, saying that the object hovered for about 30 seconds and then made off in a north-westerly direction at high speed.

The Ministry soon asked for further details.

'High speed'

Mrs. Bonham said later: "The first thing I said as I saw it was 'That's a flying saucer.' It was hovering above Philip Wills's glider for about half-a-minute and then went off at very high speed.

"It looked about 40 feet wide, but I would not like to be precise about that. As it went away it seemed to drop steadily.

"It did not look like an aeroplane, and after all, it had hovered for those few seconds."

Mrs. Orde stated: "It definitely wasn't a bird, it went too fast, it did not appear to be like anything we had seen in nature."

Did not know

The man who it was thought might be able to say what the object was, Philip Wills (48), world glider champion in 1952, was still airborne.

After flying 5hr. 49min., he landed at Fowey (Cornwall), 169 miles away. And his only comment on the flight was: "It was a rather uninteresting trip."

25 July. Rushall, England. (8:15 p.m.)

"As clear to me as the eighth wonder." (See clipping)

Walsall Observer

Bridge Street, Walsall.

Cutting from issue dated..... 29 JUL 1955



FLYING SAUCERS

Sir,—It was no surprise this morning (Wednesday) to read about the flying saucer as reported hovering in the sky at Hampshire and about which the Air Ministry invite details. I do not suffer from eye-strain and I believe that flying saucers are a fact. I saw one in the sky on Monday night at approximately 8-15 as clear as could be. To me it was the eighth wonder. The glittering silver-coloured, mushroom shaped object leisurely passed over the back garden of my house and made off in the direction of Walsall aerodrome.

The curious feature about the object was that it made no sound. And it left no vapour trail. However, as I watched it disappear into the distance, a dark cloud of shadow enveloped it. Could this have been an ingenious device controlled by mechanism inside the "saucer" as a sort of protective camouflage or smoke-screen against possible attack?

WILLIAM DRURY,
134, Pelsall Lane, Rushall.

Nottingham, England,
Nottingham Evening Post
27 July 55.

End of July. Dedham, England.
(no time)

"It was an amazing sight."

According to our source:

"Miss Mary Greenacre, who lives at Dedham, Suffolk, reported to the Air Ministry an extremely large, round, convex object of a slightly variegated and metallic line hovering on the edge of a cloudbank above her home towards the end of July.

"She watched the object for about two minutes before it started to move. It then raced westwards across the sky for some distance, rising as it went. It then turned due north and very soon was lost to sight. Not a sound was heard. 'It was an amazing sight,' she said, and notified the Air Ministry of the of the phenomenon with a comprehensive description of the object."
(xx.)

(xx.) "World Roundup." *Flying Saucer Review*. Vol. I, No.4, September-October 1955. p.29.

? August. Terryville, Connecticut. (9:45 p.m.)

"It moved fast and funny." (See clipping) (Newspaper not known) (Robert Gribble's files)

9 August. Fraserburgh, Scotland. (about 8:40 p.m.)

"Never seen anything like it."

According to our source:

"On Tuesday at about 8:40 p.m. Mr. Charles Buchan, Vice Chairman of the Fraserburgh Sea Cadets Committee and Mr. James Garden and five boys of the Fraserburgh Sea Cadets were cruising quietly outside the harbour in the cabin cruiser *Rebecca*. Suddenly a weird-looking object flashed along the horizon

Mystery Flying Object Reported in Terryville

By EDWIN M. KENT

The sighting of an unidentified flying object by three Terryville residents Wednesday night is being studied today by the Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

This was disclosed by Maj. P. C. Hünner, director of intelligence, Roslyn, L. I., Air Force Base, base of operations for the 26th Division of the Eastern Air Defense Force, which covers this area.

Maj. John W. Anderson, commanding officer of the Air Defense Filter Center, New Haven, said that a check through "routine channels" failed to disclose the nature of the object sighted.

ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL sources remained otherwise close-mouthed about the affair Mrs. Robert A. Nelson of 29 Hillside Ave., Terryville, one of those who saw it, said she was told after reporting the incident, that planes and radar were to be used Wednesday night in an effort to track the object.

The other witnesses were Mrs. Nelson's husband, owner of a Bristol service station, and her father, August D'Andrea, Farmington tailor.

"MY HUSBAND AND I first noticed the object when we were out walking about 9:45 p. m. Wednesday," said Mrs. Nelson. "It looked like a regular star until we saw it move."

"We were frightened a little

because it looked like a planet that had suddenly gone crazy. It seemed to be large, like Venus, and it had a definite bluish caste to it. It moved fast and in a very funny pattern.

"First it went straight up and then it come down in an arc. It set there a few seconds and then it went up at an angle and about double the distance it did the first time. Then it moved almost straight to one side and then straight down.

"That was about 10 o'clock. We didn't notice any movement after that until close to midnight, although there was a period of perhaps half an hour when we didn't watch.

"Twice when planes approached, it became agitated and moved in irregular patterns. Then about midnight a third plane approached.

"This thing that was sitting there made a huge arc across the sky in the direction of the plane. It seemed to move a tremendous distance but, of course, it was difficult to judge height and distance and speed."

"THE OBJECT seemed to be perfectly round," she said. "Once, just before it made the big arc in the sky toward the plane, it seemed to flip over on its side. Then it looked flat."

travelling at an amazing speed. The party watched it for 3 minutes before it disappeared. In an interview Mr. Buchan described the object as like the hulk of a ship without superstructure. He said it was a dark gray color and he had never seen anything like it.

"One of the boys aboard the *Rebecca* described the object as something like a space ship." (xx.)

(xx.) "Scotland Fraserburgh 55-8-9?" APRO files. No newspaper named. Photocopy in author's files.

9 August. Las Vegas, New Mexico. (9:00 p.m.)

Huge "Lubbock-light" sky show. (See clipping) (Robert Gribble's files)

Unidentified lights playing over Las Vegas were spotted by at least three persons at nine o'clock Tuesday night in the vicinity of Grand and Lincoln. The lights, seen in about eight groups of a dozen to 100 individual lights, played through the sky like blowing leaves. They would form tight formations, each light plainly visible, the size of a large leaf. A group would zoom from the direction of Railroad Ave. towards Grand Ave. at the speed of jet planes, stop in mid-air, hang there a few seconds, raise straight up until scarcely visible, then vanish. At the same time another large group of the lights would whiz over Grand Ave. from the west, circle a few times, and then as they began to rise, converge until where 100 had been visible, there were only a dozen left.	Or they would circle a few times, fluttering up like loose paper in a whirlwind, then suddenly fall into the formation of two large quarter circles, spaced exactly the same distance from each other, left to right. The quarter circles flew exactly the same distance apart as they climbed over Grand, then would suddenly break formation and flutter aimlessly higher, but still in a close group. There were no individual lights flying alone. All were in clusters, or groups, flying at varied heights above the center of downtown Las Vegas. Mrs. Audrey Simpson, Optic society editor, first spotted the flying lights while waiting for her husband, Clyde Simpson, to complete his shift at the Home Cafe where he is a cook. When he left the Cafe he watched them a few minutes, then called them to the attention of Fred Tapia, another cafe worker.
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LAS VEGAS, N.M., OPTIC
Circ. D. #637
AUG 10 1955

10 August. Pergine, Italy. (about 7:00 p.m.)

Disc over north Italy.

A news report states:

"Trento, Aug 10.—A few minutes before 7 p.m., a flying disc, whose size was described as half that of the full moon, was seen by various persons in the sky of Pergine, Valsugana. The disc, of a silver-green color, was travelling from east to west at high

speed, at an altitude of approximately 4,000 meters. At one point the bolide suddenly stopped, and remained motionless. Then, after several oscillations, during which it exhibited changing colors, it resumed its course, disappearing in the direction of Trento.

"The disc remained in view from Pergine for two minutes all told. Among those who observed it with care are a lady from Milan and a twelve-year-old boy." (xx.)

(xx.) Florence, Italy. *La Nazione*. 11 August 55. NICAP files. CUFOS archives. Clipping provided by a correspondent named "Thayaht." Translation by "ADM."

In the NICAP file the translator "ADM" adds this note:

"Trento is in the north center of Italy, on the south side of the Alps, between Verona and Bolsano. Thayaht comments: 'Lately several other sighting in Sicily and other parts of Italy have been reported by local papers, and sometimes by all the papers.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

10 August. The Isabel/Hynek connection.

Proof that CSI New York's Isabel Davis and Air Force advisor Dr. J. Allen Hynek had established a working relationship on UFO research is a letter written on August 10th. (See page 14) (Hynek avoided controversial persons like Keyhoe and Stringfield.)

10 August. St. Paul, Minnesota. (12 noon)

A silvery hamburger sandwich.

A statement by the witness:

"I am a sculptor by profession, and I was at that time [August 10, 1955] engaged in executing an over life size figure out of a 9-ton block of Vermont marble. On this day, a typical Minnesota summer day, there was nothing to mar the view from where I was. What I saw was as clear in outline as any plane, but in a few moments I became aware of its being quite different. It was headed towards me—towards the capital building and in a few moments was directly over it and not many hundred feet above it. It floated to the west, became stationary—a silvery hamburger sandwich. After a few moments—maybe only one—without motion, it began to descend toward the ground, which gave me the odd feeling that at last the mystery of the flying saucers would be solved. I was rather disappointed when it stopped, and then veered toward the east almost the same distance it had come down, and then another short but definite stop. It now took off like a frightened rabbit and was out of sight in the wink of an eye.

"Seeing the thing on a fairly clear day in broad daylight, and being a keen observer as part of my profession, entirely sober, and of sound mind, I have on my evidence accepted as factual that these so-called UFOs do exist in reality and are not just figments of the imagination. I am no longer the skeptic I was about them before I saw one. Now I am sure the object I saw must have been at least 60 feet in diameter—and it appeared

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

HOWARD L. BEVIS, *President*
COLUMBUS 10

EMERSON McMILLIN OBSERVATORY

August 10, 1955

Miss Isabel L. Davis
67 Jane St.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Davis:

I regret that I misplaced your letter of April 17 and only now have come across it. In it you asked some questions relative to my short note on "Flying Saucers".

