

THE 1968 UFO SURVEILLANCE OF SEATTLE

William Gordon Allen, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Dr. Allen (a former Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society) with a background of some 20 years of investigating the scientific aspects of UFO phenomena is an electronics engineering design specialist with a large aero-space concern. He is author of *UFOs from beyond the 3rd dimension*. The photographs will have to be accepted as they stand. We only have proof copies, but hope one day that we will have the opportunity to study the negatives.

“WE were some three hundred yards from a brilliant orange-coloured UFO, all of the dogs in the area were yapping and howling, and I took seven pictures as carefully as I could,” replied 14-year-old Scott Sylte of Renton, Washington, to the careful questioning of a highly qualified aero-space engineer. The interrogation was to be the last event of the investigation during 1968 of the continuing surveillance of the Seattle area.

This final episode was the most significant in that Scott went hunting for evidence on the evening of November 30, 1968, and by 6.20 p.m. he had it, *on film*.

Scott is the son of young parents, both employees of The Boeing Company, the world's largest aero-space contractor, whose engineers have such outstanding accomplishments to their credit as over-all contract administration of the Apollo-moon Project, the Lunar Orbiter, whose cameras took thousands of perfect pictures of the moon-surface, the 500-passenger super-jet now in production, and the Mars-flyby, now in planning. The obvious place to seek this photograph, to Scott, was in the area in which the “visitor” was last sighted, on a hill behind the Renton King of King's Church. The pastor of this church had been previously asked by another witness to view an earlier appearance of the “bright light”.

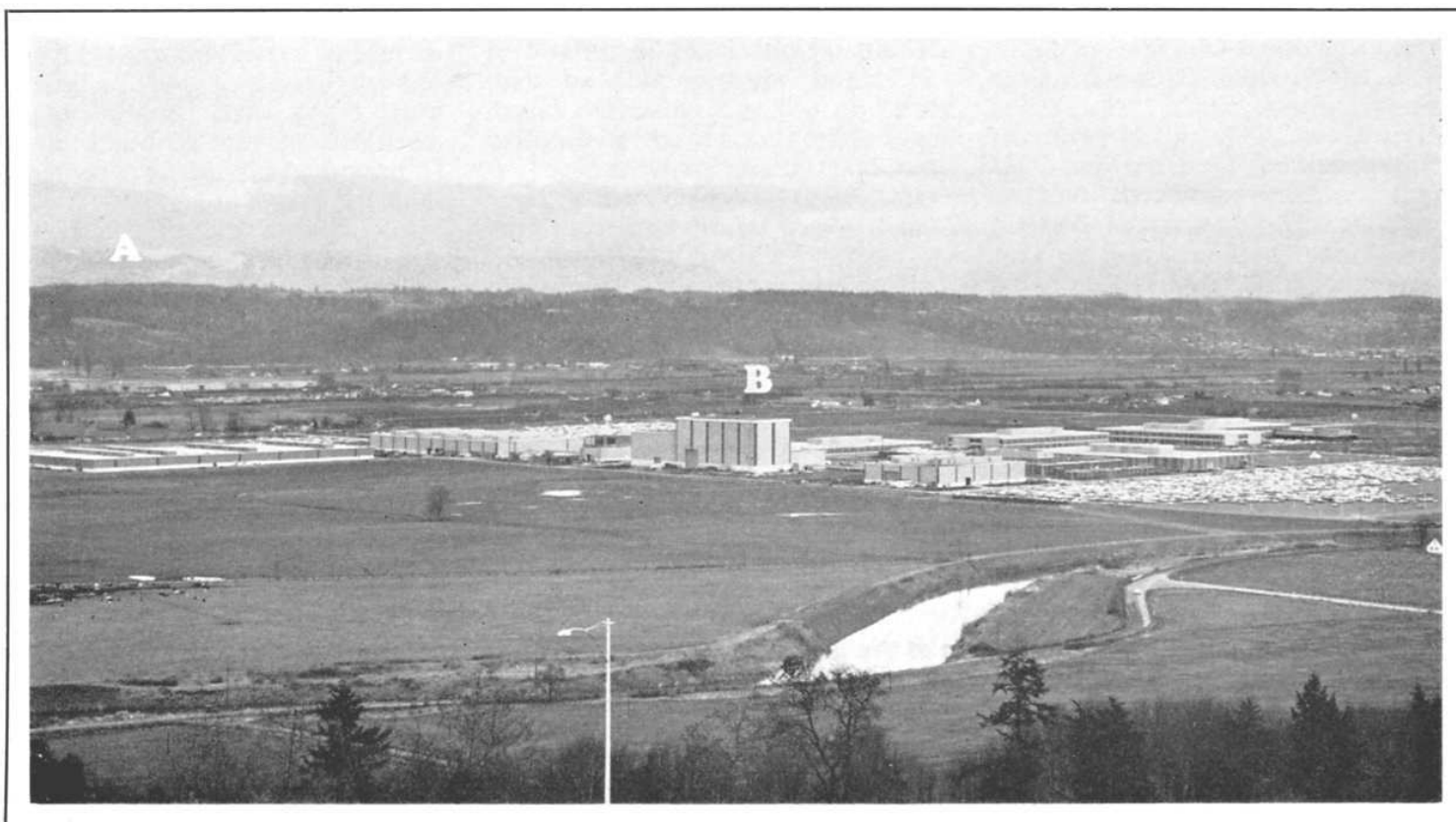
For the preceding three weeks some hundreds of residents of the South Seattle area, which includes the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the Kent (Boeing) Space Research Complex, and Renton and Auburn, had told of this strong, persistent and mysterious light going about its “mission”. Through some motivation which he could not explain Scott took his friend, Steve Walker, and his camera and decided that the time had come to photograph the “visitor”.

