

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORT
SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO, 24 APRIL 1964

On April 24, 1964, a Socorro, New Mexico policeman, Mr. Lonnie Zamora, reported sighting an object about a mile south of the town at approximately 5:45 p.m., in an unpopulated area full of hills and gullies and covered with sagebrush. Following is a summary of his report to Air Force investigators:

Mr. Zamora reported that while chasing a speeding car north on U.S. 85, he heard a roar and saw flames in an area where a dynamite shack was known to be located. He abandoned chase of the auto and proceeded to where he believed an explosion had occurred. After traveling a little-used road and experiencing considerable difficulty in trying to drive his car up a gravel-covered hill, he said he then observed what he thought was an overturned car standing on end. At this point he was about 800 ft. distant from the object and his car was at the crest of a hill with the object ahead of him in a gully. He reported that during this first glance he saw one or two figures in coveralls whom he assumed to be occupants of the object. This is the only time he saw these figures; he did not see them again. After radioing to Police Headquarters at Socorro that he was proceeding to investigate what he believed to be an auto accident, he drove to a point about 150 ft. from the gully where the object rested and stopped the car to proceed on foot. He said the object was white, egg or oval-shaped and apparently supported on girderlike legs. He said he heard a roar and saw smoke and flame coming from the bottom of the object. At this point, Mr. Zamora believed that the object was about to explode and he became frightened, turned, and ran back to shield himself behind the police car, bumping his leg and losing his glasses on the way. He said that he crouched down, shielding his eyes with his arm while the noise continued for another 10 seconds. At this time the noise stopped and he glanced up. He reported that the object had risen to a point about 15-20 ft. above the ground and the flame and smoke had ceased. At this point, he reported, he noted a design on the object which he described as markings in red about 1 to 1 1/2 ft. in height, shaped like a crescent with a vertical arrow and horizontal line underneath. He stated that the object remained stationary for several seconds and then flew off in a southerly direction following the contour of the gully.

Within moments afterward, Sgt. Chavez of the New Mexico State Police arrived on the scene in response to Mr. Zamora's earlier radio call. He observed no object, but he reported that there were some slight depressions in the ground and apparently burned brush in the area where Mr. Zamora had reported seeing the object. The brush was cold to the touch. Sgt. Chavez reported the incident to local military authorities who conducted the initial investigation.

The Air Force sent investigators from their project office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The investigation disclosed the following facts:

No other witnesses to the object reported by Mr. Zamora could be located.

There were no unidentified helicopters or aircraft in the area.

Observers at radar installations had observed no unusual or unidentified blips.

There was no unusual meteorological activity; no thunderstorms. The weather was windy but clear.

There was no evidence of markings of any sort in the area other than the shallow depressions at the location where Mr. Zamora reported sighting the object.

Laboratory analysis of soil samples disclosed no foreign material or radiation above normal for the surrounding area.

Laboratory analysis of the burned brush showed no chemicals which would indicate a type of propellant.

There was no evidence presented that the object was extraterrestrial in origin or represented a threat to the security of the United States.

The Air Force is continuing its investigation and the case is still open.

For several days following this report, other sightings were reported in the New Mexico area. In each case the sighting was determined to be a known object or natural phenomena. Two of the reports were determined to be hoaxes.

Socorro, New Mexico
April 24, 1964

UFO REPORT

Lonnie Zamora, 606 Reservoir Street, Socorro, New Mexico, 835-1134, Officer Socorro Police Force for about 5 years, office phone 835-0941, now on 2-10pm shift.

About 5:45 pm, 4-24-64, while in Socorro 2 Police Car ('64 white Pontiac), he started to chase a car due south from west side of Court House. Car was apparently speeding and was about 3 blocks in front of police car. At point on Old Rodeo Street (extension of Park Street south) near George Morillo residence (about 1/2 mile south of Spring Street) the chased car was going straight ahead toward rodeo grounds. Car chased was a new black Chevrolet (it might have been Floyd Reynold's boy, Vivian, about 17). Chased car still about 3 blocks ahead, Lonnie alone.

At this time, heard a roar and saw a flame in the sky to the southwest, some distance away--possibly a 1/2 mile or a mile. Came to mind that a dynamite shack in that area had blown up, decided to leave chased car go.

Flame was bluish and sort of orange too. Could not tell size of flame. Sort of motionless flame, slowly descending. Was still driving car and couldn't pay too much attention to the flame. It was a narrow type of flame. It was like a "stream down" --a funnel type--narrower at top than at bottom. Flame possibly 3degrees or so in width --not wide.


Flame about twice as wide at bottom as top and about four times as high as top was wide. Did not notice any object at top, did not notice if top of flame was level. Sun was to west and did not help vision. Had green sun glasses over perscription glasses. Could not see bottom of flame because it was behind hill. No smoke noted. Noted some "commotion" at bottom--dust? Possibly from windy day--wind was blowing hard. Clear sunny sky otherwise--just a few clouds scattered over area.

Noise was a roar, not a blast, not like a jet. Changed from high frequency to low frequency and then stopped. Roar lasted possibly 10 seconds--was going towards it at that time on the rough gravel road. Saw flame about as long as heard the sound. Flame same color, as best as recall. Sound distinctly from high to low until it disappeared. Windows were both down. No other spectators noted--no traffic except the car in front--and the car in front might have heard it but possibly did not see it because car in front was too close to hill in front to see the flame.

After the roar and flame, did not note anything while going up the somewhat steep rough hill--had to back up and try again, two more times. Got up about half way first time, the wheels started skidding, roar still going on, had to back down and try again before making the hill. Hill about 60ft. long, fairly steep and with loose gravel and rock. While beginning third time, noise and flame not noted.

After got to top, traveled slowly on the gravel road westward. Noted nothing for a while...for possibly 15 or 20 seconds, went slowly, looking around for the shack--did not recall exactly where the dynamite shack was.

Suddenly noted a shiny type object to south about 150-200 yards. It was off the road. At first glance, stopped. It looked, at first, like a car turned upside down. Thought some kids might have turned over. Saw two people in white coveralls very close to the object. One of these persons seemed to turn and look straight at my car and seemed startled--seemed to quickly jump somewhat.

At this time, I started moving my car towards them quickly, with idea to help. Had stopped about only a couple seconds. Object was like aluminum--it was whitish against the moss background, but not chrome. Seemed like  in shape and I at first glance took it to be overturned white car. Car appeared turned up like standing

APRIL 24, 1964

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on radiator or on trunk, at this first glance.

The only time I saw these two persons was when I had stopped, for possibly two seconds or so, to glance at the object. I don't recall noting any particular shape or possibly any hats or headgear. These persons appeared normal in shape--but possibly they were small adults or large kids.

Then paid attention to road while drove towards scene. Radioed to sheriff's office Socorro 2, possibly 10-44 (accident). I'll be 10-6 (busy) out of the car, checking the car down in the arroyo.

Stopped car, was still talking on radio, started to get out, mike fell down, reached back to put up mike, then replaced radio mike in slot, got out of car, and started to go down to where knew the object (car) was.

Hardly turned around from car when heard roar (was not exactly a blast), very loud roar--at that close was real loud. Not like a jet--knows what a jet sounds like. Started low frequency quickly, then roar rose in frequency (higher tone) and in loudness--from loud to very loud. At same time as roar, saw flame. Flame was under the object. Object was starting to go straight up--slowly up. Object slowly rose straight up. Flame was light blue and at bottom was sort of orange color. From this angle, saw what might be the side of object (not end, as first noted). Difficult to describe flame. Thought, from rear, it might blow up. Flame might have come from underside of object, at middle, possibly a four foot area--very rough guess. Cannot describe flame further except blue and orange. No smoke except dust in immediate area.

As soon as saw flame and heard roar, turned away, ran away from object but did turn head towards object. Bumped leg on car--back fender area. Car facing southwest. Object was  in shape. It was smooth -- no windows or doors. As roar started, it was still on or near ground. Noted red lettering of some type like . Insignia was about 2 1/4 inches high and about 2 inches wide, guess. Was in middle of object, like . Object still like aluminum-white.

After fell by car and glasses fell off, kept running to north, with car between me and object. Glanced back couple of times. Noted object to rise to about level of car, about 20 to 25 feet guess--took I guess about six seconds when object started to rise and I glanced back. I ran I guess about halfway to where I ducked down--about fifty feet from car is where I ducked down, just over edge of hill. I guess I had run about 25 feet when I glanced back and saw the object about level with the car and it appeared about directly over the place where it rose from.

I was still running and I jumped just over the hill--I stepped because I did not hear the roar. I was scared of the roar, and I had planned to continue running down the hill. I turned around toward the object and at the same time put my head toward ground, covering my face with my arms. Being that there was no roar, I looked up, and I saw the object going away from me, in a southwest direction. When the roar stopped, heard a sharp tone whine from high tone to low tone. At end of roar was this whine and the whine lasted maybe a second. Then there was complete silence about the object. That's when I lifted up my head and saw the object going away from me.

It did not come any closer to me. It appeared to go in straight line and at same height--possibly 10 to 15 feet from ground, and it cleared the dynamite shack by about three feet. Shack about eight feet high. Object was traveling very fast. It seemed to rise up, and take off immediately across country. I ran back to my car and as I ran back, I kept an eye on the object. I picked up my glasses (I left the sun glasses on ground), got into the car and radioed to Rep. Lopes, radio operator, to "look out the window, to see if you could see an object."

He asked "What is it?" I answered, "It looks like a balloon." I don't know if he saw it. If Nep looked out his window, which faces north, he couldn't have seen it. I did not tell him at the moment which window to look out of.

As I was calling Nep, I could still see the object. The object seemed to lift up slowly, and to "get small" in the distance very fast. It seemed to just clear the Box Canyon or in Mile Canyon Mountain. It disappeared as it went over the mountain. It had no flame whatsoever as it was traveling over the ground, and no smoke or noise.

Feeling in good health. Last drink--two or three beers--was over a month ago. Noted no odors. Noted no sounds other than described. Gave directions to Nep Lopes at radio and to Sergeant MS Chaves to get there. Went down to where the object had been, and I noted the brush was burning in several places. At that time I heard Sgt. Chaves (N.M. State Police at Socorro) calling me on radio for my location, and I returned to my car, told him he was looking at me. Then Sgt. Chaves came up, asked me what the trouble was because I was sweating and he told me that I was white, very pale. I asked the Sgt. to see what I saw and that was the burning brush. Then Sgt. Chaves and I went to the spot and Sgt. Chaves pointed out the tracks.

When I first saw the object (when I thought it might be a car,) I saw what appeared to be two legs of some type from the object to the ground. At the time, I didn't pay much attention to what it was--I thought it was an accident--I saw the two persons.

I didn't pay much attention to the two "legs." The two "legs" were at the bottom of the object, slanted outwards to the ground. The object might have been about three and a half feet from the ground at that time. I just glanced at it.

Can't tell how long saw object second time (the "clear" time), possibly 20 seconds--just a guess--for a from the time got out of car, glanced at object, ran from object, jumped over edge of hill, then got back to car and radio as object disappeared.

As my mike fell, I got out of car, at same area, I heard about two or three loud "thumps," like someone possibly opening or shutting a door hard. These "thumps" were possibly a second or less apart. This was just before the roar. The persons were not seen when I got up to the scene area.

Just before Sgt. Chaves got to scene, I got my pen and drew a picture of the insignia on the object.

UFO REPORT *** 24 April 1964***

I, Richard T. Holder, Captain, USA, 095042, 30-range, was notified by Lt. Hicks, Executive Officer, 60 C, 3040, that he had been notified by Mr. B. Arthur Byrnes Jr., Credentials Number 3017, holder, that of investigation of a reported UFO in the area. Lt. Hicks said that Mr. Byrnes would like to contact him at the State Police Office, Socorro, if possible. I tried unsuccessfully, then started driving to Socorro, N.M., immediately after the later, Mr. Byrnes called me, informing me of the UFO report. I stated that I would be at the office (State Police) in about 15 minutes. When I arrived, Mr. Byrnes introduced himself, he gave me his other's credentials and I found them satisfactory. Officer Louie Zamora, Socorro Police Department, was introduced by Mr. Byrnes as the witness (only witness in this case) to the UFO. We both then interviewed Officer Zamora, and his statement is substantially the same as that in the enclosed statements. We then departed for the scene of the reported landing of the UFO. En route (Socorro) we were met by the same vehicle as stopped by the residence of Sgt. Casula, Socorro, N.M., who then escorted us to the site and assisted in taking the enclosed measurements and observations. Present when we arrived were Officer Zamora, Officer Louie Zamora, Bill Pyland, all of the Socorro Police Department, who assisted in making the measurements. When we had completed examination of the area, Mr. Byrnes, Officer Zamora, and I returned to the State Police Office at Socorro, where we completed the reports. Upon arrival at the office location in the Socorro County Building, we were informed by Sep Lopez, Sheriff's Office radio operator, that approximately three reports had been called in by telephone of a blue flame or light in the area. Initial sighting was made by Officer Zamora at approximately 1750--I was notified by Lt. Hicks at approximately 1910. These reports were not entered on the dispatcher's log as no time or these reports is available--the dispatcher indicated that the times were roughly similar. Reports were completed at approximately 0100 25 April. I suggested that I be notified in the event of a similar occurrence or report.

Richard T. Holder,
Captain 0rd/G

NOTE: By Request of the FBI, please do not refer to the FBI as participating in any fashion--use of local law enforcement authorities is preferred.

Socorro, New Mexico

May 15, 1964

Dear Mildred and Giberson:

So good to hear from you, but quite a surprise that you were selling your land and handiwork. I know you have put a great deal into it in all ways. However, an easier life will be good for both of you. There comes a time to slow down, but hard to do.

About our "flying saucer" excitement. The clipping you sent about covers it. I believe Lonnie Gamora saw something, but what is the 64 dollar?

question. Most people in Socorro think it was something from White Sands, or Stallion Site, where missiles are tested. White Sands near Las Cruces, and Stallion Site near Socorro. A number of their people live here. It is easy to see a number of missing links, however. One that Dr. Kynek would know if it was from either place. I have not seen anyone who ^{thought} was that it ^{was} celestial.

I believe Lonnie Gamora wishes he had never seen it. He does not seem to enjoy the publicity. He does not

Seem too positive about the men. Janora does a good deal of carpentry work, so he should have more or less accurate sight. Of course, there are always wild rumors. Such as being able to smell sulphur three days after the sighting &c.

We are all fine and going strong now. After New years the three Griffiths had the "flu." Fortunately one at a time. The first year I have not taken the shot. I will take all that are offered this fall.

