PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 13 Sept. 66 1315Z	2. LOCATION Gwinner, North Dakota one witness
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Unidentified
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer noted elliptical shaped object with a glass bubble protruding from the top. The object was silvery gray in color and appeared to hover before departing toward the northwest. The observer said he could hear a low pitched whine at one time. There was evidence present in the form of depressions in the ground. The surrounding area showed no effects of heat and no evidence of high velocity wind blast. One of the investigating officials said that it looked like someone had jumped up and down on a bowling ball.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Visual Tx	
7. COURSE NW	
8. PHOTOS X Yes No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE X Yes ☐ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

13 Sept 66

Gwinner, ~~South~~ North Dakota

TDETR /Maj H Quintanilla, Jr/70916/mhs/21 Oct 66

Request for Information on Power Outage

OCT 24 1966

[redacted] Electric Company
Gwinner, North Dakota 58040

The Air Force office which has the responsibility for investigating unidentified flying objects is in receipt of a report from the Gwinner area on 13 September 1966. The initial report mentioned that electrical power was off in the immediate area for approximately four hours. This office would appreciate any information on the cause or causes of this particular electrical power breakdown. This information will be of value in our final evaluation of the reported sighting. If you have any questions on the material desired you may contact Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr at area code 513, 25-70916 or 25-76678.

FOR THE COMMANDER

LOUIS DE GOES, Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Technology and Subsystems

TDETR OFFICIAL FILE CY

COORDINATION

TDETR/MAJ H QUINTANILLA, JR — DATE 21 Oct 66

TDET — DATE 24/10

FTD (TDETR)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433
7 November 1966

[redacted]
Gwinner, North Dakota 58040

Dear Mr. [redacted],

Reference your unidentified observation of 13 September 1966. The information which we have received is not sufficient for evaluation. Request you complete the attached FTD Form 164 and return it in the envelope provided.

We wish to thank you for reporting your observation to the Air Force.

Sincerely,

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Project Blue Book

U.S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U.S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes. Your name will *not* be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

Tuesday (Day) September (Month) 1966 (Year)
Or 13th

2. Time of day: 7 (Hour) 30 (Minutes)

(Circle One): (A.M.) or P.M.

3. Time Zone:

(Circle One): a. Eastern
(b. Central)
c. Mountain
d. Pacific
e. Other _____

(Circle One): a. Daylight Saving
(b. Standard)

4. Where were you when you saw the object? in the porch of the house

Stirum (Nearest Postal Address) Stirum (City or Town) Sargent county North Dakota (State or Country)

5. How long was object in sight? (Total Duration) _____ (Hours) 5 (Minutes) 3 (Seconds)

a. Certain
b. Fairly certain
c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

5.1 How was time in sight determined? by wristwatch

5.2 Was object in sight continuously? Yes _____ No X

6. What was the condition of the sky?

DAY	NIGHT
a. Bright	a. Bright
(b. Cloudy)	b. Cloudy

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

(Circle One): a. In front of you
(b. In back of you)
c. To your right
d. To your left
e. Overhead
f. Don't remember

FORM FTD OCT 62 164 This form supersedes FTD 164, Jul 61, which is obsolete.

8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS (*Circle One*):

a. None
b. A few
c. Many
d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON (*Circle One*):

a. Bright moonlight
b. Dull moonlight
c. No moonlight – pitch dark
d. Don't remember

9. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

CLOUDS (*Circle One*):

a. Clear sky
b. Hazy
c. Scattered clouds
d. Thick or heavy clouds

WEATHER (*Circle One*):

a. Dry
b. Fog, mist, or light rain
c. Moderate or heavy rain
d. Snow
e. Don't remember

10. The object appeared: (*Circle One*).

a. Solid
b. Transparent
c. Vapor
d. As a light
e. Don't remember

11. If it appeared as a light, was it brighter than the brightest stars? (*Circle One*):

a. Brighter
b. Dimmer
c. About the same
d. Don't know

11.1 Compare brightness to some common object:

_____

12. The edges of the object were:

(Circle One)
a. Fuzzy or blurred
b. Like a bright star
c. Sharply outlined
d. Don't remember
e. Other _____

13. Did the object:

(*Circle One for each question*)

a. Appear to stand still at any time?	Yes	No	Don't know
b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time?	Yes	No	Don't know
c. Break up into parts or explode?	Yes	No	Don't know
d. Give off smoke?	Yes	No	Don't know
e. Change brightness?	Yes	No	Don't know
f. Change shape?	Yes	No	Don't know
g. Flash or flicker?	Yes	No	Don't know
h. Disappear and reappear?	Yes	No	Don't know

