

# SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

*People say seeing is believing, but I disagree. All the evidence suggests the opposite is the truth. In plain fact, we see what we believe.*

*Dr. David Clarke (How UFOs conquered the world)*

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Cover: An Aurora I photographed in the fall of 2003 was quite spectacular. I used to think Auroras don't produce many UFO reports. However, in November 1957, a spectacular Aurora produced quite a few reports across the county.

The planet Venus dominates the spring sky in 2015. A similar set of circumstances occurred in 1977 and it probably was the source of a UFO in the Weinstein catalogue, which I discuss on pages 3-5.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Who's blogging UFOs.....	2
Weeding out the Weinstein catalogue..	3-5
UFO evidence under review: September 8, 1958. Omaha Nebraska.....	6-7
The 701 Club: Case 2022: September 1, 1952. Marietta, Georgia.....	8-9
SUNlite 11-4 update.....	10
Project Blue Book case review November-December 1957.....	11-29

# Follow the money

UFOlogy continues to make little, if any, progress in resolving the UFO mystery. Despite numerous organizations and government agencies throughout the world studying the problem, the only thing that has been learned is that people mistake normal events for exotic ones. Yes, there are "unidentified" cases but they resolve nothing. There can be many reasons for the an "unidentified" classification. I have demonstrated, repeatedly, in this newsletter that many UFO cases that have been classified by others as "unidentified" can be identified if properly investigated/evaluated. Others have been just as successful in resolving such cases. Unfortunately, UFO organizations/UFOlogists, who claim to be scientific, often are not interested in any potential explanations for these sightings. For instance, in SUNlite 10-1, I clearly demonstrated a video taken in Squamish, British Columbia, was the International Space Station. Instead of admitting the possibility they had made a mistake, those who took the video chose to continue promoting it. MUFON, a "scientific" organization dedicated to researching UFOs, chose to classify it as one of their best UFO cases of 2017! Their investigator simply rubber stamped the claims and the organization apparently endorsed it because of its publicity value. Meanwhile, the videographers now have revealed they are producing a movie about their adventures, with one of the highlights being this Squamish video. When it comes to UFOs, it seems that money, not science, is the biggest motivating factor.

Quite a few individuals in UFOlogy are counting on the "To The Stars Academy" (TTSA) to deliver the goods and resolve the "mystery" surrounding UFOs. Amid much fanfare, they quickly showed three videos they managed to get from the Department of Defense. The TTSA then managed to get their own television program, which simply repeated more UFO stories and one-sided interpretation of the videos. All this demonstrated was the TTSA is in it for the money and not in it for scientific research. If UFO proponents are hoping for this group to resolve the UFO problem, they are going to be disappointed because it is no different than the other UFO organizations that exist today or have existed in the past.

What great UFO revelations have been linked to money making schemes? The Alien Autopsy and Roswell slides come to mind. What about the various individuals, who have tried to make money by promoting UFO videos and photographs that fail to convince anybody outside of the UFO community? Then there are the annual conventions, where all sorts of items are on sale to take advantage of the gullible. UFOlogy's desire for financial gain results in them losing any credibility.

I realize that there are some UFO researchers that do good work. I applaud their efforts since they attempt to be objective in their approach. Unfortunately, they are a minority and their voices are not heard by the "leaders" in UFOlogy, who are interested in promoting themselves for financial gain, personal fame, or both.

I want to thank Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos for his feedback concerning SUNlite 11-4. You will find a summary of the information he shared with me on page 10. I always appreciate feedback that is constructive and informative.

# Who's blogging UFOs?

## Hot topics and varied opinions

**The To The Stars Academy (TTSA) once again failed in their efforts to properly analyze videos.** This time they were taken in by a hoax video from Italy. Robert Sheaffer documents the whole sordid episode in his blog. If they can't tell what is a hoax, what does this say about their analysis on the other videos?

**Jack Brewer wrote an article about how UFO journalists has done little in the way of investigative journalism regarding the TTSA for the past two years.** Of course, Luis Elizondo could help resolve the issue easily with actual documents that prove his claims about running the TTSA. Instead, his response has been one who desires ambiguity as if he wishes to hide something. The bottom line is the TTSA can't be trusted to tell the truth. Their series "unidentified" was little more than a glorified "Hanger one", where bits of truth were interlaced with wild speculation and analysis that ignored other possibilities.

**Roger Glassel released some of the FOIA documents he received regarding the effort to declassify the videos by Luis Elizondo, when he was at the Department of Defense (DOD).** Elizondo appeared very interested in declassifying these three videos in August of 2017 as soon as possible. Is it just a coincidence that Elizondo left his position at the DOD shortly thereafter? Contrary to what Elizondo claimed in his e-mails about this having to do with various scientific groups studying these videos once released, it seems that personal gain was a more motivating factor. Otherwise, Elizondo would have requested their release years before his departure.

**This prompted John Greenwald to discuss it, at length, on his podcast.** If you wanted to learn anything about classification markings, Greenwald explains it very well. Greenwald also demonstrated that these documents demonstrated that Elizondo and TTSA were being less than honest in their public statements about these videos and Luis Elizondo's resume'.

**Rob Freeman is now producing some sort of movie about him wanting to scientifically study UFOs.** For those that forgot, Rob was the guy who went to Squamish in Canada to film UFOs. He did manage to get one and made a big deal about it. **Scott Brando suggested he saw the International Space Station (ISS).** I checked up on this explanation in SUNlite 10-1 and presented everything that demonstrated it was the ISS complete with Two-Line Elements and star charts, which matched the trajectory of the "orb" in the video. For some reason, this evidence did not compel Freeman to change his position of what he recorded. Instead, he continued to promote it as some exotic event. Freeman also points out that MUFON declared his video one of the top cases for 2017. **Completely missing in MUFON's write up is any mention of the ISS, which demonstrates the "investigator" was more interested in promoting the case than actually investigating it.** Any effort to prove/disprove the ISS by these individuals was flawed and completely erroneous as I mentioned in SUNlite 10-1.

**Robert Sheaffer described his trip to the latest MUFON conference. What he describes is what one might expect from UFOlogy these days.** Since UFO research has stagnated to the point that they have to sensationalize everything While the speakers talked about the continued documenting of UFO sightings, there seems to be little progress in trying to resolve the UFO mystery. The only effort mentioned appears to be the UFO data acquisition project (UFODAP). However, they had no presentation and were stuck in the Vendor area trying to sell their cameras and software. It is interesting to note that their systems appear to run at a price range similar to what amateur astronomers pay for their equipment. How many UFOlogists are going to invest in an effort that might produce actual quantifiable results? Why isn't MUFON spending money for such systems throughout the United States?

**A lot is made about green fireballs by UFO proponents.** This goes back to the late 1940s when there were many reported in the Southwest. Space weather points out that the color green is not uncommon with fireballs. It has more to do with the atmosphere, and the meteoroid's interaction with it, than it has to do with the meteoroid itself. The bottom line is fireballs that are green is nothing unusual.

# WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOGUE

## March 12, 1977: Near Syracuse, New York

77.03.12	21:05 LT	USA	South of Syracuse, between Buffalo and Albany	A	one UAL DC-10 (flight 94) pilot + first officer	one round bright white object, strong effects on the autopilot and the three compasses.	NR		E	02/442 450
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The Weinstein catalogue lists this event as having transpired at 2105 EST on the 12th of March (0205 UT on the 13th).<sup>1</sup>

This case has been described in many documents by Dr. Richard Haines. The following is the description in Peter Sturrock's book, The UFO Enigma:

*The DC-10 airplane was under the control of autopilot system #2 and was flying at 37,000 feet altitude. The entire sky was dark and clear ahead and above the airplane, except for a partial under cast with small clouds extending to about 20 miles ahead. The aircraft was flying at an indicated air speed of 275 knots (true air speed 530 knots). The aircraft was about half way between Buffalo and Albany, and had just changed from contact with the "FROM" VOR (Very-High-Frequency Omnidirectional Bearing) signal emanating from Buffalo to the "TO" signal from Albany. The aircraft was just south of Syracuse, New York.*

*Suddenly and unexpectedly, the airplane began to turn to the left, making a 15 degree bank. Within a few seconds, the First Officer and the Captain looked to the left side of their plane and saw an extremely bright white light at about their own altitude. Subsequently, the Flight Engineer also looked and saw the light source. It appeared to be perfectly round and its apparent diameter was about 3 degrees of arc. However, the Captain estimated the object to be about 1,000 yards away and to be about 100 feet in size, that corresponds to an angular size of 2 degrees. "Its intensity was remarkable — about the intensity of a flashbulb," he remarked. Boston ATC radioed to ask "United 94, where are you going?" The Captain replied "Well, let me figure this out. I will let you know." He then noticed that the three cockpit compasses (that use sensors in different parts of the plane) were all giving different readings. At this point, the Copilot turned off the autopilot and took manual control of the airplane.*

*Based upon the fact that the object did not move laterally in the cockpit window during the 45 degree left heading change and from knowledge of the turn radius of this airplane at its stated velocity, Haines calculated the approximate distance to the object to be about 10 nautical miles. If the pilot's angular size estimate for the object is accurate, this suggests that the light source was about 2100 feet across. The object appeared to stay with the airplane for 4 to 5 minutes, after which it departed very rapidly, disappearing within about 15 seconds behind them to the west. The Captain asked ATC if they had any radar traffic in that area and received a negative reply.<sup>2</sup>*

For some reason, Haines does not present any data in the form of an incident report or maintenance records regarding the aircraft. He indicates that the UFO must have affected the port side gyrocompass more than the starboard causing the aircraft to bank to the port in a northerly direction. What is confusing with this theory is that the UFO only became visible when the aircraft began its bank to the northeast because it was in the west/northwest. So, how could the UFO affect one side of the plane if it was behind an eastern bound aircraft? Perhaps this is why the panel of scientists reviewing the case stated:

*In responding to this presentation, the panel took the position that evidence of interference with aircraft equipment is interesting but, in the absence of corroborative data from flight recorders and other mechanical or electrical recording equipment, the evidence presented must be regarded as anecdotal. It is quite possible that the persons making the report summarized above did indeed see unusual and striking phenomena. It does appear that the airplane departed from its normal flight path, but this could have happened for a variety of reasons. As with reports related to other categories of physical evidence, the evidence summarized in this section should be regarded as suggestive but far from sufficient to establish any actual physical linkage between the reported luminous phenomenon and the airplane's flight deviation. In order to improve our understanding of these phenomena, it will be necessary to establish more definite facts from the case work. To this end, there should be strong efforts to quantify the observations and to obtain multiple measurements of the same event, and investigators should bring a critical attitude to the compilation and analysis of the data.<sup>3</sup>*

So what are some alternative explanations for what happened that night. One is "pilot error". The possibility exists simply that the crew goofed and caused the course deviation. I am no expert in the operation of the autopilot but it seems possible that the switching of VOR stations might have affected the navigation system and autopilot. After all, the plane changed course shortly after they had changed the VOR station. I am sure there are other potential problems that could produce the course deviation as well. Something as simple as a poor solder joint on a circuit board might cause an intermittent connection and cause instrumentation to fail. In this scenario, the problem could disappear as quickly as it came. Did this particular plane ever demonstrate the problem before or after this case? Without any additional information, it is hard to determine what really transpired. It seems more plausible that a pilot mistake or equipment malfunction caused the course deviation than an alien spaceship playing with the gyro compasses!

