

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 9 April 1957	2. LOCATION Temple, California		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT _____	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS	9. COURSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>hole in ground</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One object, fell into yard of private dwelling, no one saw object. Just rpt of hole.		11. COMMENTS This object was investigated by U.S. army and 4602d. No object found.	



DIG FOR SOLUTION—Army Ordnance experts dig in back yard of San Gabriel home in search of mysterious object that may have rocketed out of sky and plummeted into earth there. They planned to dig to depth of 20 feet if it is necessary.

(AP) photo

Explosive Experts Dig for Mysterious Object

Army Specialists Excavate in Back Yard of San Gabriel Home for Possible Missile

Army explosives specialists dug down into the back yard of a San Gabriel home yesterday in search of a mysterious object they believe may have bulleted out of the sky early Tuesday.

Patrick Murphy, 10-year-old son of Oscar and Virginia Murphy, found a 30-inch-wide crater in their yard at 8831 Greenwood Ave. shortly after the San Gabriel Valley rocked under what residents took to be a sonic boom.

Arrive at 2 A.M.

The cone-shaped hole was two feet deep and by the time it finally came to the attention of Army Ordnance men from Ft. MacArthur early yesterday, conviction had grown that it had been left by either a small missile or meteorite.

Capt. Robert Jackson, commanding officer of the 551st Ordnance Detachment, arrived with three enlisted men and Temple City Sheriff's deputies at 2 a.m.

He said there was no doubt in his mind that "something

Turn to Page 27, Column

LA Times
11 April 57

Army Digs for Mystery Object

Continued from First Page

from the air entered the ground."

He and his men dug cautiously for three hours, then returned at 10 a.m. with more explosive ordnance disposal unit specialists and a truckload of shoring equipment.

By midafternoon, they had dug 10 feet down in the rocky soil without finding any object.

Digging operations were stopped at 5 p.m., with plans to resume the job today. Meanwhile, two Sheriff's deputies were assigned to stand guard during the night.

Capt. Jackson said they intend to dig to a depth of 20 feet and "... if we find nothing, there will be a hole available."

Oscar M. Murphy, a venetian-blind salesman, recalled that the blast about 4:45 a.m. (the same hour other San Gabriel area residents were awakened by the so-called sonic boom) rattled windows and knocked toys off shelves. But Jackson said:

"There's nothing to indicate that anything exploded when it hit the ground."

Nothing Missing

He said the hole could have been made by anything up to a 100-pound bomb but added that if the object had exploded, his men would have discovered blackened rock and dirt.

Jackson said he understood there was an Air Force practice operation going on about the time of the shock, but Air Force information officers announced a check with Southern California bases failed to turn up a report of any lost missile, bomb or equipment.

To neighborhood conjecture that some youngster might have dug the hole, Jackson responded, "If a child had dug it, we'd know it by now. There would have been knee marks around the crater."

His estimate was that whatever streaked into the earth back of the Murphy home had a 6 or 8-inch diameter and "could be any length."

Digging With Care

He admitted the possibility that—if an unexploded bomb or missile lay deep in the ground—a probing shovel might set it off. For this reason, he and his men were digging with extreme care.

One thing was certain: Whatever struck the earth filled in its own burrow with dirt so that the Army men were unable to trace the underground trajectory.

At one point they uncovered a chunk of concrete bearing yellow paint marks, but this was examined at Ft. MacArthur and experts decided it was unrelated.

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On the digging operation with Jackson's men were members of the 58th Ordnance Detachment under Lt. T. D. Smith, Air Force men and two Air Force intelligence officers who were close-mouthed. One of the latter, Lt. Charles R. Hoskins, did concede, however:

"There's definitely a hole in the ground."

Grounds Roped Off

Little Patrick Murphy saw the small crater Tuesday morning as he was leaving for school, but he didn't show it to his father until that evening. His dad called Temple City Sheriff's deputies. They contacted Norton Air Force Base and Ft. MacArthur ordnance men were summoned.

By noon yesterday, the digging operation was in full swing and deputies were forced to rope off the house to keep the curious at a distance.

Pat's sister Diane, 12, took the dim view of the cynic:

"There's nothing in the ground. I think some kid dug the hole. Either that or it's Texas gopher."

