

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

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TUCSON, ARIZONA, NOVEMBER, 1963

FAMILY BESEIGED BY DISCS

What Did Cooper See?

In May 1963 while American Astronaut Gordon Cooper was in his 15th orbit over Australia, he reportedly saw an unidentified object going in the opposite direction. The following is a direct quote from the KFI Los Angeles radio broadcast which was piped in direct from Cape Canaveral: "However, during his 15th orbit NBC has reports from West Australia which indicate that an unidentified and somewhat mysterious light was visible from the capsule. These reports all said that the unknown space phenomenon was of a green color with a red tail. Spokesmen at Muchea (spelling may be wrong — the transcript is blurred here) the station in Australia, tracking this, said that the light, of course, had nothing to do with the capsule or its journey through space but the spokesman did not discount its presence up there."

The second report direct from Cape Canaveral May 16, 1963 8:00-8:05 a.m. (PDT). This portion began with Ellis Abel, NBC New York, who switched immediately to John Chancellor NBC Space Control, Cape Canaveral. Portion of his report pertaining to the UFO follows: "And after that he will be in the dark again over Australia as he was in the 15th orbit. At that time NBC News reports he saw unidentified light in the sky preceding in the opposite direction. Reportedly the light was green with a red tail. A spokesman at the Australia tracking station at Muchea said the light, of course, did not have anything to do with the capsule's flight but did not discount reports of its existence."

Rumors dribbling back to APRO via Cape Canaveral indicate that both Cooper and the Australian trackers observed the object. It is suspicious, to say the least, that after that one small report, no further information was available concerning the mystery object.

This brings to mind, however, the "snowflakes" or tiny lighted particles seen by Glenn and subsequent orbiting
(See Cooper—Page 5)

News Photog Snaps UFO

APRO HAS in its possession a colored slide of an object photographed on time exposure by news photographer Dick Pothier of Wollaston, Mass. In a by-lined story in the Quincy Patriot-Ledger, Mr. Pothier described his experience which took place on either the 25th or 26th of June 1963.

Pothier was taking time photos of stars in order to record the tracks of same, from his back yard at Wollaston, Mass. His equipment consisted of a Japanese 35 mm. camera on a tripod. He was using Kodachrome X film. Other than checking the distance he did not touch the equipment until 30 minutes after he opened the shutter, when he returned to close it.

Two weeks later Pothier had the film developed. On the slide he immediately spotted something which shouldn't have been there—a clear pattern of lights which moved into the camera's view, hovered in at least 10 spots, maneuvered, then left the camera's view again.

In Pothier's own words: "The time exposure was able to capture all this, and the intensity of the lights on the color slide clearly show just where the lights stopped and moved, leaving either an image of the lights or a colored track. In back of the orange, white and silver lights and tracks were the star trails which was originally the purpose of one of the shots."

Pothier eventually showed the photo slide to Stephen Putnam, a mechanical engineer, APRO member and President of the Two-State UFO Group, of Egypt, Mass. Putnam, in a statement to the Patriot-Ledger said after a three-hour study of the slide, that the lights seemed to be arranged on a single object which never changed its attitude relative to the ground, and appeared to make 90 degree turns without turning itself. Because the lights ranged in color from orange to white to silver, never changed their relative position, they were apparently mounted on the same frame—
(See Photog—Page 4)

At 9:30 p. m. on the 21st of October Senor Antonio de Moreno was awakened at his ranch near Tranca, Argentina by a 15-year-old employee who told him there had apparently been an accident at the railroad tracks about a half mile distant as there was a lot of light and people moving around at that location.

