

# 1953: the man who shot a saucer. Conway, SC.

January 29th. Something over Conway.

Farmer Lloyd C. Booth of Conway, South Carolina, was worried. Something strange was happening to his livestock. The night of January 29, 1953 farmer Booth was up late (11:15 p.m.) and he intended to make some coffee and read a little but, after putting the pot on the stove and glancing at the newspaper, farmer Booth's thoughts turned to the loss of a cow the previous evening. The cow had just up and died for no good reason as far as he could tell. He couldn't figure it out since the animal seemed quite healthy. Making it more strange was the fact that other farmers in the area were also having similar trouble with cows dying. Veterinaries called in for an opinion could only surmise that the animals were being killed by some sort of poisoning.

While pondering the demise of his cow, farmer Booth was startled by the ducks, chickens and mules out in the barn making a loud racket. Farmer Booth grabbed a .22 pistol and dashed outdoors. Finding no prowler, farmer Booth did discover what was causing all the excitement. Some 10 feet above the tops of some trees near the barn was a weird-looking "machine" shaped like an egg "cut end to end" about 25 feet long, 13 feet wide, and about 9 feet high. On one end there was a white light. On the flat bottom there was a protrusion 3 1/2 by 3 1/2 feet running half the length. The front end had a glassed-over area that was too tinted to see through and in the rear there was another "cockpit" that was visible since it was lit up, but because of the cloudy nature of the "glass" it was not transparent. Perhaps what was most interesting was the three foot wide opening on the bottom where a "crescent-shaped" protrusion was visible which Mr. Booth guessed was part of a wheel. By the time Mr. Booth finished with his quick inspection of the "machine," he noticed that the thing was not hovering in one place but was slowly floating in his direction while it emitted a weak hum.\*

Farmer Booth tried to wake up his family in the farmhouse by yelling but failed to arouse them, so he followed the object walking underneath as it drifted west only 90 feet above him. Knowing he could not follow too far because of the swampy ground, Mr. Booth pointed his pistol at the "machine" and pulled the trigger. At 90 feet he couldn't miss. A sharp "Ping" was heard by Booth and the bullet apparently caused the object to react. The UFO emitted a louder hum and tilted up at about a 65-degree angle. The instant the object was positioned, it zoomed up into the dark night sky at a tremendous speed.

The pistol shot finally alerted Booth's family to the fact that something was going on outside that needed to be investigated. Mr. Booth's parents and his brother were now out of bed but farmer Booth was the only one to see the strange "visitor" to the family farm.

Fearing ridicule, it took a week before farmer Booth breathed a word to anyone other than his relatives but finally he worked up enough courage to tell a good friend, Rev. Elwell Jones, pastor of the Horry County Baptist Church. It was the minister that eventually told authorities. Rev. Jones was a staunch defender of Booth, maintaining that the farmer was a person of the highest character. 128.

↑  
From NICAP's Strange Effects from UFOs.



The Lloyd Booth case continued.

Word of the fantastic Lloyd Booth shooting incident finally reached BLUE BOOK. Lt. Flues was manning the UFO desk at ATIC, Wright Field, during the absence of Capt. Ruppelt, and he quickly sent an official teletype message to the Air Force base nearest to the city of Conway:

"Request you investigate circumstances surrounding the sighting by Lloyd C. Booth of Conway, South Carolina, of an unidentified flying object. Booth runs a store and service station on Highway 701, eight miles north of Conway, S.C. The story of his sighting received considerable publicity in the February issue of the newspaper Columbia State of Columbus, S.C. 150.

Here's how BLUE BOOK files describe Booth's UFO: "Large oblong-shaped object appearing to be a dull gray color. Traveled slowly at a low altitude. Observer fired at object with a pistol and it shot upward at a high rate of speed. Object carried (sic) a low humming sound." 151.

On the same BLUE BOOK case file card is this "conclusion." Conclusion: "Navy Blimp." The reason for this conclusion was the following: "Pope AFB, S.C., reported that 3 navy blimps were in the area at the time of the sighting and that it was a great possibility that Mr. Booth saw one of them. The observer doubts the possibility of the object being a blimp." 152.

(Loren Gross  
entries)

On January 29, 1953, at Conway, South Carolina, an ex-Intelligence Officer for the Air Force, Lloyd C. Booth, was returning to his parents' home at 1 A.M., when he heard the pigs squealing behind his father's barn, and the horses were kicking their stalls. He reported to authorities that upon investigating he found a disc-shaped UFO hovering at an altitude over a clump of trees behind the barn. He said that he got under the object and fired several shots from a .22 calibre rifle, some of which scored audible hits before the object could get underway. Following this report, the military conducted an intensive search of the area, using electronic metal-detecting gear in an attempt to locate the spent bullets which might have fallen after failing to pierce the UFO. What they found, if anything, was not divulged.