Pat Jackson did not share her view. His men continued

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/UNCLAS/AISOC 313. PD REFERENCE MY MESSAGES AISOC 295
AND AISOC 304 PD FINAL REPORT TEMPLE CALIF INCIDENT PD ARMY
ORDINANCE CEASED OPERATIONS AFTER DIGGING SIXTEEN FEET PD
TEAM COMMANDER STATED THAT IF ANY OBJECT WAS IN GROUND
COMM IT WOULD NOT BE DANGEROUS PD APPARENTLY THERE WAS NO
OBJECT PD FURTHER OPERATIONS SINCE AISOC 304 LEND CREDENCE
TO RUMOR REPORTED PD NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS OF INCIDENT WILL
FOLLOW BY MAIL PD NOT FURTHER ACTION CONTEMPLATED PD END

BT

12/2101Z APR RJEDEN

1957, Apr. 9 - San Gabriel, Cal - Early - Unidentified Object plunges in backyard here, digging a crater! Sonic-boom rocked town! Army Ordnance digging-up entire yard to find it! Believed to be an Object about 6in. in diameter, a missile, rocket, meteorite, ice or UFO! There were AF planes in the Sky at the time of "Boom"!

Another datum that is perhaps relevant is found in the Los Angeles Examiner and Los Angeles Times, April 11. Another skyquake "rocked" the San Gabriel Valley at 4:45 a.m. two days earlier. Residents were awakened by the "so-called sonic-boom," the force of which "rattled windows and knocked toys off the shelves." But the novelty of the "skyquake" was eclipsed by an additional feature: a thirty-inch wide, two-foot deep conical hole was found in the backyard of the home of [REDACTED], a venetian-blind salesman. His 10-year-old son [REDACTED], who said that he heard something land with a "thump" about 5 a.m., found the hole on his way to school, and told his father about it that evening. Murray informed the Temple City sheriff's station of the hole, deputies investigation, and the matter was turned over to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal squad at Fort MacArthur. Captain [REDACTED] said that "something from the air had entered the ground-- something about six or eight inches in diameter that could be any length." He added that the hole was similar to one made by a small dud bomb; speculation also included the possibility of a meteorite or "one of those confounded flying saucers." [REDACTED] and his men dug cautiously and by 5 p.m. (April 10) they had reached a depth of ten feet without uncovering any dud bombs, meteorites or flying saucers. [REDACTED] said that they would continue to dig to a depth of 20 feet, and should nothing be found, "there will be a hole available." Apparently there is now a 20-foot hole available: Mrs. [REDACTED] (to whom we are indebted for all of the California news clippings) writes us that subsequent news accounts reported the search for the "unidentified object" was fruitless.

Of course, the possibility that the "object" responsible for the hole was a meteorite is strong, although none was found. But the connection between the hole and the "skyquake" remains unknown. Apparently, there was "nothing to indicate that anything exploded when it the ground," according to Capt. Jackson.

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/UNCLAS/ AISOC 3 4 PF REFERENCE MY MESSAGE AISOC 295 STG 10/1615Z
APR 57 PD FOLLOWING FURTHER INFORMATION RE THIS UFOB CLN DIR OF
INTEL OF 27TH AIRDIVISION IS COORDINATING AGENCY RE THIS MATTER PD
ARMY ORDINANCE HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBLLUTY FOR OBTAINING OBJECT PD
ARMY ORDINANCE HAS DUG AT HOLE AND REPORTED THE EVENTS
LEADING TO THE INCIDENT PD NO CONFIRMATION FOR THIS RUMOR PD THREE
MAY COMMUNICATION IS BEING MAINTAINED BETWEEN ARMY ORDINANCE AT
SCENE CMM 27TH AIR DIVISION AND FLIGHT 10 CMM THIS SQUADRON PD
YOUR OFFICE WILL BE INFORMED OF RESULTS PD END

