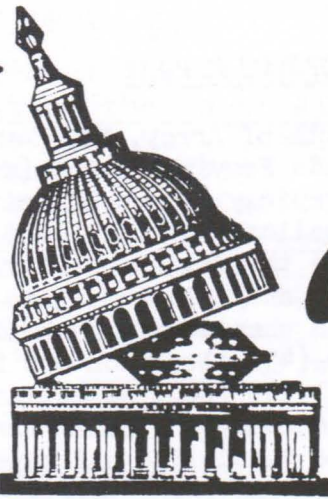


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## EDITORIAL

Thanks to all those who responded to last issue's question about the "Angel of Mons" story. I was interested in the evolution of how the alleged incident became a news item about a year after it was supposed to have happened. Consensus is that it didn't happen, however it is one of those peculiar incidents that seems to take on a life of its own as time passes. The period 1915-1917 appears to be a ripe time for unusual tales and I would urge readers to keep looking through source material from that time for whatever anomalies might surface.

A new book is soon to be published on MJ-12 by Stanton Friedman. In it Friedman will be re-promoting the MJ-12 documents as authentic, as he has done for many years. Inasmuch as he is one of the few believers left on MJ-12, it is not expected to have much of an impact. But CAUS expects to receive inquiries about the book when published, so for the record again: CAUS has concluded that the MJ-12 documents are the result of a hoax, being transparent forgeries which were initially accepted by many after a combination of superficial study and wishful thinking. The results of CAUS' investigations were published in Just Cause between 1987 and 1989, revealing numerous flaws in format, language, erroneous classification and attribution. More seriously still was how the documents were "discovered," coming as they did from anonymous sources or from, as in the case of the Cutler/Twining memo at the National Archives, legitimate sources under strange circumstances. No government agency, archive or library has certified any of the MJ-12 documents as authentic. The only source certifying the documents as genuine is Friedman himself who has no credentials to make such assertions about questioned documents.

## RETROSPECTIVE: THE 1949 GENERAL MILLS INCIDENT

In recent discussions on the Roswell and Mantell cases, CAUS was pleased to have the advice of Professor Charles Moore and his vast insight into atmospheric research during the 1940s. What many don't know is that Professor Moore himself had been a witness to an unusual event, an aerial object for which he had no clear cut explanation.

Professor Moore had produced a copy of his written report for the Air Force, which was included in their Project Grudge listings (Case 358, Unidentified). We reproduce the original report, kindly provided by Moore, on page two.



# OBJECT REPORT

On 24 April 1949, at 3 miles north of Arrey, New Mexico, ( $107^{\circ} 19' W$ ,  $32^{\circ} 52' N$ ) 4 Navy enlisted men from White Sands Proving Ground (Chief Akers, Davidson, Fitzsimmons and Moorman) and I saw a rapidly moving object while making a pibal wind run. We had released a 350 gram balloon at about 1020 MST and were following it with a standard MI-47 (David White) theodolite. After the 1030 reading, Davidson took over the theodolite, and Akers and I looked up to find the balloon with naked eyes. We thought we had the balloon when we saw a whitish spherical object right along the direction the theodolite ( $45^{\circ}$  elevation and  $210^{\circ}$  azimuth) was pointing. The object was drifting east rapidly (50/sec. as estimated by stopwatch and width of fingers) but we had thought to encounter similar winds on the balloon. When the difference in angle between the theodolite and supposed balloon became apparent, I took over the theodolite and found the true balloon still there, whereupon I abandoned it and picked up the object after it came out of the sun. (The computed bearing of sun was  $127^{\circ}$  azimuth and elevation  $60^{\circ}$ ) The object was moving too fast to crank the theodolite around, therefore one of the men pointed the theodolite and I looked.

The object was an ellipsoid about  $2\frac{1}{2}:1$  slenderness ratio, length about  $.02^{\circ}$  subtended angle, and white in color, except for a light yellow of one side as though it were in shadow. I could not get a hard focus on the object due to the speed at which the angles changed. Therefore I saw no good detail at all.

