PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP Mid March 66	2. LOCATION SOUTHERN MICHIGAN
3. SOURCE Multiple-Civilians	10. CONCLUSION Other(MARSH GAS)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS SEE CASE FILE Multiple Witnesses
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION	
7. COURSE	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☐ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

UFOs Very Likely Swamp Gas: Hynek

Detroit, March 25 — Dr. Jay Allen Hynek, scientific adviser to the air force on extraordinary aerial phenomena, today sat hard on wide-spread public reports of "extra-terrestial spaceship sightings" by residents of this area.

The doctor, a respected scientist, publicly labeled such dancing lights at nightfall as "glowing of swamp gases released by unexpected and unseasonably warm weather of the last 10 danys."

Hynek, chairman of the astronomy department of Northwestern university and director of the school's Dearborn observatory, also flatly denounced photographs made by policemen and purportedly showing movement of lights in the skies. These, he said, were time exposures made of the moon and the planet Venus on March 17.

Hundreds Pour In

Despite this analysis, made after fo[u]r days of painstaking tramping across farm areas and interviewing of more than 100 witnesses, a deluge or reports came from Maine to the Rockies, describing UFO's [unidentified flying objects] seen by night and day. Hundreds of such reports were made to police, at county officials, and newspapers.

Even Dr. Hynek, acting for air force Project Blue Book, limited his debunking to two instances of sightings on March 20 and March 21, in the Ann Arbor, Mich. area.

Grounds for Investigation

"I emphasize," he said, "I cannot prove in a court of law that these are the full explanations for these sightings.

"It appears very likely, however, that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter—an unusually mild one in this area—were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display."

He added: "I am not making

[Continued on page 4, col. 1]

a blanket statement to cover the entire UFO phenomena over the last 20 years.

"If only one person reports seeing something it might be discounted, but if 10 or 20 report seeing similar objects it then is grounds for scientific investigation."

Both cases upon which he and air force assistants worked, Hynek said, involved swampy areas where lights of varied colors were watched for hours. At Hillside, Mich., 50 co-eds at the local college and a number of adults observed the glowing object. At Dexter, Mich., 60 miles away, a farmer reported he saw a similar light.

A Rare Phenomenon

"In each case swamps were involved. These are a most unlikely place to attract visitors from outer space. They are not places for helicopter practice or where a soundless device would be tested," the astronomer wrote in his report.

"Such gases are rare; I have never see nany myself. But everyone who observed saw lights, not shapes, and no movement away from the swamps," he continued. "The spring thaws could have released gases formed by decomposition of organic material. This is known to glow under certain conditions."

Dr. Hynek did not ridicule any witnesses he interviewed. He said he readily understood the dismay "of those who sincerely and accurately described what they saw."

Suspects a Prank

He also indicated that pranks by students may have been involved in the Hillside afafir. Several burned-out flare studs were found near the college dormatories where co-eds had been watching.

Across the country, however, the "rational explanation" of Hynek and the other inquirers was ignored. Men and women saw "spaceships in formation," some said "lights" chased their automobiles, others that "shapes lighted in red, green, blue, and yellow cross highways at eye-levels."

There were so many such reports that Rep. Gerald R. Ford [Mich.], Republican floor leader, proposed a "full blown" hearing by a committee from houses to get to the facts.

After getting this story from [redacted] at his home, we proceeded to the dormitory and talked with Mrs. [redacted] who took us up to the sighting room, where the same girls were interviewed. They were most cooperative and Miss Jo Wilson drew the attached picture, (Figure #4). Both girls told me that attention was first called by a casual glance out of the window which lead to the remark by one of them "there's no house down there, is there?" or words to that effect. A fairly bright red light and two yellowish lights, resembling Christmas tree lights, according to the girls, were close to the ground in the marsh area, where, they obviously knew there was no house.

Theyreported no tangible object. They did remark, although there was much confusion, that several of the girls had seen a very bright light sweep past the window just before the main sighting. I could get no consistent story relative to this, in contrast to the fairly consistent description to the lights in the swamp.

According to [redacted], the lights were surrounded by a glow which rose every once in awhile to above the trees to about 150 feet above the swamp, appearing to get brighter as it rose, then rather quickly dimming out as it got higher. It appeared [redacted] said, as though it wished to avoid the periodic sweep of a nearby airplane beacon.

[redacted] stated that his first impression of the lights were that they were marsh lights, otherwise known as fox lights, etc. He told me that he was about to say that this was what they actually were, but just about the time he thought he had the solution, the red light on the right and the white light on the left (a location of these lights did not agree with the girls description) started to get more brilliant. It was at this time that the lights appeared to

rise. The lights made their ascent and descent some four times between 1130 pm, 21 March and 145 am, 22 March. [redacted] thought that between the two lights he could see a mass and thought it was convex shaped. The girls, however, had described only a red light at that position.

The arrows on the sketch indicate, according to the girls, the extent of the horizontal and vertical motion of the lights.

In Hillsdale, Mr. [redacted] clearly the best observer as far as technical background was concerned, yet his knowledge of physics is not good. After I had gotten back to Ann Arbor we had a few more phone talks, and at one time he called me rather late at [redacted] home to inform me that he was seeing lights in the sky near the horizon — and that through binoculars the lights were vertical lines, green on top, yellow in the middle, and red on the bottom. He failed to recognize this as the effects of atmospheric refraction of starlight into a small spectrum. [redacted] also struck me as a man who becomes enamoured with an idea and tends to lose objectively in favor of the idea. He tends to ride a hobby horse, as was indicated when he marshalled all his forces at a later date to set out to prove the marsh gas hypothesis wrong.

I am not reporting at this time the numerous side investigations, such as a trip to the home of a young chap who had reported to Van Horn that he had a photograph of a UFO. I visited this chap at Hillsdale and discovered that, as far as I was concerned, he had photographed a blimp. I did give him $2 for a print, just for the record, which I never received. I will not also report at this time the many peripheral conversations I had with individual policemen from the office of the Sheriff of Washtenaw County at Ann Arbor, Michigan (Sheriff Harvey, and a number of his deputies), members of the Chelsea Police

Department (Chief John Palmer, Clyde Myers and Charles Sharpe and a number of his other men), and the police in Dexter Michigan (Captain Taylor and his men, notably Officer Hunnawill), nor will I describe the fairly long discussion I had with Colonel Miller, civilian Defense Chief in Ann Arbor, who appears to be a very practical and blunt man who told me, in a nutshell, that he took no stock in any of the reports that had been going around. I might point out, that all through the investigation I made discreet inquiries relative to character reference and general reliability of other witnesses, and came away with the general impression that I had not been dealing with seasoned and careful investigators, but rather with men untutored in reporting matters outside their normal line of reporting (license plates, accidents, etc, but not angular rates, angular distances in the sky, brightnesses, and in general, time motion sequences). I was forced, therefore, to take into account, and regard as facts, only such things which had been reported fairly consistantly by several witnesses. The doubt case upon certain witnesses by other witnesses did not inspire in me a feeling of confidence as to the quality and reliability of the data, I was obliged to use from which to draw my conclusions. I therefore felt that the only expedient thing to do was to concentrate on the consistent aspects of the stories from Dexter and Hillsdale and place into another category the host of the individual and generally mutally conflicting bits of testimony offered by the many individuals I talked to during my three day stay.

I therefore decided to look at the common pattern which seemed to be developing in the Dexter and Hillsdale cases. These had many interesting points in common; first, the lights in both cases were associated with swamp areas. While it was true that various individuals reported lights traveling

in the sky at about those times and in those general vicinities, I could form no consistent picture whatever of these alleged events. On the other hand, I could form a consistent picture of what apparently was observed over the swamp at Dexter and at Hillsdale. In both cases a distinctive reddish yellow, and green lights were reported, plus a general yellow glow. The spectacular lights, when reported, were stated to be of limited area. One of the girls at Hillsdale agreed but stated that a yellowish glow surrounding and enveloped the discreet lights. The similarity between the Dexter lights and the Hillsdale lights was striking. Not only as to color and intesity, but motion as well. The motion was described in both cases as smooth and slow, with a tendency to disappear rather suddenly and reappear elsewhere. Most observers described a smooth horizontal motion and while other girls from Hillsdale said the lights seemed to get excited and moved erratically when car lights and flashlights came into the vicinity, the major behaviour was described as persistent, smooth and slow.

I had hoped to be able to gather more data and, with the help of some of my Northwestern staff who were willing to come to the area with me and help in the interrogation and so to be able to examine many of the individual reports not associated directly with the swamps, but funds were not available for bringing in any of my associates, who are excellent interogators in this field, and further, since the interest and excitement generated in these cases was mounting to fever pitch, it seemed expedient, in fact mandatory, to hold a press conference and make a progress report. Until the evening before I was to make such a statement, I was still puzzled as to a natural explanation for even the consistent sightings. Fortunately, I have a number of friends in the acedemic world in Ann Arbor and whose invaluable aid I enlisted. I would like

to give credit to the scientists I talked with until very late into the night but they prefer to remain anonymous. I am sure, however, that should their testimony be officially required, rather than for the press, their cooperation could very easily be obtained.

It was from these academic gentlemen that I obtained the information on marsh gas and the lights frequently associated with it. To summarize, it appears that rotting vegetation in the swamps produces methane, CH_4, and hydrogen sulfide, H_2S, in ample quantities under certain conditions. Methane is oderless, H_2S is not but since it is present in relatively small quantities one does not smell it unless one overturns a shovel full of swamp material. I am told that this would then release a distinct odor. In addition, phosphine PH_3 is produced by the reduction of phosphorous compounds in the marsh material. These three gases ordinarily do not spontaneously ignite, but I am told, a small impurity in the PH_3, namely P_2H_4, is highly flamable and when exposed to air spontaneously ignites. This then apparently can serve to ignite the other gases. The phenomenon of swamp lights is apparently quite well known, and references to it are ample in the literature. Even in non-technical literature these lights, variously known as willow-of-the-wisp, ignus fatus, fox lights, etc., have had many stories woven around them, including stories of these lights being the souls of the departed as well as elemental mythological entities. Technically, they are treated in two books to which I had immediate access, Light and Colour in the Open Sky, by Minnaert and Chemistry, by Sienko and Plane. Here the lights are described even into their colors, red, yellow, white and green, thus matching the colors described by the majority of the witnesses. It is stated in these books that the lights are a form of low temperature chemical luminescence which does not char or burn grass, etc. The lights generally are

are evanescent, burning here for a momment or so, going out, and appearing some feet or yards away as another plume of gas spontaneously ignites. This sporadic lighting is generally soundless, although sometimes a "popping" noise is heard (this may be the origin of the "ricochet sound" Mr. Mannor reported). The illusion of motion can easily be given by the sporadic appearance of a wisp of light here, and then there.

The lights have never been described as truly bright. They would be visible best to dark-adapted eyes on a clear dark night and also on a night which there was no high wind (which would quickly dissipate the gas as it bubbled up from underneath).

It appears to me that many of the conditions for the appearance of swamp lights were satisfied at both Dexter and Hillsdale. I can't state with any certainty that this is the correct solution to the problem; merely that it is the most likely cause. I would of course, appreciate learning of other possible natural causes should they be forthcoming. We can, I believe, completely eliminate any solution based on aircraft, balloons, birds, meteors, stars, etc, because they simply do not fit the consistent data reported to me.

In putting forth the swamp gas explanation of the major Michigan sightings I am aware that it is open to several objects: we do not know whether swamp lights ever appear at the near freezing temperatures that obtained in those areas at the time. If these were swamp lights, one may well ask why they have not been seen in those localities before. One may also ask why not at <u>other</u> swamp areas in Mcihigan instead of just these two? I am also concerned that the Michigan sightings bear a slight resemblance to other UFO sightings in which swamp areas do not figure. I am also concerned that I had to neglect the peripheral evidence of the few people who said that they thought an object had

been present. On the other hand, no convincing or coherent evidence was presented that any object had been seen either to enter or to leave the swamp areas. And why swamp areas in both cases? The case for swamp gas is by no means conclusive, and is unprovable, but still remains in my mind as a logical explanation for the majority opinion as to what was sighted. I therefore presented this likely explanation at the requested press conference, at which I pointed out in no uncertain terms that the swamp gas hypothesis was just that and that "I couldn't prove it in a court of law".

I wish that a press conference had not been necessary, or, if necessary that it had been handled more expertly and adriotly. I have little to say that is complimentary about the public relations office at Selfridge Field. It was amateurish in the extreme, and displayed no knowledge of how a press conference should be handled.

The entire matter of a full dress press conference was most distasteful to me because I would rather present carefully weighed and consistent evidence and conclusions, with due time allowed, to a body of scientific colleagues than be subject at a moment's notice to a roaring pack of news hounds whose chief interest appears to be in getting a quick story.

I recommend once again, as I have often in the past, in my capacity as scientific consultant, that the UFO phenomenon which has now plagued us for a score of years, and has been responsible for countless words in newsprint during that time, should be recognized as a scientific and sociological problem of our times and studied as such by competent men in various fields. Further, since the first requisite for any scientific investigation is concern for the quality of the basic data, much more attention should be paid to the immediate gathering and processing of such data.

Used A.

ROUGH DRAFT

— DR 1/4/66 Xs not

REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE DEXTER, MICHIGAN SIGHTING OF 20 MARCH AND THE HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN SIGHTING OF 21 MARCH 1966

The two primary sightings at Dexter and Hillsdale, respectively, may be called the crucial sightings which became the focal point of local ~~attention~~ (and later of nationwide) attention, and had associated with them a veritable barrage of other reports with no clear-cut association with the two principal events under discussion here. It is possible that many of these were the result of the general excitement surrounding these events and of suggestibility on the part of those who reported them. However, there were reports of odd sightings, particularly in the Milan area, a few nights previous to the sightings here discussed. It would have taken an army of investigators to have exhaustively looked into all of these. In the course of my three days of investigation, I talked with the following people at some length and with a host of others in passing.

County Sheriff Harvey - Washtenaw County
Deputy Stanley McFadden
Deputy David Fitzpatrick
Patrolman Hunnawill
Colonel Gerald G. Miller
Chief Taylor
Mr [redacted] son-in-law of Mr [redacted]
Univ of Mich, Astronomy Dept (11 members)
Univ of Mich. Faculty members
Mr. [redacted] ~~Eng, Rad, Tel~~ Radio and television engineer
[redacted] Chelsea
Chief John Palmer - ~~Glesea~~ Police
Mrs [redacted] housemother at Hillsdale college
Miss [redacted] // Two students at Hillsdale whom Mrs. Hearn chose as having had the greatest
Miss [redacted] first hand knowledge.
Patrolman Clyde Myers
Patrolman _____ Sharpe
(Sgt. Schuerder, Deps Bushra and Anderson were contacted by A2C Hanby)

* Funeral director and Civil Defense Chief in Hillsdale.

Insert B

My questions were specifically directed toward determining what was visibly perceived and towards pinpointing the location and extent and duration of the phenomena.

Case A - Dexter, Michigan

There follows the ~~original report~~ record & the report received at the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department at 835 pm on 20 March 1966, ~~which~~ and/or the local (ives) station made. This can't be said to have initiated the successive reports.

"Complainant called and stated that there was a strange object in the swamp at the end of [redacted] Road, It was on the ground, went up in air about 500 feet and came down, making a lot of noise.

INVESTIGATION: Dispatched to the above location, and made contact with the complainant at [redacted] Road. Complainant advised that an un-identified object was presently located in the swamp, to the rear of afore mentioned location, and had been so located for approximately ($\frac{1}{2}$) one-half hour. Complainant further related that the object had been observed to rise to an altitude of approximately 500 feet, and then to return to the ground. Subject stated that lights were observed upon the object, and that the lighting turned from a blue-green to a brilliant red to yellow in coloring. Object had appeared to be having difficulty in getting off of the ground.

[redacted], of [redacted] Road, and his son [redacted] had watched the object for some time, and then proceeded into the woods and swamps, in an attempt to locate the object, and to see what it was. Both [redacted] were within the swamp at the time of arrival of the undersigned officers.

ACTION TAKEN: The undersigned officer, in company with the complainant, proceeded along Dexter-Pinckney Road to Territorial Road, and then turned onto Quigley Road, where a vantage point was obtained, being in direct line with the

Insert "B" continued. (2)

(see Map)

house, and the area of the objects observation. At this point, the patrol vehicle was secured, and the afore mentioned proceeded into the woods, in attempt to locate the swamp edge, and the object. While in the woods area, a brilliant light was observed from the far edge of the woods, and upon approaching, the light dimmed in brilliance. As the afore mentioned approached the upper ridge, and edge of the woods, the brilliant light again appeared, and then disappeared. A continued search of the area was conducted, through swamp, and high grass, with negative results.

Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers were met by others who had gathered to observed, and the undersigned officers were informed that one of the objects had been hovering directly over the area where our flashlight beams had been seen, and had then departed in a west direction of flight, at high rate of speed. Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers returned to the [redacted] address, where the [redacted] were talked to.

TALK WITH [redacted] stated that he had observed the lights coming from the swamp, and had awakened his son, [redacted] BOTH [redacted] then proceeded into the swamps in an attempt to find out the object which was producing the light. Upon entering the lower edge of the swamp, [redacted] stated "what is that thing", and as [redacted] looked in the direction indicated, the object was observed. At the instant of observation the small lights went out, and in just an instant, re-appeared across the swamp, a distance of about 500 yards. At this time, the object became illuminated from a brilliant source of light, which flowed horizontal between ~~the~~ two (2) small lights. After

'U' Scientists Suggest 'Saucer' Explanations

Scientists at the University have been generally reluctant to comment on the unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings in this area, except for saying they have not seen flying saucers themselves or heard of reports of sightings by other U-M faculty members.

Prof. William P. Bidelman of the astronomy department, however, ventured the guess that the U-M's radio telescope on Peach Mountain north of Dexter may be involved in the Dexter Township sightings.

Bidelman said an auroral display along the horizon reflecting on the telescopes gridded dish might give the impression of movement and disappearance and provide the red and green lights described by observers.

He pointed out that the grid design of the big dish silhouetted by the "northern lights" would appear from a distance something like the object described in the sightings.

Bidelman said that solar (sun spot) activity is starting to pick up and in the past week or so has been pronounced than in recent years, and that aurora are influenced by the sun spot cycle.

Assistant Prof. George W. Saunders of the U-M zoology department indicated the UFO sightings by Hillsdale Civil Defense Director William Van Horn and 87 Hillsdale College coeds in a swamp hollow in that area may have involved the phenomena known as "will-o-the-wisps."

The natural phenomenon which is believed to result from igniting of hydrogen phosphide gas from rotting substances in swamps, provides weird displays of dancing and disappearing red, yellow and blue flames accompanied at times by the popping of little explosions.

Insert B (cont) 4

lights disappeared and were not observed again. Further search of the area was made with negative results.

DISPOSITION: FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SEARCH OF THE AREA WAS MADE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

STATUS: ~~EMOPEN~~ OPEN

End of Record at Washtenaw County Sheriff office.

Insert C (1)

Mr. [redacted] the "complainant," is the son-in-law of Mr. [redacted] who made the original sighting. Mr. [redacted] said that he was about to enter his house from a front yard, when, according to him, he noticed a bright light out of the corner of his eye. He thought at first it was a falling star which he said abruptly stopped right over a swamp to the immediate north of his barn. He called his son, [redacted] out from the house to verify the sighting and together they watched the glow of light behind the trees in the distant swamp. Apparently at this time Mr. Wagner made the report to the Sheriff's office. Deputy McFadden and Fitzpatrick were dispatched to the [redacted] farm and in my interview with McFadden and particularly with Fitzpatrick (with whom I spent several hours in detailed discussions) they stated that upon arrival at the farm Mr. [redacted] and his son were already making a trek to the swamp area to look in an attempt to locate the "object". [redacted] and his son did not carry any lights save a cigarette lighter (it seems strange since the night was dark, being the new Moon). The deputies thereupon proceeded to the point marked A on figure #1, where they parked their car. They then proceeded towards the glowing along a path marked by a dotted line (a path which I almost exactly repeated on Wednesday, 23 March in the company of Deputy Fitzpatrick and Airman Kelley, to point B). From point B, Deputy

Insert C (2)

proceeded towards the glowing along a path marked by a dotted line (a path which I almost exactly repeated on Wednesday, 23 March in the company of Deputy Fitzpatrick and Airman Kelley, to point B). From point B, Deputy Fitzpatrick observed a glow emanating from point marked C. Point C is also indicated on a map of the region. Points A, B C & M are also indicated on figure 2. Deputy Fitzpatrick reported that the glow reported at C brightened and dimmed slowly. "as though stage lights were being brighted and dimmed". Deputy Fitzpatrick never observed anything other than a glow. He did not even observe the glow to rise to the trees top level as Mannor and his son indicated it had.

While Deputy McFadden busied himself in another direction in the swamp, Deputy Fitzpatrick proceeded towards the glow. The deputies were equipped with flashlights and ~~it~~ the lights from the flashlights were visible to Mr [redacted] and his son who had now returned to the farm and were observing the deputies search from afar. Deputy Fitzpatrick stated to me that as he and his flashlight approached the glow, ~~your~~ that source was apparently hidden by a slight rise in the terrain, the glow disappeared. Deputy Fitzpatrick did not see it again, ~~that~~ Mr [redacted] reported that as he ~~approached~~ observed the depression, with their flashlights ~~approach~~ observed the deputies approach the area of the glow the glow disappeared there and immediately appeared at a more distant point of the swamp. Mr [redacted] described the motion of the glow as a smooth horizontal motion which did not follow the countour of the land. He indicated that if this had been an ordinary

Insert A.

ROUGH DRAFT

— DR HYNEK's copy

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Mr [redacted] son-in-law of Mr [redacted]
Univ of Mich, Astronomy Dept (11 members)
Univ of Mich, Faculty members
Mr. [redacted] ~~Eng, Rad, Tel~~ Radio and television engineer
[redacted] Chelsea
Chief John Palmer - ~~Glesea~~ Police
Mrs [redacted] housemother at Hillsdale college
Miss [redacted] // Two students at Hillsdale whom Mrs. Hea
Miss [redacted] chose as having had the greatest
Patrolman Clyde Myers first hand knowledge.
Patrolman _____ Sharpe
(Sgt. Schuerder, Deps Bushra and Anderson were contacted by A2C Hanby)

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INVESTIGATION: Dispatched to the above location, and made contact with the complainant at [redacted] Road. Complainant advised that an un-identified object was presently located in the swamp, to the rear of afore mentioned location, and had been so located for approximately ($\frac{1}{2}$) one-half hour. Complainant further related that the object had been observed to rise to an altitude of approximately 500 feet, and then to return to the ground. Subject stated that lights were observed upon the object, and that the lighting turned from a blue-green to a brilliant red to yellow in coloring. Object had appeared to be having difficulty in getting off of the ground.

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ACTION TAKEN: The undersigned officer, in company with the complainant, proceeded along Dexter-Pinckney Road to Territorial Road, and then turned onto Quigley Road, where a vantage point was obtained, being in direct line with the

Insert "B" continued. (see Map)

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Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers were met by others who had gathered to observed, and the undersigned officers were informed that one of the objects had been hovering directly over the area where our flashlight beams had been seen, and had then departed in a west direction of flight, at high rate of speed. Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers returned to the [redacted] address, where the [redacted] were talked to.

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Insert B (cont) -3

watching the object for a couple of minutes, the rays of light from two flashlights were observed from the ridge above the object. The light from the object intensified, then went out, and a whistle similar to the sound of a rifle bullet ricochet was heard, and the object passed directly over the MANNORS in just an instant.

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT: Object was observed to be of a brown coloring, appearing to be quilted type outside surface. Object appeared to be flat upon the bottom, and cone shaped toward the top, however, being low in height. Two small lights appeared to be at the outer edges of the object, glowing in a bluish-green light, and intensifying to a brilliant red in color. When the vehicle or object illuminated, the lighting was a yellow-white in color, and ran horizontal between the two outer lights, allowing some of the object to be viwed. Outer body appeared to be rought in texture.

PERSONS OBSERVING OBJECT:

[redacted] of [redacted] Road, Dexter, DOB Jan 5, 1919
[redacted] of [redacted] Road, Dexter, DOB Jan 28, 1947
Several others, names unknown.

FURTHER UFO SIGHTED: Shortly after the UFO was departed from the scene, CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT reported sighting a similar object over the Village of Chelsea, hovering, and then departing at high rate of speed in a westerly direction.

A further sighting of similar bluish-green lights was reported near the woods and swamp, north side of N Territorial Road, between Scully Rd., and Webster-Church Road, in Webster Twp., County of Washtenwa, by Washtenaw County Sheriff Patrol #19, however, when attempt was made to get closer,

Insert B (cont) 4

lights disappeared and were not observed again. Further search of the area was made with negative results.

DISPOSITION: FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SEARCH OF THE AREA WAS MADE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

STATUS: ~~MMMMMM~~ OPEN

End of Record at Washtenaw County Sheriff office.

Insert C (1)

Mr. [redacted] the "complainant", is the son-in-law of Mr. [redacted] who made the original sighting. Mr. [redacted] said that he was about to enter his house from a front yard, when, according to him, he noticed a bright light out of the corner of his eye. He thought at first it was a falling star which he said abruptly stopped right over a swamp to the immediate north of his barn. He called his son, [redacted] out from the house to verify the sighting and together they watched the glow of light behind the trees in the distant swamp. Apparently at this time Mr. Wagner made the report to the Sheriff's office. Deputy McFadden and Fitzpatrick were dispatched to the [redacted] farm and in my interview with McFadden and particularly with Fitzpatrick (with whom I spent several hours in detailed discussions) they stated that upon arrival at the farm Mr. [redacted] and his son were already making a trek to the swamp area to look in an attempt to locate the "object". [redacted] and his son did not carry any lights save a cigarette lighter (it seems strange since the night was dark, being the new Moon). The deputies thereupon proceeded to the point marked A on figure #1, where they parked their car. They then proceeded towards the glowing along a path marked by a dotted line (a path which I almost exactly repeated on Wednesday, 23 March in the company of Deputy Fitzpatrick and Airman Kelley, to point B). From point B, Deputy

Insert C (2)

proceeded towards the glowing along a path marked by a dotted line (a path which I almost exactly repeated on Wednesday, 23 March in the company of Deputy Fitzpatrick and Airman Kelley, to point B). From point B, Deputy Fitzpatrick observed a glow ~~emitting~~ emanating from point marked C. Point C is also indicated on a map of the region. Points A, B C & M are also indicated on figure 2. Deputy Fitzpatrick reported that the glow reported at C brightened and dimmed slowly. "as though stage lights were being brighted and dimmed". Deputy Fitzpatrick never observed anything other than a glow. He did not even observe the glow to rise to the trees top level as Mannor and his son indicated it had.

While Deputy McFadden busied himself in another direction in the swamp, Deputy Fitzpatrick proceeded towards the glow. The deputies were equipped with flashlights and ~~it~~ the lights from the flashlights were visible to Mr [redacted] and his son who ~~were~~ had now returned to the farm and were observing the deputies search from afar. Deputy Fitzpatrick stated to me that ~~t~~ as he and his flashlight approached the glow, ~~your~~ that source was apparently hidden by a slight rise in the terrain, the glow disappeared. Deputy Fitzpatrick did not see it again, ~~that~~ Mr [redacted] reported that as he ~~approached~~ observed the ~~depression~~ depression with their flashlights approach (the area of the glow) the glow disappeared there and immediately appeared at a more distant point of the swamp. Mr [redacted] described the motion of the glow as a smooth horizontal motion which did not follow the countour of the land. He indicated that if this had been an ordinary

Insert C (3)

vehicle the lights ~~xxxxx~~ would have proceeded with a bumpy motion because of the irregularities in the terrain. Mr [redacted] indicated that the glow in various parts of the swamp lasted for $2\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 hours. The stories of Mr [redacted] and Deputies Mc Fadden do not ~~a~~ exactly agree here but this might be due to their different advantage points.

During ~~their~~ the [redacted] trek towards the swamp (incidently they never arrived at their objective, ~~therefore~~ never getting closer than 500 yards) they stated that as they came closer to the swamp they saw an oval ~~p~~ object depicted in figures 3 & 4. Deputy McFadden ~~direct through~~ drew figure #4, though he ~~had indicated~~ stated to me that he ~~had~~ had not seen the object himself. [redacted] and his son described the vehicle as a brownish oval with a green and white light at the opposite ends of the longitudal axis and a bright red elongated light in between the two.

When the officers returned to their patrol car they found two other patrol cars there. Deputy ~~Hun~~ Hunawill and his wife/who were in one car, and Officer ~~Brichco stated~~ Bushrod in another, asking the returning officers whether they had seen the lights directly above them. ~~they~~ the new arrivals stated that four lights were hovering directly above the officers while they were conducting their search in the swamp, and expressed surprise that the Deputy Hunawill stated that one of the lights came directly towards his car, passing at slightly to the right. Mrs [redacted] had rolled the window down and, peering out, stated that she observed the ball of light to pass very close to the car. Officer Hunawill had ~~talked~~ turned the car motor off to check whether any sound came from the ball of light. there was none. As he

Insert C(4)

did so the object was visible in front of him through the windshield. He got out, ~~positioned~~ paused to shut the door, and then looked around for the object, only to discover that the object was already to the rear of the car. this high angular rate, if correct, would indicate that the light must have been very near.

Before proceeding with ~~an analysis~~ a discussion of these observations it would be best to examine the basic reports from the Hillsdale area because of the great similarity between them and those in Dexter.

End of Insert C.

AZC Hamby

Case B - Hillsdale, Michigan

On Thursday, March 24th I traveled to Hillsdale with Amn ~~Hanaby~~ Hamby and his driver to investigate the Hillsdale case. We called first at the home of [redacted] County Civil Defense Director and operator of the [redacted] Funeral Home. He has ~~his~~ a pilots license, been in the Air Force, and is a very knowledgeble and ~~effective~~ seemingly efficient person. I talked with him /h/ at length about the sighting. Mrs Van Horn ~~took~~ had taken the first call, a repott from the girls' dormitory, to the effect that there were blue, red and white lights visible to the east from the dormitory near the ground. [redacted]n went to the back roof of his house and for 10 minutes scanned the skies and could see nothing. He did see a white light in the SW which he stated was stationary at first, and then appeared to change azimuth from 210 to 270 degrees . His wife and son David observed it for about 20 minutes. He said it wasn't a star, and not an aircraft because it remained in the field of the binoculars for five minutes. But

Insert D

Pranksters Busy After UFO Talk

BULLETIN

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — The Air Force said here today it hopes to come up with an explanation within the next 24 hours for the unidentified flying objects sighted in southeastern Michigan in recent days.

Maj. Hector Quintanilla, of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, project officer in charge of the Unidentified Flying Objects Office, said the investigation of the Michigan sightings is "beginning to shape up . . . we hope to have a reasonable explanation sometime Friday."

The Air Force office got into the investigation after numerous reports were received of the objects being seen three times within a week in the Ann Arbor area and in the nearby town of Dexter, Mich.

Working with the Air Force in the investigation is Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a Northwestern University astrophysicist and UFO project consultant. He has been asked to check on the reports of strange, glowing objects in the night skies.

The local investigation of the "flying saucer" phenomena slowed to a walk today as pranksters and vandals took over the scene and sheriff's deputies began a nighttime patrol of the "landing" area in Dexter Township.

No new reports of sightings occurred last night.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, an astrophysicist from Northwestern University who is probing the Washtenaw County unidentified flying objects, walked through the swamp on the Frank Mannor farm at 10600 McGinnis Rd. yesterday afternoon but came away confused. It was Mannor and his 18-year-old son Ronald who reported seeing a lighted flying object alight in the swamp about 8:30 p.m. last Sunday night. It flew away when the Mannor boy spoke, sheriff's deputies were told.

Dr. Hynek, retained by the Air Force to investigate "UFO's", said he is "still gathering facts."

"But it's like getting reports from a dozen people who saw a fire," Dr. Hunek said. "Everyone saw something different. However, I will say that these Washtenaw County reports are more consistent than most of the sightings I've investigated."

The scientist said he came up with no new evidence after tramping through the Mannor marsh and interviewing the Mannors, sheriff's deputies and others who saw the strange lights last Sunday.

The Mannor family has been besieged with crank calls, vandalism and nighttime prowlers since news of the sightings on their land was made public.

Sheriff Douglas J. Harvey has ordered a scout car to circle the area near the Mannor home during the nighttime hours because of the incidents.

Vandals have broken the windshield on the Mannor car, tossed broken bottles on their porch, chided them about seeing the objects with midnight telephone calls and roamed across the Mannor property after dark, the sheriff said.

"I think these acts speak pretty well for the level of intelligence of these vandals," Sheriff Harvey said. "My men are under orders to make arrests and bring these people in. We're going to stop this harrassment one way or another."

Six Whitmore Lake teen-agers were taken into custody after a prank involving a "homemade" saucer.

Sheriff's men said the youths —all 16 and 17 years old — made a wood and tin-foil "saucer" in shop class at Whitmore Lake High School yesterday. The youths placed a car headlight on the object and attached flashlights at the edges of it.

The boys then placed the four-foot-in-diameter object in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Wheeler at 2860 Barker Rd., Northfield Township. When the Wheelers were pulling their car into their driveway about 8:15 p.m. yesterday the youths ran up and told of seeing a "flying saucer" in the yard. They warned the Wheelers not to touch the object as it "might be dangerous."

Sheriff's deputies confiscated the "saucer" and brought the six boys to the County Jail for questioning. They were released to their parents and are to be interviewed later by Youth Bureau Cpl. George W. Miller.

While the initial rush of news media to the County Jail has slowed Sheriff Harvey reported his office continues to receive telephone calls from far-distant radio and television stations and newspapers.

Uniformed Sgt. Nuel K. Schneider who, with other deputies made the second sighting of flying objects eight days ago, is to be flown to New York City tomorrow to appear on a television interview about his experience. Sheriff Harvey, Sgt. Schneider and Deputy David Fitzpatrick are to appear on a Detroit television interview Sunday while other deputies who saw the objects or investigated the Mannor sightings have given more than 20-tape-recorded statements for radio.

A Montreal interview crew from a television station appeared at the jail this morning to film talks with officers and Mannor and his son.

Newspaper editors from various U.S. cities have contacted The Ann Arbor News for further information on the "saucers." Three national news magazines have had representatives in the city.

Dr. Hynek has not as yet contacted Hillsdale County Civil Defense Director William Van Horn. Hynek made one visit to Hillsdale where Van Horn and 87 Hillsdale College coeds watched strange flying objects for several hours four nights ago. However, Van Horn said this morning he has yet to meet Dr. Hynek. He said the scientists talked with him briefly on the telephone but has made no personal contact.

Van Horn says he is convinced that the objects he and the Hillsdale College coeds saw was not "marsh gas." The theory has been advanced that gases from rotting vegetation in the swamps could have been the objects seen both by the Mannors and Van Horn.

"When I was a kid I played regularly in a swamp," the CD director said. "I know what marsh gas looks like, its color and what it does. What we saw the other night was not this. It was an object which I never saw before."

Van Horn said he and several assistants tracked pranksters last night who appeared in the swamp near Hillsdale College with flares. The CD director said the pranksters left behind the remains of flares they were using in an attempt to perpetrate a hoax.

At Westport, Conn., police said five persons purchased weather balloons, inflated them with gas, attached railroad flares to them and released them.

Insert D(2)

he saw nothing in the area of the sky to the northeast and east. This was reported to the girls but they called back at 1105 (Barbara Cohn) and stated, in effect, sorry to bother you, don't want you to think we are crackpots, but the thing is coming down" It was straight East of the dormitory and probably ½ miles away, they stated. [redacted] called the State Police as well as the city police who arrived shortly, investigated the area and reported there was nothing to be seen. Because the girls continued to report lights, V[redacted] decided to go to the dormitory. He saw Mrs [redacted] housemother at the dormitory, who took [redacted] to the second floor of the dormitory. They went to the room where Miss Jo Wilson and Sara Robecheck were. The girls had the room dark and windows opened and were looking down towards a swampy depression in the country side. Van Horn observed the lights then himself for the first time.

After getting this from Van Horn's story at his home, we proceeded to the dormitory and talked with Mrs Hearne who took us up to the ~~same~~ sighting room, where the same girls were interviewed. They were most cooperative and Miss [redacted] drew the attached picture, (Figure #4). Both girls told me that attention was first called by a casual glance out of the window which lead to a remark by one of them " theres no house down there, is there??" or words to that effect. A fairly bright red light and two yellowish lights, resembling Christmas tree lights, according to the girls, were close to the ground in the marsh area, where, they obviously knew there was no house.

89

Insert D(3)

They reported no tangible object. They did remark, although there was much confusion, ~~however~~, that ~~A- to this~~, ~~that~~ several of the girls had just before the main sightings. seen a very bright light sweep past the window, I could get not consistant story relative to this, in contrast to the ~~vide~~ fairly consistent description to the lights inthe swamp.

According to V[redacted] Horn the lights were surrounded by a glow which rose every onee in awhile To above the trees to about 150 feet above the swamp, appearing to get brighter as it rose, then rather quickly dimming out as it got higher. It appeared, V[redacted] said, as though it wished to avoid the periodic sweep of a nearby airplane beacon.

[redacted] stated that his first impression of the lights were that they were marsh lights, otherwise known as fox lights, etc. He told me that he was about to say that this was what they actually were, but just about the time he thought he had the solution, the red light on the right and the white light on the left (a location of these lights did not agree with the girls description) started to get more brilliant. It was at this time that the lights appeared to rise. The lights made ~~their~~ Their ascent and descent some four times between 1130 pm 21 March and 145 am 22 March. Van Horn thought that between the two lights he could see a mass and thought it was convex shaped. The girls, however, had described only a red light at that position.

The arrows on the sketch indicate, according to the girls, the extent of the horizontal and vertical motion of the lights.

