

N. I. C. A. P. R E P O R T E R

--Published by the National Investigations Commission on Aerial Phenomena--

Vol. 1 No. 11

August 1963

Issue No. 11

"...To date, no unidentified aerial phenomena has given any indication of threat to national security." U.S. Air Force--Office of Aerial Phenomena--Washington 25, D.C.

REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA AND POSSIBLE RELATED INCIDENTS

STRANGE BALL OF FLAME SEEN HERE--A strange ball of flame reported by residents from San Francisco to San Diego, was seen over Hollister about 9 p.m. last night. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Martin said they saw the orange ball of flame over Veterans Memorial Park. They said it seemed to stop and start, then disappear, only to reappear again and circle over the hills until about 9:15 p.m. The Martin's, and their seven-year-old son, described the object as "about the size of a football," and said it let off smoke while standing still in the sky. They said it moved slowly, and they did not hear anything while watching it. Residents of the Palo Alto area said the flying phenomenon appeared to be a "bright ball" which got bigger, then disintegrated over the hills. Source: Free Lance--Hollister, California--4/5/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"On the evening of Thursday, April 4, 1963, my sister and I were at the Santa Barbara drive-in theatre. Around 9 p.m. we both happened to glance up at the sky. There appeared to be several lights in a V-shaped pattern traveling at a very high rate of speed in a northeasterly direction. We at first thought the lights were bugs reflecting the light of the projector shining on the screen, but when I leaned out of the window to get a better look, the lights appeared directly overhead and then immediately seperated. I can only describe them as being very small, traveling in a V-shaped pattern, and, as I mentioned above, moving very fast. Taking into account the limited time we had for observation (approx. ten seconds), there appeared to be seven or eight lights in the formation."
/S/ D.H.--Santa Barbara, California.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"...I will tell you what we saw on the night of April 5, 1963. We were somewhere on the Arizona desert going towards California. Suddenly a red glow appeared in the sky, in a few minutes a whitish, sort of transparent object began to form, took a shape similar to a huge dirigible. We drove towards it for about forty five minutes, then the white form began to disappear, leaving the red glow, which lingered a while then it disappeared. It was a very awsome sight and my husband and I were afraid to mention it to anyone, afraid they wouldn't believe what we saw," /S/ Mrs. G.D.S.--Pasadena, Texas.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"Tonight (4/5/63), about 7:30 p.m., while traveling west on U.S. 66 about 35 miles east of Barstow, California, we saw a strange phenom-
enon in the sky to our left about 30 degrees arc and above the horizon about 30 degrees. First, I, who was driving, noticed a luminescent streak or streamer about 1 degree or 1/2 degree thick and 5 degrees long in the semi-dark sky which was

lightly clouded over with open patches. I called it to the attention of my companions, W. & E.S. of Columbus, Nebraska. E. said, "Oh that is a jet trail." W. said, "Yes it is." I replied, "I don't think it could be because it begins and ends and, further, it is a luminescent glow in a darkened sky which a jet trail would not be."

About then, at a point in alignment with the streamer and about 10 degrees or 12 degrees to the left, there appeared an exceedingly bright point of intense purplish blue-green light followed at once by a tail in the form of a wide hood such as would be formed by a speeding projectile through a liquid or gaseous matter. The hood was also of very bright light but not as intense as the point. Out of the hood there then appeared to emit a cloud of luminescence that expanded and extended to the rear about 7 or 8 degrees of arc horizontal, 5 or 6 degrees vertical. The bright spot disappeared about one to two minutes after it started but the luminescent cloud stayed for some time, gradually evaporating so it seemed--that is, to get smaller.
/S/ R.W.B.--Seattle, Washington.

GLOWING FIREBALLS SEEN--Glowing fireballs were reported in the skies over Hollister Saturday night for the third evening in a row. Emma Valderrama said she and members of her family saw a bright red ball, trailing white smoke about 2 a.m. Sunday when they went outside the house. Hundreds of persons reported the flying phenomena both Thursday and Friday night, over an area extending from San Diego to San Francisco. Source: Advance--Hollister, California--4/13/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"On the night of April 7, 1963, I was studying late for a test the following day and didn't retire until 1 a.m. Since I couldn't go to sleep, I was going to observe the stars for a short while. Suddenly I noticed some object in the sky which was approaching our house from the north. Before I realized what had happened, this particular object had passed over our house following a southerly path. To me, it looked like a plane, about twice the size of a low flying Boeing 707, having an immense wing span. If I was to venture a guess as to the magnitude of its velocity, I would assume it to have been somewhere between 900 to 1200 m.p.h. Even though my window was open, I could hear no sound whatsoever. This, in my mind, eliminates the possibility of a low flying aircraft of any kind." /S/ H.G.U.--
San Luis Obispo, California.