Maybe when you take to wandering, we will get to see you. With love

Aunt Ruby

J. B. Baca
% Long Airdox Corp
Oak Hill
West Virginia

J. B. Baca
% Long Airdox Camp
Oak Hill
West Virginia

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TDEW

UFO Sighting, Socorro, New Mexico, 24 Apr 64

28 May 64

Hq USAF SAFOI PB (Mrs Gaiser)
Wash D C 20330

1. The following is a resume on the unidentified flying object sighted by Mr Lonnie Zamora, of Socorro, New Mexico on 24 Apr 64, results of the investigation so far, conclusions reached by FTD and courses of action in continuing the investigation.

a. Background Information:

(1) At approximately 1745, 24 Apr 64 an unidentified flying object was observed by Mr Lonnie Zamora in Socorro, New Mexico. The sighting was reported to Sgt Chavez of the New Mexico State Police. The object sighted by Mr Zamora had left markings in the ground as well as several burned spots in the area. The area was secured by Sgt Chavez and the commanding officer, Capt Holder of the Stallion Site at White Sands notified. Capt Holder conducted an initial investigation of the sighting and obtained samples of the charred areas and dirt surrounding the markings left by the UFO.

(2) News media and persons connected with various UFO organizations such as AFRO and NICAP received word of the sighting and sent investigators to the scene. Newspaper accounts of the sighting had become much distorted with reports of little men running around and a rocket ship blasting off into space. The account of the sighting carried in the El Defensor & Chieftain, dated Tuesday, 28 April 1964 and the account by UPI representative Charles Richard, carried in the Albuquerque Journal, 27 April 1964, are essentially correct. As a result of wide news coverage and public interest in the sighting, Captain Hector Quintanilla, Project Officer, directed TSgt David Moody to assist in the investigation for the Air Force. Sgt Moody contacted Major Commer, the Officer at Kirtland AFB responsible for unidentified flying object investigations, and accompanied him to Socorro. Information obtained during this investigation revealed that the sighting was legitimate and there was no indication that a hoax was being perpetrated. The results of Capt Holder's investigation were received, interviews with Sgt Chavez and Lonnie Zamora were conducted. A geiger counter was used to determine if radiation was present in the area of the

note

UFO sighting. The data was collected and no positive conclusion reached. On Tuesday, 23 April 1964, Capt Quintanilla directed Doctor J Allen Hynek to Socorro to obtain additional data. Composite results of the investigation by Capt Holder, Sgt Moody, Dr Hynek and Major Conner indicated that the attached narrative depicts the true circumstances of the sighting.

b. Specific Findings from Efforts to Date:

(1) On the evening of 24 April 1964 Sgt Chavez of the New Mexico State Police accompanied by Agent Burns of the FBI and Capt Richard Holder conducted a search of the area surrounding the sighting. There were no automobile tire markings or markings of any sort in the area other than those located at the site of the alleged landing and so noted in Capt Holder's report.

(2) Radioactivity: Major Conner and Sgt Moody checked the area for radiation. There was no radioactivity in the area of the sighting.

(3) Helicopter Activity: A check was made to determine if any helicopter activity was in the area at the approximate time of the sighting. This check was conducted at White Sands by Capt Holder who talked with the pilots and operational personnel. All helicopters at White Sands were in the hangars at the time of the sighting. Sgt Moody checked all ARS helicopters at Kirtland AFB and the landing gear did not coincide with the marks on the ground. Helo activity was checked within a radius of 300 miles including Biggs AFB at El Paso with negative results. All military helos including those associated with Project Cloud Gap have been eliminated as a possible cause of the sighting. However, civilian helicopter activity was not completely determined.

(4) Radar Surveillance of the Area: Capt Holder contacted radar sites at White Sands and Almagordo. He was informed that there was no unidentified activity in the area during the time of the sighting.

(5) Soil Samples: The soil samples obtained at the sighting were given to Dr J Allen Hynek by Capt Holder. They were turned over to Captain Quintanilla who in turn submitted them to ASD for analysis. Laboratory analysis of the soil was completed on 19 May 64. It included spectrographic analysis which revealed that there was no foreign material in the soil samples. Also, no chemicals were detected in the charred or burned soil which would indicate a type of propellant. There was no significant difference in elemental composition between the different samples.

(6) VTOL and Lunar Modules:

(a) Personnel working on the development of VTOL type aircraft and lunar modules were consulted. VTOL type a/c were not eliminated as a possible cause due to the absence of a blast effect in the area. There are several types of ducted blast devices which would divert the force of the blast outward. However, they were not aware of an operational craft of this nature.

(b) Lunar Module configurations conform not only to the description of the object but also have girder like legs or pods which would produce markings such as those found at Socorro. One known experimental model, constructed by Bell Aircraft Corporation, is located at Edwards AFB.

(7) Additional Witness: The El Defensor and Chieftan of Tuesday 23 Apr 64 carried an article indicating that an unidentified tourist traveling North on U S 85 saw the UFO just before it landed. He also observed the police car heading up the hill toward the spot where the UFO landed. If this is true, the UFO not only disappeared in the direction of White Sand's but also came from that same direction. A telephone call to Mr Opal Grinder of Whiting Brothers Service Station indicated that he was the source for reporting that an unidentified tourist had observed the unidentified flying object. He verified that the information in the news article was correct. ||

c. General Conclusions to Date:

(1) Evaluation of the data contained in the various investigative reports confirms that a sighting definitely did occur. The description of the object and flight characteristics are coincident with that expected of a helicopter, VTOL or Lunar Module configuration. Current investigative efforts are being made to establish or identify the specific vehicle which caused the sighting. The following statement by Captain Hector Quintanilla represents a statement which may be released to the press: | 27

"Conclusion: The investigators at Wright-Patterson have not been able to identify or determine what type of vehicle or object Mr Lonnie Zamora observed on 24 April at Socorro, New Mexico. The object or vehicle displayed flight characteristics well within the State-of-the-Art and the sighting cannot be attributed to atmospheric or astronomical phenomena. In this respect, I can categorically state that the vehicle or object observed by Mr Lonnie Zamora was not an inter-planetary space vehicle visiting the planet Earth. This case is still open and the investigation is still in progress." | 27

d. Continuing Investigative Efforts at Present Include:

(1) The FTD Liaison Officer, Major Mitchell at White Sands, has been requested to determine if a vehicle from a classified project at White Sands could have contributed to the sighting.

(2) A letter has been sent to the FAA requesting any information relative to identification of a firm using the marking observed by Lonnie Zamora.

(3) NASA has been queried regarding the status of the Lunar Module Programs. As of this date no reply has been received.

(4) Letters concerning status of the Lunar Module programs have been written to 15 industrial organizations.

(5) Contact with research and development personnel associated with VTOL and Lunar Module Programs is being maintained.

(6) Efforts to locate the unidentified tourist have not been successful, however, this is still a possibility.

FOR THE COMMANDER

ERIC T de JONCKHEERE
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Technology
and Subsystems

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Narrative of Sighting

NARRATIVE OF SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO SIGHTING, 24 APRIL 1964

Shortly after 5:30 pm on Friday, 24 April 1964 Sgt Lonnie Zamora of the Socorro Police Department was chasing a speeding auto North on U S 35 in the line of duty. While in pursuit he heard a roar and saw flames in an area where a dynamite shack was known to be located. He abandoned chase of the auto and proceeded to where he thought an explosion had occurred. In order to reach this spot he had to travel a little-used road over several hills and gullies. After two or three efforts to drive his car up a gravel-covered incline he reached a crest where the object was visible. At this point, 800 ft from the object, he observed what he thought to be a car overturned and standing on its end. There were one or two objects described as coveralls which he assumed to be occupants of the vehicle. He radioed in to police headquarters that he was proceeding to investigate a 10-74 (auto accident). Proceeding up the road to a point about 150 ft from the gully where the object was, he stopped the car, got out, and headed toward the object. The object was on girderlike legs, white (not chrome) and egg shaped or oval. As he approached the object there were some noises and flame and smoke began to come from the bottom of the vehicle. The noise increased from low pitch to high pitch, was different from that of a jet or helo and not like anything Sgt Zamora had ever heard. The flame was blue like a welders torch, turning to orange or yellow at the ends. Thinking that the object was going to explode he became frightened. The time was approximately 1745 (1 1/2 hours before sunset), the sun was to his back, slightly to the right. He turned, ran back to get behind the police car, bumping his leg and losing his glasses on the way. He crouched down, shielding his eyes with his arm while the noise continued for another 10 seconds. At this time the noise stopped and he looked up. The object had risen to a point about 15-20 ft above the ground and the flame and smoke had ceased to come from the object. The object had a red marking about 1 ft or maybe 18 inches in height, shaped like a crescent with a vertical arrow and horizontal line underneath. The object hovered in this spot for several seconds and then flew off in a SW direction following the contour of the gully. It cleared the dynamite shack by not more than 3 ft. He watched the object disappear in the distance over a point on Highway 35 about 6 miles from where he was standing. The object took about 3 minutes to travel that far. Disappearance was by fading in the distance and at no time did he observe the object to rise more than 20 ft off the ground.

While proceeding to the location when the object was assumed to be an auto Sgt Zamora was in radio contact with police headquarters. The State Police use the same network and his call was monitored by Sgt Chavez of the New Mexico State Police. Sgt Zamora attempted

to direct Sgt Chavez to the location while he was driving toward the object. Sgt Chavez took the wrong road, and was, in fact heading in the opposite direction for part of the time and would not have been in a position to see the object. He arrived at the point where Sgt Zamora was parked about three minutes after the object had disappeared. Sgt Zamora was pale and upset at what he had witnessed. Sgt Chavez was skeptical of the situation and proceeded to where Zamora had observed the object. Here he found the marks and burns. Smoke appeared to be coming from a bush which was burned but no flame or coals were visible. Sgt Chavez broke a limb from the bush and it was cold to the touch. The marks were fresh and no other marks were in the area. Diagonals of the four impressions intersect in a perpendicular and the major distance seems to be approximately 13 ft. Sgt Chavez secured the area and contacted local military authorities. This resulted in the investigation of the sighting.

2 P27

20 August, 1964

Major Hector Quintanilla
Box 9494
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Foreign Technology Division
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Major Q:

Enclosed is Dr. Hynek's report on his return to Socorro, New Mexico on August 15th. This was dictated in Boulder, and any mistakes in names, etc. are of my own doing and not Dr. Hynek's!

The last page of the report mentions an Exhibit A, a report from one of the people whom he interviewed in Socorro. However, Dr. Hynek did not send "exhibit A" with the tape of the enclosed article. He did ask that I get this off to you as soon as possible, so I am sending his report without the exhibit, which I trust he will bring with him when he comes to Dayton next week.

Thank you again for your help on straightening out our financial statement for last month.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs) Constance K. Dickinson
Secretary to Dr. J. Allen Hynek

ckd
enc.

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

September 10, 1964

Mr. Wade Wellman
407 Strong's Ave.
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Dear Weedie,

Thank you for your two good letters. You are an excellent correspondent. I have not had time to reply because of the meetings here in Hamburg. They have just concluded, and in a few hours I shall be leaving for Florence, Rome and Naples. The weather here has been unbelievably good, warm and sunny. At this time of year, one expects about half of the days to be rainy. So I consider that I have had quite a dividend.

Now for some specific answers to your questions.

The trouble with you is that you apparently believe everything you see in the newspapers. I am always somewhat skeptical. You have asked me to comment on the Socorro case. I have no facts other than those given in the newspaper clipping you sent and from "Investigator". Obviously, I cannot make a definitive analysis on such slim evidence. I can only give some of my reactions, since I have not been in communication with either the Air Forces or Allen Hynek on the subject.

The case has certain features in common with such highly discredited cases as the scoutmaster case in Florida many years ago. There is great emphasis on "the reliability" of the patrolman. There was similar great emphasis on the reliability of the scoutmaster. I do not give too much weight to Hynek's cautious quotations, which very clearly were the result of pressure from the local newsman. In brief, this sighting seems to possess all of the elements of either a hoax or a hallucination, however reliable the observer may have seemed to be, just on the fact of things. Many people have gone off their rocker without any prior notice. When, as, or if I get additional information I shall pass it on to you. But that is as far as I can go at the present time and that is certainly not for publication or for distribution.

Thank you for the nasty review from A.P.R.O. You asked me to comment. I do not have a copy of my book to refer to.

Mrs. Lorenzen says that I "insinuate" that James Stokes was a personal friend. I cannot remember having said anything of the sort. I can tell you, but I will trust you to keep this statement confidential, that I did know of James Stokes. This is quite a different thing. Furthermore, through my contacts in New Mexico, I checked on his reliability. I could not, for reasons of libel, even begin to state what the various authorities for whom he works or had worked said about him. So her nasty cracks have nothing to do with the case. I did make a careful check on his reliability, however.

You asked me to comment on the Trindade sighting. In the course of my investigation I received two copies of the report, one from Rio de Janeiro and the other from Wright Field. They were identical. I quoted identically from them. I made no changes whatever in these reports. Mrs. Lorenzen is going out of her way to be critical. I mentioned in a footnote, because my meeting there occurred after the book had been set in type. And how does Pontes know what I did in Rio or from where I obtained my sources of information? Pontes is as stupid as a lot of the others who have dealt with this problem. It is definitely a hoax, and of that there is no question.

I do not think I need to comment further concerning her slurs, insults and insinuations.

So much for that. Anyway, thank you very much for the information and perhaps I shall hear from you in Florence or Rome. I am, incidentally, bypassing Venice, just because I am too tired from very heavy scientific meetings.

With best wishes to you, I am,

Cordially yours,

Donald H. Menzel

DEM:ico

29 September 1964

2 p 27

Dr. Donald H. Menzel
Harvard College Observatory
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Don:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, and I'm glad that you liked the review.

With respect to the Socorro case, I wish I could substantiate the idea that it was a hoax or a hallucination. Unfortunately, I cannot. I have talked at length with the principals in the sighting, and unless my knowledge of human nature is utterly out of phase, I would feel that Zamora is incapable of perpetrating a hoax. He is simply a good solid cop whose two early comments are in themselves quite revealing. The first was to ask his superior whether he (Zamora) should first talk to his priest and his second was that he resented the whole thing because it prevented him from getting his quota of speeders that day! He is not imaginative, sticks solidly to business, and is far from talkative. His superior, Sergeant Chaves, is much more articulate.

Major Quintanilla is convinced that the Socorro sighting is neither a hoax nor a hallucination, but he feels that perhaps some sort of test object (war games, etc.) might have been going on. However, there is no record of such even though he has tried to track this down through White Sands, Holloman Air Force Base, and a few others. I would like to go along with the hallucination idea if it weren't for the marks and the burned patches. I arrived there several days afterwards, of course, but the marks had been preserved, and I have the word of nine witnesses who saw the marks within hours of the incident, who tell me that the center of the marks were moist as though the topsoil had been freshly pushed aside. The four marks when plotted out lie such that the diagonals intersect at exactly ninety degrees, which may or may not be significant.

Then, of course, we have the testimony of the tourist who stopped by Whiting's Gas Station (I talked to the filling station man in detail) who while waiting for his change remarked, "Your airplanes fly awfully low around here, one liked to knock me off the road just south of town."

Whereupon the attendant replied, "Oh, we have a lot of helicopters flying around here."

