

# SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



*The case also illustrates the appearance of motion of a stationary distant object, particularly that caused by the motion of the observer; the magnifying effects of haze scattering and near-horizon observation; and scintillation of a light near the earth's horizon.*

*Case 37 of the Condon report*





# Tangled webs

Front: How Venus can appear to move from one location to another when in a moving vehicle. The left image has Venus on the left side of the road. The right image shows only a minute or two later when the road curved, which placed Venus on the right side of the road. Something similar happened in this issue's 701 club case file.

Left: I spent a good part of April in Florida visiting family and doing some astrophotography. We saw a lot of neat stuff when we were at the dark sky site. This photograph I took shows the galaxy M83.

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MUFON continues to find ways to make negative headlines. Their new "director of research", Chris Cogswell has resigned because MUFON will not purge itself of people like John Ventre, who made a bunch of racial comments on Facebook about a year ago. When Newsweek writer, Andrew Whalen, wrote about MUFON's "problem, he talked to Ventre. Ventre tried to imply what he wrote was done in a fit of anger and it was an isolated incident. He then tried to demonstrate he was not racist and was really a nice guy. It is hard for me to accept that Ventre was just angry about a TV program and went into some sort of mindless rant where he did not think about what he was posting. People don't say the things he said without truly believing it. When you spend your life believing in conspiracies and other myths concerning UFOs, it is easy to start believing myths about races and religions. Ventre's posting reflects his true beliefs and, by not removing him from the organization, MUFON is silently approving his behavior.

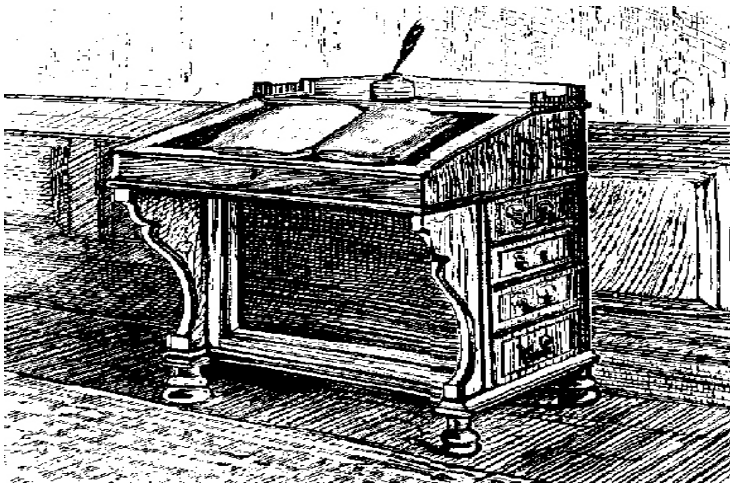
I have begun to tire of the "To The Stars Academy's" (TTSA) little game. They continue to tease people with "compelling" videos in order to get them to fund their little enterprise. They released a third video they had to convince people that the US navy was out chasing some sort of exotic and unknown craft. To me, these videos are not very compelling. The more skeptics and others examine them, the less exotic they appear. It seems that the only thing that is preventing these videos from being fully explained is the missing data that the TTSA probably has but refuses to reveal. The best con men only show you the information they want you to see. Otherwise, it would be difficult to swindle gullible people into buying what they are selling. Until the TTSA can demonstrate they are serious about presenting their data, I suggest that UFOlogists be very skeptical. Not all that glitters is gold and this is beginning to smell like something else.

In some sad news, Art Bell passed away. I want to express my condolences to his friends and family. I also want to point out that I was not a fan. My first introduction to UFOlogy was during the Hale-Bopp fiasco and his program revealed some of the craziness that was UFOlogy. Some of his guests seemed to be clueless about astronomy and were more interested in promoting the idea that some sort of spaceship was following the comet. When Bell interviewed Alan Hale on his program, he suddenly reversed course on the subject. As I recall the interview, Bell seemed unwilling to debate him and never brought up the "evidence" for the spaceship he had been promoting on his program. Instead, he focused the discussion on Hale and his discovery of the comet. While I was not a regular listener, I did listen when driving late at night to see who his guests were and if it interested me. Most, if not all, of it was typical UFOlogical/paranormal nonsense. This is the legacy of Art Bell. Make of it what you wish.

Many thanks to Luis Gonzales for his article this month. It is always nice to share writings of others in SUNlite. I hope readers will enjoy his article.

# Who's blogging UFOs?

## Hot topics and varied opinions



**An interesting video from Milwaukee's Fox television program showed a bunch lights with "vapor trails" moving over the city.** It was very interesting to look at until the same program stated they were just a flock seagulls. How can seagulls create vapor trails? Mick West explained why. This is case closed.

**Robert Sheaffer documented the TTSA's financial relationship with another company called "Our two dogs", which is listed as a hot dog stand that has an annual revenue of close to a half-million dollars!** More interesting is that this "hot dog stand" gave more money to the TTSA than it earns. Fascinated by all of this, Robert went to their offices only to discover that there was no hot dog stand and that they were not in the business of selling hot dogs. Mr. Sheaffer also ran into Louis Tommasino, who is the chief financial officer of the TTSA! He was not happy with the questions that Robert asked about the company's relationship with the "hot dog stand".

He denied they sold hot dogs and they were a "Management company". He also insisted that the information that Robert got from "Dun and Bradstreet" (a respected source of business information) was completely false.

The bottom line here is that Tom DeLonge, who owns "My two dogs", is not telling everybody the truth about what that company does and his TTSA CFO is not happy with people inquiring about details. To me, it brings into question what the TTSA is all about. It seems to be more about money and less about research.

**Kevin Randle had an interesting series of articles with the title of "Why I am beginning to dislike UFOlogy".** I can think of many reasons to dislike UFOlogy but Randle really does not hit them in his initial articles. He started with the Alien Autopsy hoax. One can think of a great number of hoaxes but this one is too easy. His second installment was on abductions, which he has a skeptical view regarding as documented in the past. The third installment had to do with hoaxes and how people don't accept the data that proves them as such. For some reason, Randle lumped project Mogul into this. His claim that "we" have positively eliminated Mogul as the source of the debris has never been accepted by anybody outside the crashology community. Who is this "we" and has his arguments met the standards of scientific peer review? I feel I have made solid counter arguments to his proof about MOGUL in SUNlite 5-5 and I have yet to see him satisfactorily refute those points. Maybe Mr. Randle should focus his attention on the various aspects of UFOlogy that deserve serious criticism and ignore the "low hanging fruit". The lack of standards in UFOlogical research is the biggest reason to dislike UFOlogy. The only standards a good portion of UFOlogists seem to be interested in enforcing are the ones they require of skeptics and debunkers. Meanwhile, UFO proponents can make any wild claim they want and be praised for it. If you doubt me, just look at some of the speakers at the latest UFO conference/symposium. Do these speakers truly reflect the state of UFOlogy? If so, aren't they a good reason to dislike what UFOlogy has become?

**The TTSA decided to promote another UFO video shot from Navy aircraft.** It did not look like much to me but they imply the object is flying extremely fast. Original calculations from metabunk indicated an object traveling very slow and it was suggested to be a bird. However, more extensive calculations by others had the speed between 100-200 knots, which seemed to eliminate the bird hypothesis. Bruce Maccabee, after performing a calculation of 100 knots, revised the calculation to 330 knots. However, Mick West pointed out that the display of the video (about 259 knots) indicates Calibrated Air Speed (CAS), which is not True Air Speed (TAS). Mick computed this to be 369 knots. West also pointed out, because the jet was probably in a turn, the actual distance traveled by the target would have been less than if the jet were flying a straight path. Both the use of TAS and the turn seems to make the computed air speed of the target to be lower than the 100-200 knot value. In any case, the name "go fast" was misleading. Compared to the aircraft, it was not going very fast at all and the aircraft should have overtaken it and probably did AFTER the video had ended. Things got more interesting when somebody noted that the code on the display indicated it was the same aircraft that recorded the "Gimbal" footage. The time clock indicates the "Gimbal" footage was shot about 16.5 minutes after the "Go fast" video. Was this all part of a training exercise for the aircrew where they were asked to track various targets or was this a case of UFOs being everywhere on that date? The TTSA apparently chose to do no analysis and simply presented it to eager UFO proponents as more "eye candy". Like all the videos released so far, this one also has no provenance, background data, or context. That indicates to me it was edited to conceal important information. I still suspect these videos originated from Bigelow, who obtained them from another source and not directly from the US Navy or DOD. The possibility that the two previously unseen videos were taken from the same aircraft on the same day tends to confirm this.

## Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

**Then there is John Greenwald, who has been trying to contact Luis Elizondo for three months so he could learn more about the AATIP.** While I do not consider Greenwald to be a skeptic, he is very good at what he does and would ask the kind of questions that might be able to resolve some of the questions everybody is asking about these videos and the TTSA's source of information. Mr. Elizondo's reluctance to perform such an interview is very revealing. Maybe Greenwald's public criticism of him, and the TTSA, might result in new information coming forth but I doubt it. I think the TTSA is happy with playing their little game of making claims without proof to back them up.

**Roger Glassel has been trying to chase down the paperwork associated with the videos as well.** It is a bureaucratic mess that one has to wind their way through to prove, or disprove, the validity of the claims made by the TTSA. One important item that Roger discovered was that the Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program (AATIP) was not the only name the program apparently went by. Another name used was Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications program (AAWSA). Either the AATIP was part of the AAWSA or the AAWSA became the AATIP. It is not clear at this point. Paul Dean had already discovered this and was able to reveal this once Roger had published his article. He had discovered it through interaction with a private DOD contact, who was anonymous. I commend both individuals for their diligence and thorough research. I find it frustrating that the TTSA (and those promoting the TTSA) probably knew this information but chose not mention it. Perhaps this was an effort to mislead UFO investigators into a dead end of FOIA requests, which receive the "no records" response. One can only hope that a new round of FOIA requests using the AAWSA acronym might produce better results or the TTSA might choose to finally reveal the documentation they claim they have. Based on what Dean wrote, it seems there is quite a backlog due to all the requests that have been filed. This means it will be some time before we see any results via FOIA. One can only hope the mystery surrounding this program, and these videos, might finally be resolved. Only time will tell.

**Stanton Friedman announced that, at age 84, he was retiring from UFOlogy.** I am sure it means he will stop his lecture tour. He probably will still be available for interviews and such. I disagree with a lot of what Friedman states but I still wish him well in his retirement.

**Another airplane UFO incident made some headlines.** In this case, two aircraft flying over Arizona reported seeing something flash by them going in a westerly direction. It is not clear if the object was seen at the same time or at two different times (the second aircraft reported it later after it was asked if they had seen it) but it is something interesting to investigate. It was suggested it might have been a weather or "Google Loon" balloon but the pilots seem to state this was not the case. I did a preliminary check and discovered that on the same date (February 24), a daylight fireball was visible over Arizona, New Mexico, and California! It seemed a possible match to what they described. Unfortunately, the fireball was visible two hours before the event mentioned by the aircraft. Therefore, we can't use this for the explanation. For now, the object remains "unidentified" but the proximity of fireball to the time of the sighting still has me wondering.

**Jason Colavito reported that Robert Powell's replacement at MUFON has resigned.** Chris Cogswell had taken over as director of research at MUFON when Powell resigned because of his apparent disappointment in the choice of speakers at the MUFON symposium in 2017. Now Cogswell is resigning because he can't accept MUFON's inability to dismiss John Ventre from their organization. Readers of SUNlite 9-4 may recall that Ventre had posted a racist rant last year that had him dismissed as the head of Pennsylvania MUFON. M. J. Baniyas commented about this as well. While some may be calling for MUFON to disband, Baniyas thinks that MUFON is the "least objectionable" organization for investigating UFOs and should not self-destruct over this. However, he was also critical of Ventre and the leadership of MUFON for this debacle and lack of closure. In my opinion, MUFON's leadership has always been the problem associated with their public image. MUFON is scientific in name only. The leadership has abandoned science for sensationalism because that is what they seem to think their membership and followers desire. Why explain a case with a potential explanation when you can sensationalize it.



# AN ANSWER TO “Don’t Forget UFOlogy: The Influence of UFO Lore in Pop Culture”

by Luis R. Gonzales

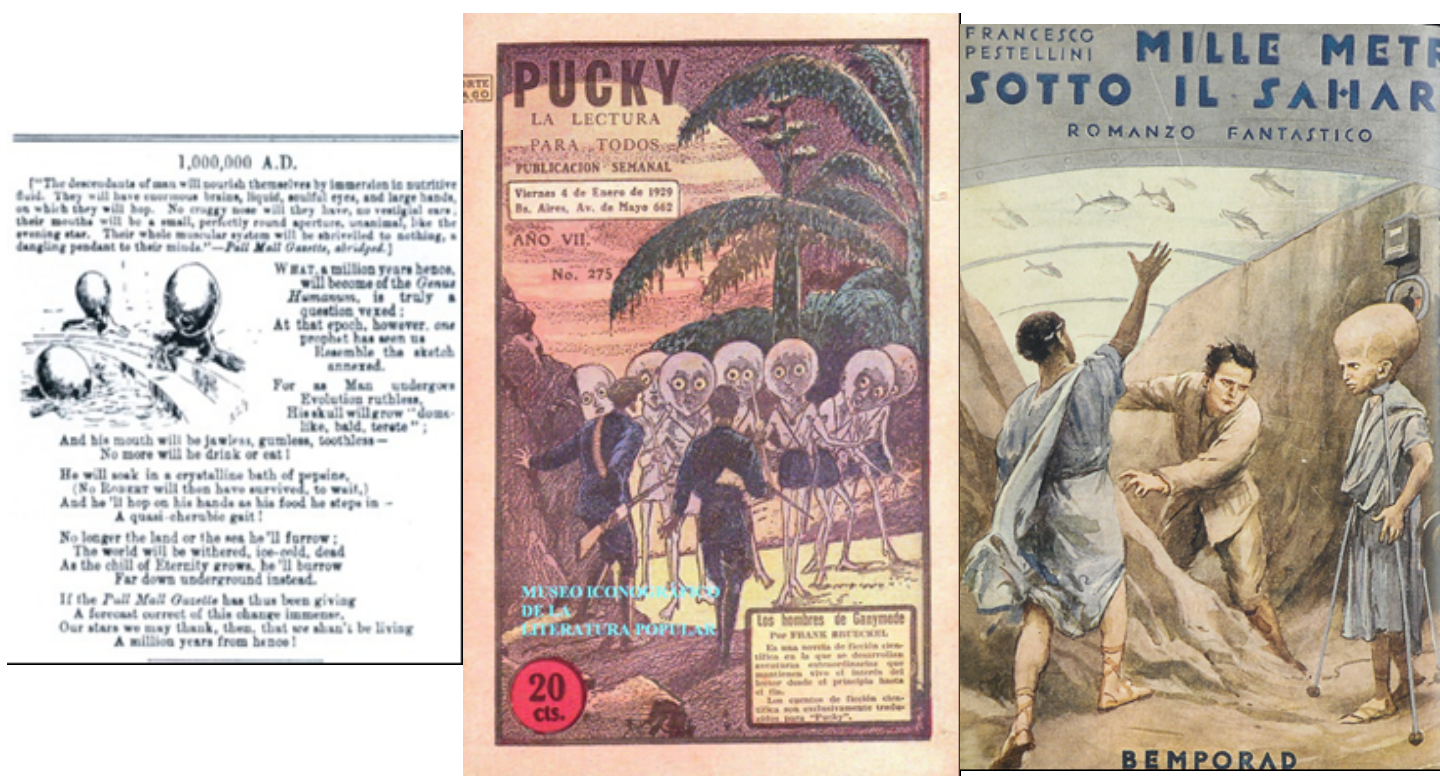
Last March, Robbie Graham (author of *Silver Screen Saucers*, 2015) discussed a video essay on Vox website examining “Why we imagine aliens the way we do”.<sup>1</sup> His conclusions about the video are debatable.

