

From another Massena report,  
see K-2, p. 223

## 4 Report Fantastic Flying Ball

HOGANSBURG, N. Y., Oct. 3 (AP).—Four northern New York residents claimed today to have seen a fantastic flying ball, powered by a motor-driven propeller, land near St. Regis and Hogansburg, then take off and vanish over Massena.

They described the ball as a dark brown rubber or plastic sphere about four feet in diameter, with no appendages other than a propeller and a two-foot brass shaft. They said it bore no markings.

Alex LaFrance, 20; Peter Phillips, 40, and Francis Arquette, 16, told police they saw it land in a field near this Canadian border Indian reservation, bounce about three times and stop.

They said the sphere took off

with a humming noise at about 25 miles an hour.

Mrs. Angus Cook, 26, a housewife, reported she heard a sound like a motor and saw the ball about 400 feet up in the sky. She said it landed about 200 yards from her home.

### SAW BALL LAND.

Checks with the U.S. Weather Bureau and the Civil Aeronautics Authority appeared to dispel the possibility that the object could have been a weather balloon.

James Mason, chief communicator at the Massena Airport CAA station, said the wind velocity at the time was three miles an hour, hardly strong enough to whip a

balloon into the air from the ground.

### 'FANTASTIC!'

At Syracuse, U. S. Meteorologist Andrew P. Keller said no object of the type described is used by his department.

In Ottawa, A. D. McClean, controller of Canadian Civil aviation, said:

"I don't know of any Canadian machine that corresponds to that description."

"Fantastic is all I can say."

New York Journal-American

Wed., Oct. 3, 1951-9

OCT. 2, 1951 11:00 AM. HOGANSBURG, N.Y. 45° Lat, 74<sup>30</sup> Long.  
A 4 foot dark brown, rubber-like ball, with a 2 foot brass shaft, and a propeller on top of shaft, landed with a humming noise in a pasture. It was later seen 400 feet in the air, came down vertically, bounced 3 times, and landed for 4 minutes. It then took off at 25 mph toward Massena, NY and was followed by 4 people in a truck. Washington Air Force spokesman and nearby colleges using meteorological balloons stated they had nothing resembling this object.  
SOURCES: NY World Telegram & Sun Oct 3; Massena Observer Oct

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N.Y.

# FOLLOW THE

OCT 3, 1951 Afternoon. Near Massena, NY. 45° Lat., 74<sup>3</sup> Long.  
The same 4 foot brown ball landed along the Scheil Channel  
SOURCE: Massena Observer Oct. 4

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# BOUNCING BALL



1951

OCT. 3

N.Y.

# LANDED, BOUNCED, TOOK OFF PAIR CHASED 'FLYING BALL'

Hogansburg, N.Y., Oct. 3.—(UP)—Residents along the Canadian-U.S. border reported seeing a "fantastic flying ball" yesterday whizzing through the skies around Massena, N.Y., and the St. Regis Indian reservation.

Several residents described the object as appearing "like a dark brown rubber or plastic ball about four feet in diameter."

Residents said the object had a two-foot brass shaft, and appeared to be carried through the air by a motor-driven propeller.

Peter Phillips, 40, and Francis Arquette, 16, told police they saw the object land in a field near here, bounce several times and then take off with a "humming noise at a speed of about 25 miles per hour."

The object disappeared in the direction of Massena, about 40 miles distant, they said.

Mrs. Angus Cook, 26, a housewife, told police she saw the ball about 400 feet in the air, then come down to land some 200 feet from her

home. Weather bureau officials discounted the possibility that the object may have been a weather balloon.

Several months ago objects seen in the Adirondacks were discovered to be small parachutes on equipment sent aloft by Massachusetts Institute of Technology in its study of atmospheric conditions.

Meteorologists at Syracuse said no object of the type seen yesterday was used by their department. C.A.A. officials also discounted the possibility that wind velocities were sufficient to carry a balloon from the ground into the air.

Alex La France and Phillips chased it for a few miles in their car, but said they were afraid to get closer than 100 yards. La France, who was carrying a .22-calibre rifle, said he did not shoot at it for fear it may have contained explosives or that someone may have been inside.

The ball, however, appeared to be too small to contain a human being.

