

# **THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE**

## **UFOS: A HISTORY**

**1947 July 7<sup>th</sup> – July 10<sup>th</sup> (Plus a few from June 17<sup>th</sup> – July 6<sup>th</sup>)**

## **SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES**

By

Loren E. Gross

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Fremont CA

“UFOs are the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse.”

--- Dr. Lincoln La Paz

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

7 July. The Honorable "Linden" (Lyndon) Johnson gets a tongue-lashing.

A letter written to a Congressman was a serious matter to the military. One sent to Rep. Johnson of Texas (later President Johnson) on July 7<sup>th</sup> received special treatment by being placed in Air Force Headquarters Intelligence files. The missive was almost too hot to handle. The woman's feelings about the Air Force's apparent complacency were shared by others (including Kenneth Arnold). (xx.) (See below)

(xx.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Decimal File 000.9. Flying Discs. (File #2)  
Entry 213A. Box 1.

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Apt. 387E, Deep Eddy Apts.  
Lake Austin Blvd.  
Austin, Tex.  
July 7, 1947

Hon. Linden Johnson;  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Why has the Government been so lax and complacent about these "Flying Discs", yet admitting that they haven't the slightest idea about what they are? Is this still the same old pre-Pearl Harbor attitude of the Army and Navy — "We don't care, and let's forget the whole thing"?

If Russia is sending these over as a threat or display of power, we better start preparing for the worst: Kick all Russians out of the country and start organizing 'for war'. Make our own "Iron Curtain". Puck up all pro-Russian "American" and put them in detention camps like we did the Japanese.

Sincerely yours,

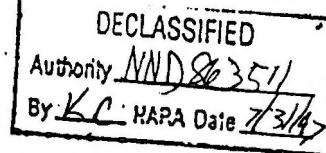
/s/ W. H. Earhart

P.S. Congratulations on over-riding the Labor Bill Veto.

One might assume that by taking a personal interest in the Earhart letter Congressman Johnson was probably displaying his own keen curiosity about the matter. (xx.) (See below)

(xx.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Decimal File 000.9 Flying Discs. (File #2)  
Entry 213A. Box 1.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.

Washington, D.C.

July 8, 1947

The War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The attached communication is submitted for your consideration, and to ask that the request made therein be complied with, if possible.

If you will advise me of your action in the matter and have the letter returned to me with your reply, I will appreciate it.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Lyndon Johnson M. C.

Texas Tenth District

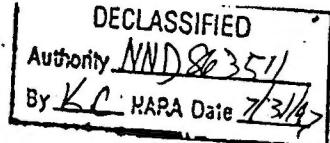
By July 21<sup>st</sup> Congressman Johnson was informed there is "not sufficient information to justify a contention the "discs" were anything new or real. (xx.) (See below)

- (xx.) U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Decimal File 000.9 Flying Discs. (File #2)  
Entry 213A. Box 1.

By September 23<sup>rd</sup> the "Twining Memo" gave the opinion that, 'the phenomenon is something real and not visionary or fictitious.' This opinion was based on interrogation report information evaluated by AC/AS-2; Air Institute of Technology, Intelligence T-2; and Aircraft Laboratory, Engineering Division T-3. (xx.) Was Rep. Johnson informed of this? That's a good question.

- (xx.) Hall, Michael D. & Wendy A. Connors. *Alfred Loedding and The Great Flying Saucer Saucer Wave of 1947*. Rose Press: Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1998. p.111.

*P*  
REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



AFBIR-AA/Maj Mims/mmf/5264  
Written 21 July 1947 3E176

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

PROBLEM

1. To act on D/F of AGO forwarding for information on which to base a reply, form letter of Representative Johnson (Texas) inclosing communication from a constituent concerning the "flying discs."

FACTS AND DISCUSSION

2. Letter warns that Russia might be sending the discs over and that we had better start preparing for war.

3. Information thus far gathered by AFBIR-CO is not sufficient to justify a contention that the "discs" are anything new and real.

ACTION

4. Prepared D/F comment to AGO stating that AAF investigation reveals no indication that the "discs" are new or unusual missiles or aircraft.

COORDINATION

5. AFBIR-CO, Lt. Col. Garrett, 45th.



Lieut. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg.  
Deputy Commander, U.S. Army  
Air Force. (August 1947)

7 July. General Vandenburg.

A Waco, Texas, newspaper reported:

"Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Air Forces, stopping off briefly at Hensley Field in Dallas, said the AAF was receiving thousands of queries.

"One curious woman, he said, asked: 'Has Russia discovered the secret of the flying disc?'"  
(xx.)

Waco, Texas. *Times-Herald*. 7 July 47.

There was noting in the paper about a reply to the question. A *Denver Post* editorial cartoon the same day indicates public puzzlement.



7 July. "Saucer Patrols." Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

A military response to the saucer phenomenon was not totally lacking. Local National Guard units began to take action:

"National guard fighter planes from Spokane today searched for flying discs reported fallen in Idaho while guard officials in Oregon, Washington and Idaho organized a tri-state air patrol to watch for more of the mystery ships."

"Lt. Col. Al Dutton, commanding the 12sd fighter squadron of the Oregon National Guard, announced that two flights were to leave Portland between 3 and 4 p.m. to participated with the 116<sup>th</sup> of Spokane and the 100<sup>th</sup> of Boise in blanket-ing the areas in which the discs have been seen."

"Col. Thomas Lamphier of the Idaho unit telephoned air corps headquarters in Washington D.C. and arranged for a plane to fly film for the fighter planes' gun camera from the East, Col. Dutton said."

"Already this morning flights from the Spokane unit were searching timbered country near St. Aries, Idaho, where a Spokane housewife reported that eight of the mysterious objects 'fluttered to the ground like leaves.'

"Col. G. Robert Dodson, commanding both the 116<sup>th</sup> and the 123d, said he decided to the Washington group 'because they are right on the scene, I expect to hear from them by early afternoon,' the colonel said this morning."

"To observe and, if possible, photograph any additional flights of discs over this area, Col. Dutton announced, camera-equipped planes of the 123d squadron will fly two patrols daily. In addition, a plane and pilot will be kept on 24-hour alert, ready to take to the air at the first report of a mysterious sky craft."

"The Spokane and Boise units will follow a similar schedule, he said."

"Col. Dutton reported that observations have shown that the discs follow three fairly definite 'flyways' over the Northwest. They fly from east to west along the Columbia river from Lewiston, Idaho; south to north along the coastal area from Roseburg to Seattle, and south to north in the Snake river area..." (xx.)

(xx.) Portland, Oregon. *Journal*. 7 July 47.

(Comment: If Col. Dutton felt sure about his "flyways," he might have also noticed that the Hanford atomic works was in the middle of his three-side box. —L.E. Gross)

Col. Dutton continued:

" 'We plan to patrol over these flyways, in an attempt to intercept any more flights of these things,' the colonel said. 'Our biggest trouble is that nobody knows for certain what the size of the discs is. That makes it hard to determine altitude.'

" 'Most of our patrols will be at high altitude,' he announced.

" 'It seems now,' said the colonel, 'that there is something to these reports of flying discs. We've discounted 60 percent of the observations but we're getting reports from persons whose observations warrant an investigation.'

"A flight of 11 planes—three A-26 bombers and eight P-51 fighters—took

off from Portland army airbase at 11:45 a.m. Sunday and patrolled until 3:30 p.m. but sighted no discs." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

7 July. Towanda, Pennsylvania. (no time)

"Close-up view of a flying saucer."

Here is a newspaper report that was retyped for inclusion in Air Force Intelligence files:

"First to report a close-up view of a 'flying saucer,' Mrs. A. C. Smith of Towanda, said she saw two of them Saturday not over 15 feet from her house.

"The energy of these was about spent, apparently, for instead of speeding through the sky they were 'hovering' about 20 feet off the ground between the house and Mr. Smith's office, Mrs. Smith said.

"They bobbed about, went together, separated, and in about two minutes soared into the sky and disappeared. She described them as 'saucers of intense light' and said she did not believe there was any solid object there. Mrs. Smith said the 'saucers' appeared six to eight inches in diameter." (xx.)

(xx.) Towanada, Pennsylvania. *The Daily Review*. 7 July 47.

7 July. Springfield, Missouri. (morning)

Followed by something?

A newspaper story said:

"A 'flying saucer' was spotted over Springfield yesterday by three observers at the Rogers airport, a city policeman reported last night.

"The officer, Frank Walker, who flies a plane in his spare time, said he took off from the Rogers airport yesterday morning, bound on a short pleasure cruise toward Ozark and back.

"Walker said his trip was uneventful, and he didn't sight any of the shiny discs personally, but when he returned to the airport later three friends who had watched his takeoff told of seeing an object 'tailing' him for some distance.

"They said it was flat-shaped and shiny," Walker said, "and that it appeared to have some sort of fins on it. The fellow who first saw it thought I was towing a target of some kind. Altogether, three persons saw it, I believe."

"Walker said the men told him the object appeared to be rolling over steadily. He said the observers reported that the disc followed him for some distance toward Republic, then broke away toward the northeast and vanished as Walker's plane turned toward the southwest." (xx.)

(xx.) Springfield, Missouri. *Daily News*. 8 July 47.

7 July. Tacoma, Washington. (about 2:30 a.m.)

The "Mother ship" case. Dr. James McDonald's investigation. (See page 8)

7 July. Memphis, Tennessee. (about 3:20 p.m.)

"Say, Look! There go the saucers."

The story as published by the Memphis newspaper:

" 'Say, look toward the river down by the bridge,' the voice over the telephone at *The Press-Scimitar* office fairly shouted.

" 'All right,' said the reporter who answered the phone. He looked out into the bright sunlight—it was about 3:20 p.m. yesterday. Then, 'What am I suppose to see?'

" 'Why, don't you see those flying saucers?,' the voice insisted.

" 'No, I don't see any,' the reporter said—and several others in *The Press-Scimitar* office, who had rushed to the west windows to strain their eyes for a glimpse of the 'saucers,' said they, too, couldn't see anything that looked like the much-publicized whirling discs.

" 'Well, I saw them,' insisted the voice. It was that of K. A. Dobbins, operator of a café at 79 N. Second. 'And my brother, Lloyd, and three or four others here in the café saw them, too.'

" 'There were about seven of them,' K. A. Dobbins said. 'They were up maybe 5,000 feet and were going so fast I couldn't estimate their speed. No, they weren't airplanes. They came in from the northeast and were flying along in a formation that looked like a diamond. They looked to be about 20 feet in diameter. No, they were not airplanes. Airplanes don't stop dead still and then go ahead. And that's what some of these things did. Suddenly one would stop and the others would speed by, and then the one that stopped would catch up with them and go ahead—and that's the way they were going.'

" 'And one of them suddenly gave out some smoke.'

" 'They looked like silver dollars in a way, only much larger.'

" 'Where are they now?' the reporter asked.

" 'I'll go out and see,' Dobbins said.

"He did, and said they were gone down the river." (xx.)

(xx.) Memphis, Tennessee. *Commercial-Appeal*. 8 July 47. (Barry Greenwood clearly has this clipping labeled as coming from the *Appeal*, but it may actually have been from *The Press Scimitar*)

7 July. Koshkonong and East Troy, Wisconsin. (11:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.)

"Descended vertically edgewise through the clouds." (See page 9)

7 July. Phoenix, Arizona. (3:30 p.m.)

July 7, 1947, Tacoma, Washington

Evan W. Davies

About 2:30 a.m. Monday

Interviewed on two successive days - 8/14/67 and 8/15/67. Is still with the Tacoma Police Department, Prevention Office, Youth Guidance. Phone No. at the Police Station - Area code 206 FU3-3311, Ext. 244.

He was with fellow officer Stan Johnson at the time of the sighting. As he recalls it, they had the objects under observation for more than an hour. It was a very clear night, as he recalls.

They were near the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in car No. D-3, facing west, when observing them at the start.

I asked him about the press account's indication that there was one large one and a number of small ones. At first he didn't seem to recall it that way, but as we talked he slowly swung around to that description. This may have been suggestion on my part. I do not believe that his recollection of the finer details is terribly reliable. He indicated that he had a scrapbook with all his reports and clippings in it and would check it. So I called him back the following day for a second interview and he was more explicit about the large object in that interview. He said that the small objects were almost like sparks that shot out away from the main object but then would come back to it. He compared the appearance of the sparks to that of a sparkler except for their re-entry.

He put the altitude as something like 10,000 feet, but this is very rough. He described them as the size of a "soft ball," but I was unsuccessful in my efforts to untangle the angular aspects, and gave up. He said that the most striking feature of the whole sighting was the way the objects would suddenly jump from one location to another spot "miles away." Both he and Stan Johnson agreed that these couldn't possibly have been any conventional objects. Stan Johnson is still with the Tacoma Police Force, by the way. I did not try to contact him.

Evidently the objects moved to the south somewhere in the middle of the sighting, and eventually disappeared off to the west. Prior to the departure they had shot up suddenly through a substantial vertical distance. He thought that they disappeared out over the ocean.

He said there was another patrol car which was notified, and he said that the officers in it also saw the objects. The name of one of the men he recalled as George Hager, no longer with the police force but still in Tacoma.

7 July 1947

SUBJECT: Report on Flying Saucers

TO: Commanding General  
32d AAF Base Unit  
Bolling Field  
Washington, D.C.

1. Following are statistics regarding reports by four witnesses while in flight in two airplanes.

2. Weather CAVU. Visibility exceptionally good. Scattered altocumulus 6000 feet.

3. First report; time 1145 hours CST. Alt. of observers 800 feet above the ground. Altitude of saucer 4000 feet MSL. Observed period - First sighted over Koshkonong, Wisconsin. Flight was observed from town of Koshkonong to Elkhorn, Wisconsin. This flight covered twenty-five (25) miles in fifteen (15) seconds, which is a speed of six thousand (6000) miles per hour.

4. Second report Time: 1430 hours CST. Altitude of observers thirty-five hundred feet (3500) MSL. Altitude of saucer twenty-five hundred feet (2500). Observation period. Observers at East Troy, Wisconsin, flight observed from Eagle, Wisconsin to Muskego, Wisconsin. This flight covered twenty-two (22) miles in twenty (20) seconds, which is a speed of three thousand nine hundred sixty (3960) miles per hour.

5. Flight maneuvers: First observation-saucer descended vertically edgewise through altocumulus clouds, stopped at four thousand (4000) feet and assumed horizontal position and proceeded in horizontal flight from a horizontal position for fifteen (15) seconds covering twenty-five (25) miles and again stopped and disappeared. Second observation: Observed in horizontal flight in a horizontal attitude for a period of twenty (20) seconds covering twenty-two (22) miles. By the time the pilot had removed his camera from the glove compartment of his plane, the saucer disappeared and again reappeared approximately ten (10) miles farther along its course after six (6) seconds making its final disappearance.

6. The first two observers were an instructor and a student, having just taken off from Elkhorn Airport. The second two observers, one being Cap't R. J. Southey, Wing Supply Officer and a passenger.

John D. Schindler, Jr.  
Maj. Air Corps, AAF-CAP Liaison Officer

According to the *Arizona Republic*:

"Two silvery balls flashed across the Salt River valley north of Phoenix at 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon—and were watched for 25 to 30 seconds by a score or more persons in upper floors of the Heard Building.

"All the witnesses were agreed on the main points:

"First one 'ball' was sighted, then the other. At first glance the objects were thought to be balloons—until the extremely high speed of the west-east flight was noticed.

"Both objects appeared to be identical in size, were estimated to be at 5,000 feet altitude, and to be 'about twice as large as an airplane.'

"The objects were flying on two levels until near the end of the valley passage when the lower 'ball' climbed sharply to the level of the upper.

"The estimated distance traversed while they were under observation, and the endurance of the flight, indicated a speed well over 1,000 miles an hour.

"Several observers noted that at the time of the flight the air was so still that smoke columns rose straight to high altitudes, and flags hung limp against their staffs. There was no noticeable air movement for an hour, when a rain storm began to approach the city from the northeast.

"The *Arizona Republic* during the afternoon received a number of calls from persons who said they saw the 'silvery balls.' None reported the 'flying saucers' which have been reported from so many parts of the country." (xx.)