It so happens that I shall be in New York on Aug. 19 preparatory to sailing the following day and I shall have a little time in the afternoon if you should care to talk with me a little about these things. I am also interested in how far you have been able to get with your card index of events.

Offhand I do not have the data you asked for but inasmuch as I shall be in Wright Field tomorrow I shall endeavor to look up the files on those particular incidents. I see no reason why you should not have the exact data.

Now I think that I shall stop at the Hotel Times Square, solely because of its convenience, and if you would care to leave a message for me at the desk as to where I can call you, I shall ring you up when my earlier business of that day is completed. That should be about 4 P. M.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. Hynek
J. A. Hynek

and acted very much like an observation ship, which I think it was. It floated in the air like a vessel on calm water without wings or other means of keeping it airborne. It seemed entirely free of the gravitational pull to which we are subject. Only one who saw—noon—no pedestrians [or?] many cars went by—all doors closed.” (xx.)

- (xx.) This account is taken from some notes made by Dr. J. Allen Hyenk and found in the files of Dr. Willy Smith. The name of the witness is not on the note. There is this comment about the date: “Aug. 10, 1955—but not reported to me until Sept. 28, 1966.” Photocopy in author’s files.
[Personally I don’t know how they live in St. Paul. Maybe like in Latin America countries everyone takes a midday nap. It seems odd no one else saw the object. Well, maybe they did but failed to reported it, and it could be St. Paul, like Sacramento, California, has many large trees that prevent a good view of the sky. And then there is a very peculiar phenomenon that has been reported in a number of UFO cases where many people should have seen the UFO but they swear they never did. There is evidence to suggest that the answer to such an event is something other than the simple explanation that the witness is telling a lie.—L.E. Gross].

11 August. Alter, Sonora, Mexico. (evening)

Witnesses were flabbergasted.

An English-speaking correspondent, Ernest Brown, perhaps an American citizen, wrote military authorities in Washington D.C. about a UFO incident at Alter, Sonora, which is about 50 miles south-west of Nogales and some 125 miles north of Hermosilla where the letter writer resided. It seems a large luminous body remained absolutely stationary over the town for over an hour. During that period, clouds passed around and underneath the object, at times concealing it from view, but after the clouds passed, the thing was still there. Many people became curious and kept the object under observation. After an hour’s immobility, without any preliminaries, the object suddenly shot straight up with terrific velocity and disappeared into the sky. The upward climb was very fast, or as they say south of the border, with “pasmosa repides.” The witnesses, including many Indians, were flabbergasted with astonishment, according to Mr. Brown, who posed this question in his letter to Washington: ‘It may not have been a “flying saucer,” but if it wasn’t, then what was it?’” (xx.)

- (xx.) Letter: To: Commanding Officer, Operation Saucer, Washington, D.C. From: Ernest C. K. Brown, Apartado 363, Sucursal B, Hermosilla, Mexico. Date: 12 August 55. APRO files. (Brown received a formal reply but I have not found any in military records I’m examined—L.E. Gross)

11 August. Stockport, England. (morning)

Silvery craft with a bubble on top.

According to a story published in the press:

"Parents, neighbors and friends of 11-year-old Peter Waghurst, of 24 Hardman-street, Chestergate, Stockport, know him to be a sensible young fellow, but when he told them on Thursday that he had seen a 'flying saucer,' it was not surprising they smiled disbelievingly.

"But Peter, to prove his case, called on his five playmates, who also had seen the mysterious, silvery craft 'with a bubble on top.'

"Playing in a yard behind Hardman-street on Thursday morning, the children's attention was drawn upwards to an almost cloudless blue sky by a shout from 10-year-old Colin Gamble, of 15 Heath-street, Stockport, first to see the strange craft.

"Peter told the *Stockport Express*: 'We saw a large shining saucer-shaped object with a bubble on top moving from Cheadle in the direction of Reddish.

"There was no vapour trail or fiery tail, but it was making a humming sound and was moving very fast across the sky. I am sure it was not an aeroplane.'

"Twelve-year-old Hazel Gee then took up the story: 'It had dots on it as though they were windows or portholes, and when it passed behind a cloud we could still see its faint outline.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Stockport, England.
Stockport Express.
11 August 55.



13 August. Aberdare, (Wales) England.
(evening)

"What on earth are those things?" (See clipping)

Flying Saucers Seen Over Aberdare

ROUND, SILVER OBJECTS TRAVELLING AT TERRIFIC SPEED

15 August. Liverpool, England. (8:49 p.m.) **FLYING SAUCERS** are back in the news! This time, two of them, travelling abreast "at a very fast speed," have been reported high in the sky over Aberdare.

Silvery object. (See clipping)



JET-LINER OVER CITY

Mystery object also sighted

THERE were two unusual sights in the sky over Liverpool last night.

One was identified but the other joins the list of mysterious sightings which in recent months have made Flying Saucer headlines in the North-West.

The first object—seen passing over the city at 8.35—was a large, four-turbo-jet airliner, and inquiry revealed that it was a Bristol Britannia, making what is believed to be its first visit to Liverpool.

It circled the city in a wide

orbit at about 2,000 feet, bringing many people out into the streets to watch its progress before heading away for the north.

Silvery object

News of the second sighting was given on the telephone to the *Daily Post*, by Mr. N. Heeley, of 31a Sandown Lane, Liverpool 15, who said that at 8.49 he was standing at his doorway with his wife when he noticed a silvery object in the sky.

It looked like an inverted saucer, seen edgewise on, so that its general outline was that of a shallow crescent. The angle of sight was 34 degrees on a bearing due east, going in a north-easterly direction.

Mr Heeley watched it for three seconds—long enough to draw it to the attention and observation of his wife. It appeared to be about three miles away and travelling at a very high speed. There was no sound of engines.

Mrs. Martha Key, of Catherine Street, Aberdare, told a reporter: "We had just come back from holidays on Saturday evening and I was standing on my doorstep, talking to my mother, Mrs. K. Grant, who lives a few doors away."

"An aeroplane had passed over, travelling in a westerly direction, when my mother looked up and said, 'What on earth are those things up there?' I looked up and saw two round, silver objects which were revolving and going at a terrific pace towards the south. My son, Anthony, aged nine, and nephew, David Brown, aged 12, also saw them."

"I have never believed in these things before, and when I read accounts in newspapers of people seeing them, I thought it was all imagination."

Mrs. Grant said the objects were much higher than the plane and going in a different direction. The centres of both were flashing as though reflecting the sun.

18 August. The Gerald Merritt case.

“Had the eerie sensation that they were watching us—their presence seemed to be felt.”

A brief account of this case is given on page 52 of the monograph *UFOs: A History 1955 July-September 15th*. Enough additional detail was found in two other sources to warrant the recording of the data here. One is a personal letter from the principle witness to UFO researcher Robert Gribble. The second is a “looking back” article in a Nebraska newspaper.

In a letter to Mr. Gribble dated November 30, 1955, Gerald Merritt wrote:

“I was on the Republican River between the towns of Oxford and Orleans, Nebraska, pumping gravel for a road project. It was a clear night and our plant was well lighted. The pump was on a barge 100 feet out in the river. The banks of the river are about 10 feet high and lined with trees about 40 feet high so our view of the horizon was rather limited. At about 11:30 p.m., I received a distress signal from the barge and went out. The pumper, Paul Deitz, Orleans, Nebraska, pointed to the sky over the north bank, above the trees, to an upright circle of about 12 lights. They were larger and brighter than stars and seemed to be hovering over our operations. I never doubted for a moment that these weren't flying saucers and had the eerie sensation that they were watching us—their presence seemed to be felt. By the time I went back to shore to get another man to see them, they had disappeared.

“I immediately decided to drive to Oxford (6 miles) and call my home town paper, *The Lincoln Journal*, to see if they had any reports on flying saucers that night. They had not received any but detained me about 10 minutes asking a lot of questions. When I returned to the river about 30 minutes later, the men were very excited and said that about 50 planes and jets had flown over our area, so the Air Force, too, was convinced that something unusual was ‘in the air.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Mr. Robert J. Gribble, Civilian Flying Saucer Intelligence, Seattle 1, Washington. From: Gerald Merritt, 1965 B. Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. (Davidson-Merritt Sand and Gravel Company) Date: 30 November 55. Robert Gribble files. Now in the author's files.

Here is the “looking back” article:

“Mr. Merritt recalls vividly the night of August 19 [sic —should read “18”], 1955. He and two others were working in a gravel pit near Oxford when he got a distress signal from his pumper operator five hundred feet away.

“Mr. Merritt responded, was surprised to see the man pointing skyward.

“‘I looked up,’ Mr. Merritt said, ‘and saw what appeared to be a dark object surrounded by a circle of 12 lights.

“‘I know the object was solid because you couldn't see the stars behind it. There was no sound and whatever it was stood perfectly still. We couldn't tell how high it was above near-by trees.’

“The two men, Mr. Merritt said, ‘watched the object ‘four or five minutes’ before

he went to summon the third worker. When he got back, it was gone.

"Mr. Merritt said he started to drive into Oxford but turned back when he realized that few people would be awake.

" 'The other men told me that while I was gone,' he said, 'that a group of planes roared directly over the pit. We figured some one must have picked up the object on a radar screen.'

"Mr. Merritt, a former University of Nebraska student, has never seen another unidentified flying object.

"But he is sure in his own mind that he saw something real that night in 1955—that it was no optical illusion." (xx.)

(xx.) Frisbie, Al. "Sky Sightings in the 50's Still Vivid." Plattsmouth, Nebraska. (? newspaper name unreadable) 24 April 66.

21 August. Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

Believers and skeptics.

Over the years the Hopkinsville story has been told many times. In every case save one the various versions of events are too brief to do justice to the case. The exception is *Close Encounters at Kelly and Others of 1955* (CUFOS, 1978).

