

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 26 March through 1 Apr		2. LOCATION Lake Leelanau, Mich Empire AFS, Hazel Park, 56 Leland, Ledar, Selfridge AFS		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical Venus ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local all sight approx: GMT 27/0330Z - 0400Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION varied: 5 min to 1 1/2 hr		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE dropping over western horizon	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING See AF Form 112 on these sightings. Described as being from crescent shaped with a "stem" to a round brilliant object.				11. COMMENTS Investigated by Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS at the request of the D/I, 37th Air Division. Due to the fact that these sightings were received by separate messages, they have been carried as separate sightings occurring in the same area. Investigation revealed that Venus caused the sightings. See AF Form 112 on the case for details.	

UNCLASSIFIED

A PRIORITY
FM 752 AC AND W SQDN EMPIRE AFS MICH
TO COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO
INFO COMDR ATIC WPAFB OHIO
DIR OF INTEL HQ USAF WASHDC
COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NY
COMDR 37 ADIV TRUAX FLD WISC
COMDR 476 ADW OHARE INTL APRT ILL
BT

PARAGRAPH 10 NOT TO BE RELEASED PRIOR TO
CATEGORY 1 UNCLASSIFICATION. PHYSICALLY REMOVE
ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES BY DATE-TIME GROUP
PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION

1. (A) ROUND (B) DIME AT ARMS LENGTH (C) BRILLIANT WHITE CENTER
WITH A GREENISH GLOW (D) 1 (1) 1. (E) N/A (F) N/A (G) N/A (H)
COMPARED TO JET THRUST PUMP (I) N/A 2. (A) OBJECT HAD BEEN SIGHTED
PREVIOUSLY, SO OBSERVER WAS WATCHING FOR IT. (B) VARIED FROM 30
DEGREES TO 4 DEGREES ELEVATION, AZIMUTH OF 290 DEGREES FROM
OBSERVERS SIGHTING (C) N/A (D) APPEARED TO MOVE AND ATOP IN A
NORTHWEST DIRECTION. (E) FADED INTERMITTENTLY INTO HORIZEN. 3.
(A) GROUND VISUAL (B) N/A (C) N/A 4. (A) 0700Z 1 APRIL 56 (B)
NIGHT 5. (A) EQ15596. (A) [REDACTED], 28, [REDACTED]
HAZEL PARK MICH. ENGINEER FOR CONTINENTAL ACFT. GOOD. (B)
N/A 7. (A) CLEAR 7. (B) 6000, 280/15K10, 000, 300/20K16,
000, 300/30K20, 000, 300/550K30, 000, 310/70K50, 000, 280/25K30,
000 NONE (C) NONE (D) 15 MILES (E) NONE (F) NONE 8.
N/A 9. N/A 10. N/A 11. N/A 12. 1 LT ELDON BALKO, NO COMMEN.
BT

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Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years
GROUP 4
EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC
DECLASSIFICATION

E MICH

CATEGORY E
 ALL INTERNAL SECURITY INFORMATION PRIOR TO
 PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION BY DATE-TIME GROUP
 ISON WISC
 ILL

) RED,
 ONE
 SKY
 SMITH 090
 SIGHT
 WERE
 EES NORTH
 ER FOR
 E 7.
 2,00031
 (F)
 AFB,

GROUP 4
 Downgraded at 5 year
 intervals; declassified
 after 12 years
 13 May 68

1. (A) MUSHROOM (B) SMALLER THAN A DIME AT ARMS LENGTH (C) RED,
GREEN, WHITE (D) 1 (1) (E) N/A (F) NONE 1. (G) NONE (H) NONE
(I) NONE 2. (A) OBSERVER WAS OUT DRIVER AND SAW OBJECT IN SKY
(B) 40 DEGREES, AXIMUTH 090 DEGREES (C) 40 DEGREES, AXIMUTH 090
DEGREES (D) MOVED ON AN EASTERLY HEADING (E) FADED OUT OF SIGHT
(F) 30-5 (35) MINUTES 3. (A) GROUND VISUAL (B) BINOKULARS WERE
USED AFTER THE FIRST SIGHTING (C) N/A 4. (A) 0045Z 1 APRIL
1956 (B) NIGHT 5. LIGHT 6 DEGREES 20 MINUTES WEST, 45 DEGREES NORTH
6. (A) J. [REDACTED], 23, LAKE LEELANUA, MICH, SOLDERER FOR
PARTS MANUFACTURING CO., TRAVERSE CITY MICH. GOOD. (B) NONE 7.
(A) CLEAR SKIES (B) 6,000, 290/1510, 000310/2016, 000, 310/3530, 000310/3280,
7050, 000300/3280, 000 NONE 7. (C) NONE (D) 15 PLUS (E) NONE (F)
NONE 8. NONE 9. NONE 10. SCRAMBLED ON E F89D NUT WURTSMITH AFB,
OSCODA MICH, NO JOY. 11. NONE 12. SENIOR DIRECTOR, FIRST LT.
ERCONVERSE. NO COMMENT.