When in position for a while and about to leave, Scott and Steve noted the approach of a bright light—as if a little late for an appointed photograph. As it came closer Scott carefully kept taking pictures. The boys were fascinated, thrilled, and they stood their ground. With presence of mind, Scott stopped his camera's lens still further on his last try and took his best picture, showing the actual configuration of a fabricated object which gave off its intense glow of orange-coloured radiation. Some of the witnesses had previously talked of seeing a solid object—with portholes. The pictures show portholes, or porthole-like markings with specific definition.

The next day Scott took his roll of film to Jim Holm, a teacher at Renton Nelson Junior High School for developing. The evidence on the film showed that the boys had indeed photographed an object estimated to be about 50 to 60ft. in diameter, about 40ft. thick, some 100ft. from the earth's surface and about 300 yards distant.

Further questioning indicated that there was no noise surrounding the near-landing of the visitor. Ultrasonic emanations, however, could not be ruled out because of the disturbance of the dogs—or because of some sort of psychic transmission which could cause a similar reaction. A re-inspection of the same area by daylight by the boys brought them the discovery of what they termed “black water” atop some of the puddles. This was taken to their science teacher who determined that it was not water, but its composition has not been identified at the time of writing. A radio-activity detector—“a dosimeter”—showed a reading of 120 in the area (2-4 is normal).

The Seattle area was not immune from UFO rumours any month during 1968. All public information media



The South Renton, Washington, hills, (a) was the scene of the UFO photographs of Scott Sylte and is contiguous to the Kent space research labs of the BOEING Co. It was here (b) that the Lunar Orbiter was tested in simulated moon environment. The photographs of the moon surface revealed the "moon spires", FSR, Vol. 14, No. 5. The Lunar vehicle's pictures were incredibly perfect and the riddle of the natural or artificial origin of the "spires" is still an enigma. When will Boeing scientists be allowed to investigate the scientific questions of the source of power of the UFO? The answer may send them 10,000 years into the future in one incredible breakthrough

were repeatedly telephoned by observers during the year. A very significant story appeared at the beginning of the year in the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* of February 19, 1968, headlined: STRANGE UFO INCIDENT CHILLS VASHON ISLAND.

"... How do 2 inches of ice get on a pond when it is not freezing outside?

"What was the curious formless hulk that glowed like a reflector?

