

It Started With a Bang: Oregon UFO History

An Oregon MUFON/McMenamin's Paranormal Pub
Presentation

by

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and

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Introduction (I)

- Oregon has over 1000 UFO cases documented at various levels, mostly uninvestigated reports and news article documented cases. They are in UFOCAT, NUFORC, MUFON, and various other databases.
- Oregon has most of the usual types of UFO cases: abduction reports, triangle cases, classic saucer cases, photo cases, a radar case, videotape cases, but entity and landing reports are rare. Only one possible (uninvestigated) crash case.
- Oregon has UFO-related cases, too: bigfoot sightings, crop circles, cattle mutilations, a rare flying entity case or two. No “Loch Ness monster” cases to our knowledge, however.
- Cases come from all over the state equally. Distributed from 1947 to the present like the national average (in waves).

Introduction (2)

- History of UFO investigation in Oregon is hit and miss.
- Early history is not known. Some early contactee groups existed in Portland in 1950s and 60s.
- In 1980s, John and Hellen Zeller carried on MUFON investigation. Skip Schultz and then Mike Downey were state directors in 1990s. Tom and Keith took over in 2000s.
- Think about joining and supporting MUFON and perhaps pursuing the “rewarding” career of certified UFO investigator!
- Let’s look at some UFO and UFO-related events and cases.

Kenneth Arnold Sighting (I)

- **When and where:** June 24, 1947, between Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams.
- **Evidence:** Eyewitness only.
- **Description:** Arnold was flying a light plane from Chehalis to Yakima when a flash alerted him to nine odd-shaped objects moving fast in a skipping motion from Mt. Rainier to Mt. Adams.
- He calculated the speed at 1300 to 1700 mph.
- He was on a mission to find a downed airplane.
- He stopped in Yakima and told some local pilots about his strange sighting. Then he went on to Pendleton.

Kenneth Arnold Sighting (2)

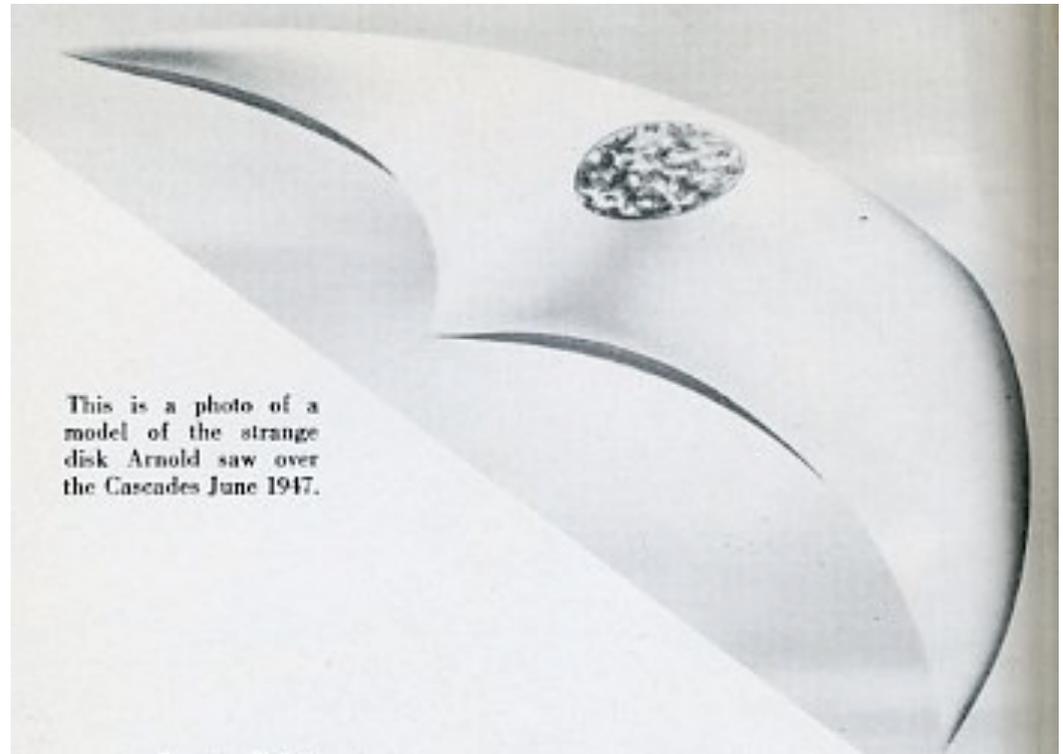
- A headline writer in Pendleton coined the term “flying saucer” from the flight motion of the objects. The story went world wide.
- Many people began reporting the new “flying saucers.”
- The military investigated Arnold’s sighting.
- Arnold played an investigatory role in the Maury Island “Hoax,” which may have been an early U.S. military intelligence disinformation operation.
- WWII foo fighters and Swedish ghost rockets occurred before Arnold’s sighting.

Kenneth Arnold Sighting (3)



Source: *The Coming of the Saucers*

Kenneth Arnold



Source: *The Coming of the Saucers*

Model of One of Arnold's Flying Saucers

The Big Bang: Flying Saucers (2)

Nuclear Scientist Claims Discs Involve Atomic Stunt

LOS ANGELES, July 3 (AP)—The Evening Herald and press quoted an unnamed "scientist in nuclear physical California Institute of Technology Saturday as suggesting that "transmutation of atomic energy" experiments might be responsible for the flying saucers.

The newspaper described as a researcher on the Manhattan atomic project and he asked that his name be withheld. It quoted him:

"These saucers so-called capable of high speeds, but be controlled from the ground. They are 20 feet in width in



Transport Plane Chased by Disc

PHILADELPHIA, July 3 (AP)—Paul Moss, 44, said Saturday he saw a "flying saucer" about 40 inches in diameter following a transport plane crossing the Delaware river.

Moss said he was playing baseball with a group of other

'Flying Disc' Reports Come From Hundreds, in 28 States

Science Fails To Give Facts
'Frankly, I'm Battered,' Says Airliner Pilot After Observing Queer Airborne Objects

Government Men Ask to See Sample

See Story on Page 1, Also at 10:30 p.m.

The nation was baffled Saturday by the flying saucer reports and in 28 states by hundreds of persons who reported on their experience first as casually as the reported cases of polio.

Official government sources say a "let's see one" hand on the phenomenon, and so scientists proffered a detailed explanation.



In Portland, four officers (left) (clockwise from top) were interviewed Saturday by the Oregonian. E. J. Swan, DAF, pilot of the Oregonian plane, said he saw a flying saucer on July 2.

Guard Posts 'Disc Watch'

Airplanes Alerted With Gun Cameras

111 fighter planes of the Oregon National Guard's 12th division reported with gun cameras and electronic sensors, will be on the alert to run down and photograph any queer objects in Northwest skies according to an anonymous source Saturday by the Associated Press.

Dental School Degrees Due

The school and 41 other will receive degrees and 11 other will get diplomas in June. The first class of dental school at the University of Oregon dental school will be graduated Saturday at 4 p. m. on Memorial Day.

Here's Navy's 'Pancake,' But It's



Keep officials in Washington have said that the V-173 saucer "flying pancake" is the only craft they operate which would fit the description of the planes that have been seen.

