REPORT ON THE DEXTER-HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN UFO SIGHTINGS OF

20 - 21 MARCH 1966

In my capacity as scientific consultant to the Air Force on UFOs, I was requested to investigate two major sightings in Michigan which, for some reason, had captured public attention and were the subject of many radio and news stories. It was unfortunate that I did not ask permission to take at least two assistants along. Mr. Powers of the Dearborn Observatory asked to go along, as had Mr. Vallee and Mr. Hanlon. A far better job of interviewing the large number of ostensible witnesses to the same events could have been done.

Once upon the scenes (Dexter and Hillsdale — and Ann Arbor and Chelsea along with Dexter), despite the help of A2C Hanby (loaned from Selfridge Field) I realized that the task was far too great for one man if all the witnesses wishing to be interviewed (and many of whom were 'miffed' because I had either not had a chance to talk with them or was able to give only a short time to them) were to be satisfied. Since I had no authority to call in help without going through FTD, and that would take time, I decided upon the following plan of action: I would limit myself to interrogating key witnesses in both localities and would use as the basis of my judgment only those 'information bits' that were agreed upon by several witnesses. I could not give weight to one person who contradicted some bit of information which the others had already concurred in. Thus I had to neglect the testimony of one person who said he saw an object when the majority in the same location described only lights. Had I had assistance, I would have adopted the plan of having an assistant interrogate separately the single witnesses who had a different story to tell. I cannot com-

plain about the lack of assistance, however, since none of us knew what proportions these incidents would assume as the next few days came around.

My interrogations were made triply difficult because of the ubiquitous press, radio and TV men. It was impossible to talk quietly with anyone without having a microphone placed in front of your face. I was always importuned for "just a word" or, "will you answer just one question?" It is difficult to describe to one who wasn't there the general bedlam. Mr. Mannor, the chief protagonist in the Dexter case, reportedly complained that I had spent very little time with him. It was virtually impossible to do so; several times I was waiting and anxious to talk with him but he was occupied with several reports. Here again is where some assistants would have come in handy; they could have diverted the reports while I talked to Mannor. One needs some clever interference run for him in cases like this; it is virtually impossible to do it single handed. By contrast, I recall the Eagle River, Wisconsin "pancake" case. In that instance I had chartered a plane and took several graduate students with me. They were invaluable in chasing down leads, assisting in the interrogation of subsidiary witnesses and running very necessary interference, making special arrangements to see people etc. I have resolved that in investigating future cases, if I do at all, I must have at least one dependable assistant who knows the ropes. Otherwise too much time is wasted in sheer mechanics.

Through the kindness of Prof. Freeman Miller, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, University of Michigan, I made my headquarters at his home during my several day stay and both he and Mrs. Miller were of extreme help. Mrs. Miller gave freely of her time in answering the phone, which seemed to ring incessantly, to verylate hours, and then again early in the morning. It was through Dr. Miller's kindness that I was put into touch with several University

of Michigan faculty members (who prefer to remain anonymous) who were able to give me considerable help on possible physical solutions to the sightings. It was at Dean Miller's invitation that eleven members of the University of Michigan astronomy department met with me at Dean Miller's home to discuss the sightings and other things as well.

It is virtually impossible to describe the hectic nature of the three days in the Ann Arbor neighborhood. I certainly would not wish to undergo another such episode unless I were far better prepared for it in terms of time and physical assistance. Nonetheless, it happened this way, and I went after the salient 'facts' of the sightings and let the chips fall where they would.

The two primary sightings at Dexter and Hillsdale, respectively, may be called the crucial sightings which became the focal point of local (and later of nationwide) attention, and had associated with them a veritable barrage of other reports with no clear-cut association with the two principal events under discussion here. It is possible that many of these were the result of the general excitement surrounding these events and of suggestibility on the part of those who reported them. However, there were reports of odd sightings, particularly in the Milan area, a few nights previous to the sightings here discussed. It would have taken an army of investigators to have exhaustively looked into all of these. In the course of my three days of investigation, I talked with the following people at some length and with a host of others in passing.

County Sheriff Harvey - Washtenaw County
Deputy Stanley McFadden
Deputy David Tizpatrick
Patrolman Hunnawill
Colonel Gerald G. Miller
Chief Taylor
Mr. Frank Mannor
Bob Wagner, son-in-law of Mr. Mannor
Univ of Michigan, Astronomy Dept. (11 members)
Univ of Michigan, Faculty members

Mr. Ted Seeling, Radio and Television Engineer
William Van Horn, Funeral Director and Civil Defense Chief in Hillsdale
Chief John Palmer, Chelsea Police
Mrs. Hearn, housemother at Hillsdale College
Miss Joe Wilson / Two students at Hillsdale whom Mrs. Hearn chose
Miss Sara Robechek/ as having had the greatest first hand knowledge.
Patrolman Clyde Myers
Patrolman Sharpe
(Sgt. Schuerder, Deps Bushra and Anderson were contacted by A2C Hanby)

I should apologize for the lack of detail in the description of the people I interviewed. Things happened so fast that there was little time for making formal records. The next time I undertake an investigation of any scope I will want to take with me an IBM portable recorder to assist me in getting names, places, and associations down correctly.

There may be some comment that I never interviewed Mr. Mannor's son. I fully intended to. He was either with reporters or unavailable. There simply was not enough time to interview everyone!

My questions were specifically directed toward determining what was visibly perceived and towards pinpointing the location and extent and duration of the phenomena.

Case A — Dexter, Michigan

There follows the record of the report received at the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department at 835pm on 20 March 1966 and of the local investigation made. This can be said to have initiated the succession of events.

"Complainant called and stated that there was a strange object in the swamp at the end of McGinnis Road. It was on the ground, went up in air about 500 feet and came down, making a lot of noise.

INVESTIGATION: Dispatched to the above location, and made contact with the complainant at 10600 McGinnis Road. Complainant advised that an un-identified object was presently located in the swamp, to the rear of afore mentioned

location, and had been so located for approximately ($\frac{1}{2}$) one-half hour. Complainant further related that the object had been observed to rise to an altitude of approximately 500 feet, and then to return to the ground. Subject stated that lights were observed upon the object, and that the lighting turned from a blue-green to a brilliant red to yellow in coloring. Object had appeared to be having difficulty in getting off of the ground.

FRANK MANNOR, of 10600 McGinnis Road, and his son RONALD, had watched the object for some time, and then proceeded into the woods and swamps, in an attempt to locate the object, and to see what it was. Both MANNORS were within the swamp at the time of arrival of the undersigned officers.

ACTION TAKEN: The undersigned officer, in company with the complainant, proceeded along Dexter-Pinckney Road to Territorial Road, and then turned onto Quigley Road, where a vantage point was obtained, being in direct line with the house, and the area of the objects observation (See Map). At this point, the patrol vehicle was secured, and the afore mentioned proceeded into the woods, in attempt to locate the swamp edge, and the object. While in the woods area, a brilliant light was observed from the far edge of the woods, and upon approaching, the light dimmed in brilliance. As the afore mentioned approached the upper ridge, and edge of the woods, the brilliant light again appeared, and then disappeared. A continued search of the area was conducted, through swamp, and high grass, with negative results.

Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers were met by others who had gathered to observe, and the undersigned officers were informed that one of the objects had been hovering directly over the area where our flashlight beams ahd been seen, and had then departed in a west direction of flight, at high rate of speed. Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the under-

signed officers returned to the McGinnis Road address, where the MANNORS were talked to.

TALK WITH FRANK MANNOR: FRANK MANNOR stated that he had observed the lights coming from the swamp, and had awakened his son, RONALD. BOTH MANNORS then proceeded into the swamps in an attempt to find out the object which was producing the light. Upon entering the lower edge of the swamp, RONALD stated "what is that thing", and as FRANK MANNOR looked in the direction indicated, the object was observed. At the instant of observation the small lights went out, and in just an instant, re-appeared across the swamp, a distance of about 500 yards. At this time, the object became illuminated from a brilliant source of light, which flowed horizontal between two (2) small lights. After watching for a couple of minutes, the rays of light from two flashlights were observed from the ridge above the object. The light from the object intensified, then went out, and a whistle similar to the sound of a rifle bullet ricochet was heard, and the object passed directly over the MANNORS in just an instant.

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT: Object was observed to be of a brown coloring, appearing to be quilted type outside surface. Object appeared to be flat upon the bottom, and cone shaped toward the top, however, being low in height. Two small lights appeared to be at the outer edges of the object, glowing in a bluish-green light, and intensifying to a brilliant red in color. When the vehicle or object illuminated, the lighting was a yellow-white in color, and ran horizontal between the two outer lights, allowing some of the object to be viewed. Outer body appeared to be rough in texture.

PERSONS:OBSERVING OBJECT:

FRANK MANNOR of 10600 McGinnis Road, Dexter, DOB Jan 5, 1919
RONALD MANNOR of 10600 McGinnis Road, Dexter, DOB Jan 28, 1947
Several others, names unknown.

FURTHER UFO SIGHTED: Shortly after the UFO was departed from the scene, CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT reported sighting a similar object over the Village of Chelsea, hovering, and then departing at high rate of speed in a westerly direction.

A further sighting of similar bluish-green lights was reported near the woods and swamp, north side of N Territorial Road, between Scully Road, and Webster-Church Road, in Webster Twp., County of Washtenwa, by Washtenaw County Sheriff Patrol #19, however, when attempt was made to get closer lights disappeared and were not observed again. Further search of the area was made with negative results.

DISPOSITION: FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SEARCH OF THE AREA WAS MADE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

STATUS: OPEN

End of Record at Washtenaw County Sheriff Office.

Mr. Wagner, the "complainant", is the son-in-law of Mr. Mannor who made the original sighting. Mr. Mannor said that he was about to enter his house from a front yard, when according to him, he noticed a bright light out of the corner of his eye. He thought at first it was a falling star which he said abruptly stopped right over a swamp to the immediate north of his barn. He called his son, Ronald, out from the house to verify the sighting and together they watched the glow of light behind the trees in the distant swamp. Apparently at this time Mr. Wagner made the report to the Sheriff's office. Deputy McFadden and Fitzpatrick were dispatched to the Mannor farm and in my interview with McFadden and particularly with Fitzpatrick (with whom I spent several hours in detailed discussions) they stated that upon arrival at the farm Mr. Mannor and his son

were already making a trek to the swamp area to look in an attempt to locate the "object". Mannor and his son did not carry any lights, save a cigarette lighter (it seems strange since the night was dark, being the new moon). The deputies thereupon proceeded to the point marked A on figure #1, where they parked their car. They then proceeded towards the glow along a path marked by a dotted line (a path which I almost exactly repeated on Wednesday, 23 March in the company of Deputy Fitzpatrick and Airman Kelley, to point B). From point B, Deputy Fitzpatrick observed a glow emanating from point marked C. Point C is also indicated on a map of the region. Points A, B, C & M are also indicated on figure 2. Deputy Fitzpatrick reported that the glow reported at C brightened and dimmed slowly. "as though stage lights were being brightened and dimmed". Deputy Fitzpatrick never observed anything other than a glow. He did not even observe the glow to rise to the tree top level as Mannor and his son indicated it had.

While Deputy McFadden busied himself in another direction in the swamp, Deputy Fitzpatrick proceeded towards the glow. The deputies were equipped with flashlights and the lights from the flashlights were visible to Mr. Mannor and his son who had now returned to the farm and were observing the deputies search afrom afar. Deputy Fitzpatrick stated to me that as he and his flashlight approached the glow, whose source was apparently hidden by a slight rise in the terrain, the glow disappeared. Deputy Fitzpatrick did not see it again. Mr. Mannor reported that as he observed the deputies approach the depression with their flashlights, (the area of the glow) the glow disappeared there and immediately appeared at a more distant point of the swamp. Mr. Mannor described the motion of the glow as a smooth horizontal motion which did not follow the

countour of the land. He indicated that if this had been an ordinary vehicle the lights would have proceeded with a bumpy motion because of the irregularities in the terrain. Mr. Mannor indicated that the glow in various parts of the swamp lasted for $2\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 hours. The stories of Mr. Mannor and Deputies McFadden do not exactly agree here but this might be due to their different advantage points.

During the Mannors' trek towards the swamp (incidently they never arrived at their objective, never getting closer than 500 yards) they stated that as they came closer to the swamp they saw an oval object depicted in figures 3 & 4. Deputy McFadden drew figure #4, though he stated to me that he had not seen the object himself. Mannor and his son described the vehicle as a brownish oval with a green and white light at the opposite ends of the longitudal axis and a bright red elongated light in between the two.

When the officers returned to their patrol car they found two other patrol cars there. Deputy Hunnawill and his wife who were in one car, and Officer Bushroe in another, asked the returning officers whether they had seen the lights directly above them. The new arrivals stated that four lights were hovering directly above the officers while they were conducting their search in the swamp, and expressed surprise that the officer had not seen the lights. Deputy Hunnawill stated that one of the lights came directly towards his car, passing it slightly to the right. Mrs. Hunnawill had rolled the window down and, peering out, stated that she observed the ball of light to pass very close to the car. Officer Hunnawill had turned the car motor off to check whether any sound came from the ball of light, there was none. As he did so the object was visible in front of him through the windshield. He got out, paused to shut the door, and then looked around for the object, only to discover that the object was already to

the rear of the car. This high angular rate, if correct, would indicate that the light must have been very near.

Before proceeding with a discussion of these observations it would be best to examine the basic reports from the Hillsdale area because of the great similarity between them and those in Dexter.

It is most unfortunate that none of the witnesses in the Dexter area were technically trained. It was difficult for me to speak to them in terms of angles, and angular rates — their powers of description were inadequate to the occasion; they would have made poor reports or investigators. This is not to disparage the witnesses, and certainly not to impugn their honesty or sincerity — they simply lacked the ability to describe accurately and technically.

Let us now examine the Hillsdale case; the witnesses were of the same order as those at Dexter with the exception of Mr. Van Horn who has had technical training, holds a pilots license, and is generally articulate. But even for him the words of accurate description failed him. Further, to one of his training, he should have availed himself of other technically trained people in the area rather than rely solely on the girls at Hillsdale college. The college has some science teachers who certainly should have been alerted and their opinions and observations solicited. Also, while we could hardly expect Mr. Mannor to have a camera ready, certainly the people at Hillsdale, with a good vantage point, and three hours available to them, should have placed a camera in action and obtained a time exposure of the lights. So now let us look at the Hillsdale case:

CASE B - Hillsdale, Michigan

On Thursday, March 24th I traveled to Hillsdale with Airman 2nd Class Hanby and his driver to investigate the Hillsdale case. We called first at

the home of William Van Horn, County Civil Defense Director and operator of the Van Horn Funeral Home. He has a pilots license, been in the Air Force, and is a very knowledgeable and seemingly efficient person. I talked with him at length about the sighting. Mrs. Van Horn had taken the first call, a report from the girls' dormitory, to the effect that there were blue, red and white lights visible to the east from the dormitory near the ground. Van Horn went to the back roof of his house and for 10 minutes scanned the skies and could see nothing. He did see a white light in the SW which he stated was stationary at first, and then appeared to change azimuth from 210 to 270 degrees. His wife and son, David, observed it for about 20 minutes. He said it wasn't a star, and not an aircraft because it remained in the field of the binoculars for five minutes. But he saw nothing in the area of the sky to the northeast and east. This was reported to the girls but they called back at 1105 (Barbara Cohn) and stated, in effect,"sorry to bother your, don't want you to think we are crackpots, but the thing is coming down" . It was straight east of the dormitory and probably $\frac{1}{2}$ miles away, they stated. Van Horn called the State Police as well as the city police who arrived shortly, investigated the area and reported there was nothing to be seen. Because the girls continued to report lights, Van Horn decided to go to the dormitory. He saw Mrs. Hearn, housemother at the dormitory, who took Van Horn to the second floor of the dormitory. They went to the room where Miss Jo Wilson and Sara Robecheck were. The girls had the room dark and windows open and were looking down towards a swampy depression in the country side. Van Horn observed the lights then himself for the first time.

