

CIVILIAN SAUCER INTELLIGENCE OF NEW YORK  
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CSI NEWS LETTER

The "Silly Season" For City Editors

An example of editorial attitude to UFOs that the CSI researchers recently encountered suggests one highly unsensational explanation as to why so few UFO reports have appeared of late in the press. On March 18th, the Long Island Press printed three photographs of an object allegedly seen over Ozone Park at an unspecified time. The account gave very little detail, apart from the photographer's name, Frank Agli, and in an attempt to learn more, we called the paper and spoke to one of the city editors.

He assured us that the photographs were run merely as a lark (as their caption clearly indicated), and that their appearance in the L.I.P. by no means endorsed them as being genuine. We explained that we were interested in learning more about them from the photographer himself; the editor was most uncooperative. Not only could nothing be added to the account, he couldn't even give us the address of the fellow. Agli's story, according to the L.I.P. editor, wasn't unusual; the paper received calls about sightings three or four times a week. Somewhat taken aback, we asked him what the paper did with these reports.

"We refer them to Mitchel Field—they're the ones who receive this kind of call," was his candid reply. Besides, he was convinced that the public no longer took this sort of thing seriously.

He expected that more calls of this type would be coming in now, since "it's the season for flying saucers." When we remarked that we'd heard that the summer was usually set aside for such frivolities, he retorted that "it starts along about now and continues on through the end of August."

What we found most remarkable was the fact that this very same editor had himself observed three disc-like objects "playing tag" over Long Island one time last year. We were extremely curious to know why this account hadn't been printed in the L.I.P. and were again informed that a report had been made out "to the proper authorities" at Mitchel Field.

We hung up, frustrated and sure of only one thing: the editorial "silly season" on saucers runs from the end of March, all right, but it doesn't end by September.

It never ends.

- Ted Bloecher

Recent CSI News

Sanderson Meeting: On March 29th a small audience was held spellbound by the distinguished naturalist and author, and valued friend of CSI, Ivan Sanderson, who treated us to a brilliant disquisition on many aspects of the UFO problem, including the question of their power source (most probably, in his opinion, "teleportation"). There is no doubt that none of our speakers has had such a mesmeric effect on his listeners. We are deeply grateful to Ivan for his generosity with his valuable time. Regretfully, many people who wanted very much to hear him were deprived of the opportunity by the Post Office's negligence in delivering the announcements. A full report of his discussion will be ready in a few weeks and will be sent to all members.

Edwards Meeting: This important occasion marked the first public appearance of the well-known newscaster, Frank Edwards, in New York since 1954, and also, (surprisingly) the first time he has ever lectured specifically on UFOs. CSI'ers and guests who had the privilege of hearing him on April 28th were amply rewarded: he described many sensational unpublished incidents, including the "second Mantell case" of January 9th, 1956, over southern Indiana (see section on recent sightings), and gave important details on the celebrated Hopkinsville, Kentucky, "landing" of last August--details that have not previously been published in UFO literature. (The object landed for the first time some hours before the "little men" appeared; these were first seen jumping over a fence and were mistaken for dogs!)

Here too the audience was smaller than it should have been--under 300, in spite of a mailing of 2000 announcements, advertisements in the Post and Herald Tribune, and a press release sent to more than twenty New York and suburban newspapers and radio-TV broadcasters. This time the Post Office can not be blamed, and the result is somewhat embarrassing to us, as it must likewise have been to Mr. Edwards. The things Edwards had to say should have been heard by many more people.

The report of this meeting is also being prepared and will be sent to the members with the Sanderson résumé as soon as they are both ready.

We'd like to extend thanks to the people that helped out so unselfishly at both of these recent meetings: Yeaman Condict, Mary Coryn, George Warren, John DuBarry, Maurene Chenoweth, Mary Lou Gillespie, Steve & Bea Roman, and Ed Jazwa. Herman Mitchell took care of taping the Edwards' talk.

Financially speaking, CSI gained \$60.00 on the Sanderson meeting and lost \$140.00 on the Edwards meeting. Our heads are still above water, but not by much.

Forthcoming Meetings: On Saturday, May 26th, Gray Barker will speak for us at Roosevelt Auditorium (100 E. 17th St.) on "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers." An announcement with more details will follow. New Jersey readers may find it more convenient to attend Gray's lecture in Newark on May 24th at Griffith Foundation Auditorium, 605 Broad Street (auspices of the North Jersey UFO Group). Shortly after the Barker meeting, the season's last members' meeting will take place, when CSI policy and organization for the coming season will be discussed.

