PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 18 July 1956	2. LOCATION Arkansas City, Kansas	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☒ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local GMT 19/0010Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Civilian	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 40 minutes still in sight	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE drifting SE

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

One object like a star appearing like a large light bulb, orange with green points, estimated to be at an altitude of 5 to 6000 feet. First seen at an azimuth of 80 dgrs.

11. COMMENTS

Winds aloft in the area of the sighting at the time of the sighting corresponded exactly to the course of the object. Sighting was probably generated by a balloon from Dodge City, Kansas or possibly a balloon from Wichita.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

1 NAME OR TITLE	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION HE4	DATE		COORDINATION
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE

REMARKS

1- This is of Natural interest.
2- Called 4602nd Long distance - there holding up what at reports in - will move in mediately for meeting
3 - Will inform us immediately
4 - Put in with the Caraffa Arkansas Case

Lt Smyser

FROM NAME OR TITLE	DATE 25 Jan
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION HX3	TELEPHONE

DD FORM 1 FEB 50 95 Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

16—43487-4 GPO ☆

CM96 LIGHTS

ARKANSAS CITY, KAS., JULY 19-(INS)-SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED "TEAR SHAPED" OBJECTS THAT CAST WEIRD LIGHTS IN THE SKY CAUSED A NEW MYSTERY WHEN THEY WERE REPORTED SEEN FLOATING OVER SEVERAL KANSAS COMMUNITIES EARLY TODAY.

TWO OF THE STRANGE OBJECTS, WITH LIGHTED, DANGLING TENTACLES, WERE VIEWD FOR FIVE HOURS THIS MORNING OVER ARKANSAS CITY BY [redacted], HIS WIFE, [redacted], MR. AND MRS. [redacted] WHO HAD BEEN FISHING AND THREE POLICEMEN.

[redacted] SAID THE MYSTERIOUS "BULBS" CAST A METALIC BLUE OR BLUISH GREEN LIGHT AND MOVED SLOWLY, FREQUENTLY CHANGING POSITIONS.

WITNESSES IN WICHITA, HUTCHINSON, ELDORADO AND WELLINGTON, KAS., ALSO REPORTED SEEING WHAT APPEARED TO BE A HUGE LIGHT BULB DANCING IN THE SKY.

A STATE PATROLMAN FIRST REPORTED SEEING THE OBJECTS MOVING EAST AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED NEAR HUTCHINSON.

LATER, MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE AT WICHITA SENT OUT A B-29 BOMBER AND SMOKY HILL AIR FORCE BASE DISPATCHED TWO JET PLANES TO INVESTIGATE.

A MYSTERIOUS OBJECT ALSO WAS PICKED UP ON THE RADAR SCREEN AT HUTCHINSON.

A B-47 PILOT FROM FORBES AIR FORCE BASE IN TOPEKA SAID HE SAW FLICKERING "WASTE GAS TORCHES IN AN OIL FIELD" WHICH SOME THOUGHT MIGHT HAVE CAUSED REFLECTIONS. BUT [redacted] SAID THAT "WHAT I SAW WAS NO IMAGINATION."

MC657PGD

'Great Balls of Fire' Stir Saucer Rumors

ARKANSAS CITY, Ark.—Flying saucers made a brief bid for a spot in the news this week. Officials here got word from the Hutchinson, Kans. Naval Air Station that they were using radar to track an artificial light traveling at a high rate of speed.

The Air Force got into the picture, sent a B-47 from Forbes AFB to investigate. They attributed the lights to waste gas torches in a nearby oilfield.

Apparently the case is closed, but some area residents are still mystified by the strange balls of fire that came out of nowhere and were seen by many.