Frank Edwards' note on case in  
Flying Saucers: Serious Business,  
showing how sensationalistic &  
unreliable he was.

## CAA Man Says Booth Saw Navy Blimp

STATE 2-16-53  
WILMINGTON, N. C., Feb. 15 (AP)

— If anyone doubts the word of Horry County farmer Lloyd Booth when he says he saw strange lights in a strange object in the sky last Jan. 29, they can quit questioning, says C. W. Hall.

Hall, an employe at the Civil Aeronautics Administration, control tower at Blumenthal Field here, says he's positive Booth saw just what he says he saw but just didn't know what it was.

Booth said he left his house that night when he heard his mules braying, chickens cackling and ducks quacking. It was about 11:15 p. m., he said, and he took a .22 pistol along.

By the light of a full moon he saw a strange object hovering above the tops of nearby pine trees.

Booth said the overall streamlined effect was something like half an egg cut from end to end.

"I heard a bullet hit the object. It made a metallic sound and just bounced off. I fired again but did not hear the bullet hit. A bare instant later, the object began making considerably more noise and took off at a high rate of speed at about a 65 degree angle. It kept that same course until it was completely out of sight."

Hall chuckles when he thinks about Booth shooting at the "object."

"There's no question in my mind but that Booth saw a Navy blimp. I came on duty that night at midnight and about 2 a. m. saw two blimps northbound from Glynco, Ga., to Weeksville, N. C. A third was about 30 minutes behind them. That would make the time just about right for Booth to have seen one about 11:15 p. m.



# (Loren Cross entry)

Was the UFO reported by Lloyd Booth a blimp?

Here's Booth's answer as it appeared in the February 19, 1953 issue of the Conway, South Carolina, newspaper The Field:

"The Horry County farmer who on January 29 became the only man in the world to shoot a flying saucer today debunked a CAA suggestion that he might actually have 'wounded' a Navy blimp.

"Lloyd C. Booth, 29, said: 'I have seen many blimps and I've even been in one. I'd certainly know a blimp when I see one 80 feet over my head.'

"That was the height of the unidentified object which floated slowly over Booth's farm on the eventful night and which soared away after he shot at it with a .22 pistol. Booth sighted the object after a commotion among his livestock sent him in search of a possible prowler.

"The blimp suggestion came yesterday from C.W. Hall of the CAA control tower at Bluethenthal Field, Wilmington, N.C., Hall said three Navy blimps were en route from Glymso, Ga., to Weeksville, N.C., on January 29 and that one of them could have easily have passed over Horry County at midnight when Booth was patrolling his farm.

"High headwinds kept the blimps low, Hall said, which was why Booth spotted one just ten feet above the lines on his land.

"Booth rejected the blimp possibility on the basis of his past experience with the craft. He added: 'I was with an anti-aircraft unit for 22 months during the war and I was trained to identify planes on sight. If the object I saw and shot was a plane or a blimp, I surely would have known. I watched the thing for almost 30 minutes.'" Also: "It took off at a speed I'd estimate at 700 miles an hour," Booth said today. "I never heard of a blimp going that fast." 184.

The newspaper added this:

"CAA-man Hall opined that an investigation of the Blimps now at Weekville would reveal a dent in the bottom of one of them where Booth shot it. The Navy has not announced any such damage or indicated any association with the shooting since the event was reported.

"Reports of flying saucers have been frequent in this area during the past few weeks. One was seen near Myrtle Beach a week before the Booth shooting. A Marine Corps jet pilot pursued and lost a strange craft along the Carolina coast. Last Friday, another was seen by four people at Myrtle Beach, heard by another, then seen by six others a few minutes later over Marion, S.C.

"Latest reports were made last night when three Myrtle Beach residents saw an unidentified object fly inland at approximately 1000-foot altitude." 185.

The investigating Air Force officer reported:

"The weather on the night of 29 January 1953 in the Horry County area was clear and cool with winds about four M.P.H. This is the official report given to me by the 3rd Weather Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. This corresponds to the story given by Booth, but not the one given by the CAA Control Tower. The report from there stated that high headwinds kept the blimps flying from Georgia to North Carolina unusually low." 186.

"An interesting sidelight." "Is someone killing the cattle?"