#### Other News

UFOs On Film: A most important event will be the release of the Russell Rouse-~~Clarence~~ Greene production from Hollywood, named "Unidentified Flying Objects." This eagerly awaited film will be seen in Los Angeles after May 9th, and will be released elsewhere shortly after that. Dealing exclusively with the UFO enigma, the producers have had the cooperation of top men like Ruppelt, Major Dewey Fournet (see Keyhoe's "FS From Outer Space," pp. 69, 94, 118, 220) and Al Chop, former Civilian Information Specialist for the Air Force at the Pentagon. This film is the sort of thing that might change the UFO picture overnight....

Mars On TV: On Wednesday night, July 25th, NBC TV will devote an hour and a half to our planet neighbor, Mars. In color, the "Mars Spectacular" will offer millions of viewers little known facts about the red planet. Rumor has it that UFOs will play some part in the program; also, that some of the heretofore secret data compiled in the summer of 1954 by the Mars Committee, who went to South Africa for observation of the red planet's most recent close opposition, will be finally made available to the public. This is a presentation not to be missed.

UFOs In Print: John Kobler's article about a notorious saucer "researcher" here in New York was published in the Saturday Evening Post of March 10th. Kobler's admitted excuse for writing such trash was that "a little humor on the subject couldn't hurt it," and the Post's poor taste in justifying the appearance in its pages was written in a letter to Lex Liebane, CSI Sec'y-Treasurer:

"I think Mr. Kobler's article could be described as a good-natured spoof," said Mr. Tom Stevens, Assistant Managing Editor, blandly in his letter to Lex. We mainly object to the inclusion of CSI and other hard-working and serious groups in this "good-natured spoof" and hope that in the future the Saturday Evening Post will use a little more taste and discretion in its articles on UFOs.

New Saucer Books: Everyone will want FRANK EDWARDS's book My First Ten Million Sponsors, now scheduled for early June release (Ballantine, 35c; also hardcover edition.) As those who were fortunate enough to get one of the advance copies given out at the meeting already know, one chapter is devoted to flying saucers. --On or about June 8th Criterion Books will issue its English translation of ADÈ MICHEL's Lueurs sur les Soucoupes Volantes, under the title of The Truth About Flying Saucers. This has been extensively revised and annotated--in some places, rewritten--by the Research Section of C.S.I., and it naturally has our enthusiastic recommendation. We're glad to acknowledge the cooperation of Mr. Sidney Phillips of Criterion, who accepted nearly all of the numerous and important alterations that we suggested. Michel's book is probably the most thoughtful one on the subject yet to appear, with a careful case-by-case consideration of the various "explanations" proposed. It describes in detail a number of new and important French and African cases, with a long and informative section on the Marignane landing, and is the first saucer book to expose in detail the fallacies of Donald Menzel's attempts at "explanation" by optical effects. --GRAY BARKER's They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers (University Books, \$3.50) is already in the bookstores. At the May 26th meeting Gray will tell us more about the sensational and controversial story told in his book, which may attract wide attention. --WAVENEY GIRVAN's excellent Flying Saucers and Common Sense has been reprinted by Citadel Press without alteration (except for the omission of the index): price \$3.50. (For half this price one can order the original edition from England, but of course this takes longer.) Girvan wrote his book in late 1954; it would be interesting to know his present views on George Adamski's story, whose truth he accepted at that time. --An exceptionally handsome production is The Complete Book of Space Travel, by ALBRO GAUL, illustrated by the celebrated VIRGIL FINLAY (World Pub. Co., \$4.95) Chapter 23, "The Saucer Makers", is thoroughly sensible. The Science Book of Space Travel, by HAROLD L. GOODWIN (Pocket Books reprint, 35c; first published in 1954) is also unequivocally recommended: the author, Director of Atomic Test Operations for the Civil Defense Administration, is a Fortean, and completely sound on the subject of flying saucers.

#### RECENT U F O SIGHTINGS

January 9, 1956: The famous and tragic "Mantell case" of January 7, 1948 was repeated with uncanny fidelity, in virtually the original location. The victim was a personal friend of Frank Edwards, to whom we owe the details that follow. No news papers gave the full story.

