

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE DR 23 November 1951		2. LOCATION Riverside, California		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other HOAX ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT UNKNOWN		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☒ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE CIVILIAN			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION N/A		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE N/A	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Photograph of alleged flying saucer.				11. COMMENTS Phot is wheel cover of from 1937 ford thrown into air and photographed.	

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE NO.

SUBJECT Photograph of an Unidentified Aerial Object Taken
by Mr. [REDACTED] Riverside, California

TO ATIAA-2C

FROM MCE

DATE 22 Apr 52

COMMENT NO. 1

ATTN: Lt E. J. Ruppelt
(NRN)Mr. Rohlf's/pjm
64112/B262/PLR

The attached letter dated 7 April 1952 together with OSI Report of Investigation is forwarded as a matter pertaining to your Headquarters.

1 Incl
Ltr dtd 7 Apr 52
w/ 1 Incl (in dup)

[Signature]
SAM BRUNO
Lt Colonel, USAF
Acting Air Provost Marshal
Inspector General's Office

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

7-34112-48

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

7 April 1952

SUBJECT: Photograph of an Unidentified
Aerial Object Taken by Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Riverside, California
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCEP

1. Attached hereto for your information are two copies of the report of investigation by Special Agent JESSE E. McSWAIN, 18th OSI District, dated 28 March 1952, file 24-168, subject as above.

2. This investigation was requested by the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, predicated upon the publication in newspapers of a photograph of an alleged flying saucer.

3. Mr. [REDACTED] was interviewed on 24 March 1952 and stated the photograph was "phony"; was originally started as a gag, and mushroomed beyond his control. He reported object in the photograph is a tire cover from a 1937 Ford automobile and was buried at the site where the photograph was taken.

4. No further investigative action is contemplated and the files of the Office of Special Investigations are considered closed in this case.

5. Attention is invited to paragraph 7, AFR 205-1, which prohibits disclosure of classified information to unauthorized personnel.

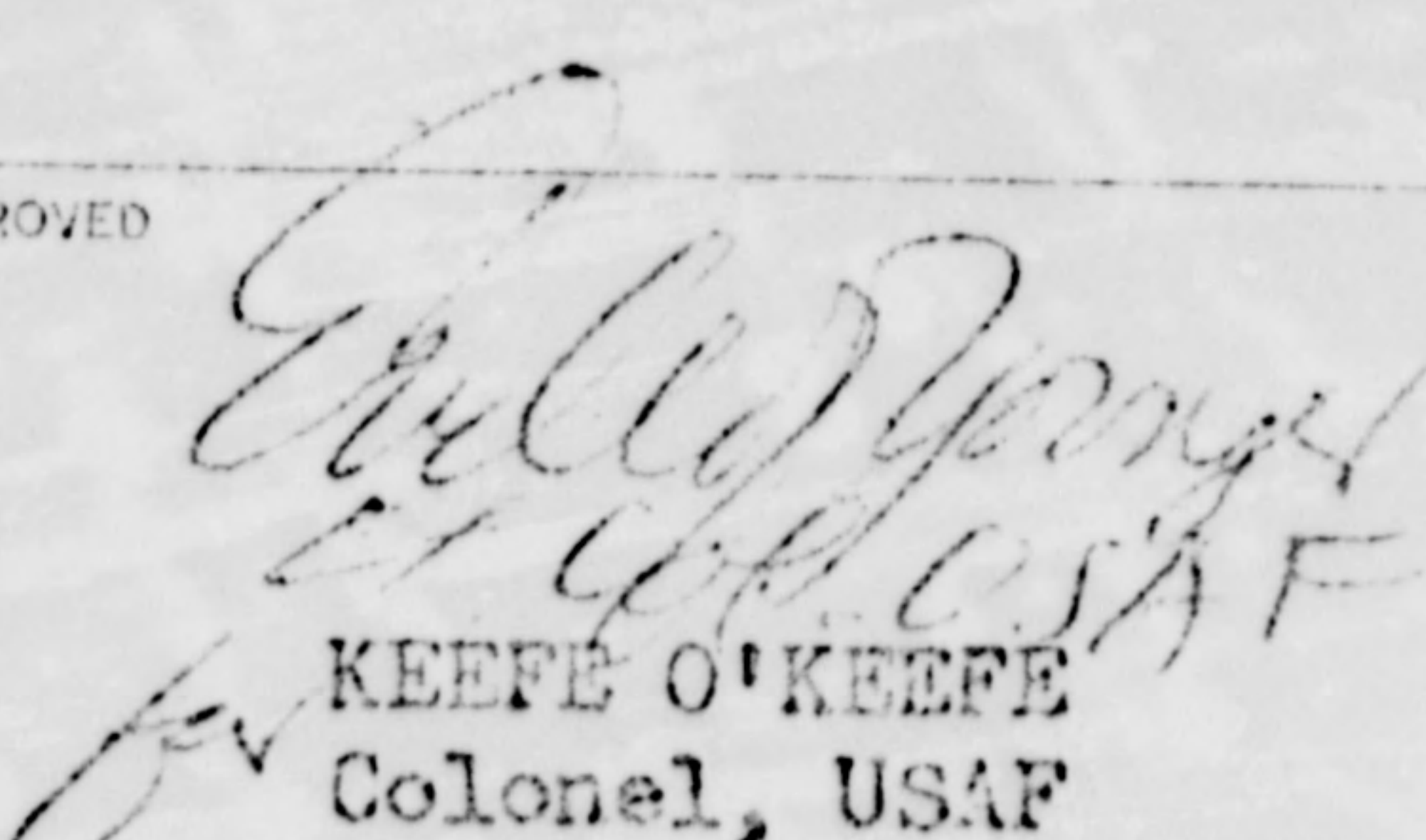
1 Incl (in dup)
R/I, DO #18, dtd 28 Mar 52

