

UFO MAGAZINE

Combined with Saucer Album

25¢

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Summer 1965

Entering our second year as a regularly-scheduled professional magazine

Spacemen See Mystery Object

At 9:36 p.m. (EDT) space stroller Edward White and command pilot James McDivitt surpassed astronaut Gordon Cooper's record of 34 hours and 20 minutes set May 16, 1963.

In other moments of excitement during a comparatively routine day, the astronauts also chatted breezily with their wives and caught a glimpse of another orbiting satellite.

For some hours before surpassing Cooper's endurance record there were long periods of radio silence between the twin astronauts and ground controllers. Both were reported in excellent condition.

DURING THEIR 19TH orbit McDivitt sighted a celestial object with "big arms sticking out." He took movies, but the glaring sun prevented him from identifying it positively.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officials said the object might be the Pegasus 2 satellite, a batlike device for detecting meteoroids. It and a twin are the largest unmanned satellites in space, with a 96-foot wingspread. The Pegasus 2 was launched from Cape Kennedy May 25.

Russian cosmonauts on their last space flight also reported seeing a satellite but they couldn't identify it either.

"You still looking at that thing?" McDivitt was asked from Mission Control after the sighting.

"No, I've lost it, but it had big arms sticking out of it, it looked like," McDivitt said.

"I only had it for just a minute. I got a couple of pictures with a movie camera and one with a Hasselblad (a still camera).

"I was in free drift, and before I could get the control back I sorta lost it."

"Good show," said capsule communicator Virgil Grissom.

Allen Greenfield asks:

IS

MANTELL

ALIVE

????????

page 4

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EXTRA SAVINGS

As I write this editorial it has been twenty-four hours since the closing session of the 1965 Congress of Scientific Ufologists.I can remember the optomisim that prevailed at all of the "closed sessions." More importantly,I can remember the progress that was made,and how all past misunderstandings were forgotten.I also know that we all will be better off for what was said and done there.To sum up what went on at the Congress sessions would take several pages...several pages that we do not have this issue.But the most important accomplishment of the Congress was the "code of ethics" set-up for Congress participants (as well as all of Ufology) to follow.This code condemns the conception of a monolithic sphere of influence,as well as a slander clause affecting all saucer publications.The "code" also asks all participants to see that what they write or publish as fact is indeed factual material. I feel that if we all live by the code we will finally leave the "Tom Sawyer" stage of UFO investigation,and will embark upon the promised shores of sane research and reporting.More about the Congress next issue.....

You will probably thumb through this issue after disregarding the editorial page and find that the bulk of this issue has been devoted to the rather long article by Allen Greenfield,entitled "The Legacy of Captain Mantell." But to those of you who are brave enough to read these words I must explain our reasons for printing this unusual article.First of all,it is an exerpt from the forthcoming book Ufology: An Informal Survey,(to be published by us by-the-way) most of which was written by Mr. Greenfield,although your editor did write the foreword which is about our limit as far as book writing goes.Let me say now that there is an ad elsewhere in this magazine so that will be the extent of the plug.

Second of all,after Mr. Greenfield mentioned his theories regarding Captain Mantell at the open session of the Congress of Scientific Ufologists,much of the 260+ in attendance became very attentive and listened with much enthusiasim.After the open session many asked him questions about his interesting and thought provoking ideas.

We must also ask our readers to please send us their ZIP code numbers, so whenever Big Brother requires all publishers to use his new bureaucratic system you will be sure to receive your issue.

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***THE LEGACY OF CAPTAIN MANTELL by Allen Greenfield
From the forthcoming book, Ufology: An Informal Survey.

"A long time friend of Mantell's went on record as saying that he'd flown with him several years and knew him personally. He couldn't conceive of Mantell's even thinking about disregarding his lack of oxygen. Mantell was one of the most cautious pilots he knew"--Captain E. Ruppelt.

One of the best known cases of a UFO was made on January 7, 1948. On that date, the records show Captain Thomas Mantell died while in pursuit of a UFO near Godman AFB, Kentucky. The facts in the case are much disputed, but they read something like this:

"The UFO was sighted from the Godman Tower as Capt. Mantell's flight of F 51's was about to land. The tower operator radioed Mantell to check the object out, and Mantell took off after the whatever-it-was. Twenty minutes or so later Mantell was dead, his plane having crashed. There are numerous controversies as to whether Mantell was chasing a spaceship, a balloon, or the planet Venus; whether Mantell's body was riddled with holes or not; whether Mantell was, in fact, shot down by an extraterrestrial vehicle or not."