"Residents of Vashon Island pondered these questions yesterday in the aftermath of an icy 'flying saucer' incident. "Setting of the eerie tale was a gravel pit on the island. At 2 a.m. Sunday morning a group of island teenagers noticed a flash of light near the pit. Going to the pit the boys saw an object 'about the size of a car', though the form was indescribable. The 'thing' sent off a beam about the size of a car's headlight.

"Frightened, they sought out a King County (Seattle) deputy sheriff, and brought him to the gravel pit. It had vanished when they returned. But—the water in the gravel pit, about 50 feet from edge to edge, was covered with two inches of ice. Yet smaller bodies of water near the same pond had no ice on them. Don Holke said the ice was still thick enough to walk on Sunday afternoon.

"The ice was clear and a funny thing it had no water on top of it although it was raining all day', the sheriff's deputy added."

The newspaper clipping was mailed to a cryogenic

expert by the same electronics engineer who was to be questioning Scott Sylte the next December.

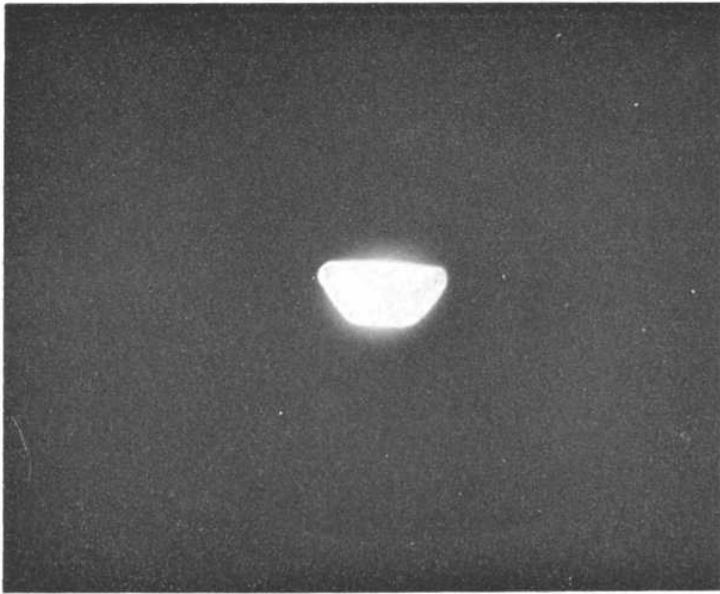
The reply from Dr. Randall Barron of the faculty of Louisiana Tech was most significant and is in FSR files in its entirety. In part, Dr. Barron comes to the following analysis and comment:

He said, "although the problem of slab formation of this size is quite complex, if a freezing temperature were assumed (32 degrees) it would take some 113.4 hours to freeze the 2in. thick slab. His calculations of this complex cryogenic problem bear out his conclusion. But remember, the outside temperature this whole time was above freezing, for it was raining much of the time.

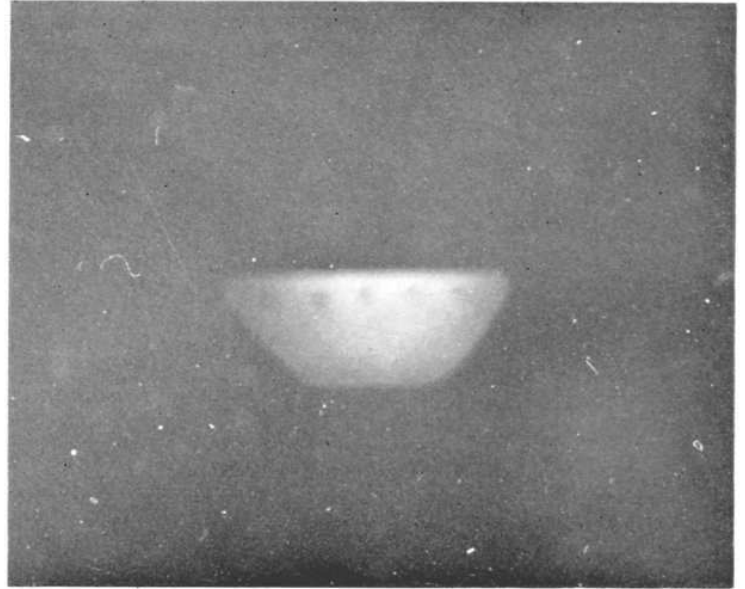
Dr. Barron points out that if, as a cryogenic authority, he were called upon to freeze the pond, his only recourse would be to have several tanks of liquid nitrogen poured on the surface of the 50ft. diameter pond. He adds that clouds of crystalline ice would be on the surface, but none was observed.