Reports Come in From All C Telling of Sighting Mysterio

Reports of the unexplained flying saucer have come from all parts of the country. Saturday, the first of the reports came from Philadelphia, July 3. An aerial observation was being conducted here Saturday to determine what the phenomenon was. The first sighting was at 10:30 a. m. on Saturday. The object was as big as an automobile.

Starr to Reveal Data on Saucers

COLUMBUS, O., July 3 (AP)—Louis E. Starr, national commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, told the VFW Ohio commandant Saturday that he saw exacting information from Washington about the fleets of flying saucers.

He indicated the information would help explain the discs reported to have been sighted in various parts of the country.

A telegram containing the information, Starr added, was due here at 2 P. M. (EST), but did not arrive. He promised to read the contents to the convention.

The VFW commander, whose name is Preglar, Dr. did not indicate the status of the anticipated information.

Eight 'Flying Saucers' Reports

Air Search Scheduled For Region

Pursuit Plane Pilot Tells Of Dodging Flying Discs

BOZEMAN, Mont., July 3 (AP)—Casey Baird, pilot of a P-38 pursuit plane working for the United States genetic survey, reported Monday he was forced to evade a group of flying discs, and that his photographs were used to get a picture.

Baird said the film would be developed next Monday.

The pilot said he ran into the flying objects at 12,000 feet.

Science Fails To Give Facts

Government Men Ask to See Sample

See Story on Page 1, Also at 10:30 p.m.

The nation was baffled Saturday by the "flying saucers" reported seen in 28 states by hundreds of persons who conjectured on their meaning first as casually as the reported cases of polio.

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The Big Bang: Flying Saucers (3)

New Craft Hit As 'Nonsense'

People Imagine Speeds of 1200

BY ROY MOXNESS Staff Writer The Oregonian

Pictures on Wifaphoto Page
These space sailing discs which have given sky gazing residents of the Pacific Northwest a collective pain in the neck, might be secret army

'Discs' Swoop Over Angler

See Story on Page 1. Also

The mysterious "flying saucers"—big and little, black and luminous—still are plentiful at the Pacific Northwest, according to the unflagging volume of reports from wide-eyed sky gazers.

More than 50 telephoned "disc" reports came in Tuesday to station boards at the Oregonian and station KGW, which interrupted its regular broadcast to give listeners the vital statistics on aerial thunders.

article next page

Disc' Found in New Mexico Declared Weather Balloon

Story C

Joseph Watt

The story of how this indubitable pioneer founded the disc series will be the first of a new series of the Oregonian's special section.

The Oregonian

WEATHER REPORT
Tuesday's temperature in Maxwells 73 degrees minimum 54 degrees
Wednesday's forecast—Partly cloudy
Complete report on page 15.

LEWIS—NO. 11338 PORTLAND, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1947 CITY EDITION 22 PAGES PRICE 15¢

Lewis Orders Miners Back, Asks: 'Who's Looney Now?'

PHILADELPHIA, July 8 (AP)—The Western Union Telegraph company ordered Tuesday a \$1,000,000 industrial rate which it claimed as "excessive" in the case of 100 workers who were on strike for the union's demand of a 10 percent wage increase.

The prohibition against rate of the rate.

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No Disc—It's Only a Radar Kite

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—The House today approved the House bill to prohibit the use of radar kites for espionage purposes.

The bill was passed by a vote of 372 to 117.

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Wallace Hears Soviet Speech

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House Passes Tax Slash Bill By Big Margin

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—The House today approved the House bill to prohibit the use of radar kites for espionage purposes.

The bill was passed by a vote of 372 to 117.



The lateral disks, shown with Maj. James A. Moxness, AAF intelligence officer at Maxwell, Ala., were believed to be a "flying disc" used by the Luftwaffe to send messages to the ground. (Associated Press Wirephoto)

Air Forces Deny Discs U.S.-Made

Material Command Chief Says Probe Getting Under Way

If there is any such thing as a flying saucer, disc, blimp or luminous ball of any kind flying around loose, it was not made in America. That was the official announcement from the army air forces Monday night in answer to the epidemic of reports from 30 states ranging

Guard Planes Plan Search

Pictures Sought Of Mystery Discs

See Story on Page 1. Also
Northwest national guard air squadrons went on an emergency footing Monday, determined to keep Oregon's Washington and Idaho skies under constant surveillance until the mystery of the "flying saucers" is solved.

The Big Bang: Flying Saucers (4)

- Forty UFO stories in the first two weeks after June 24, 1947. The usual sighting consisted of silvery, solid discs, sometimes in formation, traveling at variable speeds—sometimes faster than the fastest plane of the day, sometimes slower than the prevailing winds—lasting seconds to minutes. Many sightings had multiple witnesses.
- Almost all sighters were convinced they had witnessed intelligently controlled craft. Sighters included former military and current airline pilots, hunters, attorneys, business people, housewives, teenagers—you name it.
- The wave of reports started west of the Mississippi from Oklahoma City and Mt. Rainier first, then all over the west. Then by July 4 sightings had spread to the entire nation.

The Big Bang: Flying Saucers (5)

- Reports of saucers seen before Arnold's June 24 sighting surfaced from other people—one was a navy man (Kenyon) seen aboard a ship while on duty with others in 1943.
- On July 4, two independent groups of 60 and 100 picnickers in Idaho reported saucers in the sky.
- By the end of the two weeks, over 40 states had sighting reports.
- The national guard of Washington and Oregon were concerned enough to send up patrols of search planes with gun camera film sent in from Washington, D.C.

The Big Bang: Flying Saucers (6)

- The nation was told by Maj. Gen. Roger M. Ramey in Fort Worth that a weather balloon “crashed” near Roswell, N.M., and the captured saucer story was false. (The Oregonian failed to pick up the official press release from Roswell AAF.)
- The most credible explanation offered was secret U.S. experimental craft or “guided missiles.” We know today that these are not the solution to the mystery in 1947.
- One landed and one exploding saucer story already made their appearance in these first couple of weeks (along with the “captured disc” Roswell story, which was quickly retracted as part of the coverup that continues today).

The Big Bang: Flying Saucers (7)

- Official military response was mostly to deny they were responsible for the saucers and also that they knew nothing more than reporters and the public. But all the military responses taken together were contradictory.
- The phenomenon was treated as a genuine mystery by all concerned, though some initial stories had a ridiculing tone. The tone turned more serious in the second week, however.
- Many of the “explanations” of today were already offered within these first two weeks.

An Oregon UFO Researcher

- Jefferson Kincaid, massage therapist and UFO researcher.
- Has had UFO interest for thirty years and done local cable TV show work for 15 years, airing the UFO AZ show and later his own UFO/Phenom show.
- Started local newspaper archives work on UFOs and gradually extended it over ten years now.
- Has held his July 4th UFO Celebration locally for last eight years.
- Next one is at Green Dragon Bistro & Pub in Portland on July 4, 2015, at 1 pm.

Trent Photo Case (I)

- **When and where:** May 11, 1950, near McMinnville, Oregon, on the family farm.
- **Evidence:** Multiple eyewitnesses; photos.
- **Description:** Evelyn Trent spotted a 20 to 30 foot diameter, silver/bronze, maneuvering disc and called her husband, Paul. He re-entered their house, got his camera, and took two photos. They alerted their in-laws next door. The father-in-law, Evelyn, and Paul saw the disc move off to the west.
- The photos were published in the *McMinnville Telephone Register*. The photos went world-wide. *Life* magazine published a story.

