PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. DATE<br>30 Apr 58 | 2. LOCATION<br>Lowry AFB, Colorado | 12. CONCLUSIONS<br>☐ Was Balloon<br>☐ Probably Balloon<br>☐ Possibly Balloon |
| 3. DATE-TIME GROUP<br>Local 2000<br>GMT 01/0400Z May 58 | 4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION<br>☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar<br>S Power TX<br>☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar | ☐ Was Aircraft<br>☐ Probably Aircraft<br>☐ Possibly Aircraft |
| 5. PHOTOS<br>☐ Yes<br>☒ No | 6. SOURCE<br>Military | ☐ Was Astronomical<br>☐ Probably Astronomical<br>☐ Possibly Astronomical |
| 7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION<br>3-4 mins | 8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS<br>one<br>9. COURSE<br>NW-SE | ☒ Other 1958 Gamma<br>☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation<br>☐ Unknown |

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

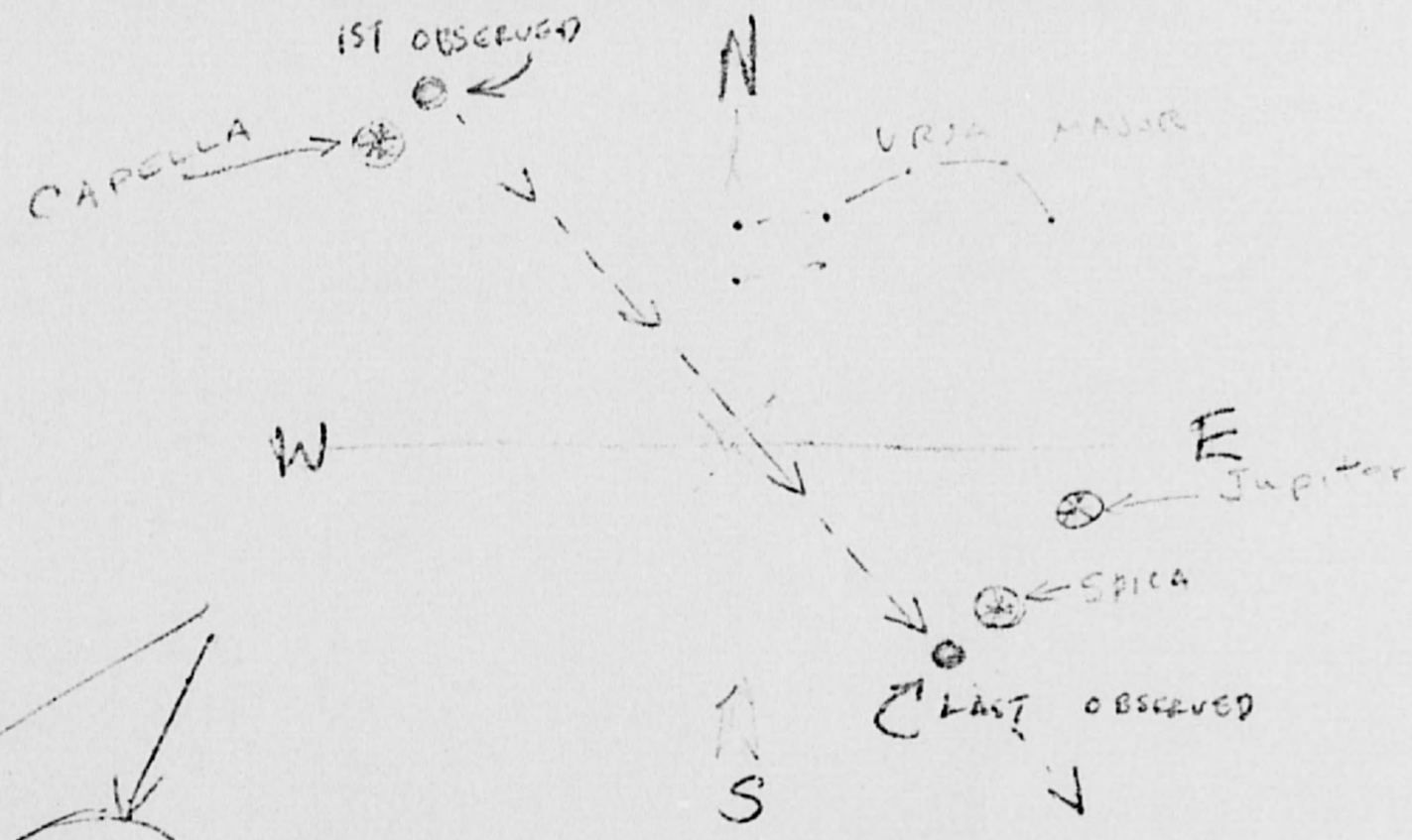
Satellite-type vehicle. One obj which appeared in two parts or at least two sections of differing reflectivity. Leading section comparable to third or fourth mag star. Trailing apart was much brighter, in the order of a second mag star. No apparent tumbling motion. Size could not be estimated because of great distance. Judging by reflectivity obj must be of a size comparable to or larger than Sputnik II.

11. COMMENTS

Rpt sent to Dr. Hynek. One reddish obj appearing in 2 parts. In sight fm 3-4 mins. Traversed 90 deg azimuth in path fm 330 deg to 30 deg. Satellite tracks not available at this date; however, not Explorer or Vanguard, USSR Satellite 1958 Gamma (Launch 26 Mar Decay 28 Jun 58) visible to naked -/eye. This sighting w/TX & rptd as Satellite. Case evaluated as 1958 Gamma sighting.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