End of Insert D

I am not reporting at this time the numerous side investigations, such as a trip to the home of a young chap who had reported to

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Insert E (1)

Insert I (2)

Van Horn that he had a photograph ~~a~~ of a UFO. I visited this chap at Hillsdale and discovered that, as far as I was concerned, he had photographed a blimp. I did give him $2 for a ~~poxxxx~~ print, just for the record, which I ~~have~~ never ~~not yet~~ received. I will not also report at this time the many peripheral ~~preferbal~~ conversations I had with individual policemen from the office of the sheriff of Washtenaw County at Ann Arbor, Michigan (Sheriff Harvey, and a number of his deputies), members of the Chelsea Police Department (Chief John Palmer, Clyde Myers and Charles Sharpe and a number of his other men), and the police in Dexter Michigan (Captain Taylor and his men, notably Officer Hunawill), nor will I describe the fairly long discussion I had with Colonel Miller, civilian Defense Chief in Ann Arbor, who appears to be a very practical and blunt man who told me, in a nutshell, that he took no stock in any of the reports that had been going around. I might point out, that all through the investigation I made discreet inquiries relative to character reference and general reliability of ~~toher~~ other witnesses, and came away with the general impression that I had not been dealing with seasonedd and careful investigators, but rather

/ 11

Insert E(3)

with men untutored in reporting matters outside their normal line of reporting (license plates, accidents etc but not reporting angular rates, angualr distances in the sky, brightnesses, and in general, time motion sequences). I was forced, therefore, to take into account, and regard as facts, only such things which had been reported fairly consistantly by several witnesses. The doubt cast upon certain witnesses by other witnesses did not inspire in me a feeling of confidence as to the quality and reliability of the data ~~I must use or~~ I ### was obliged to use from which to draw my conclusions. I therefore felt that the only expedient thing to do was to concentrate on the consistent aspects of the stories from Dexter and HIllsdale and place into another category the host of the individuals and generally mutally conflicting bits of testimony offered by the many individuals I talked to during my three day stay.

I therefore decided to look at the common pattern which seemd to be developing in the Dextern and Hillsdale cases. These had many interesting points in common; first, the lights in both cases were ~~were~~ definitely ~~were~~ associated with swamp areas. While it was true that various individuals reported lights traveling in the sky at about those times

9/12

(2)

(2)

Insert E(4)

and in those general vicinities, I could form ~~a~~ no consistent

picture whatever of these alleged events. On the ~~contrary,~~ other hand,

I could form a consistent picutre of what apparently was observed

over the swamp at Dexter and ~~SW~~ at Hillsdale. In both cases

a distinctive/~~relationship,~~ reddish yellow, and green lights were

reported, plus a general ~~gl~~ yellow glow. The spectacular

lights, when reported, were stated to be of limited area. One

of the/~~glow~~ girls at Hillsdale described lights in the sky as Christmas

tree lights. Other girl at Hillsdale agreed but stated that a

yellowish glow surrounding and enveloped the discreet lights.

The similarity between the Dexter lights and the Hillsdale lights

was striking. Not only as to color and intensity, but motion as

well. The motion was described in both cases as smooth and

slow, with a tendency to disappear rather suddenly and reappear

elsewhere. Most observers described a smooth horizontal motion and while

other girls from Hillsdale said the lights seemed to get excited and moved

erratically when car lights and flash lights came into the vicinity, the

major behaviour was described as persistent, smooth and slow.

~~10~~ 13

Insert E(5)

I had hoped to be able to gather more data and, with the help of some of my Northwestern staff who were willing to come to the area with me and help in the interrogation and so to be able to examine many of the individual reports not associated directly with the swamps, but funds were not available for brining in any of my associates, who are excellent interagators in this field, and further, since the interest and excitement generated in these cases was mounting to fever pitch, it seemed expedient, in fact mandatory, to hold a press conference and make a progress report. Until the evening before I was to make such a statement, I was still puzzled as to a natural explanation for even the consistent sightings. Fortunately, I have a number of friends in the acedemic world in Ann Arbor and whose invaluable aid I enlisted.

I would like to give credit to the scientists I talked with until very late into the night but they prefer to remain anonymous. I am sure, however, that should their testimony be officially required, rather than for the press, their cooperation could very easily be obtained.

11/14

Insert E(6)

It was from these academic gentlemen that I obtained the information on marsh gas and the lights frequently associated with it. To summarize, it appears that rotting ~~vegetable~~ vegetation in the swamps produced methane, hydrogen sulfide, under CH_4, and H_2S, in ample quantities in certain conditions. Methane is oderless, H_2S is not but since it is present in relatively small quantities one does not smell it unless one overturns a shovel full of swamp material. I am told that this ~~which~~ would ~~tend~~ then release a distinct odor. ~~I am told.~~ In addition, phosphine PH_3 ~~P_{h3}~~ is produced by the reduction of phosphorous compouds in the marsh material. These three gases ~~are not~~ ordinarly do not spontaneously ignite, but, I am told, ~~that~~ a small impurity in the PH_3, ~~P_{h3}~~, namely P_2H_4, ~~name P_2h_4~~ is highly flamable and when exposed to air spontaneously ignites, ~~which~~ This then apparently can serve to ignite the other gases. The phenomena of swamp lights ia apparently quite well known, and references to it are ample in the literature. Even in ~~scientific~~ non- technical literature these lights, variously known as will-o-the-wisp, ~~ignus, Fhoatus~~ ignus fatus, fox lights, etc, have had many stories wove around them, including ~~such~~ stories of these lights being the souls of the departed as well as elemental ~~mithelogical~~ mythological entities.

~~12~~ 14a

Insert E(7)

Technically they are treated in two books to which I had immediate access. Light and Colour in the Open Sky, by Minnaert and Chemistry, by Sienko and Plane. ~~W~~ Here the lights are described even into their colors, red, yellow, white and green, thus matching the colors described by the majority of the witnesses. It is stated ~~that~~ in these books, that the lights are ~~luminescence~~ illuminicenty ~~is~~ a form of low temperature chemical luminescense which does not char or burn grass, etc. The lights general ly are ~~eveniseent~~ evanescent, burning ~~é~~ here for a momment or so, going out, and appearing some feet or yards away as another plume of gas spontaneously ignites. This sporatic lighting is general soundless, although sometimes a "popping" noise is heard (this may be ~~have~~ the origin of the "ricochet sound" Mr Mannor reported). The illusion of motion can easily be ~~carried~~ given by the sporadic appearance of a wisp of light here, and then there.

The lights have never been described as truly bright. They would be visible best to dark-adapted eyes on a clear dark night and also on a night which there was no high wind (which ~~# labor~~ would quickly dissi pate the gas as it bubbled up from underneath).

It appears to me that ~~all the major~~ many of the conditions for the appearance of swamp lights were ~~#~~ satisfied ~~both~~ at both Dexter and Hillsdale. I can't state with any certainty that this is the correct solution to the problem; merely that it is the most likely natural cause. I would of course, appreciate learning of other possible natural causes should they be forthcoming. We can, I believe, completely eliminate any solution based on a/c, balloons, birds, meteors, stars, etc, because they simply do not fit the consistent data reported to me.

End of Insert E ~~13~~ 15

Tuso/f F (1)

~~I therefore presented this likely explanation at the press conference.~~

The entire matter of a full dress press conference was most distasteful to me because I would rather present carefully weighted and consistent evidence and conclusions, with due time allowed, to a body of scientific colleagues than to a roaring ~~path~~ pack of news hounds whose chief interest appears to be in getting a quick story. ¶ I recommend once again, as I have often in the past, in my capacity as scientific consultant, that the ~~ufo~~ UFO phenomena which has now plagued us for a score of years, and has been responsible for countless words in newsprint during that time, should be recognized as a scientific and sociological ~~principle~~ problem of our times and studied as such by competent men in ~~these~~ various fields. ~~Since~~ Further, since the first requisite for any scientific investigation is concerned for the quality of the basic data, much more attention should be paid to the immediate gathering and procesing of such data. I would be most happy to submit a moe specific recommendation on the handling of this problem, based on my score of years of experience with the problem if this seems appropriate at this time.

~~During the three day interrogation~~

All notes obtained were gathered all through my working hours on the three days are available in my ~~fiels.~~ files

— End of Report F.

-20

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

July 30, 1966

Dear Marilyn:

My dictaphone broke down and so my original plan to dictate the whole report and then have my secretary retype it won't work---anyway in the interests of time--mail is slow from here---I will type as much of the report as I can myself, suggesting that you pick up, as indicated, copy from the preliminary report. No need for me to type that twice. Please send me at least two copies of the final report for my files--thanks.

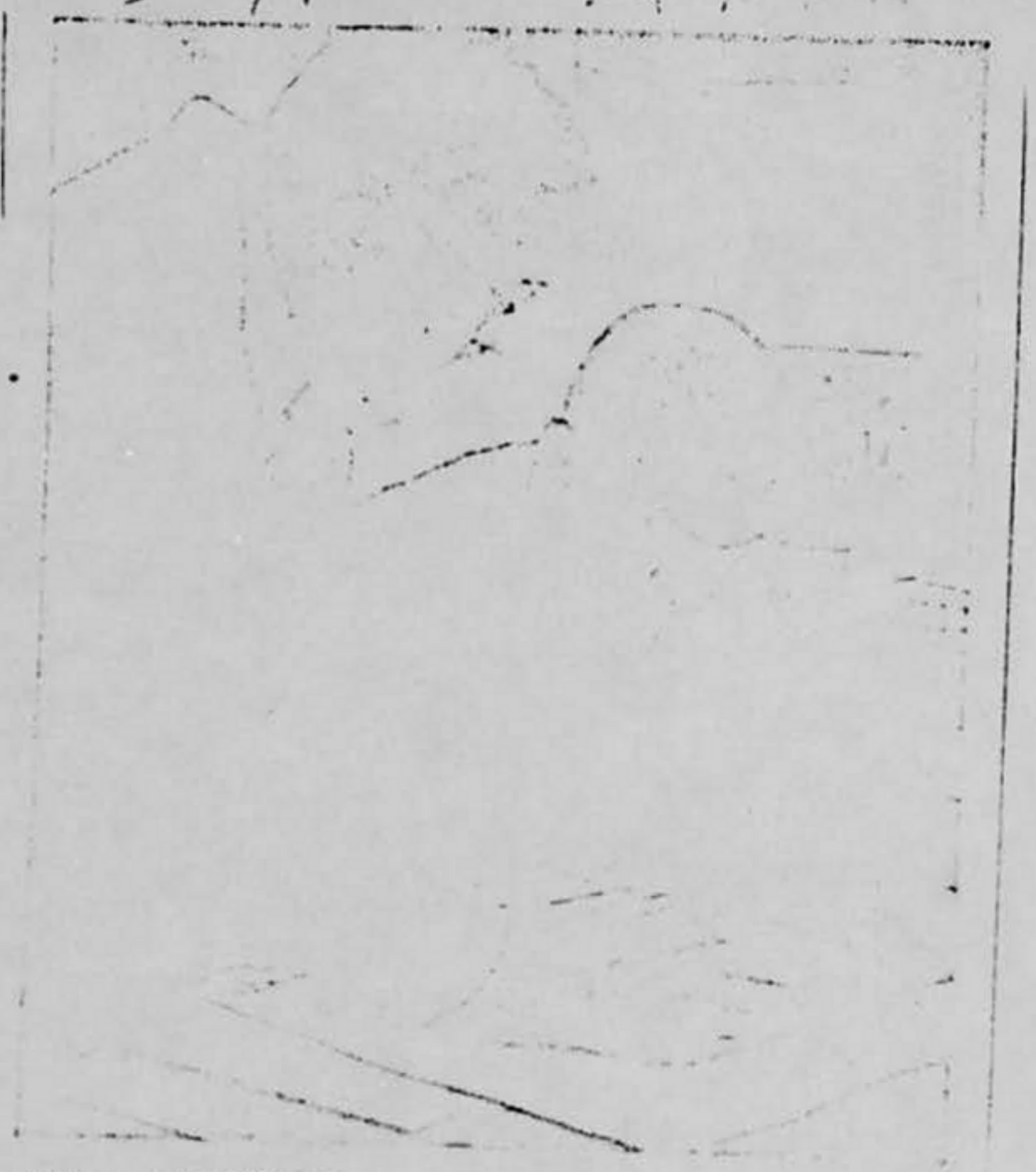
REPORT ON THE DEXTER-HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN UFO SIGHTINGS OF 20-21 MARCH 1966.

In my capacity as scientific consultant to the Air Force on UFO's, I was requested to investigate ~~the~~ two major sightings in Michigan which, for some reason, had captured public attention and were the subject of many radio and news stories. It was unfortunate that I did not ask permission to take at least two assistants along. Mr. Powers of the Dearborn Observatory had asked to go along, as had Mr. Vallee and Mr. Hanlon. A far better job of interviewing the large number of ostensible witnesses to the same events could have been done.

Once upon the scenes (Dexter and Hillsdale--and Ann Arbor and Chelsea along with Dexter), despite the help of A2C Hanby (loaned from Selfridge Field) I realized that the task was far too great for one man if all the witnesses wishing to be interviewed (and many of whom were 'miffed' because I had either not had a chance to talk with them or was able to give only a short time to them.)were to be satisfied. Since I had no authority to call in help without going through FTD, and that would take time, I decided upon the following plan of action: I would limit myself to interrogating key witnesses in both localities and would use as the basis of my judgment only those 'information bits' that were agreed upon by several witnesses. I could not give weight to one person who contradicted some bit of information the others had already ~~xgxrx~~ concurred in. Thus I had to neglect the testimony of one person who said he saw an object when the majority in the same location described only lights. Had I had assistance, I would have adopted the plan of having an assistant interrogate separately the single witnesses who had a different story to tell. I cannot comlain about the lack of assistance, however, since nome of us knew what proportions these incidents would assume as the next few days came around.

My interrogations were made triply difficult because of the ubiquitous press, radio and TV men. It was impossible to talk quietly with anyone without having a microphone placed in front of your face. I was always importuned for "just a word" or, "will you answer just one question?" It is difficult to describe to one who wasn't there the general bedlam. Mr. Mannor, the chief protagonist in the Dexter case, reportedly complained that I had spent very little time with him. It was virtually impossible to do so; several times I was waiting and anxious to talk with him but he was occupied with several reporters. Here again is where some assistants would have come in handy; they could have diverted the reporters while I talked to Mannor. One needs some clever interference run for him in cases like this; it is virtually impossible to do it single handed. By contrast, I recall the Eagle River Wis. "pancake" case. In that instance I had chartered a plane and took several graduate students with me. They were invaluable in chasing down leads, assisting in

DAILY NEWS 24



DR. J. ALLEN HYNEK, POLICE CHIEF TAYLOR
Study UFO Citing Reports at Dexter, Mich.—UPI.

MICHIGAN 'SAUCER'

Report on UFO Expected Soon

By JACK JONES, Daily News Staff Writer

The Air Force hopes to crack the latest Michigan "flying saucer" mystery within 24 hours, the officer in charge of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena office at Wright-Paterson Air Force base said this morning.

Maj. Hector Quintanilla said the investigation into the mysterious sightings in the Ann Arbor area is "beginning to shape up" and he hopes to have a reasonable explanation some time tomorrow.

DR. J. ALLEN Hynek, Northwestern university astrophysicist and scientific adviser to the Air Force on unidentified flying objects, was on his way to Hillsdale, Mich., this morning.

He plans to interview the Hillsdale college coeds and their dean who saw the glowing object, Quintanilla said.

The major said he has sent T/Sgt. David Moody of his office to Michigan to confer with Dr. Hynek this afternoon. Moody is Quintanilla's assistant in the Project Blue Book office and has had considerable experience with UFO investigations.

AN AIRMAN from Selfridge AFB at Mt. Clemens, Mich., has also been helping in the investigations, according to Quintanilla.

He said investigations so far have made it possible to rule out quite a number of things.

"Sometimes negative answers are almost as helpful as positive ones," he said.

WITH SO MANY witnesses, he said, it takes quite a while to check them all and get the details, elevations, angles, times and other facts needed for a complete investigation, Quintanilla said.

Scores of persons, ranging from farmers to policemen, also said they saw the hovering, glowing object during the past week end.

the interrogation of subsidiary witnesses and running very necessary interference, making special arrangements to see people etc. I have resolved that in investigating future cases, if I do at all, I must have at least one dependable assistant who knows the ropes. Otherwise too much time is wasted in sheer mechanics.

Through the kindness of Prof. [redacted] of the Graduate School, University of Michigan, I made my headquarters at his home during my several day saty and both he and Mrs. [redacted] was of extreme help. Mrs. [redacted] gave freely of her time in answering the phone, which seemed to ring incessantly, to very late hours, and then again early in the morning. It was through Dr [redacted] kindness that I was put into touch with several University of Michigan faculty members (who prefer to remain anonymous) who were able to give me considerable help on possible physical solutions to the sightings. It was at [redacted] invitation that eleven members of the University of Michigan astronomy department met with me at Dean Miller's home to discuss the sightings and other things as well.

It is virtually impossible to describe the hectic nature of the three days in the Ann Arbor neighborhood. I certainly would not wish to undergo another such episode unless I were far better prepared for it in terms of time and physical assistance. Nonetheless, it happened this way, and I went after the salient 'facts' of the sightings and let the chips fall where the y would.

(M: Take up Insert A at this point---it is page one of the original report)

I should apologize for the lack of detail in the description of the people I interviewed. Things happened so fast that there was little time for making formal records. The next time I undertake an investigation of any scope I will want to take with me an IBM portable recorder to assist me in getting names, places, and associations down correctly.

There may be some comment that I never interviewed Mr. Mannor's son. I fully intended to. He was either with reporters or unavailable. There simply was not enough time to interview everyone!

Now as too the cases themselves: (M pick up Insert B/ M: where are the maps? Local map of Territorial Road and Quigley road woould be handy here and the map showing arrows. Didn't I leave that with you? Does the VanHorn report have this? I probably have my maps at home if I didn't leave them with you.).

Now continue with narrative--we'll call it Insert C

After end of Insert C, continue with following:

It is most unfortunate that none of the witnesses in the Dexter area were technically trained. It was difficult for me to speak to them in terms of angles, and angular rates--their powers of description were inadequate to the occasion; they would have made poor reporters or investigators. This is not to disparage the witnesses, and certainly not to impugn their honesty or sincerity---they simply lacked the ability to describe accurately and technically.

Let us now examine the Hillsdale case; the witnesses were of the same order as those at Dexter with the x exception of Mr [redacted] who has had technical training, holds a pilots licesse, and is generally articulate. But even for him the words of accurate description failed him. Further, to one of his training, he should have availed himself of other technically trained people in the area rather than rely solely on the girls at Hillsdale college. The college has some

science teachers who certainly should have been alerted and their opinions and observations solicited. Also, while we could hardly expect Mr. [redacted] to have a camera ready, certainly the people at Hillsdale, with a good vantage point, and three hours available to them, should have placed a camera in action and obtained a time exposure of the lights. So now let us look at the Hillsdale case:

M: Now Insert D here.

In Hillsdale Mr. [redacted] was clearly the best observer as far as technical background was concerned, yet his knowledge of physics is not good. After I had gotten back to Ann Arbor we had a few more phone talks, and at one time he called me rather late at [redacted] home to inform me that he was seeing lights in the sky near the horizon--and that through binoculars the lights were vertical lines, green on top, yellow inthe middle, and red on the bottom. He failed to recognize this as the effects of atmospheric refraction of starlight into a small spectrum. [redacted] also struck me as a man who becomes enamoured with an idea and tends to lose objectivity in favor of the idea. He tends to ride a hobby horse,as was indicated when he marshalled all his forces at a later date to set out to prove the marsh gas hypothesis wrong

M: Now put in Insert E

In putting forth the swamp gas explanation of the major Michigan sightings I am aware that it is open to several objections: we do not know whether swamp lights ever appear at the near freezing temperatures that obtained in those areas at the time. If these were swamp lights, one may well ask why they have not been seen in those localities before. One may also ask why not at other swamp areas in Michigan instead of just these two? I am also concerned that the Michigan sightings bear a slight resemblance to other UFO sightings in which swamp areas do not figure. I am also concerned that I had to neglect the peripheral evidence of the few people who said that they thought an object had been present. On the other hand, no convincing or coherent evidence was presented that any object had been seen either to enter or to leave the swamp areas. And why swamp areas in both cases? The case for swamp gas is by no means conclusive, and is unprovable, but still remains in my mind as a logical explanation for the majority opinion as to what was sighted. I therefore presented this likely explanation at the requested press conference, at which I pointed out in no uncertain terms that the swamp gas hypothesis was just that and that "I couldn't prove it in a court of law".

I wish that a press conference had not been necessary, or, if necessary that it had been handled more expertly and adriotly. I have little to say that is complimentary about the PIO public relations office at Selfridge Field. It was amateurish in the extreme, and displayed no knowledge of how a press conference should be handled.

M: Now Insert F please.

In conclusion, it is unfortunate that so much press and public attention was paid to the Michigan sightings which, as far as UFO reports go, do not compare in substance or in competent witnesses, to many other cases in the file which got very little attention. But at least, in the Michigan cases there was a possible fairly obvious physical explanation at hand; with the others, which remain unidentified, this does not appear to be the case.

END

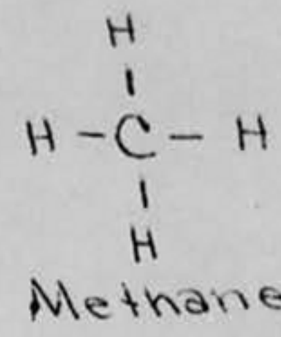
J. Allen Hynek

TAB	ITEM
A	REPORTS AND INVESTIGATIVE DATA
B	MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
C	MEMOS FOR THE RECORD
D	MAPS AND SKETCHES
E	NEWS RELEASES
F	NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

45 p + 17 pieces of paper in
SE envelope

METHANE GAS

Methane is a hydrocarbon, meaning that it is composed of hydrogen and carbon atoms. By looking at a chemical diagram we see that



Methane

4 atoms of hydrogen combine with 1 atom of carbon to produce CH_4 or methane.

It can now be noted from its chemical formula that methane contains 5 atoms in its molecule, 4 atoms of hydrogen and 1 carbon atom. This property enables it to be classified as a gas.

Methane is more often known as "swamp gas", "marsh gas", and "fire damp" among other terms. It occurs due to the decaying of animal and vegetable matter under water. It is then given off due to the decomposition reaction, bubbling through the water, and escaping.

Methane is a colorless and odorless gas, insoluble in water, and burns with a blue flame. It is highly inflammable and often times is the cause of explosions in coal mines.

Ethel A. Faull
509 East Prospect Street
Kewanee, Illinois
March 25, 1966

Major Hector Q. Quintanilla,
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Division
of Blue Book
Dayton, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I have been very interested in the account in the Chicago Tribune of March 23rd telling of lights seen over a swamp near Dexter, Michigan. I am addressing this letter to you because, like I, you are unexcited over this phenomena.

I think there can be little doubt that this manifestation is known as "will o' the wisp", or from the Latin "foolish fire", and it should incite little attention except for its beauty.

I have seen these lights as described in this article many times when I was a child. We were accustomed to seeing them above a small swampy body of water which was an over-flow from a creek than ran through our neighborhood.

If you will look in the dictionary under the name "ignis fatuus" you will see that the lights are due to phosphorous that forms over the water in a swamp or marsh. There never was a sound accompanying these lights, but it may be that we never went close enough to hear. At any rate we were never concerned over their appearance as we knew what they were; and, too, the swamp was small and the display not elaborate.

What fantastic things this mortal mind can conjure up when the unusual presents itself!

Very truly yours,

Ethel (Mrs. Edwin) Faull

P.O.Box 241
Mount Vernon,N.Y.
March 25,1966

Major Hector Quintanilla
Air Force UFO Project
Wright-Patterson A. F. Base
Dayton,Chio

Dear Major Quintanilla:

If Dr. Hynek has not already notified you of the facts I have listed below I will most happily explain the Milan,Mich. photgraphes.

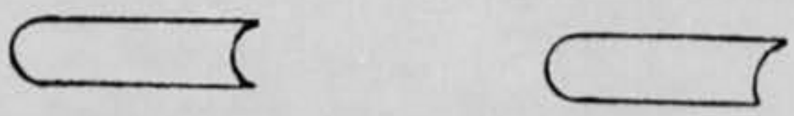
Whether or not it was intended the photograph is a hoax. It does not show UFO's but simpley the planet Venus and the moon. There seems to either be a slight mixup in dates in the local papers or the photogapher has lied about the date,he gave March 16 while the facts fit March 17. Working from several astromonical books the newspapers text and the AP wirephoto I have obtained the following information;

1) The moon and the planet Venus were close together on the morning of March 17 just before dawn.
2) The UFO's rose about 4AM local time,the moon and Venus rose about 4AM local time.
3) The UFO's were visable until about 7AM,Venus(which is very bright just now)and the moon would have been easily visable until about sunrise which was about 7AM.
4) One exposure shows the lower part of the sky illuminated,if this can be assumed to be the coming of dawn the camera was aimed southeast,Venus and the moon were in the southeast.
5) At about the time of the photograph(5:30 AM CST)Venus and the moon were about 10^{o} appart. If the largest UFO in the photo is assumed to be the moon whose apparent diameter is $\frac{1}{2}^{o}$ then the seperation of the two UFO's is 10^{o}.
6) During a ten minute time exposure a celestial object will trail about $1\frac{1}{2}^{o}$ across a photographic plate as a result of the earth's rotation. If we again assume the largest UFO is the moon the amount of trailing of both UFO's is $1\frac{1}{2}^{o}$.
7) The moon was a cresent on the morning of March 17 and if a time exposure were taken of it,it would apnear as in illustration A in the photograph it looked like B.
8) One of the objects was discribed as red on the bottom,white in the middle and blue on top. When a celestial object is at a low altitude atmospheric refracrion causes it to appear just this way.

I hope I have been able to shed some light on these photographes if Dr. Hynek has not already done so.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Bortle



A B

Mr. John E. Bortle
New York City Amateur
Astronomers Assoc., Inc.

B

K. MAJ F. L. BROKAW, BASE OPERATIONS OFFICER. SELFRIDGE AFB MICH. THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE OBSERVER WAS RECEIVED FROM DEPUTY STANLEY MC FADDEN, WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT, MICH. DEPUTY MC FADDEN WAS CALLED TO THE SCENE AND REPORT GIVEN BY FRANK MANNOR. DEPUTY MC FADDEN SAW THE LIGHTS AND HEARD THE SOUND MADE BY OBJECT. HE DID NOT VIEW THE OBJECT AS LONG NOR AS CLOSE AS [redacted], BUT IS IN AGGREMENT WITH HIM ON WHAT HE OBSERVED. HE BELIEVES MR [redacted] IS RELI-BLE ND NOT GIVEN
P GE 5 RUWTPQ 0041 UNCL S
TO H LLUCIN TIONS. PRELIMIN RY N LYSIS GIVES NO B SIS FOR DISBELIEF IN THE SIGHTING NOR CLUE TO ITS IDENTITY. BASED ON THIS REPORT AND THAT OF NEWS MEDIA OF THE AREA, WHICH ALSO COVERED MR MANNORS SIGHTING AND THAT OF OTHER UNKNOWN WITNESSES, BELIEVE THIS TO BE A FACTUAL REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT.

L. NONE

BT

NNNN

20M 310-45

30M 310-65

50M 300-35

80M N-A

3. CIRIFORM CEILING 5-10 BECOMING 9-10

4. VISIBILITY 15 MILES

5. LESS THAN .5 TO .9

PAGE 4 RUWTPQA0041 UNCLAS

6. NONE

7. SURFACE PLUS .5.5 DEG C

6M MINUS 1 DEG C

10M MINUS 3 DEG C

16M MINUS 16.5 DEG C

20M MINUS 27 DEG C

30M MINUS 47.5 DEG C

50M MINUS 57.5 DEG C

80M N-A

H. NONE

I. NONE

J. NONE

Detroit Free Press

Friday, March 25, 1966 THE SECOND FRONT PAGE Page 3, Section A

Air Force to Explain 'Saucers'

What are those mysterious, glowing, flying objects that have aroused so much furor in southeastern Michigan this week?

The Air Force said Thursday that it expects to come up with a reasonable, logical answer sometime Friday.

The Air Force investigation, said Maj. Hector Quintanilla, of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, O., is "beginning to shape up. We hope to have a reasonable explanation sometime tomorrow."

• • •

QUINTANILLA is the project officer in charge of the Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) office.

The Air Force, which has been checking out UFO reports for nearly 20 years, has come up with some dandy explanations in the past. Quintanilla didn't indicate which of them might fit the current Michigan situation or whether we might be able to add a new one to the collection.

But enough people have seen these apparitions, with their flashing colored lights and weird flight patterns, for the Air Force to send one of their top civilian investigators, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, to check into the situation.

Hynek, astrophysicist at Northwestern University, has been looking into UFOs for 18 years for the Air Force and says that so far he has found no evidence to indicate that any of the mysterious sights in the sky are the result of "extraterrestrial intelligence."

• • •

HE EXPLAINED that this means that they aren't little green men from Mars or Venus swooping down on us with their anti-gravity-powered space saucers.

So the official Air Force explanation isn't expected to satisfy those who watched the saucers soaring over Dexter, Hillsdale, Warren, Clinton Township and various other places.

It may agree with Alfred Dickens, of York, Pa., a maintenance man for the York County Gas Co., who snorts at saucers and says the phenomena are merely balls of "damp gas" seeping from swamps and marshes.

Also called "Jack-o-Lanterns," they form in warm, still air and are blown by light breezes so that they dance around, he said.

2. DUSK TO NIGHT

LOCATION OF OBSERVER CLN 8 MILES NW OF ANN ARBOR OUTSIDE OF SMALL

PAGE 3 RUWTPQA0041 UNCLAS

TOWN OF DEXTER 8356W 4219N.

OBSERVER:

1. [redacted] RD, DEXTER, MICH. AGE 47, FARMER. APPEARS RELIABLE, HAS HUNTED FREQUENTLY IN THIS AREA AND STATES POSITIVELY THE LIGHTS WERE NOT FIRES CAUSED BY NATURAL GAS IN THE SWAMP OR MARSHLAND.

WEATHER AND WINDS

1. CLEAR

2. WINDS CLN

SURFACE 210-15 (ceiling)
6M 310-25 (visibility)
10M 320-35 (Bank of clouds east)
16M 310-60 (Thunderstorms in area)

5. N-A

PAGE 2 RUWTPQA0041 UNCLAS

6. RED LIGHT ON ONE SIDE, GREEN ON THE OTHER WITH WHITE GLOW IN CENTER. TWO OBJECTS LIKE ANTENNA POINTING DOWN.

7. N-A

8. LIKE A RICOCHETING BULLET

9. NONE

B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECTS

1. NOISE AND LIGHTS

2. WESTERLY CLOSE TO GROUND

3. SAME

4. ONE APPEARED TO BE IN TROUBLE, GOING UP AND DOWN WHILE THE OTHERS STAYED OVERHEAD. AT ONE POINT IT DIPPED SO CLOSE TO THE GROUND IT APPEARED TO HAVE TOUCHED OR LANDED.

5. DISAPPEARED QUICKLY TO THE WEST

6. THREE HOURS

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION. 1. GROUND-VISUAL 2. BINOCULARS

3. N-A.

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING

1. 21-0130Z TO 21-0330Z MAR

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN: 6714 (23 Mar 66) H/jjp

ACTION: NIN-7

INFO: SAFOS-3, XOP-1, XOPX-2, DIA-1 (15). ADV CY DIA
SMB C003PIIU JAW RUWTPQA0041 081 46-UUUU- RUEBHQA.

ZNR UUUUU

P 222230Z

FM 1STCMBISPTGP SELFRIDGE AFB MICH

TO RUWMFVA-ADC

RUCIFHA-26 AIR DIV STEWART AFB N Y

RUEBBAA-AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD

RUEBBJA-HQCOMD USAF

RUEBHQA-OSAF WASH DC

BT

UNCLAS ICBOT 29013.

FOR HQ USAF, ATTN CLN AFNIN. FOR SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, ATTN CLN SAFOI. FOR AFSC ATTN CLN FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION.

TO		CYS
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	OSP	
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	DSMC	

UFO REPORT IAW PARA 14 AFR 200-2

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT

1. LIKE TWO SOUP BOWLS PLACED ONE ON TOP OF OTHER (shape)

2. CAR OR SMALL BUNGALOW (size compared to known

3. BROWN

4. FOUR

AFHQ FORM JAN 65 0-309C

UNCLASSIFIED

INVEST: CON'T:

upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersinged officers returned to the [redacted] Road address, where the [redacted] were talked to.

TALK WITH [redacted] stated that he had observed the lights comming from the swamp, and had awakened his son, [redacted] BOTH [redacted] then proceeded into the swamps in an attempt to fing out the object which was producing the light. Upon entering the lower edge of the swamp, [redacted] stated "what is that thing", and a [redacted] Looked in the direction indicated, the object was observed. At the instant of observatio the small lights went out, and in just an instant, re-appeared across the swamp, a distance of about 500 Yards. At this time, the object became illuminated from a brilliant source of light, which flowed horizontal between the two (2) small lights. After watching the object for a couple of minutes, the rays of light from two flashlights were observed from the ridge above the object. The light from the object intensified, then went out, and a whistle simular to the sound of a Rifle bullet Ricochet was heard, and the object passed directly over the [redacted] in just an instant.

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT: Object was observed to be of a brown coloring, appearing to be Quilted type outside surface. Object appeared to be flat upon the bottom, and cone shaped toward the top, however, being low in height. Two small lights appeared to be at the outer edges of the object, glowing in a bluish-green light, and intensifing to a brilliant red in color. When the vehicle or object illuminated, the lighting was a yellow-white in color, and ran horisontal between the two outer lights, allowing some of the object to be viewed. Outer body appeared to be rough in textures.

PERSONS OBSERVING OBJECT:

[redacted], Dexter, DOB: Jan 5, 1919
[redacted] Road, Dexter, Dob: Jan 28, 1947
Several others, names unknown.

FURTER UFO SIGHTED: Shortly after the UFO was departed from the scene, CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT reported sighting a simular object over the Village of Chelsea, Hovering, and then departing at high rate of spped in a Westerly Direction.

A further sightin: of Simular Bluish-green lights was reported near the woods and swamp, North Side of N. Territorial Road, between Scully Rd., and Webster-Church Road, in Webster Twpl, County of Washtenaw, by Washtenaw County Sheriff Patrol #19, however, when attempt was made to get closer, lights disappeared and were not observed again. Further Search of the area was made with negative results.

DISPOSITION: FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SEARCH OF THE AREA WAS MADE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

STATUS:
OPEN:

Respectfully Submitted,
Dep. Fitzpatrick/McFadden

20.2

Comp. No. 01058

WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Comp. Name Bob Wagner

Nature of Comp. UFO

Address Dexter Body Shop
Dexter Mich.

Location Between [redacted] & N. Terr.

Date Received 3-20-66 Time 8:30 P

Date Occurred 3-20-66 Time 8:30 P

Phone No.: Res. _____ Bus. _____

Telephone XXXXX Radio _____ Letter _____ in Per _____ Received by Dep. Kelly

Officers Assigned Dep. McFadden & Fitzpatrick and Car #34

Time Assigned 8:35 Pm

Details of Comp. Comp. called and stated that there was a strange object in the swamp at the endof [redacted] Rd. It was on the ground, went up in air about 500' and came down making a lot of noise.

INVESTIGATION: Dispatched to theabove location, and made contact with the complainant at [redacted] Road. Complainant advised that an un-identified object was presently located in the swamp, to the rear of afore mentioned location, and had been so located for approximently (½) one-half hour. Complainant further related that the object had been observed to rise to an altitude of approximently 500 Feet, and then to return to the ground. Subject stated that lights were observed upon the object, and that the lighting turned from a blue-green to a brilliant red to a yellow in coloring. Object had appeared to be having difficulty in getting off of the ground.

[redacted] oad, and his son, [redacted] had watched the object for some time, and then proceeded into the woods and swamps, in an attempt to locate the object, and to see what if was. Both [redacted] were within the swamp at the time of arrival of the undersigned officers.

ACTION TAKEN: The undersigned officer, in company with the complainant, proceeded along Dexter-Pinckney Road to Territorial Road, and then turned onto Quigley Road, where a vantage point was obtained, being in direct line with the house, and the area of the objects observation. At this point, the patrol vehicle was secured, and the afore mentioned proceeded into the woods, in attempt to locate the swamp edge, and the object.

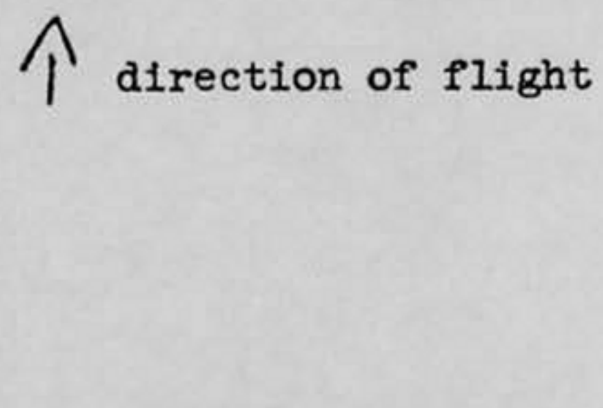
While in the woods area, a brilliant light was observed from the far edge of the woods, and upon approaching, the light dimmed in brilliance. As the afore mentioned approached the upper ridge, and edge of the woods, the Brilliant light again appeared, and then disappeared. A continued search of the area was conducted, through swamp, and high grass, with negative results.

Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers were met by others who had gathered to observed, and the undersigned officer were informed that one of the objects had been hovering directly over the area where our flashlight beams had been seen, and had then departed in a West Direction of flight, at high rate of speed.

