

TX 1897-0001
US0419-~~001~~

METAL FROM CRASHED UFO?

John F. Schuessler

Did a cigar-shaped unidentified flying object really crash near Aurora, Texas, on April 19, 1897? Some people believe the whole story was a fabrication by S. E. Hayden, a local cotton buyer; while others are reasonably sure the tragic accident really occurred.

Investigators for the Mutual UFO Network, headquartered in Seguin, Texas, have uncovered evidence that raises doubts about the hoax theory.

Sightings of strange airships were reported all across the United States during the spring of 1897. The Aurora incident was just another UFO sighting; but with an unusual twist. It resulted in the allegation that an object crashed and left debris as proof of the event.

Bill Case, a state director for the Mutual UFO Network, discovered family members of the original witnesses were ready to tell what happened that memorable day. Mrs. Mary Evans, about 15 years old at the time, said her mother and father went to the crash site and told her how the airship had exploded and that the pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. He was a small man and was buried later that day in the local cemetery by the men of the town.

Jim Stephens told his son Charlie how the nose of the airship hit the windlass over the water well on Judge J. S. Proctor's farm causing a chain reaction explosion. The flash followed by a fire was visible for more than three miles.

Investigators have reconstructed the events of the sighting and located the crash site. Using sophisticated metal detecting equipment and guided by the eyewitness accounts they retrieved pieces of metal of various sizes and types. Bill Case said "from all indications there was definitely an explosion. The pattern established by metals recovered indicates the craft exploded on the lower right side first blowing bits and pieces over a two or three acre area east and northeast of the well site on top of a rocky limestone hill. Immediately, the rest of the craft exploded throwing other samples to the north and west."

Although it is difficult to determine which samples may have resulted from the crash, as compared with debris left by people living on the farm during the past three-quarters of a century, some of the samples were unique.

One piece, thought to be a structural member of some kind, was analyzed by a major U. S. laboratory with exciting results. An electron dispersion x-ray analyzer was used to identify the elements found in the sample. Only aluminum with a trace of iron could be detected.

The sample was retrieved from a location about 100 feet west of the well site beneath four inches of soil. It was lodged directly against the face of the limestone rock and conformed to

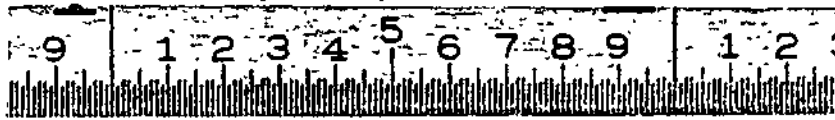
the exact configuration of the stone, indicating it was in a near molten state when it penetrated the earth and hit the rock where it cooled.

X-ray fluorescence analysis determined the sample to be free of zinc. This was an unexpected finding, since the samples retrieved from the east of the well site contained zinc. The soft x-ray spectrographic analysis verified the high purity of the aluminum, the inclusion of iron, and the absence of copper. This also is an anomaly, because commercial aluminum alloys that contain iron usually contain copper.

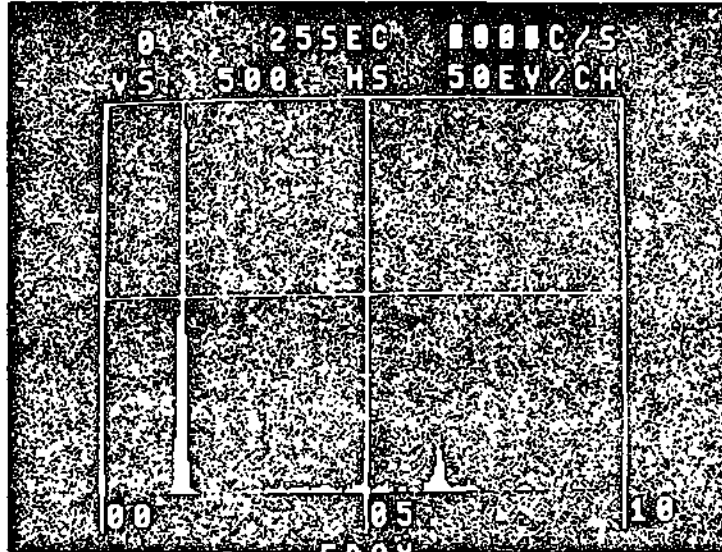
Photomicrographs of the sample shows the presence of large grains, indicating the sample is stress-free and has gone through a melting and cooling stage. Details of the analysis provide additional clues as to how the material was constructed, the nature of the crystalline structure, and unusual purity. All this is consistent with the allegation that an object exploded spewing debris in all directions, impacting with a tremendous force.

Investigators were able to locate a crude headstone marking a grave in the local cemetery. Metal detecting equipment gave the same readings at the gravesite as they did where the metal was found. The marker and the detector readings seemed to be sufficient for investigators to demand the opening of the grave and exhumation of the pilot's body. Local citizens didn't agree. They blocked opening of the grave. Soon thereafter the headstone was removed and the grave left unmarked and anonymous.

Perhaps the people of Aurora were afraid their longstanding popularity would be diminished if the grave were opened and science proved the whole event was a hoax. On the otherhand, what if the grave did hold the remains of an alien pilot? At this time the investigators files hold sufficient evidence to cast reasonable doubt on the hoax theory.



Photograph of metal sample found 100 feet west of the alleged crash site.



Al

Fe

Electron dispersion x-ray analyzer finds only aluminum and iron in Aurora, Texas metal sample

JUNE 11, 1973

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT TO : Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman, Department of Astronomy,
Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

Walter H. Andrus, Jr, executive director, Midwest Unidentified
Flying Object Network, Quincy, Illinois.

FROM : Bill Case, Texas State Director - MUFON, and aviation writer
The Dallas Times Herald, Dallas, Texas

RE: Investigation of reported crash of UFO April 19, 1897, in Aurora, Texas
in which the pilot was dismembered "determined to be not an inhabitant
of this world" and his alleged burial in Aurora Cemetery.

From our long association with this investigation it appears it will
logically break down into two phases :

Phase I -- The crash -- which we believe ^{Henderson ?} could be established with the
metal reports from Dr. Gary Hanz and Dr. Tom Gray of North
Texas State University used as the keystone.

We also have the testimony of three "second generation"
individuals such as Mrs. Mary (Grandma) Evans of Newark;
Mr. C. C. (Charlie) Stephens of rural Aurora, and C. G.
Curley of nearby Lewisville, Texas.

Their stories are told in the clippings you already have
in hand. Both Mr. Stephens and Mrs. Evans, who lived in Aurora
at the time of the crash, assert certainty as far as the
crash of an "unknown type of airship" at the well site on
Judge J.S. Proctor's place in the north end of the village.
Curley has only second hand report from friends who went to
Aurora from Lewisville after hearing of the crash.

Others such as the owners of the property now, Mr. Erawley
Oates, his wife, Bonnie, and Aurora town Marshall H.K. Idell
all tell the same thing in essence : "We believe something
crashed there. We've heard the story all our lives and the
investigations by MUFON and reporters plus test of some of
the many metals bear this out."

All lifelong residents of Aurora are still dubious on the
existence of the pilot but agree the only way to tell would be
to exhume the grave in Aurora Cemetery.

inside a tree
In addition, high quality metal detectors show at one time
some small pieces of metal had been literally "blasted" into
the bare limestone rock outcropping which surround the well.
And our detectors have located a piece of metal now about two
feet through and identified as an oak "at least 100 years old"
embedded in the center of the tree about 4 feet above ground
level slightly over 100 feet from where the UFO reportedly
exploded.

Radiation level checks at both the site and grave in the
cemetery show readings are "normal" for this area of North
Texas.

PHASE I (Cont.)

The amount of metal which appears to have been through an explosion of some great intensity is enormous. Jagged bits of thin steel, some cast iron and zinc in addition to the aluminum alloy samples can be detected and dug up every few inches in a two to three acre area especially northeast and east of the reported crash site.

The story now 76 years old is an accepted part of local lore. But Aurora's inhabitants are divided in their beliefs. However, none of the many residents we talked to in Aurora, Rhome, Newark and on farms and ranches in the area scoffed at the idea of a crash. They are hesitant on the matter of the pilot.

While no living resident inhabitant of Aurora who either visited the crash site in person or saw the pilot's body can be found we learned that both Judge Proctor and Correspondent ~~was~~ "fun seekers" at times and not necessarily above embellishing the report of the crash by spicing it up with a report of a body.

In the case of the aluminum alloy sample investigated by Dr. Hand we dug this up at a depth of about 4 inches ~~XXXXXX~~ immediately under by two to three inches some badly corroded pieces of steel, zinc and cast iron. The aluminum was on the bottom in an area which has never been tilled for farming or used for other purposes except occasional cattle grazing. It is too rocky and the soil so poor little except prickly pear cactus and a few weeds can exist there.

Both Gates and Marshal Idell tell us that piece of land must be about the same as it was in 1820. "It ain't no good for nuthin," is their comment.

Most of the metal recovered from the well by Marshal Idell when he helped clean and cap it in 1945 is extremely corroded. Some is so far gone bits of iron have lost their magnetism through age and long exposure to both water, earth and the chemicals of a chicken yard. The interesting samples obtained including those tested by Dr. Hand and Dr. Gray came from metal outside the chicken coop at depths of 4 to 7 inches below the surface.

Through constant contact with residents of the area we have broken through their usually taciturn attitude and now find the consensus is "there probably was a UFO crash --- but we can't be sure about a pilot." Seven point out they have heard the crash report "all our lives" but add no one mentioned the pilot as reported by S.E. Hayden and Judge Proctor in a small type of local newspaper he was putting out at the time. The only original Aurora newspaper had folded from lack of business as half the inhabitants of Aurora died of typhoid fever the winter before the crash, the cotton crop failed and the expected construction of a railroad into Aurora went broke all within 12 months.

(more)

PHASE I (Cont.)

From our limited experience in UFO hunting we believe by putting all of these pieces together we can establish Phase I, The Crash, with a high degree of certainty and credibility.

PHASE II --- The Pilot, His Grave and Unique "UFO" Carved Headstone.

In this respect we feel the evidence is less certain although it has some very interesting correlations.

Our tie-in to the crash site is that we get the same good metal detector decibel reading in a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -foot diameter circle at the grave site, that we did from the aluminum alloy sample analyzed by Dr. Hand. I saw Dr. Gray's sample and it was considerably different. He analyzed a ~~XXXX~~ flat hard jagged "flake" about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch wide and as thin as a piece of Xerox reproduction paper. Dr. Hand analyzed aluminum forged into a "nugget" by intense heat.

The grave site was given to us on a "tip" by two old friends of a 89 year old Aurora man seriously ill with heart trouble. His family would not allow us to interview him for fear of causing another attack.

He sent word as follows: "You are looking at the wrong grave. Look for these landmarks --- a huge old gnarled oak tree over 200 years old just south of the south entrance road in the old portion of the four plots of the original cemetery. A large natural bee hive has been in it for years. Below the south side of the tree under the branches ~~of the~~ grave with an unusual carving on it."

These instructions were accurate to the letter. We found the grave the tree, bees nest and the odd carving on the stone which appears to be a rough hand carved outline of a cigar-shaped UFO (reported in the area at the time) on the west face of it. See this in the photos which established the site by showing both the tree, grave stone and in close-ups the carving on it which appears to be a UFO.

There is some sentiment against "digging up the grave" in the community but the authenticity of the stone having been there 65 to 70 years has been verified by many old residents who told us "we noticed those marks but didn't attach any particular significance to them. These people were children or not yet born at the time of the crash. However, the stone is definitely a long-time part of the cemetery landscape.

While there is an intriguing tie-in here between the crash site and grave we feel it may not be sufficiently strong enough to convince a court to order exhumation without more scientific proof.

And we could not finance an expensive drawn out court battle if the Aurora Cemetery Association might choose to fight the exhumation as some few (but very few) diehards have indicated.

PHASE II (Cont).

Naturally in view of these facts the inclination to seek an exhumation order is very strong, especially if it would prove scientifically the people of Aurora did bury a pilot from outer space.

While we do not know how these pilot's are physically constructed, we believe the metal detector signals are coming from remnants of his uniform which may have had some type of metallic covering and metal equipment he was wearing. If a dismembered body was recovered it was simply piled into canvas or grain mill sacking and buried in a grave between 3 1/2 to 5 feet deep. That was the standard depth in those days according to Marshall Idell. We believe no rough box or casket of any kind was used. During that period many of the communities residents were simply wrapped in a blanket and lowered into a rocky grave.

SUMMARY CONCLUSION:

Dr. Hand's metal analysis is most important and the other facts simply aid in sustaining the belief that a UFO crashed at Judge Proctor's well.

We also have a Xerox copy of S. E. Hayden's original story as published in the Dallas Morning News. Although investigation shows the T. L. Weems, Hayden identified as U.S. Signal office in Aurora also turns out to be the town blacksmith at the time this dual occupation would not be unusual in Texas. Aurora was still a frontier pioneer community at the time. Burials were carried out by parties made up of men of the community who all aided in digging the grave and performing the burials.

We check the Cemetery Association, the local church and other sources. Actually other than an incomplete recording of the grave plots owned by families in which up to 10 or 12 members of a family are interred there are no individual records telling who is buried where.

The plot in which the UFO pilot's grave is located has no owner of record.

The photos which Earl Watts shall bring with him Friday will help in establishing the location and giving you an idea of the terrain and setting.

Regretfully, however, we now believe although there is a definite possibility the reported pilot is in the grave we are not going to get it exhumed without a fight in court. And bearing in mind that this is an intensely religious community and the cemetery is the one in which the ancestors of today's residents are buried they have a very vested interest against disturbing it.

(more)

Nothing is more tempting than trying to exhume that grave as Hayden Hewes proposed to do one Saturday morning without a court order or approval of anyone connected with the Aurora Cemetery Association.

His latest so-called press releases have been widely interpreted here especially on radio and TV that "this conclusion finishes off the Aurora UFO hunt."

Our final hope is that the hundreds of papers we distributed in Aurora, Rhome and Newark (all of which bury in the same cemetery) will urge some resident into coming up with a genuine metal sample, diary entry or even a bible notation. Unfortunately the church has kept no records on past burials and the Cemetery Association has devoted its efforts to keeping the graveyard neat, clean and well-kept.

This small group of three towns and the community around it is unique in that the third and fourth generations continue to live there. And if they do leave they return out of homesickness. It is an extremely close-knit area in which intermarriage between the early families have made every third resident a third or fourth cousin of almost everyone else and there is a cohesive spirit in the community that cannot be ignored.

I hope this helps fill in the gaps. After you have had an opportunity to study it, see Hayden's original story and related reports in Xerox copies of the original 1897 paper plus the photos we are sending to Kansas City for your conference during the NUFON annual meeting, you have any additional questions please call me. I shall advise Earl Watts where I can be reached at your convenience.

Bill Case

Bill Case
June 11, 1973

THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

214/744-6111
P O BOX 5445
1101 PACIFIC AVE /DALLAS TEXAS 75202

June 16, 1973

Mr. Walter H. Andrus, Jr.
Executive Director
MUFON
40 Christopher Ct.
Quincy, Illinois 62301

Dear Walt:

We have sent off samples for analysis gathered June 12 at the Aurora well site by Mr. George Mayfield to the chief physicist at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada --courtesy of Atlantic Richfield Oil Company -- both are anonymously interested in the project and UFOs in general as well as another slice of the same piece to John Schuessler in O'Fallon as you requested.

The enclosed metal part of some type of equipment was given to us by Mike Fottler, RR 1, Box Q, Lot 250, Mesquite, Texas 75149.

We would not be interested in it except none of the farmers, ranchers or other buffs around the area can recognize it as a piece coming from farm equipment, household appliances or anything else. And the composition seems to be at least an aluminum alloy. It was not burned or melted by high heat as all of the other suspect pieces have been. However, it is intriguing since Fottler found this buried in the ground within the crash pattern of metal fragments we recovered East and Northeast of the well. His Phone Number in event you should need it is : Area 214 286-7085.

Perhaps you can get someone to recognize this. We have not received a Xerox copy of the metal analysis from our friend in Fort Worth. Hope he was able to get one off to Dr. Hynek. However, GD is extremely busy trying to keep its head above water.

We have all of the resident's testimony on tape. We met with District Judge W.A. Hughes in Decatur, Wise County, who would sit on the case if MUFON applied for an exhumation order. At the moment until MUFON moves the Board of Directors of the Aurora Cemetery Association have "absolutely no comment." They won't even answer our calls or come to the door when we go to their homes in Roome near Aurora. They obviously do intend to oppose an exhumation order.

Having the UFO gravemarker stolen didn't help the cause. ^{Earl Watts} ~~Earl~~ believes our firendly competitor HH who promised "to ruin our investigation" is using it as a door stop or paper weight. Personally I don't know. There were hippies in the cemetery last Sunday who caused trouble.

Regards,

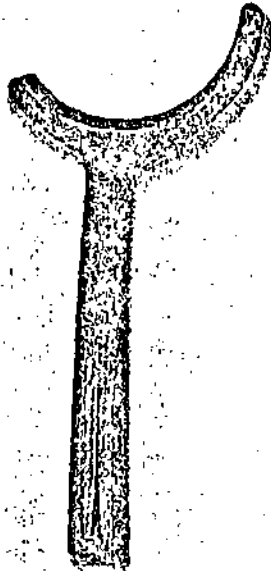
Bill
Bill

Piece of Metal Found
at Base of Tree
on Oats' Land

2867085

Broken 

Mike Fottler RR1, Box Q
Lot 250, 75149, Mesquite, Texas





PHONE 512/379-9216

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.

*The Scientific Investigation
of Unidentified Flying Objects*

WALTER H. ANDRUS, JR.
International Director

103 Oldtowne Road
Seguin, Texas 78155 U.S.A.

THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

214/744-6111
P.O. BOX 5445
1101 PACIFIC AVE./DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

June 16, 1973

Mr. John F. Schuessler
P.O. Box 9
O'Fallon, Missouri 63366

*Walt, I received the
piece of material on Tues.
It has been photographed
& an analysis will
start very soon.*

Dear John:

Enclosed is a slice of the metal sample recovered June 12, 1973, at the Aurora, Texas well crash site of a reported UFO by Mr. George Mayfield. I'm sure Walt Andrus has told you about this. It is the largest and latest recovered. The enclosed note and diagram describes it.

This differs quite drastically from the aluminum alloy nuggets we had analyzed in that they were thrown further in an opposite direction and melted completely into small "nugget" form. We got those at 4-inches beneath samples of iron so old it had demagnetised at 3 inches with bits and pieces of twisted and town steel and zinc at higher levels.

From all indications there was definately an explosion. The pattern established by metals recovered indicates the craft exploded on the lower right side first blowing bits and pieces over a two to three acre area east and northeast of the well site on top of a rocky limestone hill. Immediately the rest of the craft exploded throwing other samples to the north and west. For some reason since the UFO was reported traveling north according to C.C. (Charlie) Stephen's story as told to him by his father, Jim, who was an eye-witness the nose hit first on the windlass causing a chain reaction explosion to follow. It was easily visible as a "flash" followed by a fire from more than three miles.

I have no idea what this piece is. We described in the attached notes how Mr. George Mayfield of aurora recovered it at the 4-inch level with configuration exactly matching the formation of the rock. See side marked with red dot. This indicates to us it was almost at the molten point and even after it hit the rock ran downward from gavity force cause the piece to almost lose its shape. It has two straight sides. the third side of the triangle is torn and "burbled" as it by heat. It was hurled by force through the earth and stopped by the rock.

Any analysis help you can give us on this will be of great assistance.

Best regards,

Bill

Bill Case
Aviation Writer
NUFON State Director for Texas

SECTION	EDITION	SPECIAL TYPE INSTRUCTIONS
HEADLINE		
GUIDE		

Samples from Mr. George Mayfield to Dr. H. Roy Krouse, Physics Dept. University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2n 1N4 and Mr. John F. Schuessler, P.O. Box 9, O'Fallon, Mo. 63366
DALLAS TIMES HERALD, 1101 Pacific Ave., Dallas Texas, 75205

NOTE: Regarding enclosed sample of metal recovered at reported site of UFO which is said to have crashed in Aurora, Texas, April 19, 1897.

The enclosed piece was recovered by Mr. George Mayfield, June 12, 1973 approximately 100 feet west of the well site where the UFO reportedly collided with a windlass over the well and exploded.

Metal has been found over a two-three acre area buried as deep as 17 inches in the ground.

This particular sample was dug out by Mr. Mayfield using a metal detector at a depth of 4-inches below the surface. It was lodged directly against the face of the limestone bedrock.

Mr. Mayfield reports the side with the small red dot conformed to the exact configuration of the stone. He believes it was in an almost molten condition and was already flowing downward from force of gravity as it penetrated the earth hit the rock and then cooled.

This is somewhat heavier than the aluminum alloy ^{nuggets} ~~knives~~ (80% aluminum, 19% zinc with traces of other metals and a very tiny amount of carbon) picked up east of the well site 200 feet at a depth of about 4-inches and found below some badly corroded iron, old steel scraps and zinc located in an area about two feet in diameter. The nuggets were given a complete analysis by a U.S. aircraft manufacturer.

A diagram of the piece recovered by Mr. Mayfield indicates it might have been a structural member of some sort. The Attached Diagram illustrates.

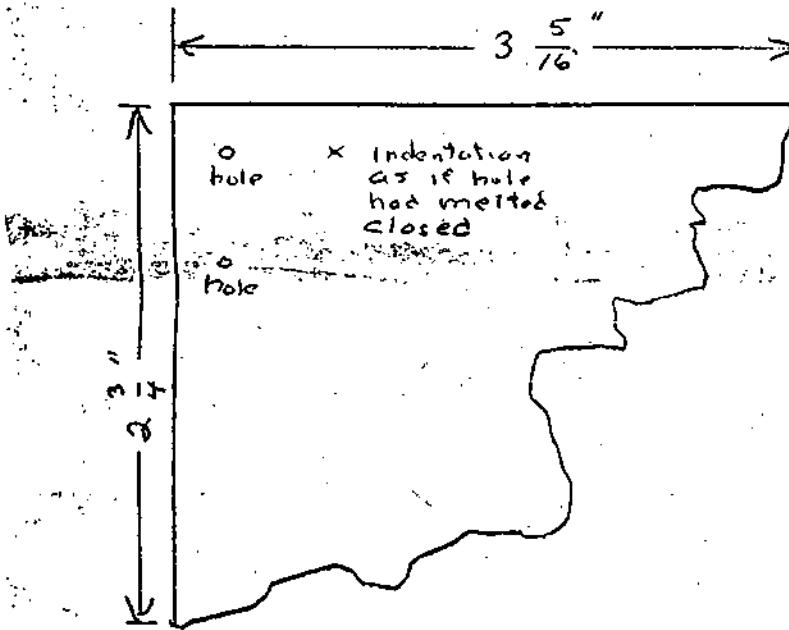
Bill Case
Bill Case
Aviation Writer

SECTION	EDITION	SPECIAL TYPE INSTRUCTIONS
HEADLINE		
GUIDE		

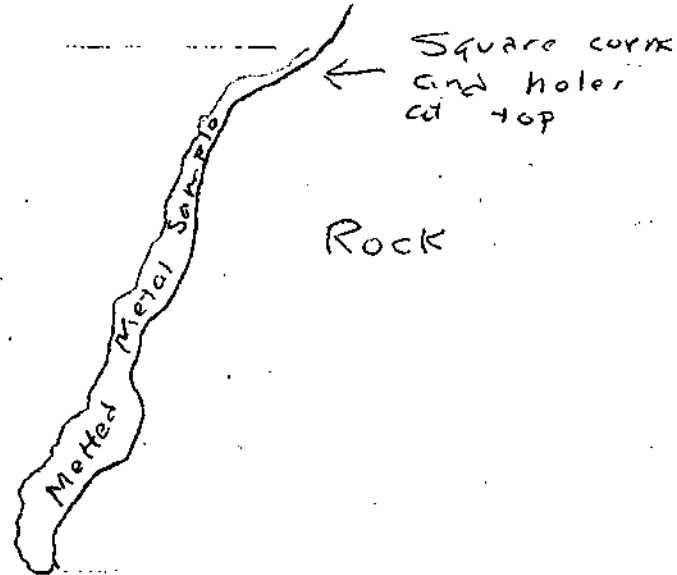
Note: Re Metal samples recovered at Aurora , Texas, reported UFO crash site.

Diagram indicates piece unearthed by Mr. George Mayfield. It is the largest such piece recovered Thus far. Aside from have two straight sides it also has what were ~~XXXX~~ either rivet or screw holes in the corner.

The diagram indicates how it melted out of its original formation upon contact with the bedrock:

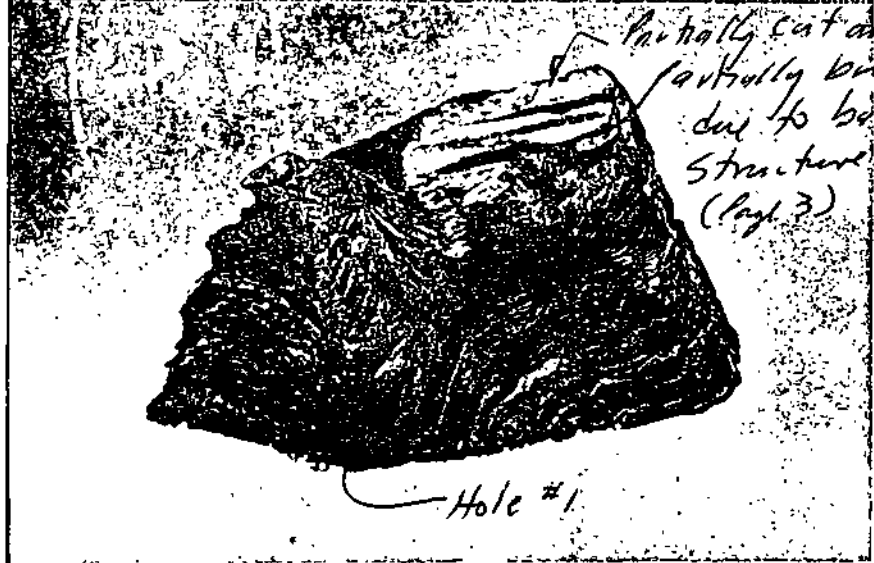


TOP view



Side view as seen in cut sample

Bill Case
 Aviation Writer
 Dallas Times Herald
 1101 Pacific Ave.
 Dallas, Texas 75205



Partially cut and partially broken due to basic structure (layer 3)

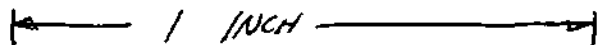
Hole #1

Approx 3X



This surface found against limestone bedrock

3X



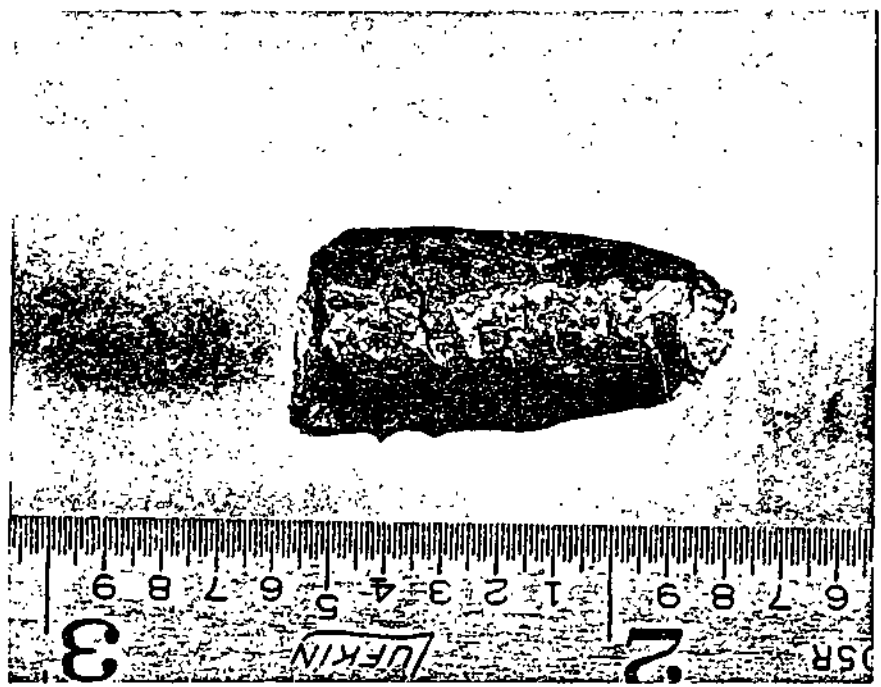
Saw Cut

3X

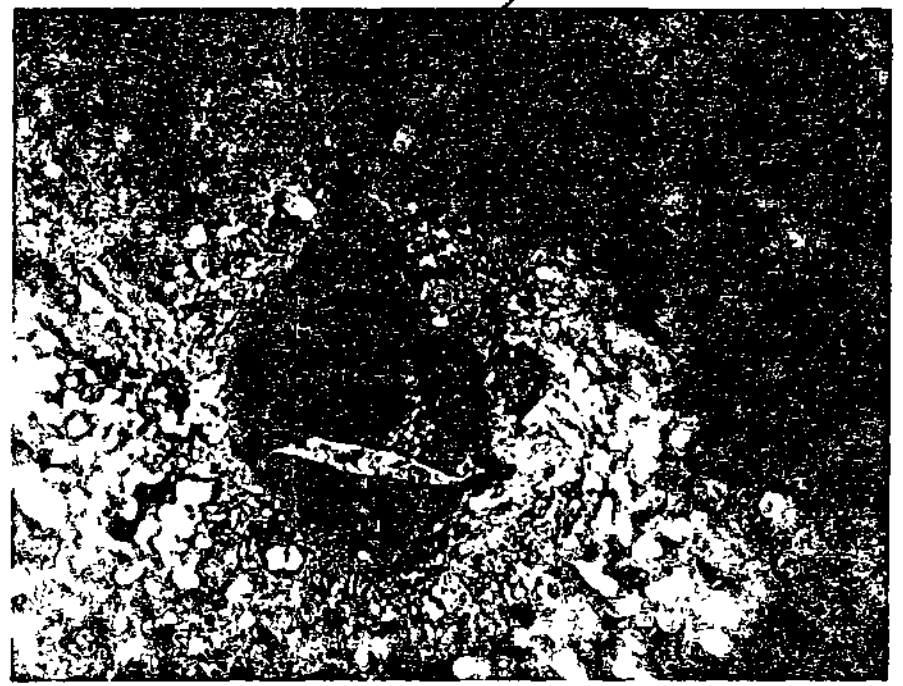


3X

Provided By: MUFON
J. Schuster, Box 9, O'Fallon, Mo, 63366



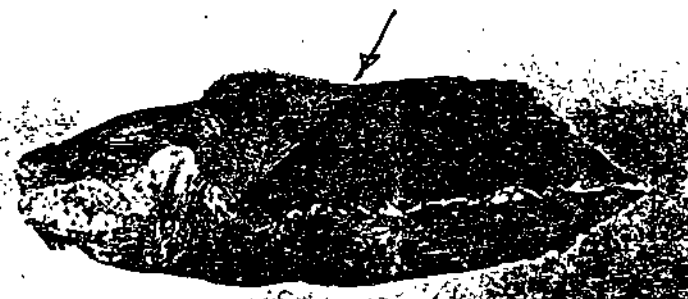
3x



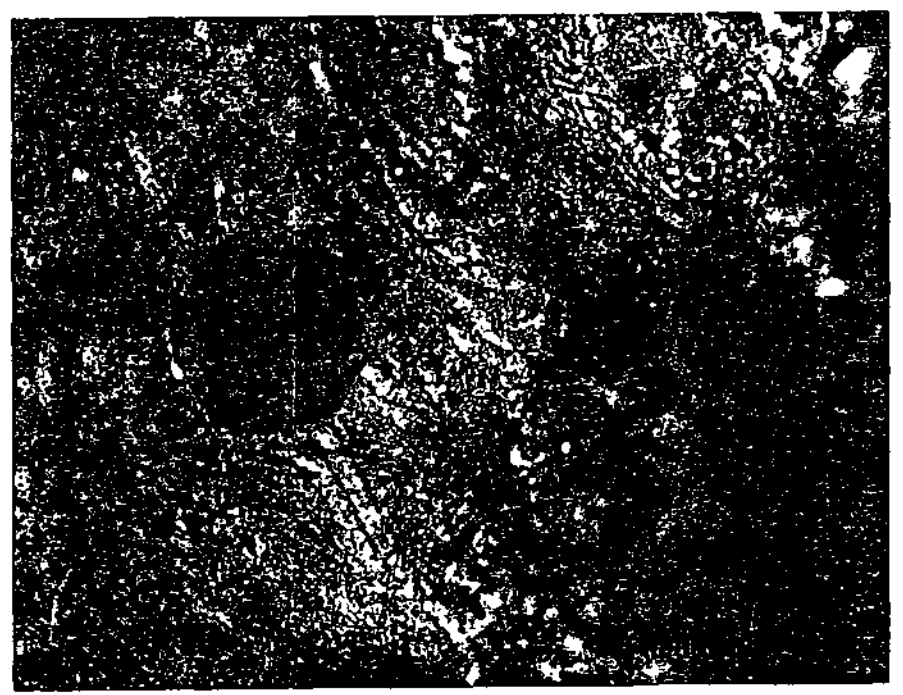
Hole #2

45x

This surface found against
limestone bedrock

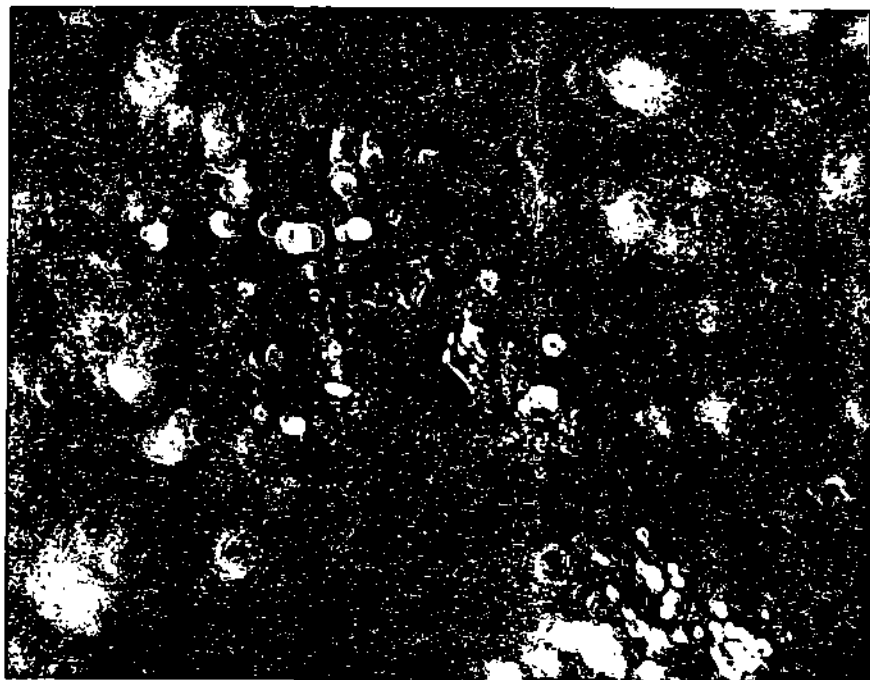


3x

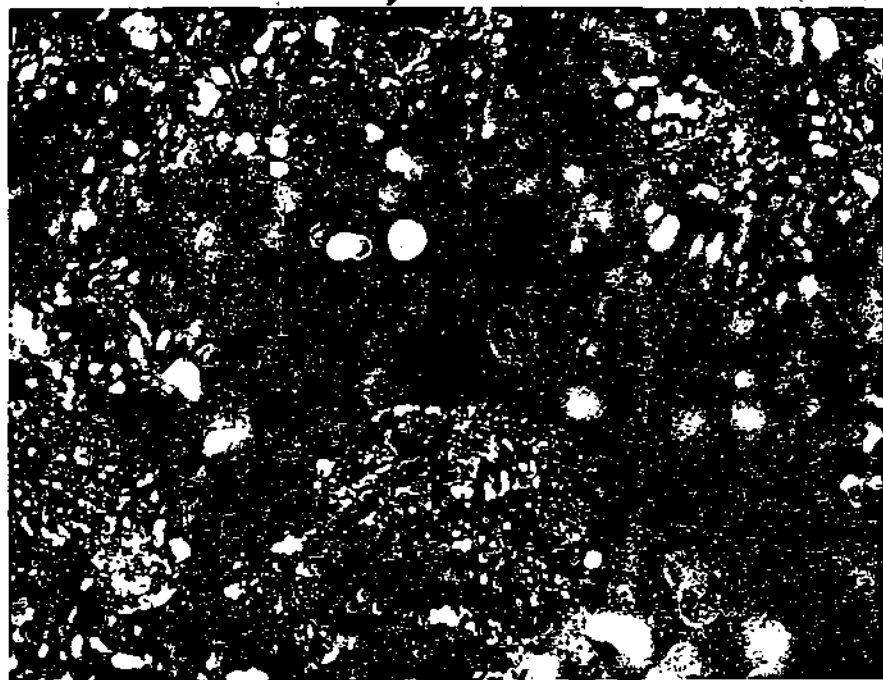


Hole #1

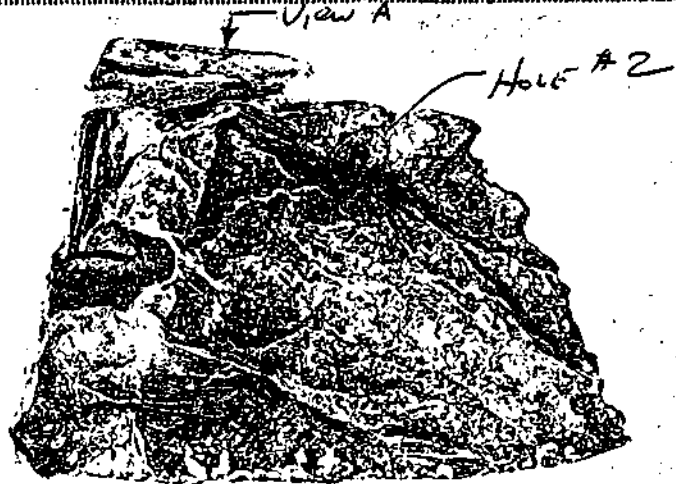
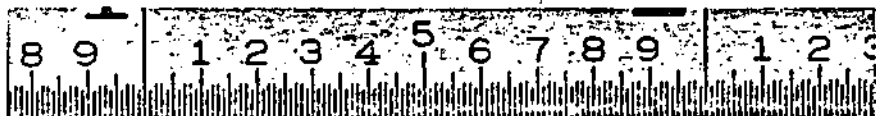
45x



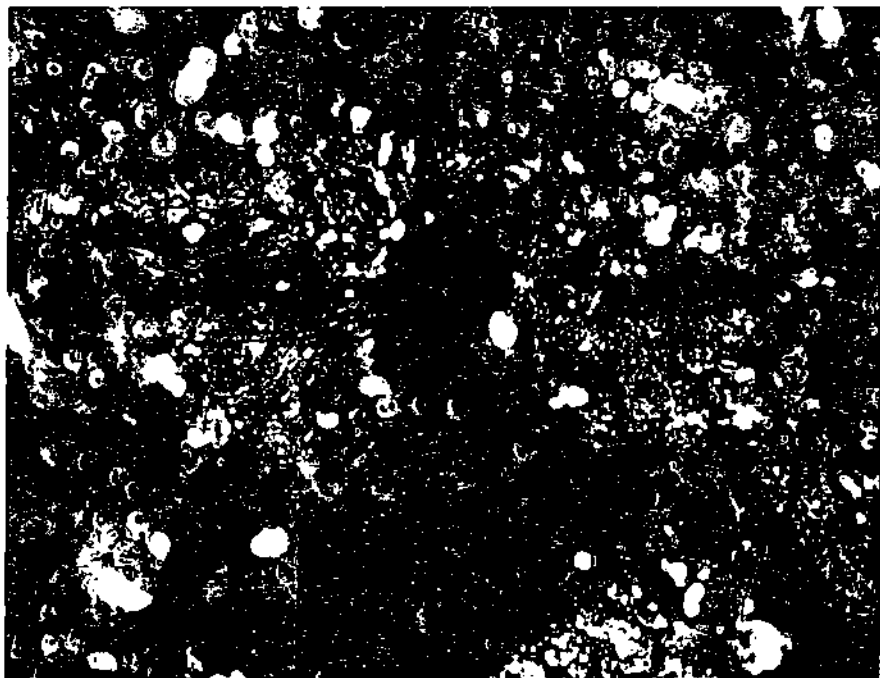
View A - Photo 3 45x
deepest area.



View A - Photo 1 45x
surface



3x



View A - Photo 2 45x
SURFACE

Sunday, July 8, 1973

Memo to Walt Andrus:

RE: Public Media Report on Aurora UFO INVESTIGATION

Dear Walt:

Arrangements have been completed for you to stay with Earl Watts and his wife during your Dallas visit at 515 Falling Leaves Drive, Duncanville. Phone : AC 214 298-1523.

A Complete file of all Times Herald stories and all photos available will be awaiting you here. However, we are enclosing the latest two to bring you up-to-date.

At the moment we have these:

PROS: 1 - Physical evidence at the reported crash site on Brawley Oates homestead of an "explosion" with a dispersion pattern. This was arrived at by cataloging where the various metals were recovered from the earth at various depths ranging from one to 17-inches.

2 - Preliminary analyses of the metals which show:

100% pure tin recovered by Fred Kelley, a professional treasure hunter of Corpus Christi, and analyzed by American Smelting Co. Both Kelley and the company's scientists could give any reason why "pure tin" should be found there.

The analysis of the aluminum alloy suggests carried out by Dr. Gary Henderson at General Dynamics which you have.

Analysis of the samples John Schuessler has in the works in St. Louis. *McDonnell - Douglas*

And by the time you arrive we will have a "preliminary" on the metals sent to Prof. William A. Funkenbusch who has enlisted the expert faculty at Michigan Technological University (widely known as Michigan Tech.) in Houghton, Michigan.

He received samples of at least five different types of metals recovered in the dispersion pattern at the reported explosion site.

3 - Statement by C.C. (Charlie) Stephens, of Aurora, that his father, James Stephens, was "an eye-witness to the crash of an airship on the crash site." Mr. Stephens, however, holds firmly that his father mentioned no body in connection with the crash although he did not visit the scene until the next day after Correspondent H.E. Hayden reported it was buried in Aurora Cemetery.

1st- Add Memo to Walt Andrus :

ADD PROS: 4 - Statement by Mrs. Mary Evans, 91, now of Newark, Texas, who lived in Aurora at the time of the incident that she recalls her family and friends talking about the crash, although she (being only 11) wasn't allowed to go to the scene.

¹⁵
Mrs. Evans told us on the second interview "a piece of the aircraft was stuck up as a marker." Says a body was recovered.

We believe she also told this to Hayden Hewes. We believe it was this metal either shoved further into the grave or broken off by vandals which gave us the strong detector readings at the grave before the metal was stolen. We have sound film of detector tests over the grave attesting to the existence of a metal signal in the hands of Channel 13, Dallas, which we assume will want to interview you.

As a Public Broadcasting Station they have followed the probe closely and have extensive film footage.

5 - The existence of the now stolen UFO grave stone with its unique design cut into it roughly Recorded in photos.

Residents of Aurora , including Town Marshall H.R. Idell, tell us this grave marker with its unusual design is known to have been in place there "at least 65 to 70" years and probably longer. Obviously this was no "fake."

6 - Correspondent Hayden's story had "holes in it" as far as detail of facts are concerned. However, it cannot be divorced from the fact it was "one of more than 500 Airship sighting reports" published in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers from April 14 thru April 27, 1897.

An often asked question is "what happened to the reported pilot's log written in hieroglyphics ?" No mention of it can be found other than in H.E. Hayden's original story.

CONCLUSION: These facts add up to the belief that some type of unidentified "airship" did crash on Judge J.S. Proctor's homestead. And this much of Correspondent Hayden's story can be accepted on the evidence. Whether it was extraterrestrial or not who can prove it ?

We discussed metals found on the moon with Apollo 16 Astronaut John Young (Capt. USN) who told us they found "no unusual metals on the moon ---only unusual combinations of already known elements including iron, nickel, copper, aluminum. But no "exotic" items such as titanium.

The one element "iron" keeps cropping up. Dr. Tom Gray, a North Texas State University physics professor, recovered some non-magnetic iron. we also did and compared the pieces side-by-side in his laboratory. From all appearances they appeared "identical" and he issued a press release on his own saying he found metals recovered at the site "puzzling."

This is all he has ~~MM~~ contributed thus far.

2nd Add Memo to Walt Andrus

Add Conclusion:

MUFON and Times Herald investigators were the first to locate the unusual grave in Aurora Cemetery with the UFO headstone. However, other than the design on the stone our only solid connection was the metal detector decibel readings which matched those of the metal John Schuessler is now having examined.

CONS: ---- The Aurora Cemetery Association has reacted as we expected them to in reply to an offer by MUFON to supply scientists to conduct exhumation of the body with no public or reporters present. Only Earl Watts was to attend to represent MUFON and the public. I was NOT going to attend.

Being so strongly against any scientific explanation of the incident they attempted to ignore it completely hoping "it would just go away" because the "hoax" story has been kicking around for 76 years.

It didn't and this investigation went much further than any of the many others which preceded it. It also went on for four months where many of the others we discovered were simply "cursory" tours of the crash site area with apparently no attempts made to locate a grave in the cemetery or witnesses in the communities of Aurora, Rhine and Newark all burying in this cemetery.

About 60 per cent of the Aurora residents are adamant the whole thing was a "hoax." Another 20 per cent question the write off as a complete "hoax." The remaining 20 per cent believe "something happened there." but they don't know what.

Glen McCrary, president of the cemetery association, is a leader of the "hoax" believers .

We can go no further in Aurora. And viewed in one context perhaps this works to MUFON's advantage. It leaves us "deducting" from incomplete information blocked by the association's closing the cemetery to investigators and refusing the "secret" exhumation. They also so obviously locked the barn after the horse was stolen (grave stone stolen and grave broken into and metal taken) that I think we could state with assurance:

"We can't prove all of Hayden's story. The cemetery association has blocked that. But all evidence, testimony and months of discussion during investigation conclusively indicate: 1- An explosion of major proportions and likely that of an unknown aircraft which was seen by eye-witnesses. And then there is the matter of the mystery grave. No one can deny the existence of the old stone with its unusual marking resembling the UFOs reported in the area at the time and the existence of metal in the grave which was stolen but gave off identical detector decibel readings as recovered metal samples at the crash site."

(more)

Add CONS: "Thus, in view of the evidence we cannot label H.E. Hayden's story a hoax in every detail. "

It may have been embellished (i.e. the pilot's log in unknown symbols) , but, too much evidence exists pointing to an aircraft explosion and crash and the co-incidence of the mystery grave established as being there these many years by pioneer residents adds to the credibility of Hayden's story."

If Hayden had created a "hoax" it would have been virtually impossible for him to create as durable a one as this story has turned out to be. Also, a hoax of these proportions would have been so elaborate to prepare and carry off it would have been literally impossible to plant all of the clues which remained in place both at the crash site and grave for 76 years.

There is no question a crash occurred. There is no question a mystery grave has been in Aurora Cemetery since the incident. And evidence links them together.

My personal conclusion was that Correspondent H.E. Hayden probably embellished some facts (and overlooked others) in his report. But he has been maligned in saying "the entire thing is a hoax. "

You can't explain away the evidence and the grave as "just a hoax." Hayden obviously worked from fact and the chances he dug a grave in the cemetery and produced the unique tombstone as a clincher don't add up. The residents wouldn't have permitted him to "desecrate hallowed ground" (as they call it) even in those days.

We believe Hayden, like Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and other pioneers in their fields, was ridiculed and maligned simply because the residents were admittedly frightened and wantedv nothing to do with the unnaturak event.

We hope this gives you some basis on which to base your replies in interviews.

Best Regards,


Bill Case

July 10, 1973

Re: Friday Media Interview Schedule.

- 1 - Interview with Times Herald Thurs. evening - HERE 744-6252
- 2 - KRLD Radio at 9:00 AM -- 7901 Carpenter Freeway Studio, 8:30 PM
with Mr. DICK WHEELER, NEWS DIRECTOR. & Alex Burton - Interviewer
Steve Johnson

XX

- 3 - KDFW---- Call MR. BUSTER McGREGOR on HOT LINE 744-6568 any-time between 10:00 and 2:00 for Video Tape.
Robert Linkin - Interviewer

- 4 - Hold open time for NOON NEWS ON WFAA-TV (CH. 8) LIVE.
CONFIRM BY 9:00 AM to MR. BOB CROOK ^{Program Director} on HOT LINE 748-2956.
Be at Communications center by 11:45 AM. They have sharks teeth.
JIM MITCHEL < Interviewer >
Gloria Lynn News Director

- 5 - KERA-- BILL PORTERFIELD, PRODUCER -3000 Harry Hines or Lee Clark, News director. Phone 744-1300. Time is 2:00 PM.

6- WBAP-TV Ft. Worth by 4:30 for 5:00 pm live-30'
265-3311 RUSS BLOXOM

7. WBAP Radio ~~BLOXOM~~ FASOL 7/15/73
AL
Community Forum. 24 minute tape to be aired on UFO's in general.

SECTION	EDITION	SPECIAL TYPE INSTRUCTIONS
HEADLINE		
GUIDE		

July 10, 1973

Memo to Walter Andrus, Jr.

cc TO Earl Watts

Executive Director MUFON

RE: Friday Media Interview Schedule.

KIT BAUMAN

- 1 - We hope to get our interview with you Thursday night at Earl Watts home.
- 2 - You can be booked at our station ~~KDFW-TV~~ ^{KDFW-TV} Ch. 4 (CBS) in the studios anytime between 10 and 2 p.m. Friday. Call Buster McGregor, program director at 744-6568. They will videotape the interview.
- 3 - HOLD OPEN --Time for Noon News on WF44-TV Ch.8 live. Please confirm by 9 a.m. by calling Producer Bob Crook on their "hot line" 748-2956. They want you in the studios in Communications Center by 11:45 a.m. at the latest. This is ~~WREX~~ ABC. They have shark's teeth.
- 4 - WB4P-TV Ch 5 (NBC) is interested but plans on calling you in advance in Quincy, Ill. By now you've probably heard from them. They are "anti-UFO" but important. Follow up could be made by calling Russ Bloxom at 265-3311. If he isn't there ask for News Director. This is best arrangement we could make with them. *We gave them your numbers and Earl's home as well. I think they'll bite. It depends on news load.*
- ✓ 5 - In KRLD Radio studio, 7901 John Carpenter Freeway, for interview at 9 a.m. with News Director Dick Wheeler. I know Dick well. He is a good interview man and this is a good station with a sound audience. If you need to phone him the number is 634-1080. Might be well to call him early and confirm you will be there.
- 6 - WRR (Mutual Broadcasting System) is interested but cannot set time for interview today. They will call Earl and arrange for meeting after 2 p.m. we have suggested. *Interview staff on vacation - interested but unable to arrange.*
- 7 - Bill Porterfield, the KERA-TV Ch. 13 (Public Broadcasting Corp.) producer who has been putting the Aurora UFO documentary together wants you in the Ch. 13 studios at 2 p.m. They are located at 3000 Harry Hines Blvd. This should be your major exposure since Porterfield is deeply involved with at least an hour of sound color film in the can shot in Aurora at the crash site and grave including sound shots of detecting metal in the grave. He can ~~xxx~~ be reached at 744-1300 usually after 12 noon. Otherwise ask for Lee Clark, lady news director.

Bill Porterfield cancelled out at 8⁰⁰ AM on 7/13/73. He did not work that day. He did not assign Lee Clark to this project.

July 18, 1973

Current Report on 1897 Aurora, Texas Investigation

As promised in the July issue of SKYLOOK, the following is an "up-date" report of the progress being made in the investigation into the 1897 newspaper report of the crash of an airship and the subsequent burial of the pilot's body in the Aurora Cemetery. Through the outstanding investigative work of Bill Case, Aviation Writer for the Dallas Times Herald newspaper and MUFON State Director for Texas, with the able assistance of Earl Watts, MUFON Field Investigator and State Director of Astronomy, the following facts are submitted as evidence that H. E. Hayden's original story to both the Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers cannot be considered a complete hoax as some people have implied.

We have tape recorded the statement by C.C. (Charlie) Stephens of Aurora, Texas that his father, James Stephens, was "an eye-witness to the crash of an airship on the crash site." Mr. Stephens, however, holds firmly that his father mentioned no body in connection with the crash although he did not visit the scene until the next day after correspondent H.E. Hayden reported it was buried in Aurora Cemetery.

Mrs. Mary Evans, age 91, now of Newark, Texas, who lived in Aurora at the time of the incident, stated in a tape recorded interview with Bill Case that she recalls her family and friends talking about the crash, although she being only 15 years old at the time, was not allowed to go to the scene. (Her Mother and Father did view the crash site). During a second interview with Mrs. Evans, she told Mr. Case that "a body was recovered and a piece of the aircraft was stuck up as a marker" in the Cemetery.

A grave was found with the aid of a metal detector in the Aurora Cemetery in an area where Cemetery records were incomplete and did not identify either the owner of the plot or the person buried in the grave. A small triangular shaped native sandstone marker has existed on this grave for "at least 65 to 70 years and probably longer" per Town Marshall H.R. Idell and other residents of Aurora. The only identification on the stone was a scratched drawing of an object that looked like the front of a UFO having three round portholes or windows. After the photograph of the marker under an old oak tree appeared in the Dallas Times Herald, someone stole the marker on June 14, 1973.

