

## PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 13-14 December 1962	2. LOCATION Greenfield, California		12. CONCLUSIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon  <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft  <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical  <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 14/0847-1505Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian & Military		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 6 hours	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE rising	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Object which at first was believed to be an a/c on fire in the SE at an estimated 10,000 feet observed by policeman. Object did not move but was in a fixed position, was round & glowing white or silver light. Similar reports fm surrounding cities. Movement was of vertical climb only. Last estimate of alt 60,000ft. Observed in morning to be still visible. All observations were of single white object rising. No radar pickup.		11. COMMENTS Considered as a weather balloon or balloon manufactured by civilian by investigating officers. Concur with this evaluation.	

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# en-News



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1962

10 Cents

# LOOKING BACK? ER CALIFORNIA!

# Civil Defense on Emergency Alert

Air Force Intelligence officers were investigating reported sightings of unidentified flying objects over northern California today—unable to explain why hundreds of persons on the ground could see them while others couldn't.

This morning's predawn unexplained activity was the largest UFO sighting in recent years, experts, who

follow the subject with keen interest, said.

## UFO Sighting

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There was widespread interest in the sightings because they occurred coincidentally with the arrival of Mariner 2 on its flight path past the planet Venus.

The Air Force began sweeping the skies in the northern part of the State after bright, pulsating lights were seen and police and Civil Defense authorities rushed to a state of emergency readiness.

A spokesman at Hamilton Air Force Base near San Francisco said a report from the sheriff's office at Salinas was received at 4:34 a.m. alerting the Air Force to the fact that a large unidentified flying object was "going back and forth and changing colors" high in the sky over King City.

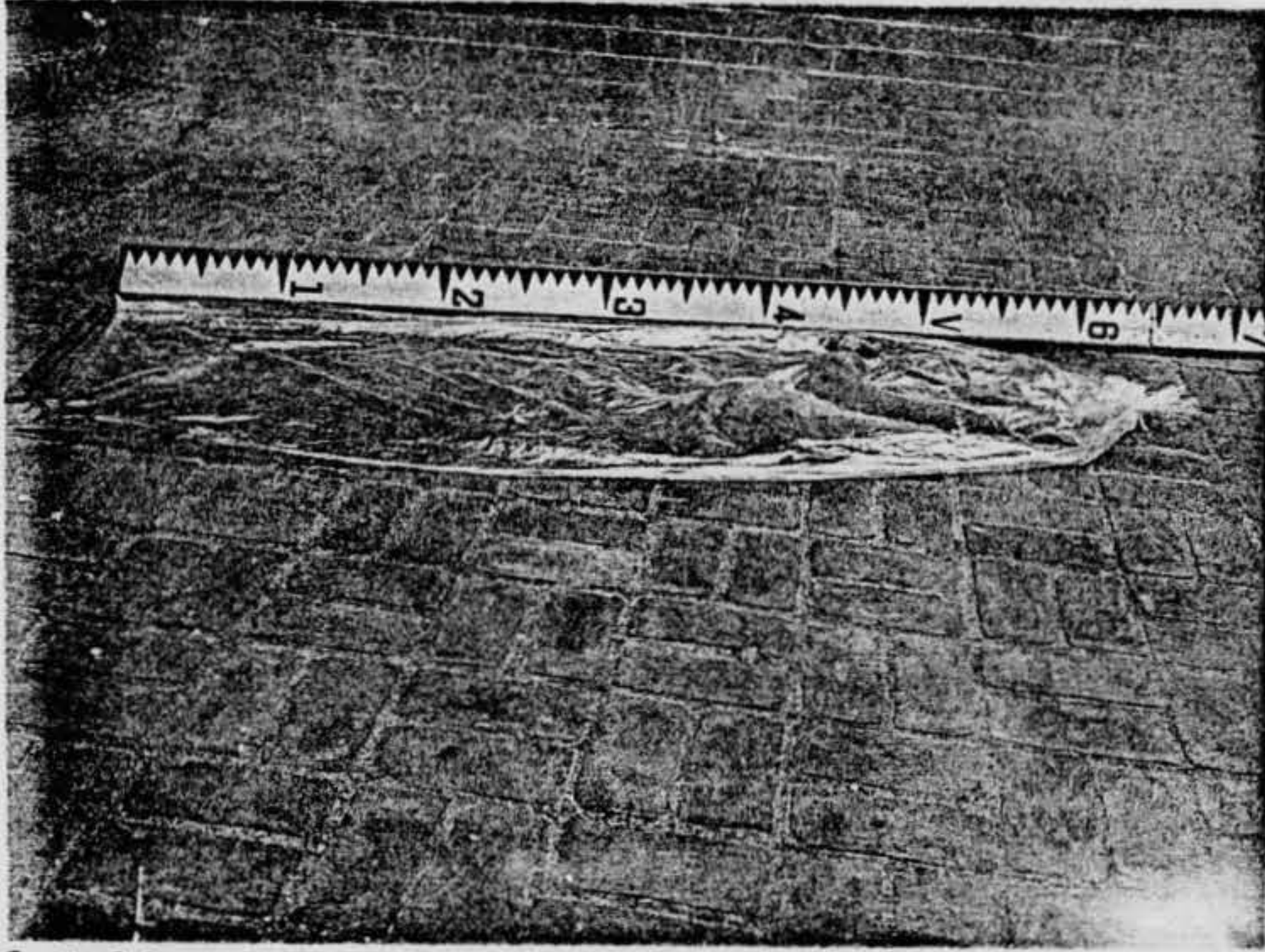
The Air Force spokesman said the USAF immediately alerted the State Civil Defense headquarters at Sacramento. Defense officials in turn called the 23rd Combat Center of the North American Air Defense Command at Hamilton where the chief controller ordered a radar sweep.

