

# **THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE**

## **UFOS: A HISTORY**

1959 OCTOBER - DECEMBER

By

Loren E. Gross

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Fremont CA

"UFOs are the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse."

--- Dr. Lincoln La Paz

*T. La Paz*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

I would like to thank pioneer UFOlogist Vincent Gaddis for the gift of his collection of UFO newspaper clippings covering the early years of the UFO mystery, as well as George Earley who took the time and trouble to copy considerable material for my use from his UFO files; and Stanton Friedman, who was equally helpful by permitting access to his extensive library dealing with aerial phenomena. Furthermore, Lucius Farish has provided some vital items, good advice, and strong encouragement. Similarly, Dr. Richard Haines gave a lot of help, as did George Fawcett. Mr. Fawcett's UFO collection is now available to UFO researchers at the Roswell, New Mexico, UFO museum. During my visit there, the members of the staff were very friendly and helpful.

Claude Mauge of France and Hilary Evans of England provided information and news clippings from Europe. Tom Benson of New Jersey was kind enough to share some rare UFO news bulletins which might have been otherwise unobtainable. Richard D. Kloian of Richmond, California, who conducted extensive searches of back issues of the *New York Times*, deserves a mention; as does Paul Cerny, active for more than 40 years in NICAP and MUFON, who gave me a big stack of UFO documents from his personal files.

Ed Stewart of North Highlands, California, was instrumental in obtaining complete sets of important publications, hard to find microfilm, various government documents, and other items too numerous to list.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Barry J. Greenwood who provided so much UFO material from his huge personal collection, a collection which must equal or exceed any other in the world. The scrapbooks of UFO news clippings that Leon Davidson donated to Columbia University were put on microfilm and made accessible due to the efforts of Mr. Greenwood.

Another big help was the collection of Les Treece-Sinclair of Elk Grove, California, which contained a number of rare items.

Considerable assistance was provided by the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) which has an enormous UFO archive that includes the records and sighting reports of the defunct National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), as well as the critical "Ruppelt Papers."

Another source of great importance was the voluminous UFO research files of the late Dr. James McDonald at the Special Collections Division, University of Arizona; Tucson, Arizona.

The Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library, Clarksburg, West Virginia, has the papers of the late Gray Barker. The material is readily available to interested researchers.

Other names I should mention include Roderick Dyke, the editor of the *U.F.O.R.C. Journal*, which evolved into the *UFO News Clipping Service*; Dr. Willy Smith, Richard Hall, Karl T. Pflock, Dominique Weinstein, Dr. Micheal Swords, and Dr. Thomas E. Bullard who gave me a copy of his *Airship File*, a huge unpublished work.

Recently considerable information has been arriving from Ms Wendy Connors and Mike Hall. A lot of it is from interviews of retired Air Force officers willing to talk to serious historians. Ms. Connors and Mr. Hall also have located many documents that tell us more about persons and organizations involved in UFO investigations.

Murray Bott of Ackland, New Zealand, has a big collection of UFO bulletins, news clippings, and official documents from Australia and New Zealand. He was nice enough to provide photocopies of many pre-1960 items.

Arcturus Books, Inc. 1443 S.E. Port St. Lucie Blvd. Port St. Lucie, Fl 34952, owned by Robert C. Girard, is an excellent source of UFO material. It's a business of course but Mr. Girard provides a definite service to UFOlogists since he specializes in the subject sells all kinds of UFO items, even boxes of odds and ends. What's more, he tells it like it is. If a book is full of nonsense, he will acknowledge the fact in his ordering catalog. Many of his brief critiques are quite amusing and at the same time quite effective in summing up what author is trying to say.

Ander Liljegren's Arkivet for UFO Forskning in Norrkoeing, Sweden, is one of the world's best sources of UFO information, especially European, and is highly recommended to anyone seriously considering research into UFOs.

Finally, and most of all, I must praise Jan L. Aldrich of Canterbury, Connecticut, who is a kind of superman in the data gathering community and has generously shared hundreds of items from a vast research effort (Project 1947) currently in progress.

#### **SPECIAL THANKS!**

I would like to take special notice of Bob Gribble's gift of his news clipping collection and source notes for the years 1800-1996. Bob wanted his material put to good use I will make every effort to do so. Many items from his collection form a vital part of this booklet, as they will, I'm sure, of subsequent booklets and any revisions of previous works.

Loren E. Gross

UFOS: A HISTORY  
1959  
OCTOBER - DECEMBER

1 October. Evansville, Indiana. (4:55 p.m.)

UFO hovers over house? (See clipping right)

1 October. Spencer, Iowa. (morning)

"60 feet above the ground."

According to a local newspaper:

"The flying saucer disputes of a few years ago, comparatively quiet recently, broke out in Spencer again this weekend when a brilliantly-lighted object was observed by a number of persons in the sky east of Spencer.

"First to see the object early Saturday morning were Roger Olson and Fran Wilbur, both of Spencer.

"They were driving near Ruthven when the brilliant object swooped in from the north, crossed over them and then returned from the south. The two reported the incident immediately upon arriving in Spencer.

"Ben Decker and Homer Runge of the Spencer police department obtained field glasses and a powerful telescope and spent nearly an hour and one half observing it.

"Decker reported that the object had a shape similar to a fat cigar. It displayed a brilliant white glow from the center, and a bluish light from the perimeter.

"The Sioux Falls Weather Bureau in a conversation with the reporter Saturday night, indicated that there were no known weather or observation balloons in the area at the time. A scheduled balloon release from Sioux Falls Friday night had been cancelled because of unfavorable weather conditions at the time discounted the possibility of a balloon from Minneapolis.

"The observers indicated that the object hovered at times, then would slide up and down, forward and backward. The light would, upon occasion become dim and would then re-appear in its original brilliant state. The object when it returned to hover over Olson's car was reported to be about 60 feet above the ground." (1.)

2 October. Seattle, Washington.

West Coast "invaded?"

The editor of the *UFOlogy Bulletin*, John Weigle, had the following comment:

## Youth Reports Flying 'Object' Over Home

John Smith, 16, of 207 S. Grand, says he saw a "flying saucer," hovering over his home about 4:55 p.m. yesterday.

A companion, Larry Haley, also 16, says he also saw whatever, it was.

Smith and Haley, 1229 E. Indiana, said the unidentified flying object looked like a "big, silver pencil with red tail lights."

Smith, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Smith, said he was in his backyard when he saw it, "about 300 feet straight up in the air." It was motionless, parallel to the ground, and about 60 feet long.

He said he called to young Haley, standing on the steps of the Smith residence, telling him to look up.

Haley, son of Mrs. Patricia Haley, said he saw what looked like "a pencil on its side with blunt ends and flashing tail lights."

Haley said he thought the object, "whatever it was," was about 40 feet long.

Neither youth reported seeing any windows or openings. The object made no noise, they said.

About 40 seconds after Smith observed the object, he said, "it went straight up, still on its side." He said "it went up slow at first, then fast."

The boys agreed it was out of sight in a few seconds.

They said they didn't believe they had seen a plane.

(No other residents of the block reported seeing anything unusual.)

The Federal Aviation Agency control tower reported no aircraft "in the air of an unusual nature," at that time. Weather Bureau officials said they had released no weather balloons immediately prior to the reported sighting.

Late Edition  
EVANSVILLE, IND. PRESS  
OCT 2 1959



"Washington and California had more than their share of UFO sightings this month if reports reaching UB [*UFOlogy Bulletin*] offices are any indication of a general trend. Reports from APRG [Gribble's group] Seattle, and a sighting in Bulletin's 'own back yard' seem to indicate that the West Coast may be in for a new rash of saucer sightings.

"The *Seattle Post Intelligence* reported on October 2<sup>nd</sup> that Icsaquah realtor G.O. Harris had reported that 'a ball of light, blindingly bright, bobbed in the sky, then disappeared behind Tiger Mountain.' " (2.)

The military reported picking up strange targets the same night. The Hercules Tracking Radar at Site 13, Battery D, 43<sup>rd</sup> Artillery, Seattle WN, made both visual and electronic contact with "something." Visually the objects were round, blue-white in color, and the size of a quarter at arm's length. Not much was recorded about the visual contact. The radar target report is more detailed. A military teletype message reads:

"UFO REPORT. NUMBER OF OBJECT VISUALLY SIGHTED IS UNKNOWN. ELEVATION OF FIRST OBJECT ON RADAR WAS APPROXIMATELY TEN DEGREES AND AZIMUTH APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED NINETY DEGREES. LAST OBJECT ON RADAR OBSERVED AT TWENTY DEGREES ELEVATION AND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY DEGREES AZIMUTH. THE FIRST OBJECT WAS VISUALLY OBSERVED AT APPROXIMATELY TEN DEGREES IN ELEVATION AND APPROXIMATELY NINETY IN AZIMUTH [Matching the radar return exactly.]

"WHEN LAST OBSERVED OBJECT AT APPROXIMATELY TWENTY DEGREES ELEVATION AND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY DEGREES AZIMUTH.

"FLIGHT PATTERNS WERE ERRATIC. RANGE WOULD CHANGE FROM FOUR THOUSAND YARDS TO EIGHT THOUSAND YARDS AND AZIMUTH FROM ONE HUNDRED NINETY DEGREES TO ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY DEGREES. OBJECTS SEEMED TO FADE FROM SCOPE AND VISUAL CONTACT WHEN FINALLY LOST. THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE OBJECT ON SCOPE DURING THE THREE HOUR PERIOD OF RADAR CONTACT. VISUAL CONTACT WAS DISRUPTED BY INTERMITTANT FOG WHICH MOVED IN APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS AFTER THE INITIAL SIGHTING." (3.)

Another curious thing about the radar targets was that the blips "usually appeared in pairs."  
(4.)

3 October. Arlington, Washington. (4:00-4:50 a.m.)

More from the Seattle area:

"The Arlington, Washington, police chief and his family reported a peculiar, bright white light in the sky at 4 a.m., October 3<sup>rd</sup>, according to Seattle radio, TV, and UP offices.

"An officer woke the chief, who watched the object until 4:50 a.m., when it

shot directly upwards and disappeared.” (5.)

3 October. Nanamio, British Columbia, Canada. (night?)

A brief mention in the press said many persons on Vancouver Island spotted a brilliantly lighted object that seemed to be hovering. At least 15 persons at Nanamio, which is due west from the city of Vancouver on the mainland, reported the UFO. (6.)

3 October. 150 miles due north of the Azores. (4:30 p.m.)

Radar/visual UFO report by the officers and men of the *USS Chambers*:

“At the time of the UFO sighting, Mr. B---[name on file in NICAP records] was in the U.S. Navy performing duty on a radar picket ship –The Destroyer, *USS Chambers* (DER 391) – located at an observation post 150 miles due north of the Azores in the North Atlantic Ocean. He was a member of the deck crew and one of his duties was to stand radar watch. As regarding the exact date of the sighting, he could not remember except that it took place in 1959 and on the day after an eclipse of the sun. The eclipse of the sun for this area took place on October 2, 1959, thus the date of the sighting was October 3, 1959. The weather was cloudy with heavy overcast at 5,000 feet.

“Mr. B--- had just come off watch at 4:30 p.m. and was below deck when the UFO was sighted. He was called up on deck to see it by a friend. The UFO was approximately 1,000 feet from the stern of the ship at an altitude of about 500 feet. It was the size of a basketball held at arms length and looked like a pulsating bright red ball of fire. No details could be made out from behind the glow although it was felt that the object was solid. No sound was heard. It followed the destroyer for about an hour, matching its speed of 15 knots and remaining in the same position. It left the area by moving straight up at an estimated speed of 200 miles per hour and disappeared into cloud cover at about 5,000 feet.

“Everyone who was able came up on deck to view the object. Mr. B--- did not photograph it but he thinks some crewmen did although he could not remember for certain. When asked what his and the other’s reactions were to seeing this object, he said that everyone found it hard to believe that it really was there and was trying to find some rational explanation for it – such as some atmospheric phenomena. All were excited. No attempt was made to fire upon it. Proper authorities were notified of its presence with them. There were no other ships or planes within a 300 mile area at that time. It was acknowledged that the ship’s Air-Search Radar had tracked the object.” (7.)

4 October. Pacific Grove, California. (daytime)

“Burned through the clouds.”

A Mr. McPartland claimed:

“I was out raking our lawn, and in the southeast, I saw a blue white light; at

first I thought it was a meteor, but it was clearly a disk, and it had a long white tail. It burned through the clouds where it went. It made no sound and crossed from horizon to horizon in about 10 seconds.

"I've seen jet exhausts, searchlights, meteors, satellites, aurora and weather balloons, and this was totally different. It did not flicker or vibrate.

"It was seen also by my two brothers, and people who came over to watch TV." (8.)

4 October. Geraldine, New Zealand.

A strange object was seen by the residents of Geraldine on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup>. No details are available but according to a local newspaper it was similar to what zoomed over the nearby town of Fairlie on Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup>. (9.)

5 October. Bend, Oregon.

The Redmond case "explained." "Flying saucer party." (See clipping right)

5 October. Macon, Georgia. (night)

"Erratically moving."

Adding to the interest of this report is other reports made on the following days:

"Around 500 persons watched two strange objects move in the sky. The points of light were described as '...multi-colored, erratically moving objects at a great height...' Officials at Robins Air Force Base spotted the objects just north of the base, but they did not appear on radar scopes. They estimated their height a five to six thousand feet and their speed varied. The sighting lasted several hours." (10.)

**Bulletin**  
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OCT 5 1959

## Not Venus Again!

The mystery of the "flying saucers" reported in Redmond and in Bend recently appears to have been solved.

When the first "saucer" appeared, it attracted attention over the entire west. On that occasion the object was spotted in the dawn heavens. It appeared to be moving. Yet it was observed over a period of an hour.

Last Sunday, a number of Redmond residents joined in a "flying saucer party." Present were news people, a photographer, police and a representative of the FFA. They viewed a bright object in the east.

THEN came a Bend radio broadcast, with a youngster interviewed who had reportedly sighted a saucer-like object low in the south in the late evening.

In Redmond, Boyd A. Wolf, chief of the FFA airways technical field office, who also supervises operation of an IGY auroral camera, came up with a solution that appears feasible:

The UFO's are planets.

He advanced the theory after definitely determining that the object spotted in Redmond Sunday morning was the brilliant planet Venus. There is a strong possibility that the object seen earlier, on Thursday morning at about the same hour, was also Venus, apparently drifting through low clouds. Actually, in such cases the "drift" is caused by the movement of the clouds, not the bright object beyond.

IT IS true that radar tracked some object Thursday morning. But that could have been some other earthly UFO, not Venus, which at present is some 65 million miles distant.

But how about the observations in Bend on an evening earlier this week, when two possible "flying saucers" were observed?

Low in the southwest at dusk these evenings is the lustrous planet Jupiter, giant of the planetary world. Not far distant is flashing Antares of the fading summer sky. They were near the spot where the Bend "saucers" were observed.

Persons who mistook Venus for a "saucer" should be chagrined. Through the years it has been mistaken for signal lights of spies, Japanese balloons and Martian ships.—Bend Bulletin.

NICAP member B.F. Gostin, of Chattanooga, forwarded to Washington headquarters newspaper articles on the Macon manifestation. He said he found stories in the October 6<sup>th</sup> issue of *Macon Telegraph* and the October 7<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Atlanta Constitution*, but that: "Both articles were written with tongue-in-cheek technique, and gave no valuable information in regard to the sighting. In fact, the main theme seemed to be the traffic jam which took place on the Gray Road, several miles out of Macon." (11.)

6 October. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

"I wish we could see this sort of thing."

Speculation, UFO reports, continued to come out of the Pacific Northwest:

"Dr. R. M. Petrie, director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Saanich, would like to study 'strange things' reported in the sky by Vancouver Island residents.

"Reports of missile-like darts and round red balls have excited amateur sky watchers in the Duncan area in the last few days.

" 'I wish we could see this sort of thing,' said Dr. Petrie today.

" 'We've had several clear nights and there have been people working the telescope, but they didn't see anything.'

"He speculated that the sky phantoms could be mere climatic phenomena.

" 'I'm quite at a loss about them,' he said. 'If they were astronomical we could see them.'

"Cmdr. G. B. Barnes and his daughter Heather, 20, say they saw 10 of the missile darts flying over Crofton Saturday.

"Last Tuesday Miss Kythe Mackenzie of Stamps Road east of Duncan reported a bright red ball rising and descending above Quamichan Lake.

"She described it as a 'shocking sight.' " (12.)

7 October. Over Virginia? (3:10 a.m.)

Cigar with "portholes" follows airliner.

While NICAP member B.F. Gostin did not learn much from area newspapers, he did receive an interesting letter from a Mrs. S.T. France of Washington D.C.:

"After learning of your connection with NICAP and APRO, I felt it was my duty to write to you and tell you of the sighting, which I had on the night of October 7, 1959.

"I made reservations on the above date [actually she made her reservations on the 6<sup>th</sup>], for flight to Atlanta, Ga. By Eastern Air Lines Flight No. 541, which left Washington, D.C. at 2:40 a.m. of October the 7<sup>th</sup>.

"It was a beautiful night, in Washington, but twenty minutes after take off, we ran into some clouds, and rough weather. There were times in which we were completely enclosed in cloud formations.

"About thirty minutes from take-off, while coming out of a cloud bank, the

pilot rang, frantically for the stewardess, three times, in rapid succession. I seemed to be the only passenger awake, and I saw her, with her shoes in her hands, running up the aisle, to the cabin.

"I always sit as close to the cabin as possible, and was within earshot of the stewardess, when she said, 'Please let me look at it thru the glasses.'

"I happened to be on the right hand side of the cabin, so I also looked out of the window, and there, on our wing tip, about two city blocks away, I saw an elongated object, much in the shape of a cigar, with lighted 'port holes' down it's entire length. It seemed to be suspended, and without motion, for about one minute, then, the light began to diminish from each end, until there was only one large glow, in about the center of the object that I had first seen.

"This glow, was not coming thru a cloud, we had passed thru a bank of clouds, into a beautiful starlit night, and the object was in plain view, to me.

"This 'Light' started to oscillate, then shot upwards, about 200 feet, and slid over toward our right wing tip. I clearly heard the pilot call in to request permission to climb 500 feet.

"He must have received permission, for we made a sharp pull up, and then for the next ten (or maybe it was less) minutes, we made like a roller coaster.

"The object never really came too close, but the pilot could not take a chance, and he spent his time climbing, when the object started to slip toward us.

"I heard the pilot ask if any of the passengers were awake, so I played possum, and they thought all of us were asleep, and kept on shouting to one another, until once again we were enclosed in a cloud bank.

"All together I think the object was in view for about ten minutes, and there seemed to be none of the other passengers awake.

"There seemed to be no exotic change of colors, or shape, once the object started to ride our wing tip.

"The rest of the trip to Atlanta, was without event, except for the rough weather, and on landing, when I thanked the crew for the exciting ride, and the 'Free Show,' they acted as tho[sic] they had no idea what I was speaking about, altho [sic] I told them that I had been awake all the way down." (13.)

7 October. Fairlie, New Zealand. (8:00 p.m.)

"Dome-shaped mass."

According to a local newspaper:

"The strange object which was reported by residents of Geraldine on Wednesday, was also seen by residents of Fairlie on Sunday about 8 p.m. It appeared as a large white dome-shaped mass, and moved at great speed in a westerly direction. It disappeared over the hills to the west of Fairlie." (14.)

Flying Saucer Believers Joined by Red Scientists?

Successful space feats by the Soviets evidently made them more aggressive with their speculations. They didn't go public with any of their UFO investigations, however, until November

1967 when Soviet Air Force General Profiry Stolyarov announced the establishment of an official commission.

In 1959 Coral Lorenzen of APRO wrote to Khrushchev to obtain a copy of a photo of the back side of the moon taken by Lunik III. The letter was directed to the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Some of the Academy members were curious and Coral corresponded with any that showed an interest. The Academy was placed on the mailing list for the *APRO Bulletin*. Not much came of this that we know of, but Coral felt the *APRO Bulletin* may have been the Academy's main source of UFO information. (15.)

7 October. Near Forrest City, Arkansas. (no time)

Attempted intercept.

According to a story in a NICAP bulletin:

"Lt. E.L. Barksdale of the Memphis police department, former Air Force pilot now in the Air Guard, was flying a T-33 jet over Arkabutla Lake, Mississippi, headed for Memphis when he spotted the UFO in the vicinity of Forrest City, Arkansas. Police patrolman J.L. Wolf, the passenger, also saw it. According to Barksdale, the UFO was about the size of an automobile, flying at the same altitude.

"Hoping to photograph the object, Barksdale banked into a sharp turn to head it off, but it was moving too fast. Unable to intercept, he turned in behind and chased the UFO at 600 m.p.h. over Germantown. The UFO, he estimated, was going about 750 m.p.h., steadily pulling away. Then, as he tried to line up his camera sights, the object spewed a shower of sparks and disappeared from view.

"When he landed, Barksdale learned that ground observers had also seen the object. Other witnesses included personnel in the Municipal Airport control tower and a Navy man who mistook the object for the afterburner of a jet." (16.)

12 October. Near Lincoln, Nebraska. (4:30 a.m.)

The State Treasurer of Nebraska sees "something."  
(See clipping right) (See map drawn by Larson below)

LINCOLN, NEBR. on  
 STAR 10/12  
 D. 24 485  
 OCT 14 1959

## Larsen Reports Flying Object Near Lincoln

State Treasurer Richard Larsen said he spotted an unidentified flying object early Monday morning near Lincoln.

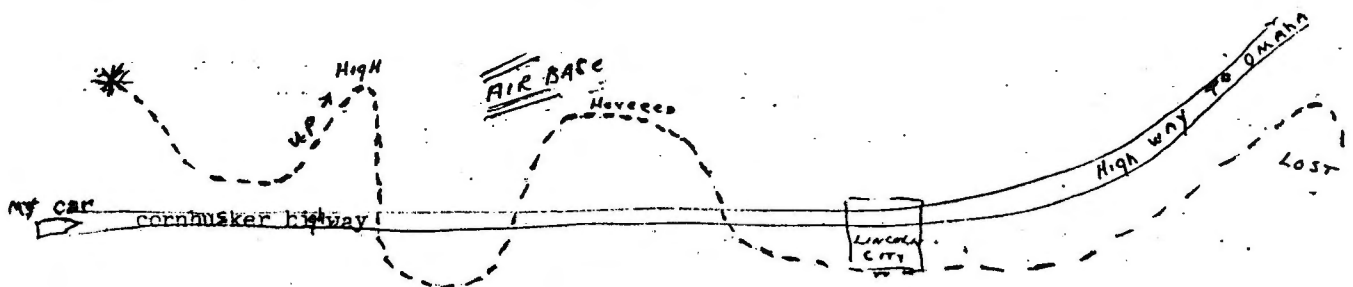
Larsen said another person in the car and two service station attendants along Cornhusker Highway in Lincoln saw the object. He said he stopped purposely to point it out to the attendants.

Larsen, who was returning from Colorado, said he spotted the object near Pleasant Dale between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. Monday.

He said he first heard what he thought was a siren then saw the light in the sky.

"I thought it was a meteor coming to earth. It was the biggest I have ever seen," he said. "It looked like an arch light, then it would go dim and then it got real 'flarey' again."

Larsen said he followed the light to near Waverly where it disappeared in the clouds.





# Lunik III Circles Behind the Moon

Red Scientists Say Technical Equipment Operating Normally

MOSCOW — Soviet scientists announced tonight Lunik III has passed behind the moon and is heading back toward the earth orbit charted for it.

It was announced the lunar space rocket came within 4,375 miles of the moon at the nearest approach. About three hours later it was 9,370 miles away "near the plane of the lunar equator."

"The rocket is moving strictly along the present orbit," Tass news agency said.

## OPERATING NORMALLY

It was stated the scientific equipment was operating normally and temperatures and pressures within the space vehicle accorded with pre-set figures.

Its next transmissions to earth — possibly including some results of the probe behind the moon—were scheduled for Wednesday between 6 and 7 a.m. Vancouver time.

The exact position, at 10 a.m. Vancouver time today was plotted as over the South Atlantic at 17 degrees 30 minutes south latitude and 22 degrees 48 minutes west longitude.

## DOUBT ABOUT CAMERA

The official Soviet Tass news agency was less firm today than it had been previously in saying that Lunik III is carrying a camera to photograph the moon.

Sunday, in announcing Lunik III's takeoff to the world, Tass carried a dispatch by its science correspondent saying that Lunik III in its flight would photograph the thus-far unseen far side of the moon.

Today in response to questions, a Tass spokesman said the statement that the far side of the moon would be photographed "represented the individual beliefs of one of our correspondents."

**Burrelle**  
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CHARLESTON, W.VA.  
GAZETTE  
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OCT 7 1959

# The Gazetteer

By GEORGE LAWLESS



## Flying Saucer Believers Joined by Red Scientists

By Don Marsh

(Pinch-Hitting for George Lawless)

THE NEXT TIME you feel an urge to squelch a flying saucer buff, friend, pick your arguments with care. Their side is picking up speed. The Russians have joined them.

The latest dispatches to gladden the egos of those who believe that little green men are flitting through space involve an enormous hole in Siberia and two tiny satellites circling Mars.