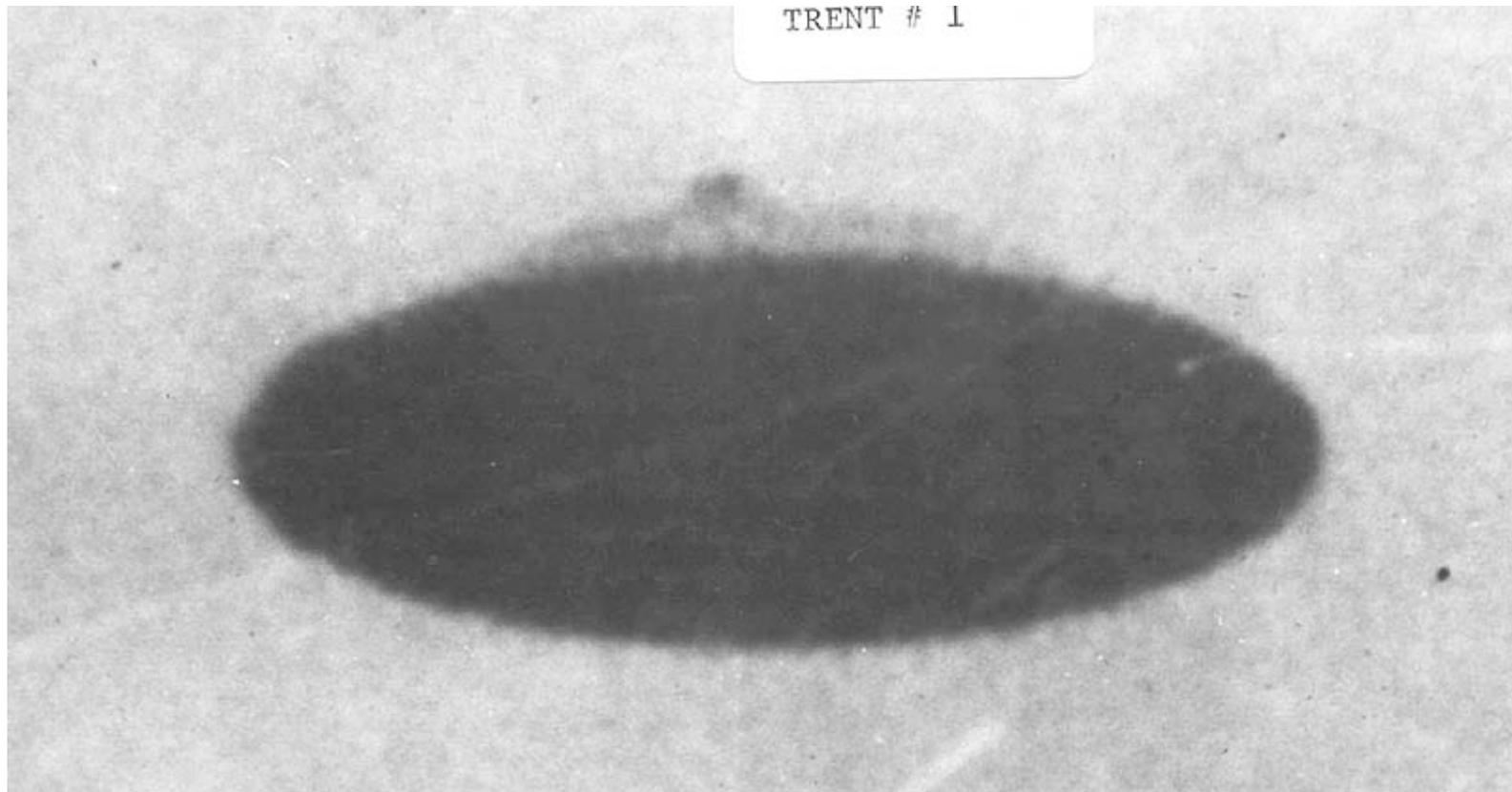
Trent Photos Case (2)



Source: Bruce Maccabee

Paul Trent Photo #1

Trent Photos Case (3)



Source: Bruce Maccabee

Paul Trent Photo Blowup #1

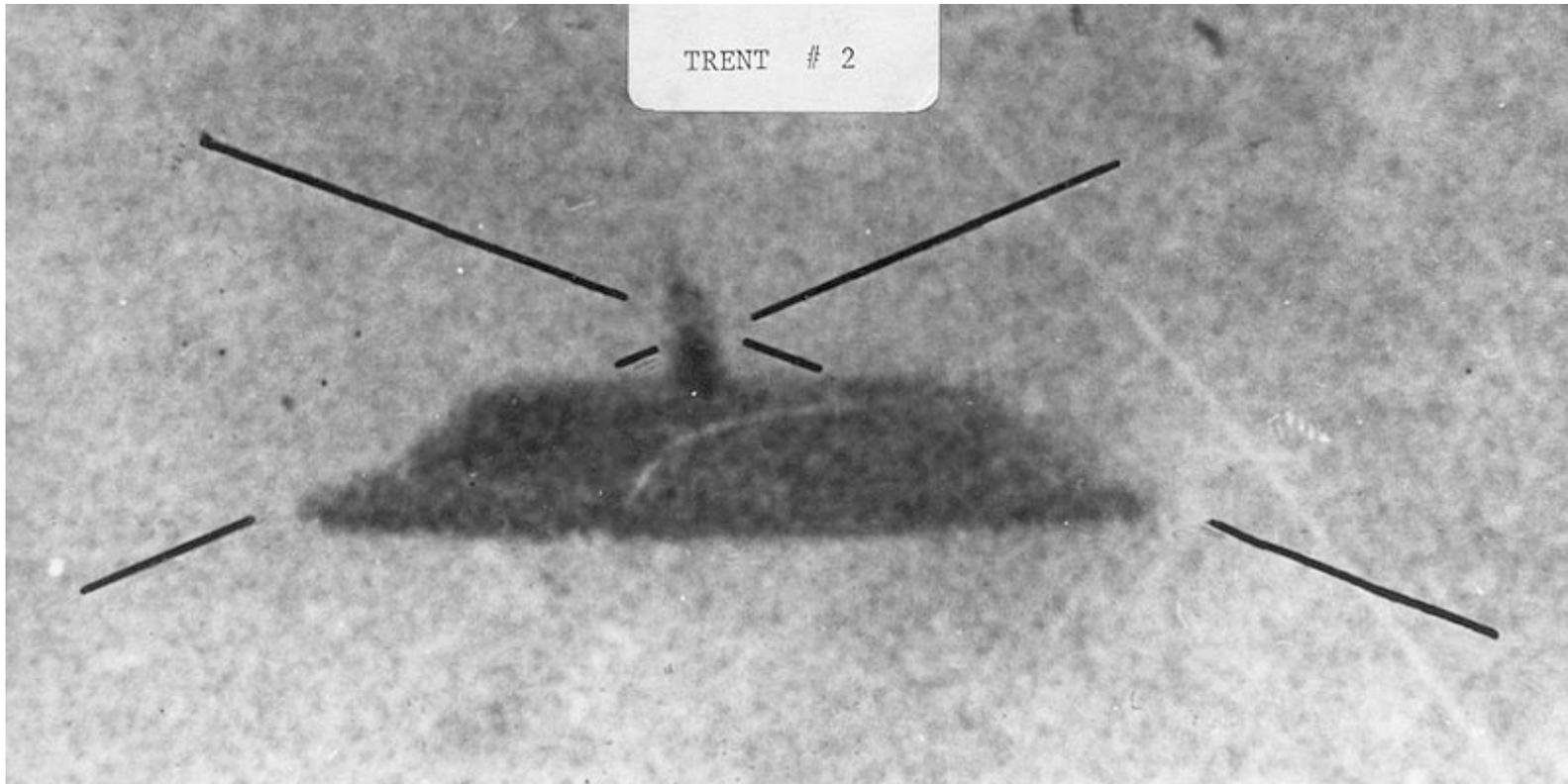
Trent Photos Case (4)



