

1966: Baytown, TX

CE1

multijwt, but
brief.

JEM used this in his talk to House
of Reps. Symposium

3. Case 18. Baytown, Texas, July 18, 1966

Baytown, Texas, on Galveston Bay, has a population near 30,000. Several persons evidently saw an interesting object there at about 9:00 a.m. on 7/18/66. My original source on this case was an article that appeared in the 10/8/66 *Houston Post* from NICAP files. The article, by *Post* reporter Jimmie Woods, represents one of those rare UFO feature stories in which fact is well blended with human interest, as I found when I subsequently interviewed one of the principal witnesses, W. T. Jackson, at whose service station he and assistant Kelly Dikeman made the sighting. Both were inside the station when Jackson spotted the object hovering motionless about 100 yards away. (The *Post* said 1000 yards, but Jackson pointed out that Woods interviewed him while he was waiting on customers at the station and the reporter didn't get all of it correct.)

Jackson explained to me that the object "lay right over the Dairy Queen." He described it as a white object that "looked like two saucers turned together with a row of square windows in between", and he thought it might have been 50 feet in diameter. He called Dikeman over, and they both looked at it for a few seconds and then simultaneously started for the door to get a better look. Almost at that moment it started moving westward. Dikeman was at the door before Jackson and had the last view of it as it passed over a water tower, beyond buildings and a refinery and was gone, "faster than any airplane." Jackson described it as pure white, and definitely not spinning, since he saw clearly the features that he termed "windows." Jackson kept the incident to himself for a time; when it got out, two nurses who were unwilling to give him their names because "they didn't want to be laughed at" stopped at his station and told him they had seen it from another part of Baytown.

Discussion.—"Swamp gas" explanations were then still featured in press discussions of UFOs, and Jackson volunteered the comment that there are no swamps nearby and that it was "too high for any gas formations" he knew of. "It damned sure wasn't no fireball," Jackson told the *Post* reporter, and also commented, "Feller, when you set there and count the windows it ain't no damn reflection." I received similar salty commentary on various hypotheses when I spoke with Jackson. No sound was heard, yet, as Jackson put it, "if it had been any kind of jet, we'd have been deafened." As in many other cases, a distinctly machine-like configuration, definite outlines, secondary "structural" features here termed "windows", add up to a description that does not suggest any misinterpreted natural phenomenon. That it hovered within a city of moderate size with only a total of two declared and two other undeclared witnesses is not entirely difficult to understand when one has interviewed large numbers of witnesses for whom the likelihood of ridicule was an almost sufficient deterrent to open reporting.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
TUCSON, ARIZONA
INSTITUTE OF ATMOSPHERIC PHYSICS

Don: *Don Brodman, Houston Tribune,
4901 Richmond
Houston, Tex 77027*

3-8-67

That Baytown, Texas, case occurred on July 18, 1966, and is written up in the Thursday, Sept. 8, 1966 Houston Post.

Witnesses in Post story are two mechanics, W. T. Jackson and Kelly Dikeman. Time 0900, object "looked like two saucers turned together with a row of square windows between". They differed on their size estimates, Jackson put it at maybe 50 feet indiameter, Dikeman smaller. Jackson had watched it for over half a minute in silenece before calling to Dikeman. Estimated distance 1000 yards. A moment after Dikeman looked at it the object darted off to the west.

Jac'son states that he spent 19 years in the Army, retiring as a Captain; his homespun diction and vocabulary did make me wonder a bit about that, but there are some unpolished Army officers running around. Everything else in his account, including his obvious annoyance at being bothered by me and by others before me, rang, pretty true. I did not talk to Dikeman.

Jackson's phone last fall was AC 713 583-4145.

Jackson confirmed to me the Post's remarks about confirmatory observations by two nurses who stopped by and told him of their concurrent observations, but refused to give names -- not uncommon in these incidents. I have more on this, but this should give you some leads if you're interested in checking. I'd say it's a moderately interesting one. I liked Jackson's salty comment to the Post man, "Feller, when you set there and count the windows on it, it ain't no damned reflection." He talks just like that.

