

1952: Yuma, AZ

CE1 with motion coincident color change.

Summary Sheet of Unidentified Flying Object
April, 1952...Yuma, Arizona ...

It was twelve years ago, and possibly of little value at this point in time. However, no detail could be forgotten from that night in April, 1952. It was a calm night, not as usual for Yuma, Arizona. My date, Lt. Gerald Williams, USAF, and I had gone to a drive-in movie. The movies start late due to the lack of darkness and the first feature was approximately one-half finished when I decided to get out of the car. An extremely bright light caught my eyes from an angle to the right side of the movie screen. The object which emitted the light was one of the most awe-inspiring sights I have ever seen. I stood looking transfixed, for I had never seen anything like this. It was quite large, appearing to be the size of a car at the range, which I later judged, to be 350 feet. It was beautiful in a weird way. The shape was that of two gently sloping bowls...each with rims to the other and bottoms circular and flat. It almost seemed to be actually a portion of the landscape, for it was not very high in the sky and its form was completely illuminated by its own lighting system. The top portion rotated ever so slowly and I would not have noticed any movement if what may have been scars, indentations, or some type of markings had not appeared and disappeared. It was possible that the lower portion moved also, but I did not feel that it did. The center rim or ring housed the yellow and rose red pastel lights which completely bathed the object in light. This rim would not have extended more than an eighth of the diameter of the object and the reflected glow showed the band or rim to be of sizeable height. With all the car windows open and the volume of the car speakers on, it would be impossible to say for sure that there was no sound, but I do not believe that there was any. It merely sat there and the top moved slowly...I called into the car for Gerry and he too got out as soon as he saw my sighting. We stood by the car in absolute awe. Finally catching his breath, I recall him saying, "I've never seen anything like that before in my life...My God, it is huge." As I leaned over and tried to tap the shoulder of the man in the next car, the object's lights became a pale, honest green and the object moved steadily and smoothly up and down twice. I was sure it would come over the top of the cars for it did appear to be something that could handle itself with ease. But, instead, it veered to the rear at a 30 degree angle and in an extremely rapid time it 'flew' out of sight. I was speechless & we got back in the car. Both of us were limp by that time and I called to the man next car to us and asked if he had seen the peculiar object up there. He said he'd been absorbed in the movie and what was it I saw. We merely said just something odd. We began to realize then that this was something very unusual and tho Gerry was a pilot we had neither seen anything shaped, colored or with speed such as this. We decided to leave for home at that point and we went back to the motel where my family had been staying

