

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

DATE - TIME GROUP	2 LOCATION
20 August 50 20/2006Z	Oregon Astoria, Washington area
SOURCE	10. CONCLUSION
Civilian	Astro (METEOR)
NUMBER OF OBJECTS	
One	Evaluated as a meteor observation.
LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
Not Reported	Object was like a ball of fire, bluish-gray tail. Three times or faster than jet a/c. Travelled from NE to SW.
TYPE OF OBSERVATION	
Ground-Visual	
COURSE	
SW	
PHOTOS	
Yes	
No	
PHYSICAL EVIDENCE	
Yes	
No	

Telephone call from Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Astoria, Wash
re flaming object observed.

Brief details:

Time: About noon (1200?)

place: North of Astoria

shape: Like ball of fire - thick-gray
tail

Direction: Appeared to move at high
speed from NE to SW - could
be wrong on this.

Speed: Three times or more faster than jet
airplane

Comment: Get full address and send questionnaire
for details.

Object has all appearance of typical "fireball"

4/21/50

Dr. Moore and Dr. Byrnes agree
object was fire or fuel ball. Seen
by many people in Wash &
Oregon.

WV

Brilliant Meteor Seen By Many Here Saturday

A brilliant meteor seen in broad daylight was reported by a number of Tacomans who seemingly were amazed to see such a sight shortly after the noon hour Saturday.

Among the callers to The Tacoma News Tribune office was Frank A. Reda of 5019 So. L, who said he and four neighbors saw a "silver streak" that looked like a rocket going southwest and leaving a trail. As they watched, it turned downward toward the earth and disappeared.

E. J. Moran of 9804 American Ave. S. W., said he saw an oblong object shoot down behind some trees and he thought it to be a crashing jet plane.

Others described it in various terms, some thinking they had seen a flying saucer, but all here who saw it were unanimous that it was going at terrific speed and appeared luminous even in daylight.

Tacoma, however, was not the only point of vantage to see the celestial visitor as it was witnessed generally over the entire Pacific Northwest. Following is a report

of the occurrence by The Associated Press:

A "ball of fire," visible even in the bright noon sunshine, streaked across Pacific Northwest skies yesterday (Saturday). Apparently it was a meteor.

It was seen from Salem north to Seattle, from Ellensburg in central Washington to Astoria on the Oregon coast.

It flashed brilliantly. At Port Angeles a woman said it seemed brighter than the sun. Some observers said they even could see a blue tail. Others thought they detected silver and red colors on the fringe.

A science professor at Lewis and Clark college in Portland, Dr. A. A. Groening said it possibly was a straggler from the annual perseid shooting star display, which was at its height Aug. 11.

It was seen shortly after noon. A bar pilot at Astoria fixed the time at 12:06 p. m. there. He thought it descended toward the ocean northwest of Astoria.

A Seattle astronomer, Mrs. Bror Grondahl, thought it probably burned itself out before striking earth.

Russian Furs Carried Back

NEW YORK, Aug. 19 — *AP* — A shipment of \$138,000 worth of Russian furs which longshoremen here refused to unload was still aboard the ship.

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Aug 7, 1950



Chest Speakers Ready—With facts and figures, the "Speakers' Bureau" of the 1951 United Community Chest will start its schedule of activities this week with talks at patrol plants, civic clubs and luncheon meetings. Shown above are several members of the bureau who met last week to study material and plan their story to help the campaign committee raise the money needed to support the 21 Red Feather agencies. Left to right, standing, Capt. T. H. Baker, Sam Thornhill, William Leake, the Rev. Harold B. Long, Don W. Eastwood and Herb West. Seated, Russell Schmidt, Mrs. H. N. Whitman, Robert M. Young (chairman) and Russell C. Harlow. Absent members not shown are: J. Dean Hartman, Mrs. Will E. Conner, Miss Lola Emerson, Wayne A. Gardner, Bertil E. Johnson, L. Elvert Landon, J. Stanley Mullane, V. D. Patterson, Rabih Bernard D. Rosenberg, Judge Harriott Rowland and Gerrit Vander Ende.