Regards, jem

10-1-66

Dear Dick:

This is for your file on the July 18, 1966 sighting by Mr. W. T. Jackson, Baytown, Texas, phone AC 713 ~~583-4145~~ (home).

I wanted to check some of the points in the Sept. 8, 1966 article from the Houston Post that you'd sent me last week. It developed that most of the Post account was confirmed by Jackson, though J pointed out he was interviewed while running back and forth at his service station, waiting on customers, so the reporter didn't get all of it correct. Two points of difference: (1) Where the article says it was hovering at a distance of 1000 yds, Jackson said he'd put it at about 100 yds (so may be a typo). Said it was not over a city-block distance ("lay right over the Dairy Queen"). He was very emphatic that he got a very good look at it. (2) In his comments to me he said that he looked at it for a total of only about 4-5 seconds. This agrees with one part of the story in the paper, so may be presumed correct. Earlier in the story he seems to be quoted as saying he'd been quietly looking at it for "a good 40 seconds before I said anything to Kelly about it". I double-checked him on that and he said that he just looked up and there it was and he asked Dikeman if he saw it, etc.

He was not able to avoid ambiguities in his use of the word "round", but I concluded (without badgering him at too great length since he made it clear he's sick of people calling him up about it) that when he said it was "probably round", he was referring to plan view circularity. He confirmed that it was longer than it was high, and confirmed the rough size figures given in the Post. Also confirmed that it was perfectly white, and definitely not spinning, since he stressed the point that he was able to make out the "windows" unmistakably.

I confirmed that he'd been in the Army 19 years and that he'd been a Captain. He said he'd never paid much attention to flying saucer reports before that incident but now he was darned well certain they were real. Said it was soundless and was so close that had it been any sort of jet aircraft they'd have been deafened. At the end of the article some "confirmations" are indicated. He said two nurses, who refused to give them his name at the time for fear of being made fun of, stopped by and told him they'd seen it from a point about a mile distant. Same description as his, he told me. He added that many others have called him up or stopped at the station or written him to say they also saw UFOs. A close friend of his, a Jack Adcock, came by and told Jackson that though he'd never before told a soul other than his wife, he'd had "one" hover along just above and ahead of his pickup for about 15 minutes a year or two ago on the highway. (That phenomenon of the evoked reports never fails to be amusing, does it?) One of the more con-

Jackson

vincing facets of the problem.)

He mentioned that in his mail was a long set of forms from some outfit in Washington. Said he's not yet gotten around to even looking at the forms they seemed so complicated. Presumably you sent them, I assured him that if it was NICAP, it would be very helpful to fill them out and send them in. He seemed afraid it was from crackpots. I hope it wasn't.

In summary of what I got out of the phone call, I'd say that Jackson sounded entirely straightforward, obviously strong impressed by the unusual nature of what he'd seen, probably not either well educated nor extremely astute, but fully able to communicate the fact that there was something over there above the Dairy Queen "that sure as hell wasn't no airplane."

Note that Baytown is not far from the Damon, Texas area where the interesting September 3, 1965 sighting by two sheriff's deputies took place. I tried this afternoon to contact Deputy McCoy to quiz him on that one but he's left the force, apparently.

Regards,

JEMcDonald

*Also WTS confirmed object "took off like a flash"
He was blocked by Dehman so didn't see it shoot off. It went
off toward the refinery.*

electrical apparatus found at the death scene. Poison, violence, and asphyxiation were also ruled out. Blood was found on a patch of ground nearby, but it was not from either of the two bodies! Also found were a lady's handkerchief, a raincoat, sunglasses, a toothbrush, and other apparently meaningless clues.