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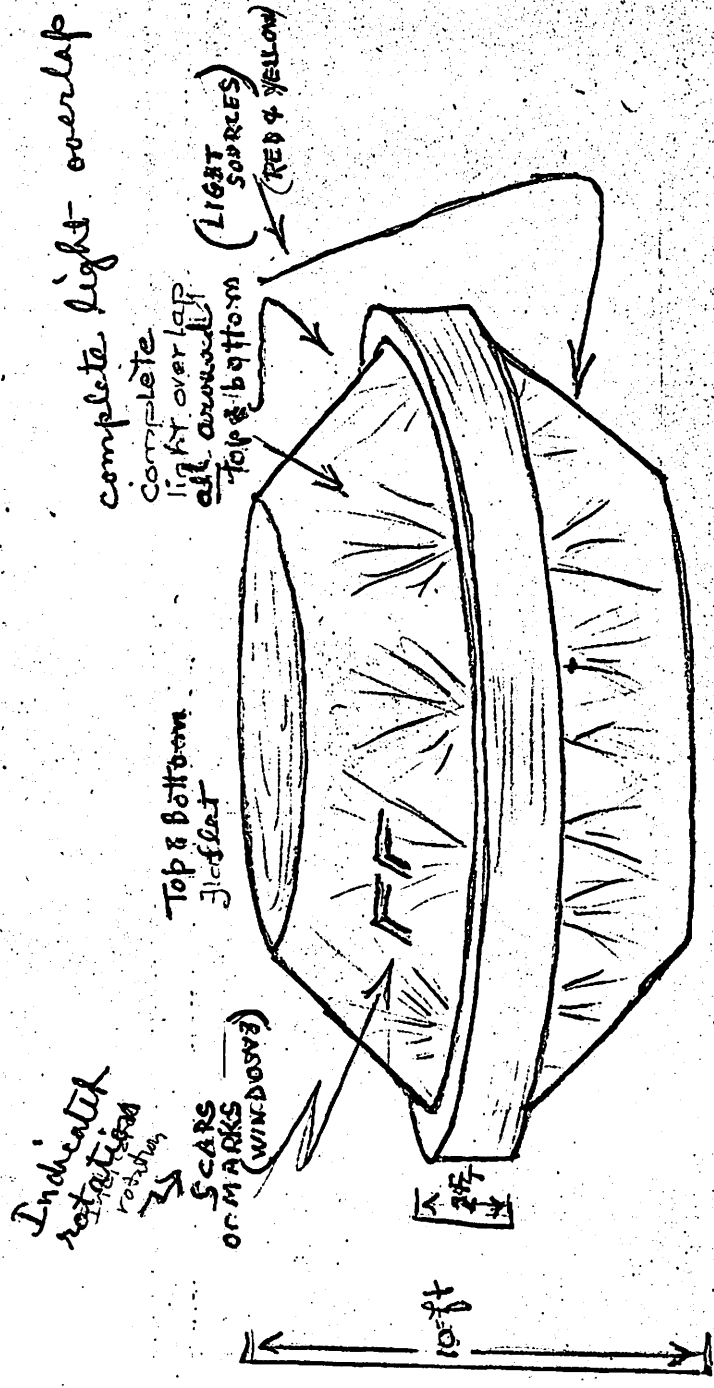
prior to finding a house. We were to be stationed in Yuma on USAF orders for my father who was at that time a Colonel. When we came in, my father asked if we had been in an accident. He said we both were white enough to have seen a ghost or been in an accident. When we related what happened, he called the YAFB and located the home phone number of the Public Information Officer. I do not know for a fact that the Captain that arrived some time later was the P.I. Officer or whether he was someone designated by him. The gentleman was obviously skeptical and took Lt. Williams' and my statement, in part, by longhand. He asked a few questions of us but the whole vein was one of ridicule, as far as he dared, with my father there. I do remember that he asked Lt. Williams why he was here: to which, he replied, that he was on leave from the Air Base in Portland, Oregon. P.I.O. asked him if he was on Medical or R&R. He was not on either but the insinuation was there, nevertheless. When the Captain was ready to leave he told all of us that it might be a good idea not to discuss this incident with anyone.....He left us with the air that it wasn't top secret but that it was a hallucination. After three weeks of checking the local paper, we have yet to note anything more or hear of anyone else having sighted this object. Yet after a positive 30 second time-in-view lapse and a very possible one minute-complete time, it does seem that something wasn't 'foul in Denmark', but was foul in Yuma.


(Mrs. Robert L.)

I would like to add that my father the Colonel, was on orders to take over as Commanding Officer of the Yuma Air Force Base. At this time (1964) he is retired. He retired in 1954. His full name and present address is as follows:

Edward R. Diggs, Colonel, USAF Rtd.
1045 Shook Ave.
San Antonio, Texas

TAP 3
ED

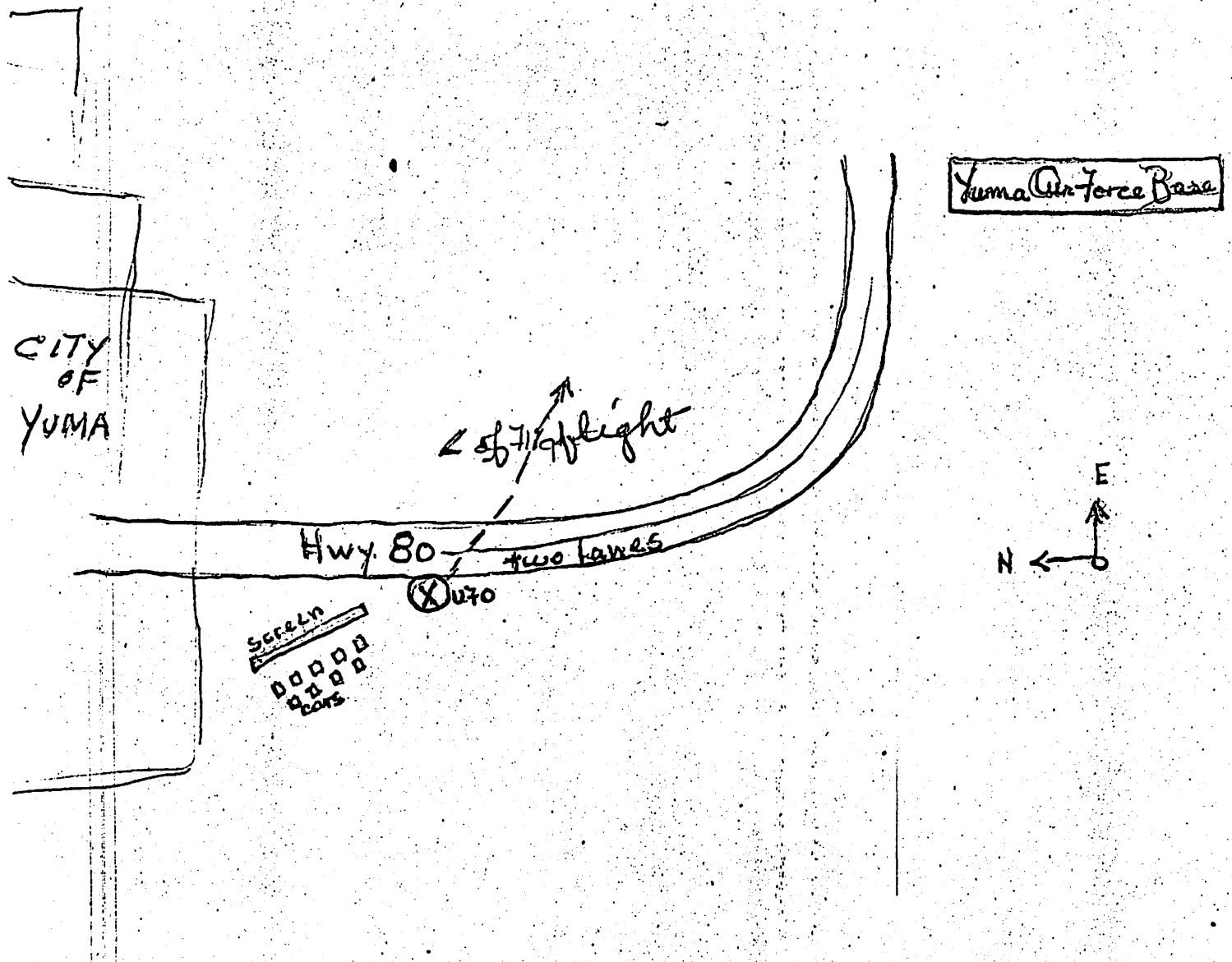


Only in 3 dimensions & color could this sketch model come close.

The approximate sketch below shows sparse habitation for 12 years ago Yuma, Arizona was a speck on the map. The area was primarily desert.

Don, if this is not what you meant - please call me.

The approximate sketch below shows sparse habitation, for 12 years ago Yuma, Arizona was a speck on the map. The area was primarily desert. Don, if this is not what you meant, please call me.



1752, April 16 or 11

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

1536 Connecticut Avenue N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

rec'd Aug or Sept 1964

North 7-9434

REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT(S)


This form includes questions asked by the United States Air Force and by other Armed Forces' investigating agencies, and additional questions to which answers are needed for full evaluation by NICAP.

After all the information has been fully studied, the conclusion of our Evaluation Panel will be published by NICAP in its regularly issued magazine or in another publication. Please try to answer as many questions as possible. Should you need additional room, please use another sheet of paper. Please print or typewrite. Your assistance is of great value and is genuinely appreciated. Thank you.