This would indicate an accomplishment beyond our science of today and the expert whose opinion is quoted added: "I do consider extraterrestrial life a distinct possibility."

Other more incredible questions remain, and a tentative conclusion must then be made that the Seattle vicinity, home of one of the most accomplished aerospace firms in the world, has been under intelligent



Bright light ambushed by camera, early shot.



The final shot, stopped down, detail revealed.

surveillance during the whole year of 1968.

Why was not one word heard from the University of Colorado's Condon (UFO) Committee, recipient of a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Air Force to do this very same type of investigation? Neither Scott Sylte nor the Vashon people were contacted.

Why did the executive director of that committee make his most irresponsible appearance before the Seattle Chapter of the American Astronautic Society in the Spring of 1968 and belittle such observations with attempts at humour, denying that anyone had submitted genuine UFO pictures to his study group? (His attention was invited to the Trinidade photographs taken by the Brazilian Navy, for instance.) Charles Fort, investigator of thousands of similar incidents during the first quarter of this century, wrote in the pages of *Lo!* (Holt edition: *The Books of Charles Fort*): "They may be of a world of other beings (who) may be exploiting life on this earth, but in ways more subtle, and in orderly or organised fashion. . . ."

Charles Fort warned us, Dr. Herman Oberth has also

warned us many times that the U.S.S.R. has now put a high priority on this fantastic question.

While the Condon Committee, publicly impaled by a prestigious U.S. picture magazine earlier in 1968, laughs, U.S. intelligence service should take notice of the possibilities of communications of a scientific nature which could vault us 10,000 years into the future—or put the iron or bamboo curtain countries the same 10,000 years ahead of us.*

These "probes" into our material world by a super-science must be assumed to be well planned: our intelligent response to these probes must not be much longer delayed.

* *In fairness it should be noted that Dr. Condon has recognised—after saying that "UFO phenomena do not offer a fruitful field in which to look for major scientific discoveries"—that the problem does exist, and that it is a "defence function" to be performed "within the framework established for intelligence and surveillance operations" (p. 5 of Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects—Bantam Books)—EDITOR.*