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A PRIORITY [REDACTED]
FM COMDR CHARE INTNL APRT ILL
TO COMDR 37TH AIR DIV DEF TRUAX FIELD MADISON WISC
INFO COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO
COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON OHIO
DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH 25 DC
COMDR EASTERN AIR DEF FORCE STEWART AFB NEWBURGH NY

OPN 36. UFOB IAW PAR 6B 200-2,
THE FOLL RPT IS SBMT: (1) (B) HALF DOLLAR. (C) RED YELLOW AND
WHITE EDGES, CHANGING COLORS. LELAND MICH, METAL WORKER. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], 17, LELAND MICH, STUDENT. [REDACTED], 22, LELAND
MICH, UNK. [REDACTED], 19, LELAND, UNK. (B) NEG. SECTION 7
(A) CLEAR. (B) 045 AT 11 KNOT. 140 DEG 5 KNOTS. 27025 KNOTS. 280
DEGREES, 40 KNOTS. 290 DEGREES, 50 KNOTS. 30 DEGREES, 90 KNOTS.
300 DEGREES, 50 KNOTS. NOT AVAILABLE. (C) 25000 FT
BROKEN. (D) 15 MI. (E) BROKEN. (F) NEG. SECTION 8 NEG. SECTION
9 NEG. SECTION 10 NEG. SECTION 11 NEG. SECTION 12 ASST OPS
OFFICER, 1ST LT GOERGE W SCHIELE. SIGHTING BY AT LEAST 15
PERSONS, 9 INTERVIEWED, EASTERN MOST OBSERVER OBSERVED OBJECT
2200 EST. DISSAPPEARED TO NORTH WEST AT 2235 EST. NEXT PERSON SEEING

PAGE TWO

OBJECT AT 2225 EST, DISSAPPEARED 2245 EST MVG NORTHWEST. WESTERN
OST OBSERVER SAW OBJECT AT 2245 EASTERN STD TIME, LOST SIGHT AT
2300 EST TO NORTH WEST. FIRST OBSERVER REPORTED TO BE FOUR NIGHTS
IN ROW APPEARING AND DISSAPPEARING AT EXACTLY SAME TIME. DID NOT
REPORT EARLIER FEARING NICKNAME "CRACK POT". SKETCH AVAILABLE.
NO APPARENT CONNECTION BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS OF OBSERVERS.
QUESTIONING OF OBSERVERS ACCORDING TO AFR 200-2. NO FEASIBLE EXPLANATION
OF OBSERVATION.

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Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years
13 May 68

1) 4E4
2) 4E4
3) 4E4
4) 4E4

UFOB IAW PAR 6B 200-2, THE FOL RPT IS SMBT: 1. (A) ROUND (B) PEA (C) BLUE WHITE TO BRIGHT ORANGE (D) 1 (1) (E) N/A (F) N/A. (G) LIGHT HALO (H) N/A (I) LIGHT DOES NOT FLASH, BUT GOES OFF AND ON PERIODICALLY. NO SEQUENCE 2. (A) BRIGHTNESS (B) 30 DEGREE ANGLE WEST AZIMUT (C) DID NOT MOVE (D) N/A (E) DISSAPPEARED (F) 30 MINUTES 3. (A) GROUND VISUAL (B) N/A (C) N/A 4. (A) 0150Z 30 MARCH 56 (B) NIGHT 5. FROM TRAVERSE CITY MICHIGAN TO EMPIRE MICHIGAN HIGHWAY M-72. 6. (A) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 30. EMPIRE MICHIGAN, PHILCO TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE, VERY RELIABLE. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 30. EMPIRE MICHIGAN HOUSE WIFE, VERY RELIABLE. 7. (A) CLEAR WHEN FIRST SIGHTED. *FOG

