

August 8, 1947

FLYING DISCS

Information was received from the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan, that on July 10, 1947, one [redacted], an employee of Dow Chemical Company since about 1922, brought some material to their Physics laboratory. He stated that about 5:15 p.m., July 9, he and his wife, Laura, were walking in a field when they heard a puff noise about one hundred feet away. They turned and saw a ball of white about the size of a bushel basket burning approximately a foot off of the ground. The fire died out immediately and later Lane scooped up a three inch area of fused sand into a can for examination at their laboratory. b7c

Upon interview by FBI Agents, [redacted] told substantially the same story, but [redacted] was reluctant to talk and very indefinite about what happened. There were marked discrepancies in their stories. b7c

Dow authorities considered the story fantastic but have examined the material and state contents are: ordinary sand, not radio active; but giving off ammonia gas; a small silver nugget almost pure except for sand mixed in it, not radio active; melted or fused sand which gives off ammonia odor and little droplets of silver melted in sand and some grayish color material which is radio active. The level of radio activity in this material is extremely low. An employee of Dow, formerly employed by the Government at Los Alamos Project, stated the fused sand has some characteristics of Los Alamos sand but he does not believe it is the same.

[redacted] is known to have in his possession a small quantity of luminous paint, radio active, to be an amateur photographer and to have a limited knowledge of chemistry and physics. He is described as very peculiar, surly, antagonistic to plant protection officers and interested in photography and electricity. Lane is white, was born May 7, 1902, at Freesoil, Michigan. He is 5' 9", weighs 145 pounds, has dark brown hair, partly bald, served in the U.S. Army from 1918 to 1923. b7c

Neither [redacted] will admit their story is a prank. However, neither are able to point out the exact location of this incident. b7c

The Army Airforce Intelligence at Selfridge Field, Michigan, has been advised and the material has been turned over to them.

- Tolson _____
- E. A. Tamm _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Laughlin _____
- Quinn Tamm _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

RGP:mae

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 5 1947

TELETYPE

FBI DETROIT

8-5-47

5-08 PM EST

JOH

DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT

UNSUBS, [REDACTED]

INFORMATNTS, [REDACTED]

DISC, MISC. INFO RECEIVED FROM DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY, MIDLAND,

MICHIGAN, THAT ON JULY TEN LAST [REDACTED] AN EMPLOYEE

OF DOW AND SUBSIDIARY SINCE ABOUT NINETEEN TWENTY TWO, BROUGHT SOME

MATERIAL TO THEIR PHYSICS LABORATORY STATING THAT ABOUT FIVE FEETEEN

PM JULY NINE LAST HE AND WIFE, [REDACTED], WERE WALKING IN A FIELD

OWNED BY DOW AND ABOUT A HUNDRED FEET AWAY HEARD A PUFF NOISE, TURNED

AND SAW A BALL OF WHITE ABOUT THE SIZE OF A BUSHEL BAKET BURNING ABOUT

A FOOT OFF THE GROUND. THE FIRE DIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AND [REDACTED] LATE

SCOOPED UP A THREE INCH AREA OF FUSED SAND INTO A CAN AND TOOK THIS TO

THE PHYSICS LAB. BOTH COMPLAINANTS INTERVIEWED. [REDACTED] TELLING SUB-

STANTIALLY SAME STORY BUT WIFE RELUCTANT TO TALK AND VERY INDEFINITE

ON WHAT HAPPENED. THERE ARE MAKRED DISCREPANCIES IN THEIR STORY.

DOW AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED STORY FANTASTIC BUT HAVE EXAMINED MATERIAL

AND STATE CONTENTS TO BE ORDINARY SAND, NOT RADIO ACTIVE, BUT GIVING

OFF AMMONIA GAS, A SMALL SILVER NUGGET ALMGT PURE EXCEPT FOR SAND

MISED IN IT NOT RADIO ACTIVE, MELTED OR FUSED SAND WHICH GIVES OFF

AMMONIA ODOR, AND LITTLE DROPLETS OF SILVER MELTED IN SAND AND SOME

OTHER GRAYISH COLOR IN MATERIAL WHICH IS RADIO ACTIVE. LEVEL OF

RADIO ACTIVITY EXTREMELY LOW AND EMPLOYEE FORMERLY EMPLOYED BY GOVERN-

MET AT LOS ALAMOS PROJECT STATES FUSED SAND HAS SOME CHARACTERISIC

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

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OF LOS ALAMOS SAND BUT NOT BELIEVED TO BE THE SAME. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] KNOWN TO HAVE IN HIS POSSESSION SMALL QUANTITY OF LUMINOUS
PAINT, RADIO ACTIVE, TO BE AN AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER, TO HAVE LIMITED
KNOWLEDGE OF CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS FROM EMPLOYMENT AT DOW. [REDACTED]
DESCRIBED AS VERY PECULIAR, SURELY, ANTAGONISTIC TO PLANT PROTECTION
OFFICERS, INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY AND ELECTRICITY. [REDACTED] IS WHITE,
BORN MAY SEVEN, NINETEEN NAUGHT TWO, AT FREESOIL, MICHIGAN, FIVE
FEET NINE AND ONE HALF, ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE POUNDS, DARK BROWN
HAIR, PARTLY BALD, SERVED US ARMY NINETEEN EIGHTEEN TO NINETEEN
TWENTY THREE, [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] NEITHER PARTY
ADMITS STORY IS A PRANK, BUT [REDACTED] HAS MENTIONED FLYING DISCS AND ROCKETS.
ON INTERVIEW [REDACTED] WAS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS MATTER AND NEITHER HE NOR
HIS WIFE ARE ABLE TO LOCATE THE EXACT LOCATION WHERE MATERIAL WAS
FOUND. ARMY AIR FORCES INTELLIGENCE AT SELFRIDGE FIELD, MICHIGAN,
HAVE BEEN ADVISED. SUTEL IF BUREAU DESIRES MATERIAL FORWARDED TO FBI
LABORATORY FOR EXAMINATION.

O-CONNOR

CORRECTION LINE ONE WORD FOUR SHOULD RAXXX READ - LANE

END

6-16 PM OK FBI WASH DC WJR Called Laboratory

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By [Signature]
CW

cc. Mr Hart