Copy to:
Hq OSI

John L. O'Connell
D. G. NORTH
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		UNCLASSIFIED FILE NO. 24-168	DATE 28 March 1952
TITLE Photograph of an Unidentified Aerial Object Taken by Mr. [REDACTED], Riverside, California		REPORT MADE BY JESSE E. McSWAIN	REPORT MADE AT DO #18, Maywood, California
		PERIOD 21, 22 & 24 March 1952	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #18, Maywood, California
		STATUS CLOSED	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY			
REFERENCE None, this is an initial report.			
SYNOPSIS Investigation requested by CG, AMC, and predicated upon publication of photograph of alleged flying saucer taken by [REDACTED] Riverside, Calif. TWX from CG, AMC, advised photo interpretation discloses belief object in photo is automobile hub-cap but findings not conclusive. TWX requested authenticity of photo be determined. Appointment made with [REDACTED] for 22 Mar 52 not kept by [REDACTED] because of his "imperative" need to be in Phoenix. Inquiry disclosed [REDACTED] of questioned reliability and integrity and has reputation of being prankster. Mr. [REDACTED], person who sold photograph to newspapers, interviewed and declared photograph authentic in his opinion. Mr. [REDACTED] reported personal sighting of numerous flying saucers over Riverside, California. Mr. [REDACTED] contacted 24 March 1952 and consented to interview at March AFB. [REDACTED] immediately declared photograph "phony"; was originally started as a gag, and mushroomed beyond his control. He reported object in photograph is tire cover from about 1937 Ford automobile and was buried at the site where photograph taken. Exact location presently unknown to [REDACTED].			
DISTRIBUTION ✓ CG, AMC (Action Cys) 2 DO #5 2 Hqs OSI 2 File 2		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Commanding General Air Materiel Command Wright-Patterson AFB Ohio	FILE STAMP UNCLASSIFIED
(Unauthorized disclosure of information contained in this report will be considered to be a violation of AFR-235-1.)		APPROVED  KEEFFE O'KEEFE Colonel, USAF District Commander	

DETAILS:

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1. This investigation was requested by the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and is predicated upon the publication in newspapers of a photograph of an alleged flying saucer. By T.M., the Commanding General of A.C. requested that Mr. [REDACTED] Riverside, California, be contacted to determine the authenticity of the photograph reportedly taken by him. The T.M. is quoted as follows:

"THE ATIC HAS A PHOTOGRAPH OF AN UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT TAKEN BY A Mr. [REDACTED] OF RIVERSIDE, CALIF. THE PHOTO WAS SOLD TO THE LOS ANGELES BUREAU OF THE AGEE NEWS PICTURE, INC. THE NUMBERED IDENTIFICATION OF THE PHOTO IS 9050. PHOTO INTERPRETATION INDICATES OBJECT MAY BE AUTOMOBILE HUB-CAP, HOWEVER, DUE TO POOR DEFINITION IN UR PHOTO THIS ANALYSIS IS NOT CONCLUSIVE. REQUEST THAT Mr. [REDACTED] BE CONTACTED AND DETAILS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONCERNING THE PHOTO BE OBTAINED. IF HE CANNOT BE LOCATED IN RIVERSIDE, CALIF., IT CAN BE LOCATED THROUGH AGEE NEWS PICTURE, INC., IN LOS ANGELES. PROOF OF AUTHENTICITY OF THE PHOTO IS URGENTLY NEEDED. IN ONLY ONE PHOTO SUBMITTED."