Russian scientists are now theorizing that the hole was caused by a nuclear explosion which came from outer space. They also think that the satellites were put into orbit by intelligent beings who once lived on Mars.

The tundra wonder has fascinated scientists for 51 years. In 1908, something blasted into the desolate waste of Siberia and leveled 700 to 800 square miles of forest. The usual explanation, is that a meteorite was responsible.

But the Russians now are advancing a new possibility. They sent an expedition to the site last year and its director says it's quite possible that the devastation was caused by a nuclear explosion.

★ ★ ★  
THE EXPEDITION found that plants are the center of the devastated area were from 50 to 100 per cent higher in radioactivity than were those on the rim. Some rocks and earth samples taken from the point of impact were abnormally high in radioactivity.

★ ★ ★  
RUSSIAN experts also discovered another phenomena connected with nuclear tests. That was the presence at ground zero of "telegraph timber"—tree trunks still erect but stripped of bark and branches. The ones that had fallen had all gone outward. The director said that the evidence led some members of his group to conclude that the explosion occurred above ground, something that meteorites don't do.

★ ★ ★  
Mars' minor satellites also held new interest. Their existence has been known since 1877 when they were discovered by the United States Naval Laboratory.

The best theory has always been that they were asteroids, tiny heavenly hitchhikers, which had been caught by the planet's gravity system. But two things have always puzzled scientists—the nearness of the satellites to the planet—itsself and the speed with which they orbit.

★ ★ ★  
THEY ARE TOO small, too close and too fast to be classified with moons of other bodies with which scientists are familiar. The orbit of one of them is so low that it makes two circuits in one Martian day.

Vancouver Sun  
Oct 6, 1959

In a NICAP UFO report form, Mr. Larsen said one of the station attendants was a Bunny Parachini of Dick Lee's Phillip 66.

At one point the object hovered near Lincoln Air Force Base (home of the Air National Guard) just to the north of Cornhusker Highway west of Lincoln City. Mr. Larson was questioned by a Lt. Hodge, Information Service Officer for Lincoln AFB. (17.)

15 October. Montevideo, Uruguay. (9:00 p.m.)

Object stopped for a while.

According to the Uruguay UFO group CIOVI:

"At 9:00 p.m. at 3729 Gauna Street, Nelson Torighelli and other witnesses saw, at great height, an object moving very fast from North to South and giving off a brilliant red light. The object stopped for an instant, the red light diminishing in intensity. Then it started again, changing direction and disappearing from view behind a high cloud bank. The general shape of the object was spherical with a sort of irregular short tail. There was no noise or trail left." (18.)

15 October. Article in the *Australasian Post*.

Reverend Gill's experience in Papau had been detailed to some extent in the September 1959 issue of *Light*, a publication put out by the Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau. Not many people, of course, read UFO periodicals, but the whole story did reach the public at large when the *Australasian Post* carried a feature article in its October 15<sup>th</sup> edition.

Numerous UFO reports from the Gulf country of Northern Australia suggested there could be some truth to Rev. Gill's claims. The missionary quickly became a celebrity of sorts.

16 October. Telescope spots no saucers.

The Pacific Northwest was still excited. (See clippings on page 10)

17 October. Melbourne, Australia. (7:00 p.m.)

"Fuss Over Saucer."

In a news story titled, "FUSS OVER SAUCER," sightings of a mysterious cigar- shape object were suppose to have generated a "saucer scare" in Melbourne.

"Newspaper switchboards were jammed with calls from people reporting the object soon after 7 p.m.

"The Weather Bureau, police, and Essendon Airport control tower also received many calls.

"Weather Bureau officials furnished a possible explanation.

"The cigar-shaped object, they said, could have been an unusual thunder cloud formation which has a narrow oval shape.



Vancouver Sun Oct 16, 1959

# Telescope Spots No Saucers in Sky

## Just Stars Up There, Writer Finds; Other 'Objects' Can Be Explained

By RON ROSE  
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA—I looked through the eye-piece of a 73-inch reflecting telescope and saw outer space.

I watched the glow of a star so far away that its light doesn't twinkle in the sky.

It caught the sun and, reflected its light.

But I saw no flying saucers and the astronomer on duty at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory on Little Saanich Mountain didn't expect I would.

"People see effects they don't understand," said Dr. Jean McDonald when I asked her opinion on recent Vancouver Island reports of mysterious red sky balls and missile-like darts.

"They see something all right," agreed Dr. R. M. Petrie, director of the observatory which specializes in spectroscopic studies of the lesser-known galaxies.

"But every time we've had a chance to see it we've been able to explain it."

He recalled the white ball seen one morning over the Gulf Islands. Everybody agreed there was really a ball floating around up there. And there was too. A small telescope showed it was a meteorological balloon at 40,000 feet.

There was the series of flashes appearing in a regular pattern above the Olympic Mountains of Washington State. Some mentality must have directed them, the puzzled callers said. And they were right too.

It was a squadron of high-flying jets. Too high to see, but when they turned they

About this time of year, said Dr. McDonald, ice crystals form in the air and they can cause reflections that mislead the non-scientific observer.

Smoke reddens the atmosphere and you get different color effects if you're squinting, she added. Some eye troubles cause flashes that delude the brain if you're not on guard for them.

She recalled that a woman once called her to report something big and light hovering in a dark sky. Dr. McDonald left the contemplation of the universe to look out the window of the observatory and saw the diffused luminescence of the moon hidden behind fog and cloud.

Just the other morning another woman phoned to report a mysterious bright light moving toward her in the sky. Another look out the window showed it was Venus shining brilliantly under exceptionally clear atmospheric conditions. And it was moving along its orbit as it has through the ages.

There could be more calls about Venus today. The planet reached its maximum in the early hours and a number of people who seldom look at the sky are bound to be puzzled by it.

Vancouver Sun

Oct 20, 1959<sup>25</sup>

## ENGLAND-BOUND

## Evidence on Sky 'Objects' Put on Tape

CHEMAINUS (CP) — Persons who claim to have spotted mysterious "flying objects" in the sky in the vicinity of Duncan last month have put their testimony on tape for further study.

The tape recordings of four of 11 persons who reported the objects were made by Herb Clark, president of Vancouver Flying Saucer Club. He said they will be sent to retired Air Marshal Lord Dowding in England, head of a world-wide organization investigating phenomena commonly flying objects or UFOs.

Gaynor Wilson, 14, who said she spotted a flying object while riding south of Duncan, declared the thing that frightened her horse made a noise "like a bee in a jar." She said it was bright orange-red in color.

Her mother described it as being luminous white and Gaynor's father described it as having a "flame color."

"The cloud appears very infrequently.

"One observer, Mr. G. Walnsby, of Mordiaslioc, said that the oval-shaped object was at least 100 feet wide at its broadest point.

"It was surrounded by a whitish reddish glow and appeared to have holes around its edges, Mr. Walnsby said.

" 'It came in from the south-east, hovered in the sky for several seconds, and then took off vertically and vanished,' he said.

"When the calls first started coming in, the air traffic control tower at Essendon Airport thought the object may have been a Britannia aircraft which arrived at Essendon from Darwin just before 7 p.m.

"However, the Britannia flew over northern suburbs only and could not possibly have been seen from southern bayside suburbs where many of the calls came from." (19.)

18 October. Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. (night)

"The Thing." (See clipping on page 12)

19 October. Poquoson, Virginia. (6:15 p.m.)

Boy shoots saucer? (See clipping on page 13)

Mark's mother called the Newport News *Daily Press* which sent a reporter to interview the Tenth Grader at his home on Ridge Road in the town of Poquoson. The interview of the boy, as published in the newspaper's October 21<sup>st</sup> edition, could have been more complete. It also stressed Mark's "interest in UFOs" which, as we shall see, is a point in doubt.

The Poquoson UFO incident came to the attention Larry W. Bryant who was associated with a Virginia UFO organization called the Air Research Group: "I read of Muza's harrowing encounter. I immediately realized the significance of the case --- here was the first public record of a 'flying saucer' having been attacked by an observer in Virginia. Unfortunately, as I was later to find out, the Air Force didn't share my enthusiasm." (20.)

Bryant visited Mark and spent some time questioning the boy. Mark's mother confirmed the fact her son had come home "all shaky and nervous." She believed her son's story and could not think of any reason he would lie about the incident.

More information was obtained about the site of the encounter which is an area about a mile from the Muza home, and about five to eight miles to the east of Langley Air Force Base. (See map on page 14) Bryant tells us:

"The remote terrain that was a temporary haven for the UFO is known as the 'Big Marsh.' But for two trespassing young hunters, this expansive, ugly low-land would have been a choice medium for concealing the roving of a flying saucer. It is practically inaccessible without the aid of boots." (21.)

The marsh was off-limits, and for a good reason. Signs were posted that read: "Warning— Danger Area, Bombing Range. Live Ammunition and Bombs. Warranted for Trespassing: \$10,000 or Ten Years Imprisonment or Both." Young Mark told Larry: "...he was reluctant to report the incident to the authorities because he was on government property at the time." (22.)

# Bouncing Fireball Seen by Hunters

NANAIMO—Story of a fireball which bounced along the ground, and gave out streaks of light similar to lightning flashes, was told here by six hunters on their return from an overnight trip into the woods west of Nanaimo.

Harry Lomass, Jingle Pot Road, said he saw the object three miles from his tent well before dawn Sunday morning. He called his sleeping companions and they watched it with him.

Mr. Lomass said the object bounced up and down, "as if picking up samples," then withdrew to a point eight miles away. Later, it returned to a hill known as Lone Mound and continued its apparent bouncing along the ground. Finally it speeded off to the west, lingered in the sky for an hour, then disappeared.

With Mr. Lomass at the time were Corvin Lomass, Raymond Jacobs, Eugene Jacobs, Ernie Toth and V. M. Hermans.

## 'The Thing' ALBERTAN WED OCT 21 Returns p 1

NANAIMO, B.C. (CP)—"The thing" has appeared again to Nanaimo residents.

Five men who returned from a hunting trip near this Vancouver Island city Monday night told Tuesday of a fantastic object that looked like a brilliant ball and sent streaks of light similar to flashes of lightning from its belly.

"If it had come any closer, we were going to take a shot at it," said Harry Lomas, one of the hunters.

Several sightings of flying saucer-like objects have been reported recently by residents here and at nearby Duncan.

Mr. Lomas said he saw the object about 3 a.m. Sunday when he emerged from his cabin. It was hovering over the top of a nearby mountain.

At intervals, he said, it came down close to earth and "appeared to be picking up samples or something from the ground."

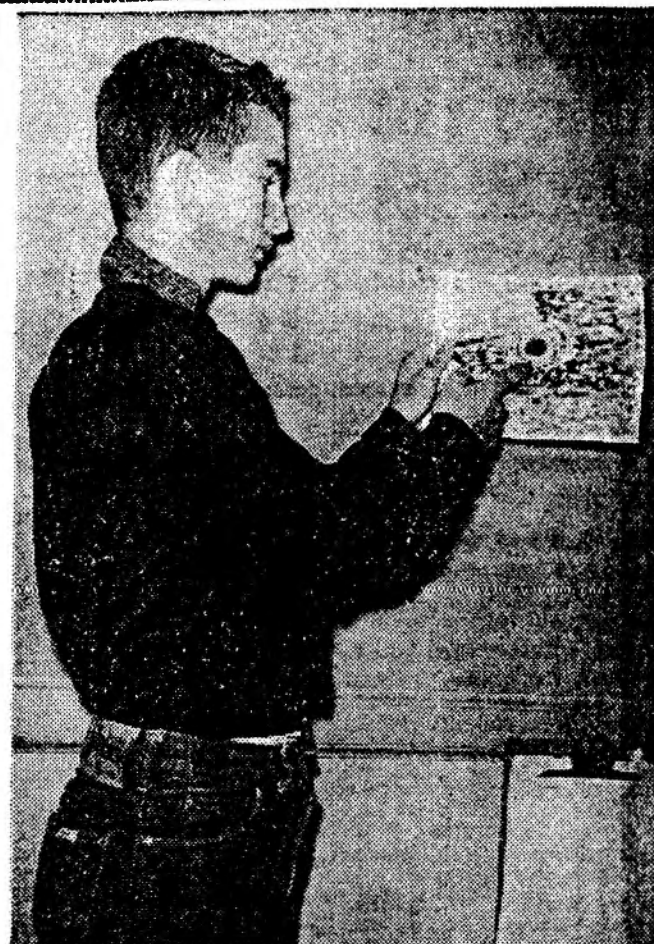
Mr. Lomas said he woke his companions and they watched the object for several hours.

*Albertan*  
(Name of publication)

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(Published at City)

*10-21-54*  
(Date of publication)

OCT 21 1959



### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

Mark George Muza, 15-year-old Poquoson boy, displays a picture he drew in an attempt to describe an unidentified flying object which he sighted and shot at Monday while exploring in marshland located off Ridge Road in Poquoson.

### UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT

## Tenth Grader Sees Saucer In The Sky

POQUOSON — "It appeared in the sky amidst a loud, rushing wind noise and hovered about 100 feet over my head."

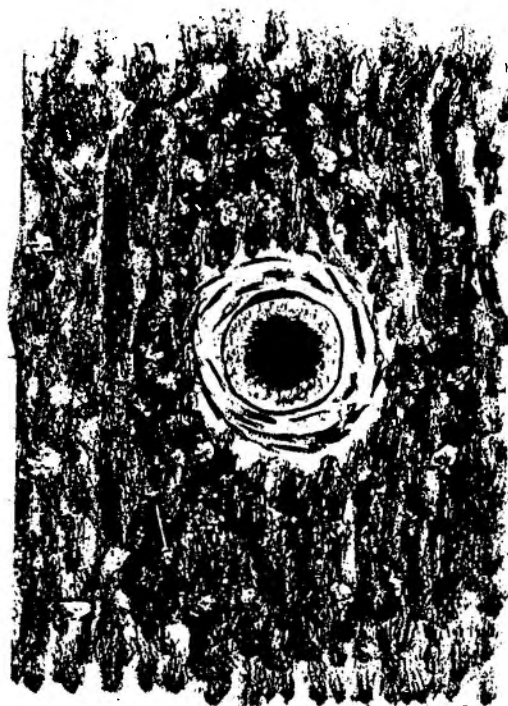
That's the way 15-year-old Mark George Muza Jr. of 176 Ridge Road described his encounter with an unidentified flying object "just about dusk Monday."

"It was about four feet in diameter and had a black body encircled by a silver rim about six inches wide," the Poquoson tenth grader added.

"I stood petrified for several seconds and then raised my 12-gauge shotgun and poured two blasts into it. I knew I hit it both times but nothing happened so I loaded my gun with a shell which had a little more lead in it and shot at it again as it disappeared."

The episode took place just after sunset Monday while he and Harold Moore Jr., 14, of 220 Ridge Road, were exploring in the marsh near their homes, Muza said.

Mark, a boy who reports that he reads everything he can find



about unidentified flying objects "because I'm interested in things like that," said the whirling object hovered above his head for a minute or more.

Harold stated that his attention was called to the "queer looking thing with a silver rim around it" when Mark began shooting at it. He said he saw it for only a few seconds before it disappeared. "At first I thought it might be some strange kind of bird," he added.

Mrs. Muza pointed out that her son came home very upset and told her he had shot at a flying saucer. "He's a pretty steady boy and I was surprised to find him so upset. He drew a picture to describe what he saw and the thing preyed on his mind all night long. He was still a very nervous boy when he went to school, Tuesday," she declared.

The alert tenth grader admits he has read quite a bit about flying saucers and that what he saw "is similar in part" to descriptions of unidentified flying objects which he had read about. He emphatically denied that his reading spurred his imagination.

"I don't know what I saw and don't claim it was a flying saucer. I would like for someone to tell me what it was as it was the most frightening experience of my life and something which I won't get over for a long time," he said.

Mark explained to Mr. Bryant that he had gone about a mile into the marsh and had decided to stop and rest when he heard a whirring noise. The sound drew his attention to the sky. He saw a round object that was slowly coming down at him, tipping back forth as it descended. The fact that the object was heading straight toward his head was so scary he fired at it. The 12-gauge shotgun was loaded with some "Maximum 4's" and when the round hit it sounded like a rock bouncing off a kettle. The object came to stop and hovered. Mark fired another "Maximum 4." Finally he put a steel slug in the gun and fired again at the "thing" which he estimated was about 50 feet above him. Mark looked down at his shotgun to insert yet another shell and when he raised his eyes again the object was gone. Meanwhile, Harold Moore, who was about 100 yards away, heard the gun shots and watched as the object descended toward Mark. Harold confirmed Mark's story, saying Mark just kept firing. The object, according to Harold, began to spin very fast after the third hit and stopped its descent. The thing then zoomed back up, and traveled so fast it was out of sight within seconds, so fast in fact, it was gone before Mark could reload and aim. The duration of the experience was about one and half minutes. (23.)

Mr. Bryant was very interested in the object's appearance so he asked more questions about that aspect. The object, according to Bryant's interview, was a circular body about four feet in diameter which had: "...a dark center encompassed by a six-inch-wide silvery rim glowing brightly as if self-illuminated." (24.) As it turns out, Mark was unfamiliar with the expression: "self-illuminated" but we might know how he came to use those words. Mr. Bryant must have suggested it when Mark mentioned "glowing." Also, Mark seems to favor the word *silvery* to describe the color of the rim. Bryant, no doubt dubious a reference to a precious metal was appropriate, preferred to use the words "aluminum-like." (25.)

Mr. Bryant discovered that Mark had no special interest in "UFOlogy" contrary to what was printed in the *Daily Press* news story. Mark had read no books about UFOs and his only knowledge of the subject was from perusing a few press accounts because he had an interest in current events and often read the newspaper. (26.)

Mr. Bryant asked Mark if the Air Force had contacted him. The fifteen-year-old said that the *Daily Press* reporter was the only person that had expressed an interest. The lack of official curiosity amazed Bryant since Langley Field was just a few miles away. We can only share Bryant's amazement, especially when we consider something Mr. Bryant mentioned to Mark: "I asked Mark to contact me if he ever finds the slug, or slugs, which struck the thing." (27.) If Mark was telling the truth, those slugs would have been worth their weight in platinum, and the metal detectors then in use by the military could have found them, we assume, without a lot of difficulty.

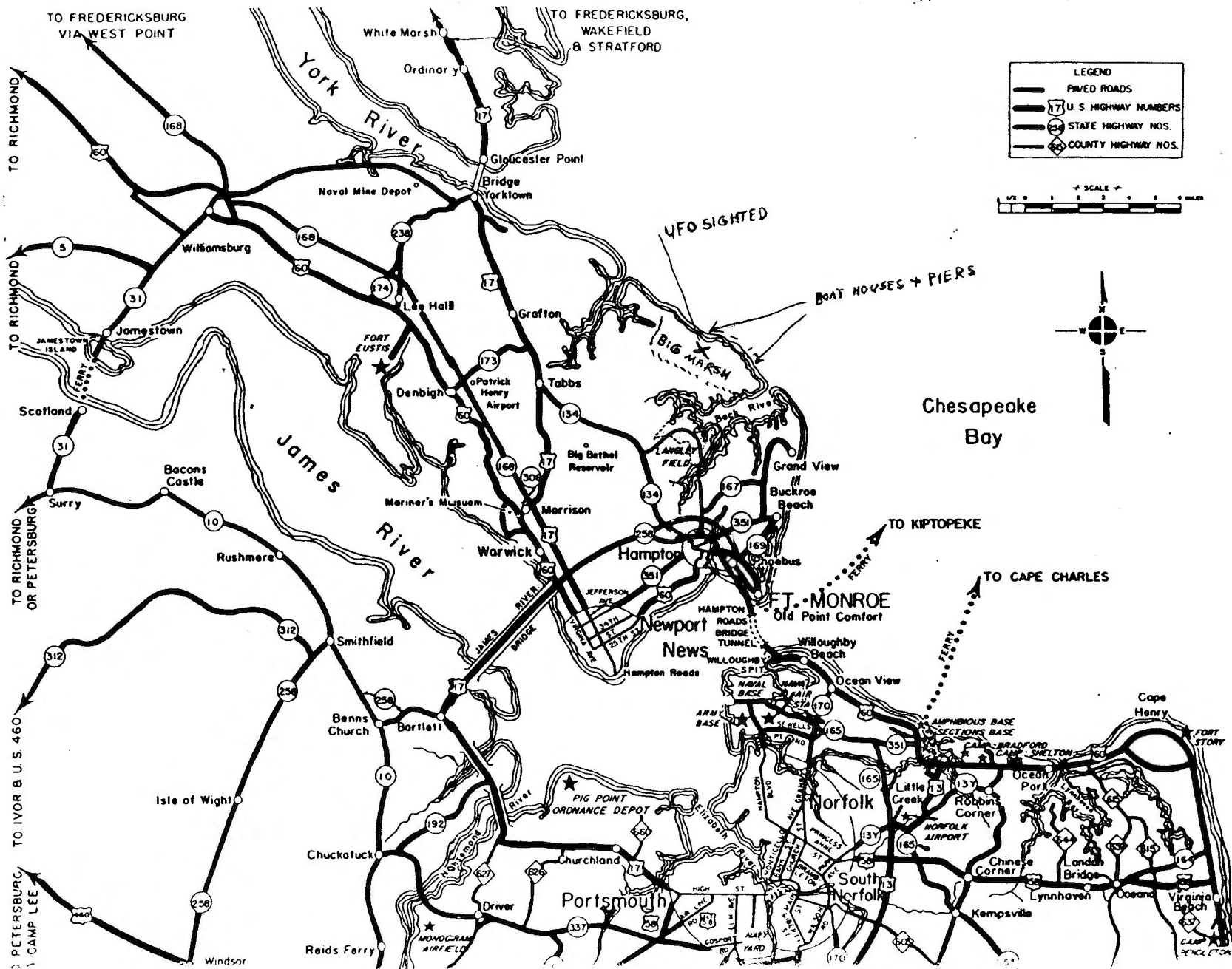
The day following the interview with Mark, Mr. Bryant went the marsh with the both boys to view the encounter site and again discuss the events of October 19<sup>th</sup>. The two teens were getting use to telling their story, a fact we should remember. Mark and Harold were also given NICAP UFO report forms to fill out which also helped to organize their thoughts and make thing clearer. Moreover, there was also plenty of time and opportunity for both Mark and Harold to compare notes. On Mark's NICAP form he paused at question #18 which asked "Was the object - a.) Self-luminous?, b.) Dull finish? c.) Reflecting?, or d.) Transparent?" (28.) (See below) Mark

18. Was the object —

- a. Self-luminous?
- b. Dull finish?
- c. ~~Reflecting?~~
- d. Transparent?

✓ M. G. M. JR.





first checked "Reflecting" and then recognized "Self-luminous" as a better description. He crossed out "Reflecting" and marked "Self-luminous," writing in his initials.

### Bryant versus the Air Force.

Incredulous that no military representative had yet talked to the two teens, Larry Bryant telephoned Base Operations at Langley Field on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Someone there took the call and left a message with the Intelligence Office of the 4505<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing (probably not the best outfit to deal with UFOs). Shortly thereafter, a Sgt. R.M. Merkling of Air Refueling Intelligence phoned Bryant and said his department knew about the story in the *Daily Press*. Sgt. Merkling took notes on what Bryant had learned about the case and then ended the conversation with the statement that an official Air Force investigation would depend on a decision made by someone else on the base and not by him.

An official investigation was not authorized for reasons mentioned in BLUE BOOK records. For one thing, the two boys failed to officially report their purported sighting. Mr. Bryant's phone call to Langley did not count. The Air Force was quite stubborn about not checking UFO sightings not officially reported to a military installation. Bryant would be not impressed by that argument since Harold and Mark were afraid of reprisals if they confessed to hunting on the off-limits Plum Island Bombing Range. As for the value of Bryant's information on the case, it was discounted on the grounds it: "...contained insufficient evidence to allow any valid conclusions; and since the report was received approximately four days after the sighting, the urgency of the situation was considerably lessened [?]." (29.) Moreover, the Air Force said, since: "...no one else in the area [the middle of a swamp!] reported this sighting, the matter was dropped from further consideration." (30.)

Unaware the decision had been made to disregard the Poguoson incident, Bryant waited a week for something to happen. No one contacted the teens or him so he phoned the 4505<sup>th</sup> Intelligence unit on October 30<sup>th</sup> to learn the disposition of any investigation. The civilian UFO researcher was referred to a Major S.G. Scull who proved to be evasive. Major Scull tried to escape the situation by calling Bryant's data on the case "hearsay evidence." The Major even attempted to ignore the existence of the *Daily Press* news story. If Bryant wanted to pursue the matter further, he was told, it had to be done through "established information channels" (which meant dealing with BLUE BOOK or Major Tacker, both "dead ends" as far as civilian UFO buffs were concerned). (31.)

Determined to learn something, Bryant looked up Sgt. Merkling's phone number and called him at home! The enlisted man refused to discuss "government business" in such circumstances and insisted Bryant approach the Colonel in charge of Intelligence. (32.) On November 1<sup>st</sup> Bryant mailed a letter to Merkling's CO. That failed to work either. Bryant called the Air Base again on November 27<sup>th</sup>. He was informed his concerns were being "processed under Air Force Regulation 200-2." There was no hope such an action would produce results.

