

1965, OCTOBER 23

Minn

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

1536 Connecticut Avenue N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

North 7-9434

Rec'd FEB 1 4 1966 - 124

REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT(S)

This form includes questions asked by the United States Air Force and by other Armed Forces' investigating agencies, and additional questions to which answers are needed for full evaluation by NICAP.

After all the information has been fully studied, the conclusion of our Evaluation Panel will be published by NICAP in its regularly issued magazine or in another publication. Please try to answer as many questions as possible. Should you need additional room, please use another sheet of paper. Please print or typewrite. Your assistance is of great value and is genuinely appreciated. Thank you.

1. Name ^(Mrs. Hilmer) LENORA E. LINDBERG. Place of Employment HOUSEWIFE
Address BATTLE LAKE, MINNESOTA. Occupation HOME MAKING.
RR#2 Education EIGHT GRADE.
Telephone 826-2097 - UNDERWOOD, MINN. Special Training
Military Service
2. Date of Observation OCT. 23 - 1965 Time 9:30 AM (PM) Time Zone CENTRAL.
3. Locality of Observation SOUTHERN HORIZON
4. How long did you see the object? Hours 1 1/2 Minutes Seconds
5. Please describe weather conditions and the type of sky; i.e., bright daylight, nighttime, dusk, etc.
CLEAR CALM
6. Position of the Sun or Moon in relation to the object and to you.
7. If seen at night, twilight, or dawn, were the stars or moon visible? yes
8. Were there more than one object? NO If so, please tell how many, and draw a sketch of what you saw, indicating direction of movement, if any.
9. Please describe the object(s) in detail. For instance, did it (they) appear solid, or only as a source of light; was it revolving, etc? Please use additional sheets of paper, if necessary.
10. Was the object(s) brighter than the background of the sky? yes
11. If so, compare the brightness with the Sun, Moon, headlights, etc.
COLOR OF MOON BUT could look AT IT WITHOUT DARK GLASSES.
12. Did the object(s) — (Please elaborate, if you can give details.)
a. Appear to stand still at any time? NO
b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? NO IT WAS MOVING
c. Break up into parts or explode? NO
d. Give off smoke? NO APPEARED IN SOUTH WENT W.N.W.
e. Leave any visible trail? NO SHAPED
f. Drop anything? NO
g. Change brightness? NO IT SORT OF CHANGED BRIGHTNESS
h. Change shape? NO
i. Change color? NO
13. Did the object(s) at any time pass in front of, or behind of, anything? If so, please elaborate giving distance, size, etc, if possible.
behind trees
14. Was there any wind? If so, please give direction and speed.
15. Did you observe the object(s) through an optical instrument or other aid, windshield, windowpane, storm window, screening, etc?
What? FIRST THROUGH WINDOW PANE. THEN FROM OUTSIDE.
16. Did the object(s) have any sound? yes What kind? Hissing How loud? Medium Low
17. Please tell if the object(s) was (were) —
a. Fuzzy or blurred.
b. Like a bright star.
c. Sharply outlined. All glow.

18. Was the object —

- a. Self-luminous? *yes*
- b. Dull finish?
- c. Reflecting?
- d. Transparent?

19. Did the object(s) rise or fall while in motion?

20. Tell the apparent size of the object(s) when compared with the following held at arm's length:

- | | | |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| a. Pinhead | d. Nickel | g. Orange |
| b. Pea | e. Half dollar | h. Grapefruit |
| c. Dime | f. Silver dollar | i. <u>Larger</u> |

Or, if easier, give apparent size in inches on a ruler held at arm's length.

25 feet LONG.

21. How did you happen to notice the object(s)? *glanced out window while sitting in leaving room*

22. Where were you and what were you doing at the time? *WATCHING T.V.*

23. How did the object(s) disappear from view? *WENT OVER DEER LAKE AND DISAPPEARED BEFORE IT COMPLETED CHILDREN WERE AFRAID SO WE WENT INSIDE*

24. Compare the speed of the object(s) with a piston or jet aircraft at the same apparent altitude. *MUCH SLOWER AND A LOWER NOISE*

25. Were there any conventional aircraft in the location at the time or immediately afterwards? If so, please elaborate. *NO*

26. Please estimate the distance of the object(s). *APPEARED ABOUT 30 FT ABOVE TREES.*

27. What was the elevation of the object(s) in the sky? Please mark on this hemisphere sketch: *JUST ABOUT 30 FT ABOVE TREE TOPS*



28. Names and addresses of other witnesses, if any. *MY HUSBAND AND 2 CHILDREN*

29. Please draw a map of the locality of the observation showing North; your position; the direction from which the object(s) appeared and disappeared from view; the direction of its course over the area; roads, towns, villages, railroads, and other landmarks within a mile.

no important roads or railroads in locality

30. Is there an airport, military, governmental, or research installation in the area? *NO*

31. Have you seen other objects of an unidentified nature? If so, please describe these observations, using a separate sheet of paper. *NO*

32. Please enclose photographs, motion pictures, news clippings, notes of radio or television programs (include time, station and date, if possible) regarding this or similar observations, or any other background material. We will return the material to you.

33. Were you interrogated by Air Force investigators? By any other federal, state, county, or local officials? If so, please state the name and rank or title of the agent, his office, and details as to where and when the questioning took place. *NO*

Were you asked or told not to reveal or discuss the incident? If so, were any reasons or official orders mentioned? Please elaborate carefully. *NO*

34. We should like permission to quote your name in connection with this report. This action will encourage other responsible citizens to report similar observations to NICAP. However, if you prefer, we will keep your name confidential. Please note your choice by checking the proper statement below. In any case, please fill in all parts of the form, for our own confidential files. Thank you for your cooperation.

You may use my name.

Please keep my name confidential.

35. Date of filling out this report: *Feb. 8 - 1966.*

Signature: *Lena E. Lundberg (Lilmer)*

1965, OCTOBER 24

MINN

RECEIVED OCT 26 1965

Ree Heights, S. Dak.
Oct. 25, 1965

Nat'l Investigating Committee Aerial Phenomenon
1536 Connecticut Ave. N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Att: Mrs. June Larson, Chairman

Dear Mrs. Larson:

While listening to our favorite morning news broadcast this morning over station WNAX, Yankton, S. Dak., my husband and I heard another interesting account of a sighting of an unidentified flying object near Long Prairie, Minn. last night.

Jim Townsend, 23, a radio sports announcer, was reported to be driving from Little Falls, Minn., to Long Prairie, Minn., when upon rounding a curve in a hilly, wooded area of the highway, his motor suddenly stopped, although his headlights remained on.

He got out to investigate, then noticed a rocket-shaped vehicle on the highway in front of him, which he described as being about six feet in diameter, and about 30 feet high. He said three small "beings" about six inches tall came around into view, stayed there a short time, then went to the bottom of the rocket and got in, then the ship, making a terrific noise, took off.

After the ship was a ways off the ground, his motor started running again, he claimed without his having to use the starter. He then went on into town, and brought the sheriff out to investigate the area, where they found a few oil spots, which didn't seem ordinary, but nothing else.

We heard a tape-recorded account of this around noon today, over the same radio station. He said at that time that he had received several calls from people in the area who had also seen this, also from a man and his wife who had had a similar experience about a month before, but kept quiet, fearing ridicule.

I thought you might like to look into this, though I'm sure you have people in that area who would inform you of this sighting. Our newspapers printed virtually nothing on the numerous sightings in the WNAX area around August 3, where again we heard quite a bit about them over the radio. There was mention in our local daily, the Huron Daily Plainsman, about Minnesota sightings at that time, but never a line about the southeast state sightings, reported by radio to have been seen by hundreds.

I've always been tremendously interested in UFO's since reading Donald Keyhoe's book, and also one of Ruppelt's. The suppression of news reports on these really irks me.

I think Jim Townsend's address was given as Long Prairie.

Yours truly

Jane McGee
Mrs. Wayne McGee

UFO Is Sighted
DAILY JOURNAL
By 2 Hunters *10/25/65*

ALEXANDER CITY, Ala.—
(UPI)—A pair of dove hunters said yesterday they saw a tubular silver-colored object move silently across the sky Saturday. *10/23*

Jack Osborn and his son, Ozzie, said the unidentified flying object appeared to be moving as fast, or faster, than a jet aircraft.

"We both agreed it was a tubular-shaped object slightly larger at the bottom than at the top and had a rocking motion in its flight, moving left to right, up and down," the elder Osborne said.

"It seemed to have an antenna projecting downward from the base of the craft. It was so high that clouds would temporarily block our view," the son said.

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NAME _____

SUBJECT _____

DATE _____

UFO SEEN IN AREA

4 Mon., Oct. 25, 1965
ST. CLOUD DAILY TIMES

Not Real? — — Who's Going to Ask?

Three Sauk Rapids persons reported seeing an unidentified flying object (UFO) about 9:15 p.m. Saturday as they were returning home from Milaca. They were traveling southwest near the Popple Creek Store when they sighted the UFO.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bystrom, 200 Second avenue north, Sauk Rapids, passengers in a car driven by her father, John Lepinski, 609 Second avenue north, all reported seeing the object.

"It appeared as a bright light, shaded from orange to white in color," Bystrom said today. "We couldn't distinguish a shape, just a bright light."

"At first we thought it was the landing lights on an airplane, but it was too low for an airplane. As we watched it

sometimes the trees got in the way," Bystrom said, explaining how low the UFO was.

"It was moving from northeast to southwest and we watched it for about five minutes before it just disappeared," Bystrom said.

A Gilman area resident and his wife said they observed an object in the sky for several minutes Saturday night while they were going towards Milaca about 10 p.m.

"I wasn't concerned," he said, because there are so many of these satellites crossing the sky, but these lights were unusual because of the colors, which were mostly red and gold. They resembled revolving lights."

The reports here followed a report from a Long Prairie, Minn., radio announcer who reported he saw an unidentified flying object and three little creatures on a highway near there Saturday night as he was on his way to work.

Jim Townsend, 19, said he saw a cylindrical object about six feet in diameter, 30 feet tall, shaped like a rocket ship Saturday night. He said it was in the center of Minnesota 27 as

he rounded a curve.

The power in his car suddenly failed, Townsend said, and he braked to a stop.

