

# THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

The A. P. R. O. Bulletin is the official copyrighted publication of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (A.P.R.O.), 4145 E. Desert Place, Tucson, Arizona, and is issued every other month to members only. The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization is a non-profit group dedicated to the eventual solution of the mystery of the unidentified objects which have been present in the skies for hundreds of years. Inquiries regarding membership may be made to the above address.

TUCSON, ARIZONA—MAY, 1961

## The Case Of The Interplanetary Cookies

### 1947 Contact Uncovered

One of the most unusual "contact" or "encounter" cases we have examined in our 10 year tenure in the UFO field is one which took place in 1947 and became a matter of public record in 1954.

In 1947 when the "flying saucers" were seen frequently in the United States, the sightings were received with considerable skepticism abroad. Brazilians were no different from others. One unusual event which took place in that country in 1947 was recorded, then shelved until 1954 when Brazil underwent extensive UAO surveillance. At that time the following incident found renewed interest among Brazilians. Whether or not it is true, we cannot say, but certainly it is an unusual case. It was first printed on August 8, 1947, in *Diario Da Tarde* and the "Correio Do Noroeste, in Bauru. Then, 1954, the case was reviewed along with a sketch in *O Cruzeiro*, under the by-line of APRO member Joao Martins, now an editor of that magazine. The report and translation was forwarded to us by Dr. Olavo T. Fontes, our Brazilian representative.

On July 23, 1947, (only 29 days after Arnold's experience), Topographer Jose C. Higgins was working at a location west of the Goio-Bang Colony, northeast of Pitanga and southwest of Camp de Mourao. When crossing one of the few fields in that region, he heard a high-pitched, piercing whistling sound, which seemed to come from the sky. Higgins looked up. He said that what he saw "raised the hair" on his head. Higgins described a "strange, circular air ship with protruding edges absolutely similar to those of a drug capsule" which was coming down out of the sky. The workers accompanying him, all countrymen, became frightened and ran. Higgins said he stayed to see what might happen.

"The strange craft crossed over the field in a closed circle and landed softly about 150 feet from where I stood," Hig-

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### Plane Crashes In Northern Wisconsin Unexplained

An interesting pair of incidents in Northern Wisconsin fairly close to the Eagle River-Phillips area, are the crashes of two Air Force B-47s on mock bombing runs over the Hurley-Ironwood district.

On February 24, 1961, a B-47 from Forbes Air Force Base, Topeka, Kansas, crashed in a wooded area about 8 miles from Hurley.

On the 2nd of May this year, another B-47 from Forbes AFB crashed just TWO MILES from the site of the crash on 24 February. In both instances, the planes were executing climbs after coming in low over the terrain, for a mock bombing run.

We do not have great detail on the February crash, but certain information concerning the May incident is most puzzling. Two police officers in nearby Ironwood, Michigan, Joe Krause and Ed Niemi, saw "a ball of fire falling from the sky," reported it to the radar base at Ironwood which had just lost a plane on its radar scope. Two men parachuted safely from the plane, the dismembered parts of a body were found in the plane wreckage about 150 yards ahead of the 12 to 15 foot crater made by the impact. A fourth man was missing.

Mead, pilot of the plane which crashed in May, said the plane did not burn before crashing, and made this enlightening statement: "I felt this weightlessness in the cabin—I was hanging by my straps." He also said that the plane suddenly failed to react in a climb. He also stated that he had not seen a ball of flame as ground observers claimed they did before the crash. He theorized that the weightlessness might have been caused by the plane's nosing over or dropping.

Residents of the Ironwood area described the climb as a full power, rapid ascent, but Mead said it was "not a violent thing."

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At 11 a. m. on the morning of 18 April 1961, Joe Simonton, 60-year-old chicken farmer and part-time plumber, was startled by a strange, loud noise outside and above his farm house near Eagle River, Wisconsin. He stepped to the window and was surprised to see a silvery object coming down vertically in his yard.