After getting this story from Van Horn at his home, we proceeded to the dormitory and talked with Mrs. Hearn who took us up to the sighting room, where the same girls were interviewed. They were most cooperative and Miss Jo Wilson drew the attached picture, (Figure #4). Both girls told me that attention was first called by a casual glance out of the window which lead to the remark by one of them "there's no house down there, is there?" or words to that effect. A fairly bright red light and two yellowish lights, resembling Christmas tree lights, according to the girls, were close to the ground in the marsh area, where, they obviously knew there was no house.

Theyreported no tangible object. They did remark, although there was much confusion, that several of the girls had seen a very bright light sweep past the window just before the main sighting. I could get no consistent story relative to this, in contrast to the fairly consistent description to the lights in the swamp.

According to Van Horn, the lights were surrounded by a glow which rose every once in awhile to above the trees to about 150 feet above the swamp, appearing to get brighter as it rose, then rather quickly dimming out as it got higher. It appeared, Van Horn said, as though it wished to avoid the periodic sweep of a nearby airplane beacon.

Van Horn stated that his first impression of the lights were that they were marsh lights, otherwise known as fox lights, etc. He told me that he was about to say that this was what they actually were, but just about the time he thought he had the solution, the red light on the right and the white light on the left (a location of these lights did not agree with the girls description) started to get more brilliant. It was at this time that the lights appeared to

rise. The lights made their ascent and descent some four times between 1130 pm, 21 March and 145 am, 22 March. Van Horn thought that between the two lights he could see a mass and thought it was convex shaped. The girls, however, had described only a red light at that position.

The arrows on the sketch indicate, according to the girls, the extent of the horizontal and vertical motion of the lights.

In Hillsdale, Mr. Van Horn was clearly the best observer as far as technical background was concerned, yet his knowledge of physics is not good. After I had gotten back to Ann Arbor we had a few more phone talks, and at one time he called me rather late at Dean Miller's home to inform me that he was seeing lights in the sky near the horizon — and that through binoculars the lights were vertical lines, green on top, yellow in the middle, and red on the bottom. He failed to recognize this as the effects of atmospheric refraction of starlight into a small spectrum. Van Horn also struck me as a man who becomes enamoured with an idea and tends to lose objectively in favor of the idea. He tends to ride a hobby horse, as was indicated when he marshalled all his forces at a later date to set out to prove the marsh gas hypothesis wrong.

I am not reporting at this time the numerous side investigations, such as a trip to the home of a young chap who had reported to Van Horn that he had a photograph of a UFO. I visited this chap at Hillsdale and discovered that, as far as I was concerned, he had photographed a blimp. I did give him $2 for a print, just for the record, which I never received. I will not also report at this time the many peripheral conversations I had with individual policemen from the office of the Sheriff of Washtenaw County at Ann Arbor, Michigan (Sheriff Harvey, and a number of his deputies), members of the Chelsea Police

Department (Chief John Palmer, Clyde Myers and Charles Sharpe and a number of his other men), and the police in Dexter Michigan (Captain Taylor and his men, notably Officer Hunnawill), nor will I describe the fairly long discussion I had with Colonel Miller, civilian Defense Chief in Ann Arbor, who appears to be a very practical and blunt man who told me, in a nutshell, that he took no stock in any of the reports that had been going around. I might point out, that all through the investigation I made discreet inquiries relative to character reference and general reliability of other witnesses, and came away with the general impression that I had not been dealing with seasoned and careful investigators, but rather with men untutored in reporting matters outside their normal line of reporting (license plates, accidents, etc, but not angular rates, angular distances in the sky, brightnesses, and in general, time motion sequences). I was forced, therefore, to take into account, and regard as facts, only such things which had been reported fairly consistantly by several witnesses. The doubt case upon certain witnesses by other witnesses did not inspire in me a feeling of confidence as to the quality and reliability of the data, I was obliged to use from which to draw my conclusions. I therefore felt that the only expedient thing to do was to concentrate on the consistent aspects of the stories from Dexter and Hillsdale and place into another category the host of the individual and generally mutally conflicting bits of testimony offered by the many individuals I talked to during my three day stay.

I therefore decided to look at the common pattern which seemed to be developing in the Dexter and Hillsdale cases. These had many interesting points in common; first, the lights in both cases were associated with swamp areas. While it was true that various individuals reported lights traveling

in the sky at about those times and in those general vicinities, I could form no consistent picture whatever of these alleged events. On the other hand, I could form a consistent picture of what apparently was observed over the swamp at Dexter and at Hillsdale. In both cases a distinctive reddish yellow, and green lights were reported, plus a general yellow glow. The spectacular lights, when reported, were stated to be of limited area. One of the girls at Hillsdale agreed but stated that a yellowish glow surrounding and enveloped the discreet lights. The similarity between the Dexter lights and the Hillsdale lights was striking. Not only as to color and intesity, but motion as well. The motion was described in both cases as smooth and slow, with a tendency to disappear rather suddenly and reappear elsewhere. Most observers described a smooth horizontal motion and while other girls from Hillsdale said the lights seemed to get excited and moved erratically when car lights and flashlights came into the vicinity, the major behaviour was described as persistent, smooth and slow.

I had hoped to be able to gather more data and, with the help of some of my Northwestern staff who were willing to come to the area with me and help in the interrogation and so to be able to examine many of the individual reports not associated directly with the swamps, but funds were not available for bringing in any of my associates, who are excellent interogators in this field, and further, since the interest and excitement generated in these cases was mounting to fever pitch, it seemed expedient, in fact mandatory, to hold a press conference and make a progress report. Until the evening before I was to make such a statement, I was still puzzled as to a natural explanation for even the consistent sightings. Fortunately, I have a number of friends in the acedemic world in Ann Arbor and whose invaluable aid I enlisted. I would like

to give credit to the scientists I talked with until very late into the night but they prefer to remain anonymous. I am sure, however, that should their testimony be officially required, rather than for the press, their cooperation could very easily be obtained.

It was from these academic gentlemen that I obtained the information on marsh gas and the lights frequently associated with it. To summarize, it appears that rotting vegetation in the swamps produces methane, CH_4, and hydrogen sulfide, H_2S, in ample quantities under certain conditions. Methane is oderless, H_2S is not but since it is present in relatively small quantities one does not smell it unless one overturns a shovel full of swamp material. I am told that this would then release a distinct odor. In addition, phosphine PH_3 is produced by the reduction of phosphorous compounds in the marsh material. These three gases ordinarily do not spontaneously ignite, but I am told, a small impurity in the PH_3, namely P_2H_4, is highly flamable and when exposed to air spontaneously ignites. This then apparently can serve to ignite the other gases. The phenomenon of swamp lights is apparently quite well known, and references to it are ample in the literature. Even in non-technical literature these lights, variously known as willow-of-the-wisp, ignus fatus, fox lights, etc., have had many stories woven around them, including stories of these lights being the souls of the departed as well as elemental mythological entities. Technically, they are treated in two books to which I had immediate access, Light and Colour in the Open Sky, by Minnaert and Chemistry, by Sienko and Plane. Here the lights are described even into their colors, red, yellow, white and green, thus matching the colors described by the majority of the witnesses. It is stated in these books that the lights are a form of low temperature chemical luminescence which does not char or burn grass, etc. The lights generally are

are evanescent, burning here for a momment or so, going out, and appearing some feet or yards away as another plume of gas spontaneously ignites. This sporadic lighting is generally soundless, although sometimes a "popping" noise is heard (this may be the origin of the "ricochet sound" Mr. Mannor reported). The illusion of motion can easily be given by the sporadic appearance of a wisp of light here, and then there.

The lights have never been described as truly bright. They would be visible best to dark-adapted eyes on a clear dark night and also on a night which there was no high wind (which would quickly dissipate the gas as it bubbled up from underneath).

It appears to me that many of the conditions for the appearance of swamp lights were satisfied at both Dexter and Hillsdale. I can't state with any certainty that this is the correct solution to the problem; merely that it is the most likely cause. I would of course, appreciate learning of other possible natural causes should they be forthcoming. We can, I believe, completely eliminate any solution based on aircraft, balloons, birds, meteors, stars, etc, because they simply do not fit the consistent data reported to me.

In putting forth the swamp gas explanation of the major Michigan sightings I am aware that it is open to several objects: we do not know whether swamp lights ever appear at the near freezing temperatures that obtained in those areas at the time. If these were swamp lights, one may well ask why they have not been seen in those localities before. One may also ask why not at <u>other</u> swamp areas in Mcihigan instead of just these two? I am also concerned that the Michigan sightings bear a slight resemblance to other UFO sightings in which swamp areas do not figure. I am also concerned that I had to neglect the peripheral evidence of the few people who said that they thought an object had

been present. On the other hand, no convincing or coherent evidence was presented that any object had been seen either to enter or to leave the swamp areas. And why swamp areas in both cases? The case for swamp gas is by no means conclusive, and is unprovable, but still remains in my mind as a logical explanation for the majority opinion as to what was sighted. I therefore presented this likely explanation at the requested press conference, at which I pointed out in no uncertain terms that the swamp gas hypothesis was just that and that "I couldn't prove it in a court of law".

I wish that a press conference had not been necessary, or, if necessary that it had been handled more expertly and adriotly. I have little to say that is complimentary about the public relations office at Selfridge Field. It was amateurish in the extreme, and displayed no knowledge of how a press conference should be handled.

The entire matter of a full dress press conference was most distasteful to me because I would rather present carefully weighed and consistent evidence and conclusions, with due time allowed, to a body of scientific colleagues than be subject at a moment's notice to a roaring pack of news hounds whose chief interest appears to be in getting a quick story.

I recommend once again, as I have often in the past, in my capacity as scientific consultant, that the UFO phenomenon which has now plagued us for a score of years, and has been responsible for countless words in newsprint during that time, should be recognized as a scientific and sociological problem of our times and studied as such by competent men in various fields. Further, since the first requisite for any scientific investigation is concern for the quality of the basic data, much more attention should be paid to the immediate gathering and processing of such data.

In conclusion, it is unfortunate that so much press and public attention was paid to the Michigan sightings which, as far as UFO reports go, do not compare in substance or in competent witnesses, to many other cases in the file which got very little attention. But at least, in the Michigan cases there was a possible fairly obvious physical explanation at hand; with the others, which remain unidentified, this does not appear to be the case.

E N D

APPENDIX "A"

STATEMENT ON THE DEXTER AND HILLSDALE UFO SIGHTINGS, by Dr. J. Allon Hynek, Scientific Consultant to Project Blue Book.

The Air Force has asked me to make a statement on my findings to date. This I am happy to do, provided it is clearly understood that my statement will refer to the two principal events as reported to me: the event near Dexter, Mich., on March 20, and a similar one at Hillsdale, Mich., on March 21. It does not cover the hundreds of unexplained reports as opposed to the thousands of explained cases made not only to Project Blue Book, but those from other countries, over the past several years, as described in recent books and articles. I have not investigated those--such as the one near Exeter, N.H. and those in the western states last year, nor the puzzling foreign cases, such as that at Cuernavaca, Mexico, last fall. I have recommended in my capacity as Scientific Consultant, that competent scientists quietly study such cases when evidence from responsible people appears to warrant such study. There may be much of potential value to science in such events. We know a very great deal more about the physical world in 1966, than we did in 1866--but, by the same token, the people in the year 2066 may regard us as very incomplete in our scientific knowledge. We must not in our haste to have answers, be Frederick Smiths.

If then, it is understood I am not making a blanket statement to cover the entire UFO phenomenon over the past 20 years in this and other countries, I am prepared to discuss the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings.

Now, in addition to these two specific cas there has been a flood of other reports from this area, both before and after last Sunday and Monday, and I could not possibly have had the time to investigate all of these. I have had time, however, to determine that in Hillsdale, <u>over</u> and <u>above</u> the sincere and honest reporting by the young ladies at Hillsdale College of a very puzzling sighting, certain young men have played pranks with flares.

And, I have also determined that the pictures released yesterday to the press were taken on March 17, near Milan, Mich., and have no reference whatever to the sightings of March 20 or 21st, and are without any question a time exposure of the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus. I emphasize that this explanation refers to those specific pictures and not to the two cases now in question.

At long last now, the Dexter and Hillsdale cases: Here are the hard facts, the residue, the common denominator after sifting out as much of the subjective, peripheral, and inconsistent statements as I have been able to do in this short time.

The majority of observers in both cases reported only lights—red, yellow and green, silent glowing lights, near the ground. They have not described an object. Even the only two observers who did describe an object have stated that they were no closer than 500 yards—better than a quarter of a mile away—a distance which does not allow details to be determined. Witnesses have described glowing lights—lights that seemed to move but never far from a definite locale, or which suddenly disappeared and popped up at another place. Now what was that locale in both instances? In both cases, a swamp. In both cases the location of the glow was pin-pointed: in Dexter it was seen between two distant groups of people, and at Hillsdale it was seen in a swampy depression between the girls and distant trees. It was in both cases a very localized phenomenon. I think that this is a most significant point.

A dismal swamp is a <u>most unlikely</u> place for a visit from outer space! It is not a place where a helicopter would hover for several hours, or where a soundless, secret device would likely be tested.

Now what is a swamp? It is a place of rotting vegetation and of decomposition. Swamps are not the normal province of the astronomer; he usually has his eyes trained toward far loftier places—yet the Dutch as-

tr[illegible]mer, Minn[illegible]ert, in his b[illegible]k, "Light [illegible]nd Color, in Th[illegible] O[illegible]n Air," ha this to say about swamps. He describes lights that have been seen in swamps by the astronomer Bessel and other excellent observers. The lights, he says, resemble tiny flames, sometimes seen right on the ground, sometimes floating above it. The flames go out in one place and suddenly appear in another, giving the illusion of motion. The colors, he says, are sometimes yellow, sometimes red and blue-green. No heat is felt, and the lights do not burn or char the ground. They can appear for hours at a time and sometimes for a whole night. Generally there is no smell, and usually no sound, except the popping sound of little explosions, such as when a gas burner ignites.

