

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 2 Jan 68 2/1810Z	2. LOCATION Castle Rock, Colorado
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION HOT AIR BALLOON
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	COMMENTS: News accounts identified the object as a hot air balloon. Wind was from 180 deg. at 6 knots.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Eleven minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS The observer sighted an object that was egg shaped, slightly creamish and transparent, and was estimated to have been 50 ft long, 20 ft wide, 20 ft high, and at about 50 to 75 ft altitude. The object traveled toward the north, rapidly gaining altitude and disappeared.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE N	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

9 MAY 1968

TDPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mhs/8 May 68

UFO Observation, 2 January 1968

Douglas County Sheriff
Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

1. The Aerial Phenomena Office is in receipt of an unidentified flying object (UFO) report from Castle Rock, Colorado which occurred on 2 January 1968 at approximately 6 pm.
2. A creamish transparent egg-shaped object was observed near the Rea Building. Lights came on suddenly and lit up the area according to the witness.
3. Did you receive any reports of unusual objects for this date? We would appreciate your comments as to a possible cause for this sighting.
4. Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

 **HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr., Lt Colonel, USAF**
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

TDPT (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE CY

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AFSC)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE OHIO 45433



2 Jan 68

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: TDPT (UFO)

SUBJECT: UFO Observation, 2 January 1968

9 MAY 1968

10 MAY 1968

TO:

M [REDACTED]

Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

Reference your recent unidentified flying object sighting which you reported to the Air Force. The information which we have received is not sufficient for a scientific investigation. Request you complete the attached AF Form 117 and return it in the self-addressed envelope. Thank you for reporting your observation to the Air Force.

 DIRECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

1 Atch
AF Form 117 w/envelope

UFO Identified by Embarrassed Mother

Embarrassed Castle Rock came forth Thursday with an explanation for an "unidentified flying object" observed and reported by some 30 Tuesday night.

UFO, Mrs. Norbert Dietrich explained, was built by her two sons, Tom, 16, and Jack, 16.

Tom learned how to make the thing in science class at school, and he was showing us how to do it," she said.

"The thing," according to Deputy Sheriff S. Weimer, was described by "residents" as being a large, bubble-like object that appeared over the

community from 6:10 to 6:25 p.m. Tuesday.

Persons reported lights shining on them from the transparent object, which reportedly was anywhere from 30 to 50 feet long.

The UFO actually was a clear plastic dry cleaning bag, "a small one, the kind that comes on a suit jacket," Mrs. Dietrich said.

Tom and his brother closed up the top of the bag, braced the bottom opening with a couple of balsa wood sticks, put an aluminum cup in the center of the sticks and set four birthday-cake candles in the cup.

The principle of the experiment is simple. When the candles are lighted, hot air fills the bag and lifts it into the air.

"We made the first one Christmas Day," Mrs. Dietrich said. "The neighbors watched, and we were getting a big kick out of it."

The second attempt on Tuesday was more successful than the first, she said. It rose and stayed aloft for about 15 minutes.

"I didn't think anything about it. When I heard about the excitement, I just about died," she said.

The UFO had been described by resi-

dents as lighting up the sky, shooting out balls of flame and having a dozen lights.

"Come on, now," Mrs. Dietrich said. "There were only four little birthday candles."

Tom Dietrich, a student at Maryknoll Junior Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., flew back to school early Wednesday morning and knew nothing of the excitement his project had created. Jack is a student at Douglas County High School.

Their mother, amused but a little contrite, emphasized that her family had no intention of causing hysteria in the community.

4 Sun. Denver Post

Denver Post 5 Jan

EDITORIAL PAGE: SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW

THE DENVER POST

Castle Rock 'UFO': How Eyes Can Lie

THE "unidentified flying object" sighted at Castle Rock this week was powered by only four tiny birthday candles, but it may have cast a good deal of light on the whole UFO phenomenon in the United States.

What drifted across the Castle Rock sky Wednesday at dinnertime was a transparent plastic bag just large enough to hold a suit jacket. The four candles in a cup on a balsa wood frame heated the air in the bag and made the "UFO" take off.

About 30 witnesses, many of them "reliable," had a chance to watch the object for several minutes and contribute descriptions in the interest of science. What most of them described bore very little resemblance to the dry cleaning bag they were looking at.

One man described the object as an egg-shaped bubble about 50 feet long, 20 feet wide and 20 feet deep. Another called it a globe about 30 feet in diameter.

Others said it had a dozen lights, that it lit up the sky or that it shot out balls of flame. If the object had not been publicly identified Thursday by the people who sent it up, it is not unlikely that by this time some of the 30 witnesses would have remembered little green men peering out of the bubble.

People in Castle Rock are surely as capable of observing things and as good at describing them as people anywhere else in the world. That they were wrong is not a reflection on them, but a commentary on the whole nature of human observation.

What happened in Castle Rock is another in the long series of reminders that the thing people think they see is often quite different from the thing they actually do see.