Skepticism centers around the testimony of four persons: Raymond McCord, State Trooper Russell Ferguson, Deputy sheriff George Batts, and Air Force Major John E. Albert.

Deputy Batts seems to have been a doubter from the get go. One of the few people still alive and willing to talk when newspaperman J. Robert Matyi traveled to Hopkinville to investigate the case in the late 1970s, Batts accused at least some of the witnesses of having consumed some alcohol and that the house was "full of comic books." (xx.) Well, no one else mentioned seeing

(xx.) Matyi, J. Robert. *My God, They're Real*. Ashley Books, Inc.: Port Washington, N.Y. 11050, 1979. p.70.

comic books. As for the alcohol, that was one of first things people thought of, but no empty containers were found and one of the main witnesses, Mrs. Lankford, didn't even drink. Not everyone agrees with Batts if he meant the witnesses were "acting drunk," nor did anyone say they smelled liquor on any witnesses' breath. Besides that, the testimony of the witnesses were remarkably consistent, something very unlikely if their judgement was impaired. Note that Batts was careful not to name anyone specifically and qualified his remarks with the word "some." How the word "some" is suppose to explain "everything" is a mystery in its self. French journalist Yann Mege questioned Russell Ferguson April 17, 2000, and the question of alcohol came up. Ferguson told Mege he had "no precise memory of the Suttons" but he did remember "they were drinking..." There appears to be a language problem here. Mege was quick to pursue the issue:

" 'Are you saying that they were drunk?'

"He shook his head, clearly annoyed.

““Let me not say what I did not say. I did not say they were drunk, I said they were drinking [drinkers?]. Generally speaking, let us say they were not really stable people, if you see what I’m saying.” (xx.)

(xx.) Mege, Yann. “Kelly, la nuit des extraterrestries.” *Phenomena*. #45, June 2001. p.11. (My thanks to Claude Mauge for the translation—L. E. Gross)

Chief Greenwell, among the first to arrive on the scene, found no evidence of a booze party:

“Chief Greenwell supervised a thorough search of the house, the yard, and out-buildings. Without making a point of it, he looked for evidences of drinking. None was found, either by him or any other investigators, to several of whom the same thought occurred. Mr. Ledwith noticed a few beer cans in a rubbish basket the next day; but the second point on which everyone I [Isabel Davis] talked to seemed to agree was no evidence that anyone at the farmhouse had been drinking. When interviewed by Station WHOP, Mrs. Lankford stated that liquor was not allowed in the farmhouse.” (xx.)

(xx.) Davis, Isabel and Ted Bloecher. *Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955*. Evanston, Ill.: Center For UFO Studies, 1978. pp.34-35.

More from Ferguson.

Like Matyi, Yann found it hard to locate anyone alive or willing to talk during the brief time he was in Hopkinville, but he did find Ferguson as we have already noted. Here is some more information from the State Trooper. Ferguson speaks first in the following exchange:

“RF: ‘[there]...was this hole in the wire netting of one window [The window in the Living Room next to the fireplace which was the one the creatures peeked through]. A square hole, a perfect square, or nearly perfect. It was apparently done with a knife or a razor blade. I showed it to the others, and I said to them: “This is what I call a square shooting!”’

“YM: ‘At this exact time, were the Suttons with you, inside the house?’

“RF: ‘Of course. They were behind me when I examined this curious hole.’

“YM: ‘I’m asking this to you because many investigators later said that the Suttons did not want to go inside.’

“RF: ‘People say what they want, that’s normal.’

“YM: ‘How did the Suttons react when you discovered this square hole?’

“RF: ‘As far I remember, they said nothing.’

“YM: ‘How many impacts were in the wire netting? Were any others elsewhere?’

“RF: ‘It is the only one I saw.’

“YM: ‘Some investigators have seen several holes, apparently done by bullets, in the netting...’

“RF: ‘Really? They did see that, on this night?’

“YM: ‘No, the following morning.’

“(He shook his head while laughing.)

“RF: ‘I did not know this. These holes were probably made after I left. During this night, there was only this square hole, I am sure of that.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Mege, Yann. “Kelly, la nuit des extraterrestries.” *Phenomena*. #45, June 2001. p.11.

Batts told newspaperman Matyi much the same thing. Matyi wrote:

“The family members told authorities that the hole in the screen was caused when a shot was fired at one of the ‘little men.’ Batts, however, didn’t accept that explanation at all.

“When he examined the lone bullet hole late that night, he insists it was a ‘square-looking,’ the type that easily could have been made by a tobacco stick—an instrument that would produce a square hole, which police officer discovered in the corner of one room in the house.

“Jokingly, Batts says, ‘That was the first shotgun I ever saw that shot a square hole.’

“Batts belief that the incident did not occur as described was reinforced the next day when he returned to the farm house to do some more investigation. The square hole in the screen, he says, *now was round* [Matyi’s emphasis].

“Apparently, according to him, one of the family members, sensing that police officers eventually would notice the discrepancy between the shotgun incident and the square hole, decided to ‘bore out’ the hole to make it round, which is the natural shape for a solid object that been pierced by a bullet.

“Besides being transformed from square to round, the hole the next day was nearly ‘four times as large’ as its original size on the night of August 21, according to Batts. He is quite confident in his theory that the entire story was fabricated.” (xx.)

(xx.) Matyi, J. Robert. *My God, They’re Real*. pp.70-71.

Batts evidently didn’t look close enough. There were two large holes in the netting. The “square” one, and a second much larger one of a round shape. The second hole was caused by a shotgun blast at a greater distance, hence the larger size. The “big” hole, plus a number of small holes by the 22 cal. weapon, were made during the second visit by the “little men” and are consistent with the testimony of the witnesses. The “square” shape may have been due to a peeling

effect of the buck shot charge on the wires of the netting that crossed at right angles. In any event, the big holes were not caused by inserting a stick since the wires around the hole were not compressed. All of this is explained and illustrated by Isabel Davis in her Hopkinsville book. Parts of the Davis volume will be reproduced here to impress upon the reader the superiority of Davis as a source of information. We shouldn't be too impressed by a police uniform. (See pages 22-27)

Another point made was the lack of any trace of activity by the "creatures" at the scene. There is general agreement on this. It might be said that a statement of Batts' that no trace could be seen on the roof of the house is questionable because one cannot see that area very well from the ground, but Chief Greenwell climbed up on the roof to check. Greenwell noticed nothing. Batts pushed this aspect hard, harder than anyone else. After interviewing Batts, Matyi wrote:

"...an observation was made about how dusty the terrain was, because of a lack of rainfall. Batts notes the farm house was besides a dusty, gravel road. The surrounding countryside was also dust covered. Therefore, he contents there probably should have been some physical evidence in the form of tracks or claw marks in the dust, especially on the roof of the house." (xx.)

(xx.) Matyi, J. Robert. *My God, They're Real*. p.70.

Actually the lack of traces is consistent with the witnesses testimony. The "creatures" seemed to be nearly weightless—like a child's balloon bounding around. One would have to peer very close and have some idea what mark an "alien foot or claw" would make, moreover pictures of the farm house and grounds show messy and confusing surfaces (And to my mind, not that dusty—L.E. Gross).

Chief Greenwell noted that the ground was baked so dry by the heat it was hard to make an impression with one's foot.

Matyi also spoke with State Trooper G.W. Riley who touched on the lack of traces issue. Matyi wrote:

"One thing that puzzles Riley about the Kelly [Some prefer to use "Kelly" instead of Hopkinsville] invasion is the report about the 'little men' climbing on the roof of the farm house. Riley doesn't understand how the old drainpipe, which ran along the house and was the probable perch of the creature that was involved in the head-patting incident, could have supported the weight of the creatures. The drainpipe, he remembers, was in a dilapidated condition and seemed on the verge of falling down." (xx.)

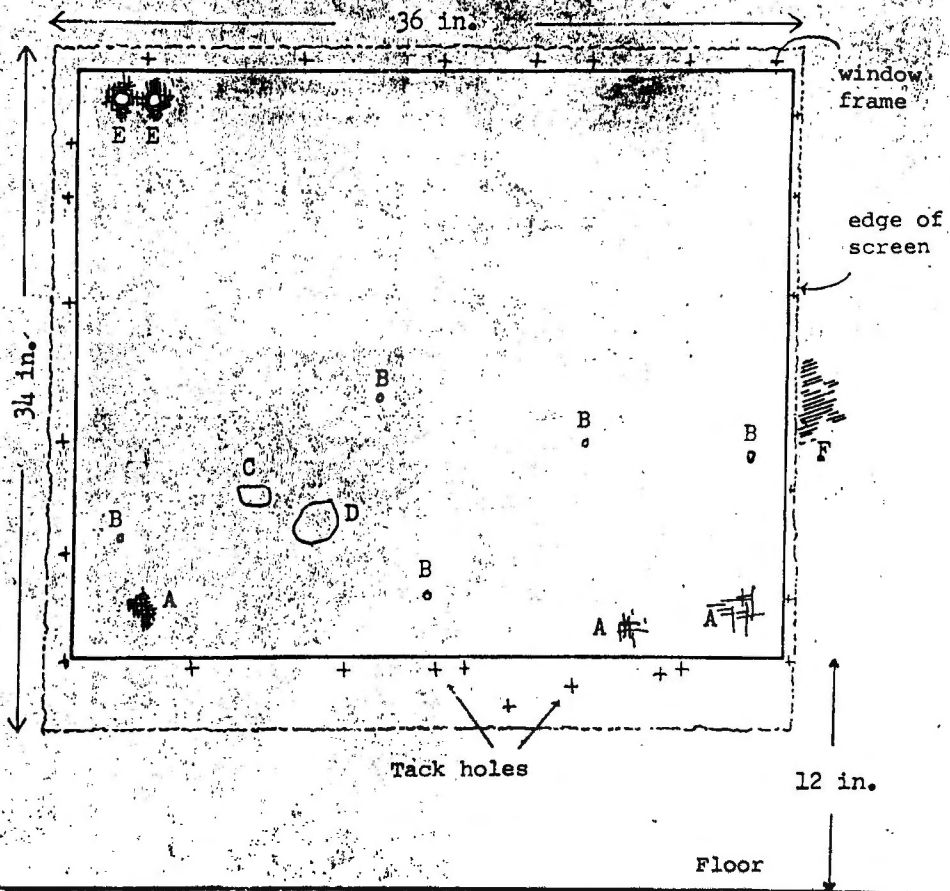
(xx.) Matyi, J. Robert. *My God, They're Real*. p.69.

