

	Remains motionless	Appears to hover or slowly move	Moves generally in a straight line
Single point of light	A, D or J	B, C, J or D	C, F, J, K or L
Group of lights	A or D	D or M	L or M
Diffuse glow	H	E or H	E or G
Pulsating or flashing object	A or J	B or J	K or L
Saucer shaped or metallic object	N	K or N	K or N
Flaming or exploding object	N	N	L

A. A single point of light seen in the sky after sunset is likely a star or a planet even though it may not appear that way. Planets in particular are so much brighter than most stars, that they can seem out of place especially when they are located close to the horizon.

Under this circumstance a planet's light is seen through thick layers of the Earth's atmosphere which, through refraction and distortion, can cause the planet to appear to change colors as well as pulsate in brightness if seen in the western sky. The object may seem to descend toward the horizon after a few minutes observation. This is normal for planets and stars--it's a natural motion caused by the Earth's rotation.

B. The same phenomena described in Section A can appear to hover in a mystifying way. Planets (in particular the brightest ones - Venus and Jupiter) if seen in twilight when few fainter celestial objects are visible, can appear to have motion of their own--a motion due to an optical illusion called autokinesis. When a point of light is seen without suitable reference points (such as other stars in a celestial setting or horizon objects such as telephone poles) the muscles in the eye and neck, which have a slight but constant motion of their own, transmit motion to the brain which in turn interprets it as motion of the object. Hence, a bright star or planet seen in a twilight-illuminated sky can take on an illusionary motion. Combine this with the refractive effects of the atmosphere close to the horizon (Section A) and you get color phenomena in addition to the motion. Finally, the rotation of the Earth can carry the object toward the horizon over many minutes of observation (and eventually below the horizon), giving the impression it has landed just the other side of the distant horizon objects. Most UFO investigators have concluded that virtually all sightings of brilliant point-like objects, either in groups or alone, are natural phenomena.

C. If your sighting is in the daytime, this category may apply. One of the most common and yet baffling sights is a brilliant point of light appearing as if from nowhere in a brilliant blue sky. The light may disappear as rapidly as it was first seen to emerge. A common cause of this type of sighting is sunlight reflecting off the bright undersurface of an aircraft. What baffles the observer is the aircraft's invisibility due to its distance. Only the glint of sunlight, and not the object itself, is seen. These sightings are most frequently made a few hours before sunset. Because of the lack of reference points, as

explained in Section B, the object can even have an erratic motion--an optical illusion. If the object is not moving at all, or remains visible for longer than an aircraft could logically be visible, you could be observing sunlight reflected from a research balloon tens of thousands of feet above the Earth. The single spot could be a bright reflection of sunlight off the balloon itself. Binoculars might reveal secondary spots around it, and on closer inspection these would prove to be the research package, dangling below the balloon. Such balloons are particularly prone to erratic motion and account for a significant number of daytime UFO reports.

D. A group of lights seen either by day or night that can appear to remain motionless or move sometimes in an erratic fashion can often be attributed to sunlight reflected off parts of a research balloon and its experiment package. Such an object can be seen for half an hour or more after sunset because at the balloon's high altitude, it is still in the direct rays of the sun, even though you may be observing it from a relatively dark location on the ground. (See also Section C.)

E. A diffuse light, sometimes seen to move in a straight line, but also erratically starting and stopping, constitutes one of the most puzzling UFO sightings. The object could very well be a searchlight beam playing on the bottom of clouds overhead. If you're observing from an urban area or near a place where searchlight beams are likely to be located, the beam itself may remain invisible but the clouds it illuminates can be plainly seen from a great distance. The operator of the beam may be having fun creating a UFO for your enjoyment, but such an observation is a frustration for anyone who is unaware of the source.

F. If your sighting took place in the daytime or under conditions where the sky was cloudy, search another section. This sighting interpretation deals with objects seen on a clear, dark night. Almost everyone has seen a shooting star at one time or another. These small particles of interplanetary debris incinerate in the atmosphere between 40 and 70 miles up as they plunge toward the Earth. They can be the source of UFO reports, particularly the brighter ones which streak through the sky and disappear below the horizon. If something flashes through a starry sky at great speed and quickly disappears, it's safe to assume it's a meteor.

