

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 20 - 23 May 64		2. LOCATION Hartford, Indiana		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 <u>night</u> GMT _____		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION not reported		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one			
9. COURSE stationary					
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Orange light low in NW sky observed for three succeeding nights.				11. COMMENTS Probable VENUS observation.	

Preliminary Investigation of UFO Reports, May 13 - 22, 1964.

William T. Powers, Systems Engineer, Dearborn Observatory

On Friday night, May 22-23, I made a brief telephone survey in response to a request by J. A. Hynek, Director of Dearborn Observatory, following his appraisal of a UPI report of sightings in Lansing, Michigan.

My first call was to UPI in Chicago; a report of a UFO sighting had come in, but from Marion, Indiana. A subsequent call to UPI in Lansing established that reports were coming independently from both locations.

I contacted the Police Department in ~~Marion~~ Marion, and was informed that police officers in the Marion force and in police departments of surrounding towns (Tipton, Hartford, Tipton County Sheriff's office, ~~and~~ ^{stat Police} ~~and~~) had ^{during the past three nights} witnessed either single lights or groups of lights, both stationary and moving, which struck witnesses as unusual enough to report. Calls to several of the other departments in the area did not add much information, as the witnesses were on patrol or were not on duty at the time. In every case I was assured that the witnesses would be available if a complete investigation were carried out; in most cases the sightings were logged, or else the force is small enough that the individuals involved will be easy to find.

I did succeed in locating one witness who saw an orange light low in the northwest sky, apparently "200 - 500 feet high, three to six miles away", having driven to the west end of town (Hartford City) after hearing over his police car radio comments about other sightings in progress. ~~Maximilian~~ The officer, Robert Meredith, reports that the Blackford county ~~officer~~ ~~on~~, and another man named ~~Maximilian~~ saw the orange light. It seems clear that the object was Venus, just prior to setting.

The other reports may involve more definite motion, and some involve multiple objects (at least one observation through binoculars), so the Venus explanation cannot readily be extended without further information.

Having established that enough information could be obtained through the

The first Lansing call was to the Lansing Police Department, where I spoke with Sgt. ^{R.}~~Rait~~/Snyder. A series of calls had been received from residents of Southern Lansing for several days, starting at 3 AM on ~~Thursday~~ ^{Wednesday} morning, May 20. A list of names was obtained from the log of Wednesday, all from people who complained of a "wierd noise." This noise was described approximately as ~~whirring~~ a "whirring" noise, starting low and going high, then stopping. In a subsequent call to the Ingham County Sheriff's office, I was informed that at 3AM Wednesday morning a police car had made an emergency run down Miller street, employing a new "warbling" siren, which the desk/^{sergeant}~~sargant~~ described as sounding "wierd." When I read him the list of addresses of the complainants, he identified ~~some~~ most but not all, of them as being close to the route of the emergency run.

It was also found that an elephant was tethered all night in a shopping cen nearby, part of a promotion stunt.

The reports of 3 AM Wednesday, therefore, may tentatively be connected with the known emergency run, at least those definitely concerned with noises, which I understand is true in all cases.

Reports from Thursday and Friday night, however, cannot be connected with the siren, as objects were seen. There appear to be several independent sightings of different objects.

One object, a bright blue or blue-green light, was seen descending "to the ground" (that is, going out of sight following a downward course) by two people, Mr. and Mr. . Each was in his own car on the way home when he caught sight of the object. Both were impressed sufficiently to attempt to drive to where the object disappeared, and both seem to have thought it might be an aircraft in trouble. The men met subsequently, while was acting in his capacity of television announcer (for WILX) at a remote broadcast from restaurant () in Lansing, and here they each learned that the other had seen the light. Unfortunately, it appears that they have already compare their stories, as both reported to me in phone calls Saturday morning that

-05:15
May 15
A.M. 05:10
-3-

the sighting took place at "12:10 to 12:15". Both men have agreed to cooperate in any detailed investigation.

One of the calls associated with the night of the emergency run previously mentioned was from a farmer in Grand Ledge, who called the ~~Michigan County Sheriff's~~ ^{Indiana State Police} department with a report that he had seen a flying ^aucer land and take off again. A police car 5 miles from the scene was dispatched, but before it arrived the farmer, whose name was not obtained, said that the object was gone; the investigation patrol reported sighting nothing unusual, so the sighting was not logged: the name of the farmer may be difficult to discover. The farmer said the object was blue/and (shining) roared and was 15 feet in diameter. The police officer clearly believes the man to be "mistaken".