Where does the gas come from, and what lights it? The rotting vegetation produces marsh gas which can be trapped by ice and winter conditions. When a spring thaw occurs, the gas may be released in some quantity.

The flame, Minnaert says, is a form of chemical luminescence and its low temperature is one of its peculiar features. Exactly how it occurs is not known and this in itself might be made a subject of an interesting study.

The glowing lights on the swamp near Dexter and Hillsdale were observed for two to three hours. No sounds were heard, except for popping sounds. The lights were red, green or yellow and they appeared to move sideways, and to rise a short distance. I emphasize this would not be seen frequently—it is of a unique character. I have never seen it myself and I can easily understand the dismay of the witnesses who saw it and who sincerely described what they saw.

It seems likely that as the present spring thaws came the trapped gases CH_4, H_2S, PH_3, resulting from decomposition of organic materials were released. The chemistry book by Sienko and Plane has this to say: "In air, phosphine, PH_3, usually bursts into flame, apparently because it is

ignited by a spontaneous oxidation of the impurity P_2H_4. The will-o-the-wisp, sometimes observed in marshes, may be due to spontaneous ignition of impure PH_3, which might be formed by reduction of naturally occurring phosphorous compounds."

Other scientists have pointed out to me that in swamps the formation of H_2S and CH_4 from rotting vegetation is common. These could be ignited by the spontaneous burning of the Phosphine, PH_3.

It would seem to me that the association of the sightings with swamps, in these particular cases, is more than coincidence. No group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamps. The glow was localised there. Deputy Fitzpatrick described the glow as coming from beyond a rise adjacent to the swamp, and visible through the trees. He stated that the lights brightened and dimmed much as stage lights do—smoothly and slowly. The girls at Hillsdale described almost the identical thing. This could have been due to the release of variable quantities of marsh gas.

The disappearance of the light when people got close with flash-lights or car lights, would indicate that the glow seemed bright only to dark-adapted eyes. The night was dark—there was no moon. The Hillsdale girls kept their rooms dark in order to see the lights in the swamp.

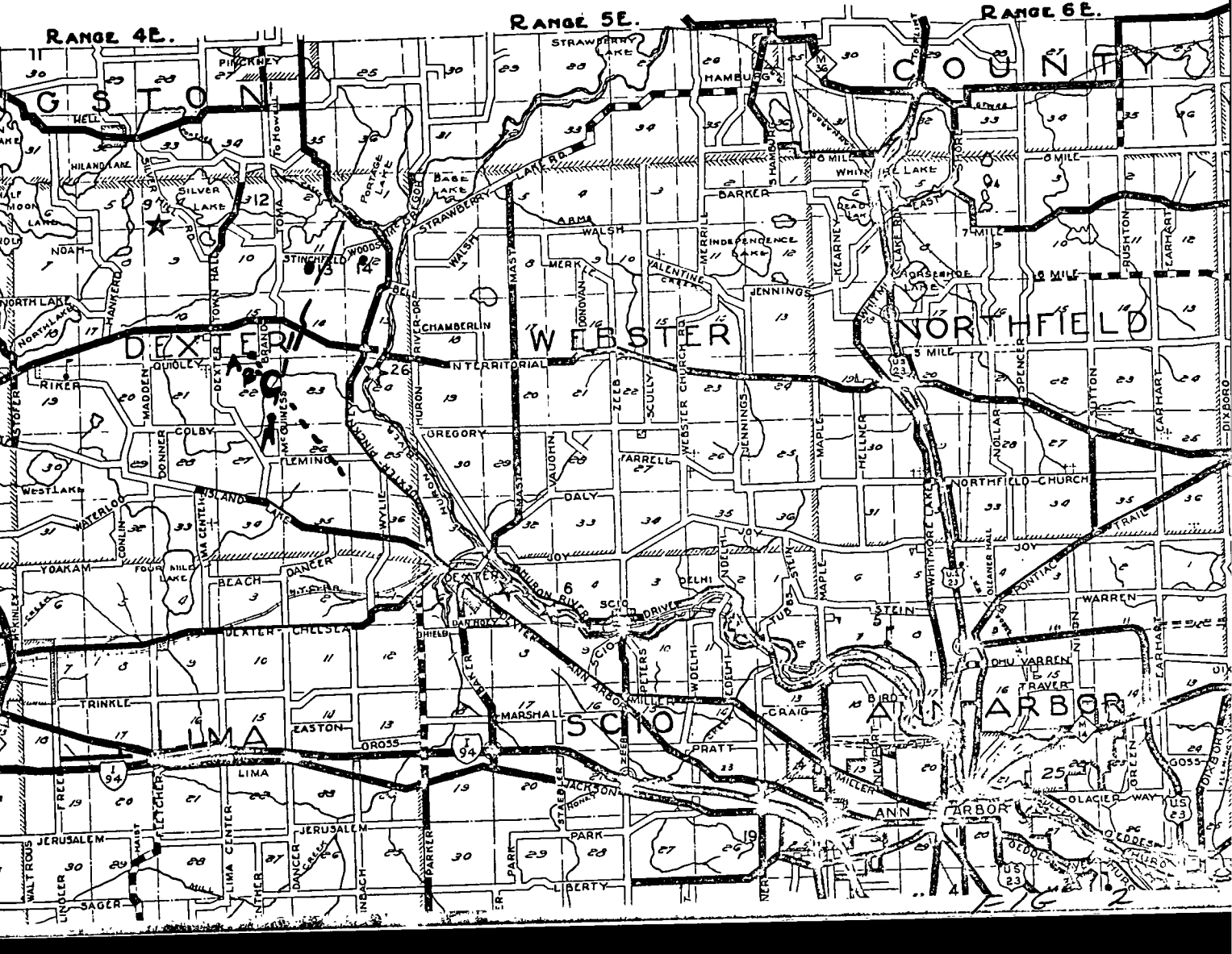
I emphasize in conclusion that I cannot prove in a Court of Law that this is the full explanation of these sightings. It appears very likely, however, that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter, an unusually mild one in this area, and the particular weather conditions that night—there was little wind at either location—were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display.

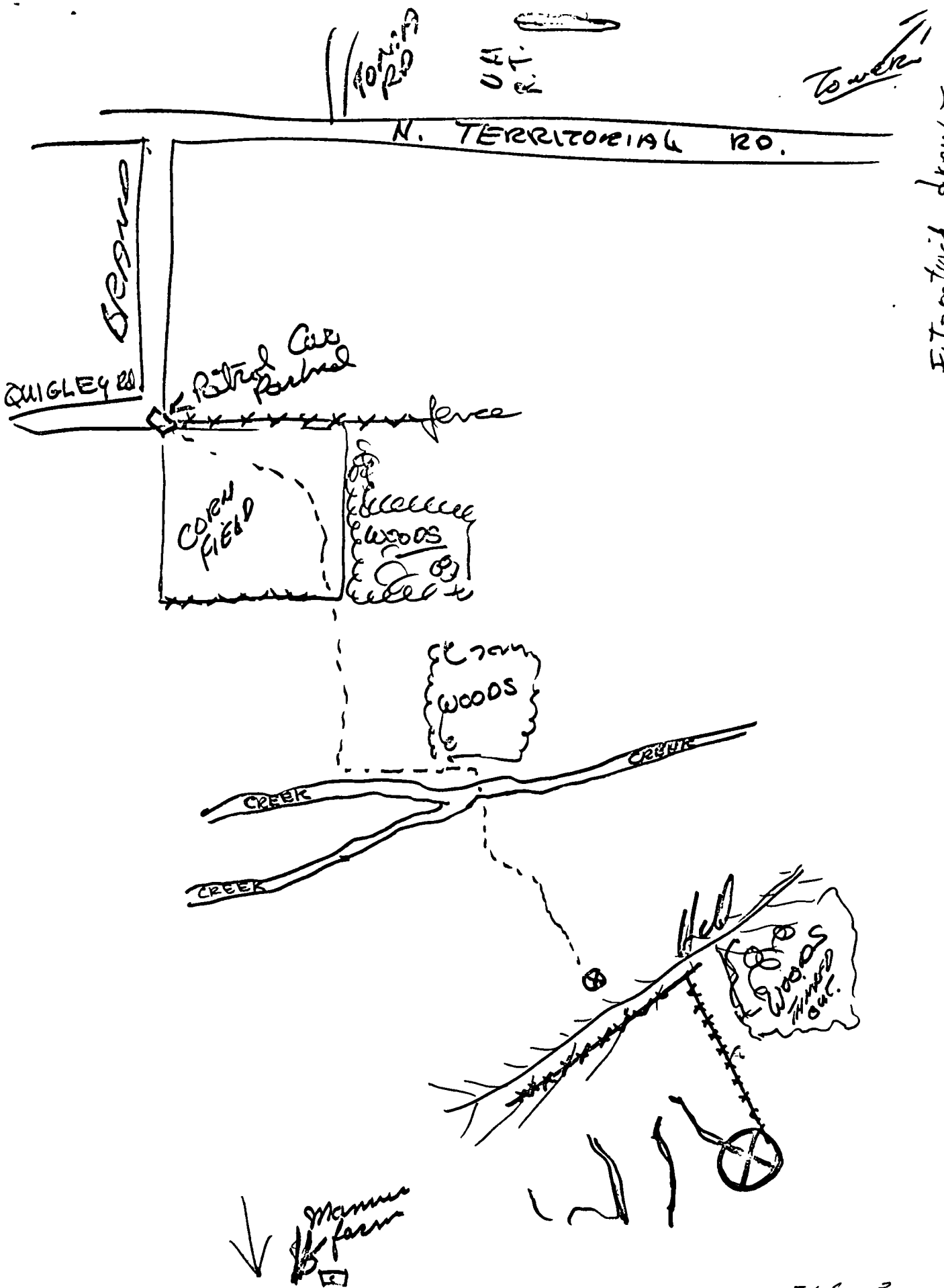
WASHTENAW COUNTY MICHIGAN

1964

0 1 2 3 4 5

SCALE OF MILES



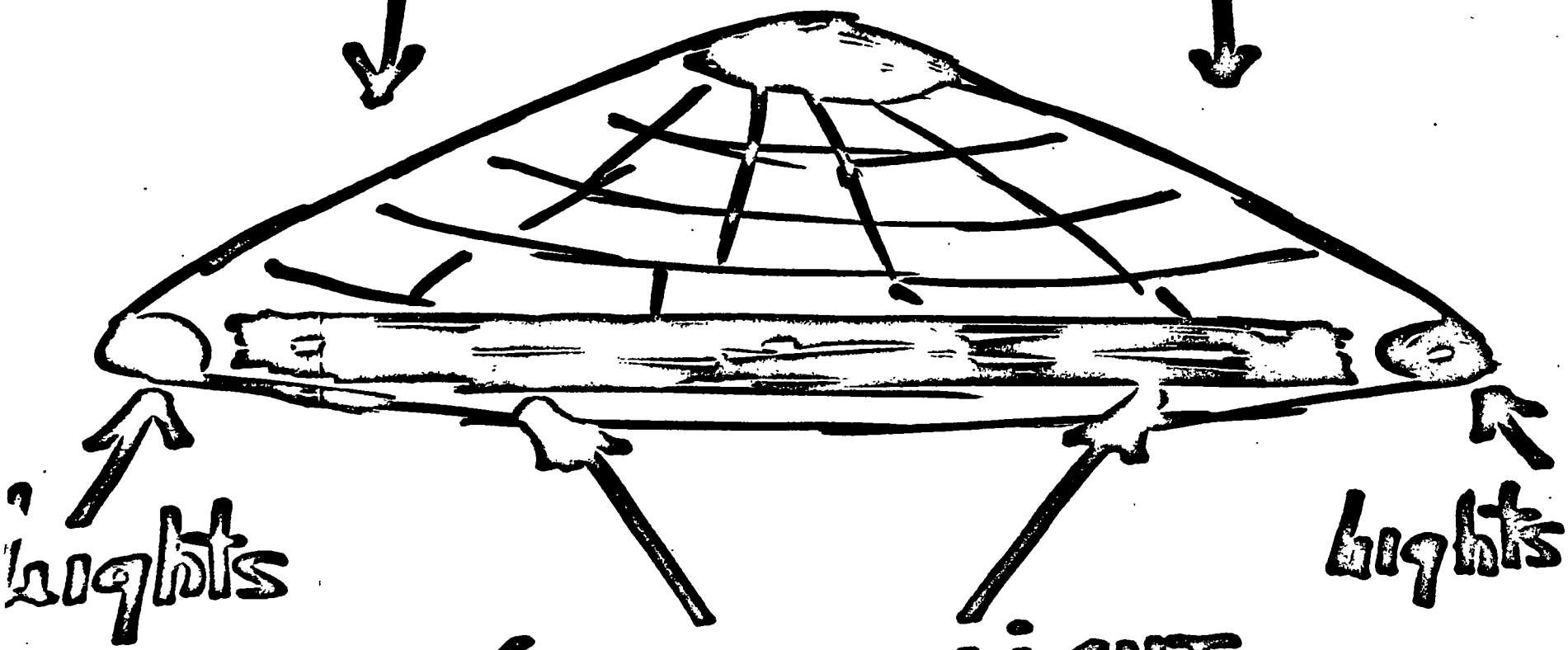


Fitzpatrick Area

FIG 3

QUILTED TYPE SURFACE

BROWN COLOR



Lights

Lights

DARKEST LIGHT BETWEEN Lights

FIG 4

(1)

662-2504

L.H. Ann Arbor Case (1)

K/2c Hawby -

Air Operations. —

465-1241 X-7122

McFadden - get phone #

Maguire — get phone —

—X County Sheriff Harvey — Was Taylor County Sheriff

UX records

Mission Records. Records - any missions Sector

Dep. Fitzpatrick — Ann Arbor photographs — (?)

Dexter Over Cal: Patrolman R.O.: Honeywell I (conv. co.)

Col. Miller - Civ. Defense

4:30 AM ?

1st call Sat. Eve - 9 PM.

County Sheriff called

Chief Taylor - Dexter Police Chief.

Chelsea police chief.

Ask Fitz date + circs. of pictures.

Mrs. C. Mack 501 S. Lane St.

Bldg of Masonic & Sheriff Workstation, Blissfield, Mich

check on letter

Charlie Sharpe

F

(2)

~~Sheriff~~ Stanley McFadden —
12:30 PM — County Jail — Washington
Met Sheriff Harvey went to apt. of &
Mc Fadden went to

—

8:30 PM. Sunday — on road — radio
10 min to get there.
10600 N. Gennis Rd.
A raised Here. Bob Wagner —
— son-in-law of Frank Manor.
Swamp start at back door.
5 min.
long neon light — with
reddish.
light faded out two edge —

—

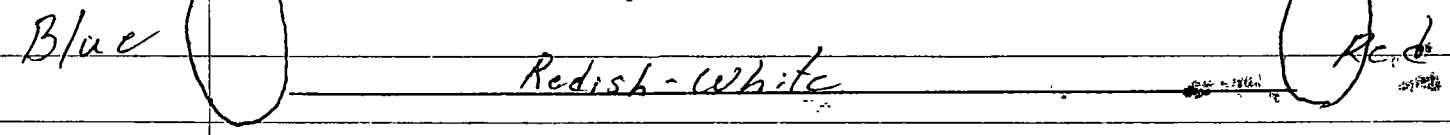
Deputy Fitzpatrick took the pictures —
— were developed in N.Y. —

what was out. —

McFadden Lyon Chs.

