

hour later it was finally hidden in the low bank of clouds near the horizon.

"The object was first observed at 20.50 hours B.S.T. and was observed continuously (except for the short period when it was obscured by cloud) for almost one and a half hours.

"Viewed through 10 x 60 binoculars the object appeared to have a triangular shape and to be very bright. When observed through a 6in. Newtonian reflector telescope, the object looked like a shining cone of light. Its appearance resembled the shape of a bell with the 'mouth' inclined towards the observer, presenting an elliptical appearance with a central domelike structure. The periphery of the 'mouth' looked to be toroidal with three equally spaced headlights. The object was evidently reflecting sunlight as it showed shadow and contrast much as a solid body would.

"Taking into account the inverted view of a reflector telescope, the 'mouth' of the bell shaped object pointed upwards with the top tapering down towards the Earth. Eyepieces to give magnifications of eighty and two hundred times were used.



Appearance of object towards end of observation

"From the fact that the object was still illuminated by the rays of the sun forty minutes after sunset and from the angle of elevation of 25°, its minimum distance in line of sight was calculated to be 28 miles. The object was estimated to have an altitude of at least 7½ miles. At the distance quoted, the angular size of the object seen in the telescope indicates a length in excess of 60 feet along its major axis.

"These observations were made from Abingdon, Berkshire on Fri-

day, 17th June, 1966, by P. D. Wroath and Dr. R. S. Gilmore. Five other people in the vicinity were invited to observe the object because of its extraordinary appearance.

"The telescope used for the observation is owned by P. D. Wroath, an amateur astronomer and member of the British Astronomical Association. The calculations were made by Dr. R. S. Gilmore, a physicist at the Science Research Council, Harwell."

In a letter to Gordon Creighton, Dr. Gilmore said that "the object appeared to be brightly sunlit some 40 minutes after sunset. From this fact, and its observed position, one may estimate a minimum distance which will keep it out of the Earth's shadow. I estimate this as 28 miles off, with an altitude greater than 7½ miles. The angle subtended by the object was estimated in the telescope to be some 4 milliradians, suggesting a minimum length of 60 feet.

[In a letter to the Editor dated August 25, Dr. Gilmore advised that the distances originally calculated have been revised. The new figures are incorporated in the above article.]

Tremor and Swish

Just for the record. The *Guardian* of Monday, July 25 told how:

"A tremor which was felt in Cornwall early on Saturday from Padstow in the east to the Scilly Isles, is still unexplained.

"A coastguard at the Lizard said he felt two shock waves at about 2.50 a.m. It was followed by a low rumbling noise, houses shook, windows rattled, and doors blew open. No injury or damage was reported, but police stations were inundated with calls.

"On the Scilly Isles, the phenomenon was followed by 'a long swishing noise.' The Science Museum at Kensington, London, reported no trace of a tremor on its seismograph."

Mystery Animal again

The *London Evening Standard* of July 7 told how:

"The elusive Surrey puma came out into the open today and was watched and followed for 20 minutes by police and villagers at Worplesdon, near Guildford.

"It was the best sighting ever made of the puma during the three years that it has roamed the Surrey and Hampshire countryside.

"Among the first people to see it was Special Inspector Eric Bourne.

"Then motor-cycle patrol officer P.C. Robin Young, from Guildford,

arrived on the scene. He said: It was in sight for 20 minutes and there was no doubt that it was a puma. I got a good look at it through binoculars. We watched it stalking round a meadow. We followed it from a distance of about 60 yards.

"One of the people who were there had a shot gun with him and he took a pot shot at it. [Why, oh why?—EDITOR] After that it made off and we lost it when it reached a road".

For an article on "Mystery Animals", see F.S.R. November/December 1964.

ITALY

'Gnomes reported'

This report came to us by way of Brazil through the Sao Paulo newspaper *Ultima Hora*. The report is date-lined "Pisa, 14", presumably July:

"I saw two gnomes emerge from a flying saucer amid blinding light." Such was the statement made to the Police by a road-worker of Pontedera (Pisa). He said that the machine landed yesterday evening on a small island. Various motorists who were in the vicinity confirmed that they saw a mysterious luminous object in the sky at the time in question."

(Credit: Nigel Rimes.)

Bizarre Moon

This account is taken from the *Rome Daily American* of June 17, 1966:

"Thousands of Romans were mystified early last night by a series of unidentified lights in the Southern sky... The first evidence of the phenomenon was a moon-shaped-object... radiating all colours of the rainbow around its rim.

"Apparently there were at least three separate appearances of the 'artificial moon,' following within seconds of each other, each time diminishing in size and intensity and dropping lower towards the horizon.

"Following the three bursts of light, a 'pinkish-tinged' cloud reportedly formed in the general area of the phenomena. Some callers reported that the cloud seemed to assume a general mushroom shape, although not so clearly defined as the immediate aftermath of an atomic explosion.

"About ten minutes after the final 'burst' one observer reported a bright light arcing through the sky from the west. 'About the same time it came under the cloud,' he reported 'it suddenly seemed to change direction and head directly out into space."