

1960: Walkerton, ONT

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Small BOL examines our
 flora.

Summer 1960. Walkerton, Ontario, Canada. (1:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.)

“Luminous thing” examines tree?

Dr. J. Allen Hynek solicited UFO reports from the readers of *Physics Today* and received a response from a professional astronomer. Hynek promised not publicize names or the exact location of the incident. Here is the story as written up by Hynek:

“The reporter and his brother had been alerted by a relative, a newspaperman, who, in turn, had been called by the provincial police, who had been attempting to follow the light with their cars but had not succeeded in catching up to it as it moved from place to place. The call had come about 2:00 a.m., after the chase had been on for nearly an hour. I quote directly from the report, but names and places are not given...” (xx.)

(xx.) Hynek, Dr. J. Allen. *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*. Henry Regnery Company: Chicago, Ill., 1972, p.47.

Here is the astronomer’s account:

“We followed country roads until we came within 100 yards of the object. It was hovering around a large tree, which stood alone in the center of a cultivated field. The tree was about 100 yards distant and about 120 feet high. The object, which subtended an angle of about $\frac{1}{4}$ degrees (giving it a physical diameter of less than 3 feet), appeared circular in shape and thus probably a

botanical probe from
E-Eridani.

spheroid. It was highly luminous against the dark sky background and changed color through the whole visible spectral range with a period of ~ 2 seconds (rather an irregular period). Because it was rather bright, I may have slightly overestimated the angular size, and $\frac{1}{4}$ degrees should perhaps be considered an upper limit. A lower limit would certainly be $\frac{1}{8}$ degrees.

"The object appeared to be examining the tree rather closely. It circled the upper branches, ranging from 50 to 100 feet off the ground, passing *in front of* [Emphasis in original text] the tree, then clearly visible *through* [Emphasis in original text] the branches on passing behind the tree again. It continued this apparent 'observation' of the tree for several minutes while we watched. Then, anxious for a picture, we climbed the perimeter fence and started slowly toward the tree facing due west. We had not gone more than 10 feet before it 'noticed' us and, noiselessly accelerating at a very high rate, headed almost directly south, disappearing over the horizon (on a *slightly* [Emphasis in the original text] rising trajectory) in about 2-1/2 seconds. (I consider my length and time estimates to be quite reliable as I was actively engaged in track and field at the time and thus quite competent at this type of estimation. Even under such exceptional circumstances, these figures are most probably within plus or minus 20 percent.)

"Several observations about the object:

"1. It was certainly too small to contain human life;

"2. It had no apparent physical surface features apart from the circular shape it presented—possibly because the 'surface' was highly luminous;

"3. It moved *deliberately* [Emphasis in the original text] and *purposefully* [Emphasis in the original text] in its 'inspection' of the tree, pausing slightly at apparent 'points of interest' and giving the distinct impression of 'intelligent' behavior;

"4. Its motion was completely silent, even the final rapid acceleration;

"5. It was definitely *not* [Emphasis in the original text] any natural physical phenomenon I have ever encountered or read about (I'm sure you are familiar with what I refer to—"march gas" and the like);

"6. It was definitely *not* [Emphasis in the original text] a distant astronomical object. It was clearly visible alternately *through* [Emphasis in the original text] the branches of the tree and *obscuring* [Emphasis in the original text] the branches of the tree, fixing its distance quite exactly;

"7. It was definitely seen by competent witnesses (including several police officers) besides myself;

"8. On acceleration from the tree it almost certainly should have exceeded the speed of sound. There was no acoustical disturbance whatever. (My uncle attempted to take a picture of it as it accelerated, but the result was not good enough to publish due to our excessive distance from the object and its rapid motion, which combined to produce a very faint blurred image.)

"The salient points to consider are these: the object appeared to be governed by some intelligence, and it did not behave as would a physical phenomenon as we understand it." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, pp.47-49.