Even if it would be correct to say that “it’s not quite as simple as Vox is suggesting”, that we don’t simply conceptualize aliens entirely because of science fiction, it is ridiculous to dismiss such a clear influence, specially in the case of the so called “alien abductions”. Many skeptical ufologists such as myself have showed beyond any reasonable doubt that, not only small details or images but up to the overall themes had appeared earlier in SF stories and comics.<sup>2</sup>

To use his own example (the iconic Grey from the first Strieber’s book cover), few people know that years later, the famous writer of horror novels revealed that such effigy was WRONG, that his aliens DID have hair in the big heads.<sup>3</sup> So, Graham is quite correct when he says that “by the late-1990s, the image of the Gray had supplanted almost all other pre-existing cultural imaginings of what an alien might look like...” but, that also apply to the abductees’ narratives as well. Why some many “experiencers” described such an inexistent feature?

To an antediluvian ufologist such as myself, it is quite exasperating the audiovisual chauvinism of Internet nowadays. Before the present Hollywood blockbusters, there were (and still survive) television series, comics, radio (always forgotten) and even the printed paper. It is true that “even in a world without movies, people would continue to report UFOs”... but also lake monsters, Bigfoot, or BVM apparitions. This fact did not give any of them the ontological property of being a real phenomenon.

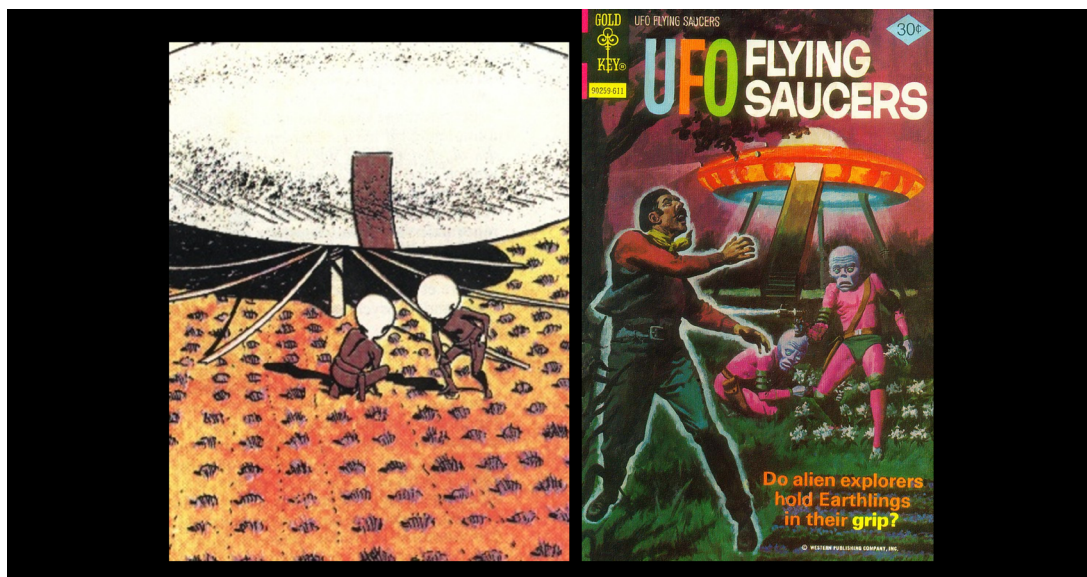
Martin Kottmeyer has proved beyond any reasonable doubt that the image of the Big Head Alien was first described by H.G. Wells in his story “1.000.000 A.D.” Afterwards, the idea was repeated almost to exhaustion in the SF pulp novels and elsewhere. Consult his “Varicose Brains” series.<sup>4</sup>



It could be said with only slightly exaggeration that there are no two equal aliens in all the pre-abduction UFO literature. Besides the more or less anthropomorphic features (a clear betrayal of their origin) and a certain preponderance of dwarfism, any effort to catalogize them soon proved useless.<sup>5</sup>



In fact, the witnesses in close encounters with occupants seldom described big head beings. One of the very first was the French peasant Maurice Massé at Valensole at a quite late date: 1965.

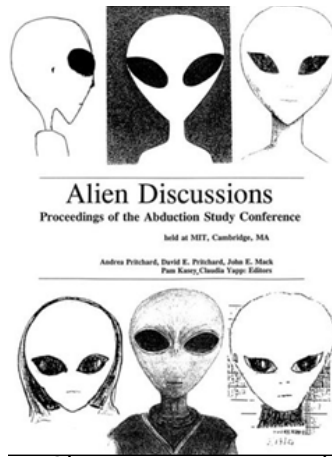


The relationship between Spielberg's Close Encounters of the Third Kind and Ufology is not as direct as Graham pretends.<sup>6</sup> Many years ago, Kottmeyer challenged believers to provide what witness drawings existed at the time of the making of the film that had big all-black eyes and or the thin high neck, since no history of the film shows real-life witness sketches reached the designers of the aliens. He is still waiting.

Funnily, Graham himself argues that if life (Ufology) imitates art (Hollywood), then "following the release of James Cameron's Avatar (2009), the highest grossing film of all time, we might reasonably have expected thousands of people to have begun reporting ten-foot-tall blue aliens." Things are not so simple. For instance, one has to take into account censorship, either by the witness himself or the investigators, who would quickly realize the connection and discard the story. Besides, nowadays aliens are everywhere. It is difficult to find clear precedents.

But if Graham had considered the situation just before the big media explosion of the subject, in the last decade of the XXth century, he should have looked no further than CE3K, the very first big and successful film based in Ufology. Sometimes, subtle details did escape the believer's eyes: Such is the case with those absurdly big heads supported by even more ridiculous thin necks. As Kottmeyer pointed out, this kind of alien only appeared after the film. At least, the designer of the 1938 Italian cover presented before, did provide his subject with some kind of cephalic crutches.<sup>7</sup>





Before 1995, the number of films clearly inspired by UFOlogy were very scarce: *The UFO Incident* (1975), *Starship Invasions* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977), *Communion* (1989), and *Fire in the Sky* (1993). If XXIst century's Hollywood owes an immense debt to UFOlogy, it would be only cashing the interest due by the debt UFOlogy maintains with all the written and TV SF that preceded and went along it since Kenneth Arnold's sighting in 1947.





## NOTES

1. <http://mysteriousuniverse.org/2018/03/dont-forget-ufology-the-influence-of-ufo-lore-in-pop-culture/> & <https://www.vox.com/videos/2018/3/15/17126340/science-fiction-aliens-vfx-seti>
2. SUNLite Volume 6 Number 3 (May-June 2014), "Linda Cortile and Nighteyes" & SUNLite Volume 8 Number (March-April 2016), "Linda Cortile and Nighteyes: Considerations on a rebuttal".
3. [https://books.google.es/books?id=hMh5hBuKZhMC&pg=PA118&lpg=PA118&dq=Strieber+in+%22Hair+of+the+alien%22&source=bl&ots=JR-PNEptNV&sig=j7aep4xYcMtFd46PJA\\_4gy3Vdfs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiOsNrL4aXaAhWHxxQKHcT-FA9MQ6AEINDAC#v=onepage&q=Strieber%20in%20%22Hair%20of%20the%20alien%22&f=false](https://books.google.es/books?id=hMh5hBuKZhMC&pg=PA118&lpg=PA118&dq=Strieber+in+%22Hair+of+the+alien%22&source=bl&ots=JR-PNEptNV&sig=j7aep4xYcMtFd46PJA_4gy3Vdfs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiOsNrL4aXaAhWHxxQKHcT-FA9MQ6AEINDAC#v=onepage&q=Strieber%20in%20%22Hair%20of%20the%20alien%22&f=false)
4. <http://magoniamagazine.blogspot.com.es/2013/12/varicose-brains-part-1-entering-grey.html> <http://magoniamagazine.blogspot.com.es/2013/12/varicose-brains-part-2.html> <http://magoniamagazine.blogspot.com.es/2014/01/varicose-brains-part-3-headhunt.html>
5. "Ellos: taxonomía y filogenia de los visitantes", CUADERNOS DE UFOLOGIA (3ª Época) #34. pp. 106-165 (September 2010).
6. <https://www.facebook.com/la.wan.3538/posts/1912147795694142>
7. <http://www.reall.org/newsletter/v01/n01/index.html>