As Mr. Matyi pointed out, Trooper Riley was at least opened-minded enough to admit he had no idea what aliens would weight if they existed. (xx.)

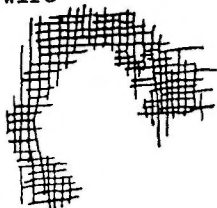
(xx.) Ibid.

In contrast to Trooper Riley, Batts, according to Matyi, wasn't opened-minded on anything

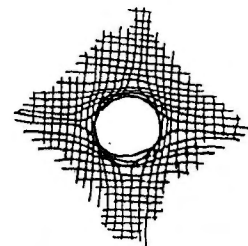
Figure 15. Diagram of Screen, with Detail of Holes



Detail of
holes A -
weathered
wire



Detail of wires around
edges of holes D, C, B



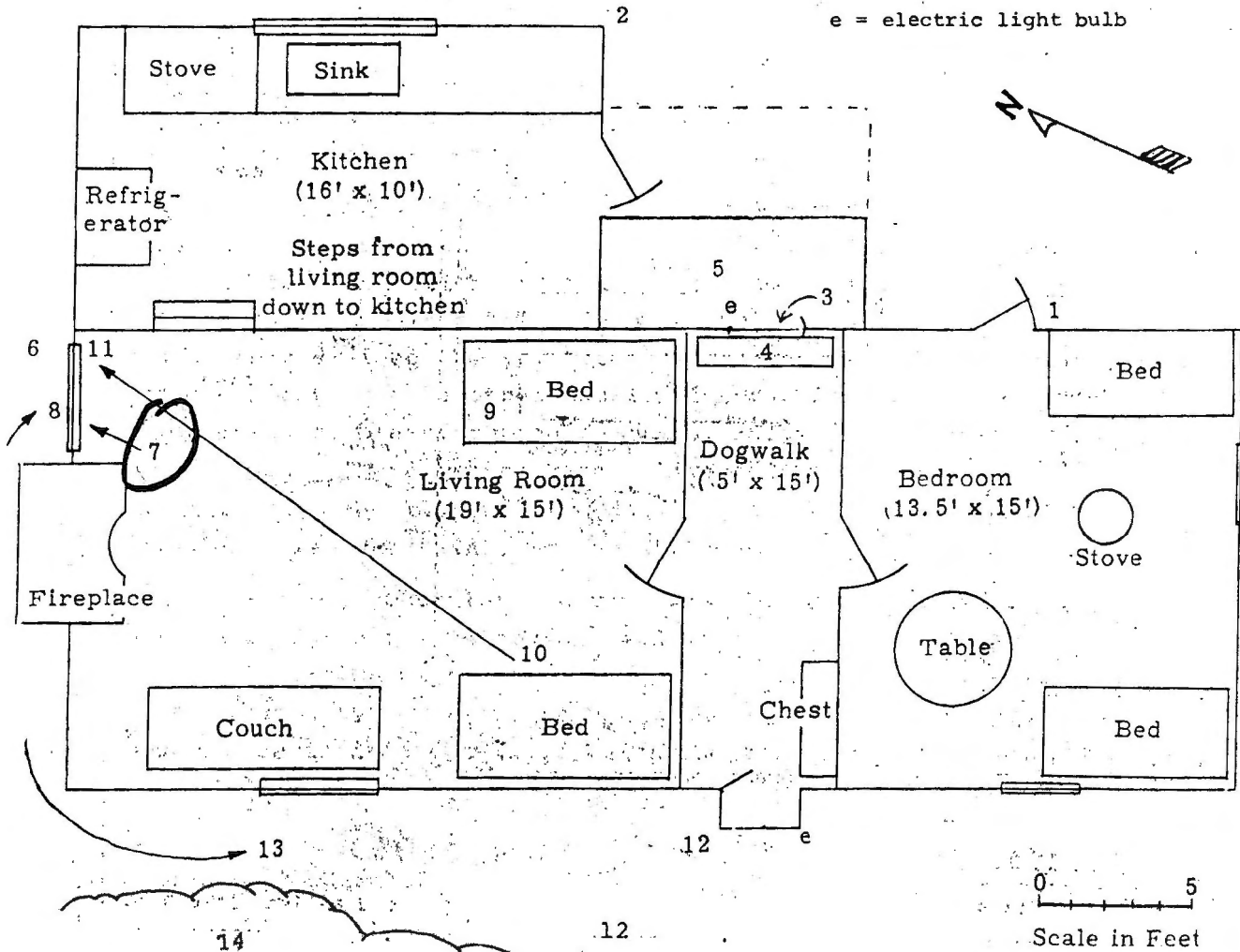
Detail of wires
around holes E,
made with pencil

Figure 5. PLAN OF FARMHOUSE

1. Back door. From here the first creature was seen and the first shot fired, and from here Mrs. Lankford first saw one of the creatures at 10:30 p.m.
2. Approximate position of creature when seen by Mrs. Lankford at 10:30 p.m.
3. Back door of dogwalk, not in use at time of landing.
4. Dresser or chest blocking back door of dogwalk.
5. Overhanging roof above back door of dogwalk, later replaced by a porch (broken line).
6. Window outside which a creature stood on at least two occasions.
7. Approximate position where J.C. Sutton stood when he fired the first shot through the screen; short arrow shows suggested trajectory of this shot.
8. Creature seen outside window by Mrs. Lankford, 3:30 a.m.; "it seemed to come round the chimney."
9. Bed from which Mrs. Lankford (her head toward window) saw creature, 3:30 a.m.
10. Approximate position from which Lucky Sutton fired at creature outside window, 3:30 a.m.; long arrow shows suggested trajectory of this shot.
11. Side of window frame from which shotgun pellets were dug the next day (see photograph on page 76).
12. Overhanging roof above front door.
13. Creature that came around corner of house was shot approximately here.
14. Creature seen on limb of maple tree approximately here.

Well

e = electric light bulb



2) some, such as traces left by the "spaceship," were not necessarily to be expected in the light of other UFO landing reports; and

3) some, such as blood and footprints, should not have been found if the witnesses were telling the truth.

Thus nothing that has yet been cited is in any way inconsistent with the hypothesis that the Suttons' story was true.

The Holes in the Screen



The object most often mentioned by the Hopkinsville skeptics in justification of their disbelief was the screen in the living room window, through which shots were said to have been fired at the little men on at least two occasions during the night. In August 1956, Mr. Ledwith obtained this screen from the McCords, the current occupants of the farmhouse. He examined it himself and sent it to New York for further study and preservation.

Page 71 shows the screen as it would appear from inside the room, looking out. The broken line is the screen margin, and the solid line represents the window-frame to which it was tacked. Five types of holes are now in the screen:

- 1) Tack holes around the edge, indicated by the small crosses.
- 2) Although most of the wire was sound, three places where it had rusted out, making small holes, are shown by the cross-hatchings marked A.
- 3) There are five small perforations, each with a diameter of about one-half inch or slightly less. These are marked B.
- 4) There are two holes larger than those above. That marked C is generally rectangular in shape and measures about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch by $\frac{7}{8}$ inch; the opening marked D is about two inches in diameter.

5) The two holes marked E were made with a pencil, as described below.

The area marked F shows where the wood was splintered on the window-frame; Chief Greenwell found shotgun pellets imbedded here.

The five holes marked B and the two larger holes C and D have certain features in common. They are not crossed by any crumbling wire, as are the weathered holes, and at their edge the broken ends of the wires are directed outwards. The screening surrounding these perforations is intact and level.

The five small holes, B, appear to have been made by bullets from a .22 rifle. The two larger ones were apparently made by shotgun fire. C was to all appearances made by a 20-gauge shotgun, D by a 12-gauge. The outward bending of the wires indicates that all the shots were fired from inside the room.

According to the best reconstruction now possible of the events of that night, the officers found hole C when they first entered the living room of the farmhouse (unaccompanied by any member of the family, it will be recalled, since the Suttons refused to go into the house again until it had been searched). The investigators immediately found the shape and size of hole C suspicious: it was "square," and it seemed too small to have been made by a shotgun. When the Suttons came into the house, they were met by already established skepticism. They could offer no explanation, of course, but angrily insisted that they had fired through the screen at the little men.

The skeptics' theory was that the Suttons, to support their story, had faked this hole by poking a tobacco stick through the screen. (A tobacco stick is a stake an inch or two square, used to support the growing plants--a common object in Kentucky farmhouses, of course.)

Hole D was not present at the time of the night investigation, but was in the screen when the investigators returned in the morning. (It was probably caused by Lucky's shot at the

little man described on page 38.) The skeptics considered this hole likewise too small to have been made by a shotgun blast. According to their view, when the Suttons realized, from the jokes about "square-shooters" made by the night investigators, that their first attempt at fraud was not successful, they later manufactured hole D (method not specified), which was suitably round but was still too small. One of the small holes, B, is also known to have been new that morning; the time of origin of the others is not known, except that one was made by Taylor (see page 21).

The skeptics argue that since these holes were obviously faked, the entire story must have been false.

The answer to this is that, in actual fact, the holes B, C, and D must have been produced by firing through the screen. Compare these holes' appearance on page 71 with those marked E, which were made by forcing a pencil through the wires: the difference is obvious. It is not possible to punch out a hole in the tough screen-wire fabric (as has been done at B, C, and D) with any hand-held tool. Trying to push a tobacco stick or anything of the sort through the screen would simply have torn it loose from the window-frame entirely before much of a hole resulted, and any hole produced in that way would resemble E rather than C and D.