Three small beings with tripod legs appeared, he said, and then disappeared under the cylinder. Shortly thereafter, the rocket-shaped machine rose slowly in the air and finally

disappeared from view.

Power in Townsend's car returned, he said, and he drove to work.

Sunday he summoned the Todd County sheriff to the scene. "We saw nothing," said a spokesman for the sheriff. "But I feel like he's telling the truth."

FINAL STRIKE BALLOT SET

Members of District Lodge 165, International Association of Machinists, will take a final strike vote by secret ballot today at 7:30 p.m. at the city Civic Center.

Voting will be by about 400 current employees at Franklin Appliance Division and 150 or more laid off in recent months. The balloting will follow a detailed

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DATE _____

Fergus Falls (Minn.) Daily Journal
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1965

12-10
**Flying Object Reported
Seen Near Here**

To the Editor: *2112*

On Saturday, Oct. 23, at 9:30 p.m. at our farm home near Deer Lake my family and I sighted a strange flying object. It was very long and it seemed to be all fire. It was red and orange.

It appeared on the southern horizon and it was not very high. It traveled very fast in a west-northwest direction and had a hissing sound. It disappeared to the north over Deer Lake. It was so low that it went behind the trees and we could not see it anymore.

But we watched it at least 1½ minutes after we first saw it. It was not an airplane of any kind.

Mrs. Hilmer Lindberg
Rt. 2, Battle Lake

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NAME _____
SUBJECT _____
DATE _____

WESTERN
PRESS CLIPPING
EXCHANGE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN

2112
Lake City (Minn.) Graphic
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1965

UFO Passes Over Area
Space Craft Sighted Here

So the Gemini 6 space flight radio station KEYL contacted was scratched Monday at Cape Kennedy, Fla. the local sheriff after he allegedly encountered what he described as a "rocket-like object"

But another space ship, as yet unidentified, apparently made it okay over Minnesota, passing over Lake City en route to well, you name it. which had landed in the road ahead of his car.

The strange craft was sighted about 6 p.m., Saturday by Mrs. Donna Reinhardt at her rural home about 11 miles from Lake City. She reports that she had just put her two small youngsters to bed when the incident occurred. She walked through the darkened house to the kitchen where she glanced out the window at the starry sky.

In addition to stars, she says she saw an egg-shaped object in the sky. Lights flashed on and off through little square windows. She ran into the bedroom for another look as the craft disappeared in the general direction of Red Wing, and saw what appeared to be a red tail possibly enveloped in flames, at the rear of the ship.

Danny Thoe, who is employed at Gould Engine Parts Division plant here, where Mr. Reinhardt has worked for the past four years, called at the Reinhardt home later and declared that he, too, had seen the Unidentified Flying Object while driving between Lake City and Wabasha.

About 7:15 the same evening a UFO was reported near Long Prairie, Minn. An announcer for

Mr. and Mrs. Reinhardt, who live in the residence on the Gerald Burfeind farm in LeVidere Twp., moved there from Durand, Wis. this summer.

27

Pioneer Press
St Paul Minn

NOV 21 1965

on 10/23

THE SUNDAY SPECTATOR

Saucer Sighter Hasn't Seen Any More

By Bill Farmer
Staff Writer

THE FLYING saucer seer of Long Prairie says we'll have to take his word for it.

I talked with him the other day about the reaction to his encounter with a space ship and three creatures Oct. 23.

He says he's received about 300 letters and "25 dozen" phone calls, with "about 95 per cent on my side." He had reported seeing a saucer and three tin can-like objects on tripods on a deserted road near there.

Asked if he's seen anything else since then, Townsend replied, "No, once is enough . . . I've had no sightings . . ."

Would the KEYL radio announcer be willing to take a lie detector test?

"No, I wouldn't. If they don't believe me now, they won't no matter what . . . Why waste my time on it? I know I'd pass it, but I consider that invading my privacy."

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NAME _____

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DATE _____

Driver Reports Mystery Object, Small 'Beings'

Article part 10/24/65 - Fargo Forum

LONG PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) —A lot of people report seeing flying objects. James Townsend, an announcer for radio station KEYL here, says he almost drove into one about 7:15 Saturday night.

Townsend told the Associated Press he was driving from Little Falls on Minn. 27 when this happened about four miles east of Long Prairie:

He rounded a curve and saw a brightly lighted rocket-shaped object, perhaps 10 feet in diameter and 30 to 40 feet high, in the roadway. As soon as he saw it, his lights, radio and engine shut off, but he had to brake to stop 20 feet from it.

He got out and saw three "beings" walking around. "They were round and cylindrical, about three inches in diameter and about five or six inches long," he said. "They had three tripod type legs with two sort of

matching stick-like arms. I didn't take any time to notice whether they were jointed or not. I was too busy trying to keep from going crazy.

"They came around and stood in front of their ship, facing me. Then they turned and went under it."

Then, he said, the object rose into the sky with a hum "loud enough to hurt my eardrums." when it was perhaps a quarter mile up, he said, its lights went off and his auto engine, radio and lights came on again.

* * *

Todd County Sheriff Jim Bain said he and others could find no marks on the road, but he saw a light in the sky that kept going off and on.

Townsend's reaction: "It was enough to scare the daylight's out of anybody."

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OCT. 23

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Fergus Journal Dec. 17, '65
 (Minn)

**The
 Plumb
 Line**

By JERRY PLUMB

Frank Helmer Lindberg

One Tuesday night a couple of weeks ago seems to have been a good time for flying objects, according to a story in the Herman Tribune.

Here's another flying object story, reported by Mrs. Helmer Lindberg:

"Saturday evening, Oct. 23 at 9:30 p.m. at our farm home near Deer Lake my family and I sighted a strange flying object.

"It was long, red and orange, and seemed to be on fire. It appeared on the southern horizon, not very high, just above the trees. It traveled very fast in a west-northwest direction and had a hissing sound.

"It disappeared over Deer Lake and seemed to get lower as it went to the north. We watched it for about a minute and a half. It was not an airplane of any kind. With the right camera a picture of it could have been taken."

So there does seem to be some unexplained activity going on up there. A few weeks ago there were numerous reports of unidentified flying objects in the Hoffman area, and there have been a few from Fergus Falls.

I'd appreciate it if anyone who sees an unidentified flying object would report it to me so that I can pass the account along in this column. Seems to me there must be something to all these reports . . .

Speaking of such things, one of the boys in the back shop says he didn't believe in flying saucers . . . until he bumped into one of the waitresses over at the Normandy Cafe the other day.

EACH HAD THREE LEGS, WERE ABOUT SIZE OF WATER GLASS--

Long Prairie Man Tells Kiwanians Of Seeing 'Little Figures' On Road

By LES SELLNOW

Members of the Brainerd Kiwanis club listened soberly yesterday as a Long Prairie radio disc jockey told them how he had seen a rocket ship and some little figures on Highway 27 about four miles east of Long Prairie last October.

The speaker was Jim Townsend and he was one of four panelists who presented the second in a series of three programs on unidentified flying objects.

The other panel members were Leonard Loken and his son, Jim, who were in the same area as Townsend on the same night and who saw a bright light moving across the area at a low

level, and Kent Johnson, Jr., Brainerd, who saw a similar light near Brainerd at about the same time.

Townsend said the incident happened on the pitch black night of Oct. 23, 1965. He said he was traveling from Little Falls to Long Prairie on the narrow, winding Highway 27 when he rounded a curve and saw what appeared to be a rocket standing upright in the middle of the road.

At the same time, Townsend said, his car stopped running, the headlights went off and the radio stopped playing. He said the car coasted to within about 20 feet of the rocket before he braked it to a stop.

Townsend said that he got out of the car to examine the ship—which he estimated to be 40 feet high and about 10 feet in diameter. Just as he got to the front of his car, he went on, three little figures appeared from behind the ship.

They were about the size of a water glass he said, and had three legs. However, he said, he could see no features such as eyes or ears.

Townsend said that at this point he lost all interest in going closer to the ship and just stood and looked. He said the three figures then walked beneath the ship—which was resting on three fins—and moments later it took off.

He said that a bright light came on beneath the ship and there was a loud hum and then it lifted off the ground. After rising about a half mile into the air, he said, the light suddenly went out and there was absolute silence.

Then, Townsend said, he realized that his car motor was running again, the headlights were on and the radio was again playing.

Townsend said that he reported the incident to the Todd County sheriff and the two of them and another officer went back out to the spot.

MAN Continued on Page 11

MAN

Continued from page 1

He said they found three oil-like strips on the tarvia unlike anything else on the road.

Townsend said that he has been suffering some ridicule and abuse in Long Prairie since telling his story, but that more and more persons are believing him.

He said he does not drink and that he saw the ship and the little figures shortly after 7 p.m.

Lending credence to the story was Leonard Loken who lives in the same general area. Loken said that he and his son, Jim, were out hunting raccoons with dogs on the same night.

When the dogs hit the trail of a raccoon, Loken said, he told his son to go back to the road and move the pick-up to another spot while he followed the dogs through the cornfield.

Suddenly, he said, there was a bright light shining on him and he thought it was a game warden with a spotlight on the nearby road. Then, he said, he realized that the light was above him. He said it brightly illuminated an area the size of a football field and seemed to be at treetop level.

Later when asked how bright the light was, Loken replied that it was so bright you could see a grasshopper hopping through the grass.

His son, Jim, said that he saw the same light from the road.

Kent Johnson, Jr., said that at about the same time he saw a similar light over a field near Brainerd.

The Rev. B. C. Siewert, Kiwanis member, volunteered that a fellow pastor in Hewitt was traveling to Long Prairie on Highway 71 the same night and saw a bright light moving across the sky. He said the pastor turned off on country roads and followed beneath it until he came to a dead end.

Both, Townsend and the elder Loken said they have been suffering from physical ailments such as they had never had before seeing the object. Townsend said that he has been suffering dizzy spells and Loken said that after returning home from work and eating supper, he often runs a high fever until morning.

Dan Mattson, Kiwanis member who has been arranging the programs, said that he had talked to a government official who had checked the area with a geiger counter where Townsend reported seeing the rocket ship.