The azimuth angle continued to decrease as the object continued on a north heading, growing smaller in size. At around  $20^{\circ} - 25^{\circ}$  Azimuth, the Azimuth held constant and the elevation angle began increasing from the  $25^{\circ}$  minimum to about  $29^{\circ}$ . The object then apparently disappeared due to distance after a total time of observation of about 60 seconds.

The object was not a balloon and was some distance away. Assuming escape velocity, a track was figured which put the elevation above the station of about 300,000 feet over the observed period. If this is true, the flight would have probably gone over the White Sands Proving Ground, Holloman Air Force Base and Los Alamos, and the object would have been larger than 100 feet in diameter. The questionable escape velocity assumption is based on the great decrease in apparent size and the final increase in elevation angle.

We made another pibal wind run 15 minutes later. This balloon burst after an 88 minute flight of 93,000 feet only 13 miles due south of us. Therefore this object could not have been a free balloon moving at such angular speed below 90,000 feet.

Information is desired if this was some new or experimental aircraft or for any explanation whatsoever.

## NOTE:

No clouds in sky, no haze.  
No noise, very quiet in area  
(no cars, planes or other engines running)  
No trail, no exhaust visible.  
No odor.

C. B. MOORE, Jr.  
General Mills Aeronautical Research Dept.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 1949

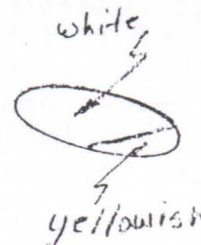


Figure 1  
1994 sketch by  
Professor Moore



A serious discussion of the sighting was published in the book 200 Miles Up--The Conquest of the Upper Air by J. Gordon Vaeth, an aeronautical engineer with the U.S. Navy Special Devices Center, Office of Naval Research (Ronald Press Co., 1951). This was one of the very early detailed discussions of the report. Captain Edward Ruppelt had mentioned the sighting in his Report on Unidentified Flying Objects (pg. 101), with the additional detail that Commander R.B. McLaughlin, the man in charge of the Navy contingent at White Sands, New Mexico Proving Grounds, had analyzed the data collected on the sighting and had determined that at one point the UFO had passed in front of a range of mountains. With this as a backdrop, the analysis revealed that the UFO was 40 feet wide by 100 feet long and had at one point traveled at an altitude of 296,000 feet at 7 miles per second.

In early 1994 I had a couple of conversations with Professor Moore concerning his report. I told him that it occurred to me that there were some similarities in detail to reports I had heard of atmosphere-skimming meteors, which rather than merely burning up or falling to earth and impacting, they simply bounce off the thick layer of air and hurtle back into space, much like a rock skimming off a pool of water. He found this observation interesting but of course the object is long gone. How does one approach establishing this as a legitimate possibility?

On August 10, 1972, a large meteor was seen over an area beginning near Salt Lake City, Utah and ending after it streaked northward past Edmonton, Alberta. It was visible for over 100 seconds at a speed, estimated in an Air Force technical report (4362-7, Vol. 2) on satellite tracking, to be 8.4 nautical miles per second. Bright meteors are generally known to become visible at between 48 and 72 miles altitude, slight variations of these high and low points depending on which reference book one wishes to consult. In this case Fireballs, Meteors and Meteorites by Harold Povenmire (JSB, 1980).

With this meteor however it seemed to bounce off of the atmosphere. Luigi Jacchia wrote in "Sky and Telescope" magazine ("A Meteorite that Missed the Earth," July 1974), "It entered the atmosphere at such a small angle with the earth's surface that it did not quite make it to the ground. Instead, after dazzling thousands of astonished spectators for well over a minute, it left the atmosphere..."

Let's pause to compare a few details to those in Professor Moore's report on page two. The altitude given for the UFO during the observed time of passage was estimated to be about 300,000 feet, or some 56.8 miles, a figure well within the range given by Povenmire and others as an average visibility altitude for a bright meteor.

Now given the fact that this is a typical glowing meteor altitude and given that some fireball speeds can keep them in view a minute or longer (Povenmire states in a brief discussion that the 1972 fireball was in view for 100 seconds, as does the Air Force report cited above), Professor Moore's report states that the UFO was in view for approximately 60 seconds, again entirely consistent with meteor speeds and faster than the slow-moving fireball of 1972.