Even though we have disclosed a few slight discrepancies in H.E. Hayden's original newspaper account, it cannot be divorced from the fact that it was "one of more than 500 airship sighting reports" published in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers from April 14 through April 27, 1897. An often asked question is "what happened to the reported pilot's log written in hieroglyphics?" No mention can be found of it other than in the original story.

What additional scientific facts are available to substantiate the probability that a crash of an aircraft on the former Judge J.S. Proctor's homestead did indeed occur? (This property is now owned and occupied by Brawley Oates and his wife Bonnie.) One of the earlier metal samples dug up at the alleged crash site was analyzed under the direction of one of MUFON's very capable Consultants and found to be an aluminum alloy. An alloy of this composition was not developed in laboratories in the United States until between 1908 and 1910 and not commercially available until 1920. Our Consultant stated that the metal had been subjected to

extreme heat and was probably in a molten condition since specific elements were forced to the surface of the aluminum alloy nugget. Other metal samples were retrieved using metal detectors at the possible crash site that were four inches under the surface and imbedded into the limestone on the hillside. These pieces of metal also indicated they could have been in a molten condition when deposited, since they conformed to the configuration of the limestone. Samples of these metals were sent to John F. Schuessler, Deputy Director of MUFON and Consultant in Astronautics on June 15th. They have been submitted to laboratories at McDonnell-Douglas in St. Louis for their expert analysis. Other samples were mailed to Prof. William A. Funkenbusch at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Mich. at his request, for study by their faculty. Since I am on vacation at the time of this report (July 18, 1973) and traveling in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Illinois, it has not been possible to obtain a copy of the results of the analysis of reports from either John Schuessler or Prof. Funkenbusch. Bill Case flew to Houghton, Mich. on July 12th. and expects to return with the results. John will no doubt have his report ready for the Carlyle Picnic on July 22nd. Preliminary investigation now indicates a high probability that an explosion did take place on Judge J. S. Proctor's homestead, which gives credibility to a possible crash.

Why is MUFON interested in this particular case? If H. E. Haydens' newspaper report is correct, we have possible access to pieces of a crashed UFO and hopefully some remains of a body in the cemetery grave. Our goal is two fold in nature; first to either prove that the story was a pure fabrication of H.E. Hayden and a hoax; or second if it actually happened, to carry the investigation to a scientific conclusion based upon available

evidence. Previous investigations into this legend over the years have been only cursory in nature and immediately branded a hoax, since no one took the time to conduct an in-depth study as is presently being done by MUFON. If scientific evidence exists to prove that the story is a hoax, MUFON will so go "on-record", and close this case permanently. However, if the evidence warrants continued investigation, as it now appears, it will be carried to a conclusion or as far as we may legally extend ourselves.

A registered letter was sent by MUFON to each member of the Aurora Cemetery Association requesting their permission to exhume the identified grave to determine if remains existed that would either confirm or dispel the original story. Through their attorney, they not only refused to permit such an exhumation, but forbid UFOlogists and MUFON in particular from entering the cemetery.

Due to the tremendous interest in this case, the news media in the United States and Canada requested that Bill Case and MUFON release a statement of our progress. On July 13th. Walter H. Andrus, Jr., Director of MUFON, personally answered these inquiries to the Dallas Times Herald newspaper and appeared on the following television and radio stations: KRLD radio (one hour tape), KDFW-TV (Filmed news broadcasts), WFAA-TV (live on noon news) in Dallas; WBAP-TV (live on evening special) and WBAP radio (25 minute tape) in Fort Worth. Bill Case and Earl Watts are to be commended for arranging this outstanding exposure to the public for MUFON.

In several of the broadcasts, MUFON's Director appealed to the Aurora Cemetery Association and the residents of Wise County to permit an exhumation

of the grave so as to "wrap-up" this case and eliminate any further escapades through their well maintained cemetery by curiosity seekers and UFOlogists. On Saturday, July 14th, Walt Andrus met with Glenn McCrary, President of the Aurora Cemetery Association and Lloyd McKinnon, member of the association in the Aurora Cemetery for a 2 hour discussion. These gentlemen are very sincere about preserving their cemetery and fully accept their responsibilities to their Community for preventing further damage. (Someone came into the cemetery and removed the metal that was buried in the mysterious grave by professionally inserting a probe into the ground where the stone marker had previously rested).

Both Mr. McCrary and Mr. McKinnon, who had been expecting my visit to the cemetery, maintained their position that they would not permit the possible body to be exhumed as stated through their attorney Mr. W.A. "Bill" Nobles of Decatur, Texas in writing to MUFON. However, both gentlemen did agree if legal action was taken through their attorney (going over their heads, as they explained), they would certainly give the proposal further consideration. Since the personal appeal was ineffective, legal steps became the only alternative.

Before MUFON solicits legal assistance, to seek exhumation of the grave, we must have scientific and legal evidence to justify such a serious move. We still need the complete analysis of the metal samples submitted to various labs in the United States and Canada as further scientific evidence. Lawyers are available in Texas to represent MUFON when this becomes the next step.

Walt Andrus visited the site of the alleged crash on the property of Brawley Oates taking documentary photographs and interviewing both Brawley

and his wife, Bonnie. Bill Case, in his 27 trips to Aurora, has conducted very thorough interviews with the residents so no attempt was made during my visit to locate each of the contributors to duplicate their reports. Both Mr. McCrary and Mr. McKinnon are firm believers that the entire story is a hoax. As Mr. McKinnon points out, there is no record in the written history of Wise County, Texas concerning the crash of such an airship in 1897. He believes that this should have been significant history if it indeed took place.

MUFON's evidence to date indicates a high probability that an explosion took place on this rock strewn hill--the search and investigation continues. Another status report will appear in the September issue of SKYLOOK on this historical, but very difficult case.

Walt Andrus
Director, MUFON
MUTUAL UFO NETWORK

August 17, 1973

AURORA, TEXAS - 1897 AIRSHIP CRASH

(Follow-up for SKYLOOK)

Metal analysis details have been received from several laboratories where investigations have been conducted by metallurgists, physicists and chemists to determine the composition of pieces of metal imbedded under ground on the limestone surface at the alleged crash site. (Brawley Oates residence.) The different samples recovered by Bill Case and Earl Watts, through the aid of a metal detector, all show evidence of having been heated to a molten state when they were originally deposited. Basically, the samples are of an aluminum alloy, varying from an aluminum content of 65% to 95% and iron content from 25% down to 5%. Other elements are present in small quantities in certain of the submitted samples. Reports have been received from three (3) aerospace company labs, one (1) university and one (1) private spectro-chemical research laboratory in four (4) different states. The uniqueness of the metal has excited the interest of the metallurgists who are asking more questions in an effort to determine the origin or manufacturer of the aluminum alloy.

It is believed by many that our universe is made up of the same elements found on our Earth; therefore, we are not looking for an unknown element that might be evidence of extraterrestrial origin. We are searching for positive evidence of a combination of elements, or an alloy that has never been produced or manufactured on this Earth. If the continued investigation in the labs so discloses such an alloy, it will provide the evidence to seek further support of this interesting case by seeking a court order to exhume the alleged remains in the suspected grave in the Aurora, Texas cemetery. Legal aid has been volunteered when and if exhumation is the next logical step.

It has been interesting to read the "hoax" comments made by a few UFO buffs who have relied on the cursory investigations of a second party for their facts. No one has ever conducted an in-depth investigation into this intriguing case to prove or disprove its authenticity prior to MUFON's work. Our goal is either to prove it is a legend or a hoax perpetrated by F. E. Hayden in 1897, or it actually happened as reported. Since this case is 76 years old, reconstructing the physical evidence, interviewing witnesses and conducting the necessary laboratory research has been very difficult, but a real challenge to a scientific study.

As new information becomes available, it will be reported in SKYLOOK.

Walt Andrus

Norma: Please add this material to the previous unpublished story that arrived too late for the August issue.

Walt

WA: ds

LAW OFFICES OF YARBOROUGH AND POPE INC.

telephone 817/834•7474

5148 East Belknap Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76117

25 July 1973

Mr. Walter H. Anders, Jr.
UFO BUREAU
Quincy, Illinois 62301

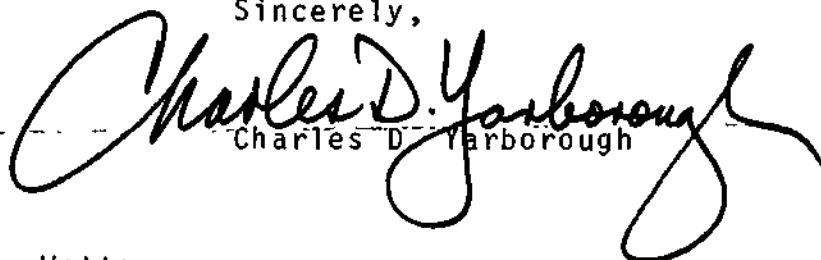
Dear Mr. Anders:

For the past several months I have been keeping up with the Aurora, Texas situation, and recently heard you discuss late developments on KRLD radio.

For sometime now I have been interested in UFO's and have read all the available material I could find on the subject.

In the event that your organization decides to institute legal proceedings for exhuming the remains in question in the Aurora Cemetery, I will personally volunteer my services to your organization without charge in connection with same, in hope that the truth may be known. The only thing I would ask is that the organization pay the Court costs and reimburse me for my expenses (such as postage, xerox copies, mileage, and long distance telephone calls). If you are interested, please advise.

Sincerely,


Charles D. Yarbrough

ch

copy: Mr. Earle F. Watts
Duncanville, Texas 75116

Charles

1. Request Cemetery Association
2. File with County Judge in the
B. name of some individual or
corporation. (MUFON not
incorporated to do business in Texas)

Historical Note

Prior laws:
Art. 928.

Acts 1934, 43rd Leg., 2nd C.S., p. 146, ch. 66, § 1.

Art. 912a-21. Records of interments

A record shall be kept of every interment in a cemetery showing the date the body was received, the date of interment, the name and age of the person interred, when these particulars can be conveniently obtained, and the plot and the grave, the niche, crypt, or vault therein, in which such interment was made. No remains, either cremated or uncremated, of any deceased person shall be removed from any cemetery, except upon written order of the health department having jurisdiction, or of the county Court of any county in which such cemetery is situated. A duplicate copy of which order shall be maintained as a part of the records of such cemetery. It shall be the duty of any person and/or persons, removing any remains from any cemetery, to keep and maintain a true and correct record showing the date such remains were removed, the name and age of the person removed, when these particulars can be conveniently obtained, and the place to which the same were removed, and the cemetery and the plot therein in which such remains were buried; if there be disposition of such remains other than interment, a record shall be made and kept of such disposition. Such person or persons shall deliver to the cemetery association operating the cemetery from which such remains were removed, a true, full, and complete copy of such record. Acts 1945, 49th Leg., p. 559, ch. 340, § 21.

Library references: Dead Bodies § 2 et seq; Cemeteries § 16; C.J.S. Dead Bodies § 3 et seq; C.J.S. Cemeteries § 31.

Historical Note

Prior Laws:
Art. 928a.

Acts 1934, 43rd Leg., 2nd C.S., p. 146, ch. 66, § 1.

Art. 912a-22. Removals

The remains of a deceased person interred in a plot in a cemetery may be removed therefrom with the consent of the cemetery association and the written consent of the surviving wife or husband, or if there is no surviving husband or wife, then of the children; or if there is no surviving husband or wife nor children, then of the parents of the deceased, or should there be no surviving husband or wife nor children nor parent, then of the brothers and/or sisters of the deceased. If the consent of any such person or of the association cannot be obtained, permission by the county court of the county where the cemetery is situated shall be sufficient. Notice of application to the Court for such permission must be given, at least ten (10) days prior thereto, personally, or at least fifteen (15) days prior thereto if by

Art. 912a-22**CEMETERIES**

Title 26

mail, to the cemetery association, and to the persons not consenting and to every other person or association on whom service of notice may be required by the Court. This provision shall not apply to or prohibit the removal of any remains from one plot to another in the same cemetery or the removal of remains by the cemetery association from a plot for which the purchase price is past due and unpaid, to some other suitable place. Neither shall this provision apply to the disinterment of remains upon order of Court or coroner. Acts 1945, 49th Leg., p. 559, ch. 340, § 22.

Historical Note

Prior laws:
Art. 928b.

Acts 1934, 43rd Leg., 2nd C.S., p. 146, ch. 66, § 1.

Notes of Decisions**Library references**

Dead Bodies \hookrightarrow 5.
C.J.S. Dead Bodies §§ 4, 9.

1. Construction and application

Failure to comply with former similar statute would not prevent the statute of limitations from running against action for wrongful disinterment and reburial of remains of deceased person. *City of Vernon v. Low* (Civ.App.1942) 158 S.W.2d 837.

While the right to remove a body remains with the surviving spouse, the right is a qualified one, and removal should not

be permitted except under circumstances indicating a necessity or compelling reasons. *Atkins v. Davis* (Civ.App.1962) 352 S.W.2d 801.

Next of kin have some rights in regard to disinterment, and owe some duties under certain conditions. *Id.*

Act pertaining to permission of county court for removal of remains of deceased persons does not confer jurisdiction on County Court to determine a controversy between surviving spouse and next of kin over disinterment of a decedent. *Id.*

Art. 912a-23. May contract pecuniary indebtedness but all liens subordinate to dedication

Cemetery associations shall in the conduct of their business have the right to contract such pecuniary obligations as may be required, and may secure the same by mortgage, deed of trust or otherwise upon their property. Provided, that all mortgages, deeds of trust and other liens of whatsoever nature, hereafter contracted, placed or incurred upon property which has been and was at the time of the creation or placing of such lien, dedicated as a cemetery as in this Act¹ authorized and provided, or upon property which shall afterwards, with the consent of the owner of any such mortgage, trust deed or lien, be dedicated to cemetery purposes as authorized by this title, shall in nowise or at all affect or defeat the dedication thereof, but such mortgage, deed of trust, or other lien shall be subject and subordinate to such dedication and any and all sales made upon foreclosure thereof shall be subject and subordinate to the dedication of such property to cemetery purposes. Acts 1945, 49th Leg., p. 559, ch. 340, § 23.

¹ Articles 912a-1 to 912a-27; Vernon's Ann.P.C., art. 705b-1.

Historical Note

Prior laws:
Art. 929.

Acts 1934, 43rd Leg., 2nd C.S., p. 146, ch. 66, § 1.

LAW OFFICES OF YARBOROUGH AND POPE INC.
5148 East Belknap Street Fort Worth, Texas 76117



Mr. Walter H. Anders, Jr.
UFO BUREAU
Quincy, Illinois 62301

Bi-monthly Political Magazine
(watch-dog)

Texas State Library
Austin, Texas.

Get a university behind me. or historical society

LAW OFFICES OF YARBOROUGH AND POPE INC.
5148 East Belknap Street Fort Worth, Texas 76117

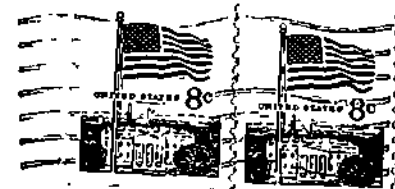
AC 834-7474

AC817 267-3333

806 FIRST STATE BANK BLDG.

BEDFORD, TEXAS 76021

Mr. Walter H. Andrus, Jr.
40 Christopher Court
Quincy, Illinois 62301



**MIDWEST UFO NETWORK
(MUFON)**

WALTER H ANDRUS JR
DIRECTOR
40 CHRISTOPHER COURT
QUINCY ILLINOIS 62301
PHONE AC 217 222 8374

MRS NORMA E SHORT
EDITOR SKYLOOK
BOX 128
STOVER MISSOURI 65078

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:

P.O. Box 9
O'Fallon, Mo. 63366
31 July 1973

Mr. Bill Case
Aviation Writer
The Dallas Times Herald
P.O. Box 5445
1101 Pacific Ave.
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Bill:

The metal sample you supplied is keeping the analytical people quite interested. Unfortunately, they move very slowly, however quite thoroughly - maybe soon we will have a complete analysis.

As you will note by the enclosure I divided the specimen into three pieces. The largest piece is being analyzed by the people in our research laboratory (identified as sample #1). Although I cannot yet offer a report on their efforts I can give you some verbal information, as follows:

1. It appears to have gone through a heating and cooling phase. It has large grain structure and no strains.
2. It has a typical aluminum alloy structure, but it is not at all a typical alloy.
3. It contains hard Fe (iron) inclusions. The inclusions are near the surface where cooling occurred first.
4. It contains on the two elements Al (aluminum) and Fe (iron). No copper or zinc were found.
5. In an examination by soft x-ray emission one spectral line was missing. This is most unusual and will be rechecked.
6. The specimen is 95% Al and 5% Fe. Again unusual.

The sample identified as #2 was examined by a friend in the metallurgical laboratory. The enclosure is my preliminary report of his findings. Although measured quantities are not shown the EDAX identified only Al and Fe. For comparison the surface of the sample was washed and numerous elements identified.



PHONE 512/379-9216

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.
*The Scientific Investigation
of Unidentified Flying Objects*

WALTER H. ANDRUS, JR.
International Director

103 Oldtowne Road
Seguin, Texas 78155 U.S.A.

Examination of such a specimen always results in more questions than answers. I didn't want to tell the lab people about the background on this specimen until they had some results, but that desire held for only a day or so. Analytical people have inquiring minds and require a reason for their actions. So, I had to pass some of their articles you wrote on to them. These questions have resulted more questions and I have listed a few of the better ones in hopes you can provide answers.

1. Is there any pattern to the distribution of artefacts (metal)?
2. Can you supply a map of the area with metal "find" locations?
3. Do you have a photograph of the area where the specimen you supplied for analysis was located? Before digging? During digging? After - in the "as found" condition?
4. Are there any other analyses results available for review and comparison? Proprietary rights would be respected.
5. Is there any chance that a small (tiny) piece of metal could be obtained from the grave for comparison?
6. Has anyone tried to duplicate some of this metal? We feel that it would be quite difficult to do.
7. Has anyone done an historical search on the use of aluminum in this part of Texas?

The analysis will continue in both of the aforementioned labs, as many tests remain to be conducted. The Research lab has promised a short preliminary report in a few days and I will send that along to you.

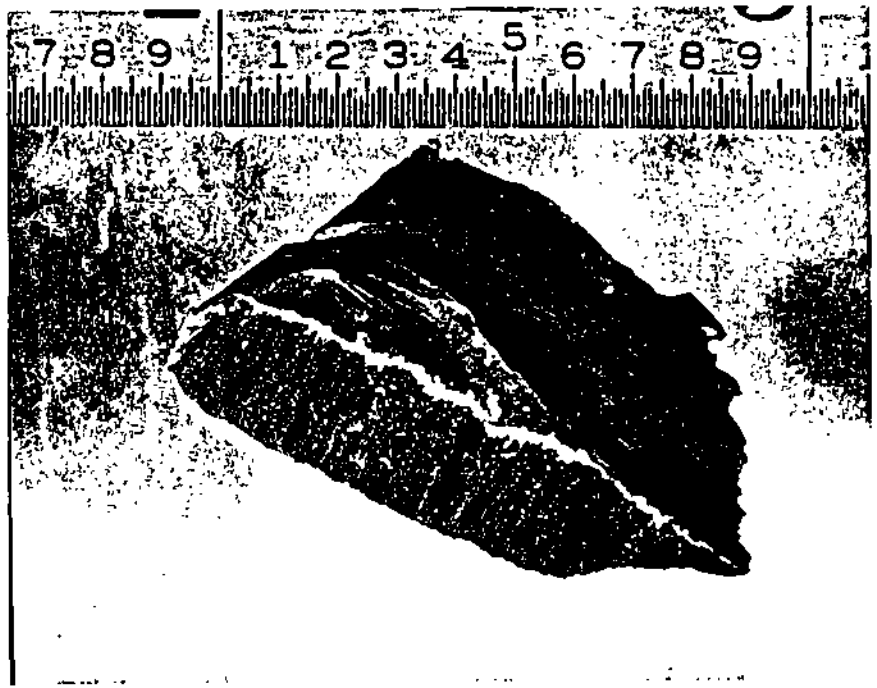
I appreciate this opportunity to be of service and hope our efforts will contribute to the solution of the mystery.

Sincerely yours,

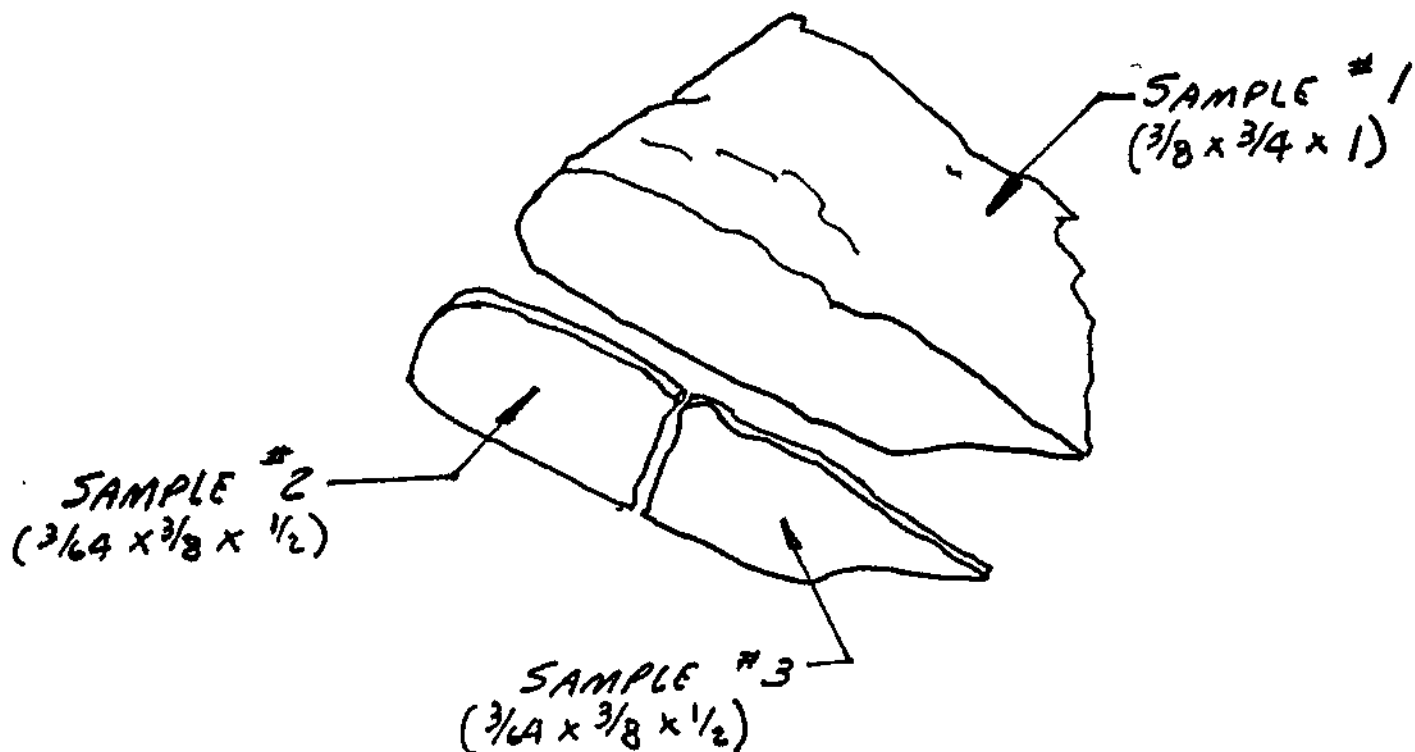
John F. Schuessler
Deputy Director, MUFON

AURORA, TEXAS METAL

Photographed as received from:
Bill Case of Dallas, Texas
on 19 June 1973



SPECIMEN PREPARATION



A jeweler's saw was used to remove two small samples from the main piece. Sample #1 was given to Ronald A Weiss, Senior Group Engineer, Physiology, for evaluation.

Sample #2 was given to Robert J. Dannenmueller, Design Engineer and Marion Russo, Group Engineer, Metallurgical Lab, for evaluation.

Sample #3 was maintained as a control sample.

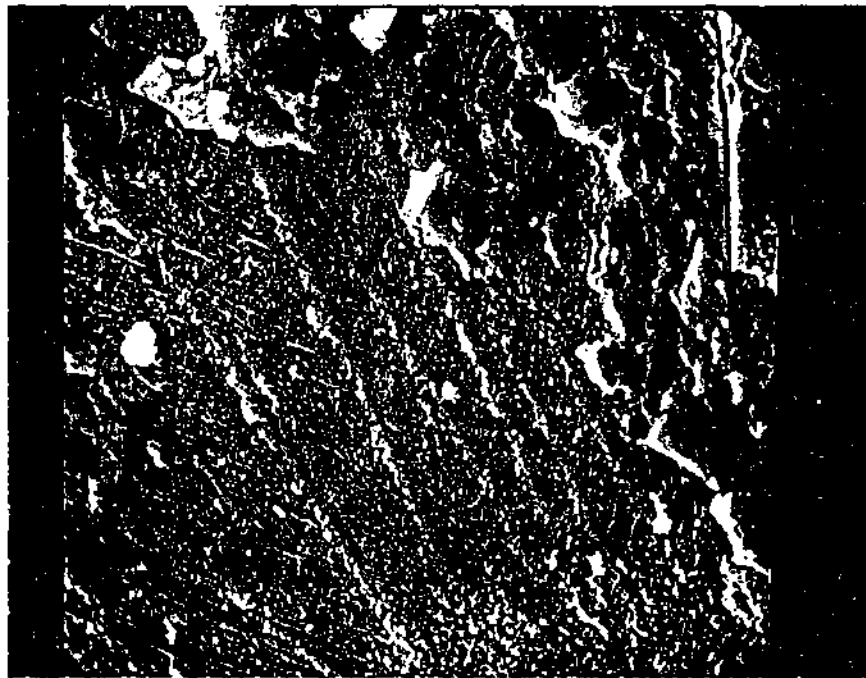
JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

JUL 31 1973

SAMPLE No. 2
PRELIMINARY REPORT

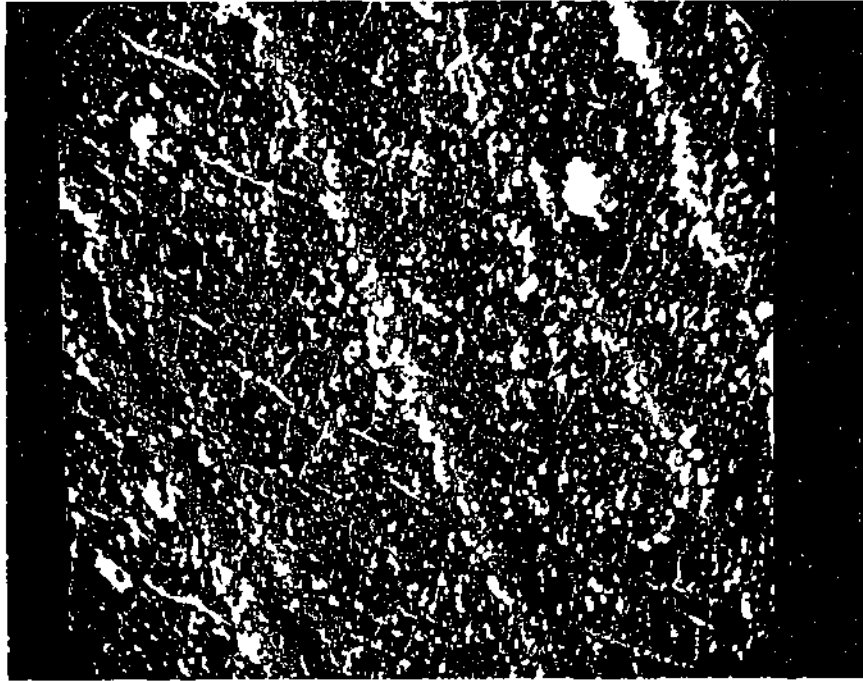
An electron dispersion X-ray analyzer was used to identify the elements found in the sample. Five areas were examined, identified below as Run 1 thru Run 5.

Run #1

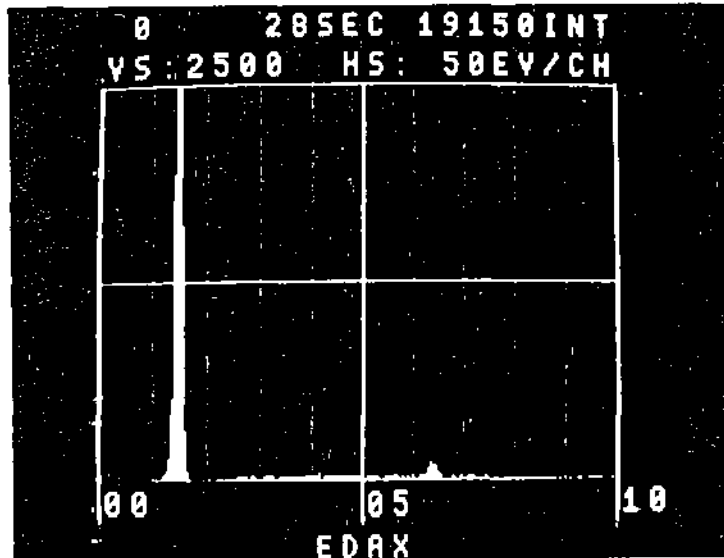


Target Area 1000X

Run #1 Continued



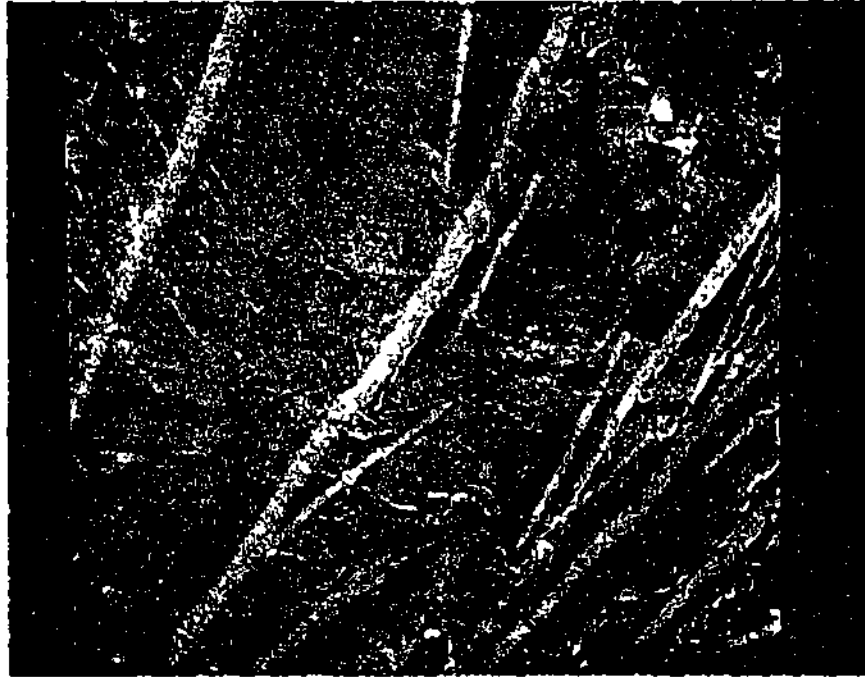
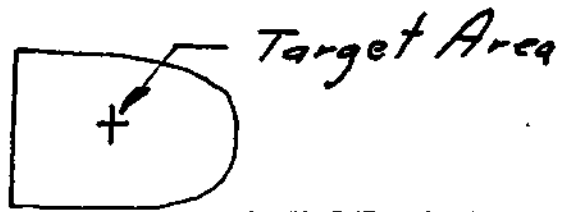
Target Area 3000 X



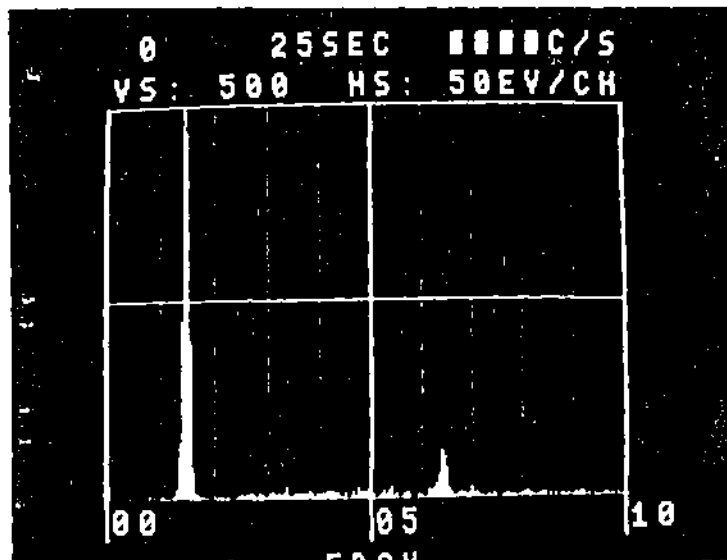
Aluminum

Iron

Run #2



Target Area 1800 X



Al

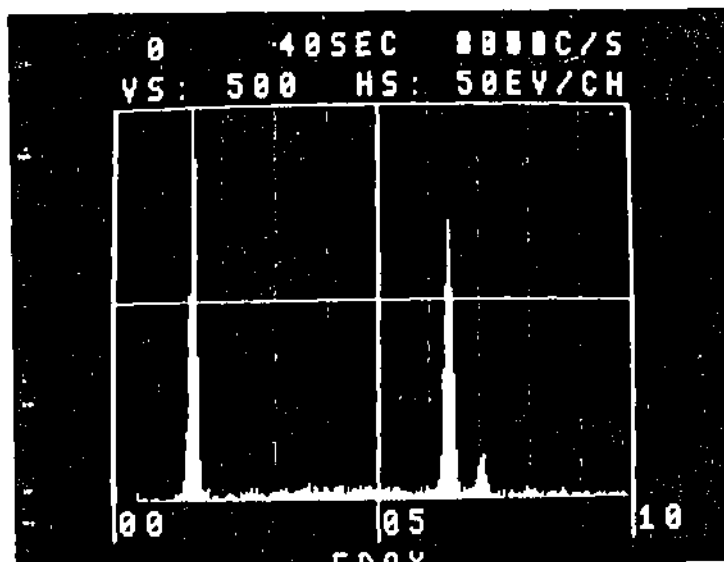
Fe

Run #3 Same as Run #2 except focused on a minute discolored spot

Focus



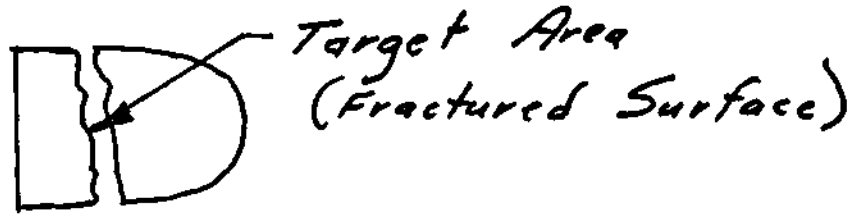
Target Area 3000X



Al

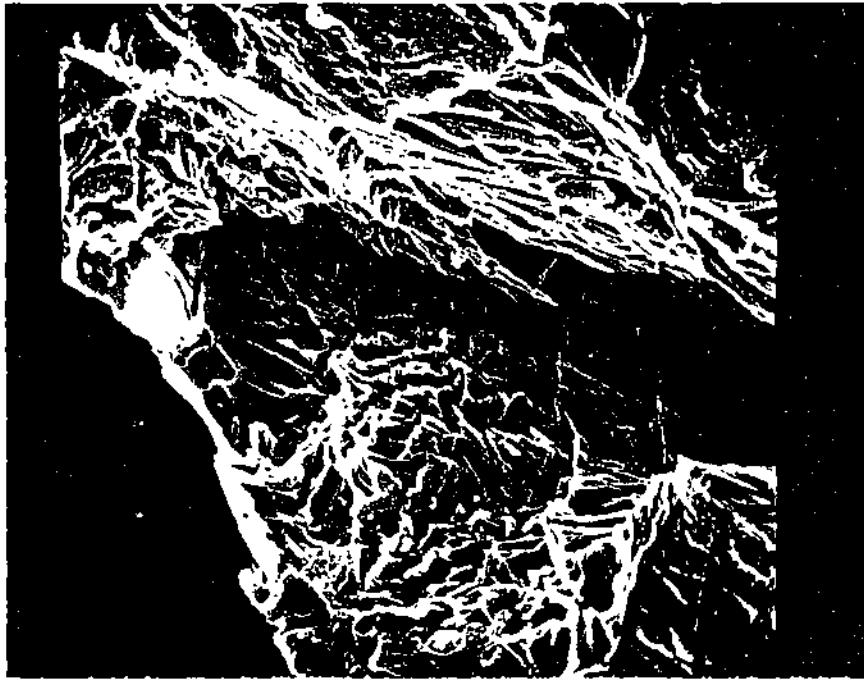
Fe

Run #4



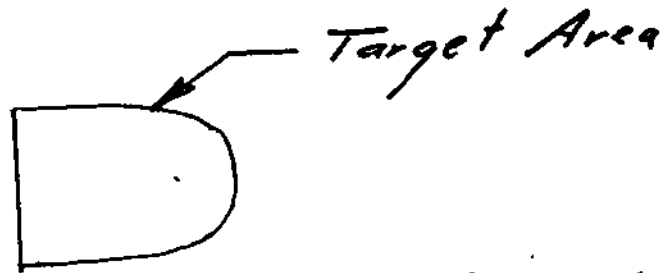
Sample #2 was purposely broken (fractured) to permit viewing and analysis of a newly fractured surface.

EDAX results were identical to Run #1.

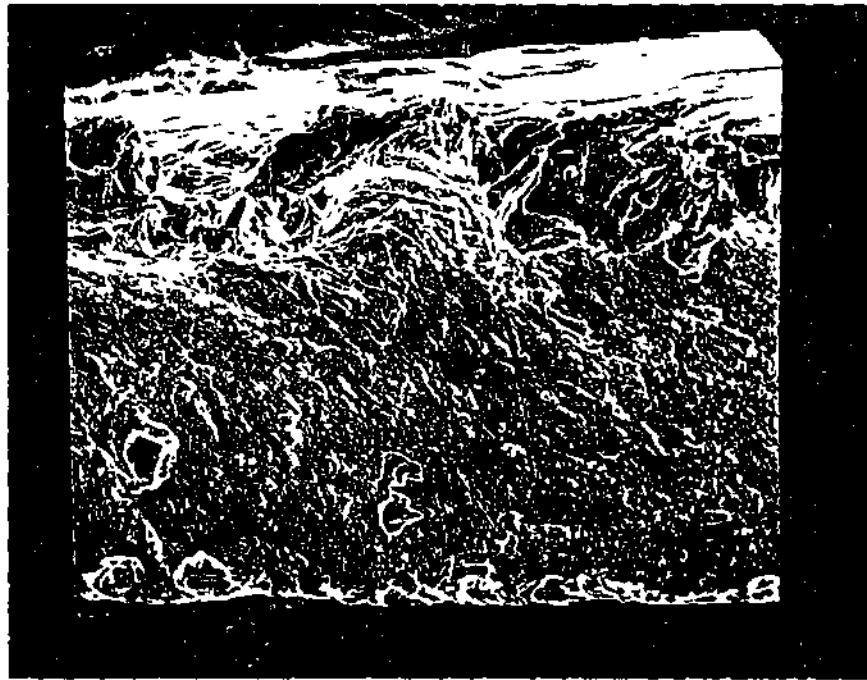


Target Area 1800x

Run #5

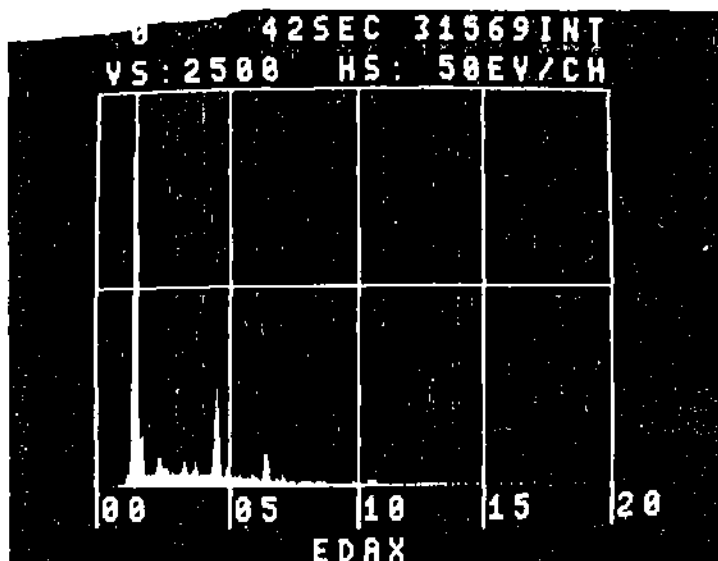


This run examined the outer surface area of the specimen (Believed to be the surface that was in contact with the soil).



Target Area 60x

Run #5 Continued



1. Al
2. Si
3. Pb
4. Cl
5. K
6. Ca
7. Ti
8. Ti
9. Fe
10. Fe
11. Pb

0	42SEC	31569INT
1	1450EV	4000INT
2	1700EV	304INT
3	2350EV	194INT
4	2650EV	122INT
5	3300EV	161INT
6	3700EV	168INT
7	4500EV	615INT
8	4950EV	137INT
9	6400EV	217INT

00 05 10 15 20
EDAX

10	7050EV	66INT
11	10550EV	54INT
12	0EV	0INT
13	0EV	0INT
14	0EV	0INT
15	0EV	0INT
16	0EV	0INT
17	0EV	0INT
18	0EV	0INT
19	0EV	0INT

00 05 10 15 20
EDAX

8-6-73

To: Walt

Attached is the results of a spectrographic analysis on the piece of aluminum you sent. It appears to be Aluminum Association number 2011 with the exception of lead and bismuth. These two elements should be in the 2011 alloy but were not found. Searching the literature for an alloy that fit in every way did not reveal any, only the 2011 came the closest.

	<u>2011</u>	IS ALUMINUM SCREW MACHINE STOCK (FORMERLY CATEGORY 11-S)
Copper	5.0 - 6.0	
Zinc	0.30 max.	
Iron	0.7 max.	
Silicon	0.40 max.	
Lead	0.20 - 0.6	
Bismuth	0.20 - 0.6	
Impurities	0.05 max. for each	
Total Impurities	0.15 max.	
Aluminum	remainder	

I hope that this information is helpful in your investigation. If I can be of further assistance please call.

Art Battista
X4291 F.P. South.

SPECTRO-CHEMICAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1946

CHEMISTS • SPECTROGRAPHERS • METALLURGISTS • CONSULTANTS

AREA CODE 312
TELEPHONE 267-1844

August 2, 1973

3300 WEST LAWRENCE AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625

Motorola Inc.
2553 N. Edgington
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131
Attn: Mr. Art Bethke

YOUR ORDER No.: 70564-M
SAMPLE MARKED: For W. Andrus
LOT: _____ HEAT: 7-30-73
LABORATORY No.: 10756

Cu	5.68
Zn02
Fe38
Si26
Mn02
Ni	none
Mg01
Ti	trace
Cr02
Pb03
Sn02
Al	remainder
Alloy	2011

SPECTRO-CHEMICAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.

by

Bernard B. Hauser



MEMORANDUM

MDRL-767
13 Aug 73

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.
The Scientific Investigation
of Unidentified Flying Objects

WALTER H ANDRUS JR
International Director

103 Oldtowne Road
Seguin Texas 78155 U.S.A.

Subject: ANALYSIS OF "UFO" SAMPLE

To: R. A. Weiss

CC: D. P. Ames, L. I. Mirowitz, V. A. Montgomery,
J. F. Schuessler, D. S. Wright, S. Zwerdling

From: J. E. Holliday

Encl: (1) Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 -- Photomicrographs of
the "UFO" Sample

1. The subject sample was analyzed by x-ray fluorescence, soft x-ray spectroscopy, and optical metallography.

2. X-Ray Fluorescence Analysis

- a. The approximate composition of the sample as measured by x-ray fluorescence was:

95 at.% Al

5 at.% Iron.

That no zinc was detected in the sample is of interest, since zinc was found in other pieces of aluminum recovered in the geographical area of the present sample. The limit of x-ray fluorescence detectability for Zn is 0.5 at.%.

3. Soft X-Ray Analysis

- a. The approximate composition of the sample as measured by soft x-ray spectroscopy was:

98 at.% Al

1-2 at.% Fe.

No copper was observed with soft x-ray spectroscopy which has a limit of detectability of approximately 1 at.%. Commercial aluminum alloys that contain iron usually contain 4-5 wt.% copper.

4. Optical Metallographic Analysis

- a. Photomicrographs of the sample are shown in Encl (1). The presence of large grains shown in Fig. 1 indicates that the sample is stress-free and has

MDRL-767
13 Aug 73

gone through a melting and cooling stage. The presence of shrink cavities observed before the material was etched also indicates that the sample had been molten. Small crystals of a second phase as shown in Encl (1) are an iron-aluminum inter-metallic compound. The second phase is present because not more than 1% iron can exist in solution in aluminum. These crystals are much harder than the aluminum matrix and are much more numerous at the outer surface than in the interior as may be observed by comparison of Figs. 1 and 2. The photomicrograph in Fig. 1 was taken at the edge of the cut surface whereas the photomicrograph in Fig. 2 was taken at the center of that surface. The differences in the percentages of aluminum and iron between the x-ray fluorescence and soft x-ray results are due to this change in concentration of the second phase. In the soft x-ray spectroscopy measurements, the x-rays originate from a small area (1 mm x 3 mm) near the center of the cut surface, but in x-ray fluorescence the entire sample contributes to the results. The increase in concentration of the second phase near the edge of the sample is a normal occurrence when the alloy is cooled from the melt.

5. The sample was tested for radioactivity with a Geiger counter, but no radiation above background was detected.

J. E. Holliday
by S. Zwoedling

J. E. Holliday
Scientist - MDRL
Dept 224, Bldg 33, Sta 23874

JEH:d11



PHONE 512/379-9216

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.
*The Scientific Investigation
of Unidentified Flying Objects*

WALTER H. ANDRUS, JR.
International Director

103 Oldtowne Road
Seguin, Texas 78155 U.S.A.

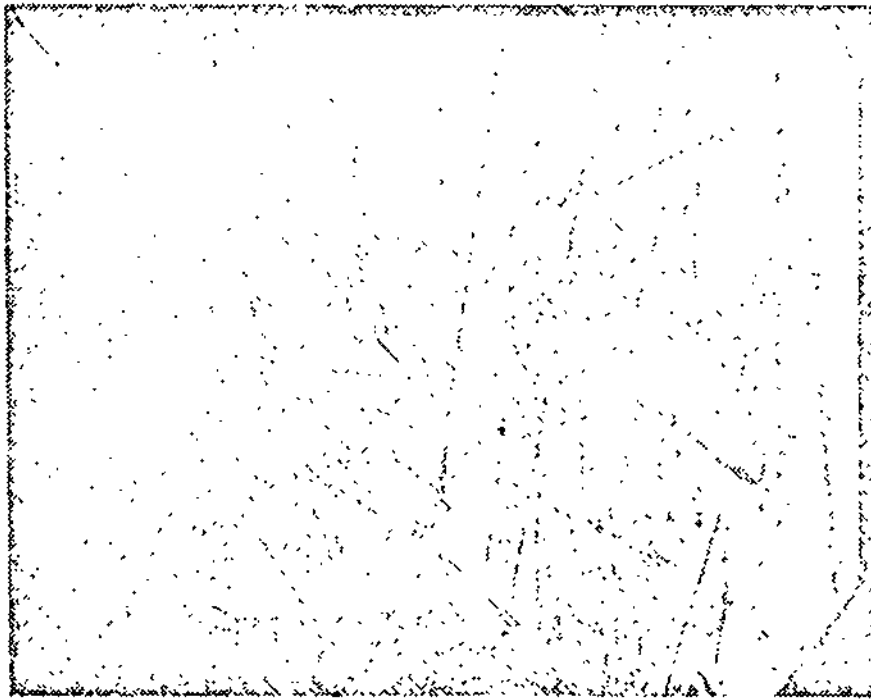


Fig. 1 Photomicrograph of the metal specimen taken at the edge of the cut surface. Note the needle-form, small crystal inclusions of a second phase, identified as an iron-aluminum intermetallic compound.

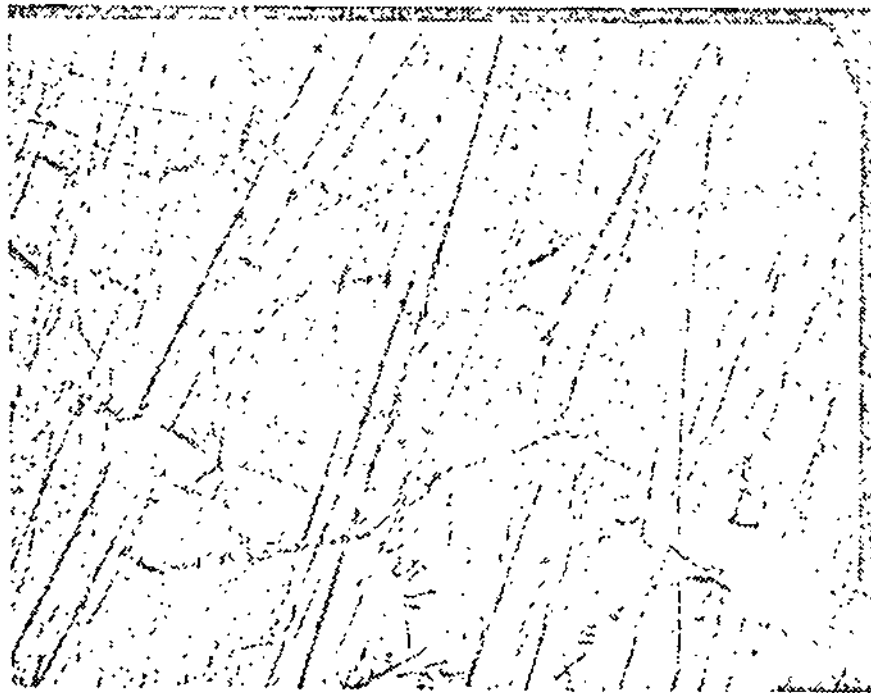


Fig. 2 Photomicrograph of the metal specimen taken at the center of the cut surface. The density of the needle-form, small crystal inclusions is much smaller than at the edge of the cut (see Fig. 1). The crystal inclusions are identified as a second phase, iron-aluminum intermetallic compound.

August 17, 1973

AURORA, TEXAS 1897 AIRSHIP CRASH

(Follow-up for SKYLOOK)

Metal analysis details have been received from several laboratories where investigations have been conducted by metallurgists, physicists and chemists to determine the composition of pieces of metal imbedded under ground on the limestone surface at the alleged crash site. (Braxley Oates residence.) The different samples recovered by Bill Case and Earl Watts, through the aid of a metal detector, all show evidence of having been heated to a molten state when they were originally deposited. Basically, the samples are of an aluminum alloy, varying from an aluminum content of 65% to 95% and iron content from 25% down to 5%. Other elements are present in small quantities in certain of the submitted samples. Reports have been received from three (3) aerospace company labs, one (1) university and one (1) private spectro-chemical research laboratory in four (4) different states. The uniqueness of the metal has excited the interest of the metallurgists who are asking more questions in an effort to determine the origin or manufacturer of the aluminum alloy.

It is believed by many that our universe is made up of the same elements found on our Earth; therefore, we are not looking for an unknown element that might be evidence of extraterrestrial origin. We are searching for positive evidence of a combination of elements, or an alloy that has never been produced or manufactured on this Earth. If the continued investigation in the labs so discloses such an alloy, it will provide the evidence to seek further support of this interesting case by seeking a court order to exhume the alleged remains in the suspected grave in the Aurora, Texas cemetery. Legal aid has been volunteered when and if exhumation is the next logical step.

It has been interesting to read the "hoax" comments made by a few UFO buffs who have relied on the cursory investigations of a second party for their facts. No one has ever conducted an in-depth investigation into this intriguing case to prove or disprove its authenticity prior to MUFON's work. Our goal is either to prove it is a legend or a hoax perpetrated by F. E. Hayden in 1897, or it actually happened as reported. Since this case is 76 years old, reconstructing the physical evidence, interviewing witnesses and conducting the necessary laboratory research has been very difficult, but a real challenge to a scientific study.

As new information becomes available, it will be reported in SKYLOOK.

Walt Andrus

Norma: Please add this material to the previous unpublished story that arrived too late for the August issue.