AT RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

2. Mr. [REDACTED] Riverside, California, was contacted telephonically in the late afternoon of 21 March 1952. Mr. [REDACTED] advised he could not make an appointment for interview on 21 March 1952 but would be available for interview at 0900 hours, 22 March 1952. He requested the interview be held at the March AFB Detachment OSI.

3. At 0650 hours, 22 March 1952, the writer stationed himself at the March AFB gate to meet Mr. [REDACTED]. The sentry on duty delivered a note addressed to the writer and advised it had been delivered to him at about 0345 hours, 22 March 1952. The note is quoted:

"Mr. McSwain
OSI

Dear Sir -

I found it imperative to be in Phoenix for a few days and had to leave early this morning - I will contact you upon my return -

The camera used in the Photograph under discussion was Rolleicord, Super XX film, all the rest of the story can be obtained from the clipping in the Riverside Press - it's the straight story -

Respectfully,

4. Mr. [REDACTED] Lay, Riverside, and Mr. [REDACTED], were interviewed and advised

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[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED
they had known [REDACTED] since childhood. [REDACTED] had been a prankster up until recent years. They declared he has the reputation of being a prankster and practical joker and would be capable of performing a hoax and carrying it through to the ultimate end. Neither knew of any definite information concerning the photograph in question and were unable to furnish any information concerning [REDACTED]'s photographic ability or background. Both declared him to be of questionable reliability and integrity.

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

5. This phase of the investigation was conducted by Special Agent FRED T. RASSELL, DO #16, Maywood, California.

6. The Acme News Pictures, Los Angeles, California, was contacted and advised they had purchased photograph LA 9080 from Mr. [REDACTED] Riverside, California. Acme advised Mr. [REDACTED] is a "stringer", one who gets pictures and sells them.

AT RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

7. Mr. [REDACTED] commercial photographer, [REDACTED] Riverside, was interviewed and advised he had sold the photograph of the flying saucer which had been taken by [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] related that he had originally sold [REDACTED] the camera used and had printed the picture which appeared in the newspapers. He said that although [REDACTED] normally processed his films at [REDACTED] photo shop, the film in question had been processed through a commercial film finishing company. [REDACTED] declared that [REDACTED] had been very hesitant about bringing the negative to him because he, [REDACTED], did have the reputation of being a prankster and was afraid no one would believe that the photograph was not a hoax. He continued that [REDACTED] was extremely reluctant about any publicity concerning the photograph but finally, after being persuaded by [REDACTED], consented to its publication. [REDACTED] said he had studied the photograph and negative from every conceivable photographic standpoint, and is absolutely convinced the photograph had not been retouched and is not a fraud or hoax. He said some persons viewing the photo had questioned whether or not the object was a hub-cap from an automobile but their fears were dispelled when a laboratory in Riverside examined the dimensions and curvature of the object and declared it was not an automobile hub-cap. [REDACTED] averred he had checked the negative and the size of the object was in complete conformity with the focal length of the lens used in making the photograph. [REDACTED] swore the negative had not been retouched in any way when he made the prints from it and it was an actual photograph.

8. On 22 March 1952, a TTX was sent to the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, with information copy to the District Commander, 5th District OSI. The TTX advised the action and information addressee of the facts as developed at that time.

9. On 24 March 1952, at 1000 hours, a telephone call was placed to the residence of Mr. [REDACTED]. The writer inquired of the individual answering the phone if [REDACTED], [REDACTED] nickname, was at home. The answering party

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED

advised he was and called him to the telephone. The writer identified himself to Mr. [REDACTED] and requested permission to come to his home to talk to him. Mr. [REDACTED] asked if it was imperative that the writer speak to him. Advised that it was imperative from the viewpoint of the U.S. Air Force, Mr. [REDACTED] consented to the interview and promised to be at the March AFB gate at 1100 hours.

