

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 29 May 58		2. LOCATION Teenton, N.J.		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other <u>Photo Flaw</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>2330 to 2400</u> GMT <u>30/0430Z</u>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☒ Yes Telescope attached to camera ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION N/A		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one			
9. COURSE N/A					
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Photo taken of the moon which showed small, white unidentified speck.			11. COMMENTS In view of review & analysis by Photo unit, conclusion drawn that "speck" caused by crystallization of the grains of photographic emulsion.		

AFCIN-4E4/Capt7 egory/ac
Ext 6-9216/Bldg 328
Typed 13 Aug 58 (Retyped 21 Aug 58)

FILE CLASS: _____
OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Ltr dtd 25 July 1958, Subj: (U) Unidentified Object Photographed
Moon, 29 May 58 by [REDACTED] at Trenton, N. J.

1st Ind.

10 AUG-955 OFFICE OF RECORD

COORDINATION

AFCIN-4 AFCIN-4E4

Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

AFCIN-4X2b TC

The Inspector General, USAF, 5th District Office of Special Investigations, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

AFCIN-4X2c

1. A review of subject photographs and attendant report has been made by this Center.

AFCIN-4X3

2. This Center does not concur with source's statement that the white speck photographed over the face of the moon is not the result of faulty equipment or poor developing materials. Examinations, involving both microscopic studies and photographic enlargements, indicate that the spot is a defect. Technically, it is the conclusion of this Center that the spot was caused by grain crystallization of the photographic emulsion on the film. These grains clump together and fuse during the development process. This is a common occurrence that in general appears in about one out of fifty photographs developed.

AFCIN-4X4

AFCIN-4X5

AFCIN-4A

3. A review by a scientist and a professional astronomer who spent many years with the Harvard Observatory confirms this. This scientist has examined over 25,000 photographic plates and has noted many such defects.

AFCIN-4B

AFCIN-4C

AFCIN-4D

AFCIN-4E

AFCIN-4F

OTHERS

4. Our investigators disclose that from official observatories and related agencies which were observing the moon at that specific time (2330 - 2400) as alleged by source, no reports were received of any object transversing the face of the moon.

5. The fact that source, by his own admission, states that this was his first attempt at astro-photography, that he is unemployed, and that he saw fit to submit this photograph to LIFE magazine (apparently for sale), is considered significant and undoubtedly provides a clue as to the real motive behind the matter.

6. Par. 19c, AFR 200-2, dated 8 February 1958, specifically directs that all original UFO photographs and related material be returned to the owner. Attached here is the original 35mm negative and two enlargements made therefrom for return to the owner.

7. Inclosures, other than the original 35mm negative, have been withdrawn for entry into official UFO case files.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl:

1. w/d

Added 1 Incl.

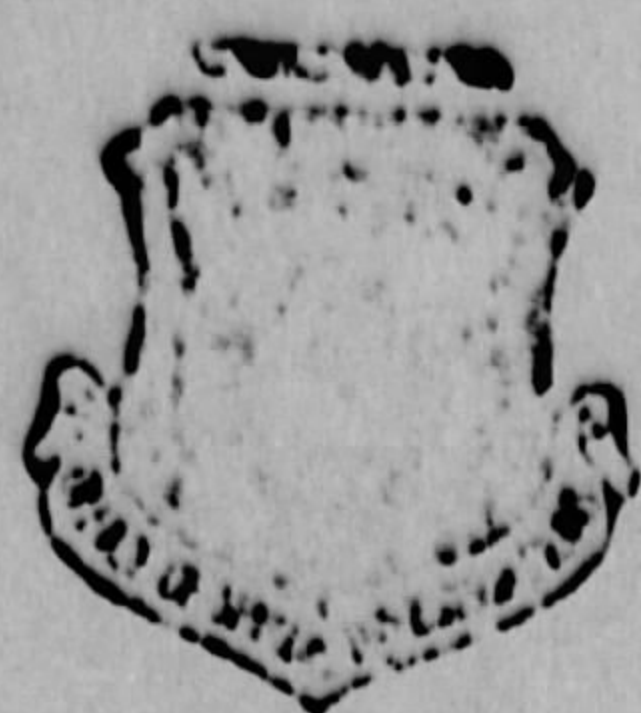
2. 35mm neg

w.2 enlargements

H. K. GILBERT
Colonel, USAF

8/25/58
Deputy for Science
and Components

PERM	
TEMP	
90 DAYS	
INITIAL	



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, OHIO

25 July 1959

SD-24-11-

SUBJECT: (U)