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...the sky over King City.  
 The Air Force spokesman said the USAF immediately alerted the State Civil Defense headquarters at Sacramento. Defense officials in turn called the 28th Combat Center of the North American Air Defense Command at Hamilton where the chief controller ordered a radar sweep. At the same time the Federal Aviation Agency at Oakland directed all civilian aircraft in Northern California to be alert for UFO or unidentified aircraft. Pilots flying in the predawn darkness flashed radio reports that they could see lights but were unable to make positive contacts. There was, however, "much meteor" activity in the area, the pilots' reports to the FAA said. Meanwhile, radar along the coast was unable to make a positive fix on the mysterious lights. A half hour later a second report from the sheriff's office was flashed to the Air Force—saying the UFO was back and now orbiting the Greenfield-Solidad-King City area. As radar probed for it and super sonic jet interception was being considered, the UFO "suddenly climbed straight up and disappeared to the south," a Hamilton AFB spokesman said. Twenty-three minutes later (at 5:20 a.m.) the sheriff's office at Solidad told Hamilton AFB officials that the UFO had returned for the third time.

**Smog Forecast**  
 The Air Pollution Control District...



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THIS CASE INCLUDES

3 PHOTOS 5x4 IN  
NEWSPAPER CLIPPING



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF  
19TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS  
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA  
Det 1902, Castle AFB, Calif

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: OSI

14 Dec 1962

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object

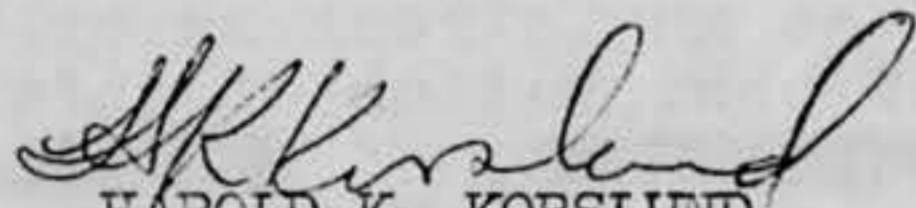
TO: *DeOI*

1. The following information was received by Special Agent James M. Cerra, Fresno Region Office, Region 1, 115th CIC, United States Army, and furnished to Special Agent David E. Sharrier of this office:

At 0427, 14 December 1962, the King City Unit of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, inquired of the Greenfield Unit whether or not they saw an object visible in the east. The Greenfield Unit answered that they did see an object which appeared to be changing color from a bright glow to a dull appearance. This object was drifting in a southerly direction. This was also observed by the Monterey Unit of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office and they estimated the altitude to be 10,000 feet. It was also observed at Fort Ord, California, and by Unit 115 of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.

It was described as very brilliant and approximately 10,000 feet in altitude. The Greenfield Unit observed it at 0047, 14 December 1962, and it was described as being similar to a ball of fire. At 0521, the object was not visible.

Hamilton AFB, California, checked all stations to ascertain if it were a weather balloon or an extremely fast moving aircraft. There was also observed a halo which was assumed to be a vapor trail. At 0617 the last transmission was received by the mobile unit of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.

  
HAROLD K. KORSLUND  
Special Agent  
Commander

*1 atch*

# CITY OF GREENFIELD

002688

POLICE DEPARTMENT

PHONE ORANGE 4-5511 • P. O. BOX 306  
GREENFIELD, MONTEREY CO., CALIF.