(Continued on Back Cover)

the apro bulletin

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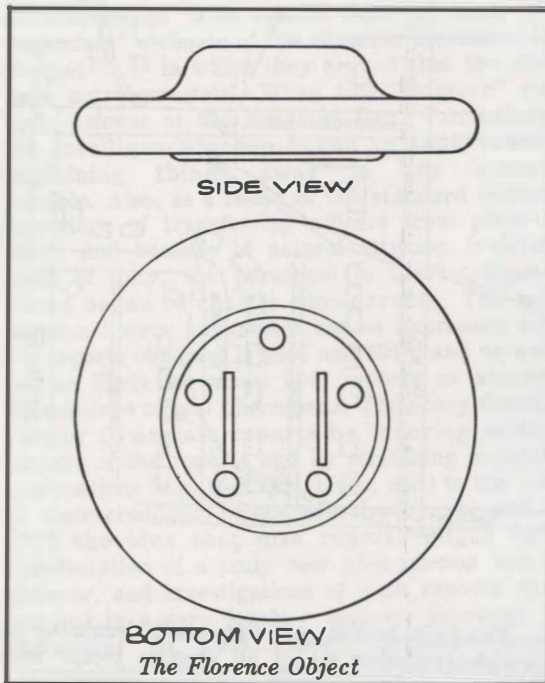
THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

MARCH, 1978

CE I CASE IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

"GARBAGE CAN LID" OVER ARIZONA

On March 6, 1978, Mr. Jerry Ysaguerre's elementary school class at Florence, Arizona was lining up to go to music class after recess at 2 p.m. One of the children called Mr. Ysaguerre's attention to a "garbage can lid" high in the air. Upon spotting it he alerted the rest of the children.



The object was in the southeast, hovering above some trees, and some distance from the observers. However, they could plainly see that it was a dark, metallic gray flat circular object. It was tilted about 10 degrees up toward the viewers and they could see the underside which had five equally spaced round markings and two lighter straight lines within the circle made by the round markings. The latter were darker gray than the object, the straight marks were lighter. They did not know if these marks were "painted on" or some kind of actual design in the surface of the object.

(See Lid - Page Three)

The following is the narrative, in the witness's own words, which are self-explanatory, of a multiple-witness close encounter I in Phoenix, Arizona.

On Thursday evening, February 2, 1978 my son Bruce arrived in Phoenix from his home in Payson, Arizona to join other family members for a trip to Las Vegas the following day to attend a wedding. We decided to have dinner out and phoned my mother, Kay Burlingham to ask if she would like to go along.

We drove to her home, picked her up, had dinner and at approximately 10:00 p.m. returned her to her home.

My son backed the car out of her driveway and headed north on 11th Place. From my seat on the passenger side, I looked out the window toward the East and saw a strange sight. Not more than 30 or 40 feet toward 12th Street and about the same distance above the ground, two lighted baskets were moving in our direction. I said to my son, "What in the world is that? Stop! Stop so we can get out and look at it!" He stopped the car right there in the street and we jumped out to see the object. (See (A) on map.)

They looked like cylindrical bird-cages, made of thin silver-colored wires that were drawn together at top and bottom to form rounded ends: the shape of a fat sausage. The two cages moved around one another as if revolving around a common pole, always the same distance apart, and always the same distance above the ground in relation to one another. Each one faced the same direction at all times; that is, the same side of each was oriented toward the north at all times, while the opposite side always faced the south. As I looked up at them in motion, one would appear higher than the other when it was nearer and as they continued to revolve around their common pole, the one would then appear lower when it was behind the other. One could be seen through the other when passing behind it.

At the bottom of each basket was a bright light, not a spot-light and not a flood-light type, for it did not illuminate the ground below, nor the tree-tops nor the roof-top of the house it was near. Each light created a glow around the bottom of its cage, which may have obscured from view anything that may have been in that part of the cage, and we saw nothing inside them.

(See Phoenix - Page Two)

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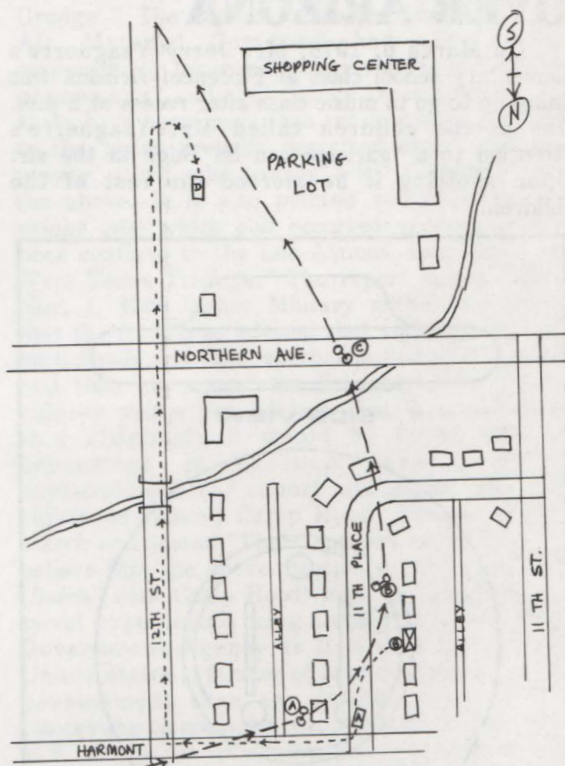
NOTICE

The mailing cover of this issue of the Bulletin consists of a number of explanations that may convert possible UFOs into probable IFOs. This information was compiled at the Gates Planetarium in Denver and has been used as a free info. handout at the Flandreau Planetarium in Tucson. Apro can furnish these info sheets in quantity for a nominal cost. Perhaps a Planetarium in your area would be interested?