RESIDENTS SPOT STREAKING LIGHT--A yellow and orange light was reported seen streaking across the sky approximately five miles southwest of Missoula late Friday night in the vicinity of Hayes Creek. Sheriff's officers were notified of the report after a woman called Missoula Police at 10:45 p.m. Federal Aviation Agency officials at Missoula County Airport said there were no known aircraft in the Missoula area at the time of the sighting. The sheriff's department said the matter was turned over to FAA. Source: Missoulian-Sentinel--Missoula, Montana--4/20/63.

MYSTERY SPHERE SEEN--It will take a good argument to persuade Alwyn Green, 19, a New Zealand Forest Service employee at Rotorua, that he did not see a flying object in the hills between Tihi-o-tonga and the Horohoro bluffs about 11:30 a.m. yesterday. Alwyn was in the bush with Barry Woods, Ian Backhouse and Bob Grubner at the time, and though each heard what Bob described as a "real weird swish, whooshing noise," Alwyn was the only one to claim having seen something. This is Bob's version of the experience: "We were back in the bush when low down I heard this real weird swish, whooshing noise. At first I thought it may have been a bird, but then it became too

loud. It was certainly different from a jet or other aircraft noise. It sounded like air being pushed out. The others heard it and we all turned around to look for something. Just then Alwyn said: "Hell, did you see that?" Alwyn said he saw something like a round black sphere coming towards us. He said it stopped, momentarily, then took off with a loud swish. The rest of us saw nothing. We are all reasonable chaps who work hard and do not go in for silly nonsense. This was really something which is hard to explain, he said. Source: Daily Post--Rotorua, New Zealand--4/23/63. Credit: Henk Hinfelaar.

FLYING OBJECT CHASED CAR, SAYS YOUTH--A youth claims a mysterious flying object chased his car along a road in South Australia on Monday night, the 20th of May. The youth, who is 17, does not want his name published because he is afraid people will think he is "crackers". His father, who reported the matter to the police, said his son arrived home white, upset and frightened. The youth said he saw the object about 9:30 p.m., when driving between Glencoe and Mt. Gambier, near the Victorian border. He said the object was on one side of the road. He thought it was a truck or a bulldozer. Then, when his car was about 20 yards away, a bright light came on and dazzled him. "I pulled up, the object moved across the road and I speeded up my car," he said. "The light suddenly shot straight up into the air and hovered above the car while I drove underneath. Although I was driving at 50 or 60 miles an hour, the light followed the car. It was as bright as an arc light used in electric welding." The first report of a similar object was received by the Mt. Gambier police on Wednesday night, the 15th of May, when a car load of people reported that a bright light, which changed from red to white, followed their car for several miles. Source: Herald--Auckland, New Zealand--5/22/63. Credit: Henk Hinfelaar.

BRIGHT FLASHES IN THE SKY--The western skies were illuminated last night by a series of bright flashes that mystified both lay earthlings and competent observers. The bright lights were spotted between 7:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. here and, according to the Air Traffic Control Center, throughout the western states. "We had calls from all over," an officer at the center said. But the cause of the unexpected show remained unknown. Source: Chronicle--San Francisco, California--4/24/63.

GLOWING OBJECT FLASHES OVER BAY AREA--A large glowing object described as "greenish colored with a red-orange tail" flashed down through Bay area skies at 10:45 last night, curving toward the Oakland hills from the southeast. One observer said the object with a flaming tail "apparently several thousand feet long," burned itself out at an altitude of 1,000 feet. Source: Examiner--San Francisco, Calif.--4/24/63.

FIREBALL FLASHES OVER STATE--A bright greenish-white flash apparently caused by a large fireball slanting down through the atmosphere was seen over most of Northern California late Tuesday. Residents in Oakland, San Leandro, Moraga, Concord, Martinez, Sacramento, Lake Tahoe and Santa Rosa reported seeing the object as it passed in an easterly direction about 10:45 p.m. Source: Tribune--Oakland, California--4/24/63.

GREEN FIRE SEEN OVER LODI--A falling object--a space phenomenon man didn't make-- was witnessed by numerous Lodi residents about 10:50 p.m. last night. According to a spokesman at the Federal Aviation Agency control tower at Stockton Airport, the "green ball of flame" fell in a southerly direction and was witnessed from Salt Lake City, Utah, west. Source: News-Sentinel--Lodi, California--4/24/63.

