

# Landing Report from Delphos

Ted Phillips

Our contributor has been active in UFO investigation with the Mid-West UFO Network and with APRO, and also as a staff member of Skylook over the past six years. Some of the material in this report was submitted to and published in the APRO Bulletin<sup>1</sup> and in Skylook<sup>2</sup> magazine.

An illuminated object was observed very close to the ground at a farm near Delphos, Kansas, on November 2, 1971, at 19.00 C.S.T.

Delphos is located 11 miles north-east of Minneapolis, in Ottawa County, Kansas. The site of the observation was on the Durel Johnson farm, half a mile north and half a mile east of Delphos. The farm is located on a section of the state which consists of scattered tree lines and fields. There are no hills in the area.

The witnesses were Durel Johnson, aged 52, Erma Johnson, 49, and Ronald Johnson, 16.

Possible confirming witnesses were Elton Smith, School Principal, Delphos, and Lester Ernsberger of Minneapolis.

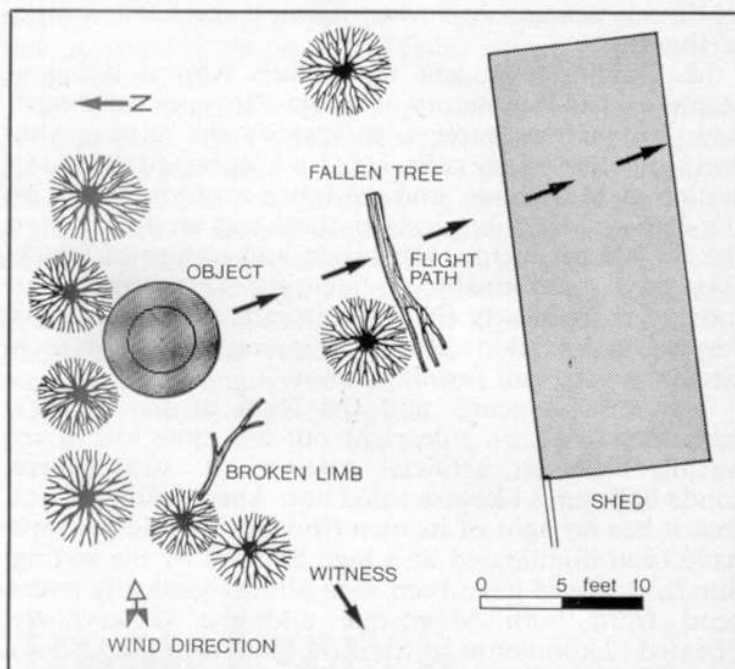
An investigation was conducted at the site on November 3, 1971, by Sheriff Ralph Enlow, Under-sheriff Harlan Enlow, and Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Kenneth Yager. Further investigations at the site were made on December 4, 1971, and January 11, 1972, by the author.

## The observation

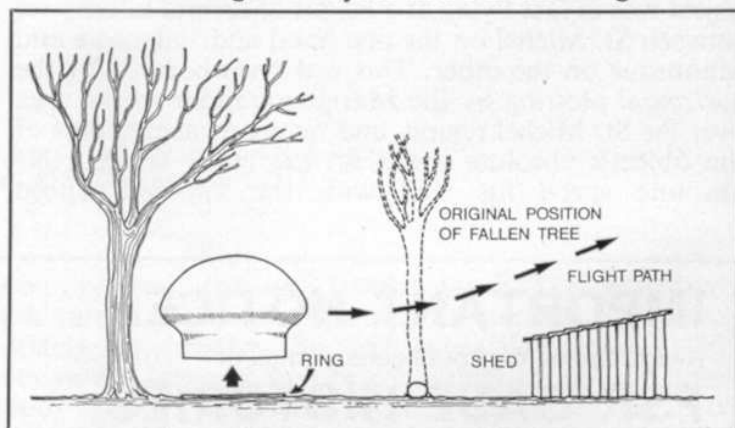
At approximately 7.00 p.m. C.S.T. on November 2, 1971, Ronald Johnson was tending the sheep, accompanied by his dog. Mrs. Johnson called from the back door of the Johnson house asking Ronald to come to supper: he replied that he would be through in a short time. After Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had finished their meal, Mrs. Johnson called the boy again, but this time he didn't reply. Mrs. Johnson stated that she didn't see anything of an unusual nature, such as a glow, and did not hear any sound.

Ronald stated that as he worked in the sheep pen and just after his mother called to him the first time—he heard a rumbling sound and the object was suddenly illuminated. Ronald and the dog did not notice the object prior to the sound. The object was illuminated from top to bottom by multi-coloured light. The illumination did not come from individual lights but rather it was a mass of varied colours over the entire surface. An actual metallic surface could not be seen, but the boy could make out a definite shape. The object appeared to be slightly domed at the top and base, with a slight bulge at the centre. There was a bright glow between the base and the ground. The object was hovering about 2ft. above the ground, and at no time did the witness see it touch the ground.

The witness was about 75ft. from the object and had a fairly clear view of it. Upon seeing the object he stood quite still, and noted that the dog was very quiet. Ronald stated that the colours were blue, red and orange and that the colours did not change at any time. The object had an estimated diameter of 9ft.