Phoenix

(Continued from Page One)

Each basket was 10 to 15 feet high with a 5 to 6 foot diameter. The wires comprising the shape were probably $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" in diameter and spaced about 4" to 6" apart. They glittered as if the rod surfaces were not smooth and uniform, but were patterned.



The twin baskets emitted a soft, humming purr which reminded me of an electric motor rather than a gas-driven one.

I broke into a run to my mother's house and pounded on her door. About a minute passed before she came to the door because she was preparing for bed. She stepped outside as I excitedly told her to look up at the object in the sky. By now it was about 150 to 200 feet south of her house and was rising as it went. As I stood at her door, (B), it had curved from its southwest direction toward the south and had begun its ascent. The two lighted baskets were still clearly visible and we discussed the size, shape, sound, etc., until it was out of sight behind trees and houses to the south. (C).

[See Phoenix Page Three]

Phoenix

(Continued from Page Two)

I then rejoined my son, where he had remained with the car. We decided to follow it as far as we could. We turned south on 12th Street, we spotted it again, still moving southward and rising steadily into the sky. We crossed Northern Avenue, then saw that it was veering slightly toward the southeast. Soon it would be hidden behind trees and buildings and we would not be able to keep up with it on the streets. So my son drove into the parking lot of the shopping center at this intersection and we again emerged to watch it. (D).

Nobody else in the parking area was looking up at it. The object was much less noticeable now, and only looked like two moving lights in the sky. In another half-minute the two lights looked more like one small, insignificant light in the distance, so we left.

As we drove to my son's house, I learned that he had not been aware of any sound coming from it, although Mother had heard the quiet motor, as I had. After dropping him off, I continued on home and phoned my mother for further discussion. She said she had seen a silvery connecting bar joining the tops of the two cages.

The next morning, we all went to Las Vegas for my son's wedding and I put the incident out of my mind for the week-end. Back in Phoenix on Monday, I began to think I should report it, as it might be important information. Also, I was very curious to find out if anyone else had seen the revolving baskets. I had an evening college class to attend on Monday evening, so on Tuesday evening, I called the local newspaper and without giving my name, because I wanted to avoid publicity, I learned that no other report of the incident had been received there. The reporter did not seem too interested, probably because it had happened so long ago, and suggested that I report it to the police. I did so, and was told to report it to the nearby Air Force Base. I decided to find a research organization to give the information to instead, as I knew it would be taken seriously and utilized properly by such specialists.

(Signed) C. C. M.

#####

Lid

(Continued from Page One)

Suddenly the object moved sideways in a smooth motion and stopped a short distance to the left of its original position, where it hovered for about 5 seconds, and then moved straight away in a 90-degree directional change. It followed this

course toward a small, dark cloud where it stopped and hovered again. In a few seconds it started to move again and once more moved smoothly to the left of the observers, stopped again for a few more seconds and then moved straight away again and ascended until it was out of sight.

After several of the witnesses were interviewed by Field Investigator Wendelle Stevens, it was learned that the object had a domed top and a slightly raised portion on the bottom. When the object ascended into the sky it was out of sight within two or three seconds.

Typical of many witnesses' reactions when confronted by something out of the usual, Mr. Ysaguerre rationalized and told Mr. Stevens that he thought the object must have been a garbage can lid blown up by the wind although he was puzzled by the lack of wind where he was standing.

Suffice it to say that had there been sufficient wind to elevate a garbage can lid and blow it about the sky, there would have been a lot of other things blowing around and there wasn't.

###

BOOK REVIEW

THE WALTON EXPERIENCE

by Travis Walton

Berkley Medallion Books, New York, 191 pp., paperback, \$1.95.

By James D. White

The first account in the victim's own words of an abduction by UFO occupants is, automatically, a landmark in published UFO literature.

The Walton Experience, however, has other qualities recommending it for landmark status. It is brief, lucid, almost spartan in its adherence to what the author believes to be factually true, and yet eloquent in conveying the overwhelming sense of exotic terror inherent in such an abduction. Most of all, it is a smoothly moving, human story of what happened to one of perhaps no more than a dozen *known* human beings who have been subjected to such encounters with unearthly aerial objects and their alien occupants.

The Travis Walton case was one of the few abduction cases to be widely publicized shortly after occurrence. It involved a crew of seven U.S. Forest Service contract workers who were thinning out trees and brush in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest which broods above the Mogollon Rim in east-central Arizona.

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Review

(Continued from Page Three)

Travis Walton was one of the seven — all young, healthy woodsmen who had been wielding chainsaws and piling their cuttings all day on Nov. 5, 1975. They were leaving the scene in the truck that evening when they spotted an orange glow beyond the trees off the bumpy forest trail. They passed a clump of conifers, and there, only 90 feet away, suspended in the air just below tree-top level, was the source of the glow. "My God," gasped one, "it's a flying saucer." None had seen one before, and none had had any particular interest in the subject.