Case 168, Kansas, July 19, 1956—Said the Denver *Post* in part: " . . . the Kansas highway patrol reported radar at the Hutchinson, Kansas naval air station had picked up 'a ball of fire traveling east at a high speed.' A B-47 was sent into the air by Forbes AFB at Topeka to investigate the reports, centering around Arkansas City, Wellington and El Dorado, Kansas. The pilot said he found only 'waste gas torches in an oil field.' Said the patrol, 'The objects stayed in the sky long after daylight; one disappeared around 5:15 a.m. and the other a few minutes later.' Further east near Emporia, a Santa Fe railroad tower operator reported seeing what appeared to be an artificial light in the sky around 3 a.m. An Emporia policemen said he observed the same light for about 20 minutes. It appeared to 'come and go' like it was turning off and on. [redacted] said 'a *brilliantly lighted tear-shaped object with prongs or streams of light spraying downward* was sighted shortly after midnight. A second 'flying object' was sighted around 1 a.m.,' said [redacted]. Accompanied by trooper [redacted] and police from Arkansas City, [redacted] observed the 'flying objects' from various locations. He said they 'did not appear to move rapidly but did move vertically and horizontally over a wide area of the sky. The prongs or streams of bright light' [redacted] said, 'also were observed first as directed towards earth and then extending from the sides of the object.' He described the head of the object as being green in color or 'bluish green.' " [2]

July 19,1956-Kansas- Several tear shaped objects that cast weird lights in the sky were reported over many Kansas towns.

The mysterious objects cast metalic blue or blueish green lights and moved slowly, often changing positions.

McConnel Air Force Base at Witchita sent a B-29 bomber, and Smoky Hill Air Force Base sent 2 two jet planes to investigate.

A UFO was also picked up on radar at Hutchinson.

UFO News Report

By THOMAS M. COMELLA

"SAUCERS" SHATTERED LULL AS MARS RACED TOWARD EARTH: UFO investigators everywhere have predicted that 1956 would be the biggest year yet, Saucer-wise! Until the end of July all was quiet on the UFO-front. It looked like 1956 might pass without so much as one startling sighting. Let us remember, however, that "Flying Saucers," as such, just don't get a nod from the publicity boys anymore. If they are reported, they are called "moving lights," "meteor-like," "glowing balls," etc. All mention of "Saucers" and UFOs is carefully avoided.

Presently, the interplanetary discs are darting to and fro in the skies of other countries, and to some extent in America. The deluge of reports that started in late August this year proved the validity of the old theory that UFOs are widely seen when Mars approaches the Earth. Since this is our last issue, it is quite appropriate that we announce that soon . . . very soon . . . there will be a UFO display over the great cities of Earth that will once and for all prove the existence of space visitors! Therefore, the "official" announcement will not come from Earth authorities, but will be brought about by definite action on the part of the Space Confederation itself! 1956 is not over yet! Remember the other great "Saucer" year . . . 1952 . . . nearly all the sightings and contacts were made in the last half of that memorable year. Adamski, Bethurum, Angelucci, Van Tassel, Williamson, etc., all had their experiences then.

AIR FORCE HUNTS MYSTERY "SAUCERS": Topeka, Kansas, July 19th. Reports of a large flaming UFO over south central Kansas today sent reconnaissance planes from Forbes Air Force Base scurrying into the sky on orders from the Air Flight Service at Lowery Air Force Base at Denver, Colo. Two pilots from the 55th and 90th reconnaissance wings reported sighting the object. One of them said it was in the air and the other said it was on the ground. The Naval Air Station at Hutchinson reported to Forbes that its radar had picked up "a moving unidentified object." The object, reportedly shaped like a tear drop and like a big light, was first officially reported by the State Highway Patrol on duty at Arkansas City. Air Force planes took off to search for the mystery object. Other silvery discs and bluish green objects were seen maneuvering over the area. Nothing . . . absolutely nothing is "Top Secret" to the UFOs! They can monitor any conversation anywhere at any time. They often send down remote controlled devices to make surveys over secret government installations!

Information for Mr. Edward J. Ruppelt

AFCIN-3, ATTN: Major Tacker 26 May 1959

CSIIS-4E 1

AFCIN/Maj R. J. Friend/jb/69216/Bldg 263

1. The objects sighted over Arkansas City, Kansas on the night of 10 July 1956 were reported to have been investigated by a B-47. The crew reported the objects were waste gas torches in a nearby oil field.