## May 29, 1961 Newark Ohio film

The chronology states:

*May 29, 1961--Newark, Ohio. Boy filmed unidentified light. [VIII]*<sup>1</sup>

Section VIII has a long description of the film:

NICAP received a telegram in June 1961 notifying us about the existence of some color movies of a UFO taken by a 16 year old boy, Craig Seese. Our informant was Robert William Miller, a young man with serious interest in UFO investigation who had formed his own group for that purpose. Mr. Miller had been one of five witnesses to the UFO sighting and filming.

A meeting was arranged between the youths, and Mr. A. B. Ledwith, a NICAP member in the area with technical background (including photographic analysis work with Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory). Mr. Ledwith was requested to advise NICAP whether he considered analysis of the film worthwhile. After talking to the youths and viewing the film, Mr. Ledwith recommended analysis of the film and advised Mr. Seese to have several copies made, storing the original in a cool safe place.

Mr. Miller was advised to forward one copy of the film to Max B. Miller in Los Angeles for analysis. (NICAP paid for the printing of one copy of the film for this purpose). The film was sent to Max Miller by registered mail August 7, 1961. About this time photographic analysis work began to pile up on Max Miller, and other commitments began to make demands on his time. As a result several analyses in the past two years are either incomplete or still pending. Max Miller is no longer a NICAP Special Adviser, and other arrangements are being made to complete the analyses.

The color film was taken between 10:00 p.m. and midnight with a Brownie 8 mm camera and telephoto lens (2.5 power), f/1.9. The UFO appeared to the unaided eye as a single white light, but the film indicates three objects, one slightly off-frame. Mr. Ledwith has tentatively ruled out reflections and film defects as the source of the images.<sup>2</sup>

The film seems to have disappeared at this point. NICAP does not include it on its web site and it does not appear on YouTube anywhere. I can only suspect that the film was of such poor quality that it was not required to be preserved or it had a potential explanation.

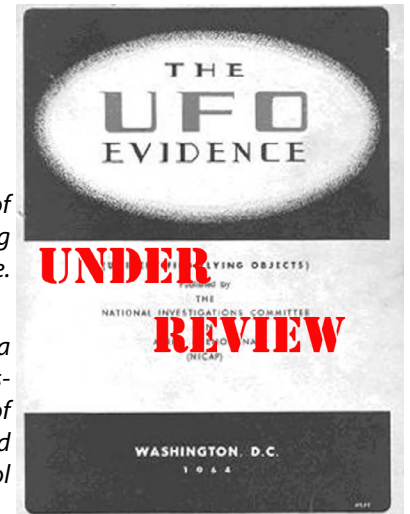
## Additional information

There really is not a lot more information than this. We don't know what happened to the film. Loren Gross has nothing to say about the case in his history and the film was never sent to Blue Book. However, there is some mention of it in the news media. The Newark Ohio paper describes a bit of the sighting in the June 22, 1961 edition.

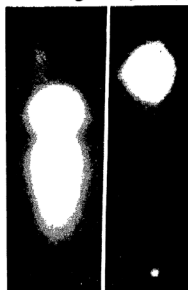
*The youths report seeing the object for one to three minutes about 10 p m that night which they was dark and absolutely clear. They firs it saw it moving in a northerly direction with the larger "tail" section pointed south. The object then becomes a solid mass with a smaller dot of light some distance from it moving with the larger light, the boys report the image on the film supports their claim.*<sup>3</sup>

The paper provides us with some frames from the film but they probably do not do the film justice.

Also mentioned in the paper is the statement of Virgil Ashcroft, a science teacher at the local high school. He also was an advisor to the astronomy club. He was skeptical and felt that something was seen and recorded but could not hazard a guess as to what it was. Ashcroft apparently was not too impressed by the film but, as stated in the UFO evidence, NICAP was. They added the note that it



### Strange Sight Seen Over Newark



These are two views of an unidentified object which Craig Seese, 16, films in Newark, Ohio, on May 29, 1961. The object is seen from the top of the film, and the bottom view is from the bottom of the film.

#### Decide to Drop Ohio Tax Stamps

By the end of the year, the state will have dropped the tax stamps on the Ohio tax return.

#### Family Injured

A family of four was injured in a car accident on the Ohio turnpike.

#### Ohioans Named

Ohioans named in the list of the most successful business leaders in the state.

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#### UFO Sighting

A young skydiver here has taken motion of an unidentified flying object a group of observers report seeing over Newark May 29.

Craig Seese, 16, of Newark, Ohio, has a roll of color film with two feet which shows objects he and friends say were seen from the top of their hill.

A Columbus man, who is a member of the Ohio State University, said he saw the object on May 29.

A B. Ledwith, 2025 Glenview, said he saw the object on May 29.

Robert Clayton, Ohio, said he saw the object on May 29.

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was "worth analysis; or possible value in conjunction with other data".<sup>4</sup>

## Analysis

Let's examine what we know about the film. It was shot between 10 PM and midnight. There were no significant astronomical events that night but the moon was full and would illuminate any physical objects in the sky. There is no Blue Book record for any sightings in the region on May 29, which makes one wonder what, if anything, was recorded on film.

The speed of motion picture film is pretty slow and it is difficult to record any nocturnal lights with the equipment described. Whatever was recorded would have to have been pretty bright. It is possible that what was filmed was an aircraft with a bright light and contrail illuminated by the full moon or setting sun. However, there is not enough information available to draw any definitive conclusion.

We also have to wonder about the provenance of the film. Was it really recorded on the 29th of May or some other night/day? Allan Hendry once wrote:

*I noted earlier in examining the conclusions of the 1,307 UFO reports that hoaxes did not figure at all into the scheme of things--rather misperceptions of some existing stimulus were responsible. This situation is not the case, however, when it comes to cases involving photographs, where a significant population of deliberate fraud exists. The failure of photographs to serve as impersonal proof of the existence of UFOs up to now lay largely in the ease of fabricating fake photos of small models that couldn't be distinguished from the real thing.*<sup>5</sup>

Could this film have been nothing more than a hoax? Perhaps a known stimulus was filmed and then a story was created to make it appear like a mysterious object. This possibility has to be considered.

## Conclusion

The still images in the newspaper are unimpressive, which makes me conclude that this is not "best evidence". At best, it is a nocturnal light with a potential earthly explanation. At worst, it was nothing more than a hoax, which, as Hendry noted, is common with films and photographs.

In my opinion, without the film this case is not very good evidence at all. Even with the film, we are left with the possibility that the details regarding the film may not be accurate. Based on what we know about the film, I would consider this film insufficient information or a possible hoax. It should be removed from the best evidence category.

## Notes and references

1. Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) The UFO evidence. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble. 1997. P. 139
2. *ibid.* P. 95
3. Matthews, Dave. "Strange sight seen over Newark". The Newark (O.) Advocate. June 22, 1961. P. 18
4. Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) The UFO evidence. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble. 1997. P. 95
5. Hendry, Allan. The UFO Investigators Handbook. London: Sphere Books Ltd. 1980. P. 204



## THE 701 CLUB: CASE 8836 - MAY 26, 1964 PLEASANTVILLE, PA

Don Berliner lists the case as follows:

*May 26, 1964; Pleasantview, Pennsylvania. 11 p.m. Witness: Rev. H.C. Shaw. One yellow-orange light, shaped like the bottom of a ball, was spotted in a field and chased down the road for 2 miles.<sup>1</sup>*

Brad Sparks' entry is basically the same. There is little in the way of additional information from these two sources.

