

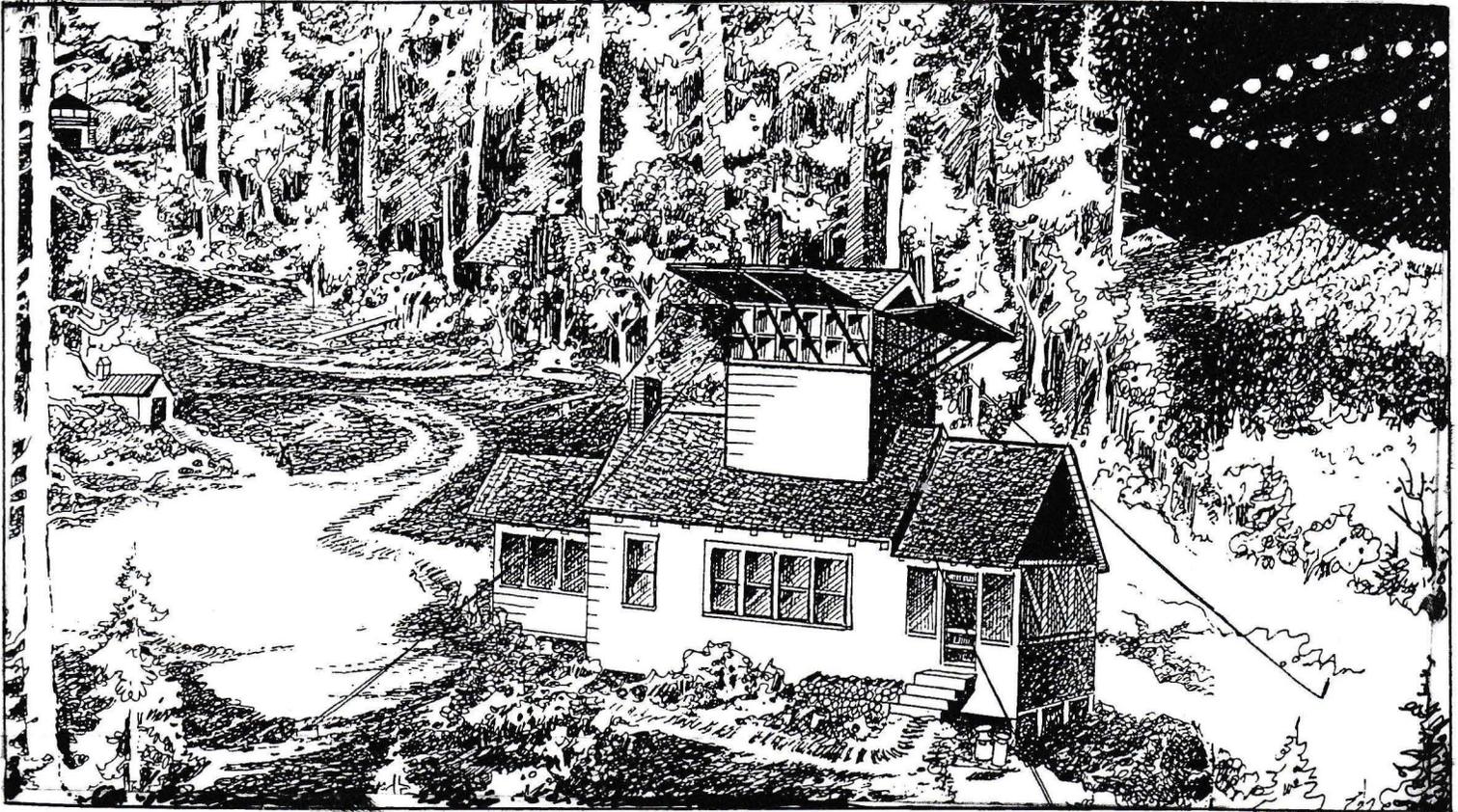
A STUDY OF

UFO EXPERIENCES AND ANOMALIES REPORTED BY FOREST FIRE LOOKOUTS AND FOREST WORKERS.

Presented to U.S.F.S. officials - March. 15, 2001.

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Flatop Lookout (West tower) 1959 (Now removed)
Troutlake District, Washington
Gifford Pinchot Forest

UFO EXPERIENCES AND ANOMALIES REPORTED BY FOREST FIRE LOOKOUTS AND FORESTRY WORKERS

DOERTER'S ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- * B.S. INDIANA STATE COLLEGE
- * M.A. REED COLLEGE
- * D.ED.PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
(RETIRED COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF ART 40 YEARS)
- * LOOKOUT FOR FIVE SUMMERS IN THE MT. HOOD, OREGON AND MT. ADAMS, WASHINGTON DISTRICTS .
1951-52-57-58-59

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INDEX

GOALS OF THIS STUDY.....	2
FIRE CONTROL CONSIDERATIONS.....	2
DEFINITION OF TERMS.....	2
BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF ANOMALIES.....	3
LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY.....	4
SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL SIGHTINGS.....	5
**** HIGH STRANGENESS CASES (HS).....	5 to 11
**** STRUCTURED CRAFTS (SC).....	12 to 24
**** BALLS OF LIGHT (BOL).....	25 to 33
TABULATION OF DATA.....	34
DRAWINGS OF ANOMALIES.....	35
SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS.....	37
CONTRIBUTING RESEARCHERS TO THIS STUDY.....	40
DESCRIPTIONS OF NATURAL PHENOMENA.....	40-41
ADDENDUM.....	40 to 44
LONG -VOGEL STUDY SUMMARY.....	41-44
RANGE OF SIGHTING DATES.....	45

GOALS OF THIS STUDY

**** To inform the USFS of anomalies seen by lookouts and forest workers and acquaint officials concerning some of the attendant problems with these sightings.

**** To encourage the Forest Service to have lookouts and other employees report such anomalies to their supervisors and then have those reports sent to a central agency such as the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Washington.

**** To have the Forest Service initiate some form of reporting procedure so these anomalies can be recorded without fear of denigration by supervisors.

****To point out the need for and to encourage the Forest Service to provide their field personnel with materials / education concerning the natural and unnatural phenomena they may encounter.

It is highly unlikely that all 83 of these reports are completely fraudulent or the lookouts are all guilty of mass misperception. There is a problem that needs to be acknowledged and addressed.

FIRE CONTROL CONSIDERATIONS

The lookout tower is a unique method of fire detection. Even though they are used in reduced numbers, lookout towers have specific advantages that make them excellent detection units.

A: Fire towers exist in remote sections of the country and by plan offer almost unlimited visibility. Lookouts often see things that employees in town and under roof do not see.

B: The construction of the cabin is such that almost anytime the lookout is on his feet, he or she is working. The lookout is literally a "24- hour- a - day employee" if he or she is stationed there full time.

C: There is also an important PSYCHOLOGICAL side to the job. Most contemporary readers may not be able to relate to the ISOLATION involved in this work. I think the Forest Service is less aware now than in the past of what special conditions lookouts work under. Today many lookouts do not stay in their tower day and night but a few still do. Lookouts adjust to the conditions of being in remote locations but problems can occasionally arise when certain unforeseen events occur. This is what this study records. Lookouts do see anomalous objects from time to time and there is no, or very little backup or support for them when these experiences occur.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

The term UFO means exactly what it implies, Unidentified Flying Object. At times

unusual flying anomalies are seen in the skies around the United States and around the world. Some are recognized to be natural or normal human phenomena such as meteors, comets, the Moon, stars, St. Elmo's fire, sun dogs, par helix circles, ball lightning, Earthquake lights, aircraft, helicopters, dirigibles, satellites, weather balloons, Venus, etc. However, an alarming number of sightings in this study do not fit those categories. The author cannot indicate the true nature of UFOs in these cases nor is there universal agreement as to what they may be. One thing is certain, many of these anomalies display characteristics of flight, movement, and surface unlike what are generally seen under normal circumstances.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION / DEFINITION OF ANOMALIES

Many Lookouts see strange balls of light, unfamiliar looking structured craft, symmetrical objects with running lights, or hear strange sounds from undetermined sources. These objects may not be "natural phenomena" (as described later in the addendum: page 39) but may be seen hovering, moving at unusual speeds, merging into each other, appearing to change shape and volume, and on some occasions, disappearing from sight while in plain view.

The movements of these anomalous objects can be startling, stimulating, and frightening. This study shows that when these objects show unexpected and sudden movement directly to the lookout tower that they can cause great fear and anxiety. In this study I have found five instances where the lookouts have fled the area or hidden themselves in the tower in an attempt to shut out such experiences. In two such events the lookouts suspect that they may have been abducted.

There is a lot of necessary and unavoidable subjectivity in the subject. No one can "really tell you" what it is like to raise children if you have not done it. No one can "really tell you" what it is like to be in a combat situation on the battlefield. From my own experience, and from those with whom I have discussed this subject, there is no way anyone can "really tell you" about what it is like to come face to face with an anomaly- a UFO. You have to have been there to understand the surprise and, at times, the fear.

In this paper I have divided the **82 SIGHTINGS / ANOMALIES** into three arbitrary categories:

<u>HS- HIGH STRANGENESS</u>	14.....	17 %
<u>SC- STRUCTURED CRAFTS</u>	37.....	45%
<u>BL- BALLS OF LIGHT</u>	31.....	38 %

****** ALL SIGHTINGS**

DAYLIGHT SIGHTINGS 46% NIGHTIME SIGHTINGS 53 %

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

I experienced great difficulty in locating and contacting present day lookouts. The USFS has basically shown very little to no interest in assisting me in contacting lookouts. I could not get a formal link with the agency even though I submitted a small pilot study to regional and national USFS supervisors. (see addendum) Therefore I had to depend upon the FFLA (Forest Fire Lookout Association), mailing to lookouts that I knew, finding individuals on the Internet, networking, links with UFO researchers, and word of mouth. Therefore, I really have inadequate coverage of present day lookouts. I was unable to contact other allied agencies such as, the BIA, State Forest agencies and private fire fighting groups. In that respect, this research was very limited. The summary shows the wide dispersal of dates and regional nature of the sighting respondents.

Lookout positions are very hard to obtain. The few contemporary lookouts I did contact were VERY HESITANT to let me use their sightings. Approximately fifteen persons told me their stories verbally but refused to write them down. Probably 70 % of all the participants do not want their names used nor their lookouts identified. It is clear that this subject intimidates both lookouts, workers and supervisors.

Lookouts have a definite problem in reporting such events to the ranger station and to supervisory personnel. The reports are usually met with humor, disbelief, and in some cases, derision. Knowing this, many individuals will simply not report any anomaly they may see.

Lookouts are loyal to their job and do not want to be "taken down" or to be derided by their colleagues. Consideration should be made for education of what lookouts might see and appropriate reporting procedures should be available. (See summary: page 37)

This study examines 82 sightings primarily by lookouts. For those of you who have not served as lookouts, try to empathize with lookouts working in isolated environments. The lookouts in this study averaged well over 10 summers of experience.