Walt

WA: ds

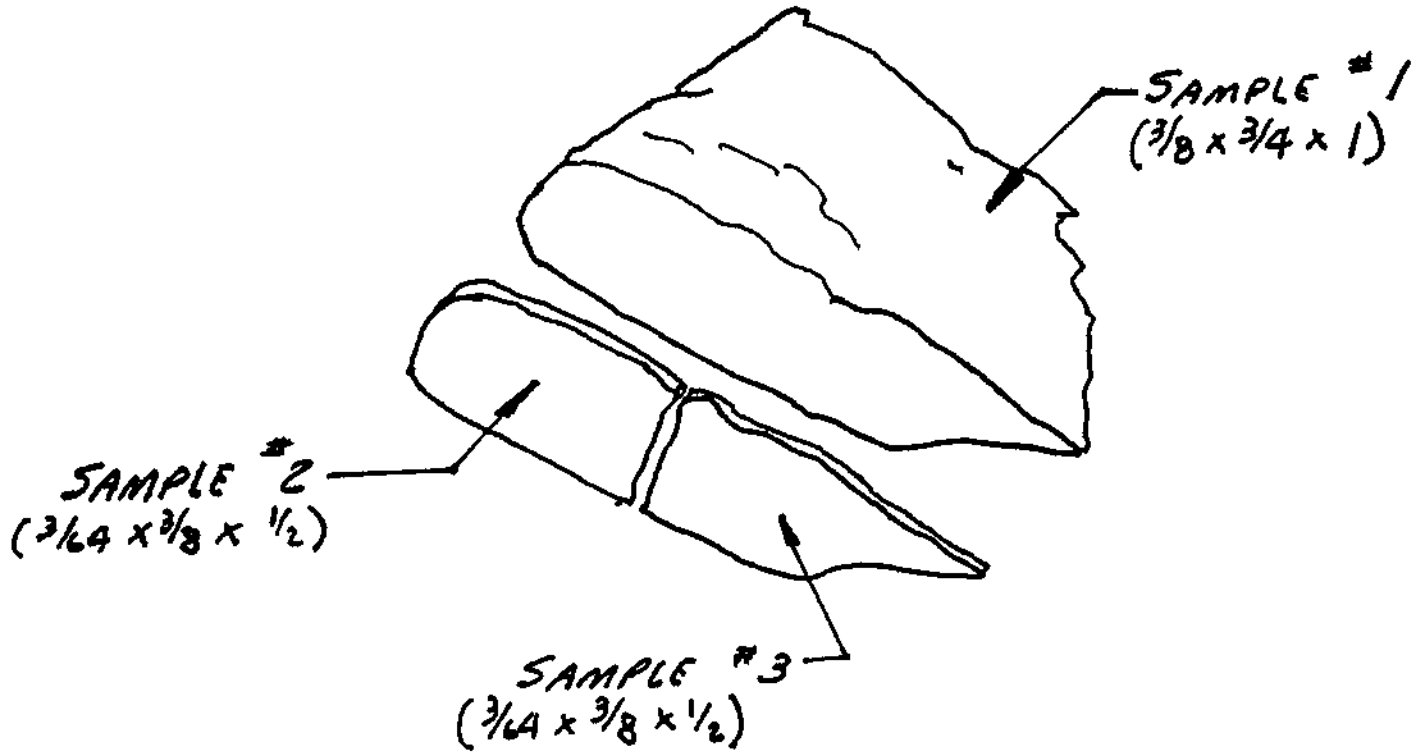
SAMPLE REPORT SUMMARY (AURORA)

- #1 - Oxidized flake (1.8 x 1.2 cm); W = 0.525 g; Strongly paramagnetic; High iron, comparable to common cast/extruded black pipe.
- #2 - (2 pieces) Oxidized flakes (1.3 x 1.7 cm & 3.6 x 2.5 cm); W = 1.268 g, 3.215 g; Strongly paramagnetic; High iron, comparable to common cast/extruded black pipe.
- #3-7 - (5 pieces) Almost totally oxidized chunks of varying dimensions (1 cm³ - 2.4 x 1 x 0.7 cm); W = 0.817 g, 1.214 g; Very weakly magnetic due to extreme oxidation of ferrite.
- #8 - Oxidized/mineralized large flake (5.4 x 3.7 cm); W = 12.828 g; Strongly paramagnetic; High iron, comparable to common cast black pipe, fittings, etc.
- Bill Case (2nd item) - Small chunk (approx. 1.8 cm x 0.6 x 0.4 cm); Aluminum oxide melt, essentially diamagnetic, easily worked/polished.

Samples 1-8 - Density, hardness, macro/microphoto, luster, grain structure, gross chemical analyses, virtually useless in determining original structure/composition/origin of materials, since weathering (galvanic, oxidation, etc. action) negates meaningful extrapolation -- e.g., nothing out of the ordinary with common "modern" materials exposed to weathering.

"Case" Sample - Aluminum alloy melt which could have origin as numerous "modern" and common Al alloys. (Dr. A. Hynek has original electron microprobe chart.) Percentages of major constituents varied according to location on sample (e.g., Al-80, Zn-20 to Al-87, Zn-13 with possible traces of Mg and Cu, although not verified due to minute proportions, condition of sample, time limitations of facilities/personnel). Hardness variable (Brinell Avg ~145, Rockwell B 73-89) -- no way to extrapolate to original (annealed, quenched, and aged, ... ?). Another essentially useless sample for intended purpose, except that its existence prior to 1908 or so, virtually impossible outside of laboratory.

SPECIMEN PREPARATION



ALUMINUM
AN INVESTIGATION

REFERENCES:

- PAGE 1-2 FROM: GENERAL CHEMISTRY,
By Hopkins & Bailar,
Chapter 33, pp 527-540.
- PAGE 3-8 FROM: THERMOCHEMICAL DATA
of ALLOYS, By O. Kubaschewski &
J. Catterall. 1956
pp 2, 11, 50-53, 173-175

 1/13/53
J. F. Schuessler

Aluminum	Most abundant metal of the earth's crust.
Al Atom	Smaller and denser than that of magnesium Sometimes electrons are shared which accounts for the fact that aluminum sometimes behaves as a nonmetal.
Valence	+3
Found	Never found free in nature. Compounds are found in <u>all</u> the common rocks except limestone and sandstone.
Compounds	Silicates are most common. (From feldspar, leucite, hornblende; garnet, zeolite, mica and kaolin). Clay soils are largely aluminum silicate. These compounds are very stable and are not used as a source of aluminum metal.
Extract from ore	Only from bauxite, which is a hydrated oxide, $Al_2O_3 \cdot 2H_2O$, containing variable amounts of Fe_2O_3 .
Ore found	Bauxite is obtained from Ark., Geo., Tenn., and Alabama
Metallurgy	First prepared by a German chemist, Wohler, in 1828. Sold for \$150 per lb. In 1854 Deville obtained Al from clay by using sodium as the reducing agent. Sold for \$90/lb. Finally fell to \$12/lb as sodium cost went down. In 1886 Charles Hall made cheap aluminum possible by a process where fused cryolite dissolved aluminum oxide and this solution under the influence of an electric current deposited metallic aluminum at the cathode. By 1951 the wholesale price of aluminum was 18¢/lb.

Process the Ore

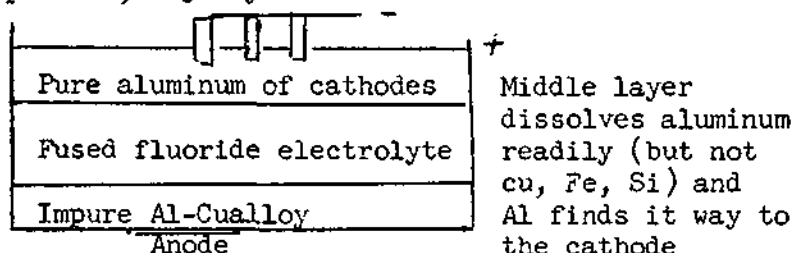
The first step in Hall's process is the purification of the bauxite, and it is especially important to remove the iron which produces undesirable effects upon metallic aluminum.

The purified alumina is dissolved in a fused cryolite electrolyte in a furnace. Aluminum metal collects at the bottom of the furnace and is tapped off at intervals.

To produce one pound of metal there are consumed 2 lbs of aluminum oxide, 0.60 to 0.65 lb anode material, 0.1 lb cryolite, 0.1 lb. fluorospar and 10 kw elect. energy.

Purity

Done by electrolytic method known as Hoopes process, a 3 layer bath



Middle layer dissolves aluminum readily (but not Cu, Fe, Si) and Al finds its way to the cathode

Result 99.99% pure aluminum metal

Properties

Soft white metal.
 Ductile and malleable at 150°.
 Specific gravity is 2.71.
 Melting point is 658.7°
 Boiling point is 1800°
 Better conductor of heat than iron or tin but half as efficient as copper.
 For carrying electric current it is 60% as efficient as copper.
 It alloys readily with copper, tin, nickel, zinc, iron, and manganese.
 Pure aluminum oxidizes slowly in air or water at ordinary temperatures.
 Burns at 700°C

Compounds

The oxidation number of aluminum in its compounds is always +3. Because of this high charge and the rather small size of the Al^{+++} ion, negative groups such as the Cl^- and OH^- ions are attracted strongly to it.

THERMOCHEMICAL DATA OF ALLOYS

Ni-Cu-Al. Nickel-Copper-Aluminium.

OELSEN and LICHTENBERG [237] determined the heats of formation in the solid state on mixing Cu-Ni alloys with Al, in the same manner as with the Fe-Ni-Al system. The minimum heat of formation in the ternary system was found with NiAl ($\Delta H = -17,000$); from this composition an inverted ridge stretches to CuAl ($\Delta H = -5800$). Parallel to this another inverted ridge extends from Cu_2Al at $N_{\text{Al}} = 0.33$, and disappears at about Ni:Cu = 1:1. With the alloys with $N_{\text{Al}} > 0.5$ a regular increase of ΔH towards the Al corner was observed. For further details the original paper should be consulted.

Fe-Al. Co-Al. Ni-Al. Aluminium-Iron (Nickel, Cobalt)

Heats of formation were determined for the whole range of composition by OELSEN and MIDDEL [322]. Liquid aluminium (850°C) and liquid iron (1600°C) were mixed in a calorimeter at room temperature under a protective slag. The heat contents of the pure metals were determined separately, and subtracted. In the case of Ni-Al alloys of the approximate atomic proportion 1:1 the reaction was so violent that some silica from the calorimeter lining was reduced. Within an error of about 5-10 per cent, OELSEN's results are generally reliable. In the case of FeAl_3 there is good agreement with a heat of formation determined by BILTZ and HAASE [28] from heats of solution in dilute hydrochloric acid. The heats of formation of CoAl and Co_2Al_3 obtained in the same manner by BILTZ and

Solid:

N_{Al}	Fe		Co		Ni	
	ΔH_{293}	ΔV_{293}	ΔH_{293}	ΔV_{293}	ΔH_{293}	ΔV_{293}
0.05	-700	-0.008			-1,900	-0.02
0.10	-1,450	-0.02			-3,700	-0.039
0.20	-2,800	-0.052				
0.25	-3,400	-0.081			-9,400	
0.40	-5,000		-10,300		-14,000	-0.098
0.45	-5,600		-11,800		-15,600	-0.117
0.50	-6,000		-13,200	-0.15	-17,000	-0.127
0.667	-6,500				-12,600	
0.715	-6,800		-10,000	-0.04		
0.75	-6,650	-0.02			-9,500	
0.82			-7,200			
Accuracy	± 400		± 700		± 800	

HOLVERSCHEIT [41], are however, 2.5 kcal/g-atom more negative than those of OELSEN, whose results have been preferred here. Heats of formation of Fe-Al alloys were recently re-determined by KUBASCHIEWSKI and DENCH [252] who used a direct method. The agreement with OELSEN's values was very good when these were corrected for the impurities present in OELSEN's iron.

The distribution of Al between {Ag} and {Fe} was studied by CHIPMAN [77] and CHIPMAN and FLORIDIS [79a] at 1600°C . From the results and the approximately known activities of Al in {Ag}, the relation

$$RT \ln \gamma_{\text{Al}} = -12,950 + 22,250 N_{\text{Al}} \quad (1600^\circ\text{C})$$

was obtained for solutions containing up to 25 atomic-per cent Al.

X-ray and pycnometric densities have been obtained by various observers [472, 56, 25], but the volume changes given above may still be subject to appreciable alterations.

Attention may be drawn to a study of the electron-density distribution in the compound NiAl by AGEEV and GUSEVA [1]. The electron density is highest (0.9) along bridges formed between Ni and Al. The bridges between similar atoms, Ni-Ni and Al-Al, are much lower, being 0.4 and 0.2 respectively. The heat of formation is obviously due to the new covalent bond formed between the dissimilar atoms.

Fe-Ni-Al. Fe-Co-Al. Fe-Si-Al. Iron-Aluminium-Nickel (Cobalt, Silicon)

OELSEN and LICHTENBERG [237] poured molten, deoxidized alloys of various compositions of Fe-Ni and Fe-Co (1600°C) on to Al (800°-900°C) and allowed the mixtures to cool to room temperature

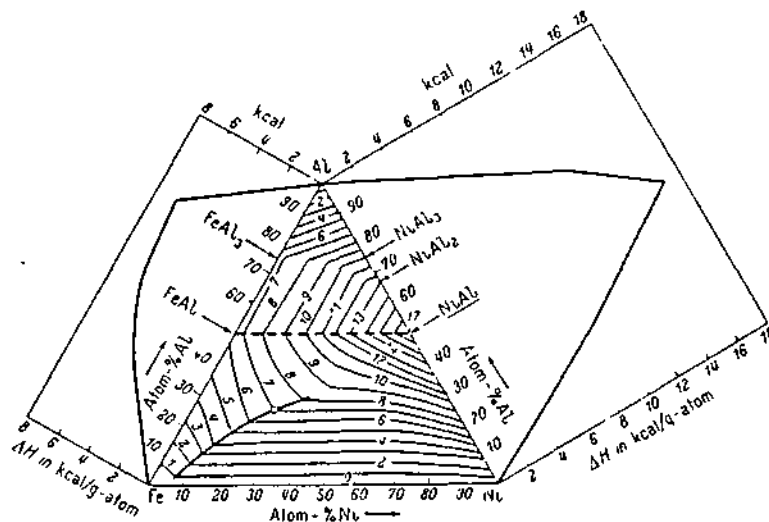


FIG. 2
Integral heats of formation in the Fe-Ni-Al system at room temperature

in a calorimeter. In another series of experiments molten Fe (1600°C) was poured on to Al-Si melts (1100°-1600°C). After subtracting the heat contents of the component melts, the heats of formation of the ternary alloys at room temperature were obtained. OELSEN and LICHTENBERG thus found the heats of mixing of ⟨Al⟩ with ⟨Fe-Ni⟩ and with ⟨Fe-Co⟩, and of ⟨Fe⟩ with ⟨Al-Si⟩, but these correspond closely to the total integral heats of formation, since the heats of formation of the respective binary alloys are small compared with the measured effects (see Fe-Ni and Al-Si). The results are given in Fig. 2-4. The minimum heat of formation in the Fe-Ni-Al and Fe-Co-Al diagrams was found to occur with the

compounds NiAl and CoAl respectively, a negative ridge extending from this composition to the FeAl composition. The influence of the FeAl₃ compound on the ternary energy diagram may also be seen. In the Fe-Si-Al diagram the compound FeSi has the lowest heat value and governs the thermochemical properties of the ternary alloys.

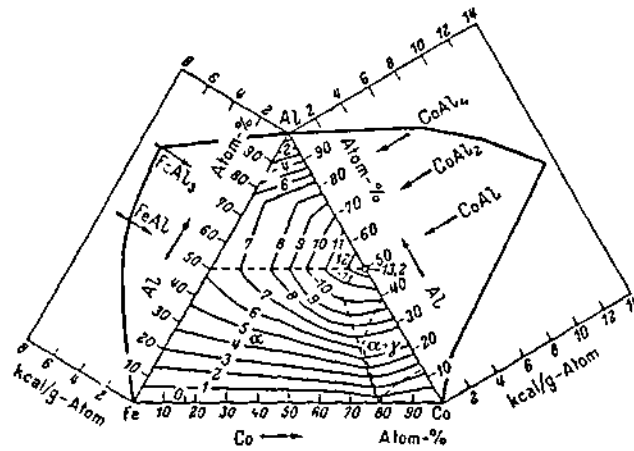


FIG. 3
Integral heats of formation in the Fe-Co-Al system at room temperature

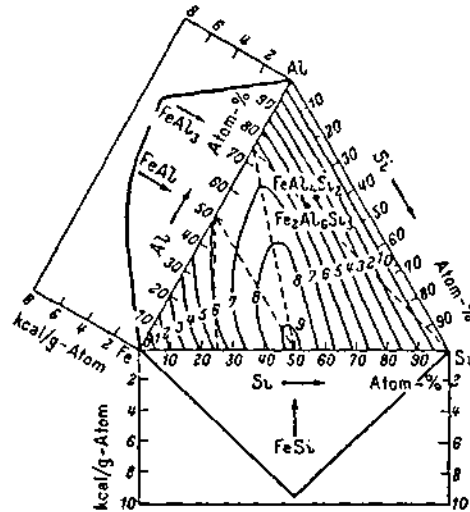


FIG. 4
Integral heats of formation in the Fe-Si-Al system at room temperature

Fe-X-O. (X = V, Cr, Mn, Al, Si, C.)

The effect of alloying elements on the activity coefficient of oxygen in liquid iron:

N_x	$\gamma_O \text{ in alloy} / \gamma_O \text{ in (Fe)}$				
	C 1540°C	Cr 1595°C	Mn	V 1600°C	Al 1600°C
0.001		0.987		0.95	0.27
0.005	0.92	0.94	(0.9)	0.77	(0.0012)
0.01	0.86	0.875	(0.8)	0.585	
0.02	0.76	0.77		0.345	
0.05	0.52	0.595			
0.10	0.26	0.415			
0.20		0.27			
Difference in ΔH_{298}		- 26.0	- 29.2	- 38.8	- 70.3 kcal

Deoxidation equilibria for various elements in liquid iron have frequently been determined for practical reasons. The equilibria may also be calculated from data available in the present monograph, i.e. from the free energies of solution of oxygen and of the deoxidizer in {Fe}, and from the free energy of formation of the slag. Such calculations will not be repeated here, since they have frequently been carried out, for instance, by RICHARDSON [366], CHIPMAN [137, 78], and KUBASCHEWSKI and EVANS [253]. It is, however, necessary to take into account the change of activity of oxygen caused by the presence of the added element. The effect of a few elements on the activity of oxygen in liquid iron was determined by CHIPMAN and his associates: Cr [75], V [78], C [285], Si [137], and Al [138]. The effect of other elements, such as Mn, has been estimated by RICHARDSON [366]. The results are given in the table, in the form of the ratio of the activity coefficient of oxygen in the ternary solution Fe-X-O to that in iron. This effect is partly compensated by the reverse effect of oxygen on the activity of the added metal. Thus the activity of Al in {Fe} is considerably lowered by the presence of oxygen [138].

For other metals having smaller mutual interaction with oxygen, and when the concentration of oxygen is low, as it is in practice, the effect of oxygen on the activity of the metal may be neglected.

There is still some doubt as to the effect of silicon [137], and accordingly these data have not been tabulated here.

It has been pointed out [366, 138] that the mutual effects of two added metals on the activity curves should be proportional to the differences in free energy of formation of the oxides of iron and of the alloying element. For an approximation, one may take the

differences between the heats of formation at room temperature. This has been done in the bottom row of the table, using the heats of formation of $\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{O}$ and of the most stable oxide of the addition element. The principle involved may be used for the estimation of the γ ratios of other elements in iron.

Calculations of the deoxidation equilibria in liquid steel [366, 78, 253] have mostly neglected the mutual effect of the solutes on the activities. This accounts for the larger discrepancies with experimental results. Part of the differences between theory and practice may have arisen either from inaccuracies in the basic thermochemical data and oversimplifications of the reaction mechanism (e.g. Fe-Ti-O), or from experimental errors, particularly in practice, where equilibrium may not have been attained. In addition the system may be more complex than that assumed in the theoretical analysis.

Further rough values of the effect of third elements on the activity of oxygen in liquid iron may be found in a recent review by CHIPMAN [78a].

Table 1. Thermochemical Symbols Used, and their Definitions

(The table is illustrated with a binary alloy system of two metals Me and Mt, where Me is the base metal)

Symbol	Quantity	Definition	Dimension
T	absolute temperature		$^{\circ}\text{K}$
θ	temperature		$^{\circ}\text{C}$
p_{Me}	vapour pressure of Me	saturation pressure of the ideal gas (Me) over a condensed phase containing this component	atm
z	electrochem. valency		—
E	electromotive force = e m f.	potential difference of an electrolytic cell measured isothermally and reversibly by a compensation method, i.e. no current flow	Volt
$N_{\text{Me}}, N_{\text{Mt}}$	atomic fraction	$N_{\text{Me}} = 1 - N_{\text{Mt}} = n_{\text{Me}}/(n_{\text{Me}} + n_{\text{Mt}})$ $= \text{at.}\% / 100$	—
a_{Me}	activity	p_{Me}/p_0 , where p_0 is the vapour pressure of the pure component Me	—
γ_{Me}	activity coefficient	$a_{\text{Me}}/N_{\text{Me}}$	—
R	gas constant	1 986	cal/degree
\ln	logarithm	\log_e	—
\log	logarithm	\log_{10}	—
ΔG_{Me}	partial free energy	change in free energy	cal
ΔH_{Me}	partial heat of solution	change in heat content	cal
ΔS_{Me}	partial entropy in solution	change in entropy	Cl = cal/degree
ΔG_T	integral free energy	change in free energy	$\frac{\text{cal}}{\text{g-atom}}$
ΔH_T	integral heat of solution	change in heat content	$\frac{\text{cal}}{\text{g-atom}}$
ΔS_T	integ entropy of solution	change in entropy	$\frac{\text{Cl}}{\text{g-atom}}$
L_f	latent heat fusion		$\frac{\text{cal}}{\text{g-atom}}$
σ_f	entropy of fusion	L_f/T_f	$\frac{\text{Cl}}{\text{g-atom}}$
L_t	latent heat of transformation		$\frac{\text{cal}}{\text{g-atom}}$
AV_T	atomic volume	Atomic Weight/Density ($\rho = \rho_{\text{X-ray}}$)	$\frac{\text{cm}^3}{\text{g-atom}}$
ΔV_T	volume change on formation	$(V_{\text{alloy}} - \sum V_{\text{metals}}) / \sum V_{\text{metals}}$ at temp T	—

Brackets around chemical symbols

$\langle \text{Me} \rangle$	Me: solid
$\{ \text{Me} \}$	Me liquid
(Me)	Me gaseous
$[\text{Me}]_{\text{Me-Mt}}$	Me: dissolved in alloy Me-Mt

Table 2. Data for the Pure Metals

Metal	S_{100}	AV_{100}	$\theta, ^\circ C$	$L_f \frac{\text{cal}}{\text{g-atom}}$	mp, $^\circ C$	$L_v \frac{\text{cal}}{\text{g-atom}}$	AV_{110} at mp	bpt $^\circ C$
Li	6.70	13.0			180	700		1370
Na	12.23	23.7			97.8	625	24.7	910
K	15.2	45.4			63.5	560	47.2	779
Cs	19.8	67.7			29.8	500	72.7	690
Be	2.28	4.9			1283	(2,800)		2400
Mg	7.77	14.0			650	2,080	15.32	1105
Ca	9.95	25.9	440	240	850	2,070		1420
Ba	16.0	38.0	370	150	710	1,830		1640
Al	6.77	10.0			659	2,500	11.27	2330
La	13.6	22.4	(868)		920			(2700)
Ce	16.65	20.7	(754)		804			(2530)
Pr	17.5	20.8	(798)		935			
Ta	7.24	10.8	882	830	1670			3260
Zr	9.29	14.0	870	920	1865			4750
V	7.01	8.25	(1550)		1920			3350
Nb	(8.5)	10.9	+		2410			
Ta	9.94	10.85			2980			
Cr	5.68	7.2			1850			2500
Mo	6.83	9.4			2600			5550
W	8.04	9.5			3380			(5400)
Mn	7.59	7.3	720, 1100, 1136	480, 550, 430	1250	(3,200)		
Re	8.85	9.3			3170			(5500)
Fe	6.49	7.1	907, 1401	215, 140	1537	3,630	7.95	3070
Co	7.18	6.6	445, 1125	60, 70	1491	3,750		2900
Ni	7.12	6.6			1453	4,220		
Ru	(6.9)	8.3			2430			
Rh	(7.6)	8.3			1960			
Pd	9.03	8.9			1552	(4,120)		
Os	7.8	8.45			2700			
Ir	8.7	8.6			2440			
Pt	10.00	9.1			1769	(5,200)		4100
Cu	7.97	7.1			1083	3,100	7.96	2570
Ag	10.20	10.3			960.8	2,690	11.6	2200
Au	11.32	10.2			1063	3,050	11.4	2965
Zn	9.95	9.1			419.5	1,740	9.6	907
Cd	12.35	13.0			321	1,530	14.0	765
Hg	18.2				-38.7	550	14.82 (25 $^\circ C$)	356.5
Ga	9.8	11.8			29.7	1,335	11.44	2250
In	13.9	15.65			156.3	780	16.25	2075
Tl	15.35	17.25	234	90	304	1,030	18.70	1460
Pb	15.49	18.2			326.7	1,150	19.45	1750
Sn	12.29	16.25	13	500	231.9	1,690	17.05	2730
Pb	4.50	12.05			1430	11,100		
Cgr	1.36	5.41						
Bi	13.6	21.15			271.3	2,600	20.85	
Sb	10.92	18.4			630.5	17.70	18.70	1635 (Sb $_{\gamma}$) sb 622
As	8.4	13.05			-			280 (P $_{\beta}$)
P	10.6	17.0			44.2	601 (P $_{\beta}$)	17.75	990
Te	11.88	20.45			450	4,180		685
Sc met	10.15	16.3			220	1,500	19.25	
S	7.62	15.6	95.5	88	119	300	17.7	444.6 (S $_{\gamma}$)
Ref	450, 102, 211, 338, 53	255, 25		248, 218, 240	329, 455 61	248, 210	417, 255, 230, 462, 414	253, 61, 456, 114

LABORATORY TEST RESULTS

1897 Aurora, TX Metal Sample

Conducted for
John F. Schuessler

1. The subject sample was analyzed by x-ray fluorescence, soft x-ray spectroscopy, and optical metallography.
2. X-Ray Fluorescence Analysis

The approximate composition of the sample as measured by x-ray fluorescence was:

95 atomic(at.) % Al
5 a.t.% Fe

That no zinc was detected in the sample is of interest, since zinc was found in other pieces of aluminum recovered in the geographical area of the present sample. The limit of x-ray fluorescence detectability for Zn is 0.5 at. %.

3. Soft X-Ray Analysis

The approximate composition of the sample as measured by soft x-ray spectroscopy was:

98 at. % Al
1-2 at. % Fe

No copper was observed with soft x-ray spectroscopy, which has a limit of detectability of approximately 1 at. %. Commercial aluminum alloys that contain iron usually contain 4-5 wt. % copper.

4. Optical Metallographic Analysis

Photomicrographs of the sample are shown in Encl. (1) (see attached photographs). The presence of large grains shown in Figure 1 (see page) indicates that the sample is stress-free and has gone through a melting and cooling stage. The presence of shrink cavities observed before the material was etched also indicates that the sample had been molten. Small crystals of a second phase as shown in Encl. (1) (see page) are an iron-aluminum intermetallic compound. This second phase is present because not more than 1% iron can exist in solution in aluminum. These crystals are much harder than the aluminum matrix and are much more numerous at the outer surface than in the interior as may be observed by comparison of Figures 1 and 2. The photomicrograph in Figure 1 was taken at the edge of the cut surface whereas the photomicrograph in Figure 2 was taken at the center of that surface. The differences in the percentages of aluminum

and iron between the x-ray fluorescence and soft x-ray results are due to this change in concentration of the second phase. In the soft x-ray spectroscopy measurements, the x-rays originate from a small area (1 mm x 3 mm) near the center of the cut surface, but in x-ray fluorescence the entire sample contributes to the results. The increase in concentration of the second phase near the edge of the sample is a normal occurrence when the alloy is cooled from the melt.

5. The sample was tested for radioactivity with a Geiger counter. No radiation above background was detected.



PHONE 512/379-9216

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.

*The Scientific Investigation
of Unidentified Flying Objects*

WALTER H. ANDRUS, JR.
International Director

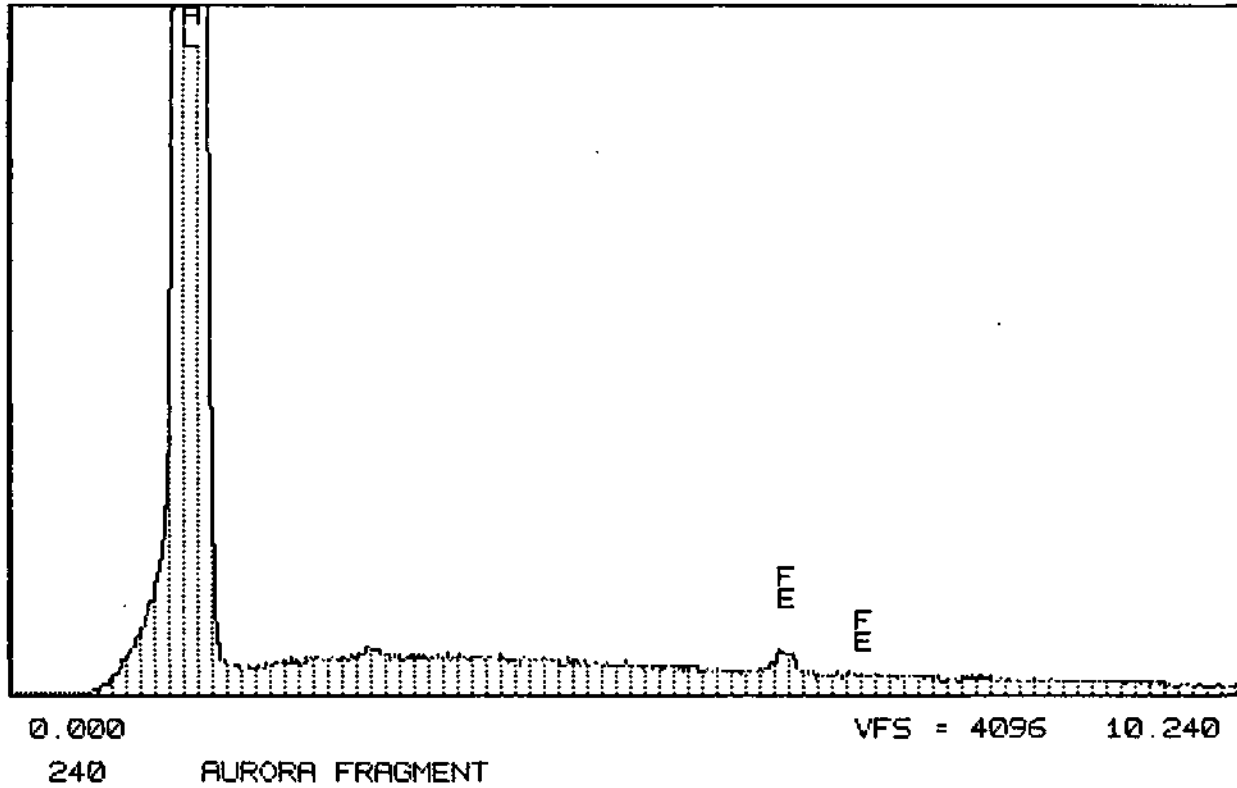
103 Oldtowne Road
Seguin, Texas 78156 U.S.A.

SSQ:

ANASTAS TECHNICAL SERVICES

94
MON 08-AUG-83 15:27

Cursor: 0.000keV = 0



SSQ

SEMI-QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS: AURORA FRAGMENT
EL NORM. K-RATIO

AL-K 0.99046 +- 0.00198
FE-K 0.00953 +- 0.00033

ZAF CORRECTION 25.00 KV 40.00 Degs

No. of Iterations 2

----	K	[Z]	[A]	[F]	[ZAF]	ATOM.%	WT.%
AL-K	0.990	0.999	1.023	0.999	1.022	99.50	98.96
FE-K	0.009	1.080	1.018	1.000	1.100	0.50	1.04

* - High Absorbance

Bill Case

4/13/73

Aurora, Texas

WISE COUNTY

1. Someone dug up some metal along side the well, but don't know who has it.
 2. Bill Case found samples of wood.
 3. Town Marshall photographed holding wood samples.
 4. Brawley O. Carter Age 65 (crippled)
(owner of property) and
a tire pump gas station
 5. ~~At~~ 6 or 8 people in Community all
repeat the story
 6. Number of open wells in the area which
have since been closed up.
 7. Bill Case spent 2 days at the site
 8. People are digging up the graves at the
Cemetery and taking away the ~~of~~ sandstone
markers. (more than 20 have been stolen)
(Hand made stones)
-

9. Bill Case found a pulley or windless at the site.
 10. 2 angle iron posts are still there that supported windmill. Town Marshall H.R. IDELL helped fill in and closed up this particular well.
Said he dug the posts out in 1945 and put a ~~8~~ 8" concrete slab over the well.
 11. IDELL said 100 people visited the area and were digging last weekend in the vein.
 12. Aurora Cemetery is in good shape.
Town has been reincorporated as a village of 235 per. Only 2 or 3 stones have been left at the cemetery.
 13. Only letters or initials appear on the stones near the front.
 14. Mrs. Anderson says there are 125 people in the cemetery where the stones are either missing or have been stolen.
 15. Mrs. Eldys Anderson Rhone, Dyas cataloging the graves since her family is buried there.
-

Bill Case

5/21/73

Aurora, Texas

Thin metal found at sight with metal detector
14" deep -

Well was closed in 1945 by town marshal
8" slab placed over well to seal it.

Bill Case has samples of metal.

Frank Kelley age 48 3 metal detectors during
an Olds Toronado (said he was from Corpus Christi)
gave Bill an incorrect telephone number.

Mrs. Oate requested by Bill Case to put area
"off limits".

Waylon Nence came to Aurora, Texas on 5/19/73

Charlie Stephens age — 3 miles from Aurora.
lived all of his life in Community.

Town Marshall accompanied Bill Case to make
it official.

Frank Kelley found 12 pcs. and put in Bank bag
(Corpus Christi)

16. Cemetery is well kept by people in the area of Rhine, Newark,
17. Located another well nearby
18. Public has desecrated the cemetery
19. Hayden News coming down 4/14 & 4/15
20. Saw Ozanne visited the sight. (represented himself as Air Force) Dave may have metal.
21. Iron stove top used to cover the well initially before the concrete slab was installed.

Old nails were rusty and produced no signal from detector.

Earth where metal was found still gave a signal even after metal was removed on Fred Kelley's equipment

Of the 3 detectors, one was a Commercial unit, one was built by he and his partner.

Fred Kelley scanned a two acre field. Found the metal at 14" deep. Fred was going to take the metal to the smelter.

52 miles to Aurora from Dallas. Bill Case went through says old newspapers are in Dallas to be microfilmed "This Country Messenger".

Stephen's father rode his horse 3 miles to the site to investigate the crash the next morning.

Object moved south to north and hit well sight.

~~Small~~ Small grave marked only with a rock.

Other graves nearby are marked with dates near 1897 or 1898. Signal from grave detected from grave.

Bill Case tried to get Charlie Stephens to talk and get a taped interview.

Father told Charlie that they were putting concrete to pasture. Saw a spacecraft with a light at 4 am. Went directly across the pasture. No windmill, but struck a windmill over the well. ~~He~~ saw the object crash and explode.

The next morning found metal and burned area.
(metal was silver color, but didn't pick up any pic.)

One gamma dioscopia same signals as the metal with the detector operated by Fred Kelley.

Interview with Charlie Stephens in Dallas paper
5/20/73

92 year old woman in Dallas in memory home. She remembers that her father had talked to Judge Proctor and there were some pieces of metal involved.
(she worked on newspapers at the time)

Bill Case has piece of metal 1" square.
It'll get analyzed at Texas Instruments

Bill has a piece of the wood post. Cleaned well and through debris into chicken yard. Nothing grows

Bill Case

5/29/73

Results of tests available the end of this week per Dr. Henry C. Henderson. Found another entirely different piece of metal on 5/28/73

Lady 91 years old (was 15 yrs old at the time.) She remembers the crash, but her parents wouldn't let her go up to the crash scene.

Both her mother and Father saw the scene and body which confirms Hayden's original report of April 19, 1897.

Mrs. Mary Evans (almost 92) now lives in Newark, Texas (6 miles from Anson).

Interview conducted 5/29/73 and newspaper article will appear on 5/30/73. Body was buried in cemetery. ("Grandma Mary" watches soap operas on TV) Mrs. Evans didn't know the location of the grave.

Dr. Nathan called Bill about the 1897 case.

(Jet Propulsion Laboratory)

Bill doing radio broadcasts about the case ^②
from ~~Ontario~~ Canada to Texas on 5/29 & 5/30.

Waylen News released a statement to CBS
that his scientists were digging for the body.

Bill Case got an injunction to prevent Waylen
News from digging. Bill countered the radio
broadcast as being incorrect.

The Town Marshall kept Mrs. Evans' name
quiet since she was related to his mother-in-law.
He wouldn't go near the particular grave.

Garry C. Henderson, Ph. D. 5/29/73

Chief Metallurgist

X-ray Diffraction

Electron microprobe.

should have results by Feb 5/30/73

Telephone Call from Bill Case

May 28, 1973

Bill Case says they have found a grave near a large oak tree
CBC was at the sight when Bill Case, Bille Oates gave the directions
to the grave sight per Mrs Oates and the Marshall N. R. Idell
Definitely a crash according to local residences

Non-magnetic metal found, and being analyzed by General Dynamics per
Dr Darryl C. Henderson (sent last week)

More of the metal was found today

CBC from Ottawa, Ontario had film crew. ^{armaby & Sullivan} ^{1000 ft of film}
Producers & Commissioner - ^{1 hour of} ^{film and} ^{interview}

Small pieces of metal scattered over two acres of ground.

Wayden News is not aware of the spot and will be arrested if he tries to dig
in the cemetery. Bill Case has secured a constable to keep Wayden
from digging in the cemetery.

There is a stone marker on the grave with a scratched diagram of a
cigar shaped object with circles that

CBC people will analyze metal in Ottawa

Pieces of metal are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ " long & $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide - terrific heat

cannot scratch surface. A diamond cutter will mark the metal with effort.

Stephens repeated case today to Bill Case and CBC

One woman said she knew a woman who could show them the grave.

The Marshall of Aurora

Bill Case to release a story on 5/29/73 to announce that the grave has been found.

Will interview Editha Daughton to determine if her Father's report confirms
that of Stephens and Bille Oates

Bill Case

5/31/73

A 98 yr old man Mr. ~~Stan~~ Curley
interviewed today. He can remember report
but couldn't go over from Lewisville, since
he had to work. His friends confirm the story.

Dr. John Gray at Denton, Texas
North Texas State University

Bill Case been to Amora, Texas 27 different
times (2000 miles of travel to conduct
investigations and interviews)

Bill Case

5/30/73

Dr. Tom Gray Physicist
North Texas State University

metal analysis

Dr. David

Redden

Biological Science

May 31, 1973

Walt:

Here is today's story on the first scientific results of metals testing on the reported Aurora, Texas crash in which the pilot's body was supposed to have been recovered.

We have sent a complete file to Dr. Hynek to brief him. After the scientific findings of the analysts are in we would consider it an "honor" and one hell of a boost if both you as MUFON national director and Dr. Hynek could comment on the effort and whether you consider the evidence substantial enough to go ahead with a firm effort to secure an exhumation order in the grave we have been getting the signals from.

Obviously we need the respect and outside "punch" that a statement from Dr. Hynek and yourself would give us in this case. We feel we have dug into every corner and Gary reports his analysis thus far looks promising.

Please let me have your views on this possibility. We could of course conduct it in other ways ---not a la Hayden Hewes -- and we want keep it straight and level to maintain the community cooperation. *B. Bill*

June 5, 1973

Walt:

Here are copies of last Friday's and Sunday's Aurora UFO search stories. This completes the set.

We announce the metal findings tomorrow, Wednesday, June 6, 1973

Regards,


Bill

June 5, 1973

Bill Case

Alloy - produced

aluminum could not have been produced before

4" deep

aluminum alloy - now common

1908 to 1910 or 1920

melted into a nugget

unable to alloy it before this time

No way of dating alloy

hill top is rocky (limestone formation with soil in between)

One area SE of well appeared to have "been salted" with metal over the weekend.

Bill Hoam National Trotter

a 1853 1/2 dollar was found at the site

OCT							NOV							DEC						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			29/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 8, 1973

NOTES

Bill Cedric Leonard, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Hayden claim's May dome story was revised by Bill Case

Hayden says he has switched his position and is going to try to make MUFON look bad and Bill Case as well as Hynek.

mutated flowers several hundred feet area.

Only radiation in blue clay about one inch deep. 1 mt. above background in spots. (Southwest Air motor)

Bowley Oates believe his gaurt is from radiation from water.

Remember We've Moved



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Robert Apollonio

217-222-4642

12/18/73
Bill Case Dallas Times Herald

Calapan Corp. (Robert Kell)

Buffalo, N. Y. (Anthony Alongi)
in charge

analyzed version to detect license
broken paper

AC 716 632-7500

Bill Case

AC 214 453-0170 Dallas - Ft Worth
Airport

buried dogs & humans.

John Schaefer.

7/6/73

1. One lab man went on vacation
 2. Jerome Holiday McDonnell-Douglas
(1) Heavy in aluminum ~~turnout~~ R
Coppate Research
(2) " " iron Lab.
 3. Will do a "soft x-ray"
-

Mr. Gasey C. Henderson

7/3/73

1. Aluminum alloy
(could be a beer can)
2. 20 to 25 common alloys.
3. If it existed before early 1900's no one
knows how to make it.
4. Evidence of the fact that it was in a
melted state since silicon came to the surface.
5. Leaching and oxidation causes some of
the elements to leave the surface
6. ~~Know~~ No way to determine what the parent
metal might have been.
7. Rockwell hardness test.
Magnetic susceptibility
Density
Photo micrograph with a section
Electron microscope (qualitative)
(to determine major constituents)

Bill Case

James Herald interview
Thursday night
at Carl's

Duplicate stories
to AP & UPI
from Bill Case

KVIL Radio

James Herald
Interview

9:00a KRFD Radio
Dick Wheeler tape

Chan 4 KDFW ^{Bob Jenkins}
10 AM → 2:00 PM

Buster Mc Gregor
PROGRAM DIRECTOR CBS
video tape Dallas

WFAA-TV Ch 8

11:45 AM Dallas
12:30 (LIVE) ABC

WBAP-TV Chan 5
NOC
Fort Worth, Texas
anti UFO (Roy Eaton)
Rusa Bloxom
(will call me)

WRR Radio, mutual BS
Ed Dubetta after 2pm.

KERA-TV Chan 13
Public Broadcasting 9:00
Bill Porterfield 2 pm
Producer.
over an hour of film

JUN-ICHI TAKANASHI

C.P.O. BOX 910

OSAKA JAPAN

MODERN SPACE FLIGHT

ASSOCIATION / UFO NEWSLETTER

W.A. NOBLES

Bill Nobel

Aurora Cemetery Association

Decatur, Texas

Lloyd McKinnon
says the coach is not
listed in the "History of this County"
MCCRARY
Glenn McCrary
Rome, Texas
636-2235

~~LYNN~~
(GLENN) MCCRARY.

ROME, TEXAS

AC 817 636-2235

President: Aurora Cemetery Association

LLOYD MCKINNON

Member: Aurora Cemetery Association
AC 817 636-2392 ROME #

W.A. NOBLES

"Bill" Nobel (ATTORNEY)

AURORA CEMETARY ASSN.

DECATUR, TEXAS

AC 817 627-2131 (B)

627-2638 (H)

John Williams - Richland College
Astronomy Dept. Dallas, Texas.

Channel 8 WFAA Dallas Morning News

Channel 4 KDFW Dallas Times Herald

Channel 13 KERA

Channel 5 ~~WPT~~ Ft. Worth Star
WBAP Telegram.
(Ray Eaton - News Director)

Channel 39 KDFI
Associated Press -

UPI -

Bill Dexter St. Mark's College.
Dallas, Texas.

Additional sample last night

2" long by $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $\frac{1}{16}$ " thick.

like a solder splash.

(looks like roof splashing - metal gutting)

so many pieces of metal in area, it is difficult
to know what to pick up and analyze.

Proton Induced X-ray Analysis

70-75% Iron

25% Zni

Copper #3

Nickel

Chrome

Manganese

Cobalt #3

Dr Thomas J.

Gray

RUSS JONES

JIM CALDWELL (SOUND)

TOM RAINONE (PROD.)

NORY NIVEN (CAMERA)

PETER RAINONE (PROD. ASST.)

Inserted 23 K Gauss magnetic field

Placed in 23 K Gauss " " suspended on a thread.

No reaction to magnetic field.

Confused yesterday with metallurgist

depending upon how it was cooled whether it was magnetic or not.

Have not obtained melting point.

Will check it for electrical conductivity

Independent International
Pictures

Sam Sherman, President

VISITORS ON JULY 11, 1973
AND PROBABLY JULY 12th

FROM: ALPS-MOTOROLA
IN JAPAN

MR. SHUTA NOMURA

(BASED IN CHICAGO)

MR. T. TORATANI
TAKI

1. Both speak English fluently.
2. Are interested in Automotive
Production

GUIDES: WALT ANDRUS
GIL WYCKOFF

Arrived: 9:00 AM 7/11/73

metal into the usages of man's life is an operation of extreme difficulty." This statement was truly prophetic, for scientist though he was, Sainte-Claire Deville sensed the crux of the commercial problem, possibly because he had devoted a large part of his own fortune, not only to his experimental work, but also to the marketing of the product.

Sainte-Claire Deville had reference to aluminum produced by the earliest process known, reduction with sodium. Thirty-four years later (1889), Charles M. Hall, whose invention of the electrolytic method of producing aluminum permitted a drastic reduction in cost, wrote his associate in the Pittsburgh Reduction Company, Romaine C. Cole, "The mention of \$2 per pound in 1,000-pound lots did not seem to interest anyone . . . practically no one wanted a thousand pounds." Here was a metal about which much had been published looking forward to an "Aluminum Age," with methods of working covered experimentally, and uses suggested that ranged all the way from minor coinage to the replacement of steel in bridges. Also it was a metal but one-third the weight of any other metal in common use, which for 30 years had been generally known to have reasonable strength when worked or alloyed, and stability under ordinary atmospheric conditions. Yet when it was suddenly brought down from \$8 to \$2 per pound, a decrease to 25 per cent of its previous value, this new price did not even arouse interest.

It is not surprising, therefore, to find the statement by Dr. Joseph W. Richards in the 1890 edition of his well-known book, "Aluminium, Its Properties, Metallurgy and Alloys," that "Aluminium has not yet won a very large field, and perhaps not a little disappointment is felt on finding out exactly the few uses it has been put to." It was disheartening to the pioneers who, like Sainte-Claire Deville, had hoped to place the aluminum industry on a firm basis, but were instead between the devil of the high costs of production and the deep sea of a restricted market that could only be enlarged through sales below cost. The early dynamos were temperamental, but the weekly payroll was not.

Early Development of Markets in the United States.

Probably the first assembly of aluminum fabricated in the United States, of which there exists authentic knowledge, is an engineer's transit made in 1876. It is now in the museum of its

makers, W. & L. E. Gurley, Troy, N. Y. The castings in this instrument were made from aluminum purchased from a metal broker at \$1.30 per avoirdupois ounce. The date of the invoice, Apr. 3, 1876, indicates that the metal was either imported or else made at the small chemical works of Col. William Frishmuth at Philadelphia. Sodium was made at this plant and, by its

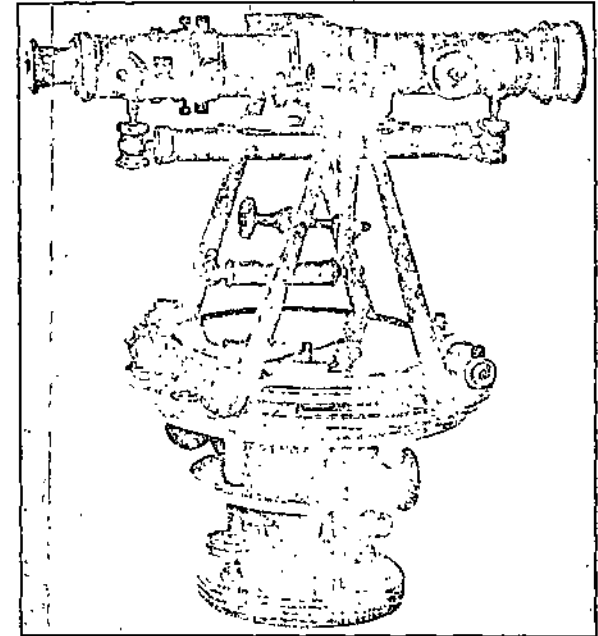


FIG. 1.—Transit made of aluminum by W. and L. E. Gurley and exhibited at Centennial Exposition in 1876.

use, small quantities of aluminum were produced. The aluminum tubing was bought in Paris by William Gurley.

This transit was exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and probably sold. Fifty-three years later it was returned to the makers for repair and by them exchanged for a new instrument. Its history from 1876 to 1909 is unknown, but from the latter date it was owned by an engineer in Charlottesville, Va., and had been in almost constant service. A complete chemical analysis, recently made of a sample from the tubing, showed an aluminum content of 98.04 per cent, with percentages of silicon 0.91; iron 0.90; copper 0.14; and tin 0.01 per cent.

Soldering and Welding.—As soon as sheet metal became commercially available, the necessity for properly joining pieces was evident. Probably no other process was the subject of so much effort and invention. The Patent Office files on aluminum solders are voluminous, and the results disappointing in many ways. Scarcely a week went by in the early days that some new solder was not being pushed by a hopeful inventor. The problem was not one simply of finding a solder that would flow and adhere. Any combination of metals with a substantially lower melting point than that of aluminum was certain to differ from it in electrolytic potential. This meant the failure of the joint through galvanic action in the presence of any moisture that could act as an electrolyte. Ultimately a very satisfactory welding technique was developed, but in the first 20 years of the commercializing of aluminum no stable use resulted where either hard or soft soldering was essential and where riveting was impractical. The soldering of aluminum is better understood now and has some applications for which it is quite satisfactory.

Some Early Uses and Their Results.

Prior to 1890, the uses open to so expensive a metal as aluminum in fabricated form were of two general classes. The first included parts of instruments or machines of various kinds, in which the labor per piece was so much greater than the cost of the material used that this cost was negligible. The second class might be termed "metal fancy goods" or novelties. Five years later, with the gradual decrease in the selling price of ingot to 55 cents per pound, and with sheet metal available at from 82 cents to \$1.10 per pound, depending upon width and thickness, manufacturers of novelties multiplied in number. Also a rapidly expanding demand resulted from the production of cooking utensils, both cast and spun ware. "New uses" were mostly limited to additional novelties, often developed on a speculative basis, and to new sizes or types of kitchen or camp furnishings. A typical display of aluminum articles in 1894 included, besides cast and spun utensils, such an assortment as metal-backed brushes, collar buttons, tea-balls, salt and pepper sets, bookmarks, trays, card counters, cardcases, paper cutters, looking-glass and picture frames, hairpins, combs, penholders, candlesticks, match boxes, spoons and house numbers.

Early in 1895 occurred the first bit of what might be called international publicity since the Paris Exposition of 1889. The Herreshoff Manufacturing Company designed and, with great secrecy, built the yacht *Defender* for the International Cup Races. Aluminum alloy plates and deck angles, rolled in a steel mill, and cast fittings were used above the water line. Prior to this in the United States, a few small aluminum boats had been used by the

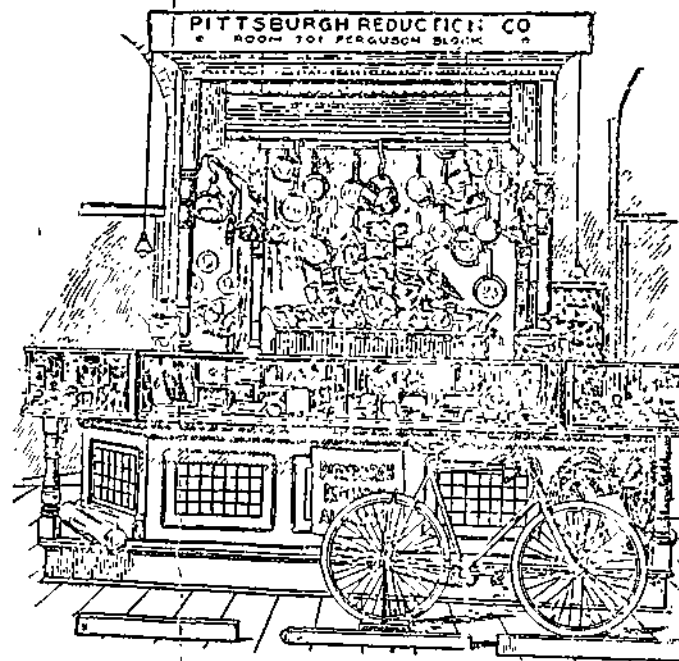


FIG. 2.—Aluminum exhibit at the Pittsburgh Exposition, showing typical aluminum products as made in 1894. (*The Aluminum World*, 1, 47 (1894).)

Wellman Arctic Expedition. In Europe, Messrs. Esscher, Wyss and Company had experimented with a launch in 1891 and a yacht in 1892 which led to the French government's ordering several torpedo boats from the Creusot Works in France.

Almost from the day the *Defender* was launched, sensational stories of the failure of aluminum appeared in the daily press. United States government officials condemned the metal, and the tankers and other experts were drawn into the controversy. Foreign practice was cited and the technical press commented at length. There was no actual failure until long after the races

1897

TEXAS

FILE: AURORA, TX

MYSTERIOUS AIRSHIP CASE

Friday, August 6, 1965 The Dallas Morning News 7 A

Flying Saucer Report Back in 1878 Found

DENISON, Texas (Sp.)—South-Dallas Herald in which "Mr. John Martin, a farmer who lives some six miles north of this city (Dallas), while out hunting, had his attention directed to a dark object high up in the northern sky. On resuming his view, the object was almost overhead and was seen to approach, riveted his attention, and he strained his eyes to discover its character. When directly over him it first noticed it appeared to be saucer and was evidently at a great height. About the size of an orange, which continued to grow in size. Mr. Martin thought it resembled a balloon, which seemed to him to be the most reasonable solution of the strange phenomenon, though he is of the opinion that it was possibly one of the heavenly bodies. The peculiar shape, and the velocity with which the object appeared to be going come and was soon lost to sight in the southern sky. Mr. Martin is a gentleman of undoubted veracity and this strange occurrence deserves the attention of the scientists."