2. The objects sighted over Camarillo, California, Oxnard AFB area, on the night of 22 and early morning 23 March 1957, were thoroughly investigated. Source pointed out the lights to several investigators from the state highway patrol, and was informed by them that the lights were stars with their normal movement and rise in the eastern sky. There was also a barn with four red lights on it northeast of observers location. This sighting was attributed to the stars, the four red lights, and light reflecting off of green insulators on a nearby telephone pole.

for
GORDON C. MORTMAN
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E

Robert J. Friend Major
AFCIN-4E 27 May 59
Maj. T. Gregory Capt for
Vincent C. Rothmeier Col. USAF
27 May 59

Maybe it was because a fellow newspaper editor was involved, along with the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Navy and the Air Force. Or, maybe it was simply because it was a good UFO sighting.

About the time Miss Iowa was being judged Miss USA in the 1956 Miss Universe Pegeant at Long Beach, the city editor of Arkansas City Daily Traveler, and a trooper of the Kansas State Highway Patrol were sitting in a patrol cruiser in Arkansas City. It was a hot and muggy night. Occasionally the radio in the cruiser would come to life. An accident near Salina. A drunk driving south from Topeka. Another accident near Wichita. But generally South Central Kansas was dead. The newspaper editor was about ready to go home—it was 10 o'clock—when the small talk he and the trooper had been making was brought to an abrupt finale by three high pitched beeps from the cruiser's radio. An important "all cars bulletin" was coming. Twenty five years ag

a newspaperman had trained the editor to always be on the alert for a story so he reached down and turned up the volume. Within seconds he had his story.

"The Hutchinson Naval Air Station is picking up an unidentified target on their radar," the voice of the dispatcher said, with as much of an excited tone as a police dispatcher can have. "Take a look."

Then the dispatcher went on to say that the target was moving in a semi-circular area that reached out from 50 to 75 miles east of Hutchinson. A B-47 from McConnell AFB at Witchita was in the area, searching. The last fix on the object showed it to be near Emporia, in Marion County.

The two men in the patrol cruiser looked at each other for a second or two. Like all newspaper editors, this man had had his belly full of flying saucer reports—but this was a little different.

"Let's go out and look," he said, fully doubting that they would see anything.

They drove to a hill in the north part of the city where they could get a good view of the sky and parked. In a few minutes an Arkansas City police car joined them.

It was a clear night except for a few wispy clouds scattered across the north sky.

They waited, they looked and they saw.

Shortly before midnight, off to the north, appeared "a brilliantly lighted, teardrop shaped, blob of light." "Prongs, or streams of bright light, sprayed downward from the blob toward the earth." It was big, about the size of a 200 watt light bulb.

As the group of men silently watched, the weird light continued to drift and for many minutes it moved vertically and horizontally over a wide area of the sky. Then it faded away.

As one of the men later told me, "I was glad to see it go; I was pooped."

The next morning literally hundreds of people spent hours conjecturing and describing. After all these years of talk they'd actually seen one. Several photos, showing the big blob of light, were shown around, and two fishermen readily admitted they'd packed up their poles and tackle boxes and headed home when they saw it.

Editor Coyne summed up the feeling of hundreds of Kansans when he said: "I have tended to discount the stories about flying objects, but, brother, I am now a believer."

What was it? First of all it was confusion. Early the next morning Air Force investigators flooded the area asking the questions: "What size was it in comparison to a key or a dime?" "Would it compare in size to a light bulb?" "Was there any noise?"

As soon as they left, the military tersely announced that no radar had picked up any target and no B-47's had been sent out. Then they pulled the plugs on the incoming phone lines. The confusion mounted when newsmen tapped their private sources and learned that a B-47 had been sent into the area.

A few days later the Air Force told the Kansans what they'd seen: The reflection from burning waste gas torches in a local oil field.

This was greeted with the Kansan version of the Bronx Cheer.