

SUMMER ISSUE 1967

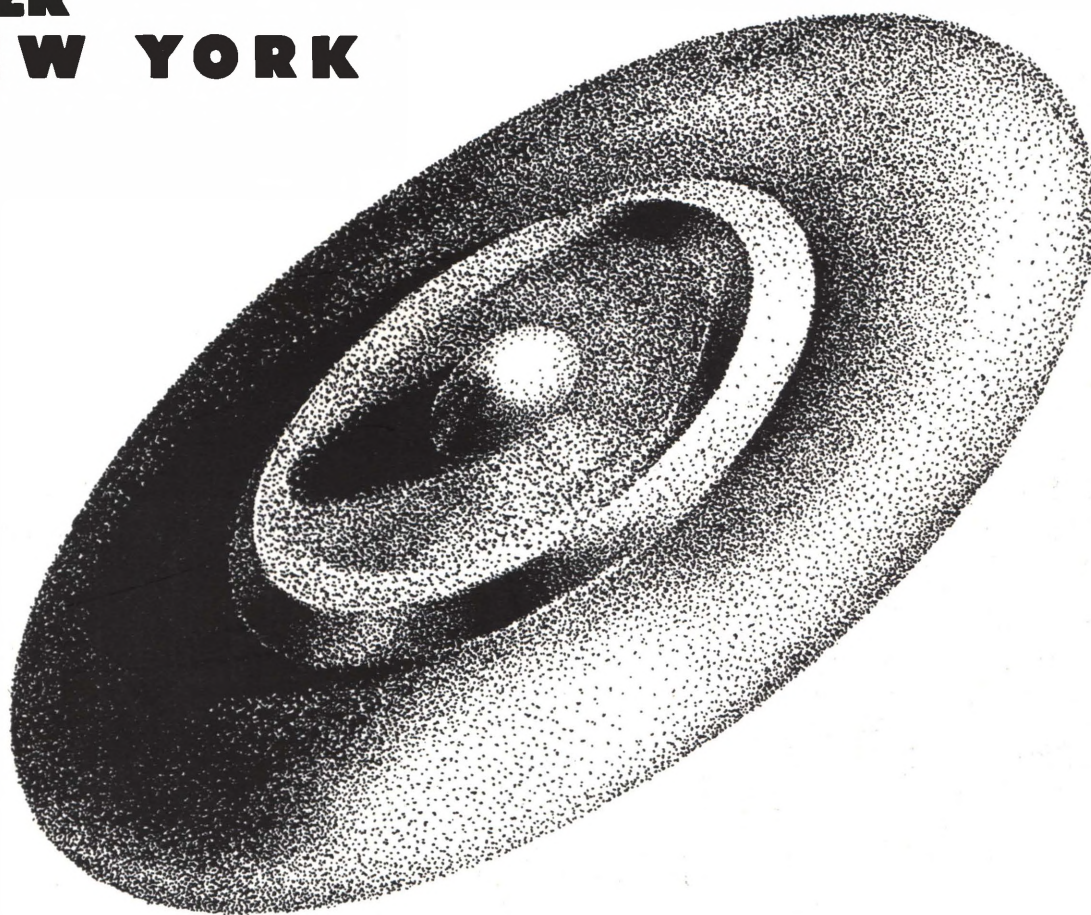


PROBE

\$1.50

THE CONTROVERSIAL PHENOMENA MAGAZINE

**FLYING SAUCER
OVER
NEW YORK**



10 PAGES OF UFO PHOTOGRAPHS!



Joseph L. Ferriere August C. Roberts

PROBE:

INTRODUCING a new concept of investigation, and analysis, dedicated to the proposition, that man, with all his pride and arrogance, has not yet begun to fully understand the complex nature of himself and the planet he inhabits. Consider for instance, as an example, the Flying Saucer phenomena —

We will attempt to approach this and other phenomena from an expanded point of view, when comparing the findings of seemingly unrelated branches of different sciences. Thus, we can attain a much higher degree of flexibility when analyzing a problem, which clearly transcends the structural limitations of any assumed purely physical manifestation. It is believed, that the Universe is ONE as a creation, therefore all phenomena in it must have some degree of relationship with each other.

ROVING sales AMBASSADOR

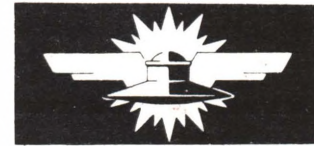


MORTON J. LEWIS

He stands ten feet tall in the business world, United States Senators, Congressmen, Bankers, and prominent business will attest to his honesty and integrity. The seventy year young gentleman has the pep and zip of any man half his age. He has the appearance of a man 55 years old. He loves anything which brings on a challenge, and will stand up to a man and speak his true feelings. He firmly believes, " We live for one and all, not for ourselves only."

PROBE

THE CONTROVERSIAL PHENOMENA MAGAZINE



Volume FOUR - No 2 Whole No. 19 PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

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IN THIS ISSUE

PART I

The Skywatch Tower Case _____	Page 3
Biography: August C. Roberts _____	40

PART II

PROBE photo section _____	47
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Good Reading All

THE SKYWATCH TOWER CASE

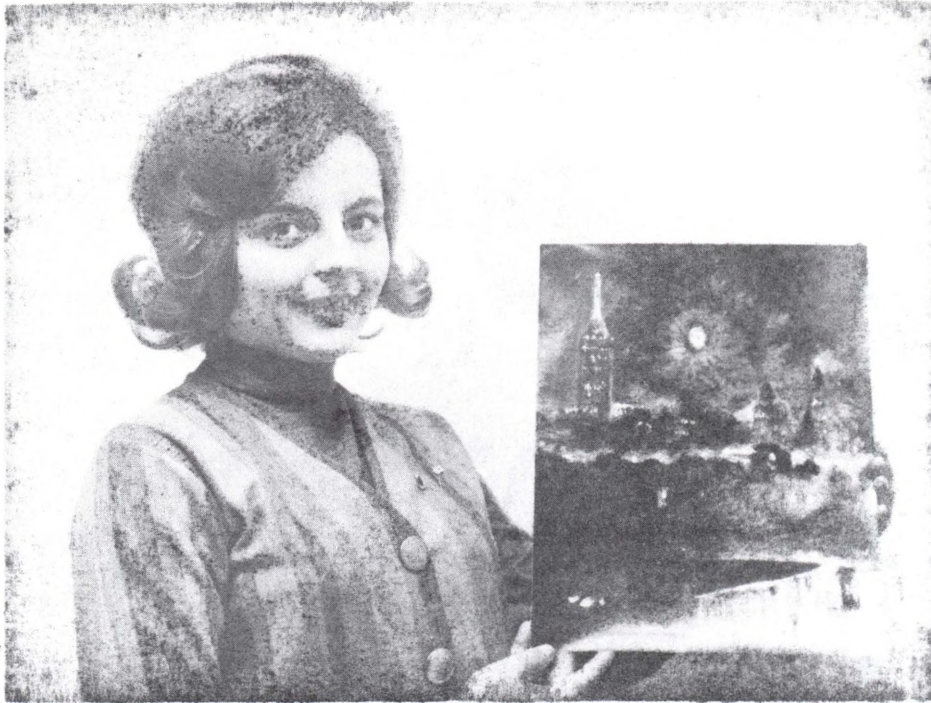
BY

August C. Roberts

AS TOLD TO

Joseph L. Ferriere

PUBLISHED BY PROBE MAGAZINE



Judy Conroy Holding copy of oil painting of July 28th
1952 Skywatch Tower case.

DEDICATION

I can remember a little wide-eyed baby girl. And as I held her hand and gazed fondly into her beautiful and trusting eyes, I made a vow to myself that I would, some day, give her something that money could never buy. I thank Joe Ferriere, Armand Laprede and Tibor Csapo for allowing me to fulfill that promise in this magazine.

Judith Ann Conroy, I dedicate this story to you. Long after I am gone, this small part of me will continue to live on. And so I am able to give you something that money cannot buy Judy; I give to you, in these pages, my very heart and soul. May you profit in the years ahead by applying the gathered knowledge of the years gone by.

April, 1967.

August C. Roberts

INTRODUCTION

The story you are about to read is not a hastily constructed affair. It is the product of a combined total of twenty-five years of investigation and research. More important, it is the product of personal experience, a tapestry as it were, woven of curiosity, fascination, mystery and confusion...of good times and of not-so-good times. Above all, it is the story of one man's untiring efforts to present to the future generations, part of the combination that will, someday, assist them in unlocking the many mysteries of the Cosmos.

The idea of presenting this story to the reader first came to light almost three years ago. The need to present it was made manifest on numerous occasions; the most recent in 1964, in the form of an Official United States Air Force Photographic Analysis, the full details of which are contained herein. The distortion of the factual data at hand, whether it be deliberate or otherwise, has resulted in obscuring the amazing Skywatch Tower case. Such distortion has further served to immerse this very important incident in a murky stream of chaos and confusion to such an extent that this sighting is now seldom referred to by leading UFO researchers, when, in fact, it constitutes one of the strongest cases in support of the contention that "Flying Saucers" do exist as a totally unexplained physical phenomenon!

This story is then, a document dedicated to the removal, once and for all time, of the unfortunate aura of mystery that has surrounded this incident for the past fifteen years. All of the material contained herein has been supplied by August C. Roberts, in the form of written material, tape recordings, photographs and many hours of personal face-to-face discussions. It has been my job, and I might add, my pleasure as well, to transfer that wealth of evidence and documentation to the printed page. It is a job I have long felt must be done, and I have done it to the best of my ability.

Finally, as we relive the exciting career of August C. Roberts, we find that we are involved not only with the Skywatch Tower incident, but with many other facets of this man's research and investigations, each of them equally fascinating and intriguing. Yes, there is much to be learned within the pages of this volume; a work which I aptly term..."The August C. Roberts Story: A study in Dedication."

1967

Joseph L. Ferriere

INCIDENT ON THE MEXICAN BORDER

It was a dark, moonless night as August C. Roberts stood watch over the Mexican Border. The year was 1943 and Roberts was serving in the Army Air Force as a skywatcher. He had been assigned to the little Mexican border-town of Del Zura, California, a desolate area with no houses or roads for miles around. He and the other men in the group were standing watch over a newly installed radar site. It was their job to observe not only the skies, but the ground areas as well. Radar was something new and fantastic in 1943, and, while Roberts and his men were conducting intensive guard duty they were never allowed to see how the radar actually worked. The exact location of the installation was on the upper-most part of a mountain, overlooking the town of Del Zura. A dirt road had been 'cut in' the mountainous terrain in order to gain access to this particular spot where the radar site would be established; on the highest point in lower California. It was war-time and the men were equipped with machine guns and full ammunitions. About one mile below them, on the dirt road, was a smaller 'guard point' and Roberts and his crew had instructions to fire immediately at anything that passed that point. In the case of additional equipment, supplies or new recruits, the lower guard station would radio up to the main site that such was on the way through the gate, and this was the only time that they were to hold their fire. If anything at all was seen moving beyond the guard point and a call had not preceded its appearance it was to automatically be assumed that the guard station had been immobilized and Roberts and his crew were to fire to kill.

These were the conditions prevailant on one particular evening when this team of trained, competent Army Air Force personel were confronted with something unknown and, to this day, unidentified. As the men stood guard over the radar site, Roberts and his men spotted a large, orange ball of light, moving in and out amongst the hills and a valley that was situated below and to the left of them. The glowing object appeared to be a few miles away but very large at that distance. The first impression created was that of a train headlight, though this was impossible due to the absence of railroads in the area. As mentioned earlier, it was a very dark moonless evening and, as this glowing ball of light zipped in and out of the area below them, a rather eerie scene was further enhanced by the presence of ground haze. All attempts to identify the intruder were negative, and, since it was too distant for any kind of gunfire to have any effect, the object was called in to the base camp. In a matter of minutes, trucks and jeeps were dispatched to the area of the radar site and crews of officers, of many ranks, were gazing in deep concern at the mysterious intruder. An air of pandemonium seemed to grip the area as orders were barked back and forth and well-trained men were heard to utter statements such as "What the devil is that thing?" and "How the hell do I know; fix the lights on it!" A Seargent turned on the headlights of his jeep and attempted to 'spot' the thing in the beams of the lights. Since the object was a good distance away, such a move was of course unsuccessful, though it does illustrate the futility of all attempts to identify the intruder. Then, just as suddenly as it appeared, the orange ball of light was gone; completely vanished! Army personel and officers looked at each other, shook their heads and returned to the base camp. Had the strange object been picked up on the radar? Roberts questioned officers and everyone he could get to. He was never able to resolve that question, nor did he ever receive an explanation for the object that created such concern that eerie evening on the Mexican border.

It was also about this period that the 'foo-fighters', strange, glowing blobs of

lights, were being seen and reported by fighter pilots. These strange 'lights' would trail our aircraft, fly rings around them, and create considerable consternation, not only to our own fighter pilots, but to those of the enemy as well. Augie Roberts spoke with both, pilots and ground controllers, who had actually seen the 'foo-fighters' in action. Very few photographs of the elusive phantom lights are in existence. The one pictured here is an authentic photo of 'foo-fighters' from the files of Augie Roberts. It can be seen that they are not dissimilar to the flying saucers seen and photographed in later years.

AFTER THE WAR

After his discharge from the Army Air Force, Augie Roberts returned to his home in New Jersey and, taken up with the process of resuming old ties, soon put aside the memories acquired during the war, and went about his work, expending most of his spare time on his hobby, that being photography. That also being a hobby that would, in short time, land him smack in the center of the flying saucer controversy; a precarious position from which he would never fully emerge. On a warm New Jersey afternoon in June of 1947, Augie Roberts picked up a copy of his local newspaper and read with deep interest an account of the first of the modern day UFO reports. Kenneth Arnold, a private pilot, had reported spotting a chain of gleaming saucer-like objects swerving in and out amongst the jagged peaks of Mt. Rainier. What was it about this account that fascinated him so? Perhaps it might be attributed to his experience as a plane spotter in the Air Force? He didn't really know just why he was so fascinated, by this seemingly improbable account, but at any rate, he began to search every paper he could get his hands on for further accounts of UFO activity. Another newspaper item that he came across amazed him even further, for there, on the front page, were two photos of an object that had flown over Arizona and had been caught on film by William Rhodes. The photos, reproduced herein, showed an object that resembled very closely the lead object in the formation reported by Arnold. His curiosity further heightened, he diligently continued his research and checking of newspaper items. But for a period of well over a year, no news of UFO sightings (other than the Mantell case, in which a trained pilot lost his life pursuing an UFO) was to be found.

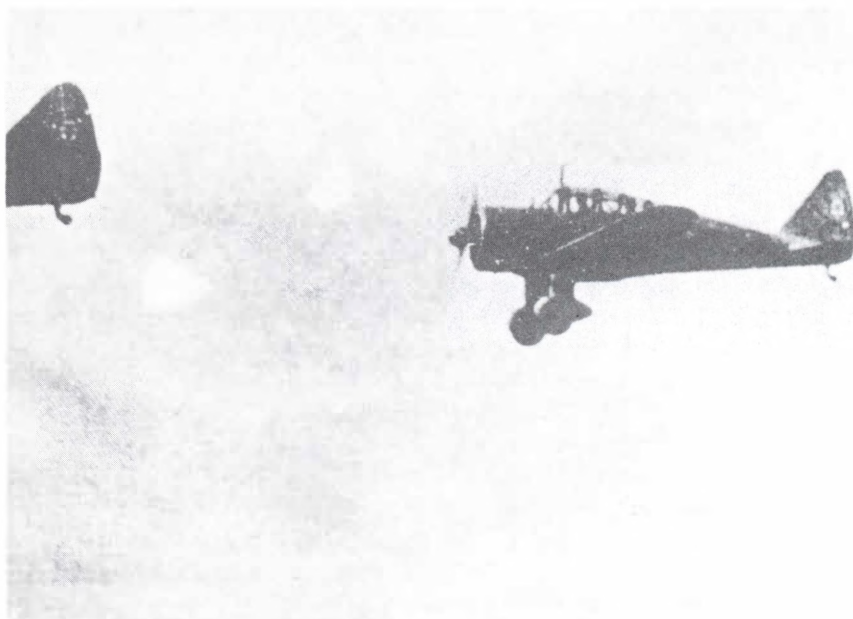
Then, in 1950, the call went out for volunteers to perform plane spotting duty as a part of the Ground Observer Corps program. Spotting one of these ads for ground observer volunteers, August Roberts called the number listed in the paper and expressed his interest in serving. He was told to go down for an interview and went to the 6th precinct in Jersey City and spoke with Detective Blaszcak and the Chief Observer, Inspector Joseph B. Foley. These men were very pleased with his background and with his 'plane spotting' ability, which Roberts displayed for them. They asked Roberts if he had any objections to their conducting an FBI 'check' on him, to which he replied that he had no objections whatever. The FBI check determined that A. Roberts was A-OK, and, since he had been one of the first in the area to enlist, he was appointed a Section Leader, which meant that he was in charge of the whole section, with a crew working under him. He was taken to the Air Force Filter Center and shown just how the operation worked, how the planes were plotted on the board, etc. Fully satisfied that he would enjoy participating in this project, he also hoped that such work might afford him a better opportunity to watch for the elusive 'flying discs', as they were then called, with qualified observers to assist him. Although reports of sightings were at a low ebb from 1950 through 1951, early in 1952 the number of reported sightings began to increase noticeably. Roberts got into the habit of taking his camera along whenever he went to his post for duty and even started to spend most of his spare time on the tower, waiting and watching. By June, 1952, practically everyone else at the post had

caught the 'fever' as reports of sightings continued to multiply, and it was at this time, on July 14th, to be exact, that the Jersey City Ground Observer Post went on 24 hour around-the-clock duty.

On July 18th 1952, a Mrs. Josephine Hetzel of West Brighton, Staten Island, observed five flying saucers. She described them as looking like five dinner plates, flying through the sky in a V-formation. The UFOs had also been seen by a neighbor and, upon checking with the observation post, Roberts was able to ascertain that they had been seen by a spotter on the post as well. Leo Murphy had seen only four, but about a mile behind them was another going in the same direction. The sighting had occurred only five minutes after the reported observation of Mrs. Hetzel.

As the UFO reports became localized, a local newspaper, The Jersey Journal, sent reporters to the observation post to get a story on the saucers. The paper had been informed that Roberts was spending much time, fully equipped with photographic equipment, atop the tower. The reporters also knew that, since anything of an unusual nature that might be spotted anywhere along the eastern seaboard would eventually be reported to the tower, they had the basis for a good story. On July 24th, 1952, George Conger another Ground Observer, spotted an UFO heading for New York. The observation was listed in the logbooks as follows: "10:05 - flying saucer spotted by Observer George Conger. One-unknown-high overhead-flying southeast-looked like a shiny new dime." Conger, also a section leader of the Civil Defense Organization, was a thoroughly qualified aerial observer.

By this time, Roberts had spent many week-ends at the tower, including all-night shifts from 9:00 PM to 6:00 AM, and, since Conger had now seen an UFO himself, Roberts invited him to join he and Jim Leydon, another spotter, on some night watches. Conger who had been doing daylight watching, agreed. For three nights nothing unusual happened, nor were any UFOs reported. But the stage had been set. If things were unusually quiet now, then that was as it should be, for always, the 'storm' is preceded by the proverbial 'lull'. Three days of quiet, and then, it happened!



Very rare photograph of the mysterious "foo-fighters"

THE SKYWATCH TOWER CASE

by AUGUST C. ROBERTS

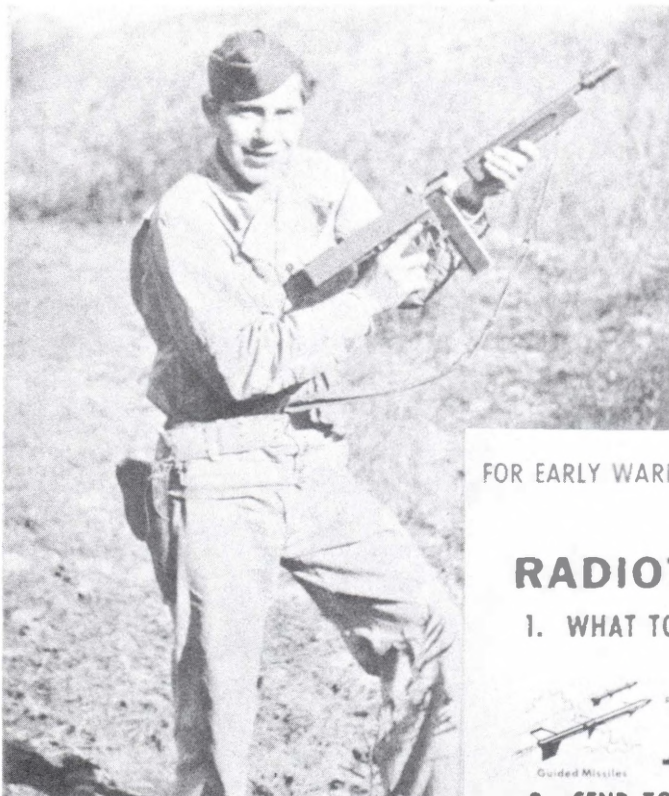
During the years of the so-called "flying saucer" mystery, many photos have appeared in books, magazines, newspapers, etc. recording them. Mainly from a photographic standpoint, my own July 28th-1952 sighting on the Civil Defense Skywatch Tower is of some significance.

It was raining during the early evening of July 27th-1952. Usually, whenever I went to the tower my cameras came along with me, but because of the rain on this evening, I left my cameras at home, not wanting to take a chance of ruining my expensive equipment. I reported for duty at the tower about 10:00 PM, and Leo Murphy, who was just going off duty, left me his camera, an F3.5 LENS 120 folding, which had a bad shutter that had a tendency to 'stick' on slow speeds. James Leyden came on duty a little before midnight and George Conger arrived at midnight.