Bryant's colleague, Larry Maccubbin, complained to the Honorable Porter Hardy Jr., a member of the House Armed Services Committee. This move bore fruit. When a Congressman asks questions the military is obliged to respond. Col. Carl M. Nelson of the Air Force's Legislative Office told Rep. Hardy that the Poguoson sighting had "never been official reported," and as for the allegation information was obtained about supposed case over the phone from a Mr. Bryant, it was stated that any: "... indirect form of interrogation is contrary to Air Force policy." (33.) This infuriated Maccubbin when he found out so he had Bryant sign an affidavit.

To put the matter to rest, orders finally came down to interrogate both Mark Muza and Harold Moore. Both interviews can be found in BLUE BOOK files. (34.)

The Muza interview conducted on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1960:

"Two boys, Mark G. Muza age 15, and Harold Moore, Jr. age 14, were in swampland northeast of Plum Island Bomb Range. Muza heard an odd whirring sound and upon looking up, observed a circular object, shaped like a discus, about 4 feet in diameter. When first seen, the object was 75 to 90 feet above the ground. There was a round black dome in the center of the bottom of the object. The rest of the object was 'self-luminous.' It was after sundown, just before dusk, causing the object to glow. No windows, doors or other openings could be seen. Muza stated that when first seen, the object was '25 or 30 yards' above him, and it then steadily descended to about '60 feet.' He felt a light draft stirred up by the object. He indicated he was very frightened and fired at the object three times. The third round contained a lead slug and he heard it strike the object. He stated it sounded like 'metal scraping against metal.' After the third shot he closed his eyes and rubbed them with his hand, at which time the object disappeared. There appeared to be no tail, trail or exhaust and very little noise. The observation lasted 'a little over a minute.'

"The subject's mother appeared during the interview and stated that her son had returned from hunting in a highly nervous state and she stayed up all night with him trying to keep him calmed down. In her opinion, he is a truthful boy and she believes his story.

"I was impressed by the youth's pat answers to the usual questions required by AFR 200-2. They appeared to be well-rehearsed and required no thought on his part. In addition, he had a ready answer for questions concerning height, distance, and size. His use of the term 'self-luminous' seemed incongruous with his age and the rest of his speech. When asked to explain the meaning of 'self-luminous,' he became unsure of himself and stated it was 'like aluminum.' I was left with the distinct impression that the young man was not telling the truth and he was slightly apprehensive over the interest displayed in his story." (35.)

The account given above compares well with earlier versions. The differences are the small additions here and there that probably emerged after spending some time trying to recall any details he may have missed. The Air Force agent may not have known how many times Mark had told his story. The filling out of the NICAP UFO report form no doubt helped Mark appear to be "well-rehearsed," to say nothing of Bryant questioning the boy carefully. As we have seen, the use of the words "self-luminous" had an explainable origin. Mark had no qualms about speaking with Bryant but his apprehension sensed by the Air Force interviewer, as discussed earlier, could well have been engendered by confessing to "duck hunting on U.S. Government property." While the Air Force agent "suspected Mark was not telling the truth," he offers no rationale for such behavior.

The Moore interview conducted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1960:

"Moore was in company of Mark G. Muza at the time of the sighting, located



150 yards from Muza's position. His attention was drawn to the object by the sound of firing by Muza. The object was directly over Muza and had an elliptical shape. It was '4 feet in diameter, aluminum colored, with a black dome in the center - approximately 12 inches in diameter.' He could observe no trail or exhaust but the grass around Muza was 'laid down' by some force. He heard no noise and could see the object clearly although it was about dusk. The weather was clear with no clouds or wind. The object was observed for 'about a minute' and then gradually climbed 'straight up until it disappeared.' There was no side motion or other maneuvers performed by the object during the period of observation. Moore stated that he was not concerned with the sighting and had not mentioned it to anyone else. He stated, 'Muza went home and told his mother and next morning she got all excited and called the newspaper.'

"It seemed that Moore was attempting to coordinate the details given by Mark Muza. He stated that the diameter of the object was 4 feet which does not agree with the fact that he was 150 yards from the object. It is doubtful that he could have seen a 'black dome in the center of the object 12 inches in diameter' at a distance of 150 yards. His explanations of the manner in which the object disappeared did not ring true and was obviously fabricated. Most questions were answered with 'I don't know' with no further clarification. I evaluate the incident as being completely fabricated by the two boys. The publicity brought about by the newspaper article made it necessary for them to prepare a pat story and then stick to it to preserve face." (36.)

Like Mark's interview, this account is similar to earlier ones except for a few additions. One exception is the estimated distance between Mark and Harold, 150 yards instead of 100 yards. The distance plays a big role in determining the truth of Harold's testimony. Why the change? Another puzzle is the agent's remark he found Harold's explanation of the object's departure "obviously fabricated." This account says the object "gradually climbed straight up." What is so fantastic about that? Could it be Harold kept to the earlier explanation that the object zoomed out of sight in seconds and the agent refused to put that down?

A final note on the Poguon case.

Twenty-four years later reporter Larry Bonko of the Norfolk, Virginia, *Ledger-Star* tracked down Mark Muza to ask him about the Poguon case. If the incident had been a hoax Mr. Muza could have admitted it without embarrassment after so many years. Why pretend otherwise at such a late date. A lot of people brag about their schoolboy pranks. Bonko found that Mr. Muza still took the incident seriously. Asked if he shot at a UFO, Mr. Muza was emphatic: "Yes, I did." Mr. Muza repeated his 1959 claim that the UFO had a black body with a silver trim. The memory was so strong it seemed as if it had "happened yesterday," according to Mr. Muza. Why would the man risk ridicule by claiming he shot at a UFO? Certainly his co-workers would wonder. When Bonko interviewed Mr. Muza in 1983, the 39-year-old man was well established in his career as a police detective. (37.)

19 October. At sea off Columbia. (2122Z)

A teletype message sent to BLUE BOOK reads:

"COLOMBIAN NAVY VESSEL LOCATED WAC 770 LAT. 10 DEGREES 08 MINUTES NORTH LONG. 75 DEGREES 50 MINUTES WEST REPORTS TWO UFO SIGHTINGS, SEXTANT INDICATIONS WERE COLON 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 191158Z AZIMUTH 270 DEGREES AT 47 DEGREES AT 45 DEGREES 03 MINUTES. PERFECT VISIBILITY, ONE STRANGE LUMINOUS BODY, CIRCULAR FORM, CENTER BRILLIANT, SPOTS SLIGHTLY DARKER, SIZE APPEARS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN VENUS. APPEARS AS ARTIFICIAL BODY. NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

"USAIRA COLOMBIA." (38.)

20 October. Australian Air Force Intelligence. Why so slow?

One would think knowledge of the spectacular Father Gill case would quickly come to the attention of Australian Air Force Intelligence, however evidence that we have indicates otherwise. The military was finally "fully alerted" by Mr. Peter Norris of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society on September 12<sup>th</sup>, assuming no one in Intelligence read newspapers like the *Sydney Sun-Herald* (16 August 59). At any rate, Mr. Norris generates some documentation. The VFSR official stressed the significance of the Gill case in his letter, asking a number of questions about Air Force inquiries that may be in progress. Squadron-Leader D.F. Gilson of the Directorate replied in reasonable short time (3 days) and made an astonishing confession that the military had no official information about the Gill case. (See letter on page 20)

The military was under no obligation to provide groups like VFSR with updates on its work, but Mr. Norris and his people certainly wanted to know, after all the civilians were convinced the Gill case was "proof UFOs were intelligently controlled craft." The only way Norris could get around official silence was by checking with Father Gill to see if official investigators had stopped by to ask questions, an easy task since the missionary was now living in Australia and not the jungles of New Guinea.

After many weeks and no indication the military was doing anything, Mr. Norris wrote the Air Force again on October 20<sup>th</sup> to give authorities a nudge, even to the point of providing Father Gill's address. (See letter on page 21)

22 October. Arnold Heights, California. (night)

"The Darndest Thing I Ever Saw." (See clipping on page 22)

22 October. Cumberland, Maryland. (dusk)

New York columnist Whitney Bolton had an interesting story his readers:

"This column has not mentioned flying saucers in a long time for the hopefully sensible reason that nothing firsthand had come along in months. A first-hand report by a reputable person or persons simply did not come along. Now it has. It comes, with odd coincidence, just as a New York newspaper prints what purports to be the publicly shown picture of the secret flying disc being manufactured for the United States in Canada. The two incidents may or may not have relationship. It does not greatly matter.

"The principals: a respected, serious, never given to frivolity actor-teacher with

From:- Squadron Leader D.F. Gilson

36A

Directorate of Air Force Intelligence

554/1/30

Thank you for your letter of 12th September, 1959.

2. We have no official information of any sightings by Gill in New Guinea, but we are now making enquiries into the matter.

*AGH*

Mr. P.E. Norris,  
400 Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE, VIC.

37A.

# VICTORIAN FLYING SAUCER RESEARCH SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 32, TOORAK, VIC

PHONE XY 1283

100 Collins Street, MELBOURNE.

20th October 1959.

Squadron-Leader D. F. Gilson,  
 Directorate of Air Force Intelligence,  
 Department of Air,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Squadron-Leader Gilson,

re <sup>554</sup> SS4/1/30 (36A) UFO Sightings of  
Revd. Father W. Gill.

Thank you for your letter of the 15th inst.

Father Gill is now resident at "The Emily Adams"  
 Main Road, Ferny Creek, Victoria. We have found him most  
 co-operative and eager to help in any possible way.

I shall be glad to furnish any further information  
 you may require.

Yours faithfully,

*Peter E. Norris*  
PETER E. NORRIS, LL.B.,  
HON. PRESIDENT.

*6188*  
*22 Oct 59*

## WATCHED FROM YARD

# Airman Traces Gyrating UFO

ARNOLD HEIGHTS, Oct. 23. — An unidentified flying object that sped in an eccentric pattern through the midnight sky last night was described this morning by a March Air Force Base navigator as "the darndest thing I ever saw."

The phenomenon, apparently a separate incident from the falling white light other observers in widely scattered areas reported earlier last night was observed for approximately 12 minutes by 1st Lt. Edward Uribe, a navigator on a KC97 tanker plane, and his wife, Sunny.

The Uribes watched the moving light through binoculars from their Arnold Heights home backyard. Lt. Uribe, using his navigational background, sketched the movements of the object, noting the direction, time, changes in color and speed. Mrs. Uribe also made notes on the incident.

"WE FIRST noticed it low in the eastern sky as it headed west," Lt. Uribe said. "As it turned north after a few moments, the color changed slowly from yellow to red and the speed picked up rapidly.

"The object then circled back to the east and went through a complete circle, changing from an intense red back to a dim yellow.

"Finally it swung back toward the west, seemingly slowing down again, and then made a sharp

turn to the east and finally disappeared over the eastern horizon."

Lt. Uribe said his first guess was that it was a meteorite, then that it was a super-fast plane of some kind and finally that it was neither—that it was something he couldn't account for.

"THAT FACT that the light was steady, even though it changed color, precludes the possibility it could have been an airplane's exhaust," he explained. "And the gyrations it went through — at one point it appeared almost to stop; maybe it was climbing — convinced me it couldn't be a meteor.

"I'll be darned if I know what it was."

Lt. Uribe reported there are no streetlights in the area of his home and that, because it was about midnight, most of the lights from other homes in the area were out, so there were no interferences in their range of vision to the east.

Another resident of the Riverside area, a woman whose name wasn't learned, called the Daily Enterprise this morning to report she had seen apparently the same thing the Uribes saw. She said she was so impressed she got her children out of bed to watch it, despite the hour. Her home is in the southwest part of Riverside.

RIVERSIDE, CALIF., ENTERPRISE  
Circ. D. 14,761 S. 38,430

OCT 24 1959

Hollywood and Broadway stature; his younger brother, a respected, serious, successful commercial artist with one of the largest ad agencies in the United States; The younger brother's fiancée, about 29 years old, an author and illustrator of children's books.

"Two weeks ago all three drove together down to Maryland, the elder brother going along as a sort of companion-chaperon. They visited in the Cumberland area, but did not go into Cumberland itself. They started back just after dark on Sunday night, being under no pressure to reach New York early. If they drove most of the night it would not matter. They just felt relaxed and at ease.

" 'If anyone tells me that is a flying saucer,' the elder brother said suddenly, 'I'll bust him in the mouth. Or her.'

"The girl and younger brother, startled, looked over at him and then upward and to the right, at about 2 o'clock on a clock face, where he was pointing.

"They saw, and they agree on this, a circular, metallic disc emitting light around the edge of its ring, a sort of bluish-green mercury-type light.

"The younger brother, without looking to see if any car was behind him, jammed on the brakes and the car came to a swift stop on an otherwise deserted road. He left lights, engine and radio on, never even thinking to stop any of them. The disc dropped almost straight down until it looked to them to be about 50 feet about them and still to the right.

"Then it side-slipped to their left until it was just in front of them, centered on the road and still about 50 feet up. It seemed to hover there with a kind of humming vibration, moving neither up, down or sidewise.

"They were about to get out of the car and walk toward it, it being then perhaps less than 100 feet in front of them and still at the 50-foot altitude. As both brothers reached for the doors, the lights of their car went out, the engine stopped and the radio fell silent. Nothing the driving brother could do would restore power.

" 'I think you'd better stay right here with me,' the girl said quietly. 'Please.'

"The brothers settled back, took their hands off the door handles and watched. They saw, and they agree on this, a circular, metallic disc emitting light around the edge of its ring, a sort of bluish-green mercury-type light. The disc dropped almost straight down until it looked to them to be about 50 feet about them and still to the right. Then it side-slipped to their left until it was just in front of them, centered on the road and still about 50 feet up. It seemed to hover there with a kind of humming vibration, moving neither up, down or sidewise. They were about to get out of the car and walk toward it, it being then perhaps less than 100 feet in front of them and still at the 50-foot altitude. As both brothers reached for the doors, the lights of their car went out, the engine stopped and the radio fell silent. Nothing the driving brother could do would restore power.

"If it was a real flying saucer, they take the attitude that then, well, they've seen one. If it was a test model of our Canadian-made disc, then they have seen that." (39.)

23 October. Pumani Mission, Papau, New Guinea. (Between 10:00 and 11:00 p.m.)

"The latest from Papua."

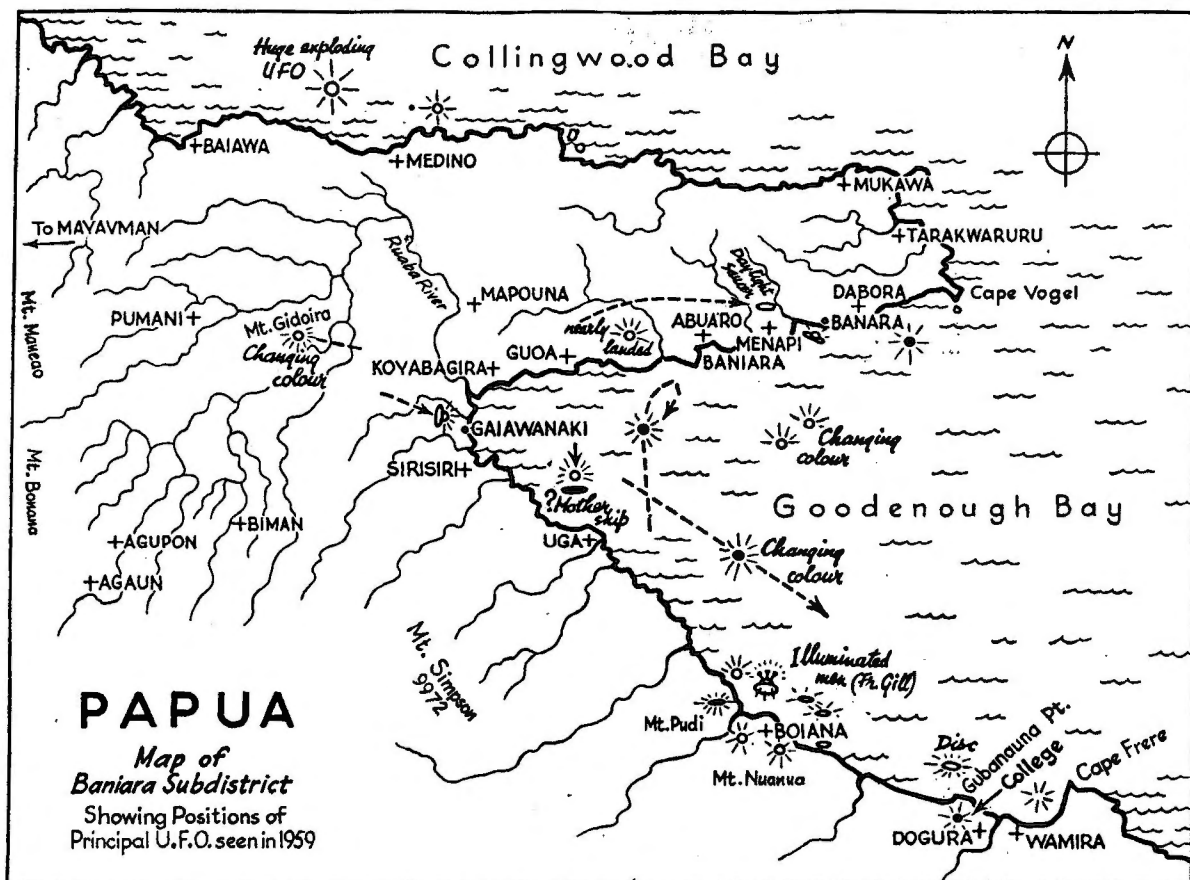
The Rev. Crutwell notified the *Flying Saucer Review* UFO sightings were still being made in Papua:

"...a very big light came over from the direction of Boiani towards Pumani which lies about five miles east of Mount Gwoira, a precipitous mountain about 4,500 feet high. The bright light seemed to ascend the mountain until it hovered

vertically over the summit. It was observed in this position for about an hour by Micah Aigaba of the Anglican Mission at Pumani. Finally it descended until it seemed almost to touch the mountain peak, but then moved away towards the north. It kept at a level height as it passed over Monari and Medino and then it veered eastwards and circled right round the coastline of the Cape Vogel Peninsula (apparently, though it could have been much nearer) and finally disappeared in the direction of Boianai, from whence it had first approached the witness.

"In appearance it was a dazzlingly bright disc or globe; it was especially bright when on the move. It changed colour continually, the basic colours being green, red and yellow. Parts of the object showed different colours simultaneously---it the words of the witness, 'it twinkled.' The colours changed about every three minutes. In size it was approximately half the apparent size of a full moon, but was, of course, far brighter. There were at least three other witnesses and the occurrence caused great excitement. The sighting took place between the hours of ten and eleven in the evening." (40.)

The map below accompanied the above article in the issue of the *Review*.





23 October. Calgary, Alberta, Canada. (7:30 p.m.)

V-formation shifts to an In-line formation.

The Air Force would reject this case because anything "flying fast" would probably not be in sight for 15 minutes, yet people are not always very accurate when it comes to estimating time, distance, or size. What saves this report from the trash bin is the description of a classic UFO maneuver not very well known, the "formation shift." UFOs have been known to make formation shifts in a series: V formation, In-line formation, Crescent formation, and then back to a V formation. These shifts usually involve a dozen or so objects. They take place at a high altitude and at a high speed.

A letter from a Daniel Cole to Ray Palmer said:

"Now, I never used to be a believer in saucers until I actually saw, not one, but eleven of them on Oct. 23, 1959.

"As usual, I stepped out to take my evening walk at 7:00.

"I went to the end of the block to meet a friend who was also fond of taking walks.

"I will not name who it was here, but as I was saying, we were walking for a considerable length of time, so we started to walk back.

"It was 7:30 now; I looked often at my watch, just a habit, I guess.

"All of a sudden my friend who had been gazing into the sky, saw them, tapped me on the shoulder and informed me.

"I looked into the sky and saw 11 oval-shaped, illuminated flying saucers.

"They were in a 'V' formation and were flying pretty high and pretty fast.

"The street was pretty deserted and there was no one else there except us.

"The saucers broke formation---were in a single file for two minutes, then they disappeared.

"They were in formation for three minutes.

"The whole thing lasted for 15 minutes." (41.)

26 October. Gizycko, Poland. (1:30 a.m.)

An entry in Peter Rogerson's INTCAT catalogue states:

"While walking home through the fields on the outskirts of this town, lumberman Alekay Jakimowicz saw an unusual pulsating light to his right, over Lake Mamry. The light was stationary, circular, and almost the apparent size of the moon, although the moon was visible through clouds in another part of the sky. The light was yellowish, dimming and brightening. He then heard a whistling sound which set his teeth on edge, and saw a huge egg-shape descend towards him, and began to run. He had run only about 20-30 paces when the object came over the treetops. A wave of oppressive heat hit him, followed by a lack of air, forcing him to the ground. As he turned he saw the object 'as big as a house,' circular, glowing yellow-orange, with the surroundings lit up in a blue-green light. After the object passed, a blast of air followed, allowing him to breath again. He discovered his nose was bleeding. The object moved up



and away, over the lake. After running for a while, he looked back and saw two round yellow lights moving north-west, one in front of the other. He was so upset by his experience that he left town. The story was investigated by a forestry specialist, 'Dr. W.N.,' who found that other people had reported a fireball over the town." (42.)

28 October. Valparaiso, Chile. (about 9:15 p.m.)

A brief entry in NICAP's *UFO Evidence* tells us: "Juan Fruto (Director of a local Astronomical Association), C. Ventura (civil aviator), and others about 9:15 p.m. sighted a luminous orange concave disc performing evolutions in the sky." (43.)

29 October. East Coast of the U.S. NASA balloon.

UFO reports dipped to a low level in late October but we can find quite a few "saucer" clippings dated the 29<sup>th</sup>. NASA sent up a giant balloon the size of a ten-storied building which reflected sunlight so brilliantly citizens on the East Coast flooded police, newspapers, and radio-television stations with anxious phone calls asking if a "flying saucer invasion was on." The balloon must have been quite a sight:

"In Franklin Lakes [New Jersey], a group of athletes from the Ramapo High School football squad ran out of their dressing room in their underwear to gaze at the bright white light in the sky. The boys stood shivering in the cold for about five minutes before the coach chased them back inside the building." (44.)

30 October. Pumani Mission, Papau, New Guinea. (Between 10:00 and 11:00 p.m.)

Same place, same time.

We are told a UFO report was made at Pumani Mission for a second time in a week. The report, although brief, suggests something interesting about UFO activity: could there be patterns to UFO sightings? Here is the brief account:

"One week later, on October 30, the same witness at the same time saw what appeared to be the same object again. It did not come quite so near as on its first appearance. The object, performing in very much the same way as before [Its appearance on October 23<sup>rd</sup>], approached from the direction of Boianai and then moved northwards, following the coastline. This time it disappeared to the north and was not seen again." (45.)

30 October. Montevideo, Uruguay. (7:30 p.m.)

According to the UFO group CIOVI:

"At 7:30 p.m., Juan Carlos Rosello (who was driving on Cerro Largo St. toward #3729) saw, with other witnesses, a stiletto-like object, similar to 'two

# MILLIONS SEE HUGE BALLOON

## U. S. Object Glows Like Star Over Atlantic

BY PHILIP DODD

(Picture on page 3)

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Oct. 28—A 100 foot balloon, glowing like a bright star in the evening sky, was sent 250 miles high



over the Atlantic late Wednesday in a space agency test.

### Millions See Show

The 130 pound sphere, deflated and packaged, was launched atop a two stage rocket from Wallops Island, Va. When it reached an altitude of 250 miles, the package was ejected and the sphere inflated.

Caught in the rays of the setting sun, the balloon gave millions of east coast watchers a spectacular pre-Halloween show as it drifted slowly eastward, dropping steadily, and finally disappeared below the horizon over the Atlantic.

### "Flying Saucer" Reports

The experiment was described by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA] as a test of ejection and inflation processes to be used when the agency sends inflated spheres into orbit around the world.

Such satellites, a NASA statement said, will be used in communications experi-

ments as reflectors of radio and radar beams.

The sphere sent up Wednesday was the largest object sent into space by American rocketeers. It was reported visible from South Carolina to New Hampshire. Newspaper offices were flooded with "flying saucer" calls.

When launched, the sphere was folded into a round magnesium container 26 1/2 inches in diameter. After the container was ejected from the rocket, inflation began by what air was in the sphere and was completed when four pounds of water, released from two plastic bags, vaporized and inflated the 523,598 cubic foot sphere.

### Tell Rocket Stages

The balloon was made of plastic coated with aluminum. The aluminum provided a high degree of reflectivity.