Plan showing the object and surrounding area



The object and surrounding area

and appeared to be about 10ft. high. He could not see any surface details because of the glow, which was quite bright, and the trees in the area were illuminated, as was the ground. The boy said that it hurt his eyes when he looked directly at the object, and for several days following the incident his eyes were sore, and he suffered from headaches.

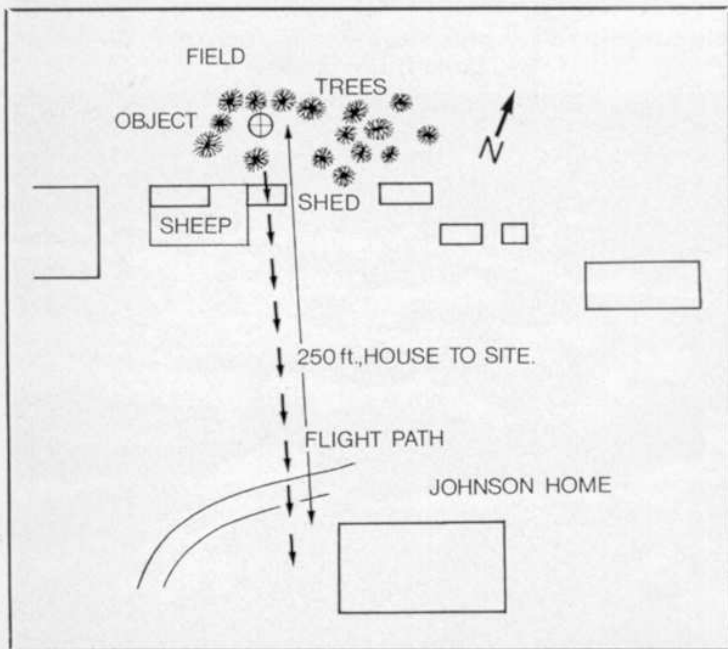
The sheep were obviously disturbed by the presence of the object, or by the sound, as they were bellowing. Mr. Johnson stated that the sheep would jump from the pen each evening for a week after the incident.

<sup>1</sup> Bulletin of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, 3910 East Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712, U.S.A.

<sup>2</sup> Skylook, Box 129, Stover, Missouri, U.S.A.

The boy was sure that he would have seen the object before the rumbling sound began had it been illuminated. Ronald likened the sound to that of an old washing machine which vibrates. After several minutes the object brightened at the base. The glow at the base enlarged somewhat and the object began to ascend with considerable speed at an angle, passing over a nearby shed by about 4ft. As it cleared the shed the sound changed to a high-pitched sound, like that of a jet aircraft.

As the sound changed the boy was suddenly unable to see—he claimed to have lost his vision completely. I asked him if he could see spots in his vision, as one would do following a photographic flash: he said he could not. (We may assume—and this would be an assumption only—that it was at this time that Mrs. Johnson called the boy the second time. As the object had ascended and was to the south of the house at a point not visible from the back door, Mrs. Johnson



Plan showing situation of object, relative to the Johnson home.

would not have heard or seen anything unusual.) Ronald stated that, while unable to see, he could hear the sound fading into the distance.

After what seemed to be several minutes, the boy began to regain his sight. He saw the object in the sky and ran to the house. He told his parents that a flying saucer or something had landed and was still visible in the sky. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson both stated that the boy was frightened and excited when he entered the house. They didn't believe the boy at first and he became very aggravated.

Mr. Johnson then went outside and saw a bright light in the southern sky. He called out, and all three observed the light at a point 180° due south. They described the light as being very bright and at least half the apparent diameter of the full moon. I asked if it would have been as bright and large as an automobile light 100ft. away and they said it was larger and brighter. As they observed the light, which was the colour of an arc-welder, it was decreasing in size, moving into the distance. They watched the light for a brief time and then pro-

ceeded to the landing site. They did not see the object again.

As Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and Ronald walked around the shed adjacent to the site, they saw, in the darkness, a glowing circle. The soil surface was glowing a bright grey-white. Portions of nearby trees reportedly glowed also. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson touched the ring surface, but it was not warm. The texture of the soil surface felt strange, like a slick crust, as if the soil was crystallised. Mrs. Johnson noted an immediate numbing at her finger tips. She rubbed her hand against her leg in an attempt to remove the dirt and that portion of her leg also became numb. She likened the numbness to that of a local anaesthetic. Mr. Johnson noted the numbness in his fingers also. For about two weeks this condition prevented Mrs. Johnson from taking pulse readings on patients at the rest home where she works. She stated that she simply could not feel anything with her finger tips. Mr. Johnson said that the numbness left his fingers in a much shorter time. They did not consult a doctor. Mrs. Johnson ran to the house and picked up their polaroid camera, returned to the site, and photographed it.

Upon returning to the house, Mr. Johnson called Mr. Willard Critchfield, Editor of the *Delphos Republican*: according to Mr. Critchfield the time was about 8.00 p.m. No action was taken at that time.