TO BE OBSERVED, THE OTHER'S ATTENTION WAS CAUGHT BY THE MOTION OF THE OBJECT THROUGH THE SKY. 2. OBJECT FIRST SIGHTED AT ESTIMATED ELEVATION OF 30 DEGREES AND A TRU AZIMUTH OF APPROXIMATELY 330 DEGREES. 3. OBJECT DISAPPEARED IN CLOUD DECK AT AN ESTIMATED ELEVATION OF APPROXIMATELY 10 TO 20 DEGREES ABOVE THE SOUTHEAST HORIZON. 4. FLIGHT PATH ORBIT-LIKE IN NATURE. OBJECT FIRST APPEARED IN NORTHWEST SKY TRAVELING SMOOTHLY ON ORBIT-LIKE PATH THROUGH ITS ZENITH AT AN ESTIMATED ALTITUDE OF APPROXIMATELY 40 TO 45 DEGREES. OBJECT CONTINUED SMOOTHLY IN THE PLANE OR ORBIT AND PASSED VERY CLOSELY TO THE STAR SPICA AND THE PLANET JUPITER. THE OBJECT DISAPPEARED TO THE SOUTHEAST. DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD, FLIGHT PATH WAS APPARENTLY SMOOTH AND UNDISTRUBED. 5. THE OBJECT WAS VISIBLE






FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE TO FOUR MINUTES. THE OBSERVERS WERE NOT ESPECIALLY CONSCIOUS OF THE TIME LAPSE WHILE OBSERVING BUT ESTIMATED THAT THEY OBSERVED THE OBJECT BY THE NAKED EYE FOR AT LEAST TWO MINUTES AND FOLLOWED THE OBJECT BY TELESCOPE FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MINUTE. AT THE TIME OBJECT DISAPPEARED, OBSERVATION HAD BEEN DISCONTINUED BY TELESCOPE AND WAS BEING FOLLOWED WITH THE NAKED EYE. C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION. TWO OBSERVERS WERE INVOLVED AND OBSERVATIONS WERE BOTH BY NAKED EYE AND TELESCOPE. THE TELESCOPE WAS A SIX-INCH REFLECTOR TYPE WITH A MAGNIFICATION OF APPROXIMATELY 70 DIAMETERS. ONE OBSERVER TRACKED THE OBJECT WITH THE FINDER SCOPE AND THE OTHER CHECKED IT THROUGH THE MAIN LENSES SYSTEM. D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHT. 1. OBJECT FIRST SIGHTED SHORTLY AFTER 2300 MST 30 APRIL 1958. OBJECT REACHED ZENITH APPROXIMATELY 2006 MST. 2. LIGHT CONDITIONS. SIGHTING WAS MADE APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER SUNSET. ALL BUT THE FAINTEST STARS WERE VISIBLE AT TIME OF SIGHT. E. LOCATION OF OBSERVERS. OBSERVERS WERE LOCATED AT A POSITION APPROXIMATELY ONE NAUTICAL MILE SOUTH SOUTHWEST OF LOWRY AFB, DENVER COLORADO. F. IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION ON OBSERVERS. 1. CAPTAIN W.H. GIBSON, USAF, DEPARTMENT OF FLYING TRAINING, USAF ACADEMY, DENVER, COLORADO. CAPTAIN GIBSON IS A NAVIGATION INSTRUCTOR

RJWFDN/COMDR 34 ADIV (DEF)

RJEDSC/COMDR ATIC

RJEPHQ/OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES HQ USAF

RJEPHQ/ AIR INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF

BT

UNCLAS FROM COCFT 8894. UFO. THIS MESSAGE IS FORWARDED IN COMPLIANCE WITH AFR 200-2. A. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT. 1. SHAPE. FROM APPEARANCE OF ITS ORBIT, OBJECT WOULD SEEM TO BE A SATELLITE-TYPE VEHICLE. OBJECT WAS EXAMINED THROUGH A SIX POWER TELESCOPE AND APPEARED IN TWO PARTS OR AT LEAST TWO SECTIONS OF DIFFERING REFLECTIVITY. LEADING SECTION WAS OF A BRIGHTNESS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF A THIRD OR FOURT MAGNITUDE STAR. THE TRAILING PART WAS MUCH BRIGHTER AND IN THE ORDER OF A SECOND MAGNITUDE STAR. THERE WAS NO APPARENT TUMBLING MOTION. 2. SIZE. IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE SIZE BECAUSE OF APPARENT GREAT DISTANCE TO THE OBJECT. JUDGING BY REFLECTIVITY, OBJECT MUST BE OF A SIZE COMPARABLE TO OR LARGER THAN SPUTNIK II.

How determined?

PAGE TWO RJWFAM 29

COLOR. THE OBJECT WAS A REDDISH WARM TINT. 4. NUMBER. ONLY ONE OBJECT SIGHTED, HOWEVER, SEEMED TO BE IN TWO PARTS. 5. FORMATION. NOT APPLICABLE. 6. DISCERNIBLE FEATURES OR DETAIL AS EXPLAINED ABLOVE. 7. TAIL, TRAIL OR EXHAUST. NONE OBSERVED. 8. SOUND. NONE OBSERVED. 9. OTHER PERTINENT OR UNUSUAL FEATURES. NONE. B. 1. THE TWO OBSERVERS AT THE TIME OF THE SIGHTING WERE USING A SIX- INCH REFLECTOR TYPE AMATEUR TELESCOPE FOR CELESTIAL OBSERVATIONS. WHILE ONE OBSERVER WAS ALIGNING THE SCOPE ON A STAR TO BE OBSERVED, THE OTHER'S ATTENTION WAS CAUGHT BY THE MOTION OF THE OBJECT THROUGH THE SKY. 2. OBJECT FIRST SIGHTED AT ESTIMATED ELEVATION OF 30 DEGREES AND A TRU AZIMUTH OF APPROXIMATELY 330 DEGREES. 3. OBJECT DISAPPEARED IN CLOUD DECK AT AN ESTIMATED ELEVATION OF APPROXIMATELY 10 TO 20 DEGREES ABOVE THE SOUTHEAST HORIZON. 4. FLIGHT PATH ORBIT-LIKE IN NATURE. OBJECT FIRST APPEARED IN NORTHWEST SKY TRAVELING SMOOTHLY ON ORBIT-LIKE PATH THROUGH ITS ZENITH AT AN ESTIMATED ALTITUDE OF APPROXIMATELY 40 TO 45 DEGREES

Priority To Col. Gen OD wfb 09073

notified at 1318 will be over to pick up

Office MAY 2 10 03 '50 Sgt

SQG767 YDB712 WYC673 WMP034

AMA044

PP RJWFDN RJEDDN RJEDSQ RJEPHQ

DE RJWFAM 29

P 012345Z

FM SUPTUSAFA DENVER COLO

TO RJEDDN/COMDR ADC

RJWFDN/COMDR 34 ADIV (DEF)

RJEDSQ/COMDR ATIC

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How determined?