The astonishing thing is that no one at Hopkinsville seemed to have the least acquaintance with what actually happens when you try to push a stick through a wire screen. Despite the importance of the "square holes" to the skeptics, and despite their frequent mention of a tobacco stick as the causative agent, nobody undertook the experiment of demonstrating that such a stick would in fact produce such a hole.

The small size of holes C and D, which seemed so suspicious to the first investigators is, in fact, perfectly consistent with the area of a shot-pattern at so short a distance from the

gun muzzle. The rectangular shape of C is obviously a consequence of the rectangular weave of the screen.

As for area F, the splintered section of window-frame from which Chief Greenwell dug shot, he suggested that it might have been made by a shot which was meant to go through the screen at a little man moving toward the back of the house, but which was "led" too far. He did not mention checking on this possibility with any of the Sutton men, but it seems reasonable. No one suggested that this was inflicted with a tobacco stick.

One more fact about the screen may be of interest to the readers. In August 1956, in New York, it was tested for radio-activity with a Geiger counter, on the infinitesimally slim chance that it still might show some detectable trace of the "little clawy hands" that Mrs. Lankford had spoke of (pages 19 and 37). No radiation above background was recorded.

Status, Reputation, and Character of the Family

The Sutton family were working farmers on a small farm, with a low cash income. They lived in an unpainted three-room frame house, without running water, telephone, radio, television, books, or much furniture. Probably none of them had gone beyond the fourth grade in school. Probably they did not see a newspaper once a month.

To be sure, they were neither paupers nor hillbillies. They were buying the farm at the time of the landing, and they had bought and paid for farm equipment on the installment plan. The children, whom I saw when I was in Hopkinsville, looked healthy and well cared for. They had links with Hopkinsville: Mrs. J.C. Sutton was working there, Mrs. Lankford's other two sons lived in town, Mrs. Lankford belonged to a Hopkinsville church.

Nevertheless their economic, educational, and social level was lower than that of most of the investigators and many of the

and still doesn't "believe one iota" of the Sutton's story. Batts only admits that that the witnesses were frightened. Beyond that, he wasn't impressed. He is the only one who felt that way which makes one wonder. Everyone else at least entertained some doubts the story was a fabrication. Matyi puts it this way:

"Would it easy for ten people to conspire together in hatching a story about a flying saucer landing?

"Certainly, no skeptic can accuse the family of providing an account lacking in details. In fact, the Kelly case has to rank near the top of all reported UFO incidents, regarding the sheer volume of information provided by the principal witnesses. It would be next to impossible for ten persons, adults and children alike, to invent such an elaborate story, then for everyone in the group to feign body-trembling fear or wide-eyed terror, and then withstand grilling by police officers, reporters and military personnel, without straying from their story and without recanting a single, major detail." (xx.)

(xx.) Matyi, J. Robert. *My God, They're Real*. p.132.

A recantation? The Raymond McCord story.

In July 1956 Isabel Davis traveled to Hopkinsville to do a complete investigation. She already had Bud Ledwith's extensive notes taken the morning after the all the excitement to work with but there were many questions yet to be asked. BLUE BOOK advisor Dr. J. Allen Hynek would later call the results of Davis' investigation, which incorporated Ledwith's interviews, "an excellent document worthy of publication." (xx.) Hynek would also mention

(xx.) Hynek, Dr. J. Allen. *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*. Henry Regnery Company: Chicago, Illinois, 1972. p.154.

the Hopkinsville case in two of his books about the UFO problem. Hynek wrote:

"I would not have given the Kelly-Hopkinsville case this much attention were it not for the fact that I know the principal investigators, Ledwith and Davis, well, particularly Ledwith since he was in my direct employ for nearly two years on the satellite tracking program." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Miss Davis located Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Sutton, Glennie Lankford, and three children living in Hopkinsville. It would have been better if the "little men" witnesses had moved out of the State. Even though it had been ten months since the "incident," Davis hesitated to say anything to J.C. Sutton. The man had already quit three jobs because he couldn't take the kidding from fellow workers. It took some doing to get Glennie to open up. Davis recalls:

"I had visions of checking every possible detail with the best possible sources. But I was due for a disappointment. These witnesses had become deeply embittered and resentful as a result of the ridicule they had received. The last thing they

wanted to do was talk about the case to anyone..." (xx.)

(xx.) Davis, Isabel and Ted Bloecher. *Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955*. Evanston, Ill.: Center For UFO Studies, 1978. p.3.

Davis also wrote: "As one investigator remarked later, 'That family took an awful beating,' and the scars were there to stay." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.18.

Davis says of her July 1956 visit:

"Mrs. Lankford was not glad to see me. Standing inside the screen door, she listened to my explanation and request for an interview, but shook her head. 'I don't want to talk about it any more. I've talked to so many people.'

"I persisted. I told her what a long trip I had made, and that I only wanted to get the facts from someone who really knew them. She was plainly unconvinced, but eventually she led the way into the living room; I suppose there seemed to be no other way to get rid of me.

"There was no reason for her to take any other attitude. All her associations with the Kelly landing and its aftermath were unpleasant. I was merely another inquisitive stranger wanting to talk about what she wanted to forget. Investigators before me had probably professed to be objective and non-skeptical, but some of them may have laughed at what she told them. Why should she trust me any more than any other uninvited, unannounced, and unwanted researcher? (I had not even telephoned to ask if I could see her, almost certain of a rejection if I had.)

"Still plainly reluctant to talk, she warned me that she would answer questions only about things that she herself had seen with her own eyes, not about what anyone else had seen. We sat down stiffly on the davenport. Mary, the youngest child, came and learned on the arm of the davenport next to her mother, and watched me unsmilingly throughout the conversation. The two boys paid no attention to us; they dashed in and out of the house, playing.

"Alene Sutton was visiting her mother-in-law that morning. Across the room she was ironing, and listened without saying much herself, although she commented occasionally and contributed some of the details. Because I had my hands full talking to Mrs. Lankford, I could not ask the younger woman more than one or two direct questions. From the expression of her face as she watched us, I got the impression that she was somewhat amused (as well she might be) by my difficulties in obtaining information from her mother-in-law.

"The conversation was not marked by any thawing in Mrs. Lankford's response, or even by any particular show of interest on her part. She answered my questions laconically, and several times refused to elaborate on an interesting statement, with 'I didn't see that myself...I don't know any more about that part of it...I only saw two of them, different times, one each time.' She did not appear to be manufacturing any information that she did give." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, pp.16,18.

Miss Davis quoted Glennie as complaining bitterly: "The lies they told about us. Said we were drinking." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid. p.19.

A year and half later:

In 1958 the witnesses were still in the Hopkinsville area trying to live it down. Early in the year, January 22, 1958, there was a big UFO program on network television. Interest in UFOs was running high after the huge UFO wave/ Sputnik excitement of 1957. The show was put on the *Armstrong Theatre of the Air*. Glennie, J.C. Sutton, and the others couldn't even get a break from the military. In front of the whole nation Lt. Col. Spencer Whedon of ATIC referred to the Kelly case and broadly hinted that: "...liquor had been responsible for the whole story." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid. p.35.

In Hopkinville (Kelly) Raymond McCord was still living in the old Sutton place. He and his wife Juanita had permitted Miss Davis to take pictures of the house and grounds. They also as answered any questions they could. There must have been many other visitors over the years. In 1966 Police Chief Russell Greenwell was still getting so many requests for information he printed up copies of Jacqueline Sanders' article on the case as a handout and mailer. (xx.)

(xx.) Dorris, Joe. "Watching the Parade." Hopkinsville, Kentucky. *New Era*. 8 March 66.

When newspaperman J. Robert Matyi was researching his book on the case in the late 1970s, the privacy of the Suttons was still such an issue he felt compelled to substitute fake names for them even though the identity of Elmer, Glennie, and the rest were widely known, even by people overseas.

It could be Elmer Sutton snapped. He was known to have a hot temper and was the one that screamed "GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE" when a crowd of curious people flooded his house and farm the day after the shooting.

A J. T. Gooch tells us:

" 'About three years [1958? Probably after the Armstrong Theatre show was aired] after the attack when Elmer Sutton, Cecil's brother, and [Raymond] McCord were riding together in a truck, Elmer asked McCord, 'Do you remember the story about the little green men?'

" 'Yeah.'

"He continued, 'Well, that was just a big d_____ lie!' (xx.)

(xx.) Gooch, J.T. *Just the Other Day: A History of Madisonville, Kentucky, Revisited*. (Publishing house not known). 1999. p.63.

As late as 1995 Raymond McCord was still spreading the word. According to the local paper: "Neighbor Raymond McCord heard absolutely nothing [that night? Others did.] and Elmer Sutton would have said to him: 'Well, there wasn't nothing to it at all.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Hopkinsville, Kentucky. *New Era*. 30 October 95.

Elmer's emotional outburst is not as convincing as a confession by Glennie would be, and we never got that.

The Air Force is a "problem."

It could be the real importance of the Hopkinsville case is not the question of whether or not "little men" landed at the Sutton farm, but the fact that it illustrates so well the reasons there is a conflict between the Air Force and its civilian critics.

1.) Superior civilian investigation.

Two examples of the poor quality of the Air Force's "investigation" consist of the short statement obtained from Glennie Lankford, and the brief talk with Deputy Sheriff George Batts. Both are to be blamed on Major John E. Albert. The statement by Mrs. Lankford was far too brief to cover everything, and since Batts had made up his mind almost from the first that the incident was bogus, limiting a discussion of events to him was a big mistake.

It should also be noted that we are led to believe "unofficial" visits to Hopkinsville by other military people was done more out of curiosity than as a duty assignment, therefore they apparently took no notes. It was the impression of some persons, like Bud Ledwith, a few military men were doing some serious checking, but if they did, the results have never been officially acknowledged.