Walton describes in detail their awe as they gazed at it, hanging motionless and glowing in the air, how he opened the door for a better look, and then how he got out and approached it, perhaps compulsively despite their urging him to come back. As he got almost underneath it he felt as if struck by a thunderbolt and knew nothing more until he regained consciousness inside it. The six other men saw him struck by an intense beam of blue-green light which hurled his senseless body backward 10 feet. The crew boss, Michael Rogers, instinctively tramped on the gas to save his crew and did not stop for a few hundred yards when they all realized they would have to go back and look for Walton, dead or alive. As they debated, one man saw the UFO rise and streak off with incredible speed until it vanished. They went back to the clearing, searched frantically, but could find no sign of Walton. He was not seen again until five days later when he awoke on a paved highway, a dozen miles across trackless forest north of the kidnap site, just outside the town of Heber.

The six men realized they would have to report Walton's disappearance, as any attempt to conceal it could be interpreted as guilty knowledge if not complicity in what could be a murder. They drove to the nearest telephone and called the sheriff's office. The sheriff, fortunately, turned out to be a man who not only did his duty under law but also had seen a UFO himself and understood their confused and terrorized state of mind.

During the organizing and the massive, fruitless searching for Walton or his body which went on for days afterward it was, of course, impossible to prevent word of the incident from reaching the press, television and radio media. Newsmen with their own built-in pressures, UFO buffs, cranks, all descended in person or by telephone upon the family, the searchers and the sheriff's office, and still further confusion resulted. All the forestry crew volunteered to take lie detector tests, were given them, and their accounts all agreed. All passed except one young man who was still so upset by the experience that results were meaningless.

When Travis Walton came to on the highway outside Heber, he saw the saucer which

presumably had put him down there. It was bigger than the one that had kidnapped him, and it departed silently and without lights as it lifted straight up into the sky. He was able to recognize where he was, made his way into Heber, found a telephone booth and called his nearest relative who came and got him after alerting the rest of the family. Walton thought he had been unconscious only a couple of hours, and was stunned when told he had been missing five days. He did not believe it until he felt the five days' growth of beard on his face and checked his watch which confirmed the five-day lapse.

Then he found he had lost 10 pounds and was famished for water and food. He spent a sleepless night in tearful reunion with his family and was moved to the home of his brother, Duane, near Phoenix as the family sensibly realized the priority need for a physical examination, preferably without publicity.

They first tried through a local UFO group which had offered to provide the necessary facilities. However the brothers grew suspicious and broke off this approach, turning instead to APRO after Coral Lorenzen figured out that Travis probably was with Duane and simply picked up the telephone and dialed him home in Phoenix. From long experience, she and Jim Lorenzen knew what needed to be done and placed APRO's services at the disposal of the Waltons.

After a physical examination showed Travis was not suffering from radiation or anything else detectable except exhaustion and shock, he, Duane and their mother took polygraph tests and all passed — the examiner reported they all were telling what they believed to be the truth. Meanwhile the Phoenix group had turned against him, and one member made a statement that the whole affair was a deliberate hoax and that Travis had been on an LSD trip. Duane had taken a sample of Travis' first voided urine after his return. An analysis showed no trace of drugs.

After the Waltons told their story to officials, they gave it to the media, with all the confusion and misreporting that takes place in such situations. Even Berkley, the publisher of this book, somehow omits an important page from Travis's typescript where he carefully explains a misunderstanding that arose about his own test.

(Berkley also published last fall the latest Lorenzen book, *Abducted!*, which quickly sold out an edition which seems to have been so small that not even the authors have been able to obtain a copy of their own book. Berkley, in response to my inquiry, says only that "no reprint scheduled at the present time." There was no other reply to the question as to why, if a book dealing with several recent and new abduction cases [including Walton's] had sold out, there had been no reprint).

As soon as physically able, Travis told his story under hypnosis to such APRO specialists as Dr.

[See Review Page Five]

Review

(Continued from Page Four)

James Harder of the University of California and Dr. Leo Sprinkle of the University of Wyoming. In the first saucer he was overwhelmed with revulsion at the three small beings he saw there. They apparently did not harm him, but he was repelled by their oversized heads, large staring eyes, nailless fingers and soft, flabby, chalk-white flesh. In the ship he also encountered a man who escorted him off the ship to a room off an external hangar to three other beings who appeared to be normal humans (including one obvious female) except for eyes that had irises of a peculiar golden-hazel hue. No one ever spoke to him, and their disinterest in communicating with him added to the unnerving aspects of his experience.

Even more disturbing was the fact that he could account for less than two hours of consciousness in the five days that had elapsed. During one session under hypnosis the idea emerged that he had been implanted with a warning that any attempt to recover the rest of the five days from his subconscious could be fatal. He still is debating whether to try it. Some day, maybe, he says.