We three were alone on the tower; Leyden sitting inside the shack reading and waiting for Conger or me to spot a plane and call it out to him. He would then call it in to the Filter Station. George and I were sitting side-by-side on the highest part of the platform; he observing the sky to the Northeast, East and Southeast while I watched the Southwest, West and Northwest. We had always hoped we might see one of the controversial 'discs' while observing, although hardly thought it likely since the newspapers had differed in their reports. Many had said the discs traveled too fast to get a good look at them. Others said the most one could expect to see was a streak of light. So we were not prepared to see anything spectacular or outstanding. We certainly did not expect the "SHOW" we saw at 12:11 AM Monday, July the 28th!

It had stopped raining. The air was clear, clean and fresh, as it always is after a rainstorm. As we stood and chatted George Conger suddenly said: "Hey, Roberts, lend me those glasses a minute. I've been watching a light there in the East by the Empire State Building and it is acting funny." As he peered through the glasses he remarked: "It doesn't resemble a plane." Then he called out: "Hey Jimmy, come out and take a look at that light out there!" Jim Leyden came out of the shack and looked for himself asking: "What the devil is it?"

At first we thought it might be a light from a building since it just hung there looking very bright. Then Jimmy handed me the glasses and I, too, took a look. We did not know exactly how to explain what we were observing, other than to define it as a 'flying saucer' since we realized that there was, in fact, no building in the area from which this light could have been emanating! George suggested that we call in to the Filter Station and that perhaps they could confirm the presence of the UFO. While he was talking I had taken Leo's camera out and was balancing it on the rail of the tower. Just as I opened the shutter of the camera, Jimmy jumped the three steps into the shack and jarred the whole platform and railing. George raised the glasses again and remarked that it was the oddest-looking thing. Leyden got the Filter Station on the phone and instead of calling in the message in the routine manner, he told them



Augie in the Army Air Force, 1943.

The Coast Guard also requested to report UFOs!

FOR EARLY WARNING IN DEFENSE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT

MERINT RADIOTELEGRAPH PROCEDURE

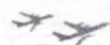
1. WHAT TO REPORT

Report immediately all airborne and waterborne objects which appear to be HOSTILE, SUSPICIOUS or UNIDENTIFIED.



Guided Missiles

Surface warships positively identified as not U. S. or Canadian



Aircraft or controls which appear to be directed against the United States, Canada, their territories or possessions



Submarines



Unidentified Flying Objects

2. SEND TO ANY

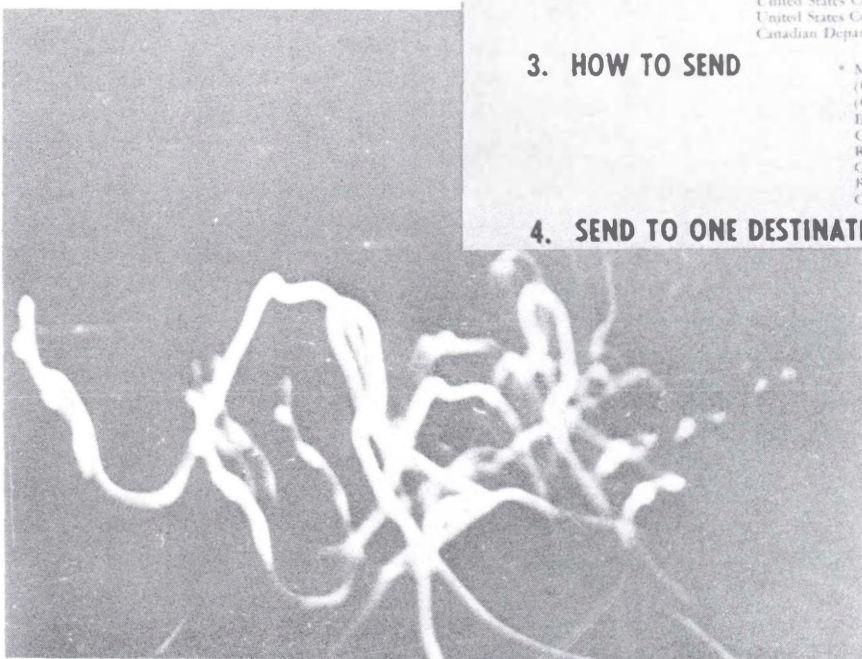
United States Naval Radio Station
 Canadian Naval Radio Station
 United States Coast Guard Radio Station
 United States Commercial Radiotelegraph Station
 Canadian Department of Transport Coastal Station

Receiving station will relay to military destination

3. HOW TO SEND

* MERINT MERINT MERINT (Coastal Stations) DI (Own Signal Letters) K (Own Signal Letters) DE (Coastal Station) K
 EMERGENCY (For U. S. or Canadian Naval or Coast Guard Radio Stations) or
 RAPID US GOVT COLLECT (For U. S. Commercial Coastal Stations) or
 RUSH COLLECT (For Canadian Dept of Transport Coastal Stations)

4. SEND TO ONE DESTINATION

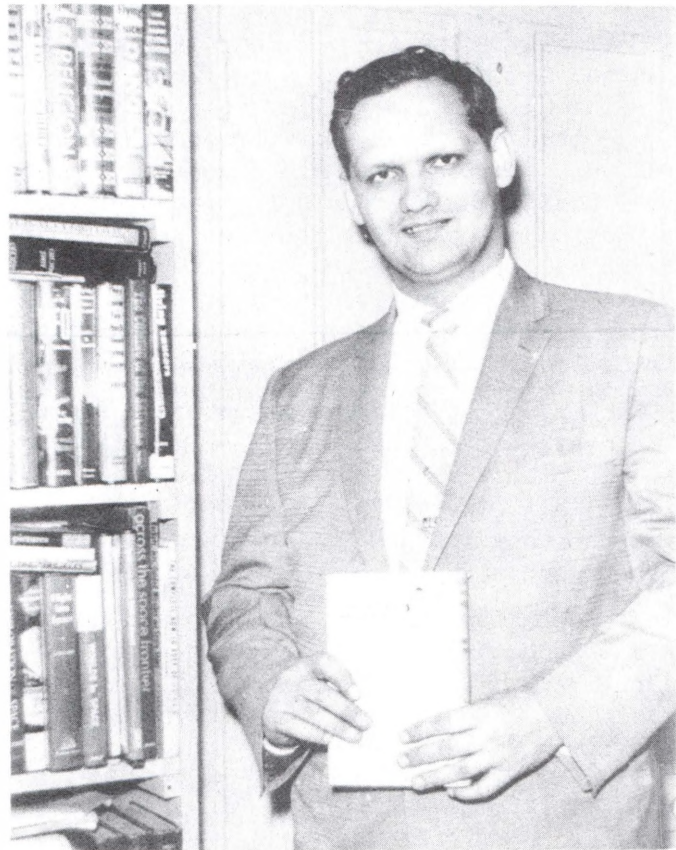


No. 1. Photo of the Skywatch tower case.

Augie



George Conger spotted UFO first.



James Leyden called Air Force filter center.

that he did not know how to explain what we were observing, other than to say that there was a "ball of light" hovering in the East, orange in color, with a dark brownish rim, very bright and flickering.

The person on duty at the Filter Station must have checked his list and found that no planes were listed in that area, because he immediately connected Leyden with an Air Force officer, who questioned Jimmy about the 'light'. Leyden asked if any other reports had come in, to which the officer replied: "Three so far - one each from Plainfield and Tarrytown and yours." Leyden hung up and was called right back. This call came from an Air Base.

George kept watching the 'light' and I was trying to look at the back of the camera to turn the film. It was too dark to see, so I just spun the knob a few times, placed the camera on the rail, called to the boys to stand still for a few seconds, and took the second photo of the 'disk' as it moved upward a distance of its own length, as if it were undecided which way to go. Conger noticed that a searchlight beam was trying to get a 'fix' on the object. He ran inside the tower, grabbed the phone from Leyden, and told them what had just happened. I took the 9x35 power binoculars and took another look at the object.

It had a reddish-brown dot in the center and the rim was the same color. As it started to move a little faster, to the Southeast, the rim turned a brighter red. It moved up and away from us at the same time and as it turned slightly I got a good look at the thickness of its edge. George, standing next to me, attempted to re-locate the disc but it had gone into a cloud-bank and was lost from sight. When I asked George if he had seen it leave he replied negatively. Leyden, still on the phone, reported that we could no longer see the object.

Shortly thereafter, I suggested that we call the New York "Daily News" and ask if anyone in their offices had seen the object, since it had hovered so close to this building, and also to find out if they had received any reports. Leyden called and was told they had received two reports and were not interested in receiving anymore. Jim did not mention that we had seen and photographed the UFO. It was suggested to Leyden by myself that he record the observation in our Logbook immediately. This was done and I have photographs of the item as it so appears. At 3:30 AM we spotted a plane zig-zagging back and forth in the same area where we had seen the disk. We called this in to the Filter Center and then, since nothing else of an unusual nature occurred, I went home about 6:00 AM to develop the film and learn whether or not anything had been recorded on film.

Everyone at home was asleep so I tried to move about noiselessly as I prepared the necessary developing needs in my darkroom. I considered the possibility of "overdeveloping" to get as much out of the film as possible. I used a green light to see the film, but between overdeveloping and getting too close to the safe light, the film fogged up a little. Since I was not used to handling roll film, it twisted up on me until it got wet and soft.

When I saw what the film contained I felt heartsick... one frame was of a dancing light and the other... just two spots on the film. I made a few prints anyway and upon looking at the prints decided that they were not as poor as I had originally thought. I returned to the tower with the prints, arriving before Leyden and Conger left for home. Both men were surprised that the photos had turned out as well as they had. Detective Blaszcak was present at the tower and he queried us about the pictures. We briefed him as to what had happened, and, after looking the prints over, immediately phoned our Chief Observer-Inspector, Joseph B. Foley, who expressed interest and said he would come over as soon as possible. One of the more important details that we related to Detective Blaszcak and one that I cannot emphasize too strongly, is that

during the course of Jim Leyden's conversation with the Officers at the Filter Center, Jim asked if they had the object on radar, to which the Officer replied: "Yes.... it is on radar!"

After relating all of the details of the incident to Chief Observer Foley, I went home to get some sleep, asking Leyden to warn me by phone if the Air Force "requested" the negatives, thus affording me time to make a dozen or more prints before I kissed the negatives goodbye. As I had anticipated, Detective Blaszcak contacted the Air Force and I had been in bed only about 15 minutes when Jim's warning call came. I picked up the receiver and heard Jim's voice... "The Air Force is on the way over... get hopping!"

Hurriedly I made ten copies of each, and since I figured I would not get much sleep anyway, I went back to the Police Station and gave them a better set of prints. (the first ones were made with wet negatives, and done hurriedly and were not too good.) I was informed at Police Headquarters that they wanted the negatives and was driven home in a radio patrol car to get them. We went to the main Police Headquarters where police photographers checked the negatives and made a few prints for the local newspapers. Then I was driven back to the tower where I had left my car. I headed home for a bit of sleep.

That afternoon I was on duty on the tower when two men from our local newspaper came up with my prints, which they had checked with the New York skyline. They told me that upon double-checking the prints they discovered that I had made the mistake of printing the negatives backward. I referred to the better copies I had at home so they asked if they could see them. After seeing the better copies they tried to talk me into giving all of them to them. I gave them a number of copies and when they left I was told that I would be paid for the use of them. I never did receive payment for them.

Later, at the tower, one of the newspapermen phoned me and asked if I had a camera handy. He said to take a few photos of the New York skyline and bring the film to him and the paper would develop and print them. This I did. When I tried to leave the news paper office I was 'detained' until the prints were made.

While waiting, another newspaper called to see if a spare 'flying saucer' print could be secured. The fellow answering the phone emphatically said "NO!", and when I quite loudly stated I had one and held it up, I never saw anyone move so fast to "shut me up!" This newspaper had the only real good prints and did not want to share their scoop, or let the other papers know that I, the photographer, was there. About this time all the papers were trying to reach me, but without success. The prints of New York were not too good so they took a few pictures of me with the Leica, and about mid night, after retelling the whole story in detail, I was allowed to go home with the clear understanding that I was not to talk to any other newspaper concerning the UFO.

The next day the story broke in the papers and for several days the Roberts family lived in a nightmare - the phone never stopped ringing - everyone called - newspapers, radio, television, newsreels, magazines, etc. Remember, these were the first photos ever taken on the Eastern Seaboard, and because I had the backing of the Civilian Defense Officials, the sighting had authority and authenticity!

In a week's time our popularity had increased to the point where the tower crew filmed a newsreel. During this procedure a call was received about 10:00 PM from the filter station stating that another disk was reported sighted, and to be on the lookout for it. Some of the cameramen dashed upstairs to the tower on the roof with their cameras and equipment, but could see nothing. The newsreel filmed at this time was played on television many times. The program called "Featurama" has considered it one of the five most-requested films of 1955.

The same week the movie was made, we also made a tape recording for a program called "Time Capsule". For this program items were selected to be placed in a real time capsule (a tube-like affair now placed underground in New York City where it will remain until the year 2052) to be a permanent record for posterity. To my knowledge, mine is one of only four UFO cases on record deemed worthy to be included in the time capsule. The world of the future will hear the voices of the past relate events which have amazed millions for years.

When the strain became too much for me I called a friend of my sister in Westwood, New Jersey. I wanted to spend a few days fishing and resting - just getting away from all the hectic experiences I had undergone. While chatting with her I learned that she had been out driving with her sons near River Edge and they had seen the same, or a similar disk, a few days before we had seen it. She claimed it was early evening when suddenly her oldest son told her to look up. She saw an orange ball, twice as large as a silver dollar and having a darker rim, moving toward New York. They all witnessed it for about four seconds when the light blinked out. Although they continued to look for some time thereafter, it did not reappear to them.

Still later, while speaking to a friend of mine, he mentioned another friend who had seen a disc about 9:30 p.m. July 27th 1952. I contacted the woman and she related how she had just happened to be looking up when she saw a large orange ball of light going overhead toward New York. I did not place too much stock in it then, but when another person, an Auxiliary Policeman, told me he too had seen a large orange ball of light moving toward New York, seeming as large as a silver dollar, on the night of July 27th 1952 at about 9:30 p.m., it set me to thinking. These people were not acquainted; although they lived five blocks apart; and yet, each claimed to have seen the same thing, at the same time!

On July 31st 1952, my sister, with whom I reside, told me that she, her husband, and her friend were driving in the vicinity of Palisades Amusement Park about 8:45 PM, when she spotted an orange ball in the sky. Jokingly she exclaimed: "Oh, look, a flying saucer". It faded out about six seconds later in a cone-shaped manner similar to fireworks displays. When she arrived at home about 11:30 p.m. she called the New York Daily News to find out whether they had received any other reports. They confirmed her suspicions; stating they had four reports from different vicinities for the same time and all were sighted over the same area.

A definite description of how the UFO that I photographed appeared to me and my reaction to it is necessary here. It appeared to me to be clearly circular in shape and its apparent diameter was slightly smaller than a ten cent piece held at arm's length. Through my binoculars it approximated the size of a half-dollar. It had depth - about the best way to describe it is to visualize two half-dollars held together at an arm's length and turned slightly to see the edge. The rim appeared to be comparatively as thick. The whole disc was flat and resembled identically the two half dollars. It appeared to be anywhere from 50 to 100 feet in diameter. A plane in the same area would appear to be about the same size, including wingspread.

When I first saw the disc, the outer rim, top, and a small part of the inner surface of the rim, was a brownish color. The inner part of the disc was a bright orange color with a dot in the exact center. This dot was similar in color to the brownish rim. It was like looking at a small moon with a rim around it and seemed just as bright. The whole object was glowing and flickering. Through the 9x35 binoculars it could be clearly seen that the rim was spinning in a counter-clockwise direction. As the disc moved, the outer rim began to change color to a reddish brown; and the dot in the center of it changed color along with the rim while the center became a lighter orange color. I noticed that while the rim was spinning there was less flickering. When the thing fi-

nally departed, the color changed again somewhat - the rim and dot in the center now becoming a glowing red, and the orange color in the center becoming more pale. As it left, it turned so that the outer edge was facing us; and I could see the thickness of it very clearly. During the three to five minutes that the disc was visible, it was 'standing on edge' in the sky. I saw light only on one side and on the rim. I never saw the opposite side of the disc for it never was turned toward me.

While watching it, I had an odd feeling in the pit of my stomach that here was some thing everyone was searching the sky for and I had a 'box seat'. I had seen very many planes while serving as a spotter but this machine put them all to shame. It made no sound, yet appeared powerful and deadly; if it chose to be; although it appeared to be 'just observing'.

Should anyone question how I claim to be able to see all the detail in something as small as a ten cent or fifty cent piece, the answer is quite simple. Just take two coins of either size, hold them out at arm's length, and with fairly normal eyesight, you too can see more detail than you ever thought possible.

Professor Donald H. Menzel, author of the book Flying Saucers, speaks of this case in his book. He inadvertently explained it away as "a searchlight beam from the Times Square in New York City, shining on a cloud". His friend, Dr. Vincent Schaefer, of the General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York, made this very brilliant deduction, and related it to Dr. Menzel in this manner:

"One evening after dark, while along the salt marshes in New Jersey opposite New York, I glanced at the sky and saw a white disc moving at high speed in a southeasterly direction. As I watched intently, another one appeared and then vanished. The air was unusually clear at the time, and it was not until I got into a position to see the city that I found the explanation - a layer of thin stratus cloud was momentarily illuminated by a high-powered searchlight which was being swung rapidly in a rather erratic manner from some theatre or other advertising activity around Forty-Second St. The clear air failed to show the blue scattering commonly associated with such light, except in the region close to the source. The next morning the New York papers headlined: 'Flying Saucers Sun In Jersey'."

I should like to thank Dr. Schaefer for his report that the air was 'unusually clear' on that night, because this proves our visibility was exceptionally good. Because these men have big names and good backgrounds to back them up, the average person will be more favorably disposed toward them. I should also like to point out to these learned gentlemen that I have the radar reports of this case, and have known of the searchlight beam for years. I should like to see either of them place a searchlight beam in the same position where Conger, Leyden and I saw the disc. To other readers of Dr. Menzel's books I wonder if he explained away many other cases in such an erroneous fashion. If such is the case, then Dr. Menzel is not the type of scientist to be relied upon! Explanations, such as in my case, without bothering to even check with either the Civilian Defense in Jersey City or me; leave a big question in my mind about all the other 'explanations' in his books. Did he do the same with them? How can he explain the fact that when the photos are printed very lightly, the rim of the disc I photographed shows up as a darker color than the background? If you photographed something red against a dark sky both items will appear black on a black-&-white film. The only difference will be the shade of black on the print. If it is made too dark both color shades will blend together; yet if made very lightly both shades will stand out despite the fact that the print will look 'washed out', and not fit for reproduction in a magazine, book, etc.

One of the most important factors in this 'flying saucer' mystery is having photos

published in the same manner they were photographed. Many of the pictures from my files which have been used for books, magazines, newspapers, etc., have been incorrectly used for some reason or other. This will become understandable more as other cases unfold. A story was sent along with almost every photograph and it was very clearly stated as to just what the photos show, how the photos were made; as well as by whom. In many instances the photographic explanation is ignored, and the author uses his own version - all too often misleading and imaginative!

This event on the Skywatch Tower started me on the road to put in almost all of my spare time and money into UFO research. What manner of proof do you need that flying saucers DO exist? In this case alone you have practically everything that could be asked for! The UFO was sighted by three people on the Skywatch Tower - it was reported by another lookout tower - the sighting was phoned directly to the filter center - the center confirmed that they had it on radar - two photographs were taken - hundreds of people phoned the police and the newspapers! Must you thrust your hand into the saucer cockpit before you will admit that it is there? Reports have come from all over the world and in Washington, D.C. the UFOs were SEEN and CHASED over the CAPITAL building, the very same week that I took the photos!! IF, it was not a SAUCER that we three saw, reported and photographed; then what was IT? Is it something that our government - or, another government has developed? If it were, would we be testing such a vehicle over crowded cities, commercial air lanes, and still be spending millions of dollars to get to the moon with clumsy rockets that are so obviously outclassed by the UFO? Would we test this vehicle over every other country on earth; thereby risking the possibility of a malfunction over foreign air space and the resultant loss of vital intelligence data concerning its operation?

Can it be possible that people from other planets are really visiting us... as has been reported many times in 'contact' stories? I have always found it difficult to buy the contact stories, but I do feel that they have merit and are of sufficient interest to be told to the world. Time alone will prove their ultimate worth and value. The motivating factor and factors behind the flying saucer manifestation is as yet unknown but as time progresses someone, somewhere, someday and somehow, will learn just what is behind this phenomenon. When this is accomplished, we in UFO RESEARCH will be free to relax our minds. For the present however, the mystery has us fast in its grip, and that grip shall not be released until a solution is found.



RADAR SPECIALISTS J. M. Copeland (left) and James Ritchey man the radar-scope at Washington, D. C.'s National Airport on which they saw unidentified flying objects.

Special announcement



PROBE MAGAZINE is pleased to announce that Joseph L. FERRIERE, Managing Editor, is now available for lectures, radio and TV appearances.