Isabel Davis, a civilian UFO researcher, compiled her report from many sources: Glennie Lankford; Deputy Sheriff George Batts; Alene Sutton; Juanita McCord; Chief of Police Russell Greenwell; Sgt. Malcolm Pritchett, Hopkinsville Police Department; State Trooper Russell Ferguson; State Trooper G.W. Riley; State Trooper (First name missing) Simpson; Harvey Reader; Staff photographer *Kentucky New Era*; Mrs. Harvey Keeder; Tom Covington; Joe Dorris; Frank Cameron, radio station WHOP; Albert Andre, NICAP investigator; Billy Ray Taylor; Elmer Sutton; Mike Locky, son of the owner of station WHOP; Vera Sutton, J.C. Sutton; O.P. Baker; and Bud Ledwith.

Miss Davis developed a time line, tried to understand any discrepancies, and produced maps of the general area and the farmhouse (inside and out). Her report exceeds 100 pages.

2.) Negative influence from the top.

When the Commander of Campbell AFB, Colonel McPherson, was not inclined to take the case seriously, his subordinates followed his lead.

3.) Doubts about the accuracy of the Air Force's information.

One prime source of Air Force information was Major John Albert's account, which contains dubious statements. The claim by Major Albert that Glennie's church conducted "Holy Roller-type" services was in error, as was the suggestion all of the Sutton's were members of the congregation. Only Glennie was religious. Moreover, the Sutton's had no radio, which would make it difficult to order the religious literature mentioned by Major Albert from the Kingdom Publishers in Fort Worth, Texas. Since no one else mentioned the literature, there is some doubt as to the existence of the material, or if Glennie ever had it.*

*On page 64 of the monograph *UFOs: A History 1955 July-September 15th* I refer to a English religious publication *The Kingdom Voice*. It turns out that publication has nothing to do with the Hopkinsville case. The literature Major Albert spoke about did exist and was a tract titled the *Kingdom Digest* issued by "radio preacher" J.A. Lovell of Fort Worth, Texas. The particular tract in question showing a saucer and its pilot evidently was first published in 1950. I have not seen a copy— L. E. Gross.

The theory proposed by Major Albert that monkeys had escaped from a circus proved to be a dud. There did happen to be a circus in the area at the time (The King Circus) but when it was contacted it was confirmed that no animals had gotten loose. Major Albert's Holy Roller/monkey explanation was so weak skeptics abandoned it in favor of the "corn likker" hypothesis.

4.) Victimization of witnesses.

The Suttons suffered greatly from their experience and they got no sympathy from the Air Force. In fact the actions and attitude of the military made things worst.

5.) "Never officially reported or investigated."

This is a tactic used often by the Air Force. If something is not reported and investigated officially it doesn't exist as far as the military is concerned. The Hopkinsville incident may have set some kind of record for being "semi-reported and investigated."

6.) The Air Force's image.

The Air Force seems more concerned with its image then any "Air Defense problem." Two years after the event [1957] the military finally found a reason to fully investigate what scared the Suttons.

In the Air Force's BLUE BOOK file on the case ("Document H") it says:

"This case, which has not yet been brought to the attention of the Air Force, may cause some embarrassment if suddenly submitted 'cold' to ATIC. Preparatory countermeasures are considered warranted. It is for this reason all possible information is being collected on this sighting." (xx.)

(xx.) Air Force BLUE BOOK files. Collection T1206. Microfilm #23. Hopkinsville, Kentucky. "Document H."

7.) Poor record keeping.

Since the Air Force never took "official cognizance" of the Hopkinsville case, it missed the opportunity to collect information from officers who made unofficial visits to the Sutton farm. Bud Ledwith recalls offering his notes to two military men from Campbell AFB but they refused to take the material. Major John Albert's visit was "semi-official" and apparently as a result he never collected anything in writing except for Glennie's brief statement. Furthermore, no Air Force file on Hopkinsville was kept by Campbell AFB. In fact, some enclosures attached to 1957 memorandums in BLUE BOOK records were missing when the paperwork was made available to the public at Maxwell, Alabama, AFB in 1975.

New York
Sunday News
12 March 67



Chief of Police Greenwell shows window which Suttons shot out in wild shootout with boogermen.



While John Sutton was occupied by a "little green man" running on ridge pole of roof, Elmer had one up this tree, police chief says.

The Associated Press carried a "political item" on August 26th that poked fun at the Hopkinsville story. It noted that the Democrats were "green" with envy over the popularity of Eisenhower thus the: "...little green men" in Kentucky 'were desperate Democrats looking for a candidate in 1956.' Also: "...the 'little green men' may not have been standing erect because 'there's no telling what the Democrats will stoop to when their backs are against the wall...'" (xx.)

(xx.) Washington D.C. 26 August 55. (AP)

The Hertell letter.

When ATIC wanted information on the Hopkinsville case in 1957, it contacted Campbell AFB. A response came from Capt. Robert J. Hertell, former base adjutant. Newspaperman J. Robert Matyi read the letter, which was preserved in military files. Having investigated the events at Hopkinsville himself, Matyi gave his opinion of the letter's contents:

"If ever a person's biases were allowed to surface with embarrassing regularity, I've never seen a more flagrant example than this letter.

"Hertell began his letter innocently enough, telling Kirk that 'I do remember this incident vaguely, but I'm afraid I can't help you much since I was not directly connected with it. That being the case, I am therefore answering your request in this informal manner and the following is, to the best of my knowledge, all that I know about the incident.'

"Here we have an Air Force official admitting he knows next to nothing about a case he did not investigate personally and has only a 'vague' recollection of it. Yet, he decides it is his honor bound duty to set the record straight, and in so doing, leaves himself as naked in his ignorance as a two-bit stripper just finishing her bump-and-grind...

"He writes erroneously that 'It should be an easy task to look back through the newspaper's (Hopkinsville *New Era*) files covering that period and find the article (about Kelly [Hopkinsville]). The story was altogether too fantastic for even the newspaper to swallow, and they never did give it a very big play as I remember.'

"Patently false. Hertell is saying that even the local news media pooh-poohed the flying saucer story, dismissing it entirely at first glance. Actually, he must have known absolutely nothing about the newspaper business to make that kind of statement, or he was totally ignorant of his subject matter. No less than four or five stories about Kelly, ranging from the local citizenry's reaction to the story to other features, were carried on page one for three or four successive days by the *New-Era*.

"It's hard to tell what Hertell expected the newspapers to do before saying the *New Era* maintained an open mind about the case. The Second Coming would be hard pressed to get much more newspaper ink during a three or four-day period. Hertell also makes a very subjective and totally prejudiced statement by alleging that the story was 'too fantastic' for the newspaper to swallow...

" 'In closing,' he writes, 'I'd like to point out that out of all the cases that I investigated for the commander and out of all the incidents that happened around Campbell during my three and a half years there, this incident impressed me the least, and furthermore, I was never even remotely connected with it.'

"Indeed! First Hertell scathingly denounces the Kelly incident as the least credible he 'investigated' during his tenure at Fort Campbell. Then, in the same sentence, he admits he was never even remotely connected with the case." (xx.)

(xx.) Matyi, J. Robert. *My God, They're Real*. pp.106-107.

22 August. Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Monday morning.

According to an interview by J. Robert Matyi:

"Frank Langley [Operator of the local grocery store, Opal's Market, in the small Kelly district, a cluster of about 40 houses] had heard about the landing from so many customers on Monday morning he eventually made up his mind to walk the half-mile or so to the farmhouse to chat about the incident. When he arrived, the first person he saw was Glennie*, who was not in a talkative mood, Langley was to learn. In fact, at first she adamantly refused to talk about the little men, having grown tired and impatient already with disbelievers and fed up with curiosity seekers. Langley didn't give up easily. Turning on the charm and using a bit of psychology, he managed to break down Glennie's resistance.

"He agreed with her how terrible it was that many persons disbelieved the story.

" 'Some people just won't believe anything,' he said, implying that he was not necessarily of that category. Glennie felt more at ease and slowly began talking about the events, starting from the time the first creature was observed until the last one was seen, shortly before dawn.

"Glennie confided to Langley that it had been impossible to kill any of the beings, whom she described in minute detail.

"Satisfied with his little visit, Langley then left and headed back to his store where more pressing matters, like work, awaited him." (xx.)

* To protect her privacy, Matyi used a fake name: "Linnie."

(xx.) Matyi, J. Robert. *My God, They're Real!* pp.32-33.

22 August. Hopkinsville, Kentucky. The story spreads.

Newspaperman Matyi tells us: "Stories of the siege had appeared by now [August 22th] in almost every major newspaper in the United States, leading news commentators on radio and television (CBS) had relayed the story from coast to coast." (xx.)

(xx.) Matyi, J. Robert. *My God, They're Real!* p.34.

State Police report.

Matyi also interviewed State Trooper G.W. Riley who was one of the first to arrive at the Suttons' farm Sunday night. Matyi wrote: "Riley recalls that in 1955 the Kentucky State Police case report was long and involved, much more so than the kind troopers have to fill out today." (xx.)

(xx.) Matyi, J. Robert. *My God, They're Real!* p.67.

It would seem the records of the State Troopers would be a gold mine of information. Matyi tried to get some data that way:

"Riley filled out a very detailed case report on the Kelly landing and forwarded it to state police headquarters in Frankfort. He insists the report should be on file,

but the Kentucky Department of Public Safety which heads up the state police, contents the report *is not on file* [Emphasis Matyi]." (xx.)

23 August. Hopkinsville, Kentucky. *New Era* reporters.

Reporter Joe Dorris wrote: "The sincerity with which the fantastic but not impossible tale is told was what impressed us most when photographer Harvey Reeder and I visited the scene this morning." (xx.)

(xx.) Hopkinsville, Kentucky. *New Era*. 23 August 55.

22 August. Saginaw, Michigan. (9:30 p.m.)

GOC spots "luminous object."

A newspaper report said:

"A flashing luminous object was sighted in the sky over central and western Michigan last night by civil defense ground observers.