This light to rear back of the Warren beacon.

Viewed from On top of hill —



McF: Left rotating - about 4½ miles from Hanover -
Saw abt 11:30 P.M.
Headed S.E. Mon + Tues.
electrical lights.
Parked car - when

Put spot light on it + it reversed direction.

No sound

~ 700 ft.

3 & 4 times & cover it -

~~Sgt Sadowski~~ also spotted

Def. Fitzpatrick

Fitz Lon

(5)

E Harvey saw nothing - but some Congressman is bugging him..

(1) McFadden 1st imp. witness
Stanley McFadden Phone # Home.
Address: - Off.

Ypsilanti airport - about 20 mi. away.

WX - 20th

8:00 High Thin overcast 15 miles
1015.5
T. 34°
DP 21
Wind 150° - gusting 15

8:27 High Thin overcast —
15 mi vis. —
150° at 9 knots

8:55 AM - High thin overcast broken
15 mi 1022.0 barom.
T = 33° 140 gusty at 7°
DP = 25

9:30 Ceiling unlimited
15 mi
140 8 knots

9:55 Ceiling unlimited
low scattered
15 mi vis 1022.7
140° at 8 kn T = 33
DP = 26

10:30 12,000 overcast
Ceil unlimited.
12 mi vis 160 - 4 kn

10:57 12,000 overcast 33°
12 mi vis. 1021.9 26 DP
180° at 3

11:26 12,000 broken
High overcast
12 mi vis 1021.9
180 - at 3 kts. 33 25 DP.

11:55 Updated conditions
12 mi vis
1021.9 32° 26 DP
150° at 4
George Bowden - WX at Ypsilanti

Rumor - Ford developing a Flying Jeep - may have been testing.

—

Check on UX with Mauum.-

Wilson Run Special Test -

Ford: —

No one at radio telescope tonight
- but maintain connection thru
on flood light . . .

AFD

202/ 981-4340
4341 Andrews
4340
X - 4341

Col. Sleeper

(9)

Col. Miller · Air Defense.

9 - 9:30

Bonneville County Bldg

Phone 668-6819 (10)

Gerald G.

Col. Miller — Sun. night
Sch.. class - could see stars.
Radio operator — towed entire area -
10:30 ⇒ 1:00 - covered the area -
saw absolutely nothing.

- none of the people reported anything
- 3 radio frq. operating during the
158.760 158.940 mcs. - also citizens
band - no int. of any kind -
- no hams reported anything —

Towed entire area with NICAP
people - brought reports —

WDAG - took photographs of

Went to Frank Manor -

NICAP really put words into Manor's
mouth.

Manor was only person who
reported any sound —

Miller talked with neighbors of
Manors place - 8 farm houses -
saw nothing & had nothing

(11)

3:50 AM Duration :=

On 4:~~30~~ - Mon 14th / 21st
reported: left Dept. + Chelsea -
- maneuvers - up + down - 7th + left.
- poss. melee — the charge
on — spotting west of Dept.
— crowds of to some on 10--15 people

Then on Thurs the 17th — another.
2nd 45 or 50 people - - near Milan
4 A.M.

Duration
Sgt. Schneider + Det. Fitzpatrick Cont #37

---

(12)

Fitzpatrick — 17-18

1) Fri Thu - Fri 5 A.M.
3 mi west of Selma - accepts
UFO near Milan
Moving Called off 5
Took F 1/2 hr. to get Milan over -

Self-illuminating
Burning yellow —
Facing - S.E. —
20° —
Orig Milan westerly stationary —
3 others

Rise + fall —

David

— Manner . —

7:30 PM

45 min

Blinding glare - as welders arc

~~rotating~~ lights

Moved up + down —

Said he would have closer a welder's arc

Wilbur Van Horn & his 87 coach —

called him 6:45 P.M.

517/437-7384

State St &
US 12
W to Jonesville
S to Hillsdale.

10:32 P.M. when report came in. —

Wife took call from one of the down call —

Wx: — Funeral Directo by trade.

Went out on back way — looked out — saw nothing — started down — in S.W. — already red, gone Sun

Telegram

Tel. ray — grid at down — raid 80 — was / descending. Officer + he saw nothing — — so went to down — — with Hans Mother — = estimated distance between he knew the train

Ask if they keep track of
light aircraft — Do Radar
people follow light aircraft
planes —

Hazel silhouette — watch
for flashes come on

Can use beyond object.

Down in a ravine —

looking down in ravine —
— dim orange colour light & up
— dim white light & bright
30 ft

took up whole field of
binoculars

15 or 20 min
then both lights
— bright — 100 — 150 ft above
surface of earth —

Ted S

Radio Astr. Dept. U. of Mich

Clear & ⊕, dense light-
becomes.
- seems to be moving getting
with the beam & the beam light

Moved off & left - left & not
- did not see on screen
moved laterally [illegible] very suddenly
- reborn ground

Observed 3 of the last Friday
night obs
- 4 observs -
- extremely clear night
- observers looked like stars.

He put binoculars on star obs

It is a comm. pilot.

10-15,000 ft.

Stars were steady.

At no time a blue or green light —

His theory: Flashing red, flashing green, flashing white —
— flashing at a light speed —

A report →

Extremely brilliant white object
— people hit on Back Door.

Quick test did very smooth —

Was there an arrest? —

---

9 Conductors Corps — Viviani —
— they had working —

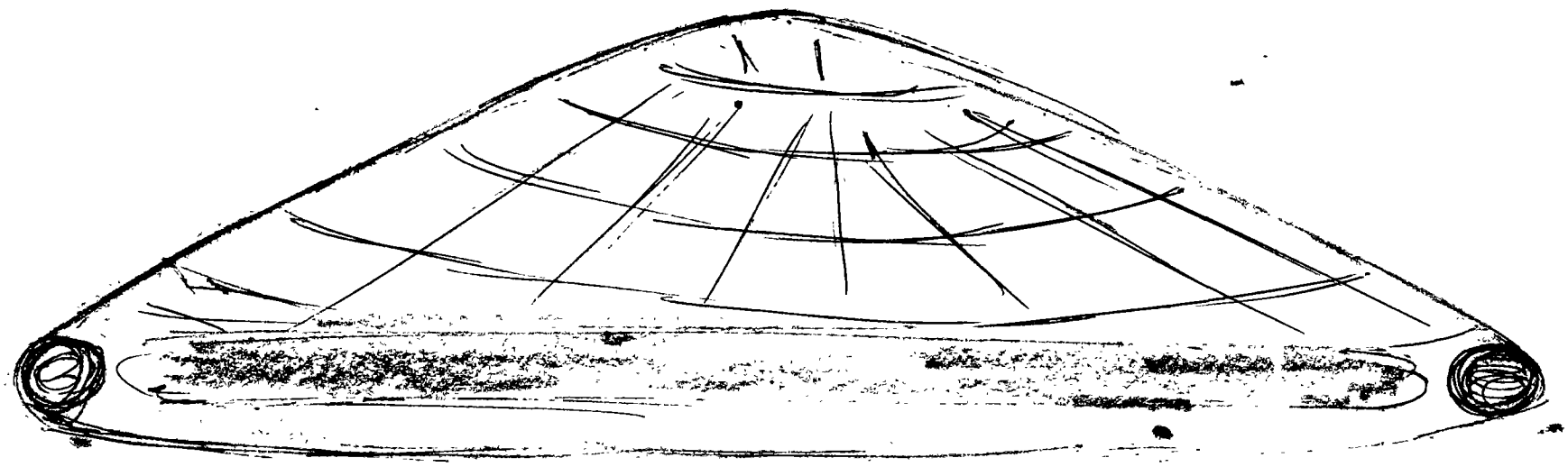
Jim Wilson: —
Welfare Rm Lab
Project Michigan.

Model — NO 5-6123
X-206

~~2~~

Statement -

I have been connected to AF on Project Blue Book for many years. On many occasions I have investigated reports of UFO's sometimes successfully in that a definite con

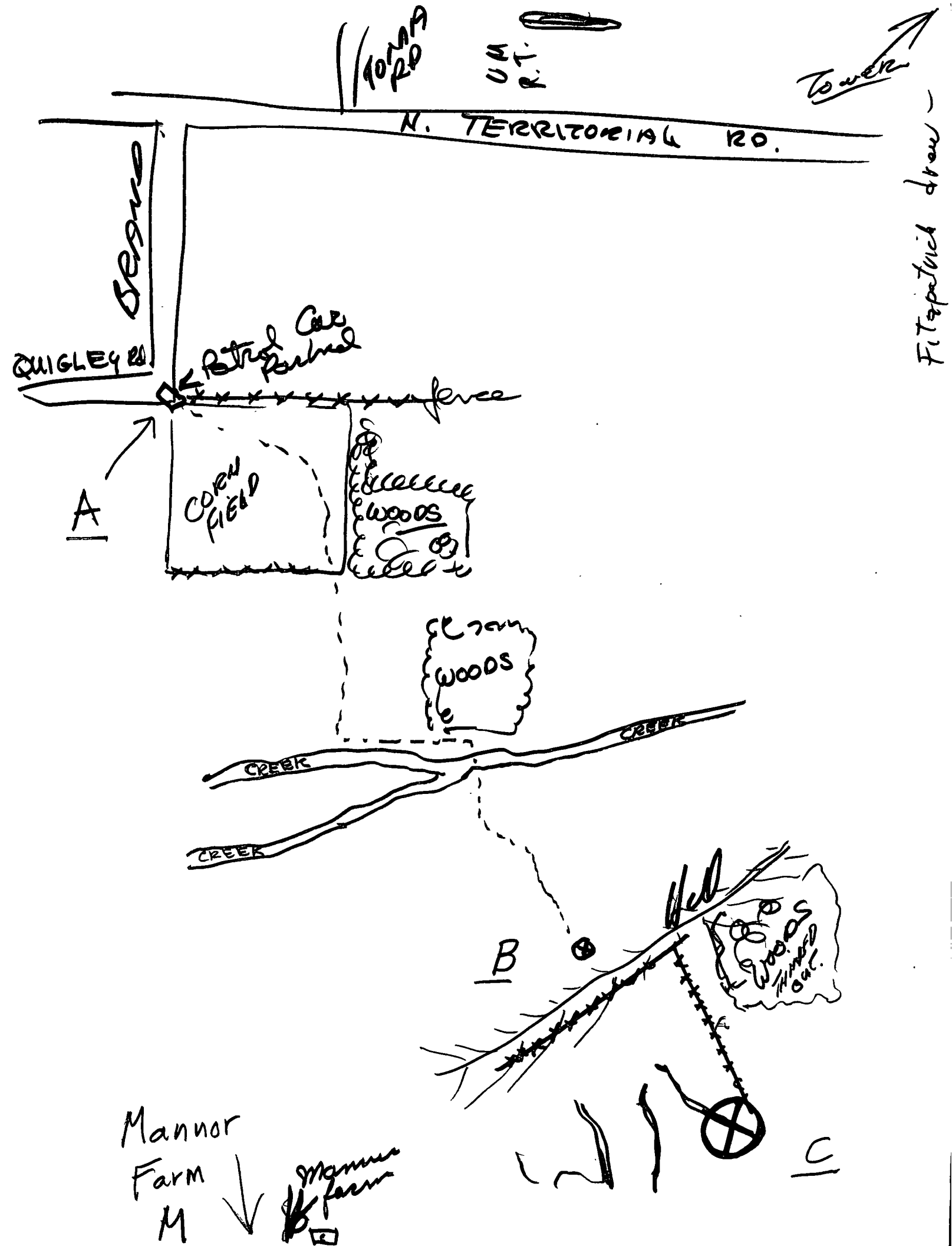


QUILTED TYPE SURFACE
BROWN COLOR

LIGHTS

LIGHTS

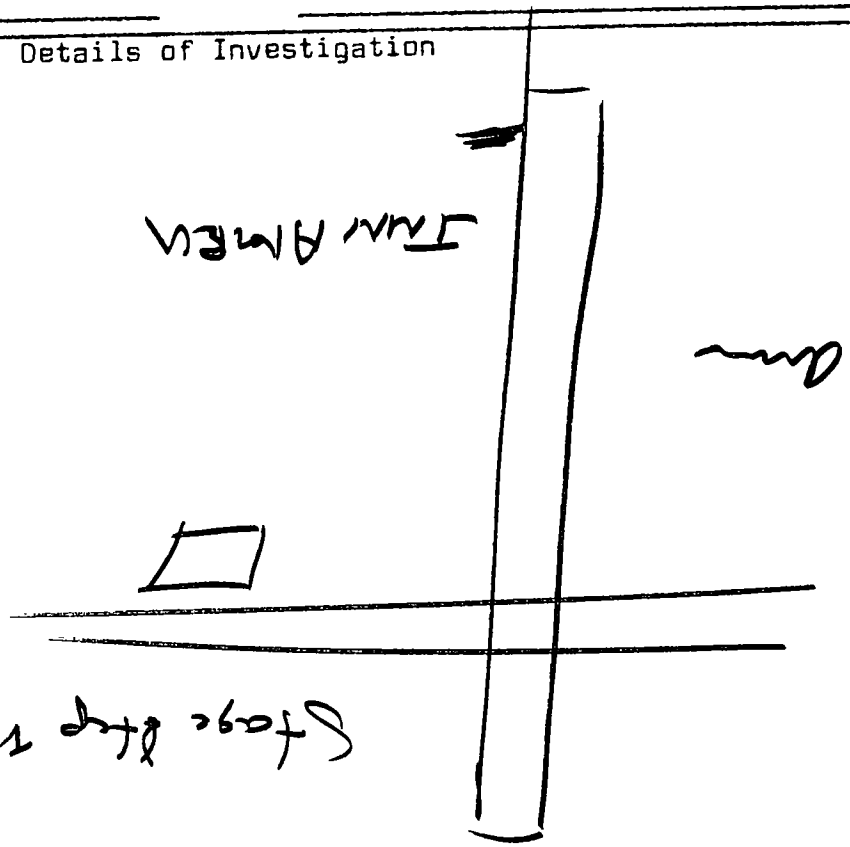
LARGEST LIGHT
BETWEEN LIGHTS


10 MA RD
U.M. R.T.
Tower
N. TERRITORIAL RD.
Fitzpatrick draw
QUIGLEY RD
Bstrd Car Parked
fence
A
CORN FIELD
WOODS
WOODS
CREEK
CREEK
CREEK
B
Hill
WOODS
THINNED OAK
C
Manor Farm
M
manor farm

~~FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT~~ ~~RANK ORDER FOR DEPARTMENT~~	Complainant or Business Name	Complaint# _____ O.R. # _____	
Offense as Reported	Address	Business Tel.	Home Tel.
Place of Occurence	Date of Occurence Time .M	How Reported	District
REPORTED By	Address	Business Tel.	Home Tel.
Report Received By	Date Time .M	Date Assigned Time .M	

Investigating Officers

Details of Investigation



Signed:

Investigating Officer

Commanding Officer

Over

Mich

INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY J. FOSTER

We were in a gravel pit - this was before the night they took pictures. Looked up in the sky, we seen a falling star or what we thought was a falling star and it fell directly towards the earth and then swerved upwards toward sky and it started banking off at 45-degree angle and making all kinds of maneuvers, upwards, downwards and would stay stable in tke sky almost like a helicopter. There were blue and green lights. We followed the object until we got to Stretchfield Woods Road.