The first stage of the launching rocket was an army Sergeant missile assisted by two Recruit rockets. The second stage was a special solid fuel rocket originally developed for the Vanguard satellite launching vehicle. The initial thrust was 10,000

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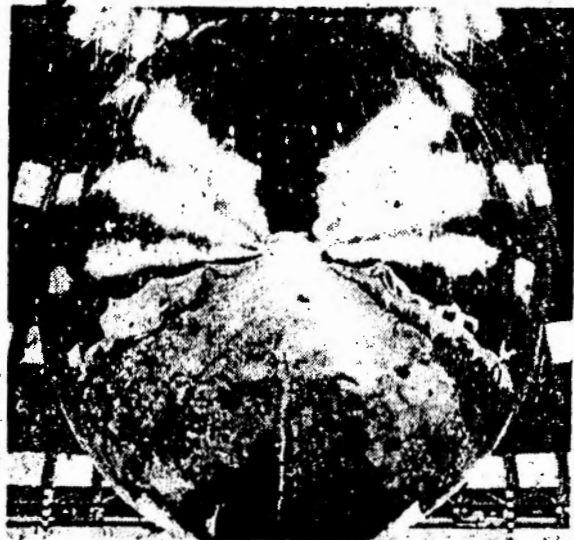
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OCT 29 1959.

## Test Balloon Soars 250 Miles

(Story on page 1)



(UPI Telephoto)  
Huge balloon, of type sent high over Atlantic ocean in test Wednesday, during ground inflation tests at Langley Field, Va.

hubcaps joined at the edges.' It moved from South to North, then changing its direction to the West and turning again to the East, picking up speed and then disappearing.

"The color of the object was dark grey; no rotary motion was observed and there was no noise. For a few moments it reflected the rays of the sun, shining as if it were metallic." (46.)

31 October. Wanganui, New Zealand. (3:15 to 4:45 a.m.)

Glowing "thing" follows car for 60 miles.

A New Zealand newspaper tells us:

"Two brothers from Marton, Walter and Brian Hawkins, who were motoring from Marton to Matamata early on Saturday morning, reported yesterday that they were accompanied by a strange, unidentified object ('like a large street light') from Ohingaiti to the Desert Road.

"There, while the elder brother alighted from the car and watched it, the object went straight up into the sky to disappear.

"The interview with the two took place four hours before publication of the report from Invercargill of two businessmen there having seen a strange object on Tuesday night.

"The object is reported to have followed the Marton pair for nearly 60 miles. They said they had it sight from 3:15 a.m. to 4:45 a.m. They said they stopped a passing car and five people in it alighted and looked at the object. These people said they had seen it as they had approached.

"On several occasions the elder brother stopped the car and turned off the motor, but there was no sound from the object. The object's size and its distance from the car were difficult to judge.

"At Mangaweka, at the top of a hill, the driver stopped the car and the object moved around like a helicopter in a valley below. The brothers said the object did not fly alongside the car but moved about." (47.)

1 November. 19 miles southeast of Eugene, Oregon. (3:35 a.m.)

A brilliant cigar-shaped object.

Another UFO report from the Pacific Northwest:

"A brilliant cigar-shaped object which lighted up the Lookout Point area early Sunday morning is believed to have been the planet Venus but had a number of observers wondering if it could be an object from outer space.

"State police were called at 3:35 a.m. that the bright object had been sighted over the hillside north of Dexter Lake, 19 miles southeast of Eugene.

"Harry Swank, deputy sheriff, and Floyd Sisson, state policeman, reported seeing the object from Oakridge. A Southern Pacific railroad crew also made a similar observation near Lowell.

"State Police Officer Al Lindley and Alan Albrich, state weighmaster, checked out the reports. Lindley, who said the valley was overcast with fog, spotted what he called a cigar-shaped object of extreme brilliance about 1,000 feet above the north ridge of the mountains overlooking the reservoir.

" 'It moved across Minnow Station, a mile west of Lookout Point Dam, and reflected across the entire width of the lake,' he said. There was no fog in that area, he added.

" 'The object was cigar-shaped and was extremely bright,' he said, 'and it appeared about six or eight times longer than round.'

"State police at Government Camp near Mount Hood and at The Dalles also saw the object but believed it to be the planet Venus, which is very bright and appears to be giving off rays at this season.

"Sgt. Charles Weems, state policeman at Salem, reportedly took a compass reading on the object and determined it to be Venus.

"Sisson and Lindley said they watched the object as it traveled slowly in a southerly direction, toward Oakridge.

"Lindley, who said the object made no noise, said that in a Sunday night observation he saw the planet Venus, but that it appeared to be much higher in the sky than the object seen earlier.

"Venus is in the eastern sky at this time of the year, says E.G. Ebbighausen, astronomer and University of Oregon faculty professor.

" 'Venus is bright enough so that you could see your shadow from its illumination,' he adds, 'but he doubts that it would be bright enough to 'light up a hillside.' " (48.)

2 November. Puerto Montt, Chile. (4:20 p.m.)

Military bigwigs see UFO.

Something was seen in the sky over Chile that certainly seems to rate being called a "UFO." The thing was described as oval-shaped with a blue-green tail and transmitting intermittent lights. It crossed the heavens over the city of Puerto Montt at 4:20 in the afternoon. Apparently it was not an airplane or meteor because it moved erratically. It: "...spurred ahead and stopped repeatedly, moving from spot to spot at high speed." (49.) The person reporting this sighting was Natter Goodwyn, Chief of the North American military mission. With him that day and also witnessing the UFO were some Chilean military chiefs. (50.)

3 November. Statesville, North Carolina. (4:00 a.m.)

Ball of light chases car?

This case was widely publicized but most people are unaware of some personal information about the two witnesses that can be found in BLUE BOOK files. This information strongly suggests the credibility of the witnesses is very doubtful. Unfortunately we have no details on incidents that were supposed to be similar which took place that same morning near the towns of Hickory and Salisbury. (51.)

3 November. Between Kennington and Woodlands, New Zealand. (9:30 p.m.)

“Awesome and frightening.” (See clippings on page 31)

It was suggested that the UFO seen passing over Woodlands was a deep-bodied Globemaster aircraft flying its shuttle-service between Christchurch and bases in the Antarctic, however a spokesman for Operation Deepfreeze said none of its planes were near Woodlands at the time of the reported sighting. (52.)

3 November. Near Invercargill, New Zealand. (Between 11:30 – 11:45 p.m.)

Object paces car.

According to the New Zealand press:

“An Invercargill mechanic who was returning to his Otatara home on Friday night had the uncanny experience of driving along the road with an unidentified object keeping him pace in the sky.

“The man, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that he first sighted the object when he was nearing the airport. It was between 11:30 and 11:45 p.m. when his attention was drawn to an unusual light in the sky. It was crescent-shaped with more of a glow about it than a brilliant light, he told the *News* this afternoon.

“‘The edges of it were clearly enough defined,’ he said, ‘but I could tell there was some darker unlit shape in the center of it. There was a depth there but I couldn’t tell you the exact shape of the rest of it.’

“There was no suggestion in the man’s mind that it was either the moon or a weather balloon. In the first place there was no moon on Friday night.

“At this stage, the object took off and headed behind the belt of trees at the back of the airport and the mechanic accelerated his car running with its lights on. The object moved on, crossing the road at McLauchhian’s corner.

“From there to Oretl Avenue it kept pace with the moving car at about 30 miles an hour ‘...perhaps a little slower. I wasn’t moving too quickly because I wanted to watch it.’

At this stage the mechanic decided he wanted confirmation of what he could see, so he made for home and woke his wife and child.

“‘My wife and 11-year-old daughter both saw it clearly enough and afterwards my daughter described it exactly as I had, even to the dark shadow of a body to the thing,’ he said.

“‘At this stage it had moved till it was almost directly above the Vickery homestead. I decided to try to follow it further, but my wife refused to come. It was too eerie for her. I trailed it out toward the camping ground and watched it for a few minutes before it completely disappeared. There was no noise to it and I haven’t the least idea where it went to.’ “ (54.)

6 November. Granada Hills, California. (6:45 p.m.)

“Stack formation assembled.” (See UFO report on page 32)

## BIG FLYING OBJECT IS SEEN NEAR WOODLANDS BY TWO MEN IN CAR

### Experience is described as "awesome and frightening"

Two Invercargill businessmen last night saw a big flying object that both awed and frightened them. For 30 seconds about 9.30 p.m. they were within sight of the object in the Woodlands district about 12 miles from the city.

The men, who wish to remain anonymous, were driving towards Invercargill when they saw a bright light above some pine trees bordering the main Invercargill-Dunedin highway between Woodlands and Kennington.

At first it was the brightness of the light that held their attention. Then it was the size and shape of the object that awed them.

It appeared to be rectangular in shape, with a huge balloon-shaped section below. One of the men estimated the rectangular part to be at least 40 feet long, and it was glowing with brilliant light.

The balloon part he estimated to be the size of a big room.

It appeared to be just above the tops of the trees when we first saw it, and then it moved to the right of the road in a northerly direction.

"My friend told me to put my foot down so we could get closer to it, but I thought it was going to come down right on top of us in the paddock alongside the road. I didn't increase the speed of the car because I thought it could have exploded or anything."

The car, which was travelling about 50 mph along the straight stretch of highway, drew to within a few hundred feet of the object, which was still emitting a brilliant band of light.

Then, as the car drew close, the object accelerated quickly in a northerly direction "at tremendous speed," to all appearances changing to sausage shape as it did so. The object was now brilliant white in colour.

"I've never believed in these flying saucer reports, but now I just don't know what to think," the businessman said. "The two of us saw it absolutely clearly for fully half a minute and we were close to it. We could hear no noise but no balloon could move as quickly as it did."

Last night was cloudy and there was only a light easterly breeze.

The Weather Office at the Invercargill airport said the object could not have been a meteorological balloon. No balloons were released until 10.30 p.m.

Inquiries made today in the Woodlands-Loughbush district failed to uncover any other eye-witnesses.

(Name of publication)

*Invercargill New Zealand*  
(Published at City, State)

(Date of publication)

*11-5-59*

## Second party also saw strange object in night sky

The flying object that both awed and frightened two Invercargill businessmen while travelling towards Invercargill in the Woodlands district on Tuesday night also awed and frightened five other Invercargill people.

Reporting this today, one of the five said the party, including his wife and son, aged 18, who was driving, must have been following a few miles behind the businessmen.

"It was exactly as they described it," he said.

"And it was the brightness of the light that first held our attention."

"My son's reaction was to remark: 'It's a flying saucer.' I'm not going to say that it was, but it was an object and it did move away at tremendous speed," he said.

"I've never believed in these flying saucer reports either, but I'm not laughing now," he added.

The man did not give his name for publication, but he emphasised his story was genuine.

He remarked: "There was something there all right. We all saw

(Date of publication)

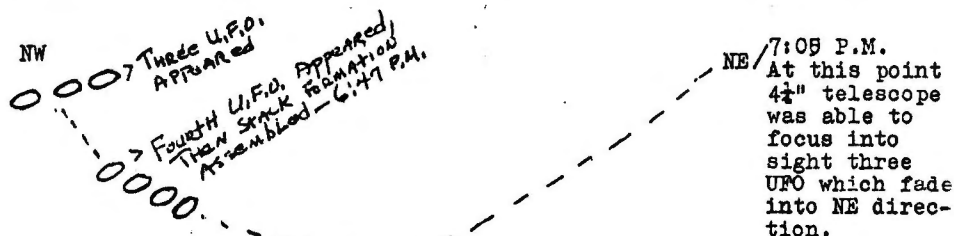
*11-5-59*  
(Published at City, State)

(Name of publication)

*Invercargill N.Z.*



Friday, November 6, 1959 - 6:45 P.M.



Clear night, good visibility, moderate winds, no cloud formations. Observed UFO'S in stack formation, (illustrated above) between 4000 and 5000 feet, speed undertermined. Had objects in complete focus with binoculars and could clearly make them out to be saucer shape. Each appeared to be one bright light, noiseless, gave the feeling of glider's in flight with no apparent effort to maneuver. Observers consisted of two boys, 13 yrs., 11 yrs., two adults, we checked and rechecked and there was definitely no indication of planes or cloud formations, or anyother type of aircraft that we could determine could have caused this sighting.

*Consuelo Holt*

Consuelo Holt  
17828 Los Alimos St.  
Granada Hills, Calif.  
BA-02479-5 19

8 November. Southern tip of Florida. (11:15 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.)

Fantastic radar target.

A *Miami Herald* story by staff writer Bert Collier:

"A mysterious flying object which apparently played aerial tag over the tip of Florida for several minutes before shooting out into space at 4,000 miles per mile an hour was reported Wednesday by a Pan American World Airways radar expert.

"Donald Freestone, 9025 SW 67<sup>th</sup> Ave., said he picked up the unidentified flying object on the morning of November 8<sup>th</sup> while testing weather radar equipment in the PAA shops at Miami International Airport.

"Surprised by the unexpected target return on the screen, he called fellow employees. Six of his colleagues confirmed the finding.

"None knew what it was.

" 'I didn't believe in such things before,' said Freestone. 'But after this happened, I got some books and read up on it. Now I'm convinced it was something that is out of our experience, so far as aircraft is concerned.

"Freestone said the UFO was 'four to five times larger than any aircraft observed in the past.'

"It appeared to be egg-shaped or oval-shaped, he declared, and to have a double pattern resembling an hourglass or figure eight [?].

"Freestone said there had been 'much discussion' among PAA employees and technicians since the occurrence. One weather radar expert said the object might

have been a temperature inversion, a natural phenomenon which produces an effect on radar screens similar to a mirage.

"But with all this talk of launching artificial moons from the Florida coast and flying saucers..." (54.)

Part of the clipping is missing at this point but the portion is probably small. The story resumes with the word radar:

"...dar picture has caused plenty of discussion and investigation.

"The radar expert said he was working on a Bendix RDR-1A weather radar which PAA uses in some planes to spot bad weather ahead. It is capable of 'seeing' storms and thunderheads 150 miles in the path of planes.

"With the radar at 'zero tilt'—that is pointed straight out, Freestone first saw the flying object.

" 'It appeared at approximately 65 miles southwest of Miami, at an altitude of between 7,000 and 8,000 feet,' he reported.

" 'It disappeared and reappeared several times. I found that by turning the antenna tilt up, it could be brought back on the screen. It disappeared once at 70 miles and reappeared at about 55 miles, then moved back to 70 miles. The speed was estimated at 550 to 650 miles per hour.

" 'It then moved in to 50 miles and remained stationary for two to three minutes. Then it began going off in the south-southwest direction it had come from.

" 'One time it was noted that the target moved 20 miles in about six sweeps or rotations of the antenna, which rotates at a speed of 20 times a minute.'

"(Calculations indicate that this showed a flying speed of about 4,000 miles per hour which, if true, is faster than any controlled flight earth scientists are capable of producing. It is four times the speed of the earth's rotation on its axis.)

"The object was last observed at about 100 miles from Miami, still moving south-southwest. It was watched on the radar screen for about 20 minutes by six other people, from 11:15 a.m. to 11:35 a.m." (55.)

8 November. Australian observatory Stromolo.

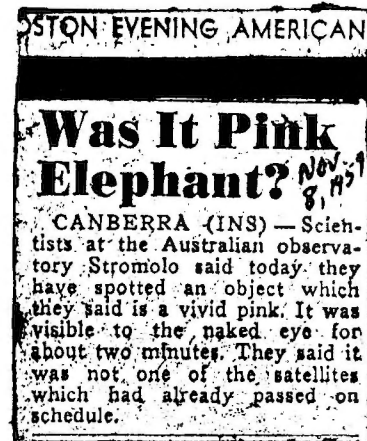
"Pink Elephant?" (See clipping to the right)

8 November. Biloxi, Mississippi. (11:50 p.m.)

A Mr. Mike Vlahov filed this report:

"On November 8, 1959 at 11:50 p.m. my date and I were just leaving The Beachwater Nite Club which is located on Biloxi's Beach front, next to the Gulf of Mexico.

"My date just happened to glance at the sky, remarking how beautiful the stars and moon shone so brightly, when all of a sudden





she happened to notice an object which at first she thought was a star, but said it couldn't be since it was moving in a guided motion.

"At first it appeared to me as a huge bird, but I noticed it was disc-shaped, being very gray in color. There were no clouds whatsoever and the temperature was in the thirties.

"There were several people inside the Beachwater club, but unfortunately for us, no one else saw the UFO." (56.) (See drawing by witness on page 35)

8 November. Alvin, Texas. (night)

"I need help." "Sprays fog over the highway?" "Truck stopped."

According to the *Alvin Sun*:

"Police Chief Glen Sheppard started laughing early Sunday morning when a passerby delivered to him a message from the stranded driver of a gasoline transport truck: 'A flying saucer flew over my truck and its powerful rays caused the truck to stop running. I need help!'

"Alvin's genial chief stopped laughing when the passerby declared: 'That flying saucer is still out there.' 'Out there' was just south of Alvin on Highway 35 so Chief Sheppard and Patrolman S. Garrett went out to see just what kind of help the truck driver needed.

"The man's story might have been lifted intact from the pages of 'Space Adventures.' He told the Alvin officers and Wrecker Driver Mack Tower that the 'flying saucer' had followed him all the way from Corpus Christi, some times descending from its great height to spray blankets of fog over the highway, causing him to become lost and six hours behind his scheduled arrival into the Houston terminal. He added, plaintively, that ever time the 'flying saucer' hovered over the truck, the vehicle ceased to operate.

"Saying absolutely nothing was [wrong with the truck] was a mechanic from the Houston office of the trucking company who came out to get the truck on its way again.

"The Alvin officers satisfied themselves that the truck driver was not under the influence of any intoxicating beverages. They unwillingly admitted that, high in the sky, hovered an object which might have been a weather balloon which appeared bright and shiny when the rays of the morning sun struck it.

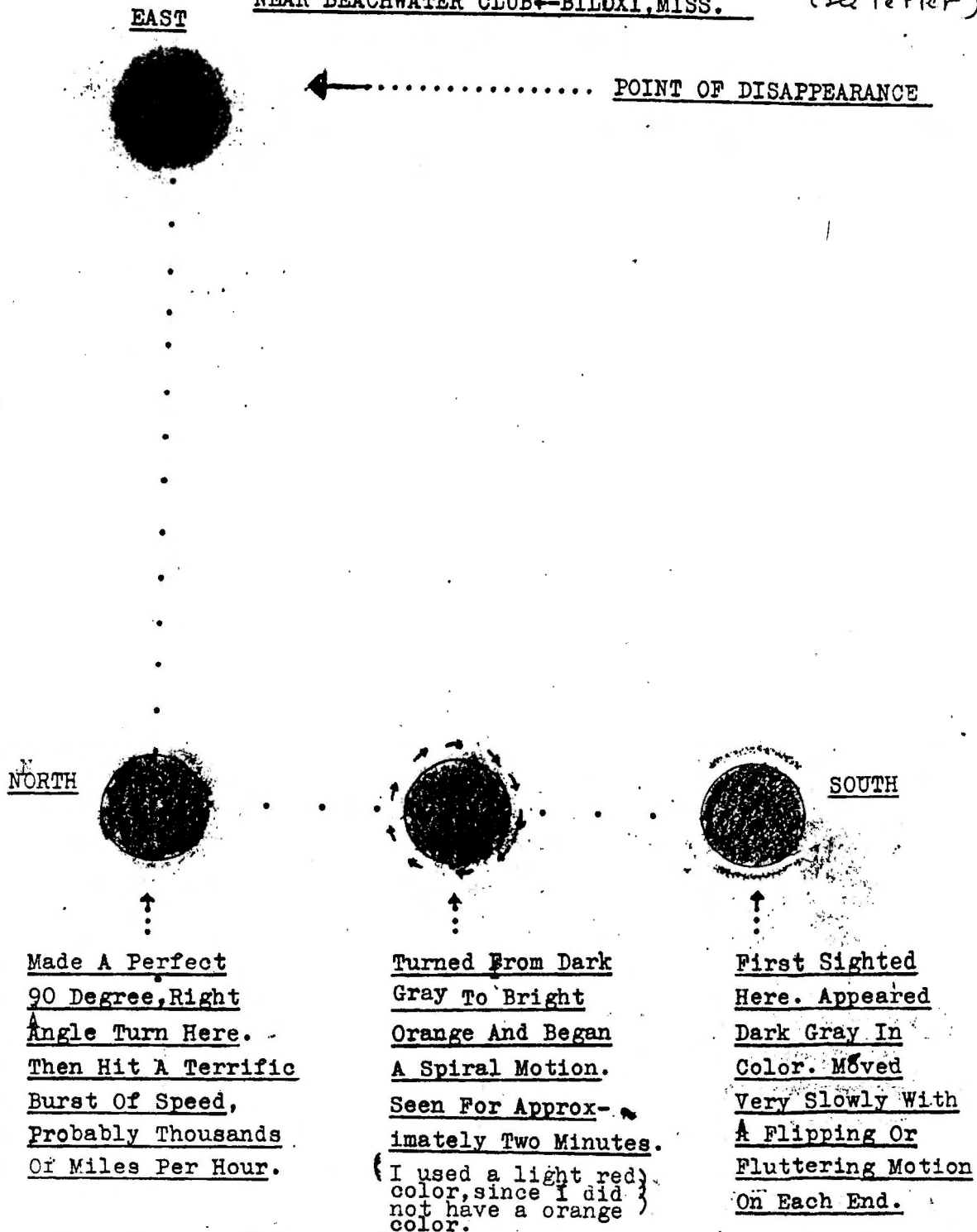
"The truck driver, who received a minimum of comments from the Alvin officers, declared bitterly: 'I guess you're just like those Angelton officers. When I reported to them, they said I was crazy.'

"Chief Sheppard said he reserved judgment but no arrests were made. Both the truck driver and the 'flying saucer' went on their way later in the morning." (57.)

16 November. Unnamed Czech airfield, Czechoslovakia. (8:00 p.m.)

Car stalls. Aircraft can't take off?

1959, November 8

DIAGRAM OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTOBSERVED ON NOV. 8, 1959 AT 11:50 P.MNEAR BEACHWATER CLUB--BILDXI, MISS.Mike Vlahov  
(see letter)

This case *suggests* two things of importance. For one thing, it offers "independent" verification of the car stopping claims made by persons in the U.S. since one *assumes* the people behind the Iron Curtain were ignorant of such stories because of Communist censorship. A second point is the assertion aircraft on the flight line "couldn't take off," indicating an extensive EM effect with astonishing military implications. If such was the case, we know why the commander of Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas, sharply criticized Mrs. Robert Kinney in the Spring of 1959 for throwing away electrical wiring and appliances burnt out during the close approach of a UFO to her home. (58.) Our source for this Czech account does not claim EM interference with the fighters on standby, just that they were unable to scramble for some "unknown reason" until the UFO left the area.

According to a December 1959 issue of the Czech publication *Kridla Vlasti*:

"A most unusual occurrence took place at the end [sic] of November, 1959, and the veracity of the witnesses is such that it excludes all possibility of any illusion or mistake.

"At about 8 p.m. on November 16, 1959, the Air Force officer, Commander Duchon, a former fighter pilot with many years of experience, was driving in his car to a certain airfield in Czechoslovakia in order to supervise night flying. He had with him another officer named Bezak, belonging to a certain unit of the Czech Air Force.

"At a distance of about 10 km. From the airfield, the engine of the car started to stall. Commander Duchon got out in order to look at it when suddenly they both caught sight of a light sapphire-colored band moving at great speed at an altitude of between 500 and 800 meters (they were able to judge the height by comparing it with the height of a nearby hill). The colored band remained behind for a few seconds in the wake of some unidentified object.

"At first they both thought it was one of their own aircraft but they very soon realized that there was no jet engine sound, the speed was far greater than that of a jet, and the luminous sapphire-green color did not correspond to the exhaust of a jet aircraft.

"When they tried to start their car up, the ignition faded, and it was only some minutes later that they were able to get it going again.

"On reaching the airfield, they had a further surprise. No aircraft had landed there, but at 8:05 p.m. a flaming ball had appeared in the sky. Some of the pilots and ground personnel maintained that it had rotated. An even more fantastic aspect of the whole affair was the complete silence and terrific speed at which the thing flew over the airfield. It had then suddenly made a 90-degree turn and returned back over the airfield.

"According to the radar operators, who registered it on their radarscope at an altitude of 1,000 meters on its return flight over the field, no existing aircraft could possibly have executed such a maneuver. At the same time they were able to fix its size as approximately twice the size of the largest known bomber.

"The aircraft held in emergency readiness on the field received orders to take off but for some unknown reason were unable to do so before the object had disappeared from the radarscope and from the horizon.

"A minute later it was back again over the field at a height of 100 meters and remained motionless for two minutes (from 8:06 to 8:08 p.m.) above the runway.

Then, in a fraction of a second it accelerated to a fantastic speed and disappeared into the night.

"During those two minutes, the object was observed through binoculars by both control tower staff and anti-aircraft gun personnel, who, incidentally, received no orders to open fire as the situation was so confused. All these witnesses described the object as a disc or saucer, with a diameter of not less than 150 meters, with a glowing band around it.

"Unsuccessful attempts were made to contact it by radio in Russian and English and also in the international aviation code.

"The air and soil were immediately tested for radioactivity, but no trace of such was found. So far, no reports have been received from the neighboring villages." (58.)

16 November. Australian Air Force Intelligence "gets some help."

There is no indication, as of mid-November, anyone from the Directorate of Australian Air Force Intelligence had paid a visit to Father Gill.

Evidently impatient with the snail pace of the official investigation, Mr. Peter Norris of the civilian UFO group VFSRS sent the military all the paperwork he had on the sighting. (59.)