But his detailed description of everything he can recall of those two hours of consciousness is enough. This is a book you won't willingly put down.

He is a good reporter, and sticks to what he believes to be the facts until a single chapter in which he speculates on what it all may mean. He doesn't know, says so, and labels his speculation clearly as no more than just that.

Most interesting, perhaps, is the way Travis Walton comes through as a human being. Above all he is thoughtful and restrained, generous in his account of what his fellow workers went through, and obviously is trying to do just what he says he is — set the record straight after all the wild reports that have been published. He is a healthy young man who understands clearly what his forestry work means and why he likes it. He puts down everything he thinks is relevant, as a good reporter should, and tells us why. He writes well, with economy and modesty.

One sees no slightest reason to disagree with Jim Lorenzen's assessment of him in the foreword Jim wrote for the book:

"Travis is the kind of person I would be pleased to have as a neighbor, as a friend, or as a son."

#####

More Booms

Charleston, N.C. was again rocked by the mysterious booms which have plagued the East Coast of the United States in the past two months.

On the morning of February 20th Mrs. George Johnson, a resident of James Island, south of the city, reported that her house shook and her dogs began to bark. Frank Hunt, news director of WCIV-TV, north of Charleston, said the third in the series of booms was the longest, lasting for four seconds, and rocking the station building.

The first boom came at 8 A.M. and the last 15 minutes later.

The "booms" taking place in late 1977 occurred mostly in the early A.M., and the last report before the February 20th series was in mid January and came at midnight.

No official explanation for the phenomenon has been set forth and Joyce Bagwell, seismologist at Baptist College in Charleston, says her equipment indicates the booms are acoustical vibrations and not related to earthquake activity.

Associated press reported on February 21st that a federal investigation ordered by President Carter is under way.

#####

Letters

I am writing to you concerning a letter written by a Mr. Rendler which appeared in the July '77 edition of the *APRO Bulletin*.

Mr. Rendler, it would seem, represents the new "avant-garde" type of UFOlogy which is on the increase these days. If one does not understand what I mean they need only pick up a current book written by people such as Brad Steiger, John Keel or Jacques Vallee.

I in no way object to these authors' interests in these areas or to their works, nor to the ideas which they put forward, but I strongly disagree when they begin to say, like Mr. Rendler, that the Extraterrestrial origin hypothesis for UFOs is now out of the question and quite invalid. Indeed, in some circles this train of thought has completely implanted itself and this is where the line ends. What has happened?

When I got into the UFO field in the early 60's the most prevalent theory going then was that UFOs were from outer space . . . As time went on I began to realize that there were more possibilities and theories ranging from Ethereal and inter-dimensional to space animals and hollow earth. Today there are so many it would take a separate book just to fit them all in. However, the one thing I have remained is that **I am open to any and all possibilities!** Who knows maybe all those theories are right? I must admit though that to this day, some 13 or 14 years later, the extraterrestrial-hypothesis is to me just as strong if not stronger than it ever was. In fact, I challenge Mr. Rendler and any who may agree with him to supply me with a fairly valid and genuine UFO report that they believe definitely proves their theory.

(See Letters - Page Six)

Letters

Also, one thing that a lot of people like Mr. Rendler seem to forget is that we are still working with theories! Each theory is just about as valid as the next and we are no closer to the answer to the UFO enigma than we were back in 1947. This is where they are falling quite short of themselves and hurting the entire UFO field as a result.

I freely admit that I support the ETH and that I do consider it definitely **not** invalid. But on the other hand, I continue and will continue to consider other theories, no matter how contrary to my way of thinking and should one day my pet theory be proven wrong I will have enough courage and open-mindedness to admit that I was wrong. Will you Mr. Rendler?

I will now close and leave you with this thought. There's an old saying:

The mind is like a parachute; it only functions when open!

Robert Badgley

#####

I would like to comment on the reprint of the Editorial by Neil Huth.

It classifies the various "ISMS" as pseudo-scientific, etc. with the same force as the famous committee formed by the Hon. Paul Kurtz which as everyone seems to know discounts all Paranormal including UFO's as myths and imaginary.

It would seem to me that the various theories in themselves should be taken as the various departments of Physics which are valid within themselves not necessarily when compared to each other.

Just as there are various Geometries each explaining a particular set of ideas so the various Isms, though they may be discounted at a later date due to greater amounts of information not known explain certain physical phenomena.

For his information Mr. Trench also wrote a book on the Hollow Earthism, he wrote independently and used different routes to reach the same conclusion, called the *Secret of the Ages*.

As for the Bermuda Triangle and other similar areas of the world that are little publicized Mr. Ivan T. Sanderson, a man of great intellect wrote the book entitled *The Invisible Residents* which speaks authoritively on the possibility of the occupants of UFO's intelligently choosing their landing places on water where they are rarely seen and seems logical the place to reside will be where they will not be disturbed to a great degree.

