

A REPORT ON AN ENCOUNTER WITH A U.F.O.

Details of Witness

Name: Mr. Jeno Udvardy
Residence: 7068 East T Avenue
Vicksburg
Michigan 49097
Telephone: 616-648-2425
Employer: Brunswick Corporation
School Equipment Division
2605 Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo, Mich.

31 / Nov / 66

*Hennel's copy (photo by via Vallee)
at his late March 66 file
to show what he considered
important points*

Occupation: Carpenter for about 5 years with present employer

Background: Age 32 years. Born in Hungary, came to the U.S. during the December Uprising in 1956. Since 1952 had served in air-crew with the Hungarian Air Force, flying in both piston and jet aircraft.

Details of Incident

Date: March 31, 1966.
Time: Between 2.00 - 2.15 a.m. (local time) on a Thursday morning.
Place: North along 27th Street from the T-junction with East T Avenue, 125 yds beyond the mailbox of the farm occupied by Mr. Harold Coville, 10648 27th Street South, Vicksburg, Mich.
Weather: Kalamazoo area - clear sky, visibility greater than 15 miles, temperature 28°F, dew point 21°F, humidity ca. 65%, wind from N.W. at 8 m.p.h. Same conditions at 1.00, 2.00 and 3.00 a.m. (Grand Rapids Weather Bureau).
Events: The witness was driving home alone as usual from work, after the Wednesday late shift, following the route he had used regularly for the last 2 years (i.e. since moving to his present residence). He had noticed stars, but no moon. Travelling east along S Avenue, he turned south (right) into 27th Street (black-top road, very uneven with numerous potholes). Topping a final slight rise, he saw a cluster of bright lights on the straight level road, several hundred yards ahead, between his car and the junction with East T Avenue. Thinking there had been an auto accident, his approach was cautious, slowing down to an estimated 20 m.p.h. by the time he reached the scene.

Almost upon what he had believed to be an ambulance obstructing the road (approx. 16 feet wide at this spot), the witness suddenly realized the expected vehicle had no wheels nor, for that matter, any discernable means of support. This startling realization caused him to bring his car to an immediate standstill, within an estimated 10 feet of the strange object (see Diagram). The beam from the witness' headlights illuminated the road beneath and beyond whatever-

it was, revealing a smooth rounded under-surface of dull grayish color, 3 or 4 feet above the ground. He had the impression that it was maintaining its position with a barely noticeable up-and-down motion, without any side-to-side or to-and-fro effect.

At this moment, he became conscious of the glare of a large, brilliant and constant white light (compared in intensity to a welding arc, but much bigger), seemingly directed at him like a searchlight from the extreme left side of the object. He thought he could see a dark area on a left upper-surface, to the right of the white light. Also, there were three colored lights on the object, all of which were much smaller in size, very much less intense and blinked on and off at random (like Christmas tree lights), each functioning like a car turning-signal light. All three were never "off", but might have been "on", at the same time. A red one seemed nearest to the witness, close to the apparent middle of the object, but at about the same level as the white light. A green one was located at the extreme right side, also at about the same level as the white and red lights. The distance between the white and green lights was several feet. The third one, of a purplish color, was located centrally and much higher, maybe 4 feet above the others. Because of the dazzling white light, little else could be seen of the upper-surface. No superstructure or "conning tower" was apparent, supporting the purplish light. The witness gained the impression the object was generally egg-shaped and possibly viewed end-on. No antennae were visible.

Non-plussed for several moments by what he saw, the witness was then overwhelmed by a feeling of fear and reacted by backing-up the car as quickly as he could away from the object. By now dazzled by the white light, he could not see anything behind. During this manoeuvre the car was shaken violently, as if buffeted by gale-force gusts of wind, which ceased as abruptly as it began. Suddenly, what the witness initially believed to be a second object appeared through the rear window above the road behind him, hovering motionless, but higher and somewhat further away than the first. Hurriedly, he stopped the reversing car. However, from a quick glance to the front again, he realised that the object which had been there was gone and that the object behind him now was indeed the same one. It presented much the same appearance as before, except that the purplish light on the top could not be seen, because of the car roof. The other lights were in the same relative position as previously, i.e. looking backwards, left to right: white-red-green. Thus it seemed to have made a 180° turn during the "leap" over the witness' car.

The car stationary, the witness wound down the window on the driver's side and looked at the object again. This time he had to shield his eyes with an arm from the glare from the white light. For the first time, he became aware of a low hum (likened to the sound of a swarm of bees), apparently coming from the U.F.O., and that his car engine had stalled somehow. Moments later the U.F.O. abruptly rose up higher vertically and then, without changing in appearance, sped off at a steep angle and disappeared to the east.

- 3 -

The entire encounter was short in duration, perhaps less than a minute. The witness sat in the car afterwards for several minutes, maybe ten, before he regained sufficient composure to drive home, just over a mile away. Arriving home at around 2.30 a.m., he recounted the experience to his wife, who did not accept his story seriously at first - until she realized his state of shock. The incident was reported to the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office at about 3.00 a.m. and two officers subsequently came to the witness' home. They angered the witness by their apparently facetious attitude. Nevertheless, he accompanied the officers to the scene. No evidence of the U.F.O.'s previous presence was found in a brief search using torches. The witness was considerably disturbed by the events and returned to the scene alone in daylight, but a more thorough search was again futile. He had given permission for the sighting to be released to the press and it was duly reported on the front page of the "Kalamazoo Gazette" that day. The occupants of the three farms within a ½ mile of the spot had been asleep and unaware of the drama outside.

The witness freely admitted that the encounter had frightened him more than anything else in his life (which included being wounded in the stomach and shot down in an airplane). He had been deeply shocked by the experience, and so felt very acutely the ridicule afterwards. The interviewer knows of no reason to doubt the testimony of the witness.