During the ensuing few minutes the following things happened, according to Mr. Simonton: He approached the object (he did not feel afraid), whereupon a "hatch" in the top portion of the object, came open, and he saw three dark-complexioned men inside. One of them handed him a silver-colored jug, and made a motion which indicated he wanted water (or liquid). Simonton took the jug, filled it, and handed it back. Then he saw into the object, where a man was "cooking" or "frying" something on a flameless cooking affair. There were several little perforated cookie-like objects beside the griddle, and Simonton motioned that he wanted some. One of the men handed him four of the things. Then the object took off at a 45-degree angle and was gone in just a few seconds. As it left, pine trees near the take-off path bowed over, apparently as a result of the air turbulence as the object went over.

That, basically is the story of Joe Simonton's "contact." First clippings and information reaching us from members in that area, including Earl Grummett, indicated that the case might be well worth a thorough investigation. Mrs. Marvin (Cecile) Hess of Rhineland-er kept us informed of all happenings germane to the sighting and was most useful in our evaluation of the facts.

After the initial report was made to the press, NICAP (Washington, D.C.) obtained one of the cookies for analysis and J. Allen Hynek, consulting Astrophysicist for the Air Force UFO Investigation Program, got one also. After days of much exploitation by news media, NICAP announced that the affair had had too much publicity, and they did

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## Staff Welcomes Two New Representatives

Among the list of Overseas Representatives the membership will find two new names. Eduardo Buelte, President of the Centro De Estudio Interplanetarios at Barcelona, Spain, has graciously consented to represent APRO in his country. The Rev. N. C. G. Cruttwell, Anglican priest of Menapi, New Guinea is our New Guinea representative. Reverend Cruttwell's excellent report on the New Guinea sightings of 1959 will be presented to the membership via this Bulletin beginning with the July issue. It has not yet been decided precisely how many parts will be required, but at this time it is felt that the serial will run at least four issues.

### IN THE JULY ISSUE

A complete report on the visit of Dr. and Mrs. Olavo T. Fontes to the U. S. and APRO.

## Cookie . . .

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not intend to analyze the "cookie." In a UPI story dated May 3, 1961, Simonton said, "If it happened again, I don't think I'd tell anybody about it." The same wire article quoted a NICAP statement which said that organization planned no further action and had more important things to investigate. NICAP stated that they were returning the pancake, but our last communique with the principals indicates that the object has not been returned. APRO learned from member Alex Mebane, of New York City, (also a member of NICAP) that he had NICAP's "pancake," which had been turned over to him, but could not afford to have an analysis performed Mr. Lorenzen offered to have an analysis performed, but could not assure that it would be done immediately. Whereas NICAP officials apparently felt the case to be valueless, Mebane, on the other hand, feels that it should be thoroughly investigated.

By this time Simonton was sick of the whole affair. He felt that he had reported an incident in good faith, and that after much to-do by many about the sighting, everyone seemed almost eager to drop it. He does not want to give up his one remaining sample (he had four originally, ate one which he said tasted like cardboard, gave one to NICAP through Judge Carter, a local UFO enthusiast, and one to Hynek).

The Director, who has more than a passing interest in cooking (having devised several bread recipes, for instance) decided to experiment with various ingredients in an attempt to duplicate the "cookie" or "pancake." Simonton said the object "tasted like cardboard," another individual who had tasted the thing, said it tasted like corn. Simonton said that a Northwestern University committee which investigated his story, said that the "pancakes" consisted of flour, sugar and grease. We have been unable to procure further details about the composition of the objects, and certainly the above information is much too nebulous for an evaluation. The Director's culinary experiments were quite revealing. Inasmuch as she did not have the identification of the exact ingredients, she concentrated on a duplication of the physical appearance. She found that a solution of corn meal, flour, sugar and water, if sparingly distributed on a very hot griddle in a shallow pool of oil (or grease) yielded a small, thick, rather leathery, very brown and perforated "pancake." It could be made in any size desirable.

