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Incident #75

ATIC NO. —

DATE OF INFO 13 Aug 1947

AF NO. —

LOCATION Twin Falls, Idaho

REPORT NO. —

SOURCE Male Civilians

DATE OF REPORT —

DATE IN TO ATIC —

TIME OF SIGHTING 1300 MST

COLOR Sky blue

SHAPE Inverted Pie Plate

SPEED 1000 mph

Estimated
Measured

SIZE 20' Disk - 10' Thick

ALTITUDE 300' from observer

Estimated
Measured

COURSE 2700 E to W

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED Momentary

NO. IN GROUP One

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

SOUND Swishing sound

MANEUVERS Up and down over hills and hollows of canyon.

PHOTOS —

SKETCHES one

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

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Poss. Atmospheric Eddy

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 75

1. Date 13 Aug 47
2. Time 1300
3. Location Snoke River Canyon (near Twin Falls) Idaho
4. Name of observer [redacted] and two sons, [redacted]
5. Occupation of observer farmer
6. Address of observer Operator of "[redacted] Farm" [redacted]
7. Place of observation As above - going down the Snake River
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer 300 ft
10. Time in sight momentary
11. Altitude 75 ft from the canyon floor - 300 ft away from observer level view afforded
12. Speed ~~1600 MPH~~
13. Direction of flight East to West
14. Tactics Road up and down over hills & hollows of canyon
15. Sound swishing sound
16. Size 20 feet by 10 ft in thickness
17. Color sky blue
18. Shape oblong broad rimmed hat with low crown Inverted pie-plate
19. Odor detected None
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails Exhaust ~~trail~~ flame - a red tubular fiery glow at the side of the top or hood.
22. Weather conditions N/S
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs one
25. Manner of disappearance disappeared behind hill
26. Remarks: (over)

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DIR 5200.10

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[redacted]

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As the machine went by the [redacted] place, the trees over which it almost directly passed (Morman Poplars) did not just bend with the wind as if a plane had gone by, but in [redacted] words, "spun around on top as if they were in a vacuum."

[redacted] eight years of age, said he first saw the machine coming down the canyon, heading from east to west and following the contours of the ground. [redacted], age ten, saw it almost immediately. Both watched it fly out of sight behind a tree in a matter of moments. They said they then ran to their Father and learned that he too had seen the machine.

[redacted] seemed completely sincere about the incident. He said his wife and daughter were in the house at the time and had not seen the machine. He questioned his brother, who also lives in the canyon, but his brother had been eating at the time and had seen nothing. [redacted] and his two boys maintained that they had never before seen one of the discs. [redacted] when interviewed, appeared to be a sober, middle-aged man.

[redacted], the "Times News" reporter who originally furnished Special Agents with information about the incident, likewise stated that [redacted] appeared completely sincere about the machine.

No further attempt was made to locate [redacted], inasmuch as [redacted], who was with [redacted] at the time, was interviewed. [redacted] name was withheld from the newspaper because [redacted] and [redacted] were fishing at Salmon dam while [redacted] was supposed to have been working in Twin Falls.

[redacted] said simply that he and [redacted] could hear a roar. They looked up and could see two instruments flying at a great height, which [redacted] mentioned might have been between four thousand and six thousand feet. However, he said he had no idea how large the devices were and consequently, they may have been serveral miles away. He said that he and [redacted] were satisfied they had seen something and they were very doubtful that they had seen two planes.