MYSTERIOUS FLASH SIGHTED IN EAST--Civil Defense offices and the Air Force late Tuesday were checking reports of a brilliant, white flash apparently over Nevada at 10:49 p.m. The State Civil Defense Office in Sacramento said they have received numerous reports from Redding to Orange County and up and down Nevada. Source: Union--Sacramento, California--4/24/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"I was in my front yard at Carson City, Nevada on April 23, 1963, and was bent over to pet the cat, when it seemed as if someone switched on a yard light somewhere around; I straightened up to see where, and immediately observed a very bright blue streak in the sky (it appeared to be streaking straight downward about like a meteor, but with a wider and more brilliant path), the color appeared to be ultra-violet or blue-white, possibly 6,000 degrees K or above. I at once noted the fence post where I was standing, the directions of it in relation to some trees, went into the house and observed the time, 2249 p.s.t. (Est. 1 min. had elapsed, which would make 2248 the time of observation), then reported the sighting to the local police department. Then I went back outside and determined the angles of observation with a protractor as follows: Horizontal bearing, S 33 degrees E ; vertical angle 22 degrees (first observed) to 12 degrees (where it burst and disintegrated). The speed was a little slower than a meteor, and the glow lingered longer. The next day I checked with the Nevada Highway Patrol, which showed me an early report from Civil Defense calling it a meteor shower, and a later report from the Air Force calling it a magnesium flare at Edwards Air Force base for night photography." /S/ D.C.C., Engineer-Technician--Carson City, Nevada.

AERIAL EXPLOSIONS JOLT AREA--Orange County residences--and residents--were shook up last night by what were apparently aerial explosions. Report of the "blasts" were made in all sections of the county, the first about 7:29 p.m. Fullerton residents felt the 7:29 p.m. jolt especially hard as windows rattled and houses shook. Two more "blasts" about 15 minutes later were not as strongly felt in the northern area of the county as in the south region. Laguna Beach police said about 30 to 40 residents called about noise, some of whom reported broken windows and cracks in the walls of their homes. Source: News-Tribune--Fullerton, California--4/25/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"...we decided that perhaps you would be the one to satisfy our curiosity about a strange 'cloud' or UFO that we saw on April 25, 1963, at about 4 p.m. while traveling the 101 highway between Salinas, Calif. and Gilroy, Calif. It appeared to be a huge, black ring moving slowly over the ocean vicinity. We stopped our car, as did others who saw it, and watched for 10 minutes while it seemed to disappear into other clouds above that were gray, but not 'black'. We called the newspaper locally and have been watching local and out of town papers for some accounting of this--but there has been nothing to date." /S/ Mr. & Mrs. T.S.--Santa Cruz, California.

MYSTERIOUS 5-MINUTE BOOM JARS AREA--What appeared to be an aerial explosion shook sections of the Wilshire district last night and flooded police telephone switchboards with calls from anxious residents. Most reports came from the Third St. and Fairfax Ave. area where local residents reported shaking of floors and walls and a prolonged noise lasting three to five minutes. No damage was reported, Wilshire Division officers said. Source--Citizen News--Hollywood, California--4/27/63.

OBJECT IN SKY--Lisle Eyers, Mt. Zion farmer, this week joined the group of elite who claim to have seen a "flying disc." Lisle and others, watching softball at Mt. Zion school late Sunday afternoon, observed a strange object high in the sky, flashing red and white. Some thought it was a helicopter, Eyers said. When it got darker and Eyers was enroute home with his two grandchildren, he decided to stop the car and observe the sky traveler more closely. "About that time," he said, "a jet plane came into view. Then the red and white lighted object suddenly shot straight up in the air and moved away at tremendous speed, finally disappearing." Source: The Dial-Boscobel, Wisconsin--5/9/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"Between 10-10:30 p.m. on the evening of May 6, 1963, I let my dog out the back door and noticed in the sky, what I took to be a star. Closer observation showed me that it was not a star as it was much larger and was moving in a northwesterly direction. As I watched I could not see any green or red lights flashing so decided it was not a plane coming into the airport for a landing. To prove out that the direction was wrong for a landing or even a turn into the airport. I watched the object for about two minutes before it passed over the hillside and dropped out of sight. In trying to describe the object it was quite fast and in a straight line, as to size, as near as I can come to that is place a dime in the palm of your hand and hold it at arms length. I wondered if we had sent up another Telestar or some other instrument of that type. The sky was quite clear and bright and this white-yellow color really quite distinct and clear cut. The light was completely round." /S/ L.J.--Santa Barbara, California.

SCAN MYSTERY SKY OBJECT--A mysterious, undulating streamer floating high above the business section had New Orleanians craning their necks at noon today. There was no immediate explanation of the origin or nature of the phenomenon. It appeared to be a broad strip of some flimsy, silk-thin material which furled and unfurled in the light air beneath a cumulus cloud which an hour later dumped a heavy shower on the central business area. Forecaster E.L. Hill of the U.S. Weather Bureau Office said he watched the mysterious stuff from the bureau's 14th floor offices at the Federal Building, and saw both the large streamer and two smaller pieces. The latter two, he said, fell a few blocks away. "There were also a few fragments, about the size of your hand," Hill said. "One of the pieces appeared to land on Canal St. at about Loyola. The other fell in back of the Charity Hospital complex. This piece dropped on the edge of the roof and 'crawled off.'" The U.S. Naval Air Station sent up plane to have a look at the stuff, but had no immediate report. The federal Aviation Agency flight control office said it had no idea what the streamer might be. Source: States Item--New Orleans, La.--5/7/63.