Emily's Eyes Can Spot Elephants or Fireballs

By EMILY WALKER

When I was 5 years old, my mother took my sister and me to spend the summer in a little town in southern Iowa where she was born and raised. One incident of this visit has influenced my actions during the ensuing years. We were riding home from a picnic on a sunny afternoon, along a country road bordered by fields of ripening corn and luxuriant green meadows. As we rounded a curve I saw, in the distance, an elephant grazing beside a dilapidated barn. He wore a hound. I wasn't particularly surprised nor impressed and didn't mention it at the time. After we had arrived home, I was telling my great-grandmother, in the presence of those who had been along, about what we had done on the picnic, where we had eaten and what we had for lunch. As an added bit of interest I mentioned having seen the elephant.

My elders looked startled. "Now, honey, you mustn't say things like that. You know you didn't see an elephant. Of course you are joking." This from my mother who had been sitting beside me in the buggy. "Mother, I did too, didn't you see it by that old barn?" Of course she hadn't, she said, nor had any of the others who were along. "It couldn't have been an elephant, there is no circus within a hundred miles of here." I was crushed. No one believed me. I didn't care whether an elephant's presence in a field outside Mount Pleasant, Iowa, on a summer after-

noon was an impossibility; that there was no such thing as a stray elephant, especially one adorned with the trappings of a circus. It had been there. I had seen it. Till this day, my family harks back to the elephant when my stories seem to skirt the realm of the preposterous. For this reason during the years that have followed, I have increasingly become cagey. Strange things have occurred before my eyes, like the pudgy admiral with a long beard whom I saw one night along the highway, madly pedaling a bicycle, but because of my family's lack of imagination and their fixation that I am probably bright enough to get by, but a little eccentric, I have kept most of the

strange sights I have seen since to myself.

A week ago Saturday I saw something so strange I threw discretion to the winds for the first time in many years. I was sitting in a float, taking the sun preparatory to a swim at Lakebay where my sister and brother-in-law have a beach home. My niece and her father were on the other side of the float getting the canoe into the water. I was gazing vacuously into space toward shore where the trees reflected darkly into the water.

It was about 12:15 p.m. Something flashed through the water with unbelievable speed. It appeared to be a fiery ball, about the size of a soft-ball, and streaming behind it was a luminous vaporous trail. For once I had seen something I couldn't believe myself. No one had ever reported, to my knowledge, a submarine flying saucer. However, in case the fact that I had seen it might be of some value to someone later I decided

to say something about it. When others came nearer me I said as casually as I could that I had seen a queer thing in the water. I believed it to be the reflection of a meteor or something. That I really had. My brother-in-law was courteous and immediately went into a song and dance about how fish looked odd at some angles and maybe I had seen the head of a seal. My niece tried to act convinced, voicing no doubt to my words. She smiled and observed, "My, that is interesting." I dropped the subject. Later on shore I related the story to my husband. "Well, goodness," he said, "why don't you write a letter to the paper?" I gave up. It was the elephant all over again.

The Sunday Ledger didn't get out to us at the beach until Monday. So for two days I went about my affairs hugging my grievance that no one would believe me. Then the paper came. Boy! On the front page was the story of the meteor that hundreds of people had seen flashing across the sunlit skies on Saturday shortly after noon. I strode out into the kitchen where the family was picking at the Sunday roast, and triumphantly spread the paper on the table. "There," said I. "You can't see a meteor in the sun," said they. "Says who," said I. "All these people did." The family went back to the roast with no further comment, except for my niece. "Why, Aunt Emily, you did see something. Think of that. I wish I had seen it." Of all the peo-

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*Statement by Board of Council
appointing Doug Morris as Con
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

July 21, 1958

Dr. A. Francis Arcier
Scientific Advisor
Air Technical Intelligence Center
United States Air Force
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,
Ohio

Dear Dr. Arcier:

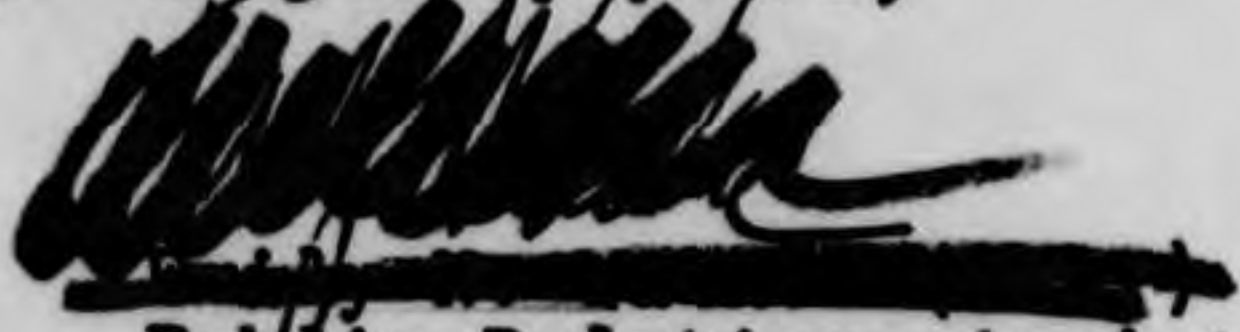
How very kind you have been to me in taking your very valuable time to investigate and report back to me so fully regarding what I really saw reflected in Puget Sound on that bright August day in 1950.

Never in my life had I heard of a fireball! Now I feel superior to my friends in that not only do I know what one is, but also I am among the few privileged to have seen one. In addition, I can, from now on, stand apart from my contemporaries, having elicited the cooperation of an eminent scientist.

With your permission, I shall use a substantial part of your letter in my weekly Sunday column to the Tacoma (Wash.) News Tribune, probably next week. I shall send you a clipping.

Again, many thanks, Dr. Arcier. I feel it was a great privilege to have met you and I truly hope our paths may somehow bring us together again.

Sincerely yours,


Public Relations Assistant

ENW:ej

24 July 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Public Relations Assistant
Office of The Honorable Thor C. Tollefson
6th District, Washington
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Walker:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of 21 July.

The information given you is in no way classified, so there is no objection to your using it in your regular Sunday column.

I will be very glad indeed to receive a clipping.

Sincerely,

A. FRANCIS ARCIER
Scientific Advisor

AFCIN-4E4

Public Relations Assistant
Office of the Honorable Thor C. Tollefson
6th District, Washington
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Walker:

Here is my reply to your letter of 27 June 1958 regarding an unusual sighting observed by you and a large number of people in the Tacoma area and other parts of Washington on the 20th of August 1950 at noon.

Our records indeed indicate that there was a UFO reported from Washington State, and at precisely this time on 20 August 1950. Our records of investigation and analysis indicate the following:

- a. The object was a seldom-seen phenomenon, a bolide, as it is referred to in scientific terminology. Bolides, more commonly known as "fireballs" are a form of meteorite.
- b. The earth was just passing through the Perseids, an annual meteoric shower, at that time.
- c. The identity of the object was confirmed by the independent reviews of private scientists.

A point of explanation is in order here, Miss [redacted], to clarify things. Fireballs, unlike smaller meteorites, generally do not burn up in the earth's upper atmosphere, but remain intact as a large, glowing mass until they disintegrate at lower levels or strike the earth. These bodies seem to appear more often during meteoric showers. Records indicate that the majority of people never see one in their lifetime, and an encounter with one can indeed be a startling experience.

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The subject of fireballs and meteors has been studied extensively by the University of Pennsylvania under Dr. ~~W. G. W.~~, Professor Emeritus of that institute. I am taking the liberty of sending you excerpts of certain portions of Dr. ~~W. G. W.~~ report on fireballs, which, I feel, you may find of interest. As may be seen from his 35-year survey, the largest number of meteors and fireballs appear in August.

The incident which you so kindly sent me is so similar to the "fireball" incident that happened a few months ago, that I am sending you two excerpts from our Case Files. If you recall, the "Great Western Fireball" incident of 1957 drew nation-wide notice from the press, radio and TV. The fireball was observed by hundreds of persons, including pilots in the air, simultaneously from six states.

