



ORBITER

The New England Aerial Phenomena Report

Editor: Jim Melesciuc
Address: 43 Harrison Street
Reading, MA 01867 USA
Hotline: (617) 944-0686

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INTERNATIONAL WHO'S WHO DIRECTORY

The first limited edition of the UFO Phenomenon Community Who's Who directory will be published by the end of March, 1988. More than 200 entries from a diverse group of people representing at least 28 countries will be included in the book.

Not just a biography; the directory will be a unique working tool for investigators, organization administrators and researchers. The contents of the Who's Who includes: names of participants; their education/background, activities, positions on the subject; more than 150 organizations; over 70 publications; projects; dealers; indexing by country; and, much more.

The book will be soft-covered and perfect bound, consisting of more than 100 pages measuring 5½" by 8½". The cover price for the directory is economical at \$6.95 per copy, plus postage.

For further information, please contact Robert D. Boyd, UFO Phenomenon Community Who's Who, P.O. Box 66404, Mobile, Alabama 36606, U.S.A.

NEW POSITION OFFERED BY CAUS

CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) has invited Marge Christensen to serve as its Director of Public Relations. The duties of this position would vary according to the UFO situation, and would probably include the publication of an interim newsletter which would be published between issues of JUST CAUSE. The position will become effective on January 1, 1988.

THE ITALIAN CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES INVITES NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

The Italian Center for UFO Studies wishes to exchange newsletters with any groups who publish them. The Italian Center issues newsletters which reach more than 300 Italian ufologists. A few other publications include "ITUFOR" (newsletter in English), "Notiziario Archivio Stampa" (Italian newsclipping service), "Documenti UFO" monographs (P. Fiorino's catalogue of Italian CE-III's and M. Verga's annotated catalogue of Italian trace-landing cases) and "Bollettino RUC" (the newsletter of CISU Computer UFO Network in English). Anyone interested in an exchange can contact: Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici, Corso Vittorio Emanuele 108, 10121 Torino, Italia, Attention: Edoardo Russo.

RADIO-TVVLOG

Geraldo Rivera, Channel 9, WMUR-TV featured a segment on abductions with Bruce Maccabee and Budd Hopkins as guests. This was aired on November 2, at 4:00 p.m.

COMMENTARY BY MARGE CHRISTENSEN

In 1982, MUFON's P.I.P.E. (Public Information and Public Education) Committee was formed. Since then it has met annually at symposia and has been the only active committee in MUFON to persevere for that many years. P.I.P.E. has a long list of achievements including the production of a set of slides and narrative for lecture use; two UFO course syllabi; a field investigator's exam; a media policy for MUFON representatives. Moreover, P.I.P.E. also initiated the first National UFO Information Week, and furnished State organizations with a media packet for the first two years' observances of this week. Also, P.I.P.E. has furnished several state organizations with materials for free-standing UFO displays. Advance publicity for the past four symposia was furnished by P.I.P.E. as well.

There is still much work to be done in the areas of public information and public education, but it won't be done by P.I.P.E. The P.I.P.E. Committee has been disbanded. Sadly, this group of leaders in ufology from all corners of the country, has become tired, and has lost its enthusiasm.

Continued on next page

Times have changed drastically this year, and perhaps it is simply time to move on to other things. This seems to be the prevailing attitude of P.I.P.E. members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all 17 of these individuals who have worked diligently on this committee. Their assistance has been invaluable, and is very much appreciated.

We tried to make a real difference in Ufology. We tried to elevate this field to the status of a voluntary profession, rather than a hobby. We tried to prove that we could be professional; that we could adhere to high standards, although we are a volunteer group. We tried to show that accuracy and objectivity are more important than getting headlines without factual documentation.

Now it is up to the rest of you to decide whether or not to carry on where the P.I.P.E. Committee left off. Some of us will soon be going on to other endeavors, though still related to Ufology in one form or another. None of us has given up on the UFO subject. It's human nature that we have grave doubts about.

As most of you know, articles in scientific literature that deal with anomalous phenomena, UFOs, natural phenomena, etc. are very hard to come by due to cost, availability or simply not knowing where to look for them. From time to time this newsletter will reprint these articles when they are brought to our attention. Two intriguing letters were printed in the British Journal of Meteorology by Mr. B.J. Burton. The first letter dated 11/77 gave this account: My attention was caught by the following report in the New Hebrides News, which is issued by the British Residency Information Office, Vila (issue dated 9 September 1977). A mysterious flying object has been sighted in the Santa Cruz Island on three separate nights. The object was described as a "very bright light" or a "ball of fire" which travelled at high speed across the sky just below cloud level lighting up the ground underneath. One of the objects was said to have landed but nothing was found when people rushed to the spot. A spokesman said that it was a strange phenomenon. The theories range from the spirit of a dead man to a flying saucer from another planet. Scientists from Honiara could not offer any explanation. The reference to one of the objects landing without anything being found, and the reference in paragraph 1 to a "ball of fire", and also the reported position of the lights between cloud and ground would all support the hypothesis that these were sightings of ball lightning. If this was the case, it would be most interesting as the phenomenon was observed on three separate nights. The second letter by B.J. Burton was printed in January, 1978: Further to my letter, published in the Journal, Vol. 2, No. 23, p. 340, I have received a reply to my request to the British Office in Honiara for further information about the sighting of a bright object over Santa Cruz island. This reply is given below.

The enquiry in your letter of 18 October 1977 was put to the Meteorological Bureau in Honiara as well as to the Government Marine Department. Meteorology has replied that the weather conditions in the Santa Cruz area at that time, 10-23 July, mainly consisted of scattered to broken low and middle cloud with some showers in the area. Rain was recorded on the 23rd and a temperature range of 24-30° Celsius. No thunderstorms were reported. The local meteorological staff did not see the light which was reported by an American medical doctor in the area studying hepatitis. She lives in Washington, D.C. Marine Department received no official report of the sighting and tend to be skeptical about the matter saying that they were reported to Information Service when the subject of UFOs was topical. They consider it unlikely that a meteorological phenomenon would appear in the same place on three successive nights. Although rather negative in content I hope this information will be of some assistance to you.

Even though no supporting evidence for ball lightning has come from my enquiry, I feel it can still not be entirely ruled out as a possible explanation for the bright object.

(Cr. B. Greenwood)

B.J. Burton

Now you know

By United Press International

The most intense rainfall recorded in modern times was believed to be in Barst, Guadeloupe, where readings showed that 1.5 inches of rain fell in a single minute on Nov. 26, 1970.



The geographic center of the North American continent is in Pierce County, North Dakota, six miles west of Balta.

SIGHTINGS IN VIRGINIA

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 1987

Location: Wythe County and Richmond (Southwest Virginia)

Weather: Clear starlit sky

A woman with two children ages 2 and 4 were travelling north on Interstate 95 toward Richmond. The two children became unusually calm and pointed out multiple lights to their mother. The traffic slowed as other witnesses were noticing the strange lights. Suddenly the car radio stopped working and the headlights dimmed. The charge light on the dashboard came on. The altitude of the object was reported to be at about 30 ft. The size of the object was estimated as the size of a house approximately 1,000 sq. ft (the woman compared the object to the size of her neighbor's house). The object came to within 50 yards of the vehicle. She described the lights as flashing red, blue, green and yellow. There was no noise. Cars on the highway had pulled over. The duration of the sighting was approximately two minutes. At this time a spherical red object, much smaller and glowing brightly, approached the larger object. Both objects then appeared to be maneuvering as if playing a game of hide and seek. When the smaller object approached the larger object very close, they both disappeared instantly in a shower of white lights. She then tried the ignition and the car started right up.



Star graphic by Marlon Rhodes

Composite drawing of recent Richmond sighting

Another family, Mr. and Mrs. Aker and their two children observed two airplane-shaped objects accompanied by a faint humming noise. The husband, Elmo Aker, said that the area residents frequently see military aircraft on maneuvers and what they had just seen was not normal aircraft. He said the object that he and his family observed hardly made a sound, that it was flying unusually slow, and was bigger than a bomber. The Aker sighting was rare in that it was still daylight, though the light was fading fast.



T-O graphic by Clarke Buzard

Silent, slow-flying object described in Wythe County

Many of the other sightings coincide with the Akers' report. The lighting patterns match almost exactly. Gerald Musser observed the object while out hunting raccoon. He described it as a "humongous" thing with lights flashing all the way around. While he was watching it another similar object came right up behind it. He then saw a reddish-orange sphere accompanying the objects.

Billie Rosenbaum stepped out of his house to get a little fresh air. He saw two objects almost exactly like those reported by Gerald Musser. He ran over and woke his neighbor up and together they watched the objects make a slow tour of the ridge above his house.

That same night, Jack and Carolyn Ellison spotted objects slowly maneuvering through the air above their mobile home. The composite sketch of what they saw matched that of the Aker sighting. Jack Ellison is retired from the U.S. Air Force and is no stranger to aircraft. He speculated that it could possibly be an experiment of the Star Wars Defense System. Ironically, the next day a Stealth bomber went down which made him think of what he had seen.

Bettie Patton also reported seeing the same object, with one exception. She observed a smaller glowing sphere coming out of the top of the larger object. She added that the small object maneuvered away and curved toward Cripple Creek. The larger object appeared to follow it and emitted a low humming sound. She said it was strange and she felt she was being stared at.

The dozen or so independent witnesses of the Richmond and Wythe County sightings were, for the most part, in agreement that:

1. The objects were silent except for an occasional low humming sound or bee-like sound.
2. The objects can hover or fly so slow they appeared to hover.
3. The objects appeared in groups of two or three. The red, green, yellow and white lights usually did not flash.
4. Several witnesses were convinced the objects were part of a clandestine military operation.
5. Dogs in the areas which were overflowed by the objects were not affected though they all react when strangers approach.
6. The people reporting the sightings have never seen a UFO before.
7. Witnesses gave the impression the objects were not hostile.

In a follow-up to Mark Holmberg, a reporter who interviewed several of the witnesses, I was informed that the Associated Press reported a couple of days after the sightings, that the Tenn. Air National Guard were responsible for some of the sightings as they were practicing refueling missions.

HOW & WHY

Q. "Fly-by" pictures of the Martian surface show what appears to be a human face with all the facial characteristics. What are the analyses and opinions of this discovery?
M.W., Randolph.

A. The picture, taken by a Viking orbiting spacecraft during the 1976 mission to Mars, was released to the media that year by Viking chief scientist Gerald Soffen with the tongue-in-cheek remark that he had the first picture of a real Martian.

While the mile-long mesa does have the suggestion of an eye and mouth, Soffen said later it was a trick of shadow and light that disappeared when seen under different lighting conditions.

Natural formations that resemble faces are notoriously easy to find, says US Geological Survey planetary geologist Harold Marsury. New Hampshire's "Old Man of the Mountains" is just one well-known example, he says.

The overwhelming consensus of scientists is that the picture is amusing but of no real significance. But a few people suggest that it, and some pyramidal formations seen nearby, are intriguing enough to warrant further study. Former astronaut Brian O'Leary writes in his new book "Mars 1999": "I am urging that high-resolution imagery of the face and surrounding region at a variety of lighting conditions be performed as a high priority on the 1992 Mars Observer mission," - the next US spacecraft scheduled to be sent to Mars.



Earthquakes And UFOs

UFO reports seem to follow a cycle associated with patterns of earthquakes, with an abrupt increase following seismic activity. It is a regional effect, located within the general area of the earthquake, and has been found for central USA, Washington state, the Toppenish Ridge in Washington, the Uinta Basin in Utah, and for Carmen, Manitoba. These findings have recently been replicated in Sweden, using data for the period of 1963 through 1978, according to a report in *Perceptual and Motor Skills* (1986, Vol. 63, pp. 921-2).

The researcher responsible for these studies, M. A. Persinger, speculates that the relationship suggests that UFO reports are associated with luminous activity resulting from tectonic stress and strain within the crust of the earth.

Author's address: Environmental Psychophysiological Lab, Department of Psychology, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada P3E 2C6.



Venture Inward
Nov/Dec . 87 (Cr.R.Giordano)

Now you know!

By United Press International

It takes the planet Pluto more than 248 years to revolve around the sun, while it takes Mercury about three months.

The prefix Mach is used to describe supersonic speed. When a plane moves at the speed of sound it is Mach 1.

**INNOVATIVE
NOTEBOOK**
SCIENTIFIC SPECULATION BY JUENEMAN

the anatomy of a UFO

IN A NOTEBOOK ENTRY AWHILE BACK, I was taken to task by a few UFO buffs, for making light of a "serious study" by equally serious investigators—a most unscientific attitude on my part. *Tsk.*

Since I was asked to do penance for my unprofessional behavior, I sat in the corner and read T. S. Kuhn's *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, nodding sagely from time to time at his incisive characterization describing these events. But I came away as incorrigible as ever, and even adding a few new "goodies" to the earth-air-fire-water syndrome elements which make up what I call the silly season—along with baseball, Frisbee-at-the-beach, and UFOs.

Speaking of UFOs, several years ago when I first became enchanted with the idea of extraterrestrial civilizations, a brief foray into the "technical" literature on such things showed that unusual samples were being found here on planet earth, purportedly from alien spacecraft. One such occurrence in which I was keenly interested, which apparently also grabbed the collective imagination of the *Aerial Phenomena Research Organization* (APRO), was described in detail by APRO's Brazilian correspondent, the late Dr. Olavo Fontes, in Coral E. Lorenzen's 1966 book *Flying Saucers*.

It seems that in late 1957 a small group of fishermen, while doing their thing on Ubatuba Bay, Sao Paulo, saw a troubled flying disc come zipping in and approach the water, veer up again and explode in a shower of brilliant sparks.

The mariners were able to locate and collect fragments, a few of which were sent to the home of Rio de Janeiro's society editor of *O Globo*, Ibrahim Sued, and to his newspaper office, whence the pieces ultimately found their way to Dr. Fontes and APRO.

Now, here was something with which to ogle, fondle, and sniff in the prescribed scientific manner.

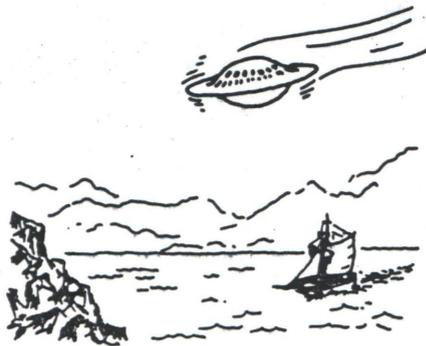
Dr. Fontes took the samples to the Laboratorio da Producao Mineral—which group has been more recently saddened by the passing of their mentor, professor Fritz Feigl. By arc spectrography the fragments were determined to be of a high

purity magnesium. Replicate density measurements by Dr. Augusto Baptista gave a value of 1.866 g/cc, somewhat high as compared to the nominal 1.742 g/cc found with "terrestrial" magnesium.

It is known that the element Mg has three stable isotopes, and a quick calculation shows that each should have the densities: Mg²⁴, 1.719 g/cc; Mg²⁵, 1.790; and Mg²⁶, 1.862. Thus, on casual inspection one is temptingly drawn to the conclusion that these "alien" pieces are a pure isotope of Mg²⁶, and from a technology far in advance of earth circa 1957.

But if this were so, the news was received apathetically outside of UFO circles. A US Air Force laboratory reportedly consented to analyze a fragment with an arc spectrograph, but when the sample was destroyed without getting a film exposure naturally they were refused additional samples. (Somehow, at that time few people seem to have heard of NDT.)

So it was, that by the time I pulled up to the campfire some eleven years later, the ashes had grown pretty cold. Correspondence to those in and around APRO elicited no response, and it appeared that the Ubatuba Bay incident was either forgotten or my confidences weren't being sought. Assuming the latter, and to follow up some loose threads, an independent approach was indicated.



Through the kind auspices of Dr. Ralph Oesper, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati, I contacted Professor Feigl in Rio de Janeiro, who informed me in turn that Dr. Fontes had died

two months prior, in June of 1968, and referred me to Dr. Baptista for analytical information.

Dr. Baptista recalled the fragments, and expressed some concern over the accuracy of his density determinations, particularly in view of the preliminary results being published in an American magazine "by a lady who claimed that the particles originated from a flying saucer." He further stated that he didn't concur in this judgment, but thought that the pieces were part of a US rocket which was fired down-range into the South Atlantic, and he also intimated that it may have flown off course and was subsequently destroyed.

It seems logical then that APRO wasn't about to get much satisfaction from the Air Force, as a stray rocket into Brazilian waters could have some unfortunate political repercussions. Besides, such things mustn't be discussed in polite diplomatic circles.

Sometime later, I finally did contact APRO and chatted with Dr. James Harder of UC Berkeley, who informed me that there were some 1,000 ppm metallic impurities found in the magnesium fragments, which would only be enough to raise the specific gravity slightly, but conforming to the 1.751 g/cc as found by an AEC lab sometime later.

However, one might assume that 1957 magnesium castings were not of homogeneous manufacture and hence of variable density, nor would the comparative purity of the samples be outside our technical know-how during that period—as primitive as things might appear from our own time slot.

I'm convinced that there are such things as UFOs. Too many people have seen them. But I hesitate to think that they are intelligently controlled, being much more inclined to believe they're uncharacterized natural events.

Nevertheless, let the reader decide for himself. In any case, we're bound and determined to fashion our own conclusions anyway.

But, I'm left to wonder how the fisherman knew the address of Mr. Ibrahim Sued's home. ■

Frederic B. Jueneman, director/research, INCA.

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH—MAY 1974

ROSE IS ROSE



by Pat Brady

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Letters

UFO's Merit Scientific Study

Printed from the 21 October 1966
SCIENCE with the permission of its editors
and Dr. Hynek.)

Twenty years after the first public furor over UFO's (called "flying saucers" then) reports of UFO's continue to accumulate. The Air Force has now decided to give increased scientific attention to the UFO phenomenon. Thus I feel under some obligation to report to my scientific colleagues, who could not be expected to keep up with so seemingly bizarre a field, the gist of my experience in "monitoring the noise level" over the years in my capacity as scientific consultant to the Air Force. In doing so, I feel somewhat like a traveler to exotic lands and faraway places, who discharges his obligation to those who stayed at home by telling them of the strange ways of the natives.

During my long period of association with the reports of strange things in the sky, I expected that each lull in the receipt of reports signaled the end of the episode, only to see the activity renew; in just the past two years it has risen to a new high. Despite the fact that the great majority of reports resulted from misidentifications of otherwise familiar things, my own concern and sense of personal responsibility have increased and caused me to urge the initiation of a meaningful scientific investigation of the residue of puzzling UFO cases by physical and social scientists. I have guardedly raised this suggestion in the literature¹ and at various official hearings, but with little success. UFO was a term that called forth buffoonery and caustic banter; this was both

a cause and an effect of the lack of scientific attention. I speak here only of the puzzling reports; there is little point to concern ourselves with reports that can be easily traced to balloons, satellites, and meteors. Neither is there any point to take account of vague oral or written reports which contain few information bits. We need only be concerned with "hard data," defined here as reports, made by several responsible witnesses, of sightings which lasted a reasonable length of time and which were reported in a coherent manner.

I have strongly urged the Air Force to ask physical and social scientists of stature to make a respectable, scholarly study of the UFO phenomenon. Now that the first firm steps have been taken toward such a study, I can set forth something of what I have learned, particularly as it relates to frequently made misstatements about UFO's. Some of these statements which lead to misconceptions are:

(1) Only UFO "buffs" report UFO's. The exact opposite is much nearer the truth. Only a negligible handful of reports submitted to the Air Force are from the "true believers," the same who attend UFO conventions and who are members of "gee-whiz" groups. It has been my experience that quite generally the truly puzzling reports come from people who have not given much or any thought to UFO's.

(2) UFO's are reported by unreliable, unstable, and uneducated people. This is, of course, true. But UFO's are reported in even greater numbers by reliable, stable, and educated people. The most articulate reports come from obviously intelligent observers; dullards rarely overcome their inherent inertia toward making written reports.

(3) UFO's are never reported by scientifically trained people. This is unequivocally false. Some of the very best, most coherent reports have come from scientifically trained people. It is true that scientists are reluctant to make a public report. They also usually request anonymity which is always granted.

(4) UFO's are never seen at close range and are always reported vaguely. When we speak of the "body of puzzling reports, we exclude all those which fit the above description. I have in my files several hundred reports which are fine brain teasers and could

easily be made the subject of profitable discussion among physical and social scientists alike.

(5) The Air Force has no evidence that UFO's are extra-terrestrial or represent advanced technology of any kind. This is a true statement but is widely interpreted to mean that there is evidence against the two hypotheses. As long as there are "unidentifieds," the question must obviously remain open. If we knew what they were, they would no longer be UFO's—they would be IFO's, Identified Flying Objects! If you know the answer beforehand, it isn't research. No truly scientific investigation of the UFO phenomenon has ever been undertaken. Are we making the same mistake the French Academy of Sciences made when they dismissed stories of "stones that fell from the sky"? Finally, however, meteorites were made respectable in the eyes of science.

(6) UFO reports are generated by publicity. One cannot deny that there is a positive feedback, a stimulated emission of reports, when sightings are widely publicized, but it is unwarranted to assert that this is the sole cause of high incidence of UFO reports.

(7) UFO's have never been sighted on radar or photographed by meteor or satellite tracking cameras. This statement is not equivalent to saying that radar, meteor cameras, and satellite tracking stations have not picked up "oddities" on their scopes or films that have remained unidentified. It has been lightly assumed that although unidentified, the oddities were not unidentifiable as conventional objects.

For these reasons I cannot dismiss the UFO phenomenon with a shrug. The "hard" cases contain frequent allusions to peculiar kinematic, geometric, and luminescent characteristics. I have begun to feel that there is a tendency in 20th-century science to forget that there will be a 21st-century science, and indeed, a 30th-century science, from which vantage points our knowledge of the universe may appear quite different. We suffer, perhaps, from temporal provincialism, a form of arrogance that has always irritated posterity.

J. Allen Hynek

Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern
University, Evanston, Illinois 60201

Reference

1. *J. Opt. Soc. Amer.*, Vol. 43, p. 311, 1953.

AEROSPACE

Soviet Union acknowledges UFOs

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS ONCE were thought to be the exclusive property of neurotic minds in the Western hemisphere—particularly in the U.S. And until recently, the Soviet political and scientific communities seemed quite bent on perpetuating this viewpoint while, at the same time, denying that such foolishness as UFOs existed in Russia.

In spite of this evidence, the U.S. Air Force—as keeper of the nation's UFO reports—has funded a scientific investigation into UFO reports. Results of the study, being headed by Dr. Eugene U. Condon, professor of physics at the University of Colorado and a member of the *Industrial Research Editorial Advisory Board*, have been promised for late this fall.



UFO REPORT DUE IN FALL
Dr. Edward U. Condon heads study

Now it seems the Soviets after all do have a scientific interest in UFOs. For the first time, a Soviet astronomer recently admitted that UFOs had been sighted over Russia. Another, a Soviet Air Force general, revealed that an official commission had been seated to investigate the phenomena.

The astronomer, Dr. Feliks Zigel of the Moscow Aviation Institute, is calling for global investigation of UFOs, citing them "a problem of prime importance that can be solved only by joint effort of all the scientists of the world."

Zigel claims the most popular Soviet UFO is "a luminous orange colored crescent flying with its outward bend forward."

He also reports that a scientific team already has studied some 200 reports of sightings, including those by astronomers at the Kazan and Koslovodsk observatories.

At least one American scientist, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, cautions that such a Soviet revelation can mean only that they are signaling the start of a race

to solve the UFO puzzle. Hynek is director of Northwestern University's Dearborn Observatory and a leading proponent of a scientific UFO investigation.

"We know enough now about the way the USSR announces its scientific advances—the element of surprise the Russians have built into every step of their space program is one example—to guess that a Soviet scientist would hardly call for 'a many-sided, careful scientific investigation' of a phenomenon unless such an investigation already were going on," Hynek declares. □

Industrial Research - Feb 1968

Planets

The planets of the solar system, in order of their mean distance from the sun, are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. Both Uranus and Neptune are visible through good field glasses. But Pluto is so distant and small that only large telescopes make it visible.

The planet Pluto was first sighted in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh at Arizona's Lowell Observatory.