

UFO POTPOURRI

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From: *HOUSTON CHRONICLE*
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Meteor likely made bright flash

By **THOMAS H. MAUGH II**
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The green flash seen by observers in the Southwest and parts of Mexico on Thursday evening was almost certainly a meteor, astronomers said Friday, but scientists have no idea yet where or even whether it reached the ground.

That it was observed over such a broad area — ranging from San Francisco to Arizona and Mexico — indicates that it was at a very high altitude, according to astronomical observer Tony Cook of the Griffith Park Observatory in Los Angeles.

Scattered reports suggest that the object might have landed in California's San Joaquin Valley, in the central part of the state, but researchers say those reports probably are wrong because they present an inaccurate picture of what actually happens when a meteorite touches down.

People in desert or open areas often report seeing a meteor appear to strike the ground in the distance. "But what they are actually seeing is the meteor passing over the horizon," said cosmochemist John Wasson, a meteorite researcher at the

Mach 5 Prototype Takes to the Skies

Accurate Automation Corp., Chattanooga, Tenn. (423-894-4646), recently rolled out its LoFLYTE low-observable flight test aircraft at the Oshkosh, Wis., experimental air show.

The subsonic prototype—about 2.5 m long and piloted remotely—is a high-lift, low-drag Mach 5 aircraft concept that uses neural-network technology to improve maneuverability and reliability. By contrast, the SR-71 Blackbird has a top speed of about Mach 3. The LoFLYTE will be flight tested at Edwards AFB in California.

University of California, Los Angeles. When a meteor finally does reach the ground, it is no longer glowing, he said.

Only about 10 percent of meteors actually reach the Earth's surface. Most disintegrate before they pass through the atmosphere.

From: *HOUSTON CHRONICLE*
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Soviet spies infiltrated U.S. atomic project

By **ROBERT SEELY**
Associated Press

LONDON — Soviet spies heavily infiltrated the United States' atomic bomb program during World War II, newly released secret documents confirm.

The Manhattan Project — the code name for the American bomb-building program at Los Alamos, N.M., — was penetrated by Soviet agents soon after it began in October 1941, according to messages decoded by Britain's intelligence center and released this week.

Government Communications Headquarters released the documents following a decision by the U.S. National Security Agency to make similar data public.

Some of the 2,500 messages indicate that two British-based scientists working on the project, Cambridge University physicists Klaus Fuchs and Theodor Hall, passed information to the Soviet Union.

Fuchs, a German-born Briton, began to pass secrets to Moscow soon after he was drafted into the program.

One partially decoded signal from March 1945 said he detailed the construction of the bomb.

Fuchs was later convicted of disclosing nuclear secrets and sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment in London in March 1950. He was released in 1959 and moved to East Germany, where he died in 1988.

Theodor Hall, a U.S. citizen, was recruited by Soviet agents when he was only 19. On May 26, 1945, he told Soviet agents all the locations where Manhattan Project work was taking place, and gave them details of bomb-making methods, according to the documents.

Hall was never arrested and still lives in Cambridge with his wife, Joan, who told reporters this week that her husband was too ill to comment on the reports. According to *The Daily Telegraph*, he has cancer.

Hall was never prosecuted or named because British agents did not want to tip off the Soviets to the degree that their communications were being monitored.



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The LoFLYTE uses neural networks for smart actuators, fault diagnosis, air data sensors, and flight-data acquisition. (photo: Accurate Automation)

A 7-m-long hypersonic model will be completed in late 1997 or early '98. Flight efficiency will depend in part on the triangle-shaped plane's ability to ride the hypersonic shock wave that it produces.

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ORANGE-AMBER DISC

From: *ISLANDER*, Pensacola Beach, FL 7/31/96
By Carole Baker

"I was driving from meeting other sky watchers at the Beach for dinner on my way to Shoreline Park to sky watch for the remainder of the evening. It was Saturday, 20 July 1996 at 8:50 pm. I stopped at the gas station at the junction of Gulf Breeze Parkway and Shoreline Drive for some bottled water and then proceeded down toward the Park.