What about the visual UFO? That is pretty easy and I am amazed that Haines never bothered to go into any possibilities other than this was some sort of unknown craft. A planetarium program with the correct location and time set to 2105 EST will show that the UFO was in the same general location as the bright planet Venus in the west. According to Stellarium, Venus set at 2106 EST in Syracuse. However, this is 129 meters above sea level and not at the altitude of the aircraft.

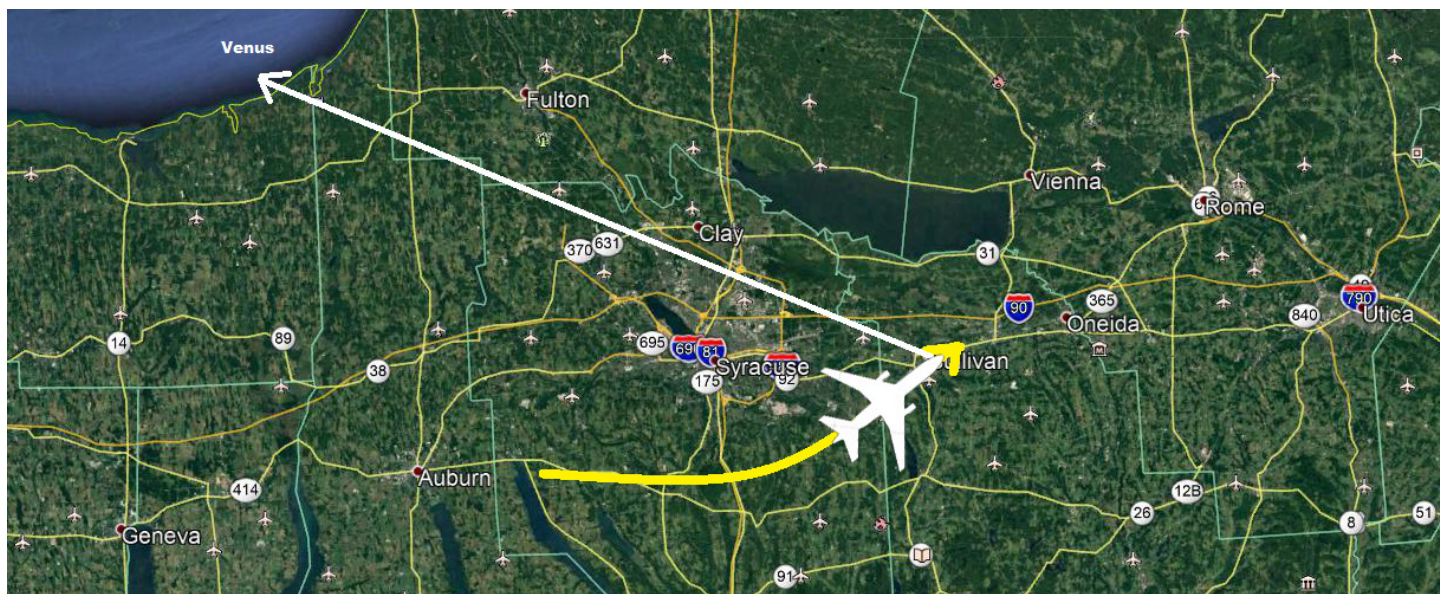
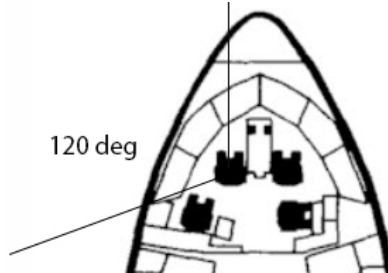
The plane was at an altitude of 37,000 feet (11.2 km). For a latitude of 40 degrees, Venus would set about 1.3 minutes later for every





1.5 km of altitude.<sup>4</sup> This means Venus would set around 2112 EST for flight 94.

According to Haines, the plane altered from an easterly course to approximately a 45 degree bearing. At this point, the pilot and co-pilot saw the UFO outside their port window. The pilot can look outside his rearmost window towards a bearing of about 110-120 degrees relative to his heading. By leaning forward or looking closer to the window, he should be able to see even further backwards. With a heading of 45 degrees true azimuth, the pilot would be able to look towards approximately 285-295 degrees true azimuth. Venus was located at 292 degrees when it was setting.

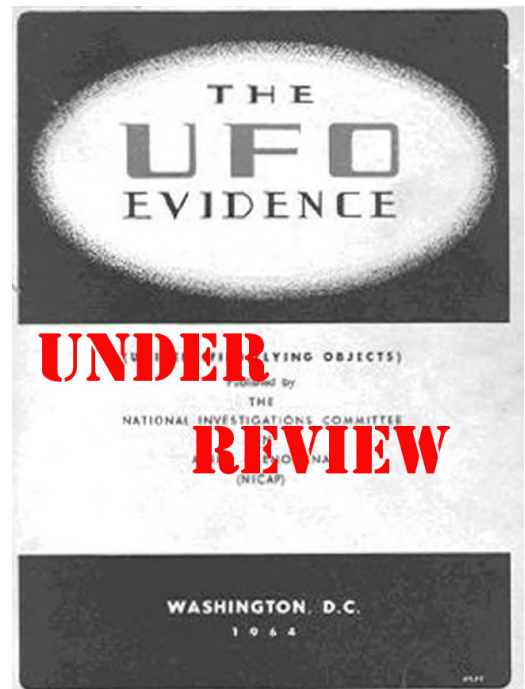
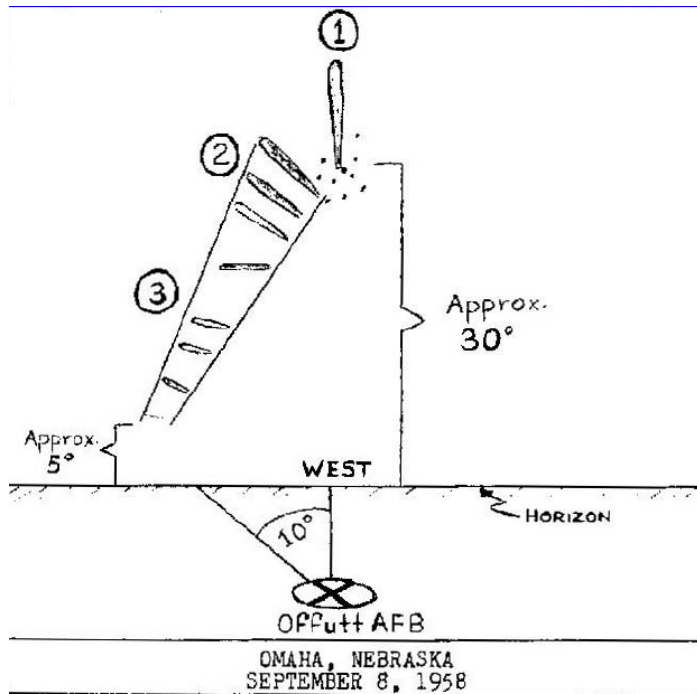


Based on all of this information, it appears that the visual sighting of this UFO was the planet Venus setting in the West Northwest. For some reason, Haines never mentioned the word "Venus" in any of the documents I examined. Wouldn't a scientist investigating a UFO case look at one of the greatest sources of UFOs first? Maybe a more "critical attitude" towards examining this case could have resolved this. Instead the "Neil Daniels" case has now entered UFO folklore. While many UFO proponents will proclaim this case an example of UFO interfering with the operations of an aircraft, it appears there is a better explanation. The probability of pilot/equipment error coupled with a sighting of Venus seems more likely than a UFO trying to manipulate the flight of a passenger airliner for no good reason.

This case should be removed from the Weinstein list since it has a potential explanation.

Notes and references

1. Weinstein, Dominique. Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - Eighty years of pilot sightings. National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena. February 2001. P. 47.
2. Sturrock, Peter. The UFO Enigma. New York: Warner Books 1999. P. 86-7
3. ibid. P. 88
4. Spekkens, Kristine. "How do sunrise and sunset times change with altitude?" Ask an astronomer. Available WWW: <http://curious.astro.cornell.edu/our-solar-system/161-our-solar-system/the-earth/day-night-cycle/189-how-do-sunrise-and-sunset-times-change-with-altitude-intermediate>



### September 8, 1958 Omaha, Nebraska

September 8, 1958--Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska. Air Force Major, other officers, observed rocket-like UFO with satellite objects. [III]

Section III gives us a long description made by Air Force Major Paul Duich. This report was apparently written over five years after the event based on the Major's comments:

*The time was approximately 1840. The date: 8 September 1958....As I crossed the open area, something caught my eye. Glancing up and to the west, I noticed what appeared to be a short vapor trail in an otherwise clear, blue sky. There were no clouds. The sun had just set. I continued walking but somehow that vapor trail didn't register properly. I have seen thousands of vapor trails but this one was peculiar. I did a double take at that point for suddenly the short 'vapor trail' became a brilliant Source of light, much the same as a magnesium flare. I stopped dead in my tracks and watched.*

*The light was intense, but the "vapor trail" hung motionless. Even a short trail shows generation and dissipation as the aircraft moves across the sky. I watched for several minutes-- maybe 2 or 3--before I called to another officer: "Hey, what do you make of that?" pointing to the spot in the sky. He replied, "Looks like a short vapor trail." I pointed out that it wasn't moving or growing or diminishing in size. He stopped to gape and several others joined us.*

*By then, I decided this called for a better look. What we all agreed, rather quickly, was that the vapor was reflecting sunlight, the effect being similar to a sun-dog, even though the sun had already slipped below the horizon.*

*As the small crowd gathered, I hurried into the VOQ office and called the Offutt tower. I asked the tower operator to look west, about 30 degrees from the horizontal and tell me what he saw.*

*"Looks like a short vapor trail. Very odd."*

*"Vapor trail my foot! Look at it now."*

*I could see it through the window as I talked to the tower operator. The glow was now diminishing and changing to a dull red-orange and at the same time the fuzzy appearance gradually took on a solid look, in the distinct shape of a pencil or slender cigar. The upper end was blunter than the lower end.*