Date: 30 april 58

Time of Sighting: 2000 to 2006 Mountain Standard Time (0400 - 0406 UT) 1 may 58

Venus - 356 x
Mars - 335 x
Jupiter - 204 x
Moon - 24 x

LHA of Meridian 164

Star Capella near area of UFO location i.e. 30° elev. 330° AZ. When first seen.

GTG



AT THE ACADEMY WITH APPROXIMATELY 1500 HOURS FLYING EXPERIENCE. HE IS AN AMATEUR ASTRONOMER. 2. FLIGHT LIEUTENANT D. J. CONNOLLY, RCAF, DEPARTMENT OF FLYING TRAINING, USAF ACADEMY, DENVER, COLORADO. F/LT CONNOLLY IS A NAVIGATION INSTRUCTOR AT THE USAF ACADEMY. HE HAS APPROXIMATELY 3,000 HOURS OF FLYING EXPERIENCE. HE IS A CANADIAN EXCHANGE OFFICER. 3. THE RELIABILITY OF THE OBSERVERS. FLIGHT EXPERIENCE AND EXPERIENCE AS AMATUER ASTRONOMERS AND OBSERVERS WOULD INDICATED RELATIVELY HIGH DEGREE OF RELIABILITY.
BOTH OBSERVERS HAVE SEEN SATELLITES PRIOR TO THIS SIGHTING. G. WEATHER CONDITIONS. WEATHER AT THE TIME OF SIGHTING AS ESTIMATED BY THE OBSERVERS WAS UNLIMITED CEILING, 1/10 SCATTERED CLOUDS TOWARD THE HORIZON, VISIBILITY UNLIMITED, TEMPERATURE APPROXIMATELY 35 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, WINDS LIGHT AND VARIABLE. THE OFFICIAL WEATHER REPORT BY LOWRY AFB AT 1958 MST, WAS CEILING UNLIMITED, HIGH SCATTERED COULDS, VISIBILITY 20 MILES, WIND 160 DEGREES 7 KNOTS. THE 1700 MST WINDS WERE: SURFACE- 160/7 KNOTS; 6,000'-090/5 KNOTS; 10,000'-70/10 KNOTS; 16,000'-270/20 KNOTS; 20,000'-270/30 KNOTS; 30,000-270/40 KNOTS; 50,000'-270/40 KNOTS; 80,000- NOT AVAILABLE. H. NOT APPLICABLE. I. ACTION TAKEN AFTER SIGHTING. APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES AFTER SIGHTING, THE TWO OBSERVERS



CONTACTED MR. [redacted] OF THE DENVER MOON WATCH TEAM. MR. [redacted] IN TURN CONTACTED THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF ANY SIGHTINGS HAD BEEN MADE OF THIS SAME VEHICLE. SUBSEQUESNT TO THIS AND UP TO A TIME SOME 13 HOURS AFTER THE SIGHTING, NO CONFIRMATION OF SUCH A VEHICLE WAS RECEIVED FROM SMITHSONIAN. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SMITHSONIAN ESTABLISHED A MOON

PAGE FIVE RJWFAM 29

CONTACTED MR. [redacted], HEAD OF THE DENVER MOON WATCH TEAM. MR [redacted] IN TURN CONTACTED THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF ANY SIGHTINGS HAD BEEN MADE OF THIS SAME VEHICLE. SUBSEQUESNT TO THIS AND UP TO A TIME SOME 18 HOURS AFTER THE SIGHTING, NO CONFIRMATION OF SUCH A VEHICLE WAS RECEIVED FROM SMITHSONIAN. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SMITHSONIAN ESTABLISHED A MOON WATCH ALERT SHORTLY AFTER THE REPORT WAS RECEIVED. J. AIR ACTIVITY AT THE TIME OF SIGHTING. THE ONLY ACTIVITY OBSERVED AT OR ABOUT THE TIME OF THE SIGHTING WAS A B-52 OR B-47 AIRCRAFT AT EXTREMELY HIGH ALTITUDES. IT EXECUTED A PRACTICE BOMB RUN ON DENVER BOMB PLOT. THIS OCCURED 25 OR 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE ACTUAL UFO SIGHTING. AT THE TIME OF THE SIGHTING NO FLYING AIRCRAFT WERE OBSERVERED IN THE DENVER AREA BY THE TWO OBSERVERS. K. THE OFFICERS SUBMITTING REPORT HAVE DISCUSSED OBSERVATIONS WITH SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL AND DIRECTOR OF FLYING TRAINING, HEADQUARTERS, USAF ACADEMY. PRE-LIMINARY ANALYSIS SUGGEST POSSIBLE UNANNOUNCED SATELLITE LAUNCHING. L. EXISTENCE OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE. UNAVAILABILITY OF CAMERA EQUIPMENT AND SHORT TIME INVOLVED IN TRACKING OBJECT PRECLUDED OBTAINING PHYSICAL EVIDENCE. SIGNED FLOYD C. ETHRIDGE MAJOR, USAF CHIEF, NAV TNG DIV.

BT

02/0 1492 MAY RJWFAM

Not good logic or reasoning

Note: Place in "30 April 1958 - Lowry AFB, Colo" File after review by Dr. H.

Self Evident: Since we are being fooled into believing we are "orbital" tests for our "masters" up there, put this in "DR. HYNEKS" "TO REVIEW" File. For no reason I believe logical or explanation posters have at WP.

GTG

Finally!! Even the smallest satellite was disclosed as soon as it set into orbit, either visually or by radio transmission. Whether U.S. or U.S.S.R., a successful orbit would be announced to the world immediately, or discovered soon after.