OVER: DGF

Departed Young Field 1135 for Ann Arbor Airport (State Street) Contacted a Mr. [redacted] who said that they have a lot of night activity but he heard of no one who had seen anything. In fact, he himself was up Sunday night and saw nothing unusual. Mr. [redacted] said they had an electrical advertising sign but haven't used it for last two months. No night photo missions. Then contacted [redacted] and Bob McCannel at the Municipal Airport Building. Results there was also negative. No reports and not much activity at night. No helicopters. Departed 1215 for Lamp Post Motel to meet Dr. Hynek, arrived at the motel at 1240. He did not show. We were informed to meet him at the Chelsea Police Office at 1500.

Left Ann Arbor for Chelsea at 1400 arrived at Chelsea at 1450. Talked with two Chelsea Policemen who were reported seeing a UFO Sunday night. Their names are Clyde Meyers, and Charles Sharpe. They did not know how they got into this they knew they saw an a/c and still think thats what it was. They saw 3 lights, one red, one green and an orange-yellow glow between the other two and a little to the back. Time - 1130 - 1145 pm.



They described the object and its flight and it was agreed that this was an aircraft. (possible a jet w/afterburner?) Dr Hynek arrived at 1615 and he also agreed that there was nothing to indicate that it wasn't an a/c.

It was generally agreed that the glowing object seen in the swamp by the farmer and his son, and the Ann Arbor policemen was marsh gas.

Later that evening we received a telephone call from the airmen assisting Dr. Hyenk. They said a UFO was sighted near Ann Arbor and they would pick us up to go out there. Evidently they got their wires crossed as they left without us and we didn't know where the sighting was. We tried to get ahold of Dr. Hynek but couldn't so we went to the Sheriff's office. Shortly after we got there Dr. Hynek returned. He said that he had seen nothing unusual. Fitzpatrick was back and he had the photos that he had taken on 17 March 1966. It was a time exposure of the crescent moon and Venus. It was taken early in the morning. When the crescent moon was low on the eastern horizon and rising and Venus was a little to the left and slightly higher than the moon.

25 March 1966

Left Ann Arbor area 1100 for W-P AFB and arrived at W-P AFB at 1600.

TSgt David N Moody
Trip Report - A3C William Elmer, Michigan Area

23 March 1966

Checked out of FTD at 1916 hours, arrived at Ypsilanti approximately 2330 hours, spent night at Mayflower Motel, Ypsilanti.

24 March 1966

Departed Mayflower 0830 hours. Arrived at Willow Run Airport 0900 and talked with Mr. [redacted] and Mr [redacted] at the University of Michigan Infra-Red Photograpic Labratory. (Hanger of the Operations Section). They informed us that they had not been flying missions at night for the last two months. Mr. [redacted] informed us that Conductran Corporation might be doing work of this type. Sgt Moody called Mr. Silvester of Conductran Corp. They rent a plane and Mr. Silvester checked out the purchasing records and found that there was no activity on the nights of the 20,21,22 March 1966. They were in fact not doing any work at night. One of the employees at Willow Run said he had heard on the radio about a sighting in Flint, Michigan, last night, Wednesday, 23 March 1966.

Departed Willow Run 0935 hours for the County Court House in Ann Arbor. Arrived at the County Court House at 1000 hours. There we got a map of the county and found the location of the Sheriff's office and the Ann Arbor Newspaper Office. Since the Sheriff's office was only a block away we walked over there first. Arrived at the Sheriff's office where Sgt Moody called into the office to find out if Dr. Hynek had called. He had and we were informed that he would meet us at the Lamp Post Motel in Ann Arbor at 1:00 pm. Also, we got a copy of a cartoon that someone (unknown) had sketched and put together to look like it had came from a newspaper. It was a copy and it was learned that it didn't appear in the newspapers. We spoke briefly with Deputy Sheriff McFadden who had witnessed the sighting Sunday night. He said the object was sighted from about 8:30 to 12:05 pm Sunday night, 20 March 1966. He first saw the object due north at point A on the county map. He thought it was a radio tower beacon which was north of that point. He then proceeded to points B, C, and D and discovered that the object was not the beacon. At Point D the light was observed in the south. He said the light was about 3/4 mile away. Compared it to the size of the back end of a truck and about as bright as a radio tower light. We didn't probe too deeply into his sighting since Dr Hynek had already interviewed him.

Departed Sheriff's Office 10:28 hours for newspaper office (Ann Arbor News). Arrived 1030 hours. Got newspaper dated Mon, Tues, and Wed, 20,21,22 March 1966.

Departed Newspaper office 1100 hours for Young Field (small private airport) from there we phoned the owner (Dr Metty, phone 668-7331, 216 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan)

He said there may have been somebody up at night from there but no records were kept. Sgt Moody asked him if he would post a note asking if any pilots had observed anything unusual from the air and if they had, to forward the information to W-P AFB and he said he would.

The rotting vegetation produces marsh gas which can be trapped during the winter by ice. When the spring thaw occurs, the gas may be released in some quantity. The flame, Minnaert says, is a form of chemical luminescence, and its low temperature is one of its peculiar features. Exactly how it occurs is not known and could well be the subject of further investigation.

The glowing lights over the swamps near Dexter and Hillsdale were observed for two or three hours, and they were red, green, and yellow. They appeared to move sideways and to rise a short distance. No sound was heard except a popping sound.

It seems entirely likely that as the present spring thaw came, the trapped gases, CH_4, H_2S, and PH_3, resulting from decomposition of organic material, were released. The chemistry book by Sienko and Plane has this to say: "In air, Phosphine PH_3 usually bursts into flame apparently because it is ignited by a spontaneous oxidation of the impure P_2H_4. The will-of-the-wisp, sometimes observed in marshes, may be due to spontaneous ignition of impure PH_3 which might be formed by reduction of naturally occuring phosporus compound."

It has been pointed out to the investigating personnel by other scientists in this area that in swamps the formation of H_2S and CH_4 from rotting vegetation is common. These could be ignited by the spontaneous burning of PH_3.

The association of the sightings with swamps in this particular instance is more than coincidence. No group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamp. The glow was localized, and Deputy Fitzpatrick described the glow from beyond a rise adjacent to the swamp as visible through the trees. He stated that the light brightened and dimmed mush as stage lights do - smoothly and slowly - and this description exactly fits the Hillsdale sighting also. The brightening and dimming could have been due to the release of variable quantities of marsh gas.

The disappearance of the lights when people got close with flighlights or car lights would indicate that the glow seemed bright to dark-adapted eyes. The night was dark and there was no moon. The Hillsdale girls kept their rooms dark in order to see the swamp lights.

It appears very likely that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter (an unusually mild one in that area) and the particular weather conditions of that night - it was clear and there was little wind at either location - were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display.

Air Force Statement Regarding the UFO Sightings at Dexter, Michigan, on March 20, 1966, and Hillsdale, Michigan, on March 21, 1966

The investigation of these two sightings was conducted by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, scientific consultant to Project Blue Book; personnel from Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan; and personnel from the Project Blue Book office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

In addition to these two specific cases, there has been a flood of reports from this area both before and after March 20 and 21. The investigating personnel have not had the time to investigate all of these. It has been determined, however, that in Hillsdale, over and above the sincere and honest reporting by the young ladies at Hillsdale College, certain young men have played pranks with flares. It has also been determined that the photographs released yesterday through the press was taken on March 17 just before sunrise near Milan, Michigan, and have nothing to do with the cases in question. The photograph clearly shows trails made as a result of a time exposure of the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus.

The majority of observers in both the Dexter and Hillsdale cases have reported only silent glowing lights near the ground - red, yellow, and blue-green. They have not described an object. The only two observers who did describe an object have stated that they were no closer than 500 yards - better than a quarter of a mile away - a distance which does not allow details to be determined.

Witnesses have described glowing lights - lights that seem to move but never far from a definite place or lights which suddenly disappeared and popped up at another place. The locale in both cases was a swamp. In both cases, the location of the glow was pinpointed - in Dexter it was seen between two distant groups of people and at Hillsdale it was seen in a swampy depression between the girls and the distant trees. It was in both cases a very localized phenomena. The swampy location is most significant.

A swamp is a place of rotting vegetation and decomposition. Swamps are not a province of astronomers. Yet, the famous Dutch astronomer, Minnaert, in his book, Light and Colour in the Open Air, describes lights that have been seen in swamps by the astronomer Bessel and other excellent observers. The lights resemble tiny flames sometimes seen right on the ground and sometimes rising and floating above it. The flames go out in one place and suddenly appear in another, giving the illusion of motion. The colors are sometimes yellow, sometimes red, and sometimes blue-green. No heat is felt, and the lights do not burn or char the ground. They can appear for hours at a stretch and sometimes for a whole night. Generally, there is no smell and no sound except for the popping sound of little explosions such as when a gas burner ignites.

REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE DEXTER, MICHIGAN SIGHTING OF 20 MARCH AND THE HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN SIGHTING OF 21 MARCH 1966

The two sightings at Dexter and Hillsdale, respectively, may be called the crucial sightings which became the focal point of local attention (and later of nationwide) and had associated with them a veritable barrage of other reports with no clear cut association with the two principal events under discussion here. It is possible that many of these were the result of the general excitement surrounding these events and of suggestibility on the part of those who reported them. However, there were reports of odd sightings, particularly in the Milan area, a few nights previous to the sightings dicussed. It would have taken an army of investigators to have exhaustively looked into all of these. In the course of my three days of investigation, I talked with the following people at some length and with a host of others in passing.

County Sheriff Harvey - Washtenaw County
Deputy Stanley McFadden
Deputy David Fitzpatrick
Patrolman Hunnawill
Colonel Gerald G. Miller
Chief Taylor
[redacted]
Univ of Mich. Astronom Dept (11 members)
Univ of Mich. Faculty members
Mr. [redacted] Eng. Rad. Tel
[redacted]
Chief John Palmer - Clesea Police
Mrs [redacted]
Miss [redacted]
Miss [redacted]
Patrolman Clyde Myers
Patrolman _____ Sharpe
(Sgt. Schuerder, Deps Bushra and Anderson were contacted by A2C Hanby)

Expert Calls UFO Reports Consistent

No Speculation Yet On Causes Behind Michigan Lights

ANN ARBOR, Mich — (UPI) — The top Air Force expert on unidentified flying objects said yesterday recent reports of a glowing object seen throughout southern Michigan are "more consistent" than most he has investigated.

Dr. H. Allen Hynek of Northwestern university, chief scientific adviser for the Air Force Project Blue Book, refused to speculate however, on what might be behind the rash of UFO sightings in recent days.

Hynek, dressed in fatigues and hip boots for his close-up look at a swamp near Dexter, Mich., where a farmer reported the ghost ship landed Sunday night, said "I'm still gathering the facts."

Hynek has been in the area since Tuesday, interviewing witnesses and examining areas where the object was reported. His investigation has been carried on behind Air Force secrecy but he made yesterday's comments when encountered at the Dexter police station where he was questioning the police chief and several officers.

"It's like reports from people who saw a fire," the goateed astrophysicist said. "You get as many different facts as you get people who saw the fire. So far, all I've been able to come up with is reports of a variety of lights.

"These reports are more consistent than most of the other sightings I've investigated," he said.

Hynek said "I wish we had some photographs of this and more technical observers. The ideal situation would be to have a spectograph trained on the object to determine its makeup. I wish we had them available.

"Frequently these things turn out to be usual things seen under unusual circumstances," he said.

WPAFB Prober: Rules Out Hoax In Saucer Case

A local spokesman for the Air Force ruled out a hoax in the Michigan "flying saucer" mystery last night and said a "reasonable explanation" will be ready by noon today.

Maj. Hector Quintanilla, project officer for the national Unidentified Aerial Phenomena office at Wright-Patterson Air Force base, was not surprised by reports that the unidentified objects reported in Michigan may have been simulated by flares, as in Westport, Conn., Wednesday.

"I don't think this is a case of publicity seekers playing games," Quintanilla said. "But incidents of this sort just make it tougher for legitimate investigations of UFO's that actually mystify people."

Police Capt. Louis Rosenau, of Westport, Conn., reported the use of flares attached to weather balloons to perpetrate an apparent hoax.

The reports from Michigan began last Sunday when several persons, including police officers, reported triangular-shaped craft hovering close to the ground.

Quintanilla said that his office began investigation Tuesday and that Dr. J. Allen Hynek, astrophysicist and adviser to the national UFO office here, has been visiting Ann Arbor, Dexter, Hillsdale and several other cities where reports originated.

"He has been talking directly with the people who sighted objects," Quintanilla said, "He told me this afternoon (Thursday) that he would be up late tonight with research."

The major also has T/Sgt. David Moody, his assistant, in Michigan working on the investigation.

Quintanilla reports that they have checked off all of the things that the objects could have been, but were not, and investigation is now centered on positive information.

One of the reports came from William Van Horn, civil defense director of Hillsdale county, who said he saw the flying object east of Hillsdale Monday. He said it was "definitely some type of vehicle." He added it was about 20 feet across but that its boundaries were indistinguishable.

Quintanilla said that a press conference will probably be held today at Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, under the direction of Dr. Hynek.

My questions were specifically directed toward determining what was visibly perceived and towards pinpointing the location and extent and duration of the phenomena.

Case A - Dexter, Michigan

There follows the original report received at the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department at 835 pm on 20 March 1966, which can't be said to initiated

Complaintant called and stated that there was a strange object in the swamp at the end of [redacted] Road, It was on the ground, went up in air about 500' and came down making a lot of noise.

INVESTIGATION: Dispatched to the above location, and made contact with the complainant at [redacted]. Complainant advised that an un-identified object was presently located in the swamp, to the rear of afore mentioned location, and had been so located for approximately ($\frac{1}{2}$) one-half hour. Complainant further related that the object had been observed to rise to an altitude of approximately 500 feet, and then to return to the ground. Subject stated that lights were observed upon the object, and that the lighting turned from a blue-green to a brilliant red to yellow in coloring. Object had appeared to be having difficulty in getting off of the ground.

[redacted] had watched the object for some time, and then proceeded into the woods and swamps, in an attempt to locate the object, and to see what it was. Both [redacted] were within the swamp at the time of arrival of the undersigned officers.

ACTION TAKEN: The undersigned officer, in company with the complainant, proceeded along Dexter-Pinckney Road to Territorial Road, and then turned onto Quigley Road, where a vantage point was obtained, being in direct line with the

house, and the area of the objects observation. At this point, the patrol vehicle was secured, and the afore mentioned proceeded into the woods, in attempt to locate the swamp edge, and the object. While in the woods area, a brilliant light was observed from the far edge of the woods, and upon approaching, the light dimmed in brilliance. As the afore mentioned approached the upper ridge, and edge of the woods, the brilliant light again appeared, and then disappeared. A continued search of the area was conducted, through swamp, and high grass, with negative results.

Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers were met by others who had gathered to observed, and the undersigned officer were informed that one of the objects had been hovering directly over the area where our flashlight beams had been seen, and had then departed in a west direction of flight, at high rate of speed. Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers returned to the [redacted] Road address, where the [redacted] were talked to.

TALK WITH F[redacted] stated that he had observed the lights coming from the swamp, and had awakened his son, [redacted] BOTH [redacted] then proceeded into the swamps in an attempt to find out the object which was producing the light. Upon entering the lower edge of the swamp, [redacted] stated "what is that thing", and as [redacted] looked in the direction indicated, the object was observed. At the instant of observation the small lights went out, and in just an instant, re-appeared across the swamp, a distance of about 500 yards. At this time, the object became illuminated from a brilliant source of light, which flowed horizontal between ~~the~~ two (2) small lights. After

watching the object for a couple of minutes, the rays of light from two flashlights were observed from the ridge above the object. The light from the object intensified, then went out, and a whistle simular to the sound of a rifle bullet ricochet was heard, and the object passed directly over the MANNORS in just an instant.

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT: Object was observed to be of a brown coloring, appearing to be quilted type outside surface. Object appeared to be flat upon the bottom, and cone shaped toward the top, however, being low in height. Two small lights appeared to be at the outer edges of the object, glowing in a bluish-green light, and intensifying to a brilliant red in color. When the vehicle or object illuminated, the lighting was a yellow-white in color, and ran horizontal between the two outer lights, allowing some of the object to be viwed. Outer body appeared to be roughy in texture.

PERSONS OBSERVING OBJECT:

[redacted], Dexter, DOB Jan 5, 1919
[redacted]s Road, Dexter, DOB Jan 23, 1947
Several others, names unknown.

FURTHER UFO SIGHTED: Shortly after the UFO was departed from the scene, CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT reported sighting a similar object over the Village of Chelsea, hovering, and then departing at high rate of speed in a westerly direction.

A further sighting of similar bluish-green lights was reported near the woods and swamp, north side of N Territorial Road, between Scully Rd., and Webster-Church Road, in Webster Twp., County of Washtenwa, by Washtenaw County Sheriff Patrol #19, however, when attempt was made to get closer,

lights disappeared and were not observed again. Further search of the area was made with negative results.

DISPOSITION: FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SEARCH OF THE AREA WAS MADE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

STATUS: ~~MMMMM~~ OPEN

Mr. [redacted] the complainant, is the son-in-law of Mr. [redacted] who made the original sighting. Mr[redacted] as about to enter his house from a front yard, when, according to him, he noticed a bright light out of the corner of his eye. He thought at first it was a falling star which he said abruptly stopped right over a swamp to the immediate north of his barn. He called his son, [redacted], out from the house to verify the sighting and together they watched the glow of ligght behind the trees in the distant swamp. Apaarently at this time Mr. Wagner made the report to the Sheriff s office. Deputy McFadden and Fitzpatrick were dispatched to the [redacted] farm and in my interview with McFadden and Particularly with Fitzpatrick (with whom I spent several hours in detailed discussions) they stated that upon arrival at the farm Mr. [redacted] and hisson were already making a trek to the swamp area to look in an attempt to locate the "object". [redacted] and his son did not carry an lights save a cigarette lighter (it seems strange since thenight was dark, being the new Moon) The deputies thereupon proceeded to the point marked A on figure #1, where they parked their car. They then proceeded towards the glowing along a path marked by a dotted line (a path which I almost exactly repeated on Wednesday, 23 March in the company of Deputy Fitzpatrick and Airman Kelley, to point B). From point B, Deputy

vehicle the lights ~~xxxxx~~ would have proceeded with a bumpy motion because of the irregularities in the terrain. Mr [redacted] indicated that the glow in various parts of the swamp lasted for 2½ - 3 hours. The stories of Mr [redacted] and Deputies Mc Fadden do not exactly agree here but this might be due to their different advantage points.

During their trek towards the swamp (incidently they never arrived at their objective, ~~therefore~~ never getting closer than 500 yards) they stated that as they came closer to the swamp they saw an oval object depicted in figures 3 & 4. Deputy McFadden ~~direct through~~ drew figure #4, though he had indicated to me that he had had not seen the object himself. Mannor and his son described the vehicle as a brownish oval with a green and white light at the opposite ends of the longitudal axis and a bright red elongated light in between the two.

When the officers returned to their patrol car they found two other patrol cars there. Deputy ~~Hon~~ Hunawill and his wife who were in one car, Bushrod in another, and Officer ~~Brichee stated~~ asking the returning officers whether they had seen the lights directly above them. They stated that four lights were hovering directly above the officers while they were conducting their search in the swamp, and expressed surprise that the officers Deputy Hunawill stated that one of the lights came directly towards his car, passing at slightly to the right. Mrs [redacted] had rolled the window down and, peering out, stated that she observed the ball of light to pass very close to the car. Officer Hunawill had ~~talked~~ turned the car motor off to check whether any sound came from the ball of light. As he there was none.

God not here

did so the object was visible in front of him through the windshield. He got out. ~~positioned~~ paused to shut the door, and then looked around for the object, only to discover that the object was already to the rear of the car. this high angular rate, if correct, would indicate that the light must have been very near.

Before proceeding with an analysis of these observations it would be best to examine the basic reports from the Hillsdale area because of the great similarity between them, and those in Dexter.

Case B - Hillsdale, Michigan

On Thursday, March 24th I traveled to Hillsdale with Amn ~~Hennaty~~ Hamby and his driver to investigate the Hillsdale case. We called first at the home of [redacted] County Civil Defense Director and operator of the [redacted] Funeral Home. He has his pilots license, been in the Air Force and is a very knowledgeble and effective person. I talked with him /h/ at length about the sighting. Mrs Van Horn had Taken ~~took~~ the first call, a report from the girls dormitory to the effect that there were blue, red and white lights visible to the east from the dormitory near the ground. Van Horn went to the back roof of his house and for 10 minutes scanned the skies and could see ~~xxxxx~~ nothing. He did see a white light in the SW which he stated ~~to~~ was stationary at first, and then appeared to change azimuth from 210 to 270 degrees . His wife and son David observed it for about 20 minutes. He said it wasn't a star, and not an aircraft because it remained in the field of the binoculars for five minutes. But

proceeded towards the glowing along a path marked by a dotted line (a path which I almost exactly repeated on Wednesday, 23 March in the company of Deputy Fitzpatrick and Airman Kelley, to point B). From point B, Deputy Fitzpatrick observed a glow emitting from point marked C. Point C is also indicated on a map of the region. Points A, B C & M are also indicated on figure 2. Deputy Fitzpatrick reported that the glow reported at C brightened and dimmed slowly. "as though stage lights were being brighted and dimmed". Deputy Fitzpatrick never observed anything other than a glow. He did not even observe the glow to rise to the trees top level as Mannor and his son indicated it had.

While Deputy McFadden busied himself in another direction in the swamp. Deputy Fitzpatrick proceeded towards the glow. The deputies were equipped with flashlights and ~~X~~ the lights from the flashlights were visible to Mr Mannor and his son who ~~said~~ had now returned to the farm and were observing the deputies search from afar. Deputy Fitzpatrick stated to me that as he and his flashlight approached the glow, ~~your~~ source was apparently hidden by a slight rise in the terrain, the glow disappeared. Deputy Fitzpatrick did not see it again, ~~that~~ Mr [redacted] reported that as he/~~observed~~ the ~~depression~~, flashlights approach the area of the glow, the glow disappeared there and immediately appeared at a more distant point of the swamp. Mr [redacted] described the motion of the glow as a smooth horizontal motion which did not follow the countour of the land. He indicated that if this had been an ordinary

he saw nothing in the area of the sky to the northeast and east. This was reported to the girls but they called back at 1105 (Barbara Cohn) they stated in effect" sorry to bother you, don't want you to think we are crackpots, but the thing is coming down") It was straight East of the dormitory and probably ½ miles away, they stated [redacted] called the State Police as well as the city police who arrived shortly, investigated the area and reported there was nothing to be seen.

Because the girls continued to report lights [redacted] decided to go to the dormitory. He was saw Mrs [redacted], housemother at the dormitory, who took [redacted] to the second floor of the dormitory. They went to the room where Miss [redacted] and [redacted]. The girls had the room dark and windows opened and were looking down towards a swampy depression in the country side. Van Horn observed the lights then himself for the first time.

After getting this from Van Horn's story at his home, we proceeded to the dormitory and talked with Mrs [redacted] who took us up to the same room where the same girls were interviewed. They were most cooperative and Miss [redacted] drew the attached picture, (Figure #4). Both girls told me that attention was first called by a casual glance out of the window which lead to a remark by one of them " theres no house down there is there??" or words to that effect. A fairly bright red light and two yellowish lights, resembling Christmas tree lights, according to the girls, were close to the ground in the marsh area, where, they obviously knew there was no house.

They reported no tangible object. They did remark, although there was much confusion, however, that A to this, that several of the girls had seen a very bright light sweep past the window just before the main sighting. I could get not consistent story relative to this, in contrast to the fairly ~~wide~~ consistent description to the lights inthe swamp.

According to [redacted] thelights were surrounded by a glow which rose every onee in awhile To above the trees to about 150 feet above the swamp, appearing to get brighter as it rose. then rather quickly dimming out as it got higher. It appeared [redacted] said, as though it wished to avoid the periodic sweep of a nearby airplane beacon.

Van Horn stated that his first impression of the lights were that they were marsh lights, otherwise known as fox lights, etc. He told me that he was about to say that this was what they actually were, but just about the time he thought he had the solution, the red light on the right and the white light on the left (a location of these lights did not agree with the girls description) started to get more brilliant. It was at this time that the lights appeared to rise. The lights made the ascent and descent some four times between 1130 pm 21 March and 145 am 22 March. Van Horn thought that between the two lights he could see a mass and thought it was convex shaped. The girls, however, had described only a red light at that position.

The arrows on the sketch indicate, according to the girls, the extent of the horizontal and vertical motion of the lights.

I am not reporting at this time the numerous side investigations, such as a trip to the home of a young chap who had reported to

Van Horn that he had a photograph of a UFO. I visited this chap at Hillsdale and discovered that, as far as I was concerned, he had photographed a blimp. I did give him $2 for a pointy print, just for the record, which I have not yet received. I will not also report at this time the many ~~preferbal~~ peripheral conversations I had with individual policemen from the office of the sheriff of Washtenaw County at Ann Arbor, Michigan (Sheriff Harvey, and a number of his deputies) members of the Chelsea Police Department (Chief John Palmer, Clye Myers and Charles Sharpe and a number of his men), and the polce in Dexter Michigan (Captain Taylor and his men, notably Officer Dunawill) nor will I describe the fairly long discussion I had with Colonel Miller, Civilian Defense Chief in Ann Arbor, who appears to be a very practical and blunt man who told me, in a nutshell, that he took no stock in any of the reports that had been going around. I might point out, that all through the investigation I made discreet inquiries relative to character reference and general reliability of ~~heher~~ other witnesses, and came away with the general impression that I had not been dealing with seasoned and careful investigators, but rather

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Brand New Saucers

Anyone who thinks General Motors is a big outfit ought to consider the company that manufactures all those flying saucers. Now there's a whopping business.

Saucers come in all sizes and designs as people in southern Michigan, who sighted some the other night, will attest. There's the popular glow model which discreetly camouflages itself as a star. There's the distinctive hovering model equipped with a variety of flashing lights. Then there's the sports model that literally can disappear in a flash. (Racing stripe optional)

While last year's saucers won wide response from earthlings, the new 1966 models promise to give saucer makers their greatest year ever.

Stan McFadden, A Washtenaw county, Mich., sheriff's deputy, who spotted one of the new saucers, said, "I still don't believe it." Frank Mannor of Dexter, Mich., said, "It wasn't like the pictures of a flying saucer and it had a coral-like surface. He added that it was pryamid-shaped and had a porthole. (Obviously, Mr. Mannor was viewing the deluxe model with twin nuclears.)

Of course, there are some who won't believe Mr. Mannor or Deputy McFadden. Even pictures of the sleek foreign craft get the pooh-pooh. But those who appreciate a good machine know that somewhere in space there's a giant assembly line where thousand of little green men in safety shoes are pounding and welding, wiring and painting.

Now if someone would just catch the license number of one of those saucers—maybe GM could seal a franchise.

with men untutored in reporting matters outside their normal line of
license plates, accidents etc but not
reporting angular rates, angualr distances in the sky, brightnesses, and
in general, time motion sequences, I was forced, therefore, to take into
account and regard as facts, only such things which had been reported
fairly consistantly by several witnesses. The doubt cast upon certain
witnesses by other witnesses did not inspire in me a feeling of confidence
as to the quality and reliability of the date I must use or I ### was
obligied to use from which to draw my conclusions. I therefore felt that
the only expedient thing to do was to concentrate on the consistent aspects
of the stories from Dexter and HIllsdale and place into another category
the host of the individuals and generally mutally conflicting bits of
testimony offered by the many individuals I talked to during my three
day stay.

I therefore decided to look at the common pattern which seemd
to be developing in the Dexter and Hillsdale cases. These had many
interesting points in commong, first, the lights were definitely
were associated with a swamp area. While it was true that various
individuals reported lights traveling in the sky at about those times

and in those general vicinities. I could form ~~a~~ no consistent picture whatever of these allged events. On the contrary, I could form a consistent picutre of what apparently was observed over the swamp at Dexter and SW at Hillsdale. In both cases a distinctive/~~relationship,~~ reddish yellow, and green lights were reported ~~b~~ plus a general ~~gl~~ yellow glow. The spectacular lights, when reported, were stated to be of limited area. One of the/~~glow~~ girls at Hillsdale described lights in the sky as Christmas tree lights. Other girl at Hillsdale agreed but stated that a yellowish glow surrounding and enveloped the discreet lights. The similarity between the Dexter lights and the Hillsdale lights was striking. Not only as to color and intensity, but motion as well. The motion was described in both cases as smooth and slow, with a tendency to disappear rather suddenly and reappear elsewhere. Most observers described a smooth horizontal motion and while other girls from Hillsdale said the lights seemed to get excited and moved erratically when car lights and flash lights came into the vicinity. the major behaviour was described as persistent, smooth and slow.

I had hoped to be able to gather more data and, with the help of some of my northwestern staff who were willing to come to the area with me and help in the interrogation and so to be able to examine many of the individual reports not associated directly with the seamps, but funds were not available for brining in any of my associates, who are excellent interegators in this field, and further, since the interest and excitement generated in these cases was mounting to fever pitch it seemed expedient, in fact mandatory, to have or hold a press conference and make a progress report. Until the evening before I was to make such a statement, I was still puzzled as to a natural explanation for event the consistent sightings. Fortunately, I have a number of friends in the acedemic ~~fie~~ world in Ann Arbor and ~~h~~ whose invaluable aid I enlisted.

I would like to give credit to the scientists I ~~worked~~ talked with until very late into thenight but they prefer to remain anonymous. I am sure, however, that should their testimony be officially required, rather than for the press, their cooperation could very easily be obtained.

It was from these academic gentlemen that I obtained the information on marsh gas and the lights frequently associated with it. To summarize, it appears that rotting ~~vegetable~~ vegetation in the swamps produced methan CH_4 and H_2s in ample quantities in certain onditions. Methane is oderless. H_2s is not but since it is present in relatively small quantities one does not smell it unless one overturns a shovel full of swamp material which would ~~vent~~ then release a distinct odor I am told. In addition, phosphine P_{h3} is produced by the reduction of phospherous compouds in the marsh material. These three gases ~~are not~~ ordinarly do not spontaneously ignite. I am told, that a small impurity in the P_{h3}, name P_{2h4} is highly flamable and when exposed to air spontaneously ignites which then apparently can serve to ignite the other gases. The phenomena of swamp lights is apparently quite well known and references to it are ample in the literature. Even in unknown technical literature these lights, variously as willow-of-the-wisp, ignus, Phaatus, fox lights, etc. have had many stories wove around them including such stories as these lights being the souls of the departed as well as elemental mithelogical entities.

Technically they are treated in two books to which I had immediate access. Light and Colour in the Open Sky, by Minnaert and Chemistry by Sienko and Plane. Here the lights are described even into their colors, red, yello. white and green thus matching the colors described by the majority of the witnesses. It is stated that in these books the illuminicenty is a form of low temperature chemical luminescense which does not char or burn grass. etc. The lights general are eveniscent. burning here for a momment or so, going out. and appearing some feet or yards away as another plume of gas spontaneously ignites. This sporatic lighting is general soundless although sometimes a popping noise is heard (this may have the origin of the "ricochet sound" Mr Mannor reported). The illusion of motion can easily be carried by the sporadic appearance of a wisp of light here and then there.

The lights have never been described as truly bright. They would be visible best to dark adapted eyes on a clear dark night and also on a night which there was no high wind (which later would quickly dissipate the gas as it bubbled up from underneath.

It appears to me that all the major conditions for the appearance of swamp lights were satisfied both at Dexter and Hillsdale.

I can't state with any certainty that this is the correct solution to the problem: merely that it is the most likely natural cause. I would of course, appreciate learning of other possible natural causes should they be forthcoming. We can, I believe, completely eliminate any solution based on a/c, balloons, birds, meteors, stars, etc. because they simply do not fit the consistent data reported to me.

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I therefore presented this likely explanation at the press conference. The entire matter of a full dress press conference was most distasteful to me because I would rather present carefully weighted and consistent evidence and conclusions, to a body of scientific collegues than to a roaring path of news hounds whose chief interest appears to be in getting a quick story. I recommend once again, as I have often in the past in my capacity as scientific consultant, that the ufo phenomena which has now plagued us for a score of years and has been responsible for countless words in newsprint during that time should be recognized as a scientific and sociological principle of our times and studied as such by competent men in these various fields. Since the first recquisition of any scientific investigation is concerned for the quality of the basic data much more attention should be paid to the immediate gathering and procesing of such data. I would be most happy to submit a moe specific recommendation on the handling of this problem, based on my score of years of experience with the problem if this seems appropriate at this time.

~~During the three day interrogation~~

All notes obtained were gathered all through my working hours on the three days are available in my ~~fiels.~~ files

APPENDIX "A"

[redacted]

The Air Force has asked me to [redacted] to bring to this
This I am happy to do, provided it is [redacted] and that my statement
will refer to the two principal events in [redacted] the event near
Dexter, Mich., on March 20, and a similar one [redacted], Mich., on March
21. It does not cover the hundreds of unexplained reports as opposed to
the thousands of explained cases made not only to Project Blue Book, but
those from other countries, over the past several years, as described in
recent books and articles. I have not investigated these--much as the one
near Exeter, N.H. and those in the southern states last year, nor the puzzling
foreign cases, such as that at Cherrueras, Madrid, Last fall. I have recom-
mended in my capacity as Scientific Consultant, that competent scientists
quietly study such cases when evidence from responsible people appears to
warrant such study. There may be much of potential value to science in
such events. We know a very great deal more about the physical world in
1966, than we did in 1866--100, by the same token, the people in the year
2066 may regard us as very incomplete in our scientific knowledge. We
must not in our haste to have answers, be Frederick Smiths.

If then, it is understood I am not making a blanket statement to cover
the entire UFO phenomenon over the past 20 years in this and other countries,
I am prepared to discuss the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings.

Now, in addition to these two specific cas[redacted] there has been a flood
of other reports from this area, both before and after last Sunday and Monday,
and I could not possibly have had the time to investigate all of these. I
have had time, however, to determine that in Hillsdale, over and above the
sincere and honest reporting by the young ladies at Hillsdale College of a
very puzzling sighting, certain young men have played pranks with flares.

And, I have also determined that the photos were not taken on March 17, near Niles, Mich., but have no reference whatever to the sightings of March 20 or 21st, so are not in any way question a true exposure of the rising crescent moon and the plane Venus. I emphasize that this explanation refers to these specific photographs and not to the two cases now in question.

At long last now, the Dexter and Hilledale cases: Here are the hard facts, the residue, the common denominator after sifting out as much of the subjective, peripheral, and inconsistent statements as I have been able to do in this short time.

The majority of observers in both cases reported only lights--red, yellow and green, silent glowing lights, near the ground. They have not described an object. Even the only two observers who did describe an object have stated that they were no closer than 500 yards--better than a quarter of a mile away--a distance which does not allow details to be determined. Witnesses here described glowing lights--lights that seemed to move but never far from a definite locale, or which suddenly disappeared and popped up at another place. Now what was that locale in both instances? In both cases, a swamp. In both cases the location of the glow was pin-pointed: in Dexter it was seen between two distant groups of people, and at Hilledale it was seen in a swampy depression between the girls and distant trees. It was in both cases a very localized phenomenon. I think that this is a most significant point.

A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space! It is not a place where a helicopter would hover for several hours, or where a soundless, secret device would likely be tested.

Now what is a swamp? It is a place of rotting vegetation and of decomposition. Swamps are not the normal province of the astronomer; he usually has his eyes trained toward far distant places--yet the Dutch as-

astronomer, Minnaert, in his book, Light and Color, in the Open Air, has this to say about swamps. He describes lights that have been seen in swamps by the astronomer Bessel and other unwilling observers. The lights, he says, resemble tiny flames, sometimes even eight on the ground, sometimes floating above it. The flames go out in one place and suddenly appear in another, giving the illusion of motion. The colors, he says, are sometimes yellow, sometimes red and blue-green. No heat is felt, and the lights do not burn or char the ground. They can appear for hours at a time and sometimes for a whole night. Generally there is no smell, and usually no sound, except the popping sound of little explosions, such as when a gas burner ignites.

Where does the gas come from, and what lights it? The rotting vegetation produces marsh gas which can be trapped by ice and winter conditions. When a spring thaw occurs, the gas may be released in some quantity.

The flame, Minnaert says, is a form of chemical luminescence and its low temperature is one of its peculiar features. Exactly how it occurs is not known and this in itself might be made a subject of an interesting study.

The glowing lights on the swamp near Indian Hill which were observed for two to three hours. No sounds were heard, except for popping sounds. The lights were red, green or yellow and they appeared to move sideways, and to rise a short distance. I emphasize this would not be seen frequently—it is of a unique character. I have never seen it myself and I can easily understand the dismay of the witnesses who saw it and who sincerely described what they saw.

It seems likely that as the present spring thaws came the trapped gases CH_4, H_2S, PH_3, resulting from decomposition of organic materials were released. The chemistry book by Slorie and Flinn has this to say: "In air, phosphine, PH_3, usually burns into flame, apparently because it is

AF Experts Probe Reported Ghost Ship in Michigan

Pulsating Object Landed Near Ann Arbor, Farmer Says

HILLSDALE, Mich., Mar. 23 — (UPI) — An Air Force investigating team today trudged through soggy farm fields and interviewed persons who reported sighting a glowing "ghost ship" in an attempt to identify the mysterious object.

Scores of persons, ranging from farmers to policemen to college coeds and a dean, said they saw the hovering object during the past few days.

DR. H. ALLEN Hynek, the top Air Force scientific adviser on unidentified flying objects (UFOS), yesterday quizzed a farm family near Ann Arbor, Mich. Frank Mannor, the farmer, had reported that a pulsating object landed in a swamp on his land Sunday and was observed by his family and by sheriff's deputies.

Fifty persons in the Ann Arbor area reported similar sightings Monday and their descriptions were similar to those of 87 coeds at Hillsdale college who said they saw an object touch down in marshland near their dormitory Monday night.

HYNEK'S investigation was conducted in secrecy and a spokesman at Selfridge Air Force base would only say that the Northwestern university astrophysicist planned to continue his search of the southern Michigan area through today.

It was not known if Hynek planned to go to Hillsdale.