Shortly after sunset, unknown objects were reported over southern Indiana. Jets were scrambled from the National Guard airfield at Louisville, Ky. (only 35 miles from Godman Field), but lost the UFOs in the gathering darkness. However, they were accompanied by their commanding officer, Colonel Lee Merkel, in a P-51 Mustang, which could fly for a longer time than the jets. He continued along on the course indicated, and soon reported to the Louisville tower that he could see a blinking, luminous object moving along a cloud bank above him. He climbed after it, and at 30,000 feet reported that he was now above the object, and gradually closing in. This was his last message. A few minutes later Merkel's plane exploded a few hundred feet above a farmhouse south of Bloomington, Indiana, partially wrecking the house, and scattering fragments for a quarter of a mile. In Edwards' opinion this tremendous explosion was unnatural and inexplicable. Since Col. Merkel, unlike Mantell, carried oxygen, the tragedy cannot be attributed to pilot "blackout."

February 11, 1956: From Bastrop, Louisiana, came a report of five UFOs with "things shooting out of the sides." A silvery object was first seen by Larry Thompson, 12, in the late afternoon; he called his brothers, Ernest Ray, 8, and Marshall Carl, 15, who spotted another shiny object. The children then summoned their parents, and they all watched five of the shiny UFOs, which were about "the size of the evening star" (Venus), darting rapidly back and forth high in the sky over Bastrop. As the objects approached each other, they would turn from a shiny silver to a glowing orange, and discharge a sort of "smoke screen." This was followed by the release of smaller "spark-like" objects from the sides of the larger UFOs. While the five large objects had a definite round appearance, the smaller ones "really looked like saucers." There were as many as 500 of the smaller "saucers" flitting about. They maneuvered at high altitudes for 45 minutes before the large ones disappeared toward the east and north, while the smaller ones moved away in all directions. The police were finally contacted by 5 p.m., but when they went out to look, there was nothing to be seen. However, the state police had been alerted to be on the lookout for a CAA weather balloon which presumably was in the area. The Bastrop Enterprise for February 16 does not state whether or not the balloon was finally located.

February 15, 1956: Another "launching" was reported from Keansburg, New Jersey. At 9:30 p.m. six persons, including one woman and her three teen-age children, were all together when the objects were sighted over Sycamore Avenue. At first, a large lighted disc-shaped object was seen hovering over the area; then two smaller discs were ejected from the larger object, and all three sped away at high speed, the two smaller discs following the parent object. Highlands Air Force Station was immediately informed of the incident by the Keansburg police department, who had received the witnesses calls. According to Captain Feltey of the 26th Air Division at Roslyn, Long Island, radar equipment found nothing. Accounts of this observation came from the Long Branch (N.J.) Daily Record, 2/18, and the Keansburg News, 2/23.

February 18, 1956: Two girls driving along Tilton Avenue in Atlantic City saw a golden, disc-shaped object with a haze surrounding it, at 8:30 p.m. "It was as big as the setting sun," one of the girls reported. "It was circling slowly and came down almost to the treetops. Then it darted into the air and out of sight." The account was in the Atlantic City Press, 2/19.

March 5, 1956: Reminiscent of the "Lubbock Lights" was an observation made by R. D. Smalldridge and his wife, of 525 Sherman St., Waco, Texas. With a friend, Tony Garza, they were in their front yard at 10:30 P.M. when they saw an object "similar to a swept-wing jet" coming from the south heading almost due north. Although it appeared to be flying at a low altitude, it was silent. Smalldridge counted 18 or 20 streaks of fire, resembling jet exhausts, issuing from the rear edge. He is an ex-army man and an amateur pilot. Source: Waco News-Tribune, March 8. (Compare Ruppelt, pages 133-134, 142-143.)

March 9, 1956: At 7 P.M. the Plainfield (N.J.) Courier-News began to receive calls reporting "flying saucers", one from a policeman; a staff photographer also saw lights, which suddenly disappeared, over Dunellen. Luminous objects which suddenly disappeared continued to be reported until midnight; the last caller said the lights he saw were greenish, rather than white. Camp Kilmer (about ten miles from Dunellen) said "some of the Army and National Guard men were working on lighting equipment for a coming exercise." Five days later the Courier-News printed a letter from Leonard R. Young, scoffing at the idea that this could be the explanation: "the sky was as clear as a bell, with nothing for a searchlight to bounce off of...the light I saw was without doubt a so-called flying saucer." (Plainfield Courier-News, 3/10 and 3/15.)