(xx.) Phoenix, Arizona. *Arizona Republic*. 8 July 47.

7 July. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. (afternoon)

The testimony of some students:

"Six 'flying saucers' did a low-altitude, formation maneuver over the Civil War battlefield here yesterday, according to 16 Gettysburg College students.

"The students said they were picnicking on the historic battlegrounds late in the afternoon and saw six 'gray, shiny' discs dart across the sky, 'rolling as they flew.'

"Frank Toms, a senior, said he saw saucers twice and 'each time they were traveling in two distinct groups.'

"I should say they were about six inches in diameter and about 150 to 200 feet above the ground," Toms added." (xx.)

(xx.) Johnstown, Pennsylvania. *Daily Tribune*. 8 July 47.

7 July. Salt Lake City, Utah. (night)

Ball of fire follows intricate path.

A Utah newspaper printed:

"A mounted party of 15 Utahns—including a former army anti-aircraft gunner—last night reported seeing a 'ball of fire' which followed an intricate path over the city.

"The object was headed northwest, explained the ex-gunner named Kimball, who added:

"We noticed it first when it seemed to make a vertical drop of several hundred feet. Then it leveled out and moved rapidly northward. It seemed to be dropping just north of the fairgrounds as best we could orient it by the spotlights at the Centennial exposition.

"It was shiny, and reminded us of fireworks, but didn't behave like fireworks because it didn't burn out—just kept going until it disappeared."

"The riding party included Mrs. Jack Currey and Marcie Ivers, noted Utah horsewoman, both of Salt Lake City." (xx.)

(xx.) Ogden, Utah. *The Ogden Standard-Examiner*. 8 July 47. p.4.

7 July. Oak Ridge, Tennessee. (about 8:00 p.m.)

Vertical position, lying flat.

An editorial in the Oak Ridge paper said:

"Just when things were looking blackest, Mrs. Leon Walker of 122 Wellington Circle has pulled Oak Ridge's good name from the jaws of disgrace and seen some flying saucers—the first reported over this immediate area. Mrs. Walker's saucers were spotted sailing over the Gamble Valley area at about 8:00 PM Monday, and were flying lower (several hundred feet) than any seen to date. Described as having a golden, shiny appearance, the saucers were moving toward the northwest. Two of the disks were in a vertical position, or standing on edge, while a third one was lying flat, as any self-respecting saucer should." (xx.)

(xx.) Oak Ridge, Tennessee. *The Oak Ridge Journal*. 10 July 47. Editorial: "Oak Leaves."

7 July. East Point, Georgia. (day time)

"It just disappeared into thin air."

Our source states:

"Five women driving south from Atlanta observed the reflection from off an object as it seemed to plough its way through 'the sun's rays.' The object was watched for ten minutes until 'it just disappeared into thin air.' It was described as having 'no wings or propeller' and was 'just a bright silver disc.'" (xx.)

(xx.) LaGrange, Georgia. *LaGrange Daily News*. 8 July 47.

"Just blinked out?"

There was more than one case of UFOs abruptly "disappearing" from view during the 1947 flap. Over the years many more such incidents have been reported. The first thing that comes to mind is that the witnesses were viewing some sort of optical phenomenon and that nothing tangible was really being observed. Another opinion was that such visions were supernatural manifestations—demonic tricks. Not a few people toyed with the idea that the UFOs were things shifting in and out of another dimension. Others like to think that visitors from the stars were showing off some highly advanced technology, as futurist Arthur C. Clarke expressed it: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

Some 50 years later improvements in stealth capability developed by the U.S. aerospace industry suggest far-out theories to explain apparent invisibility may not be necessary. Even crude systems in the testing stage show great promise. Defense contractors acknowledge the existence of experimental "active-camouflage systems." One example is an exotic aircraft skin being tested at Groom Lake, Nevada:

"The skin is derived from an electro-magnetically conductive polyaniline-based radar-absorbent composite material. It is optically transparent except when electrically charged, much like the LCDs used in laptop computers. What makes this new material attractive is that it can change brightness and color instantaneously. Photo-sensitive receptors, mounted on all sides of the plane, read the ambient light and color of the sky and ground. An on board computer adjusts the brightness, hue, and texture of the skin to match the sky above the plane or the terrain below it. The system is also claimed to make the aircraft even stealthier. The electrically charged skin dissipates radar waves, reducing the range at which an air defense radar can track the aircraft by as much as 50 percent." (xx.)

(xx.) *Popular Science*. May 1997 (no page number available)

7 July. Flying saucers and the FBI.

A letter to the editor of the Los Angeles *Examiner*, published July 7<sup>th</sup>, claimed "Russian supersonic, atomic-powered, planes" existed. When questioned about the contents of the letter, an unnamed "top-flight U.S. atomic scientist" was suppose to have said the information was "not all nonsense." (See clipping on page 13) The alleged source of the information, according to the letter-writer, was a Russian officer that was a member of the crew of a Russian tanker that had docked in an American port. If true, this sort of activity was within the jurisdiction of the FBI. The reality of Russian super-airplanes may have been in question, but the possibility Moscow agents were attempting a U.S. domestic dis-information campaign was real enough to act upon. As the newswire out of Los Angeles states, it was recommended that the matter be brought to the attention of J. Edgar Hoover. It might be said that the Bureau's involvement in the 'flying saucer' mystery dates from this "Russian story" of July 7<sup>th</sup>. In any case, messages from Hoover's agents in the field were received at Washington headquarters on July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. One mentions a "disc recovery" at Shreveport, Louisiana, an another "recovery" at Roswell, New Mexico.

# U. S. Probes Red Disc Fleet Report

**Special to the Boston Evening American**  
**LOS ANGELES, July 7—Federal agents today investigated**  
**a letter to the Examiner describing the Russian supersonic atom-**  
**powered planes resembling the "flying saucers."**

AMERICAN, MON., JULY 7, 1947

## Flying Discs

Continued From Page 8

robot-piloted 'leader.' As I understand it, the control is based on electro-magnetic waves and the cloud has two components: The carrier and the killer.

"I asked him if the Russians have an atomic bomb. He said he doubted it, because the atomic bomb cannot be used without killing innocent people, such as children and women. But they have atomic energy which they use for propelling supersonic airplanes."

The writer said he asked the Russian officer to another dinner, but when he came the second time his tanker was leaving unexpectedly and he could only say goodby.

The nuclear physicist consulted by the Examiner said it was difficult to appraise the value of the letter because of the writer's "technical ignorance."

A top-flight atomic scientist to whom the Examiner referred the letter said it was "not all nonsense," and suggested the matter be turned over to the FBI.

The letter writer said he got the information from an officer aboard a Russian tanker recently in Los Angeles harbor.

The Russian, he said, also described experiments with controlled radioactive clouds in the Arctic, where birds, animals and even worms were killed.

The planes, as described by the Russian to the writer, are only 18 inches thick, with a kidney-shaped outline and no propellers.

The pilot lies on his stomach and is artificially cooled against the heat developed by air friction.

"The outer surface is highly polished," the Russian said. "Both upper and lower surfaces are convex, like a giant lens. The lifting force is an entirely different principle found about 10 years ago among unpublished papers of a Russian chemist."

"Energy is required only for climbing, but no energy is needed for support when the airplane goes along the earth's gravitational contour lines."

The writer of this strange letter said he met the Russian officer in Wilmington and, because he wanted to hear about Russia, invited him to be his guest at dinner.

The Russian first asked where he could sell 18 polar bear pelts which he received "for very dangerous work."

He said he had been assigned to go over the route of the radioactive cloud near Lake Baikal and pick up dead animals.

"They loaded a few small ships with all kinds of animals and directed the cloud over them," the writer said.

"During this experiment, a violent storm blew the cloud far north into the Tundra, but before it dissipated it destroyed all life on its way."

"The cloud may be controlled from land, from a plane or from a

Continued on Page 14, Column 5

A day later, the 9<sup>th</sup>, Brig. Gen. George Schulgen, Chief of the Air Intelligence Requirements Division of the Army Corps Intelligence, took the initiative (apparently) and formally asked the FBI to determine: "...if the [flying saucers] reports were the result of attempts by communist sympathizers or Soviet agents in the United States 'to cause hysteria and fear of a Secret Russian weapon.'" (xx.)

- (xx.) Maccabee, Bruce. *UFO FBI Connection*. Llewellyn Publications: St. Paul, Minnesota, 2000. p.5.

Gen. Schulgen assured Hoover the disc stories were not American secret weapons and might represent foreign (Russian) craft. The military, Schulgen said, would offer all its facilities in a joint effort in to investigate the flying saucers if the Bureau would cooperate. Clyde Tolson, Hoover's close adviser, convinced the Director to agree.

(Speculation: Gen Schulgen's quick invitation to the FBI to involve the Bureau in a joint venture may have been deceptive. It could be the Air Force did not want the FBI doing an independent investigation. To foil such a development, a partnership was offered which could be manipulated by the Air Force to its own advantage. In any event something like that happened and Hoover blew his top. The final result, if our suggested theory is valid, could not have been better for the Air Force. Hoover kept his distance, out of anger if for no other reason.  
-L.E. Gross)

7 July. UFO cartoon with a political twist. (See below)

7 July. Are saucers birds? (See below)

Boston Globe  
July 7, 1947

### Suggestion That Flying Saucers Are Only Birds

WASHINGTON, July 7.—Some of those flying saucers may be birds. This would be most likely in the case of ground observers, particularly when only a brief observation is possible because of obstructing buildings and trees.

Small birds in flight do not flap their wings continuously, but beat them rapidly a few times, then dart through the air for a short distance with the wings folded close. In the latter phase of flight, birds could easily present disc-like silhouettes. Impression of high speed can easily be given by birds or other flying objects flying at moderate speed—but much closer to the observer than he thinks they are.

(Science Service)



7 July. Denver, Colorado. The *Rocky Mountain News* throws gasoline on the fire. (See below)

**Rocky Mountain News**

88TH YEAR: NO. 188 Published every morning by Denver Publishing Co. Entered as second class matter, postoffice, Denver.

DENVER, COLO. MONDAY, JULY 7, 1947

**SUNRISE EDITION**

WEATHER—Scattered thunderstorms  
PRICE 5 CENTS

**DISC ARMADAS  
CROSS DENVER,  
SCORES SAY**

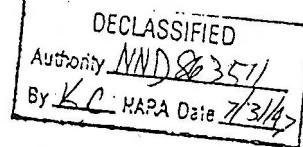
—STORY ON PAGE 5

7 July. A problem. Who to believe? What to believe?

The selection of "Qualified" observers. (See page 16) (xx.)

(xx.) USAF Intelligence Decimal file 09.412 Propaganda. Entry 213A Box 1-18.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



000.93 Weather

091.412 Propaganda

8 Jul 47

FROM: AFEIR-CO

TO: Record

Memo

PROBLEM:

1. To investigate statements of certain persons reported in the press as having sighted "Flying Discs."

FACTS AND DISCUSSION:

2. It was decided, at a meeting held in General Schulgen's office 7 July, to select the more "Qualified" observers of flying discs and attempt to secure detailed statements from them.

3. Five were selected - 2 in Seattle, 1 in Palm Springs, 1 in Boise, and 1 in Washington.

4. It was also decided to ask AMC for any possible explanations they might have.

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FILED UNDER:

000.93 *Flying Discs*

7 July. Near Port Kingman, Arizona. (night)

Mystery lights. "He received no answer."

(See clipping right)

7 July. Rutland, Vermont. (early morning)

"Hovered over gas plant."

A newspaper account states:

"Mrs. Albert Steele of Rutland reported seeing an oval shaped, multi-colored flying saucer hovering over the CVPS gas plant early Monday morning during a heavy rain storm. The center of the 'saucer' was so bright she could not look at it steadily for any length of time, she said.

"She awakened her husband, she said, and he looked out the window and then went back to bed. 'I'm always waking him during storms,' she said. 'He usually goes back to sleep.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Randolph, Vermont. *White River Valley Herald.*

10 July 47.

A Miner correspondent asked the men if they could describe the objects in any way. Ely answered that he could not because it was too dark." Asked if he had any ideas on what it was, Ely said, "It could have been an airplane, it could have been two airplanes, it could have been anything".

Ely would say that the lights on the approaching objects were bright but seemed to cast no beam. The lights looked identical after they passed as they did when they were approaching.

This seems to disprove the theory that it could have been an airplane, an observer said.

Well, that's that — you pays your nickel and takes your chance. Your guess as to what these objects are as good as anybody else's.

Of course with the rest of the country seeing and talking about flying discs and flying saucers, a lot of folks will think that these men saw a flying saucer. Ely asked us to comment that a bromo wouldn't clear up this situation because he doesn't drink.

Kingman #2  
Mohave Co Miner  
July 10, 1947

hour.

## A Saucer? A Disc? Who Knows?

They won't say it was a disc—or a saucer — or any other mystifying substance. All they're sure of is that some unexplained object, or rather objects, flew directly toward them last Monday night while they were flying near Port Kingman.

Charles (Bill) Ely, co-owner of the Western Auto Store here, and Frank Marbel, an instructor at the Morgan Flying Service east of Kingman, were flying his and Ed Williams' Piper Super Cruiser near the airport at approximately ten p. m. last Monday night.

Ely said that they had finished their flying and were on their base leg in preparation to landing when two bright lights approached them from the east. The lights approached them from the same altitude, about 600 feet, from the direction of the north end of the Hualapai mountains. Ely said that he blinked his landing lights twice to notify the oncoming object that he was landing.

He received no answer. He blinked the lights twice again to signal them of his landing intentions.

Again, no answer. By this time Ely said that both he and Marbel figured the lights were only five or six hundred feet away. The approaching lights, the flyers said, looked to be about twenty feet apart.

After receiving no answer to his blinking lights, he banked his aircraft to get out of the way. Marbel saw the two objects separate and in a few moments rejoin each other over Kingman and continue their westward flight. The luminous lights looked the same going away as they did when they were approaching.

The two men proceeded to land and then asked the operations men at Morgan's if they had heard another plane besides theirs. They had not. Both men agreed that they heard no noise from the objects while in the air.

7 July. Milton, Wisconsin. (about 6:10 p.m.)

"Triangular formation."

The local press told its readers:

"First report from this vicinity of the appearance of those mysterious 'flying disks' came when a local trio, John Potts, Harris Buros, and Phillip Schroeder, of Milton, sighted three of the objects at about 6:10 p.m. Monday evening.

"They had just completed a game of tennis at the college courts and were walking toward High street when Potts turned and saw 'Something shiny' in the sky above the gymnasium and heading from the northwest in an easterly direction. He called his companion's attention to the disks and they watched them for about two minutes when they disappeared behind the music studio and the campus elms.

"Schroeder described them as three discs like objects which reflected light, much like aluminum. They were in a position about 20 degrees above the horizon and were travelling at a speed greater than our fastest pursuit planes, according to Schroeder who served in the air corps during the war. The objects remained in a perfect triangular formation, although they did not fly in coordinated motion but wobbled and turned like a flipped coin. They traveled with an undulating motion, in an elipsoid [sic] orbit. They left smoke or vapor trails. Vapor trails are common when fast fighter planes attain great speed under certain atmospheric conditions." (xx.)

(xx.) Milton, Wisconsin. *Milton Courier*. 10 July 47.

7 July. Pawhuska, Oklahoma. (night)

"Acrobatic stunts?"

A news account said:

"Six Pawhuskans Monday night saw what they believe may have been one of the mysterious 'flying saucers,' and reported they watched the thing for 15 or 20 minutes in the sky south of the city. At first the group thought the light was from an airplane, but after seeing it perform acrobatic stunts that no plane could do, they decided the 'thing' was not a normal kind of light or object." (xx.)

(xx.) Coffeyville, Kansas. *The Coffeyville Daily Journal*. 10 July 47.

7 July. Near Boise, Idaho. (about 5:15 p.m.)

A news clipping states:

"Monday evening Mrs. C.W. Ferbrache called a *News* representative and reported that a man from Boston had stopped at their service station and asked if they

had seen the saucer which had just gone over. He said that the object was not traveling very fast and was not more than fifty feet off the ground right along the highway. He said it was so low that it looked as though it might have come out of the Ferbrache garage.