Unidentified Object Photographed
on Moon, 27 May 59, [REDACTED]
at Dayton, Ohio.

TO: Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
ATTN: AFIC-1716
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

1. Transmitted herewith for your information and any action deemed appropriate is one (1) copy of Report of Investigation of Special Agent ALBERT S. WILKS, II, District Office No. 2, File 24-114, dated 22 July 1959, concerning subject matter.
2. It will be noted that the OSI investigation concerning this matter is in a closed status.
3. Your attention is invited to the provisions of AFR 124-1, which prohibit the release of investigative information to unauthorized persons.

1 Incl
ROI, DO #2, dtd 22 Jul 59

Copy furnished:
Dir OSI o/c Incl

DOYLE REES
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

*Original returned with 1st document. Sent
to AFIC with carbon copy.*

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ **UNCLASSIFIED**
24-614

JUL 22 1958 alt/ep

TITLE
Unidentified Object Photographed
on Moon, 29 May 58 by HENRY J.
NICKLIN, at Trenton, N. J.

REPORT MADE BY
ALBERT B. WELLS II, S/A

REPORT MADE AT
DO#2, 111 E. 16th St., New York 3, N.Y.

PERIOD
16 June 1958

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
DO#2, 111 E. 16th St., New York 3, N.Y.

STATUS
CLOSED

CHARACTER
SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE
INITIAL REPORT

SYNOPSIS

Investigation initiated pursuant to request of District Commander, DO#3, subsequent to information supplied by JAMES A. REEDER, Chief, 2d U.S. Army Industrial Security Office, Philadelphia, Pa. REEDER indicated that [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Trenton, N.J., a professional photographer, had made a telescopic photograph of the moon, which reflected a small white unidentifiable speck. Original negative and copy of photograph accompanied by pertinent information supplied by [REDACTED] inclosed this report for ATIC, WPAFB, per AFR 200-2, paragraph 19.

AFR 205-8

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION: DISCLOSURE OF THE NATURE, SOURCES, OR EVEN THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH INFORMATION, INCLUDING THAT CONTAINED IN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS, TO PERSONS INVOLVED OR MENTIONED IN THE REPORTS OR TO OTHER PERSONS NOT NORMALLY ENTITLED TO SUCH INFORMATION MAY BE MADE ONLY WHEN EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS (IG), OR HIGHER AUTHORITY.

DISTRIBUTION
Comdr, McGuire AFB
(Info)(Incl)

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO
1 Commander
Air Technical Intelligence
Center
2 Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

FILE STAMP

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2

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DO#14 (ZI)(Incl) R 5200.10

(ADC-Info-1)(Incl) 24-31-223

Dir OSI (ZI)(Incl)

APPROVED
[Signature]
Lt Colonel, USAF
For and in the absence of
WILLIAM W. ROBERTS
Colonel, USAF

File

2

UNCLASSIFIED District Commander.