March 23, 1956: While walking along the banks of the Grand River in Grand Ledge, Michigan, at about 3 A.M., James Bassett, a 27-year-old laboratory technician, saw "a tiny object in the sky, about the size of a period." As he watched, it grew larger, and descended toward him. Finally it came to a stop only 10 feet away, hovering about four feet above the ground. It was an orange globe about five feet in diameter, apparently of metal. It remained hovering for about 10 minutes, he said (although he "lost all concept of time"), then went away. Even before he saw the object, he claims, he "felt the presence of something", and while it was close to him he "felt the thing was trying to contact me." The account was published in the Lansing (Mich.) State Journal, 3/23.

April 4, 1956: A bright round light was seen passing over Aubrey, Texas, by Mrs. E. E. Love, shortly after sunset. Since it seemed to be travelling southwestward toward Denton (9 miles away), she called the Record-Chronicle there, whose switchboard was soon swamped with calls reporting the object. It came to rest over Denton, then "after stopping for a short time it wavered, went back and forth and up and down for a good time." Its luminosity grew stronger as the darkness increased. What finally became of it is not recorded. Shortly after 9 P.M., Carswell Air Force Base informed the newspaper that the object had been identified as a weather balloon. "It was first identified from a C-47 at 45,000 feet and jet fighters from Perrin AFB in Sherman were sent over and they further identified it as a weather balloon." This borderline case--the object, which was photographed, appeared too bright for a balloon--was printed 4/5.

April 3, 1956: Fifteen or twenty employees of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Co. reported to the company clerk that they had seen, on this night, "a silver-colored angel" flying north over the plant. The clerk himself saw the angel, and declared "it was flapping his wings" (sic). The place was Birmingham, Alabama. Our brief account of this puzzling sighting is from the Durham (N.C.) Sun, 4/5.

April 8, 1956: Upstate New York was the scene of another Airlines report of considerable importance. Captain Raymond E. Ryan, piloting an American Airlines Convair en route Buffalo from New York, made a routine landing at Albany at 10 p.m. As the Convair took off again at 10:15, Joseph Brown, in the Albany Airport tower, saw a bright steady light in the direction of Schenectady; CAA operator Leo Cline also spotted the object and examined it through binoculars. It was motionless when Cline saw it and he said that at first he thought it was the landing lights of a plane coming in from Schenectady. By this time the Convair was airborne, and Brown asked Capt. Ryan to have a look. Both Brown and Cline then saw the object turn from a bright white color to a bright orange as it sped off to the west and over the horizon. But Ryan had also seen the light, and as he turned the big Convair to the left after takeoff, he, co-pilot William Neff and stewardess Phyllis Reynolds, saw the object hovering over Schenectady, then suddenly streak off to the west. Miss Reynolds said, "For awhile it appeared to be standing perfectly still. All of a sudden it moved slowly to the left." It appeared white to her at first, but "after it started to move then it seemed a pinkish color." Although her description of the speed at which it moved off varies with Ryan's, who said "it put on a burst of speed and darted off to the west," the crew was sure that the object apparently slowed down some eight miles to the west, and continued to move ahead of the Convair at the same speed at an estimated 3-4 mile distance. Capt. Ryan said, "The light was so bright you wouldn't want to look at it." He added that it changed colors from "a very bright white to an orange color," especially when it passed over cities or towns.

Ryan called Griffis Air Base at Rome to see if radar was tracking the object; the equipment wasn't in operation and would take a half-hour to activate (nice commentary on our defense system.--Eds). Ryan played his landing lights on the light in an attempt to identify the object; Griffis requested all lights

be doused but navigation lights, and then reported a visual confirmation of the object from the ground, which they described as "an orange object." As jets were being readied for a scramble, the object was approaching Lake Ontario, and Griffis requested Ryan to follow. The object headed out over the Lake at an altitude of about 6,000 feet, or 1,500 feet higher than the plane. At no time did Ryan report coming nearer than three miles to it. He followed to "just beyond the shoreline of Lake Ontario, near Oswego," where he lost radio contact with Griffis. About five miles over the Lake, Ryan abandoned the chase and continued on to Syracuse, where the tower operators had been monitoring his radio calls to Griffis. By the time the jets had arrived, the object was no longer to be seen. Because it had kept ahead of the airliner at all times, it could not be seen by the passengers of the Convair. In all, the crew had observed the light for 45 minutes. Ryan's comments were: "This was absolutely real, brother....I'm convinced there was something fantastic up there." Full details were given in the Buffalo News of April 10, and the Albany Times-Union, April 11.