OR LOW CLOUDS AT END OF SIGHTING. (B) 6,000, 350/20K. 10, 000, 350/20K. 16,000, 340/25K. 20,000, 330/40K. 30,000, 360/40K. 50,000, 310/25K. 80,000, NONE. (C) NONE (D) 15 MILES (E) 2500 SCATTERED (F) NONE 3. NONE 9. NONE 10. NONE 11. NONE 12.

OPERATIONS OFFICER. SIGHTING HAS BEEN MADE BY MR AND MRS [REDACTED] ABOUT A DOZEN TIME SINCE JUNE 1955. RECENT SIMILAR REPORTS IN THIS AREA CAUSED THEM TO REPORT THEIR SIGHTING. MR [REDACTED] IS MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION AS A PHILCO TECH. REP. POSSIBILITY OF BEING AN EXTREMELY BRIGHT STAR. OBJECT DID NOT MOVE.

Carmen L. Marano
2d LT.
GROUP 4
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intervals; declassified
after 12 years
13 May 68

(CLASSIFICATION)

COUNTRY U.S.A.	REPORT NO 3C-UFOB-2-56 AISS-UFOB-85-87-88-90-92	(LEAVE BLANK) AF 738 375
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT UFOB		
AREA REPORTED ON Leelanau County, Mich. (Vic GJEO 1758) USA	FROM (Agency) Flight 3-C, 4602d AISS	
DATE OF REPORT 10 April 1956	DATE OF INFORMATION 27 March 1956	EVALUATION
PREPARED BY (Officer) PHILIP W. BEILFUSS, S/SGT, USAF		
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Telephone Conversation with S/Sgt Ronald DeRudder, Hq, 4602d AISS on 3 April 1956		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. One significance in final one sentence paragraph. List indexes at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112, Part II.)		
I. CONTENTS:		
PART ONE: Description of Sighting by [REDACTED]		
PART TWO: Description of Sighting by [REDACTED]		
PART THREE: Description of Sighting by P [REDACTED]		
PART FOUR: Description of Sighting by [REDACTED]		
PART FIVE: Description of Sighting by [REDACTED]		
PART SIX: Description of Sighting by [REDACTED]		
PART SEVEN: Description of Sighting by Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]		
PART EIGHT: Description of Sighting by [REDACTED]		
PART NINE: Description of Sighting by [REDACTED]		
PART TEN: Description of Sighting by S/Sgt [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]		
PART ELEVEN: Supplementary Investigative Efforts.		
PART TWELVE: Comments of Preparing Officer.		
II. SUMMARY: Investigation concluded. Probable astronomical body, the planet Venus.		
III. INVESTIGATOR: S/SGT PHILIP W. BEILFUSS AF 16 416 246		
PHILIP W. BEILFUSS AF 16 416 246 S/SGT, FLT 3-C, 4602D AISS		
LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES		
5-01 4/56		
603.2 V		
D/I, USAF; Comdr, ATIC; D/I, 37th ADiv; D/I, 30th ADiv; Comdr, 4602d AISS; OIC, Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS		

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	3C-UFOB-2-56	1A	14	

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APPROVED:

John M White Jr
JOHN M WHITE JR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part One
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	3C-UFOB-2-56	PAGE 2 OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE: ~~James E. [redacted]~~

Address: ~~Leland, Michigan~~ (GKEA 1401)

Age: 23 years

Occupation: Metal Worker

Education: High School Graduate

Qualifications: Coastal Artillery for two years.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE seemed to be quite serious in his belief that the object in question was not an aircraft or a star and did not seem to be trying to "put one over on the Air Force". A conversation with Sheriff Bob White of Leelanau County as to SOURCE's reliability terminated in the understanding that SOURCE is imaginative and tends to exaggerate his experiences and observations.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "At approximately 10:45 PM (0345Z) on March 26 (1956), I was driving from Lake Leelanau (GJEQ 1758) to Leland, Michigan (GKEA 1401). Upon getting out of my car at home, I noticed a bright object at about 40° elevation and 300° azimuth. I watched it for about five minutes and then drove back to Lake Leelanau to get my three buddies, La Verne Petrosky, August Sharnowski, and Pat Gardener. We returned to my house at about 11:00 PM (0400Z) and looked at the object for another five minutes, both visually and through 4x binoculars. The object seemed to be a crescent with a red-orange stem. It was about the size of a dime at arm's length. It seemed to hold still for a while, but after looking at it for about two or three minutes, it moved away from us and up and down very quickly. It finally just faded out. I didn't hear any sounds."