If you are interested in a **FACTUAL** presentation of the Flying Saucer Mystery, and in seeing actual motion picture film and photos of UFOs,

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SEVENTY TWO HOURS OF HELL

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the Spring-1967 issue of Probe, an advertisement appeared, announcing the publication of the Skywatch Tower Case. In that advertisement, the following question was asked - "Why was I held for 72 hours by the FBI?" It has since been determined that Roberts was not held by the FBI as stated previously. However, he was held and grilled for 72 hours in the offices of a newspaper, and a police station, and one of the men interrogating him was an FBI man! Your editor takes full responsibility for having misinterpreted the incident and hereby apologizes in having unintentionally misled the reader. The mistake was discovered too-late to rectify the situation, as the Spring issue was on the presses and rolling. - However, the foregoing account is correct and, I am sure you will agree, fascinating, in itself! We cannot help but wonder why a photograph of a "searchlight beam", as Dr. Menzel would have us believe, created such a fantastic uproar and placed Mr. Roberts in the midst of boiling controversy! - J. L. Ferriere

The point that the photographs taken on July 28th 1952, were of tremendous interest and of the utmost importance, cannot be over-emphasized. Flying Saucers had been seen in ever-increasing numbers along the eastern seaboard; but this was the very first time that someone had 'snapped' a UFO cavorting over the eastern seaboard; and right over the heart of New York at that!

As stated in the preceding chapter, Roberts had left the tower after taking the photos and had gone to get some rest, asking Jim Leyden to give him a phone call, and warn him, should the Air Force decide to pay an un-announced visit. Roberts had been in bed but a few minutes when Leyden's call came through, and Roberts hurriedly made some extra prints before anyone arrived. In about ten minutes, there was a sharp rap on the door and Roberts went to answer it. Upon opening the door he was a bit surprised to see, not Air Force Officers as he had expected, but two policemen from the local precinct. One of the policemen asked: "Your name Roberts?", to which Augie replied affirmatively. "Get the film and come with us". Roberts asked what was going on? - what film? but was told to "never mind what's going on". They told him to get the film of the photos he had taken and Roberts explained that the film was downstairs and that it was still wet. The two policemen didn't care if it was wet or not, "just get it and come with us!"

By this time a crowd of curiosity seekers had gathered around the police car outside of Augie's home and the crowd began to buzz when they saw Roberts being escorted from his home, one policeman at each side, the wet film dripping on the sidewalk, as Roberts held it in his hand. "Believe me, it certainly didn't look very good. I'm sure the crowd thought that I was under arrest, and when they saw the film, I can well imagine what they thought I was being arrested for!"

Once inside the car, he was driven down to the main police station where Inspector Foley was waiting to see the film. Roberts was told that the film would be well taken care of and that the police wanted their Chief Photographer to inspect the film. A bit later Roberts heard the Chief Photographer tell the Inspector that the film was not faked, and that there was indeed a true image in the sky, on the film. Roberts then underwent a series of interrogations. For hours different officers would badger him with question after question, making him repeat the details of the incident over and over again.

Finally, after hours of this, Roberts was told by the Inspector that the pictures would be printed and published in the newspapers. At this time Inspector Foley told Roberts - "If I ever thought for one moment that these pictures were faked, I would have you locked up!" That statement was, of course, a bit presumptuous as there is no law against photographing UFOs, nor is there a law against faking pictures for that matter. The real point that the Inspector was trying to make, albeit a bit harshly, was that he was putting his seal of approval on the photos and his reputation was going on the line. It would not go well with Roberts if the Inspector later discovered he had been duped. Roberts assured him that the photos were definitely authentic and was then allowed to leave. He went to the tower and soon discovered that his 'leave' was to be short-lived.

While he was on the tower, Roberts received a call from the Jersey Journal, asking him to take a few pictures of the area where he had photographed the UFO, and bring them down to the newspaper office. Roberts, promptly doing so, arrived at the offices of the Jersey Journal and soon found that he was unable to leave. Various excuses for keeping him there were employed; prints had to be made, the original film (which the Journal had obtained from the police) had to be re-checked, etc. All this time, Jim Green, a reporter for the Journal was making phone calls, checking out Augie's story. He called everyone involved and even spoke to a two-star general at the air base who confirmed to Green that the UFO had been tracked on radar. Roberts was being pleyed with questions again, and what was really happening was that the Journal had an exclusive on the story and they were detaining Roberts until the presses began to roll. A call was placed from the Journal to the Air Force and they announced that they would be down shortly for the original film. Roberts agreed to turn over the film to the Air Force, and finally, at 11:00 a.m. he was told he could leave. He was worn out and tired. It had now been about twenty-four hours since he had slept or had a good meal. He went home and managed to catch a few winks before his phone rang again that afternoon and he was requested to visit the police station again, this time to be questioned by detectives. This was the session that broke the camel's back.

For virtually 48 hours Roberts was cross-examined by detectives and by various Air Force personnel. The station was swarming with reporters and photographers and Roberts wasn't given a moments rest. "For a combined total of three days my life was a virtual hell. They just wouldn't let me alone. What did you see? - How is it possible? - what do you think it was? etc., etc. They just never shut up! I was so worn out and beat that I had to spend the rest of the week resting up at my sister's home. I was questioned, badgered, threatened, laughed at and insulted. In the end they accepted my story, but what a price I paid! I hope I never go through that again. For 72 hours, I resided in a living hell!"

THE STRANGE VISITOR

The day the Skywatch Tower sighting hit the front pages of the Jersey newspapers, a telephone call was put through from Massachusetts Institute of Technology to August C. Roberts. Roberts was not in at the time but his sister, Mrs. H. B. Conroy, took the call.

The caller, a man, told her that he wanted to see Roberts; that it was of vital importance that a meeting be arranged. She was so taken by the importance that the caller attached to his meeting her brother that she made an appointment for Roberts to see him next day.

The following day, at the pre-arranged time, Roberts was at work in his dark-room, making extra prints, when a man, representing himself as the man who had called the previous day, arrived and was admitted by Mrs. Conroy.

Roberts left the dark-room, which was situated in the basement, taking with him a 'blotter' (a book-type affair used to dry prints) with the still-wet prints inside and met the man, whereupon both men went upstairs where Augie's room was situated.

Roberts asked the man what kind of help he needed, when the man replied that he wanted to hear the entire sighting related in detail. The man was of a very positive nature and also wanted to see any and all other UFO information Roberts had. Roberts complied on both counts. Of his first impression, Roberts says..."I had the impression that he was waiting for me to tell him something that I shouldn't know." The man appeared relieved that Roberts could not produce what he had actually expected him to. The reader can best understand the impression related above by comparing it to the feeling one undergoes when he anticipates a positively accurate answer to a question he has put forth, that, for reasons known only to himself, he doesn't want to hear. Above all, he seemed especially relieved that the photographs were not better than they actually were.

The man then requested a copy of the second of the two photos taken by Roberts, and asked if he might purchase one. He expressed dis-interest in photo No. 1, stating that "The other will be sufficient for my need."

Roberts was not moved to sell the photo, but, when he saw how badly the man wanted it, he agreed to sell him a print, explaining that the wet prints were all he had on hand.

Prices were discussed and Roberts explained that his usual price for an 8 by 10 print (Roberts also does commercial photography) was five dollars, but, that because he did not really want to sell this particular print, and because it had a special value to him, ten dollars would be reasonable price. The man found this perfectly acceptable, reached into his pocket and pulled out a 'roll of bills' the likes of which Roberts has never again seen any one man's person. He literally 'peeled off'a

ten dollar bill as though it were nothing more than a worthless piece of paper, and handed it to Roberts, who then handed the man a wet print of photo number two.

The man thanked Roberts and turned towards the door, carrying the print with both hands. Roberts opened the door and the man started to walk out, suddenly stopped and turned, transferring the print to one hand, and with the other hand reached into his shirt pocket and pulled out a small piece of paper. He handed the paper to Roberts and said: "You may find this very interesting", then he turned once more and walked away.

Roberts looked at the slip of paper and saw that it contained a hand-written message that read as follows... "Atli Himalayas, by Nicholas Roerich, page 361-362."

Roberts, his curiosity aroused, attempted to buy the book referred to, but was unsuccessful in finding a copy. In fact he is still seeking to purchase the book. He did, however, find a copy in a local library, and upon checking the designated papers, was amazed to find an intriguing observation of a UFO (described as a silvery oval) by the Roerich party, in the year 1921.

As the man left, Roberts realized that he did not even know his name and started to re-trace his steps down the stairs to find the man. But he was nowhere in sight. (I asked Roberts to describe the stranger. He provided the following description:)

"He was of average height, stocky but solidly constructed. He wore light-colored sports clothes and had dark hair. The extremely intelligent type. He knew exactly what he was doing and at no time did he take any notes. I had no feeling of strangeness or fear, in fact he radiated warmth and friendship of an odd indefinable sort. While I am not the type who will normally go out of his way for a stranger, I did just this for the man, and was glad to do so, since somehow I felt he was entitled to this courtesy. He appeared to be about 30 years of age. After he had gone I realized that I knew absolutely nothing about him, while he knew everything about me."

I asked Roberts if he would or could compare the visitor to any other man that he had seen. He replied in this manner...

"He had military stature in a way, heavy set but appearing to be in excellent physical condition. Of all the people that I have ever met, the closest person that he would resemble physically, is a man that I saw and photographed on Howard Menger's farm in Highbridge, New Jersey, whom, much to my regret, Dr. Frank E. Stranges identifies as VAL-THOR, from the planet VENUS."

A WARNING FROM "THREE MEN IN BLACK"

In 1952 a new civilian UFO research group, The International Flying Saucer Bureau, was founded by Albert K. Bender. Headquarters for the IFSB was in Bender's home town of Bridgeport, Connecticut. The group quickly gained considerable prominence and a Department of Investigation was set up. Gray Barker of Clarksburg, West Virginia was named Chief Investigator and August C. Roberts was appointed Chief Photographer. Other members of the department were: Dominic Lucchesi - Chief Aeronautics Engineer; Lonzo Dove - Chief Astronomer; and Reverend S. L. Daw - Chief Theologian.

All indications were that the IFSB was moving steadily toward an eventual solution of the Flying Saucer Mystery and in the third issue of Space Review, the official publication of the IFSB, August C. Roberts wrote...

"Reading about flying saucers, discs, objects, cartwheels, dimes, fireballs, or any thing else you want to call them is interesting, but without a photographer or other proof to back up the sightings, words are almost worthless. As yet, no one has ever really proven that saucers do exist, so we, as members of the IFSB, should try our best to do so. That saucers are real, we know, but how about proving it to the rest of the world? If we succeed, the IFSB will go down in history. When the reports start coming over the radio and appearing in newspapers close to your home town, get outside, and begin looking for these flying wonders.

One of the first things to do is to get that camera out of mothballs, and have it in readiness for sudden use. As skywatchers for Civil Defense, we are in strategic positions to look for them, since CD has direct phone service from the towers to the Air Force Filter Center, and should any saucers be spotted by any other skywatch post, the Air Force will contact your post to be on the lookout for them. If witnesses are on hand when an object is sighted, the story is more likely to be believed than if only sighted by one person.

A friendly tip to assure a good photograph (if you are lucky enough to spot this phenomenon) is to practise light exposure using the moon as a guide. Most objects seem to be as bright, except their color varies from silver to bright orange, while reports even have them listed under all colors of the rainbow. Their speed, too, has been disputed as from standing motionless to thousands of miles per hour. Regardless of color or speed, aim that camera at it and press that button. If your efforts are not rewarded, do not feel too badly or give up, because the only pictures on record today have been taken this way. Perhaps you may get a clear, sharp, distinct print, which will prove that there are such things as flying saucers."

Roberts sent Al Bender some prints of the 1952 Skywatch Tower photos, along with a series of 'flashbomb' photos (see photo section) that he had taken. Roberts is always very careful about writing down an accompanying explanation of all photos that he sends out by jotting on the back of the print the time, place, location and date of the photo, as well as who took the picture.

Bender forwarded the prints to a book publishing firm in England. This firm, despite precautions taken by Roberts to avoid confusing the pictures, did exactly that! The photos were mixed up (albeit unintentionally) and one of the flashbomb photos was used in the Leslie-Adamski book "Flying Saucers Have Landed". The photo was presented as the July 28th 1952 Skywatch Tower photo and many people have since made the same mistake as regards Roberts' photograph. Some have even gone so far as to call him a liar and faker for having a photo of a 'lens reflection' presented as genuine UFO in this book, when in truth, Roberts had gone to great length to avoid such a mix-up from coming about! Let it now be understood, once and for all, that the error was made in England and that Roberts has never attempted to 'pass off' the flashbomb photo as anything other than an internal lens reflection!

The IFSB was to see publication of only two more issues of Space Review, and the group came to a premature and shocking demise in September of 1953. Al Bender had been visited by three mysterious men dressed in black suits. He had been given the answer to the UFO puzzle and had been forced to close down the IFSB immediately!! These mysterious visitors had sworn him to silence under threats of violence and Al Bender, the once intrepid seeker of truth and knowledge, was now a terribly frightened man who refused to ever discuss flying saucers anymore!

The mystery of exactly what did happen to Albert K. Bender, despite a book that he authored ten years later, is largely considered un-answered even to this day. Roberts, who had become closely associated with Bender, was shocked and simply could not be-

lieve that Bender had been so suddenly and specifically hushed up. In order to perceive the role played by Roberts in attempting to get the truth from Al Bender, we resort to the best available source. Gray Barker authored a book entitled "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers" in which he explored the Bender mystery. Excerpts from his book, one of the best ever published, shall give us a keener insight.

It was through his work with the IFSB that Barker made the acquaintance of Dominic Lucchesi and August Roberts. Of Roberts, Barker said: "It seems that many people must personally see a saucer before they are convinced something unusual is troubling the heavens. It may have been like that with Augie".

In a tape-recorded transcript from "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers", Dominic Lucchesi tells Gray Barker of how he and Roberts attempted to pry the facts from Albert K. Bender...

"It all began when Augie bought a new car last week. I worked on it for him Saturday, making some adjustments they had missed at the sales agency. - The next day being Sunday, Augie said he'd like to try the car out on a long trip, and we decided to drive to Bridgeport and see Al Bender. As you know it's only about 75 or 80 miles, and takes only about two hours to get there; and with the pressure of work as it is now it is quite relaxing to be able to get out of town now and then and enjoy a nice drive on Sunday. So I telephoned Al from my home and asked him if he would be there; and he said he would.

On the way, Augie's car over-heated, probably due to a blocked radiator, and we decided it would be more practical to turn back since the over-heating might easily damage the engine which had not yet been broken in. Augie called Al from his house, to tell him we wouldn't be able to get there. Augie asked Al if there was anything new in 'Saucerology', as he put it.

Al told Augie that the Space Review WOULD come out on October 15, but whether it would come out after that, was something else. Well, Augie was quite persistent, and kept pushing Al for more information. Finally Al stated bluntly: "I know the secret of the discs!"

Augie asked Al if he or I, that is Augie or myself, would be able to find out the same thing that Al had found out by studying what saucer data we had on hand. Al said 'YES', but that he was pledged to secrecy, on his honor as an American citizen not to speak about the actual thing that he knew. In other words, Al told Augie thatHE KNOWS WHAT THE SAUCERS ARE! - and that - THE THREE MEN HAD PLEDGED HIM TO SILENCE!

Augie asked Al if he should continue with his photographs and other methods of research which would assist in the solution of the problem; and Al said for Augie not to waste his time or money delving deeper into the saucer mystery.

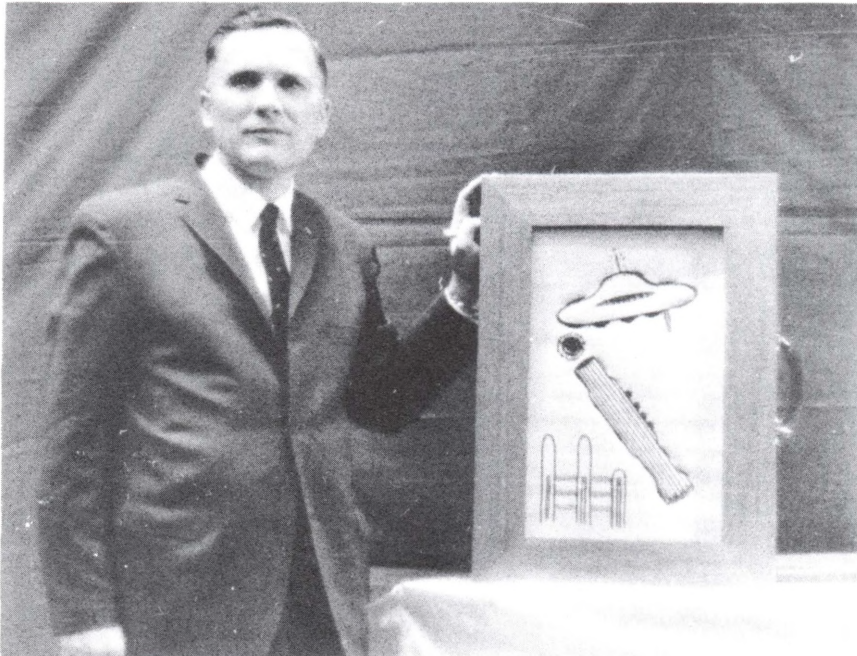
Gray, from Augie's conversation with him, and my own impressions upon hearing his voice during this telephone call, it seems a great change has come over Al. The way Al talked to Augie, it sounded as if something horrible might be going to take place..... "The truth" Al said "is FANTASTIC!"

As I said, I haven't seen Augie since we talked with Al, which means he is in a state of confusion or even fright. Probably he is trying to figure the entire thing out and decide whether or not he should go ahead trying to find a solution. The way Augie quoted Al, he said: "I went into the fantastic and came up with the answer."

Barker then called Roberts and induced Augie and Dominic to visit Bender, taking down notes of anything Bender may say that might appear to have significance. This was to be accomplished by Augie telling Bender that he had taken a laxative, thereby af-



Albert K. Bender was silenced by "THREE MEN IN BLACK"



Albert K. Bender lectures to a group in New York.

fording Augie to make numerous trips to the 'john', where he would write down Bender's remarks without Bender's knowledge.

Roberts managed to note an interesting series of questions and answers and we re-print them here, drawing once more from Barker's book, "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers".

- Q. When did the three men visit you? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Who were the men? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Were they from the government? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Do saucers come from space? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Are the saucers real? Are they made of something solid? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Does it have anything to do with the space program? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Can you tell me where you found your source of information?
A. I was turning a theory over and over in my mind. When I got some actual names and places to back it up I submitted it to someone. Then the men came.
- Q. Who was that 'someone' you mentioned? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Does it have anything at all to do with the Shaver Mystery?
A. No answer at all. (Bender tensed noticeably when asked)
- Q. Is the flying saucer going to be a help to the world?
A. It's going to be both good and bad.
- Q. Are saucers going to harm us in any way? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. What do you think of Shaver? Is there anything to his stories?
A. No answer. Bender changed the subject.
- Q. Do you think it will be safe for me to go on the skywatch tower all alone at night?
A. It would be safer. (Roberts believes Bender probably meant to say it would be safer on the tower than it would be on the ground)
- Q. Are all of us who trying to find out what the saucers are about going to get into trouble over it? A. I don't believe so.
- Q. Will Gray, Dom and I get into trouble over what you found out? Did we have anything to do with giving you a clue? A. No, to both questions.
- Q. Does the government know about saucers?
A. They have known what they are for two years.
- Q. Will they tell people what they are?
A. It has got to the point where they will have to.
- Q. When will the government tell the people about the saucers?
A. If not within five months from now, not for about four years.
- Q. Is it going to be frightening to a lot of people?
A. If people like you and me have and idea what saucers are, and expect something unusual and fantastic, think whar will happen when it is suddenly told to people who are totally un-prepared.
- Q. Do we have any defense for it? A. No.
- Q. Can we stop what is going to happen?
A. Just as the three men who paid me a visit were leaving, one of them lingered for a moment and said: "In our government we have the smartest men in the country. They can't find a defense for it. How can YOU do anything about it?"
- Q. In that case I'll buy myself a good gun. A. That won't help you much.
- Q. Can it be stopped by a bullet? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Why can't you talk freely about this thing?
A. Just before the men left one of them said: "I suppose you know you're on your honor as an American. If I hear another word out of your office you're in trouble!"
- Q. What will they do with you if you give out information?
A. Put me in jail and keep me shut up.

- Q. Would they put ME in jail if I found out and told? A. Yes.
- Q. At home do I have the answer as to what the saucers are?
A. I'm quite sure you do.
- Q. Can you tell me where to look for the answer? A. I can't tell you that.
- Q. How did you find out about it? Can't you tell me just where you got your theory?
A. All I can say is this: "It was something that I was thinking about for a long time. I went into the fantastic and came up with the answer.
- Q. How did the three men find out about your theory?
A. I wrote about it and was going to have it printed. I sent it to a friend of mine and right after that the three men paid me a visit. They had the story with them.
- Q. Were the men friendly with you?
A. They were pretty rough with me. Two men did the talking, and the other kept watching me all the time they were here. He didn't take his eyes off me.
- Q. Did you notice what the men wore?
A. They wore the same type clothes and hats. Dark clothes and black hats.
- Q. Did they make any comments about the size of IFSB?
A. One of them went over to the map on the wall, saw all the pins denoting locations of IFSB representatives, and said: "God, but you're all over the place!"
- Q. What else did they do in your office besides talk?
A. They took the serial numbers of my tape recorders.
- Q. Do they know about Gray, Dom and me?
A. They had all of your addresses and details about you with them with the papers they had in their hands.
- Q. Do the saucers have life in them? A I can't answer that.
- Q. Do the saucers come from Venus as stated in Adamski's book?
A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Do they come from Mars? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. I would like to write a story to sell to a magazine. Can you give me a good subject to write about? (This question was asked in the hope of obtaining some clue)
A. Here is something no one has used before. Suppose there was another world out in space, and there the people were black. What do you think would happen if they came to this planet? Do you think they would help the colored or white people? You know the prejudices that exist here, and if they came to earth, what do you think would happen? It would make a good story, don't you think?
- Q. What will happen to the world when the people find out about the saucers?
A. There are going to be quite a few changes, in all things.
- Q. Will it affect science? A. It is going to put a big dent in it.
- Q. Are you making any long-range plans, say for about five years from now? A. Yes.
- Q. Then the world isn't going to come to an end?
A. No answer. The subject was changed to the ice caps of the South Pole.
- Q. Do you think the world will fall over if the ice keeps accumulating?
A. I don't know.
- Q. Has the South Pole anything to do with the saucers? A. I can't answer that.
- Q. There are only half a dozen things I can think of right now to explain the saucers: "Out of space, something to do with a space platform, some government on earth owns it, Shaver was right, it's in the ocean, it could be a time machine. Or it may very well be that the United States has reached the Moon.
A. You forgot about natural phenomena.
- Q. Do you mean the saucers are life themselves? If so I can't believe that. I saw one last year, and it was a solid aircraft of some kind. A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Why do you delay answering each of my questions for a few seconds?
A. I'm afraid of slipping; if I do I can get into a lot of trouble.