He said the official explained that there had been a heavy rain between the reported sighting and the check. The official said, according to Mattson, that there was no sign of radioactivity on the spot where Townsend reported seeing the ship, but that there was much heavier than normal radioactivity below the hill.

Brainerd Daily Dispatch
Minnesota
Tues., Feb. 1, 1966

The tall rocket in the road looked as if it might be a push over
—but not the tin-can-like creatures who rushed up to defend it.

ROBOTS or creatures shaped like tin cans with arms and tripod legs, appearing to be “flesh or tissue, not metal,” is the latest development in the incredible UFO mystery.

James Townsend, 19-year-old radio announcer at KEYL, Long Prairie, Minn. (120 miles northwest of Minneapolis) encountered three of these weird beings near a strange, silver rocket ship at 7:15 P.M., October 23, 1965.

On that evening, Mr. Townsend was driving west on Highway 27 about four miles east of Long Prairie. As he rounded a curve, he had to slam on his brakes to avoid hitting the mysterious ship which stood on three fins or legs in the middle of the road.

The announcer's 1956 car skidded to a halt 20 feet in front of the craft. The motor, lights and radio of his car all quit at the same time. However, the scene remained illuminated by a bright light which emanated from the bottom of the rocket.

“The thought suddenly struck me that I should knock the ship over for evidence,” Mr. Townsend said.

He attempted to restart his car but the motor would not turn over.

LITTLE TIN MEN

FATE
1965. 1966 in
Minnesota

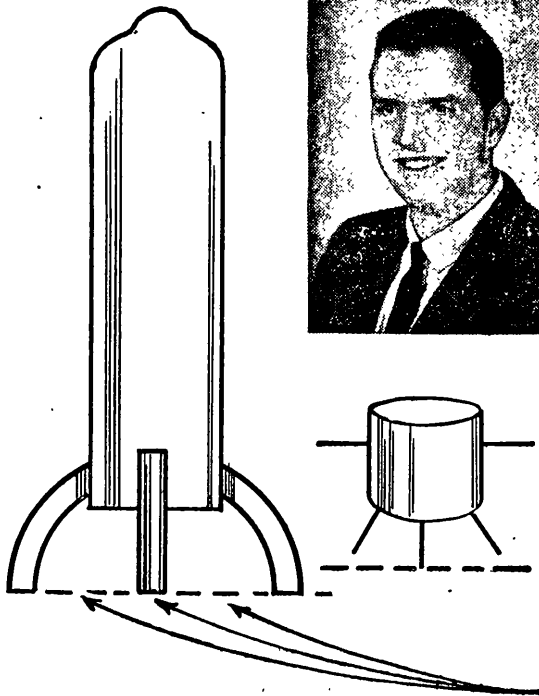
By Clare John Jansen

A social worker for Hennepin County (Minn.) Welfare Department, the author is 39, married and has two children. He is a freelance writer by avocation and has written city news for a daily paper. He has a B.A. degree in Humanities and has done two years of graduate work in philosophy. He has spent 10 years in personal UFO research.

Although the rocket looked like stainless steel and stood 30 or 40 feet high, looming above the roadside trees, its relatively small diameter, possibly 10 feet, suggested to Townsend that he might upset the craft by hand. Impulsively, he jumped out of the car to try.

As he cautiously approached the

Added to file
16 July 2001



Drawing shows rocket-like UFO and one of its can-shaped occupants reportedly encountered by James Townsend, 19, while driving along highway near Long Prairie, Minn. Arrows show strips of oil-like substance left on road surface by UFO.

deserted ship, he noticed two things. The surface bore neither markings nor opening. The nose of the rocket tapered peculiarly.

"It resembled the top of a ball point pen—the kind you trigger from the top," he said.

Suddenly, Townsend's way was blocked by three incredible objects. "They may have been robots," he says, "but they acted like creatures."

They were the size of 303 cans, without features, brownish-black in color, with "limbs" as thick as pencils or matchsticks. They probably came from behind the ship and appeared to be defending it.

"I can't explain it because they didn't have eyes but they were looking right at me," Townsend says. "It seemed like forever that we stared at each other in dead silence. Then, I got scared and started

back towards the car."

The things "scurried" into the light under the rocket. The light built up and a humming noise developed that hurt Mr. Townsend's ear drums. The ship resembled a glowing flashlight as it took off, lighting up the area "as bright as day." When it was airborne the light in the bottom shut off.

Now a remarkable thing happened to Townsend's car. Not only did the radio and lights come back on by themselves, the motor started itself. Upon examining his car (which has an automatic transmission) the announcer found that he had left the stick in *Park* and the ignition key *On* when he had unsuccessfully tried to restart his car earlier.

"I never touched the starter. I'm absolutely sure of that," Mr. Townsend said.

Townsend floorboarded it back to Long Prairie.

"I almost flew into town," he said. "My heart was pounding and my legs were rubber."

He went directly to the sheriff's office, arriving there at approximately 7:30 P.M.

Todd county sheriff James Bain verifies Townsend's description of himself upon arrival. "The boy was very excited, nervous and shaky," the sheriff said.

Police Officer Luverne Lubitz of Long Prairie was present, also. The

officer reports that Mr. Townsend was "nervous and scared; he was not his natural color."

Townsend says the first thing he said to the men was: "I am not crazy nor am I drunk; neither am I ignorant."

The officials agree. The sheriff considers the announcer "reliable and level headed;" the officer knows him as a "hard working, well behaved boy who never drinks."

The officials drove Townsend back to the spot of the sighting. "Townsend went reluctantly," Officer Lubitz said. "He was scared but he went back."

While the three men were on the spot, they simultaneously observed a distant, strange "orange" light. Officer Lubitz describes it as northerly, "more yellow-white than orange, flicking off and on and leaving a sort of yellow tail."

On the ground, the men discovered three strips of a substance like oil. The markings were three feet long by four inches wide, parallel to the black top road. Officer Lubitz says he never before saw anything like them.

Both officers took Townsend's report seriously.

* * *

WHEN THE STORY hit the wires, reaction ranged from praise to ridicule. Although Townsend was attacked by some people, others defended him; his story was

Townsend

FATE

presented in a straightforward manner by several news media.

Many Minnesotans were in no hurry to discount the story without examining it. UFO sightings were numerous in that state all fall, especially during August. The *Minneapolis Star* reported on the night of August 2, 1965, "nearly every one of more than 50 (local) police and sheriff squad cars on the road between 12:20 and 2:30 A.M. called in to report seeing (unexplained) objects." One officer reported to the dispatcher that he hoped no one would think he was "nuts," but he had "just been passed by a star".

This was the same night that eight other states reported UFO's complete with radar sightings. Near Justin and Ponder, Texas residents claimed a flying saucer had landed.

Regarding Townsend's experience, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* (which is rapidly gaining a local reputation among UFO buffs for fairness on the subject) printed a meticulously accurate interview with the principals involved. On television, the "Late Don Dahl Show" permitted Mr. Townsend to tell his story with dignity and seriousness. Not all media and individuals were so kind.

Someone described the three robots or creatures as the size of beer cans and the joke was on. Crank mail arrived. In person and by letter, Townsend was accused of drinking or lying. Television an-

nouncers smiled knowingly as they read the description of the unusual objects. A letter to the editor in a Minneapolis newspaper advised Townsend to go to Hollywood where he could best use his ability to make up a story. Most media garbled the story. One newspaper claimed Townsend had been "studying a lengthy article on the UFO's in a current issue of a national magazine" on the day of the sighting. (Townsend says he read the article when people referred him to it after his experience.) The obvious implication had been made.

Mr. Townsend was not amused. He is six foot four, well built, and not used to being the butt of jokes. He has religious convictions against drinking; he was a counselor last summer in a Bible camp. One week after the sighting, he refused any more interviews.

"I am sorry I ever reported the incident," he said. He permitted himself to be interviewed for FATE only after being persuaded that his story would be presented accurately.

Independent of Townsend, men were asking questions and rallying to his support. A reporter from as far away as San Francisco interviewed him seriously by telephone; two other reporters tried unsuccessfully to buy Townsend's life story. A local businessman sent Townsend NICAP's 10 photographs of

UFO's to show him that he was not alone in seeing unusual things. An aerial research group (believed to be NICAP) contacted Townsend to arrange an investigation. The same edition of the newspaper carrying the Hollywood letter printed another next to it accusing the air force of covering up on UFO's.

Among the men who took Mr. Townsend seriously was Frank Blessing, 1707 East 31st St., Minneapolis, a businessman. On the night of October 23, Blessing's 14-year-old son Ray was studying the stars with his 200-power, three-inch reflector-type telescope. Ray, a ninth grader at Fowell Junior High, is active in CAP and interested in astronomy.

At 7:00 P.M., 15 minutes before Townsend's experience, Ray saw a "Buck Rogers like thing" pass in front of his telescope. He studied it carefully as it slowly crossed the sky from northwest to southeast and disappeared behind some trees. The object resembled an inverted sombrero with an unusually wide brim and a deeply rounded crown. It appeared to be illuminated from within by a white light, had hard lines and was bigger than any star.

The boy immediately reported the sighting to his parents who did nothing about it until Townsend's story came out.

"When I heard Townsend on TV willing to tell about his experience, I told Ray to call the station and report his sighting," Mr. Blessing said. "I figured we had an obligation to back up anyone with Townsend's courage."

In Long Prairie, Mr. Townsend was not alone in having seen something unusual. Sheriff Bain reported that three boys who were coon hunting in the area saw a strange light in the sky at the time Townsend claimed the rocket ship took off. Several people told Lubitz that "they have seen strange things around here" but they do not want their names made public.

"I know what I saw and I know it was real," Townsend says. "I am telling the truth."

The two officials closest to Townsend immediately after the alleged sighting agree. A week after the incident, both Sheriff Bain and Officer Lubitz stick to their original convictions and each man says flatly and repeatedly, "I believe him."

WINNING NAMES

IN A race at Pimlico on April 14, 1965, the winner was a horse named Mr. Ping. He was ridden by Jockey L. Pong. The winning mutuel was \$9.40.—*Raymond C. Otto.*

The Greatest Flap Yet? — Part III

by Jerome Clark

IN the first two parts of this account of the UFO events which flooded North America during the late summer months of 1965, I surveyed the scene to the end of August. Before we examine the incidents of September and October, I would like to remind readers that I am citing only those cases which I feel are of outstanding importance, having ignored numerous mundane reports—including my own humble sighting.