Povenmire in his book says that so-called "tangential meteors" don't often descend to low altitudes. A very small number, he says, may enter the atmosphere at such a low angle and with such high velocity as to skip off and reenter space. Several other reports of meteors are known to have demonstrated this skipping feature but it is nonetheless rare.

So speed and altitude are not unlike those involved with a bright fireball. What about the UFO's movement? Did it do anything to rule out a hurtling meteor? According to Moore's report the object was spotted at 210 degrees azimuth (SSW) and was last seen at 20-25 degrees azimuth



(NNE), almost precisely the opposite compass point from the original spotting. No turns were reported but near the end of the UFO's passage its elevation angle increased from 25 degrees to 29 degrees and disappeared in the distance. If the object were a "bouncer" or tangential meteor, one might expect that after its bounce it would begin to increase in altitude and exit the atmosphere. So on this point we see nothing seriously inconsistent with a tangential meteor.

What of the object's appearance? Did it have wings, windows, legs, a dome, door, rivets, anything that would eliminate a meteor from consideration?

The object was ellipsoidal in shape, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as wide (see figure 1 for a sketch by Professor Moore of the object). It was white with a light yellow shading on one side, giving the appearance of being shadowed. Professor Moore said that in attempting to track the object he could not get a hard focus on it due to the speed at which the angles changed. "I saw no good detail at all," he said in the report. He also could not recall in my conversation with him whether the shading was on the leading or trailing edge of the object, understandable since trying to judge north/south orientation of a rapidly moving object in a telescopic eyepiece is exceedingly difficult. Being an amateur astronomer, I know this to be the case.

Let's explore the shadow for a moment. When a rocky body enters the atmosphere, it begins to ionize the air molecules around it, causing the bright glow. At a lower altitude, the meteor will ionize the air molecules to a higher degree and in combination with pieces of itself flaking off the surface the meteor will leave a trail behind it. At higher altitudes the air is thinner, less heat and friction created, less of a trail. At extreme altitude where ionization begins but trailing doesn't, can a roundish lump of material glow with only a slightly attenuated trail and appear somewhat elliptical?

In an October 1972 "Sky and Telescope" article, the 1972 fireball was recorded in several photographs by amateurs as appearing with only a slight elongation, one as a teardrop shape (pg. 269), one taken just before it exited the atmosphere (pg. 271) showing an almost elliptical shape and another in the July 1974 S&T, pg. 8, bottom, even more closely resembling an elliptical shape. This one was said to have been taken as the foreshortened luminous head was fading out of sight, heading back into space. In other words, at high altitudes it is not expected that one would see much of a trail behind a large fireball. In an essay on meteor ionization trails, Povenmire (pg. 14) said that meteors can vary greatly in the amount of ionization trail that they leave and that some fireballs as bright as magnitude -18 do not leave any significant train (emphasis added).

Is the shadow on the 1949 object in fact just a slight attenuation of the ionization around the object, giving it the appearance of being a solid, elliptical body shadowed by the sun? Would not a true shadow appear darker than the "light yellow" described by Professor Moore? Unfortunately it is not possible to confirm whether the "shadow" was on the leading or trailing edge but if this were a tangential meteor, the shading would be on the trailing edge. And the shadow, had it been an attenuation of ionization around the meteor, would only have been somewhat less bright than the ionization glow of the main body. Certainly a light yellow would not be an unreasonable expectation for the attenuation of the glow of a white, luminous body against a darker background. A examination of many detailed meteor photos shows the vapor trail as being bright but less bright than the head. And yellow coloration was reported in a blue-white fireball over Florida on August 18/19, 1973 (Povenmire, pg. 195), reportedly towards the end of its visibility.



The information that was related by Commander McLaughlin in Ruppelt's book of the UFO passing in front of a mountain range appears to be an unsubstantiated embellishment. Professor Moore denies that this occurred and there is nothing he had written to support this dramatic detail.

With a UFO case, any UFO case, the first thing one looks for after gathering all available detail is an explanation that does not depend upon a supernatural or extraterrestrial cause. Mysteries are fun and exciting but they should not replace the need to know, to be informed about what the truth is. Too often the fun of not knowing what an answer is blinds an investigator to a potential answer staring him/her in the face. I for one don't like answering a question with another question so any unexplained UFO story should be reexamined again and again to see if anything was missed.