Source: Bruce Maccabee

Paul Trent Photo #2

Trent Photos Case (5)



Source: Bruce Maccabee

Paul Trent Photo Blowup #2

Trent Photo Case (6)

- The Trents appeared on TV in *We The People*.
- The FBI and Air Force questioned the Trents.
- An Air Force agent demanded and got the negatives from the *Register*.
- The negatives between 1950 and 1975 were lost and found many times.
- In 1975, the negatives were (mysteriously) returned to the *Register*.
- The Trents lived out their lives in McMinnville and never changed their story.

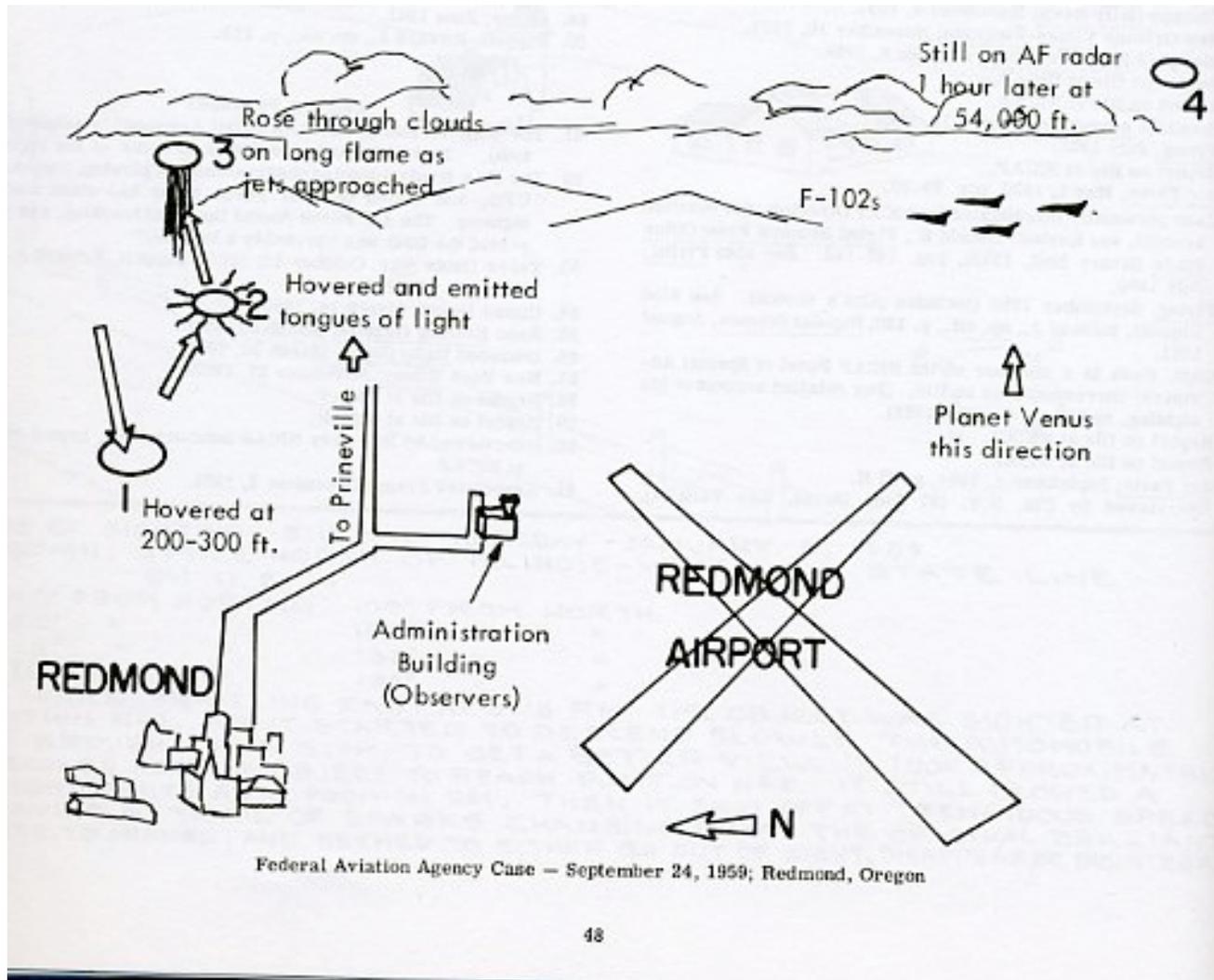
Trent Photo Case (7)

- In 1969, Dr. William Hartmann of the Condon Committee concluded that “This is one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated, geometric, psychological, and physical[,] appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object, silvery, metallic, disk-shaped, tens of meters in diameter, and evidently artificial, flew within sight of two [sic] witnesses.”
- In 1974, debunkers Philip Klass and Robert Sheaffer of CSICOP did superficial analyses of the photos, trying to prove the “close up model theory.”
- In 1975, optical physicist Dr. Bruce Maccabee of MUFON, CUFOs, and FUFOR determined that both photos show what is beyond a reasonable doubt a distant object and not a hoaxed model close up.

Redmond Airport Case (I)

- ***When and where:*** September 24, 1959, at Redmond, Oregon airport.
- ***Evidence:*** Multiple eyewitnesses with binoculars; radar.
- ***Description:*** At dawn, Policeman Dickerson saw a falling, bright object stop 200 feet above the ground and hover. It grew bigger and lighted up junipers. He drove toward it; it changed to dull red and moved to just NE of the airport. Airport FAA employee Wertz, Dickerson, and others viewed the object through binoculars.
- Official FAA logs showed the UFO was reported to the Seattle Air Route Control Center.

Redmond FAA Case (2)



Source: *The UFO Evidence*

Sketch of Layout of Redmond Sighting

Redmond FAA Case (3)

- Seattle relayed the sighting to Hamilton AFB.
- Seattle log said, “UFO also seen on the radar at Klamath Falls GCI [Ground Control Intercept] site. F-102’s scrambled from Portland.”
- Log continued [from Redmond ground observers] “ As aircraft approached, UFO took shape of mushroom, observed long yellow and red flame from lower side as UFO rose rapidly and disappeared above clouds.”
- UFO was seen again 25 miles south of airport. Radar showed the UFO south of the airport for two hours.

Columbia River Audio Case (I)

- **When and where:** March 17, 1981, over Columbia River near St. Helens, Oregon.
- **Evidence:** Thirty minute audiotape with two police officer witnesses and a “CBer.”
- **Description:** St. Helens police officer Russell Yokum saw a 30 foot diameter bright, pale orange light hovering 80 to 100 feet above the middle of the Columbia River. It lit up the river and banks like daylight.
- It emitted a powerful diesel(?) or electric motor(?) sound recorded on audiotape by the police. A CB police radio buff, Donald Askins, dangled his microphone out his window to pick up the sound since he was nearest the UFO.