Early-day pioneers were seeing unidentified flying objects as early as 1878, at least.

The Jan. 25, 1878, edition of the Denison Daily News carried what historians claim is one of the earliest reports of a "UFO." Under a one-line heading, "A Strange Phenomenon," the paper recounts the piece that appeared in the old-



Tolbert's Texas

Story of 'Spaceman's

Burial in Wise County

Dallas Morning News, 3 October 1970

By FRANK K. TOLBERT

"IN YOUR column about two years ago you discussed a small town in Texas where a flying saucer was said to have landed many years ago. As I recall, it was stated that one of the pilots of this aircraft was alleged to have become ill, died and was buried in this same town," writes Thomas K. Burnap, M.D., in a letter. Dr. Burnap, who is director of the department of anesthesiology at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, also asked: "This column keeps popping up in my mind and nagging at me repeatedly. Could it be possible to receive a copy of your script?"

Well, Dr. Burnap, it was more like 12 or 15 years ago that I made brief mention of what was probably a non-event.

Airship Hits Windmill

In mid-April of 1897 heavier-than-air flying machines were being reported seen by "sober citizens" all over the United States. And mind you, this was 6 years before the Wright brothers got off the ground at Kitty Hawk. It probably all started as a practical joke of some railroad telegraphers. And yet people all over the country, most of whom couldn't possibly have been in on the joke, swore they saw the aircraft.

Dr. Burnap undoubtedly has reference to a news story which appeared in the April 16, 1897, edition of The Dallas Morning News. There was no real evidence that the editors were spoofing except that the rather startling narrative was carried with a very modest headline on Page 6. It was under the by-line of one S. E. Haydon and this was the story in part from Aurora, a village near Decatur and Rhome:

"AURORA, Wise County, Texas—About 6 o'clock this morning early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been cruising around the nation. . . . Evidently some of the machinery was out of order, for it was making a speed of only 10 or 12 miles an hour and gradually settling toward the earth.

"It sailed directly over the public square then collided with Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres, wrecking the windmill and water tank, and destroying the judge's flower garden."

Funeral in Aurora

The story went on to say that a dead pilot was "apparently" the only one aboard and that his disfigured remains suggested that "he wasn't an inhabitant of this world." The story said that "the town is full of people" carrying off specimens of the "strange metal" of the airship settle down in one of his pastures and and silver." The yarn concluded with: "The pilot's funeral will take place tomorrow."

THAT DAY (April 17, 1897) big airships were crashing over a wide swath of the nation, at least according to news re-

ports. At Waterloo, Iowa, a farmer appeared with some metallic debris, which he said was all that remained of an aircraft which landed in his pasture. He charged 25c to view the wreckage and didn't lack for customers.

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One wire service chronicled under a dateline from Kalamazoo, Mich., that "three prominent and sober citizens, while engaged in shingling a roof," saw an airship crash land and blow up. They stopped shingling the roof to investigate but they said nothing was left of the craft but "a large coil of heavy wire and a propeller blade of some light material."

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The wire services said "fully 110 residents of New Carlisle, Indiana" would swear on the Bible they saw the ship on the night of April 16, 1897.

One theory on this whole thing is that it was a hoax started by railroad telegraphers in Iowa. Then railroad telegraphers all over the U.S., or at least in the middle part, joined in the fun, abetted by newspapermen.

Still, the fact remains that thousands of people, some of them in the back country, claimed to see the heavier-than-air crafts flying around. They couldn't possibly have been in on the hoax in that time of rather poor communications, 6 years before the Wright brothers finally got a machine off the ground at Kitty Hawk.

(Sun.)



Tolbert's Texas

'Mean' Schoolmaster Named Frog Not Town

By FRANK X. TOLBERT

FIRST 1971 calendar to hit my desk is from Mayor and Mrs. Otis Dixon of Frog Not or Frognot, Texas. Frog Not is in Collip County, near Snow Hill and Climax and just east of Blue Ridge.

You'll know you're there when you see a huge, somewhat surrealistic painting of a green frog on the Frog Not water system's tank, down the road from the Dixon store and market.

I was hoping that the Frog Not calendar would be illustrated by some pictures of frogs. Instead there is a photograph in color of thoroughbred brood mares and foals.

Frog Not was named not because of the scarcity of these amphibians but because of an early schoolmaster, who was a severe disciplinarian. One of his pet peeves was over mischievous boys bringing frogs to school. If you were caught with a frog in class it meant a thrashing. So the school and later the community came to be called Frog Not or Frognot.

That old spoilsport of a schoolmaster would have been unhappy if he'd lived to see that likeness of a green frog on the town water, painted from a scaffold by Mrs. Mary Hall of Garland. Now there is some talk about trying to raise funds to erect a large statue of a frog in Frog Not.

Otis and Hazel Dixon hopes there are enough frog lovers who will contribute to this fund for the statue.

Truthful Scully's Hoax

TROUBLE FOLLOWED after I wrote about the great hoax of 1897. Then Truthfully Scully, a Fort Worth railroad brakeman, and other "sober witnesses" started a sort of national hysteria when they claimed to see lighter-than-air craft flying around several years before the Wright Brothers' successful experiment. People all over the nation declared they were seeing aircraft.

There was spoofing comment in this space on a serious-sounding story in an April, 1897, edition of the Dallas News which reported under the byline of "E. E. Haydon" that a space ship had crashed in the town of Aurora, Wise County, and the pilot, believed to be from another planet,

was killed and apparently buried the same day in the town cemetery.

First I had trouble with an 8-year-old boy reader who objected especially to the heading of the column. And the child pointed out correctly that the heading on the column did indicate belief that a spaceship really came to grief in Aurora in 1897.

THEN A LETTER arrived from Jerold R. Johnson of Austin: "I read your interesting reply to a letter from Dr. Thomas K. Burpap seeking further information about the 'airship crash' at Aurora, Texas, in 1897. Jacques Vallee, author of three excellent books on the subject of UFO's and Donald B. Hanson, author of a book devoted entirely to UFO sightings in that 1897 period, have reported the Aurora story a hoax."

The Aurora Report

Writing in the British magazine, Flying Saucer Review, for January-February, 1967, Vallee and Hanson stated that an investigator was sent to Aurora to ascertain the validity of the incident reported in the Dallas Morning News edition of April 18, 1897.

It was found that the Judge Proctor place, mentioned in the crash site, never had a windmill. (In the story the spaceship hit the windmill as it went down.) T. J. Weems, identified as a U.S. Signal Services officer (in the story he declared the dead pilot was from another planet) was in fact the local blacksmith.

More importantly, the Aurora town cemetery is accurately charted and shows no grave for a pilot of a mysterious airship.

The investigator wrote that Aurora was a busy little town until the railroads put down their new tracks and neglected to include Aurora in their plans. As a result, people began to move to be near the railroad. E. E. Haydon, the man who sent the airship crash story to the Dallas News, was a cotton buyer and writer who wanted to do something to keep people in his town and to make it a tourist attraction.

From a visit to Aurora two years ago I noticed that Haydon's scheme failed for the town had long ago died.



Tolbert's Texas

Story of 'Spaceman's Burial in Wise County

By FRANK X. TOLBERT

"IN YOUR column about two years ago you discussed a small town in Texas where a flying saucer was said to have landed many years ago. As I recall, it was stated that one of the pilots of this aircraft was alleged to have become ill, died and was buried in this same town," writes Thomas K. Burnap, M.D., in a letter. Dr. Burnap, who is director of the department of anesthesiology at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, also asked: "This column keeps popping up in my mind and nagging at me repeatedly. Could it be possible to receive a copy of your script?"

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It sailed directly over the public square then collided with Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres, wrecking the windmill and water tank, and destroying the judge's flower garden."

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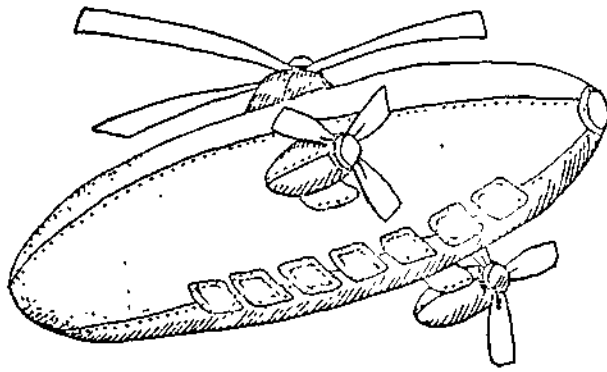
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Paul—Keep
from Low



Once Upon a Time in Aurora...

by JERRY FLEMMONS

For that April dawn, the sun came off the mesquite prairie like a flipped gold coin and poised on the sooty morning clouds. The day was the 17th and if ancient newspapers may be trusted it was cool for midspring but wonderfully clear and bright. Not a single cigar could be seen in the sky.

Aurora, Texas, on that 17th day of April in 1897, claimed two lawyers, one undertaker, five doctors, a picture gallery, one brass band for Sunday concerts, two cotton gins, a newspaper, two hotels, and 3,000 people.

The sun flipped up at 5:57 a.m., but civil twilight, that period of light before the dawn, came about 5:30 a.m. At 6 a.m. the big, silver-colored cigar appeared above the southern horizon. The cigar showed two gasoline engines along each side. Both turned propellers. Another prop, which "bored through the air," was mounted on top for vertical lift.

By various accounts the curious airborne stogie was 200 to 300 feet long and 50 feet wide. Windows, at least seven of them, were across the bottom. A strong headlight flashed out of the nose. Depending on who reported seeing the cigar, it was piloted by one of several persons, some of whom wore blue sailor suits.

On the 17th, however, a Martian directed the cigar.

The airship—no one really believed it was a flying cigar—came in low over Aurora's square, then zoomed north above Judge J. S. Proctor's house, perched on one of those caliche hills. The machine struck the peace justice's windmill and exploded. Debris scattered over several acres. Among other damages was Judge Proctor's flower garden, which was ruined.

Aurorans hurried to the smashed cigar. The pilot was badly disfigured, but they could see he was not of this earth. T. J. Weems, an astronomy authority and the U.S. Signal Service officer stationed in Aurora, issued his opinion that the pilot came from the planet Mars.

Searchers found papers in the wreckage but could not read them. The writing—if it was that—was unintelligible hieroglyphics. The cigar must have weighed several tons, but observers could not identify its metal and only speculated that it was a mixture of aluminum and silver.

S. E. Hayden, a local cotton buyer, surveyed the wreck and burned off to inform big city newspapers. Citizens cleaned up debris and at noon of the 17th they gave the Martian pilot a Christian burial in the little cemetery on the serene hill.

Texas had its Paul Revere for flying panatellas, Joseph E. "Truthful" Scully, a Fort Worth man who conducted for the Texas and Pacific Railroad. Scully, whose reputation for truthfulness and honesty was unquestioned, told a reporter he had sighted the supposed airship in Wood County near Hawkins. Almost immediately citizens reported sightings in Denison, Beaumont, Whitney, Forney, Mansfield, and Dallas. An Atlanta farmer spoke with occupants of the cigar, one of whom told him, "We will be in Greece day after tomorrow." That man claimed three beings aboard sang "Nearer My God to Thee" and passed out temperance tracts.

Rev. J. W. Smith saw the machine at 1:16 a.m. of an April morning as it disappeared above Childress speeding toward Amarillo. C. L. McIlhane and a dozen other men of Stephenville claimed the cigar landed in Erath County and had a pilot and engineer aboard. In Merkel a family returning from church spied an anchor hooked to a corral fence. A stout rope led from the anchor to the cigar, hovering just above the ground. Before their eyes, the cigar opened and a small man in a blue sailor suit slid down the rope. Spying the family, the sailor cut the rope, reentered the stogie, and the ship flew away. The anchor was displayed in Merkel for several weeks.

According to the Fort Worth *Register*, Patrick Byrnes, a railroad telegrapher,

came across an airship near Putnam in West Texas. Byrnes was pedaling his velocipede east on what would become U.S. 80. He saw a light, became curious, and stopped to investigate. What he found was the cigar filled with blue-suited men. The ship had engine trouble. He related that the men claimed to be on their way to Cuba to "bomb the Spaniards." The cigar was loaded with "several tons of dynamite." The cigar's captain revealed that his airship intended to drop bombs on the Spanish navy and destroy it. By one o'clock, on the morning of April 17, the ship was repaired. It left Byrnes and his velocipede and flew off to the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas, where, the captain said, his crew would train for the bombings.

If a ruler is placed on a map, Aurora lies almost in a straight line between the Putnam sighting and the Ozarks. By 6 a.m. the cigar could have been above Aurora, just in time to destroy Judge Proctor's flower garden.

So S. E. Hayden informed the newspapers and the newspapers informed the world and the world yawned at the news of a Martian-piloted spaceship crash in Aurora.

Did it really happen?

Wise County historians, familiar with the tale, politely cleared their throats and said, "No." It was just a hoax, folks. But few believed them.

Years later, a West Texas scientist, Dr. Alfred E. Kraus, a director of the Kilgore Research Center, came to Aurora twice. He used a metal detector to search the crash area. What he found were old stove lids, horse bridle rings, and 1932 license plates. What he did not find were bits and pieces of a silver cigar. Kraus also interviewed several elderly persons who had lived at Aurora in 1897. None remembered a Martian visit.

In the early 1960's an aging railroad telegrapher confessed that the entire flying cigar business in 1897 was a joke concocted by railroad men in Iowa. When the joke reached Texas, "Truthful" Scully was chosen to initiate the story. Byrnes's addition apparently was unscheduled embroidery. Other sightings by non-railroad men were products of imagination.

Could anyone really have seen an airship in 1897, some 6½ years before the Wright Brothers flew 59 seconds and 852 feet at Kitty Hawk and 3 years prior to the first launching of Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin's powered air vehicles in Germany? It all seems too improbable. And Martians, little men in blue sailor suits, anchors and dynamite-loaded airships headed for Cuba must have been pure imagination.

Probably it was just a coincidence that the battleship *Maine* mysteriously was blown up in Havana's harbor in 1898.

UFO Unit Requests To Exhume A Body

AURORA, Tex. (UPI) — An international UFO bureau spokesman said Wednesday the organization would go to court if necessary to open a grave in a small north Texas cemetery it says contains the body of an 1897 astronaut who "was not an inhabitant of this world."

Hayden Hewes, director of the Unidentified Flying Object

(UFO) investigative group, said legal means already have begun for exhuming the body.

"AFTER CHECKING the grave with metal detectors and gathering facts for three months, we are as certain as we can be at this point he was the pilot of a UFO which reportedly exploded atop a well on Judge J. S. Proctor's

place, April 19, 1897," Hewes said. "He was not an inhabitant of this world."

An intense search for pieces of the 19th century spaceship have been underway since March by the UFO bureau team, but the story of the alleged explosion of the UFO has been a legend in Wise County for more than a half century.

It was first reported in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers a few days after the alleged explosion, and reporters quoted witnesses that they had also buried the astronaut who died inside the ship.

Most residents around the small hamlet, about 60 miles northwest of Fort Worth, Tex., claim the story was always a hoax.

Hewes doesn't believe so.

"We hope by exhuming the body we may obtain some of the same type of unusual metal from either his clothing or bones that was unearthed at the well site when we checked it with metal detectors," he said.

Those pieces of metal are now being analyzed by scientists, he said.

Seek 1897 spaceman's grave

UFO searchers go 'underground' in Texas

By **BILL CASE**
Aviation Writer

A team of ufologists (Unidentified Flying Object investigators) are combing a cemetery in the ghost town of Aurora in Wise County for the grave of a UFO pilot reportedly buried there after his spaceship collided with a windmill and exploded April 19, 1897.

Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, confirmed scientists are searching the abandoned weed-covered cemetery for the spaceship pilot's grave.

Hewes said the search under way was prompted by newspaper reports of the accident published in Dallas and Fort Worth on April 20, 1897, unearthed by IUFOD researchers checking

through "hundreds of UFO sighting reports published in old newspapers 76 years ago."

Saturday The Dallas Times Herald also located published reports of the crash in the town near Rhome.

"The body was dismembered," the reports said. "However, enough remains were picked up to determine it was not that of an inhabitant of this world. It was given a Christian burial."

Hewes said he and his group hope to locate the grave and obtain permission from the State of Texas to exhume the bones for study.

Out of thousands of UFO reports, this is the only recorded instance of a

crash where a crewman's body has been recovered.

The crash was the climax to a rash of hundreds of UFO sightings in North Texas cities and towns from about April 14 through April 27, 1897.

The Times Herald of April 18, 1897 reported firemen of Engine Company No. 4 had seen a UFO on the night of April 17 and Dallas druggist R. C. Kopsch said a crowd formed in front of his store to watch the cigar-shaped object with blinking lights hover over the city and then disappear at high speed.

During nightly visitations of the aerial monster over Dallas residents held 'lawn parties' just to sit outside

and wait for its appearance," The Times Herald reported.

Published reports from more than 20 cities where UFOs were sighted in North Texas all described it as "silver-colored, cigar-shaped, about 60 feet long, with blinking lights and no noise."

"These reports correspond with many of the thousands of UFO reports we have received in recent years," said Walter H. Andrus, executive director of MUFON (Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network).

Newspaper stories said the UFO which had been sighted over Aurora on other occasions was first spotted at 4 a.m. that fatal morning traveling at a

See UFO on Page 8

★ UFO STORY REVIVED BY SEARCH

Continued From Page 1
much lower altitude and moving due north at about 10 to 12 miles an hour.

"In the north part of town it collided with Judge J. S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion," the stories reported. "Parts scattered over acres of ground. The windmill, a watering trough and the judge's flower garden were destroyed."

"Papers found on the pilot's

body appeared to be some sort of log of his travels written in some unknown hieroglyphics which could not be deciphered," said T. J. Weems, U.S. Signal Services officer stationed in Aurora and an amateur astronomer.

"The pilot appeared to be the only living thing aboard and the spaceship built of an unknown metal was so badly demolished details of its construction and motive power could not be determined."

As news of the crash spread the town filled with sightseers who gathered pieces of the craft. The pilot was buried at noon.

Hewes said his searchers had located the cemetery, remains of the windmill and other landmarks. He also hopes pieces of the craft lay at the bottom of a deep well near the foundation of Proctor's home. They could be analyzed to determine what metal the craft was made of.

MAR 28 1973

Aurora's old-timers 'thinking over' UFO

By BILL CASE
Aviation Writer

Did a hapless UFO pilot crash his spaceship into a windmill near the Wise County community of Aurora before the turn of the century?

Was he buried with Christian rites in the Aurora Cemetery?

Most of Aurora's 200 residents admit they don't know but are "thinking it over."

Others not as tactful say "it is possible. Some brand the report a hoax."

After days of questioning and probing by ufologists (unidentified flying object investigators), newspaper reporters, radio and television commentators, little has been learned to prove or disprove the crash reported April 19, 1897.

On that date, in the midst of a rash of UFO sightings in Dallas and throughout North Texas, F. E. Hayden, a cotton buyer and correspondent for Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers filed this story:

"At 4 a.m. a spaceship which had been seen in the area previously traveling very low and slow, crashed into Judge J. S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion."

Parts scattered over several acres. The windmill was destroyed. The pilot's body was dismembered. However, enough remains were gathered to determine it was not an aircraft of this kind."

The body was buried at noon in Aurora Cemetery, Hayden reported.

Papers believed to be the pilot's log were found written in some undecipherable hieroglyphics. And the aircraft was made of some unknown metal."

When the story came to light again recently while some UFO researchers were checking old clippings, Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, took his investigators to Aurora.

"We are continuing to check the area even though some say it was a hoax," Hewes told The Times Herald Wednesday. "We are especially looking for any metal pieces of the UFO that might have gone down nearby wells and we are searching the cemetery for the pilot's grave."

Brawley Oates, 65, who was born in Aurora and has lived on the reported crash site since 1945 says:

"I've heard this story all my life. Of course I'm not sure this was a UFO. But I believe something of this kind exists. There are too many similar reports from too many places to be coincidental."

Oates said that when he and a nephew cleared out the old well where the windmill had been reported destroyed they recovered a large amount of metal.

"The pieces were about the size of your fist," he said. "But we didn't think and simply junked them. Later we capped the well and drilled a new one, then built a brick wellhouse on the site."

Mrs. Eita Pegues of nearby Newark, a writer and novelist, debunks the story.

"It was all a hoax cooked up by Hayden and a bunch of men sitting around in the general store," she told reporters. "And there was never any windmill there."

Oates says she is wrong.

"When we cleaned out the well my nephew also dug out the old windmill corner posts," he said.



Tolbert's Texas

British Investigated

Aurora's UFO in 1966

The Dallas Morning News -

Showcase

Monday, **

April 2, 1973

By FRANK X. TOLBERT

THE DALLAS News and other Texas newspapers carried a story in the April 19, 1897 editions that a "spaceship" had crashed the day before in the village of Aurora, Wise County, and it was declared that the dead pilot's body was disfigured but it was clear that "he was not an inhabitant of this world." It was also written that "funeral services will be held for the pilot here at noon tomorrow."

I've kicked this yarn around in my column before, most recently when some quotations were printed from a British magazine called Flying Saucer Review. The magazine sent an investigator to Aurora town and published a report in 1967.

You may have read in Sunday's Dallas News that a 1973 team of investigators for an organization called International Unidentified Flying Objects Bureau is now in Aurora looking for metal fragments of the alleged 1897 spaceship crash and searching the local cemetery for the pilot's body.

WHAT THE United Press International wire service story in Sunday's Dallas News didn't mention was that that 1897 report from Aurora was only one of hundreds of "sightings" of airships and even conversations with the pilots on the ground solemnly reported by "sober witnesses" all over the United States in that April more than 6 years before the Wright brothers achieved powered flight at Kitty Hawk. The April 16 through 20 newspapers were full of such stories. You can say it was all a hoax. Yet how did so many people in so many states get coordinated for such a colossal prank?

For example, in the same issue which reported the Aurora crash, there was another story from Stephenville, Texas, in which "a prominent farmer from 3 miles down the Bosque." C. L. McIlhany, claimed that he was coming home from prayer meeting when he saw a heavier-than-air flying machine land in his pasture and 2 men jumped out "to repair the machinery." Mr. McIlhany said he assembled about a dozen of his neighbors to bear witness and named them.

McIlhany said the pilots "waved adieu" and climbed in the plane and took off, apparently under electric power "from large storage batteries."

The farmer concluded his tale with this philosophy: "What's going to happen when dynamiters get to riding in flying ships and drop bombs down on folks?"

An April 17, 1897 newspaper story from Kalamazoo, Mich., chronicled that "3 prominent and sober citizens while engaged in shingling a roof" saw an airship crash land and completely blow up. City Marshall Tom Brown and some other "church people" in Farmersville, Texas, swore they saw an airship fly low over the town. There was more of such testimony.

The 1897 story in the Dallas News on the Aurora crash was under the by-line of F. E. Hayden. The material in his story certainly isn't very reliable. For instance he said that one of the witnesses of the crash was "T. J. Weems, a U.S. Army Signal officer and astronomer." In 1897 there was a T. J. Weems in Aurora all right but he was the local blacksmith.

Hayden wrote: "At about 6 o'clock this morning early risers were astonished at the sudden appearance of an airship. It sailed directly over the public square and collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, wrecking the water tower and destroying the judge's flower garden."

The Flying Saucer Review's British investigator who came to Aurora 69 years after the alleged crash said that Aurora had been a busy town until the railroads by-passed it and that F. E. Hayden, the author of the 1897 story "wanted to do something to keep people in his town and make it a tourist attraction."

STILL, BRAWLEY Oates, who in April, 1973, lives on the site of Judge Proctor's old place in Aurora, told the UPI in Sunday's story that "he and a nephew cleaned out a well where the windmill stood and discovered a large amount of metal. The pieces were about the size of your fist, but we didn't think anything of it and junked them."

UFO Group Hunts Spaceship That Hit Windmill in 1897

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS — 73
United Press International

AURORA, Tex., April 11 — Etta Pegues thinks it's all a big hoax, but an investigating team is busy searching for remains of a spaceship reported to have crashed into Judge J. C. Proctor's windmill 76 years ago.

Hayden Hewes, director of the "International UFO Bureau" in Oklahoma City says his group is not taking any chances.

"We are continuing to check the area, even though it could have been a hoax," Mr. Hewes said Wednesday. "We are especially looking for any metal piece of the UFO that might have gone down nearby wells, and we are searching the cemetery for the pilot's grave."

Mr. Hewes and his group were aroused by recent discovery of newspaper accounts of an unidentified flying object that crashed in the area. The articles were found in Dallas and Ft. Worth newspapers dating to April 1897.

"At 4 AM a spaceship which had been seen in the area previously slowly crashed into Judge J. S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion," said one article, written by F. E. Hayden.

"Parts were scattered over several acres. The windmill was destroyed. The pilot's body was dismembered. However, enough remains were gathered to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world."

"The body was buried at noon in Aurora Cemetery. Papers believed to be the pilot's log were found, written in some undecipherable hieroglyphics and the aircraft was made of some unknown metal," the article said.

Mrs. Pegues, 69, who has lived in nearby Newark, Tex., since 1920, says she was not taken in by the stories.

"It was all a hoax," she said. "It was cooked up by F. E. Hayden who was a cotton buyer and correspondent for Dallas and Ft. Worth newspapers, and men sitting around the general store," she said.

"The Aurora Cemetery has a record of every person there, and there is no record of any man from Mars ever having been buried there."

"Furthermore, there never was any well there," Mrs. Pegues said. "Judge Proctor didn't have any windmill."

UFO Investigators Seek Grave of Pilot

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — A team of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) investigators, are combing a cemetery in the ghosttown of Aurora in North Central Texas for the grave of a UFO pilot reportedly buried there, the Dallas Times Herald said in its Sunday editions.

The newspaper said that Hayden Hewes, director of the international UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, confirmed that scientists are searching the abandoned weed-covered cemetery for the spaceship pilot's grave.

Hewes told the newspaper the search was prompted by newspaper reports of April 1897 that a spaceship had collided with a windmill and exploded and that the pilot was buried in the town's cemetery.

The Times Herald said it located published reports of the crash that said "the body of the pilot was dismembered. However, enough remains were picked up to determine it was not that of an inhabitant of this world. It was given a Christian burial."

According to reports, the crash was the climax to a rash of hundreds of UFO sightings in North Texas cities and towns from April 14 through April 27, 1897.

The April 18, 1897, edition of

the Time Herald quoted Dallas residents as saying that crowd had formed to watch a cigar-shaped object with blinking lights hover over the city and then disappear at high speed.

"During nightly visitations of the aerial monster over Dallas residents held lawn parties to sit outside and wait for its appearance," the Times Herald reported.

The day of the crash the UFO was sighted over Aurora at about 4 a.m., according to reports. It collided with Judge J. S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces.

T. J. Weems, U.S. Signal Services officer stationed in Aurora, was quoted as saying the pilot carried some papers that appeared to be a log of his travels written in some unknown hieroglyphics.

The pilot was buried at noon. Pieces of the spaceship, scattered all over the area, were taken by sightseers.

Hewes said his searches have located the cemetery and remains of the windmill and other landmarks.

KOBE, Japan (AP) — The Ikuno copper mine, the oldest in operation in Japan, has finally run out of copper, mine officials reported. They said it was opened 1,200 years ago.

SPRINGFIELD, MO.
DAILY NEWS
APRIL 1973
(16?)

LA. MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 16, 1973

SECTION

1897 UFO Site Scene of Hunt

DALLAS (AP) — Investigators looking into the reported crash in 1897 of an unidentified flying object in the small North Central Texas town of Aurora say they have unearthed bits of unidentified metal.

According to published reports at the time, a space ship struck a windmill and exploded at

the reported crash, then was buried in the Aurora cemetery, the reports said.

Curiosity about the reports has brought hundreds of sightseers to the Aurora cemetery, including some who have stolen at least 20 hand-bewn grave

markers. Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, said the missing stones "will make our search for the pilot's grave even more difficult."

The bureau has been checking into the reported crash for more than two months. Hewes said he planned to return with metal detectors and more sophisticated equipment.

'97 UFO tale gains support

APR 18 1973

Unidentified metal scraps found at supposed site

By BILL CASE
Aviation Writer

Unidentified Flying Object investigators searching for clues in the reported crash of a UFO which struck a windmill and exploded April 19, 1997, in the little North Central Texas hamlet of Aurora have dug up miscellaneous bits of unidentified metal.

Meanwhile hundreds of curious sightseers visiting the Aurora Cemetery where the pilot, supposedly killed in the crash, was allegedly buried that same day have stolen at least 20 hand-hewn native rock grave stones.

"This will make our search for the pilot's grave even more difficult," said

Al Morgan Auto Sales. A good place to buy. For 23 yrs. 3410 Ross Ave. (Adv.)

Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, whose investigators have been checking the reported crash for over two months. "But we will be back there Sunday with metal detectors and more sophisticated equipment."

"I know of at least 125 unmarked graves there and loss of these stones makes any chance of locating the supposed pilot's grave virtually impossible." Mrs. Gladys Anderson, of nearby Rhome said. She has been cataloging the early-day graves as a hobby.

Brawley Oates, 65, owner of the property where the alleged crash occurred, told The Times Herald:

Championship tennis and ice hockey this afternoon ~~and~~ (Adv.)

"Sightseers have been here by the hundreds asking to look at the old well site; then they go down to the cemetery."

"UFO investigators have been digging around the slab of concrete and well house used to seal off the old well. They did dig up chunks of metal which could not be identified and look them away for analysis to see if they are made of any metal unknown on earth.

"I believe in UFOs. My son saw one two years ago," he added. "But I don't know if one hit the windmill here. It happened before I was born."

See FRAGMENTS on Page 31

Joe Irwin wants to buy some land. 824-4142. (Adv.)

OVER SEE ADD.

OVER
SEE REVERSE SIDE

APR 15 1973

Fragments from UFO? '97 tale gains

Continued From Page 1.

Aurora Town Marshal H. R. Idell, who says he "isn't certain about UFOs," said he helped dig up the old wooden corner post remains and seal off the well in 1945. He showed reporters two rusted iron corner posts still in the ground on which he said the wooden beams of the windmill had been anchored.

"There definitely was a windmill here," Idell declared, displaying a wheel-shaped piece of decayed wood which he believes was part of the demolished structure. "I helped clean out the well and the metal recovered was just dumped on the ground. It was these pieces the UFO investigators took away with them for identification."

The story of the crash has been branded a hoax by Mrs. Etta Pegues of nearby Newark. Mrs. Pegues, novelist and local historian says, "There never was any windmill there." Oates and Idell say she is mistaken.

The story of the search sprang into national prominence recently when it was learned UFO investigators were checking out a story published in Dallas and Fort Worth papers on April 20, 1997, and written by F. E. Hayden, an Aurora cotton buyer and newspaper correspondent.

"It was one of hundreds of 'unidentified aircraft' sightings reported in the papers between April 14 and April 27, 1897," Hewes said, "but is the only case reported where the UFO crashed and the pilot's body was recovered."

Investigators from at least three widely known UFO investigative agencies are checking out the report, Oates said. They are the International UFO Bureau from Oklahoma, NICAP (the National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomena) headed by Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, Washington, D.C., and MUFON (the Midwest UFO Network), Quincy, Ill., directed by Walter H. Andrus, Jr.

Team Seeking Clues of UFO Crash in '97

An investigating team is looking for evidence of a spaceship reported to have crashed in Texas 76 years ago. At least one person, however, isn't impressed.

Representatives of the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City are searching in the vicinity of Aurora, Tex., for proof that an unidentified flying object crashed into a windmill owned by Judge J. S. Proctor in 1897.

Newspaper articles from that time written by F. E. Hayden stated that a spaceship that had been seen in the area before "slowly crashed into Judge J. S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion."

Body Said Found

The article further stated that the dismembered body of the pilot was found and that it was believed "it was not an inhabitant of this world." The pilot's log is also said to have been found. But, reported Hayden, the writing in the log was "undecipherable" and the metal in the spacecraft could not be identified.

Mrs. Etta Pegues, 69, of nearby Newark, Tex., said she is sure it was a hoax.

"It was cooked up by F. E. Hayden, who was a cotton buyer and correspondent for Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers, and men sitting around the general store," she said.

Mrs. Pegues said she believes there is one fact that casts doubt on the whole story: "Judge Proctor didn't have any windmill."

Texas crash site Of 1897 UFO Being searched

READING EAGLE, SUNDAY, MAY 13, 1973

In this spring of 1973, when reports of UFOs buzzing the landscape from Hamburg to Robesonia have startled Berks countians, Walsh is pleased to note that investigators have been checking for the remains of a "flying saucer" that reputedly crashed in Aurora, Tex., in 1897.

Back on Oct. 23, 1966, you know who mused in his column: "All this makes Walsh wonder if

**John F.
Walsh**

*Eagle
Staff
Writer*



some of those unknown hieroglyphics as well as some of those pieces of metal from the craft that wrecked the judge's windmill, are still around Aurora, Tex. He also wonders if any scientists ever checked the bones of that ill-fated pilot — to see if they resembled those of an earth human."

In that particular column, Walsh told about various sightings of flying saucers over Texas that happened back in April 1897 — six years before the Wright brothers flew the first airplane.

The column was based on an AP feature clipped out of a Davenport, Iowa, newspaper by Betty Troy, who writes a Sunday social column for the Reading Eagle.

Saucer scare

The feature, headed, "The Saucer Scare of 1897," was written by a Houston Post writer, who dug into yellowed newspaper clippings to tell of a series of sightings across Texas in 1897 of the "mysterious airship."

The most bizarre account was taken from the Dallas Morning News that was datelined Aurora, Wise County, April 17 (1897). It read: "About 6 o'clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing throughout the country.

"It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town, collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"Mr. T. J. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native of the planet Mars . . .

"Papers found . . . are written in some unknown hieroglyphics . . . This ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its construction or motive power . . . The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon tomorrow."

Search in Aurora

Several months ago, an investigating team from the "International UFO Bureau" in Oklahoma City began searching for the remains of the spaceship that reputedly crashed into Judge J. C. Porter's windmill 76 years ago.

A March 30 UPI story, telling of the search for scraps of the '97 spacecraft and the pilot's grave, quoted Mrs. Etta Pegues, 69, who lives in nearby Newark, Tex., since 1920, who claimed the 1897 story was a hoax.

She not only said "Judge Proctor didn't have any windmill" but that the "Aurora Cemetery has a record of every person there, and there is no record of any man from Mars ever having been buried there."

But a mid-April AP story disclosed that the researchers have unearthed bits of unidentified metal, and that Judge Proctor did have a windmill.

As for the bits of metal picked up around the concrete slab used to seal off the old windmill, H. R. Idell, present town marshal of Aurora, believes they were actually part of the old windmill that he had helped clean out from the well after it was demolished in 1945.

As for the search in the cemetery, it was complicated by the hundreds of curious sightseers who flocked in, including some who have stolen at least 20 hand-hewn grave markers — making more difficult the search for the pilot's grave! The UFO hunt has apparently become as weird as the '97 happenings.

as the '97

MAY 17 1973

Metal unearthed may be UFO

Fragments recovered at site of 'spaceship crash' in Aurora

By BILL CASE
Aviation Writer

A scientific Texas site where may have unearthed elusive evidence a UFO collided with a windmill, then disintegrated in an enormous blast that killed and dismembered its pilot in the North Texas village of Aurora on April 19, 1897.

"In more than 25 years of recovering metal and treasure of all kinds from the Gulf coast and elsewhere in Texas, I've never seen metal like that I unearthed Wednesday at the site where the windmill used to stand," said Frank N. Kelley of Corpus Christi.

"The fragments I recovered are small, thin and jagged as if torn apart by an explosion. They look something like modern aircraft covering. But they are not aluminum, tin, iron, steel or any alloy known."

"This metal looks so different I honestly don't know what it is."

Kelley has spent hours probing the area with a type of deep probe metal detector. He never emitted a signal he could locate some of the fragments. The detector works in a manner similar to radar.

"I am not aware of receiving the same type of signals as I do from the remains in the Aurora Cemetery in which the pilot was buried," he said. "However, there is one. We know he died in 1897. The others buried at the same grave died the same year or close to it. And we are

certain, according to newspaper reports, he was buried here."

"The only explanation I can give for getting the same signals at the windmill site and in the grave more than a mile away is that the pilot whose body was torn apart was buried wearing some type of metal uniform or equipment which gives us the same reaction. And he was buried reportedly shortly after the crash."

Kelley, a master mechanic, builds some of his detection equipment in company with a team of professional metal locators. He made his exhaustive search accompanied by Aurora Town Marshal H. R. Idell and a Times Herald reporter.

He said he decided on the search after reading stories of the reported crash in newspapers. Wednesday he received approval to "probe all you want" from Brawley Oates, 65, now owner of the property.

Kelley's professionalism produced results even after hundreds of amateurs and professional UFO investigators had dug up the area for the last two months and carried off some of the homemade grave stones from the Aurora Cemetery.

The most amazing aspect I see," Kelley said, "is that moist soil 20 to 30 feet around the former windmill sites also gives off a somewhat less but almost identical electronic response even when there is no metal in it."

He demonstrated by passing the detector over several small piles of

dirt from which he already had removed the strange piece of metal. The soil produced an electronic buzz in the detector.

"Somehow it also seems to be impregnated," he explained. "Perhaps it comes from pulverization of the pilot's uniform or equipment and it has just laid here for 76 years."

Mrs. Oates reported she has lived on the homestead 26 years and "nothing, not even weeds, will grow in the area where Kelley's detectors give indications of metal."

Kelley recovered more than a dozen pieces of the strange metal at depths ranging from two to 14 inches. All were a dark brown color on one side and seem to have a protective gray coating still sticking to the other in gray, mottled patterns.

Observers noted present day NASA astronauts wear spacesuits containing large amounts of light metal and spacecraft ordinarily are coated on the exterior with a shiny, gray ceramic finish to withstand heat.

Kelley, a student of UFOs, says he believes they exist and cites the many similar reports from all parts of the world as proof.

The reported crash in Aurora Wise County is the only one ever reported in the world in which a UFO crashed and the pilot's body was recovered.

It was brought to light again in 1970 by The Times Herald when it disclosed a team of 'ufologists' was searching

the cemetery for the pilot's body and looking for traces of the craft at the site.

The story originated in newspapers published in Dallas and Fort Worth on March 19, 1897 when F. E. Hayden, an Aurora news correspondent and cotton buyer, filed this story.

"At 4 a.m. a spaceship which had been seen in the area earlier moving low and slowly crashed into Judge J. S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion."

"Parts scattered over several acres. The windmill was destroyed. The pilot's body was dismembered. However, enough remains were gathered to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world."

"The body was buried at noon in Aurora Cemetery," Hayden reported. "Papers believed to be the pilot's log were written in some undecipherable hieroglyphics. And the aircraft was made of some unknown metal."

Hayden's story was one of hundreds of reports of "airships" published in Dallas and Fort Worth papers between April 14 and April 27, 1897.

Repeating it this spring brought the charge from Mrs. Ella Pegues of nearby Navasota, a writer and novelist, that it was a hoax cooked up by Hayden and some men sitting around the stove in the general store.

Mrs. Pegues also said there was no windmill on the Judge Proctor place.

Both Oates and Idell disagree with her.



ARE THESE UNIDENTIFIABLE metal fragments part of a crashed UFO? Brawley Oates, left, owner of the recovered crash site in Aurora, Texas, and Frank N. Kelley, a scientific treasure hunter, examine the thin, jagged pieces he recovered from the base of a windmill site where the UFO allegedly crashed April 19, 1897. In the background, a cemetery of recovering unsubsistent, Kelley says, "I've never seen a metal like this."

Down 75 Years Ago--

Metal Recovered From Flying Object

AURORA, Tex. (AP) — An unidentified flying object crashed into a farm windmill, exploding in a ball of flaming metal fragments, according to newspaper accounts in this North Texas area.

The pilot's badly-disembodied body was buried in a grave about a mile away.

Date of the news reports: March 19, 1897.

A professional treasure hunter unearthed metal fragments at the site Wednesday and exclaimed: "In more than 25 years of recovering metal and treasure of all kinds . . . I've never seen metal like that . . ."

Frank Kelley's new, deep-probe metal detector not only gives off electronic response at the crash site but at the grave site.

"The most amazing aspect I see is that most soil 20 to 30 feet around the former windmill site also gives off a somewhat less but almost identical electronic response even when there is no metal in it," Kelley, of Corpus Christi, said.

"I am also puzzled at receiving the same type of rebound signals from a remote grave in the Aurora cemetery in which the pilot may be buried. However, there is a tie-in. We know he died in 1897. The others immediately around that graves died the same year or close to it. And we are certain, according to newspaper reports, he was buried here," Kelley said.

Kelley, a master mechanic and part of a team of professional metal locators, said "the only explanation I can give for getting the same signals at the windmill site and in the grave . . . is that the pilot whose body was torn apart was buried wearing some type of metal uniform or equipment which

gives us the same reaction."

Mrs. Brawley Oates has lived on the property for 26 years with her husband. She said not even weeds will grow where Kelley's detectors indicate there is metal.

Kelley dug up more than a dozen pieces of the strange metal at depths of from two to 14 inches. All were a dark brown on one side but appeared to have a protective grey coating on the other side.

"This metal looks so different I honestly don't know what it is. The fragments are small, thin and jagged as if torn apart by an explosion. They look something like modern aircraft covering.

"But, they are not aluminum, tin, iron, steel or any alloy I know," he said.

Accounts of the UFO crash were printed in Dallas and Fort Worth papers March 19, 1897.

"At 4 a.m., a spaceship which had been seen in the area earlier, moving low, and slowly crashed into Judge J.S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion.

"Parts scattered over several

acres," one story relates, "and the windmill was destroyed."

The pilot's body was dismembered. However, enough remains were gathered to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world.

"The body was buried at noon in Aurora Cemetery," wrote correspondent F.E. Hayden. "Papers believed to be the pilot's log were written in some undecipherable hieroglyphics. And the aircraft was made of some unknown metal."

There is at least one skeptic. Etta Pegues of nearby Newark.

She claims the whole affair was a hoax dreamed up by Hayden and some men sitting around the stove at the general store.

But Oates and Marshal H.R. Idell disagree with her.

"At 4 a.m. a spaceship which had . . ." the newspaper stories say.

MAY 18 1973

Alleged UFO site placed off limits

By **BILL CASE**
Aviation Writer

The owner of property in Aurora, Wise County, where a UFO reportedly crashed into a windmill and exploded April 19, 1937, resulting in the pilot's death, put the property "off limits" Friday to all but official UFO investigators.

Miss Brawley Oates, who has lived 26 years on the farm where a scientific treasure hunter found unidentifiable metal fragments Thursday, said hundreds of amateurs have visited the area and dug it up. She said she expects more persons on Saturday and Sunday after the latest publicity.

"If there is any evidence a UFO crashed there we want to protect the metal until it can be analyzed by qualified laboratories," she said. "Because sightseers have been breaking things up, including some of the metal they found, we are closing the site to only scientific UFO investigators until they can complete their work with special equipment."

Brawley Oates, 65 owner of the well site property where the UFO reportedly crashed 76 years ago said additional bits of the unknown metal were recovered Friday by a relative.

In a search Thursday Frank N. Kelley of Corpus Christi, a 25-year veteran treasure hunter and professional lost metal locator used a deep probe metal detector to locate about a dozen pieces of thin light weight metal.

"I've never seen any metal like this. It isn't aluminum, steel, iron or any alloy I know," he said.

Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, was to continue the search Saturday for more of the mysterious metal fragments.

Hewes and his organization have been combing the area since March and also are trying to locate the grave of the UFO pilot reportedly buried in the Aurora Cemetery.

Oates said Friday he would restrict the search to those who have spent weeks working on the site.

MIDWEST UFO NETWORK (MUFON)

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40 CHRISTOPHER COURT
QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301
PHONE AC 217 222-8374

SUBMITTED BY:

Scientists Say Pilot From Other Planet Is

A team of scientists from Oklahoma City is busy searching for the remains of a spaceship pilot buried in a ghost town cemetery.

Recent evidence suggests that on April 19, 1897, an unidentified flying object, presumably a spacecraft, collided with a windmill and exploded. Newspaper articles written at the time of the accident reported that the pilot's remains were given a "Christian burial" in a now overgrown cemetery in Aurora, Texas.

The old newspaper reports, which appeared in The Dallas Times Herald and The Times Herald of Fort Worth, were unearthed by a team of ufologists (scientists investigating unidentified flying objects) headed by Hayden Hewes. Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau, says he and his crew have already recovered parts of the windmill involved in the crash and soon hope to find fragments of the spacecraft and the space visitor's grave.

"Out of thousands of UFO reports this is the only recorded instance of a crash where a crewman's body has been recovered," says Hewes.

The crash was apparently the climax to hundreds of UFO sightings in North Texas cities and towns from about April 14 through April 27, 1897.

The Times Herald of April 18, 1897 reported firemen of Engine Company No. 4 had seen a UFO on the night of April 17. Dallas druggist R.C. Kopish said a crowd formed in front of his store

Now Buried In Texas

**HIS UFO
CRASHED
IN 1897**

to watch the cigar-shaped object with blinking lights hover over the city and then disappear at high speed.

Published reports from more than 20 North Texas cities all described the spacecraft as "silver-colored, cigar-shaped, about 60 feet long with blinking lights and no noise."

Visits by the strange craft became so regular that during one period The Times Herald reported: "During nightly visitations of the aerial monster over Dallas, residents held 'lawn parties' just to sit outside and wait for its appearance."

On the fatal morning of the crash, newspaper stories confirmed that the spaceship was first spotted over Aurora at 4 a.m. traveling at a much lower altitude than normal and moving due north at about 10 to 12 m.p.h.

"In the north part of town it collided with Judge J.S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explo-

sion," said The Times Herald. "Parts scattered over acres of ground. The windmill, a watering trough and the judge's flower garden were destroyed."

The article continued. "Papers found on the pilot's body appeared to be some sort of log of his travels written in some unknown hieroglyphics which could not be deciphered."

"The pilot appeared to be the only living thing aboard and the spaceship built of an unknown metal was so badly demolished details of its construction and motive power could not be determined."

As news of the crash spread the town filled with sightseers who gathered pieces of the spaceship as souvenirs. The pilot was buried at noon.

"The body was dismembered," said the reports. "However, enough remains were picked up to determine it was not that of an inhabitant of this world. It was given a Christian burial."

Hewes is optimistic that his team will eventually find the pilot's remains and be able to analyze them using today's sophisticated techniques. He also hopes to locate a well, said to be near the foundation of Proctor's old home. He believes that it still contains fragments of the spacecraft.

"If we find what we are looking for," says Hewes, "it will be a milestone in the study of extraterrestrial travel. Seventy years ago the inhabitants of

Aurora couldn't learn too much from the bits and pieces of spaceship they picked up, but with the use of modern technology we'll learn a lot."

Hewes' success would be a milestone in the study of UFOs. If he finds the pilot's body, scientists will not only have conclusive proof of life on other planets but will also be able to tell us what our neighbors in space look like.

While some people may scoff at Hewes' attempts to locate the space visitor's body, many prominent scientists are anxiously awaiting the results of his search.

Stanton T. Friedman, a master's graduate in physics from the University of Chicago and an expert in UFOs, says, "After more than 13 years of study and investigation I believe the earth is being visited by intelligently guided machines, not from this world. In fact, humanoids from other planets have been visiting the earth regularly — possibly for thousands of years."

Friedman admitted that critics of UFO research are right when they say that many UFO sightings can be explained in conventional terms. "But," he says, "a core of unexplained sightings remains to give strong support to the theory of visitors from outer space."

Hewes and his team of scientists may soon turn up the proof that will change theory to fact.

UFO unit wants body exhumed

By BILL CASE
Aviation Writer MAY 22 1973

The International UFO Bureau was seeking legal means Wednesday of having a legging buried in the object plane excavated to examine it for a possible connection in the Wise County area near Aurora.

After checking the grave with metal detectors and gathering facts for three months, we are as certain as we can be at this point he was the pilot of a UFO which reportedly exploded atop a well on Judge J. S. Proctor's place April 19, 1897, said Hayden Hewes, director of the UFO investigation group.

Newspaper reports of that date say the UFO was demolished and the pilot's dismembered body was buried that same day in the Aurora Cemetery," Hewes explained. The stories said he was not an inhabitant of this world."

"We hope by exhuming the body we may obtain some of the same type of unusual metal from either his clothing or bones that was unearthed at the well site when we checked it with metal detectors," Hewes added.

While Hewes' organization was seeking means of checking the reported pilot, reporters from The Times Herald who also recovered some of the mystery metal sent it to research scientists in a major aircraft company who volunteered to attempt to identify it.

Other pieces had been recovered last week by Fred N. Kelly of Corpus Christi, a scientific treasure hunter and locator of lost metal. He said, "I've never seen any metal like that in 25 years of experience."

Another search for pieces of the missing UFO and the pilot's plane has been under way since March by UFO investigation agencies and The Times Herald. The metal was uncovered Saturday when an Aurora rancher farmer told The Times Herald in an exclusive interview.

"My daddy watched the silver colored, cigar shaped airship cross our pasture very low and slowly," said C. C. (Charlie) Stephens. "It had a white light on it and we watched until it crashed and burned on the top of Proctor's hill. He told me about it when I was still a boy."

Stephens, 83, lives a quiet farming life and still ranches actively. He had

An 1897 UFO

An International UFO Bureau spokesman says the organization will go to court if necessary to open a grave in a small North Texas cemetery said to contain the body of an 1897 astronaut who "was not an inhabitant of this world."

Hayden Hewes, director of the Unidentified Flying Object investigative group, said legal steps already have been taken for exhuming the body.

"After checking the grave with metal detectors and gathering facts for three months, we are as certain as we can be at this point he was the pilot of a UFO which reportedly exploded atop a well on Judge J. S. Proctor's place, April 19, 1897," Hewes said. "He was not an inhabitant of this world."

An intense search for pieces of the 19th century spaceship have been under way since March by the UFO Bureau team, but the story has been a legend in Wise County for more than a half century. It was first reported in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers a few days after the alleged explosion, and reporters quoted witnesses that they had buried the astronaut who died inside the ship.

Most residents around the small hamlet, about 60 miles northwest of Fort Worth, claim the story was a hoax, but Hewes doesn't believe so.

"We hope by exhuming the body we may obtain some of the same type of unusual metal from either his clothing or bones that was unearthed at the well site when we checked it with metal detectors," he said.

Those pieces of metal are now being analyzed by scientists, he said. — UPI

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASH. STAR-NEWS

MAY 24, 1973

THE TULSA TRIBUNE, TULSA, OKLAHOMA

2 G THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1973

UFO Group Seeks Body of 'Alien 1897 Astronaut'

AURORA, Tex. (UPI) — A grave in a small North Texas cemetery contains the body of an 1897 astronaut who "was not an inhabitant of this world," according to the International UFO Bureau.

The group, which investigates unidentified flying objects, already has initiated legal proceedings to exhume the body, and will go to court

if necessary to open the grave. Director Hayden Hewes of Oklahoma City said Wednesday.

"We hope by exhuming the body we may obtain some of the same type of unusual metal from either his clothing or bones that was unearthed at the well site when we checked it with metal detectors," he said.

Hewes said pieces of metal found near the grave and crash site are now being analyzed by scientists.

"After checking the grave with metal detectors and gathering facts for three months, we are as certain as we can be at this point he was the pilot of a UFO which reportedly exploded atop a well on Judge J. S. Proctor's place, April 19, 1897. Hewes said. "He was not an inhabitant of this world."

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Scientists are unable to explain an unidentified flying object claimed to have been seen in the skies over Israel. Sightings were reported from various parts of Israel and from Lebanon.

The object was described as "glowing like a bright star" and was said to have moved in a circular direction with four or five small shining satellites at its sides.

The UFO was observed at about 8 p.m. local time and was visible for only a few seconds. But that was time enough to bring a flood of telephone calls to the Mitzpe Ramon observatory in the Negev.

An observatory spokesman said the object was definitely not the orbiting "Skylab" launched from Cape Kennedy.

S. Lewis Jewish

Ligt

6/6/73

From: A. Cohen

Edwardsville Ill.

Intelligence

June 7, 1973

Police Told of Red 'Creature'

What is 5-feet 8-inches tall, broad-shouldered and reddish in color, has red eyes that can't stand light, smells musty and walks without making a sound?

A Frederick Street resident doesn't know what it is either, but he told police there's one lurking in Springer's Woods.

He reported the creature at 1:30 a.m. today to Edwardsville police. He said he saw the creature Wednesday night and that it also had been sighted Monday night in Springer's Woods.

He said that a friend of his told him that the creature had come up behind him Monday night and grabbed him, tearing his shirt and scratching his chest.

Police went to Springer's Woods this morning, but the creature could not be found. The man who made the report told police that it is afraid of light.

It screams when light is shined in its eyes, he reported.

In other police news, a stereo tape player was reported stolen Wednesday from the car of Glen D. Mercer, 27 Dorset Ct.