It has been speculated, in print and

otherwise, that the Simonton sighting was fabricated in an attempt to bring added tourists to Eagle River and surrounding area, which is a resort area. This would be a very bright observation if it weren't for the fact that the man who sighted the object at close range could not have benefited directly or indirectly by such an action.

Corroboration of Simonton's sighting, of a sort, came from Insurance Agent and Scoutmaster Savino Borgo, about 50, who claims he saw a "saucer" while driving on Highway 70 about a mile from Simonton's home at about the same time Simonton claims to have had his experience. Borgo said the object rose diagonally and flew west generally parallel to Highway 70.

Theories that Mr. Simonton hoped to capitalize on his experience were scotched by Judge Carter who categorically stated that he knew Simonton well, that Simonton had a good reputation for honesty and integrity, was well regarded by his friends and neighbors, and that he could personally see no way in which Simonton could materially benefit from the experience.

A few other details complete the story. The object itself appeared as two "washbowls" turned "face-to-face." The sound which originally alerted Mr. Simonton was that of "knobby tires on a wet pavement!"—Simonton's own words. When the object approached the ground it did so very slowly "like an elevator." It did not land — it hovered a short distance off the ground, probably a very few inches. After Simonton went outside, the hatch, which was about 30 inches wide and about 6 feet high, was in the upper one half of the object, opened and a man whom he presumed to be about 5 feet in height, leaned out and handed him a jug, making motions like drinking; whereup Simonton filled the jug with water and handed it back. When he handed the jug, a very bright affair, back to the swarthy "man," he touched the side of the object. The object appeared to be about 12 feet high, and Simonton could see into the hatch when it opened. The jug was shiny, inside and out, not as light as aluminum, but lighter than steel, and had a handle on each side. The men appeared to be 25-30 years of age, with dark skin and hair. Simonton compared them to Italians in appearance. They appeared small, were wearing dark blue knit outfits with turtle-neck tops, and knit helmet—like affairs which Simonton assumed were worn under a headpiece of some sort. The men either had no beards, or were smooth shaven.

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## Cookie . . .

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The whole episode took no more than 5 minutes, and Simonton observed a few details of the inside of the ship before it took off. The inside was dull black, somewhat like wrought iron, he said. Everything, including the three instrument panels, were immaculate — but black.

One of the occupants stayed at one of the instrument boards, one appeared to be cooking something and the other took care of getting the water. The two men in the ship did not turn or look. No one spoke. When Simonton handed the filled jug to the man at the hatch he gestured toward a pile of what appeared to be pancakes near the man who was cooking, made motions like eating. The man turned, got four, handed them out, and then Simonton watched as the man hooked a line or belt into a hook in his clothing near the waist. The hatch closed, the object raised to about 20 feet off the ground, then took off straight south.

During the whole incident Simonton heard a "motor" humming, presumed the man at the instrument board was "holding the ship" in a hovering position. He questions: "Why didn't they try to talk to me—why didn't they say anything?" Further, "They had no buttons, emblems, etc., on their clothes. I tried to act friendly and I wasn't afraid."

Simonton told a reporter, who recorded the above detailed information on tape, that he told other people in the area, but they thought it was a joke. Then, after two days, decided to report to Judge Carter who is a UFO enthusiast.

APRO obtained the tape through Mrs. Hess. Simonton sounds sincere; he has no explanation for what he saw except the possibility that the object might be extraterrestrial. This case is by no means solved; further investigation including hypnoanalysis should be performed before the case is closed.

## Widespread Power Failures In Wisconsin

On the 25th of May, a widespread power failure which also affected telephone service in the area surrounding Rhinelander, Wisconsin, (near Eagle River) was experienced. Within 48 hours similar unexplainable failures took place at Green Bay, Wausau, and Milwaukee.

## NICAP Faces Struggle

A two-page plea for financial help to members of NICAP from its Director Donald E. Keyhoe came into our hands recently and because of the nature of that plea, we feel a certain condition existing among UFO research groups should be brought into focus.