"Anyone who has ever visited Shoreline Park to sky watch will be familiar with the landmarks on the left side of Shoreline Drive. I had passed the apartments, the library and municipal building and was coming upon the ball fields on my right. There is a small hill and as I crested the hill before me in the sky I saw a large round disc. The disc was approximately two inches across at arm's length and appeared to be close by. In fact, it appeared to be over the road between the turning to Shoreline Park south and the recreation center on the right. The color was bright, almost incandescent amber-orange. There was a distinct edge to the circle and color remained steady and strong. There was a rolling effect within the disc. I checked the time, checked in my rear view mirror quickly, not wanting to take my eyes off the disc. There was a car some distance back and no other cars coming toward me. I had slowed down considerably, but considering the short distance the disc appeared to be away from me, I was coming rather close to it. Since I was alone, it was my hope that I could reach my fellow sky watchers, already at the sky watch site in Shoreline Park to my south or that the car behind me was someone who would catch up to me so that I would have another witness.

"Unfortunately, after eight to ten seconds the disc disappeared in an instant. There was no sound associated with it or it's leaving. I had both front windows of my car rolled down, since the air-conditioning does not work. The disc just blinked out and there appeared nothing remaining in the sky where it had been. I turned left down the hill into Shoreline Park South, I must confess at great speed. I stopped my car, leaving the lights on and the engine running and inquired excitedly if any of the ten or so sky watchers had seen it. "Seen what?" they asked. When I related the sighting, the group admitted that, as usual, they had been looking to the south, east, and west, not the north."

SIGHTING OF BLUE LIGHT

From: *DAILY MAIL*, Hull, England, 2/22/96

"Mystery surrounds an incident in which a shocked couple watched as their car was circled by a ball of blue light.

"Jean Iveson (65) and her husband Gordon (65) were driving home to Easington at 12:30 am on Monday after visiting friends in Kingston upon Hull. The couple saw a blue light flashing, but not moving from its position. Suddenly a ball of blue light headed for their car as they neared the village of Welwick, near Patrington, Holderness.

"I was watching it flashing on and off to the left of me as Gordon was driving," said Mrs. Iveson, of Hull Road, Easington. "It didn't move. I don't believe it was an airplane. All of a sudden, Gordon shouted 'What the hell's that?' and this ball of light came straight in front of the car and lit it up. We were shocked, but not frightened. Within a second it just disappeared. I remember thinking, well, do I feel any different?, but I didn't and neither did Gordon."

"Mr. Iveson said the light was the size of a coconut when he first saw it passing his windscreen. It came from the left and gave off a bluish tint and shot off above the house rooftops, giving off a blue flash as it went," he said.

A Ministry of Defense RAF spokesman confirmed the sighting was a mystery. "We do have some RAF night flights, but very little at the weekend, and they wouldn't flash blue lights or fly so low."

JUPITER'S MOON COULD BE HABITAT FOR LIFE

From: *DAILY NEWS*, Anchorage, AK, 8/13/96

"Now that the hunt for extraterrestrial life is heating up, fueled by last week's release of tantalizing, if ambiguous, clues that Mars may once have harbored primitive microbes, scientists are calling for close exploration not only of the red planet but of a moon of Jupiter that is increasingly seen as a possible home to alien life.

The common denominator of both worlds is water, a prerequisite for life, at least in this part of the universe. Today, Mars is largely a red desert strewn with rocks and many indications water flowed over its surface billions of years ago, cutting deep channels and filling large lakes. Mars offers no clear signs that liquid water now runs on its surface.

But Europa, a moon of Jupiter, is completely enveloped by water, either frozen or liquid, believed to be as deep as 60 miles in some places. Scientists suspect that the Jovian satellite has a hot core and that the inner part of its waters makes up a gigantic dark sea that may seethe with alien life forms.