The following day—November 3, 1971—Mr. Johnson and Ronald drove into Delphos and talked with Mrs. Thaddia Smith. I quote from Mrs. Smith's report given to Sheriff Enlow on the afternoon of November 3, 1971:

"While visiting with Mr. Johnson and Ronnie during the noon hour, Wednesday, November 3, I learned some of the details of the previous night. This is the way it was told to me.

"Ronnie, aged 16, accompanied by his dog, was taking care of his flock of sheep at approximately 7.00 p.m. when suddenly he saw a blinding, brilliant light, and heard a loud rumbling sound that turned into a sound similar to a jet engine, and then the light ascended into the heavens in a southerly direction from an area in a shelter belt of trees behind a hog house near the sheep pen.

"He was nearly paralysed with fear, but finally managed to run to the house and called his parents out of the house to look at the light which was still visible high in the heavens to the south of their house.

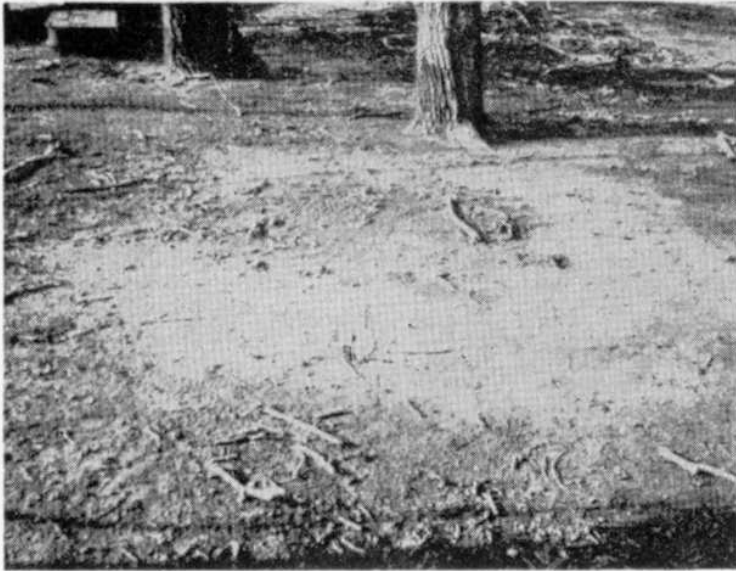
"The boy and his dog were still afraid. The dog wandered around the yard with his head up in the air as though still looking for the object.

"The family went to the area where the object was seen ascending from [sic]. There they found a large circle on the ground that had a fluorescent glow in the dark. Mrs. Johnson took a picture of the area.

"I, after listening to their experience, a little sceptical, having my curiosity aroused and being a newspaper reporter, decided to go to the Johnson farm home to take a picture of the area where the object had been.

"I was accompanied by my husband, Lester Smith, and son-in-law, Kenneth McCullick, who were also curious.

"Upon arriving at the scene I knew instantly that something had left evidence that it had been there.



Photograph taken November 3, 1971, 19 hours after alleged landing by Sheriff Enlow. Note undisturbed section of left edge

"The circle was still very distinct and plain to see. The soil was dried and crusted. The circle or ring was approximately 8ft. across, the centre of the ring and outside area were still muddy from recent rains. The area of the ring that was dried was about a foot across and was very light in colour.

"The object had crushed a dead tree to the ground either when it landed or took off, and from appearance had broken a limb of a live tree when it landed. The broken limb was most unusual, it would snap and break as though it had been dead for quite some time, yet it was green under the bark, and the upper area still had green leaves clinging to its branches. However the lower area was free of all leaves and some of the bark on the lower areas looked as though it had been blistered and had a whitish cast.

"I took a picture of the area and went back to the newspaper office to write my story. Thinking about the almost unbelievable things I had seen I decided to call the Concordia Weather Bureau to find out if they had seen any unidentifiable objects on radar, and was told their radar had not been turned on and they advised me to notify the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office. I called KSAL in Salina to report the incident. They also advised me to report to the sheriff's office, which I did."

The above report was written by Mrs. Thaddia Smith, reporter with the *Delphos Republican*, and given to Ottawa County Sheriff Enlow.

I now quote from a written report by Under-sheriff Harlen Enlow to me on January 11, 1972:

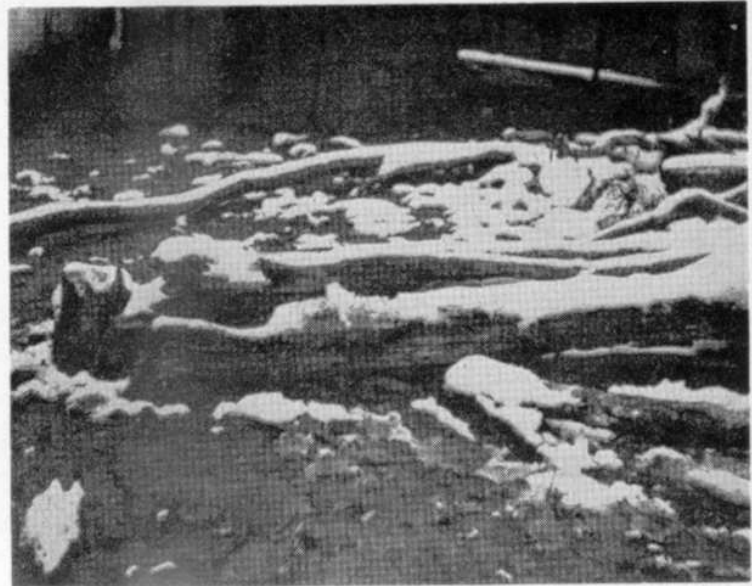
**"Report of Harlen Enlow, Undersheriff**