AFHQ FORM 0-208
1 MAR 56

PREVIOUS EDITION OF THIS FORM MAY BE USED

16-57744-2 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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2D 24-614

DETAILS:

1. This investigation was initiated pursuant to request of District Commander, OSI District Office #3, File 24-203, dated 6 June 1958, subsequent to information supplied by Mr. JAMES A. REEDER, Chief, 2d U.S. Army Industrial Security Office, 5100 Princeton Avenue, Philadelphia 35, Pennsylvania. REEDER related that he had received a telephone call from MARTIN J. BAILEY, Superintendent, Plant Protection Department, U.S. Steel, Fairless Works, Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania. According to REEDER, BAILEY stated that a former employee, [REDACTED], Trenton, New Jersey, had produced a photograph taken of the moon on 29 May 1958 on which there was a small white unidentifiable speck. According to BAILEY, [REDACTED] is an expert photographer, presently doing research for Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey. [REDACTED] maintained that this white speck, approximately the size of a pin-head, is not the result of faulty equipment or poor developing materials.

AT PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

2. On 16 June 1958, the writer interviewed Mr. JAMES HENRY, Assistant Personnel Director, Stanhope Hall, Princeton, New Jersey, who advised that [REDACTED] had made application for work at Princeton University but was not at present hired. HENRY further stated that he was himself an amateur astronomer and had therefore asked [REDACTED] for a copy of his photograph, which he (HENRY) then forwarded for purposes of inspection to Dr. [REDACTED], Director, Project Matterhorn, Forrestal Research Laboratory, Princeton, New Jersey.

3. On 16 June 1958, [REDACTED] was interviewed by the writer. He stated he had seen a copy of the photograph in question which he considered to be "interesting". He added, however, that in the field of astronomy no opinions of a photograph could be made on a single exposure. SPITZER stated that in his opinion no significance could be paid a situation such as this without corroboration from several further photographs taken at different times.

AT TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

4. On 16 June 1958, [REDACTED] was interviewed by the writer, at his home, 944 S. Olden Avenue. He stated that the photograph was taken as one of a series of exposures on the night of 29 May 1958 between the hours of 2330 and 2400. He indicated he had been a "free-lance" photographer since 1937. He indicated the following information regarding himself:

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- a. Date of Birth: 18 November 1905. Place of Birth: Trenton, New Jersey. Trenton resident for eighteen (18) years.
- b. Employments:
- (1) August 1941 - September 1945. Pennsylvania Railroad - railroad police and photographer for the railroad, Trenton, New Jersey.
 - (2) September 1948 - June 1950. J. A. Roebling Company, Trenton, New Jersey - guard. Free-lance photographer and night-club organist during unemployed periods.
 - (3) January 1951 - 1954. Security Department, U.S. Steel, Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania.
 - (4) 1952 - 12 December 1957. Industrial photographer, U.S. Steel, Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania.
 - (5) 13 December 1957 to present - unemployed.

5. In accordance with paragraph 15, AFR 200-2, the following information was obtained regarding the photograph:

15 a. Description of the Object

- (1) Shape: round
- (2) Size compared to a known object: head of a pin
- (3) Color: white (on black and white negative)
- (4) Number: one (1) object
- (5) Formation, if more than one: N/A
- (6) Any discernable features or details: none
- (7) No tail, trail or exhaust
- (8) Sound: none.

b. Description of Course of Object

- (1) Spot on 35 millimeter film negative, not observed on any other negatives exposed that or subsequent evenings.
- (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) - N/A.

c. Manner of Observation

- (1) Ground visual
- (2) Statement of Optical Aids: telescope attached to camera. (3" mirror, 40" reflector coupled to single lens reflex.)

d. Time and Date of Sighting

- (1) Between 2330 and 2400 hours, Eastern Daylight Time, 29 May 1958
- (2) Light Conditions: night.

e. Location of Observer: Trenton, New Jersey, 40° North - 70° West.

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- f. Identifying Data: Civilian, [REDACTED]; age: 53 years; residence: [REDACTED], Trenton, New Jersey; employment: unemployed.
- g. Weather and Winds - Aloft Conditions at Time and Place of Sighting(s):
- (1) Observer account of weather conditions: Perfectly clear, no clouds or visible haze
 - (2) Report from nearest AWS or U.S. Weather Bureau Office of wind direction and velocity in degrees and knots at surface:
 - WNW at 8 knots
 - 6,000 feet: 320° at 16 knots
 - 10,000 feet: 310° at 27 knots
 - 16,000 feet: 300° at 46 knots
 - 20,000 feet: 300° at 54 knots
 - 30,000 feet: 300° at 73 knots
 - 50,000 feet: 280° at 56 knots
 - 80,000 feet: not available
 - (3) Ceiling: clear
 - (4) Visibility: clear
 - (5) Amount of Cloud Cover: none
 - (6) Thunderstorms in Area: N/A.