AT MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

10. Mr. [REDACTED] was interviewed in the March AFB Detachment OSI Office. When informed of the exact nature of the inquiry being made, Mr. [REDACTED] stated, "There's no sense in beating around the bush. The photograph is a phony." He then advised that he and three other young men from Riverside had been on the Palms to Pines Highway from Hemet, California, to Palm Springs, California. At a point approximately 15 or 20 miles east of the Idyllwild turn-off they had found the spare tire cover from about a 1937 Ford automobile. One of the individuals present with him had thrown the tire cover into the air and he, [REDACTED], had photographed it. He said he then decided to pull a gag on a friend of his, [REDACTED], by telling him he had actually photographed a flying saucer. In order to make his story more realistic, he had his film processed by a commercial film developing company, and then took the negative to [REDACTED]. He said [REDACTED] checked the negative thoroughly to assure himself it was not a hoax and then sold it to the Acme News Picture firm. Mr. [REDACTED] said he was sorry about it almost immediately but it mushroomed so fast that it was soon beyond his control. He avowed that Mr. [REDACTED] does not even now know that the photograph is a hoax but still believes it is actually a flying saucer.

11. Mr. [REDACTED] stated he and his companions had buried the tire cover at the spot where they took the photograph. He said he does not now know the exact location of the site of the photograph and might not be able to find it. He declared he is extremely sorry the U.S. Air Force became involved in the matter and did not want to create any disturbance at all. For that reason, he said, he felt telling the truth to the Air Force investigators was the only thing for him to do. He said he would like to undo any damage that it might have caused. He reported the negative has been sent to Life magazine and, upon its return to him, will be submitted to the OSI if it is desired.

12. On 24 March 1952, a TTX was sent to the Commanding General, AMC, advising him that the photograph taken by [REDACTED] is not an authentic photograph of a flying saucer.

CLOSED

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND

CLASSIFIED
EXC-100
11-23-51

UNCLASSIFIED

LA9080 LOS ANGELES BUREAU

THIS IS A FLYING SAUCER ?

LOS ANGELES: The object shown in this picture is purportedly a "flying saucer". It was sighted by [redacted] while he and two friends were stopped on a mountain road looking at the scenery. Marguanl claims that the "thing" flew by once at a very high rate of speed and when it came back he had his camera ready and made this picture. The place where the object was seen was near Riverside, Calif. but [redacted] was a little hazy as to the exact location. He claims that the "saucer" was four or five city blocks distant at the time the picture was made. (EXCLUSIVE)

ABTO-CHI-NY-13d
CEPULIT (ACME PHOTO)

UNCLASSIFIED
11/21/51

58

Riverside, California - 23 Nov 51
No further Data on Photo

RIVERSIDE, Calif., Nov. 23.—Object above the skyline, and shown in insert (lower right corner), is purported to be a "flying saucer" sighted and photographed near Riverside, Calif., by [redacted]. Two friends who were with [redacted] when he saw the object said he photographed the "thing" as it flew by them for the second time on a mountain road.

—ACME TELEPHOTO



Is This A Flying Saucer?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

NR 80 25 MAR 52

4575

C1 CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

FM 18 DIST OSI MAYWOOD CALIF

TO AMC WP AFB OHIO

INFO CO UP AFB OHIO

DIR OF SP INVE WASH DC

ACTION COPY

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER
BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

OK Au DTG Remove

NE

1 - ~~MLASH~~ ACTION
2 - ~~MLASH~~ INFO
3 - ~~Ungrm~~
EWE

SECURITY INFORMATION

PROJECT BLUEBOOK, MR. [REDACTED] INTERVIEWED 24 MAR
52 AND DECLARED PHOTO "PHONY", PHOTO WAS GAG ON [REDACTED] AND
MUSHROOMED TO WHERE MARQUAND COULD NOT CONTROL IT. HE REPTS OBJECT
IN PHOTO IS WHEELCOVER FROM ABOUT 1937 FORD THROWN INTO AIR BY
CONFEDERATE AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY [REDACTED]. WHEELCOVER WAS BURIED
AT SITE, EXACT LOC UNKNOWN. [REDACTED] WILL RELS NEGATIVE TO OSI
UPON RETURN FROM LIFE MAGAZINE IF DESIRED YOUR MR. WRITTEN REPT FOLS.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 18 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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52S-36893-1

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL		SRCH INDEX CLAS SERIAL FILE
26 MAR 1952		
OF SPECIAL AGENTS		
CHIEF	AGENT	
TO:	FILE	

(CONFIDENTIAL)

PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

23

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL		SRCH ☒
25 MAR 1952		INDX ☐
5th DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS		DISY ☐
CHIEF	AGENT	SERL ☐
TO:	FILE	FILE ☐