Apparently the military sensed Norris and other UFO buffs wanted to make a big fuss over the incident so officially things were dragged out as much as possible.

16 November. Ruppelt's book revision. CSI gets a peek and doesn't like what it sees.

Advertisements for the revised edition of E. J. Ruppelt's book, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, were appearing in various publications. Rumors of concern were circulating in the UFO community. CSI New York was able to obtain the MS of two out of three new chapters of the revised edition. Isabel Davis, Secretary of CSI New York, tells of the reaction to Ruppelt's "new view" and also confirms the assertion Air Force BLUE BOOK advisor Dr. J. Allen Hynek was cooperating in some fashion with the civilian New York UFO organization. Hynek did not want it known he was associated in any way with CSI. He came and went with a hat pulled down and collar up.

Isabel wrote a letter on November 16, 1959, to her colleagues in Los Angeles, which said in part:

"We [CSI] don't know exactly what he's [Ruppelt] doing with his book; perhaps he is revising the earlier chapters, but he has definitely written three others to be added at the end. The first of the three describes several sightings since the last ones mentioned in the first book; the second chapter is about the crackpots; and the final one – that will be Ch. 20 if he doesn't change the earlier structure – says he doesn't believe in UFOs, and 'the UFO is doomed' – chiefly because satellite observations haven't produced any UFO observations. He quotes Hynek to this effect, and here's a case that illustrates how the scientists behave; H. [Hynek] is interested in UFOs but daren't say so, so he gives Ruppelt a statement that seems to support disbelief, but when he was asked why he made the statement, said 'Read it carefully and you'll see it doesn't mean what it seems to [Hynek's full statement did not make the final draft].' Nor does it – but the public isn't

going to read it that carefully.

"We have seen the first and the third of the added chapters; ATIC sent Hynek a copy, and Bud Ledwith had them photostated and sent to us, under great vows of secrecy. The only people we've given any advance information to are Dick Hall and yourself, who are trustworthy. I wanted Dick to see Chapter 20 so that he could begin preparing a reply for immediate publication in the *Investigator* as soon as the book is really out. Apart from keeping Hynek's interest in UFOs quiet, the main reason for restricting circulation of these chapters is of course not to jump the gun on publication. I even sent the chapters to Dick's home rather than to the NICAP office, where despite care they might fall under some unauthorized and roving eye. He returned them, with his usual scrupulousness, within 48 hours. I know we just have to protect Hynek, and Bud, who works for him, but how MAD it makes me that the situation is like this!

"Chapter 20 is a very curious document indeed. He does recant entirely, plops off that fence in plain words – but his reasons as [sic –are?] so feeble and flimsy that I cannot see how anyone who has read the earlier chapters can possibly take them seriously. It's one of the most ineffective expressions of skepticism I've ever read, and almost every statement can be contradicted by sighting reports that he himself has presented in earlier chapters. Possibly, of course, he may edit those earlier chapters to remove the strong cases, although that would be a damaging business in itself. But if he leaves the first 17 chapters unchanged and simply adds these last three, including the quite unconvincing Ch. 20 that we saw, he's going to sound simply silly. Lex has even suggested that Ch. 20 was written with tongue in cheek; that before ATIC would release the cases in Ch. 18 Ruppelt had to say peccavi, peccavi, but purposely made the defense of his disbelief so weak that it will have no effect on the reader. (But it will, of course – the skeptics are bound to hail the book with cries of joy – this is a BIG sinner that repenteth.

"It is possible, however, that R's [Ruppelt's] skepticism is genuine, and that it was his first book that was hypocritical. You remember that he wrote an article for TRUE magazine, 'What Our Air Force Found Out About Flying Saucers,' before he wrote the book – and there are some very interesting discrepancies between article and book, I might add. John Du Barry, president of CSI, was then working with Keyhoe and TRUE on various aspects of fss [flying saucers], and he helped R. [Ruppelt] with his article. John has told us that Ruppelt then ended his article on a note of complete skepticism, but John suggested that he tone this down a little because some readers would find it more acceptable; accordingly, R. [Ruppelt] ended the article, as later the book, with his famous 'either they don't exist at all or they're interplanetary.' If that's the case – and John is scrupulous practically to skepticism himself – then R. [Ruppelt] is now expressing his real belief all along; this doesn't excuse him, it just redates the hypocrisy and adds to it stupidity – for how could he have given the cases he did and remain skeptical?" (60.)

17 November. 20 miles west of Reno, Nevada. (9:22 a.m.)

"Peculiar aircraft."

A Reno newspaper reported:

" 'If I didn't have two others with me, I'd sworn I was crazy,' said Ronald Rinchart, Sparks businessman, after spotting some 'peculiar' aircraft over the Verdi road about 20 miles west of Reno.

"He was returning from a hunting trip at Dog Valley with his sister-in-law and daughter this morning around 9:30 o'clock when they stopped to watch two slow moving helicopters pass overhead.

" 'Suddenly, we spotted three other objects,' Rinehart said.

" 'They're parachutes,' my sister-in-law said.

" 'No they're not,' I said.

" 'They're going too fast to be parachutes. And they're flying in formation.'

"Rinchart said he rushed to his car and pulled out an unloaded gun equipped with a high power scope. 'But before I could get the sight set, they were gone. That fast,' he added.

" 'I'm telling you,' Rinchart said, 'I never saw anything like this. These "things" were flat on the bottom and cone-shaped on top and kind of silvery white. I bet they were about 5,000 feet up.' " (61.)

20 November. Adelaide, Australia. (4:15 a.m.)

Police officers see "flat object with bubble."

Michael Hervey discovered this gem:

"On the morning of November 20<sup>th</sup>, two police officers on patrol in the Adelaide Hills twice saw a mysterious flying object in the sky. First it appeared as a cluster of stars and later, more distinctly, as a flat object with a long bubble on top. The policemen who reported the sightings were Constables P. Collins and R. Snowden.

"They first saw the object just before sunrise at about 4:15 a.m. while patrolling the Blackwood area in a police car. A few clouds were scattered across the sky, but the bright moon made visibility very good. From their vantage point, both saw what they described as a cluster of stars in the western sky just above the horizon. The cluster reflected moonlight and appeared to skim above sea level in a northerly direction. Then it disappeared.

"A few minutes later they again saw the object, this time more clearly. As they looked out over the city, they saw a bright, long, flat shape with a bubble design on top travelling across the face of the moon. It took about thirty seconds to complete this course, then disappeared again. The constables described the object as very well-defined and about an eighth of the moon's diameter in size.

" 'We checked with airport officials and there was no aircraft in the sky above Adelaide at the time of the sightings.' " (62.)

Late 1959. Colonel (USAF-Ret.) Joseph Bryan III.

Besides Dr. Hynek, another person of note who showed a keen interest in civilian UFO investigations in late 1959 was a Joseph Bryan.



Bryan met with Donald Keyhoe and asked to see NICAP's "really hot cases." The NICAP director, suspicious of the man's Air Force background, resisted any cooperation, but when the Colonel went on record with a pro-UFO statement that Keyhoe could have written himself, the retired military officer was made a member of the Washington D.C. organization. Bryan issued this declaration: "The UFOs are interplanetary devices systematically observing the Earth, either manned or remote-controlled, or both. Information has been officially withheld. This policy is dangerous." (63.)

When NICAP acquired Bryan, who was quickly appointed to the Board of Governors, the news was published in the *UFO Investigator* along the impressive biography the retired officer had submitted with his application. The story in the *Investigator* read:

"Col. J. Bryan, III, USAFR, who recently retired after serving with Gen. Norstadt, has become a member of the NICAP Board. During his Air Force Service, he was for two years Special Assistant to the Secretary of the AF. Prior to his AF appointments, he was a lieutenant commander, U.S. Naval Reserve. War citations: Air Medals with two gold stars.

"Col. Bryan's views on UFOs, stated in a NICAP poll, are as follows: The objects are real and intelligently controlled, and the facts should be made public.

"Though retired from periodic AF Reserve assignments, Col. Bryan is actively continuing his career as a well-known writer. (Author of *The Admiral Halsey Story* – written with Halsey; *Aircraft Carrier*, and other books.) Beginning after graduation from Princeton, he was a reporter, for two years. From 1931-40 he served successively as an editor for *Parade*, *Town and Country* and *The Saturday Evening Post*. He has contributed to *Reader's Digest*, *Life*, *Holiday* and other magazines." (64.)

Bryan later had to fight charges he was a CIA "mole," that he forgot to mention in his bio that he was the founder and original chief of the CIA's Psychological Warfare Staff (1947-53). UFO researcher Todd Zechel was especially zealous in pursuing any possible connection between the CIA, Bryan and the decline of NICAP, to say nothing of the firing of Keyhoe as the group's director. (65.) Much of this is speculation. It would help if we knew more about Bryan and his feelings about UFOs and at least two letters of interest exist. Bryan wrote to E.J. Ruppelt in 1956 and made some curious remarks about "UFO communications." (See letters on page 41) (65.)

23 November. Koyabagira, Papau, New Guinea. (7:30 – 9:30? p.m.)

The "cigar" and the "plate."

The village of Koyabagira is on the coast of Goodenough Bay and it was the location of an outstation to the main Anglican mission. Word reached the Rev. Cruttwell of UFO activity at Koyabagira because an assistant priest, Father Albert, spent the night at the outstation after conducting a religious service. It seems the UFOs were sighted by a native medical assistant named Cecil Matavoia who was patrolling the outstation grounds at dusk. Mr. Matavoia first spotted something unusual hanging in the sky in the direction of Boianai. The time was 7:30 p.m. A strange pair of objects were visible. Father Albert and a teacher named Japhet Kirakai

April 3, 1956  
1911 Josie Avenue  
Long Beach 15, Calif.

Mr. J. Bryan III  
2808 "P" Street, N.W.  
Washington 7, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bryan,

I apologize for being so tardy in answering your letter of 24 February--things have piled up.

I'm afraid that you have me mixed up with someone else in regard to borrowing the copy of your Charles Fort book. Since you speak of "The UFO desk for the Air Force, possibly you mean the Air Force Press Desk. If this is so your man was Al Chop. Or possibly it was Major Dewey Fournet up in AF intelligence. I had my own copy in Dayton.

I hope you enjoyed the book.

Yours truly



Edward J. Ruppelt

EJR:eac


Dear Mr. Ruppelt:

You're quite right. It is Dewey Fournet.  
Sorry to have bothered you.

As for your book, I enjoyed it enormously. I believe in the damn things. And when I was special assistant to SecAF Finletter, I did my best to have him prepare a statement for release when communication was established with a Saucer. Better something carefully prepared, I reasoned, than something blurted half-awake in the middle of the night. He wouldn't do it. Neither would H. Talbott. I hope ~~William~~ Quarles is smarter. Saucers exist, and it's only a matter of time before even a SAF can't deny it.

Yours with thanks

9 Ap 56

  
J. Bryan, III

(over)

PS: Just in passing--

Three years ago, I asked Lloyd's of London to quote me rates on a three-way-triple policy. I wanted to be insured against

1. Saucers being proved actual
2. " " " extra-terrestrial in origin
3. Communication being established with them

Before A. 1 Jan '58  
B. " 63  
C. " 68

Lloyd's ~~replied~~ replied, "We ~~do not~~ do not write policies of this nature."

joined Matavoia in observing the two UFOs. There was no hurry since the two objects were not moving. Clouds cloaked the hills behind Koyabagira but the sky over the bay, where the UFOs were "parked," was clear. The three observers could plainly see a white-colored "brilliantly illuminated disc" suspended in the air. To Japhet it resembled the moon, while Father Albert favored the description "like a plate." The thing could not have been the moon because the lunar disc was not due to rise above the horizon until midnight. The second UFO was quite a contrast to the first. It was a dark, cigar-shaped mass and it was positioned directly below the illuminated "thing." The possibility the dark mass was a cloud was considered but it never moved during the hour or more it was observed and never in that time changed its definite symmetrical outline.

After quite some time the illuminated "plate," or whatever, slowly dropped down behind the dark mass, or entered into it. As the "plate" became eclipsed by its movement, the dark mass showed sharp edges and remained opaque which further convinced Father Albert and the other two men the mass was not a cloud but a solid body. Nothing more happened and about 9:30 p.m. the three witnesses retired for the evening. When last seen, the dark mass was still hovering in the same position. (66.)

#### The significance of the New Guinea UFO flap.

Late November marked the end of important UFO activity in the New Guinea region. Rev. Cruttwell knew, however, he had managed to gather a unique collection of UFO sightings. The remoteness of the territory and types of witnesses, the missionaries for their reliability and the natives for their lack of sophistication, made the data valuable, or as the Reverend put it: "The absence of civilization and modern amenities eliminates many confusing factors." (67.)

Rev. Cruttwell attempted to speculate and his guesses are probably as good as any. Most of the UFO sightings occurred in the vicinity of Goodenough Bay, which is an unremarkable body of water except for the fact, the Reverend tells us, that the depth is quite deep, 10,000 feet. Does that mean anything? The Reverend did not venture an opinion (No UFO was reported entering or leaving the water)

Plotted on a graph, it is very clear that the sighting frequency peaked in the months of June, July, and August. This correlates with waves that cover continents. Rev. did not know what this periodicity could suggest. Perhaps it had to do with the position of Mars, he thought, but he did not feel that idea had much promise.

The tendency of the UFOs to appear at dusk, which he defines as 6-7:00 p.m., also made the missionary wonder. Apparently dusk was advantageous, but for what reason had to be pure conjecture.

#### Cruttwell's important contribution.

One intriguing aspect that the Reverend noted was the fact that UFOs would often return night after night to same locality. The intensity of the UFO activity and the ability to keep track of it, made this fact apparent. The missionary could, then, suggest something which might have considerable impact on the study of UFOs. Where was the UFO "base of operations?" It was obvious such a "base" could not be far away. Round trips to Mars or the moon seemed unlikely. A secret base in the New Guinea mountains didn't seem likely either since he knew the bush natives were quite active in every remote valley and any "base" would be discovered. Thus it

was through a process of elimination that he came to the conclusion the UFO pilots' "base of operations" had to be "Mother Ships" or "Space Stations."

He also noted that reported movements of the New Guinea UFOs matched sightings made elsewhere in the world, confirming the validity of such observations. The Reverend wrote:

"They seem to be able to make any kind of turn, curve, right angle, or even instant reverse. They seem to be able to loop the loop, swing like a pendulum, dance, move in a triangle, or in fact do anything.

"This would all point to absolute independence of gravity, momentum and air resistance. They would appear to have no mass." (68.)

Whatever the power source the objects used, it was also some kind of engine that rarely made a sound, which the Reverend found amazing. Moreover, like Keyhoe, Rev. Cruttwell noted that the color of light emitted by a UFO correlated with its movement which: "...usually started with red and then changed to blue-green, the latter being associated with high speed." (69.)

Invariably, when UFOlogists think of the 1959 New Guinea UFO reports, the Father Gill case comes to mind, but it was just "frosting on the cake."

New Guinea and the Australian Federal House of Representatives.

Having sent the Air Force everything they had on the UFO activity in New Guinea, five civilian UFO groups in Australia banded together in a joint effort to force the issue. They were not going to wait for the military. The combined groups submitted a circular letter to all members of the Federal House of Representatives urging the legislators to confront the Minister of Air. The UFO buffs' strategy was to stress the fact that the UFO sightings were a matter of vital concern to national security. (See copy of the circular letter on page 44)

The Air Ministry is backed into a corner.

The civilian's plan worked. E.D. Cash (Lib. W.A.) officially approached the Minister of Air, F.M. Osborne, and asked for an explanation to account for the lack of action by the Air Force Intelligence. This put the minister on the spot so he answered with rambling generalities about the UFO mystery, carefully skirting any mention of New Guinea.

26 November. Panic in the Air Ministry?

Help!

Rambling generalities would not satisfy the critics. UFO buffs pressed Air Force Intelligence with specific questions that were impossible ignore since the UFO issue had been officially addressed in the House of Representatives. The military quickly sent a letter to Mr. P.E. Norris, the leader of the UFO groups, in an obvious attempt to stall. Morris was informed the military needed to "develop a sufficient depth of evidence" which would take some time. On the same day, Australian Air Force Intelligence sent to messages to its close allies, Britain and the United States, to ask for assistance in the dealing the "saucer societies" and the "political

aspects.” (See page 45)

Late November. Near Bahia Blanca, Argentina. (11:30 p.m.)

A man is transported 600 miles?

This story has little proof to give it credibility, but we must point out that the man involved, if he did exist, made no claim about meeting up with aliens, in fact no claim about anything except to say he was in wrong place. However, what is probably more in the story's favor is the fact it was published in the July-August 1960 issue of the *Flying Saucer Review*, long before it was fashionable to boast of such an experience. The *Review's* Argentine correspondent heard the story from a Mr. Vogt, who was president of a helicopter company. One of Mr. Vogt's pilots was a friend of the man who was “transported.” Here is the account as published by the English UFO magazine:

“It seems that one evening at 11:30 p.m., towards the end of November, 1959, the driver of a car on his way to Bahia Blanca (on the Atlantic coast and in the south of the province of Buenos Aires) was only a few kilometers from that town, when his eyelids got very heavy from a strong, bluish (violet) light which had appeared. He decided to take a nap, parked his car at the roadside---Road No.3---and lay down on the grass near it. Eight minutes later he awoke and found himself in quite unknown surroundings. He asked somebody to help him and tell him the way to Bahia Blanca. He was greeted with a shout of laughter and told he was only a few kilometers from Salta, in the extreme north of Argentina. (If you look it up on the map, you will see that Bahia Blanca is on the coast of the Atlantic to the south of Mar del Plata, while Salta is far up in the north and in the Andes. Unfortunately, I cannot tell you the exact distance, but it must be between 2,500 and 3,000 km. [The editors of the *Review* calculated the actual distance as 600 miles]

“The story continues as follows. The driver then went to the military authorities of that northern capital and they, after checking that it was not a case of hallucination or mental deficiency, got in touch with the authorities in Bahia Blanca who, a few minutes later, confirmed that the above-mentioned car was actually where it had been left. The newspaper which covered this story then adds that the driver was taken to Buenos Aires and later, under the greatest secrecy, sent to the U.S.A. where he was closely examined by the competent authorities of that country.” (70.)

28 November. Basin, Wyoming. (7:00 p.m.)

“Object rose in the air and moved away.”

A newspaper with the odd name of the *Republican Rustler* informed its readers:

“Members of the Mashek family in Basin Gardens reported seeing an unidentified flying object (flying saucer) about 7 p.m. Saturday near the Mashek farm east of Basin.

2973

The Honorable Right Honorable R.G. Menzies, C.M., J.C., M.H.R.,  
House of Representatives,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T. November 25th, 1959

Dear Mr. Menzies,

The enclosed report describes a series of recent, factual sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO's) seen over New Guinea.

The principal witness is the Reverend Father Gill, a young Anglican priest who has spent more than eight years in the Territory on mission work. There are thirty-eight corroborative witnesses.

The observers saw the UFO's on more than one occasion. On two consecutive days the craft hovered above them for several hours at an altitude of approximately 450'. Father Gill is adamant that he and his friends observed humanoid beings aboard the craft.

One possible explanation emerging from the evidence is that the New Guinea UFO's are the secret weapons of a foreign power, in which case an infringement of Australian territorial jurisdiction has occurred. This possibility has already been adumbrated to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence by the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society but in its reply to the Society dated October 15th (nearly four months after the sightings occurred) the Directorate claims to have carried out no investigations into the incidents.

We feel strongly that an investigation should be made into a matter of such vital concern to the security of Australia. A frank report should be made to the Australian people.

Should you desire any further information pertaining to the New Guinea sightings or to the UFO enigma generally, may we respectfully offer our utmost co-operation in assisting you.

Yours truly,

F.F. Stone,  
Hon. President, Australian Flying Saucer Research Society,  
22 Northcote Street, Kilburn, South Australia.

S. Seers,  
Hon. President, Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau,  
P.O. Box 111, North Quay, Brisbane, Qld.

(Mrs.) E.F. Haynes, B.A., Dip. S.S.,  
Hon. Acting President, Tasmanian Flying Saucer Research Society,  
9 Roslyn Avenue, Kingston Beach, Tas.

Dr. M. Lindtner,  
Hon. President, UFO Investigation Centre of N.S.W.,  
P.O. Box 1120, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.

P.E. Morris, LL.B.,  
Hon. President, Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society,  
100 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



"Mrs. James Mashek said the object was first seen as a white light in the sky and that she and her husband drove from the Mashek farm down a country lane toward a spot where the object was hovering in the air. Mrs. Mashek said the object resembled the top of a silo and appeared conical in shape, coming to a point. It glowed white as it hovered above the ground.

"Mrs. Mashek said that she and Mr. Mashek drove to within 100 yards of the spot, then the object rose into the air and moved away. It did not pass entirely from sight and remained visible for some time as a stationary white light in the sky.

"Dorothy Mashek and Mrs. David Bryson said the object emitted a whirring sound which first attracted their attention. Mr. and Mrs. James Mashek said the whirring sound was not audible above the sound of the motor of the pickup truck in which they drove toward the object. They reported no failure of the truck's motor as was reported in a similar sighting in New Mexico some months ago [Probably referring to the November 1957 flap]. (70.)

29 November. West Branch, Michigan. (9:15 p.m.)

In-line formation.

A letter to the Air Force said:

"To whom it may concern.

"A friend of mine and I saw what we thought must be flying saucers on our way north on highway 76 just south of West Branch, Michigan, 9:15 p.m. Sunday November 29. There were about eight of them in succession evenly spaced. They emerged from the horizon ahead of us arking [sic] north and up thru the clouds with speed I have never seen before. They glowed red. (71.)

1 December. Fontana, California. (9:31 p.m.)

Police encounter a "lampshade-shaped" object.

At Fontana local lawmen encountered a "flying saucer," a description we can officially use at this point since in 1959 the expression finally made its appearance in a supplement to the latest edition of the Oxford English Dictionary. According to a press report the incident took place at 9:31 p.m. as officers Robert L. Cochran and W. B. Brandon were on patrol in their police cruiser. While driving in the eastern part of Fontana near the intersection of Barbee and Palmetto Avenues, a large, round object which glowed red and white was spotted in the sky. It gave:

"...off so much light that it lit up the area. The two men drew a sketch which showed a lampshade-shaped object projecting light downward. A few minutes after it was sighted by the officers, the object took off at high speed, leaving distinct vapor trails from a jet-like apparatus, and shortly disappeared. *Sun-Telegram* (San Bernardino) reporters received another similar report minutes before Cochran and Brandon reported their experience, from a resi-

dent of Del Rosa." (72.)

1 December. Santa Cruz, California. (9:40 p.m.)

Mysterious red thing.

UFO activity appeared to be picking up in the Golden State with another report on the first of the month at Santa Cruz, a city on coast south of San Francisco:

"A pulsating or rotating red lighted UFO swept across the bay from the direction of Monterey about 9:40 p.m. First sighted on a bearing of 170 degrees and at an elevation of about 20 degrees, the object approached in a shallow climb at low speed, its light reflecting in the water. The spherical object left a whitish trail about twenty diameters long. At about 60 degrees elevation the UFO changed color from red to purple. At a bearing of about 180 degrees, off Block Point, the UFO went straight up and disappeared. Total time of observation: 2-3 minutes." (73.)

1 December. Alameda county, California. (9:33 p.m.)

Fiery red mystery object.

A report very similar to the Santa Cruz sighting came from Alameda about the same time. The possibility observers were seeing the same thing seems unlikely. Santa Cruz is 50 miles south of Alameda county and behind a high coastal mountain range. An article in a San Francisco newspaper states:

"A fiery red flying object was spotted high over the Oakland-Fremont area at 9:33 last night.

"Ten watchers in the Oakland Airport control tower saw the red light approach slowly from the southeast at an estimated 2,000 feet, then suddenly shoot up at a 'fantastic' speed and explode into a white, vaporous cloud.

"The pilots of two commercial planes approaching San Francisco over Point Reyes reported sighting the red light. One pilot, flying at 7,000 feet, said the object appeared to be below him. He saw no white cloud; the object just disappeared, he said.

"A dozen persons called the Alameda County Sheriff's office in San Lorenzo to report sighting the object, and it was also seen at the San Francisco Airport tower and as far north as Contra Costa county." (74.)

December (first week) Cheshire, Ohio. (no time)

UFOs near atomic power plants.

According to our source:

"During the first week of December (no exact date) seven employees at

the Kyger Creek Power Plant at Cheshire, Ohio, reported seeing an unidentified object in the area. We are attempting to obtain more information, for this power plant furnishes power for the Atomic Energy Plant at Portsmouth, and this is at least the second a maneuvering or hovering UFO has been spotted in the vicinity—the first time, November 1957.” (75.)

Reports of UFOs near such plants did not fail to gain the attention of authorities. So many were logged the Atomic Energy Commission Security Service, in the fall of 1950, printed up its own UFO report form and distributed it the personnel operating and guarding nuclear installations.

December. Experimental “flying saucers.” (See clipping below)

3 December. Near Gore, New Zealand.  
(9:45 p.m.)

“Had the appearance that could be expected.”

A local newspaper reported:

“A circular object which gave off a very bright light from its circumference was sighted in the Chatton district, a few miles from Gore, last night.