Robert Charroux, the author of several enlightening books which tend to bring forth heretofore unknown or suppressed knowledge and tends to support Velikosky and Von Daniken as well as others that have been maligned by the scientific community as Crackpots and Pseudo-Scientific Theorists.

It seems to me that the attack on the brave and stalwart individuals is counter productive and tends to harm the effort of the organizations that try to investigate reported sightings and explain physical evidence. There are other methods of investigation other than the Sight and Touch method and we should take advantage of the abilities of these individuals that possess these talents heretofore misunderstood and maligned by the Church and these days by the Scientific Community as well.

Simon M. Frohman

#####

Report from Finland

[the following is a report on UFO activity in Finland submitted by SUOMEN UFOTUTKIJAT RI].

During the last quarter of 1977 the ufo Research of Finland received a total of 16 sighting reports, of which 7 took place in October, November, and December. Two of the cases turned out to be Russian rocket tests in the atmosphere. Three cases were classified as vague for the lack of information, but studies continue. The remaining two cases were classified as UFOs. In the Finnish media there were 65 articles or transmissions dealing with UFOs or related phenomena (9 in print and 2 on TV) Most of them concentrated on the visit to Helsinki of the Swiss author Erich von Daniken and on the UFO movie "CE 3".

On December 3, 1977 at 9:30 p.m. at Aaneikoski two people saw an unusual combination of lights in the backyard of their country home, at a distance of about 10 meters. Barking dogs and restless calves aroused their attention. The phenomenon was composed of a circle of light (diameter 1 meter) and four horizontal bars of light (total width 3 meters, total height 2 meters) to the left of the circle. The witnesses observed the lights until 3:30 in the morning, but since the objects remained motionless all this time they went to bed. When they woke up it was snowing, the snow covered the yard entirely except for the patch of ground that had been directly under the circle of light. Later it was also covered by snow.

On December 19, 1977 at 7:30 a.m. in Lappeenranta five people observed a bright light from four different viewpoints. The witnesses that were closest to the object (at a distance of about 80 meters) described it to be oval in shape and pointed on one end. The top portion of the object shone brightly. The pointed end contained a red light and there was a band of red lights between the upper and lower portions. A humming sound was heard and a trail observed behind the object. The phenomenon flew at an altitude of 10 to 30 meters. Witnesses that were further away described the object to be a ball of light, forming three different lights part of the time.

UFO Related Information from the FBI File

by Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee
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GREEN FIREBALLS

From sources other than the FBI file we know that by the fall of 1947 the Air Force Intelligence had decided that "flying discs" were real objects^{10, 52} (see also the undated, unsigned paper in the FBI file which is reproduced verbatim in the section "The FBI Retreats") Later, in the summer of 1948 a dominant feeling of the intelligence group working on the UFO reports was that they were extraterrestrial. This caused them to write the "legendary" estimate of the situation mentioned by Ruppelt^{10, 21} in which they argued that the discs were extraterrestrial. When this "estimate" met with disfavor at the hands of Gen. Vandenburg, the intelligence group began to tend toward explaining things away in any manner possible. Also, as a result of the standard military procedure of transferring officers from place to place, and because of natural attrition involving tours of duty, the personnel in the intelligence group began to change considerably. The new personnel were apparently not as impressed with the reports obtained in 1947 and 1948, and so were not as likely to accept new reports as accurate descriptions of real phenomena. Thus they found it easier to explain reports by ignoring certain aspects of the reports and by stretching mundane explanations (e.g., balloons, birds, etc.) to the limit of their credibility. Consequently, by the end of 1948 the idea that disc reports might be a manifestation of a truly new phenomenon was in disfavor, and investigations of such reports were handled in a very low-key manner. However, in December of 1948 green fireballs began "threatening" certain highly restricted areas in the southwestern united states. Reports of these fireballs were made by many credible individuals, so by the end of December, it was clear that a real phenomenon was being observed. The intelligence group that had been investigating flying discs was now given another job: to find out what the green fireballs were and why they seemed to be concentrated over certain areas. Moreover, the FBI was brought back into the picture because of their interest in the protection of vital installations. The story of the fireball investigations (Project Grudge and Project Twinkle) can be found in detail elsewhere^{53, 54, 55, 56}. I will present here information

received by the FBI which indicates how the AF "felt" about these phenomena.⁵⁷

The first document relating to the green fireballs is dated Jan. 31, 1949, and it was filed under the heading "Protection of Vital Installations, Bureau File No. 65-58300". Because it provides a good overview of the green fireball-disc situation through January 1949, I will reproduce it in full:

"At recent Weekly Intelligence Conferences of G-2, OSI, and F.B.I., in the Fourth Army Area, Officers of G-2, Fourth Army have discussed the matter of 'Unidentified Aircraft' or 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena' otherwise known as 'Flying Discs', 'Flying Saucers' and 'Balls of Fire'. *This matter is considered top secret by Intelligence Officers of both the Army and the Air Forces.*" (This sentence was underlined in the original copy by the FBI agent who wrote it.)