### The Blue Book file

The file contains some letters and notes from a phone interview with the witness. Who conducted the interview is difficult to determine but I believe it was Dr. Hynek. He broke the sighting into three phases<sup>2</sup>:

Phase 1 - The witness was driving west on route 36-27 and saw a bright light. It was so bright they had to squint at it.

Phase 2 - The witnesses then saw a light, which was not as bright to their right above the tree line. They got out of the car to observe it and then it appeared to take off. They attempted to pursue it.

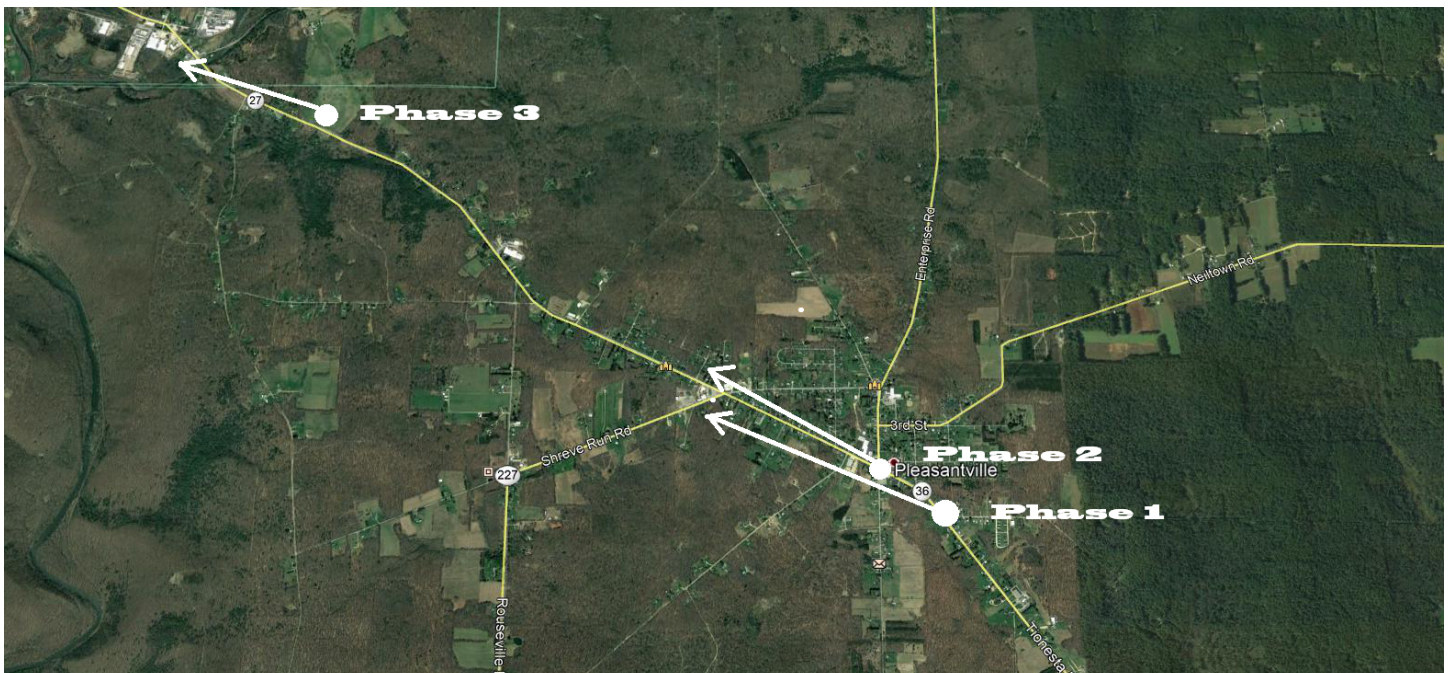
Phase 3 - They drove another two miles before they got out again and watched the object for two more minutes. They then drove down a dirt road to pursue the light some more. It rose, looked like the setting sun, and then rapidly disappeared to the west.

In a letter written to Blue Book in December of 1964, the witness gave a description of the sighting.<sup>3</sup> They stated they were driving west on route 36-27 and saw a bright light to the left (according to the witness this was to the south). The light disappeared shortly after this. They proceeded west again and then saw a light above the treetops. They stopped for a short period and then proceeded west again. The light disappeared a second time. They proceeded west another two miles and saw the light in a field. After watching it for a short period of time, they got back in the car and attempted to pursue it down a dirt road, it then disappeared in the west.

In a letter addressed to his congressman, the witness stated that phase 1 of the sighting happened while approaching Pleasantville. The second phase happened while in Pleasantville and the third phase happened on a hill between Pleasantville and Titusville. He also added that during phase 2, the light was just off to the right of the car above the treetops.<sup>4</sup>

In a NICAP document that is in the file, a UFO investigator determined that the trip started when they left the driveway of a Mr. McDonald. They saw the light on the south side of state street. It disappeared and then reappeared on the north side of the street. They pursued the light westward to White City hill. When they got to the hill, they got out of the car and began to walk up to the top of the hill, when the light disappeared westward.<sup>5</sup>

The stories all appear similar and we can get a general idea of what was seen from where based on all of these accounts. This map can give us a general idea of the direction the object was when seen from the various locations.



### Possible solution

Looking at the map, one can see a trend. They were always looking in the same general direction between Azimuth 280 and 320 degrees. Was there anything in that direction on May 26th at 11 PM? Was this DST or EST? Looking at the Oil City Derrick (about 13 miles from Pleasantville) they listed sunset being at 839 PM on May 22nd, which indicated DST was in effect for that region of Pennsylvania.<sup>6</sup> That makes the time 11 PM EDT, which is 0300 UTC and not 0400Z as listed on the Blue Book record card.

# Reader's Tip

Clarion State College students picket New Bethlehem school. See story and picture on Page 2.

# THE DERRICK.

The Home Newspaper in the Tri-County Area

## Sunny, Warmer

Sunny and a little warmer. High 73 to 80.  
Sunrise 5:59 Sunset 8:39

Established in 1871, No. 24,366.

OIL CITY-FRANKLIN-CLARION, PA., FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1964.