To which the tourist replied, "If that was a helicopter, it's the damndest helicopter I ever saw. It seems he was in some sort of trouble because he landed just over the hill, and a little later I saw a police car going out toward it."

I checked the times on all these, and they jibe well within human error of time estimates. Furthermore, I talked with all the townspeople I could get

hold of, including the baggage man at the station, the priest, and several people who have known Lonnie Zamora since he was in knee britches. This baggage man at the station, (baggage men have a way of knowing everything about everybody in town) gave him one of the cleanest bills of health I've ever heard from anyone. Furthermore, one of my astronomy undergraduates did a term paper on the Socorro case since he comes from Socorro and his aunt essayed to gather a great deal of raw materials for him. She personally visited Mrs. Zamora and went up and down the town fishing out what she could. In her talk with Mrs. Zamora, she quotes Mrs. Zamora as saying, "Lonnie just gave himself up to God." The term paper was complete with geologic map, road maps, etc. and while I asked the student undertaking the term paper to do everything he could to find an obvious natural explanation of the sighting, he was unable to do so. I think it's time for D.H.M. and Lyle Boyd to get in the act to solve this mystery! I'm stuck.

Furthermore, I revisited Socorro on my way to Las Cruces a month ago just to check the pulse. I thought perhaps that if I talked to Zamora and the other again, they would certainly have had some afterthoughts about the thing, after this many months had passed. Zamora, if anything, is more reticent than before and, although I tried to find negative character references for Zamora or some sort of medical history, I met nothing but a wall of good character references. The guy doesn't drink, cavort with women, or recite poetry. He captures speeders. In fact, as you know, he was chasing a speeder when the incident occurred. He was in uniform, on duty, and this is a situation hardly conducive to an isolation hallucination, or what-have-you. He is the sort of cop who when he chases a speeder has a one track mind and wants to get his speeder and make up his quota for the day. It was, I think, only because he heard this noise and reportedly saw a flash of light out near the mayor's dynamite shack (he is apparently beholden to the mayor for his job) that he swerved aside from his normal course of duty to respond to what he thought was a higher call, namely to do a good turn for the mayor and his dynamite shack. Also the fact that, when he first saw the object in the distance, he stated that he thought it was an overturned auto, doesn't sound like the start of a hallucination. He first saw it from a distance of a good quarter mile---more like a half mile and then of necessity lost sight of it for a couple of minutes while he drove around a hillock which obscured his sight. It was not until he rounded the hillock and came onto the small mesa that he was confronted with the object a bare 200 feet away from him. I reenacted the crime with him, along with stopwatch, etc. and throughout the whole thing, he had none of the marks of the crackpot as I found, for instance, in my interview with Adamski. Just a solid cop. So, you come up with an answer, please!

I am building two observatories this year. We break ground next month for the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center here on the new lakefill in Evanston, and just a few weeks after that, for our new observatory in New Mexico. So we will have a 40-inch, a 24-inch, an 18 1/2-inch, a 15-inch, and a 12-inch, plus a 10-inch astrograph. Things have been breaking fairly well for me, and I have never regretted my decision to come to Northwestern, although both Mimi and I thoroughly enjoyed Cambridge and Smithsonian and our fine contacts with all of you people. I hope both you and Lyle had a chance to see our paper on image orthicon astronomy in the last Sky and Telescope, and the description of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center in this current issue of Sky and Telescope.

Mimi and the new babies are doing very well. Ross Allen is now just over one year old; Paul is two and one-half; Joel is fourteen and in ninth grade; Roxanne, as you know, is at Tufts; and Scott is now a senior at MIT. So time and the world move on. Mimi and I send our very best regards to you and Florence and to Lyle and Bill.

2 P27

Sincerely yours,

Allen

JAH:krf

CC: Major Hector Quintanilla

Raynor
8350520

1951-525-3

February 7, 1965
P.O. Box 1261
Socorro, New Mexico

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Director
Dearborn Observatory
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Dr. Hynek:

I am sending you separately a February ⁴ copy of El Defensor-Chieftain which contains a story on the filming of a UFO documentary, part of which was done in Socorro. The film should be released in a month or two, and the first public showing is to be in Socorro. I will see that you receive an invitation.

The title of the documentary will be "Phenomena 7.7," the figures being the percentage of sightings classified by the Air Force as UFO's out of 8000 reports.

The story appeared before the Hollywood film studio men interviewed City Policeman Lonnie Zamora and filmed a re-enactment of his sighting. They are convinced there was absolutely no faking in Zamora's account. One of the studio men said Zamora's sighting jibes with 16 other verified cases.

No erratic or distorted stories by crackpot observers will be used in the documentary. One of the film's purposes will be to show no panic or hysteria has resulted from the sightings.

If I remember correctly, the excitement caused by the White Sands Missile Range helicopter night flights probably didn't last 36 hours. The excitement wasn't widespread here.

I have heard of no further reports here. Our nights are cold and people are not outdoors for the length of time most likely to lead to any sightings. Nor have there been any further reports of daylight sightings. For all any of us knows, there have been many other UFO landings in the late night or early morning hours in ~~many~~ remote places in New Mexico when the chances of their being sighted would be most slight.

The Rev. Donald Bean, assistant pastor of San Miguel Catholic Church here, would like to meet you if you have time on your next trip. He has nothing to report that I know of, but he would be capable of accurate observation if he should ever be fortunate enough to make a sighting.

By all means stop, if you are through New Mexico late this month. I expect to be in Albuquerque overnight on February 13, but will be in town for the remainder of the month. I can be reached at the office or at home.

Sincerely,

Ted Raynor

(Ted Raynor)

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

February 19, 1965

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Dearborn Observatory
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Allen:

This is a joint letter from Lyle Boyd and myself relative to the Socorro, New Mexico, UFO case. Major Quintanilla very kindly sent us the documents and we had a chance to study them independently, since I was out of town, before checking with one another. I think it is interesting that our independent thinking had come to essentially the same conclusion. At least we do have some tentative suggestions concerning the case, which appears to be the most baffling incident either of us have encountered so far.

Both of us approached this problem like that presented in a detective story. There are certain facts. We tried to accept the facts as nearly as possible at face value, and then to come up with a suggested solution.

We feel that the unearthly character of the incident in itself may have clouded the facts. Had the sighting been related to a bank robbery or a murder, I feel that some rather obvious clues might have been better followed up. Anyway, we shall make our suggestions and hope that it is not too late for someone to check more carefully.

We first raise a question concerning the nature of the flame. The blue and orange colors suggest a chemical flame. When first seen, it was cone-shaped with nothing on top, and the bottom concealed by the hill. When next seen it was below the UFO, and was orange at the bottom, light blue at the top. How are we to explain the change?

W. J. ... - Lawrence to get into ...

Zamora's vision is important. Both times that he saw the flame he was wearing green sunglasses over his regular glasses and was looking more or less into the low sun. Could this have blinded him and produced a false image? Certainly, wearing green glasses, Zamora could scarcely give a reliable estimate of color. After he fell down and lost his glasses, he apparently did not again observe the flame. Could the glasses have affected what he saw?

The question immediately came to my mind, "what sort of optical correction does Zamora need?" A call to Major Quintanilla gave the information that his vision is 20-200, which means, I take it, that he sees at 20 feet what he should see at 200. I gather that he has a very high correction. It would be interesting to know how much astigmatism he has. Indeed, in what direction is the astigmatism? In other words, what he saw after having lost his glasses was pretty much of a blur. There is an apparent inconsistency between the newspaper report and that given by Zamora. In fact, Zamora's first report refers to "burning brush." But in Moody's account, he refers to the fact that "smoke appeared to come from the bush and he assumed that it was burning. However, no coals were visible and the charred portions of the bush were cold to the touch." This is a new kind of "fire". I would assume, therefore, that the smoke may indeed have been a chemical smoke, and that the charred region was incidental or had been prepared earlier. Sergeant Chavez's observations were only a few minutes after Zamora had seen the flames.

Is it possible that some very fine powder might have been released? Or possibly a carbon-dioxide bulb, elevated from a balloon? Was there evidence of a chemical fire extinguisher? The condensation from released CO₂ could have produced the effect of both flame and smoke, especially when illuminated by the reddish glow of the setting sun. The position of the column of condensed water or CO₂ crystals was just right for a bright illumination. And, if released from a dark-colored balloon, could have easily given the impression of an inverted cone, as reported.

Of course some chemical release might have been involved. However, there are many artificial ways of producing a strong roar, perhaps most simply from an electronic device, turning it up and then turning it down. Such a device need not be very large.

9 //
 saw one seen
 and it was
 burning

No recovery (way) of any of par-phenomena

Now when we come to the UFO itself, Zamora first thought it was an overturned car. When he radioed Chavez, he said it was like a balloon. Could it have been a balloon? Or could it have ^{been} a balloon carrying a flat piece of aluminum foil, shaped like a flying saucer?

When Zamora arrived at the scene he was admittedly expecting trouble connected with the dynamite shack, but he wasn't sure just exactly where it was. The shack apparently was made of aluminum, and the UFO was also like aluminum in appearance. Did the shack stand on legs, like the UFO? Of course, Zamora did see the UFO take off in the direction of the shack and pass over it, but there do seem to be some similarities in size and appearance between UFO and shack. When he saw the UFO rise and take off, he had lost his spectacles and his interpretation of what he saw without his glasses is certainly open to question.

Zamora saw two persons in white coveralls -- large kids or small adults. The costume sounds like that often worn by filling-station attendants or garage mechanics. Both they and the UFO were concealed by the hill during the several seconds while Zamora was driving from Point D to Point E in the diagram. These two persons were obviously connected with the incident. They obviously took off at high speed, and I doubt that they took off in the UFO. Was there a near-by gully in which they could have hidden? Would they have had time to reach the dynamite shack and hide behind it?

Now we come to the physical evidence, as distinct from the subjective evidence, -- the charred material and the indentations in the sandy soil.

What reason is there to believe that the charring was recent, as seems to have been assumed? Zamora said he saw burning brush -- apparently because he thought he saw smoke. But might it not have been dust, recently disturbed? He did not smell anything unusual; that means he did not smell smoke. Yet there was a strong wind from the south that should have carried any smoke and its smell directly into his face. Also, if there had been a fire, the wind should have spread the fire. When Chavez arrived and went down to the site, between 3 and 5 minutes after the UFO vanished, he said there were no coals and the charred bushes were cold to the touch. There was also a piece of charred cardboard.

Deals to Lowell

*Arthur Byrnes
FBI*

never read that - (Chavez)
the glasses

mon like 295 shop

What reason is there to accept the charred bushes as relevant to the sighting, and the charred cardboard as not relevant? All that seems certain is that, at some time, human beings had been in the area, and that their activities (a picnic? visiting the shack?) had involved the use of fire, and that some bushes and some cardboard had burned. If the charring was connected with the UFO (the fire might have cooled in 3 to 5 minutes), then probably the cardboard was also connected with the UFO, and that certainly indicates human activity.

How big and what shape was the cardboard? Maybe it played a significant role in the enacted UFO drama. Did it, for example, support part of the aluminum foil? Were there holes in the cardboard to which the aluminum might have been attached, or indentations carved by paper clips or the like?

The evidence of the marks in the soil seems confusing, since we have only the diagrams to go on. The photos are blurred and the verbal descriptions are vague. The descriptions don't say what distinguishes the 4 main imprints from the "footprints." Apparently the footprints were not sharp enough to be photographed, measured for shoe-size, or reproduced by plaster-of-paris casts. If they were actually footprints, and not just vague indentations, they again indicate human activity, and might have been made by the persons in white coveralls or, inadvertently, even by Zamora himself when he first went down there before Chavez arrived. It was Chavez who first noticed them. *Chavez never used word "footprints"*

Apparently all witnesses agreed that the four main indentations were fresh. (What is a "burm?" A technical word?) All these measurements of angles seem confusing. The fact that the "average central angle" between the diagonals to the 4 indentations is $89^{\circ} 1'$, instead of 90° , which it clearly should be, suggests that somebody goofed on the calculation. The two lines do seem to intersect roughly at right angles, but whether they are true right angles or not of course depends on the arbitrarily chosen "centers" of the indentations. Isn't it equally possible that the four main indentations were actually made at random? That they were made by a machine seems unlikely, given the peculiar, irregular shape they indicate.

We come back to the speeding car, which started the whole business. We certainly would like to know more about this. You have made it clear that Zamora was a gruff type, who enjoyed giving out tickets. It seems entirely reasonable that he might have antagonized some of the local teenagers,

Very fine details - kids would have looked

Ragman

835 0755

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

February 19, 1965

who devised a hoax to get even. This explanation, I may add, independently occurred to both Lyle and myself. The whole thing could easily have been planned to come off about as it did. The car came into his line of sight from a side road. Which side road? Could it have been from the direction of the flame and roar? Apparently Zamora thought he knew the occupant of the speeding car (Vivian Reynolds?) Was this driver ever found and questioned as to what he heard or saw? Did Zamora have a regular patrol route so that his approximate whereabouts would be known at a given time?

patrol
- where
to
no schedule

In other words, we see as the most likely possibility that someone planned the whole business to "get" Zamora. It sounds remarkably similar to the elaborate UFO hoax in New Jersey on September 4, 1964- holes in the ground, charred bushes, etc. In addition to the simple chemical phenomena, some fireworks elevated on a small balloon could easily have produced what Zamora reported.

If you accept this idea just as a working postulate, one can see how easy it would have been to explain the whole phenomenon. Any bright youngsters, possibly juniors or seniors in high school, could dream up this plan. Perhaps they are in a local UFO Club, perhaps not. But they have read of UFO's and they tried to make a very simple one. It need not have been elaborate. At first, we thought that perhaps a sizeable balloon might have been involved, perhaps one of the radiosonde type. But that again seems more elaborate than necessary. Perhaps the hoaxsters have two or three simple hydrogen-filled balloons. They put up the flare-producing device, whatever it was, with a small balloon and wait for a signal from their confederate in the speeding car. If they knew what Zamora's schedule was, so much the better. But one of their group is all prepared to get going. Perhaps he is a radio ham and can alert them to the proper time of exploding the device. Have any of the high school youngsters walkie-talkies on the citizen's band? The extremely loud noise was probably produced electronically, since apparently that and the bright flash attracted Zamora's attention. They must have definitely tried to simulate an explosion, since the proximity of the dynamite shack could hardly have been a coincidence.

no club

at band
but no
walkie
talkies

Now these boys have manufactured a fake UFO. To get it off with small balloons means that it is pretty light. They take a big piece of aluminum foil, cut it in the form of an ellipse with two legs appended,

Capt.
Holde

more or less as shown in Zamora's sketch, from a distance of approximately 103 feet. (N.B. Why approximately? If the distance was quoted as 103 instead of 100?) Now compare that with his first view of the object from approximately .15 miles, looking down on it. And remember that a horizontal ellipse can change to a circle or give the appearance of a vertical ellipse, according to the angle of view. This could easily account for the difference of appearance between the two views, if he saw it in a rounder projection, as if it were a "balloon" which seems to have been his impression the second time he saw it. The orientation of the quadrilateral figure is not shown. If there were several balloons used to support the object, the indentations might have held weights to keep them in position. The suspended oval disk, then, would lie more or less along one of the diagonals of the figure. Some experimentation might show this.