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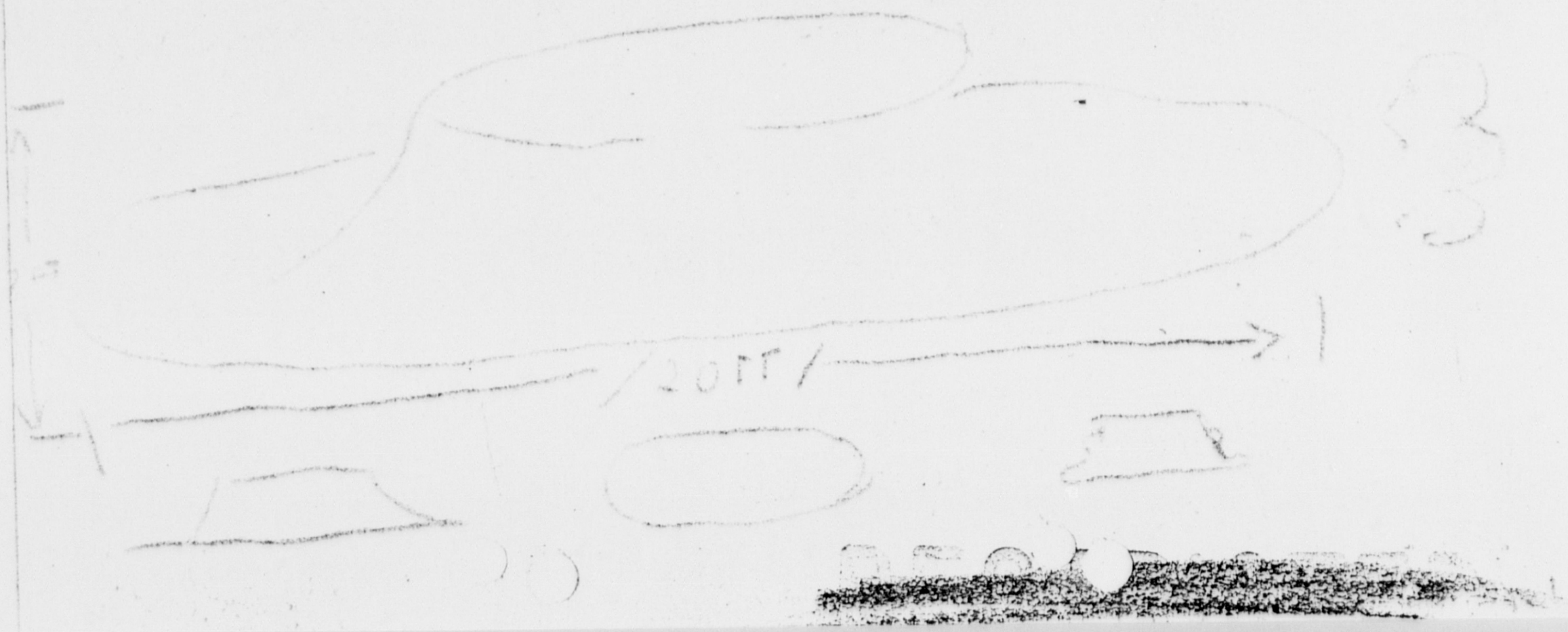
DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted] had sent his sons to the river for some tops from his boat. As they were overdue he went to look for them. When he noticed some 300 feet away some 75 feet in the air a sky-blue object silhouetted against the steep walls of the canyon on the far side. (The canyon is about 400 ft deep and 1200 ft across at that place.) The object was traveling 75 feet in the air (300 ft below the rim of the canyon) and so was plainly visible. [redacted] states that the sky-blue color would probably not be noticed against the sky. He states that "it did not spin like a top". However, he did say that the trees over which it passed almost directly did not just bend with the wind as if a plane had gone by but that they "spun around on top as if they were in a vacuum."

Keith [redacted], a son, eight years of age said he saw the machine coming down the canyon heading from east to west and following the contours of the ground. Billy, age ten, another son, saw it almost immediately. Both watched it fly out of sight behind a tree in a matter of moments.

AGENT'S NOTES: [redacted] seemed completely sincere about the incident and appeared to be a sober, middle-aged man
The boys stated that they had never before seen one of the discs.



With 194 incidents thus eliminated, there remain thirty-four which contain some evidence but have no apparent ready explanation. This statement is true only under the assumption that the evidence is accepted as reliable and accurate. When psychological and physiological factors are taken into consideration, all of these incidents can be explained rationally, as pointed out by Rand Corporation and Dr. Fitts of Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (see Appendices "D" and "G").

Air Material Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (Dr. Paul M. Fitts 212 Incidents considered)

There are sufficient psychological explanations for the reports of unidentified flying objects to provide plausible explanations for reports not otherwise explainable. These errors in identifying real stimuli result chiefly from inability to estimate speed, distance, and size.

All of the remaining 34 incidents are treated in detail in this report. These incidents form no pattern in regard to area of sighting, type of object, or manner of performance. There are indications, however, that some sightings were influenced by earlier reports, and probably would not have been considered unusual or reported had there been no publicity.

APPENDIX I

Project Grudge

Summary of ATIC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

VII. Summary of ATIC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

The remaining unexplained incidents (see Appendix "I") exhibited few common characteristics. Two of them, by statements of the reporters, would not have been made had the witnesses not read of the Mt. Rainier incident (Incident No. 17). Most were distributed without pattern throughout the United States. A few were outside the U. S. No two descriptions of appearance or performance were exactly alike. The reported sightings occurred at various times of day and year.

APPENDIX I

In the following section of this report, each remaining unexplained incident is considered separately. It is not the intent to generally discredit the character of observers, but each case has undesirable elements, and these cannot be disregarded. The numerical designation is merely the categorical order of the incident in the project files.

1, 10, 17, 21, 29, 35, 37, 40, 51, 58, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84,

111, 122, 134, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 234.