1 Incl. SOURCE'S Memory Sketch (retouched).

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (11-714)

REPORT NO.

3C-UFOB-2-56

PAGE

3

OF

14

PAGES

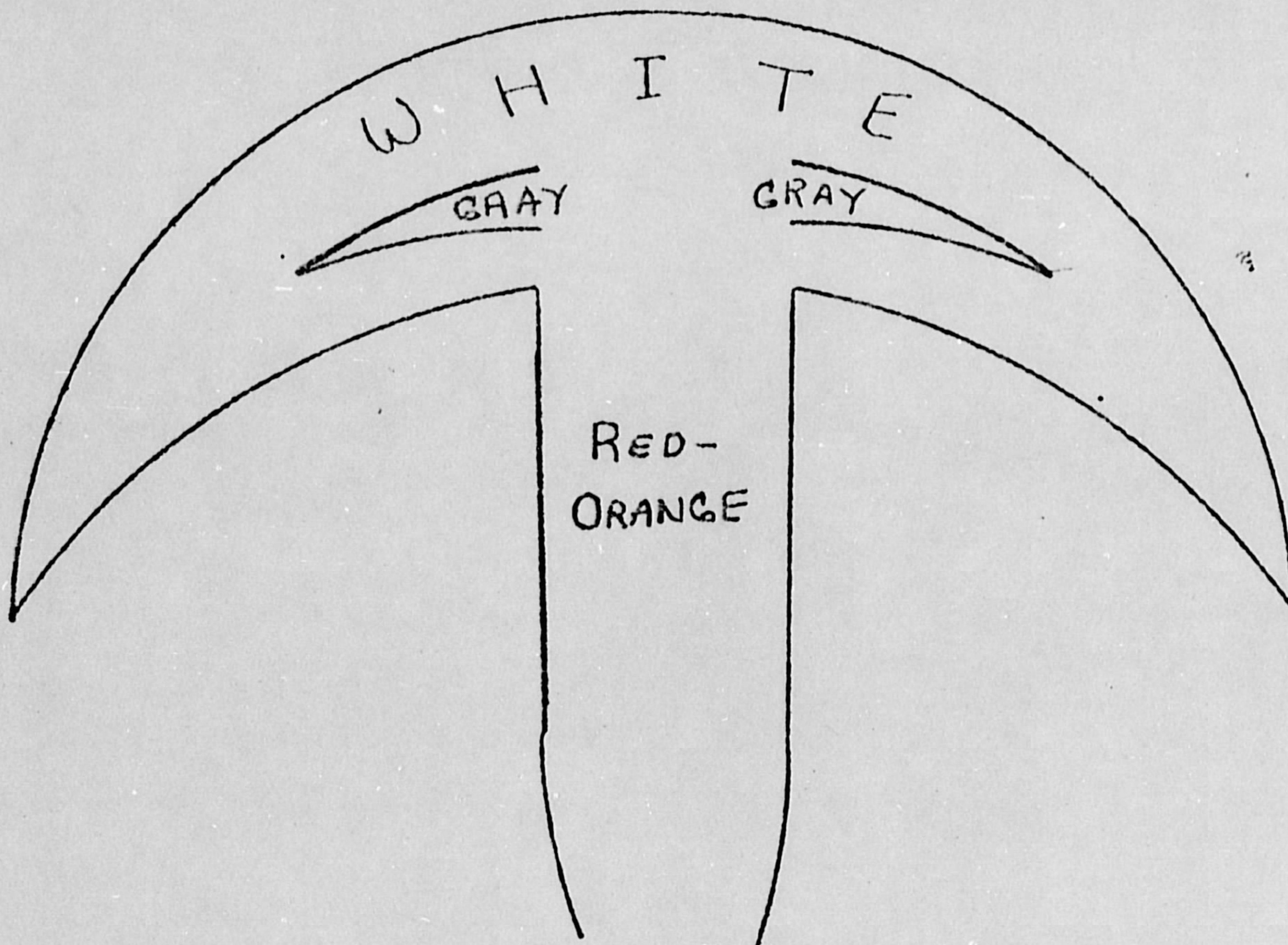
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS

Inclosure 1 to Part One:

Sketch (retouched) of UFOB, as described by

Metal Worker
Leland, Michigan

UP
↑



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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Two
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	3C-UFOB-2-56	PAGE 4 OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE: ~~██████████~~ i

Address: Leland, Michigan

Age: 22 years

Occupation: Student

Education: 3 years college

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: When interviewed by this investigator, Sheriff Bob White said of SOURCE, "He is the kind of a guy who sees something after someone else tells him he has seen it". In an interview with the SOURCE, it was noticed that he had a tendency to exaggerate in his accounts of things he had done and his perception as to depth and size of objects near and far away was unreliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "I was in the Dairy Bar at Lake Leelanau playing pool, when ~~██████████~~ came in and said he could see a Flying Saucer. Two of the other guys (~~██████████~~ and ~~██████████~~) and I went with Jim to his house. We all watched the object for about 10 minutes and then it disappeared. It didn't look like an airplane, but it changed colors from red to green to white. After we had been watching for another 10 minutes it just went out. We used a pair of binoculars to look at the object and Jim made a drawing of it. That's the way it looked to me too."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Three	PAGE	OF	PAGES
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	3C-UFOB-2-56	5	14		

I. SOURCE: ~~REDACTED~~

Address: Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Age: 19 years

Occupation: Student

Education: Presently a college freshman.

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE was a very likable adolescent. He seemed to be quite sincere in his story of the sighting and was eager to help as much as possible. Sheriff White said that he is level headed and quite reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "I was at the Dairy Bar in Lake Leelanau at about 10:50 (0350Z) on March 26 when Jim came running in to report that he had seen a Flying Saucer near his house. Naturally we all went out to his house to take a look. There was a very bright light in the sky, like a very bright star. The only difference was that it changed colors and seemed to be moving erratically through the sky. We watched it for about five minutes after we got there through binoculars (4x) and then it just seemed to fade out. We heard no sound and the object was about the size of a pea at arm's length. Jim said it was crescent shaped with a red-orange stem, but I couldn't see the stem."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Four	PAGE	OF	PAGES
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	30-UFOB-2-56	6	14		

I. SOURCE: ~~██████████~~

Address: Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Age: 17 years

Occupation: Student

Education: High School Senior

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: The SOURCE was quite excited over the possibility that the object might be something from outer space. Sheriff White was not familiar with the SOURCE.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: ~~██████████~~ came into the Dairy Bar in Lake Leelanau at about 10:45 PM (0345Z) March 26 saying he had seen a flying saucer. I went with him to his house where we watched a bright star-like object for about five or ten minutes. The object seemed to be crescent-shaped and changed color from red to green to white. We looked at it through binoculars (4x) and Jim drew a sketch of what it looked like. The object was in the west and seemed to jump up and down rapidly before it just seemed to fade away."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Five
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	3C-UFOB-2-56	PAGE 7 OF 14 PAGES

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I. SOURCE: Mrs. [REDACTED]

Address: Rural Route One (Box 130), Cedar, Michigan

Age: 66 years

Occupation: Farmer

Education: Grammar School

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: Most of those interviewed, when asked about the reliability of the SOURCE, gave the impression that she was a bit eccentric and easily excited. She was very sure of what she had seen and remarked that it terrified her.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "I was sitting in the house sewing last saturday evening at about 10:30 PM (010330Z April 56) when my three dogs started howling and carrying on out in the yard. I went to the back door to see what was the matter. When I opened the door, all three dogs nearly knocked me down trying to get into the house. Their faces were snow white and all their hair was standing on end. I stepped out into the yard and saw a huge reddish-orange object, big as a bushel basket at arm's length, hovering over the trees and Lake Leelanau. I rushed back into the house and reported it to the radar base. When I got back to the window it disappeared behind some clouds."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Par t Six
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	30-UFOB-2-56	PAGE 8 OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE: ~~████████████████████~~