The case of Deputy Goode

Within 24 hours of each other were to occur the two most startling single encounters of the flap. The first, the Exeter, New Hampshire, incident, has already been described in these pages. The second, taking place halfway across the country, actually eclipses its counterpart both in detail and in implication. In fact, if it is what it appears to be, it could well be one of the most significant UFO cases on record.

Early in the evening of September 3, Patrol Deputy Robert Goode of the Brazoria County, Texas, Sheriff's Department was helping his son move an alligator when the animal bit him on the left index finger. The wound, quite painful, swelled rapidly and bled freely. It was still bothering Goode when later he went on duty with Chief Deputy Billy McCoy.

The night was apparently a quiet one, and the two officers drove undisturbed down Highway 36 south of Damon. Suddenly, shortly after midnight, they sighted a huge craft—about 200 feet long and 50 feet thick in the middle, tapering off toward the ends—hovering silently in the sky. The UFO carried a purple light on its left side and a blue light on its right. Watching through binoculars, Goode and McCoy were horrified to see the object was moving toward them at a not inconsiderable speed. Panicking, they fled, but not before the saucer and flashed a brilliant light on the car. When its beams fell on Goode's left arm, which hung out the window, the officer felt a "warm" sensation. This only added to their excitement, and the two raced back to Damon at over 100 miles an hour.

Not too long afterwards, Goode and McCoy decided to return. When they did, the UFO made as if to approach them again, and they left once again at a comparable speed. They did not come back for a third time.

But, even though they did not see the saucer

again, the story was far from over. Goode was to notice, shortly after the first encounter, that his finger was no longer bleeding or swelling. The pain was gone, and the wound was curing unnaturally fast—all this on the arm that had been exposed to the UFO's rays.

Strange as all this was, the oddest part of all did not come until slightly later. Two strangers appeared at the Sheriff's Office looking for Deputy Goode, who was not in. When they found him at a West Columbia area restaurant, they immediately began to describe in detail how the UFO looked—even before Goode had an opportunity to tell them. The ship, they continued, operated on magnetic rays. They suggested that in the future, should he encounter a similar machine, he should co-operate with its occupants and keep to himself any conversation that might ensue.

Major Laurence R. Leach, Jr., of Ellington Air Force Base, investigated the affair. "Both officers appeared to be intelligent, mature, level-headed and capable of sound judgment and reasoning. Chief Deputy Sheriff McCoy holds a responsible position in the department requiring the supervision of over 42 personnel." He admitted that he had no explanation for the incident.

Mexican cases

While sightings in the United States slackened off during the last three weeks of September, they increased spectacularly in neighbouring Mexico. The writer has not been able to obtain many details of this visitation, but the few newspaper accounts available describe rather generally a spate of rumours involving alleged landings and contacts—many of them frankly dubious. Others seem to merit more serious consideration. Among them is a report made by four men who saw a UFO flashing lights near Tijuana on the U.S.-Mexican border, and on impulse signalled back with a flashlight. When the UFO began moving toward them, they ran away. Another group of people claimed to have seen a flying saucer land near the national Polytechnic Institute in Mexico City, and newspapers later carried pictures of rocks supposedly scorched by the UFO's exhaust.

Shots at Rio Vista

Two Rio Vista, California, boys fired on a UFO on September 21. About 8.30 p.m., said Danny Bland, 18, "I was down on Riverview

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Added to file 16 July 2000

Road when it appeared and I ran home and then called my chum, Tom Springs. I grabbed a .22 rifle and Tom took a .22 pistol. It was then about 260 feet off the ground and moving toward the mesa of the city. The brilliance changed to a kind of smoggy red, and we were scared. Both of us fired several shots at it. It became brighter when the bullets struck. We knew we had hit it because the object gave off a metallic ring. The light flooded our car just as if the sun was shining."

The next night several hundred residents of Rio Vista waited near a water tower five miles from town where the object had allegedly appeared on a number of occasions. It did not disappoint its audience, passing silently over the area in full view of everyone.

Unusual "Ufonaut" reports

Sightings continued to decline during October as the flap, if not really dying, was becoming less intense. Yet those incidents that were recorded—the three of any significance—were among the most interesting of the entire wave.

October 4, Rio Vista, California. During the evening Mrs. Betty Valine was sitting outside with her 12-year-old son Robbie when they sighted a large plate-shaped machine with a dome on top. Inside this dome stood three "people", plainly visible.

October 13, Minto, North Dakota. Two 15-year-old high school girls, Marg Gudajtes and Judy Norlock, watched a huge UFO land in a park on the edge of town, and later described it as a metallic oval, with bluish lights. It was still there when they left but had gone when they returned with help. All that remained of the visitation was an oval ring of crushed grass.

October 23, Long Prairie, Minnesota. In one of the most unusual ufonaut encounter reports of recent years, a 19-year-old radio announcer named James Townsend was driving down Highway 27 near Long Prairie—the time was 7.15 p.m.—when, as he rounded a curve, "all of a sudden my engine stopped, my lights went out and my radio stopped playing. I let the car coast and then I put on the brakes because I saw this thing in the centre of the highway.

"It was like a rocket ship. It was about 30 feet tall and about 10 feet in diameter. It was sitting on fins. Then I saw them. They were standing in a big circle of light under the ship.

"I jumped out of my car and was going to try to knock one over but then they came at me. They came right up to the car. There were three of them."

"They" looked like 303 cans." "They had no

eyes or anything. Just those tripod legs and those matchstick arms", extending from their bottoms and sides. Their colour was a kind of brownish-black. Townsend thought they had come from behind the because he had not seen them step out of it.

"They may have been robots", he told Clarke John Jansen of *Fate* magazine, "but they acted like creatures".

"I can't explain it because they didn't have eyes", he went on, "but they were looking right at me". For some moments Townsend and the beings "stared" at each other, the witness becoming increasingly frightened; "then they turned around and scooted under the ship. The light was so bright I didn't see where they went.

"Then there was a high-pitched humming sound and the ship took off straight up. It went up about a quarter of a mile, stopped for a moment and then disappeared. After it left, my lights on the car came back on and the engine started running. And I didn't touch it, either. I just can't explain that. Then I heard my radio playing again.

"I got out of there fast".

Townsend immediately reported the incident to Todd County Sheriff James Bain and Long Prairie policeman Luverne Lubitz, whom he assured he was not "crazy, drunk, or ignorant". He was obviously shaken, according to Lubitz, who knew him as "reliable and level-headed"—a hardworking, well behaved boy who never drinks". (Townsend, who the summer before had served as a counsellor at a Bible camp, has religious convictions against drinking).

The officers drove Townsend back to the scene of the purported landing, even though the young man, still badly frightened, seemed reluctant. Once there, the men looked up and to their amazement sighted a strange yellow light moving across the sky.

Although one newspaper announced contemptuously that "they couldn't find any trace of the 'space visitor'", such was not the case. On the ground the officers and Townsend discovered three strips, three feet long by four inches wide, composed of an oil-like material. It was like nothing they had ever seen before, said officer Lubitz. The two men were convinced that Townsend was telling the truth.

Two other sightings in the area the night of the 23rd added credibility to the tale. Over Minneapolis, at 7.00 p.m.—15 minutes before Townsend's experience—a 14-year-old boy, Ray Blessing, watched a mysterious sombrero-shaped machine through a 200-power telescope as it

passed across the sky from north-west to south-east. He told his parents about it, but they said nothing until after the Long Prairie encounter had been publicised and they saw its significance.

Three youths hunting coons near where Townsend was confronted told the sheriff that they had seen "a light in the sky" at the same time as the UFO had supposedly taken off from the highway. Other Long Prairie residents told Bain that they themselves had seen a peculiar flying object operating in the area recently, but had said nothing about it for fear of ridicule.

"I know what I saw and I know it was real", Townsend concludes. "I am telling the truth."

Public reaction

While an attempt to uncover the significance of the August-October flap would be not only premature but pointless, a word about public reaction to the wave is in order. For the first time in a long while, it seemed, Americans were begin-

ning to wonder just how straight a story they were getting from their Air Force. Never before have there appeared so many newspaper editorials criticising the service's handling of the UFO mystery, nor so many articles in generally conservative publications seriously discussing the merits of our case. Especially surprising were pieces in the *Saturday Review*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. True hastily inserted a condensation of Vallée's recent book into its October issue, and later published an article by Donald Keyhoe. Several pro-UFO tomes have been accepted for publication in 1966, when since 1958 books on flying saucers have been rejected as unsaleable. All of this is very encouraging. If the momentum can be continued (past experience leaves considerable doubt on this score), the greatest American flap to date may do infinitely more than provide ufologists with more sightings to hash over.

NOTES

¹ FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Vol. 12, No. 1, p. 3. *Important New England Sighting*.

² One cannot help drawing parallels between the two "strangers" of Goode's story and their counterpart in the notorious Maury Island incident, termed by Ruppelt "the dirtiest hoax in UFO history" but proclaimed by Arnold, Palmer, and others to be genuinely inexplicable. The evidence on both sides, in the writer's view, is equally convincing. For the Air Force position, see Chapter 2 of Edward J. Ruppelt's *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (Doubleday, 1956). The opposite interpretation is given by Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer in their *The Coming of the Saucers* (Wisconsin, 1952) and by Harold T. Wilkins in Chapter 4 of *Flying Saucers on the Attack* (Citadel, 1954). See also *Fate* for Spring 1948.

³ Some newspaper accounts, obviously in an underhand attempt to cast doubts on the witness' sobriety, quoted Townsend as saying the Ufonauts resembled "beer cans", but subsequently he rather bitterly denied having used the expression.

⁴ In an October 25 story, the *Minneapolis Star* reported what it apparently considered a strong objection to the incident's validity: "Townsend . . . had been studying a lengthy article on UFOs in the current issue of a national magazine" i.e., the condensation, in the *October True*, of Jacques Vallée's *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*. Townsend, however, told *Fate* that he had not read the article until after the encounter, when several persons referred him to it.