"The object was sighted at 9:30 p.m. at the observation post at Saginaw fair grounds. A report was sent to the air filter center in Grand Rapids and Air Force planes reportedly went up to investigate.

"The 30th air division said at Ypsilanti it had 'a report from a pretty reliable source that the object was a meteor or shooting star.' It added: 'We are now in the meteor season.'

"Otherwise, however, the 30th air would not comment. It referred the question of whether planes were sent up to the air technical intelligence center. There was no immediate comment from the ATIC.

"At the observation post in Saginaw, Henry Brinkman and Robert Schmidt said they sighted the object for 20 minutes in the southwestern part of the sky and that it moved slowly in a westerly direction [a meteor?]." (xx.)

(xx.) Saginaw, Michigan. 23 August 55. (AP).

22? August. Cutlerville, Michigan. (no time)

The same news story that reported the Saginaw "object," also referred to a second sighting: "A similar object was sighted from the ground observation post at Cutlerville near Grand Rapids. Sgt. Earl R. Kirkpatrick described it as red and green, moving in a counter clockwise arc, blinking and with a bobbing motion." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

24 August. Cincinnati, Ohio. (night)

"Plausible explanation."

A news story out of Ohio:

"Look out, 'Spacemen,' men from earth are out to expose you!

"The owner and operator of a drive-in theater Wednesday offered a 'plausible explanation' of what happened Monday night when a number of Woodlawn residents spotted 'strange lights in the sky.'

"A motion picture film, '*Conquest of Space*,' in Technicolor, was playing on the screen of the Woodlawn Drive-in Theater, Springfield Pike, at exactly the time an object, which flickered red, green, and white lights, was reportedly spotted in the sky over Woodlawn.

"When Nat Kaplan, owner and operator of the theater, read the report in the *Times-Star*, he theorized that 'strange tricks' of the atmosphere caused a reflection in the sky from the colorful theater screen.

"A.W. Walstrom, meteorologist in charge at the U.S. Weather Bureau, called Kaplan's theory a 'plausible explanation.' He said it was 'perfectly feasible that low clouds, strategically located, could reflect light from an object such as an outdoor theater screen.'

"The meteorologist also recalled that he 'walked home Monday night at about 8 to 8:30 o'clock in a sprinkle of rain, which, he added, gives more support to such an explanation.

"Kaplan pointed out that a technical factor in the construction of outdoor movie screens is that they are built to reflect light skyward. He said it is a known factor in outdoor projection that light does bounce from the screen.

"On the other hand, one of the Woodlawn residents who inspected the 'strange lights' in the sky, John Kluemper, 447 Riddle Road, was not convinced by the 'reflection theory.'

"Kluemper, who reported the sight, looked at the flickering object in the sky with a pair of binoculars. He said it appeared to be a 'circular object about the size of a golf ball' through the glasses.

'It was not a reflection and definitely an object,' according to Kluemper, who added, 'It could have been anything but a reflection.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Cincinnati, Ohio. *Times-Star*. 25 August 55.

26 August. Cincinnati, Ohio. "Green spaceman nabbed." (See clipping on page 38)

Late August or early September. El Dorado, Arkansas. (daytime)

Flying in echelon.

A letter to APRO states:

"In late August or early September, 1955, I saw three metallic-looking oval-shaped objects flying in echelon formation over Lion (Monsanto) Refinery (Oil), as I was hanging up diapers in my back yard. The craft were flying fairly high, but not so high for me to clearly see that they were not airplanes. I made few observa-

CINCINNATI



TIMES-STAR

Cincinnati's Home-Owned Newspaper—Founded 1840

Year—No. 205

Saturday, August 27, 1955

Phone CH 1-1700

'Spaceman' Nabbed by E

By JO HIGGINBOTHAM

The "little green men" were at it again Friday night. Calls from all over Cincinnati attested to that.

One was caught by an off-duty policeman. On his way home from Central Station about midnight, Lt. Malvon Hoffman spotted a green figure on Colerain Avenue in South Cumminsville. He stopped his car. The "Martian" darted around the corner.

CIRCLING THE BLOCK, Lt. Hoffman found the "green man" hiding by the steps of a church at Colerain and Elmore Avenues. The "green man" spoke English. He said he was 15-year-old Albert Snapp of 3745 Colerain Avenue.

Albert's costume—long-handled green underwear, a rubber mask and a green plastic scarf—was a left-over from last Halloween. After following the newspaper stories about "green men," Albert "just thought I'd have some fun. Most of the people just laughed at me."

But Lt. Hoffman did not think it was funny. He confiscated the suit, turned it over to Fifth District York Street Station and reported the case to the Youth Aid Bureau.

"He's never been in trouble before," asserted his mother, Mrs. William Snapp. Oldest of five children and chief babby sitter, Albert is a junior at Central High School.

But Albert's story did not explain away the calls of frightened residents in Camp Washington and Mt. Airy.

One child on Henshaw Avenue in Camp Washington reportedly was in hysterics after seeing a "green man" at the window of his home.

ALBERT DENIED leaving his neighborhood during his masquerade. He said he had only been out of the house 15 minutes before the policeman caught him.

"The other 'green men' reports must be 'just



JUST A PIECE of colored rubber, that's all this green man's face was. Albert contrasts fantasy with the bare facts, his own face.—TIMES-STAR Photos.

somebody else doing what I did," young Snapp theorized. He doesn't believe they are really spacemen.

The 15-year-old's antics in green followed a county police investigation late Thursday of a green man with a strong odor reported seen in Winton Woods.

Four teenagers who had been frightened as they sat in their automobile on Lakeside Drive later learned that the green invader from outer space was probably a skunk.

The green man incidents have accompanied numerous reports in Cincinnati this week that a strange, bright object—flickering red, green and yellow colors—has been hanging in the sky.

tions as to weather and etc. because I thought I had chanced to see some revolutionary aircraft of the government, as yet unannounced to the public. The sky was clear with very few clouds, and the sun was shining very brightly. These craft reflected light as they 'banked' around to my left. I did not notice them until they were about on a forty-five degree angle with me. I watched until they had flown out of sight behind houses and trees. I remember feeling resentment at seeing something flying over head that I was completely ignorant of. The craft flew from North to South. It was not until many years later that I realized American tax payers were not footing the bill for these surprising machines. It has been too long since I saw them to estimate their size. The craft made absolutely no audible noise and left no vapor." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: APRO. From: Mrs. James J. Antoon Jr., El Dorado, Arkansas. Date: 26 January 68. Photocopy in author's files.

? September. Mars Hill, Maine. (about 9:00 p.m.)

Did Martians visit Mars Hill?

A letter to APRO said:

"My first sighting took place in Mars Hill, Maine, in September, 1955. My husband and I were vacationing in the area.

"Areostock County consists of mostly flat potato fields surrounded by foothills and an impressive mountain range. One evening at approximately 9 o'clock (Clear, cold starry night, no clouds) as we stood with some friends admiring the evening sky, we noticed a large (about the size of a pea held at arm's length) stationary red object directly over the mountains which were about one mile away. It seemed to pulsate with light. My friends alerted several neighbors and they too came to watch. The object remained stationary for about five minutes and then began a slow pendulum-like motion which lasted for perhaps 7-8 seconds. It then took off with such tremendous speed that we all gasped in astonishment. It moved completely across the horizon line in about four seconds (I counted one thousand one, one thousand two, etc.). The incident was reported to the nearby Presque Isle AFB but none of us were questioned. THEY TOLD US IT WAS JUST A JET [Emphasis letter writer]. The shape seemed to be an elongated oval and in all the time we watched it we heard no sound at all." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: APRO. From: Jennifer "Stewing" (name not clear). Date: Not given. Photocopy in author's files.

? September. Statesville, North Carolina. (afternoon)

Three circular craft in V-formation.

A letter to APRO states:

"One sunny afternoon, after serving a couple of hours at the Ground Observer Corps station on the outskirts of Statesville, North Carolina, I was in the yard with my binoculars, facing southwest. A glint of something shiny caught my eye and I focused the binoculars on three white (or silver) craft flying in V-formation. But they were not planes! They were circular [Emphasis by letter writer] in shape. When I first saw them their size, to the naked eye, was about that of the top of a pencil eraser held at arm's length. I estimated they were flying at a fairly low rate of speed at an altitude of about 15,000 feet, moving East to West. I watched, fascinated, for a minute or two, and suddenly one craft darted ahead of the others in a tremendous burst of speed, then slowed down and 'waited for the others to catch up.' This started a sort of game, evidently, and for another two or three minutes—until they were out of sight—I watched them playing around, (almost like lambs or puppies) in the sky! I reported this to my superior in the GOC, and told some other members about the sighting but evidently only my friends believed me." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: APRO. From: Beudita L. Mitchell, 709 Colleton Road, Raleigh, North Carolina. Date of letter: None given. Photocopy in author's files.

1 September. Edmore, Michigan. (afternoon)

Looked like a 'checker.' Dropped ash-like material.

The Michigan press published:

"Edmore, Sept. 8—The report of a flying saucer, which reportedly dumped an ash-like material on the ground observation corps here, had this Montcalm county village of 1,000 persons buzzing Thursday.

"The object was reported seen last Thursday [September 1st] afternoon by four aircraft spotters on duty at their post atop a deserted milk plant on Wyman road.

"Few persons in the village knew about the incident, however, and Bruce Mair, publisher of the weekly *Edmore Times*, 'sat on' the story until he could report it in his newspaper Thursday morning.

"The observers who said they saw the object said it was flying at about 30,000 feet. They said it was in sight for about half a minute.

"One said it looked 'about as big as a washtub.' It was said to have been directly above the observation post when first spotted.

"The observers described the alleged craft as round with no projections. They said it left no vapor trails. They said it was flying eastward and estimated the speed at 2,000 miles an hour.

"They said that as the object moved eastward, its vertical thickness became apparent. One observer said it looked like a 'checker.' They said it was a 'silvery white' color.