That's the way the story goes, recited today by the collectors of UFO lore as if it were some kind of new Gospel. I had always accepted this as such, until one day it occurred to me that no one had really ever questioned the matter. I forthwith decided to tackle the task myself, not (it must be emphasized) because I doubted the above interpretation of events, but because skeptical inquiry into the status quo is, in my opinion, always a healthy sign. With this in mind, I proceeded to attempt approaching the subject from an angle never before tried.

Within the course of all the debate over the particulars surrounding the death of Captain Thomas Mantell, it occurs to this writer that no one has ever given any thought to the primary assumption itself, i.e. that Mantell is, in fact, dead. A perusal of the voluminous data and debate over the case never once, to this writer's knowledge, discloses the possibility that Mantell may not have died at all. The reasons for this, I suppose, are that we have been given no reason to doubt the fact of his death, therefore any proposal to the contrary would be as absurd as questioning the fact that George Washington is dead. Add to this the inevitable counter-question, "If he is alive why hasn't he come forward and said something?", and you have pretty well snuffed the life out of the baseless contention that Mantell is alive.

Or have you? I am extremely suspicious of anything that axiomatic; that pat. The whole thing is too smooth, almost as if it were planned that way. Perhaps we should reexamine some of the evidence, and see if there is anything to support the contention that Mantell is alive, as fantastic as it initially may seem.

First, we must answer the "obvious facts" as stated above that have kept this question from having come up before. I'm not so sure we have not been given any reason to doubt the story as it stands. If, in our ignorance, we have simply overlooked certain points because of preconceived notions about the case, it is our own fault, not the fault of the facts. I believe the evidence is there. To be sure, it has been obscured and glossed over, but this in itself may reveal something. But, I am getting ahead of myself.

At the outset of this article I quoted a passage from the famed book by the late E.J. Ruppelt, The Report on UFOs. In essence, Ruppelt was reporting on the incredulousness of a close friend of Mantell's at the pilot's seeming recklessness in climbing above a safe altitude without an oxygen mask. It wasn't a mistake... Mantell radioed that he was "going to 20,000 feet." ² a Ruppelt himself ³ expresses some surprise that a pilot--a trained pilot, would make a mistake of this nature. But here was a man who had known Mantell and flown with him. He called Mantell a cautious pilot. Coming from a fellow-flyer, this statement merits attention. The only explanation HE could offer was that Mantell thought that what he was chasing might be "more important than his life or his family." ⁴

This simply does not hold up under any kind of objective examination. I don't care what it was he saw, no man would go to certain death just to get a close look at a spaceship, a balloon, or whatever. It's just not within the realm of sanity. It might seem more credible of a rookie and reckless "flyboy", but we are dealing, keep in mind, with the flight commander.

Have I perhaps thrown a rock or two into your preconceived ideas yet? Let me sum up the picture I have given you so far, and you tell me how it looks. Here we have an experienced pilot chasing an unidentified flying object. He is known for being a cautious pilot; that is his reputation. The object climbs above him. He sees it, he knows he has no oxygen mask, and it is out of his range. He then proceeds to calmly tell the tower the exact equivalent of saying, "goodby, folks. I am sacrificing my life to see a flying saucer," and is never heard from again.

I don't know about you, but I smell rotten fish.

The second point made was the rhetorical question about why Mantell doesn't say something, assuming he is alive. To the well-versed initiate in the UFO field, I could easily provide a one-word answer to this charge: Killian. But to the less well acquainted, perhaps I'd better briefly elaborate.

Captain Killian was flying a plane in 1959. Unlike Mantell, he is not a military pilot, and, equally unlike Mantell, he is not supposed to be dead. But from a UFO-information standpoint, he might as well be. His sad story is that he had the misfortune of seeing three (count 'em three) UFOs flying near his commercial plane, and made the mistake of reporting it. The authorities--that be took his story, nodded, and shortly thereafter announced a totally abysmal explanation of the case, which I will not bother the reader with here. Being an honest human being, Killian protested the official nonsense to the press, which gave widespread coverage to his statement. Thereupon the perpetrators of the explanation began to cast aspersions on the sobriety of Captain Killian at the time of his sighting, despite the fact that numerous other individuals--including several military pilots--had sighted the exact same objects at the exact same time.