⁵ *Postscript*: Since completing part III of *The Greatest Flap Yet?* Mr. Clark has written to say that the wave concluded in October. Many reports some sensational, others merely surprising, have found their way to him, and it now seems that the wave continued into 1966. We hope to include accounts of these newly reported incidents in our next issue.

TWO NEW BOOKS

THE most recent of new books on UFOs is by one of the longest-serving and most valued contributors to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. In fact none other than **Antonio Ribera**, our friend from Barcelona in Spain. As one can gather from the title *El Gran Enigma de los Platillos Volantes* (published by Editorial Pomare of Santiago de Chile, Buenos Aires, Mexico and Barcelona; 435 pages, including appendices), Senor Ribera takes his readers with a broad sweep through the saucer story of the last 20-odd years. In numerous appendices he looks at the historical and biblical aspect of the subject, the problem of satellites of Mars, the Mariner IV and Moon photograph comparisons, and so on.

The author is well known as a sound, objective researcher, with a vast capacity for work—and we learn from the fly-leaf that he is also one of the leading Spanish experts on submarine exploration. In this latest book, which should have not only great appeal in Spain, but should also be more than welcome in South and Central American

countries, some of his chapter headings give an idea of the scope of the work: "Are we alone in the Cosmos?"; "Appearances of flying saucers on the scene"; "Secrets of the United States Air Force"; "Adamski, and those who have followed him"; "The great French wave of 1954"; "The Spanish wave of 1950"; "The great summer wave of 1965"; "Possible methods of propulsion, and probable origin"; "Submarine bases?"

The arrival on the scene of Jacques Vallée's second book *Les Phénomènes Insolites de l'Espace* Editions de la Table Ronde, 40 rue du Bao, Paris-7^e, France, this time in co-authorship with **Janine Vallée**, his wife, is without doubt the first of several appearances. In fact an English language version (translated by Gordon Creighton) is due to be published by the Henry Regnery Company of Chicago towards the end of the year, when a full appreciation will appear in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

For the present, suffice it to say that the Vallées
(Continued on p. iv of cover)

2112

Some U.F.O. Contacts

By R. Kennedy Carpenter
B.H.S. Science Teacher

Part One

In Ufology, a "contact" implies that a person has been very close to, or in communication with, the intelligences which operate, or ride in, the flying saucers or any form of U.F.O. A person who claims to have such contact, is known as a "contactee". Some communications have allegedly been made over radio, mental telepathy, automatic writing, and automatic speech. The concern of this article will be for Earth people who describe the physical "intelligences" they have discovered.

The researchers of Charles Fort indicate that contacts have been made throughout the ages. The ignorance and superstitions of the populace have either stifled the reports or caused them to be hidden in literature which became lost in time. As I recall in one instance, the tale caused the death of the contactee. Near the close of the Middle Ages a man in the state of elation and wonderment told of being taken in the sky by an airship, and described some of his experiences. The people in the public place raised the hue and cry that he was in league with the Devil, and stoned him to death.

I will recount for you here six of many stories of contacts with the crews of flying saucers.

George Adamski

George Adamski, of Pajomar Gardens, Mount Palomar, California, owned a restaurant at the base of the mount. He was a flying saucer enthusiast and experimented in attempts to photograph these mysterious objects. On November 20, 1952, he claims to have met the pilot of one of these saucers which landed in the Arizona desert. Adamski was urged to the spot beforehand by mental telepathy. The pilot, with the build and features similar to an Earthling, claimed he came from the planet Venus. In his first book, "Flying Saucers Have Landed", which Adamski wrote in conjunction with Desmond Leslie, the clothing, mannerisms, and communication methods are described. The flying saucer, a scout ship, took away one of his photographic plates and returned it on December 18. The original impression had been removed and replaced with a diagram and some "hieroglyphics" which purported to tell how the ships operate. Adamski had offered a \$10,000 prize to anyone who could decipher the message. A woman, watching Adamski's contact through binoculars, later drew a sketch of the Venusian. Strange sandal prints were found at the spot and made into casts. They show more hieroglyphic-type markings.

In his second book, "Inside the Space Ships", Adamski tells of people from other planets, Saturn, Mars, etc., and being taken in the scout ship to a "mother ship" which was orbiting the Earth. (A photo of a mother ship with its scouts being launched was printed in last week's Argus series). The author tells of the foods eaten, the liquids drunk, and many details of the crafts interior. (There is a copy of a sketch of such a ship printed along with this section.) On the "mother ship" Adamski met a Master, who explained why the saucers were observing Earth and who interpreted some cosmology.

At a later date another scout ship took him to a large craft shaped like a mother ship, which was a huge traveling space laboratory. A typical mother ship is cigar-shaped, about 2,000 feet long, 150 feet in diameter, and carries a compliment of usually over 100 persons. The crew of the lab ship contained both men and women who were what we would call "advanced scientists".

Adamski had been on several television programs, radio shows, and special lecture tours. His photographs have been well published, and, so far as I know, no one has been able to prove they are faked. I have a personal letter from him in which he tells of being taken around the moon in a scout ship, and to have seen cities there through the wonderful optic viewer in the bottom center of the ship. I, personally, will be most happy

when one of the Earth's space programs puts explorers on the moon's surface and they deny or verify some of the astounding claims made by this unique author.

George Adamski died recently. His final book was, "Flying Saucers Farewell".

James Townsend

At 7:15 p.m. on October 23, 1965, James Townsend, 19-year-old announcer for radio station KEYL of Long Prairie, Minnesota, about 120 miles NW of Minneapolis, was driving west on Highway 27 about 4 miles east of Long Prairie when he rounded a curve. He slammed on his brakes to avoid hitting a rocket-like object in the road. It was about 30-40 feet high and 10 feet in diameter. The motor, lights, and radio of his car had suddenly quit. The scene was brightly illuminated by a light coming from the bottom of the rocket.

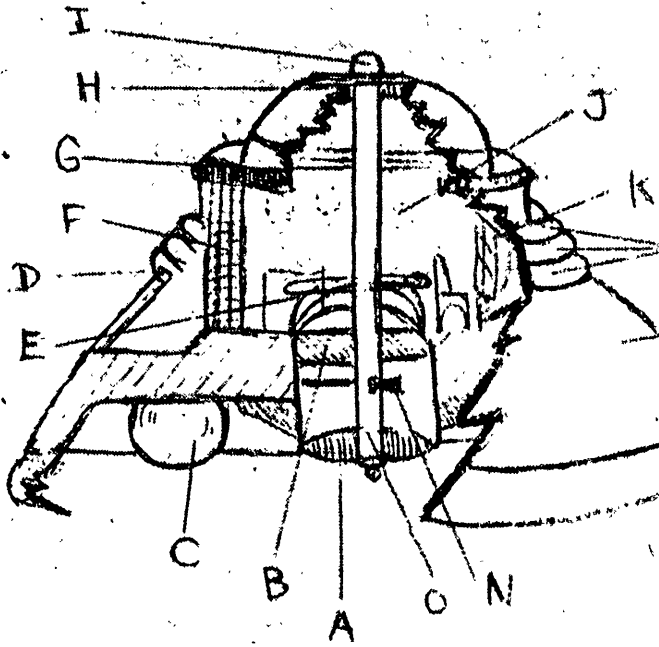
Townsend got out of the car, which had stopped about 20 feet from the object, with the idea he might push it over to hold as "possible evidence". He had tried unsuccessfully to restart his car to push with it. On his cautious approach, he noticed the ship had a peculiar nose-shape, no markings, and no opening. Suddenly his way was blocked by three incredible objects. "They may have been robots", he said, "but they acted like creatures". They were the size of No. 303 cans, (this is a 16 oz. size) without features, brownish black, and with two arms and three legs, all the size of pencils or matchsticks. He believed they came from behind the ship, and appeared to be defending it. He "felt" they were looking right at him, even though they had no apparent eyes. After "staring" at each other for some time, Townsend became frightened, and started back to his car. The things scurried under the light of the rocket. This light built up in intensity. A humming noise developed which hurt his ears. The ship resembled a glowing flashlight as it took off, lighting up the area as bright as day. The light in the bottom then shut off.

A remarkable thing now occurred to the car. The radio went on. The headlights flashed on. The car motor started itself. He raced breathlessly back to town to report his experience to the sheriff's office. Later in the month he went on TV and several radio shows recounting his experiences. Now, as frequently happens, the controversy started. Townsend was both attacked and defended. Sheriff Bain and Officer Lubitz claim, "I believe him". Someone made a joke about the "robots" as beer cans, which led to ridicule. He was accused in person and in letter, of drinking and lying. However, the police knew him as a level-headed, hard-working boy who never drinks. This last is against his religious convictions.

On the night of the sighting, the officers had driven him, reluctantly on his part, back to the scene. They simultaneously observed a distant orange, or yellow-orange light, flickering on and off, and leaving a yellow trail. On the ground they discovered three strips of a substance like oil. The markings were three feet long by four inches wide, and parallel to the black-top road. Officer Lubitz said he had never seen anything like it before.

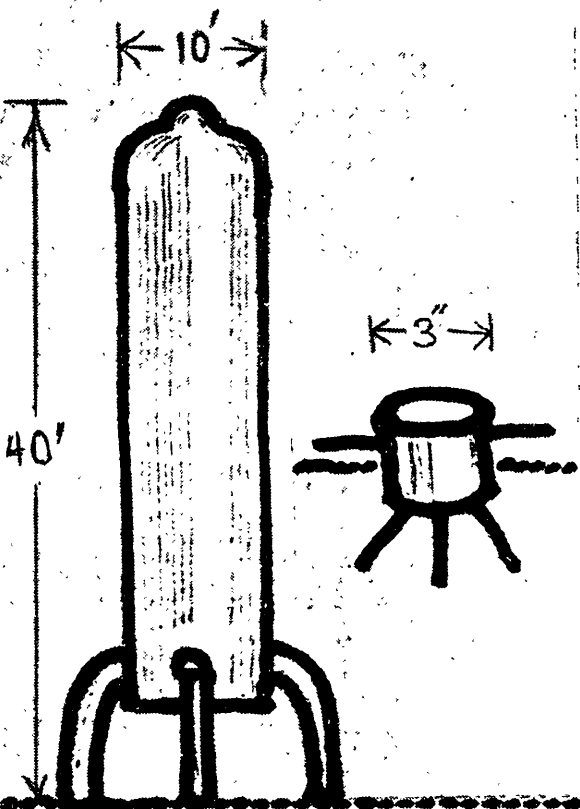
With the ensuing publicity, other points now became known. On the night of August 2, nearly all of fifty police and squad cars on the road from 12:20 to 2:30 a.m. reported that they saw unexplained objects. One officer hoped the dispatcher wouldn't think he was "nuts", but he had "just been passed by a star". That same night eight other states reported visual and radar sightings. Texas residences reported a saucer had landed.