BEFORE DECLASSIFYING, SEE CRYPTO-CENTER

OK all DTTs removed

NR 45 4504 24 MAR 52

C-1 CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

FM DO 18 OSI WAYWOOD CALIF

TO CC AHC WPAFB FOR DIST CMDE 5 DIST OSI WPAFB

1. McLOSKEY - Action
2. McLOSKEY - Info
3. McLOSKEY - 1

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

PROJECT BLUELOOK. UR REQUEST TO DETERMINE AUTHENTICITY OF PHOTOGRAPH OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT TAKEN BY MR [REDACTED] RIVERSIDE CALIF. APPOINTMENT MADE LATE AFTERNOON 21 MAR 52 TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] AT 0900 HOURS 22 MAR 52. AT 0840 HOURS, 22 MAR 52, [REDACTED] DELIVERED NOTE TO MARCH AFB SENTRY ADVISING IMPERATIVE BUSINESS IN PHOENIX ARIZ PREVENTED INTERVIEW. NOTE DECLARED FACTS SURROUNDING PHOTOGRAPH EXACTLY AS REPORTED IN NEWSPAPERS. INTERVIEW OF 2 FORMER ASSOCIATES OF [REDACTED] DISCLOSES QUESTION OF RELIABILITY AND INTEGRITY. BOTH REPORT [REDACTED] PRANKSTER AND CAPABLE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC HOAX BUT NO DEFINITE KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING QUESTIONED PHOTOGRAPH. [REDACTED], COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHER, RIVERSIDE, SELLOR OF PHOTOGRAPH TO ACME ADVISED PHOTOGRAPH AUTHENTIC IN HIS OPINION. [REDACTED] REPORTED [REDACTED] HESITANT ABOUT BRINGING NEGATIVE TO HIM BECAUSE OF [REDACTED] REPUTATION AS PRANKSTER. [REDACTED] ADVISED 3 PERSONS, NAMES UNKNOWN TO HIM, PRESENT

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ACTION COPY

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PAGE TWO

WHEN PHOTOGRAPH MADE. [REDACTED] VAGUE ABOUT SIZE AND DISTANCE OF OBJECT WHEN PHOTOGRAPHED. NEGATIVE DEVELOPED COMMERCIALY REPORTS [REDACTED] ALTHOUGH [REDACTED] NORMALLY PROCESSES FILMS AT [REDACTED] PHOTO SHOP. NEITHER NEGATIVE OR PRINT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. [REDACTED] ADVISES NEGATIVE FORWARDED PREVIOUS WEEK TO LIFE MAGAZINE, LOS ANGELES, FOR FORWARDING TO LIFE MAGAZINE, NEW YORK, FOR STORY ON FLYING OBJECTS.

[REDACTED] WILL RELEASE NEGATIVES, IF DESIRED, TO OSI UPON RETURN FROM LIFE MAGAZINE. INVESTIGATION CONTINUING. WHEN DETERMINATION OF AUTHENTICITY MADE, RESULTS WILL BE WIRED YOUR HQS.

525-36613 - /

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10 -

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ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

DATE-TIME GROUP

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

171530Z MAR 60

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PRECEDENCE
FOR:

ACTION

INFORMATION

OO ATIC

TO:

DISTRICT COMMANDER 18TH DISTRICT OSI
822ND USAF SPECIALIZED DEPOT
BOX 310 HAYWOOD CALIF☐ BOOK MESSAGE☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐ YES☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

INFO:

RADNOTE

FROM: AFOLN-ATIAA-26

THE AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER HAS A PHOTOGRAPH OF AN UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT TAKEN BY A MR. [REDACTED] OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA. THE PHOTO WAS SOLD TO THE LOS ANGELES BUREAU OF THE ACME NEWS PICTURE, INC. THE NUMBERED IDENTIFICATION OF THE PHOTOS LA 9086. PHOTO INTERPRETATION INDICATES OBJECT MAY BE AUTOMOBILE HUB-CAP, HOWEVER, DUE TO POOR DEFINITION IN PHOTO THIS ANALYSIS IS NOT CONCLUSIVE. REQUEST THAT MR. [REDACTED] CONTACTED AND DETAILS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONCERNING THE PHOTO BE OBTAINED. IF HE CANNOT BE LOCATED IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, HE CAN BE LOCATED THROUGH ACME NEWS PICTURES, INC. IN LOS ANGELES. PROOF OF AUTHENTICITY OF THE PHOTO IS URGENTLY NEEDED. IN REPLY CITE PROJECT BLUE BOOK.

1C-371
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DDO DIR 5200.19

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~~SECRETARY INFORMATION~~

T52-6057

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

LT E. J. RUPPELT

SYMBOL

TELEPHONE

OFFICIAL TITLE

ATIAA-26

5261

DD FORM 173

1 OCT 49

REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49,
WHICH MAY BE USED.