Although the police tended to ridicule the flying saucer angle of the case, the original report by the woman living nearby was later confirmed by several other people who telephoned police to tell of similar sightings they had made at exactly the same time. (UPI, 8/25/66, 8/26/66; Reuters, 8/24/66, 8/28/66. Credit: Jim Yerkes, Gladys Fusaro, Henning Von Hippel, and David Martin.)

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP: On the night of July 31st, three UFOs landed for several minutes on a hilltop near Ovalle, Chile, after an observation mission over the area. One UFO had an antenna of some kind, from which a brilliant searchlight came forth. There was severe radio interference throughout the area while the objects were in sight. Among the many people who observed this phenomenon were employees of the National Electrical Plant at Los Molles, near Ovalle, who gathered with other people in the neighborhood to watch the strange machines.

On August 7th, two luminous flying objects landed in the main square of the town of Tanchachin, near San Luis Potosi, Mexico. One of the objects was oval shaped, and the other was cigar shaped, according to the many witnesses. Dozens of people ran from their homes to the square, to see what had happened. Those arriving early reported seeing "strange apparatus" in the interior of one of the saucers, but no sign of life. Those who arrived late said that the machines had disappeared "as if by magic", and there was nothing left in the square but a cloud of smoke.

Finally, we note that UFOs have returned to Peru, after an absence of many weeks. On July 22nd, one was seen over the mountain town of Santiago de Chuco, flying at an altitude of only 300 feet. It was shaped like two plates put together, and was orange in color, according to the frightened reports made by hundreds of residents of the tiny town. (Credit: Henning Von Hippel.)

CLOSE UFO SIGHTING IN TEXAS: In broad daylight on July 18th, two attendants at a gasoline service station in Baytown, near Houston, Texas, saw a flying saucer pass low over their garage. The men, named W. T. Jackson and Kelly Dikeman, observed the UFO at tree-top level. Although it was only in sight for a few seconds, they were able to discern a considerable amount of detail. The object was 30 feet or more in diameter, and three to ten feet thick. It was "pure white" in color, and had a row of square windows in the side. The UFO bore no markings, and nothing was visible through the windows. The witnesses, fearing ridicule, waited for over a week before telling anyone. Eventually, the story was printed in a local newspaper. (The Houston, Texas Post, 9/9/66. Credit: Cope Wiseman.)

UFO FLAP IN THE SOUTHEAST: During the early morning hours of July 27th, two flying saucers were seen by hundreds of people, including police, over a wide section of North Carolina, including Winston-Salem, Greensboro, High Point, Asheboro, and Ramseur. The objects did not have the slow, continuous movement of satellites, and were reported to have changed direction at least once, and to have changed color many times. One UFO was photographed by a reporter from the High Point, N.C. Enterprise (see photos on Page 18,) and an unnamed amateur photographer took more than 60 pictures, which we have not seen.

At almost exactly the same time, in Richmond, Virginia, a milkman making his rounds told police that an unidentified object at "twice tree-top level" traveled from southeast to northwest, frightening him badly. The UFO had on it

Reflections Don't Have Windows Flying Saucer Witness contends

By JIMMIE WOODS
Post Reporter

"Feller, when you set there and count the windows on it, it ain't no damn reflection."

W. T. (Red) Jackson shot a look of disgust at his questioner, pulled the blue cap a little lower over his weathered face and spat tobacco juice on the driveway.

STILL, HE LOOKED a little sheepish about admitting that he watched a flying saucer skim over his service station at 7499 Bayway Drive in Baytown in broad daylight.

"I was working on my credit cards," Jackson said, "and I looked up and it was settin' here just over them trees, and I wish to hell I'd never looked up the way people been givin' it to me. 'You got my little green men runnin' round up there?'"

"Kelly Dikeman — that's D-I-K-E-M-A-N, Dikeman — Kelly seen it, too. He seen it fly off or I wouldn't of told nobody."

JACKSON KEPT IT a secret for a week because he knew he would be in for it once the story was out.