So we called in and told them in the office we had this sighting. They thought we were a little bit drunk, you know. But being as we don't drink on duty . . .

As soon as we called it in, there was a phenomenal amount of calls from all over, from Monroe, Livingston County, the State Police . Everyone in general had seen something that night. We followed it and then this object was joined by 3 other objects that looked to be the same thing. They joined together and flew in a flight pattern. They went through all kinds of formations.

That's four that we've seen. We followed them about 45 minutes. We were sitting on top of a little knoll. They were zigzagging back and forth - I never seen anything like it. When they go, they really take off.

After 45 minutes or so, they took off into the north so we followed them till we got to Pinckney in the car. They just streaked off into the northwest.

I did see them about 5 weeks after that -- my partner and I. There was just one over by.. Golfside Drive in Ypsilanti.

It was the same thing though. It was larger in size. I'm more sure of this one than of the others. It was down about 250 feet or so . . .

It's hard to judge height. All we seen was this orange light from the bottom. It's like an airplane - you can't tell the size of it when it's in the air.

This was 5 weeks later . .. No, we did NOT make a report on it . . . We just didn't do anything you kno.

I figure if they land, well O.K., we'll go out and make a report. But if they're just up there, they're not hurting us - why should we make a report . . .

There's no doubt there was something there.

END

Mich

INTERVIEW WITH DEXTER POLICE CHIEF ROBERT TAYLOR

Pulsating lights, 2 small lights. Met deputy sherrifs in swamp. We went one way - they went the other.

On top of hill - heard noise. Electronic sound. Ricocheting bullet. Couldn't see anything in swamp. Didn't see anything while in swamp.

Fitz and Mac saw something. Only saw it from porch. Didn't see anything from swamp.

Heard sound on crest of hill after searched eastern 1/2. They went to west.

Never saw lights after that. Mannors heard same sound from porch. Didn't see it leave. They saw it leave. Army's had project out here last 2-3 years. D on't know what it is. Not for publication. W on't tell me. Didn't tell me when they came.

There's been a plane flying around lately, and at the time Army's conducting some kind of testing.

Using some land you can't get into. It's near Peach Mountain area around Quigley Road, south of observatory. Planes flying around - not so much lately; DC-3.

We've had complaints. Checked it out -- a company in A^2 has been doing it. Holding tests, plane is part of their equipment. Don't know anything else.

May be a project government is conducting. Government knows more than they're telling. It think it's something Government's working on. Dexter people aren't satisfied with the swamp gas explanation.

There's something there. I don't know what it is.

Hunnwills pix -- there hasn't been any explanation. Picture of something, but nobody's told what it is. I have no question as to Frank Mannor's integrity. The man saw something definitely. I don't know whatit is. He doesn't either.

This object had been out there before they made any calls to us. I saw an object. 25 other deputies saw it. This is only one I know of that people got close to.

There have been many others since then . Nobody's gonna tell about it now because they're subject to so much ridicule. People won't report it because they don't like to be called liars or crackpots. It's definitely an object of some type.

If I had to say what it is --
I'd say Army or Air Force definitely knows. It could be something they're developing themselves. It's different, sure. But how long did people know about the atom bomb or V-2. It could be something different from any known principle of aircraft.

Hunawill was on our police force a year and a half. He quit for unrelated reasons. He got lots of criticism - just like everyone else. They called him a "kook" and everything else. I've gotten lots of letters. Haven't answered most of them.

"They" probably know what it is. I"m convinced the Government knows what it is. It could be something from another planet. Could cause mass panic. So they just hush it up. They think they're fooling the majority of the population. Americans may be gullible, but they're not stupid. People get mxxx mad when they get told a lot of B.S.

It's not swamp gas. I never heard of swamp gas in Michigan before. We never had more confusion around here than that time in March.

There's one big plane that's around often in the morning. It's a DC-3.

END

Mich

INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY FITZPATRICK

"I didn't believe it at first. Not until I saw it.

I first saw them in Milan with Sgt. Scheider. The night I took the pictures. It was about 5:05 in the morning we were at scene of accident near Saline.

We heard from Milan Patrol car there was something just over the top of trees. Just over village of Milan.

We looked up and saw two lights coming down. We thought at first they were falling stars.

They maintained their direction side-by-side, but turned around and went back up. They were just bright lights in the sky at that point. They were definitely 2 different objects.

About 28,000 feet flying parallel. Came down at about 40 degree angle then turned around and went back up. Falling stars don't go back up.

We started working on back roads trying to get closer. We listened to Milan. They said on radio it had circled the city 2 or 3 times, just over top of trees.

As we got close, one object was closer. It crossed over Milan then went back up. It seemed to be right over top of village. We were north of Carpenter Rd. on Arkona Rd. and parked in a cornfield and watched this object do a dance in the sky. It was going across the sky at tremendous speed. Faster than anything I've ever seen. It would go 4 or 5 miles then stop and go back.

It was just a light. You can't describe the motion. It could just stop short. Went back and forth at tremendous speed, it stopped, then hovered, then went back. Then it would drop and go through several motions.

I set up my camera (a Minox) on a tripod. Low speed film, ASA 25, made for copy work. I tried to shoot, guess and hope. I think I got the hovering peak. I let it set for 10 minutes on one exposure. The other was about 12 minutes. But it got to be light out.

Deputy Hennes from Saline came out with his wife and gave us binoculars. We looked at the object through the glasses. It was kind of strange. We could make out two lights on the ends.

The shape of it seemed to be kinda like a flat ash tray with a cone o n top. We could see part of the bottom - cylinder in shape - and part of the top. That's all we could make out. There was a dark area back of the lights. C ouldn't tell real good cuz of the glare.

The main long light was yellowish-white in color, seemed to run

horizontal between 2 stationary outer lights whereas an aircraft has running lights. This thing had like two standing lights with like a bar of light running between them in the middle. Like two light bulbs at either end with a flourescent light in the middle.

Everytime the object moved, this horizontal flourescent light would gain in intensity. It moved with tremendous speed, tremendous agility .

From there we tried to get closer still, but we were right near Monroe County. I tried to watch what had happened and I could still see a brilliant light in the sky at 6:55.

As far as I know, we were told by Willow Run and Detroit Airfield that there was nothing on the screen. It was same situation at Mannor's farm.

This was about 2 days later. There was reported to be something down in the swamp just to the rear of Mannor's house, about 1/4 mile behind the house in the fields.

Stan and I parked patrol car and walked in. We talked to Mannor. Checked on map about whereit was.

Mr. Mannor told us it was dangerous sinking sand in there. There was many officers and other people there at the time.

Mr. Mannor and his boy were scared to death. They'd honestly seen something. They couldn't explain. They were really shook up.

Frank Mannor is a pretty level-headed man. He's making a darn good living for his family. Life Mag did him a real injustice. He's got a lot of people to feed. He's worked continuously and he's a hard-working man.

He definitely saw something out there -- both he and his boy did.

The report Mannor gave us is this! They observed the light. It came up and wavered just above tree tops then came back down in swamp again.

We thought it -- whatever it was -- was having some kind of engine difficulty. That is why we checked with the airports.

Frank said that he and his boy had walked into the fields -- they were in the fields when we got there -- and about 20 minutes after we got there, they came back out.

We have had on occasion throughout the years reports, whe n they light up the observatory tower on Peach Mountain, people will mistake it because of the cone and the antennas on it.

But Peach Mountain was dark that night. This wasn't very near Peach

Mountain anyway.

Mr. Mannor told us it was still down there somewheres.

Mannor said it would start in the fields then go to about 200 to 300 feet high, then hover and waver, then drop back down to the ground. It made no sound whatsoever then.

They's gotten within 500 feet of it. They were just standing there -- he and his boy -- watching it.

His boy says "My god -- what is that." Then with that, the lights went out. And then in the time you'd snap your fingers, it was clean down across the swamp, a matter of about nine acres. And it reappeared down there. Well, the lights went out and just reappeared. There was still no sound.

McFadden and I went across 2 small creeks. We saw a glare the size of a car and a half O- like a Cadillac broadside. It was a definite contained glow.

McFadden and I went to the top of a hill with our flashlights and crashed our lights on the object. This is when we saw the lights on the ground.

As we turned on our lights -- actually, we were on top of a hill. We seeing the light from the opposite side of the hill. Not direct -- just the glow. There was a hillcrest between us.

When we got to the top of the hill, we used our lights and the object's lights went out and there was a sound like a high powered rifle bullet ricocheting off a rock. Then the thing went up and angled back. They said it went right over the Mannor's house then. There was quite a crowd thereby then. They said the sound was still with it as it passed the house.

It was going at tremendous speed. This is the thing that bothers me -- the speed and tremendous ability the thing has to stop almost instantaneously.

During the day we went back -- there was no sign of it. Professor Hynek had only a 35 mm camera.

I've spent 4 years in the Air Force. I've seen just about everything the Air Force flew. Fastest aircraft I've ever seen is an F-106. It went fast, believe me. But it was a helicopter compared to this thing.
It's the agility with its ability to climb. To stop, maneuver, drop in altitude, change its course at an instant's notice was just tremendous.

My personal opinion and a hope, too, is that the Air Force knows what it is. Just from the way they handled the situation, I'm pretty sure they know what's happening. Michigan has climatic conditions at this time of year that's just fine for testing experimental aircraft. It'll tell them how it'll react to different kinds of weather conditions.

You can simulate any kind of weather in different parts of the country.

I think it's an Air Force project. They're weather-testing this particular aircraft out here.

Basically, I base my opinion on the V-Z incident. The aircraft had been flying for several years, but there was no public knowledge of it until Colonel Powers developed trouble. I think this is one of these hush-hush little programs the Air Force has got. I hope it is.

I guess I can't ever answer it 'till I get the thing on the ground and see it myself.

This is a difference in kind, but the Air Force is testing auto-gravitational drive systems. It's a good possibility they have one so perfected that they could test fly it. I think it's at Edwards in California.

When I was in Air F orce, I was in Military Police. I guarded. I guarded V-2's in Alaska in 1960. I knew what they were then.

--- Yes, they were flying then. Nobody knew though. They's fly at night and return at night.

I don't know if they were testing them, or if they were flying missions.

Most of my service was with SAC. It's highly classified. I know a lot more than I'll ever tell. B ut when you're an airman second class, which I was, I guarded lots of things. But I'd never draw a picture or give out any information.

Some of the information -- like I could draw a pretty good picture of a nuclear weapon, but I never would -- may be detrimental to our nation if it got out. I don't know. So I'll keep quiet. I'd still be in Ft. Leavenworth if I ever told anything so I never did and I never would.

XX I think many people around are all seeing the same thing.

I can't explain how the lights change colors. I saw it myself. I know it happened, but I can't explain it.

It was too definite to be atmospheric conditions. You could do it with XXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX fire -- but this was different.

2 Milan cars - an officer and a taxicab almost collided. The Milan officer that might it was in Milan said he could have hit it with his .38. It was that low to the ground. It was moving at about 30 miles an hour - easy, slow movement as it passed above the city. Just above the tree tops -- but not a sound on it.

The sound we heard at Mannor's was probably an object breaking through the sound barrier. This wasn't like the regular crack of the sound

barrier. It was a high whine and then a crack with this whistle behind it. You could simulate it by taking a firearm against a flat rock, then record just after it hit the rock. There'd be this whistle after you'd hear the shot.

All I can say from ~~my~~ my own opinion is that the extreme amount of acceleration to get the craft off the ground in such a hurry caused the noise. ~~XX~~ Like a car - it makes more noise at the beginning of acceleration than when it levels off.

All machinery makes a sound . . . If it is an Air Force experimental vehicle, it could be either a pilot or remote controlled. Could have a defense mechanism like a B-52. Pilot in an airplane above could be controlling it.

The night of the Mannors sighting, there were aircraft in the sky. We were told there was nothing in the sky, but we could see two airplanes flying over. That's a little bit ridiculous. They called from the office.

That area is a cross-over areafor air traffic co-ordinating routes. . . There is quite heavy air traffic in the area. They got an almost immediate response when we called in that there was nothing in the sky.

But everyone saw two planes up there.

END

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

We was told by Milan police there was something flying low over town, something glowed. So after we left an accident west of Saline we saw three objects south of us quite a ways away.

Right over us, we saw this one real bright object near Milan. So, we stopped the car. Fitzpatrick got out with his camera and took two pictures. Then we drove some more. He took other pictures. The night was full of stars. You could tell the stars from this thing. The moon was out. You could tell the moon between this thing.

It was moving up and down and across. We looked through the field binoculars. It looked realxx white and somewhat of a black shaded area.

We watched it for an hour and a half and took the picutes.

As soon as he took the pictures, everything started booming . . .

We watched it for a good hour and a half. No crowd gathered. We was out in the boondocks. Milan police, State police post from Erie saw it same night. Saline police officer saw it too . . .

Hynek asked what it looked like, what'd it do. He said the pictures was the moon.

There was no swamp where we were. It definitely was not swamp gas. Swamp gas doesn't [redacted] rise way [redacted] up in the sky.

Hynek was here 2 days later. F itzpatrick and I saw it. I didn't believe any of it till I saw it. But when you see it, it's weird. And it does kind of frighten a guy. . .

Stars weren't blurred in Fitz' pictures. Why should moon be so big. The guy at channel 50 told me.

Before Hynek's press conference, he said he didn't know what he was going to say. The next day he came up with swamp gas. Now I don't know.

I know what we saw wasn't the moon and venus. He was - as I remember - lining up the picture with the moon . . .

He sent the pictures to the East Coast to be developed. As far as we know, he got all his pictures back. Whether they added or took away anything, we don't know. . .

He didn't get the money from the pictures cuz they was the county's. .

We went through three weeks of hell around here. I even got a get-well card from a neighbor. The sheriff stuck up for us guys. He knows we all saw something . . .

My own opinion - strictly my own - is who the hell are we in this country to say there's no life on another planet . . .

Why can't somebody else come along and be more advanced. It's a possibility anyways . . .

2. Schneider Interview (Con't.)

I'd like to have one land just to see. Mannor saw it. I don't think he's making anything up. . .

They couldn't find anything out there - but just cuz they couldn't find anything doesn't mean much. It might not react to radar or anything. That we got.