“The object, which had the appearance that could be expected of a flying saucer, approached from the south-west shortly before 10 o’clock, said one of the viewers, Mr. W. A. Brock. It hovered for about 10 minutes in a circular motion before disappearing quickly. Clouds obstructed Mr. Brock’s examination of the object, which was also sighted by Mrs. S.G. Cross, Mr. Noel Cross and Miss Lind Cross.

“Mr. C.K. Gardyne first saw the object in the south-west sky at about 9:43 p.m. and it remained in his view for about three-quarters of an hour. It gave off a light which alternately became brilliant and dull. The saucer-shaped thing appeared to be moving in circles, and it was in much the same position before disappearing. Mr. Gardyne trained a telescope on the object, but he could not discover much about it because of clouds.” (76.)

**Burrelle's**  
ESTABLISHED 1888  
BARCLAY 7-8371  
**PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU**  
165 Church Street - New York  
**NEW JERSEY BUSINESS**  
NEWARK, N.J.  
MONTHLY 14,828  
**DEC 1959.**

### Stranger Than Fiction

FLYING SAUCERS turned out to be both fact and fantasy in New Jersey during this past month. Ironically, the fact was stranger than the fantasy. At the Forrestal Research Center, Princeton, more than 200 persons, including scientists from Great Britain, Finland, Switzerland, France and the United States, watched experimental “flying saucers” roar back and forth, a few inches above the ground. The flat-bottomed machines floated along on a cushion of air. Right now, models of one organization can get up to 20 miles an hour and rise along a 7 percent grade, but the company promises better performance and better control within a couple of years. Other “ground effect” machines were shown at the Forrestal Research area, one of them definitely saucer-shaped, with a 15-foot rear fin and a half-ton payload. Real as these devices were, they didn’t attract nearly so much attention as a 100-foot diameter balloon, atop a rocket fired from the National Aeronautics and Space Agency’s experimental station at Wallops Island, Virginia. Along the New Jersey coast, thousands of persons thought they were seeing a flying saucer, and called police and fire departments, in fear, in anger, or just in curiosity. The balloon was real, all right, but just as real was the certainty in the minds of many bemused observers that they were witnessing the flight of a flying saucer. Perhaps if they had seen the mechanized saucers at Princeton, the real thing would have greatly surpassed the figments of their imaginations.

4 December. NICAP's subcommittee network is established.

Richard Hall was the driving force behind the establishment of a network of investigative units that became the envy of the Air Force. (See clipping)

6 December. New Guinea news.

UFO activity in New Guinea finally gets some good press coverage. (See page 50)

THE HARTFORD TIMES,

FRIDAY, DEC. 4, 1959

Richard Hall, Hartford area native who now is secretary of the "flying saucer" group, the NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena), reports that eight permanent investigative committees for the organization are now operative, or in the process of being formed, in eight states and two Canadian provinces. This includes a Connecticut unit.

7 December. Birmingham, Alabama. (night)

"What is it?"

Its hard to say if this thing was a "reflection" or not:

"Looking out of City Hall Sunday night into the black sky, a person exclaimed, 'What is it, what is it?' My God, it's a rocket."

"A light pink streak, shaped like a block-long rocket, moved slowly in a steady path high over Birmingham.

"The center of the streak glowed brighter than the ends as it traveled westerly. The tail tapered off into a smoky white.

"At one moment it stopped, lurched backward and then forward. A police car alerted headquarters. Calls poured into the Weather Bureau, all asking the same question: 'What is it?'

"It's a reflection from the blast furnaces," said the weatherman. "The shape formed when low-flying clouds started moving into the area." (77.)

8 December. Invercargill, New Zealand. (12:26 p.m.)

"Hovered 100 feet below cloud level."

It was suggested the UFO in this case may been the sun reflecting off an airplane making it look "saucery." That theory seems unlikely since the witness states the object was not moving and any bright glare from a reflection would no doubt only last a few seconds if the aircraft was near enough to show its shape. It took some time for the witness to notice all the people looking up and then stop and leave his vehicle. Moreover, it must have been quite a "reflection" to draw so much attention to itself:

"Dozens of people, children and adults, watched a strange object in the sky over Invercargill at 12:26 today, according to an eye-witness who telephoned the *News* to inquire whether any other reports had been received. None had.

"The eye-witness, an Invercargill insurance agent, said he was travelling down Elles Road South at the time when he noticed crowds of children pointing to the sky. He did not take much notice until he saw housewives and shopkeepers coming out to 'have a look.'

# "SAUCER" PRIEST TOLD OF: Twinkling discs in N.G. skies

NEW GUINEA'S top "flying saucer priest" has received reports of more Unidentified Flying Objects sightings in Papua, but he still hasn't seen any.

The priest, the Rev. Norman Crutwell, is the missionary in charge of the Anglican mission at Menapi, 180 miles south-east of Port Moresby.

He is also the International Unidentified Objects Observer Corps investigator for the Goodenough Bay area, where strange happenings in the skies have been reported since July.

The I.U.O.O.C.I. appointment was made by the English magazine, The Flying Saucer Review.

## Camera by bed

Father Crutwell passed on a report of the sighting, by another Anglican priest, of flying saucers bathed in blue light and carrying "illuminated men."

Since then he has slept with a camera beside his bed, and never goes anywhere without his binoculars or telescope.

Three more sightings have been reported to Father Crutwell by a native teacher and a native priest... but they were on missions near, and not at Menapi.

Father Crutwell has reported to The Sunday Mail that this time, the U.F.O.'s were "twinkling discs or globes" changing colour every three minutes from green to red to yellow.

## Native uproar

Another sighting was reported of a "brilliantly illuminated disc or sphere" which slowly disappeared inside a larger and darker "boat-shaped object" hovering over the Boianai ranges, south of Goodenough Bay.

There was uproar among the natives at the Pumanai Anglican mission when a "dazzlingly bright" disc or globe, changing colour about every three minutes, appeared from the direction of Boianai, about 40 miles south-east of Pumanai.

A native teacher at Pumanai, Micah Algaba, told Father Crutwell that at first it was near the ground, but then climbed to a point above the 4500ft. Mt. Gwoira, five miles east of Pumanai.

Micah said: "It then hovered stationary for a long time, and finally descended until it seemed almost to touch the top of the mountain."

"It moved away to the north, and then veered eastward apparently circling round the Cape Vogel Peninsula."

"It disappeared again in the direction of Boianai."

## "Black cloud"

A week later — Friday, October 30 — Micah and others claim to have seen the same, or similar, object again.

But this time it did not come as near, appearing again from the direction of Boianai, and disappearing along the coastline to the north.

The third and strangest sighting — on November 23 — was reported to Father Crutwell by a Papuan priest, the Rev. Albert M. Ririka, of the Menapi Anglican Mission, and others.

They saw a brilliant illuminated disc or sphere, "approximately half the

size of the full moon," in the sky above Boianai.

Beneath it was a "dark, boat-shaped" object, described by Father Albert as "like a black cloud."

They watched the round object slowly descend until it disappeared into or behind the "black cloud."

The bright object did not reappear, but the black object was still visible, and its shape had not changed, an hour later.

## Watches, waits

Father Crutwell says: "These witnesses are absolutely reliable. Father Albert particularly so."

"He is a well-educated, steady, unimaginative and completely truthful person."

A priest from Boianai Anglican mission, the Rev. William Booth Gill, said that Father Crutwell was still watching, and waiting.

"Poor Norman," he said, "Everyone up there is making sightings except him."

"Several times the natives have called to him to come to look at lights flashing in the sky."

"But by the time he dashes outside he's always just too late. It's very frustrating."

# Saucers flying N.G. skies

FLYING saucers and unidentified flying objects have been cruising over New Guinea in the last year... of that the Rev. Father Norman Crutwell is positive.

And, he does not think they originate on earth. Beyond that, he will not commit himself.

Father Crutwell, an Anglican mission priest in Menapi, on the south-east top of New Guinea, is in Brisbane until Monday on his way to England for surgery.

Last night he was given rapt attention by 100 members of the Flying Saucer Research Bureau at a meeting in the Canberra Hotel when he lectured for two hours on sightings in New Guinea. Father Crutwell said he had NOT seen any saucers himself.

particularly Father William Gill, had recorded many sightings in great detail.

"I have complete faith in what they say. I believe them implicitly," Father Crutwell said.

Father Crutwell produced sighting reports of 80+ UFOs in New Guinea in the last five years.

He said "THE day was in June last year, when a flying saucer, with four men in it, hovered over a mission station. They appeared to be wearing what might have been space suits. And they returned the waves of Father



Mail  
(Name of publication)  
Brisbane, Australia  
(Published at - City, State)  
19-6-69  
(Date of publication)

Truth  
(Name of publication)  
Brisbane, Australia  
(Published at - City, State)  
2-17-60  
(Date of publication)

PRIEST SAYS  
IT'S FOR SURE

"Stopping his car, the Insurance man got out to have a look himself. What he saw he described as an object 'much bigger than an aircraft.'

"Asked what type of aircraft, he said the object was much bigger than a DC 3. It was larger by far and looked 'just like a saucer looks when placed upside Down on a table, only it was the same thickness all along.'

"It was hovering at about 100 feet [another press account says 1,000] below cloud level. Getting back into his car the eye-witness hurried to get to Bluff road where he thought he would get a better view but when he got there the object had disappeared.

"Aircraft are reported to have been in the area around about the time stated by the observer of the 'object,' but he was emphatic it was not an aircraft. 'It was much bigger than an aircraft,' he said. 'It was nothing like anything I have seen in the sky before.'

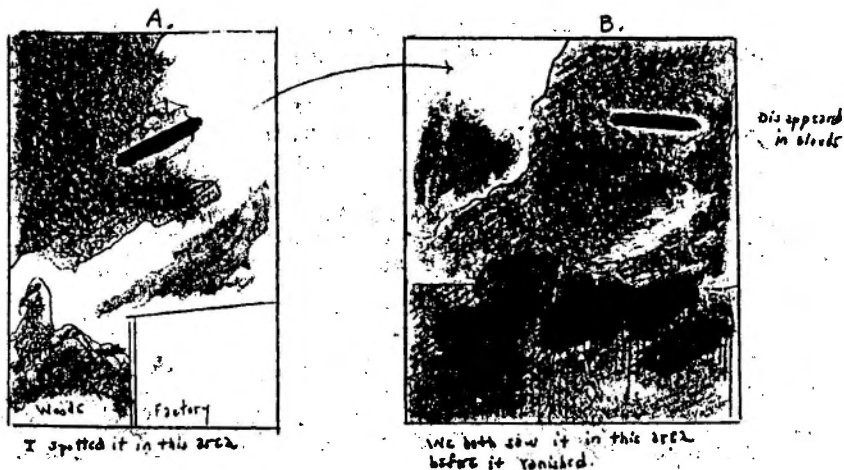
"The Insurance man said he called in at the Clifton service station where the a mechanic told him another man had just been talking about a strange object in the sky. The mechanic had gone outside with that man to 'have a look,' but the object had disappeared." (78.)

8 December. Stoughton, Massachusetts. (5:35 p.m.)

#### Mystery cylinder.

A Mr. Robert Minucci wrote Donald Keyhoe in 1969 to say he remembered vividly the sighting of a strange cylinder in the sky over his home back on December 8, 1959. Mr. Minucci recorded his sighting carefully at the time but never submitted it to NICAP because he didn't think he would be taken seriously since he was a junior in high school.

The basic facts taken from the letter to Keyhoe were these. 1.) Length of observation was 20-30 seconds. 2.) The UFO appeared 60-70 degrees above the horizon. 3.) The object appeared to be a solid-looking, black-colored, cylinder "larger than an aircraft." 4.) No sound was heard. 5.) No wings or protrusions were noted. 6.) No exhaust or vapor trails seen. 7.) Size of a match held at arm's length. 8.) Weather conditions was a partly cloudy sky. (See drawings below from letter) (79.)





14 December. Laverton, Australia. (2:30 a.m.)

"Flying melon?"

This happened deep in the outback far from the east coast where all the UFO activity was taking place:

"Matron Sheila Wooten, of Laverton 550 miles east of Perth, and her husband, Cyril, were returning from an emergency run to Leonora Hospital when they noticed a peculiar object in the sky. The time was 2:30 a.m. on the morning of December 14, 1959. The strange object was a yellow ball as big as a water melon with a greenish fin on either side. It was low in the southern sky.

"Mr. and Mrs. Wooten stopped the ambulance to stare at the object and they took a sighting over a tree [?]. The object moved from side to side and then appeared to approach the amazed watchers on the ground. As it got near it appeared to grow larger. A Department of Civil Aviation spokesman said that there were no aircraft in the area at the time." (80.)

14 December. Haverhill, Maine. (Shortly after 7:00 p.m.)

Shot straight up.

An eighth grader at Tilton school in Haverhill told her science teacher she saw: "...a white light going horizontally across the sky then it changed its course and went vertically...upward. I heard no noise, like a jet would make, and it didn't seem like any jet I've ever seen. It went too fast." (81.) An even more interesting report would come from Haverhill three days later.

16 December. New York City.

"Space Ship One, Space Ship One." "Do you read me?"

Martians invade Greenwich Village. (See clipping below)

NEW YORK, N.Y.  
DAILY NEWS  
D. 2,058,521 8:3,455,033  
DEC 16 1959

## ***The Line Is Buzzy: It's Martians on the Phone***

By ROBERT MCCARTHY

Flying saucers or no flying saucers, Martians invaded Greenwich Village yesterday! When the first wave of little green men descended on Sheridan Square at 2:11 P. M. the switchboard at the Charles St. police station lit up like a Christmas tree.

A terrified woman pleaded with the cop on the phone. "Send somebody over here quick. I have spacemen on my telephone. I'm holding them on the line."

The cop was ready to chalk off the call as another crank when a squeaky voice broke in:

"Space Ship One, Space Ship One. Come in Space Ship One. This is flotilla leader. I am now over Washington. Do you read me Space Ship One."

"I read you, flotilla leader," another squeaky voice said. "We are now approaching New York."

First wave now in control of Sheridan Square.

"Men From Mars Are Coming"

The cop on the switchboard growled. "Now listen, wise guy . . ." He never finished. Another caller screamed: "The men from Mars are coming." Then a third call. Then a fourth. Another and another. Everybody in the Village with a telephone was talking to spacemen!

But cops are cops and in about

a half hour they solved the caper of the mysterious Martians.

It seems the boys over at the telephone building at 204 Second Ave. near 14th St. were installing new recording equipment. The telephone building handles the Gramercy, Algonquin, Orchard, Spring and Canal exchanges.

When most of the wires were hooked up, the testers began their dull "One, two, three, four, testing. One, two, three, four testing." However, some wag got sick

of the monotony and chimed in: "Space Ship One to flotilla leader." The rest of the boys got into the act. In a few minutes they had a full scale Martian invasion going on.

"Inductive Cross"

What the phone boys didn't know was that an electrical phenomenon termed "inductive cross" had occurred in the wires. Every subscriber in the area who picked up his phone could hear the spacemen babble.

The phone company received numerous complaints. So from now on, a company executive said, testers will stick to the old one, two, three, four.

16 December. NICAP needs help. (See letter on page 54) (82.)

17 December. Australian Air Force Intelligence finally seeks out Father Gill. (See letter on page 55)

17 December. Haverhill, Maine. (morning)

"It had a dome on top. A door opened."

Another UFO sighting came in from Haverhill on the 17<sup>th</sup>. A press report states:

"...Darcelle Nolan, 8, a second grader at St. Joseph School, told of seeing something even more startling yesterday morning on Broadway in Ayers Village while enroute to school on the school bus.

"Darcelle, along with nine-year-old Diane Pearson of 1320 Broadway, reported that they saw a bright flash in a field nearby, and 'we saw something round, silvery colored land in the field and it had a dome on top. A door opened and something in light colored clothes got out.'

"She reports that four children on the bus saw the object. Her mother, Mrs. Richard Nolan of 16 South Crystal St., said this morning, 'At first I didn't believe it, but after she told me the story, I believed her. She's not the type to make up stories.' " (83.)

19 December. Near Burgoon, Ohio. (5:15 p.m.)

Stopped and hovered.

A civilian, name deleted in official records, wrote a letter to BLUE BOOK to say:

"Dear Gentlemen:

"On Saturday, December 19, I was walking in the country near Burgoon, Ohio, with another girl. It was 5:15 p.m., the sun was setting, and the temperature was approximately freezing.

"We saw in a northwest direction what at first we thought to be a jet making a vapor trail. We didn't think much of it until we looked at it again. It was now coming straight down, and the trail was moving with it. As it came down, the trail seemed to disappear and the object took the shape of a ball. As it came still further down, it took the shape of a saucer. This saucer-shaped thing actually looked as if it were spinning and it did not have a vertical rotation, but was somewhat tilted.

"After some time, the saucer stopped it's decent and hovered in mid air. We thought at first that it could be a plane of some sort, but then a plane flew by in front of the object. The sun did not shine on the plane so as to make it bright as was the object.

"Before the plane flew by, however; the saucer got smaller and when the plane flew by, the saucer seemed to rotate in the same direction that the plane was going, and then disappeared altogether.

December 16, 1959

*Volunteer help*

*Response to Salkin*

*The Secretary*

Harold D. Salkin  
2950 So. Columbus St.,  
Apt. B-1  
Arlington 6, Va.

Dear Mr. Salkin:

Thanks very much for your letter, and generous advance renewal of your membership. We are grateful for your support at a very crucial time. Your membership is now paid through 8/62.

In regard to your kind offer of volunteer help, this is the situation: There is always unfinished work here and the files are falling further and further behind. We badly need clerical help. Any time you can spare us a few hours, we would be glad to see you. There is usually someone here from about 9:15 a.m. to about 6:00 p.m., and then the part-time secretary, Miss Elizabeth Kendall, comes in about 7:00 p.m. and stays for several more hours. It would probably be best to give us a call whenever you are able to make it.

Also, any time you would like to pay a social call you would certainly be welcome. We have a small group of local members who are very active, and a D.C. technical subcommittee which meets once a week. The subcommittee is presently making a study of electro-magnetic effects reported in association with UFOs. We have discussed, very tentatively, the possibility of a local meeting of some sort early next year; but, from past experience we know that the time and effort needed to organize it would not be justified unless we can somehow have a legitimate fund-raising meeting.

At any rate, we have a great need for volunteer help, both for clerical work and for the possible formation of other subcommittees to explore various facets of the UFO problem. Every little bit helps, and we appreciate your offer.

Sincerely yours,

*Richard Hall*

Richard Hall  
Secretary of NICAP

RH/h

From: Wing Commander H.D. Ryme, AFC, RAF

Directorate of Air Force Intelligence  
Department of Air  
Administrative Building  
CANBERRA ACT

554/1/30

17th December, 1959

The Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society has sent to this Department your reports on unidentified flying objects in New Guinea.

I would very much like Squadron Leader F. Lang to visit you at your home to discuss this report with you. He will be in Melbourne all of next week. If you could see him, would you be good enough to contact him by telephone. His number is JX2843.

*SLR*

Reverend Father W.B. Oill  
"The Emily Adams"  
Main Road  
FERGIE CREEK VIC

"I cannot describe the color of this object, except that it was very bright and we thought that it might have been a comet or a falling star."

"Since the rest of my family thinks that I am nuts, and I would like to know what I was looking at, I thought you might be able to explain it to me." (84.)

19 December. Mystery satellite.

Why would the Navy not talk to the Air Force?

Both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy tracked satellites in orbit. If an unidentified object in orbit was detected, the Navy called it an "UESO." The Air Force listed such objects in this fashion: "UNK-1-60," which would mean: "the first unknown of 1960." Most such objects were short-lived "space junk" from previous satellite launches, but there was also the job of keeping tabs on anything the Russians sent up. As for "real UFOs," who knows?

On December 19<sup>th</sup> the Navy picked up something quite sizeable, an object about 20 feet long and about 1,400 pounds in weight that did not emit any radio signal. Eventually it was determined the object was the carrier rocket for a Discovery satellite launched back on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

This story is of interest because the Navy failed, for some reason, to tell the Air Force. John Weigle, who edited the small publication *UFOlogy Bulletin*, remarked:

"*Newsweek* reported in its Feb. 22 [1960] issue that the Navy had observed the object since December 19<sup>th</sup> [1959], but had neglected to inform the Air Force or Department of Defense of its existence. Not until an Air Force officer happened to overhear a conversation between 'two Navy associates in the lower echelon of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Intelligence Section,' did the Air Force learn of the object's existence, *Newsweek* said." (85.)

20 December. Redondo Beach, California. (2:15 a.m.)

"They were playing a game like a bunch of kids."

According to a Redondo newspaper:

"About eight flying saucers played tag over the Palos Verdes hills early Sunday morning.

"Anyway, that's the report from a well-known Redondean, who wants to remain anonymous.

"He said he and his wife stood on their porch at 2:15 a.m. and watched the 'wonderful display of disks.'

" 'They were playing a game like a bunch of kids. There was no formation. They dodged in and out and ran races. It's a wonder they kept from colliding.'

"He said the disks ranged from bronze to yellow and were 'very bright.' They all were the same shape and size.

"The night, he said, was beautiful, and the moon was high and almost full.

" 'The disks moved faster than anything I've ever seen,' he said." (86.)

(?) December. Near Proberta, California. (5:45 a.m.)

This is a single witness case but it may be important because of certain details. The incident was investigated by a some NICAP people: Paul Cerny, Kenneth Tice, and Robert Staver. Here is their official report:

"Larry Jensen was driving north [on U.S. Highway 99W] to work in his 1946 light Ford truck about 5:45 a.m. in December 1959 [exact date not remembered]. His shift was from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Corona Box Company located a short distance south of Red Bluff. The weather was cold, and the sky clear and studded with stars. There were no clouds. In the back of his truck was a brand new freezer he had just bought, which he had been looking forward to enjoying at home.

"He was listening to a radio news broadcast from KSL (Salt Lake City) when his radio began to make a funny snapping noise. He tried turning the knob to eliminate this static when he noticed his lights were growing dimmer and dimmer. He pulled over to the edge of the road and jumped out to look at his headlights, which he discovered to his amazement glowed no stronger than the bulb of a flashlight whose batteries were almost run down.

"He caught a glimpse of something in the corner of his eye and glanced up to discover what looked like a large bright green crescent floating above the highway perhaps a quarter mile behind his truck. He later roughly estimated it to be 60 feet or so above the road. He became petrified with fear and discovered that his clothes had suddenly become very wet. Not just his long underwear but, as he learned shortly, also his heavy woolen shirt and his sheepskin jacket [There is a lot of moisture in the air in California's central valley during the Winter months, especially in the morning. Dense fog is often a traffic hazard. One EM effect may be a drop in temperature which could produce condensation. It may also have been sweat from fear.] Further, he felt like he was being crushed inside, and he later reported: 'I felt like I was being sucked up in space toward the object, as by a magnet [There is no mention of missing time and he apparently was not late for work].'"

"His first thoughts were that he was a goner, and that he would lose his deep freezer and never see his family and home again. He decided to make a dash for his gun (he always carried a rifle in his truck) and try to get off at least one shot at the object before it got him. So he ran to the car door on the driver's side and right into his side mirror, which sent him reeling backwards. As quickly as he could regain his thoughts, he jumped into the cab reaching for his rifle and turned to look out his rear window only to discover the object was gone. It seems that he may have lost a few seconds when he hit his head, which slowed him down. Then he looked out his right door window and saw the same object several miles away (in the direction of Gerber) moving fast toward the northeast climbing at a shallow angle up over the Sierra foothills. In about 6 to 8 seconds it was gone from view. There was no visible trail of jet exhaust.

"What did he notice about the object in the few seconds he saw it? He said its shape reminded him of a large 'canoe'[If this was a hoax why not just say 'like a saucer.' Perhaps Jensen couldn't see the entire object. Perhaps he was only seeing its glowing undersurface or a window?]. It appeared to hover in one location, although it slowly rocked up and down like a giant teeter-totter in slow



motion. It did not swing back and forth like a pendulum. (Jensen illustrated with his extended arms the slowness of this rocking motion, as best as he could recall. As imprecise as this information is, it appears that this was not a quick motion, but involved a cycle of the order of 6 to 8 seconds.) He said it looked wider across than its height above the road. He admitted he could not be sure but that it looked like it was 80' or 90' across and perhaps 15' to 20' thick. All he saw was the lighted crescent itself [This suggests there could have been an unseen darker portion]. It was deep bluish-green in color, not dull or softly glowing but of such a penetrating vividness that he believed 'it could have been seen 1,000 miles away.' He did not notice any noise.

"Something else that stood out in his mind was that he did not encounter a single car on this highway from shortly before this episode until he was about ½ mile north of Proberta. He believes this is the only time in his life this has happened. U.S. 99W is the main highway from San Francisco to Portland and Seattle. It carries heavy traffic.

"With the departure of the object the car lights came back on. Jensen started his car and drove maybe 200 yards when he smelled rubber burning. He stopped, got out with his flashlight to investigate and discovered that all of his battery caps had blown out and the battery had bulged out of shape. (He never thought to feel it to learn if it were hot.) Further, he discovered his generator was 'gone.' The armature and field wires had melted together.