The car was parked near the Mercer residence, and entry was gained by forcing a window, police said.

from A. Cohen

Archeologists Uncover Lost Capital of Mideast

An ancient lost city which was one of the capitals of the kingdom of Elam has been discovered in Iran by an expedition from the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

Known as Anshan, it was inhabited, according to archeologists, from before 4000 B. C. to about 1000 B. C. It was a major commercial and political capital, and its discovery may mean that cities were more widespread in the Middle East than had been thought.

Called Great City

According to Dr. William M. Sumner, of Ohio State University at Columbus, "Excavations have shown that Anshan was a great city fully justifying its ancient reputation." Dr. Sumner was a member of the expedition.

The excavation at Anshan is in Southwestern Iran, near the village of Tall-I-Malyan. Work began there almost two years ago, according to Sumner.

The key to the location of Anshan was found when an archeologist at the University of Chicago deciphered some bricks inscribed with cunei-

form, an ancient form of writing. At the excavation itself, a group of seven tablets were found. Uncovered in a mud-brick building, they were dated about 3000 B. C.

It is believed the structure was used as a warehouse because the tablets are said to be business records. The language in which the records are written has yet to be translated, but it has been identified as Proto-Elamite.

Other discoveries were small statuettes of women and a room of a very large building which is believed to have been destroyed by fire.

Mythical Titans Become Credible

Heretofore, Aztec legends about a race of men who were giants and invincible have been considered purely mythical.

Archeological excavations in Panama, however, reveal a civilized race, who were exceedingly tall and well formed. Their physical features are considered to be unlike those of any other race on earth.

Space Visitor Buried In Texas, Group Says

AURORA, Tex., May 24 (UPI)

—A spokesman for the International Bureau of Unidentified Flying Objects say his organization will go to court if necessary to open a grave in a small Texas cemetery. The group says the grave contains the body of an 1897 astronaut who "was not an inhabitant of this world."

"After checking the grave with metal detectors and gathering facts for three months, we are as certain as we can be at this point he was the pilot of a UFO which reportedly exploded atop a well on Judge J. S. Protor's place, April 19, 1897," the spokesman said yesterday. "He was not an inhabitant of this world."

The story of the explosion of a spaceship has been a legend in WuefnyoosCta 1/4.... legend in Wise County for more than half a century. Most residents regard it as a hoax.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH Mon., March 5, 1973 5 A

PRESIDENT IDI AMIN of Uganda saw an unidentified flying object splash down in Lake Victoria Saturday and then take off like a "gentle rocket," the Uganda radio said yesterday.



Amin

The radio said Amin was among a number of persons who saw "a spectacular object covered with something like smoke" descend into the lake, about 10 miles from Kampala. "After seven minutes the flying object was seen lifting off like a rocket being fired, but moving gently," the radio said. Amin was quoted as saying the object was of "great significance" and "a sign of good luck to Uganda."

22A Thurs., May 24, 1973 ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

te ... Earl Gilbert until recent...

Seek 1897 spaceman's grave

Herald from Mar 25 1973

UFO searchers go 'underground' in Texas

By **BILL CASE**
Aviation Writer

A team of ufologists (Unidentified Flying Object investigators) are combing a cemetery in the ghost town of Aurora in Wise County for the grave of a UFO pilot reportedly buried there after his spaceship collided with a windmill and exploded April 19, 1897.

Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, confirmed scientists are searching the abandoned weed-covered cemetery for the spaceship pilot's grave.

Hewes said the search under way was prompted by newspaper reports of the accident published in Dallas and Fort Worth on April 20, 1897, unearthed by IUFOPB researchers checking

through "hundreds of UFO sighting reports published in old newspapers 76 years ago."

Saturday The Dallas Times Herald also located published reports of the crash in the town near Rhame.

"The body was dismembered," the reports said. "However, enough remains were picked up to determine it was not that of an inhabitant of this world. It was given a Christian burial."

Hewes said he and his group hope to locate the grave and obtain permission from the State of Texas to exhume the bones for study.

Out of thousands of UFO reports this is the only recorded instance of a

crash where a crewman's body has been recovered.

The crash was the climax to a rash of hundreds of UFO sightings in North Texas cities and towns from about April 14 through April 27, 1897.

The Times Herald of April 18, 1897 reported firemen of Engine Company No. 4 had seen a UFO on the night of April 17 and Dallas druggist R. C. Kopsich said a crowd formed in front of his store to watch the cigar-shaped object with blinking lights hover over the city and then disappear at high speed.

"During nightly visitations of the aerial monster over Dallas residents held 'lawn parties' just to sit outside. See later Falk as 'Columbo' tonight at 7:30 on Ch. 5. (Adv.)

and wait for its appearance," The Times Herald reported.

Published reports from more than 20 cities where UFOs were sighted in North Texas all described it as "silver colored, cigar-shaped, about 60 feet long, with blinking lights and no noise."

"These reports correspond with many of the thousands of UFO reports we have received in recent years," said Walter H. Andrus, executive director of MUFON (Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network).

Newspaper stories said the UFO which had been sighted over Aurora on other occasions was first spotted at 4 a.m. that fatal morning traveling at a

See UFO on Page 8

★ UFO STORY REVIVED BY SEARCH

Continued From Page 1
much lower altitude and moving due north at about 10 to 12 miles an hour.

"In the north part of town it collided with Judge J. S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion," the stories reported. "Parts scattered over acres of ground. The windmill, a watering trough and the judge's flower garden were destroyed."

"Papers found on the pilot's

body appeared to be some sort of log of his travels written in some unknown hieroglyphics which could not be deciphered," said T. J. Weems, U.S. Signal Services officer stationed in Aurora and an amateur astronomer.

"The pilot appeared to be the only living thing aboard and the spaceship built of an unknown metal was so badly demolished details of its construction and motive power could not be determined."

As news of the crash spread the town filled with sightseers who gathered pieces of the craft. The pilot was buried at noon.

Hewes said his searchers had located the cemetery, remains of the windmill and other landmarks. He also hopes pieces of the craft lay at the bottom of a deep well near the foundation of Proctor's home. They could be analyzed to determine what metal the craft was made of.

Group asks injunction in Aurora UFO case

By **BILL CASE**
Aviation Writer

The Aurora Cemetery Association asked for an injunction in district court in Decatur, Wise County, Friday to stop reported digging in the grave of a UFO pilot allegedly buried there.

Attorney William A. Nobels representing the association said he would ask Dist. Judge W. A. Hughes for the order effective immediately.

The action was requested Thursday by members of the Aurora Cemetery Association and community residents who heard erroneous radio reports on a national radio network that "UFO investigators were already digging in the grave of the UFO pilot." They were said to be from the International UFO Bureau.

The pilot was reported killed when his UFO struck a windless over a well on the Judge J. S. Proctor farm in Aurora April 18, 1897. The body was dismembered but it could be determined "it was not that of

an inhabitant of this world," said W. E. Hayden, a newspaper correspondent.

The crash occurred about 4 a.m. and the body was given a Christian burial in Aurora Cemetery at noon. Hayden wrote

Since March reporters from The Times Herald and UFO investigators have been combing the crash site with metal detectors and recovered some unusual types of metal.

These samples have been sent to scientists acting as consultants to the Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON) for examination.

They told The Times Herald "It will take at least a week or 10 days to run all of the various tests required to identify these metals, determine their age, molecular makeup and other characteristics."

The report of the UFO crash in Aurora is the only one ever received in which the pilot's body allegedly was recovered.

**MIDWEST UFO NETWORK
(MUFON)**

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SUBMITTED BY:

WASHINGTON POST, MAY 26, 1973

19th Century Spaceman Tale Stirs Interest in Texas 'Blob'

Reuter

DALLAS, May 25 — Reports of a 19th-century spaceman buried in a small Texas cemetery and a seemingly indestructible "blob" infesting the backyard of a suburban Dallas housewife are diverting the attention of northeast Texas residents from the celestial machinations of the space program.

Reports of the "blob" — described by Marie Harris of Garland as "foamy and creamy and pale yellow" — followed claims by flying saucer buffs that an alien being is buried in the small farming community of Aurora, about 70 miles northwest of here.

Mrs. Harris discovered the "blob" one morning this month when she looked out her bedroom window.

"It was white and foamy-looking — about the size of an oatmeal cookie," she said. "But that was two weeks ago. It has now grown to the size of 16 oatmeal

cookies and cannot be destroyed."

Despite her attempts to kill it, the blob remains.

"I sliced the thing with a garden hoe, and it was blackish mucus inside," she said.

"Taking it for a fungus of some kind, I cut it up and spread it out. Two mornings later it had returned — twice as big this time."

Mrs. Harris said her husband then took a whack at the blob, but "then, last Saturday, there it was again ... this time the inside was orange." When she sprayed it with a nicotine-based mixture, "it appeared to be bleeding red and purple fluids."

The spray appears to be

restraining—but not killing—the blob.

"I do hope it's no relation to the spaceman they think might be buried over there in Aurora," commented a Harris neighbor.

Officials of the International Unidentified Flying Objects Bureau, citing newspaper reports more than 70 years old, claim some sort of spaceship "exploded atop a well" in Aurora on April 16, 1897.

"The pilot's dismembered body was buried that same day in the Aurora cemetery," IUFU Director Hayden Hughes said.

His organization is seeking "legal means" to have the body exhumed and examined.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mysterious Texas Ooze Stirs

Queries From Far-Off Cities

Joze Stirc

By The Associated Press

At three Dallas area homes, residents are watching a pulsating, cancerous blob of matter which mysteriously oozed from the ground, thus far defying definition.

Some 75 miles to the northwest, an armed sentry guards a graveyard where villagers say a spaceman was buried in 1897.

INVESTIGATORS ARE holding what they say may be metal fragments from his spaceship.

The whole affair has become a science fiction buff's idea of heaven.

London newspapers have been asking more information along with reporters in Canada and Australia.

Scientists and universities are investigating, also.

The mysterious membrane began oozing from the backyard of a Garland, Tex., woman two weeks ago. Marie Harris described the strange material as reddish with thick bubbles on top . . . blackish mucous inside. It has multiplied itself by 16 times in two weeks.

IT IS FOAMY AND TURNS colors when punctured. When the bubbles are broken, the "blob" appears to bleed a red and purplish material.

A North Dallas woman who refused to be identified said, "I'm scared to death. I have the same thing on my hedge. I can't kill it."

Edna Smith, who lives eight

miles from Seagoville, a suburb east of Dallas, said she spotted a similar mass inching its way up a telephone pole. "It was red and pulsating, like the one I read about. For heaven's sake — what is it?"

Scientists from Growth International, a Colorado firm, are analyzing the membranous matter in Mrs. Harris' yard.

GI SCIENTIST ARNOLD Dittman gathered spore specimens and shipped them to Colorado for laboratory tests. "Yes, it's growing. We put samples in a jar and before long we noticed pressure was building up inside," he said.

"Bacteria, if it is bacteria, have tremendous growth potential. Bacteria have more than 1,000 genes in each organism and under proper conditions can change to a complete different spectre in a few seconds. Maybe that's what the thing is, a new mutation. But we really don't know what it is," he said.

Dittman said some bacteria grow from one billion spores to one billion tons in 24 hours.

"With its ability to mutate, bacteria can adapt to any change or deficiency in growth conditions. I'm not saying that happens all the time," he said.

MRS. HARRIS SAID heavy rains had obliterated the "blob" last Friday.

On Monday she said, "I looked again. Three more had grown in its place."

To the northwest, at Aurora, Tex., sightseers and newsmen

are being kept away from a small cemetery.

A guard at the graveyard Monday told one newsmen, "I don't care if you're Jesus Christ. You can't come in."

MEANWHILE, NORTH Texas State University at Denton, and other schools, are examining metal fragments found where 1897 Dallas newspaper accounts say an unidentified flying object crashed.

Villages at Aurora and the Dallas newspaper reports say the badly mangled creature piloting the UFO was buried at the small cemetery now being guarded.

Professional metal and treasure hunters have examined metal fragments dug up at the site, tested and analyzed them without learning their composition.

HAYDEN HUGHES, HEAD of the national UFO center at Oklahoma City, said Monday he plans a trip to Aurora to conduct his own investigation.

He confirmed that pieces of the unusual metal dug up at the reported crash site have been distributed to several universities for analysis.

Proctor, Utah Herald
May 28, 1978

'Strange Grave' 1978 Is Found

AURORA, Tex. (UPI) — A grave in a small north Texas cemetery contains the body of an 1897 astronaut who "was not an inhabitant of this world," according to the International UFO Bureau.

The group, which investigates unidentified flying objects, has already initiated legal proceedings to exhume the body, and will go to court if necessary to open the grave, director Hayden Hewes said Wednesday.

"We hope by exhuming the body we may obtain some of the same type of unusual metal from either his clothing or bones that was unearthed at the well site when we checked it with metal detectors," he said.

Hewes said pieces of metal found near the grave and crash site are now being analyzed by scientists.

"After checking the grave with metal detectors and gathering facts for three months, we are as certain as we can be at this point he was the pilot of a UFO which reportedly exploded atop a well on Judge J. S. Proctor's place, April 19, 1897, Hewes said. "He was not an inhabitant of this world."

Confidential data

May 29, 73

2 narrow hunt for UFO pilot's grave

By BILL CASE
Aviation Writer

Two lifelong Aurora residents have given The Times Herald confidential information pinpointing the grave of an Unidentified Flying Object pilot reportedly buried in the Aurora Cemetery after the crash of his spaceship in the small Wise County community April 19, 1897.

The crash site at a well on the Brawley Oates property in Aurora and the small country cemetery in North Texas have been the scene of intensive scientific investigation by reporters and "ufologists" from several UFO research organizations since mid-March.

The information given Monday by the pair of residents, who asked not to be identified, led reporters to a remote area of the old cemetery where the grave and certain landmarks associated with it were found exactly as described.

The information, the residents said, had been relayed to them from a nearby community by a resident who is almost 70 years old and seriously ill with

a heart condition and high blood pressure.

The resident said he could "lead us right to the grave if it were physically possible for him to make the trip for he has visited it many times," the Aurora people said.

The Times Herald is withholding detailed information on the grave and the landmarks surrounding it to protect the grave from damage by vandals and souvenir seekers. They already have broken off and carted away a number of old handmade marker stones.

When checked with metal detectors by Earl F. Watts, a Dallas astronomer and investigator for the Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON), the grave gave off the same decible signals as unidentifiable pieces of light metals found at the crash site at the well.

"The evidence linking this grave and the crash site seem too solid to be co-incidental," Watts said. "Everything checks out exactly as described."

On Monday, reporters working with Watts recovered at least two more

types of extreme lightweight and strong unidentified metal from the old well, which has been sealed since 1915.

One is magnetic and the other non-magnetic, Watts said. And both are so hard you can barely make a mark in them with a carbon tool or diamond point.

The samples were rushed to the laboratories of one of the nation's largest analytical companies where complete analysis will be made.

A report on the analysis is expected in about a week.

If the report indicates some of the metals are made of materials not known on earth or are an alloy known to have been developed since the date of the crash, a court order asking exhumation of the pilot's remains will be sought in Wise County Court.

An injunction preventing digging was issued last week in Wise County Court after Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, told a radio network he was going to exhume the body immediately.

Metallurgists Baffled By Strange Fragments

Oklahoma Journal 5-30-73

By HOWARD DAVIS

Metallurgists are baffled at metal fragments found at Aurore, Tex., where an unidentified flying object allegedly crashed in 1897, a UFO Bureau spokesman said in Oklahoma City Tuesday.

Hayden Hewes, director of the city-based International UFO Bureau, said he has received reports from scientists analyzing the metal which indicate the probable extra-terrestrial origin of the substance.

Hewes returned last week from a personal investigation of the Aurore gravesite of what some villagers claim is the buried body of an alien being who allegedly crashed in the UFO. The site is presently cordoned off from sightseers and newsmen by armed guards.

The story of a UFO exploding atop a well on Judge J.S. Proctor's place April 19, 1897, was first reported in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers a few days after the alleged explosion.

Most residents around the small hamlet 60 miles northwest of Fort Worth claim the story is a hoax.

However, Hewes claims he has found the well site and located unusual metal fragments there, samples of which he has turned over to Southwest Airmotive's Jet Division and to scientists at North Texas State University.

A metal detector registered similar reactions



Hayden Hewes

at one gravesite in a nearby cemetery, where the old newspaper reports said the badly mangled creature piloting the craft was buried.

Hewes reported Tuesday that the scientists have found the metal is 75 percent iron, but strangely enough does not have magnetic properties.

"Anything over 7 percent iron is supposed to be magnetic, but this stuff isn't," he said.

Hewes also said scientists from Southwest Airmotive have determined the area is radioactive, and speculated that "this suggests the craft may have been nuclear powered — which implies it was not terrestrial if it landed in 1897.

The UFO bureau's

research into old newspaper clippings has turned up the fact there was a "barrage" of widespread UFO sightings throughout Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas during April, 1897, he said.

Although the metallurgists expect to spend another two weeks completing their tests on the metal fragments, Hewes said, those at North Texas State University are sending part of their sample to the General Electric Research Center in Ohio.

"The UFO Bureau does not hold to any particular theory about this," he said. "We're just checking to see if the incident really happened."

"It could be one of the most monumental events in human history."

Hewes said that, if the scientific tests tend to confirm the probable non-terrestrial origin of the metal, he will attempt to get a court order to exhume the grave.

Commenting on another Texas development — the discovery recently of "pulsating" blob growths in three Dallas area homes — Hewes said, "I do not think there is any connection with the Aurore case."

OKLAHOMA JOURNAL

OKLAHOMA CITY

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MAY 30, 1973

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MIDWEST UFO NETWORK
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SUBMITTED BY:



Mrs. Mary Evans . . .
. . . she remembers UFO

Woman recalls UFO

By BILL CASE
Aviation Writer

May 20, 72

A pioneer Wise County woman now almost 92 says an unidentified flying object did crash in Aurora, Texas, April 19, 1897, and the body of the UFO pilot was recovered and buried in the Aurora Cemetery.

"I was only about 15 at the time and had all but forgotten the incident until it appeared in the papers recently," Mrs. Mary Evans, now living in Newark west of Aurora, told *The Times Herald* in an exclusive interview Tuesday.

"We were living in Aurora at the time but my mother and father wouldn't let me go with them when they went up to the crash site at Judge Proctor's well.

"When they returned home they told me how the airship had exploded. The pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. The men of 'the town who gath-

ered his remains said he was a 'small man' and buried him that same day in Aurora Cemetery."

Mrs. Evans, widely known as "Grandma Evans" by residents of the rolling Wise County valley in which Aurora, Rhome and Newark are located closely together, is still active. She lives in her own home across the street from relatives and is an alert and avid fan of daytime television soap operas.

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement," she said. "Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kinds of airships."

Mrs. Evans' statement is the first tangible evidence by a living resident of the area backing up a newspaper story filed April 20, 1897 by H. E. Hayden, an Aurora newspaper correspondent and cotton buyer, which was pub-

lished in both Dallas and Fort Worth papers.

In his story 76 years ago Hayden wrote: "The remains of the pilot were gathered together. It was determined he was not an inhabitant of this world and he was given a Christian burial in Aurora Cemetery."

Over the years Hayden's story was debunked and branded by both the press and the public as a hoax.

Reporters from *The Times Herald* and investigators from UFO private investigative organizations who began checking Hayden's report with the aid of scientific metal detection equipment, radiation meters and other devices three months ago have recovered unidentified pieces of strange metal at the well site.

"We have sent at least seven different types of unusual metal to the laboratories of one of America's largest aircraft manufacturers for complete

See WOMAN on Page 3

★ WOMAN

Continued From Page 1

evaluation and identification as to its age, type and composition, a spokesman for MUFON (Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network) said Tuesday. "The results of these tests should be completed by the first of next week.

"Identical tests of samples of the same metals are being conducted in Ottawa, Canada, by the Government's National Research Council. It will save us the cost of expert opinions from qualified scientists."

Monday, following a new lead supplied by two Aurora residents, the UFO investigators switched their search for the pilot's grave from the center to the south of the cemetery.

"There, following an informant's directions to look under a gnarled old twisted oak tree, we found a grave with a unique headstone," said Earl Watts, MUFON investigator. "On testing it with the metal detector we got the same decided reading from the grave that we did from some newly recovered metal at the site of the UFO crash at the well.

"We now are awaiting scientific evaluation of the metal samples and expect a report by next Monday," he added. "There seems virtually no doubt of a genuine UFO crash on the well site. And if we get the readings we suspect from the metal tests, we can establish a definite tie-in between the UFO crash location and the occupant of that grave in the cemetery."



—Staff Photo by Bill Case

CHALK OUTLINES a rough carving on a grave headstone indicated the shape of a legendary spacecraft that supposedly crashed in 1897 at Aurora, Wise County. At least two elderly residents of Aurora recall the occurrence and the burial of the pilot's dismembered body beneath a gnarled oak in the cemetery.



DAFO53002-5/30/73-DENTON, TEXAS: Physicist Dr. Tom Gray of North Texas State University examines a metal sample from the so-called spaceship site in Aurora, Tex., brought to him for evaluation by some NSTU colleagues. Of four samples he has examined, one has "muzzling" properties, he says.

UFO advocates study 1897 'airship' crash

AURORA, Tex. (UPI) — A 91-year-old woman says she remembers the night on April 19, 1897, her parents went to the spot where an airship crashed into Judge Proctor's well and the pilot was buried in the community cemetery.

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement," Mary Evans said Wednesday. "Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kind of airships."

UFO advocates have combed the Aurora area with metal detectors, radiation meters and other scientific devices in recent months in an attempt to get some tangible evidence to file with a court order to exhume the body of the alleged pilot. Pieces of metal taken from the area have been sent to various scientists and metallurgists for examination.

A physics professor at North Texas State University tested



PHYSICIST TOM GRAY
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2A THE HERALD-WHIG
QUINCY, ILLINOIS
Thursday, May 31, 1973

Alien Saucer Pilot Story Texas Hoax?

Read this first

By HOWARD DAVIS
Of The Journal Staff

Did an alien being in a cigar-shaped flying saucer really crash in Aurora, Tex., on an April morning in 1897?

Is it possible the pilot's body is interred in the sleepy North Texas community's cemetery, or was the whole incident a hoax put on by railroad telegraphers and an over-enthusiastic newspaper correspondent?

Old newspaper clippings, area folklore and accounts of present-day survivors of the period pose a baffling — but often amusing — mixture of the credible, the contradictory and the plain old Texas Tall Tale.

The first newspaper account of the incident appeared in the April 18, 1897, edition of the Dallas Morning News, under the byline of one S.E. Hayden, a local cotton buyer of dubious journalistic credentials.

Hayden's story of the events of the preceding day said that early morning risers of Aurora "were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has

been cruising around the nation."

"Evidently, some of the machinery was out of order, for it was making a speed of only 10 or 12 miles an hour and gradually settling toward the earth," Hayden's account said.

"It sailed directly over the public square, then collided with Judge (J.S.) Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden."

The story went on to say that the pilot "appeared to be the only living thing aboard and the spaceship built of an unknown metal was so badly demolished details of its construction and motive power could not be determined."

According to the report, the body was in a dismembered condition, but "enough remains were picked up to determine it was

See SAUCER on Page 2

Saucer

Continued from Page

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Bear in mind, all this was six years before the Wright Brothers flew a plane at Kitty Hawk.

In any case, some students of the Aurora incident believe Hayden's story was a hoax, particularly because of quotes attributed in the story to "T.J. Weems, U.S. Signal Services officer."

Weems reportedly said — among other things — that "papers found on the pilot's body appeared to be some sort of log of his travels written in some unknown hieroglyphics which could not be deciphered."

Weems also reportedly opined that the pilot must have come from the planet Mars.

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Improbable as the initial account was — it appeared with a very modest headline on page 5 — it came at a time when similar strange UFO sightings were rampant throughout north Texas and much of the Midwest

The same day as the alleged Aurora incident (April 17) a Waterloo, Iowa, farmer reportedly appeared with some metallic debris he claimed was all that remained of an aircraft which landed in his pasture.

A wire service report from Kalamazoo, Mich., stated that "three prominent and sober citizens, while engaged in shingling a roof" saw an airship crash-land and blow up. They stopped shingling the roof to investigate, but they reported nothing was left of the craft but "a large coil of heavy wire and a propeller blade of some light material."

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Some of these accounts relate bizarre interactions between the inhabitants of the earth and those of the spaceship.

An Iowa farmer claimed one of his prize cows was rustled by occupants of the cigar he saw.

In the Texas town of Atlanta, near Texarkana, a resident claimed to have spoken with the occupants of the cigar.

He reportedly claimed three of the occupants sang "Nearer My God to Thee" and passed out temperance tracts.

City Marshal Tom Brown of Farmersville, Tex., along with several

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The Fort Worth Register reported that a railroad telegrapher named Patrick Byrnes was bicycling east of Putnam, Tex., when he encountered an airship.

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By the morning of April 17, the Register account goes, the ship was repaired and set off toward the Ozark Mountains where, according to the captain, the crew would train for the bombing run.

H.A. and B.T. Hambright, brothers, told a Register reporter they saw a silver aircraft above the town of Rhome, two miles east of Aurora, about 8 p.m. on April 17, the craft reportedly having a white searchlight in front and cruising west at 150 miles per hour.

In the last several months, investigators with IUFOB, NICAP and MUFON have converged on the old Proctor place looking for corroborative remains. (IUFOB is the International Unidentified Flying Object Bureau. NICAP is the National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomena. MUFON is the Midwest UFO Network.)

A Corpus Christi treasure hunter earlier this month went over the area with sophisticated metal detector equipment and came up with fragments of a strange metal which he and others have not been able to identify.

The metal detector got the same readings at the site of one unmarked grave in the community cemetery.

Within the last week, Case with the Dallas paper managed to obtain an interview with 83-year-old C.C. Stephens who claimed his father was an eyewitness to the crash itself.

"My daddy watched the silver-colored, cigar-shaped airship cross our pasture very low and slowly," Stephens said. "It had a white light on it and he watched until it crashed and burned on the top of Proctor's hill. He told me about it while I was still a boy."

Stephens, however, said his father never mentioned any occupants in the airship.

The old Proctor place is now owned by Brawley Oates, 65.

Mrs. Oates reported she has lived on the homestead for 26 years and "nothing, not even weeds, will grow in the area" where the strange metal detector readings have been noted.

Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City, has given samples of the metal to scientists at North Texas State University.

If the analyses indicate a probable extra-terrestrial origin, he said the bureau will take legal action to see if the grave can be exhumed for examination.

1897 UFO?

He Can't Tell If Metal's Alien

DENTON, Tex. (UPI) — A physics professor at North Texas State University said Wednesday a small chip of metal "stirs" his curiosity, but that he could not tell if it came—as some have suggested—from a spaceship which crashed in Texas in 1897.

Primary among the unusual aspects of the metal, according to Dr. Tom Gray, was that it was 75 per cent iron, but lacks properties common to iron.

He said it was not magnetic, and was also shiny and soft, instead of dull and brittle like iron.

"I don't mean by my comments to indicate whether this is of terrestrial or extraterrestrial origin," Gray said, "but that the physics of that much iron not being magnetic stirs my curiosity as a scientist.

"If it proves to be a rather strange beast, then a great deal more study will have to be done on it. Right now, we can only make suppositions. We cannot draw any conclusions."

The samples were dug from an area near Aurora, Tex., about 70 miles northwest of Dallas in Wise County. Various samples were found when dispatches resurrecting news reports from the 1890s of the supposed spaceship crash were published.

One article, published in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers April 20, 1897, was written by H.E. Hayden, an Aurora correspondent and cotton buyer.

Speaking of the crash, which he said occurred over the well on the farm owned by J.S. Procter, Hayden wrote: "The remains of the pilot were gathered together. It was determined he was not an inhabitant of the world and he was given a Christian burial in Aurora Cemetery."

Officials of the International Unidentified Flying Object Bureau, run by Hayden Hewes of Oklahoma City, have seized on the incident as a real instance of UFO activity on earth.

They have said that if the metal is proved to be extraterrestrial they will press for exhumation of the body of the supposed astronaut.

Quincy, Ill., Thursday Evening, May 31, 1973

UFO advocates study 1897 'airship' crash

AURORA, Tex. (UPI) — A 91-year-old woman says she remembers the night on April 19, 1897, her parents went to the spot where an airship crashed into Judge Procter's well and the pilot was buried in the community cemetery.

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement," Mary Evans said Wednesday. "Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kind of airships."

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**MIDWEST UFO NETWORK
(MUFON)**

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SUBMITTED BY:

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Meanwhile, armed sentries have been posted around the Aurora cemetery.

UFO site metal described as 'puzzling,' 'unusual'

MAY 31, 73

B. BILL CASE
Staff Writer

Two of three laboratories testing pieces of metal recovered from the site of a reported UFO crash in Aurora, Tex., April 19, 1967 have found one sample highly unusual.

Physicist Dr. Tom Gray of the North Texas State University faculty said he found one out of four pieces being tested in his laboratory "puzzling."

Conducting its own search for metal at the site of the alleged UFO crash on the Brawley Oates farm home in Aurora, Gray said Dr. David Redden of the NTSU department of biological samples and a graduate student used metal detectors

to recover four pieces of different metals near a well.

Newspaper reports of the crash at the time said the "airship" collided with a windmill and exploded blasting pieces of metal over several acres and killing the pilot.

"These samples have properties and content common to metals of this area," Dr. Gray said. "But one sample may require much more investigation." He said the sample looks as if it has been melted and splattered on the ground.

"However, the most intriguing thing is that it is made up primarily of iron, but is not magnetic," he explained.

First analysis shows it to be about 75 per cent iron and 25 per cent silicon.

with some other trace elements.

"But it lacks properties common to iron, such as being magnetic," Dr. Gray said. "It is also shiny and malleable, instead of dull and brittle like iron."

"Most alloys which contain iron are magnetic," he added.

Dr. Gray emphasized he did not mean his comments to indicate the sample was of earthly or extraterrestrial origin. "But its physics stir my curiosity as a scientist," he said.

"This sample may require much more investigation," he added. "If it proves to be a rather strange beast, then a great more study will have to be done."

Gray said his report will be sent to

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chief consultant for MUFON (Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network) chief consultant and the nation's leading UFO expert at Northwestern University.

In a second report on seven samples submitted by Dallas Times Herald reporters to one of the nation's largest aircraft manufacturers, scientists said "one of the seven different pieces submitted for examination is highly unusual."

"They said the sample also was shiny, non-magnetic and tests thus far show unique properties," a spokesman said in a preliminary report. "We are giving this a complete run-down, including spectroscopic tests and a feed-back run through a computer bank

of all known metals."

A preliminary report on this collection of samples should be ready Friday. A third set identical to this given to the American Aircraft Co. have been sent to the National Research Institute in Ottawa, Canada.

"We are seeking independent evaluations of the metals from as many highly reliable sources as possible under the circumstances," a MUFON spokesman said. The Times Herald Thursday said the results indicate at least one of the metals is considered definitely unusual by the scientists, we would then have scientific evidence on which to base a request to exhume the body of the reported UFO pilot.

The 1967 newspaper report said the

dismembered body was gathered by the men following the crash.

"It was determined that the habitant of this world Christian burial in Aurora," it said.

Using metal detectors, MUFON investigators recently found a remote grave in the area from which they received the metal readings as they sample of metal Dr. Gray said company scientists "puzzling" and unusual.

Extra effort has been made in investigation of the crash because this is the case where a UFO is crashed and the pilot's body

MIDWEST UFO NETWORK
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SUBMITTED BY:

FILE:

AURORA, TX

APRIL 1897

1005700 Post

5/31/73

'Puzzling' metal examined

DENTON (AP) — A North Texas State University scientist said Wednesday a piece of metal found at the site of a reported 1897 spaceship crash is "puzzling."

Dr. Tom Gray, who has been analyzing scraps of metal found near Aurora, a ghost town in Wise County in North Texas, said at least one piece of metal appears to be the result of intense heat.

"It looks like a liquid drop or a splatter," he said. "It's interesting."

MEANWHILE, a 92-year-old woman who said she lived in Aurora at the time of the reported crash on April 18, 1897, told the Dallas Times Herald that she recalls the crash of the strange unidentified flying object.

Mrs. Mary Evans told the Times Herald:

"We were living in Aurora at the time. But my mother and father wouldn't let me go with them when they went up to the crash site at Judge Proctor's well.

Published reports of the time said the residents found the remains of a "small man" and buried them. "It was determined he was not an inhabitant of this world," a newspaper report said, "and he was given Christian burial in Aurora cemetery."

INTEREST IN the incident began anew recently when a group of private UFO investigators came to Wise County from Denver, Colo., to check the reports.

Dr. Gray, a physicist at NTSU, said the pieces of metal were brought to him by biologist David Redden, another NTSU professor, and members of the Denton Astronomical Society.

Dr. Gray said that the piece he analyzed "may require much more investigation."

He said the "most intriguing part" is that the piece "is made up primarily of iron, but is not magnetic."

The piece was taken from a six-inch scrap of metal found by Dr. Redden.

"It is 75 per cent iron and 25 per cent zinc with a few trace elements," he added. "But it lacks properties common to iron, such as being magnetic. It is also shiny and malleable instead of dull and brittle like iron."

He said, however, that his comments, "do not indicate whether this is of terrestrial or extraterrestrial origin. They mean only that the physics of that much iron not being magnetic stirs my curiosity as a scientist."

The NTSU physicist said that reports of the investigation will be sent to Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., who is the director of the Air Force's UFO study department.

MRS. EVANS was the second former resident of Aurora to recall the incident.

She said she was told by her parents that the airship had exploded and the pilot was torn up and killed in the crash.

"The crash certainly caused a lot of excitement," she said.

"Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kinds of airships."

Earlier this month C. "Charlie" Stephens, 83, a farmer-rancher in the area, said his father saw the "Cigar-shaped" airship pass over the farm and then heard it crash on a high hill on Judge Proctor's farm.

"The next day my father rode a horse into Aurora to look at the scene and said it looked like a mass of torn metal and burned rubble," Stephens told the Times Herald.

Residents in the Aurora area have objected to recent investigations and they said they will go to court to prevent any digging in the cemetery.

Mystery Cloaks Airship Crash In 1897



DR. TOM GRAY Sample Puzzles Scientist

UPI Photo

AURORA, Tex. (UPI) — A 91-year-old woman says she remembers the night on April 19, 1897, her parents went to the spot where an airship crashed into Judge Proctor's well and the pilot was buried in the community cemetery.

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement," Mary Evans said here. "Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kind of airships."

The Wright Brothers made their historic flight at Kitty Hawk in December, 1903. This has led some to believe the airship that crashed at the Texas well was from another planet, if indeed such an airship exists. Mrs. Evans has no doubts.

"I was only about 15 at the time and had all but forgotten the incident until it appeared in the newspapers recently," she said. "We were living in Aurora at the time but my mother and father wouldn't let me go with them when they went up to the crash site at Judge Proctor's well."

"When they returned home they told me how the airship had exploded. The pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. The men of the town who gathered his remains said he was a small man and buried him that same day in Aurora Cemetery."

The UFO advocates have combed the Aurora area with metal detectors, radiation meters and other scientific devices in recent months in an attempt to get some tangible evidence to file with a court order to exhume the body of the alleged pilot. Pieces of metal taken from the area have been sent to various scientists and metallurgists for examination.

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UFO incident

Pioneer recalls hearing of crash

By BILL CASE
Aviation Writer

A third pioneer North Texas resident has confirmed he knew of the crash of an unidentified flying object in Aurora April 19, 1897, in which the pilot was killed.

G. C. Curley, 95, of Lewisville, now a resident of the Lewisville Nursing Home told The Times Herald Thursday:

"We got the report early in Lewisville. Two friends wanted me to ride over to Aurora to see it. But I had to work.

"When they got back on horseback that night they told me the airship had been seen coming from the direction of Dallas the day before and had been sighted in the area. But no one knew what it was.

"They said it hit something near Judge Proctor's well. The airship was destroyed and the pilot in it was badly torn up," he said.

Curley who is remarkably alert despite his advanced age added:

"My friends said there was a big crowd of sightseers who were picking up pieces of the exploded airship. But no one could identify the metal it was made of. We didn't have metal like that in America at that time.

"And they said it was difficult to describe the pilot. They saw only a torn up body. I don't know what happened to the pilot's body. They didn't say."

Curley added "people were frightened by the crash. They couldn't understand what it was."

His statement corroborates statements given The Times Herald by C. C. "Charlie" Ste-

phens, 86, of Aurora, who described how his father, Jim Stephens, was an eye-witness to the UFO crash, and that given by Mrs. Mary "Grandma" Evans, 91, who lived in Aurora at the time.

Mrs. Evans said her mother and father wouldn't allow her to visit the crash scene but they told her when they returned home the UFO had exploded when it hit a windlass over a well on Judge J. S. Proctor's farm.

"They said the pilot was torn up and killed in the crash," she said. "He was buried later that same day in the Aurora Cemetery."

The reports related by Curley, Stephens and Mrs. Evans closely duplicate the facts in a story written by Aurora newspaper correspondent, H. E. Hayden, which was published in Dallas and Fort Worth papers the day after the crash.

While the search for additional witnesses and information continues by ufologists (UFO investigators), reports from three scientific laboratories which are analyzing samples of metal gathered at the crash site were expected Monday night.

"We have at least one piece of very light metal which shows nonmagnetic iron, zinc and at least traces of six other elements and it is highly unusual," said one scientist.

Investigators have located a grave in Aurora Cemetery in which they believe the UFO pilot was buried. They have obtained identical metal detector decibel readings from the grave that they do from the mystery piece of metal scientists are studying.

Aurora UFO site probe near climax

By BILL CASE,
Aviation Writer

6-3-72
Exhaustive efforts since mid-March to confirm reports that a UFO crashed at a well site in Aurora, Tex., April 19, 1897, were at a crucial stage Sunday.

Investigators from MUFON (Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network) and Dallas Times Herald reporters have combed the area with scientific instruments in an effort to locate pieces of the reported space ship and have pinpointed a grave in Aurora Cemetery in which the pilot may be buried.

And scientists in laboratories at North Texas State University, one of the country's major aircraft companies and the National Research Council in Ottawa, Canada, are in the midst of running tests to identify metal samples supplied by investigators. NTSU conducted its research on its own.

"We are in the waiting period to see if all of our efforts

pay off," a MUFON spokesman told The Times Herald.

"More intensive investigation has gone into this case because it is the only reported case of a UFO crash in which the pilot's body was allegedly recovered and buried. The scientists report one out of seven pieces of metal is highly unusual in its properties.

"And," he emphasized, "even if analysis shows this metal is known on earth it is not conclusive proof that it did not come from space or that it was not developed and duplicated on earth by man at a later date."

Meteorites composed largely of iron, zinc and traces of other metals, some known and unknown, are constantly bombarding us from space, Dr. Tom Gray, NTSU physicist, said. "And we don't know where they come from. It is the physics of this puzzling piece of metal we recovered at the crash site that stirs my curiosity as a scientist. I would like to see if we can duplicate it."

The first in-depth comprehensive metal analysis reports are expected to be completed Monday night.

Although the story has been branded a "hoax" and practical joke for years in North Texas, the investigation has found three aged persons who have given detailed stories of the crash, recovery and burial of the pilot.

In addition, articles from April 14 through April 27, 1897 published in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers list hundreds of sightings of "airships" matching the description of the one which reportedly crashed in Aurora.

"We have no plans to exhumate the pilot's body at this time," the MUFON spokesman said. "However, if scientific evidence shows close relationship between the metal readings from the crash site and the grave are valid we shall consider asking Wise County District Court to issue an exhumation order allowing it to be performed by experts in accordance with instructions of the court."

"There is no intention of turning this into a circus. It is a scientific investigation and will be kept on that plain with all respect for the cemetery, its other occupants and the people of the community."



Saucer Expert

Hayden Hewes, Oklahoma City director of UFO bureau, listens to radiation detector in chicken coop built over site of supposed UFO crash. Nothing but normal background radiation was detected. (Staff Photo by Steve Sisney.)



Nothing Found

Probing with metal detector for signs of a supposed alien landing are, from left, International UFO Bureau members Richard Leonard, Ken Vaught and Vic Johnston. Only a rusty nail was found during Sunday's search. (Staff Photo by Steve Sisney)

UFO Artifacts Gone

By HOWARD DAVIS
Of The Journal Staff

AURORA, Tex. — The evidence all but disappeared Sunday as on-site investigators took a fresh look at the site where in 1897 a mysterious airship allegedly crashed and exploded with an alien pilot aboard.

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phenomena had been reported in the last several weeks that tended to suggest

something unearthly did happen one April morning in this north Texas hamlet.

But most of the reported phenomena apparently went

into hiding Sunday when a team of UFologists (researchers into uniden-

tified flying object sightings) confronted the site with Geiger counters, metal

See UFO on page 2

See Related Pictures, Page 11

UFO

Continued from Page 1
detectors and firsthand observation.

There were reports that the alleged crash site was still radioactive, but the Geiger counters failed to pick anything up but normal background radiation.

The radiation was supposed to have been responsible for the chickens laying rotten eggs in the coop built over the supposed crash site. But even the chickens were on good behavior, apparently laying nothing but standard Grade A Mediums, which, when opened, looked and smelled fine.

An effort was made, with the use of metal detectors, to find more fragments of a shiny metallic substance recently discovered on the crash site, but the only thing metallic recovered from the ground was a rusty nail.

Meanwhile, the man who first discovered the strange shiny metal and took the lion's share of it for himself has apparently disappeared without a trace, leaving behind only a fake address in Corpus Christi and a telephone number that belongs to someone else.

Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau, headquartered in Oklahoma City, said efforts to contact a "Frank Kelley", who said he was a professional treasure hunter, have been futile.

Two more disappointments greeted the investigators when they arrived at the Aurora cemetery, when, according to turn-of-the-century newspaper accounts, the alien pilot was "given a Christian burial."

There were reports earlier in the week the cemetery association had posted armed sentries to keep sightseers and newsmen out of the cemetery grounds.

Lynn McCrary, president of the association, denied this report.

However, Nobles acknowledged that Wise County sheriff's deputies spent several hours at the cemetery one day when townspeople feared an imminent attempt to abduct the body.

Further discouragement came with the disclosure by Nobles that cemetery records indicate the suspect grave was owned by a man named C.A. Carr and that attempts to locate Carr or his known descendents have been futile.

McCrary said it is not even known whether Carr is alive, adding that it is possible a relative of Carr or Carr himself fell victim to one of the repeated yellow fever epidemics which plagued Aurora in the 1890's and may have then been quickly buried with no stone to mark the grave.

McCrary is openly hostile to the UFO investigation.

"The people here don't like it," he says. "You wouldn't like it, either. That (the cemetery) is supposed to be a sacred place.

"The way it's been the last five weeks it's been a show place."

Mrs. McCrary, whose mother and mother's mother were born and raised in the



True Believer

Brawley Oates, owner of farm where UFO may have crashed, believes the story is true. (Staff Photo by Steve Sisney.)



Last Fragment

UFO investigator Tommy Blann holds up one of remaining fragments of metal recovered from "crash site." (Staff Photo by Steve Sisney.)



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MIDWEST UFO NETWORK (MUFON)

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SUBMITTED BY:

1897 UFO?

He Can't Tell If Metal's Alien

DENTON, Tex. (UPI) — A physics professor at North Texas State University said Wednesday a small chip of metal "stirs" his curiosity, but that he could not tell if it came—as some have suggested—from a spaceship which crashed in Texas in 1897.

Primary among the unusual aspects of the metal, according to Dr. Tom Gray, was that it was 75 per cent iron, but lacks properties common to iron.

He said it was not magnetic, and was also shiny and soft, instead of dull and brittle like iron.

"I don't mean by my comments to indicate whether this is of terrestrial or extraterrestrial origin," Gray said, "but that the physics of that much iron not being magnetic stirs my curiosity as a scientist."

"If it proves to be a rather strange beast, then a great deal more study will have to be done on it. Right now, we can only make suppositions. We cannot draw any conclusions."

The samples were dug from an area near Aurora, Tex., about 70 miles northwest of Dallas in Wise County. Various samples were found when dispatches resurrecting news reports from the 1890s of the supposed spaceship crash were published.

One article, published in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers April 20, 1897, was written by H.E. Hayden, an Aurora correspondent and cotton buyer.

Speaking of the crash, which he said occurred over the well on the farm owned by J.S. Procter, Hayden wrote: "The remains of the pilot were gathered together. It was determined he was not an inhabitant of the world and he was given a Christian burial in Aurora Cemetery."

Officials of the International Unidentified Flying Object Bureau, run by Hayden Hewes of Oklahoma City, have seized on the incident as a real instance of UFO activity on earth.

They have said that if the metal is proved to be extraterrestrial they will press for exhumation of the body of the supposed astronaut.

Continued from Page 1
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Two more disappointments greeted the investigators when they arrived at the Aurora cemetery, when, according to turn-of-the-century newspaper accounts, the alien pilot was "given a Christian burial."

First, it was discovered that the small, unmarked triangular headstone at the suspected gravesite had been broken off two inches above ground level and removed.

Second, the metal detectors failed to get any readings directly over the gravesite, contrary to earlier reports.

The developments of Sunday's investigation tended to dim any immediate prospect the UFO Bureau may have of getting a court order to exhume the suspect gravesite.

Trustees of the cemetery, alarmed last week of curiosity seekers overrunning the grounds, have had their attorney, Bill Nobles, draft legal papers for obtaining an injunction, if necessary, to keep the grave from being desecrated.

However, Nobles said he does not plan to file for the injunction at this time and will not file unless there is reason to believe the grave will be disturbed.

Hewes has said the UFO Bureau is consulting its own attorneys about the legal process involved in exhuming the gravesite, but will not start proceedings until and unless analysis of the metallic fragments from the crash site points to an extraterrestrial origin.

Nobles said the Aurora Cemetery Association would require substantial evidence before it would consent to the exhumation, but added that, if the probability of finding an alien in the grave were overwhelming, "I think the citizens would cooperate. We have no desire to stand in the way of scientific research."

There were reports earlier in the week the cemetery association had posted armed sentries to keep sightseers and newsmen out of the cemetery grounds.

Lynn McCrary, president of the association, denied this report.

However, Nobles acknowledged that Wise County sheriff's deputies spent several hours at the cemetery one day when townspeople feared an imminent attempt to abduct the body.

Further discouragement came with the disclosure by Nobles that cemetery records indicate the suspect grave was owned by a man named C.A. Carr and that attempts to locate Carr or his known descendants have been futile.

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"The people here don't like it," he says. "You wouldn't like it either. That (the cemetery) is supposed to be a sacred place."

"The way it's been the last five weeks it's been a show place."

Mrs. McCrary, whose mother and mother's mother were born and raised in the Aurora area and who has lived all her own life there, said she had never heard the 1897 story until three or four years ago.

She attributes all the furor to Braley Oates, 65, the man who lives on the land where the cigar-shaped airship allegedly exploded.

Oates says he first moved to the farm in 1945, and didn't hear anything about the UFO incident until an article came out in a newspaper about it some 12 years ago.

"At the time, I didn't think anything about it," he said. "I didn't think there was any such of a thing as flying saucers."

But I sure do now. One thing that weighs heavily with Oates is that doctors have told him his gouty arthritis may be the result of radiation poisoning, he says.

The UFO was supposed to have crashed on top of a well on the farm. When Oates took possession of the place, he cleaned the partly filled well out and used the well for drinking water for 12 years.

Most of the strange metal fragments were believed to have been dredged up when the well was cleaned out and Oates thinks the water in the well might have been radioactive.

His gnarled, grotesquely deformed hands baffled doctors whom he said tell him they have never seen anything like it.

However, 12 years ago, Oates said he sealed up the well with a slab of concrete and built a chicken coop over the slab.



True Believer

Brawley Oates, owner of farm where UFO may have crashed, believes the story is true. (Staff Photo by Steve Sisney.)



Last Fragment

UFO investigator Tommy Blann holds up one of remaining fragments of metal recovered from "crash site." (Staff Photo by Steve Sisney.)



Saucer Expert

Hayden Hewes, Oklahoma City director of UFO bureau, listens to radiation detector in chicken coop built over site of supposed UFO crash. Nothing but normal background radiation was detected. (Staff Photo by Steve Sisney.)

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QUINCY HERALD-WHIG

OKLAHOMA CITY UPI -

(was not printed)

The International UFO Bureau, headquartered in Oklahoma City, believes something happened in Aurora, Texas, where legend says a flying object crashed and its pilot was buried, but the bureau said Wednesday what it was has not been determined.

Tommy Blann, deputy director of the bureau, issued a statement denying several reports relating to the bureau's investigation of the incident which began last summer.

The statement also said, "A reporter in the area is hampering our serious research as we have been unable to dispel unfounded and unnecessary rumors that serve no purpose but 'to fan the fire'."

Blann said a well was found near the site of the supposed crash, contrary to other reports that there was no well. He also said metal found at the crash site by Frank N. Kelley, Corpus Christi, who disappeared after he gave investigators the metal, has been found to be iron.

Blann said bureau persons had interviewed two of the three supposed eye-witnesses to the incident, but they said they did not see it. They were only told of the happening when they were small, Blann said.

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He denied that the "pulsating blobs" sighted in Texas and Oklahoma yards and fields were connected with the crash.

Blann also denied that the bureau had obtained a court order to exhume the pilots's body.

"Only if the metal is determined to be not of this earth and until the grave is located will an order be sought," he said.

He also denied that an injunction was issued to keep bureau people from digging and said the area was not radioactive.

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SIGNALS FROM EARTH

2 Experts Differ About 1897 UFO

By The Associated Press

The question of what happened, if anything, at Aurora, Tex., April 19, 1897, turned Saturday into disputes between two Unidentified Flying Objects experts.

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During the weekend, Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau, Inc., of Oklahoma City, added fuel to the dispute. He said there was nothing to the reports and that newspapers were only fanning the fire to keep it alive.

This was disputed by the Midwest Unidentified Flying Network and Bill Case, aviation writer for the Dallas Times Herald, who has investigated the story deeply.

CASE SAID THE TESTS OF metals found at the site by Hewes were not the same samples found by Case and others which several scientists have said are at least puzzling.

Walter H. Andrus Jr. took issue with Hewes' statement. Andrus is executive director of Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network.

Andrus told Case. "His (Hewes') announcement implies investigation of the reported crash of a UFO . . . is closed simply through analysis of four pieces of metal.

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"However, enough remains were picked up to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world," Hayden wrote. "The men of the community gathered it up and it was given a Christian burial in the Aurora cemetery."

INVESTIGATORS BELIEVE they have pinpointed the grave — a spot marked by a handhewn stone. Chiseled into the stone is the outline of a cigar-shaped object.

There has been some talk of digging into this grave but so far nothing has been done. Men of the cemetery association have guarded the graveyard against molestation recently.

At least three old-timers have been found who heard direct reports from persons who saw the wreckage.

One is Charlie Stephens who said, "My daddy, Jim Stephens, said he was putting the cows out to pasture on our ranch about 4 a.m. three miles south of Aurora when he noticed a cigar-shaped airship with a white light pass over.

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The Abilene Reporter-News

"WITHOUT OR WITH OFFENSE TO FRIENDS OR FOES W

92ND YEAR, NO. 358 PHONE 673-4271

ABILENE, TEXAS, 79604, SUNDAY

Experts Fan Flames

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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4 Counties

By DANI PRESSWOOD

Reporter-News Staff Writer
Officials in four area counties are making preparations for the next step in the creation or extension of hospital districts approved during the 63rd Texas Legislature.

Legislators passed bills calling for five new districts and extension of two others. New districts include Hamlin and Anson in Jones County, De Leon and Comanche in Comanche County and Fisher County.

BILLS WERE approved to extend the existing Stamford Hospital District in Jones County and the district in Mitchell County.

Of the seven districts, Gov. Dolph Briscoe has signed the De Leon and Comanche districts into law, while the others still await signature.

Even if the governor fails to sign the remaining bills, they will become law automatically within 20 days after passing from the Legislature to his desk.

Each of the proposed districts must now be approved by voters in the individual districts in local option elections.

Most of the proposed dis-

Comanche judge: Bills 'not the right time for election.'

Although the 12-year-old Comanche Municipal Hospital operates at 90-98 per cent capacity, he said, "no patient has ever been turned away."

"This is one of the few hospitals around that is completely solvent," Dr. Mims said. "It has operated successfully without one cent of tax money

"And it has met all Medicare and HEW (Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare) requirements."

Claiming that he is "neither for nor against" the proposed district, Dr. Mims said his comments reflected the "feelings of the people" of Comanche County.

LOCAL OPTION elections for Comanche and other hospital districts may be set 35 days after the bills become

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UFO

Continued from Pg. 1A

Christian burial in the Aurora Cemetery "

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Mrs. Mary Evans, 91, says her mother and father would not let her go with them when they went to the site.

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement," Mrs. Evans said. "Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kinds of airships." She said there was a body, which Stephens did not mention.

G. C. Curley, 98, said two friends went to the reported crash site and told him that sightseers were picking pieces of metal of a type unknown then. Curley said his friends also told of a dismembered body.

Additional UFO clues requested

By **BILL CASE**
Aviation Writer

Two of the nation's top UFO authorities have urged residents of Aurora, where an unidentified flying object reportedly crashed and killed the pilot on April 19, 1897, to search their homes, barns and storage places for historic clues and souvenirs of the incident.

"Now that scientific investigation makes it highly improbable that the report is a hoax as has been reported so many times, we feel the people of the area may be able to locate information and physical evidence gathered and kept by their fathers and grandfathers," said Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Walter H. Andrus, national director of MUFON (Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network) whose investigators have been working with Dallas Times Herald reporters on the scientific probe, explained:

"With so many of the residents of the Aurora, Rhome and Newark areas and farms and ranches members of third and fourth generation pioneer families we believe it is highly likely they may still have evidence of the reported crash highly valuable to them.