UFO SIGHTING AT DUREL JOHNSON RESIDENCE 1 N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. OF DELPHOS

"At approx. 1.30 p.m. 11-03-71\* this Officer received a call from Thaddia Smith, a reporter for the *Delphos Republican*, advising that a UFO had been reported at 7.00 p.m. 11-02-71 at the Durel Johnson farm 1 mile north and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of Delphos. Mrs. Smith advised that she had reported the incident to the Weather Bureau



Ring outlined by unmelted snow—facing NW—taken December 4, 1971



Fallen tree, 7in. diameter

at Concordia, Kansas, and to KSAL Radio in Salina, Kansas, and that both had advised her to report it to this office.

"At approx. 2.00 p.m. 11-03-71 Sheriff Ralph Enlow, Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Kenneth Yager, and Undersheriff Harlan Enlow went to the Johnson farm and talked to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their son Ronnie who had observed the UFO the previous night.

"We were advised by Ronnie that at approx. 7.00 p.m. 11-02-71 while out in the sheep pen with the sheep he had heard a loud noise and saw a bright light coming from a shelter belt behind the hog house. As he watched, the light rose into the sky and left in a southerly direction. Ronnie ran into the house and got his parents who came out and saw the object in the sky still headed South.

"Mr. Johnson took us out behind the hog house where we observed a ring shaped somewhat like a doughnut

\* Readers should remember that in the American style the month is given first, followed by the day.—EDITOR.



**Broken limb over W edge of ring**

with a hole in the middle. The ring was completely dry with the hole in the middle and outside of the ring mud. There were limbs broken from a tree and a dead tree broken off, there. There was a slight discoloration on the trees. We were given a picture taken the previous evening by Mrs. Johnson which showed that the ring glowed in the dark. Undersheriff Enlow took a soil sample from the dried ring and photographed it.

"The soil sample taken was almost white in colour and very dry. We used a Civil Defense Radiological Monitor to determine that the soil was not radioactive. The soil sample and photographs are stored in the vault in the Sheriff's Office pending further investigation by the proper authorities.

"On 11-03-71 Mr. Lester Ernsbarger of 416 Argyle St. in Minneapolis advised Deputy Sheriff Leonard Simpson that at approx. 7.30 p.m. 11-02-71 he had observed a bright light descending in the sky in the Delphos area.

Signed: Harlan Enlow, Undersheriff."

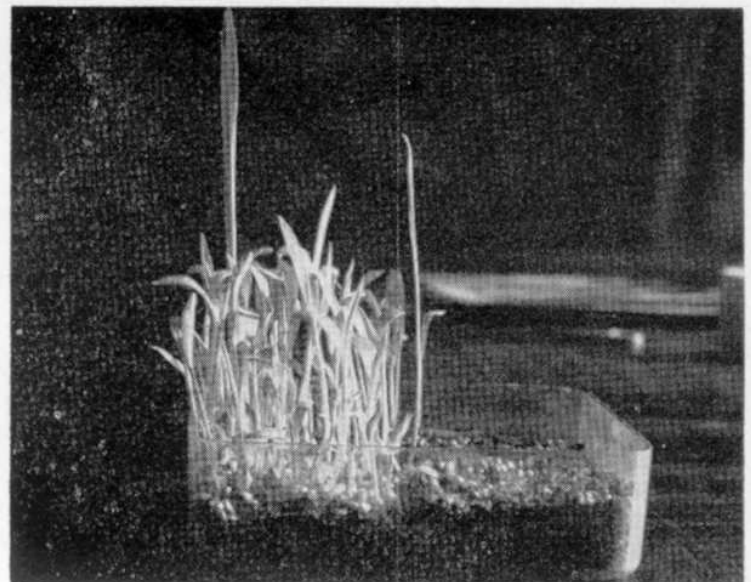
#### **Field investigation: December 4, 1971**

On the evening of December 2, 1971, I received a telephone call from Dr. J. Allen Hynek. During that conversation Dr. Hynek gave me the basic details of the Delphos sighting. I immediately placed a call to Sheriff Enlow and advised him that I would be in the area on Saturday morning, December 4, 1971. Sheriff Enlow offered to contact Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, which he did.

When I arrived at the small Kansas town of Minneapolis I found Sheriff Enlow in his office awaiting my arrival. We discussed the details of the case briefly and I was given a soil sample taken by the Sheriff on November 3, 1971, the day following the alleged landing. Sheriff Enlow and I then went to the Johnson farm which is located 11 miles north of Minneapolis.