"He said that the saucer looked like a huge umbrella which more than covered his car as it went over. He also reported that it had gone right over the Highway 30 service station, but a call out there failed to locate anyone who had seen it.

"Mrs. Ferbrache said the incident occurred at about 5:15 p.m. Monday." (xx.)

(xx.) Mountain Home, Idaho. *Mountain Home News*. 10 July 47.

7 July. Near Lake Buckeye, Florida. (6:30 p.m.)

Bird doesn't like saucers.

According to a local press story:

"The flying saucers mystery took on a local aspect today when it was learned that at least three Winter Haven [Florida] persons believed they witnessed the same phenomenon last night that has puzzled the country for the past few weeks.

"Mrs. Alfred Wade, 1111 6<sup>th</sup> St. NW, was with her husband visiting their grove [orange grove?] near Lake Buckeye about 6:30 p.m. yesterday. Mr. Wade left the car.

"'Then I saw the discs,' Mrs. Wade said. 'I told my daughter, 'I believe those are the flying saucers they're telling about.'

"'That's exactly what they looked like—saucers. It seemed they were about the same size too, but I guess they must have been larger. There were three of them, in 'V' formation, two above and one below.'

"'I don't know what they were, but I do know I saw them. There was a bird flying in the same direction and just as he seemed about to catch up with them—they weren't moving rapidly—they seemed to stop, and the bird turned right around flew as fast as he could in the opposite direction.'

"'About that time I got out of the car to try and get a better view. By the time their size or altitude. They were a beautiful golden color.'

"The two other local people who saw the flying saucers did not give their names. They saw the discs about 11 p.m. over 34<sup>th</sup> Street in Inwood.

"These observers said the discs at first appeared white, like large stars, then gained speed and changed in color to a red." (xx.)

(xx.) Winter Haven, Florida. *Winter Haven Daily Chief*. 8 July 47.

7 July. Dave Johnson sky search—first day:

"If anyone wishes to report that he hasn't seen a flying disc, I will confirm it for him."

"I have just come back from flying seven and one-half hours over a 1,100-mile route in search of some trace of the discs, but I was not among the blessed."

"I didn't see any, and neither did Kenneth Arnold of Boise. He rode with me in the *Statesman's* plane. We both packed cameras with telescope lens and were ready to open fire with the film if we saw one of the objects which have been keeping the nation in an uproar for more than two weeks."

"Arnold, unhappy man, gritted his teeth and moaned most of the way home. He's the one who can be said to have started the disc stuff, with his report of nine of the objects wheeling around Mt. Rainier and disappearing in the vicinity of Mt. Adams in Washington."

"The *Statesman's* 'Early Bird' ... [not clear in clipping] to within good sight of the Canadian Rockies, around the atom plant at Hanford and over the rough country between Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams."

"We followed Capt. E.J. Smith's airline route from Boise to Pendleton hoping to see some of the objects he, his co-pilot and a United Airline stewardess reported the other night."

"On the way up to Pendleton, Arnold broke into a laugh and said, 'Just think of all the folks who must be walking along the streets looking up for discs.'

"I asked him what the hell he thought we were doing."

"At Yakima, where we ate lunch, at the central aircraft hanger, we nearly had convulsions when we heard that a fellow in a P-38 up in Montana reported meeting a disc at 32,000 feet and sending it spinning. We heard it was supposed to have had a plexiglass blister on top."

"Later we heard it all was a hoax."

"We told people at Pendleton, Yakima and Kennewich what we were after. I am proud to be an American when I say that nowhere did we get the whirling finger at the temple stuff."

"Now about this assignment. The city editor was very explicit when he said he wanted me to hunt until I found a disc, or had to give up. I am a Swede from a long line of Swedes, and I am convinced a Swede discovered America and that a Swede was the first president of the United States."

"I will keep it up. I still have some of that expense dough in my sweat-soaked pocketbook and unless the city editor takes it away from me the search will go on. There is one drawback I can't overcome. Without supercharging, the Early Bird No.2 is good up to about 14,000 feet. If these things are from another planet, I'm sunk."

"The Early Bird ran very well to day, the engine sounding like molasses being poured on flapjacks, until Kenneth began talking about force landing. He chose that discussion the time we were covering the ridge between Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams, a most difficult piece of terrain."

"At that moment the engine began to sound as if it were coming apart. That's a peculiarity of airplane engines, or maybe of airplane pilots. The city editor, who doesn't fly, was not along."

"I'm off into the blue stuff yonder tomorrow. This time I'm going alone, for Arnold, who sells fire fighting apparatus, says this is his best season and he's taking his own plane to Pendleton. He'll also take his camera.

"Arnold and I are not alone in this disc hunt. Some very solid citizens, including pilots on the major airlines, are carrying field glasses and cameras with them in the same endeavor.

"I hope to be able to report better luck tomorrow. I'm going first up around St. Maries where discs were reported to have hit a mountain.

"Then around the mountain ad infinitum." (xx.)

(xx.) Lewiston, Idaho. *Daily Tribune*. 8 July 47. p.1.

8 July. Dave Johnson sky search—second day:

"On the eighth day of July, 19487, I took an AT-6 of the 190<sup>th</sup> Fighter squadron, Idaho National Guard, of which I am a member, and flew to northern Idaho, into northwestern Montana briefly, to Spokane, Washington, and back to Boise by way of Walla Walla, Washington, and Pendleton, Oregon. This search also was negative [He would have some luck on his third try]. (xx.)

(xx.) Statement of David N. Johnson at Boise, Idaho, July 12, 1947. p.1. Incident 4AF 1208 I 16 July 1947. Frank M. Brown, S/A, CIC 5<sup>th</sup> AF. Photocopy in author's files.

8 July. Between Caldwell and Notus, Idaho. (daytime)

"Phenomenal objects."

The *Parma Review* told its readers:

"D.F. Franklin, manager of the Parma Branch Experiment Station, reports that he saw between nine and twelve 'phenomenal objects' flying in a westerly direction while on his way between Caldwell and Notus Tuesday evening. He stated that the objects were dark to his view as the sun was behind them and that they were traveling much faster than he could get his car to go. They disappeared from view by fading into the sky and did not drop over the horizon. He said that they had an oscillating motion similar to that made by bacteria when viewed through a microscope in a liquid solution. Mr. Franklin said he could not tell what they were but that he would say they constituted a phenomenon he would be unable to explain." (xx.)

(xx.) Parma, Idaho. *Parma Review*. 10 July 47.

8 July. Chicago, Illinois.

"Porkchops Charlie," the "Cosmic Kid," and the "dandelion eater."

News from Bughouse Square:

"Bughouse Square, Chicago's refuge of the self-styled intelligentsia, Tuesday attributed the flying discs to everything from Martian explorations to 'plates carrying T-bone steaks because they're so high.'

"L. M. (Chollie) Wendorf, a habitue of the one-block park in the Bohemian quarter on the near north side, pooh-poohed ideas that there is anything 'substantial behind reports of the discs.'

"Rasping from his soapbox perch, Chollie, who calls himself king of the free orators for five years, shouted that 'the terrible thing is the more water you throw on it the harder it burns.' The 'it' in this classic figure of speech Chollie defined as mass hysteria.

"Chollie thinks the visions of flying discs can be erased through healthy living and that to be healthy 'you got to eat living things.'

"Chollie said he eats 50 dandelion blooms a day, when they're in season, that is.

"Herbert (Cosmic Kid) Shaw said he favors a theory that the discs are evidence of activity from other planets. He said this is probable because even science now has a 'wide open view of the possibility that life exists on some planets.'

"The people of Mars 'have an understanding of cosmic process in advance of ours and have a theory that the inter-penetration of radiation of energy into interstellar space holds the solar system together,' Shaw said.

"He added that the Martians now are making explorations to prove their cosmic theory and that this explains the flying saucers.

"'Porkchops Charlie,' a knight of the open road and mouthpiece for the hoboes of America, said he witnessed flying discs numerous times 'mostly while riding the boxcars.'

"He declared he believed the saucers were moving shadows between the sun and earth that travel so fast that they deceive the eye because of their 'electric vibration.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Gavzer, Bernard. "Bughouse Square Pooh-poohs Those Flying Saucers." Chicago 8 July 47. (AP)

Reporter Bernard Gavzer asked a vendor who was selling hotdogs in the square what he thought of the theories and their proponents. The vendor remarked: "These guys probably know just as much about the saucers as anybody else." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

8 July. Near San Antonio, Texas. (about 4:30 p.m.)

"It blurred radio reception slightly."

A Texas newspaper reported:

"Sergeant C.F. Clifton, Bergstrom Field aerial radioman, reported seeing one of the 'flying saucers' bound toward San Antonio as his plane was leaving there. Other members of the crew also saw the discs.

"I think it was about 18 feet in diameter and looked as though it was made of glass," Sgt. Clifton said. "It was extremely bright and kept flashing."

Sgt. Clifton said that the crew figured that it must have been flying 1,440 miles an hour because it overtook and passed their plane in such a short time. It was round and was flying at a slightly titled angle.

"The disc seemed to be spinning as it flew," Sgt. Clifton reported. "It blurred radio reception slightly."

Lieutenant Charles O. Anderson was piloting the plane which the discs passed about 4:30 p.m." (xx.)

(xx.) Austin, Texas. *American*. 8 July 47. (AP)

8 July. Near Barnsdall, Oklahoma. (no time)

"300 feet away?"

An Oklahoma newspaper reported:

"A new kind of flying discs—one that scooted along just above the ground—was reported from Ponca City today by, of all persons, a staid banker and his wife.

The banker is L.D. Edgington. He is president of the First National Bank at Ponca City.

Mrs. Edgington said she spotted the disc, which was about the size of a meat platter and was a 'soft white, like cloud' while she and her husband drove toward their ranch near Barnsdall.

"The disc, she said, floated in the air about 300 feet in front of the automobile and 'danced around.' She said she didn't say anything to her husband about it but that a moment or two later he spotted the same thing."

"She said she wasn't sure whether they drove away from the discs or it just disappeared." (xx.)

(xx.) Muskegee, Oklahoma. *Times-Democrat*. 8 July 47.

8 July. Various comments.

— T.P. Ball, Chief Pilot for Delta Air Lines: "Unless this is the first wave in an invasion from Mars, I don't know what it is." (xx.)

(xx.) Atlanta, Georgia. *Constitution*. 8 July 47.

— Mayor Paul J. Motto of Hartford, Connecticut issued this proclamation: "Until the evidence is more definite that something worth watching is going on, let the residents

of this land of steady habits refrain from becoming victims of the runaway imaginations which appear to have taken control in other less settled parts of the nation." (xx.)

(xx.) Hartford, Connecticut. 8 July 47. (UP)

- An experienced Navy flier: "A Navy flier with five years experience tabbed the discs as 'space ships' after at first considering all reports as 'crazy.' He changed his mind, he said in Alameda, Calif., yesterday, after he and 50 other persons saw a group of about '50 of the saucers in triangular formation near Auburn [California] Saturday.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Washington D.C. *Washington Post.* 8 July 47. p.1.

- Publishers of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*: "Many optical and other illusions are perfectly normal and can be experienced by a large number of people at the same time." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

- Dr. L.R. Hafstad, executive secretary of the Joint Research and Development Board and former director of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory: "Poppycock!" [It took longer to type his credentials than his "scientific" evaluation!] (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

- British physicist Prof. A.M. Low who suggested the saucers might be artificial satellites: "The artificial satellite, he explained, might be created by unknown scientists and could serve many purposes, such as deflecting television or radar beams." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

- Thornton L. Page of Yerkes observatory, Wisconsin: "'More psychological than physical,' was the terse comment of Thornton L. Page, who said Tuesday that the observatory staff considered the current reports 'a lot of hokum.' 'It is possible that luminous clouds, here in the north, are the basis for some of the reports,' Page said. 'Meteors are not a likely explanation, because they appear as points, not platters.'" (xx.) (Its not clear if this Thornton Page is the person who was a member of the 1953 CIA UFO scientific panel. For one thing, a fast check of UFO literature turned up no mention of Page's middle initial.)

(xx.) Milwaukee, Wisconsin. *Journal.* 8 July 47.

Finally, here are two special comments.

The first one was by the editor of the Boise, *Idaho Statesman*:

"Our armed forces, who deny any knowledge of the heavenly saucer's origin or identity, have even been stirred to do a little nosing around of their own to see if they can nail one of the flying platters. They've been bitten too savagely a time or two in the recent decade—remember Pearl Harbor—to let anything of the sort go long without at least a looksee at its probability." (xx.)

(xx.) Boise, Idaho. *Idaho Statesman*. 8 July 47. Editorial.

Mr. Lincoln White, State Department Press Officer:

"...asked whether anyone inside or outside the State Department was investigating the possibility that the objects originated with a foreign Power, said he did not know of any such inquiry." (xx.)

(xx.) Columbo, Ceylon. *Daily News*. 8 July 47. New York, N.Y. 7 July 47. (Reuter)

Sky searches.

Not everyone was sitting on their hands. News stories appeared that told of air searches.

In Idaho Lt. Col. R.I. McDowell, senior air instructor for the 190<sup>th</sup> fighter squadron of the national guard announced 11 P-51s Mustangs were conducting an aerial reconnaissance of Idaho, Oregon and Washington. (xx.) (See page 5)

(xx.) Twin-Falls, Idaho. *Times-News*. 8 July 47.

Col. Frank Frost, Spokane commanding officer of the 116<sup>th</sup> national guard fighter squadron personally flew a P-51 over St. Maries in a search for reported discs. (xx.)

(xx.) Spokane, Washington. *The Spokesman*. 8 July 47.

In Oregon, Col. Robert Dodson, commander of the 123<sup>rd</sup> fighter squadron, ordered two air patrols daily by camera-equipped P-51s. One P-51 was on a 24-hour standby alert to respond immediately to any saucer sighting. (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

In Wisconsin Col. Schaefer of the Civil Air Patrol planned mass flights (250 pilots) to search for the discs after hearing of two impressive reports:

"Kenneth Jones, a flight instructor at Elkhorn Air Service, Elkhorn, and Capt. R.J. Southey, Burlington, both veteran fliers, turned in the latest reports of the notorious discs.

"Jones said he was practicing take-offs and landings with a student at Elkhorn yesterday when he saw a 'white ball' traveling at a high speed. He said his plane had climbed to about 400 feet when he first noticed the object and he estimated its altitude at about 3,000 or 4,000 feet.

"The ball seemed to come straight down out of the clouds, and then stopped for a few seconds,' Jones said. 'Then it proceeded east on a horizontal course for several seconds before stopping. When it moved again, it seemed to turn to the left and then disappeared,' he added.

"Southey said that when he heard of Jones' experience he decided to 'go up and look around.'

"He said his plane was up about 3,800 feet when he and Clem Hackworthy Wauwatoss, spotted a fast moving 'silver thing' over Eagle, Wisconsin. He turned the controls over to Hackworthy and tried to get a picture, when it disappeared, only to reappear about six seconds later and 10 miles away from his plane.

"Maj. John Schindler, liaison officer attached to the CAP estimated the discs Jones encounter was moving about 6,000 miles an hour, while the second one reported 'probably was going about 2,600 miles an hour.' (xx.)

(xx.) Beloit, Wisconsin. *The Beloit Daily News.* 8 July 47.

8 July. "Declaration of war?"

Here is what the editor of a Vermont paper wrote:

"Some department of the U.S. government ought to come out with an explanation of the identity of the 'flying saucers' that have been seen speeding over various sections of the country. It is inconceivable that a foreign power should own and direct the speeding discs over any part of the territory of the United States. Such a demonstration by a foreign power over United States territory would be a cause which might easily lead up to a declaration of war. If no department of the U.S. government has an explanation to make because of ignorance of the facts, it is up to the scientists to offer some plausible reason for the flying masses—if possible." (xx.)

(xx.) Barre, Vermont. *Barre Daily News.* 8 July 47.

The Vermont editor might have been concerned if he could have seen General Hoyt Vandenburg's "Desk Log" for July 7<sup>th</sup>. At 1:10 p.m. Vandenburg spoke on the phone to a representative of newspaper *Toronto Star* and said: "...some National Guard planes were on duty on their own volition to search for the discs, but that no planes have been put on duty from Headquarters AAF." (xx.)