Owners of small service stations simply do not look up at the sky at 9 o'clock in the morning and see, hovering before them, a big, saucer-shaped, pure white object maybe 50 feet in diameter and 10 feet from top to bottom; and if they do, not many broadcast it.

Jackson said the object appeared about 9 AM July 18, clear, sunny morning in Baytown. He said it looked like 10 saucers turned together with a row of square windows between — "That'd be the best explanation I could give you."

It bore no markings and nothing was visible through its windows.

"IT WAS WHITE as white could be," Dikeman, the other witness, said. "A kind of glowing white. It was round, smooth outside. It wasn't spinning, just kind of sailing. I never saw anything like it."

Dikeman thought it would measure 30 feet or more in diameter and three feet or so thick, big enough to contain a pilot "if he was layin' down." Jackson thought it was quite a bit thicker, 10 or 12 feet from top to bottom.

"He got a better look at it than I did," Dikeman said. "It was goin' so fast I couldn't tell too much about it."

"I SET HERE and watched it a good 40 seconds before I said anything to Kelly about it," Jackson said.

When he first saw it, Jackson said, the saucer was about 1,000 yards away and stationary, hovering about 1,500 feet off the ground above the woods across the street east of his station.

"It was just to the left of that gas pump," he said, pointing, "right between them two tall trees when I saw it. Just settin' there. I was so damn' startled I didn't know whether I was havin' hallucinations or what. Nineteen years in the Army, and I was still startled."

JACKSON SAID, "Look what is that?" Dikeman related. "And I said, 'I don't know.' He said, 'That must be a flying saucer.' And I says, 'Well, I don't know. The only flying saucer I ever saw was at home.'"

As both men broke for the door to get a better look.

Jackson said the saucer darted away to the west.

"I DIDN'T SEE where it went," Jackson said. "Kelly got to the door first and he's a big man, 200 pounds, and I couldn't run over him."

"The best I could tell," Dikeman said, "it came out of the woods on the east side and went over that (water) tower and went west. If it kept going straight, it looked like it might hit the tower."

"IT CROSSED BAYWAY right west of the service station, went over Lewis and Coker's store, and it was gone, just like that. It was only visible maybe about four seconds."

Dikeman, 55, who is retired from Humble Oil's Baytown Refinery and occasionally lends Jackson a hand at the station, said the saucer was faster than any airplane he ever saw.

"OH, YES, SIR. They couldn't a jet go that fast," he said.

The two men, skeptical about flying saucers before they saw one, are now equally skeptical of the recently published theories that unidentified flying objects really are only swamp gas or vagrant electrical currents.

"It damn' sure wasn't no fire ball like they said in the Houston Post the other day," Jackson snorted.

Dikeman said what he saw was too high for any kind of gas formation he knows of and there are no swamps in the woods where the saucer appeared. Jackson, 48, an ex-Army captain and a former refinery employee, said swamp gas and fire balls do not have windows.

NEITHER MAN had ever seen anything — not anything real, at least — to compare to the UFO.

"Well, perhaps, some of those illustrated drawings they've put out," Jackson said.



HE SAW IT TOO
Kelly Dikeman Vouches for Saucer Story

When the story got out, Jackson said, several men from Houston came of his home at 1201 Bayliss to interview him.

"SOME FELLER named Owens from Houston — say, you know anybody named Owens? — well, he got me to make a statement and wanted me to sign it," he said. "Hell, I signed it."

At times, kidders have deviled him so much, Jackson said, that he has taken the telephone receiver off the hook at home. Even his wife didn't believe him at first, but "she finally does now."

There is one consistency he said. Two Baytown men also saw the saucer morning "and I wish I had 15 of 'em in here in my messes."

"THEY WERE GETTI' out of their car in the bay," Jackson said. "I don't know what hospital, or wouldn't tell me their names. They said, 'We're not to be laughed at.'"

"They came in here; me they saw it, too," he said. "We just wanted you know you're not."

"I wish I'd got their number."

THIS GUY & DALE SPARK
WENT TO GET THEM