De Moreno, 72, wakened Senora Teresa Kairus de Moreno, 63, and they both looked out the window. Over the railroad track just a few feet in the air there hovered an oval-shaped object which was projecting light to the ground where the de Morenos saw "people" walking to and fro, apparently always in single file. Senora de Moreno then spotted another similar object very close to the house. She could see a dome-shaped structure, about 25 feet in diameter, as well as windows or ports around the circumference of the object. This object also was just a few feet off the ground. The Senora got a flashlight and shone it toward the disc, whereupon it shot a bright white tubular beam of light at the house. Although she stayed fairly calm throughout the whole episode, Senora de Moreno, not knowing the meaning of the incident, rounded up the children in the ranch house, with the help of her sister, and hid them. Then the de Morenos began a systematic check of all the windows and shortly discovered that there were five discs near the house—three stayed about 210-225 feet distant, and two, including the nearest one which she saw first, were within only a few feet. One shone the white tubular light at the house, the other a reddish-violet tubular light.

House Heated Up Like Oven

Shortly after the lights struck the house, the inside of the house began to heat up until it was "like an oven" and there was a strong smell of sulphur in the air. Although the heat became so intense that the occupants didn't think
(See Beseiged—Page 5)

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The Reason?

From time to time in the past 12 years, a concerted effort has been launched by a segment of UFO researchers to force a Congressional Investigation of the handling of the UFO mystery by the USAF. Various reasons have been professed for supporting this effort, the main one of which has been that the people should have access to such information—it is their right as individuals and citizens.

Most of us have tried to divine the "big reason" for the alleged censorship and mishandling of the UFO mystery, and the most popular theory has been that the military authorities fear a panic, economic as well as emotional, among the masses. UFO researchers cite the Orson Wells "War of the Worlds" scare of 1938. In view of the extensive propaganda and speculation dealing with space travel and the possibility of life on other worlds, it is not longer a valid argument. The resistance to the idea of interplanetary or interstellar travel by extraterrestrials has weakened considerably, and most people would not have

any great difficulty accepting the presence of such visitors were they to become a reality through official announcement. However, despite the publicity during the early years which took form not only through the press, but via books by authorities on the subject of flying saucers, most people hesitate to accept the reality of space visitors without the sanction of official cognizance. This has not come, and it is not likely to come unless a definite move on the part of the visitors has been made.

These are many UFO "believers" who are caught up in a pseudo-religious movement, who pay little attention to sightings or landing incidents, etc., for they are more concerned with perpetuating a doctrine than dealing with and digesting facts. Another segment concerns itself mainly with trying to find a "big answer"—some think differently in the line of origin of the visitors, purpose, etc.

The third group of UFO enthusiasts is definitely a minority and are those engaged in serious scrutiny of the facts available. Among all three of these groups there is a small sub-group with a common factor, and that is egotism. They do not seem to be satisfied to learn by observing and studying the information available, and seem more inclined to find someone to blame so that they can justify their position.

Before going further it should be pointed out that as a result of this article many fingers will be pointed and many rumors will be started, the gist of which will be that APRO's Director has been "talked to" and "hushed up." It must be established before continuing that this has not happened and is not likely to happen and if it did every effort would be made to relate such an incident to APRO members.

APRO has been, to our knowledge, the first organization to accept the existence of the "little men" or humanoid occupants of the discs, and since then to consider the possibility of hostile occupants. Both theories met with no little resistance at the time they were first discussed. Except for a small number of researchers, most of us accept the humanoid occupants as realities, but the hostile theory has yet to be seriously considered and FACED.

Upon this latter premise could hinge the REASON for authoritarian censorship when feasible, and official reluctance to even admit the substance of 12 years of UFO sightings. Let's take a look at some basic facts:

The mystery supposedly began in 1947, but sightings were logged by the military without civilian knowledge in

1944 and 1945, during World War II, and over military and civilian areas in 1946. In 1948 a pilot was killed (Mantell) while chasing a UFO. By 1952, it was quite evident to any intelligent individual with access to the facts available that something odd was afoot and that if these things were interplanetary they were not bent on contact and were certainly interested in the defensive and offensive installations in the United States.

This was known to some civilians in 1952, and must have been more than evident to military people in those early years inasmuch as they had access to all military sightings.

Since then, serious discussion and press notices of UFO sightings have been discouraged by an attitude of ridicule. This attitude seems to be authored by official sources which apparently cannot be dissuaded or indeed even reached. Attempts to bring about Congressional investigations and hearings have been costly and futile. All through this, some disturbing threads have been woven, and if they indicate what they seem to, any real effort to bring about public enlightenment, at least through one media of news, might amount to eventual disaster.

Many incidents have taken place which indicate that the UFO are capable of monitoring radio broadcasts and if that is possible, TV monitoring would be simple. Also it should be noted that although it is almost impossible to get radio or television time via interview programs and the like, to seriously discuss UFO research and the conclusions reached by serious researchers, no one has made any effort to stop the publication of the many periodicals dealing with the subject, or books.

It is impossible to get a big publisher to accept a manuscript dealing with UFOs on the positive, interplanetary theory side of the question, and therefore widespread circulation of UFO books is no longer possible. The only books dealing with UFO which have been published in the last five years (since the 1957-58 flap) have been serious books dealing with interplanetary space ships which were published by the "vanity" or "subsidy" press, or books heavily laden with crackpotism and religious understones, or anti-saucer books such as Menzel's. Menzel's and Boyd's book, incidentally, was published by a large publisher and was given the stamp of approval of the press and TV and radio media via many reviews of same and interviews with the authors. Not so with Keyhoe, Hall or Maney, after Hall and Maney's book, "The Challenge

of the UFOs." Not so either, with Mrs. Lorenzen's book, "The Great Flying Saucer Hoax." Both of these books had to be privately published and neither received the notice they should have. It seems ironic that Mrs. Lorenzen received so many enthusiastic comments about her book from scientists who subsequently have joined APRO and are working diligently to solve some of the enigmas of the UFOs, yet has not been able to promote adequate press notice on the book.

Publications do not seem to be affected by this insidious effort to keep UFO news from public notice. Whoever or whatever is behind the stifling of information about UFO seems to be more concerned with information which is electronically disseminated, and therefore quite easily monitored by ships or satellites which could be circling our globe. It has been at least fairly well substantiated that UFOs can monitor radio and therefore TV, and this brings us to the crux of the whole situation.

The Air Force of the United States is charged with the protection of this country; their specific responsibility is the air space over this land. The same is true of all the other Air contingents in other countries. The American Navy is investigating UFOs—they have their own program, for although UFOs are generally and for the most part seen in the air, they have been known to fly over the sea and enter the oceans, and this of course is the Navy's domain. The Army is in the act, too, for UFOs have hovered over and landed at or near Army installations.

Although publicly the Air Force has the responsibility for the UFOs, it is obvious that it cannot be everywhere at once, so the AF public relations department is responsible only for public pronouncements about UFO. However, it is quite probable that all military groups in the United States have a central reporting place which is possibly the CIA or a similar outfit set up exclusively for this purpose.

It all boils down to this: If as is suspected, certain authoritarian groups deduced by 1952 (when discs were seen over prohibited areas of the nation's capital and news of saucers became scarce) that they were faced with a formidable problem. With little or no knowledge of these visitors they would have to set up a system by which to learn as much as they could about the visitors but they would have to ultimately PREVENT THE VISITORS FROM LEARNING HOW MUCH THEY KNEW ABOUT THEM.

Counter-intelligence is most import-

ant in a military campaign. It would be impossible to keep the visitors from observing a lot, but if we could prevent them from knowing just how much we were aware of their existence and capabilities, we could at least effectively "stall for time." Meanwhile, a concerted attempt to devise defenses against the possibility of attack, etc., could be made, but the whole success would hinge upon the stall for time which would hinge upon keeping the visitors in ignorance concerning our knowledge of them.

If we can picture the occupants of the UFOs monitoring TV and radio broadcasts and being lulled into a sense of security by official announcements that one of their soirees in the vicinity of a military installation was evaluated as only mistaken observation of a planet, ordinary earth-made vehicle, etc., the visitors would not be concerned with any immediate action. It seems so far that they are only bent on observation and preventing us from any real successes in space exploration. We have experienced considerable difficulty in probing the mysteries of the moon, the only successful probe being that of the Russians in 1959. Since then we (the U.S.) have lost a total of 14 moon probes. The phony baloney coming out of NASA, Washington, D.C., indicates that either there is considerable ignorance in that quarter concerning the capabilities of the UFO, or that they also realize there is an outside effort to keep man off the moon.