The same investigating officer wrote:

"One interesting sidelight gathered from this investigation is that the people of this area are quite upset over the deaths of so many of their cattle. They complain that every time one of these objects is reportedly sighted, within twenty-four hours several cows in the vicinity are found dead. The veterinarians of this area say that the cattle have died from caustic or lead poisoning. This may or may have have some bearing on the reported sightings." 187.

# Says He Observed and Shot 'Flying Saucer'



Lloyd C. Booth, Horry County storekeeper who says he observed a "flying saucer" for 20 minutes the night of January 29 and watched it zoom away after he shot it with his .22 pistol is shown here in his old-fashioned country store eight miles north of Conway. With him around the stove in the picture are, left to right, Bruce Martin, Sherwood Mishoe, J. C. Lilly (boy on floor), Mr. Booth, L. J. Hardee (standing) and J. A. Hardwick. He is telling the group about a feature of the strange phenomenon he says he observed by the light of a full moon at midnight after disturbed animals had attracted his attention and he went outside to investigate. A closeup of Mr. Booth is shown in the lower picture. Both pictures were snapped by The State's photographer yesterday. (Photos by Ervine Melton).





*1953*

# The APRO-BULLETIN

Volume I

APRO Bulletin

Issue V

## CONWAY S. C. MAN SHOOT SAUCER

RESPECTED STOREKEEPER SCORES HIT  
OF SAUCER HOVERING AT 75 FEET!

We're proud to announce that we have finally gotten the facts and figures on the newest rash of saucer sightings and attempted landings in South Carolina. Right now, we'll ask you mechanically inclined individuals to get your tools and take a try at a scale model of the S.C. saucer seen by Lloyd C. Booth of Conway, South Carolina.

Here are the facts as Booth related them to reporters for the Columbia State daily of Columbia, South Carolina.

Out of the scramble caused by the furor the following facts are apparent: South Carolina has had a record number of strange sky objects reported since Horry County merchant Lloyd C. Booth said he scored a hit on a saucer with a .22 pistol on January 29th.

Most of the reports came from the 'low' country, particularly Horry County, and fewer have come from the Piedmont.

The objects have shown up in almost every lower state county.

The objects are seen by more and more individuals at a time and many trained observers have reported seeing the lights.

According to the S.T.E., the saucers are more rampant on the same nights when meteors flash across the sky. Also, many intelligent people, continues the S.T.E., who have (got this) made thorough investigations debunk the 'saucer.'

But back to the story. At 11:15 on the evening of January 29, Booth came home from his little general store and hearing the stock milling about in his barn, he went out and investigated. He found nothing amiss, but while in the barn detected a high-pitched hum which seemed to come from outside. He proceeded outside, and spotted an odd-shaped object hovering over the barn. It started moving toward the woods a few hundred feet away, so slowly that he could easily follow at a rapid walk.

Booth said that he walked along and followed it. His description of the object which he walked all around underneath for about twenty minutes is as follows: "It was only a few feet above the treetops, making a high-pitched humming. I saw the object very clearly while it hovered overhead. It was 24 feet

(Con't Col. 1, Page 4)

MAN SHOOTS SAUCER

(Con't. from Page 1, Col. 2) and about 12 feet across, was a light grayish color and was lit up on the inside. Two places in the front somewhat resembled cockpits and were glassed over. I could see the light inside but could see no object in there. The back also had something resembling a cockpit with stained glass over it. Light was coming through this section but I could not see through it."

"The object was about eight or ten feet deep. The front sloped upward at the base at an angle of about 60 degrees and the back was sloped upward at an angle of 40 to 70 degrees. The sides came straight down from the top for maybe four or five feet and then sloped outwards and joined the base at about a 45 degree angle."

"Underneath the 'saucer' was something resembling a built-in wheel, with half the 'wheel' possibly three feet across, extending below the base in a crescent shape. There were no markings anywhere on it because I looked hard for some identification."

"There was no visible means of support for the object. It had no propeller; there were no exhaust fumes showing, no vapor trail and I could detect no unusual odor. It simply sat there and drifted along with a low humming sound as I ran around and around it getting just as good a look as I could. I watched it for at least 20 minutes, maybe as much as 30 minutes."

Booth said he yelled long and loudly so that his parents or someone in the house would hear him and come out and see it, for he knew no one would believe him when he told his story. Then, in desperation, he fired his pistol straight up at the object at a distance of about 75 feet. He said: "I heard the bullet hit the object. It made a metallic sound and bounced off. A bare moment after the bullet hit, the object began making considerably more noise like a large electric motor, and took off at a high rate of speed at about a 65 degree angle. It kept that same course until it was completely out of sight."