The incident at Arrey, New Mexico was well-witnessed, well-reported, and well-detailed. It has been considered a classic example of what a good UFO report should be. The Air Force's Project Blue Book could not identify the object. Some pro-UFO researchers consider the Arrey object proof of extraterrestrials. On the other hand, Dr. Donald Menzel, the late Harvard astronomer and author of Flying Saucers (Harvard, 1953), offered a completely inadequate explanation. After recounting the facts, based upon a "Life" magazine story, Menzel declared the object to be a mirage due to the atmospherically-lensed image of the balloon that Moore's team was tracking (Menzel, pg. 33). There was no supporting data to explain how the mirage traversed such a large area of the sky away from the balloon, nor data obtained by him as to whether the atmosphere could have supported mirage conditions at all on that particular day. It was a crude guess that was characteristic of some of Dr. Menzel's UFO case dismissals. It is ironic too that Dr. Menzel, an astronomer, never seemed to consider that some elements of Professor Moore's report suggested a possible meteor explanation, although it should be said that the notion of tangential meteors at that time may not have been taken seriously due to lack of examples.

Given all of the above information, I don't think it is possible to rule out a tangential meteor as an explanation for the Arrey, N.M. UFO.

#### AIR FORCE HISTORIES REVEAL UFO INFORMATION

Due to the continued persistent efforts of Project 1947 and Jan Aldrich, numerous U.S. Air Force histories and intelligence summaries have been searched at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, yielding early references to UFO case studies and administration.

First there are no smoking guns in this information. The reporters were generally interested in the phenomena described but reveal no special inside knowledge as to what the answers may have been to unexplained events. It appears that the intelligence gathering procedures were not too unlike what UFO investigators do today, monitoring media, gathering clippings. And the witnesses and Air Force investigators alike sometimes made mistakes in their interpretations.

It has become clear that to unearth early UFO history like this, on site searches are mandatory. There has been an increasing trend towards government agencies not to research files due to costs, staff cuts and such. The Air University at Maxwell particularly does not do the kind of page by page search needed to expose these generally un-indexed records for scholars. Jan Aldrich has related that large numbers



histories and other records still require detailed scrutiny as he had only been able to look at a fraction of the available material.

Filling in historical facts on the UFO phenomena is a slow and costly task but it often what really happened within government UFO investigations, things that had nothing to do with the lurid fantasies that we see running ever so rampant today.

Forty-four distinct files have been created from these records as follows:

- 1) 12th Tactical Air Command - Intelligence Reports, 9-25-44 through 4-21-45, 2 pgs. Regarding: Foo-fighter reports.
- 2) 6th Air Force - History, Jan.-Feb. 1945, 30+ pgs. Regarding: Report of an unidentified object at San Jose, Costa Rica.
- 3) Air Defense Command - Air Intelligence Reports - 1947.
  - Jan. - Guided missile experiments of the USSR and their relation to Ghost Rocket reports over Scandinavia. 4 pgs.
  - Mar. - "Flying Flapjack," XF-5U-1 aircraft. 3 pgs.
  - May - Ghost Rocket reports. 2 pgs.
  - July - Early jet aircraft experiments. 7 pgs.
- 4) Air Defense Command - Air Intelligence Reports - 1948.
  - Jan. - Unknown radar tracks, 8-28-47. 3 pgs.
- 5) Alaskan Air Command - History - 1949 through 1950.
  - 1949 - Brief remarks about unknown objects. 5 pgs.
  - Jan. - June 1950 - Detailed UFO reports, Elmendorf, AFB, Alaska. 5 pgs.
- 6) 57th Fighter Interceptor Wing - History - 1950.
  - Jan. - March - Strange cloud, 1-26-50 (cited in reference 5 above). 3 pgs.
  - April - Detailed UFO reports, Elmendorf, AFB, Alaska (cited in reference 5 above). 3 pgs.
  - May - June - UFO report, 5-5-50, Elmendorf, AFB, Alaska 2 pgs.
- 7) 7054th Air Intelligence Squadron - History - 3-23 through 6-30-51. Regarding: Jet/rocket intelligence. 6 pgs.
- 8) 850th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron - History - Dec. 1951. Regarding: False radar targets. 3 pgs.
- 9) 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing - History - Dec. 1951. Regarding: Early discussion of JANAP 146 B (an early regulation of the Air Force dealing with, among other things, UFOs). 1 pg.
- 10) 6004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron - History - 1952.
  - Jan. - Activities incl. UFO interest. 1 pg.
  - Feb. - Reference to unknown objects. 1 pg.
  - Apr. - Reference to UFO intelligence report. 1 pg.
  - May - Reference to UFO intelligence report. 1 pg.
  - Jun. - Reference to UFO intelligence reports. 1 pg.
  - Jul. - Reference to UFO intelligence reports. 1 pg.
  - Aug. - Reference to UFO intelligence reports and a technical report, "Flying Object Reporting." 2 pgs.
  - Sep. - Reference to tabulation of UFO reports to establish their reliability and to determine the possibility of dispatching specially-equipped aircraft to determine their origin. 1 pg.
  - Semi-annual history - Jul. - Dec. 1952. Regarding: Two brief UFO reports, 8-1-52, 9-28-52, the later possibly being a balloon. 2 pgs.
- 11) 129th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron - History - May 1952. Regarding: Procedures on intelligence gathering. 2 pgs.