14. Did the object disappear while you were watching it? If so, how?

yes. by speed

15. Did the object move behind something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): (Yes) No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind: shelter belt of trees

16. Did the object move in front of something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes (No) Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what in front of:

17. Tell in a few words the following things about the object:

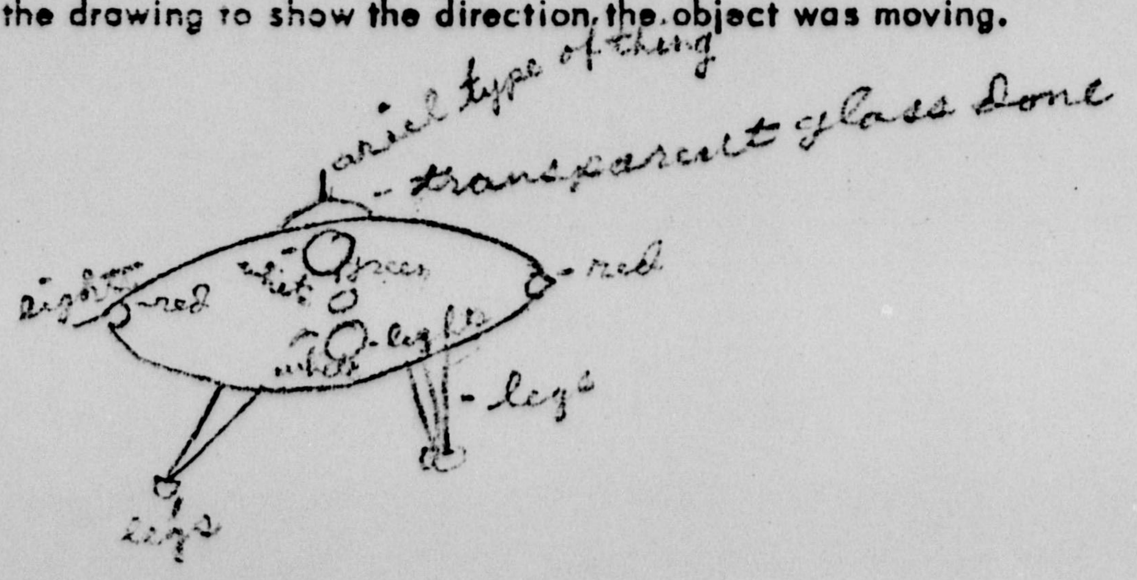
a. Sound very loud to hiss of then was silent

b. Color silver standing still bluish going

18. We wish to know the angular size. Hold a match stick at arm's length in line with a known object and note how much of the object is covered by the head of the match. If you had performed this experiment at the time of the sighting, how much of the object would have been covered by the match head?

not even half

19. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.



20. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate? about speed of light

21. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was? about 300 yds. from house

22. Where were you located when you saw the object? (Circle One):

a. (Inside a building)
b. In a car
c. Outdoors
d. In an airplane (type)
e. At sea
f. Other _____

23. Were you (Circle One)

a. In the business section of a city?
b. In the residential section of a city?
c. In open countryside?
d. Near an airfield?
e. Flying over a city?
f. Flying over open country?
g. Other _____

24. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

24.1 What direction were you moving? (Circle One)

a. North	c. East	e. South	g. West
b. Northeast	d. Southeast	f. Southwest	h. Northwest

24.2 How fast were you moving? _____ miles per hour.

24.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

25. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

a. Eyeglasses	Yes	No	e. Binoculars	Yes	No
b. Sun glasses	Yes	No	f. Telescope	Yes	No
c. Windshield	Yes	No	g. Theodolite	Yes	No
(d. Window glass)	Yes	No	h. Other _____		

26. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, describe in your own words a common object or objects which, when placed up in the sky, would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

two Disks placed together

14. Did the object disappear while you were watching it? If so, how?

yes. When it was going it went so fast it disappeared

15. Did the object move behind something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): (Yes) No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind: a shelter belt of trees

16. Did the object move in front of something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes (No) Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what in front of:

17. Tell in a few words the following things about the object:

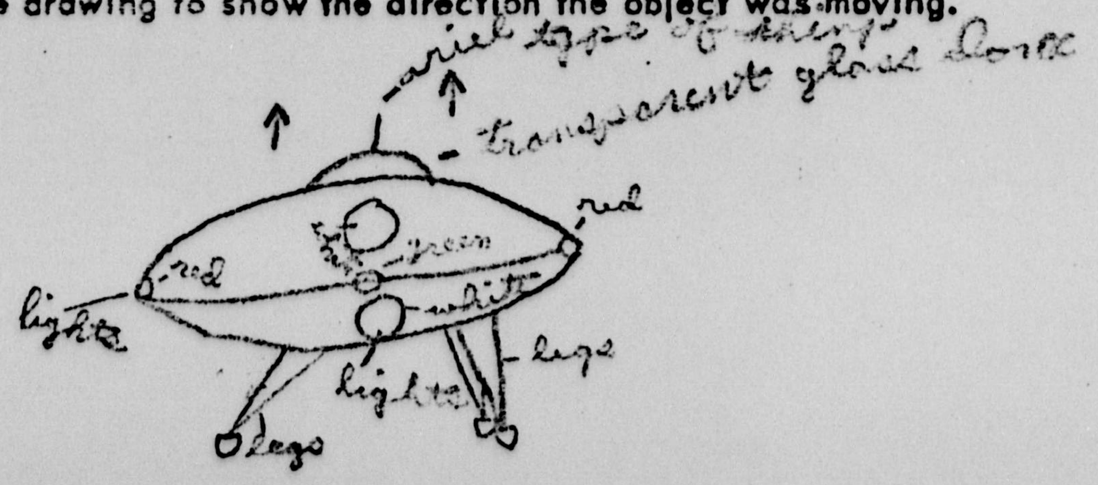
a. Sound very loud taking off otherwise silent

b. Color silver standing still bluish going

18. We wish to know the angular size. Hold a match stick at arm's length in line with a known object and note how much of the object is covered by the head of the match. If you had performed this experiment at the time of the sighting, how much of the object would have been covered by the match head?

not even half

19. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.



20. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate? about speed of light

21. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was? about 300 yds.

22. Where were you located when you saw the object? *(Circle One):*

(a. Inside a building)
b. In a car
c. Outdoors
d. In an airplane (type)
e. At sea
f. Other _____

23. Were you *(Circle One)*

a. In the business section of a city?
b. In the residential section of a city?
(c. In open countryside?)
d. Near an airfield?
e. Flying over a city?
f. Flying over open country?
g. Other _____

24. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

24.1 What direction were you moving? *(Circle One)*

a. North
b. Northeast
c. East
d. Southeast
e. South
f. Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest

24.2 How fast were you moving? _____ miles per hour.

24.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

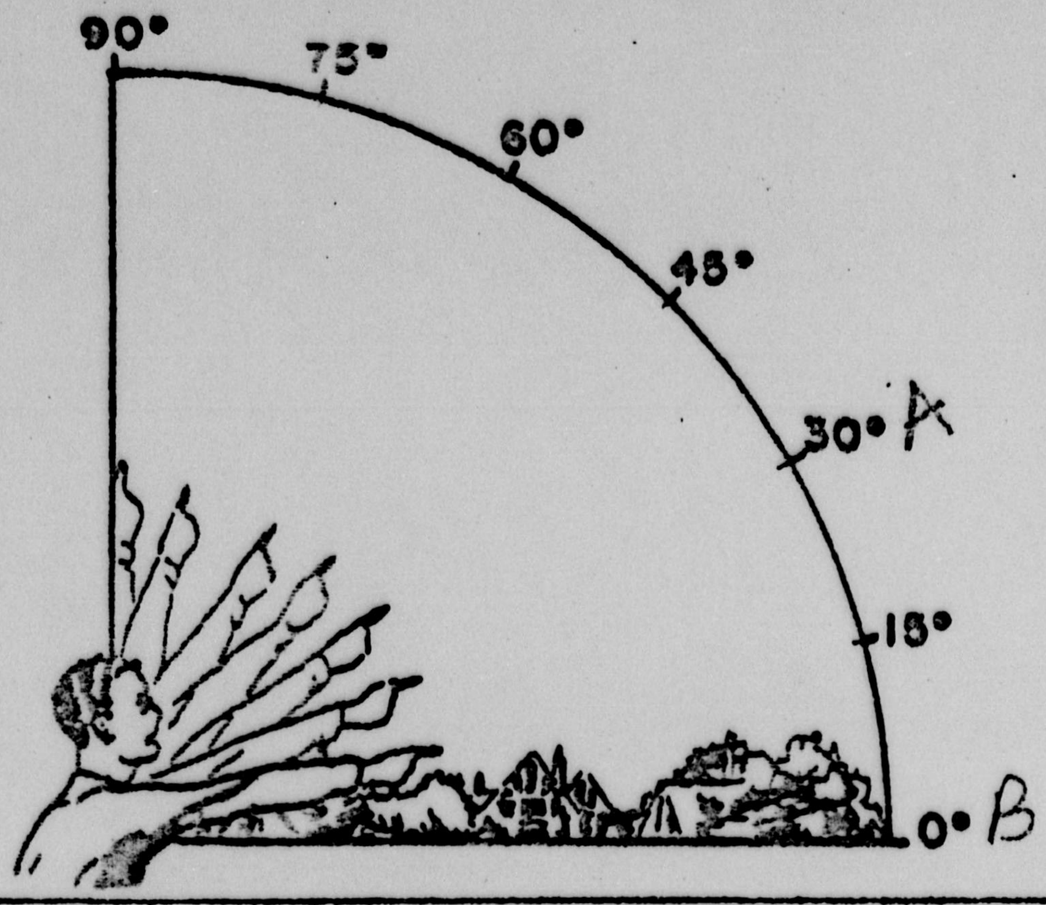
25. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