HAMILTON SPECTATOR  
OCT. 4, 1951

## Says Flying Egg From Ancaster Does 210 m.p.h.

The aeroplane made Kitty Hawk famous, and a "flying egg" may do the same for Ancaster.

A Toronto dispatch today lists the Ancaster area as launching place for a "fantastic flying ball," reported to have been seen recently by northern New York residents.

A man who identified himself as Arthur Greenwood, telephoned information yesterday to the Canadian Press office in Toronto concerning details of a plastic, egg-shaped, electric-powered balloon.

The balloon is said to be capable of speeds up to 210 miles an hour. It has been kept secret, and was released on Tuesday in the Ancaster area, according to Mr. Greenwood. It has been recovered, and will be flown shortly over Niagara Falls.

Mr. Greenwood added that it has a range of 450 miles, and that its motor weighs 269 pounds. The balloon was being kept in a secret hiding place.

## Flying Saucer Big Ball Now, Just as Elusive as Ever

Special to World-Telegram and Sun.

HOGANSBURG, N. Y., Oct. 3.—A "fantastic flying ball" buzzed homes in this hamlet near the Canadian border, landed, took off and was pursued by some of the locals. But it got away undamaged and unidentified.

Persons who saw the thing, or said they saw it, reported it appeared "like a dark brown rubber or plastic ball, about four feet in diameter." They said it had a two-foot brass shaft and was powered by a propeller that seemed to be motor driven.

Peter Phillips, 40, and Francis Arquette, 16, said they saw the ball land in a field near here, bounce a couple of times and then take off with a "humming noise at a speed of about 25 miles per hour."

Mrs. Angus Cook, 26, a housewife, said she saw it 400 feet over home just before it landed in a field 200 feet away.

Alex LaFrance, another who said he saw the ball, chased it for a few miles in his auto. He had a rifle with him during the chase but said he was afraid to shoot at the thing because it might have contained an explosive.

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM AND SUN, OCTOBER 3, 1951

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N. Y.

## **'Flying Ball with Propeller' Makes Landings on Reservation, Last Seen Heading for Massena**

Reports of a flying ball, approximately four feet in diameter, with a propeller mounted on top, were received by village police here Tuesday. - 10/2

Alex LaFrance, 20, one of several Hogansburg residents who saw it come vertically from the skies, bounce three times and land and then take off after about three or four minutes' stay on the reservation land, reported his findings to the village police.

It was the second landing reported around 11 a.m., Tuesday.

Before then the sphere landed behind some trees in a pasture scattering horses. Andrew Laughing, an employe of the State highway department was running his grader when he saw it land behind the trees.

Then came the second landing on the property of Alex Arquette on Cook Rd.

Mr. LaFrance, Peter Phillips, 40, and Francis Arquette, 16, who had followed the thing in a truck, told police they last saw it take off in the direction of Massena at a speed of approximately 25 miles per hour.

Mrs. Angus Cook, 26, a housewife, said she first heard a sound like a motor and saw the ball about 400 feet up in the sky and land about 200 yards from her home.

Yesterday it was still reported in the reservation vicinity. Mrs. Lillie Sunday and Mrs. Charlotte Oakes told Kenneth McKinnon, head of the St. Regis Trading Co., they saw it land along the Schneil Channel along the St. Lawrence

River.

LaFrance, who had a .22 calibre rifle with him at the time he saw it land and approached it not any closer than 100 yards along with Mr. Arquette and Mr. Phillips, said he was tempted to shoot it. He thought someone might have been in it or that it might contain explosives, hence he did not shoot at the thing.

Washington Air Force and Army spokesmen Thursday denied knowledge of such a contraption as either a secret weapon or the like and termed it "fantastic."

A. D. McLean, controller of Canadian Civil Aviation in Ottawa, declared he did not know of any machine to fit the description.

Sampson Air Force Base spokesmen said they knew nothing of such air operational functions.

No object that might fit the description was the reply from Griffis Air Force Base at Rome.

"Possibly it could be a cosmic ray research balloon," Prof. Malcolm Clark of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., said, adding that "this does not mean that it is a cosmic ray balloon."

James Mason, chief communicator of the Massena airport CAA station, said at the time the object was reported to have landed in Hogansburg there was a three miles an hour wind, hardly strong enough to whip a balloon into the air.

Burlington, Vt., CAA failed to cast any light on the subject when contacted by Mr. Mason.