Killian was understandably insensed. Here was a man intrusted daily with dozens of human lives who depended on his alertness. Such charges by the authorities endangered this man's livelihood. He began to blast the Air Force (whoops!-hadn't meant to mention them by name) at this point with both barrels. Then all of a sudden he wasn't blasting anybody anymore. Or even talking. Or even answering his phone. In fact, he wasn't saying anything. To this day he isn't saying anything. It was learned later from his wife that the Air Force had indirectly silenced him by putting

pressure on his airline to threaten him with the loss of his job if he didn't shut up. Captain Killian has a family. He is a man with responsibilities. He shut-up.⁵

I have dwelt extensively on the case of Captain Killian. I could have picked any of a dozen similar cases, but this one classic example should suffice. Killian was a civilian pilot, not subject to direct military control. Mantell was (or is, as the case may be) a military pilot, subject to direct command. If the military wanted him to change his name, dye his hair, and move to Thule, Greenland, they could do same with remarkable ease. I am not implying that they did, but I am implying that they could, Constitution, Bill of Rights, etc. notwithstanding. This may be America, land of the free, but it is also America, land of Air Force Regulation 200-2. Look it up sometime, if you want a nice jolt.⁶

Having destroyed all of the major arguments against even discussing the matter of the late, or not-so-late Thomas Mantell, we can proceed to the matter of whether or not there is, in fact, a case for his not being dead. First, I would like to itemize the several points for discussion. They are as follows:

- 1) The case itself...did it actually occur, or was it a sham?
- 2) Assuming that it did occur, how close did Mantell get to the object he was allegedly pursuing?
- 3) What did he actually say to the people back at Godman Tower, specifically, what was the last thing he said before his crash?
- 4) What did he see?
- 5) Finally, did he really crash, and if so was he killed?

If the answer is "no" on both counts to the latter question, there are a number of additional queries that must be made such as "what happened to him and why," etc. But these are not within the scope of this article, which, after all, is the first of its kind and cannot be expected to answer everything. I am hoping that it will initiate an elaborate new look into the case. If we can spark this, we will have accomplished our task quite adequately.

Point one raises the sub-question of "if it was a sham, why?". I honestly cannot think of any reason, unless we are to believe Dr. Leon Davidson's fantastic theory that UFOs are nothing more than an elaborate trick of the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).⁷ I regard this theory very skeptically, though with perhaps more credulity than some of my associates. There is also the fact that we tend to prove that the occurrence was real.

We do, however, have one element of doubt. I think the sighting--if not the accident--occurred pretty much the way it has reputed to have occurred. But in all fairness I must record the one doubtful point in the whole matter. When Captain Ruppelt took over the AF UFO project, he proceeded to reexamine the Mantell case. He was hampered, however, when he discovered that the microfilmed files of the case had been ruined. This was allegedly an accident, but it does make interesting reading, and I can't in all fairness deny that it might mean something more than a clumsy accident. I quote from The Report on UFOs:⁸

"My next step was to try to find out what Mantell's wing men had seen

or thought, but this is a blind alley. All of this evidence was in the ruined portion of the microfilm, even their names were missing. (emphasis added-A.G.) The only reference I could find to them was a vague passage indicating they hadn't seen anything."

Maybe it doesn't mean anything, except that somebody spilled something on a roll of important microfilm. But maybe, just maybe, Dr. Davidson's "fantastic theory" isn't so fantastic!

But we will proceed under the assumption that there was a sighting at Godman AFB on the date in question. The second question is highly speculative. We can't say for sure how close Mantell got to the object, because the people in the tower don't agree on what he said, and Mantell himself isn't talking...for one reason or the other. A clue, however, might be found in the answering of the third question.

The "official" line on what Mantell probably said last was something to the effect, "I'm going to 20,000 feet."⁹ As we have seen, it is unlikely that this is the last thing he said. Indeed, it is unlikely that he--or anyone in his position with his experience--would have said this at all, first, last, or in between.