Mannor is still on edge. People come out of the woods. He shot at somebody. He was mmm mad. They treated him something terrible.

(Foster says)

> One night he shot at somebody. He said "We're gonna have peace around here one way or another . . . "

There's plenty of stuff around the country that I can't believe. But still nobody's explained what's happened around here.

JAH

REPORT ON UFO's FROM SELFRIDGE AFB, MICH 19 AND 20 MARCH 1966

19 Mar: Robert McLane, 35492 Ellen St, Mt Clemens, Phone #791-2835 saw an object while driving home from work approx 0500 19 Mar. It made a circling motion, moved quickly from one position to another and was visible until after 0830. He heard no sounds from it. It was saucer-shaped and the size of a football. Position was south-east of Mt Clemens.

20 Mar: Jack DeBona, 3426 Edgewood Park Drive located west of Detroit, phone 363-6414, saw an object at tree top height at 2103 (local time). It was heading south. Size was small and estimated to be 5,000 ft altitude. No other description given, except a white light was noticed.

20 Mar: Washtenaw County Sheriff's office received call from a Frank Manner, 10600 McGinnis Road near Dexter. Deputy McFadden reported:

Shape: Like 2 soup bowls placed together with additional object on top. Seen from approx ½ mile away.

Size: Compared to car or small bungalow.

Color: Brownish.

Number: 4

Formation: No

Features: One appeared in some sort of trouble, going up and down while the others stayed overhead.

Tail-Trail-Exhaust: None

Sound: Like a ricocheting bullet.

Other features: Red light on one side, green on the other with whitish glow in center. No jet noise or smell. Two objects like antennae pointing downward. Noise and lights first attracted attention of observers. They could not give angle or elevation. Altitude seemed low, the one object dipped close to the ground, to some, it appeared to have actually touched or landed.

Direction at time of disappearance was to the west. It was (3 or 4 of them) visible for approx three hours, from 2030 to 2330 hrs.

Sightings were ground visual. One deputy (Lee) had binoculars.

Light conditions: There was some light, the deputies said they could see without flashlights except back in the swamp.

UFO Report - Selfridge.

The deputies were trying to follow the objects, evidently by car and on foot but finally had to turn back because of a large swamp or marsh land. Deputy McFadden stated he had worked around jet aircraft and there was no sound or smell similar to those aircraft.

He also mentioned the name of a Colonel Miller of Civil Defense, Ann Arbor who saw the objects.

21 Mar: Miss West, 21878 Marlow St, Detroit called the Air Police and Command Post to report she had seen a round, silver and shining object, direction was south. Height 600' and size was 5 to 6 inches long. Seemed reluctant to give more information than that.

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AP Regional Service

WASHINGTON AP - Rep. Edward Hutchinson, R-Mich., says the Air Force is much too quick to close the books on investigations of unidentified flying objects.

He said he is drafting a measure to urge the House Armed Services Committee to study methods used by the Air Force in investigating reports of such sightings.

His decision to offer a resolution, H u t c h i n s o n said, was prompted by an investigation into the March 31 UFO sighting at Hillsdale, Mich., by William E. Van Horn, director of the Hillsdale County Civil Defense organization.

"The Air Force reportedly closed out its investigation of the sighting after 3½ hours," Hutchinson said. "Mr. Van Horn's study took seven weeks and, in refuting the Air Force investigator's 'swamp gas' theory, left several important questions which should be answered."

Hutchinson said Van Horn raised another serious question when he contended the Air Force's attitude may have induced witnesses in other sightings to withhold the information for fear they would be ridiculed.

THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Ann Arbor, Michigan, Monday, March 21, 1966

Pages 17 to 24

Landing Of 'Saucer' Reported

LANSING UPI) —Fredrick E. Davids, state police commissioner and Michigan civil defense chief, said today he is launching an investigation into reports of unidentified flying objects near Ann Arbor.

"I used to discount these reports, too, but now I'm not so sure," Davids said.

By William B. Treml

Washtenaw County, which in the past week has become the "flying saucer center" of the Midwest, again was in the news spotlight last night with a flurry of "saucer" reports, including one which said an object had actually landed in Dexter Township.

More than 40 police officers from the Sheriff's Department, Dexter and Chelsea village Police Departments, and State Police joined area residents in a prolonged but futile search for the "landed" craft. However, more than a half-dozen of the searchers said they saw strange flying objects or lights from the objects during the five - hour hunt.

The report which began the massive search came from Robert Wagner of Dexter and Frank Manner who lives on a farm at 10600 McGinnis in Dexter Township. Wagner told sheriff's deputies at 8:30 p.m. yesterday that a strange flying object appeared to land in a swampy area on the McGinnis property at the intersection of Quigley and Brand Rds. That intersection is just south of W North Territorial Rd. and east of the Dexter Town Hall Rd., about five miles north and west of the village of Dexter.

Manner, 46, said he and his 18-year-old son, Ronald, went out in search of the landed object moments after they said they saw it descend to the ground.

Manner said he and his son saw an object in the swamp which appeared to be brown in color and had a "quilted" effect on the surface. It was flat on the bottom and cone-shaped toward the top, Manner related.

There were two small lights at the outer edges of the object which issued a glowing bluish-green color, he said. That color intensified and turned to brilliant red at times.

Several times when the object became brightly lighted, the entire object was yellow-white in color and the light ran horizontally between the two outer "running" lights, Manner said. As the Manners watched, the small lights at the edge of the craft suddenly went out and in an instant the object appeared across the swamp about 500 yards away from its orginal position, deputies were told.

When flashlights used by approaching deputies touched the area, the light from the object became very bright and then went completely out, Manners said.

"We then heard the sound of a whistle — something like a rifle bullet makes when it richochets off something," Manner said. "Then this object went up in the air, passed directly over us and disappeared."

Patrolman Robert Hunawill of the Dexter Village Police Department said he saw what appeared to be the same object which baffled the Manners. Hunawill had parked his scout car at the Quigley-Brand intersection, while Dexter Police Chief Robert Taylor and Patrolman Nolan Lee entered the search area with sheriff's deputies.

Hunawill said the object suddenly appeared over his patrol car at a height of about 1,000 feet. The object had white and red lights on it which at times had a bluish tinge. It hovered over the scout car and then made continuing sweeps over the swamp where the first object had been reported down, Hunawill said.

He said he watched it for five to 10 minutes before it was joined by three other objects and the objects flew in formation in two's, with one set flying high above the second two. They all finally disappeared into the sky, Hunawill said.

Later Uniformed Sheriff's Deputies Stanley McFadden and David Fitzpatrick reported shining a searchlight from their scout car on one of the objects. The officers had taken part in the swamp search near Quigley Rd., had seen the brilliant white-red light and were patrolling on N. Territorial Rd. near Mast Rd. after the light disappeared.

Suddenly, a strange, lighted object appeared overhead and the deputies immediately turned on a spotlight on their cruiser and aimed it at the object.

"From what we could see the object was as large as a small house, kind of pushed down flat," said McFadden, a veteran of seven years' police work with the Ann Arbor Police Department and the Sheriff's Department. "It had red-green lights on it and movements which could not possibly be made by any aircraft I've ever heard of."

McFadden and Fitzpatrick said that as they watched, the object it suddenly turned and disappeared to the north.

After that report, Sheriff's Detectives Charles J.. Anderson and Harold Kerr who had been called to the Quigley-Brand area by Sheriff Douglas J. Harvey were returning to headquarters when they spotted another strange object in the sky over Island Lake Rd. They pursued the object westward until it disappeared.

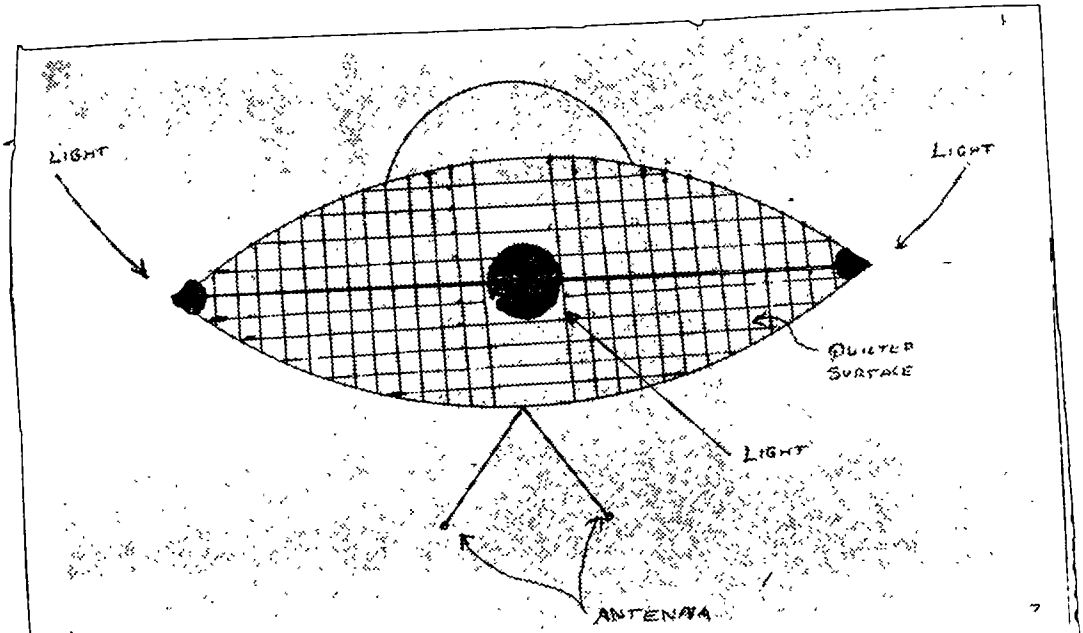
Chelsea village police also reported seeing unidentified flying objects near the village, with Patrolman Charles Sharp reporting he pursued one of the objects in his scout car but lost it.

The sheriff said his men found no evidence of a landing having been made in the Dexter Township area.

"If there actually is some type of flying object now making periodic visits, this theory of one coming down for a brief moment and the others hovering over the area for protection seems logical," the sheriff said. "Right now we're not discounting anything."

The original point of last night's sightings was at almost exactly the spot where Charles Wiedman of 5911 Madden Rd., Dexter Township, reported a flying object more than five years ago.

Wiedman and his son ran from their farm house one night when they saw a lighted object come down in an area near their home. Wiedman later told sheriff's men the object took off almost straight upward when they approached it and disappeared.



How 'It' Looked

This drawing of one of the unidentified flying objects reported over Dexter Township last night was made by Sheriff's Cpl. David B. Severance from descriptions provided by a half-dozen deputies and area residents. All witnesses generally agreed on the shape and size of the objects and on the colored lights which appeared on them.

Chicago Sun Times City Edition 3/22/66

40 Say They Saw A UFO Land, Vanish In Michigan

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (UPI) —At least 40 persons saw an eerie unidentified flying object land in a swamp near here Sunday night, police said Monday. Twelve witnesses were policemen.

Officers said four sister ships hovered in a quarter-circle above the object until it took off with a warbling sound like the echo of a ricocheting bullet.

Patrolman Robert Hunawill of Dexter, a nearby, village, said he and other residents of the area saw similar objects zipping through the skies early last Monday and Wednesday.

Frank Mannor, 47, a farmer, and his son, Ronald, 19, said they approached within 500 yards of the object. It lay in a swamp, they said, with pulsating haloed lights on each end. Mannor said it was pitted "like coral rock" and about the length of an auto. He drew a picture of it showing its shape about that of a football.

"There seemed to be a kind of fog underneath it," Mannor said.

He said his son said, "Look at that horrible thing!" and the craft vanished. Two deputies, Mannor's son-in-law and other witnesses said it zipped over the treetops. They described the same noise. Mannor and others said it was like the warbling sirens used on some police cars or a ricocheting bullet.

Said the older Manor:

Next I see one of these things I'm going to go armed with a cannon or a camera. Either that or I'll get a fifth of whisky and just sit and watch it from the porch."

Six police cars chased the formation but the objects vanished.

Policemen said they and other [illegible] except the ering over the area" in a quarter-circle above the object on the ground.

"The light went out over the center object (the one on the ground) and then it flew over the top of us," Hunawill said.

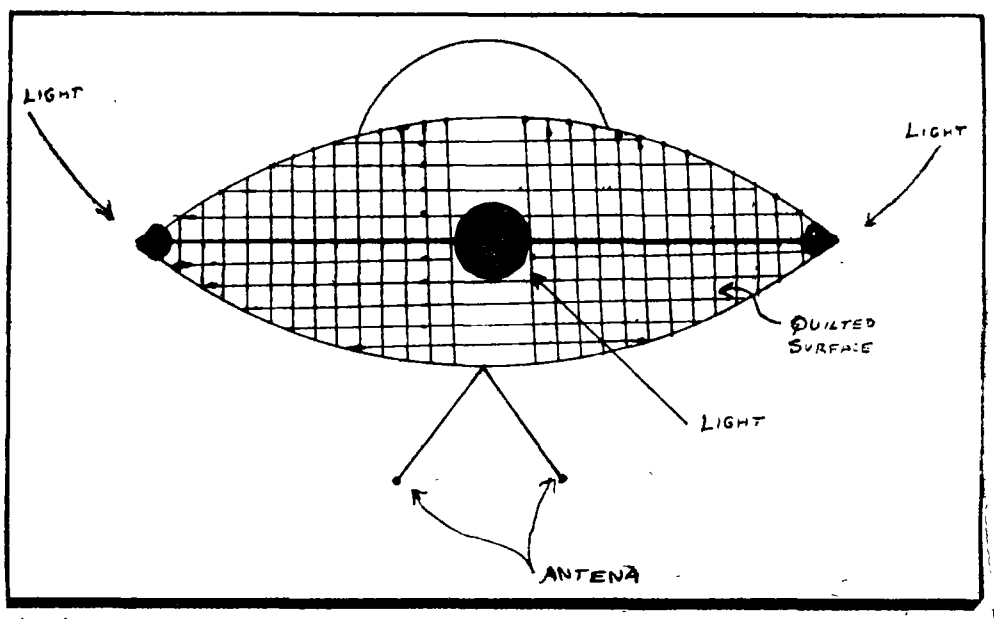
Robert Taylor, Dexter police chief, said he watched the object from Mannor's home on a knoll overlooking the 300-acre swamp 12 miles northwestof here.

"I saw a red glow down in the swamp," Taylor asid. "It was a pulsating bright red and then it grew dimmer. I put the binoculars on it and saw that there was a light on each end of the thing."

Deputy Stanley McFadden and Deputy David Fitzpatrick left their car and slogged through the swamp after watching the object rise to treetop level, then sink down and land.

A crowd of 40 to 50 people watched it on the ground, McFadden said.

Police Chief Robert Taylor (right) of Dexter, Mich., and his son Robert D. both report seeing the mysterious flying objects with "flashing red and white lights." (UPI)



This drawing made at Washtenaw County (Michigan) sheriff's headquarters illustrates unidentified flying object from the description given by several observers. (UPI)

UFOs MASS IN MICHIGAN

12 Cops, 40 Others Tell Of Seeing 5 Of Them

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (UPI) —At least 12 policemen and 40 other persons said Monday they watched a weird flying object guarded by four sister ships land in a swamp near here Sunday night.