Detailed report of sighting UFO

12-13-62  
12:00MN 8:00AM watch

4:30AM 12-14-62, While on routine Police patrol in the City of Greenfield, Monterey County, California; I observed a brilliant glowing object at an estimated 10,000 feet in the sky Southeast of this city. I immediately stopped my cruiser to better observe this object, which at first appeared to be an aircraft on fire. On closer inspection, the object appeared as a round glowing, brilliant, white or silver light, which remained in a fixed position in a near cloudless sky. Because this object or vehicle appeared to be in the area of King City, twelve miles South of Greenfield, I contacted the King City Police, via Police radio, and was advised that they were able to locate the same object I have referred to, however they said it appeared to be in the area of Coalinga several miles Southeast of their city. At or about the time of King City's confirmation of sighting, other Police units in the cities of Soledad and Gonzales, to the North of Greenfield, made similar reports of this object. After making radio report to the communications control center in Salinas, I continued to observe this brightly, glowing, object at frequent intervals through binoculars. When compared to the brightest stars visible, the object under observation looked much larger and brighter than any of them. I observed the Russian "Sputnik" on two orbits over San Francisco and Oakland, but the object I saw this morning appeared much larger and brighter than "Sputnik", however, unlike "Sputnik" this object's movement appeared to be one of vertical climb only, moving from an estimated 10,000 feet on first sighting at 4:30AM to 60,000 feet on my last observation at 7:05AM.

Patrolman Charles CRISP a Police Officer of the King City Police Department and an off duty Military Police Sergeant, [REDACTED], and I made a fifteen minute observation of this glowing, object, using 7X50 powered binoculars. We observed from 5:45AM to 6:00AM from El Camino Real at Maple Av., Greenfield, and are in agreement that the thing we viewed shone with a constant, brilliant, white or silver light, which appeared to climb vertically an estimated 20,000 feet in the time we watched. At no time after sighting this bright object was I able to detect the slightest Zig-Zag or erratic motion, and I did not see any streamers or comet-like appearance to the thing I viewed. My last observation of this object was made at the home of Constable and Mrs. [REDACTED], of [REDACTED] St., Greenfield, who agree with me, the object, we watched at 7:05 AM was much brighter than the moon which was clearly visible in the early morning light.

It is the opinion of the writer that any report of erratic movement or change of course in flight, or any attempt to describe this object as saucer shaped, missile shaped, or of conventional aircraft design is erroneous, and the product of a Hyper-active imagination.

*Nick Hienz*  
Nick Hienz, Patrolman G.P.D.

COPY

2 Atch

14/08472

HEADQUARTERS  
93D BOMBARDMENT WING  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
CASTLE AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: DCOI

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object

TO: AFSC (FTD)

1. An investigation of an unidentified flying object was made on 19, 20, and 21 December 1962, on the basis of attachment 1 to this report. Prior to making this investigation, calls were made to Hamilton and Beale Air Force Bases to determine if action had been taken by either base.
2. The following military and civilian organizations were contacted during the course of the investigation, and all willingly cooperated, and provided as much assistance as possible.
  - a. Provost Marshal's Office, Fort Ord, California.
  - b. Detachment 7, 16th Weather Sqdn. USAF, Fritzsche Field, Fort Ord, California.
  - c. US Naval Air Facility, Monterey, California.
  - d. Monterey County Sheriff's Office, Salinas, California, and Sub-Units at Monterey and King City.
  - e. Police Departments of King City, Greenfield, Soledad and Gonzales, California.
  - f. FAA Weather Station, Salinas, California Airport.
  - g. California State Division of Forestry, 480 Calle Principale, Monterey, California.
3. Description of the object was consistent, except for some minor variations. The object was round, varied in size from a large grapefruit to the size of a dinner plate (10 - 12 inches). There was only one object, white in color, and very bright. There were no trails or exhaust, but ground fog and some traces of clouds were present. A halo effect was attributed to ground fog. There was no sound. One observer in Soledad stated he was receiving squelch on the police radio shortly after he saw the object at 0930Z 14 December, and believed object could have been causing squelch. No other observers reported squelch on the police radio.
4. Observers first noted the object because of the very bright light. Two observers at Fort Ord believed it to be a very bright star. Angle

when first observed was approximately  $15^{\circ}$  to  $20^{\circ}$ , altitude estimated at 10,000 feet. Object appeared to the southeast of all observers. Three observers placed the object over the city of Coalinga, California. Angle at disappearance was approximately  $50^{\circ}$  to  $55^{\circ}$ , and altitude estimates varied between 25,000 and 60,000 feet. There was very little horizontal or diagonal movement, and there was no rapid movement in any direction. There was a gradual rising movement while the object drifted to the south and finally disappeared as daylight came to the area. Two observers described the disappearance of the object as being similar to the light in a television set when the set is turned off. The object was visible for slightly more than 6 hours; however, no one observed it for the entire time, but rather at intervals. Also, to some observers the light disappeared and then reappeared.