The Hillsdale college girls and their dean attempted to scientifically document the sighting but failed for lack of photographic and recording equipment. Some longhand notes shed little light on what they observed.

IN ADDITION to the coeds in a women's dormitory, the object was sighted by Mrs. Kelly Hearn, an assistant dean of women who was a newspaper reporter in Taos, N. M., for seven years before joining the college staff.

When she was called to the window to see an eerily glowing object in a swampy valley near the building, Mrs. Hearn organized 20 coeds in two adjoining rooms so they could pool their information.

UNABLE to find a tape recorder, camera or short hand stenographer, she designated Sara Robechek, 19, a Cleveland, O., freshman, to keep track of the group's agreed-upon findings in longhand.

ignited by a spontaneous oxidation of the liquid P_2H_4. The will-o'-the-wisp, sometimes observed in marshes, can be due to spontaneous ignition of impure PH_3, which might be formed by reduction of naturally occurring phosphorus compounds."

Other scientists have pointed out to me that in swamps the formation of H_2S and CH_4 from rotting vegetation is common. These could be ignited by the spontaneous burning of the Phosphine, PH_3.

It would seem to me that the association of the sightings with swamps, in these particular cases, is more than coincidence. No group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamps. The glow was localised there. Deputy Fitzpatrick described the glow as coming from beyond a rise adjacent to the swamp, and visible through the trees. He stated that the lights brightened and dimmed much as stage lights do—smoothly and slowly. The girls at Hillsdale described almost the identical thing. This could have been due to the release of variable quantities of marsh gas.

The disappearance of the light when people got close with flash-lights or car lights, would indicate that the glow seemed bright only to dark-adapted eyes. The night was dark—there was no moon. The Hillsdale girls kept their rooms dark in order to see the lights in the swamp.

I emphasize in conclusion that I cannot prove in a Court of Law that this is the full explanation of these sightings. It appears very likely, however, that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter, an unusually mild one in this area, and the particular weather conditions that night—there was little wind at either location—were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display.

23 - 28 MARCH 1966 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
23	Ft Pierce, Florida	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
23	New Orleans, Louisiana	[redacted]	Aircraft
23	Alvion, California	[redacted] (PHOTOS)	1. Astro (STARS/PLANETS) 2. Photo: Other (LIGHT HOUSE)
23	Klamath, California	[redacted]	Astro (STARS/PLANETS)
23	Ft Jackson, South Carolina	Military	1. Aircraft 2. Astro (STARS/PLANETS) 3. Astro (VENUS)
23	Temple, Oklahoma (missing)	[redacted]	UNIDENTIFIED
23	Portsmouth, New Hampshire	[redacted]	Aircraft
23	Houston, Texas	[redacted]	Satellite
24	Kilamath, Oregon	Military	Astro (JUPITER)
24	Lincoln, Nebraska	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
24	Sheboygan, Wisconsin	[redacted]	Aircraft
24	Central, Wisconsin	Multiple	Aircraft
24-5Apr	San Francisco, California	[redacted]	Other (SATELLITE DECAY)
25	New York, New York	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
25	Macon, Georiga	[redacted]	1. Satellite (PEGSUS II) 2. Aircraft
25	Hemmet, California	Civilian	Insufficient Data
25	Chicago, Illinois	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
25	Truax Field, Wisconsin	Military (RADAR)	Insufficient Data
25	Houston, Texas	[redacted]	Astro (VENUS)
25	Portland, Maine	[redacted]	Other (SATELLITE)
25	Pine Bluff, Arkansas	[redacted]	Other (SATELLITE)
25	Toledo, Ohio	[redacted]	Astro (MOON)
25	Cambria, California	[redacted]	Aircraft
25	Colorado Springs, Colorado	Multiple	Astro (STARS/PLANETS)
26	Erlanger, Kentucky	[redacted]	Other (SATELLITE)
26	Preble County, Ohio	Multiple	Satellite (ECHO II)
26	Texahoma, Oklahoma	[redacted]	UNIDENTIFIED
26	Greenfield, Wisconsin	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
26-27	Kent, Tacoma, McCord AFB, Wash	[redacted]	Balloon
27	Greenville, Vandalia, Piqua, Ohio	Civilians	Astro (VENUS)
27	Winnfield, Louisiana	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
27	Rome, New York	[redacted]	Aircraft
27	Bridgeton, New Jersey	[redacted]	Other (CLOUDS/CONTRAILS)
27	Between Salem & Ash Flat, Arkansas	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
27	Xenia, Ohio	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
27	Swansee, Massachusetts	[redacted]	Astro (MOON)
28	Rome, New York	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
28	Malden, Massachusetts	[redacted]	Astro (VENUS)
28	Sulpher Grove, Oldtown, Ohio	Civilian	Astro (STARS/PLANETS)
28	Colorado Springs, Colorado	[redacted]	Astro (VENUS)
28	West Hampton Beach, New York	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
28	West Milton, Kettering, Fairborn, Ohio	[redacted]	Other (SATELLITE)
28	Toledo, Ohio	[redacted]	Other (CONFLICTING DATA)
28	Kettering, Ohio	[redacted]	Satellite (PEGASUS II)
28	Toledo, Ohio	[redacted]	Aircraft
28	Eastmont, Ohio	Civilian	Satellite (ECHO II)
28	Dayton, Ohio	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
28	Toledo, Ohio	[redacted]	Astro (STARS/PLANETS)

23 - 28 MARCH 1966 SIGHTINGS

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
23	East Rochester, New Hampshire	[redacted]	
26	Nampula, Lisbon, Portugal	Newsclipping	
27	Columbus, Georgia	Newsclipping	
27	Dayton, Ohio	[redacted] (Phone)	Satellite
27	Orlando, Florida	Photos	Reflections

Pentagon To Get Aid Plea

The U.S. Air Force dispatched an astrophysicist to Michigan Tuesday, and Rep. Weston Vivian (D., Mich.) announced he would ask the Department of Defense for help.

Both moves resulted from a rash of mysterious flying objects seen in southern Michigan skies the past few nights.

En route to cast an experienced eye on the flashing lights and odd flight routines of the Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) was Dr. J. Allen Hynek, of Northwestern University, who has been checking out such phenomena for the Air Force for 18 years. In that time he has investigated more than 100 other UFO sightings.

Vivian

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HYNEK will operate out of Selfridge Air Force Base in conducting his investigation into the UFO sightings, principally in the Ann Arbor area.

[illegible] the field was expanded today with reported sightings in Hillsdale and in the Warren-Clinton Township area.

Most of the recent southern Michigan UFOs have played to large audiences, including law enforcement officers with a considerable supply of built-in skepticism.

There was a crowd in the vicinity when a large glowing object settled into a swamp near the farm home of Frank Mannor near Ann Arbor Sunday night. A dozen policemen and deputies, as well as about 40 others, watched as Frank and his son Ronald, 18, trudged into the swamp to track the thing down.

They saw four other glowing objects hover in the sky as if guarding the one on the ground. The latter sped off as if alarmed when Ronald spoke from about 500 yards.

The retreating objects were chased by a half-dozen police cars, but the earthbound vehicles could not keep pace with the flying visitors.

Monday night, Hillsdale County Civil Defense Director William Van Horn, 41, watched with 87 Hillsdale College co-eds as a mysterious lighted object cavorted for three hours some 1,000 to 1,500 yards from the college.

• • •

Van Horn said the object he and girls saw was about 20 feet across. He said there were no colors.

"It was definitely some type of vehicle," Van Horn said. "It would rise to a point just below the airport beacon about two miles east of the college and then would start settling down toward the earth again."

IT WAS JUST about dusk Monday when a UFO showed over the Warren-Clinton Township area.

It was reported by witnesses [illegible] Mound-Fourteen Mile and Nine Mile-Van Dyke [illegible] Warren Police Headquarters.

A Clinton Township couple, Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeVoe, said they first thought the object was a plane in trouble because it appeared to be emitting considerable smoke.

But the smoke stopped and the object halted in mid-air — just hung there in one spot—and they got a good look at it.

Air Force Sends Top UFO Expert To Check Michigan Sightings

HILLSDALE, Mich.—(UPI)—A civil defense director, an assistant dean and 87 coeds reported yesterday they watched a glowing object zip past a college dormitory and hover in a swamp for hours.

Their description of the eerie object seen here Monday night tallied closely with that of one seen by more than 50 persons, including 12 policemen, near Ann Arbor, Mich., the previous night.

The Air Force dispatched its top scientific adviser on unidentified flying objects (UFO) to launch an investigation.

The witnesses said they watched from the second floor of a Hillsdale college girls' dormitory as the object wobbled, wavered, glowed eerily and once zipped right at a dormitory window before stopping suddenly.

Mrs. Kelly Hearn, for seven years a newspaper reporter before becoming assistant dean of women, assistant professor of English and housemother of the dorm, had the coeds take notes as they watched the object for four hours.

They and William Van Horn, 11, Hillsdale county civil defense director, said the object dimmed its lights when police cars approached, brightened again when they went away, and dodged an Air Force beacon light.

Barbara Kohn, 21, New Castle, Pa., and Cynthia Poffenberger, 18, Cleveland, were the first to see the object. They described its shape as roughly that of a football. It was roughly the same description given by a man and his son who reported they saw an eerie object land in a swamp Sunday night 45 miles northeast of here near Ann Arbor.

The Air Force announced it was bringing in Dr. H. Allen Hyneck, chairman of Dearborn observatory at Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill., and scientific consultant to the Air Force's "Project Blue Book" program to track down the reports of unidentified flying objects.

Hyneck set up his headquarters at Selfridge Air Force base, Mount Clemens, Mich., near the southern Michigan section where UFOs have been reported several times lately.

Memos for the Record: Ann Arbor, Michigan, night of 20 Mar 66

Received a phone call from Dr J Allen Hynek on the morning of 21 March 1966. He had heard on a NBC broadcast on radio this morning, 21 March 1966 of a UFO landing in Ann Arbor, Michigan, several witnesses, metalic craft landed in marsh. More than one observer. Dr Hynek wanted us to be on the look out for a report from there. Immediately following Dr Hynek's call, Major Quintanilla called Mrs Hunt and informed her that we had not received any official reports concerning a landing at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

At ~~1~~1230 on 21 March 1966 Major Quintanilla spoke with Major Davis, SAFOI, ext 55809 or 73002 regarding Ann Arbor, Michigan sighting. Informed hem we did not have an official report on it. Dr Hynek had heard it on the radio and notified us. Major Davis had inquiries fro[redacted] regarding UFOs and has three questions. What do we know of UFO in Ann Arbor. What sighting does this become and when did we start keeping records. As of 1 March 1966 we had 10147 cases. We started to keep records in 1947. Major Davis read the UPI 53 - At least 40 persons saw a UFO land in Ann Arbor, Michigan, police said today. Twelve observers were policeman, they saw erie blinking lights, apparantly on the flying objects. Object arose above the tree topes then dip again. Other policemen saw a formation of 4-5 objects, one flew over their car. A farmer and his son came within 400-500 yards from object. Some saw it on the ground others saw it in the air. Police slogged through the swam then went down and landed. Farmer drew a sketch, ~~picture~~ shape of football, waffle metal, blinking lights and antenna. (We have not had any official reports

From Our Point Of View:

Flying Saucer Reports Come On Big News Day

THE chief topic of conversation in these parts lately has been the unidentified flying objects seen in the skies over southeastern Michigan the past two weeks. The sighting of what was supposedly a UFO near Dexter last Sunday night was followed by a report one night later of another flying object which hovered over a hollow near a Hillsdale College dormitory.

Within a very short time, Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County came in for a liberal spate of national publicity. Calls were received from as far away as Los Angeles and Miami, and suddenly the area was swarming with representatives of the different news media. "Saucer" jokes became the new laugh-getter and people took a new interest in night skies.

• • •

IT IS CERTAIN that Dexter farmer Frank Mannor, the Hillsdale College coeds and Sheriff Doug Harvey's deputies saw something that appeared to glow and move rapidly aloft. The popular notion that these objects are "extra-terrestial" and operated by intelligent beings from some distant planet is entertained seriously by some, scoffed at by others.

One of the scores of telephone calls to The News regarding the reported sightings was from a Los Angeles newspaper. The caller wanted to know what The News was doing "to quiet the population." The only reply the reporter could think of was "Who's excited?"

Warden Paul Sartwell of the Federal Correctional Institution at Milan was probably just as happy that the Ann Arbor area was the focus of national attention for the UFO story and the possible AEC accelerator site Tuesday. It helped in his efforts to move notorious prisoner Joseph Valachi into the prison with a minimum of attention.

The question of whether man is alone in the universe has been discussed and debated for a long time. Even the most knowledgeable and scholarly men have made serious errors in judgement, and perhaps it is naive, even presumptuous, to automatically reject the idea that man may have company in distant reaches of the universe. Intelligent life on other planets may never be discovered, but one of the incidentals of the U.S. space program is to find out whether our neighboring planets support life in one form or another.

Saucer Sightings Soaring in State

Reports of unidentified flying objects (UFO) darting across the skies of southeastern Michigan mounted Wednesday as an Air Force investigating team continued its probe of earlier sightings.

The latest sightings were reported Tuesday night in Hillsdale and Washtenaw counties, where similar sightings were reported Sunday and Monday night.

In another development, a 16-year-old Monroe-area boy produced a film which he said contained a picture of a "flying saucer" that flew over his house Friday night.

Dr. H. Allen Hynek, a top Air Force scientific adviser on unidentified flying objects, spent Wednesday interviewing witnesses of earlier sightings. Dr. Hynek, a Northwestern University astrophysicist, is conducting his investigation in secrecy.

Commenting on the Michigan sightings, Dr. Hynek said: "These reports are more consistent than most of the other sightings I've investigated."

Frank Mannor, of Dexter, who reported a flying object landed near his home Sunday night, reported Wednesday that vandals had smashed the windshield of his car.

3 UFOs Explained; Find Flares

HILLSDALE — The rash of reports of mysterious flying objects continued Wednesday and today in Hillsdale County as hundreds of persons armed with cameras and binoculars searched the night skies.

At least three reported sightings were proven false by city police, who along with the State Police and the sheriff's department have stopped recording all the reports.

Meanwhile, a Pennsylvania man has blamed the sightings on "damp gas" rising from sqamby ground, and Jeane Dixon, self-styled prophetess who reportedly predicted the assassination of President Kennedy, has said the objects are not from outer space.

City Police said a report of an orange and red object hovering east of the city, spotted by residents of the Chi Omega sorority house of Hillsdale College, was a reflection from a weather vane at the municipal airport. A second report, of a red object floating "about 10 miles from the city," was a light reflecting from a radar tower on Reading Avenue, police said.

As patrolmen were investigating that report, they were stopped by several boys who saw a flashing red light on W. Bacon Street. That was a blinking, unsteady porch light, police said.

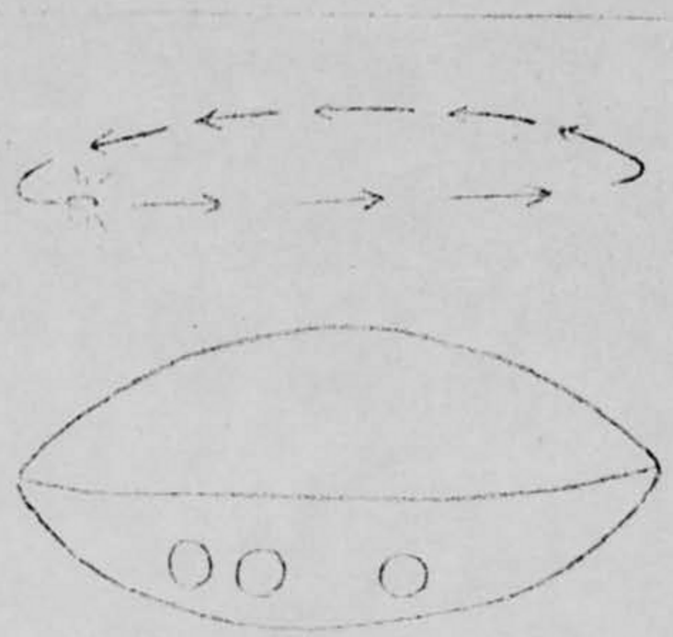
Still unexplained is the reported sighting Tuesday evening by Mrs. Larry Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Lo Presto and 12-year-old Susan Merrill of two objects, one red and orange, the other blue and green, moving across the sky at high speed.

One of the objects had no distinct outline, but Susan said the other was shaped like a football.

William Van Horn, Hillsdale County civil defense director, reported the discovery of the remains of several flares near Hillsdale College, and said there would be arrests if pranksters were caught perpetrating a hoax.

Police in Westport, Conn., Wednesday said five persons there purchased weather balloons, inflated them with gas and attached railroad flares to cause UFO reports.

Alfred Dickens, a maintenance man for the York County, Pa. Gas Co., said Wednesday the reported objects could be gaseous formations emitted from marshes in Hillsdale and Ann Arbor. Dicken said he witnessed similar phenonoma on his parents' farm in McAlester, Okla.



HILLSDALE OBJECTS — Mrs. Jason Merrill of Hillsdale made these drawings of unidentified flying objects which her daughter, Susan, 12, viewed and described Tuesday night. Broken line at top indicate path of a point of light which circles the object intermittently. The object was described as 20-25 feet across and 15 feet high, with three lights in the lower half flashing red, white and green, but in no particular sequence. (AP Photo)

Dickens said the objects were gaseous formations emitted from marshes in Hillsdale and Ann Arbor. Dicken said he witnessed similar phenonoma on his parents' farm in McAlester, Okla.

"We used to see these things quite often," he said. "We called them 'Jack O Lanterns' and my brother and I would chase them through the swamps and thresh them about with sticks, breaking them into smaller shapes.

Dickens said the objects were a formation of luminous gas from decaying leaves which would float through the woods on air currents.

Mrs. Dixon, who has been foretelling the future for three decades and claims to have predicted events from the Alaskan earthquake in 1964 to the removal of the adenoids of her secretary's son, said she thinks the objects are from earth.

"I think they are planes or military craft of some kind — but not from outer space," she said Wednesday. 'I think they are from the other side — they are either from the enemy, or our own Air Force."

She says she gets her predictions from a psychic reaction—a kind of vibration. "I can even get vibrations over the phone," she once said.

She said she does not get atmospheric vibrations that the UFO's now being sighted in Michigan and the eastern part of the United States are extra-terresterial.

...ucer' Reported

the Dexter Village Police Department said he saw what appeared to be the same object which baffled the Manners. Hunawill had parked his scout car at the Quigley-Brand intersection, while Dexter Police Chief Robert Taylor and Patrolman Nolan Lee entered the search area with sheriff's deputies.

Hunawill said the object suddenly appeared over his patrol car at a height of about 1,000 feet. The object had white and red lights on it which at times had a bluish tinge. It hovered over the scout car and then made continuing sweeps over the swamp where the first object had been reported down, Hunawill said.

He said he watched it for five to 10 minutes before it was joined by three other objects and the objects flew in formation in two's, with one set flying high above the second two. They all finally disappeared into the sky, Hunawill said.

Later Uniformed Sheriff's Deputies Stanley McFadden and David Fitzpatrick reported shining a searchlight from their scout car on one of the objects. The officers had taken part in the swamp search near Quigley Rd., had seen the brilliant white-red light and were patrolling on N. Territorial Rd. near Mast Rd. after the light disappeared.

Suddenly, a strange, lighted object appeared overhead and the deputies immediately turned on a spotlight on their cruiser and aimed it at the object.

"From what we could see the object was as large as a small house, kind of pushed down flat," said McFadden, a veteran of seven years' police work with the Ann Arbor Police Department and the Sheriff's Department. "It had red-green lights on it and movements which could not possibly be made by any aircraft I've ever heard of."

McFadden and Fitzpatrick said that as they watched, the object it suddenly turned and disappeared to the north.

After that report, Sheriff's Detectives Charles J. Anderson and Harold Kerr who had been called to the Quigley-Brand area by Sheriff Douglas J. Harvey were returning to headquarters when they spotted another strange object in the sky over Island Lake Rd. They pursued the object westward until it disappeared.

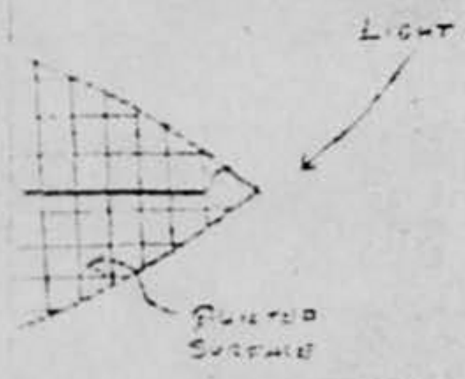
Chelsea village police also reported seeing unidentified flying objects near the village, with Patrolman Charles Sharp reporting he pursued one of the objects in his scout car but lost it.

The sheriff said his men found no evidence of a landing having been made in the Dexter Township area.

"If there actually is some type of flying object now making periodic visits, this theory of one coming down for a brief moment and the others hovering over the area for protection seems logical," the sheriff said. "Right now we're not discounting anything."

The original point of last night's sightings was at almost exactly the spot where Charles Wiedman of 5911 Madden Rd., Dexter Township, reported a flying object more than five years ago.

Wiedman and his son ran from their farm house one night when they saw a lighted object come down in an area near their home. Wiedman later told sheriff's men the object took off almost straight upward when they approached it and disappeared.



...puties and area residents. All ...ally agreed on the shape and ...cts and on the colored lights ...d on them.

Kelley Alters PCHA Charges

(Special to The News)

GROSSE POINTE — Atty. Gen. Frank J. Kelley late this morning obtained warrants in Grosse Pointe Municipal Court charging two former Peoples Community Hospital Authority officers with "unlawfully using or allowing to be used public monies of the PCHA and disbursing public monies for unlawful purposes."

The warrants were issued by Grosse Pointe Municipal Jud...

PCHA investigation and because of new facts which have come to light recently, new warrants will be requested.

"In the meantime it is deemed advisable and fair to dismiss the pending conspiracy charge against Messrs. Gremore, Rodwell and Fitzpatrick for which there was to be an examination today (in Detroit's Common Pleas Court).

"The new charges will be detailed at the time of the issu...

THE ANN ARBOR

Ann Arbor, Michigan, Monday, March 21, 1966

Landing Of 'Sa

LANSING UPI) —Fredrick E. Davids, state police commissioner and Michigan civil defense chief, said today he is launching an investigation into reports of unidentified flying objects near Ann Arbor.

"I used to discount these reports, too, but now I'm not so sure," Davids said.

By William B. Treml

Washtenaw County, which in the past week has become the "flying saucer center" of the Midwest, again was in the news spotlight last night with a flurry of "saucer" reports, including one which said an object had actually landed in Dexter Township.

More than 40 police officers from the Sheriff's Department, Dexter and Chelsea village Police Departments, and State Police joined area residents in a prolonged but futile search for the "landed" craft. However, more than a half-dozen of the searchers said they saw strange flying objects or lights from the objects during the five - hour hunt.

The report which began the massive search came from Robert Wagner of Dexter and Frank Manner who lives on a farm at 10600 McGinnis in Dexter Township. Wagner told sheriff's deputies at 8:30 p.m. yesterday that a strange flying object appeared to land in a swampy area on the McGinnis property at the intersection of Quigley and Brand Rds. That intersection is just south of W. North Territorial Rd. and east of the Dexter Town Hall Rd., about five miles north and west of the village of Dexter.

Manner, 46, said he and his 18-year-old son, Ronald, went out in search of the landed object moments after they said they saw it descend to the ground.

Manner said he and his son saw an object in the swamp which appeared to be brown in color and had a "quilted" effect on the surface. It was flat on the bottom and cone-shaped toward the top, Manner related.

There were two small lights at the outer edges of the object which issued a glowing bluish-green color, he said. That col intensified and turned brilliant red at times.

Several times when the obje became brightly lighted, the e tire object was yellow-white color and the light ran horizo tally between the two oute "running" lights, Manner said As the Manners watched, th small lights at the edge of th craft suddenly went out and i an instant the object appeare across the swamp about 5 yards away from its orginal p sition, deputies were told.

When flashlights used by a proaching deputies touched th area, the light from the obje became very bright and the went completely out, Manner said.

"We then heard the sound a whistle — something like a r fle bullet makes when it richo chets off something," Manne said. "Then this object went u in the air, passed directly ove us and disappeared."

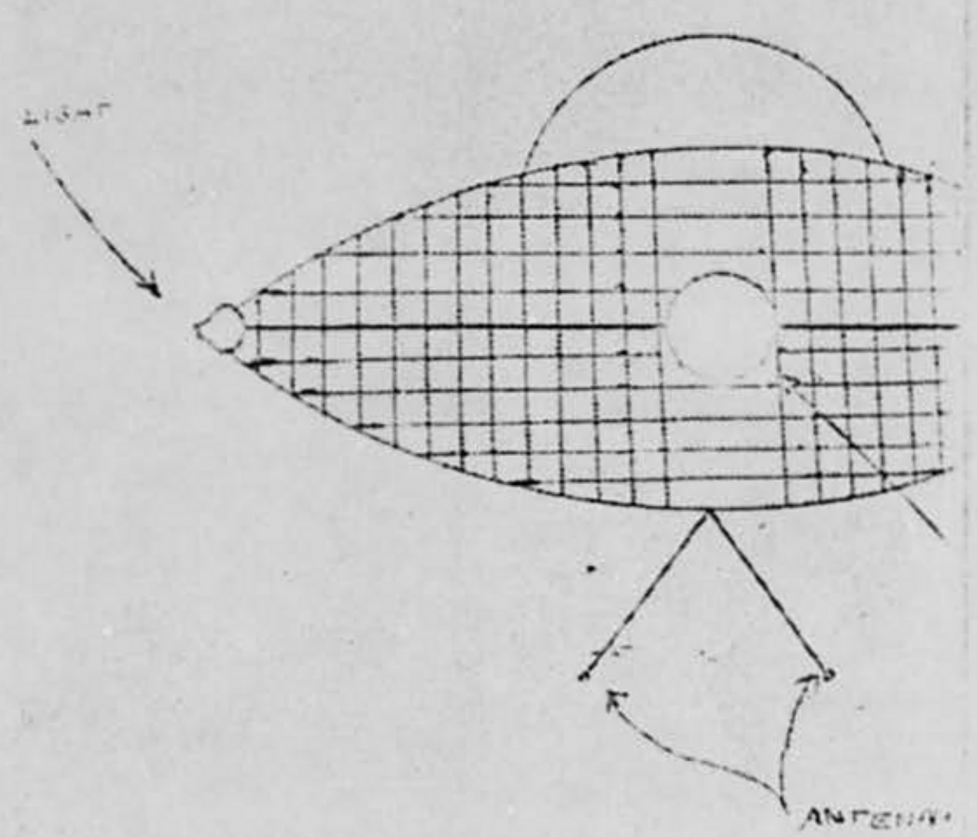
Patrolman Robert Hunawill

Reports Set On City Use Of Lawyers

Reports relating to procedures involved in hiring outside counsel for the city attorney's office will be presented to the City Council at its regular 7:30 p.m. meeting today.

The council will also be presented with a resolution prepared by Fourth Ward Councilman John R. Hathaway which define the powers of the city attorney in obtaining outside help.

In other business tonight, the council will conduct a public hearing on an amendment to the noise control ordinance



How 'It' Look

This drawing of one of the unidentified flying objects reported over Dexter Township last night was made by Sheriff's Cpl. David B. Severance from descriptions provided by a half-dozen witnesses ge size of the which appe

RBOR NEWS

Tuesday, March 22, 1966

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To Probe 'Saucers'

and the object reappeared some distance away. Moments later it was gone, Manner said.

Sheriff's Detective Harold Kerr used a Geiger counter throughout the area where Manner said he saw the object, but no trace of radioactivity was found. The sheriff said there was "absolutely no physical evidence" of an object landing in or near the swamp.

"By this I mean there was no scorched or burned grass, no depression in the ground, brush or weeds, no imprint which a vehicle of any type might make and no tracks or ground impressions," Harvey reported.

The sheriff has had all deputies who saw one of the objects Sunday night write complete reports on their experiences, and he is combining those reports with others made when deputies saw other objects last Wednesday night and on March 14.

Harvey said a rumor that his department had a film taken of one of the objects apparently stemmed from pictures taken last Wednesday night by deputies who were some distance from the objects and snapped several pictures. He said the film has been sent to New York for processing but it is considered doubtful that anything of value is on the film.

Harvey said he was making no "hard and fast judgment on these reports."

"I know my men and I trust their reports," he said. "I don't know what it is, but I'm sure they have seen something aloft."

The reports of the "flying saucers" brought scores of requests by far-flung news media for more detail from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. The County Jail switchboard reported receiving calls from radio and television stations and newspapers in Hawaii, Canada, California, New York City and Miami, Fla.

Yesterday afternoon as the sheriff and county CD director were preparing to leave the jail for the Manner farm to check the "landing area," there were 11 different news media representatives awaiting interviews.

Last night crowds of curious ignored a drenching rain and continued thunder and lightning to visit the Manner farm area.

Sheriff's deputies said they received several reports of new sightings last night, but nothing was found when the reports were checked out. One of the reports was made by John Monahan of 206 W. Washington St. who told deputies he and his family saw strange, flying objects in the sky over N. Territorial Rd. near Hadley Rd. in Lyndon Township and again over Dexter Rd. in Scio Township.

While Washtenaw County seems to be the center for the "flying saucer" viewings for now, the local area apparently doesn't have exclusive rights to the strange happenings.

William Van Horn, 41-year-old Civil Defense director for Hillsdale County, reported he and 87 Hillsdale College coeds watched an eerie, hovering flying object in a swampy hollow near a school dormitory last night.

Van Horn said he watched the unidentified object through binoculars for three hours. He said it emitted wavering orange, red and white lights and hovered over the swamp about 1,000 yards from the girls' dormitory.

The U.S. Air Force said today it was calling in Dr. H. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., to investigate the sightings in Washtenaw and Hillsdale Counties. Hynek who will work out of Selfridge Air Force Base near Mt. Clemens is scientific consultant to the Air Force "Project Blue Book," the official program to track down flying object reports.

Object

at 8:30 p.m. Sunday. A half- deputies later said they also ects in the sky in the Dexter

Council Postpones Attorney Subject

By Ron Cordray

Discussion of policies relating to the hiring of outside help by the city attorney's office was postponed by the City Council last night.

Fourth Ward Councilman John P. Hathaway

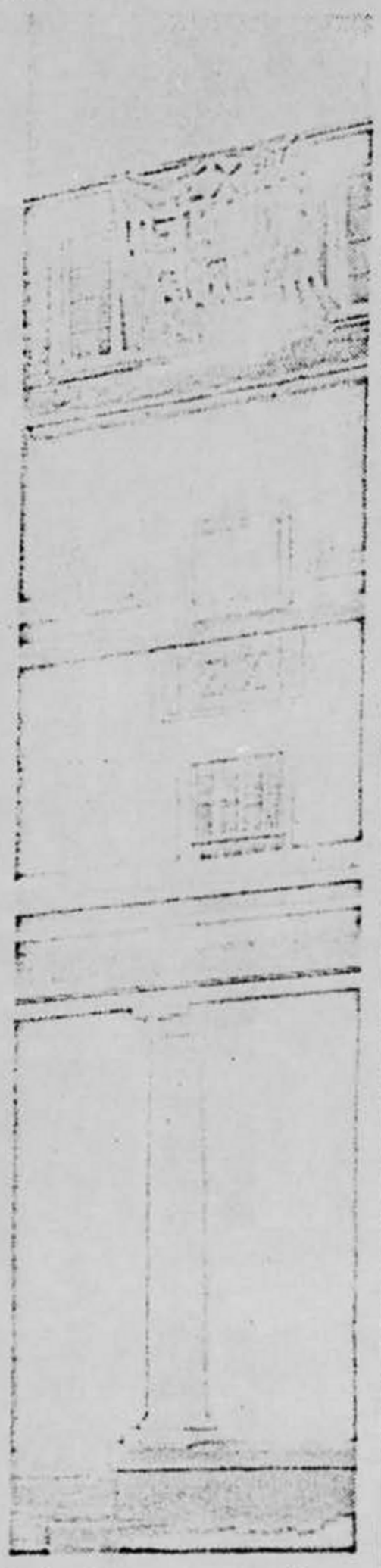
or that it would be substantial. In the unlikely circumstance of a sudden emergency, I would inform the council at its next meeting," he said.

Farhner also said the retention of the Detroit attorney "was the only retention of coun-

reviewed and continued by successive councils since that date. I believe it is a matter of known fact that I spend at least 40 hours a week on city business. This is generally between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and often evenings and weekends, sometimes on

THE ANN A

Ann Arbor, Michigan,



points! Greetings!
the leading playmaker with assists.

U. S. Asked

The U. S. Defense Department and the U.S. Air Force have been officially "invited" into a widening investigation of strange, flying objects seen over Washtenaw County three times in the past eight days.

Rep. Weston E. Vivian of the Second Congressional Dist.ict told Sheriff Douglas J. Harvey late yesterday he will make an official inquiry of the Defense Department and the Air Force today concerning the unidentified flying objects.

Harvey had told the Ann Arbor congressman that he had been ignored in repeated attempts to contact federal officials about the sightings.

Vivian said the incidents "certainly should be looked into by the U.S. Government."

Meanwhile the Sheriff's Department pushed an intensive investigation of the incidents with Washtenaw County Civil Defense Director Gerald Miller and Michigan State Police who yesterday afternoon were ordered into the probe by Frederick E. Davids, commissioner of the state force. Davids also is state director of Civil Defense.

Yesterday afternoon Harvey, Miller and a half-dozen deputies and detectives visited the Brand-Quigley Rds. area in Dexter Township where one of the "flying saucers" reportedly made a brief landing last Sunday night. Frank Manner of 10600 McGriness, on whose farm the object supposedly landed, recounted to Harvey and Miller the sightings he and his son, Ronald, made of the object.

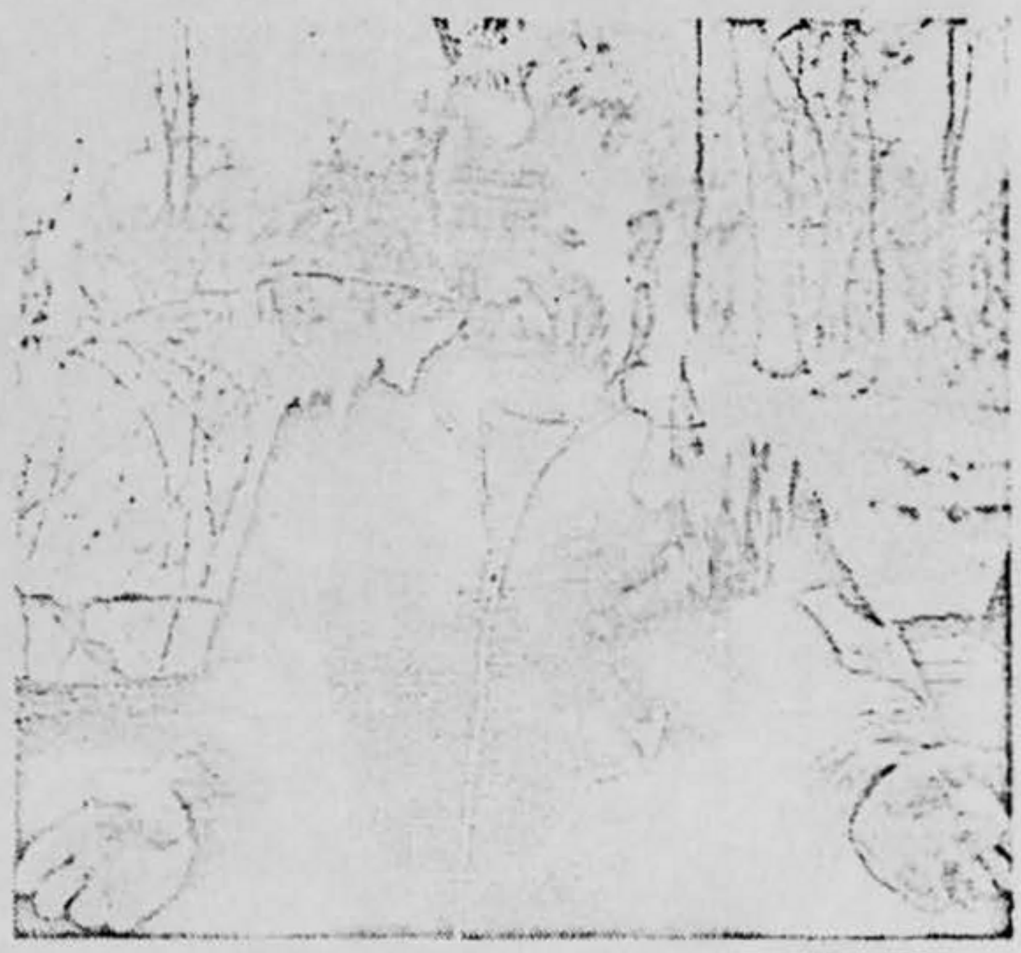
Manner said the object with glowing red and green lights was in a marshy area and about 500 yards from him and his son. When Ronald spoke, the lights went out momentarily

Assessment Program Defended

Answering charges that the city's assessment reappraisal program is discriminatory, City Assessor Walter H. Lahde last night said all assessments in the city are based on 1964 sales figures.

Donald G. McGuigan, 1614 Morton, charged in a letter to the council that the city's current reappraisal program violates the uniform taxing procedures set up in the new Constitution. He claimed that some of the city assessments are based on 1962-63 figures while a small section (the Burns Park area) is based on 1965 figures.

He said the city's program of reassessing about 20 per cent of the city annually is "discriminatory" and said any taxpayer could get a court ruling [illegible] Department of Labor saying



He Describes Flying

Frank Manner, 46, of Dexter Township, shown here with his teen-age son, Ronald, describes the strange, flying object which he says landed briefly in a swampy area near his home abo dozen sheriff's saw flying obj area.