He said the noise the object made when it took off could have been heard easily at his house if anyone had been listening for it. He said the noise was not loud like an aircraft of conventional design would make, however.

Booth said he was afraid of the thing, but his curiosity overruled, and he decided to investigate as much as possible.

Now, for Booth's character and ability as an observer. This must be taken into consideration for the first thing the skeptics scream is that a man who sees such a thing is

either an incompetent observer, or a hoaxer. Anyway, that's what they say if the old balloon, Venus or reflection theories can't apply.

The pastor of his church says that Booth is highly respected in his community, and that when he says he saw something, he did. Other Horry county citizens said: "Mr. Booth is a Christian man, does not drink, and would not misrepresent anything."

When a Civil Aeronautics Association spokesman suggested that Booth had been watching a blimp, Booth countered: "I have seen many blimps and I've even been in one. I'd certainly know a blimp when I saw one 80 feet over my head." He estimated the object's take-off speed at 700 mph.

Booth served in the anti-aircraft service during the last war, and has been drilled in aircraft identification of both enemy and allied planes.

With this, we close the case of the Booth sighting until such time comes when more facts are available. We believe this is the first time so many facts have gotten out and this is probably due to the fact that the ATIC did not hear about the sighting until a week after it happened, and by then the papers throughout South Carolina had been full of the details.

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HORRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA CATTLE DIE MYSTERIOUSLY\*\*SAUCERS LLBLE?

A possible tie-up with the awe-inspiring sighting of a saucer by Lloyd C. Booth in Horry County, South Carolina is being given much thought by Horry residents;

During the three weeks prior to the Booth sightings, 18 cows had died in Horry County, with no obvious explanation readily available for their untimely deaths.

The FIELD, Conway weekly newspaper said that "All the cows have died instantaneously; some never even kicked. All have died from poisoning of a caustic nature. There have been no early symptoms and the cows simply have fallen over and died in an instant."

Booth said he doesn't know what to think about all the poisonings. He said he could detect no sign of poisonous smell or substance from the object he saw. He said a veterinarian has sent the stomachs of dead cattle to a laboratory for analysis, and that the results would not be ready for about ten days.

Two cows died of poisoning less than a mile from the sighted object a week before Booth saw it. Both cows were milked and fed the night before but were stone dead at milking time the next morning.

The FIELD also stated that the (Con't. page five, Col. 1)

(POISONINGS; Con't from Page four) greatest number of hogs have died in the area in history, and some farmers have lost whole herds. One man alone reported losing 75 and they did not die of cholera.

Further news of the poisonings and the possible tie-in with the Horry County sightings will be carried in the next bulletin, as the facts become available.

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SECOND SAUCER SIGHTING IN HORRY COUNTY STIRS POPULACE OF S. C.

On February 14th, Arthur Marlowe of rte. 4, Loris, South Carolina was awakened by dog-barking and horse braying. From his window he said, he saw so much light he thought his barn was on fire. Outside he said he saw light from an object 70 feet above the ground. This is what he reported:

"Three cylindrical beams of light were coming from the object, so bright he said he could read fine print 100 yards from the 'thing.' He had his gun and started to shoot the object. The Loris SENTINEL reports: "He decided not to, hoping that it might settle to the ground. If it did land he planned to get some dynamite out of his barn, slip up to it and perhaps damage the object so that he could have some proof of what he saw.

"The object was about as long as a boxcar and was oval shaped, he said, and he watched it for 25 minutes, then it moved gradually to the west, the noise getting louder and louder."

Marlowe said he found one of his hogs dead on the spot over which the object had hovered 14 hours earlier. He said the sow was lying down with her legs folded underneath so that at first he thought she was resting or asleep. There was no sign of struggle, the sow's nose was pushed slightly into the dirt and pieces of the rye from the pasture were in her mouth. He said the sow had apparently been in good health up until that time.

Marlowe also said that another man had lost a horse two days earlier without signs of a death struggle, with grass in it's mouth.

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HORRY COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE PROPOSES REWARD FOR UNDAIMAGED SAUCER TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY!

The Columbia STATE daily carried the following news item underneath the story of Marlowe and Beeth's reports of sightings of flying discs:

"A \$1,000 reward for the capture of a flying saucer 'undamaged' and 'intact' was proposed in the General Assembly yesterday.