*By then all those in the office were curious and we all stepped outside to join the 10 or 20 others who had gathered to gape at the thing. All of a sudden we all started checking each others faces for some silly reason--for assurance of reality, perhaps, for as we watched there appeared at the lower end of the object a swarm of black specks cavorting every which way, much like a swarm of gnats. This procedure continued for a minute or so before they (the black specks) disappeared.*

*Then the object, which had hung motionless on the same spot, slowly changed attitude from an upright position to a 45 degree angle with the horizontal and started moving slowly toward the west. At the same time there was no drastic change in the coloring, but a perceptible color change did take place. It remained a dull orange-red color and continued its westerly movement.*

*We watched in awe for several minutes--perhaps 5-- and then the object changed attitude, again very gradually, until its longitudinal axis appeared parallel to the horizon. The westward movement continued, slightly to the southwest. The apparent size of the object diminished gradually and the color faded. About 5 minutes before we lost it completely (as it faded into the haze just above the horizon) the object changed attitude again, back toward the 45 degree position, but not quite.*



*As it continued on its westerly path, it maintained this last attitude until completely swallowed up by the haze. It never did drop below the horizon--just faded away. The fading, of course, was due to the many miles of hazy atmosphere between us and the object. The sky was cloudless, but the western horizon did have a slight haze, readily apparent against the bright background.*

*About 10 minutes after I sighted the object, a full colonel set up a tripod and 35 mm camera with color film and took several photographs of the object. He later denied getting any successful exposures after I asked him on several occasions.*

*Immediately after the object faded away, we asked one another what it was we saw. The popular answer was, "I don't know, but I saw something."<sup>2</sup>*

### Other sources of information

There were no other sources of information regarding this sighting. It is not in the Blue Book files even though the Major claimed to have made a report to ATIC over the phone. I doubt it was lost maliciously and it probably was lost for some other reason. Considering the fact that this story was recounted over five years later, one has to wonder about the accuracy of the details. Could the date have been September 7th or 9th? The witness stated that the sun had already set by 1840 local time. However, Sunset (using CST) for Omaha did not occur before 1840 until after September 11. This could indicate the date was later than the 8th. Despite this inconsistency, for the purposes of this article, I have to assume the date is correct.

However, there are other sources of information that can suggest the possible solution. On the night of September 7, 1958, a high altitude research balloon was launched from Minneapolis, Minnesota. The purpose of the flight was to lift a gamma ray telescope into the upper atmosphere. Its travels were documented by several local newspapers.<sup>3,4,5</sup> The telescope apparently was parachuted to the ground but the remains of the balloon seemed to have ended in northern Illinois.<sup>6</sup> The track of the balloon initially went south and then went north. As it left the stratosphere, the surface winds took over and the balloon took a southeasterly track.

This was not the only balloon being launched in the area. Sioux city, Iowa launched two grab bag balloons on the 7th and 8th of September.<sup>7</sup> While these balloons were only supposed to be aloft for a few hours, it seems that they did not always perform as expected and could stay aloft longer. One can assume the a balloon would take a similar track as the Minnesota balloon. Initially it would go south or southeast and then track backwards to the north or westward as the balloon reached the stratosphere. This could put it in the proximity of Omaha.

Research and Grab bag/ashcan balloons from Sioux city, Minneapolis, and Bismarck were being launched in the fall of 1958.<sup>8</sup> There were also transosonde flights being launched from Japan.<sup>9</sup> Some of which, crossed into the continental United States. There were quite a few sources of high altitude balloons in the region that could have produced this report if the date was not September 8.

There is also the possibility that this was just an unusual contrail. This seems unlikely considering the duration it existed but this is something that should be considered.

### Conclusion

The description of the object appears to match that of a high altitude research balloon. It behaved like a balloon and was visible for a long period of time around sunset. A potential source of that balloon was launched only 90 miles to the north and it seems possible the balloon could have performed in a manner to end up west of Omaha. It is too bad that a timely investigation did not happen in 1958, where the details could have been accurately recorded. While this explanation is far from conclusive, one has to remember that the information was reported years after the event. We don't know how accurate that information is. In any case, it seems unlikely that this was some form of advanced craft "not of this earth". This is not "Best evidence" for UFOs and should be eliminated from the list.

### Notes and references

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2. *ibid*. P. 25-7
3. "Area residents get good look Monday at balloon overhead ". The Nashua reporter. Nashua, Iowa. September 11,1958. P. 1
4. "Huge balloon drifts over Northern Iowa." Mason City Globe-Gazette. Mason City, Iowa. September 8, 1958. P. 1
5. "Balloon hovers Austin area". Austin Daily Herald. Austin, Minnesota. September 8, 1958. P. 1.
6. "Weather balloon". The telegraph-herald. Dubuque, Iowa. September 11, 1958. P. 4
7. "Stratospheric balloons: Chronological lists of launches worldwide since 1947" StratoCat. Available WWW: <http://stratocat.com.ar/globos/indexe.html>
8. *ibid*
9. Angell, J. K. A climatological analysis of two year of routine Transosonde flights from Japan. Monthly weather review. US weather bureau. Washington D.C. December 1959.



## THE 701 CLUB: CASE 2022: SEPTEMBER 1, 1952 MARIETTA, GA

The case actually encompasses many reports filed on the same date, the same general area, and roughly the same time. Don Berliner lists these cases as follows:

*Sept. 1, 1952; Marietta, Georgia. 10:50 p.m. Witness: ex-AAF B-25 gunner. Two large white disc-shaped objects with green vapor trails flew in trail formation, merged, flew away very fast.*

*Sept. 1, 1952; Marietta, Georgia. 10:30 p.m. Witness: one unidentified person using binoculars. Two large objects shaped like spinning tops and displaying red, blue and green colors, flew side by side, leaving a sparkling trail for 30 minutes.*

*Sept. 1, 1952; Atlanta, Georgia. 9:43 p.m. Witnesses: Mrs. William Davis and nine other persons. One light, similar to the evening star, moved up and down for a long period of time.*

*Sept. 1, 1952; Marietta, Georgia. 10:30 p.m. Witnesses: Mr. Bowman (ex-artillery officer) and 24 others. A red, white, and blue-green object which spun and shot off sparks for 15 minutes.<sup>1</sup>*

Sparks entry mirrors what Berliner wrote.<sup>2</sup> One would think that with all these witnesses, there might be a chance to get some sort of triangulation and determine what the witnesses might have seen.

### The Blue Book file

The Blue Book file contains many messages regarding the various sightings. These reports mirror what Berliner wrote:

- Marietta 2230 - One white object
- Marietta 2230 - White and red object throwing off sparks. Visible for 15 minutes moving up and down right and left. Seen 10 degrees above southwest horizon. Estimated 40-50 miles away.
- Marietta 2250 - Visible western horizon. Moved west to east very fast. Visible 5 minutes. Six individuals stated it moved. Twelve reported it as stationary. Witness also stated the object was to the NW at "full stop". It also stated it "just faded".
- Marietta 2250 - Two white objects, with a greenish vapor trail, went from horizon to horizon in 5 seconds. They were initially in trail and then merged.
- Marietta 2230 (Binoculars) Two objects spinning like a top, flashing red, blue green, very fast (left-right-up-down) throwing off sparks Visible 30 minutes to the south and eventually went towards the horizon.
- Atlanta 2143 Moving up and down still visible. Visible between Atlanta and Marietta (towards the West or Northwest). It was still visible when it was reported.

### Analysis

These observations are little more than a collection of reports that appear to be of different objects in the sky and not one singular object. At least two of these sightings involved multiple observers. Mr. Bowman reported that 25 people saw the object. The unidentified observer in Marietta at 2250 implied that 18 individuals saw the object. It is important to note that Labor day was celebrated on September 1 in 1952. As the unofficial end of summer, it seems possible that several of these observations were made at a local block party, where a group of individuals managed to convince each other that what was being seen was unusual. The resultant reports could have been each individuals interpretation of what was seen.

Summarizing the sightings, we have the following objects reported:

1. Two reports mentioned one, or two, objects to the south or southwest
2. Two other reports mentioned a single object to the west or northwest that was stationary and eventually faded out.
3. Another report mentioned a rapidly moving pair of objects that went from horizon to horizon in just five seconds.

All of these observations seem to have potential astronomical explanations.

The one or two objects to the south or southwest were probably the star Antares and/or Mars, which were pretty close together. Both were between magnitude 0 and 1. As they descended low in the southwest, atmospheric effects would cause the stars to scintillate and appear to "emit sparks". The use of binoculars could have enhanced this effect. The rapid movement of "up-down, left-right" was probably due to the auto kinetic effect or the inability to keep the binoculars stable. Mars set first around 2253 at azimuth 241 degrees. This was about the same time as the event ended for the observations that began at 2230.

The single object to the west/northwest could also have been Mars or, possibly, Arcturus. Arcturus was also around magnitude 0 and set around 2300 at azimuth 294 degrees.

The object(s) that went from horizon to horizon in five seconds probably was a bright meteor. The "greenish vapor trail" is a pretty good description of a meteor train.



Mars and Antares low in the southwest at 2230 local time. Arcturus was also visible to the WNW.

### Conclusion

When I initially looked at the summary of the case by Berliner/Sparks, I was hoping for observations from varied locations that could possibly result in some sort of crude triangulation that could give a possible identification. I was disappointed in the collection of reports because the locations were very general and the numerous reports described various events that seem related only in a general sense. All of the observations appear to be astronomical in nature and not very exotic. These sightings should all be reclassified as Astronomical: possible stars/planet/meteor.

### Notes and references

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2. Sparks, Brad. Comprehensive Catalog of 1,700 Project Blue Book UFO Unknowns: Database Catalog Not a Best Evidence List-NEW: List of Projects & Blue Book Chiefs Work in Progress Version 1.26. Jan. 31, 2016. P. 208.