JOURNAL HERALD, DAYTON, OHIO 21 MARCH 1966

UFOs Again Reported Over Michigan Area

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—(AP)—There may be something besides spring in the air over southern Michigan.

Three times in a week residents of the nearby community of Dexter have reported spotting unidentified flying objects floating through the night air.

The latest sightings were made by more than a score of persons, including police officers. Officers using geiger counters searched the area yesterday but said they found nothing.

"I got within 500 yards of that thing and it looked pyramid-shaped. It had a light here and a light there and what looked like a porthole," said Frank Mannor, 47, of Dexter.

"I still don't believe it," said Stan McFadden, 27, a Washtenaw county sheriff's deputy.

Dexter Patrolman Robert Huniwell said the flying object he saw had red and green flashing lights and at one time zipped down to hover "within 10 feet" of a police patrol car. When it rose again, said Huniwell, it was joined by a similar object.

Mannor said he was indoors when he noticed flashing lights through a window.

His son, Robert, 19, and his wife, Leona, also saw the object.

"It wasn't like the pictures of a flying saucer and it had a coral-like surface. I've never seen anything like it," said Mannor.

McFadden was one of about 20 deputies in seven patrol cars sent to the area to investigate Mannor's report.

He said he and deputy Dave Fitzpatrick tried to reach the object by walking up to it but that it flew off as they approached.

Dexter Police Chief Robert Taylor who was accompanied by Patrolman N. G. Lee, said, "we saw it from the hill. It looked it was down in the swamp. We saw the red glow and with binoculars we could see it. It was a pulsating red light. When we got into the swamp there wasn't anything there."

Flying objects are not new to Michigan, especially in warmer weather when more people are outdoors.

Previous sightings were made in the Dexter area last Thursday and a week ago Sunday. Police pictures made at the time failed to develop. A rash of sightings was reported last October in the Coldwater, Mich., area. An air Force spokesman said at the time that radar showed nothing unusual in the area.

A133DT
UFO (300)
(WITH PHOTO)
ANN ARBOR, MICH., MARCH 2 (AP)-DEPUTY SHERIFF DAVID FITZPATRICK CAME UP TODAY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF STREAKS OF LIGHT IN THE SKY WHICH HE SAID WERE MADE BY UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS HE OBSERVED SWOOSHING THROUGH SKIES OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN NINE DAYS AGO.
MORE THAN A SCORE OF PERSONS, INCLUDING BOTH DEPUTIES AND POLICEMEN, HAVE REPORTED SIGHTING FLYING OBJECTS AT NIGHT SINCE THEN.
FITZPATRICK MADE HIS PHOTOGRAPHS JUST OUTSIDE MILAN, MICH., 15 MILES DUE SOUTH OF ANN ARBOR, WITH A MINOX MODEL B CAMERA, ROUGHLY THE SIZE OF A MAN'S TWO FOREFINGERS HELD TOGETHER. FITZPATRICK SAID HE LOCKED THE CAMERA, WHICH HAS A 3.5 LENS, OPEN ON TIME EXPOSURE AND KEPT IT THERE FOR 10 AND 12 MINUTES.
THE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW TWO DISTINCT STREAKS OF LIGHT HIGH ABOVE STREET LIGHTS OF CARPENTER ROAD LEADING INTO MILAN. NO DETAILED OBJECTS, HOWEVER, ARE VISIBLE IN THE PHOTOS TAKEN AT 5:30 A.M.
FITZPATRICK SAID HIS CAMERA WAS POINTED SOUTHEASTERNLY AND THAT SHERIFF'S SGT. NUEL K. SCHNEIDER OBSERVED THE FLYING OBJECTS SWISHING ABOUT FROM ABOUT 4 A.M. TO 7 A.M.
"THEY LOOKED," HE SAID, "LIKE A BRILLIANT LIGHT." HE SAID IT WAS A YELLOW-WHITE LIGHT.
STEPPED UP TO 8-X-10 INCHES FROM A FILM SMALLER THAN A POSTAGE STAMP THE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW STREAKS OF BRILLIANT LIGHT.

A133DT
THE LANDING WAS REPORTED BY [redacted] 46, A FARMER SOME 12 MILES NORTHWEST OF ANN ARBOR, WHO SAID THE GLOWING OBJECT TOOK OFF BEFORE HE AND A SON COULD REACH IT.
FITZPATRICK SAID HE USED HIS PERSONAL CAMERA, FILM AND TRIPOD TO MAKE THE PICTURES. THE PICTURES WERE RELEASED BY SHERIFF DOUGLAS J. HARVEY.
DR. J. ALLEN HYNEK, A NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ASTROPHYSICIST, SENT HERE BY THE AIR FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, HAD NOT SEEN FITZPATRICK'S PHOTOGRAPHS SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THEIR RELEASE.
MAJ. HECTOR QUINTANILLA, OF WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE AT DAYTON, OHIO, SAID EARLIER TODAY THE AIR FORCE HOPED TO COME UP WITH A REASONABLE EXPLANATION OF THE OBJECTS WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS. HE GAVE NO HINT OF WHAT IT MIGHT BE.

Major Quintarilla,

Took a call from the WIFE Radio in Indianapolis, Indiana 0815. Wanted to know if we were going to send an investigative team to Indiana today. There was UFO that crashed into a gravel pit last night, 24 Mar 66, at 2030 hours near Indianapolis and the sheriff is on the scene at present. I informed them that we had not received a report from Indianapolis and could do nothing until the observer reported ~~it~~ observation to the Air Force. The radio station replied that he figured it wouldn't be reported since the sheriff was on the scene. Thanked us.

Marilyn

UFO'S (320)
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

20 March

ANN ARBOR, MICH., MARCH 21 (AP)-THERE MAY BE SOMETHING BESIDES SPRING IN THE AIR OVER SOUTHERN MICHIGAN. Michigan

THREE TIMES IN A WEEK RESIDENTS OF THE NEARBY COMMUNITY OF DEXTER HAVE REPORTED SPOTTING UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS FLOATING THROUGH THE NIGHT AIR. In So

THE LATEST SIGHTINGS WERE MADE LAST NIGHT BY MORE THAN A SCORE OF PERSONS. INCLUDING POLICE OFFICERS. OFFICERS USING GEIGER COUNTERS SEARCHED THE AREA TODAY BUT SAID THEY FOUND NOTHING.

"I GOT WITHIN 500 YARDS OF THAT THING AND IT LOOKED PYRAMID-SHAPED. IT HAD A LIGHT HERE AND A LIGHT THERE AND WHAT LOOKED LIKE A PORTHOLE," SAID FRANK MANNOR, 47, OF DEXTER.

"I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT," SAID STAN MCFADDEN, 27, A WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY.

DEXTER PATROLMAN ROBERT HUNIWELL SAID THE FLYING OBJECT HE SAW HAD RED AND GREEN FLASHING LIGHTS AND AT ONE TIME ZIPPED DOWN TO HOVER "WITHIN 10 FEET" OF A POLICE PATROL CAR. WHEN IT ROSE AGAIN, SAID HUNIWELL, IT WAS JOINED BY A SIMILAR OBJECT.

MANNOR SAID HE WAS INDOORS WHEN HE NOTICED FLASHING LIGHTS THROUGH A WINDOW.

HIS SON, ROBERT, 19, AND HIS WIFE, LEONA, ALSO SAW THE OBJECT.

"IT WASN'T LIKE THE PICTURES OF A FLYING SAUCER AND IT HAD A CORAL-LIKE SURFACE. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT," SAID MANNOR.

£A133DT (DN)
INSERT

ANN ARBOR, MICH.--INSERT UFO'S, A119DT, AFTER NINTH GRAPH "IT WASN'T X X X [redacted]" (TO UPDATE):

SHERIFF DOUGLAS J. HARVEY, A DISBELIEVER AT FIRST BUT NOW WONDERING, ASKED WASHINGTON'S HELP MONDAY.

"I DIDN'T BELIEVE THESE REPORTS, EITHER, BUT WITH SO MANY TRAINED POLICE PERSONNEL AND RELIABLE CITIZENS HAVING SEEN THEM (THE OBJECTS), I MUST BELIEVE SOMETHING IS IN THE WASHTENAW COUNTY SKIES," HARVEY SAID.

HARVEY SAID CONGRESSMAN WESTON VIVIAN, ANN ARBOR DEMOCRAT, IS TO INQUIRE TOMORROW IN WASHINGTON OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND THE U.S. AIR FORCE FOR POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS. HE IS TO ASK THEM TO ENTER AN INVESTIGATION.

IN ANY EVENT, HARVEY WANTS A CONTACT WITH THE EXPERTS. HE SAID HE HAD FAILED IN A PERSONAL EFFORT TO REACH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

"MCFADDEN WAS X X X," 10TH GRAPH A119DT (FIRST GRAPH 2ND TAKE -120DT).

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UFO Eyed By Many For Hours

HILLSDALE, Mich. (UPI) — A Civil Defense director, an assistant dean and 87 coeds reported Tuesday they watched a glowing object zip past a college dormitory and hover in a swamp for hours.

Their description of the eerie object seen here Monday night tallied closely with that of one seen by more than 50 persons, including 12 policemen, near Ann Arbor, Mich., the previous night.

The Air Force dispatched its top scientific adviser on unidentified flying objects (UFO) to launch an investigation.

The witnesses said they watched from the second floor of a Hillsdale College girls dormitory as the object wobbled, wavered, glowed eerily and once zipped right at a dormitory window before stopping suddenly.

Coeds Took Notes

Mrs. Kelly Hearn, for seven years a newspaper reporter before becoming assistant dean of women, assistant professor of English and housemother of the dorm, had the coeds take notes as they watched the object for four hours.

They and William Van Horn, 41, Hillsdale County civil defense director, said the object dimmed its lights when police cars approached, brightened again when they went away, and dodged an air port beacon light.

Barbara Kohn, 21, New Castle, Pa., and Cynthia Poffenberger, 18, Cleveland, Ohio, were the first to see the object.

Raleigh, N. C.

The News and Observer, Sunday, March 27, 1966 1—3

AF Report On UFOs 'Mockery'

CLEVELAND Ohio (UPI)— One of 87 college coeds who reported seeing mysterious flying objects in Michigan last week Saturday called an Air Force report that the objects were luminous gas a "mockery."

Barbara Kohn, 21, a Hillsdale College student here to visit an aunt, accused Dr. J. Allen Hynek of "not doing his research thoroughly before rendering his opinion."

Hynek, a Northwestern University astrophysicist sent by the Air Force to Hillsdale to investigate the reports, said Friday the objects were "probably swamp gas."

"These objects were not viewed over a swamp but over the college arboretum and the college baseball field," Miss Kohn said. "The arboretum is a carefully tended woodsy park with a few small ponds but has no rotting vegetable matter from which gas might have been produced."

Miss Kohn said that Hynek talked to only two coeds, neither one of which had reported seeing the objects when they were first sighted, and that he had made no visits to the dormitory rooms from which the objects were sighted.

Miss Kohn, whose parents live in New Castle, Pa., said she viewed them through binoculars and the "outline of the objects were very precise."

SOME DAY . . .

Saucers for Real? That Would Bore Us

(C) New York Times Service

WASHINGTON, Mar. 29—The flying saucers seen in Michigan last week are now officially dismissed as swamp gas. It is probably just as well. One of these days a genuine flying saucer will come to earth and, after the excitement wears off, there will be one less mystery in the universe to keep us awake.

Russell Baker

Psychologists hold that many of us believe in flying saucers because we want flying saucers to exist. Not so. We can see that it is not so by considering what will happen after the first new flying saucers have landed.

The immediate reaction will be an intense interest. All three TV networks will preempt their afternoon schedules, as well as "Batman" and "I Love Lucy" reruns, to cover the event, and no one will telephone the networks to complain.

* * *

THERE WILL be a national wave of disappointment when the saucer opens and fails to disgorge either a tall slim man who resembles Michael Rennie or little green men wearing glass globes around their heads. The likelihood that whatever it is that is able to land missions on earth from distant worlds will have any human characteristics is remote.

When the saucer is opened, it is more likely to contain cats or flying cockroaches. Or, it may contain something utterly uninteresting. Great balls of moss, perhaps, or piles of rubber bands.

Now, while a visit from another planet is a fascinating event to look forward to, the real thing is almost certain to be an anti-climax, particularly if the visitors are no more interesting than cats or rubber bands or great moss balls.

After the first few landings, the public will begin to find the whole business tiresome. Then years ago, the prediction that man would shortly travel in space thrilled and absorbed the world. Recently, when two space travelers encountered a serious emergency, thousands of people complained because the networks interrupted favorite TV programs to report what was happening.

* * *

NOTHING PALLS nowadays as rapidly as a miracle. After the first few saucer arrivals, we will ask, "What's the idea of interrupting 'Bonanza' to report another saucerload of moss balls?"

This is why the psychologists are wrong. We do not want flying saucers to exist because, once their existence is established, something exciting will go out of life and saucer landings will take their place in the humdrum of daily existence along with the comings and goings of Lyndon B. Johnson, the crash of airliners and the billingsgate of politics.

What we want is to preserve the possibility that flying saucers exist without ever having to confront the real thing. So long as flying saucers are a possibility, we can entertain dreams about the universe.

So long as they are merely a possibility, it is possible that they really may have Michael Rennie aboard, or little green men with glass globes around their heads.

MANY SEEING SAUCERS

Flying Object Reports Have an Unusually Good Week

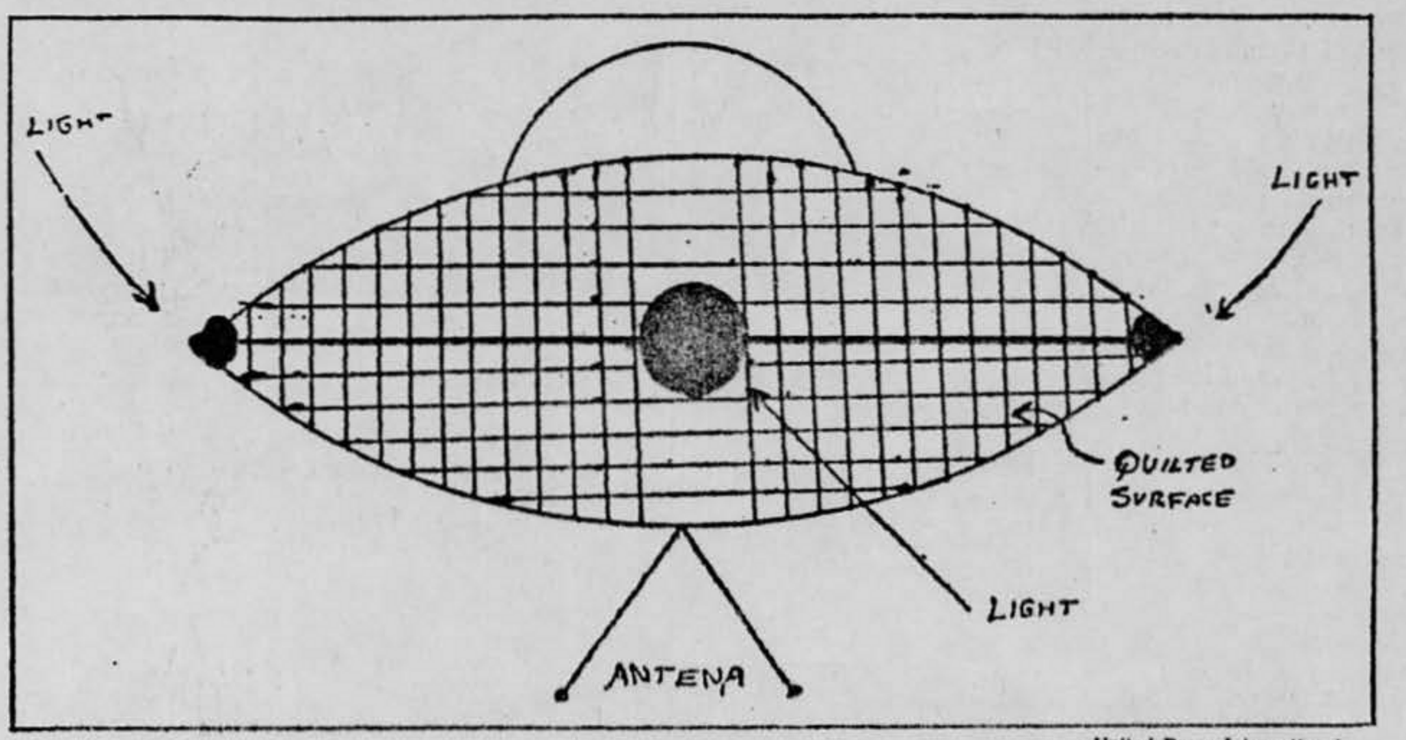
By WILLIAM HINES
Star Staff Writer

The last 12 months have been a good year for UFOs and the last few days have been a particularly good week.

UFOs—in case you just arrived from Planet X aboard one and haven't heard about the current furor—are unidentified flying objects, the so-called "flying saucers" that periodically become a news wonder.

A spate of sighting reports has been coming in since last Thursday from a number of localities in southern Michigan and northern Indiana. This seems to be a characteristic of UFO manifestations, which tend to be clustered in space and time.

The most widely publicized UFO sighting in the present series was reported in Dexter, near the university town of Ann Arbor, Mich., on Sunday evening. More than 50 persons, including that ever-reliable observer, the local cop, testified to having seen the object. It was variously described as oval and pyramidal in shape, and some observers said it had a blinker on top like that on a police car.



—United Press International

Police in Dexter, Mich., drew this sketch of a UFO on the basis of reports from persons who said they saw it.

One policeman saw two flying objects during the excitement at Dexter, which may explain the difference of opinion about shape.

Investigations promptly began, as they have done after every major multiple UFO sighting in the last 19 years since the Air Force set up its "Project Blue Book" to snuff out UFO reports.

Both the Air Force and the National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) were on the scene at Dexter this week, questioning people who claimed to have seen the saucers.

Among UFO buffs—the people who believe saucers contain visitors from other worlds—the Air Force is regarded as anti-UFO and NICAP as pro-UFO. NICAP is a Washington-based organization with headquarters at 1536 Connecticut Ave. NW. It is run by former Marine Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, the acknowledged high priest of flying saucerdom.

Keyhoe was not in his office yesterday when an inquiry was made about the latest saucer visitation. His assistant, Richard Hall, fielded questions.

Hall said the Dexter sighting is only one of several since March 17. He listed them in this order.

March 17—Grand Rapids,

See SAUCERS, Page A-16

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legislature — should carry considerable weight," he said.

ON THE OTHER hand, Gellhorn said, a single, all-embracing ombudsman in the Scandinavian style "might drown in a sea of genuine or fancied grievances before he could even begin to function.

"The scope and complexity of Federal operations, the geographical dispersal and number of persons these operations affect, argue in combination against attempting to create a single, all-American Mr. Fixit.

"An ombudsman-type official with authority to examine the entire range of state or municipal administration in order to correct citizens' grievances would be "a promising experiment," Gellhorn said.

He warned, however, that "one would be incautious indeed to predict that a new alchemy practices by an external critic of administration or by a whole covey of critics could suddenly transmute bureaucratic bungling and other real or imagined governmental failings."

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1860, President Lincoln appointed him to a diplomatic post in Russia. On his way to the assignment, he reached Washington when it was cut off and largely undefended. He raised 300 men to help protect the city.

Two years later, he was recalled from Russia and commissioned a major general, but refused to fight until the Government assured him that slavery would be abolished in the seceded states. Retired on his estate after another six-year term in Russia, Clay was adjudged a lunatic a few weeks before his death in 1910.

"But the Jolly Green Giant has been well received in America," I said.

"Yes, but he's in show business. What we're concerned with is the average green person who has no special skills and is more or less a drag on society."

"What do you think will be the main problem?"

"For one thing, the green people will not be able to read or write English — at least, we don't think they will. So we'll have to make allowances for that. For another, it will be very hard for them to get jobs. Oh, they could probably get work as maids or cooks or waiters, but when it comes to competing for a white-collar job, I don't believe a green person is going to get it."

"Why is that?"

"Most people are nervous about green people. They feel superior to them and at the same time they're afraid of them. It might have something to do with sex."

"WHAT DOES the NAAGP plan to do about it?"

"We'll go through the courts first. If that doesn't work, we'll have mass demonstrations. The green people have to have the same rights as other people—not only because they're green, but because they're so small."

I spoke to a member of a White Citizens Council who was absolutely opposed to giving green people any rights.

"We're just getting used to black people. We're not going to have green people forced down our throats," he said. "We have a right to choose whom we want to associate with, whom we want to eat with, and whom we want our kids to go to school with. Everyone knows that green people are inferior."

"But the Jolly Green Giant is not inferior."

"I'd like to ask you one question, mister. Would you want your sister . . .?"

"Please, don't say it."

"I thought so. You left-wing liberals are all alike."

© 1966, Publishers Newspaper Syndicate

By Roscoe

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"It would be rather—uh—bad form to do it just now."

Flying Colors

Do We Want Little Green Men Moving in Next Door?

By Art Buchwald

WHEN THE flying saucers were sighted over Ann Arbor, Mich. recently, the first reaction from one of the residents was "Dammit, there goes the neighborhood."

It has been reliably reported that occupants of all flying saucers are little green men and this raises a serious problem. Do we want our children to go to school with little green children? What happens to real estate values when the little green people start moving in on the block? Will the green people be restions have to be answered before there is a mass invasion of them.

I spoke to the president of the NAAGP (the National Association for the Advancement of Green People) the other day.

He said, "We are very concerned about the treatment that the little green people will get when they arrive in the United States. I'm sure that the first few will be cordially received, but as more and more flying saucers arrive, we will have a serious social problem."

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By Drew

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Hall said NICAP had received about three more sighting reports in the southern Michigan area, but had not yet compiled enoug information on them to be worth discussing. He said active investigations were under way in the La Porte and Dexter cases.

NICAP relies on volunteer workers to conduct inquiries. Hall explained. The LaPorte investigation is being carried out by Sherman Larson, haad of the organization's Midwest affiliate, NICAP-Chicago. Dexter is under the scrutiny of Maj. John Doty of the Michigan Air National Guard, who was assigned by Air Guard Lt. Col. Howard Strand, of Innkster, Mich., a UFO buff and volunteer helper of NICAP, Hall added.

One AF Man in Field

The Air Force had just one man out in the field, according to Maj. Hector Quintanilla, head of Project Blue Book at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. This investigator was identified as Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a noted astro-physicist from Northwestern University, who serves as consultant to the Air Force in UFO investigations. Hynek moved into the Ann Arbor area yesterday to talk to people about the Dexter sighting.

Quintanilla reacted with surprise to NICAP's claim of four separate UFO manifestations in five days. He said he had not heard of the Grand Rapids, La Porte and Hillsdale sightings and, possibly because more reports mean more work, did not seem anxious to pursue the matter.

Hall and Quintanilla agreed on one thing in separate interviews. There have been no authenticated reports of any direct confrontation between "a little green man" or whatever drives UFOs and humans. The late George Adamski wrote a book describing a ride in a spacecraft full of beautiful Venusians, but serious UFO students discount his report.

1,500 Reports Unexplained

NICAP never has counted the exact number of UFO reports in its file, but has made estimations from time to time. Hall said that from 1956 (when NICAP began operations) until 1964, about 5,000 "first-hand, not newspaper" reports were received. In the last two years there have been about 3,000 more.

Of this 8,000 total, about 1,500 UFO reports seem "pretty substantial and remain unexplained," Hall said.

Quintanilla reported much more precise data in the Air Force's files. As of a month ago, when its last count was made, Project Blue Book had received 10,147 reports since its inception in 1947. Of these 646 remain unresolved.

The Blue Book Project officer qualified these figures by saying that many of the early sighting reports were imprecise and hard to nail down. Since 1956, he added, the Air Force has handled saucer investigations in another way, and the results in the last 10 years are sharply different: 6,162 reports, only 141 unresolved. This compares directly with the 1,500 "substantial and unexplained" cases in NICAP's files.

In the last year or so, Hall said, NICAP "has received more reports than the Air Force." He was asked whether this might be due to NICAP's reputation for being less skeptical than the Air Force in analyzing UFO reports and Hall agreed that this could account for the situation.

SAUCERS

UFO Manifestation On Rise Since July

Continued From Page A-1

Mich. Four teenagers, Heidi Kubiak, Marty Zeldman, and Patsy and Margie McClymont, reported seeing a large, oval-shaped object with what looked like portholes around the rim, with lights flashing intermittently from the "portholes." The sighting occurred in the evening, not long after sunset. The teenagers said the object was either monstrously large or very low. As they watched, it took off with a humming sound and went away.

March 19—La Porte, Indiana, six witnesses including three policemen saw a yellow-white spherical object with two projections on top that looked like antennas. It was at a low altitude and seemed to be swerving from side to side.

March 20—Dexter, Mich. Frank Manners and his son Ronald (the Associated Press identified them as Frank and Robert Mannor, while the Detroit Free Press called the son Ronnie Mannor) gave a precise account of the sighting about 7:30 p.m. in a woods near their house. Police officers and a large number of private citizens also saw the object or objects. The father-son pair described their UFO as pyramidal, while others said it was a dome with a disc on top.

Defense Director Confirms

March 21—Hillsdale, Mich. More than 80 students at Hillsdale College reports seeing a UFO, either round or oval, that moved back and forth close to the ground. The local civil defense director, William Van Horn, was summoned and went to the college dormitory where the original sighting was made. He personally observed the UFO through binoculars. No one was certain whether the object actually touched down, or whether it hovered a small distance above the ground.

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Quintanilla told reporters: It has been a big year for flying saucers. Project Blue Book logged 886 sightings last year—about 30 percent above the annual average for the last decade. All but 16 have been accounted for by conventional explanations, Quintanilla said.

World Events Going On

According to Hall, the Michigan-Indiana sightings are just part of a worldwide UFO manifestation that has been going on since last July. The visitations began with a series of reports from northern Texas and Oklahoma in July, resumed after a lull with a "very intense concentration" in New Hampshire in December, and then quieted down until last week, Hall said.

Shoe imprints and some landing gear have been noticed where saucers have been observed in the past, Hall said, but no material evidence has been left behind. No UFO apparently has ever been wrecked, or at any rate, no UFO wreckage has ever been found and subjected to chamical analysis.

Hall said this lack of tangible evidence does not disturb NICAP, which feels that since chemistry is pretty much the same all over the universe, chemical analysis probably would not prove much about the origins of UFO-jettisoned material.

There has never been any evidence of a hostile attack on humans from a UFO, and no authenticated reports of any direct confrontation between "a little green man" or whatever drives UFOs and humans. The late George Adamski wrote a book describing a ride in a spacecraft full of beautiful Venusians, but serious UFO students discount his report.

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Raleigh N.C.

They're Up in the Air Over What's in the Air

ANN ARBOR, Mich (AP) — There may be something besides spring in the air over southern Michigan.

Three times in a week residents of the nearby community of Dexter have reported spotting unidentified flying objects floating through the night air.

The latest sightings were made Sunday night by more than a score of persons, including police officers. Officers using geiger counters searched the area Monday but said they found nothing.

"I got within 500 yards of that thing and it looked pyramid-shaped. It had a light here and a light there and what looked like a porthole," said Frank Mannor, 47, of Dexter.

"I still don't believe it," said Stan McFadden, 27, a Washtenaw County sheriff's deputy.

Dexter Patrolman Robert Huniwell said the flying object he saw had red and green flashing lights and at one time zipped down to hover "within 10 feet" of a police patrol car. When it rose again, said Huniwell, it was joined by a similar object.

Flashing Lights

Mannor said he was indoors when he noticed flashing lights through a window.

His son, Robert, 19, and his wife, Leona, also saw the object.

"It wasn't like the pictures of a flying saucer and it had a coral-like surface. I've never seen anything like it," said Mannor.

McFadden was one of about 20 deputies in seven patrol cars sent to the area to investigate Mannor's report.

He said he and Deputy Dave Fitzpatrick tried to reach the object by walking up to it but that it flew off as they approached.

Dexter Police Chief Robert Taylor who was accompanied by Patrolman N.G. Lee, said, "We saw it from the hill. It looked like it was down in the swamp. We saw the red glow and with binoculars we could see it. It was a pulsating red light. When we got into the swamp there wasn't anything there."

Previous sightings were made in the Dexter area last Thursday and a week ago Sunday. Police pictures made at the time failed to develop. A rash of sightings was reported last October in the Coldwater, Mich., area. An Air Force spokesman said at the time that radar showed nothing unusual in the area.

Airmen at Selfridge Air Force base said there was no military activity in the Dexter area during the latest sightings. It said a report of the matter had been sent to higher commands for study.

According to radio reports the sighting was reported to Selfridge AFB, Michigan they referred the caller to Air Defense Sector at Battlecreek, Michigan because Battlecreak was closer to Ann Arber.

Hynek Explains Michigan's UFO Sightings; Swamp Gases And Male Pranksters Blamed

(Continued from page 1)

time exposure shots of the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus.

In the Hillsdale case, after the real sighting, Hynek said, certain young men played pranks with flares to the further distress of the coeds.

The pictures were taken on a different night and in a different town and have no reference whatever to the other two sightings as originally represented, Hynek said.

"This is no new thing. It is like a jigsaw puzzle. There are a lot of pieces to work with, and to complicate the picture. Most of the time we are working with several jigsaw sets," he added.

Hynek expressed surprise in the excitement the Michigan sightings caused.

"We've had many more interesting cases, like in Exeter, New Jersey."

Sunday on Channel 11 at 6:30 p.m. Hynek will be joined by a panel of experts in a one-hour-long discussion on unidentified flying objects, primarily the Exeter case.

Hynek agreed it was an unusual way to spend a spring vacation, but said most of his investigations had to be sandwiched in between the school year requirements.

He said, "I learned more about swamps than I ever thought I would care to."

Daily
Northwestern
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

Twelve NU Seniors Named Wilson Fellows

See Page 3

Tuesday, March 29, 1966

Tries to Quell Disturbances

Hynek Swamps It To Study UFO's Following Report

By DAVID L. NELSON
Campus Editor

Trudging through swamps in southern Michigan may not be the ideal spring vacation activity. But Northwestern's Prof. J. Allen Hynek took it in stride, as he attempted to quell disturbances of a national level.

The astronomy department chairman is also the chief scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force on the subject of unidentified flying objects (UFO)

J. Allen Hynek sits at control board of his electronic astronomical equipment at Deerborn Observatory. He spent last week checking out reports of Unidentified Flying Objects.

but the Air Force was satisfied to send their man Hynek to the trouble area.

The major sighting events of the week which Hynek had to face included:

• Eighty-seven Hillsdale (Mich.) College coeds reporting they saw an eerie, hovering flying object settle in a swampy hollow near their dormitory. The event was also witnessed by William Van Horn, the Hillsdale county civil defense director.

• A truck driver and his 19-year-old son in Dexter, Mich. said they saw an object that glowed like a cigarette with a greenish-blue light on one end and a white light on the other. The light came from a swampy area, one quarter of a mile behind the man's farmhouse.

• Photographs of "unidentified flying objects" taken by a Michigan deputy sheriff and released by the sheriff to a nation-wide news program on CBS television.

Reported Seeing Lights

Hynek said in both Hillsdale and Dexter "the majority of observers . . . reported only lights—red, yellow, and green, silent glowing lights, near the ground."

He said the Dutch astronomer, Minnsert, in his book *Light and Color, in the Open Air,* writes that lights, resembling tiny flames, are sometimes seen on the ground or floating right above swampy areas.

The colors are sometimes yellow, sometimes red, and blue-green and can appear for hours at a time or for a whole night.

Says It Was Marsh Gas

Rotting vegetation produces marsh gas which can be trapped by ice and winter conditions. This gas may be released in some quantity when a spring thaw occurs.

"It would seem to me," Hynek said, "that the association of the sightings with swamps, in these particular cases, is more than coincidence. No group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamps."

The combination of peculiarly mild winter weather in the Midwest region, plus the particular weather conditions on the nights the lights were visible—little wind in either location—"were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display," Hynek concluded.

He also determined that the "UFO photos" were nothing but

(Continued on page 4)

Discuss Recs

tion."

But to Miss Popkin the issue is "broader than sorority and fraternity housing." If two students are made roommates for a particular racial or religious reason, this

Seventeen Wom To Turn In Ke rs

Penalties for 17 women OWS not turn in their senior ke leaving the university f vacation have not been ed, Associated Women President Lynn Zimmer Monday.

, 1966

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The astronomy department chairman is also the chief scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force on the subject of unidentified flying objects (UFO).

In the last week-and-a-half a rash of strange sightings has been reported throughout the Midwest area, primarily in Michigan.

House Republican leader Gerald R. Ford (Mich.) proposed that Congress have "a full blown investigation" into these incidents,

Marsh Gas and Chickenman

Was it Martians or marsh gas?

Northwestern University's J. Allen Hynek, now a more nationally known astronomer than ever, disturbed many last week by saying that people who reported seeing flying saucers in Michigan probably saw marsh gas.

And what wasn't marsh gas wasn't Martians either, the astronomy department chairman said. Those unidentified flying objects were various contraptions rigged by humans as "pranks," said he.

Hynek, who serves as the U. S. Air Force's authority on strange things seen in the sky, received more publicity for his unique interest during the past several days than in all the years he's spent looking through Dearborn Observatory's telescopes.

The things he called marsh gas or pranks were seen by many people in Michigan, including a Civil Defense official, several policemen, one newspaper reporter, a college dean, and a group of college coeds.

And they all thought surely they were watching contraptions driven by visitors from the planets which the United States and the U.S.S.R. both are attempting to study with their space vehicles.

It's hard to believe that what those folks up in Michigan saw — as well as what's been reported hovering in the skies of Georgia and other states across the nation — were all pranks and marsh gas. But it's equally difficult to argue with as distinguished an authority as Prof. Hynek.

We bet he doesn't believe in Chickenman either.

Removing More Rules

Associated Women Students has proposed an extension of freshman women's hours for winter and spring quarters beginning in 1967.

The plan is another step in a path which AWS and other student groups at Northwestern are taking faster and faster to eliminate some of the artificial social rules and regulations at this university.

We trust Northwestern's women will be wise enough to support the plan in their living units, as they have supported parietal hours and a junior key system earlier this year.

And we hope the Council on Undergraduate Life will crawl out of the puritanical shell it put itself in last quarter and approve the plan when presented with it later this quarter.

Boys and Men

Boys will be boys, and nothing proved it better than the night late last quarter when the electric power disappeared from north campus for about 80 minutes and NU's men enjoyed it.

They exploded fire crackers in the quadrangles, crashed bottles on sidewalks and in the corridors of living units, lit waste basket fires, put in false fire alarms, and staged a premature panty raid. They also removed a television and some other items from residence hall lounge — a joke, it was later reported.

Sometimes men ought to act like men.

CALLS OF 31 March 1966

MR SYNDER 321-2132 CHICAGO DAILY NEWS - Science writer he has met up with a strange situation, they have made a villian of Dr Hynek in the paper. He would like to write an article titled "the perils of an UFO investigator". There have been many unkind words about Dr Hynek. Major said that as far as he was concerned thereis no one in this country more knowledgeable than Dr. Hynek about UFO phenomena. He has been a consultant to this project for the last 18 years. His reputation is without question, especially in the field of UFOs. Swamp gas is not an unique phenomena, I received a letter from a lady in Illinois who also thought that is what it was. Major read the letter to Mr. Snyder. I doubt if I could get a reputable scientist to go out and investigate a case like Dr. Hynek. You can't satisfy 100% of the people, there always will be someone who will not believe you. Major explainedthe general UFO program.

If reports are identified by local local air force base they are not forwarded to Wright-Patterson. To get the specific number of reports received it would take a little research. We have the information up to date as much as possible but with the publicity we have been having, which takes a lot of our time, it is hard to keep a running account of statistics. We have had inquiries regarding the sightings in Michigan, everyone has been calling about it. Have had very few calls regarding local observations. If reports from the Columbus area have been submitted to us we will give the information on them to him. Gave him the statistics for this year.

PAUL PARKER, WINS (NEW YORK) - Started with Michigan business. Said he had a wire saying that Maor didn't really think it was swamp gas, nor did Dr. Hynek. Parker had a report from Mort Young. Major Quintanilla said that the wire was in error. Major looked it up (swamp gas) talked to chemists and researched it. Major Quintanilla had not spoke with Mort Young. Major Quintanilla said I believe it is swamp gas. It was researched thoroughly before we came to the conclusion. Parker wanted to know how these lights got in the swamp. You have fire (there is methane and it is a vapor). Major gave the statitistics for this year. I have been in Blue Book for 32 months and I have satisfied myself that these objects are not extraterrestrial in nature. The vast majority of cases are misinterpretation of conventional objects. Nobody should expect me to identify 100% of the cases. We are dealing with other peoples experiences and interpretations. I have no indication that any advanced intelligence from outer space has visited us.

PAUL MASS, COLUMBUS DISPATHC - UFOs in Columbus area would be reported to Lockbourne AFB. I am the Blue Book Officer for the whole Air Force. Call the Air Force base nearest you and ask for the UFO officer when reporting a sighting. We have had a rash of sightings due to publicity and the onslaught of spring. Gave general information on the UFO program.

CALLS OF 29 MARCH 1966.

JIM MOSELY - Wanted to know if Major Quintanilla went to Michigan. No I didn't. Dr Hynek, Moody and Amn Elmer went. Mosely said that it was in the New York Journal by Lloyd Young that Hynek did not want to give the answer about the gas, that there was a violent argument between Hynek and Major Quintanilla. We informed him that it was Dr. Hynek who suggested marsh gas. We talked to a chemist here and he talked to others up there. We had an idea Thursday afternoon but we couldn't say anything until it was thoroughly checked out. We agreed Friday morning. I have never met Mr. Young. Spoke on the current sightings to Mosely.

WILLIAMS, Lisbon, Ohio - wanted to know if Major Quintanilla would be available to speak. This afternoon I am going to be on radio and I would like to honr your request but we are very busy. If I do it for one person I must do it for all. Major explained the project to date, etc.