NNNN

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY

SECTION OF UPPER ATMOSPHERE STUDIES
IGY OPTICAL SATELLITE TRACKING PROGRAM
60 GARDEN STREET
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

May 23, 1958

Captain George T. Gregory
Hqtrs, Air Technical Intelligence Center
Box 9307
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Dear Captain:

I now have had a chance to look through all the reports you sent, and the one concerning the "satellite-type sighting" from Denver interests me very much and I am giving it the full treatment. It is clear that this could not have been any of the American satellites, not only because of the excessive brightness, but because no American satellite at present could be seen approaching from the northwest at the latitude of Denver. On April 30th there were no known Russian Sputnik's up, but even had there been it is almost inconceivable that objects that bright would escape detection by our Moonwatch teams. This is a corker; so much so, that I wish I had the time and the opportunity to talk with these two officers. It could be that in casual conversation some clue might be obtained which is not apparent in their report.

I had an experience the other night which may bear on this. I had been instructing my young daughter in figuring sidereal time, and we had gone out on the lawn to check our calculations when there cam along a sputnik-like object---correct brightness, correct speed, correct color, and I almost stood aghast. There was no sound. A few minutes later another such object came through in another direction, and then a few minutes still another. On the third one I was able to detect over ambient noises the sound of jet motors. Lights were not blinking. If the other object had not gone through I might honestly be puzzled to this day as to whether I had seen an unknown satellite. I didn't know that jets ever carried such lights.

It is almost inconceivable two such experienced officers could have made the mistake I had first made, but strange things do happen. In the meantime, I am having this observation checked against all other "unknown sputnik's" that our teams from time to time reported.

As to the other cases, which I am returning (I will return the Denver case very soon), we certainly seem to have a fine bunch of meteor observations--five of them. Two others remain: one, the object that was seen the same time on two nights just before sunrise

(period of morning twilight had already begun). Vega was, as you say, near the point of sighting but it seems to me that it was somewhat higher than 60°. There was of course a very fine spectacular object in the sky at that time but, unfortunately, in the southeastern sky. The planet Venus was at its brightest in the pre-sunrise sky, and I know from past experience how easily it can be mistaken for an unknown object. My only reaction is to question the stated position and to consider the possibility that it was Venus.

The case of the "daylight meteor" is greatly ambiguous. While a daylight fireball cannot be ruled out, I would myself favor the accidental release of some object from an aircraft. However, much hinges on the statement "orange flame". If it really was flaming then it looks as though we must accredit this to a daylight meteor. If the light was simply a bright reflection of sunlight, then we have the other possibility. In either case, there is nothing hostile, and I say to this "insufficient information to be able to distinguish between daylight meteor or object falling from aircraft". I don't think it is worthwhile to pursue this one, although I think if I could talk to the chap a better analysis might be made. It just occurs to me that perhaps the object might have been a burst weather or cosmic ray balloon, with the reflection from the trailing material accounting for the "tail four times the diameter of object". In fact, I think this is a distinct possibility since it occurred in the neighborhood of the municipal airport from which, I suppose, balloons are launched. The time of observation was 4:00 p.m., their time which, I believe, is about the time of such launchings. So, three possibilities: daylight meteor---part of aircraft---bursted balloon. All harmless but, I now tend to prefer the latter.

I am looking forward to visiting you in your new quarters---I hope in early June.

Cheers,

J. Allen Hynek

J. Allen Hynek

JAH:lc

Encls.

UNIVERSE

ASTRONOMY

# Jupiter Now Most Prominent

**April is the month that will see the planet Jupiter nearest to the earth, in addition to bringing the first solar eclipse of the year.**

By JAMES STOKLEY

➤ IN A DIRECTION from the earth directly opposite to that of the sun on April 17, the giant planet Jupiter will make its closest approach of the year, at a distance of 413,000,000 miles. It will then be most prominent, visible all night with a brightness of minus two on the astronomical magnitude scale.

Jupiter is shown on the accompanying maps, which depict the sky at is appears about 10:00 p.m., your own kind of standard time, at the first of April, an hour earlier at the middle and two hours earlier at the end. It is toward the southeast, in Virgo, the virgin, just to the left of Spica, the brightest star in that constellation. Although Spica is among the 20 brightest stars in the sky (those of the first magnitude or brighter), Jupiter now surpasses it in brilliance by about 18 times.

High in the south, above and right of Virgo, you come to Leo, the lion, with another first-magnitude star. This is Regulus, which is in a group of six stars often called the "sickle," from its resemblance to that implement.

To the right of Leo is the rather faint constellation of Cancer, but next to that is the figure of Gemini, the twins. Here we find Pollux, also of magnitude one. Below Gemini is Canis Minor, the lesser dog, with Procyon, and below that stands the great dog Canis Major, with Sirius, the dog star. This is now so low that it is faint and relatively inconspicuous, quite different from the way it looked on midwinter evenings, when it was in the southern sky.

## Orion is Faint

The same is true of Orion, to the west. Betelgeuse, the brightest star in this figure of the warrior, is shown; so are the three stars that mark his belt. However, Rigel, below the belt, has passed below the horizon. It may be seen earlier in the evening.

To the right of Orion is Taurus, the bull, in which we see Aldebaran. On account of its low altitude, and the consequent increased absorption of its light by the earth's atmosphere, it is represented by the symbol for a second-magnitude star, although it is really of the first. Above Taurus is Auriga, the charioteer, in which Capella shines.

High in the eastern sky, above and to the left of Jupiter, is the figure of Bootes, the bear-driver. Here we find Arcturus. Close to the northeastern horizon Vega, which is in Lyra, the lyre, is shown. Actually, of all the stars that can be seen from these latitudes, only Sirius surpasses Vega in brightness, but as it is seen here you might not think so. Later in the night, as it climbs higher in the sky, it will be seen at full brilliance, as it will in the evenings later in the year.

Saturn, now in the constellation of Ophiuchus, the serpent-bearer, appears about midnight above the southeastern horizon. Hours later, or about two and a half hours before sunrise, Mars appears, in Capricornus, the sea-goat. Mars, red in color, is a little fainter than Saturn, although both are of the first magnitude. About half an hour later Venus appears, brighter even than Jupiter. Mercury, which appeared in the evening sky at the end of March, may be glimpsed in the first day or so of April, but you will have to look to the western sky, near the horizon, after sunset and even before dusk has faded, if you want to see it.