Let me make it clear, most of the lookouts I contacted HAVE NOT seen anomalous events but many have. (Keep in mind I was unable to conduct a wide survey.) Lookouts who have seen things they can't explain, find themselves in the middle of a very unsettling and unusual event.

I have withheld names and locations of some of these events as a condition of securing the reports. The study has a small N because I am unable to systematically survey all lookouts. Part of my recommendations at the end of this study is to request permission to contact contemporary lookouts in the Pacific Northwest and to provide them with a way to record and report such events.

SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL SIGHTINGS

HIGH STRANGENESS

HS-1 - Lookout has 20 + years of experience, coast range area of southern Oregon, 1991

The lookout was asleep when she was awakened by a vibrating noise. The tower and surrounding area were bathed in red-orange and white as if lights were flashing from above the tower. She got up, looked around and saw, at a distance, what she perceived to be a large, orange, cigar-shaped ship. She felt it was standing off and definitely related to the light above her tower.

She felt the vibrating sound was the shaking of the gravity feed water tank on the roof of the lookout. She also heard a humming sound. Very frightened, she got up and looked around and saw that the surrounding ground was brightly lit. She also noted that her cat was wedged under the cabinet and would not come out.

She got a strong idea to go back to bed, cover herself up and pretend to be asleep. She awakened at 7 a.m. with the sun in her eyes, alarmed that she had slept so unusually late. She dreamed of being taken somewhere and thinks it may have been aboard some kind of craft. I interviewed this woman in my home and she senses that she may have been abducted but is not sure.

APPEARANCE AND MOVEMENT: the woman never saw the object over the tower but felt it was larger than the tower because of the area of light she saw reflected. She was too frightened to go outside to look over the tower roof. She cannot estimate the distance of the cigar shaped object in the distance and feels that she observed this phenomena for 15 minutes before she decided to go to bed. The whole event seemed very illogical to her the next morning. The lookout was extremely frightened and there were no other witnesses.

HS-2 USFS Fire Control Officer's wife, northern California, 1996.
Major mountain highway west of Redding.

This woman drove to Redding to teach a class at the Community College. Returning home on mountain roads late at night, as she had been teaching and working on her doctorate. She approached and went up a mountain that leads to the valley of her residence. She saw what appeared to be very bright car headlights at a distance up the road. The light went out of sight as she rounded curves. As she continued uphill the light did not change position. The object got more intense and larger as she neared it.

She felt there must be an auto accident and thought it must be halogen lights because of the intensity. As she approached the light she had to partially cover her eyes in

order to stay on road. She estimated the object to be 40 feet in length (the same width as her home) and she passed within 50-100 feet of it. The light was an object that hung entirely motionless, without sound, about 20- feet in the air. The object was directly alongside the road.

Extremely frightened she continued past the object very slowly, barely able to see the road. When past the object she drove rapidly home. The object did not have any "fuzziness" but was a clearly outlined object. She thinks she saw a couple of "figure like" objects on the ground beneath the object and several in the air around the craft. She returned with her husband the next day to study the site but they saw nothing. She indicated she made a mistake and told someone about her experience. She lives in a small town and wants anonymity.

Especially strange was that she thought she saw two or three figures on the ground (small human like beings). The unusual part was that "shadows" were being cast up on the craft- when the light was coming from the craft. One would think the shadows would be cast down on the ground.

(I visited the site and it was a well- traveled gravel road. I did note that there were power transmission lines about 100 or more yards away. She says there is no way it could have been that far from the road- the shapes were right alongside the road.)

HS-3 Lookout on Stein Mountain in Idaho, very experienced. daylight hours, 1976.
Source: Richard Seifried.

Looking to the east the lookout saw what appeared to be a transparent amoeba-like shape swirling around between the Continental Divide and her lookout. As she watched the translucent thing it became more solid and formed into a roundish ball. In a short time it became rather transparent then turned yellow with dark brown spots.

Then it transformed itself into a very solid object and suddenly zipped away. The lookout thinks it might have been something from another dimension. She has had other UFO sightings on that lookout.

HS- 4 Forest Service employee 6 years of experience. North Fork of Salmon River, Idaho. July 1977

One Sunday the man who has worked for the Forest Service went to visit a lookout who had experienced UFO experiences. The visitor was high above the the North Fork of the Salmon River when he suddenly found himself three miles away from where he had taken his last step. He has no doubt about the reality of this event. He knows of no intervening event and has come to the conclusion that he was abducted. It took him until 1980 to realize what had happened to him.

This man has been a forest worker. He is now retired from a teaching career.

HS-5 Lookout has 25 years of experience, South Fork of the Trinity River, northern California, 1981 or 1982. *Source: Greg Long*

Lookout is sitting on his bed when he saw two bright lights "like headlights on a car".

The altitude is around 44-4500 feet. Going back to read he looks up again and does a double take as the objects (lights) are much brighter than any airplane's. There is no sound. They are not helicopters. The lights are brighter than airplane landing lights.

The lookout turned off his lights and went outside to see better. He noted there is no sound and the shapes were only 5 - 6 miles away. Another UFO came out of the South Fork drainage and joined the Trinity River and objects then flew in tandem. They flew within 1 mile of the lookout at closest approach. The UFO closest to the lookout was as big as a 12- inch ruler at arms length. Both fly north over Highway 3 between Peanut and Hayes. There was absolutely no sound and that impressed him the most about the incident.

The sighting took about 10 to 15 minutes. The objects had white "headlights but one had a red light as well." Both objects continued on the same path. They were of a very curious shape. The lookout was frightened.

HS-6 Round Top Lookout. Sect. 18 T 32S R-2W Near Tiller, Oregon, 1953. Observed by lookout Mr. Lloyd Oliver, his wife and child. *Source: Jan Aldrich.*

Mr. Oliver and family were eating lunch when his wife noticed a strange bronze colored object resembling a stove pipe. The object had the same proportion as a stove pipe but the size could not be determined. It came hurtling silently end- over- end from the north at "a good speed".

When the object arrived in front of the observers it suddenly stopped and the three people had the firm conviction that they were being observed. The sighting conditions were excellent as it was a clear day.

Oliver turned around to get his binoculars and at that moment the UFO resumed its course at its previous speed and same horizontal line of travel. Oliver called the sighting to the USFS headquarters in Medford. They then gave the report to the Medford Mail Tribune. He is an experienced lookout and a reserved, conservative man. He shuns publicity of any kind. (Medford Mail Tribune newspaper files.)

HS-7 Employee of Forest Service-Mongollon Rim, Arizona, summer of 1991- 10:30 p.m.

This event took place in the area around Woods Canyon. The man was invited to a store proprietor's home on the lake. At 10:30 p.m. the dinner was almost ready when the house generator that powered the house lights went out.

"The large diesel generator was in an outbuilding and my friend went out to restart the engine. I went to a north facing window to see if any night fishermen were on the lake. Suddenly it was astounding. The entire lake lit up from above and the light went all the way to the rock dam. The light was brighter than any I had ever seen before and it was swinging back and forth from one side of the lake to the other. There was no sound and I could not make out the shape. It was so blinding I did not want to look at it for any length of time.

"As it moved towards the cabin, my friend took my hand, pushed me into the bathroom and we squeezed into the shower. I kept asking him what it was and he said just keep quiet. The light came in the bathroom window and lit the interior up. My friend was terrified but I was only scared. The room lit up brighter and then it went into darkness again. Maybe five minutes had gone by.

"Later he told me that light had come there before but he always made it to the safety of his cabin. He came down with a bad flu of a sorts and never got over it. To this day he still has a nasty lung disease.

"I never actually saw the object that made the light. The object was a quarter mile away and above the lake about 150 feet. It was traversing the lake moving back and forth and it made no noise."

HS- 8 -Lookout- 20 years of experience- Willamette Western Oregon - forest. August 1976

The lookout awakened seeing his entire lookout illuminated by a very intense, white light. He looked at the light and was very frightened as it seemed quite large. Getting up he looked outside and saw the area around the lookout was illuminated. Later he noted the night was clear for viewing.

The lookout reports being in a "cold sweat" and he decided to go to his bed. He then got inside his sleeping bag and pulled it over his head. Still very afraid, he opened his eyes and he saw the light was so intense he could see its shape through the weave of his heavy sleeping bag. He believed the shape was there for 20 minutes. He did not see it leave. It took him at least another 20 minutes to quiet down and to go back to sleep. He felt very strange about doing this but he did not know what else to do.

The shape was almost one and a half times the size of the moon. It was a solid blue / white light, and very intense. The object was soundless and absolutely motionless. Estimated distance from lookout was one half mile. He estimates of size shows it was quite large, about one and one- half times the size of the moon. The lookout wonders if he saw ball lightning.

Researchers note: Ball lightning is a natural phenomena and is never that large nor does it exist for 20 minutes in a natural state.

HS-9 Lookout report: Pacheco Pass Station, California-July 22,1967. *Source: Jan Aldrich.*

The lookout (Mr. Randy Higgins) sees an enormous bright object at a distance of about 9 miles. The object heads towards tower at a tremendous speed, then stops dead in its tracks and hovers one-half of a mile from the tower.

It then circles the tower, keeping the same distance and then flies off to the north in a great burst of speed. The object also caused interference on the lookout's radio. The object was in sight for approximately five minutes

The object has what could be best described as the brightness and intensity of automobile headlights. Size of object not reported and this sighting taken from a MUFON newsletter. More information is being sought from the actual lookout. (*Mutual UFO Network-largest UFO organization in the world.*)

HS-10 Lookout was a very experienced individual who wishes to remain anonymous. A forest in Eastern Oregon. (Date unreported to me)

He told of a sighting by a lookout who cannot be contacted as he is now a law enforcement officer. The man does not want to talk about his experience because of his position in the community. I contacted him by mail but he did not reply.

The man and his wife were reportedly lookouts located near the person who reported this event to me. The lookout saw a UFO that was so dramatic that it caused their dogs to run off for three days. The lookout is somewhat embarrassed by the dramatic sighting and he will not discuss it.

HS-11 Second- hand report by Lookout *Gary Freeland* about a lookout he has known. Teton Ranger Station district, Montana. No date

The lookout said a bright glowing orb "pulled up alongside the lookout". It appeared to be like an orange ball and he did not report it. The next morning when the USFS could not contact him, personnel went up to the tower and found the lookout traumatized. He was taken down off the lookout.

The lookout told them that a bright orange globe came to his lookout and then headed south. Within an hour or so, the San Francisco area was reporting an orange object in the sky.

I am using this sighting / event as an example of the difficulties that lookouts can encounter when close approaches are made by UFOs. dramatic event.

HS-12 This individual wants to remain anonymous and has worked on several lookouts in the past ten years. The incident was in 1976

"These individuals came to my guard station for a few days and refused to go back to their lookout. They were in bed and the man went outside, probably to relieve himself, when he noticed a light down in a canyon where there were no roads."

"They both watched the light as it began to move toward the lookout following the bends of the canyon. It was not a vehicle as the area is roadless. The light became brighter and approached the tower. They became frightened because the light was traversing areas where there was no road or path. As it approached the tower the couple became alarmed and jumped into bed, throwing the blankets over their heads.