CALLS of 30 MARCH 1966

J. GIBBONS, COLUMBUS, DISTPATCH _ One UFO officer at each base. Told him approximately how many reports of aerial phenomena, how many reports from Ohio in the past week. We had four yesterday and one over the weekend.

WIFE RADIO STATION, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA - wanted to know if we had received report of a UFO landing in a gravel pit last night at 835pm in Indianapolis and if we were going to send someone over to investigate it. He said the Sheriff was out investigating it now. Informed him that until it was reported to the Air Force by the observer we could do nothing. He thanked us.

ASSOCIATED PRESS, Columbus, Ohio 228-4307. Wanted to know about press conference called with Dr. Hynek. It is to be this afternoon. Press conference will be at 1pm at Selfridge = Everything pretty well solved.

NBC NEWS CLEVELAND, OHIO, GLEN RAEKER - Dr Hynek is having a press conference at 1pm at Detroit Press Club in Detroit, Mich. Dr. Hynek is consultant to BB. Official statement will be released by Washington when Dr. Hynek has press conference. Haven't heard about any sightings from Astabula lately.

RATTNER WANC RADIO - Swamp gas bad. Photograph had no connection with the sightings of Hillsdale. We haven't seen the report as yet. Dr. Hynek is consultant to BB, etc. Gave information on the program to date, sightings, etc.

CALLS OF 28 MARCH 1966

WBNS, NEWSROOM, COLUMBUS, OHIO 224-9265. We have not seen the film from the patrolman. I t will probably be a few days. The object was Venus. I spoke with the patrolman and he gave me the technical information azimuth, elevation and it is definitely the Planet Venus. Also gave info on the Michigan sighting.

CRAIG EDWARDS, CINCINNATI - Seen on wire that W-P is having a rash of sightings. Major said he didn't know how we got on the wire. Gave information on the program to date.

MR WHITE THOMAS, 222-3526 - We regard all UFO reports as serious. These are all standard motions. Sent Dr. Hynek to help investigate. As soon as we get info it will be released.

CALLS OF 22 MARCH 1966

ASSOCIATED PRESS DESK, COLUMBUS, OHIO, BOB MILLER - Sent Dr. Hynek to help in investigation. Details quite sketchy. Will be released as soon as info is in, etc.

JACK JONES, DAYTON DAILY NEWS - Dr. Hynek should be on the scene now. Haven't talked to him as yet. We take all reports serious, etc.

BILL WISE, LIFE MAGAZINE - Arranged to come here to make a feature article.

PHIL JONES, WJLR - Have started investigation. Dr. Hynek is in the field, information will be relased when it is in, etc., nothing has ever proven to be extraterrestrial in nature. Etc.

MAJOR GREGORY, SCHFA - gave him a break down on what had been happening.

CALLS OF 24 MARCH 1966

DOUGLAS DRAKE, WONE - We are on a second lead story. Wanted to know what progress has been made in the Michigan sighting and when we expect a result and an opinion. Do we see any association between Michigan and North Carolina sightings. Things are begining to shape up and expect an explanation tomorrow, etc. Have no reports from N Carolina.

BARRENTS, RADIO STATION, DETROIT, MICH TR-3-2690 - Toldhim we expected results tomorrow.

Michiganders Report More Flying Objects

ANN ARBOR, Mich. —(AP)— Unidentified flying objects go on tantalizing Michigan, despite an expert's finding that failed to support their existence in two sightings areas.

New reports of sightings extended about 100 miles north Saturday night — up toward the tip of Michigan's "thumb" in Lake Huron.

At the same time odd lights were reported in the sky over Oakland (Pontiac) county and the neighboring Detroit area. Others were reported westward in the Lansing area.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern university, scientific consultant to the Air Force, has reported phenomena seen at Dexter and Hillsdale on the night of March 20 probably were the result of swamp gases.

His conclusion met with question again yesterday, however.

Sheriff's Deputy Keith Lester of Oakland county said it was "definitely" an object which he saw with "glowing green and red and blue lights" about 9 p.m. Saturday night in the vicinity of Pontiac township.

Earlier, Sheriff Douglas Harvey of Washtenaw county and Civil Defense Director William Van Horn of Hillsdale county had criticized Dr. Hynek's report. Dexter is in Washtenaw county.

Van Horn said the swamp gas explanation was an attempt to "explain it away arbitrarily." And he took a cut at the Air Force.

"The Air Force," Van Horn said, "is going to get into trouble going on this way. It seems like a whitewash."

Dr. Hynek, an astrophysicist, came to Michigan to investigate after appeals from the state to the Air Force and the defense department for an inquiry in justice to disturbed citizens.

Dr. Hynek investigated at Dexter and Hillsdale only on reported sightings in those areas. His report related only to those areas.

People Entitled to Observe Mysterious Flying Saucers

There is a delightfully fey quality to most of those reports of flying saucers. I hope they remain a mystery. We need the mysteries we have left.

The latest involves 87 co-eds from Hillsdale (Mich.) college, a civil defense director, an assistant dean and a solid, no-nonsense farmer. That's about par for the course.

Just Fair

Flying saucers usually seem to choose their clienteles with a discerning sense for the inappropriate, for a scrambled version of the American dream.

* * *

OUT AT Wright-Patterson, there is a small group of men who have the chore of running down all such reports. They have as mixed a bag of work assignments as anyone you will encounter.

They can explain a high percentage of the sightings—weather balloons, Venus, you name it—but some remain blissfully unsolved.

A few years ago, they ran into one of the rare instances in which tangible evidence is left. A man in a Middle Western state had observed a saucer land and had seen the little men get out of it. They had proceeded to eat dinner.

* * *

WHEN THE MAN approached them, they scattered back into the saucer and fled, whoosh, leaving behind a little piece of cake-like substance. He scooped it up.

The Air Force investigators had it carefully analyzed by chemists. It turned out to be a standard commercial pancake mix, somewhat charred in the cooking.

Disappointing? Not really. Little men in flying saucers have as much right to overdone pancakes as anyone else. And 87 co-eds make a formidable testament to almost anything.

DR. THOMAS HEALVY, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 898-7411 - TAMPA - He is interestedinUFOs, from the scientific view. He is planning to go up to Washington, D C in two or three weeks and would like to come to Dayton. He would like to generate the first scientific conference on UFOs on each case, presenting the best meteorologists to talk about investigations, and look through the cases with a scientific viewpoint. He feels if the academic community would look at the cases with a scientfic viewpoint it would show that the Air Force is doing the best job they can. He felt that by generating a conference with the aid of our office that he would be doing a service not only to the Air Force but to the scientific community as well. Major Quintanilla told him he had a very good thought and thought it was a tremendous idea. Gave him Col Spaulding's address to go through.

PHIL DONAHUE - WHIO, Dayton - The investigation is still being conducted.

JACK JONES, DAYTON DAILY NEWS, Dayton - hope to have results tomorrow afternoon.

WLWD , TV, Dayton - Hope to have results tomorrow afternoon, etc.

FRED STIR, ANN ARBOR - regarding statement by AP - with collection of information and investigation is proceeding nicely, we hope to have an explanation, hopefully sometime tomorrow. It depends on how fast Dr. Hynek and Moody can check it out the we can work it out and go over the data. Hope to have a press conference tomorrow at Selfridge, etc.

JOHN SWEENEY - 223-1111,JOURNAL HERALD - wanted to know about the Michigan case. Told him nothing new except what had been given to Jones that morning at the Dayton Daily News, about 1 hour ago. He said I couldn't have talked to Jones lhour ago and surely there was some news. I told him that if he didn't want what we had to say he could go over and ask Jack Jones at Dayton Daily News (other side of building). He said he wouldn't do that because they were their competitor.

CALLS OF 21 MARCH 1966

UPI, COLUMBUS, JAY GOODY - would like to know if we have any reports from Ann Arbor, Michigan. The only thing we have was on the radio. We have no official information whatsoever. People report to the closest AFB. The information included a policeman, three persons. Selfrdige told them they had no official reports. We won't do anything until some base nearby sends a report to us. Try to determine what it is after we get the information.

WKAR RADIO - Have no information on Michigan.

WONE RADIO, Dayton Ohio - we have had no information on Michigan sightings, etc.

FRANK MACOMBER, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 234-7111 - we have no information on the Michigan sightings, etc.

LIPPENCOTT, CITIZENS JOURNAL COLUMBUS. - we have not received any reports from Lockbourne, etc., last night. No info on the Michigan case yet.

MAJ DAVIS - SAFOI - Selfridge is sending us a report. It was reported by two or three people - they came up with nothing. Operations secretary was typing the report. Major Davis wants evaluation.

SAFOI again - Sara and Major Davis are trying to press for a statement.

JERRY CHAMBERS, WONE - Selfridge collecting information on UFOs in area. Will be sent here, etc.

ROBERT deGROUFF, WASHINGTON MUTAL BROADCASTING - Only information we have on Ann Arbor is second or third hand. Selfridge is going to investigate.

WONE - Douglas Drake - Dr. Hynek is going to assist in the investigation. He is an astro-physicist.

WHK NEWS IN CLEVELAND, STEVE FULLER - We have had no reports from Cleveland whatsoever. Dr. Hynek is going to assist in investigation by Selfridge.

3

Conley	F 2	Fernwood Drive	B 4	Hospital Road	F C 2	Main Drive	B 2
Copley	C 4	Jackson	A 3	Huron Street	F 4	Maiden Lane	A 3
Cornell Place	G 3	Jackson Place	A 3	Hyde Road	E 5,6	Maplewood Blvd	B 5
Coronado Drive	A 4	*Parallel to Jackson		Pleasant Place	A 3	Wolverine	E,F 6
Covington Drive	A 5,6	between Glazier and		Plow	D 2	Woodbridge	B 2
Crum Circle	F 2	Weston		Plymouth Road	C,D,E,F 1,2	Woodland	F 4
Crum Place	F 2	Jason	D 5	Pocasse Road	B 3	Woodland Drive	B 4,5
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Creal Court	A 2	Jones	F 5	Porter	AA 3	Woodmanor Court	E 6
Creal Crescent	A 2	Jefferson	B,C 3	Potter	B 4	Woodmere	B 4
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Crest	B 3,4	Jewett	D 5	Prescott	B 4	Woodway	A 2
Crestland Drive	D 5	John	C 4	Prestwick Ct.	F 2	Worden	A 3
Crosby Crescent	B 4	Jones Drive	D 2	Princeton	B 4	Worthington Court	B 5
Cross	C 4	Joan Court	D 5	Prospect	D 4	Wright	C 2
Crystal	G 6	Joseph	D 5	Provincial Drive	E 4	Yorkshire Blvd.	E 5
Culver Road	B,C 2	Josephine	F 4,5			Yorktown	F 1,2
Cumberland	E 5	Judson Court	D 4			Yost Blvd	F 5,6
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Darrow	F 5	Kenney	F 5	Redeemer	B 4		
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Davis	B 4	Kellogg	C 2	Redwood	E 6	50 Municipal Airport	C 7
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Dorset Road	D 4	Lakewood Drive	AA 3	Roosevelt	D 4	6 Phoenix Lab & Ford	
Doty	A 3	Landseth Dr.	B 5	*Off S. Forest between		Reactor	E 3
Dover Court	B 4	Lansing	B 5	Prospect & Cambridge		7 Automotive Engineering Lab	E 2
Dover Place	E 4	Larchmont	F 2	Rose	AA,A 3	8 Aeronautical Laboratory	E 2
Drapplz Heights	D,E 5	Larkspur	C 1	Rose Avenue	C 4	9 Fluids Engineering Lab	E 2
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Duncan	A 3	Las Vegas Drive	A 4,5	Rosewood	D 5		
Dunmore Road	A,B 5			Ross	A 3		

6

7

AA

Bonnie Place	E 3
Brampton Court	A 3
Brandywine	F 5,6
Braun Court	C 3
*off N. 4th Ave., between Kingsley & Catherine	
Brede Place	C 2
Brookfield	C 1
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Brookside Drive	C 2
Brookwood Place	C 4
Brown	C 4
Bruce	A 3
Bucholz Court	B 3
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*off Buckingham Road	
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Cambridge Court	D 4
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Canal	D 3
Canterbury Road	E 5
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Carey Street	C 3
Carhart	D 5
Carlton	G 6
Carlyle	E 5
Carmel	E 5
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Caroline Avenue	A 4
Carolyn	F 5
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Cedar Bend Drive	D 2
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Chandler	C 2
Chapel Court	B 4
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Charing Cross	F 6
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Chaucer	B 5
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Chesterfield Drive	E 6
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Colony	E 5
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Corwin	A 3
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Cottage Place	C 3
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Country Club Road	G 6
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Country Club Way	G 6
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Country Square Drive	G 6
Country Square Road	G 6
Country Square Terrace	G 6
Country Square Trail	G 6
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Alhambra Drive	A 4
Alice	A 3
Alison	A 3
Allen Drive	A 3
Allmand	A 3
Amherst	C 2
Anderson	D 5
Anderson Ct.	D 5
*north from Anderson	
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Arborview Blvd.	A 3
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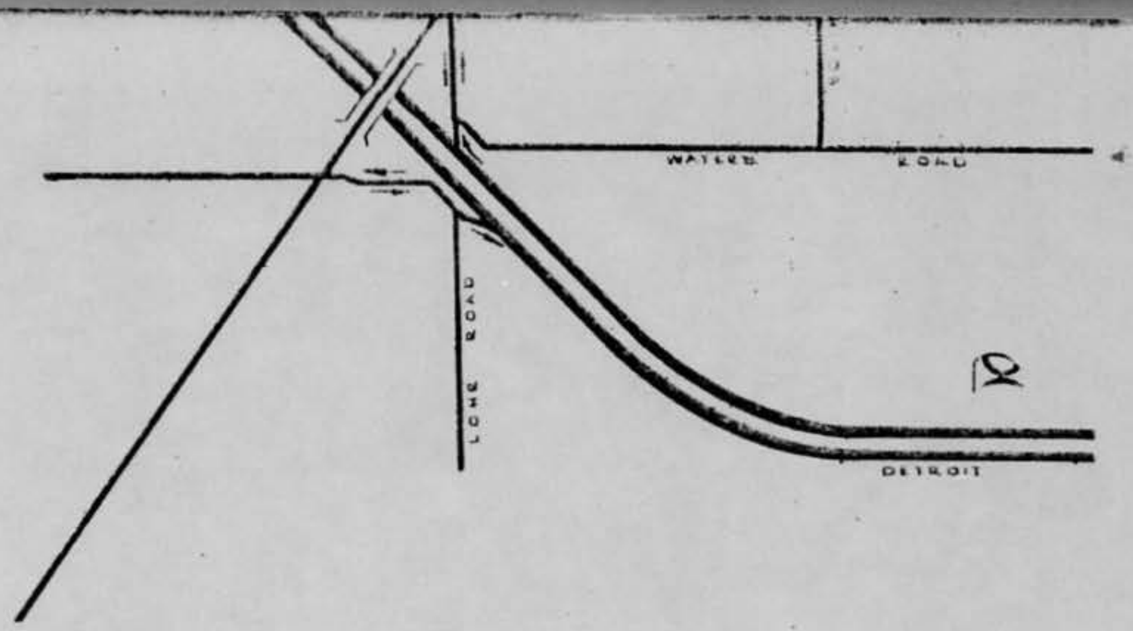
12 Institute of Science & Technology	E 3
13 North Campus Center	E 3
14 Music School	D 3
15 Research Administration Lab	E 3
16 Research Activities Bldg	E 3
17 Space Research Lab	E 3
18 Cyclotron	E 3



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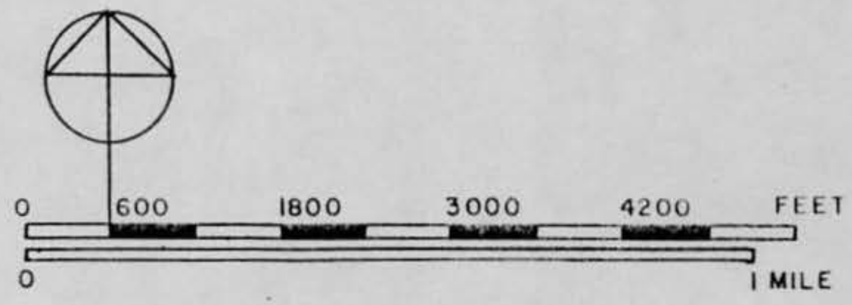

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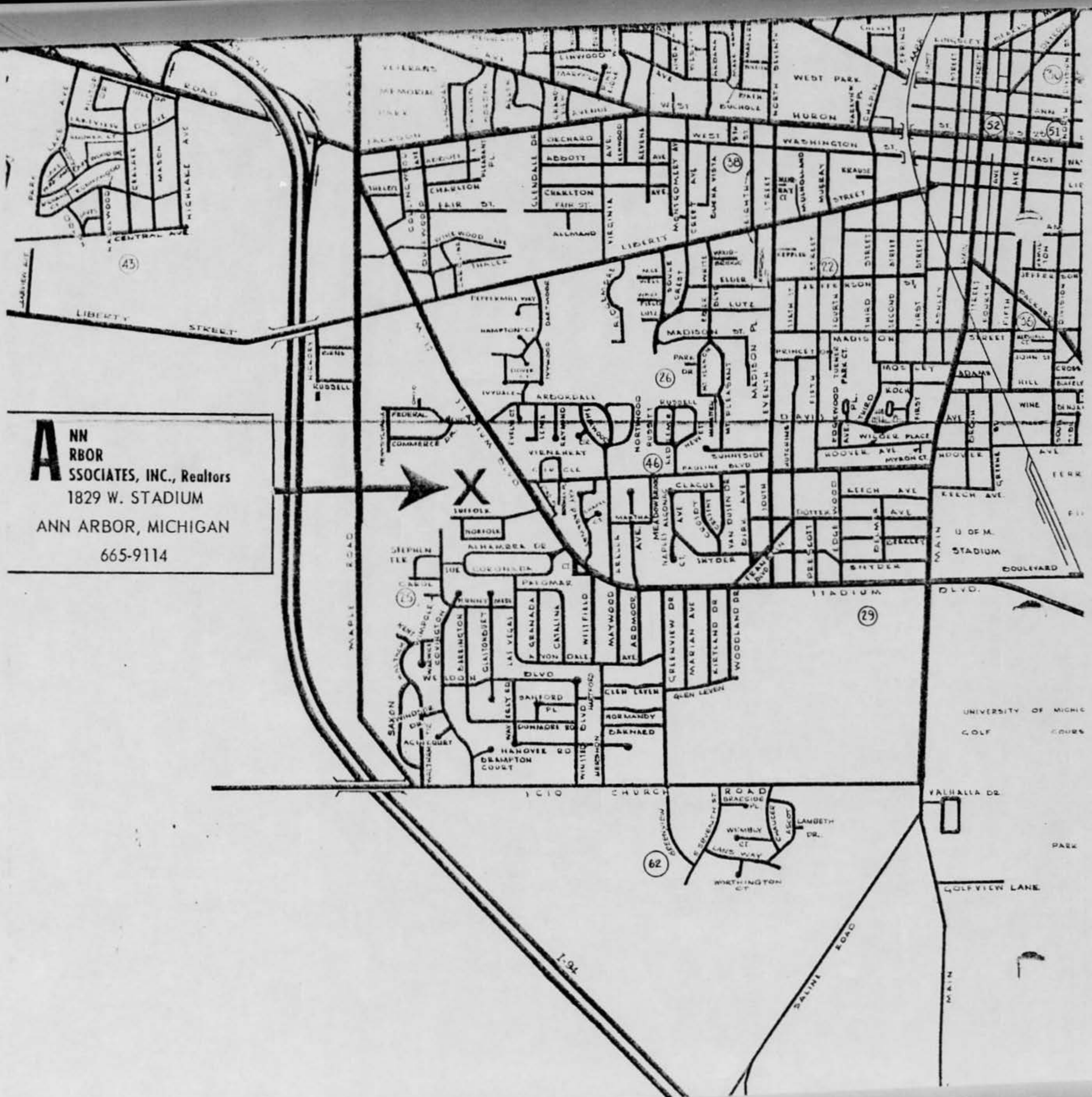

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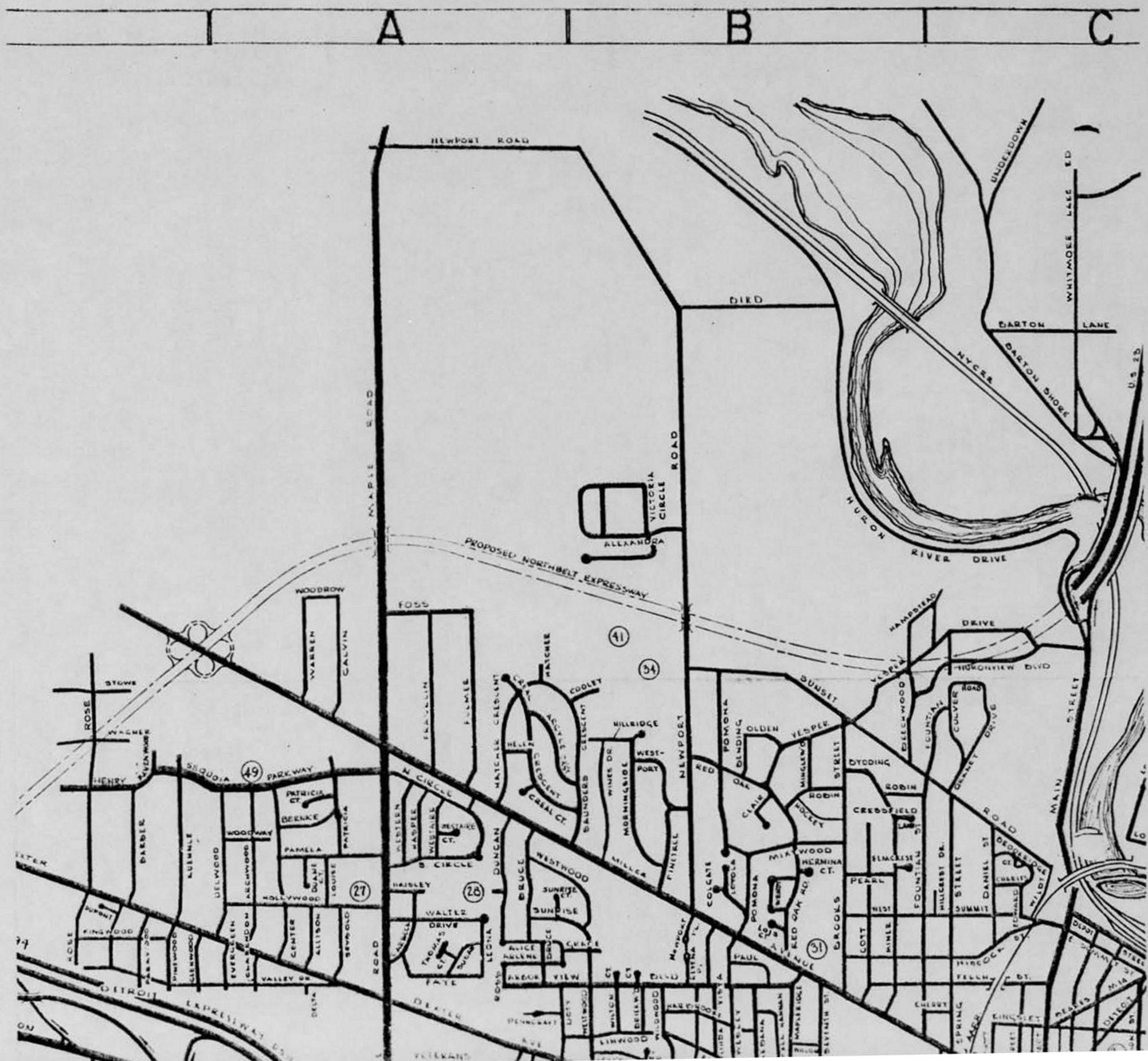

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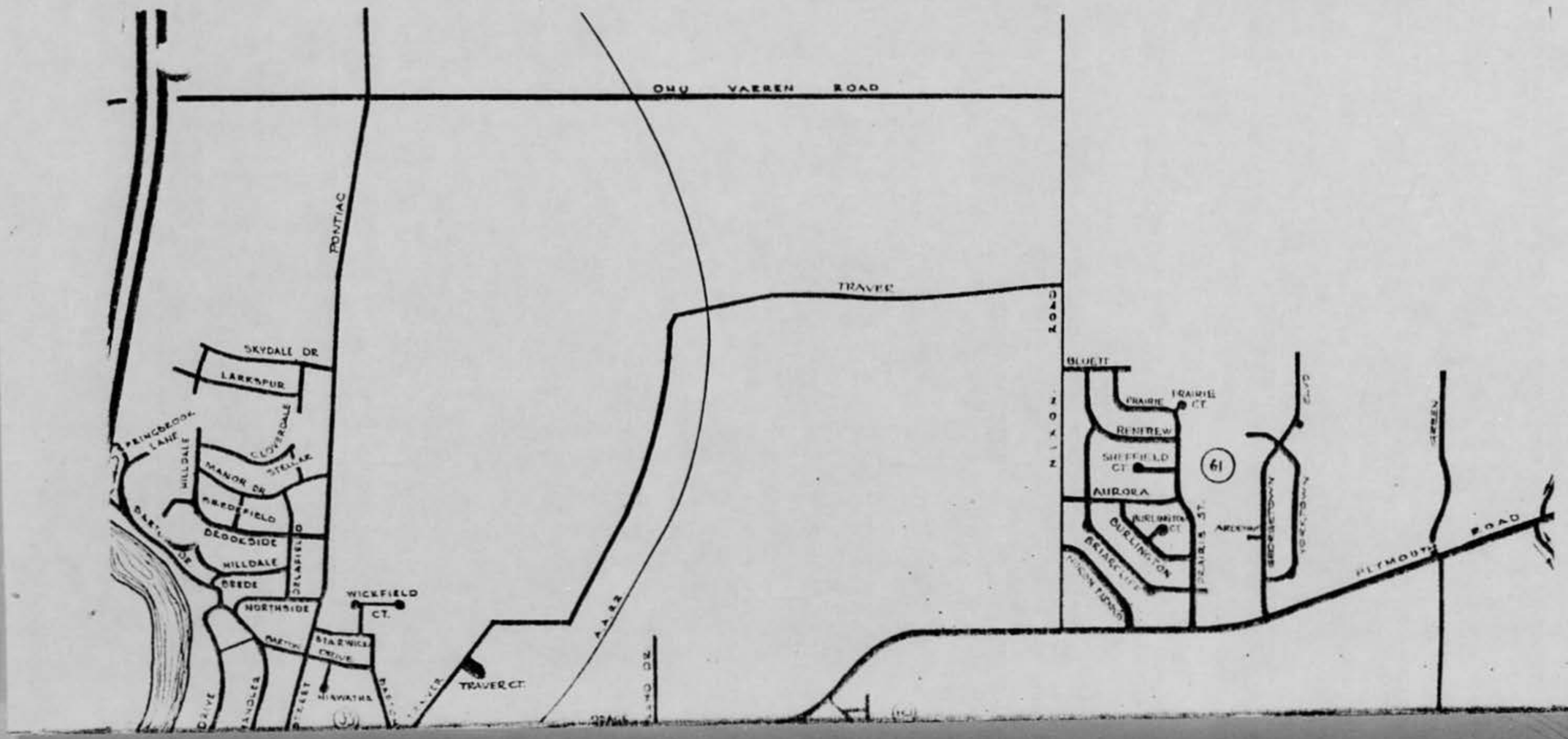

NEW YORK TIMES
SUNDAY
-- 27 MARCH 66
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SAUCER SIGHTINGS VEX CAPITOL HILL

Investigating Flying Objects Might Cause Public Alarm

By EVERT CLARK
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 26—Across the swamps of southern Michigan earlier this week "flying saucers" flew. An Air Force investigator shot most of them down with a simple explanation —swamp gas.

But policemen, a civil defense director, a house mother and hundreds of college students had seen the mysterious lights, and it is safe to say that not all of them accepted the investigator's conclusion.

The opening of this year's saucer season — the 20th year for "unidentified flying objects," or "u. f. o.'s" -- has presented official Washington with a problem.

Gerald R. Ford, House Republican leader, injected a new element by calling for a "full-blown" Congressional investigation. Such inquiries have been proposed many times before, but never by one of Mr. Ford's stature in Government.

Mr. Ford had just returned from Michigan. No saucers were sighted in his district and he had no calls from constituents about them. However, he said:

"I can assure you there is considerable interest and I suspect public concern."

Reluctant to Investigate

Congress has been and still is reluctant to investigate. To do so is to encourage the idea that there is more to the u. f. o. than mistaken sightings of natural or manmade objects.

To refuse to investigate, however, opens Congress to the charge, often made by fervent believers, that the Government knows what the saucers are but is "covering up."

Mr. Ford suggested that the House Armed Services or the Science and Astronautics Committee hold the investigation.

A spokesman for the Science Committee said the number of "reliable witnesses" who had reported seeing saucers was small compared to all the people who thought they had seen them.

"You can't just select airline pilots and other trained observers to testify," he said. "You have to take anybody who says he's seen one, and you know what that means. Since we handle space, we already get enough people in here who want to tell us how you can fly to the moon on a washboard or something."

A spokesman for the Armed Services Committee said he had once facetiously suggested that the House Committee on Un-American Activities investigate saucers because "it is un-American to have unidentified objects flying over this country."

No Laughing Matter

The committee, however, does not laugh at those who believe they have seen saucers, he said:

"That might be like laughing at the guy who thought of the submarine for the first time."

Nevertheless, there is some fear in both committees that a "full-blown" investigation might frighten much of the public, no matter what findings resulted, by seeming to indicate concern in Congress.

The Air Force, charged with the defense of the nation's skies, investigates every sighting reported to it. Through the end of last year, it had studied 10,147 such reports.

Last year, 886 sightings were reported—topped only by 1,501 in 1952 and 1,006 in 1957.

Of the 10,117 sightings, 646 remain in the Air Force's "unidentified" category. Most "U.F.O.'s"—identified flying objects—were explained as meteors, stars and planets, or planes, balloons and satellites. But many were thrown into a category called "other."

"Other," in the case of this year's sightings, included tracer bullets, debris in the wind, "poor photo process" and "man on ground," according to the Air Force.

'Some Kind of Vehicle'

No space ships, no little men. Yet this week's reports included that of William Van Horn, a Hillsdale County civil defense director, who said the wavering orange, red and white lights he saw through binoculars definitely came from "some kind of vehicle."

John King, a 22-year-old Bangor, Me., man, said he shot four times at a 60-foot-long glowing object and hit it. It then zoomed skyward, he said.

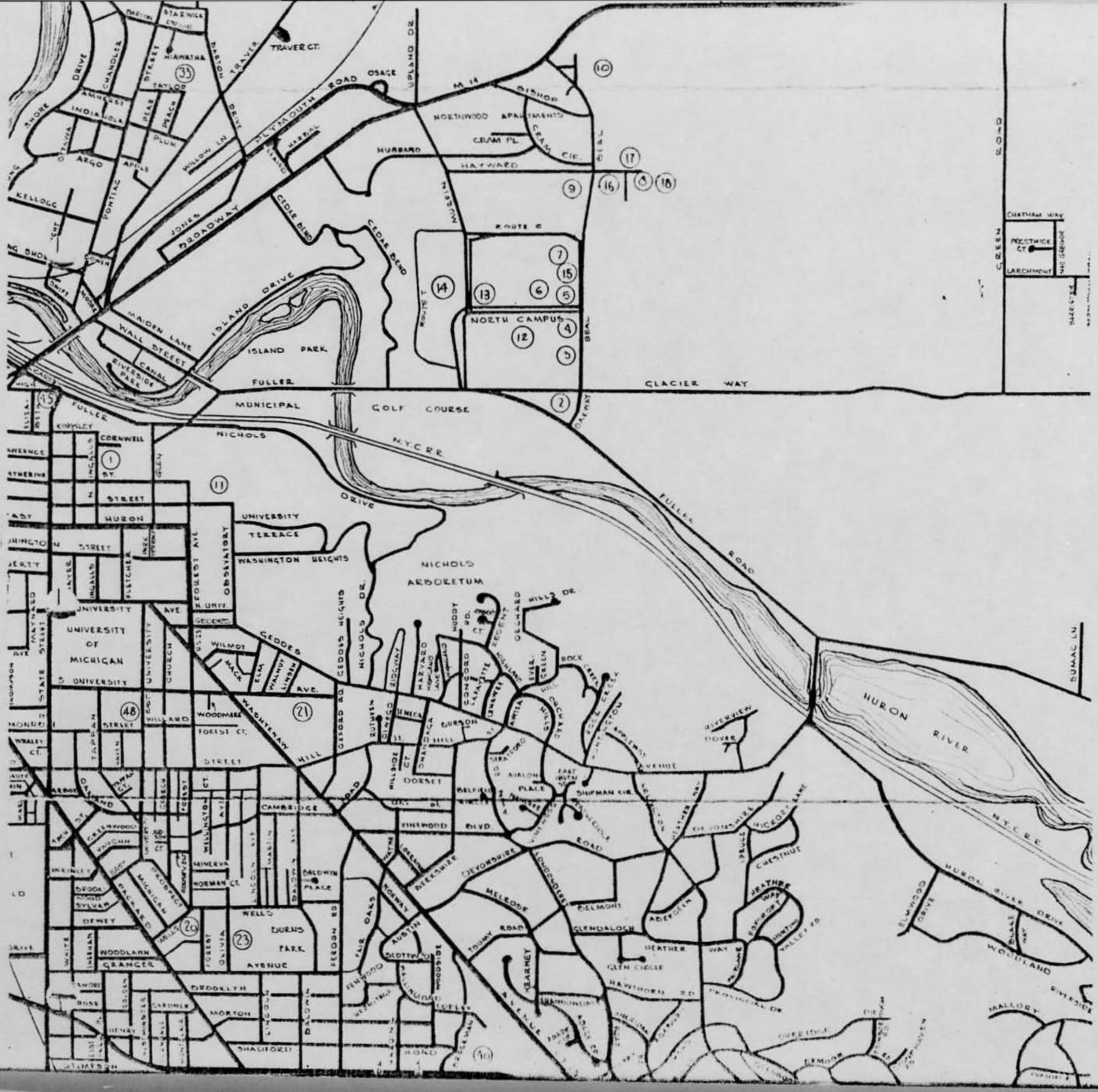
"I could hear the elderberry bushes scraping as the thing came toward me," Mr. King said.

A postman in Colorado, a newsman in Wisconsin and an Air Force electronics instructor in Oklahoma all reported seeing mysterious objects last week. The electronics man said a "fish-shaped" craft manned by an "ordinary human" blocked his car near the Texas border. In Texas, the police said hundreds of people reported seeing a starlike object that purred and changed colors.

Noting that "it must be a real dull day, newswise" for his suggestion to get so much attention, Representative Ford said he believed a thorough inquiry would "allay any apprehensions or fears."

"If it is marsh gas, the whole thing could be cleaned up and eliminated as a matter of concern very rapidly," he said.