Address: 752nd AC&W Squadron, Empire AF Station, Michigan

Age: 30 years

Occupation: Philco Technical Representative

Education: College Graduate

Qualifications: Graduate Engineer, five years with Philco.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE is considered by all concerned as an excellent source of information. Talks with personnel at the radar site disclosed that he is considered as one of "the best". Mr. ~~██████████~~ was very sincere in his opinions and eager to help as much as possible.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "Before I say anything else, let me make it clear to you that I'm almost certain that the object I've seen is a star. My wife and I have seen this object quite often in the last few days, in fact on every clear night. We usually see it at about 9:00 to 10:30 in the evening while driving from Traverse City (GJEQ 2245) back to Empire (GJDQ 5049). It stands out and our attention is always attracted due to its unusual brilliance. At times, however, it seems to go out (the light) and then reappear. In color it ranges from a bright blue-white to orange. I haven't heard any noise along with the sightings. The object is about the size of a pea at arm's length and is seen in the west. It doesn't seem to move fast enough so that you can visually observe it, but in the course of an evening or an hour's time you can tell that it has dropped toward the horizon. The only reason I even mentioned that I had seen it was that I'd heard so much about "flying objects" being seen around here. I feel almost certain that the object is a star."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Seven
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	30-UFOB-2-56	PAGE 9 OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE: Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED], Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Ages: 30 and 29 years, respectively.

Occupation: Farmers

Education: High School

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: Both seemed sincere in their belief that it wasn't an aircraft or a star. As far as could be determined, they are both solid citizens of the area and are respected by other members of the community.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "We were driving from Traverse City to Lake Leelanau, when we noticed this bright, round object in the west. It was red-orange in color and seemed to be moving. We stopped the car and watched it for about 20 minutes. It seemed to be at an angle of about 30° from us and was receding into the west and away from us. There wasn't any sound or other strange features about it. It was about 10:25 (0325Z) when we first spotted it and it disappeared at about 10:45 (010345Z April 1956) either behind some hills or clouds, or the horizon."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM: Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO: 3C-UFOB-2-56	Part Eight
		PAGE 10 OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED], Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Age: 30 years

Occupation: Farmer

Education: High School

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE seems to be very sincere in his account of the sighting. During the interview, he stated that he had seen this object for a period of about 4 nights, but had been reticent in reporting it due to a fear of being labeled a "crackpot".

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "On the 26th of March I observed this circular, bright object at about 30° elevation in the west. It was about the size of a fifty cent piece at arm's length and was reddish with yellow or white edges. It changed colors while I was watching it. It also seemed to have legs or rays projecting from it. I could hear a faint sound like a hissing or a motor. It receded and faded away from me, disappearing in the west about 11:00 PM (0400Z), about 40 minutes after I had first seen it. It seemed to disappear below the horizon. I was observing the object with a pair of 6x binoculars. The sky was clear, without any noticeable clouds. The legs and colors, as well as the brightness of the object were the reasons I noticed it in the first place. I didn't want to be called a crackpot, so I waited a couple of nights to be sure of what I saw."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM: Agency	REPORT NO.	Part Nine	
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	3C-UFOB-2-56	PAGE 11	OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED], Hazel Park, Michigan (GTCN 5228)

Age: 28 years

Occupation: Engineer with Continental Aircraft

Education: College Graduate

Qualifications: Pilot in WW II, still flies light aircraft.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE is considered very reliable by all persons interviewed, as well as this investigator. Probably one of the most reliable persons to have sighted the object.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "I had seen this bright object in the sky previously and was watching for it at about 11 PM (0400Z) on the night of 31 March 1956. The object was about the size of a dime, white with a greenish cast. When I listened closely, I could hear a sound like that of a jet thrust pump. It was at an elevation of 30° - 40° and an azimuth of approximately 290°. It appeared to move and then stop intermittently in a northwesterly direction. I watched it for quite a while and it appeared to fade occasionally into the horizon and finally faded out entirely. The night was quite clear and I had no optical aids through which to view the object. I happened to be visiting my folks in Lake Leelanau at the time which accounts for the disparity in the address and the place of sighting."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM: Agency	REPORT NO.	Part Ten	PAGE	12	OF	14	PAGES
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	3C-UFOB-2-56						

I. SOURCE: ██████████ S/Sgt, USAF

Occupation: Operational Intelligence Specialist

Organization: Flight 3-C, 4602d AISS
Selfridge AFB Michigan

Age: 24 years

Education: 3 years of college, Technical Intelligence School at ATIC.