- 12) 850th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron - History - Apr. - Oct. 1952.
  - Apr. - Unknown track reports, 4-18-52. 4 pgs.
  - May - "Alerts and Unidentified Tracks" and "More Flying Saucers." 5 pgs.
  - Jun. - "Alerts and Unidentified Tracks." 4 pgs.
  - Jul. - "Alerts and Unidentified Tracks." 5 pgs.
  - Sep. - "Flashed Tracks." 3 pgs.
  - Oct. - "Flashed Tracks." 2 pgs.
- 13) 72nd Strategic Reconnaissance Wing - History - Dec. 1952. Regarding: Detailed UFO report, Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico, 12-31-52. 12 pgs.
- 14) Northeast Air Command - History - 1952.
  - Jan. - Jun. - Unknown aircraft and UFO reports. 4 pgs.
  - Jul. - Dec. - Unknown aircraft and UFO reports. 5 pgs.
- 15) Northeast Air Command - History - Jan. - Jun. 1953. Regarding: Unknown aircraft and UFO reports. 8 pgs.
- 16) 5th Air Force - Intelligence Summary - Jul. 16 - 31, 1952. Regarding: Unknown aircraft reports over Korea. 10 pgs.
- 17) 5004th Air Intelligence Squadron - History - Jul. - Dec. 1952. Regarding: Procedures and brief UFO references. 5 pgs.
- 18) 5001st Composite Wing - History - 1952.
  - Jan. - Mar. - UFO report, 1-22-52, Nenana, Alaska. 1 pg.
  - Jul. - Dec. - Procedures and brief UFO remarks. 6 pgs.
- 19) 6th Air Division - History - 1952. Regarding: Article: "Flying Saucers." 3 pgs.
- 20) 4th Fighter Interceptor Squadron - History - Sep. 1952. Regarding: Brief UFO remarks. 1 pg.
- 21) 39th Air Depot Wing - History - Apr. - Jun. 1952. Regarding: UFO report, 4-13-52, Elmendorf, AFB, Alaska. 2 pgs.
- 22) Far East Air Force (FEAF) - Intelligence Summary - Jun. 1952. Regarding: Unknown aircraft and UFOs over Korea and three unknown track reports. 6 pgs.
- 23) 527th Aircraft Control & Warning Group - History - 1952.
  - May - UFO, Askiya AFB, Japan, 5-26-52. 3 pgs.
  - Oct. - UFO, Southern Japan, 10-27-52. 5 pgs.
  - Dec. - Unknown track. 3 pgs.
- 24) Air Rescue Service - Intelligence Digest - Jul. 1952. Regarding: Article: "Flying Saucers." 4 pgs.
- 25) 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron - History - Jul. - Dec. 1954. Regarding: UFOB program, Project Moby Dick (balloons). 4 pgs.
- 26) 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron - History - Jan. - Jun. 1955. Regarding: UFOB program. 15 pgs.
- 27) 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron - History - Jul. - Dec. 1955. Regarding: UFOB program and 6th Commanders Conference - UFOB presentation. 21 pgs.
- 28) 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron - Bulletin - Oct. 15, 1954. Brief UFO comment. 1 pg.
  - Visit by ATIC representative. 4 pgs.
  - UFOB Guide. 24 pgs.
- 29) 5001st Composite Wing - History - 1-1-53 through 4-7-53. Regarding: Project Pinball (a study of unknown radar tracks). 3 pgs.
- 30) 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron - History - Jan. - Jun. 1953. Regarding: Brief UFO remarks. 2 pgs.
- 31) 6621st Air Base Squadron - History - Jul. - Dec. 1953. Regarding: Unknown aircraft, and a UFO report at Sondstrom AFB, Greenland, 10-18-53. 3 pgs.