32 PAGES-2 SECTIONS

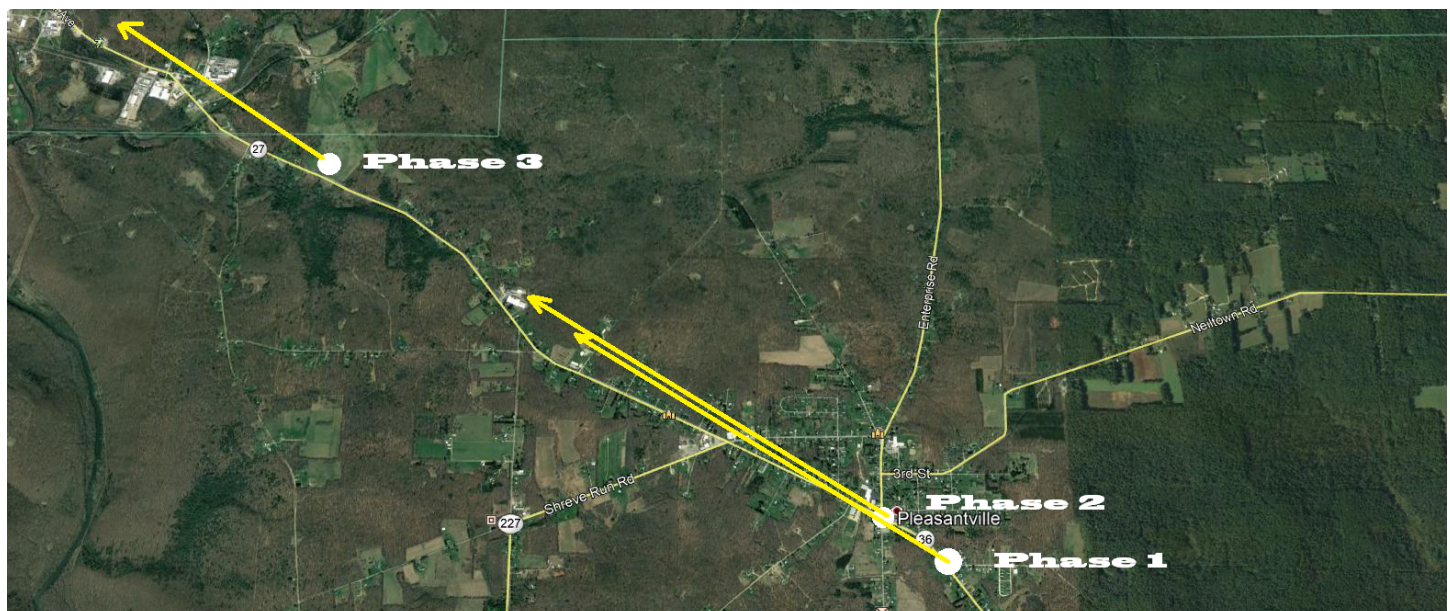
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The next thing is to look at what celestial objects might be visible on that date and time. A prime candidate immediately appears in the Venus was at azimuth 303 degrees and 2-3 degrees elevation. It also was very bright at the time at magnitude -4.4.



The road SR 36-27 does not go east and west as suggested by the witness. Instead, it goes in a west-northwest direction between Pleasantville and Titusville (approximately 301 degrees). Prior to entering Pleasantville, the road is towards the northwest (azimuth 322 degrees).

Looking at Venus in relation to the locations for Phase 1 and 2, we see that Venus would have been on the left side of the road during phase 1 and on the right side of the road during phase 2. In a moving car, the light would appear to go from one side of the road to the other. With such a low angle of elevation, it would not take much for the light to disappear and reappear.



Because Venus was being viewed as it set, it would appear to dim as time progressed due to atmospheric extinction. Venus set about 0318UTC (1118 PM EDT), which closely matches the time the witness estimated as the end of the event.

## Conclusion

While we cannot positively prove that Venus was the source of this sighting, there is good reason to suspect that it was the UFO. The witnesses did not report seeing Venus even though it was in the same direction as the object being reported as a UFO. Finally, the object disappeared about the same time Venus set. I would list this as probably Venus and it should be removed from the list of 701 unknowns.

### Notes and references

1. Berliner, Don. "The Bluebook unknowns". NICAP. Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm>
2. "Notes from phone call on 10 May 1965". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8708802>
3. "Letter to project Blue Book dated December 30, 1964" Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8708841>
4. "Letter to congressman Albert W. Johnson dated January 9, 1965." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8708834>
5. "UFOs over NW PA city. NICAP investigates." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8708845>
6. The Derrick. Oil city-Franklan-Clarion, PA. May 22, 1964. P. 1.



## Project Blue Book case review: January-June 1954

This is the third edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering the first half of 1954. Like the previous evaluation, I tried to examine each case to see if the explanation had merit. I added comments to help clarify the explanation or if the explanation was not correct or adequate.

### January 1954

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Toms River, NJ	Searchlight	Agreed
1	Melbourne, Australia	Inconsistent data	Insufficient data
2	Omaha, NE	Meteor	Agreed
2	Sioux City, IA	Meteor	Agreed
3	Blackburn, Australia	Reflection	Agreed
3	Albuquerque, NM	Meteor	Agreed
5	Tooma, NSW Australia	Aircraft	Possible birds
6	Oscoda, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed
7	Gate City, VA	Insufficient data	Agreed
8	Berlin, Germany	Meteor	Agreed
8	Millbook, AL	Balloon	Possible moon sighting. Direction of observation was Prattville (to the west). Moon azimuth 254 deg and altitude 14 deg at 0145Z. Object described as "half moon" shaped. Moon was 18% illuminated crescent.
10	York, PA	Meteor	Agreed
10	Westminster, MD	Meteor and Jupiter	Insufficient/confusing data in letter. Witness reports seeing things for seconds and then states it was 25 minutes. Multiple sightings. All of which sound like astronomical objects but because of confusing information, identification not possible.
10	Las Vegas, NV	Balloon	Agreed
13	Oscoda, MI	Meteor	Agreed
14	Melbourne, Australia	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
14	Kelly AFB, TX	Atmospheric disturbances	Agreed
15	Mallala, Australia	Meteor	Agreed
15	Melbourne, Australia	Balloon	Agreed
16	Picayune, MS	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Morris, South Australia	Insufficient data	Agreed
19	Manston AFS, England	Balloon	Agreed
21	Waco, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed
22	Westpoint, KY	Searchlight	Agreed
22	Buena Park, CA	1. Aircraft 2. Insufficient data	Agreed
23	Naperville, Ill	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Las Cruces, NM	Meteor	Agreed
28	Seneca Lake, NY	Balloon	Possible moon sighting. Observations to south and southeast. Moon waning crescent (Azimuth 158 deg and Elevation 28 deg 38% illuminated). Described as half moon shaped. Sky conditions were overcast with light snow. Moon possibly visible through thin clouds, which explains object disappearing and reappearing.

28	Blackstone, VA	Balloon	Agreed
28	Washington DC	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Rangeley, Maine	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Cold Bay, AK	Insufficient data	Possible auroral activity

### February 1954

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Mobile, AL	Balloon	Agreed
1	Puente, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed
1	Tuscaloosa, AL	Insufficient data	Agreed
4-7 Apr	Eagle Grove, IA	Star/Planet	Agreed (probably Capella or Jupiter)
4	Carswell AFB, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Wichita, KS	Balloon	Agreed
8	Key West, FL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
9	Bridgeport, CT	Balloon	Agreed
15	Greenville, NC	Meteor	Agreed
15	Greenville, NC	Radar reflection	Agreed
20	Pepperell AFB, Newfound-land	Contrails	<b>Could not locate file</b>
21	Van Nuys, CA	Aircraft	Long Beach CA winds From north/northeast below 2KM then from west. First object disappeared in west. No description of flight path. Second object came from north, circled, and then went east consistent with wind direction. Possible Balloon
23	Price, PA	Meteor	Agreed
23	Washington, DC	Balloon	Agreed
23	Nellis AFB, NV	Jupiter	Possible balloon with reflector. Sighting made at 1400 local time making Jupiter impossible. Conditions in message listed as "dusk" creating the possible confusion on identification.
23	Washington DC	Balloon	Agreed
24	Long Beach, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Long Island, NY	Balloon	Listed as insufficient data on record card but characteristics of a pair of balloons
26	Newburyport, MA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
26	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Keesler AFB, MS	Meteor	Agreed

### March 1954

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Spring	Stalingrad, USSR	Rocket	Agreed Kapustin Yar located about 60 miles to ESE of Stalingrad. Multiple missile launches from this location in 1954.
Mar-Apr	Oakland, CA	1. Meteor 2. Ball lightning	Both are insufficient data. Report made in June. No location, exact date, or times given.
2	Orangeville, MD	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus. Directions given being visible in Northeast. Azimuth of Arcturus was 69 degrees azimuth. Object still visible at time of report and reported as "hovering and pulsing".
2	Pennsylvania	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Baltimore, MD	Reflection	Agreed
5	Chihuahua, Mexico	Unreliable report	Agreed