But this is the official story of the last words of Captain Thomas Mantell to anyone of this world. Here is the first point where we find a reasonable discrepancy between the official account, the accepted account, and the true facts of the case, deduced through logic. The question arises, "If there is nothing to hide, why lie?" It is a good question.

If the official account starts to get shaky at this point, I suggest that the account previous to this point is on sound ground and can be presumed accurate. So, here's the picture: Mantell is approaching the object he has been ordered to chase. He does so for 15 or 20 minutes. Now he is closing in on the UFO. Beyond this point, accounts diverge.

We are assuming for the moment that there were last words of some sort, i.e. that Mantell did crash to his death after having said something. If it wasn't "I'm going to 20,000 feet," what was it? Here we have reached a crucial point in our case. We must go to other accounts, and that means resorting to unsubstantiated rumor. But remember, even a rumor is more reliable than a proven lie.

The most widespread rumor also provides an answer to question four. Granted, it is a fantastic story, at best dubious, but it is the best we have.¹⁰ Back to the scene. Mantell is approaching the object. He radios the tower. All present here him say over the static of his radio, "It looks metallic and it's tremendous in size! I can see windows and.... MY GOD THERE'S PEOPLE IN IT!!"

I wonder if the reader feels the same chill up and down his spine that I do when I think about that account, putting myself in Mantell's place. More, I wonder what Mantell thought and felt.

We come now to the second crucial point. In question five I asked about the crash and about the alleged death of Mantell. We will assume for the moment that the latter account of "Mantell's last words" is fairly accurate. Rather let us say that it is probably a good deal closer to being accurate than the "official account." At this point all accounts to date merge into agreement with certain variations to the same old tune. Some say Mantell was riddled full of holes, while others maintain he was disintegrated outright. A more scientific or, more aptly,

pseudo-scientific version says that at this point Mantell's motor went out because he had entered the "electromagnetic field" of the purported spaceship. The official account maintains that Mantell went too high, passed out, and spun out of control. They vary considerably, but all agree: At this point Captain Thomas Mantell chashed to his death.

I don't agree. I say Mantell got close enough to the object to see what it was, close enough to say just what the rumor-account maintains. Then the UFO drifted upwards and Mantell said something like, "It's going to 20,000 feet..." followed by, "I'm returning to base." I'm sure that 20,000 feet business has some basis in fact, and I offer this only slightly modified version as a possible explanation. The difference between "it" and "I" can make all the difference in the world in the proper context. In this particular case it was the difference between life and death for Captain Mantell.

But what basis do I have for saying this? What proof can I offer? I suppose the best way to answer that is by saying that there is as much proof of my contention as there is of the syncopated accounts. Indeed, maybe more. I assume there were photos of both the crashed F 51 and the "body" of "Captain Mantell". However, I don't think I have to dwell on how photos can be faked, or how any photo can be labeled "Captain Mantell's body" or "Captain Mantell's plane." At this point that sort of business would be redundant.

Nor do I feel any particular need to comment further on the reliability of "official" testimony, etc. which I think we have proved beyond any doubt is no more no less authentic than any other body of data. And of course, as Capt. Ruppelt noted, some of the pertinent data on the case was lost forever in that little "accident" (we shall use that term for the moment) with the microfilm, including the names of backup witnesses.

But the burden of proof is on me, the accuser. Very well. Let's go back once more to the scene. Mantell has closed on the object, made his famous little speech, and is still closing on the UFO. The UFO is rising. Does Mantell follow it? As we have seen, no man in his right mind would have. I'm sure some bright psychologist will seize on this to prove that Mantell was deranged, but this is a straw not to be grasped in light of all descriptions I have ever heard of Captain Mantell, the man. It doesn't fit, Doc, sorry.