"It is well known that there have been during the past two years reports from the various parts of the country of the sighting of unidentified aerial objects which have been called in newspaper parlance 'flying discs' and 'flying saucers'. The first such reported from Sweden, and it was thought that the objects, the nature of which was unknown, might have originated in Russia."

"In July 1948 an unidentified aircraft was 'seen' by an Eastern Airlines Pilot and Co-Pilot and one or more passengers of the Eastern Airlines plane over Montgomery, Alabama. (note: Chiles-Whitted Case, July 24, 1948) This aircraft was reported to be of unconventional type without wings and resembled generally a 'rocket ship' of the type depicted in comic strips. It was reported to have had windows; to have been larger than the Eastern

Airlines plane, and to have been traveling at an estimated speed of 2700 miles an hours. It appeared out of a thunderhead ahead of the Eastern Airlines plane and immediately disappeared in another cloud narrowly missing a collision with the Eastern Airlines plane. No sound or air disturbance was noted in connection with this appearance.

"During the past two months various sightings of unexplained phenomena have been reported in the vicinity of the A.E.C. Installation at Los Alamos, New Mexico, where these phenomena now appear to be concentrated. During December 1948 on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 20th and 28th sightings of unexplained phenomena were made near Los Alamos by Airline Pilots; Military Pilots, Los Alamos Security Inspectors, and private citizens. On January 6, 1949, another similar object was sighted in the same area."

"Dr. Lincoln La Paz, a Meteorologist (sic) of some note, has been generally in charge of the observations near Los Alamos, attempting to learn characteristics of the unexplained phenomena."

"Up to this time little concrete information has been obtained."

"There have been day time sightings which are tentatively considered to possibly resemble the exhaust of some type of jet propelled object. Night-time sightings have taken the form of lights usually described as brilliant green, similar to a green traffic signal or green neon light. Some reports indicated that the light began and ended with a red or orange flash. Other reports have given the color as red, white, blu-white (sic), and yellowish green. Trailing lights sometimes observed are said to be red. The spectrum analysis of one light indicates that it may be a copper compound of the type known to be used in rocket experiments and which completely disintegrates upon explosion leaving no debris. It is noted that no debris has ever been known to be located anywhere resulting from the unexplained phenomena."

"Recent observations have indicated that the unidentified phenomena travel at a rate of speed estimated at a minimum of three miles per second and a maximum of twelve miles per second, or a mean calculated speed of seven and one-half miles a second, or 27,000 miles an hour. Their reported course indicates that they travel on an East-West line with probability that they approach from the Northern quadrant, which would be the last stage of the great circle route if they originated in Russia." (Note: compare this with the information supplied to the Stamford, Conn. office about the possibility of orbiting atomic bombs in 1947 presented earlier. Part II page 11) "When observed they seem to be in level flight at a height of six to ten miles and thus traveling on a tangent to the earth's surface. They occasionally dip at the end of the path and on two occasions a definite vertical change in path was indicated.. these phenomena have not been known to have been sighted however, at any intermediate point between Russia and Los Alamos, but only at the end of the flight toward the apparent 'target', namely, Los Alamos."

"In every case but one the shape of the objects has been reported as round in a point of light with a definite area to the light's source. One report gives a diamond shape; another indicated that trailing lights are elongated. The size is usually compared to one-fourth the diameter of the full moon, and they have also been compared in size to a basketball with trailing lights the size of a baseball."

"On no occasion has sound been associated directly with the phenomena, but unexplained sounds have been reported from Los Alamos. On two occasions reports have been received of the sighting of multiple units."

"Some nine scientific reasons are stated to exist which indicated that the phenomena observed are not due to meteorites (sic). The only conclusions reached thus far are that they are either hitherto

unobserved natural phenomena or that they are man made. No scientific experiments are known to exist in this country which could give rise to such phenomena."

About two months later, the FBI headquarters received further information about the status of the fireball.⁵⁸ In this report the FBI agent reemphasized the secret classification and pointed out that "G-2, 4th Army, has now advised that the above matter is now termed 'Unconventional Aircraft' and investigations concerning such matters have been given the name 'Project Grudge'." The report mentioned that the USAF Air Materiel Command had the primary responsibility for investigating the "Green fire ball phenomena" and that "since December 5, 1948 there have been more than ten incidents analogous to the 'green fireballs' described above and some twenty other with minor (sic) deviations from the above. It is also pointed out that the only sightings (sic) which had occurred seemed to have been confined to the Los Alamos, Las Vegas, and West Texas Triangle." The report stated that on Nov. 1, 1948 higher Military authorities claimed that the Air Force advised that sightings occurred periodically and that "another period of sightings (sic) was then imminent." On Feb. 14, 1949, "Higher military authorities advised that it was believed that ultimately it would be found that the phenomena in question have a natural explanation." The report also mentioned some sightings around Camp Hood, Texas, in early March and stated "There appears to be reason to believe that the above-mentioned phenomena (i.e., "flares" near Camp Hood) may be connected with secret experiments being conducted by some U.S. Government Agency as it is believed that the United States is farther advanced in guided missile development than any foreign power." It is interesting to note the reappearance of the "secret U.S. device" as an explanation that might appeal to the intelligence community. This suggests that there was no doubt that the phenomena were real, and therefore the intelligence community, or at least part of it, felt the objects must be man-made.