The boys are waiting for Zamora, they see him when his car crests the hill, they trigger another blast of flame, release the UFO, run like hell, and are hidden by the time he stops his car. The balloon gets caught in a current, near-sighted Zamora sees it disappearing into the distance. And that is it.

*not
reboard
cut off*

The white coveralls might, perhaps, be a clue to the culprits. Do they work in a filling station? Was, by any chance, this the Whiting Brother's Service Station? Is Opal Grinder possibly an accomplice? Does Opal have high school assistants? Does Zamora's record of arrests, over the previous five or six months, include more than one arrest of the same person? Were any of these persons employed by the service station?

You may well object that our hypothesis is far-fetched. However, much more elaborate hoaxes have been perpetrated in the past, in many fields. New Mexico is pretty conscious of flying saucers. This hypothesis certainly opens up a lot of inquiry. I hope it is not too late to go back and check.

I would certainly question Opal Grinder, check on the potential speeder, and find out who he plays around with. See if there are some amateur chemists in the group, who might have made some fireworks. When I was a boy I launched a three-stage rocket, if you call the first stage being shot out of a cannon. Check the local high schools. See if

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

February 19, 1965

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there are boys who have electronics experience or walkie-talkies. Perhaps have a chemical analysis made of the soil in the vital region, looking for trace elements, to see if there is evidence of burned gunpowder. Or look at the charred material on the bushes. See if these may have some evidence of some constituent of gunpowder. Perhaps some unburned nitrate. But if it was just a CO₂ bomb, as I have suggested, perhaps that is harder to detect.

Given this much of a clue, re-enact the event. It may be difficult to produce in all detail, because one cannot always equal the meteorological conditions.

Farfetched as these hypotheses are, we wish you would look them over, compare them carefully with the data supplied, and see if there is any flaw in our reasoning. I well recall that Houdini and the Great Dunninger, magicians both, unmasked a good many hoaxes and charlatans in the field of mediums by producing, by entirely natural means, the phenomena of the seance. I hope we can do the same.

Looking forward to hearing from you and with our very best regards, we are

Cordially yours,


Donald H. Menzel


Lyle Boyd

DHM:nr

cc: Major Quintanilla
Sgt. Moody
Major Masten Jacks

Had burned a mesquite bush
- and they is hard to burn, -

Hot gas - slow look rather
than a burning

No. flame low see.

Report on the Trip to Socorro - Albuquerque - Socorro, March 12-13, 1965

Left Las Cruces 7:45 A. M., Friday, March 12. Arrived Socorro 10:30 A. M. and had an immediate conference with Mr. Chet Rainer, Editor of the El Defensor Chieftan, the Socorro newspaper. Our first subject was the movie that had been made by the Empire Films whose address in Hollywood is 7417 Sunset Blvd., and a name connected with it is Morry Malkin, a phone number is AC 213, 876-6800. Malkin is coming back to Socorro in a few weeks to arrange for the world premiere of the UFO movie in Socorro. This will be a white tie affair probably! Do you think the Air Force official consultant should be present at this world premiere? He does not think so. It would be exciting, but it would also give needless significance and importance to the picture. I think we had at best ignore it.

However, I learned through the grapevine that the picture is to have a Washington, D. C. preview in about three or four weeks and that Senator Symington is interested in it. We had better get Maston Jack's office or whoever is running the show now on to this if at all possible. That is one preview that I should attend if at all possible. The scuttlebutt picture has it that the picture contains movies taken in Milan, Italy of a UFO landing with a little man getting out of it. ~~That~~ Rumor has it that the Empire Film Studios paid \$40,000 for that Milan, Italy filmstrip. Apparently they have sunk quite a bit of money into this picture and expect to have it shown in many movie houses throughout the country and then shortly thereafter to release it for TV use. The film runs 86 minutes.

I found the situation in Socorro largely unchanged. Zamora still generally believed but the current feeling seems to be that there is no question but that he saw something real, but that it was most likely a super secret device being tested. I was asked many times whether I was really sure that the U. S. government didn't have a super secret project. I pointed out that if this were the case, that it would be unlikely that we would be testing

it on a global basis and the UFO phenomenon apart from the Socorro case is certainly not limited to the United States.

After these discussions in ~~Socorro~~ the editorial offices, Rainer and I went out for lunch and asked Sgt. Chaves to join us. While we were waiting for him, I showed Rainer the letter from Menzel and his comments about parts of it were, "Childish." But we went over it point by point, and likewise Chaves did. Chaves' reaction to the letter was rather strange. He had sort of a resigned, almost pathetic look on his face, and said, "I really feel sorry for Lonnie. He's had to take an awful lot." Then he told of a recent case where Zamora was arresting a kid for speeding, and the kid said, "What do you want to give me a ticket for? Don't you know a flying saucer might come right down on us now?" (or something like that.)

I asked him what the whole movie situation had been on Zamora and how it had effected him. He said that Zamora had not wanted to be in the picture but it was at the Mayor's insistence, via his boss, that he consented to do so. I can't quite believe this myself. When I talked to Zamora later, he seemed to be reasonably pleased about being in the movie. Clearly, with a world premiere in Socorro, it would be a strange human who did not get some quick out of a thing like that.

I will come back to the Menzell letter later because I discussed it with Dr. La Paz who knows Menzell well. That was the next day in Albuquerque.

I purchased five newspapers which had various stories about the movie or about related matters. The papers were for Tuesday, February 9; Thursday, February 25; Tuesday March 2; Tuesday, March 9; and Thursday, March 11. The first one I think you have; it states, "Socorro Part of Film on UFO's Completed; Zamora's Account Jibes With Sixteen Verified Sightings." The February 25th issue contains a front page story on a UFO sighted over Gallup which as far as I can see is nothing more than a meteor. The March 2nd issue contains a lovely story about

Would you be kind enough to send about ten blank forms to Mr. Ted Raynor, Editor, Socorro El Defensor Chieftan, Socorro, New Mexico, and he can send one of these forms to Mrs. Williams to fill out. The results will be, probably, a meteor. I tried to get in touch with her the next day, but she seemed to be at some sewing circle.

March 9 issue has a story "Film Studios Praise Cooperation Here in Film on UFO's." The letter received from Mr. Michael Mustow, a letter sent to Mayor Holm O. Bursan, stated, "Phenomena 7.7 is now completed, It will be viewed by countless millions of people throughout the world. It will open the door to facts heretofore shrouded in secrecy. It will prepare the entire human race for a better knowledge of the universe and possible neighbors who may have been observing our earth for centuries."

Finally, the March 11, Thursday, issue has a short article on "Zamora Saw a UFO, Not Flying Saucer." This was in response to a request by Zamora to please say in the paper that he never saw a flying saucer land, only a UFO. In part the article states, "Zamora says he was trying to cooperate with persons who asked him about the UFO, which he described as egg-shaped, and he wishes that they would not ask him about a flying saucer which he says he has never seen and cannot describe." "The policeman says that the account here stand unchanged from that he gave on April 24 and the following day."

I left for Albuquerque about 2:30 P. M. , arriving at the Institute of Metemetics, where Dr. Lincoln La Paz was waiting for me, at 4:00 P. M. Inset A: Raynor showed me a letter from Rev. Guy J. Cyr S. M. (Society of Mary) Sacred Heart Rectory, Lawrence, Mass. dated November 26, 1964. It is a long letter concerned with intelligence on other planets and trying to make publshade for civilization on the moon. The letter was rightfully night

Suballua

"Scientists Indicates Why UFO's Choose Areas for Landing." One Chan P. Thomas of Los Angeles, "a former government scientist," is supposed to be the scientific advisor to Empire Film Studios. His theories as to why UFO's land in New Mexico lack, shall we say, a scientific validity, in my opinion as he is not listed in the American Men of Science, and I have no knowledge of him personally. There was some question as to whether he should be asked to come to Socorro to give a public lecture on the general subject. Unfortunately my advice was asked, and I strongly urged that they not do so unless they find out considerably more about the gentleman's qualifications first. His principal reason for selecting Socorro seems to be the following: "The main one can be directly attributable to the ^{fa} subsurface geology. I would ^{sus} expect there is a multiplicity of faults, or -----areas where in sedimentary strata have been tilted to the vertical with the interlayer demarcations being plains largely in the North-South direction. The effects such subsurface deceptions have upon the energy distributions between the earth's core and the VanAllen radiation belt gives it the key to the answer." He also states that he has stumbled onto many answers ~~to~~ of heretofore ^{un}answerable riddles: What is gravity; Why do planets orbit and rotate; Why do stars burn in nuclear fires; Is the speed of light really a velocity boundary; Can ship be built which would do everything people who claim they have seen flying saucers say that those vehicles do?" I hardly need say more.

The same issue, however, contains a story of about "UFO Sighted Streaking Over City." "The observer, a Socorro woman who asked that her name be withheld (I have her name, however, a Mrs. Williams,) said the "perfectly round object" with deep yellow or gold light traveled at tremendous speed. She saw the object as it came over Socorro Mountain and it passed southeast over the city it did not seem far above the street light. I was unable to get in touch with this woman, but according to Rainer, this did not have a trail. It seemed to be just a light.

Return to preceding paragraph before Insert A

I gave LaPaz a copy of Vallee's book and also the Menzel letter which he took home and by the next morning had read completely the manuscript and the letter. LaPaz is still very concerned about the green fireball incident. Another one was sighted this last Christmas ~~eve~~ Night. According to LaPaz the official investigation never satisfactorily cleared up the question of why these peculiar uranium green fireballs should have chosen New Mexico to fly over and avoid being seen in other states, and why they were so peculiarly grouped. LaPaz is thoroughly convinced that both the green fire~~balls~~-balls and Zamora's sighting were observations of tests of advanced vehicles being produced by some project, even more secret than the Manhattan Project. I am afraid that LaPaz is unshakable from this hypothesis, and his primary criticism of Vallee's book was that Vallee has ignored the greenfireballs which, as far as LaPaz is concerned, represent the most important part of the UFO phenomenon. It is always just a matter of viewpoint!

LaPaz showed me his excellent meteorite collection and spent much time in general conversation.

He was engaged for the evening, and we met again early the next morning during which time we took the opportunity of meeting with the President of the University of New Mexico, Dr. Pokejoy, and established good -----relations between astronomy at Northwestern and astronomy at New Mexico.

Although LaPaz was impressed with Vallee's book, he felt that his impressive list of references was padded with too many references to unpublished articles or statements. He feels that it is not really a scientific book on the subject (I guess that about in the year 1980 I will have to write a really scientific book on the subject).

Coming now to the Menzel letter, I will consolidate the opinions of LaPaz, Cahves, and of Raynor. I did not show the letter to Zamora because I think it would merely have upset him.

Page 1. I asked Zamora about the reported flame when he first heard the explosion, when he was still on the highway. He denies ever having said anything about a flame at that time, only at the time when he saw it rise from the ground. As a matter of fact, he never mentioned anything like that to me, originally, but this did appear in Captain Holder's original report, and he purportedly got this in conversation with Zamora. However, I think this was in the original newspaper writeup. I will have to agree with Menzel that this part of Zamora's evidence is very mixed up and suggests some embroidery of the original sighting either by Zamora or by Captain Holder when excitement was running high.

Page 2. I can't agree with Menzel here. When he wears his glasses, his vision is okay. He had the glasses on when he saw the flame at the time the object was preparing to rise. Now this whole question of the "burning bush": I visited the site again on Saturday, and with Raynor and with Shrode, the owner of the radio station, and at no time was any bush or grass seen to be burning, and nobody seems to confirm any actual smoke. All that seem definitely to agree on is that the green snakeweed and the green greasewood, which are notoriously hard materials to ignite, showed evidence of having been charred, as though they have been seared by a hot flame, and not burned in an ordinary fashion.

As far as Kids having it in for Zamora, there is ample evidence that this is the case. But it was also pointed out to me by Opelgrinder (sp. ?) and his assistant and by several others, that it is a national phenomenon for teenagers to hate "fuzz" and the statement by Wesley Johnston, a high school senior who works at Opelgrinders is particularly significant. He said that many of the high school kids didn't like Zamora, but that he, Zamora, was not important enough to do anything about it. He said that if the kids wanted to get even with Zamora they would simply thrash him or do something to his car, but that an elaborate hoax would not be the way they would get even with him. One should remember ~~xxxxxx~~ before the time of the sighting there had been no talk in the Socorro region of unidentified flying objects. This would not have suggested itself as a means of getting back at Zamora. Apparently the Socorro teenagers are much more direct in their methods of reprisal for the fuzz. As far as the cardboard is concerned, Menzel's conjectures here fall completely flat. The cardboard was portions of very old and weathered corrugated paper from a packing box. There are many samples of this all over the region. There is a city dump not too far away, and when the wind, which blows tumbleweeds all over the place, get hold of some of this stuff, it scatters the papers pretty well all over the whole region. Many of the bushes, I noticed particularly this time, have papers caught on their underneath side. In any case, some this paper was still there, and I shall send Menzel a sample of what this cardboard really looks like. I would say that the cardboard had been there through many rains and had suffered successive dryings. The original piece I picked up was definite/^{ly} charred, ~~xxxx~~ This was the piece I sent to you along with soil samples, you will remember.

One rather interesting item is that the burning bush has recently exuded some sap and one of the movie people took this to Los Angeles to

have it analyzed and found it radioactive! I have also obtained some of the sap which I shall send to you and maybe Moody can try it out on his super-duper counter. It is odd that no one seemed to have bothered to have checked this area originally for radiation. Or did they?

Menzel's idea that the speeder was a deliberate decoy, who signaled to the hoaxes by walkie-talkie who then released a balloon with a cardboard or aluminum flying saucer attached thereto simply does not hold water. Although some of the students do have walkie-talkies, the fact of the matter is that the wind was from the south and the object went west. A balloon released at that time would have gone directly over town. Furthermore, they would have had to release after Zamora got there and watched the object on the ground for a short time. A previous release would simply have had it well over town by the time Zamora got to the spot.

The dynamite shack does not have legs.

There

It would have been a place for hoaxes to have hidden over on the other side of the knoll, particularly had they lain prone.

None of the people I talked with gave any credence to the hoax hypothesis, generally considering it to have been far above the capabilities and, motivations, and provocations of the hoaxers. Chaves says that Zamora never described the thing as looking like a balloon. Zamora knows exactly where the dynamite shack is. It is plainly visible from the site of the sighting, but about 500 feet to the west.

Zamora does not have any particular schedule for patrolling the town. He has the run of the whole town.

There is no UFO Club in town.

No paraphernalia of ~~the~~ a hoax were ever found. It would be rather hard to have done away with all tell-tale evidence, such as tubes of helium, release

mechanism, etc. Finally, it was LaPaz's feeling that had it been a hoax, it surely would have leaked by now. He told me of an elaborate hoax that was played on one of the geologists at Ohio State University when he taught there. The students had it in for this guy and contrived an explosion in and the crater which it produced an nearby town ~~which~~ was reported then as a meteorite crater. It had everybody excited for a while and would have succeeded except who got away with it were so pleased with themselves that they began to brag a bit and got caught. I do not believe that the Socorro high school students could have kept a secret this long. Furthermore, It would seem that any youngsters that hated Zamora sufficiently to have gone to all this trouble to perpetrate a hoax would now be very envious of the glory he is getting in a movie and all the publicity he has received and would certainly burst his bubble right now. Finally, there is the matter of the tourist who reported a strange object to O'Pelgrinder. This could not very well have been part of the hoax since the tourist was a complete stranger just passing through. Furthermore, if Zamora is to be believed at all, the object rose vertically and took off horizontally to the west and was observed as it passed well over the dynamite shack and disappeared over the perlite mill. This is entirely too big a hoax for high school students to perpetrate.

Perhaps I spent too much time on this matter, but the letter was a very convenient device for re-discussing the whole situation. Sgt. Chaves indicated that Menzel should have been a science fiction writer. Actually Iyle Boyd has done some of this, and I believe also Menzel has.

I left Albuquerque in the late morning on Saturday and arrived in Socorro about 1:00 P. M. Raynor, Shrode, and I visited the site and took some more samples, particularly of the sap, and I took a few more pictures, particularly of the dynamite shack to show Menzel. Then I went back to the radio station

and tried to call the Empire Film Studio, but it was closed.

In view of the fact that the prevailing opinion in the town still is that what Zamora saw not the result of hallucinations or of a hoax, but a secret test vehicle, what has become of my suggestion to have this left as "an exercise for the students"? It would be a marvelous exercise for neophyte intelligence officers.

There is also the opinion expressed in Socorro, and expressed to me a number of times in the past, by several people (and also by IaPaz) that I am merely a part of a super-smoke screen and so is FTD and Wright Field, and that the whole Project Bluebook is a grand coverup for something the government does not want discussed. Best way to give a lie to this, of course, is to point out that if this were the case, the U. S. government should also have been responsible for the sightings in France, Brazil, Spain, and in England. Maybe the U. S. government has really gone global! On that happy thought I conclude my report.

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek

P. S. I now have a slightly infect^{ed}/finger from the thorns on the bush that was originally charred. The bush drew blood when I attempted to get some soil samples. Undoubtedly, the finger will now wither away from radiation burns. Unfortunately, I do not have interplanetary Blue Cross coverage!

April 26, 1968

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chairman
Astronomy Department
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Dr. Hynek:

I may have a lead on the person you are looking for. Within a week or two after Zamora's sighting on April 24, 1964, my mother sent me a clipping from Dubuque, Iowa which told of a person from Dubuque who saw the saucer in Socorro. The clipping was from The Telegraph Herald, Dubuque's newspaper, and included a picture of the individual. As I recall, the man was driving into Socorro at the time. Unfortunately, I no longer have the clipping. However, I am sure that the name and address of the individual could be obtained from the Telegraph Herald in Dubuque.

Very truly yours,
Robert A. Bierman
601 Fitch Ave.
Socorro, New Mexico
87801

C O P Y

26 April 1968

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chairman
Astronomy Department
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Dr. Hynek

I may have a lead on the person you are looking for. Within a week or two after Zamora's sighting on April 24, 1964, my mother sent me a clipping from Dubuque who saw the saucer in Socorro. The clipping was from the Telegraph Herald, Dubuque's newspaper, and included a picture of the individual. As I recall, the man was driving into Socorro at the time. Unfortunately, I no longer have the clipping. However, I am sure that the name and address of the individual could be obtained from the Telegraph Herald in Dubuque.

Very truly yours,
(signed)

Robert A. Bieberman
601 Fitch Avenue
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

Four Years Old

\$100 Reward Offered In Saucer Mystery

SOCORRO (AP) — The mystery of a reported unidentified flying object four years ago south of Socorro on an isolated hill remains unsolved.

And to help find clues to help solve the problem, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University in

\$100 reward to help locate a motorist who reported seeing the object.

On April 24, 1964, Socorro Policeman Lonnie Zamora saw what he described as a four-legged, egg-shaped object with at least two persons aboard.

At least one other person, an unidentified tourist traveling north on old U.S. 85, was quoted as saying he saw the UFO just before it landed in the area. Opal Grinder, who was manager of a Socorro service

station at that time, reported the tourist, a man, remarked that aircraft flew low in the Socorro area.

Grinder said there were several helicopters in the area. He quoted the tourist as replying that it was a "funny-looking helicopter if that is what it was." Grinder quoted the man as saying the object flew directly over his car.

Grinder, unaware of Zamora's sighting, said he attached no importance to the report then.

Dr. Hynek told the Las Cruces Sun-News that in an effort to establish the Socorro sighting, he authorized the \$100 reward, which will go to

persons knowing the whereabouts of the motorist. Dr. Hynek, who is a consultant to the Air Force on UFO sightings, said persons who would know the motorist should contact Dr. Hynek at Northwestern University.

30 April 1968

Editor
Telegraph Herald News
Dubuque, Iowa

Dear Sir:

In my capacity as Scientific Consultant to the Air Forces' Project Blue Book I am trying to get more details on the April 24, 1964 sighting at Socorro, New Mexico, made by Lt. Zamora.

I would very much appreciate your help in obtaining the name and address of the individual referred to in the enclosed copy of Mr. Bieberman's letter who might also have witnessed this sighting.

I wish to assure you that my interest in this matter is entirely professional and under no circumstances do I use this material for publicity purposes or for any other reason than to try to solve this puzzling phenomenon of unidentified flying objects.

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:lp
encl.

Established 1836

The Telegraph-Herald

DUBUQUE, IOWA
DIAL 58 3-6421

May 29, 1968

2P27

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Department of Astronomy
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dear Dr. Hynek:

Your letter of 30 April, requesting information about individuals referred to in the letter who might have witnessed the sighting of unidentified flying objects on April 24, 1964, was forwarded to my attention.

After considerable searching of the newspaper files during the period in question, I have come up with some helpful information.

The Telegraph-Herald carried a page one story on April 29, 1964 covering the details of the sighting. Two persons from Dubuque were listed in the story as having seen the object in question. The story lists:

Paul Kies, 650 Sunset Ridge, Dubuque, Iowa
and
Larry Kratzer, 1504 Henion, Dubuque, Iowa (now of
751 Kane Street)

I hope this information will be of value to you in your search for a solution to puzzling phenomenon of unidentified flying objects and trust that the information will be used with discretion.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Dempsey
Director of Public Relations

RCD:sle

RECEIVED

JUN 3 1968

ASTRONOMY DEPARTMENT
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Socorro

~~232~~

2P27

11 June 1968

Mr. Larry Kratzer
751 Kane Street
Dubuque, Iowa

Dear Mr. Kratzer:

Through the kindness of Mr. Richard C. Dempsey of the Telegraph Herald, I was informed that you were one of the additional witnesses to the now famous sighting of an unidentified flying object near Socorro on April 24, 1964. I am writing to you to ask your cooperation in the continuing scientific investigation of this perplexing case.

I can hardly overestimate the importance of additional qualified testimony in this matter. I should say also that I am undertaking this continuing investigation on my own in my capacity as an individual scientist rather than in my capacity as Scientific Consultant to the United States Air Force in the matter of unidentified flying objects. This completely insures your privacy since I can assure you that your name will never be used without your express permission.

I do hope that you will be kind enough to cooperate. To assist you in a minor way I am enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for your reply. Would you be kind enough to give me your phone number and the time it would be most convenient for you for me to place a call to you.

I shall look forward to your reply with interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:lp
encl.

Socorro

2/3/2

2P27

11 June 1968

Mr. Paul Kies
650 Sunset Ridge
Dubuque, Iowa

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I do hope that you will be kind enough to cooperate and to assist in a minor way I am enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for your reply. Would you be kind enough to give me your phone number and the time it would be most convenient for you for me to place a call to you if this appears feasible.

I shall look forward to your reply with interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:lp
encl.

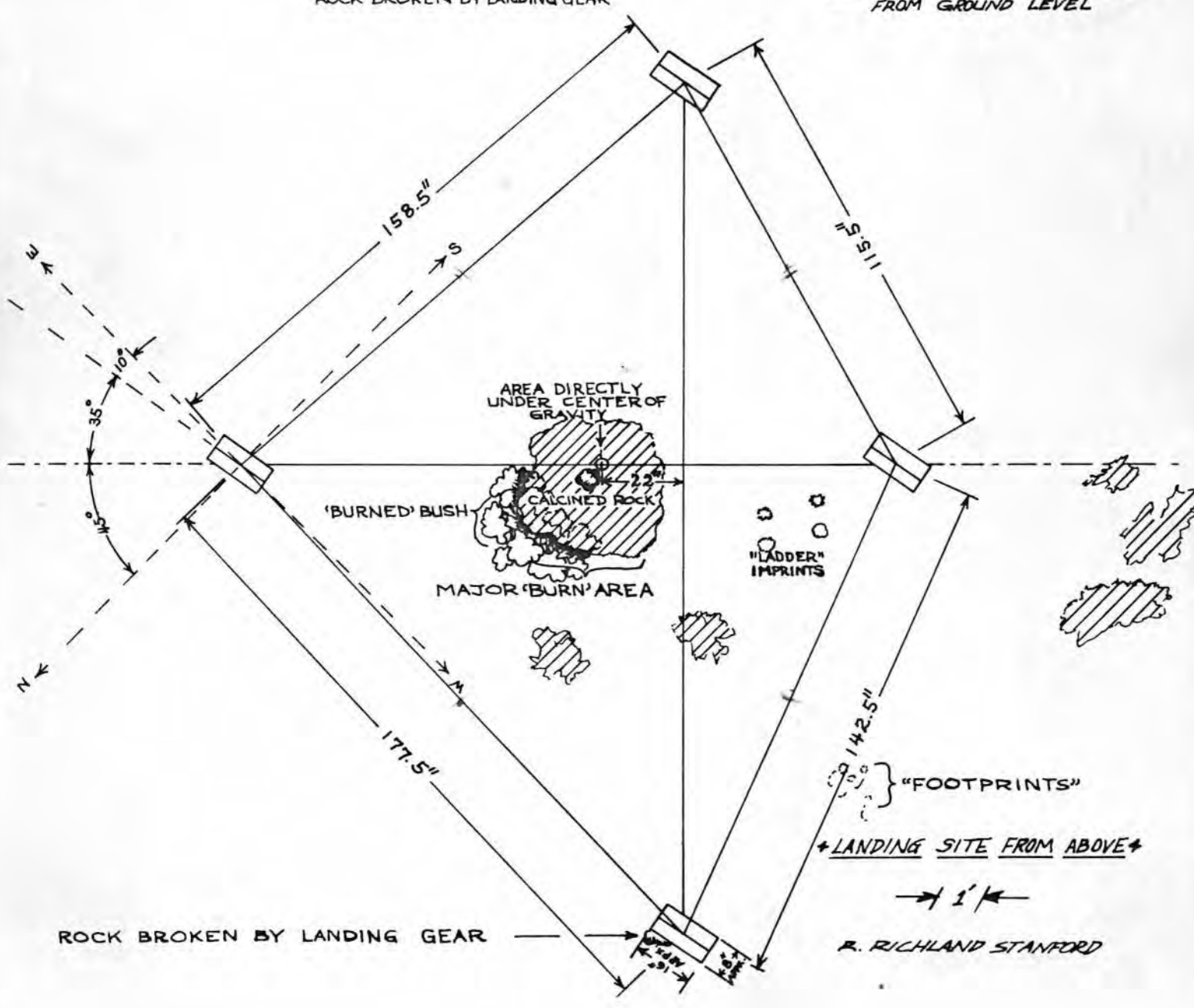
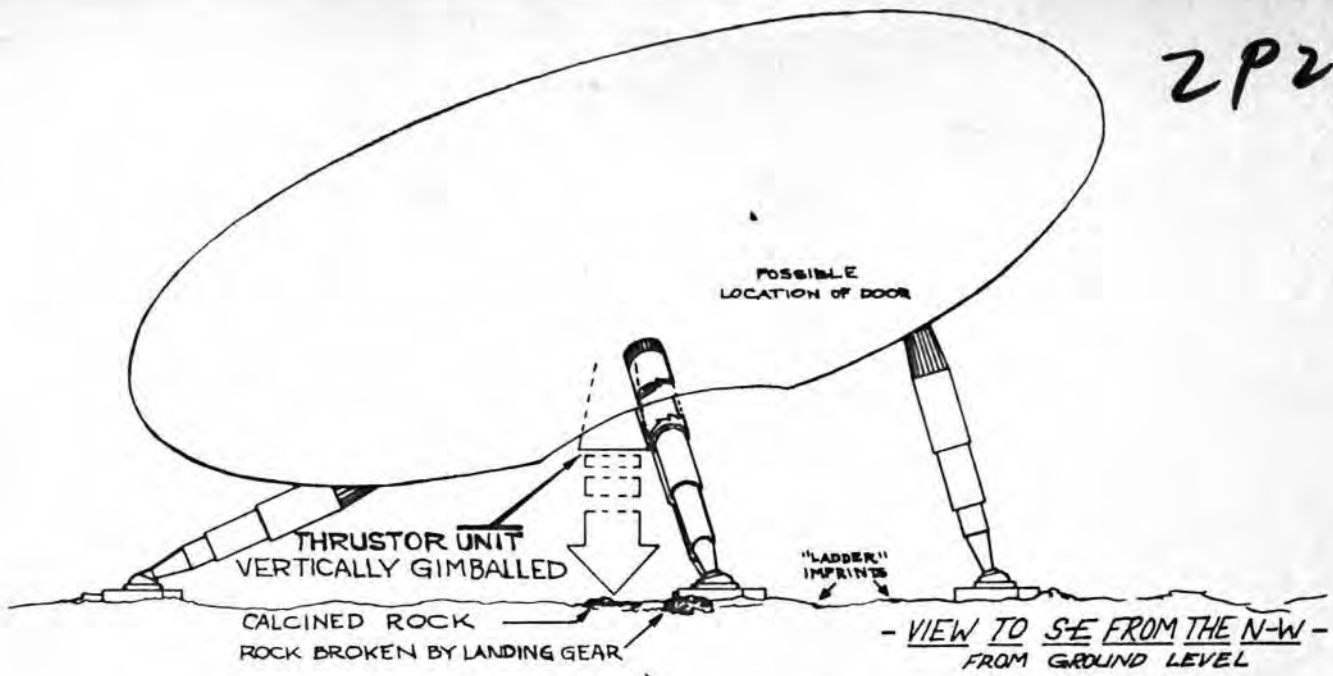
Hakohu

Additional Favos notes:

Large volcanic rock in core
of 4 holes was taken by Army - Stalder
site - appeared to have been burned.

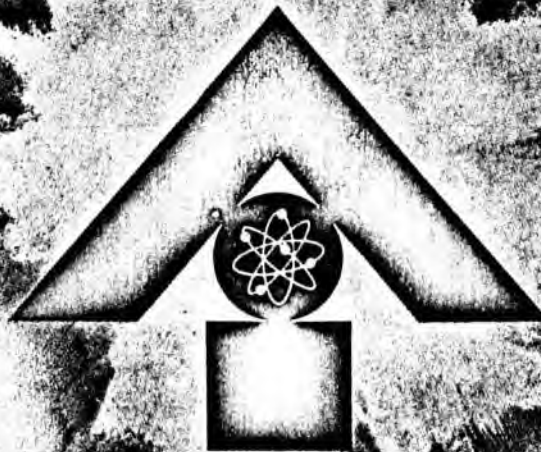
Stanford - NICAP man from
Phoenix - dug up stone that has
been pressed into one of depressions
- analyzed - found to have unknown
metals in it - sent sample to
Washington - but never heard from
them

2P27



R. RICHLAND STANFORD

ANNOUNCING A NEW CORPORATION
IN THE SPACE FIELD



ASTROPOWER, INC.

To develop advanced propulsion systems and power equipment
for tomorrow's space vehicles

Astropower, Inc. has been formed as a subsidiary of Douglas Aircraft Company with Mr. Y. C. Lee, internationally noted propulsion expert, as president.

In offering its services for research and development of advanced space propulsion systems to system contractors and government agencies, Astropower will operate as an independent company. The proprietary interests of major systems and sub-systems contractors will be respected and protected by both Douglas and Astropower.

A balanced engineering and research program is now being formulated to advance the state of the art in—

- Ultra-high energy propulsion systems in the nuclear, chemical and electrical fields
 - Solid state devices and energy conversion equipment
- Mr. Lee is now staffing key positions in Astropower, Inc. and will welcome inquiries from qualified engineers and scientists having advanced degrees in the areas of nuclear physics, plasma physics, solid state physics, thermodynamics and high temperature materials.

Astropower's permanent scientific and engineering center will be located in one of Southern California's ideally situated research communities.

ASTROPOWER, INC.



Temporary headquarters: 3801 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 24 April 1964	2. LOCATION Socorro, New Mexico		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1745 GMT 25/0045Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Physical Spec <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Less than 10 minutes	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE Stationary, SW or West	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>UNIDENTIFIED</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Sighting of landing by Lonnie Zamora. SEE CASE FILE.		11. COMMENTS Initially believed to be observation of Lunar module type configuration. Effort to date cannot place vehicle at site. Case carried as UNIDENTIFIED pending additional data.	

HISTORIC
CASE


Much more
on this in
file.



SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO

24 APRIL 1964

[redacted] was chasing a speeding car north on U.S. 85 at approximately 1745, 24 April 1964, when he heard a roar and saw bluish and orange flames in an area where a dynamite shack was known to be located. He abandoned chase of the auto and proceeded to where he believed an explosion had occurred. After traveling a little-used road and experiencing considerable difficulty in trying to drive his car up a gravel-covered hill, the observer noted what he thought was an overturned car standing on end. At this point he was approximately 800 ft. from the object and [redacted] car was at the crest of a hill with the object ahead of him in a gully. He saw two people in white coveralls very close to the object. One of these persons seemed to turn and look straight at [redacted] car. This was the only time he saw these figures; he did not see them again.

After radioing to Police Headquarters at Socorro that he was proceeding to investigate what he believed to be an auto accident, he drove to a point about 150 ft. from the gully where the object rested and stopped the car to proceed on foot. The object was white, egg or oval-shaped and apparently supported on girderlike legs. All of a sudden there was a roar which continued to become louder and the object then began to rise. As the object was slowly climbing the observer again noted the bluish and orange flames. At this point, the observer believed that the object was about to explode and he became frightened, turned, and ran to shield himself behind the police car, bumping his leg and losing his glasses on the way. He said that he crouched down, shielding his eyes with his arm. As the observer glanced up he reported that the object had risen 15 - 20 feet above the ground and there was no longer any noise, smoke nor flames. At this point, the observer spotted a design on the object which he described as markings

in red about 7 - 20 feet in height, ^{FEET} shaped like a crescent with a verticle arrow and horizontal line underneath.  He stated that the object remained stationary for several seconds and then flew off in a southerly direction following the contour of the gully. Object 12-15 feet long. insignia was Red.

Shortly afterward, Sgt. Chavez arrived on the scene in response to  earlier radio call. He observed no object, but he did report some slight depressions in the ground and an apparently burned bush in the area of  sighting. Also, there were some type of tracks noted in the immediate area.

COMMENTS

Various organizations were contacted in the area; however, no specific aircraft or helicopters were in the area at the time of the sighting. There was nothing unusual or unidentified reported by local radar installations. There was no unusual meteorological activity; the weather being clear; however, it was somewhat windy.

A laboratory analysis was made of the burned bush and the soil about the depressions with no indication of radiation being noted. No chemicals were found in the soil that would indicate a type of propellant for the observed object. Contact was made with a F.B.I. agent and it was his opinion that the tracks observed were, indeed, fresh.

There were several other sightings reported during the next few days; however, in each case the sighting was determined a known object or natural phenomena. Two of these reports were determined to be hoaxes.

Although the sighting appears to be the observation of some type of experimental craft; all attempts to reach such a conclusion were inconclusive. No concrete evidence was uncovered to substantiate the presence of such a craft at the particular time. As such, this case is carried as unidentified since from the available information there is no explanation.

U.S. WEATHER BUREAU

WINDS ALOFT OBSERVATIONS FROM
ALBUQUERQUE SUNPORT, APRIL 23, 1964

ALBUQUERQUE WINDS ALOFT APRIL 23 6h 0415M

PT 72365 12940 62617 2723 82716 2717 02519 22122 12528 62428
82532 02534 32627 52625 02620 52640 02637 52150 02161 32154

1015M WINDS ALOFT APRIL 23, 1964

PT 72365 18951 62309 2308 82306 2206 02114 22623 12519 62325 82532 02526
32526 52713 02618 52638 02513 52558 02553 32154

19/03/64

0452	320700	02101	02133	32033	57427	02101	52531	02518	32556	22210
12325	02101	02101	02133	32033	57427	02101	52531	02518	32556	22210
0452	320700	02101	02133	32033	57427	02101	52531	02518	32556	22210

30 April 1968

Editor
Telegraph Herald News
Dubuque, Iowa

Dear Sir:

In my capacity as Scientific Consultant to the Air Forces' Project Blue Book I am trying to get more details on the April 24, 1964 sighting at Socorro, New Mexico, made by Lt. Zamora.

I would very much appreciate your help in obtaining the name and address of the individual referred to in the enclosed copy of Mr. Bieberman's letter who might also have witnessed this sighting.

I wish to assure you that my interest in this matter is entirely professional and under no circumstances do I use this material for publicity purposes or for any other reason than to try to solve this puzzling phenomenon of unidentified flying objects.

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:lp
encl.

ZAMORA-LIKE OBJECT SEEN

La Madera, New Mexico, April 26 - Orlando Callegos, 35, of Santa Fe, reportedly was witness to an ellipsoidal object similar in description to the one observed by Socorro policemen, Lennis Zamora, in the vicinity of his father's home north of La Madera.

While occupied in the activity of chasing away stray horses, he noted an unusual craft resting upon the ground in a gravel area some 200 feet distant. The UFO was reported to be the length of a telephone pole, with a circumference of 14 feet. Rings of blue flame emitted from jets about its underside.

It attempting to persuade his family to come out and observe the craft, he was particularly unsuccessful, for they were too frightened to accompany him. The next morning, however, they all examined the landing area, noticing the ground to be still fummy from the previous night.

State Police Captain Martin Virgin, upon checking the charred area, noticed that the rocks present within the center of the landing site were cracked, and a bottle nearby had melted. Green brush in the surrounding area had been set afire, evidently from intense heat. Four depressions and unusual "paw-prints," resembling those of a Mountain Lion, were also seen.

The Air Force, although having sent investigators into the area, has thus far remained silent on their findings, if any.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Coral Lorenzen is one of the foremost investigators and writers on UFOs in the country. In 1952 she became the international director of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) and editor of its publication, "The APRO Bulletin." She is the author of a book published in 1962, "The Great Flying Saucer Menax" (William Frederick/APRO, New York). Born in 1925, she lives with her husband and three children in Tucson, Ariz.

By Coral Lorenzen

Investigating an "overturned car," the patrolman found it was a strange machine—attended by two small figures.

OFFICER LONNIE Zamora had been chasing a car south on Park Street in Socorro, N. Mex. at about 5:40 P.M. on Friday, April 24, 1964. Near the Church of *La Buena Pastor* (Good Shepherd) his attention was caught by a roaring sound and a blue flame southwest of him. In the area where the flash appeared there is a dynamite storage shack and Zamora feared there had been an explosion there. He radioed headquarters in Socorro and cut off Park Street onto a

narrow winding trail among the hillocks and gullies in the direction of the shack.

As he descended a small rise and started into a wash he saw what he thought was an overturned car with its top exposed to him, about 450 feet away in a deep gully. Zamora radioed headquarters again from this point, since he assumed there had been an accident and a car was overturned.

To approach the overturned car Zamora would have to drive up out

parted negative weight to the UFO had done the same to the nearby earth.

Perhaps the auxiliary power, apparently used by the craft in Socorro, has been added to overcome this nuisance.

In a statement to the press on April 30, reported from Albuquerque by the Associated Press, Dr. Hynek also said he was puzzled by the lack of radar contact with these objects. He had commented several days before that the area was "infested with radar."

It is not difficult to solve the doctor's quandary.

Socorro is located just off the White Sands Proving Ground Range area. Stallion Site, which has radar, is not far from Socorro. However, the Zamora incident took place about 5:45 or 5:50 P.M. and the radars at these instrumentation sites are not left on 24 hours a day. The simple answer is that the radar which infests that part of the country was not turned on. Even if it had been it is doubtful that it would pick up so small an object cruising in and out of gullies, barely skimming the terrain.

Dr. Lincoln La Paz, Director of the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque, was quoted by *The Albuquerque Journal* as saying that

"a super pogo" military craft is causing the flying saucer scare because "anyone living outside this troubled globe would be displaying absolute nonsense to come here." La Paz's statement seems a non-sequitur in view of the contradictory statement by the New Mexico military commanders who said that they are testing no craft which would account for the sightings. And on May 3 Gene Kanoff, Chief of Administration for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at White Sands Missile Range, said the lunar excursion module designed for the Apollo moon flight might fit Zamora's description but won't be built until later this year. Thus Dr. La Paz has given us a solution involving a nonexistent military craft.

However, it appears that the recipe for debunking again is being served up. On April 30 an Air Force "authority" publicly regretted there had been no corroborating witness and no photographs had been taken of the Zamora object.

At this writing soil samples taken at the site are in the hands of qualified and competent scientists for analysis.

I myself left Socorro convinced, for the first time in 17 years of UFO investigation, that alien beings are reconnoitering this planet.

of the draw he was in onto a small mesa. As he looked further he saw what he later described as an egg-shaped, white object with two protrusions, like legs, and two man-shaped beings who appeared to be doing something to the object. The beings were dressed in white and one turned toward him.

Zamora drove up onto the mesa and got out of his car. The object was still in its original position. But almost immediately it started belching blue flame from its underside. An earsplitting, pulsating roar filled the air. Zamora turned and ran, looking back over his shoulder at the object as it climbed to about 20 feet altitude, when the roar and flame ceased. It then proceeded southwest toward the Black Range, ascending as it flew at high speed. It was out of sight in seconds.

At this point Sgt. Sam Chavez drove upon the scene. He had been alerted by Zamora's radio calls and had jumped into his squad car in an attempt to locate him. Chavez later told me that he arrived within three minutes after the initial radio call.

He found Zamora standing by his car, appearing to be very upset. After a brief conversation the two men descended into the gully to examine the spot where the object had rested. A mesquite bush and some small weeds were charred and smoking.

This is the bare outline of what was to be the most exciting UFO report I ever have investigated.

* * *

EXACTLY 17 HOURS after the Zamora sighting took place I received a telephone call from Mr. Arlynn Bruer, news editor of the Alamogordo *Daily News*. Sgt. Sam Chavez is a long-time friend of Bruer's so when the story came in on the wire Bruer talked with Chavez by phone, then called me. I alerted Terry Clarke of Radio Station KALG in Alamogordo, N. Mex., and began checking the story through members of APRO in central and northern New Mexico. Every source urged Mr. Lorenzen and me to come over and verify it for ourselves. So at 5:00 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, less than 24 hours after the incident occurred, we steered our ponderous old Cadillac east out of Tucson, Ariz.

At 9:00 o'clock the next morning we arrived at police headquarters and were seated at a desk facing Sgt. M. Samuel Chavez, of the New Mexico State Police. He was just finishing an interview with an Associated Press reporter. We waited.

Sergeant Chavez is about 41 years old and has 15 years service with the state police behind him. His air of competence and attention to detail generates a feeling of

THE "LITTLE MEN" PROBLEM

On Sunday, April 26, a UPI story from Socorro, by-lined by Charles Richards, quoted Patrolman Lonnie Zamora as denying that he had seen any "little creatures" around the UFO. He saw only what looked like a pair of coveralls, he said.

"There have been so many phone calls," Zamora sighed. Richards said that he spent "most of Sunday" shaking his head over some of the reports of what he supposedly had said.

"Maybe you'd better ask some of these other guys," Richards quoted Zamora as telling reporters. "I'm the only one who saw it, but they seem to know more about it than I do."

Because of the alleged sighting of "little creatures" is perhaps the most important single issue in the Zamora sighting, FATE's editors asked Author Lorenzen to comment specifically on his descriptions and later denials. Here is what Mrs. Lorenzen wrote:

* * *

Jim and I were stunned when we heard and read of Patrolman Lonnie Zamora's subsequent denial that he saw "little men".

Why did he change his story?

I think basically it is because he doesn't like the implications of what he saw. When we talked with him two days after his bizarre experience he already was weary of telling about it—over and over. No doubt, too, ridicule about "the little men" got to him very soon and he regretted his early candor.

I am sorry he has found it necessary or comfortable to change his story for this can be used to discredit all of his story.

In the face of this amazing about-face I can only reiterate that Patrolman Zamora did tell my husband and me, in the presence of at least three other witnesses, that he had seen two human-shaped beings in what appeared to be white "mechanic's coveralls" beside the craft. We questioned him closely concerning their apparent size and Mr. Zamora estimated that they were as tall as one-third of the craft, which he in turn estimated to be between nine and 12 feet long.