If this analysis of the UFO situation and the reason for the alleged censorship is correct, some might postulate that APRO and similar groups no longer have a function, if they cannot disseminate information about UFOs.

This is not true. If for no other reason, APRO would continue to function out of intellectual curiosity. Also, the policy of denial which authorities have instituted as a means of misleading the UFO occupants has worked against them in some ways—many people will not report a UFO incident for they feel that it is useless to report such if the general opinion is already formed. But these people DO report to civilian groups whom they trust. And there is little doubt that the groups of authorities who control UFO information and carry out correlation and evaluation of sightings keep close tabs on the information contained in private UFO periodicals. Therefore, in publishing the results of our investigations we are helping to some extent.

If this theory is true, some groups will have outlived their usefulness if their whole justification for existing depends on a "cause," this cause being the cause of truth for the masses and public con-

demnation of the agencies responsible for the censorship.

Some researchers depend on an emotional need for attention and power, and might find it difficult to continue if they had no "goat" to blame things on. Of course, egotism is also prevalent among the anti-saucer people, also. They too, would have difficulty in accepting this thesis concerning UFO motivation and governmental censorship.

An excellent example of censorship for a good cause is the way in which the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination has been handled. At least 14 points of information, if presented in trial court, would have won an acquittal for Lee Oswald. These 14 points indicate at least ONE co-conspirator and Kennedy was shot from the front. For a study in censorship motives for the common good, take your time and think this one over!

The big weak spot in all of our contentions concerning authoritarian censorship has been the motive for same. Just a possibility of hysteria when that possibility is so small, is not an intelligent reason for censoring news of such portent. Even the possibility of economic disaster is not sufficient in itself or even if coupled with the hysteria angle. But if authoritarian powers are faced with the idea of defense against apparently superior powers, it would do their defense measures no good to tell the people and inadvertently admit to the suspected enemy that they have not gone undetected. All things considered, if the motivation for the alleged censorship is a stall for time in the face of almost impossible odds, the choice has been a wise one. It would be senseless to expose ourselves to a potential enemy without first assuring ourselves of having every advantage.

Slow Moving Discs

Sometime between 6:30 and 7:00 p. m., on July 7, 1963, the Le Blanc family near Bantam, Connecticut, observed a total of eight disc-shaped UFOs. They were seen first by two of Mrs. Angela Le Blanc's children as the objects floated slowly and silently over hills southwest of Bantam. The entire family was called to watch as the discs moved from the northeast to the southwest. The estimated altitude of the discs was from 2000 to 3000 feet and the objects appeared to be metallic.

The length of the observation was longer than one minute but the exact figure was undisclosed in published reports. Police were unable to provide an explanation

Photog . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

work, he said.

"Except for a brilliant orange nucleus, which remained in a central position, no matter which way the object stopped, turned or paused, the lights defy interpretation," Putnam said.

Putnam pointed out that the structure of the object would be invisible on the slide, as it was, just as a night picture of a car would show only headlights.

Obviously the lights were not caused by a balloon or airplane and the color of the lights precludes the helicopter explanation. The focus of the camera was set at infinity, thus ruling out close-in objects such as fireflies, etc.

For camera enthusiasts, Pothier elucidates the details about his: It was a Heiland Pentax 35 mm. with an FL-55 mm. lens. The film was Kodachrome X, ASA 64—lens wide open and set for infinity.