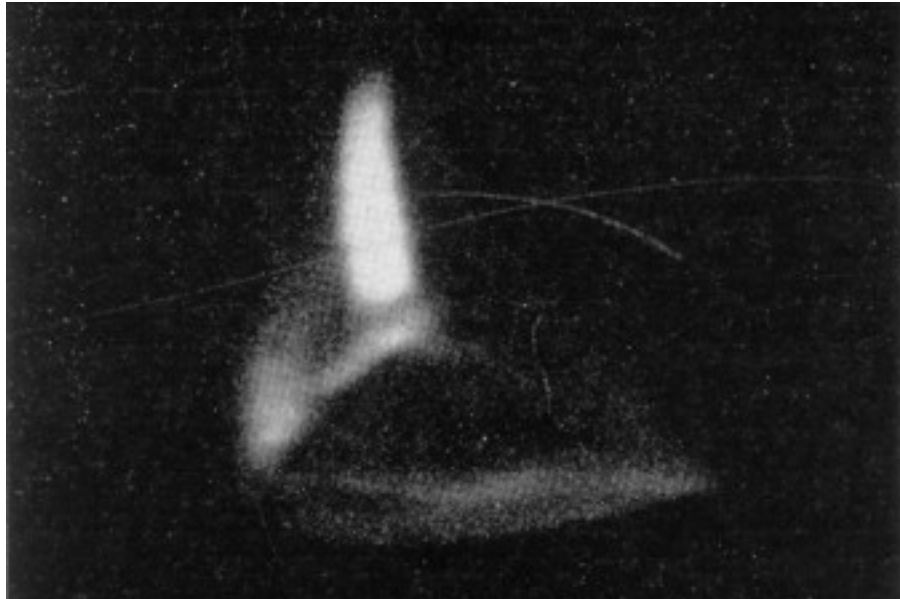


## SUNlite 11-4 update

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos sent me an e-mail that gave some interesting updates to the article about the August 1, 1963 sighting in NICAP's UFO: Best evidence document. He pointed me to additional articles written in Flying Saucer Review that clarified the situation:

*It was a balloon released at Gottingen (Germany), the day before, as part of a research project in which the Imperial College was taking part (see Robin H. Sadler, FSR, Mail Bag, March-April 1966, page 21).*

*Please find enclosed one of the many pictures taken that date. This one by Jan Willemstyn, a former KLM pilot, from Bushley, Herts., UK (FSR, November-December 1963, page 29).*



I should have found this information during my research and I am glad somebody is paying attention to correct or add to the information I obtained.

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos also provided me with a copy of the Salem UFO that I had never seen before that shows the full frame with the edges of the window visible. He obtained the image from the Lt. Marano files that were collected by Rob Mercer. This photograph shows the angle at which it was taken and demonstrates how a reflection might have produced the image. I always assumed the photograph was taken straight through the window but now I can see it was taken at an angle, which makes the reflection hypothesis more likely.



## Project Blue Book case review: November-December 1957

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering November and December of 1957. Like the previous evaluations, I tried to examine each case to see if the conclusion had merit. I added comments to help clarify the explanation or if I felt it was not correct or adequate. Any item highlighted in red involved photographs of UFOs. I did not highlight images of suspected UFO debris or locations where UFOs were reported.

### November 1957

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Nov	Brazil	Insufficient data	<b>No case file</b>
Nov	Garwd, Poland	Meteor	Agreed
Nov	Hemet, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Probably same sighting as 19 November
1	New Orleans, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Huntington, WV	Unreliable observer	Agreed. Witness reported UFO had landed on her roof. No evidence for this.
1	Detroit, MI	Venus	Agreed
1	Atlanta, GA	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
1	Swansea, IL	Meteor	Agreed
2	Canadian, TX	Unreliable report	Agreed. It is possible the report of seeing landed spacecraft was misinterpretation of oil tanks in an open field. Witness only viewed object while driving past it in the middle of the night.
2	Brooktondale, NY	Searchlight	Possibly Capella
2	Ft. Worth, TX	Meteor	Agreed
2	Atlantic Ocean	Meteor	Agreed
2-3	Levelland, TX	Ball lightning	UNIDENTIFIED. Case is difficult to discuss and resolve. "Ball lightning" is not an acceptable answer for the case as described in the file. As a result, I will list it as Unidentified until I can approach the case in more detail in a future issue of SUNlite.
3	White Sands, NM	Moon/Venus	Agreed
3	Belmar, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration listed.
3	Long Beach, NY	Venus	Agreed
3	Asbury Park, NJ	Balloon	Object description was in the same direction as the gibbous moon. Moon not mentioned. Object "stationary" for 30 minutes. Possibly the Moon.
3	Greenville, AL	Insufficient data	Agreed no positional data even though it was visible for 30 minutes.
3	Tuscon, AZ	Meteor	Agreed
4	Mount Dora, FL	Kite	Agreed. Could also have been a radar reflector.
4	Dunedin, FL	Contrails	Agreed
4	Orogrande, NM	Mirage/Psychological	Witness told news reporters he had sunburn from event but later admitted he had no sunburn. Witness told press he was an engineer but was actually a technician. Witness described many cars stopped and other observers. No other witnesses came forward. This appears to be an unreliable report.
4	Astoria, MO	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
4	Mitchell Field, NY	Balloon	Possible bird
4	Marietta, GA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor (same approx. time as Birmingham sighting)
4	Birmingham, AL	Meteor	Agreed
4	Kirtland AFB, NM	Meteor	<b>No Case File</b>
4	Milwaukee, OR	Venus	Agreed



4	El Paso, TX	Unreliable report	30-40 second event. Observer reported car stalled/lights dimmed and then saw object go from NE to W, passing over him at close range. Possible meteor. Car stall could explain lights dimming. Car can stall for various reasons not associated with object seen.
4	Cayucos, CA	Venus	Agreed
4	Moisant, LA	Meteor	Agreed
4	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
4	Kirtland AFB, NM	Aircraft	<b>No Case File</b>
5	Gulf of Mexico	1. Meteor 2. AP	Agreed
5	Springfield, OH	Groundlights	Agreed
5	Kearney, NE	Hoax	Agreed
5	Eglin AFB, FL	Malfunction/EMI	Possible balloon. Radar contacts involving object rising and falling over a period of over an hour. Altitudes varied between 20,000 and over 100,000 feet. General direction of travel was with the wind.
5	Sarasota, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Hilton, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Travis county Prison, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Great Neck, NY	Aircraft	Possible birds
5	Theriot, LA	Venus	Agreed
5	Rochester, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Williams Bay, WI	Venus	Agreed
5	Port Arthur, Canada	Venus	Agreed
5	Green Bay, WI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
5	Atlanta, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Aiken, SC	Venus	Agreed
5	Woodstock, GA	Unreliable report	Agreed. His probably was Venus but witness report was just too inconsistent to make identification.
5	Delevan, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Scotia, NE	Unreliable report	Agreed. The report is second hand. However, the report describes a balloon like object descending and rising. They also mention the noise of a helicopter. Grab bag balloons launched from Minnesota and Texas often employed helicopter recoveries. It seems unlikely that one would end up in Nebraska and it is possible it was just an ordinary balloon of some kind.
5	SSW of New Orleans, LA	Insufficient data	Probably Venus. Object reported at bearing 215 and 220 ten minutes apart. The elevations are wrong but Venus was at 218 and 220 during that time period. Record card has error in that object was heading NNE.
5	200 mi South Of New Orleans, LA	1. Meteor 2. Spurious returns	Agreed. See SUNlite 9-6.
5	Wintzville, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Walworth, WI	Balloon	Possibly Venus
5	St. Louis, MO	Venus	Agreed
5	Long Beach, CA	Mirage	Possible birds
5	Finland AFS, MN	Venus	Agreed
5	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed

5	Regina, NM	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
5	Newburgh, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Aldebaran
5	Gimli RCAF station, Canada	Insufficient data	Confusing report. Three sightings are mentioned (two from Gimli and one from 916th). However, there is only data for one, or two, of these sightings and it is difficult to say what data is for which sighting. The objects could have been astronomical but there is just not enough clear information. I agree that this is insufficient information.
5	Towner, ND	Venus	Agreed
5	Roseburg, OR	Venus	Agreed
5	Lynchburg, VA	Aurora	Agreed
5	Chattanooga, TN	Meteor	Agreed
5	W. Port Washington, WA	Venus	Agreed
5	Steelrock, OR	Venus	Agreed
5	IL, WI, MO	Aurora	Possible Grab bag balloon from Minnesota or Transosonde flight.
5	Eatontown, NJ	Insufficient data	Object hovering for five minutes in NE and then disappeared. Possible aircraft. Observer looking towards Idlewild (now called JFK) airport. Plane departing or approaching airport from NE would appear stationary.
5	Chattanooga, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Texas, New Mexico	Venus	Agreed
5	Long Beach, CA	Unreliable report	Possible birds
5	Los Angeles, CA	Venus	Agreed
5	Paris, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
5	San Antonio, TX	Conflicting data	Brief sighting at night (5 seconds) and quick departure. Witness stated object was initially hovering but this may be an illusion. Conflicting data is the message states event transpired at 1545Z but lists the time as night. Assuming time is incorrect, this can be classified as possible meteor.
5	Kansas City, MO	Vega	Agreed
5	New Orleans, LA	Meteor	Agreed
5	San Diego, CA	Aldebaran	Agreed. Based on direction given. Could have been Capella with direction error.
5	Williams Bay AFS, WI	Insufficient data	Altair or Vega.
5	Santa Fe, NM	Ground Light	Agreed
5	Del Rosa, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	United States	Aurora	Agreed. There were approximately 20 record cards that discussed sightings on this night. Most were consistent with auroral observations. The remaining cards could have been auroral observations that were distorted.
6	N. of Seoul, Korea	Balloon	Agreed
6	Philippines	Venus	Agreed
6	Kai-song, Korea	Meteor	Agreed
6	Farmingdale, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
6	Milwaukee, WI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
6	Anaheim, CA	Hoax	Agreed
6	Shiroi AB, Japan	Meteor	There was no case file with this date but one case file mentioned a bright fireball being observed in the area on the evening of the 10th. If this was the event, then I agree with the classification.



6	Whiteman AFB, MO	False target	Agreed
6	Georgia, Florida, Alabama	Meteor	Agreed
6	New Orleans, LA	Aircraft	Listed as aircraft by AISS. BB record card states insufficient data. Cluster of lights that hovered for 1.5 minutes and slowly faded. Possible flare deployment over Gulf or swamp areas to SW of New Orleans.
6	Denbigh, ND	Venus	Not Visible. Probably Sirius.
6	Lake County, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Second hand report. No positional data.
6	Robbins AFB, GA	Unreliable report	Probable meteor
6	Washington Island, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Kogashima, Japan	1. Aircraft 2.WX effects	Confusing report but it appears C-47 was traveling southwest and turned 180 degrees because blinking object seen at 7 O'clock position. This puts the object roughly east. C-47 lost it. Weather was cloudy to broken. No specific azimuths given. Possible observations of Betelgeuse/Rigel through clouds. Radar returns not verified to be same as visual. Returns could be due to weather.
6	Danbury, CT	Insufficient data	Possible daylight sighting of Venus
6	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
6	Atlantic	Aurora	Agreed
6	Laredo AFB, TX	AP	Agreed. Radiosonde data from Corpus Christi and San Antonio suggests temperature inversion present.
6	Vassalboro, ME	Venus	Agreed
6	Selma, NC	Insufficient data	Possibly daylight sighting of Venus
6	Oak Tree, NJ	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
6	Haverhill, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Harrisburg, PA	Insufficient data	Possible Aurora display
6	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Buffalo, NY	Venus	Agreed
6	Abington, WV	Aircraft	Agreed
6	NY, Maine	Venus	Agreed
6	Great Neck, NY	Aircraft	Possible Aurora display
6	Ft. Knox, KY	Insufficient data	Possible Aurora display
6	St Albans, WV	Meteor	Agreed
6	Rydal, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Macon, GA	Unreliable report	Probably Venus. Additional details in subsequent interview suggesting aircraft was also seen.
6	Englishtown, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
6	Oconto, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing positional data. Possibly Venus.
6	Boerne, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
6	Montville, OH	Meteor	OLDEN MOORE SIGHTING. Based on Friend interview, agreed. However, the report as told to the media seemed to be completely different than what Moore told Friend. None of the evidence for a landing can be verified. Owner of the land indicated there was no landing. Visual observations preceding the story of a landed craft are consistent with meteor observation.
6	Cleveland, OH	Searchlight	Possibly Venus
6	Hampstead, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Chilo, OH	Unreliable report	Possible birds
6	Turner AFB, GA	Meteor	Agreed