One week after his contact, James Townsend was so irritated by the attitude of some of the people that he refused any more interviews. "I am sorry, I ever reported the incident," he said. A Minneapolis businessman said his 14-year-old junior high son was studying the stars with his 200X three inch reflector telescope, when a "Buck Rogers like thing" passed through his viewing field. He studied it carefully as it crossed slowly from NE to SE until it disappeared behind some trees. It resembled an inverted sombrero with an extra wide brim. It seemed to be illuminated from within by a white light, had hard lines, and was bigger than any star. The lad had told his parents about it, but they said nothing until the Townsend story broke. The telescope sighting occurred about a quarter hour be-



A Cut-away Diagram of the Working Parts of a Venusian Scout Ship. This sketch, disproportionately narrow, was made from one in Adamski's second book. Supposedly electromagnetically operated, these craft are stationed inside the "mother ship" and have recharges placed in their operating cables upon their return from a mission. Legend — A. lower viewing lens, B. floor

view glass, C. magnetically sus- sphere and energy condenser, D. E. repair room door, F. charts power coil, H. upper view lens, I. magnetite pole, J. portholes, K. three condenser coils, M. outer fl to landing and condenser sphere plus magnetic pole (charge opposi



A sketch of the rocket and its peculiar "ball point" head. The diagram of the "robot-like creature" is on a much larger scale than the rocket.

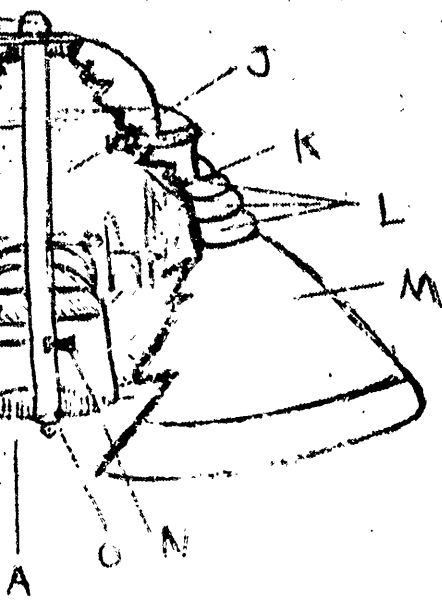
fore the Townsend Bain said three that night in the ported seeing a sh sky at the time off.

"I know what it was real," Townsend telling the truth FATE, February

Alexander H. Yates, Center, strange account, reporter by Alex Vernon, Kansas, 1957 issue. There ber of reports o ings around th ple, two farm conversation the crew of an "air 1957 at Spring initial sightings from California December of 195

Our Mr. Ham from the early member of the well known in ties. At 10:00 p. night he had be noise in the co that perhaps his he arose and in amazed. A g descending over 40 rods from th his tenant, Gid son. They app 50 yards of th gently descende of the ground. great cigar-sh mated at 300 f riage and under consisted of

The Pequannock Twp.
Bulletin
(Pequannock, NJ)
10 Mar 1966



panels alternating with narrow strips of some other material. Everything within was visible from the brilliant lighting. There were three lights, one like an immense searchlight, and two smaller, one red, and one green. The large one could be swivelled.

It was occupied by 6 of the strangest beings he ever saw. There were two men, a woman, and three children. They were jabbering together, but the Hamilton party could not understand anything. The opaque part of the vessel was a dark, reddish color. A noise caused the inmates to shine the light on the mute and frightened watchers. A great 30 foot turbine wheel, which had been slowly revolving below the craft began to buzz like a cylinder separator, and the craft rose lightly. About 30 feet over them it passed over a 3 year old struggling heifer which was apparently caught in the fence, but was actually tangled in a reddish material rope from the craft. Being un-

successful in loosening the half-inch cable, the Hamiltons cut it off (probably with the axes they had brought). They were amazed to see ship, cow, and all rise slowly, and sail off into the northwest. Unable to sleep, he arose early the next morning and set out on horseback in search of his cow. That evening he found that Lank Thomas, who lived in Coffee County about 3 miles west of LeRoy had found the hide, head, and legs in his field that day. Lank thought someone had stolen and butchered the beast, but was unable to find any tracks in the soft ground.

Hamilton continued with his story, "I went home last night, but every time I would drop to sleep, I would see the cursed thing with its big lights and hideous people. I don't know whether they were devils, or angels, or what, but we all saw them, and my family saw the ship, and I don't want any more to do with them." The paper included an affidavit

signed by 11 prominent men who knew Mr. Hamilton, and testified as to his truthfulness. Needless to say, there were many comments about the story. One paper published a short poem about it. The "Colony Free Press" of May 7, 1897 said, "The Free Press, having turned the 'Nocturnal Aerial Visitor' over in its mind is now of the opinion that the airship is not of this world, but is probably operated by a party of scientists from the planet Mars, who are out, either on a lark, or a tour of inspection of the solar system in the cause of science."

Who said, "Many a truth is spoken in jest?"

I wonder if there is any similarity, or connection, between this incident and the Oliver Larch mystery, described in the Argus of February 24, 1966, page 6, column 3, "Enigma of Science," Item 4? (Extracted from FATE, this world, but is probably opera-

(Continued Next Week)

view glass, C. magnetically suspended landing sphere and energy condenser, D. entrance door, E. repair room door, F. charts and graphs, G. power coil, H. upper view lens, I. plus or minus magnetic pole, J. portholes, K. control panel, L. three condenser coils, M. outer flange, N. cables to landing and condenser spheres, O. minus or plus magnetic pole (charge opposite to upper).

fore the Townsend incident. Sheriff Bain said three boys coon hunting that night in the contact area reported seeing a strange light in the sky at the time the rocket took off.

"I know what I saw, and I know it was real," Townsend says. "I am telling the truth". Retold from FATE, February 1966.

Alexander Hamilton Story

"The Farmers' Advocate" of Yates Center, Kansas, printed a strange account as related to its reporter by Alexander Hamilton of Vernon, Kansas, in the April 23, 1897 issue. There had been a number of reports of "airship" sightings around that year. For example, two farm hands reported a conversation they had with the crew of an "airship" on April 15, 1897 at Springfield, Illinois. The initial sightings of the ship came from California in November and December of 1896.

Our Mr. Hamilton was a settler from the early days, a former member of the Legislature, and well known in surrounding counties. At 10:00 p.m. on the previous night he had been awakened by a noise in the cow pen. Thinking that perhaps his bulldog was loose, he arose and looked out the door amazed. A giant airship was descending over the cattle about 40 rods from the house. He called his tenant, Gid Heslip and his own son. They approached to within 50 yards of the ship which had gently descended to within 30 feet of the ground. It consisted of a great cigar-shaped portion estimated at 300 feet long with a carriage and underneath. The carriage consisted of some transparent



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Also: Book
"The Hynes"
UFO Report
Page 206

'IT'S THE TRUTH'

Radioman Meets Space 'Creatures'

By DONALD J. GIESE
Staff Writer

Jokes about flying saucers must number in the thousands but the humor in them would be totally lost today on 19-year-old Long Prairie radio announcer James Townsend—he said he nearly ran one down.

Townsend said Sunday his meeting with a spaceship and three "creatures" took place about 7:15 p. m. Saturday on a blacktop road about four miles east of Long Prairie as he was driving his 1956 model car around a curve in the road.

The 1964 Anoka high school graduate and announcer for radio station KEYL said that as he came around the curve he saw an upright, rocket-like object straddling the road.

It was about 30 or 40 feet high and about 10 feet in diameter "and seemed to be resting on legs or fins," he said.

"My car engine, lights and radio went out and I slammed on my brakes," Townsend said. "I stopped about 20 feet in front of it.

"My first thought was to knock it over with the car so I could have some evidence, but the car was dead. Then I got out with the idea of trying to push it over by hand.

"When I got to the front of my car three creatures that looked like individual tin cans on tripods, and were about six inches tall, came from behind the rocket.

"They didn't have eyes that I could see but I knew they were looking at me. I stopped. I didn't have any desire to get closer.

"There was no sound—just dead silence. It seemed like ages as we looked at each other.

"Then they went up into the rocket, which had a bright colorless light glowing out of the bottom. There was a loud hum. The rocket went up and disappeared.

"When the light on the bottom went out after it was in the air my car radio and lights came on—and my engine started without having to touch the starter." Townsend said his car has an automatic transmission and he had placed the selector lever in "park."

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"I drove 90 miles an hour back to Long Prairie to report what I saw, but I wondered if people would believe me," he said.

(CONT.)

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Occupants
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"They definitely were not people as I know them."

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Bain said Sunday that three youths who had been hunting coons in the same area reported seeing "a light in the sky" at the same time Townsend said the object took off.

Lubitz, who accompanied Bain and Townsend back to the scene of the reported encounter, said he also believes Townsend was reporting what he had seen.

"He was scared and nervous and when we asked him if he wanted to show us the spot he said 'not if I don't have to,' but he went with us," Lubitz said. "I know he didn't want to but he did."

Lubitz said Sunday he talked with "several people who have seen strange things around here but they don't want their names mentioned."

"The only thing we found were three strips of an oil-like substance on the road," he said. "They were about a yard long and four inches apart, all parallel with the road."

"I don't know what they were but I've looked at a lot of roads and never saw anything like them before."

What is it that Townsend said he saw? No one knows, but Townsend said he thinks it was "an exploratory ship from space, here to look us over."

"I don't think we can reasonably assume we are the only planet in the universe with life on it," he said.

"I wish it had never happened, but it did, and I believed I had an obligation to report it to the authorities. They and the people have a right to know what is going on."

"I usually meet emergencies without losing my head but this scared me like I've never been scared before."

Townsend said he spent Sunday talking on the telephone with reporters, some from as far away as San Francisco. "The phone didn't stop ringing all day," he said.