"Through the soft weave of the blanket they could see bright light engulfing the lookout cabin. They heard a loud humming noise. This continued for a short time and then the light moved off away from the tower. The couple peered out and watched the light progress down a different draw until it rounded a curve and disappeared.

"The couple then left the tower and drove to the guard station seeking shelter. They did not return right away. They were certainly frightened by the event. They were convinced it was not a plane or helicopter because of the lack of noise. I will never forget the terror on their faces. Their experience kept me from ever being a lookout."

HS-13 Anonymous second hand report from individual on the adjacent lookout. Eastern Oregon, no date given.

The lookout and his wife were watching the night sky when they noticed a very bright light move along the bends in the canyon where there were no roads or paths. The object was following a trajectory that could not be mistaken for a truck or any kind of vehicle. The light became brighter as it came closer to the tower.

The couple became very frightened as the object came closer and closer and finally approached the tower. The light of the object engulfed the tower and a loud humming sound was heard. After a short time the light went around the ridge and out of sight, the couple fled the lookout to a nearby guard station. They stayed several days refusing to return to the lookout.

This information is rather incomplete as it was reported by an adjacent lookout who was on duty at the time of the event. More information has been sought from the husband and wife team but they have not answered my letters.

HS-14- Lookout with ten years of experience in northern California. 1984. *Source: Greg Long.*

This was a long intermittent observation of phenomena from approximately 8:45 p.m. to midnight. The lookout first saw the object over Big Bar. A shape appeared and hovered. It was circular with red and blue lights around its perimeter. Then three smaller lights dropped out of the object descending below the horizon and then rising

before leaving the area. The large main object still hovered in place.

Later the three small shapes returned from the west and hovered near the big object. Then a small white light came into the view area . The objects stayed in the general area, the lookout tires and went to bed. She awoke at 2 a.m. and all objects except for the large object have disappeared. The lookout went to bed and all the objects were gone in the morning.

The objects were circular in shape with red and blue perimeter lights excepting for one small white object. Objects moved independently, flew away, and returned . Altitude 8-9000 feet and approximately 15 to 18 miles from the observer. No other witnesses. This is a very experienced lookout.

STRUCTURED CRAFTS

SC-1 Fire Control Officer-40 years experience. Highway 97 near Toppenish, Washington, AUG. 27,1971. -Source: *Greg Long book.* (see addendum page 41)

At 1:30 a.m. a Fire Control officer driving a government truck sees what he thinks is a low flying plane. He stops his truck. The object was not an aircraft and had no discernible lateral movement.

It was brilliant white and its outer edges were fluorescent tan -light orange with a surrounding halo of sorts. A tail or antenna protruded from the upper end that was as long as the object itself. The antenna had segments of red, blue, green and white lights. It changed in intensity and in hue. Over a nine-minute period the object slowly moved over Simcop Ridge. He took seven or eight photos with a 50 mm lens with 1/30 exposure. The objects were at 8500 feet and were observed a total of 19 minutes. There was no sound. The distance not estimated and information taken from Greg Long's book.

SC-2 Troutlake, Washington. Lookout and wife with 6 years of experience, Gifford Pinchot Forest, Troutlake, Washington. August of 1959. *The sighting happened to the author of this study*

"About 10:30 - 11 p.m. I saw a point of light while in the upper west tower on Flatop Mountain- Mt. Adams.m.s district. As I watched the light, it very rapidly became larger and I called to my wife and ran downstairs meeting her at the window. In about 30 seconds, the sighting came from a point of light and, after crossing a great distance had become a giant shape as we both watched. It seemed to come from around the Mt. Hood area to our tower at a blazing speed. We feel the object was 300-400 feet across. We could not see the physical shape but the entire craft was ringed with flashing red and white lights. The bottom blacked out the sky and it seemed it was like a pie pan tilted slightly. It came directly towards our tower, and then, at the last moment veered towards Mt. Adams disappearing from our sight behind some tall trees. Its estimated altitude was about 1,000 feet above our tower. The shape moved at a tremendous speed and was completely silent.

The most frightening thing for us was its absolute silence. It is not unusual for us to see airplanes from this tower but this certainly was unlike anything we had ever seen. We reported to it the station the next morning but they could find no one else who had seen it, nor could find any aircraft that had been in the area.

We could not see its color but it was a solid shape with perimeter lights flashing in a complete circle. The sighting duration was 30 to 40 seconds maximum. The approximate distance from observers was less than one mile.

SC-3 Sopelia Lookout with 35 years of experience , Yakama Indian Reservation,

Washington about 1964-

A very experienced lookout, Dorothy Sturm, has reported many sightings in Vogel's study. *There were 200 sightings recorded in the Yakama Indian Reservation in the 1970s by lookouts and by watchmen)*

One Sunday afternoon Sturm looked out a window and saw a shining object down the ridge about one half mile away. It looked like a pie pan hanging at an angle. " I wondered what on earth it was. Taking two steps I got my binoculars and when I turned back around it was gone. I was standing and wondering what I had seen when I heard a noise above the lookout. The soffet extends 3 or 4 feet so I could not see very easily.

"The only way I could describe the noise was that of a deep whirlpool or the last water going down the drain. I went to the door and had a strange feeling. I couldn't open the door to go outside and look. I knew that if I did, I'd never come back in. I can't explain it.

"In my 35 years I have seen many interesting sights, lights and things and heard rumblings, etc. One night my sister and I were sitting there and heard a faint whining noise. It got louder and louder as it went by the lookout and then faded away. We sat there dumbfounded and asked, what was that? Of course it was dark outside and we had no lights."

SC-4 Professional USFS forester in supervision, near Maupin Junction, Highway 26, Oregon. 1950

The Forester and a fellow worker were driving on down a straight stretch of road when an object suddenly appeared.

"There were tall Fir trees on both sides of the road when a UFO appeared just above the tree tops about 60 yards ahead of us. It was round in shape and about 80 feet in diameter. Its perimeter was lighted. Under the vehicle there was a glow that was difficult to tell where the light was coming from. It appeared the light came from a different source than the lights around the circumference. It was very clear and we could see the detail of the tree limbs and even the needles showed between us and the light.

"Other than the light and the overall size and shape of the object we noted nothing else. There were no windows, or exhaust emissions observed and it appeared to be motionless. In a matter of seconds it then swerved to our right and vanished."

They did reported the event. At the time there were sightings here and there and but no one took them seriously. No reports of their object were seen in the papers.

SC-5 Lookout 6 yrs. experience as lookout and USFS guard station. Individual now a retired college Professor. Near Medford, Oregon. 1978.

The man was out camping with seven other men near Mt. Mc Loughlin at Four Mile Lake. As they were working at a camp at about 9 p.m., an oval shaped object rose from the brush on the other side of the lake. It was cream color with orange and yellow lights. It lifted up, then drifted and flew towards Klamath Lake. In a short while it returned to nearly its original position and dropped down behind a ridge. Distance from the observer- about 300 yards from the other end of the lake.

The next night the men joked saying it would probably do the same thing again. They lined up camp chairs and sat down. It did reappear. The object was in view total about 7-9 minutes. No sound was heard. The object flew at about 2500 feet of elevation for a total of about seven to nine minutes each time. Eight witnesses - no report was made to any officials. Altitude 2500 feet.

SC- 6 Lookout had 18 years of experience. East of Mt. Rainier, Washington- 1981..

The lookout reported he went out on catwalk to eat soup at noon. The sky and weather were clear. He saw what he believed to be a "double rotor" helicopter, but the craft was absolutely silent. Having lived near Imperial Beach, California, he was familiar with sightings of many military helicopters. This was not one. He watched it hover and then got a pair of 7:50 x15 field glasses to study the craft, observed it for a full minute. He steadied himself against the flag pole for support.

He saw a modified cigar-like shaped craft, silver in color except for two domes on the opposite ends of the craft. The object was about 8 miles away over a Washington State lookout that was situated below the craft some 700 to 1000 feet. The domes were rounded and he saw no rotors and heard no sound. The craft turned slightly and the sun glinted off the object. He noticed the craft was much thinner than a helicopter. While he gazed at the object for a full minute with the glasses still to his eyes, the object disappeared from sight.

The craft moved very little and did not change altitude. The lookout was at 6300 feet and the object was at approximately 7-10,000 feet. The distance was about 8 miles. There was no distinctive rotor sound nor any lights or markings on the craft. The estimated size of craft is 50 to 60 feet. There were no other witnesses.

SC-7 Lookout in Montana. October 1979. *Source: Richard Seifried.*

The lookout saw an object 20 miles north of the station. The sun was up. At first it appeared like kind of a "flimsy dark" cloud. She used binoculars and saw it was a round silvery white disc. Her impression was that she looked more at the nose of a cigar kind of shape from her angle. The sun made it glint and there were no stars visible.

It was estimated to be at 20,000 feet. She saw it for four or five minutes. She then took a photograph of it. People ridiculed her for her sightings.

SC-8 Plummer Creek Lookout, Northern California. September 1984. *Source: Greg Long.*

At about 8:45 p.m. the lookout was putting her son to bed when she saw a cluster of red and blue lights to the northeast. She radioed the Plummer Creek tower and a cross shot put the object over Big Bear- distance of 18- miles.

Ten minutes later a smaller cluster of lights, (red and blue with one white at the center) dropped out of the middle of the big craft. They came out fast and dropped toward the ground and stopped before hitting the surface. Then they slowly dropped below the horizon. The "mother pod" then drifted southeast.

She then noticed a small pod staying with the large object. Twenty minutes elapsed and she watched the two small pods and another cluster of white lights. As she watched they seemed to ascend at times and hovered at other times. The lookout watched this from 8:45 p.m. until midnight. She slept a while and at 2 a.m. awakened and still saw the big object. All were gone in the morning. She noticed no sound. Two lookouts were partial witnesses (different times of the night) to these craft like objects.

SC-9 Fire lookout atop Mt. Baker. Skagit County, Washington. April 17, 1947. *Source: Loren Gross.*

Lookout reports a "thing" shaped like a huge clam dropped out of the sky from the northeast. It fell tipped at an angle. Then it slowed to a stop and floated leisurely as if suspended by a cord. After a few minutes, it whizzed off to the southeast with an ever increasing velocity. The object was in view a few minutes and there is no estimate of the distance from the observer.

Source: Loren Gross- information by Richard Eaton, letter to ATIC June 17, 1947, Blue Book Files

SC-10 Lookout of many years experience in Montana, 1979. *Source: Richard Seifried*

The lookout saw huge white object traveling west to east at a distance of two miles. It seemed to be flying level with the lookout tower. She has a brief view of the event behind the South East corner of her tower.

The object sent down a light beam under its saucer shape. The light lit the entire area. The shape seemed to fly like a cup and saucer upside down. It seemed to glow from the inside. When the lookout could no longer see it she was very disappointed. She wanted to see more of it and so she flashed her flashlight in that direction for awhile hoping that some thing might be seen in return. She had a very strange feeling about this sighting.