16-55021-3 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CO ATIC

TO: DISTRICT COMMANDER 13TH DISTRICT OSI
 82ND USAF SPECIALIZED LBPOF
 BOX 310 MAXWELL CALIF

RAPIRE

INFO:

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA-23

REFERENCE IS MADE TO OUR WIRE, CITE IC-372, DATED 171500Z MAR 52. FURTHER INFORMATION
 RECEIVED FROM DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE, HQ USAF, STATES THAT MR. [REDACTED]
 WHEN APPROACHED BY LIFE MAGAZINE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INTERROGATED BY THE F.B.I.
 AND THAT THEY TOOK HIS NEGATIVES AND SENT THEM TO THE AIR FORCE. WE HAVE NO KNOW-
 LEDGE OF F.B.I. PARTICIPATION NOR HAVE WE EVER RECEIVED SUBJECT NEGATIVES. THE ABOVE
 INFORMATION WILL POSSIBLY ASSIST YOU IN YOUR INVESTIGATION.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS,
 DOD DIR 5200.19

UNCLASSIFIED

752-6087A

~~SECRETARY INFORMATION~~

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

LT E. J. RUPPELT

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

SYMBOL

ATIAA-23

TELEPHONE

54261

OFFICIAL TITLE

DD FORM 173

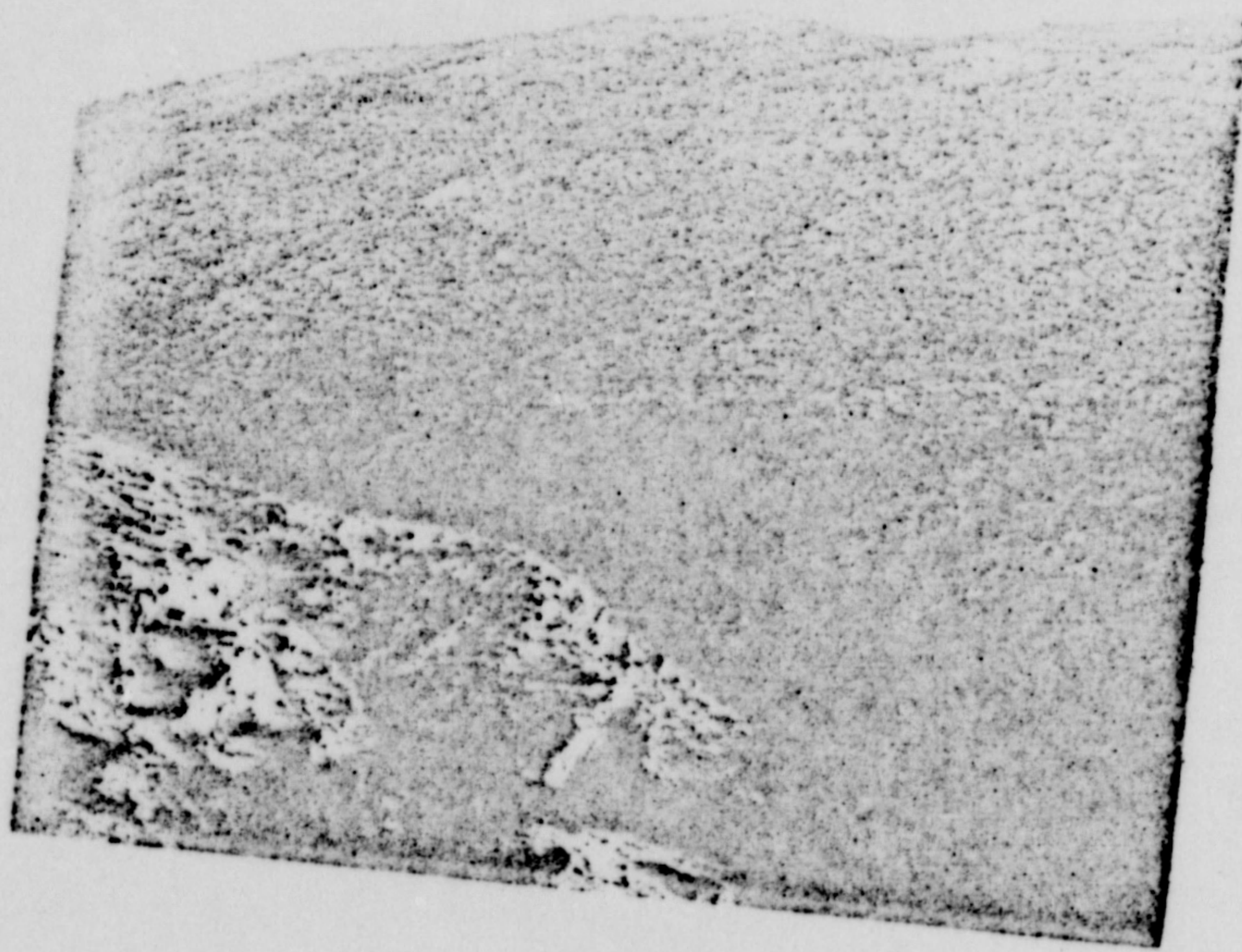
1 OCT 49

REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49,
WHICH MAY BE USED.