It has been our experience in 10 years of research and publication in the UFO field, that there is a hard core of supporters in the field but many of us are not roused beyond occasional lip service. Some of the things which plague those of us who daily read and evaluate reports, write inquiries about same, type endless sheets of correspondence, etc., etc., is the apparent lack of real support. If a periodical is late, members often will not renew until they have received a current issue. Some simply put off renewing, but if they disagree with policy, an editorial statement or the identification of what seems to have been a UFO, they have time and the money (however small) to write extensively concerning their disagreement.

One of the biggest bugaboos which is a constant threat to the financial solidarity of any UFO research group, is the small groups of people who (when added up, they comprise several hundred) band together as an independent group, pool their resources, and subscribe to most top UFO journals. This is fine for them—but it is not so good for the large groups which depend on individual support in order to provide an efficient reporting service and a good periodical.

Until APRO's move to Tucson in 1960 (July) our printing schedule had been fairly punctual. Because of printing problems involving cost, as well as personal problems, and lack of help, the schedule has been unavoidably upset. In the meantime, in answer to urgings from the general membership, we tried to start a Special Report system whereby lengthy, technical reports which required too much space to be included in the Bulletin, could be made available.

Despite many problems in the past 10 years, APRO has consistently reported factual data pertaining to unconventional aerial objects. We have survived two postal rate hikes, as well as three moves. The moves were no financial burden to APRO but may have cost us members in terms of change of address mixups, etc. We have survived the "off years" when UFO sightings constitute a mere trickle and the interest of APRO mem-

bers as well as the general field is at low ebb.

Since NICAP began encountering financial difficulties quite some time ago, APRO has anticipated similar conditions here. Fortunately, we have never reached that plateau, primarily because we operate on a less grand scale. The office is always adjacent to or a part of the Lorenzen home, thus saving office rent. Telephone bills up to a certain point are absorbed by the household. We do not issue bulletins to non-members unless they serve some purpose in public office, etc.

APRO's objective reporting of incidents and sightings has brought laboratories and libraries to our mailing list as paying subscribers. We do have problems however which should be brought to the members' attention:

When members are in arrears with their dues to the extent of two months, they are removed from the membership mailing list. Too often for convenience some members do not take a dues notice seriously, put off renewing, then some months later, sen in their dues. This necessitates needless work on the part of the office staff, pulling addressograph plates from the inactive file, index cards from the inactive file, and re-filing both. Quite often the member who is renewing after a lapse wants the bulletins he has missed. Occasionally those bulletins are out of stock. Although this does not constitute a great deal of labor, if one member is multiplied by 25 or 50, the time involved is sufficient to detract from other important asks.

Three-cent post cards, on which the dues reminder is printed, cost 4.5 cents each. If two reminders are sent, there is not only the time spent involved in a second reminder; there is also the extra post card. The cost to maintain a member each year does not leave much of a margin for the purchase of bond, stationery, envelopes, the large amount of postage for air mail correspondence both in the U. S. and abroad, which supplies APRO with up-to-date investigations, results and information for the Bulletin.

All of this does not mean that APRO is going to quit: we merely wish to point out what individual members can do to make the job easier for the staff. All APRO work, including that of Mr. Hopf, who is a busy and competent professional photographer, is done gratis. Ofttimes it is difficult to find time to attend to all the tasks connected with

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**NICAP . . .***(Continued from Page 3)*

APRO, and when the situation is complicated by unnecessary work, it becomes discouraging.

Since the NICAP appeal, we have received several letters from members who had become concerned about the future of APRO, primarily because of various statements made in that appeal: The letter stated that if NICAP is forced to close its doors, the resulting ridicule will cripple all other serious UFO investigators, and the crackpots and frauds will take over. The crackpots and frauds have never bothered APRO—the little contact the staff has had with them, only served to demonstrate that they (the crackpots) would find no sympathy or advantage in attempting to infiltrate. The APRO staff, although separated in many instances by hundreds or thousands of miles, are critical-minded people who are not adverse to doing the menial jobs in order to protect APRO's reputation and accomplishments and goals. APRO kept the crackpots and saucer con-men out long before NICAP came into being, and has a good record for presenting evidence, factually and REGULARLY.