BT

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ATIC

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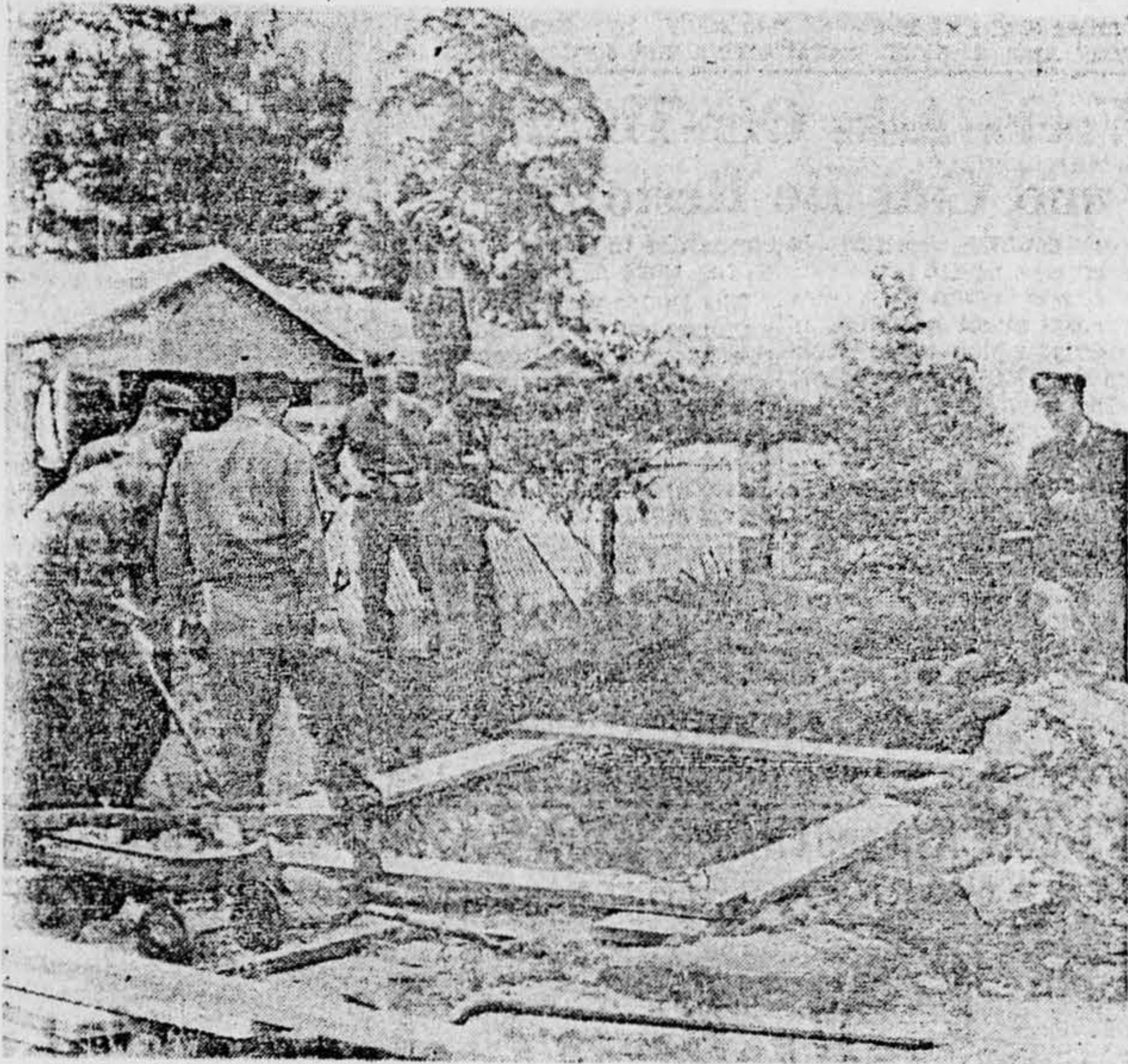
/UNCLAS/ AISOC 295 PD FOLLOWING INFORMATION FORWARDED TO
YOUR OFFICE TO COVER POSSIBLE QUERIES RE THIS MATTER CLN
OBJECT FELL INTO YARD OF SOURCE IN TEMPLE CALIFORNIA ON 9
APRIL 1957 PD APPEARS TO HAVE CAUSED SLIGHT PANIC AS OBSERVERS
ARE AFRAID TO APPROACH THE HOLE MADE BY THE OBJECT PD WO HOLM
AND MSGT EVANS DEPARTED THIS DATE FOR ARES OF SIGHTING TO
INVESTIGATE PD YOUR OFFICE WILL BE KEPT INFORMED PD END

BT

101623Z APRIL 57 RJEDEN

*LA Examiner
11 April 1957*

Dig That Crazy Crater



—Los Angeles Examiner photo.