**Ronald Johnson and dog**



**Growth in normal soil taken 5ft. from ring—no growth in ring soil**

When we arrived at the farm the temperature was 37° and the snow was melting. At the farm the condition of the lot was that of a bog. Mr. Johnson and Ronnie met us at the car and I was impressed with their sincere interest in the incident which had taken place there 32 days before. I began by talking with young Ronald. I would describe them simply as typical residents of the mid-west, having a rural background. The boy and his father are very pleasant and calm, not really excited by their unusual experience, but quite curious as to what the UFO may have been and what could have produced a ground marking such as the one found at the alleged landing site.

#### **The witnesses**

I discussed the observation with Ronald as long as the limited time would permit, he seemed sincere and not too interested in UFOs or space flight. Ronald stated that he had read a few books on UFOs in the past; that it had been at least a year since he had heard or read anything on the subject; that he had

hoped to see a UFO some day but didn't believe that he would. To my knowledge there have been no UFO sightings in the central Kansas area during the last year. He did not at any time attempt to embellish his story with wild comments or theories, and it seemed he tried very hard to answer each question correctly and to the best of his ability.

Durel Johnson stated that he and Mrs. Johnson had indeed rushed outside to see the brilliant object in the southern sky. Unfortunately, neither Mr. Johnson nor the boy were able to make any really sound estimates of the time periods during the observations. As they are not trained observers there were numerous details which they could not give with any certainty.

### The traces on the ground

Following the discussion of the sighting we went to the landing site. To reach the site one must cross the farm lot which by then was extremely muddy. The melting snow had left a great deal of standing water along with the mud. As we approached the site we walked around a small shed and through scattered trees. To my amazement there was the ring, with snow melting from the ground in all the surrounding area, still to be seen after 32 days. It was perfectly outlined by the unmelted snow. Although the surrounding soil was extremely moist, we found that if the snow was removed from any portion of the ring the soil directly beneath the snow was dry and light brown in colour, in contrast with the black, moist soil in the ring centre and around the ring.

We removed snow from one section of the ring and introduced water into the exposed ring area: the soil would not permit the water to pass through the surface. This was most remarkable, as there had been several inches of rain and snow between November 2 and December 4.

Mr. Johnson and I next removed a sample from the ring. The sample contained a high concentration of a white substance, and this white material was evident in all of the ring soil that we exposed. The particles were not to be found in the soil in the centre of the ring, or in the surrounding soil. The ring soil was quite dry to a depth of at least twelve inches. The soil outside the ring was also sampled and was simply black and wet to a depth of at least eight inches. I cannot imagine soil exposed to the elements remaining so dry for such a long period of time.

### The site

The site is located some 250ft. to the north of the farmhouse. The ground at the site is devoid of all plant life. A shed is located 23ft. from the centre of the ring, one edge of the shed being at 140° S. at 27ft., the other edge 200° S. at 25ft. The shed is 27ft. long and 4ft. high at the side towards the ring, and 5ft. high on the south side. A wooden fence runs west from the shed to the sheep shed where the witness stood, and the length of the fence is 51ft. The boy stood at a point 10ft. to the south of the fence.

Between the ring and the shed is a dead tree, located 145° S. at a distance of 16ft. from the ring centre. This

tree was dead before the incident, but was standing. The stump is 7in. high and 7in. in diameter and the break indicates that the tree may have been broken as the object made its descent along the assumed entry path. It appears that the tree was pushed towards the ring but fell, possibly due to a weak section on the eastern side of the trunk, at a right angle to the flight path. The fallen tree is 11ft. long and careful examination failed to reveal any marks at any point along its length. This tree could have been pulled over with a tractor and chain, but one would expect to find chain marks. Sheriff Enlow and I discussed this possibility and feel that this was not the case.

Also adjacent to the flight path one finds two 6in. diameter trees: 125° S. at 20ft. and 180° S. at 13ft. The flight path would have been between these two trees, the limbs of which extend towards the flight path, being 11ft. apart at a height of 12.5ft. above the ground. Two trees are located at 325° N. at 5ft. from the ring centre (1ft. from the ring edge) and at 35° N. at 5ft. from ring centre. These trees reportedly glowed and do show a slight discoloration on the ring side. A large broken limb is found still hanging at 260° W. at a distance of 11ft. from ring centre. The limb is broken at a point 8.5ft. above ground. The limb was broken downwards, and the diameter at the break is 3in. When extended to its original position the limb would have been quite near the ring's edge.

Close examination of this limb showed several possible impact marks. One mark in particular is of interest—on a section of the limb which would have been very near the circle—and is about 1in. in length: the bark was peeled back exposing a green surface. This area was definitely not a natural fault in the bark. This limb was alive at the time of the alleged landing, and it would have taken a considerable pressure to have broken it.

Entry into the site would not have been possible to the north or east as those areas contain numerous undisturbed trees. A vertical descent or ascent would be out of the question as the tree branches directly above the ring were not damaged. The broken limb did show what appeared to be heat blisters, while branches were green at the centre, but would snap at the slightest pressure. The flight path would appear to have been as Ronald described it: between two trees, over the fallen tree, over the low shed and to the south. An object with the dimensions described by the witness could have made its way into, and out of, the landing site. A landing by any conventional aircraft is completely out of the question.

After taking the appropriate measurements and photographs, we returned to the house and again briefly discussed the observation.

I then drove back to Delphos and talked with a representative of the Concordia Weather Bureau by telephone. He stated that the meteorologist had visited the site and made a check for radiation, and that the results were negative. The meteorologist could offer no explanation for the ring, and felt that it was indeed unusual.

I was given photographs of the site taken by the *Delphos Republican*, November 3, 1971, and a small branch taken on the same day.

### Field investigation: January 11, 1972

I decided that a second trip to the alleged landing site was necessary to obtain the needed information, and to get the most accurate measurements of the site possible. I felt that the trip would be worthwhile, if only to observe any changes in the ring.

I talked with Sheriff Enlow about the possibility of a hoax, we discussed this at length and both are of the opinion that a hoax would be most unlikely. I obtained a signed statement from Sheriff Enlow regarding the reliability of the witnesses. I quote his statement:

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

"In reference to the UFO sighting at the Durel Johnson residence near Delphos, Kansas, on November 2, 1971. The Johnsons are life-time residents of Ottawa County and the Delphos Community. They are well known and well respected by Officers from this Department. It is the opinion of this Officer that the information given by them would be accurate to the best of their knowledge.

"In reference to the UFO sighting on November 2, 1971, by Mr. Lester Ernsbarger of Minneapolis, Kansas. Mr. Ernsbarger is an Employee of the Minneapolis Street Department and a reserve Police Officer with the Minneapolis Police Department. I feel that his information would be accurate to the best of his knowledge.

"Signed: Ralph Enlow, Sheriff, Ottawa County, Kansas."

After talking with Sheriff Enlow I proceeded to Delphos where I stopped at the office of the *Delphos Republican*. I talked again with the Editor, Willard Critchfield and reporter Thaddia Smith. I obtained a signed statement from Mrs. Smith as she had gone to the site on November 3, 1971, and obtained branch samples and photographs. I quote from her statement:

"After receiving information late in the afternoon of November 3, 1971, that personnel from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Highway Patrol and the Cloud County Weather Bureau had visited the site and taken samples of the soil and trees, I, with my husband returned to the Johnson farm that evening to secure further information they might have for my newspaper article concerning the mysterious UFO.

"The Johnson family, my husband and I, without lights, walked in the darkness to the site.

"As we came into view of the area we could see very distinctly the glowing ring. In the area around and inside the circle there was nothing but darkness giving a person an eerie feeling.

"The Johnson family having lived in the Delphos community their entire life are respected, truthful, conscientious, trustworthy and a well-thought-of typical hard-working Kansas farm family.

"Signed: Thaddia Smith, Reporter, *Delphos Republican*."

I then returned to the Johnson farm to find Mr. Johnson and Ronnie working in the lot. The three of us went through the observation once again the details were basically the same as given before. Mr. Johnson did mention that the dog avoided the ring on the evening following the sighting, and he would return to the area only after a number of people had

visited the site the following day. Mr. Johnson stated that he had lived on the farm for the past 14 years, and that the site has never had any structures on it.

The three of us went to the site and the ground which had been muddy on my previous visit was now dry. The ring was faintly visible as it was a slightly lighter colour than the surrounding soil. We proceeded to "water down" the area with several buckets of water, and as we placed the water on the soil the ring became quite prominent. As the surrounding soil immediately absorbed the water it turned dark black, but the ring soil would not admit the water, and simply turned a lighter colour. The water stood on the ring soil briefly and suddenly ran off the surface into a lower section of ground at the centre, as it did so the surface appeared dry. It was as if the water had been poured on a glass surface.

We must remember that all this was taking place 71 days after the ring appeared. Mr. Johnson and I opened the ring in several areas all were dry and contained the white substance. We were able to expose the soil to a depth of 14in. it was still dry at that point. I opened the soil at the ring edge in order to see the normal soil meeting the ring soil from the surface to a depth of 6in. (I did not go deeper at this point) the ring soil was dry with the white substance, the normal soil joining the ring was black, damp and did not contain the white material.

On the western edge of the ring one finds an area which was not dried; it contains none of the white material. The ring has an irregular diameter of 8ft., the ring width ranges from about 12in. to over 20in. The greatest width is at the eastern side. This is interesting as it would have been down wind from the ring centre it may be possible that the wind acted as a spreading agent.

After spending several hours at the Johnson farm I drove back to Delphos and talked with Mrs. Johnson at a rest home where she works. Mrs. Johnson is a very pleasant, soft-spoken individual, sincere and intelligent. As she related the events of the evening of November 2, 1971, she simply confirmed the information given me by Mr. Johnson and Ronnie. She did state that the object seen in the sky was quite large and bright and that it was moving away from them, growing smaller. She said that as she touched the ring soil minutes after the alleged ascent it felt cool, not at all warm. It felt strange, having a slick, crusty feel. She felt the numbing in her fingers and tried to remove the soil by rubbing her hand against her leg. That portion of the leg became numb also, this condition persisted for more than two weeks.

During my first trip, and during this visit as well, I attempted to meet Lester Ernsbarger who is a possible confirming witness. I have not been able to contact him as of January 16, 1972.

### Possible confirming witnesses

Elton Smith, Box 326, Delphos, Kansas, telephone 913-523-4357. Elton Smith is employed at the Delphos Attendance Center as Principal-Educator.

Smith stated the following about the observation which took place at about 6.20 p.m. on November 2, 1971:

"I saw *only* a streak of light coming downward, to the North of me (in the approximate Delphos area) as I was walking to the north from the school building to the football field in Bennington, Kansas. I did not see an object, but just thought it was a falling star."

As Smith observed the streak descending in the general direction of the alleged landing site just 40 minutes prior to the observation of the landed object, we might assume—and it would be pure conjecture—that Smith may have indeed seen the object on its landing path. If the streak was a meteor, it would have been quite bright as the sky was not in total darkness. As no object was seen, however, we certainly cannot consider this to be a confirmation of the Delphos UFO.

\* \* \*

Lester Ernsbarger, 416 Argyle Street, Minneapolis, Kansas 67467. Ernsbarger, a Minneapolis Street Department employee and reserve police officer observed a bright light in the sky towards Delphos at 7.30 p.m. No other details as of this date.

### Summary

Based on the interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and Ronald, Sheriff Enlow and reporter Thaddia Smith, and after seeing the alleged landing site over a period of 71 days, it presents, I believe, considerable evidence which would seem to confirm the unusual event described by the witnesses. I would suggest that this may be a most significant report.

If one eliminates the observation of the object and the evidence found at the site, the ring remains, and this unusual ground mark is indeed a mystery. Although, according to the Concordia, Kansas, Weather Bureau, there had been several inches of rain and snow at the site, the ring soil remains extremely dry and light brown in colour. The contrast between the ring soil and the surrounding soil is incredible.

It is my belief, *based on the information at hand*, that we have here an excellent example of the unusual phenomena which has been reported by so many for so long.

### Comparison cases

The following reports from my physical trace file compare favourably with the Delphos, Kansas, case, which is listed as case P.T. > 367

P.T. > 099

Tucuman, Argentina, January 31, 1963. 2 scorched rings were found, each 14in. wide with a diameter of 12ft. and lying some 16in. apart forming as it were a figure "8". Police and scientists made deep cuts and found that not only the grass, but also its roots, had been burnt down to a depth of 4in., "as though dessicated at a temperature in excess of 2,000°, yet *without combustion or flames*." On the rings a *white ash-like powder* was found. Later, Juan G. Perea, overseer of the neighbouring "El Trenzel" Ranch, said that he and his wife and children had seen an egg-shaped object pass over the ranch and go down towards the precise area where the marks were found. The object was travelling at a very slow speed.

P.T. > 090

Standoff, Alberta, Canada, May, 1968. A Mrs. Hoefler watched a bright, circular object land about

300 yards away. The witness ran away. The next day, two oval-shaped burned areas were found. Digging in the larger circle, which was 9ft. in diameter and 7½in. in depth, revealed that it had been *burned down about 3ft.* The *centre of the circle was not as badly burned as the outside perimeter.* The grass grew in the burned area the next year, but the *sheep* wouldn't eat it. Also the growth within the oval was much coarser, greener and taller than in the area surrounding. *The second circle was 8ft. in diameter.*

P.T. > 226

Boggabri, Australia, October 19, 1970. Unusual ground markings were found on the property of Mr. W. Erratt. They occurred in the centre of a paddock, the soil was damp and had the cohesive properties of clay. About 80 pints of rain had fallen just prior to the investigation of the site, making the site rather muddy at the time of observation. However, the initial portions of all the holes were hardened on the inside, as though they had been subjected to *great heat.* This contrasted *markedly with the soft, surrounding soil.* Compression rings were found in some cross-sections of the holes. An encrustation was found on the inside of the holes over the length which was hardened and was also found on the surface, this area also appeared *dry* and hard. The central hole was about 4½in. in diameter, had sharp sides and appeared to be cut as if with an auger. It was inclined at about 20° to the vertical and 16in. deep. It was slightly greater than 4½in. inside diameter at the base. A *white encrustation* was found in all the holes. The markings consisted of a "crater" 8in. deep and 6ft. in diameter. Inside the crater were the holes, disposed apparently symmetrically about a central hole.

P.T. > 357

Waihoke, New Zealand, January, 1965. Ross Liverton reported finding a ring in a *sheep*-holding pen on his farm. The circle of bare earth was 8ft. in diameter and 12in. wide. The area was a quagmire of mud. But after a shower of rain the circle reappeared as if the ground below was porous. The rest of the ground was covered with grass but the circle did not produce any growth. The ring became fainter until it *disappeared after 4 years.*

IN THE FORTHCOMING MARCH/APRIL  
1972 ISSUE OF

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**The Piri-Reis Map: fact and fiction**

by Dr. P. C. W. Davies

**The Hazards of Television**

by Charles Bowen

# The Dzik Report: Los Angeles UFO

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CLEAR, cloudless blue skies are rare over Los Angeles, California. The smog and haze which mar the atmosphere of this nation's third largest city are present most days of the year.