So Mantell doesn't go to 20,000 feet after all. There is therefore no conceivable reason why he should have crashed, in light of this. You say he ran out of fuel after the long chase? He would have had time to radio this in AND, to boot, time to bail out. Despite the popularized fiction of the "jet jockey" type who always stays with his ship too long to get out, these flyboys are trained to get out when they are crashing...and they do. This same explanation can be applied to the holders of the "electromagnetic field" theory...if you buy "electromagnetic fields" in the first place. All that remains is the possibility of disintegration or something similar. I don't go for this explanation, simply because there is absolutely no factual or deductive evidence of it. If it comes to a choice between a live Mantell or a disintegrated Mantell, the "live" explanation will win me every time. I don't agree with Dr. Menzel very often, but it is certainly true that when you see a parachute-shaped object in the sky and don't know what it is, it is FAR more likely to be a parachute than a spaceship with bug-eyed men from Jupiter. It might not be, but the chances are in favor of it by immense odds. The same logic applies to the present study. It is far more acceptable to a rational human being that a man in a plane who sees a flying saucer will live to tell about it than it is that he will be disintegrated. We have numerous other cases that we can point to which back this up. Case in point: Captain Killian.

So, contrary to all accounts you have ever heard, Mantell returned to base.

What happened thereafter may be deduced quite rationally, although in all honesty I must say I can't prove a word of what I'm about to say. We have two pothetical situations that could exist. In the case of the former, I will just admit I don't know what's what. In the case of the latter instance, I have an interesting and--though fantastic--logical hypothesis to offer.

Situation One is that the UFO was identified as some kind of conventional phenomena. For a long time the AF maintained that what Mantell had been chasing was the planet Venus. When Ruppelt checked this with imminent astronomer J. Allan Hynek, he was told that Venus was not visible at the time of the chase. That ended that. Ruppelt concluded later that what Mantell was chasing "could have been a balloon." But keep in mind that the microfilm incident left Ruppelt blank on many aspects of the case, that he was researching the incident long after the trail had grown cold, and that he could find no data on balloon activity on the day in question.¹³ So the question is open. If it was natural phenomena, specifically a balloon, we have that insurmountable (for me) question of why, then, was Mantell so completely muzzled. To future investigators who might look into this aspect of the matter, I offer two hints. First, I suggest you might examine carefully Dr. Davidson's Open Letter¹⁴. It is utterly fantastic and totally absurd, but then again..... Second, I offer a more practical hint that may be worth a great deal: Remember that all this occurred in January of 1948.¹⁵ If it had occurred in 1965 reactions might have been considerably different. I must warn you, however, that the two clues conflict; if one is significant, chances are the other one has little or no significance. If this sounds a little on the vague side, I'm sorry; I don't mean to be cryptic. I'm just confused myself on this point.

The second hypothetical situation is that the rumor account that we accepted earlier is, within the limits of interpretive reason, accurate. If this is the "lay of the land" we are able to draw certain conclusions about this case. Perhaps, about the whole UFO mystery.

Back once more to the scene. Only it has changed. We are back at Godman Airbase now. Mantell is just landing. He finds a tight security lid on everything. He is introduced to several Intelligence officers who grill him over for hours on what he has seen. Possibly he is flown to Washington. Someone, Who? The President? The security of the nation is involved. And here's the hardest of all to swallow: "For the sake of your country, you must change your name and habits, nevermore to be Captain Thomas Mantell. A cover-story about your "death" will be issued about your chasing a UFO. Your country is proud of you, boy." Exit, John Smith.

I'm looking at the above paragraph. It sounds like a cheap plot from a cheap version of James Bond or maybe worse--Tom Swift. For that reason, and that reason alone, many of our readers will reject my entire premise, and return post haste to Captain Thomas Mantell R.I.P. But don't act too quickly; life is sometimes all too much like a cheap novel. I said this was hypothetical. I did NOT say this was a guess. There is a great amount of documentation to support this theory, as fantastic as it is.

First of all, let's not forget our old friend Captain Killian. That also would sound like a low-grade "hack story" in some quarters too, but it is thoroughly documented and incontestable on rational grounds.¹⁶ He has lots of company too. There are all too many men who have their vocal cords tied by regulations like AFR 200-2, and some not bound by such regulations who still are somehow pressured into silence, or worse, into contradicting

themselves to please the "authorities". The case of the late Edward J. Ruppelt itself is a glaring example of this.

Second, we have a different class of supporting evidence. Less-well documented, perhaps, but still worthy of study. I refer you to the silencing of Albert K. Bender, a private UFO researcher having, to my knowledge, no government connections.¹⁷ And if abductions over UFO cases are doubted, I suggest you examine the very meticulously investigated case of Olden Moore.¹⁸ It is all so fantastic, yet the evidence is there.... what is, is.

