

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 22 Mar 59		2. LOCATION 5 mi N of Ann Arbor, Michigan		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Floodlighted telescope ☒ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 0130 GMT 220630Z Mar 59		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 8-10 mins		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE E	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Shining obj w/flashing red lights. 20-30 ft in diameter. "Looked like a lit-up bird cage." Lit up surrounding area. Very low when first sighted. Disappeared at high alt. Straight & level, then zoomed up. Climbed rapidly out of sight.				11. COMMENTS Fm a rpt fm Univ of Mich. observatory //it is concluded the witnesses saw the observatory crew working w/their radio-telescope. This telescope was lighted w/a floodlight & an almost full moon. The dish also has wire mesh attached which would create the "bird-cage" rptd by source. Red lights could be fm the WVOM radio tower which is in line w/source's location & observatory. The telescope was elevated fm the SW, location of obj to the zenith then the flood light was turned off, creating the disappearance of obj.	

FINAL GALLEY PROOF

Galley 90—THE WORLD OF FLYING SAUCERS

hovering in the sky south of the road. According to their report to the Air Force, the UFO was an elongated oval with a dome on top, something like a bird cage, and brilliantly illuminated by two shafts of intense pale-yellow light that sprang from the bottom and converged over the top. Frightened at this apparition, the witnesses could provide only uncertain estimates of distance and size. The object seemed to be twenty to thirty feet in diameter, was at an altitude of about 200 feet when first seen, and was hovering about two miles away. As they drove on, the object seemed to move and travel parallel with the car for about a mile. The the yellow lights dimmed and a circle of eight or ten red lights suddenly appeared on the underside, the UFO rose vertically, very rapidly, and vanished in a few seconds. It had been in view for a period of five to ten minutes.

Checking the most probable explanations first, ATIC officials found that the nearby Willow Run Airport had had no aircraft in the vicinity at the time and that no star or planet seemed to be involved. Further investigation showed that the flying bird cage was actually the radio telescope of the University of Michigan. The telescope was installed on the top of Peach Mountain and was clearly visible from the road on which the witnesses were traveling. On the underside of the eighty-five-foot "dish" was a wire-mesh structure that suggested the bird cage. At the time of the sighting the dish was facing in the direction of the witnesses and was illuminated by a floodlight as well as by the bright moonlight. It had seemed to be following the car only because the car itself was moving. The astronomers operating the telescope were rotating the dish from the horizon to the zenith, and the yellow lights dimmed because the witnesses were seeing less and less of the surface. The "circle" of red lights was the red aircraft-warning lights on the WUOM radio tower, which lay in a direct line between the telescope and the witnesses. When the dish reached the zenith and was pointed to the sky overhead, the operating crew turned off the floodlights. The dish was no longer visible to the witnesses, who interpreted the sudden disappearance as a sudden vertical ascent into the sky [1].

Michigan's Flying Bird Cage

A UFO sighting based on mistaken identification of strange lights occurred in the early morning hours of March 22, 1959, near Ann Arbor, Michigan. The night was clear, the moon was nearly full, and visibility was unusually good. At about 1:30 A.M. a man and his wife driving on a country road suddenly noticed a strange object

DE RJEDBW 7

P 221005Z

FM COMDR 30TH ADIV

TO RJWFAL/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

RJEDSQ/COMDR AIR TECH INT CECTER WRIGHT PAT AFB

RJEZHQ/COMDR ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF INTELLIGENCE HDQTRS USAF

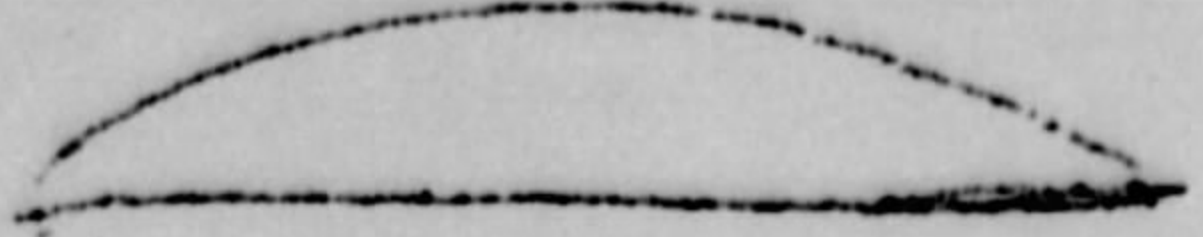
RJEZHQ/OFF OF INFORMATION SERVICES HDQTRS USAF

INFO RJEDNB/COMDR ENR STEWART AFB

BT

/UNCLAS/ COC 247 U.F.O.

A. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT

1. UNKNOWN 
2. 20-30 FT. IN DIAMETER
3. SHINING, SILVERISH, FLASHING RED LIGHTS
4. OCE (1)
5. N/A
6. NONE. LOOKED LIKE A LIT-UP BIRD CAGE
7. NONE.
8. NONE.

PAGE TWO RJEDBW 7

9. LIT UP SURROUNDING AREA

B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT

1. FOLLOWED CAR FOR ABOUT TWO (2) MILES
2. VERY LOW
3. HIGH
4. STRAIGHT AND LEVEL. THEN ZOOMED UP.
5. CLIMBED RAPIDLY OUT OF SIGHT
6. 2-3 MINUTES

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION

1. VISUAL FROM GROUND.
2. NONE.
3. NONE.

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING

1. 22/0630Z 0630-5 = 0130

1
2 4E4
3
4 4X22

6. 2-3 MINUTES

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION

- 1. VISUAL FROM GROUND
- 2. NONE.
- 3. NONE.

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING

- 1. 22/0630Z 0630-5=0130
- 2. NIGHT

E. LOCATION OF OBSERVATION

- 1. 83 DEG 50 MIN, 42DEG 30MIN N
- 2. 5 MILES NORTH OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

F. IDENTIFYING INFO OF ALL OBSERVERS

- 1. MR. & MRS. [REDACTED] DEZTER, MICHIGAN. AGES 23 & 20.
- MR. [REDACTED] AGE 35.

PAGE THREE RJEDBW 7

2. N/A

G. WEATHER AND WIND ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME OF SIGHTING

1. CLEAR

2. SURFACE	NNW	15 KNOTS
10,000	330 DEG	25
16,000	330 DEG	40
20,000	330 DEG	80
30,000	330 DEG	80
50,000	280 DEG	40
80,000	270 DEG	20

3. CLEAR

4. 15 MILES

5. NONE

6. NONE

H. UNUSUAL ACTIVITY IN AREA

- 1. NONE
- 2. NONE
- 3. NONE

I. INTERCEPTION OR IDENTIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN

2. N/A

G. WEATHER AND WIND ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME OF SIGHTING

1. CLEAR

2. SURFACE	NNW	15 KNOTS
10,000	330 DEG	25
16,000	330 DEG	40
20,000	330 DEG	80
30,000	330 DEG	80
50,000	280 DEG	40
80,000	270 DEG	20

3. CLEAR

4. 15 MILES

5. NONE

6 NONE

H. UNUSUAL ACTIVITY IN AREA

1. NONE

2. NONE

3. NONE

I. INTERCEPTION OR IDENTIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN

NONE.

J. LOCATION OF KNOWN AIR TRAFFIC IN AREA AT TIME OF SIGHTING

NONE.

K. POSITION/TITLE COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER

CONTROLLER, 30TH AIR DIV (DEF)

1/LT ROBERT DIFFENBACH

1. AIRCRAFT WITH LANDING LIGHTS ON.

L. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

1. NONE

2. NONE

BT

ATIC

31 MAR 59 15 40

1-4E4g
3-4X2a2
ACTION INFOR. AGO. INFOR.
MAR 31 PM 12:57

019C7CSQD253ZCBWA688

RR RJEDSQ

DE RJEDBW 16

R 311430Z

FM COMDR HQ 30TH ADIV

TO COMDR ATIC

BT

originated by Maj. Friend

UNCLASSIFIED/DI/ 19402 REFERENCE YOUR MESSAGE AFCIN-4E48-3-564-E, DATED 25 MAR 59, REPORTING OF UFO SIGHTING NORTH OF ANN ARBOR, MICH. SHAPE OF OBJECT WAS OVAL ELONGATED DOME SHAPED. ELEVATION, AZIMUTH WHEN FIRST SIGHTED: APPROXIMATELY 200 FEET, HOVERING. WHEN LAST OBSERVED: 100 FEET, TRAVELING EAST FOR ONE HALF TO THREE QUARTERS OF A MILE THEN STRAIGHT UP. OBSERVERS WERE TRAVELING EAST ON NORTH TERRITORIAL ROAD AT SPEED OF 45 MPH. OBSERVERS DID NOT COMPLETELY STOP, BUT REDUCED SPEED TO 10-15 MPH WHEN OBJECT APPEARED TO BE SETTLING ON ROAD. SIZE REPORTED WAS ESTIMATE OF ACTUAL SIZE AS COMPARED TO WIDTH OF TWO LANE ROAD.

