

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 6 July 53 8/1200Z	2. LOCATION Colville, Washington
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Astronomical (VENUS)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	Venus 3 hrs 56 min, 80 deg azimuth 20 deg elevation, moving toward
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2 Hours	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Members of a GOC post observed an object for 2 hours that looked like a star.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE SE	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

WASHINGTON
SEEN!
OUR MATCH!

The Statesman

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Flying Saucer Watched from Colville's Observation Tower

Strange Object in Sky Monday Morning Witnessed by Three People.

Three Colville skywatchers report seeing a flying saucer in the skies early Wednesday morning. They are Mrs. Gerald Willett and Mrs. John Link, on the 4 to 6 a. m. shift at the watch tower, and James Kohlstedt, who relieved them at 6.

The women said they first saw the phenomenon a few minutes after going on watch and that they watched it almost continuously for two hours.

It did not remain stationary but moved about in a narrow arc several miles east and northeast of the tower. It looked like a small disk and resembled a star, said the women, except that it remained in the sky after sunrise.

Kohlstedt said he watched it a few minutes, saw it "shoot" suddenly in a northeasterly direction and then disappear behind a cloud bank.

"When I went on watch Wednesday morning I took up the broom and went outside to sweep off the platform," said Mrs. Willett. "I noticed an object in the sky northeast of the tower that resembled a star and yet didn't seem to be one. I called Virginia's (Mrs. John Link) attention to it and we watched it most of the two hours we were on watch.

"It looked about the size of a dollar, but of course it was a long way off and there was no way to guess its real size."

Mrs. Link thought the size might be between a 50-cent piece and a silver dollar, she said.

"We went on watch early," said Mrs. Link. "I guess it was about 3:45. Soon after we reached the tower Lillian (Mrs. Willett) called my attention to a peculiar star in the east. We watched for a long time. It seemed to move at times, but mostly against the wind as indicated by the clouds which sometimes obscured it.

"It certainly wasn't a star. We just couldn't figure out what it was."

Kohlstedt said the women called his attention to the object when he went on watch at 6 a. m.

"I watched it for a little while," said Kohlstedt. "At times it seemed to shoot off in a southeasterly direction. Finally it disappeared and I didn't see it any more.

"The object seemed to be about the size of a half-dollar and was shiny. I'm sure it wasn't a star. I have no idea what it might have been."

The women said they reported it to the Spokane filter center and that several questions were answered but that no one there "seemed to get excited about it."

There have been several instances of "flying saucers" reported in this area but this is the first time the same object has been reported by more than one person.

The two-hour observance by three reliable witnesses does little to solve the riddle of the "saucers," but it does verify beyond doubt that there are strange objects in the sky.

The skywatchers were asked if they thought it might have been a weather balloon. All expressed doubt. The object seemed to move against the wind rather than with it, and remained in the same general locality more than two hours.

The area in which the object was seen is a "dip" in the horizon between Old Dominion mountain and Calispell peak. Skywatchers are familiar with the outline as it is an excellent place to "spot" planes coming in from the east.

TWO MORE VIEWED "FLYING SAUCERS"

Another authenticated case of a flying saucer came to light this week when John P. Thomson, county coordinator of ground observer posts told of seeing one the evening of July 8 at a point about three miles south of Valley while he and his wife and her mother, Mrs. Alice B. Eloffson of Seattle were returning to Colville from Spokane.

"The object was about five miles southeast of Valley and about two miles easterly from the highway," said Thomson. "It appeared to be traveling southeast at about 5000 feet altitude. The speed was approximately that of an air force F-81.

"This object was characterized by a dazzling reflection of sunlight. The sun was low and the object caught light and reflected it with the brilliance of a mirror.

"It was brighter than the reflection from the light metal used on our planes. There were no wings or other protruding parts."

Thomson said his mother-in-law, riding with him in the front seat, also saw the object but that Mrs. Thomson was asleep in the back seat and did not see it.

"After pulling onto the shoulder of the road for a better look," said Thomson, "the object was observed to vanish rapidly without gaining altitude."

Thomson added that he forwarded an account of his observations to an agency in Dayton, Ohio, which has asked for well authenticated instances of aerial phenomena. He asks that persons viewing a so-called "flying saucer" or other object in the sky do the same. The address is:

Unidentifiable Aerial Objects,
Air Technical Intelligence Center,
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,
Dayton, Ohio.

From: [REDACTED]

Colville, Washington

Note:

The observation I reported in the article of 17 July, could be explained by assuming that a distant plane ignited a magnesium flare, attached to a wing tip.

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*See
Part.*

17 July 53
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