Rep. Buck of Horry and others introduced a resolution to pay the reward. Members of the General Assembly would not be eligible for it.

In a preamble, the resolution said:

"Citizens have been aroused and plagued by the presence of a certain ghost-like and unconventional type of aircraft commonly known as a flying saucer, which has been sneakingly hovering over the state. Many individuals have claimed to have seen and in some instances, have been attacked by these monstrosities and have described them minutely and have elaborated on their design in detail. The vast majority of the citizens of this state have doubted the authenticity of the presence of these monsters over the state. Then General Assembly desires to remove all doubts and inconsistencies relating to this unusual aircraft."

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EVALUATION OF S.C. DISC SIGHTINGS

The January 29th sighting of an unusual object over the barn of Lloyd C. Beeth can, in all probability be believed as 'gospel', taking into consideration the character of the observer. His sighting was the beginning, so it seems, of a myriad of sightings.

Inasmuch as the object which Beeth watched had no visible means of propulsion, left no vapor trail and made very little noise it can be assumed that the thing was no conventional aircraft, and by Beeth's own statement we can assume that he can tell a blimp when he sees one.

This is one sighting which will not, no matter how one tries, fit the Venus, balloon, misconception of conventional aircraft, or atmospheric phenomena or astronomical phenomena theories which have been offered by various and sundry "authorities". (authorities on what?) to date. So what is it?

Obviously the only avenue left to the skeptics is character assassination, and that would be discounted by the character endorsements of Beeth's fellow citizens, who knew him better than anyone, even better than the "authorities."

There have been several reports throughout the world in the last year which seem to indicate that the discs are becoming bold enough to attempt landing, or actually land. Certainly, the discs have changed their tactics from long-range, high-altitude observation and are coming down far closer. Look at what we have to offer.

With the upcoming inner conjunction of the planet Venus, there may be a higher rate of saucer sightings according to some people. The only thing that can be done is to patiently wait for more developments and the way the tide is turning, really big news dealing with the discs may be coming up. H&T Dog! \*\*\*\*\*

# "I LOOKED BACK, WATCHING IT APPROACH. AGAIN IT PASSED OVER

"Male" Sept 1953

▶ The flying saucer was in front of me. I saw it clearly in the moonlight. It hummed softly and moved slowly in my direction. I stood there, watching it, waiting. . . .

I had thought it was a prowler. The general store I operate is on Highway 701, eight miles north of Conway, South Carolina. Every night I close it around 11 and drive the mile up a dirt road to the farm my family owns.

Usually everybody is in bed by the time I get home, and my mother leaves some food for me on the kitchen table. I read as I eat, relaxing alone after a long day at the store. And then I go to bed.

That was the way Thursday, January 29, 1953, was ending. But there was a big surprise ahead for me—and for the world. By midnight of that day I became the only man alive known to have shot a flying saucer.

I was a little worried as I sat there reading. The night before—Wednesday—one of our cows had died.

The strange thing was that she hadn't been sick at all. Even stranger, in the past few weeks about 20 cows in the county had met the same unusual death. Examinations by veterinarians showed that they had all died of poisoning by some caustic substance.

Also, hogs were dying in amazingly large numbers. One man lost 75. Nobody could explain the deaths.

At the store all day Thursday I tried to figure out what had happened to our cow. I knew there was nothing on the land that could have poisoned her, or any of the other livestock. And if somebody was doing it all, then surely we had a madman loose in the county.

It was about 11:15 when I got home that night. The air was cold and clear. A few hours earlier there had been an eclipse of the moon, and now the moon was out full and brilliant.