The above information furnished by S/Sgt WILBUR D. JENNINGS, AF-38181443, McGuire Air Force Base, Weather Station.

h, i, j, k: N/A

- l. Physical Evidence: Original negative of photograph which was furnished by NICKLIN.

6. In accordance with paragraph 17, AFR 200-2, the following comment is deemed advisable: [REDACTED] stated that subject photograph was his initial attempt at astronomical photography. [REDACTED] further stated that due to the lack of interest in his "discovery", he had forwarded a copy of the photograph to LIFE Magazine, on 11 June 1958. He further indicated he had received no answer from the magazine as of 16 June 1958.

7. The following physical evidence is reported in accordance with paragraph 19, AFR 200-2: *apparently interested in monetary remuneration*

Photographic:

- a. Type and make of Camera: Soligar, 35mm.
- b. Type, focal length, and make of lens: 40", focal length unknown, Sky-scope, respectively.
- c. Brand and type of Film: Eastman Panatomic.
- d. Shutter speed used: 100th sec.

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- e. Lens opening used: unknown - (f1.2 - 22).
- f. Filters used: N/A
- g. Tripod was used.
- h. Was "panning used": No.
- i. Direction camera was pointing with relation to true North: South-West.

INCLOSURES

FOR COMMANDER, AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER (ATIC), WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO

- 1. One (1) copy of photograph showing object in question, taken between 2330 and 2400 hours, 29 May 1958.
- 2. One (1) copy of photograph minus the object in question, taken the same night.
- 3. Original 35 mm negative from which photograph in question was produced.

FOR DISTRICT COMMANDER, DISTRICT OFFICE NR. 14, OSI, LOWRY AFB, COLO.

FOR COMMANDING GENERAL, AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, ENT AFB, COLO.