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	Moves rapidly in straight line	Moves erratically	Appears to land
Single point of light	F or G	B, C, E, J or N	A, B, D or J
Group of lights	F or G	C, D, M or N	M or N
Diffuse glow	E or G	E or N	H or N
Pulsating or flashing object	F or J	N	J or N
Saucer shaped or metallic object	K or N	N	N
Flaming or exploding object	G	N	N

G. A rare celestial event known as a bolide, seen by relatively few people, often is confused with the supposed appearance of an extraterrestrial spacecraft. A bolide--a large meteor--can be nearly as bright as the full moon but appears as a fiery ball of light that may burst into three or four separate objects as it plunges to its incinerating death through the atmosphere. Bolides are chunks of interplanetary debris ranging from the size of a peanut to fist-size or larger. As they enter the atmosphere, occasionally at velocities more than 50 miles per second, their surfaces burn white-hot due to friction with air particles. The light from such objects can be seen for hundreds of miles. A bolide that enters the atmosphere almost parallel to the horizon will seem to fly overhead, dropping sparks and occasionally emitting noises like distant thunder--a perfect candidate for a UFO. If a bolide seems to disappear beyond some distant trees, it is probably dozens of miles away rather than within walking distance as it seems. Even more baffling is a bolide seen on a hazy or cloudy night when it appears as a flickering light behind clouds or diffused in the haze. If you observe what you think is a bolide or something similar, a detailed report of it can be a valuable piece of scientific evidence.

H. Although the moon does not present an appearance that is puzzling under normal conditions, it can produce unusual optical effects when haze or clouds are present at night. Not only does the moon appear as a diffused globe behind dense haze or certain types of light cloud, but probably more likely to be misinterpreted are moonbeams reflected off ice crystals high in the atmosphere, seemingly well away from the moon. The ice crystals act as tiny prisms reflecting moonlight and forming what are commonly called moondogs, lunar halos or rainbowshaped patterns that come and go, appearing most intense to the left and right of the moon.

J. Lights near the horizon appearing as if from nowhere, either single or in a small cluster and extremely brilliant, can be puzzling. They may be aircraft landing lights. The lights can appear to come and go as if by magic because they act like car headlights, very bright when you are looking directly into them and hardly visible from a distance when not so seen.

K. A single light, usually white, seeming to move across the sky without sound does not look like typical aircraft lights at night. Yet, in all probability it actually is an aircraft--either the fiery exhaust of a jet aircraft or its brightest running light which may often be white and

unblinking. It is a popular myth that all aircraft illumination is red or green and blinking.

L. Almost any clear night will prove that the cosmos is not quiet and unchanging. One manmade intruder is an artificial satellite slowly traversing the celestial vault. Artificial satellites usually take several minutes to move from near one horizon to the other. As they progress they can seem to zigzag or move unevenly in their path. This is the effect of an optical illusion called autokinesis (see Section C) which combines with the brain's inherent desire to geometrically link abstract visual objects, such as points of light in the sky. As the satellite moves overhead, the brain connects it with nearby stars causing it to seem to move in a jerky path when in fact it is not. Also, autokinesis--the motion of eye muscles and neck muscles--tends to add additional motion to the straight and unwavering motion of the satellite itself. To compound the confusion, an artificial satellite may be tumbling, thus changing its brightness. Combine all these effects, and a manmade object of well-known characteristics can take on an unusual appearance and may be erroneously labeled a UFO.

M. One of the most baffling UFO sightings is a group of glowing, pulsating objects moving in a regular or sometimes erratic pattern. Occasionally such objects seem to land nearby. Such a description fits the appearance and motion of a flock of migratory birds whose bellies are being illuminated by street-lights or other ground level illumination. The fact that they seemed to land nearby probably means that they did!

N. Certain object appearances and motions do not fall into any readily or plausibly explainable categories. Such sightings may very well be genuine UFOs. What we have attempted to do with this table and guide chart is help you identify objects that you may have considered to be UFOs but are, in reality, some relatively easily explainable phenomena. However, this category indicates that you may have a sighting that could be classified as a UFO and might be worthy of a report to a UFO research agency. Such reports can be sent to:

or: Aerial Phenomena Research Organization
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