5	Nouasseur, French Morocco	1. Ground reflection 2. Insufficient data 3. UNIDENTIFIED	Agreed
6	Milwaukee, WI	Jupiter	Moby Dick balloon K11 launched night before from Sedalia, Mo. Balloon tracked over ocean to near England after 74 hours. Track crossed in the vicinity of Milwaukee.
7	Keesler AFB, MS	Balloon	Agreed
7	Arlington, VA	Stars	Agreed
8	Panama City, FL	Birds	Agreed
8	San Antonio, TX	Meteor	Agreed
9	Newfoundland	Meteor	Agreed
11	Keesler AFB, MS	Meteor	Agreed
11-12	Pittsburg, PA	Ground reflection	Agreed
12	Nousseur, French Morocco	Insufficient data	Agreed
12	Nousseur, French Morocco	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
12	Narsarsuaq, Newfoundland	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Scranton, PA	Meteor	Agreed
16	Oak Park, IL	Meteor	Agreed
17	Long Beach, CA	Balloon	Agreed
18	Alexandria, VA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
22	Wertherly, PA	Reflections	Possible weather balloon
23	Hahn AFB, Germany	Aircraft	Insufficient data (only record card present).
27	Oconee, IL	Balloon	Agreed. Moby Dick balloon K18 launched from Sedalia at 1725Z. Sighting at Oconee was at 2330Z (240 miles to ENE).
27	Cherokee, Sinclair, WY	Meteor	Agreed
27	Gateway intersection, AL	Insufficient data	Agreed
27	Fort Worth, TX	Aircraft	Possible Moby Dick balloon E173. Launched on March 27 from Edwards AFB. Last seen afternoon on March 28 in Alabama.
28	Norwich, CT	1. Balloon 2. Meteor	1. Agreed. Moby Dick balloon K18 launched from Sedalia, Mo on 27 March. 2. Agreed
29	Philadelphia, PA	Birds	Agreed

### April 1954

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Andarko, OK	Insufficient data	Possible balloon from Holloman AFB launched on 4/1 and recovered in Gould, OK (about 90 mi WSW from Andarko).
3	Atlanta, GA	Searchlight	Agreed
3	Wichita, KS	Birds	Agreed
4	Norris, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Atlantic	Balloon	Agreed
4	Stewart AFB, NY	Balloon	Agreed
6	Rangoon, Burma	Aircraft	Agreed
6-13-19	Savannah, GA	Balloon	No reports. Just record card. Additional data required.
7	Norfolk, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Chicago, IL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED



10	Columbia, MO	Insufficient data	Agreed
11	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon. Stated object moving against wind but moving from east to west. Winds at 6000 feet were from 10 Degrees Azimuth, which could possibly blow the object in a possible westward direction or direction that appeared to be towards the west.
13	Annapolis, MD	Arc Welder flashes	Agreed
13	Colorado Springs, CO	Meteor	Agreed
14	Roswell, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed
15	Bolder City, NV	Aircraft	Agreed
15-19	South Korea	Meteor	Insufficient data. Just a record card.
16	Honolulu, HI	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Sampson AFB, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
22	San Nicholas Is, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed
22	Elizabethtown, PA	Meteor	Agreed
23	Pittsfield, ME	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
23	Myrtle Beach, SC	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
24	Hartland, ME	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Greenbrier, WV	Meteor	Agreed
24	Charleston, SC	Meteor	Agreed
24	Shaw AFB, SC	Meteor	Agreed
25	Coral Gables, FL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
25	Kadena AFB, Okinawa	Insufficient data	Possible bird illuminated by lighting
26	Mildenhall, England	Radar tracking device	Agreed
26	Athens, GA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
28	Fort Worth, TX	Jupiter	Jupiter appears to be one of the objects observed. Another object may have been Capella.
30	Salisbury Beach, MA	Aircraft	Agreed

### May 1954

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
4	St. Lawrence island, AK	Ship	Insufficient data. Only a record card. Could be a ship. Possibly Jupiter setting.
5	Kansas City, KS	Insufficient data	Agreed. Time given was wrong. Witness said it was night but sun did not set until about 0130Z. Time listed is 2315Z.
6	Miami, FL	Balloon	Agreed
9	Foster AFB, TX	Meteor	Agreed
10	Atlantic	Surface vessels	Agreed
10	East Point, GA	Aircraft	Possible birds
10	Elsinore, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
10	Reading, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Omaha, NE	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Washington, DC	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
12	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Possibly contrail reflecting sunset
13	Pacific	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Norfolk, England	Balloon	Agreed
15	Salinas, CA	Meteor	Agreed

17	Ellington AFB, TX	Meteor	Agreed
17	Sweden	Meteor	Agreed
19	Gravesville, NY	Meteor	Agreed
19	Hamilton, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Bay St. Louis, MS	Arcturus	Or possibly Vega
21	Needles, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration or course.
22	Los Angeles, CA	Meteor	Agreed
22	La Porte, IN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Cleveland, OH	Jupiter	Or Venus. Both in location described.
24	Richmond, IN	Sun Dog	Agreed (actually a sub sun)
24	Schuyerville, NY	Jupiter	Possible balloon (daylight observation)
24	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Upper level winds from west. Object(s) traveled SE over two hours. Photographs don't show much. Possible high altitude balloon cluster.
29	Wilcox, AZ	Reflection	Agreed. Probably reflection off of aircraft.
30	Columbus, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing a lot of data.
30	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Possible small airborne object (balloon, bird, airborne debris) that plane flew past. Object went in the opposite direction the aircraft was flying.
30	Larson AFB, Washington DC	Meteor	Agreed
31	Westwood, Cincinnati, OH	Star	Agreed (Vega or Deneb as BB states)
31	Concord, NH	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
31	Mississippi city, MS	Aircraft	Insufficient data (record card is only source of information)
31	Napavine, WA	Glass	Agreed
5/30-6/25	Dayton, OH	Psychological	Agreed

### June 1954

	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
June	Mooresville, IN	Stars/planet	Insufficient data. Appears to be out of focus point source (possibly Venus visible in evening sky during June 1954). Somebody compared it to a photograph of Mars in a book, which is why this classification was given.
June	Muskogee, OK	Fake photo	Agreed
June	Lincolnville, IL	Stars/planet	Same case as Mooresville photographs
1	Boston, MA	Balloon	Agreed
1	Minneapolis, MN	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
2	San Juan, PR	Balloon	Possible moon. Witness driving towards west and remarked it look like the moon but discounted it due to motion. Object disappeared over horizon. Moonset approximately 30 minutes after listed sighting time. Motion of object due to motion of car as it changed directions on winding road.
5	Three Oaks, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed
5	Indiantown, FL	Searchlight	Agreed
5	Pasco, WA	Insufficient data	Possible moon. Described as size of "half moon". Then described as two objects forming into one as it disappeared on the horizon. First quarter moon set approximately 20 minutes prior to sighting. Possibility exists that the time was when the sighting was reported and not observed.

6	Julien, KY	Mars	Agreed
7	Rockville, MD	Star/planet	Probably Mars
8	Texarkana, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
8	Sardis Lake, MS	Radio/transmitter	Agreed
8	Rogersville, TN	Meteor	Agreed
9	Manassas, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Cleveland, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Estacado, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
11	Reese AFB, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. Only record card present.
11	Pasadena, CA	Aircraft	Possible balloon
12	Hyattsville, MD	Star/Planet	Agreed. Possibly Mars.
14	Great Kills, NY	Meteor	Agreed
14	Memphis, TN	Blimp	Agreed
15	Vero Beach, FL	Insufficient data	Venus. Bright object to WNW that hovered disappeared and re-appeared. Venus at azimuth 290 degrees elevation 11 degrees.
15	Patrick AFB, FL	Venus	Agreed
16	Patrick AFB, FL	Balloon	Agreed
17	Poughkeepsie, NY	Balloon	Agreed
18	Omsted AFB, Middleton, PA	Balloon	Agreed
18	NY City, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
21	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed
21	Fort Bragg, NC	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Delray Beach, FL	Meteor	Agreed
21	Clayton, AL	Meteor	Agreed
21	Savannah, GA	Insufficient data	Meteor
22	Cleveland, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Only record card present.
22	Miami Beach, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
23	Columbus, OH	Mars	Agreed
23	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Possibly Venus
23	Madeira, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
23	Denver, CO	Aircraft	Possible meteor
24	Danvers, MA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
24	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
24	Burlington, VT	Mars	Agreed
24	Waynesville, OH	Aircraft	Possible Meteor
25	Indian Lake, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
26	Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, OH	Balloon	Agreed. Possible Moby Dick Balloon launched from Vernalis, CA on 6/24
26	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Danville, IL	Balloon	Agreed. Possible Moby Dick Balloon launched from Vernalis, CA on 6/24
26	Franklin, WI	Balloon	Agreed
27	Norton, KS	Insufficient data	Agreed. Just record card.
27	Covington, KY	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Just record card.
30	Bagdad, FL	Star	Agreed. Possibly Fomalhaut (138 deg azimuth with witness reporting 120 deg azimuth).

