

AFFIDAVIT OF EARL L. ZIMMERMAN

(1) My name is Earl L. Zimmerman

(2) My address is: XXXXXXXXXX

(3) I am employed as: _____ . (X) I am retired

(4) During World War II, I served in the Army Air Force as an aircraft radio operator. After the war ended, I left the service, but reenlisted a short time later, reporting to Roswell Army Air field (RAAF), New Mexico, in or about March 1947. There I served in the base radio shack as a high-speed code transmission radio operator. In early 1949, I was transferred to the Office of Special Investigations and assigned to District 17 headquarters at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque.

(5) While stationed at RAAF, I moonlighted as a bartender in the base officer club. During the summer of 1947, I heard many rumors about flying saucers in the club and around the base, including something about investigating the discovery of one under the guise of a plane crash investigation. At about this time, I saw Eighth Air Force commander General Roger Ramey in the O club more than once. On a couple of these occasions, he had Charles Lindbergh with him and I heard they were on the base because of the flying saucer business. There was no publicity about Lindbergh's visits, and I was very surprised to see him in the club. I think he came to Roswell with Ramey, and I seem to recall that on one of these occasions Ramey had flown in from Puerto Rico.

(6) At about the same time, I learned that an officer not stationed at the base, a big man whom I saw in the club a number of times, was a Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) agent. I do not recall how I learned the man was with CIC, but on one occasion when this officer was in the club, I called him to the attention of Colonel William H. Blanchard, the base commander. Blanchard was unaware that this CIC agent was on his base, so he went over and introduced himself. Later, Blanchard told me there was no problem.

(7) In early 1949, after being transferred to OSI in Albuquerque, I worked with Dr. Lincoln LaPaz of the University of New Mexico on an extended project at the university's research station on top of Sandia Peak. We were told the Air Force was concerned about "something" being in the night sky over Los Alamos, and we took 15-minute exposures of the sky with a four by five Speed Graphic camera. We worked in three-man, one-week shifts, and Dr. LaPaz was in charge.

(8) During this project, which lasted for several months, I got to know Dr. LaPaz very well. When I mentioned to him I had been stationed in Roswell during 1947, he told me he had been involved in the investigation of the thing found in the Roswell area that summer. He did not discuss the case in any detail, but he did say he went out with two agents and interviewed sheepherders, ranchers, and others. They told these witnesses they were investigating an aircraft accident. I seem to recall LaPaz also saying they found an area where the surface earth had been turned a light blue and wondering if lightning could cause such an effect.

(10) I have not been paid or given anything of value to make this statement, and it is the truth to the best of my recollection.

Signed: Earl L. Zimmerman
Nov. 2, 1993

Signature witnessed by:
Beverly J. Maggard, 11-2-93

LOGAN, UTAH JOLTED BY VIOLENT EXPLOSION AND GAPING CRATER FOLLOWING MYSTERIOUS "STREAK OF LIGHT" IN SKY: First guess -- a meteorite, but as the evidence was assembled by foremost authorities, the theory dissipated. Here's the story, thanks to the help of Mrs. John German of Woodscross, Utah who probed the Salt Lake Tribune files for the early facts -- before SILENCE!

On May 7, 1954 the Tribune reported: "A 'conventional meteorite fall' did not produce the crater found west of here Sunday, and probing operations at the scene have been discontinued, geologists said. In a 73-word statement, 3 scientists gave reasons why they ended their investigation, but it contained no opinion on who or what made the hole, or how it was made.

"The statement, signed by J. Stewart Williams, professor of geology, Utah State Agricultural College, Lincoln La Paz, director, Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico and Clyde T. Hardy, USAC geology professor read:

'In the region extending from Clarkston south to Paradise, exhaustive interrogation of numerous persons who saw or heard the explosive phenomenon at midnight on May 1 has been carried out. The testimony thus obtained and material evidence recovered as a result of subsurface investigations at the site of the explosion west of Logan have disclosed that the crater was not produced by a conventional meteorite fall. For these reasons, operations have been discontinued!'

And from the Tribune, May 5: "Dr. Lincoln La Paz spent his first full day here, working with Dr. J. Stewart Williams and Dr. Clyde T. Hardy. On his arrival here Monday night, Dr. La Paz said the hole must have been made by a 'whopper' if it contains a meteorite. They decided to place a frame around the crater and cover it with wire mesh. Workers will stand on movable planks and probe with a pipe. In this way they will know they have probed every place possible under the mesh.

" 'My recommendation is that we excavate until we find what made the hole,' said Dr. La Paz, who is credited with recovering the world's largest aerolite, weighing more than one ton. "

The incident occurred on May 1 bringing "500 phone calls" to the Logan City Police Dept. Residents reported their houses "shaken" and TV viewers said their reception was disturbed. A check made later with Hill Air Force Base and Salt Lake City indicated no planes in the area for several hours. A war veteran described the 16 ft. wide and 6 ft. deep hole as looking like a "bomb crater." Sod was found scattered in all directions for more than 100 yards.

On Aug. 31, '54, I wrote Dr. Clyde T. Hardy, geologist who worked on the project, asking if any substantial evidence as to its (the explosion's) source had been uncovered. Following is Dr. Hardy's reply of Sept. 11, 1954:

"Reference is made to your letter of Aug. 31 re. the explosion and crater west of Logan. Although a fireball was reported by several people previous to the ground explosion, I am personally convinced that they were confused. One especially competent observer describes a ground flash only and he was favorably situated to see all aspects of the occurrence."

(Signed) Clyde T. Hardy
Assoc. Prof., Dept. Geology

C.R.I.F.O. NEWSLETTER

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Director
7017 Britton Ave.
Cincinnati 27, Ohio

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GREEN FIREBALLS STRIKE--TARGET NEW MEXICO! ALARMED AIR FORCE TAKES ACTION: (Case 71, New Mexico, April 6, 1955) Three--possibly four--fireballs smashed into New Mexico in a rough line across the southern end of the state. In the Tularosa Basin of south-central N. M. several observers reported sightings. Sgt. Camilla Saenz of Holloman AFB stationed on Sacramento Peak near Cloudcroft said he saw at 9:55 a.m. a yellow fireball with a red tail traveling east to west. At the same time, a plane from Biggs AFB in El Paso reported sighting an object strike near Weed, New Mexico. Air Force planes, flying as low as 250 ft, combed the Weed area for two hours without finding any trace. Observers in Lordsburg 30 miles Northeast described a brilliant white object which struck earth and kicked up dust against the background of the Burro Mountains. A green fireball seen in Roswell and Albuquerque was believed to be the same one which fell in south-central New Mexico, according to Dr. Lincoln La Paz, Director of Un. of N. M. Institute of Meteoritics.

DR. LINCOLN LA PAZ DENIES METEORITIC EXPLANATION: La Paz said heavy radio shortwave and TV disturbances were reported over the state at about the time the fireballs were seen and he understood Air Force bases around the state were concerned about the interference (see Case 26). He said the radio wave disturbances could not be attributed to sun spots. La Paz expressed the opinion that the sightings were "not of normal meteorites". He said the fact that no fragments were found, the absence of noise as the objects fell and the different colors led him to the belief. In summation, La Paz said that it was "incredible" for more than one meteorite to fall in one day. "I don't know what they are", he said, "but they are of the same family". "Also and very important", La Paz said, "when a meteor hits the upper atmosphere and shatters, it may spread fragments from one or 10 to 15 miles. Here, however, we have sightings from about 250 miles across the state". On another point, where observers reported seeing a green fireball with a reddish tail while sighters in Albuquerque saw the tail as green, La Paz said, "I believe those in Roswell were closer and had a type of over-exposure effect from the green ball and saw the complementary color in the tail." He explained, people who are exposed to a bright green light will see objects in an orange color for a few seconds afterward. "The important thing," said La Paz, "is that the fireball was a brilliant Kelly green as opposed to the blue or blue-green color seen in ordinary falls." La Paz quoted Quincy Adams, Albuquerque attorney, who saw it from his eighth floor office window. Adams said it was so bright it looked like an explosion a half-mile away. "And it was 200 miles away," said La Paz. "That's how bright it was." (Cred: Fred Talbot, Hobbs, N.M. & Richard Belden, Jamaica, N.Y.)

In Lordsburg, Lt. Paul Mallott of C. A. P. said the blinding white explosion was witnessed by two men who described the object as dropping from the sky at "tremendous speed", and, with the Burro Mts. as a backdrop, saw it explode in a flash. In another second they said dirt was thrown in the air. Mallott later flew over the area but a dust storm prevented him from seeing anything.

THE HOBBS INCIDENT: Somewhere in a pasture about six miles west of Hobbs lies the evidence! Bill Watson saw an object like a fireball fall not more than a quarter of a mile south of the Hobbs-Carlsbad Highway. The Hobbsan fall occurred about 10:15 a.m. and Watson described it as a dark colored ball about the size of a basketball with a blue tail. Said Watson, "It came from the southeast at a low angle... and not moving too fast. I saw it hit and it kicked up dust." Watson and two newsmen made an unsuccessful hunt for the object the next morning. (Credit: Fred Talbot)

GREEN FIREBALL VISITS OAKLAND: (Case 72, Oakland, Cal., Apr. 7, 55) Hard on the heels of the New Mexican incidents, came the sightings over Oakland and Eureka. The green object was of such brilliance that an airplane pilot thought at first it was a flare from another plane, reported the Oakland International Airport control tower. The fireball disappeared, descending into the WNW horizon. (Cred: Violet Gray of San Mateo)

HOT COALS AND THE CURIOUS HOLE FROM NOWHERE: On April 3, about 6 p.m. three or four hot "coals" exuding white smoke, scooted from no particular point of origin across the highway leading from Sharonville to Cincinnati. Joseph Hauck, one of four witnesses who observed the phenomenon through the windows of an automobile, said the small pebble-like objects "trailed white smoke as they scurried across the road in front of our car." He said that the point from which they came offered no clues as to their source. There were no buildings flanking the highway, no people were in the area and there was no fire of any kind nearby.

Equally mysterious is the incident in Carthage, South Dakota. The mystery began when farmer Ernest Hall and his wife heard a commotion among the chickens. Hall went outside to find the chickens "running around like crazy" with no apparent reason. The next day a neighbor asked Hall what he was digging the hole for. Hall was nonplussed. "What hole?" he asked. The neighbor led him to the spot between the barn and house and showed him a hole about 18 to 19 inches in diameter. Measurement showed it was about 18 feet deep. Hall had no idea where the hole came from, so he called the sheriff who in turn called the Air Force. On Sunday, April 10, two Air Force sergeants arrived from Minneapolis to investigate but no one could find a solution to the mystery. (Cred: G. Popowitch)

EDITOR: Perhaps the "coals" and the hole may have some connection with the fireball bombardment in New Mexico inasmuch as there is an affinity in the dates. Also on April 6 at 8:20 p.m. the writer witnessed a bright green object pass swiftly, silently and horizontally over eastern Cincinnati, traveling in a northeasterly direction. The object had no tail, it was not fiery nor was it bigger than a pinhead. Explanation: meteor! But, the date caused some speculation.

FIERY RED BALL WITH RED TAIL ELUDES R. A. F.: (Case 73, England and Wales, March 24, 55) A squadron of Meteor jets, flying full speed, chased a fiery red object with a red tail across England and Wales. The Daily Mail said the blazing object, like a gigantic meteorite, zigzagged from one end of the country to the other. Hundreds of telephone calls warned police and fire stations of the onrushing object, and there were several reports of aircraft crashing, but no evidence was found. The Daily Mail quotes an Air Ministry spokesman as saying: "A formation flight of Meteors from the R. A. F. station at West Malling, Kent, were flying over Manchester toward Birmingham just after 7 p.m. when they saw an object. It looked like a ball of fire descending rapidly from above them. They were flying at 20,000 ft. and gave chase, but the object made the 500 mile trip from Land's End to Glasgow in about 45 minutes." (Cred: G.L. Menefy, N.Z.)

LOW-FLYING FIREBALL SCARES AUSTRALIANS: (Case 74, Melbourne, Aust., Dec. 20, 54) Following are eyewitness accounts of a fiery object whose eccentric behavior evinces intelligent control. First Witness: T. B. Hehir, Security Officer at the Maribyrnong Explosives Factory. "At 2:45 a.m. I was opening a door in security building when I was suddenly bathed in light. I spun around... the whole ground was lit up. Then I saw what looked like a fire below the clouds. It appeared to have sparks flying from it and it whizzed by me in a matter of seconds. As it went it left a trail behind. The object made a sizzling noise... and was traveling at great speed after it came below the clouds. I feared an explosion but it made only a swoosh as it flew by." Second: Mr. L. Foster, also security man at Maribyrnong. "I had just begun my patrol when suddenly the sky lit up. The night was black and clouded. This thing which looked like a ball of fire, appeared out of the western sky and behind it was a channel of light. All of a sudden it shot across the sky and I had an excellent view of it. I have never seen anything like it before and I have seen many meteors. This object was too low to be a natural phenomenon. I would estimate its speed as twice that of a jet plane. It held me spellbound."

observers at another location at the same time, a triangulation was possible, and La Paz determined that it had taken a short seven-to-eight-mile west-to-east path—straight toward Los Alamos.

At Los Alamos interest in the fireballs inspired the creation of an informal group called the Los Alamos Astrophysical Association, whose members, all scientists and engineers with security clearances, were permitted to examine some classified reports in **Project Sign** files. They agreed with La Paz that the fireballs could not be meteors; perhaps, they suggested, they were missiles somebody was firing into the earth's atmosphere.

On December 29 a statement from the Fourth Army summed up the aerial-phenomena situation in the Southwest. Between December 5 and 28, it noted, there had been 23 reports of "flares or moving lights." All but two were in New Mexico, and nearly all of these were "in the vicinity of an area bounded in the east by the city of Las Vegas and in the north by Los Alamos.... All [of the lights] have been of an intense white or greenish white. The trajectory or path of flight has been north to east, north to west or west to east. Altitude has been reported from 3000 to 20,000 feet above the terrain.... Speed has been undetermined except that it seems to be above the supersonic range."

Deepening mystery. At 5:54 P.M. on January 30, 1949, many hundreds of people saw a "green meteor" come out of the northwest and vanish southwest of Roswell, New Mexico. Kirtland AFB immediately notified Washington, which passed on word to Wright-Patterson. Kirtland announced it was launching an immediate investigation, adding that "local commanders [are] perturbed by implications of phenomena" (Gross, 1982b). La Paz was called in to organize search teams and to instruct them in witness-interview techniques and the use of surveying instruments. La Paz hoped to be able to pinpoint the fireball's impact point.

After speaking with dozens of witnesses, La Paz managed a rough triangulation, and search teams set out to recover fragments. Eventually they ended up in the Lamesa, Texas, area. After a few days' fruitless hunt, the searchers gave up. La Paz was baffled; in the past

he had recovered meteorites with considerably fewer resources than he now had at hand.

La Paz's plotting of the object's trajectory indicated a 143 mile-long path from Amarillo to Lamesa, along a north-south track. The fireball had traveled nearly horizontally, starting at 60,000 feet and ending at around 40,000. Its speed was estimated to be somewhere between 25,000 and 50,000 mph. At that altitude and speed witnesses should have heard an ear-shattering sonic boom, but the fireball's passage took place in total silence. La Paz subsequently told AFOSI agent Paul Ryan that the objects were surely artificial. Perhaps, he suggested, they were radio-controlled missiles being directed by enemy agents in the Southwest.

On February 8 UCLA geophysicist Joseph Kaplan, at the University of New Mexico to lecture on the upper atmosphere, met with La Paz, an old friend, and La Paz filled him in on the green-fireball situation. Kaplan, a member of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board (AFSAB), found La Paz's report unsettling, and he discussed the matter further with Neef and Maj. William Godsoe, Fourth Army Intelligence liaison officer at the Sandia Base. He said he would alert AFSAB chairman Theodore von Karman and urge an investigation in the name of national defense.

Eight days later a "Conference on Aerial Phenomena" was held at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, with military representatives and scientists (including La Paz and UCLA professors Norris E. Bradbury and Edward Teller) in attendance. (There were, however, no representatives of the Air Force's UFO project, despite a pledge to the contrary. Project Sign, whose personnel had been largely sympathetic to the extra-terrestrial hypothesis of UFO origin, was being reorganized. On February 11, just five days prior to the conference, Sign became **Project Grudge**, which as its name implied was decidedly unsympathetic to the UFO phenomenon.) La Paz told conference participants that Kaplan had assured him there was no "classified training exercise" of which fireball-like devices were a part. Whereas most meteors are blue-green, the fireballs were being described as pale green or yellow green.

Moreover, he said, "I defy you to find anywhere among meteorites examples of conventional meteor-

ites that move over long horizontal paths reserving nearly constant angular velocities and therefore, on the average, constant linear velocities, at elevations of the order of eight to 10 miles.... [T]he fireball which I personally witnessed on the night of December 12, 1948, was not, in my opinion, a conventional meteor fall" (Moore, 1983).

Agreeing that the phenomenon was real, the scientists urged that a network of instrument stations be put in place so that the fireballs could be photographed and analyzed with instruments at the moment of their appearance. Teller remarked that his calculations of the expected noise level of any material object with the green fireball's features indicated not a solid but an electro-optic phenomenon.

Afterwards the AFOSI district office at Kirtland sent a priority Secret message to its headquarters and to Air Materiel Command (AMC) at Wright-Patterson pleading for assistance and advice. In its reply headquarters asked the Kirtland office what were the "instructions and/or equipment furnished you by Air Materiel Command regarding aerial phenomena." None, Kirtland responded, then went on to complain that AMC, which oversaw Sign and Grudge, had broken its promise to attend the Los Alamos meeting. Apparently AMC was indifferent both to the reports and to AFOSI's considerable investigative effort.

The same day, April 23, Capt. Roger Groseclose and Lt. Howard Smith were sent from AMC to Kirtland to mollify the unhappy personnel at AFOSI, Kirtland. The following day they had an unpleasant exchange with Capt. Neef, La Paz, Agent Jack Boling, and the Fourth Army's Maj. Godsoe (who had attended the February 16 meeting) in the AFOSI office. Godsoe said that it didn't seem worth AFOSI's time to conduct investigations for AMC, which seemed singularly ungrateful for the favor. The AMC officers retorted that the fireballs were no concern of an Army officer's anyway. Neef in turn wondered if they were any concern of AMC's. After all, green fireballs were different from flying discs. Groseclose and Smith said they were concerned with all types of anomalous aerial phenomena. By this time thoroughly disgusted, Godsoe left the room.

Groseclose and Smith turned on La Paz with a new

list of complaints. Why had he sent AMC his raw data rather than finished analyses? That way other technical personnel could review his work to ensure that he had come to the appropriate conclusions. La Paz pointed out that he had been working as a volunteer on leave from his university job, to which he now had to return. Any further request for his services would have to come with a contract.

Before the meeting broke up, the participants were able to agree with the now-absent Godsoe's recommendation that AMC set up a network of observation posts with cameras, surveyor's transits, and trained personnel. In addition, there should be a concerted air and ground search for fragments. Finally, Neef emphasized to Groseclose and Smith that personnel charged with protection of the Atomic Energy Commission bases were "becoming alarmed as to the possible threat to their security."

On the nineteenth, four days before the confrontation at its office, AFOSI at Kirtland sent a list of all the fireball reports it had investigated (39 in all), from December 5 to April 12, to Air Force headquarters. The cover letter noted, "The common characteristics of most of the incidents are: a. Green color, sometimes described as greenish-white, bright green, yellow-green, or blue green. b. Horizontal path, sometimes with minor variations. c. Speed less than that of a meteor, but more than any other known type of aircraft. d. No sound associated with observation. e. No persistent trail or dust cloud. f. Period of visibility from one to five seconds" (*ibid.*).

But green fireballs were not the only sorts of atmospheric anomalies appearing in Southwestern skies. At 10:30 on the morning of the twenty-fourth, at the White Sands Proving Ground, military personnel were tracking a balloon when a fast-moving disc-shaped object showed up and was tracked through a theodolite. At 6:30 A.M. the next day, according to a young man who reported the event in a letter to La Paz, silvery-white, ball-shaped objects "sort of like Christmas tree ornaments" flew over Springer Lake, New Mexico, moving at a rapid rate of speed. They reappeared repeatedly over the next hour, making a sound like a "high-pitched whistle," but were never visible for more than a few seconds at a time. This report was reminiscent of ones being made in Texas

(see below). At 5:45 P.M. on the twenty-eighth an object with a sausage shape, "with no fins, wings, or protuberances" and the "size of a city block," was seen over Tucson by many observers (Gross, *op. cit.*).

Little lights. A new type of UFO phenomenon began manifesting in central Texas on March 6, when Army security patrols near Killeen Base, a highly sensitive nuclear-weapons storage site inside Camp Hood, spotted strange bursts or streaks of light in the evening sky.

The first sighting took place outside the base perimeter at 8:30 when Pvts. Martin Fensterman and Frank Luisi spotted a flash of pale blue-white light in the northeast. Twenty-five minutes later and a quarter-mile away, Pvt. Harold Moore saw a white light with an orange trail flash across the western horizon. And at 9 P.M., from inside the base boundary, Sgt. Hubert Vickery and Pfc. John Ransom noticed a pale blue-white light streaking across the western sky low over the horizon. Between 1:15 and 2 A.M. four more reports of a brilliant burst of light like a "flash bulb" came in from patrols around Killeen Base.

Almost exactly 24 hours later, on March 8, two infantrymen half a mile apart sighted apparently separate streaking bright lights—one white, the other yellowish-red. In the latter case the UFO covered 60 degrees of sky, appearing and disappearing at about the same angle above the horizon. Cpl. Luke Sims was able to run 10 paces to a field telephone before it vanished.

All of the observers insisted that what they had seen were not meteors. They were more like flares, they said, but they could not find anyone who might have been shooting them off. Nonetheless Capt. Horace McCulloch, Assistant G-2 of the Second Armored Division at Camp Hood, was certain they must be flares. It was just "nervous tension or lack of experience on the part of the observers" that made the witnesses think the phenomena were extraordinary. He decided to gather the witnesses at their respective sighting locations and test-fire various kinds of flares. The test was set for the evening of the seventeenth. But when Capt. McCulloch and his party were driving between Camp Hood and the Killeen Base area to prepare the proposed display, they saw the phenome-

non themselves. McCulloch knew it was no flare, and so he placed the entire base on alert.

There were seven sightings in all that night. Each time multiple observers in different locations were able to effect precise triangulations.

On March 31 at 11:50 P.M. Lt. Frederick Davis, who was on patrol east of Killeen Base, sighted a reddish-white ball of fire passing horizontally over the base airstrip. After 10 to 15 seconds it disappeared without descending. As Davis was reporting the incident, he noted interference on the telephone line.

In mid-April, amid growing alarm among Fourth Army Intelligence personnel in San Antonio, investigators remarked on how the lights had done a "good job of bracketing the 'Q' Area" ("Q" refers to nuclear materials). Just a few days earlier, they pointed out, gossip columnist Walter Winchell had broadcast the story that the Russians were launching the flying discs. On the fourteenth Col. Reid Lumsden, Commander of the AFOSI district office at Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, handed the Army reports to Col. William Carpenter, the Deputy Director of Special Investigations, at the Pentagon. Carpenter promised to pursue inquiries from his own end.

Green fireballs continued. In New Mexico the green-fireball sightings continued, at the rate of half a dozen or so a month. Meanwhile AMC and its new Project Grudge responded only perfunctorily to the reports they were receiving from the Fourth Army and the Seventeenth District AFOSI office; they did little more than supply copies of a report form.

Observing this exhibition of apathy, Col. Doyle Rees, 17th District AFOSI Commander, wired headquarters on April 25 to ask if he could send two of his men to AMC to find out if Grudge planned to do anything. But as it turned out, not only AFOSI was monitoring Grudge's inactivity but Air Force Intelligence was doing so as well. Before Rees had a response from AMC, Dr. Kaplan arrived in Albuquerque, having been directed to go there by no less than AFOIN Director Maj. Gen. Charles Cabell and Air Force Scientific Advisory Board chairman Theodore von Karman, who wanted Kaplan to examine the possibility of setting up a full-scale field investigation. They emphasized that Grudge was not to be informed of it.

On the morning of the twenty-seventh Rees, Kaplan, and La Paz briefed personnel with the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project at Sandia Base. La Paz outlined plans for a network of visual, photographic, spectrographic, and radar observation covering the Los Alamos, Sandia (Albuquerque), and Holloman Air Force Base/White Sands Proving Ground areas, with extensive field searches and aerial reconnaissance to locate fragments. Scientist W. D. Crozier, late of White Sands, now of the New Mexico School of Mines, offered to handle air sampling intended to detect any dust residue from the fireballs' passage. Rees urged that the Camp Hood/Killeen Base area also fall under scrutiny. Kaplan said he would recommend La Paz to direct the probe, with the full cooperation of all other agencies.