On April 3, at 10:45 p.m. EST, the moon will be full. This full moon will have a special significance, for it is the paschal moon, the one that determines the date of Easter.

It is commonly stated that Easter is the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox, or the beginning of our spring in the Northern Hemisphere. The vernal equinox occurred on March 20 at 10:06 p.m., EST, when the sun passed over the equator. The next full moon is on April 3, so the following Sunday, April 6, is Easter. And from the date of Easter are determined the dates of certain other religious "movable feasts."

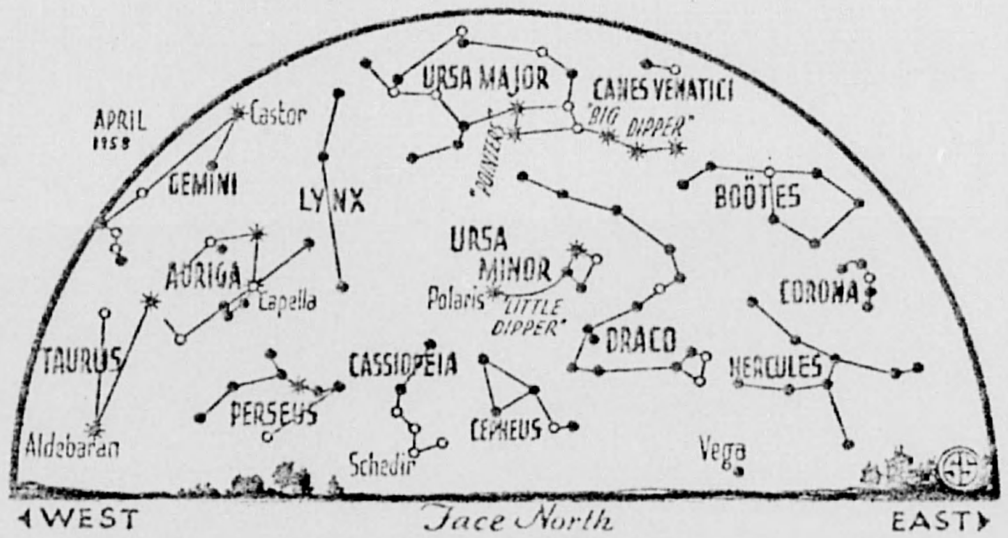
## The Easter Moon

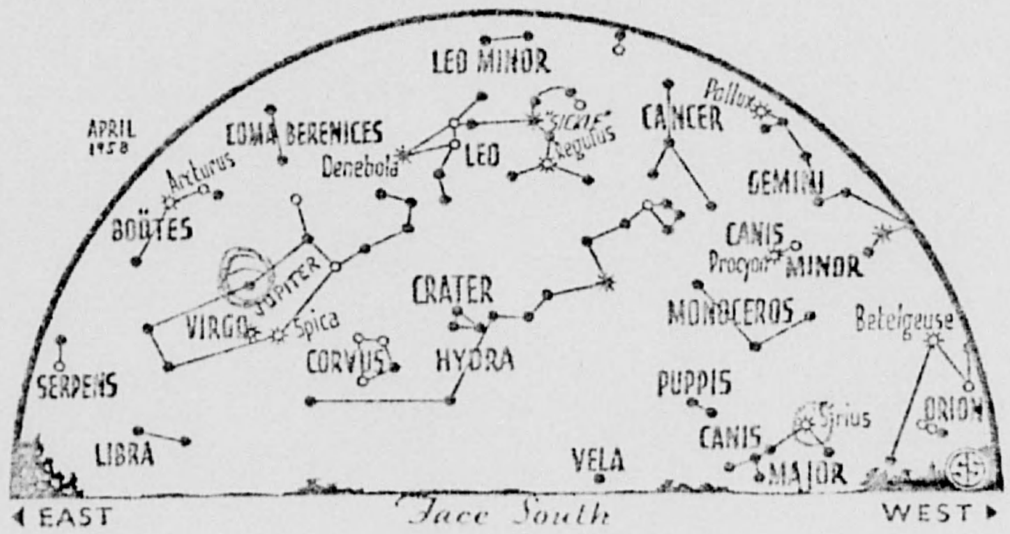
The Easter rule was set in 325 A.D. by the Council of Nicaea. Before that there were two principal factions in the early church with their own ideas as to when the festival should be celebrated.

The Crucifixion and Resurrection had taken place at the time of the Hebrew Passover, which begins on the 14th day of the month of Nisan in the Jewish calendar. Since each month in this calendar begins with the new moon, it is always full at the 14th. Hence when Christ arose from the dead it was a time of full moon and, also, it happened on a Sunday.

One group wanted to celebrate Easter always at the time of the full moon, but the others thought that the day of the week was important. They wanted it on Sunday, and the Nicene Council decided in their favor.

They fixed the rule that Easter should come on the Sunday following the 14th day of the moon when this came on or after March 21, which was the day of the equinox in 325. Actually, as this year, the equinox may occur on the 20th; sometimes it may come on the 22nd, while the full moon may not necessarily come on the 14th day of the lunar month. Thus, the rule




☼ ✳ ○ • SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

does not apply to the real moon, but represents an average. In 1818 and 1845, for example, the full moon came on Easter day, and caused considerable questioning from those who thought the rule applied to the body they saw in the sky.

## First Eclipse of 1958

April also brings the first eclipse of 1958, but it will not be visible in any part of North America, except Alaska. This happens on April 18, when the new moon will come directly between earth and sun. However, the moon will be far enough away that it will appear slightly smaller than the sun and thus will not completely cover it.

Even where the solar eclipse is at its height, along a path that starts in the Indian Ocean, southwest of India, crosses Burma, Thailand, Viet Nam and Formosa and ends in the Pacific Ocean southeast of Japan, one would see a ring of the bright solar surface around the dark disc of the moon. Thus it is called an annular eclipse, since "annulus" is Latin for ring. Along the first part of this path it will be April 19 as the eclipse occurs. But the path crosses the International Date Line where it is still the 18th, so the event may be said to end the day before it begins!