When this Bulletin reaches the membership, the July issue will be with the printer, and the September issue in the editing stage. We will then be on schedule again. We have a particular reason for this urgency to become timely with our publication, and that reason will be announced in your July Bulletin.

Just another small item: Members at times urge the Staff to publicly chastise the Air Force for its "lies and inconsistencies," etc. We believe that to publish certain findings and plans would be to "telegraph our punches"—it is worth noting at this time that every effort to push the U. S. Air Force into a compromising and defensive position has failed—we feel that it is important for UFO researchers to reflect on the reason for this failure.

APRO has not quit, and we see no reason to feel that we will terminate our efforts in the near future.

**MEMBERS:**

Many are in arrears on dues Payments. APRO cannot operate without current funds. PLEASE bring memberships up to date as soon as possible! Part of the reason for the tardiness of this issue is lack of member support! More attention could be given, also, to recruiting new members.

**Crashes . . .***(Continued from Page 1)*

At this writing, we have learned that the missing airman was eventually found. Our most recent information reveals that AF investigating teams refused to discuss the information given them by Mead and Hill, the only survivors of the May crash. Also, one clipping which referred to the May crash, said that the February crash was preceded by a "blinding flash in the sky."

**Contact . . .***(Continued from Page 1)*

Higgins stated. He said the object was about 150 feet wide, but not including the edges, which were about 3 feet in width, and the whole object was about 15 feet high. "It was crossed by tubes in several directions, Higgins said, but there was no smoke or fire, only that odd sound coming from the tubes.

The object, when landed, was supported by curved metallic-looking poles which bent even more when touching the ground. The whole craft appeared to be made of grey-white metal, yet different from silver. Higgins walked toward the machine to examine it more closely, and while looking it over he discovered a kind of window or port-hole which appeared to be made of thick glass. Then he saw through the glass two persons watching him curiously. They were very strange looking. A few seconds passed, then one of them turned his back as though talking to someone in the craft. Immediately Higgins heard a noise inside and a door, which was located on the under side of the craft, opened, and three people came out. They were enclosed in a kind of transparent suit which enveloped their bodies completely, head and all, and inflated like a rubber bag full of compressed air. On their backs there was a metal box that seemed to be a part of the suit. Through the transparent covering, Higgins could easily see what they wore. They had on shirts, short pants and sandals. The garments did not appear to be made of cloth, but rather appeared to be of a brilliant colored paper. Their strange appearance was partially due to their eyes, which were large and round, and without eyebrows. They had no beards, and their heads were large and round and almost hairless. The length of their legs was greater in proportion to their bodies than those of a normal human being, and their height was about 7 feet tall—about a foot taller than Higgins.

Higgins called attention to the fact that all the men seemed so similar to one another that they appeared to be twins or at least brothers. One of the men on the outside carried a tube which appeared to be of the same metal of the ship, which he pointed at Higgins. The strange men talked among themselves, but Higgins was unable to understand what they said, although he said they sounded quite pleasant. He also noted that despite their large bodies they moved with incredible agility, forming a triangle around him. The one holding the tube made gestures motioning Higgins toward the door. He approached the door. Through it he could see only a small chamber limited by another door on the inside, and the end of a pipe coming from the inside. He also noticed several round beams on the side base of the protruding edge.

Higgins then began to talk, asking about the place where they apparently wanted to take him, using many gestures. They seemed to understand, and one of them made a drawing on the ground with a round spot at the center and encircled by seven circles. Pointing to the sun in the sky, he then pointed to their craft, then to the seventh circle, doing the latter several times.