I need hardly state that a large number of observers are still firmly unconvinced that the object was a "fireball."

May I again thank you for the courtesies extended the Air Force representatives, and for your sincere interest and understanding in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

2 Incls:

1. Cys, Data from Case Files
2. Excerpt from Tech Journal, U. of Pa. on Fireballs & Meteor Trains

A. FRANCIS ARCIER
Scientific Advisor

COORDINATION:

AFCIN-4E4g	DATE
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AFCIN-4E	DATE

DISC

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2 July 1958

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Public Relations Assistant
Office of the Honorable Thor C. Tollefson
6th District, Washington
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Walker:

I was very glad indeed to get your letter of the 27th of June.
As a matter of fact, I had been looking for it.

I have had the investigation of this particular case started,
and I will, as soon as possible, send you the findings.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation
for the very courteous treatment which we received from your
entire group.

Sincerely yours,

A. FRANCIS ARCIER
Scientific Advisor

THOR C. TOLLEFSON
8TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

PIERCE COUNTY
KING COUNTY (PART)

COMMITTEE:
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
MARITIME AFFAIRS
FISH AND WILDLIFE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

June 27, 1958

Dr. Francis Arcier
ATIC
Wright Patterson Airforce Base
Ohio

Dear Dr. Arcier:

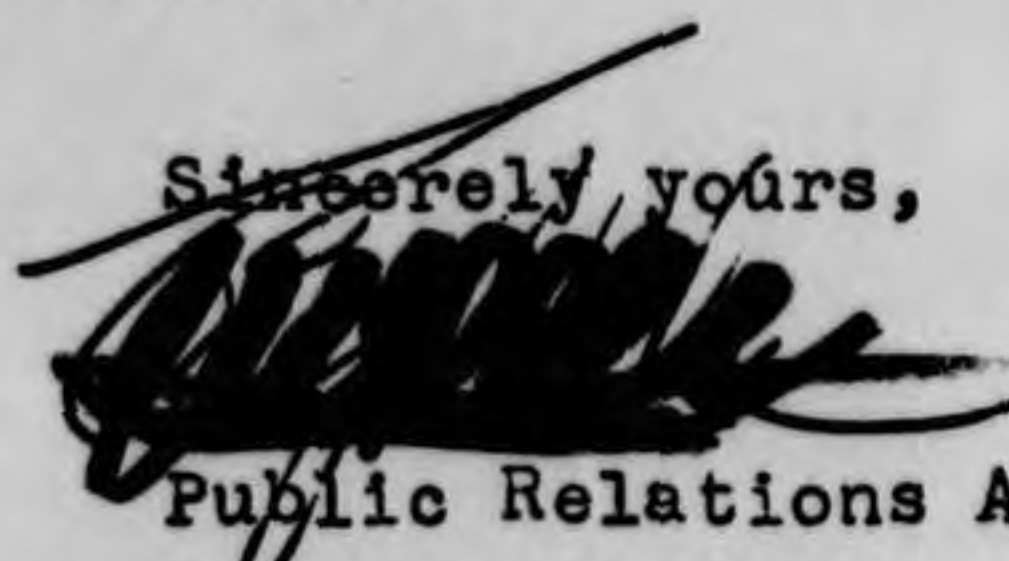
Perhaps you will remember me as being the only woman who was present at the briefing in which you participated on June 20, in the office of Congressman John E. Henderson of Ohio. I was there representing Congressman Tollefson who was out of town.

You will find enclosed photostatic copies of two articles which appeared in the Tacoma, Washington News Tribune & Sunday Ledger. These give the details in regard to the incident I related to you after the briefing session.

The Article which appeared August 20, 1950, was printed the day following the one ~~one~~ ~~was~~ when I wrote the article which appeared a week later.

You very kindly offered to look back in the files and try to determine for me what if any record and/or explanation the Airforce has on this incident. I shall be looking forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Public Relations Ass't

Return to: Arcier - 964