SC-11 A law officer working with Forest Service, Salmon River, Idaho. No date given. *Source: Richard Seifried.*

The reporting forester and two other employees were running the Salmon River in a jet boat when the motor suddenly stopped. They were repairing the motor when they saw an unusual sight.

A robin's egg blue disc was hovered on the bank with an extended tripod. They all watched as they floated by. The forester described the event to his boss but the supervisor told him to shut up about it. The observer was very angry about this but he could do nothing more as he was afraid of losing his job.

SC 12 Delilah Lookout- Sequoia National Forest, Fresno County, California. No date given. Brian Allison...Visalia, Ca.. Agricultural consultant. *Source: Loren Gross. Report from NUFORC.*

" Right around dusk my girlfriend and I spotted something over a mountain range 20 miles away. It looked huge, like a flaming star. I put the binoculars on it and it looked like something on fire, a metallic, electrical looking fire. Long "flames" were shot out of something in the core. All of the sudden the flames collapsed in on themselves, and sucked into the center, leaving a flashing light that jumped around in the sky, seemingly at random.

Then the object moved south-southeast, almost directly at us. It flew in basically a straight path, but jumped around from time to time. It did not obey the laws of flight that we are familiar with. It passed within a few miles of us and I kept my binoculars trained on it the entire time.

The object was circular shaped, with multicolored lights moving around the edges, with a large white light at the bottom and a smaller red light on top. My girlfriend got scared and ran inside. I stayed out on the catwalk to watch it. It went through the sky at a sort of 45 degree angle, not flat like a frisbee. It flew jumping around the San Joaquin Valley. As far as I could tell it stopped over Woodlake or Linday.....there it remained motionless in that area.

"Then from the west, (direction of Lemoore Naval Air Station) came five or six flashing white lights, five or six of them. These lights behaved like helicopters. Above these lights came a larger light which behaved like a large plane. As these lights approached the object, it suddenly shot nearly straight up, going from 5,000 to about 30,000 feet in a blink of an eye."

The lookout kept his binoculars on all this for quite sometime and when he relieved his eyes and wiped them, the white lights were gone.

SC--13 Columbia Gorge, near Methow, Washington- Columbia Gorge. August 1955

Sighting by Major Kehoe book of UFO encounters

Tom Nickell an ex-WW II flyer with 20,000 hours of flying experience, was flying contract for USFS. He saw a metallic object in the shape a perfect disc. The altitude was 15,000 feet and he had it in sight for two minutes. No sound was reported and the distance unspecified. There were no other witnesses. More information being sought.

Nickell comment, "That was something from another world."

SC-14 Observer: "Ray" who has been a lookout. Estacada, Oregon, Summer of 1964.

This was a sighting before he was a lookout. He was sitting on a motor bike after dark when he looked north to the sky and saw what looked to be four stars lined up in a vertical line. The top one was the brightest and the other three diminished in brightness from top to bottom. Immediately the three dimmer ones split off in different directions and were gone in an instant. Then the brightest one slowly crossed the sky and disappeared out of sight in 20 or 30 seconds.

" That spurred my interest in UFOs. I have no idea of the altitude but I would say what I saw was 50 or 60 degrees above the north horizon.", said Ray.

SC 15 Bonney Lake Washington- near Mt. Rainier, Washington. July 7, 1957.
Source: Jan Aldrich.

Art Hatch, 31, said he and his companion were eating lunch and looked up seeing two saucers "as big as life". They were near Mowich Lake Road and they were "scared to death." They were shaped like two soup bowls turned upside down. "It was terrifying. There were goose pimples all over."

The saucers were a dull "white-silvery" color and overhead at about 5,000 feet. There was no sound" One stopped, then zoom- both were gone. One headed towards Tacoma, the other veered towards Seattle". Each saucer had a fin of some kind and they seemed to be running on magnetic power". Article in newspaper. *Tacoma Tribune* 7/11/1957.

SC-16 Part time forestry worker. Pleasant Hill, Oregon. 1975

After returning home from work he saw a grey disc ahead of his car. It was one fifth hidden from view by a cloud. It was a solid object that seemed cigar shaped or maybe a flattened disc. He was two blocks from the object.

The top had some kind of tower or raised area with windows and the craft was revolving similar to the light on a police car. The object did not change position and disappeared from sight only when the observer drove a short distance towards home

where he lost sight of the object.

SC-17 Lookout with 37 years experience. Yellowstone Park, Montana. 1988

While fighting the Yellowstone fires in 1998 my husband and his crew saw an unusual sight. They saw a triangular object that had a pattern of flashing-alternating lights. It then it made a right angle turn that made him think it might be a UFO. The angle it took reminded him of a billiard ball hitting the side of the table and bouncing off. The angle was probably 135 degrees. Then after doing a weird bank- it disappeared from view. The investigator is hoping to find the husband for a first hand report.

SC-18 Lookout gives his description of another lookout's story who was on Weaver Balley Lookout 1969. source: *Lookout Gary Freeland*.

Mr. White and his mother came to visit Freeland at his lookout and he said that he and his mother had manned that same lookout in 1969. They both observed a round, bright object at the south end across the Harvey Valley at a distance of six miles. It hovered off the ground and had sharp looking fins with pulsating lights around it. White said it came across the valley and up a partly tree covered slope and over the lookout. The object was silent.

SC-19 Experienced lookout, -Northern California 1983

The object was seen at 8:30 p.m. for about 30 minutes. It seemed to be a shiny, silver metal object with evenly spaced lights. It was seen at a distance of 13 miles and was near a ridge top, moving laterally and then returning to its original position. It seemed to follow the the ridge contour and did not go out of sight until the last minute. It sank below the ridge line and did not reappear. The lights were evenly spaced, kind of like auto headlights. There was no sound.

SC-20 Unnamed lookout tower Blue Mountains near Meachem, Oregon. 1988

The lookout was checked on a report of a fire when he saw a different kind of shape. He then noticed that it moved at a tremendous rate of speed from north to south. It crossed the sky in a 180 degree arc in about 15 seconds. It was seen at about a 50 degree angle from the tower.

The object was light blue to polished silver in appearance and reflected light. No sound was heard and there was no estimate of the distance from the lookout. There was one other witness.

SC-21 Report by Worth County Forestry Tower, Sylvester, Georgia. Nov.7 1957.
Source: *Randy Hitt*.

A strange looking flying object was seen for thirty minutes at about 9 p.m. by workers

at the Worth County lookout tower in the northwest section of Worth County. Lewis Conger, the forestry ranger, described it as not a flying saucer but as some kind of man made object. "The oval shaped, floating object was lighted. All lights appeared to come from "inside the object," said Otis Ulm officer on duty at Worth tower.

He said he had never seen anything like it. The object was in sight to the naked eye. He talked to other tower men in Crisp and Dooley counties, all of whom saw it. The men reported it seemed to float to the northeast and then come back again to the north. It finally left in a northerly direction. Ulm said it appeared to be five miles away but Dooley said it came close enough that they could see what appeared to be smoke in it.

Article in Tilton Gazette, Georgia Report.

SC-22 Experienced lookout, Northern California near Hayfork, California 1973.
Source: Greg Long.

The lookout was camping along the river on a small beach. She saw an oval, revolving shape that was ringed with orange, red, yellow, blue and violet lights. She viewed it for 30 seconds and it was estimated to be 300 feet in the air. It was moving from north to south up stream in a continuous motion. There was no sound and no other witnesses.

SC-23 Harvey Mountain lookout, northern California. 1995

"It was late in the afternoon when I saw a round silvery object about 10 to 12 feet in diameter. It was about 2.5 miles away in a grassy area. I compared the size to some distant cars and some trees and the cars were about 100 west of the object. It seemed that the compact passenger car was of similar size.

It was several miles across the grass area and the prevailing wind was S by SW. I first thought it might be a weather balloon but the shape was more of a semi- oval. It maneuvered as if it had an intelligent source, crossing the Harvey Valley in a kind of zig zag fashion. I saw it for ten minutes.

"It seemed 6 to 10 feet off the ground and near a cluster of pines. It made a straight line across the valley at about 20-30 MPH. It then angled up to a 40-45 degree angle and went up Crater Mountain. It seemed to pass over at the 7500' level.

"The object had a shiny chrome appearance and had no markings, no wires and no pulsating lights."

SC-24 Forest Ranger 29 years old in upstate Addison, New York. April 23, 1953.
Source: Loren Gross.

He was looking out the tower window at 12:50 p.m.. He saw a glowing lens shape that

flashed along the horizon at high speed. The object resembled a highly polished silver dollar that it lit up the ground below it. The object passed in front of some clouds and became smaller as it moved away in a westerly direction. A "black line" seemed to extend from the bottom of the object. His drawing showed a thin flat "lens" object from the side view.

SC-25 - Lookout with 20 years experience, Southern Oregon coast, 1989

An experienced lookout was prepared for bed about 9 p.m. She looked to the north. She saw an object revolving with red and blue lights in the sky. It rose slowly into the air and would then stop and go back down towards the ground but it always stayed above the mountains and in sight.

This series of movements continued for forty- five minutes. She called into the station and they notified the Coast Guard unit. The next morning she was told that the Coast Guard unit said it "could have been some kind of flare" but did not say that any were in use that night. The distance was not estimated but she reported that no sound was heard.

The object moved, slowly, rising and falling and showing red and blue lights. The lookout was located 14 miles from the coast and the lookout scoffed at the suggestion that she watched flares move up and down for 45 minutes.

SC-26 - Hunter Nelson and Walter Nicholson sighting near Hailey, Idaho June 30, 1947. Mr. Nelson was employed by the Forest Service. *Source: Loren Gross.*

The men were near Cherry Creek and were from the Russian Ranger Station. Mr. Nicholson was purchasing timber and they were selecting trees. It was Nicholson who looked high in the sky and he saw formation of 8 or 10 objects southwest of their position. There was no sound.

Late in the afternoon and in a cloudless sky, there appeared to be seven, maybe more, objects flying in a V formation with first one at a forward point. Both recalled a momentary change of formation when the right wing began to swing forward but then fell back into alignment. The spacing between objects was from five to six diameters. They maintained this spacing in a rigid pattern. There was no fluttering nor swerving, but both men agreed they were proceeding at an extremely high speed, much faster than any aircraft of that day.

Neither could discern their shapes as they were very high. Occasionally they seemed to change orientation enough that they would seem to disappear, perhaps because of the lack of glitter-reflection. In order to keep objects in sight the men went up towards a small hill but sighting only lasted 30 seconds. Both felt they went over the Galena summit

Despite ribbing from friends, Nelson said, "I can still see that formation and I have never seen anything like that before."

SC-27 USFS lookout with 37 years experience. Susanville, California September 15, 1963.

Mr. E.A. Grant saw a round object intercepted by a long object. The smaller one attached itself to the larger one and then both objects entirely disappeared from sight. Objects were in sight for ten minutes. Source: Jan Aldrich.

SC-28 Lookout with three years of experience on Willamette and Umpqua districts, Oregon. Sighting August, 1964.

It was a bright day with kind of a white haze when the lookout saw an object over the Diamond Peak Wilderness area on the eastern skyline. It appeared round and white in a bright milky sky. It had hard round edges as seen through binoculars.