6	Bellmoer, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Very little data given.
6	El Paso, TX	Meteor	Agreed
6	Greensboro, NC	Aircraft	Possible Aurora display
6	Lakewood, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Albuquerque, NM	Venus	Agreed
6	Springfield, OH	Meteor	Agreed
6	Artesia, NM	Meteor	Agreed
6	St Albans, WV	Meteor	Agreed
6	Tampa, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Baltimore, MD	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report sent by witness but not in files. ATIC could not locate.
6	Mission Hills, CA	Venus	Witness did not give direction. Descriptions indicated it probably was Venus.
6	Portland, OR	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Cannon AFB, NM	Aircraft	Agreed. Other targets seen were explained as flock of birds by ATIC.
6	Artesia, NM	Meteor	Agreed
6	Garden Grove, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data
6	Radium Springs, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	Sirius and other stars. See SUNlite 7-6
6	Hereford, TX	Meteor	Agreed
6	Long Beach, CA	Balloon	Possibly Vega
6	Long Beach, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
6-7	Lima, OH	Balloon	Agreed
7	Shiroi AB, Japan	Venus	Agreed
7	Tampa, FL	Meteor	Agreed
7	Harlingen, TX	Radar malfunction	Agreed
7	Winston Salem, NC	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Floral Park, NY	Venus	Agreed
7	Bowling Green, OH	Balloon	Agreed
7	Manchester, NH	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data.
7	Asbury Park, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Inwood, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
7	San Antonio, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
7	Lake City, TN	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
7	Cedar Hill, TX	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
7	Ft Deposit, AL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
7	Ringgold, GA	Venus	Agreed
7	Levelland, TX	Venus	Agreed
7	Bakersfield, CA	Venus	Agreed
7	Southern CA	Balloon	Venus
7	Seminole, NM	Insufficient data	Agreed
7	Roswell, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Montville, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Long Beach, CA	Aircraft/contrails	Agreed
8	Columbia County, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Merrick, NY	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
8	Philadelphia, MS	Aircraft	Agreed

8	Waverly, IL	Garbled report	Possible reflection of moon on stratospheric clouds/lunar halo. Moon low in east. Fuzzy object in sky seen in the east for 20 minutes.
8	Joplin, MO	Jupiter	Jupiter not visible at 0025Z. Object supposedly went from SE to NW but stayed in same location and was visible at 0200Z. Direction may have been in accurate and actual direction was SW, which coincides with Venus. Description matches Venus. Possibly Venus.
8	Freeport, TX	Aircraft	Venus
8	Long Beach, CA	Star	Probably Venus.
8	Alexandria, LA	Meteor	Agreed
9	Lake City, MO	Insufficient data	Agreed. Information third hand.
9	Sacramento, CA	Aircraft	Possibly Sirius
9	Ft. Bragg, NC	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Lafayette, LA	Balloon	Agreed
9	Leominster, MA	Insufficient data	Possible Aircraft
9	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Seneca, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Tullahoma, TN	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data
9	Dayton, Fairborn, Xenia, OH	Venus	Agreed
9	Pitcairn, PA	1. Insufficient data 2. Venus	Both probably Venus
9	Waverly, IL	Insufficient data	<b>No case file</b>
9	Waynesville, OH	Insufficient data	Venus
9	Belton, MO	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data
9	Arcardia, MO	Venus	Agreed
9	San Antonio, TX	Unreliable report	Agreed. Insufficient data. What data is shown indicates witness wanted to see UFOs.
9	Clinton, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Makanda, IL	Venus	Agreed
9	Amarillo, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Anderson, IN	Meteor	Agreed
9	Afton, OK	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data
9	St Louis, Danby, MO	Meteor	Agreed
9	Kennesaw, GA	Meteor	Agreed
9	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
9	Lexington, KY/Marietta, GA	Meteor	Agreed
9	Lithonia, GA	Venus	Not Venus (set around 0130Z). Very likely a star. Possibly Altair or Vega (insufficient data to determine which).
9	Lake City, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Shreveport, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Shiroi AB, Japan	Insufficient data	Time given was approximately 1800-1900. Duration 1-1/2 minutes. Fireball noted by Japanese astronomical society at 1745 on this date in case file for 7 November. Possible fireball with resultant train extending time of observation.
10	Atlanta, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Tampa, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
10	SW of Tokyo, Japan	Meteor	Agreed (This happened at 1745 local possible related to Shiroi AB)



10	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
10	Council Bluffs, IA	Venus	Agreed
10	Muncie, IN	Meteor	Agreed
10	Bellefontaine AFB, OH	Venus	Agreed
10	Wellsville, Buffalo, NY	Venus	Agreed
10	Roanoke Rapids, NC	Venus	Agreed
10	Hopkins, St. Paul, MN	Venus	Agreed
10	Norwich, CT	Meteor	Agreed
10	Argentina	Satellite	Not a satellite. Possible aircraft.
10	Lampasas, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time given.
11	Bedford, IN	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
11	White Sulphur Springs, WV	Insufficient data	Possible contrail
11	Loveland, OH	Balloon	Agreed
11	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
11	St. Charles, MO	Venus	Agreed
11	Lexington, KY	Aircraft	<b>No case file</b>
11	Knoxville, TN	Balloon	Agreed
11	Salina, KS	Meteor	Agreed
11	Benton, PA	Meteor	Agreed
11	Springfield, MO	Insufficient data	Agreed. Confusing report. Original message indicated object was traveling from east to west over an hour period. Letter in file, written in 1964 indicated object in west but then rapidly flew SE and vanished. In both cases, the positional data is missing. It could have been Venus but the data is just insufficient.
11-12	Peru	Venus	Agreed
12	Osan AB, Korea	Meteor	Agreed
12	San Antonio, TX	Meteor	Agreed
12	Columbia, SC	Meteor	Agreed
12	Pittsburgh, PA	Insufficient data	Jupiter
12	Callicoon Center, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
12	Clark AFB, Philippines	Balloon	Agreed
12	Alpena, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Akron, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Just a report of an object being seen. No additional details.
12	Ogdensburg, NY	Venus	This appears to be an observation of two objects. The first was in the NE, which was Capella. The second was in the SW, which was Venus.
12	Grand Rapids, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Probably Venus based on description.
12	Port Angeles, WA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
12	Alpine, AZ	Venus	Agreed
12	Los Angeles, CA	Venus	Agreed
12	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
12	Hurley, NM	Aircraft	Possible meteor (Characteristics are of meteor except time duration which could be a poor estimate)
12	Gardner Grove, CA	Venus	<b>No case file</b>
12	Corona Del Mar, CA	Insufficient data	Probable contrail

13	Crownsville, MD	Insufficient data	Agreed. Specimen lost.
13	Reese AFB, TX	Balloon	Agreed
13	Bethesda, MD	Meteor	Agreed
13	Oneida, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
13	Alpine Ranger Station, AZ	Venus	Agreed
13	Las Vegas, NV	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Rothwesten, Germany	False return	Agreed
14	Johnson AB, Japan	Cloud	Agreed
14	Brookville, OH	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness reported UFO debris crashing but did not retrieve object.
14	Galveston, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Canastota, NY	Balloon	Insufficient data. No positional information.
14	Hill City, KS	Venus	Agreed
14	Biloxi, MS	Venus	Agreed
14	Marrero, LA	Stars	Agreed. No positional data to determine which stars.
14	Beverly, MA	Ground light	Agreed
15	Yellow Springs, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
15	Tampa, FL	Venus	Agreed
15	Newburgh, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Milroy, IN	Meteor	Agreed
15	Harrisburg, PA	Venus	Agreed
15	Columbia, SC	Venus	Agreed
16	Eldton, KY	Venus	No positional data but agree that it probably was Venus.
16	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH	Venus	Agreed
16	Columbus, OH	Venus	Agreed
16	Jonesboro, GA	Venus	Venus not visible for three hours. Probably star rising in east (Capella or Aldebaran).
16	St. Louis, MO	Venus	Agreed
16	Miami Beach, FL	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
17	Norton AFB, CA	Meteor	Agreed
17	Glendale, CA	Meteor	Agreed
17	Tiffin, OH	Hoax	Agreed
17	Torrence, CA	Meteor	Agreed
17	Cornaopolis, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Sighting was visible to driver for only 5 seconds while driving past airport. Possible star or possible aircraft coming in for landing.
18	Santa Monica, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Tampa, FL	Venus	Agreed
18	Oregon City, OR	Unreliable report	Agreed. Report makes little sense. It sounds like he was describing the star Capella but they reported seeing portholes and, despite being visible for over an hour, the object was described as having shot away at high speed.
19	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed. Report made by 14 year old who reported object to SE but all indications are that the object was Venus. Witness probably made mistake in direction.
19	Corpus Christi, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Robins AFB, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Louisville, KY	Venus	Witness reports object in east. Capella

19	Bedford, IN	Venus	No positional data but agree that it probably was Venus.
19	Tallasee, AL	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data
19	Hemet, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Belmorehea, TX	Insufficient data	No positional data but description of it disappearing behind mountains indicates observing to southwest. Venus.
20	Kansas City, MO	Venus	Possible Venus with incorrect time. Could not be Venus with time listed as 0614Z (0014 CST). Could have been local time of 1814 (6:14 PM CST), and it would be Venus. Azimuth is correct for Venus at that time and description sounds very much like Venus.
20	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
20	Wood Glen, NJ	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus.
20	Hope, AR	Stars	Probably Venus and nearby star
20	Cleburne, TX	Meteor	Agreed
20	Robinson, IL, Terre Haute, Montezuma, Newport, IN	Insufficient data	Series of sightings around Terra Haute, Indiana. Data is confusing. Sighting from Montezuma, IN appears to be aircraft. Sightings from Robinson and Newport could be birds or balloons. They appeared to move with wind. Nothing tracked on radar. Agreed that this is insufficient information.
20	Eagle Pass, TX	Meteor	Agreed
20	Long Beach, CA	Stars/Planets	Possibly Sirius
21	Houm, AL	False returns	Agreed
21	Silver Springs, MD	Meteor	Agreed
21	Springfield, MO	Insufficient data	Venus
21	Levittown, NY/Haddenfield, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
21	Jones Beach, NY/Sandy Hook, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
22	Newport, ME	Insufficient data	<b>No case file</b>
22	Tarakli, Turkey	Insufficient data	Agreed
22	Lower California, Mexico	Insufficient data	Report sounds like a meteor fireball. Witness stated event transpired over 5 minutes but only was able to see 2 minutes of it. Possible aircraft. Direction of travel was towards Mexico City.
23	Tonepah, NV	Psychological	This case involves a sighting off road of four disc-shaped craft that were sitting on the desert. After twenty minutes, the lifted off and disappeared. No radar contact and no other drivers on the road reported the event. There seems to be no physical evidence left behind that could be evaluated. Witness had been driving most of the night (with a brief rest stop). It is plausible this was a case of road fatigue or psychological (See section of file with Dr. Fitts letter to Dr. Cross). Agree with conclusion.
23	Amarillo AFB, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Berlin, NH	Meteor	Agreed
23	Middletown, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Omaha, NE	Venus	Agreed
23	Joliet, IL	Balloon	Agreed
23	Cape Meara, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Centerville, TX	Unreliable report	Agreed. Report was made by a woman who saw a flash of light from inside her house and heard a loud roar. No additional data and no actual object observed.