As you can see, something had indeed happened to Albert K. Bender, and August Ro-

berts was never to determine exactly what that something was. But it may be that Augie had unearthed some vital information, for, in September of 1964, eleven years after the 'Bender Incident', Norman Schreiberstein received a visit from three mysterious men DRESSED IN BLACK, who said that they wanted to visit his small observatory in North-eastern Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and get a 'FIX' on the work he was doing. Schreiberstein was involved in UFO research.

Schreiberstein escorted them to the observatory and was surprised to see that they were much more interested in his transistor radio and tape recorder than in the clippings and photos on the walls. He remembers distinctly that the three men took down some information off the nameplate of the tape recorder!

The three men showed interest in only one photograph. The one taken by... August C. Roberts! Schreiberstein recalls one of them saying..."Roberts no good. He had better watch out", in very menacing tones!

A hollow threat from three fictitious men who exist only in the imagination of the observer? I only wish that this were so, but the truth is that August C. Roberts may be in more trouble than he anticipates.

The mysterious 'three men in black' that so many UFO investigators had safely relegated to the 'lunatic fringe' suddenly took on a shocking and definite reality on January 29, 1967, when the following story was featured in newspapers throughout the world. We got our copy of the newspaper story from A.P. Lake in England; and the headlines sent a slight shiver down our collective spines. Here is the newspaper story...

Mystery Men In 'Flying Saucer' Probe

Mysterious men dressed in Air Force uniforms or bearing impressive credentials from Government agencies have been trying to "silence" people who have seen unidentified flying objects (U.F.O.s or Flying Saucers).

This was confirmed today by Col. George Freeman, the Pentagon spokesman for Project Bluebook, an Air Force scheme to investigate all UFO reports.

A team of scientists will try to determine, once and for all, whether "flying saucers" are myth or reality.

The sudden appearance of unidentified people apparently trying to suppress information is an added mystery. "These men are not connected with the Air Force", said Col. Freeman.

He cited one case in which police officers and other witnesses at sightings in New Jersey were said to have been told by a man in Air Force uniform that they "hadn't seen anything" and should not discuss the incident.

"We checked with the local Air Force base", Col. Freeman said, "and discovered that no one connected with the Air Force had visited the area on that date."

Another man, bearing credentials from the North American Air Defense, saw Mr. Rex Heflin, who had taken a series of pictures in California in 1965, and demanded the originals.

Later, the defence body denied having anything to do with the incident. The photographs have never been returned.

In February, 1960, Mr. Joe Perry, a restaurant owner in Grand Blanc, Michigan, took a similar set of pictures and was soon visited by two men posing as FBI agents. They seized a photograph of a dome-shaped object with a green tail.

More recently, a man claiming to represent "a government agency so secret that he couldn't give its name" questioned two boys at a school in Norwalk, Connecticut, about a disc-shaped object they said had pursued them last year. "We haven't been able to find out anything about these men," Col. Freeman admitted. "We would sure like to catch one."

Eerie aerial objects, strange visits from "mysterious men", people frightened into silence, and an ominous threat that August C. Roberts "had better watch out."

Imagination? - Hoax? - Delusion? - Maybe so. But all the same, a threat has been issued, and we know one man who isn't laughing. - And how about you dear reader? Have YOU seen a flying saucer...?

THE AIR FORCE SNAFU

An official report of the July 28th 1952 Skywatch Tower case was filed with the US Air Force within days. The original prints of the UFO were picked up by A.F. personel, and the officials at Project Bluebook admitted to the press that they could not explain the object photographed by Roberts.

Newspaper headlines blared forth the amazing story of the first AUTHENTIC photo of "flying saucer" over the eastern seaboard, and, with the saucers having cavorted over Washington, D.C. during the same month, the public was up in arms as they pondered the mysterious sky objects.

The Skywatch Tower sighting, a case that appeared to be one of the most "solid" cases for UFO reality, began to take on mysterious aspects almost immediately. For example, while Jim Leyden was on the telephone hookup to the filter center, both he and Roberts had heard a two-star General admit flatly, "Yes, we have it on radar." Yet when the Air Force was questioned by the press, they stated that they did not pick up the UFO on radar!

Also, the observer on the tower reported that after they had phoned in the report, several planes had appeared in the same area, apparently looking for the UFO, which had since vanished. Once again when questioned about this, authorities at Stewart Air Force Base said that they did not send any planes up to intercept because "the information we got was too sketchy for air defense action."

I asked Roberts about these apparent contradictions and he replied, "Joe, in all the years that I have been involved in this field, I have written and said many things. Look back through the years and point out to me where I have ever once told a lie! Both Jim Leyden and myself heard a two-star General, I can't remember his name, state very emphatically, "Yes, we have it on radar". I don't give a damn what the "authorities" told the press. That thing was a MACHINE and they DID HAVE IT ON RADAR! They say they didn't send up any planes because the information was too "sketchy". Well that is not only a lie, it is stupid and ridiculous! Our job, Joe, was to protect the eastern seaboard from any possible invasion by a foreign power! Do you really believe that the Air Force, knowing that there was an object hovering over New York that did not in any way identify itself or comply to FAA standards, would sit back and do absolutely nothing about it? What is "sketchy" information I ask you? The thing was seen visually by the three of us and was also reported from Plainfield and Tarrytown. Photographs were taken and the UFO's presence was confirmed by direct line to the Air Force Filter

Center! I told you that planes were seen in the area as soon as the object left, and those planes had to come from somewhere!"

I have checked out August C. Roberts' past records and I have worked very closely with him over the last three years. I have yet to find one single case where he has "lied" or attempted to mislead the public. I am finally convinced that his truthfulness and honesty remain unblemished.

On the other hand, I have also checked out past performances by the Air force personnel who have been in charge of handling UFO information and public information, and, found that their collective honesty and integrity leave much to be desired.

It is not outside the realm of possibility that the early contradictory reports by the Air Force were aimed at confusing the details of a very solid UFO observation, thereby relegating the sighting, which had gained national attention, to a somewhat "questionable" category in the public eye, a tactic most effective in eliminating embarrassing questions!

Indeed, after the initial outburst of publicity, the case very quickly slithered into the background, and became virtually forgotten. The case was overlooked by many authors who entered the field of UFO investigation and the Air Force personnel at Project Bluebook maintained a discreet silence, lest some inquisitive researcher reopen Pandora's box. But even the "Brass Curtain" has a few tiny holes in it, and in September of 1964, a man by the name of Hayden C. Hewes, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, managed to stick a finger through one of those tiny, remote holes.

Hewes wrote to Wright Patterson Air Force Base - Project Bluebook Headquarters, for an analysis of the July 28th 1952 Skywatch Tower photos, and when he got his reply, Pandora laughed, laughed hysterically at the new-found freedom of her horrendous pets. For there, in black and white, and right from the "horse's mouth" was the indisputable evidence that the "experts" had either intentionally (such a disgusting thought) or accidentally, mixed up the photographs, and were, in effect, studying and releasing information on, the right sighting, but the WRONG PHOTOS!

Hewes immediately sent the photographic analysis to Roberts. Roberts was amazed! How could they have made such an obvious error? Any child, upon receiving the original report with the original prints, could tell the difference; but apparently a team of expert investigators could not! This was what we had been waiting for. Roberts sent the analysis along to me, copies were made, and a copy of the photographic analysis, as it was sent out, is reproduced here! (see copy on next page)

Let us analyze this "analysis", if we may be so bold. Please, note the "date" next and to the right of the "location". The July 28, 1952, dating makes it clear that the analysis refers to the Skywatch Tower sighting. The first indication of a foul-up is found in the statement: "The image as viewed in the upper right quadrant of the photo!"

On the July 28, 1952, negative the image is in the upper LEFT quadrant! "Reflected light intensity from the object suggests a close proximity to the centrally located light source". On the July, 1952, photo there is no "centrally located light source!" But the key phrase is, "Resolution and degree of image acuity of the object falls between the front telegraph pole and back telegraph pole implying a position somewhere between the two telegraph poles."

There are no "poles" of any kind whatsoever on the skywatch tower photo of July 28, 1952! The analysis is a direct reference to the "FLASHBOMB" photo, taken on June 6th, 1949!

For the benefit of the "experts" and for anyone else who may undertake active re-

PHOTO ANALYSIS REPORT mr 64-49

Date of report 9 Sept. 1964

Subject UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Location NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Date 28 July 1952

PHOTOGRAPHY

AF _____ IR _____ QUALITY Fair

P HRS _____

1. PURPOSE: This photo analysis report is in answer to WO # 64-62 submitted by D.N. Moody, TDEW. The image as viewed in the upper right quadrant of the photo appears to be a bright hemispherical object. However, the overall reflective characteristics imply that the object is probably spherical.

2. ANALYSIS: Reflected light intensity from the object suggests a close proximity to the centrally located light source. Shadow and reflected light distributed on the object suggests a location slightly in front of the illumination source. Resolution and degree of image acuity of the object falls between the front telegraph pole and back telephone pole implying a position somewhere between the two telegraph poles. Estimating the cross arms of the telegraph poles to be 5 feet in length the object would be approximately 3 feet in diameter.

3. From the above evaluation and associated imagery the object appears to have a terrestrial source and is a sphere suspended in the air such as a gas-filled balloon.

PHOTO ANALYSIS BY:

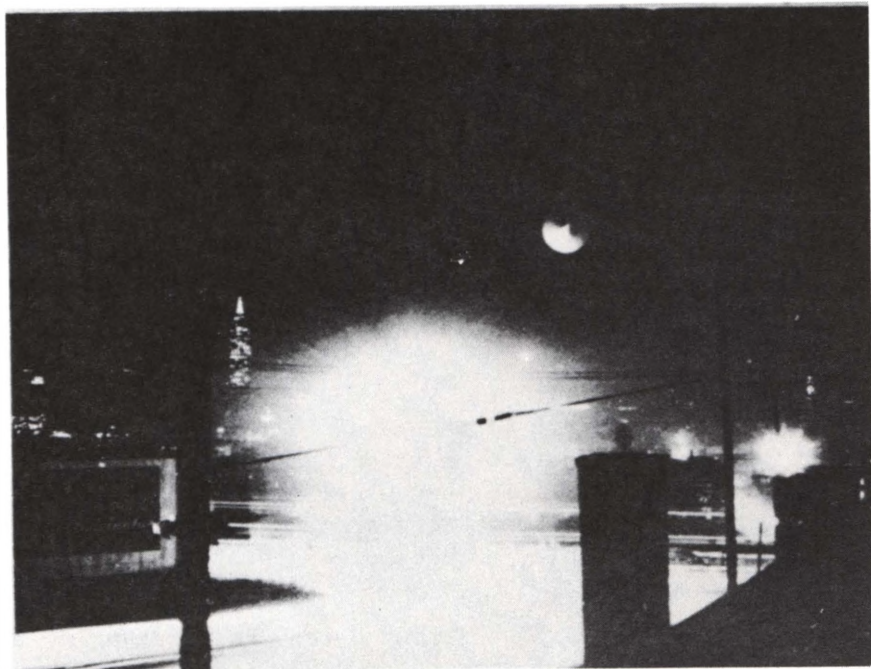
APPROVED BY:

signed
RICHARD C. JACOBS
INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH SPECIALIST

signed
WILLIAM L. TURNER
Captain, USAF
Chief, Photo Analysis Division

signed
WILBER PRICE, JR.
Director, Photo Exploitation
Directprate

search in this field, we print both photos, on a single page, with a clear and concise description of each. The fact that the Air Force has unfortunately confused the photos leads one to wonder just how many other cases had been "mixed up" in a similar manner. I firmly believe that, regardless of the lucid explanation as to the difference between the 1949 and 1952 photos, some misguided individual will see fit to continue confusing this particular incident. "What fools are we who cannot see the forest for the trees!"



"FLASHBOMB" PHOTO.
June 6th 1949.



The second photo of UFO
July 28th 1952.
(Light at right is Metro-
politan Life Building)

MEN, SAUCERS AND WORDS

by AUGUST C. ROBERTS

Ninety-five percent of all alleged UFO and so-called flying saucer photographs to date are, in my personal opinion, direct and deliberate fakes! The test of time has proven over and over again the truth of this statement; and it will continue to do so in the years that lie before us.

Statements of this nature, because they are true, have been largely ignored or deliberately misinterpreted by those who have sought to exploit the flying saucer phenomenon rather than explore it objectively for the sake of pure knowledge.

For over twenty years I have attempted to point out facts regarding saucers, from a photographic point of view. But many of those who were in a position to convey these truths to the general public, have, for reasons best known only to themselves, chosen to do otherwise. Their thoughts appear to be, "how much money can I make from this subject."

Unless truth can be made to pay off for them, it is valueless in their eyes. These people are not only magazine editors, book publishers, newspaper reporters and radio or TV personalities. They come from all walks of life. Because I would not agree to compromise my ideals and distort the truth to comply with their standards, I have been called some rather filthy names by people who display a public image of kindness and friendliness.

Many have taken my truths and changed them to fit their own needs. As an example, I received a phone call from a writer by the name of Tom Tide. He explained to me that he was writing for the wire services and that all of my friends in this field had agreed to work with him and had given him my address and phone number.

Because he was in a hurry to beat a deadline, he asked if I would be willing to give him all the information he needed over the telephone. I did not feel that the request was out of order, but I stressed to him that I did not want anything but the truth printed and that a copy of what he was writing be sent to me before it was put into print. He gave me his "word of honor" that he would do this and so I proceeded to answer all of his questions. I explained the skywatch tower case as well as other cases that I had worked on, ending with a complete account of the Wanaque Reservoir sightings.

This man did not fulfill a single promise that he made to me, and when friends all over the world began sending me clippings of his article, I was shocked to learn that he had printed many untruths and distortions, and in such a manner so as to make it appear that it was I who was telling these lies! He mixed up the skywatch tower case and the Wanaque story, putting them together to read like a science-fiction story. This caused me much trouble, as many people called and wrote asking me to explain what happened. I have since tried many times to make contact with Tom Tide, but as yet have not been able to locate him. When I do, I plan to make life a little more interesting for him! I would urge all who are interested in this UFO mystery to be very careful in your dealings with this man, should he contact you for information.

Because I do not have the time or space in this wonderful little magazine to say all that has accumulated over the years, let me just tell the reader a number of

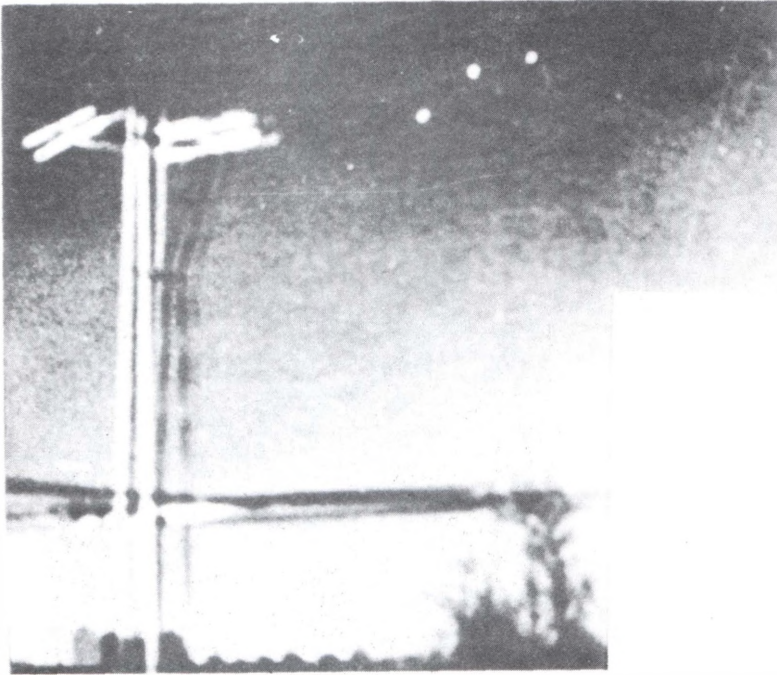


Photo from the files of A. Roberts.
No information available.



Photo from the files of A. Roberts.
No information available.

Could this be one of the 95% of photos
that Roberts feels are deliberate fakes?

Photo from the files of A. Roberts. No further information available.

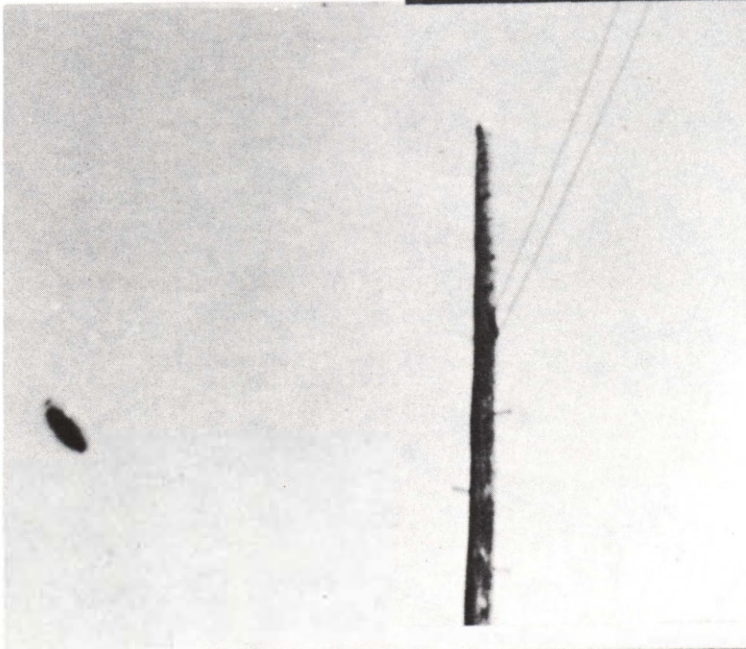
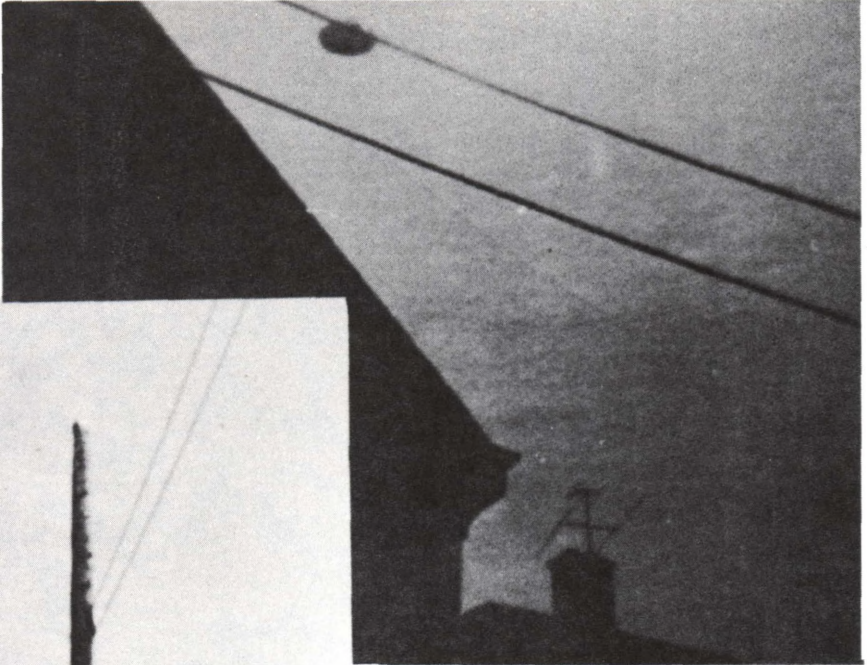


Photo submitted by A. Roberts. No further information given.



Photo taken by LIFE Magazine Staff Photographer, submitted by A. Roberts. UFO over New York, the night of the East-coast: "BLACKOUT" Nov. 9th '65.

things that have bothered me regarding this subject.

Had I not seen that object from the Skywatch Tower in 1952, I, today would not believe anything regarding flying saucers. There are a number of undesirable elements in the UFO field today that we did not have in the old days, when the mystery was in its infancy.

Youngsters did not send up polyester bags filled with hot air and lighted by candles simply to try and fool the public. I have watched in disgust the leaders of a group called T.I.C.A.P. (Technical Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena) on the Wanaque Dam last year, trying to fake UFO photos with a polaroid camera! This was being done at night and they had no idea they were being observed.

I have seen young boys make kites that looked like saucers, and when sent up very high, would look like a very strange object in the sky. I have also read in the newspapers, the following day, that many people saw the "kites" and reported them as flying saucers. When I contacted the newspapers and attempted to explain that I knew what the objects were, the editors were not in the least interested in printing the truth regarding these sightings.

Because I have been connected with men like Albert K. Bender, Gray Barker and James Moselet, as well as others, many groups who feel that these men might not be telling the truth, automatically regarded me as a liar by association!

As an example, many members of NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) feel this way. Practically every NICAP member that I have talked to tells me that he has not read They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers, nor does he have any intention of doing so. Much of the story that appears in Gray Barker's book, is information that I had gathered along with my very good friend Dominic Lucchesi. This information was straight and honest, and we gathered it first hand! It has always been a source of amazement to me how NICAP people could know so much about all the "lies" in Gray Barker's book, without ever having taken the trouble to read the book!