Incident No. 75 -- 13 August 1947, 1300 hours, Smoke River Canyon, Idaho. A farmer together with his two sons, ten and eight years of age, witnessed an object move down a canyon. It was in view only momentarily at a distance of 300 feet, and approximately 75 feet above the ground. The object made a swishing sound, and was sky-blue in color. The farmer doubted the possibility of its visibility if viewed against the sky. The children told of smokeless turbine or exhaust flames shooting from the device through which could be seen daylight. The object passed over some trees, which in the words of the farmer, "spun around on top as if they were in a vacuum."

AMC Opinion: It seems logical to concur with Dr. Hynek's deduction, that this object was simply a rapidly moving atmospheric eddy.

AUG. 13, 1947 TWIN FALLS, IDAHO (KEYHOE-1950 P 80) 2 WITNESSES00
OBSERVERS IN A CANYON NEAR TWIN FALLS REPORTED A DISK SHAPED OBJECT. IT 01
APPEARED SKY-BLUE, OR ELSE ITS GLEAMING SURFACE SOMEHOW REFLECTED THE SKY 02
BECAUSE OF THE ANGLE OF VISION. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CLOSE TO THE TREETOPS, 03
THE OBSERVERS WERE AMAZED TO SEE THE TREES WHIP VIOLENTLY WHEN THE DISK RACED 04
OVERHEAD, AS THOUGH THE AIR WAS BOILING FROM THE OBJECT-S SWIFT PASSAGE. 05

[redacted]

Incident #75 -- near Twin Falls, Idaho -- 13 August 1947

There is clearly nothing astronomical in this incident. Apparently it must be classed with the other bona fide disc sightings.

Two points stand out, however: the "sky blue" color, and the fact that the trees "spun around on top as if they were in a vaccuum." Could this, then, have been a rapidly travelling atmospheric eddy?

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

August 20, 1947

65-480

Director FBI

C
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SAC Butte

Flying Discs

Refer teletype to the Bureau dated August 15, 1947

Enclosed please find the newspaper account carried by the Twin Falls, Idaho "Times News" on August 15, together with a sheet of paper on which [redacted] attempted to sketch his impression of the instrument which he claims to have seen.

Concerning [redacted] sketches, it may be noted that he believed the outer edge which he attempted to create in his drawing to have been about a foot through. [redacted] likewise believed that the turbine or exhaust flame which he and his sons claim to have seen was about a foot through and extended at least to the back end of the device. The flame did not appear to taper off nor to widen out toward the back.

[redacted] and [redacted] stated that they could see a knot on the side of the device from which the flames were shooting, and that they could see daylight between the exhaust flame and the side of the device. The flames did not leave any smoke or odor.

The [redacted] boys thought that the "side view" sketch should show that the device was more sharply angled from bottom to top, while [redacted] himself thought that it was more streamlined and curved. [redacted] said that the instrument came to a pointed or rounded top.

In his notations, [redacted] mistakenly said that he had seen it on Thursday. During interview, he stated that it actually had been on Wednesday, August 13, 1947 when he and his sons saw the contrivance about 1:00 P. M.

[redacted] explained that he had sent his boys to the river to get some rope from his boat. When he thought they were overdue, he went outside his tool shed to look for them. He noticed them about 300 feet away looking in the sky and he glanced up to see what he called the "flying discs". He said he could only see it for a moment before it disappeared behind a hill which obscured his view.

[redacted] further stated that the contrivance was about seventy-five feet in the air. [redacted] resides in the depths of the Snake River Canyon, which is about four hundred feet deep and twelve hundred feet across at that place. According to his account, the contrivance was about three hundred feet below the rim of the canyon and he saw it against the steep walls of the canyon on the far side. He described its color as sky blue and stated that he doubted if it could be seen against the sky. He likewise said that it was purely by chance that he saw it. It did not spin like a top.

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Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

   a. High probability:
   #26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 238.

   b. Fair or low probability:
   #19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

   a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
   #3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

   b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
   #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

   c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
   #39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

   a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
   #38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

   b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
   #1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.