- 32) Far East Air Force - Intelligence Summary - 1953.  
     Jan. 31 - Feb. 6 - UFOs over Japan, March & Dec. 1952. 2 pgs.  
     Jan. 10 - 16 - Article: Visual Limitations of the Human  
         Eye. 10 pgs.
- 33) 527th Air Wing - History - Jan. - Jun. 1953. Regarding: Visual  
     incidents, Flying saucer report, 2-26-53, Shigano Shima Island,  
     Japan. 5 pgs.
- 34) 6004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron - History - Jan. - Jun.  
     1953. Regarding: Procedures, Flying saucer over Japan, 1-18-53.  
         8 pgs.
- 35) 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron - History - 1954.  
     Jan. - Jun. - Procedures, Brief reference to UFOs. 4 pgs.  
     Jul. - Dec. - Procedures.
- 36) 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron - History - Jul. - Dec.  
     1954. Regarding: Vol. 2, Fourth Commanders Conference, Handling  
     of UFOB reports. 30 pgs.
- 37) 6002nd Air Intelligence Service Group - History - Jan. - Jun.  
     1954. Regarding: Procedures, Brief reference to UFO reports. 4 pgs.
- 38) 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron - History - Jan. - Jun.  
     1955. Regarding: Fifth Commanders Conference, UFOB procedures.  
         7 pgs.
- 39) 5004th Air Intelligence Squadron - History - 1955.  
     Jan. - Jun. - Brief reference to UFOB investigations and  
         Japanese balloon recovery. 5 pgs.  
     Jul. - Dec. - References to three UFO intelligence reports.  
         1 pg.
- 40) 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron - History - 1956.  
     Jan. - Jun. - Brief reference to UFO investigations. 3 pgs.  
     Jul. - Dec. - Brief reference to UFO investigations. 2 pgs.
- 41) 6002nd Air Intelligence Service Group - History - Jul. - Dec.  
     1956. Regarding: Brief reference to balloon sightings in Japan. 1 pg
- 42) 6002nd Air Intelligence Service Group - History - Jul. - Dec.  
     1957. Regarding: Intelligence procedures. 1 pg.
- 43) 41st Air Division - History - Jan. - Jun. 1960. Regarding: Brief  
     UFO report, Itazuke Air Base, Japan, 2-22-60. 1 pg.
- 44) 39th Air Division - History - 1960-61.  
     Jul. - Dec. - A series of UFO-type reports. 9 pgs.  
     Jan. - Jun. 1961 - UFO, 3-15-61, Misawa Air Base, Japan. 1 pg

#### IN MEMORIAM: MERLYN SHEEHAN

On March 7, 1996, an old friend of this editor passed away. Merlyn Sheehan was one of the dwindling number of old-time UFO investigators in the New England area. Her interest was sparked in the 1950s by a Donald Keyhoe book and she went on to become an investigator for the New England UFO Study Group, then MUFON. One of her first writings on UFOs was a letter to the editor in the Quincy (Ma.) Patriot-Ledger but, as luck would have it she always said, it was printed on November 22, 1963, the day of the Kennedy assassination! One of her pasttimes during the height of her interest was to monitor UFO activity during an especially busy period of reports at the famous cranberry bogs in Massachusetts, such was her devotion to documenting the UFO phenomena. Her enthusiasm many times kept me focused. She will be missed.