(xx.) General Hoyt Vandenburg's "Desk Log." 7 July 1947. On file at the Library of Congress. Also, see page 20 of my work, *UFOs A History 1947*, p.20.

Dallas (Tx) MORNING NEWS

8 July 1947

Disk Jockey? — By Knott



8 July. Near Laconia, New Hampshire. (4:26 p.m.)

Son of the Governor encounters "object." (See clippings below)

## More Disc Dizziness Local Flier Sees 'Object' As Saucer Saga Grows

Another in a series of reports on "flying saucers" came today from a Portsmouth flier.

"About 20 feet long, 3 feet thick, not quite round, a metallic grey color with no detail, such as motor or wings," is the description given by Thomas M. Dale, son of Gov. Charles M. Dale, of the "something" he and a companion saw yesterday afternoon at 4:26 pm, while flying from Laconia to Portsmouth.

Dale, an ATC pilot during the war, and his companion, Jere Stetson, Newfields, a veteran of the Naval Air Corps, who were closer than two miles to the object, viewed it head-on, sideways, and also had a tall view of it.

### 'Not An Airplane'

"I would have recognized any conventional kind of airplane," Dale stated, adding that its speed was exceptional.

Dale and his companion were going South over Alton Bay, at 3,800 feet, when they viewed the object to the east, below them, going North. As the object flew over trees, when first in Dale's vision, he could see it quite well, he reported.

After several seconds, it headed north over the Bay and Lake Winnipesaukee, heading towards Moultonboro. Stetson saw it take a right turn towards Fryeburg, Me.

The flyers, who have never seen anything like this object before, believed it to be a pursuit ship upon first view.

Portsmouth (NH) Herald

July 9, 1947  
P.1

## TELLS ABOUT OBJECT IN AIR

### Travels at Terrific Speed Over New Hampshire

PORTRSMOUTH, N. H., July 8—Thomas M. Dale, president of Yankee Airways, World War II flier and son of Governor Charles M. Dale, landed here today after a flight from Laconia during which he had a chance to look down, he said, on a mysterious flying object.

While flying between Laconia and Wolfeboro at 4:26 p.m., he said, a long thin metal object flying at a speed he estimated at 700 miles an hour over Alton Bay, headed east toward Wolfeboro. The projectile, which he said had no wings, was flying at an altitude of less than 1000 feet. It appeared to be of gray metal material and was not transparent. He was flying at 2800 feet and estimated it traveled about three and one half miles in 18 seconds.

Flying well above the object he was able to see it clearly and to follow its eastward course, he said, adding it was apparently motorless and pilotless.

Since landing here at the Portsmouth Municipal Airport Pilot Dale had conferred with A. B. Skinner of the Lakes Region Flying Service at Wolfeboro, who confirmed Dale's statement that the mysterious object "passed overhead in an easterly direction."

8 July. Columbus, Kansas. (6:15 p.m.)

"It looked like a huge ball, sliced in half." (See clipping below)

## Five Persons See "Flying Disc" As It Passed Over Columbus Last Night

One of those mysterious things in the sky referred to as "flying discs," passed over Columbus yesterday evening at 6:15 and was seen clearly by five persons.

After it disappeared in the southwest, it was still as much of a mystery as ever even though two of the group which saw it are former members of the air corps, well trained in recognizing strange objects in the air.

The first to see the object was Mrs. Ralph Harreld, 218 North Parmenter, who was in her back yard. She called to John Bailey, veterans administration training officer, her next door neighbor, who was also seated in the yard. Then Fred Jones, who lives just south of the Baileys and who was also in his back yard, saw it. The two men summoned their wives from inside the houses, and the five persons then watched the strange object as it streaked across the sky in a southwesterly direction.

Mr. Bailey called the Daily Advocate and when a representative of the paper arrived on the scene, the members of the group were still excited, hardly believing their eyes, but knowing that they couldn't all have been seeing visions.

"We're all sober and we've all seen the same thing," Bailey said. "It looked like a huge ball, sliced in half, and it was traveling at terrific speed," he added.

Members of the party said the object was first discerned over the tree tops, south of the three homes and that it was going southwest. They watched it for perhaps a minute and a half until it disappeared.

"I would say that the disc or whatever you might call it was

about the size of a small airplane, and was around ten thousand feet in the air," Bailey said. "It was traveling at a rate of speed far greater than any plane and my guess is that it was going more than a thousand miles an hour," he added.

Bailey, who has been stationed here for several months as training officer for the Veterans administration, spent five years in the air corps, and during that time received special training in distance and speed of planes. He was positive in asserting that the flying object was traveling at a tremendous speed and that it was keeping a level course. When first seen, he judged that it was about three miles from Columbus, directly south of the airport.

All members of the party said the object was of solid material and not a cloud formation or mirage. When first seen, it had the flat part of the sphere downward, but turned slightly in the air as it passed through the sky, revealing a rounded surface to the spectators. It was aluminum color and reflected the sunlight on it, members of the group said.

Mr. and Mrs. Harreld, Mr. and Mrs. Bailey and Mr. and Mrs. Jones occupy the three new homes built by the Columbus Building Development Corporation on N. Parmenter. Their back yards afford an excellent view of the sky, so they all had plenty of opportunity to see the strange object, even though it was visible for only a short time. Mr. Harreld did not see the "disc," arriving home shortly afterward. However, he was positive he knew what it was. "Just another flying Pontiac, too fast to stay on the ground," he explained.

*Columbus (Ks)  
Daily Advocate  
July 9, 1947'*

8 July. Bob Considine.

In late 1950 columnist Bob Considine was granted an "exclusive" interview with Air Force Intelligence Chief Col. Harold Watson. The result was the controversial article, "The Disgraceful Flying Saucer Hoax," published in the January 1951 issue of *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

Unless there were two prominent columnists named "Bob Considine" active in the 1940s and in the early 1950s, an interesting find among the many 1947 flying saucer newspaper clippings suggests a question: "Was Bob Considine an innocent victim of Col. Watson's "snow job," or was he a secret collaborator?"

An INS news wire story out of Denver on July 8, 1947, with the by-line "Bob Considine" called the disc reports either "nothing" or a "flock of plastic plates." This Considine also wrote that he had traveled to Sweden in the Fall of 1946 to check on the "Ghost Rockets" and he states he accepted the official explanation for the "rocket" sightings. This explanation he describes as "patently meteors." There doesn't seem to have been much gray in Considine's thinking. He wouldn't have needed much "snow" apparently. In any case, the 47 clipping is as follows:

"Now about those flying discs direct from the city where you're just not a hep kid unless you've seen one.

"Chances are they'll turn out to be (1) nothing, or (2) a flock of plastic lunch plates jettisoned by airplane hostesses doing some light housekeeping aloft in the wide blue yonder.

"But the furore raised by the objects, assuming for moment that they are indeed objects and not a nation-wide attack of [? Photocopy not clear]...ness, is a grim footnote to this fretful truce we call peace.

"The A-bomb, the hints of bacteriological warfare, Russian rockets over Sweden, rudderless rumors about a 'new helium bomb,' U.N.'s sharp cleavage, the physical and moral crackup of Europe and Asia, and the spread of Russia toward the English channel, all have conspired to create a perfect prelude to the current disc jitters.

"Denver, at the moment, seems to be the main eastern terminal of the discs, if you believe they originate in California. If you believe they come a whirling over the North Pole from Russia. Denver would appear to be the southern junction.

"Many souls claim to have seen them over Denver, flying in neat formation or piling up into the stratosphere. Others, farther west, swear they've seen clusters of the pie plates heading for Denver, like fat, homesick angels.

"I was in Sweden last fall checking on a somewhat similar phenomena, the Russian rockets. The Swedish air force had about 50,000 [!?] declarations in its possession, in which witnesses described seeing the things pass overhead. In the case of the Russian rockets there was hard reality to deal with. The Russians and the German V-weapon men they rounded up at Peenemunde and put to work on advanced designs, had produced a bigger and longer-ranging V-1 and about the time Sweden was trying to make up its mind whether to sign a stiff commercial pact with the Soviet and sent some of these cruising over King Gustav's fat and pleasant domain. Sweden signed the pact.

"But even though there was reality in this case, as there does not appear to be



1. Banta Catalina Island, California. Avalon's  
ing the local news of this wonderful Island  
sold for the Chicago Cubs

Avalon: Year round mecca for tourists and travelers.  
Boating, bathing, golf, tennis, baseball, riding, fishing,  
biking, marine gardens. Unexcelled accommodations.

Avalon, Santa Catalina, California

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1947

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in the disc scare, Swedish air force officers were willing to concede that perhaps 90 per cent of the declarations on hand were worthless scraps of paper born of hallucinations and the 'me, too' complex that is as much a part of human nature as the desire to breathe.

"Most of the supposed detection of Russian rockets had been made at night during the height of the meteor-shower season and the 'rockets' were patently meteors. Others were obviously written by men and women who could not endure the newfound fame that had come to some neighbor who burst briefly into the spotlight as a rocket watcher, and they sought the same publicity for themselves.

"It was natural that the atomic energy boys would be asked about the discs. The newly unleashed power remains a complete mystery to the people in general and it is easy to ascribe all sorts of apparitions to it.

"Atomic energy machines, rooted someplace, could not possibly cause metal discs to go flying through the air. It is not possible to build an atomically-powered airships at this time.

"Authorities familiar with secret weapons were forced to fib so much during the war that their scornful denials of the existence of flying discs actually corroborate the discs in the minds of some Americans.

"But in this case they are certainly telling the truth. I think you can stop worrying about discs." (xx.)

(xx.) Denver, July 8 (INS). Albany, New York. *Times-Union*.  
9 July 47.

8 July. Catalina Island, California. (1:00 p.m.)

Air Force veterans see discs. (See clipping right)

## Air Veterans.

### Sight Discs

AVALON, Catalina Island, July 8.—Three Army Air Force veterans reported six "flying discs" over Catalina Island today and Bob Jung, former aerial photographer, said he succeeded in photographing one.

With him were Kenneth Johnson and Alvio Russo, also air force veterans, who verified his story and said several hundred other people also saw the discs.

They said the discs appeared at 1 p.m. in two groups of three.

Russo, a pilot who flew 35 missions over Europe with the Eighth Air Force, estimated the discs' speed at 850 miles an hour.

"They were in two elements of three each," Russo said.

"The formation came in from the northeast and disappeared over the hills to the south of Avalon Bay."

Jung said the discs were flying about as fast as the Navy's "Tin Tim" rocket, which he had photographed in flight while in the service.

Jung, now a professional Avalon photographer, had his camera with him and shot twice before the discs were out of sight.

Reprint from *Los Angeles Examiner*

8 July. "Sure—He's Seeing things!" (See cartoon below)

8 July. Near Cincinnati, Ohio.  
(about 10:00 p.m.)

"Reddish Globe Seen By  
Florence Youth."

A news story said:

"James Free, 18, 11 Lloyd Ave., Florence, reported yesterday that he saw a luminous globe, approximately the size of a basketball. Speeding thought the sky about 10:00 p.m. Monday.

"It was flying in a northeasterly direction, he said, and had a reddish glow.

"Free said he watched it for five minutes before it disappeared in the direction of Cincinnati.

"He was driving on the Dixie Highway when he sighted the phenomenon, he said." (xx.)

(xx.) Cincinnati, Ohio. *Enquirer*  
9 July 47.



8 July. Muroc AFB, California. Dr. James McDonald investigates. (See below and page 34)

July 8, 1947, Muroc AFB

Mr. Oliver Earl Cooper (goes by name of "Earl")

Thinks time was somewhat before noon, Tuesday

Interviewed 8/5/67. Now living in Lancaster, California.  
Telephone: Area Code 805, 942-1522.

In 1947, Earl Cooper was in the Test Aircraft Branch, working as Maintenance Superintendent. He had about 200 people under him at that time.

As he recalled the incident, he was with a group of four or five people down on Rogers Dry Lake, on the west side of the lake, near Area No. 1. They were at the east end of a 10,000-ft runway, looking to the East, with the runway to their backs. He thinks they were running an engine test on the XP-84. Couldn't recall if it was a fuel test. He thinks there was a pilot there, but no takeoff was involved. All of the group were asked to make statements on it later.

It was a clear day, hot. The object was first seen at about 20-25 degrees elevation off to the East. It was moving in a general southerly direction, probably East-southeast, he recalled. He stated that everybody looked up, but no one would say anything about it until a few began to notice that others were also looking. Then all began to watch it carefully. It moved to the South and then stopped and then moved again and disappeared. It never moved up, just horizontally. He recalled no irregularity of motion, and it wasn't moving terribly fast. Perhaps 10 mph. He did have a vague recollection of it moving a bit from side to side at times, but not fluttering, just veering somewhat sinuously, I gathered. He thought they might have seen it for four to five minutes. The shape of the object was elliptical, not a flat disc, somewhat rounded. He thought the altitude might have been something like ten thousand feet. Near the end of the sighting, it moved much faster, accelerating rather rapidly before it disappeared. I have a feeling that Cooper's recollections of this are somewhat vague on the finer details after twenty years.

Cooper did not recall any other sightings on that same day. He stated that they were definitely not watching a seat-ejection test. He stated that they were not in a truck. This seems to rule out his participation in the other two sightings and makes it sound as if he were at the location where Major J. C. Wise was present. Near the end of my interview with him, I mentioned Major Wise's name, and he immediately recognized it. Said he knew him well, had a lot to do with him at Muroc. Cooper said that Wise is now a Colonel and located in or near Kansas City. I don't believe that his knowledge of Wise's name can be taken

as positive proof that he was at that site, because he did work with and know Wise well, and he might easily have been led into making that association by my questions. Nevertheless, it is a very real possibility that he was with Wise.

He said that later the object was explained to them as possibly a weather balloon. They were told that it changed apparent size because of "atmospheric conditions".

The color of the object that he saw was an off-white. He recalls no glint from the sun. Not like polished chromium, he said.

Obtained Earl Cooper's name from Frank Baker at the May 27, 1967, Las Vegas session of the Civil Air Patrol. Baker is at Edwards Air Force Base now.

8 July. Brushy Creek, Texas. (about 8:30 p.m.)

"12 balls in a line." Formed a circle.

At about 8:30 p.m. Sheriff Paul Stanford of Anderson County, Texas, received phone calls from residents of the community of Bushy Creek which is about 15 miles northeast of the city of Palestine. People had phoned to say "12 balls" flying in a straight line had passed overhead, and before the balls passed out of sight they had formed a circle in the sky. The circle began moving west toward Palestine. (xx.)

(xx.) Houston, Texas. *The Houston Chronicle*. 9 July 47. (AP)

8 July. Palestine, Texas. (9:00 p.m.)

"Fear of World's End." Black families pray. "Balls of fire."

This local news story caught the interest of the Associated Press. This account was sent out on the national newswire:

"By 9 p.m. hundreds of Palestine spectators reported seeing as many as three balls in the sky at once, moving in a circle. Sheriff Stanford discounted any suggestion that the balls originated from a spotlight [He described them as "orange basketballs of fire"].

"Bud Everitt, druggist, chased them for a better view. He said they finally disappeared about 11 p.m.

"Mrs. Horace Valentine said she saw two perfectly round balls that 'nearly scared me to death' when they appeared over her home. She said they seemed to be playing with each other, the way they jumped around.

"Her husband and Lee Chavers shot up a box of .22 rifle bullets without any effect on the objects.

"Mrs. Valentine said neighboring negro families thought the world was coming to an end, and began praying as the balls of fire gamboled overhead." (xx.)

(xx.) Houston, Texas. *The Houston Chronicle*. 9 July 47. (AP)

8 July. National Guard unit on the alert:

A Delaware newspaper made note of the activity of its local National Guard:

"Carefully scanning the skies over Delaware for flying discs, the Delaware National Guard Air is maintaining al 'alert' until 9 o'clock tonight.

"Last night, Capt. William W. Spruance and Capt. W. Robert Laird, flying a C-47 Skytrain, made a flight over this area and sought flying discs but did not even see a flying mayonnaise jar or ketchup bottle top." (xx.)

(xx.) Wilmington, Delaware. *Journal-Every Evening*. 9 July 47.

8 July. Stewartville, Missouri. (about 11:20 a.m.)

Tilted from side to side.

A local press account tells us:

"The elusive flying saucers that are keeping the press and radio commentators on their toes by their aerial antics, has decided not to pass up Stewartville, and on Tuesday morning about 11:20 four of the airborne discs were observed by Jim Flood, Hink Saunders, and Collins Parr, at the blue grass yard in the north part of Town.

"Jim, who first discovered the saucers, said they were flying in a westerly direction, and appeared to be about 400 to 500 feet high. Their flight was of a rolling nature and when they would tilt from side to side, they had the appearance of being constructed of aluminum or some bright metal. When they first came into view, he said he thought they were paper being carried by a whirlwind in the upper air currents. He called attention of his fellow workers at the yard to them and they were visible to both Hink and Collins.

"Some of the more skeptical at the yard who did not see the discs, suggested that Jim give them a sup out of his bottle, and let them see them too. But he had no bottle, and said what he saw was no optical illusion, however, he made no attempt to say just what they were." (xx.)

(xx.) Stewartville, Missouri. *News*. 10 July 47.

8 July. Portland, Oregon. (morning)

"We interrupt this broadcast."

The big furore:

"The big furore over flying saucers seemed to have abated considerably in Portland Wednesday, with only a sprinkling of reports coming from the sky-scanning citizens.

"Police got no disc calls during the morning while the KGW switchboard swamped Tuesday with telephone reports of saucer sightings listed only one such call by Wednesday noon.

"KGW interrupted programs Tuesday morning to broadcast disc reports, but as the volume of calls grew, the station was forced to confine its saucer comments to regular news broadcasts at the intervals between programs.

"From Beatty, Oregon, the report came that 20 persons witnessed a flight of 'several hundred discs' [a paper plate drop?] which were said to have remained visible several minutes. Spectators said some appeared to be traveling south while others headed north." (xx.)

(xx.) Portland, Oregon. *Oregonian*. 10 July 47.

8 July. Phoenix, Arizona. (daytime?)

"Birds, balloons, or what?"

This is from an article in the *Phoenix Gazette*:

"Latest reports of flying saucers over this city reached *The Phoenix Gazette* today from L.C. Van Camp, 621 North 20<sup>th</sup> Place. Van Camp, an instructor in electricity at Phoenix Technical School reported that he, and about 30 of his neighbors yesterday saw three of the 'sailing saucers' darting in and out of the clouds over the northeast section of Phoenix.

"Admitting that he has been a consistent doubter of 'flying flapjack' stories, Van Camp said that he saw some weird objects in the sky when he returned to his home at noon yesterday."

"'I thought they were birds,' he said, 'but when I looked again, I saw that they apparently were flying discs.'

"There were three of them, Van Camp said, moving from east to west, against the wind, and entering and leaving cloud formations."

"'At first I thought they might be weather balloons,' Van Camp admitted, 'and I called the airport, but they told me they weren't, and one of my neighbors pointed out the fact that the objects were moving against the wind, which would be impossible for a balloon.'

"Word of the flying saucers spread quickly through the neighborhood, Van Camp said, until about 30 persons were watching the discs play tag in the clouds. One of the watchers had a pair of powerful binoculars which Van Camp borrowed.

"Through the glasses, he said, 'the discs appeared to be made of glass, and were spinning around. They'd stop and go, disappear into the clouds, and then they finally flew away.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Phoenix, Arizona. *Phoenix Gazette*. 9 July 47.

8? (date not clear on clipping) July. Red Bay, Alabama. (morning)

"One time is enough."

An AP dispatch from Tupelo, Mississippi said:

"J.H. Minga, Tupelo garageman and private airplane pilot says he saw a flying saucer while piloting his plane over Red Bay, Ala., early today and added that so far as he is concerned 'one time is enough.'

"The fast travelling disk came very near to colliding with his plane, Minga said, and 'only the fact that I had my 4-year-old daughter with me kept me from taking to my parachute.'

"'I had been reading about these flying saucers,' he said, 'but never expected to see one. I was flying at about 500 feet over Red Bay, Ala., when I saw the disk directly in front of the plane. The disk seemed to dip toward the plane at one point despite the fact that I dived toward the ground to avoid the whirling, pancake-shaped

object which glistened like silver.'

"Minga said his plane was traveling at about 95 miles an hour when he first saw the disk and he was traveling about 120 miles an hour when the 'saucer' suddenly sailed away in front of him and vanished from sight [a good trick for a balloon]." (xx.)

(xx.) Tupelo, Mississippi. 8? July 47 (AP) Also: Baton Rouge, Louisiana. *Morning Advocate*. 9 July 47.

8 July. Woodburn, Oregon. (shortly after 3:00 p.m.)

"Whizzing Whatzit." (See clipping)

8 July. Seattle, Washington. (2:30 p.m.)

"Glass dome?" (See clipping)

## Disk Didos Dying Down or Dodging

Either the flying disks are bypassing Seattle, or lookers-for disks were resting their aching necks yesterday.

Reports of disks seen over Seattle, which reached a peak Monday night, fell off sharply. Only two reports were phoned to The Post-Intelligencer all day yesterday.

Chet Proud, 3040 N. 36th St., flying a seaplane over the Sound off Ballard, saw two or three disks over the Olympic Mountains, "high and going very fast," about 9 a.m., he said.

Earl Klenke, 3004 17th Ave. S.W., said he saw a single disk at 2:30 p.m. It was traveling northwest over the city at about 75 or 80 miles an hour, "moving in a straight line with an up-and-down motion."

He said the disk was "very shiny," oval-shaped, about 8 feet high and 10 feet long, and had a glass dome atop it. Klenke said he observed the disk through field glasses for seven minutes and that his mother saw the disk, too.

PI-Seattle  
7-9-47

Woodburn  
Independent  
10 July 47

## Welkin Watchers Witness Waltzing, Whizzing Whatzit

The first report of the appearance of one of the mysterious "flying saucers" in the Woodburn vicinity was made to the Independent Wednesday morning by Mrs. Aldena Jones of 577 W. Fourth street who, with five other local residents, saw one of the objects in the air east of here shortly after 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. It stayed in this area for nearly half an hour and then "went off toward Salem" like a flash," according to Mrs. Jones.

The "saucer" went up and down in the air and every once in a while would be hidden by a puff of smoke, the local watcher reported. She stated that the object looked like a silver disc and shone like a star. It appeared to be about six inches across to the local people but must have been much larger since it was high in the sky. Mrs. Jones stated that others who saw the "flying saucer" were Mrs. Bill Kingsland, Mrs. Mary Griffet, Gus Founal and two neighbors.

Reports of the mysterious "saucers" started June 27 when Kenneth Arnold of Boise, Idaho, landed his plane at Pendleton and reported having seen nine saucer-shaped shiny objects dipping and skimming at high speed through the sky between Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams in Washington. Since then the "discs" have been reported sighted in all but four states in the Union and a couple of claims have been made from overseas.

9 July. Dave Johnson sky search—third day:

"On the ninth day of July, 1947, I continued the search, again using a national guard AT-6, this time centering my efforts over Owyhee mountains west and southwest of Boise, a portion of the Mountain Home desert on a track southeast of the Mountain Home army air base, thence into the Sawtooth mountains, and back in the general direction of Boise on a line carrying me well to the north of the Shafer butte forest service lookout station, into the Horseshoe Bend area, and thence back in a southwesterly direction to a point between Boise and the village of Meridian, west of Boise a few miles.

"During this search, which lasted approximately two and one-half hours, I flew under and around rapidly forming cumulus clouds over that area known as the Camas Prairie, east of Boise. The clouds were near the village of Fairfield in that valley, and Fairfield is 75 miles airline distance east of Boise. At that time I saw nothing in the vicinity of these clouds.

"At the time I reached the point between Boise and Meridian, I was flying at an altitude of 14,000 feet mean sea level, which would be a mean average of 11,000 feet above the earth in this area, not considering errors in the altimeter induced either by barometric changes since my takeoff, or by the temperature at that altitude.

"I turned the aircraft on an easterly heading, pointing toward Gowen Field, and had flown on that course for perhaps a minute when there suddenly appeared in the left hand portion of my field of vision an object which was black and round.

"I immediately centered my gaze on the object. At that time, due to its erratic movement, I thought I was seeing a weather balloon. I called the CAA's communication station at Boise, and asked if the weather station had recently released a balloon. The reply from communicator Albertson was that the bureau had not. I do not remember his exact words; I am under the impression he said 'not for several hours' or gave me the exact time of the previous release, which was around 08:30 that day.

"Upon hearing this response, I turned the aircraft broadside to the object, pulled back the plexiglass covering to avoid any distortion, took my camera from the map case, and exposed about 10 seconds duration of eight millimeter motion picture film. During the time the camera was at eye level, I could not see the object because of the minuteness of scope introduced by the optical view finder with the camera, an f.1.9 Eastman, was equipped.

"Taking the camera away and once again centering my gaze on the object, I observed it to roll so that its edge was presented to me. At this time it flashed once in the sunlight. It then appeared as a thin black line. It then performed a maneuver which looked as if it had begun a slow roll, or a barrel roll, which instead of being completed, was broken off at about the 180-degree point. The object rolled out of the top of the maneuver at this point, and I lost sight of it.

"This entire performance was observed against the background of clouds previously forming over the Camas Prairie. The object appeared to me, relatively, as the size of a twenty-five cent piece. I do not know how far away it was. I do not know, nor can I truthfully estimate, its speed. I can only say it was not an airplane, and if it was at a very great distance from me, its speed was great, taking into consideration that apparent speed is reduced to the viewer if an object is a very great distance away.

"I forgot to look at my clock to determine the exact time I saw the object. The CAA's log of radio contacts shows my first contact to have been made at 12:17 hours. But a few seconds elapsed between the time I first saw the object, and the time I called the CAA's station.

"I subsequently related over the radio a description of what I saw, and communicator Albertson may remember it. The control tower may have a recording of the conversation. I have not checked to determine that.

"The purpose of my relating over the air what I saw was to enable rapid transmission of the report to the newspaper, for at that time I was on assignment and my energies thenceforth were devoted to (1) transmitting the information and (2) conducting a further search, which I did after landing for fuel and to make some telephone calls.

"The next search, begun within half an hour after landing from the first one, consumed another two hours, but was negative. I explored thoroughly the region where I saw the object.

"Immediately after sighting the object, I asked if there were other aircraft in the area. There was a P-51 of the 190<sup>th</sup> squadron practicing maneuvers in the vicinity of Kuna, but that was behind me. A C-82 passed over Boise, but I saw that aircraft go beneath me by some 2,000 feet.

"The P-51 in the vicinity of Kuna proceeded to the area where I saw the object, at my request, and conducted a search. It was negative. During the afternoon, flights of P-51s were sent out to cover the area, and some of them flew high altitude missions on oxygen. These searches were negative.

"I was subsequently informed that personnel on both the United Air Lines side of Gowen field, and on the national guard side, observed a black object maneuvering in front of the same cloud formation, which by now had grown so that the clouds reached a probable height of 19,000 or 20,000 feet from a mean base of 13,500 or 14,000 feet, mean sea level. Three of these men were national guard personnel and I talked to them, asking them to describe what they saw, before telling them my story, in order to avoid suggestion or inference of a leading nature. They saw the object (from the ground) while I was on my second search. They believed the time to have been 14:00 hours. The object performed in the same erratic manner, they said, as I observed.

"The above is the extent of the story, and information concerning myself is now in order.

"I have approximately 2,800 hours of flying time in equipment ranging from primary trainers to B-29s. Of course, that does not increase my powers of observation except as to those practiced daily by an airman. It does not make my eyesight any sharper except as to the incidental demands upon the eyes of a pilot.

"At the time of the experience related above, I had flown fourteen and one-half hours on an assignment to find a disc and if possible, to photograph it. In all frankness, I was tired. I may have been suffering, although slightly, from want of oxygen.

"Prior to sighting the object, I had concluded there was no point in pressing the search, that I probably would never see the disc-like objects referred to by Arnold and by Captain Smith of United Air Lines.

"At all times during the search, both on that day and the two preceding days

(particularly when I was with Arnold) I had literally talked to myself to keep beating into my head that I would not fall victim to the power of suggestion or self-hypnosis arising from a naturally very intent desire to find a disc and bring success to the assignment given me.

"I therefore do not believe that I was the victim of suggestion or hypnosis. I am familiar with the optical illusion of a fixed object beginning to move after it is watched a sufficient length of time. I know what tricks the eyes will play as to moving bodies, and have learned of this particularly during night formation flying.

"I saw the object appear suddenly. If it had moved in a jerky fashion (as it did at first) for the full length of time I observed it, I would not be so strong in saying that I saw something not an aircraft, not a balloon, and not a corpuscle moving across the retina of either eye. The maneuver described by the object when its edge was presented to me convinces me that I saw an object actually performing in an erratic flight path.

"The question remains, of course, whether I saw it. The motion picture film, developed and processed by R.W. Stohr in the Eastman laboratories at 241 Battery Street, San Francisco, showed no trace of any object. Stohr says that if it was more than a mile distant from me at the size I described, the object would not have registered sufficiently on the film to be shown. He said it probably was too far away to be apparent even though great enlargement of the negative, and enlargement in that case is limited because of the size of the film and the fact I did not have any telescopic equipment on the lens. The exposure was f.16, stop set at infinity, at a speed of 16 frames per second.

"I have worried over this matter a great deal since seeing it. I 'took myself aside' and said, 'come now, Johnson, don't be stupid.' But I cannot bring myself to the point of thinking I did not see anything. The impression of the moment was too vivid, too realistic, and I knew in the air when I saw that partial slow roll or barrel roll, that I was not a victim of illusion.

"I trust this matter will be of help to those investigating the flying disc phenomena which have been reported.

"A chart is attached depicting the movements of the object as I saw it.

"This statement is made voluntarily and freely, in response the request of Mr. Brown and Captain Davidson, who called on me this morning [12 July 47]." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

(See chart showing object's movements on the next page)

Dr. James McDonald interviews Dave Johnson's wife. (See page 43)

9 July. "Did you see the newsreel at the Lincoln theater?"

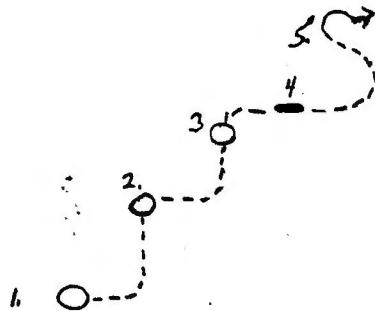
"Responsible" authorities favored "hysteria" or various prosaic natural explanations for the "disc visions" but there were some impressive persons in science and the military that suggested American secret devices as the cause for all the excitement. There may have been an official secret policy to calm the public, and with the sighting reports so vivid it behooved the powers-

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By JWF NARA Date 7/30/97

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## UNCLASSIFIED

Chart to which reference is  
made on page six, statement  
of David N. Johnson.



This design portrays the movements of the object to which reference is made in the attached statement. At all times the object appeared as black. Positions (1), (2) and (3) show the jerky, rising motion. Position (4) is where the object rolled, presenting its edge to me. It then followed the dotted line, rolling over the top of the maneuver and disappearing at position (5).

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FD-350 (Rev. 1-25-64)

UNCLASSIFIED

July 9, 1947, Boise, Idaho

David Johnson (now deceased)

Interviewed his wife (Myrla Johnson) 8/13/67. Present address:  
3128 Treasurer Drive, Boise, Idaho, Zip 83703  
Tel.- area code 208 343-2464

Dave Johnson, former aviation editor for the Statesman, died in 1964. I first contacted his brother who now lives in Boise, but he knew nothing about the sighting. He referred me to Dave's wife.

She confirmed, recollectively, Dave's flight in which he saw the UFO, but was unable to give me any details. She has a scrapbook on it but I did not press her for clippings, although she insisted that she send me some on loan.

She said that he was going up daily with Ken Arnold to see them. This is the first I ever heard that he might have been with Arnold, and in fact, I doubt it because other accounts indicate he was in a National Guard AT-6 trainer.

She mentioned that Dave dropped all of his interest in the flying saucer problem quite abruptly after some Army Air Force personnel told him to "lay off." He had been in the Air Force and was affiliated with Air National Guard activities.

That is about all I got directly from her concerning Johnson's sighting, but she mentioned to me that when he was in the Air Force, during the Korean action, she saw a UFO while they were stationed at George Air Force Base, Victorville, California. She had been standing outside in her back yard talking to a friend, looking across the patio wall off into the distance as she talked at dusk. She saw two objects far off to the east, shaped like two saucers put together, metallic in appearance, the size of a large aircraft, far away. Curiously, she did not even mention these to the person whom she was facing. Some aircraft approached them, and they went off rapidly and she lost them from sight. She mentioned this to Johnson, who was an officer at that time, and he checked with radar and found that they had been seen on radar.

Mrs. Johnson knows both Ken Arnold and his wife quite well. She said that Arnold has become reluctant to talk about flying saucers. She felt that he was a reliable person, and regards his sightings seriously. Arnold is still in Idaho, though still plans to go to Australia when he has disposed of some properties.

that-be to offer a more tangible answer.

The phone rang at the newspaper office of the Mt. Vernon, Washington, *Herald*, on July 9<sup>th</sup>. A woman was calling to ask the editor if he had seen the newsreel playing at the local Lincoln Theater. The editor had, and that day he mentioned it the paper:

"As the newsreel flickered across the screen of the Lincoln theater the past few days many a local goer must have thought he had the solution to the mystery.

"There on the screen was a queer airplane, in the experimental stage, called a 'Flying Flapjack' and bearing an uncanny resemblance to the description of the mysterious saucers seen across the country and abroad. The new plane is almost round and only a few feet thick in the center, narrowing to a fine edge, just like the discs.

"As the commentator droned on, adding information about the plane's ability to hover like a helicopter, and to fly at almost 700 miles an hour with the aid of jet propulsion the words 'flying saucer' and 'floating discs' could be heard, whispered from neighbor to neighbor in the audience." (xx.)

(xx.) Mt. Vernon, Washington. *Herald*. 9 July 47.

9 July. Shippenville, Pennsylvania. (shortly before 9 p.m.)

V-formation.

According to an Oil City paper:

"The latest report of 'flying saucers' seen in this district came last night from M.C. Breneman of Shippenville who stated that a 'V' formation of the discs was visible shortly before 9 p.m. Wednesday near Shippenville.

"According to Mr. Breneman, who with his wife and daughter were awaiting an airplane at the Shippenville airport, a group of disc-like objects was traveling at a height estimated at 4,000 feet.

"'About 13 or 14 of the objects seemed to be included in the group,' Mr. Breneman stated, 'and they were all traveling at a very high rate of speed. They were of a dark color and did not make a sound.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Oil City, Pennsylvania. *Oil City Derrick*. 10 July 47.

9 July. Kincardine, Ontario, Canada. (shortly before daybreak)

"The most amazing thing I have ever seen."

A Canadian press story tells us:

"An all-night chore going over farm land with a tractor was interrupted for Francis Boyle, Huron township farmer when five objects he described as flying

saucers skimmed across the sky three times in two types of formations, the third a solid mass.

"The objects appeared in the sky shortly before daybreak. The startled farmer rushed in and jotted down what he had seen and his reaction.

"He wrote: 'I glanced up at the sky and to my surprise saw what appeared to be a small dark cloud in the perfectly clear sky. As I watched, the object grew closer and then could be distinguished as several objects, five in perfect formation, three behind and two in front. As they drew closer the formation changed and to the eye they were five abreast moving around in the sky. The saucers disappeared twice and returned again, distinguishable as five objects but the third time they appeared as a single mass.'

"'It was,' he recounted, 'the most amazing thing I have ever seen.'

"He described them as saucer shaped on the bottom with a rough outline on top. Though he shut off his tractor, he could hear no accompanying noise nor were any lights visible on the saucer [s].

"As a clincher, Mr. Boyle added: 'In case anyone may think I was dreaming, I may say that you don't drive a tractor in your sleep, at least not for long.' " (xx.)

(xx.) London, Ontario, Canada. *Free Press*. 10 July 47.

9 July. Near Portola, California. (about 8:30 p.m.)

"Strange light in the dark sky." (See clipping right) (xx.)

(xx.) Portola, California. *Portola Reporter*. 10 July 47.

9 July. Grand Falls, Newfoundland, Canada. (evening)

Grand Falls is agog.

Phil J. Ryan, correspondent for the St. John's *Evening Telegram* took notes on a UFO manifestation on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The *Telegram* passed on the story to its readers:

"'All Grand Falls is agog today about the spectacle of flying saucers over our town last night,' Mr. Ryan related in a telephone conversation last evening.

"Apparently, Constable Eric Kearsey was the first to see the first flight of four wafers at 11:30. He called several other people, among them Mr. John Jackman, of Cochrane street, St. John's, all of whom corroborated seeing the phenomenon.

"The objects, according to Constable Kearsey, were four in number, yellowish in color, were flying in close formation with a dipping motion and at terrific speed.

### LARGE GROUP REPORTS STRANGE LIGHT IN SKY

The flying discs — that for weeks have had the nation in a turmoil — have been seen in Plumas county.

A group of 50 boys and several adults, including Mrs. C. A. Walton of the Grizzly Lodge boys camp, and Forest Ranger Art Gifford, last night saw a weird spectacle that they attributed to one of the discs.

While Gifford was giving a talk to the boys of the camp all saw a strange light slowly descend from the heavens and apparently land on Beckwourth peak.

Mrs. Walton described it as "large, bright and round."

"It was different than anything anyone had ever seen in the sky," she added.

The object, she said, appeared as though it might have been lighted from the inside. It was far larger than any star and fell more slowly than a falling star.

It was seen about 8:30 P.M.

After being informed of the sight reported last night, Police Officer George Castleman and Roy Mitts said they had seen a similar spectacle about four weeks ago.

They were standing near the justice court building looking westward down the alley when they saw an uncanny light passing through the sky. It was traveling westward over the Feather river canyon, they said, and seemed to disintegrate in the sky.

The cause of the strange spectacles remains a national mystery and keen interest was displayed in San Francisco and Reno last night when the report was telephoned to newspapers there.

"There was no wind at the time, and they were heading in an easterly direction.

"At 11:40 another 'saucer,' about the size of a barrel head came over the town in the same direction.

"Mr. Ryan said the people who witnessed the flight of plates, saucers, or whatever they may be, described the objects as being very bright, in fact dazzling, and going like you know what out of you know where.

"Those observers were thrilled at their experience, and, with others at Grand Falls, were scanning the skies yesterday in the event of a reappearance.

"Mr. Ryan stated that a careful investigation by him yesterday had absolutely convinced him of the authenticity of the flying saucer appearances over Grand Falls." (xx.)

(xx.) St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. *Evening Telegram*. 11 July 47.

9 July 47. Parma, Idaho. (no time)

According to the local press:

"Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Gough drove out to the Goddard farm and were conversing with Mr. and Mrs. Goddard, and keeping an eye on the heavens, when Pete Edgar came out from the house next door and pointed to three objects in the sky.

"The Roswell air must be full of alcoholic fumes for, sure enough, there were three bright objects maneuvering somewhere over toward Owyhee Dam. They appeared at an angle of about 20 degrees from the horizon and flew in a V formation in tight circles. After a few circles they would disappear to reappear again in just a few minutes. The objects were visible for approximately ten minutes." (xx.)

(xx.) Parma, Idaho. *The Parma Review*. 10 July 47.

**"Flying Saucers"**

No, we don't have any "Flying Saucers" but we can give you plenty of . . .

FINE FOODS  
QUALITY MEATS  
FRESH VEGETABLES

---

Open All Day  
Thursday and Sunday

---

**DON'S MARKET**

North 18th and C Sts.

I Haven't Seen a "Flying Saucer"



I don't know what they are. But I do know that if one of 'em hits your car I'll pay for the damages. This is my comprehensive Automobile Policy covers damage from things we never heard of before.

"Insure Today . . . Be Glad Tomorrow!"

**Roland H. Cutler**  
INSURANCE  
258 Morton Center Ph. 4411

9 July. Houston, Texas.

"Sociable Saucerite."

*The Houston Post* reported:

"Here is the disc yarn to end all saucer stories in a disc-dizzy nation:

"A merchant seaman who swore he never touched a drop, telephoned *The Houston Post* and said a big silver disc landed in front of him while he was walking in Acres Home addition.

"A little man, two feet tall and with a head the size of a basket ball, climbed out of the disc and shook hands with him, the seaman said, then climbed back in and whirled away into the blue.

"Did he look like a man from Mars?" the reporter asked.

"I dunno," the seaman replied. "I never saw a man from Mars." (xx.)

(xx.) Houston, Texas. *The Houston Post*. 9 July 47. p.1.

9 July. Captured Roswell disk story on the AP wire.

"It might be calamitous. What if there really were 'men from Mars'?"

An Illinois newspaper does UFO historians a favor:

"It all started a little before 4:26 p.m. yesterday when an Associated Press bulletin came over the wire.

"The bulletin said, 'Roswell, N.M.—The army air forces here today announced a flying disk had been found on a ranch near Roswell and is in army possession.'

"Then things began moving fast.

"Four minutes later, the first add came on the bulletin. It said that Lt. Warren Haught, public information officer of Roswell field, announced the object had been found 'sometime last week.' And the story also said the object had been sent on 'to higher headquarters.'

"Second Add Arrives.

"At 4:55, the second add came, telling where the 'disk' had been found. (The 4:55 story was '95,' an AP designation of priority of messages, showing it is next in importance to a bulletin or bulletin matter.) Then the second add was repeated for all papers needing it. The repeated story was timed at 5:08.

"This repeat was followed immediately with another which explained that the story had been broken by a radio reporter. This came at 5:09.

"Another '95' was sent at 5:10 addressed to editors. This announced, for the information of newspaper editors, that the Associated Press had begun to go to work on the story.

"Then the movement really rolled into high gear.

"Washington Says Nothing.

"One minute later, at 5:11, the third add to the bulletin announced, 'The war department in Washington had nothing to say immediately about the reported find.' That meant the AP was on the job investigating.

"Following that, there was a breather. AP sent other news, but there was no doubt that reporters, both in New Mexico and Washington, were at work.

"At 5:53, the AP story began to be moved. Another bulletin was sent with a Washington dateline. It was a story about a statement by Brig. Gen. Ramey, saying the 'disk' had been sent to Wright field, Ohio.

"Typographical Error.

"At 5:56 and 5:59, adds to the bulletin were sent. And at 6, there was a correction to a typographical error, followed with a continuation of the 5:50 add.

"Finally, at two minutes after 6, AP had put together a complete story and started transmission of the 'First Lead Disk.'

"It started like this: 'Albuquerque, N.M.—The army air forces has gained possession of a flying disk, Lt Warren Haught, public information officer at Roswell army airfield, announced today.'

"That lead was to be integrated with the 5:56 and 5:59 stories and to be used with subsequent stories to be sent.

"After another add at 6:04, a story from Oelwein, Iowa, was sent through of an Iowa farmer who claimed he had found a disk.

"But that story, at 6:31, was pretty well ignored. There evidently was no official backing.

"At 6:59, there was more from New Mexico, and at 7:03, another First Lead story, dated Washington.

"The Washington story gave the first real hint that all wasn't solved. There were possibilities, it stated, that the object was only a meteorological device.

"General To Speak.

"A new bulletin came through at 7:15, saying that General Ramey would speak over the National Broadcasting company network.

"Another '95,' listed 'Precede Washington. Lead all disk,' came over the wire at 7:29. This meant that it was a lead to go at the start of a story to contain all material sent to that time.

"The '95' was broken at 7:29 for another bulletin.

"It said, 'Fort Worth—Roswell's celebrated 'flying disk' was rudely stripped of its glamor by a Fort Worth army airfield weather officer who late today identified the object as a weather balloon.' The bulletin was sent at 7:30, just three hours and four minutes after the story had first broken and two hours and 20 minutes after the Associated Press reporters had begun investigations.

"That was the word that many editors had been hoping for. The people who had

been debunking the flying disk story weren't quite certain whether they wanted a solution to be found. Of course, a big story on flying disks would be fine, most of them thought, but it's a good story as it is. A solution might be more than embarrassing. It might be calamitous. What if there really were 'men from Mars!'

"After the bulletin, the rest of the '95,' which was already on the tape, limped through. But the story already was killed. And AP reporters could relax for a while until someone else 'found' a flying saucer." (xx.)

- (xx.) Champagne-Urbana, Illinois. *The Daily Illini*. 9 July 47. "AP Wires Burn With 'Captured Disk' Story."

A special note on the code word "*Majestic*."

UFO researcher Brad Sparks discovered a 1945 document with the code word "*Majestic*." At the time there was no indication of what the code word referred to. This was cleared up when some information bearing on the matter was discovered in Richard Frank's book: *Downfall, The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire*. Random House: New York, N.Y., 1999. p.277. It says that: "The Joint Chiefs of Staff notified MacArthur, Nimitz, and Spaatz that administrative errors had permitted the *Olympic* code name [The code name for the invasion of Japan which never took place thanks to the atomic bomb] to be published in a memorandum classified only as restricted. Accordingly, the Joint Chiefs ordered that henceforth *Majestic* should be substituted for *Olympic*." There is a policy against reusing code words. One wonders if this applies in any way to the UFO "*Majestic-12*" controversy?

Anti-saucer PR effort?

There were a number of "anti-saucer" statements from official sources beginning July 8<sup>th</sup> led by President Truman (See some on pages 33-34) himself who compared the "saucer craze" to the "Moon Hoax" back in the 1800s. This suggests an official PR effort to stem the excitement. It is significant to note that very few "debunkings" mentioned Roswell. Instead they were aimed at saucer reports in general.

One very suspicious event was the appearance in the press that Lt. Haut had: "...reportedly told reporters that he had been 'shut up by two blistering phone calls from Washington.'" (xx.)

- (xx.) Las Vegas, New Mexico. *Review-Journal*. 9 July 47.

Haut told UFO researcher Kevin Randle he was certain he never received any such phone calls. Haut said it would have been an experience a mere Lieutenant could never forget. (xx.) Was

- (xx.) Randle, Kevin. *Roswell UFO Crash Update*. Global Communications: New Brunswick, N.J., 1995. p.111.

a fake news item part of a PR effort?

## ARMY, NAVY LEADERS IN ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN TO FORGET SAUCERS

New Mexico Officers Given  
Blistering Rebuke by  
Washington for Calling  
Weather Balloon "Saucer"

### BALLOON WRECKAGE EXAMINED BY EXPERTS

Washington, July 8.—Reports of flying saucers whizzing through the sky fell off sharply today as the army and navy began a concentrated campaign to stem the rumors.

Congress Peeved.

Besides trying to rein in public excitement, a PR effort had another important group to calm. (See clipping below)

## They Joke, But Congress Peeved About Holdout On Flying Discs

BY KENNETH L. DIXON

WASHINGTON—(INS)—Just how long it will last is anybody's guess, but right now the number one subject of conversation in the nation's capital is the ubiquitous "flying saucer" which seems to have dropped up everywhere in the country.

And, while there are as many opinions as there are conversations, it is pretty generally conceded that the mysterious now-you-see-them-now-you-don't missiles are direct descendants of the atomic bomb—either physically or psychologically.

And there is the point where the two schools of thought part company.

Out on Capitol Hill, there's a lot of muttering. In Congressional beards these days, (or a surprising number of the solons are (quite anonymously, of course, until they know something) taking the mystery with deadpanned seriousness.

They believe there definitely is something to the spreading stories, and that the flying saucer is some sort of new secret weapon. Some believe that our Army, Navy or scientific experts knew all about the mystery—and simply aren't letting Congress in on the secret yet. That's what hurling.

Others think it's some sort of Russian secret weapon and, needless to say, that hurla much worse!

The official Army and Navy attitude, of course, is quite definitely negative on the subject. And it may well be that in the upper echelons of military brass the boys are quite sure that they know nothing whatever about the spinning platters in the sky.

But the average Army or Navy officer you talk to is in the same boat as the average civilian. He doesn't know. At first, he smirks about the mystery and gives out with the hearty laugh. Then when sure that no one will start kidding him, he begins to discuss the subject quite seriously.