Exit and entrance trails of the object which made the image are very dim indicating that whatever it was is was either accelerating rapidly or descending into camera range during its exit and entrance upon the scene. In a letter dated August 5, John T. Hopf, APRO's photo analyst, had this to say: "There is no question but that this is a real image of some light source, we have positively ruled out processing or film defects. I don't agree with the Harvard astronomer who said that if there was a solid body behind the light it would obscure the star trails. I know from my own experience that an object passing in front of the stars for a short time will not show an effect on the trails in an exposure as long as 30 minutes as this one was. I think this photo is worth running in the Bulletin although we will probably never know just what caused it. I have talked to the fellow (Pothier) at great length, and believe him when he says that no accidental double exposure occurred. I happen to own one of the same cameras (Pentax) and will make some tests myself when I get a chance, but don't expect to duplicate the photo."

After Pothier's story the Patriot-Ledger carried an account in its July 30 edition which was headlined: "UFO Photo Baffles Astronomer at B.U." and quotes Dr. Gerald S. Hawkins, Director of the Boston University Observatory: "I would hesitate to say the photograph does show a flying saucer although I admit it is very difficult to explain the photograph." He also said: "If there were a solid object in the sky it would obscure some of the star trails. None of

the trails in the picture were obscured. There were several areas on the film where no light has fallen. This is probably obscuration of some sort and it is very unlikely that the glow from a flying saucer would be shining through some sort of grid. And, the complicated pattern, similar to those found in multiple reflections, does not agree at all with the eyewitness descriptions of flying saucers."

It is obvious from Dr. Hawkins' comments that he has had little experience with the study and research of flying saucers. Mr. Hopf has deftly and correctly disputed Hawkins' theory about the obscuration of star trails, and most UFO experts, upon seeing the slide, remark about the similarity between the color and apparent placement of lights and the many sightings which describe almost those exact characteristics.

It would seem the UFOs suddenly attained some sort of legitimacy after being commented upon by Dr. Hawkins, for shortly, Pothier and others received accounts of various UFO sightings in the area.

On June 26, Mr. and Mrs. Enrico Gilbert of East Weymouth spotted a UFO at 1 a.m. Next morning they reported the sighting to the Naval Air Station at South Weymouth and Mrs. Gilbert said the authority who took the report "didn't seem too surprised." The description of the sighting: Both Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert described the craft as 'very large,' bigger than a truck, with brilliant orange light on its bottom and a white light of equal intensity on its top. They said the object flew "with a deafening roar" about 100 feet over the ground, apparently following the path of some high-tension wires near the Gilbert home. Its shape, Gilbert said, was best described by using the traditional "flying saucers" concept, or more exactly, two saucers inverted toward each other. Around its middle, he said, was a protruding lip. The two lights were shaped like a Turkish fez hat, or a cone with the top cut off, he said. It flew smoothly, very low, almost right above the treetops, Gilbert said. The roar was deafening. "Up to now I've always thought of those people who believe in flying saucers as nuts," he said, "but my wife and I both saw it and it was some sort of machine, not a balloon or some other explanation."

Another June 26 sighting was made by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tonsberg of Rockland, Mass. They were sitting outside their home along with Mrs. Tonsberg's brother-in-law William Henderson. They saw a lighted object with the same exact colors and light relationship but flying much higher. They heard no

sound. All three reported the object traced a zig-zag path, making a series of sharp 90-degree turns without pausing in its flight. The glow the object emitted was orange and white. Mr. Henderson reported the object's flight path was sharp and irregular as in the photograph taken in Wollaston about 1:30 on the 25th or 26th. He said it appeared to be heading northwest, but repeatedly doubled back and forth over its path. "All three of us watched it for about five minutes," Henderson said, "and the main reason we did so was the large number of almost-perfect right angles taken by whatever it was." The trio first saw it when a commercial airliner bound for Logan Airport passed over their house. When the plane had passed, all three saw the orange-white light source "much higher than the airplane, tracing this zig-zag pattern."

On July 4, at 8:30 a.m. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carr of Weymouth reported seeing "a dark object" emitting an orange glow and moving in an irregular path fairly high above the ground near Archbishop Williams High School. "We couldn't see how big it was but it was not small. It appeared dark at the top but there was a strong orange glow at the bottom. It was fully light, about 8:30, and we could see only a very rough outline of the object. The most pronounced detail was the orange hue at the bottom and a dark surface or area at its top," she said.