BT

31/1554Z MAR RJEDBW

JOINT MESSAGEFORM				SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED				
SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER								
7E 28/00358 ND								
PRECEDENCE		TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL		ORIG. OR REFERS TO	
ACTION	ROUTINE	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE	AF	COC 247		
INFO							CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE	
FROM:							UNCLAS	
TO: <u>ATIC, WP-AFB, OHIO</u> <u>30TH AIR DIV, WILLOW RUN AFS, MICH.</u>						SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS		
/UNCLASSIFIED/FROM: AFCIN-4E4g 3-564-E REF MSG COC 247, DTD 22 MAR 59, REPORTING AN UFO SIGHTING NORTH OF ANN ARBOR, MICH. WHAT WAS THE SHAPE OF THE OBJECT? WHAT WAS THE ELEVATION AND AZIMUTH OF OBJECT WHEN FIRST AND LAST OBSERVED? IN WHAT DIRECTION, AND ON WHAT HIGHWAY WERE OBSERVERS TRAVELING? HOW FAST WERE OBSERVERS MOVING? DID OBSERVERS STOP DURING OBSERVATION? WAS THE SIZE OF THE OBJECT, AS REPORTED, AN ESTIMATE OF ACTUAL SIZE? IF NOT, HOW WAS THE SIZE DETERMINED?								
COORDINATION:								
AFCIN-4E4 <u>Col Glaser</u> DATE <u>25 MAR 59</u>								
AFCIN-4E <u>Col Gilbert</u> DATE _____								
SYMBOL AFCIN-4E4g				SIGNATURE <u>Mary L. Storm</u>				
TYPED NAME AND TITLE <u>MAJ ROBERT J. FRIEND</u>				TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE				
PHONE 69216		PAGE NR. 1		NR. OF PAGES 1		MARY L. STORM Captain, USAF Assistant Administrative Officer		
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED				RELEASER				

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) DI, Hq, 30th Air Div
(SAGE) Willow Run AF Station
Belleville, Michigan

REPORT NO.
IR 59-1

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

1. On the evening of 19 April 1959 I personally visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] Dexter, Michigan. Mr. [REDACTED] is 23 (twenty three) years old, and employed as a laboratory technician at the Reynolds Chemical Company, Whitmore Lake, Michigan. Although this was my first personal contact with Mr. [REDACTED], I would say he is of above average intelligence and of good character. Having had no previous contacts with the [REDACTED], it is impossible for me to judge the truthfulness of their statements; however, both parties seemed quite sincere and agreed on all but one minor point (Mrs. [REDACTED] stated the object was just above the trees, Mr. [REDACTED] corrected her, saying the object was about 200 (two hundred) feet high). The [REDACTED] are definitely not interested in any publicity and were quite disturbed that an article naming them, and apparently making fun of their report, appeared in the Ypsilanti, Michigan Daily Press. I do not know how the Daily Press obtained its information and was unable to obtain a copy of the article. The [REDACTED] are willing to co-operate with the Air Force in any way they can as long as no publicity is involved.

2. At approximately 0130 hours EST on the 22nd of March 1959, Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] were proceeding south on Town Hall Road (See Incl 1) at about 45 mph when Mr [REDACTED] noticed an intensely lighted object to the south east. The object was about 2 (two) miles away and appeared to be hovering. Mr [REDACTED] called it to the attention of his wife about the same time she noticed it. They then turned due east on North Territorial Road. The object remained at about 200 feet altitude, 50 to 75 feet on the south side of North Territorial Road. It was intensely lighted and oval, elongated, dome shaped, 20 to 30 feet in diameter. Two converging shafts of very intense pale yellow lights were shining from oval ports on the bottom of the object. There was no sound. As the [REDACTED] approached, Mr [REDACTED] was afraid the object was settling on the road and slowed to 10 to 15 mph. When the [REDACTED] drew abreast of the object it was still at about 200 feet altitude, 50 to 75 feet south of North Territorial Road, at a point between the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] farms, 2 miles west of Hudson Hills. Both Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] were afraid and Mr [REDACTED] proceeded at a slow speed east on the highway. The object then paralleled the path of the car for about three quarters of a mile, remaining at the same altitude and distance from the highway. The converging shafts of light then dimmed as if they had been shuttered and a circle of 8 or 10 red lights appeared on the underside of the object. The object rose vertically, very rapidly, and was out of sight in 5 or 6 seconds. The total time of sighting was 8 to 10 minutes. The [REDACTED] continued east to Portage Lake Road and then south to Dexter. They saw nothing more of the object.