MISSILE MYSTERY—Army bomb experts, proceeding on premise there might be a missile buried there, dig

hole in backyard at 3831 Greenwood avenue San Gabriel, where Pat Murphy, 10, said he heard object land.

San Bernardino
Calif
THE DAILY SUN—3

Friday, April 12, 1957

Great 'Unidentified Fallen Object' Hunt in Yard Fails

(Continued From Page One)

would be too far down to cause any damage."

Capt. Jackson, a Korean war veteran from West Frankfort, Ill., said that there was a possibility ice from a diving jet plane may have plunged into the earth, melting after forming the impact crater.

The hole was noticed Tuesday morning, shortly after neighbors heard what they thought was a sonic boom.

A meteorite enthusiast, rocket engineer Rollin W. Gillespie, of

nearby Arcadia, theorized that a meteorite could have streaked from the sky, smashed into the earth and then been overlooked by the soldiers in their search for high explosives.

"I wouldn't know a meteorite from a hole in the ground," an Army spokesman admitted.

Earlier the Air Force sent a delegation of tight-lipped intelligence experts to the scene. A first lieutenant from Norton Air Force Base near San Bernardino, grilled by newsmen, finally admitted:

"There definitely is a hole in the ground."

Army Digging for Mystery Missile Here

(Photo on Page 5.)

SAN GABRIEL, April 10.— Army bomb experts today are digging a deep, wide hole in the backyard of a San Gabriel residence searching for what they believe may be a dangerous explosive missile.

But they're not really sure it's a missile they're after. It could be anything. All they know is:

It landed with a thud at 5 a. m. Tuesday morning.

It made a crater-shaped hole in the ground.

It's about six inches in diameter.

It did not explode. But it might.

The hole was found by Oscar Murphy, 3831 Greenwood avenue. His ten-year-old son, Pat, says he heard the thump when it landed. But no one else heard it, and his father is rather skeptical.

Murphy called the Temple City sheriff's station to report the hole. Sheriff's deputies investigated, decided it was outside their jurisdiction, and called the Explosive Ordnance Disposal squad at Fort MacArthur.

Captain R. B. Jackson said the hole made by the object was similar to those made by small dud bombs when they land. He said it is also possible the mysterious object could be a meteor, something dropped from a civil aircraft, or "one of those confounded flying saucers."

Meanwhile, Air Force sources emphatically denied any missiles are missing from any of their aircraft. Five unofficial Air Force observers came from Norton Air Force Base to the Murphy backyard, but had no comment.

San Bernardino Sun

Big 'Unidentified Fallen Object' Hunt in Murphy Backyard Fails

SAN GABRIEL (AP)—A small hole discovered by a small boy—and then enlarged by Army crews into a junior grade mineshaft—kept its subterranean secret last night.

At a depth of 15 feet Army demolition experts stopped digging, probed the earth, listened to the noncommittal hum of a mine detector, and then announced:

"If there is anything down here it won't hurt anything if it does explode."

Ten-year-old Pat Murphy started everything Tuesday when he discovered a strange hole in the backyard of his suburban San Gabriel home.

His father, Oscar Murphy, called sheriff's deputies. They called the Army, and ordnance specialists pronounced the hole an "impact crater."

"We could tell by examining the hole that it was caused by an object falling from the sky," said Army Capt. Robert Jackson, commanding officer of an ordnance unit at nearby Fort MacArthur. "Because it could have been caused by something dangerous, we decided to dig down to find it."

Dig the Army did—until the Murphy yard was heaped with tons of sandy soil and crowded with soldiers, sheriff's officers and newsmen. The driveway was jammed with hulking Army trucks. Earth-moving machinery ripped up the flagstone patio and clothesline poles.

But in two days of digging nothing more interesting than a wrecked baby carriage was found. There are conflicting explanations on why the Army has a job of covering a 7-by-8-by-15-foot hole today.

Said Lt. T. D. Smith, of Salem, Ark., who directed the digging:

"If there is, say, a rocket down there—and I'm not saying there is a rocket—if it exploded now it

(Continued on Page 3, Column 6)