Over a larger area, covering all of Asia except the northwestern part, the Indian Ocean, Indonesia and the western Pacific, as well as Alaska, there will be a partial eclipse, with the moon hiding a part of the sun. By our time reckoning, the eclipse occurs during the night of the 18th.

## Celestial Time Table for April

| April | EST | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4:00 p.m. | Moon nearest, distance 221,800 miles. |
| | 10:45 p.m | Full moon. |
| 4 | 10:39 p.m. | Moon passes Jupiter. |
| 8 | 6:00 p.m. | Venus farthest west of sun. |
| | 9:10 p.m. | Moon passes Saturn. |
| 10 | 6:50 p.m. | Moon in last quarter. |
| 13 | 7:53 a.m. | Moon passes Mars. |
| 16 | 2:00 p.m. | Mercury and sun in same direction. |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Moon farthest, distance 252,500 miles. |
| 17 | 2:00 a.m. | Jupiter in opposite direction from sun and nearest earth, distance 413,000,000 miles. |
| 18 | 10:23 p.m. | New moon—annular eclipse of sun. |
| 23 | 9:00 p.m. | Neptune in opposite direction from sun and nearest earth, distance 2,724,000,000 miles. |
| 26 | 4:36 p.m. | Moon in first quarter. |

Subtract one hour for CST, two hours for MST, and three for PST.

Science News Letter, March 22, 1958

No Case (Information Only)

17 April 1958
Porto Alegre, Brazil

April 17, 1958; Porto Alegre, Brazil:

Press report says "Newspapers and radio stations of Rio Grande do Sul state that three flying saucers landed about 65 km. north of Santa Maria City. Two objects flew on but the third remained, emitting—said the report—an unbearable heat." The Brazilian Air Force declared they had no official confirmation.

# BOLIDE of 1958 APRIL 20

## A.M.S. No. 2362

On this date at 8:22 ± 3, p.m., E.S.T., a very brilliant bolide was seen from Georgia and states to the north. Although numerous newspaper accounts were available which named observers, and efforts were made to contact several, we have only four complete reports. A few in the papers were confirmatory, but if some of the others were correct, there must have been a second bright object visible to the south at the same hour. [illegible] had several almost useless reports [illegible] aviators. Why aviators practically never give coordinates of the bodies they see is a mystery! Our results are based on reports from: B. Rauschenberg, Atlanta, Ga., W. F. Appleton at Niota, Tenn., and A. C. Griffeth from near Flintstone, Ga. A fourth from Rome, Ga. approximately confirms the azimuth of the end point. A fifth from R. P. Beckler at Boarding, Tenn., gives direction of the path and other data. The end point is very well determined but the beginning point is much more uncertain. From Atlanta it was seen as —4 magnitude before bursting. The latter is described as "blinding" even at great distances. Buckler reported having heard sounds 1½ to 2 minutes after explosion, but he was much nearer this point than other observers. No one else reported hearing anything. The estimates of duration are complicated by some observers seeing but part of the path. These estimates are too discordent to have any meaning, but there is reason to believe that the observed velocity was moderate. The fact that Weather Bureau stations, as a rule, keep no records of fireballs reported to them—the logical places casual observers would contact—in this case greatly hampered our investigation, as no information could be obtained from them. The usual data follow, but no orbit is calculated due to uncertainty about the beginning point. The derived radiant is so far from that of the contemporary Lyrid shower that it seems unlikely that any errors of observation could permit this bolide to be a Lyrid.

| | |
|---|---|
| Date | 1958 April 20.56 G.M.T. |
| Sidereal time at end point | 144° |
| Began over | $\lambda = 82°45'$, $\phi = 36°46'$ at 149 km |
| Ended over | $\lambda = 82°45'$, $\phi = 34°48'$ at 29 ± 3 km |
| Projected length of path | 313 km |
| Length of path | 335 km |
| Observed velocity | ?? |
| Radiant uncorrected | $a = 220°$, $h = 22°.4$ |
| Zenith correction parabolic | $-5°.9$ |
| Radiant corrected | $a = 220°$, $h = 16°.5$ |
| | $\alpha = 251°$, $\delta = +50°$ |

[illegible] 1960 furnished several bright [illegible] S. Hawkins, Harvard College Observatory, kindly sent me reports on two observed from the S.E. corner of Saskatchewan, Canada, observed respectively on Feb. 13 and 14. The first came at 10:40 p.m., C.S.T. and there are 5 reports. The two stations were McTaggert and Weyburn. The lack of coordinates for either beginning or end points makes it impossible to compute a path. It was very bright, in the south and went S.E. starting at an elevation of 40° and sloping down at an angle of 30°. It lasted 3 seconds (3 estimates), was "pink-white" in color (one observer), it burst but no sound was heard. Reception at a local broadcasting station was interfered with for a few seconds. Same observer says it "left smoke train in air". Others do not mention this. On Feb. 14 the bolide [illegible] 11:32 p.m., C.S.T. It was [illegible] color and from Weyburn [illegible] to S.E. Its duration was [illegible] burst lasted 3 seconds and [illegible] It did not reach the horizon. There were 3 reports from 2 stations. It is a great pity that the lack of azimuths and altitudes of the beginning and end points prevents calculation of the paths of these brilliant bolides. They must also have been seen from North Dakota, but no reports came from that state.

As an example of an unusual phenomenon which may have been a "[illegible] procession" if the 6 minutes [illegible] given refers to the interval [illegible] the first body was seen until [illegible] died out of sight (if however it means the bodies were in one group and took 6 minutes to cross the sky, meteors are ruled out), I quote from a report sent to the Hydrographic Office. —Captain A. Vermeulen, Master of the Netherlands M. V. Posidon, reported as follows: "At 0030 G.M.T. Sept. 16, 1960, about 10 miles south of Klein, Curacao, several bright objects were observed. They were first sighted bearing 190° altitude 20°. They were all traveling at the same speed and in one line. The first object which was the largest had a small tail and the other pieces were much brighter. These objects passed through bearing 90° altitude 30° and disappeared bearing 30° altitude 5°. They were visible about 6 minutes. Weather clear." At the same time a very unusual body passed over Caracas, Venezuela, going in the same direction. Though many reports are at hand, no path can be computed so far, and its description does not fit the above. Yet it seems there must be a connection.