"We urge them to look for old diaries, souvenirs, old newspapers and especially pieces of metal that their grandfathers or fathers or others in the family picked up at the site of the alleged UFO crash. We even suggest they check the family bible for a notation," he said.

Andrus said it was reported by newsmen in 1897 that following the crash hundreds of sightseers carried away bits and pieces of the exploded UFO as souvenirs. He estimated a verified piece of UFO metal would be as valuable as a moon rock recovered by Apollo astronauts.

Dr. Hynek plans to inspect the crash site and cemetery where the UFO pilot reportedly is buried about June 15.

"If residents locate pieces of the metal or references to the incident in family records but wish to keep their findings confidential with no publicity identifying themselves or their families we shall keep the information in the strictest confidence," he said.

Dr. Hynek and Andrus instructed the residents to report their findings in writing to Earl F. Watts, Texas state director of astronomy for MUFON and an investigator, at 515 Falling Leaves Drive, Duncanville, Texas, 75116. MUFON investigations will contact them.

Profiteering denied

I distributed 350 copies of this FREE of Aurora, Rhome & Newark on Saturday newspapers with "I Page 3 noted on fr

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SUBMITTED BY:

UFO Group Seeks Body of 'Alien 1897 Astronaut'

AURORA, Tex. (UPI) — A grave in a small North Texas cemetery contains the body of an 1897 astronaut who "was not an inhabitant of this world," according to the International UFO Bureau.

The group, which investigates unidentified flying objects, already has initiated legal proceedings to exhume the body, and will go to court

if necessary to open the grave. Director Hayden Hewes of Oklahoma City said Wednesday.

"We hope by exhuming the body we may obtain some of the same type of unusual metal from either his clothing or bones that was unearthed at the well site when we checked it with metal detectors," he said.

Hewes said pieces of metal found near the grave and crash site are now being analyzed by scientists.

"After checking the grave with metal detectors and gathering facts for three months, we are as certain as we can be at this point he was the pilot of a UFO which reportedly exploded atop a well on Judge J. S. Proctor's place, April 19, 1897, Hewes said. "He was not an inhabitant of this world."

"We believe it is highly possible that area residents have highly valuable souvenirs of this reported crash," Dr. Hynek said. "But up until this point it has been difficult to realize its significance."

"We are seeking once and for all to settle the 76-year-old controversy over the incident," Andrus said. "Scientific findings indicate there very likely was a crash. Information from the residents could settle the matter once and for all."

to residents
in form of complete
local story on Sec. B/
Ut. Bc

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Andrus said, "If we determine it is a hoax, we will announce it candidly. And we will have the evidence to show why we believe in it. But at the moment, our findings indicate the possibility it is a hoax is more and more im-

probable. MUFON's investigation is at its most intensive points."

THE ORIGINAL 1897 story came from S. E. Hayden, cotton buyer and part-time newspaper correspondent at Aurora, a village which has become a ghost community. It is between Fort Worth and DeCatur.

Hayden said the craft went to pieces with a tremendous explosion when it hit the windmill, scattering parts over several acres.

Hayden said the pilot, described as a "small man," was dismembered.

"However, enough remains were picked up to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world," Hayden wrote. "The men of the community gathered it up and it was given a Christian burial in the Aurora cemetery."

INVESTIGATORS BELIEVE they have pinpointed the grave — a spot marked by a handhewn stone. Chiseled into the stone is the outline of a cigar-shaped object.

There has been some talk of digging into this grave but so far nothing has been done. Men of the cemetery association have guarded the graveyard against molestation recently.

At least three old-timers have been found who heard direct reports from persons who saw the wreckage.

One is Charlie Stephens who said, "My daddy, Jim Stephens, said he was putting the cows out to pasture on our ranch about 4 a. m. three miles south of Aurora when he noticed a cigar-shaped airship with a white light pass over.

"IT WAS VERY LOW AND just went straight ahead until it crashed at a well site on a high hill on Judge J. S. Proctor's farm. He said there seemed to be an explosion and a fire that lit up the sky for several minutes.

"The next day my father rode a horse into Aurora to look at the scene and said it looked like a mass of torn metal and burned rubble."

Mrs. Mary Evans, 91, says her mother and father would not let her go with them when they went to the site.

G. C. Curley, 98, said two friends went to the reported crash site and told him that sightseers were picking pieces of metal of a type unknown then. Curley said his friends also told of a dismembered

pieces of metal that their grandfathers or fathers or others in the family picked up at the site of the alleged UFO crash. We even suggest they check the family bible for a notation," he said.

Andrus said it was reported by newsmen in 1897 that following the crash hundreds of sightseers carried away bits and pieces of the exploded UFO as souvenirs. He estimated a verified piece of UFO metal would be as valuable as a moon rock recovered by Apollo astronauts.

Dr. Hynek plans to inspect the crash site and cemetery where the UFO pilot reportedly is buried about June 15.

"If residents locate pieces of the metal or references to the incident in family records but wish to keep their findings confidential with no publicity identifying themselves or their families we shall keep the information in the strictest confidence," he said.

Dr. Hynek and Andrus instructed the residents to report their findings in writing to Earl F. Watts, Texas state director of astronomy for MUFON and an investigator, at 515 Falling Leaves Drive, Duncanville, Texas, 75116. MUFON investigations will contact them.

"We believe it is highly possible that area residents have highly valuable souvenirs of this reported crash," Dr. Hynek said. "But up until this point it has been difficult to realize its significance.

"We are seeking once and for all to settle the 76-year-old controversy over the incident," Andrus said. "Scientific findings indicate there very likely was a crash information from the residents could settle the matter once and for all."

Profiteering denied

I distributed 350 copies of this FREE to residents of Aurora, Home & Newark on Saturday in form of complete newspapers with "Local story on Sec. B." Page 3 noted on front.

BC

DALLAS MORNING NEWS
MONDAY JUNE 11, 1973



Tolbert's Texas

'The Honest Brakeman' Never Stole a Box Car

By FRANK X. TOLBERT

IN FORT WORTH in 1897 there lived a railroad man for the Texas & Pacific named Joseph E. (Truthful) Scully, also widely renowned as "The Honest Brakeman" — he never stole a box car."

The Honest Brakeman was, I believe, the central figure in the so-called "Truthful Scully Hoax."

In April, 1897, railroad telegraphers from middle states all over the nation sent out reports of sightings of gigantic airships. And mind you, this was 6 years before the Wright boys got a heavier

AURORA CEMETERY

than-air flying machine off the ground.

It is my belief that Truthful Scully, because of his reputation of "never telling a lie," was chosen by the pranksters to make the first of hundreds of "sightings" of flying machines. Perhaps he was no longer known as The Honest Brakeman after all the excitement died down.

LAST WEEK I visited in what has

versation pieces of the world recently because some "UFO scientists" have been in the village looking for pieces of "strange metal" around the site of Judge Proctor's old water well and searching for the grave of the 1897 UFO pilot alleged to have died in the crash.

When I was in Colorado and New Mexico recently I heard more talk about the Aurora than I did about Watergate, and I understand the yarn of the 1897 visitor from another planet rivals Watergate for space in European periodicals.

The other Dallas newspaper has been carrying daily stories on the most recent Aurora investigations, although only The Dallas News was on the job back in 1966 when researchers from the British Flying Saucer Review came to Aurora and decided the whole thing was a hoax.

Still, I found during a visit to Aurora Friday that some of the villagers are downright offended if you suggest F. E. Hayden's 1897 news stories were a joke.

ANYWAY, THE Aurora cemetery is worth a visit. It is in an inspiring setting on a high hill planted in old oak trees and with a view of many miles of Wise County in the spring.

A nice lady with a posse of children following her, Mrs. Steve Boyd, was my guide as she has been for hundreds of visitors to the cemetery. Mrs. Shaw

ment died down.

LAST WEEK I visited in what has become an internationally known village, Aurora, Wise County. Aurora is now famous because of 1973 credence being given to a story which appeared in April 19, 1897, newspapers that "about 6 o'clock this morning early risers in Aurora were astonished by the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing through the country..."

The April 19, 1897 news story reported that the airship collided with "Judge Proctor's windmill tower" in Aurora and the flying machine went to pieces in a terrible explosion, scattering metallic debris over 3 acres, wrecking the windmill and destroying Judge Proctor's flower garden. (In Decatur last week I did find that a J. S. Proctor of Aurora was justice of the peace for Wise County's precinct 5 from 1892 to 1902.)

AN AURORA cotton buyer named F. E. Hayden wrote the story that appeared in all the papers, and he said that the body of the pilot of the 1897 airship was badly disfigured but a prominent astronomer and Army Signal Corps officer, T. J. Weems, happened to be in Aurora and Weems declared that the pilot was "not an inhabitant of this world. The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of the strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon today..."

As I reported about 5 years ago and also recently T. J. Weems was actually the village blacksmith in 1897 Aurora.

Aurora has become one of the con-

following her, Mrs. Steve Boyd, was my guide as she has been for hundreds of visitors to the cemetery. Mrs. Shaw showed me the hunk of rock which is said, by 2 old-timers, to be the marker for the grave of that pilot who wasn't "an inhabitant of this world." The grave is under a big oak, and there is a working colony of honey bees in the tree.

"The bees have been upset by all the visitors, but now they seem to be getting used to company," said Mrs. Shaw.

ON THE grave marker, if such it be, is a delta-shaped carving, and inside the triangular pattern there are some circular designs. (I'd read that the stone had a "cigar shaped" pattern on it, but this is certainly not true.) There were some artificial flowers by the marker.

Mrs. Shaw has relatives who once owned Judge Proctor's home site and said they found metal therein when they cleaned out the old well. Mrs. Shaw said that one of the strange aspects was that 2 old-timers "located" the pilot's grave "and yet these old-timers don't know each other, and live a long ways apart."

I WOULD like to believe in F. E. Hayden's news story. Yet I'm wondering why the crash of this strange aerial vehicle wasn't reported in Cliff D. Cates' excellent and thorough history of Wise County? And why would the local blacksmith be listed as an astronomer and Army officer?

And I wonder if F. E. Hayden and old Truthful Scully, The Honest Brake-man, were friends?

B OR IN UNIVERSITY SHOP FEDERAL STREET ENTRANCE

35 MAIL TOWN EAST OPEN 6 NIGHTS A WEEK

Additional UFO clues requested

By **BILL CASE**
Aviation Writer

Two of the nation's top UFO authorities have urged residents of Aurora, where an unidentified flying object reportedly crashed and killed the pilot on April 19, 1897, to search their homes, barns and storage places for historic clues and souvenirs of the incident.

"Now that scientific investigation makes it highly improbable that the report is a hoax as has been reported so many times, we feel the people of the area may be able to locate information and physical evidence gathered and kept by their fathers and grandfathers," said Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Walter H. Andrus, national director of MUFON (Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network) whose investigators have been working with Dallas Times Herald reporters on the scientific probe, explained:

"With so many of the residents of the Aurora, Rhome and Newark areas and farms and ranches members of third and fourth generation pioneer families we believe it is highly likely they may still have evidence of the reported crash highly valuable to them.

"We urge them to look for old diaries, souvenirs, old newspapers and especially

DALLAS TIMES HERALD, Thurs., June 7, 1973



BOOK PROJECT—Larry Pile, a 14-year-old Boy Scout, finishes packing more than 600 books he has collected for the Dallas County Children's Emergency Shelter.

The project took three months with most of the books coming from Glen Cove area residents. —Staff Photo

Aurora cemetery ouster

Ufologist hit by order

By **BILL CASE**

Staff Writer

Weeks after the gravestone of a reported UFO pilot buried in Aurora Cemetery was stolen and his grave robbed, the Aurora Cemetery Association has ordered unidentified flying object investigators to stop investigating the gravesite in the cemetery.

The Aurora Cemetery Association also turned down a proposal for a "secret" exhumation of the reputed pilot's body although the association's board was to oversee the exhumation conducted by professional archaeologists and forensic medicine specialists.

The exhumation plan proposed by Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON) was rejected in a letter from William A. Nobles, Decatur attorney, representing the cemetery association.

The exhumation was to have climaxed a four-month investigation in which MUFON sought to prove whether or not a story filed with Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers, April 19, 1967, was true or a 70-

year-old hoax.

Correspondent H. E. Hayden had written after the crash "the airship which had been seen in the area for three to four days collided with a wooden windmill structure on the Judge J. S. Proctor homestead."

"The airship exploded and the pilot was killed," Hayden wrote "His body was dismembered but it was determined he was not an inhabitant of this world. He was buried with Christian rites in Aurora Cemetery."

The investigation which began in Mid-March this year drew large crowds of sightseers and an influx of vandals and professional grave robbers to the small cemetery.

Reporters and MUFON investigators urged the association and Nobles to seek an injunction and take other measures to protect the cemetery May 24 before serious damage had been done.

"Nothing happened until we proposed a secret exhumation from which all newsmen would be excluded and then filled in

on the findings later," a MUFON spokesman said. "Their answer was to say they did not feel they had the authority to grant an exhumation and they had the obligation to protect the cemetery from any damage.

"They turned down the legitimate exhumation offer after the place had been trampled like a herd of elephants, the grave marker was stolen and the grave was robbed by professionals who took metal that investigations had discovered in the grave with electronic detectors."

In his letter protesting vandals, Nobles said the cemetery association's property was closed for "all investigative purposes" and any investigators found in the cemetery would be charged with criminal trespass.

The association's clampdown on investigators came only six days before Walter H. Andrus Jr., executive director of MUFON, was to arrive in Dallas to brief the news media on the progress of the long investigation.

Discovery of Evidence Surrounding 1897 UFO Crash Baffles Scientists

By OKSANA SENCZYSZAK

An abandoned cemetery in Aurora, Tex., is the site of one of the most intensive UFO investigations ever. An alien spaceman is believed to have been buried there when his unidentified flying object crashed in 1897.

Today 76 years later, a group of UFO investigators have found what they say may be pieces of the demolished aircraft.

The unknown space vehicle crashed into a rural windmill and exploded on April 19, 1907—six years before the first air flight made by man.

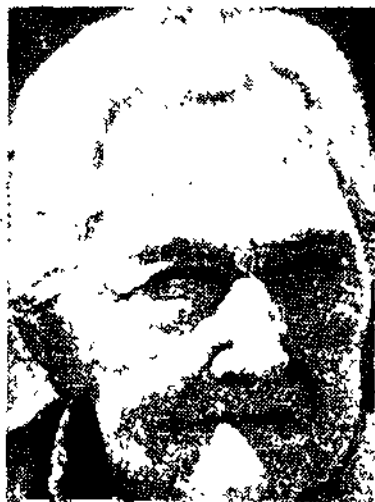
Scientists who studied the metal fragments from the crash site revealed that they are an aluminum alloy "unknown in the U.S. until about 1910 and not produced on this earth until early in the 20th century."

TAKING PART in the investigation are the International UFO Bureau, the National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and the Midwest UFO Network (MUFON).

Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau, explained: "According to reports at the time, the airship was scattered over several acres by the explosion which followed its crashing into the



SIGNPOST announces arrival to Aurora, Tex., where UFO is believed to have crashed in 1897.



"We were living in Aurora at the time, but my mother and father wouldn't let me go with them when they went up to the crash site at Judge Proctor's well.

"When they returned home, they told me how the airship had exploded. The pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. The men of the town who gathered his remains said he was a 'small man' and buried him that same day in Aurora Cemetery.

"THAT CRASH certainly caused a lot of excitement," added Mrs. Evans. "Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any modern airplanes or cars



BEditorials
Fri., July 13, 1973

**THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD
METROPOLITAN**

4-B***

Fri., July 13, 1973, DALLAS TIMES HERALD

Aurora case**Ufologist asks
probe of grave**

Continued from Page 1

of the UFO pilot has been pinpointed through use of a metal detector which registered the same decibel readings as those found at the supposed crash site.

The Aurora Cemetery Association has refused to allow exhumation of the grave. Townspeople have become an-

gered over the sightseers attracted to the area by the reports. A marker over the supposed grave of the "space pilot" also has been stolen and the graveyard has been described as "looking as if a herd of elephants stampeded through it."

Based on evidence collected thus far and investigative work done by ufologists and Times Herald aviation writer Bill Case, Andrus is close to being convinced it did.

"No in-depth story of a reported crash site has been done before now," he said. "The work done here by Case and (MUFON member) Earl Watts shows there was probably some sort of crash. Case himself has made 27 trips, 26 more than some folks have made under similar circumstances."

Andrus admits the Aurora Cemetery Association is "justifiably angry" over what has happened since the highly-publicized investigations began. He added a personal appeal that MUFON investigators be allowed to conduct a "strictly private" examination of the graveside in hopes of ending the investigation.

Further evidence Andrus considers persuasive is found in "the thousands of reports across the United States in 1897" of UFO's.

"Texas was literally loaded down with sightings at that time," he said, "what we call today a 'flap,' meaning a succession of sightings over a brief period of time."

**Andrus asks
exhumation**

A well-known investigator of unidentified flying objects has appealed to the Aurora Cemetery Association to allow exhumation of a grave believed to contain the body of a UFO pilot.

Walter H. Andrus Jr. of Quincy, Ill., executive director of the Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON), issued the appeal Wednesday at a meeting of MUFON members in Duncanville.

Ufologists and newsmen have pursued the inquiry since late March when a team of investigators began combing the Aurora cemetery for the grave of a UFO pilot reportedly buried there after his spaceship collided with a windmill and exploded in 1897.

The search was prompted by newspaper reports of the accident published in Dallas and Fort Worth on April 20, 1897, which were in turn unearthed by researchers for a UFO investigatory group in Oklahoma.

In the weeks since the investigation began, scraps of metal — later described as "highly unusual" and "puzzling" by researchers who examined them — have been found at the reported crash site and submitted to laboratory tests. Also, a grave reputedly that

See UFOLOGIST on Page 4

Andrus noted that people of that time "thought someone had developed an airship and this is what they were seeing.

"But, call it 20-20 hindsight, we know today there was nothing of that type in 1897.

"Were these thousands of people merely seeing hallucinations?" he asked rhetorically.

"People who say there's nothing new under the sun are exactly right. We're seeing the same things today (the most recent 'flap' occurred during the first three days in August, 1965) people saw them."

One thing has changed, however, and that is the shape of the UFO's, said Andrus.

Reports from the 1890's described cigar-shaped or dirigi-

ble-type aircraft, he said, and the objects were always seen singly, not in groups.

Today's UFO's are disc-shaped, often with red or green lights. They have been reported singly, in pairs and in groups as well, and at speeds varying from "slow-moving" (like the craft of the 1890's) to "unbelievable."

Andrus will be in the Dallas area until Saturday. He plans to visit Aurora sometime during his stay. He also hopes to meet and talk with officials of the community and of the Aurora Cemetery Association in the hope of resuming on-site investigations which have been halted.

At Site Of UFO Crash

Odessan Recovers Mystery Metal

By JERRI OSBORN
American Staff Writer

Curiosity and a love for prospecting took Jack Hansen to Aurora Northeast of Dallas in Wise County.

He returned to Odessa with a mysterious metal and a "wait and see" attitude about the legend behind it.

Hansen says he neither believes nor disbelieves the legend that says the metal pieces are fragments of an "airship" that crashed in Aurora in 1897.

The few pieces Hansen found are kept in a small plastic box. He plans to keep them until someone determines the exact composition of the metal.

"It says right here that it is 75 per cent iron," Hansen says, pointing out an article in an astrology newspaper — July's issue but already well worn from handling and folding.

"I don't know," Hansen said when asked why the metal wasn't heavy like iron. "The scientists don't understand it either."

Dr. Tom Gray of North Texas State University terms the pieces of metal "unusual." They are not magnetic as iron is. They are shiny rather than dull like iron and soft instead of brittle.

Hansen, a coin collector, handles the metal like a precious stone. Unlike a precious stone, the metal isn't pretty or even impressive. It has striations that look like a piece of scratched tin adhered to a piece of rock, but it is not rock or tin. It is as light as aluminum but it is not

dug out the corner posts of the wood mill years ago.

"He said he cleaned out the well and gave a huge amount of metal he found there to the scrap metal drive during World War II," Hansen said. That means, if it turns out there was a "ship," Hansen said, "then some of our planes had some alien metal in them."

The legend says the pilot of the flying object was blown to pieces on impact.

There are two graves that are being considered as the possible burial site of the remains.

"One is marked with just a stone," Hansen said. He took pictures of both sites. "The stone they had on the other one was stolen sometime this summer," he continued.

UFO officials wanted to find the grave and dig it up earlier this summer. A court order, sought by some citizens of Aurora who feel the whole thing is a hoax, prevented the UFO personnel from entering the cemetery.

Hansen says a court order is now being sought by the UFO bureau to open the graves.

"It would be a simple matter to cover the graves back up if they turned out to be wrong," Hansen maintains.

But some people are just "stubborn" according to Hansen, referring to Aurora residents that continue to block the exhumation.

Hansen admits he has taken Oates' word for it when it comes to the fact that the metal he now possesses is the same as

the metal the UFO people took with them this summer and the same that Oates threw away so long ago.

And he says he doesn't believe all he's read about the metal or the legend or events surrounding it.

He was excited when he found the metal, though. "It was sort of like finding gold," he said comparing his feelings.

No, he won't sell the metal at any price. Not yet.



UFO probbers seek 'body'

Investigators turn to courts for exhumation

By **BILL CASE**
Aviation Writer

Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) investigators are turning to the courts in their efforts to get a reported legendary UFO pilot's body exhumed from a grave in an Aurora, Tex., cemetery.

The pilot was allegedly killed when his cigar shaped UFO collided with a windmill and exploded early on the morning of April 19, 1897. Newspaper reports of that day reported "the body was found not to be that of an inhabitant of this world. It was buried in Aurora Cemetery."

Over the 76 years since the incident was reported in Dallas and Fort Worth papers the story has been hotly debated, called a hoax by some and described as a true crash by others.

Walter H. Andrus, director of MUFON (Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network), whose investigators have been probing the report scientifically since last March, told The Dallas Times Herald Saturday:

"The testimony of witnesses, analysis of metals found at the scene and other information gathered in five months of in-

tensive investigation lead us to believe we should open the grave to settle the matter once and for all," Andrus said. "We still believe there is substance to the report."

Blocked in its efforts to exhume the grave by the Aurora Cemetery Association, Andrus said a MUFON attorney from Fort Worth will file papers in Wise County District Court asking the court to issue an exhumation order.

"No one knows who owns the burial plot where the grave is and there is no record of its occupant," Andrus explained. "Under these conditions the cemetery board could permit us to open the grave. But they steadfastly refuse."

"They have even gotten out a court injunction preventing UFO investigators from examining the cemetery and grave site under threat of criminal trespass."

If the Travis County District Judge also declines to issue an order to open the grave, Andrus said, MUFON will take the fight to Austin where a state agency has the power to overrule local authorities in such cases where an effort is being made to identify the occupant of a grave.

Since MUFON began its investigation the search has attracted international attention in newspapers and on radio and television. Reporters have descended on the hamlet of

Aurora 55 miles northwest of Dallas from as far away as Rome, Italy; Montreal, Canada; and Los Angeles.

In addition to its planned legal move, MUFON is continuing scientific analysis of metal samples dug from the earth at the crash site, Andrus said.

"Analysis thus far indicates most of the interesting samples contain aluminum but elements in the metal have been re-arranged and under spectroanalysis it doesn't show up in the same manner as most known alloys.

"There are many puzzling aspects to this case. But we believe exhuming the body would provide conclusive evidence one way or another," he said.

MUTUAL —MIDWEST UFO NETWORK (MUFON)

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SUBMITTED BY:

The Aurora Spaceman

By Bill Porterfield

Aurora

This is Wise County, Texas, just north of where the West begins, and here, upon this pretty little promontory which divides the Grand Prairie and the Western Cross Timbers, well here the town of Aurora once was. I say was because it's gone now, has been for more than 70 years. Oh, there are still a few people around, but the only businessman left is Brawley Oates, and Mr. Oates is not exactly setting the world on fire. If things continue as they have, Brawley will end his days in that little Arco service station, the only gas stop between Boyd and Rhome. (Those aren't local football heroes, but towns just west and east of here, towns that made it when Aurora couldn't - if you call a few hundred people coming together and hanging on for dear life making it.)

But back to Brawley Oates. The one in the gas station, not the two in the cemetery. You see the family goes back some. The first Brawley Oates - he was a lean old patriarch with a long white beard - was in this county, and a power to be reckoned with, as early as a hundred and twenty years ago. The point is that the Oateses are a patient people who don't run away when the going gets tough. And this place has had it, a number of times, through the years.

BUT NOW THINGS are looking up. People are starting to pay attention to Aurora again, to buy gas from Brawley. And it's all because of the man from Mars who is buried in the local cemetery, over there not far from the first two Brawley Oateses.

Well, I don't believe it, but a lot of people do, and that's what all the fuss is about. Whether to dig him up or not.

The good ladies and gentlemen of the Aurora Cemetery Association say let him lie in peace, whoever or whatever he is. And they are so adamant about it they've gone to a lawyer over in Decatur, which is the county seat, and had papers drawn up to try to prevent disturbance of any body in the cemetery.

On the other side are some characters who call themselves U. O. experts, and who identify themselves as being with various unidentified flying object networks. They haven't actually tried disinterment yet, but it is obvious they are itching to go at Aurora Cemetery with pick and shovel. They've been hovering about the graves for weeks with metal detectors and other witching rods, and they are convinced that

this grave - and if not this one then some other close by - holds the secret of the man from outer space.

The sole authority for all this hovering and itching is a seven-paragraph story which appeared on page five of the *Dallas Morning News* and on page four of the old *Fort Worth Record* 76 years ago. The dateline was Aurora, Wise County, Texas, April 17, 1897, and the story went as follows.

"About six o'clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing through the country.

"It was traveling due north, and much nearer the earth than ever before. Evidently some of the machinery was out of order, for it was making a speed of only ten or twelve miles an hour and gradually getting toward the earth. It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrible explosion, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one on board, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"Mr. T. J. Weems, the United States signal service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his

opinion that he was a native of the planet Mars.

"Papers found on his person - evidently the record of his travels - are written in some unknown hieroglyphics, and cannot be deciphered.

"The ship is too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its construction or motive power. It was built of an unknown metal, resembling somewhat a mixture of aluminum and silver, and it must have weighed several tons.

"The town is full of people to-day who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of the strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon to-morrow."

THAT WAS THE story, and the man who filed it signed his name at the bottom, S. E. Haydon. Haydon, it turns out, was an Aurora cotton buyer who on occasion served as a country correspondent for the city newspapers. From time to time in the years hence, when local news was slow and the national scene was depressing, feature writers have tended to dig up Mr. Haydon's old item and give it another run. It's usually at UFO time, when, for whatever reasons - perhaps spring and the running sap and the pulling moon - there is a rash of flying saucer reports and people begin to imagine we are being visited by creatures from outer space. Jerry Flemmons of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* has probably gotten more



mileage out of the Aurora spaceman than anyone, having sold the story to a dozen publications since 1966, and yet Flemmons has never taken the title seriously.

In fact no reporter had until Bill Case of the *Dallas Times Herald* came driving into Aurora one day in March wearing an Apollo flightjacket and a semi-scientific men's Case is an old eyed-in-the-hair Hearst-UPI man who came to the *Times Herald* several years ago to wind up a long reporting career in aviation, aerospace and medicine. This specialty was once at a premium in citivrooms when Uncle Sam was running Sputnik 1 race to the moon, but now, with NASA down in the doldrums with Nixon and lunar junkets a bore, reporters like Bill Case often find their stories buried back on the hog page.

But a Hearst man down is not a Hearst man defeated. I know that's what Albert Payson Terhune used to say about colie dogs, but the description fits members of this particular breed of reporter. They can sink their teeth into the driest bone and come up with some saliva of excitement. This must have been Bill Case's mood early this spring when, back in his corner at the *Times Herald*, he came across a little item in a newsletter put out by the International Unidentified Flying Objects Bureau of Oklahoma City. It said something to the

effect that one Mr. Hayden Hewes, who was with the IUFOP, was on his way to Texas to check out a legend that a pilot from another planet was buried in the Aurora cemetery. That was bone enough for Bill Case. He drove to Aurora and began inquiring around.

"We want to investigate this story," he would say, "and prove once and for all whether it is a hoax or the real thing." Who did he mean by We? "The *Times Herald* and MUFON," he would reply. MUFON is the Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network. Bill said he was not only a science writer for the *Times Herald* but a consultant with MUFON as well. The people could believe it. He looked very official. In fact, from a distance one resident took him to be either the dog catcher or the highway patrol. Olive khaki shirt, khaki trousers, metal-rimmed sun glasses. The oft-white car with a hard hat in the rear window. Upon closer inspection, Mr. Case was obviously with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Wasn't he wearing the insignia on his jacket? Some Aurorans who had scoffed at the legend began to have second thoughts. For in orbit with Case were several other investigators: Hayden Hewes and Tommy Blann with the Oklahoma outfit, Earl F. Watts of Duncanville, state director of astronomy for MUFON, and Fred N. Kelley, whom Case identified in his stories as a treasure hunter and lost metal detector out of Corpus Christi. Their titles were impressive, but when one saw their cars parked around Brawley Oates' service station, cars and campers with more surreal equipment than a deputy sheriff's convention painted by Dalí, one could only echo Edith Brown's reaction. "They're getting me to where I'm about to believe them," she declared. "I didn't think they would ever go to the moon, and they did!"

THE ATTENTION was focused around Brawley Oates because Brawley lives on the place where the airship was reported to have crashed back in '97, the old Proctor farm. The house is up on the hill just behind the service station, and back of it is the well where our science writer of old — or science fiction writer if you will — wrote that the airship came to earth, a galactic Quixote doing battle with a windmill.

Of course the windmill is gone, and over the well is a pump house which Brawley Oates has converted into a chicken coop. This is where the "scientific" scratching has been going on, the search for some bit of metal, some piece of proof that old S. E. Hayden wasn't a liar. Let's listen in on correspondent Case and Earl Watts as they explore the landing site of our unearthly being. Watts, a tall, thin man with eyes as wild as the blue yonder of his jump suit, holds a metal detector and walks about the chicken yard, followed by Case and a flock of curious hens. The metal detector beeps and whines.

CASE: Right here, Earl, try her right here!

WATTS: (Excitedly) I'm over 100 decibels and reading! Coming in strong here.

CASE: (Pointing at the spot) See, the same reading as at the grave! Now how deep are we, Earl, what would you say?

WATTS: Five feet, yes, the same, five feet, Bill.

CASE: (Grabbing a shovel and putting his foot into it) Let's dig. (And he digs, turning up earth and cache and artifacts of an old farmyard.) What's this? Look at that Earl. What would you say that was?

WATTS: (Scientifically) A, uh, a shotgun shell cap. Yes. A shotgun shell cap.

CASE: Junk! That's all we're getting, just junk! Oops. Here. What's this? (It is a rusty piece of tin, almost ore again.)

WATTS: (Putting down his detector, pulling out of his breast pocket a carbon-tipped stylus, he scratches the surface of the thing, then measures its width with a micrometer.) No, this is tin. Too thick and heavy for spaceship construction.

CASE: (Looking about) Yes, I think you're right. But the evidence certainly seems to support that there was some kind of crash, some kind of an explosion, around here. Look at the desolation. Nothing much seems to grow. But it's only bald here. The rest of the hill supports life.

THAT, ESSENTIALLY, is what has been going on here in Aurora since March. Bill Case or one of the grandsons of Brawley Oates leading the curious through a bunch of chicken . . . feathers.

Oh, some metal has been found, metal other than shotgun shell caps, old stove lids and horse bridle rings. The other day Benny Raspberry, Brawley's 12-year-old grandson, found a silver half dollar, minted in New Orleans and dated 1856. And Case and some of the other UFO experts have dug up fragments which seem to excite them a great deal, enough to qualify them for front-page treatment in the *Times Herald*.

Back in April the treasure hunter, Kelley, unearthed 12 pieces of lightweight metal which he said was unlike any metal he had ever seen. And right after that is when Case and the UFO men spotted what they feel is the grave of the spaceman.

What led them to it, Case said, were directions from an oldtimer. Case refuses to unmask with an identification. The other clue that led them to the grave in question was the unusual marking on the headstone. No name or anything, not S. E. Hayden's "unknown hieroglyphics," but the image of a spaceship carved clearly (at least it was clear to Case) in the stone. Case even sees port windows in the drawing. What I see (or saw) the stone has since been stolen) is a line of cracks which could be a spaceship if you wanted it to be, but clearly; at least to me, an if-you-want-it-to-be thing. Case's

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port windows seem to be circles of fossil in the rock.

Whatever is on the stone, the plot thickened when Watts' metal detector was held over the grave and registered the same readings as it did over the metal found at the well site.

This was enough for Hayden Hewes of Oklahoma IUFOP fame to tell Case and the world (thanks to the *Times Herald* and the wire service), "We are more convinced than ever that a UFO crashed here and that the pilot was killed and buried in this cemetery. Our attorneys are already checking to learn how we might have the body exhumed."

Hewes, a dramatic fellow in white boots (were Flash Gordon's boots white?) then took his metal samples and materialized back to Oklahoma.

The trustees of the cemetery, taking Mr. Hewes at his word, called out Wise County Sheriff Eldon Moyers to stand guard at the cemetery. Then they retained Decatur attorney Bill Nobles to fight any attempt to remove the body.

BUT IS THERE a body, earthly or unearthly, beneath that makeshift stone which was there one day and gone the next? Cemetery records only show that a man named C. A. Carr owned the plot. Carr's descendants cannot be found, so we don't know if Carr is buried there or somewhere else. Lynn McCrary, a welder, is president of the cemetery association, and he says a lot of people are buried in unmarked or unidentified graves. During the 1890's, people around here were dying from spotted fever and yellow fever, and many were interred quickly with no record.

The stone itself, the one with Case's spaceship carving, had been in the cemetery for at least 49 years, according to H. R. Idell, the town marshal. Where it came from, and where it went the other day, the marshal doesn't know. It is all very mysterious, he says, and has been since the day back in 1946 when he cleaned out Brawley Oates's water well, the well in cosmic question. The marshal came up with some melted metal which struck him as strange, and he says it resembles the stuff Case and the UFO diggers have found.

The reason Brawley Oates wanted the well cleaned was that he and his family wanted to drink from it. It had not been used in years. Well, they did drink from it, for 12 years. Then they quit. There was something about it that made them uneasy, an accumulation of misfortunes that may or may not have had anything to do with the well and its water.

First the youngest daughter, Sarah Lenore, died at the age of nine months, of a sickness the doctor could not pinpoint, although a polio epidemic was going on at the time. Then Brawley and his wife Bonnie developed arthritis, which in Brawley's case took on monstrous proportions when it was complicated by

gotter. Brawley's hands and feet are, so swollen and misshapen he has to sit in the service station and let his customers wait on themselves.

The other day, during all this flap about the spaceman and the well and the grave, some sightseer who gassed up at Brawley's pumps wondered aloud if maybe it wasn't radiation that had caused Brawley's medical problems. This is an example of how the story of the Aurora spaceman has gained momentum. Momentum and mutation.

Out of a meaningless mosaic of fragments, Bill Case has fashioned a fantastic feature story, which, coming as it has during the dog days of summer and Watergate, has been welcomed by readers around the world, as well as by those in Dallas and Fort Worth.

The *Times Herald* has recognized this, and has allowed Case wide latitude. Since March, Case and the spaceman have been in the paper almost every other day, often on the front page. Each new development (and most of them are generated by Case himself or his UFO friends) is reported with the earnestness of straight news, as if it is indeed a fact that men of science are taking seriously.

CASE HIMSELF is an old pro, especially with adjectives. "Highly sensitive" is one phrase that runs through his accounts of Watts' divining. This kind of emphasis tends to imbue a hundred and fifty dollar instrument with more savvy than it has. The same with Case's reporting of the laboratory tests on the metal dug up. It has not undergone mere identification, but "intensive analyses." When he brings up the treasure hunter, Case is careful to point out that Kelley is a "scientific" treasure hunter. The airship on the tombstone was "laboriously carved" into the rock.

The other day, on page one of his paper, Case reported that scientists had analyzed metal fragments from the well, and that they had concluded that it was an alloy which could not have been produced on earth until the 20th Century.

This is indeed earth-shaking news, as long as you forget that 1897 was but three years removed from said century. Or as long as you don't want to know the identity of the scientists who intensely analyzed the metal. Case identifies them only as people from one of the nation's leading aircraft manufacturers. He has to protect their names, he says, because as he puts it, "You know what the government's attitude toward UFOs is."

To lend even more credence to this posture of scientific inquiry, Case announced in the *Times Herald* that Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of Northwestern University's astronomy department, would take leave of Evanston, Ill., and descend upon Aurora "to evaluate the evidence."

Dr. Hynek was quoted as saying, "We have been following the scientific search of this site and the cemetery with great interest. Now looking at this most recent evidence it highly suggests the actual crash of an aerial object did occur."

"In view of both the identification of the metal and the testimony of some of the most highly respected members of pioneer families in the area who have given details of the reported crash, the likelihood that this is a hoax seems more and more improbable."

When I read this in the *Times Herald* it set me back some. Dr. Hynek's reputation is above reproach. Yet I could not help noticing that he talked the way Case writes.

My fears about Dr. Hynek's rationality were laid to rest. The good astronomer did not show up at Aurora. Case says it was because Dr. Hynek was sidetracked by MUFON's annual symposium in Kansas City, at which he was a speaker. It's hard to say what happened, whether Case was accurately quoting Dr. Hynek's interest and the doctor then cooled and backed out, or whether Dr. Hynek was merely courteous to Case and Case mistook it for a commitment. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Hynek left the country for Africa, London and New Zealand, and I haven't been able to catch him.


Here Coral Lorenzen enters the picture.

Sept. 21, 1973

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 **Submitted by:**

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She is secretary and co-founder of the world-renowned Aerial Phenomena Research Association, and she and her field investigators in Texas have been following the second flight of the Aurora spaceman with raised eyebrows. Their eyebrows are raised out of skepticism, not wonder. Lorenzen is blunt about it.

"The people who make up MUFON are people that we turn down as not being qualified and responsible investigators," she said. "They are publicity seekers, and in the case of Aurora we are going on the assumption that whatever rare metal is found at that well has been planted there. When I read Mr. Case's story, about Dr. Hynek preparing to go to Aurora, I picked up the phone and called Allen and read it to him. He was astonished and angry, and said he had either been misunderstood or misquoted." Dr. Hynek's office in Evanston confirmed that he had no interest at all in going to Aurora and that he would be out of the country for the rest of the summer.

Case lays all this to jealousy, but one senses in him a pulling back, a tendency now to soft-pedal the scientific probe and to play around with the possibility that it is all an old joke. He has always left himself this out, and will, I predict, paint himself out of the corner where the need for a good story has taken him. Out of it he has gotten a raise, a fat scrapebook of by-line stories, and a promotion in MUFON to state section chairman.

IT SEEMS UNCANNY to me, or maybe it's canny, that no one has explored the character of the three men who were in on the story from the beginning 76 years ago. They are S. E. Haydon, the Aurora cotton buyer who wrote the original story; Judge J. S. Proctor, into whose windmill the thing was supposed to have crashed; and T. J. Weems, whom Haydon identified in his story as a "United States signal service officer and authority on astronomy." Weems, you remember, was the one who decided that the spaceman was a Martian.

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Well, let's begin with Jeff Weems. There is no record or recollection that he was ever a Signal Service officer, much less an authority on astronomy. Mr. Haydon, it appears, was having some fun with the local blacksmith, for that was what T. J. Weems was — the town's farrier. Weems eventually moved to Rhome, just east of Aurora, where he ran a grocery store until his death in 1925 at the age of 82.

Haydon's article seems even more a bit of strictly terrestrial horseplay when its context is considered. In the *Morning News*, the story ran on page five, buried down toward the middle of a page that contained no less than 16 reports from as many area towns about an airship being sighted. (Remember that this was six and a half years before the Wright Brothers and Kitty Hawk.) The reports covered a period of two days, April 17 and 18, and quote many eyewitnesses from a nine-county radius. This would appear, on the surface, to give some weight at least to the possibility that something out of the ordinary was in the air of that long ago April.

But it doesn't really. One has only to read the stories to realize that what was in the air that Aries was a happy contagion of cosmic invention that caught the fancy of every village Jules Verne.

In Stephenville, out in Erath County, C. L. McIlhany, a farmer, talked to the two-man crew of an "aerial monster" that landed in his pasture. Mr. McIlhany's imagination, alas, was not as lofty as our own Mr. Haydon's. His airmen were not from Mars but from that other weird place, New York, and they were only testing the world's first "aeroplane," a cigar-shaped contraption powered by electrically-charged windmill fans. That was on April 17.

The next day, over in Waxahachie, in Ellis County, a Judge Love of that city had a similar experience, only this time the crewmen were long-lost Jews from the Ten Tribes of Israel. Since Biblical times they had been living in the North Pole, had learned English from the explorers Sir Hugh Willoughby and Sir John Franklin, and were on their way to the Centennial Exhibition in Nashville to show off their airship.

On the stories soared, taking rarefied forms, until Dr. E. Etuart of Ennis, Ellis County's foremost metaphysician, declared in the *Morning News* that the whole affair was due to hypnotism and bad whiskey.

HERE IN Wise County, on this caliche hill, the tale of the flying panatella, as Jerry Flemmons calls it, must have been as refreshing to S. E. Haydon and J. S. Proctor as the promise of rail service had been a few years earlier. Both were men of some substance, at least in character and leadership. They had staked their future on Aurora, had seen it boom and then, within a decade, wither before their eyes. Decatur

got the county seat and courthouse and the Bible College, Bridgeport got the coal mines, Boyd the Rock Island Line and Rhome the Ft. Worth & Denver. And Aurora? All Aurora got were the boll weevil and a disastrous downtown fire, and two fever epidemics that sent most of its citizenry to the cemetery, or in flight to other towns. By 1897 it was a ghost of its former self.

Yet Judge Proctor stood fast, because his family had been there since before the Civil War, because he was the justice of the peace. Haydon hung around because his wife and sons were in the graveyard, victims of the fever. What sustained them, this old Roy Bean and his cotton-man sidekick, we now realize, was a sense of humor.

The spaceman came to Aurora and Haydon and Judge Proctor had some laughs. Some relief. Can't you see them cooking it up, matching their version against those from other villages, and Haydon riding into the telegraph office in Rhome to file it with the city papers?

Robbie Reynolds Hanson was a girl of 12 at the time, and she remembers that Judge Proctor ran a story, similar to Haydon's but in the judge's words, in the little local paper he published, a two-sheeter called the *Aurora News*.

"Mr. Haydon called Jeff Weems a Signal Service officer," Hanson said, "but the only commissioned man in town was my father, J. D. Reynolds, and he was the constable. I remember it was around my birthday that Daddy was reading Judge Proctor's 'joke' in the *Aurora News* and laughing about it. The judge has gone and outdone himself this time! That's just how Daddy put it. 'Course no one took it seriously. The Judge and Mr. Haydon were known to be men who liked to tease. Why they were always writing satirical little essays and such for the paper!"

Ms. Haydon is not the only native who is astonished, and a little put out, that anyone would take the legend of the Aurora spaceman as gospel. It isn't that they can't cotton to the notion that man has company in the universe. That would be presumptuous. But they are storytellers, and realize the importance of myth. A cock-eyed story has its place, as does the reality of plain talk, and you have to be careful how you mix them. Both are too important to be abused.

That's the lesson I learned in Aurora, and I came away with a greater appreciation of the reality of those two good rogues, Judge Proctor and Mr. Haydon, than I do of the riddle they left us. The answer doesn't lie at Brawley Oates's wellhead, or even in the cemetery, but with Proctor and Haydon, wherever they are. I wish I could say where they are, but I can't. They seem to have disappeared, to have lost themselves, perhaps on purpose, perhaps the better to grin and bear us our interminable and intruding "science." □

contents

EDITORIALS VOL. 4, No. 11 - NOVEMBER 1973

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK 6

FEATURES

ILLICIT TREASURE—A BILLION DOLLAR BONANZA	11
UFO CRASH SITE LOCATED WITH METAL DETECTOR	16
HELL'S GATE RE-DISCOVERED	21
INDIANA'S \$96,000 CACHE	22
CHINESE TREASURE TOMBS	37
THE FIFTY DOLLAR MASON JAR	38
LOST SMUGGLER'S LOOT OF POINT REYES	57

TESTS

KOIN-KLEEN 50

HOW-TO

KNOW THE LAW 45

DEPARTMENTS

PONY EXPRESS LETTERS	8
THE BLOWPIPE	26
THE VIEW FROM HERE	31
LOST LEDGE	32
PEN PALS	34
TREASURE IN THE HEADLINES	40
CLUB NEWS AND EVENTS	42
THE BOTTLE MART	43
DOWSING FOR THE TREASURE HUNTER	48
CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS?	52
BELOW THE SURFACE	53
THE Q. AND A. DEPT	54
THE TREASURE BOOK SHOP	64

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Bob Grant • Editor
Mett Thornton • Articles Editor
John Ernsdorf • Art Director
Robert E. Lee • Advertising Director
Jerry Stanfield • Circulation Manager
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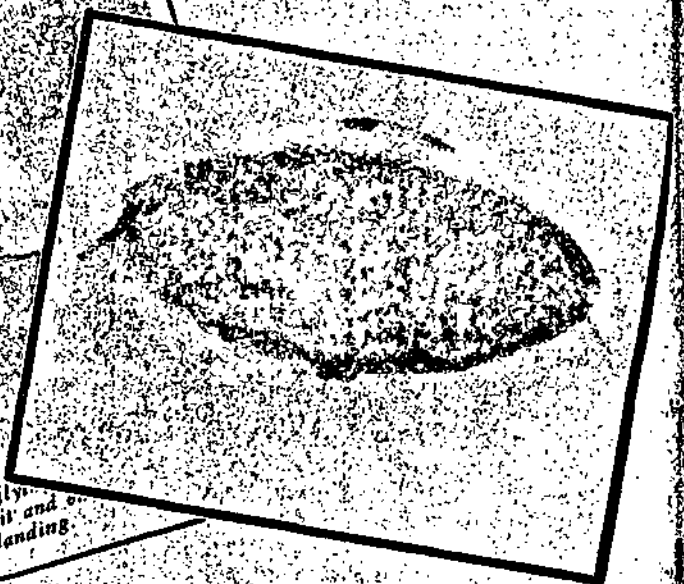


Government agents escort the 27-inch pilot of crashed flyer to reception. Pilot survived crash dressed in an aluminum suit and oxygen cylinder. Pilot presumably discarded aluminum suit upon landing.

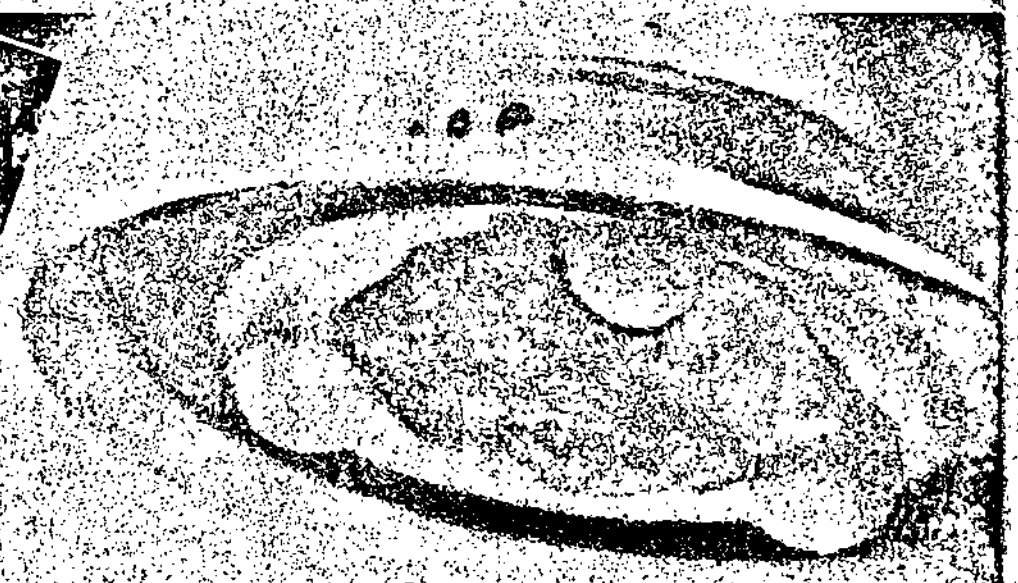
More than 6 years before the Wright Brothers made their historic flight introducing the airplane at Kitty Hawk in December 1903, a mysterious "airship" crashed at Auroa, Texas, killing the pilot.

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement," said Mary Evans, a 91-year-old woman who says she remembers the crash of the "airship" on that night of April 19, 1879. "A lot of people were frightened. Since it was years before we had any regular airplanes or any other kind of airships, people didn't know what to expect."

Recently scientists and UFO investigators armed with metal detectors gave the crash site a thorough going



FLYING S LOCATED WITH



over, and came up with some very unusual pieces of metal. Laboratories testing the metal said it was "puzzling" in that the recovered metal was 75% iron and 25% zinc with a few other trace elements present, but that the metal exhibited absolutely no magnetic properties the way iron normally would. "It is also shiny and malleable instead of dull and brittle like iron should be," said Dr. Tom Gray, a physics professor at North Texas University, one of the scientists testing the metal. Samples are being given a spectroscopic test and the information run through a computer bank of all known metals.

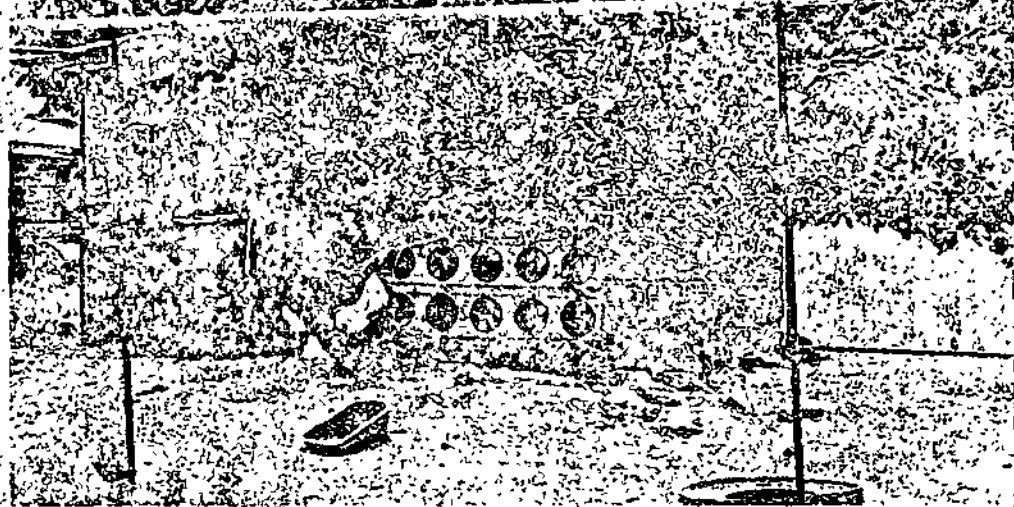
According to a radio report, the crash of the "airship" happened during a time when there were some 500 UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) reported over a 14-day period.

Mrs. Mary Evan's statements about the crash substantiated an April 20, 1897, report by H. E. Hayden, an Aurora newspaperman, who said: "The remains of the pilot were gathered together. It was determined he was not an inhabitant of this world and he was given a Christian burial in the Aurora Cemetery."

Over the years Hayden's story was debunked and branded as a hoax by the public as well as the press.

"I was only about 15 at the time," continued Mrs. Evans. "My mother and father wouldn't let me go with them when they went up to the crash site at Judge Proctor's well."

"When they returned home they told me how the airship had exploded. The pilot was torn up and



This old well-house, recently turned into a chicken coop, is the site of the 1897 UFO crash.

ferent laboratories and to one of America's largest aircraft manufacturers for complete examination and identification," said a MUFON spokesman. The metal has been described as very light in weight and amazingly did not corrode over the years. Another report stated that one sample of the metal was "as thin as Xerox paper and so strong powerful snips failed to cut it in two." An additional report said that the well beneath the windmill into which the UFO crashed had been "cleaned out" in 1945, and samples of the metal recovered at that time.

An Oklahoma man wanted to exhume the remains of the pilot, but

final check by running a detector over the grave site. The hand-made tombstone with the crude outline of a UFO on it had been stolen in June, and apparently the robbers probed down through the hole left by the stolen tombstone. They must have used long, slender, pointed, saw-toothed metal probes and accomplished the robbery in a "thoroughly professional manner." After the robbery Watts said he could no longer get any readings with his metal detector.

Prior detector readings established that the grave encompasses only about a 32-inch diameter circle in the rocky soil, and the grave stone was

SAUCER CRASH SITE A METAL DETECTOR

killed in the crash. The men of the town who gathered his remains said he was a "small man" and buried him that same day in the Aurora Cemetery.

Newspaper reports of the crash at the time said the "airship" collided with the windmill over Judge Proctor's well and the explosion blasted pieces of metal over several acres.

Using metal detectors, MUFON (Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network) investigators say they located a remote grave in the country cemetery where they received the same "decible" readings as they did from the sample of metal Dr. Gray was analyzing.

"We have sent at least seven different types of unusual metal to dif-

ferent laboratories and to one of America's largest aircraft manufacturers for complete examination and identification," said a MUFON spokesman. The metal has been described as very light in weight and amazingly did not corrode over the years. Another report stated that one sample of the metal was "as thin as Xerox paper and so strong powerful snips failed to cut it in two." An additional report said that the well beneath the windmill into which the UFO crashed had been "cleaned out" in 1945, and samples of the metal recovered at that time.