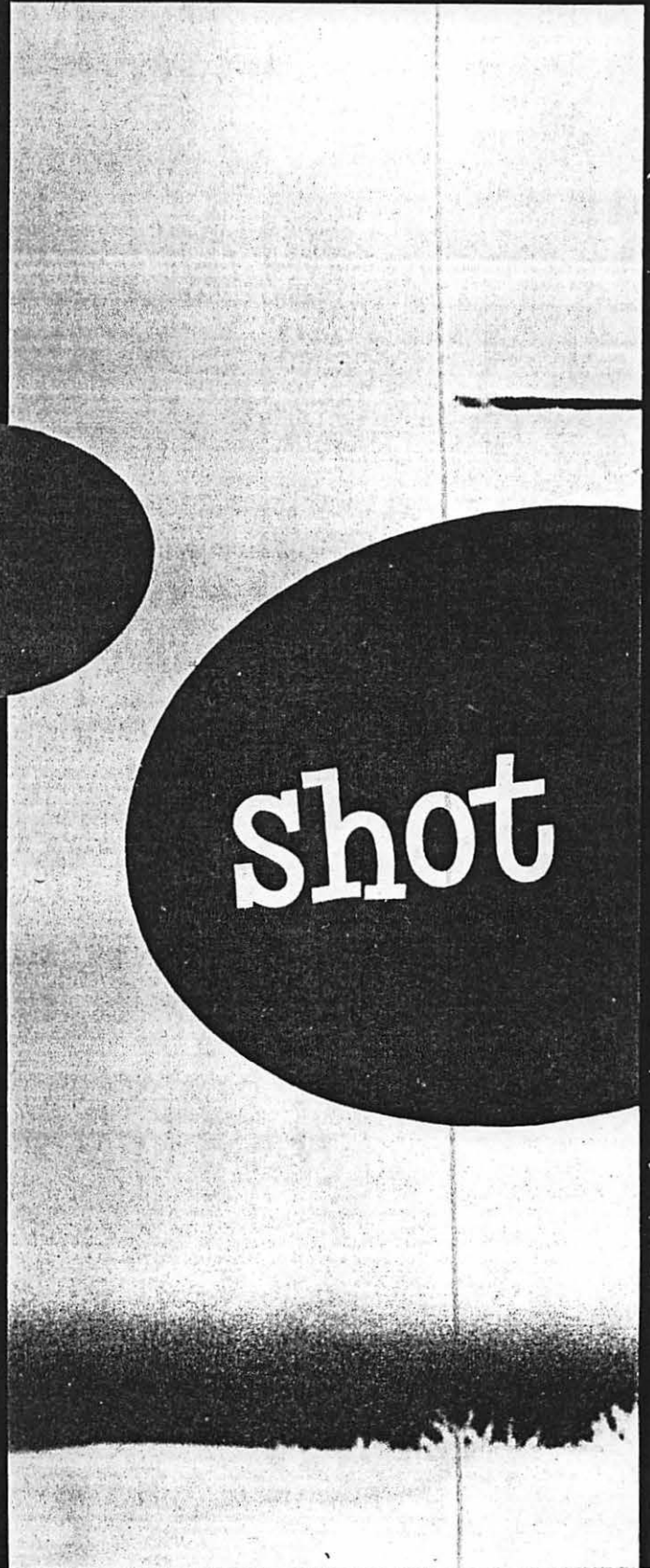
As I left my car, I felt the silence. There was a slight wind, and I could hear it in the tall pines which surround the farm. I walked across the yard to the house, my shoes crunching in the soft dirt. On the kitchen table was the supper my mother had left. I put the coffee pot on the stove and sat down to glance at a newspaper.

After a few quiet minutes, I heard one of my father's mules bray in the barn. I listened for a moment, but I knew the mule was naturally nervous and easily disturbed, so I ignored it. But then our other mule started. This mule, I knew, was hard to frighten and always quiet. I realized something must be happening. (Continued on page 86)

By **LLOYD C. BOOTH**  
as told to  
**GLENN D. KITTLER**

I

Shot





## I Shot a Flying

# Saucer

Continued from page 16

I stepped to the kitchen door and looked out. At that instant, the chickens and ducks started a panic of squawks and clucks. I remembered thinking during the day that a prowler might have killed our cow. Could he have returned? I hurried through the house, got my .22 calibre pistol, and went out into the yard.

At first I saw nothing. The moon was unusually bright and the outlines of our barn, huts and fences were clearly visible. Quickly I went to the barn. The livestock became noisier. I looked into the barn: There was no one in it. I crept around to the back, in case the prowler tried an escape across the fields.

Then I saw it. It was in front of me, not more than 10 feet above the tree tops, approaching slowly over the clearing beyond. I had never seen anything like it in my whole life. The eeriness of it made me feel terribly insignificant, and suddenly I felt as if I were the only person on earth.

It was almost still, drifting towards me like a balloon, moving no faster than the slow walk of a man. I could see it plainly and could detect a slight humming noise. It was a light grayish color and lit up on the inside.

I didn't want to say, "Flying saucer!" But the words slipped from me in a gasp.

I stood there, stunned, watching as it approached from the eastern sky. Stretching for some 40 miles beyond were the small farms and little towns, and then the South Carolina coast. At this time of night, few people would be awake in our rural area. In recent weeks I had heard the reports of others, who claimed to have seen flying saucers over the country, but at an earlier time in the evening. Like most people, I listened to these reports with interest and then forgot them. Now I was watching a flying saucer myself.