FOR DISTRICT COMMANDER, DISTRICT OFFICE NR. 5, OSI, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO

FOR COMMANDER, MCGUIRE AFB, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

FOR DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

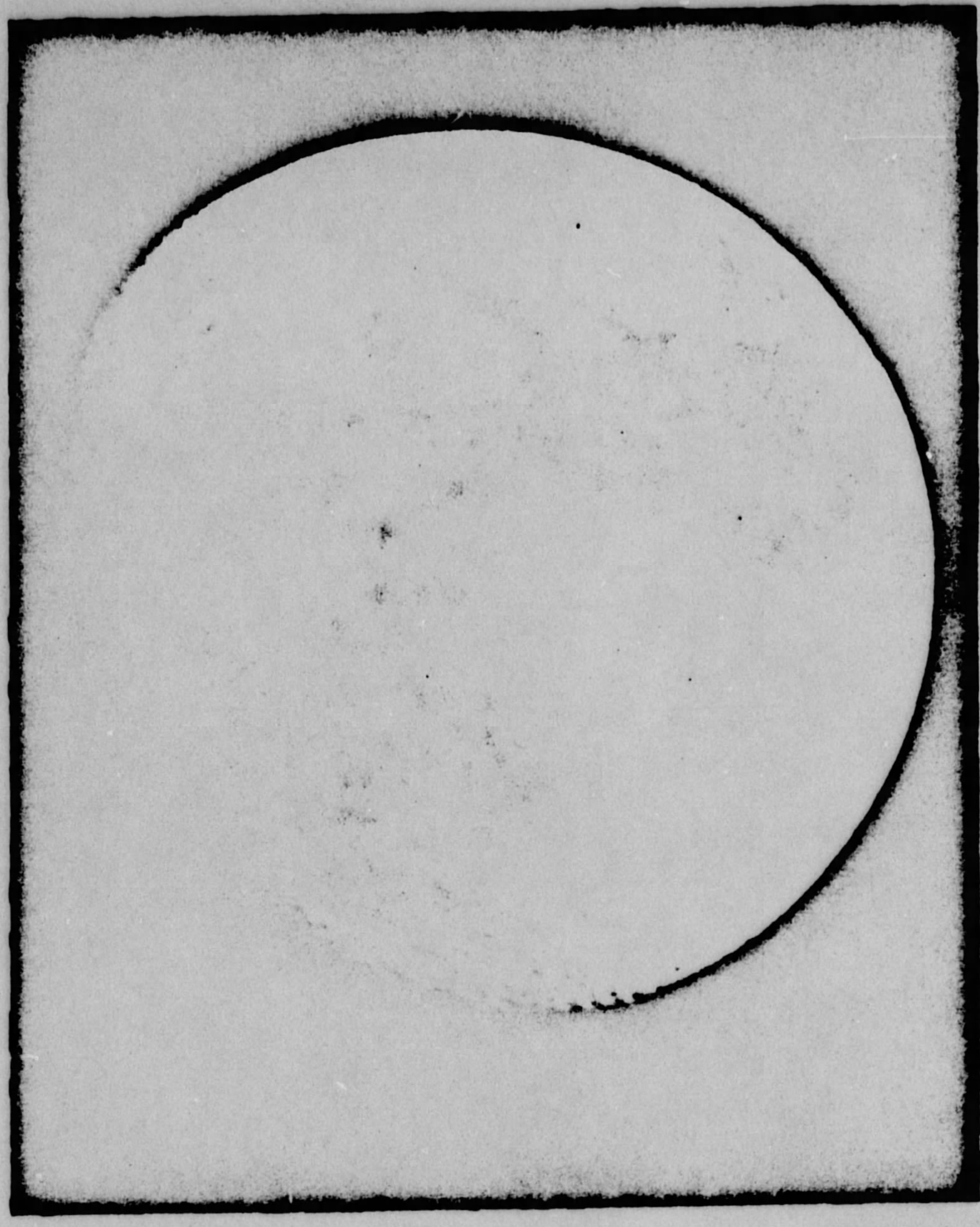
Copy of photograph showing object in question, taken between 2330 and 2400 hours, 29 May 1958.