Descriptions of the unidentified flying objects tallied closely. Patrolman Robert Hunawill said he and other residents of the area saw similar craft before dawn on Monday and Wednesday of last week.

In Washington, the Air Force said it knew nothing of the reports. The Air Force's Michigan headquarters in Battle Creek, central point for radar monitoring in the state, would not talk to newsmen.

Nothing Found

A reporter and Donald Mcrkel, 18, son-in-law of a man who claimed he saw the object and who drew a picture of it, donned hip boots and slogged through the 300-acre swamp Monday looking for traces of the craft.

They found nothing. But the two persons who reportedly were closest to the object, Frank Mannor, 47, and his son, Ronald, 19, said it did not appear to touch the ground but sat on a base of fog.

Fredrick E. Davids, state police commissioner and head of civil defense, opened an investigation.

"I used to discount these reports, too, but now I'm not so sure," Davids said.

Size Of An Auto

Mannor and his son said they ran to within 500 yards of the object as it sat in a big swamp 12 miles northwest of here.

Mannor said the craft was shaped like a football and was about the length of an auto with a "grayish yellow" hue and a pitted surface "like coral." It had a blue light on one end and a white light in the other, he said.

"They were pulsating and each of them looked like it had a little halo around it," the elder Mannor said.

Other witnesses saw only the lights but their descriptions, including those of policemen, tallied closely with that of the Mannors.

Robert Taylor, police chief of Dexter, a village near here, said he watched the object on the ground from the Mannor home.

'A Red Glow'

"I saw a red glow down in the swamp," Taylor said. "It was a pulsating bright red and then it grew dimmer. I put the binoculars on it and saw that there was a light on each end of the thing."

Mannor said the object took off with a sound like the echo of a ricocheting bullet when his son broke the silence by saying, "Look at that horrible thing!"

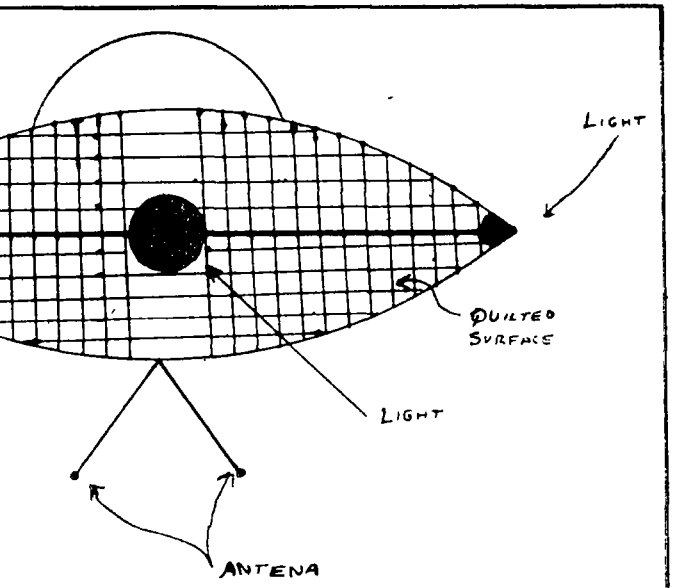
Stanley McFadden, Washtenaw County sheriff's deputy, said he and deputy David Fitzpatrick watched the object zip over their car about the time the Mannors reported its takeoff.

Objects Vanish

Hunawill said four other unindentified flying objects hovered in a quarter-circle over the object in the swamp. When the object in the swamp took off the other objects vanished with it, Hunawill said. Six police cars chased the formation but the objects vanished.

McFadden, Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Mannor said they saw the object rise from the swamp to treetop level, then sink again, apparently to land.

McFadden said at least 60 persons saw one or more of the objects in the air or on the ground.



haw County (Michigan) sheriff's headquarters illustrates unidendescription given by several observers. (UPI)

Tornado Warning In Area!

Story On Page 2

Chicago Sun Times
Final 3/22/66

Chicago Daily News 3/22/66

New Sighting Told

NU Astronomer Joins Michigan UFO Probe

BY PHILLIP J. O'CONNOR

A Northwestern University astronomer was in southern Michigan Tuesday to investigate reports of unidentified flying objects seen for two straight nights by a large number of witnesses.

Dr. J Allen Hynek, who was asked by the Air Force to make the investigation, arrived at Ann Arbor in the wake of a new sighting at Hillsdale (Mich.) College Monday night.

Eighty-seven co-eds and Hillsdale County Civil Defense director William Van Horn said they watched an eerie flying object settle in a swamp near a college dormitory.

ON SUNDAY night, a farmer and his son said that a similar object landed in their swamp near Ann Arbor.

A dozen policemen and at least 40 other persons said they saw the object.

HILLSDALE is about 65 miles southwest of Ann Arbor.

Van Horn said he joined the Hillsdale co-eds and their housemother to watch the object hover just above the swamp some 1,000 to 1,500 yards from the dormitory.

"It was definitely some kind of vehicle," he said. It changed from orange to red, perhaps with a rotating light of some kind, and had a white light on one end, Van Horn added.

"From all appearances it did not appear to be sitting on the ground as it moved back and forth across the ground," said Van Horn. He said he watched the object through binoculars for three hours.

THUNDERSTORMS lashed the area as Van Horn and the college girls watched from a second floor window. Police sent three squad cars, but officers reported the object was not visible from the road.

AT THE same time, a Michigan congressman planned to ask the Defense Department to investigate the reports.

U.S. Rep. Weston Vivian (D

Turn to Page
Column

Chicago Daily News 3/22/66

Astronomer In UFO Quiz

Continued from Page 1

Mich.) was in Washington after conferring with Sheriff Douglas J. Harvey of Washtenaw County, Michigan. Harvey said Vivian also planned to talk with the Air Force.

"I didn't believe these reports," said Harvey, "but with so many trained police personnel and reliable citizens having seen them, I must believe something is in the Washtenaw County skies."

Hynek said he wanted to question the farmer, Frank Mannor, 47, and his son, Ronald, 19, at length on Sunday night's sighting.

They were the only ones to see the glowing object near the ground. They described it as football-shaped, according to Washtenaw County Sheriff's Deputy Stanley McFadden. Other witnesses, including McFadden, said they saw the UFO in the air.

Several of the witnesses, including Patrolman Robert Hunawill, reported seeing four other similar objects that appeared to be hovering in a quarter-circle over the swamp.

Six police cars chased the formation toward the northeast after the object in the swamp took off, Hunawill said. All of the objects vanished.

However, the objects did not appear on radar at nearby Willow Run Airport, where three Federal Aviation Agency staff members were scanning radar scopes.

An Air Force spokesman added that the object was not spotted on the vast radar system of the Detroit Air Defense Command, which blankets the area.

kind of a fog underneath it," Mannor said.

He said the object took off with a sound like the echo of a ricocheting bullet when Ronald broke the silence by saying, "Look at that horrible thing."

Descriptions by other witnesses tallied closely with that of the Mannors.

Hunawill said the object he saw had red and green flashing lights and at one time hovered within 10 feet of a police patrol car. He added that when the object rose again, it was joined by a similar object.

Sheriff's police said there have been several other UFO reports in the Ann Arbor area in the last few weeks.

A STRANGE orange flying object, with antenna-like appendages, was seen early last Saturday by La Porte (Ind.) Policeman Michael Spevak and several other persons.

Two women in Pierre, S.D., reported seeing objects similar to those sighted in Michigan and Indiana.

McFADDEN AND his partner, Deputy David Fitzpatrick, trudged through Mannor's swamp for two hours in search of the mysterious object, but found no trace of it.

"We did see some lights in the swamp when we first arrived. Then later we saw this reddish object in the sky. I don't know what it was, though." McFadden said.

"I hate to speculate on what it was," said Sheriff's Detective Thomas Kelly. "All I know is that there was some kind of an object flying around up there."

HYNEK, DIRECTOR of Northwestern's Dearborn Observatory, has personally investigated at the scene more than 100 other UFO sightings in his 18 years as an Air Force consultant.

"In the great, great majority of cases, these are usual things seen under unusual circumstances," he said.

Hynek added that he had found no evidence that any of the objects were "products of extraterrestrial (another planet) intelligence."

MANNOR AND his son said they approached within 500 yards of the object as it lay in a swamp with pulsating haloed lights on each end.

The farmer said it was the length of an auto and was made of waffled metal, with blinking lights at each end and antennas. "There seemed to be

3/24/1966

CHECKING UFO REPORTS — Dr. H. Allen Hynek (left), the Air Force's top expert on unidentified flying objects, and Police Chief Robert R. Taylor of Dexter, Michigan, go over a map spotting the places where flying objects have been reported sighted. Dr. Hynek said the reports from Southern Michigan "are more consistent than most of the other sightings I've investigated." (UPI Telephoto)

In Southern Michigan

Air Force Checks UFO Reports

DEXTER, Mich. (UPI) —The top Air Force adviser on unidentified flying objects pulled on his hip boots Wednesday and waded into a swamp where a glowing object reportedly landed earlier this week.

But Dr. H. Allen Hynek refused to speculate on what he was looking for or on the meaning of what he had found thus far.

The Northwestern University astrophysicist, who has spent two days in the Southern Michigan area searching for clues to what might have caused a rash of UFO sightings, said "I'm still gathering facts."

He said, however, "these reports are more consistent than most of the other sightings I've investigated." Hynek has been involved in the Air Force "Project Blue Book" since 1948 and has investigated hundreds of UFO reports.

The swamp he investigated Wednesday was near the home of Frank Mannor who, along with his son and several police officers, saw what was described as a pulsating craft and four sister ships hover in the marsh last Sunday night. Mannor said he got a close look at the craft and it appeared to be a solid object before it zipped away.

Scattered sightings had been reported throughout the area in recent days and coeds at Hillsdale College reportedly saw a similar ufo in a marshland near their dormitory Monday night.

"It's like reports from people who witness a fire," Hynek said. "You get as many different facts as you get people who saw the fire. So far, all I've been able to come up with is reports of a variety of lights. I wish we had some photographs of this and more technical observers."

YORK, Pa. (UPI) —A Pennsylvania man has offered an explanation for the unidentified flying objects which stirred residents of two Michigan communities this week.

Alfred Dickens, a maintenance man for the York County Gas Co., said the "objects" could be gaseous formations emitted from marshes in Hillsdale and Ann Arbor.

Dickens said he witnessed similar phenomena when he was a boy on his parents' farm in McAlester, Okla.

"We used to see these things quite often," he said. "We call them 'jack-o-lanterns' and my brother and I would chase them through the swamps and thresh them about with sticks, breaking them into smaller shapes."

"Actually, it was a formation of luminous gas from decaying leaves which dropped to the ground the previous fall," Dickens said. "The rising gas would form a big ball of light and sometimes it would float through the woods on soft air currents, often changing color as it hovered about three or four feet above the ground. It would bounce around it there was a slight breeze and sometimes it would travel for a mile or more."

AFTER ON-THE-SPOT investigations, Astrophysicist H. Allen Hynek at Detroit press conference said that, in his opinion, UFO sightings in Michigan were luminous marsh gases. Asked to comment on a published photo of a "fying saucer," he said it looked like a "chicken feeder." (UPI Telephoto)

Expert's UFO Theory:

Weird Flying Objects Nothing but Swamp Gas

DETROIT (UPI) —The U.S. Air Force closed its books today on the case of two "visits" by unidentified flying objects. It's verdict: swamp gas.

But some of the people who witnessed what they thought was a landing by a glowing, extra-terrestrial space craft were not completely convinced that the experts were right.

And even while the two most spectacular Michigan sightings now wore the tag of an "official explanation," UFO sightings continued to pop up across the country, in rural areas and cities alike.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the top Air Force adviser on UFO sightings, climaxed three days of on-the-scene investigation by telling a press conference it appeared "very likely" that swamp gas was responsible for mass reports of strange glowing objects this week at Hillsdale and Dexter in southern Michigan.

Nynek, an astrophysicist from Northwestern University, said rotting vegetation can release a gas, especially at springtime, which can glow like fire and even make "popping" noises. He said both instances he investigated took place in marsh land.

"It appears very likely that the combinations of the conditions of this particular winter—an unusually mild one in this area — and particular weather conditions that night—were such as to have to produce this unusual and puzzling display," he said.

Frank Mannor and his son had described the object that hovered in a marsh at their farm near Dexter as football-shaped with a pitted surface, "like coral rock." But Hynek told reporters Mannor and his son were 500 yards away from the "visitor" and couldn't have distinguished such detail. He said distance also was a factor in the Hillsdale case, where 87 coeds, their house mother and a civil defense director watched an object in a nearby swamp for several hours.

"A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space." Hynek said.

Hynek said science still had much to learn about mysterious UFO's.

"There may be much of potential value to science in such events," he said. "We know a very great deal more about the physical world in 1966 than we did in 1866, but the people in the year 2066 may regard us as very incomplete in our scientific knowledge."

He said few of the witnesses reported seeing anything except lights. The witnesses Sunday night at Dexter, near Ann Arbor, included 12 policemen and at least 40 other persons. At Hillsdale College the following night the wierd phenomenon was watched for four hours by an assistant dean, a veteran Civil Defense director and 87 co-eds.

Two of the Hillsdale co-eds told United Press International they vaguely saw the object itself and watched it veer past their dormitory into the swampy hollow. Hynek, however, said the witnesses saw the objects, or the lights, only in the swamp.

"In both cases the location of the glow was pinpointed," he said. "It was seen in Dexter between two distant groups of people and at Hillsdale it was seen in a swampy depression between the girls and distant trees.

"It was in both cases a very localized phenomenon. I think that this is a most significant point."

Hynek is chief scientific adviser to the Air Force's "Project Blue Book" program to investigate UFO sightings. He said he has checked more than 100 of them including some he could not explain.

Hynek said at Hillside College he understood "certain young men have played pranks with flares." He said a picture showing odd lights in the sky, widely published in newspapers and on television had "no reference" to the sightings and was merely a "time exposure of the crescent moon and the planet Venus."

Hynek said no sensible pilot, from this world or another, would pick a swamp for a landing.

"A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space," he said. "It is not a place where a helicopter would hover for several hours, or where a soundless secret device would likely be tested.

UFO EXPERT—Handed this picture by a reporter, Dr. J. Allen Hynek said that it showed a "chicken feeder," not a flying saucer as had been suggested. (AP) Wirephoto

Air Force Investigator Blames Swamp Gas for 'Flying Saucers'

DETROIT (AP)—Some of Michigan's flying saucers were shot down Friday by a special Air Force investigator who said they probably were swamp gases and not unidentified flying objects (UFO).

But some of those who said they saw the objects remained unconvinced.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek discussed his findings at an overflow news conference after spending almost a week interviewing persons in the nearby Ann Arbor and Hillsdale areas where most of the sightings originated.

Hynek is a Northwestern University astrophysicist and scientific consultant for the Air Force.