There are several more reports which need to be straightened out better than I could do over the telephone. One involves two men coming home from the night shift (apparently) at Oldsmobile, an [redacted] and a [redacted]. The two men were in a car parked in front of Spears' house when/heard a weird noise (apparently not the siren - time is wrong) and saw an object that looked like a shooting star going behind the house. It made (or something made) a sufficiently impressive noise that [redacted] wife jumped out of bed, terrified, the sound having awakened her.

Between phone calls to [redacted] and [redacted] on Saturday morning, I received an unsolicited call from a reporter, [redacted] of the Lansing State-Journal, who was trying to find out if my calls of the night before were legitimate, and who had another report which came in just after I had ceased operations Friday night. A Mrs. [redacted] Rd., Lansing, saw three objects at 9:00, 9:45, and 11:00 PM on the 20th, at least one of which showed shape (outline, not point source) and which was observed through binoculars. Mrs. [redacted]'s husband also saw the objects and the ^{couple} called some neighbors who also ~~saw~~ were witnesses. One object was described as roughly circular with many little white lights on its underside. Mrs. [redacted] did not report until she heard of other reports, for fear she would be called crazy. [redacted] says she is willing to talk to scientists from Northwestern ([redacted] informed her of our investigations). Mrs. [redacted] address is described as being "near

~~_____~~, a street which appears on the list of complainants (not in chronological order) from Wednesday night, and which should be checked as possibly ~~being~~ involving a different report from the "noise" reports.

Saturday afternoon the final call before making this report was received from Sgt Casto ^(not "Castro") of the Michigan State Police, in response to my request for ~~any~~ additional information that might arise. He reported that a Mrs. ~~_____~~ ~~_____~~ street, Lansing, had just reported that she heard on the night of the 20th a very strange "whirring" sound from her back ~~yard~~ yard, at 9:00 or 9:15 PM. She saw nothing, but found a burned area in her ~~yard~~ yard, about 10 feet by 4 or 5 feet in dimensions. Leaves lying on the ground were charred, but the grass underneath was not. She has saved samples of the leaves, and is willing to be interviewed. She, too, delayed her report for fear of ridicule, until other reports were publicized. Her husband saw what she saw, heard the noise.

This brief report actually represents only a small portion of the reports that were received and logged at the police departments in the area. All police agencies appear quite willing to cooperate, and individuals seem to show a healthy mixture of interest and skepticism. My impression is that a more detailed reading of the logs ~~will~~ together with examination of records of ~~various and important~~ emergency-car movements will eliminate the bulk of reports concerned with noises only, but that other events appear to have occurred which require more detailed investigation and probably will call for several different explanations.

There follows a list of ~~persons~~ ^{agencies and} some of the persons who made reports; this is a very abbreviated list, and is given only for the purpose of aiding identification of the proper log pages or proper individuals with whom to communicate.

MARION, INDIANA POLICE DEPARTMENT: 317 - NO 8-8131

Tom Dennis, Chief
Richard Harrigan, Asst. Chief.

Refer: men who work North car, nights.

KOKOMO, INDIANA POLICE DEPARTMENT (SHERIFF'S POLICE). 317-GL 2-2444

~~X~~ HARTFORD CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 317 - 348-3730
Officer Robert Meredith saw orange light *also others*

-5-

3 AM
Thursday

LANSGING, MICHIGAN POLICE DEPARTMENT : 517 - IV 5-7165

Sgt. Reif Snyder, desk. Gave following names: *more available.*

~~_____~~ Lansing

✓ [REDACTED] (This one far from emergency rur.

/ Mrs. [REDACTED]. (this one near [REDACTED] residence)

✓ Mrs. [REDACTED] Lansing

✓ Mrs. [REDACTED] Lansing

✓ Mrs. [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)

✓ [REDACTED] Lansing

Mrs. [REDACTED] Lansing

✓ [REDACTED] Lansing (Emergency run was down [REDACTED])

MASON, MICHIGAN: INGHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S POLICE (originators of emergency run)
517 - OR 7-9661

Lansing: MICHIGAN STATE POLICE: 517 - ED 2-2521

Investigated call from farmer about saucer landing.

OFFICER Bassett at desk.

LANSGING MICHIGAN: Mr. [REDACTED]

Saw blue light descend.

Lansing, MICHIGAN: Mr. [REDACTED]

Saw same blue light.

LANISING, michigan: Mrs [REDACTED] Rd., Lansing (Near [REDACTED])

Informant: Dick Frazier, of Lansing State-Journal, reporter.

PRELIMINARY WEATHER REPORT: temperatures in area on Wed, May 20, and Thursday May 21 (night) in mid-thirties - high probability of inversion layer. UPI reporter/volunteer information that he received 14 television channels Wed. ^{in the} night.