"People can believe what they want," he said. "I know what I saw and I know that what I saw was real. I hope you print everything I said because it's the truth."

Sunday night Townsend said he was going to church.

The Press
Name of publication
St. Paul, Minn.
Published at
10-25-65
Date of publication

Space 'Things' Stop His Car

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★ ★ ★ ★

Looked Like Cans, Youth Says

By PAUL PRESBREY
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

LONG PRAIRIE, Minn.—
"I was going to knock one over and try to grab it, but then I got scared."

That's why James Townsend, 19, radio announcer for radio station KEYL in Long Prairie, didn't bring back one of the "things" he says he encountered on a highway near here Saturday night.



Townsend

Townsend said the creatures resembled tin cans, stood on tripod legs and had two "arms" about the size of matchsticks projecting from their sides. Three of the "things" were standing under a "rocket ship" when he first spotted them, Townsend said.

"It was about 7:15 p.m. and I was coming back from Little Falls on Hwy. 27 when I rounded a bend," Townsend related Sunday.

"All of a sudden my engine stopped, my lights went out and my radio stopped playing. I let the car coast and then I put on the brakes because I saw this thing in the center of the highway.

"It was like a rocket ship. It was about 30 feet tall and about 10 feet

in diameter. It was sitting on fins. Then I saw them. They were standing in a big circle of light under the ship.

"I jumped out of my car and was going to try to knock one over but then they came at me. They came right up to the car. There were three of them.

"They had no eyes or anything. Just those

tripod legs and those matchstick arms. They were like tin cans. The size of a beer can.

"I was going to try to grab one but then I figured that if they could stop my car and put out my lights they could do something awful to me. So we just stood there looking at each other and then they

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SAUCER

Continued from Page One

turned around and scooted under the ship. The light was so bright I didn't see where they went.

"Then there was a high pitched humming sound and the ship took off straight up. It went up about a quarter of a mile, stopped for a moment and then disappeared. After it left, my lights on the car came back on and the engine started running. And I didn't touch it, either. I just can't explain that. Then I heard my radio playing again.

"I got out of there fast."

Townsend reported his experience to Todd County Sheriff James Bain and Sunday the two of them went back to the spot where the ship supposedly landed. They couldn't find

any trace of the "space visitor."

Townsend's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace M. Townsend, are residents of Coon Rapids and the youth was graduated from Anoka High School. He went to the radio station this fall after serving as a counselor in the summer Bible camp.

Townsend said he had read a lot about unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and had been studying a lengthy article on UFOs in the current issue of a national magazine.

Minneapolis
* Star *

MTA [Signature]

25, 1965

Fact or Fiction?

Spacecraft Story Starts Other UFO Reports

James Townsend, 19-year-old Long Prairie radio announcer, reported to Todd County Sheriff Jim Bain last Saturday night that he had seen a spaceship with three "creatures" at about 7:15 p.m. four miles east of Long Prairie on Highway 27.

The report started a "land-slide" of speculation, reports of strange lights in the sky and publicity.

Twin city newspapermen, television technicians and newscasters were here by Sunday afternoon to check out the report and interview Townsend. Numerous newspaper stories and radio and television newscasts have reported the incident ever since.

Reports continue to come in to news media of other strange sightings by citizens scattered throughout Central Minnesota. Several hunters and several farmers have reported seeing strange lights in the sky, since Townsend's account of his experiences have appeared in print.

Several hunters in the Long Prairie area claimed to have seen a strong light above them that lit up the ground all around them Saturday night.

Other hunters report seeing a lighted object circle around and around over their farm. A housewife in the area claims she heard a loud hissing sound Saturday night as if a fast-moving object passed over her house.

Three Sauk Rapids persons reported seeing an unidentified flying object about 9:15 p.m. Saturday as they were returning home from Milaca. "It appeared as a bright light, shaded from orange to white in color. We couldn't distinguish a shape, just a bright light," said one. "Sometimes the trees got in the way, it was so low."

All these reports followed an account by Townsend, whose story appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press Monday morning. The report, as written by Donald J. Giese, Staff Writer for the Pioneer Press, was accurate as to what happened, Townsend told The Leader Tuesday evening. The story is as follows:

* * *

Jokes about flying saucers must number in the thousands but the humor in them would be totally lost today on 19-year-old Long Prairie radio announcer James Townsend — he said he nearly ran one down.

Townsend said Sunday his meeting with a spaceship took place about 7:15 p.m. Saturday, on a blacktop road about four miles east of Long Prairie as he was driving his 1956 model car around a curve in the road.

The 1964 Anoka high school graduate and announcer for radio station KEYL said that as he came around the curve he saw an upright, rocket-like object straddling the road.

It was about 30 or 40 feet high and about 10 feet in diameter "and seemed to be resting on legs or fins," he said.

"My car engine, lights and radio went out and I slammed on my brakes," Townsend said. "I stopped about 20 feet in front of it.

"My first thought was to knock it over with the car so I could have some evidence, but the car was dead. Then I got out with the idea of trying to push it over by hand.

"When I got to the front of my car three creatures that looked like individual tin cans on tripods, and were about six inches tall, came from behind the rocket.

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"Then they went up into the rocket, which had a bright colorless light glowing out of the bottom. There was a loud hum. The rocket went up and as the light went out it disappeared from my sight.

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Townsend, a non-drinker ("I don't believe in it as a Christian"), said his heart was pounding and his legs "were like rubber."

"I drove 90 miles an hour back to Long Prairie to report what I saw, but I wondered if people would believe me," he said.

"I was sure of two things—the rocket (it towered above the trees along the road, he said) was a spaceship of some kind and the three objects that came out of it were creatures like nothing else in the animal world I have ever seen," he said.

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"I usually meet emergencies without losing my head but this scared me like I've never been scared before."

The Leader asked Townsend Tuesday evening if he had any-

thing to add to the Pioneer Press account of his experiences. Townsend stated that he had found a small hole in the asphalt when he returned to the scene of the experience on Sunday morning. He said he did not know if it was made by the spaceship when it landed or not.

Townsend reported Tuesday that he has not been contacted by any Air Force representative. However, he expected to be questioned by them. He said the Air Force had called his parents at Coon Rapids, Minn. and said for them not to talk about their son's experience—"to keep the lid on."

When questioned as to whether after several days had elapsed, he had considered the fact that he might have fallen asleep or imagined the whole experience, Townsend answered he could not have been asleep because he was driving around a curve in the road when he caught sight of the object. If he had been asleep he would not have stayed on the road. Nor could he have imagined the incident, said Townsend, because he was alert due to the fact that he was paying attention to the time because he had to get back to Long Prairie by 7:30 p.m., so he was checking the time carefully and consistently.

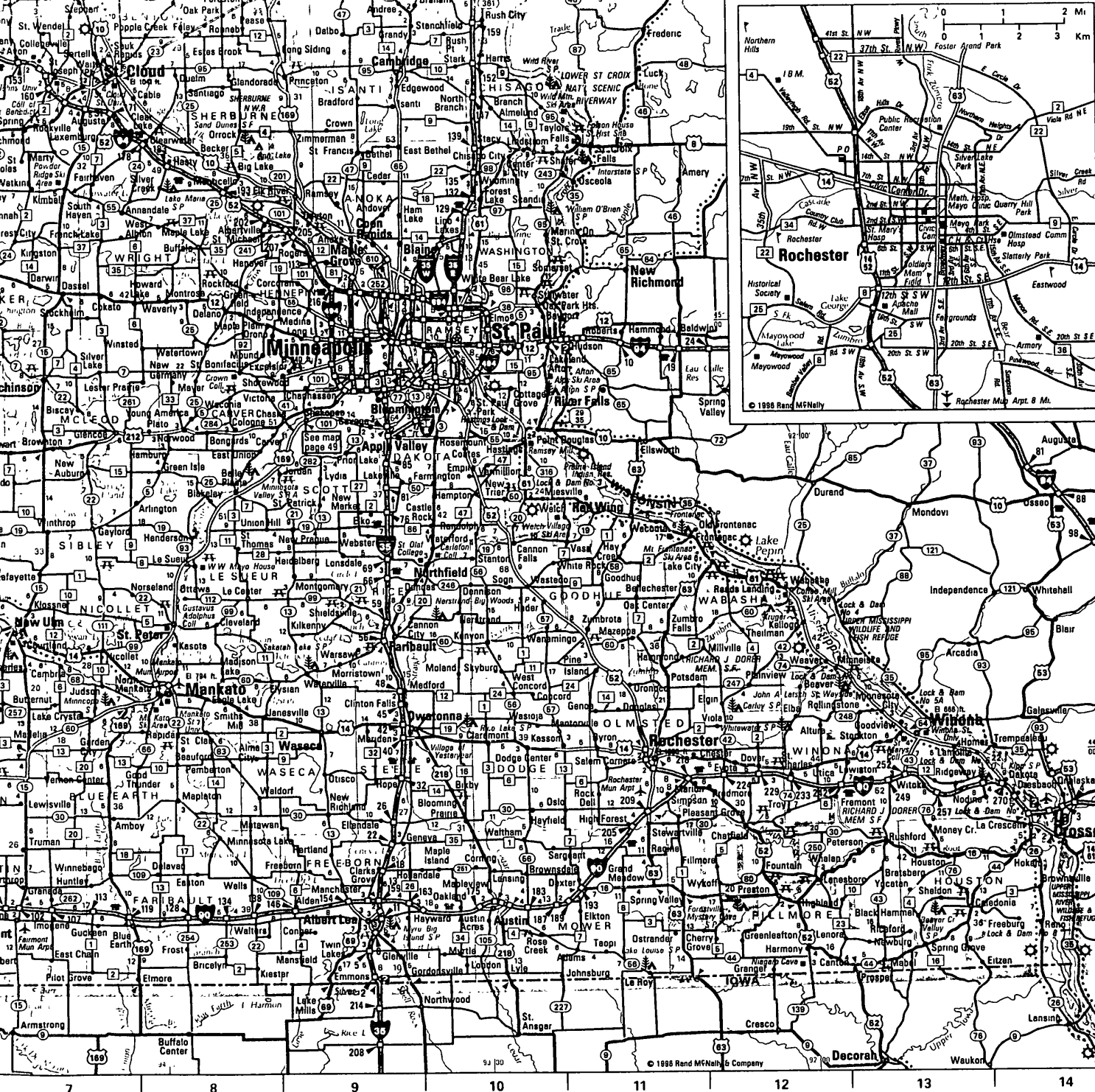
The Leader
Name of publication
Long Prairie, Minn.
Published at
10-28-65
Date of publication

These maps show towns mentioned in
case documents.