He stated that when he saw them he was looking into the gully in which the craft was parked, that he thought they were doing something about the ship. When he later topped the mesa and got a closer look at the ship the "men" were gone, presumably inside. And the ship took off in a matter of seconds.

Sergeant Chavez also told us in detail what Patrolman Zamora had told him of seeing small beings beside the craft—and this when the sighting was only minutes old.

I can only state for the record that I believe Zamora's initial description of what he said he saw. I do not pretend to understand the motives which now have led him to contradict himself.

confidence, and his precise way of stating facts is reassuring. It was he who filled in the background details and, along with Police Chief Polo Pineda, testified to the competence, honesty and integrity as well as the courage of the witness, Patrolman Lonnie Zamora.

"Lonnie is not a man to be easily frightened," Chavez told us, "that thing must have made an impression on him to scare him like it did." Chief Pineda, who rode out to the site of the landing with Chavez, Mr. Lorenzen and me said simply, "Lonnie is a good man."

As we drove out to the site of the landing Chavez pointed out the place on Park Street where Zamora first had sighted the cone-shaped blue flame in the sky to the southwest. At that point Zamora had discontinued his pursuit of the speeder, whose identity he felt he knew anyway, to proceed in the direction of the flame because he feared that an explosion had taken place at the dynamite vault.

He described the flame as four times as long as it was wide at its widest point and coming down in the vicinity of the vault. Just after the blue flame dropped out of sight the roaring sound ceased and a whining sound, which earlier may have been masked by the roar, was heard. Its frequency decreased rapidly to zero. By then Zamora had left Park Street and was mak-

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ing his run up a steep rocky incline to the mesa (A). Because of the steepness and condition of the trail he made three tries before topping the grade; then as he began descending the south west slope he spotted the object in the gully. From his position he was looking across one gully and up into another, somewhat down at the object. Still in his automobile he saw the object, two of its "legs" or landing gear, and two small white-clad figures. One turned and looked in his direction. He said they appeared to be "small adults" or "boys."

At this point Zamora, as he drove toward the incline leading to the second mesa (B), lost sight of the object as it was obscured by the terrain. He parked his car and got out, accidentally dislodging his microphone as he did so. He automatically hung this back in its proper place, then took three steps toward the object. At that instant it set up an ear-splitting roar.

He was thoroughly frightened. He did not know what he was observing and he was within 100 to 150 feet of the object. He turned and ran almost blindly, banging his leg on his car as he passed it and dislodging his sunglasses. He ran almost directly west across Mesa B and into the next gully. As he ran he looked over his shoulder because he heard the roar diminishing. It

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Indentation in soil, four inches deep, was one of set left by landing gear of UFO.

was then he saw the brilliant blue cone-shaped flame again.

The object had risen until it now was about 20 feet above the top of the mesa. Then the flame shrank to nothing and the roar ceased. Once again Zamora heard the whining sound which began at a high frequency, dropped rapidly to a low frequency and faded out. The object flew silently up the gully, barely missed the top of the dynamite vault, and ascended rapidly at a shallow angle in the

direction of the Perlite mine southwest of Socorro. A few seconds later Sergeant Chavez' car ground up the steep grade to Mesa B and stopped. Zamora walked over; the two men talked, then went to examine the gully where the strange machine had rested.

It is a dry, rocky draw within the city limits but isolated from the town proper. Only the roofs of two barns and a house are visible from the spot. The highway, less than half a mile away, is hidden.

The marks left by the machine are not entirely unfamiliar to experienced UFO investigators but to the two law officers they were strange. Four indentations apparently had resulted from landing gear pressing into the hard, rocky earth. At another point four circular impressions were found. The indentations were approximately three and one-half to four inches in depth, the circular impressions a little less. Almost in the middle of the area three-quarters of a mesquite bush was charred and smoldering. The burning must have been intense and brief for weeds and earth within the area bounded by the indentations also were burned and smoking. There were no tracks.

After Zamora described his experience and what he had seen and heard, Chavez checked Zamora's car for a spade, shovel, or any implement which could have made the indentations. He found nothing. All the indentations were exactly alike.

"I just thought I'd check," Chavez said. Obviously he had found Zamora's account all but incredible.

Later questioning by Chavez and by Mr. Lorenzen and me yielded the following additional information: The color of the blue flame was an "indescribably brilliant blue." Zamora got the impression from the stance of the figures that

they were "doing something to the object." His first view yielded only a long-range glance of a few seconds but he did note two protrusions which were possibly landing gear. When he stopped on the second mesa he got a good close look before the rear began and he started running. He noted landing gear or supporting elements, also some markings (see diagram 3). The object kicked up a little dust as it rose from the ground. After it cleared the dynamite shack its ascent was at a shallow angle and it disappeared "by getting smaller" into the southwest at a high rate of speed.

After examining the landing site the two men proceeded back to headquarters in Socorro where Chavez alerted an FBI man he knew was in town. Captain Richard Holder, the Army officer in charge of the White Sands Stallion Site station, also was notified and he visited the site of the incident that same night. Rocks were piled around the indentations to preserve them, measurements and photographs were taken and Zamora was questioned. At 7:30 o'clock the next morning United Press International broke the story and the curious arrived to look and to trample on what little residual evidence there was.

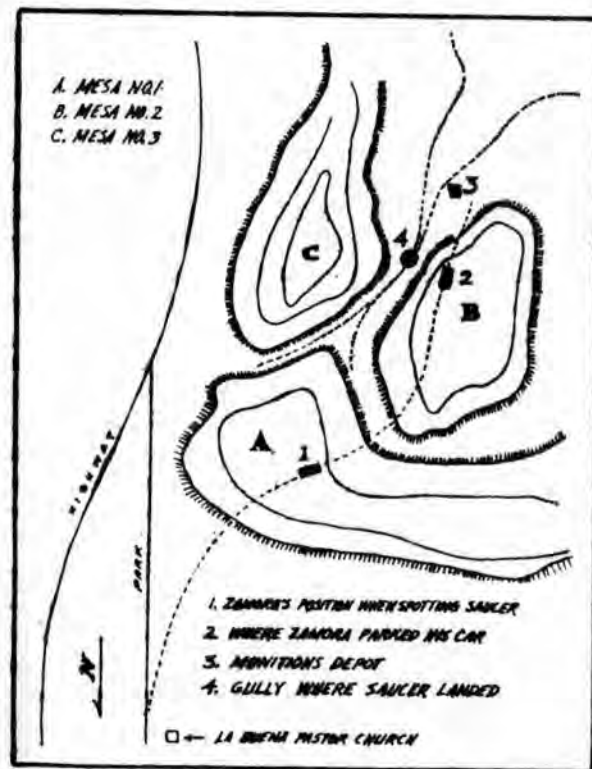
During a lengthy discussion with Sergeant Chavez on Sunday morn-

ing Mr. Lorenzen and I discussed our plans for analyzing the soil samples we had taken and I mentioned to Chavez that Zamora and he probably would be questioned by Air Force Intelligence. He answered that a major from Kirtland Air Force Base, near Albuquerque, and a Sergeant Moody from Wright Patterson were waiting for him down the hall. A scientist from Sandia Corporation at Alberquerque

also was waiting but after talking to Jim and me he left. From our conversation with the sergeant and the major we gathered that officialdom was very interested in the goings-on in that gully on Friday, April 24.

A very important point relating to the markings at the site of the landing is the appearance of the wedge-shaped indentations. They look as if something very heavy ex-

Petrolman Zamora was at point (1) on Mesa A when he first sighted the landed UFO, which was in a gully (4), near a munitions depot (3). As Zamora left his parked car at (2) on Mesa B, the UFO unexpectedly took to the air.



tended its supporting mechanism and settled to earth where its weight pushed down and consequently pushed some of the earth up and away. The bushes and grass are burned only toward the apparent center of the area.

Later during our own examination of the site we noted that shoes did make an impression on the ground but anyone wearing soft moccasins might not leave an impression.

* * *

At 2:00 P. M. on Sunday afternoon we met Patrolman Zamora. A neat man of medium height, 31 years old, he is solidly built and gives one the impression of quiet dependability. Our main concern now was with details concerning the ship or object itself, the human-shaped figures, and Zamora's reactions.

Lonnie Zamora said he thought at first an explosion had occurred and therefore he abandoned his chase of the speeding car. His observation of the two white-clad figures at the object was comparatively short and he admitted that at the time he viewed the object across the draw he thought it was an overturned car with its occupants. He did not become aware of the strange nature of the thing until he drew up onto the second mesa about 100 feet from the UFO. He still intended to investigate and

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did not become alarmed until flame began to shoot out of the bottom of the vehicle and the roar commenced. He thought it was going to explode and it was then he began to run.

Patrolman Zamora was reluctant to talk but I believe he told us the truth. He would not talk about the markings, however, and he intimidated Captain Richard Holder, United States Army officer, had instructed him not to. We could not persuade him to describe the markings to us but managed to get a diagram from other persons to whom he had talked shortly after the incident took place. The reason for this request for silence on the subject of the markings, Captain Holder told me later, was to prepare for the possibility of corroborating evidence from other witnesses who might have seen the UFO.

Fortunately, Mr. Lorenzen and I found someone who had an accurate description of the marks which, incidentally, were not red as was later asserted by the press, but seemed to indicate the presence of an entrance hatch into the object rather than identification symbols. Judging by the apparent size of the hatch as initially described by Zamora we must assume it was convenient only for beings no more than four feet tall.

I got the definite impression that Zamora wishes the incident had not

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Sgt. M. Samuel Chavez (left), alerted by radio call from Patrolman Lonnie Zamora (right), reached scene a few minutes after UFO had left, but saw smoking brush and markings in gully.

happened. He said he wished the military would tell him the object was some secret vehicle so he could forget the whole thing. He gave the further impression that he had thought it was a classified military vehicle until Captain Holder, of White Sands, announced that nothing answering the description was being tested on that range.

Zamora described the object as about the size of a car. When sketching its shape he showed the figures he had seen to be approximately one-third the length

of the object itself. If the object was nine to 12 feet long, the figures were between three and four feet high.

In drawing sketches, Zamora consistently indicated legs angling outward from the bottom of the object making an angle of approximately 45 degrees with the ground plane. In making his original observation and measurements Captain Holder noted that the members which made the impressions appeared to have been thrust into the ground at an angle from the

direction of the general center of the quadrangle and withdrawn in the same manner.

We noted that the impressions at the point where the longest sides joined was at the lowest elevation (toward the bottom of the gully) while the impressions marking the junction of the two shortest sides was at the highest elevation. This leads to a rather obvious solution of the irregular arrangement of the impressions. The object had rested on legs whose lengths were adjustable in order to compensate for irregular terrain while supporting the vehicle on an even keel.

Moisture content of the desert growth had been such that the fires ignited under the craft, apparently by a radiant heat source, went out by themselves. The major part of the burning took place after the vehicle had departed and ashes lay apparently undisturbed by the moderate turbulence of the takeoff.

* * *

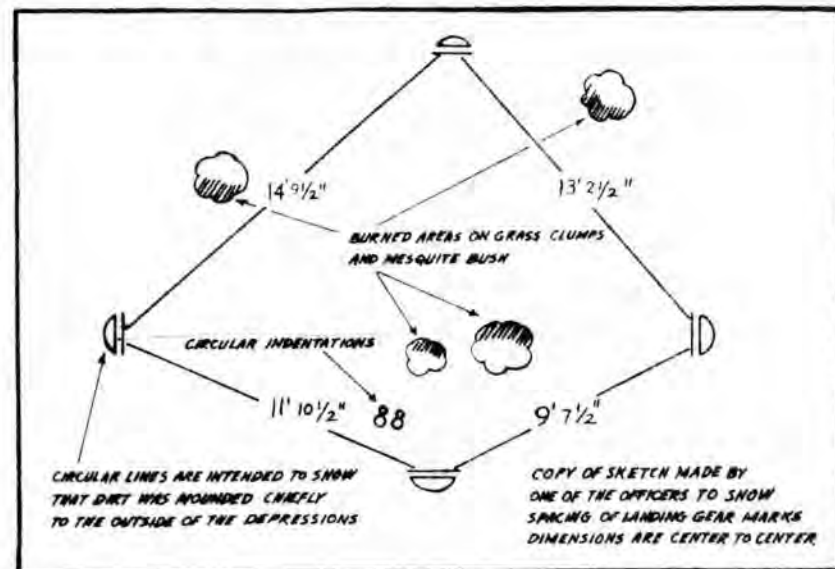
ZAMORA'S TESTIMONY together with the corroborating evidence on the ground furnishes some clues to the object's propulsion.

When Zamora summoned the courage to look back as he raced across the mesa he noted the brilliant blue flame, about four times as long as it was wide and extending downward from the airborne object, and saw the UFO rising

slowly with a loud roaring sound. As he watched, the sound diminished, the flame subsided, and a whine, which became apparent when the roaring ceased, dropped rapidly in pitch to inaudibility. Zamora was puzzled by the lack of dust. It kicked up a little dust when it took off but not much, he said.

Dr. J. Alan Hynek, head of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University, who was on the ground for an Air Force-sponsored inspection, voiced the opinion that there was no evidence at the site for a thrust powerful enough to lift a vehicle of the size Zamora reported. This statement, of course, is based on our knowledge of conventional rocketry. However, we cannot dismiss Zamora's story simply because the phenomenon described is beyond the range of our technology. I believe it lies within the range of physical theory.

We are accustomed to achieve rocket lift by exhausting voluminous masses of gas, a product of combusted fuel, at relatively low acceleration. Newton's laws of reaction, however, tell us that the same effect could be achieved by exhausting a small amount of gas at considerably greater speeds. Also, if this speed approached the speed of light we might be able to take advantage of the increase in mass predicted by Einstein. The process



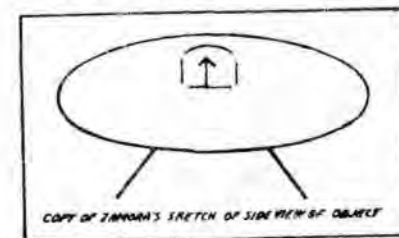
here hypothesized could be expected to produce a high degree of ionization, the characteristic brilliant blue glow of plasma, a high level of radiant heat and, since only a small volume of matter would be ejected, turbulence might be rather minimal.

One further point: It appears that the type of power plant just described was used only to elevate the craft to a moderate altitude above the terrain. It appears that this power then was switched off in favor of some sort of "field drive." Why?

Aime Michel's *Flying Saucers And The Straight Line Mystery*

told of landed UFOs (in France in 1954) which were reported to carry a good deal of earth with them on take-off. It was said that this soil appeared to "fall upward" leaving gaping holes in the ground. Michel theorized that a field which im-

SEE CONCLUSION ON FIRST PAGE



THE SOCORRO UFO

Astronomy A20
Dr. J.A. Hynek

A

By Frank C. Pickard

The recent observation of a UFO near Socorro, New Mexico, has once again aroused the general public's curiosity for this type of phenomena. This interest stems from a variety of reasons including man's fascination with the unknown and mysterious, the increased emphasis by science on space and its exploration, and the formation in recent years of private groups for the purpose of studying UFO's.. Unfortunately, in the last instance, according to a USAF pamphlet on "Project Blue Book," the leaders of these groups in many cases publish their literature to exploit fiction beliefs and are dedicated to proving that UFO's are extra-terrestrial craft manned by intelligent beings.