April 9, 1956: In Northampton, N.Y., thirty miles north of Schenectady and not quite 24 hours after the above sighting, something was seen again. Mrs. Henry Greene and her son and Miss Katherine Conrad, at 7:50 P.M., saw a round object with "a circle of red, blue and green lights; rays of penetrating light shot from it." It might be suspected that this was Venus (see "L'Astre Cincinnati" below) except that it "was traveling at a fast rate of speed from the northeast to the southwest." It was watched for five or ten minutes, until it disappeared from view. The item appeared in the Amsterdam (N.Y.) Recorder, 4/12.

April 21, 1956: C.S.I. member Steve Roman and his wife, observing the nearly-full moon in Brooklyn through a 65-power telescope, noticed several dark "dots" passing rapidly over its face. Between 9:45 and 10 P.M., when clouds obscured the moon, seven or eight were seen. The general movement was from left to right, some moving horizontally and others downward (in reality upward, since an astronomical telescope inverts) as they crossed. Some moved in other directions. The moon at the time was high in the southwestern sky (elevation 75-80°); the objects appeared against it "like pinheads against a half-dollar", and crossed the disc in less than a second. Migratory birds flying north at high altitude occurred to the Romans as the most obvious explanation, and this was also the suggestion of the Hayden Planetarium. However, the rapid motion, sharp focus, absence of visible wings, and varying directions of motion seem somewhat inconsistent with the bird explanation, and the case might possibly be a true UFO observation.

#### THE CASE OF "L'ASTRE CININNATI"-- A Story With A Moral

On March 22, 1956, Cincinnati newspapers reported that a strange hovering light in the western sky had been seen in the western suburbs of the city for the past three days. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cutter of Cleves, who had watched it through binoculars, described it as a bright blue-white object "like a big star with rays", with intermittent red and green lights (red on top and green on the bottom, according to Mrs. Cutter), which kept moving sideways and up and down. On both the 19th and the 20th it had suddenly disappeared at 10:22 P.M. They were sure it was a secret Air Force device. On the 21st, they pointed it out to Enquirer reporter William Collins, who agreed that it was an unknown object. He noted that it was about 30° above the horizon at 9 P.M., and was slowly moving off toward the northwest. Through 6x binoculars, he could make out "a compact galaxy of slowly revolving lights", predominantly red and green, and likened the effect to "a diamond brooch ringed with emeralds." Several other observers had also reported the object. Two said it turned bright orange just before its disappearance. Another declared "it had a red light on it and seemed to revolve, and every so often it dipped." A G.O.C. observer reported to

Leonard Stringfield (Cincinnati's noted saucer researcher) that the object "moved swiftly and had bright green lights on it." One man, with the help of binoculars, saw "swept-back wings." "Graduate astronomer" Everett C. Yowell was quoted as saying "It is not one of the normal celestial bodies." On the next night (the 22nd), 100 reports came in, some from outside the city. Captain Hardin, the current head of Project Blue Book, expressed "deep interest".

The following features might be singled out as seeming to point to a flying saucer and to rule out a natural explanation: (1) Dancing motion. (2) Slow rotatory motion. (3) No mention of sinking toward western horizon (as for a celestial body.) (4) Abrupt disappearance. (5) Beams or rays emitted. (6) Bright red and green lights. (7) Swept-back wings. (8) Colour change to orange. (9) Reported (at first) only from western Cincinnati. (10) Suddenly noticed for the first time on March 19th. (11) Astronomical explanation discounted by apparently competent opinion.

Now, in spite of all this, there is no reasonable doubt that all observers were looking at the planet Venus.

Telephoto time exposures of the "object" pointed out by the Cutters were taken by an Enquirer photographer in their presence. The plates showed a slow, uniform motion agreeing precisely in direction and speed with that of a celestial body. Moreover, before this had been pointed out to them, the reporter and photographer went up in a plane on the evening of the 22nd, and this time they recognised the mystery object as "a star" (to quote their companion, AF General Edsel Clark, whose astronomical knowledge was almost as slender as their own.) This "star" was of course Venus, now brilliantly conspicuous in the western sky for nearly four hours after sunset. On March 21st, as seen from Cincinnati, it was  $24^{\circ}$  above the horizon at 9 P.M., and set at 10:37 P.M. The correct identification was given immediately by Stringfield, by the Cincinnati Astronomical Society, and by an observer who used a 30x telescope, and three days later by astronomer Paul Herget.

The "object" seen by the Cutters was thus unequivocally identified as Venus; and there can be no doubt that all other reports referred to the same thing. (Had there been another luminous object, not Venus, in the western sky, many of the observers would have reported two bright lights in the west. None did.)