Some are from J A Hynek's working file,
in Hynek papers drawer;

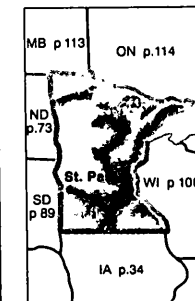
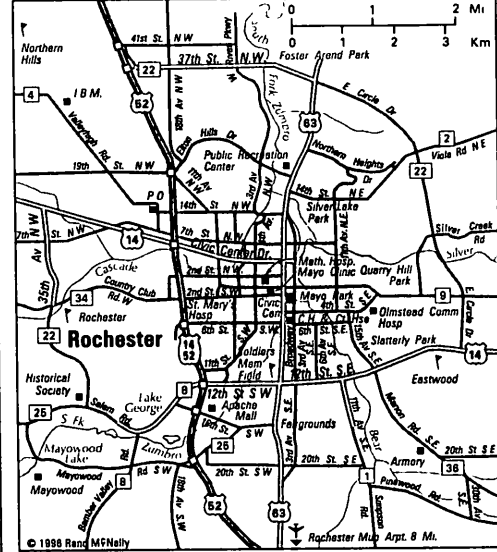
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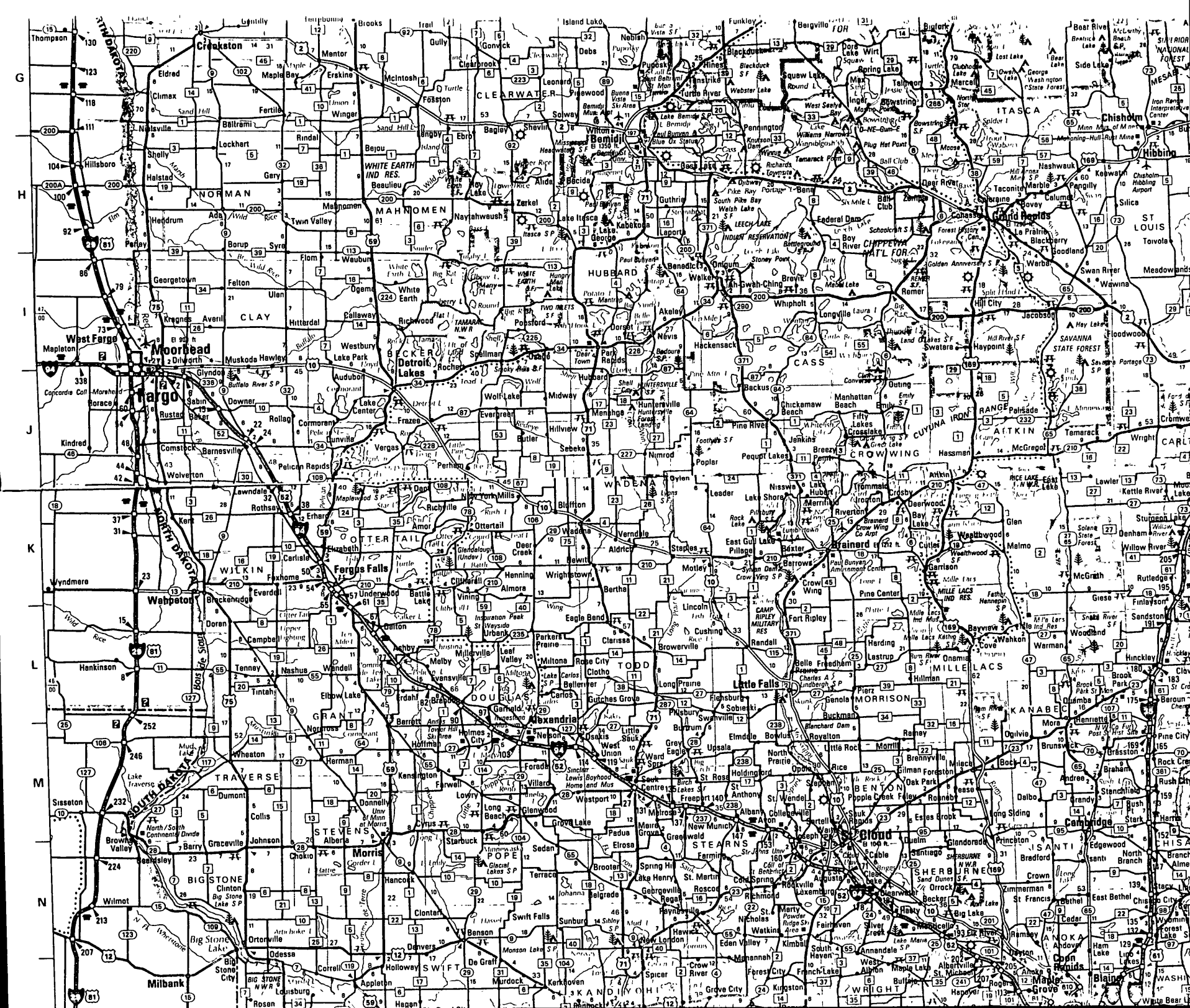
- Airport
- Point of Interest
- Service Area
- Rest Area (Toilets)
- Rest Area (No Toilets)
- Free Limited - Access Highway
- Toll Limited - Access Highway
- Other Four-Lane Divided Highway
- Principal Highway
- Other Through Highway
- Other Road
- Unpaved Road
- Scenic Route

For an explanation of all map symbols, see page 1.

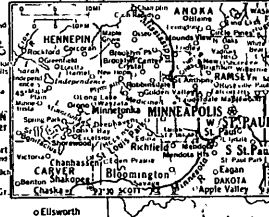
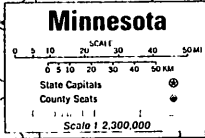
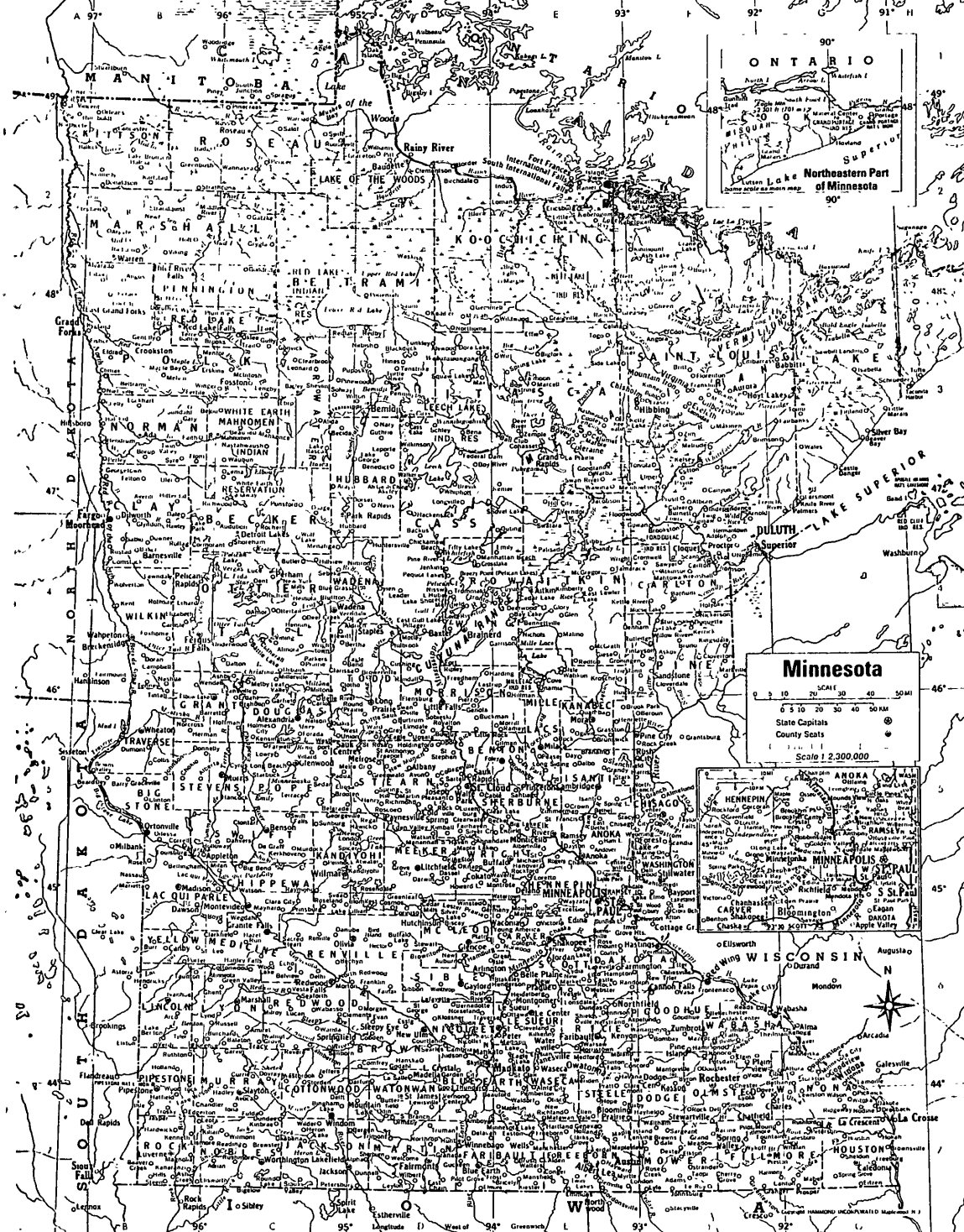


Minnesota

Nickname: North Star State
 Land Area: 79,617 sq. mi. (14)
 Highest Point: Eagle Mtn., 2,301 ft., B-11
 Population: 4,387,029 (20)
 Capital: St. Paul
 Largest City: Minneapolis
 Index page 124



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Longitude
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Greenwich