Little lights again. On the nights of April 16 and 18, after two weeks of inactivity, the mysterious "flares" were observed once more at Killeen. The most spectacular incidents, however, would occur on the twenty-seventh, beginning with a bizarre encounter at 9:20 P.M. when two members at a patrol station southeast of Killeen were startled to see a blinking violet light no more than an inch and a half in diameter; it was only 10 or 12 feet from them and six or seven feet above the ground. The observation lasted a minute, during which the tiny object passed through the branches of a tree, thus unmistakably marking its location.

Five minutes later and scarcely two miles away, four Army men saw a four-inch bright light with a two-to-four-inch "metallic" cone attached to the back. When first spotted in the northeast, it was six to seven feet off the ground and 600 feet away, silently approaching the witness in a level flight at 60 or 70 mph. It disappeared suddenly to the southwest at a distance of 150 feet. Then, just 12 minutes later, a two-inch-wide white light appeared 100 feet away to the north-northeast. It was flying in a zig-zag fashion in a level path six feet above the ground. At its closest it was 150 feet away. Like the one that had come before it, it vanished abruptly. A third light showed up at 9:39 in the west-southwest. It was visible for a maximum of 30 seconds.

The next night the lights were back. Beginning at 8:30, several security patrols comprising a total of 12

men reported nine separate sightings southeast of Killeen. Most of the slow-moving lights changed color from white to red to green. One was white with a red blinking light, and one had the previously observed "cone-shaped affair" at its rear. On one occasion four lights appeared together; on another, eight to 10 showed up in each other's company. (The light with the cone was seen amid this latter set of objects.) Despite extensive searches no debris or other evidence of flares or similar devices could be found.

In early May the Fourth Army approached AFOSI in San Antonio to ask it to help in the investigation of the Killeen lights. Col. Lumsden declined, explaining it was waiting direction from headquarters in Washington. But the harried Army people were disinclined to take no for an answer, and on May 5 they got AFOSI personnel, along with others from the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), Army Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC), the FBI, and the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP), to show up at Camp Hood for the first of a series of weekly meetings to discuss the strange phenomena.

The Army and Navy representatives agreed that the phenomena were unexplained and thus a legitimate source of "grave concern." AFOSI and the FBI expressed no opinion, but the AFSWP people expressed confidence that a natural explanation would be found and that the base's internal security could handle any problems, if such ever manifested. Fourth Army retorted that doubts about the quality of its witnesses' observations could be resolved if a formal observing network were set up. Unfortunately, it did not have enough agents to conduct a proper investigative job. Moreover, there were questions about who would lead such an investigation, since security responsibilities were divided among the various agencies.

Out of this confused state of affairs came general agreement that, first, an observation system with trained artillery observers was desirable and, second, if such sightings were then confirmed, AMC in Ohio should be asked to send a technical intelligence team to the scene. For reasons of its own the Army did not reveal it had already put such a network into operation the day before. Nonetheless it took the entire group out to Killeen at 1 P.M. to inspect the security

procedures and "tentatively" select sites for the Army observation posts—sites that in fact had been selected and manned at least 24 hours earlier.

The next day Col. Lumsden of the San Antonio AFOSI office informed headquarters that the "matter has reached a fairly serious stage and some positive action is mandatory." He made a point of not sending a copy of his message to Grudge. Headquarters responded quickly with an order to Lumsden to investigate all sightings and other relevant information. There was also a pointed reminder that Grudge was to be kept fully informed.

At AFOSI in Albuquerque Col. Rees set up a 24-hour visual-photographic observation post on top of Sandia Mountains northeast of town. Following Kaplan's suggestion, the post was equipped with a wide-angle-lens camera fitted with a spectrographic grating. The Fourth Army system was more elaborate, except that it lacked cameras. But it did have four six-man fixed-observation posts equipped with instruments to obtain directional bearings and linked by radio and field telephone. One of the posts (all were located within a few miles southeast of Killeen) served as the plotting center to coordinate and triangulate the UFO sightings and directional information from all observers. Two trucks served as a roving "Artillery Patrol" observation post linked by radio to the plotting center. Each day the "Artillery Training Force" (the deliberately misleading name by which the classified UFO patrol was designated) got new orders.

When the Fourth Army plan was finally revealed on May 19 to members of the weekly intelligence conference, everyone was impressed. There was no more talk of hysteria or observer error. Now, as Col. Lumsden subsequently remarked, it was obvious that the "unknown phenomena in the Camp Hood area could not be attributed to natural causes."

Nonetheless in Washington the word was that the fireballs were "natural phenomena." Or so concluded Kaplan, who thought they were a new type of auroral effect. He conceded, however, that their rapid horizontal motion and their appearances so far from the magnetic polar regions were "difficult to explain." AFOIN "tentatively accepted" the explanation despite its problems, and the Geophysical Sciences Branch of the Directorate of Research and

Development, USAF Headquarters, began an evaluation of the reports. If its findings "substantiate this tentative conclusion," Col. John W. Schweizer of AFOIN said in a September 1 letter to AFOIN's director, "reports that fall in the 'fireball' category will no longer be included in Hq. Air Materiel Command and Directorate of Intelligence, Hq. USAF, investigative activity on unidentified aerial incidents." AFOIN rejected an Army request for further facilities to study the fireballs from field locations.

The sightings continued into August. The most spectacular took place on June 6. At 9:05 P.M. both the plotting center and observation post number two spotted a hovering orange light. When they triangulated the UFO's location, they determined it was three miles south of the observation post and four and a half miles south of the plotting center, hovering a mile in the air. This was, however, no "little light" but something 30 to 70 feet in size. Suddenly it started moving in level flight, then burst into small particles. The sighting had lasted not quite three minutes.

On July 24 a green fireball was observed falling close to Socorro, New Mexico. The next morning Crozier collected dust samples from the School of Mines campus in the city. As La Paz reported to Col. Rees on August 17, "These collections, to Dr. Crozier's evident surprise, were found to contain not only the first copper particles he had found in air dust collections but these particles were of unusually large size—up to 100 microns in maximum dimensions" (Moore, *op. cit.*). When La Paz and other scientists and Air Force representatives met with Crozier the following day, Crozier said he thought it was possible the copper particles had blown off the roof or out of the gutters of a campus building; only if similar particles were found in open and distant country could they be deemed unquestionably significant. Subsequent searches found just that. Still, Crozier persisted in calling the results "inconclusive" even as La Paz suspected otherwise, writing to Rees, "I wish to emphasize most emphatically that if future more detailed work shows that the numerous copper particles found by Dr. Crozier and [his assistant] Mr. [Ben] Seely are indeed floating down from green fireballs, then the fireballs are not conventional meteorites. Copper is one of [the] rarest of the elements found in

meteorites.... In fact, I know of no case in which even the tiniest particle of copper has been reported in a dust collection supposedly of meteoritic origin" (*ibid.*). La Paz urged that further air and ground samples be taken in areas where the fireballs had been seen.

In a memo of the same date addressed to La Paz, Rees reported on investigations of "anomalous luminous phenomena" seen between early June and early August. "Many of the green fireballs now appearing descend on nearly vertical paths," he wrote, "whereas, in earlier months[,] almost all of the green fireballs observed move almost horizontally.... There appears to be a concentration of New Mexico incidents near weekends, especially on Sunday and near the hour of 8:00 (in the interval from 7:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.)" (*ibid.*).

Project Twinkle. In early summer Kaplan met with Norris Bradbury, the Los Alamos laboratory director who had participated in the February 16 Conference on Aerial Phenomena. Bradbury urged that a classified scientific conference be held to discuss the fireballs, perhaps when Kaplan was passing through in early September, and that physicists Edward Teller and George Gamow be invited. Kaplan then told AFOIN Director Gen. C. B. Cabell that AFOIN should organize a photographic and spectrographic patrol which could obtain quantitative scientific data on the phenomena. Because of budgetary and personnel limitations AFOIN could not act on the suggestion, but later in the summer Kaplan visited the Geophysics Research Directorate of AMC's Cambridge Research Laboratories in Boston and discussed what could be done in fireballs. In Washington soon afterwards, Kaplan met with personnel in the Geophysical Sciences Branch of Air Force Research and Development to set plans in motion. On September 14, under the authority and command of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, that branch ordered the new AMC commander Lt. Gen. Benjamin Chidlaw to have his Boston labs evaluate the New Mexico and Texas sightings and consider the creation of an instrument network. AMC was directed to send representatives from Boston to a meeting in New Mexico.

At the meeting, held on October 14 at Los Alamos, 16 representatives of AFOSI, AMC (Kaplan), Fourth Army, the FBI, the AESS, AFSWP, and Los Alamos scientists (including such luminaries as Teller, Gamow,

and Stanislaw Ulam) considered the situation. AMC's representative was Maj. Frederic C. E. Oder, director of the Boston geophysics laboratory. La Paz and Capt. Neef spoke at length and recounted their own and other sightings. No one disputed the reality of the phenomena, and the group could not agree on an explanation. One problem was the peculiar geographical concentration of reports: all in New Mexico. What kind of natural phenomenon would appear in only one place and only recently? The group proposed that a field project be run under Oder's Boston lab, with La Paz's active cooperation.

On November 3 Kaplan brought the plan to AFSAB, and on December 20, following consideration by the Defense Department's Research and Development Board (RDB), approval was granted. By February 21, 1950, Project Twinkle, with the assistance of Land-Air, Inc., had set up its first operations post, manned by two observers who scanned the sky over Holloman AFB with theodolite, telescope, and camera.

All the while the sightings had continued. At 10:15 P.M. on January 7 Holloman's assistant maintenance officer was driving south of Corona, New Mexico, when he saw a green ball at 45-degrees' elevation. He told AFOSI investigator Lt. Russell Womack, Jr., that it descended at a 60-degree angle "from horizontal to a position just above the horizon caused by the mountain range where it leveled out and traveled approximately 10 degrees east," then dropped out of sighting behind the mountain. When first seen, it was a yellowish-white, but as it descended, it "appeared to be more orange than originally with a trail of flame projecting out to its rear.... When it reached the position where it leveled out, it became a bright blue-green in color and remained that color until it passed out of sight" (Gross, 1983).

On February 2 La Paz, citing the press of academic duties, was forced to withdraw from further participation in the project. On the twentieth, in a two-page letter to P. H. Wycoff of the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, he expressed his current views: that a "fireball project" (Twinkle) ought not to be pursued because those fireballs that were not meteors had to be "U.S. guided missiles undergoing tests in the neighborhoods of the sensitive installations they are designed to defend." He confessed that he

doubted the latter interpretation "will be taken seriously" and conceded he could be wrong. In that case "intensive, systematic investigation of these objects should not be delayed" (Moore, *op. cit.*).

Despite high hopes Twinkle proved something of a hapless enterprise. A few lines from its final report, dated December 11, 1951, give a sense of what its problems were:

Some photographic activity occurred on 27 April and 24 May [1950], but simultaneous sightings by both cameras were not made, so that no information was gained. On 30 August 1950, during a Bell aircraft missile launching, aerial phenomena were observed over Holloman Air Force Base by several individuals; however, neither Land-Air nor Project personnel were notified and, therefore, no results were acquired. On 31 August 1950, the phenomena were again observed after a V-2 launching. Although much film was expended, proper triangulation was not effected, so that again no information was acquired.... Generally, the results ... may be described as negative. Although the photographic theodolites functioned continuously, the grating cameras functioned very little, since the military personnel assigned to operate them had been withdrawn due to the needs concerned with the Korean situation. The facilities for the electromagnetic frequency measurements that were to be provided by the Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories were not utilized due to the fact that the frequency of occurrence of these phenomena did not justify the \$50,000 a year transfer of funds to the Signal Corps which would be required to carry out such a monitoring facility (*ibid.*).

After that the number of sightings declined significantly. In the summer of 1951 Maj. Edward A. Doty took control of the project. In an August 27 conference at Holloman he expressed skepticism, and his assistant, one B. Guildenberg, told those there assembled that despite his active interest in astronomy he had never seen anything out of the ordinary in the sky, and neither had one of White Sands' most prominent persons, Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of the planet Pluto. (The Clyde Tombaugh sighting of 1949

is discussed elsewhere in this book.) Holloman's commanding officer, Doty said, wanted to cease allocating funds for Twinkle, strip it of its official status, and maintain it simply on stand-by status.

The next day project personnel talked with La Paz, who once again insisted the phenomena could not be meteors.

Twinkle closed down in December. Its final report stated that the investigators had no "conclusive opinion concerning the aerial phenomena of interest." Nonetheless it went on to speculate that the "earth may be passing through a region in space of high meteoric population. Also, the sun-spot maxima in 1948 perhaps in some way may be a contributing factor" (Moore, *op. cit.*).

Still, to many of those who had seen or investigated the fireballs (or both), they remained a troubling memory. In 1953, when Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt was head of Project Blue Book, he encountered Joseph Kaplan at an Air Force meeting in Los Angeles. Kaplan asked, "What ever happened to the green fireballs?" He urged Ruppelt to talk with La Paz. A few months later, when Ruppelt finally met the meteoriticist, he asked him what he thought the fireballs were. According to Ruppelt, "He weighed the question for a few seconds—then he said that all he cared to say was that he didn't think they were a natural phenomenon. He thought that maybe someday one would hit the earth and the mystery would be solved. He hoped they were a natural phenomenon." At Los Alamos, Ruppelt would write, scientists theorized that the fireballs were projectiles fired into the earth's atmosphere from an extraterrestrial spacecraft. "Two years ago I would have been amazed to hear a group of reputable scientists make such a startling statement," Ruppelt recalled. "Now, however, I took it as a matter of course. I'd heard the same type of statement many times before from equally qualified groups" (Ruppelt, 1956).

Sources:

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Gross, Loren E. *UFOs: A History—1950: January-March*. Fremont, CA: The Author, 1983.

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could determine where they would have hit the earth—if they were meteorites. They would search this area, and if they found parts of a meteorite they would have the answer to the green fireball riddle.

The fireball activity on the night of December 5 was made to order for plotting flight paths. The good reports of that night included carefully noted locations, the directions in which the green objects were seen, their heights above the horizon, and the times when they were observed. So early the next morning Dr. La Paz and a crew of intelligence officers were scouring northern New Mexico. They started out by talking to the people who had made reports but soon found out that dozens of other people had also seen the fireballs. By closely checking the time of the observations, they determined that eight separate fireballs had been seen. One was evidently more spectacular and was seen by the most people. Everyone in northern New Mexico had seen it going from west to east, so Dr. La Paz and his crew worked eastward across New Mexico to the west border of Texas, talking to dozens of people. After many sleepless hours they finally plotted where it should have struck the earth. They searched the area but found nothing. They went back over the area time and time again—nothing. As Dr. La Paz later told me, this was the first time that he seriously doubted the green fireballs were meteorites.

Within a few more days the fireballs were appearing almost nightly. The intelligence officers from Kirtland decided that maybe they could get a good look at one of them, so on the night of December 8 two officers took off in an airplane just before dark and began to cruise around north of Albuquerque. They had a carefully worked out plan where each man would observe certain details if they saw one of the green fireballs. At 6:33 P.M. they saw one. This is their report:

At 6:33 P.M. while flying at an indicated altitude of 11,500 feet, a strange phenomenon was observed. Exact position of the aircraft at time of the observation was 20 miles east of the Las Vegas, N.M., radio range station. The aircraft

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was on a compass course of 90 degrees. Capt. — was pilot and I was acting as copilot. I first observed the object and a split second later the pilot saw it. It was 2,000 feet higher than the plane, and was approaching the plane at a rapid rate of speed from 30 degrees to the left of our course. The object was similar in appearance to a burning green flare, the kind that is commonly used in the Air Force. However, the light was much more intense and the object appeared considerably larger than a normal flare. The trajectory of the object, when first sighted, was almost flat and parallel to the earth. The phenomenon lasted about 2 seconds. At the end of this time the object seemed to begin to burn out and the trajectory then dropped off rapidly. The phenomenon was of such intensity as to be visible from the very moment it ignited.

Back at Wright-Patterson AFB, ATIC was getting a blow-by-blow account of the fireball activity but they were taking no direct part in the investigation. Their main interest was to review all incoming UFO reports and see if the green fireball reports were actually unique to the Albuquerque area. They were. Although a good many UFO reports were coming in from other parts of the U.S., none fit the description of the green fireballs.

All during December 1948 and January 1949 the green fireballs continued to invade the New Mexico skies. Everyone, including the intelligence officers at Kirtland AFB, Air Defense Command people, Dr. La Paz, and some of the most distinguished scientists at Los Alamos had seen at least one.

In mid-February 1949 a conference was called at Los Alamos to determine what should be done to further pursue the investigation. The Air Force, Project Sign, the intelligence people at Kirtland, and other interested parties had done everything they could think of and still no answer. Such notable scientists as Dr. Joseph Kaplan, a world-renowned authority on the physics of the upper atmosphere, Dr. Edward Teller, of H-bomb fame, and of course Dr. La Paz,

attended, along with a lot of military brass and scientists from Los Alamos.

This was one conference where there was no need to discuss whether or not this special type of UFO, the green fireball, existed. Almost everyone at the meeting had seen one. The purpose of the conference was to decide whether the fireballs were natural or man-made and how to find out more about them.

As happens in any conference, opinions were divided. Some people thought the green fireballs were natural fireballs. The proponents of the natural meteor, or meteorite, theory presented facts that they had dug out of astronomical journals. Greenish-colored meteors, although not common, had been observed on many occasions. The flat trajectory, which seemed to be so important in proving that the green fireballs were extraterrestrial, was also nothing new. When viewed from certain angles, a meteor can appear to have a flat trajectory. The reason that so many had been seen during December of 1948 and January of 1949 was that the weather had been unusually clear all over the Southwest during this period.

Dr. La Paz led the group who believed that the green fireballs were not meteors or meteorites. His argument was derived from the facts that he had gained after many days of research and working with Air Force intelligence teams. He stuck to the points that (1) the trajectory was too flat, (2) the color was too green, and (3) he couldn't locate any fragments even though he had found the spots where they should have hit the earth if they were meteorites.

People who were at that meeting have told me that Dr. La Paz's theory was very interesting and that each point was carefully considered. But evidently it wasn't conclusive enough because when the conference broke up, after two days, it was decided that the green fireballs were a natural phenomenon of some kind. It was recommended that this phase of the UFO investigation be given to the Air Force's Cambridge Research Laboratory, since it is the function of this group to study natural phenomena, and that Cambridge

Sands

set up a project to attempt to photograph the green fireballs and measure their speed, altitude, and size.

In the late summer of 1949, Cambridge established Project Twinkle to solve the mystery. The project called for establishing three cinetheodolite stations near White Sands, New Mexico. A cinetheodolite is similar to a 35-mm. movie camera except when you take a photograph of an object you also get a photograph of three dials that show the time the photo was taken, the azimuth angle, and the elevation angle of the camera. If two or more cameras photograph the same object, it is possible to obtain a very accurate measurement of the photographed object's altitude, speed, and size.

Project Twinkle was a bust. Absolutely nothing was photographed. Of the three cameras that were planned for the project, only one was available. This one camera was continually being moved from place to place. If several reports came from a certain area, the camera crew would load up their equipment and move to that area, always arriving too late. Any duck hunter can tell you that this is the wrong tactic; if you want to shoot any ducks pick a good place and stay put, let the ducks come to you.

The people trying to operate Project Twinkle were having financial and morale trouble. To do a good job they needed more and better equipment and more people, but Air Force budget cuts precluded this. Moral support was free but they didn't get this either.

When the Korean War started, Project Twinkle silently died, along with official interest in green fireballs.

When I organized Project Blue Book in the summer of 1951 I'd never heard of a green fireball. We had a few files marked "Los Alamos Conference," "Fireballs," "Project Twinkle," etc., but I didn't pay any attention to them.

Then one day I was at a meeting in Los Angeles with several other officers from ATIC, and was introduced to Dr. Joseph Kaplan. When he found we were from ATIC, his first question was, "What ever happened to the green fireballs?" None of us had ever heard of them, so he quickly gave us the story. He and I ended up discussing green fire-

balls. He mentioned Dr. La Paz and his opinion that the green fireballs might be man-made, and although he respected La Paz's professional ability, he just wasn't convinced. But he did strongly urge me to get in touch with Dr. La Paz and hear his side of the story.

When I returned to ATIC I spent several days digging into our collection of green fireball reports. All of these reports covered a period from early December 1948 to late 1949. As far as Blue Book's files were concerned, there hadn't been a green fireball report for a year and a half.

I read over the report on Project Twinkle and the few notes we had on the Los Alamos Conference, and decided that the next time I went to Albuquerque I'd contact Dr. La Paz. I did go to Albuquerque several times but my visits were always short and I was always in a hurry so I didn't get to see him.

It was six or eight months later before the subject of green fireballs came up again. I was eating lunch with a group of people at the AEC's Los Alamos Laboratory when one of the group mentioned the mysterious kelly-green balls of fire. The strictly unofficial bull-session-type discussion that followed took up the entire lunch hour and several hours of the afternoon. It was an interesting discussion because these people, all scientists and technicians from the lab, had a few educated guesses as to what they might be. All of them had seen a green fireball, some of them had seen several.

One of the men, a private pilot, had encountered a fireball one night while he was flying his Navion north of Santa Fe and he had a vivid way of explaining what he'd seen. "Take a soft ball and paint it with some kind of fluorescent paint that will glow a bright green in the dark," I remember his saying, "then have someone take the ball out about 100 feet in front of you and about 10 feet above you. Have him throw the ball right at your face, as hard as he can throw it. That's what a green fireball looks like."

The speculation about what the green fireballs were ran through the usual spectrum of answers, a new type of natural phenomenon, a secret U.S. development, and psychologically enlarged meteors. When the possibility of the green fire-

balls' being associated with interplanetary vehicles came up, the whole group got serious. They had been doing a lot of thinking about this, they said, and they had a theory.

The green fireballs, they theorized, could be some type of unmanned test vehicle that was being projected into our atmosphere from a "spaceship" hovering several hundred miles above the earth. Two years ago I would have been amazed to hear a group of reputable scientists make such a startling statement. Now, however, I took it as a matter of course. I'd heard the same type of statement many times before from equally qualified groups.

Turn the tables, they said, suppose that we are going to try to go to a far planet. There would be three phases to the trip: out through the earth's atmosphere, through space, and the re-entry into the atmosphere of the planet we're planning to land on. The first two phases would admittedly present formidable problems, but the last phase, the re-entry phase, would be the most critical. Coming in from outer space, the craft would, for all practical purposes, be similar to a meteorite except that it would be powered and not free-falling. You would have myriad problems associated with aerodynamic heating, high aerodynamic loadings, and very probably a host of other problems that no one can now conceive of. Certain of these problems could be partially solved by laboratory experimentation, but nothing can replace flight testing, and the results obtained by flight tests in our atmosphere would not be valid in another type of atmosphere. The most logical way to overcome this difficulty would be to build our interplanetary vehicle, go to the planet that we were interested in landing on, and hover several hundred miles up. From this altitude we could send instrumented test vehicles down to the planet. If we didn't want the inhabitants of the planet, if it were inhabited, to know what we were doing we could put destruction devices in the test vehicle, or arrange the test so that the test vehicles would just plain burn up at a certain point due to aerodynamic heating.

They continued, each man injecting his ideas.

Maybe the green fireballs are test vehicles—somebody

else's. The regular UFO reports might be explained by the fact that the manned vehicles were venturing down to within 100,000 or 200,000 feet of the earth, or to the altitude at which atmosphere re-entry begins to get critical.

I had to go down to the airstrip to get a CARCO Airlines plane back to Albuquerque so I didn't have time to ask a lot of questions that came into my mind. I did get to make one comment. From the conversations, I assumed that these people didn't think the green fireballs were any kind of a natural phenomena. Not exactly, they said, but so far the evidence that said they were a natural phenomenon was vastly outweighed by the evidence that said they weren't.

During the kidney-jolting trip down the valley from Los Alamos to Albuquerque in one of the CARCO Airlines' Bonanzas, I decided that I'd stay over an extra day and talk to Dr. La Paz.

He knew every detail there was to know about the green fireballs. He confirmed my findings, that the genuine green fireballs were no longer being seen. He said that he'd received hundreds of reports, especially after he'd written several articles about the mysterious fireballs, but that all of the reported objects were just greenish-colored, common, everyday meteors.

Dr. La Paz said that some people, including Dr. Joseph Kaplan and Dr. Edward Teller, thought that the green fireballs were natural meteors. He didn't think so, however, for several reasons. First the color was so much different. To illustrate his point, Dr. La Paz opened his desk drawer and took out a well-worn chart of the color spectrum. He checked off two shades of green; one a pale, almost yellowish green and the other a much more distinct vivid green. He pointed to the bright green and told me that this was the color of the green fireballs. He'd taken this chart with him when he went out to talk to people who had seen the green fireballs and everyone had picked this one color. The pale green, he explained, was the color reported in the cases of documented green meteors.