3. On 17 April 1959 I contacted Dr. Allen K. Barrett of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr Barrett is in charge of Peach Mountain Observatory, located in Stinchfield Woods about one and one half miles north-east of the point where the object was reported. An article quoting Doctor Barrett and offering a possible explanation had appeared in the Ann Arbor newspaper. On the morning of 22 March Dr. Barrett and some colleagues were at the Peach Mountain Observatory working with their radio telescope. The block-house in which the apparatus is located was externally floodlighted by a single floodlight. At the approximate time of the [REDACTED] sighting (0130 EST) the observatory crew elevated the radio telescope from the south west toward the zenith. Dr. Barrett felt the [REDACTED] might have seen a reflection from his apparatus, however as the [REDACTED] saw the object to the south of North Territorial Road, and the observatory is north of the road, Dr. Barrett states now that the chances of a reflection were not likley. It also seems unlikely that the object was a reflection on the [REDACTED] auto windows as they observed it from several angles and could also see a reflection from the shafts of light on the

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C., 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) DI, Det 2, Hq, 30th ADiv (SAGE) Willow Run AF Station Belleville, Michigan	REPORT NO. IR 59-1	PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES
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snow. Neither Dr. Barrett nor any of his crew saw anything unusual on the night of 22 March, however their building has windows only on it's eastern side. A camera operated by Dr. Barrett's crew and taking pictures to the east south east revealed nothing unusual. A radio tower to the north-east of the sighting area is ruled out as a possible source as the [REDACTED] are familiar with it and noted it's red warning lights on the night in question. No reports of unusual radar sightings were made during the period to this station. The night was clear with a bright moon and excellent visibility.

1 Incl
Map of Sighting area.

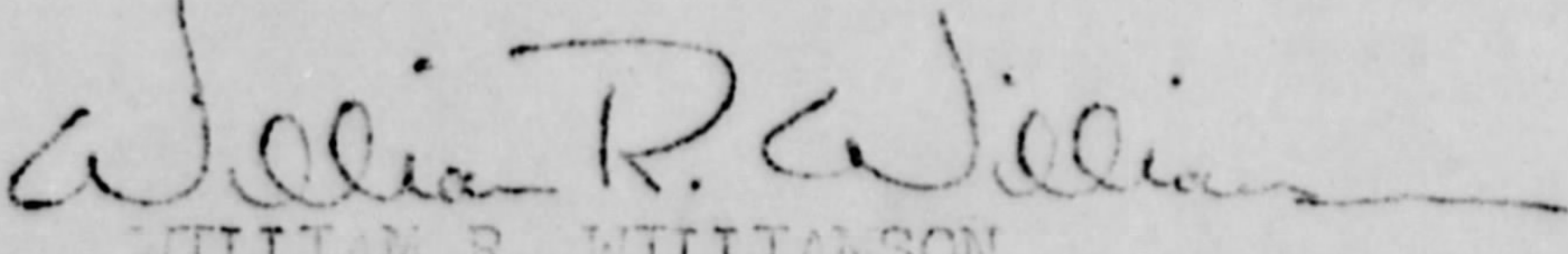
William R. Williamson
WILLIAM R. WILLIAMSON
1st Lt, USAF
Director of Intelligence