"Jensen took off the fan belt and drove the short distance to the plant where he worked. He reported to Joe Johnson, night foreman at the plywood factory (Interstate Container Corp.), which was affiliated with Corona Box, and told him what had happened. Later that morning he told Verne Muse (now deceased), his day foreman. Mr. Muse urged him to report this incident to the country [county?] sheriff, Lyle Williams, after work. Jensen hung his sheepskin jacket up to dry but kept his wet shirt and underwear on. He said there was a big heater in the plant and that his clothes were dry in a couple hours. These garments were not soaking wet, but they all definitely felt wet to the touch. They were more than damp.

"Word of the incident spread around the plant, and later that same day a man who worked on the plywood chipping machine came to him and told Jensen that at 5:45 that morning his brand new Zenith radio had gone dead for About 5 minutes, then came back on. He lived approximately ½ mile west of Proberta.

"Jensen debated to himself all day long about reporting the incident to the sheriff. But after work he did so. Jensen says the Williams went to a private phone in the corner of the office, made a call, then came back to Jensen and said: 'we believe you.'

"Jensen said no investigators had ever called on him to discuss this encounter and that he felt it was better not to talk much about it. Everyone just laughed at him.

"Flora Jensen (Larry Jensen's wife): "He was scared to death."

"Joe Johnson (night foreman) (1308 Pear Street, Corning, California)

"He was the first man that Jensen talked to after the incident. He is still employed by the same company [as of August 1968]. He appears to be close to retirement (if not already past the normal retirement age) and not keen of recollection. Johnson said he does remember Jensen coming to him and telling him about this. Johnson said Jensen was so terribly excited that he thought Jensen was making up some kind of a joke. 'We asked him if he dreamed it up.' But Jensen was absolutely serious. Johnson cannot now recall any details but he does remember something about an object up in the air and also about a bump on Jensen's head.

"Larry Jensen (Questioned on August 19, 1968)

"Jensen said he had been in to see Sheriff Lyle Williams during the day and that Williams had, on being questioned by Jensen, admitted that on that day back in 1959 when Jensen had reported his strange episode, Williams had phoned Beale Air Force Base immediately before telling Jensen that he believed his story. (Presumably there may have been radar confirmation. However, no check-back was made on this with Williams because earlier in the day he had not admitted—or recalled—phoning anyone on that day in this regard. This occurred nearly 9 years ago and possibly Jensen jogged his memory on this.)

"Lyle Williams, Sheriff of Tehama County.

"His records for December 1959 show no report of the Jensen sighting. Williams lived in Corning for many years and knows Jensen well. He used to take Jensen's son hunting with him [Williams thought Jensen might be making a joke]. Williams made it known that his office did not write up a report on everything brought to their attention." (See map and drawing on page 60) (87.)

The NICAP EM subcommittee.

Reports like Jensen's drew attention. Could UFOlogists do science with the information provided in such testimony? Perhaps of equal interest to UFOlogists was the possibility that the details in such stories could provide a test to their authenticity, something badly needed.

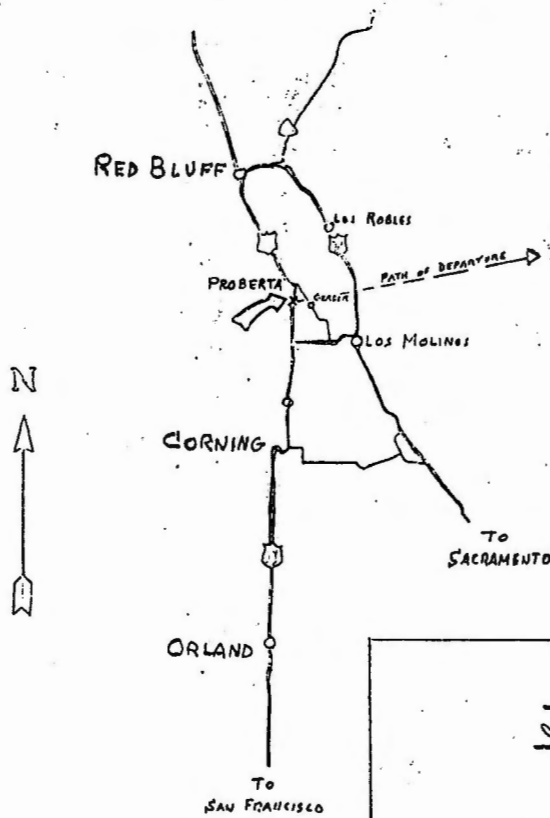
The NICAP Electromagnetic subcommittee was established in July and its first order of business was to collect every account like Jensen's from available literature. This development was inevitable after the UFO flap of 1957 when 30 such EM cases were reported in the month of November alone. Some of the most dramatic incidents made headlines across the country.

Once collected, the EM data was sorted into categories by the NICAP people. These were: failures of automobile headlights and other lights, radio-television interference, physiological effects, and engine failures.

The data was then scrutinized further. The samples suggested, for example, that when a vehicle experiences trouble with its electrical system during a close approach by a UFO there seems to be a definite failure sequence: radio, engine, and then headlights (compare this sequence with Jensen's story).

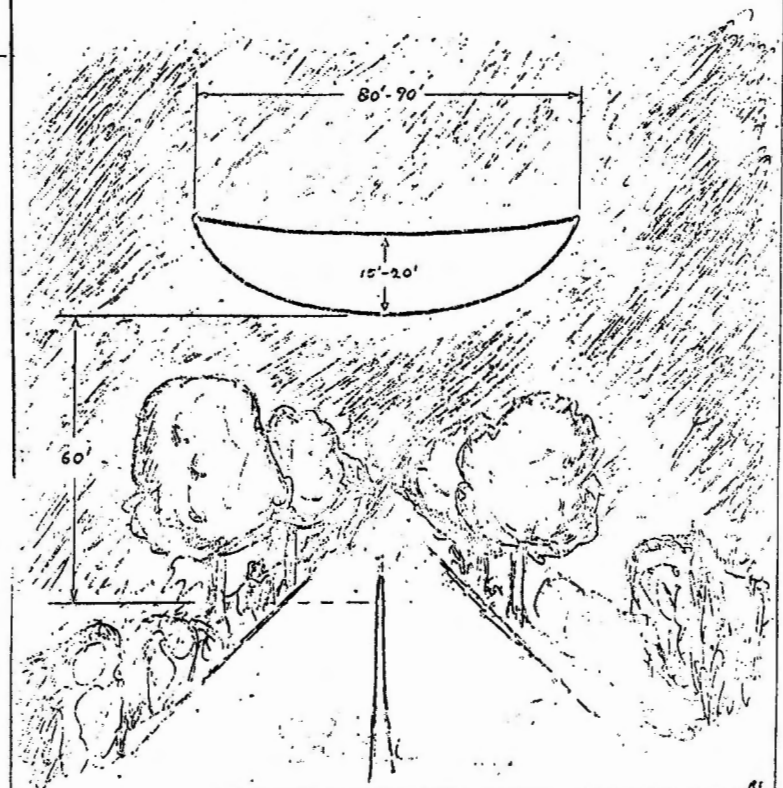
Apparently this subcommittee work seemed so promising member Richard Hall wanted to

# JENSEN SIGHTING - NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



## JENSEN SIGHTING

— ROUGH ESTIMATED DIMENSIONS —



alert the Air Force by writing Major Tacker at the Pentagon. In reply, the PIO chief acted like the military was *so stupid it didn't even suspect anything!* (See letter on page 62) The truth of the matter, one can hardly doubt, was the reaction of the Air Force to Mrs. Robert Kinney's experience on November 11, 1958. At that time a UFO caused extensive damage to the electrical circuits in Mrs. Kinney's home. The commander of Forbes AFB sharply criticized her for not calling him in the middle of the night (1:35 a.m.), and for not saving the damaged wiring so the Air Force could study it.

22 December. Oakdale, California. (12:07 a.m. and 12:45 a.m.)

Bowl-shaped object 20 feet

Some others apparently corroborated Mr. Lindsley's story but unfortunately a press account about the observations was very brief:

"...a Mrs. Estelle Hendershott of Waterford came forward to report that she had seen the object while driving to her home at about 12:15 a.m., after leaving work at the John Inglis Frozen Food plant in Modesto. Other women on the night shift saw the object, also, and Mrs. Charles Erikson, of Modesto, reported seeing the object on her way home." (88.)

22 December.

"RHH" (Richard Hall?) discusses UFOs with a jet pilot named "Don." (See page 64)

24 December. "UFOs Serious Business."

On December 24<sup>th</sup> Major General Richard E. O'Keefe, Acting Inspector General, issued instructions pertaining to "UFO business" to every Air Base Commander in the United States. The document was not classified but it also was not intended for public distribution. Within two months the General's instructions were discovered and made available to NICAP by someone who had access. NICAP, in turn, sent photocopies to the news media.

Across the top of the document were the words: "UFOs Serious Business." This is not the kind of language one usually finds in military papers. It so impressed pro-UFO author Frank Edwards he used it, with a slight alteration, for the title to his coast-to-coast bestseller: *"Flying Saucers-Serious Business."*

Before we comment further, it is best we read the complete document. A reproduction of the original can be found in Edwards' bestseller. (89.) A few of the words here and there are hard to make out but most are clear enough to read:

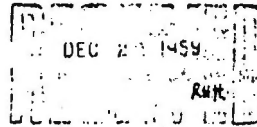
#### "UFO'S SERIOUS BUSINESS

"Unidentified Flying objects – sometimes treated lightly by the press and referred to as 'flying saucers' – must be rapidly and accurately identified as serious USAF business in the ZI [Zone of Interior]. As AFR 200-2 points out, the Air Force concern with these sightings is threefold: First of all, is the object a threat to the defense of the U.S.? Secondly, does it contribute to

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

21 December 1959



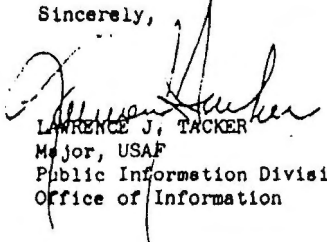
Dear Mr. Hall:

The Air Force has not conducted a special study of the cases of car stallings and other electrical influences attributed to UFO's.

In cases where car stallings were reported, this information, of course, was taken into consideration before the final evaluation was made.

Actually the number of cases involving car stallings is negligible.

Sincerely,

  
LAWRENCE J. TACKER  
Major, USAF  
Public Information Division  
Office of Information

Mr. Richard Hall.  
National Investigating Committee  
on Aerial Phenomena  
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

# Bright Orange 'Thing In Sky' Calls For Explanation

McClatchy Newspapers Service

OAKDALE—Anyone see a bright orange object swooping down on McHenry Avenue north of Modesto shortly after midnight yesterday?

Kenneth Lindsley, 28, did, and hopes that by making his experience public, someone else who saw it may offer a plausible explanation.

He tells his story this way:

"I was stranded in Modesto Tuesday night and had to hitch hike home. I got a ride to the Oasis at Claribel Road and McHenry Avenue and got out of the car at 10 minutes to midnight. The Oasis was closed. No people or cars were around.

"The air was clear and sound carried a long distance. My eyes are in good shape because they were tested just two weeks ago. And I had not had anything to drink.

"At exactly 12:07 AM, coming down Claribel Road and headed towards me I noticed a bowl shaped object come out of the clouds. I would estimate that it was a couple thousand feet up when I first saw it.

"My first thought was that it was the moon but after checking, I found the moon did not rise until later. It came real low and I still thought for a time that it was the reflection of the moon. It was very orange in color and very bright.

"As it got closer to me I began to think it might be something else. It had dropped to about 20 feet over the highway and was throwing reflections on the road. It was so bright I could see clearly both sides of the road and the trees.

"It extended over the entire road and on it I could see shadows which appeared to be moving but I could not distinguish what they were. It took about one and a half minutes to get down, stopping just above the telephone poles. It stayed there for two minutes, then went back down the road and up into the air.

"It unnerved me so much that headed back to Modesto to stay with a friend.

"I had walked about one and a half miles and was at the location of the new McHenry Bowl when I spotted the object again. This time it did not come down nearly as close and did not stay as long. This second appearance was at 12:45 AM."

Lindsley said there was no sound and no one around who might verify his observance. Just before seeing the object at the Oasis, a sheriff's car was parked in the area and his only wish now is that it had remained a few minutes longer.

Lindsley, a junior college graduate, bachelor and hardware store manager, often hitches rides to and from Modesto.

After seeing the "thing," which gave him "the creeps," he yesterday decided to ask his former Oakdale High science teacher, William Maxey, what it might have been.

Maxey suggested it first be ascertained if anyone else saw it, and Lindsley, the son of the senior Kenneth Lindsleys of Oakdale, called a Bee correspondent to make his report.

Bee

(Name of publication)

Modesto, Calif.

(Published at--City, State)

12-24-59

(Date of publication)



*Poe  
Bulletin item >*

DECEMBER 22, 1959 Notes by RHH

They asked for recent dope, and the talk got around to general theories. Don said: "Personally, I believe we are being visited by beings from outer space."

Don mentioned a Navy sighting which he had heard from a sailor on board the ship (I didn't pin down whether it was the actual witness.) After mentioning it, he went off on another tack, and I had to keep steering the conversation back in order to get the details. He talked to the sailor about 4-5 months ago, and the incident was approximately one year ago:

\* It was a submarine picket-ship (he couldn't remember the name) a few hundred miles off Gibraltar in the North Atlantic. The man on watch had a camera attempting to photograph propeller phosphorescence, when he noticed a green glow in the water. Then a disc, with a green band around the edge, rose up to the surface and on up into the air. He photographed it and called the Captain who also saw it. The UFO was also tracked on ship's radar. Later, the Navy took the film and camera.

\* Don also said that within the past few months jets were scrambled chase a UFO or UFOs, and the objects seemed to zoom directly away from the base at tremendous speed. (This jibes with a tip Tom gave us about an AF/radar/jet scramble case in recently. He could'nt or didn't say any more.)

At one point, Don commented to the effect that he was flying and they couldn't touch 'em (implying that UFO performances made them feel a little backwards.) He has been keeping up with developments through his brother, and appeared to be well-versed. Said he could see how the AF could put pressure on Ruppelt...agreed that many in AF did not like policy...was interested to know that NICAP included pilots and military officers. One of the first questions he asked was whether AF could get after officers who were members. I assured him we had Admiral's and General's, etc., both on Board and Panel and in membership (& gave him list of Board & Panel). He had read last summer's version of AFR 200-2 and knew its contents, said he had heard of the Sept. revision. I told him that only way to get in trouble was to report a case to ATIC, then make it public. No harm in giving leads to unclassified cases, and that we had received many such reports from military officers.

Don has an engineering degree, and is very interested in the propulsion angle. Thinks electro-magnetic propulsion idea is logical and reasonable. Discussed possible relationship between UFO color changes and speeds; said probably due to arrangement of ions around UFOs. I showed him our E-M study and mentioned the cases in which UFOs responded to lights. He suggested they might be mistaking the lights for ray weapons...

young, in 20's I would guess. Age brackets for jet pilots would give Don's approximate age.

technical or scientific knowledge? And then there's the inherent USAF responsibility to explain to the American people through public-information media what is going on in their skies.

"The phenomena or ...[actual ?]...objects... [not clear]... UFO's will tend to increase, with the public more aware of goings on in space...[but?] still inclined to some apprehension. Technical and defense considerations will continue to exist in this era.

"Published about three months ago AFR 200-2 outlined necessary orderly qualified reported as well as public-information procedures. This is where the base should...[stand?] today, with practices judged at least satisfactory by commander and inspector.

"-Responsibility for handling UFO's should rest with either intelligence, operations, the Provost Marshal or the Information Offices – in that order of preference, dictated by limits of the base organization;

"-A specific officer should be designated as responsible;

"-He should have experience in investigative techniques and also, if possible, scientific or technical background;

"-He should have authority to obtain the assistance of specialist on the base;

"-He should be equipped with binoculars, camera, Geiger counter, magnifying glass and have a source for containers in which to store samples.

"What is requested is that every UFO sighting be investigated and reported to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB and that explanations to the public be realistic and knowledgeable. Normally that explanation will be made only by the USAF Information Office. ...[It's?]...[to our advantage?] to ....the job of being experts in our own...[domain?]." (See Edward's photocopy on page 66)

How does one interpret this document? Should we take it at face value –an encouragement to follow procedures already in place with the words "serious business" added to offset the debunking publicized by the Pentagon?

Those in the UFO community did note something new, a request that: "...explanations to the public be realistic and knowledgeable." This remark about explanations suggests a confession that statements made in the past may have not been "realistic or knowledgeable."

It should be mentioned that another view of this message from the Inspector General, as seen in the context of the times, is that perhaps a document was needed to provide "evidence" for Congress the Air Force was doing an "outstanding job" in its investigation of UFOs.

26 December. Long Beach, California. (daytime?)

Hovered for 10 minutes and then rose out of sight. No more details available. (See clipping on page 66)



## UFO'S SERIOUS BUSINESS

Unidentified flying objects - sometimes treated lightly by the press and referred to as "flying saucers" - must be rapidly and accurately identified as serious USAF business in the 21. As AFR 200-2 points out, the Air Force concern with these sightings is threefold: First of all, is the object a threat to the defense of the U.S.? Secondly, does it contribute to technical or scientific knowledge? And then there's the inherent USAF responsibility to explain to the American people through public-information media what's happening on in their skies.

The phenomena or actual objects comprising UFO's will tend to increase, with the public more aware of goings on in space but still inclined to some apprehensions. Technical and defense considerations will continue to exist in this era.

Published about three months ago, AFR 200-2 outlines necessary orderly, qualified reporting as well as public-information procedures. This is where the base should start today, with practices judged at least satisfactory by commander and inspector:

- Responsibility for handling UFO's should rest with either intelligence, operations, the Provost Marshal or the Information Offices - in that order of preference, dictated by limits of the base organization;
- A specific officer should be designated as responsible;
- He should have experience in investigative techniques and also, if possible, scientific or technical background;
- He should have authority to obtain the assistance of specialists on the base;
- He should be equipped with binoculars, camera, Geiger counter, magnifying glass and have a source for containers in which to store samples.

What is required is that every UFO sighting be investigated and reported to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB and that explanation to the public be realistic and knowledgeable. Normally that explanation will be made through the USAF Information Office. It is our job as experts in our own domain.

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LONG BEACH, CALIF.  
INDEPENDENT  
D. 38,548

DEC 26 1959



## SOMETHING'S UP

Flying saucers were in the news again when three pumpers at a Santa Fe Springs oil refinery spied a shiny object high overhead at dusk. Roy Pruitt (left) 32, of Whittier, and his two co-workers from Long Beach, Robert Durham (center), 36, of 6641 Gundry Ave., and Bill Weedon, 32, of 3103 Lees Ave., said the object hovered for about 10 minutes and then rose quickly out of sight. —(Staff Photo.)

Year's end. The Australian government receives guidance.

Pressed into a corner by civilian UFO groups, while specific questions were being raised in federal parliament, the Australian government sought help from its allies. A response came from London late in the year. (See the official communication)

The American reply, if any, is not available, but most likely it would have been the same advice received from the English which was to follow the Pentagon's lead.

554/130 44A 012

REC'D.  
30 DEC 1959  
AIR REGISTRY  
CANBERRA

ROUTINE

RAAF NO. 27  
COMMUNICATION CENTRE  
24 DEC 1959  
DEPT. OF DEF.  
CANBERRA

NO UNCLASSIFIED  
REPLY  
ON REFERENCE

P 221700Z A  
FM AM LONDON  
TO DEFAIRMELE  
BT  
CONFIDENTIAL 1495/9913-22 DEC PERSONAL FOR WING CDS  
BYRNE FROM SUTHERLAND. YOU MAY INFORM AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT  
OF THE FOLLOWING (A) SPECIFIC QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED IN  
THE HOUSE CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN THE PRESS.  
(B) THE AIR MINISTER HAS REPLIED TO QUESTIONS AS THEY HAVE  
OCCURED AND PARLIAMENT HAS NOT AT ANY TIME DEBATED THE  
SUBJECT. (C) ALL SIGHTING REPORTS OCCURING IN THIS COUNTRY  
HAVE BEEN PROCESSED THROUGH AIR MINISTRY INTELLIGENCE. (D)  
ON AVERAGE 90 PER CENT ALL SIGHTINGS CAN BE EXPLAINED. VARIETY  
OF CAUSES RANGING FROM MET BALLOONS METEORS TO AIRCRAFT

UNITED TELEPRINTERS FORMS PAPER PATENTED BY N.C.S. CO.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE TWO REPLY 221700Z  
WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE OTHER 10 PER CENT ONLY REMAIN  
UNEXPLAINED BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF RELIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT  
THEM. (E) AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE INTERESTED TO OBTAIN  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE  
REPORT KNOWN AS QUOTE PROJECT BLUE BOOK UNQUOTE PUBLISHED IN  
1955. QUOTE PROJECT BLUE BOOK UNQUOTE ANALYSES THOUSANDS OF  
REPORTS AND ATTEMPTS TO TABULATE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE A  
POSSIBLE COMMON DENOMINATOR. THE REPORT CONCLUDES BECAUSE NO  
CONNECTION BETWEEN VARIOUS REPORTS DISCOVERABLE THAT  
SIGHTINGS PURPORTING TO BE FLYING SAUCERS ARE EITHER CASE OF  
MISTAKEN IDENTITY OR IMAGINARY  
BT  
231740Z  
DEF  
Canberra  
8 Jan 60.

NO UNCLASSIFIED  
REPLY  
ON REFERENCE

217

The Gill sightings are official "explained."

In light of the possibility "illegal flights by a foreign nation were being made over Australian Territory (Papua, New Guinea being under Australian administration)," the Australian Department of Defense, Directorate of Air Force Intelligence, dispatched Squadron Leader F.A. Lang to investigate. Squadron Leader Lang met with Rev. Gill on December 29, 1959, in Victoria, Australia (Which meant a foreign nation had six months to do what it wished in Papua if that was the case. Apparently the Australians had never heard of Pearl Harbor). After questioning Rev. Gill (and no one else, or even visiting Boianai) Squadron Leader Lang "solved the mystery." His report follows:

"Mr. [Rev.] Gill is a young married man. He is obviously well educated and has had considerable experience as a missionary/teacher in New Guinea. He stated that until late June 1959 he had not considered UFO's seriously and even now was not convinced that what he had observed in the sky were, in fact, UFO's. He added that he would be prepared to accept any logical explanation for the phenomena. He did not appear to be seeking publicity, and claimed that the report was made public by his superior in Dogura. Further, he implied that the press and flying saucer organizations had distorted some of the facts.

"Mr. Gill stated that UFO's have been seen regularly in the Dogura/Boianai area over a long period and that a number of the white population, including government officials, professional men and missionaries, were taking an active interest in them. The first occasion that the Reverend had heard directly of UFOs operating in the area was in November 1958 when three of his friends in Dogura observed, on two separate occasions, lights traveling at high speed and at high altitude. One of these lights was said to be intermittent. In March /April 1959 he and his wife saw unexplainable lights high on Mount Purdi, which is some four to five miles south of the mission station, and which is not normally frequented by natives. These lights appeared to switch from one side of the mountain to the other with great rapidity.

"Prior to the first sightings by Reverend Gill, he had undertaken a trek in the jungle for a period of ten days. On his return he was informed that one of his native teachers had observed a bright light in the sky, on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> June. Subsequently, over a period of approximately two weeks, the Reverend observed a series of bright lights in various sections of the sky in the vicinity of his mission station. These lights were also seen by a number of his native staff (refer to copy of Reverend Gill's report held by you).

"On the night of the 26<sup>th</sup> June the largest of the bright lights had projections along the upper edge which resembled human forms. Although features and clothing could not be distinguished they appeared to respond to hand-waving by the party of observers who concluded that they must be humans. The Reverend Gill was unable to take photographs because he had no film at the time of the sightings.

"Many of the white and native population of the area have been seeing bright lights which travel at great speed for some considerable time and are convinced of the existence of flying saucers.

"Probably the constant light and the intermittent light observed in November

1958 were the USSR and US Satellites. The lights seen by the Reverend and his wife on Mount Purdi, in March 1959, could well have been light from the setting sun reflected on wet or shiny-surfaced rocks.

"Although the Reverend Gill could be regarded as a reliable observer, it is felt that the June/July incidents could have been nothing more than natural phenomena colored by past events and the subconscious influences of UFO enthusiasts. During the period of the report the weather was cloudy and unsettled with light thunder storms. Although it is not possible to draw firm conclusions, an analysis of rough bearings and angles above the horizon does suggest that at least some of the lights observed were the planets Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Light refraction, the changing position of the planet relative to the observer and cloud movement would give the impression of size and rapid movement. In addition, varying cloud densities could account for the human shapes and their sudden appearance and disappearance."

"I concur."

Attached to Land's report in official files is a note by Australia's Defense Secretary, a Mr. A. B. MacFarlane:

"I concur with Lang's findings. It seems probable that the lights observed by Mr. Gill were natural phenomena.

"Air Ministry, London, have advised me that 90% of all sightings of UFO's investigated by them can be attributed to a variety of causes ranging from meteorological balloons to aircraft lights. The 10% usually remain unexplained because of a lack of reliable evidence.