Signature of Interviewer

Gordon C. Sayer.

Gordon C. Sayer, Ph.D
2923 Fleetwood Drive
Kalamazoo
Michigan 49001

616-345-4986

Signature of Witness

Jeno Udvardy

Jeno Udvardy

Date: April 11, 1966

Upjohn Scientist Investigates Michigan

Michigan residents, along with people in other areas of the U.S., recently reported a rash of "flying saucer" sightings. Among them was the story below, concerning one man's encounter with a UFO (unidentified flying object).

A brief news story about this man's experience first appeared in the *Kalamazoo Gazette*. After he read it, Upjohn's Gordon Sayer, Ph.D., Chemical Sales, took the trouble to contact the man involved, to interview him, and to compile a report which both he and the man signed.

Gordon professes a scientific interest in UFO's. To others who are more than a little curious, he says this:

"UFO reports are not new. Indeed, the recent sightings reported in Michigan are merely further manifestations of a worldwide phenomenon, which has been experienced by mankind for a long time.

"Readers who consider themselves unprejudiced and intrigued by this subject should consult the literature, not just newspapers, which are too often inaccurate in detail and insufficiently informed to be constructively critical.

"A start might be made with *Anatomy of a Phenomenon, Unidentified Objects in Space*—a scientific appraisal by Jaques Vallee (1965, Henry Requery Company, Chicago). This book, written by a NASA consultant qualified in mathematics and astronomy, contains a bibliography of 196 references. Another book might perhaps be mentioned also because it was written by a former head of Project Blue Book, set up by the U.S. Air Force to deal with UFO reports since 1947—*Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* by Edward J. Ruppelt (1956, Doubleday & Co., Inc., New York). Further information on UFO sightings in the U.S. and abroad can be had from the publications of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

"However, a full and thorough investigation into UFO reports remains to be done, preferably international in scope, by some scientific body specially created for the purpose and officially recognized with the responsibility. What needs to be scrutinized systematically is not necessarily a UFO (this would be extremely helpful of course!), but the *reports of witnesses*. The initial problem is one of analysis."

Maybe UFO's *are* the vehicles of beings from space. And maybe not. Whatever the case, the people who report seeing them are evidently convinced of their reality.

It happens, however, that some individuals who hear of these reports are inclined to ridicule those who make them. For that reason, we are withholding the name of the man who signed the following document.

Occupation of Witness: Carpenter for about 5 years with present employer.

Background: Age 32 years. Born in Hungary, came to the U.S. during the December Uprising in 1956. Since 1952 had served in air-crew with the Hungarian Air Force, flying in both piston and jet aircraft.

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Date: March 31, 1966.

Time: Between 2:00-2:15 a.m. (local time) on a Thursday morning.

Place: North along 27th Street from the T-junction with East T Avenue, 125 yards beyond the mailbox of the farm occupied by Harold Coville, 10648 27th Street South, Vicksburg, Mich.

Weather: Kalamazoo area—clear sky,

Confid
→

Scientist Investigates Michigan UFO

visibility greater than 15 miles, temperature 28°F., dew point 21°F., humidity ca. 65%, wind from N.W. at 8 m.p.h. Same condition at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. (Grand Rapids Weather Bureau).

Events: The witness was driving home alone as usual from work, after the Wednesday late shift, following the route he had used regularly for the last 2 years (i.e., since moving to his present residence). He had noticed stars, but no moon. Traveling east along S Avenue, he turned south (right) into 27th Street (black-top road, very uneven with numerous potholes). Topping a final slight rise, he saw a cluster of bright lights on the straight and level road, several hundred yards ahead, between his car and the junction with East T Avenue. Thinking there had been an auto accident, his approach was cautious, slowing down to an estimated 20 m.p.h. by the time he reached the scene.

Almost upon what he had believed to be an ambulance obstructing the road (approx. 16 feet wide at this spot), the witness suddenly realized the expected vehicle had no wheels nor, for that matter, any discernable means of support. This startling realization caused him to bring his car to an immediate standstill, within an estimated 10 feet of the strange object. The

beam from the witness's headlights illuminated the road beneath and beyond whatever-it-was, revealing a smooth rounded under-surface of dull grayish color, 3 or 4 feet above the ground. He had the impression that it was maintaining its position with a barely noticeable up-and-down motion, without any side-to-side or to-and-fro effect.

What It Looked Like

At this moment, he became conscious of the glare of a large, brilliant and constant white light (compared in intensity to a welding arc, but much bigger), seemingly directed at him like a searchlight from the extreme left side of the object. He thought he could see a dark area on a left upper-surface, to the right of the white light. Also, there were three colored lights on the object, all of which were much smaller in size, very much less intense and blinked on and off at random (like Christmas tree lights), each functioning like a car turning-signal light. All three were never "off," but might have been "on," at the same time. A red one seemed nearest to the witness, close to the apparent middle of the object, but at about the same level as the white light. A green one was located at the extreme right side, also at about the same level as the white and red lights. The distance between the white and green lights was several feet. The third one, of a purplish color, was located centrally and much higher, maybe four feet above the others. Because of the dazzling white light, little else could be seen of the upper surface. No superstructure or "conning tower" was apparent, supporting the purplish light. The witness gained the impression the object was generally egg-shaped and possibly viewed end-on. No antennae were visible.

The Man's Reaction

Non-plussed for several moments by what he saw, the witness was then overwhelmed by a feeling of fear and reacted by backing up the car as quickly as he could away from the object. By now dazzled by the white light, he could not see anything behind. During this maneuver the car was shaken violently, as if buffeted by gale-force gusts of wind, which ceased as abruptly as it began. Suddenly, what the witness initially believed to be a second object appeared through the rear window above the road behind him, hovering mo-

tionless, but higher and somewhat further away than the first. Hurriedly, he stopped the reversing car. However, from a quick glance to the front again, he realized that the object which had been there was gone and that the object behind him now was indeed the same one. It presented much the same appearance as before, except that the purplish light on the top could not be seen, because of the car roof. The other lights were in the same relative position as previously, i.e., looking backwards, left to right: white-red-green. Thus it seemed to have made a 180° turn during the "leap" over the witness's car.