"Those who said they saw the object are Mrs. Rudolph Verplanck and Mrs. Harry Hansen, both of whom have more than 40 hours duty at the Edmore post; Garrett Verplanck, chief observer, and Adolph Wegner.

"Mr. Verplanck was an Air Force navigator in World War II, flying on B-24s and B-29s, and Mrs. Hansen, a day supervisor at the spotter's post, was an air raid warden for two years in England during the war.

"A short time after the object was out of sight, the ash-like material, 'white and glinting' in the sun and at first appearing somewhat similar to the tin foil sometimes dropped by aircraft to jam radar, was said to have begun filtering down.

"One observer described it as similar to the ashes of burning paper blowing in the wind, but more adhesive. They said it did not seem to disintegrate as it fell.

"The observers said some of the falling pieces of material were as large as platters and ranged down to the size of a coin.

"The incident was reported to the air filter center in Grand Rapids and it was reported that Air Force personnel there questioned the observers *two hours* [My emphasis—L.E. Gross] about the incident.

"Observers were apparently so engrossed in watching the object and the falling debris that they failed to get any samples of the material though they later said that it fell past them in the post, about 40 feet above the ground.

"Miss Shirley Mair, editor of the *Times*, checked the area around the post two days later in an effort to find some of the debris, but was unable to do so.

"She found no residents of the area who had seen the material fall. The observation post is located in an open field." (xx.)

(xx.) ?, Michigan. *The State Journal*. 8 September 55.

Also see: Edmore, Michigan. *Edmore Times*. 8 September 55.

7? September. Agrinion, Greece. (no time)

Motor stopped. Witnesses felt faint. (See clipping)

9 September. Indianapolis, Indiana. (9:00 p.m.)

Rudy red sphere.



According to a note in CUFOS files a Mr. B.B. Williams was:

"Standing out in the backyard and turned to go back into the house when a large ruby red sphere passed over the house. Direction of flight was from the south east to the north west. Object was fairly low and appeared to be the size of the full moon, made no sound, left no vapor trail, and was a deep ruby red in color. Len Stringfield informed me there was considerable UFO activity around Cincinnati that same evening." (xx.)

(xx.) "1955 Sept. 9 Ind." CUFOS archives. Photocopy in author's files.

9 September. Portland, Indiana. (about 9:00 a.m.)

"Too fast to be a balloon."

A press report states:

"There was another report of a saucer-like object which was sighted by two men on S. Shank St. here on Friday morning. Kenneth Hall said that he and Max Aker saw a round and black object hover above the earth at an altitude which they guessed at between 5,000 and 6,000 feet. He said that the object hovered for about 30 seconds, made a circle, then went zooming eastward for about a half-mile. There it paused again, made another circle, and then continued its journey eastward.

"The object was sighted by the two at about 9 a.m., Hall said. It appeared about the size of a basketball from the ground, which would make it perhaps 20 feet in diameter if it was a mile up in the air.

"There were no distinguishing markings on the object, the two men said. They discounted the theory that it was a balloon such as is used by the Air Force for weather observation.

" 'It went too fast, to be a balloon,' said Hall, a four-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force who also reported sighting a similar object in Arizona three years ago [1952]. Portland Police said that they had no reports of anything else seeing the phenomenon and there were no other reports reaching the *Commercial-Review*." (xx.)

(xx.) Portland, Indiana. *The Commercial-Review*. 16 September 55.

9 (4?) September. Southern Nevada. (5:58 a.m.)

Fiery orange ball. (See report below)

FORM 112—PART I 1 JUNE 1948		UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)	
COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO. ITOB 2-55	(LEAVE BLANK)	
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Object			
AREA REPORTED ON Southern Nevada		FROM (Agency) Intelligence office Nellis AFB, Nevada	
DATE OF REPORT 9 Sept 55	DATE OF INFORMATION 9 Sept 55	EVALUATION B-2	
PREPARED BY (Officer) Curvin E Miller Jr. Major USAF		SOURCE 1st Lt Robert F Plomb	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 118—Part II.)			
At 0558 Pacific Daylight Time on 4 Sept 1955, 1st Lt Robert F. Plomb, a weather forecaster and pilot stationed, and on duty at Nellis AFB, Nevada, observed an unidentified flying object for 7 minutes. The object was observed to be in the Northeast and stationary when first sighted and then when observed through a theodolite with 4X magnification appeared to be heading in a northerly direction. It was apparently round and of a fiery orange color with an exhaust or tail about 2 times the diameter of the object in length. It traversed about 15 degrees during the flight of 7 minutes and finally disappeared behind a mountain. Object could possibly have been a comet, however no method of checking is available at this station.			

SOUTHERN SENTINEL, COONAMULLA, SEPT. 12, 1955

'Saucer' Sighted In Kojonup District

A supposed "flying saucer" was sighted twice in the Kojonup district within the past week. The term "saucer" is the only practical answer which the spectators concerned can put the object seen in the sky down as.

The saucer was first sighted on Tuesday night of last week, about 11 miles from the Kojonup townsite, and when first sighted was seen to be apparently hovering a few feet from the ground.

The saucer gave off a glowing type of a light, which at a distance could have been mistaken for a car tail light.

FOX SHOOTERS BLAMED
The couple who first saw the saucer thought that the light, which could be seen from behind a hill, was that of someone carrying a lantern, or a party of fox shooters with a spotlight.

However, when a closer investigation of the light was made of the glowing light, it was seen that it came from an object hovering close to the ground.

After several minutes the "saucer" rose to tree top height and again hovered.

Not believing their own eyes, the couple hastily called another member of the household from bed, and he too witnessed the strange event.

The party watched the "saucer's" antics for over three quarters of an hour during which time it appeared to be bearing down upon the house.

Travelling at great speed it revolved first in one direction and then the other, pausing and hovering before it changed its direction of travel.

As it drew nearer the house, it suddenly rose very fast to

a fair height in the dark night sky and then stopped motionless. Having been so for a period of time it moved away towards the south again.

RE-APPEARED

Last Sunday night, the "saucer" once more appeared in the same vicinity of the district, and as well, was seen by a town resident.

The same couple again were the main witnesses in the strange happenings, and as a coincidence, the time of appearance was near to that of the previous Tuesday night, when it appeared at around 10 p.m. Sunday night it was first seen again at just after 10.30 p.m. and kept up activity for about half an hour.

The same pattern of travel was noticed with it on Sunday night, moving in from the south-south-east whirling as it came, and then stopping to hover as it changed direction of flight.

Just as suddenly as it appeared, it disappeared into the black of the night sky.

BOTH ROBER

The couple who report the sighting of the "saucer" have given an oath that they were not the victims of alcohol, or an optical illusion.

Their word as far as an authentic story goes is unquestionable, whether or not other district residents saw the same object on the two nights mentioned is unknown, and if so, their account of what they saw would be greatly appreciated at this office.

11 & 13 September.

Kojonup District, Australia.

Fox shooters blamed.

(See clipping)

Murray Bott files.



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AFTER 2 1/2 YEARS
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FAITH DOMERGUE • REX REASON
WITH LANCE FULLER • RUSSELL JOHNSON

HEY KIDS!
FREE

SEE OUR SPACE BOARD IN THEATRE LOBBY!
2 SPACE SUITS AND OTHER AWARDS TO LUCKY BOYS AND GIRLS

The movie *This Island Earth* arrives at theaters across the nation.

"Free space suits"

14 September. Bairoil, Wyoming. (night)

Oil workers spot UFO. (See clipping)

15 September.

Kampaengpet Province,
Thailand. (about 3:00 p.m.)

Natives expressed much surprise.

A Thai newspaper account:

"A reporter in Kampaengpet Province sent in information, saying, that on the 15th. at about 3 o'clock a strange object appeared in the sky 'with an appearance similar to the shape of a black arrow,' which passed a group of clouds in a slow manner. Smoke blew out from the rear of the object. There was no noise. It disappeared behind the clouds. The natives of this locality rushed out to have a look at the object and expressed much surprise at what they saw.' (xx.)

(xx.) *Asian Saucer Report*, October 1955. Vol. I, #3. p.5. Report appeared in the newspaper *Pim Thai* on 21 September '55.

Murray Bott files.

Wyoming Residents See Mysterious Object In Skies

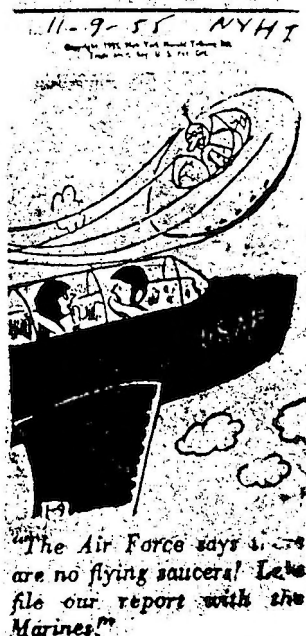
Bairoil—Another unidentified object—flashing multicolored lights—has been reported near here. The thing has been described as round and glowing, with flashing white, green and red lights.

A number of employees of Sinclair Refining Co. reported seeing the object Wednesday night. Bairoil is located 34 miles north of Rawlins.

Engineer O. W. Rosell, Sinclair Pipeline Department, said the object was "round, glowing and red, with a flashing green stripe across the middle." He added that the flashing lights alternated from green to orange.

A similar phenomenon was reported Sunday night southwest of Crooks Gap near Bairoil. It was sighted at 8:40, 9:30 and 11 p. m. by Highway Patrolman Bill Leslie, pipeline worker Frank Williams, and a deputy sheriff.

Witnesses said the object ascended and disappeared about 11:30. The Civil Aeronautics Administration received numerous reports but said no known aircraft were in the area.



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Subscription \$2.50 Year
OFFICIAL PAPER OF CITY OF UPTON and U.S. LAND OFFICE
Dedicated to the Best Interests of Upton, Weston County and the State of Wyoming.
"Now is the time and let the chips fall where they may"

Weston County Gazette, Upton, Wyoming

SEPTEMBER 14, 1955

NUMBER 57.



WESTON COUNTY GAZETTE



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