Then there were other points of dissimilarity between a meteor and the green fireballs. The trajectory of the fire-

balls was too flat. Dr. La Paz explained that a meteor doesn't necessarily have to arch down across the sky, its trajectory can appear to be flat, but not as flat as that of the green fireballs. Then there was the size. Almost always such descriptive words as "terrifying," "as big as the moon," and "blinding" had been used to describe the fireballs. Meteors just aren't this big and bright.

No—Dr. La Paz didn't think that they were meteors.

Dr. La Paz didn't believe that they were meteorites either.

A meteorite is accompanied by sound and shock waves that break windows and stampede cattle. Yet in every case of a green fireball sighting the observers reported that they did not hear any sound.

But the biggest mystery of all was the fact that no particles of a green fireball had ever been found. If they were meteorites, Dr. La Paz was positive that he would have found one. He'd missed very few times in the cases of known meteorites. He pulled a map out of his file to show me what he meant. It was a map that he had used to plot the spot where a meteorite had hit the earth. I believe it was in Kansas. The map had been prepared from information he had obtained from dozens of people who had seen the meteorite come flaming toward the earth. At each spot where an observer was standing he'd drawn in the observer's line of sight to the meteorite. From the dozens of observers he had obtained dozens of lines of sight. The lines all converged to give Dr. La Paz a plot of the meteorite's downward trajectory. Then he had been able to plot the spot where it had struck the earth. He and his crew went to the marked area, probed the ground with long steel poles, and found the meteorite.

This was just one case that he showed me. He had records of many more similar successful expeditions in his file.

Then he showed me some other maps. The plotted lines looked identical to the ones on the map I'd just seen. Dr. La Paz had used the same techniques on these plots and had marked an area where he wanted to search. He had searched the area many times but he had never found anything.

These were plots of the path of a green fireball.

La Paz

THE REPORT ON

When Dr. La Paz had finished, I had one last question, "What do you think they are?"

He weighed the question for a few seconds—then he said that all he cared to say was that he didn't think that they were a natural phenomenon. He thought that maybe someday one would hit the earth and the mystery would be solved. He hoped that they were a natural phenomenon.

After my talk with Dr. La Paz I can well understand his apparent calmness on the night of September 18, 1954, when the newspaper reporter called him to find out if he planned to investigate this latest green fireball report. He was speaking from experience, not indifference, when he said, "But I don't expect to find anything."

If the green fireballs are back, I hope that Dr. La Paz gets an answer this time.

The story of the UFO now goes back to late January 1949, the time when the Air Force was in the midst of the green fireball mystery. In another part of the country another odd series of events was taking place. The center of activity was a highly secret area that can't be named, and the recipient of the UFO's, which were formations of little lights, was the U.S. Army.

The series of incidents started when military patrols who were protecting the area began to report seeing formations of lights flying through the night sky. At first the lights were reported every three or four nights, but inside of two weeks the frequency had stepped up. Before long they were a nightly occurrence. Some patrols reported that they had seen three or four formations in one night. The sightings weren't restricted to the men on patrol. One night, just at dusk, during retreat, the entire garrison watched a formation pass directly over the post parade ground.

As usual with UFO reports, the descriptions of the lights varied but the majority of the observers reported a V formation of three lights. As the formation moved through the sky, the lights changed in color from a bluish white to orange and back to bluish white. This color cycle took about two seconds. The lights usually traveled from west to east and made no sound. They didn't streak across the sky like a me-

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teor, but they were "going faster than a jet." The lights were "a little bigger than the biggest star." Once in a while the GI's would get binoculars on them but they couldn't see any more details. The lights just looked bigger.

From the time of the first sighting reports of the little lights were being sent to the Air Force through Army Intelligence channels. The reports were getting to ATIC, but the green fireball activity was taking top billing and no comments went back to the Army about their little lights. According to an Army G-2 major to whom I talked in the Pentagon, this silence was taken to mean that no action, other than sending in reports, was necessary on the part of the Army.

But after about two weeks of nightly sightings and no apparent action by the Air Force, the commander of the installation decided to take the initiative and set a trap. His staff worked out a plan in record time. Special UFO patrols would be sent out into the security area and they would be furnished with sighting equipment. This could be the equipment that they normally used for fire control. Each patrol would be sent to a specific location and would set up a command post. Operating out of the command post, at points where the sky could be observed, would be sighting teams. Each team had sighting equipment to measure the elevation and azimuth angle of the UFO. Four men were to be on each team, an instrument man, a timer, a recorder, and a radio operator. All the UFO patrols would be assigned special radio frequencies.

The operating procedure would be that when one sighting team spotted a UFO the radio operator would call out his team's location, the location of the UFO in the sky, and the direction it was going. All of the other teams from his patrol would thus know when to look for the UFO and begin to sight on it. While the radio man was reporting, the instrument man on the team would line up the UFO and begin to call out the angles of elevation and azimuth. The timer would call out the time; the recorder would write all of this down. The command post, upon hearing the report of the

La Paz

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balls' being associated with interplanetary vehicles came up, the whole group got serious. They had been doing a lot of thinking about this, they said, and they had a theory.

The green fireballs, they theorized, could be some type of unmanned test vehicle that was being projected into our atmosphere from a "spaceship" hovering several hundred miles above the earth. Two years ago I would have been amazed to hear a group of reputable scientists make such a startling statement. Now, however, I took it as a matter of course. I'd heard the same type of statement many times before from equally qualified groups.

Turn the tables, they said, suppose that we are going to try to go to a far planet. There would be three phases to the trip: out through the earth's atmosphere, through space, and the re-entry into the atmosphere of the planet we're planning to land on. The first two phases would admittedly present formidable problems, but the last phase, the re-entry phase, would be the most critical. Coming in from outer space, the craft would, for all practical purposes, be similar to a meteorite except that it would be powered and not free-falling. You would have myriad problems associated with aerodynamic heating, high aerodynamic loadings, and very probably a host of other problems that no one can now conceive of. Certain of these problems could be partially solved by laboratory experimentation, but nothing can replace flight testing, and the results obtained by flight tests in our atmosphere would not be valid in another type of atmosphere. The most logical way to overcome this difficulty would be to build our interplanetary vehicle, go to the planet that we were interested in landing on, and hover several hundred miles up. From this altitude we could send instrumented test vehicles down to the planet. If we didn't want the inhabitants of the planet, if it were inhabited, to know what we were doing we could put destruction devices in the test vehicle, or arrange the test so that the test vehicles would just plain burn up at a certain point due to aerodynamic heating.

They continued, each man injecting his ideas.

Maybe the green fireballs are test vehicles—somebody

February 27, 1954: Two women at Hillsboro, Oregon, see six strange objects very high in the sky, shaped like large white birds, soundless and moving their wings. They went in and out of the clouds, and then moved west. In the Middle Ages, and as late as the seventeenth century in Switzerland, they would have been called "Dracones volantes" (flying dragons).

What follows is concerned with phenomena of mysterious tracks in lonely places, referred to elsewhere in this book:

February 5, 1954: Mrs. Weiss and Mrs. Sanders of Las Cruces, New Mexico, saw in the desert, queer round marks one and a half to three feet wide, imprinted about half an inch in the sand, the edges sharp as if made by a metal object. The impressions were a series of concentric circles. Some of the tracks had an impression of an "arm" above the rim of the circle, with three talons, or hooks, dug into the sand at the end. Several miles away they saw mysterious lights, one yellow, one red, winking at irregular intervals. What these lights were no one knows. (Extracts from local newspapers).

Another case of unexplained fissuring of glass in France, called "cancer de verres":

February 6, 1954: A terrific explosion startled Mrs. H. Dressler of Houston, Texas. She rushed into her drawing-room and found a fish bowl on the coffee table, perforated and the fishes lying on the carpet. She had had the bowl for a long time, and the room had always been kept at a constant temperature. She placed the bowl in the kitchen but, next morning found that it had shattered itself to fragments, Mystery unexplained.

Curious incidents in March and May, 1954, reemphasize the fact that our planet is a more mysterious place than the laboratory scientist imagines:

March 10, 1954: Aboard the U.S. destroyer "Marshall," escorting an aircraft carrier steaming across the North Pacific towards Hong Kong, an alarm bell rang. Commander Noel Bird, of Oakland, California, who was reading a book, rushed to the bridge and

found that a plane had fallen into the sea. The destroyer circled the spot for three hours, but the pilot did not come to the surface. Half an hour later, another plane crashed into the ocean. Again, the pilot did not come up. Bird was suddenly startled to realize that the book he was reading was titled, "Go Down Death!"

March 13, 1954: Enough red snow, at 129 tons per square mile, to cover 1,600 square miles, fell over Minneapolis and neighborhood. Röntgen ray devices showed that the red snow had adhered to dust containing felspar, quartz and hydroxide of iron. But where on earth did this dust—75,000 tons of it—come from? We know no more than did the Romans in B.C. 230, who also recorded red snow; or the monkish chroniclers in Western Europe's middle ages, who chronicled similar falls.

March 14, 1954: Small jellyfish suddenly appeared in Crystal Lake, Ohio. Very seldom are they found in fresh water. The mystery is as insoluble as the providence of two jellyfish, the size of big baseballs, found after torrential rain in a garden in Austin, Texas.

The very mysterious incident below has an extremely disquieting aspect for those who are forced to believe that, among the many hundreds of flying saucers in the world's skies, there may be some whose entities are hostile and malevolent towards our own planet. Was it they, or their like, who brought "wyld fire" on England 920 years ago?

I summarize reports from various middle western newspapers:

May 1, 1954: Driving on a highway near Logan, Utah, Mr. J. Fuller was startled almost out of his wits when, on a sudden, he saw a dazzling red half-globe come out of the ground, ahead of his auto, and to the left. Eight seconds later, as his auto drew opposite the glaring semi-globe, there came a violent blast and concussion that nearly overturned the vehicle. At the same time, over an area of 250 square miles, doors of houses and factories, some bolted, were violently thrown open, and there was an earthquake.

Investigations started next day. A game warden found a sixteen-foot crater from which earth had been hurled over an area of 290 feet. Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, director of the Institute of Meteoritics of New Mex-

ico, arrived along with J. S. Williams and C. T. Hardy, Utah state geologists. They found some strange things: the crater was too small to have created the shock wave that had been recorded. Drilling to a twenty-five foot depth brought up no meteoric debris. An artesian well suddenly appeared in the crater. In the scattered earth no nickel, iron, or meteoric stone was found.

Professor Hardy, using a Geiger counter, found no unusual radiation. Eye-witnesses in the region say they saw a flash, or paroxysm of light at ground-level which is not the characteristic of meteorites, which never flash on impact, as did this phenomenon. Drag electro-magnets sieved the soil, but found no metal particles.

La Paz
May 6, 1954: "Curious celestial object seen in Arizona today. It was low on the southern horizon, and looked like a nebula, perfectly circular with bright center. Just like a nova after it begins to cool. Got only an evasive answer from La Paz." (Letter to the author from Mr. Frederick G. Hehr, engineer of Santa Monica, California).

May 16, 1954: A strange thing like a white "flying sausage" hung for three minutes in the sky over Currumbin, Queensland, Australia. It then vanished.
May 21, 1954: The Miller family of Pasadena, California, report seeing in the sky at 9 P.M., a strange thing like a "house on fire." The apparition was noiseless and moved fast to the south; stopped, hovered and showed a dome and something like a band on its keel. Apparently some American military base put a searchlight on it. It passed through the beams and vanished in the west. The strange object emitted blue, amber, red and yellow flashes. Next night the same, or a similar object was seen, at 9:30 P.M., moving fast and illuminated. It was seen again in mid-June.

(Author's Comment: I have several accounts from the Middle Ages to the 18th century of phenomena in the sky, like this "house on fire.")

May 24, 1954: "Light from an atomic explosion can turn fluid in the eye into steam and 'explode.' At night, in exceptionally clear air, rabbits injured to night vision, forty-nine miles distant, showed eye injuries after an explosion." (U.S. School of Aviation Doctors.)

June and July, 1954, did not fail to enhance that sense of mystery in the skies, and on the earth that Einstein says "is one of the most beautiful things in life." The discovery below is of contra-terrene matter in space. It may be recalled that impact with a presumed contra-terrene matter, appearing like a fire-ball, on a January night in 1952, shattered a 750,000 gallon tank of water and wrecked twenty buildings at Tucumari, New Mexico:

June, 1954: Cosmic ray expert, Dr. Marcel Schein of Chicago University, reports detection of a new particle which, when striking a proton in the aluminium covering of photo-plates, converts matter into photons or light-units of energy, and then re-converts the energy into pairs of electrons, the free-flowing waves, or negative particles of electricity. He calls the annihilating ray an anti-proton, or reversed matter. He estimates its energy at ten million billion volts. These particles enter the earth's dense atmosphere from outer space, but usually vanish before reaching the soil.

Another Chicago University professor, James Arnold, has developed a scintillation-counter, 10,000 times more sensitive than the Geiger counter. It detects radioactive carbon-14 by the light of its radiation in samples dissolved in a fluorescent solution. Photo-multiplier tubes are used. This discovery is of use in estimating the approximate dates of prehistoric monuments, and has reduced to a thirty-seven year margin the probability of error in carbon-14 dating of archaeological material up to 25,000 years old.

June 10, 1954: A woman driving a car at 4:10 P.M., along a highway at Woodside, California, heard an explosion, and saw the bituminous road surface aflame. She warned the fire station, which found a spray of hot metal fragments, ranging from a dime to half-a-dollar in size. A local sheriff found some of the metal to have come from a cylinder. But the Stanford Research Institute said the metal was cast iron. No clue to origins.

June 18, 1954: Unknown object shaped "like a railway car," and jetting blue flames flew in from Botany Bay, Australia, at 5:55 A.M. The night before, people in nearby Sydney saw peculiar multi-colored lights hovering in the sky at 7 P.M.

July 17, 1954: Astronomer Rolf Brahde, of Norway, examining films of two flying saucers photographed by John Bjornulf, from a plane over the North Sea,

were totally unknown. Were they friendly scientific explorers, or were they an advance party paving the way for an invasion? If their motives were warlike, did we stand any chance against those who could build craft capable of carrying them untold millions of miles? What would happen, say, if their friends came looking for them?

While Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Marcel talked about his experiences in the late 1970s, Sheridan Cavitt has refused even to acknowledge that he was there at the ranch with Marcel. However, another Counterintelligence Corps man from Roswell, Bill Rickett, has recently spoken out on his experiences a few days after the start of official involvement:

"[The material] was very strong and very light. You could bend it but couldn't crease it. As far as I know, no one ever figured out what it was made of."

Rickett escorted Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, famed meteor expert from the New Mexico Institute of Meteoritics, on a tour of the crash site and surrounding area.

It was LaPaz's job to try to find out what the speed and trajectory of the thing was. LaPaz was a world-renowned expert on trajectories of objects in the sky, especially meteors, and I was told to give him all the help I could.

At one point LaPaz interviewed the farmer [Mac Brazel]. I remember something coming up during their conversation about this fellow thinking that some of his animals had acted strangely after this thing happened. Dr. LaPaz seemed very interested in this for some reason.

LaPaz wanted to fly over the area, and this was arranged. He found one other spot where he felt this thing had touched down and then taken off again. The sand at this spot had been turned into a glasslike substance. We collected a boxful of samples of this material—as I recall, there were some metal samples here, too, of that same sort of thin foil stuff. LaPaz sent this box off somewhere for study; I don't know or recall where, but I never saw it again. This place was some miles from the other one.

LaPaz was very good at talking to people, especially some of the local ranch hands who didn't speak a lot of English. LaPaz spoke Spanish. I remember he found a couple of people who had

seen two—I don't know what to call them; UFOs, I suppose—anyway, had seen two of these things fly over very slowly at a very low altitude on a date, in the evening, that he determined had been a day or two after the other one had blown up. These people said something about animals being affected, too. . . .

Before he went back to Albuquerque, he told me that he was certain that this thing had gotten into trouble, that it had touched down for repairs, taken off again, and then exploded. He also felt certain there were more than one of these devices, and that the others had been looking for it—at least that's what he said. He was positive the thing had malfunctioned.

The Air Force's explanation that it was a balloon was totally untrue. It was not a balloon. I never did know for sure what its purpose was, but it wasn't ours. I remember speculating with LaPaz that it might have been some higher civilization checking on us. LaPaz wasn't against the idea, but said he was going to leave speculations out of his report.

Dr. LaPaz, who had been deeply involved in a 1950s study of "green fireballs" that had some UFO characteristics, unfortunately died before anyone became aware of his involvement in the New Mexico crash episode. His report is one of the many documents the government has been able to conceal from the public for more than forty years.

In general, the government has done a wonderful job of keeping all details of the crashes secret. Few names of military people and others who visited the sites are known, and those who are known have, in most cases, been unwilling to talk. With one fascinating exception. In November 1990 Stanton Friedman was able to cap months of negotiations by interviewing, in person, a man who says in a most believable fashion that he was there and he saw.

F. B. was an Army Air Forces photographer stationed at Anacostia Naval Air Station, Washington, D.C., when he and fellow photographer A. K. were hustled aboard an army B-25 bomber and flown to Roswell Army Air Field sometime during the second week of July 1947. He told Friedman:

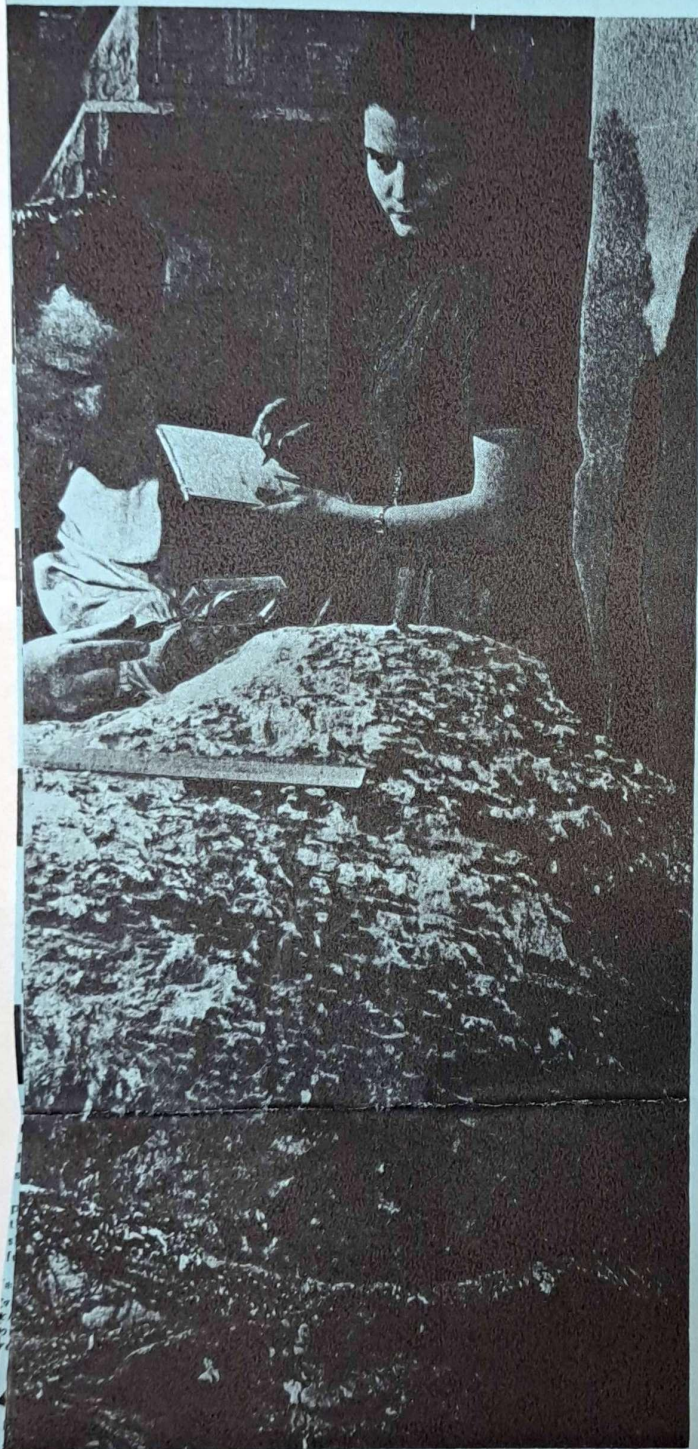
One morning they came in and they said, "Pack up your bags and we'll have the cameras there, ready for you." We didn't know

Stanton Friedman "Crash at Corona."
Paragon House, NY 1992

r. Fireball of Albuquerque

By NEIL M. CLARK

Few treasure hunters have known the thrills that have come to Dr. Lincoln LaPaz—a New Mexico scientist who hunts meteorites as some hunt gold. Here's how he and his amateur detectives painstakingly track down one of Nature's gaudiest phenomena.



Mary, study the 2360-pound Norton meteorite, largest ever recovered. Fireballs are a key to some of the mysteries of outer space.

DR. LINCOLN LAPAZ has taken successful buried-treasure hunting to anybody else on earth. One weighed more than a ton, and record. He has all sorts of gadgets for underground and even under water, twelve-hour stretch he located and dug up batches of treasure within a few hundred

A 600-pound treasure that he was probably 20,000 years old, but parts of a bigger one were found just seventy days put down in the earth. Yet when a neighbor the other day found that her in a spree of domestic piracy, had buried and engagement rings in the driveway to confess he couldn't help her find them. LaPaz, is not gold, diamonds or rubies—meteorites—matter from outer space blunders into our atmosphere at celestial flames as it falls, sometimes explodes with sounds, and occasionally hits the earth with earthquake tremors are felt for thousands

LaPaz is an astronomer and mathematician by profession, and a meteoriticist by natural inclination. He founded and heads the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico, believing that it is the only one of its kind. For a long time the meteoritics was the unwanted baby on the doorstep, but now it is coming forward as one of the most important branches of mankind's knowledge, study of the stars. Nuclear energy, guided-missile experts, space-vehicle engineers, and medical men seeking to learn what may happen to living things during flights at extreme altitudes are turning to students of meteoritics for help. It is the chapters of the trail-cutting book, *Physics of the Upper Atmosphere*, which was published last year by thirty-eight scientists and was adopted as an official textbook by the United States Air Force, were edited by a doctor or physicist, but by a meteoriticist. He also contributed one of the handbook chapters.

A meteorite is something unique. It is matter—the only solid matter, so far as we know, that reaches the earth from outer space—and it carries important messages about what's out there. Today's aim is to interpret the messages. In the five years rocket investigations have made great strides, and such living things as fruit flies and rats have been sent up in rockets to see what happens to them beyond the atmosphere. But it costs at least a quarter of a million dollars to shoot a V-2, and as it remains above the tangible atmosphere for only about a minute and a half, the experiments are likely to be inconclusive.

Yet, before anyone can take off on the dream trip to the moon or another planet or even beyond the earth's atmosphere with any chance of getting back, it is necessary to do far more than rig up a space ship with sufficient power to return. Space hazards must be known before we go so far as possible. A space ship that can't defend itself against anything that cosmic rays may bring it, for example, may be defeated half an hour after it leaves the earth. The density of material

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... Mary. LaPaz wi

there must be a minute particles rip, perforate or inadequately knock out the rough cosmic atmosphere wreck the risk in the those whirling, blown to be moved of the earth's matter, as now and destruct violently upon comets casing? The want meteoric contemporary turned out, LaPalma. He isn't the leading calm academy of discover years old, five feet. Trigger-bundle found in the field unborn about thirty minutes are counted the fastest things absorbed some call him Mr. Fi far off when he s

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Pinpointing the search location of a reported meteorite before the hunt: University of New Mexico's Dr. Paul Healy, LaPaz, Richard George and Dr. Morris Hendrickson.



Pinpointing the search location of a reported meteorite before the hunt: University of New Mexico's Dr. Paul Healy, LaPaz, Richard George and Dr. Morris Hendrickson.

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since he could walk and talk, has seen just two in flight. (Meteors, or shooting stars, which everyone sees frequently, are not the same as meteorites. The former, unlike meteorites, burn themselves up before reaching the earth.) Even when seen, meteorites often bury themselves in weedfields, swamps, sandy deserts and other inaccessible places where they are very hard to find. Furthermore, nowadays, when the oddest objects are reported in the heavens, including flying saucers, rockets, green fireballs, guided missiles and planes in distress, it is sometimes difficult to know what is a meteorite and what isn't. Five years ago, near Norton, Kansas, LaPaz directed a search which resulted in probably the most spectacular recovery of a meteorite on record, and the oddities, bafflements and triumphs of that search show why a meteoriticist's lot, like a policeman's, is not entirely "a happy one."