NICAP likes to refer to itself as a "scientific" investigating committee. I have always been under the impression that truly scientific investigators leave no stone unturned when investigating a scientific problem!

Another important point concerning the NICAP leaders. A number of times over the years, I have offered the NICAP leaders all of the information and photographs in my files. I offered to make this available to them at my own cost, and at all times, I have been turned down!

Can it possibly be that with all of the thousands of feet of recorded tape interviews, all of the years I have put into gathering information, not one case or photo or one bit of information has any value, any truth, that might have helped them in their "search for an end to the UFO mystery?"

Donald E. Keyhoe is a person that I have never worked with, though I have worked with all the other well-known researchers at one time or another, but this was his choice and not mine. He has done a great job in this work, but his name too recalls a sore spot in my memory.

It goes back to one day when Keyhoe was speaking to a group in New York City. I asked him, at that time, if he would put his autograph in a special book that I had, and which contained the autographs of many of the people who were working on the saucer mystery.

This autographed book was very special to me, because it was one that my niece, Judith Ann Conroy owned, and she had been collecting autographs for years. The book

had some of the biggest names in the field in it.

Major Donald E. Keyhoe refused to sign this book and stated that if I wanted HIS autograph, I would have to present him one of his books! I told him that I already owned all of the books he had written and explained to him that the autograph was not for myself but for a little girl who thought a lot of his work. But it was to no avail - HE would not do so.

It is certainly true that he had every right to refuse my request. But ever since that day, I have wondered just how big and how important this Major Keyhoe was, that he would refuse a little girl such a simple request. Judith Ann Conroy has autographs from movie stars and many important people, from this country and others as well. Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe is the one and only person who has ever refused her an autograph.

The leaders of NICAP have claimed that Dr. Frank E. Stranges is a liar and a cheat! This may be true, but I will stick to my own beliefs until such time as he does something to me personally to make me change my mind. But as for the leaders of NICAP, it is a different story. They are in a position that has enabled them to obtain knowledge regarding this man that I could never obtain.

If this Dr. Stranges is such a liar and a cheat, and if he is hoodwinking the public with the "lies" in his books and the showing of his movie "Phenomena 7.7", then why don't they who are in power put him where he belongs; behind bars; and stop his "fraudulent claims" from reaching the public ear? Why is it that one of NICAP's strongest supporters assisted Dr. Stranges in the production of "Phenomena 7.7"?

As for Mr. Richard Hall... here is a gentleman who many have heard much about. Some of it good, and, a lot of it bad. As for myself, I do not know him and have never met him, nor do I ever wish to. As far as I am concerned Richard Hall is not entirely useless... he can still serve as a horrible example.

So much for NICAP. Except perhaps for my own interpretation of what the letters NICAP really stand for: Neurotic Ignoramuses Confusing All people. - Now for my thoughts concerning some of the other people in this field of research...

ALBERT K. BENDER - To me, Al Bender's story is not yet a closed case and time shall be the judge of its validity. As far as I am concerned Albert K. Bender was one of the greatest men ever to work on this so-called flying saucer mystery. If he were to start another group tomorrow, in the same manner that he did fifteen years ago, I would march right along with him and be proud to do so!

GRAY BARKER - Gray Barker is a big man, well over six feet in height. But, while he is a big man in size, he is a bigger man yet in quality. He is that rare type of person who, regardless of what he accomplishes or the manner in which he does so, you can always respect for being a commodity rare on the common market today - a true friend.

JAMES W. MOSELEY - Jim Moseley, on the other hand, is everything that Al Bender and Gray Barker were not. He has never been what could be called a friend, and at times many of the things that he has done has been, in my opinion, questionable. But with all of his faults, he still is one of the big men in the saucer field and a person can work with him after a fashion. He may be wrong in a number of things that he does, but while I may not agree with him, I will fight for his right to disagree with anyone. He has played an important part in this mystery as the publisher and editor of Saucer News. The voice of Saucer News may be a little cracked at times, but at least it is still out there shouting, and making a number of the general public aware that something does exist in our skies.

HAYDEN C. HEWES - Once the director of the I.I.O.U.F.O. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,

was respected by many persons in the saucer field. I too, had that respect for this man. I was sorry to hear that he had to disband his group last year, but it came about as the result of a personal problem, and not because of any "three men in black". Hayden's problems were of a marital nature and should serve to show the future directors of any groups that more time must be spent looking at the marriage mate than looking into the skies. Appreciate the love and needs of your partner. Do not spend all of your time searching for a mysterious "something" that is not real in the eyes of many. When the I.I.O.U.F.O. disbanded, everyone who was connected with it lost in many ways. I, for one, lost a friend...or so it appears, for Hayden has never written me since. I also lost almost a year's work in time, money, tapes and hundreds of photographs, regarding the Wanaque Reservoir story. All of this material I sent to Hayden was to be used in a book that he was to publish. This material is now missing, and much of the facts regarding the Wanaque story, are gone forever, and the public has lost the benefit of this knowledge. As I understand it, not only is my story and material missing, but the hard works of a number of other people as well, who had the same type of thing happen to them.

Dr. FRANK E. STRANGES- This is a man whom I met a number of years ago. He impressed me so much at our first meeting that I gave him about forty pounds of saucer material... photos, magazines, stories, tapes, etc. Two years later I received from him a request to print some of this material in a book. I agreed to this and when his book was finally in my hands, I found that he had done everything that I had requested him to do concerning my contribution to the book. He gave the information in his book called "Flying Saucerama" just as I gave it to him to use. Many people have claimed that this man is nothing more than a crook and a cheat, hiding his dirty work under the cloak of being a minister of God. As I said before, they cannot prove their contention by me. - A number of years later I was sent another book by Dr. Stranges, this one dealing with a man called Val-Thor, from the planet Venus. The book is called: "My Friend From Beyond Earth" and shows a photograph of Val-Thor. When I saw the photo I was so shocked I stood dumbfounded. It was a photo of a man that I had taken a number of years ago while on a visit to Howard Menger's farm to investigate his story of a contact with people from Venus. At this meeting Howard Menger stated to the small group present, "There is a man from Venus among us now". - I looked around the group of people and saw only one man who impressed me as being unusual. Not that he looked any different physically, the change or difference was more in his manner or demeanor. At any rate, I snapped a series of pictures of him. - When I sent him the pictures from Menger's farm, I stated the claim that had been made and gave him the details on the photos. I stressed one point to him very strongly; namely that I did not believe then, nor do I believe now, that the man in the photos was from Venus. Dr. Stranges however, claims to have met this self-same man in the Pentagon and that he told Dr. Stranges that his name was Val-Thor and that he was, indeed, from Venus. That is what Dr. Stranges claims, and while I have worked with him on other books and on his movie, Phenomena 7.7, he has always been honest and square with me. I find he and his wonderful wife a delight to be with, and I try to spend every available moment with them, when they are in my area.

HOWARD MENGER - Here is a man who I have much respect for as a person. I was connected with his story from the very first. I have looked at his photos, spoken to him about them, looked at the negatives and explored his claims from every conceivable angle in order to determine if his story is truth or trickery. The only thing I can truthfully say regarding Howard Menger is this... I believe that Howard Menger is telling the truth when he tells his story, but I do not necessarily believe his story. As for his photographs... if anyone feels that they can take the same type of photos with the same type of low-priced camera that he used, then I will be willing to go the

cost of the film for anyone to do so. But I do wish to be present when these photos are taken. With all of the excellent cameras that I own, I cannot do what Howard Menger did in the same manner. I do not mean to say that his photos are real or even hint that they are. But I am sorry that I did not take them, they are so good. I am proud of the fact that he allowed me to do the photo work for his book called... "From Outer Space to you".

LONG JOHN NEBEL - To me, one of the greatest people who ~~ever~~ worked with the saucer subject. It was his work that gave many of the stories to the world. While many people will feel that he is very unfair to many of his guests, it must be remembered that it is his job to put on a good show. It is his 'cutting-up' of his guests that make his shows great. Many of the incidents he relates in his book "The Way Out World", I actually witnessed, and can say that he presents them just the way they actually happened. It was my good fortune to be on many of his shows and it was always worthwhile.

REV. WILLIAM DAUT -A person who I can honestly say I am proud to know. He has never to my knowledge, said an unkind word to anyone, nor has he ever done an unkind deed. Ever since I have known him he has always amazed me by doing and living what he calls a "normal life". To the average person, this 'normal living' is certainly beyond anything that could be termed normal. His foresight, his knowledge of almost any subject, his teachings of basic truths, the friends who know and respect and love him, for himself, is something that I, who have traveled all over this country, have never before seen. Never have I met anyone who I can respect more, nor of whom I can say, "I am proud that he calls me his friend".

THE QUIET ONES - They are a group of people who very few persons know, and perhaps there are a few who are not even aware of their existence. But they are important. For without them, those of us who are often thought of as "professional UFO researchers", would really have a rough time of it. The list of Quiet Ones runs long... but here is a small sampling of their rank and file...Tibor Csapo, Ovila (Larry) Larochelle, Armand Laprade, Adele Darrah, Annette Strapponi, Jackie Frank, Judith Ann Conroy, Frank G. Major, Leonard Brodt, Lynn Carol...and a host of others whose names would fill a telephone book. They are the ones who make life worth living and our work in this field worthwhile. When they are needed as friends, they are there. And not because they are forced to be, but because they want to be a part of the overall picture. I would even venture to say that without the help of the Quiet Ones, UFO research would not be where it is today, but somewhere back in time, side by side with the dark ages. The true history of saucers really belongs to those wonderful Quiet Ones, who very few people know, and history most likely will never record. If any rewards are to be given out to them, it certainly will not be in this world. If there are such things as space visitors, coming to us from other worlds, I'm certain 'they' will know of, and record in their books...the value and respect that should be given to, and belong to, the... Quiet Ones.

Many people have wondered why it is that I have worked the way I have in regards to the photographs I have in my files. The photos of so-called flying saucers and other connected events number into the thousands and I have been collecting them for years. If and when a hard-cover 'UFO PHOTO' book is ever printed, using my photo collection, then and only then will I give my opinion and tell what I feel is the truth, in my mind, regarding what may or may not be photographs of flying saucers. Most of them, and I can assure you that this is one thing I know is true, are going to be put into the class of out-and-out fakes.

At this moment, I have before me, a few hundred photos of UFOs that are claimed as authentic by those who are selling them. From a common-sense viewpoint, many of the stories are lies. From a photographic viewpoint, almost every one of the photos are

very bad frauds, - though in some cases very cleverly done. Those that are selling the photos are not motivated by a search for truth, but are simply milking the public for all that the traffic will bare. Regardless of how long it may take, however, truth will prevail. Let us hope that we shall know the truth in our lifetime. Because of this, and because many would not listen when I tried to give them truth, that I have chosen to follow the middle road.

THE MIDDLE ROAD - My own thought is that the whole flying saucer mystery is a masterpiece of well-organized confusion. Men in very high governmental and military office have made sure that this is so. In many ways I cannot blame them for what they are doing. They feel it is the best course for them to take. The whole plan is for a long-range project to unfold itself and we who live today may not see this project brought to fruition. - When the answers are given to the public, our whole mode of living will be altered. Great dents are going to be put into science, religion, and our present cultural and sociological beliefs and practises. It will be as if each person had been given a "wishing ring", but the time for the presentation of this gift is not yet upon us. - Ask yourself a question... Why is it that you choose to wait for a small group of men who head your government, or for any President of any country, to tell you the truth, when you are perfectly capable, with the exercising of your own mental capabilities, to determine what is, in fact, truth?

The whole flying saucer mystery is similar to a large picture puzzle. Each and every one of us who play the game of putting the puzzle together, regardless of who he may be or what position he may hold, represents but one 'small piece' of the over-all picture. How you fit the pieces together and how much of the over-all picture you SEE, depends primarily upon your own level of development and awareness. If you are playing this game, or want to play it, remember that all of the pieces are there. Have fun with it, the same as you would with any other puzzle. But remember, that it is only a game and, you may not be able to find all the pieces. Time alone will tell if your anticipation is the forerunner of realization. Many of the dreams that I have dreamed now live in the dreams of others.

Surely, the children of tomorrow will complete the puzzle, and in doing so insure their future happiness. Also, they will enjoy putting the puzzle together even as we enjoy supplying the pieces, however insignificant they may presently seem, for them to work with. But this can only come to pass if we do not shrink our responsibility, for we have an obligation to fulfill. It is our obligation to the future generation not to hold back a single small piece of the puzzle. For even if the smallest piece is withheld, then we will make it impossible for them to complete the puzzle. Then they too will be forced to resort to trying to prove to their children that flying saucers do exist by attempting to prove that they do not.

Heaven help those of us who would continue to propagate confusion at the cost of truth. I hope and pray that this generation shall someday go down in world history as the generation which provided the key to pure truth, to the children of the future, and in so doing, fulfilled a cosmic obligation; and in so doing, "HATH SET THEM FREE!"

BIOGRAPHY: AUGUST C. ROBERTS

by GRAY BARKER

If anybody deserves to be honored as a "Flying Saucer Pioneer;" that person is August C. Roberts. In the unfolding saucer drama his name has become as familiar as that of George Adamski, Major Donald E. Keyhoe, Ray Palmer, Gray Barker and other "UFO Greats!" Yet in this fascinating drama Roberts has played a unique role, unfulfilled by any of the others, who made their contributions mainly by way of the printed word. While the others recorded their prose in books and magazines, Roberts recorded these exciting events on film. Roberts became the first and certainly only recognized "Flying Saucer Photographer".

Roberts' role began in 1943 during his service in the Army Air Force. While on duty in a mountaneous section of the Mexican border country, he and other enlisted men were dumbfounded to see a huge orange object circle below them in the valleys below. Militarily the object violated the constant blackout imposed on the area and its appearance caused quite a commotion in the camp. To Roberts, however, the strange light represented something else. Something he could only feel and could not explain. Not until a lonely night in 1952 on a Skywatch tower would he become convinced that flying saucers might well represent visitations from other worlds.

On that strange night, Roberts remembered the orange ball, back in 1943. This time, however, he and his camera handy and when a saucer appeared over New York City he grabbed his camera and recorded the event. The picture appeared widely in newspapers, magazines, movie reels and on television. "Featurama", one of the top television programs of 1955, included the picture and an interview with Roberts. It is understandable that this particular program was the one most often repeated on television, by popular request, for several years.

Roberts' 1952 sighting account, along with his photographs, represented one of the three UFO cases included in the Westinghouse Time Capsule, recently buried at the conclusion of the New York World's Fair. It will be opened in the year 6939. Roberts not only shot pictures of flying saucers, but collected, preserved and disseminated the work of others. Just as important and interesting as the saucers themselves were the personalities who investigated, wrote, talked and lectured about them. Roberts shot collected hundreds of pictures of such people.

Photos from his vast collection have appeared in many books, notable ones including FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED, FLYING SAUCERAMA, FROM OUTER SPACE TO YOU, FLYING SAUCERS AND THE THREE MEN, FLYING SAUCERS FACT OR FICTION, THE MYSTERY OF OTHER WORLDS REVEALED and Gray Barker's BOOK OF SAUCERS. His work has also appeared in publications and books in France, Japan, Germany and other countries. Roberts' work has appeared in most of the memorable UFO periodicals, such as THE SAUCERIAN, SAUCER NEWS, and Raymond Palmer's FLYING SAUCERS.

For several years he has been Photographic Consultant to Saucerian Publications and for a time served as Photo Editor of Palmer's Magazine. Working with Dominick C. Lucchesi, he published the first issue of NEXUS, an early saucer magazine, which was la-

ter published by James W. Moseley, with Roberts functioning as Associate Editor. He is production Coordinator of the Bob Zanotti Show, a weekly radio program originating in the New York area and has appeared many times on the Long John Show in New York. A.C. Roberts has given his assistance to practically every major UFO researcher in the field. This he has done in a spirit of selfless devotion to the eventual solution to the flying saucer mystery.

He has not only recorded the images of flying saucers and the people connected with them. Another of his projects has been the recording of such personalities and events on tape. He has recorded nearly a quarter of a million feet of tape in connection with this aspect of his work. Although Roberts is quick to come to the aid of anybody needing photographic or taped information about flying saucers, he prefers to work with what he calls "the team", which consists of Dominick Lucchesi, Gray Barker, James Moseley, Jack Robinson, Mike Mann and a few selected others. Long after people of the future forget how to read the archaic language of the 20th century, they will still look at August C. Roberts' photographs and be thrilled, as we were, with the unfolding drama of the mysterious flying saucers. - "Augie", as his friends call him, probably sums up this idea best. When asked why he makes the physical and monetary sacrifices necessary to continue his work, he puts it this way:

"What is really my aim with my photos of today? It is so that the children of tomorrow can experience some of the same excitement that I did. I hope that they will be thrilled, frightened, mystified and challenged as we were. May be they will catch onto the same dream that we dream; a universe of communication and brotherhood - an aim that the flying saucers may be trying to teach us today."



Gray Barker



4

U.S. Weather Forecast

Daily Mirror

4

NO MYSTERY IN DISCS, U.S. SAYS

Ground Reflections, AF Finds

This flying object was twice snapped at dusk Monday as it zipped north of Phoenix. William A. Rhodes, 4223 North 14th street, first shot the picture at the left as the slow-flying object was approaching him. As it banked to make a tight turn, he obtained the picture above, showing clearly the shape of the object. In seconds, Rhodes said, the "disc" shot away to the west at high speed. It had made three whirling turns north of the city, after approaching from the west. Aircraft identification experts yesterday would not hazard opinions on the object's nature.

Speedy 'Saucer' Zips Through Local Sky

By ROBERT C. MANIKA

THE FIRST clearly recorded photographs of what is believed to be a mysterious "flying disc" which has 33 states in America and even a few foreign countries on edge with its peculiar activities, was taken by an amateur Phoenix photographer.

Reproduced in the Arizona Republic today, the photographs were made by William A. Rhodes, 4223 North 14th street, who was on his way to his workshop in the rear of his home when he heard the distinctive "whush" of what he believed to be a P-R-1 or Shooting Star jet propelled plane.

Rhodes snatched a camera from his workbench and by the time he had aimed it at the object, it was already high in the sky. He got a second shot as the object banked to make a tight turn. The photograph at the top of this page shows the object clearly. In seconds, Rhodes said, the "disc" shot away to the west at high speed. It had made three whirling turns north of the city, after approaching from the west.



William A. Rhodes, Phoenix, Arizona, who took the photographs of the flying disc.

A cutting from The Arizona Republic, July 9, 1947

'Looked Like 5 Large Dinner Plates': Pair on S.I. See Flying In V Formation Heading

A "V" formation of five "flying dinner plates" flying through the sky was described by witnesses today. "They came from the direction of Perth Amboy, N. J., and

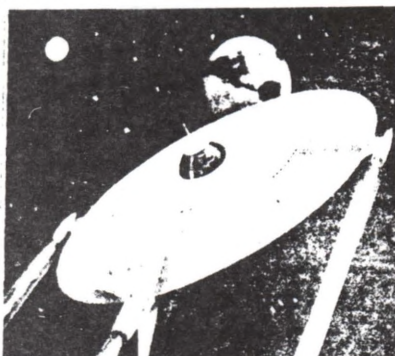
The Electronic Eye Doesn't Lie—

Washington Radar Observer Relates Watching Stunts by Flying Saucers

Witness Tracked Them for Hours

WASHINGTON, July 19 (AP)—A Washington radar observer today related watching a flying saucer perform stunts in the sky. The observer, who is not named, said he was on duty at the Naval Air Station at Washington, D. C., when he saw the object. He said the object was about the size of a dinner plate and was moving very fast. He said he saw it for several hours.

By HARRY G. BARNES. The flying saucer was seen by a radar observer at the Naval Air Station at Washington, D. C., today. The observer, who is not named, said he was on duty at the station when he saw the object. He said the object was about the size of a dinner plate and was moving very fast. He said he saw it for several hours.



No Known Craft Could Match 'Em

that they could make right-angle turns and complete reversals of flight. "Now in my opinion could any natural phenomena such as shooting stars, electrical discharges or clouds account for these objects?"

Crush of Mourners Delays Peron Rites

BUENOS AIRES, July 19 (AP)—A crush of mourners today delayed the funeral rites for Juan Peron, the Argentine leader who died last night. The funeral was held in a large hall in the city.

Army Investigating: Flying 'Dinner Plates' Seen at Many Points

A midsummer's night dream? That's what Army Air Force officials were attempting to determine today as they investigated reports of "flying saucers" from such divergent points as Staten Island, Washington, Denver, Vermont and Buffalo.

The AAF now probes all such reports at Wright Field, Dayton, O.

In Staten Island Mrs. Josephine Hetzel, housewife, of 17 West st., West Brighton, said: "I almost fainted when I looked up at the sky and saw what looked to me like five large dinner plates flying through the sky. They were in V formation and flying as fast as jet planes."

FLYING LIKE GEESE. Her neighbor, Frank Gondar, taxi operator, of 15 West st., described the "objects" as "flying like geese, bright in color with red and blue rim." Both witnesses notified the Staten Island Civil Defense authorities.

described variously as a "ball of fire" and a meteorite. In Buffalo, a witness saw eight objects flying about 5,000 feet off the ground and then a single "round silver object which looked very much like a flying saucer." A Washington radio engineer saw six or seven "saucers" streaking single file across the sky. In Denver, an airplane pilot reported seeing four fast-moving objects.

Driscoll Opposes Anti-Aircraft Range

TRENTON, N. J., July 19 (UP). Gov. Driscoll planned an appeal to Washington today to prevent the Army from setting up an anti-aircraft artillery range on Island Beach.

"We shall certainly ask the Federal Government to explain why it should bring such a project to New Jersey when there are large areas throughout the country more suitable and which would not endanger or threaten the recreational life of the State," the Governor said.