24	New Cambria, MO	Balloon	No positional data. Could be daylight sighting of Venus. Insufficient data.
24	Scott AFB, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Del Rio, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
25	Baffin Island, Canada	Satellite	Agreed
25	Los Angeles, CA	Balloon	Agreed
25	Santa Rosa, TX	Venus	Agreed
25	Frankfort, KY	Meteor	Agreed
25	Globe, AZ	Satellite	Agreed
25	Globe, AZ	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Eglin AFB, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Gila River, AZ	Satellite	Agreed
25	Crivits, WI	Stars/Planets	Sirius
25	Wayne, MI	Radar reflector	Radar reflector found on ground.
26	Joliet, IL	Contrails/Aircraft	Possibly Jupiter. Pilot was flying to Fort Wayne (azimuth 100 degrees) and object had relative bearing of 15 degrees. Jupiter was at an azimuth of 137 degrees. Object reported as Yellowish in color and that it faded away after 10 minutes (Sun rose 25 minutes after sighting started).
26	Farmington, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
26	USSR, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
26	Seoul Korea	Meteor	Agreed
26	Robins AFB, GA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
26	Covington, KY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Very limited information.
26	Yuma, AZ	Balloon	Agreed
26	Cleburne, TX	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Winds from west and southwest. Path was west to east.
26	Noblesville, IN	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Very limited information.
26	Albuquerque, NM	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Laconia, NH	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Ann Arbor, MI	Meteor	Agreed
26	Dublin, GA	Insufficient data	Probably Venus
26	Lake Worth, FL	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
26	Chattanooga, TN	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Eatontown, NJ	Balloon	Agreed
26	West Mesa AFS, NM	Anomalous Propagation	Agreed. Temperature inversion present.
26	Las Vegas, NV	Meteor	Agreed
27	Yakima, WA	Meteor	Agreed
27	Middletown, OH	Hoax	Agreed
27	Hondo, TX	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
27	Louisville, KY	Stars/planets	Agreed. Insufficient information to determine which star/planet.
27	Miamisburg, OH	Satellite	Agreed
27	Yosemite, KY	Meteor	Agreed
27	Toledo, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Confusing information. Pilots reported object visible for three minutes but then state it went from Toledo, OH to Michigan in one minute at 4800mph. No positional data.

29	N. Bellmore, NY	Venus	Agreed
29	Springfield, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Data about the sighting very limited.
29	Ferron, UT	Stars/planets	Sirius
30	Minot, ND	False target	Agreed
30	New Orleans, LA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
30	Cathedral City, CA	Meteor	Agreed
30	Atlanta, GA	Aircraft	Stars. Probably Aldebaran and Hyades.
30	Custer, SD	Meteor	<b>No case file</b>
30	Fairbanks, AK	Meteor	Agreed
30	Southern California	Meteor	Agreed

### December 1957

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Bottineau, ND	Aurora/Flare	<b>No case file</b>
1	Hamburg, Germany	Parachute	Agreed
1	Fairbanks, AK	Meteor	Agreed
1	Augusta, GA	Venus	Agreed
1	Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio	Venus	Agreed
1	Englewood, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Montabello, CA	Balloons	Agreed
1	Marietta, GA	Aircraft	Possible meteor
1	Atlanta, GA	Vega	Agreed
1	Atlanta, GA	Balloon	Agreed
1	Austin, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Mount Olive, NC	Venus	Agreed
1	Newfoundland, Greenland	Meteors	Agreed
1	Houma, LA	Venus	Agreed
1	Rector, AR	Insufficient data	Moon set in west at 0815Z. Sighting at 0545-0605Z changed color from white to red. Described as round and bigger than the stars. Object stated to be W by SW. Moon located at 256 degrees 29 degrees elevation. No mention of moon being visible. Possible Moon.
2	Russellville, AL	Tip Tank	Agreed
2	Glouster, MA	Meteor	Agreed
2	Riverside, CA	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon
2	North Atlantic	Insufficient data	Agreed
2	Great Neck, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Photos not received.
2	Columbus, OH	Meteor	Agreed
3	Saratoga, Lake George, NY	Meteor	Agreed
3	Fairchild AFB, WA	Meteor	Agreed
3	Loma Linda, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Georgetown, SC	Meteor	Agreed
3	Cape May, NJ	Venus	Agreed
3	Tensleep, WY	Venus	Agreed
3	Clinton, TN	WX returns	Agreed
3	Tampa, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Johnson Island	Meteor	Agreed

3-4	Baffin Island, Canada	Balloon	Arcturus
4	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Wayne, MI	Balloon	Insufficient information. No positional data.
4	Tampa, FL	Hoax	Unreliable report. Interview indicated object may have been figment of imagination.
4	Sunburst, MT	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
4	Cincinnati, OH	Meteor	Agreed
5	O'Fallon, IL	Meteor	Agreed
5	Port Alegre, Brazil	Insufficient data	Possible grab bag balloon. Launch site roughly 550 miles to NNE at Baurú Airport. Description indicates two objects. Like two superimposed balls, that separated.
5	Cedar Key, FL	Balloon	Agreed
5	Lake City, FL	Insufficient data	Balloon
5	Lake City, FL	Balloon	Agreed (all three of these sightings appear to be of same high altitude balloon).
5	New Orleans, LA	Parachute flare	Agreed
5	S. Weymouth, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Newburgh, NY	Balloon	Insufficient information. No positional data. Could have been Venus.
5	Texarkana, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Griffis AFB, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Long Island, NY, MD	Meteor	Agreed
5	Torrington, CT	Unreliable report	Agreed.
5	Oceana NAS, VA	Star/Planet	Possibly Sirius. Report is confusing in that it mentions the object was visible for over 8 hours but does not list any motion. Description of behavior as well as direction and elevation agree with Sirius.
5	Northeastern US	Meteor	Agreed
5	Yonkers, NY	Meteor	Agreed
5	Mountain Lake, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
5-10	Cincinnati, OH	Moon	Agreed
6	La Madera, NM	Insufficient data	Venus
6	Savannah/Albany, GA	Venus	Agreed
6	Nome, AK	Meteor	Agreed
7	Bowbells, ND	Meteor	Agreed
7	Shreveport, LA	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Kildare/Linden, TX, Shreveport, LA	Balloon	Agreed
7	Darrington, WA	Venus	Agreed
8	Tiflet,-Monor, Morocco	1. Aircraft contrails 2. Venus	Agreed
8	Comfort, TX	Parachutes	Agreed
8	Loving, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
8	Montana, Canadian border	Reflection	Agreed
8	Laramie, WY	Meteor	Agreed
8	Bremerton, WA	Meteor	Agreed
8	Belmont, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made 6 months later and information limited.



9	Itazuke, Japan	Venus	Agreed
9	Argyle, IA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
9	Moriarty, NM	Meteor	Agreed
9	Redlands, CA	Venus	Agreed
9	Dothan, AL	Aircraft	Possibly Vega
10	Los Angeles, CA	Meteor	Agreed
10	Portland, ME	Satellite	Agreed
10	Konona, WI	Balloon	Agreed
10	Estacada, OR	Insufficient data	Possible research balloon. Transosonde flight 57 passed over region about this time.
10	Oceanside, NY	Meteor	Agreed
10-12	Duncansville, TX	Venus	Agreed
11	Quincy, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Miles City, MT	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Lake City AFS, TN	Balloon	Agreed
11	Wayne, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Continental Divide AFS, NM	Meteor	Agreed
11	Parkersburg, WV	1. Moon 2. Inversion	Agreed
11	Guthrie, PA	1. Aircraft 2. Inversion	Agreed
12	Ellsworth AFB, SD	Meteor	Agreed
12	Great Neck, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Photograph reported to have been taken but not published/received.
12-15	Misawa, Japan	1. Venus 2. Anomalous Propagation 3. Insufficient data	Agreed. #3 involves a few photographs that show a fuzzy lighted object, which was taken two days later and may not have been the same object. There are two other prints that appear to show a star/planet trailing during a time exposure. This could have been Venus.
13	Canton, OH	Insufficient data	Aircraft reflecting rising sun.
13	English, IN	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
13	Col Anahuac, Mexico	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
13	Chase Field, Beeville, TX	Meteor	Agreed
13	S. Weymouth, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
13	Oak Harbor, WA	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data.
13	St. Louis, MO	Meteor	Agreed
13-14	Catalgazi/Kimil, Turkey	Meteor	Agreed
14	Albany, OR	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
14	Dayton, OH	Venus	Sirius
15	Englewood, CO	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
15	Elemendorf, AK	Meteor	Agreed
17	Westchester, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
17	Atlantic Ocean	Meteor	Agreed
17	Colorado Springs, CO	Meteor	Agreed
17	Fruita, CO	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
17	Seffner, FL	Insufficient data	Capella
18	Atlantic Ocean	Meteor	Agreed

18	Oklahoma City, OK	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data.
18	Yakima, WA	Meteor	Agreed
19	Pepperell AFB, Newfound-land	Balloon	Agreed
19	Canal Zone, Panama	Meteor	Agreed
20-21	Taichung, Formosa	Insufficient data	Agreed. Multiple sightings with very little information except for brief description. Some sound like meteors and others could be astronomical.
21	Waverly, IA	Aircraft	Meteor
21	LaGrange, GA	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
21	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
21	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
22	Herefordshire, England	Meteor	Agreed
22	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
22	Atlanta, GA	Venus	Agreed
22	Bill, WY	Meteor	Agreed
23	Sea of Japan	Insufficient data	Meteor
24	Marietta, GA	Meteor	Agreed
25	South Pass, LA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
27	Littleton, NH	Venus	Agreed
27	Balinger, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Clarksville, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Livermore Falls, ME	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data.
28	Elizabeth City, NC	Aircraft	Agreed
29	El Paso, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
30	New Orleans, LA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
31	Parkview, CA	Balloon	Agreed
31	Duluth, MN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Reported in 1966.