- CLOSED -

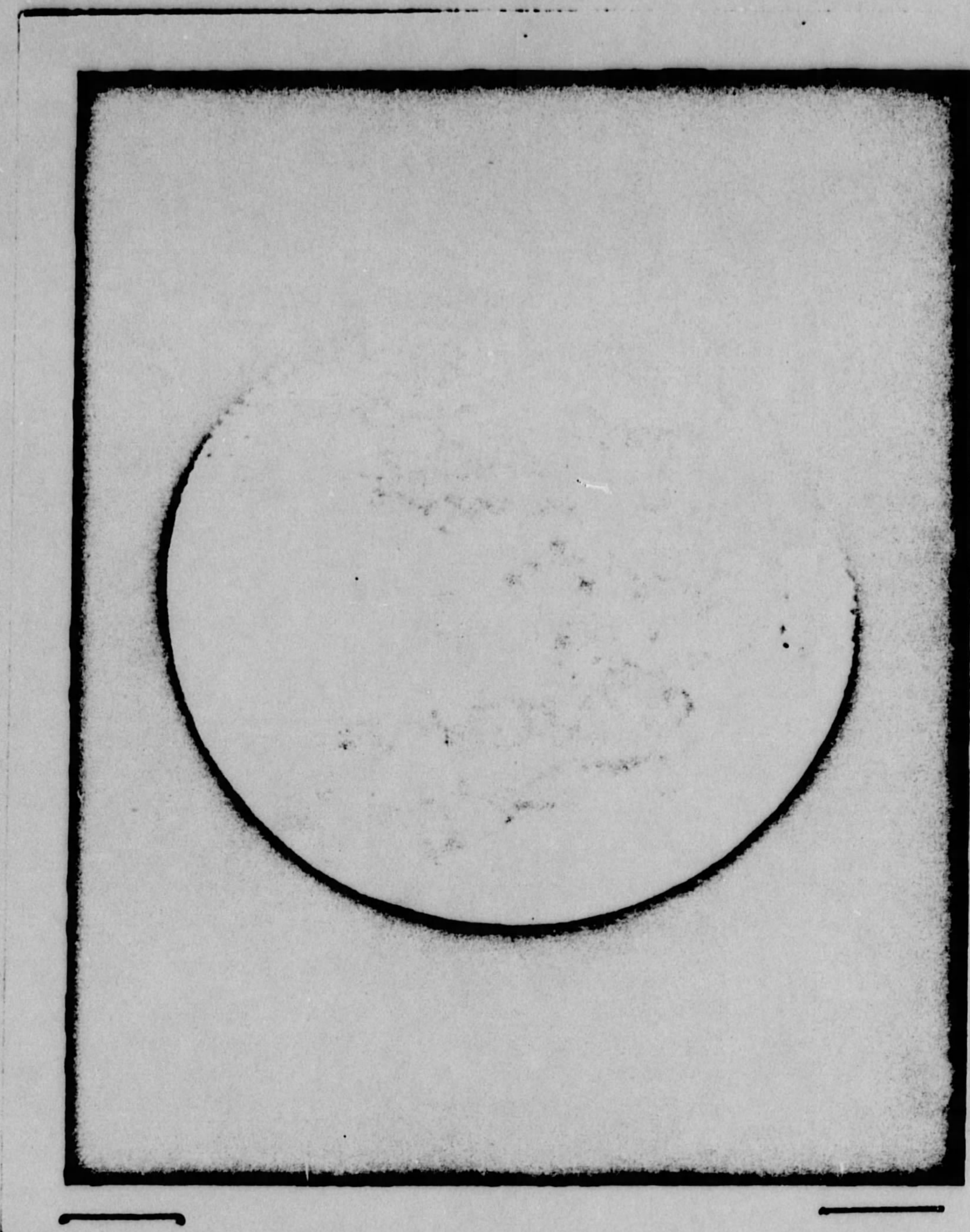
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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 10 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

Doc #1



Sh. 10 #2



100/242

Ro!

RD1:
SIA ALBERT B. WILKINS
OSI DO # 2 (21)

Aug 3

1 ONLY 8X10
GLOSSY PHOTOGRAPH
SHOWING UNIDENTIFIED
WHITE SPECIE ON MOON

UNCLASSIFIED

OTHER (PHOTO FLAN)

amateur astronomer

Source: UNEMPLOYED,

— PHOTOGRAPH —

H. J. NICKLIN

Note to Capt. Greg:

This spot on the moon shown in Enclosure 1 is some sort of a defect. I have examined around 25,000 photographic plates at Harvard College Observatory and have noted many such defects. That they were such was proved by the fact that many pairs of plates taken with different telescopes showed such spurious images on one plate and nothing unusual on the other-- in some cases disproving the suspicion of a new nova.

6 Aug 58

Checks with observations



= OSU msg; to be with 9/19 - plus at
that time by students. Plates have nothing

all

negative

Harvard University - Obs. made during that period. Negative

Dr. Lynda people; Cambridge (Moonwatched years) negative

see general reports from units in "Digital Tool Folder"
Sigs # 8

MA. W. W. Chilton

In conversation with Chief, Photo unit who
reviewed negative: stated that in his opinion
object is cancel by crystallization of the grains of
photographic emulsion on the film. This is
a fairly common occurrence. That will happen a
at least once a year. 50 negative have since been
by grain, overlapping traces of white dust.

29 May 1958 Trenton, New Jersey

ALL DEVELOP
FLAWS

NEG = 35 MM