More Spotters Needed SAUCER PHOTOGRAPHER LAUDED BY MESSANO

A call for more plane spotters for the flying saucers was made today by James Messano, Robert's co-plane spotter. Messano praised the observer and his craftsmanship in securing the disc data for the Air Force.

Messano said: "The best authorities feel that the flying discs are a natural phenomenon. There is no need for any public alarm with respect thereto."

"I congratulate publicly August C. Roberts, whose photography of the flying saucer over Manhattan has attracted nationwide attention and will be helpful to scientists in their research into the origin and nature of these unusual sky objects."

"Also the work of plane spotters James Layden and George Conger, is worthy of fine praise. Their alertness and public service is characteristic of the patriotic men and women who serve in Civil Defense."

"Police Inspector Joseph B. Foley, who directs this protective program so efficiently, is commended for the splendid organizational work he is doing. He has trained an outstanding body of plane spotters."

"I call public attention to the fact that we need more and more volunteers to serve as sky checkers in the observation tower atop of the Sixth Precinct on Central Avenue. I urge volunteers in communication with Inspector Foley."

Foley said the local sky operation needs 200 spotters per week around the clock to maintain a vigilance of the skies. He pointed out that at present there is a shortage of spotters.

"I hope that the interesting experience" he said, "of top spotters like Roberts, Layden and Conger will attract many more volunteers for this important public service."

Y JOURNAL
he news services,
local news of the
Observer

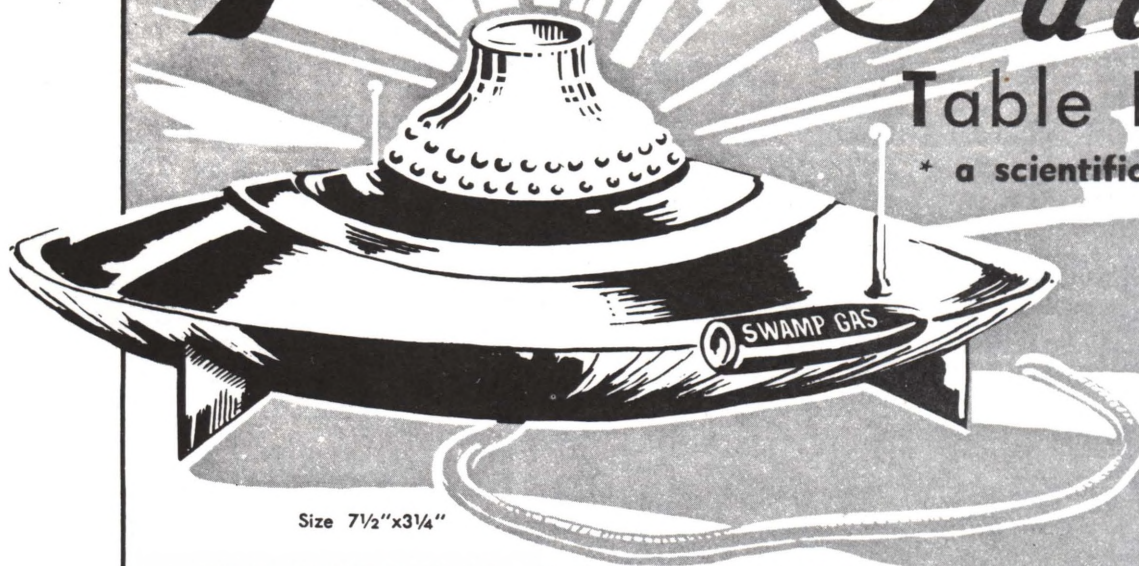
JULY 29, 1952

saucers and more vague objects" in the sky are in-
Force has been alerted to
us does not mean that there
him there were in the years
was spotted. It does mean
looking for them and noting
ration Skywatch"—the Air
cer ground observers whose
lar network in guarding our
people systematically scan-
reports are made on all
including the mysterious
The volunteer observers may
photographic effort yet made
August Roberts, watching
observation post early Monday
three men to spot a light

Flying Saucer

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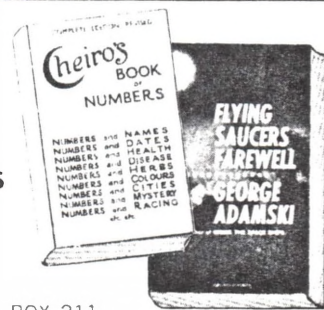
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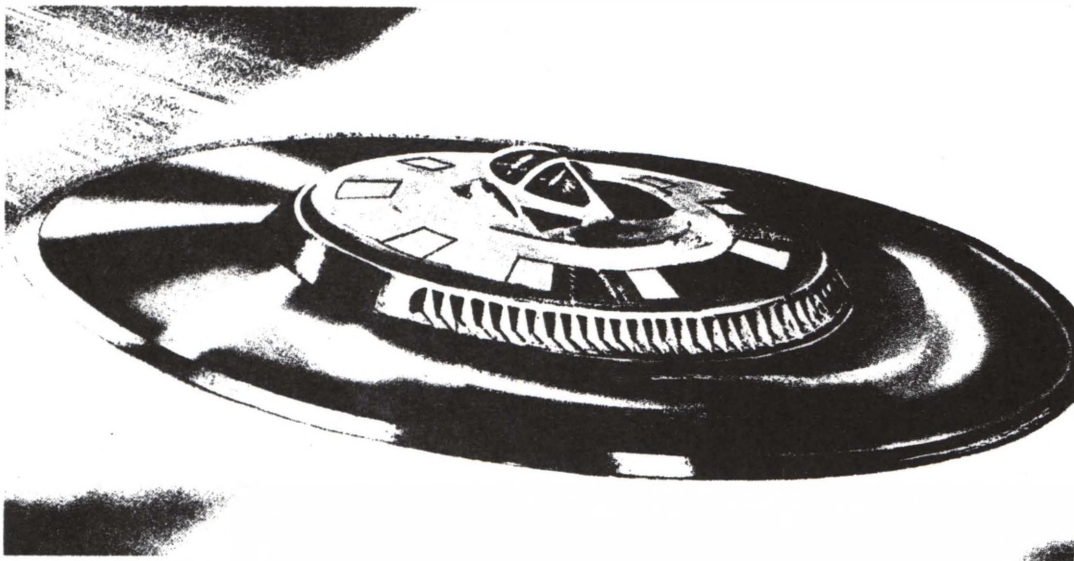


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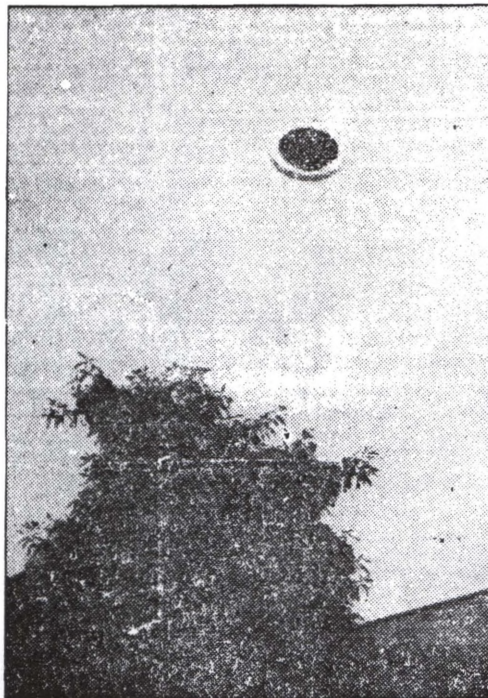


'FLYING SAUCER'

ROUNDUP

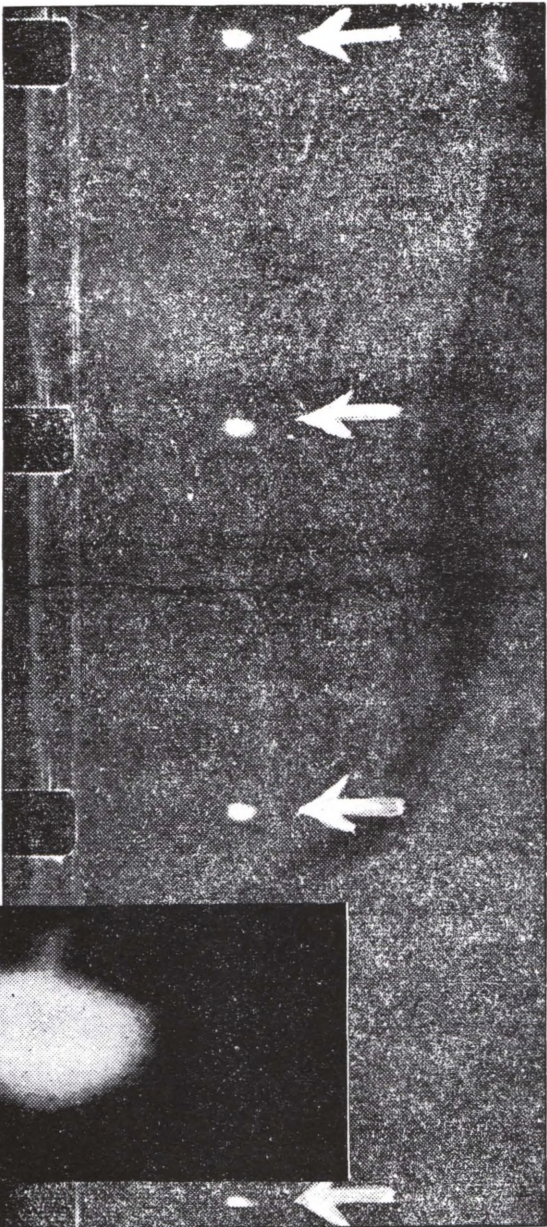


photographs



Flying saucer? That's what it is, according to John H. Riley, a professional photographer, of 571 Main St. He said he snapped these two pictures near 221 Brook Ave., Passaic, about 10:15 a.m. yesterday, as the disc "hovered 200 feet

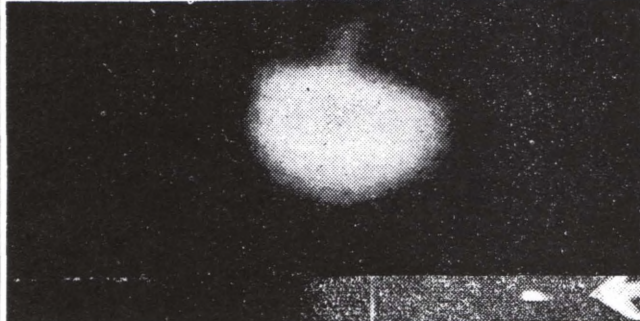
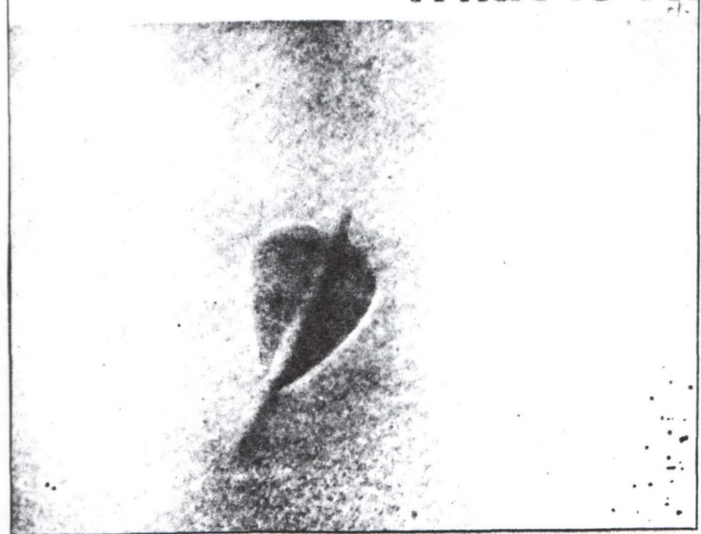
above the ground." Photo at left, Riley said, shows disc tilted "as though observing the ground." At right, he said the disc is shown shortly before it gathered speed and disappeared.



Graphic
GROSS SPORTS COMICS
Herald American
FINANCIAL
Fri. Nov. 2, 1951—19

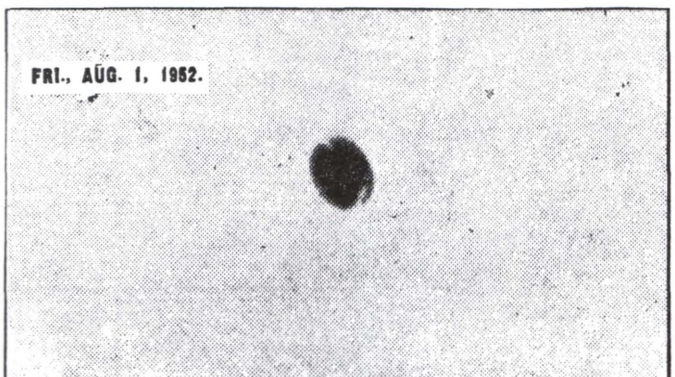
Sky Mystery
—What Is It?

JULY 1953



Blown up to 10 times its size from a 16-millimeter film negative, this is an unretouched photograph of an object seen by a Marine cameraman who was hunting for "flying saucers" at Miami Beach Tuesday night. Pfc. Ralph Mayner

JULY 1952



"SAUCER" OVER OTTUMWA.

Harold Fisher made this picture of an object in the sky over Ottumwa Wednesday afternoon. For purposes of reproduction, his picture has been enlarged about four and a half times. In the sky it appeared enormous in size and was moving very fast, he said.



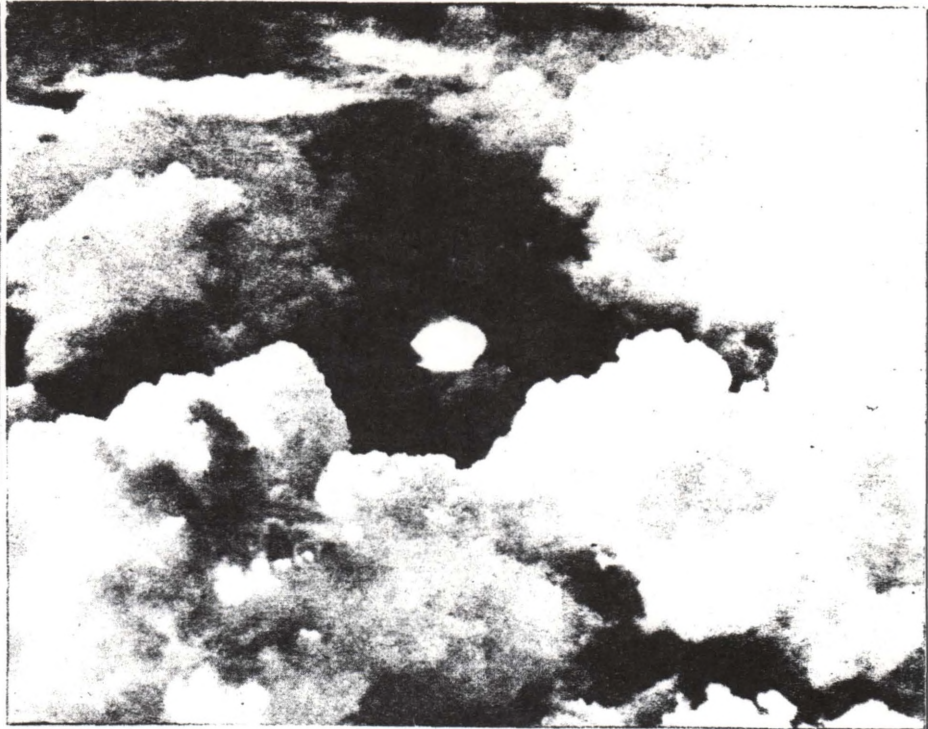
Reported photo of one of the so-called "ghost rockets" that plagued Scandinavian skies shortly after World War II. This photo was published by the London Daily Telegraph in 1946.



Jin Nelson of the Wichita Eagle
July 19, 1956.



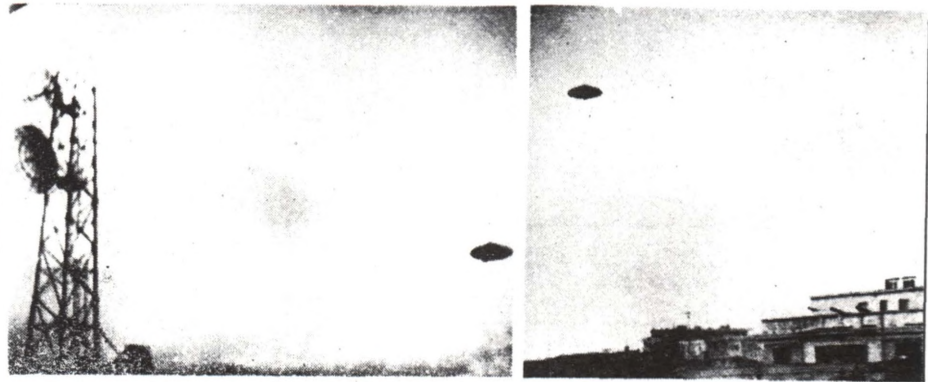
Frame enlargement from 8mm movie film of a FLYING SAUCER taken by Howard Menger



ROBERT J. CHILDERHOSE took this photo of a UFO near Macleod, Alta., on a cross-country flight as R.C.A.F. pilot in 1956.



Mr. & Mrs. William L. Wannall were driving in Honolulu when they suddenly "noticed three large lights flying in a wide formation over the Kaimuku area and traveling about 150 mph, fairly low, and about the size of a dime held at arms' length." 1960



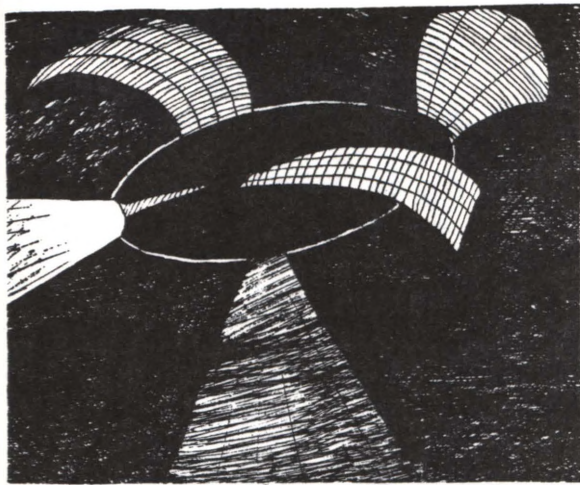
The two photos are of a saucer snapped over Pescara, Italy, in September, 1957.



CLAY PIGEON? . . . The disc in upper right is reported to be one of the so-called "flying saucers" which was sighted over an Oregon farm. The unidentified flying object is an inverted orb similar to the shape of clay pigeons which are used in skeet shooting. 1950



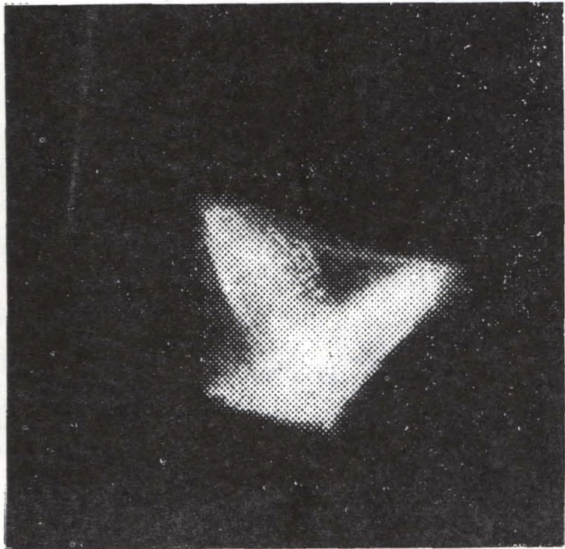
George Stock of Passaic, N.J., made this series of photos as objects passed slowly over his home.



newspaper cut from 1896



photograph was taken by Enrique Hausemann Muller in Spain on April 24, 1950.



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE - MAY 28, 1961



1966 Strange lights and objects were reported seen by newsmen, police officers, and many citizens near Royal Oak, Mich., last March. One object (circled) was captured on film by a Royal Oak photographer. Another object was streaking across the sky above the first.



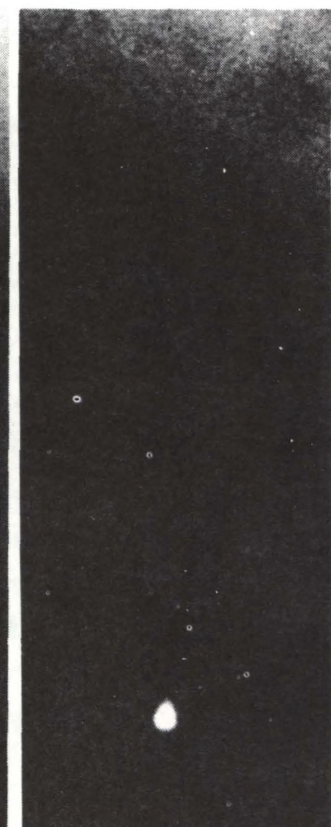
The first photograph of a UFO in Japan was taken by Yusuke J. Matsumura on January 17



Moon is at top of photo over Okinawa.

Photographed by Mitsutake Hanayama.

PROBE
MAGAZINE



Frame enlargements from 16mm Kodachrome movie footage of a UFO filmed by Ray Stanford near Corpus Christi, Texas on July 28, 1959. Although taken only seconds apart, these photos show that the object rapidly changed shape. The UFO has more luminosity than surrounding clouds, indicating that it might have been incandescent.