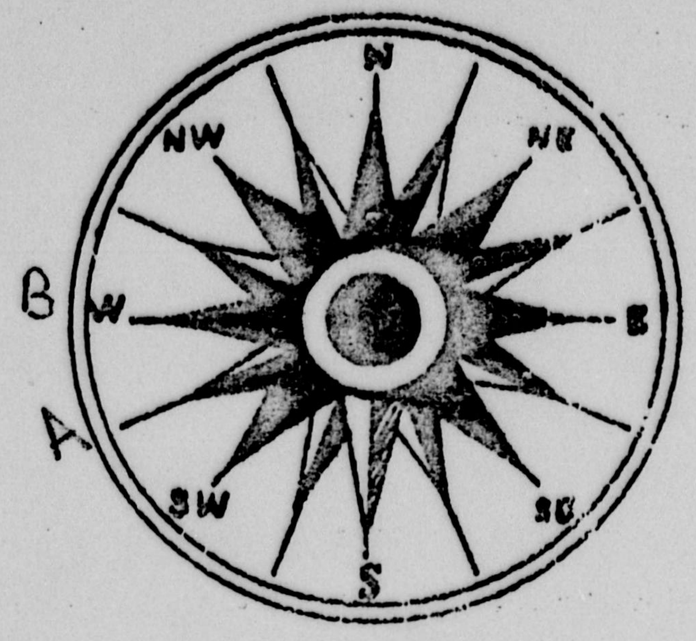
a. Eyeglasses	Yes	No	e. Binoculars	Yes	No
b. Sun glasses	Yes	No	f. Telescope	Yes	No
c. Windshield	Yes	No	g. Theodolite	Yes	No
(d. Window glass)	Yes	No	h. Other _____		

26. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, describe in your own words a common object or objects which, when placed up in the sky, would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

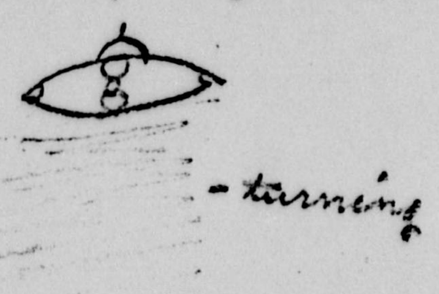
two dishes placed together

27. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the same curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw it. Place an "A" on the compass when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the compass where you *last* saw the object.





28. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.



29. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? _____
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

30. Have you ever seen this, or a similar object before. If so give date or dates and location.

no

31. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object? *(Circle One)* Yes (No)

31.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too? *(Circle One)* Yes No

31.2 Please list their names and addresses:

32. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
Last Name First Name Middle Name

ADDRESS _____ Staten North Dakota
Street City Zone State

TELEPHONE NUMBER [redacted] AGE 12 SEX male

Indicate any additional information about yourself, including any special experience, which might be pertinent.

33. When and to whom did you report that you had seen the object? I told my friends on school bus

13 September 1966
Day Month Year

34. Date you completed this questionnaire: 10th (Day) November (Month) 1966 (Year)

35. Information which you feel pertinent and which is not adequately covered in the specific points of the questionnaire or a narrative explanation of your sighting.