Several weeks earlier on June 13 a North Scituate woman who declines to be identified, spotted the same or a similar object, which she reported on July 7. The yellow-white light, she said seemed to be plunging into the ocean off Scituate, but suddenly reversed its direction and doubled back on its original path. A friend with her saw it also. "It suddenly stopped and moved erratically for a few seconds, reversed its direction, and went back from east to west," the woman reported. She also said she watched the maneuvering light source for at least 10 or 15 minutes and when it stopped moving and hovered for a while she stopped watching it.

The foregoing are only a few of the more detailed sightings seen at or about the time of the Pothier incident, and the Patriot-Ledger announced in a subsequent issue that a total of 21 sightings had been reported to them. All seemed to be of the same or a similar object sighted within days or at most, 3 weeks of the Pothier sighting.

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(Continued from Page One)

they could stay there, they were afraid to leave because of the machines hovering outside, so Senora de Moreno instructed all to be as quiet as possible.

After forty minutes of this discomfort and fear, the witnesses, who had watched the proceedings outside all the time, saw the object at the railroad tracks elevate and move away, followed by the discs which surrounded the house. Just before taking off, the light on the two closest discs went out and they followed the others off in the direction of the neighboring farms. Where the two closest discs had hovered there remained a misty smoke-like deposit for several minutes.

Several hours later a reporter for "Clarim," a newspaper at Cordoba Province, also providing information for France Press Service, visited the de Morenos. He later reported that the strong sulphur smell was still apparent both around and inside the de Moreno house and the inside of the house was still suffocatingly hot when he arrived there.

Corroboration

Corroboration of the presence of the discs in the area between 9:30 and 10:20 was furnished by Francisco Tropuano, who, not knowing of the de Moreno incident, had reported seeing a formation or "squadron" of lighted disc-like shapes moving through the sky at about 10:15 p. m. when the de Morenos said the discs were leaving their area.

The presence of the heat and odor when the reporter arrived, plus Tropuano's testimony concerning the discs leaving at about the time the de Morenos claimed they left, seem to indicate that this incident is true, especially in view of the good reputation for integrity and honesty of the de Moreno family.

Cooper . . .

astronauts. Although Russian astronauts had supposedly preceded American astronauts into orbit around the earth they did not mention such bits of information until they were publicly mentioned by Glenn. However, at last inspection of reports concerning the mystery lights encountered by Glenn and others as they orbited into the sunrise, NASA had no explanation. Some researchers and UFO fans have noted this chain of occurrences with the implied notion that they could be spacecraft of a sort—monitoring objects, so to speak. The fact that these objects laid along the orbit of the astronauts at least strongly suggests that they may have had something to do with past orbits, of which there have been

many. It is a known fact that all American space launches have been along a prescribed orbital route. Whether or not these tiny and not identical particles are pieces of spacecraft long since disintegrated, or bits of matter from a spacecraft refuse system whether it be earth originated or not, is not likely to be determined for quite some time until, at least, samples can be obtained. That they are some kind of inert matter which are orbiting around earth or suspended at a specific altitude is quite obvious. If they were some type of tiny monitoring objects, it is difficult to understand why their sponsor would be intent on making them all apparently of a different size and shape. Their light, according to the viewers, was reflected, for they were only seen at sunrise.

Widely Seen UFO In Calif.

Shortly after 4:00 a. m., on the morning of 25 September 1963, a fast-moving UFO was reported over Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Reports came in from the town of Woodside and San Jose also. Sheriff's offices in the above-mentioned counties received twenty reports. Some descriptions given by witnesses were as follows: "A half moon pulsating object," a "circular object lighted from the interior." The light, which appeared to turn off and on was visible intermittently. The Federal Aviation Agency, when queried, was unable to account for the UFO.

Scout Leader Observes Strange Light

On the afternoon of March 22, 1963, between 3:30 and 4:00 p. m., Mrs. Barbara Warren, an assistant den mother at Richardson, Texas, witnessed the passage overhead of unusual aerial objects. The four UFOs were described as being white in color and oval in shape, more rounded than oblique. The outlines were not sharp and were fuzzy around the edges. They moved at great speed and didn't reflect sunlight although it was a sunny day with good seeing conditions.

The first two which traveled toward the east passed one after the other and were not in formation. A few minutes later another one appeared, going west. This was immediately followed by a second object which was going west also, and which changed course suddenly and moved toward the north. No more were seen.

Triangle In The Sky

On the night of 17 August 1963 at 7:30 p. m. EDT, Mrs. Bradberry, a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, observed a most unusual UFO in the sky overhead.

Viewed through binoculars from her location the object appeared to be triangular in shape with a red light emanating from one corner. By 10:00 p. m., the triangle was still in approximately the same location but clouds obscured it. At 1:15 a. m., the triangle was visible again but it was smaller in size and the red light had dimmed. The position had changed somewhat in regards to a reference point she was using. Investigation by Robert D. Briele, associated with radio station WFBR in Baltimore, failed to turn up an explanation.

Pear-Shaped Object Over Balto.

On the same night as the Bradberry sighting Mrs. George Spec of Baltimore observed a pear-shaped object high in the sky over the northeast portion of the city. She reported the object to WFBR immediately and viewed the object from 9:10 to 10:00 p. m. No sound or motion were detected and Mrs. Spec said the object pointed earthward and the whole object was red in color. No optics used in sighting, and investigation showed no weather balloons over Baltimore for three days.

Sky Object Strikes Building, Causes Fire

On Friday, May 10, 1963, shortly after 10 a. m., an object described by witnesses as round, about 15 inches long and blue or green in color, struck a warehouse in Belfast, Maine and exploded.

The building belonging to the Maple Upholstery Company suffered minor damage from a fire which broke out as a result of the collision. It was reported that the first flames visible following the explosion were of a greenish hue. People in the area reported hearing a blast and Mr. Rene Gagine, a foreman, witnessed the occurrence. No traces of the mysterious object were found.

Mr. Floyd G. Drinkwater, Waldo County Civil Defense Director, investigated the site with a geiger counter and a slightly high radiation reading registered on the instrument. It was reported, however, that this was not enough to indicate contamination from an object from space like, for instance, a meteor. The general consensus among people interested in and investigating this incident was that the object was not an ordinary space object.

Falling Spheres Found

In early April 1963, newspapers were printing the news of a mysterious metal sphere found by Mr. J. McLure on station property near Broken Hill, New South Wales in Australia on 8 April. It was shipped to Broken Hill for examination by scientists there. It could not be cut or broken into by the use of a file or hack saw. Metallurgists at the Zinc Corporation said it had been subjected to great heat, was 14 inches in diameter, weighed 12 pounds and was spherical and hollow. McLure, who found the object said that no one had been in the area of the sheep station where the object was found, for about 50 years.

After the initial news release from Broken Hill which contained the foregoing information, the object was shipped to the Weapons Research Establishment in Salisbury for examination. Mr. R. Pitman-Hooper, the Zinc Corporation's manager, refused to make any real comment on reports that the Corporation's metallurgists at Broken Hill had determined via X-ray spectographic examination that the object contained beryllium, titanium, and magnesium and had only this to say: "All I can say at this stage is that our scientists have had a look at the object, that any tests they may have made so far are inconclusive and that the sphere has been placed in the charge of a senior Army officer." The Director of the Broken Hill division of the U. of New South Wales, Mr. T. K. Hogan, said that university scientists had made a visual inspection of the object and that what they saw would not be "inconsistent with the report that it contained beryllium, titanium and magnesium." He said further that the metals were certainly of modern origin and were also non-magnetic. He also commented on an unusual "submerged arc weld" around the surface of the sphere which was a "most beautifully executed job." He disputed the idea that the object was some sort of tank or cistern float, and said it had the remains of two lugs still attached to it. Hogan also said that the object was definitely hollow and that they would have "dearly liked to open it." He theorized that the object probably had originally been protected by some sort of heat shield which protected it from the intense heat which melted the lugs.

On the 30th of April, a dispatch out of Canberra said that the sphere had "definitely been identified as part of a space vehicle." It went on to explain that Mr. Allen Fairhall, Australian Supply Minister, told the House of Representatives that the sphere was identified as

part of a space vehicle, and that Australia was "communicating with the overseas Governments from whose spacecraft it might have come." The dispatch also said that the sphere carried the faint outline of a hammer and sickle, the Soviet emblem. Fairhall said the sphere had not been opened as it might contain "something of scientific interest." "It's a million-to-one chance that a piece of orbiting hardware should survive the temperature of re-entry and be recovered in one piece," he said. Various other newspapers carried the news that scientists (unnamed) had determined that the object was a pressure vessel from a space vehicle, designed to withstand great pressure.

Apparently no more information was released concerning the mystery sphere, but a small article in the Omaha World-Herald (Nebraska, U.S.A.) for 2 October 1963, carried the information that the first sphere had not been identified when the second one was found in October about 35 miles from the location of the first one.

The press release divulged the fact that despite inquiries abroad, the Australian government had not located the origin of the first sphere. The second sphere was described as 16 inches in diameter and weighing 18 pounds. It was also said to be a "stainless steel ball" on which a valve had been turned into a fused mass, apparently as a result of intense heat.

It is interesting to note that to this date no definite news concerning the metallic makeup of that first sphere has been released, nor has there been any further description or clarification of the physical properties of the second. This brings to mind another mysterious object which was found in South Africa in early 1962. This object was identified as a spherical titanium pressure tank from the fuel tank of an Atlas rocket. There was no doubt that this object, at least according to press reports, belonged to a U.S. space vehicle. The question now arises concerning the reason that the Australian spheres have not been identified. The most recent releases state unequivocally that the sphere has been disowned by Russia and the U.S. Then whence?

Youth Chased By Fiery Object

On the night of 20 May 1963, a 17-year-old saw an object which he at first thought was a truck or a bulldozer at the side of the road between Glencoe and Mt. Gambier, near the Victorian bor-

der, in Australia. He refused to let his name be used as he feared he would be called "crackers" (crazy). As he drew to within about 20 yards of the object, a bright light came on which was dazzling and the young man stopped his car. The object then moved across the road, and the boy started driving again, speeding up. Then the light shot straight up into the air and the car went underneath it. "Although I was going 50 or 60 miles per hour, the light followed the car. It was as bright as an arc welder's light," the youth said. The boy's father, who reported the incident, said that the boy arrived home "white, upset and frightened."

The same press report said that a similar object was seen by a carload of people on the night of the 15th of May and was reported to Mt. Gambier police. The people claimed the light, which turned from red to white, followed the car for several miles.

Fiji Has A Fireball

On the 3rd of April 1963 Mrs. A. E. Kennard, a Tamavna housewife, woke about 3:30 a.m. and gazed through her window at what appeared to be a ball of fire in the sky over Beqa. It appeared to be moving toward Laucala Bay. She said it was "horrifying."

Ten minutes earlier three Fijian policemen at Ba had reported seeing a similar object and at 3:30 a.m., members of the Royal New Zealand Air Force also saw the object. Men on HMS ship Cook had reported seeing strange objects "falling into the Fiji Islands group" at about 3:20 a.m. the same morning. They said they watched a huge fireball fall into the sea while they were anchored in the northern Yarawa group. An officer reported that at the time the area was bathed in a light as bright as moonlight which seemed to be coming from a falling object. Another officer said the falling object looked to him "like the classic example of a Hollywood spaceship." It was glowing with a bright greenish-white light and had an enormous, long fiery orange tail.

The same or a similar object was reported by several people at Lakota.

As this issue goes to the press, APRO is winding up the investigation of the UFO incidents in New Mexico. This investigation has been expensive and has nearly depleted the treasury. We are not asking for donations, but ask merely that you renew your membership if you are due.

Please check your cards and send in your dues, if you are due or renew early. Thank you.