Columbia River Audio Case (2)

- The St. Helens police and a few townspeople drove to a nearby bluff to finish the 30 minute sighting. The UFO moved south (upstream) somewhat down the Columbia.
- The UFO light and sound disappeared all of a sudden when near Ridgefield.
- The audiotape was analyzed by an acoustics expert. He noted the sound had strong peaks at 1000 Hz and 3000 Hz *with no appreciable harmonics* — the sound was practically pure 1000 Hz and 3000 Hz sine waves.
- Pure sine wave sounds with minimal harmonics are virtually impossible to produce in a natural environment such as the outdoors.

Columbia River Audio Case (3)

- Here is about a minute of the UFO sound with the voices of CBer Donald Askins and a police officer.

[CLICK TO START AUDIO]

Whiskey Hill Crop Circle (I)

- **When and where:** July 21-22, 1998, near Lenhardt Airport and Hubbard, OR, near S. Whiskey Hill Rd.
- **Evidence:** Crop circle in field of dry wheat; results of BLT Research.
- **Description:** Apparently overnight, a crop circle appeared in Doug Aamodt's wheat field. Crop circle researchers Ken Ardinger and Carol Pedersen alerted him to it.
- It was discovered by a pilot probably from Aurora Airport or Lenhardt Airport less than a mile away.
- An aerial view was shown on KOIN TV July 22.
- Many enthusiasts showed up due to publicity.

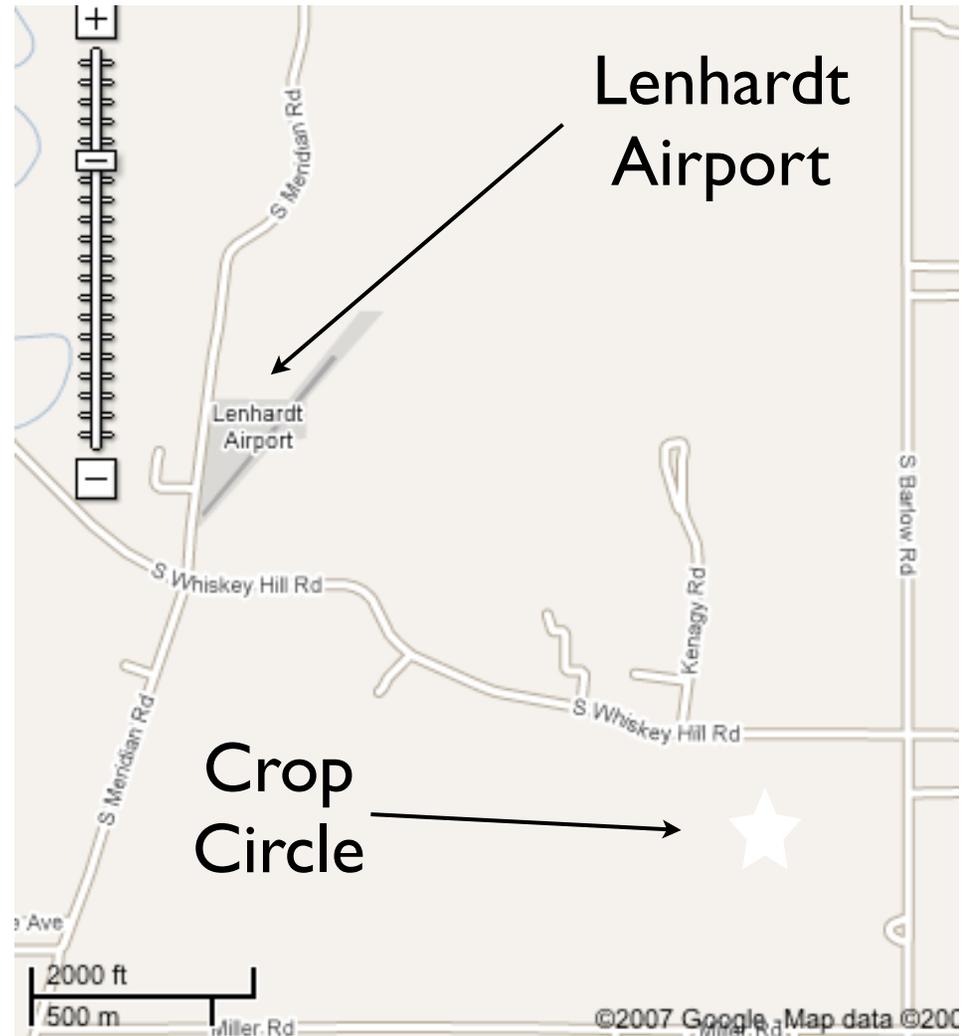
Whiskey Hill Crop Circle (2)

- 240 KV power lines run through the field.
- The formation could not be seen from S. Whiskey Hill Road.
- Ken Ardinger and Carol Pedersen, crop circle researchers with Centre for Crop Circle Studies investigated.
- Mike Downey and Keith Rowell of Oregon MUFON investigated. Took measurements, crop samples, soil samples, photos, etc., and sent them to Nancy Talbot at BLT Research.
- BLT Research found the characteristics of genuine crop circles in the Whiskey Hill material. See *bltresearch.com*.

Whiskey Hill Crop Circle (3)



Source: Dave Olson



Source: Google Maps

Whiskey Hill Crop Circle (4)



Source: Keith Rowell

Whiskey Hill Crop Circle (5)



Source: Keith Rowell

Whiskey Hill Crop Circle (6)



Source: Keith Rowell

Whiskey Hill Crop Circle (7)



Source: Keith Rowell

Gresham Triangle Case (I)

- **When and where:** August 29, 2003, on SE Division St. in Gresham, OR.
- **Evidence:** Two witnesses: Victor (pseudonym) seven minutes; Luann (pseudonym) eight seconds. (Tom Bowden, investigator.)
- **Description:** Victor drove east along SE Division and spotted a brilliant white light. He realized it was stationary. He was curious and got closer by driving on neighborhood streets toward it.
- Wanted to photograph it, but ended up not.
- Close enough eventually to see it had three lights—two white, one red—and its shape was distinctly triangular.

Gresham Triangle Case (2)

- It was totally silent.
- Victor noticed other people in the neighborhood looking at the triangular object.
- Luann was at home outside smoking. She saw through trees a triangular shaped object with three bright lights on the underside.
- After three or four seconds of hovering, it seemed to vanish.
- Both witnesses agree very much in their basic drawings of the object they saw.

Gresham Triangle Case (3)

Victor's
computer
graphic
drawing at
closest
approach.