### Reclassification

There were 482 cases in the Blue Book files from November and December 1957, that I could evaluate. In my opinion, 101 were improperly classified (about 20.9%). This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been reclassified. Roughly half of the cases that were reclassified were originally classified as "insufficient data".

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
Nov	Hemet, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Probably same sighting as 19 November
11/1	Atlanta, GA	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
11/2	Brooktondale, NY	Searchlight	Possibly Capella
11/2-3	Levelland, TX	Ball lightning	UNIDENTIFIED. Case is difficult to discuss and resolve. "Ball lightning" is not an acceptable answer for the case as described in the file. As a result, I will list it as Unidentified until I can approach the case in more detail in a future issue of SUNlite.
11/3	Asbury Park, NJ	Balloon	Object description was in the same direction as the gibbous moon. Moon not mentioned. Object "stationary" for 30 minutes. Possibly the Moon.
11/4	Astoria, MO	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
11/4	Mitchell Field, NY	Balloon	Possible bird
11/4	Marietta, GA	Insufficient data	Possible meteor (same approx. time as Birmingham sighting of meteor)

11/4	El Paso, TX	Unreliable report	30-40 second event. Observer reported car stalled/lights dimmed and then saw object go from NE to W, passing over him at close range. Possible meteor. Car stall could explain lights dimming. Car can stall for various reasons not associated with object seen.
11/5	Eglin AFB, FL	Malfunction/EMI	Possible balloon. Radar contacts involving object rising and falling over a period of over an hour. Altitudes varied between 20,000 and over 100,000 feet. General direction of travel was with the wind.
11/5	Great Neck, NY	Aircraft	Possible birds
11/5	Green Bay, WI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/5	SSW of New Orleans, LA	Insufficient data	Probably Venus. Object reported at bearing 215 and 220 ten minutes apart. The elevations are wrong but Venus was at 218 and 220 during that time period. Record card has error in that object was heading NNE.
11/5	Walworth, WI	Balloon	Possibly Venus
11/5	Long Beach, CA	Mirage	Possible birds
11/5	Regina, NM	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/5	Newburgh, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Aldebaran
11/5	IL, WI, MO	Aurora	Possible Grab bag balloon from Minnesota or Transosonde flight.
11/5	Eatontown, NJ	Insufficient data	Object hovering for five minutes in NE and then disappeared. Possible aircraft. Observer looking towards Idlewild (now called JFK) airport. Plane departing or approaching airport from NE would appear stationary.
11/5	Long Beach, CA	Unreliable report	Possible birds
11/5	Williams Bay AFS, WI	Insufficient data	Altair or Vega.
11/5	San Antonio, TX	Conflicting data	Brief sighting at night (5 seconds) and quick departure. Witness stated object was initially hovering but this may be an illusion. Conflicting data is the message states event transpired at 1545Z but lists the time as night. Assuming time is incorrect, this is can be classified as possible meteor.
11/6	Farmingdale, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/6	Milwaukee, WI	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/6	New Orleans, LA	Aircraft	Listed as aircraft by AISS. BB record card states insufficient data. Cluster of lights that hovered for 1.5 minutes and slowly faded. Possible flare deployment over Gulf or swamp areas to SW of New Orleans.
11/6	Denbigh, ND	Venus	Not Visible. Probably Sirius.
11/6	Robbins AFB, GA	Unreliable report	Probable meteor
11/6	Kogashima, Japan	1. Aircraft 2.WX effects	Confusing report but it appears C-47 was traveling southwest and turned 180 degrees because blinking object seen at 7 O'clock position. This puts the object roughly east. C-47 lost it. Weather was cloudy to broken. No specific azimuths given. Possible observations of Betelgeuse/Rigel through clouds. Radar returns not verified to be same as visual. Returns could be due to weather.
11/6	Danbury, CT	Insufficient data	Possible daylight sighting of Venus
11/6	Selma, NC	Insufficient data	Possibly daylight sighting of Venus
11/6	Oak Tree, NJ	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
11/6	Harrisburg, PA	Insufficient data	Possible Aurora display
11/6	Great Neck, NY	Aircraft	Possible Aurora display



11/6	Ft. Knox, KY	Insufficient data	Possible Aurora display
11/6	Macon, GA	Unreliable report	Probably Venus. Additional details in subsequent interview suggesting aircraft was also seen.
11/6	Cleveland, OH	Searchlight	Possibly Venus
11/6	Chilo, OH	Unreliable report	Possible birds
11/6	Greensboro, NC	Aircraft	Possible Aurora display
11/6	Radium Springs, NM	UNIDENTIFIED	Sirius and other stars. See SUNlite 7-6
11/6	Long Beach, CA	Balloon	Possibly Vega
11/7	Manchester, NH	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data.
11/7	Cedar Hill, TX	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
11/7	Southern CA	Balloon	Venus
11/8	Waverly, IL	Garbled report	Possible reflection of moon on stratospheric clouds/lunar halo. Moon low in east. Fuzzy object in sky seen in the east for 20 minutes.
11/8	Joplin, MO	Jupiter	Jupiter not visible at 0025Z. Object supposedly went from SE to NW but stayed in same location and was visible at 0200Z. Direction may have been in accurate and actual direction was SW, which coincides with Venus. Description matches Venus. Possibly Venus.
11/8	Freeport, TX	Aircraft	Venus
11/8	Long Beach, CA	Star	Probably Venus.
11/9	Sacramento, CA	Aircraft	Possibly Sirius
11/9	Leominster, MA	Insufficient data	Possible Aircraft
11/9	Pitcairn, PA	1. Insufficient data 2. Venus	Both probably Venus
11/9	Waynesville, OH	Insufficient data	Venus
11/9	Lithonia, GA	Venus	Not Venus (set around 0130Z). Very likely a star. Possibly Altair or Vega(insufficient data to determine which).
11/10	Shiroi AB, Japan	Insufficient data	Time given was approximately 1800-1900. Duration 1-1/2 minutes. Fireball noted by Japanese astronomical society at 1745 on this date in case file for 7 November. Possible fireball with resultant train extending time of observation.
11/10	Argentina	Satellite	Not a satellite. Possible aircraft.
11/11	White Sulphur Springs, WV	Insufficient data	Possible contrail
11/12	Pittsburg, PA	Insufficient data	Jupiter
11/12	Callicoon Center, NY	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/12	Ogdensburg, NY	Venus	This appears to be an observation of two objects. The first was in the NE, which was Capella. The second was in the SW, which was Venus.
11/12	Port Angeles, WA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/12	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/12	Hurley, NM	Aircraft	Possible meteor (Characteristics are of meteor except time duration which could be a poor estimate)
11/12	Corona Del Mar, CA	Insufficient data	Probable contrail
11/13	Oneida, NY	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus
11/14	Canastota, NY	Balloon	Insufficient data. No positional information.
11/15	Yellow Springs, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/16	Jonesboro, GA	Venus	Venus not visible for three hours. Probably star rising in east (Capella or Aldebaran).

11/16	Miami Beach, FL	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
11/19	Louisville, KY	Venus	Witness reports object in east. Capella
11/19	Belmorehea, TX	Insufficient data	No positional data but description of it disappearing behind mountains indicates observing to southwest. Venus.
11/20	Wood Glen, NJ	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus.
11/20	Long Beach, CA	Stars/Planets	Possibly Sirius
11/21	Springfield, MO	Insufficient data	Venus
11/22	Lower California, Mexico	Insufficient data	Report sounds like a meteor fireball. Witness stated event transpired over 5 minutes but only was able to see 2 minutes of it. Possible aircraft. Direction of travel was towards Mexico City.
11/24	New Cambria, MO	Balloon	No positional data. Could be daylight sighting of Venus. Insufficient data.
11/26	Joliet, IL	Contrails/Aircraft	Possibly Jupiter. Pilot was flying to Fort Wayne (azimuth 100 degrees) and object had relative bearing of 15 degrees. Jupiter was at an azimuth of 137 degrees. Object reported as Yellowish in color and that it faded away after 10 minutes (Sun rose 25 minutes after sighting started).
11/26	Cleburne, TX	Insufficient data	Possible balloon. Winds from west and southwest. Path was west to east.
11/26	Dublin, GA	Insufficient data	Probably Venus
11/26	Lake Worth, FL	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/27	Hondo, TX	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/30	Atlanta, GA	Aircraft	Stars. Probably Aldebaran and Hyades.
12/1	Marietta, GA	Aircraft	Possible meteor
12/1	Rector, AR	Insufficient data	Moon set in west at 0815Z. Sighting at 0545-0605Z changed color from white to red. Described as round and bigger than the stars. Object stated to be W by SW. Moon located at 256 degrees 29 degrees elevation. No mention of moon being visible. Possible Moon.
12/2	Riverside, CA	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon
12/3-4	Baffin Island, Canada	Balloon	Arcturus
12/4	Wayne, MI	Balloon	Insufficient information. No positional data.
12/5	Port Alegro, Brazil	Insufficient data	Possible grab bag balloon. Launch site roughly 550 miles to NNE at Baurú Airport. Description indicates two objects. Like two superimposed balls, that separated.
12/5	Lake City, FL	Insufficient data	Balloon
12/5	Newburgh, NY	Balloon	Insufficient information. No positional data. Could have been Venus.
12/6	La Madera, NM	Insufficient data	Venus
12/9	Dothan, AL	Aircraft	Possibly Vega
12/10	Estacada, OR	Insufficient data	Possible research balloon. Transosonde flight 57 passed over region about this time.
12/13	Canton, OH	Insufficient data	Aircraft reflecting rising sun.
12/13	Oak Harbor, WA	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data.
12/14	Albany, OR	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
12/14	Dayton, OH	Venus	Sirius
12/17	Seffner, FL	Insufficient data	Capella
12/18	Oklahoma City, OK	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data.
12/21	Waverly, IA	Aircraft	Meteor
12/21	LaGrange, GA	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus

12/23	Sea of Japan	Insufficient data	Meteor
12/25	South Pass, LA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
12/28	Livermore Falls, ME	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data.

## Summary

This period was highlighted as a massive wave of UFO sightings. 482 cases in two months is a definite spike in UFO reports but was there a reason?