Higgins readily admitted that he then became frightened. He felt they wanted to take him off the earth, and he began to frantically figure some way to get away from the men. He knew it was impossible to fight them because of their large size and number. Then he had an idea, he had noticed that they avoided the direct sunlight for more than a few seconds, so he walked toward the shadow, and taking out his wallet he showed them a photo of his wife. With a lot of gestures he made them understand (or at least thought he did) that he wanted to go get her and take her with him on the proposed trip.

The strange men didn't attempt to stop Higgins, so he sauntered casually away and entered the forest. He found a safe place from which to watch them without danger of being discovered and was surprised at their antics when left alone. They were playing like children, jumping in the air and throwing stones of enormous size. After about a half an hour and a careful examination of the surroundings, the men got back into their ship which took off with a whistling sound. The craft moved away into the north, and finally disappeared into the clouds.

"I will never know if they were men or women," Higgins said later when he

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## Contact . . .

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related his story to the press. He continued, "Despite the characteristics I described, they were somehow beautiful and appeared in excellent health." Higgins remembered the sounds of two words: "Alamo" and "Orque." The first one corresponded to the Sun, and the other to the seventh circle in the drawing.

Higgins concluded: "Was it a dream? Was it real? Sometimes I doubt that these things can happen, and then I think that if it was not for the workers together with me in the beginning, it might have been a strange and fascinating dream."

That the above described incident was described in the press a month after Kenneth Arnold's sighting, there can be no doubt. The Arnold sighting received little if any attention in Brazil. This is one important point in the evaluation of this sighting. We have established that the incident was first publicized in 1947, only a few weeks after the Arnold sighting. The shape of the object seems to indicate that it is of the "Saturn-shape" type or the "double washbowl" type, neither of which type had been established through evaluation and compilation of data at that time. Little if any information concerning any type of disc or UAO had been compiled. Higgins apparently described something which was to become "common" to UFO researchers years later.

How much importance can be attached to the drawings on the ground is debatable. At any rate, despite the fact that one of the creatures pointed at the sun, we do not know whether it was our sun to which he referred. The seventh planet from the sun in our solar system is Uranus, and as far as we know, it is a cold, inhospitable planet. But we know so little about that planet that we cannot speculate about possible life. The space suits worn by the creatures could signify that they could not survive in our atmosphere, if indeed the incident took place, or they could merely mean that no experimentation with adaptability without protection had been undertaken.

The size and apparent strength of the creatures, plus their throwing large stones, etc., could indicate an origin with a lesser gravitational pull than the earth, and that the gamboling antics of the giants was experimentation with the novelty of the earth's gravitational pull.

## APRO Has New Permanent Address

Since moving to Tucson, conditions necessitated two moves after the initial trip from Alamogordo. Because of various requirements of the Lorenzens, they bought a house at 4145 E. Desert Place, Tucson, which will be the permanent address of APRO. Will members please note and use this address in the future. To conserve on correspondence from members asking about Mr. Lorenzen's work here, we would like to state at this time that he is Technical Associate in the Space Division at Kitt Peak National Observatory. The ultimate aim of this project is to launch a 50-inch diffraction-limited telescope into 24-hour orbit around the earth. Mr. Lorenzen likes his work very much, and the family has found Tucson, Arizona to be a friendly and very nice city in which to live. Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen are indebted to newly recruited members Noelle Fojet, Susan Ward and Mr. Richard Hansing for their moral support as well as their help with APRO duties.

## Youngsters Report UAOs

Mysterious ear-splitting noises plagued Long Beach, California on Friday, May 19th, and shortly afterward teenagers Marsha Howard and Phillip Wilkins watched a total of 12 small objects playing "tag" in the sky.

The two almost simultaneous explosions occurred at about 3 p. m., and were explained (without foundation) at first as a plant explosion, and then as an airplane crash. Subsequent checking by Sheriff's officers failed to disclose the reason for the mysterious booms.

At 3:50 p. m., the two youngsters, who were out walking Marsha's dog, spotted the objects at about 80 degrees in the eastern sky. Other observers who later called the office of the Long Beach Independent, verified the "rhythmic fluttering" of the objects as they appeared to chase each other.