He observed the object for a full ten seconds. It was completely motionless, when in front of his eyes, it flattened out and completely disappeared. It was hovering at about 1000 feet elevation. He called it in to other lookouts and also checked to see if any balloon logging had been going on. He feels this was a metallic disc and that somehow it was able to disappear.

SC-29 A lookout near Chaparral Mountain, Northern California. 1983. *Source: Greg Long.*

Three lookouts were together for a party at a lookout. A shape appeared in the sky and moved slowly but also stopped and hovered from time to time. It primarily moved slowly along a ridge. The object was in sight for 30 minutes.

It had a shiny / metallic appearance with regularly spaced exterior lights. Estimated distance was 10-13 miles and no sound was heard. The sighting not reported. Still awaiting additional information from lookout- will attempt interview summer of 2001)

SC-30 Oregon Bull Prairie Guard station, SE of Heppner, Aug. 10, 1957. *Source: Jan Aldrich- from Heppner Tribune Gazelle Times.*

Two Heppner men Morgan Medlock and Buddy Taylor sighted an object at 12:10 p.m. while they were piling brush one mile east of Crawford Spring, nine miles from Bull Prairie.

They saw an object about half the size of a Forest Service power wagon truck traveling at a terrific speed about 3,000 above them. They watched it for about 10 seconds until it left their view. It looked round with a smaller top part and shaped like a hat. It was brown in color similar to dry pine needles. It made a kind of whistling sound. It left no

vapor trail and it disappeared as they watched it. As it went from sight it made a sound like "PLUP", but similar to a rifle shot into the water. It traveled northwest.

A report was made to Madison Butte lookout and it was relayed to Heppner, the Umatilla National Forest, and to the Portland office. The last time such things were in the area was May 6, 1954 when three local men, (Al Lovgren, Robert Minck and Elmer Palmer) watched a group of nine objects cross the sky like inverted dinner plates. The men were repairing phone lines at the time of the sighting.

SC-31 South Mountain Lookout- South of Phoenix, Arizona. April, 1966. *Source: Jan Aldrich.*

April 14, 1996, Tom King and his son and the son's girl friend drove to the summit of South Mountain. There he saw a hockey puck like object in the sky . Then a red object flew by the the first object. The red object then floated to the left and flew away and then the hockey puck like object moved.

King took out his video camera and shot 18 minutes of movement. He says that it exhibited at least 15 different course changes. He even has a shot of it stopping "on a dime". There were two dozen witnesses to this event but only King had a video camera.

The image can be viewed at : <http://www.netzone.com~gilgash/April 14/April 14.htm>
King claims he has seen many UFOs at that mountain site. He is not a lookout by profession but his sightings are at the lookout site.

SC-32 State lookout, Minnechang Mountain, in Massachusetts, April 17, 1950.
Source: Jan Aldrich.

At 10:30 am Earl Grant was on duty and at 10:30 he saw a large silvery disc with a gaseous tail flying about 8-10,000 feet going heading east.

Grant watched the disc climb slowly for a full seven minutes before it disappeared out of sight.. "It was definitely not an airplane or a balloon nor a helicopter or anything I have ever seen before. It had a tail but it wasn't a meteor because it was moving too slow. I would not swear it was flying saucer but, if there are such things, that is definitely one."Source: Jan Aldrich.

SC- 33 Sighting reported as a second hand story by a lookout with 37 years experience

A USFS lookout and music teacher and his son serving on a lookout saw two silvery discs. The teacher was working in northern California but his home was in Yakima area. I tried to find additional data but the sighting was some years ago.

SC-34 Part of a general article on "saucer sightings" from a Wichita Texas newspaper....citing story from Seaside, Oregon. June 29, 1947. *Source: Jan Aldrich.*

At 3 p.m. in the afternoon on June 24th the lookout noticed something in the sky which he described as, flashes in distance, quite high up in the east....(and they) seemed to be going in a straight line. They made a strange noise, higher pitched than most airplane make."

A newspaper article had a shortened version of the above description and the following. A tulip farmer near Woodland, Washington, reported he and his foreman saw two groups of objects yesterday. This was part of an article describing a sighting from a Seaside, Oregon woman who had observed a silver disc for three minutes.

SC- 35 Waggonhammer Creek in Montana, 1970. *Source: Richard Seifried.*

This is a report from a lookout who had several sightings of her own. She tells of and reports of another woman who had the same tower some years earlier.

This second woman reported that far down the slope of Waggonhammer Mountain she saw a bluish phosphorescent light. It was the most unusual light she had ever seen. The reporter of this incident said that this was distinguished as an area noted for old gold and uranium mines.

SC-36 Lookout with 15 years experience, Northern California, 1984. *Source: Greg Long.*

The lookout was returning to her tower with her young child and was driving 2-3 miles south of the lookout. Around a bend she saw what appeared to be a cross-like shape 30-35 feet tall with cross arms that were roughly one-half of the total length. The cross was alternating red and blue lights which were flickering slightly. There was a small white orb off to one side of the cross. She guessed it was one half mile from where she parked.

Having stopped the car, she watched for 20 minutes, heard no sound and saw no movement. She returned to the lookout but could not see it from there. She reports, "I was very afraid but also curious. As I look back, I do not think I was curious enough and that is strange."

I telephoned the woman for her statement and I hope to make a personal interview with her this summer, (2001)

SC-37 T.Van S. Coy- Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, Canada. June 2, 1948. Sudbury Daily Star June 2, 1948. *Source: Jan Aldrich.*

At 8:15 a.m. two foresters were with Van Scoy when he heard a loud drumming sound

which seemed to stop and start. Dave Souliere was just arriving by canoe and yelled at the other two men to come to the lake and see the object.

"It looked like a short strip of very narrow cloud about 12,000 to 15,000 feet above us. It seemed to be moving about 200 MPH and was shaped more or less like an arrow with light exhaust fumes coming from it." The men said it was not natural and it was definitely not a cloud. They were certain the thing was moving to the northeast against the wind and clouds.

BALLS OF LIGHT

BOL-1 - Lookout with 38 years of experience. Near Scotts Bar in Northern California.- Late 1970s or early 80s. *Source: Greg Long.*

A lookout watches a light she first believes to be an airplane. Sometimes there are up to four or five orange colored lights that typically move from SW to SE. The lights are generally in view for 30 minutes.

When the light is in the sky the lookout notices that it disappears when an airplane approaches. The object will then reappears when the airplane has passed the light's last known position. She has observed this sequence on more than one occasion.

BOL-2 Fire Officer Vogel, Toppenish Fire Control Officer. Toppenish, Washington. 1960-1970's. *It must be noted this is one of the 200 sightings recorded in the Yakama Indian Reservation. Sighting taken from Greg Long collection.-see addendum.*

Mr. Vogel was driving Antanum Ridge when he observed two fluorescent orange or light balls that seemed . The light balls were suddenly approached by two red lights and then all of them hovered together. The lights all spontaneously disappeared together while he was observing them.

BOL-3 Glacier National Park, Montana. Glacier National Park employees - Aug. 28, 1985. *Source: Richard Seifried.*

Nine people, including families were having a picnic/ farewell party when one wife pointed south toward Divide Mountain. Between the mountains and the group were four lights (some thought five and some six). Four were bright lights and two were dimmer lights, pink in color. These objects were one mile away and made no sound. They flew in no particular pattern and they soon disappeared over St. Mary's Lake. All agreed that these were not conventional aircraft.

Another employee near St. Mary's Lake reported five lights. Three were reddish objects and above the two others. This witness thought the three lights may have been in a pattern and the other two more randomly positioned. There were a total of ten witnesses.

BOL-4 Forest Service employee 12 years in the Forest Service- various jobs including fire and timber. 42 miles south of Winslow, Arizona, 1982.

A man who worked as a receptionist was riding in the back of a friend's truck to go grocery shopping. It was a Friday night and the lights of a local football game were visible. Due west of the truck about 300 feet off the ground was a bright light which suddenly appeared out of nowhere. Spellbound, they pulled off the road to watch

because they did not want to run off the road nor to hit cows that dotted the area.

"It was was not a flare as it was too bright for that and it did not move. We could not determine the shape of the object. We sat there for 15 minutes watching it before the light suddenly went out. In its wake was a luminous, neon, blue halo, with a black center. Eventually the whole thing dissipated. We continued to Winslow."

BOL-5 Anonymous report from Glacier Park, Montana Law Enforcement Ranger.
Source: Richard Seifried.

The officer was sitting outside of a Ranger Station about 11:30 p.m. in the Hudson Bay district of the park. He was waiting for a patrol car so he could go on duty. The sky was very clear and the temperature about 60 degrees. It was eight hours before a powerful storm moved through the area. Across the parking lot and to the right was a garage and a mercury vapor lamp.

Suddenly a bright ball of light about the size of a basketball rose up from the ground and climbed slowly into the sky. As it went higher, it deepened to a darker red color. The object moved straight up and through the trees moving off in an oblique line to the left of the observer. The ascent was rapid. The sighting duration was about 5-10 seconds. The observer was 187 feet from the object's initial position. He found no burned vegetation where it was seen rising from the ground.

No more information is available as the observer wishes to protect his identity.

BOL 6 Lookout with 37 years experience. Near Ellensburg, Washington, 1973 or 1974.

"I had just returned from Cle Elum with groceries and was climbing up the steps of the lookout. It had been a clear day and was a starry night. Off to the far left I observed what I first thought was Mars. I have never seen a light of that color before. I followed the path of the object with binoculars as it moved across the sky to my north. It was very bright and some five miles distant as judged by Brothers Peaks that were just beyond the traveling light. I could hear no sound. The object was veering to the southwest when it suddenly disappeared.

"A few seconds later it came on again almost due south of my lookout near Ellensburg. Its speed was very slow with an even arc. It was a round, white bright light."

BOL 7 A Professional USFS Forester from east side of Cascades in a small town near the Columbia River. Fall of 1959 or 1960.

The man was returning to his USFS office after lunch when he noticed a round silver object high in the sky. It was higher than Mt. Hood and off to the east. Thinking it was a weather balloon he decides to look at it more carefully, he used a transit to better

observe the object.

While in view, the object shot to the north and towards the state of Washington. He said he had never seen anything travel as fast as that object. The next day he searched the newspaper but there was no mention of the event. He felt it was definitely something unusual and he has never seen anything travel that fast except a meteor. The following day there was an article in the *Portland, Oregonian* that other people had seen the object. While he had seen all types of aircraft, cloud formations, weather balloons, etc. since then, he has never seen any object similar to what he saw that day. This man is now a retired Professor.

BOL-8 Gifford Pinchot Forest near Troutlake, Washington. June 1959
(*Sighting by researcher*)

"At approximately. 8:30- 9:30 p.m., June 1959 my wife and I were driving on Highway 141 approaching the outskirts of Troutlake. We were on our way to open the lookout tower and begin our season when we saw a light blue object hovering over the tower that we would be occupying. The sighting occurred on the road about two air miles from the tower. We stopped our car to study the shape and ascertain if it was a reflection of some kind on the windshield. We got out of the car.