One of the most common arguments had to do with the launch of Sputnik on October 4. People wanting to see the object in the sky went out and saw various objects they could not identify. The end result was that there were an increase in UFO reports being filed to ATIC. Unfortunately, Sputnik 1 was a small object and could not be readily be seen. People saw the booster rocket which was also in the same approximate orbit and large enough to be seen. The subsequent launch of Sputnik 2, which was a very large craft, was visible to ground observers with a brightness of about first magnitude. Launched on November 3, the news media quickly alerted everyone that it should be easily seen in its passes overhead. It seems that this object was the inspiration for more people to go out and look at the sky. The most UFO reports happened between November 4-12.

**Weather In Brief**  
Cloudy, Cooler  
(For Details See Page 3)

VOL. 61, NO. 30  
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1957.  
FIVE CENTS

# Daily News-Record

SHENANDOAH VALLEY OF VIRGINIA

Daily News-Record  
Classified Ads  
Bring Results

## Half-Ton Satellite Launched By Russians

**Combined Effort**

### United Fund's Campaign Will Be Launched Today

**City-County Drive Quota Is \$50,365**

The United Fund of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County will be launched this morning by several hundred workers with the goal of raising funds for eight agencies who have joined in this first effort at a combined campaign here. The goal is \$50,365.

"This is actually eight drives in one," President F. Wilmer Cuffman emphasized last night. "We want all contributors to bear in mind that they are giving to eight agencies at one and their efforts should be based on the combined amounts they wish to give to each agency."

**Agencies in Fund**

Participating in the United Fund and the amount allowed them by the City budget committee is the total of \$50,365 are:

Red Cross	\$11,000
Seaboard Army	11,000
Boy Scouts	4,000
Girl Scouts	4,000
Catholic Relief	4,365
Mental Health	400
Children's Home	2,000
County of Virginia	2,000
U.S. (for those in Armed Services)	1,000
Fund operating	\$10,965
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,365</b>

Other organizations and agencies were invited to participate in the United Fund but they are not allowed to under provisions of their national charters or by-laws.

**Cashless Rides, Offices**

United Fund headquarters opened on the second floor of the Gamble building, West Bruce St., and the staff has been busy preparing for the drive.

James Lehman of Park View, who was the first man in the area to receive Sputnik 1's "beep," listened most of the afternoon yesterday, but picked up only one unidentified signal, a whistling, and could not be certain that it came from the half-ton satellite. Sputnik II, like its predecessor, transmits on 20 and 40 megacycles, but it has been noted that its transmitter automatically switches itself off to conserve energy.

Radio Moscow stated earlier that the standard "beep-beep" will be accompanied by a humming sound which "is a multitude of sounds recording the reactions of the dog."

**Alerted Last Friday**

The local Moonwatch was alerted last Friday by Moonwatch headquarters in Cambridge, Mass.

**Now There Are Two** — This is an artist's conception of Sputnik I with its new companion in globe-circling space, Sputnik II, which whirled in a higher orbit. Sputnik I makes 8 around the earth every 96.2 minutes, while Sputnik II takes 103.3 minutes. Drawing is by AP Staff Artist John A. Carlton.

**Sputnik II Is Really Rocket**

Moscow indicates the satellite is not a ball like Sputnik I. It is really a large rocket—not a ball plus empty rocket like Sputnik I — Moscow indicates.

From Russian announcements, this new Sputnik appears to consist of the last stage of the huge rocket assembly that thrust it into an orbit around the earth. This could explain its tremendous weight of 1,120 pounds.

Its forward compartment could carry the dog, and all the recording instruments and radio.

Anything that is put into an orbit around the earth becomes a "satellite." It doesn't have to be a ball. It can be a rocket which reaches the right speed and direction.

Sputnik the first was a double-ended ball plus a rocket. The last stage of the rocket reached the proper speed, then shoved the ball forward to separate the two. The rocket followed along behind the ball. Now, a month later, it is flying lower and faster, having been refueled once by air drag.

A Soviet news announcement (Continued on Page 8 Col. 1)

### New Moonlet Carrying Dog Whipping Around World Out 1000 Miles

By ROY ESSOYAN  
MOSCOW, Nov. 4 (Monday) (AP) — Russia has launched its second satellite—a fantastic, half-ton craft that is carrying a dog more than 1,000 miles out in space.

As the satellite whirled around the earth for the 12th time early today it radiated back that the world's first space traveler—a female dog named Curly—was taking her ride quietly and normally.

"Preliminary data shows that the animal behaved calmly during the first hours of flight," the Moscow radio said, "and its general condition was satisfactory."

A top Soviet scientist hinted the dog eventually would be parachuted back to earth alive.

The canine space pioneer is a Laika, a Russian breed resembling the spitz or pomeranian. The breed, with pointed noses and thick fluffy hair, is related to Siberian huskies but smaller.

Sputnik II was taking 103.7 minutes for each circuit of the globe. Data disclosed by the Russians indicated it was faster than the first satellite, but a later announcement by the Moscow radio said the maximum distance amounted to 1,000 miles.

Listening posts around the world began hearing the staccato beeps from the new satellite shortly after the first announcement. It came as a signal to the world that Soviet scientists had made another serious—major stride toward conquest of mysterious outer space.

Curly—Mozdvyacha, in Russian—was clamped inside an air-tight container in what the Soviet announcement described as the third stage of the powerful rocket that shot the satellite into space.

**Survived Blast Shock**

Moscow radio said scientists monitoring the satellite's signals reported the dog had survived the shock of the rocket's blast-off and her breathing, heartbeat and blood pressure were all normal.

Instruments attached to Curly's body were sending back reports that will tell whether man can live in a space craft.

Sputnik II weighs 1,120.39 pounds and was ripping along at a speed of 17,840 mph when launched. It was launched on Oct. 4, weighed 184 pounds and started circling the globe every 96.2 minutes. 960 miles out.

Prof. Boris V. Chukrin, deputy chairman of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said Sputnik II will be easier to see even though it is higher up than Sputnik I. He said in a Moscow radio broadcast its shorter orbit would make up for the greater distance from the earth. He added it would be possible to see the satellite "for periods ranging from 7 to 12 minutes." Sputnik I has been viewed from 3 to 6 minutes.

**Shape May Differ**

### Both Parties In Victory Claims

**PHONE RETURNS**

Rockingham precinct officials are asked to telephone the vote of Tuesday's election to the Daily News-Record as early as possible. The phone number is 4-1318. Their cooperation will be appreciated.

No estimates of the size of the Tuesday vote in Rockingham and

### American Scientists Say They Not Surprised By Sputnik II

By FRANK CORMIER  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (AP) — A top Russian scientist blurted out his opinion today that the new Soviet satellite is not surprising. They noted Moscow had described the satellite as being part of the rocket that lifted it into the heavens.

The American scientists expressed interest in exactly how the Russians are using all that weight—six times more than the 184 pounds of Sputnik I launched just a month ago.

Moscow reports spoke of the new satellite as weighing about as much as a nuclear warhead. And the reports said the weight suggested the Soviets may have projected a new version of the intercontinental ballistic missile—ICBM.

The Soviet announcement said the launching was dedicated to the 40th anniversary next Thursday of the Russian Revolution.

### US To Overshoot Budget Target

**To Be Overshot By At Least Two Billion, Experts Predict**

By STEPHEN F. GREEN  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (AP) — The government will overshoot its 70-billion-dollar budget target for fiscal 1959 by at least two billion dollars of spending, and possibly more, added government and congressional experts predicted today.

They judge that the new budget,

One thing that stands out was the large number of Venus reports during this time period. Venus was at greatest elongation on November 14 and quite bright. It would reach greatest brilliancy on December 27. There were roughly 90 cases (about 18% of the total) reported during November-December that could have been Venus.

There were also other sources for these UFO reports:

- On the evening of November 6, there was a vivid auroral display visible as far south as Georgia.
- A check of the newspaper archive revealed five articles reporting bright meteors being reported between November 3 and 9. One article, from Wisconsin, stated the American Meteor Society recorded three bright meteors within a one hour period on the night of November 9. This indicated an increased rate of bright meteors during early November.
- The US Navy was launching Transosonde balloons from Japan that floated at 30,000 feet. In November, seven of these balloons flew across the entire United States. In December, another seven flew across the country.

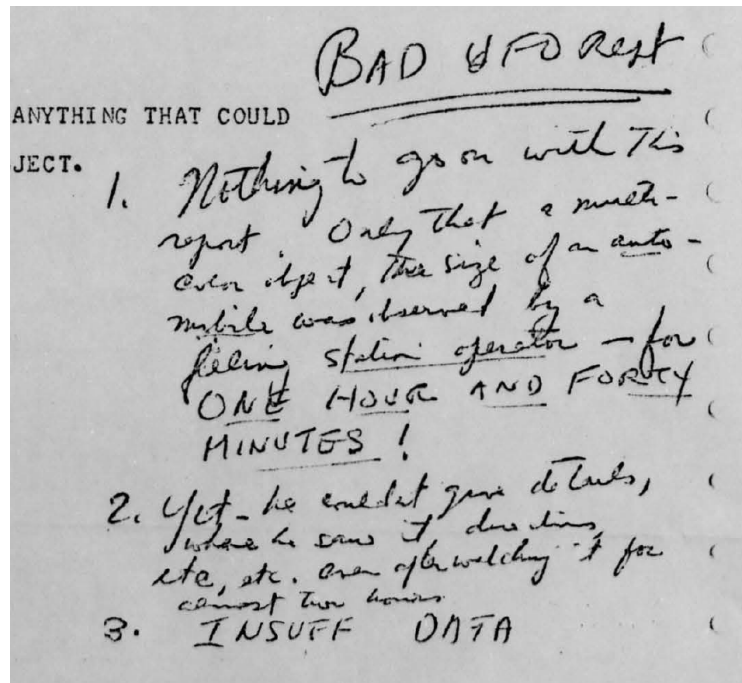
Considering all of these sources of potential UFO reports, it is not surprising that there was a spike in UFO sightings.

Looking at the sightings that were declared "Sputnik", I found it difficult to verify them. Because of the low orbit, the orbital elements varied and I had to use information in the Blue Book files and news media reports to determine if the sighting could have possibly been a satellite.

Finally, there was also a few sightings where the reports had confusing or conflicting information. Captain Gregory often had hand written comments about how he disliked these reports. This image of the Lithonia, Georgia sighting was typical of what he had to deal with. This sighting lasted 100 minutes but the observer could not even give the direction he observed the object at the beginning and end of those 100 minutes. Either the observer was just not very good or those collecting the information were incapable of asking the simple questions to obtain that information. There are many reports in the case files like this and it is no surprise that so many received a classification of "insufficient information".

Speaking of "Insufficient information/data", out of the 101 cases I reclassified, 51 were originally classified "Insufficient data". This indicates that my 20.9% of reclassified cases only includes about 10% that were actually "mistakes" by Blue Book.

Next issue, I will move on to the first half of 1959.



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