South Africa 1956



Nachrichten für den Sonntag

REDAKTION: LINZ, DOMGASSE 5. TEL. 25 24 22

Pbb

NR. 4 / JAHRGANG 11

28. JANUAR 1961

PREIS 2 SCHILLING

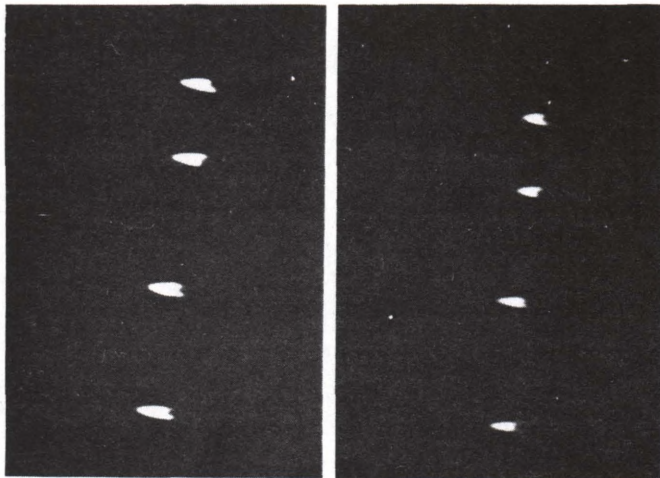
Lebhaftes Für und Wider hat dieses Bild ausgelöst, das einem Mittelschulprofessor aus Urfahr gelungen ist

Mysteriöse Flugkörper über Urfahr gesichtet!

Linzer Professor fotografierte eine „fliegende Untertasse“ UFO: Dichtung und Wahrheit – Hollands Königin glaubt daran



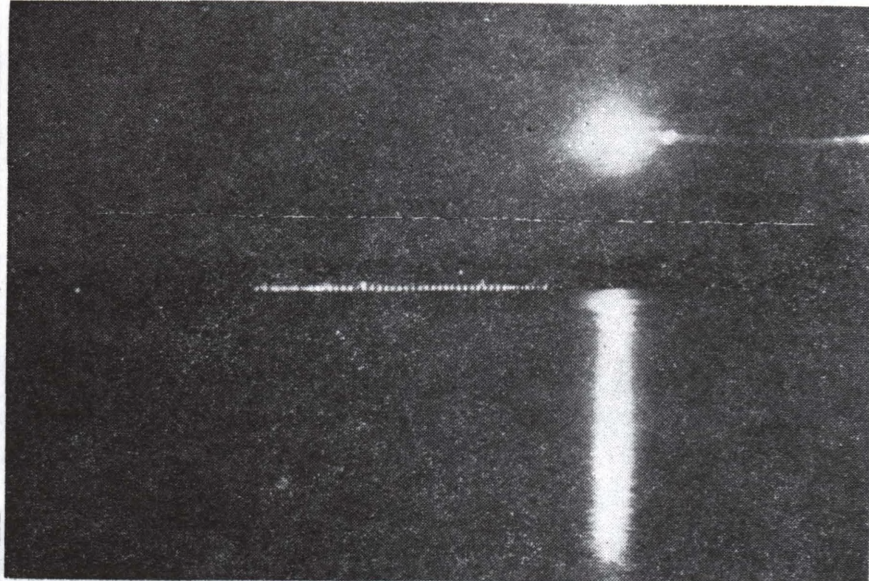
UFO PHOTOGRAPHER AT LINZ, AUSTRIA
The photograph and newspaper headlines (at left) appeared in the January 28, 1961 issue of the NACHRICHTEN für den SONNTAG of Linz, Austria.



UFO's Photographed Over Giant Rock 1955



Photo taken several years ago in West New York, N.J., by Bert Bula, using old-fashioned folding camera.

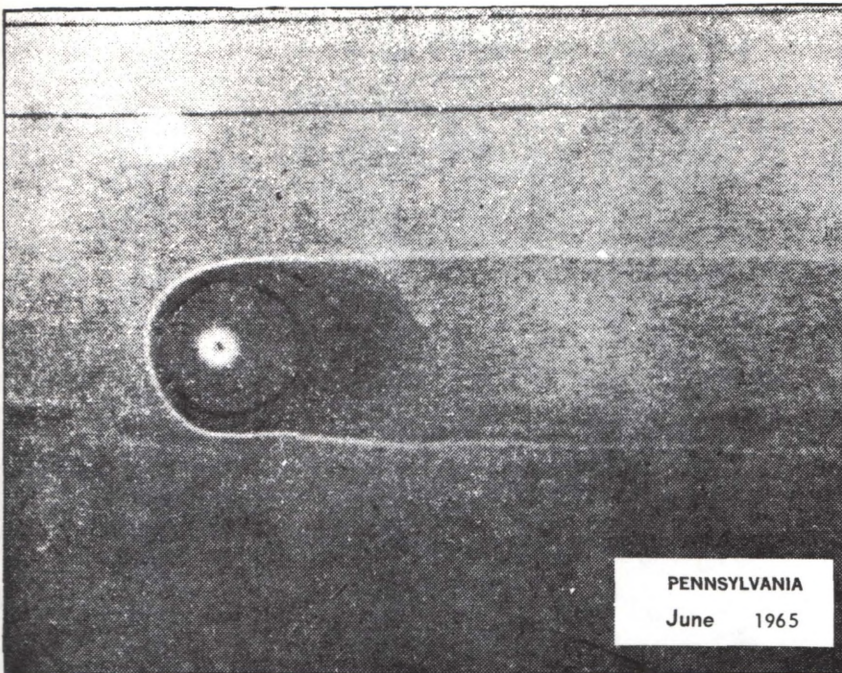


The object hovering to the right of the moon in the above picture was observed and photographed by engineer R. M. Azevedo of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1955.

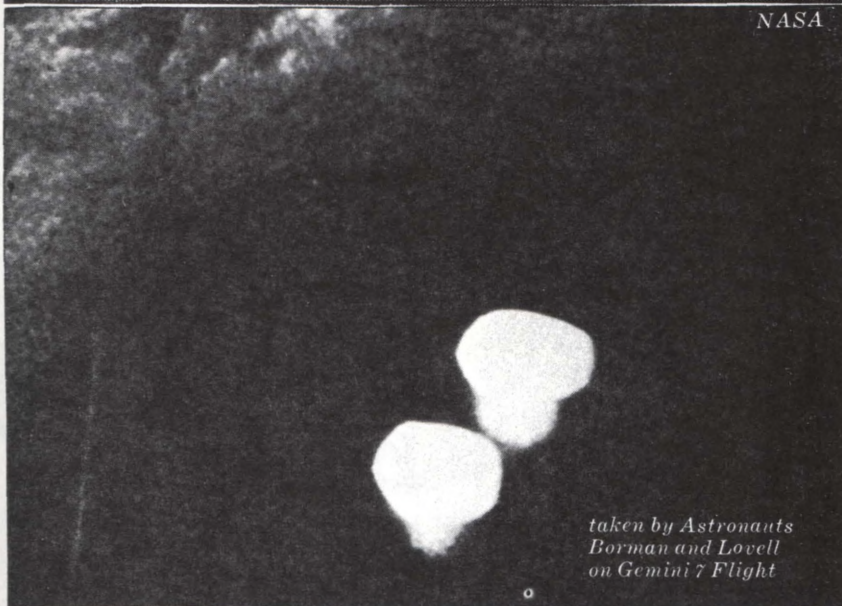
'Flying Saucer' Photographed By California Man



IS THIS A FLYING SAUCER? — Rex Heflin

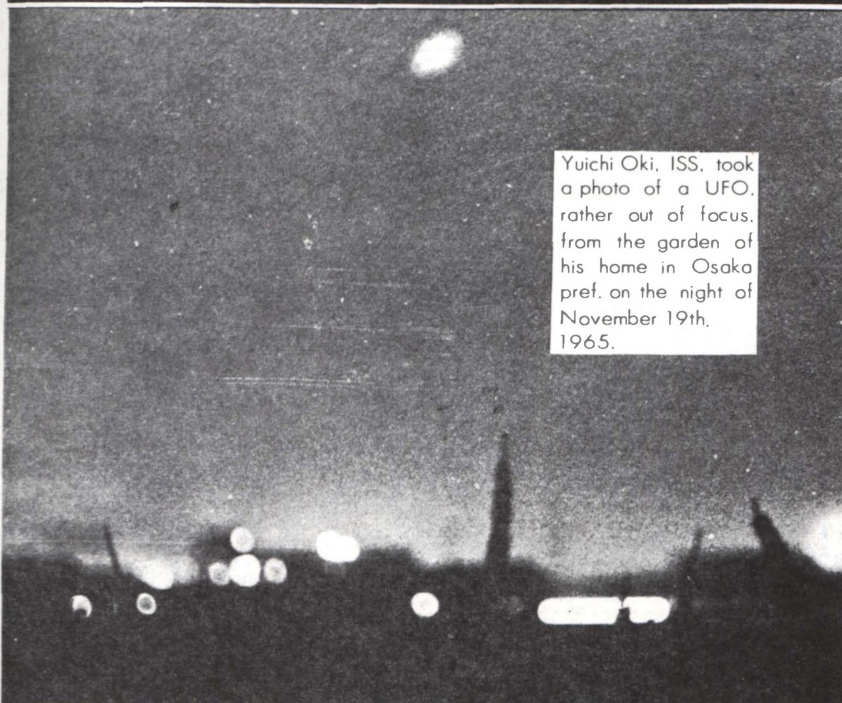


PENNSYLVANIA
June 1965

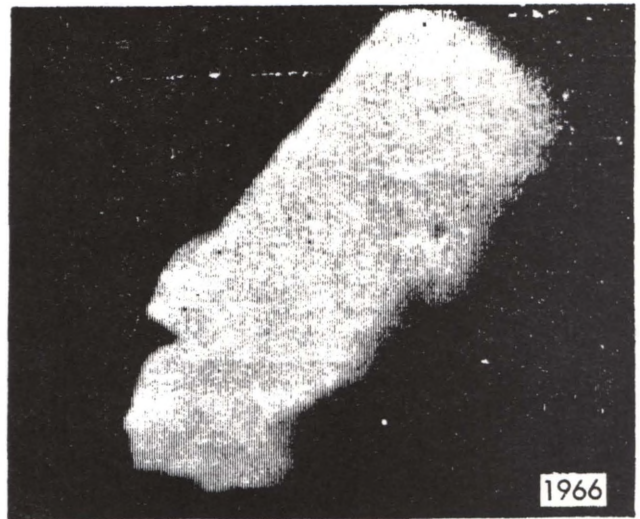


NASA

*taken by Astronauts
Borman and Lovell
on Gemini 7 Flight*



Yuichi Oki, ISS, took a photo of a UFO, rather out of focus, from the garden of his home in Osaka pref. on the night of November 19th, 1965.

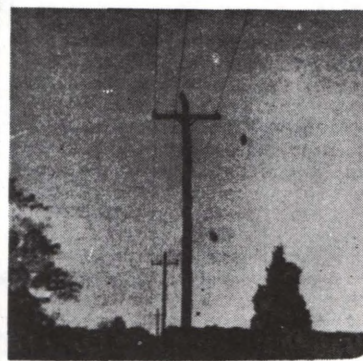


1966

UFO PICTURE—Terry McClintock and Bill Nash, both 15 years old and from Farmington, Mo., took this picture of a UFO last Friday at about 8:30 p.m. from the Farmington Sr. High football field, about three blocks from the McClintock home.



UFO photograph by Frank Lucci in Beaver Falls, Penna., made August 6, 1965.

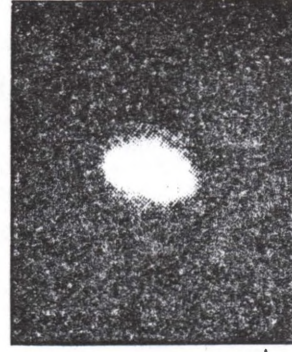
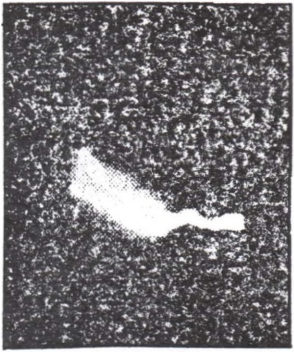


高圧線上空の円盤??

**UFO's were photographed
by Harold Trudel
over
Woonsocket, Rhode Island,
on
July 24, 1966.**

PROBE MAGAZINE

上の2枚の写真は米国のUFO機関誌“Probe”の編集長によって提出されたものであるが、撮影者はハロルド・A・トローデルが去る7月24日電柱の附近でとったもの。
物体の直径3~4フィートで、門盤からの距離は約50メートルという。
高圧線の所を飛行しているからとはいえこの写真をホン物と信じられるかどうか—。



July 1966 Photographer ART RICHARDSON Got These Photos Of Last Night's "UFO" ↑



THE "ORRVILLE PHOTO"

The date of this occurrence was July or August of 1962.

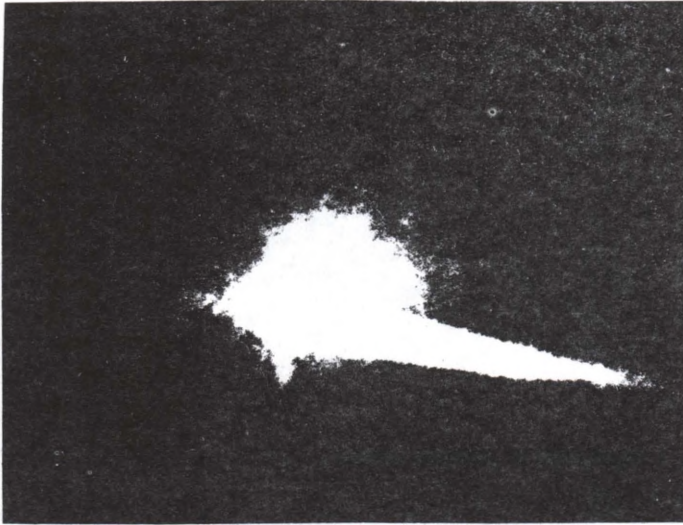


TULSA PHOTO August 2, 1965.

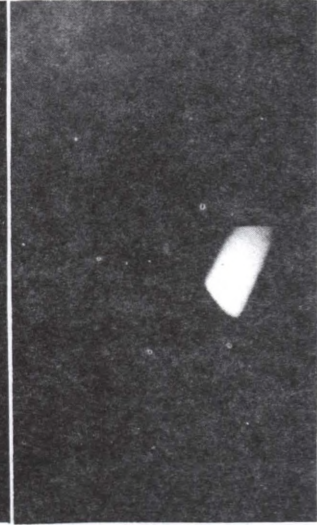
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1965
This is a photo of an unidentified flying object taken by television newsman Bob Campbell in Sherman, Tex. Objects have been reported in Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska.



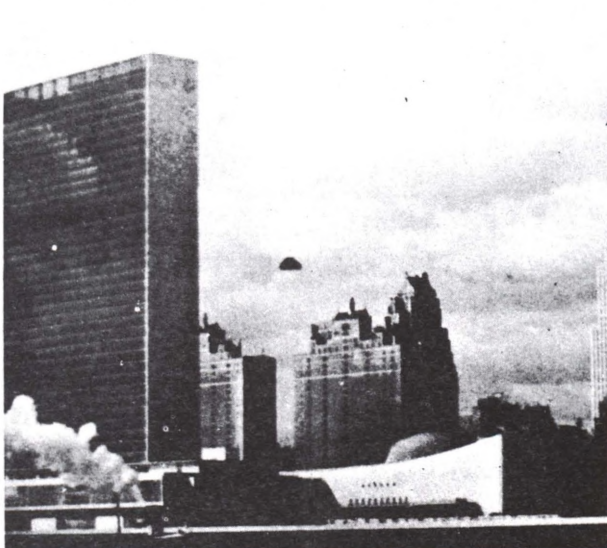
Adelaide, South Australia March 1965



OKLAHOMA - JULY 1966

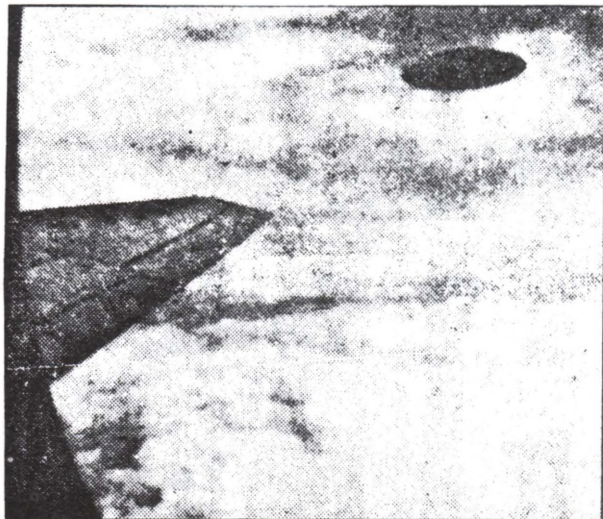


Brazil, Ind., March 1966



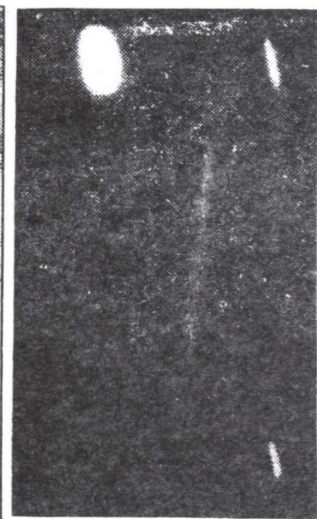
Mystery object

NEW YORK 1963



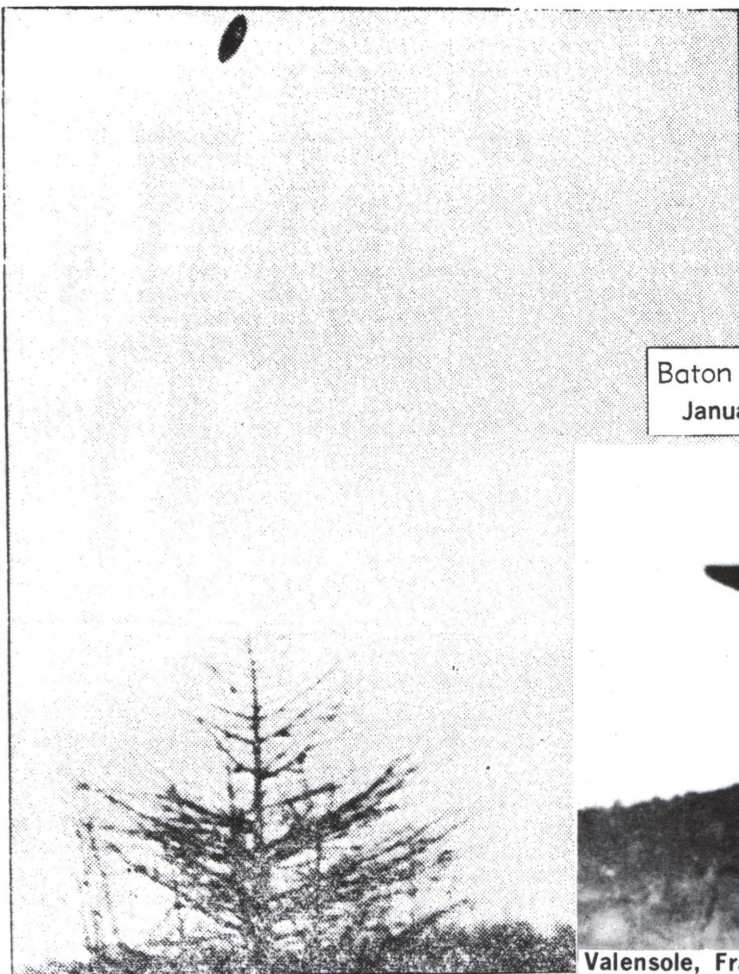
Mexico 1966.

A REAL FLYING SAUCER, at least that's the claim, shows clearly in this photograph taken by a businessman during an otherwise routine trip in Northern Mexico. OVER The U.N.



MARCH 29, 1966 —

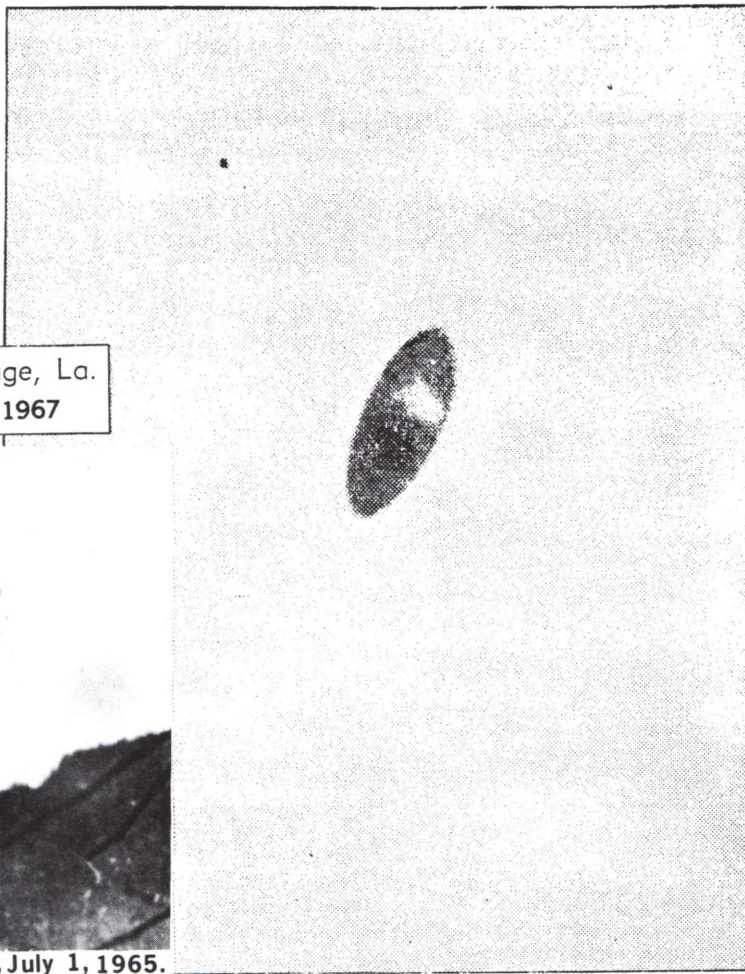
UFOs over London, Ontario



Baton Rouge, La.
January 1967



Valensole, France, July 1, 1965.