The scientific response about town is as uniform as the official military attitude. Atomic experts and leading physicians say that the saucers certainly aren't an American secret weapon—as far as they know; and they think they'd know if they were.

Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who was in charge of all the nation's wartime scientific developments, says the saucers simply don't fit into any current scientific experiments. Therefore, he doesn't take them seriously and thinks they must be illusions.

Ditto Dr. Merle Tuve, director of the Carnegie Institution's department of terrestrial magnetism—the guy who had a lot to do with the development of America's jet plane.

If any such scientific dodos were going on, Dr. Tuve is quite sure he'd know something about it . . .

"But," he says the wee, small voice of the non-scientific citizenry, "How do we know he'd tell us if he did know?"

Which is where the saucers become at least the psychological offspring of the atomic bomb.

Leading psychologists tell you that one of the greatest shocks ever handed the American people was

terrifying atomic bomb was developed in almost perfect secrecy right here in our midst.

"Long after Hiroshima and Nagasaki—long after the war was over, in fact," one psychologist said recently in a public meeting, "the effectiveness of that secrecy continued to prey on the mass mind."

For that reason, he added, the average skeptical citizen today puts little if any credence in the official denials of Army, Navy and atomic experts. Such a frame of mind would make it a cinch for a purely mythical secret weapon to excite and frighten millions of citizens who

Amarillo TX  
Times  
July 10, 1947<sup>18</sup>

Another little thing about the Roswell case. There is no mention in available Roswell books or articles (To my limited knowledge—L.E. Gross) of the following, but first let me say the source does not indicate if the "object" in question was that examined in Roswell or at Fort Worth. A press clipping stated: "Those who saw the object said it had a flowered paper tape around it bearing the initials 'D.P.'" (xx.) Other news stories concerning recovered weather

(xx.) Winsted, Connecticut. *Evening Citizen*. 9 July 47.

balloons indicate the two letters designate the launch site. It would interesting it could be confirmed that "D.P." was Fort Worth or Roswell. There are other missing items also. The deputy that first encountered Brazel when the rancher came to town with the "saucer" material was a man named "Black." No research has been done on that Roswell witness.

An American that was not fooled:

"Unquestionably the majority of the 'flying disc' reports are figments of the imagination. Once one has made conscious of the possibility of flying discs, it is easy for the imagination to play tricks.

"On the basis of what I have read I would be ready to laugh at ALL the reports—except for two things. First, in my opinion the Army has 'let the cat out of the bag' as a result of some of the statements of high officers and their unnecessary desire to substitute implausible, misleading explanations....

"My second reason for not being willing to laugh off all these reports is that too many people of sound judgement and reputation have reported seeing these discs under circumstances which would make similar natural phenomena extremely unlikely. The plausible disc reports all agree closely." (xx.)

(xx.) El Paso, Texas. *Times*. 9 July 47. Letter to the editor. Thomas M. Morse.  
Silver City, New Mexico.

9 July. Southeast of Lake Koshkonong, Wisconsin. (about 5:30 a.m.)

Chickens seek cover.

A news report stated:

"Lewis Krause, farmer living southeast of Lake Koshkonong, near the Otter Creek school, is the first person in this vicinity to report having seen one of the 'flying saucers.'

"About 5:30 Wednesday morning, Karuse said he noticed his chickens 'hunting cover' as they do when a hawk hovers over the premises. They darted into the barn where he was milking.

"Looking out of the barn to the southwest he saw an object flying toward Lake Koshkonong. He described it as being silvery green, floating with a sort of titillating motion. He said it looked about the size of a half moon but it was not high in the air. It made no noise and when asked how fast it was going Krause said 'About as fast as

a fish darts through the water.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. *Fort Daily News.* 10 July 47.

10 July. Temple, Texas. (daytime)

"There's no doubt about it."

A Waco paper reported:

"Smith Tarrant, who has seen practically every kind of aircraft in use in the world for the past eight years, saw two flying disks over Temple last week, and the stocky little one-time fighter-bomber pilot says he is completely baffled.

"I saw them,' he said positively Tuesday during a business visit in Waco. 'There's no doubt about it. But don't ask me what they were, I just don't know.'

"Tarrant, now a Temple automobile dealer, fought German and Italian aircraft during his long service in the recent war. He flew missions from Russia. He was an Air Corps officer for eight years and knows his airplanes. But he can't explain the objects he watched in the sky last week.

"Here is his story:

"Last Thursday, Tarrant was standing in the door of a welding shop at the foot of the viaduct in Temple waiting for some auto repairs to be made. He and the workmen were discussing the flying disk stories when one of the men looked into the sky and said, 'Well, I never believed it, but there it is.'

"Tarrant said he first saw one of the objects, then a second one. He described them as being several feet in diameter. He estimated they were about 1,500 feet in the air, travelling a straight course at about 200 or 250 miles per hour, and were bright and shiny.

"Tarrant said he didn't check the wind at the time with the airport, but he believed the disks were going directly into a slight south breeze.

"It beats me,' said Tarrant to day. 'There was no noise, no smoke or no other indication of a power unit on the things. But they were not blowing—they were going. They were headed due south. We watched them for about 3 minutes until they disappeared to the south. They were about 400 yards apart. Looks like somebody has invented something new. But I don't know what it was.'

"Tarrant, a former Waco resident, joined the Air Corps in 1938 and emerged last year a colonel with many decorations after service in North Africa, Italy and other European combat theaters." (xx.)

(xx.) Waco, Texas. *Times-Herald.* 15 July 47.

10 July. Weatherford, Texas. (night)

Saucer stops, waits for running mate.

A press reports said:

# Clearwater Merchants Organize Hunt For **FLYING DISKS**

Mr. William Rehbaum III today announced that he and Mr. Robert Workman of the Clearwater Flying Company will organize a hunt for the Flying Disks, sighted over Clearwater, in conjunction with radio station WCLE.

The planes and armed crews will search for the disks Friday morning over this vicinity in hopes of answering the nation's \$64.00 question.

The flying searchers will flash to radio station WCLE the progress of their search and at 9:45 a.m. or sooner if the plexiglass domed circular planes are located there will be a broadcast of the results of the search from the corner of Cleveland St. and Watterson Ave.

Listen to WCLE  
Friday Morning for the  
Flying Disk Search

10 July. Sulphur Springs, Texas. (3:00 a.m.)

Funnel-shaped object "hatches" discs?

A Texas newspaper tells us:

"Flying disks 'hatched out' Thursday over Sulphur Springs and sped over Commerce in a flight of between 15 and 20.

"Miss Irene Carpenter said she got up at 3 a.m. Thursday for a drink of water and heard a roaring sound.

"She looked out at the darkened sky.

"She said she saw an illuminated funnel-shaped

"A flying disk stopped dead cold over Big Sandy in the southern part of Upshur County Tuesday night while its running mate caught up with it, then raced ahead, J. M. Mings reported.

"The whole town is excited," he said.

"While passing over the city the two disks traveled in circles, approximately one mile in diameter, Mings said.

"They were moving towards the southwest and were in view over the city for an estimated five seconds, reported Mings." (xx.)

(xx.) Weatherford, Texas. *The Weekly Herald*.  
10 July 47.

10 July. "Operation Flying Saucer." (See clippings) (xx.)

(xx.) Clearwater, Florida. *Sun.* 10 July 47.

## Local Men To Hunt 'Flying Saucers'

"Operation Flying Saucer" will leave Clearwater early tomorrow morning, William F. Rehbaum III, in charge of the expedition, announced today. With Robert Workman of the Clearwater Flying Co., Rehbaum will take off to look for the "flying saucer" allegedly sighted over Clearwater. They will be armed and will carry cameras.

Results of the search will be broadcast about 9:45 a.m. at the corner of Cleveland Street and Watterson Avenue. Anyone who has seen any of these discs recently is requested to call 2112 or 2573. Photographs of the discs, if any are found, will be displayed later at the West Coast Hardware.

'something' which she estimated to be between 20 and 30 feet in length.

"It was traveling South, she said.

"As it passed overhead, she said, it exploded, showering a couple of dozen 'disks' which floated aimlessly around for a half hour before disappearing.

"But the flying saucers, said Louis Smith, business manager of East Texas State College, did not float to earth.

"He said he saw a formation of between 15 and 20 'shining white disks' flying west over Commerce, Texas, at a high rate of speed.

"He said he and his wife watched the objects for four or five minutes.

"'At first I thought they were advertising circulars dropped from an airplane,' he said, 'but there was no plane in sight.'

"Their course was too sure and straight." (xx.)

(xx.) Hillsboro, Texas. *Evening Mirror*. 11 July 47.

10 July. The State of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

"Native visions- suggestible minds."

News dispatch from Brazil:

"Rio. 10 ('Estado' – by phone) – Hearing the news about the sightings of 'flying saucers' in Presidente Prudente in this state, General Milton de Freitas Almeida, Chief of Staff of the Army declared: 'It appears to me that the fact as presented occurring in the interior of Sao Paulo rather involves native visions by suggestible minds. However, if it reaches where it merits the attention of the authorities, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Military Region will immediately take the necessary measures in order to process respectful investigations. It's also possible that this is identical to the episode verified in the United States where on examination on one the supposed 'flying saucers,' a scientist reached the conclusion that he was not in the presence of any war machine, but in particular a probe balloon.' (xx.)

(xx.) Translation of Brazilian news clip by Ed Stewart, Tuesday 12 March 1996. 6:35 p.m. Re: News Stories: 1947 – Brazil and Chile. Copy in author's files. News clip not available.

10 July. Santiago, Chile. (around noon)

A news dispatch said:

"Santiago, 10 – 'Flying Saucers' were sighted over the Los Cerrillos airport in this capital. The strange objects were sighted around noon by an aviation mechanic. In accord with the description given, they were oval shaped, silverish, and flew at an altitude of 500 meters." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

10 July. Dave Johnson fails to film saucer. (See below)

## Flying Newsman Learns Disc Failed to 'Take' On Movie Film

By DAVE JOHNSON

Statesman Aviation Editor

Eastman laboratories in San Francisco reported Thursday that film sent them by The Idaho Statesman failed to show any trace of an object I saw and attempted to photograph during my third aerial search for a flying disc!

The laboratory, speeding the processing on the motion picture film, had it ready by noon. It was projected before an audience of three persons. Nothing was apparent in the screening, and the film was then examined by magnifying glasses.

**Distance Too Great**

R. W. Stohr, manager of the laboratory's cine service division, said that it was doubtful the

camera could have caught the object at the distance attempted.

The film used was eight millimeter, about the width of a finger nail. For those interested in the technical side of the subject, the exposure was f. 16, at a speed of 16 frames per second.

The object I saw could have been anywhere from 10 to 40 miles away. Its apparent size to me was that of a 25-cent piece. The picture was made from an altitude of 14,000 feet. The object was maneuvering against a background of towering alto cumulus and alto stratus clouds.

### P-51 Search Futile

I am now in the position of having seen an object which might

(Please turn to page 8, column 2)

## Scribe Finds Out Disc Didn't 'Take'

(Continued from Page One) have been a flying disc, but without photographic proof of it. A constant patrol by 190th fighter squadron P-51 fighter planes from 3 p. m. until dark Wednesday failed to result in sighting one of the objects which people throughout the nation claim to have seen.

I can only reiterate that I saw something, that I do not believe I was seeing it through the power of suggestion, and that what I saw was definitely not an aircraft. It was not a balloon.

The Statesman assigned me to an aerial patrol to search for flying discs until I found one or thought I should give it up. Just before I saw the object, I was convinced the time had come to give up.

### Not Sure What to Do

But despite the fact nothing could be seen on the film, I'm not so sure now about calling off the hunt. I'll sleep on it a couple of days.

Speaking of sleeping, I was snoring away at a great rate Wednesday night when an insistent clamor began to break

through, dispelling great clouds of flying discs whirling through my nightmares.

It was the telephone. It was midnight here, but only 11 p. m. in Pendleton, Ore., and it was Kenneth Arnold on the line. He heard about my joining the "I Saw the Disc" club and wanted to talk about it. He was paying for the call, and I propped myself against a bookcase and tried to tell him what I saw. He hoped the pictures would turn out. Arnold is the man who first reported to the nation that he saw flying discs.

### Phone Game Renewed

Thinking about the pictures, I went back to the bay and soon was drenched in perspiration, running away from discs but not getting anywhere.

At 1 a. m., the telephone jumped off the stand again. I knocked the electric clock off the bed, table, dropped a flashlight — I dunno why I picked the damned thing up — and grabbed for the phone.

This time it was Paramount newsreel man by the name of Edwards talking. He wanted to buy the film, provided it showed a disc -- or anything. We yammered about that for a while, I promised to let him know later, hung up, and staggered back to

bed.

An hour later the telephone went crazy again.

"Hello?" I blubbered.

"Shay, downna bother you think late, or lah't early, but I gotta theory . . ."

I gritted my teeth, hung up, turned on the lights, went into the kitchen and ate a piece of green apple pie. I thought I might as well get some nourishment.

Well, that's about the size of it. Some of my friends are jovial about it. Others are downright sympathetic. I don't know what I prefer.

*Base (P)  
Statesman  
July 11, 1947*

10 July. Columnist Lee Casey says: "Resist ruthless impulses." (See below)

## Those Heavenly Visitors May Prove to Be Friends

By LEE CASEY

**A**LL RIGHT, all right. Maybe the flying disks are not just a hoax or evidence of mass delusion, as suggested in this space a few days back.

At least, the army caught what looked like a flying saucer in Texas, which may establish that Roy Robert Smith, Denver's Never-never Man, and some hundreds of thousands of others actually saw what they thought they saw.

The captured disk, to be sure, didn't turn out to be what it was supposed to be. It was merely a weather kite.

Yet what did the Army do with what it found?

What every Army does. It took it apart.

That's what fliers are eager to do with any real disk, if they find one. They propose to shoot it out of the air and see what it's made of. They aim to kill it first and see what it looks like afterward.

Which merely establishes our lack of feeling, imagination and common sense. If we don't understand something or somebody, our first instinct is to kill. There is no one more dangerous than a thoroughly frightened man, especially if he happens to be a major general or better. He is terribly eager to destroy.

**R**ETREATING, gracefully I hope, from a former position, I suggest that the eerie soup plates may be vessels in which visitors from another planet are inspecting this sad and distressed world for a possible place of habitation.

Since H. G. Wells wrote "The War of the Worlds" things have happened that are stranger than a Martian invasion.

Grave scientists have agreed that the next generation may engage in flights to the moon. It is then not impossible that the residents of some other planet have worked out gadgets that enable them to visit us before we visit them.

Wells, like most writers of scientific fantasy, regarded such visitors as enemies, bent upon wiping out our civilization, so-called.

There is no sound reason for that view.

On the contrary, the voyagers from Mars or Venus, such as Mr. Smith and others discern in the sky, may be gentle, amiable individuals of a superior breed. Maybe they are not coming here



Lee Casey

to harm us but to help us, and God knows we need plenty of help.

**Y**ET our first ruthless impulse, in the event that the disks do hold inhabitants of another planet, is to slay.

Maybe we would be able to learn much from inter-stellar settlers. Maybe they would help us put into practice the kindly doctrines that, once a week anyway, we pay the tribute of lip-service. Maybe they would help us become truly wise as well as truly good.

But we don't even think of that. On the contrary, we are already on the alert to shoot them down, to tear them from the skies.

This department has attempted, not too successfully, to hold its aegis over the buffalo that were tortured in Wyoming and the coyotes that were torn to pieces in Baca County. It would like to speak a word for the heavenly visitors. Maybe they will not prove to be our foes if we try to receive them as friends.

Denver, Colorado  
Rocky Mountain News  
10 July 47 p.13

10 July. Seattle, Washington. (11:10 a.m., noon, 4:15 p.m.)

AND THERE THEY WERE! (See below)

## More Disks Reported Flying Over Seattle

More of those mysterious and elusive flying disks were reported zooming over or near Seattle yesterday.

Damage, if any, was limited to eye strain and somewhat increased blood pressure among spectators, who excitedly telephoned The Post-Intelligencer.

William C. Hobrock, floor executive in the Bon Marche men's sports wear shop, paused at the corner of 4th Ave. and Pine St. while out for lunch yesterday noon. He looked up, to the East — AND THERE THEY WERE!