No Case (Information Only)

20 April 1958
Burlington, Vermont

UNUSUAL INCIDENT IN VERMONT: A dazzling ball of fire suspended from a parachute, a red flare, blinking signal lights, and a burned-out area in the woods were the ingredients of a puzzling mystery in Burlington, Vt. last April 20th. Most baffled of all was [redacted] who witnessed the entire display. The strange series of events began about 9-30 p.m., when a fireball, at first thought to be a meteor, flared brilliantly in the sky near Burlington. Hundreds of people saw it, but they did not see what [redacted] saw - a parachute falling earthward from the object. It landed in a nearby patch of woods; Cote called the police, and tried to guide them to the area. A swamp blocked the way, but they could see two blinking white lights, like flashlight signals, at the spot they were trying to approach. A red flare was also seen coming from the same place. The next day they succeeded in reaching the area, where they found a scorched spot in the woods, but no signs of life or the parachute. Later [redacted] was visited by two Air Force men who cautioned him not to talk too much about the event. An Air Force helicopter was later seen scouting the area, but no statement was issued as to what it found. A report on the incident was sent to Washington.

No Case (Information Only)

21 April 1958
Bethlehem, Georgia

STRANGE INCIDENT ON A GEORGIA FARM: On the night of April 21st a brightly burning object resembling a comet or meteor fell near Bethlehem, Georgia, showering sparks as it fell. It slightly injured a farmer named Fred Fuller, who apparently had a piece of the object land on his head. No visible remains of the UFO were found, but it was noted the next day that a number of bushes in the area were scorched. The farmer, who lives alone, also states that he has felt badly ever since the incident, and that three dogs in the neighborhood died in the two days following the apparition. Thus far his crops have shown no ill effects, however.

No Case (Information Only)

22 April 1958
Ambrosia Lake, New Mexico

1958

NEW MEXICO MINE GUARDS SEE SAUCER: [redacted] and [redacted], security guards in New Mexico's Ambrosia Lake uranium area, said last April 22nd that they spent several hours watching a UFO before daybreak on the previous Saturday morning. The unidentified object was first spotted on a mesa to the northwest of them, and had the appearance of a searchlight or headlight. The light then "bounced what appeared to be a few feet and shot straight up in the air, glowing brighter and brighter." It was so bright that it made tears come to their eyes, said Turbin. A 10 or 20-foot-long silvery-white streamer shot out from the light, and later changed color several times, from white to red to blue. - The men were described by their boss as "highly trained, reliable observers."

24 April 1958
Bad Axe, Michigan

BAD AXE, MICH., APRIL 24--(UP)--HURON COUNTY'S ELECTRIC BLUE MAN FROM OUTER SPACE HAS BEEN CAPTURED.

SIGHTINGS OF THE MAN-MONSTER, REPORTED AS RANGING IN HEIGHT FROM TWO TO SIX-AND-A-HALF FEET, HADFRIGHTENED MANY RESIDENTS OF THIS COUNTY AT THE TIP OF MICHIGAN'S THUMB FOR THE LAST 30 DAYS.

MOTORISTS TOLD HOW THE MAN, DRESSED IN A GLOWING BLUE SUIT AND A PLASTIC SPACE HELMET WITH FLASHING LIGHTS, LEAPED FROM A DITCH AS THEY APPROACHED ON BACK COUNTRY ROADS AND DANCED IN FRONT OF THEIR HEADLIGHTS.

MOTHERS IN ISOLATED COUNTRY HOMES REPORTED SEEING THE APPARITION THROUGH THEIR WINDOWS AT NIGHT AND "IT GOT SO THEY WOULDN'T LET THEIR KIDS OUT AT NIGHT," SHERIFF MERRITT MCBRIDE SAID.

THE APPARITION WAS REAL. THOUGH NO SPACE MAN, HE WAS ONE OF THREE YOUNG BAD AXE EARTHLINGS WHO WERE ARRESTED BY SHERIFFS OFFICERS AND STATE POLICE HERE LAST NIGHT. JERRY SPRAGUE, 22, DONALD WEISS, 23, AND LEROY SCHULTZ, 23, CONFESSED SPRAGUE WAS THE ELECTRIC BLUE MAN AFTERBRIEF QUESTIONING.

SPRAGUE TOLD PROSECUTOR JAMES UMPHREY HE WAS THE ONLY ONE TO WEAR THE SUIT BECAUSE THE LONG UNDERWEAR, WHICH THEY HAD SOAKED IN LUMINOUS BLUE PAINT, WAS HIS AND HE WAS THE ONLY ONE IT FITTED.

BESUDES THE LONG JOHNS, THE "SPACE SUIT" WAS MADE UP OF A BEDSHEET-CAPE, ALSO BLUE, A BLUE MASK AND A FOOTBALL HELMET FITTED WITH BATTERY-POWERED FLASHLIGHT BULBS, OVER WHICH A BUBBLE PLASTIC SPACE HELMET WAS WORN.

SPRAGUE'S FRIENDS WOULD DRIVE HIM TO A LONELY ROAD AND HE WOULD HIDE UNTIL A CAR APPEARED. AFTER DOING HIS DANCE, HE "COLLAPSED" AT THE ROADSIDE AS THE CAR PAST AND THE TRIO WOULD DRIVE AWAY BEFORE THE MOTORIST COULD INVESTIGATE--IF THE MOTORIST STOPPED AT ALL, AND FEW DID.

UMPHREY SAID NO ONE REPORTED THE BLUE MAN UNTIL ELKTON SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT DAVIS LD OF SEEING HIM DANCE IN FRONT OF HIS SCHOOL BUS.

MCBRIDE SAID OTHER PERSONS HAD HESITATED REPORTING THE SIGHT BECAUSE THEY FEARED MAKING FOOLS OF THEMSELVES. BUT WHEN DAVIS BROKE THE ICE THE REPORTS POURED IN.