All of the peculiar features itemised above can be harmonised with the Venus explanation. The "jerky motion" was presumably an illusion produced by the unsteadiness of hand-held binoculars; it does not appear on the photographs. The effect of "rotation" is another common binocular illusion. As for the "red and green lights", they were undoubtedly wholly spurious: chromatic aberration in binoculars invariably produces red and green colours. (Readers are advised to verify all these effects for themselves, as we have done, by looking at Venus through ordinary binoculars.) The "swept-back wings", on the other hand, were real: the planet now shows a crescent, and even inadequate binoculars give some indication of this. The orange colour followed by disappearance at 10:22 P.M. was certainly due to the planet's setting in cloudy or smoggy air (it would have set just 15 minutes later if the horizon were perfectly unobstructed.) As for "graduate astronomer" Yowell, it may be conjectured that he was misinformed of the object's position; we have written him in an attempt to clear up this point. What remains puzzling is the sudden local outbreak of notice of a celestial body that had been brilliantly visible for several months all over the world. This must be attributed to the great infrequency with which most people look at the sky, so that they remain in total ignorance of what is to be seen there.

On the 21st, at least, the confusion was abetted by a high layer of thin cirrus cloud over Cincinnati: a striking halo around the moon was reported that night, and the telescopic observer said Venus "appeared as if covered with a shimmering film". The effect of this would be to suppress lesser luminaries and increase the apparent size of Venus (by diffusion of the image), making it even more conspicuous.

This case of observer error should be pasted in our hats. Undoubtedly scientists often scoff thoughtlessly at observers' reports, but on the other hand, saucer researchers tend to accept observers' descriptions far too uncritically. Reports of hovering luminous objects with red and green lights should always be viewed with the greatest caution. And it should be recognised that the degree of misdescription

encountered here may be expected in other situations as well.

There is a striking similarity between this Cincinnati case and that of "L'Astre Cherbourg" reported during the 1905 conjunction of Venus (Fort, 496-499.) In spite of Fort's doubts, it seems highly probable that Flammarion was correct in identifying "L'Astre Cherbourg" as Venus.

It should be added in conclusion that Stringfield received a report on the 21st of a metallic cigar-shaped object which had "buzzed" an automobile; this was evidently an authentic UFO, and quite unconnected with the Venus delusion going on at the same time.

REFS.: Cincinnati Enquirer, 3/22, 3/23, 3/26; Times-Star, 3/22; Post, 3/22; Crifo ORBIT, 4/6/56.

--Alexander D. Mebane.

### First-hand Accounts Of Past Sightings

In future issues we intend to include material on sightings which are not recent, but are of importance because a detailed first-hand account has been obtained from an eyewitness.

June 15, 1950: A large number of the residents of Paramaribo, Surinam (Dutch Guiana), South America, observed the passage of a strange object in the skies over that city. A first-hand report was obtained from Mr. Wilfred Coronel, who, at that time, lived with his family at 48 Water Straat. At about 9 a.m. on the morning of June 15, 1950, he was called from his house by his father, who saw from the back yard of their home a peculiar ovoid object with a ridge around the base and a flat underside. The object was of a silvery metallic color, "like aluminum," and the rounded top, which overhung the flat bottom, was somewhat lighter in color than the underpart. Its apparent size against the background of the sky was as large as a full moon and it was estimated to be moving at an altitude of 6,000 meters (19,000 feet), although no basis for the estimate could be given. The day was clear and though there were scattered clouds, the witness was fairly sure that the object did not pass behind or above them. No sound was heard. The flat base of the object remained parallel to the ground at all times as the object "drifted slowly" to the northeast. Four or five times it "dipped" abruptly, losing altitude in a vertical descent, then moving horizontally at this lower altitude, and then rising abruptly to its original height. After rising from its final descent, the object continued to gain altitude and ascended at an angle into the northeast sky until it was lost from view. The witness watched the performance for about ten minutes.

"Everybody was astonished--they thought that it was a new invention of Russia or the United States." He added that some people were frightened by it, especially when the object made its abrupt descents, and were afraid it might "destroy the city." According to the witness, it was observed by the majority of the city's residents (pop. 80,000); people called each other and word spread quickly--everyone came out to "admire the view." There was extensive coverage in the city's newspapers the following day (the Research Section will attempt to obtain the published accounts). As far as the witness can recall, there were no photographs taken of the object.

Details were obtained from the observer by Ted Bloecher, who works with Mr. Coronel and can vouch for his reliability. Mr. Coronel mentioned only such incidents as he was absolutely sure of. His drawing of the object is copied here.