The Norton meteorite fell on February 18, 1948, at 4:56 P.M. Many people saw it in flight, or heard the explosions, or witnessed clouds of dust from its disintegration as these slowly filtered down to earth, but nobody saw where the main mass of the meteorite came to earth. News of the event was flashed at once to the Civil Air Patrol centers, since hardly anybody thought of the incident as a meteorite fall. One school of thought maintained almost from the beginning that it was a guided missile which the Russians had sent over to land at the geographic center of the United States—Norton is near there—in order to let "capitalistic warmongers" know how good the Reds were getting with their new weapons.

Dime-Store Gadget From "Outer Space"

THIS theory had to be looked into seriously because of some odd "evidence." State police found a farmer forty-some miles southeast of Norton whose circumstantial account of the occurrence was most peculiar. He had been out near his pigpen, he said, when he heard a strange sound, and noticed something hovering right over his house. He ran toward it and got a very good look. He declared it resembled a four-foot length of stovepipe, with a hemispherical ball in front, and a tail that continually spouted fire while it hovered. After quite a delay, it suddenly took off, and almost immediately he heard the tremendous explosions that startled thousands of others. Douglas Gragg, interviewing the farmer for LaPaz, held a stop watch while the man closed his eyes and estimated elapsed times; these seemed

sensible. Doug examined the books on the farmer's table for science-fiction tales which might have given him ideas, but found nothing of the sort.

Similar spooky "evidence" came from a mechanic in a Norton garage. He heard the explosion, he said, and ran outside to see about it. Something dropped at his feet. He picked it up, and it was hot; it was later identified as the metal casing of a pencil flashlight. He said that the time between the explosion and its fall was about right for it to have come down from the sky. He was perfectly sure that the explosion was some of Stalin's funny business. How the object fell as he claimed it did was not satisfactorily explained until long after meteorites were recovered near Norton. Then a practical joker confessed he had heated the thing in a flame and flung it over a fence into to fall on Norton's main street.

The most widely held opinion was that the object had been a plane in flames. Now, the business of spotting the site of an airplane crash is similar to that of finding a fallen meteorite, and some of the best help LaPaz gets comes from co-operative CAP personnel. About two hours after the happenings at Norton, a phone rang in Albuquerque, some 600 miles away, and Lt. R. E. Young, of the New Mexico wing of the CAP, was giving LaPaz the news.

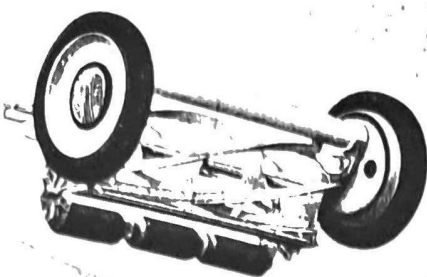
LaPaz got busy at once. His ensuing operations had some of the precision and some of the uncertainty of a first-rate military maneuver.

CAP officials continued to give invaluable help. Over their radio network, at LaPaz's request, they asked for and got the names and addresses of people who had seen the object in the air. Within a few hours, LaPaz talked by long distance with five eyewitnesses at the airfield at McCook, Nebraska. As the names of other witnesses came in, he gathered their evidence in person or by phone. His purpose at this stage was to pinpoint the area of fall by mapping the lines of sight to the end point of the fireball's path, as reported by as many different observers as possible. Two observations would have been enough, provided they were perfectly accurate and at different angles to the fireball's path. LaPaz likens the process to finding second base on a baseball diamond if the bag were missing. The first baseman stands on first and looks down the base path toward second; the third baseman does the same from third. Where their lines of sight cross is where second base ought to be, even if Pee Wee Reese has run off with the bag. On LaPaz's map, the place where the lines of sight of the observers crossed was the spot marked X, and the place where this buried treasure lay.

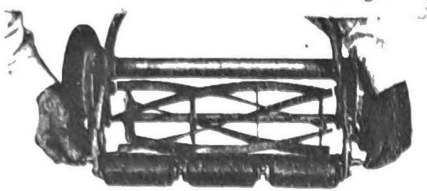
(Continued on Page 114)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAT COFFEY

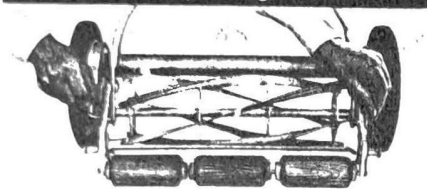
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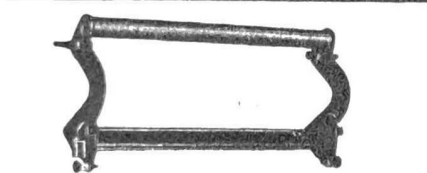
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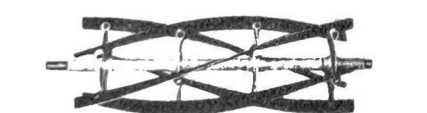
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MR. FIREBALL OF ALBUQUERQUE

(Continued from Page 29)

One witness was Creta Carter. She was only eleven, but she gave one of the best eyewitness reports LaPaz got. She lived in the town of Jennings, Kansas, population 232. She had been taking clothes off a line designed for grownups, so she was standing on tiptoe looking right up into the sky when the fireball appeared. She watched it till it vanished behind the town's tallest building, and she was able to point out exactly where she stood and where she last saw the fireball. Her information was translated into a line on the map.

Others gave comparable information for other lines of sight to the end point, and the place where all such lines crossed had to be, barring sighting errors, the approximate place of fall. LaPaz outlined an oval fall area about eight miles long and four miles wide, and it was thought that fragments might be found over most of the area, with the biggest ones down in the far end.

The theory was sound, the map was fine, but the weather was foul. The first search party found the ground covered so deep with snow that they were lucky to be able to keep their car on the roads and did little in the way of searching the fields. However, they did interview a lot of people, told them the facts and asked for their co-operation.

The second search party went in after the weather moderated, and very soon a dramatic thing happened. LaPaz was driving every road in the area, calling at every house, stopping every car, questioning everybody he saw. Two men were repairing a fence close to the road on the big McKinley Ranch, and LaPaz stopped to ask them, as he did everybody else, "Did you see the fireball?"

One of the men was Orville Manning, a foreman for the McKinleys. "I didn't see it," he said, "but my wife and boy sure did."

"Can you tell me what they saw?" "They saw the whole thing. They were out in the back yard."

"Was there any sound? Did they hear anything?"

"I'll say! My wife said it sounded like the air was full of big snakes, hissing."

If Orville Manning had said, "Yonder is the Landmark Tree; the chest with the gold is sixty paces due east," LaPaz could hardly have been more excited. Sounds of that kind, he knew, could have been heard only when the meteorite was near the end of its journey. He made no more stops till he was sitting on the edge of a kitchen chair in the little frame house occupied by the Mannings, and was talking to Mrs. Manning and her son, Ralph DeWester, who was Orville's stepson.

During this talk a boy whose horizon had always been bounded by Kansas wheatfields and Nebraska pastures caught fire from the enthusiasm of a treasure hunter with celestial horizons. Doors were opened to a solar system of which he knew nothing, and to worlds beyond worlds. He had seen with his own eyes a fireball that came from out there, and now he was asked to help find it, and was told it was important to do so. Dreaming of these wonders, he saddled his pony and rode thoughtfully, eyes to the ground, across the big McKinley fields.

LaPaz had heavy teaching assignments at that time, and had to get back

to Albuquerque. He stuck around till dark in order to waste as few daylight hours as possible from a search soon rewarded by several discoveries of orange-sized fragments of the meteorite, made chiefly on Bill Tansill's farm. Then, after air-expressing the first mass discovered to the Institute for Nuclear Studies at the University of Chicago, he took off for an all-night drive home. The distance was 607 miles. He arrived and heard the phone ring. It was a long-distance call from the ranch owner's wife, Mrs. Haskell McKinley.

"What do you think that boy has found!" she exclaimed.

LaPaz listened. Without a shave or a change, he turned the car around and started back.

He found that Ralph DeWester, searching over ground already combed by the institute party afoot, had been able from his pony-back angle of vision to spot a grass-fringed hole missed by others. It could have been a gopher hole. Ralph didn't think so. He dismounted and probed, and felt a solid mass where no rock would ordinarily be. He told Mrs. McKinley, and together they dug it up. It proved to be a great stone that was still wrapped in the buffalo grass it had gathered around it as it hit. It was the wanted treasure, an immense piece of the rarest of all celestial gems, an achondrite.

Ralph's find scaled in at 131 pounds. At the time—May 1, 1948—it was the largest meteorite of its kind ever found. The fourteen-year-old boy had done something that hardly anyone else has ever done: seen a meteorite fall, then recovered it. His share of the purchase price was sufficient to take the Manning family to California, where, to the dismay of the McKinleys, who hated to lose Orville, they stayed.

Ralph's find was dwarfed, but his glory was not diminished, by another discovery, made in August. O. E. Gill, on and near whose farm institute parties had sought for the main mass of the meteorite in April, was driving a tractor across a field overgrown with weeds and stubble when the heavy machine started to capsize into a six-foot crater that hadn't been there the last time the field was worked. Recalling how LaPaz had insisted that the biggest chunk of the meteorite had landed thereabouts, Gill and his neighbors probed into the shattered ground and located the biggest mass of celestial treasure ever seen to fall from heaven. With the help of University of Nebraska scientists, LaPaz excavated this giant mass from a depth of more than ten feet and trucked it triumphantly back to the University of New Mexico. Calculations based on the volume and density of the aerolite showed that it weighed approximately 2360 pounds, more than twenty times as much as any stony meteorite of the same type previously known. Conclusions as to the effect of cosmic rays on this meteorite, if any, have not been announced.

Not all of LaPaz's important meteoritic work results from personal hunts. He has spent much time studying meteorite craters. There are about a dozen of these, of proved meteoritic origin, the largest being the Barringer Crater near Canyon Diablo, Arizona; and the most interesting from several points of view, according to LaPaz, being the Podkamennaya Tunguska Craters in Siberia. In connection with the latter, LaPaz has a theory which should give prospective space travelers something to think about.

Meteorite craters result from the impact of very large meteorites. Asteroidal masses of such size are known to be fly-

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ing around in space. They are so big that when they get moderately close to the earth, they can be seen in telescopes. An Italian astronomer saw the first one on New Year's Day, 1801, and since then hundreds more have been discovered; a list in 1940 catalogues several thousand, and hundreds more have been found since. There are enough of them, LaPaz says, to constitute a considerable celestial traffic hazard, and meteor craters aren't the only evidence of crashes or near-crashes of these and similar sizable objects with the earth. On October 28, 1937, an asteroid now named Hermes was sighted by a German astronomer. At that time it was 1,500,000 miles from the earth, and coming fast. Two nights later it was distant only 485,000 miles. If it had kept coming—but it didn't! Astronomers estimate that Hermes is about a mile in diameter and may weigh three billion tons or more. LaPaz thinks that any body of that size striking the earth at high velocity, as a smaller one did long ago to form the Barringer Meteorite Crater, would cause earthquakes, tidal waves and the dissemination of poisonous vapors in our atmosphere on an incredibly destructive scale. He estimates the chances of such a colossal collision in our times at zero—plus a little.

Now, although the Siberian craters were formed in the present century, in

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

There are many reasons why women dress as they do—and nearly every one is a man.

—F. G. KERNAN.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

many ways they are much more of a mystery than the single crater near Canyon Diablo. Experts from the Russian Academy of Sciences gathered an immense amount of eyewitness information on the spot, and then searched long but futilely for meteorites in the area cratered by the meteorite fall. LaPaz, who collaborated in the preparation of translations of and critical commentaries on the most important Russian publications concerning the Siberian meteorite fall, has proposed a startling theory to explain the absence of meteorites at the certainly meteoritic Siberian craters.

The Russian meteorite fell on June 30, 1908, at about 8:00 in the morning. It was spectacular and terrifying. Seismographs 3000 miles away recorded the resulting earth tremors. At a distance of about forty miles, a peasant, S. B. Semenov, was thrown seven feet off his front porch. Yegor Vlassov, washing wool on a river bank, was tumbled into the water. Everybody close by had some startling experience. Terrific destruction was done at the point of impact. Vasily Ilyitch owned some 1500 reindeer which ranged in the forest where the meteorite fell. He found a few charred carcasses afterward, but no living reindeer; and the trees over a vast area were blown down and charred. Not one but many craters were formed. However—and this is the prime mystery—no meteorites at all have been found in and around these many craters. At the Barringer Crater thousands of meteoritic fragments have been picked up, and, in the opinion of certain experts, borings there indicate that the main mass lies buried some hundreds of feet down. How, then, explain the lack of meteorites either on the surface or underground at the

Siberian site? LaPaz has proposed an explanation based on a theory of "reversed matter" put forward by two famous nuclear physicists, George Gamow and P. A. M. Dirac. The meat of their theory can be explained in two quick sentences, but the implications have to be imagined.

An atom of ordinary earth matter, physicists believe, consists of a central nucleus with planetary electrons revolving around it, the nucleus carrying a positive charge of electricity and each electron a negative charge. Certain theoretical considerations led Dirac and Gamow to dream up another "inside-out" kind of matter in which the electric charges are reversed so that the nucleus is negatively charged and is circled by positively charged electrons.

This strange kind of matter has been called contraterrene to distinguish it from terrene, or earth matter. If chunks of contraterrene and terrene matter were to collide, complete annihilation of the smaller mass would ensue and the huge amount of energy released would blow things sky-high. LaPaz long ago suggested that the Siberian meteorite was composed of contraterrene material and that, for example, Vasily's 1500 reindeer and the 80,000,000 pine and larch trees blown down in the area of fall were charred by the intense radiation released during the annihilation of this inside-out meteorite.

As evidence that the Siberian fall is not the only one wherein contraterrene meteorites have hit the earth, LaPaz points out that several other meteoritic mysteries are satisfactorily solved by assuming that chunks of "reversed matter" have from time to time tumbled out of our skies. There is, for example, the puzzle of the beautiful gem-like Libyan Desert silica glass found in an area apparently quite devoid of meteorites. Glassy melts of siliceous materials have been found not only at genuine meteorite craters like those at Hanbury in Central Australia and at Wabra, Arabia, but also at the Trinity-A-bomb site near Alamogordo, New Mexico, where the atomic age was ushered in at dawn on July 16, 1945. Evidently radiation from atom-bomb blasts is just as competent to produce silica glasses as the terrific heat generated by the high-speed impact of big meteorites.

This being so, the heat energy released during the annihilation of a contraterrene meteorite that chanced to fall in the Libyan sand dunes would sheathe these dunes, like the floor of the Trinity A-bomb Crater, with silica glass, yet leave no recoverable meteorite fragments.

Are there likely to be many masses of contraterrene matter flying about in space in addition to everything else? LaPaz thinks there may be enough to be worth worrying about. He has proved mathematically that some meteorites which strike the earth come, not from our own solar system, which should all be made up of terrene matter, but from outer space; and it is possible, he suggests, that, taking the universe as a whole, "reversed matter" is just as common there as our familiar terrene matter is here.

A person doesn't have to be a specialist to hunt for meteorites or contribute to the science. LaPaz hopes that a lot of people will take it up. He points out that a good many people already have the happy habit of saving "funny rocks" they come across. In their collections a meteorite turns up now and then. He was hunting a meteorite recently seen to fall in North-

(Continued on Page 117)

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Continued from Page 115)

New Mexico, when he interviewed a farm wife who all her life had found stones that caught her eye. He found the ones she had collected and found two meteorites from them. When he led the O.S.U. expedition in 1939 into the Meteorite Crater area in Texas, he found that cattlemen for years had been using iron meteorites that protruded above the ground surface to drive horseshoe nails on, without the least idea or concern what the useful range anvils were.

Indoors and outdoorsmen, LaPaz gave a fine chance to find meteorites. Dodson used to own a rather small farm near Ardmore, Oklahoma. One day he crossed a certain eroding ridge and his eye was drawn to an odd black rock that showed its nose above the surface. It was completely different from the light buff sandstone which is the common rock. Dodson worried over the small piece and found that it was of some kind. Thinking it might be an outcrop, he asked many people about it, but for twenty-two years no information. He sold his farm to the Government, and with the money it went to make up Lake Mead State Park. Dodson took a job at the Museum in the park employed a geologist, Allen Graffham, formerly of the University of Nebraska, who had been told about the value of meteorites. He helped the institute dig up the meteorite. Dodson showed him the rock. Graffham felt sure it was a meteorite and notified LaPaz. LaPaz, a characteristic speed, Brother LaPaz took off at once and drove all the way to examine the find. It turned out to be a meteorite, all right; moreover, it was to be the biggest of its parent ever found, the largest of the pieces recovered weighing 100 pounds. Unlike the Norton meteorite it came down when men were living in caves.

They have a million chances to find meteorites fall, against the meteorites and even if they don't hunt

for them afterward, LaPaz says, their observations can be valuable. Peter Hurd, the artist, was driving home to his Sentinel Ranch, at San Patricio, New Mexico, early in the afternoon on March 6, 1951, and saw a mighty fireball. He watched it fall, then rushed off an air-mail letter about it to the Institute of Meteoritics. In replying, LaPaz told him that perhaps never before had an artist such as he seen a meteorite fall, and couldn't he record permanently what he had seen. Hurd immediately made a colored sketch of it and gave it to the institute. The fidelity with which the artist reproduced every color detail as his trained eye saw it made his contribution scientifically important.

Airplane pilots have a particularly good chance to see fireballs, and are trained observers. Many of them radio immediate news of anything they see to the control tower in Albuquerque, and to the CAA traffic-control tower at Kirtland Field, asking that LaPaz be told.

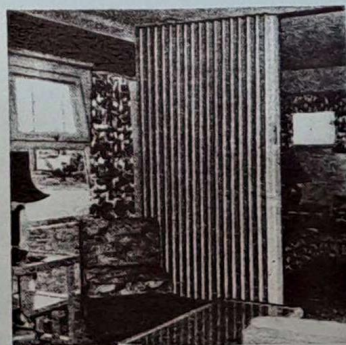
Two state highway policemen, on patrol late at night some 200 miles east of Albuquerque, saw a fireball. They radioed their headquarters in Santa Fe, and officers there radioed the Albuquerque office, and the latter notified LaPaz. The time was 1:00 A.M. He got news of that fireball five minutes after it fell.

Occasionally an amateur gets the bug and goes for meteorites in a big way. When the Ardmore meteorite was being dug up, Joe Durham, of Okeene, Oklahoma, became intensely interested. He has since turned himself into a one-man army to get fireball facts. As a radio ham, he has contacts by air with many people, and when a fireball of any kind is seen in his part of the world, he asks his brother hams for any information they may have, and relays it to the institute and LaPaz.

It is not easy for an amateur to identify a meteorite with certainty. There are a few helpful tests. It is likely to be heavy. It may show metallic streaks or specks on a polished surface. A magnet may attract it. The surface may look



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MR. LAPAZ, HIS DAUGHTER AND HER CHILDREN

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as if somebody had pressed his finger tips into it while it was soft. But these tests are not conclusive, and LaPaz has made a standing offer to make chemical and microscopic tests on any stone sent prepaid to the institute. If it is a meteorite, he makes an offer to buy it. The going price for a long time was a dollar a pound. Inflation has upped that to around two to five dollars a pound, depending on the nature and condition of the specimen, but the value of a meteorite is mostly scientific, not monetary.

Are meteorites dangerous when they fall? Of course, if they hit you. But LaPaz has shown mathematically how small is the chance of a direct hit on human beings. He estimated that the average person presents to infalling meteorites a target area of approximately two and three quarters square feet. Multiplying this by the earth's total population as enumerated or predicted for the period from 1700 to 2000 A.D., he found an average human target area for the entire world of about 139 square miles—less than half the area of New York City. LaPaz then found there is about a fifty-fifty chance that during these three centuries one person will get conked. So far the meteorites have failed to score a bull's eye.

LaPaz's most dangerous "meteorite" came to him by parcel post from Dalhart, Texas, with \$1.43 postage due on it. The package was very small, but weighed thirty-three pounds, and the peculiar object inside, when measured for specific gravity, appeared unbelievably dense. LaPaz made the mistake of repeatedly hammering away at the object, in order to get pieces for tests, and he was ill for three months afterward, his segmented white-blood-corpuscle count going down alarmingly to less than half the normal number. The Geiger counter eventually told what the object was, and the FBI came on the run. Security stepped in to quiet speculation, but the facts in the case made it look as if a piece of uranium had been filched from the AEC and cached in Dalhart, perhaps for later delivery to some foreign purchaser. It was lost sight of until some boys playing jump-out-of-the-tree stubbed their toes on it. The editor of the Dalhart Texan, who had met LaPaz during a Texas fireball hunt, heard that the object showered fancy sparks, and thought it might be a meteorite; so he sent it to the institute. Since then, no package is opened there until tested with a Geiger counter.

One difficulty a meteoriticist encounters nowadays is the great number of new fireball-like things seen in the skies that never were there before. About flying saucers, LaPaz has nothing at all to say; he often gets reports, but passes them on to those authorized to investigate. "Green fireballs" are different. Their yellow-green color, he says, is quite unlike the blue-green of magnesium-rich stony meteorites, and this color difference is only one of their singularities. They have taken a lot of his time recently, and he doubts that they originate outside the earth. He rather thinks they are some form of guided missile undergoing test; and because nothing is found at the point where they disappear, he suspects they carry built-in means of self-destruction. A schoolteacher in Macon, Georgia, aware of this peculiarity, sent him some black carbonaceous ashes which she found mysteriously on her front walk, and wondered if they were the remains of a green fireball. They were almost as much of a mystery to LaPaz, until Mrs. LaPaz identified them as crumbs of burned toast.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, in LaPaz almost at once turned chance to enter his father's business in favor of his life grandfather, George Strode, interest in the skies when he carry him around in his arms to at clouds, stars and other heavenly objects. His mother, who had tastes and some training in told him all that she knew. In when he was only seven, some fireball passed over Wichita, and coin told his mother he wanted right out and hunt for it. She precedent by discouraging the idea, by the time he was nineteen he going full tilt and had spoiled a alarm clock to make a device called a meteor-durimeter that a quick succession of beats picked earphones at his meteor-observing tion on top of the house. The was to time the small part of a falling star was visible.

LaPaz spent endless hours observations, and in 1916 published his first scientific paper on the d in Popular Astronomy, which was the bible of meteoriticists. seven years and dozens of papers later, LaPaz picked up the lishing ball himself and helped at the University of New Meteoritics, the new official the Meteoritical Society.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A man can take just so back talk from his wife—then doesn't hear a thing.

—ANTHONY J. PETTITO.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

jointly with Dr. Frederick C. of U.C.L.A.

LaPaz helped to put himself Fairmont College, in Wichita, by teaching in high school while still a college freshman, and by working summers as an instrument man on oil-field surveys. He went on after graduation to the Universities of Harvard and Chicago collecting advanced degrees and National Research Council Fellowships in mathematics, then taught at Du mouth, Chicago and Ohio State. In 19 he was granted leave from O.S.U. to accept an OSRD appointment at the Mexico Proving Ground, where worked, among other things, on ballistics of the proximity-fused shells. Later during the war he became technical director of the Operations Analysis Section at the headquarters of the 2nd Air Force. In 1945, sold on the skies of the arid Southwest as an ideal region in which to observe meteors and hunt for meteorites, he resigned his professorship at Ohio State and became head of the department of mathematics and astronomy and director of the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico.

What rewards does the life of meteoriticist hold out for a young man in search of a career? That, LaPaz says, depends on the young man's definition of rewards. If it's mainly money he wants, he might do better elsewhere. If it's the thrill of scientific exploration at a time when new discoveries are coming thick and fast in a rapidly developing field, the science might just his meat.

And if, perhaps, it's a seat on the first space-ship trip to the moon that he wants—well, they'll surely be a to use, a smart meteoriticist, wouldn't they?

THE

History of Green Fireballs

Green Meteors, Green Orbs, Green UFOs

Green Fireball Phenomena

Greenfireballs

On 12th May 1966 a secret conference was held at the Pentagon to discuss the UFO phenomena, in particular the 'green fireballs' which were then being widely reported in the area.

At the conference, the scientific and military officials present, including Dr. Edward Teller and General Curtis LeMay, discussed the possibility of a new kind of fireball, which was under investigation throughout the conference.

Dr. Teller was absolutely convinced that the green fireballs were not conventional fireballs or meteorites, and described his sighting on 12th December 1964:

"A fireball appeared in full intensity instantly - ... with the character of light ... with a color, ... somewhere to be somewhere around wave length 5200 Angstroms, was a hue green, such as I had never observed before in meteor falls before. The path was as nearly horizontal as one could determine by visual observation ... just before the end, the green fireball broke into fragments, still bright green".

Dr. Teller's statement have been uncovered through the fact that the subject of 'green fireballs', "relates to the National Defense of the United States" and "are ... top secret by Intelligence Officers or both the Army and Air Forces".

The study of the green fireballs was put under investigation "as a top secret".

1966, 18 Jul 1966
by: Andy Page

The following is from Appendix A, to a draft document:
"The Joint Chiefs of Staff, USAF to the JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS," (A. 1.1.1.1), page 6, item 11:

"On 12th May 1966 the reported occurrence of green fireballs in New Mexico was discussed with Dr.