At 4:30 three jet planes in formation swept in from the ocean, and observers said the objects "just disappeared." Five minutes later, after the planes were gone, six objects reappeared and resumed their antics before abruptly fading from sight at 4:45 p. m. Workers at Long Beach Municipal Airport said no unusual objects were sighted by personnel there during the afternoon. The total time the objects were observed during the first sighting was 55 minutes.

## Burning Silver Object Seen Over Olympia, Washington

Police were mystified by the appearance of a silver object which streaked through the sky over Olympia late on the afternoon of May 8. Patrolman Melvin Metcalf and Oscar Shuler were riding in a patrol car when they saw the object in the air high above the ground. "It looked like an airplane but we couldn't be certain," Metcalf said. He said it was trailing dark smoke, and after it had traveled about 2,000 feet it began spinning down, then was gone. At about that same time the police sergeant on duty saw what he described as a three-cluster flare descending from the sky. A few minutes later a woman telephoned police saying she had seen the smoking object and then a parachute. No further reports came into the police station and officers were unable to determine the identity of the object.

## More On November 23, 1960 Sightings

Further information concerning the strange object or objects seen over widely scattered areas of the United States has recently reached us. One interesting bit is the "ball of fire with a flaming tail" or "something like a rocket with twin jets" seen by man over Halifax, Nova Scotia at 4:40 p. m. Although the time doesn't coincide with that of the Thanksgiving eve sightings, which took place in the early hours of November 23, the description is quite similar. Authorities tried to explain the Halifax object as a trans-Atlantic jet liner, but Air Traffic Center at Moncton which controls non-landing flights over the city refused to confirm or deny that there was a flight at that time. The direct quotes are: "There may have been or there may not have been — we won't say anything," the Center supervisor said. Because of the origination and flight and eventually, recovery of the research balloon which was ultimately blamed for the November 23 sighting, it must be discounted as a possible explanation (see January 1961 APRO Bulletin). The theory involving the dropping of aluminum foil for radar tests, was discounted by Edward A. Halbach, Director of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society, in a statement published in the *Hilkauee Journal* for 23 November 1960. The article stated: "The tinfoil would have to have been dropped from a plane 130 miles high. Even the U-2 flies only 20 miles high."

## Green Light At Denver

A short article in the Denver Post tells us that residents of Denver observed a "greenish light" in the sky southeast of Denver on Friday, the 27th of January. Operators at control towers at Stapleton and Peterson Field in Colorado Springs, also saw the light and said it was "likely a meteor explosion."

## Rocket-Shape And Booms Over Idaho

We note with increasing interest the frequency of booms or unexplained upper air concussions just before or during the first stages of a "flap." This phenomena was obvious to some degree, according to clippings received at this office during the months of April after months of little or no UFO activity during the first months of the year. The booms became quite frequent also, but dropped in frequency with the increase in UFO activity.

Records at APRO Headquarters indicate a possible connection between both ice falls and sonic booms and the UFO. We would like to request that members forward all clippings and reports concerning unexplained sonic booms.

At Grace, Idaho, on the 3rd of March, an object described by some as rocket-like and by others as meteor-like, was seen in the southeastern sky at 12:30 p. m. Several of the witnesses said it appeared to explode high in the sky, leaving a trail of blue smoke. All witnesses reported hearing loud rumbling noises which shook houses and rattled windows. Hill AFB near Ogden sent out a helicopter to investigate. Officials at the installation said all of their airplanes were accounted for and they had no reports of transient craft in trouble. Eyewitness accounts came from Montpellier and Grace, Idaho.