The United States Air Force established its UFO project early in 1948 shortly after the now famous sighting by Ken Arnold of nine disks flying in a column near Mt. Ranier, Washington. This report set off a rash of other sighting reports which have continued off and on to this date. The purpose of the program, now known as Project Blue Book, is to determine first if UFO's are a threat to this nation's security and secondly if they might be a source of scientific and technical information beneficial to the United States. A UFO is now defined as any aerial phenomena which is unknown or appears out of the ordinary to the observer due to its performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features.

Any report of a UFO under the USAF program now, undergoes three phases. the first phase includes detection, investigation and reporting, the second, analysis and evaluation, and the third, circulation of the information.

The Socorro report is presently in the first and second phases. This sighting was made by City Policeman Lonnie Zamora near Socorro, New Mexico, April 24, 1964 at ten minutes to six P.M. The following account of it was given by Mrs. Zamora to Mrs. Helen G. Meriwether and it was later verified by the former's husband by telephone.

"That night I went down town to play Bingo and left Lonnie's supper on the stove. When I got home he was sitting at the table, but he didn't look up or speak to me when I got home. I asked him what the matter was and he said he didn't want to tell me. Of course I wanted to know because he looked so white and kind of sick; so finally he said he was chasing a speeder until he got to the little church on the west side of the main highway, when he heard an explosion which he thought came from a little ~~hot~~ which is owned by our mayor, Holm O. Bursum, and which contains explosives. He went in the police car as far as he could, but he got out of the car and started running when he saw smoke. At that moment he heard a swishing sound and saw what he at first thought was an overturned automobile because it was shiny; then he saw a queer-looking object that carried two upright objects that he thought might be two men dressed in white coveralls. He said the whole thing looked so queer that he was scared almost out of his head, believing that whatever the thing was, was not of this world, and he started running towards the ~~car~~ as fast as he could. He fell down in his fright and lost his glasses. He was so scared that he "gave himself to God". He says he hopes he never has to look at anything like that again as long as he lives. The UFO rose very slowly and flew rather low towards the West. Lonnie never gets excited about anything and he never saw anything before that was different from the things that everybody sees."

The "queer-looking object" Mrs Zamora observed was further described and quoted in the El Defensor Chieftain as being four-legged, egg-shaped and having red marking in the form of an inverted "B" with a bar across it. The UFO was first sighted at an estimated distance of 150 yards and appeared as an overturned car. When Zamora was only 50 feet from it, the object, which seemed to be headed south on landing, rose vertically for approximately 20 feet, and became level with the police car on top of the mesa. It then headed in a straight line towards a perlite mill which is a little over two miles away, all the while maintaining the same altitude. Beyond the mill it gained altitude rapidly, passed over Six-Mile Canyon and finally disappeared as a speck in the sky.

There appeared to be three distinct types of noises connected with the UFO. The initial sound that Zamora heard was that of a blast or roar which he at first mistook for an explosion, following this there was a swishing sound when he first observed the object and later there was a sharp whining sound at the end of ~~the~~ ~~roar~~ or blast preceding the object's take-off. As the object rose into the air its noise then abated.

An examination of the landing site, a narrow dry wash in a gully, by the observer, and later by State Police Sgt. Sam Chavez, State Policeman Ted Jordan, and Undersheriff James Luckie, all of whom came in response to Mr. Zamora's summons by radio, revealed several things. What was immediately discernible ~~at~~ were still hot, burnt clumps of green grass and creosote bush (also known as greasewood.)

They also saw and marked four holes and two depressions. The four holes appeared to have been made by the object's observed legs. The Chieftain~~s~~ stated the holes were shallow, about a foot long and six inches wide. On the west side the distance from one hole to the other was about twelve feet and on the east side the distance between two of them was about fifteen feet. The distance between these two pairs was about nine feet. However, in another part of the earlier mentioned interview, Mr. Zamora stated that the four tracks in the ground were about 15 inches wide and about 4 inches deep. Which set of figures is correct it appears will have to be checked by another source.

The two round depressions were, according to the Chieftain, four and five inches in diameter respectively. Robert White, a cattle inspector who arrived at the site less than half an hour after the police officers, stated the depressions reminded him of shoe heels. Whether he gained this impression due to the power of suggestion, for after all he did hear of the two persons dressed in what appeared as white coveralls, is a matter of conjecture.

The observer, Lonnie Zamora, is presently employed as a city policeman. To acquire further information concerning this person, I wrote to three people in the Socorro area and submitted

to them a brief confidential questionnaire concerning his background, what type of person he is, and what are the opinions about him by those who know him. None of the three knew him personally and only one, Mrs. Helen G. Meriwether, was in a position to make quiet inquiries. Mrs. Meriwether knows Mr. Sam Chavez and when questioning him he suggested that she see Mr. Zamora herself, directly, as that all he knew of the sighting was second-hand. Mrs. Meriwether stated that no explanation at all was necessary to interview them as so many people had already talked to them that they thought nothing of it. In fact, Mr. Zamora stated that if he ever saw another thing like that, he was going to keep it to himself. The other two people I wrote, Mrs. Helen Stauder and Mr. William Griffith, related only what they had heard directly from persons who knew the man.

Mr. Zamora, it was learned, is 32 years old, married, and has two children. According to State Police Sgt. Sam Chavez, "Zamora is steady, easy-going, not easily excited, and truthful." Mayor Holm Bursum considers Lonnie Zamora as being "very steady and dependable and not subject to fantasy." Dr. Lincoln La Pax of the University of New Mexico stated that he had known Mr. Zamora for sixteen years and considered him as a very competent observer and a fine person. Other indications of what type of person Mr. Zamora is considered, can be gathered from the three following interviews:

Sam Zimmerly, Santa Fe station agent and a life-long friend of Lonnie Zamora, said that he believed Lonnie saw something from outer space; that although Lonnie had only an Eighth Grade education, he was naturally a bright young man who had served in the armed forces and who was absolutely reliable. He added that Lonnie described the whole thing to him in detail, telling of the utter horror he felt when he saw the odd-shaped machine with the two figures all in white. He said that Lonnie was a farmer for a number of years; then a truck driver at N.M.I.M.T. before becoming a city policeman. When the story of the UFO first

became known, he "kidded" the State Policeman, Sam Chavez, about it and Mr. Chavez said, "This isn't anything to kid about. Lonnie saw something so horrible that he doesn't like to talk about it, and I believe he saw something not of this world." (Mr. Zimmerly, is one of the leading citizens, a member of a prominent family, and also a member of the School Board for many many years.) He says that Lonnie never takes a drink.

Moises Zamora, an electrician at N.M.I.M.T. and a man of integrity, says that he has known Lonnie Zamora all of his life; but that they are not related. According to Moises, Lonnie worked at N.M.I.M.T. for about a year and a half, driving a truck for the Navy Dept.; then he got a job as city policeman. He is a Republican and when Socorro had a Democratic mayor for two years, Lonnie lost his job and went back to work for the college. About two years ago, a Republican mayor won and Lonnie was put back on the police force. Moises Zamora states that the position of city policeman pays better than the job out at the college and that it is easier work, as well. Lonnie has good health and does not drink, according to Moises as well as Sam Chavez and other friends. He never makes up stories or plays practical jokes, nor is he the moody, psychologically twisted type of person who would be motivated to perpetrating such a hoax.

Lucas Trujillo, postal clerk, volunteered the information that he had gone to school with Lonnie Zamora and that he was a very fine fellow. He said Lonnie never got "mad" and that everybody liked him. He added that he never made up stories and that if he said he saw something not of this world, he (Lucas) believed him.

Inquiries were not restricted to the character of Mr Zamora, but also included weather conditions at the time of the sighting and the available information on the radar and testing sites in the vicinity of Socorro.

Lonnie Zamora himself stated that it was a very windy, but sunny day. Dr. Wilkening of Socorro gave the following report regarding the cloud cover.

At local station on April 23, no clouds.

At local station on April 24, some cloudiness at 4:30 A.M.

until about 11:00 A.M. Clear rest of day.

Dr. Marx Brooks, professor of Physics at N.M.I.N.T., furnished this information on weather conditions;

Ceiling--Excellent

Visibility--Excellent

Thunderstorms in area and quadrant in which located--None
A request for complete information of weather conditions from the U.S. Weather Bureau at the Municipal Airport, Albuquerque, for the dates of April 23rd. and 24th. was only partially successful. Available time and manpower limited their reply and they asked instead that I appear in person! However, a thermofax copy of the winds aloft observations taken at Albuquerque Sunport on April 23, 1964 were sent and are included at the end of this report. These observations show that upper winds were from the west, to southwest, at all levels and thus no balloon launched from Albuquerque could have reached the Socorro area that day. However, it is uncertain whether this possibility was also eliminated for April 24 as no information was furnished. This does not according to Mr. H.L. Jacobson, meteorologist in charge, limit the possibility of balloons from some other sources having passed over Socorro or its vicinity.

Inquiries into radar and test centers were also not entirely successful. My chief source of information on this point were Mrs. Helen Stauder who works for the Socorro Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Jim Jones of Albuquerque. The latter, Mr. Jones, is an electrical engineer and employee of Sandia Corporation. He, unfortunately, had not done any work at either White Sands or Holloman Air Force Base for over six years, and therefore was unable, in addition to the restrictions of classified information, to furnish too many facts. Both are research sites, engaged almost solely in testing, and both have fairly extensive tracking radar installations. The closest air traffic control, to his knowledge and according to a aeronautical chart included at the end of this paper, is at Roswell, while the only radar installation is at Tularosa just north of Holloman. The northeast corner of the restricted area is a bombing range. Since Socorro is on the west side of the Organ Mts. and over 40 miles from WSMR, Mr. Jones feels quite certain that the tracking network does not

cover the Socorro area. At the present time, a new installation is being built on the North End, but what it is or its purpose, is not known to the general public. Of key interest right now are the off-range firings designed to solve re-entry problems encountered by ICBM's and space vehicles. These firings are to last about two years and are presumably forerunner's for additional tests on more exotic systems.

It was also learned that Los Alamos⁴ has changed considerably from its initial role of being solely a nuclear weapons laboratory. Weapons now account for only 56 percent of its work, advanced reactors 9 percent, and development plus 1 percent in pure research and 2 percent in biology and medicine programs.

The only other testing site is at Blue Canyon located in the Socorro Mts. and it is run by N.M.I.M.T. for the Armed Forces. Mr. M.L. Kenpton, who dismantles all flying equipment for this center, stated that he did not believe that the thing Lonnie Zamora saw was a flying device because something of that unusual nature would not have been left so near the road in the daytime where it could have been easily observed, and that although he has engines that would make similar tracks in the ground (similar in shape) the holes would be a great deal deeper.

Following the sighting of the Socorro UFO on April 24, local authorities that same evening contacted Capt. Richard T. Holder of Socorro, U.S. Army up-range commander with headquarters at Stallion Range Center on the WSMR. They advised him of the situation and according to the Chieftain he attempted to determine if WSMR or Holloman AFB had anything fitting this description. The result was negative and "there was no known firing mission in progress at the time of the occurrence that would produce the conditions reported."

Sunday afternoon Maj. W; Conner of Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, arrived and interviewed Zamora, checked the site with a Geiger counter, and took samples.

By Wednesday, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of Dearborn Observatory, and a special consultant to the Air Force on UFO's, came on the scene and also inspected the site and interviewed the observer.

These were the major officials who became directly involved in the investigation of this phenomena. However, as honey attracts flies, so did this sighting draw UFO observers with their tales of similar sightings.

There appears to be only one other legitimate report by a manager of a Whiting Brothers' Service Station near Socorro that an unidentified tourist saw what was probably the same UFO as Zamora. The man remarked that he saw a strange looking aircraft in the vicinity Zamora saw the UFO and that he also saw a police car, probably Zamoras heading up a hill in the direction the craft had gone. Mr. William El Griffith knows Mr. Grinder, the Service Station manager, and on ~~is~~ inquiring whether the tourist had had a credit card or whether he had noticed his license number, the manager had replied negatively in both cases. This ends probably any chances of tracing this unknown individual.

Other reports, including one by a Santa Fean who claimed to have seen the same object, began coming in. It seems fairly safe to assume that most of these rash of reports are by persons seeking publicity and probably in some cases these are honest mistakes. None of the reports appeared to be solid reports like that of Zamoras'.

At the same time these others sightings began to be proclaimed, there also appeared on the scene representatives of various private UFO groups who, as in the case of a Tucson, Arizona couple stated that they had heard of similar sightings. One such case supposedly was observed by 26 persons and a minister in New Guinea who observed a similar object hover for two hours with a man on its "deck." These people also wrote to the local newspaper stating unequivocally that the Air Force vilified anyone who made a UFO report, that the Air Force claimed to have proved all UFO sightings fakes and non-existent, that the USAF gave only "managed news" releases and in one case a man after hearing the presence of Air Force investigators stated "It would be interesting to hear what kind of cock and bull story they release to the public on this one."

The result of this sighting of Zamora and these barrages against the Air Force has had an interesting effect other than increasing the potentiality of the site as a tourist attraction. Socorro appears to be divided about 50-50 in opinion about the UFO. The Spanish-Americans always refer to it as "the flying saucer" and believe it is as such. A good many people are of the opinion it is a top secret U.S. aircraft, others are of no opinion either way such as Dr. E.J. Workman, President of N.M.I.M.T. Dr. Wilkening, meteorologist, stated that he thinks only ten percent of reported flying objects are hallucinations or hoaxes. In contrast, Dr. William D. Crozier, Senior Physicist at N.M.I.N.T. stated that in his opinion about 90 percent of these objects are hoaxes or hallucinations.

In this case I feel until a lot further work is done in analyzation, it will be impossible to tell what this phenomena was. The overwhelming evidence in support of the reliability and integrity of the observer Lonnie Zamora makes this writer doubt very much that it is a hoax. However, this possibility, as others no matter how remote, should not be ruled out. If it was a true aircraft, and not some explainable natural phenomena, there are three possibilities.

First. It may have been a secret U. S. aircraft in an advanced state of development.

Second. It may have been a foreign powers craft, though due to the failure of any radar contacts in an area that has some extensive tracking networks, this possibility appears very unlikely.

Third. The least likely of all explanation is the very, very doubtful possibility that it was after all what many people call "flying saucer." This is extremely unlikely due to the vast distances involved and that every year the percentage of unexplainable flying Phenomena is decreasing.

Whatever the object was in any case, it certainly has been the best report to appear out of New Mexico and it will be remembered by everyone for a long, long time.

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