Meanwhile, the Air Force says it still welcomes any evidence "of the existence and intraspace mobility of extraterrestrial life," particularly if it is "operating within the earth's near-space envelope."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NORTHWOOD APARTMENTS
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HUBBARD
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HARVARD
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KELLOGG
JONES
BROADWAY
CEDAR BEND
NORTHAM
ROUTE C
ROUTE T
BEAL
WOOD
GREEN
CHATHAM WAY
PRESTWICK CT.
LARCHMONT
MAC GREGOR
BAKER ST.
NORTH CAMPUS
MAIDEN LANE
WALL STREET
CANAL
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ISLAND PARK
FULLER
MUNICIPAL
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N.Y.C.R.R.
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WALNUT
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WASHTENAW HILL
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GEDDES HEIGHTS
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NICHOLS ARBORETUM
HUDDY RD. CT.
HAZELWOOD
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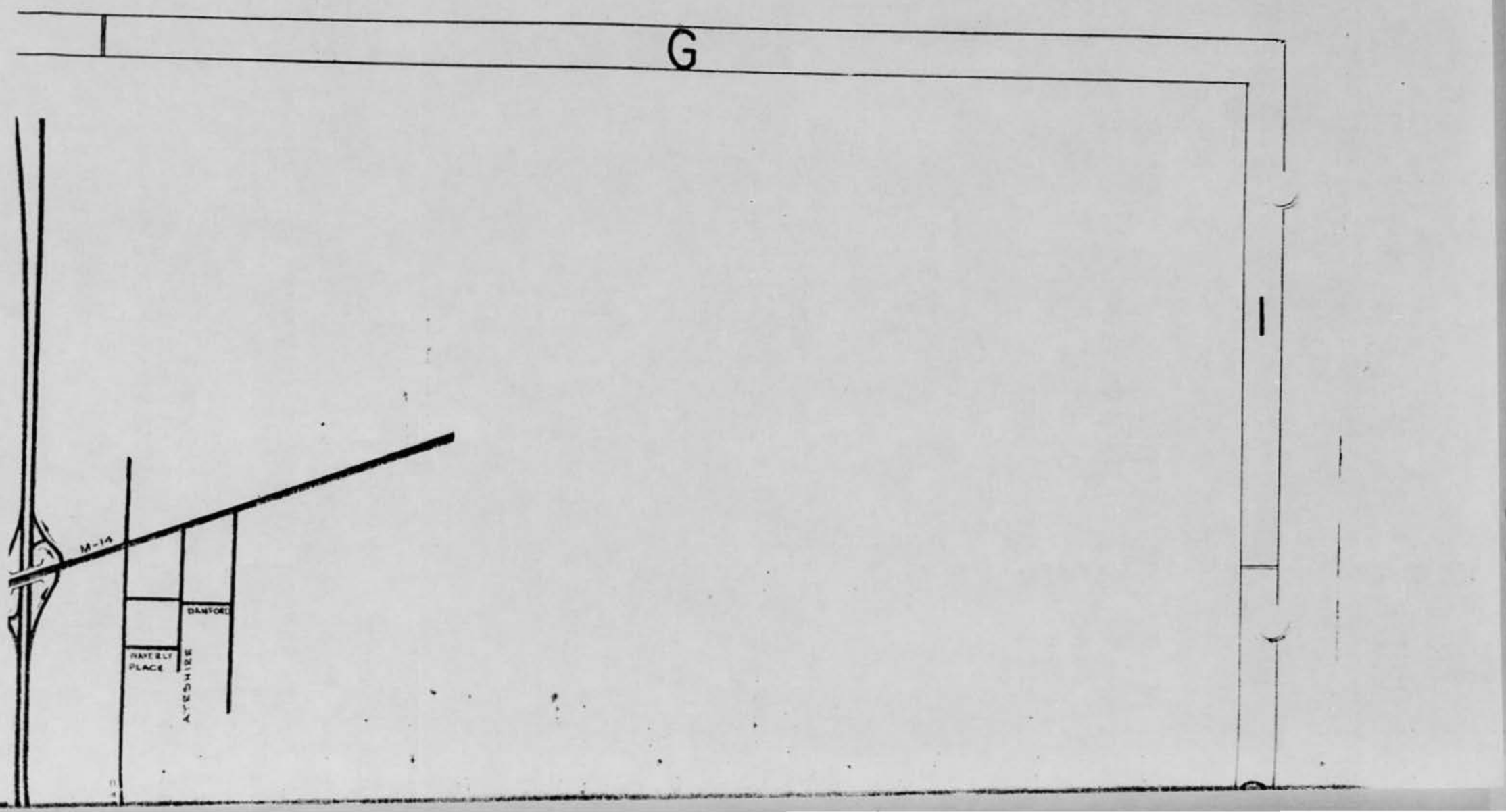
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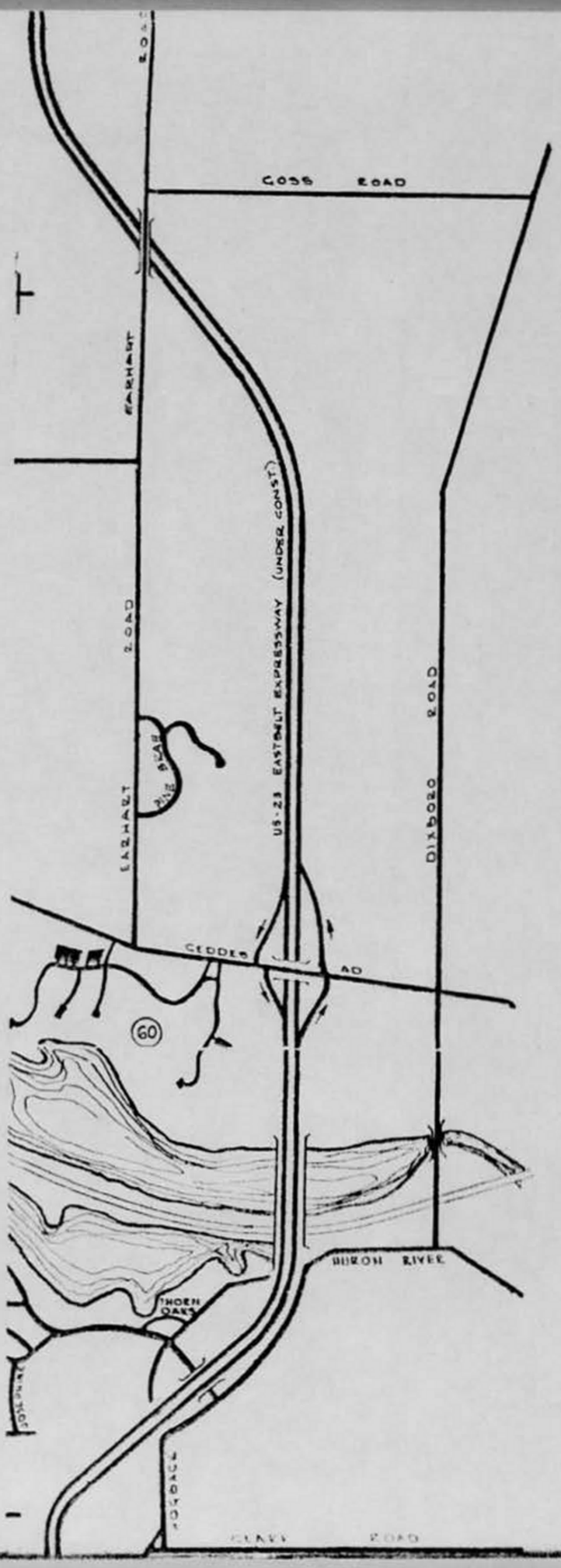

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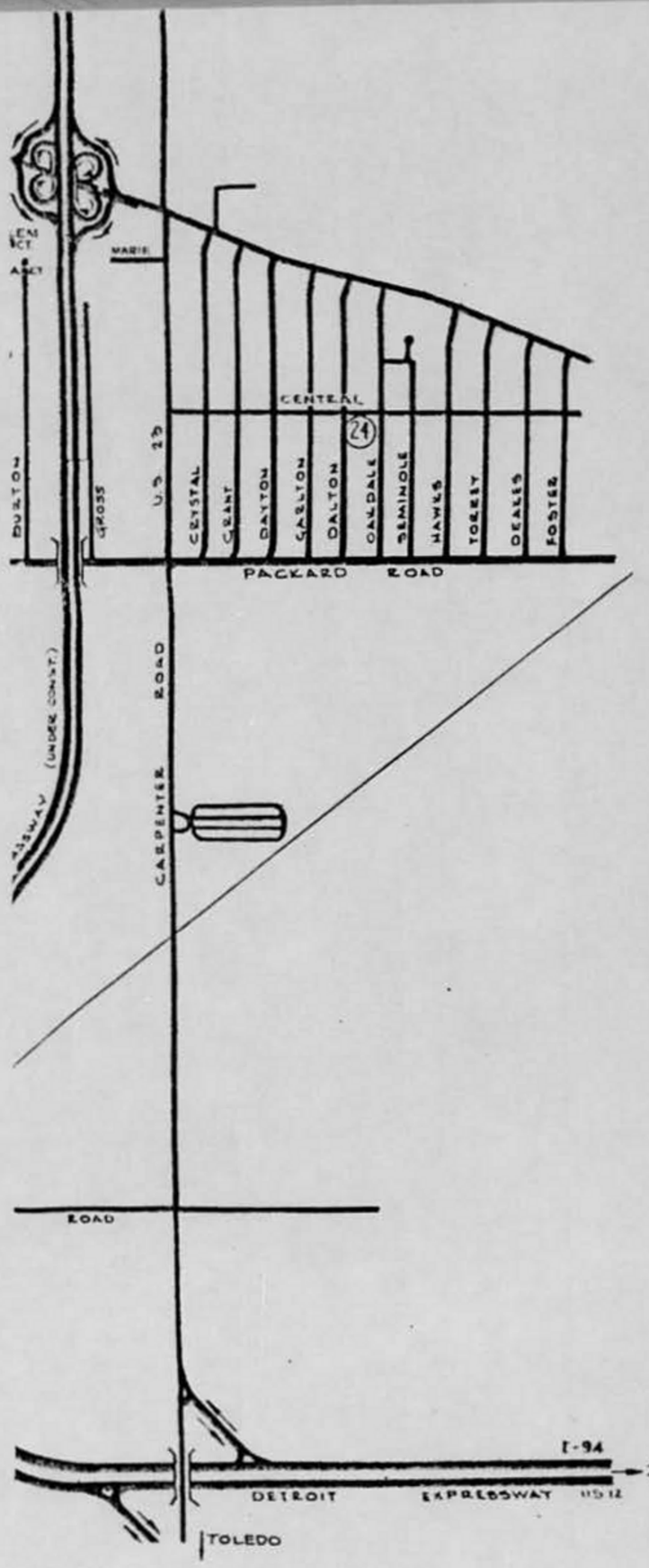

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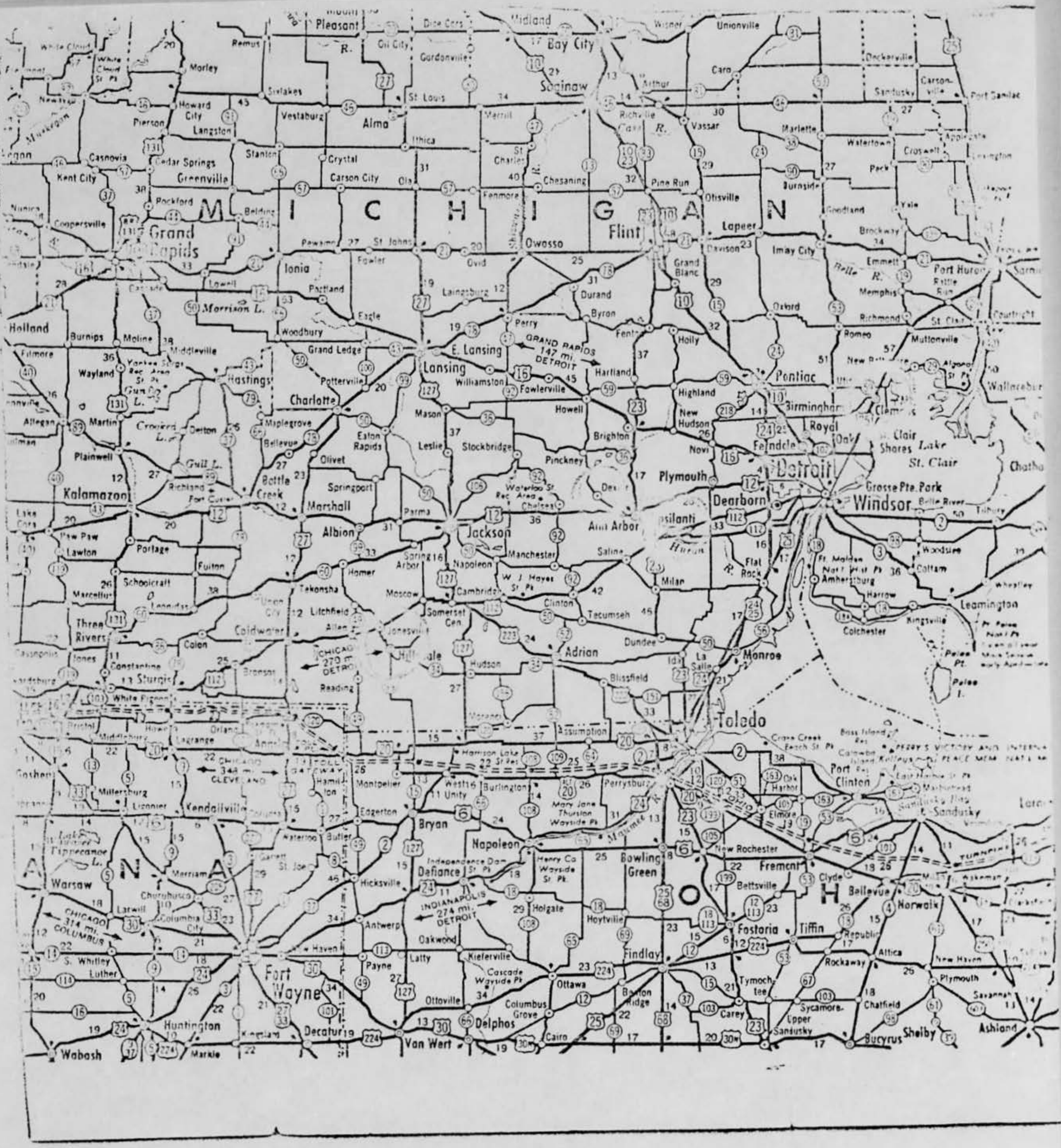
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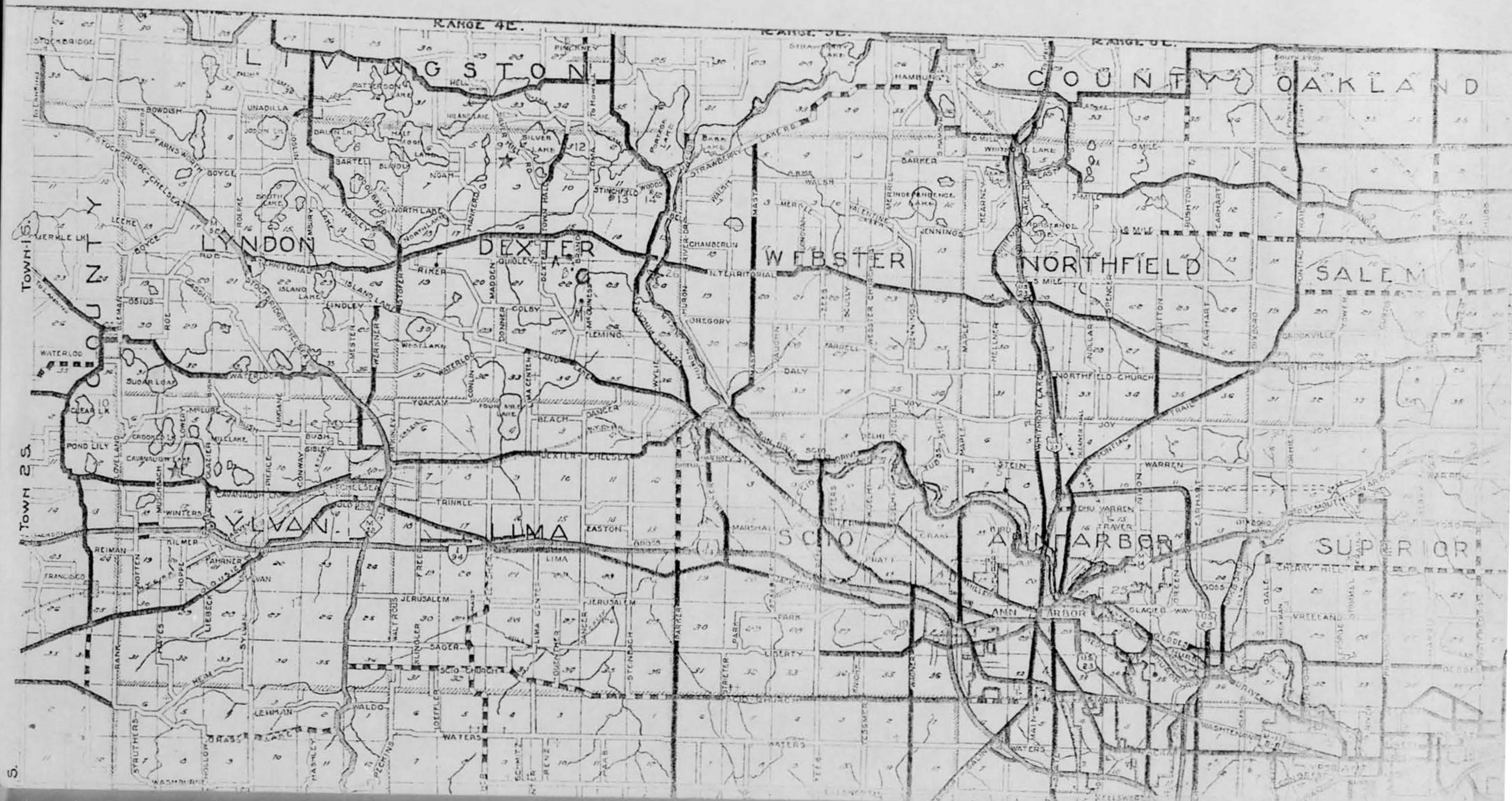
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GRASS LAKE

WASHBURN

HASSLEY

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LIMA CENTER

SCIO CHURCH

MAPLE

HELLNER

SPENCER

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EARHART

DEXTER-ANN ARBOR

ANN ARBOR-SALINE

PLYMOUTH-ANN ARBOR

ANN ARBOR-DETROIT

ANN ARBOR-SALEM

ANN ARBOR-CHELSEA

ANN ARBOR-GRASS LAKE

ANN ARBOR-JACKSON

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DEXTER-PINCKNEY

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BRIDGEWATER

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AF Investigator 'Shoots Down' Saucers

Swamp Gasses Blamed for Michigan Sightings

DETROIT (AP) — Some of Michigan's flying saucers were in effect shot down Friday by a special Air Force investigator who said they probably were swamp gasses and not unidentified flying objects—UFOs.

But some of those who said they saw the objects remained unconvinced.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek discussed his findings at an overflow news conference after spending almost a week interviewing persons in the nearby Ann Arbor and Hillsdale areas where most of the sightings originated.

* * *

Hynek is a Northwestern University astrophysicist and scientific consultant for the Air Force.

Numerous UFO sightings have been reported in recent weeks, many of them by lawmen.

Hynek emphasized his investigation was confined to two specific days of sightings and did not cover all of those reported.

"I am not making a blanket statement to cover the entire UFO phenomena over the last 20 years," Hynek said.

"I emphasize that I cannot prove in a court of law that this is the full explanation of these sightings. It appears very likely, however, that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter—an unusually mild one in this area—and the particular weather conditions were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display."

* * *

Hynek said his study was confined to March 20 sightings made near Dexter, a small community about 50 miles southwest of Detroit, and one made at Hillsdale, about 100 miles west, on March 21.

Although there have been numerous other reports of UFOs in the state, Hynek said he would not investigate them because not enough persons had seen them. He said he investigated only those sightings seen by a large group of witnesses.

"If only one person reports seeing something, it might be discounted," Hynek said. "But if 10 or 20 report seeing similar objects then it is grounds for scientific investigation."

* * *

Hynek also pointed out that photos released to the press Thursday which showed two lights in the sky over a series of street lights were "without any question" trails made as a result of a time exposure of the rising moon and the planet Venus.

AP Photo

MICHIGAN FLYING SAUCERS? — This picture released yesterday is described as showing two flying objects above lights along Carpenter Road, about 15 miles southeast of Ann Arbor, Mich., on March 16. Washtenaw County Deputy David Fitzpatrick said he made the picture with a subminiature camera at 5:30 a.m., using a 10-minute exposure, and that he and other deputies watched the "objects" more than two hours.

The Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, N.H. Saturday, March 26, 1966

28 March 1966

Immediately following conversation between Congressman Vivian and Major Hector Quintanilla, he (Maj Q) informed Mrs Sara Hunt (SAFOICC) of the conversation with Congressman Vivian.

Upon completion of phone call to SAFOICC, Major Quintanilla informed TDE, Colonel Eric T. de JONCKHEERE of the conversations.

29 March 1966, 0810

Major Quintanilla spoke with Major Gregory at AFSC SCFA regarding telephone conversation with Congressman Vivian. Last Week congressman Vivian called us direct and requested we inform him prior to press conference of Dr Hynek s. We informed SAFOI and they said L&L would take care of it. Major gave a run down on the conversation of 28 Mar 66 with Vivian. General Cruikshank wanted us to report what transpired yesterday, 28 Mar 66 to SCFA. Gregory said that paragraph 7 of AFR 200-2 indicated that Congressmen were not to go directly to us. Gregory would inform SAFOI of the above.

29 Mar 66, 1050 - Conversationwith Major Gregory, AFSC - Question regarding detailed report that Vivian asked for. Major Quintanilla told Vivian that Hynek was making a detailed report. Gregory said then there was no leak there. Two phoae calls were made from Vivian. Gregory is sending AFR 200-2 and Blue Book out. Congressman Ford may ask for a congressional. AFSC would like a copy of Hynek s report.

30 March 1966 1200 hours - Maj Gregory spoke with [redacted] Mrs Stanoomre - Confirmed that Vivian spoke directly with Major Quintanilla without going through General Cruikshank first.

the project and what the qualifications are. What manner of reporting is done.

Call from Congressman Vivian - 28 March 1966 5:20 P.M.

First Item - Did Dr Hynek make a statement regarding the Michigan case. Dr Hynek made the statement. Congressman Vivian wanted to know why he had not been informed of the time that the press meeting was going to be. Major informed the Office of Information that Congressman Vivian was to be informed. Congressman asked for the number of the office. Wanted to know if we had received a report from Hynek. Replied that it was given verbally over the telephone and the office of information had taken it down over the phone. The complete information would be typed up by Dr Hynek s office at Northwestern this week and we would receive a copy. Dr Hynek made the announcement of his findings at the press club. The Office of Information released his findings at the same time over the wire system. He explained events as marsh gas, rising crescent moon and some as flares. Dr Hynek has not submitted his reprt as yet. We plan no further investigation. Selfridge does the initial investigation and submits it to us. There will be no followup or further action unless there are additional sightings. Vivian asked how many times we havehad Marsh Gas sightings. Major replied once or twice. Vivian wanted to know if we knew about the Sheriff's remarks regarding Dr Hynek. Major said no. Vivian then asked what Major's degree was in. Major is a physicist,im BS, we normally go to Dr Hynek for consultantion. Major has been with the project for 32 months. Vivian asked who Major reported to - Colonel Eric T. de Jonckheere. Deputy for Technology And Subsystems. he reports to General ArthurCruikshank. Who assists us. Sgt Moody has a degree in Psychology. We use other branches of the Air Force. Congressman wants the number of personnel working on

At 1120, 24 March 1966, Major Quintanilla received a telephone call from Congressman Vivian, extension 225-4401. Congressman Vivian requested information on the unidentified flying objects at Dexter, Michigan. He had read the report from the Sheriff. Asked Major Quintanilla if he had any remarks on it. Major replied that Dr Hynek was talking with the policemen and other witnesses gathering information on the observations. Dr Hynek is on his way to Hillsdale to talk with the coes there. We hope to have a breakthrough within twenty-four hours. Not all of the witnesses observed the same object. Major informed Congressman Vivian that it was good that we had multiple witnesses. Sgt Moody is up at Willow Run checking out the tower operators. Checking both positive and negative data so we can be doubly sure. We will release the information as to the cause of the observations as soon as possible. Hopefully this information will be this afternoon, 24 March 1966. Dr Hynek has been given permission to grant a press conference at Selfridge AFB as soon as the conclusions are reached and he has spoken with Major Quintanilla. Congressman Vivian asked about various experimental aircraft in the area at the time. Major replied that this was being checked out presently. Congressman Vivian asked that he be notified before a press conference is given by Dr Hynek.

JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
UNCLASSIFIED

FROM
FTD, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO

VIVIAN THEN ASKED HOW LONG MAJOR QUINTANILLA HAD BEEN IN CHARGE OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK. THE MAJOR REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CHARGE FOR 32 MONTHS. CONGRESSMAN VIVIAN THEN ASKED TO WHOM MAJOR QUINTANILLA REPORTED TO AND HE REPLIED THAT HE REPORTED TO COLONEL ERIC T DE JONCKHEERE. CONGRESSMAN THEN ASKED TO WHOM COLONEL DE JONCKHEERE REPORTED TO AND MAJOR QUINTANILLA REPLIED THAT HE REPORTED TO B/G CRUIKSHANK. CONGRESSMAN VIVIAN ASKED WHO ASSISTED MAJOR QUINTANILLA IN INVESTIGATIONS. MAJOR REPLIED THAT SGT MOODY ASSISTS AND HAS A DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY WITH 24 HOURS OF POST-GRADUATE WORK. MAJOR QUINTANILLA INFORMED CONGRESSMAN VIVIAN THAT OTHER BRANCHES OF THE AIR FORCE ASSIST US. CONGRESSMAN VIVIAN REQUESTED THAT HE BE SENT THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL WORKING ON THE PROJECT AND WHAT THEIR QUALIFICATIONS WERE, AND IN WHAT MANNER REPORTING IS DONE.

COORDINATION:

_____ DATED _____
TDEW

A. Quintanilla Jr DATED 29 mar 66
TDEW/UFO MAJOR H QUINTANILLA, JR
ORIGINATOR

_____ DATED _____
COLONEL SLOCUM

SYMBOL	PAGE NR	NR OF PAGES	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	INITIALS
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29 MAR 66 21

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TO: AFSC, ANDREWS AFB, MD

INFO: USAF, WASH, D C

UNCLASS FM TDEW/UFO 146 44 MARCH 1966. FOR SAFOICC, FOR SCFA (MAJOR GREGORY). CONFIRMING TELECON BETWEEN MAJ GREGORY (SCFA) AND MAJ QUINTANILLA (TDEW). CONGRESSMAN VIVIAN (MICHIGAN) CALLED MAJ QUINTANILLA ON 24 MARCH 1966 AT 1120 HOURS AND REQUESTED THAT MAJOR QUINTANILLA INFORM HIM OF ANY PRESS CONFERENCE REGARDING UFOS, WHICH WOULD BE HELD BY DR. J. ALLEN HYNEK. CONGRESSMAN VIVIAN REQUESTED THAT HE BE ADVISED AT LEAST THREE HOURS PRIOR TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE. SAFOI-CC WAS ADVISED OF CONGRESSMAN VIVIAN'S CONVERSATION AND THEY SAID THAT THEY WOULD HANDLE THE SITUATION. ON 28 MARCH AT 1520 HOURS CONGRESSMAN VIVIAN CALLED MAJ QUINTANILLA AND IMMEDIATELY ASKED WHY HE HAD NOT BEEN ADVISED OF DR. HYNEK'S PRESS CONFERENCE. MAJ QUINTANILLA INFORMED THE CONGRESSMAN THAT SAFOI WAS TO ADVISE HIM OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE. CONGRESSMAN VIVIAN BECAME QUITE CURT AND ASKED FOR SAFOI'S PHONE NUMBER. CONGRESSMAN VIVIAN THEN ASKED IF MAJ QUINTANILLA HAD A DEGREE AND IF SO IN WHAT FIELD. MAJOR QUINTANILLA REPLIED THAT HE HAD A B.S. IN PHYSICS. CONGRESSMAN

DATE	TIME
29	
MONTH	YEAR
March	1966
PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
1	

DRAFTER

TYPED NAME AND TITLE: HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr
Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena

PHONE: 70916/76678

RELEASER

SIGNATURE

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
ERIC T. de JONCKHEERE, COLONEL, USAF
DEPUTY FOR TECHNOLOGY AND SUBSYSTEMS

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
UNCLASSIFIED

REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS

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REPLACES EDITION OF 1 MAY 53 WHICH MAY BE USED.

* GPO : 1964 O—721-824

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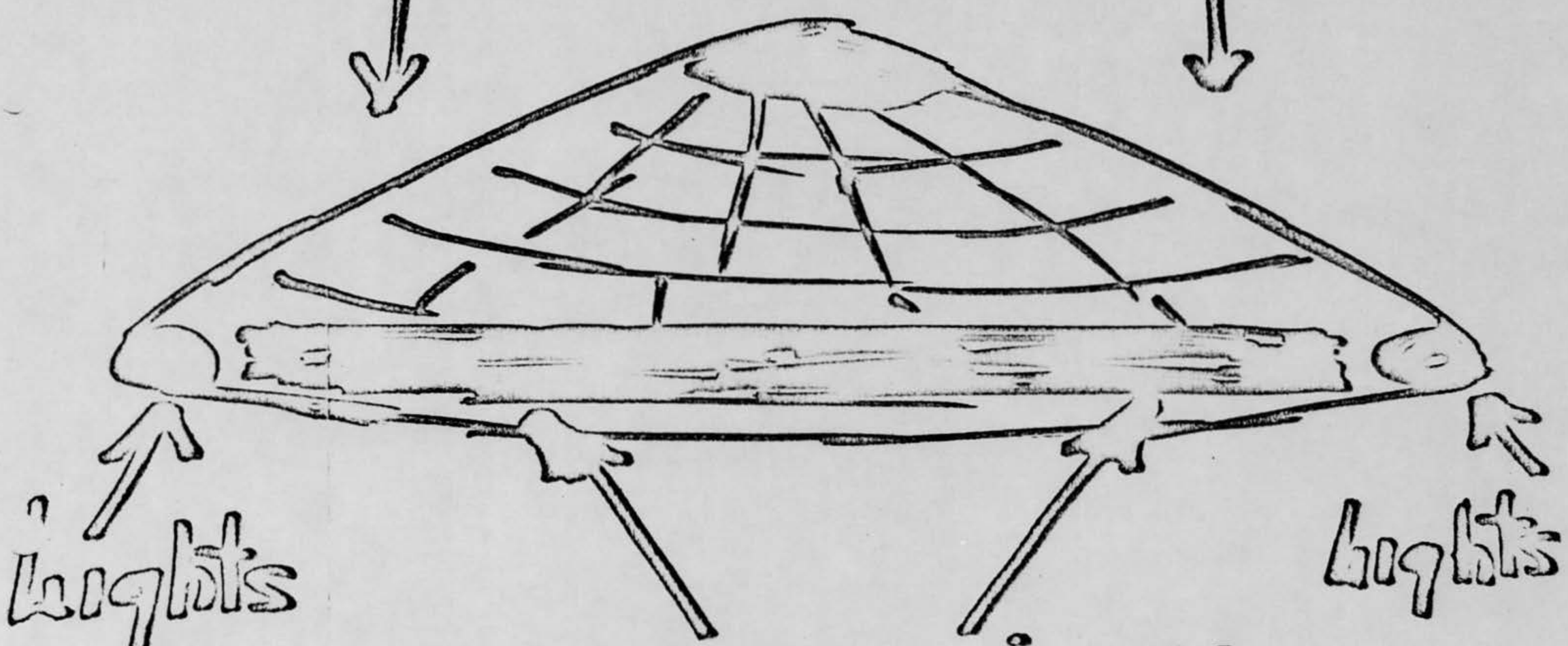

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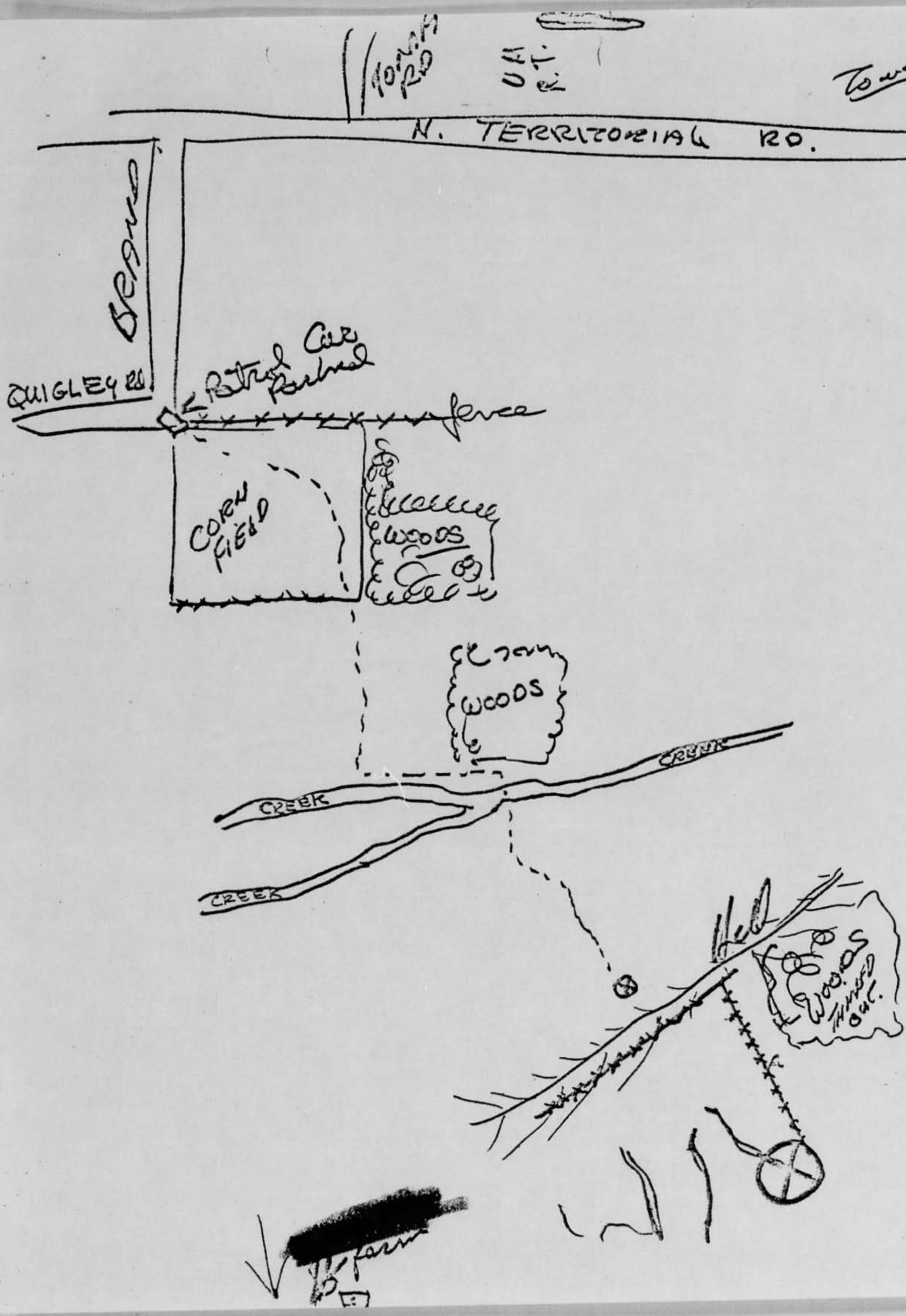
TOWER RD
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1964

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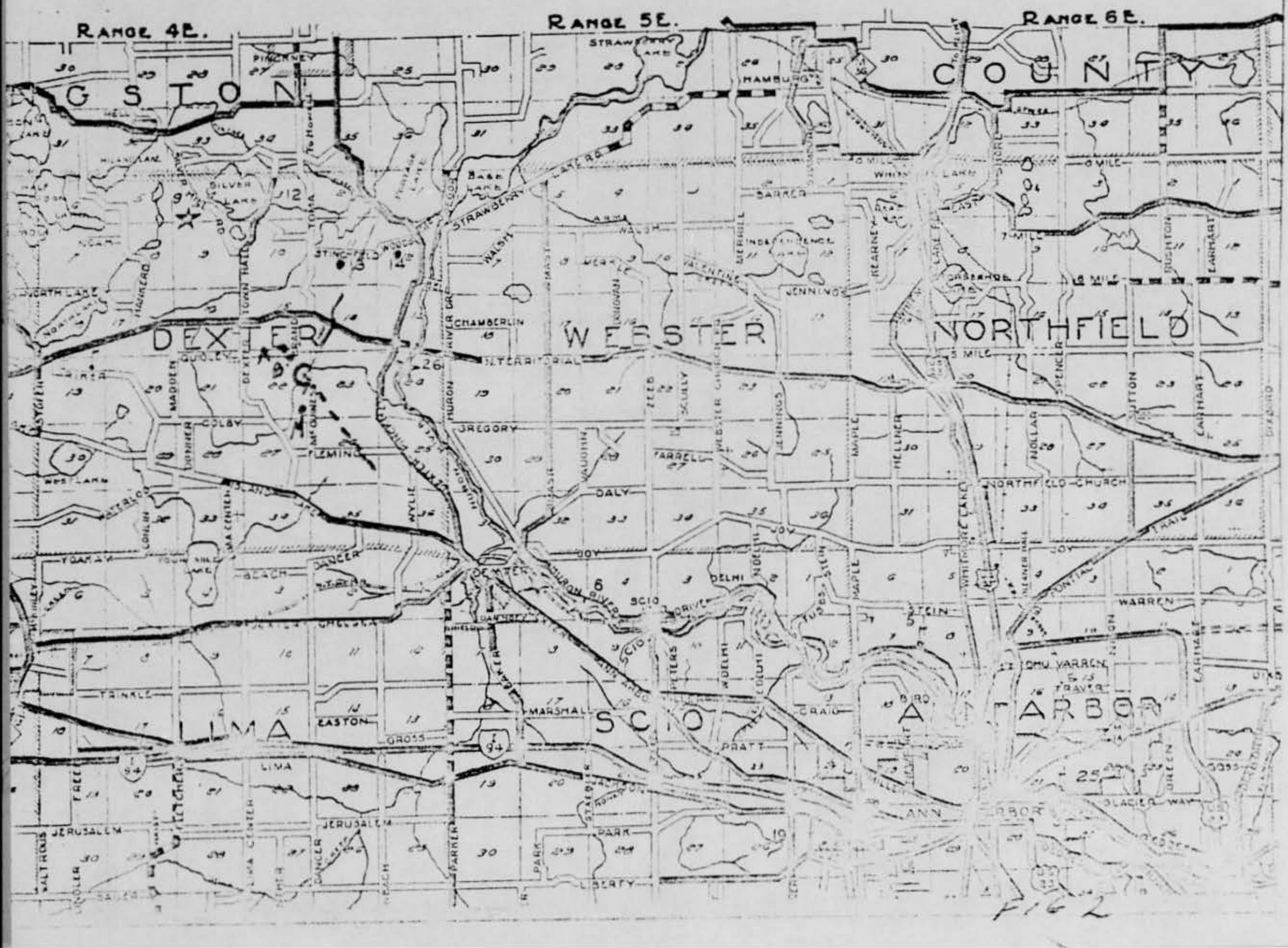


AIR FORCE STATEMENT REGARDING THE UFO SIGHTINGS AT DEXTER, MICHIGAN, ON MARCH 20, 1966, AND HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN, ON MARCH 21, 1966

The investigation of these two sightings was conducted by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, scientific consultant to Project Blue Book; personnel from Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan; and personnel from the Project Blue Book office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

In addition to these two specific cases, there has been a flood of reports from this area both before and after March 20 and 21. The investigating personnel have not had the time to investigate all of these. It has been determined, however, that in Hillsdale, over and above the sincere and honest reporting by the young ladies at Hillsdale College, certain young men have played pranks with flares. It has also been determined that the photographs released yesterday through the press was taken on March 17 just before sunrise near Milan, Michigan, and have nothing to do with the cases in question. The photograph clearly shows trails made as a result of a time exposure of the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus.

The majority of observers in both the Dexter and Hillsdale cases have reported only silent glowing lights near the ground - red, yellow, and blue-green. They have not described an object. The only two observers who did describe an object have stated that they were no closer than 500 yards - better than a quarter of a mile away - a distance which does not allow details to be determined.

Witnesses have described glowing lights - lights that seem to move but never far from a definite place or lights which suddenly disappeared and popped up at another place. The locale in both cases was a swamp. In both cases, the location of the glow was pinpointed - in Dexter it was seen between two distant groups of people and at Hillsdale it was seen in a swampy depression between the girls and the distant trees. It was in both cases a very localized phenomena. The swamply location is most significant.

A swamp is a place of rotting vegetation and decomposition. Swamps are not a province of astronomers. Yet, the famous Dutch astronomer, Minnaert, in his book, Light and Colour in the Open Air, describes lights that have been seen in swamps by the astronomer Bessel and other excellent observers. The lights resemble tiny flames sometimes seen right on the ground and sometimes rising and floating above it. The flames go out in one place and suddenly appear in another, giving the illusion of motion. The colors are sometimes yellow, sometimes red, and sometimes blue-green. No heat is felt, and the lights do not burn or char the ground. They can appear for hours at a stretch and sometimes for a whole night. Generally, there is no smell and no sound except for the popping sound of little explosions such as when a gas burner ignites.

UFOs Just Swamp Gas?

Continued from Page 1

through the swamp mist. Mannor estimates that it was about the size of a car and was hovering about eight to 10 feet off the ground. He thinks it was about 500 yards away.

IT DIDN'T make a sound.

The change from dull red to bright blue-green to white startled Mannor and the boy. They stood frozen in their tracks for about three or four minutes.

Finally Ronnie could contain himself no longer.

"Look at that horrible thing!" he exclaimed.

And with that, said Mannor, the lights snapped off.

Ronnie, a high school track star, bounded across the creek and up a knoll with his father not far behind.

BY THE TIME they reached the knoll, Mannor said, the craft had moved perhaps 500 yards eastward up the valley and once again it was glowing red.

Mannor said he and his son watched it for a while, but decided against chasing it farther.

A few minutes later, Mannor said, the lights went out and the silence was broken by a whine that is similar to that of a ricocheting bullet as the unlighted craft seemed to fly directly over the house.

The next day Mannor spent five hours walking through the five-mile-long valley searching for a trace of the craft.

"I EXAMINED and smelled every branch, but I couldn't see or smell a thing," said Mannor.

"I didn't even find a blade of swamp grass that was broken."

The Mannors are dismayed at some of the events that have followed.

When Mannor's wife, Leona, 39, drove into Dexter one afternoon to shop, someone draped a huge paper sign on her auto with the words: "UFO Car."

She drove home in tears, right past another sign posted on a fence post: "Caution! Flying Saucers."

EACH NIGHT, long lines of cars containing students from the nearby University of Michigan and other sightseers drive up the muddy road to the house. All night long.

One night a carload of men in a red Corvair stopped in front of the house. A young man got out and heaved a beer bottle through the windshield of Mannor's 1961 Dodge.

Sometimes they just drive past, shine a spotlight on the bedroom windows and scream: "Martians!"

A schoolmate told 12-year-old Leland Mannor that his dad must have been seeing things. Leland punched the kid in the face.

By week's end, Mrs. Mannor, a handsome brown-haired woman, had been given tranquilizers and ordered to bed by her physician.

The rotting vegetation produces marsh gas which can be trapped during the winter by ice. When the spring thaw occurs, the gas may be released in some quantity. The flame, Minnaert says, is a form of chemical luminescence, and its low temperature is one of its peculiar features. Exactly how it occurs is not known and could well be the subject of further investigation.

The glowing lights over the swamps near Dexter and Hillsdale were observed for two or three hours, and they were red, green, and yellow. They appeared to move sideways and to rise a short distance. No sound was heard except a popping sound.

It seems entirely likely that as the present spring thaw came, the trapped gases, CH_4, H_2S, and PH_3, resulting from decomposition of organic material, were released. The chemistry book by Sienko and Plane has this to say: "In air, Phosphine PH_3 usually bursts into flame apparently because it is ignited by a spontaneous oxidation of the impure P_2H_4. The will-of-the-wisp, sometimes observed in marshes, may be due to spontaneous ignition of impure PH_3 which might be formed by reduction of naturally occuring phosphorus compound."

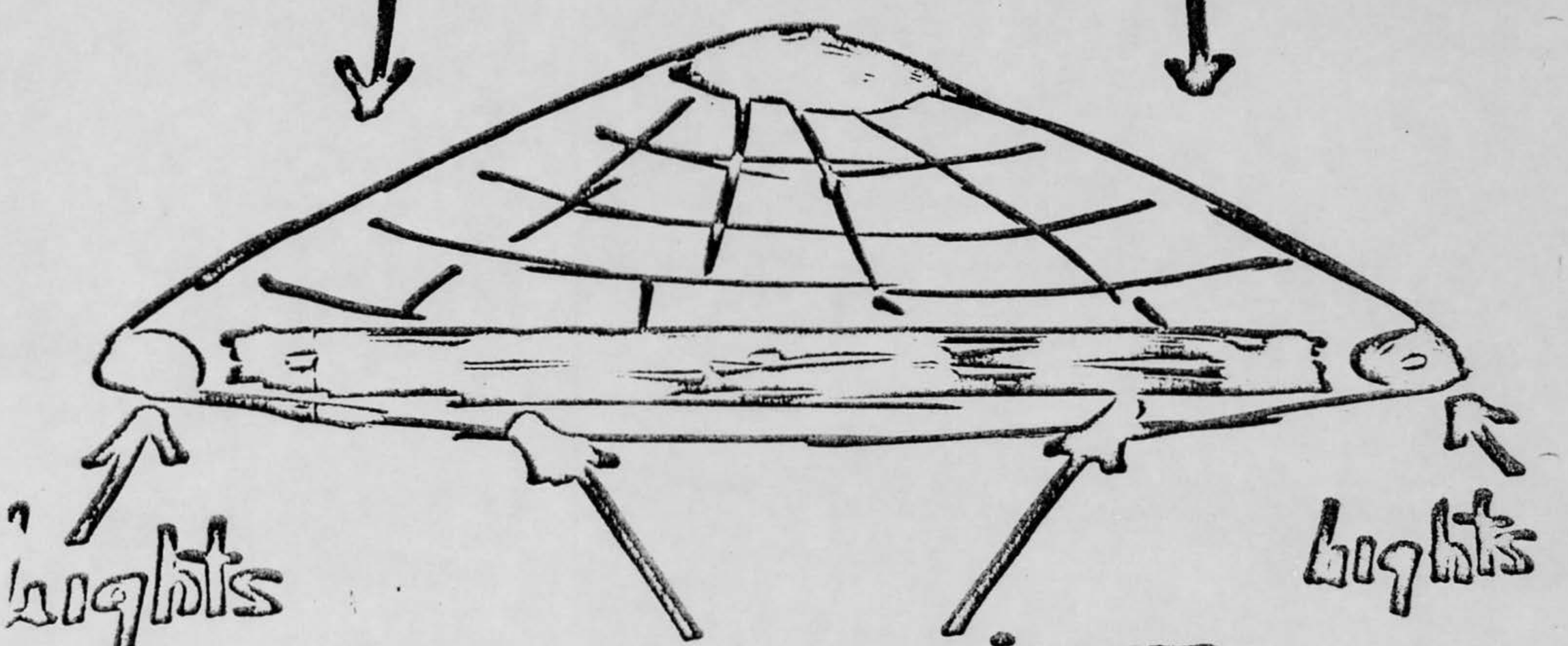
It has been pointed out to the investigating personnel by other scientists in this area that in swamps the formation of H_2S and CH_4 from rotting vegetation is common. These could be ignited by the spontaneous burning of PH_3.

The association of the sightings with swamps in this particular instance is more than coincidence. No group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamp. The glow was localized, and Deputy Fitzpatrick described the glow from beyond a rise adjacent to the swamp as visible through the trees. He stated that the light brightened and dimmed much as stage lights do - smoothly and slowly - and this description exactly fits the Hillsdale sighting also. The brightening and dimming could have been due to the release of variable quantities of marsh gas.

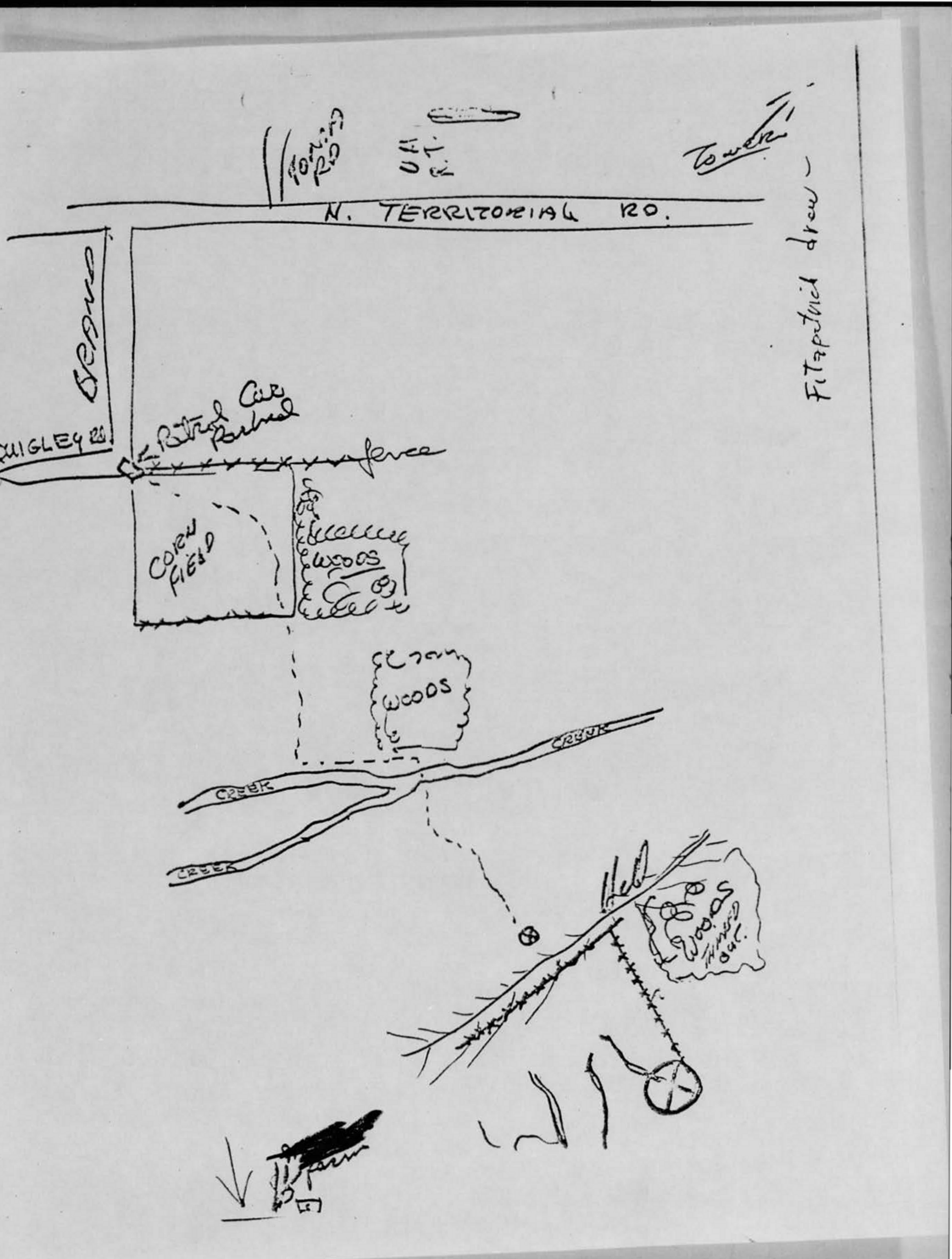
The disappearance of the lights when people got close with flashlights or car lights would indicate that the glow seemed bright to dark-adapted eyes. The night was dark and there was no moon. The Hillsdale girls kept their rooms dark in order to see the swamp lights.

It appears very likely that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter (an unusually mild one in that area) and the particular weather conditions of that night - it was clear and there was little wind at either location - were such as to have produce this unusual and puzzling display.

QUILTED TYPE SURFACE
BROWN COLOR



LARGEST LIGHT
BETWEEN Lights


Tower
UH.T.W.
Tower Rd.
N. TERRITORIAL RD.
Corn Field
Old Barbed Wire fence
QUIGLEY RD
WOODS
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CREEK
CREEK
WOODS
Fitzpatrick Drive

ignited by a spontaneous oxidation of the impurity P_2H_4. The will-o-the-wisp, sometimes observed in marshes, may be due to spontaneous ignition of impure PH_3, which might be formed by reduction of naturally occurring phosphorous compounds."

Other scientists have pointed out to me that in swamps the formation of H_2S and CH_4 from rotting vegetation is common. These could be ignited by the spontaneous burning of the Phosphine, PH_3.

It would seem to me that the association of the sightings with swamps, in these particular cases, is more than coincidence. No group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamps. The glow was localised there. Deputy Fitzpatrick described the glow as coming from beyond a rise adjacent to the swamp, and visible through the trees. He stated that the lights brightened and dimmed much as stage lights do—smoothly and slowly. The girls at Hillsdale described almost the identical thing. This could have been due to the release of variable quantities of marsh gas.

The disappearance of the light when people got close with flash-lights or car lights, would indicate that the glow seemed bright only to dark-adapted eyes. The night was dark—there was no moon. The Hillsdale girls kept their rooms dark in order to see the lights in the swamp.

I emphasize in conclusion that I cannot prove in a Court of Law that this is the full explanation of these sightings. It appears very likely, however, that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter, an unusually mild one in this area, and the particular weather conditions that night—there was little wind at either location—were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display.

tronomer, Minnaert, in his book, "Light and Color, in The Open Air," has this to say about swamps. He describes lights that have been seen in swamps by the astronomer Bessel and other excellent observers. The lights, he says, resemble tiny flames, sometimes seen right on the ground, sometimes floating above it. The flames go out in one place and suddenly appear in another, giving the illusion of motion. The colors, he says, are sometimes yellow, sometimes red and blue-green. No heat is felt, and the lights do not burn or char the ground. They can appear for hours at a time and sometimes for a whole night. Generally there is no smell, and usually no sound, except the popping sound of little explosions, such as when a gas burner ignites.

Where does the gas come from, and what lights it? The rotting vegetation produces marsh gas which can be trapped by ice and winter conditions. When a spring thaw occurs, the gas may be released in some quantity.

The flame, Minnaert says, is a form of chemical luminescence and its low temperature is one of its peculiar features. Exactly how it occurs is not known and this in itself might be made a subject of an interesting study.

The glowing lights on the swamp near Dexter and Hillsdale were observed for two to three hours. No sounds were heard, except for popping sounds. The lights were red, green or yellow and they appeared to move sideways, and to rise a short distance. I emphasize this would not be seen frequently—it is of a unique character. I have never seen it myself and I can easily understand the dismay of the witnesses who saw it and who sincerely described what they saw.

It seems likely that as the present spring thaws came the trapped gases CH_4, H_2S, PH_3, resulting from decomposition of organic materials were released. The chemistry book by Sienko and Plane has this to say: "In air, phosphine, PH_3, usually bursts into flame, apparently because it is

And, I have also determined that the pictures released yesterday to the press were taken on March 17, near Milan, Mich., and have no reference whatever to the sightings of March 20 or 21st, and are without any question a time exposure of the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus. I emphasize that this explanation refers to those specific pictures and not to the two cases now in question.

At long last now, the Dexter and Hillsdale cases: Here are the hard facts, the residue, the common denominator after sifting out as much of the subjective, peripheral, and inconsistent statements as I have been able to do in this short time.

The majority of observers in both cases reported only lights—red, yellow and green, silent glowing lights, near the ground. They have not described an object. Even the only two observers who did describe an object have stated that they were no closer than 500 yards--better than a quarter of a mile away—a distance which does not allow details to be determined. Witnesses have described glowing lights—lights that seemed to move but never far from a definite locale, or which suddenly disappeared and popped up at another place. Now what was that locale in both instances? In both cases, a swamp. In both cases the location of the glow was pin-pointed: in Dexter it was seen between two distant groups of people, and at Hillsdale it was seen in a swampy depression between the girls and distant trees. It was in both cases a very localized phenomenon. I think that this is a most significant point.

A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space! It is not a place where a helicopter would hover for several hours, or where a soundless, secret device would likely be tested.

Now what is a swamp? It is a place of rotting vegetation and of decomposition. Swamps are not the normal province of the astronomer; he usually has his eyes trained toward far loftier places—yet the Dutch as-

APPENDIX "A"

STATEMENT ON THE DEXTER AND HILLSDALE UFO SIGHTINGS, by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Scientific Consultant to Project Blue Book.

The Air Force has asked me to make a statement on my findings to date. This I am happy to do, provided it is clearly understood that my statement will refer to the two principal events as reported to me: the event near Dexter, Mich., on March 20, and a similar one at Hillsdale, Mich., on March 21. It does not cover the hundreds of unexplained reports as opposed to the thousands of explained cases made not only to Project Blue Book, but those from other countries, over the past several years, as described in recent books and articles. I have not investigated those—such as the one near Exeter, N.H. and those in the western states last year, nor the puzzling foreign cases, such as that at Cuernavaca, Mexico, last fall. I have recommended in my capacity as Scientific Consultant, that competent scientists quietly study such cases when evidence from responsible people appears to warrant such study. There may be much of potential value to science in such events. We know a very great deal more about the physical world in 1966, than we did in 1866—but, by the same token, the people in the year 2066 may regard us as very incomplete in our scientific knowledge. We must not in our haste to have answers, be Frederick Smiths.

If then, it is understood I am not making a blanket statement to cover the entire UFO phenomenon over the past 20 years in this and other countries, I am prepared to discuss the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings.

Now, in addition to these two specific cas there has been a flood of other reports from this area, both before and after last Sunday and Monday, and I could not possibly have had the time to investigate all of these. I have had time, however, to determine that in Hillsdale, <u>over</u> and <u>above</u> the sincere and honest reporting by the young ladies at Hillsdale College of a very puzzling sighting, certain young men have played pranks with flares.

In conclusion, it is unfortunate that so much press and public attention was paid to the Michigan sightings which, as far as UFO reports go, do not compare in substance or in competent witnesses, to many other cases in the file which got very little attention. But at least, in the Michigan cases there was a possible fairly obvious physical explanation at hand; with the others, which remain unidentified, this does not appear to be the case.

E N D

been present. On the other hand, no convincing or coherent evidence was presented that any object had been seen either to enter or to leave the swamp areas. And why swamp areas in both cases? The case for swamp gas is by no means conclusive, and is unprovable, but still remains in my mind as a logical explanation for the majority opinion as to what was sighted. I therefore presented this likely explanation at the requested press conference, at which I pointed out in no uncertain terms that the swamp gas hypothesis was just that and that "I couldn't prove it in a court of law".

I wish that a press conference had not been necessary, or, if necessary that it had been handled more expertly and adriotly. I have little to say that is complimentary about the public relations office at Selfridge Field. It was amateurish in the extreme, and displayed no knowledge of how a press conference should be handled.

The entire matter of a full dress press conference was most distasteful to me because I would rather present carefully weighed and consistent evidence and conclusions, with due time allowed, to a body of scientific colleagues than be subject at a moment's notice to a roaring pack of news hounds whose chief interest appears to be in getting a quick story.

I recommend once again, as I have often in the past, in my capacity as scientific consultant, that the UFO phenomenon which has now plagued us for a score of years, and has been responsible for countless words in newsprint during that time, should be recognized as a scientific and sociological problem of our times and studied as such by competent men in various fields. Further, since the first requisite for any scientific investigation is concern for the quality of the basic data, much more attention should be paid to the immediate gathering and processing of such data.

REPORT ON THE DEXTER-HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN UFO SIGHTINGS OF

20 - 21 MARCH 1966

In my capacity as scientific consultant to the Air Force on UFOs, I was requested to investigate two major sightings in Michigan which, for some reason, had captured public attention and were the subject of many radio and news stories. It was unfortunate that I did not ask permission to take at least two assistants along. Mr. [redacted] of the Dearborn Observatory asked to go along, as had Mr. [redacted] and Mr [redacted] A far better job of interviewing the large number of ostensible witnesses to the same events could have been done.

Once upon the scenes (Dexter and Hillsdale — and Ann Arbor and Chelsea along with Dexter), despite the help of A2C Hanby (loaned from Selfridge Field) I realized that the task was far too great for one man if all the witnesses wishing to be interviewed (and many of whom were 'miffed' because I had either not had a chance to talk with them or was able to give only a short time to them) were to be satisfied. Since I had no authority to call in help without going through FTD, and that would take time, I decided upon the following plan of action: I would limit myself to interrogating key witnesses in both localities and would use as the basis of my judgment only those 'information bits' that were agreed upon by several witnesses. I could not give weight to one person who contradicted some bit of information which the others had already concurred in. Thus I had to neglect the testimony of one person who said he saw an object when the majority in the same location described only lights. Had I had assistance, I would have adopted the plan of having an assistant interrogate separately the single witnesses who had a different story to tell. I cannot com-

FORD DEMANDS CONGRESS PROBE

Daily News

UFO Spotters Insist 'Saucer

From Daily News Wire Services

DETROIT, Mar. 26—An expert's opinion that some of Michigan's unidentified flying objects (UFO) probably were swamp gases may have convinced the Air Force but not the people who saw them.

"I'm no professor, and I'm not as educated as him, but I think he's all wrong," Mrs. Frank Mannor said of Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford (Mich.) also is unhappy.

He has proposed that a committee of Congress investigate UFOs over southern Michigan and other parts of the nation.

FORD IS APPARENTLY dissatisfied at the Air Force investigations because they have either brushed the reports aside as delusions or they "have come up with nothing conclusive."

Ford says the American people "are becoming alarmed by the UFO stories."

"In the light of these new sightings and incidents," said Ford, "it would be a very wholesome thing for a committee of the Congress to conduct a number of hearings . . ."

Hynek, a Northwestern university astrophysicist and scientific consultant for the Air Force, told a news conference yesterday that sightings made on two specific days probably stemmed from swamp gases.

HE SAID his study was confined to sightings made near Dexter Mar. 20 by the Mannor family and by officers, and at Hillsdale by 87 college coeds and the county civil defense director.

DR. H. ALLEN HYNEK, UFO PHOTO
Just Moon, Venus, Astrophysicist Says—UPI

Dexter, a small community, is about 50 miles southwest of Detroit. Hillsdale is about 100 miles west.

Hynek said a photograph taken by a sheriff's deputy Mar. 16 near Milan, several miles south of Dexter, showed the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus. The deputy said the two streaks of brilliant light on the photograph, identified by Hynek as the planets, were captured on film by his camera in a time exposure as he observed what he considered to be unidentified flying objects.

S' NOT GAS

NUMEROUS UFO sightings have been reported in Michigan, especially the southern lower portion, in recent weeks, many of them by law officers. Hynek said he did not investigate these because large enough groups had not witnessed them.

He said both the sightings he did investigate were in swampy areas—"most unlikely place for a visit from outer space"—and said the UFOs probably resulted from spring thaws releasing trapped gases resulting from decomposing organic materials.

He added that in the Hillsdale case the sighting might have been assisted by youths playing "pranks with flares." The remains of several flares were found near the college shortly after the sightings.

"THERE WERE no flares involved in this," said William Van Horn, Hillsdale county civil defense director. He and the Hillsdale college coeds reported watching a white and red object—about 20 feet across—from dormitory windows for nearly three hours.

"I think I will disprove him (Hynek) in a few weeks," Van Horn said. "I also didn't care for the methods of investigation. I know no flares were involved."

Frank Mannor and his son, Ronnie, 19, are sure what they saw was not swamp gas.

Although he could not make out the form of the object

Turn to UFOs, Page 3, Col. 1

plain about the lack of assistance, however, since none of us knew what proportions these incidents would assume as the next few days came around.

My interrogations were made triply difficult because of the ubiquitous press, radio and TV men. It was impossible to talk quietly with anyone without having a microphone placed in front of your face. I was always importuned for "just a word" or, "will you answer just one question?" It is difficult to describe to one who wasn't there the general bedlam. Mr. M[redacted] the chief protagonist in the Dexter case, reportedly complained that I had spent very little time with him. It was virtually impossible to do so; several times I was waiting and anxious to talk with him but he was occupied with several reports. Here again is where some assistants would have come in handy; they could have diverted the reports while I talked to M[redacted]. One needs some clever interference run for him in cases like this; it is virtually impossible to do it single handed. By contrast, I recall the Eagle River, Wisconsin "pancake" case. In that instance I had chartered a plane and took several graduate students with me. They were invaluable in chasing down leads, assisting in the interrogation of subsidiary witnesses and running very necessary interference, making special arrangements to see people etc. I have resolved that in investigating future cases, if I do at all, I must have at least one dependable assistant who knows the ropes. Otherwise too much time is wasted in sheer mechanics.

Through the kindness of Prof. [redacted] of the Graduate School, University of Michigan, I made my headquarters at his home during my several day stay and both he and Mrs. [redacted] were of extreme help. Mrs. [redacted] gave freely of her time in answering the phone, which seemed to ring incessantly, to verylate hours, and then again early in the morning. It was through Dr. [redacted]s kindness that I was put into touch with several University

of Michigan faculty members (who prefer to remain anonymous) who were able to give me considerable help on possible physical solutions to the sightings. It was at [redacted]'s invitation that eleven members of the University of Michigan astronomy department met with me at [redacted]'s home to discuss the sightings and other things as well.

It is virtually impossible to describe the hectic nature of the three days in the Ann Arbor neighborhood. I certainly would not wish to undergo another such episode unless I were far better prepared for it in terms of time and physical assistance. Nonetheless, it happened this way, and I went after the salient 'facts' of the sightings and let the chips fall where they would.

The two primary sightings at Dexter and Hillsdale, respectively, may be called the crucial sightings which became the focal point of local (and later of nationwide) attention, and had associated with them a veritable barrage of other reports with no clear-cut association with the two principal events under discussion here. It is possible that many of these were the result of the general excitement surrounding these events and of suggestibility on the part of those who reported them. However, there were reports of odd sightings, particularly in the Milan area, a few nights previous to the sightings here discussed. It would have taken an army of investigators to have exhaustively looked into all of these. In the course of my three days of investigation, I talked with the following people at some length and with a host of others in passing.

County Sheriff Harvey - Washtenaw County
Deputy Stanley McFadden
Deputy David Tizpatrick
Patrolman Hunnawill
Colonel Gerald G. Miller
Chief Taylor
Mr. [redacted] son-in-law of [redacted]
Univ of Michigan, Astronomy Dept. (11 members)
Univ of Michigan, Faculty members

Mr. [redacted] Radio and Television Engineer
[redacted] Funeral Director and Civil Defense Chief in Hillsdale
Chief John Palmer, Chelsea Police
Mrs. [redacted] housemother at Hillsdale College
Miss [redacted] / Two students at Hillsdale whom Mrs. Hearn chose
Miss [redacted] / as having had the greatest first hand knowledge.
Patrolman Clyde Myers
Patrolman Sharpe
(Sgt. Schuerder, Deps Bushra and Anderson were contacted by A2C Hanby)

I should apologize for the lack of detail in the description of the people I interviewed. Things happened so fast that there was little time for making formal records. The next time I undertake an investigation of any scope I will want to take with me an IBM portable recorder to assist me in getting names, places, and associations down correctly.

There may be some comment that I never interviewed Mr. [redacted] son. I fully intended to. He was either with reporters or unavailable. There simply was not enough time to interview everyone!

My questions were specifically directed toward determining what was visibly perceived and towards pinpointing the location and extent and duration of the phenomena.

Case A — Dexter, Michigan

There follows the record of the report received at the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department at 835pm on 20 March 1966 and of the local investigation made. This can be said to have initiated the succession of events.

"Complainant called and stated that there was a strange object in the swamp at the end of [redacted]ad. It was on the ground, went up in air about 500 feet and came down, making a lot of noise.

INVESTIGATION: Dispatched to the above location, and made contact with the complainant at [redacted]s Road. Complainant advised that an un-identified object was presently located in the swamp, to the rear of afore mentioned

location, and had been so located for approximately ($\frac{1}{2}$) one-half hour. Complainant further related that the object had been observed to rise to an altitude of approximately 500 feet, and then to return to the ground. Subject stated that lights were observed upon the object, and that the lighting turned from a blue-green to a brilliant red to yellow in coloring. Object had appeared to be having difficulty in getting off of the ground.

[redacted], and his son [redacted], had watched the object for some time, and then proceeded into the woods and swamps, in an attempt to locate the object, and to see what it was. Both [redacted] were within the swamp at the time of arrival of the undersigned officers.

ACTION TAKEN: The undersigned officer, in company with the complainant, proceeded along Dexter-Pinckney Road to Territorial Road, and then turned onto Quigley Road, where a vantage point was obtained, being in direct line with the house, and the area of the objects observation (See Map). At this point, the patrol vehicle was secured, and the afore mentioned proceeded into the woods, in attempt to locate the swamp edge, and the object. While in the woods area, a brilliant light was observed from the far edge of the woods, and upon approaching, the light dimmed in brilliance. As the afore mentioned approached the upper ridge, and edge of the woods, the brilliant light again appeared, and then disappeared. A continued search of the area was conducted, through swamp, and high grass, with negative results.

Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers were met by others who had gathered to observe, and the undersigned officers were informed that one of the objects had been hovering directly over the area where our flashlight beams ahd been seen, and had then departed in a west direction of flight, at high rate of speed. Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the under-

signed officers returned to the [redacted] Road address, where the [redacted] were talked to.

TALK WITH [redacted] stated that he had observed the lights coming from the swamp, and had awakened his son [redacted] then proceeded into the swamps in an attempt to find out the object which was producing the light. Upon entering the lower edge of the swamp, [redacted] stated "what is that thing", and as [redacted] looked in the direction indicated, the object was observed. At the instant of observation the small lights went out, and in just an instant, re-appeared across the swamp, a distance of about 500 yards. At this time, the object became illuminated from a brilliant source of light, which flowed horizontal between two (2) small lights. After watching for a couple of minutes, the rays of light from two flashlights were observed from the ridge above the object. The light from the object intensified, then went out, and a whistle similar to the sound of a rifle bullet ricochet was heard, and the object passed directly over th[redacted] in just an instant.

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT: Object was observed to be of a brown coloring, appearing to be quilted type outside surface. Object appeared to be flat upon the bottom, and cone shaped toward the top, however, being low in height. Two small lights appeared to be at the outer edges of the object, glowing in a bluish-green light, and intensifying to a brilliant red in color. When the vehicle or object illuminated, the lighting was a yellow-white in color, and ran horizontal between the two outer lights, allowing some of the object to be viewed. Outer body appeared to be rough in texture.

PERSONS OBSERVING OBJECT:

[redacted], Dexter, DOB Jan 5, 1919
[redacted], Dexter, DOB Jan 28, 1947
Several others, names unknown.

FURTHER UFO SIGHTED: Shortly after the UFO was departed from the scene, CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT reported sighting a similar object over the Village of Chelsea, hovering, and then departing at high rate of speed in a westerly direction.

A further sighting of similar bluish-green lights was reported near the woods and swamp, north side of N Territorial Road, between Scully Road, and Webster-Church Road, in Webster Twp., County of Washtenwa, by Washtenaw County Sheriff Patrol #19, however, when attempt was made to get closer lights disappeared and were not observed again. Further search of the area was made with negative results.

DISPOSITION: FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SEARCH OF THE AREA WAS MADE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

STATUS: OPEN

End of Record at Washtenaw County Sheriff Office.

Mr. [redacted] the "complainant", is the son-in-law of Mr. [redacted] who made the original sighting. Mr. [redacted] said that he was about to enter his house from a front yard, when according to him, he noticed a bright light out of the corner of his eye. He thought at first it was a falling star which he said abruptly stopped right over a swamp to the immediate north of his barn. He called his son, Ronald, out from the house to verify the sighting and together they watched the glow of light behind the trees in the distant swamp. Apparently at this time Mr. Wagner made the report to the Sheriff's office. Deputy McFadden and Fitzpatrick were dispatched to the [redacted] farm and in my interview with McFadden and particularly with Fitzpatrick (with whom I spent several hours in detailed discussions) they stated that upon arrival at the farm Mr. [redacted] and his son

were already making a trek to the swamp area to look in an attempt to locate the "object". [redacted] and his son did not carry any lights, save a cigarette lighter (it seems strange since the night was dark, being the new moon). The deputies thereupon proceeded to the point marked A on figure #1, where they parked their car. They then proceeded towards the glow along a path marked by a dotted line (a path which I almost exactly repeated on Wednesday, 23 March in the company of Deputy Fitzpatrick and Airman Kelley, to point B). From point B, Deputy Fitzpatrick observed a glow emanating from point marked C. Point C is also indicated on a map of the region. Points A, B, C & M are also indicated on figure 2. Deputy Fitzpatrick reported that the glow reported at C brightened and dimmed slowly. "as though stage lights were being brightened and dimmed". Deputy Fitzpatrick never observed anything other than a glow. He did not even observe the glow to rise to the tree top level as [redacted] and his son indicated it had.

While Deputy McFadden busied himself in another direction in the swamp, Deputy Fitzpatrick proceeded towards the glow. The deputies were equipped with flashlights and the lights from the flashlights were visible to Mr. [redacted] and his son who had now returned to the farm and were observing the deputies search afrom afar. Deputy Fitzpatrick stated to me that as he and his flashlight approached the glow, whose source was apparently hidden by a slight rise in the terrain, the glow disappeared. Deputy Fitzpatrick did not see it again. Mr. [redacted] reported that as he observed the deputies approach the depression with their flashlights, (the area of the glow) the glow disappeared there and immediately appeared at a more distant point of the swamp. Mr [redacted] described the motion of the glow as a smooth horizontal motion which did not follow the

countour of the land. He indicated that if this had been an ordinary vehicle the lights would have proceeded with a bumpy motion because of the irregularities in the terrain. Mr. [redacted] indicated that the glow in various parts of the swamp lasted for 2½ - 3 hours. The stories of Mr. [redacted] and Deputies McFadden do not exactly agree here but this might be due to their different advantage points.

During the [redacted] trek towards the swamp (incidently they never arrived at their objective, never getting closer than 500 yards) they stated that as they came closer to the swamp they saw an oval object depicted in figures 3 & 4. Deputy McFadden drew figure #4, though he stated to me that he had not seen the object himself. [redacted] and his son described the vehicle as a brownish oval with a green and white light at the opposite ends of the longitudal axis and a bright red elongated light in between the two.

When the officers returned to their patrol car they found two other patrol cars there. Deputy Hunnawill and his wife who were in one car, and Officer Bushroe in another, asked the returning officers whether they had seen the lights directly above them. The new arrivals stated that four lights were hovering directly above the officers while they were conducting their search in the swamp, and expressed surprise that the officer had not seen the lights. Deputy Hunnawill stated that one of the lights came directly towards his car, passing it slightly to the right. Mrs [redacted] had rolled the window down and, peering out, stated that she observed the ball of light to pass very close to the car. Officer Hunnawill had turned the car motor off to check whether any sound came from the ball of light, there was none. As he did so the object was visible in front of him through the windshield. He got out, paused to shut the door, and then looked around for the object, only to discover that the object was already to

the rear of the car. This high angular rate, if correct, would indicate that the light must have been very near.

Before proceeding with a discussion of these observations it would be best to examine the basic reports from the Hillsdale area because of the great similarity between them and those in Dexter.

It is most unfortunate that none of the witnesses in the Dexter area were technically trained. It was difficult for me to speak to them in terms of angles, and angular rates — their powers of description were inadequate to the occasion; they would have made poor reports or investigators. This is not to disparage the witnesses, and certainly not to impugn their honesty or sincerity — they simply lacked the ability to describe accurately and technically.

Let us now examine the Hillsdale case; the witnesses were of the same order as those at Dexter with the exception of Mr. [redacted] who has had technical training, holds a pilots license, and is generally articulate. But even for him the words of accurate description failed him. Further, to one of his training, he should have availed himself of other technically trained people in the area rather than rely solely on the girls at Hillsdale college. The college has some science teachers who certainly should have been alerted and their opinions and observations solicited. Also, while we could hardly expect Mr. [redacted] to have a camera ready, certainly the people at Hillsdale, with a good vantage point, and three hours available to them, should have placed a camera in action and obtained a time exposure of the lights. So now let us look at the Hillsdale case:

CASE B - Hillsdale, Michigan

On Thursday, March 24th I traveled to Hillsdale with Airman 2nd Class Hanby and his driver to investigate the Hillsdale case. We called first at

the home of [redacted] County Civil Defense Director and operator of the [redacted] Funeral Home. He has a pilots license, been in the Air Force, and is a very knowledgeable and seemingly efficient person. I talked with him at length about the sighting. Mrs. [redacted] had taken the first call, a report from the girls' dormitory, to the effect that there were blue, red and white lights visible to the east from the dormitory near the ground. [redacted] went to the back roof of his house and for 10 minutes scanned the skies and could see nothing. He did see a white light in the SW which he stated was stationary at first, and then appeared to change azimuth from 210 to 270 degrees. His wife and son [redacted] observed it for about 20 minutes. He said it wasn't a star, and not an aircraft because it remained in the field of the binoculars for five minutes. But he saw nothing in the area of the sky to the northeast and east. This was reported to the girls but they called back at [redacted] and stated, in effect,"sorry to bother your, don't want you to think we are crackpots, but the thing is coming down" . It was straight east of the dormitory and probably ½ miles away, they stated. Van Horn called the State Police as well as the city police who arrived shortly, investigated the area and reported there was nothing to be seen. Because the girls continued to report lights, [redacted] decided to go to the dormitory. He saw Mrs. [redacted] housemother at the dormitory, who took [redacted] to the second floor of the dormitory. They went to the room where Miss [redacted] and [redacted] were. The girls had the room dark and windows open and were looking down towards a swampy depression in the country side. [redacted] observed the lights then himself for the first time.