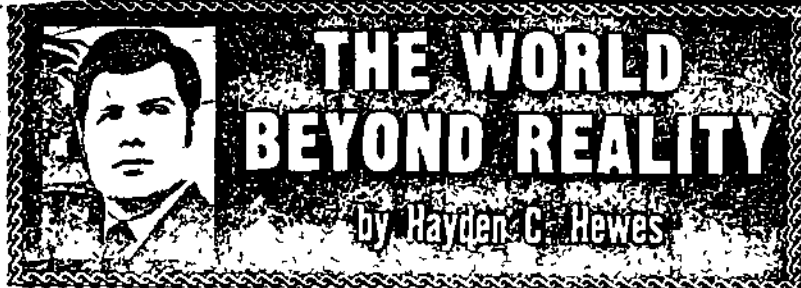
An Oklahoma man wanted to exhume the remains of the pilot, but

THE GRAVE SITE OF THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL BEING WAS PINPOINTED THROUGH METAL DETECTOR READINGS, BUT GRAVE ROBBERS STRIPPED THE SITE BEFORE INVESTIGATORS COULD EXHUME THE BODY LEGALLY

centered on top of this.

The robbery came at a time when MUFON people were trying to make arrangements for a private exhumation of the pilot's body. Now, presumably, there is nothing to exhume.

"This case is most important because it is the only reported crash of a UFO in which the pilot's body was recovered," said the official. "Our one goal has always been to prove or disprove Hayden's story was or was not a hoax." ■



THE WORLD BEYOND REALITY

by Hayden C. Hewes

(This is the continuation of Hayden C. Hewes' investigation into reports that a flying saucer had crashed in Texas in April, 1897.)

Lou Farish, who spent a great deal of time researching the reports of the flying saucer crash, feels it was all a hoax perpetrated by S.E. Hayden, the local writer-cotton buyer.

Farish wrote one letter to us, offering his opinions. "I'm not committed to the hoax explanation but everything has seemed to point in that direction," he wrote.

In another letter, Farish related to the author that the reason for the hoax was that Hayden hoped "to cash in on publicity from the genuine airship sightings in many parts of Texas at this time. Aurora was in danger of being bypassed by the railroad, and he was hoping the publicity would cause the railroad company to change its mind."

In June, 1972, Daniel Garcia of the International UFO Bureau wrote to the Texas State on Aurora. Library and obtained historical information on Aurora.

The report stated: "During these 'boom days' of Newark (a neighboring town), Aurora, the best Wise County town at that time, began a demise. There were three very good reasons for this. The roadbed for a railroad to be known as the 'Dallas-Albuquerque' was surveyed through their district. Construction was slow, due to the fact that there was no power equipment, only 'team power', and hand power with pick and shovel. The horse-drawn scoop did the excavation work.

"The 'Dallas-Albuquerque' never reached completion. Some old-timers attributed the failure to a fund depletion. This was a set-back to Aurora. The second reverse to progress came on a windy day when the entire western business section was destroyed by fire. On the heels of this tragedy, a greater catastrophe occurred in the form of the 'spotted fever epidemic' that caused a virtual stampede of the populace (1890)."

S.E. Hayden, who lost his wife and two of his four sons in the spotted fever epidemic has been described as an egotist, a man who wanted to be important. If there is a clue to a hoax in Hayden's story, it is in the signal service officer's identification. T.J. Weems actually was Jeff Weems, Aurora's blacksmith.

Bureau Public Relations Director Dan Garcia then wrote to Jerry Flemmons of the Fort Worth Star Telegram, who had written an article about the incident. Garcia requested any information that might have not been included in the original article. Flemmons replied by saying. "For the first and last time, no, absolutely not. No space ships. No Martians. You have my word that if Aurora was indeed the site of an actual Martian-driven space ship disaster, Holiday Inn would have one of its motels on the site, billboards would point the way, and you and everybody would be paying \$2 a head just to look and purchase plastic replicas of the space ship, or plastic ash trays with pictures of Martians on them."

The search for the Aurora Astronaut by officials of the International UFO Bureau, in an effort to determine if the legend is true or not, have resulted in the following conclusions.

It is the opinion of the Bureau that the entire story is not a hoax; that in fact something was observed. But no evidence has been presented to establish the identification of what the object was or what grave the 'alien' is buried in, if there was an occupant.

One thing remains; Brawley Oates is a true believer in the story. Oates says he first moved to the farm in 1945, and didn't hear anything about the UFO incident until an article came out in a newspaper about it 12 years ago. "At the time, I didn't think anything about it," he said. "I didn't think there was any such things as flying saucers. But I sure do now."

One thing that weighs heavily with Oates is that doctors have told him his arthritis may be the result of radiation poisoning.

When Oates took possession of the place, he cleaned the partly-filled well and used it for drinking water for 12 years. Oates thinks the water in the well may have been radioactive.

His gnarled, grotesquely deformed hands baffled doctors who, he said, have never seen anything like it.

Geiger counters used by the Bureau failed to detect anything but normal background radiation.

The controversy in the Aurora incident continues but at this point in time, it is only the unexplainable legend of Wise County, Texas.



MIDNIGHT

The World Beyond Reality

by Hayden C. Hewes

(This is the continuation of Hayden C. Hewes' investigation into reports that a flying saucer had crashed in Texas in April, 1897.)

Several fragments of the 'unknown metal' were submitted to several universities for analysis. The first analysis was conducted by Dr. Tom Gray, a physics professor at North Texas State University. His report stated, "Frankly, I'm puzzled. It's very interesting scientifically. It's mostly iron," referring to one of four metal fragments he was testing, "about 25 percent zinc, but it's not magnetic. Now that wouldn't be unusual if it were stainless steel, but it's not stainless steel. I don't know what it is." Gray said.

Samples were submitted to one of the nation's leading aircraft manufacturers. A spokesman said in a preliminary report, "One of the seven different pieces submitted for examination is highly unusual. We are giving this a complete run-down, including spectroscopic tests and a feedback run-through in a computer bank of all known metals." Several days passed until the analysis was released.

In a story on the final report, the Dallas Times Herald said, "Fragments of metal believed to be pieces of a UFO which reportedly exploded at a well site in Aurora, Tex., April 19, 1897, have not been produced on earth until early in the 20th century," scientists have reported to The Times Herald.

"This is an aluminum alloy of a type which could not possibly have been made prior to 1908, 1910, or even as late as 1920," explained the scientists of one of the nation's leading aircraft manufacturers. The report continued, "The remainder proved to be iron, steel, and lead, which we can tell from the corrosive effects they have undergone having been buried there for many years. Some of them were so corroded they have lost all of their magnetism," the scientists said.

Following the announcement of the analysis, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of Northwestern University astronomy department and one of the nation's leading authorities on UFOs, was notified of the identification of the metal. Dr. Hynek told The Times Herald, "In view of both the identification of the metal and the testimony of some of the most highly respected members of pioneer families in the area who have given details of the crash, the likelihood that this is a hoax seems more and more improbable."

The International UFO Bureau, headquartered in Oklahoma City, Okla., reopened the Aurora file following further investigation of the incident by Tommy Blann, deputy director, during the summer of 1972.

Av-Writer Tells 99's All About Mystery Crash

The story of a mysterious crash that demolished a windlass and killed the "pilot" of an extraterrestrial cigar-shaped flying object on April 19, 1897, at Aurora, Texas, several decades before the beginning of the Flight Age on earth, was told by William (Bill) Case, Dallas Times Herald aviation editor, for Fort Worth chapter of Ninety-Nines.

Case was principal speaker for the annual Wright Brothers Memorial Dinner of the chapter on Dec. 16 at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth. He was introduced by Tony Page, publisher of Cross Country News.

John D. Jackson, raconteur, humorist and ground instructor with American Airlines Academy of Flight, was master of ceremonies for the dinner, and Mrs. Al Hall Jr. of Arlington was chairman. Lorraine Waddell is chairman of the Fort Worth group of Ninety-Nines.

Spotlighting a UFO sighting that has refused to die despite the passage of almost 77 years and efforts of townspeople to play down the mysterious crash that threatened to disrupt their privacy, Case told the story of his own research and efforts to interview survivors and

descendants of survivors of the crash. The pilot, described in various ways as non-human or non-earthly, was buried in Aurora, and continues to be the target of scientific researchers, although all evidence of metal has been removed from inside the grave, presumably by metal-recovery devices, and exhumation orders have been refused.

The legend is a matter of lively curiosity to UFO researchers. Despite the mountains of notes and clippings on the Aurora incident he has amassed, Case obviously will go on trying to get the inside story, both of the crash and of that lonely grave in an Aurora cemetery.

DEC. 7, 1972

The Spaceman Who Cannot Rest

Aurora, Tex.

IF THE LITTLE MAN from outer space hadn't died when his cigar-shaped spaceship plowed into Judge J.S. Proctor's window on April 19, 1897, this would be like any other rural community left to wither when the railroad went elsewhere just after the turn of the century.

In fact, that's exactly what most of its residents would like it to remain — a quiet farming and ranching community of 273 persons, a dot on the more intricate state maps, an obscure community 45 miles northwest of Dallas in a county where the biggest town has 3750 residents and the biggest event is the annual Chisholm Trail Days each June.

Instead, much to the exasperation of many of its residents, Aurora has become a shrine to watchers of unidentified flying objects, the scene of periodic attempts to dig up the remains of what is reputed to be the only being from outer space said to be buried on earth.

H.R. Idell, the town's marshal and attendant at Bonnie Oates's Arco station, right in front of the bluff where the little man supposedly fell to earth, says he's not sure if the story is true but his wife's grandmother used to say she heard the crash.

"Me, I'd like to see what's down in there," he says.

Such remarks are enough to send many residents into fits of profound depression. Members of the local cemetery association have spent evenings camped out at the site to prevent the body from being exhumed. The association has been threatened with suits and subjected to verbal abuse. And members are unanimous in saying there was no spaceman, there was no spaceship. Judge Proctor didn't even have a window, they say, and there's only a ludicrous hoax kept alive in UFO newsletters and newspaper reports.

"It's not true," said one member, who asked

not to be identified. "It's all nonsense. We'd appreciate it if people would just let it drop. I wasn't here at the time, but I've got some common sense, and I know none of those stories ever jibed."

Aurora was saved from anonymity by one S.E. Hayden, a local cotton-buyer and correspondent for Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers, who wrote the newspaper stories solemnly describing the crash that allegedly dismembered the pilot and destroyed the judge's window, watering trough and flower garden.

"However," Hayden reported, "enough remains were picked up to determine it was not an

The Now Society



He made a dulcimer and played it for me one summer evening—the air smelling of lawn, sparkling with fireflies. And I said to myself, "Why am I listening to this awful music?"

inhabitant of this world. The men of the community gathered it up, and it was given a Christian burial in the Aurora cemetery.

Except for an Oklahoma City researcher of unidentified flying objects who contended that he had proof the story was true, proponents of exhumation say they are not sure the man from outer space is buried in the cemetery here. And they say there was a nationwide UFO craze in April 1897, marked by dozens of obviously spurious sightings. But this is the only place where a being is supposed to be buried, and efforts should be made to find out if it's true, they say.

"We exhume bodies on much less cogent legal and scientific grounds than this," said Ray Stanford, director of Project Starlight International in Austin. "If it's not a human body, then we have the first remains of an extraterrestrial being. If it is, then we can once and for all say it's a bunch of baloney."

The little man's grave marker was stolen several years ago, and there is now some dispute about exactly where the grave is and much doubt about what could remain in it.

Of the two living residents who were children in 1897, one is all but deaf and the other is hospitalized with a heart condition. Neither has claimed to have witnessed the crash.

And as the years go by, the debate over the Aurora spaceman gets increasingly obscure, the facts all but unobtainable, and the whole thing becomes an exercise in reading headstones that have long since been weathered smooth.

Chances are a definitive answer to the riddle of the Aurora spaceman is about as likely as a suitable explanation to the question posed in the epitaph of Nellie Burris, dead at 18 months, and buried in the same cemetery.

"As I was so soon done," it reads, "I don't know why I was begun."

New York Times

Mystery of the unknown spaceman's 'lost grave'

By MIKE JAMES

THERE is a spaceman buried in the cemetery in Aurora, Texas, UFO experts claim.

People in this small town have been telling stories about the alien creature for years.

Now investigators from the Mutual UFO network say they have startling proof that an unmarked grave contains the remains of a spaceman and pieces of the spaceship that crashed into a nearby hilltop in April, 1897.

The investigators say some elderly residents remember the crash and have pinpointed the spaceman's unmarked grave.

Fragments of molten metal have been found at the exact spot where the spaceship supposedly landed.

And mysterious events have occurred at the spaceman's grave.

"Many people are convinced that the Aurora crash is a hoax, but we've investigated the site 29 times and we're not convinced," said Walter Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network (Mufon), an international organization which investigates UFOs.

The former town marshal, H.R. Idell, told us where the grave was and another elderly resident of a rest home also described it.



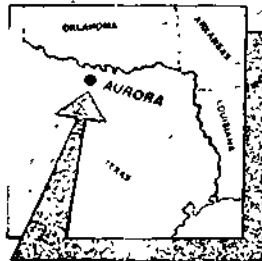
LOOTED... graveyard where "spaceman" is buried.

Crash

When the crash supposedly occurred, 82 years ago, the local newspaper in this tiny town just north of Dallas noted, that although the body in the cigar-shaped ship was badly dismembered enough remains were picked up to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world.

The people of Aurora gathered up the remains and gave them a Christian burial in the graveyard.

There's only one spot where the old folks say the grave was. Andrus told GLOBE. But someone came along and



LANDING SITE

stole the grave marker. "After that, someone else ran a three-inch pipe down into the grave and looted whatever was in there.

"We know there was some metal down there, but whatever it was was taken."

"The most concrete evidence so far," he continued, "is the metal fragment we found at the crash site."

Professional metallurgists have analyzed the metal and found it to be a unique aluminum alloy unlike anything available at the time.

Hunt for spaceman's body goes on

By TOM TIEDE

AURORA, Texas (NEA) — There's almost nothing to do in this north Texas farm community. The nearest city is Dallas, 45 miles to the East, and the nearest beach is on the Gulf Coast, down towards Mexico. The only business in town is a service station — and it's not open much anymore.

Yet each summer, when Americans are touched by warm weather wanderlust, hundreds of tourists motor into Aurora. They bring their sun glasses, their cameras and their walking shorts, and they stay for a few hours, or a few days, prowling roads and observing natives as if it were Tampico.

They aren't looking for a good time, however.

They are looking for the man from outer space.

The tourists in Aurora are UFO watchers. They believe this wide spot in the road is a shrine to their convictions. Many years ago, they say, a great space ship fell from the sky and crashed here; the pilot of the craft was supposed to have been killed and then buried for the ages in this place.

The tourists then come to find the body, or what's left of it. They search the reported crash site, on a hill behind the gas station, and they study the grave markers at Aurora's small cemetery. If even a bit of bone can be found, they say, it will change the course of human thought.

A bit of bone? Most locals snicker up their sleeves at the visitors. The opinion among townsfolk is that the story of the dead spaceman is a hoax. At the same time, residents

admit the hoax is founded on a vague fact, records indicate that something of this sort may indeed have happened here.

The year was 1897. And though the first flight of the Wright brothers was still eight years away, people across America were sighting propelled objects in the sky. For example, several Texans reported seeing a cigar-shaped vehicle, lighter than air, cruising low over cowboy country.

No one in Aurora paid attention to the sighting reports. This was a bustling region at the time, growing with the nation, and there was little pause for nonsense. Then, on April 9 of that year, reportedly at 6 a. m., a UFO allegedly slipped from the heavens and exploded in the middle of town.

The record of the occasion was compiled by a Dallas newspaper correspondent named F. E. Hayden. He apparently got most of his information from Aurora resident T. J. Weems. The latter told the former that the crash was observed and verified by numerous early risers in the community.

Hayden wrote that the UFO was a space craft, and smashed into property belonging to J. S. Proctor, a judge. He quoted Weems as saying the explosion lit up the morning sky, and left debris over three acres. Weems added there was a body among the debris, and it was "not of this world."

The body was thought to be the ship's pilot. It was identified, as being dressed in a blue uniform, not unlike a sailor suit. Weems told Hayden the corpse was badly mangled, but, happily, "The men of



UFO watchers consider Aurora a shrine to their convictions. According to published reports at the time, a spaceship allegedly crashed in the middle of town April 6, 1897. Reportedly, a body, found in the debris was buried in this cemetery.

the community gathered it up, and it was given a Christian burial in the Aurora cemetery.

The grave is said to have been small to have been distinguished with a hand-made stone which was inscribed with a drawing of a cigar-

shaped object. Aurora residents say the marker was not really hand-made, and that the inscription closely resembled the scrape of a plow.

The residents concede the crash of 1897 probably occurred. But that's as much credence as they'll allow the story of the dead spaceman. They believe the town was hit by a meteorite, and Weems and Hayden embellished the moment, they say. Hayden was a well-known writer of satirical fiction.

This local opinion was butwarmed a few years ago by Dr. Alfred Krause, a Texas researcher, he dug at the crash site and found nothing more extraterrestrial than a 1932 license plate. As for the spaceman's grave, it's "officially" occupied by an itinerant named Carr who died of yellow fever.

True believers have their own side of it, of course. For one thing, some visitors have reported finding "odd metals" at the crash site. One piece of metal was aluminum, and the oddity is that it was said to be buried too deeply to be of modern origin. Aluminum was not in common use in 1897.

Additionally, the spaceman theory is supported by the only man in Aurora who personally remembers the crash. Charles Stevens was just a child then, but he says his father saw something fall into Judge Proctor's property, and, he adds, "There might have been two or three spacemen. I don't know."

No one knows. And it's unlikely that anyone ever will. The spaceman's gravestone was stolen years ago, and the grave itself has been eroded and lost. Rest in peace, whoever you are.

Eliz Daily July 28, 1979

Tourists hunt spaceman's body

By Tom Tiede

AURORA, Texas — There's almost nothing to do in this north Texas farm community. The nearest city is Dallas, 45 miles to the East, and the nearest beach is on the Gulf Coast, down towards Mexico. The only business in town is a service station — and it's not open much anymore.

Yet each summer, when Americans are touched by warm weather wanderlust, hundreds of tourists motor into Aurora. They bring their sun glasses, their cameras and their walking shorts, and they stay for a few hours, or a few days, prowling roads and observing natives as if it were Tampico.

They aren't looking for a good time, however.

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TOMB OF VISITOR FROM SPACE?
...search goes on

heavens and exploded in the middle of town.

Many years ago, they say, a great space ship fell from the sky and crashed here; the pilot of the craft was supposed to have been killed and then buried for the ages in this place.

The tourists, then, come to find the body, or what's left of it. They search the reported crash site, on a hill behind the gas station, and they study the grave markers at Aurora's small cemetery. If even a bit of bone can be found, they say, it will change the course of human thought.

A bit of bone? Most locals snicker up their sleeves at the visitors. The opinion among townfolk is that the story of the dead spaceman is a hoax. At the same time, residents admit the hoax is founded on a vague fact; records indicate that something of this sort may indeed have happened here.

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The body was thought to be the ship's pilot. It was identified as being dressed in a blue uniform, not unlike a sailor suit. Weems told Hayden the corpse was badly mangled, but, happily, "The men of the community gathered it up, and it was given a Christian burial in the Aurora cemetery."

The grave is said to have been small and round. It is also said to have been distinguished with a handmade stone which was inscribed with a drawing of a cigar-shaped object. Aurora residents say the marker was not really handmade, and that the inscription closely resembled the scrape of a plow.

The residents concede the crash of 1897 probably occurred. But that's as much credence as they'll allow the story of the dead spaceman. They believe the town was hit by a meteorite, and Weems and Hayden embellished the moment; they say Bayden was a well-known writer of satirical fiction.

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FIRST IN A SERIES OF INVESTIGATIONS BY THE NEWS INTO AMAZING TRUE-LIFE UFO MYSTERIES

Is mysterious alien pilot buried near crash site of UFO in Texas?

By TOM MURRAY

The remains of an incredible space creature — reportedly killed in the crash of his strange space craft — is believed to be buried in an old Texas cemetery.

The bizarre story made headlines in several respected newspapers shortly after dozens of citizens of Aurora, Tex. (pop. 197) reported seeing the mysterious craft crash into a windmill on April 17, 1897. Amidst the mangled wreckage of his craft, which was said to be made of an unknown metal, the frightened villagers found the remains of the creature.

They gave him a Christian burial and hoped the matter would be quietly forgotten. It wasn't.

In the years since, thousands of UFO believers have flocked to Aurora looking for the body of the creature from outer space.

UFO organizations have bitterly fought the local authorities for permission to exhume the body — if it is still there. But so far the courts have barred investigators from digging up the cemetery.

The incident happened at the height of an unprecedented wave of UFO sightings.

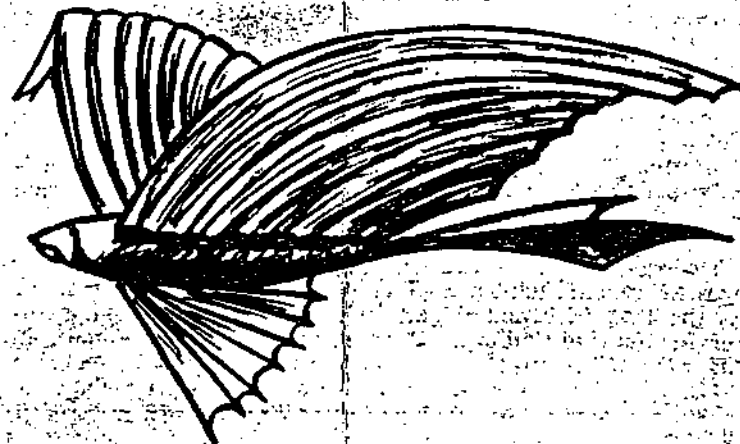
For 10 days, strange airships, as the newspapers called them, buzzed the U.S. from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

People who saw the mysterious craft regarded them as flying ships — airplanes were not to be invented for another six years.

Here's how the Dallas Morning News reported the Aurora Incident at the time:

"Aurora, Wise Co., Tex., April 17 — About 6 o'clock this morning, the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing through the country

UFOs — what are they? Do they come from a far-off civilization in space? Are they some bizarre freak of nature? In the next few weeks, The NEWS will investigate some of the strangest UFO stories — abductions, close encounters and, this week, the eerie mystery of the corpse buried in a Texas graveyard just before the turn of the century.



A man who saw the UFO over Weatherford, Tex., drew this sketch of the "airship" that looked to him like a prehistoric bird.

collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one on board, and while the remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"Papers found on his person — evidently the record of his travels — are written in some

was removed to stop people from trying to dig up the body.

Some have maintained the Aurora crash was only a hoax. But believers have been bolstered by the fact that hundreds of "various and sober citizens" reported seeing flying objects surge through the skies that April.

The Dallas Morning News, which tried to be skeptical, commented:

"Ghost hunters, quail eaters and high divers and high jumpers have been relegated to the rear and the biggest man in the country today is the pilot of





Final resting place for an alien from outer space? Many experts believe it is buried in this old Aurora, Tex., cemetery.

Witness saw 'huge black monster'

Stunned eyewitnesses offered graphic descriptions of the incredible Aurora Incident. Some likened the airship to a bird. Others said it looked like a cigar. One said it was a "huge black monster."

Among the eyewitness accounts in the April 18, 1897, issue of the Dallas Morning News were these:

A "gentleman and lady, whose reputation for truthfulness cannot be assailed," spotted a bright light crossing the sky near Denton, Tex.

The man, who was not identified, told the paper:

"I at first thought it was a meteor, but upon closer examination, discovered that it was moving slowly in a southeasterly direction.

"At this slow rate of speed, the ship continued its course for a few minutes, and then, with almost a jump, started off at a terrific rate and disappeared in the southeast."

He described the object as being cigar-shaped, about 50 feet long with a "long beak or blade resembling a cutwater on a ship."

He added: "At the point where the beak joined the main body, a powerful search light threw its

height of an unprecedented wave of UFO sightings.

For 10 days, strange airships, as the newspapers called them, buzzed the U.S. from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

People who saw the mysterious craft regarded them as flying ships — airplanes were not to be invented for another six years.

Here's how the Dallas Morning News reported the Aurora incident at the time:

"Aurora, Wise Co., Tex., April 17 — About 6 o'clock this morning, the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing through the country.

"It was traveling due north, and much nearer the earth than ever before. Evidently some of the machinery was out of order for it was making a speed of only ten or twelve miles an hour and gradually settling toward the earth.

"It sailed directly over the public square and, when it reached the north part of town,

rays far into the night ahead. A row of windows along the side gave out smaller lights the source of which must have been stored electricity, as there was no smoke, nor was there even a sign of a smoke-stack."

Lawyer J. Spence Bounds, of Hillsboro Hill, Tex., reported he was driving home from visiting a client when "I was astonished by a brilliant flash from an electric search light which passed directly over my buggy. I was almost frightened to death by it.

"My horse was also frightened and came near overturning the buggy. He snorted, reared and plunged madly. My hair stood straight up.

"Fortunately the light rested on us scarcely a second, but glided along over the fields and the country until it was suddenly turned upward toward the heavens.

"Then I beheld, about 1,000 feet above me, a huge black monster from which a light emanated.

"It was in a shape something like a cigar. The search light was presently shut off and a number of incandescent lights flashed around the lower edge of the body of the vessel or whatever it was."

A man who saw the UFO over Weatherford, Tex., drew this sketch of the "airship" that looked to him like a prehistoric bird.

collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one on board, and while the remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"Papers found on his person — evidently the record of his travels — are written in some unknown hieroglyphics, and can not be deciphered. The ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its construction or motive power. It was built of an unknown metal, resembling somewhat a mixture of aluminum and silver and it must have weighed several tons.

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of the strange metal from the debris.

"The pilot's funeral will take place at noon tomorrow."

Many years later, an old-timer, G.C. Curley, told a reporter how friends had seen the airship and the dead pilot.

"They said it was difficult to describe the pilot. They saw only a torn-up body. I don't know what happened to the pilot's body."

Most stories say, however, that the body was buried in the Aurora cemetery.

In 1973, The International UFO Bureau tried to get a court order to exhume the space creature's body which they believed was in a grave in an obscure corner of the cemetery.

But local cemetery association leaders successfully resisted.

Later a marker on the suspected space creature's grave

was removed to stop people from trying to dig up the body.

Some have maintained the Aurora crash was only a hoax. But believers have been bolstered by the fact that hundreds of "various and sober citizens" reported seeing flying objects surge through the skies that April.

The Dallas Morning News, which tried to be skeptical, commented:

"Ghost hunters, quail eaters and high divers and high jumpers have been relegated to the rear and the biggest man in the country today is the pilot of the airship, that mysterious aerial plunger, seen in the heavens for the past ten days from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico."

The mystery of the fallen spaceman persists to this day — with a new twist. Did the dead pilot's comrades come to visit his grave?

In 1977, Mrs. Florence Curley, who lived on a farm near Aurora, twice saw airships settle in her nearby pasture.

They didn't stay long — only minutes — but perhaps it was long enough for a visit to the last resting place of a loved one.



**Next week:
Is this the
face of a
space alien?**

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS
October 16, 1979

Is spaceman buried in tiny Texas town?

By DENNIS STACY

The tiny North Texas farming community of Aurora sits astride Highway 114, in Wise county, just above Fort Worth.

At the edge of town, ringed with a low wrought iron fence and dotted by an occasional oak tree, is the city cemetery.

More than 80 years ago, say the stories, someone or something, not of this earth, was laid to final rest there. A crude tombstone which once marked the spot has since been stolen, but the questions and controversy remain.

What really lies buried below?

Students of history and hoax have been trying to answer that question, without notable success, since the turn of the century.

The answer could stand the scientific world on its embarrassed ear and rewrite the history of aviation on this planet. It could just as easily reaffirm one's faith in human gullibility.

Back in '97

Just before sunrise, on April 17, 1897, C.C. "Charlie" Stevens and his father were putting their cattle out to feed. The two men looked up in time to see a huge, cigar-shaped airship sail overhead.

Bearing a brilliant white searchlight, the airship was making straight for the town of Aurora. Young Stevens remembered watching the object sink lower and lower in the still dark sky.

Suddenly, it crashed and exploded on the high hill topping Judge J. S. Proctor's farm. A blazing ball of fire mushroomed up through the darkness, lighting up the landscape for miles around.

The following day Stevens' father rode into town, but by the time he arrived at the crash site, all that remained of the airship was "a mass of torn metal and burned rubble." Stevens never said anything about seeing a body in the wreckage.

The newspapers heard about it, though. A few days later the old Fort Worth Register carried the following story:

"At 6 o'clock this morning, the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship, which has been sailing throughout the country.

"It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank, and destroying the judge's flower garden."

Now came the blockbuster: "The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world."

Remains buried

According to later accounts, the pilot's remains were hurriedly buried in the Aurora cemetery.

A headmarker, bearing the outline of the strange contraption which had crashed into the judge's windmill, was rudely chiseled out and put in place.

Photographs were taken of it still in place as recently as 1973.

By itself, the story of the Aurora airship crash would have probably merited an honorable niche in the Dubious Journalism Hall of Fame.

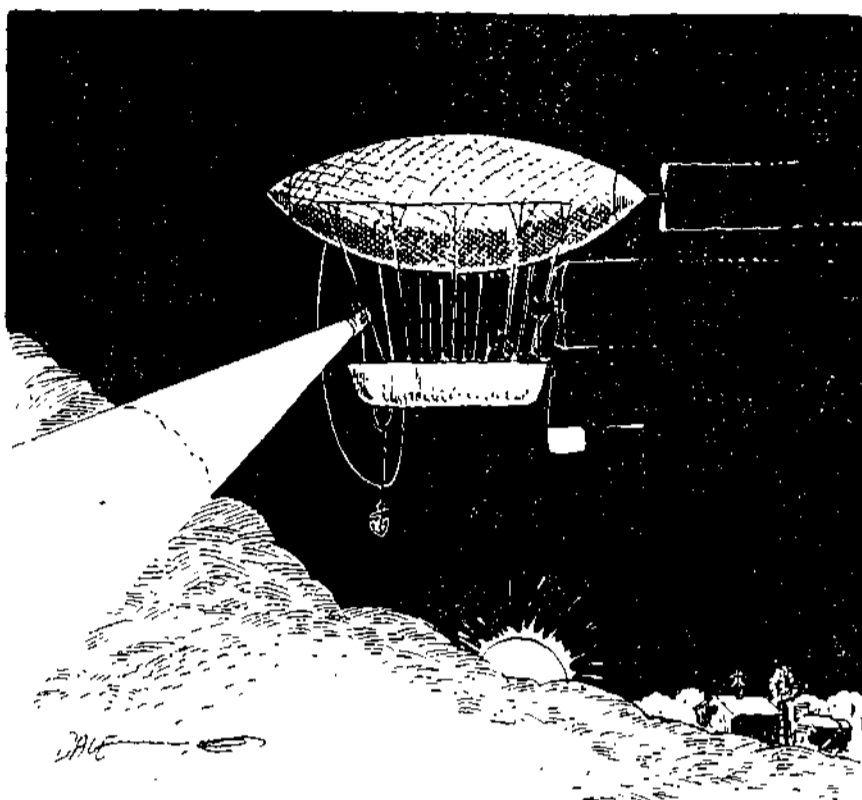
"But oddly enough, reports of a gigantic, dirigible-like contrivance sailing through the skies of the mid and southwestern United States were rampant in the spring of 1897.

The airship was seen over Illinois, Ohio, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, and as far west as California at a time when the Wright Brothers were still building bicycles.

Details differed. In general, the airship was described as more than 100 feet long and capable of speeds in excess of 60 mph. Eyewitnesses said it carried a blinding white light in its bow.

Others spoke of red and green running lights seen along the side of the ship, and of a huge pair of wings, "like those of a butterfly."

Where the airship came from or where it went, no one knew, although theories abounded. One newspaper attributed it to Thomas Edison, since he had invented everything else.



TEXAS STRANGE

Fourth of a series

Two of the reports ended with crashes, but neither quite rivalled the unique flair of the Aurora incident with its dramatic dismemberment and burial.

Yet how factual were the old newspaper reports? In 1972, people began trying to find out in earnest.

UFO probers

First on the scene at Aurora were investigators from the International UFO Bureau, out of Oklahoma.

Then Bill Case, aviation writer for the Dallas Times Herald, got wind of the story.

Case visited the cemetery and the alleged crash site 29 times, searching out oldtimers, taking interviews and running a metal detector over the ground.

Case was the first newsman to talk with Charlie Stevens, now nearing his nineties. In early 1973, he published a series of articles revealing his investigations.

The same year he took a team of reporters and photographers on a tour of the once tranquil cemetery. Electronic readings taken over the grave itself indicated the presence of at least three metal fragments buried below.

At the time, Frank Kelley, a professional treasure hunter from Corpus Christi, was going over the crash site with a similar device.

Several fragments were recovered and later subjected to chemical analysis. According to scientists at McDonnell Douglas laboratories, the metal pieces showed evidence of an unusual crystalline structure which they called "curious."

Case later described the fragments as a type of metal "which could not have been produced on earth until early in the 20th century.

Question

The question was, of course, how long had the fragments been in the ground before their discovery? Some of the pieces were found embedded in the natural limestone, lending credence to the theory of an airship crash and explosion.

Still, the evidence was inconclusive; the fragments could have found themselves there at a much later date by what ever means.

With the metallurgical leads at a dead end, attention naturally returned to the gravesite itself. What about the metal down there?

Indeed, what about whatever else was down there? Shouldn't there be pieces of bone, a suit, or something equally conclusive?

As investigators soon discovered, however, putting a body in the ground was much easier than getting it out again.

Troubles first began when a team of investigators composed of Case and members of the Mutual UFO Network (103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas) tried to verify the buried metal deposits.

As a consequence of the on-going publicity, someone had stolen the ancient headmarker showing the airship. To complicate matters further, the metal detector now failed to register.

"Someone with some very sophisticated equipment apparently came along, located the metal in the grave, and extracted it," Case said. "It would be interesting to know who," he added.

Dig up body

In July of 1973, MUFON director Walt Andrus Jr. inspected the Aurora cemetery and requested permission to exhume the body.

"Let's put this thing to bed once and for all, because either it happened or it didn't," Andrus said.

"Someone's already removed the headmarker, someone else has driven a three-inch pipe in the ground and taken out any metal down there, so let's dig up what left and find out whether this is a hoax or not."

But Aurora's city fathers thought there had been enough impromptu digging already. As the town historian told Andrus: "Now, wait-a-minute."

The Oklahoma investigators said it was that grave over there, you're saying it was this one. What if somebody comes along in 10 years and says, no, it's that one over there and we have to dig up the whole area again?"

"He had me stumped," Andrus admitted. "How do you answer a question like that?"

As a last resort, Andrus sent registered letters to the members of the Aurora Cemetery Association, again seeking permission to exhume the body or whatever was buried below.

"All we got back was a notice from their attorney saying if we tried it, we would be cited for trespassing," Andrus remembers.

Injunction

For good measure, the association sought an injunction through the offices of Decatur attorney Bill Nobles, "to resist any attempt to disturb the Aurora Cemetery grounds by any third parties seeking to investigate the alleged airship crash in 1897."

And there the matter stands — or lies — today. To overrule the association's veto would require an act of the Texas legislature, a situation Andrus and other UFO investigators don't readily foresee, mainly as a consequence of the time and money that would be involved in such a procedure.

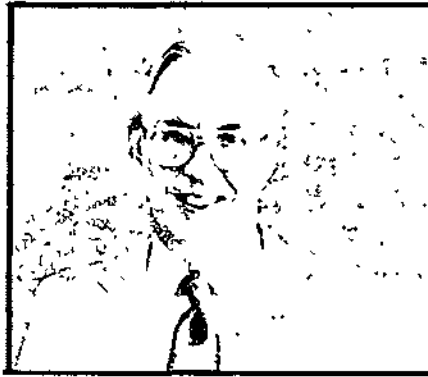
What really happened on that faraway spring morning in 1897?

No one knows for sure, but the final answer, protected by law and the sands of time, lies somewhere beneath the surface of the Aurora cemetery.

THURSDAY in The Express-News:
Strange livestock mutilations
(C) 1980 Texas Strange

UNIDENTIFIED'S

By John Schuessler



Texas UFO Crash In 1897?

Did a cigar-shaped unidentified flying object really crash near Aurora, Texas on April 19, 1897? Some people believe whole story was a fabrication by S.E. Hayden, a local cotton buyer, while others are reasonably sure the tragic accident really occurred.

Sightings of strange airships were reported in the newspapers all across the United States during the spring of 1897. The Aurora case was just another UFO sighting; but with an unusual twist. It resulted in the allegation that an object crashed and left debris as proof of the event.

The flight path of the UFO carried it over sparsely settled farmland as the farmers were out doing their chores. Farmer Jim Stephens told how the nose of the object hit the windlass over the water well on the farm of Judge Proctor causing a chain reaction explosion. The flash and fire was visible for more than three miles.

Mary Evans, about 15 years old at the time, said her parents went to the crash site and told her how the airship had exploded and that the pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. He was a small man and was buried later that day in the local cemetery.

Investigators of the Mutual UFO Network were able to track down the witnesses and piece together the sequence of events and the actual location of the crash. Using sensitive metal detectors they found pieces of metal

that could be subjected to laboratory analysis.

Metal analysis conducted in several laboratories across the country revealed the material to be strange indeed. By using an electron dispersion x-ray analyzer it was determined that the material was ultra-pure aluminum. No trace elements usually left by the refining process could be found. Photomicrographs of the sample showed large grains in the sample indicating it had truly undergone a heating and cooling cycle. The analysis showed how the material was constructed, the nature of its crystalline structure, and unusual purity. All this is consistent with the allegation that a UFO exploded spewing debris in all directions, impacting with a tremendous force.

Investigators were able to locate a crude marker in the local cemetery at a location supplied by the aging witnesses. The marker was inscribed with a shape resembling a cigar-shaped object just as the stories had related. However, before the legal process could be put in motion to force opening of the grave, the marker was removed from the cemetery, leaving the grave location a mystery never to be revealed.

Perhaps the people of Aurora were afraid their longstanding popularity would be diminished if the grave were opened and science proved the whole event was a hoax. On the other hand, what if the grave did hold the remains of an alien pilot? At this time the investigators' file should sufficient evidence to cast reasonable doubt on the hoax theory.

You may direct any questions or inquiries to, Mr John F Schuessler, P O Box 58485, Houston, Texas 77258.

BINGO BUGLE 9

FEBRUARY, 1984
VOL 1 NO 6
HOUSTON GULF EDITION

TX

US 0419-1897-0001

FILE: AURORA, TX

APRIL 19, 1897

New Texas Almanac has everything from football, UFOs to Super Collider

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — The most winning high school football team The Great UFO (Maybe) Hoax, and tons o' facts abound in the 1990-91 Texas Almanac.

For instance: Texas' most winning high school football team is somebody's Wildcats. It could be Temple's Wildcats, which won 72 percent of their games from 1920 to 1988. Or it could be Plano's Wildcats, which won more games, 524 to Temple's 510.

During the same period, the North Dallas Bulldogs dug themselves a hole to the bottom of the listings by losing 424 games.

There's the first Thanksgiving, which the Almanac says was celebrated in Texas before the Pilgrims even thought of it.

Science is a predominant theme in this year's Almanac, the 132nd edition. The cover has a science motif. There is a section on the Superconducting Super Collider, which has yet to be built south of Dallas.

Increasingly, editor Mike Kingston has restored signed articles to the book. The policy isn't really a break with the past.

"Although generally phased out later, opinion pieces were common in early Texas Almanacs," he explained.

Indeed, more than a century ago, the Almanac was embroiled in libel actions. And it was once denounced in the U.S. Senate by Sam Houston, who'd been politically attacked by an Almanac writer.

The science theme, however, allows the inclusion of sensational events. In the book's Miscellany of Texas History, for example, the reader finds:

"Between April 13 and 17, 1897, there were 38

reported sightings of 'airships' in 23 counties, mostly in North Central Texas. Nine counties reported multiple sightings, with Hill County accounting for four, including two in Hillsboro and one each in Whitney and Osceola.

Crews of the "spaceships" were reportedly observed by groundlings. And several observers supposedly talked with the airmen — or, in one instance, airwoman.

"On April 19, S.E. Haydon, a correspondent for The Dallas Morning News, reported that an airship had struck a windmill in Aurora in Wise County and exploded. The body of a small man, identified by a local authority as a Martian, was recovered from the wreckage and buried."

The Almanac explained that the famous Aurora incident, after much research, has been labeled a hoax by 20th-century historians. The conclusion is encouraged that all the sightings were probably tongue-in-cheek reports, perhaps delayed or extended celebrations of April Fool's Day, 1897.

Nevertheless, Almanac readers are offered procedures for reporting an unidentified flying object. Beyond that, they are treated to a section on "UFology."

The Almanac has broadened its customary demographic details on each of the state's 254 counties to include crime rates, court backlogs and poverty rates in each county.

Continuing the Almanac's series of regional histories, the 1990-91 book spotlights West Texas, with its parade of explorers, settlers, soldiers, Indians and cowmen.

Books

Unidentified flying history

'Texas Airship Mystery' adds weight to spaced-out topic

After reading Wallace Chariton's *The Great Texas Airship Mystery*, I have decided to relate the following story, but only to prove a point.

In the summer of 1967, a young man from Austin, recently graduated from Sidney B. Lanier High School and soon to take up the study of journalism at Angelo State University, was working as a cub reporter for the *San Angelo Standard-Times*.

One afternoon, bored and a little homesick, he twirled a piece of pulp copy paper into his manual typewriter and wrote a short story about a San Angelo woman being followed by a flying saucer near Lake Nasworthy. The story said the woman, who had asked that her name not be used, had been buzzed by an object she described as a "pulsating orange-and-white pie pan." As the object hovered near her car, she said, her headlights failed.

The reporter tossed the one-page story into the "in" basket, chuckled to himself and went off to supper.

When he got back to the office, the man in the "slot" (responsible for editing and laying out the paper) asked who had written the story about the UFO. No one spoke up.

"Oh well," he shrugged. "It's a good story." And he put it on the hook to be set into type.

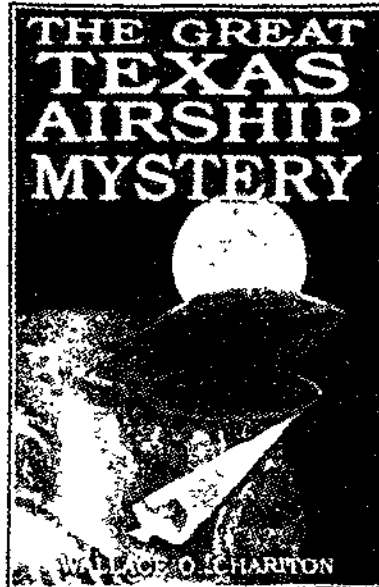
The next morning the story appeared in a box on Page One, beneath the fold.

The author of this blatant piece of fiction could not believe the paper had actually published it, but felt great pride in having pulled one over on his bosses. Unfortunately, he lacked the courage to own up to the practical joke.

Or was it a joke?

Back at work the next afternoon, the reporter took a call from a woman who said, "Listen, I read that story this morning about the orange-and-white pie pan over Lake Nasworthy and I just wanted y'all to know I saw it too!"

OK, as if you hadn't guessed, I wrote the phony story. There had been no orange-and-white pie pan flitting around in the night sky over San Angelo, despite the lady



Texana

Mike Cox

who was willing to agree she'd also seen it. The point of this confession: It used to be pretty easy to make something up and get it printed in a newspaper. These days, newspapers have ethics and manufactured news is no longer possible, of course.

"Ethics" was not exactly a household word in Texas back in 1897, when newspapers across the state were full of stories about a mysterious airship seen flying over Texas that spring. Those reported sightings are the basis of Chariton's readable 252-page book, published by Wordware Publishing of Plano and available at \$16.95.

Chariton, a Texas history buff, had not had a book in mind when he began his research. He had only intended to do a story on Texas' best-known UFO tale, the crash landing of the Aurora space man. According to the *Dallas Morning News* and other Texas newspapers, a spaceship careened into the windmill of one Judge Proctor in the Wise County farming commu-

nity of Aurora on April 17, 1897. The spaceship blew up, killing its only passenger. The badly burned body of the alien, which a local authority on astronomy identified as a resident of Mars, was buried in the Aurora cemetery.

All of this was reported as fact in a dispatch by one S.E. Haydon, a cotton buyer and newspaper "stringer."

Haydon's story did not make too much of a splash at the time, but it has aged well. It pops up in newspaper stories occasionally, and several years ago it was the basis of a grade-B movie.

When Chariton went to the microfilm to research the story, he was surprised to see the Aurora incident had not been an isolated case. Folks all over the Midwest had been seeing "airships" that spring. Chariton found reports of Texas sightings beginning April 12, 1887, and continuing for a month. Flying objects were seen from Texarkana to Eagle Pass and from Beaumont to Fort Worth. (Austin weighed in with three different sightings.)

When Chariton realized there had been more going on that spring of 1897 than he had thought, he expanded his article into a book. The book, thanks to the many hours Chariton had spent reading newspaper microfilm, gives a good picture of late-19th-century Texas. And though it is billed as a book about the airship mystery, it also is a neat piece of Texas journalism history.

So were Texas and the Midwest being visited by space aliens in 1897? Or was it a massive hoax? Or mass hysteria? Or bad whiskey? (Too much good whiskey might also be suspected.) Or natural phenomena? Chariton concludes it could have been all of the above. After all, he's a storyteller, not a seer or scientist.

One thing is for sure: Mysterious objects in the sky make a good story, in 1897, 1967 or now.

Free-lance writer Mike Cox is the author of five Texas-related books and a collector of Texana.

The Great Airship

Nick D'Alto, 2462 Marie Ct, Bellmore, NY 11710, wrote some time ago of his interest in the "Great Airship Craze of 1896," and subsequently put together the following illustrated article. The story is entertaining enough in its own right, but Nick suggests it had impacts of differing kinds on the public, the press, and contemporary researchers as well. It is provocative to speculate on the effects on the avbiz of the UFO scares, science-fiction- and aviation historical writing of the past fifty years- present-day writers included.

In response to your favorable replies of 19 Dec and 6 Mar, I have prepared an article on the "Airship" craze of 1896. These events were front-page news back then, yet they are rarely mentioned in aviation histories today. That was my motivation for researching the topic.

The "Airship" is really one extreme example of how the journalism and public perception of 1900 (or any year) are not exactly like our own. We must be mindful of this when we look to the past. I think that your present discussion of historian/antiquarian is closely related.

Since I am a great believer in working from primary sources, and since the language of the original "Airship" press reports (true or not) is more picturesque than I can muster, I have concentrated on a brief analysis, and included facsimiles of the actual articles.

The "Airship" Craze of 1896

"Would anyone be greatly surprised, if it did turn out to be a successful airship...? This is an age of wonders..."

The OMAHA WORLD HERALD, April 1897

During 1896 and -7, stories about a mysterious airship swept the United States. In tiny hamlets and in great cities, local dailies reported the vessel's progress, its takeoffs and landings, and its majestic flight over the countryside. By all accounts, thousands of people saw the Great Airship.

And yet most of this whole story probably never happened.

After a flurry of activity, the "Airship" stories disappeared as quickly as they had begun. The entire episode was preserved, without further embellishment, in the crumbling pages of long-forgotten dailies. But the "Airship" holds valuable lessons for the study of early aeronautics, particularly in relation to the contemporary press, and the public's perception of flight.

The editors and readers of 1900 would eventually be the eye-witnesses to flight. Yet the turn-of-the-century newspaper was very different from our own. Parts of a Jules Verne novel, complete with headlines, might appear side-by-side with actual news events. Rigorous factual reporting was not always the rule. Even reputable newspapers published fanciful, tabloid-type stories, leaving the reader to decide for himself.

News reports of a "Great Airship" began in California during November 1896. On the whole, the stories ranged from simply "seeing strange lights" in the sky to detailed descriptions of "flying machines," complete with flapping wings, fans, and gasbags. They ranged from ostensibly genuine to obvious hoax.

Newspaper readers of the day barely understood the difference between lighter and heavier-than-air flight. The "Great Airship" seemed to fit neither category. It bore little resemblance to any genuine airships of the era. Instead, it represented "the solution to aviation": complete dirigibility, vertical takeoff, and fabulous speed. Everyone was talking about the airship.

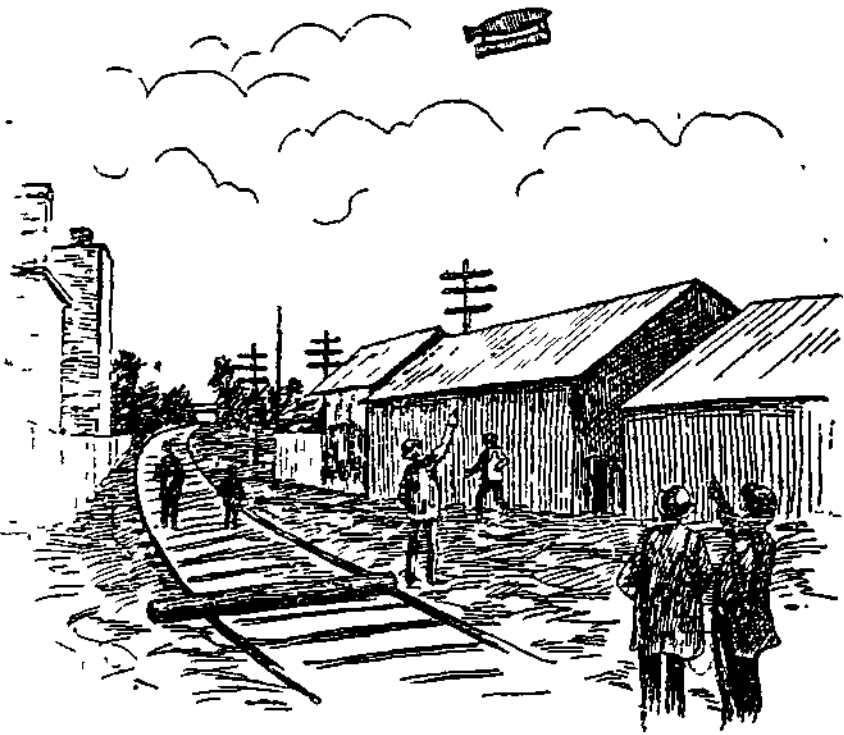
What was the effect on aviation? Octave Chanute did not much like being named in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE as one of the airship inventors. He, Edison, and other scientists tried to explain that flight would not be born, full-blown, in isolation. AM Herring condemned the Airship in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

Yet stories abounded that some "mystery man" had constructed an aerial leviathan in a secret workshop and was now testing it. In Sacramento the DAILY RECORD interviewed an attorney named Collins who claimed to represent the inventor. A storekeeper at Rogers Park, Illinois, claimed to have snapped photos of the craft in flight.

In some cases a check of old city records confirms the identity of "witnesses." George Scott really was California's Assistant Secretary of State. He reportedly became so excited on seeing the "aerial-visitor" that he persuaded his constituents to climb the stairs into the dome of the state capital to get a better look.

Many news items exclaimed that "half the town" saw the thing. The SAINT LOUIS POST DESPATCH would report that "thousands of people are lining the streets here, watching intently for the airship." At tiny Everest, Kansas, "the full power of the (Airship's) arc-lamps was turned on... and the city... was flooded with light." Picturesque as these stories may be, latter-day researchers usually don't find anyone who remembers actually seeing an "Airship."

Often the praise or ridicule which the "Airship"



The Air Ship As Photographed in Chicago.

—From the Chicago Times Herald.

AIR SHIP SEEN.

Thousands of St. Louisans Excited Over the Aerial Visitor.

SEARCHLIGHT FLANKED TOWARD THE HEAVENS FOR AN HOUR MONDAY NIGHT.

Noise of Machinery Heard, and Outlines of the Craft Visible.

TESTIMONY OF MANY CITIZENS REGARDING THE MYSTERIOUS VISITOR.

University Professors Confess They Are Puzzled by the Appearance.

Outpouring of Men, Women and Children Expected Tuesday Night When the Heavens Will Be Watched From Points of Vantage.

(ST LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, 13 Apr 1897)

ALL THE WEST IN A FERMENT.

Trying to Solve the Mystery of the Strange Thing Seen in the Sky.

FLYING MACHINE OR STAR?

Scores of Persons Have Watched It, and Many Are Sure It's an Airship.

USUALLY FLIES AT NIGHT.

When It Appeared Over an Iowa Town in the Morning Two Men Nearly Caught It.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.] CHICAGO, Ill., April 15, 1897.—The most puzzling and interesting question residents of the Western States have had to deal with for

many years is that of the so-called airship. Many thousands have seen what they call an airship, or a balloon, with various colored lights attached, but apart from a comparatively few persons no one can say he has seen the thing closely enough to describe it.

For the purpose of ascertaining something definite from those who really saw the stranger in the clouds I have interviewed several men. Among those who talked was Walter McCann, a newsdealer in Rogers Park, who took a snap shot at the object when it was within five or six hundred feet of the earth.

"I had read for several days about the airship," said he. "I laughed over it and was sceptical on the subject. On Sunday morning, at half-past five o'clock, I saw a strange looking object in the sky coming from the south. It looked like a big cigar. It came nearer, and I saw at a glance that it was not a balloon. Quick as a flash I realized it was the much talked of airship.

CAUGHT A SNAP SHOT.