II. RELIABILITY: As the investigator as well as the SOURCE in this part, I find it rather difficult to give an estimate of my own reliability. My eyesight and hearing are normal and I will give as clear a picture as possible as to the various events concerning my sighting.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "Upon my arrival in Traverse City, Michigan, I immediately drove to the Empire AF Station to interview those at the site who had seen the object. 1/Lt Eldon Balko volunteered to accompany me on a trip to the section of the county where the object had been sighted. At 04 2345Z April 1956, 1/Lt Balko and I began the drive to Sutton's Bay from Traverse City. We first interviewed the proprietor of a general store, but met with negative results. We next stopped at a gas station with the same effect. However, as we were leaving, ██████████ entered. After a short talk and interview (see Part One) we received directions to the Dairy Bar in Lake Leelanau, where three others who had seen the object were at present. Upon arriving at the Dairy Bar, Lt Balko and I noticed a brightly shining star in the west and commented on the possibility of it being the UFOB. We entered and questioned the three boys, ██████████, ██████████, and ██████████ with the results detailed in parts 3, 4, and 5. While we were still at the Dairy Bar, one of the boys stepped outside for a moment and came back in announcing "It's up there right now!". Lt Balko and I rushed outdoors to view the object. As soon as it was pointed out to us, we both thought it was a star and wondered how anyone could mistake it for anything else. There was some disagreement on the part of the boys as to whether or not it was the UFOB. While we were watching, the object disappeared behind a cloud and most of those present thought it had "just faded out". Lt Balko and I then went to Leland (GKEA 1401) to interview the Leelanau County Sheriff, Bob White. Sheriff White was, according to ██████████, another person who had seen the object. However, when interviewed, Sheriff White stated that the only object he had ever seen was the brightly shining star visible from his office window. This was also determined to be the same object as the others in Lake Leelanau had seen. Don Gordon, the editor of a small-town newspaper in Leland also arrived on the scene and stated that he had never seen anything more suspicious than the planet Venus, which was at its brightest at this time of the year. During the course of the interview, a check was made with the radar site to see if there had been any further sightings. It was discovered that ██████████ and his companions had seen what they considered to be the object low in the west. Lt Balko, Editor Gordon, and I rushed to the Lake Michigan shore and from there observed a faint light in the western sky at an elevation of about 15°. The light seemed to change color from red to gold-red to green and occasionally seemed almost grey-white. This object seemed to be the planet Venus, much lower in the sky at 11:30 PM (0430Z) than before. While we were watching, the haze or clouds near the horizon completely obscured the object."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Eleven	
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	3C-UFOB-2-56	PAGE 13	OF 14 PAGES

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. A check with the 752nd AC&W Sqdn weather log and Traverse City Airport revealed no significant meteorological data which could be related to the UFOB sightings.

2. S/Sgt Beilfuss contacted personnel of the 752nd AC&W Sqdn and it was determined that there were no radar fixes made during the period covered by these reports.

3. Extensive informal questioning of personnel of the 752nd AC&W Sqdn revealed that the majority of all personnel who had seen any unusual object thought that it was merely a bright star and nothing in the UFOB line at all.

4. S/Sgt Beilfuss and 1/Lt Balko of the radar site spent from 04 2400Z April 1956 until 05 0600Z April 1956 interviewing persons in the area (see Part Ten) in an effort to determine the cause of the sightings.

5. Sheriff Bob White of Leelanau County was interviewed in an effort to determine reliability of the persons questioned. Results are included in the individual report parts, where applicable.

6. There were no known aircraft operating in the vicinity at the time of sightings.

7. On 9 April 1956, S/Sgt Beilfuss interviewed Professor Everett R. Phelps of the Wayne University (Detroit) Astronomy Department. The following facts and comments were received from Dr. Phelps:

- a. In relation to the sighting by Mrs. [REDACTED] (See Part Five), the moon was full at the time of her sighting. It was determined that the back door of her house faced east and that the moon would be rising at the approximate time of her sighting. Although this does not explain the dogs turning white and their hair standing on end, it is reasonable to assume that Mrs. Dilland was viewing the moonrise.
- b. Possible explanations for the color-changing of the object:
 - (1) Ordinary binoculars have no chromatic correction.
 - (2) There is a slight varying of refraction due to unequal heating of the atmosphere near the horizon.
- c. In relation to the sketch by [REDACTED], the planet Venus at this time is in a state or stage whereby, when viewed through binoculars or a telescope, it would appear as a crescent-shaped object. There is no explanation for the stem or tail, astronomically speaking.