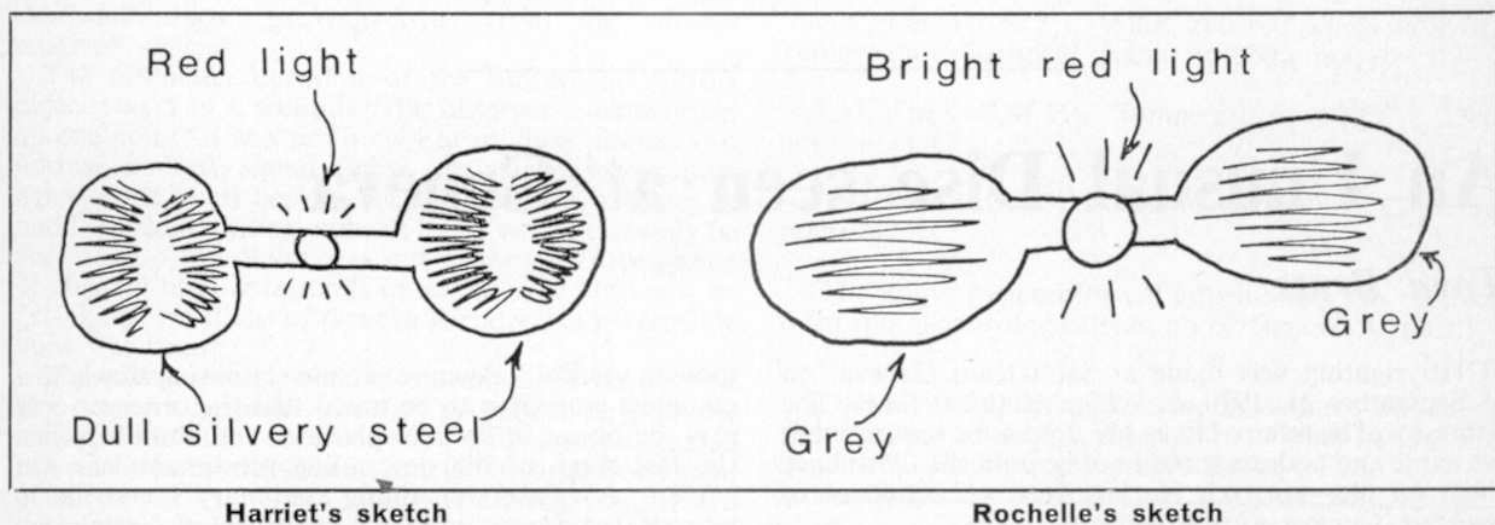
On October 16, 1968, however, north-easterly winds had blown the obscuring smog out over the Pacific Ocean. The sky early that day was generally cloudless, with better-than-average visibility over the city and nearby coastal valleys.

Harriet Dzik, then fourteen years of age, and her sister, Rochelle, then thirteen, were walking to school in a densely settled section of the city. They were looking at and enjoying the beautiful blue sky when, at 7.50 a.m., a large object caught Harriet's eye. She called her sister's attention to it.

The two girls stared at it. It was such an unusual shape and so large that the details were unmistakable. Both

motion. A high, whistling noise came from it, not very loud, but the sound became more audible as the object passed them at its nearest point. As it went off into the north-west, the noise became fainter and finally inaudible. The object disappeared into the distance: the estimated time of sighting, three minutes.

The Los Angeles International Airport is about seven miles from the girls' home and school. Both Harriet and Rochelle were familiar with the different types of planes which take off and land continually. A plane passed by at about the same time as the October 16 object, and Harriet compared its appearance with the unknown object. The metal of the plane seemed different from that of the object, in that it was more silvery and reflected light. She compared the object's size to about a dime at arm's length, or about two times larger than the full moon.



girls, having light prescription glasses, put them on, the better to see what was passing before their eyes.

The shape was definite—two round circles, dull steel in colour. The two circles were connected by a bar of the same colour, approximately as long as the diameter of each circle. On the bar was a large, red light. The entire object was solid-appearing and seemed to be made of metal. The object, circles and bar, was horizontal to their view.

It was first seen in the south, its edges clearly defined. It moved very smoothly, "a little faster than a blimp", slower than an aeroplane. To the girls, its height seemed higher than a blimp and lower than a plane. It followed a straight course, from the south when first seen towards the north-west, travelling in a smooth, gliding

Rochelle saw the two circles as more egg-shaped rather than round, as Harriet saw and later drew them. She described the object as "grey", but seemingly of some kind of metal and reflecting light faintly.

The object surprised and excited both young witnesses, because of its sharply defined shape and its closeness. Curious, they began to call public service institutions to try to find out what it was. They contacted the local newspapers, the police—six places in all, including the Air Force. Each time they were either not believed, or were met with disinterest. Finally, they called the Griffith Observatory in nearby Hollywood. There they were referred to NICAP's Los Angeles Subcommittee's UFO-reporting system, SKYNET, the same day as the sighting had occurred.