UMPHREY HAS TEMPORARILY LET THE TRIO OFF WITH A GOOD TALKING TO, BUT HE STILL HASN'T DECIDED IF HE WON'T SEEK A WARRANT ANYWAY.

THE ONLY TROUBLE IS, HE SAID, "WHAT'LL I CHARGE THEM WITH?"

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IN 9TH PGH ABV., MAKE IT X X X DAVIS TOLD OF SEEING ETC.

RT850P..

No Case (Information Only)

24 April 1958
Bad Axe, Michigan

CAPTURED SPACEMAN

Motorists around Bad Axe, Mich. suffered un- earthly scares when a figure in space helmet, long cape, skintight uniform and boots loomed before their headlights then disappeared. Po- lice arrested Jerry Sprague, 22, who confessed to pulling the prank in a suit of underwear.

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No Case (Information Only)

29 April 1958
St. Paul, Minnesota

April 29, 1958; St. Paul, Minnesota:

A UFO similar to the one reported in the east on April 21 was sighted by control tower operators at Wold-Chamberlain Airport and by other observers. The CAA men said the UFO did not resemble a meteor or any other known object but that it moved west to east at high speed on an even path without climbing or descending. It was described as emitting sparks from its glowing nose before its abrupt disappearance. The UFO also was seen by NICAP member H. T. Sherman, insurance underwriter and astronomer, who reported it to an Air Force Captain Nueman at Wold-Chamberlain. The captain first suggested Venus, which Sherman as an astronomer quickly ruled out. The captain then suggested a meteor.

"Too slow," stated Mr. Sherman. "A parallel path and the UFO's appearance rule that out."

Finally Captain Nueman suggested a new anti-collision light on a plane, but Sherman pointed out these items:

- When the light went out no plane was visible in the sky which at 9 p.m. was still fairly light.
- He would have heard any aircraft.
- No pilot in his right mind would approach a field with such heavy traffic at such high speed and suddenly at low altitude turn out all lights.

The Air Force captain had no other suggestions and the sighting was officially recorded.

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MAY 1958 SIGHTINGS

| DATE | LOCATION | OBSERVER | EVALUATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Sapin | Military (Bryant) | Satellite |
| 3 | Flagstaff, Arizona | Military Air Vis/RAD | Balloon |
| 4 | Uruguay | CIOVI | Insufficient Data |
| 7 | Spring City, Tennessee | [redacted] | Astro (SIRIUS) |
| 7 | Fresno, San Francisco, California | Military | Astro (VENUS & ARCTURUS) |
| 9 | Bohol Island, Philippines | Military Air/Vis | UNIDENTIFIED |
| 9 | Marietta, Ohio | [redacted] | Other (UNRELIABLE REPORT) |
| 10 | Colt's Neck, New Jersey | [redacted] | Balloon |
| 11 | Saigon, Viet Nam | Military | Astro (METEOR) |
| 11 | Chillicothe, Missouri | Military Air/Vis | Balloon |
| 12 | Canton, Ohio | [redacted] | Balloon |
| 12 | Cheyenne, Wyoming | Multi (Stratton) | Aircraft |
| 13 | Wauwatosa, Wisconsin | [redacted] | Aircraft |
| 13-14 | Willis, Virginia | [redacted] (PHYSICAL S) | Other (CHAFF) |
| 14 | Yuma, Arizona | [redacted] | Insufficient Data |
| 14 | Farmington, New Mexico | [redacted] | Astro (METEOR) |
| 15 | Caracas, Venezuela | Venezuela Mil Air/Vis | Insufficient Data |
| 15 | Ft Bragg, North Carolina | Military Air/Vis, Beck | Satellite |
| 16 | Tuscaloosa, Alabama | [redacted] | Astro (METEOR) |
| 16 | Parma, Ohio | [redacted] | Insufficient Data |
| 16-17 | Drummond, Wisconsin | [redacted] (PHOTO) | Astro (STAR) |
| 17 | Mindanao, Philippines | [redacted] | Astro (METEOR) |
| 17 | Red Springs, North Carolina | [redacted] | Aircraft (REFUELING OPR) |
| 17 | 23 Mi SE of Belle Glade, Florida | [redacted] | Insufficient Data |
| 18 | Albuquerque, New Mexico | [redacted] | Astro (METEOR) |
| 20 | Canton, Ohio | [redacted] | Astro (METEOR) |
| 20 | Mount Prospect, Illinois | [redacted] | Other (MIRAGE) |
| 21 | Frenchman's Bayou, Arkansas | [redacted] (PHYSICAL S) | Other (ROCK) |
| 22 | S of Nogales, Arizona | [redacted] | Astro (METEOR) |
| 23-24 | National City, California | [redacted] | Insufficient Data |
| 24 | San Diego, California | [redacted] | Balloon |
| 25 | Uruguay | CIOVI | Insufficient Data |
| 26 | Hubbard, Ohio | [redacted] | Aircraft |
| 27 | Denver, Colorado | [redacted] | Astro (METEOR) |
| 27-28 | Nuncia, Michigan | [redacted] | Insufficient Data |
| 28 | Templehof, Germany | Military RADAR | Balloon |
| 29 | Cockburn Harbor, Caribbean | [redacted] | Insufficient Data |
| 29 | N of Puerto Rico | Eastern Airlines | Astro (METEOR) |
| 29 | Trenton, New Jersey | [redacted] (PHOTO) | Other (PHOTO FLAW) |
| 30 | W of North Africa (Atlantic) | U.S. Coast Guard | Insufficient Data |

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

| DATE | LOCATION | SOURCE | EVALUATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May | ~~Sutton, W.Va.~~ Sutton, W.Va. | Mag Story | |
| May | Universe | Science News Ltr | |
| 1958 | Soviet Earth Satellite #3 | Orbital Plane | |
| 1-7 | Rabat, Morocco | Satellite Crossings | |
| 5 | Montivideo, Uruguay | Newsclipping | |
| 8 | Tarpon Springs, Florida | Newsclipping | |
| 16 | New England | Newsclipping | |
| 27 | Biggleswade, England | Newsclipping | |