## Pilot Sights UFO In Texas

Member Jim Hatchel has forwarded a letter from a friend which describes the sighting of a UFO between Midland and Pecos River, Texas. The pilot, anonymous, had his course set at 8500 feet, due west, and the plane was being blown north by wind. At 11 p. m. Mountain Time, a UFO was encountered heading toward the plane at 1 o'clock at very rapid speed. "It appeared as a white glow of light increasing in brilliance and size as it approached us," he said. "The pilot became very scared, turned on his landing lights. The light became almost blinding. After his land-

ing lights were turned on, the UFO reversed its path of flight and the object diminished in size and brilliance becoming lost from sight. The time involved, coming and going, was about 15 minutes. Approximately five minutes after disappearing, the object once again appeared but did not approach to the point previously attained. It disappeared for the second time. By this time we were forced to land at Carlsbad, New Mexico, because of high winds mentioned earlier. The winds had caused our ground speed to be approximately 100 mph. There was normal commercial traffic; commercial traffic reported turbulences over the mountains west of Carlsbad and Pecos at this time. High activity of Air Force craft on night missions at 10,000 feet altitude plus was reported by stations all along the way. We were held to 8,500 because of this.

The report concluded: "Our report to the Federal Aviation Administration at Carlsbad got a reply of: 'Yeah, this isn't the first report this week; don't know what it is, but the Air Force seems interested'."

## UFO Off Lae, New Guinea

The following is a report of a sighting forwarded by our new Representative Rev. N. C. G. Cruttwell of New Guinea:

Mr. John Baptist Awui and five other members of the crew of the Anglican Mission launch, "Maclaren King," saw an object while the launch was anchored off short at Lae, New Guinea on 31 January 1960. The time was 5 a. m. The sky was overcast with low clouds, and no sound was heard from the object.

Mr. Awui estimated that the object was about one and one half miles from the launch, and it appeared in the shape of an umbrella. It was white in color as though painted, and appeared to be about 40 to 50 feet across. It had four "windows" on the underside.

The object swayed slowly to and fro but did not come close to the observers. After about an hour it passed upwards into the clouds and was not seen again.

The sketch accompanying Rev. Cruttwell's report shows an oval-shaped object with three windows arranged horizontally at about the center of the object, and one below the center window.

## SPECIAL REPORTS

See editorial in Coming July issue for details on Special Reports.

*Members—please renew memberships and thus save headquarters the time and expense of issuing reminders.*

## Help Asked In Tracking "Suspected And Unpredicted Satellite"

Coupled with a story in the Seattle Post Intelligencer concerning a scantily-detailed sighting of a UFO at Seattle, Washington, was the request that satellite tracking stations around the world help follow a "suspected (and) unpredicted bright satellite." The UFO mentioned was described only as a bright light moving across the sky from west to east. This object was observed by many in the Seattle area two hours after a huge yellow fireball, hastily dubbed a meteor was seen by hundreds of Seattle residents. Speculation was that "UFO" was the same as that first spotted at Jupiter, Florida, the day before (May 19). It (the Seattle object) was described as "about the size of the U. S. balloon satellite Echo 1.

The amazing thing about sightings such as the above, is the singular lack of accurate identification by the abundance of scientific personnel who are always willing to discredit the possibility of UFOs. Strange objects are seen in the skies by hundreds of witnesses. Instead of honest speculation that said object is truly unidentified, there is usually a superfluous amount of speculation about what the object "could be," even if the speculation is ridiculous in view of the facts involved. There seems to be a good deal of reticence where the word "unidentified" is concerned.

## Mystery "Sub"

Durban, S. Rhodesia. On the 13th of February 1961, what appeared to be an unidentified submarine was spotted off the Natal Coast at Tongast and Umhloti between 3 and 4 a. m. An eye-witness said that shortly after 4 a. m. the sea off Umhloti was lit by a strange light disclosing, about two miles off shore, a ship with a conning tower and people walking on its deck. Credit Dorothy Lefler, from S. Rhodesia Evening Standard (Salisbury).

Dr. Charles Townes, inventor of the Maser (Molecular Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) states that his invention can be used to signal intelligent creatures on planets circling other suns. The Maser can produce a focused beam a billion times brighter than the sun.