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What Happened Later

The entire encounter was short in duration, perhaps less than a minute. The witness sat in the car afterwards for several minutes, maybe ten, before he regained sufficient composure to drive home, just over one mile away. Arriving home at around 2:30 a.m., he recounted the experience to his wife, who did not accept his story seriously at first—until she realized his state of shock. The incident was reported to the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office at about 3:00 a.m. and two officers subsequently came to the witness's home. They angered the witness by their apparently facetious attitude. Nevertheless, he accompanied the officers to the scene. No evidence of the U.F.O.'s previous presence was found in a brief search using torches. The witness was considerably disturbed by the events and returned to the scene alone in daylight, but a more thorough search was again futile. He had given permission for the sighting to be released to the press and it was duly reported on the front page of the *Kalamazoo Gazette* that day. The occupants of the three farms within one-half mile of the spot had been asleep and unaware of the drama outside.

The witness freely admitted that the encounter had frightened him more than anything else in his life (which included being wounded in the stomach and shot down in an airplane). He had been deeply shocked by the experience, and so felt very acutely the ridicule afterwards. The interviewer knows of no reason to doubt the testimony of the witness.

Kalamazoo, Mich - Gazette - 31 March 1966 - STRANGE OBJECTS OBSERVED HERE/'SAUCERS' ARE BACK AGAIN - While dodging ruts on S. 27th Street early this morning, a Vicksburg motorist said he almost ran into a hovering craft shaped like a football and sounding like a swarm of bees. Jenó Udvardy told sheriff's deputies that he was driving slowly toward Vicksburg at about 2 a/m. (one half mile south of S Avenue) when he saw the object in front of his car. He described it as elliptical, 12 to 15 feet long, 6 to 8 feet wide and 5 to 6 feet high. Udvardy reported that the craft hovered about 3 feet above the ground and hummed. After watching the thing, which had blinking red, green and purple lights, Udvardy decided he's seen enough after 40 seconds and started backing away. As he did this, he told deputies, the object suddenly rose up, skimmed over the car and again descended. After remaining stationary for about 10 seconds, the craft reportedly rose at a 45-degree angle and proceeded in a northeast direction at high speed. Udvardy told deputies that he felt silly about reporting the incident, but maintained that he did see something. Deputies later went to the location where the object was reported hovering and found no marks or residue. Udvardy said the craft was generally gray color and had purple lights on top and green and red lights on the sides. Three coeds at Spindler Hall, Western Michigan University, called Kalamazoo police shortly after 1:30 this morning and said that they had seen an object which fit the general description of the craft seen by Udvardy. The girls said they first saw it at 11 p.m. and watched it for about 2 hours. They said it was football shaped, and had 4 blinking red and green lights. The coeds were identified as Dorothy Head, 18; Janice Angevine, 20; and Sharon Gambin, 19. When officers arrived, they reported seeing nothing but streetlights in the Knollwood area which had halo-like effects because of the weather conditions. Earlier in the evening, 4 Otsego teenagers called Allegan County sheriff's deputies and told them a tale of seeing a bright white flashing object flying at treetop level near 16th Street and Ravine Road. The four said a "part" disconnected itself from the larger object and flew to the ground. It then rejoined the larger object and darted off at great speed. Deputies Ray Clark and Dennis Honch carefully checked over the area where the craft reportedly landed but found nothing. Making the report were Jean Ramey, Dale Baker, Roger Baker and Thomas Wolden. The thing they claim they saw was the size of a car, they said. Two Portage police cars were sent to investigate unidentified flying objects at 7:46 pm which were reportedly seen in the skies above the 4600-block of Beechmount Avenue. Officers said they saw blinking lights in the sky but could not see them clearly before overcast conditions cut off their vision.

3/31/66

KALAMAZOO COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
INVESTIGATION REPORT

Police Report

Complainant: Mrs. Jeno Udvardy Date: 3-31-66 Comp. No. G-3234

Address: 7068 E. "T" Ave., Vicksburg Phone: III-82425

Contact to _____

NATURE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT.

INTERVIEW WITH COMPLAINANT:

MR. JENO UDVARDY, Dob: 2-2-35, 7068 E. "T" Ave. stated he was driving south on 27th St. approximately 1/2 mile south of "S" Ave. he had slowed down to avoid hitting ruts in the road, going about 10 mph. When he looked up again he saw an object about 3 1/2' off the ground hovering in the air. He stopped his car and observed this object for about fifteen to twenty seconds, then placed the car in reverse as the object was blocking the road and he could not get by it. As he began backing the car the object lifted farther from the ground, went over the top of his car and settled behind his vehicle again about 3 1/2' to 4' off the ground. The complainant stopped his car again, watched the object for another ten to fifteen seconds. At this time the object made a loud buzzing sound, arose from the ground at about a 45° angle and headed northeast towards Scotts, Michigan. This object then disappeared within 4 or 5 seconds, traveling at a high rate of speed. The time of this sighting was between 2:30 & 2:45 A.M., 3-31-66.

DESCRIPTION OF UFO:

that of a canoe, pointed

MR. UDVARDY stated this object was shaped similar to that of a canoe, pointed at both ends, approximately 12" to 15" in length, about 7' to 8' wide, about 5" to 5 1/2" thick. The color was a light to medium gray, on the left side of the object was a darker patch, he could not tell what this was as one of the lights was flashing in his eyes making it difficult for him to see. On the very top of this object was a purple light, on the front of the object was a red light (this being the end toward the car) on the other end was a green light, on the left side was a white light. All four lights were flashing however the white one was aimed more at his face, making it difficult to see. As the object arose in front of the complainant and went over the car headed in a northeasterly direction, the sound was described as sounding like a hive of bees, sort of a high pitch whine.

MR. UDVARDY stated he could see no fins, wings, legs or anything else on this object.

A diagram made by this officer is attached.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Dasher, Deputy

LD/ec

*the 1st generation
darkest copy of retrieval.*

BRUNSWICK PERSONNEL RECORDS #

2 Jeno Udvardy

Quit work at midnight, Wednesday, 3-30, had some washup time and probably arrived at his car in pk lot about 12:15 a.m.

From there, according to dept., he usually goes to Long

Lake Tavern. He arrived there at about 12:30 a.m. He told personnel dept and his foreman then next day that he had two (2) beers, conversation, etc., bought a six-pack of goke for his wife (who waits up for him) and left for home. No departure time mentioned.

pers. NOT
SURE
ABOUT ACTUAL
ESTABLISHMENT

Brunswick personnel and his shop foreman convinced the man telling the truth and give excellent reports on his character, punctuality, attendance, etc.

The next day, he was kept in the personnel section until the first shift had left the building because of ridicule problems with men on the first shift (they'd rigged up little green men in the plant and were planning general harassment). Udvardy said he wished he'd never called police because of the ridicule and the "hard" treatment in the Yal Gazette, the personnel dept said. Even his wife didn't believe him, he told the dept., and he half-threatened violence if more ridicule from the plant workers (which is partly why he was held in personnel on arrival at work.)

Brunswick personnel OK'd further questions if necessary about Udvardy.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

Complaint # 3885

Sighted by: Jeno Havardy
7068 E. "F" Ave.
Vicksburg, Michigan

Date March 31, 1967

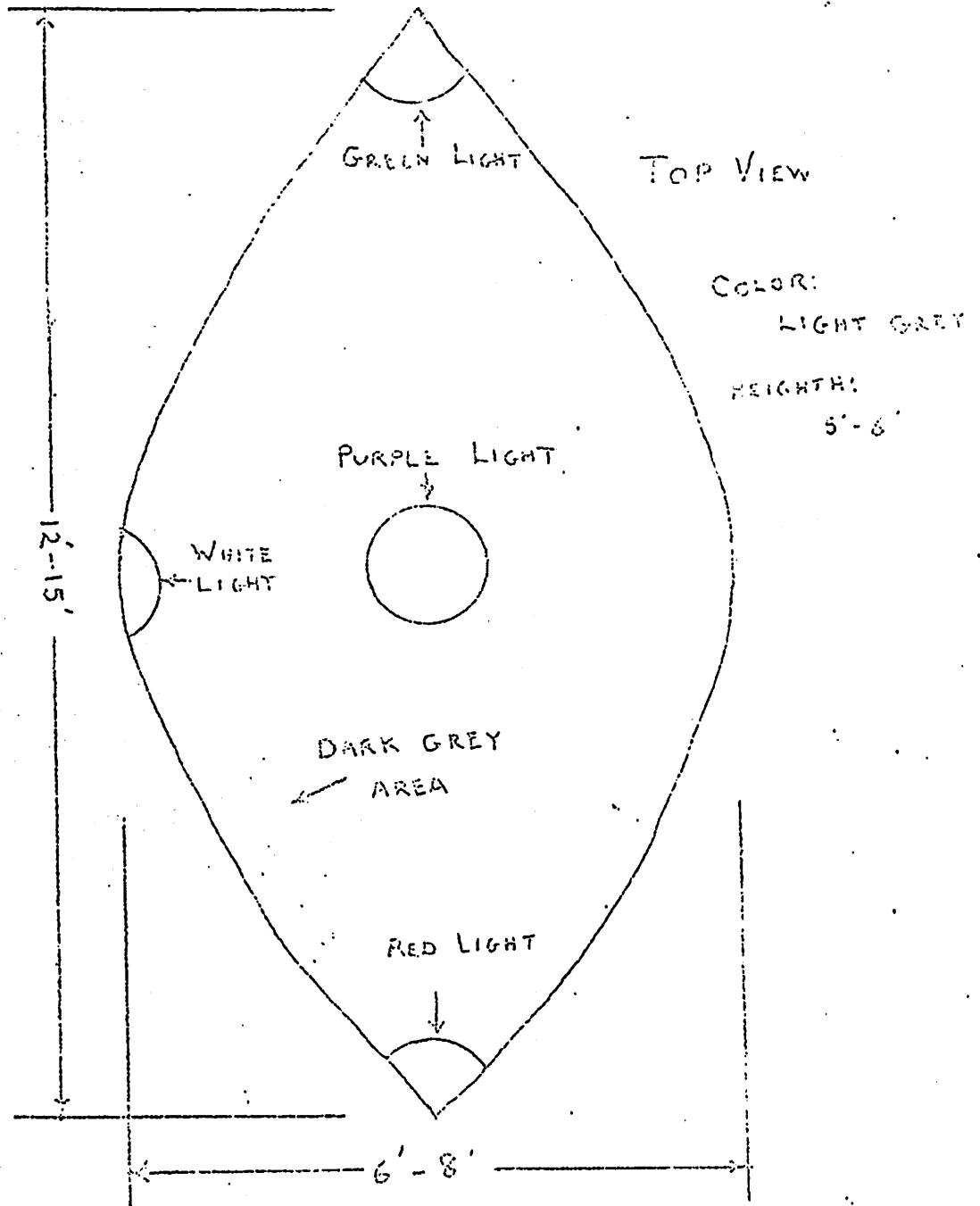


Diagram by:

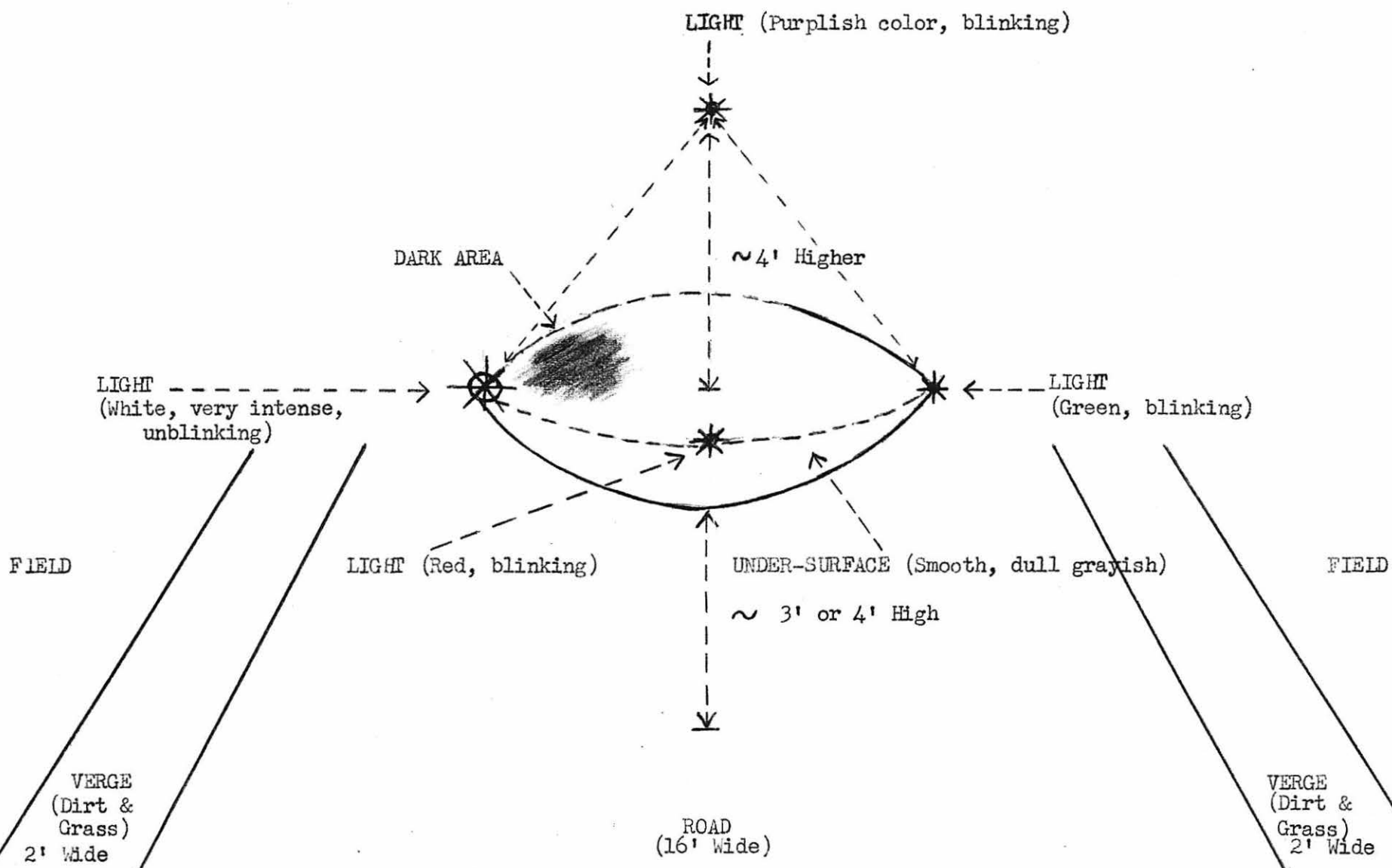
Lawrence G. Bush
Kalamazoo County
Sheriff Department

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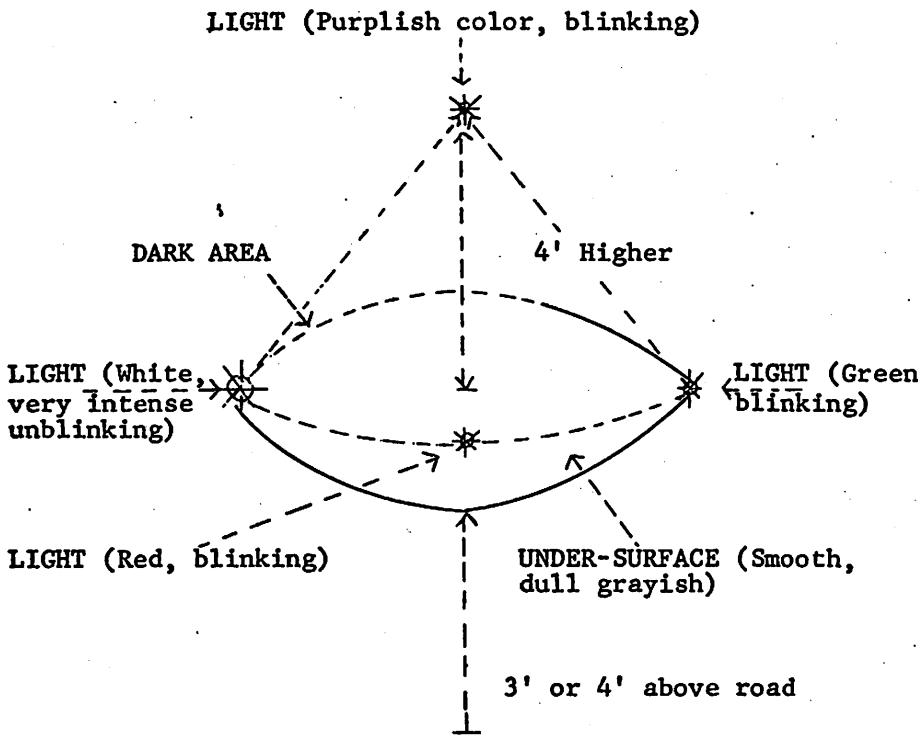
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DIAGRAM



This drawing, based on Jenó Udvardy's description, shows the object he encountered March 31, while driving near Vicksburg. The light at left was the intense white light that blinded him. The drawing was prepared by Gordon C. Sayer, a Kalamazoo member of the National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena. A Western student spotted and sketched an almost identical object over the campus about three hours earlier.

Rec'd
MAR 31 1967



Kalamazoo's UFOs:

Too Many To Be Ignored

By LORAN PRINE

Long before the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel ever spotted the fiery flying wheel, other flying objects had been seen by man. And these early day sightings were duly noted in cave drawings and later ones in some relief sculptures.

The reference in the Book of Ezekiel dates back about 2,500 years — give or take 300-odd years either way. And scholars call the reference an allusion, although the Air Force may call the report, if it happened today, an illusion, hallucination, or worse: Marsh gas.

The UFO spectacular in southeastern Michigan, according to the Air Force and its stable of experts, was Marsh gas. And as such, was apparently dismissed.

In the next few weeks, people in Kalamazoo, Allegan and Van Buren Counties began reporting to the police mysterious lights in the sky and then football-shaped UFOs. The authorities were skeptical — at first. They soon lost their skepticism. They had to. Too many sober, on duty policemen and deputies also saw the objects.

On April 13 Van Buren County Prosecutor Donald M. Goodwillie Jr. and his wife watched a UFO pass directly overhead.

"It was about 11:30 p.m.," he notes. "I was reading and a police radio monitor was on. There was some talk about lights coming over the monitor. My wife wanted to go outside and look for the lights, so we did. We both saw flashing lights to the east of our house and when I put the field glasses on the lights, they seemed to move up and

down. We looked for a while, then started for the house — I still think it was a star.

"Then my wife saw a steady red light at treetop level to the southeast of the house. In addition to the red light, there was a steady white light that varied in intensity. Now this may have been farther away and higher than I thought. There's a ridge running along southeast of the house and it appeared to be above that, so it could have been a long way away.

"The UFO was moving and it got lost behind some trees, but it came out and stopped northeast of us for from 30 to 50 seconds.

"At this time, four additional white lights came on and the UFO went straight up for about 60 seconds. Then the additional lights went off one-by-one and the UFO stopped going up. It started moving southwest directly over where we were standing and kept on going out over Lake Michigan."

The young prosecutor couldn't guess the UFO's speed, height or size. But he doesn't believe it was very large or very high off the ground. His view of the object was hampered by darkness, but he did get an idea of shape by the placement of lights and the stars that the bulk of the UFO blocked out.

There was no wind blowing that night and Goodwillie says the UFO made no sound during its slow, deliberate movements. "I've seen lots of jets, and I'm sure it wasn't a jet. It didn't seem to be as big as a jet." And he guesses the series of five white lights is a propulsion system since the four auxiliary lights and the constant white light

became brighter as the UFO rose.

About five other persons, including a state police detective watched the UFO that night. But Goodwillie was the first to report it — and he wishes he hadn't.

But from across Kalamazoo County comes a trio of reports that when put together read like an experiment in terror — except for one thing: they're all real. The three sightings — all on the same night — form a straight line running from south of Otsego to just north of Vicksburg. And they fall into a time sequence that suggests one flying object.

It was Thursday, March 30, at 10:55 p.m., according to an Allegan County Sheriff's report, when Dorothy, Dale and Roger Baker, Tom Waldon and Jean B. Ramey first saw the UFO a little less than a mile away. They watched from a house on Ravine Road about a quarter of a mile north of 100th Avenue.

The UFO was about the size of a car, they later told a sheriff's deputy. It was emitting a bright white light with a flashing red light as it hovered over a grove of trees in a marshy field. Then it dropped a smaller object that seemed to land on the ground.

As the five persons watched, the smaller portion rose after a few minutes, and re-joined the main object. Then the UFO shot away in a flash of red light; it never made a sound.

The investigating deputy searched the marshy area afterward, but found nothing. Roger Baker later told the deputy that he'd found some burned grass at the scene.

At 1:42 a.m., a call came to Kalamazoo police from Spindler Hall at Western Michigan University. Girls had been watching a UFO hovering over trees near Stadium Drive for well over two hours.

Lights on the UFO, according to one of the girls, Dorothy Head, a Lincoln Park undergraduate, suddenly "glowed much brighter and began turning, alternately red, bluish-green and white. Suddenly three more objects joined the solitary one, and it frightened me. So I got a dime and called the police. I described (to the dispatcher) a glowing object that was tipping from side to side . . ."

Kalamazoo Police Officers Harbaugh and Toepper saw no objects, according to Harbaugh's report, and attributed the lights to another building on the campus. A drawing of the UFO, made for police by Miss Head and attached to the report, later disappeared. She redrew it for the Kalamazoo Magazine. It matched one of the third sightings in this sequence.

Between 2 and 2:15 a.m., a Brunswick Corporation carpenter, Jenó Udvardy, was on his way home from work. He'd stopped after work for two beers at a tavern on his way home, according to the Brunswick personnel department. He talked with acquaintances; bought a six-pack of Coke for his wife (who waits up for him) and left.

Udvardy noticed it was clear that night and that no moon was visible as he topped a rise on 27th Street half a mile south of S Avenue and saw a cluster of lights in the road ahead. He thought there'd been an accident and was slowing down as he approached what he thought was an ambulance.

Suddenly he realized his headlights were shining under the object — it had no means of support. He slammed on the brakes, halting the car on the spot with fear, like gooseflesh, beginning to creep over him.

The underbelly of the object was smooth, rounded and grayish in color. The object was moving with a barely noticeable up and down motion.

Then a brilliant white light on the object's left side moved almost imperceptibly, and, like a spotlight, was aimed squarely in his eyes. It was like a welding arc, he said later, only much bigger.

He thought he could see a dark area on the upper surface of the UFO, near the white light. But he could clearly see three smaller, less intense, blinking lights on the egg-shaped object.

A red one was nearest Udvardy. It was on an end of the UFO and at the same level as the brilliant white light. On the extreme right was a green light, also at the same level. Another light, a purplish color, was about four feet above the UFO and because of the brilliant white light, Udvardy couldn't see what supported it.

The carpenter sat stunned, then gazzled by the white light and overwhelmed with fear, jammed the car in reverse to get away.

Before he could move, the car was rocked

violently and Udvardy saw what he thought was another UFO directly behind him; a little farther away and a little higher. A frightened glance forward showed him the object behind his car was actually the one that had been in front of him an instant before.

He rolled down his window to look at the UFO again. And this time he had to shield his eyes from the glare of the light. Udvardy then became aware of three things: the UFO had made a 180-degree turn as it went over his car, it was making a low hum, and his car engine had somehow stalled.

The UFO was hovering quietly. Then it abruptly rose and without changing its appearance, angled into the east at a tremendous speed.

Sightings of lights in the sky are nearly always explained as being from aircraft, a planet or a star. For example, an airplane carrying standard navigational lights at night would give the impression of being cigar or football shaped if the craft were heading directly toward or away from the observer — and the color of the lights would coincide with the red, white and green lights often reported as a UFO.

In fact one Kalamazoo private pilot flying at night near Grand Rapids during the UFO sightings began mischievously blinking his navigation lights on and off with the comment, "Let's create some UFO reports." He did.

Stars tend to shift from brilliant white overhead to a duller white with flashes of red, blue and green as they reach the horizon. This is because of the prismatic refraction caused by seeing the star through more atmosphere at a lower angle than at a higher angle.

Marsh gas? Although many persons haven't the least idea what it is, it has been the scapegoat for the recent sightings in Washtenaw and Hillsdale Counties.

Marsh gas is largely methane with traces of phosphine gas. And it's generated by rotting organic matter that has been trapped under the frozen surface of a swamp. When the weather turns warm, Marsh gas is released. The phosphine traces ignite with an eerie glow on contact with the oxygen in the air. Marsh gas is called the Will-o'-the-Wisp and the basis for many folktales.

Three general theories tend to emerge from persons who don't immediately scoff about the UFOs.

— They're from another planet.

— They're from another nation, for example, Russia.

— They're experimental American craft.

Curiously, few persons now believe the UFOs are natural phenomena. Most believe the UFOs to be material objects explainable by one of the three ideas. The latter theories, that the UFOs are man-made, can be toppled by the fact that UFOs have been seen for hundreds of years, well in advance of technological ability. Further, with world-wide public clamor for an explanation, no nation could risk having a secret

craft crash in a foreign country. And, if the UFO is indeed an experimental machine, thus subject to high risk of failure, why has it been flown over heavily populated areas?

This, in the opinion of some, leaves only one explanation: space craft.

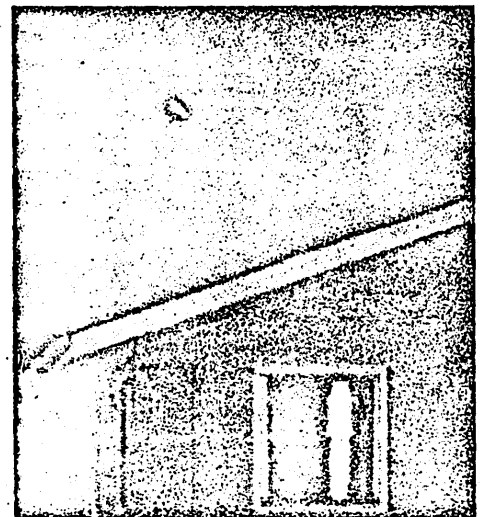
And on this belief hinges the reason for ridicule. It's caused by the fear of the unknown. Who, for example, would laugh at the person who stumbled upon a Russian or American experimental airplane resting in the middle of a road? Or who would derisively point his finger at a person who saw the same ship calmly hovering over a Van Buren County vineyard?

Although UFO reports from across the world show several shapes and sizes of objects, reports from the Kalamazoo area generally fall into two classes: lights, and the ambiguously described "football shape."

One of the annoying things about UFO reports is the mass of data that is being piled up with no interpretation. In fact, many reports get little farther than a local police agency or news medium.

While the reports of sightings mount, the Air Force's Project Blue Book sifts as many as possible, declaring most a natural phenomena such as the "Marsh gas" explanation of the Ann Arbor sightings. However, of over 10,000 reported sightings since 1947, when the Air Force first started the probe, some 650 are unexplained to the Air Force's satisfaction. Mostly, the sightings wear tags of being Marsh gas, planets, pranks, comets, meteors, fireballs, and auroral streamers. Mass hallucination and illusions are apparently out of vogue with investigators.

So are the UFOs space craft? If so, where are they from? What is the interest in planet Earth? Nobody knows. But whatever the UFOs are, they're not hostile — they've badly injured only one thing: the ego of the human species.



A UFO? No. But more than five persons including two Portage policemen thought it was until analysis of the photographs showed it to be the star Sirius.