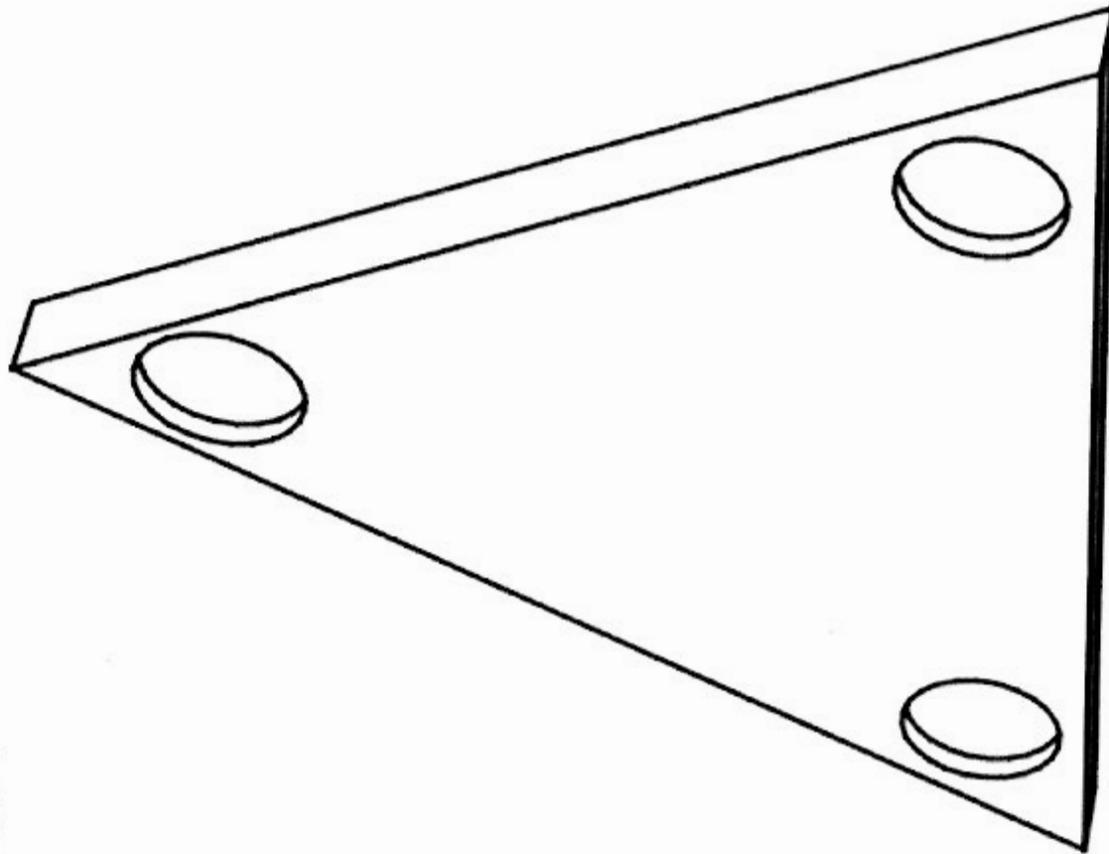


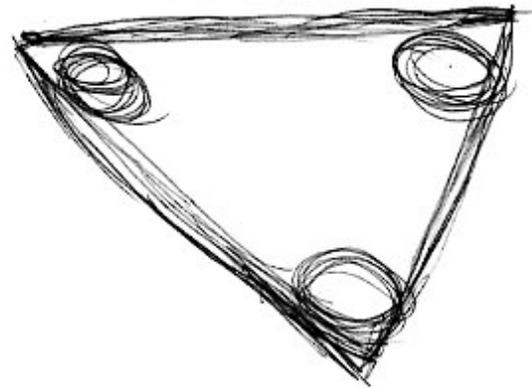
Exhibit D.

Witness #1 computer graphic rendering

Source:Victor

Gresham Triangle Case (4)

Luann's
drawing at
closest
approach.



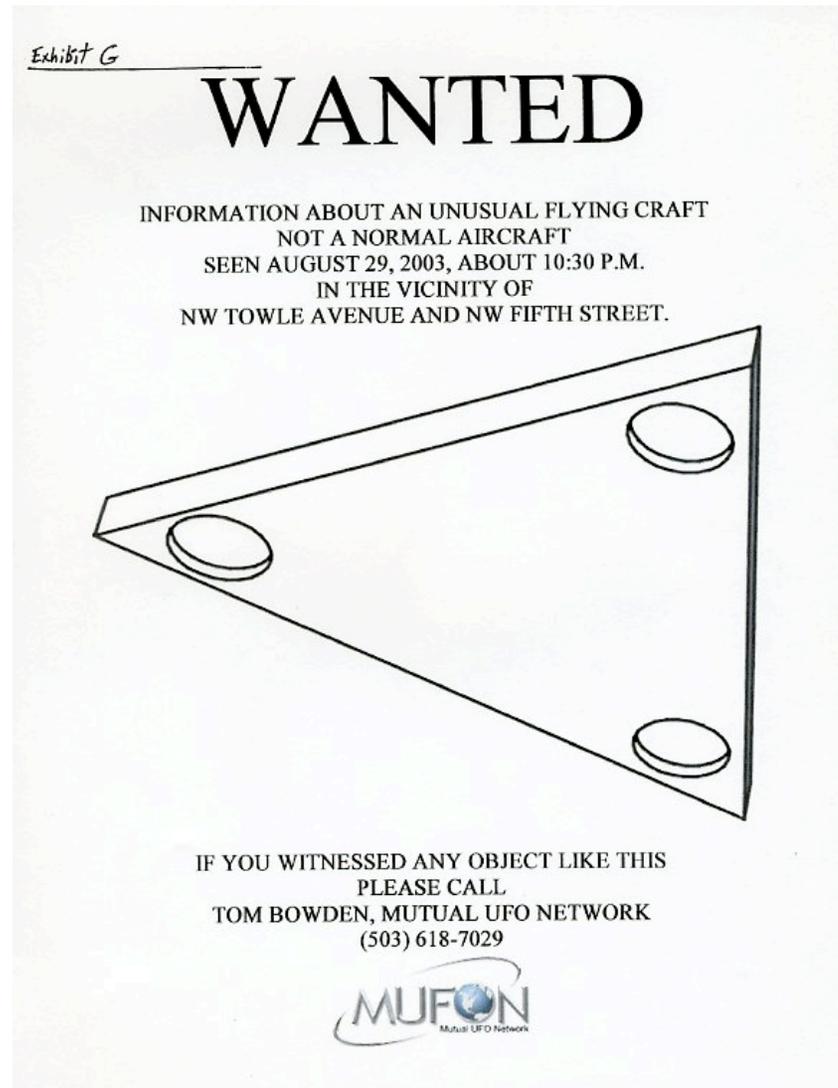
Source: Luann

Gresham Triangle Case (5)

- **Investigation:** Independent UFO researcher Eric Byler referred this case to Tom Bowden, who contacted Victor.
- Tom received airline flight path information from Jerry Gerspach of PDX.
- Tom made up a flyer for the neighborhood and posted it.
- Luann called Tom after seeing the neighborhood flyer.
- Tom achieved the “holy grail” of UFO research: enough information to calculate an accurate size and distance!
- He triangulated the distance and height of the UFO from observations at two different locations. The object was at 500 to 800 feet altitude and 70 to 90 feet in size.