1. Name Mrs. Robert L. Tench Place of Employment XXX
 Formally Sally Ann Diggs
 Address ^{formerly} 6639 Normandy Dr. Occupation Housewife
 Newark, Calif. Education 1 yr. of college at U of Chicago at
 Telephone Special Training XXX time of sighting.
 Military Service XXX
2. Date of Observation April, 1952 (after Easter) Time 9:00 AM (PM) Time Zone MST
3. Locality of Observation Drive-In-Theatre in Yuma, Arizona
4. How long did you see the object? Hours Minutes Seconds 30 seconds to a minute
5. Please describe weather conditions and the type of sky; i.e., bright daylight, nighttime, dusk, etc. Nighttime on a clear cloudless evening.
6. Position of the Sun or Moon in relation to the object and to you. No Moon
7. If seen at night, twilight, or dawn, were the stars or moon visible? Stars were visible, but no Moon.
8. Were there more than one object? NO. If so, please tell how many, and draw a sketch of what you saw, indicating direction of movement, if any. (SEE ATTACHED SHEETS & DRAWINGS)
9. Please describe the object(s) in detail. For instance, did it (they) appear solid, or only as a source of light; was it revolving, etc? Please use additional sheets of paper, if necessary. The object appeared solid and self-luminated. (See type-written summary sheet attached)
10. Was the object(s) brighter than the background of the sky? Yes.
11. If so, compare the brightness with the Sun, Moon, headlights, etc. Object was bright, but not glaring.
12. Did the object(s) — (Please elaborate, if you can give details.)
 - a. Appear to stand still at any time? Yes
 - b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? Yes
 - c. Break up into parts or explode? NO
 - d. Give off smoke? NO
 - e. Leave any visible trail? NO
 - f. Drop anything? NO
 - g. Change brightness? Yes, intensity changed when object began to move away.
 - h. Change shape? NO
 - i. Change color? Yes--color changed from yellow-red to true, pale green when the object started moving up and down and away.
13. Did the object(s) at any time pass in front of, or behind of, anything? If so, please elaborate giving distance, size, etc, if possible. No.
14. Was there any wind? NO. If so, please give direction and speed. XXX
15. Did you observe the object(s) through an optical instrument or other aid, windshield, windowpane, storm window, screening, etc? NO. What?
16. Did the object(s) have any sound? None noted What kind? XXX How loud? XXX
17. Please tell if the object(s) was (were) —
 - a. Fuzzy or blurred.
 - b. Like a bright star.
 - c. Sharply outlined. The object was quite sharply outlined.

18. Was the object —
- a. Self-luminous? The object was self-luminous.
 - b. Dull finish?
 - c. Reflecting?
 - d. Transparent?
19. Did the object(s) rise or fall while in motion? Yes--it rose and fell a couple of feet when the object started to leave.
20. Tell the apparent size of the object(s) when compared with the following held at arm's length: it was the size of an automobile at about 350 ft. away.
- | | | |
|------------|------------------|---------------|
| a. Pinhead | d. Nickel | g. Orange |
| b. Pea | e. Half dollar | h. Grapefruit |
| c. Dime | f. Silver dollar | i. Larger |

Or, if easier, give apparent size in inches on a ruler held at arm's length.

21. How did you happen to notice the object(s)? When stepping out of the car, the bright light caught my attention.
22. Where were you and what were you doing at the time? Watching a movie in a drive-in theatre.
23. How did the object(s) disappear from view? It rose and fell twice and then began to move away accelerating to a tremendous speed.
24. Compare the speed of the object(s) with a piston or jet aircraft at the same apparent altitude. This object was much faster than any aircraft that I knew of at the time. (1952)
25. Were there any conventional aircraft in the location, at the time or immediately afterwards? If so, please elaborate. None were observed or noted.
26. Please estimate the distance of the object(s). between 250 to 450 feet away.
27. What was the elevation of the object(s) in the sky? Please mark on this hemisphere sketch: the object was approx. as high as a 3 story building.
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28. Names and addresses of other witnesses, if any. Lt. Gerald Williams, USAF, on leave from USAF Base in Portland, Ore. His home address at the time was Durham, N. C.
29. Please draw a map of the locality of the observation showing North; your position; the direction from which the object(s) appeared and disappeared from view; the direction of its course over the area; roads, towns, villages, railroads, and other landmarks within a mile.

(See attached summary sheet)

30. Is there an airport, military, governmental, or research installation in the area? Yes-- 1. Yuma Air Force Base, 2. Yuma Army Test Station, 3. Civilian airport.
31. Have you seen other objects of an unidentified nature? If so, please describe these observations, using a separate sheet of paper. No.
32. Please enclose photographs, motion pictures, news clippings, notes of radio or television programs (include time, station and date, if possible) regarding this or similar observations, or any other background material. We will return the material to you. We looked and listened in papers, on radio and TV but found nothing...
33. Were you interrogated by Air Force investigators? By any other federal, state, county, or local officials? If so, please state the name and rank or title of the agent, his office, and details as to where and when the questioning took place. We were questioned before midnite that night at the El Rancho Motel by a Capt. USAF from P.I.O. Were you asked or told not to reveal or discuss the incident? If so, were any reasons or official orders mentioned? Please elaborate carefully. We were told that it might be a good idea not to discuss the incident with anyone.
34. We should like permission to quote your name in connection with this report. This action will encourage other responsible citizens to report similar observations to NICAP. However, if you prefer, we will keep your name confidential. Please note your choice by checking the proper statement below. In any case, please fill in all parts of the form, for our own confidential files. Thank you for your cooperation.