"These incidents are not in the same category as the rather
meteoric ones described by Norman G. Markham and certain
incidents of Morton County, Kansas. Authorities here are
not concerned. Perhaps you have knowledge of defensive
measures that would explain the observed
distribution of incidents in certain highly important areas.
I will call observations by 6 more AEC Security Service
personnel incidents referred to look very serious. Please
give this matter careful attention. I am sure two best
observed incidents are not meteoric."



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THREE HOURS THAT SHOOK THE PRESS

By Jaime H. Shandera & William L. Moore

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The afternoon of July 8, 1947, had started out to be not much different than any other. Not boring for a young reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, but just another day. Little did J. Bond Johnson realize that a photo assignment he was about to be handed would resurface and be the center of controversy over forty years later.

He was working the afternoon shift from 1 to 8. It was a morning paper, with principal editions going to press at midnight and 2am, and an early edition known as "the bulldog" which hit the streets just before 9pm. Bond, a recently discharged cadet in the Army Air Corps, was the kind of reporter who always kept a camera in the trunk of his car just in case it might be needed. He was proud of his recently purchased, new 4x5 Speedgraphic.

The city editor saw Johnson around 4 O'clock in the afternoon as near as he can recall. Thinking back over forty years trying to retrace your steps is not an easy task. However there were certain events that were to unfold that would leave an indelible impression on him. Working with the key elements that Bond is absolutely unequivocal on, a reconstruction of the events of the assignment the city editor gave him is both possible and significant.

The city editor asked if Bond had his camera with him. When he answered in the affirmative, he was then told to hurry out to General Ramey's office. The editor said that the wire services had a breaking story about those flying discs that had been seen in almost every state in the union. It seemed the Army had recovered a crashed disc in New Mexico and it was now over at Ramey's office. When Bond related this story to the authors through four interviews spanning several months he proved to be an excellent witness. If he had been crystal clear on all the natty details of forty years ago he would have been somewhat suspect. But any young reporter in the post war era who was given an assignment to go to the commanding general's office at Eighth Army Air Forces Headquarters, Fort Worth Army Air Field, wouldn't be likely to ever forget it. Nor would he be likely to ever forget what happened next.

It took about 20 minutes to get over to Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey's office. Since Bond routinely covered the base for the paper, and was an officer in the Civil Air Patrol which held weekly activities there, he needed only to show his press pass and head over to the general's office. What did strike him as peculiar was the fact that he was to go to a general's office to view a crashed disc. It would be standard

procedure to go to the base Public Information Officer (PIO), and be directed to a hangar or other area to view something --- but to a general's office?

When he entered the general's office, he was met by Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey and his Chief of Staff, Col. Thomas Dubose. There was no one else in the relatively large office. On the floor in the middle of the room where the conference table had stood was a bunch of rather unimpressive debris. What struck Bond immediately was an acrid odor, something like burned rubber, only there was no evidence of rubber in the room. Lying on the carpet, partially on a long sheet of brown wrapping paper, were two kinds of debris. The larger quantity consisted of pieces of a gray foil-like material and what appeared to be sticks. The other material was a pile of black chunks no bigger than a fist. These chunks would best be described as looking like hard plastic today, but at the time Bond had never seen anything quite like it.

Again, it is the things that are out of the ordinary that stick in one's mind. Bond couldn't imagine why a general would want this junk on his carpet. Bond touched the foil-like material and discovered that it was very light, but rigid, not like anything he was familiar with. He asked the general what it was and Ramey answered something to the effect that he didn't know what in hell it was.

But Bond's objective was to get a picture and get it back to the paper as quickly as he could. His problem was there wasn't much of a photo opportunity. He asked Gen. Ramey to kneel down on the other side of the debris, which he did, and propped up a piece of the foil-like material. He took that picture. He then asked Col. Dubose to join the general in the shot. Dubose sat in the chair closest to the general and held the propped-up piece. It is clear from the picture that they both smiled that self-conscious kind of a smile that this was an important picture and that they were somehow more important for being in it.

That was all the film Bond had with him and there didn't seem to be anything else he could do with the scene anyway. While hurrying back to the newspaper, another thing struck him as odd—why was Ramey in full uniform with jacket and hat on in his office? Dubose had an open collar, no jacket and no hat, standard for being in an office.

Johnson arrived back at the paper sometime after 5 O'clock; a fact he is sure of because he recalls that the day shift had already left. There was a major flurry of activity at the paper. Two

weather balloon. He was briefed, then met the reporters that were there with a torn balloon that was handed to him. It's important to note that he was not called in to examine debris to determine if he knew what it was; he was told up front what to say, and he was also ordered not to answer any questions. What he identified was handed to him, it was not what was on Ramey's floor. But at what point did this occur? He stated that he was alone on his shift when he received word that the general had personally ordered him to leave his post. That would put him on the second shift and place the time after 6 O'clock—three hours from the time the first story hit the wires. But Newton wasn't the first to tell the press the weather balloon story.

According to the Dallas Morning News, July 9, Maj. E.M. Kirton, Intelligence Officer at Fort Worth Army Air Field, gave the whole weather balloon/radar device story to their reporter at 5:30pm. The article ends by quoting Newton from a later AP dispatch. Maj. Kirton was also the one interfacing with the F.B.I.

If the intelligence officer could identify the debris why did Newton have to be ordered over? Something happened to cause the military to do an about face. The Washington Post even reports a temporary news blackout had been shifted to Fort Worth, what difference did it make what Roswell was saying? For three hours the press was having a field day monitoring the goings-on between New Mexico and Texas and Washington. It would have been interesting to have seen all the wire traffic as the story was constantly updated. By choosing a lowly warrant officer to front the cover story for the wire services, it would help in playing down the story. Newton and his story were nowhere around when Bond Johnson took his pictures.

Sitting in Johnson's living room going over the photographs and several clippings he has, a number of facts emerged. There were at least six pictures taken of individuals with the debris in Ramey's office. The first thing that strikes you is that the material is unimpressive. In fact, until you look at full 8x10 blow-ups of some of the negatives with a magnifying glass, you don't realize that the material on the floor holds its shape. This gives credence to the statements that the pieces, unlike tin foil, were stiff. This was said by every individual who handled the material, including Johnson. The material in the photograph is not highly reflective, and every person who handled it described it as gray, or "like a lead foil." No one described it as highly reflective. Yet every description of the target device it was supposed to be characterizes such devices as "silvery" and highly reflective.

Continued examination of the photographs, even those that we only had from newspaper photocopies, reveals that all six photos were taken in the same room with the same debris. It is actually possible to match up certain common shapes in each photo. But if Bond had been there before the cover story set in, and if,

as has been suggested, an actual weather device was brought in to replace it, then why would the pictures that were obviously taken after Bond show the same debris? Curiously enough, this fact supports Bond's story. Bond took his two pictures and left. The AP was so anxious to get these pictures that they set up a portable wire machine, from Dallas—not an effort they would likely go to for a weather balloon. The pictures hit the wire. Then the cover story sets in. But they can't retrieve the pictures. The only advantage they have is that the debris looks ordinary. So, they allow additional pictures to be taken by the now growing press contingent on the base.

But it is clear that others were not accorded the same access that Bond was. In his interview with Moore (The Roswell Incident) Maj. Marcel maintained that the debris in the two photos with him is the real stuff. But, he states that the reporter that took them was allowed in the room only far enough to take the pictures. He was not allowed to touch the stuff, and he was then taken out of the room. Marcel, for his part, was not allowed to talk to the reporters, and was ultimately ordered back to Roswell. A second picture of Ramey and Dubose was taken and this time they weren't smiling. They looked very grim. This last photo, along with one of Newton, were taken by a United Press photographer. Marcel maintained that the more impressive debris remained on the plane under guard, ready to go on to Wright Field. He did not get to accompany it.

There exists a fascinating contrast in the AP story carried in the Los Angeles Times of July 9, 1947. There is Newton's weather balloon story, with the 100 gram balloon, and a little further on the fact that the device was scattered over a square mile of the ranch. Every witness to the scene of recovery described the debris as covering a very large area. That debris was not the device that Newton described to the press. Having been ordered away from his post by a general, briefed by a colonel, being told that an object had been found by a major which the general had decided was a weather balloon and which he was to identify as such for reporters, being handed a torn balloon in front of reporters but with specific instructions not to answer their questions, and not having heard anything about the flying disc story before, must have been quite mind-boggling for the poor fellow. But Newton played the part well and stuck to what he had been told to do, which was to identify a device he was allegedly familiar with. He never questioned what was on the floor of the general's office, even when he had his picture taken with it. Why should he? He was outranked and in good company. He was then sent on, left to ponder what it might all have been about.

Of added note here is another less heralded story by the AP, datelined Washington, July 8. It reads in part:

Army weather experts in Washington discount any idea that such weather targets might be the basis for the scores of reports of "flying discs."

Brig. Gen. Donald N. Yates, Chief of the AAF Weather Service, said during the war the radar target method of wind checking was standard practice because of the high degree of accuracy needed.

The Weather Bureau said it uses none of the radar target balloons at land stations. Some are used from Coast Guard vessels in the Atlantic, Bureau officials said, but they normally blow eastward toward Europe.

Between the Army and the Weather Bureau, hundreds of weather balloons without the metallic target are released daily from points all over the country.

For ordinary purposes, Gen. Yates told a reporter, the AAF uses balloon-borne radio sondes much on the order employed by the Weather Bureau, tracking them with radio direction finders.

Those instruments consist of a milky-white balloon five or six feet in diameter with the automatic radio transmitting apparatus suspended below in a package about cigar box size.

Well, so Newton was a little off. At least he was close and the general was satisfied with his performance. So many stories to post, so much competition, so little time. The military bravely protected the nation during the war, why would they lie to the public now? There were other breaking stories to cover. After all, the stuff on the general's floor looked like a bunch of junk. It just wasn't exotic enough looking to capture the imagination of the media.

It seems clear that Bond's story holds up and sheds new light on the events. The photographs show the actual debris from the flying disc from Roswell. Ramey had on his full uniform because he knew the press would want to take pictures. Why else would he have the stuff brought to his office? So many papers carried the story the following morning because the editors had been following the events coming over the wire and the fact that many radio stations had carried it the day before. Ramey even went on the radio (see The Roswell Incident) to throw water on the disc story. No one ever challenged him on the "25 feet in diameter" statement. It got lost in the rush. There were numerous press people around, but he chose to use the radio as a way of avoiding an actual press conference. But why the change? Why the need to suddenly stop the interest?

Perhaps the answer is in the controversial Eisenhower Briefing Document (one of the MJ-12 documents). The discovery (by Shandera) in 1990 of the Herald Express story is extremely important in that it shows for the first time that statements were coming out of Roswell that relate directly to statements made in that document (for example, the curious references in both sources to the apparent lack of a power plant in the wreckage). The Eisenhower Brief-

ing Document also states that on July 7, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage in Roswell for scientific study. That is the same day that the first pieces of debris gathered by Marcel and Cavitt arrived at the Roswell base. It seems likely that Ramey was informed that same evening, and through him, headquarters in Washington. AP states in one story that the crashed disc was flown to Fort Worth from Roswell at 10:00am the morning of the 8th. It's not out of the question that Ramey, or even Vandenberg approved the first press release. The cover story also contained the statement that the PIO at Roswell, Walter Haut, was strongly rebuked for the release. Haut, however, strongly denies that.

The Eisenhower Briefing Document goes on to say that:

During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery.

Since the explosion and crash happened on July 2, it could well have been that the bodies were confirmed on the afternoon of July 8, approximately one week later. It could also be that strange metallic debris was exciting to the military and press— but bodies were a whole different matter. When that discovery was made, Washington ordered Ramey to get the reporters off the story in a hurry. Shut it down. Hence the illogical weather balloon story was just another crazy conclusion to another flying disc story, most of which were not being treated very seriously at the time anyway in the public media. The press bought it and moved on.

Today, J. Bond Johnson, PhD, is a clinical psychologist who makes his home with his wife in Southern California. His career has been exemplary. He has a degree in journalism, spent 18 years as an ordained United Methodist minister, and holds both masters and doctorate degrees in psychology. He is also a retired U.S. Army colonel who worked as a psychological operations expert for the National Security Council under Gen. Scowcroft, Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig. There seems absolutely no reason to doubt his integrity and his honesty.

END



ROSWELL REVISITED: THE ANATOMY OF A COVER-UP

By William L. Moore & Jaime Shandera
In Cooperation with Stanton T. Friedman

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It all began on the evening of July 2nd, 1947, when a bright, disc-shaped object passed low over the city of Roswell, New Mexico, travelling in a northwesterly direction. The event was a typical UFO sighting, one of literally hundreds of similar events being reported all over the country that same week. Whether or not it bears any connection to the subsequent events which have come to be known as "The Roswell Incident" remains strictly a matter of conjecture. What is known is that at a point about 75 miles northwest of the city, over a remote area of desert ranch land and during a violent thunder and lightning storm, a flying object, very possibly the same one, seems to have suffered a tremendous on-board explosion which resulted in the crash of whatever this strange device was.

The wreckage was discovered the next morning by local ranch manager W.W. "Mac" Brazel, in company with two of his children. Because Brazel had no telephone or other means of communication, he did not report his discovery until several days later when he went to Roswell. A preliminary investigation was undertaken and a quantity of wreckage was subsequently recovered by Maj. Jesse Marcel, staff intelligence officer for the Army Air Forces at Roswell Field, in company with Counter-Intelligence Corps officer Sheridan W. "Cav" Cavitt. Upon the return of Marcel and Cavitt to Roswell, an official press statement was released by Lt. Walter Haut, base Public Information Officer, to the effect that the wreckage of a crashed flying disc had been recovered by the Army Air Forces north of Roswell. Haut released the statement to the press upon direct order from base commander Col. William Blanchard. Meanwhile, Marcel was ordered to load his debris on a B-29 and fly it to Wright Field (now Wright-Patterson AFB) in Ohio for examination, with an intermediate stop at 8th Air Force headquarters in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Upon arrival at Ft. Worth, Gen. Roger M. Ramey took charge of the wreckage, ordered Marcel and others who had been on the plane not to talk to reporters, and issued a statement in direct opposition to the Roswell press release, stating that everything had been a regrettable misunderstanding and that what had been recovered was really nothing more than the remains of a wrecked weather balloon with an attached tinfoil radar target. Meanwhile,

the real wreckage was on its way to Wright Field under armed guard, Marcel was on his way back to Roswell, and rancher Brazel had been picked up and taken out of circulation (he was held incommunicado for nearly a week) while the ranch site was picked clean of every shred of debris and other evidence.

A news leak out of Albuquerque via press wire to the effect that all this was going on was plugged by interrupting the transmission and then warning the radio station in question, and one other, not to broadcast the item. Forced to deal with the problem of the premature Roswell press release, however, Ramey cleverly shifted media attention to himself at Ft. Worth. It was this piece of adroit maneuvering that succeeded in convincing press and radio reporters that all of the excitement was over a misidentified weather balloon. Fortunately, the newsmen bought the ruse without a great deal of questioning and all was secure by the next morning.

Did a UFO crash to earth near Roswell, as alleged, in the summer of 1947? Has the wreckage and possibly the remains of recovered alien bodies been concealed by our government beneath a heavy blanket of secrecy ever since? Incredible as it may seem, the evidence strongly suggests that such an event did in fact occur.

Investigation into the Roswell saucer crash began in Morris, Minnesota on a forty-degree below zero evening in January, 1977 following a discussion (over pizza) between Bill Moore and Stan Friedman. Pieces of what appeared to be the same story emerged during that exchange of information and we decided to try to investigate further. The result was a series of interviews with nearly 100 different individuals who were able to provide pieces of information about the incident, more than thirty of whom had experienced some first-hand involvement with it. Considering these numbers alone, the Roswell crash ranks as one of the most extensively investigated UFO incidents on record—a feat made even more remarkable by the fact that the event had occurred more than thirty years before any investigation was undertaken.

In the latter part of 1980, Bill Moore succeeded in publishing, with co-author Charles Berlitz, what now must be considered a very preliminary account of this case in a book entitled *The Roswell Incident* (NY: Grosset & Dunlap). The

book is currently available as a Berkley paperback, and should be read by anyone with a serious interest in the affair. The bulk of the research presented in that volume was done by Bill and Stanton, but it was Berlitz who composed most of the actual text of the manuscript and for that reason was listed as the book's principal author.

Returning to the Roswell incident itself, it seems useful at this point to offer a general summary of the evidence accumulated to date, and to then elaborate upon it piece by piece as this paper progresses. This will enable readers to develop a sense of perspective with respect to the many parameters of this case without becoming immediately overwhelmed by a host of small details. At the same time, the depth and breadth of the on-going investigation can be readily perceived and appreciated.

An account of the appearance of a UFO over Roswell at about 9:50 PM on the evening of July 2nd can be found in the Roswell Daily Record for July 8, 1947. The object, which was seen travelling towards the northwest, was described as "a big, glowing object... (shaped like) two inverted saucers faced mouth-to-mouth." Mr. Paul Wilmot of Roswell confirmed the accuracy of this description to Bill Moore during an interview in 1981. Paul's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilmot (both deceased) had been the principal witnesses to the incident, and Paul was able to vividly recall their discussion of it following the event. Prior to his death several years ago, he was interviewed concerning his recollections on a Roswell television station.

Weather reports in contemporary issues of both the Albuquerque Tribune and Journal confirm that there were thunder and lightning storms that night in the area to the northwest of Roswell. In addition, both William (Bill) Brazel, son of rancher W.W. "Mac" Brazel, and former intelligence officer Lt. Col. (then Maj.) Jesse Marcel have independently recalled "Mac" Brazel's having commented after the crash about having heard an unusual explosion of some kind "which was different from ordinary thunder" during the storm which passed over his ranch house on the night in question. Several ranchers living in the area have told Bill Moore that such storms are not uncommon at that time of the year, and that frequently there is more thunder and lightning associated with them than there is rain.

The events surrounding the recovery and nature of the wreckage found by Mac Brazel are corroborated by more than twenty different people, virtually all of whom were interviewed independently of one another and many of whom have subsequently told their stories to the public media. These include Lt. Col. Jesse Marcel (d.'86); his son Jesse Marcel, MD (who was twelve at the time); Mac Brazel's children Bill, Paul and Bessie (Schreiber), his daughter-in-law Shirley (Bill's wife— they were married

in 1947), his sister Lorrene Ferguson (d.'83) and his uncle Hollis Wilson; Mr. Walt Whitmore Jr., who was about twenty at the time and is the son of Walt Sr. who owned Roswell radio station KGFL; Mr. Frank Joyce, former newsman and announcer for KGFL; Mr. Louis "Bill" Rickett, former Counter-Intelligence Corps agent at the Roswell Army Air Base; Mr. Art McQuiddy, former editor of the old Roswell Dispatch; and Brazel neighbors Mr. Floyd Proctor (d.'87) and his wife Loretta; Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Strickland; Archie and Geraldine Perkins; and Ernest Dishman. Eight of these who actually handled bits of wreckage have independently provided corroborative descriptions of what they had seen and touched. Based on these statements, we know that the bulk of the wreckage consisted of a large quantity of metallic-like "foil" of an extremely thin and durable nature, resembling dull aluminum or lead foil in color. Numerous descriptions of this material have been provided to us and they are remarkably consistent:

- "(It) could not be bent or broken...or even dented (permanently) by a sixteen pound sledge hammer. Almost weightless. ...like a metal with plastic properties." (Lt. Col. Marcel)

- "Foil-like... very thin, metallic-like but not metal, and very tough." (Dr. Marcel)

- "It was a sort of aluminum-like foil. Some of (these) pieces had a sort of tape stuck to them... (but) even though the stuff looked like tape it could not be peeled off or removed at all. It (the foil) was very light in weight but there sure was a lot of it." (Bessie Brazel Schreiber— about 12 years old at the time)

- "(It was) very much like lead foil in appearance but could not be torn or cut at all. ...extremely light in weight." (Walt Whitmore Jr.)

- "...something on the order of tinfoil except that (it) wouldn't tear.... You could wrinkle it and lay it back down and it immediately resumed its original shape. ...quite pliable, but you couldn't crease or bend it like ordinary metal. Almost like a plastic, but definitely metallic in nature. Dad once said that the Army (Air Force) had once told him it was not anything made by us." (William Brazel)

- "...very strong and very light. You could bend it but couldn't crease it. As far as I know, no one ever figured out what it was made of." (Bill Rickett)

Both Floyd and Loretta Proctor provided similar descriptions.

In addition to the metallic wreckage, there was a variety of other types of debris, the most interesting of which, by far, was a large quantity of what appeared to be beams or small rods covered with unusual symbols which may have been writing. Once again, the descriptions

provided by those who saw it are surprisingly similar:

-(There were) small beams about 3/8" or 1/2" square with some sort of hieroglyphics on them that nobody could decipher. They looked something like balsa wood, and were about the same weight, except that they were not wood at all. They were very hard, although flexible, and would not burn... or even smoke. ... (the symbols on them) were pink and purple." (Lt. Col. Marcel)

- "Imprinted along the edge of some of the beam remnants there were hieroglyphic-type characters... pink and purple... except I don't think there were any animal figures present as there are in true hieroglyphics." (Dr. Marcel)

- "Some of these pieces had something like numbers and lettering on them, but there were no words we were able to make out. (When these) were held up to the light they showed what looked like pastel flowers or designs.... The figures were written out like you would write numbers in columns... but they didn't look like the numbers we use at all. What gave me the idea they were numbers... was the way they were all ranged out in columns." (Bessie Brazel Schreiber)

- "...some small beams that appeared to be either wood or wood-like. Some of the material had a sort of writing on it which looked like numbers which had either been added or multiplied (i.e. in columns)." (Walt Whitmore Jr.)

- "...some wooden-like particles... like balsa wood in weight, but a bit darker in color and much harder.... It was pliable, but wouldn't break. (It) weighed nothing, but you couldn't scratch it with your fingernail. All I had was a few splinters. ... Dad did say one time that there were what he called 'figures' on some of the pieces he found. He often referred to the petroglyphs the ancient Indians drew on the rocks around here as 'figures' too, and I think that's what he meant to compare them with." (Bill Brazel)

It is important to note here that the "few splinters" Bill Brazel refers to were pieces he picked up from the crash site following a rainstorm several weeks or perhaps a few months after the military people had left the area. One evening still later, Bill was sitting in a local tavern when he made the mistake of mentioning that he had picked up a few pieces of the wreckage himself, and was keeping them in a cigar box at home. The next day, as Bill recalls it, an Air Force officer named Armstrong showed up at the ranch and "strongly suggested" that it would be Bill's patriotic duty to turn over the pieces he had found to his government. After Bill had done so, Armstrong requested that Bill conduct him and several enlisted men to the spot where these pieces of wreckage had been found. Armstrong then

spent the next few hours directing the enlisted men to pace the entire area with arms linked in an effort to determine if there were any more pieces that had been overlooked. Upon finding none, he provided Bill with a phone number and instructed him to call if any more pieces should turn up in the future. Bill said that he would do so, but never needed to because no more pieces were ever found.

According to Lt. Col. Marcel, the largest pieces he saw were perhaps three or four feet across. He tried to piece some of these together, like a jig-saw puzzle, in order to get some idea of the size of the object before it broke up, but was unable to do so. His best estimate, based upon the amount of wreckage present and his efforts to piece some of it together, was that "One of the fellows... managed to get about ten square feet (of fragments) together, but it wasn't enough to get any idea of the general shape of the object itself. Whatever it was, it was big." In a later conversation, Jesse identified "big" as "maybe twenty-five or thirty feet in diameter; maybe more. There was a lot of material out there."

In the official press release of July 8, 1947, however, is a statement that Mac Brazel had "stored the disc until such time as he was able to contact (the authorities)." When asked about this, Bill Brazel said that he recalls someone having told him that his father had dragged a large section of the wreckage, a piece perhaps ten or twelve feet across, under a cattle shelter with his pick-up truck. Bill said, however, that he had not personally seen this and that it was not his father who had mentioned this to him even though he was unable to recall just who the source of the information had been. Neighbor Floyd Proctor told a similar story, and said he got it from Mac Brazel himself when Mac came over to his place to tell him about the find. And finally, Frank Joyce says that he recalls Brazel having told him, in his first story (about which more later) that he had dragged a large chunk of the object into a shelter of some sort; but in his second story, told after Brazel had agreed to cooperate with the military, "everything had been changed so it sounded like there wasn't anything to it at all. His whole story was different. That was the story they put into the papers— about the thing being all sticks and tinfoil, and only about the size of a cabinet, or a safe, or something. They even tried to change the dates as I recall it." (More on Frank Joyce's story later.) Also significant here is that teletype operator Lydia Sleppy who had attempted to put the story on the press wire out of Albuquerque only to have the transmission stopped in mid sentence, recalls reporter Johnny McBoyle having described the object to her (over the phone from Roswell) as looking "like a big crumpled dishpan" and telling her that "some rancher (had) hauled it under a cattle shelter with his tractor." (More on this later as well.)