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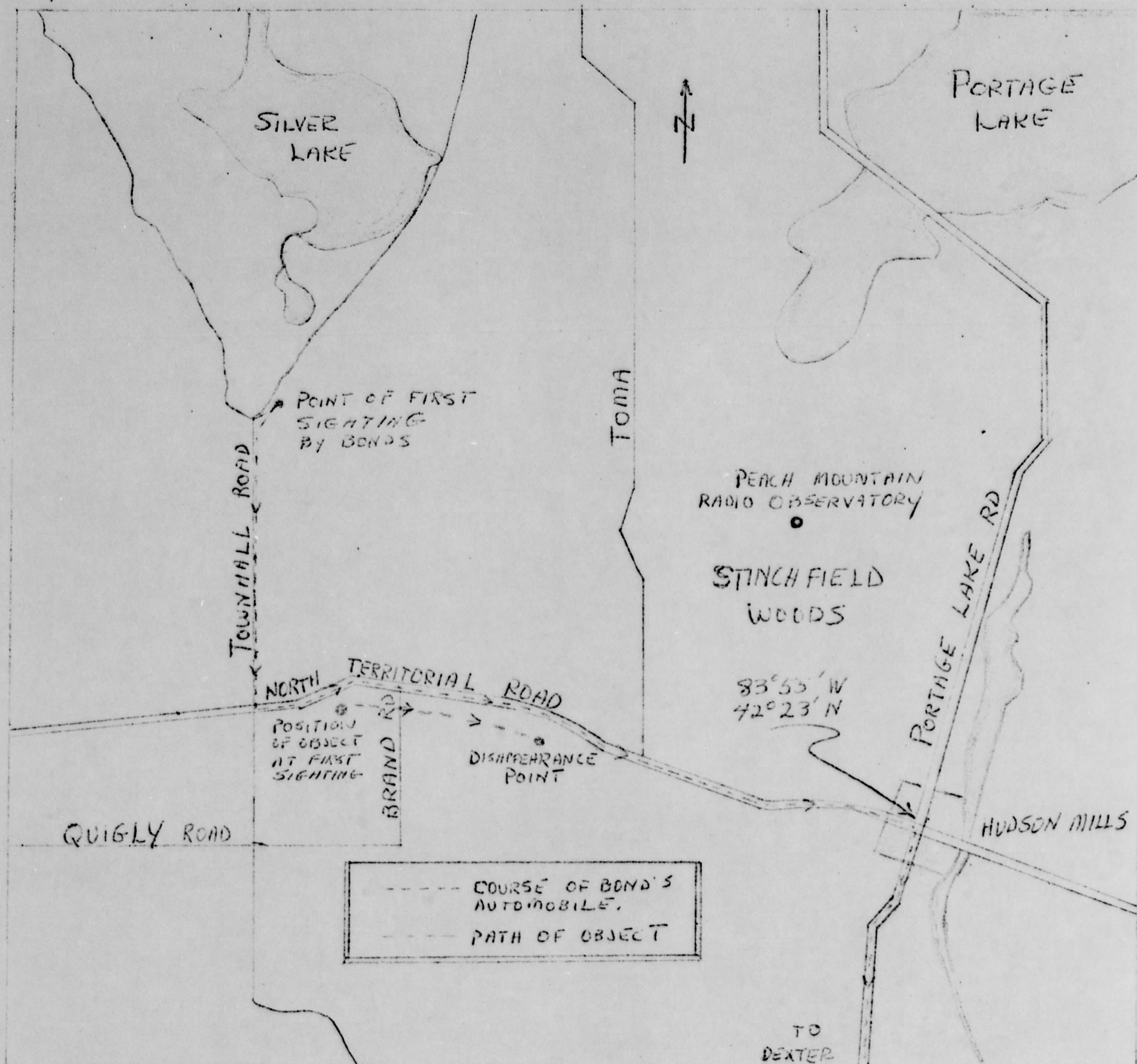
(CLASSIFICATION)

COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO. IR 59-1	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT UFO Sighted North of Ann Arbor, Michigan		
AREA REPORTED ON Ann Arbor, Michigan	FROM (Agency) DI, Det 2, Hq, 30th ADiv (SAGE) Willow Run AF Station, Belleville, Mich.	
DATE OF REPORT 14 April 1959	DATE OF INFORMATION 13 April 1959	EVALUATION F-6
PREPARED BY (Officer) 1st Lt William R. Williamson, USAF	SOURCE Mr & Mrs [REDACTED]	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) COC 247 UFO Hq 30th ADiv 22 Mar 59; DI 19402, Hq 30th ADiv, 31 Mar 59; AFCIN-4E43-4-651, 7 Apr 59.		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.) At approximately 0130 hours (EST) on 22 March 1959 Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] of Dexter, Michigan sighted an unidentified flying object, flying west of Hudson Mills, Michigan (83° 55' W - 42° 23' N). They described the object as an elongated dome, intensely lighted and with two pale yellow converging shafts of light shining from ports on the underside of the object. Their first sighting was to the south-east at approximately 1.5 miles. The object appeared to be at about 200 feet altitude and hovering. As the [REDACTED] auto approached the object it paralleled their path to the east, 50 to 75 feet south of the road on which they were traveling. The object then rose rapidly and disappeared. There was no sound. The object was in sight 8 to 10 minutes. No plausible information indicating the cause of the incident can be given. A possible, but unlikely explanation could be a reflection from a University of Michigan radio telescope in the area. There were no known aircraft in the area at the time, and no unusual radar returns were reported. The Bonds are judged to be intelligent, reliable persons.		
 WILLIAM R. WILLIAMSON 1st Lt, USAF Director of Intelligence		
1 INCL. Map of Hudson Mills, Michigan Area.		
DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR Commander, ATIC, JPAFB, Dayton, Ohio		

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY

SECTION OF UPPER ATMOSPHERE STUDIES
IGY OPTICAL SATELLITE TRACKING PROGRAM
60 GARDEN STREET
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

13 May 1959

Major Robert J. Friend
A.T.I.C.
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
P.O. Box 9487
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Major Friend:

I think that you and your associates will be amused at this Flying Saucer story and of its explanation. I would suggest that fairly wide coverage be given this incident since it is a beaut. I like the idea about its "zooming off into the sky." I wish, however, that all of our cases could be so neatly solved!

I will shortly submit my expenses incurred on the past trip and, as per your instructions, I will have the cost of the plane and my incidental expenses absorbed within the regular consulting fee. I'll have to remember this for my income tax records; otherwise I'll be paying tax on travel. However, I think I can keep my records straight, if this is more helpful to you that way. You will hear from me in about a week on this matter.

I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of giving the talk the other day and I am particularly glad we had a two-star General present. My only hope is that my rather definite insistence on "taking things more seriously," especially as to the Michele book, etc., was not taken in the wrong spirit. I believe we must take things seriously because the public just does look toward the Air Force as the source of real authority and knowledge on these matters and if we are not aware of what's going on and of a proper scientific treatment of these things, we lay ourselves open to a great deal of criticism and, unfortunately, even ridicule. It is this that I had in mind when I stressed these points so strongly. You will be hearing from me.

Sincerely,

J. Allen Hynek

J. Allen Hynek
Associate Director

b/

*Agree
substantially
Bunker*

THE OBSERVATORY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

25 March, 1959

Dear Allen:

Here is the flying saucer story I referred to in my last letter. Since you have been on an evaluation board, you may be amused.

It is an interesting example of pretty objective observation by the people who thought they saw the saucer. They later even described the ringlike structure of telescope dish, which is covered only with a wide mesh, of course. All they described was accurate, except they mistook the turning off of the lights ~~and the~~ and the small change in relative bearing (due to distance of the telescope from the road) for motion!!

Sincerely,

E. L. Mann

Report Seeing Object Resembling Bird Cage In Sky

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bond of Dexter reported to sheriff's deputies yesterday they saw a strange object in the sky while driving in Dexter township.

Mr. and Mrs. Bond said they were driving on North Territorial Rd. near Dexter Town Hall Rd. at 1:30 a.m. when they saw the object low in the sky. The object, which appeared to be shaped like a bird cage, had red lights on it, the Bonds said. The couple said the object followed their car for several miles and then zoomed off into the sky.

Officials at the 38th Air Division (Defense) Air Force detachment at Willow Run Airport said today they had no aircraft in that vicinity at the time the incident was reported.

1. The U of M 85" radio telescope is clearly visible from North Territorial Rd.
2. The top of Peach Mountain is "low in the sky."
3. At the time of observation (1:30 a.m.) the dish was looking at the SW horizon and illuminated by the light of a full (almost) moon and a floodlight.
4. The WUOM radio tower with its red aircraft warning lights is directly in line with the radio telescope as viewed from the intersection of North Territorial and Dexter Town Hall roads.
5. The dish was being rotated from the SW horizon to the zenith so that an observer on the ground would see less and less of its surface and more of its bird-cage-like under structure.
6. When the dish reached the zenith the floodlights were turned off, the dish "zoomed off into the sky," and we went home.

A.H.B.

85-foot Radio Telescope