When I recovered from my astonishment, I hollered to the house, about 200 yards away, hoping to arouse my family. I yelled loudly many times but I couldn't wake anyone. I gripped my pistol firmly and looked back at the strange thing over my head.

**IT LOOKED** like an egg, cut end to end. It was about 24 feet long, perhaps 14 feet across, and it seemed 10 feet high. The front sloped at approximately a 60-degree angle, and the rear dropped away at about 40 degrees. The entire craft was highly streamlined.

There were two glassed-over areas in front, like cockpits, but there weren't any bubbles as our craft have. I couldn't see anyone or anything inside. In the back was another cockpit, and light was pouring

through what seemed like tinted glass. I couldn't see inside.

Underneath was an opening about three feet wide, and from this protruded a crescent-shaped object that looked like part of a large wheel. I wondered if this might be a landing gear, but I had never seen anything like it.

There was no visible means of propulsion. The thing had no propeller, no exhaust, and I didn't see any vapor trails. There were no markings, nor did the ship give off any odors. I could faintly hear a soft humming noise coming from it.

It isn't unusual that I should have noticed all these things. The Army had spent a lot of money training me in an anti-aircraft unit. During maneuvers, my outfit racked up the best target scores of any AA-unit in the Army. I was also trained to recognize every type of aircraft, something a man doesn't forget easily. I have been in helicopters; I have seen all types of blimps and most jets, as well as conventional planes. I kept alive my interest in aviation after the war. I know that the strange craft that hovered over me that January night was something I had never seen before.

After I realized I couldn't arouse my family, I gave full attention to the object above. It passed over my head at a height of approximately 90 feet. I turned and followed it as it moved westward.

As it floated over the trees, I entered the woods. I kept moving from side to side for a better look at it. I watched it for about 20 minutes. I wondered if it had just taken off or was about to land. In our part of the country, at that time of the night, there is little to observe, but the silence and the desolation would be excellent for anyone wanting to arrive or depart unseen. The semi-wilderness all the way to the coastline would make a perfect rendezvous.

I hurried ahead to a small clearing in the woods. A few feet away was a fence, and beyond that several acres of farmland. Further ahead was a swamp. I realized I couldn't follow the flying saucer much longer.

I looked back, watching it approach. Again it passed over me. I raised my arm and aimed the pistol at it. When it was slightly to the west of me, I fired.

I heard the bullet hit the craft. It made a metallic noise and bounced off. I fired again, immediately, but this time I didn't hear the bullet strike because the moment the first bullet hit, the craft suddenly made a much louder noise—like a stepped-up electric motor—and took off with terrific speed at a 65-degree angle. It moved

much faster than any craft I've seen before, traveling out of sight without changing its course. It virtually vanished into the sky.

I waited a few minutes, and when nothing else happened I went back to the house. As I entered the kitchen, my mother called me. She had heard the gunshots and asked me what was the matter. My father was awake, too, and my brother. I told them.

We decided not to tell anyone else for a while, until we learned whether others had seen the strange craft that night. Also, I knew the general opinion of people who claimed to see flying saucers, and I didn't want to be ridiculed.

That night I didn't sleep very much. Whatever the object was, it was certainly the strangest I had ever seen. I lay awake for hours, wondering where it had come from, who was in it, what it was doing here.

**F**OR A full week, my family and I remained silent about the incident. But the episode never left my mind. I returned to the woods, hoping I could find the bullet which had struck the vessel, but the ground was thick with fallen leaves, and to start a search was foolish.

After a week I went to a friend of mine—Elwell Jones, whom I've known all my life and who is a Baptist minister near my home. I told him everything. He believed me, and it was he who brought the story to the public attention.

In a few hours I was surrounded by curiosity seekers and I found debunkers on all sides.

A CAA-man told reporters that on the Thursday night I shot the strange aircraft, a flight of Navy blimps was enroute from Georgia to a North Carolina base. He said because of high winds they were flying low and that I probably

shot one of them, sending the shocked crew soaring away to safety.

Well, I know a blimp when I see one. The night had been clear enough for me not to make so gross a mistake. And the Navy has never announced that one of its blimps, now in North Carolina, had a nick in its cabin where I shot it. Also, those blimps were traveling from southwest to northeast. The object I saw was moving westward and continued in that direction.

If my word is to be doubted, then so must the reports of well known and respected people in these parts who have announced their own spottings. Mark C. Garner, editor of a Myrtle Beach newspaper, said that he and his wife and two children saw an object like the one I shot coming in over the trees from the sea.