You may use my name. (X)

Please keep my name confidential. ()

35. Date of filling out this report: 30 Aug. 1964

Signature: *James J. Jensen*

September 23, 1964

Saturn
disc

AIR MAIL

Colonel Edward R. Diggs, USAF (Ret).
1045 Shook Avenue
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Colonel Diggs:

Tench

We have received a report from your daughter, Mrs. Robert L. ~~Tench~~ on an unidentified flying object (UFO) which she and Lt. Gerald Williams observed at a drive-in theater in Yuma, Arizona in 1952. She lists the date as April, sometime after Easter. We are writing in the hope that you will be able to help us pin down the date more precisely.

Your daughter mentioned that you were staying in a motel while looking for a home, and that you were on orders at the time to take over as Commanding Officer of Yuma Air Force Base. The weather was hot. Would it be possible for you to calculate the date from this information?

No doubt you are aware of the Air Force policies on UFOs, and the official contention that no such objects exist. We have been investigating UFO reports, independently as a private, non-profit organization, and have accumulated considerable evidence to contradict the official position.

As you will note on the enclosed list of our Board of Governors, many reputable persons (including a number of former USAF personnel) are supporting our program of investigation and full disclosure of reliable information to the public. We would be interested to have your views on this matter.

If you would like to have more information about NICAP, I would be glad to supply it.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Hall

Richard Hall
Acting Director

RH:h
Encl:1

RECEIVED SEP 29 1964

1045 Shook Avenue,
San Antonio, Texas,
25 September 1964.

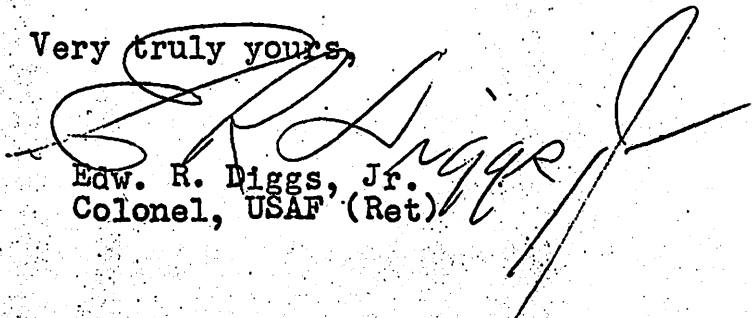
Mr. Richard Hall, Acting Director,
National Investigations Committee, AEP,
Washington 6, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hall:

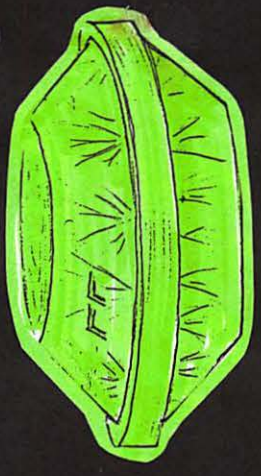
In response to your letter, dated September 23rd., the best approximation I can give you as to the date of the alleged phenomenon is the 16th. or 17th. of April, 1952.

As I did not observe the manifestation, there is little I can add, except to say that the sighting appeared to have caused quite a stir among those present at the drive-in theater at the time.

Very truly yours,

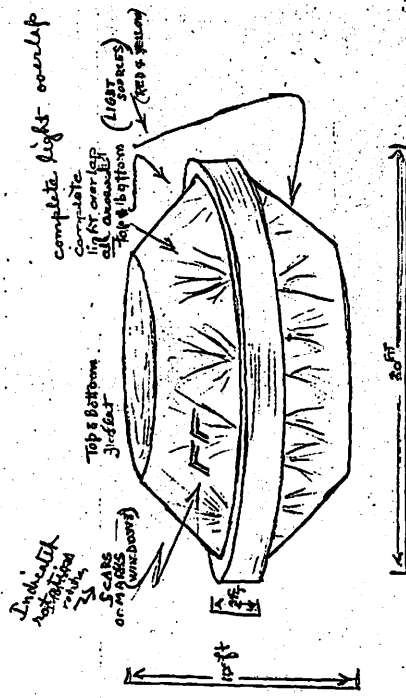

Edw. R. Diggs, Jr.
Colonel, USAF (Ret)

gone



hover

1952: Yuma, AZ



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