15-54421-3 ★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Case includes one (1) 8" x 10" photograph,
four (4) 3" x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " photographs, two (2)
4" x 5" negatives.











PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 28 Nov 1951		2. LOCATION Riverside, California		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other <u>Conflicting Data</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 0300 AM GMT 28/1100Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 30 Minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE - - -	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Observation of object was oval, green halo, with characteristics of adjacent stars. Observed for 30 minutes. Object appeared to be stationary at 4 to 5,000 ft altitude. Nearest star Vega. Object had movement like ball bouncing in slow motion. Report made in May 1952 News Article.				11. COMMENTS At 0300 on 28 Nov 51, Vega not visible. Venus not visible. Jupiter on horizon and west. Mars below horizon in EAST. Object characteristic of Astro body, however, no major planet visible during report of sighting. Star Vega below horizon. Venus nearest planet to Vega. Report evaluated as conflicting data. (Vega not visible)	

Swenson Report Tells of Saucer Sighted, Chased

Recent revival of interest by the public in reports on flying saucers has induced a Northroper to relate an adventure along these lines which he had kept to himself in fear that nobody would believe the tale.



LEO SWENSON
Saw Saucer

Leo Swenson, illustrator, of the Illustration Department, is the man who witnessed the strange object and its behavior as pictured on this page. Swenson returned to the spot when the Northrop News became interested and made an accurate painting of the surrounding territory and landmarks. The "saucer" was seen by Swenson at 3:00 a.m. on the morning of November 28, 1951, while traveling along Highway 91 between Colton and Riverside.

Greenish and Oval

According to Swenson, when the object was first sighted, it appeared to have the same characteristics as adjacent stars, except that it was surrounded by a greenish oval halo which had the appearance of cigar smoke around the outside of a luminous core.

He stopped his car and observed the object for thirty minutes. At first it appeared to be 4000 to 5000 feet in the air.

As he watched, the object dilated rapidly up to five times its original magnitude and remained that way for half a minute.

The Chase

It then dwindled back to a slightly lesser size than the nearest comparative star (Vega), and had the appearance of being cut in half. Later it returned to its original density and magnitude.

Swenson drove eastward on Center Street in the general direction of the object in an attempt to see it at closer range. The object moved off in an easterly direction at a slow rate of speed and although he was able to approach somewhat closer, the street turned south after five miles and the chase came to an end.

He stopped his car and was able to observe the flight pattern of the object against a cloud formation until it disappeared. It appeared to climb and gain speed.

The action of the object as it moved up and eastward was like a rubber ball bouncing in slow motion. The object rose and fell vertically but did not swerve from side to side.

Swenson

Swenson's background includes a tour of duty with the USAF Intelligence Department, Historical Section. His assigned duty was to compile and illustrate war events; results of experimental projects and combat developments. He was educated at University of Utah; Harvard University; and Choinard Art Institute, Los Angeles.

Swenson's report is reminiscent of, but entirely dissimilar to, a memo written in April, 1950, by Northrop pilot Max Stanley who came to very close range in broad daylight with an object while flying over Memphis, Texas, with two other men in the Northrop "Black Widow."