Numerous UFO sightings have been reported in recent weeks, many of them by law officers.

Hynek emphasized that his investigation was confined to two specific days of sightings and did not cover all of those reported.

'No Blanket Statement'

"I am not making a blanket statement to cover the entire UFO phenomena over the last 20 years," Hynek said, adding:

"I emphasize that I cannot prove in a court of law that this is the full explanation of these sightings. It appears very likely, however, that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter—an unusually mild one in this area—and the particular weather conditions ... were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display."

(In Washington, House Republican leader Gerald Ford of Michigan called for a full congressional investigation of the UFO sightings. Ford said, "The American people are becoming alarmed by the UFO stories," adding that Air Force investigators "have come up with nothing conclusive" for years.)

Hynek said his study was confined to sightings last sunday near Dexter, a small community about 50 miles southwest of Detroit, and one Monday at Hillsdale, about 100 miles west.

Hynek said photos released to the press Thursday which showed two lights in the sky over a series of street lights were "without any question," trails made as a result of a time exposure of the rising moon and the planet Venus.

The photos, taken March 16 near Milan, Mich., about 25 miles southwest of Detroit, have no reference to the March 21 sightings at Hillsdale, Hynek said.

The first sighting was made by Frank Mannor, 47, a truck driver, who said he looked out the window of his rural home and saw flashing lights.

Reported at College

Mannor said he went outside and saw a "pyramid-shaped" object which was red, blue and white. His son, Robert, 19, wife, Leona, and daughter, Ellen, 17, also saw the object.

Mannor called police. Among others who saw the object were Dexter Police Chief Robert Taylor and Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor) Deputy Sheriff Stan McFadden.

Some 87 Hillsdale College students and William Vanhorn, Hillsdale County Civil Defense director, reported watching a white and red object from dormitory windows for nearly three hours. They said it seemed to be about 20 feet wide.

"The majority of observers in both cases have reported only lights," Hynek said. "They have not described an object."

He said both sightings were in swampy areas—"a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space"—and ascribed the UFO to spring thaws releasing trapped gases resulting from decomposing organic materials. He explained the swamp gases could have produced flames, which could be yellow, red or blue-green.

In the Hillsdale case, he added, the sighting might have been assisted by youths playing "pranks with flares." The remains of several flares were found near the college after the sightings were reported.

Hynek's conclusions were disputed by several of those who observed the sightings.

Chief Taylor said, "I don't think it was swamp gas I saw (near the Mannor home). I have no idea what it was, but I don't think it was swamp gas."

At Hillsdale, Vanhorn remarked: "I think I will disprove him (Hynek) in a few weeks. There were no flares involved in this."

HIGH FIDELITY MUSIC SHOW TO OPEN WEDNESDAY

Wednesday is the opening date of the 1966 High Fidelity Music Show at the Ambassador, not Sunday as is listed in Sunday's Home magazine. The show runs from Wednesday through next Sunday, April 3. Hours are 3 to 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; noon to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. next Sunday.

Los Angeles Times

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NOT A SAUCER: A newsman handed this photo to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Northwestern University astrophysicist, and asked him if it was a "flying saucer." Dr. Hynek described it as a "chicken feeder." He held a press conference today in Detroit to report on his findings that numerous sightings of recent unidentified flying objects in Michigan were probably the result of swamp gasses and not visitors from outer space (AP).

Sings About Saucers

Hartford Courant, 3/26/66

Gabby Gal Dims Grand Finale

By REID MacCLUGGAGE

WESTPORT — A girl who couldn't keep a secret ruined the launching of nine flying saucers from Norwalk to Redding.

"We were going to have a barrage of them," said Bill Eyler, 19, of Westport, one of five youths accused of sending up surplus weather balloons disguised as unidentified flying objects.

But someone at Staples High School told a girl about the Big Balloon Hoax and, said Eyler Friday, "that was like telling the whole school"

The Grand Finale never came off.

The police moved in and put an end to the air traffic over Westport.

Eyler and Brad Sagendorf, 18, of Westport, talked Friday for the first time about the hoax that had neighbors, the police and the Air Force wondering what was up there.

In all, they said, eight balloons were launched, but only five were sighted.

Three balloons sent up in February went unnoticed, but one carrying a railroad flare on March 9 was seen by Henry Humphrey of Compo Beach Road. Humphrey reported it as an unidentified flying object.

"We saw it in the paper on March 13," Sagendorf said, "and thought we'd keep on with it."

Eyler, Sagendorf, Bud Fanton Russell Bonnocarso and Richard Roznov, 17, all of Westport, bought flares for 35 cents each, surplus weather balloons for $1 and a tank of hydrogen at a welding supply shop in Bridgeport.

On March 16, exactly a week after the first sighting, the youths sent up the fifth in their unmanned balloon series. Two railroad flares were strapped to the balloon with wire and a fuse was rigged so the flare would ignite about two and a half minutes into the flight.

When the first flare burned out, it ignited the second. In all, the two flares kept a little red light burning for 30 minutes.

The fuse was similar to a fire cracker fuse, but thicker

See GABBY Page 4, Col. 8

UFOs Called Swamp Gas

DETROIT (UPI) — An Air Force scientist Friday dismissed mass reports of wierd flying objects as luminous swamp gas. But he admitted he couldn't prove it.

"A dismal swamp is a most unlikely place for a visit from outer space," Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a Northwestern University astrophysicist and Air Force consultant, told a crowded news conference.

As Hynek talked reports of unidentified flying objects continued to pour in to police and other authorities from Maine to the Rockies. A truck driver said an eerie object followed alongside his truck in a terror-filled 15 mile ride early Friday from Cassopolis, Mich., to Niles, Mich.

(In Washington, House Republican leader Gerald Ford of Michigan called for a full congressional investigation of unidentified flying object sightings.

(Ford said the "American people are becoming alarmed by the UFO stories," adding that Air Force investigators "have come up with nothing conclusive" for years.)

Hynek, a goateed man, spent three days investigating reports of witnesses that strange glowing objects hovered in a swamp near Ann Arbor, Mich., Sunday night and in a swampy hollow behind a college dormitory at Hillsdale, Mich., Monday night.

Gabby Gal Grounds Saucers

(Continued from Page 1)

and longer. The youths unraveled the fuse, shook out some of the powder so it would burn slower, then touched it off with a lighted cigarette and sent the balloon aloft full of hydrogen, a highly flammable gas.

Chief, Too

That night, from 10:27 to 10:33, police Sgt. Carmen DeMattio saw it and called Police Chief Samuel J. Luciano who ran out of his house in his shirtsleeves and watched it, too.

The reports in the news papers the next day were full of DeMattio's story. And Chief Luciano backed him up.

There was something up there alright.

Two days later, on March 18, the youths launched two more balloons, but something went wrong. The flares didn't ignite.

But the reported sightings continued.

People were seeing everything in the sky.

"All the people down here were made complete fools of,"

Two of the eight balloons the youths sent up were rigged so they would explode. The flares were stuck in the nozzle of the balloon so when they burned down they would come into contact with the hydrogen.

Boom!

By March 18 the whole town was talking about the red lights in the sky — the flaming red ball that would drift overhead for 30 minutes, then explode and soar off into space.

The students at Staples High School were talking, too. And this was what brought an end to the hoax.

Somehow, a girl found out who was involved and when the police showed up at the school, the balloon was out of the bag.

One of the policemen in charge of the investigation said an Air Force investigation of the balloon would have cost the government $100,000.

Getting caught, the youths said, ruined the Grand Finale.

Eyler and Sagendorf were recruiting friends to take part in the simultaneous launching of nine balloons from Norwalk to Redding, a distance of about 20 miles.

Eyler said they have 10 balloons left but have promised the police they won't send up any more.

The promise apparently led Circuit Court Prosecutor Edward Capasse Friday to say he would take no criminal action.

"I think we'll lay off for another year," said Sagendorf.

GETTYSBURG TIMES

Good Our Aim — ESTABLISHED 1902 — With Honor To Ourselves And Profit To Our P

GETTYSBURG, PA., SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 26, 1966 — Leased Wire Member of The Associ

ESSMAN MISTEAD N FRIDAY

rmistead, 65, Get- a local merchant years, died Friday 1 o'clock in the ans' Hospital where patient since Janu-

New York City, a Richard W. and otter) Armistead, employed by the Woolworth chain opening his own ttysburg, on York ame of Armistead number of years cted a new build- Lincoln Highway t its intersection neauville-Hunters- oved his establish- er the title H. G. s.

World War I, he he Navy.

NDAY

his wife, the for- Byers, and four Jean A. Walters, ett L. Armistead, rd W. Armistead, and James H. ling.

are seven grand- sters, Mrs. Helen s, Wash.; Mrs. Sun City, Ariz.; rsaro, Hopewell and John T. Hill, East Dur-

Identified And Not A Flying Object

A newsman handed this photo to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Northwestern University astrophysicist, and asked him if it was a "flying saucer." Dr. Hyneck described it as a "chicken feeder." He held a press conference Friday in Detroit to report on his findings that numerous sightings of recent unidentified flying objects in Michigan were probably the result of swamp gases and not visitors from outer space. Dr. Hynek has studied and investigated UFOs for the past 15 years. (AP Wire-photo)

Woman '(
Pilot

Miss Jean R the Vertical Lift of the Aerospa sociation, Washi be the speaker meeting of the the YWCA at 6

Miss Howard 90 women in t licensed helic speak of recen vertical lift a show a film helicopters for pital use.

NEW L
BEGINS
FOR C

The new lit president's (all Masses i Catholic Ch Catholic chu burg diocese tive Sunday.

Such chai diocesan Li will be man Sunday.

Use of th with a furt in the Ma take effect

Briefly, changes w the Mass.

MASS IN

1. High English

DOUBTS EXPLANATION—Major Donald E. Keyhoe, director, National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, tells a press conference that his organization did not believe the Air Force explanation by Dr. J. Allen Hynek that the UFOs sighted in southeastern Michigan last week were nothing but luminous swamp gas. He said NICAP has reports of sightings of UFO's as far back as World War II, and he claims the Air Force has suppressed all evidence that might alarm people. (UPI Telephoto)

Momento - Sera

3/29/66

PSICOSI COLLETTIVA NEGLI STATI UNITI

Sui dischi volanti inchiesta del Congresso

Fotografato il « fenomeno » verificatosi sulla base aerea di Wright — Subissati di telefonate i comandi militari della zona — Filmato un ordigno bianco rosso e verde

NEW YORK, 28

Il Congresso degli Stati Uniti è stato sollecitato dal rappresentante del Michigan e dal « leader » della minoranza repubblicana, Gerald Ford, ad aprire una inchiesta sui «dischi volanti » affermando che è tempo che venga chiarito il mistero poichè molti americani cominciano a preoccuparsi.

Una vera e propria psicosi degli oggetti misteriosi sta diffondendosi in molti Stati americani mentre la stampa registra nuove apparizioni nel Michigan.

Nelle prime ore di ieri, l'agente della polizia stradale dell'Ohio, Landversicht, ha visto uno strano oggetto luminoso che si avvicinava alla base aerea di Wright-Patterson dove ha sede l'ufficio speciale che studia i fenomeni aerei non identificati.

L'agente ha comunicato ai suoi superiori di avere fotografato « il fenomeno » e il comando «Project blue Book» conta di programmare oggi il film.

Il maggiore Hector Quintanilla, ufficiale del « Blue Book Project », ha dichiarato: «Non è insolito dopo gli incidenti come quelli che sono accaduti la settimana scorsa nel Michigan ricevere una serie di segnalazioni di « avvistamenti ». Il comando dell'aeroporto locale ha riferito di avere ricevuto sette chiamate telefoniche da persone le quali hanno dichiarato di avere visto un oggetto rosso, verde e bianco volteggiare nel cielo.

Per tutta la notte tra sabato e domenica i posti di polizia, le stazioni radio e le basi aeree della regione di « Bad-Axe » sono state subissate di telefonate che segnalavano l'apparizione di dischi volanti.

Il dr. Allen Heynek, astronomo e consigliere scientifico dell'aviazione e specialista nello studio di « oggetti volanti non identificati» (UFO), che ha compiuto una inchiesta in questa regione dove numerosi dischi sono apparsi negli ultimi tempi, sostiene che si tratta di fuochi fatui, ma nessuno gli presta fede.

Parecchi abitanti di Bad Axe hanno scorto per una mezz'ora, al di sopra del lago Huron, una luce brillante di colore blu che si spostava rapidamente. Tre agenti di polizia hanno scorto nel cielo un oggetto che si muoveva troppo rapidamente per essere una stella, e le loro affermazioni sono confermate da due altri agenti.

Infine migliaia di persone della contea di Hillsdale, nel nord dell'Ohio, hanno osservato due oggetti che sprigionavano luci multicolori che volavano a grande altezza e che sembravano girare su se stessi.

Dal canto suo l'aviazione dichiara che le stazioni «Radar» non hanno registrato alcun segnale non identificato nella regione.

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March 29, 1966

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Not denied
To Hartig

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Dr. Hynek:

I admire your courage to speak out in the recent Michigan incident and, although I am not a scientist, I want to tell you of a similar happening in this county several years ago.

I was teaching a one-room rural school in a remote section of the county and boarded with Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Maxey. They described the lights which they saw in "the bottoms" one night and it was so much like those in Michigan! They (there were 2 distinct lights) seemed to be a foot or two from the ground and more or less floated along. When the Maxeys first saw the lights they were quite a distance away and they thought someone was walking with lanterns. The lights moved closer to the house before they vanished. Others saw the lights at different times.

I would like to know if there is a deposit of coal in the vicinity of the Michigan lights. Since the Maxeys saw the lights which I have written about the land was sold to a coal company

(over)

and it was strip-mined so the coal wouldn't have been too deep.

The same kind of lights have been reported in another part of the county which is also "bottom land" and has underground coal mines in all the area.

I might add that the Moseleys told me that the lights had never been seen except in damp weather and <u>not</u> during freezing weather. These happenings took place before people thought of "Flying Saucers". I'm sure if they had heard of "Flying Saucers" some imaginative souls would have seen them!

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Rose C. Duke

April 4-1966

Professor J. Allen Hynek
C/o Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Professor Hynek;

I have been following the news recently with special interest in your observations regarding "U.F.O's" and your recent findings of "Swamp Gas" is quite interesting.

My wife's dad Mr Frank C. Lawhead, an eminent and beloved lawyer, passed away three years ago, at the age of 83, and for some 50 or more years was the owner of some 52 acres of what was termed marsh - at the southern tip of Cedar Lake, Indiana.

He had told my wife a number of times during her very early childhood, that if she would awaken during the night at any time, and see lights, or glow in several colors hues over the marsh, not to be frightened as this was, as he termed it phosphor being released from the marsh. I myself - have seen this present in root of vegetation pulled up from the marsh and the roots would glow in the darkness.

So you see, these things were present many many years ago - I thought you would like to hear about this -

Very truly yours
E. J. STASTNY
6836 W 15TH ST
BERWYN, ILLINOIS 60402

Form 934 Rev. 2-53