

Project 1947 in the West

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Subject: Project 1947 in the West

Early in 1964 Ted Bloecher had just started research on the 1947 wave. His early results were reported the UFO EVIDENCE edited by Richard Hall. About 72% of the reports Bloecher found came from the states west of the 100 degree West longitude line. These were preliminary finds based research in about 50 or so newspapers.

Out of the nearly 5000 newspaper examined so far for Project 1947 about 1000 come from states and Canadian Provinces west of the 100 degree West longitude line. The biggest concentrations of sightings are still in the West, but there are also other concentration on the Canadian east coast, in Texas, and Missouri.

Many "new" sightings have been discovered such as the one below:

Between Tonopah and Austin, Nevada (enroute to Elko, NV)
Aircraft encounter, 4 July:

Raymond Harris of Burbank, California and a friend were flying in Harris' 150 Voyager to spend the 4th of July weekend with his parents Deputy Sheriff and Mrs. J. C. Harris. Harris saw 5 fast flying shiney objects. The aircraft was at 10,000 feet, and the objects were slightly below that altitude. The objects reflected the sun so brightly that it was difficult to see details, but they were circular in shape and brilliant. He turned his plane around to give chase, but was unable to catch up, and the objects soon disappeared. The UFO were traveling in a southwesterly direction. When he landed, he inquired about the objects. No one had seen them, and no one knew what they were. Elko, Nevada DAILY FREE PRESS, 7 Jul 1947.

Over 250 people have contributed research to Project 1947. Here is a brief summary of the Project 1947 research in the West.

Alaska and Hawaii: No visits. All Alaskan newspapers at the University of Washington have been checked.

Yukon and Northwest Territories. Only a very sample of newspapers check. No visits.

British Columbia: The BC Archives and the University of Victoria were ckecked. None of the newspapers in the Legistative Library were checked. There are also significant newspapers only available at local libraries. In later years the Fort St. Johns ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS is an important newspaper which reprints UFO sightings from all over the Far North and Alaska. This weekly newspaper should be carefully screened.

Washington: All newspapers at the University of Washington, the State Library, Eastern Washington College have been checked. There are still a number of important newspaper like the Tacoma TIMES (only available at the Tacoma Public Library which have not been checked.)

Oregon: Checked all 1947 newspapers at the Oregon State Library and the University of Oregon. The Oregon State Historical Society was not visited. Some eastern Oregon newspaper have not been checked.

California: Checked all 1947 newspapers available at the

California State Library, Historical Society and UC, Berkley. The big collection at UC, Riverside has not been checked. The Lancaster, California newspaper and Edwards (Muroc) AFB newspaper DESERT WINGS were not checked for 1947 or other times. In 1952 DESERT WINGS had an article describing a number of sighting. This article was later reprinted in the Lanscaster REALTOR NEWS of 10 July 1952. This article has not been found. About 40% of California newspapers for 1947 have not been checked.

Arizona: All the 1947 newspapers Arizona State University, and Northern Arizona University have been checked. About 70% of the newspapers at the State Library have been completed. The University of Arizona and the Arizona Historical Society were not checked.

Nevada: All 1947 newspapers at the Nevada Historical Society were check. I understand that there are more newspapers at the University of Nevada. There were many gaps in the Nevada collection. Also, Nevada was not necessarily a UFO hot spot in 1947.

Idaho: The University of Idaho in Moscow was completely checked. The newspaper collection at the Idaho Historical Society in Boise which has mostly the same items available at Moscow was not checked. There is enough unique material at Boise to make a check profitable.

Alberta: The newspapers at the Archives and the University were nearly completed. There are some left to be done.

Saskatchewan: The archives at Saskatoon and Regina were completed.

Montana: All 1947 newspapers at the University of Montana and all newspapers on microfilm at the Montana State Historical Society were checked. The Great Falls LEADER was the only hard copy newspaper at the Society that was checked for 1947 and 1950.

Wyoming: The newspapers at the University of Wyoming and the Historical Society were checked. There are also some newspapers at county libraries which were checked. There are still some left to be done.

Utah: All 1947 newspapers at the Utah State Library and the University of Utah have been checked. There are significant newspapers not checked. Possibly, there are collections available at Brigham Young or in LDS archives?

Colorado: All newspapers at the Colorado Historical Society were checked. There are significant newspapers not checked including the Pueblo newspapers.

New Mexico: All newspapers at the University of New Mexico and the NM State Library have been checked. Up to 1996 all 1947 newspaper known to the NM Newspaper Project were checked. The Newspaper Project is still attempting to locate more newspapers in currently unknow collections.

West Texas: About 50% of the newspapers in west Texas--or all of Texas for that matter--have been checked. I visited 20 different libraries and institutions in Texas. There are still many significant newspapers left unchecked all over Texas.

In addition to 1947 research on pre-1947 incident has been done. I also sampled coverage of the Spring 1950 and November 1957 flaps. Other specific references were also checked.

Any additional assistance would be most welcome. Before starting research, let me know. I can supply lists of newspapers screened for all states, Canadian Provinces and foreign countries.

Jan Aldrich
Project 1947

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