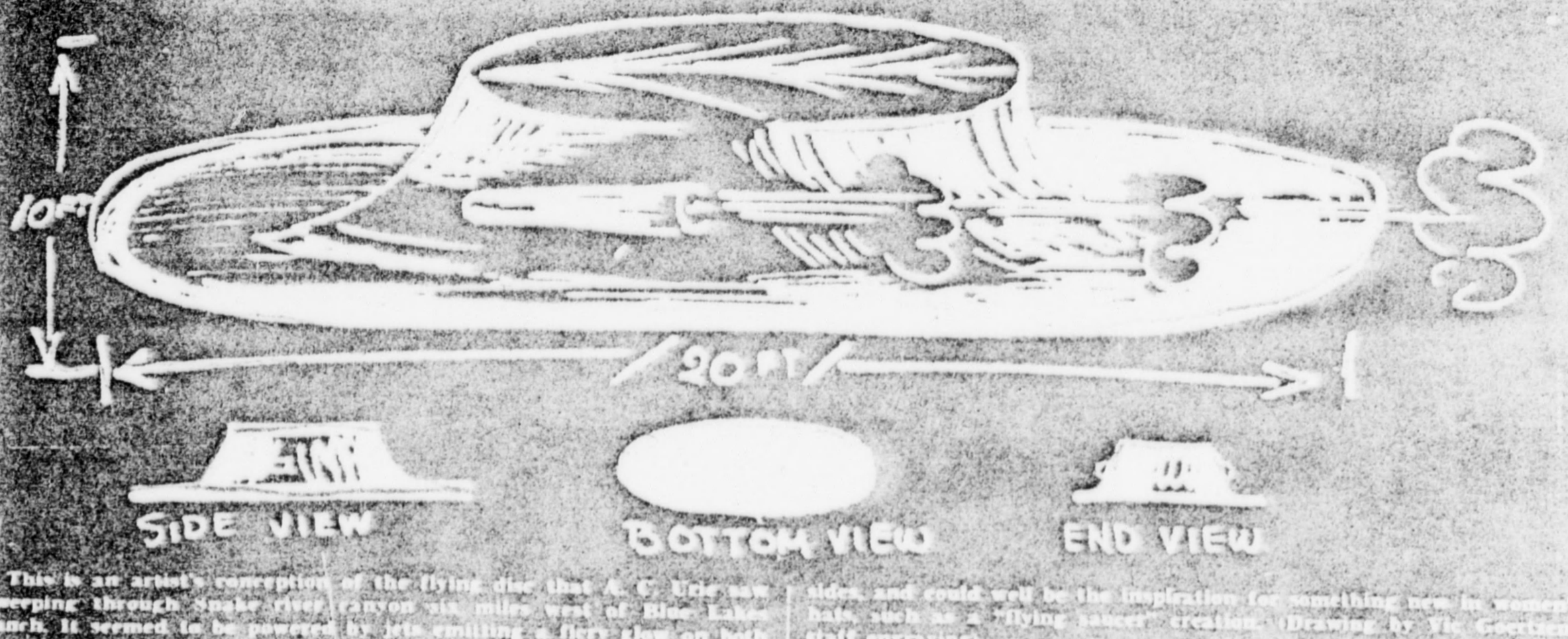
Times-News

Twin Falls

Local Newspaper Serving Nine Interior Idaho Counties

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1947

Heads Up, Folks! The Discs Are Flying Again



This is an artist's conception of the flying disc that A. C. Udie saw sweeping through Snake River canyon six miles west of Blue Lake ranch. It seemed to be powered by jets emitting a fiery glow on both sides, and could well be the inspiration for something new in secret hate, such as a flying saucer creation. (Drawing by Vic Goertzen staff engraving)

Flying Saucer Reported Flashing Down Canyon At 1,000 Miles Per Hour; Two Others Are Seen

By JOHN EROSAN

Just as Magic Valley and the [illegible] were starting to [illegible] reports after reeling under a [illegible] of flying saucer reports, two Twin Falls county men [illegible] speculation on the mystery [illegible] detailed descriptions of [illegible]

[illegible] A. C. Udie, who operates [illegible] Blue Lake ranch [illegible] west of Blue Lake, called in [illegible] Times-News and promptly [illegible] most detailed account of one of the fast-flying objects the nation has yet produced.

The flying saucer Udie saw was skimming along through Snake river canyon at a height of about 75 feet at 1 p.m. Wednesday. At 9:30 a.m. the same day, L. W. Hatch, Twin Falls county commissioner and former county sheriff from Lucile, also saw two circular objects [illegible] from Salmon [illegible] miles southwest of Twin Falls.

Here is Udie's eye-witness description of the flying disc seen by himself and his son Keith, 9, and Billy [illegible] 10.

He obtained a close-up view of the flying saucer as it passed by the house from 40 to 50 feet above the ground. Snake river canyon is a height of about 75 feet from the canyon floor. It would estimate the speed at about 1,000 miles per hour.

Udie explained that he heard the object while [illegible] were coming across the river from the north side in a boat. He had been [illegible] some concerned about what was delaying them and had walked out to the [illegible] to see if he could hear them coming.

[illegible] a distance of about 300 feet and about 75 feet high with the [illegible] three [illegible] Udie [illegible] and Billy [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the

'Saucer' Seen Flying Down Snake Gorge