[redacted]

13 Sept 66

FTD (TDETR) hl
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433
7 November 1966

[redacted]
Gwinner, North Dakota 58040

Dear Mr [redacted]

Reference your unidentified observation of 13 September 1966. The information which we have received is not sufficient for evaluation. Request you complete the attached FTD Form 164 and return it in the envelope provided.

We wish to thank you for reporting your observation to the Air Force.

Sincerely,

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Project Blue Book

GENERAL FILES COPY
TDETR
(Office of Record)

701-
235-3186
-SAGE-
538-
2206

538-
2203

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL FOR AIR

NORTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Box 5536 State University Station
Fargo, North Dakota 58103

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ND-AAG

25 September 1966

SUBJECT: Report of UFO Sighting

TO: AFSC (FTD)

1. A report of UFO sighting is submitted in compliance with AFR 200-2, paragraph 14.

a. (1) Elliptical with glass bubble protruding from top.

(2) Approximately 36 feet in diameter.

(3) Silvery-Gray.

(4) One.

(5) N/A.

(6) Retractable tripod in bottom, five (5) flashing lights visible - Two (2) red, two (2) white, one (1) green.

(7) None, except for bluish glow at bottom on take-off.

(8) Very loud on take-off resembling low-pitched whine.

(9) None.

b. (1) Seen at distance of approximately one (1) mile while observer was waiting for school bus.

(2) Elevation 10^{o}, azimuth 240^{o} one (1) mile from observer, hovering.

(3) Angle 80^{o}, azimuth estimated 350^{o} upon disappearing.

(4) Hovering when first sighted one (1) mile from observer then moved to a position 280^{o} from observer at about 300 yards and made vertical landing in field.

(5) Object left with great rapidity near vertical but slightly to the north.

(6) Estimated five (5) minutes.

Send 164

c. (1) Ground-visual.

(2) Optical-aid -- Telescope mounted on rifle.

(3) N/A.

d. (1) 131315Z September 1966.

(2) Day.

e. Ten (10) miles west, two (2) miles north of Gwinner, North Dakota.

f. (1) Randy Rotenberger, 11, Gwinner, North Dakota. Reliability considered excellent for age of observer.

(2) N/A.

g. (1) Overcast, visibility good.

(2) thru (7) Observed weather at three (3) nearest points at 1300Z, 13 September 1966, as follows:

FAR measured 700' broken, 1800' overcast, visibility more than fifteen (15) miles, temperature 59, dew point 57, wind 360° 17-24 kts.

ABR estimated 6000' broken, 12,000' broken to overcast, visibility more than fifteen (15) miles, light rain showers, temperature 64, dew point 57, wind 270° 5 kts.

JMS balloon ceiling 2100' overcast, visibility more than fifteen (15) miles, temperature 53, dew point 49, wind 010° 23-32 kts.

h. Cold front passage occurred in the area between 0900Z and 1000Z with some thunderstorm activity. Electrical power was off in the immediate area for approximately four (4) hours and included the time of the reported sighting.

i. None.

j. None known.

k. At 1930Z-15 September 1966-a telephone call was received by the preparing officer, Thomas E. Marking, Lt Col, Commander, 119th Combat Support Squadron, from Mr. Clifford Melroe of the Melroe Manufacturing Company of Gwinner, North Dakota, that a strange object had been observed near Gwinner by a schoolboy, [redacted], and that the object, upon landing near the farm home of the boy, had left tracks

in the field. He suggested that someone be sent out to observe the tracks and possibly explain them.

At 2130Z, Brig Gen Homer G. Goebel, Lt Col Thomas E. Marking, Capt Edward A. Skroch and MSgt Everett E. Brust arrived at the scene of the reported sighting. At the point where the observer said the object landed, three (3) impressions were found in a summerfallowed field. The impressions were ball-shaped, 10" in diameter and 7" deep, in the form of an isosceles triangle, 26'x21'6"x21'6". They were apparently made by an object or objects pressed vertically. There was no evidence of digging and the impressions were compacted solidly. It is estimated from the condition of the soil that approximately 1500 lbs would be required to make each one. There was evidence of pedestrian traffic but no vehicular tracks were seen entering the field. The dried stubble in the area showed no effects of heat and no evidence of high velocity wind blast was apparent. Radiation at the site was insignificant indicating .1 milliroentgen on PDR-27. No electrical transmission lines are located in the area.