It is a reminder that lights in the night sky lend themselves easily to misinterpretation and that excited spectators, with flying saucers or superterrestrial objects in mind, can reach some dramatic conclusions.

NONE of this proves, of course, that objects from other parts of the solar system or the cosmos have not been sighted from earth or that flying saucers have not landed.

But it does explain how observers could have been misled about the things they saw and how some of the most spectacular descriptions of UFO sightings could have been the result of faulty observation, imperfect memory or creative imagination.

We are convinced that most, if not all, of the people who have reported seeing UFOs actually saw something. But it seems likely to us that what they saw, in many cases, was not what they thought they saw. They could have been misled just like the people in Castle Rock.

We're not prepared to put all sightings in this category. For the explanation of the others, we will have to wait until Dr. Edward U. Condon and his colleagues at the University of Colorado complete their study of the UFO problem. We might have to wait even longer.

PRIORITY

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3 JAN 63 07 39z

PT/UFO

WPB027

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ZNR UUUUU

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FM TECHINGCEN LOWRY AFB COLO

TO RUEDFIF/FTD WPAFB/TDETR/

RUEDFQA/CSAF/SAF-CI/

RUEDFQA/CSAF/AFRDC/

RUWTFVA/ADC

ZEN/UNIV OF COLORADO BOULDER COLO

INFO RUWTFJA/ATC/ATOCIP/

BT

UNCLAS XPCP

FOR DR CONDON, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO. SUBJ: UFO REPORT RECEIVED
AT LOWRY AFB 2 JANUARY 1963. FOLLOWING FORMAT IS PRESCRIBED BY
PARA 11, AFR 33-17:

A. DESCRIPTION:

(1) EGG SHAPED.

(2) 53 FEET LONG, 23 FEET WIDE, 23 FEET HIGH AT ABOUT 50
TO 75 FEET ALTITUDE.

(3) SLIGHTLY CREAMISH, TRANSPARENT.

(4) ONE.

(5) NOT APPLICABLE

PAGE 2 RUWTFNA3439 UNCLAS

(6) ABOUT A DOZEN LIGHTS IN A CIRCLE UNDERNEATH. NOT LIKE GLARING FLOODLIGHTS BUT FAIRLY BRIGHT.

(7) NONE.

(8) NONE.

(9) COULD SEE THROUGH THIS PLASTIC BUBBLE-LIKE OBJECT AND IT APPEARED AS IF THERE WAS NOTHING INSIDE.

B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT:

(1) OBJECT HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN HOVERING ABOVE POWER LINES FROM REA BUILDING. LIGHTS CAME ON SUDDENLY AND LIT UP AREA. SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN FOCUSED DIRECTLY ON OBSERVER.

(2) 45 DEGREES.

(3) STRAIGHT OVERHEAD.

(4) MOVED SLIGHTLY UPWARD TO NORTH, HOVERED, MOVED NORTH AGAIN, HOVERED AGAIN THEN ROSE SLOWLY AT FIRST THEN RAPIDLY DISAPPEARED STRAIGHT UP. (ONE OTHER OBSERVER CLAIMED IT DISCHARGED THREE BALLS OF FIRE BEFORE DISAPPEARING.)

(5) SLOWLY AT FIRST THEN REPIDLY STRAIGHT UP.

(6) TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 11 MINUTES.

PAGE 3 RUWTFNA3439 UNCLAS

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

(1) GROUND VISUAL.

(2) NONE. NAKED EYE ONLY.

(3) NOT APPLICABLE.

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING:

(1) 33/3117Z JANUARY 1968

(2) NIGHT.

E. LOCATION: BEHIND PEA BUILDING, WEST OF WILCOX ST, CASTLE
ROCK, COLORADO.

F. INFORMATION ON OBSERVER:

(1) MR. ~~XX~~ COLO.,

SELF-EMPLOYED, CONSIDERED RELIABLE. THERE WERE BETWEEN
EIGHT AND FIFTEEN OTHER OBSERVERS. NAMES AND ADDRESSES
OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE AVAILABLE AT DOUGLAS COUNTY
SHERIFF, CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO. 80104

(2) NOT APPLICABLE.

G. WEATHER AND WINDS:

(1) CLEAR.

(2) WIND 130 DEGREES AT 6 KNOTS.

(3) NONE.

PAGE 4 RUWTFNA0439 UNCLAS

(4) 25 MILES.

(5) NONE.

(6) NONE.

(7) MINUS 4 DEGREES.

H. NONE

I. NONE

J. NONE

K. RONALD E. PUMP, 1ST LT, USAF, LOWRY AFB COLORADO /XPCP/,

AREA CODE 333, OFFICE PHONE 394-2141, HOME PHONE 534-5536.

REMARKS: LOCAL FLYING AND WEATHER ACTIVITIES REPORT NO AIRCRAFT
OR BALLOONS WERE IN THE AREA OF THE SIGHTING.

BT