

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 27 Apr 52		2. LOCATION Grand Rapids, Michigan		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☒ Probably Aircraft ☒ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☒ Probably Astronomical METEOR ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 0808 GMT 27 / 1308		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE CAA controller			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 16-18 seconds.		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Bright white color. Spherical shape. Pronounced arched path.				11. COMMENTS Size estimated to be that of a ping pong ball at arm's length. Traveled at very high rate of speed. Covered 5/8 of sky. A/C	

AF FORM 112-PART I
APPROVED 13 JUNE 1943
DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

CLASSIFIED: [REDACTED]
Hq: 30TH ADIV (DEF)
AUTHORITY OF: CO
DATE: 1 May 1952
INITIALS: [REDACTED]

COUNTRY DOD DIR 5200.10 U. S. A. REPORT NO. UNCLASSIFIED (LEAVE BLANK)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT Report of Unusual Flying Object
AREA REPORTED ON Grand Rapids, Mich. FROM (Agency) Belleville, Mich.
Vicinity of Kent County Apt., 30Th Air Division (Def), Willow Run Apt.,
DATE OF REPORT 1 May 1952 DATE OF INFORMATION 27 April 1952 EVALUATION E-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) Franklin A. Fenner, Capt., USAF, D/I SOURCE Individual listed below
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)
ADC Letter 200-1, dated 11 April 1951

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)
On 27 April 1952 Captain McDell, Senior controller on duty, received a telephone call from a Mr. [REDACTED], Civil Aeronautics Administration, Kent County Airport, Grand Rapids 8, Michigan. Concerning an unusual flying object he had observed at 1308Z, 27 April 1952, Grid coordinates 85°44'W 42°48'N. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that while driving west along the north boundary of Kent County Airport he observed in a completely clear sky in a direction of about one o'clock from his heading a very bright white object which could have been disc or spherical in shape and appeared in size about equal to a ping pong ball held at arms length.

Mr. [REDACTED] turned south along the west boundary of Kent County Airport, parked and turned off his motor then disembarked to note if the object could be heard. At this point he got a really good view since the object was directly west of him and the sun was no obstacle. It appeared to him that the object was traveling in a south southeasterly direction at an estimated one hundred seventy degrees and at a very high rate of speed. There was no audible sound, no vapor trail and no visible exhaust gases that he could detect.

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that as to altitude it would be most difficult to estimate since he didn't know the size of the object but it seemed to fly in a pronounced arc and on a steady course which lead him to believe the altitude to be between forty and fifty thousand feet. The phenomenon was visible for approximately sixteen or seventeen seconds and grew progressively smaller as it headed toward the southeast horizon. From the moment he sighted this object until it was no longer visible he said it covered about five eighths of the horizon. An estimate of the speed he said would be most conservative at better than fifteen hundred miles per hour. There were no other objects sighted so it is assumed the flight was solo.

The weather at the time of the sightings was as follows: At 0730Z - Clear - Visibility 15 miles - Temp 48° - Dew Pt 37° - Wind south 6 MPH. At 0830Z - Clear - Visibility 15 miles - Temp 59° - Dew Pt 36° - Wind south 7 MPH.

No known military or commercial aircraft were active over the area concerned.

Check of radar stations in area indicates no record of electronic observation of object.

0 INCL.

APPROVED: [Signature]

FRANKLIN A. FENNER
Captain, USAF
Director of Intell

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EXTRACT FROM STATUS REPORT # 7

DATE: 27 Apr 52

TIME (Local): 1308Z

LOCATION: Grand Rapids, Mich.

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 17 Seconds

SOUND: Unknown

SPEED: 1,500 mph

ALTITUDE: 40-50,000'

HEADING: SSE

SOURCE: Civilian

ACTION OR COMMENTS: Could have been aircraft distorted by morning sun.

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Very bright white object flying in arc at high speed and approximating in size a ping pong ball held at arm's length. ~~unclassified~~

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