The Sightings

Following is a complete listing of all reported UFO sightings during March and April in Kalamazoo County and some of the spectacular ones in Van Buren and Allegan Counties.

*Allegan
not
searched
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was?*

3/24 6:15 p.m., near Saugatuck (Reported to Allegan Sheriff Dept.), Couple watched UFO land near cemetery. Deputy found nothing, recommended daytime search. UFO saucer-shaped, red glow in center, white around edges, about half the size of a car. No sound. Holland PD also got UFO report from this area.

3/27, 10:45 p.m., Oxford St., (Reported to Kal PD), couple saw hovering UFO in the west. Had steady white light with red and green flashing. Emitted faint hum.

3/28, 12:05 a.m., WMU, (Kal. PD), couple saw white light with red flash moving west to northwest. Light disappeared in about 35 minutes. Similar light reappeared 10 minutes later, disappearing in about 45 minutes. Also report of lights over southeast part of city. Police observed light with red and green flash from police station. This light disappeared about 3 a.m. Police unable to see movement . . . At 8 p.m., Portage police checked lights in sky seen from Westfield St. . . . At 8:47 p.m., Kalamazoo Twp. police checked report from Althea St., but found nothing . . . At 11 p.m., Twp. police checked report from Dartmouth St. of light in sky. Investigating officer said it looked "a little like a star."

3/30, 7:46 p.m., Beechmount St., (Portage PD), residents reported flashing white and green light in sky. Distance too great for good observation . . . At 10:55 p.m., Allegan Sheriff Deputy checked report from Ravine Rd. near Otsego of UFO hovering over grove. Estimated at about the size of a car, it had bright white light with flashing red. A section dropped to the ground, later returned to larger object, and the complete UFO sped away in flash of red light. No sound came from the motion, said five witnesses. Deputy found no evidence of landing in the marshy field, but later one witness reported burned grass.

3/31, 1:42 a.m., (Kal PD), WMU, coeds reported hovering UFO with intense red, white and green flashing lights NW of Spindler Hall. Police didn't see UFO, and reported lights being from a building . . . At about 2:30 a.m., Kal Sheriff Deputies checked report of UFO hovering over road near Vicksburg. Report notes UFO had red, white and green lights, plus purple light on top. It was light gray color, 12 to 15 feet long, six to eight feet wide and five to six feet deep. Observer halted car short of the UFO. In a few seconds, the UFO rushed over the car halting again behind. It made a 180-degree turn as it traveled and emitted a buzzing sound. Observer fled. Deputies report the man sober and responsible.

4/4, 5 a.m., between Plainwell and Otsego, Allegan deputy watched bright, white light with red fishtailing light below rise vertically from trees and move slowly into NW. Plainwell PD officer also observed UFO. Neither reported over radio for fear of ridicule. About 6 a.m., the deputy again looked for the light, but it had disappeared. Deputy reported it was

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Sightings

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separate and distinct from Venus. No weather balloons or aircraft reported in area at this time.

4/5, 8:30 p.m., Hartford (not formally reported to police). Observers watched UFO come from southwest, halt, and speed into northeast.

4/7, 9:06 p.m., Allen St. (Kal Twp PD), Witness and son saw UFO about 800 feet up moving slowly into west. No sound. Four or five red, light blue and white lights. At 11:05 p.m., the witness reported a similar sighting.

4/13, 12:58 a.m., WMU (Kal PD), observer and police officer saw small UFO with red, green and white flashing lights. Officer watched through binoculars and saw cigar-shaped object in horizontal position. Minutes later, it shifted to vertical and rose. Later the officer saw the UFO through 30-power telescope, but it was moving away . . . At 9:20 p.m. on Denner St., a family saw UFO north of their home. It bobbed slowly and moved from side to side. Kalamazoo officers thought it was gas balloon . . . At 9:48 p.m., a Lake St. resident reported a UFO over the fairground. It carried a blue light and also showed a red and greenish light. The UFO had moved from north to south, then turned west. Twp. police tried to get closer to the UFO, but failed. Officers saw two objects, but couldn't make out an image. They thought the UFO was in the vicinity of M-43 and US-131 . . . At 11:35 p.m., in South Haven, a UFO was seen moving southwest. It carried steady red lights and a white light. The UFO halted, four additional white lights came on, and the UFO rose while the lights brightened. The lights went off one-by-one and the UFO stopped its climb. The UFO continued its southwest direction out over Lake Michigan.

4/14, 1:15 a.m., Alamo Ave., (Kal PD). Witnesses saw stationary object that seemed to have three lights: red, green and blue. Police noted it was probably a weather balloon . . . At 9:12 p.m., Portage police checked area along Romance Rd. where observer saw white lights that turned red and descended behind a woodlot. Nothing was found after a search. Police later found that a light plant had been hedge-hopping in the area about this time.

4/21, 8:30 p.m., Keeler Twp. of Van Buren Co., (no formal report). Witness saw saucer-shaped UFO with red, white and blue lights. Sound was compared to a "hive of bees" that increased in intensity as the UFO headed into the northeast. Witness about 100 feet from the UFO.

4/22, 8 p.m., Harvey St. (Kal Twp PD), Observer showed officers flashing object over southern part of city. Police thought it to be a star or planet . . . At 8:30 p.m., a Keeler Twp. observer watched a UFO hovering over a vineyard for about a half-hour. The side view of the UFO was oval with a rounded area at the center. The observer estimated the overall length at from 15 to 20 feet. There was no estimate of thickness. The UFO had intense red, white and blue lights, and wobbled gently from side to side . . . At 11:20 p.m., three boys told Kalamazoo police they saw a triangular UFO about 30 feet long and 10 feet wide moving west at about 20 miles per hour. It had lots of lights, they said, and was about 1,300 feet up. One boy took pictures of the UFO, but the developed film was blank. Police didn't see anything at the scene.