Gresham Triangle Case (6)

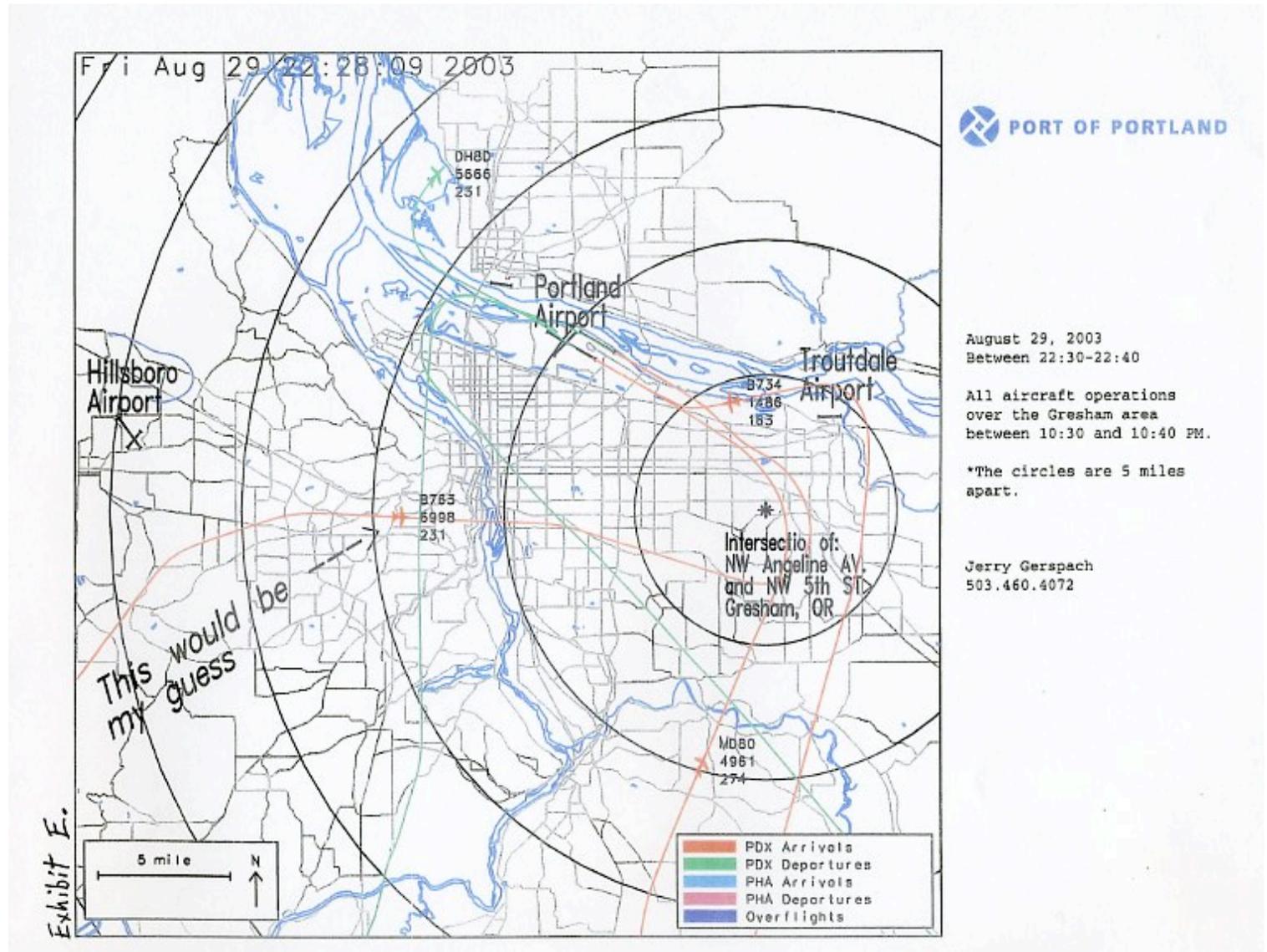
Poster for neighborhood created by Tom Bowden.



Source: Tom Bowden

Gresham Triangle Case (7)

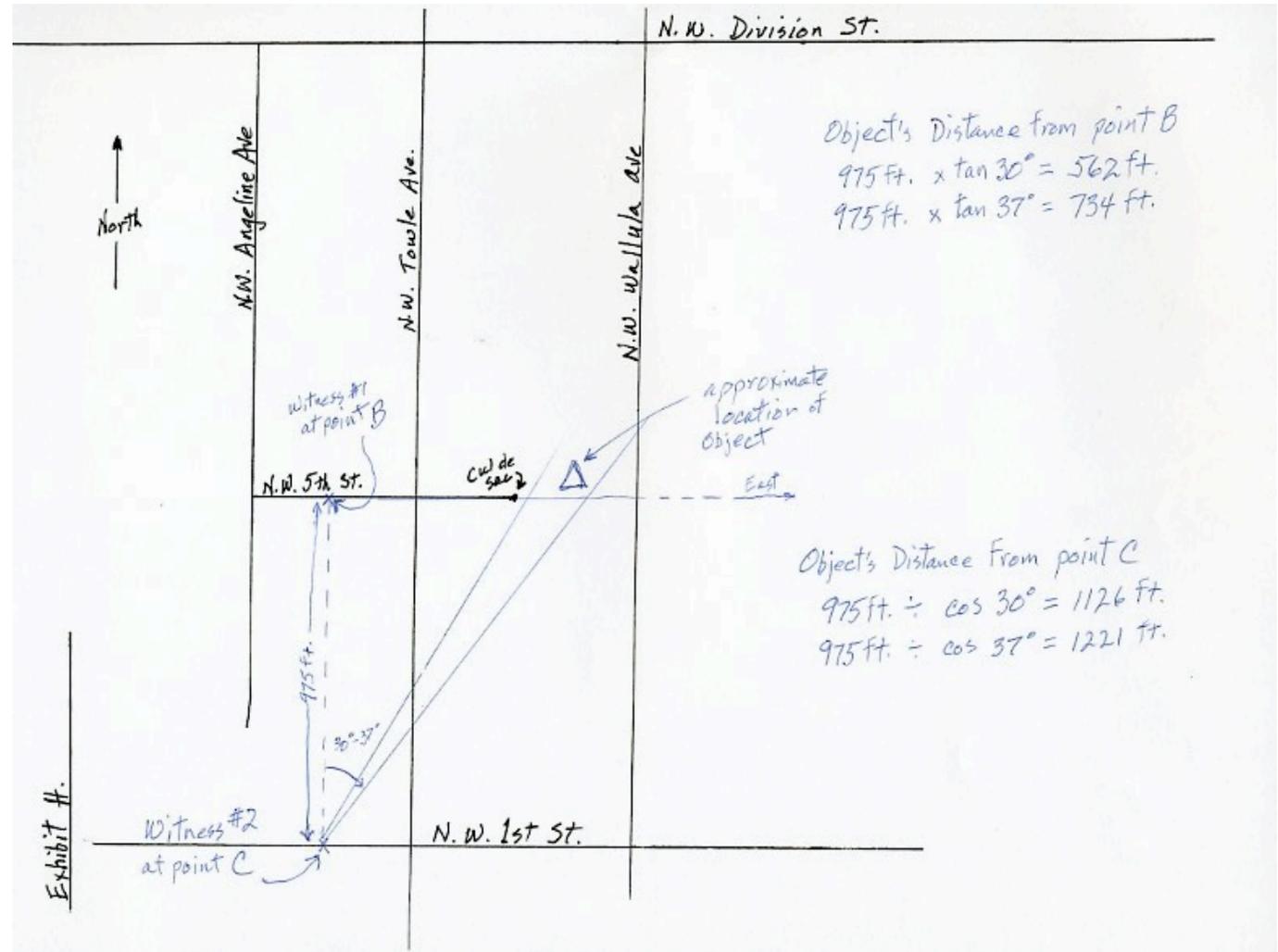
PDX air traffic at 10:30 PM, 8-29-07.