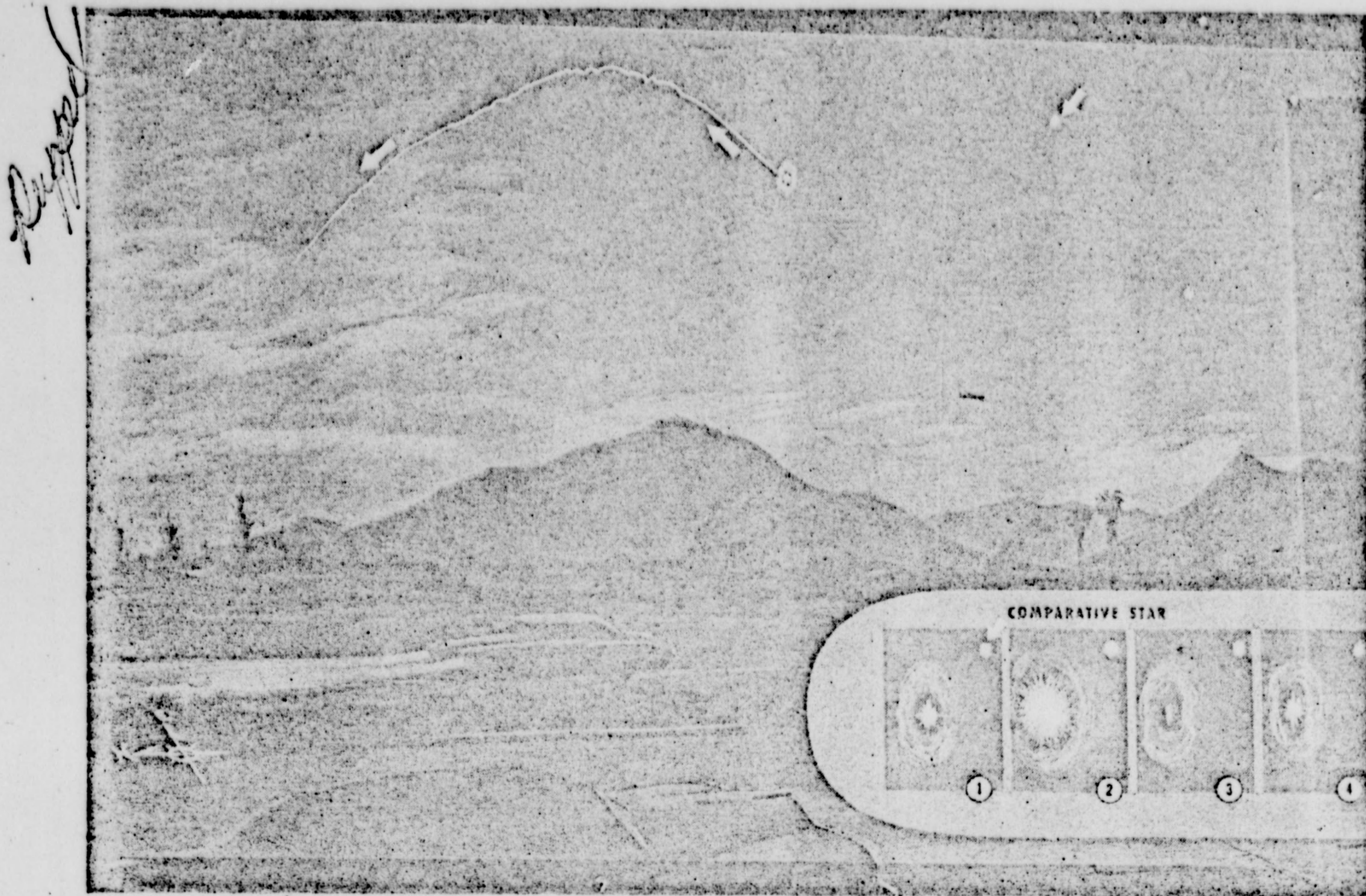
Stanley stated, "The object was of a silvery metallic color with a translucent quality; no orange ring or other evidence of color was observed. The shape of the object was spherelike with prominent detents on the top and bottom, and with a dark streak or shadow connecting these detents. For the most part this shadow was vertical and appeared to tilt occasionally, re-

sulting in a sideways movement of the object."

Stanley's memo states, "Mr. Lloyd Balsam, who was riding in the gunner's station in the airplane, is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Sam F. West is a graduate of the University of California, and for five years was employed in the Radiation Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

"Both of the above observers are familiar with this report, and are in agreement with the statements made herein. Further, we all agree that the object sighted was not an airplane, balloon, celestial body, or any other object commonly seen above the earth."

7-3712-40



FLYING SAUCER viewed by Leo Swenson, Illustration Department, in early morning of November 28, 1951, pictured here in sketch made at the scene by Swenson especially for Northrop News. Chart shows size as compared to Vega when first seen (1); when it expanded (2); when it shrank and appeared cut in half at its nucleus (3); and when it returned to its original size (4). Arrows (center left) show path and action of object as it departed in easterly direction. Swenson had the object in direct view for over thirty minutes. He was watching stars and going over a course in navigation he is taking in a local school when he spotted the odd object. Passenger airplane (right center) gave Swenson a fair idea of height and size of the "saucer." Object was chased in Swenson's automobile for a good five miles.