The story doesn't end here, however. Persistent investigation has uncovered considerable corroborative testimony relating to the events surrounding the official Army Air Forces press release from Roswell and the subsequent, and highly successful efforts by Gen. Roger M. Ramey at Ft. Worth to put a lid on the affair before the cat got out of the bag.

With respect to the initial press release, former base Public Information Officer, 1st Lt. Walter Haut, has confirmed that he was the one who actually wrote the release and had it distributed to the Roswell media. Haut, who wrote the press statement at the personal command of base commander Col. William Blanchard, says he asked the colonel for permission to view the wreckage, and was told "You don't need to see it; just do as you are told!" Blanchard's former wife, Emily Simms, told Friedman that her husband knew that the wreckage he had sent to Ft. Worth had nothing to do with a weather balloon. "At first he thought it might be Russian because of the strange symbols on it," she said. "Later on, he realized it wasn't Russian either. He knew it wasn't anything made by us."

Brig. Gen. Woodrow P. Swancutt (USAF, ret'd.), longtime personal friend of Blanchard's also recalled the incident "because there was so much notariety about it." "It was supposed to have been one of the first UFOs in hand (!)," he said in an interview with Moore. "At first Blanchard thought he had something. There was considerable communication between him and Ramey and it took some time before Ramey identified it as a radar sonde (balloon)." Swancutt said he did not know anything about where the material was sent or who had made statements as to the result, but he indicated that Blanchard seemed "quite content" to accept whatever explanation was given so long as the matter was out of his hands.

Brig. Gen. Thomas J. DuBose (USAF, Ret'd.), former adjutant to Gen. Ramey's staff at Ft. Worth and a full colonel at the time, also recalled the incident vividly. According to his account, Ramey had received "orders from on high" to ship the wreckage directly to Wright Field in Ohio by special plane, and that Ramey had taken complete personal charge of the matter at the Ft. Worth end. "Everyone else," said DuBose, "just followed orders." As for the weather balloon story, it was a complete fabrication designed to get the reporters "off (Ramey's) back in a hurry (and) put out the fire at the same time."

In a 1984 interview with Friedman, DuBose recalled that Ramey's "orders from on high" had come from Gen. Clements McMullen (d. '56) at the Pentagon who, in essence had instructed Ramey not to get involved with the public on this matter under any circumstances. He characterized McMullen as a crusty old general of the "old school" who felt the public should be told "as little as possible about anything." He

also thought he had heard somewhere that Blanchard had "personally interviewed the rancher (Mac Brazel) about the device", but admitted this was not something he knew to be so first-hand.

The man in charge of weather forecasting and plotting for the Ft. Worth tower at the time was Warrent Officer Irving Newton. In an interview with Moore, Newton recalled having received orders from Gen. Ramey to come to his office at headquarters where he was presented with and asked to identify the shredded pieces of a Rawin radar target— a flimsy device made of aluminum foil which can be attached to weather balloons and lofted to high altitudes where radar tracking can provide excellent data about wind velocities. On the floor of the general's office a large quantity of similar-appearing debris had been spread out on brown paper. When asked whether the men at Roswell should have been able to identify such material on their own without having to bring it to Ft. Worth by special plane, Newton replied that they "certainly should have."

Newton was able to recall the details of his experience quite clearly because, he said, he was the only person in the tower that evening when an urgent call came through from "some bird colonel in General Ramey's office" (undoubtedly DuBose) who ordered him to drop what he was doing and report to the general immediately. When he protested that to do so would mean that he would have to leave the tower completely unattended, he recalls being told to "get your ass over here at once, and if you have to commandeer a car in the process, then do it!" When he arrived, he was met by the same colonel who had been on the phone only moments earlier. The man told him he was to go into the general's office where he would be handed pieces of a Rawin radar target. "There will be press reporters present," he was told. "You will identify what you are given as pieces from a weather device, and you are not to ask any questions nor volunteer any answers unless you are directed to do so by the general. You are to return to duty as soon as the general releases you. Is that clear?"

"(What I saw) was a regular Rawin sonde device," he said. "They (meaning the Roswell people) must have seen hundreds of them." He went on to describe such a device as being made of very flimsy material— so flimsy that "you would have to be careful not to tear it."

Lt. Col Marcel also recalled that there were a lot of press people present at Ft. Worth when he arrived, and said he had been strictly cautioned not to say anything to them except what Gen. Ramey told him to say. "The general told me not to say anything— he would handle it. Those reporters, they kept asking me questions, but I wasn't allowed to talk. I couldn't say anything! It was general Ramey who put up the cover story about the balloon just to get the

press off his back. The press was told it was a balloon and that the flight to Wright was cancelled; but all that really happened was that I was removed from the flight and someone else took it to Wright."

Robert R. Porter, who was engineer on the flight with Marcel from Roswell to Ft. Worth, told Moore that he knew the material in the cargo hold was parts of a flying saucer. "We were warned," he said, "not to ask any more questions about it." He also recalled armed guards being posted around the plane upon their arrival in Texas.

Curiously enough, Robert Porter is the brother of Mrs. Loretta Proctor, who, with her husband Floyd, were Mac Brazel's closest neighbors. Loretta, who handled some of the pieces of wreckage that Mac had brought over to show Floyd shortly after the crash, recalls her feeling of surprise when her brother told her of his own involvement with the matter "shortly after it happened." Loretta still lives on the original Proctor place and was interviewed about her experiences as recently as the fall of 1988 by Moore and others for a special program on the Roswell case made for Japanese television.

Marcel's statement that the wreckage was in-

Robert R. Porter, told Moore that he knew the material in the cargo hold was parts of a flying saucer. "We were warned," he said, "not to ask any more questions about it."

deed flown to Wright Field in spite of what the press was told is further confirmed by a copy of an FBI teletype communication sent between Dallas and Cincinnati with copy to headquarters in Washington, D.C. The memorandum, transmitted at 6:17 PM (Central time) voices clear concern over the news media's attempts "to break the story of (the) location of the disc today." The description of the disc as given in this memo is considerably distorted however in that information supplied to the FBI came through Maj. E.M. Kirton of Army Air Forces Intelligence in Ft. Worth, who supplied it on direct orders from Gen. Ramey. Kirton informed the FBI that "the disc is hexagonal in shape and was suspended from a balloon by a cable, which balloon was approximately twenty feet in diameter." It resembles, he said, "a high altitude weather balloon with a radar reflector," but allowed, presumably under questioning, that "telephonic conversation between (Ft. Worth) and Wright Field had not borne out this belief. Disc and balloon being transported to Wright Field by special plane for examination,"

he advised. Ramey, it seems, had no intention of revealing specific details of what had been recovered to the FBI, but rather only wanted to enlist the Bureau's support as assistance in killing the flying disc story in the event it got out of hand. Ultimately the press bought the weather balloon ruse without much question, thus eliminating the need to inform the FBI of any further developments.

Cusiously, when the FBI agent who transmitted the message was contacted by Moore, he absolutely refused to allow an interview even though he had never been informed of what the subject of the interview would be. "I've been living a happy life here in retirement," he said. "There have been no strange men in dark suits on my doorstep, no mysterious fires in my garage, and no phone calls from Washington. I rather enjoy it that way and I intend to keep it that way. I am not interested in speaking with you either now or in the future...." When Moore asked him if he could merely confirm or deny facts surrounding a certain document, or would care to comment about it if shown to him (he had not seen the teletype, nor had Moore even made him aware of what document was being spoken of), he replied, "I have already told you that I do not intend to comment on that. That's all there is to it!"

Moving back to Roswell, Mr. Walt Whitmore Jr. recalls his father, Whitmore Sr. (d. '52), owner of radio station KGFL, having received urgent personal telephone calls from both the secretary of the Federal Communications Commission (a Mr. Sloie) and U.S. Senator Chaves of New Mexico ordering him to cease broadcasting details of the crash. According to Whitmore Jr., who was home from college for the summer at the time, both callers made it clear to his father that the station's license to broadcast would be in jeopardy if they continued to air the story. "No one I talked to seemed to know exactly what (this thing) was," he said, "but I heard the flying saucer explanation talked about quite a bit."

Jud Roberts, manager of the other Roswell radio station KSWs, told Moore that he also had trouble trying to report the story. When he sent a reporter out to try to learn more about it, the man returned later saying only that he had "met with a military roadblock outside of town and was turned back." (The reporter in question here is most likely Mr. Johnny McBoyle, of whom more later.) Roberts said that since his efforts to obtain additional information had come up empty handed, he decided to limit his station's coverage of the event to the text of the official press statement. When Ramey's weather balloon announcement came out, KSWs had already gone off the air for the evening, and by the next morning the matter was a dead issue as far as he was concerned.

The Washington Post, which had assigned one of their staff reporters (John G. Norris) to cover

the story, commented that "At first they (the military authorities) gave the bare details of the finding of the object, then they clamped down a security lid on any further information on the grounds that it was high level stuff." The next day brought the statement that "...officers at the Roswell, N.M. air base received a blistering rebuke from Army A.F. Headquarters in Washington, the United Press reported, for announcing that a 'flying disc' had been found on a New Mexico ranch." This account, however, is strongly contested by Walter Haut, former Roswell Public Information Officer, who denies that there was ever any rebuke delivered, blistering or otherwise.

Numerous newspapers have hinted that there may have been more to the Roswell story than was being told. On July 9, for example, the Albuquerque Journal, in an otherwise negative article, commented that their reporter had tried to obtain further information from Chaves County Sheriff George Wilcox (now deceased), but "the sheriff declined to elaborate. 'I'm working with those fellows at the base', he said...." Equally, the Roswell Daily Record, whose people were certainly nearer to the facts of the case than most, complained in an editorial published the same day that "The Army isn't telling its secrets yet, from all appearances...."

The fact that Mac Brazel himself was picked up by the military and held incommunicado for nearly a week (from July 8th until about the 15th, well after the weather balloon explanation had been accepted by the press and the story had blown over) is extremely well established and is based on testimony from no less than thirteen people, all of whom had first-hand knowledge of the fact. All that is known of Mac during this time period is that he was made available for two interviews with the public media, one press on July 8th in Roswell, and one radio on July 9th from El Paso, Texas. On both occasions he was accompanied by military authorities and said only what he had been coached to say. Brazel came away from this experience extremely upset and angry at the treatment he had received, and felt to his dying day that he had been misused for trying to do "his patriotic duty." Mac died in 1965 and is buried in the cemetery at Tularosa, New Mexico. Virtually everyone who knew him is certain that he took most of what he knew about this incident with him to his grave.

Following the publication of The Roswell Incident in 1980, a number of news media types began looking at the story with an eye towards doing a possible follow-up as the center piece for their own look into the UFO phenomenon. One of these was television station KOB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which was interested in the story largely because of the local color involved. Early in 1982, KOB assigned reporter Lee Williams to conduct an independent in-depth investigation of the case and to

come up with sufficient material to fill an entire single segment of a seven-part special on UFOs over New Mexico which was to air during the last week of May. Williams, an excellent and tireless worker who was at first highly skeptical, spent considerable time in the field pursuing individuals and reviewing old news files and records. None of us was aware of his work until it was nearly completed. Around the last week of April, Williams telephoned Moore to ask if he would come to Albuquerque at KOB's expense to do an interview for the segment. During the course of the conversation, Williams told Moore that he was now completely convinced that the story was true and that one of the things which had convinced him was his discovery of a principal witness to the events at Roswell that Moore did not seem to be aware of. According to Williams, this new witness was able to confirm many of the very unusual details of this story from first-hand experience. When Moore asked Williams if a meeting could be arranged with this new source, Williams immediately offered to act as go-between.

As it turned out, Williams had recalled during his reading of The Roswell Incident in preparation for the TV special, that one of the long-time announcers for KOB radio, Mr. Frank Joyce, had been at Roswell earlier in his career. Upon inquiring of Mr. Joyce whether he knew anything about the supposed crash of a UFO near Roswell in the late 1940s, Williams was surprised to learn that Joyce had been an announcer for station KGFL in Roswell at the time and had been personally involved in the story.

Frank Joyce had been employed at KGFL by Walt Whitmore Sr. who died in 1952. Before securing an interview with Joyce, Moore went to visit Whitmore's son, Walt Jr., who still lives in Roswell and whom Moore had already talked to on a couple of earlier occasions. Walt Jr. had been about twenty years old at the time of the Roswell crash and remembered Joyce well since the two of them had played football together while in high school. Walt did not seem to be very much aware of Joyce's involvement with the story ("He certainly was there at the time, but I can't recall that we ever discussed the matter. He probably would have talked more with dad <Whitmore Sr.> about it than he would have with me."), but did not hesitate to give Joyce his unqualified endorsement as being an honest and highly reliable individual.

Further endorsement came from Walter Haut, former Public Information Officer at Roswell field, who confirmed that Joyce had indeed been at KGFL at the time and could easily have been the first to receive a copy of the official press release on the crashed UFO which Haut had written and distributed on the morning of July 8, 1947.

Virtually certain that Frank Joyce was no crackpot, Moore secured an interview with him on

the afternoon of May 3, 1982 in the restaurant of the Grand Western Motor Inn in Albuquerque. His story, as he told it, is as follows:

JOYCE: "(Walter Haut), the base PIO (Public Information Officer) came in that day and said 'Look, I'm giving you this news release first.' I assumed that he was coming to me first because he had passed his last release to someone else first. (NOTE: In keeping with Joyce's recollection of this event, Walter Haut confirmed by phone on May 7, 1982 that he had indeed made it a practice to rotate the order in which he passed out his press releases.) Anyway, I took a look at the (paper) but really didn't pay much attention to it because I was probably busy with something else. About a half-hour or so later, when I took time to read it... it said basically that the U.S. Air Force had recovered a so-called flying saucer, which I later heard was somewhat barrell-shaped and metallic, and it went on to say that the object was being loaded on a plane to be flown to another location for examination. That 'other location' of course was Wright Air Force Base, which was a center for Air Force experimental projects at that time.

"Anyway, I can tell you that release does not exist except in my mind, because after the fact, and I'm getting ahead of myself here, they, whoever 'they' are, got in and took that release from the station where it was in my desk, and it disappeared. I went in and called up Western Union and I asked them to repeat it back to me. They said they had no record of any such transmission. Several years later, I was still curious about this and had occasion to ask the fellow who headed the bureau in Santa Fe if he still had a copy in his files and could I see it? He said they, once again 'they' came in and cleared out that entire file. This fellow in Santa Fe, his name was John or something. I can't recall any more. Anyway, I've told you more than I've ever told anyone else about what that release said. I've heard many stories since that (have) made me think back to all this, and some of them seem to tie together, but I just don't know.

"You have to remember also that constantly under all of this I was aware that I didn't want to give away any of the U.S. secrets, if this was a U.S. secret. But I can also tell you right now before we go any further, that no one ever told me 'This is a U.S. secret, do not talk about this or you will imperil the defense of your country.'

"Yessir, later when they all started talking about weather balloons, I heard weather balloons coming out my... well anyway, it was all very derisive. But I'm way ahead of myself here.

"Anyway, when I read (the release) I got on the phone and I called the PIO (Haut) and I said 'Listen, I know how things go on in the military and I'm telling you don't say this. You can't say this. The military will not allow you to say this because it is a statement of fact. "The U.S. Air Force," which is a pretty big outfit, "says it has..." you see?' And I says 'If I were you, I would not do this. You never heard that before, did you?'"

MOORE: "No, I never have."

JOYCE: "'O.K.', I says, 'Don't do it....' But he says,

'Ahh, it's O.K.; you can go ahead and run it.' At least basically that's the way it went. The words may not have been exactly those, but then we're talking thirty-five years ago. Anyway, it's close....

"Now in those days, ah... basically I was raised in a very frugal economy through the Depression... so I was always thinking about cost. Nowadays you would have cameras out there and everything, and have this all down on film; but I thought about it awhile before I says to myself, 'Now this looks to me like a big story. Am I going to send this overnight, or right away?' Of course, overnight was cheaper. But I made the big decision. 'I'm going to send it right now,' I thought. You don't get a story like that except once in a lifetime. So I sent it 'right now', and we paid the higher rates. The only way to get a story out of Roswell in those days, other than mail or phone— and you know what the phones were like then— was by Western Union wire. I took that press release over to the Western Union office and I believe I had them send it out word for word. Then I folded it up, took it back to the station, and put it in my desk. Whatever was reprinted later had to come off of that wire. But none of the wires I later saw had copied the complete text as I had it. Somehow it had gotten a bit confused. Anyway, the meat of it was that 'the Air Force says it has', and that just stopped everything...."

Available information strongly suggests that the original Haut/Joyce press release contained at least five paragraphs. Although diligent efforts to turn up a copy of the complete text have been fruitless, three of those paragraphs were printed, allegedly verbatim, in the July 9, 1947 edition of the San Francisco Chronicle. Those three paragraphs were quoted by the Chronicle as follows:

"The many rumors regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the 509th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Air Field, was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the co-operation of one of the local ranchers and the Sheriff's office of Chaves county.

"The flying object landed on a ranch near Roswell sometime last week. Not having phone facilities, the rancher stored the disc until such time as he was able to contact the Sheriff's office, who in turn notified Major Jesse A. Marcel, of the 509th Bomb Group Intelligence Office.

Action was immediately taken and the disc was picked up at the rancher's home. It was inspected at the Roswell Army Air Field and subsequently loaned by Major Marcel to higher headquarters.")

"After that happened," **Frank Joyce continued**, "I got a long distance call from a far away place that I presume was Washington, D.C. This was from a man who identified himself as Col. Johnson, as I recall.... This guy was— livid is the word. And I was the object of his anger. Did I put out that release?, he wanted to know. Of course I answered 'Yes, I did.' 'Did you say this?' 'Yes, I did.' Well, I don't remember his exact words, but I immediately got the impression that things were going to go very hard with me. So finally, basically, I got through to him that I was a civilian. That didn't make a bit of difference. Then, well, I really didn't want to involve my friend the PIO too much at the time, but I finally had to admit.... I said, 'Listen, I'll tell you.

Yes, I put this story out, but it's from an official Air Force release.' Then the guy really hit the top. 'Where did it originate!?', he wanted to know. So when I told him where it originated, the phone went dead and that was the end of that.

"Now the next call I get, probably twenty-five minutes later, is the PIO. And he said, 'Frank, you were right. I shouldn't have put out that story.' And he said, 'I won't be around for us to have a beer this afternoon. I am being shipped out immediately.' And I said, 'I'm sorry to hear that, but that's why I called you and explained to you that you shouldn't have said that.' And I probably told him I should have held onto the story, and who knows what direction the conversation took after that. Anyway, he says, 'You won't be seeing me again,' and I began to think that maybe this was some big military secret like the Manhattan (atomic bomb) project that was only a few years before. And that was the general text. I cannot recall ever seeing the man again at the station after that, and I've never seen him since. Now it's just recently that someone told me, just within this past week, that well, yes, he (Haut) was going to get shipped out, but someone saved his neck and he didn't. That might be, but I don't know anything about it....

"Some TV outfit in the last year or so was (doing) a story on this and they had some military officer who was saying thus and so about it. (NOTE: the show was "That's Incredible", and the officer was Lt. Col. Marcel.) Well, in my experience with this story, I never heard of that guy. It seems to me he was the base intelligence officer, or security officer, or whatever. But I never heard of him. He was never mentioned one time in anything I recall about any of this. None of what he had to say tied in with any of my own experiences with this thing. Of course, he may well have been involved with this from another angle. What did I know about it except that a lot of these goings-on seemed to flow around me. Now you can say, well maybe it was flowing around somebody else too. It could be. I don't know. All I can tell you is that guy's path and mine never crossed.

"What I do know is this guy the rancher had called me on the phone from somewhere in town and discussed with me what there was out there. Now I never heard anything about any balsa parts or weather balloon parts; although as I've told you, later on that's all I did hear. But from that rancher I never heard anything that had to do with a lot of things that came into this story later.... But the rancher definitely told me his story on the phone before anyone else except maybe the military had heard it. Walter Whitmore Jr. later told me that his father had later hid this rancher out at his home for a few hours or so because the man was terrified. Now I didn't know about this at the time because Whitmore Sr. had never told me about it, but I can definitely confirm to you that this fellow was indeed terrified. I can also confirm that either while he was hiding out, but more likely after 'they' caught up with him, he came to the station. I can't tell you whether it was the next morning or perhaps three or four days after the incident, but he came into the station and I was sitting there in our little, dark, dingy announcer's booth which was strictly homemade and, you know, homemade control board and everything, and I can

see the whole thing now.... He came in and he told me a totally different story than he had told me earlier on the phone; and at the end of it I said, 'Just a minute.' I said, 'You know who you're talking to, right?' And he said, 'Yes.' And I said, 'And you know that this story that you've told me now in no way matches the story you told me over the phone.' And he said, after a pause... and listen, that guy was one of those old western, dirt in the pores of the skin type guys you used to see on the ranch and I saw in town a lot when I was a kid. He was definitely not a rocket and science buff off on some Buck Rogers kick... and he came into that control room and he told me a different story. Well, I remember basically the two stories he told me, and I told him, 'You remember what you said, and now you're telling me another story?' And he thought about that awhile... he was considerably older than me, more mature... and finally he said, 'Look, son. You keep this to yourself. They told me to come here and tell you this story or it would go awfully hard on me.' So I once again thought we must be dealing with some kind of military secret here. You know, they're really hard after it. And at the same time, I'm an American citizen, and although I have a certain belief in the need for freedom of the press and all that sort of thing, I know about military secrets and the need to keep them too. Still, I thought, they are really going to a lot of trouble to stop this. But I really couldn't understand why. If they thought it was some danger from outer space, why should they be reluctant to tell the people? Well, I don't know; but I can tell you that it really happened....

"But I got ahead of myself a bit here. The next thing that happened after I had talked to the rancher on the phone but before he had come into the station to change his story, was that a very strange man came into town; but I didn't see him until I got in the car with Mr. Whitmore (Sr.) to go with him to the ranch. And I'll tell you this; he had sort of a long face with a very high forehead and a very sharp chin. I had no way of estimating his age except maybe to say that you could look at him and say that he was active and vigorous enough to be thirty, but was he sixty? Anyway, Mr. Whitmore said he was going out to this ranch. I can't remember what day this was except that it was after I had talked to this rancher on the phone. Probably the next morning, although it could have been two days later. I can't recall for sure. Mr. Whitmore drove a Hudson and had quite a reputation for speed in those days. So we got in this car... and I sat in the right hand rear seat... and this man who was wearing, well, it was like a uniform but it wasn't any military uniform that I was familiar with although it tended to approach some of the army's fabric that I had seen, but I can't tell you for sure. Anyway, the color was something approaching an off-gold color. I can't quite describe it. It was like a uniform, but it wasn't a uniform. I didn't see any insignia or anything. We drove out to this ranch with Whitmore going as fast as possible all the way, and nobody said anything. Finally, somewhere along the way out there, I tried to say something, but this man never said anything. And when, after awhile, Mr. Whitmore said something, the only thing this man said was 'yeahh' which I took to mean 'yes', although the tone was almost disdainful. And that's all he said. He never addressed me or anything until we got there.

"When we got to this ranch, we pulled up and got out of

the car. Then this man says to me, 'You go in that room.' He was referring to an unpainted wooden outbuilding standing alongside the road virtually in the middle of nowhere. Now I had never been there before, and I said, 'Well...'; or at least I started to say, 'Well, aren't we going to go and see where this thing happened?', but he cut me off. 'You go over there into that room (meaning the shed) and you stay there,' he said. And like a zombie, I went right in there and stood—just stood. I can remember the room. It was

"Maybe I should have remained silent. I've experienced more than my share of public exposure (via radio and TV) as it is over the years. I don't need any more problems to complicate my life."

empty, except for some tools hanging on nails along one wall. I don't know; maybe it was a room where they sheared sheep or something." (NOTE: In June, 1982, following this interview with Frank Joyce, Bill Moore asked Shirley <Mrs. Bill> Brazel whether such a shed had existed on the ranch in 1947. It turns out that there was indeed such an outbuilding. She referred to it as a "well house", an unpainted one room shed with nothing inside except for a few tools hanging on nails. In any case, Frank went inside this shed. His description continues:) "I just went right in there and stayed there, just standing, for I don't know how long. And after a long time, Mr. Whitmore came back to the door and said, 'Come on, it's time to go now.' And I came out, but this other guy wasn't there. So I said, 'Where's the other guy?', but Mr. Whitmore didn't really answer me. Anyway, we got into his car and drove back to Roswell. I never did see that other fellow again, but I've always wondered. If he had to drive there with us, why didn't he come back? Who brought him back? ...If I knew, it might relieve my mind a great deal about this man's influence over me. Where did he go? And why was I so willing to go and stand in that room when I had presumably gone out there to get a story? That's just not something anyone would normally do. But I did it, and I can't tell you why. This guy had some sort of influence over me that I had no control over.