5. The manner of observation was ground-visual, and one observer used binoculars (7 X 50), the object was not reported by USAF radar sites in the area.

6. Time of sighting was 0847Z through 1505Z, 14 December 1962. Light conditions were night for most of the time, and dawn for a brief period.

7. Three observers were located near the main gate to Fort Ord, Calif. on State Highway 1. Two observers were located in King City and Greenfield, and one observer was located in Soledad.

8. Personnel observing the object are as follows:

- a. Patrolman LARRY SCHUMACHER, age 25  
Monterey Unit of Monterey County  
Sheriff's Office. No previous military service, but a fairly reliable observer.
- b. Private First Class ROBERT E. LASSEN, age 21  
US51488370, Fort Ord, California.  
Reliable observer.
- c. Private First Class JOHN T. OWENS, age 22  
RA19616474, 298th Military Police Company  
Fort Ord, California. Reliable observer
- d. Patrolman ALBERT ANDRADE, age 29  
King City Police Department  
Fairly reliable observer, no previous military experience.
- e. Patrolman RICHARD MARTINEZ, age 27  
King City Police Department  
Only partly reliable, not experienced as an observer, no previous military experience.

- f. Patrolman NORMAN L. (Nick) HIENZ, age 41  
Greenfield Police Department. Very reliable observer, retired Air Force veteran, Master Sergeant, considerable experience as an observer.
- g. Constable ██████████, age 68  
Greenfield Police Department  
Reliable observer, long time resident of the area.
- h. Patrolman JOSEPH E. MORANDA, age 34  
Soledad Police Department  
Very reliable observer, no previous military experience.

9. The nearest weather station was the FAA Station located at the Salinas Airport. William H. Hender was the specialist on duty at 1234Z 14 December, when the station received the first report of the object. He reported nothing unusual, and did not see the bright light. His report of weather conditions for the period 0855Z through 1255Z on 14 December 1962 is as follows:

0855Z	3/10	cloudiness at 4,000	10 mile visibility
0955Z	1/10	cloudiness at 4,000	10 mile visibility
1055Z	clear	no clouds	10 mile visibility
1155Z	clear	no clouds	10 mile visibility
1255Z	clear	no clouds	8 mile visibility

He also stated that at 1247Z, 14 December, the Oakland Air Traffic Control Center at Fremont, received a call from a Pan-American Airlines pilot who saw a heavy meteor display. The area of the display was to the south and east of Salinas. Vertical temperature gradient, wind direction, and velocity were not available. Wind direction was from the south southwest at 190°.

10. Weather balloons released either by the US Coast Guard weather station at Morro Bay or the weather station at San Luis Obispo, Calif. could have drifted into the area and account for the sighting.

11. An improvised balloon released by a private citizen or prankster, could also account for the sighting. The balloon could be made of transparent plastic material which can be purchased at any dry cleaning establishment. Large envelopes or balloons, single or double thickness, 6 to 8 feet long can be made and filled with natural gas used in private homes. Evidence that plastic bag balloons have been made and used by pranksters, has been found by the California State Forestry Division in Monterey County. These balloons were filled with natural gas and fitted with an improvised device which would burn through the plastic and cause a bright flash as the gas ignited. It would be possible for an individual to assemble all the necessary equipment and launch a balloon without any assistance. Attachments 3, 4, and 5 are photographs

of the balloons and devices found by the California State Forestry Division 480 Calle Principale, Monterey. Mr. Richard E. Diltz, an associate state forest ranger, stated that it was possible to attach a flashlight or lantern to one or more of the plastic bags with masking tape, or any material strong enough to hold the weight. Mr. Diltz also requested that no information concerning the plastic balloons be released to newspapers or magazines.

12. The behavior characteristics of the object were that of a balloon. The source of the balloon cannot be positively determined.

*Chester G. Krieger*  
CHESTER G KRIEGER  
Major, USAF  
Investigating Officer

5 Atch

1. Ltr, Report of UFO
2. Report of Patrolman Hienz
3. Photo of balloon
4. Photo of balloon
5. Photo of balloon

*Thought For The Day*

*"We're surrounded by the spirits of men who never served less than the welfare of mankind."*

Rev. J. Herbert Smith,  
All Saints Church,  
Beverly Hills.

**Hollywood Edition**

# Citizen-N

Vol. 58 No. 221

1545 N. Wilcox, HO 9-1234; 5011 Lankershim, N.H., PO 3-6221; 6648 Reseda, ST 1-0751, DI 5-6500, 4000 R. Canon, CR 6-2341

# IS VENUS LOOK 'SAUCER' OVER