8. 1/Lt Schiele, who had been mentioned as a possible SOURCE by Sgt DeRudder was on leave at the time of the investigation and could not be contacted.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 30-UFOB-2-56	Part Twelve	PAGE 14 OF 14 PAGES
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COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER:

1. It is the opinion of the preparing investigator that the UFOB described in this report probably was the planet Venus for the following reasons:

- a. When interviewed SOURCES [REDACTED] and companions pointed to a brightly shining object and said "That looks like it". The object was, in this investigators opinion, the planet Venus.
- b. Most of the other SOURCES stated that the object was observed in a position corresponding to that of Venus at this time of year.
- c. Comments of Sheriff Bob White on the reliability of those concerned was "They are honest people who would report what they saw, but are inclined to exaggerate and overemphasize in some cases." Speaking of [REDACTED] and his companions, he stated that "one of that group probably was told that he saw it, and then did."
- d. Those individuals who were considered as reliable, as a rule, thought that "It could be a bright star".
- e. From his own observation of the object, this investigator concluded that the object in question was an unusually brilliant astronomical body. No sounds were heard at any time and the object never attained a size of anything larger than a pea at arm's length. This investigator would tend to attribute these inconsistencies in size, shape, and color to individual variations in perceptiveness. One person interviewed while actually observing the object was later asked to describe it as to size. The answer was "Oh, about the size of a baseball (at arm's length)". And then after being taken outside to interview the object again, "My, it's only the size of a small pea!", which it was.
- f. Mr. S. [REDACTED], considered a very reliable SOURCE, stated that he had thought it was a star all along, but that upon hearing so much about "flying objects" reported his sightings to the Commander, 752nd AC&W Sqdn.

Philip W. Beilfuss
PHILIP W. BEILFUSS AF 16416246
S/Sgt, Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

Concur with the opinion of the investigator that this sighting was astronomical in nature. It is the opinion of this headquarters that the information contained in this report substantiates a conclusion of "WAS ASTRONOMICAL".

JMW

1956

RADAR STATION INVESTIGATES WAVE OF SAUCER REPORTS IN

LELAND, MICHIGAN: Major Homer D. Champlin, commanding officer of the 252nd A.C.&W. Squadron at Empire, Michigan, said that the base received several reports of an unidentified light in the sky between 10-30 and 11-00 on the night of March 27th. The best report was supplied by J. Wurn, who said that the light appeared to be red and white, slightly larger than a star, when seen with the naked eye; but when Wurn watched it through binoculars, he saw that the object was shaped like "an upright mushroom", with the "stem" red-orange and the top white. Wurn said it moved slowly for about 15 minutes, and then disappeared rapidly in the western sky about 40 degrees above the horizon. Major Champlin ordered two of his officers to interview all persons who reported seeing this object.

Mar. 28—Traverse City & Leelanau County, Mich.—"Persons in at least 10 different locations" reported an "unidentified object" between 10:30 and 11 p.m. Air Force Major Homer D. Champlin said his A.C.&W. Squadron base at Empire "received several reports of the lights," adding that "no aircraft were reported in the vicinity and the object did not show up on radar scopes." James Wurn gave the airmen their best account: "...it appeared at first just to be a red and white light, somewhat larger than a star, but on checking through 4-power binoculars" he "determined that the object was shaped something like an upright mushroom, with the 'stem' red-orange and the top white...it moved slowly for approximately 15 minutes, then disappeared rapidly into the western sky about 40 degrees above the horizon." Mr. Wurn identified three other witnesses—Laverne Peterson, August Sharnowski and Pat Gardner. Another observer, Charles Rybach, followed the UFO by car for several minutes. Investigating officer Lt. Warren Schiele said one woman "first was attracted to the object by the barking of her dog. She reported the object as making a faint sound." (Leland, Leelanau Enterprise Tribune, 3/30.)