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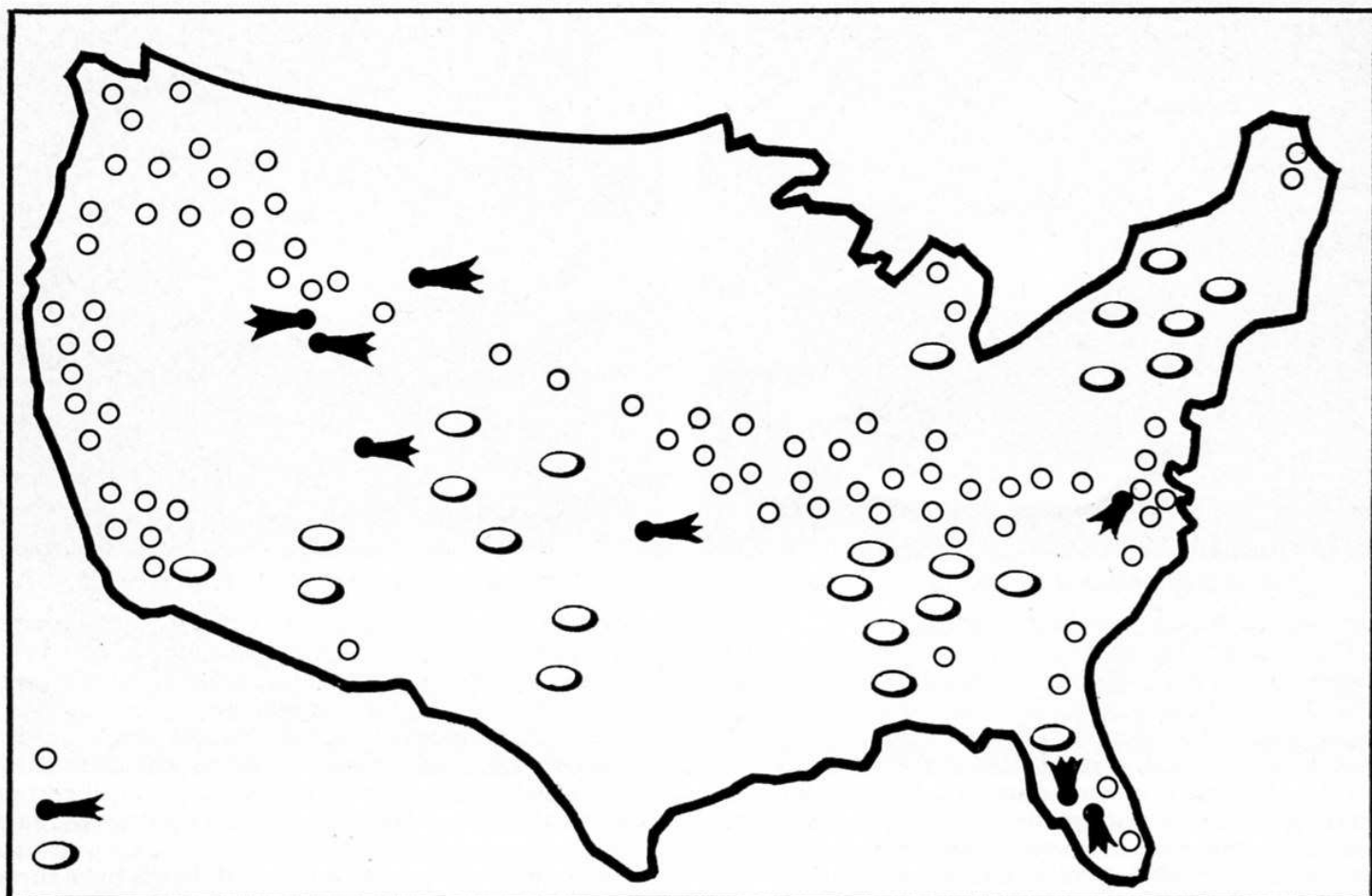
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THE GREAT CIRCLE ROUTE — Circa 1954

PIONEER Ufologist John Philip Bessor studied the UFO reports of 1954 and drew up a rough map illustrating the distribution factors. This map was published in the Harrisburg (Pa.) *Sun-Telegraph*, February 27, 1955.

Mr. Bessor noted: "Oddly, the flying saucers adhere to certain 'zones' or 'belts' reaching from British Columbia, Oregon and Washington, through Idaho, Indiana, southern Ohio and into West Virginia."

Although he was dealing with random reports (distribution of information was far from adequate in those days), Mr. Bessor plainly discovered the factors which were still prevalent 12 years later in 1966. Then, as now, the objects were apparently pursuing pre-designated flight paths from the northwest into the

middle west and then back again into the northeast.

Newspaper coverage has improved since 1954, and more witnesses are reporting, so we are now able to chart these courses more precisely. Ultimately we should be able to triangulate the exact point of origin through a careful examination of these "window" areas and the flight paths of the objects.

UFO activity in 1954-55 was concentrated in the same areas which were later affected by the November 1957 "flap" and the "flaps" of 1966. There were sightings in Ravenna, Ohio, in 1955, for example, and that city was the starting point of the famed "police chase" of 1966. The northern part of New York state, particularly the area around Plattsburgh, N.Y., and Au Sable Forks, N.Y., was the site of considerable UFO activity throughout the 1950s.