We therefore have these two alternate possible situations. Both require much, much more study. I hope they receive the attention they deserve. After all these years, maybe we will get to the bottom of things.--Or maybe I'm wrong. Maybe Captain Mantell did die that cold January almost two decades ago. I honestly don't know.... But I do know this: There is a case for a living Mantell, a case almost everyone thought was closed tight. I don't know, but I'm inclined to believe it... maybe there's a John Smith around who will read this article, nod his head sadly, and thank Heaven somebody believes that he is still alive. This article is for you if you are reading it, John Smith.

Footnotes:

- 1) Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, Ruppelt-pp 53
- 2) There is some dispute as to whether this was the last thing Mantell said... but all who were there do agree that he did say this. (see A)
- 3) Ruppelt, op. cit.
- 4) Ibid.
- 5) For an excellent account of this case see Flying Saucers: Top Secret by Major Donald E. Keyhoe, pp 27
- 6) I'm not criticising the Air Force; notwithstanding our differences I like the Air Force. But I do not like AFR 200-2
- 7) Dr. Leon Davidson, "An Open Letter to Saucer Researchers," Oct. 8, 1961.
- 8) pp 53
- 9) Ruppelt, op. cit. pp 48
- 10) See Keziah World Chart, circa 1958
- 11) See World of Flying Saucers by Dr. Donald Menzel and Mrs. Lyle Boyd
- 12) Ruppelt, op. cit. pp 56
- 13) Ibid. There is some evidence that Ruppelt encountered "the old run-around" when he inquired.
- 14) see note seven
- 15) January 7, 1948
- 16) I have heard it protested---but hardly rationally.
- 17) See They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers, Gray Barker, University Books, 1956.
- 18) The UFO Evidence, NICAP, pp 169.

"A" Here is an irreconcilable point in "their" story. If he said he was going to 20,000 feet, he knew what we was doing. If he knew what he was doing, he wouldn't have said it.

Allen Greenfield

ANOTHER JERSEY LANDING?????

Hampton Lake, New Jersey-

Mrs. Carol Tischuk of the South Jersey town of Hampton Lake, refuses to speculate on what might have caused a circular imprint in the sandy clearing of a woods near her home. The circumference of the circle is marked by a blackened, solid rim of fused sand.

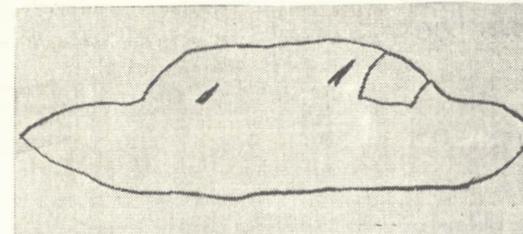
The circle is depressed about five inches. It is 18 feet in diameter. It is "perfectly round" and has a deposit of odd, "crusty" material in the middle. There is also an inner circle of what also looks like burned, fused sand, about four feet inside the outer circle.

Mrs. Tischuk was interested but thought nothing of the strange circle until, one night, a friend told her a story which had happened to her recently (reports are not clear as to the date of the incident, it appears to have taken place during mid-June). Her friend, Mrs. Lorraine Moore, of 136 Main Street, Vincentown, was driving home one morning about three o'clock. She was cruising down Red Lion Road when, suddenly an object rushed down.

She described the object as "an oversized platter". It appeared above her car, slightly to the front and traveling at the same speed as the car. After trying to speed up her car to get away from it, she found that the object was still in the same position. She said that if she was on the roof of her car she could have reached up and touched the strange visitor. She said there was a "cockpit" in the center. The object also had something resembling antennae and something like windows on the side. The saucer also had a red light on it.

After a wild chase down the highway Mrs. Moore pulled into her drive to try to get to a safer place should the object become hostile. She ran into the house to get her husband to look at the object, still over her car at tree top level. But when her husband got outside, the object was gone.

After Mrs. Tischuk heard this she called in State Policeman Frank J. Caldwell. After the policeman looked at the circle he said that case is authentic, it is not a hoax. He said he thought the circle was made by "something else."



Sketch of saucer sighted by two children over Las Alamos, Colorado on October 8, 1964

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