"We could see the contours of the landscape clearly. The shape seemed to be about 50 feet above the East Tower. We watched for five or six minutes checking for the position of the moon before we proceeded to Troutlake to find a witness. When we returned to the site some ten minutes later it was gone.

"The night sky was clear and the object hovered without movement. It was a soft, light blue fluorescent color and oval in shape. No sound was heard. It is hard to estimate but I think the shape was maybe 30 to 50 feet across. There was no electricity in the area of the tower nor anywhere near the mountain. The tower is located at 4400 feet .

"For some reason we did not get frightened or think of it as a UFO. I think we tried to put it out of our mind as we did not mention it at the Ranger Station. I think I was not sure how the report would be received."

BOL-9 USFS employee with 5 years of experience as a lookout in the Walla Walla, Washington area. Umatilla Forest 1988

In the fall of the year about 11 p.m., someone called in a spot fire. The man and his partners were fire chasers in the Forest Service and both investigated the call.

While in the area, they saw a luminous, light blue ball of light that was half the size of a full moon. They estimated the object was one mile distant and motionless. It was in sight for 15 seconds and then later for two minutes. Suddenly it crossed the sky at about 180 degrees in about 15 seconds from north to south.

BOL-10 Dun Pear Lookout Idaho-Avery district, Panhandle Forest- Lookout on Middle Sister.

The lookout sights a motionless object low on the horizon to the east. Perhaps frightened by the object, the elk around the lookout run away. Part of the object obscured part of Middle Sister. The object moved closer to the observer and then shot straight up. This happened at the end of July and was at a time when there were many UFO sightings in the Spokane area. The lookout tried to call in the UFO sighting to other lookouts but the transmission did not go through. The event took about 20 minutes and the object was turning green and red.

Lookout was concerned that if word got out about his experience that he might be relieved. Sighting listed in *C. Bacon's History of the Middle Sister Lookout*.

BOL 11 St. Mary's Ranger Station, Glacier National Park, Browning, Montana 1984 June 30th, 1984. *Source: Richard Seifried and CUFO files.*

At approximately 10:30 p.m. A Glacier Park employee and several friends were facing a window when they saw a long line of clouds over the distant mountains from which came a red fireball. It crossed their line of vision with an undulating trajectory. It was traveling at about 12,000 feet. The viewer discounted it being a meteor because of the odd trajectory and flight pattern. It did not rise and was going at a right angle to the prevailing wind. The entire sighting took about three seconds.

BOL-12 This is a second hand report from a very experienced lookout concerning a his fellow lookout's experience at Spring Butte on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon. 1996. *Source: Bill Friday.*

The lookout watched three golden balls of light rise out of Hole in the Ground (a natural canyon in eastern Oregon) and they sped off to the northeast at Mach 7. It was broad daylight. I believe information will be forthcoming as the lookout is being contacted by a friend.

BOL-13 Lookout sighting, eastern Oregon, July 1969. *Source: Loren Gross.*

A glowing green orb changed to red as it flew low on the horizon in the east. It then came towards the tower and shot up out of sight. The lookout saw it off and on for 20 minutes. The object interfered with his radio transmission. He did not report the sighting as he thought he might be relieved of his position as lookout.

BOL-14 Anonymous lookout report from northern California. *Source: Greg Long.*

All the events occurred about 11 p.m. in the general Hayfork, California, area. The objects were seen near the horizon about 20 miles distant. They appeared as orange objects and at any moment would disappear instantly while being watched. Some

were in view for 15 to 20 minutes and while in view they would often make a slow clockwise pattern.

One particular night an object was observed by three lookouts simultaneously, including its sudden disappearance. One lookout reported a motorized noise from the object. It appeared to be within a few miles of her lookout. Oddly enough, when the lookouts began discussing its location by attempting fire finder cross shots, it disappeared.

The objects at different times moved NE, once NW and twice NNE. They appeared to be about 1 degree above the horizon.

BOL-15 Northern California, California Division of Forestry Intermountain Conservation Camp. 1960s. *Source: Jean Bilodeaux.*

A Forestry officer's wife reported a conversation with a couple of guards who shared their UFO sighting stories with her. One night a lookout called in a large bright, almost burning object landing and still visible on the hillside. The lookout wanted the crews to check it out in case of fire.

The boss thought it was a joke and everyone laughed about it. A few minutes later a second lookout called it in and it was still ignored. A third lookout called it in and the supervisor asked if anyone wanted to go and check it out. It was very dark and the roads dirt, as it was in a very remote location. No one now thought it was funny and no one wanted to go check it out.

One guard said he didn't care if the whole country burned up, nothing could make him go out there at night. The next day they went to the site but could find nothing. That was the only call of that type that the lookouts made to that camp while that man was the boss. □

BOL-16 County Forest Ranger, Fitzgerald, Georgia, April 16, 1956. *Source: Randy Hitt.*

The observer was at the National Guard Armory in Fitzgerald when he looked up and saw an odd shape between the sun and the moon. He looked at it through his binoculars and saw that it gave off a glare. It had a definite shape that was between oval and oblong. It could also be seen with the naked eye and shone as bright as a star. It was spotted several times that afternoon and finally moved off in a westerly direction. The object appeared to be at 45 degrees due west. He also saw some aircraft in the area and they were much higher. *Hitt UFO collection / National Archives*

BOL-17 Lookout in Marble Mountain area of northern California, Summer 1990's. The lookout notices an oddly moving ball of light. She was spending time at night on duty, because of a storm and was needed as radio relay. About midnight (on two

different occasions), this ball of light was seen 20 miles away and slightly north of her lookout. She feels that it was a white light with a red light inside. It would stay in one place and then swing around in a small circle. Suddenly it would just shut off and disappeared.

On another occasion she saw it again and it appeared to move towards her and she became frightened. It seemed to be in the corner of the Marble Mountain Wilderness area. The observer does not want her lookout or her name used in any way as she feels it might endanger her job.

BOL-18 Lookout on the Salmon National Forest, Idaho. Summer of 1959. *Anon.*

One night, about 10 or 11, the lookout was looking through a very powerful scope and he saw a red ball of light similar to a powerful campfire glowing in the distance. The dispatcher the next day said he had probably seen a flare up of a fire crowning out. The only problem was that the light was steady and lasted for thirty minutes. The lookout does not believe it was a fire in a tree as it had none of the characteristics of fire.

BOL-19 Bruce Chester Bozeman, Montana 1978. *Source: Elvira Ballard*

The sighting occurred at Twin Lakes- East of the Continental Divide. He was part of a five man survey crew. Chester saw an orange object "whiz" by from NW to SE traveling very fast. More information being is sought.

BOL-20 Red Top lookout- northern California, from a very experienced lookout (still researching date).

The lookout saw an object that generally has the color of the planet Mars. It moved steadily towards him. He then picked up a pair of binoculars and followed the object to a point only five miles from the lookout. It veered past Brothers Peak then changed direction and disappeared. A few seconds later it reappeared and "came on" again and continued south towards Ellensburg. Sighting occurred on a very clear and starry night.

The object appeared "coppery-bronze" in color much like town street lamps. The object was in sight a total of one minute. The object continued on a straight course but disappeared and then it reappeared, still on same flight path. Seeking additional information. No other witnesses.

BOL-21 Lookout in Idaho forest, October 1979, at about 8:45 p.m. *Source: Richard Seifried.*

"I saw an object of considerable size 20 to 30 miles away at an elevation of 20,000'. When I saw it, it was traveling in a E by NE direction. It sailed into a long low cloud and didn't reappear. It was easy to see with the naked eye so it must have been very

large.”

BOL-22 Lookout with 25 years experience. Blue Mountains, Oregon. Fall 1993.

The lookout had 8 years experience as USFS contract worker. The forest worker and his partner set a control fire in a logged unit to burn slash. As the fire burned they continued to clean up the site. They were approaching the top of the ridge when they saw a light in the sky and they watched it for five minutes. The object did not move nor did it make a sound. It was a very intense light but vaguely round and half the size of a match head held at arm's length.

Then it moved south, going behind some trees on the ridge. The two men ran to a point to see it better. The light moved farther south- still very bright- moving faster all the time. After a few seconds it went completely out of sight. They reported event to their supervisor.

Neither the altitude nor the distance from the observers was given. The object was described as fluorescent to silvery- white and very bright. The object was in sight five minutes or more.

BOL- 23 Lookout ...26 years of experience. Montana. 1986

The lookout says she has seen balls of light on four separate occasions balls from towers in Oregon and Montana. In the early 70s or 80s, she saw green balls of light rising in the distance (50-75 miles) rapidly rising and then falling. One of them made an orange burst and then faded away. Another time she saw some green meteors (identified later) .

One (July 7, 1986 near dusk she heard a” whoosh” sound and thought it was a jet fighter, moving from the north and heading toward the tower. It was quite loud when she turned around to look, at which time, it “shut off completely”. She noted in her diary that she had written that it made a “whoosh” sound. She did not even see a shadow or anything that might have accounted for the sound.

She wondered if a plane dived below a ridge or if she just didn't see it. She was the highest peak and she does not understand why a diminishing sound was not seen as it dove into the valley.

BOL-24 Lookout with 38 years of experience. Klamath Forest, California. She has seen the following event about four or five different times.

The most impressive sighting lasted for about 10 to 30 minutes. She saw five orange balls of light in the sky moving from SW to SE. At first she thought it was an airplane but there was no sound. She watched the lights turn off any time an airplane approached their position. They generally moved slowly from E to W, never north to

south. She has seen such lights turn off before when airplanes approached their position.

BOL- 25 Diamond Gap, Washington. 3 p.m. June 24, 1947. *Source: Loren Gross.*

The lookout reports flashes in the distance, quite high up in the east. They seem to be going in a straight line and make strange noises, higher pitched than an airplane. *Portland Oregonian June 29, 1947: Source: Loren Gross.*

BOL- 26 Lookout for three years Willamette and Umpqua Forests, Oregon. 1962-63-64.

On the southern horizon he saw with his naked eyes an object that moved at high speed. He estimated that the object was 50 miles away. It was the size of Venus, but much brighter. Larger than a satellite, it moved across the entire southern sky for a few minutes before slightly bending down in trajectory lower than the horizon. It was too low to be a satellite and it was VERY BRIGHT WHITE. Recorded in log book, 1963.

BOL-27 A longtime fire fighter. Sighting near Whitworth College, Washington. 1981.

One night this man saw a large, bright shape, as bright as a full moon and one and a half times larger. It moved across the horizon east to west in five seconds. He saw it in nighttime sky at about 20 degrees above the horizon. He called the local crime check police operator and reported what he had seen. She just laughed. No other information given.

BOL-28 Lookout near the Pacific Ocean, Southern Oregon. 1995

On a very clear day the lookout saw a long, brilliant, wide, lime- green band that covered half the skyline. It appeared to have "bubbles" within it. It was overhead and did not move very much.