Source: Jerry Gerspach

Gresham Triangle Case (8)

Map of neighborhood with two witness positions.



Source: Tom Bowden

Astoria Classic Saucer Case (I)

- **When and where:** December 30, 2005, about 6:10 AM, just outside Astoria, OR, on Highway 30.
- **Evidence:** Three witnesses: Elizabeth (pseudonym), her son, and his wife. (Jerry Shifman, investigator.)
- **Description:** Elizabeth, her son, and his wife and infant son got up to drive to PDX early in the morning. They drove east along Highway 30 about 15 minutes. It is hilly and curvy in this section of Highway 30.
- They all saw bright strobing lights to the left of the road.
- They lost sight briefly, then saw for about 15 seconds a classic flying saucer hovering about 200 or so feet away.

Astoria Classic Saucer Case (2)

- It was at tree top level. Brilliant white light poured from apparent windows from a domed object about the size of a large SUV.
- The saucer lit up the surrounding ground and area.
- Elizabeth slowed the car. The object hovered motionless and apparently soundless.
- Five or six strobing lights were seen on the bottom. They strobed in unison. Flash, flash, pause. Flash, flash, pause. About a second or two long per cycle.
- All agreed it wasn't a hoax or helicopter or ?????? It was a flying saucer!

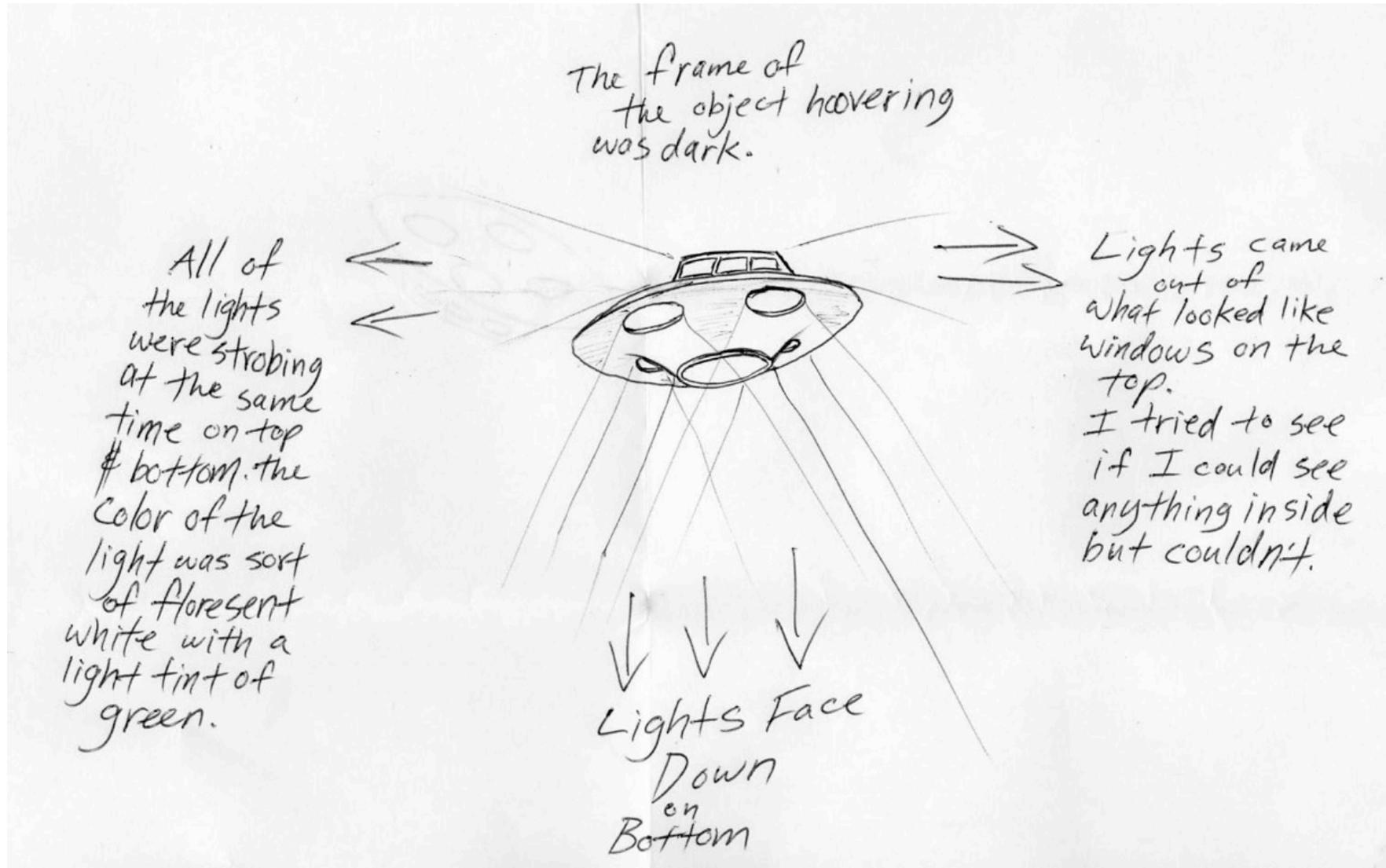
Astoria Classic Saucer Case (3)

Region
close to
area, but
not exact.



Source: Elizabeth

Astoria Classic Saucer Case (4)



Source: Son of Elizabeth

Modoc Road Video Case (I)

- ***When and where:*** March 20, 2007, about 11 AM, near Medford, Oregon.
- ***Evidence:*** Multiple eyewitnesses; videotape.
- ***Description:*** Karen and Richard Brown (pseudonyms) were driving south along Modoc Road into Medford when a flash caught Karen's eye. She saw an odd object and began videotaping it as they drove along. They couldn't pull over because they were hauling a long trailer.
- The object moved slowly along among the clouds. A plane landing at Medford Airport (videotaped also) was clearly different.

Modoc Road Video Case (2)

UFO shows
alternating
light and
dark along its
length.



Source: Karen Brown

Modoc Road Video Case (3)

Airplane and UFO Comparison From Same Video on Same Day.



Source: Karen Brown



Source: Karen Brown

The plane and UFO were at different distances and different zoomed lens lengths. The UFO was not on a usual airplane flight path to Medford Airport.

Modoc Road Video Case (4)

Calculation of Actual Size of UFO

Parameter	UFO	Landing Airplane
Angle of View	0.08° (calculated)	0.40° (calculated)
Pixel Length	42 (known by measurement)	75 (known by measurement)
Distance	4 to 6 miles (?)	3 miles (15,840 feet) (known by measurement)
Actual Length	30 to 44 (?)	110 feet (known from specs)
Camcorder Lens Focal Length	1440 mm (known from witness)	567 mm (calculated)

Modoc Road Video Case (5)

Seventeen Seconds of UFO Video



Source: Karen Brown

Conclusion

- For more information, go to *oregonmufon.com* and *mufon.com*.
- *Oregonmufon.com* is dedicated to putting the UFO into its broadest context along with giving you details of the Oregon UFO scene.
- *Mufon.com* is the national organization seeking to promote wider scientific and scholarly understanding of UFOs through research and educational outreach.
- Join MUFON today and help us with this effort.

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