

WFO REPORTING
FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS
5 - 7 August 1963

On 6 August 1963 information was received at Wright-Patterson AFB that an Unidentified Flying Object had been observed in Fairfield, Illinois. The information was essentially that carried over the news circuits.

"Ronnie Austin and his girl friend, Myllie Hunt, had been to a Drive-In Movie. Coming home they were chased by a flying object as big as an eagle, which at times passed in front of them, along side, and at times trailing the car. After taking Miss Hunt home Ronnie then proceeded to his own home while the observer continued to chase. By this time he was in a state of shock and was given sedatives on the advice of the family doctor. The parents of Ronnie called Harry Lee, the Deputy Sheriff of Fairfield, Illinois, and he proceeded to the farmhouse with Mr George Swanson, village Marshall of Jasper County, to observe the object which was now resembling the Fireball. Upon arrival the object was identified as the 'wreath star' (Jupiter). Two youths visited the object from the Austin farmhouse until it disappeared with the coming of dawn."

Scott AFB was contacted and requested to investigate the sighting under AFM 200-2.

Information received from Scott AFB confirmed that the object resembling the Fireball was indeed Jupiter. However, since the story was attracting national interest through the news media, and additional sightings were being reported in the area, an investigation team from Wright-Patterson AFB conducted an additional field investigation.

The following information is extracted from this report:

"Ronnie Austin and Myllie Hunt were driving north on Illinois highway 15 at approximately 0900Z hours on 5 August 1963. At this time Mr Austin noticed a bright object at approximately 40 degree elevation to the right of his automobile. Observers were traveling in a valley of the road and approximately 30 miles from the Elwood Transformer Sub-Station. Object was next observed at an elevation of 25 degrees while observers were near a Micro-Wave transmitting station. Object now appeared to change course from the right to the left of the car. While observers were still traveling east on highway 15, object appeared in the east at an elevation of approximately 25 degrees. Observers changed direction and were traveling north, the object appearing in the east at an elevation of 35 degrees.

When Mr Austin arrived at Miss Hunt's home he went inside and stayed for about 15 minutes. From Miss Hunt's house, the object appeared in the east at an elevation of 35 degrees. On his way home, Mr Austin 'floor-boarded' the accelerator and drove as fast as his car would go. During