COMPOSITION OF AERIAL FLOTSAM HIGH ABOVE CITY REMAINS MYSTERY--Apparently no one will ever know for certain what that ribbon-like aerial flotsam was high over the downtown area Tuesday, but many persons were quick to offer theories. An electrician at the state office building said the gossamer stuff was just lightweight ash from the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company incinerator at Poydras and Claiborne. But Pittsburgh plant superintendent George Fernandez said the glass firm did not burn anything unusual, although he said they did burn some excelsior. Cmdr. W.R. Zimbeck at the U.S. Naval Air Station said a light Beechcraft airplane was sent aloft to check on the weird material, but arrived too late. He said it had all vanished when the aircraft arrived in the general vicinity where it had been sighted. Maybe a little space ship that disintegrated in the earth's atmosphere...well, no one will ever know for sure. Source: Times-Picayune--New Orleans, La.--5/8/63.

ROUNDUP OF MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

MYSTERY OBJECT IN SPACE--The radio telescope at Parkes, New South Wales, Australia has discovered a "mysterious star-like object" which has baffled both Australian and American astronomers. The "object" known as 30273 appears to be streaking away from earth at a speed of 30,000 miles per second. Astronomers say it is not fully understood and appears to be outside present knowledge. They have three theories about it: 1. It is a galaxy 100 times bigger than any other, and 2 millions of light-years away from earth. 2. It is a star relatively close to earth, but composed of matter unknown to scientists. 3. It is matter being explosively ejected from a star in the Milky Way. The Parkes astronomers, unable to determine the nature of the object gave its position to American experts at the 200-inch optical telescope at Mt. Palomar, California. Source: Herald--Auckland, New Zealand--3/19/63. Credit: Henk Hinfelaar.

EARTH LIFE HARD TO SEE FROM SPACE, SAYS SCIENTIST--Warsaw, Poland, June 9.--(AP)--Using the most advanced equipment known today, an astronomer on Mars probably would be unable to prove the existence of life on earth, an international meeting of space scientists was told yesterday. "Lights of a large city such as Los Angeles might be detected, but it would prove nothing...even the light from atomic explosions would not be conclusive proof," said Carl Z. Sagan of Harvard University Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. He told the annual space science symposium that of 80,000 photographs of the earth taken from the upper atmosphere by an American Tyros satellite "only one could be interpreted as showing biological life on earth." Sagan flashed some of the pictures on the wall of Warsaw's Palace of Culture including one of the Nile River Delta with colored bands he said tended to indicate but not prove the existence of life. By the same token, "there is no conclusive evidence that life exists anywhere outside the earth" despite all the promising indications, Sagan said. He and other scientists felt that closer investigation probably including landing is needed to solve the question of life on another planet. In the case of Mars, such an investigation is scheduled for 1967 with the U.S. Gulliver project. Gulliver is a small laboratory which is supposed to reach Mars by space capsule, scoop in some of the planets soil, test it for microorganisms and photosynthesis, the plant life process, and transmit the findings to earth. Changing dark areas and lines on Mars "are very suggestive of life but not conclusive evidence," Sagan said. Source: Post Intelligencer--Seattle, Washington--6/10/63.

SOVIET SCAN MARS--Moscow, June 20.--(AP)--Soviet scientists reported Tuesday that a two-million mile radar probe of Mars showed sizable flat areas on the Planet's surface. Source: Examiner-Herald--Los Angeles, California--6/20/63.

AUSSIES FIND MYSTERIOUS SPHERES--Sydney, July 12.--(Financial Times)--"Mystery spheres" are turning up in Australia at the rate of about one a month. Sphere No. 1 was found last April in the northwest corner of New South Wales, about 180 miles north of Broken Hill. It was 14 inches in diameter, weighed 12 pounds and was made of a metal which defied hacksaws. Sphere No. 2 was found 60 miles away. This one weighed 18 pounds and was 16 inches in diameter. A third sphere was found in the far north of South Australia recently. This one was six inches in diameter and had a hole in it. Source: Times--Seattle, Washington--7/12/63

N.I.C.A.P. REPORTER is the official monthly publication of the NATIONAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION ON AERIAL PHENOMENA--5108 South Findlay Street--Seattle 18, Washington. Robert J. Gribble, Director. Yearly subscription: U.S., U.S. possessions and Canada--\$1.00. All other countries--\$2.00. All subscriptions are sent first class mail in a sealed envelope. Make all checks and money orders payable to Robert J. Gribble.