The information in a. through e. above was obtained through an interview with the observer, [redacted]r. The impression gained from the interview was that the boy is very level-headed and objective for his age. Although he admitted being frightened at the time, his story did not vary in any detail during the interview. When asked to make a drawing of what he saw, he did so without hesitation or apparent doubt about what he thought he observed.

Although the possibility of a hoax always exists, it is not considered a certainty. The observer obviously lacks observation experience and technical knowledge but he displayed obvious sincerity. The impressions could have been made by individuals, but the instrument used would have been quite heavy and required two or more to carry it. The number of persons having knowledge of the alleged sighting was limited prior to 15 September since the boy was reluctant to mention it to anyone except his mother.

The possibility that some ball lightning phenomenon was observed is not considered valid since, according to meteorological texts, weather conditions were not correct, i.e., no active thunderstorms, wind velocity too high, etc. A whirlwind or "dust devil" must be ruled out since the ground was damp and the air was stable as evidenced by the probable temperature-dew point spread. According to the U. S. Weather Station, the cold front at this time was east of Fargo, south of Gwinner but north of Aberdeen.

If one assumes a relationship between the sighting and the impressions in the field, then any meteorological phenomenon must be discounted.

No aircraft, experimental or operational, is known at this station which would account for such impressions that were left in the field or, assuming the observer's story to be valid, would account for the flight path or appearance.

The possibility exists that the impressions could have been made by repeated pounding and sculpturing with a round object and the sighting invented to go with them or that the sighting was reported and the impressions then sculptured to give it credibility. To prove or disprove this would probably require intensive interrogation.

If no connection between the sighting and the impressions is assumed then the sighting could have been an optical illusion or some unknown atmospheric anomaly. However, based on the assumption that the reported sighting was reasonably valid, that a causal relationship exists between the sighting and the ground impressions and that hoax of some sort was not involved, the object reported is considered unknown and unidentified pending further information that may become available.

1. Photographs of the site are attached plus the drawing made by Randy Rotenberger of his impression of what he observed.

Homer G. Goebel

HOMER G. GOEBEL, Brig Gen, NDakANG
Asst Adjutant General for Air

2 Atch
1. Photographs of site (4)
2. Drawing by [redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE FLIGHT DYNAMICS LABORATORY (AFSC)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO 45433

REPLY TO ATTN OF: FDFM/R. J. Parker/55027

26 October 1966

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Depressions Found in Fallowed Field Near Gwinner, North Dakota in Connection with Reported UFO Sighting

TO: FTDTR/Lt. Morley

Conclusions:

1. The symmetrical layout of the depressions is a logical arrangement for a tripod-type landing gear.

2. The absence of vehicular tracks in the field effectively rules out the possibility of the depressions being made by a piece of heavy farm equipment.

3. Since no soil strength data was obtained, it is not possible to estimate the force which made the depressions. (A cone penetrometer reading in the area surrounding the depressions plus additional readings in the bottom of the depressions themselves are essential.) Therefore, it is not possible to verify the estimated 1500 lbs force per depression figure given by the investigator's report.

4. Based on the information contained in the report made by Brig. Gen. Homer G. Goebel, NDakANG, there is no evidence to refute that the depressions could have been made by a vehicle with vertical take-off and landing capability. The rounded shape of the imprints would normally be associated as the ground-contacting elements for a landing gear designed for unsurfaced (relatively soft) areas. Self-aligning flat-bottom pads would be a more logical selection for landing on prepared sites.

FOR THE DIRECTOR

Paul M. Wagner

PAUL M. WAGNER
Actg Technical Mgr (Alighting Gear)
Mechanical Branch
Vehicle Equipment Division

4 Atchs
1. NDakANG ltr dtd 25 Sept 66.
2. Photographs of Site.
3. Drawing by [redacted]
4. Note dtd 21 Oct 66

21 Oct. 66

Conversation with MSgt Brust, one of the investigating officials, revealed that the ground was compressed some but not solidly compressed as first stated. The markings were three days old before the investigating group arrived on the scene. He made the comment that it looked to him like someone had taken a bowling ball and jumped on it several times. No additional information had become available on this sighting. They had submitted all the information that they had obtained.

Dear Sir:

When I filled this paper out I did it to the best of my ability. Some things I understand and some things I didnt understand so some things may not be filled out like you want it.

When I put down stiuem that's the address it was at that time but now we have moved into Guinner North Platte about 16 miles from former home.

Yours truly

[redacted]

GWINNER, N.D.

13 Sep 66 - case includes four (4) 8" x 10" photos with duplicates for total of 8 photos