My boy won a camera not long ago in a contest for getting subscribers to a paper. It was in the store, fifty feet from where I stood gazing at the object. I ran and got it as the thing approached. The sky was clear. Conditions favored a good photograph. A plate was ready. I ran to Greenleaf avenue and Market street and got a good shot at it. With G. A. Overocker, whose attention was attracted to it, I ran down the Northwestern tracks and we got a second picture a few minutes later.

E. L. Osborne and William Hoodless also saw the airship. I am no longer a sceptic. I distinctly saw the outlines of a man in the rear of the machine. He pulled a revolving rudder, or some sort of contrivance which steered the course of the airship.

This strange invention came within six hundred feet of the earth as near as I could estimate it. The lower portion of the airship was thin, and made of some light white metal, like aluminum. The upper portion was dark, and long, like a big cigar pointed in front and with some kind of arrangement in the rear to which cables were attached. The pilot pulled these and steered the course from south to northeast.

LOOKED OBLONG AT MT. CARROLL, ILL.

Airship at That Point Was Moving West at a Terrific Rate of Speed.

Mount Carroll, Ill., April 9—[Special]—Hundreds of persons on the streets tonight—persons whose honesty and truthfulness are beyond dispute—viewed the airship about 8:40 o'clock. It came from the northwest and when opposite this city changed its course and went due west at a terrific speed. It was in sight at least ten minutes. It appeared oblong in shape and carried a great red light. In length it did not appear to be over eight or ten feet, and two or three feet high. So many people saw it there is no disputing the fact that something unusual appeared.

EGG-SHAPED WHEN SEEN IN WISCONSIN

Mysterious Aerial Visitor Appears in Two States Within a Period of Half an Hour.

Wausau, Wis., April 9—[Special]—The airship made its appearance in Wausau last night about 11 o'clock and was viewed by at least 100 citizens. It came from the southwest, passing over the city going northwest. Lights could be seen attached to the ship. A dim outline of it could be seen, which appeared to be shaped like an egg.

Nebraska City, Neb., April 9—[Special]—At 11 o'clock last night several persons observed the lights of the supposed airship approaching from the southeast and after passing over the city it disappeared, going due northwest when last seen.

(CHICAGO TRIBUNE, 10 Apr 1897)

MONTY GREENLY
3740 Elm #A
Long Beach, CA 90807

May 26, 1991

Dear Sir:

I thought you might like to see the enclosed article which appeared in the May, 1991 issue of World War I Aero - The Journal of the Early Aeroplane. Its a quarterly publication with articles about old airplanes, so I was a bit surprised to see something about the Airship Mystery;

Sincerely,
Monty Greenly

Strange aerial object stirs national interest

On March 29, 1897, Robert Hubbard of Sioux City, Iowa, was nearly killed when a mysterious aerial object with "glowing red lights" snagged him from his bicycle and dragged him along the ground for several hundred feet.

When Hubbard's ordeal — which occurred six years before Orville and Wilbur Wright's successful flight at Kitty Hawk — was reported in the national press, it caused quite a stir. The result was a rash of similar incidents involving strange aircraft that filled newspapers for weeks to come.

On April 1, for example, three days after the Hubbard story broke, hundreds of people in Kansas City, Kan., watched spellbound while a brightly-lit, cigar-shaped airship hovered over the city. According to local accounts, strange voices and crackling noises were heard emanating from the strange aircraft.

Terrifying encounters

Throughout the month of April, tens of thousands of Americans from California and Texas to Alabama and West Virginia told of terrifying encounters with "great airships" piloted by occupants "not of this earth."

In nearly every case, the airship was described as "cigar shaped" with beams of glowing red lights fanning out underneath.

One of the strangest stories came from LeRoy, Kan. On the morning of April 21, farmer Alexander Hamilton was awakened by a strange, whirring sound out in the pasture.

Thinking his cattle might be in trouble, Hamilton raced outside only to discover a "glowing, strange-shaped craft" trying to steal a cow by hoisting it up with a rope.

Earlier, on April 14, a series of landings was reported in Iowa. The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette reported that a "giant, cigar-shaped" object landed on the Union Station in the "wee morning" hours and that several local citizens were taken on board.

The next day a similar object "came to rest" on the Waterloo, Iowa fairground, according to the local newspaper. While dozens of curious onlookers gawked, one of the vessel's occupants reportedly went to the police station to seek protection from the crowd.

Several sightings

Several sightings were reported on April 16. Two men from Rhome, Texas, said they saw a giant cigar heading west at 150 mph. The same day, the Fort Worth Register reported that a man traveling near Cisco, Texas saw an airship crash into a field.

According to the Register, several local citizens helped repair the downed aircraft, then watched it roar away.

In Paris, Texas, a night watchman said he saw a cigar-shaped craft that measured 200 feet in length and had several large wings. Later, in Farm-



E. Randall Floyd

Southern Mysteries

Throughout the month of April, tens of thousands of Americans from California and Texas to Alabama and West Virginia told of terrifying encounters with 'great airships' piloted by occupants 'not of this earth.'

ersville, Texas, several people said they heard the crew of an airship singing hymns.

Bizarre encounter

Another bizarre encounter in Texas came on April 17 when a large airship came in low and buzzed the town of Aurora. The ship then continued north where it finally struck a windmill on the farm of a Judge Proctor and exploded.

People rushed to the scene of the crash and discovered the badly-mangled body of the pilot.

"He was not of this earth," said T.J. Weems, a Signal Corps officer who offered the astonishing speculation that the dead pilot was a Martian.

The next day the "Martian" was given a Christian burial.

On April 19 other airships were spotted near Sisterville, W. Va., and El Paso. On both occasions multicolored lights flashed from portholes and strange voices were heard talking inside the ships.

Stories about the mysterious aircraft continued unabated in the months to come, as newspapers competed to come up with the wildest accounts. Then, as suddenly and mysteriously as they had appeared, the airships disappeared.

The whole airship excitement was forgotten until the 1960s when researchers interested in UFOs began rummaging through old newspapers and came up with the original stories.

What were they? Where did they come from? Even today, investigators aren't really sure, though early rumors linked them to an unknown scientist involved with secret aircraft testing.

There is good reason to suspect that some of the stories were deliberate hoaxes, spread by over-imaginative telegraph operators who reported many of the sightings, as well as newspaper reporters themselves.

Aurora, Texas, and the Great Airship of 1897

by Kevin D. Randle



Not long ago, I had the opportunity to appear on the late night radio show, *Coast-to-Coast*. I bring this up only because, apparently, the next night the host had on Jim Marrs, who talked about the Aurora, Texas, airship crash of 1897. I wouldn't have known this, but someone who heard my interview the night before mentioned to me in an email that Marrs had talked about Aurora and suggested that it was a real event. That person wanted to know if Marrs was correct and if there is anything to the story of the crash.

And this provides us with an opportunity to examine one of the major problems in UFO research. No case ever dies, no matter how many times it is exposed as a hoax. This is true even when those exposing it range from the skeptics to the believers in extraterrestrial contact. And it continues even when no evidence for the reality of the case has ever been found... or none was found until people began to realize they could get their names in the newspaper or their faces on television if they said something to confirm the case.

The stories of the flight of the Great Airship of 1897 provide us with proof of both

theories. Although many of the tales have since been shown to be jokes, there are a few that are repeated in the UFO literature with such regularity, and almost with such awe, that it is necessary to provide, once again, all the information about them so that we can work to remove them from that same literature. The two most famous, and probably the most reported, are the Aurora, Texas, UFO crash that had been the subject of that email correspondence and the Alexander Hamilton story of an airship and calf-napping that occurred about two days after the Aurora events.

Typical Airship Accounts

Back when I lived in Texas, I didn't live all that far from Aurora. I was interested in UFOs even then, and I prowled the morgues of various newspapers searching for stories of the great airship. There were lots of these stories from Texas, including interviews with the crews of some of the airships and even repeated tales of the airship's destruction.

Typical of the airship sightings was that told by Patrick Barnes to the *Fort Worth Register*, "which hardly cares to repeat it." He claimed that he was traveling near Cisco,

Texas, and spotted several men standing around a large, cigar-shaped craft. He went over to talk to them and learned they were on their way to Cuba to bomb the Spanish. They had landed to make some repairs and soon took off. Their immediate destination was the Ozarks, where they planned to train for their self-designed mission.

In fact, there were dozens of stories of the Great Airship landing throughout the South and the Midwest in March and April of that year. One of the earliest appeared in the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) *Evening Gazette*. According to the story, a large, cigar-shaped craft had landed on the Union Station in the "wee morning" hours and several locals were taken on board. Charley Jordan quickly made his story known to the newspaper and even signed an affidavit attesting to the reality of his flight. He was described by reporters as "never telling but a few lies and then only about things of importance."

He was accompanied by W. R. Boyd, whose whole purpose in going along, according to the newspaper story, was to "get as high as possible so that he could learn about the condition of the post office."

The airship's crew confessed that they were tired from their long journey, though they offered no revelations about their home base or their purpose. They did

promise to lecture about the trip soon, and the topics to be discussed included the unlikely subject of hell.

The problem for Cedar Rapids was that, the very next night, the airship crashed in Waterloo, Iowa. Those in Cedar Rapids, who couldn't produce any physical evidence of their adventure, quietly faded from sight, while crowds flocked to the Waterloo fairgrounds, where they could see a large, twin-cigar-shaped object. A heavily accented "professor" claiming to be from San Francisco told of their perilous flight across the United States that ended in tragedy when their leader fell into and drowned in the Cedar River.

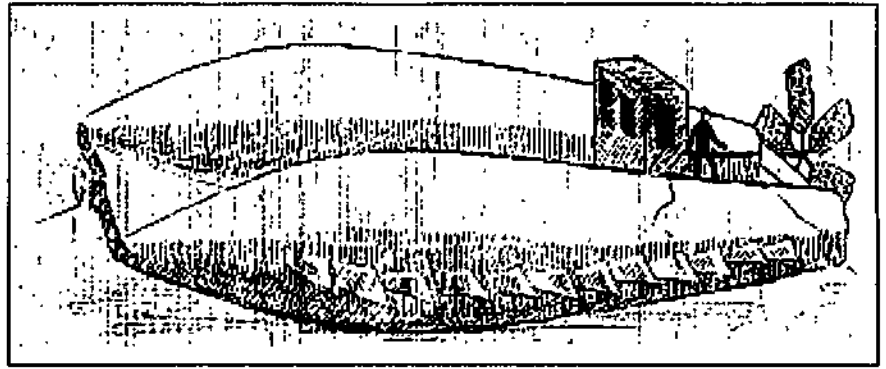
The whole story unraveled late in the day when the professor was recognized as a local man. The joke was admitted, and the "ship" was removed from the fairgrounds, but not before hundreds had the chance to see it and interview members of the crew.

The Aurora Crash

The Aurora crash story, as it was told just days later, suggests that the airship appeared about dawn on April 17, 1897, came in low, buzzed the town square, and then continued north toward the farm owned at the time by Judge Proctor. There it hit a windmill and exploded into a shower of debris, damaging the judge's flower garden and house, not to mention his windmill. The townspeople rushed to the scene and found the badly disfigured body of the pilot. T. J. Weerns, a Signal Corps officer (the 1897 equivalent of an intelligence officer), thought the pilot was probably from Mars.

Being good Christians, and apparently because no one had anything else to do, they buried the pilot after a short memorial service that afternoon. They also gathered several documents covered with a strange writing found in the wreckage and picked up tons of material, including silver and aluminum that came from the airship. All that evidence has long since disappeared.

And that's it. No follow-up stories as tourists flocked to Aurora. No mysterious scientists arriving to inspect the wreckage. No Army response, though one of their own was on hand to report what he had



The airship as it was described by those who saw it on the ground in Waterloo, Iowa. Later, it was all revealed to be a joke.

seen. And finally, most importantly, no one ever produced those documents or bits and pieces of the wreckage, though there had been tons of it, at least according to the newspaper report.

The story died at that point, and then was resurrected in the 1960s by UFO researchers who stumbled onto the airship tales which had been dormant for about six decades. Suddenly the story of the tragedy reappeared, and Aurora, Texas, was now on the map with those scientists, researchers, and tourists finally making the trek.

A large number of people, including Hayden Hewes of the now defunct International UFO Bureau; Jim Marrs, who had most recently suggested the story was real; and even Walt Andrus, the former International Director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) at various times journeyed to Aurora in search of the truth. They all reported a strange grave marker in the Aurora cemetery. They found strange metal with metal detectors, and they gathered reports from long-time Aurora residents who remembered the story, remembered seeing the airship, or remembered parents talking about the crash. There was also discussion of government attempts to suppress the data. To them, that made the story of the crash real.

The problem here is that I beat most of these people to Aurora by several years to conduct my own investigation. I talked to some of those same long-time residents, who told me in the early 1970s that nothing had happened. I talked to the historians at the Wise County Historical Society (Aurora is in Wise County), who told me that it hadn't happened, though they

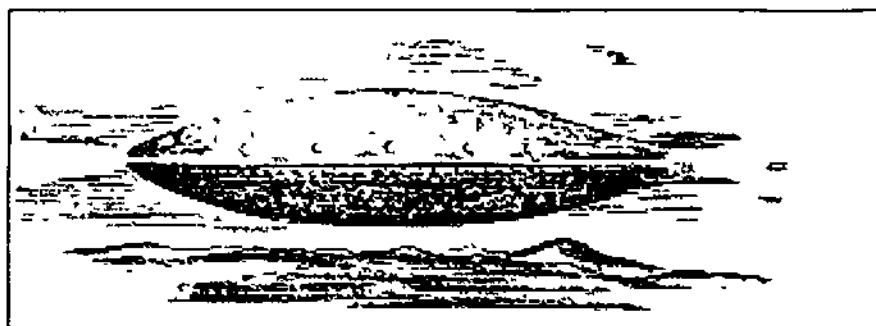
wished it had. I learned that T. J. Weerns, the famed Signal Corps officer, was, in fact, the local blacksmith. I learned that Judge Proctor didn't have a windmill, or rather that was what was said then. Now they suggest that he had two windmills. I wandered the graveyard, which isn't all that large (something just over 800 graves), and found no marker with strange symbols carved on it, though there are those who suggest a crude headstone with a rough airship on it had been there at the time. I found nothing to support the tale and went away believing, based on my own research and interviews, that this was another of the airship hoaxes.

Metal collected by all those others, when analyzed here, turned out to be nothing strange or unusual. Some of it was later analyzed in a Canadian lab, and their results mirrored those of American labs.

Isn't it interesting that none of the metal supposedly gathered by the town's residents has ever surfaced. The metal analyzed was always recovered by researchers with metal detectors. Isn't it interesting that the strange grave marker has since disappeared and that there is no real photographic record of it. There should be, for all the research that has been done. The single picture that has turned up showed not an airship but a coarse triangle with circles in the center. And isn't it interesting that there were never any followup reports from Aurora. First the big splash with the crash and then nothing for more than 60 years.

Another Fishy Story

Which also sums up nicely the Hamilton calf-napping story that followed the



The airship as it was described flying over parts of California in 1897

Aurora crash by two days. According to the literature, Alexander Hamilton was a widely respected resident of little LeRoy, Kansas. Jerry Clark reported that Hamilton had been a lawyer, had served in the Kansas legislature, and was a very successful stock dealer. Those who knew him suggested that he was an honest man.

According to the reports, including that in the Yate's Center *Farmer's Advocate*, Hamilton heard a disturbance among his cattle on Monday April 19 and got out of bed to check. Hovering over his cow lot was the airship. It was, according to Hamilton, cigar-shaped, about 300 feet long, with some kind of a glass encased carriage under it. Inside were six strange looking beings who were at least human enough that Hamilton identified two men, a woman, and three children.

The craft hovered until the crew spotted Hamilton, his tenant Gid Hespil, and Hamilton's son. Then a great turbine wheel, about 30 feet in diameter, that had been revolving slowly below the craft, began to spin faster. As the airship climbed to 30 feet, it paused over a three-year-old heifer that was caught in a fence. Hamilton and his son found a cable from the airship wrapped around the cow and tried to free it from the cable but couldn't. Instead, they cut the fence. The cow and ship began slowly rising and then disappeared in the distance.

The next day, Hamilton went in search of his missing cow but could find no trace of it. Instead, a neighbor, identified in the reports as Lank Thomas, had found the remains of a butchered cow several miles from the Hamilton spread. He picked up the remains and took them into LeRoy for identification. Thomas said he could not find any trace of a track in the soft ground

around the cow's remains.

The newspaper, as well as other men in town, attested to the honesty of Hamilton, suggesting they all believed his well unbelievable tale. These men included an attorney, a doctor, a justice of the peace, a banker, and even the postmaster. If no other report from 1897 was to be believed, this one certainly had all the credibility that those others lacked.

And, like the Aurora crash, here was an 1897 report that seemed to mirror its modern counterparts. A UFO hovering over a ranch, an animal that disappeared and was later found mutilated with no sign of anyone being in the field with it. Unlike the modern reports, Hamilton saw the airship steal the animal rather than just vague, mystery lights glowing in the distance.

In the early 1970s, Jerry Clark managed to track down the relatives of Hamilton and interviewed an elderly woman, who remembered Hamilton returning from town, chuckling about the story he'd invented because it would be published in the newspaper. While that evidence might not convince a true believer, an article that appeared in the *Atchison County Mail* on May 7, 1897, should do it. Hamilton told the reporter, "I lied about it." Those who signed the affidavit about Hamilton's veracity were members of the local liars club.

What this tells us is that the newspapers, which had to suspect the truth if not know it outright, didn't mind printing the wildest tales of the airship. Proof of this comes from Burlington, Iowa, in what was described, even in 1897 as one of the "meanest and most discouraging [airship] stories of the entire lot." Members of the newspaper staff launched hot air balloons made from common tissue paper so that

they would carry over the city. They soon began to receive reports from the citizens describing the airship. When one of the most distinguished men of that town came forward to report that he had not only seen the airship, but had heard voices from it, the newspaper staff was convinced that all the tales were faked. While their conclusion might seem premature at the time, later evidence would suggest that they weren't all that far off the mark.

Bull Market for Bull

Maybe part of it was the way many such stories were reported in 1897, especially those about the airship. The editors of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, upon learning the airship had landed in nearby Waterloo, wired their counterparts at the *Waterloo Courier* asking for 500 words but no crap. They didn't mention that their own story, carried a day earlier, was now clearly a hoax. They just ignored that fact. In other words, the newspapers were having some fun with the airship tales too.

In fact, that seems to cover the vast majority of the airship stories. The men telling them had ulterior motives for telling them. Maybe they just wanted to join the fun, or maybe they just wanted to see their names in the newspaper. Maybe they thought no one would be harmed, and, of course, no one was. Other news, more important news, finally pushed the tales of the airships from the newspapers and little was thought of them for decades.

The final, fatal blow for the airship and Aurora crash comes from the original reporter, H. E. Hayden, a stranger for the *Dallas Morning News*, who claimed to have invented the story in a vain attempt to put his dying community back on the map. He hoped to draw attention, and people, to Aurora, Texas. He was successful. The problem was that he succeeded 60 years too late, and those who arrived only wanted to learn about the airship, not settle down to rebuild the community as he had hoped.

Kevin D. Randle is a well-known UFO researcher and author of such books as Invasions Washington: UFOs Over the Capital (Harper Mass Market, 2001)

UFO Sleuths Hunting Debris Of Spaceship

AURORA, Tex. (UPI) — Etta Pegues thinks it's all a big hoax, but an investigating team is busy searching for remains of a spaceship reported to have crashed into Judge J.C. Proctor's windmill 76 years ago.

Hayden Hewes, director of the "International UFO Bureau" in Oklahoma City says his group is not taking any chances.

"We are continuing to check the area, even though it could have been a hoax," reports Hewes. "We are especially looking for any metal piece of the UFO that might have gone down nearby wells, and we are searching the cemetery for the pilot's grave."

Hewes and his group were aroused by recent discovery of newspaper accounts of an unidentified flying object that crashed in the area. The articles were found in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers dating back to April of 1897.

"At 4 a.m. a spaceship which had been seen in the area previously slowly crashed into Judge J.S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion," said one article, written by F.E. Hayden.

"Parts were scattered over several acres. The windmill was destroyed. The pilot's body was dismembered. However, enough remains were gathered to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world.

"The body was buried at noon in Aurora Cemetery. Papers believed to be the pilot's log were found, written in some undecipherable hieroglyphics and the aircraft was made of some unknown metal," the article said.

Mrs. Pegues, 69, who has lived in nearby Newark, Tex., since 1920, says she was not taken in by the stories.

"It was all a hoax," she said. "It was cooked up by F.E. Hayden who was a cotton buyer and correspondent for Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers, and men sitting around the general store.

"The Aurora Cemetery has a record of every person there, and there is no record of any man from Mars ever being buried there.

"Furthermore, there never was a well there," Mrs.

"Judge Proctor

1897 UFO Incident Puzzles Metal Expert

AURORA, Tex. (AP) — An unidentified flying object crashed into a farm windmill, exploding in a ball of flaming metal fragments, according to newspaper accounts in this North Texas area.

The pilot's badly-dismembered body was buried in a grave about a mile away.

Date of the news reports: March 19, 1897.

A professional treasure hunter unearthed metal fragments at the site Wednesday and exclaimed: "In more than 25 years of recovering metal and treasure of all kinds . . . I've never seen metal like that . . ."

Frank Kelley's new, deep-probe metal detector not only gives off electronic response at the crash site but at the grave site.

"The most amazing aspect I see is that most soil 20 to 30 feet around the former windmill site also gives off a somewhat less but almost identical electronic response even when there is no metal in it," Kelley, of Corpus Christi, said.

"I am also puzzled at receiving the same type of rebound signals from a remote grave in the Aurora cemetery in which the pilot may be buried. However, there is a tie-in. We know he died in 1897. The others immediately around that graves died the same year or close to it. And we are certain, according to newspaper reports, he was buried here," Kelley said.

Kelley, a master mechanic and part of a team of professional metal locators, said "the only explanation I can give for getting the same signals at the windmill site and in the grave . . . is that the pilot whose body was torn apart was buried wearing some type of metal uniform or equipment which gives us the same reaction."

Mrs. Brawley Oates has lived

on the property for 26 years with her husband. She said not even weeds will grow where Kelley's detectors indicate there is metal.

Kelley dug up more than a dozen pieces of the strange metal at depths of from two to 14 inches. All were a dark brown on one side but appeared to have a protective grey coating on the other side.

"This metal looks so different I honestly don't know what it is. The fragments are small, thin and jagged as if torn apart by an explosion. They look something like modern aircraft covering.

"But, they are not aluminum, tin, iron, steel or any alloy I know," he said.

Accounts of the UFO crash were printed in Dallas and Fort Worth papers March 19, 1897.

"At 4 a.m., a spaceship which had been seen in the area earlier, moving low, and slowly crashed into Judge J.S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion.

"Parts scattered over several acres," one story relates, "and the windmill was destroyed. The pilot's body was dismembered. However, enough remains were gathered to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world.

"The body was buried at noon in Aurora Cemetery," wrote correspondent F.E. Hayden. "Papers believed to be the pilot's log were written in some undecipherable hieroglyphics. And the aircraft was made of some unknown metal."

There is at least one skeptic. Etta Pegues of nearby Newark.

She claims the whole affair was a hoax dreamed up by Hayden and some men sitting around the stove at the general store.

But Oates and Marshal H.R. Idell disagree with her.

(Cir. D 18, 395)
SEP 20 1985

Stories continue of outer space alien buried in Aurora Cemetery

Several years ago I heard stories about a spaceman being buried in Wise County. This spaceman was supposed to be someone or something from outer space. I can't re-

199
LaVerne Odom



Contact

member the whole story. Can you find out anything about this for me? — T.W.

In 1973 a visit was made to the Aurora Cemetery in Wise County by officials of the International UFO Bureau from Oklahoma City. They were there to investigate the possibility of an outer space alien buried there.

The group said they were looking for witnesses to the crash of a spaceship in 1897. They were checking out a legend that a cigar-shaped spacecraft crashed into a windmill on a Judge Proctor's farm on April 17, 1897. It was said that the people of the town of Aurora cleaned up the wreckage and buried the pilot in the town cemetery. The Dallas Morning News carried a story about the incident the next day. The entire story, written by S.E. Hayden follows:

"AURORA, WISE COUNTY, TEXAS. April 17 — About 6 o'clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing throughout the country.

"It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion,

scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"T.J. Weems, the U.S. signal service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native of the planet Mars.

"Papers found on his person — evidently the records of his travels — are written in some unknown hieroglyphics, and cannot be deciphered. The ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its constrictive or motive power.

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathered specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place tomorrow. Signed, S.E. Hayden.

During this investigation by the UFO officials in 1973, Wise County historians said the entire Hayden story was fiction. Most citizens said they thought the story was a hoax.

Dr. Tom Gray, a physicist from North Texas State University, was asked to analyze some samples of metal that had been dug up near the site of the windmill where the spaceship crashed. He found the metal to be somewhat different from most metals, but said "Given the fact the earth is struck by meteorites of all shapes and sizes on occasion, it would be difficult to rule on the origin of the metal."

The UFO group wanted to dig into the grave that was said to be where the little spaceman was buried. The cemetery association got an injunction to stop any

digging not authorized by the courts. The UFO group did not seek a court order to dig.

Metal detectors were used by the UFO hunters. They claimed the signals received from the grave matched those recorded at the crash site. They also made the claim, based on the signals from the metal detectors, that the person buried there was not an inhabitant of this world.

Local citizens said the grave contains the body of an itinerant farm worker named Carr, who had died of spotted fever about the time of the alleged spacecraft crash.

After all investigations were completed in 1973, it is still not known who or what is buried in that unmarked grave in the Aurora Cemetery.

(Sources: Denton Record-Chronicle files and Dallas Morning News.)

Contact solves problems, gets answers, tracks down the facts and guards your right to know. Write Contact, P.O. Box 369, Denton, Texas 76201, or call 387-3811, Ext. 211, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Because of the large number of letters received each week and limited space, not every question can be answered.

For information on "people services" offered in Denton County, call the Information and Referral Service, 566-2688. The service can refer you to the appropriate agency to help with your problem.

CREDIT:

L. WHITCHURST

UFO POTPOURRI

no. 292



PILOTS REPORT NEW WAVE OF UFO SIGHTINGS

Newspaper accounts of UFOs appear almost daily in various parts of the world. Many of these accounts are considered less than credible because of the background or educational level of the witnesses. However, there remains a significant number of highly credible UFO encounters - many of them reported by pilots.

The new wave of pilot reports is both exciting and puzzling. For example, the Chinese newspaper, *People's Daily*, reported that a Chinese Boeing 747 jetliner encountered, a large, bright unidentified flying object over the city of Gansu on June 11, 1985. The UFO and the aircraft were both flying at an altitude of 32,800 feet when the incident occurred.

The pilot described the object as 30 feet in diameter, encircled with brilliant light and having an extremely bright spot radiating from its center. He said, "the object traveled extremely fast, pacing the aircraft in

4 happy
4 holidays

Warmest greetings
of the Season

And every good wish

for happiness

in the New Year

a southerly direction for about two minutes." Just as he reported the encounter to flight controllers in anticipation of making an emergency landing, the UFO disappeared from view.

In late July scores of people in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, described a reddish and rounded object hovering at an altitude of 7,000 feet above the city. Two Zimbabwean Hawk jet fighters were scrambled from the Thornhill Air Base. The pilots had visual contact with the UFO as they tried for an intercept. Suddenly, the object climbed vertically at high speed, easily avoiding the approaching jets. The Air Commodore reported that the UFO then followed the jets as they returned to Thornhill, and hovered over the base for several minutes before flying east.

And if that is not enough, Iranian antiaircraft batteries fired on a UFO over northeastern Tehran in early August. Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency quoted a source at the Joint Staff Command as saying the shining object flew from west to east over Tehran at 8:15 p.m. on August 5th. There were no reports that the UFO had been hit or downed.

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER
P. O. BOX 58485
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258-8485

Silence broken on UFO crash

By BILL CASE
Aviation Writer

An Aurora farmer-rancher told The Dallas Times Herald Saturday his late father was an eyewitness to the crash of an unidentified flying object at a well site outside the North Texas hamlet April 19, 1957.

"During the years I was growing up he told me the story many times," C. C. (Charlie) Stephens, 83, said in an exclusive interview.

"My daddy, Jim Stephens, said he was putting the cows out to pasture on our ranch about 4 a.m. three miles south of Aurora when he noticed a cigar-shaped airship with a white light pass over."

"It was very low and just went straight ahead until it crashed at a well site on a high hill on Judge J. S. Proctor's farm. He said there seemed to be an explosion and a fire that lit up the sky for several minutes."

"The next day my father rode a horse into Aurora to look at the scene and said it looked like a mass of torn metal and burned rubble."

Stephens, who still ranches actively, had declined to discuss until Saturday the crash even with close friends, reporters or UFO investigators during the three months they have been seeking details to verify the crash.

He said he had lived all his life in the quiet valley where he was born and "just didn't want to get involved."

"I have nothing to say," he had repeatedly told questioners since March.

His story, however, varied from published reports printed in Dallas and Fort Worth papers after the ballyhooed incident. The story by correspondent H. E. Hayden said the UFO pilot's dismembered body was recovered from the crash and given a "Christian burial" in Aurora Cemetery.

"My father didn't mention any occupants in the airship," he said. "Of course he didn't get to the site until the next day and by that time if there were some crewmen they would have been buried."

"There might have been two or three as far as I know. All he mentioned was the debris and the burned

Stephens disputes claims by UFO investigators that the UFO reportedly

crashed into Judge Proctor's windmill and exploded.

"It wasn't a windmill," he said. "It was a wooden windlass built over the well about 18 feet high used to haul up the sump. But it was destroyed."

Stephen's father apparently was the only eyewitness to the highly publicized UFO crash. He said there had been numerous reports of so called "airships" in the Aurora-Rhome-Newark area of Wise County in North Texas during that period.

Investigators for The Midwest UFO Network (MUFON) and International UFO Bureau and Times Herald reporters have been questioning Aurora residents and digging around the well on property now owned by Brawley Oates for pieces of unidentifiable metal wreckage without much success.

Wednesday Fred N. Kelley, a scientific Texas treasure hunter and lost metal locator from Corpus Christi, visited the site with highly sophisticated metal detectors and unearthed about 12 pieces of lightweight metal which he said, "I can't identify as any metal I've ever seen and I've been in the business 25 years."

Times Herald reporters also recovered some of the same type of fragments Saturday. They will be analyzed to determine their origin. They resemble no known metal and were dug out of the well when it was cleaned in 1957 by Aurora Town marshal H. R. Idell.

Working independently, reporters and UFO investigators located a remote grave in the Aurora Cemetery in which they believe the UFO pilot might have been buried.

Both Hayden Hewes of the IUFON and treasure hunter Kelley said their metal detectors reflected the same type of signal from the grave they were receiving at the crash site by the well.

"We are more convinced than ever that a UFO crashed here and the pilot was killed and buried in this cemetery," Hewes said Saturday. "Our attorneys are already checking to learn how we might have the body exhumed."

MAILED DEPT

Legend Says Alien Rests in Aurora Cemetery

Spaceman in Texas?

By **HERM NATHAN**

S.E. Hayden filed 86 years ago a newspaper report that a cigar-shaped spaceship smacked into a Aurora (Wise County), Texas, windmill. Hayden, chronicling the ill-starred trekker from outer space for Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers on April 18, 1897, wrote:

"The airship which had been seen previously was sighted over Aurora early on the morning of the fatal crash (April 17) travelling a much lower altitude and only about 10 to 12 mph.

"In the north part of town, it collided with Judge J.S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion. Parts scattered over acres of ground. The windmill, a watering trough and the judge's flower garden were destroyed."

Hayden reported that the men who ventured onto the scene saw the pilot, 'a little man' who appeared to be the lone occupant. Hayden went into great detail in his account of the adventures of the otherwise - undocumented alien:

"T.J. Weems, U.S. Signal Service officer at this place and an authority on

astronomy, gave it as his opinion that the pilot was a native from the planet mars. Papers were found on this person .. evidently a record of his travels .. and are written in some unknown hieroglyphics and cannot be deciphered' The ship was too badly wrecked to form conclusions as to its construction or motive power.

'The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place tomorrow.' The story traveled around the world ... and it is resurrected every so often. You can find straight - faced recounting of it in most UFO publications.

Adding some credibility is the Texas Historical Commission Marker erected in 1976, commemorating it as 'legend', not fact.

Wise County historian Etta Pegues believe that the story began not in Mars, but in the mind of Hayden.

Today Aurora's population is 376, but it was once a thriving town, its wealth revolved around cotton. Hayden made his living as cotton buyer.. Aurora then claimed two lawyers, one undertaker, a brass band, three cotton gins and a couple of

hotels.

Hayden, in addition to writing for the big Dallas newspapers, was something of a luminary with his local columns. Mrs. Pegues believes—based on reading his other literary efforts, particularly his poetry—that Hayden was quite an egoist.

In the 1890's, bad things started happening in aurora and this may explain about Hayden reporting about the man from outer space.

Overplanting of cotton had depleted the land and erosion carried away the topsoil, Then boll weevils invaded Wise County in great, decimating armies. Times were getting hard. The sought-after railroad went bankrupt and a fire burned down the west end of town. All these events played havoc with the town's economy and with Hayden's livelihood.

Hundreds of graves there were filled by an 1890's epidemic of what they called 'spotted fever.' It may have, in fact, been meningitis. The residents didn't know the cause; many of them blamed the water supply. Hayden's wife and two sons died of 'spotted fever.'

Another of Hayden's sons was blinded by the disease; yet another

was left crippled.

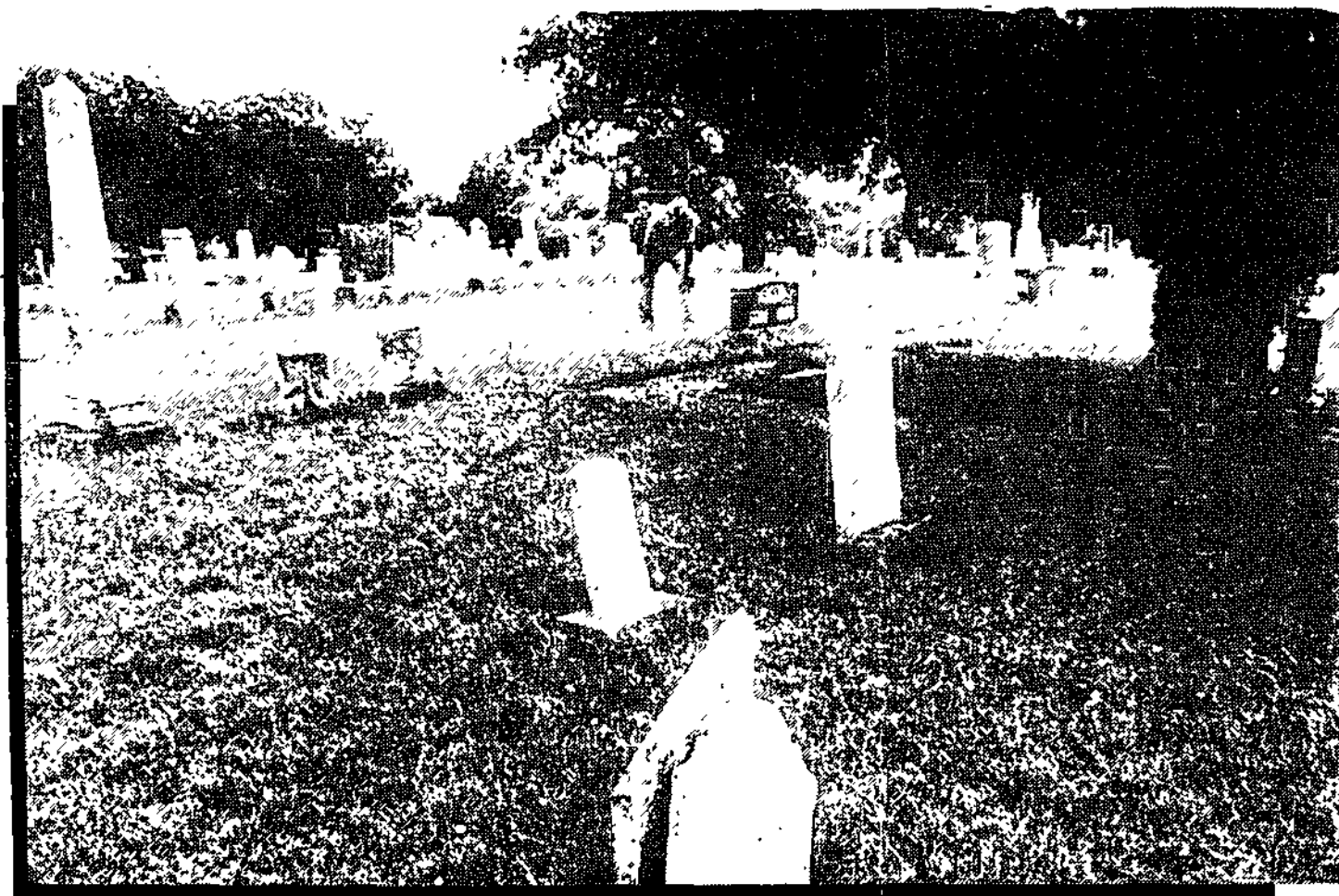
Boll weevil, fire, disease, railroad failure ... one by one, Aurora residents were giving in, loading their belongings and heading out.

As a modern writer may put it, 'not even a Martian would be caught dead in Aurora in 1897.'

But in April of that year, statewide newspapers began printing eerie dispatches now believed to be the work of practical-joking railroad men with access to the telegraph. From all parts of Texas .. Forney, Mansfield, Whitney, Tioga, Waxahachie, Denison, Beaumont and Garland .. came reports of a 'mysterious flying object' seen in the sky.

During this disastrous period in Hayden's life and Aurora, he then wrote the story that he may have thought would put Aurora back on the map ... about a spaceman, and a windmill and Weems, 'U.S. signal Service officer, an authority on astronomy' and his opinions of the 'little man's' Martian origins.

Mrs. Pegues finds many factual holes in Hayden's story. She has been unable to find any survivor of that era who ever saw Proctor's property adorned with a windmill, and Weems did exist but he was only the village blacksmith .



Local legend says a spaceman is buried here, in the Aurora, Texas, cemetery.

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12 • Texas Weekly Magazine/TV Calendar • December 4 • December 10, 1983

Hayden's newspaper story did not succeed drawing the citizens back.

In 1966, someone stumbled across an ancient clipping of Hayden's account and sent it to a Dallas newspaper columnist known for his humor. Again the tale of the stogie-shaped object was flying once again.

Excitement ran high when bits of 'strange metal' were found in Aurora, until an expert examined them and pronounced them to be an alloy frequently used in the 1920s for stove lids.

Interest peaked again in the mid-1970s, fanned by diligent mediawave coverage of quotable UFO groups, which descended with more 'investigations.'

By day, curiosity-seekers came into town and clever entrepreneurs sold them pieces of rusted tin cans and other aged alloys, telling them they were Pieces of the True Spaceship

Reporters harried the older residents, some of them in rest homes, for 'memoirs' concerning the spaceship.

By night, vandals stole or defaced tombstones until cemetery-association members began nightlong vigils to ward off trespassers and to prevent exhumation.

Then the UFO groups lost interest, newsmen found other stories to cover.

Though rumor and tradition keeps the spaceman tale alive in Aurora, nobody seems to be able to pinpoint the site of the grave with any precision.

HICKS

Ground Skylab's as- to conserve suit of a new and renewed it's resources the day.

ing awakened pace station rles "Pete" Houston, if lists working t had found me the new

lied Robert il-looking-at concern that ninate some still haven't

" quipped Kerwin.

he day off ippen said. ts will be hule Friday ient work

s developed dnesday of tteries that erated from d Skylab's by another a lot of excitement." Mary ded a new Evans said Wednesday. "Many r just when people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect.

That was years before we had sis added any regular airplanes or other plans for a kind of airships."

o free the UFO advocates have combed ating wing the Aurora area with metal wer by half detectors, radiation meters and auts were other scientific devices in re-

nd Paul J. get some tangible evidence to ey may be file with a court order to ex- television hume the body of the alleged airlock on pilot. Pieces of metal taken on in a day from the area have been sent rs can see to various scientists and to open the metallurgists for examination.

A physics professor at North ew troubles Texas State University tested

struck, the astronauta complet ed man's first orbital survey of the earth's resources—a 17,114 mile an hour pass that gathered information in the United States from Utah to the Texas Gulf Coast and continued across Mexico, Brazil and Colombia.

But to aim the station's cameras earthward, the craft had to be tipped nose-down so its solar panels no longer faced the sun and could not produce electricity. Skylab carries batteries to take over in such situations, but the battery system partially failed.

One of the craft's 18 battery

circuits failed in a way that blocked the flow of even solar cell generated power through it, the second such failure in Skylab. Four other batteries were knocked out temporarily, and had to be restored to the system by remote control from the ground. In all, the space station was without one third of its power for a little more than an hour.

"It's that one revolution without getting any power (from the sun or the turned off batteries) that eats your lunch," said flight director Neil Hutchinson.

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Interesting

Not in postal Director's office my atlas

Know where it is? No I don't. It is interesting.

Cher

*Plumber
in 7 spots
all his life
until 4 yrs
ago --
well posted
on people's
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UFO advocates study 1897 'airship' crash

AURORA, Tex. (UPI) — A 91-year-old woman says she remembers the night on April 19, 1897, her parents went to the spot where an airship crashed into Judge Proctor's well and the pilot was buried in the community cemetery.

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement," Mary Evans said Wednesday. "Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kind of airships."

UFO advocates have combed the Aurora area with metal detectors, radiation meters and other scientific devices in recent months in an attempt to get some tangible evidence to file with a court order to exhume the body of the alleged pilot. Pieces of metal taken from the area have been sent to various scientists and metallurgists for examination.

A physics professor at North Texas State University tested



PHYSICIST TOM GRAY ... examines metal sample

one piece and said it was unusual because it was 75 per cent iron but lacked many of the properties common to iron. The professor, Dr. Tom Gray, said it was not magnetic and was shiny and soft instead of dull and brittle like iron.

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Midland, TX
Reporter-Telegram
(Cir. D. 20 257)
JUN 22 1979
(Cir. S. 31 991)

Extraterrestrial beings may be found within 20 years, physicist predicts

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — Signs of intelligent beings on other planets may be found within 20 years, says a top American physicist attending a conference on the search for extraterrestrial life.

"We will probably encounter their radio signals first — that's the most likely thing," said Dr. Philip Morrison of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Morrison, who said a coordinated effort by Earth's scientists will be required to detect intelligent extraterrestrial life, was among 200 experts attending a two-day conference sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Morrison said there is a "great probability" some form of intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe, but added that Congress has refused to fund a \$14 million NASA project that would search for radio signals.

Extraterrestrials would most likely contact other planets, including Earth,

TEXAS
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
DALLAS

Established 1910

McKinney, TX
Courier Gazette
(Cir. D. 6,512)
(Cir. S. 6,819)

JUL 22 1979

The hunt for body of 64 spaceman continues

AURORA, Texas (NEA) — There's almost nothing to do in this north Texas farm community. The nearest city is Dallas, 45 miles to the East, and the nearest beach is on the Gulf Coast, down towards Mexico. The only business in town is a service station — and it's not open much anymore.

Yet each summer, when Americans are touched by warm weather wanderlust, hundreds of tourists motor into Aurora. They bring their sun glasses, their cameras and their walking shorts, and they stay for a few hours, or a few days, prowling roads and observing natives as if it were Tampico.

They aren't looking for a good time, however. They are looking for the man from outer space.

The tourists in Aurora are UFO watchers. They believe this wide spot in the road is a shrine to their convictions. Many years ago, they say, a great space ship fell from the sky and crashed here; the pilot of the craft was supposed to have been killed and then buried for the ages in this place.

The tourists, then, come to find the body, or what's left of it. They search the reported crash site, on a hill behind the gas station, and they study the grave markers at Aurora's small cemetery. If even a bit of bone can be found, they say, it will change the course of human thought.

A bit of bone? Most locals snicker up their sleeves at the visitors. The opinion among townfolk is that the story of

the dead spaceman is a hoax. At the same time, residents admit the hoax is founded on a vague fact; records indicate that something of this sort may indeed have happened here.

The year was 1897. And though the first flight of the Wright brothers was still eight years away, people across America were sighting propelled objects in the sky. For example, several Texans reported seeing a cigar-shaped vehicle, lighter than air, cruising low over cowboy country.

No one in Aurora paid attention to the sighting reports. This was a bustling region at the time, growing with the nation, and there was little pause for nonsense. Then, on April 9 of that year, reportedly at 6 a.m., a UFO allegedly slipped from the heavens and exploded in the middle of town.

The record of the occasion was compiled by a Dallas newspaper correspondent named F.E. Hayden. He apparently got most of his information from Aurora resident T.J. Weems. The latter told the former that the crash was observed and verified by numerous early risers in the community.

Hayden wrote that the UFO was a space craft, and smashed into property belonging to J.S. Proctor, a judge. He quoted Weems as saying the explosion lit up the morning sky, and left debris over three acres. Weems added there was a body among the debris, and it was "not...of this world."

The body was thought to be the ship's pilot. It was identified as being dressed in a blue uniform, not unlike a sailor suit. Weems told Hayden the corpse was badly mangled, but, happily, "The men of the community gathered it up, and it was given a Christian burial in the Aurora cemetery."

The grave is said to have been small and round. It is also said to have been distinguished with a hand-made stone which was inscribed with a drawing of a cigar-shaped object. Aurora residents say the marker was not really handmade, and that the inscription closely resembled the scrape of a plow.

The residents concede the crash of 1897 probably occurred. But that's as much credence as they'll allow the story of the dead spaceman. They believe the town was hit by a meteorite, and Weems and Hayden embellished the moment; they say Hayden was a well-known writer of satirical fiction.

This local opinion was bulwarked a few years ago by Dr. Alfred Krause, a Texas researcher; he dug at the crash site and found nothing more extraterrestrial than a 1932 license plate. As for the spaceman's grave, it's "officially" occupied by an itinerant named Carr who died of yellow fever.

True believers have their own side of it, of course. For one thing, some visitors have reported finding "odd metals" at the crash site. One piece of metal was

aluminum, and the oddity is that it was said to be buried too deeply to be of modern origin. Aluminum was not in common use in 1897.

The spaceman theory is supported by the only man in Aurora who personally remembers the crash. Charles Stevens was just a child then, but he says his father saw something fall into Judge Proctor's property; and, he adds, "There might have been two or three spacemen, I don't know."

It's unlikely that anyone will ever know the truth. The spaceman's gravestone was stolen years ago, and the grave itself has been eroded and lost. Rest in peace, whoever you are.

The far-out story of 1897 spaceman

AURORA, Texas (NEA) — There's almost nothing to do in this north Texas farm community.

The nearest city is Dallas, 45 miles to the east, and the nearest beach is on the Gulf Coast, down towards Mexico. The only business in town is a service station — and it's not open much any more.

Yet each summer, when Americans are touched by warm weather wanderlust, hundreds of tourists motor to Aurora. They bring their sunglasses, their cameras and their walking shorts, and they stay for a few hours, or a few days, prowling roads and observing natives as if it were Tampico.

They aren't looking for a good time, however.

They are looking for the man from outer space.

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Many years ago, they say, a great space ship fell



The cemetery at Aurora, Texas, where the spaceman is reputed to have been buried.

from the sky and crashed here; the pilot of the craft was supposed to have been killed and then buried for the ages in this place.

The tourists, then, come to find the body, or what's left of it. They search the reported crash site, on a hill behind the gas station, and they study the grave markers at Aurora's small cemetery.

If even a bit of bone can be found, they say, it will change the course of human thought.

A bit of bone? Most locals smucker up their sleeves at the visitors. The opinion among townfolk is that the story of the dead spaceman is a hoax. At the same time, residents admit the hoax is founded on a vague fact; records indicate that something of that sort may indeed have happened here.

The year was 1897. And though the first flight of the Wright brothers was still eight years away, people across America were sighting propelled objects in the sky.

For example, several Texans reported seeing a cigar-shaped vehicle, lighter than air, cruising low over cowboy country.

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The latter told the former that the crash was observed and verified by numerous early risers in the community.

Hayden wrote that the UFO was a space craft, and smashed into property belonging to J.S. Proctor, a judge. He quoted Weems as saying the explosion lit up the morning sky, and left debris over three acres.

Weems added there was a body among the debris, and it was "not . . . of this world."

The body was thought to be the ship's pilot. It was identified as being dressed in a blue uniform, not unlike a sailor suit. Weems told Hayden the corpse was badly mangled, but, happily, "the men of the community gathered it up, and it was given a Christian burial in the Aurora cemetery."

The grave is said to have been small and round. It is also said to have been distinguished with a hand-made stone which was inscribed with a drawing of a cigar-shaped object.

Aurora residents say the marker was not really handmade, and that the inscription closely resembled the scrape of a plow.

The residents concede the crash of 1897 probably occurred. But that's as much credence as they'll allow the story of the dead spaceman. They believe the town was hit by a meteorite, and Weems and Hayden embellished the moment; they say Hayden was a well-known writer of satirical fiction.

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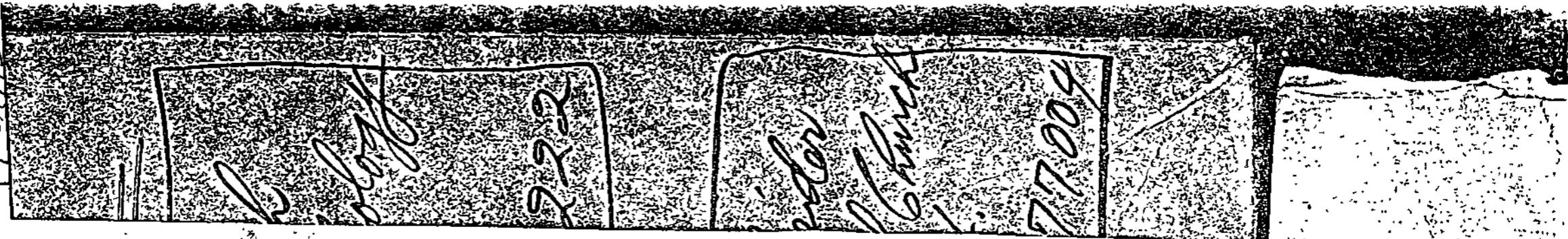
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Terrell, TX Tribune (Cir. D 5,061)

JUL 17 1970

TEXAS



Long hunt for body of spaceman continues

By Tom Tiede
This is another in a series of articles regarding events from America's past

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They aren't looking for a good time, however. They are looking for the good from outer space. The tourists in Aurora are UFO watchers. They believe a wide spot on the road is a clue to the convictions. They say, a test space plane fell from the sky and crashed here; a pilot of the craft was

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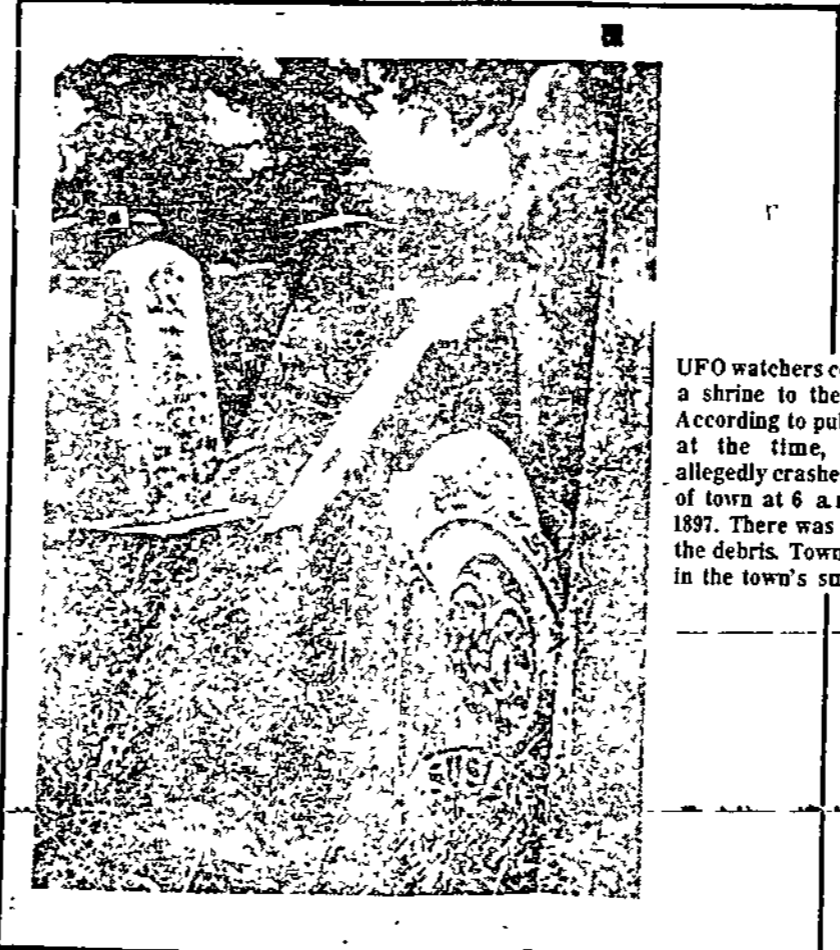
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UFO watchers consider Aurora a shrine to their convictions. According to published reports at the time, a spaceship allegedly crashed in the middle of town at 6 a.m. on April 9, 1897. There was a body among the debris. Townsfolk buried it in the town's small cemetery.

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TOM TIEDE



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No one knows. And it's unlikely that anyone ever will. The spaceman's gravestone was stolen years ago, and the grave itself has been eroded and lost. Rest in peace, whoever you are. (NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN)