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REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT

Date: May 17, 1962

Place: National City, Calif.

Time: APPROXIMATELY 8:00 Pacific Daylight time

I had put my car in the garage and as is my habit, I walked to the driveway to look at the stars. I had centered my attention on the Big Dipper, part of the constellation Ursa Major. I saw what I thought was the trail of a large meteor stream, approximately 5 degrees or so east of a line between the two pointer stars and almost exactly to the center of the four stars forming the dipper

The trail was of a red color and appeared to be coming down at about an angle of 20 degrees to my line of sight and in a southeasterly direction. Only the red trail was visible for about two seconds and then a small white dot became visible, from which the trail was emanating. The speed appeared to be fantastic and so I quickly thought the object was what is commonly called a "meteor" or "shooting star." The object continued down and the trail continued for about 2 or 3 more seconds. At this time the white object had an apparent diameter of about 1/8 to 1/16 inch. The trail faded and the object still continued coming down. The speed appeared to be decreasing and I noted a certain erratic quality in the flight of the object, which by now appeared to have a self-luminous or fluorescence quality.

As soon as the trail faded I was convinced that the object could not be a meteor, so I immediately called to my wife who did not hear me because of the noise of the television set and the noise the children were making. It was necessary for me to call her three or four times before she heard me and came out. This is the basis for estimating that after the trail faded, another 10 seconds must have elapsed before the object had attained level flight.

I speak of the fluorescence quality of the light emitted by the object, as opposed to the self-luminous quality of the lights of aircraft. There were no large red stars from 19 to 20 arc apparent around the intensely brilliant light of a full moon type light seen at a distance.

The leveling-off process of the object seemed to require several miles of altitude and the radius of the course must have been several miles. I had with my wife Jack into the house to obtain my 6-power telescope to order that I might see the object more closely. When she returned the object was flying level on a course almost due west. The object passed over and at a considerably higher altitude than a light plane which was flying almost due south at an estimated altitude of 2000 to 3000 ft. I estimated the altitude of the object at this point of its trajectory to be from 10,000 to 15,000 feet. It appeared at this time appeared to be within the range of known aircraft speeds. To the naked eye the object appeared as a sphere of about 1/16 inch diameter. The fluorescence was of a white color fading toward yellow. Through the telescope the object presented a larger disk but the brightness did not appreciable increase. There was a slight blue halation visible through the telescope which I believe may be attributed to chromatic aberration, since the blue color was not apparent to the naked eye.

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