30	Mobile, AL	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Labrador, Canada	Mars	Possibly Venus. Plane headed NE and object off of port wing. Venus low in WNW at time of sighting.

### Reclassification

There were 203 cases in the Blue Book files from January to June of 1954, that I evaluated. In my opinion, of these 45 were improperly classified (about 22%). This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been reclassified. Some of the sightings really did not have enough information for evaluation and other cases that had been listed as "insufficient information" had potential explanations.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
1/5	Tooma, NSW Australia	Aircraft	Possible birds
1/8	Millbook, AL	Balloon	Possible moon sighting. Direction of observation was Prattville (to the west). Moon azimuth 254 deg and altitude 14 deg at 0145Z. Object described as "half moon" shaped. Moon was 18% illuminated crescent.
1/10	Westminster, MD	Meteor and Jupiter	Insufficient/confusing data in letter. Witness reports seeing things for seconds and then states it was 25 minutes. Multiple sightings. All of which sound like astronomical objects but because of confusing information, identification not possible.
1/14	Melbourne, Australia	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
1/28	Seneca Lake, NY	Balloon	Possible moon sighting. Observations to south and southeast. Moon waning crescent (Azimuth 158 deg and Elevation 28 deg 38% illuminated). Described as half moon shaped. Sky conditions were overcast with light snow. Moon possibly visible through thin clouds, which explains object disappearing and reappearing.
1/29	Cold Bay, AK	Insufficient data	Possible auroral activity
2/8	Key West, FL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
2/21	Van Nuys, CA	Aircraft	Long Beach CA winds From north/northeast below 2KM then from west. First object disappeared in west. No description of flight path. Second object came from north, circled, and then went east consistent with wind direction. Possible Balloon
2/23	Nellis AFB, NV	Jupiter	Possible balloon with reflector. Sighting made at 1400 local time making Jupiter impossible. Conditions in message listed as "dusk" creating the possible confusion on identification.
Mar-Apr	Oakland, CA	1. Meteor 2. Ball lightning	Both are insufficient data. Report made in June. No location, exact date, or times given.
3/2	Orangeville, MD	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus. Directions given being visible in Northeast. Azimuth of Arcturus was 69 degrees azimuth. Object still visible at time of report and reported as "hovering and pulsing".
3/6	Milwaukee, WI	Jupiter	Moby Dick balloon K11 launched night before from Sedalia, Mo. Balloon tracked over ocean to near England after 74 hours. Track crossed in the vicinity of Milwaukee.
3/18	Alexandria, VA	Insufficient data	Possible birds
3/22	Wertherly, PA	Reflections	Possible weather balloon
3/23	Hahn AFB, Germany	Aircraft	Insufficient data (only record card present).
3/27	Fort Worth, TX	Aircraft	Possible Moby Dick balloon E173. Launched on March 27 from Edwards AFB. Last seen afternoon on March 28 in Alabama.
4/1	Andarko, OK	Insufficient data	Possible balloon from Holloman AFB launched on 4/1 and recovered in Gould, OK (about 90 mi WSW from Andarko).
4/6-13-19	Savannah, GA	Balloon	No reports. Just record card. Additional data required.

4/11	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon. Stated object moving against wind but moving from east to west. Winds at 6000 feet were from 10 Degrees Azimuth, which could possibly blow the object in a possible westward direction or direction that appeared to be towards the west.
4/15-19	South Korea	Meteor	Insufficient data. Just a record card.
4/23	Myrtle Beach, SC	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
4/25	Coral Gables, FL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
4/25	Kadena AFB, Okinawa	Insufficient data	Possible bird illuminated by lighting
5/4	St. Lawrence island, AK	Ship	Insufficient data. Only a record card. Could be a ship. Possibly Jupiter setting.
5/10	East Point, GA	Aircraft	Possible birds
5/12	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Possibly contrail reflecting sunset
5/24	Schuyerville, NY	Jupiter	Possible balloon (daylight observation)
5/24	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Upper level winds from west. Object(s) traveled SE over two hours. Photographs don't show much. Possible high altitude balloon cluster.
5/30	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Possible small airborne object (balloon, bird, airborne debris) that plane flew past. Object went in the opposite direction the aircraft was flying.
5/31	Mississippi city, MS	Aircraft	Insufficient data (record card is only source of information)
June	Mooreville, IN	Stars/planet	Insufficient data. Appears to be out of focus point source (possibly Venus visible in evening sky during June 1954). Somebody compared it to a photograph of Mars in a book, which is why this classification was given.
6/2	San Juan, PR	Balloon	Possible moon. Witness driving towards west and remarked it look like the moon but discounted it due to motion. Object disappeared over horizon. Moonset approximately 30 minutes after listed sighting time. Motion of object due to motion of car as it changed directions on winding road.
6/5	Pasco, WA	Insufficient data	Possible moon. Described as size of "half moon". Then described as two objects forming into one as it disappeared on the horizon. First quarter moon set approximately 20 minutes prior to sighting. Possibility exists that the time was when the sighting was reported and not observed.
6/11	Pasadena, CA	Aircraft	Possible balloon
6/15	Vero Beach, FL	Insufficient data	Venus. Bright object to WNW that hovered disappeared and re-appeared. Venus at azimuth 290 degrees elevation 11 degrees.
6/18	NY City, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
6/21	Savannah, GA	Insufficient data	Meteor
6/23	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Possibly Venus
6/23	Madeira, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
6/23	Denver, CO	Aircraft	Possible meteor
6/24	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
6/24	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
6/24	Waynesville, OH	Aircraft	Possible Meteor
6/27	Covington, KY	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Just record card.
6/30	Labrador, Canada	Mars	Possibly Venus. Plane headed NE and object off of port wing. Venus low in WNW at time of sighting.



## Summary

The 22% incorrect evaluation value was significantly higher than values I obtained from the 1953 data. I did not see much in the way of investigations by the 4602nd Air intelligence squadron or Dr. Hynek, which may have been the reason for the high rate of incorrect evaluations. Without anybody really investigating the cases, it was left to the officer who collected the report or the diminutive staff at Blue Book. It is not surprising that this resulted in more mistakes.

I found it interesting that there were four cases that could have been the moon. Witnesses described these object as "half-moon" when the crescent or quarter moon was in the same general area. There also was a "mini-wave of" sightings near Dayton in late June 1954. Several of these were confusing and should have had more follow-up. While they had possible explanations, more information would have been helpful in identifying the source of the sighting.

Next issue we will move on to the second half of 1954. Based on the results of the first half of 1954, I expect more cases that were not properly evaluated.

## References

1. "Project Blue Book investigations." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/title/461/project-blue-book-ufo-investigations>
2. Project Blue Book archive. Available WWW:<http://bluebookarchive.org/>
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4. "Stratospheric balloons: Chronological lists of launches worldwide since 1947" StratoCat. Available WWW: <http://stratocat.com.ar/globos/indexe.html>
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6. Condon, E. U., et al., eds. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Bantam 1968.