"Now, I'm going to add one other thing to that. I later said to Mr. Whitmore on his deathbed—I had gone to see him while he was dying of cancer some years later—I went to see him at his home and I said, 'Mr. Whitmore, you remember that time we went out to that ranch and all that stuff about the flying saucer and the weather balloon and so on?' And he said, 'Yes.' And I said to him, 'Mr. Whitmore, what do you really think that was?' And he said, 'I just think that it was something that the military wanted to cover up.' And that's all he would say. I couldn't get him to say any more about it and I never saw him again before he died."

MOORE: "Did Mac Brazel, the rancher, ever mention bodies to you on the phone?"

JOYCE: "I can't go into that. I don't want to say."

MOORE: "Well, can you tell me anything about what he said?"

JOYCE: "I think I've said all I want to say on that. I sort of made my mind up long ago that I would only go so far with that part of the story. That rancher apparently died with what he knew. But I'll tell you this much. Whatever that thing was, the rancher saw it all, and it didn't originate on this planet. What I heard later about the Air Force having bodies of little men from space in storage was totally consistent with what I heard at the time. You can make of that what you will. Mr. Whitmore apparently took most of what he knew with him to his grave too; and whatever our government knows, it's keeping to itself.

"All I have to say will merely bolster what someone else has said. I didn't see anything. I didn't see any flying saucer. I didn't see anything else which I heard about. I know nothing except what people said to me and where I was. Do you follow me? That's all I can tell you and I hope it will tie in with the work you have already done on this story."

And so ends his story. Frank Joyce's integrity and reliability seem to be beyond question. He has been continuously employed at KOB, Albuquerque for more than forty years—a job obtained for him by Walt Whitmore Sr. when he left KGFL in the late 1940s. His approach to the telling of his story is hesitant and almost analytical. Frank's final statement as he ended his interview perhaps sums it up best:

"Maybe I should have remained silent. I've experienced more than my share of public exposure <via radio and TV> as it is over the years. I don't need any more problems to complicate my life."

Frank Joyce's story, as bizarre as it may be, represents only the tip of a much larger and equally unusual iceberg. Taken alone, it could easily be dismissed as fantasy. But when examined in the context of similar stories told by others who were personally involved with the UFO crash at Roswell, it becomes extremely interesting indeed.

One of those "others" is former Lt. Col. Sheridan W. Cavitt, the man who accompanied Jesse Marcel to the Brazel ranch crash site on July 6-7, 1947. Jess had mentioned this man to both Moore and Friedman as early as 1979, but since he had not seen or heard from him in many years and was only able to recall that everyone who knew him had called him by his nickname "Cav", he could not be located in time to include anything about him in the Roswell Incident book. Indeed, all Jess had been able to remember was that "Cav" had originally come from somewhere near La Mesa, Texas, and that he had had something to do with home construction. On the strength of that, Moore had expended considerable time and resources in an effort to turn up some lead on the man—even to the extent of locating a Cavitt family estate in Wheelock, Texas—but to no avail.

The break came early in 1982 when Fremont, California UFO researcher Loren Gross came up with a formerly classified government document which had been released under the Freedom of Information Act, and which mentioned one Sheridan W. Cavitt as having been commander of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations detachment at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico in 1949. But was this the same man? On the hunch that it might be, Moore "went through channels" and succeeded in obtaining the man's military record. This confirmed that he was indeed the right person, and that he had been posted to Roswell as chief of the Army Air Forces Counterintelligence Corps (CIC) in May of 1947, at which time he held the permanent rank of captain. While the military record did not provide any clue as to Cavitt's present whereabouts, it did give some details about his educational background. From this, Friedman was able to obtain an address from a college alumni association. It was now mid-May, 1982.

In June of '82, Moore gave a presentation at the MUFON International UFO Symposium in Toronto, Canada. During his speech, he made the mistake of announcing to the crowd that he and Friedman had finally succeeded in locating the mysterious "Cav" Cavitt, and would endeavor to interview him in the near future. Although Moore gave no indication whatsoever about Cavitt's whereabouts, the fact that he mentioned the matter at all in a public forum may have been a serious error in judgment, as we shall see.

In September, 1982 Moore visited the home of Lt. Col Cavitt and interviewed him about the Roswell crash. Mr. and Mrs. Cavitt were both friendly and cordial; but when it came down to business, Col. Cavitt proved extremely reluctant to discuss or even comment upon the matter. After first claiming that he had no memory of the incident at all and that he had never heard of a Jesse Marcel, Cavitt finally admitted that he did indeed have "some recollection" of his involvement in the affair and that he and Jesse had not only been close friends at Roswell but had "probably played considerable golf together."

This admission notwithstanding, Cavitt persisted in his refusal to comment further, claiming that he was "probably" still bound by his security oath and that the matter was "probably still classified... or at least it certainly was at the time." He allowed that he had spent a total of 22 years in the military, of which 17 involved high level intelligence work. Clearly he knew how to keep a secret.

It was only after considerable discussion, most of which involved going around in circles, that, much to Moore's surprise, Cavitt got up, went over to a nearby bookshelf, and produced a copy of The Roswell Incident which he said he

had read "with considerable interest." He then put the book down in front of Moore, looked him in the eye, and said, "Mr. Moore, I have nothing to add to your book except that I do not agree with Jesse's description of the activities that night. I do not believe in flying saucers. You do believe me, don't you?"

Moore began to reply that there was no particular reason not to, when Cavitt cut him off in mid-sentence. "Well perhaps you shouldn't," he said. "Don't believe everything I say!" Whereupon he got up and left the room to obtain a fresh pack of cigarettes leaving Moore to sit there with his mouth open.

During his brief absence, Mrs. Cavitt, who had been seated on the opposite side of the coffee table during almost the entire conversation, leaned over the table and quietly confided, "He won't tell you anything. They've told him not to, and he won't. That's why they chose him for many of the assignments he had... because he knows how to keep quiet. And I can't help you either because he doesn't tell me anything." Whereupon Col. Cavitt came back into the room and she shut up and resumed her posture as if nothing had been said.

Only two other things of value were to develop from the visit. The first was Cavitt's admission, after considerable prodding, that he had "probably" taken charge of things while Jess Marcel was in Ft. Worth. "If there was ever a final report (on this matter) then I suppose I was the one who wrote it," he said, strongly emphasizing the "if". When Moore countered with the question that if there had been such a report written, where would it have been sent from Roswell, Col. Cavitt replied, "Headquarters in D.C., most likely... but remember, I never said that there ever was any such report, did I?" At which point he changed the subject by asking Moore to autograph his copy of The Roswell Incident.

The second useful thing to come from the meeting was an address, provided on a small slip of paper by Mrs. Cavitt just as Moore was about to leave. At one point during the visit, she had asked her husband quietly about the advisability of "providing Mr. Moore with a possible lead", but he had dismissed the idea with little comment. When she brought the matter up again just before the end of the meeting, Col. Cavitt reluctantly consented to her giving up the information. Moore left with the impression that the man had a very great sense of loyalty to his country and an extremely subtle sense of humor. It was easy to see why Jess Marcel had spoken so highly of him.

On the scrap of paper was a name and an address. The name was Louis B. "Bill" Rickett. It didn't take long to discover that Mr. Rickett had been Cavitt's right-hand man while at Roswell. Moore personally visited with Mr. Rickett in June, 1983, and Friedman conducted

a follow-up interview in February, 1984. Both were impressed by Rickett's excellent memory and his sincerity.

On July 7, 1947, the day that Marcel and Cavitt returned from the Brazel ranch site, Bill Rickett was in Tucumcari, New Mexico, working on another case. He returned to Roswell at about 11:00 the next morning and was informed by Cavitt as to what had occurred. Cavitt, Rickett, and one other individual whose name Rickett was unable to recall, then returned to the Brazel ranch site to further inspect the area and to collect Mac Brazel and enlist his cooperation in recovering more of the wreckage. The four of them, with Brazel driving his own pick-up truck, then returned to town where they soon discovered that Walter Haut's press release had made headlines and "all hell had broken loose." Brazel, who according to his son Bill had probably intended to spend the night at the home of a friend, Creighton Richards, on the understanding that he would meet Cavitt at the base the next morning, was quickly rounded up in order to be made "available" for a press interview designed to cool off the story.

The sequence of events here is extremely interesting, especially in light of the fact that it is consistent with what both Frank Joyce and Walt Whitmore Jr. have already said. It seems that when Mac Brazel came to town on the morning of July 6th to report that something unusual had crashed on his ranch, the first place he went was to the office of Chaves County sheriff George Wilcox. Wilcox, thinking that the object might have been some sort of military device, immediately called the Roswell Air Base and was put through to Jess Marcel who, at the time (about 11:30 AM), was in the middle of lunch. Marcel indicated that he would check to see if there were any reports of anything having crashed, and would come over to the sheriff's office to interview Brazel just as soon as he had finished eating—a process that would take at least half-an-hour since the air base was located some distance south of the town of Roswell itself. After having talked to Marcel, Sheriff Wilcox informed Brazel that he should wait until Major Marcel arrived.

At some point in between Wilcox' conversation with Marcel and Marcel's arrival at the sheriff's office, either Frank Joyce called Wilcox or vice versa on an entirely different matter, most probably having to do with providing Joyce with whatever newsworthy items there might have been on the police blotter for the previous twelve hours. It was during the course of that conversation that Wilcox mentioned Brazel's presence in the office, and suggested that Frank, as a newsman, might be interested in talking to him since he seemed to have an interesting story to tell. This is when Brazel told Frank Joyce his first story. Joyce didn't know what to make of Brazel's story, and did nothing with it until two days later when he received Haut's press release. Indeed, it may have been Frank's

prior knowledge of the affair that led him to advise Haut not to put out that release.

In any case, when Brazel came back to town with Cavitt and Rickett in the late afternoon of July 8th, he had followed them in his own truck and had apparently intended to stay overnight at the home of his friend, Creighton Richards, with the understanding that he would meet Cavitt at the base the next morning. At that point, none of them knew anything about Haut's press release and the commotion it had caused. Somehow, in the process of going to Mr. Richards' place, Brazel was intercepted by Walt Whitmore Sr., who convinced him to go to his home first for the purpose of recording Brazel's story on Whitmore's wire recorder (a predecessor to the tape recorder) for later use on his radio station. While Brazel was there, Cavitt had returned to the air base where he quickly learned of Haut's press release and the subsequent instructions from both Ramey and the pentagon to kill the story at all costs. At that point, the order went out to have Brazel picked up before he could add any additional problems to an already complicated situation.

When it was discovered that he was at Whitmore's place recording his story, Whitmore Sr. was brought in as well. Suddenly it became necessary to enlist the cooperation of both men in the cover-up that was to follow. Once "the fix" was in and a cover story had been appropriately concocted, Brazel, Whitmore Sr., Cavitt, and possibly one other of Cavitt's men, went over to the offices of the Roswell Daily Record, where Brazel recounted the story Cavitt had rehearsed with him to a reporter. It was front page news the next day, along with Gen. Ramey's weather balloon explanation. The only other person remaining to be dealt with, aside from sheriff Wilcox who readily agreed to assist (remember his "I'm working with the boys at the base" statement to the Albuquerque Journal) was Frank Joyce—hence Brazel's second story to Joyce sometime the next day. Meanwhile, Cavitt had made arrangements for Brazel to "stay" at the base for several days while the crash site was being cleared of wreckage and until the story had blown over in the press. It was during this time, probably on July 9th after having visited Frank Joyce, that Brazel gave one additional interview (using the same cover story) for an El Paso radio station. This conveniently continued the cover-up, made Brazel feel useful, and got him out of town all at the same time.

Additional information obtained from interviews with Mr. Rickett sheds considerable light on the military's role in the events that followed. According to Rickett, a planeload of "important brass came down from Kirtland under hush-hush conditions to deal with this thing. Some additional pieces of wreckage were loaded onto this aircraft, and the next day it headed out. When I inquired as to where it was going, I was told only that it was 'headed

east'; there was no indication as to where."

Rickett's memory of a second aircraft was recently confirmed during an interview between Moore and former Roswell assistant operations officer Lt. Robert J. Shirkey in March, 1989. Shirkey clearly recalled having arranged for "wrapped and crated" wreckage to be loaded aboard a second aircraft, a B-25, "several days or perhaps a week after the first plane, a B-29, had gone to Ft. Worth."

Continuing with Rickett's story, he remembered that it was at about this same time that Dr. Lincoln LaPaz arrived from Albuquerque. He was unable to recall whether LaPaz was on the plane with the brass or arrived separately, but in any event it was Rickett who was assigned to accompany LaPaz to the crash site.

"It was LaPaz' job to try to find out what the speed and trajectory of this thing was. LaPaz was a world renowned expert on trajectories of objects in the sky, especially meteors, and I

"The Air Force explanation that it was a balloon was totally untrue. It was not a balloon. I did not know for sure exactly what its purpose was."

was told to give him all the help I could. I was to supply transportation, money, equipment—whatever was needed.

"At one point, LaPaz interviewed the farmer (i.e. Brazel). I remember something coming up during their conversation about this fellow thinking that some of his animals had acted strangely after this thing happened. Dr. LaPaz seemed very interested in this for some reason.

"LaPaz wanted to fly over the (crash) area, and this was arranged. He found one other spot where he felt this thing had touched down and then taken off again. The sand at this spot had been turned into a glass-like substance, apparently from having been exposed to a great deal of heat. We collected a box-full of samples of this material. As I recall, there were some metal samples here too, of that same sort of thin foil stuff. LaPaz sent this box off somewhere for study. I don't know or recall where, but I never saw it again. This place (site) was some miles from the other one.

"LaPaz was very good at talking to people, especially some of the local ranch hands who didn't speak much English. LaPaz spoke Spanish. I remember he found a couple of people who had seen two... I don't know what to call them... 'UFOs', I suppose..., anyway, they had seen two of these things fly over very slowly at a

low altitude on a date, in the evening, that he had determined had been a day or so after the other one had blown up. These people said something about animals being affected too....

"Before he went back to Albuquerque, he told me he was certain that this thing had gotten into trouble; that it had touched down for repairs, taken off again, and then exploded. He also felt certain there were more than one of these devices, and that the others had been looking for it—at least that's what he said. He was positive the thing had malfunctioned. He also told me he was going to 'take a conservative approach' in his report and leave the conclusions to others....

"The Air Force explanation that it was a balloon was totally untrue. It was not a balloon. I never did know for sure exactly what its purpose was, but it wasn't ours. I remember speculating with LaPaz that it might have been some higher civilization checking in on us. LaPaz wasn't against the idea, but said he was going to leave speculations out of his report.

"I also recall that when Jesse came back (from Ft. Worth), he came in and asked Cavitt for a look at his report. Cav told him he wasn't cleared to see it and couldn't look at it. Jess got upset at this and reminded Cavitt that he outranked him. Cav told him that his orders were from Washington and that Jess could take it up with the Pentagon. Marcel, who was a very diplomatic sort, dropped the matter and, as far as I know, never brought it up again. We were all friends, and Jess wasn't the sort who would let business get in the way of things. I don't think Jess ever did know the whole story of that thing. For that matter, I never did either...."

In support of Dr. LaPaz' alleged involvement with the Roswell crash is a paragraph which appears in a formerly SECRET 1947 Air Force report uncovered by researcher Loren Gross of Fremont, California in 1983. According to the text of this document:

"On October 30th (1947) a Lt. Young of the New Mexico Wing of the Civil Air Patrol relayed an alarm over the CAP communications network to Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, about an: '...airplane falling in flames.' ...Major Charles L. Phillips, AF, CAP liaison officer at Kirtland, and Captain John Featherstone and Lt. Allen Bolles, CAP communications officers, cooperated in analyzing the flaming object as something other than an aircraft so they contacted Dr. LaPaz at the New Mexico Meteoric Institute according to a prearranged plan...."

While the purpose and date of the "prearranged plan" remain unknown, its very existence suggests a possible inception at Roswell less than four months earlier.

Dr. Lincoln LaPaz was Director of the Institute of Meteorics and Head of the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy at the University

of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Prior to that, he had been Research Mathematician at the New Mexico Proving Grounds under an Office of Scientific Research and Development contract during 1943-44, and Director of the Operations Analysis Section, H.Q. 2nd Air Force, from 1944 through the end of World War II. Following the war, while serving as a professor at UNM, he maintained a close association with Dr. H.S. Landsberg who was Executive Director of the Committee on Geophysics and Geography for the Research and Development Board headquartered in the Pentagon. In this capacity, he held a Top Secret security clearance issued by the Air Materiel Command at Wright Field (later Wright Patterson AFB) in Dayton, Ohio. (Wright Field, of course, is known to have been the final destination for at least some of the Roswell wreckage.) Dr. LaPaz died in October, 1985, at the age of 88.

Moore attempted to arrange an interview with Dr. LaPaz on two different occasions, once in 1981 and again in 1983. On both, the request was denied by LaPaz' daughter who acknowledged that her father was very interested in and knew a great deal about UFOs, but was not physically or mentally well enough to be interviewed on the subject. "All of my father's files on that subject are still in the custody of the Air Force," she said, "(and) I have no idea where in the system they might be. My father never discussed the nature of his classified work with the family."

On a final visit to the LaPaz home in July of 1986, Ms. LaPaz informed Moore that she had been through all of her father's personal papers since his death and had found nothing pertinent. Meanwhile, various Freedom of Information Act requests to the Air Force and other government agencies for information on Dr. LaPaz have yielded nothing either. As of this writing, the search continues.

Considering what we now know about the Roswell UFO crash, it seems reasonable to assume that the official July 8th press release, as authorized by Col. Blanchard and written by Walter Haut, was a serious error in judgement which was to cause considerable problems once "orders from on-high" were issued to get control of the story and put a lid on it. At this point the task became one of keeping any additional information from reaching the public while at the same time organizing a damage control operation designed to squelch what had already gotten out. This was done through the use of disinformation and intimidation techniques, the effectiveness of which has already been documented with respect to Mac Brazel and Walt Whitmore Sr., whose "cooperation" ultimately resulted in Mac Brazel telling a carefully concocted second story to the press. This, in company with Gen. Ramey's "weather balloon" canard issued from Eighth Air Force Headquarters in Ft. Worth, provided a combination which was extremely successful in convincing

the press that the entire affair was nothing more than an embarrassing mistake best forgotten. Even so, there were other loose ends that had to be dealt with before the story could be considered completely under control.

One thing that seems important to keep in mind before going any further is the fact that Gen. Ramey's "weather balloon" statement was issued from his office in Ft. Worth, where there were different news media and different reporters, none of whom had any way of knowing anything beyond what Ramey told them. Marcel and his people had been ordered not to talk to the press, weather officer Irving Newton had been brought in and dutifully identified a weather device, and just in case the story didn't stick the FBI was waiting in the wings on hold. Fortunately for the forces of silence, it stuck—even though Ramey's extreme nervousness about the situation was obvious. "The fl-fly-flying disc," he announced to press and public in a statement broadcast live over a local radio station in Ft. Worth, was really nothing more than the remains of a downed weather balloon. "There is no such gadget known to the Army... at least not at this level," he said. "This whole affair has been most unfortunate, but in light of the excitement stirred up lately about these so-called flying discs, it is not surprising. Now let's all go home and call it an evening."

In essence, Roswell was a small town in 1947, and New Mexico was a very out-of-the-way place. The only news outlets serving the area at that time were two radio stations and two newspapers. Each of these had to be considered and dealt with by anyone attempting to effectively kill a news story. Had the crash occurred today, the process would be considerably more difficult if not downright impossible; but in 1947, things weren't quite so complicated. Killing a story was certainly possible if you could get on top of it fast enough. The trick was only to catch hold of all the loose ends before the wind could blow them far enough away so as to place them beyond grasp. Undoubtedly there were headaches in high places until the word finally came that everything had been nailed down without significant damage. For a while, it must have been touch-and-go!

The stories of Frank Joyce and Walt Whitmore Jr. explain very clearly how radio station KGFL was dealt with. KGFL's only connection with the outside world was via Western Union telegraph wire. We have already examined how Frank put the story on that wire and how his copy of the original Roswell press release disappeared from his desk. Later, when he checked Western Union's central files in Santa Fe, he found that their copy was gone too. But in any case, it was Joyce's story that made headlines around the world until it was finally cooled by Ramey's phoney balloon story out of Ft. Worth and the Brazel-Whitmore-Cavitt press interview at Roswell later that same evening. It is also important to remember that, according

to Whitmore Jr., KGFL's initial coverage of the story was taken off the air following phone calls to the station from both F.C.C. headquarters in Washington and the office of U.S. Senator Chaves.

In addition someone, possibly Whitmore Sr. after his "cooperation" had been enlisted, or possibly Cavitt himself or one of his men, had placed the key information from Mac Brazel's second story on the Western Union wire to be sent out in follow-up to Frank Joyce's initial transmission. Curiously enough, a record of this transmission remained in the file and a copy of it was subsequently recovered by Frank who carefully preserved it for nearly forty years before making it available to Bill Moore in 1986. It reads as follows:

"EDITORS: PLEASE SUBSTITUTE FOR 5TH PARAGRAPH AND REMAINDER OF FRRE8"

"HOWEVER, OFFICIALS AT THE ROSWELL ARMY AIR BASE WERE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. MAJOR JESSE A. MARCEL—INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AT THE ROSWELL BASE—AND AN ENLISTED MAN THEN CHECKED WITH THE SHERIFF.

"SHERIFF WILCOX QUOTED BRIZELL (Sic.) AS SAYING THAT 'IT MORE OR LESS SEEMED LIKE TINFOIL.' WILCOX SAID THAT BRIZELL RELATED THAT THE DISC WAS BROKEN SOMEWHAT—APPARENTLY FROM THE FALL. THE SHERIFF SAID THAT BRIZELL DESCRIBED THE OBJECT ABOUT AS LARGE AS A SAFE IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. HE ADDED THAT THE SAFE WAS ABOUT THREE AND ONE-HALF BY FOUR FEET.

"BRIZELL DID NOT BRING THE OBJECT TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, BUT MERELY DROVE THE 75 MILES FROM THE RANCH TO ROSWELL TO REPORT HIS FINDING. SHERIFF WILCOX SAID THAT MAJOR MARCEL LEFT SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING THE REPORT FOR THE AREA WHERE THE DISC WAS FOUND.

"MEANWHILE, A REPORT FROM CARRIZOZO, NEW MEXICO, SAID THAT A DISC WAS FOUND 35 MILES SOUTHEAST OF CORONA. THE REPORT—WHICH WAS NOT SUBSTANTIATED—MERELY SAID THAT IT WAS 'A RUBBER SUBSTANCE AND TINFOIL ENCASED.' HOWEVER, IT WAS PRESUMED TO BE THE SAME AS THE ONE REPORTED TO ROSWELL.

"REPORTS FROM THE ROSWELL BASE SAID THAT MAJOR MARCEL WAS AT EIGHTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, BUT THAT 'HE MIGHT BE ON HIS WAY BACK TO ROSWELL BY PLANE NOW.' HOWEVER, OFFICIALS AT THE ROSWELL BASE SAY THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE DISC OR ITS DESCRIPTION, OR WHERE THE 'HIGHER HEADQUARTERS' WHERE IT WAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN ARE LOCATED.

V342P7/8..
MORE DISC (ROSWELL)

"SHERIFF'S OFFICERS IN ROSWELL SAID THAT BRIZELL TOLD THEM HE SAW IT LYING ON THE RANCH, AND THAT HE PICKED IT UP AND INTENDED TO KEEP IT. THEY SAID THAT HE DID NOT GIVE A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT, OTHER THAN TO SAY IT APPEARED SOMEWHAT LIKE TINFOIL AND WAS LARGE—ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE SAFE IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

"SHERIFF'S OFFICERS SAID THAT BRIZELL TOLD THEM HE PLANNED TO KEEP THE OBJECT, BUT THEN HEARD REPORTS OF FLYING DISCS AND DECIDED TO DRIVE IN TO ROSWELL AND REPORT HIS FINDING TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE."

(*) NOTE: "FRRE8" was the transmission locator code for Frank Joyce's initial story as carried earlier that day on the same wire.

This version of the crash story is virtually identical with the one provided to the Roswell Record by Mac Brazel (with Whitmore Sr. and Cavitt) that same evening. The Record published it the next day as a front page item ("Harrassed Rancher Who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He Told About It") and versions of it were carried by a number of other newspapers as well (see, for example, the July 9th edition of the Carlsbad, NM, Current-Argus). An examination of the press account provides two additional details of significance which are not in the wire story reproduced above. The first is that Mac Brazel is credited with having found the wreckage on June 14th rather than the correct date of July 3d. (*This, of course, supports Frank Joyce's July, 1982 statement to Bill Moore that "they had even tried to change the dates..." in Mac Brazel's second story.*) The second is Brazel's statement at the end of his press interview to the effect that, in spite of what he had just said, it was still no weather balloon. He was familiar with weather balloons from past experiences, he said, and "I am sure what I found was no weather observation balloon.... But if I find anything else besides a bomb, they are going to have a hard time getting me to say anything about it." Obviously "patriotic duty" had not completely overcome Mac's strong independent spirit.