"They were awfully high, and looked like little shiny balls," Hobrock said. "There were five or six of them and they moved spasmodically, first one and then another moving, and in various directions."

### FLYING LOW

Almost at the same time, Mrs. Artemia Hearst, 2433 E. Valley St., saw about 20 disks over the North Broadway district, she reported. They were flying low and traveling North, shimmering and silvery in the sunlight, she said. They didn't look large.

At 11:10 a. m. Don Rebar, 1020 150th Ave. S. W., said he saw one round, shiny object that appeared to be a flying disk, zipping along over Burien toward Bremerton.

Rebar estimated the object was a mile in the air. He said it appeared to have the circumference of an auto tire, and was not moving fast.

Mary Jo Bartos, 12, Carnation, telephoned long distance yesterday afternoon to say she and Chetie Austin, 11, and two adults were watching a plane at about 4:15 p. m. when they saw a disk "traveling at tremendous speed."

### LOOKED FLAT

"It was going North over Carnation," Mary Jo said.

"It looked flat and round like a shiny pancake and had a bluish tint," the child added.

Disappointingly enough, a large crew of press and newsreel photographers, in the air over Seattle and Tacoma, and in the Mount Rainier vicinity, between 10:30 a. m. and

12:45 noon, saw no flying disks at all. The newsmen primarily weren't looking for flying disks. Instead accompanying the new Boeing Stratocruiser on a flight over and around Rainier, but they would have been overjoyed to encounter any kind of a flying saucer, especially one with some hot coffee in it.

*Post Intelligencer  
Seattle, WA*

7-11-47

10 July. Between Clovis and Cline's Corners, New Mexico. (4:47 p.m.)

One of the U.S.'s top astronomers. (See below)

**Incident 2.** On July 10, 1947 at 4:47 p.m., one of the U.S.'s top astronomers was driving from Clovis to Cline's Corners, N. Mex. His wife and his teen-aged daughters were also in the car. (For professional reasons he has asked LIFE to withhold identity.) It was a bright sunny day, but the whole western half of the sky was a "confused cloud sea." All at once, as the car headed toward these clouds, "all four of us almost simultaneously became aware of a curious bright object almost motionless" among the clouds. Instantly, from long habit in dealing with celestial phenomena, he began to make calculations with what crude materials he had at hand. He held a pencil at arm's length, measured the size of the object against the windshield of the car, measured the distance between his eyes and the windshield, etc. His wife and two daughters did the same, each making independent calculations. The object, says the scientist, "showed a sharp and firm regular outline, namely one of a smooth elliptical character much harder and sharper than the edges of the cloudlets. . . . The hue of the luminous object was somewhat less white than the light of Jupiter in a dark sky, not aluminum or silver-colored. . . . The object clearly exhibited a sort of wobbling motion. . . . This wobbling motion served to set off the object as a rigid, if not solid body." After 30 seconds in plain view, the ellipsoid moved slowly behind a cloud (273° azimuth, elevation 1°) "and we thought we had lost it." But approximately five seconds later it reappeared (275° azimuth, elevation 2°). "This remarkably sudden ascent thoroughly convinced me that we were dealing with an absolutely novel airborne device." After reappearing, the object moved slowly from south to north across the clouds. "As seen projected against these dark clouds, the object gave the strongest impression of self-luminosity." About two and a half minutes after it first came into view, the thing disappeared finally behind a cloudbank.

*Evaluation. The astronomer vouches for the approximate accuracy of his observations and computations. He determined that the object was not less than 20 nor more than 30 miles from his viewing point; that it was ellipsoidal and rigid; that it was 160 feet long and 65 feet thick, if seen at minimum distance, or 245 feet long and 100 feet thick if at maximum; and that its horizontal speed ranged between 120 and 180 mph and its vertical rise between 600 and 900 mph. He also observed that the object moved with a wobble, no sound, and left no exhaust or vapor trail. His wife and daughters supported his observations, and their computations were in accordance with his own, though slightly less conservative. The object's appearance and behavior answer to that of no known optical or celestial phenomenon. No known or projected aircraft, rocket or guided missile can make such a rapid vertical ascent without leaving an exhaust or vapor trail.*

? Barstow, California. (about 4:30 p.m.)

Unfortunately we have no exact day for this item.

"Planes shoot at saucer?" (See clipping) (xx.)

(xx.) Barstow, California. *Printer-Review*.  
July (no day) 1947.

"Flying saucer sandwich." (See below)

## Planes Shoot Tracer Bullets At Saucers

More flying saucers were reported seen over Barstow during the weekend.

A group of high school youths climbed Block B hill Saturday afternoon. About 4:30 p.m., they saw a group of the discs flying in formation. The mysterious objects were being chased by pursuit planes who were firing tracer bullets at the discs.

The saucers with the planes in pursuit disappeared over the horizon.



SIGN OF THE TIMES—Mrs. Olgie Ray Cordial, 333 E. Gay-st., holds the "Flying Saucer Sandwich," bacon, cheese, tomato, lettuce and mayonnaise on a bun, served on a saucer. The sandwich is the creation of Roy Tugle, manager of the Tom Thumb Restaurant, 23 N. Third-st.

Last minute additions:

17 June. Murtaugh, Idaho. (daytime)

"What's that big white thing Mom?"

A press account states:

"Another report of a Magic Valley resident seeing a 'flying disc' was received today when Mrs. Clyde McFarland said she and her daughter saw one of the 'flying somethings' on June 17.

"Mrs. McFarland said her eight-year-old daughter came running into the house and asked what was that 'big white thing in the sky.'

"I went out scanning the sky and saw what appeared to be a large flat silver-colored object with vapor pouring around and behind it for a great distance," Mrs. McFarland said. "It came straight down at a terrific speed and for a great distance, then leveled off and eventually disappeared in the distance, casting off bright rays at intervals. It was in sight for about one-half hour."

"She said she had just returned from a trip to Seattle and now realizes that the object she saw was a 'flying saucer' and not a meteorite, as she first believed." (xx.)

(xx.) Twin Falls, Idaho. (Newspaper name missing from clipping) 10 July 47.

24 June. 11 miles southwest of Mineral, Washington. (about 3:00 p.m.)

Did he see "Arnold's objects?"

According to a press story:

"The mysterious flying objects, traveling at an estimated speed of 1200 miles an hour, reported seen June 24 at 2:59 p.m. by Kenneth Arnold, Boise, Idaho flyer has received corroboration by Sidney Gallagher of Centralia.

"Gallagher, who is a civil engineer for Ladd Logging Company, said he saw the objects while working 11 miles southwest of Mineral.

"I thought nothing of it at the time and probably would have forgotten about it if I hadn't noticed reports in the papers. I was looking east at about 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, when nine aluminum colored objects that looked something like navy planes without wings suddenly appeared on the horizon heading north. Although I couldn't estimate their speed." Gallagher said, "they were going much faster than then an ordinary airplane. Their terrific speed and the fact that they were wingless led me to believe they were some of the new jet propelled planes we've been hearing about."

"They were in regular formation, five in front, then three, then one. I really wouldn't say they were flying, they were zooming like large birds."

"Gallagher lives at 114 West Walnut Street." (xx.)

(xx.) Centralia, Washington. *Chronicle*. 4 July 47.

2 July. Between Hillsboro and Portland, Oregon. (Shortly before 9 p.m.)

"They were following one another as if playing tag."

A press account tells us:

"F.M. Lilliegard of route 2, Hillsboro, last week became the first local man to report seeing the mysterious flying discs when he said three of the shiny round objects flew around in circles between Hillsboro and Portland Wednesday evening, July 2.

"Lilliegard was going to his car midway between Scholls and Laurel shortly before 9 p.m. when the flying saucers caught his eye, he reported.

"'They were flying in circles quite high,' he said, 'a good deal higher than the Portland lights off in the distance, and were a little east of the radio tower near Hillsboro.'

"He said the three discs looked about the size of medium-sized airplanes and were traveling at great speed, 'one following the other as if they were playing tag.'

"The flying saucers made three big circles of a radius of about 50 to 60 feet, then disappeared after about a minute, going off on an angle to the east.

"The Scholls telephone construction man described the discs as looking like pieces of aluminum shining in the twilight. They had disappeared before he could get a neighbor to witness the phenomenon which has captured the interest of the entire nation. He watched for several minutes to see if the saucers would reappear but saw nothing." (xx.)

(xx.) Hillsboro, Oregon. *Argus*. 10 July 47.

4 July. Portland, Oregon. (2:23 p.m.)

Reporter Robert White filed a flying disc story during a visit to Portland. He interviewed a former WWII PT boat commander with two years combat service. The witness, now a businessman, did not give his name. Reporter White wrote:

"He is in his mid-thirties. He is calm, methodical, thorough individual not given to excitement. And he is a trained aerial observer. Here is what he told me:

"I was in my garden here in Portland on the afternoon of July 4. It was 2:23 p.m. I looked at my watch as a matter of habit, when I saw them. My wife was with me so I asked her what she saw.

"She said, 'I see four discs. They're in diamond formation...'"

"That is exactly what I saw, too. I'm sure it wasn't hysteria.

"The discs looked about the size and shape of a 25 cent coin. I couldn't guess their altitude so I don't know their actual size. They were shining in the sun and flying rapidly—at great speed. While I'm not sure of their color I believe it was silver from the way they reflected the sun. At first they maintained a perfect diamond formation. I don't tell everybody I saw them because it sounds unreal, but I actually did." (xx.)

(xx.) Mexico, Missouri *Ledger*. 24 July 47.

5 July. Payette, Idaho. (daytime)

Survey team sights mysterious objects.

Here is the press account:

"About the first report of the objects being sighted locally comes from Don Haasch, Dennis Aspinwall, and Fred Richards, who sighted the objects a week ago last Saturday. They did not make their discovery public until after many others had reported having sighted the discs. The party was surveying some land in the Richards sub-division on Payett Heights when they sighted the mysterious objects, at that time having seen four. Richards reported that they were saucer shape and reflected the sunlight much as would be the case with a mirror, with an apparent dark streak through the center. Four were sighted, three traveling in formation while one was zig-zagging across the sky and flying much faster than the others. It is estimated that they were traveling about five hundred miles per hour Northwest in the direction of the Malheur Butte. Richards said that they appeared to be the 'biggest thing I've ever seen in the air.' The group disappeared in a cloud in the direction of Huntington at an estimated altitude of 8,000 feet. Haasch saw a similar group on the following day." (xx.)

(xx.) Payette, Idaho. *Independent-Enterprise*. 10 July 47.

6 July. Pittsburg, California. (no time)

"Hover over home."

A brief report from California said: "Mrs. Edward Puckhaver saw a disk hovering directly over her Columbia Park home in Pittsburg Sunday. She said it was circular and shiny and hung motionless for a while before it streaked out of sight into the east in a 'few seconds.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Antioch, California. *Ledger*. 9 July 47.

6 July. Port Townsend, Washington. (10:30 p.m.) (about dusk) (about sunset)

Three sightings—same day—same city. (See clipping on page 63)

6 July. Casa Grande, Arizona. (mid-afternoon)

"Mom, what's those funny things?" (See clipping on page 64)

8 July. Port Townsend, Washington. (morning)

A press account states:

"Mr. and Mrs. Frank Greenier, Lewis Apartments, reported looking out the window

# Port Townsend

POR TOWNSEND, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 10

## Flying Disc Makes Night Appearance; Chimacum People Report Seeing One

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Byington, who reside near the Dunes Grocery on the Chimacum Road, are the first Jefferson County residents to report seeing one of the mysterious flying discs. They declare one of the much-publicized objects flew past their home at 10:30 p. m. Sunday, barely skimming the treetops as it traveled parallel to the ground at tremendous speed.

"We'd just as soon you didn't use our name in the paper," Mrs. Byington said, "because people might think we're imagining things. But really it's true—and I'm still frightened."

Mr. and Mrs. Byington agreed it appeared about the size of a small dinner plate and went by in a flash, being visible for about 200 yards before passing out of their field of vision.

"It had a bright yellow center, rimmed in light green like phosphorus glow, and must have been doing 3,000 miles an hour," Byington said.

Mr. and Mrs. Byington declared they heard a roar like a jet-propelled plane sounds in the newsroom, and looked out of their bedroom window to see the round object pass by a short distance away.

"We saw it for just a split second, and thinking back I would say it definitely had a bright yellow center, which changed to green flashes around the edges," Mrs. Byington declared Monday. She said she could hardly sleep the rest of the night and was still frightened Monday, knowing that the thing came that close to their home.

"They estimated it was about 100 feet off the ground and missed the top of the trees by about 10 feet. They continued to listen after it disappeared, but heard nothing more. They heard the tremendous roar only during the brief instant it was visible.

"It was flying on a perfectly level course, and I'm positive it wasn't a plane, Fourth of July fireworks, or anything like that," Byington added.

Another party reporting seeing a mysterious sky disc included Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Solomonsen of Port Townsend and their guests, Mr. and Mrs. Al. Soderlund of Minneapolis and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sawyer of Hopkins. All six saw a peculiar round object off to the north while viewing the Strait of Juan de Fuca scenery from North Beach at dusk Sunday.

"I thought the stories about flying discs were a bunch of hoey until I saw one myself," Solomonsen said Tuesday morning. "Now I don't know what to think."

The object was moving straight away from the observers (moving northward) and was so distant they were unable to estimate its size or speed, Solomonsen said. He was certain, however, that it was not a plane.

"We were eating when we noticed it off to the north," Mrs. Oiger said. "It appeared to be coming toward us for awhile, but then it changed direction and disappeared right over the top of Mount Baker."

Mrs. Oiger agreed the disc they saw might have been the same one observed off to the north at about the same time Sunday by the Holmstroms.

"It was saucer-shaped, just like the descriptions; we watched it move along until it went into a cloud and disappeared," he declared, adding that "to me it appeared like a round spotlight flashing in my eyes."

People dining at the A. R. Oiger home, 715 Filmore Street, also believed they saw a disc at about sunset Sunday.

## Flying Discs Sighted Over Local Area

### Saucer-Like Objects Disappear After Brief Maneuvers

Flying discs, mysterious aerial objects that have set the nation's curiosity ablaze, have been sighted over the Casa Grande valley. First reports of the flying saucers in this area came yesterday from Mrs. George Van Horn.

A pair of airborne missiles was seen by three members of the Van Horn family Sunday in mid-afternoon, over their home three quarters of a mile south of the Alfalfa Mill.

Travelling at tremendous speed, the discs arrived over the valley from different directions, converged at a point east of here, then after performing odd gyrations about each other, disappeared toward Old Mexico.

Mrs. Van Horn's attention was first attracted to the clear skies by her eight-year-old daughter Mary, who insisted that "funny things" were overhead. Shading her eyes, Mrs. Van Horn observed a flat saucer-like object approaching from the northeast and another from the west.

"When they met high over the valley, one object made a slow circle 'roll about the other,'" Mrs. Van Horn said. "The most visible one appeared arrowlike in front and to widen out toward the rear. Their general appearance was that of two balloons fastened together," she explained.

The objects were not conventional aircraft. On that point Mrs. Van Horn was positive, for while the mysterious discs were aloft two planes flew overhead at an altitude of about a thousand feet. One was a crop dusting ship and the other a small training craft.

Dorothea Van Horn, 12, saw the strange flight, with her mother and younger sister.

Mrs. Van Horn's report conformed in many respects with those of others who have seen the weird aerial demonstrations. At one stage of the flight a fluttering motion was noted and the by now well-defined saucer-like appearance was plainly seen.

Other reports of the appearance of the saucers were heard here this week but could not be confirmed.



# Casa Grande

The Foremost Newspaper of Pinal County

CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA, JULY 11, 1947

\$3.00 Per Year

Tuesday morning ans seeing 'something awfully high and traveling faster than any plane.'

"Greenier said the objects were going south, and he estimated the height at 20,000 feet. His wife declared that in her experience as an aircraft observer she never saw any plane that acted like the objects they saw Tuesday.

"They were dark in color, and could have been any shape, but looked round to us. We counted 12, about half flying in a string, and the other half in no formation at all." (xx.)

(xx.) Port Townsend, Washington. *Port Townsend "Ledger?"* (Complete name not on clipping) 10 July 47.

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