

1954. nr. Hot Springs, AK

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. Large BOL plays dodgeball
with spotlight.

6 in Car Report Ball of Light Circled House, Followed Auto

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., April 23 ~~1954~~ Six workmen, who had gathered late last night at a rural home near here to ride to work, told a reporter they watched a mysterious, gleaming ball hover over the house for 20 minutes.

One of the men, Les Reatherford, said the ball once dived toward him, and that he had to duck to avoid being hit.

"If I hadn't ducked it would have hit me sure," said Reatherford.

The men, all employees of a Reynolds' Metal Co., aluminum plant, said they met nightly at the house near the town of Percy to ride to work together.

They described the white ball of light as about 10 feet in diameter. They said it circled the house slowly, stopping for a moment at irregular intervals.

One of the witnesses said the ball followed the men when they left in a station wagon, and drove toward Percy.

"We tried to put a spotlight on it," said one of the men, "but every time it would dodge the beam."

The men agreed that the ball suddenly disappeared as they reached Percy.

Besides Reatherford, those who saw the object were Harley and Fred Skeets, Tom and Dayton Henderson, and John Vaughn. 1954

from J. Gross: History.

(Slightly longer article
on back) ↓

23 April. Percy, Arkansas. (10:30 p.m.)

"Flying Ball" chases man."

This report is covered in my monograph *UFOs: A History 1954 January-May*, page 77. The report is so astonishing, however, we can't pass up the chance of publishing a more detailed account that has become available. (See clipping)

Flying Saucer! Flying Ball!

SENTINEL RECORD HOT SPRINGS ARK

6 Swear They Saw The Thing

Six robust metal workers stood in startled awe last night and watched a gleaming white ball—about 10 feet in diameter—float mysteriously 50-feet above a house near Percy.

In fact, one of the men who was standing beside an automobile, said he had to "duck" to avoid being struck by the object.

The six men, who work on the mid-night shift at the Reynolds Metals plant at Jones Mills, meet nightly at a house two and a half miles from Percy to ride to work in a station wagon.

They had just arrived at the house at about 10:30 o'clock when the object shot into view.

At first, the object, which at times appeared oblong, and again as a sphere, floated somewhat systematically about 50-feet above and around the house.

Then, the men said, it would stop dead still for moments at a time, only to resume its circling.

Lesse Weatherford, last of the six men to arrive at the house, alighted from his car and walked over to the station wagon. He was standing with his hand on the hood when the object came straight at him.

"If I hadn't ducked that thing would have hit me sure," he said. "As it was, it only missed me about two feet."

Weatherford said that the object resumed its movements over the house after narrowly missing him.

Three other men sitting in the station wagon saw the object as it "dove" on Weatherford.

They were Harley Sheets, Fred Sheets, and Tom Henderson. Each

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Hot Springs, Arkansas. *Sentinel-Record*.
23 April 54.

Saucer

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story I wouldn't have believed them. But I saw it, as did the confirmed Weatherford's story.

Tom Sheets added:

"If anyone else had told me this other fellows. And I'll tell you one thing, I never saw anything like it in my life. I don't know whether it was a flying saucer, but it surely was something mysterious. And we weren't just seeing things."

The other two men nodded agreement.

In addition to Weatherford and the three in the station wagon, others who saw the object were Dayton Henderson and John Vaughn.

Asked whether he felt any heat from the object when it narrowly missed him, Weatherford replied:

"No, and I didn't hear anything, either."

The men said they watched the ball for about 20 minutes as it continued its gyrations.

Then they all got in the station wagon and headed down the old Amity road towards Percy.

Tom Sheets said the ghost-like ball moved with them as they drove down the highway, keeping about 50 feet in the air and about 200 feet off the highway.

The men said the object kept abreast of them until the car approached Percy. Then, they said, it just disappeared.

"We tried to throw the car spotlight on the thing," Weatherford said. "But everytime we pointed the light at the ball, it would either go up or down to get out of the beam. We just couldn't get the ball in the light."

"I know a lot of people will think we are crazy," Tom Sheets said. "But we all saw this thing and felt it should be reported."

A Sentinel-Record reporter talked to each of the men and each gave identical stories.

And, at least three of the men spoke in shaky voices in describing the scene.