As for the Daily Record, the Brazel interview combined with Gen. Ramey's "weather balloon" press release from Ft. Worth seem to have been more than sufficient to dampen their interest in the story. Their parting shot was relegated to a complaint voiced on the July 9th editorial page to the effect that "The Army isn't telling its secrets yet, from all appearances when this was written. Maybe it's a fluke, and maybe it isn't. Anyone's guess is pretty good at the moment. Maybe the thing is still a hoax, as has been the belief of most folks from the start. But SOMETHING has been found." (*Emphasis theirs.*)

The fact that Mac Brazel was picked up by the

military authorities and cooperated fully with them has been attested to by no less than eight different people, all of whom were in a position to know about it first hand. These include Bill and Shirley Brazel, Paul Brazel, Bessie (Brazel) Schrieber, Walt Whitmore Jr., Bill Rickett and Frank Joyce. *All credible people.*

Moving along to the other media outlets in town at the time, the old Roswell *Dispatch* was never really in the picture at all as far as the cover-up was concerned. As a morning paper, its July 8th edition was already on the streets by the time of Haut's press release. Although editor Art McQuiddy confirmed in a July, 1979 interview with Moore that he had been extremely interested in the story and that "from about 2:00 to 7:00 (on July 8th) the phone rang off the hook so that it was almost impossible to get a paper out", he said that as far as his paper was concerned the story was a dead issue by the next day. "I was extremely pissed that the radio station had gotten the story first and broke it on the air," he said. "But in my own mind, I am convinced that whatever it was they found was unique enough to cause considerable interest in the Air Force. I remember Walter Haut telling me that whatever pieces of space vehicle they had found had been put on a plane to Ft. Worth. From there, it disappeared into the maw of the military. They weren't too happy with Walter about that press release, but I don't think they muzzled him too much." McQuiddy, after living in the Midwest for a time, has recently moved back to Roswell where he is enjoying his retirement.

Apparently the biggest headache for the forces of silence and cover-up was created by radio station KSWO, whose personnel nearly succeeded in breaking the story. KSWO's outlet to the world was via telephone to their parent station KOAT in Albuquerque, which had a direct ABC press teletype connection to Los Angeles. The story of how they were ultimately silenced is fascinating. It centers around three people: Lydia Sleppy (d.'84?), who had been office manager and teletype operator for radio station KOAT in Albuquerque; Merle Tucker, who owned both KOAT and KSWO as part of his Rio Grande Broadcasting Corporation; and Johnny McBoyle, who was news reporter and part owner of the Roswell affiliate. It is important to note here that Chapter 2 of the original Roswell Incident book contains a highly dramatized and somewhat inaccurate version of this story which was based upon research done by Moore and Friedman, but actually written by Charles Berlitz. The version which appears here is both more complete and more accurate than that in the former book, and should therefore be regarded as the final authority on the

matter. Lydia Sleppy was interviewed by Friedman in January of 1979, and by Moore in March of '79 and April of '82. Stan talked to Johnny McBoyle in January of '79; and Bill spoke with Merle Tucker in March, of '79, May, of '82, and again in February of '85.

According to Mrs. Sleppy, she was sitting at her desk at KOAT at about 4:00 in the afternoon when the phone rang. Although the date is given in The Roswell Incident book as July 7th, this was arrived at strictly through extrapolation. All Lydia could remember was that it was sometime in the summer of 1947, during a time when her boss, Merle Tucker, was out of town on business which had something to do with the securing of a broadcast license for a new station in his Rio Grande network. Consequently, the date here could have been July 7th, but was more likely July 8th only hours after the Haut/Joyce press release and just before the time that Mac Brazel was picked up by military authorities at the home of Whitmore Sr. In any event, the voice on the other end of the line was that of Johnny McBoyle, and it was not a particularly good connection:

"I was not sure where he was calling from. I didn't ask, but there was a lot of noise on the line and Johnny was excited. 'Lydia,' he said, 'there's been one of those flying saucer things crash down here north of Roswell.' I think the first thing I asked him was if he had been drinking. He said no, he hadn't; and he thought maybe we should put the story on the wire. He said he had seen it. He had been in a restaurant when a man came in and said he had the thing (stored) in a cattle shelter. He (Johnny) had gone out and seen it, and as soon as he got to a phone he called in because he knew we had a wire. It was pretty well mashed up. I think the term he probably dictated to me was that he said it looked like a big crumpled dishpan...."

"Anyway, I had one of those chairs with wheels on it and I rolled it over to the teletype and sat there with the phone on my shoulder and began to type what he was dictating. I don't know how much I got in, but it wasn't much because the wire cut off just after I had gotten started. Now it wasn't unusual for the system to go off for a while because there was a lot of military traffic out of New Mexico at that time and they would jam up the wires, but this was the first time I was ever cut off in mid-transmission. I recall being annoyed about it and I said something to Johnny who seemed upset too. There was a lot of noise on the phone line, and I thought he might have been talking to someone else at his end but I can't say for sure. It was a long time ago."

"What I can say for certain is that the next thing that happened was the teletype began to type back at me. Now it had never done that before and frankly I didn't even know it could do that— not in the middle of a transmission anyway. So I looked to see what it was

doing and then I really got a jolt because it was telling me not to send that story out! ...I can't recall the exact words. It was something like: 'Attention Albuquerque. Cease Transmission. Repeat. Cease Transmission. National Security Item. Stand By.' That may not be exactly right, but it's close. I know it repeated the 'cease transmission' part twice.

"So I said to Johnny, 'What do I do now?' And then I got another jolt because he said 'Nothing; just forget about it. You never heard it. Look,' he said, 'you're not supposed to know. Don't talk about it to anyone.' And the line went dead. He had hung up.

"Well, I didn't do anything; but when Mr. Tucker came

He(Johnny) had gone out and seen it,...and it was pretty well mashed up. I think he probably dictated to me that he said it looked like a big crumpled dishpan.

back in, which was maybe the next day, I told him about it and he was very concerned because he thought maybe the station would lose its license over such a thing. I tried talking to Johnny McBoyle when he was in our office later, but all he would say was that a plane had taken the wreckage from Roswell and flown it somewhere, and that there were armed guards around the plane before it took off. Later, he wouldn't talk at all, except to say that it was a military matter. 'Don't ask, you're not supposed to know,' he told me.

Merle Tucker's memory of the affair was virtually the same as Lydia's, even though the two hadn't been in touch with one-another for many years. According to Tucker, he had indeed been out of town at the time of the teletype incident, and he was both surprised and angry when he found out about it upon his return.

"I was very angry that it had gotten out, and I remember saying to my staff that radio stations can lose their licenses over things like this. My first thought was to try to protect the reputation of my station by finding someone who could say something about it first hand, but I wasn't able to do so."

Tucker said that when he tried to discuss the matter with Johnny McBoyle, he learned only that McBoyle had actually succeeded in getting to the crash site before phoning Sleppy, but "the Army picked him up and told him to forget it." Whether McBoyle attempted to break security by phoning Albuquerque and got caught at it, or whether he got picked up imme-

diately afterwards remains uncertain. When Friedman attempted to interview him about it, McBoyle refused to discuss it.

Jud Roberts, who was manager of KSWs in Roswell at the time, seemed unaware of McBoyle's involvement in the affair when interviewed by Moore in 1981. Roberts recalled only that he had sent a reporter out to try to learn more about the crash, but when the man came back later, all he would say was that he had been turned back by a military roadblock. This man was probably Johnny McBoyle, but it could also have been George Walsh, who was another of KSWs' employees during the summer of 1947. Walsh, however, is the less likely candidate since, according to both Lydia Sleppy and Merle Tucker, it was Walsh who telephoned the Albuquerque Associated Press (A.P.) Bureau and got them involved with the story. This resulted in the A.P. rushing two of their men, Jason Kellahin and R.A. Adair, to Roswell with special equipment designed to enable them to transmit wire photos back to Albuquerque via telephone, from whence they could be relayed to the rest of the world. Unfortunately the two men arrived at the office of the Daily Record on the evening of July 8th, just in time to witness Mac Brazel tell the last part of his second story to reporters. Somewhat disappointed that the whole affair had apparently blown over, they set up their equipment anyhow and transmitted the first wire photo ever sent out of Roswell—a picture of Mac Brazel himself. It was one of only a few photos ever taken of the man, and is reproduced in the Roswell Incident book. The picture took seven minutes to transmit. Today the same task is routinely accomplished in a matter of seconds.

Kellahin and Adair, although they didn't know it, were the final links in the cover-up. It was their account of Brazel's second story which, when transmitted to the world along with Brazel's picture on the A.P. hook-up they had so hastily installed in Roswell, served to give the military's cover story wide enough play to assure that it would run in virtually every major newspaper in the country. With the authority and credibility of the A.P. behind it, there was no reason to expect that it wouldn't be believed. Gen. Ramey's statement from Ft. Worth, which hit the wires at about the same time, was just icing on the cake.

Once the fix was in, it stayed. Today, going on 45 years later, the whole truth has yet to be told.



EDITORIAL:

NEVADA NONSENSE

All that high strangeness stuff out of Nevada has gotten a little stranger. Remember Bob Lazar—the guy who recently claimed to have had access to the government's secret-most secrets about alien-related goings-on in the middle of the Nevada Test Site? Seems he recently pled guilty in Las Vegas to a plea-bargained felony count of pandering (that's legalese for "pimping") in connection with an illegal cat house (that's slang for "brothel") which he and one Toni Bulloch, a known prostitute (that's formal for "whore") who was his alleged partner (no pun intended), were operating out of two apartments on Tamarus Street in that famed city of (red?) neon lights. The charge carries a possible sentence of one to six years and a maximum fine of \$5,000.

According to police, the two apartments used for the operation were connected by a passageway which had been cut through the wall of the building. Clients would allegedly enter through one apartment and exit via the other. In addition, the Lazar-Bulloch operation is said to have employed sophisticated surveillance cameras and hidden microphones to videotape customers "at play", and to have maintained lists of clients' license plate numbers—both practices which some have suggested are typical of certain blackmail operations.

If Lazar ever had a security clearance at Los Alamos, as has been alleged, then it must have been a strange one indeed, for according to a police statement to the Las Vegas Review Journal, Lazar had known connections to prostitution in New Mexico as well through something known as the Honeysuckle Ranch Lotion & Massage Parlor. Authorities characterized the operation as nothing more than a front for prostitution in the Los Alamos area. (Lazar, however, claims the "ranch" in New Mexico was nothing more than an out-of-state checking account for a legal Nevada brothel.) If so, the checking account was reportedly "busted" when an irate wife caught wind of her husband's partaking of membership "benefits" and contacted the local authorities. One reliable source tells me that a number of reputable Los Alamos scientists were in the bed... ah... bag when the raid came.

As if all this isn't enough, a civil suit was recently filed against Lazar by Nippon Television (Japan) which further erodes his credibility and reputation. Lazar reportedly accepted a sum "in excess of \$5,000 plus expenses" in ex-

change for an exclusive contract with Nippon to go to Japan and tell his story. At the last minute, Lazar cancelled the trip claiming that he had been threatened, and then allegedly pocketed both the cash and the tickets and walked away from the deal.

Fair-Witness has gone to considerable time, effort and expense to take a look at this whole Lazar thing. While we are prepared to concede the strong possibility that something alien/UFO-related is going on in mid-Nevada, we can find no reason to directly connect Lazar with any of it. Nor do we see any particular reason to suspect that there is deliberate government deception involved here, either witting or unwitting. Rather, it is our considered opinion at this time that Lazar is nothing more than a clever opportunist who carefully observed John Lear's publicity-oriented antics during early 1989, and cooked up a story of his own based upon Lear's claims and similar rumors which were making the rounds of the UFO community and the public at that time. Even his story about the importance of "element 115" in the alien's propulsion technology is questionable when considered in light of the fact that a short piece about such "transuranic" elements appeared in Scientific American shortly before he began telling it.

Is there precedent for all of this? Remember Silas M. Newton, the respectable man-about-Hollywood who claimed intimate knowledge of crashed UFOs and venusians which he said came directly to him from an important and well-credentialed government "magnetic scientist" who had personally worked on the project? Frank Scully bought the story and turned it into a book (Behind the Flying Saucers, NY: Holt, 1950). Federal authorities, however, didn't, and their investigation resulted in the conviction of both Newton and his phoney government scientist friend, Leo GeBauer, on confidence charges in Denver two years later.

Lazar continues to tell his stories however and, the above scandal notwithstanding, lots of people continue to be interested. Meanwhile, with events of high strangeness continuing to occur in mid-Nevada, Fair-Witness continues to collect data. Our opinions are not cast in cement. If something happens to cause us to reassess them, you'll read about it here.



A FOCUS COMMENTARY ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GULF BREEZE *SKELETON IN THE ATTIC?*

By Zan Overall

Hold onto your hats! You've heard about Ed Walters and all the goings-on in Gulf Breeze, Florida? Well, recently a model of a UFO closely resembling those in Ed Walters' book was discovered in the attic of Ed's old house down there. The new owner, a toxicologist for the local smog control board, found the 8" x 5" styrofoam model buried under insulation in the attic.

The story broke with headlines in the Sunday edition of the Pensacola News-Journal on June 10, 1990. Several months ago a reporter, Criag Meyers, had been assigned to investigate and report on Ed Walters, allegedly because the newspaper wanted to have something of substance to offer its readers in connection with the upcoming MUFON International UFO Symposium to be held in Pensacola July 6-8. The announced feature speakers for that conference are Ed and Frances Walters.

Meyers, a skeptic, has been pursuing numerous leads in the case. He was also responsible for publishing the research I have done on the controversial "ghost-demon" photo, an early party photograph which some believe indicates Ed has more knowledge of trick photography than he has admitted to.

Meyers interviewed the present owners of the house. They are new to the area and were not particularly familiar with the Walters affair. One of the questions Meyers had prepared to ask was, "Have you come across any models of UFOs?" I imagine he did not ask it with a very great expectation of getting a "yes," but he told me the couple looked at each other and brought out the model which they had discovered in March of this year. It was brought to light purely by accident after the occupant (who does not wish his name published) decided to install a water line for the ice-maker in his fridge. The man and his wife have both signed sworn statements about their part in all this.

Because of Meyers' critical articles about him in the past, Ed will not allow himself to be interviewed by the man; so the editor of the paper invited Ed to his office. Without warning, the editor pulled out the model and asked Ed if he had ever seen it. Ed denied knowledge and accused his critics of planting it. He wisely did not name names, but the obvious reference was to Dr. Willy Smith, Robert Boyd, arch de-

bunker Philip Klass, and myself. The News Journal contacted all of us and asked for statements. We all denied any involvement. The paper then asked if we would sign sworn statements and agree to lie detector tests. I agreed, although I don't believe such tests are really reliable. The fact that Ed Walters passed such a test in regards to his alleged sightings reduces my faith in them to zero.

On the subject of sworn statements, in a conversation with Ed's publisher, I learned that Morrow published Ed's book, as non-fiction, without the protection, for both the publisher and the public, of a sworn affidavit from the authors.

All of this is reminiscent of the Billy Meier hoax in Switzerland. Meier, like Ed, claims to have photographed many UFOs during the course of his claimed contacts with advanced beings from the Pleiades. When skeptics discovered models of some of these "UFOs" in Meier's barn, however, Meier took a somewhat different tack in defending himself than Ed. He admitted making the models, but said he did so only to assist himself in studying the genuine UFOs he had photographed. By denying knowledge of the model, Ed has cut himself off from such a defense. In any case, it would be hard to convince anyone of innocent intent, considering that the model found in Ed's former home had obviously been hidden. Ed will have a hard time selling his claim that he was set-up by his critics since it seems unreasonable that anyone planting a model would put it in a place where it was unlikely to be found. Hiding a model under insulation in an attic would hardly seem productive in such a situation considering that it might have remained there undiscovered for many years.

The story about the discovery of the model contains a statement from Mr. Ken Fortenberry, managing editor of the News Journal. He explains that the paper is not taking an anti-UFO stand, it is just putting the facts about Ed on the record and leaving it up to the reader to decide. "*Don't dare call me a debunker,*" he states, and perhaps with good reason. One of the most famous pilot-UFO close-encounter events of the 1950s was the Nash-Fortenberry case of 1952. As a child, Ken suffered considerable ridicule because of the publicity his father received about the experience. (Small planet,

isn't it?)

Expectedly but unbelievably, all the UFO people who have backed Ed so fervently are buying his story and rallying to his side in this crisis. The "When Prophecy Fails" syndrome appears to be kicking in. With all the commotion, the upcoming MUFON International UFO Symposium to be held in Pensacola this July should be fascinating entertainment.

IN DEFENSE OF ETHICS, STANDARDS AND ED WALTERS

By William L. Moore

I have never been a supporter of Ed Walters and his Gulf Breeze UFO photos; nor have I been one of his critics. Rather, it has been my pleasure to sit quietly on the fence and watch this fascinating drama as it continues to unfold. While I have leaned perhaps a bit in Ed's favor, due for the most part to the photographic work done by Dr. Bruce Maccabee, I have been very careful to include as part of my answer to all inquiries, the phrase which best describes my feeling about the case—"The jury is still out." None of the above events has done anything to change my mind. I am still "on the fence" and enjoying the view as much as ever. This is the first piece I have ever written about Gulf Breeze; and indeed I wouldn't have written this one if I didn't see the need to provide some sense of skeptical balance to the confusion.

From my lofty perch in the middle of the road, I see a few things about all of these allegedly disquieting revelations which I find profoundly disturbing:

First of all, if Ed Walters is going to be accused of perpetrating a hoax, it must be on the basis of evidence and not circumstance. So far, all I have seen is circumstance. Consider: Ed built himself a new home well over a year ago and put the old one up for sale. It stood vacant for more than six months before the new owners took up residence. During the time it was on the market, it was frequently left open during the daytime so that prospective buyers could have an opportunity to view it. Literally anyone, including News Journal reporter Craig Meyers, could have entered it during that time and had free run of the place. Planting a small model under attic insulation would be a piece of cake.

Secondly, when the facts of the matter are all brought to bear, it turns out that the model was only partially hidden under the insulation at the very head of the attic stairs (a collapsible stair accessed by pulling a rope hanging from the ceiling of the garage). Its "partially hidden"

status was such that it would have still been quite easily noticed by anyone going up those stairs to access the "attic", which was really more of a crawl space under the roof. This, indeed, is exactly how it was discovered by the present owners.

Finally, what I find most curious here is the behavior of Mr. Meyers, the reporter. That the man had both motive and opportunity, there is no doubt. Not only had the News Journal run several anti-Ed articles in the past, but they had admittedly assigned Meyers "several months ago" to bird-dog Ed for the purpose of developing "something of substance" to offer their readers in connection with the upcoming MUFON event. To assume that "something of substance" would be a positive piece in light of the News Journal's negative stance in the past would seem to be stretching a point. Furthermore, the strategy of going to the present owners of Ed's old house deliberately to ask them if any models had been found (which, by Meyers' own admission was part of his agenda) literally reeks of contrivance! The incompetent and inexcusable behavior of Meyers and his editor after the model was turned over to them, however, is even more suspicious. Had it been me, I would have immediately and without touching the model, put it in a plastic bag, a paper bag, a pillow case, or whatever and taken it at once to a competent forensic lab for fingerprinting—the one irrefutable way of either tying Ed to the model or exonerating him completely. Not only do Meyers and his editor not do this, but they immediately take the model to Ed himself, confront him with it, and hand it to him—thus assuring that his prints will be on it!

What I am suggesting here is that there is as much circumstantial evidence in favor of the argument that the News Journal wanted a scoop and arranged to get one, as there is against Ed as a hoaxer. Remember that because of the fingerprint snafu, the only thing which ties Ed to the model at all is the circumstantial fact that he once lived in the house where it was found. That sure as hell is not the sort of stuff which would hold up in court, and that's precisely the reason I intend to remain on that fence where I've been all along on this case.

SLIPPING OFF THE FENCE: A LAST MINUTE UPDATE

By William L. Moore (June 20th)

What you just read above, I wrote last week (June 11th). New developments in the Ed case since that time have been truly devastating—indeed, so much so that it now appears that the hard evidence needed to expose Ed Walters as a fraud and his Gulf Breeze photographs as clever forgeries may be close at hand.

Last Friday (June 15th), Tommy Smith, a 22 year-old ex-resident, confessed to Gulf Breeze mayor Ed Gray, chief of police Jerry Brown, and two newspaper reporters that he had been an early accomplice of Ed in producing bogus photographs of UFOs. He even produced a few never-before-seen photographs of Ed-type UFOs to prove it. According to Smith, he and another young man named Hank Boland (who is now attending film school in Chicago) assisted Ed Walters in producing double exposure photographs of a UFO model taped to the end of a long, black-painted pole and illuminated with a flashlight. Smith stated that at first he thought the whole thing was "just another of Ed's pranks", but when he realized things were getting serious he went to his father, a well-known Gulf Breeze area lawyer and ex-member of the city council, to seek advice. His father, he said, advised him to "get out of it" and have nothing more to do with Ed. When contacted by the authorities and reporters, Smith's father confirmed his son's story. Both later appeared at a press conference held on Tuesday, June 19th, and retold their story.

According to Smith, it was the discovery of a styrofoam, paper and plastic model under insulation in the attic of Ed's former Gulf Breeze residence which prompted him to come forward with what he knew. He said that he had been present when two of the most important pieces of "evidence" in Ed's portfolio were fabricated—the famed videotape of a UFO over Ed's back yard, and the impressive still photo of a UFO hovering above a road. Ed took considerable time experimenting with various techniques before he obtained satisfactory results, Smith alleged. In all cases, however, the basic technique was to create a photo of an illuminated model against a black backdrop, and then double expose the frame with an appropriate outdoor shot. The videotape was created by taping a roughly 8" model to the end of a hollow black conduit tube, and then taping a flashlight to the other end. The model was then illuminated by shining the flashlight through the tube. An accomplice (presumably Smith) then held the tube aloft and carried it along a pre-planned "trajectory" while a second person held the video camera.

Smith also alleged that Ed's wife Frances and his son Danny were participants in the hoax and were aware of other non-photographic evidence created by Ed to bolster his claims—such as the circle of dead grass behind Ed's house which was supposed to be a UFO landing site but which, according to Smith, was actually created by an overturned trampoline.

Hank Boland, interviewed in person in Chicago following a hasty trip there by Gray and Brown, at first refused to either "confirm or

deny" the story. Later, when contacted by a reporter for the Pensacola News-Journal, Boland claimed that the photos in Smith's possession are of a real UFO and that Smith had seen it and taken the pictures himself. He maintained that Smith's confession was either motivated by "religious reasons" or that he had been "pressured" into it, possibly by debunkers. Ed Walters, taking a similar stance in self-defense, dismissed Smith's allegations as "ludicrous", denied creating any fake photographs, and reiterated his belief that the affair is a deliberate attempt to discredit him and the MUFON organization which has, up to now, been one of his strongest supporters. According to reports, however, the News-Journal was able to confirm that Boland had spoken to Ed by phone after meeting with Gray and Brown, and before making his statement to the paper.

According to Dr. Bruce Maccabee, he has experimented with the method Smith claims was used to fabricate the photos, and "it doesn't wash." While it is indeed possible to produce photos of "UFOs" by using this technique, Maccabee admits, no one has yet been able to reproduce the quality which is consistently present in the photos which Ed has claimed are of real UFOs. Furthermore, there is the question of sightings of similar objects by literally hundreds of other Gulf Breeze residents—sightings which debunkers claim were staged by attaching flares or illuminated models to black hot air balloons but which Maccabee asserts are inconsistent with such trickery.

Both Maccabee and MUFON immediately attempted to call Smith's motivation into question, using Boland's characterization of him as some sort of religious zealot, to bolster their deteriorating position. Also, dark allegations of some sort of debunker or government-inspired conspiracy against both Ed and MUFON have predictably begun to circulate, although nothing is offered in support of them but speculation.

Am I still "on the fence" about this case? Yes, I am—but only because I see a need to let this thing play out. Admittedly the mounting evidence looks bad for those believers who put their reputations and sometimes that of their organizations on the line to support Ed Walters. Even so, with the air still full of flying allegations and counter-allegations (if not UFOs), I'm prepared to wait until the dust settles. After all, who knows what revelations may come to light over the next few weeks as the case for the defense makes itself heard..



ANNOUNCING! THE MJ-12 DOCUMENTS: AN ANALYTICAL REPORT

By William L. Moore & Jamie H. Shandera

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Focus

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