The pictures below show saucers of marked similarity. The UFO at bottom was photographed in 1950 in Oregon, and its near-twin was filmed four years later in France.

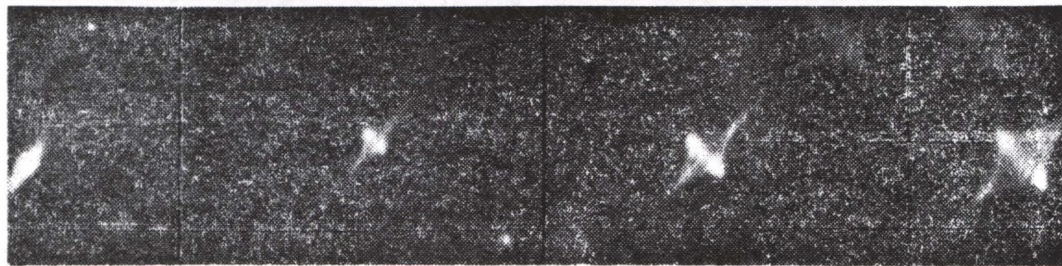
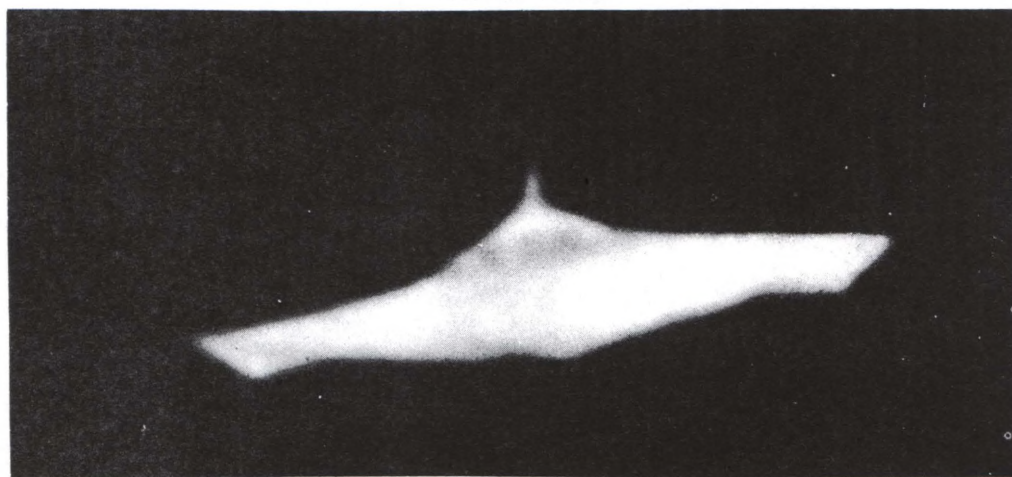
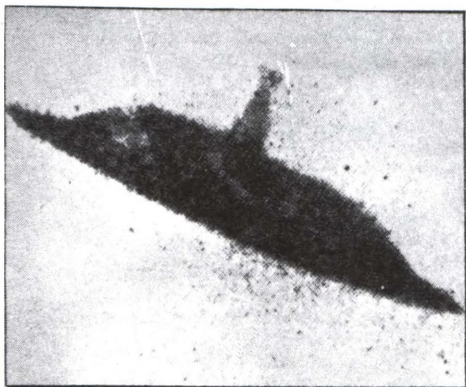
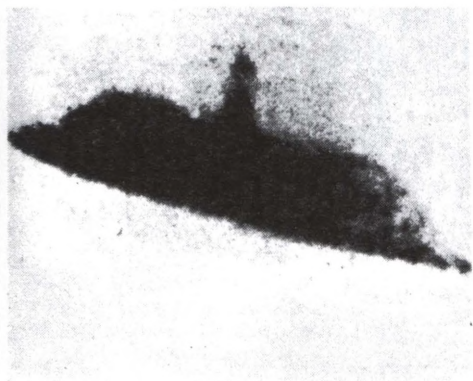
SPACE SHIP OVER RHODE ISLAND

November

PHOTO by

1966

Harold Trudel



A UFO flashes across Toronto's night sky in this five-second time exposure.

APRIL 1967





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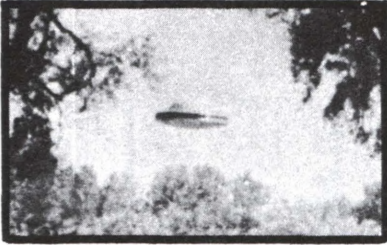
MOST ANYTHING



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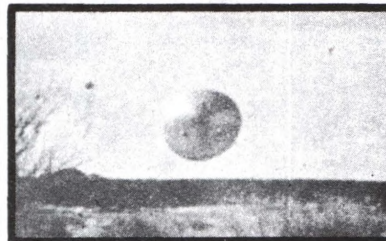
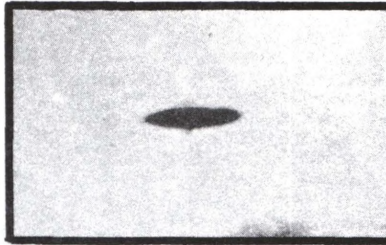
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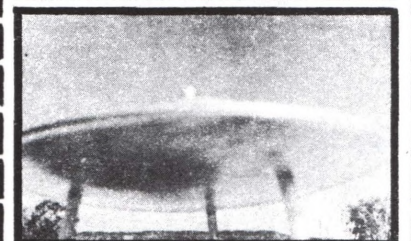
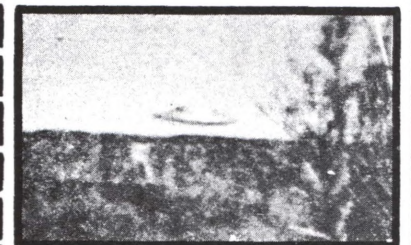
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"The ship landed on its tripod landing gear and nine crew members disembarked from under the disc-shaped bottom through a door that seemed to appear from nowhere. There were five women and four men, all beautiful people, immaculately groomed wearing tight-fitting one piece uniforms . . ."

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"The lower branches of the trees in the foreground are blurry because of the miniature tornado created by the saucer. The wind turbulence in the area was so high Mr. Villa thought that he and his truck would be blown away. Then without warning, the wind suddenly stopped instantly, as though it were shut off. The surrounding air became quite hot and there was dead silence . . ."

"As the craft approached it shot a bright ray at the ground causing the brush and trees to burst into flames to demonstrate some of their capabilities. It shot another beam of light and the fire was put out instantly. In a few minutes the ship landed on its tripod landing gear seen protruding from the bottom . . ."

VILLA SET NO. 3

"The rod sticking up from the top of the dome may be thought to be an antenna but it is not. It is an optical device incorporating a combination of prisms and lenses and the entire unit can be retracted downward into the dome . . ."

"The saucer is accompanied by several spheres which manifested in a cascade of changing colors from a shining aluminum to gleaming chrome then to a bright red or the sparkling blue of an arc welders torch . . ."

"Their speed and maneuverability were incredible for they flitted about like butterflies or raced crazily at high velocity in an array of orbital patterns . . ."

"The manned saucer is about 42 feet in diameter. It hovered about 5 feet off the ground and one individual, presumably the pilot, disembarked . . ."

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DO WE FACE AN INVASION BY SUPERMEN? ARE THE UFOs HERE?

THE WARMINSTER MYSTERY

In their answers, the people of the "Gateway to the West" not only search the depths of their own natures but offer an insight into human behaviour in the face of the unknown.

SOUTHERN EVENING ECHO, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1966.



UFOs seen over this small Wiltshire town.

10,000 HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH THE 'THING'

Credit
W DRAKE

TEN thousand men, women and children in an ancient Wiltshire town have lived for more than a year with a nameless —though some say unearthly—force in their community.

Despite the talent people have for finding in mystery an explanation which allows life to remain as unchanged as possible, Warminster is being forced to examine its strange relationship with the "Thing."

Broods in minds

Not collectively, of course — a public meeting called last August to discuss the phenomena clarified only the diversity of opinion —but privately, in the minds of some residents, personal decisions have been made.

For a few, the national pastime of dismissing reports of inexplicable happenings with: "Oh, well, one never knows," has been suspended. And the cause of it all—the "Thing"—broods in the townspeople's thoughts and has become a part of their lives which cannot be ignored.

The "Thing" — surprisingly, no one has got round to christening it yet—was first reported by soldiers at Knock Camp, who were roused on Christmas Eve, 1964, by a strange noise.

"Deafening sound"

They heard "a deafening sound—as if a huge chimney had been ripped from the roof and scattered in solid chunks across the building," said a sergeant.

The same night, Warminster's head postmaster, Mr. Roger Rump and his wife were woken up by sounds "like the rough pulling off of the 5,000 tiles on the roof."

Days later a woman going to church was frightened and physically affected by noises "like tree branches being pulled over rough gravel."

Certainly descriptions of the "Thing" seem to bring out the poetry in people.

Shock wave

Since then the visitations appear to have fallen into two categories: visible objects in the sky and a shock wave of fluctuating vibrations, both phenomena resembling occurrences reported in other parts of the country and world.

The two characteristics were finally linked in August when Mrs. Rachel Atwell, an RAF pilot's wife, heard a crackling sound increasing in intensity until her bedroom ceiling shook.

She looked out of the window and saw a fireball overhead. When it moved away, the vibrations tailed off.

One explanation offered me for the "Thing's" split personality was that the sound waves were "feelers" put out by the objects to savour the ground.

This, of course, came from a follower of the flying saucer persuasion.

"Dazzling cigars"

The apparitions have ranged in shape and size through most of the geometric possibilities—from dazzling cigars to explosions and blinding crescents of light.

Long ones, short ones, broad ones and thin ones, singly or in pairs, have been reported. And a photograph taken in the summer of an object was said to have found its way into American hands for £1,000.

All types of mechanical vehicles are said to have been stopped in their tracks by a "savage downward thrust and pressure," even cars travelling up to 45mph.

Mice have been found riddled with tiny holes after a dose of the "noise" and pigeons in Southleigh Woods were seen dropping dead out of the sky after apparently being into the shock waves

Sceptical soldier

A graphic account came from Major Bill Hill, commanding officer of the local TA, who had viewed the reports with mistrust until his car engine died suddenly one night.

Major Hill was doing about 45mph when his engine cut out and the car shuddered violently.

His lights flickered, yet the battery was in order and the car had not overheated—and there was no apparent explanation for the stoppage.

He got out to investigate and walked into the "Thing."

"It was fantastic," he said at the time. "There was a definite sensation of something pressing downward."

"Yet the most eerie thing of all was the terrible noise. Then it subsided as though fading into the distance."

"Giant smokeball"

The car started immediately after the noise lifted and the following day an inspection proved it in perfect working order.

Major Hill, who saw action at beach landings in Europe and the Middle East, is sales manager for a Trowbridge garage.

His was only one of similar reports from similarly respectable and level-headed sources.

There is corroborated evidence of a giant smokeball, 200 feet across, in the Boreham area of Warminster—a spot seemingly favoured by the "Thing."

I spoke to a fair cross-section of the community and found that superficially, opinion divides between those "for" and those "against."

This is not so bald as it sounds—it is significant that most

people accept that "something very odd is going on" and feel a varying need to offer themselves one of two alternatives—their "Thing" is of this world—or it is not.

"Frightened town"

But after a summer of "frightened town" reports from the army of newspaper and television men who descended on the area, Warminster is reluctant to talk.

Even among the locals, I discovered, neighbours exchange general gossip over the latest developments but keep their personal view of what lies behind it all very much to themselves.

I listened to a man who claimed to have seen the "Thing" months before those soldiers lost their Christmas sleep at Knock Camp.

He told me: "We had been fishing all night for carp in a pool near Warminster. My companion was asleep beside me."

"It was a beautiful summer night and I glanced up from time to time to enjoy it."

"This time when I looked up there was a bright, spherical object motionless in the sky—impossible to estimate its distance or size. Suddenly it shot off at a terrific speed and disappeared."

Flashed off

"I made up my mind to go back and with two others went to the same spot two nights later."

"The 'Thing' appeared again, hung without moving for a while, and just as my friend said: 'It's not moving,' flashed off out of sight."

"We went home and the next day dug up all the newspapers but no one wanted to know then."

he said.

Asked what he thought lay behind his experience, the man drew my attention to the fact that only 100 years ago the idea of television and satellites would have been laughed out of existence.

That was the "answer" he supplied to me — I felt he held another explanation — one perhaps which he believed he owed himself.

Saw "spacemen"

Recently the reports have taken a more sensational and provocative turn. There is a woman living in the nearby village of Stockton who believes she may have seen spacemen.

The woman, prominent in local business circles was driving over Skew Bridge, Heytesbury, two months ago when through the darkness she saw two figures on the bridge.

Her car engine coughed and cut out and through the night came the "noise." She saw a bright object overhead and the two figures on the ground.

As far as she could make out, they wore Balaclava-type helmets and trousers of a glistening material.

Then the object in the sky wheeled and disappeared from sight, but not before the woman had seen what appeared to be another vehicle near the two figures.

Mystery Man

The noise subsided, her car regained life and she headed for home "in a dreadful state," I am told.

The most gruesome event was the arrival of Warminster's "Mystery Man," who staggered out of Norwich Wood wearing only thin trousers and shirt, with no shoes, socks, or overcoat on the bitterly cold night of October 7. He collapsed in Silver-street moaning: "Hospital, hospital," and was taken in a confused, incoherent state to the Warminster Hospital.

He was there for three days then, after refusing to give either name or address, discharged himself into the winter, wearing only the thin clothing of his arrival.

Offered a coat by one of the hospital staff, the man replied: "No thank you, my dear friends. I am well provided for."

Weird tale

At the end of this story, my informant commented: "In a Wiltshire village, people just don't go around calling each other 'my dear friends.'"

The "mystery man" figured later in one of the weirdest tales I have heard: A garage proprietor tells of the night when he was driving through the nearby village of Calne and saw a man wearing only trousers and shirt jump out of the hedge into the path of his car.

The driver felt jolts as first his front and then rear wheels passed over something in the road. Stopping his car, the garage proprietor walked back to the spot and found nothing.

Fifty yards past the scene of the incident, he saw the figure of a man wave and disappear into the hedge.

The driver followed the figure as far as a graveyard and then called the police. They spent the whole night looking for a "casualty" but found nothing.

I do not offer these stories as undeniable fact but as examples of what the people of Warminster have been listening to for a long time.

The population keeps its views very dark — but while many are prepared to admit the possibility of spacemen, a number of people are firmly convinced that the Army's neighbouring encampments is 'up to something'.

Couple's view

A couple who have lived in Warminster for many years and raised two children there, told me: "My husband and I — neither of us has experienced anything personally — grew to accept that there was a mystery here, and later on we realised that it called for a decision on our part—we couldn't just carry on as if nothing had happened."

The husband took over: "I believe the same kind of discussions have taken place in the more serious homes in the town. People aren't afraid or anything like that."

Kept secret

"But they won't reveal their inner thoughts to closest friends or even wives."

I pressed him to tell me what factors he and his wife had borne in mind when trying to reach a conclusion. Had the "Thing" made any difference to their lives?

"The truth is that we may never know what the noises and objects mean — perhaps that is not so important, but these tales are enough to set you thinking."

"Both of us found we were prepared to believe in spacecraft and landings on earth — on the other hand we could well imagine the Army being behind it all."

"The 'Thing' has not made very much difference to life in Warminster — it hasn't made us lock up our children for example — though people are finding they can't really do without an explanation — they have got to decide on something."

Inhabitants are, not so much frightened by the "Thing" as scared stiff of being ridiculed — perhaps because they are a little alarmed by the thoughts they are finding in themselves. Many conceded they had a moral responsibility to sort out their attitudes but still edged when pressed to decide—or talk about their true beliefs.

My experience says that there is "hot" news in a subject which is the one topic of conversation, and something, even more gripping where no one talks at all.

Warminster may be the stamping ground of issues even more relevant than the question of flying saucers: we may find in the future behaviour of this former Saxon settlement a clue to men's attitudes towards space travel and the unknown.

Burden of infinity

For at the heart of life you find mystery—all paths through knowledge and experience, intuition and endeavour, lead finally to inscrutable silence.

In this stillness, where science and philosophy reveal fresh questions with each answer, men must create their own truths.

A science opens up the universe, man will learn that the burden of infinity towards which he rides his intelligence cannot be softened by phrases such as "light years" and "quasi-stellar sources."

The age-old problem lying in wait among the stars and galaxies is one of personality, calling for a reworking of earth-bound man's attitude towards himself inherited from a day his supremacy was unchallenged.

You have only to ponder the sky at night to feel part of the mystery.

The challenge tossed down to earth by the planets, the drifts of time and space and tales of flying saucers, is not: "What are we?" but "Whatever we are, what will you make us mean to you?"

The answer lies in our own hearts as the old lady at Warminster knew who told me: "No one really knows what 'IT' means, dear it's become a private 'Thing' to everyone here — we all have our own way of dealing with it in our minds."

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JULY 1950



Many have reported seeing the saucers but it remained for Al Hixenbaugh to do something about it—with his trusty 16 mm. magazine-loading movie camera. "Hix," Times staff photographer, took 50 feet of film in which the bright flying object shows clearly in all.

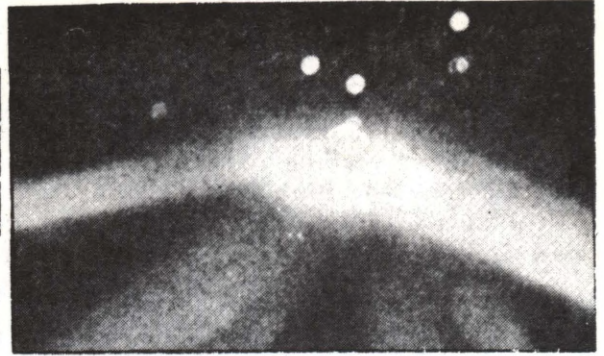
The photographer was at Longest and Everett Avenues, near his home at 2205 Longest, at 4:15 p.m. yesterday. He was on his way to take some movies of birds.

Suddenly he heard the roar of a big plane—a twin-motored DC-3—and glanced overhead. At first he thought it was a jet plane. Then he looked to the west of the plane, which was flying southwest toward Standiford Field—and saw the large disk. It had a slight corona around it and seemed to be lower than the plane.

Then it began to get smaller finally vanishing into the west. While the "saucer" appears on all of the film he took, the plane was out of the picture field quickly, appearing only on about 10 feet. The disk was within his vision "about a minute."

"Hix" contacted the newsroom at WHAS and from there Jerry Gammons called Standiford and Bowman Fields and weather officials. None had heard any reports of a "flying saucer." He was advised to inform military officials at Godman Field.

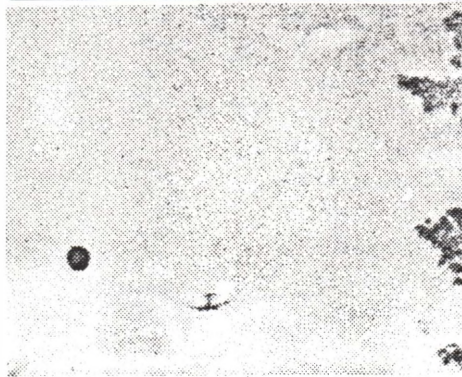
Godman said it would notify flight headquarters at Wright-Patterson Field which might send an aide to examine the films.



February 26, 1942 *Real Flying Saucer?*



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FLYING SAUCERS DO NOT EXIST...

"The AF has no evidence that UFOs are extraterrestrial or represent advanced technology of any kind." -
(official AF statement)

PROBE MAGAZINE

quotes Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chief AF-UFO consultant:

- "It is unequivocally false to say that UFOs are never reported by scientifically trained people. Some of the best, most coherent reports come from such witnesses. Four of the sightings were made by professional astronomers while on duty at their observatories, five more by technical specialists, including one reported by the associate director of one of the nation's ranking technical laboratories... all but three involved brilliantly illuminated craft maneuvering in the air.
- "I have in my files hundreds of 'brain teasers'... The truly puzzling reports come from reliable, stable, educated people who generally consider such reports as bunk until shaken by their own experiences. Very few are from cranks or low IQ people.
- "In the last two years, UFO sightings have reached a new high. Each wave of sightings adds to the accumulation of reports which defy analysis by present methods of attacks."
- "No true scientific investigation of the UFO phenomenon has ever been undertaken, despite the great volume of hard data."
- "I'm getting to the point where I'd like to say 'Let's put up or shut up'... Instead of having UFO a synonym for crackpot and ridicule, let's make it scientifically respectable... We should put as much effort on one of these puzzling cases as we would on a Brinks robbery or kidnap case."
(September, 1966)

Dr. J. A. Hynek also admitted in the some series of public statements the existence of photographs obtained with satellite tracking cameras, as well as radar confirmations of strange objects maneuvering in the earth's atmosphere.

PROBE MAGAZINE welcomes the magnificent proposal of a serious investigation of the "saucer" phenomenon. But it should be undertaken by a group of capable, open-minded and impartial individuals representing diverse branches of physical sciences, philosophy and metaphysics. Their approach should be that of devoted researchers with a strong desire to transcend the dogmatic confines of our limited knowledge, to encourage the exploration into a new dimension of reality, casting aside all existing, solid psychological barriers!

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