"An inquiry, relative to the latest views of the United States Government has been directed to the United States Air Force, Directorate of Intelligence, but no reply has yet been received.

"In the light of our own and overseas military experiences, the reported sights of UFOs by Reverend Gill do not contain sufficient additional evidence to warrant any firm opinion that illegal flights by alien countries are being made over Australian Territory." (90.)

The American Air Attache.

It was the usual practice to ignore overseas UFO reports, but in the case of the New Guinea incidents, the American Air Attache in Australia did forward some information to BLUE BOOK in January 1960. Major Mance C. Smith copied the Lang report and sent the material to Wright Field without comments of his own except to say he concurred with the Australian Intelligence officer's conclusions. (91.) Apparently Major Smith never made any inquiries himself to confirm the facts in the case. He should have at least consulted an astronomer.

Dr. Menzel and the planets.

America's famous UFO skeptic, Dr. Donald Menzel, tried to make Squadron-Leader Lang's explanation work by proposing more detailed speculations. In his armchair at home, Dr. Menzel



dreamed up answers. He favored both Venus and Jupiter as the cause for most of the UFO reports in New Guinea, but relied on Venus alone to explain the sensational "waving men" sighting by Gill. However, since Venus at its brightest is still only a point of light, Menzel had to include some other factors to produce a large and elongated image as seen by Gill and Mission teacher Moi. Menzel assumed both men suffered from appreciable stigmatism and myopia and were not wearing their glasses that day. Throw in some atmospheric instability and you have people seeing mystery blobs in the sky. (92.)

Dr. James E. McDonald and planetary data.

Whether any planets were responsible for the Gill sighting was simple to answer since all one had to do was some math.

Dr. James McDonald's calculations proved that misidentified planets "can scarcely be accepted" as a solution.

Moreover, Dr. McDonald's specialty was atmospheric physics and he brushed aside Menzel's ideas about "unsettled tropical weather." (See "planetary data" on page 71) (93.)

Dr. Hynek and the Gill case.

Unlike Menzel or Squadron Leader Lang, Air Force advisor J. Allen Hynek actually went to New Guinea (in 1973) to stand on the beach at Boianai in front of the coral cement church to check out the site of the incident. He also met with some of the witnesses, paying special attention to the descriptions of the craft and the figures. Dr. Hynek was impressed and saw no reason to challenge the version of events as documented by Father Gill. (94.)

Jerome Clark's interview of Father Gill.

A more complete understanding of the Gill case can be gained by consulting the writings of Jerome Clark. Clark met Father Gill on October 1, 1977 at the Center for UFO Studies, Evanston, Illinois. The Anglican cleric was on a lecture tour of the U.S. after attending an educator's conference at Oxford, England, and probably stopped in to visit Dr. Hynek who ran the UFO research center. Clark submitted questions compiled from books and articles authored by UFO debunkers like Daniel Cohen, Dr. Menzel, and Philip J. Klass.

We can't cover everything here, but we can say the critics ended up looking foolish and not Father Gill.

Cohen's single remark about the case was very easy to dismiss. Cohen wrote in the an article for *Science Digest* that since Papua was a pretty obscure place one could not be sure Father Gill was not an invention by some tabloid reporter. (95.) Gill laughed at that and asked Jerome if he wanted to see a driver's license.

Menzel and Klass hardly did better. How could the two men be so wrong about information that was not debatable? For example, the witness Moi had excellent vision and never wore spectacles so how could Menzel say the Mission teacher forgot to put on his glasses? Careless mistakes like that by a Harvard professor baffled and annoyed Gill. Phil Klass was no improvement on Menzel. The suggestion by Klass that the Reverend Cruttwell was Gill's superior, a vital point in one of his arguments, was simply not true. The two men were colleagues of equal status.

Some planetary data for the time of the Gill sightings, Boianai, New Guinea, June 26-28, 1959 - J. E. McDonald, Univ. Arizona, 4/3/67.

The right ascensions (RA) and declinations (Decl) of the four brightest planets in the sky at the time of the Boianai sightings are taken from the 1959 American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac. Magnitudes (m) are interpolated from Sky & Telescope, 6/59, and are accurate to about 0.2-0.3 magnitude-units. All data are for June 27, 1959, but negligible error is incurred if they are applied a day or two on either side of the 27th.

All times given in the table (for Rise, Transit, and Set) are accurate only to about  $\pm 10$  minutes, since they were not calculated, but read from a celestial globe, with the planetary positions set up from the Ephemeris data. Altitudes and azimuths were also read from the celestial globe, and are good only to about  $\pm 1-2$  degrees. These accuracies are adequate here.

The times are Local Standard Times for  $150^\circ$  E, very nearly the longitude of Boianai, so no longitude correction has been included. The Equation of Time for June 27 is about -2m 40s, which is small enough (compared with errors inherent in reading times from a celestial globe) that the EOT adjustment was not made.

Azimuths (Az) of Rise and Set points are given according to the convention that due North is  $0^\circ$ , due East is  $90^\circ$ , etc.

Zenith angles (Z) at transit (as the planet culminates at the Boianai meridian) are indicated in degrees South or North of the local zenith.

The solar apparent right ascension was 6h 20m, its declination  $+23^\circ 21'$  on June 27, and sunset was near 1745 at Boianai on that date. Boianai can be taken as located at  $10^\circ$  S,  $150^\circ$  E for purposes of this discussion.

Planet	RA	Decl	m	Rise		Transit		Set	
				Time	Az	Time	Z	Time	Az
Mars	9h 13m	$+17^\circ 22'$	+2	0850	$73^\circ$	1445	$29^\circ$ N	2030	$286^\circ$
Venus	9h 31m	$+16^\circ 11'$	-4	0910	$75^\circ$	1500	$27^\circ$ N	2045	$287^\circ$
Jupiter	15h 23m	$-17^\circ 33'$	-2	1430	$109^\circ$	2045	$6^\circ$ S	0300	$251^\circ$
Saturn	18h 16m	$-22^\circ 27'$	0	1715	$114^\circ$	2340	$10^\circ$ S	0600	$246^\circ$

Comparing these planetary data with details of the Boianai sightings as described in the Cruttwell report of March, 1960, indicates that the suggestion made by the RAAF in a letter to Mr. P. E. Norris of VPSRS dated February 22, 1960, that misidentified planets might help explain the sightings can scarcely be accepted. Nor does it seem at all likely, in terms of the atmospheric physics involved, that "unsettled tropical weather could give the impression of size and rapid movement" that is described in Rev. Gill's summary of the sightings. Thus, I believe conventional astronomical explanations can be ruled out in the Gill sightings.

Father Gill complained to Clark: "...I fear that Menzel and Klass have made their assumptions without bothering to check whether they could possibly have any basis in fact." (96.)

Decade's end.

One might argue UFOlogy was taking new directions with the dawning of a new decade. Certainly NICAP's establishment of an EM subcommittee marked a beginning of a good scientific look at UFO reports, and then there was Gabriel Green's saucer convention at the Statler-Hilton of Adamski-type contactees which turned out to be a high point for that sub-culture. In other areas there was a building concern about UFOs in Congress.

None of these developments, however, compare to the emergence of a darker side to the UFO experience. Both the Flora Evans and private Erwin cases produced important clues to the UFO mystery. Unfortunately Coral Lorenzen never got a chance to question Erwin while the young soldier was under hypnosis. She was convinced Erwin's "special amnesia" was the key to the UFO riddle.

Coral wrote Keyhoe:

"...if you go back and read the [*APRO Bulletin*] (Mar. or May 1959) in which we recount the story about the soldier who saw a UAO [UFO] and passed out for 24 hours, you'll see one of the reasons that I've kept on [going?] sick and half dead from lack of rest." (97.)

## FOOTNOTES:

- 1.) Sanborn, IA. *Pioneer*. 1 October 59.
- 2.) *UFOlogy Bulletin*. ed. John Weigle. Ventura, CA. Vol. I, No.10. October 1959. p.2.
- 3.) May be located in Air Force BLUE BOOK files by the date: 2 October 59.
- 4.) Ibid.
- 5.) *UFOlogy Bulletin*. Vol. I, No.10. October 1959. p.2.
- 6.) Ibid.
- 7.) Subject: "Confidential Military UFO Sighting." 3 October 59. Date of interview: 22 May 60.  
Interviewer Raymond Fowler. (Name of witness confidential) NICAP files. CUFOS archives.
- 8.) *Flying Saucers*. FS-15. June 1960. p.37. Letter writer: Tom McPartland, Box 336. Pacific Grove, CA.
- 9.) Timaru?, New Zealand. *Timaru Herald*. 10 October 59.
- 10.) Hitt, Michael D. *Georgia's Aerial Phenomenon 1947-1987*. (Draft) 1999. Also: Atlanta, GA. *The Atlanta Constitution*. 5 October 59.
- 11.) Letter: To: NICAP. From: B.F. Gostin. 306 Central Drive, Chattanooga, TN. 24 November 59. NICAP files. CUFOS archives.
- 12.) Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. *Sun*. 6 October 59.
- 13.) Letter: To: B.F. Gostin. From: Bernice France. 2407 15<sup>th</sup> St. N.W. Washington D.C. 17 October 59. NICAP files. CUFOS archives.
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## INDEX

### A

Adelaide, Australia. p.39.  
AFR 220-2. p.65.  
Aigaba, Micah. p.24.  
Air Research Group. p.11.  
Albert, Father ? p.40.  
*Albertan*. p.12.  
*Alberton*, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.  
p.12.  
Albrich, Alan. p.29.  
Alvin, TX. p.34.  
*Alvin Sun*, Alvin, TX. p.34.  
Antares. p.4.  
APRG. p.2.  
APRO. p.7.  
Arlington, WA. p.2.  
Arnold Heights, CA. pp.19,22.  
Atomic Energy Commission Security  
Service. p.48.  
*Australasian Post*. p.9.  
Australia. pp.9,11,19-21,33,37,39, 43,  
45,50,52-53,55,67-72.  
Australian Flying Saucer Research  
Society. p.45.  
Azores. p.3.

### B

Bahia Blanca, Argentina. p.44.  
Barkadale, E.L. p.7.  
Barnes, G.B. p.5.  
Barnes, Heather. p.5.  
Basin, WY. p.44.  
*Bee*, Modesto, CA. p.63.  
Bend, OR. p.4.  
*Bend-Bulletin*. Bend, OR. p.4.  
Bezak, Czech military officer. p.36  
Biloxi, MS. p.33.  
Birmingham, AL. p.49.  
Boianai, Papua, New Guinea. pp.24,68,  
71.  
Bolton, Whitney. p.19.  
Bonko, Larry. p.18.  
Brandon, W. p.46.  
Brock, W. p.48.  
Bryan III, Col. Joseph. pp.39-41.

Bryant, Larry W. pp.11,14,16-17.  
Bryson, David. p.46.  
Burgoon, OH. p.53.

### C

Calgary, Alberta, Canada. p.25.  
Cash, E.D. p.43.  
Cerny, Paul. p.57.  
Cheshire, OH. p.47.  
Chop, Al. p.41.  
CIA. p.40.  
CIOVI. pp.9,26.  
Clark, Herb. p.10.  
Clark, Jerome. pp.70,72.  
Cochran, Robert. p.46.  
Cohen, Daniel. p.70.  
Cole, Daniel. p.25.  
Collier, Bert. p.32.  
Collins, P. p.39.  
Columbia. pp.18-19.  
*Constitution*. Atlanta, GA. p.5.  
Crofton, British Columbia. p.5.  
Cross, Lind. p.48.  
Cross, Noel. p.48.  
Cross, S.G. p.48.  
Cruttwell, Rev. Norman. pp.23,40,  
42-43,50,70-71.  
CSI New York. pp.37-38.  
Cumberland, MD. p.19.  
Czechoslovakia. p.34.

### D

*Daily Enterprise*. Riverside, CA. p.  
22.  
*Daily Press*. Newport News, VA.  
pp.11-12,14,16.  
Dates:  
  
1908. p.8.  
1950. p.48.  
Fall 1950. p.48.  
1955. p.67.  
3 April 56. p.41.  
9 April 56. p.41.  
November 1957. p.59.  
11 November 58. p.61.  
March 1959. pp.68-69.

April 1959. p.68.  
 June 1959. p.69.  
 21 June 59. p.68.  
 26 June 59. pp.68,71.  
 27 June 59. p.71.  
 Late June 1959. p.68.  
 July 1959. p.69.  
 16 August 59. p.19.  
 12 September 59. pp.19-20.  
 1 October 59. p.1.  
 2 October 59. pp.1-3,12.  
 3 October 59. pp.2-3.  
 4 October 59. pp.3-4.  
 5 October 59. p.4.  
 6 October 59. p.5.  
 7 October 59. pp.5-8.  
 12 October 59. p.7.  
 15 October 59. pp.9,45.  
 16 October 59. pp.9-10.  
 17 October 59. p.9.  
 18 October 59. p.11.  
 19 October 59. pp.11,13-14,18.  
 20 October 59. pp.10,19.  
 21 October 59. p.11.  
 22 October 59. p.19.  
 23 October 59. pp.16,23,25-26.  
 26 October 59. p.25.  
 28 October 59. p.26.  
 29 October 59. p.26.  
 30 October 59. pp.16,26,50.  
 31 October 59. p.28.  
 1 November 59. pp.16,28.  
 2 November 59. pp.29.  
 3 November 59. pp.29-30.  
 4 November 59. p.3.  
 5 November 59. p.31.  
 6 November 59. pp.30,32,49.  
 8 November 59. pp.32-35.  
 16 November 59. pp.34,36-37.  
 17 November 59. p.38.  
 20 November 59. p.39.  
 23 November 59. pp.40,50.  
 25 November 59. p.45.  
 26 November 59. p.43.  
 27 November 59. p.16.  
 28 November 59. p.44.  
 29 November 59. p.46.  
 1 December 59. pp.46-47.  
 3 December 59. p.48.

4 December 59. p.49.  
 6 December 59. p.49.  
 7 December 59. p.49.  
 8 December 59. pp.49,51.  
 14 December 59. p.52.  
 16 December 59. pp.52-54.  
 17 December 59. pp.53,55.  
 19 December 59. pp.53,56.  
 20 December 59. p.56.  
 21 December 59. p.62.  
 22 December 59. pp.61,64.  
 24 December 59. pp.61,67.  
 26 December 59. p.65.  
 29 December 59. p.68.  
 22 February 60. pp.56,71.  
 March 1960. p.71.  
 18 May 60. p.17.  
 23 May 60. p.17.  
 November 1967. p.7.  
 19 August 68. p.59.  
 1973. p.70.  
 1 October 77. p.70.  
 1983. p.18.

Davis, Isabel. Secretary, CSI New York. p.37.  
 Decker, Ben. p.1.  
 Dogura, Papua, New Guinea. p.68.  
 "Don," jet pilot. pp.61,64.  
 DuBarry, John. p.38.  
 Duchon, Czech officer. p.36.  
 Duncan, British Columbia, Canada. pp.5,10.  
 Durham, Robert. p.66.

## E

Ebbighausen, E.G. p.29.  
 Edwards, Frank. p.61.  
 Electro-magnetic effects. Pp.23,34, 36-37,57-59,61,64.  
 Erwin, (Private) p.72.  
 Eugene, OR. p.28.  
 Evans, Flora. P.72.  
 Evansville, IN. p.1.

## F

FAA. Pp.1,4.

Fairlie, New Zealand. p.6.  
 Finletter, Air Force Secretary. p.41.  
*Flying Saucer Review* (England). p.23.  
*Flying Saucers-Serious Business*. p.61.  
 Fontana, CA. p.46.  
 Forbes AFB, KS. p.36.  
 Forrest City, AR. p.7.  
 Fournet, Maj. Dewey. p.41.  
 France, Mrs. S.T. p.5.  
 Franklin Lakes, NJ. p.26.  
 Freestone, Donald. p.32.  
 Fremont, CA. p.47.  
 Fruto, Juan. p.26.

## G

Gardyne, C.K. p.48.  
 Garrett, S. p.34.  
*Gazette*. Charleston, WV. p.8.  
 Geraldine, New Zealand. p.4.  
 Germantown, AR. p.7.  
 Gill, Rev. William Booth. pp.9,19,21,  
 37,45,53,55,68-72.  
 Gilson, Squadron-Leader D.F. pp.19-  
 20-21.  
 Gizycko, Poland. p.25.  
 Goodenough Bay, New Guinea. p.24.  
 Goodwyn, Natter. p.29.  
 Gore, New Zealand. p.48.  
 Gostin, B.F. p.5.  
 Granada Hills, CA. p.30.

## H

Haley, Larry. p.1.  
 Hall, Richard. pp.38,49,54,59-60,62.  
 Hardy, Rep. Porter. p.16.  
 Haverhill, ME. pp.52-53.  
 Hawkins, Brian. p.28.  
 Hawkins, Walter. p.28.  
 Haynes, E.F. p.45.  
 Hendershott, Estelle. p.61.  
 Hermeans, V.M. p.12.  
 Hervey, Michael. p.39.  
 Hickory, NC. p.29.  
 Hodge, Lt. ? p.9.  
 Holt, Consuelo. p.32.  
 Hynek, Dr. J. Allen. pp.37-38,70.

## I

IGY. p.4.  
*Independent*, Long Beach, CA. p.66.  
 INTCAT catalogue. p.25.  
 Invercargill, New Zealand. pp.30-31,49.

## J

Jacobs, Eugene. p.12.  
 Jacobs, Raymond. p.12.  
 Jakimowicz, Alekay. p.25.  
 Jensen, Flora. p.58.  
 Jensen, Larry. pp.57-60.  
 Johnson, Joe. pp.58-59.  
 Joint Chiefs of Staff Intelligence Sec-  
 tion. p.56.  
 Jupiter. pp.4,69-71.

## K

Kendall, Elizabeth. p.54.  
 Kinney, Mrs. Robert. pp.36,61.  
 Kennington, New Zealand. p.30.  
 Keyhoe, Donald. pp.38,40,72.  
 Khrushchev. p.7.  
 Kirakai, Japhet. p.40.  
 Klass, Philip J. pp.70,72.  
 Koyabagira, Papau, New Guinea. p.  
 40.  
*Kridla Vasti*. Czech magazine. p  
 36.  
 Kyger Creek Power Plant. Cheshire,  
 OH. p.48.

## L

Lang, Squadron Leader F.A. pp.68-69.  
 Langley AFB, VA. pp.11,14-16.  
 Larsen, Nebraska State Treasurer  
 Richard. pp.7,9.  
 Laverton, Australia. p.52.  
*Ledger-Star*. Norfolk, VA. p.18.  
 Ledwith, Bud. p.38.  
*Light*. Civilian UFO bulletin. p.9.  
 Lincoln AFB, Lincoln City, NE. pp.7,9.  
 Lindley, Al. p.29.  
 Lindsley, Kenneth. p.63.  
 Lindtner, M. p.45.

Lomass, Corvin. p.12.  
Lomass, Harry. p.12.  
Long Beach, CA. p.65.  
Lorenzen, Coral. pp.7,72.  
Lowell, OR. p.28.  
Lunik III. pp.7-8.

## M

Maccubbin, Larry. p.16.  
MacFarlane, A.B. p.69.  
Mackenzie, Kythe. p.5.  
Macon, GA. pp.4-5.  
*Mail-Tribune*. Medford, OR. p.4.  
Mars. pp.42,69,71.  
Mashek, Dorothy. p.46.  
Mashek, James. p.46.  
Matavoia, Cecil. p.40.  
Maxey, William. p.63.  
McDonald, Dr. James. pp.70-71.  
McDonald, Dr. Jean. p.10.  
Melbourne, Australia. p.9.  
Menzel, Dr. Donald. pp.69,72.  
Menzies, C.H. p.45.  
Merkling, Sgt. R.M. p.16.  
*Miami Herald*. Miami, FL. p.32.  
Minucci, Robert. p.51.  
Modesto, CA. p.61.  
Moi, Mission teacher. p.70.  
Montevideo, Uruguay. pp.9,26.  
Moore, Harold. pp.13-14,17-18.  
Muse, Verne. p.58.  
Muza, Mark. pp.11-14,16-17.

## N

Nanamio, British Columbia, Canada.  
pp.3,11-12.  
NASA. pp.26-27.  
Nelson, Col. Carl M. p.16.  
New Guinea. pp.19-21,23-24,26,40,  
42-43,45,50,67-71.  
*New Jersey Business*. Newark, NJ. p.  
48.  
Newport News, VA. p.15.  
*News*. Invercargill, New Zealand. p.  
31.  
New York City. p.52.  
New Zealand. pp.4,6,28,30,48-49,51.

NICAP EM subcommittee. p.59  
Nolan, Darcelle. p.53.  
Nolan, Mrs. Richard. p.53.  
Norris, Peter E. pp.2,19-21,37,45,71.

## O

Oakdale, CA. pp.61-63.  
Oakland, CA. p.47.  
O'Keefe, Maj. General Richard E. p.61.  
Olson, Roger. p.1.  
Osborne, Minister of Air, F.M. p.43.  
Oxford English Dictionary. p.46.

## P

Pacific Grove, CA. p.3.  
Parachini, Bunny. p.9.  
Petrie, Dr. R.M. p.5.  
Pleasant Dale, NE. p.7.  
Poquoson, VA. pp.11,13.  
Portsmouth, OH. p.48.  
*Press*. Evansville, IN. p.1.  
Proberta, CA. pp.56,60.  
Pruitt, Roy. p.66.

## Q

Quamichan Lake, British Columbia,  
Canada. p.5.  
Quarles, Air Force Secretary. p.41.  
Queensland Flying Saucer Research  
Bureau. pp.9,45.

## R

Radar. pp.2,32-33.  
Red Bluff, CA. p.57.  
Redmond, OR. p.4.  
Redmond Beach, CA. p.56.  
Reno, NV. pp.38-39.  
*Republican Rustler*. Basin, WY. p.44.  
Rinchart, Ronald. p.39.  
Ririka, Albert M. p.50.  
Riverside, CA. p.22.  
Robins AFB, GA. p.4.  
Rogerson, Peter. p.25.  
Rosello, Juan. p.26.  
Runge, Homer. p.1.

Ruppelt, E.J. pp.37-38,40-41.  
Russia. pp.6-8,69.  
Ruthven, IA. p.1.

## S

Salisbury, NC. p.29.  
Salkin, Harold. p.54.  
Salta, Argentina. p.44.  
Santa Cruz, CA. p.47.  
Saturn. pp.69,71.  
*Science Digest*. p.70.  
Scull, Maj. S.G. p.16.  
*Seattle Post-Intelligence*. Seattle, WA. p.2.  
Seers, S. p.45.  
Sheppard, Glen. p.34.  
Sisson, Floyd. p.28.  
*Sky & Telescope*. p.71.  
Smith, John. p.1.  
Smith, Maj. Mance. p.69.  
Snowden, R. p.39.  
Soviet Academy of Sciences. p.7.  
Spencer, IA. p.1.  
*Star*. Lincoln, NE. p.7.  
Statesville, NC. p.29.  
Staver, Robert. p.57.  
Stolyarov, Soviet Air Force General Profiry. p.7.  
Stone, F.P. p.45.  
Stoughton, MA. p.51.  
Stromolo Observatory, Australia. p.33.  
*Sun*. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. pp.8,10.  
*Sun-Herald*. Sydney, Australia. p.19.  
*Sun-Telegram*. San Bernardino, CA. p.46.  
Swank, Harry. p.28.

## T

Tacker, Maj. Lawrence J. pp.61-62.  
*Telegraph*. Macon, GA. p.5.  
*The Hartford Times*. Hartford, CT. p.49.  
*The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. p.37.  
Tice, Kenneth. p.57.

Torighelli, Nelson. p.9.  
Toth, Ernie. p.12.  
Tower, Mack. p.34.  
*True*. p.38.

## U

"UESO." Unknown satellite. p.56.  
*UFO Evidence*. p.26.  
"UFO Communications." pp.40-41.  
UFO Investigation Centre of N.S.W., Australia. p.45.  
*UFOlogy Bulletin*. pp.1-2,56.  
"UNK-1-60." Unknown satellite. p.56.  
Uribe, Lt. Edward. pp.22.  
Uribe, Sunny. pp.22.  
U.S. Air Force. pp.56,69.  
U.S. Navy. p.56.  
*USS Chambers*. p.3.

## V

Valpariso, Chile. p.26.  
Vancouver Flying Saucer Club. Canada. p.10.  
Ventura, C. p.26.  
Venus. pp.4,10,29,70-71.  
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. p.5.  
Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society. (VFSRS) Australia. pp.19,21,37,45,55,71.  
Vlzhov, Mike. p.35.  
Vogt, Mr.? p.44.

## W

Walnsby, G. p.11.  
Wanganui, New Zealand. p.28.  
Weedon, Bill. p.66.  
Weems, Charles. p.29.  
Weigle, John. pp.1,56.  
West Branch, MI. p.46.  
Wilbur, Fran. p.1.  
Williams, Lyle. pp.58-59.  
Wilson, Gaynor. p.10.  
Wolf, Boyd. p.4.  
Wolf, J.L. p.7.  
Woodslands, New Zealand. p.30.

Wooten, Sheila. p.52.

X

Y

Z

Zechel, Todd. p.40.