BOL- 29 Very experienced lookout in Idaho forest October, 1979 about 8:30 p.m. *Source: Richard Seifried.*

The lookout saw very unusual, flashing slivers of light of intense blue were seen over the face of Salmon Mountain. This flashing lasted for three minutes and the lookout could make no reference of what it might have been. She felt she had seen unusual UFO activity in that area before.

BOL-30 Lookout, forest service employee. Northern California 1978

This person was worked on a block burn with a companion at about 11 p.m.. They noticed a red glowing ball of light. It was on the skyline and it was visible for about ten minutes. They started up hill to see it better but the light moved behind a ridge. No sound was heard.

BOL-31 Lookout with 15 years of experience, northern California.

This lookout was returning to the lookout with supplies when she stopped at Blake mountain. She saw a green fluorescent shape the size of the moon that exhibited a tail. She waited for 30 seconds and noted its path was in one direction and then it slowed and it changed direction. The light suddenly went out and the lookout feels it was definitely not a meteor. The estimated distance was six miles.

SUMMARY OF TABULATED DATA

Objects reported by lookout

Structured objects (discs-tubes-triangles etc).....43 %
Brilliant ball of light (various sizes).....39.5%

The descriptions of objects in this report are very similar to UFO events throughout the world. The greatest percentage of sightings of various colored balls of light tally well with Long's study. (see addendum) It should also be noted that as a circular object is rotated, it can take on the appearance of several different shapes such as, **an oval, a lens, cigar, pie pan, hockey pucks, plates, saucer etc. All these terms were used to describe some of the structured craft seen by lookouts.**

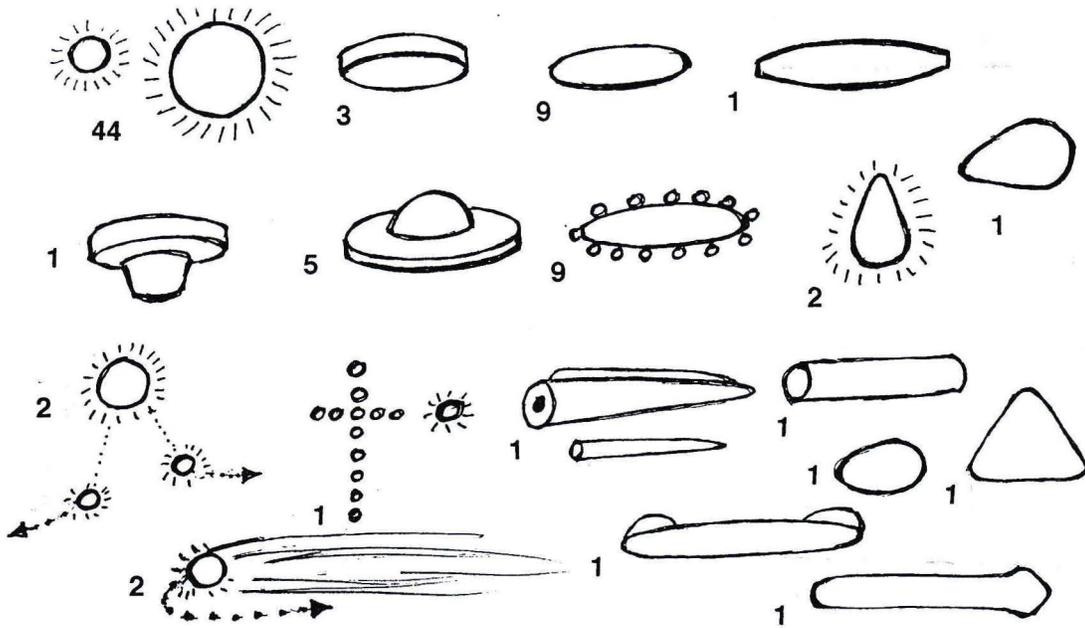
The sightings in this study were generally split 50-50 between Structured Craft and Balls of Light. The Structured Crafts were almost invariably described as a shiny metallic color. In other research studies, colored ovals or Balls of Light have occasionally turned into Structured Craft and it happened once in this study also. The illustrations show the shapes of craft that were reported in this study.

Structured craft- as described

** Symmetrical objects with running lights.....18 %
** Lens-oval-egg shape.....18 %
** Round-solid silver.....17 %
** Round-oval crafts with top structure.....10 %
** Flat or hubcaps.....6 %
** Cigar shape.....2 %
** Triangle.....2 %
** Egg shape.....2 %
** Stove pipe or rod shapes.....2 %
** amorphous form changing to metal shape.....2 %
** Tear drop-Arrow-Clam-Cross-- all other.....18 %

SEE DRAWINGS OF OBJECTS SIGHTED ON FOLLOWING PAGE.

DRAWINGS OF VARIOUS CRAFTS



COLORS TO DESCRIBE OBJECTS SEEN

White-silvery white.....	35%
Orange-coppery-yellow gold.....	17%
Blue-blue-white.....	15%
Red-reddish.....	13%
Fluorescent green.....	07%
Brown.....	03%
Multi-colored lights.....	09%
Not mentioned.....	01%

The two main colors are once again similar to Long's study. It also should be noted that it is not uncommon for UFO's to be reported changing colors in a relatively short time. That might indicate some kind of ignition or transition of power.

Intellectually there seems to be little emotional significance attached to seeing "balls of light". However, there is a definite link between the coolness of intellectual interest and fear when the proximity of the sighting changes. In other words, when UFOs approach the lookout tower or the individual in a form of a close encounter, then the individual suffers anxiety.

Note the number of circumstances when lookouts either attempt to hide them selves, flee the tower or when they become afraid to report the event to supervisors. In far too

supervisors. Many circumstances, over 10 %, individuals report their worries about calling or reporting the events.

Three lookouts in this study were approached by brilliant blue/white balls of light which were quite large and so luminescent that they hid themselves in their bed covers or sleeping bags. Another person had the flashing object appear over her tower and feigned sleep out of fear. Another couple fled the tower and in two cases lookouts stuck it out, but their animals hid or fled the area. I found the expression of "fear " in reporting their experiences or in hiding, or being alarmed by what they saw in 12% of the events. The reader might use some empathy to assess the psychological impact of these events.

Some might find humor here but I can guarantee that my personal experience of a medium, close approach was a very frightening experience. It is time for the Forest Service to give lookouts some idea as to what might be natural phenomena and given an opportunity to report any other anomalies. This study also finds that employees expressed hesitancy or that they would be, or were made fun of for reporting the events. If I had required the names and locations of the lookouts in this study I would not have had enough persons to make a report. I think this indicates that some kind of consideration should be in order by the USFS supervisors.

These objects range from metallic discs and glowing shapes to symmetrical objects with lights. Their movements are described from extremely slow to speeds faster than present day aircraft can fly. Remember, from the first seconds that lookouts see these objects, they are trying to **compare** such phenomena to objects that lookouts normally see. The reports in this study are made by experienced observers and they consider these objects to be **anomalies**.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

I now have 82 sightings in my collection. Finding material for this study has been difficult because the investigator had no assistance by which I could poll the present and past lookouts. Here are some of my conclusions:

** Most experienced lookouts that I have been able to contact have never seen UFOs, but many of them give me names of lookouts who have seen them. Without their help, and that of the FFLA, this study could not have been made.

** The paths and directions of these objects indicate they are controlled movements. Most lookouts are seeing balls of light and structured objects that do not seem not to be natural events. (see addendum for descriptions of comets, ball lightning, etc.) Objects seem to hover, travel at great speed, and at times, move at very odd angles.

** Whether moving at great speed or hovering, most of the objects are silent. In some cases this was a main element of fear in the sightings. A few lookouts report strange noises near their tower but could not see any visible sources for the sounds.

** About one-half of the objects seen at a great distance are identified as balls of light or spheres. Upon closer approaches the objects usually take on definite shapes unless the luminosity is so great that the viewer is momentary blinded from seeing the real shape.

** Some objects seem to "go off" or disappear. On some occasions, this happens in front of the observers' eyes. In a few cases the object itself is not seen but large parts of the sky are blackened out in a definite symmetrical shape.

** Many objects are reported to have running lights and most of these patterns have a circular or oval shape. Some objects seem to be balls of various colored lights of great luminosity. Some larger objects eject smaller shapes which maneuver independently and then often merge again with a larger shape.

** There is a great difference between seeing UFOs at a distance and seeing them up close. Close approach sightings are VERY FRIGHTENING. The USFS indeed needs to find a way for lookouts to report such events and to be psychologically supportive of such reports when and if they occur. It would be advisable encourage to employees to report the event to the organization listed below. (See Recommendations)

** People in remote areas are the most frequent observers of such unexplained objects. USFS personnel are often working in the open landscape and they are the ones who see such objects. The USFS personnel working IN OFFICES are not likely to identify with nor to experience such sightings. Seeing that a few of these sightings can be very dramatic and upsetting.

1. The USFS should at least let lookouts know what are the natural anomalies they are likely to see. (St. Elmo's Fire, Comets, Meteors, Sun Dogs, Ball Lightning etc.)

2. Encourage the lookouts and others not to be hesitant to report other anomalies and to suggest to supervisors of lookouts not to deride any sightings reported. It is important to remember that just because one has not had an experience does not mean others have not experienced an unusual event. The USFS should be supportive of their employees who have such experiences.

3. Let it be known that personnel can contact the National UFO Reporting Center with any anomaly which, by its nature, they cannot understand or that gives them anxiety.

** Lookouts should be advised as to the nature of St. Elmos Fire, Ball Lightning, Comets, Sun Dogs, Meteors, Aurora Borealis, etc. and to know how to recognize them. They should be given the opportunity to record and report any phenomena that does not fall into these categories. The term UFOs means exactly that, Unidentified Flying Objects. (see Addendum)

** This "pilot study" was been created so that Forest Service administrators can see that anomalies are being seen by some of their employees. The USFS should give enough credence to this problem to consider a self study be made of lookouts' experiences. I can report from my limited research that lookouts will not report such experiences without some encouragement. It is significant that without granting anonymity to the respondents of this study- there would have been **no research results** to present.

Lookout positions are few in number and are very competitively sought. Lookouts do not wish to create a "reputation" for having UFO experiences. Lookouts often tell me of their experiences but will not let me record them even if I promise anonymity.

I will end my examples with this quotation from a man who had worked for the Forest Service in several capacities, including as a lookout.

"In 1966 I was working on the Lolo National Forest in Montana. We had just put out a small lightning fire... the time was 3 a.m." Someone said, 'Listen, did you hear that?' The men joked about the sound being made by a bear or a moose and they were kidding a new man.

"Then I said, maybe it was an alien from a UFO. A young man who was extremely forest wise, a native of the valley, jumped up, hurried over to the power wagon, climbed into the front seat and locked the doors. I asked what was wrong? The other locals were displeased with me.

Another worker said, 'Don't ever say anything like that again. He has seen things he won't talk about and what you said frightened him.' We all became very solemn, the fun having been taken out of us by my remark."

UFOs are seen all over the United States and the world. UFOs are seen by law enforcement offices, the military, amateur pilots and by persons of every profession. We do not yet know the nature of such experiences but there are organizations who classify and study such phenomena. The USFS should participate or encourage in the reporting of such anomalies to appropriate organizations and to provide support to those experiencing these sometimes alarming events.

The most important center in the United States in my opinion is the **NATIONAL UFO REPORTING CENTER -PO Box 45623-University Station, Seattle , Wa,98145** Their telephone number is **206-722-3000**

The author has no connection to the above organization but he believes it is the best organization to receive such reports. Many government agencies and police departments use this organization.

FINAL COMMENTS TO THE USFS

In 1998 I sent a copy of a much smaller pilot study of my findings to Dr. Mary Jo Lavin, Director of Fire Control in Washington DC. She replied in two different letters stating in part:

* "In general, as a safety consideration, we require all our personnel to focus on their assignments rather than on pursuits or issues unrelated to overall natural resource protection mission" (6/5/1988)

* "The Forest Service does not have a statutory responsibility to collect this information. We would only collect this information only out of curiosity and curiosity does not justify substituting a UFO reporting system for what are higher agency priorities." 7/10/98

* " We cannot justify, however, spending the time and the money to create a survey and reporting system when there are other groups or individuals better able to provide that system." 7/10/98

I agree with all of her above statements. (Dr. Lavin's letters included in the addendum.) My simple requests now focus on three goals (see pages 36 and 37). This does not require the USFS to do anything that is not reasonable and it does not interfere (in my opinion) with the basic mission statements. The **Forest Service Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles (9/6/96)** includes this statement: "Listening to people and responding to their needs.....Employees work in a caring

and nurturing environment.....Employees are respected and accepted and appreciated.....Use the best scientific knowledge in making decisionand....sensitive to the effect of our decisions on people and resources.”

I would assume this criteria applies to all employees including lookouts. As you can see from some of the examples of sightings, there seems to be a need for my three suggestions. In conclusion, I am not so foolish or reckless as to tell the USFS how to do their job which I think you do admirably. My study points to possible problems that occasionally occur in the fire suppression program. Perhaps it might be possible to make a small adjustment in your training procedures to address these problems.

I do not ask anything further. I created this informal research study to try and make clear some of the unique aspects that lookout and field personnel experience and about which you may not have been aware. Thank you.

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***** I WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING RESEARCHERS FOR THE LOAN AND USE OF SOME OF THE KEY SIGHTINGS IN THIS PAPER. WITHOUT THEIR HELP AND COOPERATION, MY STUDY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. JAN ALDRICH, RICHARD SEIFRIED, LOREN GROSS, DAVID AKERS and GREG LONG, GARY FREELAND, MICHAEL HITT, JEAN BILODEAUX, (See addendum), W.J. VOGEL (Deceased), and the many lookouts who shared their experiences with me and to any others that I may have inadvertently not named). I GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO JEAN BILODEAUX AND MY WIFE MARTHA DÖERTER FOR THEIR EDITING AND COMMENTS.

ADDENDUM

CATEGORY I

SOME DESCRIPTIONS OF NATURAL PHENOMENA

* **Comets**-regularly occurring small masses (usually composed of ice and dust) that burn in outer space. They usually trail a gaseous tail. Normally this tail points away the direction of the sun. They have nearly indiscernible movement and are generally well publicized in the media.

* **Meteors**-A class of heavenly body seen as streaks of light in the night sky. If they are brighter than the planet Venus they are called Fireballs and if they are less in brightness than Venus, they are called shooting stars. They are usually only seen for a few seconds and usually travel in a straight line or a wide arc.

***St. Elmo's fire**-Brush electrical charges of electricity that can appear on tall objects during the time of storms. Positive charges are red in color and negative charges are blue in color. These are relatively small objects in size and are in view a short time.

* **Ball Lightning**- Forms of lightning that move at a moderate speed and are highly luminous. They are quite small in size and they have a short duration ending most often in a noiseless implosion. They can on occasions explode with a report.

* **Earth lights**-(also called Earthquake lights) These are very rarely seen discharges of electricity in the form of orangish or yellow- orangish balls of highly luminous light. They are believed to be created by enormous tensions in the earth plates. They are short in duration and might be seen before , during or after earthquakes or tremors. Very little is known or scientifically proven about this phenomenon.

* **Weather balloons** - Large circular or elliptical weather balloons are sometimes seen at high altitude and have a very slow controlled movement. They are usually silver or metallic in color.

* **Sun Dogs or False Suns**- A rare condition of the atmosphere that causes illusions of halo suns. These usually round halos have a color and are often arranged in a par helix circle.

CATEGORY II - PARTIAL LIST OF UFO / ANOMALIES

UNUSUAL METALLIC CRAFT OTHER THAN CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

These craft do not have the appearance or flight patterns of normal aircraft or helicopters. They may appear as round, disc, triangular, cigar shaped or even a modified boomerang shape.

They may travel at tremendous speeds, hover, change flight angles very abruptly, descend in wafting patterns and have been seen on occasion, to suddenly disappear. Most are reported as completely silent although some seem to have distinctive sounds.

FLUORESCENT SHAPES

Very luminescent balls of light which stay in view for considerable periods of time hovering and exhibiting patterns of flight that are similarly described in the category above. Most shapes are round and oval but other shapes are seen on occasion. Their flight patterns are quite different from comets and meteors, they exhibit very controlled movements and usually fly off at high speed. They have an intense luminosity and most often are seen as a yellowish-whitish or brilliant fluorescent blue in color. Some seem to just "go out" or disappear.

UNUSUAL SOUNDS WITHOUT APPARENT VISUAL SOURCES

A rare event where a distinct sound can be heard in proximity to the tower but no object can be seen. It is important to describe the sound carefully and to note its duration.

CATEGORY III

METHOD OF REPORTING

1. Draw a picture, to the best of your ability, of what you saw.
2. Write a description of what happened. Include the date, time, location, elevation, altitude, color, direction of flight, duration, effects upon animals, humans (feelings before and after), vegetation etc. (This form was not sent out to everyone in this study as most sightings came in without any initiation or contact from me).

BACKGROUND OF LONG'S STUDY - I am particularly indebted to researcher-writer Greg Long for the use of some of his sightings in this study. For anyone wishing to seriously pursue the nature of the sightings of this period (1960s-1970s), this is a must read book.

Some of the data in this research comes from the book *Examining the Earth Light Theory-The Yakama Microcosm*. Mr. Long's data is more elaborate than my own. He has analyzed some 200 separate sightings gathered by Bill Vogel and David Akers. Vogel was a fire control officer at the Yakama Indian Reservation. These reports were gathered from the late 1960's throughout the 1970's. Mr. Long and David Akers reviewed information from the original reports of lookouts, field workers and from personal interviews. These examples are included with Mr. Long's permission.

His book is a careful analysis of sightings in this 1.25 million acre reservation. Long also met and interviewed Mr. Vogel before his death and found him to be a very creditable individual. Long was particularly interested in studying balls of light (usually orange or white in color) the phenomena most reported by individuals. He wanted to see if the theories of Michael Persinger (Prof. of Psychology and Neuro-Physiology) and John Derr (U.S. Geological Survey) could account for the phenomena at Yakama.

The researchers held that almost all activity reported as anomalies can be accounted for by the stresses and strains of geological land forms. The ideas relate to electrical energies that can, and do on rare occasions, generate electrical phenomena.

The Earth is 7,918 miles in diameter, but the Earth's crust is only about 25 miles thick. This crust, floating on a dynamic bed of magma, reacts to the pressures from below and subsequent grinding of forces causes not only earthquakes but massive amounts of energy. Some of this power can be released in the form of electrically charged balls of light. These balls can be seen briefly for periods of time before and

after earthquakes of 4.5 magnitude or greater.

Persinger and Derr believe that Earth tensions are responsible for almost all anomalies reported on land as well as in the skies. In 1981 a researcher at the Bureau of Mines subjected small amounts of a granite core to pressures of 32,000 PSI and produced short-lived balls of light. However, most of the sightings in my study don't fall into these categories. The visual description and duration of UFO movements certainly show some kind of directed maneuvers.

Long's study also concluded that many objects in the Yakama area did not follow the Earth Light Theory. His study was on balls of light but observers also spoke of a variety of objects including some metallic shapes. These metallic appearing objects were not the focus of the Long-Akers research.

I also submit that ball lightning probably does not fit many cases. It is generally observed in connection with lightning storms and, even then the balls of light do not last more than a few seconds and are only 4 to 16 inches in diameter.

It is also interesting to note that in Long's book, the observers described shapeless-luminous forms as like LIGHTS 97% of the time as opposed to STARS. Apparently people can tell the difference between stars and something completely different. The following is a sample summary of three of Long's Yakama reports:

**** Satus Peak, October 16, 1967 - 9:25 a.m. "Saw a funny looking long thing going northwest to southeast, silver in color, long like a snake. Above the tree tops. Very uniform in size and evenly spaced." The lookout drew in her log a horizontal string of twelve circles, the first left hand circle was twice as large as the eleven others which were of the same size."

**** Satus Peak, October 28, 1972- 6 or 6:30 p.m. for 30 minutes. Lookout observed a two story sized object hovering over Medicine Valley. The object was above the surrounding ridges although not very high. A "dark shape of a body" was discernible although the exact shape was unknown. With the naked eye, the lookout saw a very bright, steady white light on the bottom end. Through binoculars, she saw a flashing red light on the bottom portion of the side facing her. After 30 minutes, the lookout grew tired of watching as she was continuously watching through binoculars. She then went inside the lookout."

**** Satus Peak, September 14, 1983. 1:50 a.m. "I was sitting up in bed looking around. All of the sudden, a bright white light came on several miles away in the south west of the micro station. I saw what seemed to be a beam shoot up in the air for just a second."

"Then the light went out. A minute or two later, the bright white light came on again over the Lake Beds area. It turned to an orange light like I see once in awhile and then it went out. This was just above the south boundary horizon. I had the binoculars right

beside the bed and grabbed them and looked, saw it real good. Just wished it could have lasted longer.” (Note: the beam was like a “huge spotlight”. It went out a few seconds after the lookout observed it.”)

Information taken from Examining the Earth light theory, a Yakama Microcosm-
Published by the J.Allen Hyneck Center for UFO Studies, Chicago, Il. 1990

3

SEE NEXT PAGE

RANGE OF SIGHTING DATES (STILL TRYING TO OBTAIN SOME DATES)

1999- 1

96- 1

95- 3

94-

93- 2

92

91- 2

90

89- 2

88- 2

87

86

85- 2

84- 4

83- 3

82- 3

81- 2

80- 1

79- 4

78- 4

77- 1

76- 3

75- 3

74- 1

73- 1

72- 1

71- 1

70- 2

69- 2

TIME PERIOD OF VOGEL'S 200 SIGHTINGS- 1960'S-1970'S- Yakama RESERVATION
(the Yakama Indians now have changed the spelling of Yakima to Yakama)

68- 1

67- 3

66- 1

65- 1

64- 3

63- 2

62- 1

61

60- 1

59- 3

58-

57- 3

56- 1

55- 1

54

53- 2

52

51

50- 2

49

48- 1

47- 3

SIGHTINGS WITH NO REPORTED DATES..... 2