Within 15 days, three other sightings were reported near Marion, South Carolina, by people who saw the crafts as clearly—though not as long—as I.

And Marine Corps First Lt. Ed Balocco chased a similar object by jet plane down the North Carolina coast, but lost it. Some minutes later, several residents of Florence, South Carolina, telephoned the police that they had seen it.

Many things are still unexplained. We don't know yet what killed our cows and hogs, and no one has linked the deaths to the appearances of the unidentified craft during the fatal epidemic. If there is any connection, it is certainly a strange one, and remains inexplicable.

And we don't know either why the strange ships should make such frequent appearances in our community. We are many miles from any important targets—whether for bombing or reconnaissance. Nor do we know why the appearances seemed to have stopped as suddenly as they began.

But we do know flying saucers were here. I should know. I shot one. \*\*\*



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# Jim McDonald gives it a look...

October 9, 1967

Miss Isabel Davis  
NICAP  
1536 Connecticut Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20036

Dear Isabel:

Today I contacted Lloyd C. Booth of Conway, South Carolina, and interviewed him concerning his January 29, 1953, observations. I'll put a concise summary down in this letter, for filing along with the CSI press information which you had copied for me last week.

Briefly, in about thirty minutes of telephone conversation with him at his store in the Poplar community (in between customers whom he had to wait on while I held the telephone), I obtained confirmation on all of the details that were reported in the account you gave me. It appears that the reporting was much better than average in that particular account.

Because of the general accuracy of the story in the *State*, it will be simpler to merely point out a few features and implications that were corrected by my interview. I had presumed that the animal-poisoning episode was what led him to go outside, gun in hand. He said that was not the case, that it was merely the fact that the mule was acting up so and making so much noise out in the barn that he thought some animal must be around disturbing it. He did not go out with the poisoning in mind. Secondly, he pointed out that, though there was never any clear explanation of the large number of animal-poisoning cases at that time, a veterinarian who examined two cows came up with a verdict of arsenic-poisoning. Booth said that the hog-poisoning was not taking place right around his area, but about twelve miles north.

The press account indicates that only a single shot was fired, but Booth told me that he shot twice and heard the impact (metallic ping) of both shots. It was a Harrison & Richards 0.22 revolver.

He emphasized that much of the roughly twenty to thirty minutes of observation was consumed in his efforts to run

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around from one side to another and fore and aft, looking for any markings or identifications. He saw none, and realized from his World War II antiaircraft experience that all aircraft, including experimental aircraft, must carry identification marks. When he saw none, he decided to shoot at it to "see what it was made of." I asked him if he thought that was very dangerous, and he said that he thought the pistol was so low-powered a thing that he couldn't do much damage to it. He said that, almost as soon as he shot, the object tilted up at an estimated 60-degree angle and sped off at a great speed, faster than any jet, disappearing from sight without changing course in a time duration which he roughly estimated as 10 to 15 seconds at the most. No one at his home heard the shots. By that time, it was about twelve o'clock midnight. He had left the store at 11 p.m., had driven home, and was waiting for a pot of coffee to heat up when he heard the mule making the noise.

He said he reported it to the Air Force at Myrtle Beach. An Army Intelligence man came, not a USAF man. He said the man interviewed him very carefully, but never came back, and he never heard again from any military authorities. He answered my question concerning prior or subsequent sightings by remarking that he had never seen anything like it before or since. He said he is still curious about it and asked me to let him know if I ever find out what the cause of it was!

The description of the object that he gave matched quite closely what appeared in the press accounts. It was oblong and had a glass-like cockpit in front, through which he could see only lights, no operators or structural or instrumentation details. He described the "glass" on the back end as "smoky," and could see nothing through it. At no time did any light shine down on the ground. The object was just above tree-top height in a grove of trees that he estimates to be 70 to 80 ft tall.

The bottom protuberance (extending about 6 or 7 ft below the otherwise flat base) was what he shot at, as stated in the paper. Only sound was a hum like a motor, which rose in volume but not in pitch as the object took off.

I asked him for available references, and began by mentioning Reverend Jones. Booth said Jones has now gone to Alaska. He gave me the names of two persons in his community who could speak for his reputation. I shall not, at the moment, check them, but may at some later time.



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Booth's account was given to me in a seemingly quite straightforward manner, no evident embarrassments or visible dramatization. He sounded like a person of limited education but of entirely honest manner. An interesting case, all. Thanks for telling me of it.

Best regards,

James E. McDonald

JEM/msr

(xx.)